

# The Week in Review

## Arts Focus Falls Short at King Elementary

A new report finds that an arts education focus has failed to elevate stagnant test scores at northeast Portland's King Elementary. The school remained at the bottom 5 percent of Oregon schools for achievement, despite the assistance of an arts curriculum offered through a White House program and actress Sarah Jessica Parker.

## Oil Train Kills Man in Vancouver

A Vancouver man was struck and killed by an oil train around 2:40 a.m. on Monday near Southeast 164th Avenue and Rivershore Drive in Vancouver. The train was headed from North Dakota to Bellingham, Wash.

## Lawsuit Filed Against State in Foster Care Rape

The Department of Human Services is being sued for \$950,000 after a Troutdale man raped his 15-year-old foster child. The lawsuit faults the department for placing the girl in the home of Jerrett Hetrick, who pleaded guilty to third-degree rape in October, sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison.

## Car Used for ATM Heist Attempt at Walgreen's

Police are looking for two men who crashed a pickup truck through the front doors of the Walgreens at Northeast 33rd and Killingsworth early Tuesday to try and steal an ATM near the entryway. An attempt was made to rob the same store earlier this January, and in mid-December someone attempted to steal an ATM from a Vancouver Walgreens in a similar fashion.

## Federal Help on Homelessness Announced

The state of Oregon has received nearly \$27 million to promote community efforts to end homelessness. Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley announced Monday that the federal funding will support over 130 programs across the state that seek to house people who struggle to keep themselves housed.

## Wolf Protections Reviewed in Oregon

Wolf protections in Oregon are officially under review after state wildlife officials' annual population count yielded more than four breeding pairs for the third year in a row. Under the state's wolf plan, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife commission can consider removing wolves from the state's Endangered Species act once that population bar is met.

# Official says Wilson won't be charged

## Decision has not been confirmed

(AP) — The FBI completed its investigation into the police shooting of Michael Brown the unarmed, black 18-year-old killed in a confrontation with a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, a justice department official not authorized to discuss the case by name, told The Associated Press last week.

But on Tuesday, the Justice Department still had not yet announced whether it will file a federal civil rights charge against former Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson. Other officials and experts have said such a prosecution would be highly unlikely, in part because of the extraordinarily high legal standard federal prosecutors would need to meet.

The New York Times reported last Wednesday that Justice Department lawyers were preparing a memo recommending against prosecuting Wilson, and that Attorney General Eric Holder — who is expected to leave his position within weeks — had not yet made a decision.

Wilson, who is white, was cleared in November by a state grand jury in the Aug. 9 death of Brown, a shooting that touched off protests in the streets and



Darren Wilson in a hospital photo after shooting.

became part of a national conversation about race relations and police departments that patrol minority neighborhoods.

Wilson, who shot Brown after a scuffle in the middle of a street, told the St. Louis County grand jury that spent months reviewing the case that he feared for his life during the confrontation and that Brown struck him in the face and reached for his gun. Some witnesses have said Brown had his hands up when Wilson shot him.

A separate, broader Justice De-

partment-led investigation into the practices of the Ferguson police department remains open. That investigation, which will examine potential discriminatory practices among officers, has the potential to have more sweeping consequences than any individual criminal prosecution, experts say.

Benjamin Crump, a lawyer for Brown's family, said in a statement that the family would not address speculation from anonymous officials and was waiting for an official Justice Department announcement.

# Police Reform Oversight Panel Named

## Fritz outlines public process

Twenty members, plus several alternates have been selected to serve on a panel that has been charged with monitoring the implementation of the city of Portland's Settlement Agreement on police reforms with the U.S. Department of Justice.

"I am thrilled with the expertise and range of experiences represented by the members on this important oversight committee," Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who worked with Mayor Hales to

support the community selection process, announced Monday.

"I thank the Human Rights Commission, Portland Commission on Disability, State Representative Lew Frederick, and all the community leaders on the Selection Committee, for demonstrating Portlanders' capacity to get things done expeditiously and with good public process. A wonderful Community Oversight Advisory Board has been appointed. Now, the hard work really begins," Fritz said.

The Settlement Agreement calls for reform to Portland Police Bureau policies and training, particularly related to interactions

with people who have or are perceived to have mental illness. The Community Oversight Advisory Board will be comprised of 15 voting community members and five advisory members from the Portland Police Bureau.

The panel will meet regularly to assess the implementation of the agreement, and make recommendations regarding changes to policy and practices to implement reforms.

The group's meetings are open to the public, including a Feb. 2 training session and regular session on Feb. 9 at the Midland Library, 805 S.E. 122nd Ave.

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