

Darrold Dilly
Feb. 1, 1956-March 23, 2011

Street Roots vendor Darrold Dilly passed away on March 23. He sold the newspaper at Starbucks in the Pearl District, where he had many friends. Services were held in Spokane, Wash.

He had worked as a chef and in the construction industry. He is survived by two sons, a stepdaughter and a grandson, along with his mother and twin sister.

Dilly, as he was known, was a kind and warm-hearted member of the Street Roots team. He will be missed by many.

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Exploring every day as a new journey

Rick Wagner is charting new turf with Street Roots

BY KAISA MCCROW
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A common narrative for Portland's many new inhabitants is that they have visited once and resolved to move here, or arrived temporarily but decided never to leave. Rick Wagner, less than a month out of 12 years spent in the Army, may just fit that description. He left Fort Lewis and his entire military life with his two dogs on April 1. Bound for his mother's in Wichita, Kan., he was ready to start a new life chapter. Car trouble and a lack of funds quickly altered his route and landed him in Portland, which he describes as practically, "a foreign country." Within a few short weeks though, he's already become both a Street Roots vendor and a Trailblazers fan, so it appears he may be a Portlander in the making.

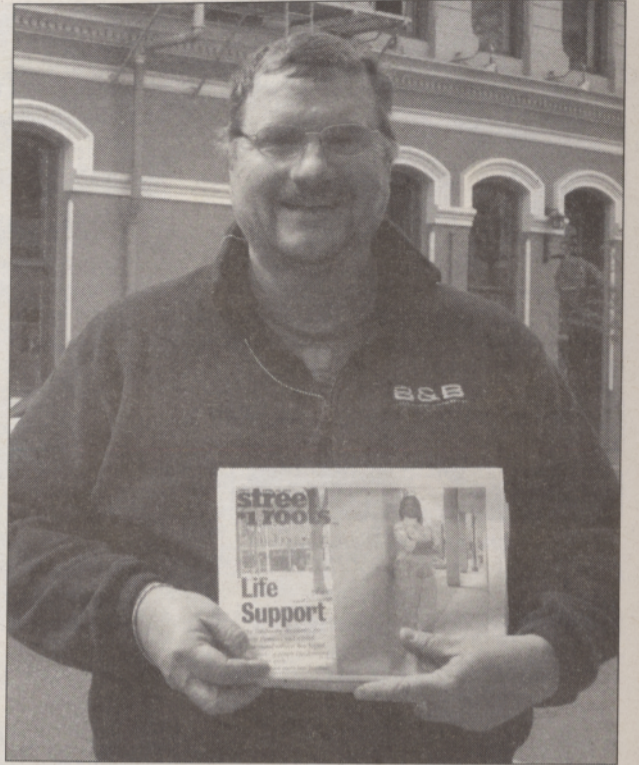
"I'm excited to get to know the people in this area and to learn the names of their dogs — that's an important one," says Rick. He notes that he has already met quite a

few colorful people on Mississippi. As if on cue, a man in a Blazers jersey stops to make predictions about the upcoming playoff game; he

thinks the Blazers will win by 6 points. "See," points out Rick, "I've never met that guy before. Now I've made a friend."

Everything is new for Rick right now. Life looks a lot different than it did just one month ago. In the Army he was a medic, and throughout his career he has had numerous deployments in the first and second Iraq Wars. He says if he had stayed in the Army longer, he would be gearing up for another.

Rick splits his time selling papers between the TA truck stop off I-84 in Troutdale and his new perch just off the corner of Mississippi and Shaver in North Portland. The first vendor to sell at this spot, he is still working out the kinks. It hasn't worked to stand directly on Mississippi and Shaver, in front of The Fresh Pot, but the space he is at just up the street is serving him well. The space is a grassy area containing a few food carts, benches, and a space for a garden. It appears ready for growth, and has the potential to be a hub of life and people on one of those dazzling Portland summer



days. That is what Rick is hoping for as he sets up shop here and gets comfortable. He advertises copies of the two most recent issues of the paper by attaching them to a tree at eye level along the sidewalk. His dogs, Sarge and Patches, rest in the grass behind him, two chocolate labs doing their part to attract people to the corner.

Rick's attitude toward this new chapter in his life is positive. With all of the skill he has acquired in the military, he feels prepared to take on the new challenges that he sees before him. He is equipped with both the survival skills and the patience to take life one day at a time, and to trust that his hard work now will pay off. Eventually he would like to utilize money from the GI Bill to go back to school. In the meantime, he'll get to know Portland a little better and see how the summer goes. He's trying to get to know the lay of the land, particularly places where he can take his dogs off leash and let them run around.

He's saving up money now to head back to Kansas, but he does admit that so far, he is seeing more opportunity and community right where he is today.

"It sort of seems to me that there are more opportunities here than in Wichita," he says, "We'll see how the summer goes."

Regardless of the outcome, he's out working every day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., establishing himself as a vendor and working on making himself at home.

"I'm happy to be here. It is hard work, but it's a whole new journey."

VENDOR PROFILE

Rick Wagner

VENDOR WORK ADS

Cassidy Morse: Looking for work. Will do most anything, light and heavy. \$10 an hour, four hour minimum. References supplied. Please call 503-224-5398 or Street Roots at 503-228-5657.

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