

Portland Video Made For Newcomers

Step One To Portland and Vicinity is a new video and booklet for newcomers to the greater Portland area produced by KATU-TV.

The project is scheduled to be launched in January with a prescreening held this month for real estate companies, chambers of commerce and state agencies.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce will be one of the main distributors of the tape.

The video takes the viewer on a personalized tour through neighborhoods in the Portland area, including Vancouver. It is hosted by KATU anchors Jeff Gianola and Julie Emry. The 30-minute tape includes a look at housing and neighborhoods, weather, traffic, recreation, schools, crime, children's resources and more. The booklet that accompanies the presentation has more specific information and referral telephone numbers.

The researcher and writer from the material was a native of Oregon with a passion for the essence of Portland, television executives said.

"Step One to Portland represents the kind of well-researched, quality program the community has come to expect from KATU," said Jim Boyer, KATU general manager.

Portland Saturday Market Open Weekdays Before Christmas

Portland's weekend outdoor crafts market will open Monday through Friday, the week before Christmas. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 19 through 23. Hours on Saturday, Dec. 24 will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Approximately 200 local artists, craftspeople and cooks will sell their handcrafted goods under the Burnside Bridge during Christmas Festival Days.

The Market holds up to 275 vendors on weekends in December and expands south into Ankeny Park, between Front and First Avenues. To be a member of Portland Saturday Market all products must be handmade by the person who sells them. No imports or resale items are allowed.

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Portland Saturday Market is the nation's largest open air crafts market in continuous operation and is completing its twentieth year. Admission is free. Portland Saturday Market is located within fareless square on the MAX line. The Market closes during January and February and will reopen March 4, 1995.

Transcentral To Open Monday

Will Be Library's Home During Renovation Of Central

Even though the transfer of over 875 tons of books and other library materials from Central Library will continue into January, TransCentral Library, the temporary home of historic Central Library's holdings during Central's upcoming 2.5 year renovation, will officially open Monday, Dec. 19.

TransCentral Library, which occupies several floors in the former State Office building in downtown Portland, will have public entrances on both Fourth Ave. and Columbia

Ave. Director of Libraries Ginnie Cooper and library staff will greet the public in a brief ceremony at the Columbia Street entrance at 9:55 a.m., then lead library patrons inside for a first glimpse of the facility that will house Central's collection until it reopens in 1997. Throughout the day, volunteers will lead tours and help patrons find their way to the library's various sections: Popular Library, Children's Library, Science/Business and Periodicals on the main floor;

Literature/History on the second level; Art/Music on the third level.

"TransCentral will be cramped and a bit inconvenient, but it is much preferable to staying at Central while construction is going on," says Cooper. "Moving helps ensure the safety of library patrons, staff and resources during the renovation -- and it will all be worth it in 1997 when we return to a grand new Central Library."

Voters approved \$24.6 million in funding for renovation of Central Library in May 1993.

Central Library service has been unavailable for the past three weeks while a large part of its 1.25 million books and other library materials were being moved to the new location. The computer system linking Multnomah County Library's 15 library locations was also moved to the new location.

During the first week TransCentral is open, the first 25 visitors each day for the first week will receive gift certificates donated by local merchants. Donors include:

Royal Video; Silver Lining; Made In Oregon; Foothill Broiler; Child's Play Toys; About Karim; Shaving Service West; Armchair Bookstore; Hot Lips Pizza; Waterloo Games; Kangaroo Golf; Tulip Pastry Shop; Plate du Jour; Alder Creek Kayak; Music Millennium; and Grand Central Baking.

TransCentral Library will observe the same open hours as Central Library: Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Sunday from 1-5 p.m.



An re-enactment of an 1880s U.S. Army regiment teaches young African Americans the history of black soldiers in the American armed forces.

Tips For Parents This Holiday Shopping Season

In a rush to get all your holiday shopping done, many parents have no choice but to bring their children along to a store.

Oregon's Children's Services Division is offering parenting tips for the times "when shopping with your child gives you a headache!"

No one wants to chase a child around in a store or resort to dragging them out of a store. Using the following tips might help:

Check attitudes: Is your child too tired or hungry? Are you? If so, postpone the trip or ask a relative, friend or neighbor to go with you.

Agree on rules: Before entering the store, tell your child, "Stay close to the cart," or "Use your quiet voice."

Agree on rewards for good behavior: Keep it simple, a stop at the library or favorite play area, or one snack food.

Whatever the situation, hitting your child doesn't help. These suggestions and other parenting tips are available at the branch offices of the Children's Services Division. You can also call the Parents Helpline at 1-800-345-5044 or in Portland at 238-8818.

Natural Gas Rate Decrease Approved

Customers of Northwest Natural Gas will see a reduction in rates effective Dec. 1 following approval by the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

Residential customers will see an average decrease of \$2.16 a month or 4.8 percent of their total bill, assuming average consumption of 66 therms per month.

Most of the reduction is because of lower gas prices in the United States and Canada and increased drilling activity in Alberta and British Columbia, where the company buys most of its gas. The completion of various pipeline expansion projects in the U.S. have also helped reduce natural gas prices.

Mentoring Helps Kids Learn

A grant from the Oregon Community Foundation has been made to Hyalite, Inc. to assist area youth.

The foundation made a \$5,000 contribution to help pay for the organization's 1995 Buffalo Soldier Mentoring Program, an art history and self-esteem program, which includes outdoor activities for children, such as rafting, horsemanship,

1880s reenactments and fishing with positive role models.

Hyalite was formed to develop the cultural and artistic talents of African Americans and to tell the stories of the overlooked history of African American contributions, for example, the Buffalo Soldiers.

Funding is still needed and tax deductible contributions can be sent

to the organization at P.O. Box 10596, Portland, OR 97210. For more information contact Mark Little, Hyalite executive director, at 220-8282.

The Oregon Community Foundation, established in 1973, manages charitable funds given by individuals, families and businesses to enhance and support the quality of life in their communities.

Hill Works To Upgrade State Bonds

This week State Treasurer Jim Hill met with bond rating firms in New York City to discuss the state's bond rating. Hill visited the firms to outline the state's economic and budget situation in order to begin laying the groundwork for the possibility of getting the state's bond rating increased next year.

"I went back to New York in a strong position to begin working for an increase in the state's bond rating. We have a robust economy and the trend demonstrates continuing economic growth for Oregon. Further,

we are seeing solid revenue growth, while at the same time the Measure 5 gap is decreasing. I wanted to seize this opportunity to help Oregon save money on the bonds that we issue. The agencies were very receptive to a review of our rating once the legislature has worked its way out of the final round of Measure 5," Hill said.

The state's bond rating is currently AA, with AAA being the highest. A state's bond rating reflects the credit worthiness of the state and the cost the state must pay in interest on bonds it issues. The higher the bond

rating, the lower the interest costs. This, in turn, serves to lower the overall cost of the project that the bonds were issued for. The Treasurer's visit with the bond rating firms has been an annual event held in early December. Each year state and local governments issue about \$1 billion in bonds. These bonds pay for large capital projects such as schools, roads, bridges, water systems, and housing. Issuing bonds is a fair and equitable way to share the costs of these long-lived projects with future users.

Street Academy Opens Enrollment

The Portland Street Academy, a program of the Urban League of Portland, is recruiting new students for the school semester beginning in January.

The academy serves children grades seven through high school. It's designed to give students a positive educational experience who might have not had one.

The curriculum is diverse and the staff consists of professional, certified instructors. Students accrue credit as if they were in Portland public schools which give them the flexibility to enroll back into school when ready.

To apply, stop by the Urban League office at 10 N. Russell. Application packets can be picked up at the front desk.

For more information, call the league's education division at 280-2658.

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PDC
PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING

Date: December 21, 1994
Place: Goodwill Industries
1943 SE 6th Avenue
Portland, Oregon
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Commission meetings are open to the public. A complete agenda is available at PDC or by calling 823-3200. Citizens with disabilities may call 823-3232 or TDD 823-6868 for assistance at least 48 hours in advance.

PDC is the City of Portland's urban renewal, housing and economic development agency.

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