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Phillies clinch the National League championship SPORTS, C1

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BREAKING NEWS AT OREGONLIVE.COM

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SUNRISE EDITION

Atkinson suspends run for governor

Oregon | The senator cites health concerns, leaving Republicans unsure about the May primary

By **JEFF MAPES**
THE OREGONIAN

Republican state Sen. Jason Atkinson announced Wednesday that he is suspending his campaign for governor, leaving the Republican race to two candidates of uncertain strength and a lot of speculation.

Atkinson, 38, said that he and his wife, Stephanie, face "some serious health concerns" and that he needs to step aside for now. Atkinson was not specific, but he is recovering from an accidental shooting 15 months ago, and his wife has been treated for thyroid cancer.

The southern Oregon lawmaker ran for governor in 2006 and had strong support from social conservatives. His announcement leaves the GOP field to two more-moderate candidates, Lake Oswego businessman Allen Alley and former state legislator John Lim of Gresham.

Former Portland Trail Blazer Chris Dudley also is looking at the race, as is state Sen. Frank Morse of Albany. Congressman Greg Walden, the most prominent elected Republican in the state, has kept the door

Please see **REPUBLICANS**, Page A6

Follow the governor's race and read daily political analysis in the **Mapes on Politics** blog at oregonlive.com/politics

Execs' paychecks to shrink

The Obama administration wants to slash corporate salaries at companies that received the biggest federal bailouts | **Business, B8**

Disappearing language?

Cantonese, a dialect from southern China that has dominated the Chinatowns of North America for decades, is being rapidly swept aside by Mandarin, the national language of China and the dialect spoken by most of the latest Chinese immigrants | **A5**

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy
High: **63**
Low: **47**

For complete weather, see **B12**

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BREAKING NEWS AT OREGONLIVE.COM

"It prohibits any human being from sleeping. It makes us criminals."

Mike O'Callaghan, camping-ban protester, to City Council

Camping ban up for debate



FAITH CATHCART/THE OREGONIAN

Mike O'Callaghan greets a passer-by as he sits outside Portland City Hall with his insulated sleeping box he has dubbed the "White Night." O'Callaghan, who is homeless, is protesting the city's no-camping ordinance. "By defining a campsite as any bedding or sleeping material, in effect, it says you can't sleep," he says. "I call it kick-the-dog syndrome."

Portland Commissioner Nick Fish wants to suspend the law for the hundreds sleeping outside

What the city's done so far

Some benchmarks in the city's 10-year plan to end homelessness:

- The effort has placed about 7,000 people into stable housing.
- The plan has created or preserved 1,400 affordable homes.
- Four affordable apartment projects totaling 464 units are in various phases of construction.
- The City Council increased its housing budget 30 percent this year when all other city bureaus had to make cuts. That includes increases in general fund dollars and \$8.4 million in federal stimulus money for rent help and affordable housing stock.

Source: City Commissioner Nick Fish

By **MARK LARABEE**
THE OREGONIAN

When it comes to housing homeless people, Mike O'Callaghan has a \$98 idea.

He built a plywood box in less than four hours that's warm, safe and dry when you crawl inside. For more than a week, he's parked his "White Night" on the curb in front of City Hall in a silent protest of police rousting people at night to enforce Portland's anti-camping ordinance.

O'Callaghan is homeless by choice. He said he would rather not spend his meager Social Security check on housing. He knows his wooden box will never get any traction with city leaders.

What he is trying to say is that the rain is here and people are getting wet. Something needs to be done now. "There's a problem — here's a solution," he said.

One thing that may get traction is Commissioner Nick Fish's desire to temporarily ease the city's camping ban.

"It is my belief that we need to relax some of the rules for people who have no alternative but to sleep outside," said Fish, who oversees the city's housing programs.

Portland is halfway through a 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness by increasing rent assistance and first-time buyer programs and building affordable housing.

Please see **CAMPING BAN**, Page A6

Safety is in the details at the Red Zone's edge

Baghdad | Oregon National Guard soldiers concentrating on security at Camp Victory are in it up to their eyeballs

By **MIKE FRANCIS**
THE OREGONIAN

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — Here's what separates inside from out at this massive U.S. military base near Baghdad International Airport: an array of badges, biometric checks, body scans, explosive-sniffing dogs, X-rays, blast walls, pop-up barriers, handbag searches, surveillance cameras, no-nonsense conversations with Ugandan contractors — and soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard.

"The TSA has nothing on this ECP" says Capt. Brandon Ditto of Salem, responsible for two ECPs, or entry con-



trol points, at the base. In other words: the U.S. Transportation Safety Agency can only dream of using all the military's tools to screen air passengers. Much of Task Force Stetson, the Guard's squadron based here, is devoted to base security. That means that scores of Oregon soldiers are spending their 10-month deployment in Iraq — they'll depart in April — scanning badges and irises, manning watchtowers, overseeing vehicle inspections, interviewing would-be

Please see **IRAQ**, Page A6



MIKE FRANCIS/THE OREGONIAN

Pfc. Robert Morgan questions the driver of a BMW seeking to enter Camp Victory. Morgan is among the Oregon Army National Guard soldiers who help secure the perimeter of the air base headquarters just outside Baghdad.

Oregon in Iraq | In their largest deployment since World War II, about 2,600 Oregon Army National Guard soldiers are serving in Iraq until spring. Oregonian writer Mike Francis, on his third trip to Iraq, will report from there through November, embedded with Oregon's citizen soldiers.



For daily updates and more photographs and coverage online, and to send a message to service members: oregonlive.com/41st

What's sex got to do with it? A lab worm reveals all

Breakthrough | Why mate if self-fertilizing creatures are so efficient? To halt mutations, nematodes show UO researchers

By **JOE ROJAS-BURKE**
THE OREGONIAN

In case you were wondering why we bother with sex, University of Oregon scientists have produced compelling

scientific evidence to explain the mystery.

The answer may seem obvious. "Behold, it was very good," the Bible's book of Genesis points out after man and

woman fruitfully multiply. But evolutionary biologists have scratched their heads about sexual reproduction for decades because it's far more efficient for living things to reproduce solo.

The ability to self-fertilize offers huge theoretical advantages. For one thing, you wouldn't need to search and compete for a mate, so you could forget

about speed dating, personal ads and trying to look or sound impressive.

And as a "selfing" organism, all of your offspring would be capable of making babies. Among competitors committed to sexual mating, only half of their offspring could bear young. All else being equal, selfers can multiply

Please see **WHY SEX?** Page A6