

School Board's Derry Jackson Says He's Not Prejudiced

See story inside, Metro Section



Peninsula Girls Repeat

Little Leaguers advance to the state tournament for the second straight year. See story in Sports, Page B3



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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Bush Thanks Troops in Kosovo

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Yugoslavia — President Bush told U.S. troops in Kosovo that he hopes to speed the day when peace in the region is self-sustaining. He brought with him a \$1.9 billion bill that boosts compensation for American troops.

Nelson Mandela Has Prostate Cancer

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Former South African President Nelson Mandela has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. The cancer should not pose a threat to his life, Mandela's foundation announced.

Earthquake Rattles Puget Sound Area

SEATTLE — A moderate earthquake gently rattled the Puget Sound area. No damage or injuries were reported. The 4.3-magnitude temblor was possibly related to the 6.8-magnitude earthquake that shook the area in February, a seismologist said.

Bush, Pope Talk Stem Cell Issue

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy — Pope John Paul II urged President Bush in their first meeting together to bar creation of human embryos for medical research, saying that America has a moral responsibility to reject actions that "devalue and violate human life." Bush said he will take the Pope's comments into consideration.

Rights Group: U.S. Should Pay for Slavery

UNITED NATIONS — Human Rights Watch said the United States should offer reparations to blacks because of slavery, and it urged other countries to make similar pledges at a U.N. conference on racism next month. The Bush administration opposes offering financial reparations.

An Era of More Major Hurricanes Threatens USA

Hurricane disasters like those that hit the East Coast and the Caribbean Sea from the 1940s into the 1960s could be on their way back, a study of *Science* magazine says. In fact, the authors say, a new era of more "major" hurricanes probably began in 1995.

Bush Begins European Trip

LONDON — President Bush defended his positions on climate change and missile defense systems, issues that Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said are driving a wedge between the United States and its allies. "I will continue to stand for what I think is right for America," Bush said.

Economic Downturn Hits Colleges

The economic downturn is rippling through state budgets to public colleges, as some state colleges and universities are increasing tuition in double-digit percentages this fall. For several years, a survey tracking tuition increases placed average public four-year college tuition increases at 3.4% to 4.4%.

Federal Report Supports Stem Cell Study on All Fronts

WASHINGTON — Embryonic stem cell research should be included among the possible avenues for treating disease, federal researchers told the Bush administration as it considers whether to allow federal funding of the approach.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Promoting the soulful "Gospel Gumbo" festival are Portland-Vancouver Gospel music artists Dorothy Davis (from left), Pearl Thomas and Patricia Howard.

Saturday Celebration To Warm Souls at Holladay Park

Some of the best Gospel entertainment in the northwest will take center stage Saturday during Gospel Gumbo: A Spirited and Tasteful Celebration.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Holladay Park, across from Lloyd Center, and is sponsored by the Portland Vancouver Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc. in association

with Basiq Blaq Productions. Admission is free to the public.

Festivalgoers can expect to enjoy some of the best choirs, soloists, dramatic performances and dancers in the Northwest. Food vendors will also be on hand to tempt your taste buds. Non-profit agencies and craft persons will display their wares.

A Gumbo Cook-off contest co-sponsored by The Portland Observer and

Billy Reeds Restaurant will boast some of the best gumbo connoisseurs and recipes in Oregon and Washington.

Also, a fashion show presented by Sheba's House of Elegance will entertain the audience. For more information on participating as vendor, talent or contestant, call Pat Howard at 503-288-8342, Dorothy Davis at 360-695-7605 or Rev. Renee' Ward at 503-249-1719.

Toddler's Death Investigated

(AP) — The state Justice Department will investigate how a 20-month-old Gresham girl on a state-supervised visit with her mother wound up strangled to death.

Alexis Lopez, who has been in state custody since last fall, died July 11 during a scheduled visit with her mother, Sharon Weston.

Weston was arraigned Friday in Multnomah County Circuit Court on aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder charges. A trial date has not yet been set.

Police say the caseworker who supervised Weston's visit was not aware that she had taken off with Alexis until police contacted him in the park after the child was killed.

Police said the agency worker was found in a state car reading a newspaper more than 45 minutes after Weston had taken her daughter's body to a nearby funeral chapel.

Kristen Grainger, assistant to Attorney General Hardy Myers, said the agency will assist the State Office for Services to Children and Families in investigating the events that led to Lopez's death.

Grainger said the Justice Department is not conducting a criminal investigation.

But agency lawyers will look into whether SCF employees involved in Weston's visitation with her daughter made errors. Grainger also said Justice Department officials will collaborate with the children's welfare agency to review its visitation policies and help make recommendations for changes if needed.

Bob Mink, director of the Department of Human Services, said he asked for Justice Department involvement to ensure that the investigation is impartial and thorough.

"We will be accountable for what happened in this case," Mink said.

Ramona Foley, administrator of the DHS, said the agency is also reviewing the possibility of harm in other cases.

"What happened to Alexis Lopez is tragic," said Foley. "Safe parent-child visits happen daily throughout the state. Clearly, we will find out why that didn't happen here."

Woman Astronaut Holds Science Camp for Kids

By JOY RAMOS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Up to 50 kids from throughout the Portland area participated in a one-day science camp Monday called "The Earth We Share Day."

The free program was designed by Dr. Mae C. Jemison, the first African American woman astronaut, and co-sponsored by the Urban League of Portland.

Students were shown the practical value of science and technology during the program at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus.

As a group, they formed a think tank to creatively solve global issues. They were asked to figure out a way of disposing garbage that's environmentally friendly; design the perfect video game; come up with an exercise program to keep high schoolers fit and strategize a plan to effectively reduce crime.

Jemison's program is based on her foundation's four-week residential camp that has been held at sites across the country since 1994. The aim of the Dorothy Jemison Foundation of Excellence is for students to build critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

At the science camp, Dr. Jemison talked about her life, relating with child-like wonder and curiosity. She was an encouragement and inspiration to many there for achieving her lifelong dreams.

Since childhood, Dr. Jemison has had a fascination with astronomy and knew with conviction that she was going to be a scientist. After graduating from high school



MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Students and other Portland area residents gather around Dr. Mae C. Jemison (top center), the first African American astronaut, during Monday's science day camp at the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College in north Portland.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE B2