

## School Custodians, Minorities Fight for Jobs



Gerri Washington of Jobs With Justice testifies before the Portland School Board to support the district's custodians and janitors whose jobs could be eliminated under proposed budget cuts. The union representing 486 full time workers in Portland schools, and many more part-time employees, says about 25 percent of the school workforce are minorities.

PHOTO BY DAN SHEA

Custodians in the Portland public schools have a plan to help save the district money while saving their own jobs.

The workforce, represented by the Service Employees International union, has offered to forgo pay increases for the next year. They would also pay a portion of their health care benefits and work for 9 days without pay.

Portland Public Schools has

486 full-time workers and many more part-time employees doing janitor and custodial work. According to the union, about 25 percent of that workforce is a minority employee.

The Portland School Board will vote Monday, March 18 on a proposal to hire private contractors to replace its janitorial workforce. District officials say the move would save money.

## Walgreen's Proposes Killingsworth Store

A Walgreen's drug and variety store may soon be build adjacent to the New Seasons Market at North-east 33rd and Killingsworth.

Irma Ferchaud of Nicholson Development of Everett, Wash., owner of the property, says that her company has submitted a design review application for a 15,000 square foot Walgreen's at the northwest corner of the property.

It would share the parking lot now used by the New Seasons market at the south end of the property, the Rib Express on the west side, and Figueroa's Pizza and a liquor store on the north.

Nicholson originally proposed to build a Rite-Aid drug store on the site, formerly the Wilshire Park Sentry Market. To win community support for this, the company said it would seek a grocery store as co-occupant. The Rite-Aid deal eventually fell through, but in the meantime Nicholson recruited New Seasons which opened in the fall.

## PATTON HOME

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Patton Home has contributed to the Albina neighborhood for over 100 years, providing independence, dignity, and choice to low-income elders and people with disabilities.

Among the services offered by Patton Home are:

- 3 home-cooked meals a day, plus snacks
- Housekeeping, maintenance, and laundry
- Transportation coordination
- Help with medications & routine nursing tasks
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- Health and wellness classes
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## New Vote-by-mail Rules Ordered

(AP)—Citing the tumultuous 2000 presidential vote in Florida, Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury set new standards Thursday for counting punch card votes and notifying people when their mail ballots aren't counted.

Bradbury's directive defines in greater detail what constitutes a vote in punch card counties. It gives county elections officials guidance on what to do about "hanging chads" by including

pictures and clear directions on how to determine voter intent in each case.

One of the key elements in the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to end the 2000 Florida recount was the fact that Florida counties didn't have uniform standards for what constitutes a punch card vote.

"Approximately one-third of Oregon voters still vote using punch cards, and our directive will ensure that every county in

Oregon uses the same standards to determine voter intent," Bradbury said.

The secretary of state's directive also contains provisions requiring counties to prepare a security plan and file it with the Elections Division. It must include measures to ensure the security of ballots during transportation and processing and the security of vote tally systems and computer records.

# NEW SEASONS MARKET

WHAT'S THE

*real beef*  
ON  
*corned beef?*

FIND OUT THIS WEEKEND



## Benefit BBQ

SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
11:00AM-5:00PM

**\$5**

GRILLED NEW SEASONS  
HOMEMADE SAUSAGE

or

GRILLED VEGETABLES  
(both served on an organic  
New Seasons Market bun)

with

FRUIT, SODA & A COOKIE

*a benefit for Friends of Trees*

bringing neighbors together for tree planting  
and tree care projects



*The friendliest store in town.*

EASY & FUN TO SHOP • LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

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Portland OR 97211  
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### ORENCO STATION

NE 61st & Cornell Rd.  
Hillsboro OR 97124  
503.648.6968  
Open 8am-10pm

### RALEIGH HILLS

7300 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy.  
Portland OR 97225  
503.292.6838  
Open 8am-9pm

### SELLWOOD

1214 SE Tacoma  
Portland OR 97202  
503.230.4949  
Open 8am-10pm