

Family Living

Just For The Joy Of It!

Celebrate Oregon's rich cultural heritage with six fabulous noon-time musical performances! Northwest Inupiaq Dancers will kick off this free music series on Friday, July 10 from Noon-1:00 p.m. on the Oregon History Center Plaza.

Alexander Muktoyuk, master artist of Inupiaq traditional dance, is a skilled storyteller and dancer. An Oregon resident since 1967, Muktoyuk passes on the traditional dances he learned as a child on King Island in the Bering Straits. All Inupiaq dances tell stories through the words of a song and the gestures of the dancers.

Just for the Joy of It! is a lively series of traditional music ranging from Mexican Mariachi music to Obo Addy's traditional Ghanaian music of talking drums, bells, and shakers. The music series is organized by the Oregon Folklife Program of the Oregon Historical Society and sponsored by US Bank.

The Oregon History Center is located in downtown Portland's South Park Blocks at 1200 SW Park Avenue. The music series is free and the public is invited to bring a lunch and experience Oregon's thriving cultural heritage. For more information, please call 503/222-1741.

Community Children's Fair in Portland

A Community Children's Fair will take place Saturday, August 15, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Games, music, food, free giveaways, and a raffle will be provided throughout the day for parents and children to enjoy.

Information will also be available about childhood development as well as helpful parenting tips. Many local agencies will have booths there with staff members available to answer questions.

Any families concerned about the level of lead in their homes are encouraged to have their child screened

at the free testing clinic on site, so that preventive action can be taken as soon as possible if needed.



The fair is sponsored by Volunteers of America Common Bond, Adult and Family Services, Albina Ministerial Association, and Albina Head Start.

Resources at the fair will be targeted to families in North and North-east Portland, but all are

welcome to stop by. Common Bond is located at 4919 NE 9th just off of Alberta. For more information, call 503-280-1616.

National Outstanding Program Award Goes to The Haven Project at the Blazers Boys & Girls Club

The Haven Project, which pairs veteran actors and theater professionals with young children at the Blazers Boys & Girls Club in Northeast Portland, has received the prestigious Outstanding Program Award from Boys & Girls Clubs of America for being one of the best youth programs in the nation.

Portland actress Gretchen Corbett, who founded The Haven Project in 1996 at the Blazers Club based on a similar program she witnessed in New York City, has successfully paired over 300 professional actors, writers, directors, and musicians with Club members, most of whom come from low-income families, with profound results. Blazers Club staff and parents of Club members point to formerly shy, sensitive kids who have blossomed into confident, outspoken young actors and playwrights through involvement in the program.

According to Blazers Club Director Linda White, "Gretchen's tireless efforts to showcase our kids' creative theater works through public performances in real theaters has given our young artists a tremendous sense of value." The Haven Project has used the Newmark Theater at the Performing Arts Center to stage plays written by kids and performed by some of the city's top



actors with original music scores and sets painted by professional artists. New plays will be performed on July 24-25. The performances are free, but reservations are requested can be made by calling 285-9113.

The Outstanding Program Award was presented to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland at the annual Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Conference held in Orlando, Florida, in front of

2,000 Boys & Girls Clubs professionals from around the nation.

"This award is a real tribute to Gretchen's belief that exposing children to art can have life-altering effects, and it's a real honor for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland and for our city to be recognized for this wonderful collaboration," said Virginia Hensen, Executive Director of Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland. "Recognition like this will help our ef-

orts to bring The Haven Project to all our other Clubs," Hensen said.

The Boys & Girls Clubs operate four Clubhouses and two extensions in Portland schools which are open to all boys and girls ages 6-18. General Club membership is \$15 for the school year and \$15 for the summer. For more information regarding the Blazers Club or The Haven Project, call 282-8480.

The Bank of America Jammin' Science Fest Returns To Portland With Out-Of-This-Galaxy Star Lab/Science Exhibits

The Bank of America Jammin' Science Fest, a free event for families and youth organizations, is returning to Portland on July 14 and features an out-of-this-galaxy star lab, cosmic experiments, and more earthly fun with puzzles and brain teasers. Enrollment brochures are now available at local Bank of America branches.

Open to kids ages 5 to 14, the Bank of America Jammin' Science Fest is expected to attract nearly 700 kids to the Portland event, to be held at McMenamins Kennedy School, 5736 NE. 33rd. Pre-registration is required and enrollment is available on both an individual family basis or for groups such as local youth care

organizations.

Launched in 1995 to address the need for science education, the Bank of America Jammin' Science Fest has since helped more than 12,000 kids discover how fun and interesting science can be.

"Now in its fourth year, the Bank of America Jammin' Science Fest uses hands-on activities and experiments in its curriculum, which is exactly what educators and kids alike are saying they need," says Larry Ogg, Bank of America area executive of Oregon and southwestern Washington. "For example, a recent national Science Foundation survey found nine out of ten students stated the best way to learn science is to

observe things and then do experiments, and many educators are incorporating this approach when teaching science."

The Bank of America Jammin' Science Fest is part of the Bank of America Jammin' Kids Camps, a free series of camps designed to help kids do their best and offered throughout the Northwest. By exposing children to diverse interests, including athletics, science and the arts, Bank of America Jammin' programs aim to encourage creative and critical thinking, foster teamwork and build self-esteem.

Parents can call the Bank of America's customer service line at 1-800-243-4778 for more information.

Child Safety Seat Resource Center Kicks-Off Summer Awareness Campaign

Doctors and Specialists Urge Parents To Get Their Child Seats Checked During The Busy Summer Travel Months

The Child Safety Seat Resource Center, Oregon SAFE KIDS, Legacy Emanuel Hospital and McDonald's Restaurants are kicking off a summer-long awareness campaign to help educate parents about the importance of proper installation of child car seats.

More than 85% of child seats are

installed wrong!

Because family travel increases during the summer months when children are out of school, a special event will be held to demonstrate the importance of proper child safety seat installation.

Doctor Linda Erwin, trauma surgeon at Legacy Emanuel, has seen many children who have been victims of crashes without the benefit of child safety seats. Having never used a child safety seat personally,

Dr. Erwin does not understand why they are so difficult to install. She will install a safety and have it evaluated by Andrea Dervin, specialist for the Child Safety Seat Resource Center.

McDonald's Restaurants of Oregon and SW Washington has partnered with the Child Safety Seat Resource Center to help provide educational materials in their stores as well as sponsor car seat clinics throughout the area.

Revenue Department Begins Federal Retiree Refund Process

In response to today's announcement by Governor John Kitzhaber and Attorney General Hardy Myers, the Department of Revenue (DOR) has begun work on the process that will lead to the issuing of refunds to federal retirees.

The department will receive further direction from proceedings in the Oregon Tax Court and from legal advice from the Oregon Department of Justice. Immediately upon receiving their direction, DOR will work to identify affected retirees and develop criteria to determine individual refunds.

At this time, federal retirees do not need to take any action. DOR will develop instructions, and already has begun developing a simplified form to facilitate refunds. Federal Retirees seeking the latest information updates should access the department's web site, telephone information system, and press releases.

DOR estimates the total amount of refunds at \$300 million, however, this figure could be substantially affected by several factors including court interpretation and individual taxpayer information. These refunds will be paid out from the

same source as other tax refunds, that is from tax receipts. The September revenue forecast of the Office of Economic Analysis will reflect these payments.

For additional information, taxpayers may contact DOR's Tax Help number at (503) 378-4988. The Web site address is www.dor.state.or.us. Spanish speakers may call (503) 945-8618. For TTY (hearing or speech impaired only), the year-round toll-free number within Oregon is 1-800-886-7204. In Salem the number is (503) 945-8617. These numbers are answered by machine only and are not for voice use.



Just think: Your son is bright, healthy and headed for college one day. You love the direction your career has taken. You're doing a lot of the things you planned and even a few you didn't. Living life to the fullest is easy when you have family behind you. American Family Insurance. Call and talk to one of our helpful, friendly agents. You'll find out why we're consistently rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best, the insurance rating authority. Then, go on. Dream. Plan. What you do next is up to you and we'll be here to help you.

You have family behind you.

All Your Protection Under One Roof.



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