

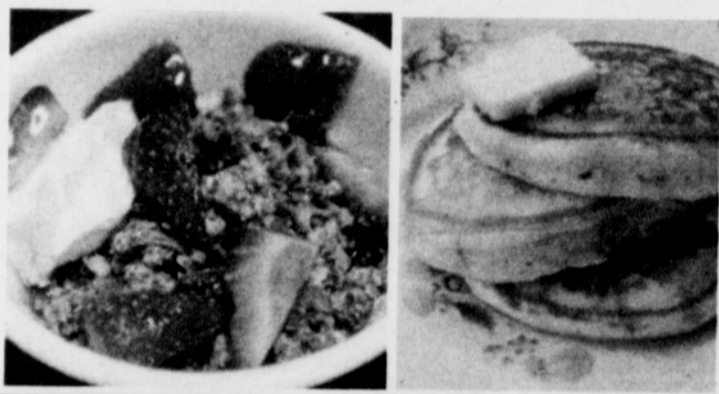
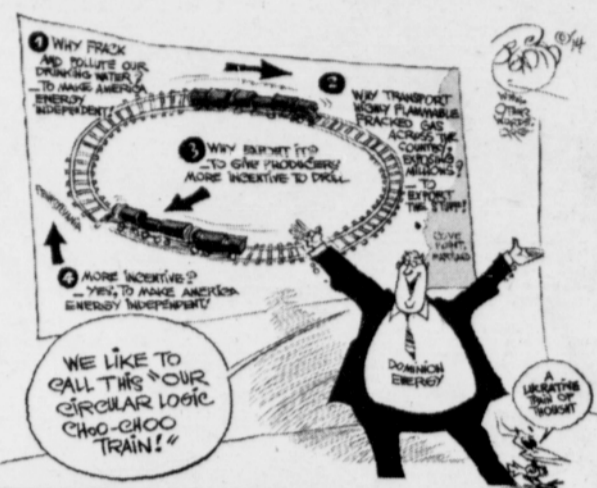
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What's on your list today?.

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Neighborhood activist Donny Adair (left) is recognized as one of the leading voices of Portland's black community with his name inscribed in stone at the newly renovated Dawson Park, a longtime social and economic hub for African Americans. The \$2.7 million city-led renovation now features among other amenities, new slides, swings, benches, and artistic nods to the city's black community which historically centered around the park's surrounding neighborhoods.

Dawson Unveiling

Historic park ready for new memories

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Children frolicked about testing gravity on the slides and swings, jumped from structure to structure,

and doused themselves in water during a media tour Monday of the completed renovations at historic Dawson Park, located at North Williams Avenue and North Stanton Street.

Where bland and dated play structures once stood, updated and vibrant assemblies take their place. The \$2.7 million "Dawson Park Improvement Project" which kicked

off in November is now complete.

Mike Abbate, director of Portland Parks and Recreation said the two-acre park has been an important resource since the city purchased the property back in 1921.

"It's been the gathering place for the community, and now it's getting a fresh look. It's been renovated,

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Blue Lake Closed to Swimming

Health Department investigates illness reports

The Multnomah County Health Department is working closely with Blue Lake Regional Park officials to investigate reports of diarrheal illness from people who visited the lake the weekend of July 12 and 13.

As a precaution, park officials Monday closed the lake to swimming, after two families reported several people in both parties having a combination of diarrhea, vomiting, rash and cramps.

The Multnomah County Health Department Communicable Disease program is investigating the reports

to determine what kind of illness this is and whether it can be traced to swimming in the lake which is located east of Portland near the Columbia River.

Officials ruled out E.coli as a possible cause Tuesday. E.coli bacteria was not detected in water samples taken Monday from both the shallow swimming area and deep areas of the lake. Routine twice-weekly tests leading up to the weekend also showed levels below those considered to be a risk to swimmers. No toxic algae blooms have been observed.

"Our initial impression is that the illness is due to norovirus or a similar stomach virus," said Deputy Health Officer Dr. Jennifer Vines.

Norovirus is the most common cause of vomiting and diarrhea. There is no treatment and most people recover in 24 to 48 hours. The very young and elderly can suffer dehydration as a complication.

"Anyone with these symptoms should be sure to drink plenty of fluids and contact their health care provider with any concerns," added Dr. Vines.