



Tournament Final Goes to Churchill

Benson players congratulate the Churchill Lancers for their victory in the title game of the Boys 4A State Basketball Tournament. Benson beat No. 1 seed Jefferson to reach the final game. See story on tournament in Sports, Page B3.

(PHOTO BY DAVID GIEZYNG/PORTLAND OBSERVER)

Civil Rights Panel Finds Fault in Florida Vote

Federal Commission finds evidence of inadequate resources to handle voter turnout and at least one unauthorized law enforcement checkpoint

Supported by approximately 30 hours of sworn testimony from some 100 witnesses, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights determined that the Florida presidential elections appear to have been marred by voter disenfranchisement.

"It is not a question of recount or even an accurate count, but more pointedly those whose exclusion from the right to vote amounted to a 'No Count,' concluded a statement issued Friday by the Commission.

Commission Chair Mary Frances Berry said she hopes the Commission's findings will hasten reforms.

"In the final analysis," the statements said, "new recounts of old ballots are an academic exercise. Voting is the language of our democracy. And regrettably, when it mattered most, real people lost real opportunities to speak truth to power in the ballot box. This must never occur again."

The commission found that voting technology reforms and recounting procedures alone are insufficient to address the significant and distressing issues and barriers that prevented

qualified electors to cast ballots and have their ballots counted.

"It is our hope that Florida, as well as other jurisdictions, would promptly address major problems these instead of hoping that with the passage of time, the public will forget," the statement continued.

'Voting is the language of our democracy. And regrettably, when it mattered most, real people lost real opportunities to speak truth to power in the ballot box. This must never occur again,' -- statement by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

The commission said the evidence points to an array of problems. These ranged from Florida election officials' failure to provide adequate resources to handle increased voter turnout to at least one unauthorized law enforcement checkpoint. The Commission also flagged the removal of non-felons from the

voter registration rolls on the basis of unreliable information collected during a sweeping, state-sponsored felony purge.

The Commission cited other problems in Florida which prevented voters from exercising their voting franchise, including the assignment of many African Americans to polling

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Commuters are in for intermittent delays and closures, as filmmaking crews get ready to use the Hawthorne Bridge as a movie prop.

'The Hunted' to Close Hawthorne Bridge

Tommy Lee Jones movie expected to pump \$22 million into the economy

Multnomah County and the City of Portland have signed off on a plan that allows Paramount Pictures Corp. to film scenes for "The Hunted" on the Hawthorne Bridge.

The filmmaking schedule calls for partial or full closures of the bridge during off-peak commute times beginning with preparation work this week, with filming occurring through the end of April. As a contingency, Paramount has also been given permission to use the bridge on the weekends of May 18-21 and May 25-28 in

case of filming complications.

Paramount says that it will spend more than \$22 million in Portland during a four-month stay. They will use local actors, stunts and extras and local labor. They will also purchase or rent construction materials and related items; pay for rentals, services, transportation and hotels; and meet many of the expenditures of the movie cast and crew.

"At a time when our local economy is strug-

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Guns Change Hands on Portland Streets

(AP) — Portland's gun task force has learned that many of the same weapons are used in crimes throughout the city, changing hands several times on the streets.

The new study found that, mirroring national trends, guns used in Portland crimes surface on the street about five years after they are first purchased in stores.

"It gives you a picture of the firearm problem in the city," said Sgt. Dave Anderson, a supervisor of Portland's gun task force. "The tracing informa-

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Freeway Soundwall Rises Along I-5



Crews prepare the footings for soundwalls just north of Skidmore as part of the Oregon Department of Transportation's I-5 Preservation Project. Crews are also relocating utility lines, forcing some closures in the streets adjacent to the freeway. Restricted traffic is also in effect on the Lombard and Portland Boulevard overpasses as crews work to raise the structures to allow better clearance for freeway truck traffic.

(PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Traders Search for Tech Bargains

NEW YORK — Bargain hunters pushed technology stocks moderately higher as Wall Street struggled to recover from its worst day this year. But the buying was tentative and

limited, reflecting investors' fears that more bad news is ahead for the markets and the economy.

Japanese Worried But Calm About Economy

TOKYO — The stock market is plunging to 16-year lows and there's talk of deflationary dangers, but signs of economic crisis are not causing panic in Japan; most Japanese don't own stocks. In fact, lower prices are seen by many as good news in a notoriously expensive nation. That does not change the fact, however, that the economic indicators are ominous for the world's second largest economy.

Diversity In USA Grows

A fast-growing generation of multiracial Americans is on the way, according to an

analysis of new Census data. The percentage of children who were reported to be multiracial is up to three times greater than that of adults. It was triple in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and more than double in Virginia and Indiana. It is the first time that the Census Bureau has collected detailed information on people in the United States who consider themselves multiracial.

Schools Fear Copycat Violence

Two days after a mass shooting at a high school outside San Diego, threats of copycat violence unsettled schools across the nation. In a San Diego courtroom, Charles "Andy" Williams, 15, made his first court appearance on charges of murder and attempted murder in

shooting at Santana High School in Santee. Two students were killed, and 13 people were injured.

Pennsylvania School Shooter Injures One

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — A shooting at a Roman Catholic high school left one female student injured and one in custody. Police did not immediately release more information on the shooting at Bishop Neumann High School. The injured student, who was taken to Williamsport Hospital, was still being evaluated.

Teenager Shot Outside Md. High School

LARGO, Md. — A teenager was shot in front of Maryland high school after classes had been

dismissed, police said. The 17-year-old victim, who was not a student at Largo High School, was shot at about 5 p.m. outside the school's main entrance. The teenager, who was not identified by police, was treated for non-life threatening injuries at a local hospital.

Jackson to Update Tax Return to Include Mistress

CHICAGO — The Rev. Jesse Jackson said he will amend the tax return of one of his nonprofit groups to reflect money paid to a staffer who was his mistress. The staffer, Karin Stanford, was not included on the 1999 tax return filed by the Citizenship Education Fund. Other staff members' names also were omitted. Jackson called the omissions inadvertent.