



Health/Education

Remember April 17th is deadline for tax returns - 2 extra days from Uncle Sam

Old eyeglasses are the gift of sight | Fair will be fun and good for all

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

New Eyes For The Needy asks people to check their desk and bureaus for unwanted glasses, jewelry, watches and hearing aids that are too valuable to throw away but are no longer of use. Those old glasses and other items will find a second life through New Eyes For The Needy and can mean the gift of sight to someone else.

Since 1932 New Eyes For The Needy, Inc. has helped over 5 million people in the United States and over 30 developing nations.

New eyes is a non-profit volunteer run organization which recycles eyeglasses, jewelry, watches and hearing aids to benefit visually impaired adults and children.

Every day social agencies and school nurses across the United States contact New Eyes For The Needy requesting help for adults and children who are unable to see because they cannot afford eyewear. Acting in collaboration with opticians and optometrists, New Eyes provides new prescription glasses at no cost to the individuals.

The recycling of optical gold scrap, donations from individual,



foundation support, and sales of donated jewelry fund this program. Donations of used eyeglasses are processed by some of the two hundred community volunteer on site at New Eyes' headquarters and are given to hospitals and medical missions for needy people in over 30

nations. Recent shipments of eyeglasses were sent to help people in Ukraine, Thailand, India, and Colombia, Mexico and Male, Africa. To request a kit about conducting a collection drive write to us or call 973-376-4903.

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Learn about your local community college the fun way. The Portland Community Fair, sponsored by the PCC Foundation, KPTV 12 and KXL, will offer something for everyone through a staggering variety of exciting and educational activities. Community Fair is set to go from 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, April 15 at the PCC Rock Creek Campus, located at 17705 NW Springville Road, just off of 185th Ave. PCC faculty will be on hand to provide information to the public about the college's career and job opportunities. It's a chance for the community to learn of the advantages of starting a four-year degree at PCC

"Many families and kids are struggling to pay college tuition," said Jan Coulton, director of PCC Foundation. "Community Fair advisors will also counsel older adults who wish to return to school. We offer a perfect opportunity for gain transfer credits at a much lower cost. The event will be helpful to high school senior looking to train for job opportunities in such fields as auto collision repair, diesel services, aircraft or landscape

technology. These fields represent just a fraction of the dozens of training programs available on PCC campuses."

The entertainment planned promises not to disappoint. There will be two performances of "Maiden Pearl" presented by the acclaimed Chinese Puppet Theatre and the "Milagros Bailadores" presentation will explore Latin culture through dance. Also featured will be some of the best local high school choirs and dance troupes around the area combined with PCC's Cascade Campus Jazz Trio performance. For the young at heart, there will be plenty of trucks and planes to explore, and a horse-drawn wagon to ride. Hillsboro Aviation plans a ping-pong ball drop from a

helicopter with prizes for all, and the PCC cafeteria will serve food throughout the day amid clowns, facepainters and jugglers. Don't forget the Washington County Museum, located on campus, which plans and interactive program for adult and children. Plus, there will be new PCC farm lambs and calves that will need plenty of attention by the youngsters.

Come join the fun at this year's Community Fair at the PCC Rock Creek Campus a mere 10 minutes from downtown Portland. Also Tri-Met's line 52 will head straight to the Rock Creek Campus and people can ride the bus from the SW 185th Max Station. For more information, call 503-614-7171.

More newborns will be screened for hearing

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Newborn babies will have a better chance of receiving newborn hearing screening in the 22 states that received \$3 million in grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration to develop and expand universal newborn hearing screening and intervention programs. A national resource and technical

assistance center will also help states link screening with appropriate early intervention.

"Each year, 24,000 babies are born in the United States with some degree of hearing loss,"

Said HRSA Administrator Claude Earl Fox, M.D., M.P.H. "Since early detection is the key to effective treatment, these grants will help assure that more newborns are screened before they leave the

hospital and receive early intervention in the first 6 months."

Today, the average age at which children with hearing loss are identified in the United States is 12 to 25 months of age. When hearing loss is detected late, speech and language development is delayed, affecting social and emotional growth and academic achievement.

"The new four-year grants are the next step in making sure that once

babies are screened and diagnosed with a hearing loss, their follow-up care doesn't fall through the cracks," said the Associate Administrator for Maternal and Child Health Peter C. Van Dyck, M.D. "We want to make sure that screening is coordinated at the community level with diagnostic services, early intervention programs, family involvement and a medical home."

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