

Smart Guy goes from fifth grade to high school

Tahj Moury stars as whiz kid in new television comedy.



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Positive role models for kids

Increase the Peace again wins community support.



See Metro, inside

Cooper is first MVP of WNBA championship

Houston celebrates victory in the inaugural WNBA championship.



See Sports, page A6.

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Hillary to attend funeral

The White House says U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will attend the funeral of Britain's Princess Diana on Saturday. White House spokesman Joe Lockhart told reporters the only other U.S. official to be invited was Adm. William Crowe, the U.S. ambassador to Britain. In announcing the decision, the White House said that it is not appropriate for President Clinton to attend the service because it is not a state funeral, and there will be no official U.S. delegation.

Britons mourn Diana

Buckingham Palace called on Britons to observe a minute of silence during Saturday's funeral for Princess Diana. Banks, shops and sports organizations already have made plans to close in tribute to the 36-year-old "people's princess" who in death is fast achieving the status of a saint in the eyes of a mourning public. Thousands of mourners gathered to pay their respects to Princess Diana at her former Kensington Palace home and at St. James's Palace, where her body is lying until Saturday's ceremonial funeral at Westminster Abbey.

Army may fire laser

The U.S. Defense Department said today it was considering an Army request to test fire the military's most powerful laser weapon at a satellite circling Earth. The New York Times reported that the Army's Space and Defense Command had asked to test for the first time in September the ability of the big laser to possibly destroy satellites or other space vehicles in time of war.

New smoking warning

There's a fresh warning out about the dangers of smoking. Columbia University researchers say more than 40 percent of the cases of stomach and esophageal cancer can be blamed on smoking, and quitting does not cut the risk for 30 years.

Bounty hunters sought

An intense manhunt was under way for two bounty hunters who allegedly broke into the wrong house in a commando-style raid looking for a bail-jumper and shot and killed a young couple in Arizona. Police said two men were in custody and another was under police guard in a hospital after the ski-masked group broke down the front door of the house, held young children at gunpoint and exchanged fire with the couple early Sunday.

Shooting at post office

A man opened fire at a Miami Beach post office Tuesday, wounding at least three people before shooting himself, Miami television station WPLG said. Police could not confirm witness reports that the gunman was a U.S. Postal Service employee. Witnesses said there were 15 to 20 people in line at the post office when the shooting started. Two of the injured were women and were reported to be in serious condition.

US deplores attack

The United States called on Israel to ensure security for workers on a U.S.-funded road project in the West Bank town of Hebron after they were stoned by Jewish settlers. The State Department deplored the attack by the settlers, who threw stones at Palestinian laborers and lay down in the street to disrupt work on the project sponsored by the USAID agency. Some 400 Jews live and study in Hebron, home to more than 100,000 Palestinians.

Charges sought in deaths

Photographer at crash admits taking pulse of dying princess while snapping pictures

One of the photographers at the crash scene where Princess Diana lay dying took her pulse as he snapped pictures of the wreckage, his lawyer said Tuesday. A judge barred him from the paparazzi business, and pushed ahead with the case against him and six other photographers.

Judge Herve Stephan placed all seven photographers under formal investigation for involuntary homicide and failing to come to the aid of the princess and three others as they lay trapped in the wreckage after the car crash early Sunday.

Police accuse photographer Romuald Rat of obstructing the work of the first officers on the scene. Rat's lawyer, Philippe Benamou, argued that his client merely checked Diana's pulse when he was taking pictures of the wreckage.

"He took Diana's pulse. He wanted to see if she was dead or alive," the lawyer said. "He saw that she was alive, and police were arriving at the same time. It happened so quickly."



Max forges ahead

Standing as pioneers in the creation of one of the most modern transportation systems in the United States is Portland Mayor Vera Katz and Tri-Met General Manager Tom Walsh. The government leaders celebrated the opening of the Max light rail lines to Civic Stadium and Southwest 18th and Salmon during a Friday ceremony.

Rentals in single-family homes wins support

City planners move forward on plan despite objections from 20 neighborhood groups

By LEE PERLMAN

The Portland Planning Commission last week approved the creation of "granny flat" rental units as part of, or next to, any single family house in Portland.

The controversial Accessory Rental Unit proposal is an extension of the Albina Community Plan's A overlay zone. Among other things, it allowed small rental structures to be built next to, or as parts of, large houses in selected parts of inner north and northeast Portland.

The new proposal would allow this in any single family zone in the city.

The current proposal also does away with most of an A overlay requirement that when accessory units are created, at least one of the units be permanently owner-occupied.

Some 20 neighborhood associations from

throughout the city opposed the change in letters to the commission.

However, staff planner Jim Claypool argued that the restriction was impossible to enforce, and was the only place in the zoning code where owner-occupancy is required for a particular housing type.

In a compromise, the commission said that existing homes that add an accessory rental must be owner-occupied at the time of conversion.

Commission president Rick Michaelson said he feared that without an owner-occupied provision, speculators would buy up large blocks of houses in some neighborhoods to convert them.

Under the proposal, the accessory unit may not be more than 800 square feet, or one third of the floor area of the house, whichever is less. Under the A Overlay provision, there had to be a main unit of at least

1,400 square feet after the conversion, limited us to this provision on very large homes.

Housing strategies for North/Northeast considered

The lack of affordable housing for renters and home-buyers has become a critical issue for residents of North and Northeast Portland.

Residents can learn more about strategies to deal with the housing crisis at a Community dialogue on Tuesday, Sept. 8 from 3 - 4 p.m. at the Urban League, 10 N. Russell St.

The dialogue is being presented by the Urban League of Portland and the Coalition for a Livable Future.

Two speakers working on affordable housing in North/Northeast Portland will present

information about the current housing situation and tools and policies that the Coalition for a Livable Future is proposing to deal with the problem. Residents will learn how they can make their voices heard and impact important housing policy decisions being made by Portland and our Metro regional government.

"Citizen input is critical as we urge our policy makers to develop more affordable housing for our young families, senior and low income residents," said Claudette LaVert, an outreach worker for the Urban League.

Church plans called too suburban

Irvington Covenant building design runs into roadblock

By LEE PERLMAN

The Portland Planning Bureau and King Neighborhood Association are opposing Irvington Covenant Church's plans for a new building on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Staff planner Ruth Selid has recommended denial for a conditional use permit for a new church on a T-shaped vacant property near Northeast Shaver Street, and of the design of the proposed building.

The city held a hearing on the issue Aug 5, but the church has asked for a delay in a decision until September 16 to allow them to submit additional written testimony.

Selid, and King Association land use chair

Stephen Foust say the church's design is "too suburban," spread out and oriented toward cars rather than foot traffic.

Another problem is that the land is zoned for high-density housing, and the church plans no housing. Not only that, Selid says, but because proposed facilities are spread out over the entire site, there would be no chance to build housing in the future.

Foust says that while the church could be a positive addition to the neighborhood, its plans depend on housing there to, among other things, fuel economic development.

Foust says he hopes for a new proposal that would concentrate church facilities in the center of the site and allow housing development on the fringes in the future.

However, church spokesperson Fred Neth says there are no plans at this time to modify the proposal, and no plans for housing development except perhaps an "assisted living" facility for the elderly.



Assignments accepted

Portland School Board Chair Sue Hagmeier and Superintendent Jack Bierwirth announce a blue ribbon panel of area residents who have accepted a challenge to look for solutions to the district's money problems.