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Palestinian Homes

JERUSALEM — Israeli tanks and bulldozers destroyed 10 buildings in Gaza, entering the Palestinian territory for the first time since a cease-fire went into effect last month, Palestinian security officials said. The incursion came hours after Israeli bulldozers leveled 14 Palestinian homes on the edge of Jerusalem.

Changes Boost Gay Household Tally

One of the hottest controversies over the 2000 Census — findings of huge increases in the numbers of gay households - is based in large part on alterations the Census Bureau made in 1990 to data on same-sex partners. Officials in 1990 decided to reclassify householders who said they had samesex spouses because same-sex marriages were not legally possible. Such partners were kicked into different categories including opposite sex partners, siblings and roommates.

Condit Willing to Provide Records, DNA

WASHINGTON - A lawyer for Rep. Gary Condit said the California congressman is willing to give police access to his Washington apartment and provide personal records if that would help them solve the disappearance of former government intern Chandra

Shark Attack Victim Improves

PENSACOLA, Fla. - A doctor monitoring an 8-year-old shark attack victim for possible brain damage said that he is showing some encouraging signs. He was in critical but stable condition. Doctors said the blood loss harmed virtually every organ in his body, causing kidney failure and raising the possibility of brain damage.

NAACP Chairman

Attacks Bush's Record

NEW ORLEANS - NAACP board chairman Julian Bond had harsh words on Sunday for President Bush's record in his first months in office, criticizing some of Bush's Cabinet choices and denouncing his faith-based initiative. Bush was invited to address the gathering, but was unable to attend.

Feds Consider Calling in Marshals in Water Fight

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - County commissioners refused to back up farmers and residents who use civil disobedience to reopen an irrigation canal closed to protect endangered fish. About 100 people used a chain saw, their bare hands and a cutting torch to open one of the six headgates holding back the waters of Upper Klamath Lake. They complained that the waters were not reaching their fields. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which owns the irrigation system, is considering whether to call in federal marshals to protect the headgates.

Drought Sears

Another Summer

Another parched summer in a string of drought years is frustrating farmers, fly-fishers and lawn lovers across broad expanses of the USA. Hawaii and West Texas are gasping through their fourth straight year of lower-thannormal rainfall. Chronically low groundwater levels persist in Florida despite recent rains. The usually soaked Pacific Northwest is suffering some of the worst problems. Agriculture Department meteorologists are blaming the bone-dry conditions on La Niña

Census on Minority Trends in Portland

Survey Reveals Shifts in the Housing Market and Population



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Contractors are busy constructing homes to meet the market demand, especially with a record number of minorities moving from Portland to the outlying suburban areas.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - Portland has one of the most expensive rental markets in the nation, but one of the strongest housing markets around, according to a report released this week.

The annual analysis by Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies showed that Portland's minorities are more likely to buy suburban homes than in most other U.S. cities.

In addition, the report released showed population increases in the central city for both whites and minorities — a rarity.

The report showed that 70 percent of loans made to minorities in the Portland area during 1999 were for suburban homes, exceeding the national average of 61 percent. Eleven percent of loans went to minority borrowers in the eight-county area included in the study.

That area, which includes Portland and Salem, has a minority population of almost 18 percent, according to the most recent census figures.

Twenty-six percent of home purchase loans in 1999 went to low-income borrowers, lower than the national average of 32 percent.

The report also cited an analysis by the National Low Income Housing Coalition stating that nearly half of Oregon and Portland renters are unable to afford their rent — putting the state among the nation's least affordable for renters.

Portland Doctor Under Investigation Over Marijuana Cards

(AP) - A Portland-area doctor has signed nearly 40 percent of all of the state's approved applications for medical marijuana users and is under investigation by the Oregon Board of Medical Examiners.

The 77-year-old doctor, whose name was not released by the agency, said that he is filling a gap because other doctors won't participate in the program for fear of prosecution and professional repercussions.

Many of his patients also are veterans who cannot get help from their governmentemployed doctors, he told the newspaper.

Since Oregon's medical marijuana law was approved in 1998, 2,227 Oregonians have obtained cards allowing them to use medical marijuana. Of the state's 7,000 doctors, 538 have signed paperwork necessary for a patient to get a card.

Only 13 Oregon doctors have signed 10 or more medical marijuana applications.

The Portland-area doctor under investigation signed for 890 patients, according to the latest state data on the program.



The second most active physician in the state signed for 71 patients.

The 1998 medical marijuana law requires officials to protect the names of all doctors

and patients who participate in the program. The doctor's identity was not published because of his concern that he would be

The doctor said he sees "95 percent" of his

inundated with requests for help to enter the

medical marijuana patients and reviews every patient's records before signing applications, but he does not have a long-term relationship with the patients. He does not charge for the exams.

Although he has suffered chronic pain from prostate surgery eight years ago and is barely able to walk, the doctor said he is not enrolled in the marijuana program himself.

"I am helping people because I am in a similar position," he said. "I can truly empathize with these people."

Bruce Johnson, a spokesman for the state Board of Medical Examiners, said he could not comment on whether the agency is investigating the doctor.

But the doctor told the newspaper Thursday that he is under investigation for not meeting professional standards as an "attending physician."

Mac Prichard, spokesman for the Oregon Department of Human Services, which oversees the medical marijuana program, said state officials have long been aware of the disproportionate number of patients served by the doctor.

He said nothing in the marijuana act nor in Oregon law limits the number of patients a doctor can serve.

Last month, the medical marijuana program's director was demoted after it was discovered that three signatures on approved applications were forged. Four forged signatures on pending applications also were found.

All seven forgeries were of the Portlandarea doctor's name.

The doctor said he discovered the identity of the forger and notified Oregon State Police. Results of an investigation have been turned over to district attorneys in Clackamas and Multnomah counties for potential criminal prosecution, state police spokesman Lt. Gregg Hastings said.

An internal audit has since turned up other shortcomings in the program, including inadequate staff and management prob-

Racing for the Cure



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

icking off the event for the upcoming Portland, "Race for the Cure" was an unveiling of a six-foot pink metal breast cancer awareness ribbon, at Pioneer Place in downtown Portland, to celebrate the annual event that has been hosted by the Susan G. Komen Foundation for a decade, their theme is called "10 years/10 friends/10 dollars."

During last year's race, over 40,000 participated, making it the third-largest 5K marathon in the nation. Proceeds totaling \$1.5 million went towards the foundation to further their mission of eradicating breast cancer as a lifethreatening disease.

The Race for the Cure run will be held in Portland on Sept. 16. For more information, call 503/553-3680 or visit them online at www.raceforthecure-pdx.org.

Venus Repeats Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) - The pose was familiar and demure: Against a backdrop of Wimbledon green, Venus Williams grinned

and held the huge championship dish aloft, her left knee bent in an elegant curtsy for the cheering crowd. The performance was



familiar, too. With the ruthless aggression that characterizes her best efforts, Williams won her second consecutive Wimbledon title Sunday by beating Belgian Justine Henin 6-

Crushing her serves and charging the net at every opportunity, Williams overpowered a smaller, less experienced foe and showed she's back at the top of her game after slumping the first half of this year. When Williams

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