



Ministry Plans Urban School

Local site would nurture children and their families

See story, Metro page B1



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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Cheney Offers Arafat Incentives to Stop Violence

JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat was offered major incentives to help stop Mideast fighting: Vice President Dick Cheney said he would meet with the Palestinian leader after a truce takes hold, and Israel said it might lift a travel ban on Arafat in time for next week's Arab summit.

Yates Is Sentenced for Killings

HOUSTON — A judge sentenced Andrea Yates to life in prison in the drownings of her five children. The 37-year-old homemaker will be eligible for parole in 2041.

Court to Consider School Drug-Testing

WASHINGTON — One of the most pressing questions for parents and educators comes before the U.S. Supreme Court as the justices consider how far schools can go in trying to keep students off of drugs. An Oklahoma school district is defending a policy of random urine testing for high school students. Many parents and kids argue that the testing is unconstitutional and can backfire.

U.N. Endorses Palestinian State

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council approved a resolution endorsing a Palestinian state for the first time. It also supported a U.S. measure that calls for an immediate cease-fire in the escalating 17-month Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Campaign-Finance Law Appears Easy to Evade

WASHINGTON — Even as the Senate votes to send a campaign finance measure to President Bush, election lawyers and political operatives are probing for ways around it — and finding them. Many predict that "soft money" will still find its way into candidates' coffers.

Bush Proposes Tax Breaks for Small Businesses

WASHINGTON — President Bush sought billions of dollars in new tax breaks to spur America's businesses, arguing that improving the entrepreneurial climate will generate new jobs and help pull the nation from the economic slowdown.

Anaconda Declared Over, But Work Remains

The commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan declared Operation Anaconda over and called the Pentagon's largest, bloodiest light-infantry campaign since Vietnam an "absolute success." Afghan commanders, however, say hundreds of al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters had escaped.

FBI Arrests 40 in Child Porn Sting

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities investigating an Internet-based child pornography ring have arrested 40 people in 20 states, including two Catholic priests, youth baseball coaches, a police officer and a teacher's aide, Justice Department officials said.

Formosa Café Fights For Survival

Alcohol-related problems plague northeast landmark

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The owners and operators of a popular northeast Portland restaurant and lounge are fighting for the survival of the business after the suspension of its liquor license because of a recent shooting.

Representatives for the Formosa Café, a longtime northeast Portland landmark, have appealed last week's immediate suspension.

A hearing on the issue will be scheduled within 30 days and could lead to permanent cancellation of a license to serve alcoholic beverages at the establishment, OLCC officials said Monday.

The shooting occurred March 11 when a 24-year-old north Portland man was shot in the chest in a bathroom inside the business.

Charles Patton survived the attack and was listed in good condition Monday at Legacy Emanuel Hospital.

Police said they have charged Talmage Lanell Ellis, 34, with attempted murder in the shooting. Leading the investigation are detectives with the Portland Police Bureau's Gang Enforcement Team.

A day after the potentially deadly violence, the OLCC pulled Formosa's liquor license, citing the incident and past problems at the location, including fights and drug use.

OLCC officials said immediate suspension was warranted because continued operation of the business is considered a serious danger to public health and safety.

A letter dated March 12 from Police Chief Mark A. Kroeker backed up those claims.

In a request to halt liquor sales at the site, the letter refers to multiple assaults,



A shooting at the Formosa Café at 7410 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. has led to the immediate suspension of the nightclub's liquor license and a fight for the survival of the longtime establishment.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

disturbances, possession of controlled substances and public intoxication at the establishment, OLCC official said. A spokesman for the police bureau said Kroeker was out of town and a subordinate may have signed the letter in his name.

For the future, OLCC officials are wor-

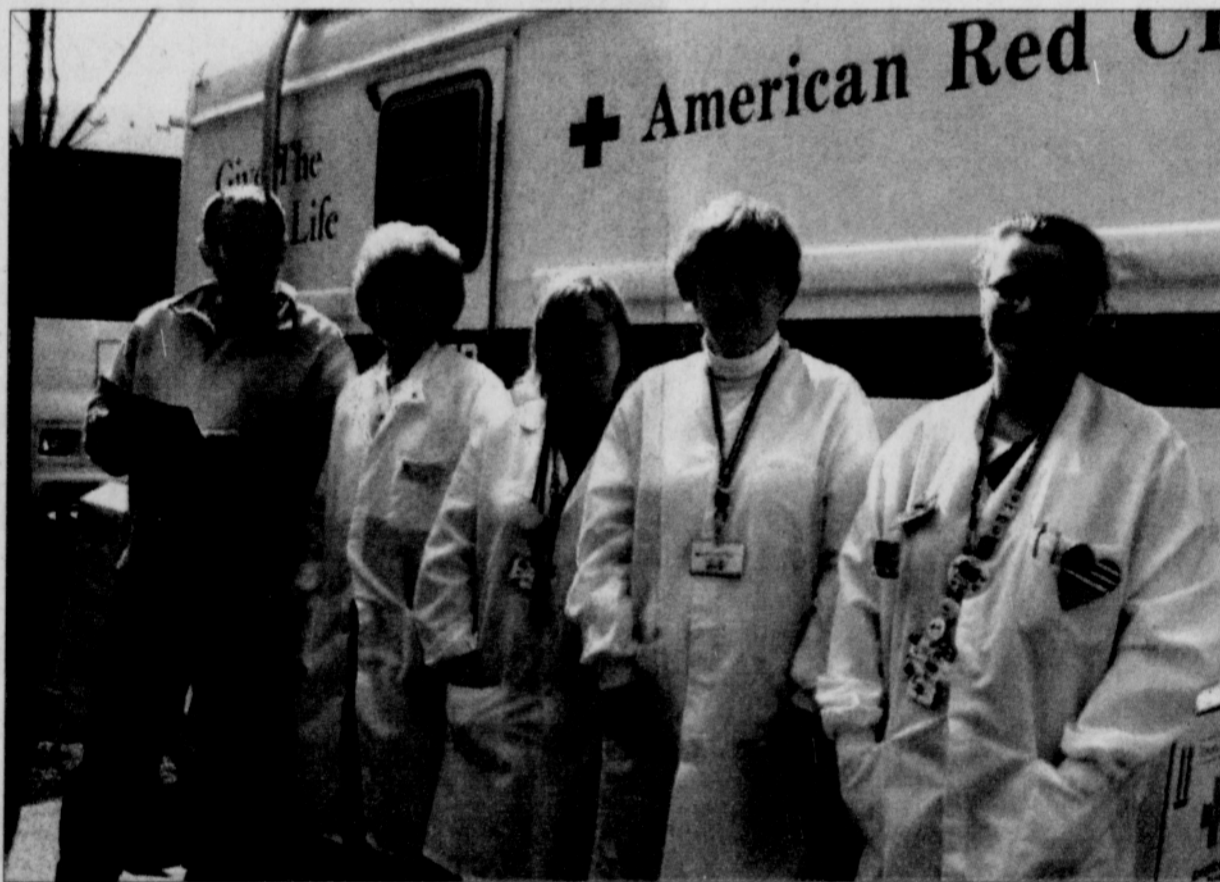
ried that Formosa employees can't control alcohol-related problems by patrons.

In fact, just on March 8, three days before the shooting, the Formosa Cafe paid a \$4,950 civil penalty to resolve a case involving a history of serious and persistent problems at the business relating to alcohol-related disturbances, alter-

cations and harassment in and around the premises in the past couple of years.

A permanent cancellation of the liquor license was rejected in the earlier case because the number of serious incidents had declined after the club adopted earlier closing hours and hired trained security personnel, OLCC officials said.

Uniting Neighborhoods With Healthcare



Red Cross representatives Lee Hopper (from left), Lynne Libby, Naomi Anderson, Sue Winslow and Colleen Johnson were among several health care professionals offering services and health education Saturday at Buckman School, 320 S.E. 16th. The event was sponsored by the Buckman SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) School, an after-school program for kids and families. It offered free health screenings, a lead poisoning prevention workshop, information about low-cost health insurance options, and even fun health related games.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Deep School Cuts Approved

Board to shorten school calendar, close schools, fire custodians

(AP) — Portland public school students will spend fewer hours in class next school year because of budget cuts unanimously approved by the school board on Monday.

More than 500 people crowded school district headquarters in north Portland as the board decided late Monday to close two elementary schools, replace custodians with private contractors, scrap raises for all district workers next year and make other cuts.

Portland is the first large district in the state to make cuts to balance the budget after the Legislature reduced funding for schools. Oregon's economic downturn has cut revenues, and lawmakers voted to reduce spending rather than raise taxes.

"I hope the governor and the Legislature are taking note of what we're cutting tonight," school board member Julia Brim-Edwards said Monday.

In Portland, the school year will shrink by eight to nine days, bringing the total instructional hours to the lowest in the country. Oregon classrooms now operate 171 days a year on average, according to the state Department of Education, while most states require at least 180 instructional days.

This year's operating budget for the district totals \$367 million, and the board voted on a budget for next school year that totals \$360 million.

Two elementary schools, Wilcox and Youngston, will be closed. Wilcox's 197 students will be merged with nearby Vestal Elementary School, while Youngston's 177 students will attend Bridger Elementary.

Urban League Hosts 10th Annual Career Fair

Job seekers are invited to attend the Urban League of Portland's 10th annual job fair called "Career Connections 2002" on Thursday, March 28 at the Double Tree hotel, Lloyd Center, from 9 a.m. — 7 p.m.

There will be over 20 exhibitors representing various companies and government offices.

Urban League officials say the fair is a chance to meet the job recruiters and market yourself, and

encourage participants to bring several copies of their resume. Interviews will be offered by many employers.

Also available for the non-English speaking applicants are interpreters representing several languages: Spanish, Russian and Asian.

For more information, call the Urban League of Portland at 503-280-2600.

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