

Area Kids Get Noggin Protection

The staff at Legacy Health Systems knows how easily a summer afternoon of riding bikes can land kids in the emergency room. To combat these potential accidents, trauma nurses are sponsoring a series of helmet sales at discounted prices.

The nurses gathered at Emanuel Hospital last week to sell helmets for just \$5 and a variety of bicycle and pedestrian lights, too.

The next sale is from 3 to 5 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21, in the atrium at the Winstar Morris Room of Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Helmets will also be on sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays Sept. 13 at the Legacy Mount Hood Medical Center and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Legacy Meridian Park Hospital.

But having a helmet doesn't cut it if the fit isn't just right. The helmets are sized to fit and protect each kid's head. Kids can also bring in their own helmets for correct fitting and adjustment.

For more information, call 503-415-5725.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
An affordable helmet sale at Legacy Emanuel Hospital.

Paddle Through the Slough

The Columbia Slough Small Craft Regatta will make a splash from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, July 27 at the Multnomah County Drainage District Headquarters, 1880 N.E. Elrod Dr.

The ninth annual event cel-

brates the Columbia Slough, a waterway with unique history, abundant wildlife and many opportunities for summer fun. The regatta is the largest community paddling event in the northwest, attracting hundreds of canoeists and

kayakers.

Participants receive free refreshments, a free Columbia Slough access guide and a free t-shirt.

Donations are appreciated. For more information, call 503-823-2934.



Friends Enjoy Sternwheeler Sights

Corliss McKeever of the African American Health Coalition and friends Enrique Godreau, Miriam Naini and Ali Arjomand of Seattle enjoy a summer brunch cruise on the Columbia Sternwheeler.

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COURAGEOUS

AFRICAN AMERICANS By Ron Weber
Portland Observer

Benjamin O. Davis - Generals Times Two

Father and son changed how the military views men of color

If you were to look at their military jackets, you might get confused in a hurry. Both Benjamin O. Davis and his son Benjamin Jr. have long, successful military careers.

The senior Davis was born in Washington D.C. on May 28, 1877 and died a celebrated U.S. Army war hero in Chicago on Thanksgiving weekend in 1970. After attending Howard University and Wilberforce University, Davis was said to have been the most educated African American of his era. He joined the Army as a private in 1899, went on to become a sergeant major, the highest enlisted rank, before becoming a junior officer and ultimately a general, an unheard status for an African American at that time.

Davis also became the U.S. military attaché for Liberia. Throughout his years in the military and civilian government he taught military science at Wilberforce and



Like his father, Benjamin O. Davis Jr. showed that regardless of skin color, a person could fight as well as any other soldier, graduate from college just like anyone else, and elevate themselves to powerful positions in the work force.

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Davis' contribution to America proved, beyond a shadow of a doubt, the true make up and ability of the African-American race. His exemplary career is also credited with drawing many African-Americans into military service, including his son, Benjamin O. Davis Jr.

Surprising not only his dad, but also many military officials, the younger Davis decided to join the Air Force. Davis Jr. was also born in Washington D.C., on Dec. 18, 1912, when his father was 35-years-old and had already served in the military for 13 years. One of their proudest moments came when the older Davis pinned the Distinguished Flying Cross onto his son in Italy during World War II.

Davis Jr. graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1936, only the fourth black person to complete the academy. He was then transferred to the Air Academy and got his wings to fly in 1942, just as the World War II was in full force.

His first assignment was commander of the 99th Fighter Squadron, with campaigns in Africa, Sic-

ily, and northern Italy. His bravery and relentless pursuit of the enemy gained him an appointment as commander of the 332nd Fighter Group. By the end of the war Davis Jr. had earned not only the Distinguished Flying Cross, but also the Silver Star. Although many military men quit or retired after the horrors of the war, Davis Jr. continued, becoming the commander of the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing during the Korean War.

After Korea, he became Director of Operations and Training of the Far East Air Forces. Finally in 1954, Davis Jr. made the rank of Brigadier

General. He would be the first African American to earn this rank in the Air Force.

Five years before his father died, Davis Jr. was promoted again. This time it was to the rank of Lieutenant General, one rank above his father's highest achievement. Five years later, about the time his father died, Davis Jr. retired from the military.

Including his years at West Point, Davis served the military for 38 years, bringing the total service time of father and son to 88 years. Like his father, he showed that regardless of skin color, a person could fight as well as any other soldier, graduate from college just like anyone else and elevate themselves to powerful positions in the work force.

After the military, Davis Jr. served as Director of Public Safety in Cleveland, Ohio and assistant secretary, in charge of civil aviation security for the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Never before or after has any father and son African-American team done so much in the name of their race for the United States military. The Davis' contribution to America and its rich history must never be forgotten.

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