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Fred Meyer

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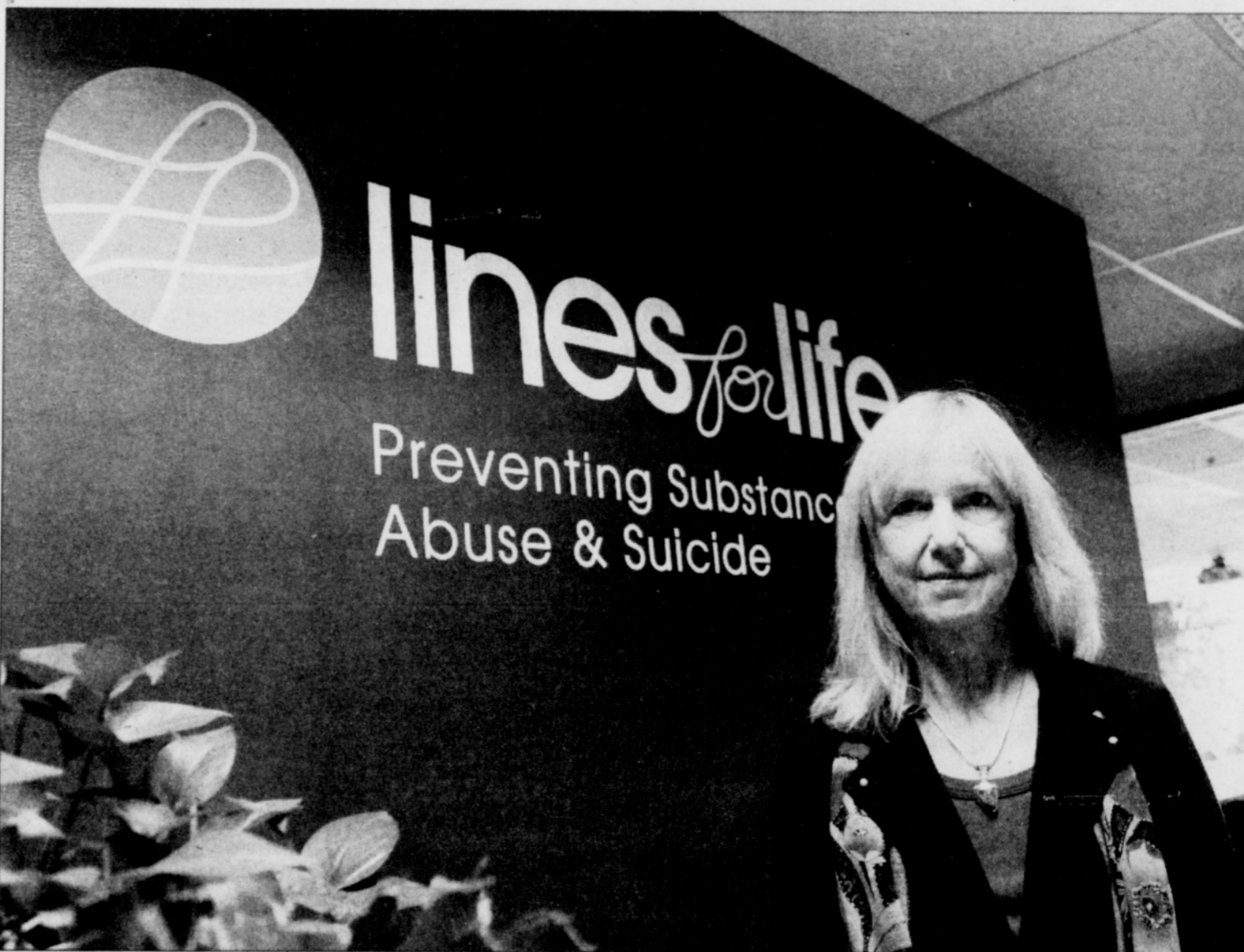


PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lines for Life suicide and substance abuse hotline clinical director Leslie Storm encourages people in a mental crisis or who may be thinking about killing themselves to call and talk to someone at Lines for Life before calling 9-1-1.

Mental Health Crisis Advocates speak out on suicide prevention

BY CARI HACHMANN

With suicides on the rise in Portland, public and mental health officials are stepping up to break its stigma and get more people the help they need.

"Once we can address the underlying mental health concerns openly and without shame, we can encourage those who are struggling to seek treatment," said Judy Cushing, founder and chief executive officer

of Lines for Life, formerly Oregon Partnership, the metro area's go-to suicide and substance abuse crisis prevention line.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness recently recognized Cushing, and former Oregon State Sen. Avel Gordly, a longtime local African-American leader, for their leadership in mental health issues and suicide prevention.

One way suicides are surfacing

in the news recently is through the Portland Police Bureau public information office, which has decided to publicize mental health crisis and suicide-related calls.

In recent reports, what appears to be an ongoing onslaught of mental health crises is actually just business as usual for the police officers responding to the emergencies.

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Voter Registration Deadline Nears

Multnomah County Elections reminds voters that Tuesday, Oct. 16 is the voter registration deadline for the Nov. 6 vote-by-mail election.

Oregon voters can register online at oregonvotes.org. The process requires a valid Oregon driver's license, drivers permit or ID card. The system also allows changes in your mailing address and party affiliation. Voters can also check their registration status at oregonvotes.org.

Voters without online access can obtain a registration cards at the Multnomah County Elections office, 1040 S.E. Morrison St., offices of the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles, post offices and

libraries.

Voters already registered do not have to re-register unless they move. Ballots will not be forwarded to new addresses.

Walk-in voter registrations will be accepted at the elections office through 5 p.m. on Tuesday. A U.S. Postal Service postmark of Oct. 16 for mail submission will also be accepted. Online registrations must be sent before midnight on Oct. 16.

Ballots for the Nov. 6 election will be mailed to voters on Oct. 19. Multnomah County voters who have questions, should call Multnomah County Elections at 503-988-3720.