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**Betting
Rocks NBA**
Referee accused
of fixing games
See Sports, page B6

**Dog Fight Scandal
Hits Home**

Local investigators
say schemes are
hard to break up
See story, page A3



Week in The Review

Minimum Wage Increases

The national minimum wage rose 70 cents to \$5.85 an hour Tuesday, the first increase in a decade. The previous increase was 10 years ago, when President Bill Clinton raised the minimum wage 40 cents. Government figures show about 1.7 million people earned \$5.15 or less in 2006. More than two dozen states including Oregon and the District of Columbia already have minimum wages higher than the federal level.

Vick Banned from Training



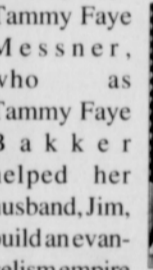
The NFL has ordered Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick to stay away from the team's training camp until the league reviews his federal dog fighting charges. Vick is alleged to have violated laws against dog fighting and gambling while operating Bad Newz Kennels on property Vick owns in Surry, Va. See story in Sports, page B6.

Democratic presidential hopefuls took part in the first campaign debate hosted by a video-sharing website YouTube and broadcaster CNN Monday. More than 3,000 people broadcast their questions to the candidates on topics including same sex marriage, the war, Darfur and reparations. A new poll shows 47 percent of Americans say they use the Internet for news about political candidates.

You Tube Debate

Tammy Faye Messner, who as Tammy Faye Bakker helped her husband, Jim, build an evangelism empire that collapsed in disgrace, died Friday at her home near Kansas City, Mo. Messner, 65, had battled colon cancer since 1996 that more recently spread to her lungs. A family service was held Saturday in a private cemetery.

Tammy Faye Dies



"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" is the fastest-selling book in history, with 8.3 million copies flying off the shelves in the U.S. and 2.65 million in Britain during its first 24 hours on the market. An executive with publishing group Scholastic compared the anticipation and hysteria to the Beatles' first visit to the United States.

Potter like Beatlemania



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PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Josh Henman wears hip-length waders to collect mosquito larvae in the stagnant water between Delta Park and Interstate 5. The Multnomah County Health Department worker tests the larvae daily for West Nile virus.

West Nile Virus Here to Stay

Officials
respond to
growing threat

BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After finding a dead crow near Northeast 63rd and Sandy Boulevard that tested positive for West Nile virus last month, health officials emphasize public awareness as the best means for preventing an outbreak.

This first appearance of the potentially deadly virus in Multnomah County this year shows that prevention campaigns will continue to be necessary, said Chris Wirth, vector manager for the county health department.

West Nile began to strike the Portland area last year, when three birds died of the virus, which is transmitted by mosquito bites and causes severe headache, weakness and the rare case of death in humans.

Wirth explains that infected birds, such as blue jays and crows, can pass the virus on to humans and other animals indirectly when they are bit by mosquitoes. Residents have reported a number of dead birds in the area surrounded by N.E. Killingsworth, Fremont, Martin Luther King Boulevard and 82nd Avenue.

Health officials have watched

West Nile virus progress and intensify across the country, so they expect to see the problem increasing here, even if everyone does everything right during this damp and hot part of the year when mosquitoes breed.

"I'd like to see us get through another season without a human case, but I'd agree that it's only a matter of time," says Carl Pierce, who oversees the county's testing efforts. "We've been lucky so far."

The main piece of the official prevention effort is barely recognized by the general population. It involves trapping mosquitoes and their larvae for West Nile testing.

"I tell a lot of people what I do, and they're like, 'Really, I didn't know we had a problem,'" says Josh Henman, whose job it is to collect mosquito larvae in the stagnant water between Delta Park and Interstate 5. "West Nile's going to hit us pretty bad sooner or later."

Mosquitoes have not yet tested positive for West Nile in the county. In the event that mosquitoes test positive, officials can only redouble the amount that they spray for mosquitoes and test the mosquitoes that aren't killed.

Chickens are enlisted in another aspect of the testing efforts. Being naturally exposed to mosquito bites in their coop on Northeast Columbia Boulevard, the chickens' blood is regularly tested for the presence

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Governor to Sign Project Clean Slate

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski is planning a ceremonial signing for House Bill 3054, which will fund Project Clean Slate, a grass roots program born out of the African American Chamber of Commerce to help local residents remove some civil and criminal court barriers that have prevented them from obtaining employment, housing, education and other opportunities.

Project Clean Slate turned from a onetime event to an ongoing activity that has helped thousands of people convert court and traffic fines into community service. In addition, some people qualify to have minor criminal convictions expunged, which have been a barrier in obtaining employment or promotions.

The program was recognized by the 2005 Spirit of Portland Award, Martin Luther King Drum Major for Justice Award and 2006 Newsmaker of the Year Award, nominated by local journalists. It has become a template for similar efforts in California and is currently featured in the summer issue of Fortune Small Business Magazine, which is distributed worldwide to millions of American Express business card holders.

The bill will provide \$275,000 to the Project Clean Slate through their fiscal agent for the next legislative biennium.

Roy Jay, African American chamber executive and founder of Clean Slate, says state funding will pay administrative costs for continuing the program. He says his organization also plans to leverage the money and apply for other grants in order to expand Clean Slate services to other Oregon communities.

A bipartisan group of legislators, including Greg McPherson, Kevin Cameron, Jackie Winters, Ginny Burdick, Kate Brown, Avel Gordly, Margaret Carter and many others were supporters of the bill, which was authored by Rep. Chip Shields of northeast Portland.

A tentative date for the signing ceremony is Wednesday morning on Aug. 8.



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community Transitional School Principal Cheryl Bickle joins students to break ground on a new permanent home for the school at Northeast Killingsworth Street near Cully Boulevard.

Homeless School Breaks Ground

Ending 17 years of disruptive moves

BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In spite of the unseasonable rain, the Community Transitional School broke ground last week on its first permanent school for Portland's homeless children at Northeast Killingsworth and Cully, after leasing sites for 17 years.

The ceremony, hosted by State Sen. Ryan Deckhart, honored a dream to end the disruption of moving six times since teaching began at the Portland YWCA in 1990.

In a little over a year, the school raised nearly \$3.4 million for land purchase and facility construction. The students helped by raising \$625.65 selling holiday cards.

Principal Cheryl Bickle said that homeless students have a hard enough time adjusting to their families' frequent moves and their generally chaotic living conditions, so changing school locations brought on additional stress and inhibited learning.

"For most of our students, school is the

one thing that doesn't change in their lives," Bickle said. "Students need some stability if they are going to succeed in school and life."

Since money started pouring in for the project in May 2006, contributors have included more than 25 different foundations, many businesses and hundreds of individuals. Bickle especially credits a financial partnership between U.S. Bank and Portland Family of Funds.

Many spoke to the work ethic of the

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