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The Portland Observer

Historical library to reopen March 21

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The next chapter in the history of Multnomah County's North Portland Branch Library will begin March 21 when the 87-year-old building at 512 North Killingsworth Street reopens after a year-long restoration.

The building's original vaulted ceilings have been uncovered again and the original woodwork has been refurbished. New light fixtures and furnishings faithfully reflect the building's historic nature.

A new elevator carries people to the renovated 85-seat meeting room, which will also house a new mobile computer training center.

Downstairs, four new computers that run educational software are dedicated for the use of children, while another 14 new computers will allow visitors of all ages to locate books and connect to the Internet. Plumbing upgrades support additional public restrooms.

"The renovation has returned this historically significant library building to its original splendor," says Ginnie Cooper, director of libraries for Multnomah County. "The modern improvements are tastefully incorporated and enable the library to provide the North Portland community with excellent information services in the 21st century."

North Portland has served its community for almost a century with books, magazines, newspapers, lectures, storytimes and more. When the branch reopens, many new books, music CDs, cassette tapes, videos, magazines, newspapers and CD-Rom products will be on the shelves. The library will also offer new DVDs and spoken CDs, and the Black Resources

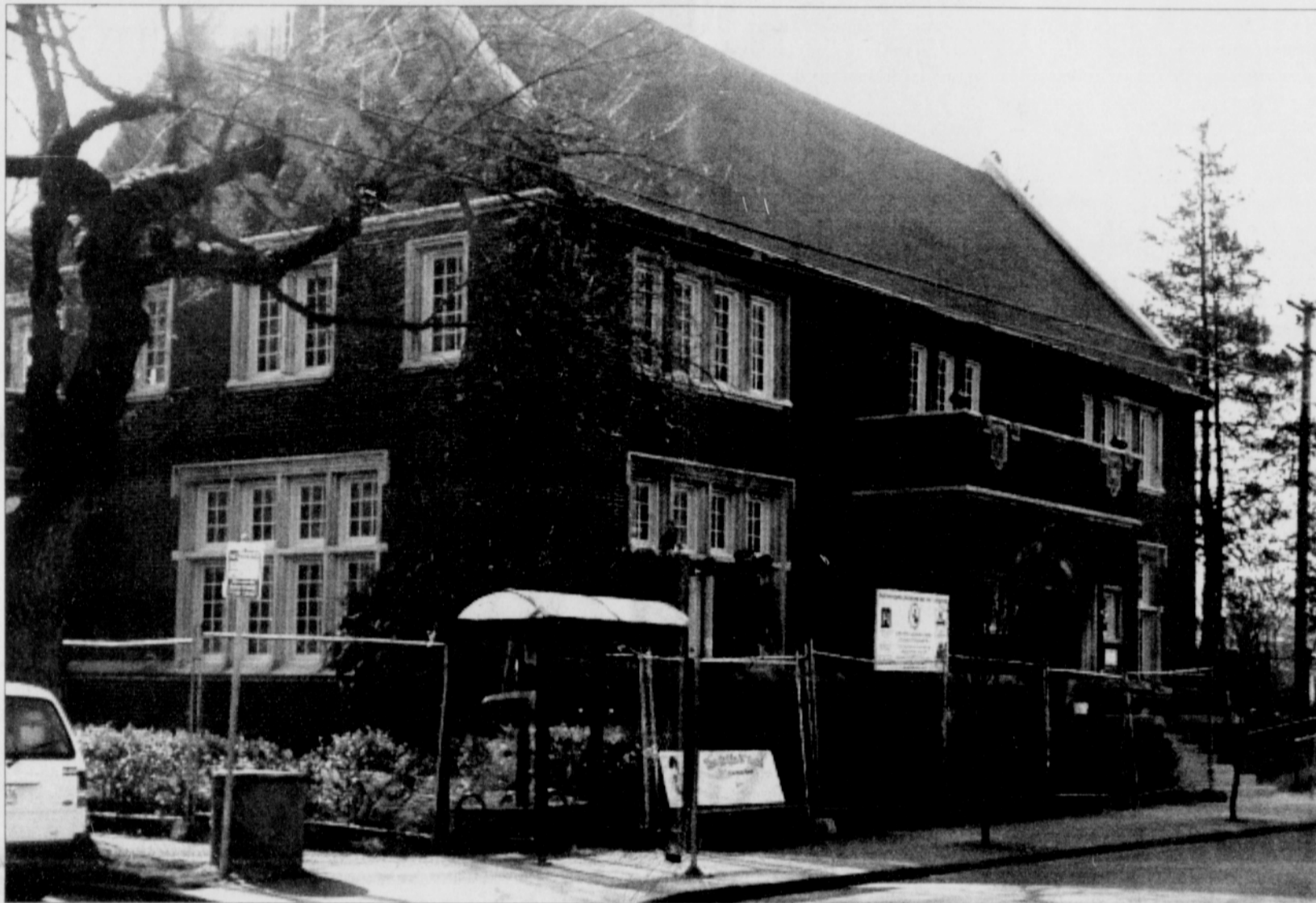


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Center will return from its temporary quarters at Portland Community College's Cascade campus.

Also returning are North Portland's well-attended library programs such as storytimes for babies, toddlers and preschoolers; homework help students; and cultural events for all ages. Voters approved general obligation bond funding to finance Multnomah County Library's branch renovation project in 1996,

responding to problems caused by long-deferred maintenance, new seismic codes, new Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and the need for electronic infrastructure to support new technology. The multi-year project, expected to be completed in 2002, includes improvements to eight libraries and the replacement of the Woodstock, Hollywood, Sellwood-Moreland and Hillsdale branch libraries.

The 9,500-square-foot North Portland Branch Library building originally opened its doors on February 20, 1913. The branch had started in 1909 as the North Albina Reading Room in a house on Albina Street and then operated as the North Albina Library at 1131 Albina Avenue. In 1912, the Carnegie Corporation of New York donated funds to construct a new library building, and gifts from community members purchased land

for the new Jacobethan-style building at the corner of Killingsworth Street and Commercial Avenue. The building was renovated in 1961 and closed briefly in 1991 to receive new carpet and paint.

Located at 512 North Killingsworth Street, North Portland Branch Library will be open every Sunday from 1-5 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

US Govt able to buy back some public debt

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Welcome to the brave new world of bulging government surpluses. For the first time in 70 years, the U.S. Treasury is buying back a part of the national debt — \$1 billion on Thursday.

While the buyback will represent just a tiny drop of the \$5.7 trillion national debt, the repurchases — limited to 30-year bonds sold between 1985 and 1990 — will let the U.S. Treasury Department do a test run of its new procedures.

The announcement Thursday of the initial \$1 billion buyback effort was expected to be followed later this month with another \$1 billion repurchase.

Any investors who own 30-year bonds, which are to mature between 2015 and 2020, can offer to unload them through a process known as a "reverse auction," in which the government will select offers on a competitive basis based on the lowest prices.

The government is hoping to save in financing costs by redeeming the bonds, which carry coupon interest rates as high as 11.25 percent.

Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers announced in January that the government hoped to buy back up to \$30 billion of the \$5.7 trillion national debt this year. The administration's budget projects

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Super Tuesday shaping the presidential race

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eight months to the day from the ticket-shaping verdicts of Super Tuesday, Americans will elect a new



AP/HARRY CABLUCK
Texas Gov. George W. Bush waves before entering his car at the Texas state Capitol in Austin on Tuesday, March 7.

president, choosing between Democrat Al Gore and, almost surely, Republican George W. Bush to settle what will be the longest and costliest head-to-head White House campaign ever waged.

That, barring some incredible change, is the prospect, with the vice president piling on victories in a sweep over Democratic challenger Bill Bradley, and the Texas governor capturing states Sen. John McCain couldn't afford to lose.

Ohio was the first among them. Bush's landslide undercut McCain's fading hope of a combination that would keep him going as a competitor into major state primaries later in the spring. His own strategists said he couldn't do it without Ohio.

Bush also won in Georgia, Missouri, Maryland and Maine. He said he'd taken a huge step toward the nomination but did not consider it won yet.

McCain captured Connecticut — once the political home of the Bush family — Massachusetts and Vermont, New England support that showed first when he vaulted past Bush to start the season in New Hampshire, just five weeks ago. McCain's victory there fueled a fierce Republican contest that turned harsh, personal and divisive, a split that could hurt the party unless it heals. "I really do believe that it will come back together," said Michigan Gov. John Engler, a Bush ally who suffered with him two weeks ago when McCain won the primary there, boosted by crossover Democratic voters.

The GOP rivalry also was expensive, draining millions from the record treasury that once loomed as a major Bush advantage over Gore during the five months before the national party conventions.

While their cash reserves may be about even now, Bush is going after

\$10 million more, and Gore still faces spending restrictions that do not apply to the governor because he didn't accept federal campaign subsidies.

The candidates will start even after the conventions; each nominee gets \$67.6 million in federal funds for the general election campaign. There's also a wild card: the \$12.5 million available to the Reform Party nominee, with ex-Republican Pat Buchanan seeking that role and bankroll.

Bush already was talking party unity, praising McCain's campaign for recruiting waves of new voters. "Change is coming in politics in America," McCain said. But not enough to keep him competitive.

"Governor Bush is a competitor but he doesn't take this personally," said Karl Rove, his chief strategist, as the

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vice President Al Gore tells Michael Wheeler at the Goody Goody Diner in St. Louis that he needs his vote in the Democratic presidential primary on Tuesday, March 7.

Weather

Through the weekend

Today		53°F/11°C
Scattered showers		40°F/4°C
Thursday		56°F/13°C
Showers		39°F/4°C

Friday		55°F/12°C
Showers		39°F/4°C

Saturday		54°F/12°C
Rain		39°F/4°C

Sunday		57°F/13°C
Showers		39°F/4°C

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This Week in History

On March 8, 1917, Russia's February Revolution (so called because of the Old Style calendar used by Russians at the time) began with rioting and strikes in St. Petersburg.
On March 9, 1911 white firemen of the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific Railroad struck to protest the hiring of Black firemen.
On March 15, 1965, addressing a joint session of Congress, President Johnson called for new legislation to guarantee every American's right to vote.