

METRO / SPORTS

The Portland Observer *exclusive*

Community Calendar

Hoopin' It Up

This two-day basketball clinic on July 29-30 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at The Hoop Vancouver stresses the importance of correct shooting form. It will focus on stationary shooting, shooting off of screens and shooting on the move. Ages 9 to 14 are encouraged to attend. For more information, please call 360-260-2088.

Alberta Farm Market

Providing healthy, affordable, high quality food, the Alberta Cooperative Grocery offers seasonal produce from local growers, ready-to-eat food and weekly entertainment. Open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, located on 1500 NE Alberta Street. For more information, call 503-287-4333.

Attention Bookworms!

Contact the nearest public library near you and take advantage of fun summer reading programs open to all ages or take free computer classes. Learn about e-mail, web searching, spreadsheets, word processing and more. To learn more, visit online at <http://www.multicolib.org>.

Writing Seminar

Free your writing spirit with a free writing workshop by Write Around Portland through Aug. 12 at locations in and around north Portland. To register or contribute, call 503-796-9224.

Interest in Adoption?

A free information meeting for prospective adoptive parents is held the third Wednesday of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Belmont Public Library, 1038 S.E. 39th Ave. For more information, call 503-226-4870 or visit www.openadopt.com.

Stay Healthy

Sankofaa Health Institute offers a free diabetes support group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every third Thursday at Alberta Simmons Plaza, 6707 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-2484.

Work For Change

Community Advocates invites those interested in protecting children from abuse to become an event volunteer, event outreach, technology expert, graphic artists or office support team member. For more information, call 503-280-1388.

Home Improvement

The Community Energy Project holds free workshops on water conservation and weatherization. For more information, call 503-284-4962.

NAACP Meetings

The Portland Branch of the NAACP holds two monthly executive committee meetings, on the second Thursday of the month and the Thursday before the fourth Saturday of the month. General membership meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month. For more information, call 503-284-7722.

Aquatic Fitness

Providence has a full schedule of fitness classes including water exercising at the Providence Aquatic Center, 4805 N.E. Glisan. For a schedule, call 503-215-6301.

Women Speak

Women have a voice at Women in NAACP, a new women's group, meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month at the American Red Cross Building, 3131 N. Vancouver. For questions, call 503-249-6263.



PHOTO BY
MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND
OBSERVER

NBA Slam Dunk Champion gives one-on-one advice about shooting inside the key to Big Brother Big Sister participant.

Super Star Shares Love and Basketball

Slam-dunk champion gives back to childhood community

BY JOHANNA S. KING/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"Everyone move together," yells Freddy Jones, guard for the Indiana Pacers and Portland native. "Work as a team to put the ball in the basket and it makes everybody look and feel good."

A kick off to his weekend of basketball

festivities, Jones spent an afternoon hanging out with kids of the Big Brother Big Sister program at Irving Park in northeast Portland.

The clinic, sponsored by NikeGO, was geared toward giving young people the opportunity of learning more about the game they love from a professional athlete. Jones supports the sport, but also sheds light on the importance of becoming a well-rounded young person.

"Basketball is only a part of the picture," he says. "There's a lot more than just the glamour and fame the game has to offer. I'd rather be a good person versus a good ball

player any day."

As part of his first Freddy Jones Summer Slam weekend benefiting Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Portland, the NBA star shows youngsters the game as it's played on the court among fellow pro athletes.

Jones hopes to get kids active through his weekend of action packed events and show them that although basketball is fun, other things like going to school and working hard to get good grades is even more important to becoming a successful individual.

Big Brothers Big Sisters tries to help in the

development of children across Metropolitan Portland, including inner city youth who often know more intimately about challenge and adversity. Adult volunteers, called Big Brothers and Big Sisters spend several hours per week with their little sis or bro as not only a friend, but as a mentor who genuinely cares.

"Kids need that special attention and personal time with an adult who can serve as a trusted friend and positive role model," said program, director Lynn Thompson. "It's

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PENINSULA ADVANCES TO REGIONAL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Boy's all-star baseball team wins state tournament and earns advancement

The Peninsula Junior Baseball team, coached by Bryan Butcher Sr., celebrates their state championship victory against Jefferson County with a 19 to 10 win.

One thing is for certain, when these 13 and 14 year olds from Peninsula Junior Baseball Team gather together on the field, they know how to play ball.

The Peninsula boy's team won both district and state tournaments, earning the next advancement of playing for the 2004 regional title.

The all-star team includes: Alex Bennett-Melson, DeShawn Blacknall, Andre



Broadous, Bryan (BJ) Butcher, Paul Gibson, Dwayne (DJ) Lincoln, Marcos Montas, Shawn Richey, Theron Segar, Darius Strickland.

The West Coast Regional Tournament will be held in Forest Grove starting on Wednesday, August 4 to Aug. 11. Teams representing Alaska, Washington, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Arizona, Wyoming and Hawaii will all be in attendance. The winning teams will not only take home a gigantic trophy, but will also be invited to compete in the Junior Little League World Series held in Taylor, Michigan August 15-21.



Novice tennis enthusiast learns playing technique at Irving Park.

Tennis on the Brain

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Texas' 16-year-old tennis Super Champion is visiting Portland for the summer to help teach tikes about the game.

Forrest "Andy" Jenkins got his first racket at age 3 and his life hasn't been the same since then.

A Houston resident, entering his junior year at Worthing High School, Jenkins devotes as much energy into athletics as academics. He took his college entry exams at age 12 and would like to study mathematics in college; possibly engineering or geometry.

He also has ambitions to be a professional tennis player.

His local coach, Don Johnson, founder and director of Kids 'N' Tennis, which is currently running summer clinics in northeast Portland, says those dreams can be realized if he starts getting the national at-

ention he deserves.

"He's an all court player and that's the kind of player that you want to have. He's multi-dimensional," Johnson said.

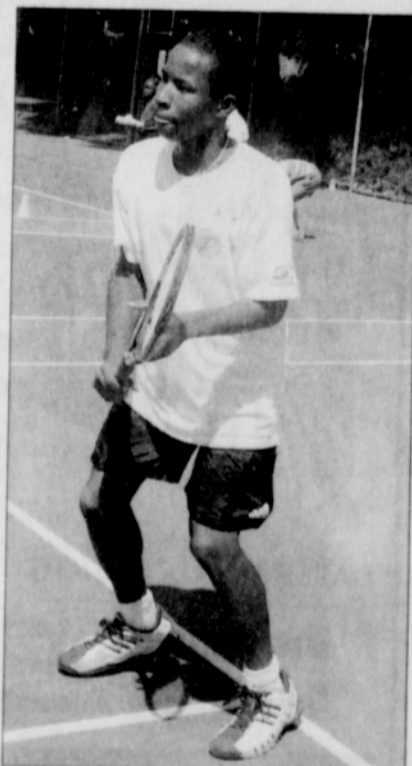
Jenkins has won five tournaments, and recently played in the Al Edwards Men's Open Juneteenth Classics. He was the only youngster in the event.

Besides spending his summers visiting his Dad in Portland, Jenkins has volunteered with Kids 'N' Tennis since the age of 12.

"I just love tennis. This is what I do," said Jenkins, who also enjoys video games and watching track and basketball.

Jenkins practices tennis six days each week. With his commitment and well-rounded approach to the sport and his life, his coach is confident he'll rival tennis greats in two or three years.

"Having an all court game means having the mind to match," said Johnson.



Forrest "Andy" Jenkins prepares to return a serve.