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GOBBLE GOBBLE

Kevin McGinnis passes out a ribbon to one of the kids who ran in the Kids Dash Sunday, Nov. 24, in this year's Green Lake Gobble & Mashed Potato Munch Off. The event featured a 10K run/walk, 5K run/walk and a free kids' dash followed by a Mashed Potato Munch Off competitive eating contest. Money generated by the Thanksgiving themed running and walking event helps support the Seattle's Union Gospel Mission through cash donations as well as the well-needed onsite canned food drive.

PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Charter Schools Launch

Proposed facilities target an array of educational needs

By Donna Gordon Blankinship
The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Dropouts, gang members, kids who love sports, children with disabilities and creative youngsters who can't sit still are among the children charter school developers say they'll teach in the new public schools they want to open in Washington State next year.

Their applications due last week to the state Charter School Commission span the academic spectrum, the Cascade Range and the Internet.

A year ago, Washington voters approved the opening of up to 40 of the alternative public schools. Nineteen groups and individuals filed proposals by Friday's deadline to be among the first to open a charter school in the state.

The next step will be public hearings and then approval of the first schools in February. The first schools would open to students for the 2014-15 school year.

Here are profiles of some of those hoping to open charter schools in Washington.

DROPOUTS, ADDICTS, GANG MEMBERS

Seventeen years ago, Por Vida Academy was one of the first charter schools in Texas. Now the San Antonio group wants to start a school in Yakima for young people who are far away from graduating from high school.

Joseph Rendon, now superintendent of a small group of Por Vida charter schools in Texas, says his students have drug problems, anger management issues, are active in gangs, have been arrested and have dropped out of school at least once.

Most students are between 16- and 18-years-old, Hispanic and were out of school for at least a year before enrolling.

The school gives them heavy doses of social work and counseling, as well as education in small classes. The high school has 250 or fewer students at any one time, but the population is always changing. Patience,

County Town Planning Pot Store

Skamania not only embraces the new shops -- it's opening its own

Bob Young
The Seattle Times

NORTH BONNEVILLE, Wash. (AP) — Many cities in Washington state are trying to ban or block new state-regulated pot stores.

North Bonneville, population 1,005, is not one of them.

A city some see as a Chevron station just west of the Columbia River's Bridge of the Gods, North Bonneville not only wants a pot store — it wants to own a pot store.

Mayor Don Stevens figures that would give the Skamania County city more control of a store they're likely to get anyway — and more revenue.

"We have a longstanding relationship with law enforcement. We have a vested interest in maintaining the health and welfare of our community. And someone else who might be granted a license might not have the same concerns," Stevens said.

On the question of North Bonneville becoming the first Wash-

ington city to own a pot business, only three residents stood up and disagreed with the mayor at a public hearing Tuesday.

And they were pretty tame. John Mobley mostly had questions. Susie Strom, a drug- and alcohol-prevention coordinator, implored the City Council to slow down and think more about children.

Jim Goldring agreed, asking, "How can the city operate a store without an adverse impact on youth?"

Five residents supported the

city becoming a pot dealer, some reluctantly.

"I don't want somebody coming into the community where I walk my 6-year-old and making money off getting people high," said Rachele Rice. But "if it's coming here ... I want to see that money benefit the community."

The council voted 3-to-1 to take the pioneering step and apply for one of the state's 334 retail stores. Councilmember Charles Pace stressed that in no way was he encouraging cus-

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Rob McKenna Lobbies for More Coal

Former AG pushes to keep climate change out of negotiations

SEATTLE (AP) — A former Washington state attorney general who is now lobbying for Montana and North Dakota has said an environmental review of a proposed coal terminal in Longview should not include possible climate change considerations.

Congress "has not authorized states to regulate interstate commerce in relation to climate change, and has not enacted national legislation to control greenhouse gas

emissions indirectly by limiting the sale or export of coal," Rob McKenna wrote earlier this week in a letter to the Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County.

McKenna was the Republican nominee who lost the race for Washington governor in 2012.

The three government entities are now determining the scope of the upcoming

environmental review for the \$650 million Millennium Bulk Terminals project planned by Ambre Energy Ltd. and Arch Coal Inc.

Trains would carry Rocky Mountain coal to the Longview terminal for export to Asia.

A similar terminal is planned at Cherry Point, near Bellingham, Wash. Another proposal would ship coal by barge down the

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