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Portland
Observer

'City of Roses'

Volume XXXVI, Number 32

History Revealed

Chief ranger tells
story of local
Buffalo Soldiers
See Metro section, inside

Raising Young Men

Local poet, educator
and single mom sorts
out the issues
See Metro section, inside

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Week in The Review

Sheehan Kicks Off Protest

Anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan continued her protest near President Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas. On Tuesday, she released 18 balloons with postcards saying she wanted to meet with the president. See story, page A2.

Bush Adviser Guilty

A former White House adviser pleaded guilty to theft Friday, briefly breaking into tears as he tried to explain why he made phony returns at discount department stores while earning \$160,000 a year as a top aide to President Bush. See story, page A2.

Interest Rate Stays Put

With the economy losing momentum, the Federal Reserve halted the longest unbroken stretch of interest rate increases in recent history Tuesday - a reprieve for millions of borrowers after more than two years of rate pain.

U.S. Tries to Stop Killing

A series of bombings and shootings in Iraq killed at least 33 people Tuesday, most in the Baghdad area, as more American soldiers patrolled the streets of the capital in a make-or-break bid to quell sectarian violence. See story, page A2.

Israeli Threat Grows

Israel shut down south Lebanon with a threat to blast any moving vehicles, as ground fighting intensified near the Israeli border, airstrikes killed at least 19 civilians and Arab governments called for a full Israeli withdrawal as a condition of any ceasefire.

BP Pipeline Corroded

Shares in oil giant BP dropped and crude oil prices soared Monday as the company prepared to shut down its Prudhoe Bay oilfield in Alaska, the biggest oilfield in the United States, following the discovery of a corroded pipeline.

Fewer Hurricanes

Hurricane season should be slightly less active than originally predicted, federal forecasters said Tuesday. There have been only three tropical storms and no hurricanes so far, but August through October are typically the most active months of the season.

Self Enhancement Turns 25

Celebration Sunday at Unthank Park

Self Enhancement, Inc. will host a "25 Years of Soul" celebration Sunday, Aug. 13, at the SEI center and adjoining Unthank Park, 3920 N. Kerby Ave. Local neighbors and the greater Portland community is invited to share in the free festivities from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

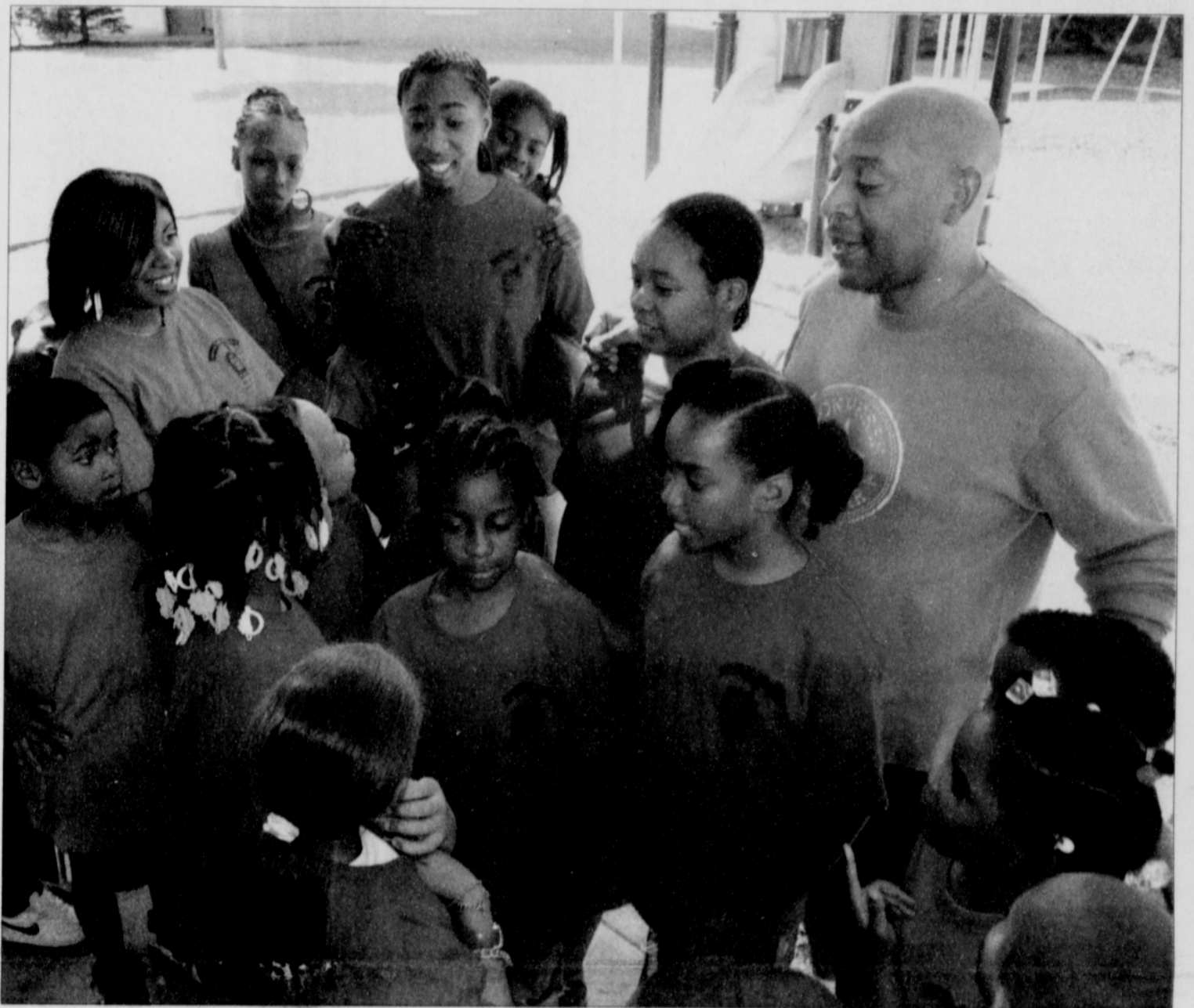
The 25th anniversary event will feature activities for kids, a catered barbecue cookout provided by NW Natural, contests hosted by Jammin' 95.5, and giveaways and free haircuts provided by Terrell Brandon's Barber Shop.

The main stage will feature live entertainment by Portland's leading soul singer, Liv Warfield, the popular 10-piece band Soul Vaccination and performances by the SEI drum line and choir.

As part of the silver anniversary campaign, SEI has constructed a photo journal by local photographer Julie Keefe, highlighting 25 program alumni sharing their compelling success stories and positive results from their participation in SEI. The photo project will be featured at the alumni booth, and SEI alumni will enjoy a special hospitality area on the balcony overlooking Unthank Park.

From a one-week basketball camp in 1981, SEI has evolved into a full-service organization, guiding underserved youth, especially African American and minority children, in realizing their full potential.

Working with schools, families and partner community organiza-



Lifelong Portland resident Tony Hopson mentors local youth at Self Enhancement, Inc., the year-round education and social service program he founded 25 years ago. SEI will honor its silver anniversary on Sunday with a '25 Years of Soul' celebration at its north Portland center and adjoining Unthank Park.

tions, SEI provides support, guidance and opportunities for children and young adults ages eight to 25.

SEI provides numerous year-round services at the center, and has successfully evolved to offer:

a charter middle school (SEI Academy); in-school services (academic mentoring and tutoring) in 11 Port-

continued ▼ on page A6

Native American Family Center Opens

Whitaker site thought to have been a historic native village

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The dust is settling at a new family center for the Native American Youth Association, as staff and community settle into the former Whitaker-Lakeside Middle School in northeast Portland.

Traffic zooms by the 20,000 square-foot building that faces a bleak industrial stretch of Columbia Boulevard, but cultures collide when visitors circle the building - where 20 acres of wetlands and the Columbia River Slough beg to be explored.

throughout, but NAYA has spent a busy summer painting and transforming the space.

The change comes at an opportune time for the growing organization, even though their relocation followed some unsettling experiences at its former headquarters on North Mississippi Avenue.

The Mississippi neighborhood's new bars, restaurants and specialty shops transformed NAYA's former home into a district that became culturally, if not already physically, inaccessible to many in the native community.

Kids have learned that math and science have nothing to do with them, but the reality is our people have been doing math, science and technology for thousands of years, in a different way.

— Nichole Maher, NAYA executive director

The best part - NAYA's new site is thought to have once been a historic Multnomah Chinook Native American village.

"The site has historical and cultural significance to the native community, and we've always incorporated wetlands restoration and environmental sciences into our curriculum," said Nichole Maher, NAYA's executive director.

Evidence of the iconic school that once served generations of northeast Portland kids lingers

Maher said some business owners took an unfriendly stance with the non-profit's presence, and racist graffiti was left on the center's van last year. Even so, she said they had great relationships on the avenue and left with no bad feelings.

NAYA has received a warm welcome from its new Cully neighborhood, an area midway between Interstates 5 and 205. The central location increases accessibility to the estimated 38,000 Portland-area



John Anderson and other summer camp participants climb into a Native American Youth Association van at the new NAYA Family Center in northeast Portland, before heading for a field trip day of climbing near Forest Grove.

natives, who make up the ninth largest Native American community in United States.

"What's great about this location is we serve a lot of people who live in Northeast, St. John's, outer Northeast and Southeast, Parkrose and Gresham," she said.

NAYA formed as a grassroots, parent and volunteer-run organization 32 years ago, and has grown

significantly since 1990. The new center, with a staff of nearly 50, continues to offer youth and family services, housing and job placement and cultural identity and education for Portland's native community, and will open a high school at the site in the fall of 2007.

The organization has a five-year lease at the Whitaker site, which they'd like to make permanent, and

there's been other native organizations that have expressed an interest in sharing the building.

NAYA's future alternative high school will target the country's most impoverished ethnic group. Half of Portland's Native American population lives 200 percent below the federal poverty level, and Native youth

continued ▼ on page A5

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