

LAW & JUSTICE



Former Harlem Globetrotters visit the staff of Coast Industries, Inc. on Northeast Alberta Street.

Harlem Globetrotters Visit Local Business

Coast Industries, Inc., Oregon's oldest African American-owned businesses had an all-star visit from a few former Harlem Globetrotters.

Meadowlark Lemon, Marques Haynes, Tyrone "Hollywood" Brown, and Les "Pee Wee" Harrison recently graced the business on Northeast Alberta Street, now

under its third generation of leadership. Coast has experienced a lot of growth since its inception in 1957. A new administration and a new look has been built around the block home of the company at Northeast Seventh Avenue and Alberta street, doing business as Coast Janitorial Service and Empire Security Service. The

business is part of Oregon's African-American history and a symbol of success in northeast Portland. Coast has supported and has a strong relationship with Local Union 49, providing fair wages to its workers, who have contributed to the working class in this community for over 40 years.

Useful Tips to Avoid Becoming an Identity Theft Victim

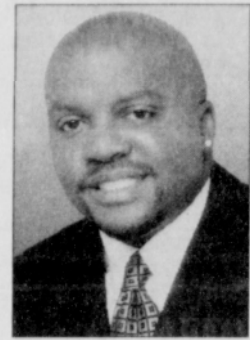
BY GREGORY EVANS

It's not uncommon to hear stories of fraud due to unauthorized use of an individual's personal information. His is known as identify theft. A close friend had his information stolen and it was a nightmare. Within a week, the thieves ordered an expensive cell phone package, applied for a major credit card, received approval for a Gateway computer, made changes within the DMV online, and more.

Here are some helpful tips to prevent you from becoming a victim:

When writing checks to pay credit card bills, never put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, put the last four digits of the account number on the check. The credit card company knows the rest of the number. This prevents anyone who might be handling your check from accessing your credit card number.

Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you don't have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your social security number printed on your checks.



Photocopy both sides of every credit card, license, etc. in your wallet. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel in the event of theft or loss. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. It's a good idea to carry a photocopy of your passport when traveling abroad.

We've been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately in the event your information or credit cards are stolen. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call.

Immediately file a police report in the jurisdiction where your credit cards were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step towards an investigation if needed.

Place a fraud alert on your name and social security number. The fraud alert informs potential creditors that they must call you and receive verbal consent prior to opening an account in your name.

To place a fraud alert on your name and social security number, contact the credit reporting organizations.

Gregory Evans is a computer expert and author. His website is www.ligattsecurity.com

Walgreen Workers File Suit

Top drugstore accused of racial discrimination

(AP) — Eleven black current and former Walgreen Co. workers in Michigan and six other states have sued the nation's top-selling drugstore chain, accusing it of having a policy of discriminating against black employees.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Ill.,

says the company has a "pervasive policy" of steering black employees to work in stores in areas that have mostly black or poorer customers, using an internal system to categorize stores based on race and income.

The lawsuit, seeking class-action status, also says that black employees are denied advancement opportunities because the company directs them to its stores with worse profitability and work conditions, at times costing them bonuses often tied to store sales

and gross profit. "We're surprised by the allegations because historically we've cared about equal opportunity for all of our employees," said Tiffany Bruce, a spokeswoman for the Deerfield, Ill. company.

The lawsuit says Walgreen engages in segregation of its black workers and seeks unspecified monetary damages and a court order permanently barring Walgreen from the questioned employment practices.

Local Plant to Produce Biodiesel

Will turn cooking oil into fuel for trucks and cars

Plans to start a local processing facility for Oregon's first commercial plant to turn used cooking oil into biodiesel are in place to start production in November.

SeQuential-Pacific — controlled by SeQuential Biofuels of Portland and Pacific Biodiesel of Kahului, Hawaii — said it has purchased an

acre of industrial land at Kelley Point in north Portland.

The company said the plant would be capable of producing about 1 million gallons per year of biodiesel, made from cooking oil and usable as fuel in diesel engines.

The news comes as some Oregon legislators are seeking to jump-start biodiesel production in Oregon, saying it can create jobs and help the environment.

"We want biodiesel to be a cluster industry in the state," said state Rep. Jackie Dingfelder, a Democrat

who represents northeast Portland.

Company officials said they have lined up investors for the plant that include country music singer Willie Nelson; Cameron Healy, founder of Kettle Foods; John Miller, an Oregon businessman; and Ron Tyree, owner of Tyree Oil, a Eugene-based petroleum distributor.

"Biodiesel is the perfect fuel, when you think about it," said Brian Jamison, board president of the GoBiodiesel cooperative of Portland. "The only thing we need to do is increase production and get the word out."

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