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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Russian Rocket Lifts Off Carrying U.S. Space Tourist

BAIKONUR, Kazakstan — A Russian rocket lifted off flawlessly, carrying the first space tourist, American Dennis Tito, and two cosmonauts. The Soyuz rocket blasted off from the barren steppes of Central Asia under sunny, blue skies, headed toward the International Space Station. "It's for real," said Tito's girlfriend, who cried as she watched the launch. "I just can't believe it."

U.S. Team Arrives in China for Look at Spy Plane

BEIJING — A team of U.S. technicians arrived in China to figure out how to get a damaged Navy spy plane back to the United States. The technicians from Lockheed Martin, a Pentagon contractor, are expected to meet with Chinese officials in Hainan Island.

Bush Gets Less Press, Positive Reports

President Bush has gotten less positive news coverage at the start of his term than Bill Clinton did, according to a media watchdog group. Of newspaper, newsmagazine and TV stories about Bush in the first two months of his term, 22% were positive versus 27% for Clinton in his first two months. The amount of reporting has plummeted: TV and print coverage of Bush fell 41% from the same period during Clinton's administration.

Evenflo to Recall 3.4M Baby Car Seats

About 3.4 million infant car seat/carriers will be recalled because a faulty handle can cause the seat to flip forward, federal official say. At least 97 infants have suffered skull fractures, concussions, a broken leg or other injuries in the Evenflo Joyride.

China Accuses Bush of Violating Commitments

BEIJING — China's Foreign Ministry accused President Bush of violating commitments to China when he said that the United States was willing to defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion. Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue expressed "serious concern" over what she called Bush's "extremely mistaken position." Bush's remarks ventured far beyond U.S. policy, which was strategically vague and avoided specifically describing what America would do if China invaded Taiwan.

Mississippi Crests at Near-record Level

DAVENPORT, Iowa — City workers kept watch on sandbag levees as the bloated Mississippi River hovered at its crest, not quite as high as predicted and short of a record. At mid-morning, the river was at 22.30 feet, its third highest on record at Davenport, the largest urban area on the upper Mississippi without a permanent flood wall.

More Girls Going to Jail, Study Says

WASHINGTON — Young girls are being arrested and jailed in record numbers, according to an American Bar Association study released that says the juvenile justice system isn't equipped to handle the special needs of troubled girls. While juvenile crime has dropped overall and the problems of young male offenders tend to get more attention, girls under the age of 18 have become the fastest growing segment of the juvenile justice population, said the ABA report, which is an amalgamation of many studies on girls and crime.

Scientists Unearth Dinosaur Fossil

Scientists have found the well-preserved fossil of a down and feather-covered dinosaur, providing powerful new evidence that feathers evolved in dinosaurs before they evolved in birds, a Chinese and American team reports in today's *Nature*. The fossil is believed to be the first discovered with its entire body covering intact.

No Fault Found in Police Shooting



A grand jury's decision clearing police of wrongdoing in the shooting death of a Mexican immigrant ignites a strong protest downtown. (PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER)

A series of new reports are clearing police and sheriff's deputies of any wrongdoing in the arrest and subsequent shooting death of a Mexican immigrant.

An internal investigation by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office finds that deputies acted properly when they struggled with Jose Santos Victor Mejia Poot to place him in an isolation cell at the downtown Portland Justice Center.

Two days later, he was shot and killed by Portland police during a confrontation at BHC-Pacific Gateway Hospital.

A Multnomah County Grand Jury last week cleared Portland police officers of any criminal wrongdoing in Mejia's arrest or shooting.

A Portland police internal affairs investigation is continuing into allegations that Portland officers used excessive force at the time of Mejia's arrest.

All the investigative reports on Mejia's case, including the jail reports, have been turned over to the FBI, which is reviewing whether to conduct a civil rights investigation.

Mejia, 29, was arrested March 30 on allegations of resisting arrest and harassment after he boarded a Tri-Met bus and couldn't pay his fare.

While being booked, he refused at least two direct orders to remove his watch and place it on the booking counter, a routine step, officials said.

They said Mejia pushed himself free, clinched his fists and began swinging his

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Rainfall Good For Bull Run Supply

(AP) — April produced near-normal precipitation — about one-third of the average for winter months — but the rainfall was especially good news for the city of Portland's Bull Run watershed, about five miles west of the summit of Mount Hood.

Water supplies for the summer should be normal, thanks to the recent rain, said Ross Walker, a spokeswoman for the Portland Water Bureau.

"We still want people to conserve," Walker said. "Water use doubles in the summer, so

we want to urge customers to use the water wisely." Jon Lea, a hydrologist for the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service in Portland, said Monday the snowpack on Mount Hood stood at 88 inches, about 1½ inches more than where it stood April 1.

"That's about 59 percent of average for that site at this time of year," Lea said. "The rain and snow right now certainly helps, but these are the kinds of storms we should have been having back in January and February."

Tom Herrett, a hydrologist with the U.S.

Geological Survey in Portland, said stream flows statewide have rebounded in the past two months but still are far below normal.

Herrett estimated that stream flows are about 30 percent to 40 percent of normal on the west side and about 60 percent to 70 percent of normal for the east side.

In southwest Oregon, the Rogue River at Agness is about 27 percent of normal, and the Umpqua River is 24 percent of average, he said. The Willamette River at Salem is only about 37 percent of normal.

Achievement Gap Separates White and Minority Students

(AP) — The achievement gap in reading between Oregon's white and minority students is decreasing in elementary school but growing among middle and high school students, state education officials said.

The achievement gap in math is either static or increasing, according to test scores from 1996-2000.

Although education officials knew African-American, Latino and other minority students don't perform as well on state assessments as white students, Thursday's report was the first formal look at the problem.

State School Superintendent Stan Bunn said three initiatives in Gov. John Kitzhaber's proposed budget should begin to address the problem:

- A \$2.7 million program to cut the high-school dropout rate by 20 percent in the next two years.
- A \$3.4 million proposal would provide help for schools with low-performing students.
- A \$1.5 million proposal to provide mentors for new teachers to help keep them in the profession and improve their teaching techniques.

The report showed that achievement in math and reading improved for all groups in third- and fifth-grade. In math, minorities made no gains on white students. African-American third-graders made a dramatic gain on whites in reading. In eighth grade, all groups improved in reading, but the gap did not narrow. In math, white eighth-graders improved faster than minorities, thus widening the achievement gap. The same held true in 10th-grade reading and math.

Sen. Avel Gordly, D-Portland, who had pushed the department to separate test scores, applauded the release of the data.

"We should look at it as a diagnostic tool, to tell us where to focus our efforts," she said. Gordly said the Legislature should approve the dropout, mentoring and school aid proposals in the governor's budget.

Dancers of the Heart



Aztec dancers, *Ilotianizayoltil* (Dancers of the Heart), perform at St. Andrews Church in northeast Portland Saturday. In addition to celebrating Latino culture, the program called for awareness of the poor living and working conditions of farm workers, raising money for the National Walk for Farmworker Justice, to be held across Oregon June 18-24. (PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER)