

State Names New Head Of Field Operation For Child Protective Services

A 25-year veteran of the State Office for Services to Children and Families will head field operations for the division, which is part of the Oregon Department of Human Resources.

Don Probasco, 52, comes to Salem from Bend where he was the SCF Deschutes' branch manager for 12 years. He began his new role June 14.

Gary Weeks, Director of DHR, said Probasco will play a critical role as the agency continues to integrate child welfare with other human services, both within and outside DHR.

"Working from caseworker to branch manager, Don brings a solid background in child protection to his new position," said Weeks. "He has done an excellent job in Deschutes County, helping implement DHR's agenda of local partnerships, with great benefit to the people who receive SCF services."

In 1973, Probasco became a case-worker in SCF's Yamhill Branch and five years later a supervisor. In 1987, he was promoted to Deschutes Branch Manager. While in Deschutes, he led the move to establish the Deschutes KIDS Center, which is a child abuse assessment and advocacy center.

Deschutes was one of the first SCF branches to implement the system of care program which focuses on the strengths and needs of a family's circumstances, bringing together SCF, family members and other providers to plan for the needs of a child who has been abused or neglected.

In 1998, Probasco was interim manager of SCF's statewide system of care unit and assisted with its implementation and integration with existing programs.

As administrator of field operations, Probasco said his initial focus will be on the continuing implementation of sys-

tem of care practices in the remaining SCF branches and overseeing compliance with requirements of the Federal Adoption and Safe Family Act of 1997.

Probasco said the coordination and integration of services is essential to the safety and well-being of Oregon's children.

"Interdependence is the highest form of partnership," he said.

"Something that is dependent relies on others, and something that is independent takes care of itself. But if something is interdependent, the reliance is shared and that is what an agency needs to have with other agencies and the community to protect children."

Probasco holds a bachelor's degree in corrections and a master's in counseling, both from what is now Western Oregon University. He serves on the governor-appointed Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.

Multnomah County Library's Albina Branch To Reopen

Multnomah county's Library's newly remodeled and updated Albina Branch Library will reopen June 22 after a six-month closure.

Located in the new Nature's shopping complex at 3605 NE 15th Ave. near Fremont Street, the renovated library has a new roof, new plumbing, new lighting and a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. Electric and telecommunications upgrades support 12 new Internet-accessible computer stations for the public. Other improvements include upgrades needed to meet current seismic and Americans with Disabilities Act codes as well as workroom reconfiguration.

"When it reopens, Albina Branch Library will offer northeast Portland residents a state-of-the-art facility that combines modern technology with well-loved library

services, such as circulating books and children's storytimes," says Ginnie Cooper, Multnomah County's director of libraries.

Albina Branch Library patrons will discover new library materials for all age groups - including books, CD's, videos and CD-ROM products. Programs for the whole family will include storytime for babies, toddlers and preschoolers; Summer Reading events for children; homework helps students; book discussion groups; parenting classes and more.

"In addition to new books and other library materials. We'll have friendly staff and volunteers to help everyone - from children to seniors - get comfortable with computer technology as a tool for finding information," says Cooper.

The updating of the Albina Branch Library is part of a 4-5 year Multnomah

County's branch renovation project. The renovations are expected to extend the useful life of each library building so they may accommodate new technology and increased community use well into the next century.

The Albina Branch Library originally opened in 1906 as a "deposit station" and quickly expanded to a vacant storeroom in what was the Emporium Building on Williams Ave. In 1912, the small library expanded again into a new building on NE Knott. Built with Carnegie funds, this building now houses Multnomah County Library's used bookstore, the Title Wave. The Albina Branch Library moved to its current location on NE 15th in 1977.

Albina Branch Library will be open every Sunday from 1-5 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday from 10 am - 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 10 am - 6 p.m.

It's Prom Time at Greenhouse

It's an evening of pomp circumstances when The Salvation Army Greenhouse holds its 10th annual graduation and prom for Portland-area homeless youth.

On June 27, at 6:30 p.m., at the Crown

Ballroom in Portland, 30 young people will receive their high school diploma, or GED, from the Judge Jean Lewis memorial Alternative High School, with family and friends joining them in celebrating this momentous occasion.

The prom is being produced with the active participation of NW Natural. More than 200 homeless youth will party in style at the prom after the graduation and dinner. Local merchants have donated limousines, tuxedos and dresses. Hair designers and make up artists are also volunteering their services.

The Salvation Army Greenhouse is the 24-hour access for services for homeless youth that live on Portland's streets. The Salvation Army, Cascade Division, is a faith-based, nonprofit social service organization serving the tri-county area for more than 100 years.

Schools Tapped For National Service-Learning Initiative

Oregon has been selected as one of five leading states to take part in a four-year, \$13 million national initiative to broaden the connection of student community service experiences to classroom instruction known as service-learning.

Oregon was chosen from among 21 states to receive a \$400,000 grant from the Kellogg Foundation to promote service-learning because of demonstrated leadership and significant state-level commitment in the field of service-learning. Other states are California, Maine, Minnesota and South Carolina. The Education Commission of the States (ECS) will administer the national initiative, "Learning In Deed: Making a Difference Through Service-Learning."

"Our selection is more evidence that Oregon is recognized nationally for its education program," said State Schools Supt. Stan Bunn. "Oregon students and teachers, working together, have pioneered service-learning as an avenue to increase student performance."

"Service learning lets students apply what they learn in the classroom and give back to their communities," Bunn added. "We have many examples across the state which show how service learning pays educational dividends, but we need to expand those opportunities in all grades for all students."

Examples range from Crawfordville Elementary School students who studied about Honduras before sending supplies to victims of Hurricane Mitch, to students at Crook County High School who practiced their math skills while conducting soil erosion tests following a flood. In both of these instances, the students reflected on their activities after experiencing them.

Another Light Rail Line Considered

The Portland City Council is deciding whether to endorse a proposed light rail line that would link the Rose Quarter with north Portland's Delta Park area. Taxpayers have voted "no" in past elections to financing a north-south line, but this time the proposed project would only rely on business taxes and federal money.

President Awards Congressional Gold Medal To Rosa Parks

President Clinton presented the nation's highest civil honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, to Rosa Parks in a Capitol Rotunda ceremony, culminating whirlwind efforts by Congresswoman Julia Carson, D-Ind., to ensure that Rosa Parks be officially recognized for her life's lesson.

"Rosa Parks is the mother of the civil rights movement," Rep. Carson said.

"In so many ways, Rosa Parks brought America home," President Clinton said. "We should all remember the power of this one citizen."

Joining the President and Rep. Carson were Rev. Jesse Jackson, who gave a prayer, and the House and Senate leadership. Acclaimed opera singer Jessye Norman sang Lift Every Voice, accompanied by the Howard University choir. Mrs. Parks offered words of thanks to Rep. Carson, the President, and the Congress for awarding her the medal.

Rep. Carson introduced the legislation (HR 573) to award the medal to Mrs. Parks on Feb. 4, her 86th birthday, and in the following months signed on 329 other members of the House as cosponsors.

Rep. Carson said that she drew inspiration for the legislation from Mrs. Parks' book, Quiet Strength. While reading the book one evening, Rep. Carson called the Congressional Research Service to see if Mrs. Parks had ever received the Congressional Gold Medal. "Not yet," she said she was told. "Well hold on a little while longer," Rep. Carson said.

Rep. Carson said that Mrs. Parks' courage recalls the words of the apostle Paul, who wrote, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."

Rep. Carson credited BET Tonight host Tavis Smiley and syndicated radio host Tom Joyner with helping to create a groundswell of support for the bill. Smiley regularly called on listeners to contact Congress in support of the bill in his commentaries on the Tom Joyner Morning Show.

The House approved the bill April 20 in a 424-1 vote. The Senate approved a similar measure, with 82 sponsors, introduced March 4, by 86-0 vote.

The legislation, signed May 4 by President Clinton authorizes him



Rosa Parks

to award Rosa Parks a gold medal on behalf of Congress. It also authorizes the U.S. Mint to strike and sell duplicates to the public.

"Rosa Parks is the mother of the civil rights movement," Rep. Carson said. "This medal is a celebration of the life of Rosa Parks, who is receiving the honor while she can still see it, while she can still feel it, and while she can still hold it."

Rep. Carson presented Mrs. Parks an artist's drawing of the medal, which is not yet finished.

The Rosa Parks commemoration

continued in Indianapolis with Congresswoman Carson for a gala celebration at the Hilbert Theater on the Circle.

Rosa Parks touched off the 1955 Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott, when she was arrested for refusing to yield her seat on the bus in the racially segregated bus system in that city. A bus boycott demanding racial integration of the bus system was initiated as a result of the outrage caused by her arrest. The boycott led to a Supreme Court ruling that segregated buses are unconstitutional.

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