



# The

# Portland Observer

40  
years of  
community service

Volume XXXX, Number 28

Established in 1970  
Committed to Cultural Diversity

www.portlandobserver.com  
Wednesday • July 14, 2010



## Still Singing After all these Years

Ira Hammon, Thurtis Channel, Sherman Davis, James Tims, and Jeddy Beasley began singing together at Jefferson High School, later to become part of the seven man group, the "Beyons." see story inside, page 8

# In Oregon, Times Remain Hard

## Funding for services sapped

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The economic news in Oregon continues to be disappointing, if not outright grim.

On Tuesday, Employment Department economists released figures showing that Oregon's unemployment rate was 10.5 percent for June, with virtually little change from the previous month's 10.6 percent rate in May. The state's unemployment rate has been stuck between 10.5 and 10.7 percent for the last eight months.

Nationally, the unemployment rate dropped slightly in June from 9.7 percent to 9.5.

Numbers released by state economists showed that Oregon lost 3,600 jobs, mostly temporary positions with the Census. The state also saw a decline of jobs in professional and healthcare, business services, government, and retail.

Trade, transportation, utilities, wholesale trade, manufacturing and financial services all added jobs, which offset losses in other sectors.

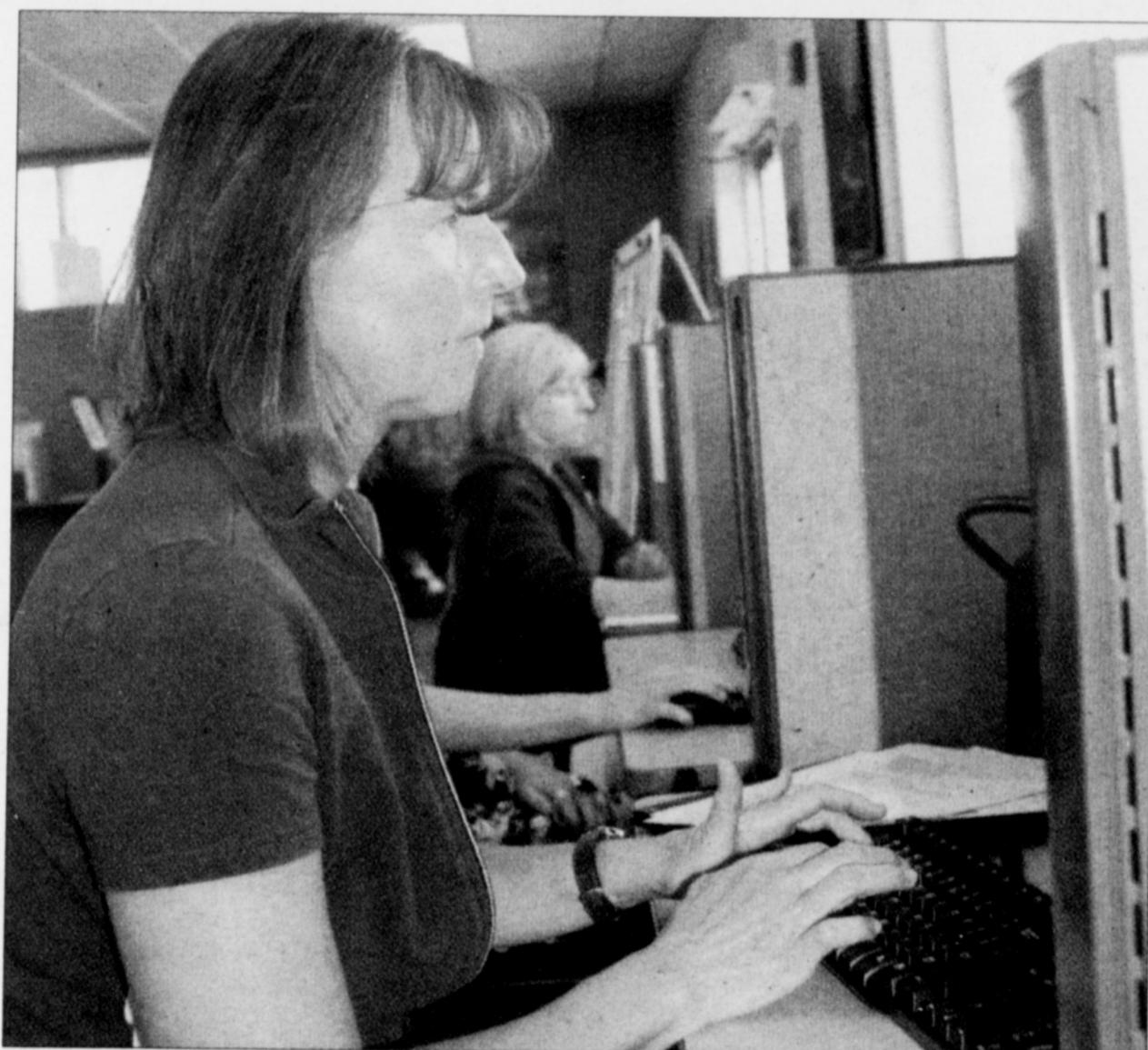


PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Anke Studer stares intently at a computer at a WorkSource center in north Portland. Studer has been out of work since early last year.

Overall, the numbers represent an improvement since a year ago. In June, 203,884 Oregonians were unemployed. A year ago, that number was 229,471.

However, many individuals are still struggling with the sagging economy.

More than 3,000 Oregonians saw their last unemployment check last week, joining the ranks of 14,000 individuals who have completely exhausted all their unemployment insurance.

During the 2010 legislative session, lawmakers instated Oregon Emergency Benefits to keep unemployed workers afloat who had exhausted all other extensions. It was intended to help see them through until summer, when jobs usually pick up. Lawmakers had put \$19 million of money from the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund for the program.

With the program now ending, individuals who lose their job and qualify for unemployment have up to 26 weeks of benefits and 20 weeks of emergency benefits.

Efforts to extend unemployment for individuals who have exhausted their benefits have been held up by Republican opposition in the U.S. Senate.

Last month, it was revealed that the state

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# Rainy Weather Gives Rise to Mosquitoes

## Officials: Bugs more than a nuisance

BY DREW DAKESSIAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

There recently has been a mosquito outbreak in Portland, and quite frankly, it bites.

An unusually wet spring and rainy June, followed by last week's record high temperatures sped up the life cycle of the water-based mosquito larvae, expediting their maturation and enabling them to breed themselves, said Steve Kessler, Operations Manager for Clark County Mosquito Control.

But mosquitoes are more than



Mosquito larva (left) grow in stagnant water, such as neglected containers and gutters (center). While all species of full grown mosquito are a nuisance, some also carry serious, even fatal diseases.

mere nuisances. Portlanders should be protecting themselves from the vampire-like insects because they

are carriers of an array of diseases, including the feared West Nile Virus, a flavivirus thought to be spread

when a mosquito bites an infected bird and then bites a person.

Since it was first identified in

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