

C-SPAN announces authors, sites for Salem program

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Four authors will be interviewed and several historic sites and collections will be featured in an hour long program about Salem that the C-SPAN network is preparing here this week.

The resulting program will be broadcast nationally on two C-SPAN channels the weekend of March 1-2. Times will be announced.

"We really appreciate C-SPAN putting us on the map," Mayor Anna Peterson said today at a news conference providing details of the visit.

The program is part of a C-SPAN series, dating back to 2011, focusing on small and mid-sized cities that otherwise would not be seen by a national audience.

"We're looking forward to uncovering more about Salem's people and its background," said Ashley Hill, the C-SPAN producer in charge of the program.

Three vans, smaller than the buses that C-SPAN often sends on national or regional tours, will be seen around Salem the rest of this week.

The news conference was at the Dye House, part of the Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill.

Among the historic sites on the planned broadcast are the Oregon State Capitol, which turned 75 years old last fall; the museum at the Oregon State Hospital, where the Oscar-winning "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" was filmed, and the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, at Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill.

Two sites associated with Salem newspaper history also will be part of the program. One is the house of Asahel Bush, founder of the Oregon Statesman; the other is the Ben Maxwell special collection at the Salem Public Library. Maxwell worked for the Capital Journal, and also was a historian; he amassed a collection of photographs of early Salem.

Hill said C-SPAN is working with cherry growers on a segment for the program.

Four authors, including three professors at Willamette University, also will be interviewed. The Willamette staffers are Richard Ellis, a political science professor and author of "Judging the Boy Scouts of America: Gay Rights, Freedom of Association and the Dale Case," to be published this spring; Ellen Eisenberg, a history professor and author of "The First to Cry Down Injustice? Western Jews and Japanese Removal during World War II," published in 2008; and Steven Green, a law professor and author of "The Bible, the School and the Constitution: The Clash that Shaped the Modern Church-State Doctrine," published in 2012.

The other author is Gregory Nokes, who wrote "Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory," published in 2012.

C-SPAN, formally the Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network, was founded by the cable TV industry in 1979 and started with broadcasts of congressional proceedings. Its Book TV and American History TV channels operate on C-SPAN 2 and C-SPAN 3 during weekends. The Salem program will be broadcast on these channels.

"I think this program is exciting for the city of Salem and the surrounding area, which has such a rich cultural history and so many amazing historical and cultural attractions," said Kara Kuh, public relations manager for Travel Salem, which has assisted C-SPAN.

"I think when people see the finished product that C-SPAN puts together, they are going to be amazed and excited to visit Salem. If you are a resident, I think you are going to be reminded of all the great cultural and historical attractions we have in our area."

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