

METRO

The Portland Observer



Jerry Rice, possibly the greatest receiver in NFL history, released by Seattle Seahawks
see Sports page A6, inside

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Boy Scout Collection

Local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will be participating in a door-to-door donation drive on Saturday, March 5. More than 90 cents of every dollar received from the sale of these items will go toward training and employment of people with disabilities and special needs. For more information, call 503-225-5767.

Tillamook Preschool Open

Tillamook Cooperative Preschool will be holding its open house on Saturday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 935 N.E. 33rd Ave. For more information, call 503-234-1691.

Multiple Sclerosis Forum

"Multiple Sclerosis Treatment: The Future is Closer" will be presented at the Providence St. Vincent Medical Center at 9205 S.W. Barnes Rd. in the Southern Auditorium on Tuesday, March 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 503-216-7138.]

Children's Museum Art

Portland Children's Museum will hold a variety of art activities for children throughout March, including mediums using mosaics, African arts and culture and garden stepping stones. For more information, call 503-223-6500 or visit www.portlandchildrensmuseum.org.

Used Bookstore Sale

The Multnomah County Library's Title Wave Used Bookstore at 216 N.E. Knott St. will hold its 17th anniversary sale during the month of March. Sales will change daily. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 503-988-5021.

Get Fit, Stay Healthy!

Sankofaa Health Institute offers a free diabetes support group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every third Thursday at Alberta Simmons Plaza, 6707 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Call 503-285-2484.

Love the Pooch

Problem pooch classes are a must take for anyone who may be new to the world of pet parenthood or is interested in considering adopting a new friend. Come to the Oregon Humane Society to find out why your dog does those silly little things. Meetings are every first and third Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. For more information, call 503-285-7722.

Women in NAACP

Women in NAACP meets from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month at the American Red Cross Building, 3131 N. Vancouver. For questions, call 503-249-6263.

Business Meeting

Join North/Northeast Business Association meetings on the first Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Albina Community Bank, 2002 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. Morning networking meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Blazers Boys and Girls Club, 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. Call 503-249-0487 or visit www.nneba.org.

AIDS Awareness

Albina Ministerial Alliance sponsors a bi-monthly support and education group for African Americans living with HIV/AIDS at Maranatha Church at 4222 NE 12th St. The group will meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Call Elmathan Hudson at 503-285-0493 ext. 217.

Aquatic Fitness

Providence has a full schedule of fitness classes including water exercising at the Providence Aquatic Center, 4805 N.E. Glisan. For a schedule, call 503-215-6301.



Adult mentor Bethy Hewes (from left) helps seniors Lidiya Bosovik and Aisha Keita figure out their options for attending college.

Opening Doors to Opportunity

Students build options after graduation

BY KATHERINE KOVACICH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Marshall High School Senior Lidiya Bosovik hopes to study business administration at Portland State University after graduating with her class of 2005. But for many other high school students, taking advantage of higher education is a pipedream.

Rising costs of tuition, lack of support and simply being unaware of available options hold back a lot of youth from attaining the training and expertise they'll need to survive in modern society.

Bosovik is headed toward the realization of her ambition thanks to an Oregon-based program named ASPIRE (Access to Student assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone).

The program provides mentoring and resources to help students access education and training beyond high school.

Bosovik checks into the ASPIRE center on the Marshall campus often, filling out financial aid forms and college applications on computers, getting help on college acceptance essays and figuring out where to attend.

She said having the center on campus really helps her get things done, avoiding

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Landmark Investment

\$1 million deposit at Albina bank to help community

Albina Community Bank, a minority financial institution on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, has announced a \$1 million certificate of deposit investment by Microsoft Corp.

The deposit is a positive development for Portland's only community development bank certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and its diverse consumer base.

"This is a landmark investment in Albina's history," said Bob McKean, bank president and chief executive officer. "We are now able to accelerate the support Albina lends to commercial redevelopment efforts, affordable housing initiatives, small-business startups, and local nonprofits in Portland's ethnic communities."

Microsoft's commitment to Albina is a product of its Diversity

Investing Program, which was created in 2000. The initiative diversifies the corporation's investments with certificates of deposit to minority-owned banks across America.

The deposits enable financial institutions to accelerate their community development efforts, provide more affordable products and loans, or expand their institutional capacity to serve more customers.

Microsoft's investment in Albina is unique because the company was willing to exceed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.-insured amount of \$100,000 and sacrifice some return on its deposit to support economic development in the local community.

"Microsoft's \$1 million certifi-

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TriMet Fares Go Up in April

Increase covers cost of higher fuel prices

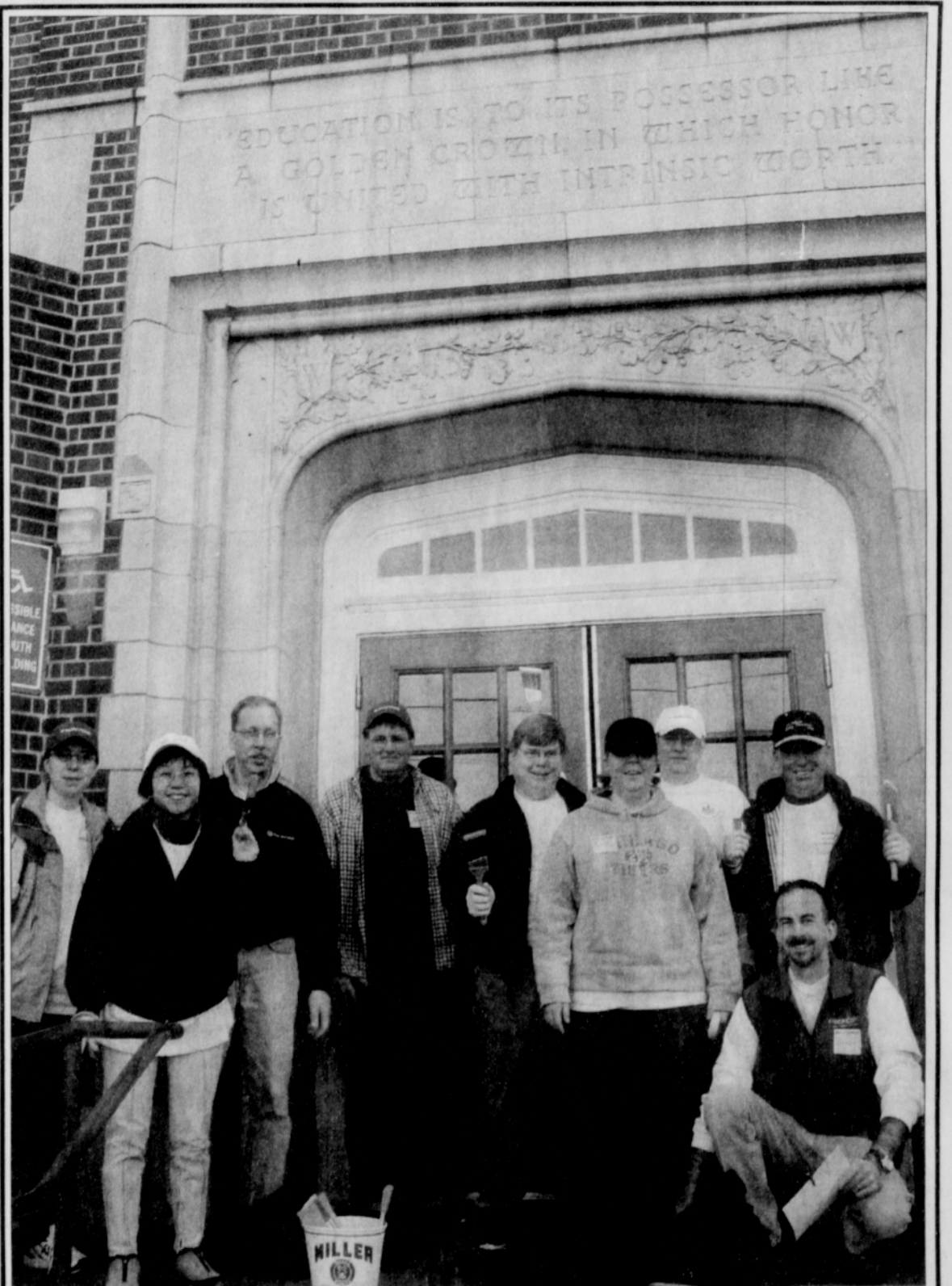
Most Portland transit riders will begin paying 5-cents more for fares on buses and Max trains beginning in April to help cover record-high diesel prices.

TriMet purchases more than 6 million gallons of diesel annually and high prices have created a \$3 million budget deficit. The fare increase, approved by the TriMet board last week, will result in \$1.5 million in revenue.

The transportation agency has also focused on operating buses more efficiently to bring down the cost of operations. Those steps include making transmission and axle adjustments, reduced engine idling and checking tire pressure more frequently, which is saving the agency \$600,000 annually.

The new fares effective April 1 will include a two-zone cash fare will increase from \$1.35 to \$1.40; all-zone cash fare from \$1.65 to \$1.70; youth/student cash fare from \$1.05 to \$1.10.

Fares won't change for Honored Citizen and LIFT fares, and the youth/student monthly pass.



People Power at Woodlawn

Woodlawn Elementary in northeast Portland gets new paint, weed removal and a general clean-up of the school grounds thanks to the volunteer efforts of more than 35 local Pacific Power employees. The recent endeavor was a partnership with Hands on Portland, a volunteer organization that provided tools, supplies and project supervision. For more information, visit www.handsonportland.org.