

TUESDAY
MAY 30, 2006

The Oregonian



Some sun
High: 77 • Low: 55
For complete weather,
see Living, D22

PORTLAND, OREGON

VOICE OF THE NORTHWEST SINCE 1850

50¢

Morning
update

Headline

Medic from Estacada
shot, killed in Iraq

25-year-old Army medic from Estacada was shot and killed in Iraq Memorial Day, moments after leaving his combat vehicle.

Jeremy Loveless, who served as a volunteer firefighter for the Estacada Fire Department, died from gunshot wounds to the chest in Mosul. He was a field medic in the Army.

Schwab, also a member of the Estacada Fire District, said Loveless began volunteering in 2004 and wanted to become a full-time paramedic. He joined the Army so he could "get the training necessary for it to happen," Schwab said. "When he joined, it was because he had found his path," Schwab said. "He felt that joining the Army would be the fastest way along his path."

Supreme Court will rule on Oregon tobacco case

Justices will review a \$79.5 million judgment against Philip Morris that dates to 1999

By ASHBEL S. GREEN
THE OREGONIAN

The U.S. Supreme Court today agreed to review a \$79.5 million punitive damage award issued by an Oregon jury against tobacco giant Philip Morris.

The decision further delays resolution of the long-standing case, which began in 1999 when a Multnomah County jury ruled against the cigarette maker in favor of Jesse Williams, a former Portland jan-

itor and smoker.

In taking the case, the nation's highest court is expected to scrutinize the size of the punitive damage award, the largest standing verdict against a tobacco company.

The court in recent years has attempted to clamp down on the size of punitive damage awards, but its guidelines have left room for courts to consider the specific facts of the case.

The Supreme Court already has vacat-

ed the \$79.5 million punitive damage award once, ordering the Oregon courts to take a second look.

Both the Oregon Court of Appeals and the state Supreme Court reviewed the award and decided that Philip Morris' conduct in deceiving the public about the dangers of smoking warranted a punitive damage award nearly 100 times the compensatory damages, which were about \$800,000.

The U.S. Supreme Court generally has said punitive damage awards should be no greater than 10 times the compensatory damages.

The court will not hear oral arguments in the Williams case until its next term, which begins in October. A decision is expected either late this year or early next year.

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