

Castro Invites Jimmy Carter to Cuba

HAVANA (AP) — Speaking publicly for the first time about his invitation to former President Carter to visit this Caribbean island, Cuba leader Fidel Castro said he wouldn't mind hearing criticism from his guest.

"We only want him to see the county," Castro said in a wide-ranging address that began late Wednesday after a nationally televised ceremony celebrating his government's victory over dengue fever. "He can criticize all he wants."

Carter has confirmed that he wants to visit Cuba and is waiting for the green light from President Bush. No date for the tentative visit has been announced.

Carter said Friday he expects the Bush administration's "tacit approval, not their blessing."

News of the proposed visit comes as the gap widens between the White House's hard-line policies toward Cuba and increasing moves in Congress to ease U.S. trade sanctions and restrictions on travel to the communist country.

Carter has spoken out for in-



Former President Jimmy Carter may be the first United States president to visit Cuba since 1959.

creasing trade and Americans' visits to Cuba, saying they would spread understanding of the advantages of freedom.

"That's the best way to bring about change, and not to punish the Cuban people themselves by imposing an embargo on them, which makes Castro seem to be a hero because he is defending his own people against the abuse of Americans," Carter said last week.

Joe Garcia, executive director of the Cuban American National Foundation, said his organization welcomes the trip as long as Carter tells Castro to leave power. During a 1994 visit to Haiti, Carter negotiated an agreement with military ruler Gen. Raoul Cedras to step down.

Mental Patient's Death Makes Changes

(AP) — It was about a year ago that Portland police officers fatally shot mental patient Mejia Poot in the hallway of a Portland-area mental hospital after being called there to help restrain him.

A year later, police and health officials say the shooting has created positive changes in the way officers and health workers treat mentally ill and combative prisoners.

For example, there is increased communication between state and county officials, more coordination with law enforcement and more oversight of mental health fa-

cilities.

The state is almost done with new rules for hospitals that address specific problems the shooting investigation uncovered.

Among them is a requirement that mental hospitals provide immediate translation services so doctors and patients can communicate effectively.

Also under the rules, a report must be filed with the state any time an armed officer is called to restrain a patient.

Hospitals also will have to provide a place where officers can lock their guns before entering the wards.

Welfare Worker Cleared in Child's Death

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everyone in the system."

After reviewing Department of Human Services records and policies, prosecutors determined that "Kraft was never informed by Alexis' caseworker regarding the level of supervision required."

"Agency policy did not require him to read the file," Lieber's memo said. "He did not look at Ms. Weston's file and, therefore, was not aware of her mental state."

Beyond that, Kraft had no reason to fear for Alexis' safety because during previous visits "he had not kept an eye on Ms. Weston and the child, and the child was brought back unharmed," the memo said.

The decision not to pursue criminal charges against Kraft enraged Mike Alexander, Alexis' foster father at the time of her

death.

"It's a crock," Alexander said. "Dale (Kraft) knew that Sharon posed a threat. He'd even said certain things to us that made us believe it . . . They say they're trying to protect the kids. They're protecting themselves."

Alexis' father, Fernando Lopez-Perez, was expected to give a deposition Thursday in a lawsuit he filed last summer alleging that the agency was negligent in allowing visits between Alexis and Weston, given Weston's psychological and emotional problems.

The suit, scheduled for trial in December, also accuses the agency of failing to adequately train Kraft to safely supervise visits between Alexis and her mother, or telling him fully about the risk that Weston presented to her daughter.

Friends of Trees Hosts Yard Tree Giveaways

Friends of Trees' Branching Out program will give away yard trees to help support their urban tree planting programs. The trees have been donated by area nurseries and include six-foot tall fruit and nut trees as well as native deciduous trees and conifer seedlings.

Trees can be picked up on April 20 at the Environmental Middle School, 2421 S.E. Orange St., from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The tree distribution is a part of a daylong Earth Day celebration, which will include a marimbanda, a farmers market, an alternative vehicles fair, green vendors, children's art booths and story telling.

The theme of the event is "Localization: The Village Roots."

All trees planted in the Portland metro area will help increase the Willamette/Lower Columbia region's urban tree canopy, which diminished by almost half between 1972 and 2000.

For more information on Friends of Trees, call 503-284-TREE (8733) or visit their website at www.friendsoftrees.org.

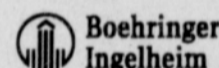
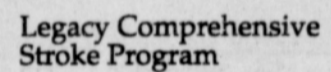
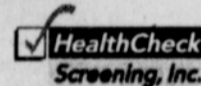
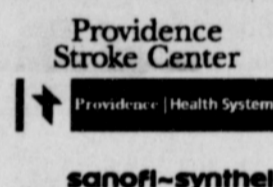


Your
Sight.

Your
Speech.

Your
Mobility.

Which can
you afford
to **lose?**



American Stroke Association.

A Division of American Heart Association

Stroke Awareness Forum

April 13, 2002 • 9 a.m. - Noon
Oregon Museum of Science and Industry
1945 S.E. Water Avenue • Portland • FREE

Stroke is a leading cause of adult disability and the No. 3 killer of Americans. Learn about the warning signs, treatment, care and your best defenses against stroke. This free forum is hosted by the American Stroke Association and features experts from Legacy Health System, Oregon Health & Science University and Providence Health System.

Participants will receive a voucher for a free stroke screening courtesy of HealthCheck Screening, Inc.

Please register by April 9. Seating is limited. To register, call the American Stroke Association at 503 233-0100 or 800 452-9445.

Featured speakers:

- **Paul Ash, M.D.**
Medical Director, Comprehensive Stroke Program at Legacy Meridian Park Hospital
- **Ted Lowenkopf, M.D.**
Medical Director, Providence Stroke Center at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center
- **Helmi Lutsep, M.D.**
Associate Director, the Oregon Stroke Center at OHSU
- **Roger Simon, M.D.**
Director, Robert S. Dow Neurobiology Research Laboratories at Legacy Clinical Research and Technology Center

The Korean American Association of Oregon

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Cullen's Corner
4938 N Albina
503-287-0542

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5949 NE 30th
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Prescott Corner Market
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503-284-7418

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