

REGIONAL BRIEFS

Former commission member sentenced

OREGON

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — A former Springfield Human Rights Commission member has been convicted of second-degree racial intimidation against a black police officer. Katherine Maris was accused of striking Springfield Officer John Patterson and repeatedly insulting him with racial slurs.

Maris, 39, was driving the wrong way when Patterson stopped her Dec. 10, said Lisa Shickich, a Lane County district attorney's prosecutor.

During her arrest for drunken driving, Maris slapped Patterson on the chest and injured his hand with a kick, Shickich said. She also tried to kick the windows out of the patrol car and refused to take a sobriety test, Shickich said.

District Judge Ann Aiken sentenced Maris on Wednesday to three years' probation and 160 hours of community service, fined her \$990 and ordered her to abstain from alcohol during probation.

Maris publicly apologized to Patterson and the Springfield Police Department. Defense lawyer Joel Scotti told the judge that Maris experienced racially motivated discrimination after she married a black man. The couple are separated.

Maris had served on the human rights commission since it was formed in 1990 but did not reapply when

her term expired in January.

Keisling proposes reforestation plan

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Secretary of State Phil Keisling is proposing borrowing \$200 million to reforest small, privately-owned Oregon woodlands.

"The state has an obligation to invest and be a steward for future generations," Keisling said. "It is a long-term commitment."

Keisling said his proposed "Forest Resource Trust" would provide a continuing timber supply from private land and help reduce environmental pressure on other Oregon forests.

"I'm not talking about the state acquiring title to the land," Keisling said at a news conference Wednesday. "I'm talking about the state acquiring an interest in the land and what grows on the land."

Such a reforestation effort would generate about 5,600 permanent jobs when the timber is mature and employ "thousands more workers and contractors" during the reforestation, he said.

Keisling said he would seek legislative approval next year to pay for the program by selling bonds.

Roberts aims next M5 pitch at Portland

SALEM (AP) — Gov. Barbara Roberts, after touring much of Oregon with her message of smaller government and tax overhaul, next heads to the Portland area and a possibly more hostile crowd.

Roberts' chief of staff, Patricia McCaig, told the Legislature's Joint Interim Revenue Committee the governor adopted a tactic of taking her report last to the state's main metropolitan area.

One reason is that Portland was the strongest region in favor of the Measure 5 property tax limit passed by voters in November 1990, McCaig said.

McCaig said Roberts wanted time for effects of her cost-cutting steps to become known before campaigning in the state's most populous area.

State government might be felt to have less impact in the Portland area than other regions because of numerous local governments, McCaig said.

Roberts hopes her explanations will put voters in the mood to consider tax revisions and new revenue. When pressed by legislators about timing of a possible tax measure election, McCaig said citizens aren't there yet.

Analysts estimate the state will be \$1 billion short of paying the school costs and continuing current levels of state services in the 1993-95 budget period unless new revenue is found.

McCaig said Roberts has several requirements for any tax revision plan.

One is that it be a complete overhaul of the tax system and not just something to carry the state through the next budget period. It also "would be unlikely" she would support raising taxes by enough to replace all the money carved from the budget, McCaig said.

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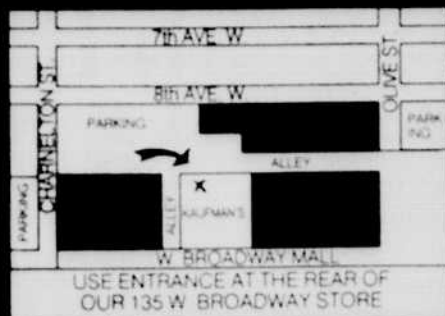
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MERRILL

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1961 from the University of Michigan.

Merrill's extensive career included general practice, faculty positions at Oregon and the University of Denver and two terms as executive director of the Council on Court Procedure.

The Lane County Bar Association was to award Merrill with the Distinguished Service award tonight. The award, to be given posthumously, will be presented by University Law Professor Wayne Westling.

"Fred Merrill was beloved by his faculty colleagues and respected by legal practitioners throughout Oregon and the nation," Frohnmayer said. "He will be greatly missed."

Merrill died of a swift-moving cancer. He is survived by his wife, Pat, and two daughters.

The family will hold a private memorial service, but a public service is scheduled for April 14 at 4 p.m. in Room 221 Law Center.

A Frederic Merrill Memorial Fund has been established through the University Foundation, and donations to the fund are requested in lieu of flowers.

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