



Still Paying More
Regular gasoline in Oregon averaged 4.29 a gallon Tuesday, up slightly from last week. Diesel prices averaged 4.81 a gallon

Gunnin' for that #1 Spot

Film follows a group of high school all-stars on the fast track to the NBA
See story, Metro section



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Week in The Review

Blast Kills 4 Americans

A bomb exploded inside an Iraqi district council building in Sadr City Tuesday, killing 10 people, including four Americans working to restore local government and services in the former Shiite militia stronghold.



Clinton Supports Obama

Former President Clinton said through a spokesman Tuesday that he is committed to helping Barack Obama become president, his first comments in support of his wife's former rival since their primary ended three weeks ago. See story, page A2.

Housing Slump Deepens

Two national housing indexes Tuesday reported record year-over-year declines in housing prices in April, a sobering signal that the housing slump not only is deepening, but also engulfing markets once above water

Consumer Confidence Sinks

U.S. consumers are gloomy. Inflation, sinking home values and soaring gas prices have pushed the Conference Board's consumer confidence index to the lowest level since 1992. Consumers' view of the economic future has never been lower, raising worries that already weak consumer spending could deteriorate further.

Imus on Defense Again



Don Imus said Tuesday that he was trying to "make a sarcastic point" with his latest on-air remarks about race, but that they had been misunderstood. Imus resurrected his radio career six months ago with a pledge to mend the wounds caused by the racist and sexist comments he made about the Rutgers women's basketball team. See story, page A2.

California Wildfires

Fire crews joined aircraft from neighboring states Tuesday to battle hundreds of lightning-caused wildfires across Northern California. One of the fires had already blackened more than 10,000 acres.

Venus Williams Advances

Defending champion Venus Williams scraped through a tight first set and then pulled away for a 7-6 (5), 6-1 victory Monday over British teenager Naomi Cavaday to begin her bid for a fifth Wimbledon title.

City Supports New Bridge

Portland Mayor Tom Potter and four City Council members have signed a letter in support of a proposed \$4.2 billion I-5 bridge — two weeks before the council holds its first public hearing on the project.



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Timi Elwood (right) works with residents of the Laurelhurst Village care facility in southeast Portland as a state elder-care advocate.

Helping Those Who Can't Help Themselves

Nursing homes need volunteer state advocates

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

You must have passion for seniors' well being and civil rights to volunteer for weekly visits to nursing homes.

"I'm working the minute I walk in the door," says Portland resident Timi Elwood, who immediately checks for sticky floors and other signs of facility problems as an elder-care advocate through a state-mandated program.

Vulnerable populations can get help from the volunteer advocates for residents of nursing homes, residential care facilities and adult foster care homes throughout Oregon.

Officials have concentrated a special effort toward complete oversight of the state's approximately 140 nursing homes, although all the thousands of Oregon's elder-care outlets should count on occasional visits.

As a legally certified ombudsman, a member of this squad is expected to inspect the conditions of the assigned nursing home regularly, speak with all residents about concerns and even check on complaints at all hours of the night.

"It's a necessary thing, because some facilities are horrible," says Kathy Walter, a volunteer coordinator through Salem's Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

The governmental agency has received an increasing number of complaints statewide, recording 4,991 last year.

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Good in the Neighborhood

Annual festival kicks off Friday

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Good in the Neighborhood Festival has become almost as much of an institution for northeast Portland as the Rose Festival is for the city as a whole; you expect it the last weekend in June. However, like the Rose Festival, GITN continues to evolve, change and grow.

This year, for the first time, the festival will be not two days but three. Ocean 503 will perform from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, June 27, in King School Park, 4815 N.E. 7th Ave. There will be vendors providing a variety of ethnic and American foods.

The next day, Saturday, June 28, there will be the traditional parade starting at 11

a.m. at Emanuel Hospital and proceeding to the park via Northeast Russell Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. It will feature public agencies, local businesses, nonprofits and community organizations. If you would like to be part of the parade, call 503-282-1288 for information.

When the parade reaches the park, the festivities will continue from noon to 9:30 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 7:30 p.m. There will be music by the festival's standbys Norman Sylvester, Linda Hornbuckle, Patrick Lamb and Chatta Addy's Susuma, plus many more. There will be a beer garden courtesy of McMenamins. There will be a public information area for public and private organizations to provide information. A Community Marketplace will allow local entrepreneurs to offer unique items for sale. There will also be a children's activity area.

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Norman Sylvester



Linda Hornbuckle



Patrick Lamb

Puppetry Captures Collective Spirit

Tears of Joy celebrates 35 years

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A small theatre company in our backyard has quietly advanced to national recognition for its commitment to communities in Portland as it travels the world delivering the magic of puppetry.

Having completed 35 years of service in the metro area, Tears of Joy Theatre has found a groove for its slowly expanding programs.

As a three-time recipient of the

citation of Excellence in the Art of Puppetry, American puppetry's highest honor, the company has accolades and respect, if not fat wallets, to keep it going.

The theatre's Higher Stages outreach program for disadvantaged youth has reached a 10-year anniversary, exposing the fun of art construction to more than 200 youth each year at a half-dozen

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Amy Gray (left) and Ithica Tell perform in the Lion King for Tears of Joy Theatre.

PHOTO BY NANCY ALDRICH