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Prayer Vigil Saturday

Activists to march for justice; police reforms

The Albina Ministerial Alliance for Justice and Police Reform will lead a prayer vigil and protest march through north and northeast Portland Saturday in memory of victims of police shootings, both in Portland and across the country.

Supporters will gather at 4 p.m. at Allen Temple Church, 4236 N.E. Eighth Ave., where an inter-faith coalition of clergy will lead prayers. The participants will then march along Martin Luther King Boulevard, before ending at the North Skidmore Street I-5 overpass where Kendra James was killed by police in 2003.

All participants are asked to wear black as a symbol of mourning and respect.

The AMA Coalition will highlight its goals for justice and police reform, including a federal investigation of the Portland Police Bureau, the strengthening of powers to compel testimony before the Independent Police Review Division and the Citizen Review Committee; a full review of the Police Bureau's excessive force and deadly force policies; a narrowing of state law allowing deadly force by police officers; and establishing a special prosecutor for police excessive force and deadly force cases.

People wishing to volunteer for Saturday's event should contact AMA Coalition Chair Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes Jr. at 503-287-0261.

Deadly Wind Storm

Powerful wind storms across Oregon caused two deaths on Thursday. A teenage boy in southwest Portland was killed when a tree struck the car he was riding in. A homeless man in southern Oregon who was hiking his way to Arizona was also killed by a falling tree.

Taliban Attack on School

An eight-hour rampage at a school in Peshawar, Pakistan claimed the lives of 145 people on Monday, most of them schoolchildren. Nine Taliban shooters were suspected to behind the massacre, one of the deadliest single attacks in the group's history.

TriMet Extends Transfers

The TriMet Board of Directors approved an ordinance last week to

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extend transfer times from the current two hours to 2.5 hours for all buses and trains. The change will take effect on March 1. The issue was raised by the community advocacy group OPAL to help low-income and transit-dependent riders moving into neighbourhoods on the fringes of frequent and regular bus service.

Injured Protestor Ticketed

A teenager participating in a street protest Saturday against police shooting deaths was injured Saturday when a car ran over his foot. After some investigation, Portland police decided to ticket the victim, 19-year-old Julian Rist, for "Improper Position on a Highway."

Fighting for LGBT Rights

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., announced his support for a law to protect the rights of LGBT Americans during a meeting of the Center for American Progress last week. The event featured a detailed report of the harmful effects of LGBT discrimination in the country.

Plaques Stolen from Grotto

On Monday East Precinct officers responded to a report that three bronze plaques had been stolen overnight at the Grotto, a Catholic shrine and sanctuary in northeast Portland. Each of the plaques is valued at an estimated \$15,000 and holds emotional and spiritual value to the Grotto community.

New Surgeon General

Dr. Vivek Murthy, President Obama's pick for Surgeon General was approved by a narrow margin vote in the Senate Monday. Republicans were strongly opposed because of his support of gun-control laws, but Murthy was supported by the American Academy of Paediatrics and the American Public Health Association.



Prison Death Ruled Homicide

Terry Goodman, an Oregon inmate found dead Thursday at the Snake River Correctional Institution, is now suspected of having been murdered. Goodman's family said an Oregon State Police investigator told them two other inmates beat him to death.

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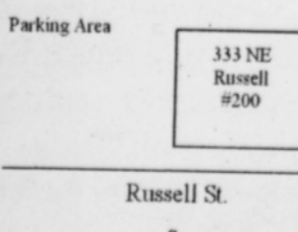
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