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'City of Roses'

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Week in The Review

2,978 U.S. Soldiers Dead

The U.S. military on Tuesday announced the deaths of six more American soldiers, pushing the U.S. military death toll since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003 to at least 2,978 - five more than the number killed in the Sept. 11 attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

Arrest Made for Shooting

Portland police charged Lai Ngoc Thach, 21, with murder in connection with Tuesday's shooting at Wetlands Public House. East Precinct officers discovered the body of 28-year-old Robert Carl Pfeifer early Tuesday when they arrived to deal with a bar fight. Detectives say that Thach pulled out a gun and shot Pfeifer at least once.

Hundreds Dead in Nigeria

A ruptured gasoline pipeline burst into flames in Lagos, Nigeria on Tuesday, killing at least 260 people and injuring dozens of others, the Red Cross said.

No Apology from Anti-Muslim

Rep. Virgil Goode (R-VA) has reportedly refused to apologize for the anti-Muslim remarks he made in a letter to constituents. Labeled "Islamophobic" by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the letter was in response to use of the Quran for the swearing-in ceremony of Keith Ellison, a Minnesota Democrat and the first Muslim elected to Congress.



Wikipedia Challenges Google

Search engine giants Yahoo and Google are about to face a little more competition, said Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales. Wales plans to launch his own search engine "Wikisari" in early 2007, basing findings on human judgment rather than computer results.

Obama and Clinton Tied

Talk about leveling the playing field: Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois has pulled a statistical tie in a hypothetical contest with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York among likely Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire, traditional site of the first presidential primary elections.

'Godfather of Soul' Dies at 73

James Brown succumbs to fatal case of pneumonia on Christmas day

AP—James Brown, the undeniable "Godfather of Soul," told friends from his hospital bed that he was looking forward to performing on New Year's Eve, even though he was ill with pneumonia. His heart gave out a few hours later, on Christmas morning.

The pompadoured dynamo whose classic singles include "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag" and "I Got You (I Feel Good)" died Monday of heart failure, said his agent, Frank Copsidas of Intrigue Music. He was 73.

"People already know his history, but I would like for them to know he was a man who preached love from the stage," said friend Charles Bobbit, who was with Brown at the hospital. "His thing was 'I never saw a person that I didn't love.' He was a true humanitarian who loved his country."

The entertainer with the rough-edged voice and flashy footwork also had diabetes and prostate cancer that was in remission, Bobbit said. Brown initially seemed fine at

the hospital, Copsidas said. Three days before his death, he had participated in his annual toy giveaway in Augusta, and he was looking forward to his New Year's Eve show.

"Last night, he said 'I'm going to be there. I'm the hardest working

'I'm going to be there. I'm the hardest working man in show business.'

—James Brown

man in show business," Copsidas said Monday. He said Brown planned to perform during a two-week tour in Canada after hitting Times Square.

Brown was himself to the end, at one point saying, "I'm going away

tonight," Bobbit said at a news conference later Monday.

"I didn't want to believe him," he said.

A short time later, Brown sighed quietly three times, closed his eyes and died, Bobbit said.

One of the major musical influences of the past 50 years, Brown was to rhythm and dance music what Bob Dylan was to lyrics. From Mick Jagger to Michael Jackson, David Bowie to Public Enemy, his rapid-footed dancing, hard-charging beats and heartfelt yet often unintelligible vocals changed the musical landscape.

He was one of the first artists inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, along with Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry and other founding fathers.

"He was an innovator, he was an



James Brown, 1933 - 2006.

emancipator, he was an originator. Rap music, all that stuff came from James Brown," entertainer Little Richard, a longtime friend of Brown's, told MSNBC.

"James Brown changed music," said Rev. Al Sharpton, who toured with Brown in the 1970s and imitates his hairstyle to this day.

"He made soul music a world music," Sharpton said. "What James Brown was to music in terms of soul and hip-hop, rap, all of that, is what Bach was to classical music. This is a guy who literally changed the music industry. He put everybody on a

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Kwanzaa at IFCC

Sekai Edwards, 8, lights a candle at a setting representing Imani (Faith), at a Kwanzaa Celebration hosted by the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. IFCC will feature other table settings through Jan. 1, representing the seven days and seven principles of Kwanzaa, with hosts Joyce Harris and artist Adrienne Cruz, plus traditional tales from storyteller Habiba.

Celebrating Kwanzaa

PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
In the Neighborhood

The celebration of Kwanzaa is the focus of Jan. 1, to embrace these values. In Portland, many African Americans celebrate this cultural holiday, while others are simply curious or have a relative who celebrates. The Observer asked, what does Kwanzaa mean to you?

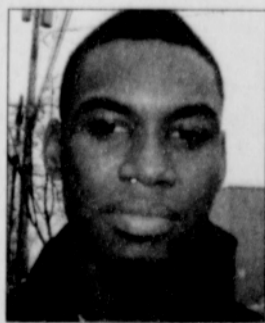
Yvonne O'Gara — I celebrate the season because we are celebrating the return of the lights. I love the values of Kwanzaa. We get to renew who we are and who we stand for. From what I understand anyone can participate in the joy we share.



Penny Jack — I don't know anything about Kwanzaa except that it's a traditional African holiday. My ex-husband celebrates.



Joe Hoover — I don't know how I really feel about it. I am a little curious and I have a relative who celebrates.



Vitalis Ogbeama — I've been celebrating 10 or 15 years. I used to work at the Urban League as a volunteer, and I learned about it there.



Mildred Carr — We missed it for the past two years because of our health, but we generally celebrate at the senior citizens center.



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