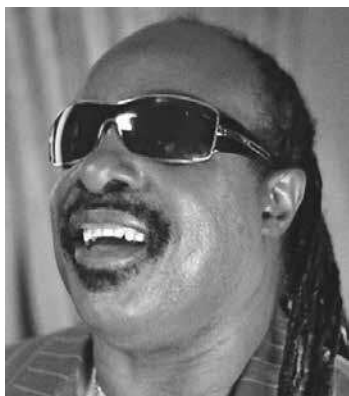


The INSIDE

The Week in Review

page 2



pages 7-11

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



METRO

page 9

pages 12-13

OPINION

CLASSIFIEDS

pages 14

page 16

FOOD



This page
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What's on your list today?



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tubman Middle School Principal Natasha Butler has a hug for arriving students on the first day of classes Monday for the newly opened and renovated middle school campus serving Portland's historic African American community.

Renovated Tubman Opens

School bell rings for two new middle schools

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The first day of the new school year Monday saw the opening of two new middle schools serving diverse populations in north and northeast Portland—Harriet Tubman and Roseway Heights—serving 1,000 of the district's 50,000 students from historically underserved communities. Tubman's opening as a fully refurbished middle school was much celebrated by many members of

the black community and school leaders. Prior to this week, the school had been dormant for half a decade.

To promote the district's renewed citywide effort to bring equal access and quality academic programs to its students, Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero, who is entering his second year at the helm of Portland Public Schools, toured four schools Monday morning.

His visits culminated at Tubman, where he was joined by Mayor Ted Wheeler, School Board Chair Rita Moore, and Portland's teacher union president Suzanne Cohen. Guerrero also visited the new Roseway Heights

Middle School in northeast Portland, Llewellyn Elementary School in southeast Portland and Ockley Green Middle School in north Portland.

Before African American advocates fought to first get Tubman opened as Portland's only middle school in the black community back in 1983, most black kids in north and northeast Portland were bused to other middle schools outside their community.

Though the school has faced delays in its opening due to suspected air quality issues, it now boasts a new air ventilation system meant to thwart pollutants from the nearby I-5 freeway, which was recently tested and found to be unsafe.

Sewer Work Impacts Killingsworth

The Portland Bureau of Environmental Services advises the traveling public that a sewer construction project will involve periodic lane closures on Northeast Killingsworth Street between Martin Luther King Boulevard and Eighth Avenue for about two months beginning this week.

The construction will occur during day and night hours, but

not during the evening rush hour from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. or on Sundays or holidays. One lane will be maintained at all times. The traveling public is required to follow signage and directions of flaggers when present.

People traveling by motor vehicle or bicycle should expect delays during construction, share the road and travel with caution,

officials said.

The work is part of the Woodlawn-King Streets Sewer Repair project to repair or replace over three miles of public sewer pipes that are on average 90 years old and in deteriorating condition. The project will protect the public and environment by reducing the possibility of sewage releases to homes, businesses, and streets.