

# METRO

The Portland Observer



**Airmen Want Accurate Portrayal**  
Members of the famous Tuskegee Airmen work with Director George Lewis on his new film about the all-black fliers  
See story, page B3

SECTION **B**

## Community Calendar

### African Drumming & Jazz

Saturday, June 28, at 7 p.m., Warner Pacific College McGuire Auditorium, 2219 S.E. 68 Ave., will host a night where Ghanaian drumming, dancing and American jazz, featuring Chata Addy & the Mosaïque Band. For tickets, call Beth at 503-348-4306.

### Digital Camera Class

Saturday, June 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., a one-day class instructing techniques to take advantage of all the advanced features of your digital camera will be available at Mt. Hood Community College; \$50 fee. For more information, visit mhcc.edu.

### Community Gardens

Saturday, June 28, Rigler Community Garden, NE 52 and NE Prescott St., will host a winter gardening class and work party from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and on Saturday, July 12, the John's Community Garden at N. Edison and N. Johns, will host a garden clean-up and work party from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

### "Introduction to Digital Photography"

Tuesday, July 8, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., MHCC will offer a course to instruct prospective photographers the nuances of selecting the right digital camera and equipment, topics include white balance, image quality and resolution; \$24 fee, to register call 503-491-7572.

### Student Exchange Host Needed

The nonprofit international student exchange program, AFS-USA is currently seeking local volunteers to host students in high school, volunteers are also needed as liaisons to work locally with families and their hosted students; to learn more visit [afs.org/usa/hostfamily](http://afs.org/usa/hostfamily).

### 'Viva La Raza' Rebel Reading Circle

Wednesdays, July 2 thru July 30, at 7 p.m. at the Bread & Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth St., discover the stolen history of defiant organizing by farm workers, students and Chicana feminists in the telling of their dramatic story; for more information call 503-240-4462.

### Camp SCRAP

July 7 thru July 11, children ages 6-10 will learn new skills from local artist at Camp SCRAP; activities include tile mosaics, bike part wind chimes, and reuse art projects all week, with field trips to several local recyclers. Call 503-294-0763 for discounts and scholarships.

### Re-tilling the Soil

Saturday, July 12 the People of Purpose and Associates will host the celebration of community spirit and pride to rejuvenate and reawaken the neglected soil of NE Portland; for more information contact Larry Collins at 503-839-8676 or 503-823-4575.

### Advantage Basketball Camp

The Advantage Basketball camp is now accepting registration for the summer break camp, the camp will be held July 14-18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Cedar Park Middle School, 11100 S.W. Parkway St. For more information, call 800-670-0013.

### Buffalo Soldiers Club

The National Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Troopers Motorcycle Club is starting a new Portland chapter. The club promotes family values, community involvement and educates the public of the proud history of the 9th and 10th Calvary, known as the Buffalo Soldiers. For more information, call 503-602-4313.

### Student Summer Jobs

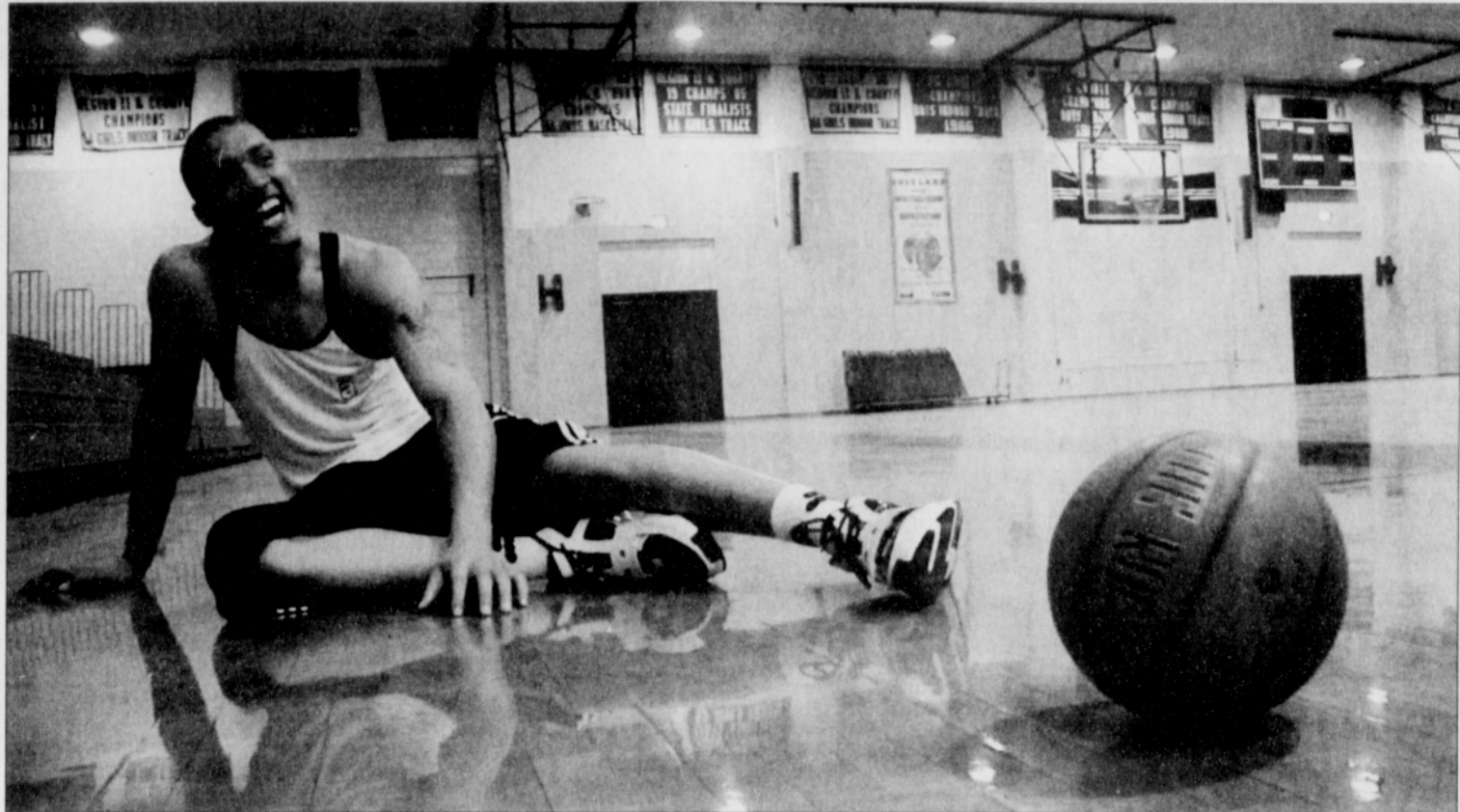
Portland Public Schools has positions open for high school students to work as custodial helpers. For information, call 503-916-3544 or visit [hr.pps.k12.or.us](http://hr.pps.k12.or.us).

### Interstate Farmers Market

The Interstate Farmers Market with its rich variety of quality fresh local produce, baked goods, cut flowers, artisan cheese, meat and fish, is held each Wednesday through Sept. 24 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. just off Interstate Avenue between Overlook Park and the Interstate Kaiser West Building.

### Learn to Swim

Swimming lessons for ages 8 months and up will be available at the Mt. Hood Community College Aquatic Center; adult classes are also available in water aerobics, swimming lessons and more; for more information visit mhcc.edu.



Michael Beasley, a star player on Kansas' NCAA championship team and a future No. 1 NBA draft selection, relaxes during a practice filmed for the documentary "Gunnin' for that #1 Spot." Lake Oswego's Kevin Love and Medford's Kyle Singler also are profiled in the movie that follows a group of high school players on the fast track to the NBA, opening Friday, June 27 at the Regal Fox Tower.

## "Gunnin' for that #1 Spot

### Film trails players on the fast track

On the corner of 155th Street and Frederick Douglas Boulevard in New York's Harlem lies Rucker Park.

By appearances, the green concrete

pavement, anchored on one side by its run down slab bleachers, is no different than any other basketball court in the city, but this is the place where nicknames are indelibly branded, and legends are born.

On Sept. 1, 2006, the top 24 high school basketball players in the nation stepped out on this same court that once saw the likes of Wilt Chamberlain,

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Dr. J to compete in the first annual Boost Mobile Elite 24 Hoops Classic.

"Gunnin' for that #1 Spot," a new documentary, follows eight of these players as they showcase their skills at the most legendary playground in the world - one that's as intense an experience for NBA professionals as for bud-

ding young talent.

The players include Lake Oswego's Kevin Love and Medford's Kyle Singler along with Jerryd Bayless, Michael Beasley, Tyreke Evans, Donte Greene, Brandon Jennings and Lance Stephenson.

The film trails these players on the fast

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## Bush's Dentist Comes Home

### Navy retiree gives back

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

It would be an understatement to say that Jim Smith has had an exceptional life.

After graduating from Jefferson High School in 1973, Smith went into the military, later serving in the Persian Gulf War on an aircraft carrier and becoming one of the dentists for President George W. Bush.

Now practicing at Kaiser Permanente's Gresham Dental Office, the 53-year-old Smith is committed to serving the diverse outer neighborhoods' low-income populations for many years to come.

Smith's '81 degree from OHSU's School of Dentistry has been a ticket for a journey that the young Jefferson grad never thought possible.

Signing on with the Navy, he had considered the military simply as a way to explore the East Coast. However, his first duty station placed him with Marines on the edge of the Mojave Desert in southern California.

Smith did eventually get to settle down for his family on the East Coast, but in the meantime he traveled through many other parts of Asia, Europe

and the U.S.

Called onto one of the five aircraft carriers sent to the Persian Gulf in 1990, Smith had the most difficult, but professionally rewarding, assignment of his life. There were four dentists for a crew of about 5,500, many of whom had a myriad of dental needs volunteering from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"I had to work very, very hard for six and a half days a week," he says.

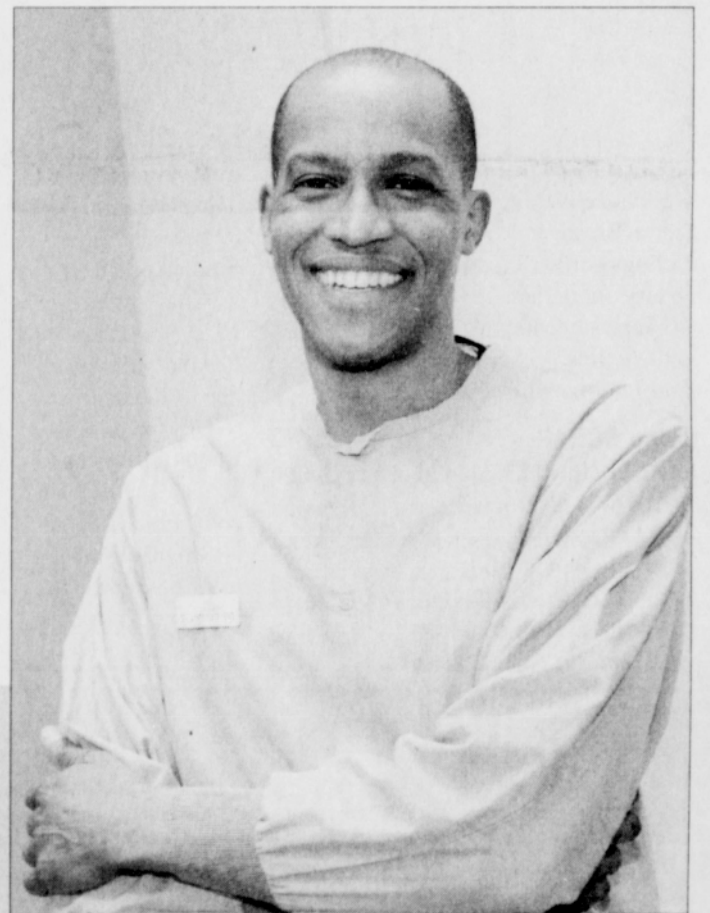
His opportunity to care for President Bush came while teaching dentistry at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. He would make regular trips to Camp David, where he would see to dental issues of anyone stationed there.

He graduated high school at the height of President Nixon's Watergate scandal, joined U.S. armed

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Dr. Jim Smith, who served in the Gulf War and was one of President George W. Bush's dentists at Camp David, practices out of the Kaiser Permanente Gresham Dental Office.

PHOTO BY SHARON O'KEEFE



## Ockley Green Revitalization Project

A 16-foot-long vinyl banner for Ockley Green School on North Interstate Avenue had been ripped and drooping for some time. Community members decided to look at the need for a new sign as an opportunity to send a positive message.

The goal of the Ockley Green Sign Project is to work with students and the community to create an artistic sign that celebrates the school, in addition to raising awareness of the environmental and social conditions of everyday places.

Students created a temporary sign installation this month while taking down the old vinyl sign amidst an air of celebration.

For the temporary sign installation, students have written "Ockley Green School" using a reflective material on 10-inch-tall letters. The letters reflect light and color, and also metaphorically are reflections of the greater community. Also attached to the backstop, spinning in the wind, are recycled plastic strips with the hopes and dreams of students and the community drawn and written on them.

The permanent steel sign, "Ockley Green School of Arts and Technology," should be ready to be installed in early summer.



Northeast Portland artist Peg Butler takes down an old banner for Ockley Green School on North Interstate Avenue with students Kenny Urom and Olivia Morris. Students and community members also worked on mosaic and drawing projects at the site.