

Budget Won't Slow School Progress



Lew Frederick

Funding issues will not stand in the way of improving Portland public schools.

The district took \$24 million in cuts to balance its budget this year, but continues on a schedule to produce the best educated students in the nation.

District spokesman Lew Frederick said it's a matter of willpower.

"We're not going to be spending a lot of time talking about the budget," Frederick said. "Our vision is to provide the best programs with or without the

money."

The potential for more cuts next year is devastating.

Under the fifth and final year of a property tax limitation measure, Portland public schools could be forced to trim \$50 million next year, which would mean the loss of a third of its teachers, class sizes jumping to 40 children per teacher and no athletics.

"That's what we're facing," Frederick said.

But the district has chartered improvements and new learning techniques with a very clear vision for children.

And under Oregon's Education Act of 1991, schools statewide are working to produce the best students nationwide by the year 2000 and a workforce equal to any in the world by the year 2010.

One of the main benchmarks to meeting these goals is what's being called outcome-based education.

As students move through school, they will be tested to make sure the subject matter is learned. Certificates of mastery will be required for graduation.

To get into college, instead of students just enrolling in two years of French, for

example, they will show they can speak French, Frederick explained.

"What you're going to see happening in high school is courses so tough, parents won't even want to take them," Frederick said.

Under the school reforms, students not making progress at certificate of mastery years, would see intervention on their behalf to provide additional services either in school or at another site.

Early childhood education is another cornerstone of the reform process.

Continued to page A7

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

High Speed Rail Moves Ahead

High speed rail for the Willamette Valley received a big shot in the arm Friday when the Legislative Emergency Board approved \$9 million for track improvement, better grade crossings, and some special projects. "This is great news," said Sen. Bill McCoy, D-North and Northeast Portland. "Improving transportation is the main thing that will keep Oregon livable and economically healthy in the years to come." The money will pay for running a high-tech high-speed train between Portland and Eugene next spring as a three-month demonstration. Mt. Rainier train service between Eugene and Seattle is scheduled to start in October, thanks to earlier funding by the Emergency Board.

Public Radio KPSU Launched

Portland State University begins operation of radio station KPSU Oct. 1 at 1450 khz on the AM band. The frequency formerly was occupied by KPBS, the Portland public schools radio station at Benson High School, cut from school district funding this year. "We believe that our station will fill a programming void and allow students to learn about the business of broadcasting," said KPSU Station Manager Don Nasca. From its production studio in Portland State's Smith Center, KPSU has the potential to reach over 1.5 million listeners daily. Airing from 5 p.m. to midnight, programs will be free from commercials.

Volunteers Needed For Reading

SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) is looking for volunteers to read with kindergarten, first and second graders in 13 Portland public schools. Each volunteer meets for an hour each week to read, one-on-one, with students. The program has helped schools increase student attendance, self-esteem and reading skills. This year's effort starts in mid-October and runs through April. Call the literacy line at 1-800-322-8715 or the Oregon Children's Foundation at 221-2012.

Bottles and Cans To Help Homeless

Portland Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury and former mayor Bud Clark have announced a plan to collect bottles and cans for programs that help the homeless. Kafoury said it may seem like a nickel-and-dime approach, but each year over \$20 million is redeemed in the metro area from bottles and cans. The civic leaders are asking grocers to set up recycling stations where shoppers can donate their bottles and cans to help homeless people. Nature's grocery stores are the first outlets to help out.

Portland Launches EnviroCorps



Gov. Barbara Roberts, Metro commissioner Ed Washington and an AmericaCorps representative at the Portland kick-off to a community service initiative created by President Clinton.

Community Service For College

College students will help pay back government support for their education and learn new skills by working to restore the health of the Columbia Slough in North and Northeast Portland.

The EnviroCorps team is being launched from a \$199,288 grant from AmericaCorps, a community service initiative created by President Clinton and approved by Congress.

The Portland program, based on the Portland State University campus, will provide learning and labor opportunities for 20 young adults in the metropolitan area.

EnviroCorps will center around environmental and public access improvements to north and northeast Portland's Columbia Slough. Metro regional government and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service are partners in the project.

Officials said the recruitment for EnviroCorps participants is under way. Ten part-time and eight full-time members are needed for a variety of community service projects, including restoration of natural resources, construction of interpretive

trails and exhibit areas, and the training and mentoring of high-school youth. Two full-time team leaders will round out the program.

"This program is really a prototype of what PSU as an urban university wants to be," said Barry Messer, EnviroCorps education director.

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Messer has coordinated other service learning projects at PSU's Center for Urban Studies. He says the program is a means of opening education opportunities for young people while providing valuable service learning experiences for potential and existing college students.

Full-time members will receive a single-year living allowance of \$7,600, while part-time members receive \$4,023. All members will be eligible for health care and child care

benefits. Full-time members completing a year of service will receive a \$4,725 education award to be used to continue education and job training or to repay existing student loans. Part-time participants receive a \$2,363 education award.

Amy Spring, EnviroCorps recruitment

Haiti Door Opens To U.S. Army

Waves of U.S. troops entered Haiti this week as peacekeepers, rather than invaders because of an agreement reached by a team of U.S. negotiators.

Former President Jimmy Carter, Gen. Colin Powell and Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., struck the deal just as U.S. troops left Fort Bragg, N.C. to invade the tiny Caribbean nation.

A key element turned out to be the respect Haiti's military officers had for Powell, America's former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and first African-American to head the U.S. military.

"It could not have been possible without the superb respect that the Haitian military leaders have for Gen. Colin Powell," Carter said. "They see him as a fellow officer whose global reputation is unexcelled."

Powell said he appealed to the military chiefs to put their nation's interest above their own.

Persuaded the U.S. negotiators were honestly trying to broker a deal and knowing that an invasion was underway, the Haitians finally decided to take the proposed agree-

Continued to page A7

Second Portlander Elected To Black Tourism Board



Peggy C. Ross, President/Ross Development and newly elected national board member of the African American Travel and Tourism Assn. Region 5, which governs Oregon, Washington and six other states.

On the heels of the recent election of Portland's Roy Jay as national vice president of the African American Travel and Tourism Association, came another Oregonian to the board of directors for Region 5.

Peggy C. Ross was unanimously elected as one of seven regional board members for the organization. Ross, who heads Ross Business Development Group in Portland will be the national board member which governs Oregon, Washington and six other states.

Ross has been involved in various aspects of the minority convention and tourism development program and assisting Oregon Convention and Visitor Services in various marketing approaches. "She has worked tirelessly, behind the scenes, sometimes volunteering until 2AM and 4AM on various ATTA organization projects" said Roy Jay.

Although Ross was not present at the national election held in New Orleans, the

Continued to page A7

Moose Withdraws Resume For Federal Job

Portland Police Chief Charles Moose has changed his mind, withdrawing his application to direct federal crime bill legislation.

Moose said it was important for him to continue as the chief of police in Portland and continue his work with neighbors to solve community problems.

He said the decision was made after a

great deal of consideration and discussion with his wife, Sandy.

The couple recently moved into a house in the King neighborhood of Northeast Portland, setting example of efforts to improve the livability of inner-city neighborhoods.

Moose was appointed police chief 14 months ago by Portland Mayor Vera Katz.

He was one of three finalists for the federal position to direct the administration of the crime bill's provisions relating to the

hiring of 100,000 new police officers.

Tom Potter, a former Portland police chief is still being considered for the position.

Both police officers are nationally recognized authorities on community policing.

Moose pledged his support to the implementation of crime bill programs and for federal law enforcement efforts.

EDITORIAL

HEALTH

HOUSING

METRO

SPORTS

ENTERTAINMENT

CLASSIFIEDS

A2

A5

A6

B1

B2

B3

B6