



Schools Look to Overhaul Desegregation

A two-decades old policy fails to close achievement gap

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

First 9-11 Indictment Issued

WASHINGTON — A federal grand jury indicted a French Moroccan who has been detained in the terrorism investigation since raising suspicions by seeking flight lessons in Minnesota a month before the Sept. 11 hijackings, officials said.

Study Links Lou Gehrig's Disease to Gulf War Service

WASHINGTON — Americans who served in the Gulf War were nearly twice as likely to develop Lou Gehrig's disease as other military personnel, the government reported. It was the first time officials acknowledged a scientific link between Gulf service and a specific disease.

New Social Security Plan Released

WASHINGTON — Americans would retire with fewer Social Security benefits but with personal investment accounts under three privatization plans being considered by a White House panel. The draft does not recommend a solution, but says policy-makers should discuss the issues for at least a year before taking action.

Annan, U.N. Accept 2001 Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, Norway — Saying "humanity is indivisible," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan accepted the centennial Nobel Peace Prize. Annan has given "the U.N. an external prestige and an internal morale," Nobel Committee chairman Gunnar Berge said.

U.S., Russia Fail to Agree on Nukes, Missile Defense

MOSCOW — Sec. of State Colin Powell failed to persuade Russian President Vladimir Putin to ease objections to U.S. plans for missile defense. Powell was unable to resolve the long-simmering missile defense issue or get a firm commitment from Russia on reducing its stockpiles.

Ebola Outbreak Grows

GENEVA — Eleven people, almost all from an extended family, have died in the latest outbreak of Ebola as experts race to contain the highly contagious disease in the West African nation of Gabon.

Taliban Abandons Kandahar; Omar Still Missing

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban forces abandoned their last bastion of Kandahar, with witnesses saying joyous residents poured into the streets and tore down the Taliban white flag. Afghanistan's interim leader said Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar was missing.

Unemployment Jumps

WASHINGTON — The nation's unemployment rate took another big leap upward in November to 5.7%, the highest level in six years, as 331,000 more Americans lost their jobs, the government reported Friday.

Plans Call for Demolishing Former Adams High

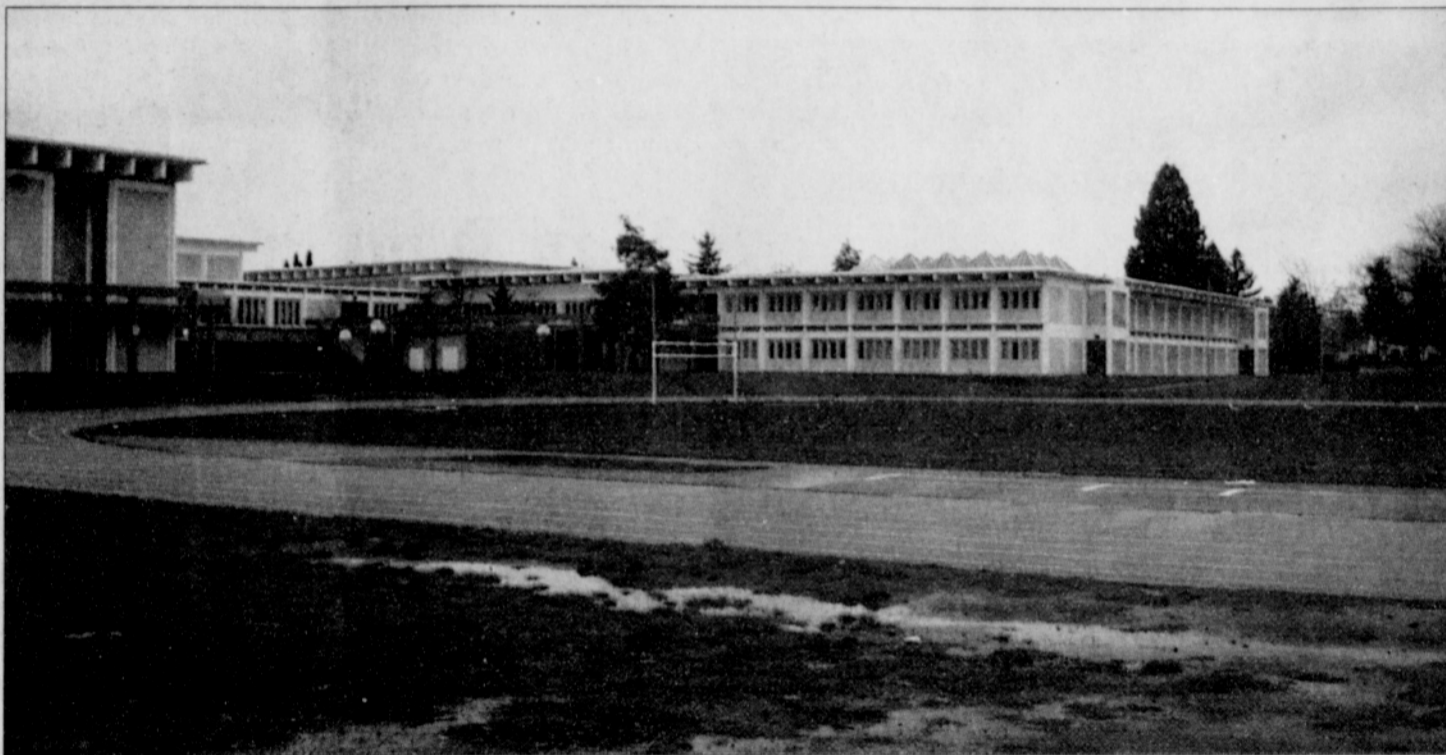
The Portland School District announced plans Monday to tear down the former Adams High School at 5700 N.E. 39th, replacing it with a new middle school.

The vacant building most recently served as Whitaker Middle School, but closed this summer because of mold, radon and other environmental hazards.

The estimated cost for a new school is \$10 million, compared to an estimated \$8 million to repair the school.

Adams opened in the fall of 1969 and would be Portland's newest high school if it were still operational. The district gave no date for demolition and no details on financing a state-of-art middle school facility.

Interim School District Superintendent Jim Scherzinger is urging a mix-used development that would return part of the campus to housing and generate revenue for the public school system.



The former John Adams High School in northeast Portland sits in a state of disrepair. School contractors say there's no way to cost-effectively save any part of the building which first opened to students in the fall of 1969.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Crews Tear Down Walnut Park Theater

Michael Martin, the owner of Northwest General, oversees the demolition of the former Walnut Park Theater, a northeast Portland landmark being razed to clear the way new development along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on the block north of Alberta Street.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Concordia Welcomes New Seasons Market

Long journey from an abandoned block to a vibrant community asset ends



The first customers wind through the check stand at New Seasons Market in the Concordia neighborhood.



Carley Curtis (left), store manager for New Seasons Market on Northeast 33rd and Brian Rohter, store president.

BY LEE PERLMAN

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"Look what we did!" manager Brian Rohter exclaimed, pointing around him in the new Concordia New Seasons Market.

The 29,000 square foot grocery at 5320 N.E. 33rd, just off Killingsworth held its grand opening last week. Staff, neighbors and dignitaries symbolically "broke bread" - sharing a loaf of baguette bread several feet long - and receiving commemorative salt shakers.

The new store will feature natural and organically grown foods, including free range chicken, much of it grown and pro-

duced by local concerns, store representatives say. However, they add, it will also carry national brands when they are significantly cheaper. Baked goods, soups and deli items are produced on site daily, with a seating area for on-premises consumption.

Noting the long struggle to get the store built, Rohter said, "Eighteen months ago, if you came to this corner, you'd have seen an abandoned store with a fence around it, and a community crying for a grocery." The new store represents "what happens when you have a committed neighborhood, private enterprise and city government working together."

For Concordia, another feature of the store is that of its 114 workers, 65 percent are neighborhood residents. Many are also racial minorities, including store service manager Stanley Jackson.

Urban League of Portland, Executive Director, Margaret Carter said New Seasons came to the organization to find the right mix of workers and "lived up to its part of the bargain."

The store also contributed the profits of a barbecue outside the store last weekend to the league.

The site had been vacant since the
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Portland Remembers Sept. 11 Victims

(AP) — Standing in the pre-dawn dark, a lone bagpiper played "Amazing Grace" in downtown Portland on Tuesday, encircled by firefighters, police officers and others — many with tears in their eyes.

Among them was Maria Blackwell, who lost friends at the World Trade Center in New York City when it was demolished by hijacked airliners on Sept. 11.

"I talked with those people every day, and after a while you get to know their voices," said Blackwell, who became long-distance friends with employees of the Morgan Stanley office in the World Trade Center while she worked for a satellite branch in Portland.

"They were human like you and me. They had children and families," she said.

About 25 people joined dozens of firefighters and police officers for the early morning memorial service in Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square — responding to a request by President Bush that cities across the country take part in a three-month observance of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"I got up at 4 a.m. to be down here because I don't ever want to forget that moment," said the 48-year-old

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