



Meth Most Wanted

Police raid one of top meth labs in Multnomah County
see page B2, inside

23AM **Spring Forward**
Clocks move one hour ahead at 2 a.m. Sunday for Daylight Savings Time

The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'
Volume XXXV, Number 12

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • March 30, 2005

Week in The Review

Superstar Lawyer
Johnnie Cochran Dies



Johnnie L. Cochran Jr., who became a legal superstar after helping clear O.J. Simpson during a sensational murder trial in which he uttered the famous quote "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit," died Tuesday. He was 67. Cochran died of a brain tumor at his home in Los Angeles, his family said.

With his colorful suits and ties, his gift for courtroom oratory and a knack for coining memorable phrases, Cochran was a vivid addition to the pantheon of best-known American barristers.

For Cochran, O.J. Simpson's acquittal was the crowning achievement in a career notable for victories, often in cases with racial themes.

He remained a beloved figure in the black community, admired as a lawyer who was relentless in his pursuit of justice and as a philanthropist who helped fund a UCLA scholarship, a low-income housing complex and a New Jersey legal academy, among other charitable endeavors. *Look for full story in next week's Portland Observer.*

330 Found Dead in Indonesia Quake

Indonesians searched through smoldering rubble for survivors on Nias island Tuesday and relatives wept over the bodies of the dead after an 8.7-magnitude earthquake hammered the region, triggering a tsunami scare and killing at least 330 people. Some officials said the death toll could rise as high as 2,000.

Jesse Jackson Prays With Schiavo's Parents

As Terri Schiavo entered her 12th full day without food or water, the Rev. Jesse Jackson prayed with her parents Tuesday and joined conservatives in calling for state lawmakers to order her feeding tube reinserted. The former Democratic presidential candidate was invited by Schiavo's parents to meet with activists outside Schiavo's hospice. His arrival was greeted by some applause and cries of "This is about civil rights!"

Board Votes to Close Three Northeast Schools

PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Decision still pending on the Jefferson merger

It's been decided: northeast Portland's Applegate Elementary will shut down and merge with Woodlawn Elementary. Kenton Elementary will close and merge with Chief Joseph Elementary, and Whitaker Middle School will close and merge with Tubman Middle School. Changes are expected to be made this fall.

It has yet to be decided whether any of these middle schools will merge with Jefferson High School in 2006, spanning the grades from 7 to 12. A final vote will be taken December of this year.

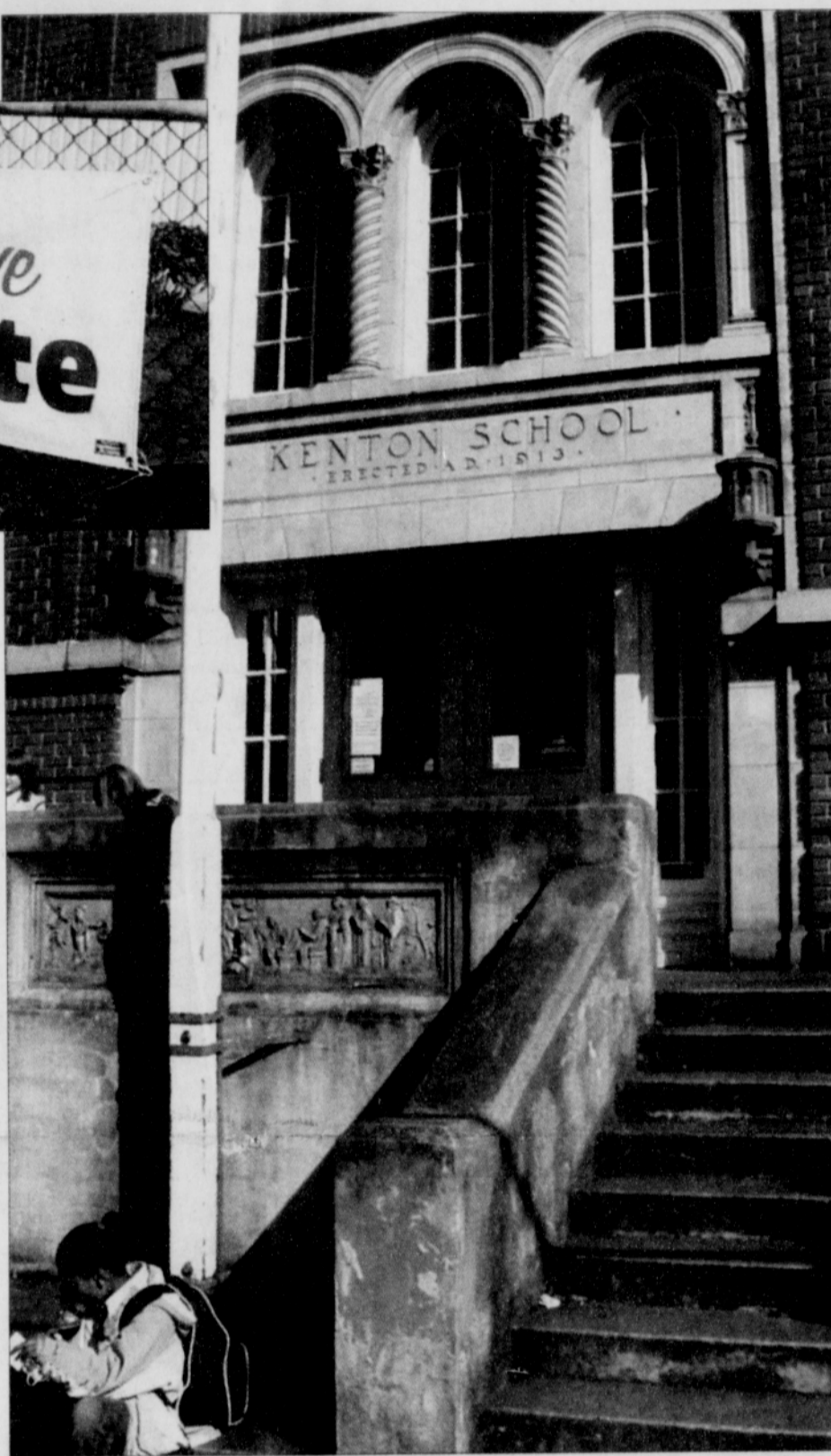
Superintendent Vicki Phillips has made a proposal to study middle school students in a high school environment before any decisions are reached.

Other concerns about merging with Jefferson include more students per teacher and the substandard quality of the building, according to the Neighborhood Schools Alliance.

The choice was made several weeks after the school board voted to close Edward, Richmond and Smith Elementary Schools.

Lack of enrollment, dilapidated building structure and low funding prompted the six closures.

The budget for next year is facing a



Kenton and Applegate schools are two of six being closed in Portland. Both have been in operation for decades.

possible \$51 million setback, which would eliminate 261 full-time positions among teachers and staff. Gov. Ted Kulongoski has recommended that with funding and some PERS savings, that deficit number be revised to \$32 million.

Cuts Proposed for Area Schools

Beyond the grand scope of a school building closing are the individuals affected by budget cuts. Teachers and staff will lose their jobs, education programs will be trimmed, students enrolled in athletic programs will face higher fees, and wages, along with health care premiums, will be frozen for all school employees except teachers.

Superintendent Vicki Phillips' proposed budget for the 2005-2006 academic year includes \$51 million in cuts over the next two years.

The district will also lose property taxes because it is not asking voters to continue to renew the levy passed in 2000.

Under Phillips' plan, high schools would have one staff position for every 23 students, while schools with high numbers of poor students would receive more positions.

Money given by the Legislature in 1997 to finance Portland's desegregation plan will be cut when the \$7.6 million expires at the end of this school year. This money goes to schools with relatively high percentages of African American students.

Despite a possible merger of middle schools into Jefferson High School, the campus would lose 26 staff members next year.

Marshall High School, which recently turned from one comprehensive high school into four specialized schools with the idea of raising student achievement levels, may have to cut one of its schools. The 200 students in that school would be transferred to another campus.

Being involved in athletics would become a little less attainable with fees per sport being raised from \$125 to \$175 to raise district revenue, along with higher admission for athletic events.

A recent Census study showed the Oregon ranks 31st in school spending, dropping from a previous rank of 20th in the nation. This results in nearly \$1000 per-student below the national average. Oregon also ranked among the bottom-fifth of states for instructor salaries, while being among the highest in spending on health insurance and pension benefits.

Arts Scene Flourishes on Alberta

Last Thursday sprinkles street with flavor

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

There's a stretch of road in northeast Portland where a variety of small businesses flourish, where the taquerias are arguably the best in town and where on the last Thursday of every month, eclectic crafty types, bohemian artists and extroverted musicians can claim a space on the crowded sidewalk to showcase, and maybe even sell, their works. It's Alberta Street and it's growing.

Art on Alberta is one entity that's sprinkling the street with flavor. Colorful murals, eye-catching banners and metal sculptures are pieces made possible by the non-profit group, and one hardly

has to walk inside a building to feel as through they're in a showcase. But they do, especially on Last Thursday.

"If you're a new business and you've just opened up you get a parade of people passing by, it's up to you to get people to come in," said Donna Guardino, owner of Guardino Gallery. "That particular night introduces businesses to a whole bunch of new people."

Whole new landscape

What's refreshing, Guardino said, is the amount of small, first-time, entrepreneurial businesses that support the art community. Whether a coffee

shop, a vintage clothing boutique or a pizza joint, pieces by local artists are displayed monthly, with receptions held on that unique event every month that's been taking place for the past seven years.

Alberta shops put pride in exposing the average person to art.

"For some people it's kind of surprise to them. It's fun and more accessible, more affordable," Guardino said. "It's an experience where a lot of people who have put art in a special place away from them find that it's more touchable."

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PHOTOS BY KATHERINE KOVACICH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Allan Oliver, owner of Onda Arte Latina and co-founder and president of Art on Alberta, stands outside his gallery on Alberta Street.

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An abstract mural sits between 22nd and 23rd Street, crossing with Alberta, offering a bright aesthetic to the road.