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Proposed School Closures Hit Home

Impact greatest in north and northeast

A massive plan to shift school assignments and close six Portland Public Schools has its greatest impact in north and northeast Portland.

The proposed changes announced at a school board meeting Monday night would require about 3,000 students overall to be moved to different schools throughout the city.

Superintendent Vicki Phillips' plan would include expanding Jefferson High, converting two schools into magnet programs and changing attendance boundaries at four schools. Phillips' basis for

the proposal is declining enrollment, an unsteady budget and the need to raise achievement.

This would be the most dramatic shakeup of local schools since 1981, when three high schools and four elementary schools were closed.

Three public meetings in the next three weeks are expected to bring neighborhood opposition to the plan.

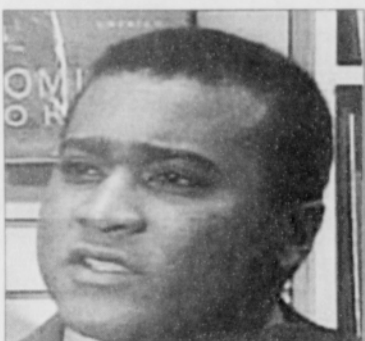
The proposal would close

Tubman and Whitaker Middle Schools in north and northeast Portland, moving seventh and eighth graders to an expanded Jefferson High School, which has an issue with low achievement and dropping enrollment.

Applegate and Kenton Elementary Schools in north Portland would close, as well as Edwards Elementary in southeast Portland and Smith Elementary in southwest Portland.

Ockley Green Middle School in north Portland would be expanded serve grades kindergarten to eighth as an arts and science magnet school. Richmond Elementary in southeast Portland would exclusively become a magnet school for students who study Japanese.

Other boundary changes would affect Franklin and Grant High Schools and Rieke and Hayhurst Elementary Schools.



Derry Jackson

School Board Member Sentenced

Portland School Board member Derry Jackson was sentenced to two years probation on Monday for violating a restraining order and contacting his estranged wife, Bernel Jackson, via telephone.

Jackson will have to attend an anger management class and repay the state \$120 in court-appointed attorney fees. It was noted that Jackson had not paid child support since September of 2003, so he was not asked to pay any fines by his wife's attorney.

Jackson does not plan to resign from the school board and has not yet decided whether he will run for re-election when his term expires in June.

Mt. Hood Honors Women's History

Mt. Hood Community College proudly announces the 2005 Women's History Celebration "Women Change America," with visits from Oregon's first, and only woman governor, Barbara Roberts, and World War II survivor Michiko Kornhauser.

A strong advocate for environmental management, human and civil rights and creative workforce development, Governor Roberts will speak about her role as a woman in politics on Thursday, Feb. 17.

On Tuesday, Feb. 22, Michiko Kornhauser will share her experi-

ences of growing up in Japan during World War II. Discover the years 1941 to 1945 through the eyes of a child who was just 100 miles from Hiroshima when the atomic bomb was dropped.

On Thursday, Feb. 24, the MHCC Forensics team students will cel-

brate the heroic women who played a vital role in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

All the events are free and open to the public and held from noon to 1 p.m. in the Town and Gown Room on the Gresham campus, 26000 S.E. Stark St.

Man Charged in Suicides Plot

(AP) - In an Internet chat room, an Oregon man reached out to more than two dozen emotionally fragile women, but prosecutors say he wasn't looking for dates. Instead, he allegedly tried to persuade them to end their lives.

Gerald Krein, 26, is charged with solicitation to commit murder for organizing a mass suicide on Valentine's Day, possibly while the

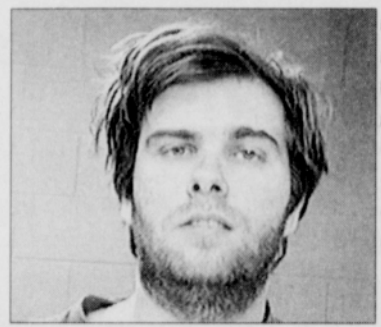
female participants were all logged online at the same time, said Klamath County Sheriff Tim Evinger.

"The common theme is that these were women who were vulnerable, who were depressed," said Evinger. "He invited them to engage in certain sexual acts with him - and then they were to hang themselves naked from a beam in his house."

County Prosecutor Ed Caleb said

no one knows for sure whether Krein intended to bring participants to his home or conduct the suicide over the Internet. Because Krein was living in a mobile home while organizing the suicide, the idea of hanging bodies from beams may indicate the idea was a fantasy.

No deaths had been found that were linked to Krein, the sheriff said. However, he said he would



Gerald Krein

not be surprised if someone had killed herself as a result of Krein's alleged activities.



Attorney General Begins Term

President Bush speaks of his confidence in his newly appointed attorney general Alberto Gonzales, the first Hispanic to hold the nation's top law enforcement post, during a swearing in ceremony Monday. Bush also urged Congress to reauthorize the USA Patriot Act, the administration's widely criticized anti-terrorism law. (AP photo)

Correction: Tests Negative

In the article "Taking Control of Life" in last week's Portland Observer, it stated that neither Cherrell Edwards nor her long-term boyfriend knew that they were HIV positive because they hadn't been tested. In fact, Edwards had been tested prior to, and during their relationship and tested negative.

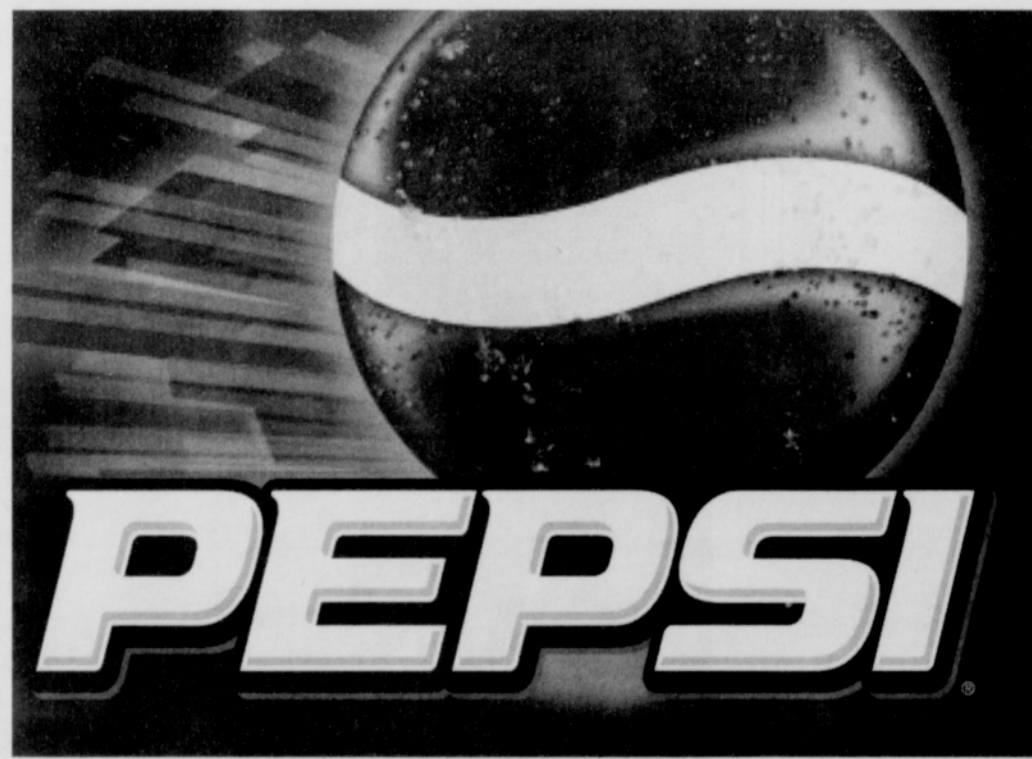
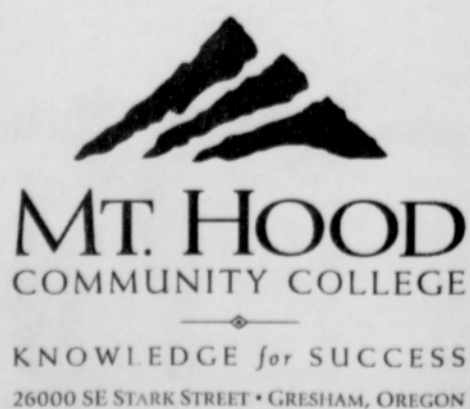


"Now more than ever, it's important to understand our past struggles and achievements in order to reinforce the strength of our wills. We must focus on the similarities that we share in history, rather than our differences, which can act as barriers to our progress in society. If knowledge is truly power, then knowledge of self and our history of oppression will only bring African Americans closer to the true American value of equality and freedom."

Marcia L. Graves
 SUPPORT ANALYST COORDINATOR
 MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mt. Hood Community College salutes the contributions African-Americans have made to our community and looks forward to the achievements of tomorrow.

Registration for spring term begins March 7. Visit www.mhcc.edu for more information!



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