

# Law Enforcement Backs Early Education

To boost graduation rates, cut crime

Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Shrunck, Portland Police Bureau Chief Rosie Sizer and Beaverton Police Chief David Bishop took part in a Back to School press conference last week to push for increased high school graduation rates to help cut crime rates.

The group released a report showing that by increasing graduation rates among males by 10 percentage points, 3,000 murders

and 175,000 assaults will be prevented in America every year.

A new report, entitled "Breaking the Cycle: School or the Streets," includes research showing that high quality pre-kindergarten is the most effective deterrent against high school dropouts.

"Early childhood education is an essential component of keeping a community safe and healthy," said Chief Sizer. "Law enforcement leaders like me have long supported Head Start. It's a cost effective strategy to increase graduation rates and reduce violence."

A study of Chicago's Child-Parent Centers, a high-quality



Rosie Sizer

early education program, showed that kids left out of the program were 70 percent more likely to have been arrested for a violent crime by age 18 than those who participated in the program.

"More often than not, the people we arrest who end up in our courts and then in our jails and prisons, dropped out of school and never graduated from high school." District Attorney Shrunck said. "We don't lose these kids all of a sudden in high school. We lose them early in life and they just take time to fade away and eventually disconnect from life. Evidence shows that early childhood education stops

this process. More kids graduate from high school and fewer of them end up as criminals."

Research shows that high school dropouts are three and a half times more likely than graduates to be arrested and eight times more likely to be incarcerated. Nearly 70 percent of all inmates in our nation's prisons failed to earn a high school diploma.

In Oregon, approximately 30 percent of students fail to graduate in four years.

The law enforcement officials called on Congress and the state legislature to expand quality early education programs for at-risk kids.

## Church Celebrates Women, Youth

Women and youth are invited to enjoy the laughter and friendship of other women while sharing the hope found in Christ during the Women and Youth Pink Lady Day Luncheon.

The free celebration will take place Saturday, Sept. 13 at 11 a.m. at the Highland Christian Center, 7600 N.E. Glisan St.

Evangelist Velma Jones will serve as speaker. Other highlights include music, door prizes, facial makeovers, a fashion parade, information on health issues, testimonials and much more.

## Sowing Seeds for Career Opportunities

"I want to learn how to build things, build my confidence and be more comfortable around power tools," said 14-year-old Caroline, one of the many girls who attended a construction day camp this summer offered by Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. through funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Working with women instructors, the girls learned basic construction skills using hand and power tools and discovering the

wide variety of highway construction careers, such as carpentry, surveying and masonry, through field trips to apprenticeship training centers and job sites.

In addition to gaining skills and learning about highway construction careers, the girls build a garden shed as a donation to a Portland Parks and Recreation community garden. They also build a cedar arbor and benches for the school garden at Harriet Tubman Leadership Academy for Young Women.



A group of local middle school girls build confidence and explore career skills by attend a summer construction camp sponsored by Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.

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## Packing Healthy School Lunches

With the start of school, it's important to know that nutrition and learning go hand in hand.

Providence dieticians say kids who are nutritionally fit are more likely to have the energy, stamina and self-esteem that enhance their ability to learn.

Don't forget a good breakfast, but also pack meals that are easy to prepare and fun to eat, as well as healthful, safe and nutritious.

For example, sandwiches, raw veggies, crackers, string cheese, whole fruit and pudding are fun foods that still supply good nutrition.

## 'Donut Hole' Gap Observed

(AP) -- Many people in Medicare with diabetes, high blood pressure and other chronic conditions stop taking their medicine when faced with picking up the entire cost of their prescriptions, researchers say.

About 3.4 million older and disabled people hit a gap, known as the donut hole, in their Medicare drug coverage in 2007. When that happened, they had to pay the entire costs of their medicine until they spent \$3,850 out of pocket. Then, insurance coverage would kick in again.

About 15 percent of those hitting the coverage gap stopped their treat-

ment regimen. That rate varied depending upon illness. For example, about 10 percent of diabetes patients stopped buying the medicine, as did 16 percent of patients with high blood pressure and 18 percent of patients with osteoporosis.

"If a new president and Congress consider changes to the drug benefit, it will be important to keep in mind that the coverage gap has consequences for some patients with serious health conditions," said Drew Altman, the chief executive officer and president of the Kaiser Family Foundation.

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