



Church volunteers spruce up Jefferson

Hundreds of volunteers spread bark mulch, painted, washed and cleaned nearly every part of Jefferson High School on Saturday. The help came from eight congregations of the Mormon Church. "We want to provide a service to the community that is helpful to the public and instill in our members that service is important," said Dr. Brian Humble, a local church member and a lead organizer of the effort.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Committee Approves Hispanic Judge

With just one Republican vote

(AP) - The Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday voted to approve Sonia Sotomayor as the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice over nearly solid Republican opposition, paving the way for a historic confirmation vote next week.

The panel voted 13-6 in favor of Sotomayor, with just one Republican, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, joining Democrats to support her. The nearly party-line tally masked

deeper political divisions within GOP ranks about confirming President Barack Obama's first high court nominee.

"I'm deciding to vote for a woman I would not have chosen," Graham said. Obama's choice to nominate the first-ever Latina to the highest court is "a big deal," he added, declaring that, "America has changed for the better with her selection."

The solid Republican vote



Sonia Sotomayor

against Sotomayor on the Judiciary panel reflected the choice

many GOP conservatives have made to side with their core supporters and oppose a judge they charge will bring liberal bias and racial and gender prejudices to her decisions. Others in the party, however, are concerned that doing so could hurt their efforts to broaden their base, and particularly alienate Hispanic voters, a fast-growing segment of the electorate.

Democrats, for their part, are lining up solidly in favor of the 55-year-old federal appeals court judge, the daughter of

Puerto Rican parents who was raised in a South Bronx housing project and educated in the Ivy League.

"There's not one example — let alone a pattern — of her ruling based on bias or prejudice or sympathy," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the Judiciary Committee chairman. "She has administered justice without favoring one group of persons over another."

Every GOP senator on the committee alluded critically to the now-infamous remark

Sotomayor made in 2001 that she hoped a "wise Latina woman" would often reach better conclusions than a white male without similar experiences.

Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter, a Republican recently turned Democrat, said Sotomayor's much-maligned comment reflected a woman standing up for women and someone exhibiting ethnic pride. "I didn't find fault with 'wise Latina woman,' I found it commendable," he said.

Jackson's Doctor Investigated Prescription may have killed singer

(AP) -- Federal authorities searched the Las Vegas home and medical office of Michael

Jackson's personal doctor Tuesday, seeking documents as part of a manslaughter investigation into the singer's death.

Several Drug Enforcement Administration agents entered



Dr. Conrad Murray

Dr. Conrad Murray's sprawling home in a gated community while others searched Murray's medical offices in Las Vegas,

Global Cardiovascular Associates.

Authorities had no arrest warrant for Murray, who was at home when the investigators arrived, they said.

Murray was Michael Jackson's personal physician and was with Jackson when he died. Murray, who is based in Las Vegas and is licensed in California, Nevada and Texas, had his Houston office and a storage unit searched last week by DEA agents. Court records show the agents were seeking

evidence of whether the doctor committed manslaughter.

Police say Murray is cooperating and have not labeled him a suspect.

Toxicology reports are still pending, but investigators are working under the theory that the anesthetic propofol caused Jackson's heart to stop, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Monday. Jackson is believed to have been using the powerful drug for about two years.

Urban Leage finds Disparities

continued from Front

percentage points below proportionately that of white males.

Black death rates by diabetes (73:100,000) are considerably higher for African Americans (73 per 100,000 vs. 29 per 100,000 for white Oregonians). 75 percent of Oregon's black 10th graders did not meet benchmark standards for math in 2007-08. African American borrowers were twice as likely to receive high cost, high interest loans as white borrowers — and more likely to have faced foreclosure in the current economic climate. Black children represent 7 percent of the children in foster care, although they are about 2% of the child population in the state.

The Urban League of Portland is one of the oldest civil rights and social service organizations in the state. Its mission is to empower African Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment, economic security and quality of life.

The State of Black Oregon report was conducted by EcoNorthwest, the Northwest's largest economics consulting

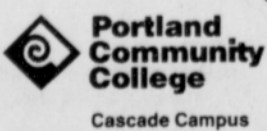
firm.

Contributors providing essays included Darrell Miller, professor, Department of Black Studies, Portland State University; Sheila Holden, North/Northeast Economic Development Alliance; Karen Gibson, associate professor; Nohad A. Toulan, School of Urban Studies and Planning, PSU; Joyce Braden Harris, co-chair, African American Alliance; Carolyn Leonard, compliance officer, Portland Public Schools; Algie Gatewood, president, Portland Community College, Cascade Campus; Robert Thompson, Oregon State University, Department of Ethnic Studies, Housing; Victor Merced, director, Oregon Housing and Community Services; Maxine Fitzpatrick, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiative; Tricia Tillman, Multnomah County Health Department; Kevin Odell, Organizing People and Activating Leaders; Jill Fuglister, Coalition for a Livable Future; Angela Cause and Kory Murphy, Oregon Department of Human Services; and former Sen. Avel Gordly, associate professor, PSU Department of Black Studies.

Join us for the 2009 PCC Cascade Campus

National Night Out & Open House

Come to our house!



705 N Killingsworth Street

August 4, 2009

4:00PM - 8:00PM

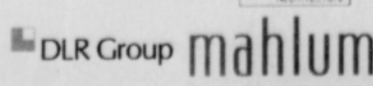
Sponsors:

Northwest Coalition of Neighborhoods
North Portland Neighborhood Library
Islamic Center of Portland
Portland Police Bureau
New Seasons
Enterprise Rent-a-Car
Traiel's Food 4 the Soul

Portland Observer
Frito-Lay
Popeye's
Eddie's Flat Iron Pizza
Interstate Lanes
Metro
Advantis Credit Union

Clear
Red E Cafe
Wells Fargo
Rhythm Traders
Zipcar
Viso
Sol Pops

Yost Grube Hall



The Portland Observer Established 1970
USPS 959-680
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PUBLISHER: Charles H. Washington
EDITOR: Michael Leighton
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Mark Washington
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

CALL 503-288-0033 FAX 503-288-0015
news@portlandobserver.com ads@portlandobserver.com
subscription@portlandobserver.com

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 2008 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED. The Portland Observer—Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication—is a member of the National Newspaper Association—Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc. New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association

Lents Park Ice Cream Social

Rose Community Development and the Lents Neighborhood Association are hosting the Lents National Night Out Ice Cream Social, Tuesday, Aug. 4 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Lents Park Gazebo near South-east Holgate and 92nd Avenue.

Area residents are invited to come meet your fellow neighbors, police officers, and firemen while enjoying free ice-cream on a first come, first served basis while mingling with various organizations.