



Best in State

Grant civics team qualifies for national finals in D.C.

See story, Metro section inside

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Nigeria Death Toll at 600

LAGOS, Nigeria — The toll from a series of explosions at a military dump in Nigeria's sprawling commercial capital rose to more than 600, many of them women and children who drowned in a canal while trying to run away, Nigerian officials said.

Enron Names New CEO

HOUSTON — Enron named restructuring specialist Stephen Cooper as interim chief executive to lead the troubled energy trading firm out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Cooper was picked to replace embattled former Enron Chairman and CEO Kenneth Lay, who resigned.

Ex-King Plans Return to Afghanistan

ROME — Afghan leader Hamid Karzai may go to Italy to accompany the country's former king to his homeland. Mohammad Zahir Shah, who hasn't been to Afghanistan since his 1973 ouster, wants to be back home by March 21, in time for a spring holiday that was banned by hard-line Taliban.

Warm Front Knocks Down Winter Records

Record warm temperatures across the Midwest and East Coast enticed golfers, picnickers and spring flowers to emerge as the mercury topped 70 in some normally frigid states.

Toys R Us to Close 64 Stores

PARAMUS, N.J. — Toys R Us plans to cut 1,900 jobs and close 27 Toys R Us stores and 37 Kids R Us stores in a drive to cut costs and boost operating profits.

Anti-Terror Funds Promised

WASHINGTON — Homeland defense chief Tom Ridge assured the nation's mayors that their cities are in line to receive funds to help fight terrorism. Ridge, however, was short on specifics. President Bush is to address the mayors.

Bush's Budget Projects Deficits

WASHINGTON — Undeterred by a return to deficits for the first time since 1997, President Bush will propose a 2003 budget next month that would be \$80 billion in the red, in large part because of a big boost for defense, his budget director disclosed.

Senate Anthrax Worst Ever

WASHINGTON — Aides to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle were exposed to the heaviest levels of anthrax ever documented among humans — from several hundred times the lethal dose to as much as 3,000 times a fatal amount, their doctors say.

Greenspan Sounds Upbeat Notes

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress that he saw a number of encouraging signs that the country's first recession in a decade could soon be over. The Fed chief sounded decidedly more upbeat than he had just 13 days ago.

HOLLYWOOD DEVOTION

Renovated theatre is a popular neighborhood venue

BY SEAN P. NELSON,
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Patrons of northeast Portland's Hollywood theatre were disappointed when a fire caused smoke and water damage to the roof and destroyed the neighboring Hollywood Arcade building five years ago, recalled Richard Beers, a member of the board who owns the theatre.

Since then, a renovation effort has led to the restoration of the historic structure which is now a popular venue for neighborhood residents.

"We've painted most of the interior of the building, painted most of the exterior, and just recently we restored all of the storefronts on the Sandy Boulevard side," Beers said.

The theatre also opened up a new concession stand. Patrons can take advantage of a variety of entertainment other than the movies shown there.

"We do everything from live music, to classic film series to weddings and birthday parties," Beers said.

The Hollywood was first built in 1926 as both a movie and vaudeville theatre and was the last big venue in Portland of its kind.

Beers said it also was one of the most ornate theatres of its kind.

Nowadays the theatre is a historic venue both for Hollywood residents and those from other parts of the city.

The popularity of the landmark can be demonstrated by the devotion of returning patrons such as southeast Portland resident Laura Higdon.

When Higdon was younger going to the Hollywood Theatre was both "fancy" and "posh." Now, she said it reminds her of going out for a night on the town in the 1950s. The renovation after the fire no doubt helped enhance this impression.

"I haven't been back since I was a kid. It was my favorite theatre when I was a kid," she told the Portland Observer after seeing the film "Mulholland Drive" last week.

In "Mulholland Drive," Director David



Northeast Portland's renovated Hollywood Theater has found devotion from returning fans.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lynch returns to the dark and sinister world of the earlier works that made him famous.

The popular film portrays a long twisting dangerous road winding through the streets of Los Angeles, as two groups of teenagers race through the night. One of them collides with a limousine and a dark, sexy woman emerges from the limousine barely scratched.

Only seconds before she had been targeted for assassination by one of her

limo drivers.

"It was good. It's going to take awhile to sink in," Higdon said.

She explained that everything is symbolic in any of Lynch's films. "There's a reason for everything, but it doesn't always make sense why."

Northeast Portland resident Terie Hindsley also enjoyed the film but found it hard to understand because of Lynch's symbolism. She also liked the atmosphere of the Hollywood Theatre.

"I've only been in one room, but it was lovely. It would be nice to see it totally restored," Hindsley said.

Hollywood Theatre general admission prices are \$5. Children 12 and under and senior citizens over 65 can see movies for \$3. Monday nights, all seats are \$2.50 unless otherwise noted. All films are single admission. There are no double features.

For more information about the films showing, call 503-281-4215 or 503-493-1128.

McDonald's Design Plan Submission in Dispute

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

McDonald's has formally submitted design plans for a restaurant on the Raven Creamery property at 3303 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Meanwhile, opponents have suggested that McDonald's might be acceptable if it were part of a "mixed-use" development, and if it were accompanied by traffic control devices to keep traffic out of residential streets.

So far the Boise, Eliot, Irvington and Sabin neighborhoods have declared opposition to a new McDonald's, as has the ad hoc Friends of MLK. But the North-Northeast Economic Development Alliance and North-Northeast Business As-

sociation support McDonald's.

The design, as formally submitted to the city's Office of Planning and Development Review last week, calls for the restaurant building to be situated at the southeast corner of the 44,000 square foot property.

In an attempt to be "more in keeping with the architecture of the neighborhood," the building will have a tower at the south end, a Spanish-style tile roof and a stucco finish, with storefront windows facing the boulevard, according to McDonald's representative George Kyler.

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods reviewed the design plans last week. Several people, including land use

chair Rocky Polzin, suggested a variety of devices to prevent traffic from venturing onto neighborhood streets.

Several people also said that they would be more likely to accept a McDonald's if it were part of a mixed-use development such as the Standard Dairy Building on Martin Luther King, which includes Billy Reeds Restaurant, housing, other stores and other uses.

"McDonald's is an old idea, and we're looking for new ideas," one man said.

Kyler said McDonald's might participate in a traffic control program in cooperation with other property owners as part of local improvement district.

However, given that there are already traffic problems in the area, the firm

wouldn't make an "open-ended commitment" to "shoulder someone else's problem."

As for doing a mixed-use project, he said, "You need to know what you are and what you are not. We don't do housing and we don't want to be landlords."

Kyler said he personally is proud of the restaurant's design, saying it has features that are state-of-the-art and "does a lot for the way Martin Luther King looks."

To this Sarah Cloud, chair of the Eliot Neighborhood Association, responded that she had been seeking information from McDonald's for months without success.

"I don't see how we can respond to an incomplete plan," she said.

Superintendent Search Narrows

A decision on finalists in the search for a permanent superintendent for Portland public schools appears near.

District officials last week said finalists will be invited to Portland during the next several weeks.

"We're very pleased with the strength and quantity of the candidate pool," said board chair Debbie Menashe. "We are in the process of selecting finalists to meet with district and community members in February and March. We expect to have excellent individuals for our employees and the community to meet."

Each finalist candidate will visit Portland for two days, and will attend a series of meetings with employees, educational advocacy groups, elected officials, business leaders and other community members. The packed schedule also will include an opportunity for parents and members of the general public to meet the candidates, as well as media availability time.

"We are on track for making a final decision this spring," said Menashe.

Jim Scherzinger, the district's chief financial officer, has been serving as interim superintendent since July 2001. Scherzinger is one of the candidates for the permanent position.



I-5 Project Halfway Done

Workers build a new ramp and sidewalk to the recently raised Falling Street pedestrian bridge as part of the I-5 preservation and soundwall project in north Portland. January marked the halfway point in a 2-year construction schedule. Next up is the repaving of all the lanes of I-5 from the Rose Quarter to the Interstate Bridge.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

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