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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Irish Group Threatens to End Cease Fire

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - Northern Ireland's largest pro-British paramilitary group threatened to break its nearly six-year cease-fire unless Catholic-based groups stop attacks on Protestant homes. The Ulster Freedom Fighter said in a statement to news media that it would end its cease-fire at midnight. The UFF's second battalion West Belfast Brigade said that since the cease-fire there had been "a systematic or orchestrated campaign of intimidation from nationalists" in Protestant districts of north and west Belfast.

Taiwan Offers Summit with China

TAIPEI, Taiwan - President Chen Shuibian offered to hold Taiwan's first-ever summit with China, saying he believed the two leaders could "create history" like their Korean counterparts. Chen said he hopes to shake hands with President Jiang Zemin of China and to seek reconciliation during a summit held in any location and any format that Jiang chooses.

58 Bodies Found in Back of Truck

DOVER, England - British customs officials searching a suspicious truck in the port of Dover made a horrific discovery when they opened the back: the corpses of 58 illegal immigrants believed to be asylum-seekers from the Far East. Only two people were found alive in the Dutch-registered truck. The survivors, both of them men, were hospitalized and were expected to recover, but they were too traumatized to be questioned immediately.

Rebels Demand \$1 Million Per Hostage

JOLO, Philippines - Muslim extremists holding 21 hostages in a jungle camp are demanding at least \$1 million for each captive, and negotiations for their release could last up to six months, the president's chief aide said. Government negotiators are also trying to resume food supplies and medical missions to the hostages, most of them foreigners, who are being held by Abu Sayyaf rebels in the mountains of remote Talipao on southern Jolo island.

Vatican to Unveil Final Secret of Fatima

VATICAN CITY - The Vatican said that it will unveil the details of the so-called third secret of Fatima soon. The gist of the secret was revealed last month during Pope John Paul II's pilgrimage to the shrine of Fatima in Portugal. But the Vatican has not yet issued an official document. A commission led by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the pope's top guardian of orthodoxy, is to release a text and commentary about the secret on June 26, the Vatican said.

Germany to Close Nuclear Power Plants

BERLIN - Germany plans to end its use of atomic energy, and plants could start shutting as early as 2002. The last plant will close in about 20 years. When Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder came to power in late 1998, he did so with a promise to negotiate and end to nuclear power. The initiative was championed by the coalition partner, the environmentalist Greens party, who have pressed for the phaseout to start before the next election in fall 2002 so they can present their voters with a major achievement.

Regence Blue Cross BlueShield continues to help United Way



The United Way is helping yet another organization, thanks to a donation by Regence Blue Cross BlueShield of Oregon (BCBSO). The North Portland Nurse Practitioner Community Health Clinic (NPCHC) was given a 1998 Chevrolet Astro mini-van as a donation from Regence BCBSO. The NPCHC is an organization that strives to provide affordable health care for people who would not have medical treatment otherwise. The United Way-funded agency takes care of kids through the age of 21, even if they do not have health insurance. Mariah Taylor is the registered nurse practitioner that has provided these services since 1980. Taylor distributes donated food and clothing to her patients, and free toys to the younger kids. The van was purchased by Regence BCBSO in cooperation with Wentworth Chevrolet in Wilsonville. The new van is replacing their old van that was having difficulty passing DEQ. NPCHC will use the new van to transport patients, make house calls, and to deliver the goods they give to their patients. Pictured above are Mariah Taylor, N.P. from the North Portland Nurse Practitioner Community Health Clinic, and Randy Cline, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon senior vice-president of external affairs. They are preparing to test drive the 1998 Chevrolet Astro mini-van presented to the clinic by the health plan.

Senate approves funding for MAX project

BY GIDEON LANTZ
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local funding in the amount of \$92.5 million is now in place to finance a proposed addition to Tri-Met's MAX line which will be built from the Rose Quarter and proceed along N. Interstate Ave. through the Kenton Neighborhood to the Portland Expo Center, according to Tri-Met Communications Director Mary Fetch. "The 5.8 mile costs \$350 million. \$92.5 million has been committed by Tri-Met and the local region," Fetch said.

Tri-Met, the City of Portland and regional transportation groups have currently contributed to raise the above amount for the local portion of the project. The remainder of the funding for the project would likely come from the Federal Transportation Administration. "We are waiting to sign a full funding grant agreement with the federal government. If approved this summer, the contract with the Federal Transportation Administration would be signed by their representatives and the local organizations to determine where and

how that administration would agree to help pay to build the line. "We are asking the Federal Government to fund \$257.5 million," Fetch said. The project also has the support of Oregon's Congressional Delegation, as noted in last week's issue of The Portland Observer. On June 15 the project got its most recent boost when the U.S. Senate voted 99-0 to approve Portland's Interstate Max Light Rail project as the result of Smith and Wyden's efforts.

"These projects will make it safer and easier for Oregonians to navigate our state by road, rail and air," said Smith. "From improving the commute to Portland, to expanding bus and mass transit services throughout the state and updating our municipal airports, stretches of Oregon that were previously neglected will now receive the injection of funds that they need."

"Connecting our rural and urban communities, clearing up congestion and safeguarding our high quality of life are our top priorities," said Wyden. "We're going to continue working in a bipartisan fashion to make it happen."

(Please see 'Interstate Max' page 6)

With U.S. Open win, Tiger Woods soaring into new territory

ASSOCIATED PRESS

From record TV ratings to praise by his awe-struck competitors, Tiger Woods has clearly moved into territory claimed by few stars in any sport. "We've had two athletes in my time - Muhammad Ali and Jordan - that draw fans from outside their sport," said Dick Ebersol, president of NBC Sports. "Every indicator we have says Tiger is the next one." Certainly that was the case at the U.S. Open, where Woods won by a record 15 strokes in a performance that sent television ratings soaring.

NBC's coverage of the final two rounds of the tournament drew an average overnight rating of 7.5 with an 18 share, according to numbers released Monday by Nielsen Media Research, the highest two-day average for the Open since overnights were instituted in 1975. The overnight numbers showed an increase of 14 percent over last year's 6.6. Sunday's fourth round recorded an overnight mark of 8.8, a gain of 11 percent from 1999's 7.9.

Next month, Woods heads for Scotland - the home of golf - and will try to complete a career Grand Slam at the British Open at St. Andrews. Woods will be an abiding favorite and

Tiger Woods holds up the winner's trophy after capturing the 100th U.S. Open Golf Championship at the Pebble Beach Golf Links in Pebble Beach, Calif., Sunday, June 18.



Court bans amplified, student-led prayers from public school football games

ASSOCIATED PRESS

In one of its most important school-prayer rulings ever, the Supreme Court again declared that praying in public schools must be private. By a 6-3 vote, the court barred officials from letting students lead stadium crowds in prayer before football games.

The sweeping language of the decision in a Texas case, a crushing defeat for school-prayer advocates, could extend far beyond school sports events - eventually affecting graduation ceremonies, moments of silence and more.

The court said a school district's policy of allowing such student-led prayers violated the constitutionally required separation of government and religion.

Champions of a strict church-state separation exulted.

"The court's decision signals a reaffirmation of the appropriate role of religion in public schools - one in which private religious expression is constitutionally protected but officially sanctioned religious observances are not," said David Harris of the American Jewish Committee.

Opponents were aggrieved.

"The government's 'benign neutrality' toward religion in this country is now nothing short of malevolent hostility," said Jan LaRue of the conservative Family Research Council.

Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the court: "Nothing in the Constitution ... prohibits any public school student from voluntarily praying at any time before, during or after the school day. But the religious liberty protected by the Constitution is abridged when the state affirmatively sponsors the particular religious practice of prayer."

As the latest word on a politically volatile issue that has bedeviled the nation's highest court for 40 years, the ruling offered a ringing endorsement of a landmark 1962 decision that outlawed organized, officially sponsored prayers in public schools.

"Worship is a responsibility and a choice committed to the private sphere," Stevens said.

When the Texas case was argued in March, an ABC News poll said two-thirds of Americans thought students should be permitted to lead such prayers.

And in Texas' Republican primary election that same month, 94 percent of voters approved a nonbinding resolution backing student-initiated prayer at school sporting events.

invariably will raise questions about whether courses can be "Tiger-proofed" to keep tournaments competitive.

"You can't stop him by tricking up the course," said Michael Bonallack, who retired last year as secretary of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club. "What purpose would that serve? He's already proven he's the only one who could handle this place."

Woods' victory Sunday at Pebble Beach gave him his third major in only his fourth year of professional golf. That's one fewer than it took Jack Nicklaus.

It was the most lopsided victory in major tournament history, with Ernie Els and Miguel Angel Jimenez tied for second.

He tied the U.S. Open scoring record of 272, set at par-70 Baltusrol by Nicklaus in 1980 and Lee Janzen in 1993, and broke the record in relation to par, 12 under.

"It's kind of like Texas in the old Southwest Conference," former Longhorn Tom Kites said, referring to the football team. "You knew who was going to win before the game. It's certainly fun when you're pulling for Texas, but it's not real exciting for everybody else." Searching other sports for comparisons were commonplace over the weekend, with Michael Jordan's name coming up more than once.