

Family Living

Key ChildCare Bills To Be Signed By Governor

Salem—House Bills 2240 and 2241 were signed into law by Governor Kitzhaber on September 1st in the Governor's Ceremonial Office at 1:10 p.m. These bills are the result of the efforts of advocate groups, including the Oregon Commission for Child Care, who want to ensure each Oregon child has access to safe, dependable and developmentally appropriate child care. Unlike other states, Oregon does not have on-site reviews of family childcare facilities to ensure basic health and safety standards are met. Thanks to three important bills, Oregon is about to take major steps to remedy these problems:

House Bill 2240 – requires the Child Care Division to respond to all serious complaints about child

care businesses. It will provide staffing to review, assess and prioritize all of the complaints received so that on-site investigations can be conducted.

House Bill 2241 requires the state to review all new in-home family childcare facilities before issuing a registration certificate. These on-site reviews will ensure that providers meet minimum health and safety requirements, receive information on childcare health and safety and are made aware of local resources and available training and supporters.

Senate Bill 110—requires family child care providers to take infant and child first-aid/CPR courses, obtain food handling certificates and attend child abuse

detection training before registering with the state.

Rep. Kitty Piercy (D-Eugene) and Sen. Verne Duncan (R-Milwaukie) will be on hand to speak about the efforts to increase safety for Oregon children.

"Parents, providers and community leaders wanted the state to take additional measures to ensure basic health and safety standards for our children in child care," said Rep. Piercy. "On this important issue, the 1999 Legislature stepped up to the plate and made a difference."

Both bills were pushed through by a non-partisan coalition of advocates, agencies and legislators dedicated to improving the health and well being of Oregon children.

Water Conservation Workshop

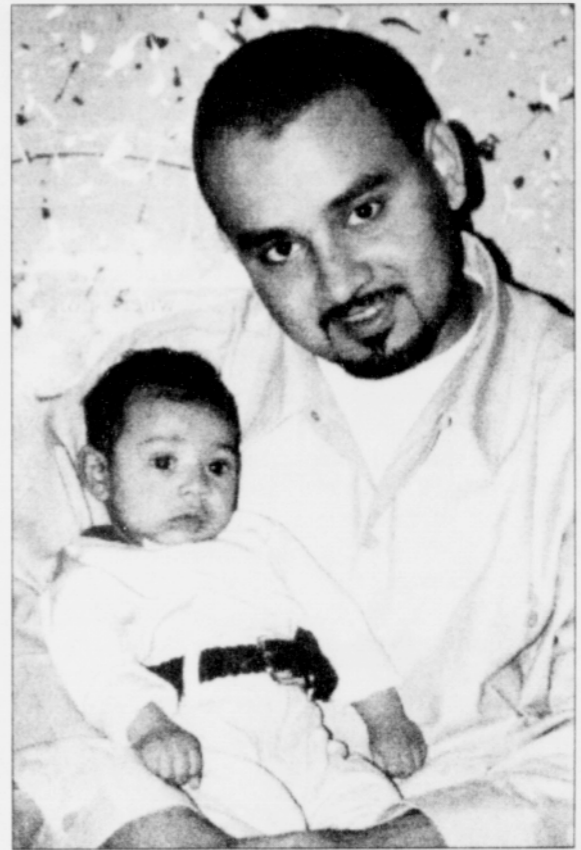
Do you want a free watering can, hose nozzle, wildflower seeds and much more? By attending a free Water Conservation Workshop, you can receive a free kit of water-conservation materials that can help you save up to \$80 a year on your water and sewer bills. The workshop will teach you how to detect leaks around your home, control your water-sewer bill, repair leaky faucets and toilets, and more. We will also share ways we all can live comfortably while reducing water use. All Portland residents will receive a kit worth \$25... for FREE. Call the Community Energy Project at 284-6827 with questions or to register. Sponsored by the Portland Water Bureau.

Wednesday, September 15
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Hosford Community School
2303 SE 28th PL.

Tuesday, September 21
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Ockley Green Community School
6031 N. Montana

Happy 2nd Birthday

Quindrea T. Hines



Quindrea and Ivrin Hines

From Mommy & Daddy

Festival '99 Brings in 14 Tons of Donated Food

In addition to the music and the message, the 90,000 people who attended the Luis Palau Festival '99 at Waterfront Park August 20 and 21 contributed over 14 tons of

non-perishable food to local relief agencies. That's enough food to fill a semi-truck, provide 22,007 meals or fill 817 thirty-five pound food baskets. According to Evelyn

Alexander, Executive Director of CHOW, Churches Helping our World, the donated food will be distributed to ten metro-area churches, the Salvation Army, the

Portland Rescue Mission and Teen Challenge. CHOW will also help direct families in need to food assistance in their area. CHOW may be reached at (503) 295-8094.

African Tourism: Through My Eyes

By Christopher Baldwin

Image stepping off a plane into a country thousands of miles from home. A place where English is spoken but yet very difficult to understand because it's not American English. A place where the government can order an army to clear the streets at anytime due to demonstrations or protests. That happens to take place right outside the building you are visiting.

Better yet, picture yourself walking down a street and someone begins talking to you because you can't understand the conversation, they harass you. They identify themselves as the police, show false identification and demand to see your passport. What do you do?

This can happen to anyone. It happened to me. The key is to be smart. The key is to face your fear.

Tourists are faced with this situation and other problems all over the world. As people begin to want to see more of the world they have to take into consideration their duties as tourists. Possession of a visa, passport, airline ticket, confirmed hotel reservations and the booking of a reputable tour company and guide are just a few things a tourist should ensure to promote a successful vacation.

Questions to consider prior to traveling abroad should include: Did you research the plane in which you want to visit? Is the plane relatively safe for Americans? Are the people and the government involved in conflict? Is your country at conflict with this country? Is it safe to drink the water? Is public transportation available? What is the exchange rate of currency? Do I know enough of their language to communicate?

Tourism can be an adventure for some and a disaster for others. Many travel agencies provide few customer testimonials concerning dealings with tour companies and guides. They primarily recommend the most commonly used companies or the ones with the best reviews. Travel agencies rarely mention stories like the tour guide swindled the poor old couple of thousands of dollars. Nor the Tour Company that left the young group stranded because they couldn't produce more money. Nor about the tourist that were attacked in a world famous tourist area twice in a month (Standard Sunday June 20, 1999).

Although the number of tourist visiting the country are down and the government is unable to spur growth according to the Daily Nation, Kenya should be on your list of places to visit in the near future, if you travel to Africa. From the beautiful beaches of Malindi and Mombasa to the soap-stone factories in Kisii, tourist have plenty of sites to see. If you don't like waterfront attractions or fine arts exhibits, there is always hiking at Me, Kenya. From the breath taking Mau Mau caves to sites overlooking Lake Victoria you're almost guaranteed to enjoy yourself.

There were a few more downsides to visiting this lovely part of Africa. In Nairobi, Kenya, scandals top the headlines of many local newspapers. The government ordered tear gas on peaceful protesters of a proposed budget. In accordance with the turmoil, we also encountered a relatively high amount of air pollution, crowded streets and little respect for traffic laws. Here few obey the traffic lights dangerously over-filled mini-vans, seating as many as 12-15, speed through the streets with window art glorifying Western influences. Street hustlers in business attire dominate the nearly

gridlock city. Tourist stand out, especially those of European descent. Black Americans are also unable to blend due to their distinct dialects.

Despite Kenya being a so-called developing country, there's no need for foreign media to downplay the social reputation of this great country. Kenya is rich with tea and herbs, crafts, historical sites, national safari parks and abundant wildlife. With governmental efforts aimed to strengthen public relations in foreign media and the revamping of the tourist board, big things are in the future for this up and coming country.

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