

**Housing boom has cloudy side**

Race, poverty scholar says wealth benefits neighborhood, not the neighbors.



See Metro, inside.

**Frank Roberts scholar reaches for doctorate**

Former Gov. Barbara Roberts presents award in honor of late husband.



See Education, Page A5.

**Committee to guide state board**

Governor Kitzhaber appoints Northeast business leader to school post.



See Business, Page B4.

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Senate Panel Opens Hearing**

The Senate Judiciary Committee opened hearings Tuesday on competition on the Internet. The panel's chairman, Sen. Orrin Hatch, expressed concerns about the dominance of Microsoft. Hatch, R-Utah, said antitrust law allows consumers to "pick winners and losers" of the marketplace. The Justice Department last month accused Microsoft of violating a court order in the marketing of its Internet Explorer software.

**Judge Hears Au Pair Appeal**

An attorney for the British nanny convicted of murdering a baby says the decision to remove manslaughter as a verdict for the jury to consider was a "mistake." Louise Woodward's attorneys Tuesday asked a judge to overturn or reduce the jury's verdict or order a new trial. The judge said no decision will be made right away.

**Iraq Considering Annan Proposal**

A U.N. official says Iraq has put off a request to extend the deadline for American arms inspectors to leave the country. The U.N. official said Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz agreed only to consider Secretary-General Kofi Annan's proposal that Iraq suspend the deadline until a U.N. team finishes its meetings with Saddam Hussein.

**Election Day Races Abound**

Tuesday was Election Day, and in addition to several key gubernatorial and mayoral races, there were also some hot topics appearing on ballot propositions across the country. There was an assisted suicide vote in Oregon, medicinal use of marijuana and gay rights proposals in Washington state and affirmative action vote in Houston.

**NY Picks Mayor, Key Rep**

Voters in New York go to the polls Tuesday to pick a mayor for the next four years and a member of Congress to fill the seat left vacant by Republican Susan Molinari. In New York City's mayoral race, incumbent Rudolph Giuliani is expected to easily beat Democratic challenger Ruth Messinger and win a second term.

**Whitman in Re-election Fight**

New Jersey voters Tuesday decide the fate of Christine Todd Whitman as the popular, telegenic and determined "new" Republican fights to retain her governorship against a strong challenge by Democrat Jim McGreevey. McGreevey, the mayor of Woodbridge, New Jersey, was riding high in the polls going into what should have been an easy win.

**Fast-Track Faces First Vote**

The Senate Tuesday is expected to take its first vote on President Clinton's request for fast-track trade authority. The president made a final pitch Monday, winning key support from Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle after he promised to push for workers' rights and environmental protection worldwide. Clinton also promised a number of steps to boost U.S. agricultural trade, including voluntary labeling of U.S. meat sold for export.

## Davis rises to new challenge

**Administrator still determined after Humboldt**

By NEIL HEILPERN

"I knew I was going to be a teacher when I was five years old," recalled Applegate Elementary School Principal LaVerne Davis. "Even my dolls went to school."



Applegate Principal LaVerne Davis.

Her desire to be part of "the magic of teaching and watch children grow and learn," has followed Davis' 28 year education career, which recently saw an unexpected rocky and twisted pathway.

She lost her job last year as head of

Humboldt Elementary School, where low test scores prompted Portland school officials to create wholesale changes in staffing.

Davis recalled her move to Humboldt four years ago when "my regional director wanted me to increase parent involvement and get cohesion going in the staff."

"Parents would walk kids to school but not come inside," she told The Portland Observer. "It didn't seem to be user friendly."

Davis claimed success at Humboldt including enticing parents to attend social functions with the children, such as the Halloween haunted house. Gradually, she introduced academic content to those events, such as math night where families played math games. During a "read-in," children wore pajamas as if attending a "sleep-over." Reading/acting was done by children, parents and teachers.



Applegate Elementary Principal LaVerne Davis (right) meets with her instructional aides.

Davis also got teachers to work more closely together, develop mutual trust, to the point where "they felt they were part of the program and could initiate changes."

She was developing plans to create a year-round school to raise students' scores in the Portland Level Achievement Tests.

"We implemented a title I program, increased discipline, and the children even received T-shirts announcing the year-round 'Humboldt Continuing Learning Academy,'" she said. "That's what we were going to be

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## Prop 209 survives

Court refuses to intervene in affirmative action

A California law that ends affirmative-action programs cleared a key hurdle on Monday when the Supreme Court rejected a constitutional challenge to it by civil rights groups.

In denying the appeal without any comment or dissent, the justices let stand the law, known as Proposition 209, that California voters approved a year ago by 54 percent to 46 percent.

The high court's action was a setback for the civil rights groups in their legal battle against the measure. But the action had been foreshadowed in September when the court refused to block enforcement of the law.

Proposition 209 bars the state government and local governments from granting preferential treatment based on race or sex in public employment, education or contracting.

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## Story time brings wonderment

Children at King Elementary intently listen as some of America's favorite story book characters, including Peter Pan, Curious George and Clifford the Big Red Dog are recreated in special Read Me a Story assembly sponsored by Visa and the national Reading is Fundamental organization. (Photo by M. Washington)

## The 'skinny' on Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.

Some say keep medium, but make it smaller

By LEE PERLMAN

If you want to have four lanes of traffic, two lanes of parking and a center median on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and there isn't enough room, which do you choose?

How about a little of each?

This is an approach the Martin Luther King Transportation Project is considering for selected parts of the boulevard. The "skinny median" proposal, suggested by Aviva Groner of the Eliot Neighborhood Association, would replace the current 10 foot wide planted median in the middle of the street with one four feet wide.

Travel lanes would be narrowed from the current 12 feet across to 10 feet. Parking lanes seven feet wide (standard width is eight feet) would be added on both sides.

The approach may be a way to meet two conflicting demands on the boulevard's 58-foot right of way.

Merchants and development interests for years have called for the median's removal as a way to bring back curb parking. However, city and state traffic engineers say the median prevents head-on collisions. Others say it provides a refuge for pedestrians trying to cross the street, as well as a pleasant oasis of trees and greenery.

Consultant Lloyd Lindley stressed to the project's advisory committee that the skinny median approach is "only one more tool, not for universal application" along all parts of the boulevard between Northeast Broadway and Columbia Boulevard.

Project staff have identified three areas where the idea might be tried, all in places where both on-street parking and safe pedestrian crossing is badly needed:

One is between Northeast Russell and Knott streets, where there is already a budding commercial node with businesses such as Doris' Cafe, Steen's Coffee House, Vessels, and Bridge's Soup and Sandwich. Large vacant parcels on the east side of the street

point to more activity here in the future.

Another is the area north of Northeast Fremont Street, a potential future commercial area.

And the third is between Northeast Portland Boulevard and Morgan Street, where Housing Our Families' new Alberta Simmons mixed use project, and a proposed new insurance office, promise more parking demand and foot traffic.

The proposal does have drawbacks. It would require cutting down all the mature trees in the existing median, to be replaced by smaller varieties.

Project manager Andre Baugh says that