



Marnesha Strickland (from left), Gloria Mills, Jelani McClendon and Rose Stanley helped throw a Kidney Carnival with the MIKE program for kidney health.

Better Kidneys, Healthier Kids

Teen participants of the Multicultural Integrated Kidney Education (MIKE) program threw a Kidney Carnival at the Youth Opportunities Center in conjunction with National Youth Service Day last Friday.

Volunteers, aged 14 through 17, shared information about kidney health and disease prevention that they learned through the program. "They really demonstrated learning. They knew that diabetes and

high blood pressure were leading causes of kidney disease and what the risk factors were," said Dr. Cheryl Neal, director of the program. For more information about MIKE, visit www.mikeprogram.org.

Omaha Unveils King Statue, Son Attends

(AP) — Martin Luther King Jr.'s son will be in Omaha, Neb. this month for the unveiling of a 9-foot-tall bronzed statue of his father.

Mayor Mike Fahey will unveil the statue on April 24, at a celebration honoring the slain civil rights leader. The site of the statue is a plaza on the northeast side of the City-County Building that's dedicated to King.

Local artist Littleton Alston created the statue, which is titled, "Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: I've been to the Mountain Top."

The ceremony will include live music and a speech from Martin Luther King III, the son of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King.

"It was (former) Mayor Mike Boyle's idea to dedicate the plaza



Martin Luther King III visits Mississippi State University in this Feb. 9, 2004 file photo, to commemorate Black History Month, in Mississippi State, Miss. (AP Photo)

to Dr. King and with his blessing I decided last year to build upon that tribute to add something to the plaza that was highly visible and reinforces ... that the justice (that) Dr. King's work and words sought has not been wholly achieved," Fahey said.

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Mental Health Research Study

People who have been diagnosed with schizophrenia, as well as their relatives, are invited to participate in a research study.

Volunteers will be paid \$40, and will help contribute to new knowledge that could benefit many in the future.

The study will help to determine whether prostaglandin hormones are involved in cognitive processes, like memory or problem-solving, that are frequently affected by schizophrenia. The study would take about 4 hours and could be completed in a single visit. It would involve cognitive tests like learning lists of words, reading lists of color, remembering the location of dots on a computer screen, etc. It would also involve placing eight drops of a water-based niacin solution on the forearm and measuring the skin's blood flow response with a painless, non-invasive technique.

This study is being conducted at Portland VA Medical Center, but you do not need to be a veteran to participate.

Please contact Verlinda at 503-220-8262, Extension 56707 for further information.

Same-Sex Marriage Licenses Halted

State will recognize licenses granted

(AP) — A judge told Multnomah County to stop issuing gay marriage licenses Tuesday, but he handed gay couples a historic victory by ordering Oregon to recognize the 3,000 licenses already granted in the county.

The decision by Multnomah County Circuit Judge Frank Bearden marked the first time in the nation that a judge has recognized gay marriage.

"These are the first legally rec-

ognized gay marriages in the country," said Dave Fidanque, the ACLU executive director in Oregon.

The county began allowing gay marriage on March 3, making it the only place in the nation where gays could get married. The county has issued 3,022 marriage licenses to gay couples since then.

Bearden told the county to cease issuing same-sex licenses until the Oregon Legislature has a chance to fashion a new law, perhaps allowing Vermont-style civil unions.

He gave the Oregon Legislature 90 days from the start of its next session to come up with the new law. If that doesn't happen, Multnomah County can resume

issuing marriage licenses to gays and lesbians.

Legislators could convene in Salem as early as June, for a session that was intended to focus on tax reform.

The action effectively ends gay marriage nationally, at least until May 17, when Massachusetts is slated to begin allowing gay marriage following a high court ruling there.

An immediate appeal of the ruling was expected. The decision came in a lawsuit that has consolidated all the arguments over same-sex unions in hopes of a quick ruling by the Oregon Supreme Court.

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