



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tasha Wheatt-Delancy, clinic director for northeast Portland's Garlington Center, looks over the installation of temporary trailers which will soon provide space for the clinic's local mental health care and substance abuse services.

## Clinic on the Mend

continued ▲ from Front

In April of this year, Cascadia informed the county that it was on the verge of defaulting on a \$2 million line of credit from Capitol Pacific Bank, and was about to go under. The Garlington Center would have expired had it not been for a loud chorus of voices that rose in protest.

Cascadia was saved by a \$2.5 million loan comprised of state and county funds. A nationally recognized consulting firm was called in to correct the problems with billing, among others.

According to Walker, Cascadia has implemented many of the firm's suggestions and is steadily recovering.

"We're cautiously optimistic," said David Austin, spokesman for the county's department of human services, which has worked closely with the Cascadia on its financials. He added that the mental health provider

continues to provide an essential service to Portland.

Austin said that Cascadia is taking recommendations from the county and the consulting firm seriously, and appears to be stabilizing. He also pointed out that Cascadia has passed along two of its other clinics to other non-profits, which has been a huge financial relief.

The fire sparked last October in the Garlington Center's Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard location extensively damaged the building, a former NIKE factory outlet.

Currently, the center looks as if it's the aftermath of a war. Its windows are boarded up. Yellow tape lines scorched walls and corridors. The sharp, sour smell of the smoke has marinated the air, and still lingers heavily. The floor of some rooms is pitch black and sprinkled with broken glass.

Since the fire, clients have had to go out of her way to an alternate Cascadia center on

Southeast Division Street and 43rd Avenue. "It's a hassle," said Morphis of having to make the trek to the alternate center.

The clinic's director Tasha Wheatt-Delancy expects to have the MLK facility back up in about six months. Currently there are several trailers outside the building where clients will be served. They are not quite ready, said Wheatt-Delancy. But she's hoping they'll be ready soon.

Hlava isn't sure how much the building repairs will cost.

The fire is considered "suspicious," and is under investigation by local and federal investigators.

Walker said that Cascadia is taking great care not to allow the tumult facing the organization to interrupt services facing clients.

However, Cascadia's problems aren't entirely in the past. Walker said that the state budget cuts could affect the non-profit's addiction treatment program, but isn't entirely sure what could happen.

"Making sure we have stable funding is our biggest challenge," said Walker.

## More Snow, Ice on the Way

### Public urged to prepare for worst

Mother Nature's freezing grip on Portland is expected to continue over the next few days with snow and the possibility of freezing rain.

The National Weather Service forecast for Wednesday calls for snow during the early day and then rain, possibly mixed with freezing rain during the early evening hours and turning back to snow by late night.

Snow showers are again likely on Thursday, forecasters say, with a chance of show on Saturday night and snow expected on Sunday, followed by a chance of snow on Monday.

Low temperatures in the teens and 20s have already broken several low-temperature records for Portland and more records were expected to fall as cold air remains over Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Overnight lows in the teens and 20s is forecast over the



Winter storms creates a serious hazard to road traffic in Portland, as shown here on a stretch of Northeast Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard.

next few days, with daytime highs not getting above 32 degrees from Wednesday through at least Saturday.

The Portland Office of Emergency Management cautions the public to prepare for the worst with an emergency kit, extra water and food.

Prolonged exposure to the cold can cause frostbite or hypothermia and become life threatening to humans and pets. Prolonged freezing temperatures can also cause pipes to burst in homes that are poorly insulated or without heat. Set your faucets to a slow drip or trickle to avoid pipe freezing.

Anyone seeking shelter can dial 2-1-1 where operators will be available to identify available shelter and warming centers.

## More Jobs Lost in Downturn

Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 8.1 percent in November from 7.2 percent in October.

The state's unemployment rate has risen sharply over the past five months after remaining stable throughout the first half of the year.

In November, Oregon's seasonally adjusted non-farm payroll employment declined by 6,300 jobs, following a drop of 11,700 in October.

State Employment Department officials say many of the job losses were in the leisure and hospitality industries (-1,800 jobs) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-4,200 jobs). Construction continued to trend downward (-2,200 jobs), while government (+1,200 jobs) continued to trend higher.

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