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Lookin' Tight Livin' Right

Lookin' Tight Livin' Right is a program that educates local beauticians and barbers in the fight against cardiovascular disease.

They will empower their clients to learn about major risk factors such as smoking, high blood pressure and diabetes, in order to lead healthier lives.

Sponsored by the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** and made possible in part by Legacy Emanuel, PSU-RR1, CareOregon and the Department of Human Services.



Boise Elliot Elementary School students (above) dress in colorful costumes to the delight of neighbors who came out to watch their storybook parade.

Frank Baldwin (left) and his son, Chris sizzle ribs to perfection Saturday at the first multi-cultural fair in the historic Mississippi neighborhood.



Randy Eskelin, a puppet enthusiast, peddles his finest wares at the Mississippi Street Fair Saturday afternoon.

PHOTOS BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

MULTI-CULTURAL FAIR CELEBRATES DIVERSITY

First Annual Mississippi Street Fair Huge Success

BY DAVID PLECHL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Mississippi Avenue Multi-Cultural Fair made a surprising debut last weekend attracting curious neighbors from throughout the Boise Elliot neighborhood and beyond.

Vendors happily peddled everything from rare books to piping hot sausage links. Organizers were pleasantly surprised by the larger than expected crowds that came out to sample local cuisine and groove to the rhythms of the area's musicians.

The fair was conceived of as a powerful way to display the unique cultural wealth of this dynamic community, while strengthening neighborhood bonds and

systems of support.

Leslie Barnes gave away children's books with the help of her daughter McKenzie, to raise awareness of the North/North East Network.

"We provide training and grant money to childcare providers," she said.

Barnes was just one of many local outreach groups and advocates that showed up for support and announce their services to local residents.

Activities began Thursday afternoon with a parade by all of Boise Elliot Elementary School's students. Costumed pigs, caterpillars, and colorful characters cruised the streets to the delight of neighbors who came out to watch and wave.

Friday Evening featured a talent show at the Mississippi ballroom "Mississippi Rising."

Saturday's events ran all day. An outdoor stage at the Mason's Lodge featured various local dance

troupe, singers and entertainers.

There seemed to be little bit of everything and a little bit of everyone. Kids munched on cherry snow cones, while parents toured galleries and collected helpful information. Hungry fair-goers devoured some of the best, barbecued ribs in town, sizzled to perfection by some of the areas local masters.

Community morale seemed at an all-time high as proud faces lit this once crumbling community. Neighbors remarked at how well their street is looking and how nice it is to be among supportive neighbors who share their vision of a multiethnic and multicultural neighborhood where everyone feels at home.

"This is a huge accomplishment for a street that really wants to feel like a place where people want to come," said Janet Baue, of the Mississippi Historic District Target Area Project, the organization that created the fair with Boise Elementary School.

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Charter School Opens in North Portland

Diversity of students needed for fall enrollment

Opening this fall in north Portland is the new Trillium Charter School, a unique kindergarten through 12th grade concept that instills community awareness. Part of the Portland Public School system, Trillium offers an alternative education that's based on different models of teaching.

Students of Trillium are grouped in mixed-age classes in a small school environment with a ratio of one teacher to twenty students. Their method of instruction is based on the educational philosophy of mixed-age teaching and learning, constructivist teaching and learning, multiple intelligences and experiential learning. Six certified teachers with offer individualized instruction. Students will also be linked with mentors in the primary grades and meet regularly.

Trillium's curriculum moves the students through a logical

progression of community, urban and global studies. Graduates of Trillium will meet or exceed state standards and be prepared for college with exceptional communication and critical-thinking skills. Courses will be built around interests and abilities rather than grade level.

Located at 116 N. Page, Trillium is accepting prospective students for the new school year, which begins on Sept. 3. Applications are being accepted for the lottery. A diversity of students from various economic, ethnic, cultural and educational backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

To learn more about the school an informational session will be held for Thursday, May 23 and Wednesday, May 29, 7 p.m. at the school. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call 503-285-3833 or go online to www.trilliumcharterschool.org.