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Halloween Party TreatsOriginal snacks with popcorn
and a little imagination

See recipes on page A6

**Elect a President:**Vote early by mail and at
official county dropsites**The Portland Observer**

'City of Roses'

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Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversitywww.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • October 20, 2004**Week in
The Review****Social Security to Rise**

More than 47 million Americans receiving Social Security will get a 2.7 percent increase - an extra \$25, on average - in their monthly checks next year, but much of the increase will be eaten up by higher Medicare premiums.

**Plane Crashes
at MLK Birthplace**

A small plane crashed Tuesday into an auto-body shop near the birthplace of Martin Luther King Jr., killing both people aboard, authorities said.

Glitches in Florida Voting

Voters began casting ballots Monday in Florida, encountering long lines at the polls and a few ballot box glitches four years after the 2000 presidential election fiasco.

**ACLU Cites
Unreliable Lists**

The American Civil Liberties Union said Tuesday that several states are using unreliable procedures to remove felons from voter registration rolls, possibly disenfranchising legitimate voters.

Tuition Increases Slow

The pace of ever-rising college costs has slowed somewhat this year, and students are relying more on private loans rather than grants or other federal sources to finance their education, according to two new studies.

CARE Director Kidnapped

Gunmen in Iraq seized the director of CARE International - a woman who has worked on behalf of Iraqis for three decades - as the British government on Tuesday weighed a politically volatile American request to transfer soldiers to dangerous areas near Baghdad.

Cave Looter Faces Charges

Former insurance agent Jack Harelson maintained he did nothing wrong when he excavated an ancient American Indian gravesite in Nevada's Black Rock Desert. Now he faces charges he paid \$10,000 in opals in an attempt to have the judge, chief investigator and an informant in the case murdered.

Voters Urged to Maintain Tax*Appeal puts
schools, senior
programs at risk*BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Advocates for children and seniors argue that a temporary Multnomah County income tax has done exactly what it's supposed to do: put a band-aid on ailing schools, social programs and healthcare affecting our most vulnerable populations.

But one year into the promise of needed funding, the three-year 1.25 percent voter-approved income tax is in jeopardy because of Ballot Measure 26-64, a referendum to repeal the levy.

Portland Public Schools alone would lose \$43 million if a 'yes' votes wins in the Nov. 2 vote-by-mail election.

Lew Frederick, the spokesman for Portland Public Schools, says the district is prepared to cut six weeks off the school year if 26-64 passes.

The loss of income taxes also would evaporate budgeted monies for 329 county jail beds.

"It would affect everybody in the community when you talk in terms of public safety," said Sarah Carlin Ames, spokesperson for Stop the Repeal, No on 26-64 campaign. "The sheriff is very concerned that violent criminals might not have a place in the jail and criminal confidence would rise when people realize they can break into your house without doing time."

Vanessa Gaston, president of Portland's Urban League, expects cuts to the Multicultural Senior Center in northeast Portland will be great.

The center is heavily funded by Multnomah County, and co-sup-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL RUBENSTEIN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Esther Etuk pauses in the lobby of her north Portland apartment building as she faces the prospect of losing vital medical services if voters repeal Multnomah County's income tax. Etuk was kicked off the Oregon Health Plan the last time government budgets were cut. She suffers from degenerative bone disease, osteoarthritis, edema of the legs and low oxygenation of the blood.

ported by the Urban League and Loaves and Fishes.

"The program will be dramatically cut or it may be done away with. We just won't know until after the election and we're hoping this repeal does not pass," said Gaston.

The senior center serves between 300 and 400 seniors each month with planned activities, meals, case management and transportation.

Kim Feicke, director of Small Schools Northwest at Lewis & Clark College, says she opposes Mea-

sure 26-64 because of its affect on schools.

"Portland has been working really hard to improve educational opportunities for all students and close the achievement gap, but this measure is going to make it impos-

sible for the district to provide adequate education," Feicke said.

Exactly which Multnomah County service programs that will suffer cuts or elimination if Measure 26-64 passes is not clear. *continued* ▼ on page A8

Major Gains at Ball Elementary*Principal awarded
for outstanding
achievement*

One local principal is being rewarded for making major gains in education.

Third graders from Ball Elementary School, 4221 N. Willis Blvd., met state benchmarks in math, an improvement from 85 to 100 percent. The same group also climbed from 57 to 97 percent of reading benchmarks since 1992.

The school, previously labeled a "school in crisis," is comprised of 31 percent African-American students and 32 percent Latino students with 84 percent of the student population qualifying for free and reduced-priced lunch.

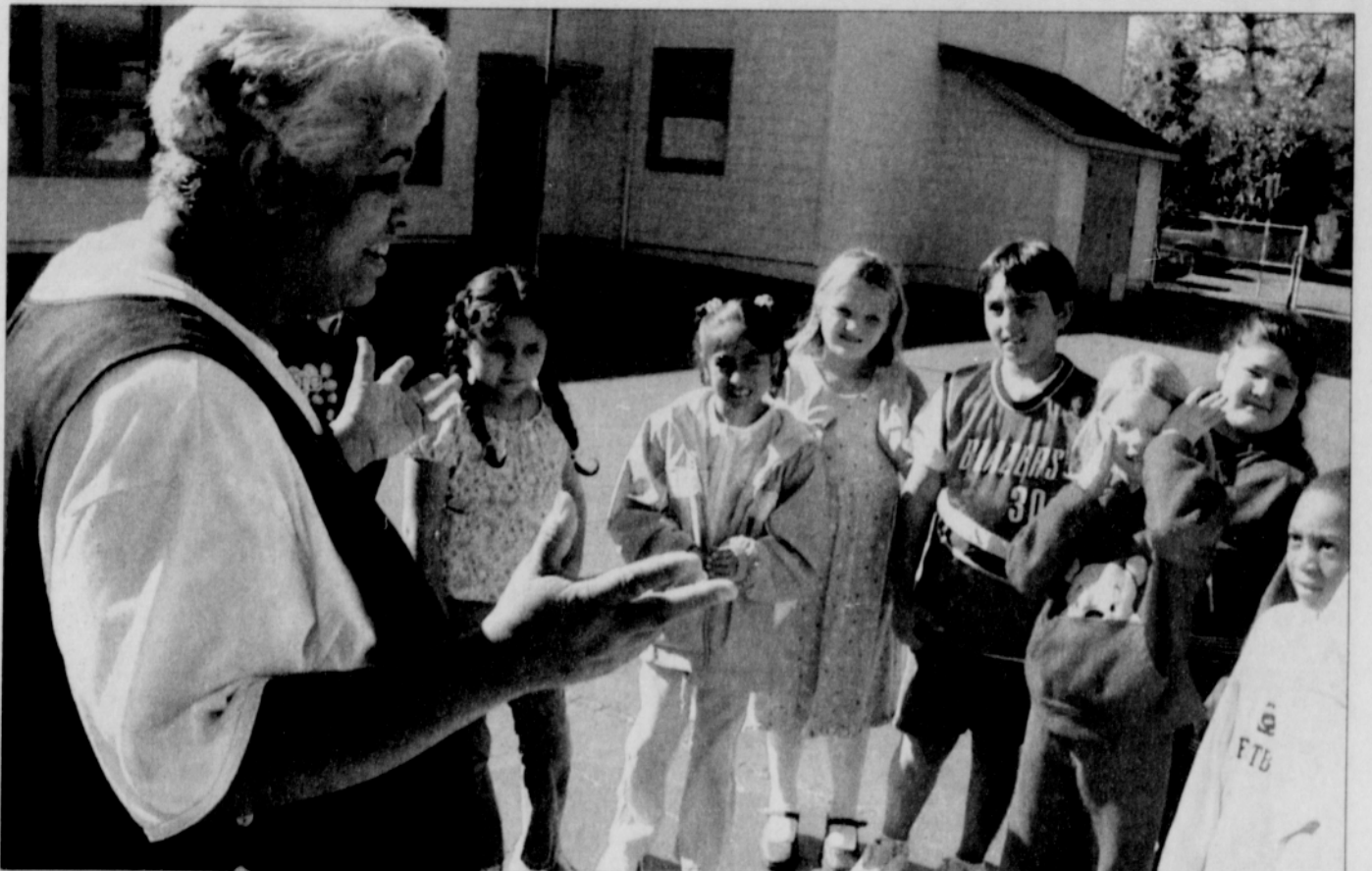
Tamala Newsome, principal, turned scores around by revamping kindergarten curriculum to focus on literacy and by retraining teachers to implement special methods of teaching for children afflicted with poverty.

"Here at John Ball Elementary School, we teach children, not curriculum," Newsome said. "If any one child doesn't respond to what we have, we don't stop looking until we find something that meets that child's needs."

Newsome was awarded \$25,000 by the Milken Family Foundation, honoring educators for excellent achievement.

The announcement was made at a recent all-school assembly with a surprise appearance by former NFL star Rosey Grier, who spoke about the award.

Newsome will also participate in the annual Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference and meet the president in Washington, DC.



Principal Tamala Newsome grasps the attention of kids at Ball Elementary School at lunchtime recess.

Other schools in north and northeast Portland also showing gains in test scores include Whitaker Middle School and Jefferson High School. Whitaker improved reading scores by 15 points, jumping from 34 to 49 percent since 2004. Jefferson's reading scores have improved by 12 percentage points from 2003 to 2004, though the school remains below state averages.

Here at John Ball Elementary School, we teach children, not curriculum. If any one child doesn't respond to what we have, we don't stop looking until we find something that meets that child's needs.

—Principal Tamala Newsome

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