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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

United Airlines Scraps More Flights

CHICAGO—United Airlines is canceling nearly 2,000 flights next month, the latest blow as the world's largest airline struggles to improve relations with its pilots. United will take 1,980 flights off its September schedule, spokesman Chris Braithwaite said. United says its pilots are refusing to work overtime since their contract expired in April and have increasingly been calling in sick. But the pilots say there is no organized work slowdown and problems are more the result of United's failure to hire enough pilots.

Court Strips Pinochet of Immunity

SANTIAGO, Chile — Chile's Supreme Court stripped Gen. Augusto Pinochet's immunity, clearing the way for the former dictator to be tried on human rights charges, the court said. The court voted 14-6 to allow the 84-year-old Pinochet to be prosecuted on charges stemming from his 1973-1990 rule, Justice Jose Benquis announced.

Wildfires Roar Through Rockies

HAMILTON, Mont. — More than 60 major fires were burning nearly 1 million acres in 11 Western states early, the National Fire Information Center in Idaho reported. Firefighters made headway against blazes in California and Utah, but Mesa Verde National Park, Colo., remained closed for the second time this year, and the situation along the Idaho-Montana line grew steadily worse.

Actor Sir Alec Guinness Dead at 86

LONDON — Actor Sir Alec Guinness, whose roles in a 66-year career ranged from Hamlet to Obi-Wan Kenobi in Star Wars, has died, a hospital spokesman said. He was 86. Guinness died in southern England. The hospital did not report the cause of death. From post-war comedies through epics like The Bridge on the River Kwai, for which he won a best actor Oscar, and crowd-pleasers like Star Wars, Guinness played a vast variety of characters with subtlety and intelligence.

Forecaster Predicts lighter Hurricane Season

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Earlier this summer, hurricane forecaster William Gray predicted that there would be 12 named storms this season, including eight hurricanes and four major hurricanes. Gray predicted, however, that the 2000 storm season will not be as bad as he thought. Despite the good news, the season still will be busier than the average of 9.3 named storms, 5.8 hurricanes and 2.2 major hurricanes.

Hanford Fire Released Plutonium into Air

RICHLAND, Wash. — Plutonium particles were blowing around during the fire that burned half the Hanford nuclear reservation in June, authorities said. The levels are not considered dangerous. Harry Boston, the Energy Department's deputy site manager, announced the findings after a detailed lab analysis was performed on air samples taken during the 191,000-acre fire. The results mean "plutonium was drifting around the wind and the dust," Boston said.

Charlie Sifford, the black Jack Nicklaus

BY LORRAINE-MICHELLE FAUST
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Professional golf has had a scandalous past, notorious for racial segregation. Until 1960, the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) had a Caucasian-only clause in its constitution. Even after the PGA changed its rules to allow minorities things did not change everywhere. Jim Crow still reigned supreme in many of the nation's country clubs, and blacks were only allowed in as caddies.

Charlie Sifford, the first African-American in the PGA, knows this past well. He started his career as a caddie at the age of 13. Golf has been his lifelong obsession. Playing golf, amidst its racist climate, has been his lifelong challenge. "My career has had as much to do with breaking down barriers as it has had to do with driving and putting," said Sifford in his autobiography "Just let me play."

Helping to break down barriers is the precise reason that Sifford is visiting Portland this week. He will be the guest of honor at the 2000 Youth Golf Tournament, being held at the Heron Lakes Golf Course. The Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) and the Portland Youth Golf Association (PYGA) are presenting the tournament to help support the PYGA.

The PYGA is a year-round golf program for kids 8 to 18 years old. Robert Clark, director of PYGA, says his program is to "promote golf and character development" for inner-city kids. Sifford will contribute to this with a golf clinic for the children, a book signing and he will be giving a talk at the dinner and auction associated with the tournament.

The dinner and auction will be held on Thursday, August 10 at the Benson Hotel. Some of the items at the auction will include several vacations, a Tiger Woods hat and a Koby Briant basketball.

Clark is excited that Sifford, the man he calls "the greatest man in history," is coming. Clark began playing golf in 1969 because he wanted to be like Sifford. He admired the way Sifford was able to succeed despite discrimination. In part, it was this admiration that compelled him to start the PYGA. Clark says that Sifford's participation in golf is what makes things better for young minority golfers like Tiger Woods. "That's why I do what I do: to make things better," said Clark.

Although Sifford has been a trailblazer for young minorities in golf, he has been known as golf's forgotten man. He has not seen the celebrity that Tiger Woods has seen. Sifford had to deal with racial slurs and death threats. He has been banned from using the dressing rooms and bathrooms at white-exclusive golf clubs.

Even with this adversity, his talent still drove him to become the first

(Please see 'Charlie Sifford' page 6)



Charlie Sifford

Break in winds allows progress, but bosses warn worst may be yet to come

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fire crews wrapped up containment of some of the wildfires burning through timber and rangeland in central and eastern Oregon, freeing crews to attack new fires as forecasts called for more lightning.

"We're looking for dry lightning today, tomorrow and Thursday," Northwest Coordination Center spokeswoman Beth Kirschhoffer said Tuesday. "We'll really be hopping on that."

Many of the fires sparked by lightning over the weekend have been contained or nearly so, though one new range fire popped up Monday and burned 6,100 acres in northeastern Oregon 3 1/2 miles southeast of Cayuse. The Dead Man fire was estimated to be contained Wednesday night.

So far, no homes or other buildings have burned as five fires continued to burn out of control on nearly 16,000 acres. Fire crews have been available to meet local demand, though air tankers and helicopters have been in short supply. "The large fires in the other Western states will affect our firefighting ability in the Northwest," said Laurie Perrett, deputy regional director of fire and aviation for the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management. "We fear that the worst is yet to come."

Measures of fire potential, such as weather and dryness, were running higher than in 1994, when more than a half million acres burned in Oregon and Washington. The indexes were the highest in 30 years in central, northeastern and southeastern Oregon, the coordination center said.

"It is very likely that some of our fire and resource managers are soon going to be making those tough calls between community protection and structure protection," said Steve Ellis, manager of the BLM Lakeview District.

Crews closed the loop on the Kern Fire after it burned 11,000 acres of rangeland 25 miles south of Vale, freeing up 51 people fighting it since Saturday. The Alsop Mountain fire was contained after burning 46 acres of heavy timber 27 miles northwest of Burns. Control Wednesday night would free up 175 people.

Flames that charred 200 acres of heavy juniper in the Big Gulch Fire, 17 miles southeast of Crane, were expected to be fully contained Tuesday evening.

Full containment was expected Wednesday, the Oregon Department of Forestry said.

Gore Makes Lieberman Choice Official



Democratic presidential candidate Vice President Al Gore, left, and Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., wave to the crowd gathered in downtown Nashville, Tenn., Tuesday, Aug. 8, before a rally announcing Lieberman as Gore's running mate.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Al Gore introduced and celebrated his Jewish running mate, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, on Tuesday, likening their White House quest to Catholic groundbreaker John F. Kennedy's and declaring, "We will make history again." Lieberman, in turn, credited Gore with barrier-busting "chutzpah" and said they would work to "renew the moral center of this nation." With repeated emphasis on faith and values, the new Democratic duo made clear they aim to replace the eight-year Clinton-Gore partnership with a fresh start.

Gore, soggy with sweat on an outdoor stage at noontime, recalled that the last time the

Democrats had their national convention in Los Angeles — as they will again next week — they nominated Kennedy who went on to be elected the first Roman Catholic president. With a Jew on a major party's national ticket for the first time, Gore said, "We will tear down an old wall of division again." The crowd cheered "Joe! Joe!" From the stage, Tipper Gore snapped pictures with her camera. The 91-degree heat and high humidity wore down the crowd, though most remained enthusiastic. More than 100 people were treated for heat exhaustion — five were hospitalized as a precaution.

Tuesday's talk of diversity, values and faith reflected the Democrats' determination to

undercut Bush's inroads with minority voters and the Republicans' attempt — obvious at their national convention last week — to shackle Gore to President Clinton and talk of scandal.

Lieberman, the two-term senator from Connecticut, was the first senator of either party to speak out in the Senate floor against President Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky, branding it "immoral."

On Tuesday, he acted as character witness for Gore. "He has never wavered in his responsibilities as a father, as a husband, and, yes, as a servant of God," Lieberman said. The two men and their wives, hands linked, took the stage to a charging musical beat. "We must work, and we will work — Al and Tipper, Hadassah and I — to help renew the moral center of this nation so that families can be stronger, children safer and parents empowered to pass to their children their faith and their moral values," Lieberman said.

His words echoed those of his September 1998 speech accusing Clinton of making it harder for parents to instruct children on values and acceptable behavior.

Dawn Varner of Etowah, who brought her daughter and grandson to the rally, said, "I wasn't sold before. But honey, I am sold 100 percent now. It was worth the five-hour drive." She said of Lieberman, "We needed him a long time ago."

Shedding his suit coat, the slightly built senator asked the crowd's permission "to let the spirit move me." He quoted from the Book of Chronicles and thanked God and Gore for "making this miracle possible for me in breaking this barrier for the rest of America forever."

Watching from behind a fence, Republican tourist Giovanni Santarsiere, 58, from Houston, grudgingly credited Gore for "breaking new ground" with the Lieberman pick but added, "I hope it doesn't help him." Gore aides, though, revealed in some evidence that Lieberman already had helped. A CNN-USA Today-Gallup survey Monday night, after Lieberman's selection was publicized,

(Please see 'Lieberman' page 6)

Fires continue to rage

There are currently 65 wildfires burning in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.



53,623 wildfires have been reported across the nation this year, scorching more than 4 million acres.

▲ Current wildfires as of August 7

Source: National Fire Information Center