

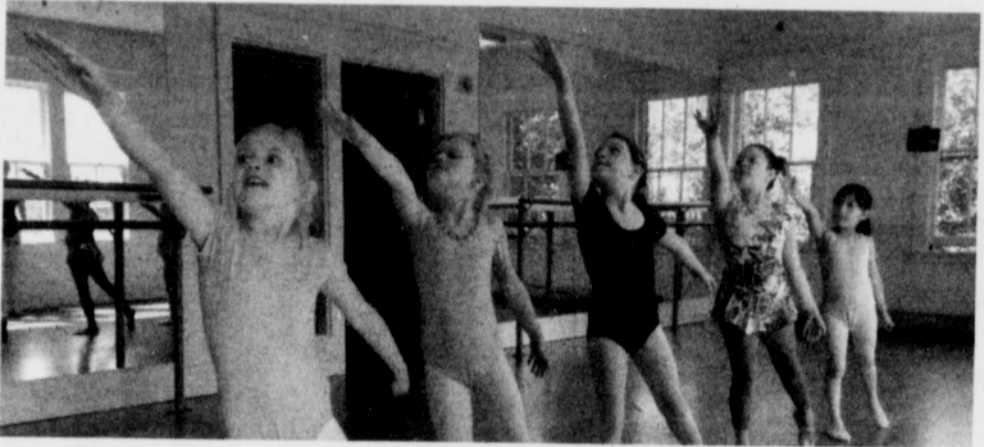
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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS



Changes are coming to Last Thursday on Alberta Street to keep the event from disrupting neighbors and going late into the night. The restrictions announced by Mayor Hales include police enforcement of open-container drinking in the right of way and compliance with the city's noise code.

Last Thursday Curbs

New rules fashioned to address complaints

The summer season for Last Thursday on Alberta Street is about to begin with new restrictions, including ending the festivities earlier in the evening to cut down on neighborhood complaints.

Mayor Charlie Hales last week announced a set of changes for the

monthly celebrations which attract crowds of upward of 20,000 people as they mingle with creatives, artisans and musical performers. Under the new rules, the festivals will end at 9 p.m., and the mayor's office will study the option of charging fees, possibly to food vendors and local bars and restaurants that remain

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King Students to Perform for First Lady

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Five local students are not only going to be performing for the First Lady, but in the nation's capital as well; not bad for some northeast Portland kids. The Third grade students at Martin Luther King Jr. School were handpicked by the Turnaround Arts Committee to travel to Washington, D.C. and perform the classic play "Annie" for Michelle Obama over the weekend. The children will fly out from Portland on Saturday and return next week.

The opportunity comes a little over a year after the school was selected as one of eight schools in the country to participate in a U.S. Department of Education program called Turnaround Arts Initiative. The program is designed specifically to narrow the achievement gap for underserved students while pairing the schools with notable performing artists who volunteer their time.

For King, that meant former

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MAVERICK MAIN STAGE PRODUCTIONS
Sinai Jones as First Lady Michelle Obama and Joseph Justice as President Obama in an afterschool production by Portland's Maverick Main Stage Productions. Jones, a student at King School, and four of her classmates are headed to the White House for a weekend performance to celebrate the school's "Tourmaround Arts Initiative."