

# Severe Weather Batters Northwest

Oregon National Guard troops evacuated residents in flooded Vernonia, 35 miles northwest of Portland Tuesday, and tens of thousands of residents remained without power after back-to-back storms this week pounded the Pacific Northwest.

The storm that hit Monday smacked the Oregon and Washington coasts with hurricane-force winds and several inches of rain. In Portland, Johnson Creek overflowed its banks and flooded streets around Foster Road and Southeast 102nd Avenue.

Roads to the coast and I-5 to Seattle were closed by flooding, downed trees and mud slides. Mudslides also halted Amtrak passenger train service between Portland and Vancouver, British Columbia.

The back-to-back storm fronts Sunday and Monday were among the worst in recent memory. But Tuesday came the calm after the storm. Scattered showers and mild temperatures were in the forecast with drier weather expected in the next few days.



Firefighters carry Leona Donei from her Seattle apartment after water backed up into her neighborhood during a downpour on Monday. The storm that battered the Pacific Northwest for two days eased Tuesday, leaving behind at least five dead, fallen trees and washed-out roads. (AP photo)

# Oregon Soldiers Prepare for Duty

**Tigard unit called up to be sent to Iraq**

(AP)—A 3,500-member Oregon Army National Guard unit has been put on alert for duty in Iraq, protecting U.S. bases and special convoys.

The soldiers from the Tigard-based 41st Brigade Combat Team would not be sent until 2009, when the U.S. will have a new president and the situation in the Middle East could look very different than it does today.

Military experts say it takes about a year to equip, train and certify a unit for combat. The early notification allows the brigade to bring more people on full-time status to handle legis-

tics and set up supply and training schedules.

More than 4,000 Oregon Guard soldiers have served in the wars of the Middle East, and some have done more than one tour, said Maj. Mike Braibish, the Oregon Guard spokesman.

Col. Dan Hokanson, deputy commander of the 41st Brigade, said the alert could cause some Guard members anxiety, given that many have already had a tour. But Guard forces are being stretched thin nationwide, he said.

"What's happened is the military has basically run the table," he said. "When you have such a large commitment of forces overseas, you just begin recycling through. Now it's our turn again."

# Officers Sentenced for Beating

(AP)—Three white former police officers were sentenced to long prison terms Thursday for the off-duty beating of a biracial man, an attack that outraged the city of Milwaukee, Wis. and sent protesters into the streets.

A judge sentenced Jon Bartlett to 17 years and four months. Daniel Masarik was sentenced to 15 years

and eight months, and Andrew Spengler received the same sentence. Each of the three also was sentenced to three years supervision and ordered to pay \$16,365 in restitution.

Bartlett, 36, Masarik, 27, and Spengler, 28, were convicted with another former officer for taking part in the beating of Frank Jude Jr.

outside a housewarming party in October 2004.

Bartlett apologized to Jude in court Thursday, but he stood by his claim that he had to deal with an unruly suspect.

A federal jury determined in July that the three violated Jude's civil rights and conspired to assault him while acting as officers.

# Imus Return Points to Diversity Issue

National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial called the return of shock jock Don Imus to the radio airwaves "a symptom of a larger problem — the continuing lack of diversity in this country's newsrooms."

"When there is greater diversity in front of and behind the

microphone, all voices are heard," Morial said. "Black and urban Americans are underserved by shock journalism."

He added that Imus' coarse and unacceptable language undermines the public's opportunity for relevant commentary, saying, "The National Urban

Leagues hopes to see greater diversity among the writers, producers, bookers and reporters on the airwaves."

The National Urban League's updated report, Sunday Morning Apartheid: A Diversity Study of the Sunday Morning Talk Shows, will be released in January.

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## The Portland Observer

"City of Roses" Established in 1973 Committed to Cultural Diversity  
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**Week in Review**  
Teen rescued after vision... Many Americans qualify as working poor... Overlooked...  
It's his theater and his basketball combined when Portland's Michael Hayes (left), a former Trail Blazers player, and Sean Burns, a great high school athlete and professional Oregon Children's Theater student, star in the production 'The Prince and the Dumbbell Champion.'

**Election Ballots On Way**  
People of color find a political fit  
As Oregon voters drop their ballots into their ballot boxes, they'll be making their voices heard in the November 5 election. Ballots will be mailed to voters on Friday.

**ONE-ON-ONE**  
Premiere bonds live theater to live basketball  
Live theater and basketball combined when Portland's Michael Hayes (left), a former Trail Blazers player, and Sean Burns, a great high school athlete and professional Oregon Children's Theater student, star in the production 'The Prince and the Dumbbell Champion.'

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