

One at a time

Riley is one of over 350 children looking for an adoptive home.



See Family Living, page A7.

From lands afar

Find Japanese dance and entertainment from across the globe at Portland International Performance Festival.



See Entertainment, page A8.

Kick up your heels

Patrick Goebel is manager of Alberta Station, a new ballroom and dance studio in the Alberta district.



See Metro, inside.

The Portland Observer

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Sex discrimination law hailed

Former astronaut Sally Ride and six-time Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey joined President Clinton Tuesday in marking the 25th anniversary of a landmark U.S. law that opened doors for women in education, sports and hiring. Clinton said Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 have had a beneficial effect on every American.

Tobacco talks snagged

Mississippi Attorney General Mike Moore, a key negotiator, met with tobacco industry representatives this week. A source said the attorneys general had suggested the parties send a letter to the White House asking it to resolve the issue of whether individuals can sue to collect punitive damages. But the White House said it was refusing to help resolve issues delaying a tobacco settlement, saying it was up to the parties to reach a deal in their multi-billion dollar legal battle.

Bomb suspect deportation

Agreement has been reached for Canada to deport a Saudi man implicated in the 1996 truck bombing that killed 19 U.S. airmen in Saudi Arabia, the suspect's lawyer said Tuesday. Lawyer Michael Wildes said the arrangement cleared the way for Hani Abdel-Rahim Hussein al-Sayegh to be sent to the United States from Canada. Canadian authorities ruled last month he should be deported as a suspected terrorist but it was not clear whether he would go to the United States or Saudi Arabia.

Revolt brewing in House

There could be a revolt brewing within Republican ranks in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution says disgruntled lawmakers are expected to make a direct challenge to Speaker Newt Gingrich's leadership. The session was called to assess the GOP's approach to coming votes on tax and spending bills.

Watergate break-in remembered

Tuesday was the anniversary of the 1972 break-in at the Democratic Party's national headquarters at the Watergate office and apartment complex that started the worst political scandal in U.S. history. Those who lived through it say it left a weakened presidency, a public cynical and distrusting of politicians and a press that goes for the jugular at the slightest excuse.

US says Iran tested missiles

U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen says the United States is not headed toward a clash with Iran unless the Islamic republic starts it. During a tour of Washington's Gulf Arab allies, Cohen again warned Tehran against any attempt to halt shipping in the oil-rich Gulf.

EDITORIAL.....	A2
HEALTH.....	A3
EDUCATION.....	A5
FAMILY.....	A7
ARTS & ENT.....	A8
METRO.....	B1
RELIGION.....	B2
SPORTS.....	B3
CAREERS.....	B5
CLASSIFIEDS.....	B7



Heavenly Joy!

Area residents (above) are treated to true inspiration during a performance by north and northeast Portland men's choirs (see Religion page, inside) and a sermon by Dr. Johnny Pack IV, (left) pastor of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.

Photos by Mark Washington

Crime focused on NE

Police say inner city neighborhoods are strong, despite media portrayals

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
Police are enhancing patrols in north and northeast Portland in response to recent shootings, but characterizing it as a gang war is a portrayal exaggerated by news coverage, a senior police officer said Tuesday.

Lt. Cliff Madison confirmed police are on added patrols in the northeast quadrant of the city, but said a police unit fighting gang-related crime was spread across the city.

"There's a perception that the northeast area is falling apart. It's not true," Madison said. "Northeast is a strong community and a strong area."

The media attention follows an outbreak of shootings and four murders.

Madison said the public may be led to believe that the deadly violence occurred in one part of the city, when in fact, the shootings happened in southwest, southeast and north and northeast Portland.

Madison also rebuked a report that at least one of the shootings was an act of gang-related retaliation.

He said there's no evidence of retaliation at this time.

Meanwhile, officers on stepped-up patrols are making their presence known, stopping drivers even for minor infractions.

In addition, Tuesday Mayor Vera Katz held a news conference to recommend complete retention of the Gang Enforcement Team, along with the hiring of neighborhood police officers.

"We have decided we cannot afford to lose any officers from the Gang Enforcement Team," Katz said.

The gang unit was threatened with being cut in half a city budget gutted by property tax cuts.

Was McVeigh a patsy?

Although jurors wanted to hear from Timothy McVeigh, his lawyer says their comments after the trial have convinced him McVeigh could not have saved himself from a death sentence.

"I think they all clearly said it wouldn't have mattered, that it wouldn't have changed their minds," lawyer Christopher Tritico said in a telephone interview Sunday.

The jurors said Saturday they were left with one question after convicting and sentencing McVeigh for the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people - "Why?"

But if McVeigh answered that question, he would have admitted he did it, and that could have affected his appeals.

Among the avenues of appeal being examined by McVeigh's defense lawyers are the judge's ban on the introduction of a defense theory that foreign terrorists were involved in the bombing, and his restriction of evidence about alleged FBI crime lab contamination.

McVeigh, convicted two weeks ago and sentenced by jurors Friday to death, is being held at a Colorado federal prison.

In an interview on CBS' "60 Minutes" on Sunday, defense attorney Stephen Jones elaborated on his theory that foreign terrorists were behind the blast.

"There is some evidence that suggests that he may simply have been a patsy," Jones said. "He may have been used and involved by others as a convenient fall guy. ... I know that others had an interest in blowing up the Murrah federal building several years ago. I know they had connections in Germany and the Middle East."

On "Good Morning America", Jones was asked why McVeigh showed little emotion during the trial.

"Once the trial started, I think his attitude was it's serious business, it's a solemn matter," Jones said.



Bring on the summer fun

Opening day of the Portland Parks Bureau's summer outdoor pool season is greeted with lots of fun at Grant Pool in northeast Portland. Schedules at Grant and the other public pools in the city are available through the parks department.

Photo by Mark Washington