

METRO

LIFE IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

The Portland Observer



Food Stamp Benefits To Increase

October 1 will bring a small increase in the amount of food stamps received by nearly 125,000 Oregon families.

Each year food stamp benefits increase slightly in October to offset higher heating costs in fall and winter. In addition, the maximum amount of food stamps a family can receive is adjusted each October to reflect changes in the cost of food. This year will bring a very small increase because the cost of the government's "market basket" of selected food items went up only marginally, also contributing to the current increase is an adjustment in the "standard deduction" used in figuring food stamp benefits.

The exact amount of the October increase seen by a family will vary depending on family size, income and expenses.

Approximately 286,000 working and unemployed low-income Oregonians are helped by food stamps each month. Two divisions of the state Department of Human Resources, Adult and Family Services Division and Senior and Disabled Services Division, administer the program, distributing just over \$19 million in stamps each month. The cost of the food stamps is paid by the federal government, with administrative costs shared by the state and federal governments.

BLOOD DRIVE

PCC Cascade Campus
705 N. Killingsworth
Portland 97217
in the name of Kyle Bach
October 4, 1993
7 to 11:15am
Gymnasium
PBL, MOA, & MRT programs

Portland Christian Schools Reaches Out



In school competitions PCS has garnered a reputation for the quality of both its students and its program

Portland Christian School in a continued effort to diversify reaches out to N.E. Portland.

The 43 year old private institution who's history of christian education for children, grades K-12 has been marveled by other private schools.

PCS is a non denominational, evangelical school with a commitment to quality and excellence leading to community based accountability as well as morale security of mind. PCS promotes parental involvement/motivation via commitment toward their children's excellence.

With a current student population of nearly 1,000, PCS boasts a

zero% drop out rate directly attributed to academic over achievement. In fact, the kindergarten program is proud to admit "our kindergartners upon completion are able to both read and write." The high school graduates', 80% of whom go on to higher education re-enter society with such positive contributions as doctors, lawyers, missionaries, authors, researchers, and even a graduate of West Point.

In school competitions PCS has garnered a reputation for the quality of both its students and its program. The student body is very diverse, composed of students from over 187 churches in the Portland-Vancouver

area. We have enrolled students from Russia, Japan, Iran and various nations of Africa.

Teacher and staff have an expressed loyalty toward bringing out the absolute best in a student.

A great many schools of today are merely postulating. We at PCS believe in 1) in Christ, 2) in empowerment, giving students the necessary tools to be successful in life, 3) in transformation, changing perspectives and changing understanding. For more information about enrollment at PCS contact Pastor Steve Holt-Minority Student Development Consultant, 12456 N.E. Brazee, Portland, OR 97230, 503/256-3960.

United Way
of the Columbia-Willamette
228-9131

Temporary Sales Tax For Schools

The Portland Rainbow Coalition endorses Ballot Measure #1, a sales tax to fund public education, as a temporary stop-gap to halt the deterioration of our schools.

We are no cheerleaders for the sales tax. It unfairly hits working people and continues the long-term shift of the tax burden from businesses onto individuals. But Measure 5 and the failures of the state legislature forces us to choose between a bad tax and bad schools. We made this difficult choice because the schools are hurting now and will be further damaged if no new funding is in place. The sales tax "sunsets" in four years and buys us time to fight for a progressive, ability-to-pay tax system.

Already class sizes are expanding, teachers lack basic supplies, and programs are being slashed. The Rainbow's constituents: the poor, the working class, people of color, immigrants, the inner-city and rural children are being hit hardest. Programs designed to compensate for years of exclusion, to provide equal access and opportunity have been battered. In Portland, Early Childhood Education, English as a Second Language, Special Education, Summer School, integration activities, Vocational Village, alternative education and tutoring are just a few such programs which have suffered cuts.

Leading promoters of Measure 5 continue to oppose any and all plans for stable school funding and continue to demand that more so-called "frills" be cut from the schools. Many of them seem to have a hidden agenda: to divert funds from public to private education. Using the smoke screen of a property tax revolt, they would cripple inner-city and rural schools in order to stampede middle class families into pulling their kids out of the public school system.

We believe, as the majority of Oregonians believe, that quality education is not a private privilege for the well-to-do but rather public investment in our common future.

Adoption Grandparenting: Defining The Role

BY HARVEY K. RICE

Happiness is being a grandparent. Foster parenting "Good For Your Heart". These simple statements broadcast from countless license plates across the country and the state of Oregon. We read and hear about adoption parenting and foster grandparents, but what about adoption grandparenting?

At One Church One Child (OCOC) we believe, based on research, the importance of including grandparents in services for African American families and Bridge Building services to non-minority families with African American children in their homes. Importantly, grandparents have been found to enhance the development of their grand-children by giving them a sense of positive

self-regard and social competence. Grandmothers are often the most silent source of knowledge about child development for parents in the African American community.

Grandfathers are also important figures in the lives of their grandchildren. Their presence is especially valuable for grandsons who are growing up in female-headed households. Grandfathers' masculine behaviors are important to the development of femininity among their granddaughters.

OCOC has asked the national Foster Grandparent Program to help us with various issues and/or problems that Bridge Building (BB) families has brought to our attention. The local program in which you will be involved is the Metropolitan Family

Service Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) serving Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. The FGP was designed to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for low-income older (60 years) adults who offer supportive, individualized services to children with special or exceptional needs. The definition of these "needs" is made by FGP, OCO and the parent, and usually means children who have various problems adjusting to adopted family living, are deprived of identification with a culture appropriate adult, or need extra attention on a one-to-one basis.

If any family is interested in this service write me with your request for services.

Youth Call Upon Youth: Look To Past While Building Future

The Youth Leadership Committee of the Black United Fund of Oregon invites all adolescent and young adult to "come on down" and register now for their third annual Youth Leadership Conference, entitled: "Getting Back To Moving On". The conference will be held at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center, Saturday, October 9, from 10am to 5pm, concurrent with the Black United Fund's "Reclaiming Our Children" education conference.

The conference, entirely designed and planned by committee members aged 12 to 20, addresses leadership issues including community involvement, cultural identity, and social responsibility from the perspective of youth. "We chose the theme 'Getting Back To Moving on' because we believe that it is important to look back at the experiences of those who came before us as we, the children who are the future, shape the future," explains Aisha Irving, Portland Community College student and founding

YLC member.

Participants will: dialogue with speakers Joyce Harris (Northwest Regional Education Laboratories) and Kamau Sadiki (Corps of Engineers); enjoy a luncheon presentation by Regent Adelaide Sanford of New York, as they join the Black United Fund's larger conference for lunch; and engage in a thought-provoking panel discussion moderated by Kevin Fuller of The Oregonian and featuring youth of many ages and cultures. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend one of three workshops moderated by local community leaders, including Richard Brown of the Black United Front and Herman Lessard of the Urban League of Portland.

The cost for the day-long conference is \$5.00, which includes the luncheon and refreshments, and scholarships are available. For details and registration information, contact the Black United Fund of Oregon at 282-7973. The YLC looks forward to sharing this important event with you.

Peggy Ross Elected Urban League Guild President

The Urban League of Portland Guild has elected Peggy C. Ross president for 1993/95. The Guild is a volunteer auxiliary of the Urban League that supports the League with special events, fund raisers and service programs.

Peggy is Development Services Manager with Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs. An Arkansas native, Peggy has lived in Portland since 1977. She was formerly the Guild's vice president.

Also elected to two-year terms were:

- Faye Burch, Vice President
- Seona Baldwin, Secretary
- Myra Tukufu, Treasurer

Peggy's number one goal is to "make the Guild a strong supporter for Urban League programs, especially youth programs. The Guild is an excellent way to get the community more involved in the Urban League," she said.

The next Guild event will be an overnight trip to Ashland, Oregon on the weekend of October 30-31 to see a production of the August Wilson play "Joe Turner's Come and Gone." Cost of the package (including hotel, round trip coach, the play and a reception with the cast) is \$117 per person, \$169 per couple. For more information, contact Mike Pullen at 280-2615.

CONTACT: BILLY MOORE 735-1825

P.O.I.C. 717 N. KILLINGSWORTH COURT

PORTLAND, OREGON 97217

GET YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR A GED

Mid-County Child & Youth Center

For young law violators, an alternative to the Juvenile Court exists in Multnomah County. Youth can be diverted to Child and Youth Centers (CYC). As part of the system to provide consequences, each CYC has a volunteer Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) which hears cases and contracts with the youth. Adult NAB members commit to two year membership and youth members commit to one year. Boards meet one evening per month, for two to three hours. Volunteers are recruited, selected, and trained by CYC staff. Presently, Mid-County Child and Youth Center, 4110 NE 122, Suite 130, is in need of several NAB volunteers. Gary McClellan at 256-2330 can provide more details for those interested.

Despite efforts of voters to reduce the size of government, Measure 5 has not reduced juvenile crime. In Multnomah County, juvenile offenders who commit minor law violations can be diverted from the Juvenile

Court system to the Child and Youth Centers (CYC). Mid-County Child and Youth Center (MCCYC) is one of six such programs in the county. MCCYC is a new center, created due to a realignment of district boundaries because of population growth in this area. In addition to providing an alternative to Juvenile Court involvement for minor offenses, MCCYC provides counseling, case management, mediation, Big Brother/Big Sister matching, and youth job referrals. Families with youth under 18 years of age can receive service paid by County property tax dollars.

This past year has seen both an increase in the number of referrals for Diversion, and an increase in the severity of the offenses. Both thefts and vandalism have involved much higher dollar amounts than in past year. As a result, consequences for offenders have been more serious.

In an effort to create uniformity of consequences between the six CYC's, a grid exists with a range of consequences for each level of sever-

ity of offense. An older child, for example, will receive more hours of Community Service than a younger child, and stealing more involves more consequence than stealing less.

In addition to holding youth accountable for their offenses, MCCYC works to help prevent illegal behavior. We offer a four session class at MCCYC for youth and their parents to gain skills helpful in avoiding violence. The independent classes cover Recognizing Clues, so that students can spot when they are starting to get angry and take steps before violence occurs; "I" Statements, so that they can practice sharing feelings in a way that does not escalate situations; Self Talk, so that they can realize the things they say to themselves that lead to violent behavior; and the Cycle of Violence, so that students can see what is happening in their lives. By offering the class in the evenings at MCCYC, we can include parents, and some siblings, so that the youth can be helped at homes with the material we offer.