

Grammy nominee in concert

Hot jazz musician Kurt Elling kicks off Portland fall jazz series.



See Metro, inside.

Son of Zoo Boo

The zoo rail train turns frightening for Halloween.



See Metro, inside

Say hello in perfect harmony

The musical landscape is a new beginning for the trio Phajja.



See Entertainment, page B3.

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Reno extends probe

Attorney General Janet Reno has decided to expand an investigation into President Clinton's fund-raising telephone calls from the White House. Justice Department officials said. After a month-long review of whether Clinton illegally solicited political contributions from the White House before the 1996 election, the officials said Reno needs more time to determine if there is enough evidence to name an independent counsel.

Americans win Nobel

Americans continued their domination of the Nobel Prize for economics when Robert Merton of Harvard and Myron Scholes of Stanford won the award. Merton and Scholes were honored for developing the formula that laid the foundation for massive growth of financial markets.

Yeager goes supersonic

Chuck Yeager was scheduled to fly again Tuesday to mark the 50th anniversary of the first supersonic flight — a feat equaled on land Monday by a car. Yeager was a 24-year-old test pilot with the "right stuff" when he became the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound on Oct. 14, 1947.

Denver dies in crash

Investigators say it will take months before they can determine what caused the plane crash that killed singer-songwriter John Denver. He died Sunday evening when the experimental Long-EZ plane he was piloting nosedived into the Pacific Ocean and disintegrated on impact off Monterey, Calif. Authorities say Denver, an experienced pilot, bought the plane the day before.

Pik Botha apologizes

Former South African foreign minister Pik Botha has apologized for failing to turn the tide of apartheid and his reluctance to investigate the killing and torturing of political opponents by white security forces. "I realize that I could have done more to turn the tide of apartheid earlier," Botha told the Truth and

Protestants jeer Tony Blair

Protestant demonstrators yelling "Traitor" jostled and jeered British Prime Minister Tony Blair Monday after his historic handshake with Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams. Their rage erupted when Blair went on a Belfast shopping center walk after the first meeting in more than 70 years between a British Prime Minister and an Irish republican leader.

Cholesterol and stroke

Researchers say doctors may be overlooking the role of "good" cholesterol in reducing the risk of stroke. The researchers say their findings indicate that many men at risk of stroke are not getting the right treatment or advice from doctors, who focus on reducing "bad" cholesterol. So-called "good" cholesterol carries fat away from the arteries, while "bad" cholesterol deposits artery-clogging fat.

Plague fears follow hurricane

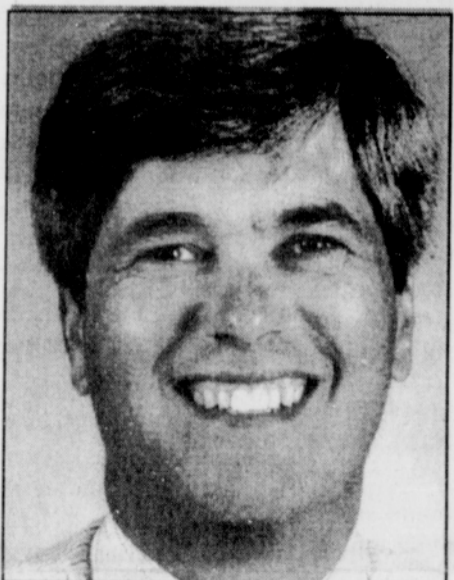
Health workers in Mexico are working frantically, vaccinating thousands of residents of hurricane-devastated Acapulco in hopes of preventing the spread of diseases. In the wake of Hurricane Pauline, government health workers set up makeshift vaccine centers across the stricken resort city and in other smaller villages along the coasts of Guerrero and Oaxaca, the two southwestern states wrecked by the storm.



Floyd Booker Sr.



Tom Walsh



Bruce Thomas



James Winters

A parade of achievements

Examples celebrated in diverse group of local businesses

Supporters of minority business entrepreneurship gathered Thursday to recognize the achievements of Oregon and Southwest Washington minority-owned businesses.

Dr. Therman Evans, founder of Whole Life Associates, Inc. and former vice president and corporate medical director of the CIGNA Corporation was the keynote speaker.

Evans addressed wellness (inclusive of fitness and nutrition), diversity, stress management, education and dealing with change.

Seven businesses were selected for special recognition. Awards were presented by the MED Week Committee, the Portland District Office of the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Opportunity Committee of the Portland Federal Executive Board. This year's award recipients included:

James Cauthorn, president of Pok Wan Contracting, Inc., which specializes in heavy highway construction including road construction, earth moving, clearing and grubbing, pipe installation, aggregate base placement, grading and auto grading. The company also owns and operates a rock pit quarry.

James Winters, President of United Energy, Inc., a wholesale petroleum distributorship marketing jet fuel and other petroleum products. The business was started by Winters in 1990 out of the living room of his house. Initially, the company sold motor oil lubricants and hydraulic fluid.

Priscilla Martinez, President of ESP Communications, a firm established in 1989 and provides installation of telecommunications, network and data communications, hardware integration, fire, alarm and other low voltage equipment.

Wanda Brown, President of Mail Boxes, Etc., a franchise established in 1994, provides business professionals and other individuals with packing, shipping, photo-

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Assisted suicide law stands

Court decision comes as voters are asked to repeal act

The Supreme Court, which ruled in June that terminally ill Americans have no constitutional right to doctor-assisted suicide, Tuesday rejected a challenge to an Oregon measure that legalizes such help.

The justices, without comment, refused to revive a lawsuit filed by a terminally ill woman and two doctors. A federal appeals court threw out the case after ruling that the three lacked the proper legal standing to sue.

Today's action, although not a decision that sets any national precedent, clears the way for Oregon's assisted-suicide law to take effect - at least for a short time.

Oregon voters in 1994 passed a referendum allowing doctors to help mentally competent but terminally ill patients end their lives. The initiative, however, never has taken effect because of court challenges.

The state Legislature has put the measure on this year's ballot, and voters will be asked in November whether they want to repeal the Death With Dignity Act, also known as Measure 16.

The Supreme Court on June 26 upheld assisted-suicide bans in New York and Washington state. The ruling did nothing to bar states from legalizing such help from physicians, but most states have joined New York and Washington in outlawing it.

Oregon's Measure 16 was challenged by doctors Gary Lee and William Petty and by Janice Elsner, who is dying from progressive muscular dystrophy.

The justices were told that Ms. Elsner suffers from recurrent clinical depression, which makes her sometimes want to end her life. The doctors and Ms. Elsner contend that the Oregon measure violates equal-protection rights by treating terminally ill people different than those who are not.



Diane Luster is encouraged by her children Ashley and Darnell Broadnax to sign up for a parent-teacher conference during Humboldt Elementary's open house. (Photo by Neil Heilpern)

Humboldt report encourages

Parents urged to join kids, teachers in new school direction

By NEIL HEILPERN

The Green family's children held three objects in the air during Humboldt Elementary School's first open house of the year Monday night.

Fourth grader Lillian's fist grasped a rock; third grader George clutched a school bell; first grader Daniel hugged a book.

New principal Judy Bryant told her visitors the objects would be reminders of the school's new direction.

She found the rock amidst shattered glass, deciding to keep it as "a reminder of ignorance and lack of respect for school property."

When the school year started, Bryant greeted arriving children with a clanging bell to encourage them to be on time.

"I did it louder each time, noticing children coming a little faster," she noted. "I've been tracking our tardies and they are

decreasing," said Bryant, prompting strong applause from more than 100 parents.

The book was symbolic of new efforts to improve reading levels in the school, which placed next to last among the 62 schools in the Portland School District last year.

"We don't expect to go to the top in one year," she said, expecting "significant changes with each stage of learning built on the previous stage."

"Read to your children," she encouraged parents. "Listen to them read. It will change how they feel about school and reading."

Bryant told of a little girl found hiding in the bathroom, too embarrassed to go to class because she couldn't read. She vowed "with our new program, no child in this building will ever have to say that."

Bryant promised the children would "learn to succeed in an environment that is safe and orderly." Rear gates are being locked during school hours to prevent uninvited visitors, she said.

Parents were told to expect consistent homework, and were urged to ask children about their homework.

"Every effort must be carefully coordinated and aligned with the goals and objectives of our school improvement plan," she stressed. "Without such a focus, no amount of resources or best interests will have the desired effects of improving our student performance."

She also vowed children would no longer be taken out of class for tutoring. "They miss what is going on in class and get further behind, so now we will bring the resources into the classroom."

Students escorted parents to classrooms to show off their work and meet their teachers. Parent Lillian Green told The Portland Observer she has noticed in the classrooms "calmer students in a learning mode. They enjoy participating with the group."

Debora Kimbrough noted the improvement of one of her children who "wants us to read with him more than before."

Norma Godfrey, who raises three grandchildren who attend Humboldt, said, "I know they can achieve if there is continuity and feel people care about them."