

Performers bring extreme excitement

Discount tickets go on sale for The Greatest Show on Earth.

See Family Living, page A5.



New Max cars fill immediate need

There's no time to wait as the new low-floor Max rail cars go into service.

See Metro, inside



Album is what's next for Vanessa Williams

Talented artist calls her life, just an interesting series of events.

See Arts & Entertainment, page B3.



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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Test: Di driver intoxicated

New tests confirm that Princess Diana's driver was over the legal limit for alcohol when he crashed their car in Paris, French police sources said Tuesday. Europe 1 radio said a new test found 1.75 grams of alcohol per liter of Henri Paul's blood. Two previous tests of blood taken from the chauffeur, conducted shortly after the Aug. 31 crash in two independent laboratories, had detected essentially the same level, about three times the legal limit for driving.

Ex-DNC chief testifies

Former Democratic Party chairman Don Fowler said neither President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore nor anyone else at the White House ordered or suggested that campaign fund-raising rules be bent during the 1996 election campaign. Testifying Tuesday before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Fowler acknowledged that the Democratic National Committee made mistakes during the campaign but insisted these were "mistakes of process, not intent."

Haiti leader at sinking

An international recovery team prepared to pull a sunken ferry from the water Tuesday as Haitian President Rene Preval and government ministers visited the disaster scene. The hull of the ferry La Fierre Gonavienne, which sank Monday in 120 feet of water just 50 yards from shore off the coast at Montrouis, contained dozens and perhaps hundreds of bodies. An international recovery team of U.N. peacekeepers brought a crane to the scene to help them pull the 60-foot ferry out of the water.

Productivity up sharply

The government says American businesses increased productivity at their fastest pace in three and a half years in the second quarter. The Labor Department report should ease concern over inflationary pressures. Productivity outside of the farm sector rose at a strong 2.7 percent annual rate during the recent period.

Mir restarts computer

Russia's Mir space station turned back to face the sun after the crew fixed the latest in a series of problems aboard the 11-year-old craft. Mir's main computer failed Monday, forcing the three-man crew to shut down some systems. The gyrodine devices that help align the station's solar panels with the sun switched themselves off automatically, reducing energy supplies. The crew, with help from Mission Control, repaired the computer overnight and restarted it.

Mother Teresa's funeral debated

Three rifle shots — and not a traditional 21-gun salute — will be fired at the state funeral on Saturday of Mother Teresa, the revered "Saint of the Gutters." The decision was announced as protocol-breaking funeral plans for the gentle nun roused debate throughout the country. State funerals are usually reserved only for India's presidents and prime ministers. The decision to accord the same honor to Mother Teresa caused some raised eyebrows in tradition-bound India.

Albright heads to Mideast

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright left Tuesday on her first Middle East trip, which aides said would aim to set principles for reviving the peace process but with little hope of immediate result.

Countdown to gridlock



Portland and Vancouver traffic conditions during the repair of the Interstate 5 bridge may be worse than originally anticipated. This, according to Oregon Department of Transportation officials may occur as a result of last week's announcement to shorten the bridge closure time from 21 days to one week, giving commuters a sense they don't need to adopt alternate routes.

(Photo by Neil Heilpern)

I-5 bridge closure just days away

By NEIL HEILPERN

Commuters between Vancouver and Portland have a handful of days left to figure out how they will deal with the partial closure of the I-5 Interstate bridge which is scheduled for some long needed repairs.

Work on the 81-year-old structure was originally scheduled to start Sept. 16 and last three weeks. However, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) announced last week that new construction procedures developed by the contractor could reduce that to somewhere between a week and 10 days.

Recent ODOT studies revealed a growing crack in the mechanism which lifts the bridge, creating a potentially hazardous situation. The estimated \$2.87 million price tag includes totally closing the northbound bridge during repairs.

"We are squeezing all of the northbound traffic onto the southbound bridge," ODOT public affairs coordinator Ron Scheele told The Portland Observer, noting one lane would become a "reversible lane."

"From midnight to noon each day, we will have two lanes going south and one lane north, to handle the traffic from Vancouver to Portland," said Scheele. "Then, from noon to midnight we will have two lanes going north and one going south, for traffic leaving Portland."

I-5 ramp closures include: SR-14 & Washington street in Vancouver (southbound onto I-5), Hayden Island and Marine Drive (northbound onto I-5), and Everett and Grand (eastbound onto I-84).

With I-5 Interstate bridge closure and increased traffic diverted to the I-205 Jackson Bridge, Scheele said ODOT is encouraging carpooling, vans and buses by creating temporary "high occupancy vehicle" (HOV) lanes along the freeways.

These so-called "diamond" lanes will be

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Ockley Green's Stocker blazes on race trail

Madre Stocker looks like any other 6th Grader when walking to his classes at Ockley Green Middle School in north Portland.

But put him on a bicycle and his rare form becomes apparent. Madre Stocker is a bicycle racer.

He trains on the road with adults on long rides, on the trail for an event called Cyclocross, and on the steep banks of the Alpenrose Velodrome to practice the art of Track Racing.

At the State Championships held last Sunday at Alpenrose Velodrome, Madre won a series of events and The Championship in the 10 - 14 old division.

He can now wear the blue and gold State Championship Jersey worn only by state champs.

Madre was the only African-American competing in the championship event. He was discovered and trained at Matt Dishman Community Center on Northeast Knott Street, in a program called Bicycles and Ideas for Kids Empowerment (or B.I.K.E.).

After reaching a high skill level in the class, Madre and two of this team-mates, Deandre Perry, and Durriel Panky were lent racing bicycles, given racing clothes and were sent out on training rides with seasoned adults of the "RiverCityCyclisme" cycling team.



Madre Stocker (right) is finding success in bicycle race competitions. Tuesday he was honored at his Ockley Green school with the presentation of a championship jersey.

(Photo by Michael Adamson)

After months of training, the boys competed in races like the "Mt Tabor Cycle Series", the "P.I.R. Tuesday Night Cycle Series", and the "Bike A Fair" at Woodlawn Park. John Benenate is the Director of the

Cyclisme Racing Program and Bicycles and Ideas for Kids Empowerment. He can be reached at 234-6008.