



A Return Home

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A public tour ushers in new beginning for Marysville School, a historic building reconstructed after a devastating fire. Workers salvaged most of the original door and framing to retain the southeast Portland school's vintage look and rebuild the east wing and gym.

continued ▲ *from front*

Construction on the burned down school began in June. Workers salvaged most of the original door and framing to retain the school's vintage look and rebuild the east wing, gym and upgrade fire safety in a

sustainable way.

School board members had hoped to completely reconstruct the Marysville building into a \$22 million state-of-the-art facility. But voters rejected a \$548 million bond issue in May 2011 that would have funded it and other school con-

struction projects.

After re-construction was complete on a scaled-back plan, students got a sneak peak of their new, old school, which maintained the same structure, but donned a facelift on the inside.

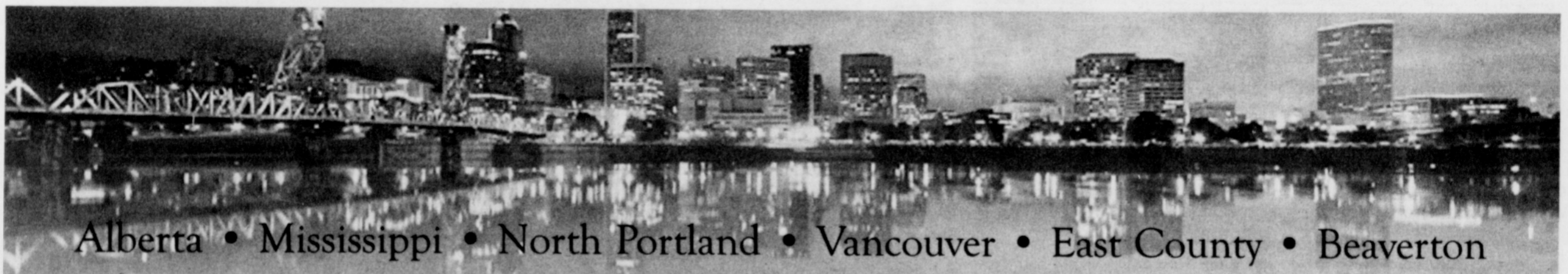
New changes include a full sprin-

kler and smoke detector system, an expanded library and technology lab, and sinks added to most classrooms.

Despite all of the challenges, said Penley, the Marysville community managed to push through together. Kids kept coming to school and

working hard and staff kept teaching, she said.

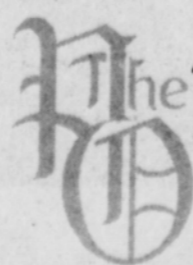
The real story, she said, is one of resiliency from the community, "Three years later, and we are coming full circle back to the neighborhood. I am proud of our staff and proud of the community."



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4747 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Email: ads@portlandobserver.com

Web: www.portlandobserver.com

Phone: 503.288.0033

Fax: 503 288-0015