

# New Principal Hired at Benson

Albany educator described as leader who can take on tough issues

Christie Plinski has been hired as the next principal at Benson High School.

Plinski has served as principal at South Albany High School for the past three years.

School district officials said a team of students, staff, and Benson community members forwarded her candidacy from a strong candidate pool.

Plinski is a former high school English teacher and counselor. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and education from the University of Puget Sound and a Master of Sciences degree in counseling from Oregon State University.

"She's an educational leader who can communicate a vision, listen to others, and take on tough issues," said Pat Bedore, superin-

tendent of Albany schools.

Members of the Benson staff selection committee described her as a timely, focused and very pragmatic leader who has experience with diverse cultures.

A Benson student involved in the hiring process described her as "an extremely nice person with a warm personality. She stood out from the rest. (It) seemed like she cared a lot about what we thought about the school's good qualities and also the things that needed to be improved. She also knew a lot about the different technical professions, which I found to be very interesting."

Plinski will begin meeting the Benson staff and community soon. She will officially assume the duties as Benson's principal on July 1st.

# McGovern Helps Dedicate New Food Bank

Terrorism linked to hunger in northeast Portland address

(AP) — Former U.S. Sen. George McGovern used the dedication of a new food warehouse in northeast Portland Sunday to talk about the link between hunger and terrorism in developing countries.

In his dedication speech for the Oregon Food Bank's new 108,000-square-foot storage building, McGovern said that terrorists can exploit gaps in national wealth to recruit young people who feel desperate enough to resort to acts of violence.

"If I were President Bush, I would put some of the homeland security budget into reducing the misery and hunger in developing countries," McGovern said.

McGovern, a Democrat from South Dakota who lost the 1972 presidential election to Richard Nixon, is now a United Nations global ambassador on world hunger.

McGovern's efforts to fight



The Oregon Food Bank dedicated its new warehouse in northeast Portland Sunday with former presidential candidate George McGovern.

hunger worldwide go back decades. As he finished his tour as a World War II bomber pilot in 1945, he dropped food packets to hungry people in Europe at the order of his commanding officer, Gen. Nathan Twining.

As a senator in 1968, McGovern developed legisla-

tion for a program that sent U.S. farm surpluses to underdeveloped countries.

Then he teamed with then-Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., to establish no-cost and reduced-cost school lunch programs, a broader food stamp program for low-income Americans, and the Women, In-

fants and Children program to provide produce and milk to pregnant women and mothers with children.

President Bill Clinton appointed McGovern as the U.S. representative to the U.N. food program, and he later was named a U.N. global ambassador on world hunger.

Two years ago, McGovern pushed for the U.N. World Food Program to develop a school lunch program in underdeveloped countries to help improve health and literacy rates.

On Sunday, McGovern told the crowd of 200 who gathered to dedicate the \$11 million warehouse of the importance of U.S. food stamp program. He also condemned cuts to the program made in the 1980s.

"That program is essential to low-income people in America," he said, adding that increasing the minimum wage also would combat hunger in the United States.

# Night Work Begins on Interstate Rail

Nighttime utility work started Monday for the Interstate Max light rail project at North Going and Interstate.

Tri-Met officials said one lane will remain open in all directions during the construction period, which will run from 6 p.m. until 5 a.m. on Mondays through Thursdays for two to three weeks.

The work is being done at night to minimize the impact on the community.

The noisiest work, such as concrete cutting and compacting,

will be done during the day. Construction crews will take precautions to minimize noise during evening and early morning hours.

Construction on the Interstate Max project began in October 2000 and is now

more than 50 percent complete. The project adds 10 MAX stations between the

Expo Center and the Rose Garden and will operate through downtown Portland.

It is scheduled to open September 2004.

# Budget Forces Portland Community College Tuition Raise

The board of directors of Portland Community College, facing college budget cuts of approximately \$2.3 million a year, voted Thursday night to increase tuition by \$5 per credit hour to \$45 per credit hour beginning summer term.

The board next month is expected to also increase the technology fee by 50 cents per credit hour, an increase from \$2.50 to \$3.

The new rates will bring the annual bill for a full-time student to \$2,025. This is approximately a 13 percent increase in tuition for a full-time student. Tuition at community colleges around Oregon ranges from \$38 to \$50 per credit hour.

"The board is striving to keep tuition as low as we possibly can while still providing high-quality education to our residents. We

know that many students are struggling right now to afford college, and that any increase will be tough. It's a balancing act for all of us to manage cuts, services and revenue increases," said Mike Hereford, board chair.

Herford said the college has had more than five years of enrollment growth, but state funding increases have not kept pace with

PCC's rate of growth.

The cuts in state funding to PCC and other community colleges across the state range from 3.6 to 4.5 percent. PCC now receives 55 percent of its revenue from state sources, 25 percent from tuition and 16 percent from local property taxes. The remainder comes from federal funds, grants and other sources.

# Grow Your Own Business Fair Monday

Start up business resources will be made available to east county residents Monday when Gresham hosts an economic development fair at the Gresham City Hall Conference Center, 1333 N.W. Eastman Parkway, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Organizers said if you have thought about starting your own business but don't know where to start, or if you already have a business and are ready to grow or expand, then this is a must-see event.

Presenters at the fair include

Shelly Parini, Gresham Economic Development Manager; a representative from the Mt. Hood Community College Business Center; and Dennis Lloyd with the Small Business Administration.

Other participants include Gresham's Business Assistance Program, East County One Stop, Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce, Gresham Downtown Development Association, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Job Corps, and Women Entrepreneurs of Oregon.

# Jobs Rebound Slightly

(AP) — New figures show jobs are again opening up in the area, but unemployment is still well above the national rate of 6.1 percent.

The unemployment rate in the Portland metropolitan area fell a half-percentage-point in March — to 8.4 percent.

The metro area, which includes

Vancouver, Washington, added a net 1,900 jobs in March, well above the 700 new jobs added in February.

But those numbers still fall far short of restoring January's loss of 20,200 jobs.

Manufacturing continued its losing streak, shedding 800 jobs in March.

# Help For Energy Bills Trickles In

The Oregon Housing and Community Services will release additional funds to help approximately 2,000 low-income households pay their energy bills and prevent service disconnection.

Recipients must qualify for the department's energy assistance programs.

Oregon's high percent unemployment rate, combined with huge increases in the costs of electricity and natural gas, created an overwhelming demand on community assistance programs.

Jim Slusher, President of Community Action Director of Oregon, said although many low income households will benefit from the department's compassionate efforts, an additional 30,000 low-income households are still on agency waiting lists hoping to receive some assistance.

Slusher estimates that nearly 10,000 households have had their power disconnected this winter, with many more likely to come this spring unless more funds become available.

# Federal Judge Backs Oregon Suicide Law

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A federal judge ruled that the U.S. Justice Department lacks the authority to overturn a voter-approved Oregon law allowing physician-assisted suicides.

Jones said Ashcroft at-

tempted to "stifle an ongoing, earnest and profound debate in the various states concerning physician-assisted suicide" with a Nov. 6 directive declaring that assisted suicide was not a "legitimate medical practice."

**It's not whether you win or lose,**

<b>but how</b>			
		<b>you play</b>	
	<b>the game.</b>		

**The game is just a game...** It's how you play that makes it fun, or frustrating, or dangerous. It's true for all types of games — including gambling. Three percent of Oregonians have a gambling problem — and when they play, it's more than a game. The way they play puts them and their families at financial and emotional risk.

If someone you know is playing out of control, call the Problem Gambling Help Line:

# 1-877-2-STOP-NOW

Licensed treatment providers are there to listen, help and make referrals to local treatment centers 24 hours a day.

Or log on to [www.oregonlotteryhelp.org](http://www.oregonlotteryhelp.org) for:

- Warning Signs
- Treatment Centers
- How to Get Help
- Reaching Out

TREATMENT IS FREE, CONFIDENTIAL AND IT WORKS.