

Health/Education

Road Network Will Quickly Post Kidnappings

Governor adopts the Amber Alert system to help find missing children

(AP)—Gov. John Kitzhaber has launched a new, statewide Amber Alert system to help find abducted children.

Kitzhaber, who signed an executive order establishing the system last week, said time is critical after an abduction and that the new system will let authorities notify the public almost immediately.

"The eyes and the ears of the public and advanced commu-

nications technologies are powerful tools" to help find abducted children, the governor said.

Under the Amber Alert system, a kidnapping anywhere in Oregon will set the new statewide system in motion.

Law enforcement agencies will send alerts to all radio and television stations with descriptions of the missing children, their abductors and other in-

formation. It will be up to the individual TV and radio stations to decide whether to carry broadcast reports about the Amber Alert.

Information about an abduction also will be posted on 38 electronic "reader boards" that are located along Oregon's interstates and major state highways.

Police officials said the Amber Alerts will be used if the

child is believed to be in imminent danger and that the alerts won't be used in most cases involving custody disputes.

Amber Alerts started in Arlington, Texas, after the 1996 abduction of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman. A neighbor saw her kidnapping and gave good information to police, but officers didn't get that information out to the public. Amber's body was found four days later.

Major Greg Willeford of the Oregon State Police said about half the states now have Amber Alert systems, and that only 14 such alerts have been issued in recent years.

"Hopefully, it will be very seldom used" in Oregon, Willeford said, adding that having such a system in place could actually provide a deterrent to child abductions.

Griffin Finishes Work at Human Services

Donnie Griffin of Portland will leave his position as deputy director of the Oregon Dept. of Human Services by the end of the year.

Bobby Mink, the director of the state agency, praised Griffin for taking a key role in the department's first major reorganization since its creation in 1971.

He said Griffin, an expert in organizational change, kept his pledge to work as his chief deputy for 18 months to two years.

"With Donnie's help, we've moved DHS to a new structure

that will give Oregon's most vulnerable residents easier access to the services they need," Mink said.

Cindy Becker of Salem was named to fill the post on Thursday. Becker, 51, previously served as the department's chief administrative officer.

Griffin said he plans to devote more time to his family, to continue with a variety of community service activities, and to focus on future opportunities closer to his home in Portland.



Donnie Griffin played a key role in the Department of Human Services major reorganization.

He will continue to serve on Oregon's Board of Education, to which Gov. John Kitzhaber appointed him in 1997.

Bridge Builders, Latinos Earn Support

Legacy health fund to support programs for at-risk youth

The Bridge Builders, an African American mentoring and scholars program, and the Susannah Maria Gurule Foundation, a Latino leadership group, have both earned grants from Legacy Health System's Community Health Fund.

The Bridge Builders is dedicated to strengthening the African American community by administering African-centered rites of passage programs that promote spirituality, scholarship, entrepreneurship and community building.

The group will receive \$250,000 over the next three years to establish the Mays Scholars program, named after Benjamin E. Mays—the past president of Morehouse College.

The program will enable high school age students, with assistance from their adult mentors, to implement a rite of passage program for eighth grade boys. Research shows that middle school students tend to have less adult supervision while being exposed to greater numbers of high-risk choices.

Fifty eighth grade school boys will meet twice every month to participate in interactive workshops,

attend varsity games, learn African drumming, step dancing, military drills and go on a field trip to a local historical site.

"Throughout the world different cultures have ritualized the passage into manhood and made it a community event," said The Bridge Builders founder Kevin Fuller. "In each culture, the rite of passage process connected the initiate with

In addition to youth presentations, there will be outreach efforts for parents to enhance their parenting skills.

a mentor, indoctrinated the virtues of that community, forced the candidate to be accountable for his life and helped the initiate to make meaning out of his life. This cultural and gender specific approach to rites of passage will be similar to great institutions that have helped African American young men to become scholars — Morehouse in Atlanta

and Richard Allen Academy in New York City."

The Susannah Maria Gurule Foundation will receive \$263,060 over the next three years to establish Las Hermanas, a culturally specific project that will train 30 young Latinas per year in leadership/career development and health education.

These young women will then provide outreach and health education to 100 Latinos per year through group presentations and small group platicas (talks) to be held at churches, schools and other community gathering places.

In addition to youth presentations, there will be outreach efforts for parents to enhance their parenting skills.

"Currently, there are no Latino community based health prevention and education programs in the metro area," said Sonja Steves, vice president of marketing and community relations for Legacy Health System. "A successful health prevention and education program for Latinos must be built on long-term relationship building not only with the youth but also with their families."

Did you Walk 10,000 Steps Today?

Area residents are encouraged to take the 10,000-step challenge.

Walking is a great way to lose weight and improve your cardiovascular health.

Providence Portland Medical Center fitness experts recommend walking 10,000 steps a day, which is equal to 30 minutes of physical daily activity, or five miles. Use a pedometer to help track your steps and take the stairs, park farther away from entrances or deliver items to coworkers instead of interoffice mail to help increase your steps.

Group Develops Studies on Racism

Multi-cultural education follows new Oregon law

Oregon Uniting, a non-profit organization specializing in racial reconciliation and justice, is developing a curriculum for Oregon Public Schools educating students on Oregon's interracial history, spurred by educational bills mandating multi-cultural education.

The curriculum will address the long neglected history of people of color in the state. It will help all students better understand the past racial inequality laws thus shedding light on the current situation of inequality and increasing racial awareness and empathy.

"Our educational efforts will not promote separatism and intergroup conflict as some critics predict," said Niki Toussaint, director of

Oregon Uniting. "Its purpose is not to diminish the achievements of Western Europeans, but rather emphasize that, in spite of tremendous barriers, many groups played a significant role in the development of our state."

A team of seasoned veterans - including Carolyn Leonard, former coordinator of multicultural and multiethnic education for Portland Public Schools and current PPS Compliance officer for Portland Public Schools, and Floyd Pepper, curriculum development specialist — are developing the initial curriculum to be implemented in Oregon schools.

"As school populations in Oregon become more diverse, racial issues will continue to rise," Leonard said. "Understanding and acknowledging historical reasons for racial inequality will help all children to heal and move on from today's racial roadblocks."

The curriculum will be pilot tested in several Portland-area schools this January.

The organization already works extensively with Grant High School, Rigler Elementary and Lane Middle School to facilitate dialogues involving students, parents, teachers and school administration officials focused on racial issues and justice, increasing racial integration and harmony.

Oregon Uniting, based in Portland, was founded in 1998 to promote racial reconciliation and justice through interracial dialogues, educational programs, assistance in racial issues within a community and various racial awareness events. It connects, informs and encourages racially diverse Oregonians to work together to build just, unified communities. For more information, visit www.oregonuniting.org.

REACH

Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health
A program of the African American Health Coalition, Inc.
Sponsored by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Wellness Within REACH: Mind, Body, and Soul Activity Calendar

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Matt Dishman 77 NE Knott		Salsa 6:00-7:00pm Ellis				
Salvation Army 5325 N Williams		Water aerobics 2:00 - 3:00pm Hampton			Old School Dance 6:00-7:00pm Kendrick	African Dance 10 - 11am Addo
Nature's 3535 NE 15th	Aerobics 6:30-7:30 pm Nickerson	Yoga 7:30-8:30 pm O'Rourke	Aerobics 6:30-7:30 pm Nickerson	Water aerobics 2:00 - 3:00pm Hampton	Aerobics 6:30-7:30 pm Nickerson	Weight Room 10-11am TBD
Peninsula Park 700 N Portland		Walking Group 6-7 pm Nickerson				Walking Group 12:30 pm Nickerson
Portland Community College 705 N Killingsworth	Basketball 12-1pm Radja Walking Group 6:30-7:30am Cason		Basketball 12-1pm Radja Walking Group 6:30-7:30am Cason			

**Must be 21 or older to participate. Please check with AAHC before showing up to the first class 503-413-1850. Please receive approval from your doctor before beginning exercise class. All classes are free of charge!

African American Health Coalition, Inc.

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Jefferson High School Class of '72

30 YEAR Reunion

Saturday
November 9, 2002
7:00 p.m. – Midnight

Billy Reeds Restaurant & Bar
2808 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Portland, Oregon

\$25 per person at the door
Buffet provided – No-host bar

To RSVP: (503) 249-1721 ext. 205
or www.classmates.com