

Family Living

The Portland Observer

Groups Call on Kitzhaber to Keep Food Stamps Available

A coalition of anti-hunger and labor organizations called on Governor Kitzhaber to seek waivers from a harsh provision of last year's welfare reform limiting food stamp benefits to three months out of a three year period for 18 to 50 year old recipients without dependents who are not fully working. The groups, Oregon Food Bank, Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, the Oregon Building Trades Council, and the Oregon Law Center, recently sent a letter to Kitzhaber requesting that he seek a waiver from the time limit requirements for sixteen (16) Oregon counties officially designated as "labor surplus areas" by the US Department of Labor.

The new welfare reform law signed by President Clinton August

22, 1996 restricts able-bodied adults age 18-50 without children who are working under 80 hours a month to only 3 months of food stamp benefits in a 36-month period.

The Act grants the US Secretary of Agriculture the authority to waive this harsh time limit for an area of a state that has an insufficient number of jobs. In the letter to Kitzhaber, the groups noted, "It is imperative that Oregon utilize all available means to mitigate the harmful effects of this time limit provision." The groups noted that perhaps as many as 10,000 Oregonians face losing their benefits March 1, 1997. Approximately, twenty-nine thousand Oregonians received notices December 1st telling them they may lose benefits March 1st.

Of particular concern to the groups, is the demand already placed on private non-profit organizations. For example, the Oregon Food Bank's statewide network is currently serving over 400,000 Oregonians with emergency food each year and would be hard pressed to handle increased demand if 10-29,000 Oregonians lose food stamp benefits.

"There is no need to deny food stamps to people who are jobless and go hungry," noted Sara Fleming, Executive Director of the Oregon Hunger Relief Task force.

"Requesting waivers can help mitigate the harsh time limits in areas of the state where there is a labor surplus. And because Food Stamps are fully federally funded, there is no cost to the state," she added.

Electronic encyclopedia available

IBM's New 1997 World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia Deluxe Edition

Today IBM announced the availability of The 1997 World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia Deluxe Edition. The double CD-ROM combines the quality content parents have grown to expect from World Book with the latest Internet and multimedia technologies that make achieving high marks on homework assignments fun and easy.

"The 1997 World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia Deluxe Edition provides unmatched depth of content, and easy-to-use search features," said Jim Firestone, general manager of IBM's Consumer Division. "The package represents the superior quality and motivational technologies that parents need in learning tools today.

Parents know they can trust the IBM and World Book brand names."

A comprehensive education resource, The 1997 World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia Deluxe Edition's content is tailored to school curricula with help from some of the nation's top boards of education and curricula advisors as well as thousands of students worldwide. As a result, article topics are written specifically for users in the fourth grade through high school and beyond.

"Over the last eight decades, World Book's commitment to meeting and exceeding the needs of students, parents and teachers has been our top priority. By listening to our customers, we have developed a

reference and learning product that showcases what they have asked for—all in a dynamic and interactive CD-ROM format," said Ralph Schey, CEO of World Book, Inc. "Our partnership with IBM reflects a common commitment to raising the bar on accuracy and excellence in learning."

The 1997 World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia Deluxe Edition brings information to life in an exciting and engaging way. From historic events, such as the invasion of Pearl Harbor, to complex issues like the science of recycling, information is presented in an entertaining and interactive format to help users understand and retain it.

Random House to donate children's books

Random House Juvenile and Merchandise Group has changed its name to Random House Children's Publishing, it was announced today by Harold Clarke, president of the division.

Along with the new name, Random House has announced an intensive literacy outreach program for 1997.

Coinciding with the name change is the 40th birthday of The Cat in the Hat, the popular Dr. Seuss character. Random House Children's Publishing will turn birthday wishes into free books for underprivileged children. For every birthday card sent to the Cat in the Hat at Random House, the company will donate a book to The National Center for Family Literacy. Plans are to donate up to 150,000 books in 1997.

Children can make their own birthday creations, or, to help make it easier for kids to send birthday wishes to the Cat in the Hat, the company will be distributing over half a million pre-addressed birthday cards through bookstores, libraries, museums and postcard kiosks across the country.

"We have always been the leading children's publisher and will continue to publish books of the highest quality. Our new name will better define what we have been and what we are truly about. It is our mission to publish books that engage children in the lifelong love and joy of

reading," said Clarke. "And, our literacy outreach will ensure that many more children will be able to enjoy reading good books," he added.

Random House Children's Publishing is the preeminent publisher of books for children in America today. The company has introduced over 50 book series including: Beginner Books(R), First Time

Books(R), Stepping Stones(R), and Step into Reading(TM), many of which have been hailed by elementary educators and reading specialists as the best on the market. In addition to Children's Publishing, the division includes Random House Children's Media, encompassing all of its children's activities in audio, video and CD-ROM.

Report studies working women

The authors of a study on women's changing lives in America say women gradually are gaining parity with men in the workplace.

"The picture of women in the workplace is one of clear, albeit slow, progress toward equality with men," Suzanne M. Bianchi and Daphne Spain report in the study: "Women, Work and Family in America."

Between 1970 and 1995 the share of women 25 to 54 who work outside the home climbed from 50 percent to 76 percent, with the biggest gains shown by married women with children, according to the study, published Thursday by the independent, nonprofit Population Reference Bureau.

This increase follows steady improvement in women's educational levels, as illustrated by statistics from 1993 compared with 1977.

Among whites, women earned 54 percent of bachelor's degrees in 1993, up from 46 percent in 1977. For blacks with bachelor's degrees, the percentage of women increased to 63 percent from 57 percent.

Women's shares of doctoral degrees jumped from 25 percent to 44 percent among whites and from 39 percent to 55 percent among blacks.

Women have also narrowed their earnings gap, bringing home 72 percent of men's wages in 1994 compared with 59 percent in 1970.

This may not be entirely good

news, however, since the study found that in some cases women's situations improved compared with men's not only because they worked more hours, but because men's wages were relatively stagnant.

On the negative side, the study also noted that, despite their increased time and effort in the workplace, women remain responsible for most housework and child care.

While married mothers scaled down housework from about 30 hours a week in 1965 to 20 hours in 1985, fathers have picked up only part of the slack, increasing from 5 hours to 10 hours weekly.

Bianchi is a professor the University of Maryland. Spain teaches at the University of Virginia.

Rollerblading for kids

Laura Clark, 25, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, who began a cross country trip across the country on rollerblades to call attention to the plight of abused and neglected children, will leave from the entrance to the Santa Monica Municipal Pier, Santa Monica, CA at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, January 4, 1997.

Laura is following Wilshire Boulevard to Mission to Huntington Drive to Foothill Boulevard toward

San Bernardino. Continuing from San Bernardino on a southward route to Riverside, Twenty-nine Palms and along route 62 into Arizona.

She is expected to travel approximately 50 miles per day and should arrive in Phoenix, Arizona on January 13. The entire journey will span some 2,900 miles and will culminate in Washington, DC on March 13 at the National Conference of the Child Welfare League of America, where

she will be met by thousands of child advocates. Sending Laura off on her compelling journey will be Eileen Mayers Pasztor, Director of the Western Regional Office of the Child Welfare League of America and Peter Digre, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, a CWLA member agency that oversees the care of over 70,000 abused and neglected children.

Subsidy program improves family life

At least 89% of Michigan families who participate in the Family Support Subsidy Program say the quality of their family life has improved, according to a Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) survey released today. Of the 89%, more than 60% say their family life has greatly improved.

"It is gratifying to see that this has made such a positive impact in the lives of so many families," said Governor John Engler. "This program illustrates Michigan's commitment to helping people who have a developmental disability remain a part of their family and their community."

The program, which is coordinated through MDCH, provides subsidies to assist families of chil-

dren who have a severe developmental disability. Many of the children who receive the subsidy cannot talk, walk, or feed and dress themselves.

"Supporting families has always been a high priority for Michigan's public mental health system," said MDCH Director James K. Haveman, Jr. "This program enables families to stay together and allows them the flexibility to purchase goods and services locally that help them meet their unique needs."

Families may purchase items that help them keep their child at home, including clothing, education aides, general household expenses, respite care, and medical expenses.

In addition to helping families keep children at home, the program

has helped to reduce the number of children with severe disabilities in state-operated institutions from 104 in Fiscal Year 1985 to only six in Fiscal Year 1995. Without the subsidy, hundreds of other families would likely have needed an out-of-home placement for their child. As of October 1, 1996 nearly 4,500 children with severe disabilities were receiving the subsidy.

"We're very pleased with these results," said Haveman. "It's been proven time and again that children who live with their families thrive within their home environment."

Children with severe developmental disabilities include those who have severe mental impairments, severe multiple impairments, and autism.

AN EVERYDAY SALUTE TO LOW PRICES

Prices Effective 1/08/97 thru 1/14/97 at your nearby Safeway store.



SAFEWAY
Tomato Sauce

- 8-oz.
- Regular or No-Salt

7 \$

1

for

Fresh Oregon Fryers

- Economy Pack • First three
- Whole Fryers, 69¢-lb.
- Cut-up Fryers or Fryer & Half, 89¢-lb.

58¢

lb.



Seedless Red Grapes

- Imported from Chile

98¢

lb.

Look For Your Safeway Weekly Shopping Guide
In Your Oregonian FOODday in the Portland Metro Area... And Save More Shopping At Safeway!

Enjoy Extra Savings With The SAFEWAY EXTRA In-Store Savings Guide
Available at your Safeway store.

PDC
PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING

Date: January 15, 1997
Place: Blazer's Boys & Girls Club
5250 NE MLK, Jr. Blvd.
Portland, OR
Time: 9:00 a.m.

Commission meetings are open to the public. A complete agenda is available at PDC or by calling 823-3200. Citizens with disabilities may call 823-3232 or TDD 823-6868 for assistance at least 48 hours in advance.

PDC is the City of Portland's urban renewal, housing and economic development agency.