

# Health & Science

## New Support For County School-Based Health Centers

Regence BlueCross/BlueShield of Oregon and Providence Health Plan are partnering with the Multnomah County Health Department to provide support to School-based Health Centers (SBHC's) countywide.

Regence BlueCross/BlueShield will provide \$5,000 grants to each of the 11 SBHC's to use over the remainder of the current school year while Providence Health Plan has agreed to pay for the services provided to their members by SBHC's. Both partnerships will enhance the delivery of key services at the health centers.

The centers, located in seven area high schools and four middle schools, provide chronic health care management, such as immunizations, reproductive health visits, and management of chronic diseases like asthma and diabetes to local students. Along with physical health care, the clinics also provide comprehensive mental health services.

## KAISER PERMANENTE TO CREATE GREEN OASIS IN LLOYD CENTER AREA

A gravelly vacant lot near Lloyd Center will soon be transformed by Kaiser Permanente into a tree-shaded refuge amid high-rise development.

Kaiser Permanente inherited the old parking lot in 1994 when it purchased a building at 500 NE Multnomah Street as its main administrative office. Work will begin this spring on turning the quarter-block section along NE Holladay Street between 6th and 7th Avenues into a park-like setting. The Kaiser Permanente Plaza, as the 20,000-square-foot space will be called, will be completed by early summer.

Barbe West, executive director of Kaiser Permanente Northwest, says, "As the City's density increases, this kind of accessible green space becomes more important for Portlanders."

A concrete path crossing the plaza diagonally will lead people

past lawn and birch trees to a paved area with a circular bench.

"This will be a restful green space into which nearby office workers, shoppers and convention goers can come and relax for a few minutes or a whole lunch hour," says West. "It's our way of being a good neighbor to the whole Lloyd Center district."

North Pacific Design of Portland drew up the landscape plan for the plaza. Their design will screen out a two-story parking garage on the plaza's north side with flowering vines growing up vertical supports. Sidewalks around the plaza will also be repaired and additional street trees planted.

General contractor for the project is Cascadian Landscapers, Inc., of Portland.

Kaiser Permanente is a prepaid, group practice health maintenance organization serving the health care needs of about 430,000 people in Oregon and Southwest Washington.



## "Immunize '98 Campaign"

Clinics will offer FREE Vaccinations Statewide



Chicken Pox. Measles. Mumps. Hepatitis. Polio. What do these diseases have in common? They are just a few of the many diseases that harm our children every year. What's the worst part about them? They shouldn't even exist.

In the era before vaccines, millions of American infants died from these childhood diseases. Even today, more than 33% of Oregon's children are still not adequately immunized before the age of two and are at risk of serious illness.

To help increase immunization rates, the Oregon Preschool Immunization Consortium (OPIC), in partnership with McDonald's Restaurants of Oregon and SW Washington, will sponsor its annual event, the "Immunize '98 Campaign." The campaign includes a month long

awareness campaign beginning April 1, as well as holding FREE immunization clinics throughout Oregon during April 19-25.

OPIC, a statewide public and private partnership between health professionals, health care systems, business owners, local and national organizations and government agencies, has helped generate immunization awareness for the last five years.

"This our strongest effort to help eliminate illnesses that we shouldn't be seeing anymore," said OPIC Chairwoman Nancy Church. "We hope everyone takes this time to check their children's vaccination status, and if necessary, get their child up to date through their provider or at one of the free clinics."

## Southwest Airlines Sends Doernbecher Kids On Road With Blazers

Children undergoing oncology treatment visit Disneyland and catch a Blazers game in Los Angeles

Some very special children went to Los Angeles and Disneyland courtesy of Southwest Airlines and the Blazers. Four Oregon youth who are currently in various levels of treatment for cancer at Doernbecher Children's Hospital and their families took a trip to visit Disneyland and to watch the Blazers play the Clippers at the L.A. Memorial Sports Arena. The families were provided generous accommodations at the Anaheim Hilton for easy access to the Magic Kingdom during their two-day visit. Following the game the families also received a hosted reception with the Blazers team at the Sports Arena.

"This is our second year of teaming-up with the Blazers to host these families, especially the kids, to a well-deserved trip to another NBA city," said Tara Desrosiers, area marketing manager for South-

west Airlines. "There isn't anything else quite as fulfilling as giving these kids, their siblings and parents a little escape during a challenging time."

"These families were extremely excited to be given this opportunity," said Kathleen Shelton, director of development for Doernbecher Children's Hospital. "They are all great Blazers fans and were the official cheering section for the Blazers in Los Angeles!"

Doernbecher Children's Hospital treats 80% of the region's children afflicted by cancer and accepts families regardless of ability to pay. The hospital is preparing to open their new facility that will replace the aging, crowded facility that is currently being used. The new, state-of-the-art hospital will improve the medical staff's ability to care for the children, as well as provide a friendlier place for children and their families. Grand opening celebrations for the hospital begin in May.

## FDA APPROVES NEW TEST FOR PROSTATE CANCER

A new blood test that more accurately detects prostate cancer has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Known as the "Free PSA" test, this screening device can help determine whether men actually have prostate cancer or just a benign prostate condition.

Baylor College of Medicine in Houston was one of seven medical centers across the nation that conducted clinical trials of the test, which received FDA approval March 11.

"The Free PSA test should reduce the number of unnecessary prostate biopsies and ease the anxiety of many men at risk for prostate cancer," said Dr. Kevin Slawin, who directed the clinical trials at the Department of Urology's Baylor Prostate Center.

High levels of prostate specific antigen (PSA), a protein produced by the prostate, can indicate prostate cancer. But they also can result from noncancerous conditions.

A PSA level of zero to four is considered no or little risk of cancer. A level greater than 10 is associated with a high risk.

But men whose total PSA test measures between 4 and 10 are in a "gray diagnostic zone," said Slawin.

### NEW GENE FOR INFANT

#### SUDDEN DEATH IDENTIFIED

The gene responsible for idiopathic ventricular fibrillation (IVF) has been discovered by researchers at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

IVF, a heart rhythm disorder that has caused the deaths of such famous athletes as Reggie Lewis, Hank Gathers and Pete Maravich, often strikes the young and otherwise healthy. Each year, IVF causes more than 300,000 sudden deaths in the U.S. alone.

"This discovery is likely to lead to early identification of individuals at risk for sudden death and lead to the development of new therapies, potentially saving many lives in the future," said Towbin. "In many cases, the problem is due to a genetic abnormality, leaving family members at risk for the same untimely outcome," said Wang, and assistant professor of pediatrics.

### Become a Professional Childbirth Assistant

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director of the Baylor Prostate Center. "This moderately high level might or might not be due to cancer."

Because nearly all prostate cancers that are detected before the cancer has spread outside the prostate can be cured, many patients with a moderately elevated PSA have undergone biopsies in an effort to detect cancers at the earliest stage possible.

The Free PSA test was designed as a follow-up test to the total PSA test. "It is expected to spare many men an uncomfortable and costly

biopsy when the test results indicate the moderately high PSA level is due to benign prostatic hyperplasia, a common swelling of the prostate in older men, rather than cancer," Slawin said.


Clinical trials of the Free PSA test detected 95 percent of prostate cancers. The cancers not identified by the test were more likely to be small and not life-threatening.

The American Cancer Society estimates that 184,500 American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year, and more than 39,000

will be killed.

The prostate is a walnut-sized sex gland in men that makes the fluid that carries sperm. Surgery is the standard treatment for prostate cancer, the second leading cause of cancer deaths in men.

Clinical trials of the Free PSA test involved 773 men between the ages of 50 and 75 who had total PSA levels between four and 10 and non-suspicious digital rectal exams. The test was developed by Hybritech Incorporated, a subsidiary of Beckman Coulter in Fullerton, Calif.



# May Day

## Celebration!

Celebration of Life, Love and the coming of Spring at McMenamins Kennedy School. This is one of our biggest events of the year! Festivities start at 2:00 on Friday May 1. There will be live music, an artist fair, a plant sale, May Pole Dancers, Irish Dancers, Jugglers and Magicians, Bagpipers, balloon artists, and roving minstrels. Kennedy School is located at 5736 NE 33rd, Portland. Parking is located in the rear of the building and at the old grocery store on 33rd just south of Killingsworth. For more information please call (503) 249-3983.

<u>Bands</u>	
John Koonce and the Gashogs	7-10pm
Terry Rob	7-10pm
Ralph Archenhold	5-7pm
Jane Doe	2-5pm
Marching Band	5:30-8:30pm

<u>Other performers</u>	
Irish Dancers	4-5:30pm
Magic act	5-7pm
May Pole Dancers	3:30-5:30
Juggler	4:30-7:30pm
Artist and plant sale	2-9pm
Bagpipers	3:30-6:30pm
Balloon Artist	4-8pm

**McMenamins Kennedy School**  
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