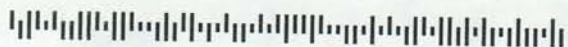


Horizon Air

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SEATTLE, WA

Facing the Future

Are climate change, population growth, poverty, environmental degradation, conflict and global health crises intractable global problems? Seattle-based Facing the Future doesn't think so.

The nonprofit organization, founded in 1995, believes solutions can be found through educating children about global sustainability, and about the connection between their choices and what happens elsewhere in the world.

"Our goal is to help students learn critical-thinking skills, develop a global perspective and be inspired to take personal action," says board member Laurie Besteman.

To that end, Facing the Future provides global-sustainability curricula to K-12 teachers in all 50 U.S. states and in more than 100 countries around the world, with topics ranging from microlending

and energy conservation to health issues and conflict resolution.

For instance, students may simulate the process of applying for microcredit or study an aspect of their lives they could change to reduce their ecological footprint. They might learn about practical solutions for addressing a health issue such as tuberculosis, or practice mediating a conflict.

Facing the Future is preparing more than 1 million students a year to build a sustainable future, and its goal is to be reaching 12.5 million students a year by 2020, Besteman says.

One student reported: "Before, I didn't realize the problems in the world apart from those in North America, but now I realize the whole world is connected."

Contact: 206-264-1503; www.facingthefuture.org. —Michele Andrus Dill



AROUND THE ROUTE SYSTEM

news¬es

- California, Oregon and Washington have been ranked first, fourth and seventh, respectively, in the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's 2009 scorecard of states doing the most to implement energy efficiency. www.aceee.org.
- The Seattle Aquarium has a new "Only in Hawaii" exhibit tank, with fish such as the Hawaiian whitespotted toby. www.seattleaquarium.org.
- The 20th annual "Trappings of the American West" exhibit, featuring fine and functional American-cowboy art, is at the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff, through Jan. 10. www.musnaz.org.
- "Three Nights of Christmas at the Original Governor's Mansion"—with notable Montanans reading favorite holiday stories and poems—is Dec. 8-10 in Helena. www.montanahistoricalsociety.org.
- The exhibit "Animation," featuring hands-on activities and fun facts, runs through Jan. 3 at Seattle's Pacific Science Center. www.pacific-sciencecenter.org.
- The new 400-room Hilton San Francisco Airport hotel has opened. www.hilton.com.
- Seattle's Hotel 1000 has introduced a Spaahh Menu featuring "Angelic Morsels" and "Sinful Indulgences." www.hotel1000seattle.com.
- "A Watercolor Journey through Idaho" runs Dec. 3-Feb. 27 at the Idaho State Historical Museum, www.idahohistory.net.
- A Classic Christmas Celebration, with child and adult entertainers, is Dec. 11-13 & 18-20, at Reno's John Ascuaga's Nugget. www.janugget.com.

LINCOLN, MT

Fast and furryous

During musher Scott White's first Iditarod race in 2007, a severe blizzard led to his getting off course and experiencing frostbite in eight fingers. He had to drop out of the famous race the second day.

Next year, for the first time since that race, the Woodinville, Washington, resident will again compete in the Iditarod. Part of his preparation will be the 200-mile Lincoln-Seeley Lake Sled Dog Race, from the town of Lincoln to the town of Seeley Lake, both east of Missoula. The route is the most mountainous terrain in distance mushing, according to race organizers.

The January 15-17 event is one of the qualifying races for the Iditarod. To compete in the Alaska race, mushers must finish in the top 75 percent of the field, or in an elapsed time of no more than twice the elapsed time of the race winner, in two Iditarod-approved qualifying races, and must have an accumulated total of at least 500 miles for the two races.

Twenty-five teams will compete in the Lincoln-



An enthusiastic team prepares to race.

Seeley Lake race. Spectators can meet the teams on January 15 from noon until shortly before the race starts at 3 p.m. Scott White will have his team, including lead dogs Pistol and Cowboy, available to greet people. The race will also feature 26-time Iditarod veteran John Barron, who is from Montana, and Laura Daugereau, who in 2008 became the first Washington state woman to race the Iditarod. Contact: 406-227-6389; www.seeleylakedograce.com. —Mallory Kimble