

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Mt. Hood Huckleberry Festival & Barlow Trail Days

The 16th Annual Mount Hood Huckleberry Festival & Barlow Trail Days will be held on August 25, 26 and 27 at the Mt. Hood Village (6500 East U.S. Highway 26 in Brightwood, Oregon). The events are free. There will be live entertainment, Salmon Bakes, Campfire concerts, huckleberry pancakes served, Watermelon seed launch contest, and more. For more information, call 503/998-7813 or information on camping/cabins, call 503/622-4011.

Volunteers Needed at Blind Slough Swamp Preserve

The Nature Conservancy of Oregon invites anyone interested in preserving Blind Slough Swamp, located in Brownsmead 12 miles east of Astoria, to participate in a volunteer work party on Saturday, August 26. Blind Slough Swamp Preserve is the best example of tidal Sitka spruce swamp remaining in Oregon, and provides habitat along the Columbia River for bald eagle, osprey, river otter and beaver. Registration required. Call 230-1221.

Oregon Tradeswomen August Meeting

The next meeting of Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. is scheduled for Thursday, August 17. The meeting will be held at 6 pm. at the State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., room 120. The topic will be: gender roles and the trades—How does doing a "man's job" affect our perception of ourselves as women? Monthly meetings are held the third Thursday of the month and provide information, network resources and fun for all. Childcare is provided at no cost and everyone is welcome. Call 503/943-2228.

Free Acupuncture Clinic on Stress Reduction

If you want to maintain the feeling of peace and relaxation you achieved during summer vacation, plan to attend the free stress reduction clinic at the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine on Wednesday, August 23, at 7 pm. There will also be information about other methods used in traditional Chinese medicine for promoting relaxation and reducing the stress and strain of modern life through use of natural herbs and gentle meditative exercise. Call the college at 253-3443 to reserve a place. The college is located at 10525 SE. Cherry Blossom Dr. in East Portland, next to Mall 205.

City Garden Fair

A City Garden Fair will be held on Saturday, September 9, from 8 am. to 1 pm. at the Portland Farmers Market at South Park Blocks by Portland State University. There will be produce and flower judging. Bring produce and flowers for judging between 8 to 10 am. Judging will begin at 10 am. Kids welcome with activities for them. For more information, call Community Gardens at 823-1612.

Volunteer for the 2000 Komen Portland Race for the Cure

Volunteer to help make the 2000 Komen Race for the Cure, one of the largest 5K run/walk events in the nation, another great success! The 2000 Race, to benefit the Oregon & Southwest Washington Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, needs more than 1,000 volunteers during Race Weekend, September 15 and 16 with Race Day on September 17. Distribute food, register participants, help set up, work at the Health Expo and the NEW Post-Event Party, and other tasks. Call 503/553-3680 or visit their website at www.raceforthecure-pdx.org.

Albina Community Bank, American State seek merger

CONTRIBUTOR FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

We are very pleased to announce an alliance between northeast Portland's two landmark community banks.

American State Bank, "The Bank that integration built" and Albina Community bank, a certified "Community Development Financial Institution" today filed an application with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the State of Oregon, requesting approval of an agreement whereby Albina Community bank has agreed to purchase a majority of the loans, and assume a majority of the deposits of American State Bank.

American State Bank sought an alliance during this period of transition with an institution that met its expectation of community investment and focus on small, minority and women owned businesses and individuals. Albina community bank, which is nearly 43% minority owned, has as its mission a goal of helping to accelerate the redevelopment of north and northeast Portland, while also ensuring that low to moderate income individuals and small business owners share in that economic upturn.

Our common missions, common ownership, and common markets combined with our close physical proximity will mean that your accounts will receive the same personal care that you have come to expect over the many years you have banked with American State. Albina Community Bank is just six blocks south of American State Bank on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

As the date of the actual conversion of your accounts to Albina Community Bank approaches, we will provide you with detailed



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

information about new checks, contact phone numbers, and account information. In the meantime, you may call either of us with any questions or concerns.

A group of community activist in northeast Portland filed suit against a local utility in the early '90's. As settlement, the utility agreed to put over \$2 million into a community trust with the objective of creating a sustainable

financial resource of north and northeast Portland. Those funds were used as partial capitalization for the new bank. Today the Northeast Portland Community Development Trust is the bank's largest shareholder.

ACB has proactively sought out business among area small businesses, non-profits, real estate developers involved in affordable housing and inner city commercial

redevelopment, and those consumers that are consistent with its mission. In roughly four years of existence, ACB has made over \$70 million in loans within its targeted market area. Approximately 85% of its loan portfolio are in real estate loans in a mixture of single and multi-family residential and commercial

(Please see 'Merger' page 2)

AT&T sponsors "Stellar Kids at Stellar Cove"

AT&T Wireless, the sponsor of the Grand opening of the "Stellar Cove" exhibit at the Oregon Zoo, and AT&T Broadband, are sponsoring "Stellar Kids at Stellar Cove." These AT&T business units hosted nearly 1,000 children and their chaperones to the Oregon Zoo for a day of fun, food, and surprises.

The "Stellar Kids" are children from various children's charities and support agencies in the Portland area. Participating agencies include the Boys & Girls Aid Society, Albertina Kerr Centers, Friends of Children, State Offices of Services for Children & Families, Waverley Children's Home, The Christie School, Parry Center for Children, Police Activity League, Campfire Boys & Girls Hispanic Youth Program, Morrison Center, Janus Youth Center and Edgfield Child Center.

The children were treated to free admission to the Zoo, lunch, a free "Zoo Key" to allow them to activate the audio tape messages to learn all about the Zoo's animals and exhibits, and other gifts and surprises.

More than 100 AT&T employees were on hand as "AT&T Cares" volunteered to meet, greet, and help these "Stellar Kids" enjoy their day at the Zoo.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

New Concordia grocery advances towards completion

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Concordia Neighborhood Association last week used National Night Out to celebrate completing Phase One of their effort to bring a New Seasons grocery store to the neighborhood.

More than 100 people attended a community celebration at the proposed location, the old Wilshire Park Sentry Market location at 5322 N.E. 33rd Ave.

Stan Amy, Brian Rohtor, Sarah Fitch and

other former Nature's Fresh Northwest executives propose to build a 29,000 square foot market on the site. Rohtor says the market will emphasize natural and organic foods, but also conventional brands when they are significantly cheaper.

To do this, they must vacate and relocate a portion of Northeast Emerson Street between 33rd and 34th avenues.

They have also said the store must be completed in one year, and street vacations normally take a year to gain city approval. Further, residents of Northeast 34th Street,

who have opposed past efforts to replace the Sentry Market, say they could support this proposal if the new Emerson Street does not go through to 34th.

This in turn has produced grumblings from commissioner Charlie Hales' office, since it appears to interfere with the city policy of providing "connectivity."

Two-thirds of the property owners within 400 feet must first approve the vacation of the old street, before determining how the new street will operate. At a June meeting Rohtor told Steve Makinster, one of the most vocal 34th

street residents, "I will pledge you my good will. I won't promise you the result you want because that's not under my control."

Despite the uncertainty, Concordia secured the necessary signatures, including those of Makinster and many of his neighbors, last month.

Concordia land use chair Hector Roche says that a hearing on the issue will probably occur in October or November.

Last week's celebration was attended by Rohtor, Mayor Vera Katz and police chief Mark Kroecker.