



Police News/Vancouver

Inside-A

Justice Served in Birmingham Deaths...A4
 Alberta Street Merchants Display Student Art Projects.....A5

Metro-

Collecting Guns to Keep Communities Safe.....B1
 Blazers Fire Dunleavy.....B2
 PCC Expansion will Displace Neighbors...B5

This Week in History

May 9 1994, South Africa's newly elected parliament chose Nelson Mandela to be the country's first black president.

Weather Through the Weekend

Today	Partly Cloudy	66°F High	46°F Low
Thursday	Partly Cloudy	63°F High	52°F Low
Friday	Partly Cloudy	77°F High	54°F Low
Saturday	Mostly Cloudy	74°F High	51°F Low
Sunday	Mostly Cloudy	72°F High	49°F Low

Thought for the Week

Talking little, and with the low, tender part of our voices, as in nodding to one who already knows what you mean. —Tess Gallagher

May 10 1869, a golden spike was driven at Promontory, Utah, marking the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States.

May 11 1973, charges against Daniel Ellsberg for his role in the Pentagon Papers case were dismissed by Judge William M. Byrne,

who cited government misconduct.

May 12 1943, during World War II, Axis forces in North Africa surrendered.

May 13 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded in St. Peter's Square by Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca.

Suspect Charged in Home Robbery

50-Year old Gregory Allen Moore has been arrested and charged in a May 1 residential robbery of an elderly couple in northeast Portland.

The two had just returned after making a bank withdrawal, when Moore came to the door fraudulently claiming to be a city employee, police said.



Gregory Allen Moore

He's accused of telling the couple he needed to take a water sample and after entering the home, assaulted and robbed the 87-year-old husband and 85-year-old wife.

Moore has been charged with two counts of robbery, two counts of kidnapping, one count of burglary and parole violation.

New Community Court Opens

A new Westside Community Court has opened at the downtown Justice Center.

The court is modeled after a jurisdiction in midtown Manhattan, New York, that combines community service accountability and on-site social services for misdemeanor defendants.

The Westside Community Court also follows the successful North/Northeast and Southeast Portland

Community Court projects.

The new court will arraign all misdemeanor and violations that occur in central precinct or Portland's westside. All defendants who opt for community Court will undergo a social service screening. More in-depth analysis, referrals, and treatment will be available on-site, nest door to the courtroom. Defendants who plead guilty will be assigned to community service

projects and when appropriate, social service sentences.

The North/Northeast Community Court continues to operate Wednesdays at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 NE 7th Ave. The Southeast Community Court operates every Thursday at the Brentwood Darlington Community Center at 7211 SE 62nd Ave. The courts welcome members of the community to observe the proceedings.

Jury Convicts Klansman in 1963 Bombing

A black minister was instrumental in getting the FBI to reopen the case

BY JAY REEVES
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—A former Ku Klux Klansman was convicted of murder last week for the 1963 church bombing that killed four black girls, the deadliest single attack during the civil rights movement.

Thomas Blanton Jr., 62, was sentenced to life in prison by the same jury that found him guilty after 21 1/2 hours of deliberations. Before he was led out of the courtroom in handcuffs, the judge asked him if he had any comment.

"I guess the good Lord will settle it on judgment day," Blanton said.

Blanton is the second former Klansman to be convicted of planting the bomb that went off at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church on Sept. 15, 1963, a Sunday morning.

The bomb ripped through an exterior wall of the brick church. The bodies of Denise McNair, 11, and Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley and Carole Robertson, all 14, were found in the downstairs lounge.

Denise's parents, Chris and Maxine McNair, did not comment as they left the courthouse. Chris McNair was hugged by U.S. Attorney Doug Jones, who fought back tears as he told reporters: "We're happy for the families. We're happy for the girls."

The Rev. Abraham Woods, a black minister instrumental in getting the FBI to reopen the case in 1993, said he was delighted with the verdict.

"It makes a statement on how far we've come," said Woods, the local president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Defense attorney John Robbins said the swift verdict showed the jury



Thomas Blanton Jr.

was caught up in the emotion surrounding the notorious case. He said he would seek a new trial, arguing the case should have been moved out of Birmingham and Blanton's right to a speedy trial had been violated.

He also said the lack of white men on the jury — eight white women, three black women and one black man returned the verdict — "absolutely hurt Blanton." The jurors, who were publicly identified only by number, left without comment.

The case is the latest from the turbulent civil rights era to be revived by prosecutors. Byron De La Beckwith was convicted in 1994 of assassinating civil rights leader Medgar Evers in 1963 and former Klan imperial wizard Sam Bowers was convicted three years ago of the 1966 firebomb-killing of an NAACP leader.

But the church bombing was a galvanizing moment of the civil rights movement. Moderates could no longer remain silent and the fight to topple segregation laws gained new momentum.

During closing arguments, Jones told the jury that it was "never too late

for justice."

He said Blanton acted in response to months of civil rights demonstrations. The church had become a rallying point for protesters.

"Tom Blanton saw change and didn't like it," Jones said as black-and-white images of the church and the girls dressed in Sunday clothing flashed on video screens in the courtroom.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Posey added: "The defendant didn't care who he killed as long as he killed someone and as long as that person was black."

"These children must not have died in vain," he said. "Don't let the deafening blast of his bomb be what's left ringing in our ears."

Robbins argued that the government had proved only that Blanton was once a foul-mouthed segregationist, not a bomber. He said murky tapes of his client secretly recorded by the FBI were illegally obtained and should not have been admitted as evidence. The surveillance began after Blanton and other Klansman were identified as suspects within weeks of the bombing.

The FBI planted a hidden microphone in Blanton's apartment in 1964 and taped his conversations with Mitchell Burns, a fellow Klansman-turned-informant. Posey went over the tapes for jurors, putting transcript excerpts on the video screens. He read from one transcript in which Blanton described himself to Burns as a clean-cut guy: "I like to go shooting, I like to go fishing, I like to go bombing."

Posey also quoted Blanton as saying he was through with women. "I

am going to stick to bombing churches," Blanton said, according to Posey.

On one tape, Blanton was heard telling Burns that he would not be caught "when I bomb my next church." On another made in his kitchen, he is heard talking with his wife about a meeting where "we planned the bomb."

"That is a confession out of this man's mouth," said Jones, pointing to Blanton.

The defense argued that the tape made in Blanton's kitchen meant nothing because prosecutors failed to play 26 minutes of previous conversation. "You can't judge a conversation in a vacuum," Robbins said.

Robbins also said Blanton's conversations with Burns were nothing but boasting between "two drunk rednecks." He dismissed Burns and other prosecution witnesses as liars.

Another former Klan member, Robert "Dynamite Bob" Chambliss, was convicted of murder in 1977 and died in prison in 1985.

Another former Klansman, Bobby Frank Cherry, was indicted last year but his trial was delayed after evaluations raised questions about his mental competency. A fourth suspect, Herman Cash, died without being charged. The Justice Department concluded 20 years ago that former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had blocked prosecution of Klansmen in the bombing. The case was reopened following a 1993 meeting in Birmingham between FBI officials and black ministers, including Woods.

The investigation was not revealed publicly until 1997, when agents went to Texas to talk to Cherry.



CEASEFIRE Oregon

Gun Turn - In 2001

Saturday, May 12

ONE DAY ONLY 10 am - 2 p.m.

Turn in your gun and receive a \$50 Merchandise Certificate and learn more about how to keep your home safe from gun violence.

Beaverton

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Station #67
 13810 SW Farmington Road @ Menlo

Gresham

Gresham Fire Station #4
 NE 192nd & Halsey

Hillsboro Human Resources

Tuality Healthcare Building
 232 SE 8th

N Portland

Martin Luther King Blvd
 @ Jarrett Street

SE Portland

Eastport Plaza
 4104 SE 82nd Street, Ste 300

Clackamas County

Clackamas Fire District #1
 1130 SE Fuller at Causey
 (2 Blocks North of Clackamas Town Center)

For More Information, Call 220-1669
Cforegon@teleport.com www.ceasefireoregon.org
 921 SE Morrison, Ste 424 Portland, Oregon 97205

Meet Scratch-it Winners...



Janet LeSollen
 Won \$5,000
 playing
 Pharaoh's Gold

Margaret York
 Won \$15,000
 playing
 Bonus Crossword

Ted Ranck
 Won \$5,000
 playing
 Strike it Rich

Something good just might happen! For these and other winners' stories, visit www.oregonlottery.org

Odds and prize payout vary by game played. Lottery games are based on chance, should be played for entertainment only and should not be played for investment purposes.