



# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Week in The Review

### Asteroid May Hit Mars

A newly discovered hunk of space rock rivaling the one that hit Siberia in 1908, unleashing energy equivalent to a 15-megaton nuclear bomb and wiping out 60 million trees, has a 1 in 75 chance of slamming into the Red Planet on Jan. 30.



### Pardon Sought for Jena 6

Fifteen members of the Congressional Black Caucus called on Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco to pardon Mychal Bell and five other teenagers known as the "Jena 6." "They and their families have suffered enough, as has the state of Louisiana and the town of Jena," a letter from the Congress members reads.

### Sheriff Talks Retirement

Multnomah County Sheriff Bernie Giusto Friday said he was considering retiring after a critical grand jury report that outlined a "dramatic degradation of the county's ability to confront public safety issues" and called for the hiring of an independent professional to run a jail system rife with waste, freeloading and a lack of internal discipline.

### Kicker Check Chaos

Taxpayers who reported that they did not intend to donate their kicker refund to the State School Fund when they electronically filed their 2006 taxes will get their kicker rebate after all, the Oregon Department of Revenue announced Thursday. More than 3,000 people claimed to have never marked the box to donate.

### Katrina Razing Approved

As protesters clashed with the police, the New Orleans City Council voted unanimously Thursday to allow the federal government to demolish 4,500 apartments in four large public-housing projects. The Coalition to Stop the Demolition has vowed to exercise other legal options.

### Borrowing for Heat

For perhaps as many as 27 million American adults, keeping warm this winter will mean borrowing money and 20 million will use credit cards to be able to afford their heating bills, according to a CreditCards.com poll.

### Gen. Motors Recalls Cars

General Motors Corp. said Friday it was recalling about 313,000 passenger cars and crossover vehicles, including some models of Cadillac, Pontiac and Saturn to fix a fluid leak that could lead to the driver losing control of the vehicle.

## New Year Advances Gay Rights

### With domestic partnerships, bans on discrimination

Laws banning job and housing discrimination against gays and lesbians in Oregon and allowing same-sex couples to enter into legal domestic partnerships with most of the state benefits of marriage go into effect with the New Year.

Multnomah County has taken steps to accommodate the expected influx of same-sex couples applying for the new licenses when county offices open on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

Officials have been making preparations to ensure smooth and efficient business operations under the new domestic partnership system.

The county's Assessment and Taxation division in the Multnomah Building at 501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. will process domestic partnerships in the same way as marriage licenses.

Plans include creating orderly spaces for higher than average numbers of people in the building's lobby if needed, focusing staff resources in customer-service areas and ensuring that all other county business will continue uninterrupted.

"We're going to be ready to start certifying domestic partnerships the moment our



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

County officials at the Multnomah Building at 501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. have taken steps to accommodate an influx of same-sex couples applying for domestic partnerships when the new state law goes into effect Jan. 2.

doors open on January second," said Carol Ford, director the county management, which oversees marriage licenses and domestic partnerships. "Multnomah County has undertaken a thorough planning process and we expect everything to run very smoothly."

The new law allows same-sex couples, when at least one of whom is a resident of Oregon and both are over 18 years of age, to

certify their partnerships in any county within the state and receive a range of civil and legal benefits previously unavailable to them.

The form, Declaration of Domestic Partnership, will be available at Multnomah County offices beginning on Jan. 2 and is

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## 'Keep Alive the Dream'

### Stage set for Martin Luther King Jr. showcase

On the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday, World Arts Foundation, Inc. will present its 23rd-annual tribute to the great American civil-rights leader.

"Keep Alive the Dream" continues to be recognized, regionally and nationally, as one of the finest community-based Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations in the U.S., as it gives voice to common citizens by showcasing the greater Portland community's response to historic events and achievements "against all odds" for civil rights and human dignity.

The stage program begins at 11 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 21 at Highland Christian Center, 7600 N.E. Glisan St., a new church campus that offers beautiful staging, great accessibility, adequate parking, and handicap access.

Regional, national and local talent will converge in a diverse program of music, dance, theater, awards and presentations against a backdrop of gospel choirs in humble tribute to the American civil-rights movement for human dignity - "against all odds!"

Invited speakers include, Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Mayor Tom Potter, Congressman Ron Wyden, State Sens. Margaret Carter and Avel Gordly and Portland Schools Superintendent Carole Smith. Featured this year will be the powerful artistry and dramatic portrayal by nationally featured gospel recording artist and choral sensation "Royalty" under the direction of DaNell Damon.

Other delightful and impressive performances will include the Gospel Music Workshop of America; Northwest Gospel Community Choir; Eugene Blackmon and Chosen Generation; Eugene Gospel Crew (U of O); Linda Hornbuckle and Janice Scroggins; Highland Christian Church Choir; Jefferson High Gospel Choir; Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church and the return of Master Goldie Irby, Danny and Tyfani Osborne.

The famed Jefferson Dancers from Portland's Jefferson High School, as well as a magnificent cast of high-quality and diverse professional performers and talented young people, will flow throughout the day. Some of the other performers include violinist Aaron Meyer; the Battle Ground High School Jazz Band (under the direction of Greg McKelvey); the Boise Elementary Choir; Kukawatow (Woodlawn Elementary School); Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing Arts Ensemble and much more.

The program promises to be an engaging and memorable tribute to Rev. Dr. King, the one man whose tireless and fearless campaign for America to "live up to the true meaning of its creed" remains so important to America that it commands a national holiday.

The entire seven-hour program will be carried live on KBOO Radio (90.7 FM), and tape delayed on both Portland Community Media (Channel 11) at 1 p.m., and Portland Public Schools Television Services (Channel 28) at 3 p.m.

A donation of \$4 or four items of nonperishable food collected by the Food Bank, will be accepted at the event.

"Keep Alive the Dream" reminds us all, as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. did so eloquently and so powerfully, that "we are all bound together in a single garment of destiny;" "What affects one, affects us all" and that "Freedom is never free."

Sponsors include Safeco Insurance; Portland Public Schools; Portland Association of Teachers; McDonalds of Oregon and

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## TriMet Rides Free New Year's Eve

Free bus and Max service on New Year's Eve begins at 8 p.m. TriMet will provide extra service on Blue and Yellow light-rail lines, while buses will run on regular Monday schedules.

Trains will run every 15 minutes until 1

a.m., every 30 minutes between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. and final trains will leave Pioneer Courthouse Square around 3 a.m. After the last Red Line to the airport leaves Gateway Transit Center at 11:10 p.m., a shuttle will meet Blue Line trains at Gateway Transit Center to

take riders to the Parkrose/Sumner Transit Center and the airport until 3 a.m.

On New Year's Day, a Tuesday, trains and buses will run on Sunday schedules and regular fares will apply. For information, visit trimet.org or call 503-238-7433.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Kwanzaa Honored on Interstate

Welcoming the public to a special Kwanzaa exhibit at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center on display until Dec. 31 are (from left) G. G. Warren, photographer, designer and jeweler, Adrienne Flagg, IFCC creative director, and artist Wanda Wright.

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