

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Mideast peace

Ending weeks of deadlock, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat resumed peace negotiations Wednesday.

In the second of two quickly planned summits in 16 hours, the two leaders bridged differences on land and scheduling issues and agreed to send envoys to Washington later this month in hopes of making progress toward a final peace treaty in September.

"The meeting was very constructive," said Dennis Ross, the chief U.S. peace mediator. "The parties made good progress in addressing and resolving many of the interim issues and agreed to intensify their negotiations."

The two met again Thursday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Super Tuesday

Texas Gov. George Bush effectively silenced the challenge of Arizona Sen. John McCain for the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday, setting the stage for Bush to court McCain and his supporters to join in a GOP crusade in the November election.

Vice President Al Gore cleared his way to the Democratic presidential nomination with a primary sweep that prompted challenger Bill Bradley to announce his withdrawal on Thursday.

McCain "suspended" his campaign but did not throw his support to Bush.

Gasoline prices

The price of gasoline is likely to increase by 20 cents by the end of May and continue increasing into the summer driving season, perhaps reaching \$2 a gallon in Oregon and California, government officials said Monday.

The worldwide supply of oil is low, making a price increase inevitable even if OPEC agrees to increase production, according to the Energy Department. Regular gasoline prices currently average \$1.46 a gallon nationwide, \$1.57 a gallon in Oregon.

Police brutality

Three white New York City police officers were convicted Monday of a cover-up in an attack on a Haitian immigrant in a station-house restroom in 1997.

Charles Schwarz, Thomas Wiese and Thomas Bruder were found guilty of lying to investigators to conceal Schwarz's role in the attack, in which Abner Louima was handcuffed and held down while Officer Justin Volpe sodomized him with a broom handle.

Minimum wage

The House of Representatives on Thursday approved a bill to raise the federal minimum wage by \$1, to \$6.15 an hour, over two years. The Republican plan was linked to \$122.7 billion in tax cuts, which President Clinton has threatened to veto. The president on Wednesday tried to rally support for the increase over two years without the tax cuts but failed.

The original GOP plan was for a \$1 increase over three years coupled with the tax cuts, a move that resurrected portions of its \$792 tax-cut package that Clinton vetoed last year.

Memphis murders

Firefighters responding to a house fire Wednesday in Memphis, Tenn., were ambushed by a man who stepped out of the garage and began shooting. Two firefighters and a sheriff's deputy were killed. The suspect, Fred Williams, an off-duty firefighter, was wounded, and his wife, Stacey, was found shot to death in the garage.

Officials said Williams had just returned to work as a firefighter last week after an extended leave on disability. Officials were not sure of the motive for the shootings.

Police overtime

Portland City Auditor Gary Blackmer has announced he will begin an audit of police overtime records later this month.

The audit stems from the Police Bureau's increasing overtime costs and a criminal investigation into overtime abuse at Central Precinct. Recent police contract talks highlighted significant problems: years of lax oversight of police overtime pay, variations in overtime allotment by precinct and division and no system to track the hours police actually worked.



Police News/Vancouver

Have a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day

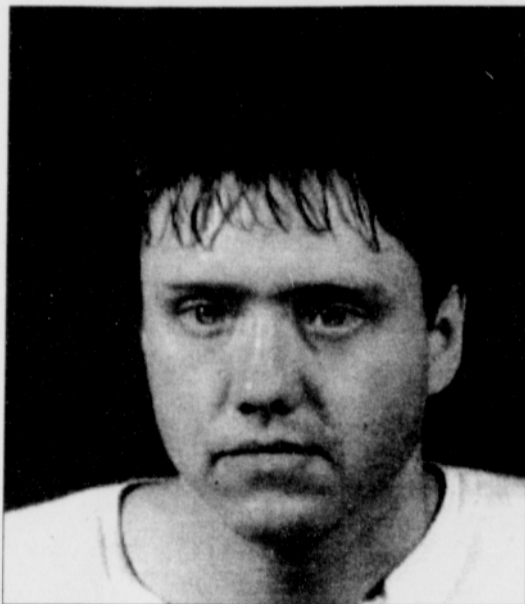
Crimestoppers

Wanted Subject

The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating and apprehending Richard Gilbert Ciarlo. A felony arrest warrant is on file charging Ciarlo with Manufacturing a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree.

Richard Gilbert Ciarlo is described as a 36-year-old white male with a date of birth of September 17, 1963. Ciarlo is 5'10" tall, weighing 175 pounds with blue eyes and brown hair. He has a scar on his back and possible burn marks on his face. Ciarlo may frequent the Saint Johns area. His last known address is on Northeast Simpson Street.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.



City of Vancouver to begin construction on sanitary sewer pipeline

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The City of Vancouver has contracted with Tapani Underground of Battle Ground, WA, for the construction of a new 16,500 lineal foot of sanitary sewer pipeline. The pipeline will extend from a new pumping station, presently under construction south of NE 18th St. along Andresen and Evergreen Blvd., to a connection point at the intersection of SE 5th and Blandford Dr..

This \$1.9 million project which is necessary to accommodate new development, is funded through system development charges paid by new customers. The project began on March 13th and will involve the installation of 32" piping starting from the new pump station and proceeding south along the westside of Andresen toward and through the Mill Plain intersection. The project will continue along Andresen through the intersection with MacArther, and south to the intersection of Andresen and Evergreen. From there, the pipeline will proceed west along Evergreen to the intersection of Evergreen and 5th St., and then along 5th St. heading west to the final

connection at Blandford and 5th St.

Motorists are advised that the installation of pipe in the south bound lanes of Andresen from the starting point to south of Mill Plain (where the alignment shifts to the median) will require all traffic, both north and south bound, to be shifted to the two existing northbound lanes. Drivers should be aware that delays are possible in this area from March 13th through March 31st. As the project approaches the intersection of Mill Plain, left turns may be restricted from Andresen on to Mill Plain.

Additional traffic re-routing will be necessary when pipeline installation on Andresen, from Corregidor to Evergreen, will require the complete closure to traffic on Andresen. This closure is currently scheduled for April 17th through May 1st. Advance notice will be supplied on portable changeable message signs, and the detour routes will be clearly marked.

The remainder of the project will be constructed with flaggers moving traffic through the work zones. Project completion is scheduled to occur by the end of May, 2000. Construction is currently scheduled for daylight hours only, with some work scheduled during weekends to avoid the heaviest traffic in some intersections.

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