

One superintendent candidate drops out

Heather Cordie, superintendent in Sherwood, says the Eugene schools job is not the right fit

By JOSEPHINE WOOLINGTON
The Register-Guard

And then there were two. Heather Cordie has quit the race to become the next superintendent of the Eugene School District, leaving two finalists still in contention. In an email sent Sunday evening to Eugene School Board Chairman Jim Torrey, Cordie wrote: "From the very beginning, I have said how important it is to me that the right 'fit' exists in this potential partnership. After further reflection, I do not believe that I am that candidate. I respectfully withdraw

my candidacy, and I wish you the very best of luck as you become more clear about the leader you are looking for." The two remaining candidates are Gustavo Balderas, superintendent at Ocean View School District in Huntington Beach, Calif., and Sloan Presidio, assistant superintendent of instructional services for Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. Presidio also is a finalist for the Bend-La Pine School District superintendency. That district's school board is expected to decide today. The three finalists



Heather Cordie spent several days last week meeting with school board members, students, teachers, administrators, parents and community members, among others. The candidates also each spent 30 minutes on Thursday answering questions at a community forum. When asked for further comment, Cordie, superintendent of the Sherwood School District in Washington County, said in an email Monday that it is "best for me to continue serving in Sherwood." Torrey said he is disappointed that Cordie is out to decide today.

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UO counsel explains handling of records

He says that in hindsight, a student's therapy data would have been handled differently

By JOSEPHINE WOOLINGTON
The Register-Guard

The University of Oregon's interim general counsel said that, in hindsight, he would have acted differently before requesting copies of a student's confidential therapy records late last year. Doug Park told a UO Senate committee on Monday that he was following a legal demand sent to him in August from the woman's attorneys to collect all documents that relate to the then-pending federal civil rights lawsuit against the UO. "There's no other way we could follow the de-

mand letter without collecting the (therapy) records," Park said to the group of professors, graduate students, UO administrators and others who make up the UO Senate Committee on Sexual- and Gender-Based Violence. "If I could go back in retrospect, I would have sent (the student's attorneys) a letter or email back, asking, 'Is this really what you mean?'" Park said. The university previously had asserted that it legally accessed, but did not actually review, the student's records — stored at the UO Counseling and Testing Center — after she told the university in Sep-

tember that she planned to sue. The 18-year-old student said she was raped by three UO basketball players last year. She filed a lawsuit in January against the university and head basketball coach Dana Altman for allegedly violating her federal civil rights by recruiting one of the involved players after he had previously been accused of rape at a different college, among other accusations. The lawsuit also claims that the UO illegally accessed her confidential therapy records in December, and that the student did not authorize the release of her records, violating federal and state privacy laws.

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Couple accused of using teenager in prostitution

By CHELSEA GORROW
The Register-Guard

A man and woman were arrested over the weekend, accused of pimping a homeless teenager from a motel in southeast Eugene. According to Eugene police, Anthony Ballard Jones, 33, and Chanel Jones, who is also known as Victoria Edward, 20, both with no known address, picked up a 19-year-old female in Idaho a week ago and compelled her to perform sexual acts with strangers in Idaho, Washington and Oregon. On Saturday, the three checked into the Motel 6 in the 3600 block of Glenwood Drive, which runs parallel to Interstate 5, po-

lice said. About 10 p.m., in a dispute with a "john" visiting the room, Anthony Jones allegedly threatened the man with a gun, prompting calls to police. According to authorities, officers arrived at the motel to contact Anthony Jones after the motel manager reported someone menacing another person with a gun. That's when the teenager approached officers and told them what was happening, police said. "She saw that things were getting worse, and she saw an opportunity to get out of it," said Detective Greg Harvey, adding that the young woman said she had befriended the Joneses in Boise and was not being held against her will. Anthony Jones was ar-



Chanel Jones Anthony B. Jones

rested Sunday morning on two counts of promoting prostitution, and being a felon in possession of a weapon. Chanel Jones was arrested on charges of compelling prostitution and prostitution. The 19-year-old victim was not arrested or charged. Harvey said the investigation is continuing and police plan to contact authorities in Washington and Idaho.

Former high court justice cancels plan for Eugene visit

By CHRISTIAN HILL
The Register-Guard

Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor won't be in Eugene on May 1 for a public talk after all. O'Connor, the first woman appointed to the nation's highest court, had accepted an invitation by the City Club of Eugene to discuss civic education, but she had to cancel recently because of a scheduling conflict. O'Connor founded iCivics, a Web-based education project that provides free interactive lesson plans and games for learning civics. She wrote in a Feb. 23 letter to Marlene Nesary, president of the Eugene club, that her project also was participating in the launch of a major partnership with the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at Ohio State University in May.



Sandra Day O'Connor

"I was initially hopeful that I would be able to attend both events," O'Connor wrote, "but that has become impossible." O'Connor offered her office's help toward the club's efforts to expand civic education in the community. "I very much believe in the work of the City Club of Eugene and hope that I can be helpful from a distance, if not in person at this particular time," she wrote. O'Connor retired from the Supreme Court in 2006 after 24 years of service. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, in 2009. She last visited Eugene in 1999 when she attended the dedication of the Knight Law Center on the University of Oregon campus.

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