

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Oregon Beach Cleanup

Saturday, Sept. 28 marks the date for the 19th annual Great Oregon Fall Beach Cleanup. The event will take place from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. along the entire Oregon coast, from the Washington to the California borders. Volunteers may check in at one of 42 meeting sites, pick up a litter bag and head down to the beach to help improve the coast for wildlife and winter visitors. Call 800-333-SOLV or go online to www.solv.org.

Learn Anger Management

Learn and practice strategies to control anger, reduce stress, and set limits in Kaiser Permanente's "Dealing with Anger" class. The eight sessions are held on Wednesday nights, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., beginning Oct. 2 - Nov. 20. Classes are held at Kaiser Permanente's Interstate Medical Office Central, 3600 N. Interstate Ave. in north Portland. Call 503-286-6816.

Multnomah County Library

Multnomah County Library will expand its Cyber Seniors classes to six libraries throughout the Portland area in November and December. The classes are designed for senior citizens with little or no computer experience and are offered free of charge. The November series of classes at the Capitol Hill Library, located at 10723 S.W. Capitol Way, Nov. 6, 13 and 20.

Columbia River Watershed Festival

The Columbia River Watershed Festival will feature speakers, musical groups and more than two dozen kid-friendly interactive exhibits. It will focus on how humans can develop a spiritual and ecological vision for the Columbia River Watershed in the Pacific Northwest. The event will be on Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Southeast Park, located at 12th and Stark in Portland.

The Charleston Place Street Fair

Charleston Place, a 100 home development in the St. Johns area, is having a street fair on Sunday, Sept. 22, from noon - 5 p.m., at the 8300 block of N. Bliss St. This free event is a party for those on the road to affordable home ownership. It includes food, music, kids activities and home ownership information. Call 503-331-1752.

Resort to Fitness

Learn Nia, a hybrid movement class that incorporates martial arts and modern dance. It's a great form of aerobic exercise. Nia is being taught at Resort to Fitness throughout this month, located at 2714 N.E. Broadway. For a schedule and to register, call 503-287-0655.

Yoga for Seniors

Seniors can learn gentle breathing and stretching yoga exercises for increasing joint flexibility and strengthening muscles. Each class ends with a relaxation period. The eight-week class is held Monday mornings at the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 N.W. 19th Ave., continuing through Oct. 28, 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Call to register at 503-478-1218.

We're All In This Together



The first anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks brings a message of harmony and hope from Portland-based Mercy Corps. The world globe was covered in flowers and on display at Pioneer Courthouse Square. PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Bank Visa Helps Local School Kids

Minority owned bank introduces credit card with cash back to schools

A cash back feature from a new Visa credit card product at Albina Community Bank will help Portland high school students participate in after-school arts and sports programs, the local minority-owned bank announced Tuesday.

When consumers use the new "Scholastic Plastic" Visa card for purchases, the northeast Portland bank will contribute 1 percent of each purchase amount to after-school student activities at Portland's Benson, Grant, Jefferson, Madison and Roosevelt High Schools or, if preferred by the customer, will make a similar contribution directly to the Portland Schools Foundation.

"We are constantly looking for ways to reach out to our community," noted Albina Community Bank President Robert McKean. "We thought this was an important gesture toward local students who benefit from a wide range of school-sponsored activities programs.

After all, 'community' is our middle name."

Scholastic Plastic does carry a \$60 annual account fee, with users earning points toward special discounts on items such as airfares, travel and catalog merchandise.

Albina Community Bank is the only certified community development bank in Oregon and one of only a few such banks in the U.S. By charter, community development banks invest deposits within their immediate neighborhoods in the form of home mortgages and business loans.

The bank is a member of the FDIC and is owned by local residents and the Northeast Portland Community Development Trust. It operates two Portland branches at 2002 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and 8040 N. Lombard St. in St. Johns.

For more information, call Albina Community Bank at 503-287-7537.



Eddie Collins

Collins Takes Charge of Graffiti Abatement

Mediator and public safety advocate to combat crime, vandalism

Eddie Collins, a longtime counselor with the Neighborhood Mediation Center, is taking on a new position as the city's graffiti abatement coordinator.

A city employee for 24 years, he brings extensive experience working with public safety issues, neighborhood livability, and peaceful resolution of high risk situations.

"Mr. Collins' experience mediating a variety of high risk situations will be very valuable as the Office of Neighborhood Involvement continues to further our very visible graffiti abatement program," said City Commissioner Jim Francesconi.

The graffiti abatement program began in northeast Portland and was elevated to a citywide program by Mayor Vera Katz.

"I am pleased to take over this excellent program and look forward to work-

ing with Commissioner Francesconi, the Mayor, and the Portland Police Bureau to further reduce graffiti," said Collins.

The graffiti abatement program coordinates a \$256,468 contract with Youth Employment Institute where crews of young adults work with the Portland Police Bureau and other law enforcement agencies to reduce and eradicate signs of graffiti in key areas.

"Graffiti is often considered the first sign of a decaying urban landscape, and is seen as first step for further criminal activity," comments Art Hendricks, the city's crime prevention manager in the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. "I am pleased that Collins is shifting his expertise to this important problem."

Recent Upturn Noted in Oregon's Jobless Rate

(AP) — The statewide jobless rate declined from 7.3 percent in July to 7 percent in August.

Oregon has suffered the highest unemployment rate in the nation since last November.

The number of unemployed workers in Oregon stood at about 121,000 in August, the lowest level since October of last year.

August job losses were concentrated in food processing, which shed 1,200 jobs.

The industry normally adds jobs in August, but this year it added more jobs in July and then pared back in August.

Manufacturing was able to post a small gain due mostly to growth in durable goods, which added 1,200 jobs to

mark the fifth straight month of gains. But August was the first month that the gain was less than expected when adjusted for seasonal trends, and the sector remains 4,700 jobs below its level at the same time last year.