

Mrs. Oregon America

Joelle Rankins Goodwin, a former Lincoln High School Rose Festival princess, was selected to represent Oregon as the new Mrs. Oregon America 2009.

Goodwin, representing Eugene, was crowned during ceremonies Jan. 25 at the new Broadway Rose Theater in Tigard. It was her third appearance in the tournament, after being voted First Runner Up in both 2007 and 2008.

With her selection, she earns \$18,000 in prizes and an expenses aid trip to compete in September with women from all over the United States for the title of Mrs. America 2010.

Joelle, a Major in the United States Army teaching ROTC at the University



of Oregon, and her husband Bob live in Eugene. When not in uniform, she enjoys singing the National Anthem at community events, family bike rides, running marathons, and watching college football.

She serves as vice president for the Miss Lane County Scholarship Program, is on the board of the Lane County Chapter of the U of O Alumni Association, and has chosen HIV/AIDS awareness and education as her personal platform.

Joelle Rankins Goodwin is the new Mrs. Oregon America 2009.

New Focus on High Schools

Survey begins process of changes

Portland Public Schools has released findings from a recent survey on public attitudes about school job performance and views about local high schools, as well as results from a companion survey of PPS staff.



Carole Smith

School district officials say these surveys are an early step in gathering public and staff input on how Portland Public Schools should change its high school system to improve outcomes for students.

The surveys, conducted by Davis, Hibbitts & Midghall, show that the public is gener-

ally positive about Portland schools, with significant improvement since 2004.

Fifty percent of the respondents rated the school district's job performance as "very" or "somewhat" good, compared to 36 percent offering high marks in 2004. But subsequent questions indicate that in large part, the improvement is based on improved perceptions in the management of financial resources.

Both the public and PPS staff think Portland's high schools are doing reasonably well, but could improve. The survey found that 42 percent of the public and 50 percent of PPS staff believe Portland's high schools are very or somewhat good.

Another 65 percent of PPS staff and 57 percent of the pub-

lic called for "some changes ... over time to improve the schools."

Lack of an adequate and stable supply of money remains the top-rated obstacle to the success of Portland's high schools.

According to the survey, "More than 75 percent of the public, and even larger percentages of staff, identified both adequacy and predictability of school finances as a 'very big' or 'big' obstacle to success.

Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carole Smith said, "I'm encouraged by our community's confidence in our schools, and by their recognition that we still need to make high school a more challenging and engaging experience for all our students."

The surveys are one part of an on-going public process to inform decisions about the future of Portland's high schools.



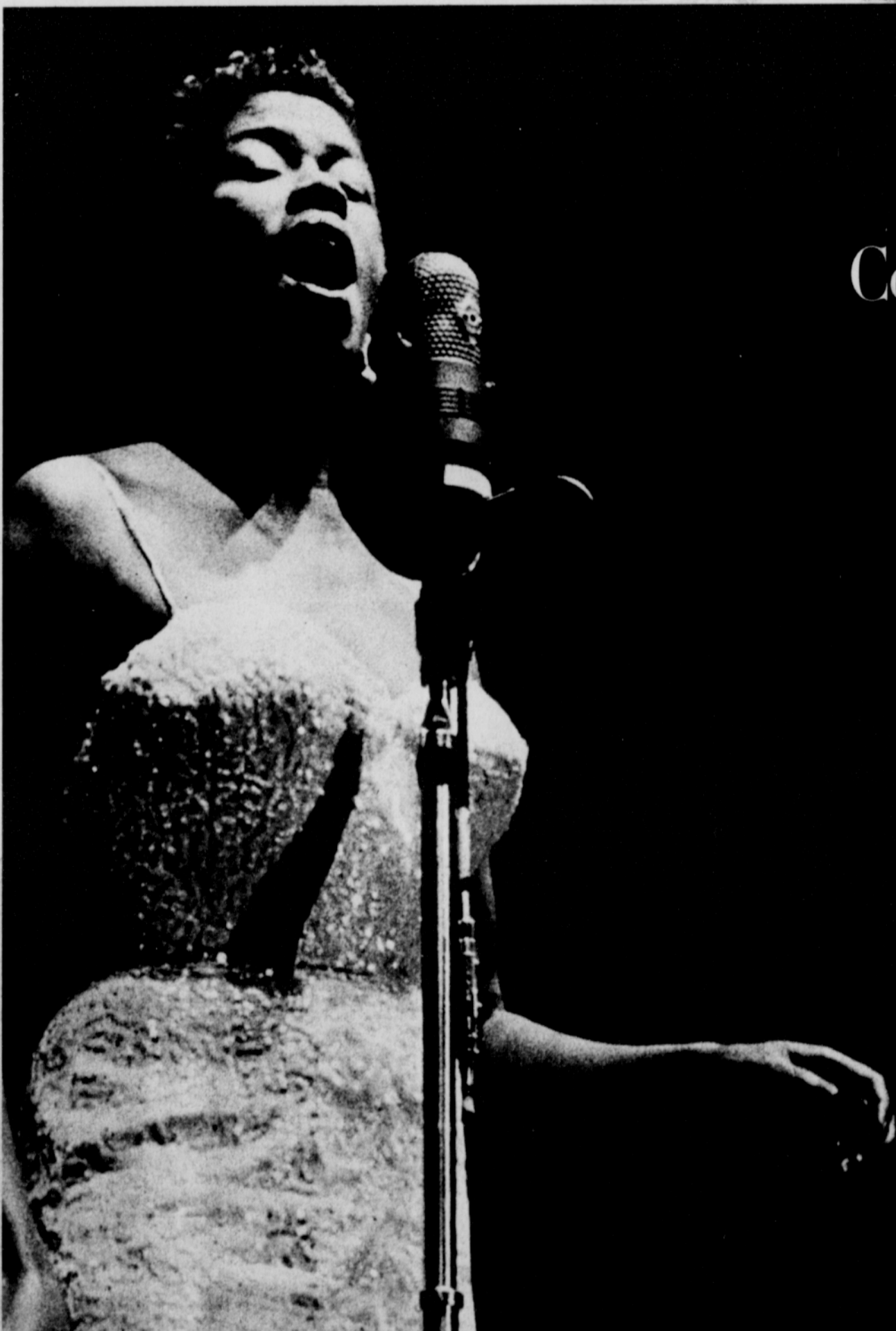
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