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# The PO



## Texting and Driving Crackdown

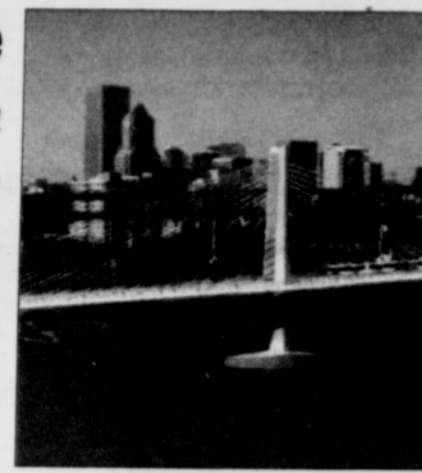
Campaign raises  
awareness to decrease  
road hazards

See Local News, page 3

## People's Bridge

Tilikum Crossing a  
nod to our Native  
American history

See Local News, page 3



# Portland Observer 44

'City of Roses'



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# Going to Work

## More jobs are expected to follow best job growth in nearly a decade

Workers (below) pour concrete on the western approach to the new bridge for the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project. The project, at 76 percent complete, has reached a new milestone by creating 10,298 jobs and providing a record \$153 million in contracts to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms. See related story, page 4.



The largest monthly gain in jobs in Oregon a little under a decade has put a slight dent in the state's high unemployment rate, but new long term projections expect even more of a positive jolt to the economy with a 15 percent increase in employment over 10 years.

Seasonally adjusted, Oregon saw 7,500 new jobs in March, the largest since November 2005 when 9,300 jobs were gained.

The overall unemployment rate, released last week by the Oregon Employment Department, basically was unchanged from the month before at 6.8 percent, but the figure continues a trend of job growth. At this time last year, unemployment for the state stood at 8 percent.

With businesses across the state reporting 10,000 more job vacancies early this year than they did the prior year, the growth brings to light another huge question of the

unemployment puzzle: Where are the jobs?

Food preparation, service workers, and production workers topped the list of occupations with vacancies, with more than 4,000 apiece. In comparison, the employment from the construction industry saw the most gains in employment.

TriMet reported a new employment milestone last week by creating 10,298 jobs for the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit

Project. (See story, page 4)

Oregon will add 258,000 jobs by 2022, according to the new projections. The projection stems from anticipated private-sector gains of 232,000 jobs (17 percent) and the addition of 26,000 government jobs (9 percent). This long term 15 percent growth rate exceeds the 6 percent growth seen over the

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