

Meeting the masses



President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore shake hands with Air Force reservists and their family members at the Air National Guard Base at the Portland Airport on Tuesday before leaving for Washington, D.C. Clinton and Gore were in Portland to learn about job growth and income for Oregonians as part of the Pacific Rim Regional Economic Conference. During his visit, Clinton faced a last-minute effort to reach an automobile industry trade agreement with Japan. Japan agreed to U.S. trade specifics on Wednesday.

DAVID BARTLETT/For the Emerald

Board OKs school for 'street kids'

Youth: 4-J School District and Looking Glass combine forces to provide hope and motivation for Eugene homeless youth

Sherry Rainey

Oregon Daily Emerald

Building a bridge for the homeless youth of Eugene was top priority for the school district's board members.

Wednesday evening, the 4-J School District Board of Directors unanimously approved a contract with Looking Glass New Roads Program to provide a school for homeless and run-away youth.

"We all want to assist — to make sure this works," board member Virginia Thompson said.

The program will begin for 30 youths in the downtown mall area this fall, and will focus on children ages 11-19. The program will be similar to existing plans with Pathways and Stepping Stone.

The purpose of the program will be to provide an education for "street kids" that will meet their individual needs and prepare them to reenter a more appropriate educational setting or to obtain employment.

"It will provide a safe and wholesome environment for at least a part of the day," said Margaret Nichols, superintendent of schools for Lane County. "We are simply adding a school program to already existing outreach programs established by Looking Glass."

The state will fund the program at the same level as funding for other students, \$4,175 per student, so 30 youth would generate \$125,250. Funding will be guaranteed for the first two months because the school

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Computer research lands grant

Technology: University project uses artificial intelligence in scheduling

Samantha Martin

Oregon Daily Emerald

If you thought figuring out your fall schedule was difficult, imagine trying to improve a global corporation's production schedule after it has jumped from a 39- to a 42-day timetable.

To run some of the tightest ships in the business, companies like United Parcel Service or Federal Express rely on super-efficient computer scheduling approaches.

"Scheduling is a critical issue for all kinds of organizations in the public and private sector," said University professor Matthew Ginsberg, director of the Computational Intelligence Research Lab. "Their needs run gamut from getting a product built on time through disaster recovery to scheduling airline flights, troop movements or package delivery."

Ginsberg, and co-investigator James Crawford,



GINSBERG

a University research associate, were awarded a \$1.6 million federal research grant from the Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Air Force's Rome Laboratories to be used over a three-year time span.

"We look at the types of problems that an organization might typically face: for example, how many trucks are needed in a transportation system to do the job efficiently?" Crawford said. "We then explore new approaches to these problems that consistently work well."

Ginsberg said his lab builds an algorithm, which is a special way of solving a certain kind of mathematical problem, to determine the most apt schedule for a given problem faced by an organization.

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Common sense, caution keys to firework safety

Dangers: Misusing fireworks can hurt fingers, property — and the pocketbook

Regina Brown

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Safety should be a primary concern for Independence Day celebrations that include fireworks, according to health workers and officials with the city fire marshal's office.

Last year, 173 Oregonians were injured by fireworks, said Mary Ellen Holly, a Eugene deputy fire marshal.

Burns and damage to fingers and hands constituted most of the injuries on the list, she said.

"People don't use common sense," Holly said. "They need to realize that [fireworks] are explosive devices."

Sacred Heart General Hospital receives a handful of visits every July Fourth from people who have suffered firework-related injuries, emergency room doctor Glenn Morgan said. "They're usually not too bad, but occasionally there are some seri-

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

- Buy fireworks from a retailer with a license.
- Fireworks should be used on pavement or gravel, away from buildings, people and animals.
- Fireworks should not be taken into forested areas.
- Children should not use fireworks without adult supervision.
- Keep a bucket of water close by for emergency fires.
- Fireworks should not be thrown at living things or moving vehicles.

SOURCE: Eugene Fire Marshal.

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ous injuries," he said, numbering the serious cases at one or two a year.

Improper use of fireworks causes property damage as well, Holly said.

Last year, fires created by

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Voters to decide fire safety measure

Services: The \$19.1 million bond could pay for two new stations

Marcelene Edwards

Oregon Daily Emerald

Despite concerns about rising property taxes, the Eugene City Council voted to place a \$19.1 million bond for fire redeployment on the September ballot.

The measure, which will cost \$19,141,410 if approved,

includes new stations at 2nd Avenue and Chambers Street and Coburg Road and Willakenzie Road, along with public safety training and equipment storage and maintenance facilities.

Councilwoman Nancy Nathanson said the measure has been a long time coming.

"It's in keeping the promise to voters and citizens of Eugene to address public safety needs," Nathanson said.

The concept of redeployment is to provide a maximum four-minute response time for emergency medical and fire calls throughout as much of Eugene as possible.

The four-minute response time "reflects the fact that irreversible brain damage or death typically occurs when the brain does not receive adequate oxygenation after four minutes as a

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