



## White House Fans

President Obama and his family cheer on Oregon State and his brother-in-law coach  
See Sports, page A6

## Gumbo of Adventure

The great city of New Orleans is the backdrop for Disney's newest princess  
See Arts & Entertainment, page A9



# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Week in The Review

### Obama Sends More Troops to Afghanistan

President Barack Obama is dispatching 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan, accelerating a risky and expensive war buildup, even as he assures the nation that U.S. forces will begin coming home in July 2011.

### War of the Roses



The 113th Civil War rivalry game between 10th-ranked Oregon and 16th-ranked Oregon State this Thursday night is creating a lot of pregame hoopla. The contest will decide the Pac-10's representative in the Rose Bowl. See Sports, page A6.

### Jeff Advances at State

Jefferson High School has advanced to the semifinals of the Oregon 5A football championship series for the second year in a row. The Democrats face Sherwood on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 3 p.m. at PGE Park. See Sports, page A6.

### Cop Murders Suspect Killed

A man suspected of gunning down four police officers in a suburban Tacoma coffee shop was shot and killed by a lone Seattle patrolman investigating a stolen car early Tuesday. Four people were arrested for allegedly helping the suspect elude authorities during a massive two-day manhunt. See story, page A3



### Officer Returned to Duty

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman has changed his decision to suspend a controversial police officer who shot a 12-year-old girl last month with a beanbag gun. Saltzman had initially put Christopher Humphreys on paid leave pending an investigation. See story, page A3.

### TriMet Fires Operator

TriMet fired a MAX operator last week for creating a potential danger to the public when he did not respond to four calls on the train's emergency intercom from Aaron Bailey, the father who had been separated from his son last month when the train's doors closed behind him.

### Serena Williams Fined

Serena Williams was fined a record \$82,500 Monday for a tirade against a line judge at last summer's U.S. Open. She could be suspended from that tournament if she has another "major

### Lincoln Coach Guilty

Lincoln High School coach David Adelman was found guilty of drunken and reckless driving Monday. A judge rejected a claim that the arrest was unlawful and motivated by a parent who sought retribution over Adelman's coaching.

## Water Bureau Looks for Cause After E.coli found in reservoir

The Portland Water Bureau continued to drain its Washington Park Reservoir No. 3 Tuesday, a process that will take until at least until Wednesday, after E.coli bacteria was found in the system over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

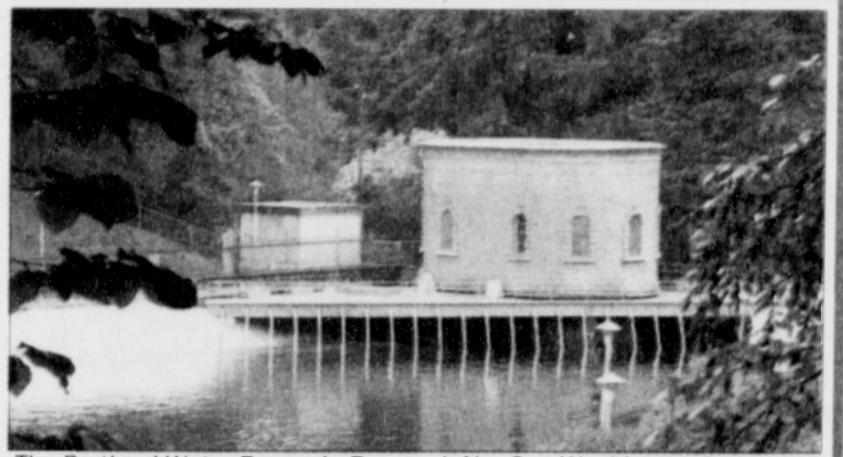
A boil water notice was lifted on Sunday to Westside residents and the city declared Monday that all taps to the

entire city system were safe to drink.

The contaminated reservoir was taken off-line. It will be tested, investigated for contamination and cleaned before it is put back on line.

Officials said they hope to test the E.coli sample to help determine if the bacteria generated from animal or human waste.

The contaminated water put



The Portland Water Bureau's Reservoir No. 3 at Washington Park.

Portland's open air reservoirs in a controversial light.

The U.S. Environmental Protection agency expects the city to stop using open-air reservoirs because of safety

concerns, including the Washington Park and Mt. Tabor reservoirs by year 2015. Residents also complained about the city not getting information out to the public in a timely manner.

## Equity Push in High Schools Overhaul

### Superintendent discusses the obstacles

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Portland Public Schools finishes a proposed overhaul of its high schools, Superintendent Carole Smith expects a more equitable educational opportunity for each child in the district.

The ambitious plan is barreling along, and seeks to address the high drop out rate, the achievement gap, and the uneven distribution of course offerings.

Smith sat down with the Portland Observer to discuss the obstacles she faces.

The proposal could put two to three schools on the chopping block, which is a prickly issue as schools are cherished assets to the neighborhoods of many Portlanders who are uneasy with the idea of closing any of them.

"Let me tell you: Do I know that it's tricky? I so know it's tricky," said Smith.

In April, Smith settled on one of three options proposed for the redesign that put emphasis on neighborhood schools, with some options for students to attend specialized schools that are geared toward students with specific goals or learning needs.



Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carole Smith visits with families at Astor School.

Currently, PPS has an open transfer policy that allows students to attend schools not in their neighborhood. As a consequence, there are widely different enrollment numbers in the high school system ranging from about 500 students at Jefferson High School to about 1,500 at

Grant High.

Because schools are allocated money based on their enrollment, smaller schools find themselves starved for cash and unable to offer the same course offerings at every school.

"We just sort of have a hodge-podge of who gets access to

what," said Smith.

For instance, some schools, like Lincoln High School, have a full offering of college prep courses while others, like Jefferson, have just recently instituted such courses. She hopes that by the end of the redesign each student will have the same

access to academic opportunities as any other.

Smith sees a future where high school students would have the opportunity to attend a comprehensive community high school that serves 1,200 to 1,350 students from their adjacent neighborhoods or a specialized school.

She is unapologetic about the possibility of school closures. Because of the cash-per-student formula that funds schools, PPS can only staff and fund so many schools that offer the same access to quality courses, she said.

"It's weighing nostalgia over what do we want for the future of our kids," said Smith, who pointed out that taxpayers would have to pony up more money if they want to maintain the same number of schools and allow them to offer the same quality curriculum. "We don't get it all unless we're willing to pay for it all"

She stressed that no decisions have been made about what schools are on the chopping block. Community conversations are on-going.

"The reason I'm not talking about any individual campus yet is because I don't want anyone to feel like, 'okay, we're safe.' Once anyone feels like they're off the table, and everyone else is at risk, then it totally stops

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## Community Media Tackles Disparities

### Sharing tools to bridge digital divide

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In the minds of many, cable access television is an outlet for quirky and amateurish programming, lacking many of the filters associated with more commercial media outlets.

But Portland Community Media wants you to know that's it gone beyond that.

Over the last half decade, the local non-profit organization has been working to make sure that no one is left behind in the digital age.

According to a report from the Pew Internet and American Life Project, African Americans and Hispanics are less likely to use digital technologies like the Internet than their white counterparts, which could put them at a distinct disadvantage.

Sylvia McDaniel, PCM's chief executive officer, explained that this disparity poses a serious impediment to disadvantaged communities as society



Portland Community Media executives Ray Larson and Sylvia McDaniel show off the television equipment housed at its non-profit cable access facility, located at 2766 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

becomes increasingly reliant on technology. Only communities who have access and understanding of how to use digital tools will prosper, while others are left behind, she said.

"When it comes to jobs,

who's going to get the jobs?" said McDaniel. "The digital divide affects those underserved populations much more than they do anyone else"

McDaniel notes that PCM has a strong youth focus, so

that kids who might not have computers at home have opportunities to learn media basics, and perhaps take them home to their parents.

Of the four cable channels PCM operates, one specifically

highlights shows produced by kids aged 10-18. While working on the shows, the youth are exposed to software and technology that could help them

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40  
years of  
community service