



## Northeast Cycling Center Begins Holiday Drive

Restored bikes will warm hearts of deserving kids

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

### Govt. Warns of Possible Terrorist Attacks

Announcing a terrorist alert during the holiday season, the Bush administration is urging Americans to be extra vigilant amid an increase in credible threats. The FBI put 18,000 law enforcement agencies "on the highest alert" because of threats called from intelligence sources across the globe, said Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge. The intelligence does not point to a specific target or type of attack—either in America or abroad.

### Arafat May Find New Predicament Harder to Survive

Yasser Arafat is in peril of losing his power and his dream of ruling a Palestinian state. Arafat is faced with two unpalatable options: Arrest hundreds of extremists and provoke a Palestinian civil war or fail to stop the violence and watch Israeli forces destroy the Palestinian Authority he heads.

### Olympic Torch Arrives in U.S.

ATLANTA — The Olympic torch returned to the United States for the first time since the 1996 Games in Atlanta and was passed from one gold medalist to another before beginning a 46-state tour to the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

### Enron Files for Bankruptcy

NEW YORK — Beleaguered energy company Enron has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, the company said. The company also filed a lawsuit against would-be suitor Dynegy for wrongful termination of its \$8.4 billion proposed merger.

### George Harrison Dies at 58

LOS ANGELES — George Harrison, the Beatles' quiet lead guitarist and spiritual explorer who added both rock 'n' roll flash and a touch of the mystic to the band's timeless magic, has died. He was 58.

### Mortgage Rates Surge

WASHINGTON — Interest rates on U.S. 30- and 15-year mortgages rose for the third week in a row amid expectations that the current recession may not be as severe as some economists had thought, Freddie Mac said.

### ACLU Issues Arabic Card Stating Immigrants' Rights

PHILADELPHIA — The American Civil Liberties Union has begun distributing an Arabic-language "bust card" informing immigrants of their rights if confronted by a law enforcement officer.

### Germany Arrests Man with Links to Hijackers

BERLIN — German authorities said they arrested a man in Hamburg with direct links to the hijackers involved in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the USA. The man, identified as 27-year-old Mounir El Motassadeq, is accused of supporting a terrorist group.

## University Park Community Center Reopens



Area kids celebrate when Portland City Commissioner Jim Francesconi and Parks Director Charles Jordan cut the ribbon to mark the opening of a remodeled and refurbished University Park Community Center.

PHOTO BY  
MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A grand opening celebration Saturday celebrated a major upgrade to the University Park Community Center at 9000 N. Foss.

Area residents enjoyed a free pancake breakfast, entertainment and activities geared for both young and old.

The remodel transforms the center's north wing to include new classroom and office space, an upgraded preschool room

and new fitness room. It's just the beginning of plans for a major upgrade to this north Portland landmark.

When a master plan for University Park was completed last spring, no one was certain if there would ever be resources available to turn the vision into reality.

But then the Portland City Council approved funds to get started on phase one,

the north wing.

Now, plans are underway for phase two, to include new classrooms and multipurpose rooms in the south wing, along with a new kitchen and lounge area.

A \$500,000 grant to pay for the additions comes from the National Park Service's Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program.

City leaders are giving credit to U.S.

Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore. and other members of the state's congressional delegation for winning the federal support.

In addition, if an anticipated city parks and recreation levy is on the ballot next year, it will include funds to complete the master plan by adding a new gymnasium, expanded locker rooms, exercise studio, youth lounge, expanded lobby, interior courtyard and exterior patio.

## State Budget Shortfall Soars

Kafoury urges Legislature to gather the facts

Urging her colleagues to focus on stimulating the economy, House Democratic Leader Deborah Kafoury, who represents north and northeast Portland, said the Legislature should gather all the facts and weigh every alternative before deciding how to fill the state's budget shortfall.

State economists on Friday reduced their revenue projection by more than 700 million for the current budget period, more than double the shortfall that was predicted before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The reduced projection is partly due to decreased consumer confidence since Sept. 11.

"Cutting \$720 million from state services will have a serious impact on our schools, health care, public safety, senior services and other vital programs," Kafoury said. "We must proceed very cautiously and make sure we know the full impact of our actions before we make any final decisions."

"Our state ranks second nationally in unemployment. Every job we can create for an Oregon family puts food on their table as well as putting our state on the road to economic recovery," Kafoury added. "We must help families struggling to find work, help businesses avoid further layoffs, and help bring more good jobs to our state."

"As the legislature begins hearings on ways to rebuild our budget, we need to hear from the public and weigh how potential budget cuts will effect educational opportunities, healthy families and strong communities," Kafoury said.

## OHSU Nurses Make Strike Plans

A nurses strike looms at Oregon Health Sciences University, one of Portland's largest employers.

Last week, members of Oregon Nurses Association, representing 1,500 of the hospital's nurses rejected a final contract offer.

The earliest day for a strike has been set for Dec. 17.

The hospital is offering an 11 percent pay increase over two years; nurses said Tuesday they lowered their demands from a 28 percent increase to 22 percent.

OHSU administrators say they are prepared for the possibility of a strike to ensure that patient care will not be compromised.

"All procedures, including elective surgeries are expected to take place as scheduled," said Bonnie Diggers, the interim associate hospital director for patient care services and one of the OHSU negotiators.

## Group Pays Tribute to Bridge Builders Leader



Kevin Fuller of Portland, a man dedicated to helping young men in Portland realize their inner power and strength through the Bridge Builders Rites of Passage program, receives a meritorious Service Award Sunday from Norma Jean Tucker and Barbara Leonard (right) of The Links Portland chapter. The public and social service organization has been providing services to our community since 1957. Fuller, 35, created Bridge Builders in 1996 to help prepare African American males for the challenges of adulthood.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## County Expands Civil Rights Protection

The Board of Multnomah County Commissioners unanimously approved an ordinance that will extend civil rights protections based on sexual orientation, gender identity and source of income in employment, housing and public accommodations.

According to County Commissioner Lisa Naito, the governmental agency will contract with the state Bureau of Labor and Industry to enforce the new law. Currently state law prohibits discrimination

based on race, religion, color, sex, marital status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability. There are no protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and source of income.

On Thursday, the Board of Commissioners passed its first civil rights ordinance based on the recommendations from a Civil Rights Task Force appointed by Naito and Commissioner Serena Cruz.

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