

Family Living

Rabbit Awareness Day

March 28, 1999

The Oregon Humane Society's newly formed volunteer group "Rabbit Advocates" celebrate the "Year of the Rabbit" by hosting the first annual Rabbit Awareness Day on Sunday, March 28. This informative, family event will be held in the Oregon Humane Society's Education Wing located at 1067 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland, from 12 noon until 4 PM.

The intent behind this exciting new event is to increase awareness of the Oregon Humane Society's rabbits available for adoption and to educate you and your family about pet rabbit care. With Easter fast approaching, the Rabbit Advocates want to make sure you do not bring a rabbit into your home unless and until you are prepared to properly care for it. Come to RABBIT AWARENESS DAY on March 28 and learn how - there will be education handouts; presentation by exotic animal veterinarian Dr. Mark Burgess about rabbit health care; examples and hands on instruction on holding a rabbit, clipping nails, and grooming; children's activities; door prizes; and introductions to the rabbits available for adoption at the Oregon Humane Society.

Adoption fee for a rabbit is \$25; spaying or neutering is included. Contact the adoption office for more detailed information on the Oregon Humane Society's rabbit program by calling 285-7722, Ext. 215. The Oregon Humane Society does not encourage giving live animals as Easter gifts (or for any holiday). Rabbits need special care in order to live a long health life (which can be 8 to 10 years).

For more information about the RABBIT AWARENESS DAY, contact Rabbit Advocate coordinator Susan Harrow at 521-1025 or Kathy Neely at the Oregon Humane Society at 285-7722, ext. 235.

Lawn Mower Trade-in and Rebate Program for Fourth Year

To help keep the skies over the Portland region cleaner this summer, Portland General Electric (PGE), Metro and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are offering a \$50 rebate on new electric lawn mowers and \$15 on new push mowers.

From now through September 6, 1999, the first 400 Portland-area residents who drop off their old working gas mowers at Metro Recycling Centers, along with a receipt for any model of a new electric or push-mower, will receive the rebates.

"Most people don't realize that running a gas lawn mower for one hour generates as much pollution as driving a car 50 miles," said DEQ spokeswoman Nina DeConcini. "This program is designed to get 500 gas lawn mowers out of our neighborhoods, which will eliminate 4 tons of pollution that otherwise would be in the skies over the Portland region this summer," she added.

"This program has received tremendous response over the years," said PGE Lawn Mower Program coordinator Terry Worrel. "It gives Portland residents a little extra incentive to make the switch to electric or push mowers and do something positive for the environment."

Old working gas mowers turned in to Metro Recycling Centers will be recycled for scrap metal. Metro Recycling Centers are located at 6161 NW 61st in Portland and 2001 Washington St., in Oregon City. They are open 6 AM to 6 PM daily. For more information, call PGE, 503/612-3500.



Judy Trejano, a traditional Native American musician will be performing on March 14 at Linfield College.

Dear friends and relatives,

We at Wisdom of the Elders (WOTE) extend a hearty welcome for you to attend AN AFTERNOON WITH WISDOM OF THE ELDERLS. The second in a series of multicultural gatherings. It will be held from noon to 5 PM on March 14 at Linfield College's Melrose Hill Auditorium, 900 SE Baker Street in downtown McMinnville. At this celebration, we plan to demonstrate and honor the richness of Native American heritage. At the same time, we will acknowledge the area's Hispanic community and the special role elders play in preserving the peoples' cultural heritage.

Merced Flores, Assoc. Superintendent at the Oregon Department of Education and the new Chief of Staff for Portland Public Schools, will be the keynote speaker, Superintendent of Portland Public Schools, Benjamin Canada, feels Mr. Flores' combination of administrative skills and understanding of ESL programs and disadvantaged student issues are simply unmatched in the education community. Mr. Flores grew up in California as the oldest boy in a family of thirteen children. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology/Sociology and Spanish in 1973 from George Fox College and went on to receive his Master's Degree in Education from Linfield College in 1981. Flores will share memories of

his grandparents and parents and the richness of their cultural values.

Native American speaker, Judy Trejo is a singer, songmaker, linguist, storyteller, herbalist and teacher. Judy received the 1998 INDIE Award in the North American Native Music category. This is the highest award available to a Native American Musician on this continent. In native tongue, Judy sang Tuhvan Dau Ya (Pine Nut Blessing Song) with two of her daughters and in hand drum. She used no guitars or flutes, and no English in this totally traditional Native American presentation. Judy is a member of the Summit Lake Paiute tribe, born in Alturas, California. She has one son, five daughters and ten grandchildren. A retired schoolteacher with a Master's Degree in counseling, Judy has taught Paiute at the college level and has published a book on medicinal herbs and edible plants. Judy has sung traditional songs since infancy and is a member of the Native American Church.

As AN AFTERNOON WITH WISDOM OF THE ELDERLS opens, the Martin High Bear Sun Dance Drummers will play a resounding beat and blessings will be offered by both cultures, including a special Aztec Dance Blessing by Mexican Tlahui Dancers and Theatre Group. Our speakers will share reminiscences

of grandparents' way of life and the richness of cultural values that have been passed on from generation to generation among their people. Music, dance and story telling follows by Ruben Fonseca and his traditional Mexican Quinto Sol, Bobby Torres with Latin and African drumming by Portland Hand Drum, and Rigoberto Hernandez. Honor songs will be sung to the elders for their service in the community as role models to younger generations. To heighten the cultural exchange, the audience can take time to visit educational and cultural displays, and shop at arts and crafts and food tables.

By reaching out to our own Native American as well as Hispanic cultures in Portland's greater metropolitan area, WOTE expects to restore the tradition of honoring elders, acknowledging the priceless contributions they have made to preserve the old ways as they continue to serve as exemplary role models for younger generations.

The entire community is welcome to join in these festivities on Sunday, March 14 at Linfield College's Melrose Hall Auditorium from noon until 5 PM in downtown McMinnville. For more information, you may call Rose High Bear at WOTE by calling (503) 775-4014.

Too Many Children In Foster Care

The citizen Review Board (CRB) is recruiting volunteers to serve on its boards in Multnomah County. Citizens volunteer one full weekday a month to review cases of children in the foster care system.

The population of Oregon in 1996 was estimated to be 88.98% Caucasian, 1.59% African-American, 5.11% Hispanic, and 1.50% Native American. However, according to The Status of Children in Oregon's Child Protection System 1997, only 73.9% of children in foster care were Caucasian; 13.6% were African-American, 6.6% were Hispanic, and 5.0% were Native American.

The CRB is a division of the Oregon Judicial Department that reviews cases of children in the custody of the State Offices for Services to Children and Families (SCF), and of youth in the custody of the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), who have been removed from their homes. These children and youth are in foster homes, group's homes, and residential treatment centers. The boards conduct reviews are attended by parents, foster parents, therapists, attorneys, and SCF caseworkers or OYA parole officers. The boards review each child's case plan, or each youth's reformation plan, identify the

needs in the case, and make recommendations to the Juvenile Court, SCF, or OYA.

The Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court appoints volunteers to serve 2-year terms. There are 22 boards in Multnomah County, and each board meets on a set weekday every month from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Board members spend approximately 8 to 10 hours to prepare for the reviews on their own prior to the board meeting day. Residents of Multnomah County interested in serving on the CRB may call Clayton Kubota at 731-8382 to request an application.

Help For Families Of Mentally Ill

Offered At Oregon Conference Information on new medications, therapies and support groups for the mentally ill will be available to family members and others who attend the annual state conference of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) of Oregon, to be held April 16-18 at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas.

Experts in various fields will participate in workshops and discussions on the latest medical findings, housing alternatives,

counseling services, family support groups, estate planning and other issues relating to the mentally ill. Attendance is open to the public. Joyce Burland, nationally-known mental health activist and creator of a program to help families cope with mental illness, and William Emmett, NAMI Chief Operating Officer, will be keynote speakers.

Information on conference registration is available at the state office of NAMI in Salem, telephone (800) 343-6264.



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