

Good in the Neighborhood this Weekend

Multicultural festival celebrates local community

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It's all "Good in the Neighborhood" this year, when multicultural music, food and entertainment packs King School Park for a weekend's worth of celebration.

Washington Mutual, along with 24 sponsors, will host the festival on Saturday, June 25 from noon to 9:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 26 from noon to 7:45 p.m. at King School Park on the 4800 block of Northeast Sixth Street.

The 12th annual celebration began when the parents and staff of Holy Redeemer School wanted to create outreach in surrounding communities to create more diversity in the school, as well as raise funds for scholarships. The celebration has since moved to King School Park as an event for



The Linda Hornbuckle Band performs Sunday at Good in the Neighborhood.

north and northeast Portland neighborhoods.

"It's been great," said Sheryl Roberts, chairperson for Good in the Neighborhood. "The

neighbors have accepted the event with open arms. Some people say it's like a big, backyard barbecue."

Big barbecue, indeed. Roberts estimates

anywhere from 6,000 to 7,000 people show up over the weekend.

"There's community unity," Roberts said. "It's a place where new friends are met and old friends are seen again. It's fun and entertaining."

What makes Good in the Neighborhood unique from other community festivals?

"I think it's truly multicultural. You see more than one race, you see a nice mix of people," Roberts said. "This is a one of a kind event for this community."

She said despite the fact that the festival is free, the high quality and professional entertainment offered isn't diminished.

An open house kick-off party will be held on Thursday, June 23 from 6 to 10 p.m. at McMenamins Kennedy School at 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave. Musicians Kant B Caught, Younglife, Funk Plastic and Blacknotes will perform, along with comedian Brian Ballard.

Music will continue to get the juices flowing Saturday and Sunday on two stages with more than 20 acts, featuring blues,

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Othello - The Portland Actors Ensemble at the Lovejoy Fountain Park is presenting The Shakespearean play Othello each Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. until July 9. Bring a lawn chair or seating pad for comfort. The Park is located between Lincoln and Harrison Street between First and Fourth Avenues.

Sponge Bob at the Zoo - Now through Labor Day, the Oregon Zoo will present Nickelodeon's SpongeBob SquarePants - the thrill ride. The cost is \$4.50 in addition to admission. For more information call 503-

226-1561 or visit www.oregonzoo.org

Story Book Ride — Thomas the Tank Engine himself celebrates the 60th anniversary of the storybook series by making tracks through the nation and stopping at the Mt. Hood Railroad in Hood River from Saturday June 25 to July 3. Family entertainment will include photo opportunities, arts and crafts, storytelling, live music and more. For ticket information, visit www.ticketweb.com/thomas

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www.mthoodrr.com.

Laugh Factory - Comedy returns every second Wednesday of the month at the upscale Bacchus Restaurant, thanks to EEI International.

Trippin' through Town - Take a trip through time to find the hottest poetry, hip-hop and soul influencing Portland on Wednesdays at the Ohm. \$7 cover. 31 N.W. First Ave.

On the Radio - Groove to soul and hip-hop with Kevin Berry from 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays

at 90.7 FM/KBOO. Check out the Community Potpourri talk show from 7 to 8 a.m. Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays at 1480 AM/KBMS. Count your blessings with Melodies from Heaven from 6 to 10 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at 1290 AM/KKSL. Tune in to African American Health Radio Wednesday nights on 1290 AM/KKSL.

Gypsy Classes - Caravan Studios offers classes in belly dance, African dance and more. Visit www.gypsycaravan.us.

Have a Ball - Kids will have a ball at OMSI's new Innovation Station by exploring the human side of technology. For more information, visit www.oms.edu.

Amusement At Oaks Park - Oaks Park in southeast Portland offers rides, picnic grounds, roller-skating and family games in the shade of 100-year-old oak trees on the banks of the Willamette River. Rides and roller-skating are open daily.

Time to Jam - Jam Night, Portland's ever-popular comedy and variety show is at Christian Performing Arts Center, 8131 N. Denver Ave. Shows continue every Friday Night starting at 9 p.m. with dinner by Mondemaj Catering next door to the show at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Dinner is \$13 and tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. For dinner reservations, call 503-286-2590.

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