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NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Oregon voter turn-out of 54 percent tops all primaries this year



SALEM (AP) — Almost 54 percent of Oregon voters cast ballots in Tuesday's mail-in presidential primary election in possibly the highest turnout of any state presidential primary so far.

"We can be especially proud of this record since the presidential candidates all but ignored the state," said Phil Keisling, secretary of state.

Election officials said voter participation rates were not yet known for the other six state's Tuesday primaries. But Oregon's 53.7 percent turnout topped that of any of the 23 states and territories that held primaries prior to Tuesday.

The Oregon turnout rate Tuesday was higher than the 49 percent turnout for the 1992 primary, when presidential contenders were on the ballot in the regular May primary election.

The 1995 Legislature moved the presidential primary to March to attract campaigns to the state.

Keisling said Oregon should consider working with other Northwest states to create a regional presidential primary. Several previous efforts have failed.

He also said independents, who make up 20 percent of registered voters, should be allowed to vote in primaries in Oregon.

Forbes drops out of Presidential race



WASHINGTON (AP) — With just 76 delegates to show for his \$30 million investment, Steve Forbes decided Wednesday to abandon his bid for the Republican presidential nomination and throw his support to GOP front-runner Bob Dole, aides said.

Forbes planned a Thursday afternoon withdrawal announcement in Washington, said campaign manager Bill Dal Col. A senior Forbes aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Forbes would endorse Dole and pledge his help in defeating President Clinton in the fall.

Dole declined further comment until Forbes makes his remarks Thursday.

School bus overturns, 11 children injured

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — A school bus overturned after colliding with a dump truck today, injuring 11 children, police said.

None of the injuries were life-threatening, authorities said.

"All of the children are doing well — no serious injuries," said Dayton schools Superintendent James Williams. The children were taken to hospitals, he said.

The bus was en route to Hickorydale Elementary School, said Jill Moberley, spokeswoman for Dayton schools. The bus had been carrying 20 to 25 children.

Gunman shoots, kills 16 kindergartners, then turns gun on self



DUNBLANE, Scotland (AP) — A disgraced boys' club leader with a passion for guns carried four pistols into a Scottish country school and methodically shot and killed 16 kindergartners and a teacher Wednesday morning.

The gunman, a 43-year-old loner reportedly nurturing dark, hidden grievances, then killed himself in the morning shooting spree at the elementary school in Dunblane, a town of 9,000 people on the edge of the Scottish Highlands.

Only one 5-year-old escaped injury or death among the 29 children playing in the gymnasium when Thomas Hamilton strode in from the playground at about 9:30 a.m. and began firing.

The dead children — 11 girls and five boys — were between the ages of 5 and 6.

Two other teachers and 12 children were wounded, including a 5-year-old in critical condition with a gunshot to the chest.

The shootings devastated this 13th-century cathedral town, which straddles a meandering river in a bucolic area 35 miles northwest of Edinburgh.

Man gives waitress \$1,000 tip; returns later, wants it back

LAKE OSWEGO (AP) — There's one tip waitress Ruth Bullis will never forget: \$1,000 on a \$3.95 gin-and-tonic.

Apparently, the tipper can't get it out of his mind, either. He wants the money back.

Bullis is not about to hand it over. In fact, she's already spent it.

She and her co-workers at Stanford's Restaurant and Bar say the tipper wasn't tipsy or otherwise addled when he signed the credit card slip in November.

"Once someone gives you a tip, that's it," explains Bullis, a newlywed who lives and works in this well-to-do Portland suburb.

Moreover, Bullis, 37, says she saw the tipper three weeks later and he mentioned that he had thought of her as he paid his

STRANGER THAN FICTION

credit card bill.

The money came in handy for some bills, a Christmas ski suit for Bullis' husband and a rain jacket for herself.

In February, the restaurant's owner, Pacific Coast Restaurants Inc. of Portland, got a letter from American Express. The customer — Bullis doesn't know his full name, and Pacific Coast won't say — was disputing the tip.

Pacific Coast wrote back, assuring the credit card company that the man knew what he was doing.

Bullis says she double-checked if he intended to give her \$1,000, then a manager came out and checked again.

"He assured us, 'This is what I want to do, and no,

you're not going to change my mind,'" says Wes Curl, Pacific Coast's vice president of operations. The company runs 16 restaurants in the Portland area.

American Express spokesman Marcos Rada said he wasn't familiar with the case.

It was just before the lunch rush that the customer, a man in his 50s wearing a sheepskin jacket, jeans and tennis shoes, sat down in Bullis' section of the bar. The man, who Bullis learned is a lumber broker named Craig, ordered a gin-and-tonic and a \$16 double-cut prime rib sandwich.

Craig, who was joined by another man, paid his \$50 lunch tab and added a \$40 tip — nice, but not uncommon in Bullis' six years at Stanford's.

He was just getting started. One hour and one gin-and-tonic later, he left her a \$100 tip. After a third gin-and-tonic — four hours after arriving — he scribbled down a \$1,000 tip on a credit card slip.

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