

New daycare center fully-functioning

GLBA brings art to WSU

By AUDRA JACKEY
Contributing writer

The reading room is quiet at 5 p.m. Artwork adorns the walls and small coats hang from hooks. Children can be heard playing games while waiting for their parents to arrive.

The reading room is one feature of the new daycare for elementary school children opened by the YMCA. The daycare is for first- to fifth-grade students.

"The program was nothing but a dream in November," said Art Crum, executive director of the YMCA.

Crum and Jenny Rule, the site director, have been working hard to plan the new daycare program.

The program was completed in November. Between November and January, the daycare received licensing and numerous donations from different areas of the community to get the ball rolling.

"We needed computers and the Colfax School District donated computers," Rule said. "The Pullman School District donated 18 chairs."

Those associated with the program have been very impressed by the outpouring of community support.

"It has been a series of small miracles," Crum said.

Although there are only 16 children registered so far, Crum said the need for after-school care on the

Palouse is great.

"Of the 1,100 school children enrolled in the Pullman School District, fewer than 200 children have after-school daycare and more than 800 students are on a latch-key system," Crum said. "We wanted to provide a safe place for children to go after school."

The Gladish Community Center is the site for the daycare and was deemed ideal for serving students throughout the area because of its central location to the area elementary schools.

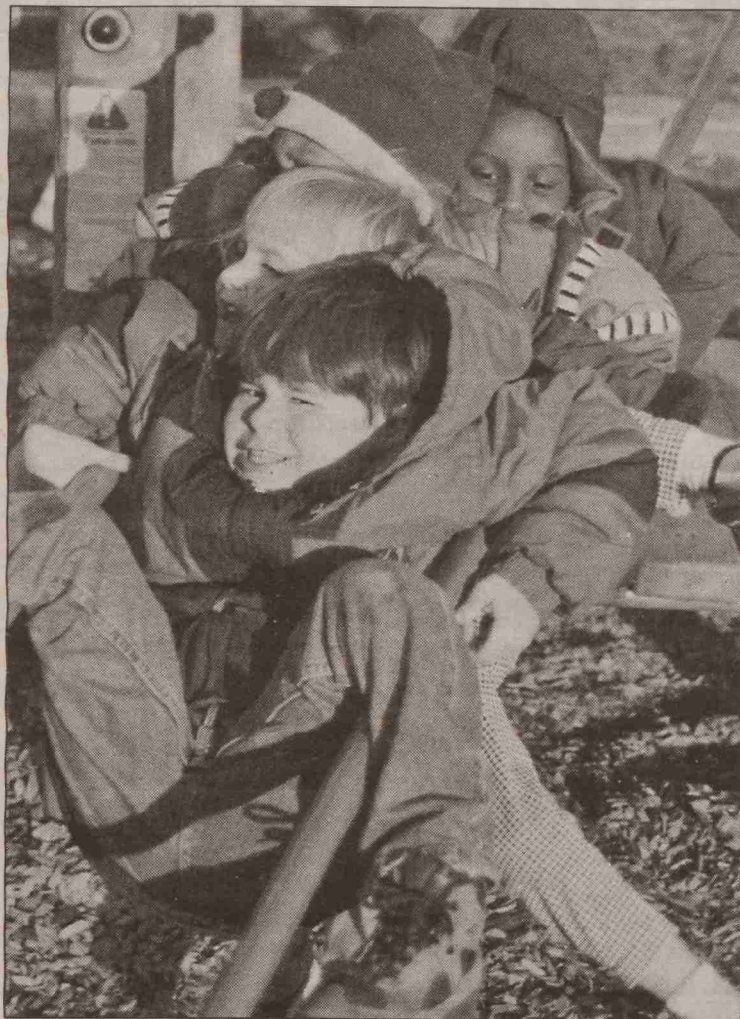
The daycare also complements other programs taking place in the community center.

The new daycare center can interact with the other programs, and parents are offered a number of programs for children of various ages.

"Parents can pick up their different-aged children from all the different programs in the same building," Rule said. "The program begins immediately after school and runs until 6 p.m."

The YMCA provides transportation for the children from the various Pullman elementary schools to Gladish Community Center.

Rule drops off counselors or teachers at a designated place at each of the elementary schools. Counselors then wait for the children and walk with them to the nearest Pullman Transit bus stop. Bus fare is included in the \$200 monthly fee.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIN JOHNSON

A new day care center is open in Gladish Community Center.

By KIANTHA SHADDUCK
The Daily Evergreen

Coming out can be life-threatening.

About one-third of all teenage suicides are related to concerns with sexual orientation, said Melynda Huskey, director of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Allies Program at WSU.

The research on this national statistic is based on negative implications from a predominantly heterosexual society in the United States, Huskey said.

"To help combat some prejudices, we have brought in the Love Makes a Family exhibit," she said. "People of all races, ethnicities, ages and social classes represent the spectrum of families in the world and that is what the pictures show — not anyone with two heads or a pitch fork and horns."

The photographs, which have stories attached depicting life in lesbian and gay families, will be on display in the Holland Library Atrium through Monday, she said.

"This is a reminder of the incredible richness and variety of families," Huskey said. "How marvelous it is that people can construct different ways of being together, loving and supporting each other."

Research shows the younger a person is, the more they are exposed to violence as a consequence to coming out, Huskey said.

"It is much easier when you are 25, for example, when most people have a job and can choose their own social support," she said. "You are more apt to control your own surroundings."

There are tremendous health risks involved with being in the closet, she said. The environment nurtures many stress-related illnesses such as depression.

Lesbian and gay youth in the closet are more likely to be irresponsible in their sexual activity with people of the opposite gender, she said, adding this as one way some people go about proving they are not gay.

The ultimate health risk is suicide, Huskey said.

"It is not so much in dealing with being gay," she said, "but that you might be and there is no one to talk to."

Working in conjunction with the Queer Student Association at University of Idaho, nearly \$2,000 was needed before Huskey said the exhibit could be a reality.

The WSU exhibit will be next on display in the Appaloosa Lounge at the UI Student Union Building from April 24 through May 8.

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