

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Mississippi Street Fair

The Mississippi Avenue business district is opening its doors for a community celebration. The fun starts Thursday, May 15 with the Boise-Eliot Multicultural Fair from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Boise-Eliot Elementary, 620 N. Fremont, with hands-on artist's demonstrations, student performances and food. On Friday, May 16 there will be a talent show at the Mississippi Rising Ballroom, 833 N. Shaver, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by the showing of local filmmakers work in an outdoor theater north of the Fresh Pot. On Saturday, May 17 there will be a street fair from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. with a best rib's contest, community garage sale, arts and crafts, all ages bingo, food vendors, performance stages, horses and children's activities.

Infant Massage Class

On Tuesday, May 20, at Kaiser Permanente's Town Hall, 3704 N. Interstate Ave., parents of infants, can learn how to safely massage a baby at this two-hour class. Cost to attend is \$25 for Kaiser members and \$30 for the public. To register, call 503-286-6816.

Sabin Sidewalk Art Show and Sale

On Saturday, June 7 at the Starbucks Coffee House on Northeast 15th and Fremont, there will be a sidewalk show and sale kickoff to benefit the Sabin Elementary School art program. Students will show off their talents by painting on easels, there will be student art for sale and a silent auction on selected pieces. Following the kickoff, the sidewalk sale will continue throughout the summer.

Pet Photo Contest

Animal enthusiasts can enter pictures of their favorite, furry friends in the Oregon Humane Society's annual photo contest. Winners will take home gift certificates for local camera stores and will have their images featured in the Human Society's summer magazine and popular website. Awards will go to photos of the top dog, cat, other animal, funniest animal and the best photo of a child and a pet. Entries must be labeled on the back with the submitter's name, address, telephone number and the pet's name. There is a \$5 per household entry fee and all entries should be sent or delivered to the Oregon Humane Society, 1067 NE Columbia Blvd., before Monday, June 9 at 7 p.m.

Write Around Portland Benefit

The Liminal Theater at 403 NW Fifth Ave. will host an Annual Facilitator Reading to benefit Write Around Portland on June 12 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be wine, food, music, a raffle and more. Write Around Portland facilitators are the group who volunteer to work behind the scenes offering workshops that bring the power of writing to people throughout the city. A \$10 donation will be suggested for the reading. For more information, call 503-796-9224.

Summer Camp at the Zoo

Children, four years of age through seventh grade, can spend five exciting days at the zoo learning about various endangered species. The camp, which runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 16 through August 29, includes daily lunch breaks and instruction from the zoo's most experienced animal keepers. For more information or to register, call 503-220-2781.

Daddy Day Care Portland Style

This is where the Lord led me.

— David Morris, on why he decided to open up a day care service



Gregoryiana, 6, celebrates after winning a foot race with daycare provider David Morris. The northeast Portland man is a living testament to the new Eddie Murphy movie "Daddy Day Care."



David Morris races with daycare children in the front lawn of his northeast Portland home. Even though he runs three miles a day, Morris lets the kids win. PHOTOS BY WYNDE DYER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Childcare provider shares similarities with Eddie Murphy character

BY WYNDE DYER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When David Morris was laid off from his long-time job as a shipyard foreman in 1998 he got an idea.

Just like Eddie Murphy's character in "Daddy Day Care," Morris hung up his working tools and put on his kid gloves to open up an in-home child-care service.

"I was tired of working for the man," said Morris, who opened Your Child's Day Care later that May. "I prayed for something and this is where the Lord led me." Morris admits his daily work, which begins with his first child at 5 a.m., is a switch in traditional gender roles, but he says he's fine with that. He likes allowing his wife Melanie to focus on her career for

the Salvation Army while he holds down the fort.

"I'm a gourmet chef, so when she gets home dinner's prepared and the house is clean," Morris said.

The push to open up the lower floor of their two-story house on the corner of Northeast 29th and Lombard came from Melanie, said Morris. The couple has four adopted foster children, so rather than pay for outside child-care Melanie urged Morris to stay home with the kids.

"My wife has a real compassion for little

people," Morris said. "She doesn't call them children or kids, she calls them little people because she says they feel, understand, hurt, desire, need and love just like little living souls."

Morris enrolled in early childhood development courses through The New United Way and the Peninsula Children's Network, a group of childcare providers that insures all childcare givers qualify with the proper skills to teach children.

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Operation Restoration

Rasheedah Dedmon, a student from Open Meadows High School, applies a fresh coat of paint to Tom Cramer's 1,500 square foot mural "Machinery," on the Scientific Research Building at the corner of North Williams and Shaver Street. Students from the school have joined the local artist and volunteers from Metro Murals to restore the large scale mural to its original state.

Jobless Rate Still Rising

Unemployment at 8 percent; highest since Feb. 2002

(AP) — The state's unemployment jumped to eight percent last month, up from 7.6 percent in March.

That's the highest unemployment has been since February 2002, when the rate was 8.1 percent.

Oregon's highest rate since the economic downturn started two years ago was in January 2002 when the rate was 8.4 percent.

The national rate for April was six percent. The last time the national rate was higher than Oregon's rate was in July of 1994.

According to economists, the number of available jobs

in the state has not kept pace with the growth rate.

Oregon's civilian labor force, which includes the employed plus the unemployed, has grown over the past two years by 32,400. During that time the number of unemployed has increased by 43,200.

In April, total nonfarm payroll employment added only 100 jobs at a time of year when a gain of 8,400 would have been the norm.

Construction was flat in April when a gain of 1,300 jobs would have been typical.

Rain in some areas may have delayed the start of the construction season.

Manufacturing posted similarly dismal numbers in April.

Trade, transportation, and utilities added only 300 jobs, when a gain of 2,300 is normal.