

# The Portland Obs.

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Space Crews Meet

SPACE CENTER, Houston — The crew of the International Space Station exchanged hugs with their first visitors a day after watching two of them toil for more than seven hours to install a billion-dollar robot arm. The arm will act as a high-tech construction crane, lessening the need for astronauts to do outside work during spacewalks.

### Tape Shows Missionary Plane Not Evasive

WASHINGTON — A U.S. videotape of a plane shot down by the Peruvian air force shows the craft had not been taking evasive action prior to the attack, according to a U.S. official who reviewed the tape. He said the lack of suspicious activity had led a U.S. crew in a nearby tracking plane to doubt the ill-fated craft was a drug smuggling flight. A Peruvian air force officer on board the CIA-operated spotter nevertheless directed a Peruvian jet fighter to shoot down the craft, which turned out to be carrying U.S. missionaries.

### 'Internet Twins' Return to U.S. Birthplace

LONDON — The Internet twins, infant girls at the center of a trans-Atlantic custody battle, are back home in the United States, officials said. Flintshire County Council, which had custody of the 9-month-old girls, said the infants returned to St. Louis — their birthplace, accompanied by three social workers from Britain. Judith and Alan Kilshaw, a British couple who located the twins on the Internet and adopted them in Arkansas, gave up their custody fight in Britain.

### Israel Enters Palestinian Territory

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinian officials said that Israeli tanks and bulldozers entered a Palestinian-controlled area of the Gaza Strip. Israel confirmed the brief "pinpoint operation" to demolish a Palestinian police station and said it was over. The incursion came a day after Israel occupied and later withdrew from a slice of Gaza it said had been used for mortar fire into Israel.

### Mississippi River Floods in Upper Midwest

MINNEAPOLIS — The Mississippi River rose out of its banks and strained against dikes in several states. A state of emergency had been declared in sixteen counties in Minnesota, nine counties in western Wisconsin and 10 counties in Iowa.

### Hawaii Teachers End Strike

HONOLULU — A union representing Hawaii's school teachers agreed to a new labor contract Tuesday, ending the second of two walkouts that shut down a state's entire public education system for the first time.

Hawaii's 182,000 school children will return to class Thursday for the first time in three weeks.

### Families of Columbine Victims File New LawsUIT

DENVER — The families of several victims in the Columbine massacre have filed a lawsuit against companies that create violent video games and sex-oriented Web sites, claiming their products influenced the gunmen.

The suit seeks \$5 billion in punitive damages from 25 entertainment companies. It was filed on behalf of the family of slain teacher Dave Sanders and other Columbine victims in federal court.

## Support Grows for King Center Remodel



City Commissioner Dan Saltzman joins former State Sen. Bob Boyer at the King Center to generate support for the proposed remodel of the community center serving north/northeast Portland. (PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER)

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman is finding support for the remodeling of the King Center, a 25-year-old community center at 4815 N.E. 7th Ave.

Mayor Vera Katz has proposed \$275,000 for the project in next year's city budget. The money would pay for plans to update the facilities to meet the needs of the current tenants who provide a wealth of community and neighborhood services.

"The King Center has a rich history of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King's work. This community treasure deserves a facelift," Saltzman said.

Currently, the center houses the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, the Neighborhood Mediation Center, Community Court and several Multnomah County programs.

Along with Commissioner Saltzman, former State Senator Bob Boyer is a key community leader in helping the renovation plans move forward.

"The King Facility has been here for 25 years and has been a stable place where city, county, and state representatives and commissioners can meet," says Boyer. "It's been the home for the beginnings of many important programs. And it's a very wonderful place for the community to get together and talk over issues and community concerns." The building is attached to King School on Portland Public Schools land, but is owned by the city. The \$275,000 budgeted is just the first phase of a full remodeling. Area residents are being urged to join in the support for the renovation plans during the city's budget hearing Saturday at 10 a.m. at the King Elementary School Cafeteria.

## Music, Theater to Engage Community in Cause

LORRAINE-MICHELLE FAUST  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A walk, in the spirit of Cesar Chavez and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to raise awareness for farm worker rights is going to take place this summer. First, though, the organizations involved have to raise the funds.

On Saturday from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at St. Andrew Catholic Church, 806 N.E. Alberta, a benefit party will be held to raise money for the National Walk for Farmworker Justice, scheduled June 18 to 24.

"Whether you're African American, Latino or white, this is an event where you can make a difference with your

contribution," Ramon Ramirez, president of PCUN (the Oregon farmworker union), said. "This is about breaking down the barriers of institutional racism."

Ramirez will be speaking at the event about the living and working conditions of Oregon's farm workers. Along with

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## Concealed Handguns Debated

SALEM (AP) — A Republican leader has refused to hold a hearing on a bill to bar holders of concealed handgun licenses from carrying their weapons into schools. Activists from Cease Fire Oregon and the Million Man March held a news conference Monday and circulated around the Capitol trying to increase pressure on Senate Judiciary Chairman John Minnis, R-Wood Village, to hold a hearing on SB508. Meanwhile, about a dozen pro-gun activists picketed outside and came to the news conference to argue that law-abiding carriers of concealed handguns make schools safer and can potentially help protect students and staffers from violence. Early in the session, Minnis had expressed interest in holding hearings on gun issues, but he quickly reversed field after receiving a flood of critical mail from pro-gun activists. "We're trying to avoid controversial issues where we can," said Minnis.

Tim Pitzer, vice president of the Oregon State Shooting Association, the local affiliate of the National Rifle Association, spoke out at the news conference. He cited a 1997 incident in which an assistant principal at a Pearl, Miss., high school retrieved a handgun from a car and used it to confront and stop a teen-age shooter who had just killed two and wounded seven.

"Armed citizens have been a deterrent to crime for years," Pitzer said. Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, who sponsored last year's successful initiative requiring criminal background checks on sales at gun shows, has made a ban on carrying guns into schools her top firearms issue this session. "We have so many of these concealed permits," Burdick said, "and it's just a matter of time ... before some little kid gets a hold of a gun that shouldn't be there in the first place."



Three year-old Julian was one of about 500 people enjoying a rally for economic justice and the environment during Earth Day celebrations in Portland. About 500 people demonstrated peacefully Saturday at Pioneer Courthouse Square, then marched through downtown and across the Burnside Bridge before dispersing. Police escorted the protesters every step of the way, but there did not appear to be any clashes.

(PHOTO BY DAVID GIEZYNG/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER)

## Gas Prices Expected to Soar

(AP) — Gas prices are up 15 cents and all signals show they'll probably continue to rise through the summer.

Drivers on the East Coast are currently paying more than \$2 a gallon for regular gas. Los Angeles drivers are paying even more and



A billboard shows the current prices for gasoline outside a northeast service station. (PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER)

experts say those high prices could be headed to Oregon. The national average for gas prices is just eight cents below the all-time high.

Oregon drivers are still paying less than one year ago on this date, but the last month has seen a drastic increase. Experts predict Northwest prices will surge up again right in the heart of the travel season. "That would definitely make me rethink my vacation plans," said driver Barb Jennings. "Every summer they raise it just because we are all out on the road," added Dan Daugherty. The average price for regular gas in Oregon was at \$1.57 a gallon on Friday, compared to \$1.71 the same time last year. The state ranks eleventh-highest in the nation for gas prices. Some experts are speculating that gas prices could reach \$3 a gallon in Oregon because refineries will slow production to convert warmer-weather blends of gas.