

The INSIDE

The Week in Review **pages 4**



CAREER & EDUCATION **pages 6-7**

OPINION **pages 8-9**

FOOD **page 10**



MIETRO

page 11

SUMMER FUN GUIDE

page 12



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT **pages 13-16**



CALENDAR

page 17

CLASSIFIEDS

pages 18

RELIGION

pages 19

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What's on your list today?



PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Gloria McMurtry is closing her Reflections coffee shop and Talking Drum bookstore after serving the community for more than 17 years. The store on Northeast Killingsworth near Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard was a popular resource for the African-American community.

Reflections to Close

Changing demographics and economy spells end

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

After nearly two decades of providing residents, especially within the African-American community, with both a place to gather and

inspire each other, Reflections coffee shop and Talking Drum bookstore will be closing its doors.

Saturday, June 30, will be the final day for the locally owned business, located near the corner of

Northeast Killingsworth Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, which has served as more than a quick stop to grab a coffee to go.

continued ▼ on page 5



Roosevelt High School in north Portland (above) would join Grant in northeast Portland and Franklin in southeast Portland, as three local high schools designated to be rebuilt or replaced as part of a proposed school district property tax bond levy.

Bond Levy on School Repairs, Rebuilds

The Portland School Board chose a plan Tuesday to ask voters to approve a \$482 million bond that would repair or replace some of its aging schools. The property tax levy would go on the November General Election ballot.

The plan would cost each homeowner \$110 a year for every \$100,000 in home value, and more than half of

that money would go to modernizing or replacing Faubion Pre K-8 School in northeast Portland and Grant, Roosevelt, and Franklin high schools.

Although voters rejected a construction bond effort in 2011, stakeholders believe Portlanders have more confidence in higher taxes this year with a slightly improved economy.

Supporters said the new plan is the first step in a 32-year plan to ask for seven different school bonds raising more than \$3 billion to modernize district buildings.

The public is invited to attend a hearing on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the board's headquarters on North Dixon to share opinions on the district's proposal.