



Health / Education

Albertina Kerr Centers Accommodate More Youth at Risk

As part of its on-going mission to provide mental health and behavioral rehabilitative services for at-risk youth, Albertina Kerr Centers recently opened a new, 6-bed sub-acute unit.

"The sub-acute program is an alternative to psychiatric

hospitalization and provides a safe and secure place for children to work with their families to resolve a severe mental health crisis," states Marcia Hille, Vice President of Kerr Youth and Family Services. "The program provides either a hospital diversion capability

or a safe place where children can continue treatment after receiving assessment services in a psychiatric hospital program."

Currently, Albertina Kerr Centers operates a sub-acute program for boys ages 6-17 who pose a danger to them-

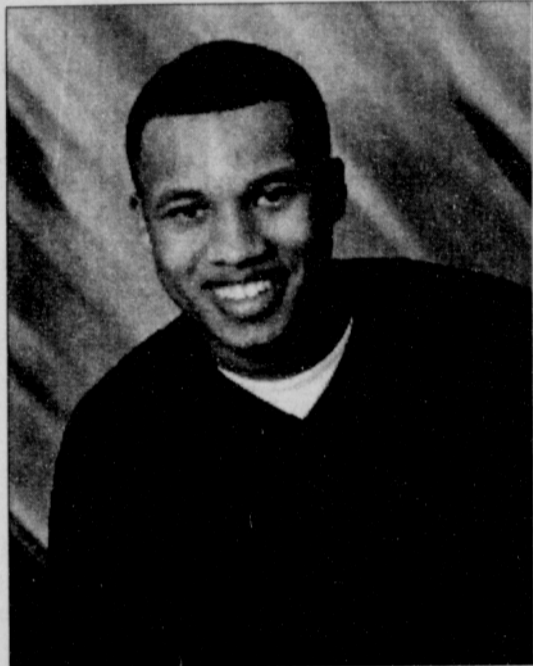
selves or others.

Already in effect, Albertina Kerr Centers will accept referrals for females ages 6-17 for this program to meet the large need identified in the community by public and private mental health organizations.

Albertina Kerr Centers built a new, state-of-the-art facility in 1998 and has already served hundreds of children, adolescents and their families.

The facility is designed to provide a high level of safety and security while offering individual bedrooms and a comfortable living environment for residents.

Congratulations to Portland's Scholars



David Solano

Two area students are receiving special recognition from national organizations.

The National Association of Black Journalists, whose mission is to strengthen ties among African-American journalists, will award a scholarship to David Solano of Portland at their 26th annual convention on Aug. 22-26 in Orlando, Florida.

Solano, 24, most recently was a sports writer for PSU's daily newspaper, "The Vanguard."

Iyonna A. St. Gerard, a junior at Benson High School, was nominated to be included in the 35th Annual Edition of "Who's Who Among American High School Students".

Gerard was recognized for her outstanding academic achievement and community involvement.



Iyonna A. St. Gerard

Applying for Food Stamps Made Easier

Access to food assistance has become easier for thousands of low-income Oregonians with the state-wide introduction of a new, two-page application for the Food Stamp Program. As of last month, all Adult and Family Services offices are now using a new two-page application for people requesting food stamps or daycare assistance. This replaces the

longer, ten-page application previously needed to apply for all AFS programs.

Excessive paperwork is cited most often by anti-hunger advocates as a barrier in accessing food stamps. The shortened application was produced in an atmosphere of activism and response, through a collaborative effort between AFS

and anti-hunger advocates, including the Oregon Law Center, Oregon Food Bank, Oregon Action and the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force.

The new application reduces the amount of paperwork that applicants must complete to access food assistance. The simplified process has been successfully tested in

several AFS offices over the past eight months. Several state and county agencies are also distributing the new application as a community resource for clientele.

People wanting more information about food stamps can call Oregon SafeNet, a health and human service hotline, Monday through Friday, at 1-800-SAFENET (723-3638).

Tuition Hike Proposed in Oregon

(AP) - Oregon college students may have to dig deeper into their pockets to pay for school this September if the state Board of Higher Education approves a proposed 4 percent tuition hike. The state's seven public universities submitted their proposals for 2001-02 tuition and fees to the chancellor's office recently. Oregon University System officials expect the proposal to pass. The board had approved the possibility of a 5 percent increase, but the 2001 Legislature capped tuition increases at 4 percent this fall and 3 percent in 2002-03.

"My guess is that there will be few, if any, surprises, and if there are, we'll challenge them and ask for both rationale and sensibility," said board President Don VanLuvane. "But I don't expect anything that we haven't already foreseen." Fees have gone up

every year, but tuition for resident undergraduates has stayed the same since 1997. Paired with increasing fees, resident undergraduates could expect to pay 5 percent to 9 percent more for their classes in September.

Tuition and fees for resident undergraduates in the 2000-01 school year

ranged from \$3,819 at the University of Oregon to \$3,342 at Western Oregon University. That could change to \$4,071 at UO and \$3,660 at Western Oregon.

University officials said a 4 percent tuition increase was reasonable, although the schools are concerned

about keeping education affordable for students. "We will implement some increased amount of scholarship aid for those who are neediest," said Rob Specter, vice president at Oregon State University. OSU's proposed tuition and fees could jump 9 percent from last year to \$3,987 this fall.

PCC Summer Enrollment Jumps

Portland Community College opened its summer term last month with a 13.8 percent growth in its full-time equivalent student's numbers. The increase in headcount (individual students) is 11.6 percent, bringing almost 2,000 more students to the college this summer than in 2000.

The increase can be attributed to a variety of factors, according to Susan Bach, director of PCC's Institutional Research Department - the growth in the metropolitan area, the need for education and training due to the dip in the economy, the affordability of the community college, plus, the increased offering of compressed courses this summer allows students to take a year's course work in one subject in the summer, from languages to economics, mathematics and more.

Another force that may translate to more students, particularly college-transfer, is the recent dual enrollment programs that give students the opportunity to be enrolled both at PCC and at PSU, OSU or OIT. The new program allows access to both schools with one application.

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