REGIONAL BRIEFS

School arsonist strikes again

PORTLAND (AP) — For the third school day in a row Tuesday, arson fires disrupted classes at Jefferson High School, officials said.

School officials canceled classes for the day Tuesday and said they have started a fire watch to try to catch the culprit.

Small fires were set on the north Portland campus Friday, Monday and twice again Tuesday. Theron Glover, a battalion chief with the Portland Fire Bureau, said Tuesday's fires were similar to the others.

None of the fires caused substantial damage or injuries.

Jim Voight, spokesman for the Portland School District, said that in addition to Tuesday's fires two bomb threats were telephoned in by adults. No explosive devices were found.

"If it gets lit in the right place, it may not get discovered for a good long time," said Bob Sherwin, another district spokesman. "We're not only looking at a loss of property but a potential threat to the lives of the children and the staff out there."

Gusts spreading Hood blaze

ESTACADA (AP) — More than 200 firefighters were battling an 85-acre fire in the Mount Hood National Forest Tuesday evening.

The fire, in the Wash Creek drainage southeast of Estacada, was reported early Tuesday morning, forest spokeswoman Marcia Sinclair said.

Firefighters were on the scene by noon, but wind gusts helped spread the fire into an area of old-growth forest, Sinclair said.

The old growth contains more fuel for the fire and is more difficult for crews to work in, Sinclair said.

She said firefighters were uncertain when the fire will be contained.

"It depends, we've got steep terrain and strong winds," Sinclair said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Greenpeace protesting pipeline

PORT ANGELES, Wash. (AP) — Greenpeace members have renewed their fight against a proposed oil port and pipeline with a display of the group's flagship, the Rainbow Warrior.

The sailboat was on display for tours Monday at the City Pier to boost opposition to the plan being pushed by Trans Mountain Pipe Line Co. Ltd. of Canada.

The proposal calls for an offshore oil terminal west of Port Angeles and construction of a pipeline from there to four refineries, two near Anacortes and two north of Bellingham.

Other opponents include No OilPort!, Citizens for Full Evaluation, Washington Environmental Council, American Oceans Campaign, Quileute and Lower Elwha Klallam Indian tribes and Friends of Boundary Bay, a Canadian group.

Four Trans Mountain supporters in a small power boat carried signs saying "Clallam County needs jobs" and "Greenpeace Go Home."

Here, gator, gator ...

SEATTLE (AP) — Yoo hoo. Anybody seen a 1,000-pound alligator running around lately?

If so, call the Pacific Science Center, which is offering a $400 reward for return of the four-foot-long reptile.

Bruce Underwood said the 'gator was last seen about 1:30 a.m. PDT Saturday in a temporary cage, part of a reptile display. It was discovered missing at 10:10 a.m., a police report said.

Underwood said center staffers looked everywhere, including underground tunnels, without success.

Theft is not suspected because no alarms were tripped, but officials at the Amtrak passenger train station, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and other passenger terminals were warned to watch for a potential alligator thief, he added.

The beast was obtained for the show from a private collector and may have been looking for a place to hibernate, center officials said.

The police report said the alligator is "not particularly dangerous, since it's used to humans."