



2001 Minority Business Special Edition

Portland's minority businesses are entering a new era. Extended coverage in our Special Section C inside and on pages A7 and A8.



Knight Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403-1205

The Portland Obs

"The City Of Roses"

Volume XXXI
Number 39

www.portlandobserver.com

Committed to Cultural Diversity
Established in 1970

Wednesday
September 26, 2001

50¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Saudi Arabia Cuts Taliban Ties

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—Saudi Arabia cut all ties with Afghanistan's Taliban government, accusing the Central Asian country of using its land to harbor terrorists. The move leaves Pakistan as the only nation in the world to maintain ties with the Taliban.

Union Wants Guns in Cockpits

WASHINGTON—The Air Line Pilots Association is urging Congress to pass legislation allowing pilots to carry firearms in cockpits, a move the union says could prevent more hijackings. The union's president will press for the legislation when he testifies before a House subcommittee.

Chechens Urged to Agree to Peace Talks

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia—President Vladimir Putin sent an envoy for negotiations with Chechen rebels. Putin urged the rebels to "halt all contacts with international terrorists" and contact Russian authorities for negotiations on disarmament.

Bush Moves to Halt Money Flow

WASHINGTON—Calling it a "strike on the financial foundation" of terrorists, President Bush signed an executive order freezing the assets of 27 individuals and organizations.

Man Charged with Murder for Shooting Agent

DETROIT—A man accused of fatally shooting an officer at a federal building's security checkpoint was charged with murder. If convicted, David Serra could face life in prison or the death penalty.

Congress, Bush Team Reach Deal on Airline Aid Plan

Congress and the White House agreed early on a \$15 billion plan designed to bolster the airline industry in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks that have threatened the survival of some airlines.

Iran Says No on Airspace

TEHRAN, Iran—Iran, which lies between Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf, where many U.S. forces are located, will not allow the United States to use its airspace to attack Afghanistan, Iran's Foreign Ministry said.

Child-Drowning Mom Called Competent for Trial

HOUSTON—A jury on Saturday found a Houston mother accused of drowning her five children competent to stand trial on capital murder charges. The 11-woman, one-man jury deliberated for more than eight hours over two days before deciding Andrea Yates sufficiently understands the charges.

First Black Commands Oregon Air Guard



Security is tight at the Portland Air National Guard Base with each person entering the military installation checked for proper credentials.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

For the first time an African American commander is leading Oregon fighter pilots in defense of Pacific Northwest airspace and into the battle against terrorism.

Col. Garry C. Dean is in charge of the 142nd Fighter Wing of the Oregon Air National Guard, stationed at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

Dean took full charge of the unit on Jan. 21. He is the first African American to hold the position as wing commander. He leads more than 1,000 military personnel and 18 F-15 jet fighters.

The wing was recently called to duty as part of the Pentagon's massive call up of reservists in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and Pentagon near Washington, D.C.

Because of the heightened national security concerns and top secret destinations for the guardsmen called-up, Dean could not be interviewed for this story, according to National Guard spokesman Misti Oyler.

As a traditional guardsman, Dean is employed in civilian life as a pilot for Delta Airlines.

He has more than 4,000 hours flying military aircraft; 2,500 of which are in the F-15.

Dean lived most of his younger life as an Army "brat" near Ft. Bliss Texas. He was commissioned in May 1978



Col. Garry C. Dean

continued on page A2

Northeast Hosts Grambling State Band

The Youth Opportunity Center, 3034 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., opens its parking lot Saturday to host an education and employment expo featuring the world famous Grambling State Marching Band. The musicians were in Portland for the First Annual Vanport Football Classic, named in honor of the town with African American roots that was washed away by the flood of 1948.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Fernwood Kids Get Lesson in Democracy



State Rep. Jackie Dingfelder brings a lesson in civics to the classroom at northeast Portland's Fernwood Middle School.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

State Rep. Jackie Dingfelder, D-Northeast Portland, gave a lesson in democracy to students at Fernwood Middle School Friday.

The visit to the northeast Portland school was part of Back to School Week

sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan event designed to teach young people what it's like to be a lawmaker, the legislative process, and why citizen involvement is needed in our society.

"It's important to educate our kids about the political process at an early age," Dingfelder said. "We need to help them understand that civic involvement is essential in our system of representative democracy."

Last year, more than 2,500 legislators across the country met with students in all grade levels, participating in exercises that helped build an understanding of civic involvement and the legislative process.

Dingfelder was a guest of Tom Streckert's 8th grade social studies class.

In addition to explaining Oregon's legislative process and stressing the importance of citizens involvement, she led the class in a mock legislative exercise to emphasize the cooperation and consensus building that is necessary in formulating fair and just outcomes.

Students assumed the roles of assembly leaders, committee chairs and at-large members of a legislative body. They steered a bill through hearings, and adopted an amended version of the law that was agreeable to most of the members.

"They were a bright and thoughtful group of kids," Dingfelder said. "I feel secure in knowing that some of them will be our future leaders."

Freightliner Closings Whispered

(AP)—Freightliner, the heavy truck subsidiary of DaimlerChrysler, expects to lose a record \$1.2 billion this year, possibly forcing the closure of two plants at the truck maker's headquarters in north Portland.

Stark's News Service Interactive is reporting that Freightliner executives predicted the losses last week in separate meetings with state and local officials, and with union representatives.

The news service, citing company sources, says Freightliner lost more than \$520 million during the first half of this year.

Stark's also says nearly a third of Freightliner's dealers are facing possible bankruptcy during an economic downturn that has worsened since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Freightliner spokesman Chris Brandt said Monday that DaimlerChrysler doesn't release separate figures for its subsidiary.

He declined to comment on reports of possible closures, but he confirmed that Freightliner met with Governor Kitzhaber and Mayor Vera Katz.

PSRORT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND OR
PERMIT
NO. 1610