



## Parks are Jammin' with Free Concerts

The Dancing Trees Marimba Band entertain at Fernhill Park in northeast Portland. The Sunday event was part of the Portland Parks and Recreation's summer concert series. The schedule moves to Washington Park for evening performances on Thursday, Aug. 15 featuring the Park Providence Stage Band; Friday, Aug. 16 featuring reggae with blues and jazz; Saturday, Aug. 17, with the Woody Hite big band; and Sunday, Aug. 18, with Three Leg Torso. The last concert of the month takes place at Couch Park, Tuesday, Aug. 20 featuring the Jack McMahon group. All of the upcoming concerts start at 6:30 p.m.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Physician Assistant Program Reaches Out to Communities

As the population of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest becomes more ethnically diverse, health care providers must become more aware of the needs of multicultural communities.

To assist in this process, the Pacific University School of Physician Assistant Studies has been awarded a three-year, \$450,000 grant by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The new grant will fund a project to develop an outreach program to high school students who are interested in careers in healthcare. In addition, it will enable Pacific to expand recruiting efforts to minority stu-

dents in the Northwest.

"By emphasizing cultural diversity within the curriculum, we are hopeful that more minority students will consider physician assistant studies as a career choice," said Chris Legler, program director.

The grant enables the Forest Grove based college to expand marketing the physician assistant career option to disadvantaged high school and community college students.

The overall goal of the project is to increase access to health care for medically underserved populations including, minorities, elderly and rural communities.

## Leaky Oil Tanks Pose Danger

The Department of Environmental Quality is holding informal information meetings throughout Portland, from Aug. 15 - 27 to answer homeowner's questions concerning heating oil tanks and steps they can take to minimize the costs associated with this.

About half of Oregon's 125,000 active heating oil tanks are underground. In addition, there are an estimated 200,000 abandoned underground heating oil tanks. Of that amount, approximately 2,500 new heating oil tank leaks are discovered each year in Oregon.

The DEQ says most underground tanks that are still in operation are 30 to 60-years-

old, even though they only have a useful life of about 20 years.

Based on work done by professional contractors, anywhere from 50 to 75 percent of all inoperative heating oil tanks are leaking. These tanks may be harming the environment or a neighboring property.

Paying for a cleanup resulting from an oil leak can be costly and is the responsibility of the property owner.

For more information on home heating oil tanks or more about the meetings, call toll-free at 1-800-742-7878 or go online to [www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/tank/toc-hot.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/tank/toc-hot.htm).

## Homeland Security Helps Local Red Cross

The Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross is among the recipients of the first federal grants designed to involve Americans in homeland security.

The chapter will receive \$136,392 to fund 11 AmeriCorps members who will respond to disasters; recruit and train disaster responders; teach community disaster preparation, health, and safety classes; and

mobilize 400 new volunteers who will provide 1,500 hours of service.

For the first year of implementation, sites for the AmeriCorps members will be at Oregon Red Cross Chapters; the plan is to expand outside of the Red Cross in the future.

AmeriCorps members will be serving directly with local community and faith-based organizations.

## Education District Picks Chair and Vice Chair

Harry Ainsworth, a southeast Portland resident and an attorney in private practice was elected chair of the Multnomah Education Service District Board at the regular meeting of the Board. The Board also elected Sy Kornbrodt as vice chair. The terms of both positions run until June 30.

Ainsworth was appointed to a vacancy on the Board in 1998 and was elected to a four-year term in 1999. He is a graduate of Tufts University and Boston University Law School.

Ainsworth represents the central Portland zone.

Kornbrodt is a northeast Portland resident and retired probation officer. He has been a member of the Multnomah Education Service District Board since 1996. He has a long-standing interest in education and community issues.

The other members of the MESD Board are Ron Chinn, Arlene Collins, Jean Haliski, Patti Swanson, Geri Washington and Janice Gratton.

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If you've got questions, please contact us:

### Information About The Law

- Toll-free 1-866-621-6107
- [www.healthoregon.org/tobacco](http://www.healthoregon.org/tobacco)
- Your county health department

### Oregon Tobacco Quitline

- 1-877-270-STOP
- 1-877-2NO-FUME (Spanish)
- TTY: 1-877-777-6534

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