



## H1N1 Vaccine Arrives

Oregon officials prepare for long, deadly flu season

See Health Matters, page A7

## Rebels & Rabble-Rousers

Award-winning musical that follows fight for justice on Portland stage

See Arts & Entertainment, page A10



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## Week in The Review

### Health Bill Clears Hurdle

With support from a lone Republican, a key Senate committee Tuesday approved a middle-of-the-road health care plan that moves President Barack Obama's goal of wider and affordable coverage a giant step closer to becoming law. See story, page A2

### Beaverton wants Beavers

Beaverton city leaders announced an agreement Tuesday with Portland Beavers owner Merrit Paulson to bring the minor league baseball team to their suburban community. The price tag is \$59 million with 60 percent funded by taxpayers and 40 percent from Paulson.



### King Children Settle

The heirs and children of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. reached a settlement Monday that will keep the family from a public jury trial. Martin Luther King III and Bernice King sued Dexter King in July 2008, accusing him of acting improperly as head of their father's estate. See story, page A2

### Baby Theft Plot Follies

An Albany woman was arrested Tuesday for plotting to steal a baby from a hospital maternity ward. Police arrested Trinity Vidal-Hernandez, 25, for trying to kidnap an infant from Samaritan Albany General Hospital on Sept. 19.

### Limbaugh Bid Opposed

Rush Limbaugh's bid to buy the St. Louis Rams ran into opposition within the NFL on Tuesday, when Colts owner Jim Irsay vowed to vote against him and commissioner Roger Goodell said the conservative commentator's "divisive" comments would not be tolerated from any NFL insider.

### Jeep Plows Into Housing

The driver of a Jeep was taken into custody Tuesday morning after it crashed into an Oregon City apartment complex, displacing four families. No injuries were reported in the alcohol-suspected accident.

### Baggage Thief Sentenced

A former Northwest Airlines baggage supervisor at Portland International Airport pleaded guilty Monday to stealing checked luggage. Under a plea deal, Bridgett Bunnell of Molalla is expected to serve 18 months in prison for stealing more than \$10,000 of luggage and selling the stolen goods on the Internet.

### Cat Burglar in N. Portland

Portland police say a cat burglar has struck 19 homes in North Portland in the last five weeks, stealing laptop computers, cameras and cell phones at night. Police believe all the burglaries are related. They have been in the Kenton, St. Johns and University Park neighborhoods.

# Political Nastiness

## Attacks on Obama drown out moderates

(AP) -- Vitriol and invective stain American political history, but falsehoods, half-truths and innuendo now spread with the speed of light across partisan airwaves and the Internet — the din drowning out the country's moderate political center.

Countless Internet blogs have taken on the administration of the first African-American president, claiming — falsely — that Barack Obama isn't an American citizen, is a secret Muslim, is a socialist, wants to establish death panels to decide when elderly Americans would no longer receive medical care and be allowed to die. The list is long.

Most recently, a partisan furor blew up when Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize. Republican na-

tional chairman Michael Steele set the tone, declaring that giving the prize to the U.S. commander in chief showed "how meaningless a once honorable and respected award has become."

Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush, was not immune, nor was former President Bill Clinton. But today the volume of screeching partisanship is cleaving the American electorate, perhaps as deeply as at any time since the Civil War a century and a half ago.

"The environment is much more extreme today because of the level of public involvement, the level of incivility among both the political elite and the public," said Chris Dolan, a political scientist at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa.

At Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C., Clyde Frazier said, "It is nasty and getting nastier." While he believes American history is littered with dirtier political periods and nastier claims among politicians, Frazier, also a political scientist, sees today's climate partly the result of the "media culture. Vitriol seems to



President Obama responds Friday to his selection as the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Even with such prestigious accomplishments, Obama finds himself the target of caustic and abusive insults.

sell. If you are telling people the end of the world is at hand, they watch."

From the lectern at the White House briefing room, press secretary Robert Gibbs routinely bemoans what he sees as the negative slant on coverage of

Obama by the conservative Fox News cable television outlet.

While Americans once sought news from media outlets that aimed for objectivity, many are now turning to sources that reinforce their political viewpoints, including the

conservative Fox News and the liberal MSNBC on cable television and the exploding blogosphere that ranges across the political spectrum.

The heated partisan atmosphere

continued ▼ on page A2

# Campus Security Front Lines

## Alarm system warns students, community

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Remember the fire drills back in school?

Incoming students at Portland Community College are doing another sort of drill: one that prepares them for a school shooting or other emergency.

Across the country, school campuses are becoming increasingly dangerous places, and PCC has been stepping up its security efforts to deal with a new set of safety threats that are hard to predict and hard to prepare for. But safety officials at the college are hoping that improved communication and procedures will keep students and the entire school community safe.

In August, a man was badly wounded in a suspected gang-related shooting outside a convenience store just one block from the Cascade campus.

The college has kept up communications with the surrounding neighborhood, Jefferson High School, and local businesses to address their security concerns.



Nikki Barone (left) and Derrick Foxworth, the former Portland police chief, are on the front lines of campus security issues at Portland Community College.

There is also the ever-present threat of a school shooting similar to the 2008 Northern Illinois University shooting, which claimed six lives and wounded 18 students. Just a year before, a student at Virginia Tech with a history of mental health is-

suues killed 32 people before turning the gun on himself.

PCC Department of Public Safety Lieutenant Derrick Foxworth said that the gang shooting last August revealed some communication gaps between the Portland Police Bu-

reau. He declined to get into specifics, but said that they have been improved.

Det. Mary Wheat, Portland Police Bureau spokesperson, said that it's key that PCC understand how the bureau operates so they can better prepare

for a shooting.

"He's very familiar with our procedures," said Wheat of Foxworth, a retired Portland police chief and precinct commander.

continued ▼ on page A9

# Oregon Doctors in Healthcare Debate

## Use influence to shape reforms

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The ambitious efforts of Congress to overhaul the nation's serpentine healthcare system can be difficult to comprehend.

But the changes lawmakers are proposing are so fundamental that virtually every American could be affected.

Oregon will be no exception. And that's why two doctors from the state have been involved in grassroots efforts in



recent months to influence whatever shape reform efforts might take.

Paul Hochfeld, an emergency room physician from Corvallis, said that most other doctors would think he's a little delusional. He adds that they're probably right.

Hochfeld just returned from

◀ Dr. Anita Henderson of Bend with Dr. Zahid Imran of Louisiana, join other doctors at the White House to advocate for healthcare reform.

a cross-country trip with other physicians calling themselves "Mad as Hell Doctors." They've stopped at 26 cities nation-wide in 22 days with one simple message: incremental change isn't enough.

In the last two months, three Democrat-controlled committees in the House and two in the Senate passed similar bills with no support from the Republicans.

The bills would expand eligibility for Medicaid, prohibit insurers from denying coverage

continued ▼ on page A9

40  
years of  
community service