

Voters Cast Ballots

Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown predicted a 72 percent turnout of voters in the general election Tuesday. Mid-term elections see a bit of a decline from presidential election years. In the presidential race of 2008, the turnout was 85 percent.

Lion King Actress Dies

Shannon Tavares, the 11-year-old who starred on Broadway in "The Lion King" and whose battle with cancer won the hearts of many, including Alicia Keys, Rihanna and



50 Cent, died Monday in New York of acute myelogenous leukemia, a common type of cancer among adults, but rare among children.

Suspect Cargo on Plane

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the FBI, the Transportation Security Administration, the Port of Portland and Delta Airlines investigated an incident Tuesday involving suspicious items found on a Delta flight originating in Tokyo, Japan. The items were not explosive. Passengers and crew members were being interviewed.

Shuttle Launch Delayed

The final launch of space shuttle Discovery has been delayed again, this time because of an electrical

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problem. NASA decided early Tuesday evening to bump liftoff until at least Thursday.

Ducks No. 1 in BCS

10 top dog USC 53-32 in Los Angeles last Saturday. For the first time in

Oregon jumped Auburn in the BCS standings after putting the hurt on the former Pac-

the 115-year history of Oregon's football program the Ducks are No. 1 in all of the major football polls.

**Homeownership Flat**

The nation's homeownership rate remained at its lowest in more than a decade, hampered by a rise in foreclosures and weak demand for housing. The percentage of households that owned their homes was unchanged at 66.9 percent in the

July-September quarter, the Census Bureau said Tuesday.

Video Game Law Review

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed sympathy for a California law that aims to keep children from buying ultra-violent video games in which players maim, kill or sexually assault images of people. But justices seemed closely split on whether the restrictions are constitutional.

Traffic Stop Finds Pot

A Saturday morning traffic stop by Oregon State Police near Medford led to the discovery of approximately 40 pounds of marijuana and the arrest of three people from Washington State.

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Beauty with a Cost

Hair treatment contains formaldehyde

BY MELISSA CHAVEZ
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Beauty came with a cost, according to recent findings confirming that the popular Brazilian Blowout hair treatment contains high doses of the chemical formaldehyde.

Hundreds of samples of the product, which salon workers must become certified to use, were confiscated by OSHA officials from dozens of salons across the state for testing. Specific salons were also selected to undergo an air quality test, where workers performed the treatment while officials gathered air samples to see what exposure to formaldehyde levels occurred.

Though OSHA released its final findings confirming the unsafe chemical in the hair treatment on Friday, it had reported initial concerns in September.

Anette Lucius Halek, a manager at Toni & Guy in Lloyd Center, said that after seeing a local TV report on the product, the salon emailed their corporate headquarters.

"Within days, they made the call to take it out of every (Toni & Guy) salon across the country," she said. "It was actually scary."

Formaldehyde in any dose can cause immediate irritation of eyes, skin, nose and upper respiratory tract, cough, chest pain, and asthma-like reactions of shortness of breath and wheezing. If a product used in a workplace contains more than 0.1 percent formaldehyde, OSHA requires the manufacturer to list it. Findings for Brazilian Blowout showed that multiple samples contained between 6.3 percent and 10.6 percent of the chemical.

Halek said one client did have a reaction to the treatment.

Over the past few weeks, salon owners across Portland have

been scrambling to reassure customers and employees about the safety of the popular service, while trying to find out how a product labeled "formaldehyde-free" could contain it.

"My sample came back from the lab containing 8.5 percent formaldehyde," said Escapade in Hollywood owner Doreen Clark. At her Hollywood neighborhood salon, she and two other stylists were certified in the treatment. Typically costing \$250, the 2-hour Brazilian Blowout gained national attention after celebrities Halle Berry, Lindsay Lohan, and Nicole Richie endorsed it. The treatment turned "really curly, coarse, fuzzy, or thick hair" a straight, super shiny appearance, said Clark.

"The Brazilian Blowout was probably more popular than any other service I've offered in here," she said. "You could run around in the rain and it would stay straight. You wouldn't have to even comb it."

Though Clark loves the results, and even used the treatment on her own hair, she has had to turn away clients recently because of the findings.

"I've had several say 'I don't care, I want it.' We have awesome clients. But I don't care. I'd rather lose them than kill them," Clark said. "I can't ethically keep doing it. Morally, I can't keep using it."

Despite the confirmed hazardous findings, salons could still offer the treatment.

"We don't actually ban products," said Melanie Mesaros, a spokesperson with the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, which operates under a state-plan agreement with federal OSHA. "If you do use products with hazards, then you have to take measures to protect workers."