May 2, 2007

The Fortland Observer

Passionate Fight for School Board Seat

Candidates at odds on Jefferson over and over again, clearly there's a cycle hap-

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland School Board members don't get paid a cent for sitting said. through endless meetings. But with a school board election and Superintendent Vicki Phillips' departure in store, the board is poised to decide how to spend the taxpayer's monies and choose the person who will lead the district into the future.

Two candidates for Zone-2, representing parts of north, northeast and southeast Portland, are locked in one of the hottest battles on the May 15 ballot.

Schultz, a social worker and development consultant who wants to use the change of superintendents to move away from what she calls a crisis-oriented board.

tions is what we need to focus on for the hiring process," Schultz said.

The incumbent David Wynde, a US Bank community-relations vice president, says the board's focus on financial stability and closing a group of smaller schools has allowed the district to restore programs in other schools.

Wynde asserts that the current board has "found a strong superintendent and I am confident that we can find another.

He said changes over the last four years have resulted in "the best Portland Public Schools we have had in a long time.'

Schultz disagrees. She cites persistent failures in many local schools serving minority students and thinks "the board needs to take more responsibility for their role in these issues."

Only with a "bottom-up approach" can minority voices be

communication disconnect and re- Jefferson's parents and peating unsuccessful changes, she staff know who can re-

"There was sort of a process in terms of the re-re-re-configura- Jefferson's interim princition of Jefferson," she says, "but there were many families and staff who were against the academy approach, so we've clearly got a topdown district."

Her accusations have put Wynde on the defensive.

"I have faith in the plan that's in place for Jefferson," he says. "There are a lot of people in that commu-The challenger is Michele nity who, through our efforts, are becoming reengaged."

Citing her experience in crisis management, Schultz criticizes the process for hiring administrators at Jefferson High School, which is "Building community connec- now on its eighth principal in 10 vears.

"When you do the same things

heard in such a way that avoids a pening, and only verse that cycle.' Wynde says that

pal Cynthia Harris "will provide the leadership necessary for a smooth transition."

Another difference between the candidates emerges from their views

residing in different neighborhood edges that she has no special quali- anything in her power to "make zones but elected by all of the district's voters.

Wynde says the system was designed to prevent five or six board members from living in the same neighborhood, like Irvington, while making them accountable to represent the entire school district.

Schultz, on the other hand, said



Michele Schultz

on the unique election of the she would represent her zone if nication, you're left out of the loop board's seven members, with each elected to the board, but acknowl- in many ways." She pledges to do

fications for representing minority voters in the Jefferson cluster.

"I'm a white woman who grew up in Maine," she says. "But the key to representation is to know that and to really listen to what everyone has to say."

Empowering voices is a key aspect of listening for Schultz because "if you're a family that can't afford electronic commu-

access" if elected to the board. Wynde cites the board's cre-

ative use of Title I funds to restore full-day kindergarten and secure better student-teacher ratios in struggling schools, saying, "we have to remain vigilant in making sure low-income students are being served."

sure every PPS family has Internet

Ruth Adkins and incumbent Doug Morgan are running in the only other contested school board race, representing southwest Portland. Two other board incumbents, Bobbie Regan and Dilafruz Williams, are running unopposed.

Superintendent Search Begins

Portland Public Schools are in search for a new superintendent after last week's surprise announcement on the upcoming departure of Superintendent Vicki Phillips.

Phillips is leaving the district June 30 to become director of Vicki Phillips education for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

at Portland, Phillips has worked in north and northeast Portland, to increase test scores and over- drew heated protests.

come a gap in achievement between minority and non-minority students. But actions to close schools in the wake of cuts to state education spending and a redesign of Jefferson High School in north Portland also brought controversy.

Her proposals to close down During her three year tenure eight neighborhood schools, most



Alberta Mob Tied to Drunkenness

Total chaos mixed with alcohol and police to create a mob scene on Parsons when he disobeyed orders scream at police. As the mob grew, Northeast 18th and Alberta Street to stop the fight. When one officer the intersection of 24th and Alberta Thursday.

around 10 pm during Last Thurs- ground to arrest Hartman-Parsons, Sgt. Brian Schmautz, a Police

The disturbance broke out another placed his taser on the to jump on cars, police said.

Police said they tasered Hartman- crowd began to throw bottles and ran back to his car to get cover and was blocked off. People also tried

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day, an art event held each month another man identified as Joshua Bureau spokesman, said that some along Alberta, when an officer tried Hannum, 30, picked up the weapon. of the people involved in the disturto arrest Ryan Hartman-Parsons a 22-year-old who was allegedly in when Hannum complied with the others seemed to be the anarchist the midst of a fist fight.

officer to drop the taser, but the type.

Police said sparks flew again bance had too much to drink and

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Ceasefire Oregon is encourag- Saturday, May 12 at Redeemer information, Street.

of unwanted firearms takes place with no questions asked. For more 3600, extension 486.

ceasefireoregon.org on the gun year round, contact The gun collection is voluntary Multnomah County at 503-255-

Sub Bids Requested

Revenue Building 5th Floor Phase 1 Demolition - DAS State of Oregon

General Demolition

Bid Date: May 18, 2007 2:00 p.m. Walk Through Date: May 9, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. 855 Center Street, Salem, OR (Corner of Center St. and Summer St.)

Contact receiving bids: Pete Smith 503-459-4477 Bid documents are available for review at the Fortis office or at the walk through.

Please Note: This is the only walk through that will be available. Walk through is not mandatory, but highly encouraged.

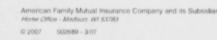


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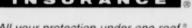
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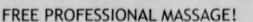




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COOKING DEMOS! On the hour, beginning Sunday at 11 am

FREE FOOD SAMPLES!

*Please call ahead to reserve your time slot for Stroke Analysis.

* Friday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. Giving Your Health A New Start

Sunday, May 6 10am - 3pm

Saturday, May 5 at 4:00 p.m.

Natural Aids To Health

FREE HEALTH LECTURES Friday, Saturday and Sunday (see reverse for details)

LOCATION **Community Learning Center** 4212 NE Prescott St Portland, OR 97218

(503) 281-8596

* Sunday, May 6 at 2:30 p.m. Take Control Of Your Health