

News in Brief

**Chemical depot faces lawsuits**

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A chemical weapons depot used by the Army that has weathered bomb threats and false alarms now faces a lawsuit from workers who claim they were sickened by highly toxic nerve gas and mustard agents.

The 18 workers, who are build-

ing an incinerator at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, claim the Army is hiding leaks that occurred on Sept. 15, 1999.

In filing the federal lawsuit Monday, lawyer James E. McCandlish sought an injunction to halt construction of the incinerator in eastern Oregon near Hermiston until certain safety protections are in place. The suit also seeks compensation and damages for the workers.

**Venezuela re-elects President Hugo Chavez**

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelans set off fireworks and danced in the streets Monday to celebrate the re-election of President Hugo Chavez, whose "social revolution" has given new hope to the country's poor and whose fiery rhetoric has terrified the wealthy.

Partial results indicated Chavez allies won 60 percent of Congress' 165 seats, a clear majority, but not the two-thirds he wanted to complete his overhaul of Venezuela's politi-

cal and social landscape. A two-thirds majority is needed to rubber-stamp the president's choices for posts such as the Supreme Court, attorney general and election board.

With 84 percent of the votes counted, the National Electoral Council gave 59 percent to Chavez and 38 percent to his main challenger, former Zulia Gov. Francisco Arias Cardenas. Turnout among the 12 million eligible voters was higher than expected, at 56 percent.

After initially refusing to do so, Arias conceded defeat Monday and pledged to continue his battle against Chavez's regime.

"I responsibly assume a position of struggle and of work to build freedoms and better conditions for the whole country," Arias told reporters.

Earlier, outside the presidential palace, a nine-piece salsa band lit up and people danced in the streets, hugging complete strangers and yelling "We won!"

Chavez to be re-elected in Venezuela

With 84 percent of the votes counted, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez appears to have won re-election. Partial results also indicate that he will win 60 percent of the 165 congressional seats.

President Hugo Chavez

His social revolution encouraged the poor and terrified the wealthy.

99%

Over 56% of eligible voters turned out to vote.

Francisco Arias Cardenas  
Former Governor of Zulia

Source: Compiled from AP wire news.

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