

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

Community Calendar

National Trails Day Project

One hundred volunteers are needed on National Trails Day, June 1, to help maintain portions of the Wildwood Trail in Portland's Forest Park. Volunteers are asked to wear sturdy long pants, long sleeved shirts, gloves, lunch and plenty of water. Everyone is to meet at the Lower Macleay Fieldhouse under the Thurman Street Bridge at 9 a.m. Call 503-283-1300.

Noon Time Rides

Portland noon time bicycle rides will be held every Mondays and Thursday, between noon and 12:10 p.m. They are fast rides with hills. To participate, meet at the S.W. corner of Pioneer Courthouse Square, between Yamhill and Broadway. Call Ray Thomas at 503-228-5222 with questions or meet at start.

National Cancer Survivors Day

The 7th annual Cancer Survivors Day Event that features Portland Taiko Drummers, a puppet show, arts and crafts and TV personality Kris Eisenhower will emcee the event. It will be held on Sunday, June 2, from 2-4:30 p.m. at the World Forestry Center.

Healing Lecture at PSU

Attend a free bioenergetics healing lecture by Grandmaster Ou Wen Wei of China. He will be speaking on Friday, May 31 at Portland State University's Koin Onai House, 633 S.W. Montgomery. Lectures for students and faculty are from 3-5 p.m. and for the general public, 7-9 p.m. Call 503-625-2614 or go online to www.pangushengong.org.

Native American Storytelling

Storyteller Ed Edmo and flutist Isaac Trimble present a delightful mixture of the Native American oral tradition and flute music. Also enjoy a stroll along the Willamette river to learn about the wildlife and landscape. It will be held on Tuesday, June 4 at the Water Pollution Control Lab in St. Johns, 6543 N. Burlington Ave., from 7-8:30 p.m. Call 503-823-7863.

Hike Northwest Portland

Mazamas leads casual hikes exploring the streets and trails of Northwest Portland at 6 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. This is a great way to meet other hikers, plan a weekend trip or just to maintain your fitness after work and see some hidden parts of Portland. Meet at Mazamas at 909 N.W. 19th Ave. Call 503-227-2345.

Oregon Lawyers on Historical Cases

During the 1960's, many Oregon lawyers left their practices and traveled to the South to defend the rights of African Americans at a critical time in our nation's history. Join the U.S. District Court Historical Society for a free panel discussion of the experiences of several of these lawyers on May 30, from 4-6 p.m. at the 16th Floor Ceremonial Court of the Federal Courthouse, 1000 S.W. Third Ave.

'Java Joint' Brews More Than Coffee



The stark reality of prison life is evident in this medium security cellblock at the new Coffee Creek Correctional Institution in Wilsonville.

Coffee Creek prison opens with emphasis on helping women face challenges

BY RON WEBER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With the opening of Oregon's newest prison, state Department of Corrections officials reaffirmed their mission of promoting public safety by holding both female and male inmates accountable for their actions.

But Wilsonville's Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, affectionately called "the Java Joint," is also trying to stand out by having high expectations and services for prisoners in their care to reduce the risk of future criminal behavior.

Many of the state's inmates are low

income Oregonians who need psychological services. Treatment and medications can be very costly.

Without support systems in place, these often, poor minority clients end up being housed in the state criminal system in lieu of a mental health facility. The bleak fact is that there is just no other place besides jails or prisons to put them during these economic hard times.

Single minority-moms are especially hard hit. They're faced with mounting debt, the emotional stress of trying to raise a family, and the loss of custody of their children while incarcerated.

The Coffee Creek facility has programs to help women inmates face these challenges head on.

The prison offers a program for women in community service, alcohol and drug services, mental health services and English as a Second Language classes.

Corrections staff are also in the planning stages of a Girl Scout program for inmates and their children as well as an Early Head Start Program for expectant mothers. About one child a month is born to inmates in Oregon women's prisons.

The prison allows new mothers who

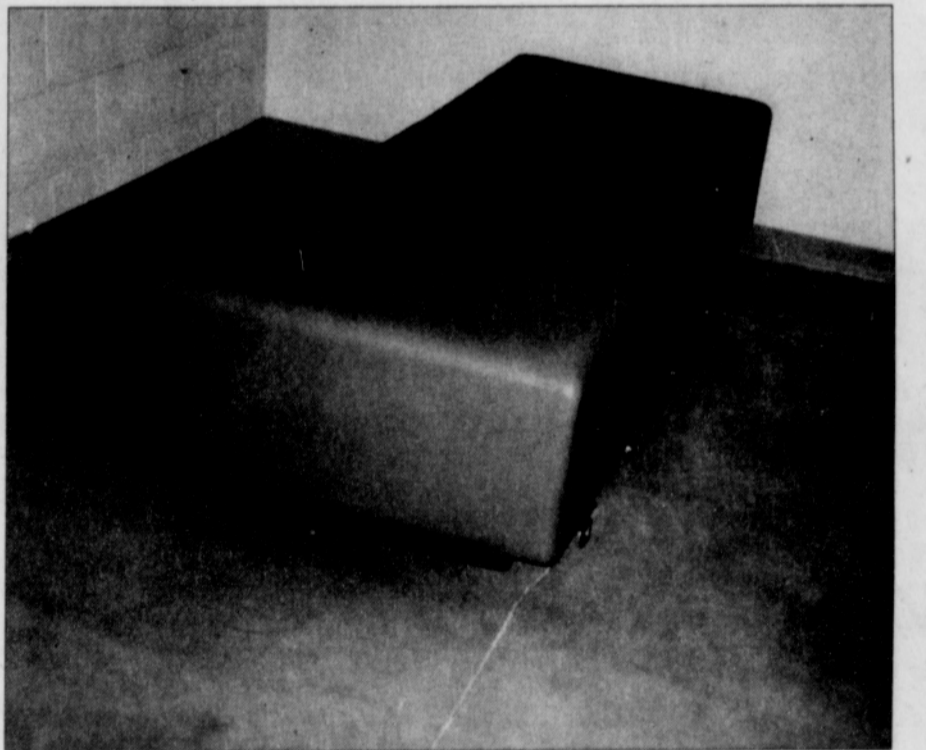
are minimum-security inmates to visit their children and their caretakers on a regular basis while they are in Early Head Start.

The program is designed to help incarcerated moms become better parents and put the child at a lower risk of abuse.

Corrections officials have high hopes that the wide range of programs now offered will help women inmates transition better into society upon release. The process of focusing on the whole family, the prison, and Early Head Start as a team, offers maximum benefit to the mother and her children.



Shared dorm space and a center table for make up and personal care items are found in a minimum security section at the state's new women's prison.



An isolation cell in the 'Java Joint's' psychiatric ward with restraint strap hooks at floor level.

Health Forum Tackles Lead Poisoning

Help offered to eradicate hidden dangers in homes

A community forum to help local residents deal with the hidden dangers of lead in their homes takes place Thursday, May 30 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at King Elementary School, 4906 N.E. 6th Ave.

The Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition is sponsoring the event as the perfect opportunity for parents to learn about childhood lead poisoning and have their children screened immediately to find out if their blood contains toxic lead.

Free home lead test kits will be given to participants, and free on-site blood lead testing for all ages will be available from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Raffle tickets for lead water

filters and other lead poisoning prevention materials will also be available.

Residents are encouraged to bring the entire family, with free food and childcare provided.

Lead poisoning causes permanent brain and organ damage, possibly leading to learning disabilities, serious health problems, and in severe cases, death. Unfortunately, most children are exposed to lead hazards in the home such as deteriorating lead-based paint chips and dust, water, soil, and miscellaneous household items.

For more information, call Janice Lewis at 503-823-2354.

Street Honors Minority Explorer

(AP) — One hundred and eleven years after Portland adopted an alphabetical scheme for naming streets, the City Council has cleared up just who York Street honors.

By unanimous vote of the City Council, York Street is now named for York — the African American explorer and slave with a single name who was a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Ron Craig, a Lake Oswego filmmaker who is preparing a documentary on York's life, says his subject deserves more recognition than early historians gave him.

York started the trip as a servant of William Clark. But during the course of the 28-month journey, members accepted York as an equal known for his hunting skills, physical strength and practical jokes.

When the party voted on selecting a wintering site that became Fort Clatsop, York's vote was counted with the rest.

York also camped for one night on the Willamette River below what is now the University of Portland, thus becoming the first African American to visit the Portland area.