

Access to Portland Bridge will be limited

1 PORTLAND — Access to the downtown Morrison Bridge will be limited for the next two months while pedestrian improvements are made.

The Naito Parkway ramp on the bridge will be closed to pedestrian, truck and bus traffic.

Light vehicle traffic will be allowed to continue to use the ramp. The restrictions will remain in effect until Nov. 26 so crews can widen the sidewalks on the ramp.

Mystery of Reed reactor leak solved

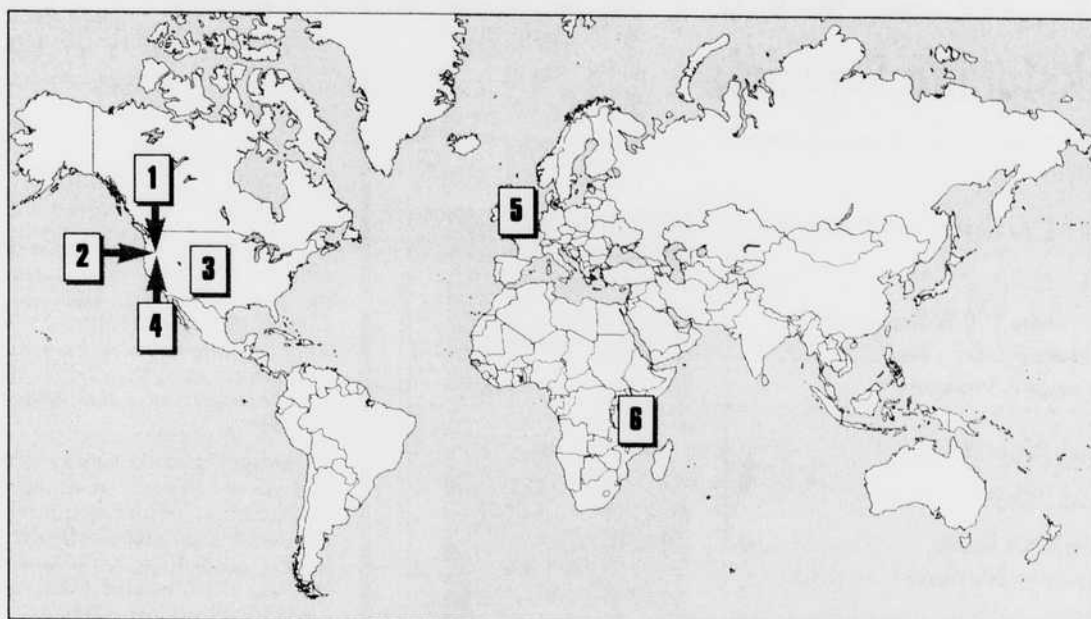
2 PORTLAND — Replacing each of 60 fuel elements in Reed College's small nuclear reactor seems to have solved the mystery of why it has emitted tiny puffs of radioactivity three times in the last seven years.

After the third incident Aug. 22, teachers and students replaced each fuel element, one at a time, until the leak stopped.

In 1991 and 1994, the small research reactor — about the size of a washing machine — briefly leaked inert radioactive gases up the chimney. State and federal regulators agreed the emissions were insignificant.

The latest discharge of radioactive xenon and krypton was so insignificant that government rules didn't even require the reactor to shut down, although it did, said Stephen Frantz, reactor director and an affiliate staff scientist for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Reed's reactor is one of 40 research reactors licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Others are located at places such as Oregon State University and the National Bureau



of Standards.

Reed's Triga Mark I is used for teaching. It is rated at 250 thermal kilowatts, much too small to melt down.

By comparison, the Washington Public Power Supply System's WNP-2 plant in Hanford is rated at 3.5 million thermal kilowatts.

When Reed's latest leak occurred, Frantz said students were bombarding stable samarium with neutrons to test the reactor's ability to make samarium-153, a short-lived radioisotope that relieves bone cancer pain.

He said the experiment had nothing to do with the leak.

Judge tells potential jurors to take a stand

3 DENVER — A federal judge agreed Wednesday to stop telling potential jurors it was all right if they had changed their minds about the Oklahoma City bombing, after defense attorneys warned he might be biasing the

panel.

Michael Tigar, Terry Nichols' lead attorney, said a major part of his case is that "a lot of witnesses have changed their stories often" about the April 1995 bombing.

U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch had been telling prospective jurors that there's nothing wrong with changing their views on the case from the ones they provided on questionnaires.

Tigar said that suggests to jurors that "it's OK" for a witness to change his story.

Matsch then agreed to alter his questioning, leaving it more to the attorneys to try to resolve conflicts over prospective juror statements.

The exchange took place as jury selection in Nichols' trial entered a third day, with a dozen prospective jurors questioned in the first 2 1/2 days.

Nichols, 42, could get the death penalty if convicted of murder and conspiracy in the April 19, 1995, bombing that

killed 168 people and injured hundreds more. Timothy McVeigh was convicted in June of the same charges and sentenced to die.

Prosecutors say Nichols helped McVeigh acquire bomb components, build the bomb and hide a getaway car in Oklahoma City. They also contend Nichols robbed a firearms dealer to finance the bombing.

Defense attorneys say Nichols was at home in Herington, Kan., when the blast happened and didn't know about the bombing in advance.

Inmate's suicide results in lawsuit

4 OREGON CITY — The family of an inmate who committed suicide last year is suing Clackamas and Washington counties on allegations of negligence and wrongful death.

A guard found Peter LaFreniere, 34, hanging in his cell at the intake center at Clackamas

County Jail.

Officials said he apparently fashioned his bedsheet into a rope and tied it to an air vent on the wall of his cell.

The lawsuit says that LaFreniere was not supervised properly while he was in isolation and that he was not given his proper medication for schizophrenia and depression.

He had been arrested on charges of attempted assault and unlawful use of a weapon.

Teasing, bullying prompt girl's suicide

5 LONDON — For three years, Kelly Yeomans endured taunts of "fatty." Her teen-age tormentors threw salt in her school lunch and dumped her clothes in the garbage. Last week, they pelted her house, first with stones and finally with butter and eggs.

The 13-year-old told her parents she couldn't stand the abuse anymore. While they slept on Sunday night, she took a fatal overdose of painkillers.

Police have arrested four neighborhood boys and one girl, ranging in age from 13 to 17, and they say more arrests are possible. However, the arrested youths were not charged with any crime and were released without bail. It was not clear what would happen to them, since all are juveniles, authorities said.

Kelly's death came as a shock to many, and the media have given wide coverage to the tragedy.

"She was a bubbly, charming little angel who would do anything for anybody," said Ivan Yeomans, Kelly's father. "We were just an easy target and they are cowards, but I hope they can sleep at night after what has happened."

—From AP wire reports

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