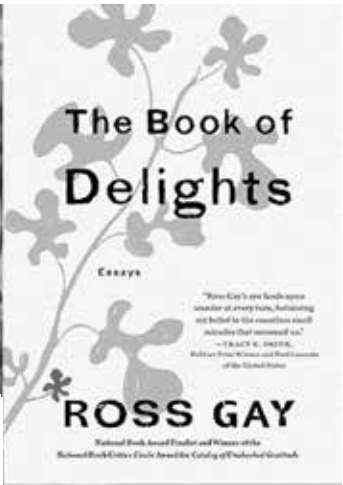


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LOCAL NEWS

Wells Picked for Wilson Renaming

District to name high school for civil rights icon

BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON
PORTLAND OBSERVER EDITOR

Portland's Wilson High School will be renamed Ida B. Wells-Barnett High School in honor of one of America's most famous early civil rights leaders, a Black woman who fought for the right to vote, a person born into slavery in 1862 and who was freed by the Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War.

Superintendent of Portland Public Schools Guadalupe Guerrero approved the proposal from the Wilson High School Renaming Committee, a large group composed of students, teachers, alumni and parents. The decision was shared last week in a letter to community members and was scheduled to be considered for final approval Tuesday evening during a regular school board



Ida B. Wells-Barnett was born into slavery in 1862 and was freed during the Civil War. An investigative journalist, educator and leader in the civil rights movement, she was considered the most famous Black woman of her time.

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Vaccine Timelines Change

Governor opens COVID-19 shots to teachers

(AP) — Gov. Kate Brown is defending her decision to reject federal guidelines and prioritize teachers for the COVID-19 vaccine before some elderly, stating that if all of Oregon's seniors were vaccinated first teachers would likely not be vaccinated before the school year and many students would not return to in-person learning.

Officials from the Oregon Health Authority Friday presented a new vaccination timeline that delays the eligibility for seniors 65 to 69 years old to be vaccinated until March 7 and those 70 to 74 pushed back to Feb. 28.

"I know there will still be some who disagree with this choice," Brown said about prioritizing teachers. "I also know there are many Oregonians who are eager to get the vaccine. The harsh reality is we are managing a scarce resource right now. I wish we had more vaccines to give."

Following news that state's would not receive as many vaccine doses as they had been told by the federal government, Oregon officials announced a change to the vaccine distribution — instead of vaccinating teachers and seniors at the same time, teachers started to be vaccinated on Monday. Oregonians 80 and older become eligible to receive the shots starting Feb. 8.

The governor addressed the struggles students have faced with distance learning since the pandemic closed schools last March.

"If schools remain remote the potential education loss could be substantial," Brown said. "This is especially true in mathematics, with students likely to lose five to nine months on learning by the end of this school year."



Oregon Gov. Kate Brown visits a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem. (AP photo)

"If we were to vaccinate every Oregon senior first, the unfortunate and harsh reality is that many of our educators would not get vaccinated this school year and Oregon kids would continue to suffer," Brown said. "If we flip that, and prioritize the needs of Oregon kids, it puts a two week delay on beginning vaccinations for seniors who live independently."

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