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Welfare benefits increased

Adult and Family Services Division, which administers Oregon's welfare programs, has announced a 3 percent cost-of-living increase effective Oct. 1. The increase will provide additional income to recipients of public assistance benefits as well as increase payments to medical professionals who provide services to people covered by AFS for medical care.

AFS, a division of the Department of Human Resources, administers public assistance payments, medical assistance and food stamp benefits for Oregon's needy through a variety of programs funded by both state and federal dollars.

The Aid to Dependent Children program helps about 77,000 Oregonians monthly, most of them children. In a typical ADC family, the maximum payment for a mother and two children will increase from \$386 to \$397 after the cost-of-living increase.

AFS also assists disabled adults who are unable to work through the General Assistance program. Approximately 3,600 GA clients also will receive a 3 percent increase.

The Day Care program helps low-income working parents with child care expenses. The maximum monthly rate for day reimbursement costs also is being increased 3 percent. The program assists 2,100 working parents monthly.

AFS provides medical coverage to 128,000 Oregonians each month through its medical program. The 10,000 health care professionals who

provide care for Medicaid recipients also will receive a 3 percent cost-of-living increase in fee reimbursement rates.

The modest cost-of-living increase was approved by the 1985 Oregon Legislature to help the state's neediest citizens. The increase will be automatically reflected in payments made as of Oct. 1.

And for most of the 219,000 Oregonians who receive food stamps, there also will be an increase in benefits during October.

Food stamps are federally funded but administered by the AFS. The amount of stamps a person or family receives depends on income and household size.

An allowance for winter's higher utility costs will benefit some recipients. Utility costs are one of the factors considered in determining food stamp benefits with recipients using either a standard allowance, adjusted semi-annually, or their actual utility costs. Those who use the standard allowance will receive an increase in benefits as the winter standard goes into effect. An average increase for a family of five would be about \$15 a month in stamps.

The utility allowance — and amount of stamps — will go down again in the spring.

Increases in two deductions will benefit most recipients. A larger standard deduction for income will help most households. Those with higher than normal housing or dependent care costs will benefit from an increased allowance.

University Forensics team wins Washington speech contests

The University Forensics team took first and second place in the Western Washington Invitational Tournament that was held over the weekend at Western Washington University.

The team of Rick Peacor and David Long, both juniors, won the tournament after defeating six other teams in one-on-one debates.

Second place went to the team of Alec Boyd, a sophomore, and Mike Siström, a junior, who won five of their six matches.

Ten teams from around the Pacific Northwest competed in the tournament.

The debates centered on the question of government restrictions on United States media coverage of terrorist activity.

This topic will be used in tournament play until January.

Although about 40 people compete with the team regularly, only two teams went to the tournament. This weekend the team will travel to Lewis and Clark College, where they will

compete in the school's Pioneer Tournament.

The University will host its own tournament Oct. 18-20, which will include teams from

Oregon and California.

Judges are needed for the University tournament. Those interested can call 686-4180 or 686-4198 for more information.

Women's seminar set

The 1985 "Woman Achieving Success" conference will be held Oct. 25 and 26 at Portland's Red Lion Inn, Jantzen Beach, as a follow-up to the 1984 Northwest Business Women's conference.

Participants are slated to hear the success story of Debbie Fields, president of Mrs. Fields Cookies, an international company that grossed \$30 million in 1983. The business went from one small "Mrs. Field's Chocolate Chippery" in 1977 to 300 stores in the United States, Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong by 1984.

The conference also will feature prominent Northwest speakers, such as Penny Harrington, Portland's police chief and Dr. Susan Quattrociocchi, administrator of the Special Programs Division of the Washington State Commission for Vocational Education.

Sixty-three workshops will offer a variety of educational experiences in Small Business Management, Personal and Professional Development, and Corporate Management.

The conference is being presented by The Institute for Managerial and Professional Women, Tektronix, Inc., and the U.S. Small Business Administration. For more information, call 293-3340.

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