



Business

NAACP and coalition partners sign diversity agreements with CBS and Fox

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Kweisi Mfume, President & CEO, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and coalition partners representing Latino, Asian American and Native American groups, today signed far reaching agreements with the CBS Television Network and the FOX Broadcasting Company to increase opportunities for people of color in programming and in the executive production and talent ranks of network television.

Under terms of a "memorandum of understanding," both CBS and FOX will among others things appoint a vice president who will report directly to the network president, with the authority and responsibility for coordinating and implementing improved diversity programs at the

networks. The NAACP signed similar agreements with NBC and ABC in January.

"These agreements represent real and meaningful change," said Mfume. "The NAACP has worked extremely hard with its coalition partners over the last several months to create greater opportunity or qualified men and women of color in network television.

While we don't expect to see overnight change, today's signings provide a strong foundation for increasing diversity in the executive, production and talent ranks at CBS, NBC, FOX and ABC for a long time to come."

Mfume said: "The CBS and FOX executives should be commended for the efforts to create a process for their networks that reflect the diversity of America. The NAACP will continue to work with them to effect lasting

change in the television industry." In the future, Mfume said, "the NAACP will also continue its efforts to include the major picture studios and other aspects of the entertainment industry."

The coalition include the National Latino Media Coalition, the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition and American Indians in Film & Television.

Both CBS and FOX have contributed millions of dollars to the Prism Fund, a minority ownership investment fund to provide financial assistance to minorities seeking to buy telecommunications properties. In addition, FOX has made a long-term commitment of several million to be divided between the Emma Bowen Foundation for Minority Interest in Media and the Benjamin Hooks Scholarships Program at New York University.

Wilsonville pushes prison project to Tualatin

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The Corps seeks input on the Construction of Women Prison. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is evaluating a permit application from the Oregon Department of Correction to fill 1.45 acres of wetlands near Tualatin, in Washington County, Ore. The purpose of the work is to construct a women's prison and associated infrastructure.

The proposed project will be located south of Tualatin, in an area bordered by SW Clay Street, west SW Grahams Ferry Road and north of SW Cahalin Road. If the Corps determines that mitigation for the loss of the Wetlands is required, the applicant has proposed creation of 2.07 acres of forested wetland and also will enhance 0.8 acres of wetland near the prison site.

As part of its permit evaluation process, the Corps is requesting comment on the proposed project prior to making its determination on whether to issue or deny

a permit for the work. For a copy of the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice, which describes the proposed project in detail, please call Jan Stuart at (503) 808-4381, or access the notice on the Corps' Internet site at <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/opg/notice/200000088.pdf>. Photocopies of drawings supporting the proposed project are included in public notice.

Written comments should reach the Corps by Feb. 28, 2000, and should be mailed to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CENWP-OP-GP (Jan Stuart), P.O. Box 2946, Portland, Ore., 97208-2946. Send e-mail comments to: janice.f.stuart@usace.army.mil.

The Corps also is soliciting comments from federal, state and local agencies and officials, Native American tribes, and other interested parties.

The Corps will issue or deny the permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. A Water Quality Certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water, will be needed from the state

Business Briefs

East/Southeast Community Court Project Opens February 17

A new community court will hear its first case in Southeast Portland on Thursday February 17 at 1 p.m. The court is located at the Brentwood-Darlington Community Center at 7211 SE 62nd Ave. Grand opening ceremonies with agency and community partners will take place from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Multnomah County's growing Community Court Project strives to reduce quality of life crimes by sentencing low-level offenders in their communities where they committed their crimes and by providing social assistance when needed. The county's first community court, serving North and Northeast Portland, opened in 1998.

Circuit Court Judge Clifford Freeman will preside at the East/Southeast Community Court Project on first and third Thursday of the month. The court will hear misdemeanor cases committed in the East and Southeast Portland police precincts.

Community Court Project planners hope to extend the Community Court system to every part of the city during 2000. The next court planned would serve Central Precinct, West Portland.

had a all along to sell Oregon's world-class crops in the world's largest market."

U.S. and Chinese officials are negotiating a deal to approve the importation of 50,000 metric tons of Northwest wheat valued at \$6,000,000. Oregon growers will contribute 30,000 metric tons of soft white wheat—estimated at \$4,000,000. In a boost to the Oregon economy, the entire shipment is to be sent through Portland.

For over 20 years, Wyden and other regional legislators have been pushing for a lifting of the ban, which had been in effect since the early 1970's, but the Chinese continued to insist that the small amounts of the TCK smut fungus found in Northwest wheat threatened to contaminate Chinese crops. In April of 1999, after Wyden personally presented a letter from the Oregon Congressional delegation to the Chinese Ambassador, urging review of a study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture showing that TCK smut does not pose a significant risk, China lifted its ban.

Trade negotiators have finalized the deal in Portland, and plan to sign an agreement with a shipment expected later this week.

Coming to a newspaper near you

With the \$9.6 million Ross Island Bridge project about to make its debut next Monday, nearly 90,000 tabloid inserts describing the work are poised to reach commuters in tomorrow's metro editions of The Oregonian. The four-page tabloid describes the overall scope of the project, the construction scheduled, bicycle and pedestrian access, traffic management strategies, alternate route plans, construction survival tips, hotline numbers, maps, and website addresses.

While the 16-month long project is underway, only two of the bridge's four lanes will be open to traffic during the day on weekends. The structure will be entirely closed to traffic Monday through Fridays, 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Motorists will need to acquaint themselves with the detours that will be in place during the project.

Wyden announces China approves shipment of Northwest wheat

Washington, DC - In a major victory for Oregon Farmers, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden announced that, for the first time in over 20 years, China is approving a shipment of Pacific Northwest Wheat.

"After working to break the embargo for over 20 years, it is extremely gratifying that the Chinese are finally approving a shipment of Northwest wheat," said Wyden. "With wheat prices reaching new lows, this sale will be a shot in the arm for Oregon growers. Now, they're going to have the opportunity they should have

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VALVOLINE MOTOR OIL Single & Multi-wts. GRAND OPENING PRICE PER QUART 89¢ MAIL-IN REBATE PER CASE 3.60 59¢ AFTER MAIL-IN REBATE	PENNZOIL PZA-11 AIR FILTER 3.50 EA	40 PC. SOCKET SET #601962 3.99 SET
AUTOLITE SPARK PLUGS Standard or Resistor. Grand Opening Low Price 89¢ Mail-in Rebate 30¢ 59¢ EA	STP ONE STEP TIRE CARE 22 oz. #ST-6925 1.99 EA	AUTO DUSTER #10-3705 4.99 EA

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