



Happy Fourth of July!



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"The City Of Roses"

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Planes Collide Over Germany UEBERLINGEN, Germany—More than 70 people were killed when a chartered Tupelov airliner collided with a cargo plane at 36,000 feet over southern Germany, officials said Tuesday.

Balloonist Finishes Around-the-World Trip KALGOORLIE, Australia — Steve Fossett drifted into aviation history, becoming the first person to fly a balloon solo around the world.

World's First Permanent War Crimes Court Opens UNITED NATIONS — The world's first permanent war crimes tribunal officially came into existence, hailed by supporters as a milestone in international justice.

Mailing Letters Cost More WASHINGTON — The first-class postal rate is now 37 cents, a 3-cent increase that post office expects will cost Americans about 45 cents more a month.

Cigarettes Hit \$7 a Pack in New York NEW YORK — Smokers began paying more than \$7 a pack for many major cigarette brands as New York began collecting a new tax expected to bring an additional \$1.1 billion over the next year.

Powell: Be 'Vigilant' on July 4 WASHINGTON — Americans should be cautious on the Fourth of July because of potential terrorist attacks on the national holiday, officials said.

Rep. Watts Won't Seek Re-Election NORMAN, Okla. — Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, the only black Republican in Congress and a member of the House GOP leadership, said Monday that he intends to retire at the end of his term.

Palestinian Elections Set; Arafat to Run JERICHO, West Bank — Palestinian presidential and parliamentary elections will be held in mid-January, senior Palestinian official Saeb Erekat announced.

Nuclear Inspectors Worried Equipment was Stolen TBILISI, Georgia — International nuclear inspectors, already troubled by the disappearance of bomb-grade uranium from an ex-Soviet institute, want answers to an even more disturbing question: Has any equipment that makes such material disappeared as well?

Cycling Club Transforms Lives



Youth advocate brings multicultural vision to inner city race team

John Benanate (right) and his team of inner city kids at last winter's Olympic torch relay.

PHOTO BY KEN LE GROS PHOTOGRAPHY

BY DAVID PLECHL THE PORTLAND OBSERVER John Benanate became interested in cycling years ago as a bike messenger peddling the pavement of downtown Portland. He raced for the Portland State University cycling team. It was his passion. It was his life.

He founded the non-profit cycling club and race team, B.I.K.E. that stands for Bicycles, Ideas and Kids Empowerment. Benanate wanted to reach out to those traditionally absent from the white, male dominated sport. "I choose inner city kids because they were the faces that were missing," he said from his office in Southeast Portland.

He employs a very talented group of coaches and mentors. "We address the whole child: mind, body and spirit," he explained. "We do yoga because it keeps the kids strong. It helps them to breathe. It helps them feel good about themselves," he says. Benanate touts the importance of a college education and has set up a college fund for the kids.

turned completely around. Anita Williams is one such parent. "The biking program has given my kids hope," she said. "Seeing John as a leader has proven to them that just because you experience setbacks in your lifetime, it doesn't necessarily mean they have to hold you back." Benanate also has many stories of success. One of those is that of Anissa "Necy" Cobb. "Necy" was a troubled young lady when she first joined the team," Benanate explained.

New Street for Alberta



Tri-met General Manager Fred Hansen (left) and Sam Brooks pick up a shovel to usher in the beginning of a \$3.3 million project to revamp Northeast Alberta Street from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to 33rd Avenue with street and sidewalk improvements.

Community leaders broke ground Thursday on the Alberta Streetscape Project. The \$3.3 million effort will bring street and sidewalk improvements to Alberta from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Northeast 33rd Avenue. Construction is scheduled to take a year. Alberta residents and business owners had asked the city to make Alberta Street a better place to walk, ride a bicycle and use transit, while still maintaining automobile access and parking. "Alberta Street is creating quite a name for itself," commented Commissioner Jim

Francesconi, who oversees the Portland Office of Transportation. "The businesses, shops, and restaurants as well as an emerging and exciting art industry along Alberta are drawing citizens from all over the Portland region." The project will build curb extensions at transit stops and key intersections, ornamental street lighting, street trees, school crossing improvements and sumps at intersections, improved traffic signals at 7th, 15th and 33rd avenues, new storm water inlets and sumps, sidewalk construction at alley entrances and American



School children recite the Pledge of Allegiance (AP Photo)

'Under God' Nixes Pledge of Allegiance

Judgment that words endorse a state religion put on hold pending appeal

(AP) — For the first time ever, a federal appeals court has declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional because of the words "under God" added by Congress in 1954. In a 2-1 decision, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the phrase amounts to a government endorsement of religion in violation of the Constitution's Establishment Clause, which requires a separation of church and state. "A profession that we are a nation 'under God' is identical, for Establishment Clause purposes, to a profession that we are a nation 'under Jesus,' a nation 'under Vishnu,' a nation 'under Zeus,' or a nation 'under no god,' be-

cause none of these professions can be neutral with respect to religion," Judge Alfred T. Goodwin wrote for the three-judge panel. Goodwin has decided to stay his ruling until fellow members of the appeals court decide whether to reconsider. The Justice Department will request a full hearing by the 9th Circuit, which covers Oregon and Washington along with Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, and Nevada. The case was brought by Michael A. Newdow, a Sacramento atheist who objected because his second-grade daughter was required to recite the pledge at

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