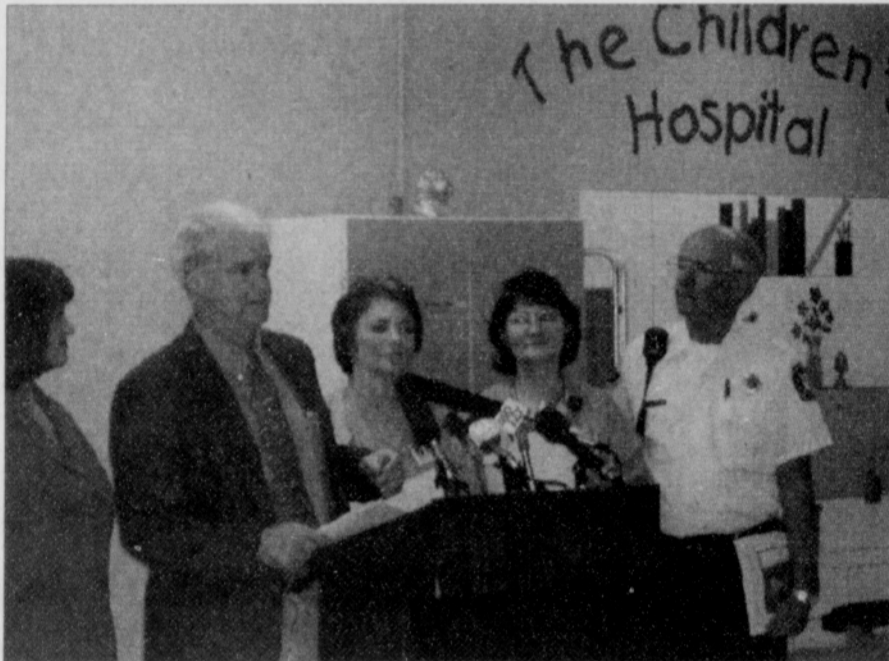




FAMILY

Campaign on "Safe Place for Newborns" Launched

New law allows designated sites for leaving abandoned babies



Sen. Peter Courtney arrives at Emanuel Children's Hospital to promote a new law he sponsored that allows desperate parents to leave their abandoned newborn at a designated safe place to help insure the survival of the child.

Babies born into crisis situations could have a greater chance of survival thanks to a new Oregon law that encourages desperate parents to leave their newborns in a designated safe place rather than abandoning them.

Emergency and medical personnel, elected officials, and state human services officials gathered last Wednesday at Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland to launch an education campaign to raise awareness of the "Safe Place For Newborns" law.

"Safe Place for Newborns" allows a parent to leave a baby 30 days or younger with any employee at a hospital, doctor's office, free-standing birth center, sheriff's office, a police or fire station, or the county health department. As long as the child is

unharmful, the parent will not face criminal charges. The birth parents will not be asked to give their name, but they will be asked to voluntarily provide basic health information.

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for taking custody of the infant and placing them with an adoptive family. DHS is also charged with developing an education campaign about the new law.

Under the law, birth parents who surrender a newborn will receive information to help link them to crisis services from the receiving agency. Birth parents can also get assistance by calling toll free 1-800-SAFENET for information about caring for and raising a child, and about safe options to aban-

donment.

Legacy Emanuel Hospital was chosen for the kick-off because an hours-old newborn girl was abandoned near a coffee cart at the hospital in 1998. Nurses caring for the child named her "Baby Star." Because she received medical services, she survived and was later adopted.

"From a medical point of view, leaving the newborn at a safe site increases the baby's chance of healthy survival enormously," said Jennifer Bissett, one of the Legacy Emanuel nurses who cared for Baby Star.

More information on the "Safe Surrender" law (Senate Bill 199) can be obtained at 1-800-SAFENET, or www.healthoregon.org/AsafePlace.

An Evening of African Culture

The Harambee Centre will celebrate African people and cultures at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry on Wednesday, April 17, from 5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. It will be an evening of African music, dance, food and a silent auction. The keynote speech will be presented by Mark Mathabane.

Mathabane is the celebrated author of "Kaffir Boy," "African Women" and "Miriam's Song." He grew up in the South African township of Alexandra

under apartheid. A love for learning and his dreams of tennis stardom carried him from despair, hate and anger to possibility and hope. Mathabane did what no physically and psychologically battered from the mean streets of Alexandra was supposed to do - he escaped to tell about it. In addition to his writing, he now serves as Director of Multicultural Education at Catlin Gable School in Portland.

The Harambee Center is a new

nonprofit in Portland dedicated to connecting the people of the Pacific Northwest region with the people and cultures of Africa. Its programs include multicultural education for students of all ages, intercultural exchange opportunities, and support for community self-help development projects in Africa.

To reserve tickets or for more information on the Harambee Centre, call Jackie Goldrick at 503-285-8056 or email her at jdgoldrick@aol.com.

Settling a Debt for Less Than You Owe

Paying a reduced amount to creditors equals could mean owing more to IRS

When facing hard times, settling a debt for less than you owe can make good financial sense, but it can also come back to haunt you.

After settling a debt, your creditor should send you and the Internal Revenue Service a Form 1099-C or 1099-A at the end of the year. Both forms are for the reporting of miscellaneous income. When you file your taxes, you'll need to record the amount on those forms along with your income for the rest of the year.

There are several situations when a settled or defaulted debt needs to be recorded as income: a mortgage lender forgives the balance owed after a short-sale of a home or a foreclosure sale; a car lender forgives the balance due after a repossession sale; a credit card issuer takes less than the full amount owed on an outstanding bill; and you have defaulted on a loan and the debt was written off.

Mike Kidwell of Myvesta, the nation's only financial health center explains, "If you have people negotiating on your behalf to help settle a debt, be

careful who you are dealing with. Many companies will tell you to stop paying your bills so that it will be easier to negotiate

a settlement. Not paying your bills is never a good idea. You'll ruin your credit and you could end up owing thousands more."

Locke Signs Mandatory Seat Belt Law

(AP) - Not buckling up in Washington turns into an expensive mistake this year.

Gov. Gary Locke signed a bill last Tuesday making failure to wear a seat belt a primary traffic violation.

That means police can pull motorists over for it. Not wearing a belt is illegal now, but officers can only issue tickets after pulling motorists over for some other reason.

State officials estimate the change will save 36 lives every year and prevent thousands of injuries by boosting the seat belt usage rate.

About 82 percent of Washingtonians buckle up now. State officials hope the new law boosts that to over 90 percent.

Washington State Patrol Chief Ronal Serpas said his officers will crack down when the bill takes effect June 13, handing out many tickets until people get the message.

Failure to wear a seat belt is an \$86 ticket.

Peace Group Tackles School Bullying

The Oregon Peace Institute is planning a workshop on "Peaceful Responses to Bullying and Harassment in the School Environment."

Participants will learn about peace programs being used at schools in the Portland area and will be exposed to different curricula dealing with bullying and harassment among children.

Facilitator Vicky Martin has been an elementary counselor for 10 years. She has also worked in several mental health settings as a counselor and therapist.

The workshop will be held Thursday, April 25, from 6:30-9 p.m. in Room 134 of the First United Methodist Church, 1838 S.W. Jefferson. For more information, call the peace institute at 503-725-8192.

American Stroke Association
A Division of American Heart Association

Stroke Awareness Forum

April 13, 2002 • 9 a.m. - Noon
Oregon Museum of Science and Industry
1945 S.E. Water Avenue • Portland • FREE

Your Sight.

Your Speech.

Your Mobility.

Which can you afford to lose?

Stroke is a leading cause of adult disability and the No. 3 killer of Americans. Learn about the warning signs, treatment, care and your best defenses against stroke. This free forum is hosted by the American Stroke Association and features experts from Legacy Health System, Oregon Health & Science University and Providence Health System.

Participants will receive a voucher for a free stroke screening courtesy of *HealthCheck Screening, Inc.*

Please register by April 9. Seating is limited. To register, call the American Stroke Association at 503 233-0100 or 800 452-9445.

Featured speakers:

- **Paul Ash, M.D.**
Medical Director, Comprehensive Stroke Program at Legacy Meridian Park Hospital
- **Ted Lowenkopf, M.D.**
Medical Director, Providence Stroke Center at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center
- **Helmi Lutsep, M.D.**
Associate Director, the Oregon Stroke Center at OHSU
- **Roger Simon, M.D.**
Director, Robert S. Dow Neurobiology Research Laboratories at Legacy Clinical Research and Technology Center

REACH

RACIAL & ETHNIC APPROACHES to COMMUNITY HEALTH

A PROGRAM OF THE **AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH COALITION**
2800 N. Vancouver Avenue, Suite 100, Portland Oregon 97227; 503 413-1850

Sponsored by the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

What is REACH?

WHY? In Oregon an African American is **twice as likely** as a white American to die from a stroke and almost one & 1/2 times as likely to die from a heart attack. African Americans have a **higher incidence of premature death**, diabetes, stroke, heart attack and high blood pressure.

STAY TUNED...

A **community action plan** to decrease Cardiovascular disease (CVD) in the Oregon African American community. The program, "A Healthy Community Starts with You: Community-Driven Strategies to Lower Risk Factors for CVD", addresses the root causes of the **CVD disparity**.

For more information on our intervention strategies to provide **health education**, strengthened **social support** networks, and **advocacy** skills to combat racism and to help **decrease the disparity** of preventable chronic diseases.