

Today	Thursday	Friday
		
High: 54 Low: 40 Precip: 20%	High: 64 Low: 44 Precip: 30%	High: 53 Low: 38 Precip: 80%

IN BRIEF

Senate OKs ban on school faculty giving supplements

SALEM — Hoping to discourage the use of performance-enhancing supplements by teenage athletes, the Oregon Senate passed a bill Tuesday that would bar school employees from suggesting or supplying them to students.

Backers said while the nutritional supplements can make young athletes stronger and faster in the short term, they also can lead to health problems such as depression, high blood pressure and heart disease.

"This stuff is everywhere, and it's very dangerous to the long-term health of children," said Senate President Peter Courtney, a proponent of the bill.

Courtney said the measure doesn't keep the supplements out of the hands of young athletes, but it sends a message to coaches, teachers and volunteers that they should not encourage their use.

The bill prohibits school administrators, teachers, employees and volunteers from "promoting, suggesting, or supplying performance-enhancing supplements to students."

Offenders would face a maximum of three months in jail or a \$500 fine, or both.

The Oregon School Activities Association strongly backs the bill, saying it's needed to protect young athletes from nutritional supplements, which are unregulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

State governor to decide whether to declare drought

SALEM — Oregon is on the verge of a statewide drought, the state's Drought Council announced Tuesday.

"We're not going to recover to the point where we have normal conditions," said Dave Cassel of the Drought Council.

Cassel said drought conditions exist in all 14 basins measured.

But many areas within those basins do not meet conditions.

As a result, state officials have decided to hold off on recommending that a statewide drought emergency be declared.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski will consider the board's recommendation later this week when he decides whether to formally declare a drought.

Cassel said counties can continue to request that the council declare their particular area in drought, which opens the door to more flexibility in using emergency water supplies.

Kulongoski has already declared emergencies in Klamath County in Southern Oregon and Baker County in Eastern Oregon.

Report says insufficient evidence in Annan probe

NEW YORK — Investigators probing the U.N. oil-for-food program said Tuesday that Secretary-General Kofi Annan didn't interfere in the awarding of a contract to a company that employed his son but criticized the U.N. chief for not properly investigating possible conflicts

of interest.

A defiant Annan said "Hell no" when asked at a news conference whether he would resign, noting the report's findings that he committed no wrongdoing.

Although the report did not completely vindicate the secretary-general, the investigation led by former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker said there was insufficient evidence to show he was aware of the bid.

Still, the report raised questions about when the secretary-general learned about the December 1998 contract to the Swiss firm, Cotecna Inspection S.A., and strongly criticized the destruction of documents by his former chief of staff that could have shed light on the oil-for-food scandal in Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

The independent inquiry, released Tuesday, faulted Annan for conducting a one-day investigation into the matter, saying it should have been a more rigorous, independent probe.

Iraqi lawmakers fail to agree on speaker

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In a chaotic session marred by shouting, finger-pointing and walkouts by Iraq's top leaders, the new parliament failed Tuesday to choose a speaker, an impasse that brought tensions to the surface and raised concerns about a government that still isn't in place two months after landmark elections.

The National Assembly's second meeting was marked by outbursts of anger and wrangling among Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish legislators. The session was delayed for nearly three hours, then abruptly closed to the media, its live TV feed cut off.

The Sunni Arab minority — dominant under former dictator Saddam Hussein and believed to be the backbone of the insurgency — was given until Sunday to come up with a candidate to serve as speaker of the 275-seat parliament.

The Shiite-led United Iraqi Alliance and the Kurdish coalition want an Arab Sunni to hold the position as a way of healing rifts with the Sunnis, many of whom boycotted the Jan. 30 elections or simply feared attacks at the polls.

More meetings are scheduled for this week.

Ousted Kyrgyzstan leader says he's ready to resign

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan — Ousted President Askar Akayev surfaced in Russia after fleeing Kyrgyzstan and said Tuesday he would resign if given legal protections — the first sign he is willing to yield power.

Akayev, who fled after protesters seized government headquarters last week, also accused his foes of plotting his overthrow for months. Interim leader Kurmanbek Bakiyev said the storming of the government headquarters was never planned, and he called for an official inquiry.

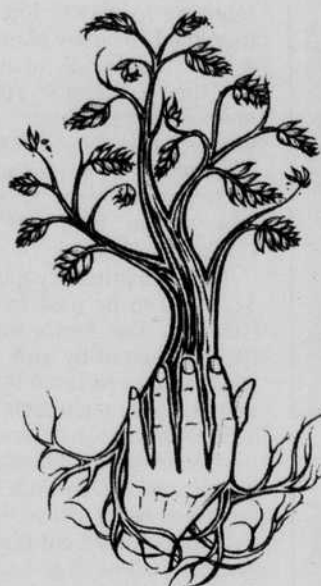
In an interview with Russia's state-run Channel One television, Akayev emphasized that he is Kyrgyzstan's legitimate leader and suggested he would keep a hand in its fragile politics.

Asked whether he was prepared to step down, Akayev replied: "Of course, of course — if I am given the relevant guarantees and if it is in full accordance with the current legislation."

Speaking earlier to Ekho Moskvy radio, Akayev emphasized he is "the only elected and legitimate president of Kyrgyzstan" and stressed that his term ends in autumn.

— The Associated Press

The University of Oregon's
Coalition Against Environmental Racism (CAER)
presents the

10th Annual Environmental Justice Conference

Saturday, April 2nd, 2005

8am - 6pm

Wesley Foundation Center

1236 Kincaid St., Eugene, OR

Food Provided

In Your Own Backyard:

Work within our community to
create change here and elsewhere

• 12:30
FREE ORGANIC LUNCH

• 1:00-1:45
KEYNOTE ADDRESS
by **Caleen Sisk-Franco**,
Spiritual Leader and Chief of the
Winnemem Wintu Tribe of California.

The conference is **FREE**
and open to the public

<http://gladstone.uoregon.edu/~caer/>
More info: ela@law.uoregon.edu

2005 Health Professions Graduate School Fair

Wednesday, April 6
EMU Ballroom
10:00am-3:00pm

2005 Graduate and Professional School Fair



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