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CIRCUS KID

The Dearborn Elementary School S.C.A.T.S. (Seattle Cirque & Acrobat Teams) perform at the 21st Annual Beacon Hill Festival Saturday, June 1, at Jefferson Park and Community Center. The annual event included a lot of fun activities for kids, live music and dance performances, community information tables and food.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Kidney Health Fest

Come down for free services, family fun events, good food

On Saturday, June 22, Northwest Kidney Centers holds its 11th annual Kidney Health Fest for African American Families, featuring free health screenings, education, entertainment and healthy food made by local celebrity chefs.

The free event runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Van Asselt Elementary (formerly the African American Academy), 8311 Beacon Ave. S., in Seattle, on Metro bus line 106. About 750 people attended last year.

"Everyone is welcome to attend the Fest, have fun and learn about kidney disease and healthy living – and it's completely free!" said Dr. Bessie Young, a Seattle kidney specialist who has chaired the community organizing committee since the Fest began. "Bring your friends and family and make a day of it. People of every age can have fun while they learn how to keep their families healthy."

One in seven American adults has kidney disease. In the African American community, the number increases four-fold. Although African Americans make up 12 percent of the U.S. population, 35 percent of individuals with kidney failure on dialysis are African American.

In addition, African American men are 10 to 14 times more likely to develop kidney failure due to high blood pressure than Caucasian men in the same age group.

At the event, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., participants can receive a free kidney health screening and private consultation with a doctor about the results. The screening includes a finger stick for a blood sample, urinalysis, blood pressure and weight check. Diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity all contribute to the current epidemic of kidney disease.

Dr. Jonathan Himmelfarb, director of the Kidney Research Institute in Seattle, will be among the speakers. Himmelfarb is an international authority who can explain up-to-the-minute science in terms lay people can understand. He will talk about the reasons why kidney disease is more common in

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Prepaid College Tuition Going Up

Parents investing in price stabilization plan save by thinking ahead

By Donna Gordon
Blankinship
The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) Despite speculation to the contrary, the price for Washington's prepaid tuition program will be going up again this fall, according to officials with the Guaranteed Education Tuition program.

The committee that sets the price for GET units won't meet until mid-August, but agency spokeswoman Susan Martensen told The Associated Press a

price increase is all but certain.

"We have every indication from the state actuary that next year's unit price will be higher," she said. "It looks like we won't see a large tuition jump next year as we have seen in the past few years, but tuition both next year and over the long term is still projected to rise."

State Actuary Matt Smith said on Thursday that he can't predict what the GET committee will decide in August, but agreed that all indications are that an increase in the unit price

is likely this fall.

Since the program started in 1998, unit prices have never gone down; they've always gone up.

Meanwhile, Smith says a long-term plan to reform the GET program and improve its financial picture seems to be working.

Washington's prepaid tuition program is a state-run 529 college savings plan with a twist.

Investors are guaranteed that no matter what happens to the stock market or state tuition,

they will be able to pay for an academic year of tuition and mandatory fees at the state's most expensive college or university with 100 GET units. Tuition and fees at less expensive schools cost fewer units and housing is extra.

People who already have GET accounts for their children or others will have one more month to buy GET units at this year's price of \$172, which translates into \$17,200 for a year of tuition and state mandat-

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Police Retrain Drug-Sniffing Dog Force

Consequences of legalization continue in 'desensitization' efforts

By Manuel Valdes
The Associated Press

BREMERTON, WA (AP) When Dusty, a 19-month-old black Labrador, walked past a pipe full of marijuana during a recent police search of a house, he was doing exactly what his handler hoped.

The newest drug-sniffing dog on the police force in Bremerton, near Seattle, is

one of a few police dogs in Washington state that are not trained to point out pot during searches. Other police departments are considering or in the midst of re-training their dogs to ignore pot as well, part of the new reality in a state where voters last fall legalized marijuana use.

"We wanted to train our dog on what was truly illegal substances, that would be heroin, methamphetamine and cocaine," said

Dusty's handler, Officer Duke Roessel, who added that Dusty nabbed five pounds of meth during that recent search.

Police departments in Bremerton, Bellevue and Seattle, as well as the Washington State Patrol, have either put the dogs through pot desensitization training or plan not to train them for marijuana detection.

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