

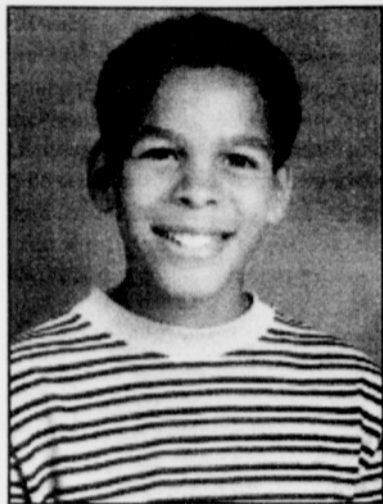


Family Living

Oregon kid waiting for adoption

Ten-year old Michael is a generally happy boy with a great smile and wonderful sense of humor. Michael exudes an air of enthusiasm and confidence, especially in sports. Michael is an excellent baseball player as well as a good team player. He even hit several home runs in which he is very proud! Michael needs an adoptive family that will provide him with structure and supervision. He feels most secure and safe with predictable routines. Michael is particularly in need of a strong male role model that can help him as he approaches adolescence. A family needs to be willing to participate in counseling. Michael would like to have a family that would be open to providing Michael cultural access to his ancestry.

To learn more about adoption and the children who wait, please call the Special Needs Adoption Coalition at The Boys and Girls Aid Society at 1-800-342-6688 or (503) 222-9661 x 111. Agencies waive or reduce fees for the adoption of a child in state care, and financial assistance is available to help meet the child's needs. Stable single adults as well as couples are encouraged to call.



Service Learning gets kids involved

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Students learn about the importance of recycling programs in the classroom, and then take their knowledge into the community by teaching local business how to reduce the amount of waste they generate. Groups of students interview seniors on their experiences such as life during World War II. The results of these interviews are compiled into an oral history book, presented to the seniors, and made available to the community.

Other students study a local river and work with the park employees to create and maintain nature trails.

Service Learning... What is it? These scenarios are examples of service learning a method of teaching and learning that integrates practical life experience, service to the community, and academics for students of all ages. Rather than presenting information to students in the isolated environment of a classroom, students see and experience the practical application of knowledge they have gained.

While service learning strives to reinforce classroom academics, it also provides opportunities for Character building and personal growth working within the community can teach students more about the diverse world in which we live, help them develop compassion and understanding, and provide a sense of civic responsibility.

Service learning doesn't occur only through schools. While some service learning activities are school-based and have direct ties to curricula, other service learning activities or projects occur in local organizations like YMCAs or Boys and Girls Clubs. Regardless of the locale, all programs take a hands-on approach to learning and use the students' energy and enthusiasm.

What are the benefits?

Research shows that the benefits of service learning, through school or other organizations are profound. In Service Learning in the Northwest Region, Jennifer Fager cites a wealth of advantages that result from participating in service learning.

Service learning:

- Increases students' feeling of connection to their community
- Helps students develop a keener awareness of diversity
- Provides a relevant context in which students can learn skills
- Improves students' self-esteem and confidence
- Increases motivation and an interest in learning
- Nurtures non-academic strengths and talents
- Reinforces values such as justice, compassion, or citizenship
- Builds community support for education

How do I get my child involved?

Your child's school may already integrate service learning into the curriculum. You can talk to your child's teacher or school principal and ask about service learning opportunities that may be available, or suggest some possibilities. You can also contact local community

organizations such as the YMCA to find out about other service learning programs in your area. To learn more, visit the Web site for the National K-12 Service Learning Cooperative Clearinghouse at www.nicsl.coled.umn.edu or the National Youth Leadership Council Web site at www.nylc.org. Service Learning in the Northwest Region is available online at www.nerel.org/

request/july96/index.html. For a complimentary copy, write Newspaper Column, NWREL, 101 S.W. Main, Portland, OR 97204-3297. This column by Jessica Athens is provided as a public service by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, a nonprofit institution working with schools and communities in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

'Tis The Season

It's a wonderful time of year for people. The visits from friends and family, decorating the tree, the last minute shopping, and the hustle and bustle of the holidays in general combine to get everyone in the holiday spirit. It is, after all, the season to be merry!

But to a small puppy or kitten arriving in a household during the holidays, the excitement and cheer will be strange and frightening. Away from its litter mates for the first time, surrounded by strangers, noise and constant activity, a young animal could become quite confused and scared.

The holidays are simply not a good time to give an animal as a gift. In the midst of all the excitement, the many needs of a puppy or kitten could be neglected. It is best to give a gift certificate for a pet, promising that an animal will become a new member of the family when things quiet down and the animal has the best chance of adapting to its new surroundings in an atmosphere of calm, loving attention.

OREGON HUMANE SOCIETY
1067 NE Columbia Blvd
Portland, OR 97211
(503) 285-7722



AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION

Provided by The American Humane Association

Unemployment rate down

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Oregon unemployment rate 5.1%—down .4% from October and the National unemployment rate 4.1%—unchanged from October.

Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 5.1 percent in November, from 5.5 percent in October. At the same time U.S. jobless rate remained unchanged at 4.1 percent in November. At 1 percent, Oregon's unemployment rate is at its lowest point of the year tied with the May unemployment rate of 5.1 percent. The only period during the past 20 years in which Oregon's unemployment rate been lower was during late 1994 through late 1995 when the state's rate ranged between 4.4 percent and 5.0 percent.

"We have seen two consecutive months of strong employment growth, with manufacturing, wholesale trade, and services rebounding from recent weak performances," said David Cooke, Employment Department. "The strength in these sectors has meant jobs for hundreds of Oregonians who



Portland YouthBuilders

is a non-profit vocational educational program providing construction training and education to young people between the ages of 18-24.

Portland YouthBuilders offers:

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- GED or HS Diploma
- Job Readiness training
- Leadership Skills

Positions are available for a limited time. Call or visit the program today!

CALL (503) 286-9350 x18

VISIT 7332 N. Smith Portland, OR 97203 (St. John's area)

Fed Up With BLAND CHICKEN?



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"We've teamed up with Popeyes to spread the word about flavor. And we mean FLAVOR! Popeyes' own NEW ORLEANS SPICY or LOUISIANA MILD chicken is so packed with flavor, every bite is a PARTY FOR YOUR MOUTH! That's every bite of every way Popeyes serves it up... Chicken Boxes, Dinners, Sandwiches, Wings and Strips. Not to mention the taste-tempting side dishes and biscuits!

"Yessir, you can COUNT ON POPEYES to deliver flavorful goodness, no matter how you love your chicken. If you are tired to death of that bland chicken those other guys serve, come on over to POPEYES. And help us in our mission to SAVE THE WORLD FROM BLAND CHICKEN!"

-Redd & Zeke

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No strings attached. Anytime something knocks out the lights, we're ready. We're here to give you fast, responsive, dependable help. Our Customer Service Center is open 24 hours a day to answer your calls. Our crews work around the clock, too. And we have teams from all over our service area prepared to offer extra help wherever there's a major outage.

Lights out? We're on it.

Now here's what you can do if the lights go out:

Be ready!

Keep in your house: a flashlight, battery-operated radio, battery-operated clock, bottled water, manual can opener and extra batteries. If someone in your home is on life support, be sure to have a backup system and an action plan in case of an outage.

Before you call us, check your breakers

or fuse box to make sure you don't have a tripped breaker or blown fuse. Look for lights at your neighbors'.

After you've checked, give us a call at 1-877-548-3768 to report the outage. Have your account number handy to help us work more quickly.

Turn off major appliances and other electrical equipment to prevent overloading circuits once the power's back.

Keep warm and safe. Wear a hat and extra layers of clothing. Make sure propane or kerosene heaters have proper ventilation and never burn charcoal inside your house.

Cover your freezer with a blanket and keep the door closed. Food should stay frozen and safe for about two days.

Turn your porch light and one inside light on. That way you and our crews will know when power is back on.

When your power returns, if your lights are dim or very bright, call again. There may still be a problem.

If there's an outage, we don't kid around. We'll get the power back as fast as we can.

To report an outage, call 1-877-548-3768 (1-877-LITESOUT).

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