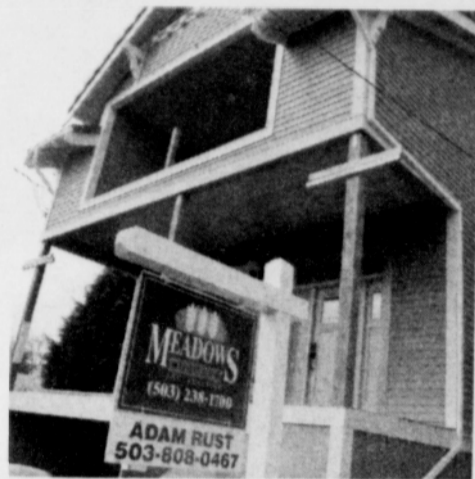


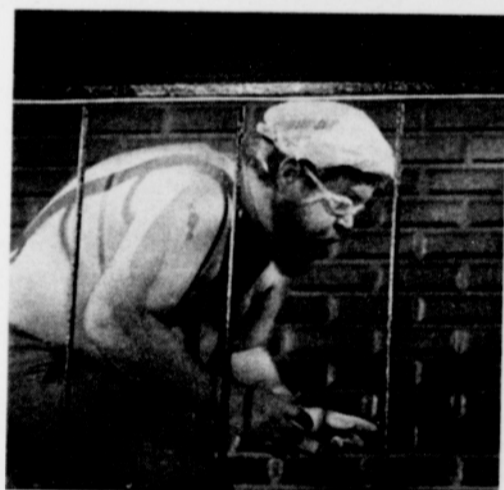
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What's on your list today?.

## LOCAL NEWS

### Missing Teen at Risk

A local girl, Ya'Shawnee Vaughn, 14, was last seen on Saturday, March 19 at Taco Bell on Northeast 82nd Avenue. Family members say she was supposed to be on her way to meet her cousin, but never made it.

Portland Police at first investigated the disappearance as a runaway but now consider Vaughn as a person at risk and have opened a missing person's case.



Ya'Shawnee Vaughn

Her cellphone has been dead and no one has seen or heard from her. Vaughn was last seen wearing a red and black hat, a white v neck shirt, a black jacket, yellow and green sweats, and blue chucks.

Anyone who has seen or heard from Ya'Shawnee is urged to call her parents, mother Shaquita Louis at 503-774-5212 and father Yo'Shawnee Vaughn at 310-571-7259.

### State Schools Cut Proposed

Portland could face \$32 million budget shortfall

Leaders of a legislative budget-writing committee Tuesday proposed a \$5.7 billion State School Fund for the next two years that is \$1 billion less than budget analysts say is necessary to keep Oregon's school staff and services intact next year.

For Portland Public Schools, that level of state funding is \$39.6 million

short of continuing all current services, with roll-up costs, next year, school officials said.

The district is already taking action to reduce the shortfall by asking all employees to forgo any cost-of-living pay increase for next year (as negotiated with employee unions); and budgeting for high schools based on teachers teaching six of eight class periods.

With those savings, the legislators' proposal translates into a shortfall in Portland schools of more than \$29 million next year – the equiva-

lent of 320 teaching positions across the district or just over four weeks cut from the school year for students, local school officials said.

In addition, voters will decide on a renewed local option levy for operations in the May 17 election. If that measure passes, the expanded levy is forecast to add \$19 million to the budget, protecting at least 200 teaching positions from cuts.

Even with the local option levy, Portland Public Schools would still face an estimated \$10.2 million shortfall under the budget proposed.

### Uneven Student Discipline Tackled

Advocates hope to end racial disparities in suspensions, expulsions

Portland Public Schools and a coalition of education advocates have reached a partnership agreement to address the problem of disproportionate discipline meted out to students of color.

Black, Latino and Native American students are suspended and expelled 2 to 8 times as often as white students in local schools.

To address this problem of racial disparity in suspension and expulsion,

the school district revised its discipline policies in 2009. Now school leaders are working with a multicultural coalition of advocates to put those policies into action.

Community Education Partners is a broad-based group of community organizations focusing on education disparities.

Ten schools have been selected to take part in a pilot program which will unite parents, community mem-

bers and administrators to review, develop and implement procedures and practices that will reduce incidents of referrals, suspension and expulsions.

Each school will work on developing individual discipline plans that meet the needs of each school, but are in line with the board's policy on discipline. This would include developing consistent systems for collecting data by race and ethnicity. In the 2011-12 school year, the community advocates will work with each participating school to put these plans into practice and follow the results.

### Oregon Unemployment Benefits Extended

Gov. John Kitzhaber signed two pieces of legislation Thursday that will extend unemployment benefits up to 26 weeks for Oregonians who have exhausted all other options.

"Although we are on the path to economic recovery, there are thousands of Oregonians who are still

struggling," said Kitzhaber. "Extending unemployment benefits is a life line to people in need right now."

One piece of legislation allows Oregon to use \$225 million in federal funds to extend unemployment benefits for 20 weeks. Nearly 50,000 Oregonians will be eligible to re-

ceive the additional benefits by the end of the year.

The other bill will use \$26 million from State Unemployment Trust Fund to extend benefits for six weeks. This money will go to an estimated 17,500 Oregon workers whose benefits would otherwise expire in April.