

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

U.S. Senate seat open for election May 2; 5 candidates to run



PORTLAND (AP) — Five candidates, including state Sen. Shirley Gold and Portland City Commissioner Earl Blumenthal, both democrats, have filed to run for Ron Wyden's seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Wyden vacated the seat when he won Bob Packwood's seat in the U.S. Senate.

Other candidates for Wyden's House seat are Democrat Anna Nevenich, a nurse from Portland; and Mark Brunelle and Scott Bruun, both Republicans from Milwaukie. Brunelle is a cement mason and Bruun is a banker.

Monday was the deadline for filing to run in the April 2 mail-ballot primary to select nominees. The special election for the post will be May 21.

Judge refuses block of gay meeting at University of Alabama



TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Critics of a gay conference at the University of Alabama have all but given up on stopping the event after a federal judge rejected state claims that the meeting is illegal.

U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson on Tuesday refused to block the weekend meeting, reiterating many of the points he made last month.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who had planned to get the law reinstated to block the event, said he didn't know what to do next. While the university has stood behind the meeting on free-speech grounds, opponents in this Bible-belt state, the governor and others have condemned it as unsuitable at a taxpayer-funded university.

Volunteers, blankets, buckets of water save beached whales



WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — More than 80 volunteer workers refloated 28 whales today after the mammals were stranded for more than 12 hours on a beach.

Using wet blankets, buckets and even cups, teams of four and five rescuers labored, carrying water for the entire day to protect the stranded whales from the hot sun.

The 80-strong rescue team saw six of the whales die on the beach at Farewell Spit on North Island, but the rest of them were floated from the sandy beach on the evening's high tide and guided to deeper water.

The whales were spotted on the beach by a tourist, caught in the shallow waters when the tide retreated.

Carpenter sisters meet West brothers; 6 wed in a decade

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — For the Carpenters and the Wests, love is all in the family.

One by one over a 10-year period, Sandra, Lynda and Joyce Carpenter married Jerry, Larry and Max West.

It all started in 1966, when Sandra and Jerry met at a party. Four months later, they were married. Larry and Lynda, who met the same night, exchanged vows three years later.

When Joyce's first husband died in 1976, her happily-married sisters once again turned to the West family. Joyce and Max West were married later that year.

God to serve time for indecent exposure

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (AP) — A man who legally changed his name to Ubiquitous Perpetuity God began serving a nine-month sentence for indecent exposure Wednesday.

God, 68, has been convicted 18 times for similar offenses since 1978.

His latest arrest came Oct. 26, when he exposed himself to a woman waiting in line at a coffee shop. He said he did it so that women "could have some type of awareness of God," according to reports.

Marin Superior Court Judge Lynn O'Malley Taylor

stranger

THAN FICTION

addressed the defendant as "Mr. God" at a hearing Tuesday, and sentenced him to nine months in jail.

God was born Enrique Silberg in Cuba and later immigrated to the United States in search of "women, silver, gold, knowledge and God," he told his probation officer Richard Howell.

Man settles sexual harassment claim

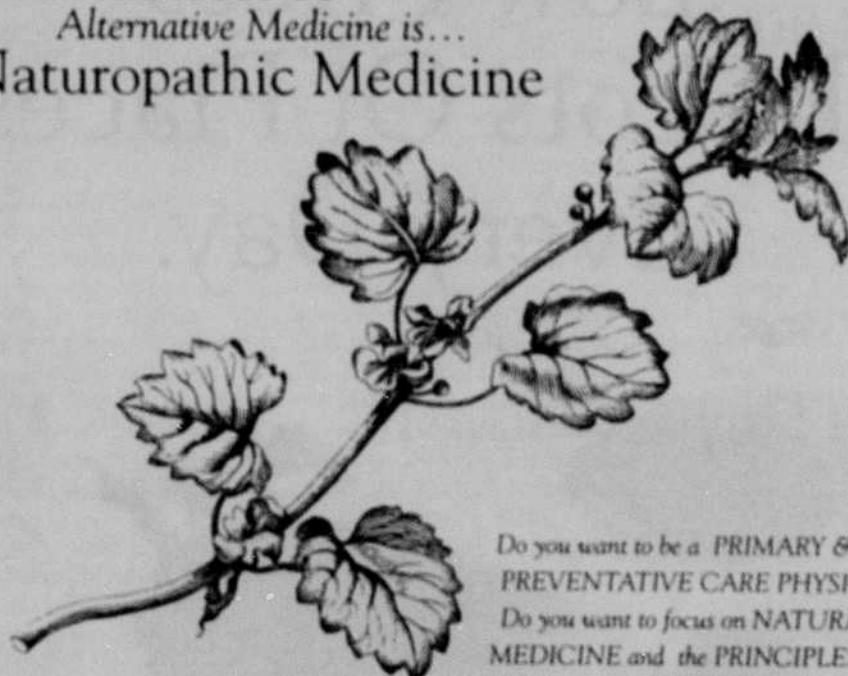
CHICAGO (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration will pay only a fraction of the \$300,000 sought by an air traffic controller who claimed he was groped by women at a sensitivity training session.

Douglas Hartman, 44, has agreed to accept \$2,001 and payment of legal expenses.

"This was never about money," Hartman said. "We stopped very objectionable conduct. These classes will not be done again."

Hartman sued the FAA in September 1994, accusing the government of overzealously trying to show men at a 1992 training seminar how women feel when they are sexually harassed on the job. Hartman claimed women fondled him while others encouraged them.

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