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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2011

WINNER OF SEVEN PULITZER PRIZES

Teachers who train teachers fail study

A national report
suggests mentors of
student teachers are not
well-suited for the job

By **BETSY HAMMOND**
THE OREGONIAN

A new national study highly critical of schools of education, including two in Oregon, has called attention to a group of people who typically don't get much: teachers who agree to take on a student teacher.

Why would seasoned pros let novices take over their classrooms and influence the results they achieve with students? And are these mentors well-suited to shape the next generation of teachers?

The National Council for Teacher Quality's report, "Student Teaching in the United States," suggests the answer to the second question is no.

The council blames schools of education, saying most do little or nothing to ensure that the teachers who mentor student teachers are exceptional at the craft and well-equipped to mentor a fellow adult.

But Oregon colleges of education are pushing back against the report's conclusions, particularly its assertion that Oregon programs offer weak student-

Please see **TEACHERS**, Page A8

Oregon aims to move vets off Medicaid

By **MIKE FRANCIS**
THE OREGONIAN

Phyllis Hewett of Vancouver, the 86-year-old widow of an Army Air Corps veteran, has a new wheelchair, a new mattress and new clothes to fit her diminished frame. Her family could afford these things because of a Washington state program that helps residents get the veterans benefits to which they are entitled.

After doing the paperwork, Hewett got more than \$20,000 in a lump sum for widow's benefits she should have begun receiving after her husband died 30 years ago. She also now gets a monthly payment of \$1,056 from the federal government.

"We were trying to figure out" how we could buy her the things she needs, says Hewett's daughter, Dianne Johnston of Vancouver. The money has helped the family as Hewett has moved into adult family care.

Please see **VETERANS**, Page A7



Read more military news at
[oregonlive.com/
oregonatwar](http://oregonlive.com/oregonatwar)

Debt limit managed, for now

Finally passed, the deal marks the beginning of a fierce debate over how the federal budget should look

By **LORI MONTGOMERY**
WASHINGTON POST-BLOOMBERG

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Tuesday overwhelmingly approved a plan to raise the federal debt limit and cut government spending, ending a bitter partisan stalemate that had threatened to plunge the nation into default and destabilize the

world economy.

One day after a climactic vote in the House, the Senate easily approved the measure, 74-26, with significant majorities of both parties supporting it. President Barack Obama promptly signed the measure and submitted a formal request to Congress to lift the \$14.3 trillion debt ceiling, instantly giving the Treasury \$400 billion in additional borrowing power.

With the immediate crisis averted, Obama and congressional leaders quickly turned their attention to the next front in the war over the fed-

News analysis inside

Economists debate the deal's impact, and the Federal Reserve ponders its next move. **Business, B3**

eral budget: a new legislative committee tasked with developing a broader plan to control the government's debt.

The bipartisan panel, to be named this month, is likely to confront the same ideological divide that caused an almost crippling impasse in the debt-limit debate. Republican leaders

Please see **DEBT**, Page A7

Rep. Wu still in office

Rep.

David Wu,

D-Ore.,

remained

in office

Tuesday,

despite his

announcement

a week

ago that he

would resign

as soon as the debt

crisis was resolved | **Story, A7**



Biologists with the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce this spring net juvenile salmon at the Fort Columbia Tidal Wetland Restoration Project near the mouth of the river, which restored approximately 96 acres of wetlands.

JAMIE FRANCIS
THE OREGONIAN



Find past coverage of the Columbia basin fish at [oregonlive.com/
environment](http://oregonlive.com/environment)

Judge turns down U.S. plan for Columbia salmon — again

By **SCOTT LEARN**
THE OREGONIAN

For a third time, U.S. District Judge James Redden rejected the federal government's plan to operate hydropower dams in the Columbia River basin without jeopardizing salmon.

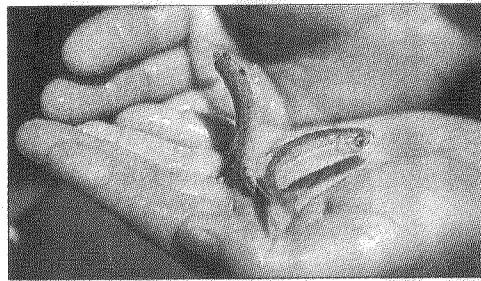
Redden's ruling, handed down Tuesday afternoon, says the plan provides "adequate protection" through 2013. But it's still "arbitrary and capricious" because it fails to identify habitat improvements after 2013 to protect salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The plan is designed to compensate for the dams' damage to seven runs of listed wild salmon and steelhead originating above Bonneville Dam, the first in the system.

Redden's decision sends the exhaustive, 10-year "biological opinion" back to federal agencies for a revamp once again, this time with a focus on specific habitat improvements from 2014 to 2018.

The current plan stays in place through 2013, the judge said, though he's requiring more water to be spilled over dams to benefit fish than the government favored. More spill means less power

The proposal is voided
for failing to identify
improvements after 2013
on the dam-filled river



BRUCE ELY/THE OREGONIAN

These seven-month-old sockeye salmon were raised at Oxbow Fish Hatchery in Cascade Locks. Returns of sockeye, most of which were hatchery fish, have rebounded in the past few years.

generated in dam turbines.

In the meantime, Redden said, the court will retain jurisdiction of the case given the government's "history of abruptly changing course, abandoning previous (biological opinions), and failing to follow through with their commitments to hydropower modifications proven to increase survival."

The ruling is a victory for environmental and fishing groups, the state of Oregon and the Nez Perce tribe, which opposed the federal plan. It could put more focus on controversial measures other than habitat improvements, including removal of four federal dams on the lower Snake River.

Redden ordered the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service, the agency responsible for the biological opinion, to submit a new one no later than Jan. 1, 2014. The plan should specifically consider whether "more aggressive action," including leaving more water in streams, drawing down reservoirs and — most controversially — removing dams, is necessary.

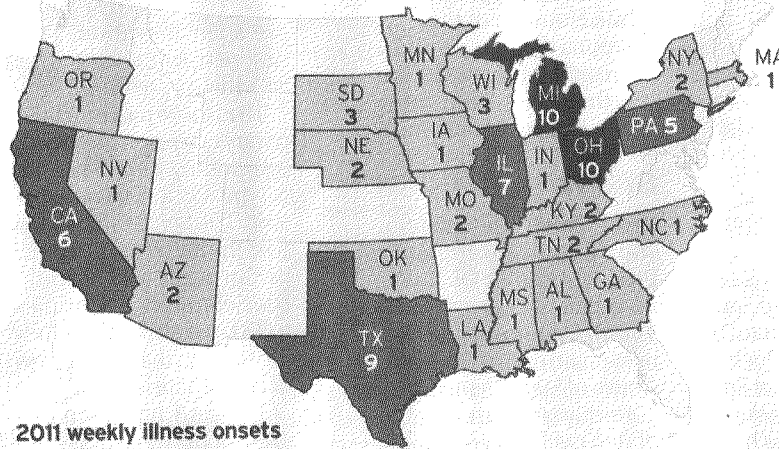
"We're delighted," said Steve Mashuda, an Earthjustice attorney who represented conser-

Please see **SALMON**, Page A8

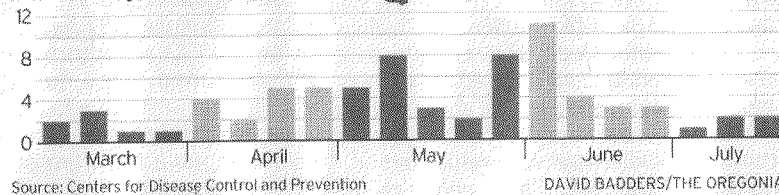
Outbreak of human Salmonella Heidelberg infections

77 people have been infected with Salmonella Heidelberg as of Aug. 1

Cases by state: 1-4 5-9 10



2011 weekly illness onsets



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DAVID BADDERS/THE OREGONIAN

Salmonella outbreak hits U.S.; no recall from feds

A drug-resistant strain in ground turkey may have sickened thousands, including an Oregon baby

By **LYNNE TERRY**
THE OREGONIAN

An outbreak of a drug-resistant strain of salmonella in ground turkey has swept the country since March, killing one person and sickening perhaps several thousand people from Maine to Oregon. But so far there's been no recall, and federal authorities have not named a manufacturer.

Instead, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a health alert to consumers Friday, warning them to

thoroughly cook ground turkey to kill bacteria and follow food safety procedures when handling raw meat.

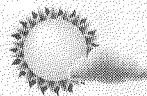
The department's blanket warning stunned food safety specialists who wonder why the department hasn't taken more concrete action to get the tainted food off grocery shelves.

"It's a concern that we're only seeing a public health alert and not seeing a recall," said Chris Wal-drop, director of food policy at the Consumer Federation of America in Washington, D.C. "The (USDA) should be issuing a recall and getting this stuff off the market."

So far, health officials have reported 77 illnesses in 26 states, with one case in Oregon. That means the outbreak likely includes about 2,300

Please see **TURKEY**, Page A8

WEATHER



Mostly
sunny

High: **82**

Low: **57**

For complete weather, see **C10**

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MOBILE NEWS AT
MOBILE.OREGONLIVE.COM

Salmon

Continued from Page One

vation groups in the case. "We need to use the next two years to figure out a new approach, with every stakeholder in the region at the table."

Or the decision could mean that the federal agencies involved — NOAA, the Bonneville Power Administration and the Army Corps of Engineers — simply have to shore up their habitat improvement plans beyond 2013.

Will Stelle, NOAA's Northwest regional director, said he thinks adding more detail to future habitat projects will satisfy the judge. Redden endorsed the plan through 2013, Stelle noted, and his conclusions about habitat were "totally understandable."

"He ordered us to tighten up on the habitat program after 2013, and that's fine," Stelle said. "We were intending to do it anyway."

Dam supporters react

Still, Redden's words set off alarm bells among dam supporters.

U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., chairman of the House natural resources committee, said in a statement that the ruling included "extremely alarming and unacceptable statements and actions by the Portland federal judge." The decision covers operations of 14 federal dams in Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho.

Hastings objected in particular to Redden raising dam removal, "an extreme action that would be devastating to the Pacific Northwest's economy and is not proven to recover fish."

The latest court battle be-

gan in 2001, when the National Wildlife Federation, fishing and conservation groups, tribes and Oregon sued, alleging that the federal government wasn't doing enough to save imperiled fish.

In the latest plan, the government pledged to ramp up spending on fish passage at dams and on habitat improvements, such as adding streamside plants, opening up tidal wetlands and decreasing water withdrawals.

A flood of money

The BPA, which markets power from the dams, promised to spend at least \$45 million a year on habitat upgrades through 2017.

Accords with five Northwest tribes added hundreds of millions of more dollars for habitat improvements for a decade in exchange for the tribes backing out of the suit. Redden encouraged that collaboration, and many supporters of the plan were hoping it would help end the court case.

"This is the most scientifically sound and vetted and collaborative and, frankly, expensive, biological opinion that we're aware of," said Terry Flores, executive director of Northwest River Partners, whose members include utilities, ports and farmers. "It seems as though the judge is letting the perfect get in the way of the very, very good."

The government's plan leans heavily on habitat improvements to bolster wild runs, going so far as to make precise predictions of im-



Mackie Jackson of the Yakama tribe pulls in a spring chinook off Koberg Beach on the Columbia River.

BENJAMIN BRINK/THE OREGONIAN/2009

to the ocean and back.

And initial reports indicate the government is behind on planned habitat improvements, though it has pledged to catch up by 2013.

Redden called the lack of scientific support of NOAA's predictions "troubling."

He said the government agencies didn't spell out what habitat improvements they would undertake from 2014 to 2018, when the 10-year plan ends.

"Federal defendants do not know what exactly will be needed to avoid jeopardy (of wild fish runs) beyond 2013 or whether those unknown actions are feasible and effective, but they promise to identify

and implement something," Redden wrote. "This is neither a reasonable, nor a prudent, course of action."

In a statement, the federal agencies said they will decide whether to appeal the ruling "at a later date."

Numbers of fish surge

The decision comes as the numbers of salmon and steelhead returning to the Columbia have surged since 2001, helped by fishing limits and favorable ocean conditions.

Returns — mostly hatchery fish — hit post-dam-building highs for much of the past decade at Bonneville Dam, the first on an upstream journey that can run over eight dams

and more than 900 miles.

But key runs of wild fish remain perilously low and well below minimum benchmarks for removing them from the endangered species list.

Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber said in a statement that the region needs to work to identify measures that move salmon toward recovery, "rather than being placed in jeopardy by our hydropower system."

Oregon had argued that wild fish populations remained too shaky to rely primarily on habitat improvements. Redden's decision confirms that, said Ed Bowles, fish division director for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"This decision really gives

Timeline

2000: NOAA Fisheries releases biological opinion focused on hydropower, habitat, hatcheries and harvests for 10 years.

2001: National Wildlife Federation, fishing and conservation groups, Oregon and four tribes challenge 2000 plan.

2003: Judge James Redden takes case, rejects 2000 plan.

2004: New NOAA plan adjusts spill, says dams do not threaten salmon survival.

2005: Redden rejects 2004 plan, orders summer spill at three Snake dams and one Columbia dam.

2008: NOAA issues another biological opinion; Redden questions it and says time may be running out before dams are found to violate law and courts assume their operation; he orders consideration of removing four dams on the lower Snake.

2008: Federal agencies, five tribes and two states sign 10-year outline of fish and habitat projects funded by the Bonneville Power Administration.

2010: NOAA's supplemental opinion incorporates 2008 plan, which runs until 2018.

Aug. 2, 2011: Redden rejects plan for the third time.

us a window of opportunity now to get this right," Bowles said, "both from a legal basis and a scientific basis."

Scott Learn: 503-294-7657; slearn@oregonian.com

Teachers

Continued from Page One

teaching experiences with so-so mentors.

Leaders of Oregon teacher preparation programs say they take numerous steps to make certain the teachers who mentor their students, known as "cooperating teachers," are just that: great at getting results with kids and great at helping an aspiring teacher learn the ropes.

"When we seek cooperating teachers, that's where we start (when talking to principals): 'Who do you have who is an exemplary person doing a great job in the classroom?' It's a fundamental part of our conversation," says Michael Jaeger, dean of the college of education at Eastern Oregon University. "And if you're a great teacher, but you can't mentor, we don't want you."

During 2008-09, the most recent year for which figures are available, the 20 Oregon colleges and universities that prepare teachers had to find more than 3,200 teachers willing to accept a student teacher.

One of them was Michelle Lacaden, a language arts and social studies teacher at

Portland's West Sylvan Middle School. She has served as the cooperating teacher for 15 student teachers so far.

Mentoring is more work

It takes hours of extra work to coach college students on classroom management, review their lesson plans and share tips of the trade. But, she says, it's extremely satisfying to help launch new teachers into the profession the only way they'll really learn it — by practicing in a real classroom with real students.

"Turning over your class to an inexperienced teacher can be potentially a scary thing," Lacaden said. "You have to have a lot of faith and you have to be very, very involved. But I feel it's worth it."

In the national study, council researchers looked for written evidence that its sample of schools of education nationwide, including at Eastern in La Grande and Linfield College in McMinnville, met five standards.

Among them: The teacher preparation program, not the school, selects the cooperating teacher; all cooperating teachers show evidence their pupils make large academic gains; and cooperating teachers possess the skills needed

to mentor an adult.

Using that standard, the study rates Linfield's student teacher program as weak and Eastern's as poor.

Leaders of both programs blasted those ratings as inaccurate. They say their faculty rely on close, face-to-face relationships with principals in their area — not formal letters or written policies — to communicate the traits they seek in mentor teachers and ensure their students are placed with top-notch veterans.

In addition, university supervisors visit the classroom many times during each student teacher's placement and see for themselves whether the cooperating teacher is doing a good job.

"We ask principals to nominate the very, very best teachers," said Steven Bernhisel, chairman of the education department at Linfield. "Our faculty are quite familiar with the principals and teachers in our area, and we work to make sure the teachers our students are matched with are outstanding."

Finding placements

Keith Menk, deputy director of the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, acknowledges that getting teachers to agree

Where most Oregon teachers are trained

Shown is the number of students who completed the training necessary to become a teacher during 2009-10 at each of the 15 largest teacher preparation programs in Oregon. Some earned bachelor's in education, but the vast majority earned master's degrees:

Portland State	..... 265
Western Oregon	..... 225
Concordia	..... 218
George Fox	..... 213
Pacific	..... 199
U. of Oregon	..... 150
Oregon State	..... 142
Lewis & Clark	..... 132
Eastern Oregon	..... 116
Southern Oregon	..... 115
U. of Portland	..... 104
Willamette	..... 84
Warner Pacific	..... 39
Linfield	..... 35
Marylhurst	..... 35

Source: Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

under such pressure to raise test scores.

As a result, he says, school districts in Oregon and elsewhere are insisting they be in the driver's seat when it comes to deciding whether a teacher can serve as a cooperating teacher and how often.

"It's a struggle to find enough placements," Menk said. Still, he said, "districts will not place a student teacher with an educator they feel is a marginal performer."

Linda Mihata, who retired last month as head of Lakeridge High's English department, agreed to serve as cooperating teacher for five or so student teachers during her career. She said she had numerous motives — to gain a second adult in the classroom, to learn from someone with fresh training, to free herself from teaching duties during the weeks the student teacher took over.

But the biggest reason, she said, was to give back to the profession she loves and help provide a skillful model for the next wave of teachers.

"It takes a good deal of time to communicate all the systems you have worked out over time for keeping track of papers, communicating with parents, managing behavior,"

Mihata said. "You advise them before school, during prep time, after school, on weekends. With a student teacher, you just stay late."

"But there is a payoff," she said, "when it comes time for your student to take over your classroom. It gave me some time to do some reading. For teachers, that's a huge bonus. We never have any time."

At Lakeridge, she said, the question is less about whether the classroom teacher is equipped to be a mentor than whether the student teacher is up to the job. All who get chosen go through an in-person interview to make sure they have the commitment necessary to meet student and parent expectations.

"We want to make sure the quality is maintained in the classroom, even with a student teacher," Mihata said.

Still, the Lakeridge English department makes sure one strong teacher mentors a student teacher every year, she said. "The continuance of high-quality people in the classroom depends on the models we provide and should provide."

Betsy Hammond: 503-294-7623 or betsyhammond@oregonian.com

Turkey

Continued from Page One

patients because only a fraction of cases are ever confirmed, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The one person who died in the outbreak was a resident of Sacramento County, according to Mike Sicilia, spokesman for the California health department. He gave no more details.

The one case in Oregon — a 10-month-old girl in Multnomah County — was hospitalized for eight days in June. She has recovered.

Unlike many other salmonella outbreaks, this one is particularly virulent, putting about 40 percent of patients in the hospital.

The outbreak strain, Salmonella Heidelberg, is resistant to many antibiotics.

"The only thing worse than getting sick and being hospitalized with serious foodborne illness is having a physician say there are few antibiotics available to treat it," said Sarah Klein, staff attorney for food safety at the Center for Science in the Public Interest in Washington, D.C. "That is the truly scary part of an outbreak like this."

The outbreak, which began in March, shows no sign

Poultry handling tips

- Wash hands with warm, soapy water for at least 20 seconds before and after handling raw meat, and clean dishes and utensils with hot soapy water.
- Use a chlorine solution or disinfectant to clean cutting boards.
- Cook raw poultry to an internal temperature of 165 degrees. Use a food thermometer — don't rely on cooking times on packages. Leftovers should also be heated to 165 degrees.
- Refrigerate turkey within two hours of purchase or one hour in 90-degree weather.

Source: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

of slowing.

"There is every indication that this is an ongoing problem, and that's why there is great concern," said William Keene, senior epidemiologist with Oregon Public Health.

The CDC said that four ground turkey samples purchased from four unnamed stores between March 2 and June 27 were tainted with Salmonella Heidelberg. Keene said federal officials have linked the outbreak to one plant, but the

USDA would not comment.

"We have not been able to link these illnesses to a specific brand, product or establishment yet and therefore have not issued a recall," said Neil Gaffney, spokesman for the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. "We are continuing to investigate the situation."

He said the agency, which juggles the dual mandate of protecting public health and promoting U.S. agriculture, took the unusual step of issuing the blanket warning Friday to protect consumers.

Poultry is often tainted with salmonella — even when it reaches consumers. Random testing of turkey sold in stores shows that 15 percent is tainted with the bacteria.

"That's a high proportion," Keene said.

But salmonella — unlike E. coli O157:H7 — is not banned by the USDA. Both are killed by thorough cooking, but there is always a risk of cross-contamination if foods aren't handled safely.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest petitioned the agency in May to declare four antibiotic-resistant strains of salmonella — Hadar, Heidelberg, Newport and Typhimurium — adulterants. That move would trigger routine testing for the strains in products and plants to keep them out of the

marketplace.

No action has been taken. The National Turkey Federation said it would want to weigh in on any such decision to ensure that it was based on solid science.

There are 26 major turkey processors across the county who sell 6 billion pounds of meat a year, including 415 million pounds that are ground.

"Ground turkey is the biggest area of growth that the industry has seen," said Sherrie Rosenblatt, spokeswoman for the federation. "It's not only nutrient-rich but easy to prepare, but the one thing consumers have to remember is to cook it thoroughly."

Lynne Terry: 503-221-8503; lterry@oregonian.com

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Death Notices

BENNETT Jr., Walter
May 30, 1937 - July 28, 2011
Lincoln Memorial Park & Funeral Home
Crematory, Funerals & Cremations
11801 SE Mt. Scott Blvd., Portland
(503) 271-1117
Condolences may be offered at www.lincolnmemorialpk.com

BUCHANAN - Bertha Eva
Oct. 11, 1916 - July 30, 2011
Finley Sunset Hills Mortuary
6801 SW Sunset Highway
Portland, Oregon 97225
503-292-0654
www.finleysunsethills.com

BURKE - Suzanne F.
age 67, of Gaston, Ore.
FUITEN, ROSE & HOYT Chapel
Forest Grove 503-357-2161
more info at www.fuitenrosehoys.com

CAPRI - Raulin S.
Please check schedule of services at www.skylinememorialgardens.com
Skyline Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home
Crematory, Funerals & Cremations
4101 NW Skyline Blvd., Portland
(503) 271-1117
Condolences may be offered at www.skylinememorialgardens.com

CHRISTENSEN - Ernie
age 90, of Vernonia, Ore.
FUITEN, ROSE & HOYT Chapel
Vernonia 503-429-6611
obit at www.fuitenrosehoys.com

LARSEN - Douglas A.
Heritage
www.HeritageMemorial.net

LEEK - Elsie E.
age 86, of Aloha, Ore.
Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives
Beaverton 503-641-9050 / Hillsboro 503-693-7965
www.tualatinvalleyfa.com

PHILLIPS - Jeanne
of Portland, Ore.
Finley Sunset Hills Mortuary
6801 SW Sunset Highway
Portland, Oregon 97225
503-292-0654
www.finleysunsethills.com

SMITH - Richard Robert "Dick" Springer and Son Aloha Funeral Home
503-356-1000

THORSELL - Walter
Bateman Carroll Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
830 W. Powell Blvd., Gresham
(503) 665-2128
Condolences may be offered at www.bateman-carrollfunerals.com

Death Notices

TRINH - Qui Thi
Dec. 29, 1922 - Aug. 02, 2011
Finley Sunset Hills Mortuary
6801 SW Sunset Highway
Portland, Oregon 97225
503-292-0654
www.finleysunsethills.com

WARD - Myra H.
Bateman Carroll Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
830 W. Powell Blvd., Gresham
(503) 665-2128
Condolences may be offered at www.bateman-carrollfunerals.com

WILSON - Athren J. For more info: terryfamilyfuneralhome.com
Terry Family Funeral, 503-249-1788

ZORNAD - Walter E.
Lincoln Memorial Park & Funeral Home
Crematory, Funerals & Cremations
11801 SE Mt. Scott Blvd., Portland
(503) 271-1117
Condolences may be offered at www.lincolnmemorialpk.com

Funeral Notices

LARSON - Robert E.
A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 5, 2011, at Parkhill Cemetery, 5915 E. Mill Plain, Vancouver. Friends and family are welcome.

PRAZEAU - Clarence P.
Funeral Mass 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, 2011, at Ascension Catholic Church, SE 76th Ave. & Yamhill St. Recitation of the rosary 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3, at:

Mt. Scott Funeral Home
4205 SE 99th Ave. 503-771-1171

SEIM - Inez
Interment service 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, 2011, at Willamette National Cemetery. Inez passed away Thursday, July 28, 2011. There will be no funeral at her request. Mt. Scott Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Funeral Pre-Planning

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