

Grading Neighborhoods

Coalition looks at health issues, local eyesores

See front Metro section, inside



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Week in The Review

Schwarzenegger to Repeal Illegal Immigrants' Licenses

California's new governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, has called the state legislature back into a special session Tuesday. Schwarzenegger wants lawmakers to reform workers' compensation law, deal with the budget deficit and repeal a bill granting driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants.

Court Passes on Affirmative Action Case

Fresh off a divisive case involving affirmative action in college admissions, a divided Supreme Court refused to consider the constitutionality of a Denver law that gives minority- and female-owned contractors a better chance at winning some contracts.

Protests Planned Over Bush's U.K. Visit

President Bush brought a forceful defense of the Iraq invasion to skeptical Britons on Tuesday, arguing that war is sometimes necessary when certain values are threatened. Bush's three-day visit promised contrasting pictures of elegant ceremonies at Buckingham Palace and noisy street protests by thousands of anti-war demonstrators.

First Woman Gov. Elected in La.

Kathleen Blanco, moving past the victory that made her Louisiana's first female governor, has begun sketching out her plans for health care, education and economic development.

Bush Says U.S. in Iraq for Duration

A day after the Iraq war's deadliest single incident, President Bush on Sunday mourned the Americans killed but said neither escalating violence, a changing political scene nor new threats will hasten the U.S. exit from Iraq.

WTC Memorial Designs Displayed

The public will get its first look this week at the design proposals for what could become the most-visited memorial in the world - the victims' monument planned for the World Trade Center site.

GOP Medicare Plan Rejected by Dems.

President Bush and congressional Republican leaders are selling their new Medicare prescription drug plan, but so far, not many Democrats are buying.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tisha Stigler, a sales manager at the US Bank on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, donates a bag of groceries to needy Oregonians. Area residents are being encouraged to donate to the Oregon Food Bank at US Bank offices and Jiffy Lube locations through December.

Oregon is Hungry

Food shortages, low donations hurt

While so many local residents are counting their blessings at the start of this holiday season, new data indicates that much of Oregon is hungry and food donations are at an all-time low.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture figures indicate that Oregon's hunger and food insecurity rates remain high compared to the nation as a whole. The data indicates that 13.7 percent of Oregon households were "food insecure" at times during the past year.

Michael Leachman, policy analyst for the Oregon Center for Public Policy, said the data shows that in five percent of Oregon households, food insecurity was so severe that one or more household members went hungry at some point during the year.

Oregon had the second highest hunger rate in the nation, slightly behind Oklahoma. Leachman called on Gov. Ted Kulongoski and other policy makers to stay focused on reducing hunger until it is clear substantial progress is made.

Area residents can help reduce hunger by

donating to the Oregon Food Bank where collections are at the worst level in years.

Volunteers hope to collect 125,000 pounds of food through December by accepting grocery bags filled with nonperishable food items at any US Bank branch and Jiffy Lube location in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Yamhill, Marion, Polk and Clark counties.

The food bank is also gathering experienced chefs and advanced home cooks who are willing to share their expertise by teaching cooking and nutrition classes to low-income individuals.

Oregon Food Bank offers nutrition education classes to community agencies, focusing on healthy eating habits, cooking from scratch, nutrition basics, food handling and menu planning on a limited budget.

To volunteer at the Oregon Food Bank or for more information about hunger in Oregon, visit www.oregonfoodbank.org or call 503-282-0555.

Blazers Harvest Dinner Builds Community Ties

A Trail Blazers harvest dinner brings a Thanksgiving-style dinner, including turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes and desserts, to nearly 4,000 people. The guests were invited to the table by 50 community agencies, including Central City Concern, Portland Rescue Mission, Loaves and Fishes and Albina Head Start.



Choke Hold Kills New Copper Penny Patron

Death follows struggle with bar bouncer

(AP) — A man who died after a struggle with a bouncer at a popular bar in the Lents neighborhood of southeast Portland was strangled, according to the state medical examiner's office.

Nafatali Tafito Rusia's death has been ruled a homicide, but no arrests have been made, and police continue to investigate.

According to witnesses, Rusia was at New Copper Penny club Saturday night with family and friends. After a man kept approaching a woman at his table with unwanted advances, witnesses said Rusia and the other men at the table got into a fight with the intruder. Bouncers stepped in to break up the fight.

Witnesses said they saw one security official put a choke hold on Rusia, who was about 6 feet 2

and weighed 248 pounds. "One bouncer had him in almost like a full nelson, and other guys were holding onto him and trying to cart him out," said one clubgoer, who was reluctant to have his name published. "He was struggling with the bouncers until he dropped. He's on the floor. He's out."

When police arrived and found Rusia, he was not breathing and had no pulse. Police administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and paramedics who responded tried as well but were unsuccessful.

Rusia was taken by ambulance to Portland Adventist Hospital, where he was dead on arrival.

At the young man's home Monday afternoon, family members said they had many unanswered questions and said they hadn't been told Rusia's cause of death.

"It's very tragic that his life had to end like this," his sister said. "We're still contacting family and in the grieving process."

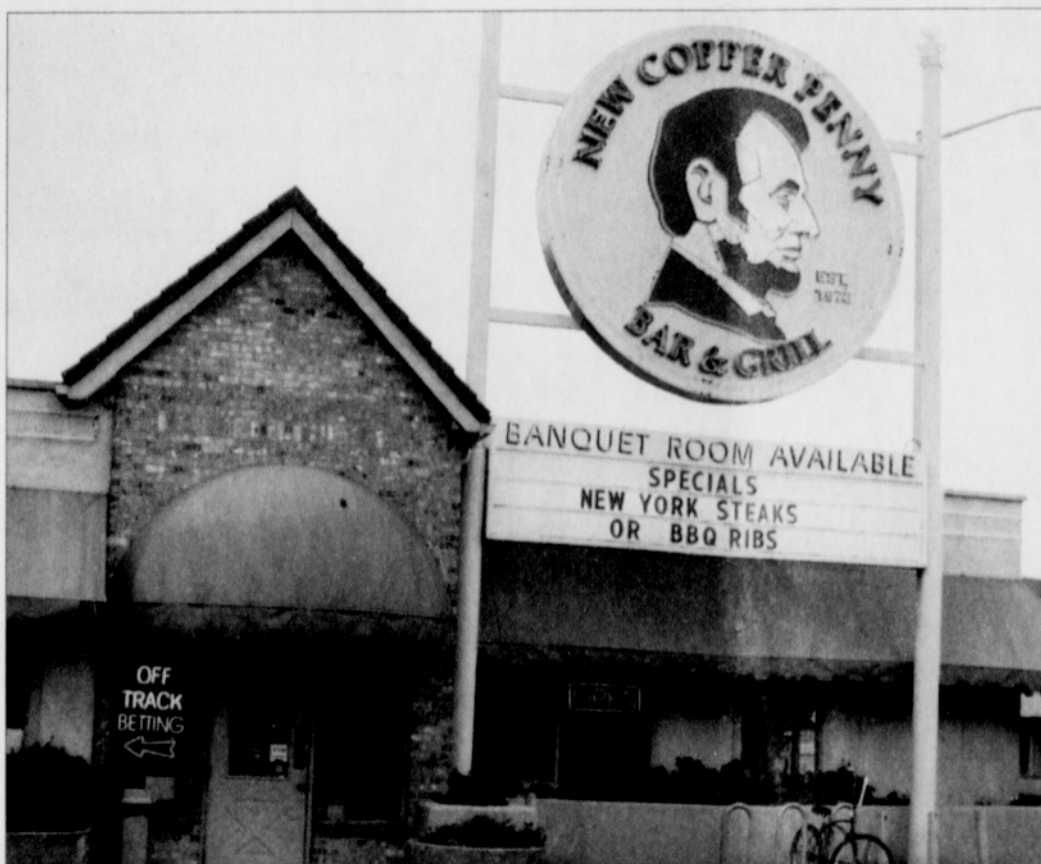


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