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Week in The Review

Grateful after Surgery



ABC "Good Morning America" anchor Robin Roberts says messages of support from her fans helped her get through breast cancer surgery last Friday. "Thanks for all the prayers — I owe you big time!" Roberts said. See story, page A3.

4 U.S. Soldiers Killed

Four more U.S. soldiers were killed in roadside bombings in the Baghdad area, including three in a single strike, the military said Tuesday, raising to at least 19 the number of American troop deaths in the first week of August.

Civil Rights Lawyer Dies

Oliver W. Hill, a civil rights lawyer who was at the front of the legal effort that desegregated public schools, has died at age 100. In 1954, Hill was part of a series of lawsuits against racially segregated public schools. See story, page A2.



Coal Miners Trapped

Rescuers brought in heavy drilling equipment Tuesday to try to reach six coal miners trapped more than 1,500 feet below the surface in Utah, an effort that one of the mine's owners said would take at least three days.

O J Forfeits Game Money

Relatives of murder victim Ron Goldman won a court order on Tuesday seizing any money O.J. Simpson earns for lending his name and likeness to a football video game with a fictional team called the Assassins and a knife-wielding mascot. See related story, page B3.



Amtrak Running Again

Amtrak trains resumed running its Cascades route Monday between Eugene and Vancouver, B.C. The service was interrupted Friday after an inspection of the railcars found cracks in the suspension system of a passenger car.

Ford Expands Recall

Ford Motor Co. said Friday it is recalling 3.6 million passenger cars, trucks, sport utility vehicles and vans, built from 1992-2007, to address concerns about a cruise control switch that has led to previous recalls based on reports of fires.

Health Coalition in Critical Need

Hundreds sign up for benefit walk

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A strong show of support for an annual walk to benefit the health of local African Americans represents the best hope for making sure local residents continue to have access to health and fitness programs in the area.

The African American Health Coalition's "Wellness Within REACH" walk on Saturday, Aug. 18 at 8 a.m. in north Portland's Dawson Park, comes just six weeks before the organization possibly loses support for its popular exercise program.

A grant that gives AAHC free access to Portland Parks and Recreation exercise equipment expires on Sept. 30.

The benefits of the program were recently profiled in the Portland Observer in a Metro-cover story about Garland Brown, a fitness trainer at the Matt Dishman Community Center and a Multnomah County "Public Health Hero."

With the help of dedicated individuals like Brown, the AAHC's fitness efforts have started to show

measurable benefits.

Many Portland-area African Americans bore witness to using fitness in a successful battle against diabetes and cardiovascular diseases that plague the community.

Much of the support for the AAHC comes from the federal Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program which aims to eliminate health disparities by 2010. The program is in jeopardy of facing the budget axe from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"That program is at risk, and people need to support it," says Corliss McKeever, AAHC president. "That's why the walk is crucial, because we're trying to develop the walk to the level that can sustain the physical-activity program, so whether we have a federal, local grant or anything else, we can at least offer the free exercise."

Already, hundreds of Portlanders, including Roy Jay, president of the African Chamber of Commerce, are expected to walk

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PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Allyson Knapper signs up for the African-American Health Coalition's "Wellness Within REACH" walk with the help of John Barnett, operations manager for the coalition.

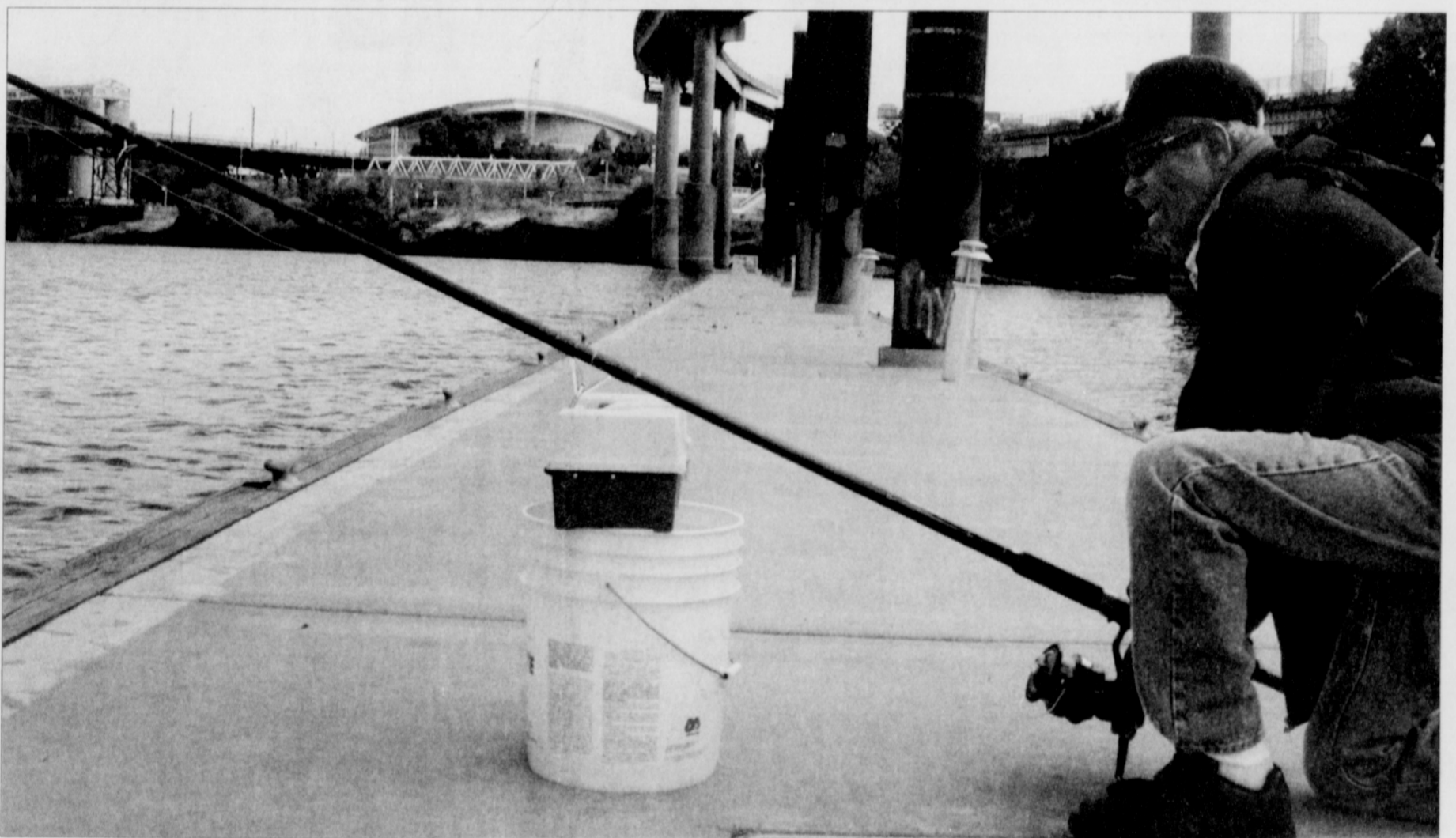


PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

John Archer checks his fishing line on the Eastbank Esplanade. The longtime Portland resident remembers when the riverbank where Interstate 5 now abuts once had a thriving community of houseboats and shanties.

Esplanade Opens Fishing Spots

Catch slow, but river cleanups give hope

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With the redevelopment of the Willamette River's eastside, anglers are slowly returning to the coveted spots where half a century ago they caught piles of salmon and sturgeon.

These choice fish, however, have been even slower to return than the people who are trying to reel them in.

By July of last year, Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife counted some

36,000 salmon traveling up the Willamette, but about 14,000 fewer have made the passage during this year's first seven months.

Anglers on the Willamette mostly catch bass and catfish these days, and ODFW recommends that healthy adults eat no more than eight ounces of these species due to the chemicals that they retain from bottom-feeding.

Many of them blame poor water quality for the small hauls. This summer, the city began tunneling a 22-foot-wide sewer, to be completed in 2011, in an effort to prevent

wastewater overflow during heavy rains.

"Once they get the sewer rebuilt, it'll be five years before the fish come back," says John Archer, who fishes the Willamette when he has a day off from his job with Downtown Clean and Safe.

Seeing others who are willing to eat bass and catfish, Archer is content to fish these chemical-laden species just for the sport of it until he encounters the more-prized varieties.

High numbers of quality fish will return with any luck, but river-water quality is only

one of many factors affecting the run, according to Kevleen Melcher, an ODFW biologist who specializes in Willamette fish habitats.

Melcher cites strenuous oceanic conditions as another possible cause of this low point in the typically cyclical populations, ruling out the possibility that hatchery fish haven't been able to adjust to higher temperatures in the wild.

"Generally, if the run is affected by the temperature, there are mortalities before the falls. We're out there looking for them and we haven't found hardly any, so fish are converting to hatcheries fairly well, but there aren't quite as many this year," she says. "I don't know quite what's been the cause of that."

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Downtown Clean and Safe

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