

West Nile Virus Here to Stay

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of West Nile. The chickens have no chance of being harmed in the process because they have built up immunities, according to county health officials, who say they eat the eggs that their long-lived hens lay.

Prevention is the county's top concern.

"People need to take action to protect themselves, such as making sure you have a mosquito screen and getting rid of standing water in your backyard," Wirth says.

State Sen. Avel Gordly who became concerned about West Nile virus in her northeast and southeast Portland district, has scheduled a town hall forum Saturday as part of an education and prevention campaign.

Gordly, who represents parts of inner north and northeast Portland, will be joined by Wirth and health department educator Kari Lyons.

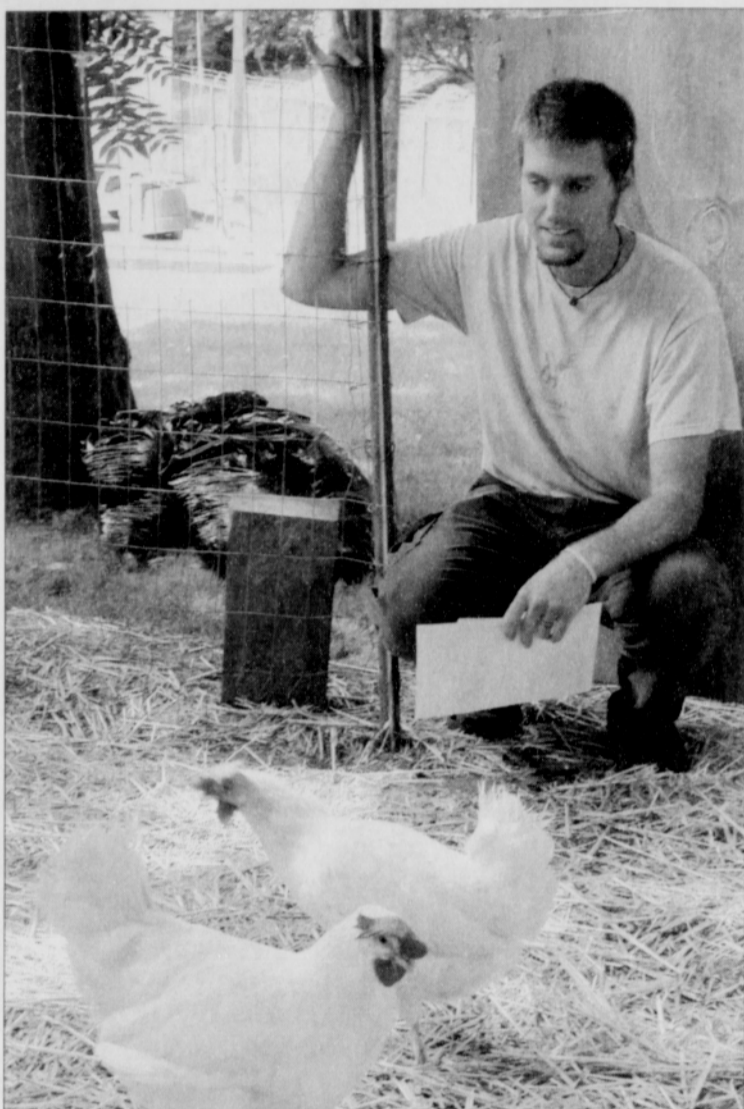
Event organizers say that the forum will mainly be an opportunity for the public to ask questions about this or any other public-health concern.

"When I read about the dead crow infected with West Nile virus found in the Roseway neighborhood," Gordly said, "I contacted the Multnomah County Health Department to set up an opportunity to provide community education and prevention information that will help keep Portland residents safe. It is my hope that residents will make this town hall presentation a priority."

Sean Cruz, Gordly's chief of staff, doesn't "think any level of government can claim that they are sufficiently prepared" for a West Nile outbreak.

"I don't want to be alarmist, but we want people to be educated and to be armed against this virus," Gordly says.

The public West Nile virus forum will take place Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at the High and Christian Center, 7600 N.E. Glisan St.



Carl Pierce maintains a chicken coop on Northeast Columbia Boulevard that's used to regularly test the blood of chickens for the West Nile virus. The chickens are naturally exposed to mosquito bites that can carry the virus, but have build up immunities to keep them healthy.

PHOTOS BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



University of Portland graduate Mary Faber and Jeremy Schwenker begin to load dry-ice mosquito traps into a van for placement near the Columbia Slough.



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community Transitional School students check out the drawing of their new school building coming to northeast Portland.

Homeless School Breaks Ground

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students and the dedication of everyone involved in the project. "The first thing you notice about the Community Transitional School is you walk in, and it is quiet," said Senator Deckhart to the crowd of approximately 200 people packed under a pavilion.

Since the school's founding, it has served more than 4,000 transient children ages 4 to 14 throughout Portland. The new 9,000-square-foot, one-story facility will have three classrooms, a lunchroom, an office, a computer lab and storage room for the school's donated clothes, hygiene items and school supplies.

Jamba Juice Inc. is funding a Nike grind track on-site, and there will be room for a playground and a garden.

The school should be ready for the beginning of the school year in 2008. Until then, it will remain at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church on Southeast Belmont Street.

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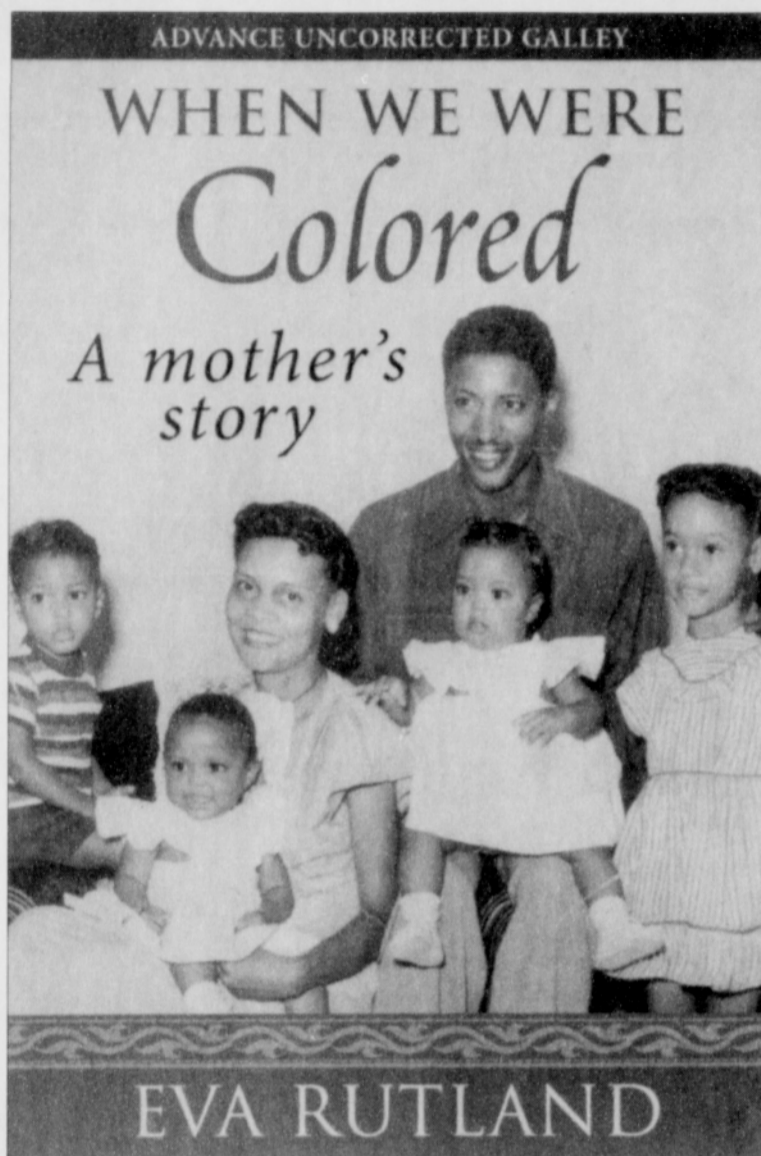
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Ninety year old, **Eva Rutland**, author of more than 20 novels will sign her book *When We Were Colored: A Mother's Story*, at the Talking Drum Bookstore on Saturday, July 28th, 4:00 – 6:00 pm. The book presents the timely and relevant story of her life as a mother in the years 'before integration, before affirmative action – when segregation was the norm, discrimination was legally tolerated, and blacks were second-class citizens.' "The era in which I raised my children is long gone, but the troubles I encountered afflict today's mamas's too."

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