



See Metro
Jefferson
High dancers
in spotlight



YWCA
Smart
Choices art
featured
See The Focus



See Sports
Vijay Singh
takes the green
at the Masters

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 1610

University of Oregon
Knight Library
Newspaper Section
Eugene OR 97403

The Portland Observer

Volume XXX.
Number 15

www.portlandobserver.com

Committed to Cultural Diversity
Established in 1970

Wednesday
April 12, 2000

50¢

Industrial dumping in the Willamette has doubled in 2 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS

As if word of declining salmon runs and a possible Superfund listing weren't bad enough, the Willamette River took another hit Thursday as environmental groups released a report showing industrial and wastewater discharges doubling within the river system in recent years.

The nonprofit Willamette Riverkeeper's "State of the Willamette" report found industrial sources reported sending 4.1 million pounds of toxic chemicals down the river in 1997, compared with about 2 million in 1995. Nitrate compounds — nitrates, nitrites and ammonia used in high-tech manufacturing and pulp mill wastewater treatment — accounted for about 85 percent of that increase. Manganese compounds, methanol and copper discharge levels also rose.

The results, gleaned from federal data, have led the U.S. Public Interest Research Group to rank the Willamette River as the nation's 10th worst for toxic chemical discharges from identifiable sources, up from 17th last year.

Environmentalists used the report to call on state legislators to boost funding for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality so the agency can phase out all toxic discharges by 2010 and bring the river into compliance with the federal Clean Water Act.

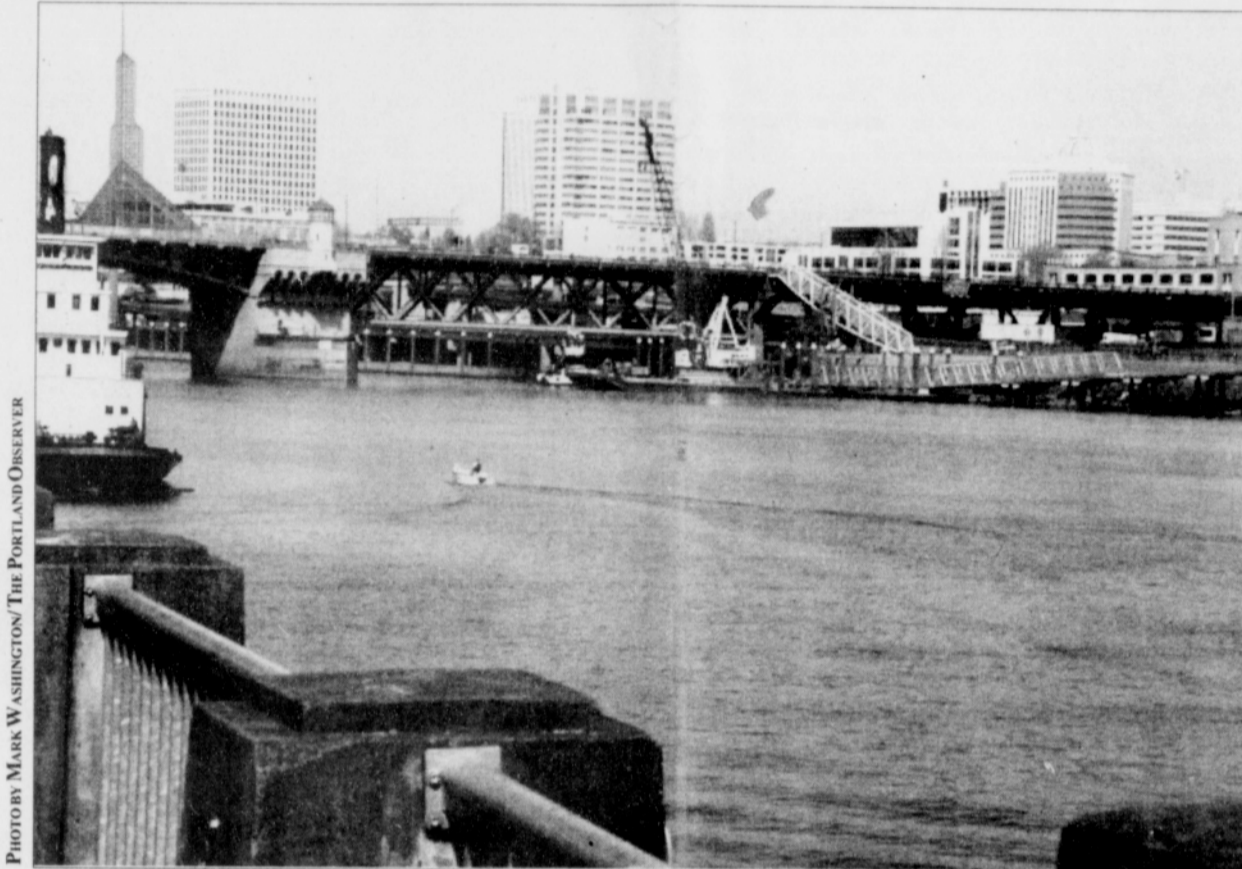


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"Things are getting worse in the Willamette," said the report's co-author, Joe Coffman, a Willamette Riverkeeper board member. "These toxics are not monitored consistently."

Coffman's report and the research group's rankings relied on the latest Toxic Release Inventory data compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The inventory tracks releases of more than 650 pollutants as they are reported by industries and city wastewater treatment plants.

According to the reports, metal producers, high-tech firms and pulp and wood products industries accounted for the bulk of the discharges. Wacker Siltronic in Portland and Oremet-Wah Chang and Oregon Metallurgical in Albany topped the list, each discharging about 1 million pounds in 1997.

Nitrate compounds are commonly found in fertilizers as well, but agricultural and residential runoff were not part of the scope of the research group's study.

Wacker Siltronic environmental manager Tom McCue said the company's discharges stem from its use of nitric acid to rid silicon wafers of oxides. The DEQ does not limit the company's nitrate discharges, McCue said, and the company and the city of Portland have not determined whether the city's sewer system can handle the waste.

"We're trying to do things right," McCue said. "(Nitrate)

(Please see 'Dumping' page A5)

Free gun locks still available from Multnomah County Sheriff's Office

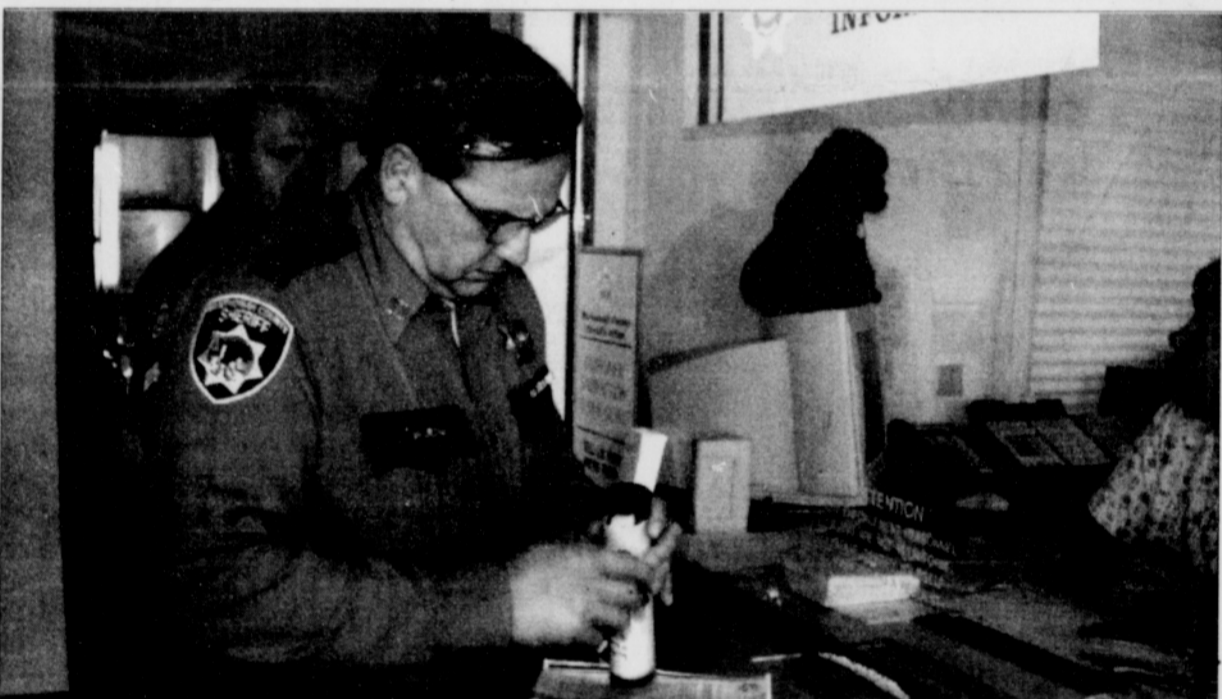


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Free firearm triggers locks are being distributed to adults who come to the administration office of the Multnomah County Sheriffs. The locks are limited to one per person. Getting a gunlock is an easy as stopping by the office at 12240 NE

A Multnomah County Sheriff's officer explains the use of the free gunlocks that they are offering to the public.

Glisan between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and requesting one.

The sheriff's office has about 500 gunlocks available and has given out 4,500 to date. The locks, in combination with educational materials, are intended to promote safe handling and secure storage practices among all firearms owners. According to the Oregon Health Division, 22,000 Oregon children live in homes where firearms are loaded and unlocked.

The National Sports Shooting Foundation, a trade organization consisting of firearm manufacturers, distributors and retailers, is providing the gun locks to the Multnomah County Sheriff to distribute to citizens as part of Project Home Safe.

"Our goal is to reach out to all firearm owners with key safety messages on

safe firearms handling and storage," said Douglas Painter, executive director of the National Sports Shooting Foundation.

The gun cable device, which works like a traditional padlock, is placed through a firearm barrel or magazine holder so that the weapon can't be fired until it is unlocked.

"I'm excited about this partnership," said Dan Noelle, sheriff of Multnomah County. "I strongly believe that providing gun locks will prevent tragedies. These locks can be used with education, should hopefully reduce the risk of unintentional firearm-related injuries or deaths.

For more information about free gunlocks available from Multnomah County Sheriff's Office call 255-3600 x607 or visit the Sheriff's Web site at www.co.multnomah.or.us/sheriff/

Hail to the Portland's new Chief of Police

BY JOY RAMOS
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Just several months into his job, new Chief of Police Mark Kroeker outlined for the Portland Observer his long range plans to reduce crime and the fear of crime. His effectiveness as a leader will be based on how well he deals with hard policing issues and making the internal changes necessary to create good community relations where police accountability can be measured. The hope is that he doesn't foster a culture among his officers that supports misconduct, silence, heavy-handedness and disrespect. After all, he has served in a troubled Los Angeles police department described by the national Human Rights Watch as "a bureau that has for decades shown brutal behavior, poor management by the

chief and his deputies, and racist attitudes expressed at all levels of the police department in word and deed." During an interview, he idealistically explained, "My responsibility to the community here is to lead this organization toward notable goals in service to our community. On the professional side, we have several guiding lights out there including our vision for the city of Portland such as a city that is free from crime and the fear of crime, a city that has neighborhoods that work together with one another in improving the quality of life. A city where people have an unprecedented working relationship with their police—where this is built in the years ahead where there is a confidence in police that is unprecedented."

A focus of the police department is to "develop patrol (or citizen

relationship) where the officers explain what they are doing after their work is done," commented Kroeker. What is seriously lacking among field training officers are enough problem-solving skills to deescalate potentially explosive situations. As part of their socialization process, they need to demonstrate ethical, reasoned decision-making.

Police officers are required by their chief to enforce the law fairly, firmly and according to the problems that are out there. Anything less would only solidify anger, hopelessness and fear that leads to violence, especially among minorities throughout Portland that have been subject to and are highly sensitive to police abuse. According to the city's Office of Risk Management, the city pays approximately \$500,000 each year in police misconduct cases through

settlements or jury awards. According to press reports, twenty-five to thirty excessive force claims are filed each year in this city. An effective policy for Chief Kroeker to adopt is denying promotions to any officers who have received a specified number of citizen complaints within a given period of time. Each complaint should be internally investigated. And, if the complaints are adjudicated adversely, dismiss the officer as a consequence. According to many observers, the Portland Police Association union is a powerful force to reckon with. They have frequently defended officers accused of using excessive force, criticized journalists and citizen review boards of highlighting problems in the bureau. Correcting this would entail a police system that has

(Please see 'Chief' page A5)



Portland Chief of Police Mark Kroeker

Weather

Through the weekend

Today	Partly Cloudy	70°F/21°C	50°F/7°C
Thursday	Rain	66°F/18°C	43°F/3°C
Friday	Rain	60°F/14°C	45°F/5°C
Saturday	Rain	61°F/21°C	45°F/5°C
Sunday	Showers	61°F/19°C	45°F/5°C

Inside-A

Week in Review.....2
Mayor Vera Katz discusses
escort services.....2
Old eyeglasses are a gift of
sight to poor.....3
One in seven women doestically
abused in Multnomah.....5

Metro-B

Jefferson High School dancers
in the spotlight.....1
Ken Griffey Jr. youngest to
reach 400 HR's.....1
IRS decides to extend due date
to April 17.....4
El Observador.....5

This Week in History

April 14, 1865, President Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth while attending the comedy "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. He died the next day.
On April 15, 1912, the British luxury liner Titanic sank in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland, less than three hours after striking an iceberg. About 1,500 people died.
On April 17, 1961, about 1,500 CIA-trained Cuban exiles launched the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in a failed attempt to overthrow the government of Fidel Castro.