

Week in
The Review**Chavez on Fourth Avenue?**

In response to the increasing controversy surrounding the proposal to honor Cesar Chavez by renaming Interstate Avenue, Portland's City Council is now looking into changing the signs on Southwest Fourth Avenue that passes in front of City Hall downtown. See photo, page A2.

Unusually Violent Weekend

A pair of siblings was among those targeted during three separate shootings that left a man and woman dead just blocks apart from each other in north Portland last weekend. See story, page A2.

McClellan Blames Bush

In his forthcoming book, Former White House press secretary Scott McClellan blames his former bosses President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney for efforts to mislead the public about the role of White House aides in leaking the identity of a CIA operative.

Transfer Called a Sham

An attorney on Monday called the U.S. military's plans to turn over an award-winning Associated Press photographer to an Iraqi court a "sham of due process." The military refuses to say what evidence it has against Bilal Hussein, the photographer it has already imprisoned without charges for more than 19 months.

Second Amendment Standoff

The Supreme Court said Tuesday it will decide whether the District of Columbia can ban handguns, a case that could produce the most in-depth examination of the constitutional right to bear arms in nearly 70 years.

Hate Crimes on Rise

As civil-rights advocates increasingly take to the streets to protest what they call official indifference to attacks against minorities, hate-crime incidents rose nearly eight percent last year, the FBI reported Monday. In Oregon and Washington, hate crimes are up slightly. See story, page A2.

Blame Shifts Following Slip

University of Oregon football coach Mike Bellotti defended what he called the decision of doctors and star quarterback Dennis Dixon to play with a preexisting knee condition in Thursday's loss to Arizona that left Dixon injured and Oregon down seven slots in the rankings.

Big Easy Flips Politically

In one of the clearest signs yet of Hurricane Katrina's lasting demographic impact, the New Orleans City Council will have a white majority for the first time in over two decades after Saturday elections, decided largely along racial lines.



Marsha (from left), Marshay and Asianique share the spirit of Thanksgiving with food donations and volunteer service during a free community dinner Saturday at Highland Church on Northeast Alberta Street.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Struggling with Hunger

Food-bank shelves are going bare

Oregon had 11.9 percent of households struggling with hunger or food insecurity, according to the latest figures from U.S. Department of Agriculture's. Food insecurity is the USDA term to describe households that struggled with affording enough food.

"Too many Oregon families

struggle to put food on the table," said Rachel Bristol, chief executive officer of the Oregon Food Bank. "The high cost of housing, health care, childcare and fuel make it difficult for low-income individuals and families to have enough money to pay for food."

The dire consequences of low

income come at the same time supplies at area food banks are the lowest in years.

Federal nutrition programs such as food stamps and the Federal Emergency Food Assistance Program used to help fill the gap.

"But inflation has weakened both programs since they were reautho-

rized in the 2002 farm bill and both programs are in desperate need of new investments," Bristol said.

"Hunger is an income issue," states Patti Whitney-Wise, executive director of the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force. "With the rising cost of food, the food-stamp dollar doesn't cover as much as it has in the past. We have been losing ground in the Food Stamp Program for years because benefits were not indexed to inflation. Most people

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Senior Law Project volunteer lawyer Eric Kearney meets with Eva Ingram at her Gresham Manor apartment to discuss issues concerning Social Security payments. After an initial meeting at a senior center, Kearney and the other 100 or so legal experts who participate often make house calls for elders that have trouble getting around.

Lawyers Break Down Barriers

By volunteering to give seniors free legal advice

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Legal issues can be a major source of hassle and anxiety for anyone, regardless of circumstance. For those 60 and over, decreased mobility and limited income can make justice even more difficult to come by.

The fact that seniors can have additional barriers to fair treatment led Legal Aid Services of Oregon to create the Senior Law Project. Each month the program organizes 25 free advisory clinics at nine senior centers throughout Multnomah County.

In a pro-bono outreach effort receiving increased attention and overwhelming praise, the approximately 100 volunteer lawyers serve about 1,000 seniors each year.

"The attorneys that volunteer are just wonderful, and they've done an incredible amount of work for seniors," says Lynne Lloyd, who helps oversee the project.

Eva Ingram can attest from personal experience to the project's helpfulness. A widow living on a fixed income, Ingram was horrified to find a ring of hers missing from the list of items a previous senior-care facility had agreed to keep vaulted while she rehabilitated from a stroke.

Despite the written agreement

witnessed also by her son and daughter, the managers delayed in providing compensation. "You regularly ask them when they're going to pay, and they say it's only been two months, three months, four months, what have you," Ingram says.

Ingram was reluctant to get professional help because she feared paying a large sum just for a consultation. After the senior-care facility failed to respond to a small-claims judgment, she sought help at the East County YWCA, which just happened to be one of the senior centers hosting the Law Project.

The attorneys that volunteer are just wonderful, and they've done an incredible amount of work for seniors.

— Lynne Lloyd

Once she enlisted volunteer lawyer Eric Kearney in the fight, she soon got paid back for the ring. Kearney related with the manager's concerns, but his phone calls made the senior-care facility face a simple matter of remuneration or court order.

Even arranging transporta-

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