

Hospital Garden Begins Journey to Oz

There's still no place like home when you're in the hospital. But, at Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital, employees and volunteers are always working hard to make things as pleasant as possible during a child's stay.

With that in mind, Emanuel's award-winning children's garden recently celebrated their Fall Harvest Festival with a welcomed new guest, the Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz.

"Hospital staff and patients often refer to the garden as being their heart of the Children's Hospital," said Terezia Hazen, Legacy's horticultural therapist. "So, the Tin Man went looking for his heart and found it in Oz, will be the perfect representative for our garden, where miracles really do come true."

The Tin Man is the creation of local artist Mike Barrow, an employee of Baugh Construction, the company that coordinated last spring's remodel of the Emanuel Hospital Emergency Department.

After spending so much time at Emanuel, Barrow felt a vested interest in the hospital and approached the children's hospital foundation with an offer to build and donate the metal Tin Man to the children's garden.

The Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz, a creation of local artist Mike Barrow, is a surprise guest for visitors to the children's garden at Legacy Emanuel's Children's Hospital, 2801 N. Gantenbein Ave.



The Tin Man weighs approximately 300 pounds and stands 8 and a half feet tall, holding a metal bucket in one hand and waving the other.

Baugh Construction donated their time and materials for the installation of the Tin Man.

In the near future, the children's garden will expand

on the Wizard of Oz theme with the addition of a yellow brick path, hand painted by a local artist, and ruby slippers hanging from the trees.

Panel to Address Aging 'Baby Boomers'

Many people retiring over the next 25 years will not have access to the resources needed for self-sufficiency

Gov. John Kitzhaber has announced the formation of a task force on the future of governmental services to seniors and people with disabilities.

"The number of seniors and persons with disabilities has been growing rapidly," said Kitzhaber. "It is essential that Oregon prepare for the aging of the Baby Boomer genera-

tion and for the increasing number of people with disabilities. Our failure to do so will be costly and will significantly reduce the quality of life for these individuals."

Information from the governor's office indicates that many individuals retiring over the next 25 years will not have access to sufficient financial resources to allow

economic self-sufficiency throughout their lives.

Task Force members will focus on finance and cost containment issues, housing and insurance needs, chronic health problems, issues unique to rural urban areas, transportation, workforce training and strategies to replace, modernize or update long term care facilities.

The 25-member Task Force, composed of seniors, people with disabilities, policymakers and representatives from both private and non-profit organizations, will make recommendations to the governor and legislative assembly on improvements to systems serving seniors and people with disabilities in their communities.

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Poor Economy Drives Up Need for Food Stamps

(AP) - The number of Oregonians on food stamps jumped more than 77,000 in September compared with September of last year -- another sign that the state economy is in rough shape.

The 32 percent increase pushed the number of Oregon food stamp users to 315,691, roughly 9 percent of the population.

State economist Tom Potiowsky said there's no question the rise is related to Oregon's unemployment rate, now at 6.4 percent. Many of the recipients likely are minimum-wage workers, who are often the first to lose their jobs in a recession and who don't have savings to tide them over, he said.

Jim Neely, state food stamp coordinator, said it was the biggest year-to-year increase he has seen since 1974, when he started working in the assistance program.

People out of work or whose hours have been cut account for much of the increase, he said. But the food stamp program has also streamlined the application process and is reaching more Oregonians eligible for help, Neely said.



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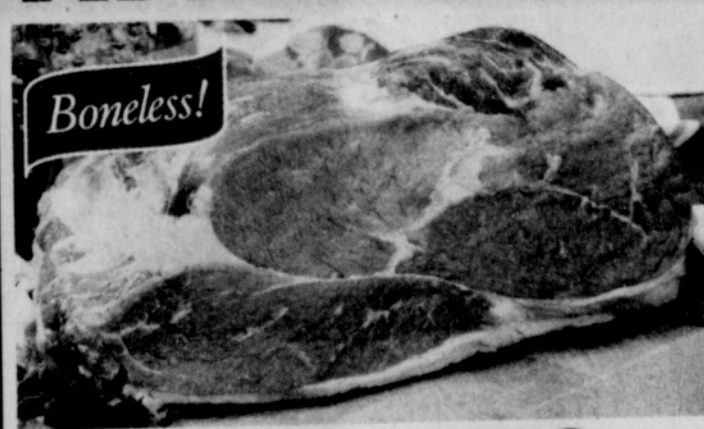
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