

LAW & JUSTICE

Diversity in Schools Embraced

The Obama administration released new guidelines on Friday aimed at promoting diversity and reducing racial isolation in educa-

tion, replacing the policy adopted in 2008 under then-President George W. Bush.

Administration officials said the

new guidance makes clear that educators may consider the race of students in certain plans designed to promote diversity and may reduce racial isolation among students in elementary and secondary schools.

It supports voluntary efforts by schools to foster diversity and recognizes learning benefits to students when campuses and

schools include students of diverse backgrounds.

"Racial isolation remains far too common in America's classrooms today and it is increasing," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said in a statement accompanying the new policy.

Studies have shown that U.S. schools have become more segregated now than at the time of

the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., the African-American civil rights leader.

Educators have told administration officials that the previous Bush administration guidelines failed to sufficiently make clear that race can be taken into account as part of efforts to achieve diversity at colleges and univer-

Death Ruled a Homicide

The Portland Police Bureau, in association with Crime Stoppers, is asking the public for help in solving a 2009 homicide of a woman, who was previously thought to have died from natural causes.

Officers were called to the Nancy Bergesson's Southeast Hamilton Street home on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009, when they discovered her deceased body.

Although the medical examiner at the scene initially determined Bergesson died of natural causes, the medical examiner later determined from an autopsy her death was a result of homicidal violence.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers,



Nancy Bergesson

that leads to an arrest in this case.

Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP (4357) or leave a tip online at crimestoppersoforegon.com.

Suspects Target Elderly Homes

The Portland Police Bureau is investigating three thefts in southeast Portland where white males posed as Portland General Electric (PGE) employees as a way to steal from the elderly. In one known case, the suspects forcibly entered the home.

The suspects told the victims

they needed to perform inspections, but did not display credentials or drive PGE company vehicles.

PGE employees carry official identification badges when contacting customers at their homes or businesses, and they typically do not enter customer residences.

Police said anyone who receives a visit from a person who claims to be a PGE employee without identification should call 911 immediately.

Anyone with information about the recent thefts or any like them are asked to contact Detective Amber Lewis at 503-823-0887.

Advertise with diversity in
The Portland Observer

Vancouver NAACP Membership Drive

In an effort to build support to the Vancouver chapter of the NAACP, the organization will hold a membership drive Thursday, Dec. 17 at the Clark County YWCA at 3609 Main St.

The free pancake breakfast event, from 10 a.m. to noon, will feature a short program on HIV/AIDS in the African American Community, and an introduction to current NAACP volunteers.

"The NAACP is still here, and

we're rebuilding," said Dolly England, the local chapter's vice-president and health chair.

According to England, the local chapter has been in existence for more than 50-years, although there have been periods of inactivity.

Anyone who would like to become a member or simply wants to learn more about the organization is welcome.

For more information, visit naacpvanc.org.

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