

Not at all

Lawyer seeks new venue in train station shooting case

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - The lawyer for a white former transit officer charged with murder in the shooting of an unarmed black man at an Oakland train station says the case should be moved out of the area because of racial divisions.

Michael Rains argued in documents filed in Alameda County Superior Court last week that more than 96 percent of 400 residents surveyed said they knew details about the case, while 46 percent said they thought that Johannes Mehserle is guilty.

The survey also found that nearly 80 percent of blacks believe Mehserle is guilty, compared to 33 percent of whites.

Mehserle has pleaded not guilty to murder in the shooting of Oscar Grant on New Year's Day.

Rains says Mehserle meant to use his Taser, not his handgun.



Mehserle

Gordon Parks museum nearly complete

FORT SCOTT, Kan. (AP) - Construction of a new Gordon Parks museum in his eastern Kansas hometown is now open and nearly completed.

The Gordon Parks Museum and Center is slated to open at Fort Scott Community College.



Gordon Parks

Parks became known as a photographer, activist, filmmaker and writer. He became the first African American to work at Life Magazine.

Director Jill Warford said the museum is 85 percent completed.

"I'm glad that it's open. Now we have enough space to have groups in and not be cramped," she said.

Warford said the center is open to students and the public for tours.

Not all the planned displays and exhibits are finished.

Last week, the center hosted a group of elementary students.

"The kids were well taught about Gordon Parks," she said. "They knew a lot of details about his life and pictures. They were very prepared."

The new 3,500-square-foot center displays Parks' music, literature, film, photography, poetry and other works. The new center and museum now includes exhibition space for Parks' memorabilia and artistic work and a timeline wall that outlines Parks' entire life and career.

There is also a glass display case, a recreation of the living room and writing desk from Parks' New York apartment with a window and viewing screen to show films, educational stations, and archive storage space.

Black families sue district over threat

WHITEWATER, Wis. (AP) - Three black students and their families allege the Whitewater Unified School District failed to provide adequate safety last spring after a racist threat was discovered.

The families filed a federal lawsuit this month, seeking unspecified damages and changes to school policies.

The lawsuit says a racist message was found May 14 on a stall door in a boys' restroom at Whitewater High School. It says the message used the N-word and threatened death to six black students identified by name.

The lawsuit says school officials did not place the school in lockdown mode or cancel classes, and were slow to contact parents. Whitewater Police Chief James Coan says the investigation is ongoing.

Harriet Tubman park gets \$1.2 million from park service

BALTIMORE (AP) - A nearly \$1.2 million National Park Service grant will help develop outdoor recreation facilities in the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park on the Eastern Shore.

Sens. Benjamin Cardin and Barbara Mikulski and Rep. Frank Kratovil announced the grant from the park service's Land and Water Conservation Fund on Monday.

Maryland expects to begin development at the 17-acre site late next year and finish in 2011.

Tubman was born in Dorchester County, where she spent nearly 30 years as a slave before escaping in 1849. She later led hundreds of slaves to freedom as part of the anti-slavery resistance network known as the Underground Railroad.



Harriet Tubman

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LOWE'S SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Employee volunteers transform Cook inside and out

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Cook Elementary Principal Ted Burcaw says his school has a new lease on life, thanks to the work of a group of local Lowe's employees and a generous grant from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation.

In the eight weeks leading up to the start of the 2009-2010 school year, nearly 40 volunteers from Lowe's stores worked tirelessly on the grounds of the school, with the mission of transforming the environment where its students learn and play.

"When they came back in August, they came back to a different place," Burcaw said.

A \$100,000 grant from the Lowe's Foundation helped the volunteers to improve the technology and aesthetics of the school. Amenities such as interactive white boards, sound enhancements and wireless handheld assessment pods - devices where students log answers on classroom exercises for the teacher's perusal - will soon be found in every classroom at Cook as a result of the grant, bringing the school to the cutting edge with respect to technology.

"We've had a history of strong business partnerships, but to have this grant was really a blessing, a stroke of good fortune," Burcaw commented.

But the project didn't stop with the technology. Lowe's volunteers landscaped the grounds, manicured the lawns and decorated the exterior of the building, even commissioning a local artist to paint two large murals on the previously-bare brick walls. Inside, they painted, laid carpet, and even remodeled a teacher's restroom.

"This is what instills community pride," Burcaw said of the project. "It's pride and ownership that really are fundamental to a school's overall improvement."

The school, which has a Technology and Communications theme, is home to roughly 240 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. The income of Cook students' families are the lowest in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system.

"They were the children of the community who probably had the least coming their way," said Bert Barber, who manages the Lowe's on Peters Creek Parkway. "...we just want to be sure that they have the same opportunity to get a (solid) education as any other kid does."

Barber estimates that Lowe's volunteers logged more than 5000 hours on the project. They even solicited some of the stores' suppliers, and racked up more than \$50,000 in in-kind donations, he says.

"It's been very, very rewarding because everybody has been so gracious," he remarked. "It's been heart-warming."

Children who came to the school's Open House were not only treated to a fresh environment; the Lowe's volunteers had another, more personal trick up their sleeves. Each and every child that attended the school's Open House - a record 90 percent of the student body, according to Burcaw - received two new outfits, including shoes, paid for by donations from Lowe's employees. The remainder of the clothes - all brand new - were compiled to create a clothes closet to serve the students' needs throughout the school year.

"The most rewarding piece of all was to see the children's faces when they arrived at school and just to see the difference that it made for them," remarked Greg Gee, manager of the University Parkway store. "It was a great opportunity to make an impact."

The outpouring of support has made an impression on students and staff alike,



Principal Ted Burcaw stands outside of the newly upfitted Cook Elementary School.

Burcaw says. "This has just totally reenergized me; it's helped me to feel more dedicated than ever before to our school's mission and vision," he commented. "This was just a project that became bigger than everyone

involved. It was really exciting to be a part of that process."

Lowe's and Cook plan to continue their partnership and are already talking about potential future projects, Burcaw says.



Some of the many clothing items for students that were purchased by Lowe's employees.

BestHealth.

Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center

In partnership with MedCost

October 2009 Events

Events are held at BestHealth in Hanes Mall or other locations, as noted.

☎ = registration required. Visit www.besthealth.com or call 336-713-BEST (713-2378) to register.

For information about BestHealth membership, call 336-713-BEST or visit our web site.

1 THU - Farm to Table

6 to 7:30 p.m. Join Chef Alex Swain to learn how to turn freshly picked fruits and vegetables into delectable dishes. Recipes and samples available. ☎

2 FRI - Increasing Your Fertility Naturally

4 p.m. Fertility specialist Dr. Tamer Yalcinkaya gives tips on what you can do to boost your chances of getting pregnant and explains the latest infertility treatments available at the WFUBMC Center for Reproductive Medicine. ☎

3 SAT - Women's Self-defense Series Part One: "Piercing through Attacks"

1:30 p.m. Join Coach Michael Joyce to learn techniques on developing a firm base and correct direction and intent. ☎

6 TUE - Mammography: What you need to know

11 a.m. Mammograms can save lives by detecting breast cancer early on. In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, staff from the WFUBMC Outpatient Imaging Center explain the importance of these screenings. ☎

6 TUE - By Kids, For Kids Forum

6 to 7:30 p.m. Kids ages 5 to 15 and their parents are invited to gather and share personal experiences with setting health-related goals and what changes they've made to help achieve those goals. Staff from Brenner FIT will lead a fun exercise demonstration. Healthy refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the American Heart Association and Brenner Children's Hospital. ☎

8 THU - Become a Volunteer at the Medical Center

11 a.m. Interested in becoming a volunteer at Wake Forest Baptist? Join Susan Washabaugh, Director of Volunteer Services, to learn what opportunities are available. ☎

10 SAT - Fall Festival Treats

12:30 to 2 p.m. Chef Nikki Miller-Ka shows you a few tasty, healthy treats to serve at your next fall party. Recipes and samples. For BestHealth members only. ☎

12 MON - Take it to Heart

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Learn ways to be heart healthier during this two-hour program that features a cardiac nurse, nutritionist, exercise physiologist and pharmacist. Sponsored by the WFUBMC Heart Center. ☎

13 TUE - Belly Dancing

6 p.m. Join instructor Paula Stump for this fun form of exercise. Dress comfortably to participate. ☎



14 WED - Vegetarian Fare

6 p.m. Amy Fanjoy, registered dietitian, helps you understand the basics of vegetarianism and how to make sure you receive all the proper nutrients needed for good health. ☎

15 THU - Advance Directives

1 to 3 p.m. Learn how advance directives, such as a living will and healthcare power of attorney, can ensure that your wishes will be met. Carol Ford of the Hospice & Palliative Care Center explains the terminology and procedures. Documents notarized free of charge. ☎



15 THU - Seasons Change, So Can You!

6 p.m. Join Andrea Angelo, brand consultant and collage enthusiast, to create a visual inspiration of the change you want to see in yourself. Learn how engaging both the creative, emotional right brain and the logical, goal-oriented left brain can help you achieve your goals. ☎

16 FRI - Gamma Knife: Incision-free surgery

11 a.m. WFUBMC radiation oncologist Dr. Michael Chan discusses Gamma Knife, a non-invasive treatment for certain brain tumors and vascular malformations of the brain. ☎

16 FRI - Healthy Harvest Beverages

3 to 4:30 p.m. Chef Alex Swain shows you how to turn fresh fruits and veggies into delicious drinks. Recipes and samples provided. ☎



☎ To register, visit www.besthealth.com anytime, or call 336-713-BEST (713-2378) between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Screening appointments must be made by phone.

Unless otherwise stated, BestHealth programs are for adults; no children under age 12, please.



Wake Forest University Baptist
MEDICAL CENTER