

State offers training for foster or adoptive parents

The State Department of Human Services is in critical need of foster and adoptive homes. People wishing to become certified foster parents, or to adopt through the agency are offered a five week training Mondays, April 22 to 29, at 6:30 p.m. The training will be held at the State Office Complex at 500 N. Hwy 30, St. Helens.

There are currently over 400 children in Oregon waiting for adoption. In Columbia County, alone, there are over 80 children in substitute care, some of whom will be returned to their parents or relatives, and some

of whom will be freed for adoption. Children who need homes range in age from newborn through teens. They may need just a few days of shelter, or many years in a loving home. Many have special needs stemming from neglect or abuse, or from being born affected by drugs or alcohol.

Foster parents are reimbursed for the children's living expenses and health coverage is provided for children who are placed by the State. There are no fees involved for families who wish to adopt through the State, and adoption assistance

is available for those who adopt children with special needs.

Foster or adoptive parents may be single, married or divorced. They may live in a house or apartment; work inside or outside their home, have children of their own or not. They need to be caring, patient, flexible and possess a sense of humor. They do not need a large income, just a large heart.

For information, call Gail Mitchell, foster home recruiter, 503-397-3292 x 317 or 800-428-1546 x 317 or Sandy McMillan, adoption worker, ext. 308.

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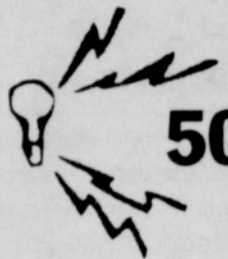


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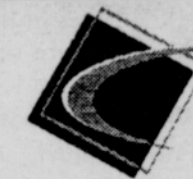
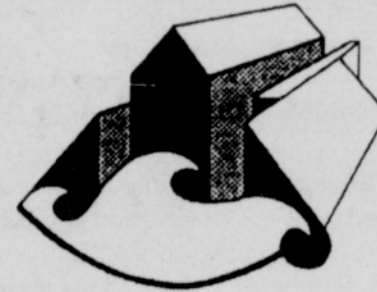
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