

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Oregon's jobless rate sees slight increase from last month



SALEM (AP)

Oregon's unemployment rate increased last month, to 5.4 percent from 5.1 percent in March.

The state Employment Department said jobless rate increases the past two months follow more than a year of unusually low unemployment.

Oregon's unemployment rate in April 1995 was 4.7 percent, rising to 5.2 percent in May and June. The rate then dropped and held below 5 percent until March, when it rose by 0.2 percent.

Short-term fluctuations are not too meaningful, said John Mitchell, chief economist for U.S. National Bank.

"You can't make too much out of the month-to-month unemployment rate. You have to watch it over time," he said.

Oregon's rate has not topped the national figure in more than two and one-half years.

The department said urban areas are doing best in employment.

"The economies in the Portland and Salem metropolitan areas remain strong, but unemployment rates in many of the more rural areas of the state are up significantly since last year," said agency economist David Cooke.

Seasonally adjusted employment increased by 3,400 jobs in April, compared with the average of 4,900 jobs gained monthly for the first three months of 1996.

Perhaps the best ongoing picture of Oregon's economic health is its consistent job growth, said Mitchell.

"Oregon has been outperforming the nation for a long time on a year-to-year basis," he said.

Study finds AIDS drug lowers newborns' risk of contracting virus



CHICAGO (AP)

HIV-positive women who took AZT while pregnant were significantly less likely to deliver babies with the virus, researchers said Tuesday.

But in another study, some pregnant, HIV-positive women offered AZT by a New York City hospital were either afraid of the drug or failed to complete their prescriptions.

"These studies highlight areas where we need to work harder," said Dr. R.J. Simonds, a pediatrician who specializes in HIV-AIDS prevention at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

The two studies were published in Wednesday's issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association.

In the first, 5.7 percent of the infants born to 87 HIV-positive women who took AZT got the AIDS virus. Of 106 HIV-positive women who didn't take AZT, 18.9 percent of the children were positive.

The study was conducted in urban and rural areas of North Carolina, where five major teaching hospitals are cooperating to treat HIV-positive expectant mothers, said Dr. Susan Fiscus, a microbiology and immunology professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who led the study.

That cooperation allowed doctors to identify and treat an estimated 90 percent of all HIV-exposed children in the state in the last quarter of 1994, Fiscus said.

"What may work in North Carolina may not work in New York or other parts of the country," she said.

Top U.S. diplomat issues strong warning to Burundi extremists



BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AP)

President Clinton's national security adviser delivered a strong warning to Burundian extremists Tuesday and threatened international prosecution if the country's ethnic bloodletting continues.

"If they refuse and the killing persists, or if any group seizes power by force, you should know that the United States will see to it that they are isolated by the international community and feel the full weight of international law," National Security Adviser Anthony Lake said.

Lake and another top U.S. diplomat, Assistant Secretary of State George Moose, were in Burundi for a seven-hour visit Tuesday as part of Washington's efforts to halt what U.S. officials have called "national suicide."

The conflict between Hutu rebels and the Tutsi-dominated army killed 15,000 people last year and displaced 200,000 others. More than 100,000 people have been killed since 1993.

Reports of massacres by the Tutsi-dominated military and Hutu rebels have sparked concerns that the situation is seriously deteriorating despite efforts to start peace talks.

Lake called on other governments Tuesday to support the peace process — specifically Zaire, where the Hutu rebels are based — asking neighboring countries to make a "positive contribution" to peace in the region.

"This is not a question of the international community walking away from Burundi if there is a seizure of power by force," he said. "You have seen what we do in Rwanda and elsewhere."



Support beams and the crane used to place them sit quietly while the University waits for building permits to arrive.

Mac Court: Construction to be complete in August

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structural performance of the new roof, said Denny Hellesvig, city official for building permits.

City officials had questions about the structure of the roof as well as general review questions, said Don Ferguson, project manager. The city also had specific ques-

tions about lateral loads on the building, he said.

"We thought they already had all the information," Fritz said. "We are hoping [the permit] will be here either today or tomorrow."

Construction on Mac Court began on April 1, and is expected to be completed by August 1996.

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Jeremy Mason

got a head start on the competition when he was hired by the Puget Sound Business Journal **BEFORE** he graduated.

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Tom Mittelstaedt

was hired by Willamette Week in Portland **BEFORE** he graduated.

The Reason? He was an Oregon Daily Emerald Advertising Executive from Fall '94-Winter '96.



The Ad Department at the Oregon Daily Emerald will have openings for two advertising executives next fall. Applications are available in suite 300, EMU. Applications are due by 4:00pm Wednesday, May 15th and interviews will be held the following week. Preference will be given to students who are available this summer for training and who are not graduating before spring '97. You must be available for training Sept 16th, 1996. The Oregon Daily Emerald is an equal opportunity employer committed to cultural diversity.

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