

# Local Grads Complete Air Force Training

Brandon Scott and Keela Johnson, both of northeast Portland, have graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, they studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs; performed drill and ceremony marches and received physical training and special training in human relations.

The military volunteers also earned credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Scott is the son of Cheryl Scott and Kenneth Scott. He is a 2001 graduate of Jefferson High School.

Johnson is the daughter of Sherrill Clark. She graduated from Jefferson in 1997.



Brandon Scott



Keela Johnson

# Oregon Now Worst in Nation for Jobs

BY WILLIAM MCCALL  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oregon's unemployment rate jumped to 7.4 percent in November, the worst jobless rate in the nation for the time being, a state economist said Friday.

Joblessness rose from 6.5 percent in October, which at the time was the second-worst unemployment rate in the nation, behind Washington state's 6.6 percent.

A wave of layoffs has hit the Pacific Northwest's high-tech sector, one cause for the increase in joblessness.

About 125,400 Oregonians were collecting jobless benefits in November, an increase of 52,400 from the month previous, said David Cooke, an economist with the Oregon Employment Department.

Joblessness worsened in the

construction and retail sectors, in manufacturing, including high-tech, Cooke said. Freightliner, the DaimlerChrysler heavy truck subsidiary based in Portland, has laid off about 700 workers this year. The new jobless figures do not include 670 workers who are being laid off at a Fujitsu semiconductor plant in the Portland suburb of Gresham. The company announced at the end of last

month it was closing the plant.

Earlier this fall, Oregon became the first state in the nation to declare a recession.

The flagging economy is wreaking havoc with the state budget. Economists have reduced their revenue estimates by \$700 million since legislators wrapped up the 2001-03 budget in July, mostly because of recession-caused drop in tax collections.

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