



Black History Makers

These African Americans led their fields, from aviation to medicine

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Accounting Worries Slap Stocks

A growing lack of faith in the accuracy of accounting and worries about the health of corporate America hammered stocks. Investors are nervous that the Enron accounting debacle may be the first of more scandals to come.

Bush Unveils \$2.13T Budget

WASHINGTON—President Bush sent Congress a \$2.13 trillion budget that would provide billions of dollars in new spending for his two top priorities — the war on terrorism and homeland security—but would squeeze much of the rest of government to keep the deficit from soaring.

Rumsfeld Warns of Threats Far Deadlier Than Sept. 11

WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the USA must prepare for surprise attacks "vastly more deadly" than the Sept. 11 terrorist hijackings. Rumsfeld said the nation is vulnerable to cyberattacks, attacks on U.S. military bases abroad and ballistic missile attacks on American cities.

Northwest Medical Teams Returns From Rwanda

Four emergency medical volunteers from Northwest Medical Teams returned home from Rwanda last week after caring for families who fled deadly volcanic eruptions in Goma, Congo. The team provided medical care at Rwanguba Hospital in northwestern Rwanda and treated refugees exposed to malaria, diarrheal diseases and other life-threatening communicable illnesses associated with poor sanitary conditions and unclean water.

Winter Roars Through Midwest

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Snow, sleet and freezing rain descended from the Plains to New England, stalling airline passengers and leaving thousands without electricity. The National Weather Service predicts up to 14 inches of snow from the storm.

Doctors Back Gay Co-Parents

Saying the children of gay parents fare as well as those raised by heterosexuals, the nation's largest pediatric group, the American Academy of Pediatrics, will call for state laws that allow homosexuals to adopt their partners' children.

New Approach to Fighting Breast Cancer

CHICAGO — Recent studies show that a radiation alternative called brachytherapy is effective for breast cancer patients. A few cancer specialists have been using it, as it requires about four or five days of treatment instead of six weeks or more.

Commission Considers Black History Museum

The challenges of capturing the story of American blacks are starting to emerge as the project to create the first National Museum of African American History and Culture crawls forward.

Reversal of Fortune

Bush budget would eliminate job center he visited last month

BY WILLIAM McCALL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
(AP) — President Bush wants to eliminate federal funding for the same youth job center he visited in northeast Portland last month.

Under the Bush administration budget proposal to Congress on Monday, \$545 million would be slashed from U.S. Department of Labor job training programs — including funding for 23 youth centers across the country.

"I think it's a bad idea," said Jeelani Shareef, 22, who uses the Youth Opportunity Center at 3034 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. at least two to three times a week.

The youth center program, aimed at kids and young adults 14 to 21, serves about 1,400 youth in an economic enterprise zone established a decade ago to help revive the poorest section of Portland.

Bush stopped at the center on Jan. 5 during a visit to Portland to talk about jobs after the state's unemployment rate led the nation in December.

"We should be putting money towards finding teenagers jobs, and training them," Shareef said. "I'm getting a lot of use out of this place, and so are a lot of other people."

A White House spokesman said the Bush administration has found the youth center program to be ineffective or duplicates other federal job training programs.

"The proposed budget seeks to streamline federal government," said spokesman Ken Lisaius.

"This is a wartime budget," Lisaius said, "so we want to direct funds to other programs that are working and are working well."

Bobby Lee, spokesman for the youth center, said it was too soon to judge the two-year-old program because it has barely reached its first evaluation point. The grant creating the center out of an old Nike outlet store was supposed to run at least five years, Lee said.

"It takes time to get established," Lee said, noting the center serves youth who need help with basic reading and math skills, along with many who are coping as teen



IRONIC TWIST — George W. Bush and U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore. show support for the Youth Opportunity Center on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. during a visit last month. Now the Bush administration wants to cut 80 percent of the funding for the program that serves disadvantaged youth.

DON RYAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER

parents and are fighting poverty.

"These are young people with probably the lowest per capita income in the entire state," Lee said. "These are kids who would be left on the street if they didn't have this kind of center."

But center officials noted that any cuts first must be approved by Congress, and any funding changes likely would not be felt for at least 18 months. Meanwhile, the center will seek other funding, including private grants.

Still, the possibility of a federal cutback was greeted with concern by many who use the center.

Jerry Murphy, a Persian Gulf war veteran who uses a companion adult job center in the same building, said it was "ironic" the Bush administration hopes to spend U.S. job training money on the war against terrorism when Secretary of State Colin Powell last Friday urged an international effort to eliminate the poverty that feeds terrorism.

"If you want to cut back on the budget, cut back an

area that doesn't hurt the local economy," Murphy said.

Shaneeka McKinley, 18, said the youth center is the only place many inner city kids can find counselors and computer equipment to help them find jobs.

"I'd say at least 75 percent of the people who come in here are training for a job," she said, "with a lot of kids who have no idea of how to prepare a resume."

McKinley said the recession has hit many teen-agers especially hard because they are looking for entry level jobs at a time when employers try to keep more experienced workers.

"How can the president say this is the land of opportunity when he's cutting back on that opportunity?" McKinley said.

Tuesday, U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore. asked the director of the federal Office of Management and Budget to ensure there is money in the federal budget for the program. Smith said the center deserves continued funding.

Downtown Courthouse Gets Child Care

'CourtCare' gives parents better access to justice system

It means we will no longer see children crawling under tables in courtrooms, or crying in the halls as they see a parent led away in handcuffs

—Circuit Court Judge
Janice Wilson.



CourtCare Director Michelle Ward gives Christian and Brandon a game to play and a much better alternative to watching court proceedings at the new child care center at the Multnomah County Courthouse.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Children now have a place to go while their parents or guardians have business at the Multnomah County Courthouse.

The county's CourtCare is a drop-in, no-fee child care program designed to prevent young children from witnessing negative courtroom scenes and to reduce courtroom disruptions.

The program opened Dec. 6 in a renovated second floor jury room and is operated by Volunteers of America Oregon.

A study by the Multnomah CourtCare Advisory Board, an ad hoc group of judges, attorneys, child advocates, and courthouse staff, found that an average of 80 children under the age of 12 is in the courthouse each day.

Without a means to keep these children away from court proceedings, they can witness frightening scenes, and can be disruptive to court proceedings.

The "CourtCare fills a great need in our court," states Circuit Court Judge Janice Wilson. "It means we will no

longer see children crawling under tables in courtrooms, or crying in the halls as they see a parent led away in handcuffs. With the opening of CourtCare, we take another step in fulfilling our promise of access to justice."

The program is the first of its kind in Oregon.

During the first six weeks of operation, nearly 80 percent of children were brought to CourtCare by their mothers who were seeking temporary restraining orders against a husband or boyfriend.

Sudden Unexplained Heart Attacks Studied

(AP) — Oregon Health & Science University is launching a yearlong study into sudden unexplained deaths in Multnomah County with funding help from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

OHSU officials say the information will provide an accurate number of heart attacks in the county, where they occur, and what conditions might lead up to them.

"While several research studies have dealt with improving resuscitation efforts, few have focused on assessing mechanisms of sudden death in this manner," said Sumeet Chugh, OHSU cardiologist. "We want to capture each and every case of cardiac arrest."

The study will incorporate data gathered by the sole ambulance service in Multnomah County, Multnomah County Emergency Services, the Oregon Medical Examiner's office and 16 local hospitals.

In Oregon, sudden cardiac death is responsible for about 4,000 deaths a year. Up to 500 of these deaths remain unexplained.

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