

Concordia EXPANDS

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Jefferson High School graduate, to be dedicated at the library groundbreaking April 10.

Community participation not only benefits public relations and the hundreds of neighbors that work with the school, according to Charles Schlimpert, Concordia's president for 25 years. Over the period that has made him the longest-sitting college president in Oregon, Schlimpert has refined the school's mission to recognize that local engagement is required to instill in students the ability, mindset and culture they need to transform the communities they love.

"It really isn't just change for change sake," Schlimpert told the Portland Observer. "It's part of a strategy, a vision that says we're going to be part of creating a great community, and the rest is history, as they say, because man, all of a sudden, it just took off."

The university had its share of financial difficulties that forced staff layoffs less than a decade ago. Now the school is riding a golden wave that has seen the addition of sev-

eral new programs, including a nursing graduate program a couple years ago to be housed by the new library building.

Schlimpert maintains that hard-won progress is achieved through negotiation, and it's easier and safer in the end to break down any walls, construct buildings to face the neighborhood and welcome advice every step of the way.

"The first thing you have to do is listen," he says. "We could easily become an ivory tower...but that doesn't build community."

The school takes pride in having increased minority representation in its student body exceeding 1,600 to 20 percent and plans to increase that percentage as the enrollment reaches a final goal of 2,000.

Calling northeast Portland "the one quadrant in the city that's still fairly ripe for economic and social development," Schlimpert sees expansion as much more than just going across the street and buying a bunch of homes, alternatively hoping the community's ability to use the library and its built-in coffee shop will create more vibrancy.



Concordia University holds a plaza displaying the cornerstone of one of its first educational facilities built in 1907. The view to the north will change in the spring with the construction of a library and sports field.

The addition of lights and synthetic surface to the new sports field could have created conflict in planning meetings, but the selling point was

the potential for expanding the hours the facility can be used for all types of activities.

The developments have won over influential African-

American community members like Ron Williams of the Black Parent Initiative and former state Sen. Bob Boyer, who served on the college's

board of regents.

"As Concordia expands, it's really become a university in the heart of the community," Boyer says.

Meat Safety Concerns Raised

In wake of largest beef recall

(AP) — Sometimes, government inspectors responsible for examining slaughterhouse cattle for mad cow disease and other ills are so short-staffed that they find themselves peering down from catwalks at hundreds of animals at once, looking for such telltale signs as droopy ears, stumbling gait and facial paralysis.

The ranks of inspectors are so thin that slaughterhouse workers often figure out when "surprise" visits are about to take place, and make sure they are on their best behavior.

These allegations were raised by former and current U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors in the wake of the biggest beef recall in history — 143 million pounds from a California meatpacker accused of sending lame "downer" cows to slaughter.

The inspectors told The Associated Press that they fear chronic staff shortages in their ranks are allowing sick cows to get into the nation's food supply, endangering the public. According to USDA's own figures, the inspector ranks nationwide had vacancy rates of 10 percent or more in 2006-07.



Ground beef is displayed for sale at a supermarket.

"They're not covering all their bases. There's a possibility that something could go through because you don't have the manpower to check everything," said Lester Friedlander, a former USDA veterinary inspector at a plant in Wyalusing, Pa.

Amanda Eamich, a spokeswoman for the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, acknowledged that the department has been struggling to fill vacancies but denied the food supply is at risk.

"Every single animal must past antemortem inspection before it's presented for slaughter, so only healthy animals are going to pass,"

she said. "We do have continuous inspection at slaughter facilities."

Similarly, Janet Riley, a spokeswoman for the American Meat Institute, defended the meatpacking industry's safety record. "It is interesting to keep in mind how heavily regulated we are," she said. "Nobody has this level of inspection."

The current and former inspectors and other industry critics charged that the staff shortages are also resulting in the mistreatment of animals on the way to slaughter, and may have contributed to the recall announced last week.

Priority High for Healthcare Overhaul

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Wyden said.

He summed up a short speech that outlined his Healthy Americans Act, a proposal that would eliminate the traditional employer-based, health-insurance system and replace it with private but government-administered insurance.

He addressed worries that emerging plans wouldn't contain provisions for other basic needs, like prescription coverage, costly insurance premiums, food stamps and assistance for high-heating bills.

"This isn't rocket science, folks," he said. "Not just is it the morally right thing to do, to help

with the heat and the food stamps... but even if you've got a heart of concrete and you don't care about the morality, you should do it for financial reasons because the cost of those services in the community is just a small fraction of what happens when people get sick."

The high-profile attention to the health of African-American citizens received a warm welcome.

Wyden, one of Oregon's two senators, was repeatedly referred to as "our senator" during the event, including by Marcus Mundy, the Urban League of Portland's president and chief executive officer. "Without seniors and the Gray

Panthers, he wouldn't have made it his first time into Congress," Mundy asserted in his introduction of Wyden, who started in politics with work for the Gray Panthers.

Wyden's position on health committees in Washington, D.C. gave hope to many in the group that change would come with attention to racially specific issues.

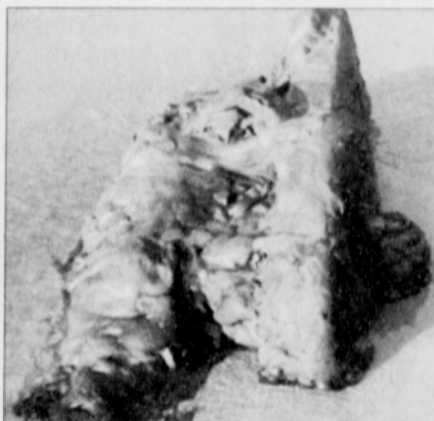
"African Americans are always concerned with health, and hopefully our senator will understand that we have many health disparities that we must continue to deal with," says Trudy Rice, a registered nurse attending the event to represent the AARP.

Historic Cannons Found

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department staff removed a pair of historic cannons Feb. 19 from the beach near Arch Cape, just south of Cannon Beach. The cannons were discovered a few days earlier, revealed by extreme low tides and the natural loss of beach sand due to winter storms.

Each of the 800- to 1,000-pound cannons were trucked to a nearby park office, and with guidance from historic cannon restoration experts from Texas A&M University, staff submerged the artifacts in tanks of fresh water and covered them with layers of wet burlap.

The fresh water bath, refreshed weekly, will draw salt from the objects and protect them from further corrosion. The cannon are fragile out of their protective environment.



Two historic cannons were found last week on the sands near Arch Cape, just south of Cannon Beach.

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