



# Closures Ahead for Bridge Work

Transportation officials prepare residents for closures of the Broadway Bridge  
See story, Metro section, inside.



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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Rebels Take Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan — Ignoring appeals to stay out of the capital, Afghan opposition fighters rolled into Kabul after Taliban troops fled. Residents, freed of the Islamic militia's restrictions, celebrated by blaring music from radios and shaving their beards.

### NYC Crash Puzzling

WASHINGTON — Investigators were treating the crash of American Airlines Flight 587 as an accident. The chief reason, said George Black, an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, is the plane's cockpit voice recorder.

### Bush, Putin Meet

George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet in Washington and at Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas. Their official business will be to strike a deal to slash each nation's nuclear arsenals and let Bush pursue tests of a national missile-defense system.

### Roman Catholic Bishops Elects First Black President

WASHINGTON — The group that serves as the collective voice of the nation's Roman Catholic bishops elected its first black president, Bishop Wilton Gregory of Belleville, Ill.

### More Anthrax Found on Hill

WASHINGTON — Tests revealed trace amounts of anthrax in several more Senate offices. Spores were found in the Hart building offices of Sens. Max Baucus, D-Mont.; Russ Feingold, D-Wis.; Joe Lieberman, D-Conn.; Barbara Mikulski, D-Md.; and Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

### Bush Pays Tribute to Veterans Day

NEW YORK — President Bush visited the World Trade Center's rubble, two months after the Sept. 11 hijackings. In a Veterans Day tribute, he called on Americans to remember "the terrible harm that an enemy can inflict" as they reflect anew on the sacrifices of their nation's military.

### Rebels Claim Capture of Herat

KABUL, Afghanistan — The opposition Northern Alliance claimed it had captured the western city of Herat in its advance against retreating Taliban forces. Herat is the largest and most important city in western Afghanistan.

### North Korea Reportedly Trying to Sell Missiles

WASHINGTON — North Korea, rebuffing U.S. nonproliferation efforts, is trying to sell missiles to three or four countries in Asia and the Middle East, a Bush administration official says. The official said they are concentrated in an area west of China to the Mediterranean Sea.

### Japan Commits Ships to War on Terror

TOKYO — Japan's Cabinet voted to dispatch three warships to provide non-combat support in the U.S.-led war on terrorism, despite opposition to any Japanese attempt to expand its military role. The two destroyers and a supply vessel will leave Sasebo.

## Critical Budget Decisions



Joyce Harris (left) and Antoinette Edwards share an emotional moment during Friday's Unity Breakfast. The session was called by black leaders to mentor a new generation of voices and bring into sharper focus issues important to Portland's African American community.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Sen. Avel Gordly and local leaders are encouraging north and northeast Portland residents to get informed and involved in county budget hearings that will impact services to the African American community.

The urgent appeal follows Unity Break-

fast Friday, in which black leaders met to encourage a sharper focus on issues important to blacks and the mentoring of new generation of African American leaders.

Multnomah County's first budget meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. at the North Portland Branch Library, 512 N.

Killingsworth. It continues the next day under the direction of the county executive.

Testimony can also be given on Thursday, Nov. 29 - the day the commissioners will be voting on the budget - starting at 9:30 a.m. in the boardroom of the Multnomah Building, 501 S.E. Hawthorne.

## Revamped Club a Gift to Southeast Kids

Thousands of Lents neighborhood kids are enjoying a totally revamped Wattles Boys & Girls Club at 9330 S. E. Harold St.

The 24,000 square foot, state-of-the-art youth center opened last week thanks to Mark Wattles of Hollywood Video who jump-started the \$2 million renovation with a \$1 million gift.

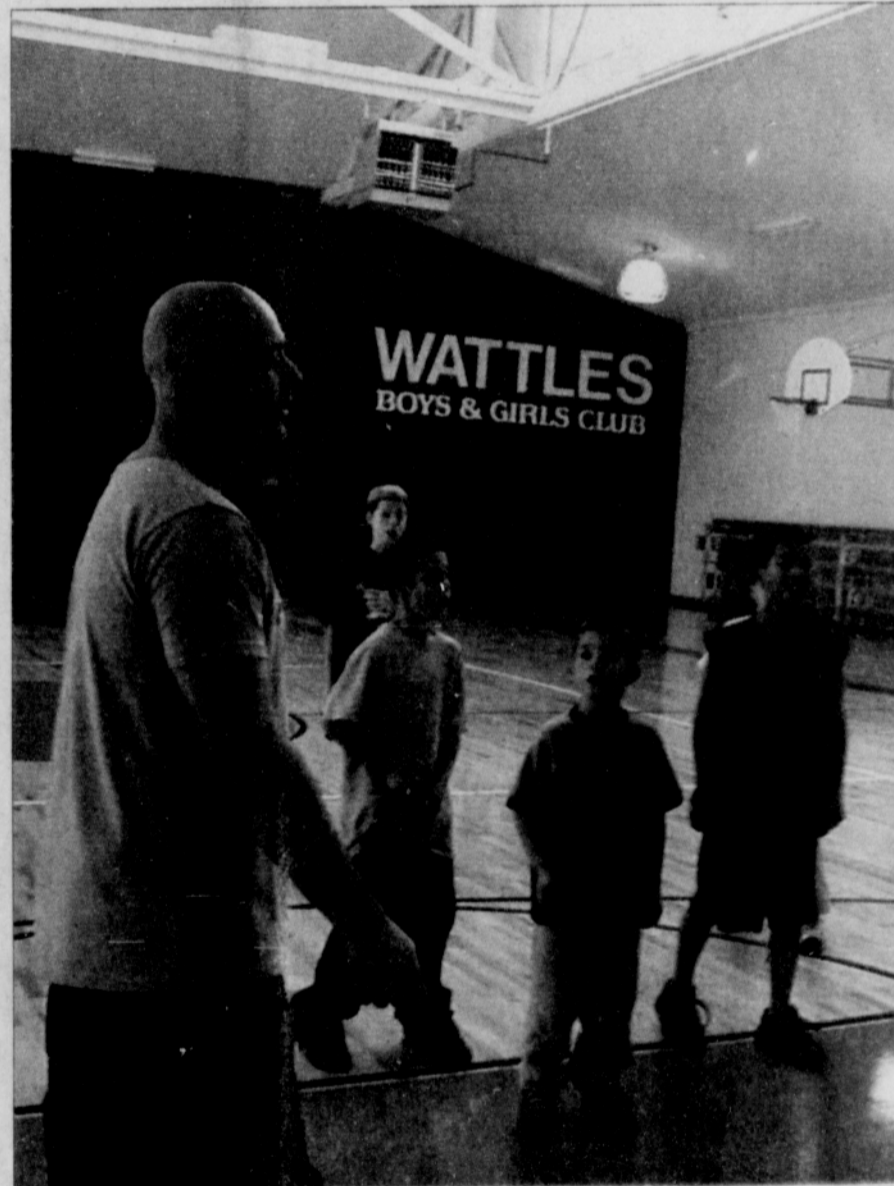
For Wattles, who had 5 children of his own, the donation is giving back to the same community that helped launch his business.

"It takes about the same amount of money to build a Boys & Girls Club as it does to build a juvenile detention center," Wattles noted. "The difference is, when you build a Club, you offer kids guidance, hope and options. It's a real thrill to see this new club and to know that thousands of kids in southeast Portland now have a safe, fun place to go instead of hanging around on the streets."

City Commissioner Jim Francesconi said the club is just the beginning of an urban revitalization effort in Southeast Portland.

"The new Wattles club is a sure sign that times are changing for both kids and adults in the Lents district. This Club will be followed by a new fire station, new retail and housing development and a wave of improvements that will bring renewed vitality to an area that's been underserved for a long time," he said.

The Wattles Club was formerly known as the Lents Boys & Girls Club and has served thousands of youth and families in the Lents community for the past 50 years.



A brand new gymnasium floor gets a passing grade from kids as the totally revamped Wattles Boys and Girls Club at 9330 S.E. Harold St. opens to the public.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## U.N. Calls for Post-Taliban Afghanistan



The United Nations General Assembly pauses for a moment of silence Monday after an American Airlines Flight 487 crashed into New York's Rockaway Beach community, killing more than 250 people. Early reports by investigators blame mechanical failures for the crash, just after takeoff from Kennedy International Airport.

AP) — The United Nations envoy called Tuesday for a two-year transitional government backed by a multinational security force in Afghanistan.

Lakhdar Brahimi, outlined a plan before the U.N. Security Council to bring Afghanistan's many ethnic and tribal groups together "as early as humanly possible."

He envisioned a meeting between the U.S.-backed northern alliance, whose forces captured Kabul on Tuesday, capping a five-day drive to the capital, and representatives of other ethnic groups to discuss the framework for a political transition.

Brahimi said the goal would be to convene a provisional council that reflects the country's ethnic diversity. He suggested it should be chaired "by an individual recognized as a symbol of national unity," an apparent reference to Afghanistan's exiled king, Zahir Shah.

The 87-year-old monarch, who has lived in Rome since he was ousted in 1973, is seen by some as a unifying figure in a possible transitional government.

Under Brahimi's proposal, the council would put together the two-year transitional government. During that period, a loya jirga, or grand council of prominent Afghans, would draw up a constitution and a second gathering would approve it and create a permanent Afghan government.

Brahimi, an Algerian diplomat, said turning around "a collapsed and destitute state" that has become a breeding ground for terrorists would require the political and financial support of all nations.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan wants Brahimi's deputy to travel to Kabul soon, and the United Nations is eager to try to get its staff back into the country and to deliver humanitarian aid.

Brahimi said a government ruled by Afghans "would be far more credible than one run by U.N. officials parachuted in," he said.

## Dropouts Dismal for Oregon's Minority Students

(AP) — A study of the Class of 1998 shows that one-third of Oregon's high school students failed to earn a diploma, giving the state one of the nation's highest dropout rates.

The numbers were particularly bad for Oregon's black and Latino students, more than half of whom failed to graduate.

"There is one system for the affluent, and another for the poor," said Ron Herndon, of Portland, co-chairman of the Crisis Team, a group of activists representing minority and low-income children in Portland schools. "They systematically ensure that poor kids get the least experi-

*There is one system for the affluent, and another for the poor*

— Ron Herndon, co-chairman of the Crisis Team.

enced teachers. If this is not child abuse, I don't know what is. No one does anything about it."

The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research calculated graduation rates by

taking eighth-grade enrollments in 1993, adjusting them for state population growth, and then comparing them with the number of students earning diplomas in 1998.

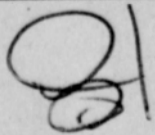
The report shows graduation rates vary

widely, from a low of 57 percent in Georgia to 93 percent in Iowa. Oregon ranked 40th among the 50 states and District of Columbia, just above Louisiana.

"The problem with low graduation rates is probably more severe than most people realize," said Jay P. Greene, who conducted the study as a senior fellow at the New York think tank. "School districts do not inform them about this situation in an honest and straightforward way."

Although most states including Oregon consider students who earn General Educational Development Certificates as

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