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38
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Inspirational Legacy

Film honors late
counselor Al Forthan
See story, Metro section

The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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Week in The Review

Economic Woes

More economic woes for the U.S. economy as new indexes show consumer confidence has plunged, inflation has soared, the number of foreclosed homes has jumped, home prices fell sharply and a report Tuesday predicted big increases in healthcare costs. In addition, gas prices jumped 17 cents in the past week.

Dodd Endorses Obama

As a New York Times/CBS poll showed broader support for Barack Obama across the country, Sen. Christopher Dodd endorsed his one-time presidential rival on Tuesday. He encouraged Democrats to join forces to defeat the Republicans but denied he was nudging Hillary Clinton to end her candidacy.



Army 'out of Balance'

The U.S. military reports serious strain and wants to reduce the length of combat tours to prepare for an uncertain future. "The cumulative effects of the last six-plus years at war have left our Army out of balance," Gen. George Casey told a Senate panel on Tuesday.

Working Pregnant

Women have children later, work longer into pregnancy and return to work faster than they did four decades ago, the Census Bureau said Monday. In the early part of this decade, 55 percent returned to work within six months after giving birth; that figure was 14 percent in the early 1960s.

Oregon Health Plan Rush

Going into its final week of accepting names, the reservation list for the Oregon Health Plan's Standard benefit package has attracted the names of more than 76,000 uninsured Oregonians. After the reservation list period closes Friday, at least 3,000 people will be selected at random and get sent applications.

Changes in Rosaria

The Rose Festival will open its royal positions for the first time to girls from nearly 30 suburban high schools from Forest Grove to Sandy, starting in 2009. Also, Portland high schools that have struggled recently to field many princess candidates might lose their traditionally guaranteed slots on the court.

School Budgets Outlined

By freezing the salaries of custodians and 38 top officials at district headquarters, kindergarten class sizes would decrease and K-8 schools would receive more money. The details are part of Superintendent Carole Smith's proposed budget for the 2008-09 school year.

Concordia EXPANDS Landmark becoming major university

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

College campuses tend to create a stir with expansion into adjoining properties, but not Concordia University, the 103-year-old institution at Northeast 27th Avenue and Holman Street.

As Concordia prepares to raze about 30 structures over a two-block area on its north side to make way for a new library and sports fields, there has been little controversy. All of the properties were purchased by the private Lutheran university voluntarily over several years.

Concordia officials argue that surrounding neighborhoods stay happy if higher education maintains a genuine sense of community part-



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Concordia University President Charles Schlimpert (right) and Chief Financial Officer Dennis Stoecklin oversee a major expansion of the college's northeast Portland campus.



Concordia University will expand two blocks north to Northeast Dekum Street with athletic fields and a library, replacing about 30 existing structures. Construction on the library will begin this spring.

nership at all levels. In this case, that included the charge of finding ways to reach out to the African-American and Hispanic populations of the immediate area.

The outreach involved initiatives such as opening meeting and office space for the NAACP and the Black Parent Initiative, organizing a large corps of students and staff to volunteer regularly at nearby struggling schools, and finalizing the unveiling of a full-ride scholarship for a

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Priority High for Healthcare Overhaul

Senator Wyden addresses concerns

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As health disparities widen for minority and disadvantaged populations, the stakes were high for U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden's visit to the Urban League Multicultural Senior Center in the heart of Portland's African-American community.

Two women with concerns about high prescription costs took seats near the center's entrance last Friday to shake the senator's hand as Wyden tours the state to explain his support for overhauling the way healthcare is administered in America.

Lorraine Thompson, 66, and Celia Yancey, 82, were among the approximately 100 attendees that took advantage of the opportunity to wrestle with the struggles currently facing the local community.

"His being here means to me that he cares about his constituency, especially the elders who are facing horrible, horrible times now in terms of the economy," D'Norgia Price, an Urban League senior-services director, told the Portland Observer.

Price hopes that the senator's efforts to pass a universal healthcare bill will fetch less of a patchwork in insurance plans and more of a feeling of stability for underserved populations.

"Fewer people will fall through the cracks because they will know that healthcare's avail-



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

D'Norgia Price, Urban League of Portland senior-services director, welcomes U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden to a community meeting at the Multicultural Senior Center on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

His being here means to me that he cares about his constituency, especially the elders who are facing horrible, horrible times now in terms of the economy.

— D'Norgia Price, Urban League of Portland senior-services director

able," she says.

The Democratic senator, whose home is in Portland and who was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1980 to represent Oregon's 3rd Congressional District, echoed the concerns of the group.

"With respect to Medicare especially, we know that every year too many of our seniors are falling between the cracks,"

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