

Family Living

Feat Of Oregon Presents Autism Treatment Conference



Families for Early Autism Treatment (FEAT) of Oregon is proud to present the Innovative and Effective Interventions for Autism conference, January 28-30, 1999.

To be held at the Portland Marriott, the conference features leading autism researchers including Dr. Patricia Krantz, executive director of the Princeton Child Development Institute; Dr. Tristram Smith, research director of the UCLA Multi-Site Replication study, and Dr. Marie Bristol-Power, of the National Institute of Health, who coordinates the newly formed International Autism Collaborative Network on neurobiology and genetics.

At this conference, parents and education and medical community will be able to learn more about practical interventions for autism from expert researchers and practitioners. These interventions target specific problems and skill deficits experienced by almost all children with autism.

A fundraising evening, "Dining with the Doctors," will take place on Friday, Jan. 29, 1999 at 7 PM. Held during National Autism Awareness Month, this event will

raise money for the Child Development School of Oregon. The conference will also raise money for Level II therapists for the Northwest Young Autism Project in Vancouver, Wash.

The Child Development School of Oregon is the first intensive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) based school for children with autism in Oregon. ABA is the only treatment that has been scientifically proven effective, and is the only autism intervention recognized by the National Institute of Health. The school's mission is to optimize the potential for each student's participation in all aspects of community life, from diagnosis throughout their lifespan. Services include center-based instruction, outreach to home-based programs and schools, and university-affiliated graduate programs for staff which will include on-site practicums.

FEAT of Oregon is a nonprofit organization established by a small group of parents dedicated to promoting intensive early intervention services for children with autism and to providing a supportive network for their families.

Albina Branch Library To Close For Construction

Multnomah County Library's Albina Branch Library, located at 3605 NE 15th St. will close for construction at 5 PM on Sunday, Jan. 10.

The branch library currently occupies rented space in a building at 15th and Fremont streets that has been purchased by Nature's Northwest, which is renovating the site for a new store and shopping center. Both the opening of the shopping center and the reopening of the Albina Branch Library are scheduled for late May.

When the 3,500 square-foot Albina Branch Library reopens, library patrons will find updated shelving that meets new seismic standards, upgraded restrooms that meet codes set by the Americans With Disabilities Act, 12 new computer stations with Internet connectivity, new furniture and reconfigured information/circulation desks for better traffic flow.

While the branch library is closed, library users will be urged to use the Hollywood Branch Library at 3930 NE Hancock.

Voters approved general obligation bond funding to finance Multnomah County Library's branch renovation project in 1996, responding to problems caused by long-deferred maintenance, new seismic codes, new Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and the need for electronic infrastructure to support new technology. The multi-year project, expected to be completed in 2002, includes improvements to nine libraries. Central library, which opened in April 1997 after an extensive renovation, and the Midland Regional Library, which opened in September 1996, are not part of the project.

Albina Branch Library patrons and others who would like to receive ongoing informational mailings about the project may register at any branch of the Multnomah County Library or by calling 248-5402.

Ongoing information about the project is also available via home, office or in-library computer on the library's web site (<http://www.Multnomah.lib.or.us/lib/>).

Children's Museum Celebrates 50 Years of Making Learning Fun!

Birthday Bash Set for February 27

You might spot Elvis and other "stars" of 1949 at the Children's Museum's big 50th birthday bash, on Saturday, February 27, 1999. The free community party, from 11 AM-3 PM, will be held at the future home of the Museum, the old OMSI building at Washington Park.

Children can bring their bikes and trikes to decorate and "test drive" on an indoor raceway. Paint a giant mural or design a sculpture out of blocks. Plunge back into the "good old days" with a visit to our time capsule where youngsters can play with toys that delighted their parents and grandparents.

There'll also be free refreshments, musical entertainment, puppets and lots of surprises - plus a chance to see what we're planning for our new, \$9.9 million home when we move to Washington Park in late 2000/early 2001. The anniversary celebration is presented by Volvo Cars of North America, Jim Fisher Volvo and Herzog-Meier Volvo, as well as major sponsor The Oregonian, and media sponsors Portland Parent, KINK fm102 and TCI Cablevision.

The Children's Museum was founded as a "downtown west side play area" by legendary Portland Parks Director Dorothea Lensch. Originally located in the stately Jacob Kamm House - where Lincoln High School now stands - it offered everything from a pet lend-



A "pet lending library" was one of the features of the Children's Museum when it opened in 1949. The Museum will celebrate its 50th party at a free community party on Saturday, February 27, from 11 AM till 3 PM at the future home of the Children's Museum (the old OMSI building at Washington Park).

ing library to classes in woodworking and rowing. Called the Junior Museum and Adventure House, it was one of only seven children's museums in the country; today, there are more than 150! Over the years, the Portland Children's Museum has delighted millions of children who now bring their children and grandchildren here to play, cook up a make-believe lunch in the Bistro or experiment with pumps in H2O!

Some of the treasures we've collected over the last 50 years will be the focus of a new exhibit - "Wacky, Wild and Woolly" opening January 30, at our current facility in SW Portland's Lair Hill neighborhood. Kids can marvel at a real dinosaur egg, shudder at a shark's jaw, and explore a giant birthday cake unlike any they've seen before! The exhibit is sponsored by Key Bank.

To help us celebrate our birthday, we're inviting everyone to send us copies (non-returnable) of their best birthday photos. We'll display them all at our February 27th birthday bash and we'll pick our favorites for special prizes! Send your photos, with name, address and phone number to the attention of Rhonda, at the Children's Museum, 3037 SW Second Ave., Portland, OR 97201.

The Museum, located just off SW Barbur Blvd., is open seven days a week from 9 AM-5 PM. Admission is \$4 for everyone age one and older. For more information, call 503/823-2227.

Half of the Pacific Northwest's Job Openings Don't Pay A Living Wage

The Northwest Policy Center and Oregon Action just released the Northwest Job Gap Study that confirms speculation that the majority of job openings in the Pacific Northwest don't pay enough to support a family.

Forty to fifty percent of job openings pay less than what a single adult must earn to meet basic needs and plan ahead. About 70 to 80 percent of job openings don't meet the needs of a single parent with two children.

"This study shows what working people have known for awhile, that a job is not necessarily a living wage," said Brian Hoop, political director of Oregon Action. "We need jobs that support our families and our communities."

Each of the Northwest states showed strong economic growth in the 1990s, mostly due to population increases and development of high tech industries. Despite the growth, there were indications that the benefits were not reaching all communities.

The Northwest Job Gap Study, conducted by the Northwest Policy Center at the University of Washington's Graduate School of Public Affairs and the Northwest Federation of Community Organizations, is the first to document the job gap for families in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

"The Job Gap project is the first to thoroughly and systematically document the extent to which there is a gap within the Northwest region," said Bob

Watrus, policy analyst for the Northwest Policy Center. "The Job Gap Study provides a valuable tool for those working to create and sustain living wage jobs for the region's families."

A living wage allows families to budget for basic necessities such as housing, child care and savings while paying their fair share of local, state and federal taxes. For a single parent with two children, living wages range from \$14.42 an hour in Idaho to \$16.86 an hour in Washington.

Using 1996 statistics on job openings, wages and employment, researchers found that despite strong growth in the regional economy, the Northwest is not keeping pace with the need for living wage jobs.

In Oregon, for example, there are approximately 253,000 more working age households than there are jobs paying a living wage for a single adult. For each job opening in Idaho that pays at least the living wage for a single adult with two children, there are on average 14 job seekers.

"The job gap is real and policy makers must dedicate themselves to closing it," Hoop said. "Living wage jobs provide underpinnings for a strong community."

The Northwest Job Gap Study brought together individual state steering committees drawn from business, community groups, labor, state and local government to help shape the research and the outreach efforts.

Water Supply Status

The City of Portland Bureau of Water Works completed shutting down the Bull Run conduits at 3:40 AM on Tuesday due to high turbidity in the City's primary reservoirs.

"Essentially, everything is working as it should," according to Water Bureau Chief Engineer, Mort Anoushiravani. "The wellfield exists to provide a back-up supply of clean drinking water during periods of high seasonal demand, emergencies, or situations such as this. We have plenty of water but the recent heavy rains following the freeze have created perfect condi-

tions for high turbidity in the reservoirs. We need to let that pass through the reservoirs before turning the conduits back on. Our current estimate is three to five days."

"We are fortunate to have the wells," noted Anoushiravani. "The City experienced a similar situation during the 1996 flooding, relying entirely on well water for several days while the turbid water moved through the Bull Run system. During this event, we will also blend about 4.5

million gallons a day from the Clackamas River system to supplement the wells. We expect to have enough water to meet demand, but we would also appreciate our customers' attention to using water wisely through this period."

The Water Bureau started adding well water to the system Monday afternoon. The Water Bureau routinely notifies large customers and users known to be sensitive to changes in water chemistry (photo

"The City experienced a similar situation during the 1996 flooding"

Low-Cost-Electricity Goes To Market

The Bonneville Power Administration unveiled its strategy for selling wholesale electricity in the 21st century. It is designed to hold electricity bills down for millions of Northwest ratepayers.

BPA aims to maintain its primary wholesale rate at or about the 1996 level through

2006. The agency will put more than 6,000 average megawatts on the block - enough power to serve six cities the size of Seattle. BPA's customers meld this power with supplies they purchase on the market, thereby reducing the cost to their customers. BPA's sales strategy spreads the eco-

nomie benefit among small consumers region wide.

"We will sell power at cost and substantially below market, preserving the low rates historically enjoyed by Northwest residents and businesses," said BPA administrator Judi Johnansen. BPA will begin a rate-setting process early next year, to be

completed next October. The sales will commence in 2001. The marketing strategy is the outgrowth of an 18-month public process initiated by the governors of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana under their comprehensive Review of the Northwest Energy System.