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Housing: Fewer students return

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a.m. to 9 p.m. every day, and the Carson cafeteria will be open for slightly fewer hours.

Each food item at Grab 'n Go will be assigned a point value, and customers can take a number of items that do not exceed a point limit.

"The big difference is going to be a hugely expanded menu," Eyster said. "It could be 10 times as much space for selection as we had at Carson."

The food service revamp is the most recent of Housing changes that mark the changing image of the financially self-supporting department.

Spencer View family housing has been a profitable success and will run at its capacity this fall. This is a sharp contrast to the residence halls, where Eyster says two halls will probably remain empty this year — Moore Hall in the Bean Complex and one other,

which has not been decided.

Eyster estimates the "comfortable capacity" of the residence halls to be about 3,125, and Housing usually projects about 3,200 residents, knowing many students leave school early in the year. Last year, only 3,000 students lived in the residence halls, and this fall looks even worse.

"This year it looks like we're going to open at under 2,900," Eyster said. Housing officials knew there would be a decrease in residents when about 100 fewer residents than normal signed up to return this fall.

The reduction in the number of residents is not hurting Housing financially, Eyster said. In fact, the department has compensated for its surprise deficit at the end of the 1996-97 school year, even with a lower number of residents last school year, Eyster said. The deficit was the result of several unexpected fixed cost increases,

such as minimum wage. Officials have since adjusted the budget accordingly.

In some final preparations for the fall, Housing is on the verge of hiring its first conduct coordinator to deal with the recent overflow of conduct cases in the residence halls. An announcement on the new coordinator is expected soon. All three finalists are graduates of the University School of Law.

The conduct coordinator is a symbol of a more concerted Housing effort to curb rule violations in the halls.

"We don't want loud, rowdy, inconsiderate, irresponsible behavior," Eyster said.

One new policy will allow residents who are minors to be documented for detectable intoxication. Residents who are documented will be assessed a fee to pay for the extra time needed to process their case.

Brothers face murder charges

The two teen-agers were arrested after a joyride in the slain man's truck, but police are still seeking a motive

The Associated Press

GRANTS PASS — The slaying of a prominent lodge owner in Grants Pass has police baffled because the teen-age suspects don't fit neatly into the all-too-common pattern of youth gone wild.

The two half-brothers — ages 18 and 14 — had no criminal record and were by all accounts studious, smart and quiet. They were schooled in their rural home, where there is no electricity, computers or television.

"You can't blame the violence on TV," said Josephine County sheriff's Lt. Brian Anderson. "It's hard to figure out. They weren't out raising hate and discontent in the community."

Joshua Cain and his younger half-brother Trevor Walraven face aggravated murder charges in the shooting death of a 65-year-old William "Bill" Hull, owner of the Black Bar Lodge on the Rogue River.

Hull was killed by a single gunshot to the head and his body was found about 50 feet off a dirt road near the confluence of Grave Creek and the Rogue River.

He had been missing since July 26, when he failed to show up for a meeting with his brother.

The suspects were seen last week in their hometown of Wolf Creek driving Hull's missing 1997 Suburban. Their parents turned them in to authorities Friday morning, and Hull's body was located later that day.

Detectives say the suspects claim they found

Hull's Suburban with the keys in it and took the rig for a joyride, but they deny the murder.

Several guns have been seized from their parents' home, but the weapons don't match the caliber of the gun used to kill Hull.

The boys quickly "clammed up" and exercised their constitutional rights, said Detective Sgt. Ron Goodpasture.

Investigators said it doesn't appear Hull knew the two boys, although they lived in the same region of the county. Hull lived on several hundred acres in Sunny Valley, an unincorporated community a few miles north of Grants Pass.

Goodpasture said the boys may have been on foot in the Sunny Valley area near Hull's house and that Hull may have picked them up.

"We think it probably happened on a roadway somehow," he said. "The closer you get to his house, the greater likelihood it occurred."

Walraven and Cain lived with their parents — Doug Walraven and Karen Cain — on a 52-acre parcel near Wolf Creek, which is over a hill from Sunny Valley.

Anderson said the parents are antique dealers who were away from home at the time. He said the only criminal problem associated with the family is a marijuana-growing conviction for Doug Walraven several years ago.

Lyle Walraven, Doug's father, said in a telephone interview from his Lakewood, Calif., home that the youths were not troublemakers.

"They've always been quiet boys. This is a tremendous shock to us," he said.

Five Thurston heroes to receive top Boy Scout medals of honor

This is the first time in Boy Scout history that five medals will be given simultaneously

By William McCall
The Associated Press

When shots rang out in his Springfield, Ore., high school this year, 17-year-old Jake Ryker overcame a bullet to the chest to tackle the gunman. His brother and three others quickly piled on to end the rampage.

All five boys have one thing in common — they are Boy Scouts.

Monday, Jake Ryker will be presented with the Boy Scouts of America's highest award for heroism, the Honor Medal with Crossed Palms.

Fourteen-year-old Josh Ryker and the three others each will receive scouting's second-highest heroism award, the Honor Medal.

It will mark the first time in the 88-year history of the Boy Scouts that five heroism medals have

been awarded at one time.

"It's pretty amazing," said Tim Parker, national spokesman for the Boy Scouts, an organization known for its motto "Be Prepared" and an oath that includes the words: "to help other people at all times."

Jake Ryker, a 6-foot-4 wrestling star at Thurston High School, was sitting in the cafeteria before classes on May 21 when a gunman dressed in a trench coat began shooting from the hip with a .22-caliber rifle.

With a bullet in his chest and his girlfriend bleeding at his feet, Ryker said he noticed the shooter had come to the end of a clip of ammo.

"I heard that 'click,' and it was as loud as if someone was banging on a brass gong," he said at the time. "And then I remember knocking him down."

Two students died and 22 others were wounded. The alleged gunman, 15-year-old Thurston freshman Kip Kinkel, also is accused of shooting and killing his

parents the day before the cafeteria rampage, and leaving their house rigged with bombs.

Since the Honor Medal with Crossed Palms was established in 1938, only 125 have been awarded. According to Boy Scout guidelines, recipients must demonstrate "unusual heroism, and extraordinary skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life at extreme risk to self."

The criteria are the same for the Honor Medal, except the risk is defined as "considerable" instead of extreme.

The awards will be presented in Springfield by Jake and Josh Ryker's father, Robert, a Navy diver who was also a former Eagle Scout.

"Not only is it fitting," said Parker, "it's amazing that all five were Scouts, and two of them were brothers."

"The Scouts teach you leadership and to step up and do the right thing when you need to do it. I get goose bumps just thinking about it."

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