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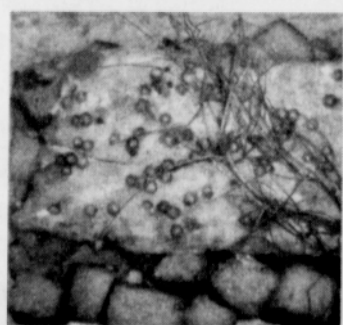
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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS



Vernon Elementary, 2044 N.E. Killingsworth St., will take in the entire seventh and eighth grade classes from Rigler Elementary this September, to ease overcrowding at Rigler.

Rigler Kids Moved to Vernon

Seventh and eighth graders impacted

The Portland School Board on Monday reassigned Rigler seventh and eighth grade students to Vernon School when classes resume in September.

The board approved Superintendent Carole Smith's proposal, which will transfer Rigler middle-grade students to Vernon to ease overcrowding and add 100 middle-grade students to Vernon

for a total of 200, enough for more teachers and programs.

According to Smith's proposal, Vernon is a good fit because like Rigler it is also a pre-kindergarten to eighth grade school, has more room, teachers and programs, feeds into Madison High School, and is close in distance to Rigler.

The distances between them,

however, are more than 40 blocks apart or about two and a half miles. Rigler K-8 school is located at 5401 N.E. Prescott St., and Vernon school is located at 2044 N.E. Killingsworth St.

Under the district's new high school redesign, Vernon is now a feeder school to Madison instead of Jefferson High School, which becomes a college magnet program in association with Portland Community College.

Housing Plan Tackles Discrimination

Advocates work with city leaders for fairness

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Despite a recent survey which found widespread housing discrimination in Portland based on race and nationality, one local non-profit organization says City Commissioner Nick Fish's new five-year action gives hope for a more equitable future.

"It is not a question any more of whether discrimination is going on," said Elisa Aguilera, co-director of the non-profit Community Alliance

for Tenants. For her, the high-levels of inequity in fair housing didn't come as a surprise, but were still extremely heartbreaking.

According to Aguilera, one of the most perpetuating reasons inequality in fair housing has been difficult to identify in the past is because of the lack of strong industry regulations.

"There are a lot of good landlords," she said. "But there are some who don't know their rights and responsibilities, and the burden is on the tenant to hold the landlord accountable."

Although there was an eruption of criticism for a lack of enforcement against the violators of fair housing laws in Portland after the audit, many

housing advocates are also concerned with the lack of details from the collected data.

Aguilera said she has seen more movement towards real solutions since the audit report.

"We have clearly identified some strong and meaningful solutions," she said.

In the past, the Community Alliance of Tenants hasn't participated in the housing discrimination survey, called an Analyses of Impediments, because of the lack of political will in fair housing to carry out meaningful recommendations.

This year, however, she said there are a number of 'political champi-

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