

SPORTS

PAL Keeps Youth Active, Safe Offers summer leagues

Registration is now open for the Police Activities League of Greater Portland youth summer camps and programs. Registration materials are available at palkids.org or at any PAL Center. Several forms have been translated into Spanish.

"We anticipate with the distressed economy we will have more families than ever wanting to access our low-cost programs," said PAL President Maura White. "We are doing everything we can to raise enough funds to meet the increased demand."

A Greater Portland PAL Sports Camp will be held at David Douglas High School, June 22-26 for youth 8-14. Youth choose a sport for the week with offerings of basketball, golf, archery, baseball, soccer, boxing, racquetball, martial arts, bowling, softball, fishing, cheerleading, tennis, and football. The camps are coached by high school coaches, police officers and community volunteers. For more information, call Sarah Bennett at 503-823-0250.

The Greater Portland PAL Youth Center, 424 N.E. 172nd Ave., will host summer activities from June 29-Aug 21 for ages 8-18. There's also drop-in activities, including sports, educational enrichment, field trips, arts and crafts, computer games, teen programs, billiards, ping pong, and more. Pre-registration is required for classes, projects and field trips. For more information, call Mike Jezewski at 503-256-3479.

PAL's National Youth Sports Program, July 6-31, will be held on the Portland State University campus.

The sports and enrichment program uses sports instruction and competition to reinforce the importance of education, enhance self-esteem, and promote self respect, and active and healthy lifestyles. Basketball, bowling, tennis, golf, hip hop dance, swimming, soccer and football are held in addition to nutrition education and conflict resolution skills. Contact Damon Miller or Sarah Bennett at 503-823-0250.

PAL Youth Football takes to the field from Aug. 1 to Nov. 11 for youth 8-14. The program for kids in the Portland and Reynolds School Districts generates more than 20 teams and provides a league with 4th-8th grade programs. Practices are held on weekdays, and most games are held on Saturdays. Cheerleading is also offered. For more information, or to volunteer as a coach, call Damon Miller at 503-823-5785.

For assistance or to pick up registration forms, drop by the PAL Main Office at 424 N.E. Killingsworth St. or call 503-823-0250. Discounted registration fees are available to those who meet free and reduced lunch requirements.

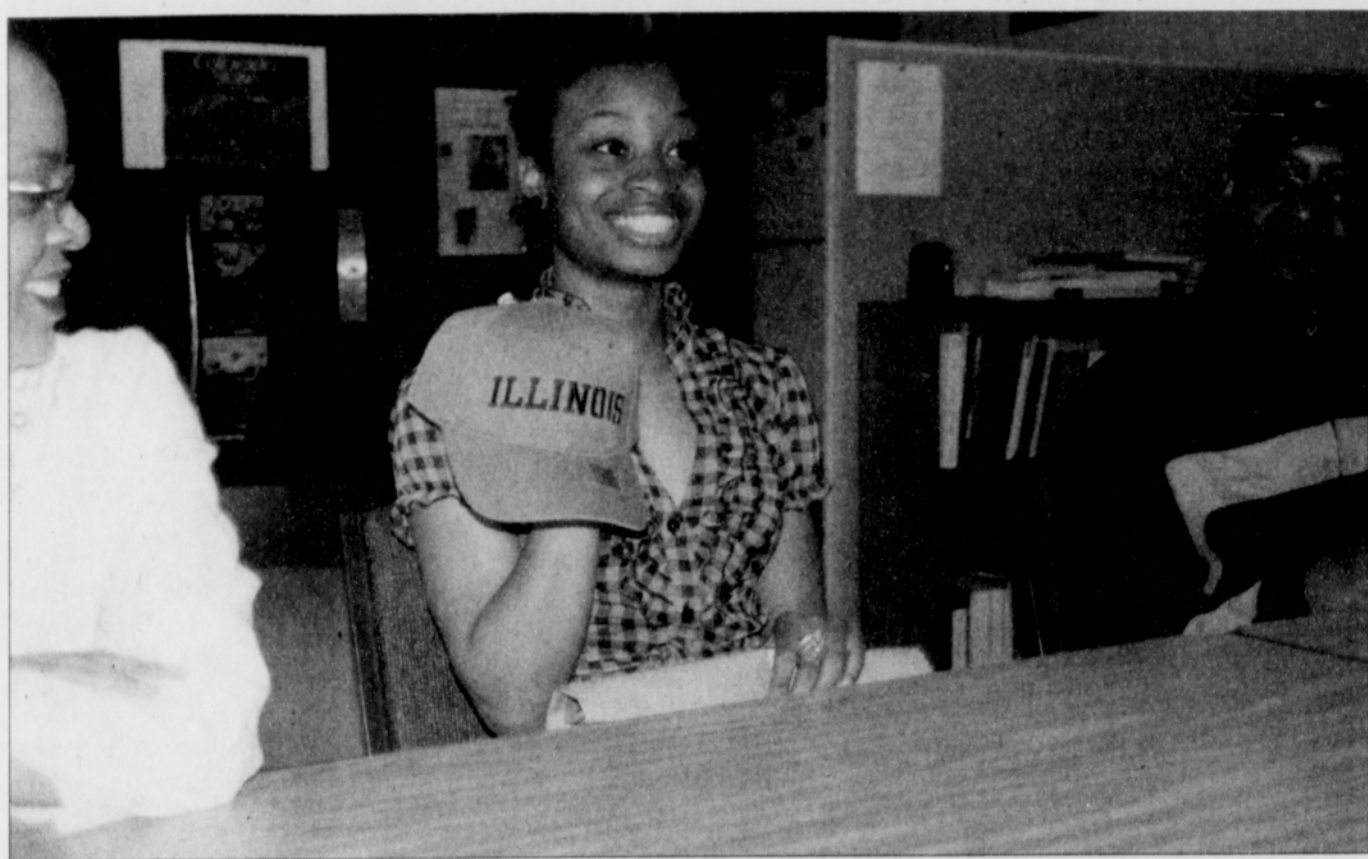
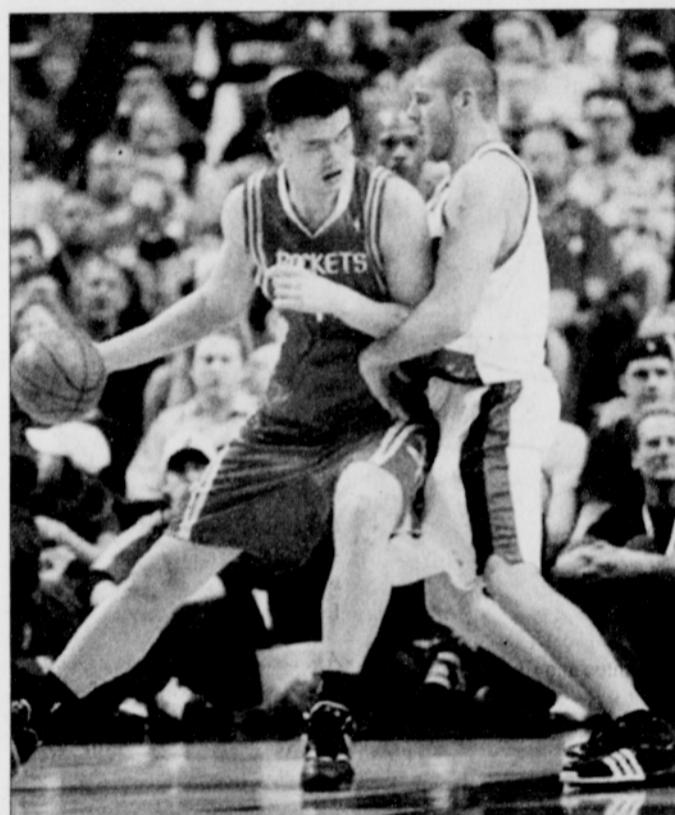


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Benson High School's Kayla Smith, a state recorder holder in the 100 meter and 200 meter dashes, joins her parents to announce that she has signed a letter of intent to attend the University of Illinois.

Track Star Picks Illinois

Kayla Smith, the reigning 6A state champion in the 100 meter and 200 meter dashes, has announced plans to attend the University of Illinois. The Benson High School student has distinguished herself as one of the greatest sprinters in

Oregon history. She currently holds the state record in the 200 meter dash at 24.18 seconds. Thursday, she joined her parents at a press conference to announce that she would join the Fighting Illini as her college of choice.



Blazers Stumble in Opening Game

The 7-foot-6 center Yao Ming scored nine of Houston's first 11 points and finished with 24 in the Rockets' 108-81 victory over the Trail Blazers on Saturday night in Portland. Portland centers Joel Przybilla and Greg Oden had no answer for the seven-time All-Star from China.

The Rockets led by as many as 31 points in the second half and there was simply no way the young Blazers could catch up.

The two teams were scheduled to meet again in Portland Tuesday night before traveling to Houston for games 3 and 4 on Friday and Sunday. Game 5 of the best of seven series, if necessary, will be next Tuesday in Portland.

Houston Rockets center Yao Ming (left) backs in Portland Trail Blazers center Joel Przybilla during game 1 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff game in Portland. (AP photo)

Moore Street Basketball Tourney

The 12th annual Doris Verbout Salvationist Basketball Tournament opens next week at the Salvation Army Moore Street Worship & Community Center, 5325 N. Williams Ave.

Sixteen teams from around the nation hit the court Thursday, April 30 at 7 p.m. and will continue playing ball until Sunday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. This year's tournament will

include a BBQ dinner, turkey dinner, a snack bar, door prizes and lots of fun and entertainment for the whole family. The community is invited to attend and cheer on their favorite players and teams.

For more information, contact Tim Fuqua at tim.fuqua@usw.salvationarmy.org or call Moore Street at 503-493-3925.

Candidate Looks to Correct Deficiencies

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minority adolescents. "The cultural thing is a big piece of it," he said.

A good way to deal with the problem, according to Bailey, is to streamline the hiring process so that PPS can diversify its teaching pool.

He also said that better connecting parents to schools is vital to better serving minorities.

Recently, two charter schools in Oregon have been under fire. The Leadership and Entrepreneurship High School might have to close its doors due to budget constraints and the Oregon Connections Academy is being targeted by a bill in the Legislature.

Bailey said he's not too enthusiastic about charter schools, but admits they serve some students well.

"By god, if someone is doing a good job with kids, what can we do to not pull the plug on them?" he said of charters.

Bailey graduated from Grant High School in 1971. He works as a regional economist for

southwest Washington. His wife, Nancy Abens, teaches art at Lincoln High School. He has been involved in a number of volunteer and non-profit initiatives to partner with PPS to better connect it with parents, students and the community.

He will face Pam Knowles in next month's school board election.

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