

**African Drums to Sound** at SEI Auditorium

See Focus, Page B2



PCC Zooms-in on Careers From A to Z

See Careers, Special Section C



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"The City Of Roses

Wednesday June 6, 2001

gas and a dirty air ventilation system.

school, from the building.

Whitaker Middle School reopened Monday after losing six days of the school year because of high levels of radon

The decision to reopen the northeast Portland school

The lab reported radon levels ranging from 0.2 to 3.5 pCi/

L in all but one room. In that room, the radon level was

reported at 6.1 pCi/L. The federal Environmental Protection

The district took the precaution of moving students in the

Fans have been running 24-hours a day to vent the radon,

In addition, the district is responding to staff and parent

concerns about overall air quality in the building by thor-

oughly cleaning all horizontal and vertical surfaces, and

of the district's facilities and asset management depart-

"It will be a full-force effort," said Pam Brown, director

During the summer, the district will have a certified

industrial hygienist look at the building and recommend

additional actions to improve air quality. The district will

Still, about 220 kids did not return to class Monday.

Some parents have requested transfers from the school

The district also released the second round of radon test

The second round of tests conducted at Gregory Heights

The second round of tests conducted at Kelly found levels

ranging from 0.2 to 3.0 pCi/L in all but three rooms. In those

three rooms, radon was reported at levels of 6.1, 13.0 and

25.5 pCi/L. The district has moved students in these three

More accurate long-term tests for radon will be made during summer break and throughout the next school year at

all three schools, according to Brown. "We will seal cracks

and improve ventilation systems as needed and will retest

results for both Gregory Heights Middle School and Kelly

Elementary, two other northeast schools that closed follow-

and others have taken homework packets home to home-

removing and cleaning the building's vents.

take corrective actions as recommended.

school their children for the rest of the year.

ing reports of radon gas lurking in the buildings.

classrooms to spaces elsewhere in the building.

until the levels are acceptable," said Brown.

found levels ranging from 0.2 to 3.0 pCi/L

a radioactive byproduct from rock in the ground beneath the

classroom with a level of 6.1 pCi/L to space elsewhere in the

followed a second round of test results from Key Technol-

ogy, Inc., an EPA-accredited radon testing lab.

Agency's acceptable level of radon gas is 4 pCi/L.

50¢

#### Police Find Guns, Squalor in Rural Idaho Home

SANDPOINT, Idaho - Sheriff's deputies have recovered ammunition and five guns amid the feces-strewn squalor where the six McGuckin children lived in the north Idaho woods. The arrest of their mother, JoAnn, prompted the children to hole up in the ramshackle home for five days, keeping officials at bay with the help of their 27 dogs. The children surrendered to sheriff's deputies and were taken to a hospital. A hearing was scheduled Tuesday to determine if they should remain in state custody or be returned to her care.

#### Peru's New President Faces Tough Road

LIMA, Peru -- Peru's president-elect was swept to power largely by the poor, Indian majority. Now Alejandro Toledo faces the daunting task of not letting them down in one of South America's most troubled nations. The self-styled "Indian with a cause" must battle a four-year recession, deliver jobs and higher wages in a nation mired in poverty, and root out the remnants of corruption left by a previous government. Toledo, 55, became Peru's first freely elected president of Indian descent on Sunday when he defeated former President Alan Garcia.

### **Iraq Halts Oil Exports**

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Iraq stopped exporting oil to all but neighboring Turkey and Jordan. The indefinite halt was meant to protest a U.N. decision to extend by one month instead of the usual six months the program under which Iraq can sell oil. Iraq had been pumping about 3 million barrels

#### You May Have a Free **Rental Coming Your Way**

MIAMI - Blockbuster is offering to settle 23 class-action lawsuits by customers claiming they've paid inflated fees for overdue video rentals and that the company profited unfairly as a result. The total settlement could approach \$450 million. All customers charged extended viewing or non-return fees at its stores between Jan. 1, 1992, and April 1, 2001, will be eligible for refunds if Blockbusters offer is approved by the federal court. To qualify, customers must fill out and return claim forms - now being attached to store receipts - before Dec. 15.

#### **Nevada Lawmakers Approve Internet Gambling Bill**

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Legislators have approved a bill allowing Nevada to become the first state in the nation to offer Internet gambling, a jackpot that could be worth \$6 billion to casinos by 2003. Lawmakers approved the bill even though the Justice Department considers Internet gambling illegal. Experts estimate that revenues from Internet gambling - largely conducted by offshore companies because of the U.S. ban - reached \$1.5 billion last year and could quadruple by 2003.

#### Captors, Hostages Spotted in Southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines - A boatload of hostages and their Muslim extremist captors was spotted off a southern Philippine island. The report came as Philippine military officials said the United States offered to help the Philippines search for the 20 hostages, who were snatched from a re-

#### President's Daughters Investigated

AUSTIN, Texas - President Bush's 19-year-old daughter, Jenna, tried to purchase alcohol at a restaurant using someone else's identification card, police said. Less than a month ago, Jenna Bush pleaded no contest to a charge of being a minor in possession of alcohol in another incident.

# Whitaker Reopens After Clean Sweep

### More actions to reduce radon, improve air quality to come

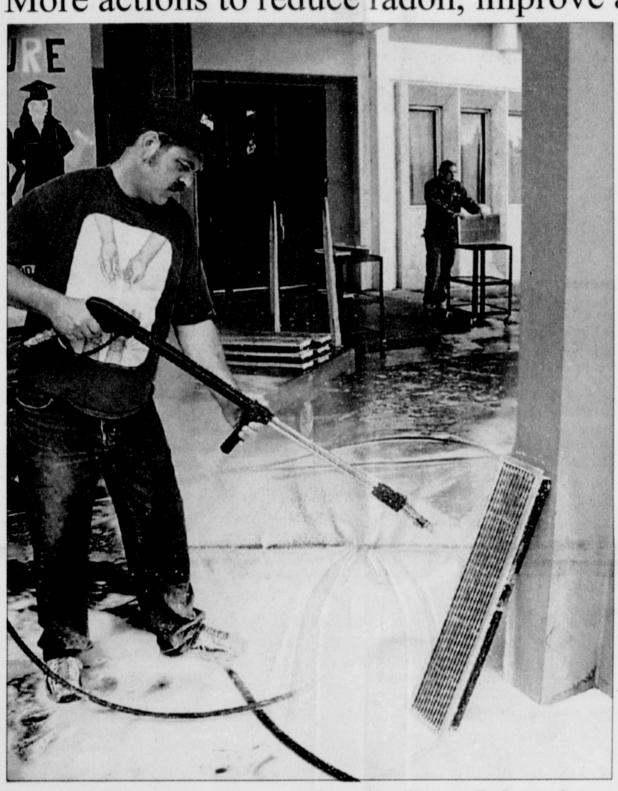


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A worker for a Portland cleaning company takes aim at a dirty ventilation grill at Whitaker Middle School Saturday as the Portland School District worked to improve air quality at the school.

### Woman Killed on UP Campus Strangled, Sexually Assaulted



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Police on the University of Portland campus look for clues in the slaying of a woman found dead in her dorm.

(AP) - A 21-year-old woman found dead in a University of Portland dormitory room was strangled and sexually assaulted, the Multnomah County medical examiner's office said. Friends discovered the body of Catherine Mary Helen Johnson, of Vancouver, a senior at the small Catholic university, in her Mehling Hall room on May 29. Johnson, a music major at the north Portland school, was last seen two days earlier, when she had dinner with friends.

Police would not confirm the cause of death listed Thursday in an autopsy report by Dr. Nicholas Hartshorne, deputy medical examiner for Multnomah County. The school is in summer session, and only about 150 students now live on campus. About 2,600 are enrolled during the school year.

John Goldrick, vice president for student services, has said there were no signs of forced entry into the dormitory. Only two students had coded access cards to the building, and they were both female, university officials said. Johnson is the only student to have been killed on campus. In December 1981, a university computer specialist was fatally shot by a campus janitor, who then took his own life in the engineering building

### 2001 Queen of Rosaria

Wesley Grout of Lincoln High School was crowned the 2001 Rose Festival Queen Thursday. Wesley has been an active member of student government throughout high school and was on the varsity ski team. After graduation, she plans to attend the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in San Francisco to study fashion design.



## **PCC Cascade Moves** to Condemn Properties

BY LEE PERLMAN

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In their quest to expand the Portland Community College Cascade Campus, administrators are beginning to use the "condemna-

The college's board has asked vice president for administrative services Randy McEwan to prepare a resolution authorizing the use of condemnation - the purchase of private property without the owner's consent - for dozens of properties on the campus's periphery. The board is expected to adopt the resolution at its June 21 meeting.

McEwan listed the parcels in the following

order of priority, as:

· An enclosed parking lot on the northeast side of campus near Jackson Hall;

• The remainder of a square block, south of North Killingsworth Street and west of Jefferson High School, part of which the college already owns;

• The Albina Christian Life Center building at 5522 N. Albina Ave.

· Fourteen properties, mostly single family homes, located on the west side of North Albina and the east side of North Mississippi, and between Killingsworth and Jessup

Meanwhile, McEwan told the board, PCC **CONTINUEDON PAGE A7**