

# E d u c a t i o n

## Separating Yard Debris From Garbage Could Pay Off

Environmental Services has always urged Portland residents to keep yard debris out of the garbage can. People who follow that advice help the environment by recycling yard debris and instead of sending it to the landfill. Now they can help the environment and win prizes at the same time.

Portland garbage haulers are distributing special stickers to Portland curbside recycling customers to put on their garbage cans. The stickers say, "This Can Is For Garbage Only: We Keep Yard Debris Out of This Can." Next month, Environmental Services staff will randomly check cans with stickers. The owners of cans that are free of yard debris are eligible to win a free compost bin and a \$25 discount on their garbage bill. Environmental Services will choose 100 winners at random from throughout the City. All prize winners will be entered into a grand prize drawing for a mulching lawn mower.

"Portland residents have made good progress over the last year in reducing the amount of yard debris in their garbage cans, but we're still sending too much of it to the landfill," said Environmental Services Director Dean Marriott. "Yard debris can be much better used to make a beneficial compost, and if we can stop throwing away so much of it we can hold down the cost of garbage service for our customers."

State rules require Portland to offer either weekly yard debris pickup or a program that keeps yard debris out of the landfill as effectively as weekly pickup. If the amount of yard debris in residential garbage cans doesn't go down, the City may have to increase curbside pickup of yard debris.

## About Your Social Security

**Question:** My 16-year daughter is going to babysit the neighbor's children 40 hours a week this summer. Are her earnings taxable for Social Security?

**Answer:** No. Workers under age 18 are exempt unless household employment is their main occupation. If you have questions about reporting household employment and paying the Social Security taxes, call the Internal Revenue Service's toll-free number, 1-800-829-1040.

**Question:** I recently turned 65 and signed up for Medicare. Will Medicare pay for my prescription drugs?

**Answer:** No, Medicare does not pay for most prescription drugs. If you have any other general questions about what Medicare pays for, "The Medicare Handbook," which is sent to new Medicare beneficiaries, outlines Medicare benefits and describes what Medicare covers and what it does not. If you didn't receive your handbook or if you have more specific questions, you can call Social Security at 1-800-722-1213.

**Question:** I recently applied for disability benefits. If I'm eligible for disability benefits, will I automatically get Medicare benefits?

**Answer:** Not right away. You will have to be a disability beneficiary for 24 months before you will be enrolled in Medicare.

**Question:** I have never worked under Social Security but my husband has for many years. When can I get retirement benefits as his wife?

**Answer:** To receive a wife's benefit, your husband must apply for his own retirement benefit and you must be at least 62 years old or have a child under 16 still living with you.

**Question:** What do I need to do to change the bank where my Social Security benefit is deposited?

**Answer:** Call Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, and the Social Security representative will change your direct deposit information over the telephone. Have your new and old account handy when you call. Don't close your old account until direct deposit to your new account has started. You can call your financial institution to make sure it has received your check.

**Question:** Does continuing to work after you are 65 have an effect on your Social Security benefits?

**Answer:** Yes. Working beyond age 65 adds to your lifetime earnings. These earnings are used to compute your Social Security benefits. In addition, you receive credits for each month you delay retirement after age 65. If you continue to work after you are entitled to benefit, your benefits may be withheld if your yearly earnings exceed certain limits.

The 1996 limits for individuals 65 and over is \$12,500. We withhold \$1 in benefits for every \$3 in excess earnings. If you'd like more information, call Social Security's toll-free number and request the publication, Social Security--How Work Affects Your Benefits.

## Employers Of Teen Must Have Employment Certificates

Retail, hospitality and other employers who are thinking about hiring young people for summer jobs should apply now for employment certificates if they don't already have them, according to Bureau of Labor and Industries officials.

Last year the Oregon Legislature abolished the work permit requirement for 14-through 17-year-olds and simplified the employment certificate procedure for employers.

Now employers planning to hire minors file an Employment Certificate Application with the bureau's Wage and Hour Division.

If the application is approved, the bureau sends and Employment Certificate to the employer.

The certificate is good for one year. The bureau automatically sends out renewal notices to employers about six weeks before their current certificates expire.

In addition to posting a validated Employment Certificate, employers must verify the age of each young person they hire from an appropriate document such as a birth certificate, driver's license or passport.

State law also requires each business to keep a list of all minors hired

and to file a Notice of Change in Duties Form if the job responsibilities of the youngsters change.

"These changes simplify the paperwork for employers and the teenagers without compromising protections," said Labor Commissioner Jack Roberts. "Now employers file only one certificate a year instead of one for each minor, and kids can skip the trip to the bureau to apply for the permit. But the bureau's careful review of all Employment Certificate Applications ensures that businesses are complying with child labor laws."



Fifth graders at Beach Elementary School plant ancient ginkgo tree donated by Kaiser Permanente. The tree once grew around the world but died out everywhere but China during the ice age.

## Conference of Color Bucks Trend For Underrepresented Minority Students

Attending college is often a difficult decision for a minority high school student to make. Many of them must overcome financial and cultural barriers in order to attend.

Others simply do not have the parental or peer guidance to help them choose higher education.

An annual conference that targets "students of color" is one way in which colleges and universities attempt to reverse this trend for minority students.

Western Oregon State College played host to the Oregon Regional Conference for Students of Color on Tuesday, April 23, at the campus in Monmouth.

Representatives from all seven institutions in the Oregon State System of Higher Education will talk with high school students, freshmen through seniors, to encourage them to think ahead about the possibilities of attending college.

"Everything from financial barriers to individuals whose parents never attended college keep minority

students from even thinking about college," said David Martinez, director of Minority Students Services at Western Oregon.

"Many of these student do not have someone at home telling them that college is possible and helping them through the college process.

And although their high school may have information about college, many minority teenagers don't see their peers attending. They have to deal with the peer pressure of "Is this something I can really do," Martinez explained.

The director believes the upcoming conference will help high school students get the message early that "going to college is possible."

At the conference, students will learn about how to prepare for college, how to pay for it, and why they should attend. "We make it clear that our goal is to recruit students for higher education, not to attend Western Oregon State College," said Martinez.

This year's conference has an ad-

ditional message, too, he says, one of "student's helping students." College students who received 1995-96 Underrepresented Minority Achievement Scholarships, offered through the Oregon State System of Higher Education, will be present to talk with their peers about college life. "The message that students are doing this to try to help other students is a very positive one," he added.

While the conference is hosted during the year at other state regional colleges in Oregon, Western Oregon, traditionally, attracts the largest contingent of students attending from Multnomah, Marion, Washington, Polk, and surrounding counties, said Martinez. Approximately 300 students are expected to attend.

"One of the reasons (Western attracts so many students) is because we're centrally located. Another is that we have a reputation of being student-focused," he said.

Any individual wanting additional information, can contact Martinez at telephone 503/838-8195.

## Wells Fargo Donates \$150,000 To Portland Public Schools Foundation

Wells Fargo Bank announced it is donating \$150,000 to the Portland Public Schools foundation, the first corporate gift made to the Campaign For Our Schools Fundraising drive. It is one of the largest gifts Wells Fargo has ever made to benefit public education.

In a brief ceremony at Humboldt Elementary School in North Portland, Wells Fargo Executive Vice President George Passadore presented the check to Foundation Chair Ron Saxton and Portland School District Superintendent Jack Bierwirth. Also attending was Wells

Fargo Senior Vice President Linda Tubbs.

Through its Charitable Contributions Program, Wells Fargo Bank seeks to invest in the communities in which it does business. A major focus of the bank's grantmaking is kindergarten through 12th grade education.

"We hope that this \$150,000 grant helps give our children those opportunities. Our public schools and our teachers are vital parts of our community and we are happy to do our part in ensuring their future. We encourage other local businesses, and everyone else in the Portland com-

munity, to join us in this effort," said Passadore.

The foundation kicked off its fundraising campaign Tuesday, April 16, to restore teaching positions that will otherwise be eliminated in the 1996-97 school year, due to budget shortfalls.

Based in Portland, Passadore is the division manager of Wells Fargo's Northwest branch banking network and Tubbs is the division manager of Wells Fargo's Northwest commercial banking group.

Wells Fargo Bank merged with First Interstate Bank on April 1.

# STORE MANAGER SALE

Prices Effective May 1 through May 7, 1996 at your nearby Safeway store.



## Beef Chuck Steak

- Blade or 7 Bone
- 3 or more per package
- Smaller packages...99¢-lb
- SAVE UP TO 1.10-LB

**89¢** lb

## Plump Ripe Roma Tomatoes

- Great in salads

**68¢** lb

## Ovenjoy Bread

- 22.5-Ounce Wheat or White
- First 3
- SAVE UP TO 1.07 ON 3

**3\$1** for

Look For Your Safeway Weekly Shopping Guide In Your Oregonian FOODday in the Portland Metro Area...And Save More Shopping At Safeway!

Enjoy Extra Savings With The SAFEWAY EXTRA In-Store Savings Guide Available at your Safeway store.