

## Families work through the difficulties of autistic kids

By DANIEL J. VANCE

Chris Messina of Berea, Ohio, dearly loves his son, Andrew.

"But I'm frustrated sometimes because I have been patiently waiting for him to say 'Dad,' and the words just aren't there," he said to me recently after a Joni and Friends retreat for families affected by disabilities. "And it's frustrating when he's sick and he can't communicate what's wrong," he said.

Andrew is, according to his dad, "severely" autistic. At 13 he does not talk, but he does differ from most severely autistic persons in that he can give and receive affection.

The Autism Society of America (ASA) calls autism a "complex developmental disability" that arises from a neurological disorder affecting brain functioning in the areas of social interaction, and verbal and non-verbal communication. Its severity varies widely from person to person.

ASA estimates that autism affects up to 1.5 million Americans, and at current rates the number could increase to 4 million by 2020. In California alone the number of children diagnosed with full-syndrome autism doubled from 1999-2002. Boys are four times more prone. The annual rate of growth during the last decade has been in double digits. If it were a communicable disease the government would

call its spread an epidemic.

No cause or causes are known, though genetics and childhood vaccines are key suspects. There is no known cure.

"Very few people (out in public places) have a clue what is going on with Andrew," Messina said. "People look at us and through their body language wonder why we can't control him."

When standing in place Andrew rocks back and forth, and he's always reaching for objects, regardless of how many times his father tells him "no." He can be noisy in a restaurant or library, and when he doesn't calm down, "We just have to leave," Messina said.

Andrew attends school at a "developmental center" in northern Ohio, where he receives music and occupational therapy.

Despite the frustrations and awkward social situations his son places him in, Messina reiterated that he dearly loves his son. "As for Andrew, he's really a joy to be around," he said. "He's a good-natured boy. He knows he's loved immensely and he returns it in kind."

As for raising a child with autism, he said, "These kids don't ask for a lot, and they don't have high expectations. They just want to know they are loved." For more information, visit [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org) or [www.danieljvance.com](http://www.danieljvance.com).

## ODA adopts rules for clopyralid

The Oregon Dept. Of Agriculture (ODA) has adopted permanent rules that restrict the use of pesticide products containing the active ingredient clopyralid.

The rules prohibit the use of such products on residential lawns, commercial and public turf plantings, school grounds, parks, or recreational areas other than golf courses. Use of pesticide products is limited to agricultural sites, forest sites, right-of-way sites, golf courses and cemeteries.


ODA's action is designed to reduce the potential for clopyralid-treated grass clippings from contaminating compost.

Adoption of permanent rules follows a public hearing and comment period held earlier this year. Temporary rules were adopted in April to restrict the use of pesticide products containing clopyralid.

The Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released a report in March that documented significant residue levels of clopyralid in samples taken from DEQ-permitted compost facilities. The study concluded that grass clippings collected from lawn and turf areas appear to be the major contributing source of clopyralid residue.

The active ingredient clopyralid kills broadleaf weeds such as dandelions, clover, and thistles. Evidence suggests that when compost originating from grass clippings treated with clopyralid is used to enrich soils, it can harm certain sensitive flower and garden plants. Home gardens of beans, peas, and tomatoes may be most at risk, although the herbicide only affects the plant's growth and not humans consuming the produce.

In adopting the rules, ODA worked closely with DEQ, Oregon Compost Council, Metro, Oregon State University, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and product registrants.



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### Trivia Time by Walter Branch

1. What musical's German tour production started Donna Summer on the road to success?
  2. What husband-and-wife duo was featured in the comic strip, "Bringing Up Father"?
  3. How many of the Marx Brothers appeared in "The Story of Mankind"?
  4. What was the name of the shaving lotion that gave "any man the license to kill...women"?
  5. Who played Myrna Turner, Oscar Madison's secretary, on "The Odd Couple"?
  6. What boxer divorced his wife, Sonji, in 1966 because she wore her pants too tight, painted her face and swore too much?
  7. What group's seven-minute version of "You Keep Me Hangin' On" was its only hit?
  8. What co-author of "Fail-Safe" also co-authored "The Ugly American"?
  9. Who succeeded Levi Eshkol as Israeli prime minister in 1969?
  10. What did Frank Sinatra call "phony and false, written and played for the most part by cretinous goons"?
- Trivia Time Answers  
"Hair's"; 2. Jiggs and Maggie; 3. Three; 4. 007; 5. Penny Marshall; 6. Muhammad Ali; 7. The Vanilla Fudge's; 8. Eugene Burdick; 9. Golda Meir; 10. Rock and roll  
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### Sports Challenge by Walter Branch

1. What basketball star's last game in Madison Square Garden elicited testimonials from Dr. Ruth and Joyce Brothers?
  2. Who became the first 200-pounder to win the U.S. Women's Open golf championship?
  3. What pitcher did the St. Louis Cardinals trade to the L.A. Dodgers for Pedro Guererro?
  4. What athlete turned down an offer of \$400,000 to pose nude for the German edition of "Penthouse" in 1987?
  5. How many second quarter touchdowns did the Washington Redskins score in their 42-10 win in the 1988 Super Bowl?
  6. What Baltimore Orioles junior passed Stan Musial on the consecutive games-played list in 1987?
  7. What cereal company shelled out \$58 million for sports sponsorships in 1987?
  8. Who was the NFL's highest-paid running back in 1988?
  9. Who said J.C. Snead was "so ugly that his parents tied pork chops around his neck so that the dog would play with him"?
  10. What boxer spent \$178,314 on clothes in 1987?
- Sports Challenge Answers  
1. Julius Erving's; 2. Laura Davies; 3. John Tudor; 4. Steffi Graf; 5. Five; 6. Cal Ripken Jr.; 7. Nabisco; 8. Erick Dickerson; 9. Lee Trevino; 10. Mike Tyson  
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## House passes landmark road, bridge bill

The House of Representatives re-passed a landmark transportation package that will pump more than \$2 billion into the economy and will create thousands of jobs for Oregonians. House Bill 2041 represents the largest bridge and road financing plan the state has seen in the past 20 years.

"It has been a long road, but we finally have a complete package that will allow us to invest in our roads, our bridges and our economy," said Representative Alan Brown (R-

Newport), carrier of the concurrence motion and Chair of the House Transportation Committee. "Every region of this state as well as every citizen will, in some way, benefit from this landmark legislation."

The plan proportionally increases car and truck fees, raising \$113.6 million that will be bonded to improve Oregon's bridges, highways, roads and streets over the next 10 years. Registration fees will increase by \$12, title fees will increase

by \$25 and various other fees associated with the DMV will be increased. Currently, Oregon has the lowest registration fee in the country.

The package is expected to create approximately 4,750 family-wage jobs in road construction and maintenance sustained annually for the next 10 years. The bill was passed by the House last month, modified by the Senate and sent back to the House for concurrence. The Governor is anticipated to sign the bill.

## Job market slow in June

Five of Oregon's 31 labor market areas lost more jobs than they gained in June. In the prior two years, only two or three areas lost jobs in June.

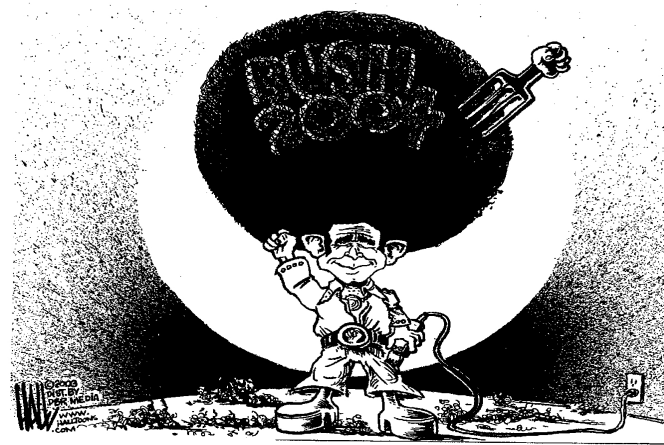
The Portland area's loss was particularly unusual.

However, some areas showed normal job changes and a few showed sings of real job growth.

Josephine County added 460 jobs to its non-farm employment in June and has 170 jobs (.7 percent) more than in June 2002.

Over-the-year strength in retail trade overshadowed a decline in wood product manufacturing.

Jackson County added only 140 jobs in June but continues to have more jobs—520 (.7 percent) more in June—than it did a year earlier.



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