

News Around Town

State Senator Bill McCoy, D-Portland

announced the Senate's approval of the school finance package which benefits students and taxpayers in Multnomah county.

"This bill guarantees a better education for our children by having the state pay more of the cost for their education. We want to relieve some of the taxpayers burden by seeking tax equity among Oregon's 303 school districts and relieving some of the pressures on property tax payers," explains McCoy.

The core of the plan is a statewide ballot measure, HJR 1, that gives updated property tax bases to about a third of the state's school districts. This gives each school district a current tax base. If the voters pass the measure May 16, the increased state aid and property tax offsets contained in SB 802 take effect immediately.

"The cost of education is rising at all levels. The state needs to pay more basic school support to help our kids get a better education. That's exactly what this school finance package does," McCoy said.

McCoy went on to say the new system attempts to alleviate the problem of disparity in property tax rates to support schools. In the property-rich districts, the revenue can be produced with fairly low tax rates. In property-poor districts, much higher rates are required.

"The result is a huge inequity in school costs for property tax payers and inequity of students because districts have differing amounts of revenue on which to operate," McCoy said.

Equity is sought by providing \$35 million in state-aid to low-wealth school districts with high property tax rates. The new financing lowers the property taxes of many low-wealth school districts.

"The current system has Oregon's schools financed primarily by local rather than state taxes with over 60% coming from the property tax. As a result, taxpayers have trouble keeping up with expanding educational needs. This legislation begins to address that problem," McCoy said.

SB 802 will also be providing \$35 million in new state aid for educating the handicapped. "The state must pay more for the programs we have mandated in local districts," McCoy said.

"The school finance package we enacted provides property tax relief, increased basic support, and state increased support to special high cost education programs. This benefits us all, McCoy said.

CENSUS BUREAU OPENS DISTRICT OFFICES

In preparation for the 1990 Census the Census Bureau has opened its Portland District Office. This office has been established to collect data within a specific geographic area, which includes collecting census forms and conducting non-response follow up.

This office will hire temporary employees in the area to work on the Census. Those interested in census job opportunities need to contact the district office recruiter; in Portland the number is (503) 231-2371. The district offices will be operating for approximately 20 months.

Census Day is April 1, 1990 and Census of Population and Housing will mark the 200th anniversary of the first national count. Called for every ten years by the U.S. Constitution (Article 1, section 2) the census provides statistics for the apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives. State and local governments also use census numbers to redraw their election districts. Census information is the basis for distributing billions of dollars annually in federal and state program funds to local governments. Governments and private planners regularly use census facts to locate and develop such projects as schools, highways, medical facilities, shopping and factories.

ART MARTIN SELECTED FOR PIAC

The appointment of Art Martin, retired administrator with the Portland Public Schools, to the City of Portland's Police Internal Investigations Auditing Committee (PIAC) has been announced by City Commissioner Dick Bogle.

A Northeast Portland resident, Martin was principal of Joseph Meek Elementary School at the time of his retirement. He had been with the school system for 30 years.

He also served for 30 years in the Air

ROSE FESTIVAL JUNIOR COURT SELECTION STARTS MARCH 14

The Portland Rose Festival Association is gearing up for 1989 with its first junior court selection slated for next week.

The first of eight junior princesses will be selected at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 14 at Franklin High School.

The court is composed of eight girls ranging in ages from 9-11 (to be eligible the girls must be 9 and 10, but not 11 before June 1, 1989) who attend elementary schools in the Portland city limits.

Each girl will represent one of the eight geographical regions that the city is divided into for the court.

The 1989 candidates will be judged by a panel of seven judges on poise, neatness in appearance, personal interviews and speaking ability.

After the court's selection is final, the princesses begin a busy schedule of activities, including meeting with Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, entertaining at senior care facilities and making appearances at community events.

The junior court selection process culminates with the queen's coronation on Wednesday, May 24 at 7:30 pm at Madison High School.

For more information contact Shannon Parker or Marie Dodds at 227-2681.

SENIOR ADVOCATES DECLARE ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN - MARCH 20 TO MARCH 31, 1989

One of every ten elders currently lives in a situation which is conducive to abuse, exploitation, or neglect.

Reports of abuse, exploitation, and neglect have increased dramatically over the last five years.

The Portland Multnomah Commission on Aging, in cooperation with Aging Networks, Inc., the Multnomah Aging Services Division, and the Portland Police Bureau are planning a public awareness campaign on ELDER ABUSE - entitled "VIOLENCE IS AGELESS".

Elder abuse may take the form of:

- Physical Abuse
- Denial of Basic Needs (withholding of food, medication, or hygiene)
- Psychological Abuse (including verbal assaults or the withholding of affection)
- Material Abuse (misuse of funds or theft of personal property)

The public awareness campaign, designed to increase awareness and reporting of Elder Abuse will run from March 20 to March 31, and will include a grocery bag and poster campaign, Public Service Announcements and a Public Forum on elder abuse.

Because elder abuse often occurs within the family caregiving structure, and can arise from multiple stresses such as financial difficulty, lack of support for the caregiver, or existing family dynamics, increased awareness and understanding can have an important impact on the prevention of Elder Abuse. The kick-off press conference will include as speakers:

- Kate Drew, Portland Multn. Commission on Aging
- Don Keister Aging Services Division
- Teri Poppinou, Portland Police Bureau Spokesperson, Thriftway

For more information, please call Becky Wehrli at 796-5279.

RALLY SET TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL EMPLOY THE OLDER WORKER WEEK

The Coalition for Older Worker Employment is sponsoring a rally to celebrate National Employ The Older Worker Week (March 12 - 18, 1989). The rally will be held on Monday, March 13th in the Hearings Room (second floor) of the Portland Building, 1120 SW Fifth. The rally will begin at 12:00 noon and will include a variety of events designed to honor the older workers of our community.

Channel Eight's Jack McGowan will preside as Master of Ceremonies. Activities will include songs from the Melodeers (a local senior's group) American Legion Color Guard ceremony, appearances by officials from Multnomah, Washington and Clark Counties and the City of Portland and a synchronized aerobics performance presented by a group of older workers. Please join us in recognizing the older workers of our community.

13 OREGON HOUSING AUTHORITIES GET \$17.5 MILLION IN NEW HUD RENT AID

Low-income renters in Oregon got a boost today when the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced in Portland grants totaling \$17.5 million to 13 Oregon Housing Authorities.

William Y. Nishimura, HUD Regional Administrator-Regional Housing Commissioner for northwestern United States, came to Portland to present checks representing the grant amounts. The grants will help pay rent for more than 630 low-income renter households who can use the assistance to rent privately owned houses, apartments, or mobile home units that meet required minimum Housing Quality Standards. The grants, said Nishimura, are for 5 years of rental assistance under either HUD's Section 8 Existing Housing program or the Housing Voucher program.

Nishimura credited the Executive Directors and the Boards of the Housing Authorities for the additional funding, saying, "The Housing Authorities let us know that they had significant housing needs that weren't being met and committed to make this money available to low-income renters on their waiting lists as soon as possible. It's nice to know that through these grants the quality of life will improve for individuals who have been waiting and have been unable to find decent housing."

Nishimura explained that the Housing Authorities now need to submit additional paperwork and contracts to HUD for approval. He added that he anticipated that process to take 60 days or less.

This \$17.5 million in new assistance increases the total number of low-income rental households assisted by HUD in Oregon to more than 36,000, totaling an estimated HUD rent subsidy of \$144 million annually.

PORTLAND WOMEN'S CRISIS LINE SEEKS MEMBERS

The Portland Women's Crisis Line is currently recruiting women to serve on its Board of Directors. We would like to talk with any women interested in volunteering their services to our Board.

We are a non-profit, social change agency working to end violence against women and children. We offer 24 hour crisis counseling to victims of sexual violence. We also coordinate and facilitate rape support groups; maintain a network of safehomes used to shelter battered women; and provide training, public speaking, and education throughout the community. We understand that all forms of discrimination and oppression perpetuate violence and we actively work to end the oppression of all individuals.

The Portland Women's Crisis Line celebrates diversity. We welcome women of all races, cultures, religions, lifestyles, and abilities. If you would like to join us in our work to build a safer world for women and children, please contact Katherine White at (503) 233-5017 (days and evenings). Katherine White, Board Recruitment Committee

MINIMUM WAGE HIRED

SALEM--State Senator Bill McCoy, and Senators Dick Springer, D-Portland, approved today an increase in the minimum wage.

"Anyone currently living on minimum wage is living below the federal poverty level. We want to encourage self-sufficiency, not dependency on welfare. The best way to do this is to pay a living wage to people who work. This will save us millions of dollars on welfare, and it will enable many to be the productive people they want to be," McCoy said.

SB 335 increases the Oregon minimum wage in steps, beginning with a hike to \$3.85 in July 1989, followed by increases to \$4.25 in 1990 and \$4.75 in 1991. Beginning January 1, 1992, the minimum wage will be adjusted annually to be not less than 50 percent of the average weekly wage.

The last time the federal minimum wage was raised was in 1981 to \$3.35 per hour. Since then, the cost of living has risen more than 36 percent. Today's minimum wage buys what \$2.53 bought in 1981.

McCoy and Springer say that about 122,000 Oregonians have been tied to the low rate for too long. Most minimum wage workers are adult women, many with children to support, and many are the sole supporter. "This legislation enables people to be contributors to our economy. SB 335 restores the purchasing power of the minimum wage to approximately what it was in 1981, and maintains that power by allowing the wage to be adjusted every other year," McCoy said.

"A job at \$3.35 per hour is no longer an alternative to welfare. Of all Oregon welfare recipients who find work and leave welfare, over half are back on welfare within a year," McCoy said.

McCoy and Springer go on to say people can not afford to live on minimum wage. A full-time job at the current minimum wage of \$3.35 per hour provides \$583 a month; the federal poverty level for a family of three is \$807.50. This doesn't even take into account that most minimum wage workers are allowed to work only part-time.

Over the past few years 16 states and territories have increased their minimum wage, not waiting for Congress to act.

"Life for adults on this minimum wage can be miserable. This bill is simply catching up with reality," McCoy said.

HOST FAMILIES SOUGHT

The American Language Academy at the University of Portland is seeking host families for 20 Japanese university graduates from April 9 through May 10.

The students, enrollees in a special program for teacher trainees, require a private bedroom, and host families should live no more than 40 minutes from the University of Portland campus via public transportation. Each host family will receive a \$300 stipend to cover the cost of food, activities and some transportation.

The American Language Academy is also enrolling host families for its regular academic program.

For more information, contact Philip Cox, director of the academy, at 283-7449.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO HEAR

Well Known Authors and Educators Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Moore who will give a presentation on "MOTIVATING YOUR CHILD"

The Moores have authored and/or co-authored 50 or more books and articles. They have lectured throughout the United States and various parts of the world. They have also been featured on Dr. James Dobson's "Focus on the Family" and the Phil Donahue programs.

DATE: March 11, 1989

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Berean Baptist Church
4822 N Vancouver
Portland
(cross street is Wygant)

For further information call 281-8596. Event is sponsored by Citizens Involved in Teaching Youth (CITY). Freewill offering will be taken.

FAIR HOUSING CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN PORTLAND

The Fifth annual Oregon Fair Housing Conference will take place in Portland on Friday, April 7, 1989, at the downtown Portland Red Lion Inn, 310 SW Lincoln. "Fair Housing For All" is the conference theme. Fair housing is the concept that people should not be denied access to housing because of their race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability or familial status.

The conference will focus on the Fair Housing amendments Act of 1988, which adds protections for families with children and disabled people to existing civil rights protections in housing. Effective March 12, 1989, the new law will produce significant changes in "adults-only" housing, handicapped accessible housing and enforcement procedures.

The conference will feature panel discussions and workshops conducted by experts from government, industry and non-profit organizations. Some of the workshops being offered are: Protections for People with Disabilities; Enforcement Aspects of the New Amendments; A.I.D.S. and Housing Discrimination; Protections for Families with Children; and Testing for Housing Discrimination. The event is being endorsed by a number of organizations, including: the Portland Community Housing Resource Board, the Portland Board of Realtors, Security Pacific Bank, the Multi-Family Housing Council of Oregon, the City of Portland, Multnomah County and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The event's keynote speaker will be Avery S. Friedman, Attorney and Counselor at Law. The Wall Street Journal has called Mr. Friedman a "walking reference source" on fair housing law. He has been recognized in Time Magazine, the New York Times and USA Today as a nationally recognized civil rights lawyer and law professor. He has litigated over 1.5 million dollars for discrimination victims in civil rights cases from coast-to-coast. Mr. Friedman testified, as an invited expert, before U.S. Senate and House committees on the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988. Also featured will be Steven J. Sacks, an administrator with the Washington, D.C. staff of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Fair Housing For All" will be held on April 7, 1989, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The registration cost will be \$30, if mailed on or before March 31; it will be \$35, if paid after that date. There is a special student/low-income/senior rate of \$20. Attendees will be given six hours of real estate credit. Registration costs will include lunch, hors d'oeuvres and conference materials. Space will be limited, so interested people are encouraged to register early. To receive registration information, call 248-3707, or write to: Portland CHRB, PO Box 2067, Portland, OR 97208.

THE BLACK UNITED FUND OF OREGON

The Black United Fund of Oregon will hold a Community Forum for managers of non-profit organizations on March 28, 1989 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm at the North Portland Branch Library, Auditorium, 512 N. Killingsworth. The forum will feature a presentation by Herman L. Brame, Technical Assistance Manager for the Black United Fund of Oregon. Mr. Brame will discuss and explain how to make beneficial use of the Black United Fund of Oregon's Community Resource Center. The center is the first of its kind to be located conveniently in the community and contains foundation directories, periodicals and newsletters related to funding, organizing and managing non-profit organizations.

Informational materials will be distributed and their will be a question and answer period. For further information contact Herman L. Brame, Technical Assistance Manager, The Black United Fund of Oregon, at 282-7973

CLARK NAMES TWO TO POSITIONS

At a meeting of the Neighborhood District Coalition Board chairs today, Mayor Clark announced the appointment of Rachel Jacky as the Director of the Office of Neighborhood Associations, and Steve Rudman to a position in the Bureau of Community Development.

Clark told the board members he considered the neighborhood associations "absolutely essential" to the health of the city, and that he chose Jacky because she had shown she could build consensus between groups with diverse needs.

Jacky has served for the last three and one half years as coordinator of the city's human services.

"Her major accomplishment was to bring Multnomah County service providers and community based organizations together to improve emergency services for low income and homeless Portlanders," Clark told the neighborhood group.

Rudman will help develop programs and resources at the Bureau of Community Development with emphasis on developing a public/private housing partnership.

"His major task will be to help mobilize community-wide support for the neighborhood revitalization agenda. Steve will do an excellent job seeking out new financial resources to rebuild our distressed neighborhoods," Clark said.

BLACK UNITED FRONT SATURDAY SCHOOL HAS SPACE FOR MORE STUDENTS

Space is still available for children in grades one through six at the Black United Front Saturday School. Classes are held from 10:00 am until noon on Saturdays and include reading and math lessons, help with homework and lessons on African American history and culture.

Parents may enroll their children on Saturdays by going directly to one of the following sites:

- St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 120 NE Knott
- YWCA, 5630 NE Union
- Redeemer Lutheran, NE 20th and Killingsworth
- St. Andrews School, NE 8th and Alberta
- Columbia Villa, 9338 N. Woolsey Ct.
- Emmanuel Temple, 1032 N. Sumner
- Piedmont Friends, 5736 N. Albina

Classes will continue through the school year. All sites are closed for spring break on March 25th.

For more information call Avel Gordly or Karen Powell at the American Friends Service Committee, 230-9427.