

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
		
High: 43 Low: 36 Precip: 20%	High: 46 Low: 34 Precip: 50%	High: 43 Low: 27 Precip: 20%

IN BRIEF

Nine children injured in school bus crash

NEWBERG — Nine children suffered minor injuries Monday when their school bus struck a telephone pole and rolled into a ditch, authorities said.

The accident happened on a rural road southwest of Dundee in Yamhill County. The injured children attended schools in the Newberg School District, district spokeswoman Claudia Stewart said.

Roughly 25 students were on board when the bus slipped about 15 feet off the road shortly after 3 p.m. The injured were taken to a Newberg hospital, said John Stock, the fire chief in Dundee.

Investigators have yet to determine why the bus left the road.

Up to 12 missing after California mudslide

LA CONCHITA, Calif. — A mudslide crashed down on homes in a coastal hamlet with terrifying force Monday, killing at least one person and leaving up to 12 missing as a Pacific storm hammered Southern California for a fourth straight day. Ventura County Fire Department Chief Bob Roper said as many as a dozen residents were missing in the mudslide that pummeled a four-block area of homes in La Conchita, about 70 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Nine people were injured.

CBS fires four after Bush Guard story review

NEW YORK — CBS issued a damning independent review Monday of mistakes related to last fall's "60 Minutes Wednesday" report on President Bush's National Guard service and fired three news executives and a producer for their "myopic zeal" in rushing it on the air. The review said CBS compounded the damage with a circle-the-wagons mentality once the report came under fire. The independent investigators added that they found no evidence of a political bias against Bush.

— The Associated Press

Outside accountants will track U.N. tsunami funds

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS — In an unusual move, the United Nations said Monday it will use an outside accounting firm to help track the billions of dollars pledged to help the victims of the tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

Officials denied that the move was in response to allegations of corruption and mismanagement in the oil-for-food program for Iraq, which was administered by the United Nations.

Price-Waterhouse-Coopers has offered to help create a financial tracking system for the United Nations on a pro bono basis, said Kevin Kennedy, a senior official in the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

He told reporters the accounting firm would be able to investigate

credible allegations of fraud, waste or abuse.

"In my experience of disasters it is the first time I can recall in the past 10 years that we have used an outside accounting firm, at least at this juncture," Kennedy said.

Kennedy said that he did not think humanitarian donors were being discouraged by the oil-for-food scandal from making contributions to those in need. The United Nations received more than \$2 billion from donor states in response to appeals in 2004, he said.

More than 50 internal U.N. audits of the humanitarian program published by an independent commission Sunday revealed widespread mismanagement and showed how U.N. agencies squandered millions of dollars through suspected overpayment to contractors, poor management of purchasing and assets

and fraud by its employees.

Explaining the need for outside auditors, Kennedy said there is large interest in ensuring that money given to the United Nations and its humanitarian partners "is used efficiently and effectively and if this adds to the credibility and the transparency of the effort then so much the better."

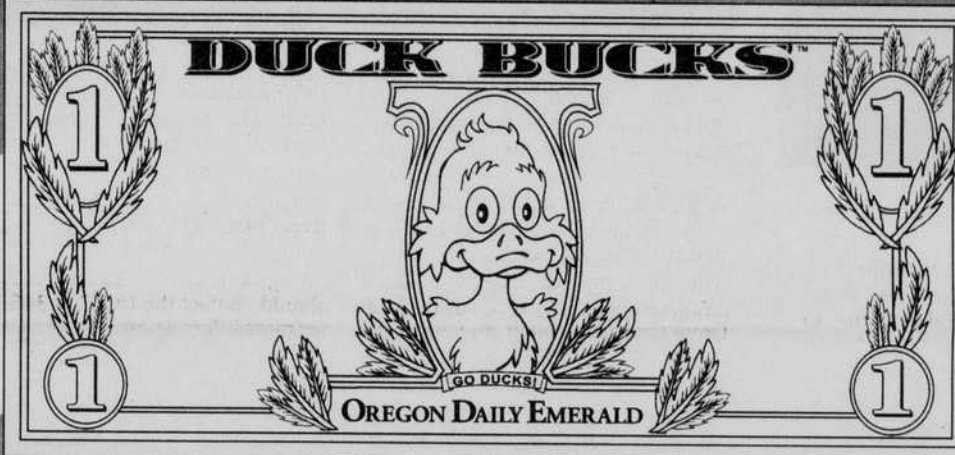
The United Nations already has a financial tracking system but Kennedy said the aim was to improve the way countries record their pledges.

Some \$4 billion has already been pledged by governments, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for victims of the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami that swept across the Indian Ocean. That figure includes not only cash for the humanitarian relief effort but also aid and loans for long-term development and reconstruction.

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