

Riding Diversity Wave

The Coast Guard aims to be employer of choice for a diverse workforce.



See Metro, inside.

King Speech Recalled

Martin Luther King Jr. delivers "I Have A Dream" speech at 1963 March on Washington.



See Black History, page A7.

The Portland Observer

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Thousands Homeless From Flood

Torrential rain and melting snow led to the worst flooding in memory last week for many residents of Oregon and Washington, leaving thousands of people homeless. Lake Oswego and Tualatin were two of the hardest areas hit. Floodwaters from the Willamette River also covered homes and businesses in Oregon City.

Portland Seawall Holds

A record runoff of the Willamette River was held at bay last week from flooding downtown Portland and the eastside by the city's seawall. Thousands of volunteers and Portland public works crews built up the wall with plywood, cement, plastic and rock in anticipation of the rising waters.

Mudslides Close I-5, I-84

Two massive mudslides closed I-84 between Troutdale and Hood River last week and flooding closed I-5 between Olympia and Chahalis. The worst flooding in 30 years isolated several communities and other small pockets of Oregon and Washington. Hundreds of roads were closed or partially blocked by slides and washouts.

Flooding Kills Seven

Northwest floods took seven lives last week, four in Oregon. At least three others in Oregon were missing on Monday. Two men disappeared after driving a pickup truck into nine feet of water at the Salem-Keizer city limits and a Troutdale woman remained missing after her house was swept down the Sandy River.

Water Conservation Urged

Flooding dirtied Portland's Bull Run water supply and caused officials to close conduits from the Bull Run reservoirs for several days. Conservation of water was urged from last Thursday until noon Tuesday as the city and surrounding areas relied on Columbia River southshore wells and in-town storage to meet drinking water needs.

Hay Dropped To Hungry Cattle

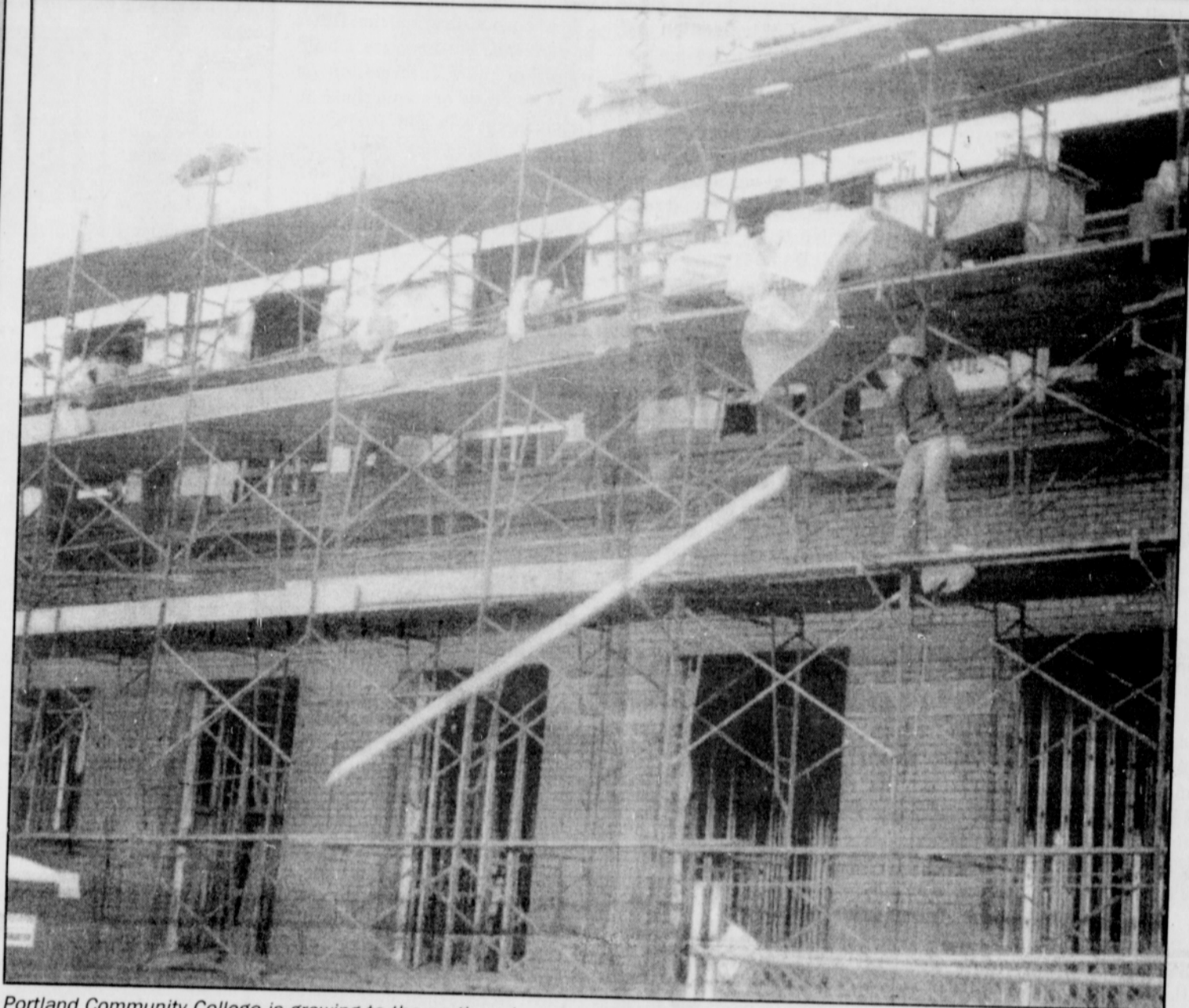
National Guard helicopters were used Sunday to drop more than six tons of hay to 900 hungry cattle on Hayden and Government islands in the Columbia River. All boat traffic on the river has been banned until floodwaters recede.

Pumping Saves OMSI Building

Round-the-clock pumping of floodwaters from the basement of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, located on the eastside of the Willamette River, is credited with saving the facility, but millions of dollars in damage is still feared.

Area Declared National Disaster

President Clinton signed federal disaster declarations for Oregon and Washington last week because of devastating floods. The declarations will provide federal funds for temporary housing, family grants and low-interest loans.



Portland Community College is growing to the north and west as a new student human resources building rises above North Jessup Street at Albina. The Cascade campus is reflecting new vitality for the inner city neighborhood. Last year, a new college library and classrooms were constructed on North Killingsworth Street.

(Photo by Michael Leighton)

Northwest Flood Recovery

Federal and state officials began organizing a massive cleanup effort after devastating flooding, while high water kept many communities in Oregon and Washington isolated.

Thousands of people were unable to return to their homes or businesses, and concern grew over a floodgate near the heavily damaged community of Lake Oswego and its million-dollar homes outside Portland.

At least one person was arrested for looting in Oregon, said Clackamas County Deputy Sheriff Damon Coates. He said officers arrested a man in a rowboat seen stealing from evacuated homes. Officers were tightening security in areas where waters were still too high to allow people to return.

In Lake Oswego, where floodwaters invaded dozens of mansions over the weekend, officials warned residents to leave sandbags in place at least through the end of the week because of concern over a flood gate on a canal.

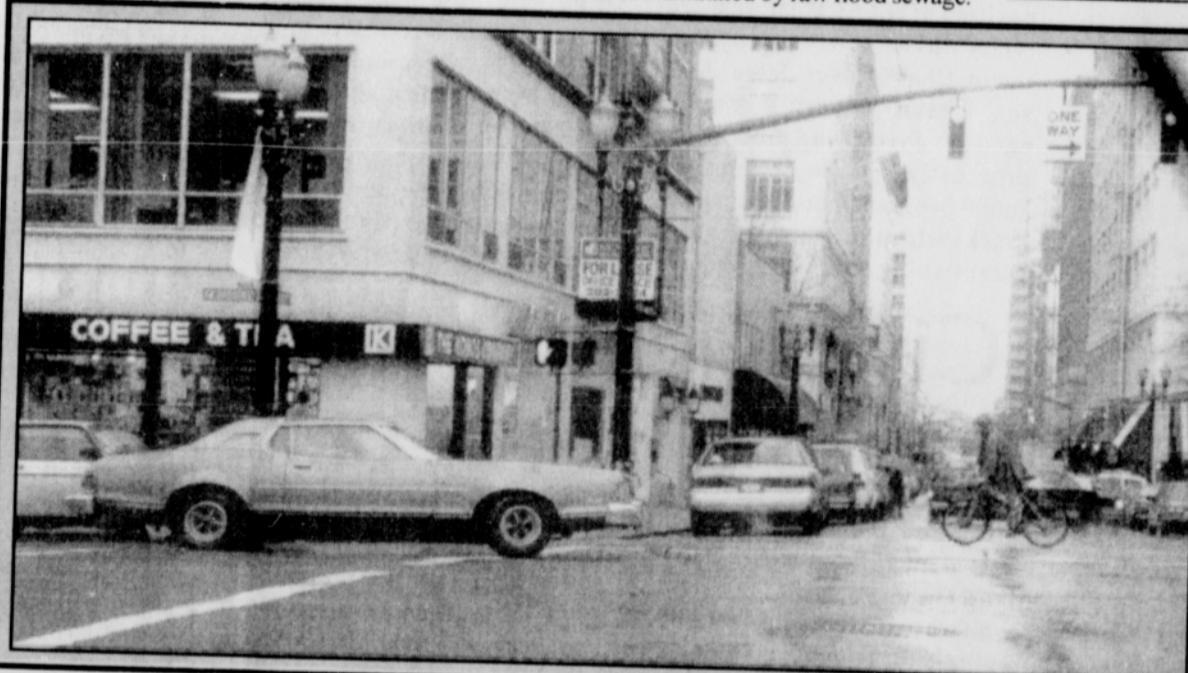
"I think people are beginning to think about cleanup, but there's a possibility of that gate giving way this afternoon," said Laura Price, a city official.

Mark Clemens, a spokesman for Washington state's emergency management, said preliminary reports from seven of 19 affected counties showed \$33 million in damage, a total he said was sure to rise.

At least 500 people stayed in Red Cross

shelters overnight, and hundreds more were staying with relatives or friends.

Officials from several government agencies discussed how to dispose of waste, including hazardous chemicals and sandbags, that might have been contaminated by raw flood sewage.



Downtown Portland weathers torrential downpours, but the threat of flooding is averted.

(Photo by Michael Leighton)

Treatment Houses Proposed For Concordia

Two halfway houses for recovering women alcoholics and drug addicts, on sites a block apart on Northeast 25th Avenue, are proposed for construction by the Housing Authority of Portland.

One house, near Northeast Emerson Street, will house up to five women who have gone through a substance abuse recovery program and are currently on parole or probation, and up to three children, HAP development program manager Jeanette Sander told the Concordia Neighborhood Association at its February meeting.

The other house, near Northeast Killingsworth Street, will house five chronically mentally ill women undergoing treatment at the Garlington Center.

Both houses are proposed for 2,500 square feet, with five bedrooms, based on a design by architect Bill Church that HAP has used in four other locations, she said.

The units would be built on vacant lots seized by Multnomah County for non-payment of taxes.

Katy Treb of the Multnomah County Department of Corrections said the Emerson House, to be called Gazelle House, will not have a resident manager. However, she said, its occupants will be monitored regularly and will be removed if they violate the conditions of their release.

"We will screen occupants very, very carefully," she said. "We know this is your neighborhood, and you don't want problems."

She added that the county has operated a

similar facility on Northeast Couch Street for five years, and that while some occupants have returned to their addictions, there have been no problems or complaints from neighbors.

Three people who own property near the house supported this.

Deb Allison of the Garlington Center said their facility will have a resident manager. Allison said that 70 to 80 percent of center clients have substance abuse problems.

Glenn Williams, also of the Garlington Center, said that the group's living arrangement is important to the clients' long-term recovery.

"We find that we do real well with them all day, but it's at night and on the weekends that they think about relapsing," he said.

Noelle Webb, a developer who owns property near the two houses, questioned HAP's decision to place two such facilities so close together.

"I think these are both excellent programs, but it's a matter of how much impact you have on a particular community," Webb said.

Sander said the decision to site the houses was based on the availability of the property. She added that according to the city's Bureau of Housing and Community Development, there are relatively few special needs houses in the area.

Staff from both programs said they hoped community residents would take an interest in the houses' residents and help them with their recovery.

Treb said, "The best thing you can do is to

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