



## Saving Spring Sports

Stoudamire donates \$250,000 to prevent school cuts  
See story, Page A6



## Silky Smooth

Kirk Green debuts CD 'Heart 2 Heart'  
See story, Page B5

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## Week in The Review

### Pigs and piranhas?

The deadly piranha fish, which strips its prey to the bone in seconds, has appeared in record numbers in Chinese pet markets and even in an amusement park, flustering officials. It is unclear how the fish, which kills 1,200 head of cattle every year in Brazil, was introduced to China and achieved its popularity. In Japan, the latest boom to hit the pet scene is mini-pigs, who were originally bred for lab animals and about one-tenth the size of the normal livestock variety.

### Jingle balls

A star reindeer in a South African shopping mall's Christmas display has lost a little of its seasonal pride and joy after complaints from shoppers. Managers at one of Cape Town's up market malls have "castrated" the plastic animal after receiving complaints about shiny golden Christmas tree baubles hanging between its hind legs.

### Spray gives robber away

Christmas glitter spray has given away a would-be robber to German police. The suspect tried to hold up a lottery ticket shop, threatening the owner with an air pistol. When the owner's terrified wife reached for the first form of defense she could find, a spray can used for decorating the shop for the holidays, she aimed it at the assailant and pressed the button. The stunned robber fled the store, leaving his wallet on the counter. Still covered in glitter spray the culprit reported the "theft" of his wallet to police and was immediately arrested.

### A Santa robs drugstore

Police are looking for a man in Chester, Va., with a familiar description who robbed a drug store at gunpoint: long white hair and beard, a white-fur-trimmed red suit and hat, black boots, prominent belly.

### Thief gets his Xmas wish

A man in Kenosha, Wis., who claimed he took money from a bank because he wanted to go back to prison may get his wish — a possible fine of \$10,000 and 25 years in prison. A jury convicted Dale L. Smith, 35, of theft on Dec. 12. Defense witnesses said before the trial that Smith complained he was having trouble coping with life out of prison.

### Good gratuity

Waitress Sarah Nilsen, of Quincy, Mass., got an early Christmas present in the mail this week: A \$10,000 tip from one of her regular customers. The check, made out to Nilsen's 11-month-old son, came from an older widower who patronizes the Newcomb Farms restaurant, where Nilsen, 22, waits tables twice a week. The man, whom Nilsen would not identify, sits at the same table and orders the same meal every Wednesday. She will put the money in a trust fund for her son's college.

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## Light it Up for the Holidays



Children play around the giant holiday tree at Pioneer Courthouse Square. For more on Christmas, Kwanzaa and other holiday activities, see our Metro section, inside.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Leader Under Fire for Racism

### Apology leaves many African Americans skeptical

(AP) — Many African Americans who watched Senate Republican leader Trent Lott apologize on Black Entertainment Television about remarks perceived as racially insensitive said they found his remorse unconvincing.

Some said the embattled senator's latest apologies Monday did not sound heartfelt, and that he should not become Senate majority leader in the next Congress.

"He said what he felt like he was supposed to say. He's on the ropes," said Beverly Greene, 42, who gathered with friends to watch Lott on BET. "It didn't feel like to me he was going to make a wholesale change to his life and begin to embrace all people."

In the 30-minute BET interview, Lott said he had made a "terrible mistake, used horrible words."

But, he said, "it is about actions more than words. As majority leader I can move an agenda that would hopefully be helpful to African-Americans and minorities of all kinds



U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss.

and all Americans." Greene and other blacks said they were skeptical.

"I'm not sure from his record that anything at this point would have been good enough," said Tsan Abrahamson, 39, a lawyer who watched the interview with Greene. "I certainly accept his apology, but I don't believe he's changed."

A furor erupted over Lott's Dec. 5 comment during a toast for Sen. Strom Thurmond in which he said the nation might have been better off if then pro-segregationist Thurmond had been elected president when he ran in 1948.

Civil rights leaders including the Rev. Jesse Jackson and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People President Kweisi Mfume have both demanded that Lott step down.

Justin Glenn, a 24-year-old University of San Francisco law student, said the firestorm that has erupted over Lott's remarks should "make the Republican party take a serious look at the individuals they choose to represent them."

## Pedestrian Struck and Dragged

Victim was not in a crosswalk when hit by taxi

Anita Marie Nichols of northeast Portland was struck by a taxi, hit by another car and dragged 30 feet before being hit by another car on Sunday. Police are still looking for information about the second car that may have hit or dragged her body to her location.

Radio Cab driver Thomas Sleeth, 52, called 911 ten minutes past 9 p.m. to report that he had struck a pedestrian in the middle of Northeast Killingsworth at 72nd Avenue. Sleeth said after the woman was thrown up and onto the windshield he pulled over to see if she was okay and could not find her.

Three minutes later a second driver, Megan Lutz, 32, called 911 and reported that she had driven over a woman's body at Northeast 42nd and Lombard Street.

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Anita Marie Nichols



Denise Blair is armed with information and understanding in the fight against HIV. She is the executive director of the local Women's Intercommunity AIDS Resource. PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Armed Against AIDS

African American, Hispanic women's group fights AIDS with prevention, patience

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has increased dramatically among women of color.

Just one-quarter of the U.S. population, African American and Hispanic women now account for 78 percent of new cases of the disease.

A local group working to reach women and save lives said those numbers show the need for a women-specific HIV/AIDS strategy.

The Women's Intercommunity AIDS Resource has developed both a prevention plan and a safe haven for women living with AIDS. The aim is to help women out of their isolation to talk openly about their lives, without fear of discrimination. All of the services are free, anonymous and confidential.

The group is careful not judge the choices clients make.

Rebecca Tinnis has been a peer educator with the resource network for four years. She goes into the streets weekly and tracks down women at-risk. She carries a bag of condoms and a slew of information.

"Basically what we do is empower women to take care of themselves and protect themselves," Tinnis said. "We tell people - 'this is what you need to do to keep yourself safe.'"

Tinnis said some women are fairly well educated about the disease and some are still totally in the dark. She considers it her mission to dispel common myths and answer any questions women may have.

The group matches women with the resources they need to feel good about themselves.

Susan Denight, WIAR's prevention coordinator, said women sometimes just need the company of others who share the same experience.

"People need to be treated with respect," she said. "People have a right to be informed so that they are capable of making the right choices, people aren't getting this message in schools or on television."

Located at 1608 S.E. Ankeny, WIAR offers a house-type setting where women

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Knight Library  
1299 University of Oregon  
Eugene OR 97403-1205