



Mansion Lights  
Up for the  
Holidays  
See Focus, inside

Celebrating  
30  
Years  
Of Service to Our City



Construction  
Begins on  
Piedmont  
landmark  
See Metro, inside

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Opposition Tries to Topple Barak Government

JERUSALEM—Israel's hard-line opposition appealed to the Supreme Court in a new bid to topple Prime Minister Ehud Barak, while Israeli and Palestinian officials met secretly to try to resume security coordination. The action comes a day after Israel's most serious cross-border attack on Lebanon to the north since pulling its troops from an occupied order region.

### Paper Wants More Police at Printing Plant

SEATTLE—The *Seattle Times* asked for more police outside a printing plant where picketing union members continued their strike against Seattle's two major daily newspapers. The *Times* asked for more police after strikers temporarily blocked cars from leaving a parking lot. No decision had been made on hiring replacements for staff reporters and photographers, who walked out along with advertising, marketing and circulation personnel.

### Japanese Line Up for \$1.8 Billion Lottery

TOKYO—People crowded around lottery kiosks all over Tokyo, braving a cold wind to buy tickets for the annual New Year's lottery, with a top prize of \$1.8 billion. The drawing is on Dec. 31. Playing the lottery has always been a national pastime for the Japanese, but it's become even more popular these days, with the economy showing no clear sign of rebounding from its worst slump since World War II.

### Thousands Stranded in Buffalo Storm

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Thousands of workers and school children awoke in offices, supermarkets, hospitals and restaurants where they were stranded overnight by a storm that paralyzed the city with 2 feet of snow. Nonessential travel was banned under a city state of emergency to give plows and tow trucks room to work.

### Health Insurers to Make Quicker Decisions

WASHINGTON—The Clinton administration issued rules designed to tackle one of the most vexing issues in health care: the amount of time it takes to get insurers to rule on treatment decisions and appeals. The rules will cut the time required for an answer on coverage, now 90 days or more, to as few as 15 days. About 130 million Americans how get health insurance through private employers will be covered by the rules, which go into effect Jan. 1, 2002. The rules do not apply to government employees or patients who buy their own insurance.

### Dutch to Legalize Euthanasia

THE HAGUE—The Dutch parliament approved a bill to allow euthanasia and physician assisted suicide, making it the first country to formally legalize the practice. The bill passed by a vote of 104-40. It still needs the approval of the Senate, which is considered a formality, and is expected to enter into force next year.

### Peru's Opposition Poised to Fill Post

LIMA, Peru—A disgraced President Alberto Fujimori said that he would stay in Japan "for a long time," while the leader of Peru's opposition-controlled Congress emerged as his likely successor. After Fujimori's resignation, two of his former allies in line to succeed him stepped aside. That opened the way for Valentin Paniagua, a political moderate aligned with the opposition, to become interim president until a new president is sworn in July 28 after April elections.

## Neighbors Want Lost Library Restored

By LEE PERLMAN  
PORTLAND OBSERVER

Thursday, North Portlanders will ask the Multnomah County Commission for the missing piece - money - in their quest for the missing piece in the county's library system.

The grass-roots group wants a Lombard Library or a new branch somewhere in the middle of the peninsula.

They are searching for a site somewhere between North Greeley and Portsmouth, ideally, within a few blocks of the intersections of North Lombard Street and Chatauqua Avenue.

Group spokesperson Miriam Linder says her neighbors are the most underserved library community in Portland, considering it's more than two miles to the nearest branch library, St. Johns and even further to the North Portland Branch.

During the county commission's Thursday agenda, they will hear a briefing on this, and on a request for an appropriation to purchase or build a new library. The commission will take no vote on the matter, and may not do so until its budget deliberations next year. However, their reactions may indicate where their votes are likely to go.

The advocates bring evidence of community support - more than 1,400 signatures from peninsula neighbors and favorable responses from community groups. More significantly, there is a line item in a tentative Interstate Urban Renewal Area budget calling for \$250,000 for the project.

What would a library mean to this area? Aside from the chance to read and borrow books, Advocates would like to see "Some of the many wonderful services available at other branches," Linder says. These include bilingual story hours for children, help with homework, computer and technology training, information on how to apply for jobs, or how immigrants can apply for citizenship, and



A group from north Portland brings attention to the former library at 2410 N. Lombard, one of two libraries that were closed due to budget cuts in the 70s and 80s. Pictured (from left) are Mary Sullivan, Margaret Band, Cecilie Ellis, Ronda Bard, Miriam Linder, Claran Houston and Ronna Seavey.

(PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)

public meeting space.

"The North Portland branch has fantastic programs, and we want all of that," Linder says. "When we say library, we're talking about a kind of community center, and one is lacking in this area." It wasn't always so. The University Park branch at 7508 N.

Hereford Ave., and the Lombard branch at 2410 N. Lombard St., both built through community contributions, served the area for more than 50 years. However, the branches were closed due to budget shortfalls in 1975 and 1981, respectively. "The county doesn't have a criteria for deciding where new libraries

should go, so they just respond to the squeakiest wheel," Linder complains. Thus, she says, a new library is planned for Northwest Portland, and an expanded one for Hillsdale, while North Portland remains underserved. "This area has no bookstores and few educational resources," she says.



### Scottie Steps Up for 'Home Team'

Scottie Pippen and his Trail Blazer teammates volunteer to paint and plaster a renovated single-family home at 4025 N.E. 9th Monday as part of the Home Team program, a partnership between the Fannie Mae Foundation and the Portland Trail Blazers. The Home Team has worked to create affordable housing in Portland since 1994 with \$525,000 in Fannie Mae grants and \$70,000 from Blazer fundraisers.

(PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)

### Festival of Trees Opens Friday

Carousels, Dr. Seuss and life-sized "gingerbread" playhouse await families at the 18th annual Providence Festival of Trees.

This beautiful, heartwarming holiday experience has become a Christmas tradition for thousands of families throughout Oregon. Each of the 50 lavishly decorated trees has a theme and is sponsored by local companies and individuals. This year's three-day festival also features storytelling,

Santa's workshop and more than 100 holiday music and dance performances. Last year 20,000 people attended Festival of Trees and the event raised \$200,000.

Proceeds from this year's Festival of Trees will benefit the Providence Child Center, the Providence Heart Institute's Heart Failure/Heart Transplant program and Gately Youth Services.

The festival is held Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

## Oregon Certifies Vote for Democrat Gore

### Republicans Delay New Mexico Certification

New Mexico state election officials on Tuesday delayed certifying results in the U.S. presidential election that appeared to give the state to Democrat Al Gore until a judge can check numbers from one county called into question by Republicans.

Oregon election officials, meanwhile, went ahead and certified that state's votes for Gore.

New Mexico Republicans said they did not expect to overthrow Gore's lead but still wanted the tally checked under a judge's supervision.

New Mexico's three-member state canvassing board said the results reported by all 33 counties and audited by independent experts showed Gore winning the state's five electoral votes by 483 votes, or 286,578 votes to 286,095 cast for Republican George W. Bush.

But the board said final certification would have to wait until Thursday while it asked a state judge to investigate Republican claims of errors in the results from Roosevelt County, a small rural county on the Texas border.

State Republicans said they did not expect to overthrow Gore's lead but still wanted the tally checked under a judge's supervision because about 10 percent of the county's 5,689 ballots showed no vote for a presidential candidate.

"We want to make sure New Mexico has the most accurate result, but the likelihood of the (Roosevelt County) numbers changing the result of the state presidential election is not high," state Republican chairman John Dendahl told reporters.

Gore did pick up seven electoral votes Tuesday, after election officials in Oregon certified the presidential vote in the state's first all-mail election, saying that Gore beat Bush by 6,765 votes out of about 1.53 million cast.

That is well above the 2,800-vote threshold that would have triggered an automatic recount.

State election officials certified the results well before the required Dec. 7 deadline because of the attention focused on the race, which is undecided after more than three weeks amid recounts and legal challenges in Florida.

Gore ended up with 47 percent of the Oregon vote, compared to Bush's 46.5 percent. Green Party candidate Ralph Nader won about 5 percent.

Bush's campaign has said it might challenge the Oregon results if it finds evidence of double voting. The campaign has said voter records show more than 4,000 people had illegally registered to vote in different counties as of September.

A spokeswoman for the Bush campaign in Oregon could not immediately be reached for comment.

Neither the outcome in New Mexico or Oregon, however, will affect the race for the White House. The key to that is Florida's 25 electoral votes.

These were certified for Bush on Sunday but Gore is challenging that certification in court, saying not all of Florida's votes were counted.

Gore called Tuesday for a speedy hand recount of thousands of questionable ballots in Florida's contested election, and urged Bush to drop his objections.

"This is not a time for delay, obstruction and procedural roadblocks," the vice president said. Gore, told reporters his proposal was necessary because the nation needs "to be able to say there is no legitimate question of who won this election."

Gore said he believed the recount he seeks of some 13,000 ballots could be completed in seven days.