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'City of Roses'

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Week in The Review

Fire Threatens 140 Homes

A wildfire is threatening about 140 homes near Lake Wenatchee in central Washington, fire officials said. Seventy-five homes already had been evacuated and residents of 70 other homes scattered in the area had been warned they also might have to leave.

O'Neal Signs for \$100 Million

Shaquille O'Neal and the Miami Heat agreed Tuesday on a \$100 million, five-year contract, one that presumably will keep the 12-time All-Star center playing past his 38th birthday. "We wanted to make sure that Shaquille was being compensated well into his career," said Perry Rogers, O'Neal's agent.



Unprecedented Shuttle Task

Discovery's astronauts took a call from President Bush on Tuesday as they prepared for a task that's never before been attempted: Sending a spacewalker beneath the shuttle to remove filler sticking out between the tiles on the ship's belly. NASA says the protruding material could cause dangerous overheating during re-entry and lead to another Columbia-type disaster.

Embattled Bolton Sent to U.N.

President Bush installed embattled nominee John Bolton as ambassador to the United Nations on Monday, bypassing the Senate after a testy five-month standoff with Democrats who argued that the tough-talking conservative was unfit for the job. Bolton went directly from the White House to the State Department where he was sworn in. Within five hours of his appointment.

Tobacco Linked to Belly Fat

Exposure to cigarette smoke in teens can cause excess belly fat that increases the chances of heart disease, stroke and diabetes, according to a new study. Researchers found that 6 percent of 12- to 19-year-olds had the fatty condition called metabolic syndrome, and that the prevalence increased with exposure to tobacco smoke.

DNA Test Frees Man

During his nearly two decades in prison on a rape conviction, Thomas A. Doswell was denied parole four times because he refused to accept responsibility for the crime. But DNA evidence has finally proved what he's been saying all along: He didn't do it. Doswell, 46, was convicted in the 1986 rape of a 48-year-old woman at a hospital in Pittsburgh.

Celebrating Community

Baltazar Ortiz Center anniversary

Local youth engaged in positive self-expression by identifying and promoting elements of their culture in painting a mural to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Baltazar Ortiz Community Center at 6736 N.E. Killingsworth St.

The team of around 25 young people joined adult mentors in doing something positive for their neighborhoods.

The students in the Multnomah County Department of School and Community Partnerships Touchstone program designed and produced a 50-foot by 10-foot mural on the west side of the nearby Hacienda Community Development Corp., at 6856 N.E. Killingsworth St.

Local artist Hampton Rodriguez led the artistic design of the mural, completed on Saturday. The effort added to other community revitalization efforts already underway, including the addition of several new apartment complexes.

This project was in partnership with Northwest Family Services and Hacienda. Youth in the community identified the project to



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Latino youth celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Baltazar Ortiz Community Center at 6856 N.E. Killingsworth by painting a mural on the outside wall of the nearby Hacienda Community Development Corp. office serving local neighborhoods.

counter negative media coverage of teens and Latino youth in general. Through this work, the students showcased artistic talent, a strong work ethic and the power of working together.

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Victory, Defeat in Salem

Mental health equity passes, lethal force bill stumbles

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland's senior African-American lawmaker in the Oregon Senate is poised for both a huge victory and disappointment as the Oregon Legislature in Salem moves toward adjournment.



Sen. Avel Gordly

Sen. Avel Gordly, who serves northeast and southeast Portland, saw the realization of one of her top priorities for more than a decade when a bill was passed by both houses last week to give equality to mental health care patients by requiring insurers to cover mental health care and drug and alcohol treatments. Gov. Ted Kulongoski says he will sign the Mental Health Care Parity law.

The disappointment comes over a long sought bill to bring police accountability and transparency in the use of deadly force.

Backed by the African-American Albina Ministerial Alliance, Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers and John Minnis, a former Portland police officer and Oregon's director of Public Safety and Training, the deadly force law would also pay for better police training.

The legislation passed the Senate last week but was torpedoed Saturday in the House by another former police officer.

Rep. Jeff Barker, D-Aloha, a retired police officer and longtime Portland police union executive, introduced an amendment that strips the professions that allow grand jury procedures to become public records in officer-involved shootings.

Barker did not return a call to the Portland Observer asking for comment.

His legislation retains the added police training provisions but takes away both the options of transparency in grand jury panels and another option of a public inquest.

Gordly said the changes make the bill totally unacceptable and breaks faith with the community.

"We're going to try to salvage the intent of the bill," Gordly said.

The Democrat said she has spent 14 years thinking and praying about bringing accountability and better training to police statewide.

She said passage on the Senate bill on a bipartisan basis would not have happened if not for the support of Attorney General Myers and the power and influence of his office.

She said the Albina Ministerial Alliance and Minnis, a former Republican lawmaker also played a huge role in bringing the issue forward.

The law, as first proposed in 1995 and in proposals she, Minnis and Sen. Margaret Carter, another African American Democrat from Portland made last session, would "move us toward a justice system that is fair and just," Gordly said. "The administration of justice must always be accessible to all of its citizens."

She said the proposal emerged as the result of enormous pain suffered by victims, by families of victims and by law enforcement officers and their families and the community itself.

Gordly said its possible the House and Senate can work through conflicts in a conference committee, but "We may have to come back next Legislative session."



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Swimming pool patrons are under the watchful eye of lifeguard Cameron Kreuz at the Pier Park Pool in the St. Johns community of north Portland.

Kids, Families Face Loss of Pool

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Members of the north Portland St. Johns community were surprised to learn that Portland is giving up on the popular Pier Park pool.

The outdoor facility, a resource for generations of Portland families, is scheduled to close for good at the end of its current summer season on Sept. 5. City budget cuts are blamed.

Neighbors are outraged that no public meetings or notifications were held on the issue. The pool serves some of Portland's

most diverse and economically-challenged neighborhoods.

Monday, the office of City Commissioner Dan Saltzman said it will try to find replacement monies to put the pool back in the budget for next summer, but said it's no easy task because there are so many other deserving programs in the city.

Saltzman spokesman Matt Grumm said the closure stands right now. The axe fell from general budget talks and the need to cut \$7 million in total city expenditures. The parks bureau listed Pier Park Pool as one of the lowest used in attendance and lacking

the facilities upgrades of other city pools. It estimates it could save \$70,000 by closing the pool.

Grumm said Saltzman was not the commissioner of parks until just three weeks ago.

"He hopes to find money to keep all pools open," Grumm said.

Mayor Tom Potter was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

His office said the pool could be saved with additional monies approved by the City Council, but meetings with the neighborhood were needed to set priorities.

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Eugene, OR 97403-1205