

See Metro section, inside

Fortland Observer

'City of Roses Volume XXXV, Number 44

Established in 1970 Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com Wednesday • November 2, 2005

Week in Review

Levies Had Design Flaws

The engineers who designed the floodwalls that collapsed during Hurricane Katrina did not consider how porous the Louisiana soil is or make other calculations that would have pointed to the need for stronger levees with deeper pilings and wider bases, researchers say.

Official Charged in CIA Leak

The Vice President's chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby Jr. was indicted Friday on charges of obstruction of justice, perjury and making false statements in the CIA leak investigation, a case that casts a harsh light on President Bush's push to war. Libby, 55, resigned and left the White House. See story page A2.

Bird Flu Action Plan

President Bush outlined a \$7.1 billion strategy Tuesday to prepare for the danger of a pandemic influenza outbreak, saying he wanted to stockpile enough vaccine to protect 20 million Americans against the current strain of bird flu as a first wave of protection.

Deadly Month for U.S. Troops

Seven U.S. troops were killed by bombs near Baghdad, the military said Monday, making October the bloodiest month for Americans in Iraq since January. A week after the U.S. death toll passed the 2,000 mark, it rose to at least 2,026 with the attacks. See story, page A2.

Syrians Support Government

Several hundred flag-waving Syrians protested near the U.S. Embassy on Tuesday, pledging support for their president and insisting their government was innocent of the assassination of Lebanon's former prime minister.

Relief Helicopter Attacked

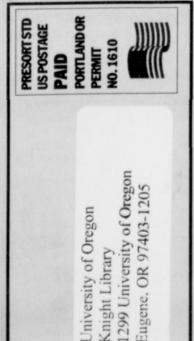
Assailants fired an apparent rocketpropelled grenade at a U.S. military helicopter ferrying relief supplies to quake victims in Pakistan's portion of divided Kashmir on Tuesday, the U.S. military said, but it vowed to continue relief flights to the devastated region.

Charles, Camilla in N.Y.

Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, began a weeklong tour of the U.S. on Tuesday. The royal couple was headed straight for a visit to the World Trade Center site, then to a dedication of a memorial garden to British victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. They also will visit Washington, New Orleans and San Francisco.

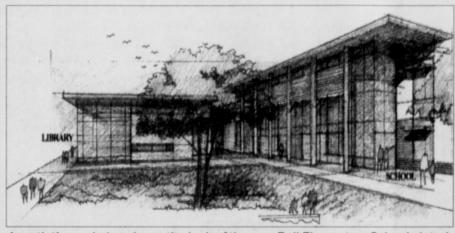
Rodman Pays; No Lockup

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman has settled a speeding ticket that briefly led to a Colorado judge issuing an arrest warrant. Rodman, who faced a speeding and reckless driving charge, agreed to plead guilty to speeding, pay \$516.50 in fines and make a \$200 donation to the Summit County 4-H club.



Reality for New Columbia School

Construction begins with celebration



An artist's rendering shows the look of the new Ball Elementary School slated to open next September in the New Columbia community of north Portland.

A state-of-the-art school to serve families in north Portland's Portsmouth neighborhood and strengthen the community forming around New Columbia had its official beginnings with a celebration.

A groundbreaking ceremony for a replacement to the outdated and aged Ball Elementary School was held on the future New Columbia Community Campus at the intersection of Trenton Street and Dana Avenue. The location is just southwest of the University Park Community Center at 9009 N. Foss St.

Superintendent Vicki Phillips, Mayor Tom Potter and representatives from the Housing Authority of Portland and the

Boys & Girls Club of Portland joined Ball Elementary students in Monday's cel-

Unlike earlier school construction projects, the replacement of Ball is being financed by a combination of tax credit proceeds, donated dollars and loans. In addition to meeting the enrollment needs of new and returning students, the project represents a new, creative way of funding major capital projects by the school district and the first time ever use of federal New Market Tax Credits for the construction of a public school.

continued on page A6



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER Students from north Portland's Ball Elementary join city, school and housing officials Monday in a groundbreaking ceremony to begin construction of a brand new Ball School for New Columbia, the new neighborhood in the Portsmouth community.

TriMet Fares to Increase for Third Time in a Year

Fuel Prices Pinch Riders Once Again

Portland transit riders are being asked to dig deeper into their pockets for the third time in a year because of record fuel prices.

TriMet has approved a 15cent fair increase for adult fares beginning Jan. 1 to cover the fuel costs for a fleet of diesel buses. The increase is on top of the 10-cent boost last Septem-April. All of the increases were because of higher fuel costs.

Currently, TriMet says diesel prices are running 45 percent over its budgeted amount of \$1.50 gallon. Given the futures market for diesel, the agency expects fuel costs to average \$2.20 gallon - producing



ber and a 5-cent increase last High diesel prices have triggered another fare increase to ride the bus.

about a \$5 million budget hole.

The transit agency has already offset some costs by taking steps to improve fuel and service efficiencies, making TriMet the most fuel-efficient transit agency in the country.

The fuel efficient changes include re-

ducing idling time, adjusting transmissions, front-end alignments and steering control arms, and maintaining a set tire pressure. The steps have allowed the agency to decrease the amount of diesel purchased annually, from 7 million gallons to 6.5 million gallons. TriMet has also evaluated service and eliminated low-rid-

ership trips. "We are operating our system more efficiently and consuming less diesel, but a fare increase is still needed to offset the dramatic price hikes for

diesel," said TriMet General

Manager Fred Hansen. The Jan. 1 fare increase will boost the cost of a two-zone pass from \$1.50 to \$1.65 and an all-zone pass from \$1.80 to \$1.95. Youth fares will increase by 10 cents to \$1.30 and Honored Citizen fares will go up 10 cents to 80 cents.

To help offset the impact of these fare increases, TriMet is introducing a new 7day rolling pass. It provides the convenience and savings of a monthly pass, but allows a rider to purchase it in smaller increments.



An overflow crowd is seated behind the casket of civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks at the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington.

Memorial Honors Courageous Rosa Parks worked in his Detroit congressional of-

Funeral to follow Wednesday in Detroit

(AP) - Civil rights pioneer Rosa touch off the civil rights movement. Parks was remembered Monday as a courageous woman whose defiance in the face of segregation helped inspire the architects of the civil rights movement and set an example for generations to follow.

An overflow crowd of mourners joined officials in Washington, D.C. to pay tribute to the woman whose refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Ala., city bus helped galvanize the modern civil rights move-

"We are here not because Rosa Parks died but because she lived graciously, effectively and purposely, touching the lives of millions," said Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson of the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Parks, who died last Monday at 92, was arrested in 1955 for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man, an incident that inspired King and helped

Richardson called Parks a "woman of quiet strength" who was "noble without pretense, regal in her simplicity, courageous without being bombastic."

Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., said Parks' refusal to give up her seat "was the functional equivalent of a nonviolent shot heard round the world."

Parks' life was celebrated at the church, where several hundred people were listening to tributes by Oprah Winfrey, NAACP chairman Julian Bond, Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., for whom Parks fice for more than two decades.

In attendance was Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy and Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean.

A painting of the elderly Parks rested above her mahogany coffin at the center of the altar, which was lined with flower arrangements. A large wooden crucifix loomed over the choir, which led the crowd in singing "Lift Every Voice

continued on page A3

Portland Remembers Rosa Parks

The greater Portland community is invited to celebrate the life and legacy of civil and human rights heroine Rosa Parks at a special program at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at Emmanuel Temple Church located at 1033 N. Sumner St.

People of all ages will join together to honor this remarkable woman in an evening of tributes and celebration.