

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Research Your Old House

Find all the answers to all of your questions about researching the history of your house at a hands-on workshop presented by the Bosco-Milligan Foundation on Saturday, February 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. An overview on building research will be held at the Galleria Shopping Center at 921 SW Morrison, followed by a private orientation of resources available in the collections of the Oregon Historical Society. After a short, on-your-own lunch break, an afternoon session covering city directories, newspaper research, and maps will be presented at the Central Library.

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.

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.

Better Health In 2000

Resolve to improve your health in Year 2000 by attending the free Saturday seminars sponsored by the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine (OCOM) on January 15, 22 and 29. Each 90-minute seminar starts at 10 a.m. The seminars focus on acupuncture, herbal medicine and Qi Gong meditative exercise, and will offer sample treatments for those who wish to experience traditional Chinese medicine. To reserve a place in the free Saturday seminars, call the college at 503/253-3443.

Fourth Annual Bill Naito Award

The Portland Parks & Recreation's Urban Forestry Commission is now accepting applications for the Fourth Annual Bill Naito Award. The award was created in honor of the late builder and community leader who did so much to beautify Portland with trees. The Awards will be presented at Portland's Annual Arbor Day Celebration on April 4, 2000. Applications must be received by February 15. Contact the Urban Forestry coordinator at 823-4443 for an application packet.

Mountain Writers Series

Mountain Writers Series is pleased to announce eight workshops for the winter season in the genres of poetry, short fiction, personal essay, and introductory writing. All faculty are published writers with extensive teaching experience. Classes are held weekly at the Mountain Writers Center and will begin the week of January 24, 2000. Call 503/236-4854.

Museum After Hours

Presented by KINK fm 102, Museum After Hours is held every Wednesday evening, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., from October through April in the Museum's North Wing, 1119 SW Park Avenue in downtown Portland. Featuring an eclectic mix of jazz, blues, ethnic, swing and other musical styles, Museum After Hours showcases live music from both regional artists as well as artists from around the country. For more information on the Spring 2000 season of concerts, call 503/276-4262.

Snow storm hits Oregon, reaches lower altitudes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A winter storm swept across the state Tuesday, closed several highways and was blamed for a chemical spill on a slippery Interstate 84.

The storm system sent heavy winds along the coast Monday night and grew worse as it made its way eastward.

As much as 13 inches of snow stacked up in Wheeler on Tuesday, and flurries even fell in the usually snow-free Willamette Valley.

The bad weather closed U.S. 101 along the coast, near Florence, U.S. 20 through the Santiam Pass, and Interstate 84 east of Hood River. Many travelers were forced to turn around, use chains, and in some cases abandon their cars.

Road crews closed Interstate 84 after a collision between a pickup truck and a semi-truck spilled 10 drums of hazardous material onto the highway.

Nobody was injured, but hazardous material teams were called to clean up the phosphoric acid and liquid chlorine.

The highway — Oregon's main east-west route — will remain closed until the cleanup is completed. In the meantime, traffic was being detoured onto Washington Route 14 between Hood River and The Dalles.

Near central Oregon, Highway 20 through the Santiam Pass in the Oregon Cascades will remain closed until Wednesday morning. A series of avalanches and slides covered a 200-foot stretch with eight feet of snow Monday night. Road crews began removing the debris, but were slowed down Tuesday by 30 to 40 mph winds and whiteout conditions.

Until it reopens, alternate routes include U.S. 26 across Mt. Hood to the north, and Oregon 58 over the Willamette Pass to the south.



Unpredicted snow yesterday afternoon caught many Portlanders by surprise. The weather is expected to continue for today and tomorrow.

Travelers should expect a long, slow trip either way. And they should be prepared to use snow chains.

An unstable landslide on Highway 101 has kept Oregon's main coastal road closed since Friday. Highway engineers say it could be days before it will be safe for crews to begin clearing the growing pile of dirt and rocks.

Highway officials said it may cost more than \$1 million to fix and said it could be a continual headache until rains subside and the hillside stops moving.

Along the southern coast, the storm swept through Coos Bay, generating 60 mph winds that blew down trees and grounded a towing barge. The 330-foot-barge drifted down the channel and went aground on the other side of the bay.

In Eastern Oregon, La Grande received eight inches of new snow Monday night. A truck-and-trailer commercial unit rolled over after sliding on Oregon 82, north of La Grande, holding up traffic for three hours Monday afternoon. A tractor-trailer jackknifed on

Oregon 237, south of Union, blocking several other semis for part of Monday afternoon.

The jet stream was expected to carry the storm, which originated in the Gulf of Alaska, throughout the state to southern Oregon.

The effects of the worldwide weather pattern known as La Nina will continue to soak the region through March, according to state climatologist George Taylor. La Nina is expected to make flooding twice as likely to occur, according to a new study by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Local activist supports reparation bill

BY THE STAFF
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Clara Peoples is the Executive Director of Oregon Juneteenth. She is a staunch supporter of securing reparations funds for African Americans from the American government through House Bill 40.

Congressional bill H.R. 40 was introduced by Congressman John Conyers of Michigan and others to examine the fundamental injustice of slavery in the United States between 1619 and 1865. As part of their proposal, they intend to establish a Commission that would examine the lingering effects of the institution of slavery, educate the public of the Commission's findings and recommend reparations for African Americans.

Membership into this Commission is by appointment only. The chosen members would be appointed by the President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President pro tempore of the Senate.

Clara Peoples of Northeast Portland gave her support of this bill by saying, "Mr. Lincoln promised every Black slave 40 acres and a mule that was never paid. No Black Americans ever did receive this. Since Congressman John Conyers has introduced House Bill 40, I feel that it should include the payment of Mr. Lincoln's debt to us. We should rally around this House Bill and every elected official too, and have this debt paid by Juneteenth, the 19th of June 2000."

Portland's school board approves school's shift to charter status

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Portland's first application for a charter school has been approved.

The school board voted Monday night to allow McCoy Academy, a Northeast Portland alternative school for students who have dropped out of high school, to convert to a charter school.

Following the unanimous vote, McCoy will enter contract negotiations with the district. The school wants to begin educating its mostly minority and low-income students as a charter school as soon as those talks are settled. April is the target date the school's administrators have set, but it could be sooner. "They did the right thing and I'm proud of them," Rob Kremer, founder of the Oregon Charter School Service Center in Portland, said after the board's approval. "The leadership they've shown on this application will reverberate throughout the state."

Charter schools are public, tax-financed schools that are independent from many of the regulations governing regular schools. They operate under a contract, or charter, with a school district.

McCoy would be Oregon's third charter school, Kremer said. The Lourdes School, a community kindergarten-eighth grade school east of Albany, and Molalla Alternative Options, a middle and high school run by the Molalla River school district, sailed through the process.

Before McCoy converts to a charter, it must meet a set of conditions set forth by Superintendent Ben Canada. Those conditions will determine when the school can open, finances, academic program and community involvement.

One of the conditions requires McCoy to submit to academic program evaluations and monitoring. The nonprofit Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory would conduct the evaluation and monitoring. Oregon Outreach Inc., the organization that

(Please see 'McCoy' page 2)

Book donation helps students learn foreign languages

Duronte, 10, and Camelia, 9, say "Merci Beaucoup," which means thank you very much in French. Head Teacher Irene Evans has been writing to author Annette Allain for 21 years and asked the author to donate the book because students at the Helping Hands Development Center are learning French. In January, the students will learn German.

