



Happy
Thanksgiving!

Owner Gives Back

Jack Chung opens his
Moonstar Bar & Grill for a
free Thanksgiving dinner
See story, page A2



The Portland Observer

'City
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Week in The Review

MAX Driver Ignored Calls

TriMet has placed a light-rail train operator on paid leave for contributing to a 3-year-old boy being separated from his father. The boy's father tried repeatedly to get the operator's attention via the train's emergency intercom, but the operator ignored those cues. See story, page A2.

Excessive Force Inquiry

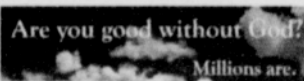
Members of Portland's police union demonstrated Tuesday and held a vote of no confidence against Police Commissioner Dan Saltzman and Police Chief Rosie Sizer after an officer was placed on administrative leave pending an investigation into the use of force against a 12-year-old girl. See story, page A2.

Leonard Grounded

City Commissioner Randy Leonard, a former firefighter, has been told undergo four hours of training and stay with a safety officer the next time he shows up at the scene of a fire. Earlier this month, Leonard put on fire fighting gear and climbed up on the roof of southeast Portland's Marysville School as it was burning.

2 Million Cribs Recalled

After the deaths of four children, more than 2 million cribs in the U.S. and Canada are being recalled by Stork Craft Manufacturing. Sales of the cribs go back to 1993, some carrying the Fisher-Price logo.



Controversial Ads Allowed

Ten TriMet buses are currently displaying a controversial advertisement from non-believers. The Portland Coalition of Reason purchased the ads that feature the words "Good without God? Millions Are." See story, page A2.

Lawyer: Coach Targeted

The attorney defending a Lincoln High School coach accused of driving drunk said the coach was targeted up by an angry parent and police had no reason to pull him over. David Adelman was arrested last February. He is the son of former Trail Blazers' coach Rick Adelman.

Worker Killed Himself

A census worker found hanging from a tree with the word "fed" scrawled on his chest last September took his own life, police said Tuesday, adding that an inquiry found that he staged his death to look like a homicide.

Time for More Ideas

Mayor Sam Adams has extended the deadline, from Dec. 1 to Jan. 8 to submit ideas on what to do with Memorial Coliseum. City leaders are looking for a way to revitalize the area.

40
years
of
community service



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volunteers at the Oregon Food Bank in northeast Portland fill bags of cereal for distribution to families who struggle to put food on the table. The agency has had an unprecedented increase in need because of a poor economy.

Fighting Back Hunger

Tough economic conditions push up need

BY JAKE THOMAS

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Huiliuh Chan, a 56-year-old immigrant from China, took a nasty spill onto a slab of concrete last spring, her life changed

Her back was so badly hurt that she had to quit her job as a seamstress, and now subsides on monthly income of about \$900 a month from her disability payments and Social Security checks she receives from her husband, who is so sick from diabetes and lives in a nursing facility.

During the day she works on art projects to pass the time, and worries. She worries about the property taxes on her home in east Portland. She worries about the water bill. She worries

about medical bills.

"It's not enough, you know? I'm not lucky," said an exasperated Chan in her thick Cantonese accent, whose budget is so strained she has to make regular trips to food programs to stay afloat.

Chan isn't alone. In fact, more and more people are in a similar predicament. According to a report released last week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Oregon is second hungriest state in the U.S., just behind Mississippi.

Between 2006 and 2008, about 6.6

percent Oregon households or 95,000 people skipped meals because they did not have enough money for food, according to the report. This is an increase from the last set of USDA figures which revealed that nearly 4 percent of Oregonians experienced hunger between 2003 and 2005.

Chan makes periodic trips to the Northeast Emergency Food Program at Luther Memorial Church in northeast Portland.

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Mayor Kicks off Portland Plan

Wants input from citizens on priorities

BY JAKE THOMAS

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The City of Portland kicked off the first of seven community meetings on Portland's Comprehensive Plan, a strategic document that will guide how the city forms policy on issues ranging from public health to transportation infrastructure.

At Beaumont Middle School in northeast Portland, over 100 people, primarily from the surrounding neighborhoods, gathered last week to give their input at a meeting that provided a snapshot of the city's challenges and strengths.

"This is the most important piece in the process," said Mayor Sam Adams to the crowd who gathered at round

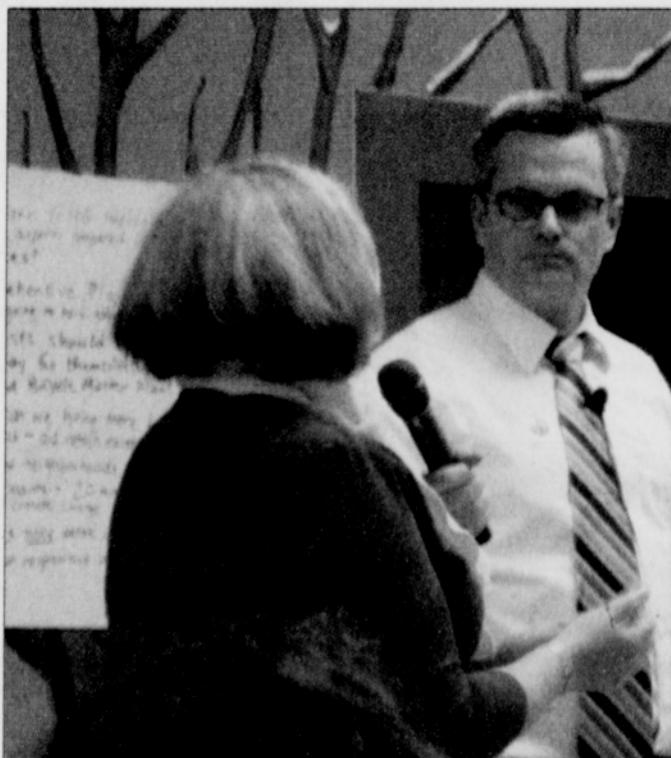


PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mayor Sam Adams reaches out for public comment during a meeting at Beaumont Middle School on the Portland Plan, a strategic document that's being formulated to guide city priorities in the future.

tables spread throughout the school's cafeteria.

"It's yours; please take ownership," he said of the Plan, which he characterized as a "guide to love Portland better."

Adams pointed out that municipalities in Oregon are required to develop a plan under state law every 30 years. However, it did not require the City of Portland to involve other government entities (like Portland Public Schools or the Housing Authority of Portland) in the process, which it was doing this time around.

After making opening remarks, Adams, with sleeves rolled up and microphone in hand, wandered into the audience to take questions.

One woman wanted the "boom boxes" in peoples' cars to "go away."

Another person pointed out that homelessness was not addressed in the plan.

Someone brought up the is-

sue of historic preservation.

Another wondered if the city would actually fund its ambitious bike plan.

"How do we build quality affordable housing without public subsidies," one man asked.

One audience member pointed out that Portland International Airport emitted more carbon than the cars in Portland combined.

Several people called on people to get out of their cars.

Others asked about how the plan might affect Portland's poor.

One person pointed out that that the people in the room were overwhelmingly white, which was striking since the meeting was intended to get input from people in northeast Portland—one of the city's most diverse areas.

After taking questions, Adams returned to the front of

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Downtown Resource Center Building will help homeless, unemployed

Advocates for the homeless and other disadvantaged populations kicked off a groundbreaking event Friday for the future Resource Access Center, a \$47 million development at the corner of Northwest Broadway and Hoyt Street, next to Union Station and the Greyhound Bus Depot.

"This groundbreaking marks the culmination of a tremendous amount of work by many dedicated partners," said Commissioner Nick Fish. "It serves as the first step in the pathway to opening a new one-stop fa-

cility to serve our most vulnerable citizens.

The building is a cornerstone of Portland and Multnomah County's ambitious and innovative 10-year plan to end homelessness.

The Resource Access Center will be three separate facilities in one building:

A Day Center for people who are homeless will provide housing, employment, and treatment counseling; hot showers; storage; and voicemail boxes to help with job and housing searches.

A Men's Shelter will provide temporary housing for up to 90 homeless men.

Permanent affordable housing will provide 130 units of housing and supportive services for formerly homeless.

"Throughout the design and construction process, this project will employ 125 local workers at a time when our economy needs it most," said Fish. "This is a LEED-platinum project, embracing the sustainability standards Portland is known for."

This project represents a part-



An artist's rendering shows the future Resource Access Center, an 8-story building that would provide low-income housing, a temporary shelter for the homeless and employment services.

nership involving the City of Portland, Multnomah County, and Transition Projects, Inc.