

Jump Start College Savings

Babies qualify for \$25 incentive

New and expecting parents have another reason to celebrate the New Year: Their babies can get a jumpstart on saving for college through the Oregon College Savings Plan.

When an account under the plan is opened for a child before their first birthday, \$25 is automatically contributed to the account within three months.

Children born after Jan. 1, 2017 qualify.

"We've found that even a small incentive like \$25 is just the nudge families need to start saving for higher education," said Michael Parker, executive director of the Oregon Savings Network,

Money saved in the Oregon College Savings Plan is invested and grows tax-free. It can be used to pay for tuition, books, room and board, fees and other education expenses at universities, colleges, trade schools and community colleges across the country.

To learn more about the Oregon College Savings Plan or open an account, go to OregonCollegeSavings.com.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Workshop

Area residents are invited to attend free workshops during the month of January on the dangers of lead poisoning or attend another session later this month on how to be lead safe when doing home remodeling projects in pre-1978 housing.

The nonprofit Community Energy Project is hosting four workshops where participants will learn how to prevent lead exposure in your home. This information is especially important for households with children or pregnant women, especially those living in homes built before 1978.

A Lead-Safe Home Project workshop on Jan. 30 is for anyone looking to complete a small project that may involve exposure to lead paint, such as sanding down and old window frame, re-purposing an older door with potential lead pain, or any other small construction project in an older home.

Qualified participants will receive a free kit of safety and testing supplies.

Register for the workshops at communityenergyproject.org or call 503-284-6827, extension 109.

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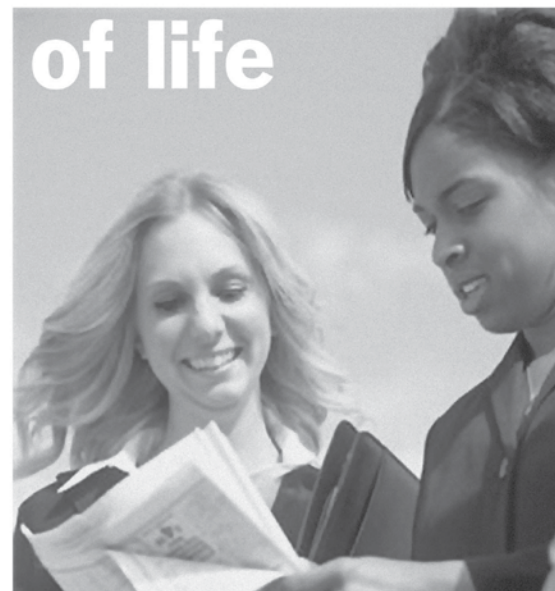
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