

Sports Illustrated Likes The Beavers Best

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Bush Signs Farm Aid Bill

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush signed a \$5.5 billion emergency farm aid bill, intended as compensation for low prices. The measure should boost net farm income to \$47.9 billion, the highest level since 1997.

Israel Enters Palestinian City

JENIN, West Bank — Israeli tanks leveled the main police station in Jenin in the biggest Israeli military incursion into a Palestinian-controlled city since 1994. Israel said the move was in retaliation for repeated suicide bombings. "Jenin is a city of bombers," an Israeli army official says.

Germans Mark

Anniversary of Berlin Wall

BERLIN — Germany marked the 40th anniversary of the construction of the Berlin Wall, but the country was focused more on present concerns over whether the successor party to the former East German communists has properly reconciled with its brutal past.

Coming sooner: Start of School

Pressures from mandated state testing and academic demands are causing more school districts to start school before Sept. 1, some as early as the first week of August. A survey of all school districts shows the percentage opening before Sept. 1 rose from 51% in 1988-89 to 76% last year.

Ford Deal Could Cost \$1B

SAN FRANCISCO — In a deal that could cost Ford Motor as much as \$1 billion and affect millions of vehicles, the automaker has agreed to settle a lawsuit that alleges its cars and trucks stall.

Prosecutors to Seek

Death for Houston Mom

HOUSTON — Prosecutors said they would seek the death penalty against a mother accused of drowning her five children in a bathtub. Andrea Pia Yates, 37, pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to two counts of capital murder in a brief court session.

Justice Plans to Pay for DNA Tests

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is preparing to offer \$500,000 in federal grants to pay for DNA tests for inmates, even though the results could overturn their convictions.

Gas Prices Seem to Bottom Out

Gasoline prices nationwide appear to be hitting bottom after nearly six weeks of falling prices at the pump. Most regions are seeing modest increases of a few pennies a gallon after prices plunged 20-40 cents a gallon since Memorial Day.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A relieved Lou Axtman in the aftermath of a fire on the North Portland bluff. She told the Portland Observer that the fire would have destroyed her home, if not for the help of University of Portland students and neighbors who helped beat back the flames.

Fire Damage on Bluff Adds Up

A blaze that threatened a North Portland neighborhood and sent residents rushing out with hoses to protect their homes caused only \$20,000 in damage, an early estimate from the Portland Fire Bureau shows.

"Basically we kept all the structures from being involved," said Earl Diment,

bureau spokesman.

Damage from last Wednesday's fire was mostly to decks, greenhouses and sheds that faced the bluff, which became engulfed in flames after a passing train threw sparks that ignited dry growth in the area, Diment said.

Fueled by trees, brush and piles of

wood, flames reached as high as 100 feet as the fire threatened to creep up the bluff and into North Portland neighborhoods.

The damage estimate does not include timber loss, Diment said.

Every fire truck in the city was sent to fight the nearly 2-mile-long blaze, which was contained after about five hours.

Neighborhood Gets Lesson in Condemnation

Renters, property owners in path of PCC Cascade expansion prepare for legal battles

By LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

No one likes being told to sell their property, move out of their home or relocate their business.

However, when carried out under public condemnation or eminent domain procedures, it is not necessarily all bad.

Portland Community College's Cascade Campus is currently using its eminent domain powers to acquire nearby properties in the path of its proposed expansion, across the street from the campus on Killingsworth Street and on Albina Avenue.

The college has hired ERL Development to negotiate purchase of the properties and Right of Way Associates of Beaverton to arrange for relocation of homeowners, commercial property owners, and residential and commercial tenants.

The federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act governs the relocation of people displaced either by eminent domain or condemnation, which is the purchase of property against the owner's will.

The Humboldt Neighborhood Association, which is located in the around the college, sponsored a recent forum to help people understand those procedures.

"If people pay attention and play their

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PHOTO BY HAROLD HUTCHINSON/ACKROYD PHOTOGRAPHY

The magnificent view of the Willamette River from the new Eastbank Esplanade hides much of the environmental problems the waterway faces from sewer overflows that degrade the quality of the water for recreational use, fish habitat and wildlife.

River Cleanup Soars to \$1 Billion

By JOY RAMOS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Acting as stewards of our great resource, the City of Portland will spend an estimated \$1 billion to improve the water quality of the Willamette River.

This grand undertaking will make it the largest local public works project in cost, second only to Tri-Met's light

rail system.

Under the Clean River Plan, combined sewer overflows will be reduced by 94 percent in 10 years. This will be good for all concerned—protection for the fish and wildlife and for those who use the river for its many recreational uses.

Portland's Environmental Services cites that combined sewer

overflows occur nearly every time it rains in the city. During a combined sewer overflow, storm water quickly fills the combined sewers, which carry both sanitary sewage and runoff from streets, parking lots and rooftops. Combined sewer overflows contain bacteria from untreated sew-

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