

Better Schools

continued **▲** from front

\$25 a month.

In particular, this measure asks voters to decide on a \$548 million construction bond to fully renovate nine schools within the city, including Jefferson and Roosevelt High Schools in north Portland, and Fabian and Rigler Elementary Schools in northeast Portland; and also supply new playgrounds, science labs, roofs, new desks, and more to the remaining schools.

Although Gov. Kitzhaber signed two bills last month that gives K-12 schools \$5.7 billion, the Portland district maintains that the number is too low to maintain current operations.

According to state analysts, the proposed funding is \$1 billion less than what is necessary to keep school staff and services intact next year across Oregon.

Within the Portland area alone, there are 47,000 students who attend 85 different public schools, with three quarters of the budget of PPS coming solely from the state of Oregon.

Because the percentage of the state budget for education is only becoming smaller, the full impact of the recent budget cuts won't be known until all of Oregon's school

districts set their budgets for the upcoming year.

For PPS, the level of funding is \$42.8 million short of continuing all current services for the rolling costs in the upcoming year. Although PPS is asking employees to forgo any cost-of-living increase for the next 12 months, there is still a shortfall of more than \$32 million in funds, which could cause more than 400 teaching positions cut and almost five-weeks eliminated from the school-year.

Measure 26-122 aims to find some form of resolution to many internal issues of quality within Portland's education system with added monies for operations. Many teachers, frustrated with already high classroom sizes, hope that if more educators remain within PPS, then students can be given more attention within their classes.

According to Multnomah County, all voters should have received their ballots by May 5, and voters can mail their ballot back with one first class stamp this week or drop off their ballot at any Official Voter Drop Site in Oregon by Tuesday. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m., Tuesday May 17. Postmarks do not count.

Voters are asked to call 503-988-3720 if they haven't received their ballots.

Geronimo was Hero, Not Terrorist

Government's code name for Bin Laden offends

(AP)--Geronimo was known as a legendary Apache warrior whose ability to walk without leaving footprints allowed him to evade thousands of Mexican and U.S. soldiers, much like Osama bin Laden evaded capture for the past decade.

But for Native Americans, there's an important difference: Geronimo was a hero — not a terrorist.

So to them, the U.S. military's use of the revered leader's moniker as a code name for bin Laden was appalling — a slap in the face that prompted statements of disapproval from tribal leaders, a flurry of angry comments on social network sites and a letter from the leader of Geronimo's tribe asking President Barack Obama to apologize.

Many Native Americans also say that while they are angered, they are not surprised. They say the code name is yet another insult in a long, tumultuous history with the federal government.

"We've been oppressed for so long, it just doesn't matter anymore," said Leon Curley, a Navajo and Marine veteran from Gallup, N.M. "The government does what it wants when it wants. The name calling is going to stay around

forever. But when you think about it, this is an insult."

Even Jeff Houser, chairman of Geronimo's Fort Sill Apache Tribe, noted in his letter to Obama that the decision behind the code name was based not in maliciousness, but an



An 1887 photo shows the famed Indian warrior Geronimo.

ongoing cultural disconnect.

"We are quite certain that the use of the name Geronimo as a code for Osama bin Laden was based on misunderstood and misconceived historical perspectives of Geronimo and his armed struggle against the

United States and Mexican governments," he wrote. "However, to equate Geronimo or any other Native American figure with Osama bin Laden, a mass murderer and cowardly terrorist, is painful and offensive to our Tribe and to all Native Americans."

The White House referred questions on the matter to the U.S. Defense Department, which said no disrespect was meant to Native Americans.

The department wouldn't elaborate on the use of the name "Geronimo," but said code names typically are chosen randomly so that those working on a mission can communicate without divulging any information to adversaries.

The U.S. military's use of the word "Geronimo" dates to the early 1940s, when American paratroopers in World War II starting using it as a war cry. Around the same time, Paramount released a movie called "Geronimo!" about West Point graduate and his Army regiment's attempt to capture the warrior.

Some speculate that the code name was chosen because bin Laden, like Geronimo, was able to elude capture for so many years. Others say it's because the government considered both men terrorists.

Joyce Washington HIGH SCHOOL CLASSIC



The 11th Annual Basketball Game

Saturday, May 21 at SEI
3920 N. Kerby Street

Doors open at 12 p.m.
Girls Classic at 1 p.m.
Boy's Classic at 3 p.m.

Tickets available at The Portland Observer
4747 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Looking for High School Boys & Girls to Participate
for more information contact Tony or Mark Washington at 288-0033

Sponsored by: The Portland Observer

SAFeway INC.

"Dedicated to our mother, whose purposeful life is our family inspiration." — The Washington family

