

## African American HIV/AIDS Candlelight Vigil

In 1997, 60.1% of women diagnosed with AIDS in the United States were African American.

In 1997, 40.2% of men diagnosed with AIDS in the United States were African American.

African Americans and other people of color in Oregon are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS. Although they account for only 9% of Oregon's population, people of color accounted for 11% (464) of Oregon's 4,162 AIDS cases reported through 1997.

The first annual African American HIV/AIDS Vigil, commemorating African Americans who are living or have died with HIV/AIDS will take place on Saturday, May 8, 1999. The Vigil will be located at Lutheran Inner-City Ministries, 4219 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., 281-7036, 7:00pm-9:00pm.

Community representatives from the Urban League of Portland,

Brother-To-Brother, Our House of Portland, Cascade AIDS Project, Neighborhood Health Clinics, Kaiser Permanente, the African American HIV Prevention Caucus, the Coalition for AIDS Education, Women's Intercommunity AIDS Resource, Project Network, Multnomah County, and the Oregon Health Division are joining together to create this event. The African American Vigil will help develop awareness about the devastating effects of HIV and AIDS in African American communities and stimulate action by African American community members to fight rising infection rates for gay and bisexual men, women and injection drug users, their partners and children.

Chonitia Smith-Suhailah will act as Mistress of Ceremonies and speakers will include Amanda Houston-Hamilton, a practicing psychologist and an advocate for people living

with HIV or AIDS and HIV prevention, representatives of the local faith communities, and the Project Network Choir (women and their children in recovery) will perform. African American poets will also present commissioned work, and HIV+ African Americans will tell their stories. The event will culminate with a presentation of "The Unknown Panel" and African American AIDS quilt panel which symbolizes those people in African American communities whose deaths from AIDS or lives living with HIV have been unknown or secret due to fear, stigmatization, and isolation. The event will conclude with a candlelight ceremony.

The event is being held on Mothers' Day Weekend to honor and validate the mothers who have cared for and nurtured the sick, homeless, and marginalized members of our communities.

## Child Care Through Local Program

This year more American families than ever before will help make the world a little smaller. By choosing to host an au pair (pronounced o pair) exchange visitor, your family can give a young person from overseas a once-in-a-lifetime experience, while gaining culturally enriching care for your children.

EurAupair (pronounced your o pair) au pairs are carefully screened young adults between the ages of 18 and 26, seeking the opportunity to live with an American family, and help care for the family's children in exchange for the chance to learn more about our culture and lan-

guage. Au pairs speak English, are well educated, healthy and willing to make a 12-month commitment to live as a member of an American family. Au pairs offer family's flexible hours of child care assistance. The children benefit from individualized attention from their new "big sister" in the secure, familiar surroundings of their own home.

This age-old European tradition continues to grow in popularity in the United States. You may even know of families in your own neighborhoods that are already hosting au pairs. Local families with chil-

dren ages 3 months to 12 years interested in hosting an au pair exchange participant from France, Germany, Spain, Scandinavia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Japan, South Africa or French-speaking Canada are being sought by the non-profit EurAupair Intercultural Child Care Program.

If you would like to offer your family an educationally enriching, fun and rewarding adventure - that's practical for you too - then call EurAupair toll-free at (800) 713-2002. Visit our website at [www.euraupair.com](http://www.euraupair.com).

## Providence Prepares For Year 2000

PORTLAND, Ore - Recent national reports have said the health care industry is behind in preparations for the year 2000 problem (Y2K). Providence Health System has spent the past three years preparing its medical equipment, computer systems and facilities to be ready for Y2K issues. As part of this, Providence built one of the most advanced Y2K testing labs in the health care industry to put high priority equipment and systems through rigorous testing.

"Patient care is our highest priority," said Rick Skinner, chief information officer for Providence Health Systems in Oregon. "We have committed significant human and financial

resources to addressing the year 2000 issues. On Dec. 31, 1999, Providence will have all critical medical systems ready, as well as contingency plans in place to care for our patients."

In the mid-1990's, Providence Health Systems began developing its system-wide strategy to prepare for Y2K issues. In 1997, Providence was working with our vendors and inventorying almost 20,000 pieces of medical equipment, computer systems and computerized equipment in its facilities to identify those with date sensitive microprocessors. A plan of action was implemented to remediate possible Y2K issues and make the systems Y2K ready.

The plan established three levels of priority, with the highest given to equipment that had the most impact on patient care and safety. The next priority level included anything with a direct impact on the business continuity of Providence Health System and our business partners. The third level was for all non-patient care areas with little or no direct business impact.

"We've tested most of our mission critical systems and hope to have all testing and remediation done with business continuation plans developed by June 30, 1999," said Skinner. "That gives us six months for further testing and remediation to be ready by Dec. 31, 1999."

The business continuation plans that are being developed will allow Providence to continue providing quality care to its patients and members into the year 2000.

"Providence has provided health care in our communities for more than 140 years, and we'll continue well into the new millennium," said John Lee, chief executive for Providence Health Systems in Oregon.

In Oregon, Providence Health System has six hospitals, three long-term care facilities, two primary care physician organizations, a managed care plan and a variety of other health care services. Providence is Oregon's third largest employer, with nearly 12,000 employees.

school. The proposal would keep the overcollected taxes that belong to Oregon families. It would raise business taxes by 30%, it raids the Tobacco Settlement funds for \$70 million, and then would need to raise taxes an additional \$500 million on all Oregonians.

"It's time we work together to do the job Oregonians have sent us to Salem to do... balance the budget with the revenues Oregonians have given us," continued Adams. "It's time to quit complaining that our neighbors haven't given us enough of their hard-earned money and get busy making the decision on how to balance the budget."

## No Foolin'-Studded Tire Season Ends April 1

Removing Winter Tires Early Helps Control Road Costs

Salem - It is no April Fool's Day joke, studded tire season in Oregon officially ends April 1.

This date coincides with the end of Washington's studded tire season. "April is the deadline. People should be making plans now to have the studded tires off by that date," said Tom

Lulay, executive deputy director, Oregon Department of Transportation.

Drivers using studded tires after April 1 can be fined up to \$150. The damage each year by studded tires are beyond ODOT's financial ability to fix. Lulay said requiring studs probably has reduced the damage, as has the growing use of new "studless" winter driving tires.

Despite that, Lulay said studded

tires do millions of dollars' worth of damage statewide every year.

"Last summer ODOT completed a pavement repair job on I-5 between Salem and Portland. The main reason the work was done was to repair studded tire damage. We spent nearly \$7 million on just that one stretch of highway," said Lulay.

## APRIL

### Garden hints from your OSU Extension Agent

- Early April: fertilize lawn, let spring rains carry the fertilizer into the soil.
- If lawns are becoming thin and sickly, consider overseeding with a mixture of perennial ryegrass and fine fescue.
- Protect dogwood trees, as they begin new growth, against anthracnose diseases. Apply Daconil or a copper fungicide. Rake and destroy fallen leaves spring through fall.
- Help your youngsters start a garden this year with sunflowers, carrots, green beans, pumpkins, sweet corn, and peas.
- Bait for slugs, clean up hiding places for slugs, sowbugs, and millipedes.
- Do not cut foliage of spring flowering bulbs for bouquets.
- Prune and shape spring blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.
- Control rose diseases such as black spot, mildew. Remove infected leaves. Prune ornamental plantings for air circulation and to help prevent fungus diseases.
- Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate generous amounts of organic materials and other amendments as needs are shown by soil analysis.
- Plant early broccoli varieties for western Oregon: Green Valiant, Premium Crop, Packman, Southern Comet.
- Use floating row covers to keep insects such as cabbage maggot adult flies and carrot rust flies away from susceptible crops, or treat soil with recommended pesticides according to label directions to control maggot when planting cabbage family, onions, and carrots.
- Monitor strawberries for spittlebugs and aphids; control if present.
- Cut and remove weeds from near the garden to remove sources of plant virus diseases.
- Spray for apple scab and cherry brown rot.
- Apply commercial fertilizers, manure, or compost to cane and trailing berries.
- Plant gladioli, hardy transplants of alyssum, phlox, marigolds.
- Prepare raised beds in areas where cold soils and poor drainage are a continuing problem. Add generous amounts of organic materials.
- Place compost or well decomposed manure around perennial vegetable plants.
- Check lawns for presence of crane fly larvae, and treat with Sevin, Dursban, or Biosafe.
- Plant these vegetables:

**Oregon coast:** beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, slicing cucumbers, endive, leeks, lettuce, onion sets, peas, potatoes.

**Western valleys, Portland, Roseburg, Medford:** broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, spinach, turnips.

**Central Oregon and higher elevations of eastern Oregon (late April):** peas, radishes, lettuce, spinach, turnips.

**Columbia and Snake River valleys, Ontario:** snap and lima beans, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, sweet corn, slicing and pickling cucumbers, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, onion sets, parsnips, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, summer and winter squash, turnips.



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## Adams Warns Oregon Families - "Hold Onto Your Pocketbooks"

Salem - State Senate President Brady Adams today warned Oregon families to hold onto their pocketbooks after Governor John Kitzhaber proposed raising taxes on Oregon and businesses.

"Why do we need more new taxes when we are going to receive over a billion dollars more from hardworking Oregon families than we have last budget?" Asked Adams. "This is the same Governor that on the campaign trail who said he would not propose sweeping tax increases. Apparently we should re-read his lips."

The Kitzhaber Tax Increase Proposal was announced this morning at a Salem

## MAJOR CONFERENCE TOPIC Oregon's Transportation Strategy

A two-day conference, "Oregon's Transportation Strategy - Who Wins, Who Loses, Who Pays", will be presented Thursday and Friday, April 15 and 16, 1999, at the Portland Marriott Downtown. This first rate conference consisting of top practitioners and key regulators is perfect for lawyers, government officials, planners, regulators, consultants and engineers, land use specialists and anyone in Oregon's changing transportation planning.

"Transportation regulations have undergone major transformations during the 1990's. This important two-day seminar will explore some of the main transportation issues and challenges we face today, including access management, the link between transportation and growth management; and financing needed for transportation infrastructure," according to program co-chairs Mark J. Greenfield, Esq., Attorney at Law; and Wayne Kittelson, Kittelson & Associates.

In Oregon and nationally, attention

has shifted from a predominant focus on highway planning to a "multi-model" transportation network that includes highways, transit, rail, bicycle and pedestrian travel. Oregon's Transportation Planning Rule emphasizes connectivity among transportation modes reduce reliance on the automobile. The federal ISTEA and TEA-21 legislation provides greater flexibility for funding various modes of transportation.

The distinguished faculty includes Christine F. Andersen, City of Eugene; Richard P. Benner, Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development; William R. Blosser, CH2MHILL; Susan E. Brody, Oregon Transportation Commission; Duane R. Cole, city of Newberg; Andrew C. Cotugno, Metro; Grace Crunican, ODOT; Brent Curtis, Washington County; J. Richard Forester, Esq., Grenley, Rotenberg, Evans & Bragg PC; Henry H. Hewitt, Oregon Transportation Commission; Dale K. Hormann, Oregon's Dept. of Justice; and Les Jacobson, WA. State

Other faculty members include Mike Lehman, Esq., Cardinal Services, Inc; Allen Lowe, city of Eugene; Ransford McCourt, DKS Associates; Dan Moore, Rogue Valley Council of Government; Steven L. Pfeiffer, Esq., Steel River; Robert E. Stacey, Jr., Tri-County Metropolitan District of Oregon; Jason Tell, ODOT; Thomas Utbank II, Texas Transportation Institute; Tad Widby, Parson Brinckerhoff; Greg Wolf, Governor's Office; and John Zegeer, Kittelson & Associates.

This conference is sponsored by Law Seminars International, an organization, which provides quality professional education throughout the United States and Canada.

The course is approved in Oregon for 12 hours of MCLE credits. Eligible for AICP continuing professional development program credit. Engineers may submit their professional organization

For more information and registration please call (206) 463-4400 or toll free (800) 574-4852.

# 3:17 a.m.

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