

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Winter Fun

If music is your passion, Melody Makers is a fun and enjoyable class for teens (age 16+) and adults, of all musical levels, to create songs and rhythm as a group. The class meets every Thursday, January - March 9, 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Portland Parks and Recreation's Community Music Center at 3350 SE Francis. The cost is \$30 for residents; \$45 for non-residents. And if singing isn't your thing, then you can always dance! Call 823-PLAY or visit our web site at www.portlandparks.com.

Hearts for Housing

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Clackamas County presents: "HEARTS for HOUSING" a gala event, dinner and auction benefit for a capital fund drive to help meet housing needs of people with mental illness. The event will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2000 at the Evangelical Conference Center at 18121 SE River Road in Milwaukie. Call Elaine Krause at 503/656-4367 or Ginny Davidson at 503/657-0799.

Jazz Age in Paris

The Central Library will be having free public programs on "The Jazz Age in Paris: 1914-1940" exhibit throughout January. The programs include concerts, lectures and workshops. All programs take place at Central Library, 801 SW 10th Ave., Portland, and are free and open to the public. Call 503/988-5578 for more information or check the library's Web site at www.multnomah.lib.or.us/lib/.

Steelhead Fishing

Beginning fisherfolk age 16 and up will explore the sport of fishing, including technique and equipment. Larry Palmer, a member of the Sandy Steelheaders Chapter, will share his strategies for success in local waters in Steelhead Fishing, a two-week class on Tuesday, January 11 and 18. The cost is \$10. Call 823-PLAY.

Turning Conflict Into Win-Win

The Oregon Peace Institute presents TURNING CONFLICT SITUATIONS INTO WIN-WIN, a workshop presented by Linda Katz and Frances Kaplan, which will be held on January 20 from 6:30-9 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Room 134, at 1838 SW Jefferson Street, Portland. To register, call OPI at 503/725-8192. A donation of \$10 would be appreciated.

Poetry Workshop

The Attic is the Pacific Northwest's newest and most unique literary studio. Intensive and supportive, The Attic is a laboratory for writers to study the imagination, develop new ideas and material, test the quality of their work, and prepare for publication. The Attic begins its poetry workshops on January 17, 2000. Classes are open to all poets. The Poetry Workshop will meet Mondays, 8-10 p.m.

Free Lead Testing

Childhood lead testing is a major and preventable environmental health problem and lead-based paint is now the primary source of lead exposure. Free lead testing for children will take place the second Saturday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Common Bond, 4919 NE Ninth Avenue (Northeast Ninth and Alberta behind St. Andrew's Church).

Fulton Park Family Night

An inexpensive solution to the question of "What to do?" on a Friday night for parents and kids age 2-10 is the Fulton Park Family Night. Activities change weekly and include a craft project, tumbling, riding toys, games, volleyball, and basketball. Limited to the first 100 people, so plan to get there early. This weekly activity runs 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning Friday, January 21. Cost is \$5 per family. For more information or to register, stop by the center at 68 SW Miles, visit our web site at www.portlandparks.org, or call 823-PLAY.

Youth Straight Shoot aids at risk children

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC) presents an exhibition of black and white photography by a group of young artists participating in OCHA's (Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement) Straight Shooting project January 6 - 29. Straight Shooting is a statewide photography project that puts cameras in the hands of at-risk youth (ages 15-19) in order to provide them with a creative and positive experience.

A free, public opening reception will be held on First Thursday, January 6 from 5-9 p.m. The IFCC is located at 5340 N. Interstate Avenue, between Alberta and Killingsworth. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday 12 - 5 p.m.

These astonishingly creative photographs, which reflect a broad spectrum of human expression, were made by youth from Clackamas, Washington, Multnomah, Marion, Baker, Malheur, Wasco, and Deschutes counties. OCHA and the IFCC hope to create community awareness of the issues facing these youth through the exhibition of their photographs. The program provides a positive and supportive learning environment that gives youth an avenue for the presentation of their view of life, giving voice where it would otherwise not be heard.

One outgrowth of the program is the forging of mentor-protégé relationships between professional photographers and youth. Both professional and serious amateur photographers are recruited to be mentors. Their connection to the youth participants extends beyond the technical instruction of photography skills and into the use of personal

experience in order to create excitement about the activity.

The IFCC, located in an historic 1910 firehouse, is a non-profit, community-based

center for the visual and performing arts whose programs focus on multicultural issues and perspectives. Founded in 1982, the IFCC is committed to creating an environment in which

people of every ethnic and cultural background can come together as artists and audience to explore, preserve, and honor their diversity.



Sarah Reyna, 18 of Washington County will be displaying this untitled black and white photo at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center gallery. She is a part of the Straight Shooting program of the Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement. Turn to page 5 to see another photo on El Observador.

Grand Opening



PHOTO BY M. WASHINGTON



From left to right: Ross Barrett, assistant manager, and Eric Hansen, manager, celebrate the grand opening of the new Burgerville store in northeast Portland.

Officials defend Y2K spending, problems were averted

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The state has spent more than \$86 million ferreting out data glitches in government computer software and says the amount is justified considering what might have been. —More than 360,000 low-income Oregonians would have been kicked off the Oregon Health Plan Jan. 1 because the state computers thought their eligibility ended with the 20th century.

—Foster parents and institutions caring for 6,500 children under state protection would not have been paid because the state computers suddenly thought the children were from 79 to 100 years old.

—Signals controlling highway on-ramps, thinking it was a weekend of a year before there was traffic, would have stayed green longer and created rush-hour chaos.

—Employment Department computers would have thought nobody had worked in 99 years, and unemployment checks would not have been sent out as scheduled.

—The Law Enforcement Database System, which police use to look up drivers' licenses, would have crashed.

Overall, officials said, problems would have been widespread and troublesome. The cost in Oregon may eventually reach \$100 million. State officials defended their efforts, saying the thorough inventory of the

state's interlocking computer systems itself will be valuable over time.

They noted there likely would have been expensive lawsuits if the services had stopped.

"We know we would have had systems fail," said Barbara Jensen, Oregon's Y2K project manager. She said the three-year project "was not only necessary, it was valuable."

The price tag in Oregon was about the same as it was in Alabama, Florida and Massachusetts, all more populous states than Oregon. It was about the same as what Nike spent with its \$9 billion in annual revenue compared to Oregon's annual state budget of about \$5.5 billion.

US West puts Oregon schools on Information Superhighway

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The new year begins with good news for students and teachers in public schools all across Oregon - a commitment by US West to provide \$50 million over the next two years to support the use of technology in Oregon's schools. The first installment of the grant - a check for more than \$25 million - was presented to Governor John Kitzhaber by Larry Huss, US West Vice President - Oregon, and a group of North Salem High School students at a ceremony at the State Capitol.

"This check represents an opportunity for all of Oregon's K-12 schools - urban and rural - to invest in technology that will be essential in the 21st century," Kitzhaber said.

"It's a down payment on our children's future," said Huss, and part of our commitment to Oregon. But we wouldn't be here today if not for the vision of Senator David Nelson, Representative Jim Hill, Governor Kitzhaber and community leaders from all across the state who supported Senate Bill 622."

The \$25 million grant will go to the Connecting Oregon Communities Fund for distribution to K-12 schools by the Oregon Department of Education. US West is scheduled to make an additional \$25 million grant in January 2001.

US West is the first telephone company to elect to be regulated under Senate Bill 662, telecommunications reform legislation passed in the 1999 Legislative Assembly. The legislation encourages companies like US West to provide critical funding for advanced technologies in Oregon's schools and rural communities. In electing to operate within the provisions of the new law, US West will be removed from rate of return regulation and will operate under a system of price caps.

"Schools that aren't wired today will be wired with a local computer network, and every school facility will have funding for a high-speed telecommunications connection," said Stan Bunn, Superintendent of Public Instruction.