

Northeast Store Targeted by Protesters



Demonstrators on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard protest the use of kangaroo leather in sport shoes made by Adidas outside the company's outlet store in northeast Portland. Adidas is one of the largest buyers of kangaroo leather worldwide, which it uses mainly in the production of high quality soccer boots. Protestors claim that the animals suffer needlessly as they are hunted and slaughtered. The protesters advocate the use of synthetics. Adidas maintains that guidelines for proper and humane treatment of the animals are strictly followed.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

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Black Wealth Grows But Still Far Behind Other Americans

(AP) — Black Americans are earning more than ever, but they lack investment experience that could help them accumulate more money, according to a report released Thursday by consumer advocates.

The Consumer Federation of America, Bank of America Foundation and BET.com, an arm of Black Entertainment Television, are starting "Black America Saves" to help wage-earners pursue savings and investment plans.

The program will offer free fi-

ancial planning advice and information.

"This may be the first generation of black Americans who are able to accumulate wealth," said Debra L. Lee, president of Black Entertainment Television. "The community just needs to focus on it more."

The report found that median household wealth among blacks grew 321 percent between 1989 and 1998, from \$3,680 in 1989 to \$15,500. However, that still was less than a quarter of the \$71,700 accumulated by the typical Ameri-

can household.

Consumer Federation of America Director Stephen Brobeck said blacks have not taken full advantage of investment and savings opportunities, in part because their families have little historical experience with financial planning.

The report found 24 percent of black Americans said they spend more than their income, compared to 14 percent of all Americans. And 32 percent of black Americans say they do not save, compared to 23 percent of all Americans.



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Airport MAX Exceeds Expectations

TriMet's Airport MAX Red Line turns one-year-old on Tuesday, Sept. 10 with ridership exceeding expectations.

The new 5.5-mile extension connects the Gateway Transit Center to the Portland International Airport with 2,800 trips taken on an average weekday. Original projections estimated ridership at 2,300 weekday trips.

"Airport MAX is proving to be a convenient and easy way to get to PDX. It's popular with

business and leisure travelers, and PDX employees," said TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen.

The highest record of the year came the day before Thanksgiving, when 3,800 people got on or off at the PDX terminal. The next ridership highs was just before Christmas and the 4th of July holiday when 3,600 people got on or off at PDX MAX station.

Less than 24 hours after opening, the Airport MAX Red Line

was impacted by the East Coast terrorist attacks. The MAX line played a key role in transporting thousands of passengers left stranded when U.S. airspace was closed to flights.

The attacks also required an operational change - TriMet has security personnel at the PDX MAX station during the nearly 20 hours of operation each day. Security personnel walk through each train to ensure no suspicious items are left behind.

Dead Whale Found in the Columbia

(AP) — A dead whale was found floating in the Columbia River near Portland Monday night.

Crews at terminal six of the Port of Portland were watching a cargo ship dock when they no-

ticed a large whale floating belly up near the ship, said Neil Heesacker, spokesman for the Portland Fire Bureau.

The crews hooked the whale with rope and used a tugboat to transport it up river to Kelley

Point Park, where it was beached. Fish and Wildlife officials will inspect it Tuesday, Heesacker said.

The whale was about 50 feet long and appeared to have gotten caught in a ship propeller, he said.

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