

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

YMCA Sponsors World's Largest Run

The Clark County Family YMCA, located in Vancouver, Washington will be having the "World's Largest Run," a 5k run/walk on Saturday, June 2 at 2 p.m. It will be sponsored by 1,300 YMCAs in 700 cities throughout North America. This is in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the YMCA in the United States. To register, call 503/228-5079 or 360/885-9622.

Architectural Treasures of Portland

Alice Cotton, a local author will be giving a slide show presentation at Multnomah County Library on Wednesday, June 13, 7 p.m. in honor of Portland's 150th anniversary. Her specialty is on revealing the unique story of beautifully designed buildings in the city and highlighting its architecture.

June Lead Poisoning Prevention Workshop

A June Lead Poisoning Workshop sponsored by Community Energy Project will discuss the health effects of childhood lead poisoning. Income-qualified Portland residents receive a free prevention kit worth about \$45. The event is free and open to the public. Free childcare provided. It will be held June 5 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Whitaker Community School, 5700 N.E. 39th Ave.

Friendly Poets Society

The Friendly Poets Society is offering a \$1,000 grand prize in their Poetry Competition 2001, free to everyone. There are 28 prizes in all, worth over \$3,000. The contest is seeking poems on any subject, using any style, with a life-affirming inspirational theme. For more information, go online to www.friendlypoets.com. Deadline is June 15.

Free Tennis Lessons

Have you ever wanted to learn to play tennis, but weren't sure how to go about doing so? Well, here is your chance! The United State Tennis Association has designated the month of May as "USA Tennis Month" throughout the entire nation! To celebrate, the Vancouver Tennis & Racquetball Center staff, in conjunction with the Vancouver, WA Community Tennis Association, will be offering FREE 1.5 hour introductory group tennis lessons to interested groups and/or organizations. Free lessons are available for kids ages 7 to 15 until June 9. Call 360/696-8123.

Baby Sitter Training at the Red Cross

Red Cross will offer Babysitter's Training at University Park Community Center, located at 9009 N. Foss in Portland. The class will be held on Saturday, May 26, from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Babysitter's Training is an eight-hour Red Cross course that teaches youth ages 11 to 15 the skills needed to be responsible childcare givers. Call 503/823-3631 to register.

Tai Chi in the Park

Portland Parks & Recreation will be having summer Tai Chi courses at Normandale Park, located at N.E. 57th & Halsey beginning Wednesday, June 6 - July 18. There will be an introductory class on the "8 Ways," to improve equilibrium and muscle strength building foundation to learn Tai Chi form, Wed. 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Call 503/823-4328.

Providence Health Support Groups

The three Providence Health System hospitals in Portland - Providence Portland Medical Center, Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, and Providence Milwaukie Hospital - host regular support group meetings for cancer patients and their families. All support groups are free. For a schedule and more information, call Cancer Counseling Services at 503/216-2917, 503/216-2280 or 503/215-6015.

YMCA Day Camp

The YMCA of Columbia - Willamette is currently holding open registration for Day Camps for youth entering 1st-8th grades. Weekly camps begin June 18th and run through August 31st. Programs run from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and are conveniently located at over 30 sites. For Eastside Camp locations contact 503/287-4069. For Westside locations, call 503/641-3345, ext. 105.

Schools Looks for New Superintendent

Portland Public Schools Superintendent Benjamin O. Canada, Ph.D., and the Portland Public Schools Board of Education have agreed to end their employment relationship effective June 30, the Board announced Friday.

Jim Scherzinger, chief financial officer for the district and a former director of the Oregon Legislative Revenue Office, will serve as interim superintendent until the search for new leadership is completed.

The board will appoint a Leadership Advisory Committee, charged with recommending applicant qualifications and selection criteria. The board will then seek comment through community meetings, personal interviews and other opportunities for public response.

The timeline for completing the initial stage of the search process will be announced next month. Once completed, the board will approve a job description, qualifications and selection criteria, and will initiate the search process.

"Dr. Canada has brought many positive changes to Portland over the last three years," said School Board Chair Debbie Menashe. "These include leading the creation of the Strategic Plan for the district, fostering a focus on achievement for principals and teachers in all Portland schools, overseeing improved achievement and rising test scores throughout the district, and putting in place a highly talented management team."

"He has led the district to a new place, with new opportunities - a place that both Ben and the Board agree now requires a different kind of leadership," Menashe added.



Ben Canada

"The Board thanks him for his hard work and valuable contributions on behalf of the district and wishes him well. We are particularly grateful for his efforts to build a district-wide financial and information systems infrastructure that will serve us well in the future, and his success in improving our credibility with the Oregon Legislature." Dr. Canada will continue to

serve as superintendent through June 30 and will consult with the board for a period of time to assist in transitional matters and to share his expertise.

Scherzinger will guide the district through the transition.

He will work closely with Deputy Superintendent Pat Burk to continue the district's efforts to reach their educational goals. "The Board is confident that the district is in excellent hands with this team in place,"

Menashe said. "The next step is to begin a search for a new leadership. We need to define what the district needs, and what teachers, parents and community want."

Dr. Canada was hired as superintendent on Aug. 3, 1998. Prior to coming to Portland, he served as superintendent of the Atlanta School District.

With 31 years of experience in education, he is current president of The American Association of School Administrators.

Heated Exchanges Disrupt School Board

Heated arguments between members of the Portland School Board and Education Crisis Team eventually led to a board member walk out Monday.

The crisis team has been leading a battle to improve the education of minority students in the district.

"They (minorities) have not been given the most rudimentary elements of an education," said Ron Herndon, one of the group's leaders.

"Now if that means we have to go in and protest, we'll do that."

The protest was a direct confrontation with school board chairperson Debbie Goldberg Menashe who pleaded for the protests to end in

order to deal with a set agenda that included the honoring of valedictorian students.

The school board says they have implemented many of the changes the Education Crisis Team is calling for. School board members did come back after the interruption to resume discussion on another controversy, the ban against military recruitment within the schools.

A motion was approved that allows teachers to approach students and students can approach teachers about military recruitment, but teachers have to inform students that the military discriminates against gays and lesbians.

Election Names County Chair

Diane Linn has won a special election to become the new chairwoman of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners.

Linn succeeds Bev Stein, who stepped down after announcing her intention to run for governor in 2002.

Linn, a former county commissioner, received 54 percent of the votes in the May 15 vote-by-mail election. The margin was more than enough to avoid a runoff. Linn's closest challenger, former state Rep. Jo Ann Bowman, received 25 percent of the vote.

In a second county race, Maria Rojo de Steffey finished with just under 51 percent of the vote for the District 1 seat on the county board. She needed to finish with more than 50 percent to avoid a runoff on July 10.



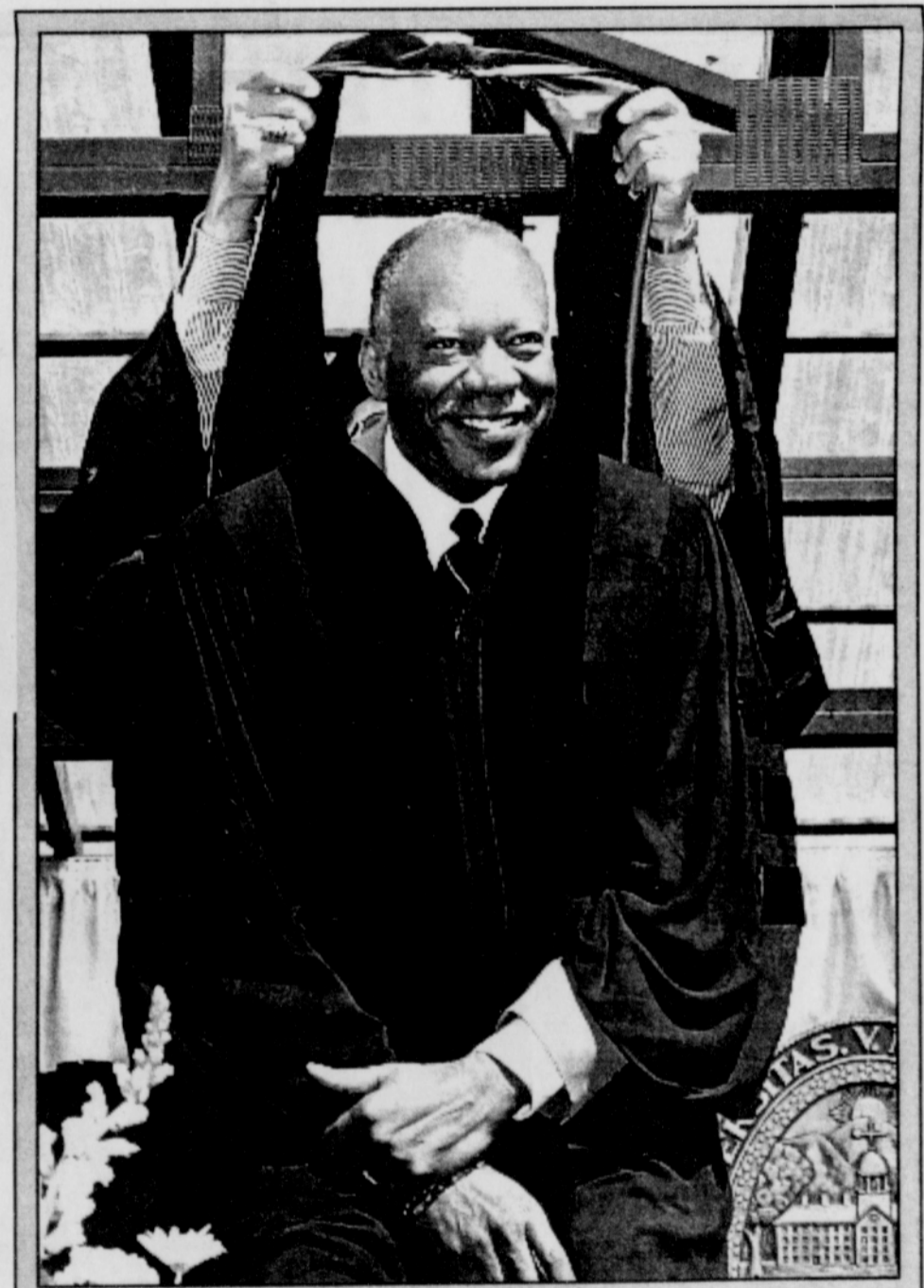
Diane Linn

Neighborhoods Find Appreciation for Clean Rivers



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Shane Alexander discovers how water is tested for quality and contaminants with the help of Stephanie Reid of Portland Environmental Services. The booth was one of many activities at the Big Pipe Party and Fish Friendly Fair on Saturday at the Columbia Boulevard Treatment Plant. The celebration marked the completion of a new 3.5-mile pipeline that keeps about 350-million gallons of combined sewer overflows out of the Columbia Slough.



Vermont Honors Portland's Parks Director

The University of Vermont bestows an honorary Doctor of Law degree upon Portland Parks and Recreation Director Charles R. Jordan during graduation ceremonies. Jordan, a former Portland City Councilman and longtime civic leader, has earned a national reputation for helping design and fund parks systems. He serves as a member and past president of the National Parks and Recreation System.