



“Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now”

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- Local news
- Opinions
- Jobs, Bids
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Music reviews
- Bulletin board
- RSS feeds

Tualatin

continued from page 1

the school—which is just over 20-years-old—has been engaged in over the last 8 years.

“You see something like this happen and even though it might have been one student doing it as a joke, it really does send a loud reminder to us that we have a lot of work to do -- whether that is addressing the racial achievement gap or people making insensitive comments,” he says.

“There’s still a problem with racism in our society, we still need to actively address it -- we can’t just think that the work is done because we’ve done a few workshops with teachers.”

The website Gawker reported a similar case in January as a hack

“It’s impossible to say, based on a Twitter photo, whether a website has actually been hacked,” Dee says. “There are many very convincing ways to go about producing convincing fakes. Photoshop would be one. But, even easier and better would be for someone to make changes to the site’s text and code on their local computer. That does not change the actual web site, and then they do a screen-grab of the supposed hack.”

The attack comes not only during Black History Month, but at a time when the Tualatin area’s communities of color are growing.

According to *The Oregonian*,

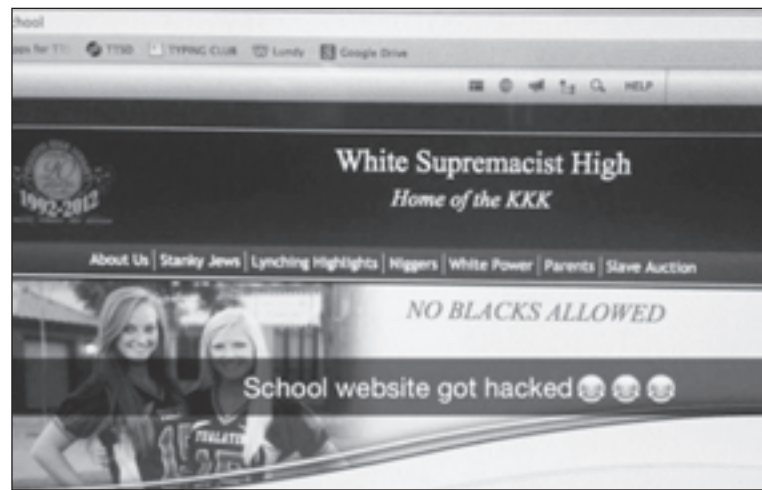
The attack comes not only during Black History Month, but at a time when the Tualatin area’s communities of color are growing

after a picture circulated of what appeared to be a Virginia school district website including the word “niggas.”

Portland web developer Jim Dee explains how someone could make it appear that they had hacked a website without in fact doing so.

Tigard-Tualatin’s minority student population doubled in the last decade to include more than a third of the district.

In the city of Tualatin alone, the Black population saw a nearly 50 percent increase, from .79 percent to about 1.2 percent of the city’s 26,000 residents.



This Snapchat screenshot of an apparent hack into the Tualatin High School website shows tabs of the homepage replaced with racist rhetoric including “Niggers,” “Lynching Highlights,” and “White Power.” The picture was shared more 100 times and favorited more than 80 on Twitter alone.

At Tualatin High current statistics show enrollment at 1,752, with Black students accounting for 1.8 percent of the student body.

The district’s racial equity plan, published in 2010, notes that any significant focus on systematic-inclusion only began happening as the suburban community saw a rapid uptick in diversity.

“The major changes in our student demographics had occurred only recently. Our staff turnover had not occurred at the same rate, and certainly did not reflect our student population,” the plan reads. “It was obvious that we did not have the in-house skill to begin working effectively to close our racial achievement gap.”

Despite these changes, Dinse

says administrators are “contemplating” how and if they will address the greater student body about the briefly viral sensation.

“Teaching Tolerance is a program created by the Southern Poverty Law Center meant to foster equity in schools across the nation. Maureen Costello heads the Teaching Tolerance program nationally, and says she would advise Tualatin High administrators against letting this issue go unaddressed—especially in the face of its relatively new plan for cultural competency.

“It’s never a good idea to hope that it goes away,” Costello says. “Some people in that community probably feel really, really violated by this. It happened. The best thing to do is address it.”

Veterans

continued from page 1

report, the department has already implemented a series of changes that will allow for dedicated Veteran’s access to programs and better coordination of all the agencies that serve veterans who might be in jail.

“By identifying military veterans who are in the criminal justice system and connecting them with the services they have earned, we can better help them to get back on track and succeed,” said Executive Dow Constantine.

The report also studied ways of improving Veterans data as the motion called for and according to the report, the review of best or promising practices for collecting veteran status data in jails suggests that DAJD’s current practice of asking the question, “Are you a veteran?” may be ineffective because individuals who served in the military may misunderstand

the term “veteran.”

The report recommended modifying the question to eliminate the use of the term veteran and including all components of service will increase data accuracy and identification efforts. The report noted that a combined

‘By identifying military veterans who are in the criminal justice system and connecting them with the services they have earned, we can better help them to get back on track and succeed’

approach is optimal as incarcerated veterans may be reluctant to self-identify because they feel ashamed of their criminal justice

involvement.

Other work stemming from the Motion and subsequent report already underway in the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention include:

- Ensuring incarcerated veterans have access to all services pro-

vided by veterans justice part-

- Providing criminal justice partners with training on the impact of incarceration on veterans;
- Providing priority access and streamlined jail clearance for veterans justice partners through DAJD/DCHS partnership; and,
- Initiation of discussions with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission on feasibility of inclusion of veteran-specific information in Corrections Officer Academy Training.

In all, the report made critical recommendations in the following areas: data gathering; incarcerated veterans access to programs; establishing a dedicated veteran’s housing pilot project; and, specialized training on veteran’s issues for jail staff.

Task Force

continued from page 1

zens Crime Commission of the Portland Business Alliance, that Council voted to re-join the JTTF,” wrote Portland Copwatch’s Dan Handelman.

In 2005, Portland became the first and only city to pull out of its partnership with the JTTF, only to re-join on a “case-by-case” basis in 2011 following the controversial plot to let of a bomb in Pioneer Square a year earlier.

City Council is sitting down to hammer out a Memoranda of Understanding, detailing the structure of the partnership Feb.

25 at 3 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Charlie Hales called his vote to re-join one of the hardest decisions he’s had to make in office.

“It’s a choice of evils,” Hales told *The Skanner News*. “The FBI has done things I can’t condone, and the federal government has done and is doing things that I think are unacceptable. And yet we have to deal with this threat of our citizens being killed or injured by people who seem to have no regard for life and human freedom.”

Hales, who voted in the early 2000’s against joining the JTTF as a Commissioner, says that his current decision was “51-49” but that the City and police bureau will step up outreach with communities that could feel especially threatened by the decision to become full partners.

Commissioners Dan Saltzman and Nick Fish voted with the mayor to rejoin, while Commissioners Steve Novick and Amanda Fritz took a stand against.

Hales says the two Portland Police officers who will be joining

the task force have yet to be chosen by Portland Police Chief Larry O’Dea.

Mayor Hales—who is also the police commissioner—still will not have security clearance which would allow him better insight into the specific activities of the partnership. However, now he will have a non-disclosure agreement which he did not have before.

The mayor says if he’s not satisfied that he’s properly informed on the happenings of the JTTF he’ll “pull the plug” on the City’s involvement.