

Fire cont'd from pg 1

least four residences, including a duplex and two single-family homes, were destroyed.

The county evacuated residents closest to the five-alarm fire — those living between 72nd and 76th Ave, from Killingsworth to Alberta streets. More than 145 people and 15 pets stayed at a temporary shelter, opened Monday night by Multnomah County and the American Red Cross.

According to a Multnomah County press release, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Northwest Region Clean Up said the agency will coordinate with Multnomah County and the Environmental Protection Agency on next steps.

Paul Seidel, Acting Manager for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Northwest Region Clean Up said the agency will coordinate with Multnomah County and the Environmental Protection Agency on next steps.

“And we’ll be working with the owner on next steps including: possible waste management disposal, soil sampling, assessing water quality — and impacts to ground water quality,” said Paul Seidel, acting manager for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. “We won’t know what’s required, until we find out about the site.”

The Environmental Protection Agency had been aggressively monitoring air quality since burning tires and salvaged vehicles sent a black plume of oily smoke over the area. EPA Randy Nattis, EPA on-scene coordinator, said at 2 p.m. Tuesday air monitoring and all the values were coming back down to typical air quality standards.

The Red Cross is handing out clean up supplies of mops, buckets and other household items.

Cleaning kits are available at the evacuation shelter 1415 SE 122nd Ave. For more tips and information: multco.us.

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ed yes.

In a Tuesday morning press release, the Jefferson High School Alumni Association announced it had taken a position against changing the name and would circulate a petition to that effect. The group will also hold a community discussion for “current Jefferson High School students, Jefferson High School alumni and the Jefferson High School community” at 7 p.m. March 21 at Unite Oregon, 700 N. Killingsworth. Light food and beverage will be provided, and those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP to Richard Hunter at (503) 964-9137 no later than 5 p.m. March 19.

That conversation is the continuation of discussions at two public meetings earlier this year, both hosted by the Humboldt Neighborhood Association — one hosted by the Humboldt Neighborhood Association Feb. 14 at Portland

Community College’s Cascade Campus and one at the North Portland Library Jan. 29.

At the same time, Portland Public Schools — responding to a complaint about Franklin High School’s mascot,

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the Quakers — has announced a potential policy change that would make it easier to change the names of schools and mascots.

That policy, available on the school district’s website, is under public comment until March 20 and revisions may be made before it is adopted; comments can be sent to schoolboard@pps.net.

According to Anne LaBorde, the current chair for the Humboldt Neighbor-

hood Association, the neighborhood association adopted a policy in 2012, reading, “This board is opposed, as a matter of policy, to retaining names of schools and other public institution names for former slave owners or oth-

ers who did not respect equal opportunity for all.”

That policy was renewed in November 2017. Clifford Walker, a longtime resident of the Humboldt Neighborhood, where Jefferson is located, was part of the discussion on both occasions, and has also recently testified before the Multnomah County Commission regarding his concerns about the name of the school.

Guns cont'd from pg 1

By default, the ERPO will hold for one year unless a judge — with clear evidence that the person no longer poses a threat — decides to lift the ban earlier. The ERPO can also be extended if the risk remains after the order expires. That said, respondents are able to argue against the order (or its renewal) and have 30 days to request a hearing to contest it.

Once the temporary order does go into effect, it’s entered into Oregon’s Law Enforcement Data System, which then blocks any attempts of the respondent to purchase a firearm during a routine background check.

According to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, death by guns has reached warzone proportions in the U.S. Between 1955 and 1975, the Vietnam War killed over 58,000 American soldiers. That’s less than the number of civilians killed with guns in the U.S. in an average period of two years.

Homicide attributes to almost 35 percent of all gun deaths, while suicides make up 62 percent. Children and young adults under the age of 24 constitute 38 percent of all firearm deaths and non-fatal injuries, according to Giffords.

It’s statistics like these that have en-

“Death by guns has reached warzone proportions in the U.S.

couraged Oregon legislators, law enforcement, judges and regional partners to come together and find ways to increase awareness about gun violence restraining orders.

Oregon’s ERPO measure — which was first proposed by the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office — was inspired by similar laws in Washing-

ton state, California, Indiana and Connecticut.

“If District Attorney Rod Underhill had not believed that this was useful, we wouldn’t have taken this concept down to the legislature,” said Sparks. “We see tremendous value in this, not only to the community that would be protected from an individual, but actually the individual himself or herself, as they’re often the person most in need of the protection.”

While Sparks added that this tool is in no way a silver bullet solution to gun violence, he said that typically after a mass shooting, warning signs tend to surface. “People will say, ‘I saw this coming, I heard him say things that really scared me. I tried to get help but I couldn’t.’”

An ERPO could be that helpful tool. Multnomah County cited an analysis



PHOTO BY KATE NACY

‘Enough is Enough’

At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 14, about 50 students and teachers gathered at the Portland Community College Cascade Campus as part of a national school walkout to honor the 17 victims of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. A group of student protestors from Rosemary Anderson High School joined the crowd at PCC, marching behind a hand-painted “Enough is Enough” banner. After passing around a megaphone and sharing thoughts on gun reform, campus climate, and the Florida tragedy, a moment of silence was held.

Khaleia Black, a Rosemary Anderson student, spoke about the lack of resources at RAHS. “We’re at an alternative school, and there’s no therapist,” she said. “There’s nobody there to talk with us about our problems.” High school students in particular were encouraged to take the megaphone, and clipboards were at the ready with voter preregistration forms for 16- and 17-year-olds.

Sources estimated about 100 students walked out of Jefferson High School, and schools around the area joined what the Associated Press estimates was one of the largest student protests since the Vietnam era, with tens of thousands of students around the country joining in. In a Wednesday-morning press release, Portland Public Schools said it supported the students and would hold “student-centered activities around the topic of safe, supportive and inclusive schools and classrooms.”

“I just think it’s inappropriate to have a statue of a White supremacist and slave baron at the front of a public school,” said Walker, who graduated from Jefferson in 1961.

LaBorde said she has heard an “inspiring and enlightening” range of comments and opinions on the subject.

“There are those who look at the historical reference and implications and there are those who look at their own personal identity and legacy,” LaBorde said. “Then we have some wonderfully out-of-the-box students who said we identify with the name Jefferson, but not with Thomas.”

“What I’m most concerned about is our legacy,” said 1978 graduate Marvin Sanders. “The poetic irony of a Black high school being named after a slave owner — I just love that.”

Read the full story at TheSkanner.com



Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill during meeting on Extreme Risk Protection Orders on Feb. 9.

by Everytown for Gun Safety, which looked at mass shootings in the U.S. from 2009 to 2016. It found that roughly 42 percent of them include evidence that the shooter had exhibited dangerous warning signs before the attack.

The county also looked to the research of Dr. Jeffrey Swanson at Duke University, who estimates that over a 15-year period, “for every 10 to 11 gun-removal cases collected, one person’s life was saved.”