

# NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

## OCA's newest anti-gay-rights petition drive starts this week



SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Citizens Alliance plans to have initiative petition circulars on the streets soon in its latest effort to pass an anti-gay-rights measure, officials said Monday.

"We'll be in full swing by the end of the week," said OCA Chairman Lon Mabon.

Mabon said the organization had settled on one of four alternative versions of the proposals for which it obtained ballot titles.

The proposed constitutional amendment would bar including homosexuality as a specific basis for civil rights laws and forbid governments from spending money approving homosexuality.

The OCA will need to gather 97,000 signatures by next July to put the measure on the November 1996 ballot. Voters in 1992 and 1994 defeated statewide anti-gay-rights measures sponsored by the OCA.

## 70-year-old hiker found after night lost in watershed

LA GRANDE (AP) — A 70-year-old former La Grande city official was found safe Monday after becoming lost while hiking in the La Grande watershed.

Roberta Bates was reported missing Sunday evening after she failed to meet her husband at a trail head.

Members of Union County Search and Rescue searched the area by foot overnight. Searchers from Wallowa County, a dog team from Umatilla County and a helicopter joined the search Monday morning.

Bates was found at 11:45 a.m. She had been accompanied by a dog and was carrying a map, compass, sweatshirt and food and water.

Rescuers said it appeared Bates had taken a wrong turn and wandered off a trail.

## Capitol hosts meeting to promote African-American unity



WASHINGTON (AP) — Jammed together at the foot of the Capitol, a vast throng of black men, some with fists raised, pledged to improve themselves and forswear violence in a revival-style chant led by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

"I pledge that from this day forward, I will never raise my hand with a knife or gun to beat, cut or shoot any member of my family or any human being, except in self defense," they chanted Monday at the climax of the day-long gathering of black men amid the nation's monuments.

Farrakhan's "Million Man March" called together black men for a day of praying, singing and reveling in racial unity. The throng stretched for blocks down the grassy expanse. The National Park Service estimated the crowd at 400,000.

As the rally's dramatic finale, Farrakhan spoke for more than two hours, often addressing white America. "White supremacy," he said, is the root of America's suffering.

"That makes you sick," Farrakhan said, "and you produce a sick society, and a sick world."

Farrakhan urged the men to go home and join black organizations — even those that refused to endorse his rally — to take hold of political power, unite against racism and cleanse black communities of crime, drugs and violence.

He brushed aside critics who have condemned his inflammatory statements about Jews, Catholics, gays and Asians, saying he had divine guidance in bringing to Washington the largest assemblage of black Americans since the 1963 March on Washington.

"Whether you like it or not, God brought the idea through me, and he didn't bring it through me because my heart was dark with hatred and anti-Semitism," he said.

## Frightened Serbian refugees flood abandoned prison camp



OMARSKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Once Muslims suffered here as prisoners in a Serb-run camp. Now, fortunes have shifted and Serb refugees have flooded the grounds.

"I feel like a walking shadow," said Davorka Kuzmanovic, fighting back tears as she breastfed her 10-month-old daughter.

Kuzmanovic, 25, and her baby are among some 50,000 Serb civilians who have fled their homes ahead of recent government and Croatian assaults that have touched off another refugee crisis.

About half the refugees have ended up at Omarska, an old iron mine that was among the most notorious prison camps run by rebel Serbs after they overran much of Bosnia in 1992.

## Barge sinks in hurricane-rocked seas, killing one American

CAMPECHE, Mexico (AP) — As crew members threw on life jackets and jumped into rafts, a pipe-laying barge caught in hurricane-stirred seas sank off the Gulf coast, killing an American and two others. Planes searched Monday for 23 missing people.

The barge carrying 248 people sank about 7:45 p.m. (9:45 p.m. EDT) Sunday. Two offshore supply boats and two construction tugs quickly pulled 222 people from the water but had to leave as Hurricane Roxanne approached, the Coast Guard said in a statement Monday from New Orleans.

Campeche state spokesman Sergio Romero Olivera quoted port authorities in nearby Ciudad del Carmen as identifying the dead American as Jim Vines. He was believed to be an oil worker, but no age or hometown was immediately available.

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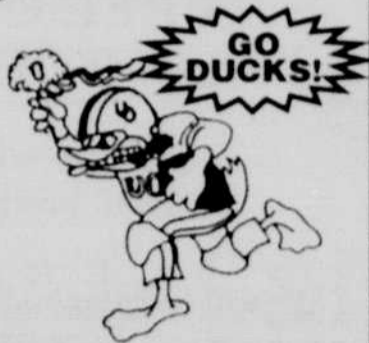
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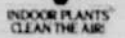
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