

**On The Road With
Destiny's Child**

*This New Group of
Beautiful Young Ladies
will be rockin' the Rose
Garden with Boys II Men
March 30th. See Entertainment, page B3.*



**Happy Mother's
Day To All Of The
Community's
Wonderful Mothers**

*Come and enjoy our
special article just for
moms! See Mother's Day, page A6.*



LONG TIME CHICKEN!
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CHICKEN & BISCUITS
See Popeye's
Coupon's
Inside!

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Oklahoma Federal
Building**

Officials unveiled designs for a \$30 million, three-building complex to replace the bombed federal building. The new structure will be surrounded by trees and connected by a broad sidewalk and will incorporate security standards recommended by the government after the blast but in "a parklike atmosphere."

Social Security Collapse

The Social Security program will have enough money to pay full benefits for the next 33 years, until 2032, three years longer than last year's forecast. This is due to the nation's strong economic growth.

**Israel Celebrates 50
Years**

Israel ushered in celebrations of its 50th birthday. Prime minister Netanyahu called Israel a modern miracle for its cultural, technical and economic accomplishments. The anniversary brought heartfelt displays of homegrown pride.

Abortion Pill

The Abortion Pill call RU-486 was first formally tested in the United States and was successfully used to end pregnancies in 92 percent of women. The study was found that the drug was most effective when given within the first 49 days of pregnancy.

Tobacco Industry

Blue Cross and Blue Shield affiliates filed lawsuits coast to coast against the tobacco industry. The Coalition For Tobacco Responsibility, representing Blue Cross and Blue Shield health insurance plans accused the industry of conspiracy, fraud, misrepresentation and violations of federal racketeering and antitrust laws.

Expanding The Airport

Expansion of the Portland airport will cost \$3.02 billion. A consulting company recommends that future growth at Portland International Airport be placed in a new terminal south of the existing facility, in the area now housing military units. Building of the new runway will not be started until about the year 2020.

**Natural Healing Health
Plans**

Providence Health Plan has started offering a new alternative-care rider that allows businesses that belong to the health plan to pay a little extra to offer their workers insurance coverage for naturopathic physicians and acupuncturists. Providence has offered a similar rider for chiropractic care since 1994.

Minority Women

In a recent survey, minority women business owners have had less success than Caucasian women getting the credit they need from banks. The study had shown that African American and Native American women are more likely to be turned down for loans when starting their businesses.

Jefferson Staff Overhaul

There will be a staff overhaul at Jefferson High School that is designed to create a faculty of top teachers who want to be at the school and to boost lagging academic achievement. But many of the teachers are so offended that they will not reapply.

Alberta Street Fair

NE Alberta threw a street party 16 blocks long, drawing hundreds of people to celebrate its diversity and change. There was live music that included rock, swing, Celtic, bluegrass and folk. Along with the music was an eclectic cuisine served at the sidewalk booths.

Alberta Street Fair



Margo Cole helps volunteer as a "face painter" at this year's Alberta Street Fair. (Photo by M. Washington)

Things have been changing for the better on Alberta Street, and the neighborhood is ready to celebrate. The Alberta Street Fair took place on Saturday, May 2, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Alberta Street between 14th and 33rd avenues. The fair included a horse-drawn trolley providing free rides along the length of the fair. Music from local bands filled the air and dancers and street performers made for a lively scene throughout the day. The fair was a great event for all ages, including art galleries and a crafts marketplace for adults, and a variety of children's activities and art projects for kids. Delicious food from local merchants completed the scene.

The street fair is building on a tradition of multicultural celebrations in the Northeast Portland area. The fair highlighted many of the diverse cultures that make up the rich web of the neighborhoods. The transformation of Alberta Street provides special reason for celebrating. The street was once a thriving

business district and central to the daily lives of many Portland residents. Now, vacant storefronts are being renovated to house new businesses, and many of the original businesses are welcoming a new generation of patrons.

The street fair is part of the Alberta Corridor Plan. Through this plan, Sabin CDC is working with neighborhood business owners, property owners, and residents to improve Northeast Alberta Street. The Plan volunteers are helping to implement projects in four work areas. Street Beautification projects include planting flowers and removing litter to make the street more aesthetically pleasing. Streetscape volunteers are planning for improvements to make the more "user-friendly" for pedestrians and auto traffic, and could include increased lighting, benches, and other traffic calming measures.

Commercial revitalization projects support existing businesses and encourage new businesses to locate on Alberta Street. Training is being offered to support existing businesses and area youth are involved through the Youth incentive and Summer Youth Employment Programs.



Alberta Street Fair

Roberts' Ready to Lead Jefferson High

By LEE PEARLMAN

Lela Tirplett Roberts doesn't have any pat answers as to how she will do it, but she's confident she can turn the Portland School District's hardest case around.

Roberts was appointed interim principal of Jefferson High School last week. She inherits a school where records show 90 percent of the student body is performing below grade levels, attendance is a problem and enrollment is steadily declining. There is also grumbling about the district's latest response: a wholesale staff overhaul that some say punishes good and bad teachers indiscriminately, and further undermines the school's stability.

How did Jefferson get to this place despite district high per-pupil spending and showcase magnet programs in dance and drama?

"It never has worked for me to say, 'Why, why?'" Roberts says impatiently. "It never helps to assign blame. When you have a system that's failed, everyone has a part of the responsibility, including the people in the administration."

What will she do that's different? She will say only that she will use "solid practices known to be effective." A bigger clue may be the attitude she brings to her job. A hint are the mottos on the wall of her office at Joseph Ball School: "All students achieve! No excuses! No exceptions!"

"We'll tell the kids what we expect of them, what we're willing and unwilling to accept," she says. "We'll show them, 'This is where you were, this is where you are, this is what you've achieved. You should be proud of yourselves.' This will give them the motivation to continue."

Asked about students uninterested in learning she says, "I don't believe there are any. I

taught a summer reading program for seven years at Jefferson, and in seven years I didn't meet one kid who said that and really meant it. Kids build up strong defensive mechanisms to deal with all the failures they've experienced in life. It's easier to say you don't care than to deal with a learning problem you have."

Roberts may not believe there are unteachable students, but she definitely thinks there's unacceptable behavior. "I'm the queen of discipline," she says. "I've run a tight ship in every school I've been in. If you treat young people with courtesy and respect, that's what you'll get back."

Another priority is parent involvement, another area where Jefferson now ranks low and where district guidelines call for a 30 percent improvement in the first year. "We're asking parents to get their kids to school every day. We'll give them a free breakfast if they just get them here. If they do no more than that, they'll be on my plus list," she says.

She feels the school's problems have a lot to do with racial expectations. "The kids doing well at Jeff are white kids, males and females. Those not doing well are all the others, with a few exceptions." That can be changed, she says. Her students at Ball School include children "from three housing projects. They've violated a lot of rules about who's supposed to be smart and who isn't."

Now 50, Roberts says she had planned to retire in two years and create a home for "African-American males, age 10 to 13, who have to leave their homes for any reason." Now, although her "interim" appointment is for only one year, she says, "If in one year we make a meaningful difference, as I believe we will, I would want to be considered for the permanent job."

Ex-Black Panther Leader Eldridge Cleaver Dies



Eldridge Cleaver

(Photo By Larry J. Jackson Sr.)

By Arthur Spiegelman
Former Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver, whose 1968 bestseller "Soul on Ice" helped inspire the black power movement died, years after giving up revolution for religion. He was 62.

The onetime minister of information for the Black Panther party and political exile died in a hospital in the Los Angeles suburb of Pomona, not far from the University of La Verne where he worked as a diversity consultant, preaching nonviolence and the brotherhood of man.

A spokeswoman for the Pomona Medical Center, where he died, declined to give the cause of death at the family's request. Cleaver, whose life included spells in

prison and years as a crack addict, had perhaps his biggest influence as an author.

At a time when Martin Luther King Jr. was leading a civil rights movement based on nonviolent civil disobedience and peaceful protest, Cleaver helped ignite the militant black power movement with "Soul on Ice," an autobiographical manual of black rage against a white-dominated society.

It became a bestseller in 1968, the same year Cleaver was wounded in a shootout with police that forced him to flee the country, aided by the radical Weather Underground.

Cleaver spent seven years in Algeria, Cuba, the Soviet Union, North Korea and

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