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_ The Portland Observer _

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Aloha Portland



With the help of volunteers from the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau, 2001 fresh flower leis, shipped in from Hawaii, were distributed free to the public at Pioneer Place. Portland was only one of 17 cities on five continents that was able to experience "a little bit of Hawaii" on the special May 1 "Lei Day" event.

OLCC Officials Pick Up Battle Against School Booze Parties

Springtime means the season has begun for proms, graduations, school celebrations, and off-campus parties around Oregon.

That's why for the 13th consecutive year, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission is teaming with schools, law enforcement, and beer wholesales to help keep these events safe and alcohol-free. The OLCC recently mailed letters to hundreds of senior and junior high school principlas seeking dates of upcoming high school celebrations such as proms and graduation because traditionally there's an increase in alcohol related parties at the time.

The OLCC shares the information with local police, hotels, limousine drivers and others to help nip youth drinking parties in the bud. "We encourage these folks to tell us when they hear about an alcohol party involving minors," said Gary McGrew. OLCC field operations director.

"Our goal is to stop these parties before they start. If they do start," McGrew continued, "OLCC will work with local law enforcement to intervene, remove the alcohol, and issue citations."

County Moves Forward On Children's Center

Neglected and abused children in Multnomah County will soon have a secure refuge intended especially for them. Under a resolution introduced by commissioner Lisa Naito, the Board of County Commissioners voted to proceed with securing bids for the construction of a Children's Receiving Center a facility where children that been victims of abuse and neglect and have been taken into the custody of the state can be cared for on a shortterm basis. Applauding the unanimous vote, Commissioner Lisa Naito, Board liaison to the project, declared, "I am pleased that we are finally moving forward on the construction of the Center. Children that have been abused need an immediate safe haven. "The current system often puts a child in the back of police car driving around trying to locate placement, or a child may experience hours of waiting in a state office until emergency foster care found. The Receiving center will help siblings stay together and provide an instant and safe home-like, non-insti-

More Oregon Teens

Say No to Sex

(AP) — Contrary to popular perception, nearly two-thirds of Oregon teens say they haven't had sex, according to an Oregon Health Division report. What's more, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that the percentage of 15- to 17-year-olds who've abstained has increased in the past eight years. In 1991, the first year the health questionnaire was given at Oregon public high schools, 54 percent of students said they hadn't had intercourse. In this latest report from 1999, 65 percent — a 20 percent increase said they hadn't. tutional environment so tat children are not further traumatized.

The current system of housing children who have been removed from their homes has been inconsistent, and often adds to their sometimes frightening experience as they are shuttled from a one agency to another" The project plan calls for the construction of a new 11,800 squarefoot residential building in southeast Portland providing short-term housing and services for up to 16 children, ages 3 to 12 years old.

Nearly 80 children enter emergency shelter care in Multnomah County every month, with the vast majority coming from east of the Willamette River. The residence, designed to fit into the neighborhood, will include an intake area, bedrooms, playrooms, dinning room, living room, and laundry and staff offices.



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WHO WOULD COME THROUGH FOR YOU TOMORROW?

Investment for Youth Opportunity

The government has awarded Youth Opportunity grants in 35 cities, including Portland, to support youth living in high-poverty areas.

"This national investment effort is to re-engage those who feel left out of the American dream and to send a clear message that their dreams do not have to be deferred," said local community activist Kevin Hall.

The Workforce Investment Act appropriated \$221 million nationwide to Youth Opportunity programs that identify and assist young people with employment and educational objectives.

The programs also engage businesses, foundations, community partners and celebrities to support their education and training efforts.



A partnership to assist local youth in employment and educational objectives is forged between Lorenzo Harrison (from left), a federal Labor Department administer, Kevin Hall, a Portland community activist and Dr. Ronald Mincy.



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