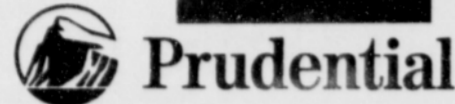




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Riverkeeper Gets Word Out

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE METRO who eat these fish will get cancer, there is clearly an increased risk from long-term consumption of these fish," said Travis Williams, executive director for Riverkeeper. Other health risks associated with fish consumption include developmental disorders and immune deficiencies.

The fish found most contaminated include include crappie, smallmouth bass, carp, large-scale sucker, and others as well. The contaminants of greatest concern are dioxins, PCBs, the pesticides aldrin, dieldrin, DDE, and mercury. "We feel that there has been far too little effort by our public agencies to get this message out to the community," said Williams.

"To some degree, they don't have funding to provide for this kind of outreach. We feel, that as a non-profit organization that serves the community, this is the least we can do." There are a few things that can be done to reduce the risks. For example, if people choose to continue eating at-risk fish, it is suggested that you eat fewer fish, eat smaller portions and discard the fatty parts. It is the fat that collects the contaminants and passes them on to those that eat it. "I think one of the most important things that we can convey is that the Willamette River is a public resource. Nobody owns it, though at times it may seem like some try to hold title to the river. This is simply your river and there is no excuse to put up with fish so contaminated that there is a risk of cancer," said Williams.

Willamette Riverkeeper maintains its own patrol boat that it will use to get the message out to folks on the lower river, and above Oregon City as well.

If you would like more information about this report, you can contact Willamette Riverkeeper at (503) 223-6418 or visit their website at www.willamette-riverkeeper.org.

Demolition Starts at Grocery Site



Demolition work has started at the future site of a New Seasons Grocery at Northeast 33 and Killingsworth. The market, scheduled for completion in the fall of this year, will feature natural and organic foods and also offer the best of grocery basics, creating a one-stop shopping trip for its customers.

(PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)

Taco Bell Found Guilty of Violating Oregon Wage Laws

(AP) - Thousands of Taco Bell workers in Oregon have won a class-action lawsuit that accused the restaurant chain of illegal labor practices that included shaving time cards.

Paul Breed, an attorney representing the workers, said Taco Bell must pay back wages to all employees involved in the suit.

Among the illegal practices, he said in a news release, was claiming that employees were taking breaks when they were not, routinely shaving 5 to 10 minutes off time cards so it would not be noticed by workers

but would save the company several hours of pay during each payroll period.

"Taco Bell was found guilty of systematically engaging in the illegal alteration of pay records," Breed said. "I'm not talking accounting errors here. Taco Bell took time and wages from their workers without their knowledge," he said.

There was no immediate comment from a Taco Bell spokeswoman at company headquarters in Irvine, Calif.

More than 14,000 Taco Bell workers and former employees in Or-

gon were eligible to file claims before the end of March 2000 in the class-action lawsuit over unpaid overtime, including restaurant "cleaning parties."

A similar lawsuit in Washington state settled in 1997 resulted in \$2.75 million in payments to more than 2,100 current and former workers.

Taco Bell, Pizza Hut and KFC are part of Tricon Global Restaurants Inc., a former PepsiCo subsidiary based in Louisville, Ky. The toll-free number for claims eligibility in English and Spanish is 1-800-422-4604.

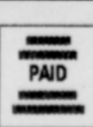
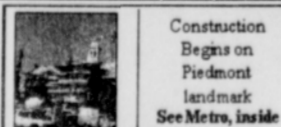
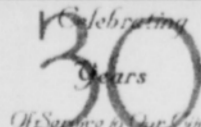
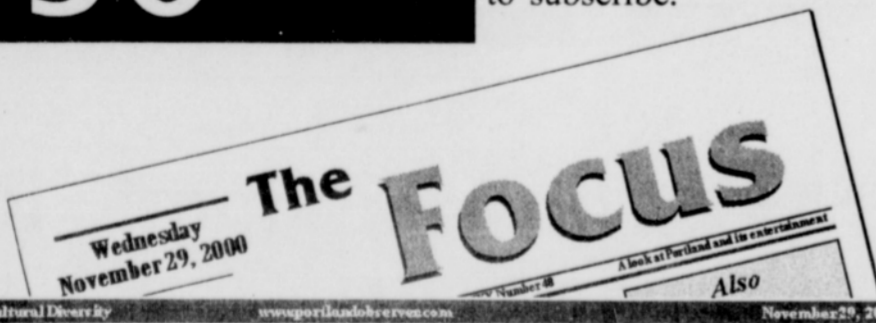
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