Home Heating Costs Sting

continued A from Front

With the local average being between \$2.60 to \$2.74 per gallon, Portland area residents can expect to pay between \$650 to \$685 to fill a 250-gallon tank, which should heat a family-size home for about two months during winter.

Lehr said he has lost a few customers who had hoped that natural gas would be a less expensive way to heat their homes, but it seems those families will also be catching the brunt of the recent increases.

The cost of natural gas is up 15 percent locally. Around the nation natural gas prices are 50 percent higher and electric heating is up about 11 percent.

With the winter months approaching, elderly residents and low-income families may find it hard to stay warm.

The federal government does offer some help through its Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. LIHEAP is a federally funded program to helpeligible lowincome households meet their home heating and cooling needs.

Officials are currently taking applications from senior and disabled residents. The energy assistance opens to the general public on Dec. 1 on a first-come, first service basis until funds run out.

Pacific Power funds the Community Energy Project, Inc. of Multnomah County, which prowith energy education and energy-tion/Navigation1356.html. efficiency programs.

and persons with disabilities conserve energy in their homes.

For individuals who look to make a long-term commitment to ergy loans and tax credits may be energy efficiency, the state of- found at http://egov.oregon.gov/ fers low-interest energy loans to ENERGY/orby phoning 1-800-221individuals or businesses for projects that conserve energy or produce energy from renewable resources, use recycled materials to create products or use alternative fuels.

There is also a tax credit available to residents for making your home more energy-efficient and helping preserve Oregon's envi-

To find out more about LIHEAP, phone 1-800-453-5511 and leave a message on an energy assistance message line or contact one of the following nine community service centers: Albina Ministerial Alliance, 503-285-0493; Catholic Charities, 503-669-8350; Human Solutions, 503-548-0200; Asian Family Center, 503-235-9396; Native American Rehabilitation Association, 503-224-1044; Portland Impact, 503-988-6000; St. Vincent DePaul, 503-595-0288; Salvation Army, 503-239-

1264 and the YMCA, 503-721-6760. For more about Pacific Power's Community Energy Project, phone, 1-888-221-7070 or visit the Web site

vides senior and disabled citizens at www.pacificpower.net/Naviga-

For more information on Port-Portland General Electric spon- land General Electric's Community sors the Community Energy Project, Energy Project, phone 503-284-6827 which assists low-income seniors or visit its Web site at www.communityenergyproject.org/

Information on low-interest en-

Southeast Pool Saved by City Council

mous approval Oct. 19 from Council for their efforts." the City Council to repair Buckman Pool.

be swimming again by the 16th Ave. spring of 2006," Saltzman said. "This has been a great collaboration, and I thank the neigh-

Portland City Commissioner bors, the school district, our own reation is responsible for op-Dan Saltzman received unaniparks staff and the entire City

Buckman pool is an 80,000gallon, 83-year-old pool located "Neighbors and children of in the basement of Buckman inner Southeast Portland will Elementary School at 320 S.E.

> the pool and pays the utility costs, while Portland Parks and Rec-

erations and staffing.

The pool closed last spring after discovery of a major leak. Further testing revealed extensive cracks in the pool shell, but no threat to the integrity of the building. The pool now sits Portland Public Schools owns empty with the tiles removed, ready for repair and renova-

SAFEWAY () Ingredients for life...





Leaders Fight Racial Health Disparities

Local conference addresses issues

State Sen. Avel Gordly, Portland Mayor Tom Potter, Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn and more than 200 health professionals and community members addressed community-wide solutions to end racial health disparities at a historic Portland event.

The "Health Disparities: We Can Make a Difference" conference on Oct. 14 sponsored by the African American Health Coalition also drew representatives from Gov. Ted Kulongoski's office and the staffs of Oregon's two U.S. Senators, Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith.

Dr. Brian Gibbs, director of the Program to Eliminate Health Disparities in the Division of Public Health Practice at the Harvard School of Public Health, inspired the crowd with a keynote address.

Gibbs encouraged the audience to fight health disparities by integrating public policy and community advocacy. He very eloquently gave a historical context of health disparities among African Americans in America.

He explained how African Americans experienced 365 years of segregation in various hospitals and facilities and have only had 39 years of full access to practice medicine in all medical facilities in America.

The political leaders, policy makers, corporate heads, and commu-



Sen. Avel Gordly

nity members talked about ways in which they confront health disparities and made commitments to support the work of the AAHC.

Regardless of who spoke or the segment of the community he or she represented, the message was clear: Good health is a basic right that we all should enjoy and it is everyone's responsibility to be concerned.

That theme was echoed throughout the conference by individuals who talked about the need to imdisparities homeownership, education, the ability to earn a livable wage, and racism. Each person recognized

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diversity Print Participate in Democracy Vote The Hortland Observer Weekin The Review Election **Ballots** On Way People of color

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