



Actor Lends Hand

Lou Gossett Jr. is coming to Portland to promote the United Way

See story, Metro section

Guild's Lake Reunion

Defense housing was home to African Americans

See story, Metro section



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Week in The Review

Felix Slams Ashore

Hurricane Felix slammed into Nicaragua's Miskito Coast as a record-setting Category 5 storm Tuesday, whipping metal rooftops through the air like razors and forcing thousands to flee.

Power Grid Strained

Parts of Southern California were in for another hot day Tuesday after a week of sweltering in triple-digit temperatures that contributed to power outages that left thousands without air conditioning.

Goldberg Defends Vick

Whoopi Goldberg used her first day on the daytime chat show "The View" Tuesday to defend football star Michael Vick in his dogfighting case. Goldberg said that "from where he comes from" in the South, dogfighting isn't that unusual.

Tax Kicker Largest Yet

The next kicker refund for Oregon taxpayers will be the largest in state history. The refunds to individual taxpayers are expected to total more than \$1 billion, or about 19 percent of their taxes. The checks are to be mailed in December with a median refund of \$297.

Idaho Senator Resigns

U.S. Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, announced his resignation Saturday after his arrest for allegedly soliciting sex with a man in an airport bathroom.

ADHD widespread

Nearly 9 percent of American children have attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, but only 32 percent of them are getting the medication they need. Researchers say the landmark study debunks the perception that ADHD is overdiagnosed and overtreated.

Jerry Lewis Telethon

Showman Jerry Lewis raised nearly \$64 million on Monday during his annual Labor Day Telethon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association, topping last year's event by \$3 million.

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FBI Spied on King's Widow

Surveillance called despicable, devious

(AP) — Federal agents spied on the widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. for several years after his assassination in 1968, according to newly released documents that reveal the FBI worried about her following in the footsteps of the slain civil-rights icon.

In memos that also reveal Coretta Scott King being closely followed by the government, the FBI noted concern that she might attempt "to tie the anti-Vietnam movement to the civil-rights movement."

Four years after Martin Luther King Jr.'s death, the FBI closed its file on Coretta Scott King, saying, "No information has come to the attention of Atlanta which indicates a propensity for violence or affiliation of subversive elements," according to a memorandum dated Nov. 30, 1972.

The documents were obtained by Houston television station KHOU in a recent investigation. Coretta Scott King died in January 2006 at the age of 78.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, who served as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference — which King co-founded in 1957 — said the documents illustrate the FBI's pattern of "despicable and devious" civil-rights-era behavior against the organization and those affiliated with it.

"The FBI kept a microphone everywhere they could where the SCLC was concerned," said Lowery, who said the agency had a member of the SCLC's staff on its payroll.

"Since we had nothing to hide, it

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Coretta Scott King



Marcia Taylor brings awareness to the battle against sickle-cell anemia with a portrait of her daughter Ramona who died from the disease and a diagram showing the difference between normal blood cells and blood cells affected by the ailment.

Awareness for a Silent Killer

Mother makes sickle-cell her cause

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregon's leading advocate for combating sickle-cell anemia, a disease that most disproportionately affects African Americans, is making an extra effort for National Sickle Cell Awareness Month.

People can help prevent the life-long suffering that sickle-cell disease causes by looking into their genetic makeup, said Marcia Taylor, executive director of Portland's Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation.

The foundation offers free year-round genetic counseling and diagnostic testing to combat the disease that is characterized by abnormally shaped blood cells that cause

pain, weakness and an early death. But this month, a seminar and telethon will cap off the health-awareness campaign.

Given how world populations have mixed, Taylor encourages all people to learn about sickle-cell, even though the vast majority of

their heritage," Taylor says. "Testing is especially important in the child-bearing stage as we decide whether to chance it if both parents are carriers."

Having the personal experience of such a tragedy resulting from a child created while lacking genetic knowledge, Taylor decided to lead the sickle-cell foundation with the legacy of her daughter Ramona in mind.

Taylor wishes she had known of the danger facing her children so that she could have at least provided the earliest possible treatment, perhaps extending her daughter's short lifespan a little longer.

Citing a 60-year-old woman living with sickle cells in Oakland, she thinks "medical

Everyone should be tested, because no one knows everything there is to know about their heritage.

— Marcia Taylor, sickle-cell anemia volunteer

people who carry genes leading to the disease, are of African descent.

"Everyone should be tested, because no one knows everything there is to know about

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Demands Intensify for Origins of Food

Calls for labeling go mainstream

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Walking through the piles of local produce in farmers' markets this harvest season, you know exactly where everything was grown. You lose that confidence, however, when you return to the supermarkets for daily sustenance.

Finding that many grocery stores still only bother to reveal where their seafood originates, the demand for labeling has surged among a vocal segment.

As Congress prepares to debate expanded enforcement of labeling laws in the face of mounting questions about the safety of food from China, food-industry lobbyists are trying to portray an extremist right-to-know movement.

Granted, small farmers and local activists who tend to speak out about labeling can seem extreme.

But Anthony Davison, an African-American board member at People's Food Coop in southeast Portland, takes the populist tact by arguing that everybody should be concerned about where food comes from.

A passionate vegetarian for over two decades, the 47-year-old Davison has ideas that could be written off as those of a fringe group if recent polls hadn't shown a solid 90 percent of Americans behind country-of-origin labeling.

Having "escaped to Portland from the Mistake on the Lake seven years ago," he also came to his views in a different way from most Americans.

While most polled this summer by Consumer Reports and Zogby International cited safety concerns in their support of labeling, Davison considered his own environmental impact.

"I haven't always been concerned about (food origins), but I started looking at it as a reason for global warming," he says. "I eat all raw foods, so I'm particularly concerned about my footprint, and importing chickpeas all the way from Turkey creates a lot of global warming."

Even if Davison is unique in coming to such strong and selfless conclusions, he supports popular policy, as shown by the thousands who have become co-op members during his board-of-directors tenure consistently voting for increased labeling standards.

So far, federal officials have been dragging their heels in response to consumers' wishes.

Market forces would correct for any real demand, because supermarkets would have to address customer complaints, according to former U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla, the Texas Republican who headed the committee that pushed through delays on mandatory origin labeling in 2002.

Government informational venues, run by Bush appointees, are also working against the tide of public opinion.

"Demands for mandatory country-of-origin labeling have sparked considerable controversy," says the USDA website. "But mandatory labels are unlikely to increase food demand and likely will generate more costs

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Northeast Portland resident Anthony Davison examines the produce at People's Food Co-op in southeast Portland, where he has been on the board of directors for two-and-a-half years voting for labeling information detailing products' origins.