

For the RECORD

A compilation of facts, large and small, about our community

- Number of sites in Oregon approved as petroleum-contaminated soil landfills: 16
- Number of contaminants found in fish eaten by tribal members in the Columbia River watershed: 92
- Number of dams in Oregon: 26
- Number of Multnomah County dams classified as a "high hazard," meaning dam failure would likely result in loss of life: 6
- Depth of Oregon's deepest drilled water well, in the Grand Ronde Basin: 2,700 feet.
- Number of vehicles and off-road equipment in Portland's CityFleet: 2,950
- Median annual cost of assisted living facilities in Oregon: \$48,000
- Median annual cost of semi-private room in a nursing home in Oregon: \$93,258
- Number of reports of neglect and abuse received by Child Protective Services in 2013: 64,305
- Percent of victims under the age of 6 in these cases: 48.7%
- Percentage of children leaving foster care who were reunited with their families: 58.7%

Sources: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon EPA, Oregon Water Resources Department, CityFleet, Oregon Health Authority, Genworth Cost of Care Survey 2014, Oregon Department of Human Services

Answers to puzzles on page 15

В	И	Г	К	З	Л	Б	Е	Е	Е	Е	В	З	Л
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1	4	0	2	1	3	5	0	8					

Living and learning — a day in a life in Portland

SARAH HANSELL
STAFF WRITER

After being in and out of homelessness since age 26, Justin Harris finally had some steady housing in Portland through Transition Projects. But when his brother Bryan left their hometown in the Yakima Valley to join him, he moved back to the streets.

"I would've been staying inside and my brother would've been on the street," Justin said. "I can't do that. A lot of people don't really understand that, but it seems pretty cut and dry to me."

Justin and Bryan haven't always been

VENDOR PROFILE Justin Harris

together. When Justin was 20, he was ready to leave his tiny hometown in Washington State, but he had one interview left at a pizza place.

"I told my dad if I didn't get the job, I'm going to join the army. And then I didn't get the job, so I joined the Army."

He was stationed in El Paso, Texas, and went overseas twice, to Qatar and Kuwait, working as a mechanic for the Patriot air and missile defense systems. He was in the army for five years, one month and 10 days.

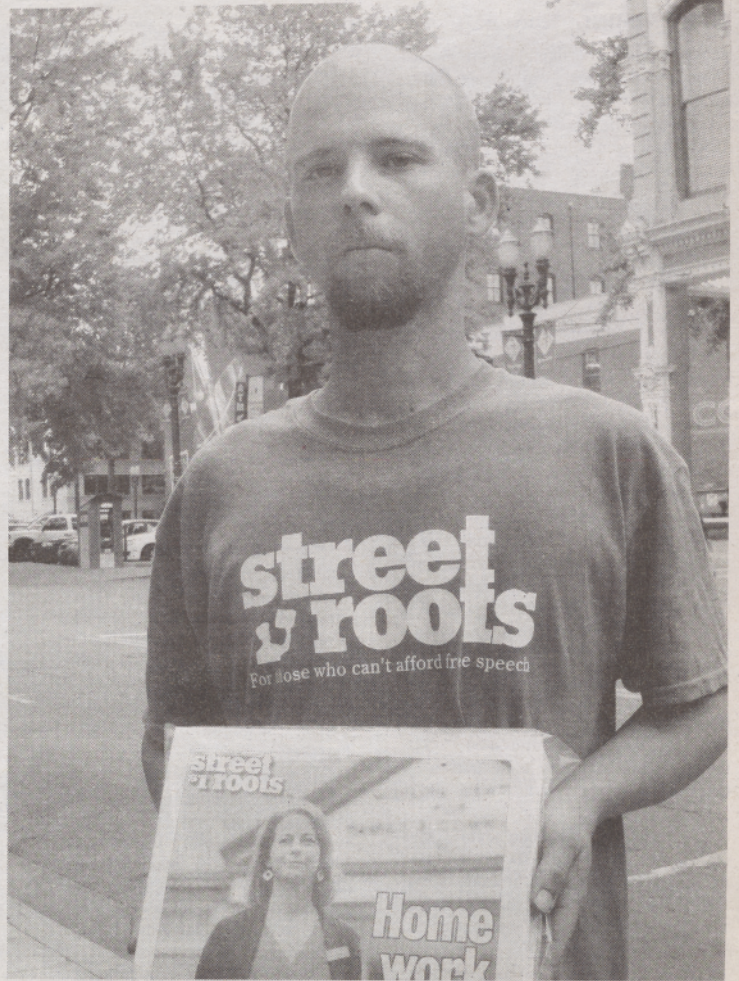
"I counted it all the way down from two years, day by day."

Justin says he did have some good times in the army, but he was eager to be done. He says his time in the military helped him grow up experiencing and seeing things he didn't have the opportunity to in his hometown.

"I traveled the world and did a lot of things I couldn't do — and I excelled."

When he returned, he attended Yakima Valley Community College, paid for by the GI bill. However, his grades weren't high enough for his funding to continue. He moved to North Carolina to live with an army friend, and then to Iowa to reconnect with an old girlfriend. When that didn't work out, he ended up living on the streets.

"Basically, at that point I was just trying to figure out what I was going to do. I'd never been homeless before in my life."



STREET ROOTS PHOTO

Veteran Affairs helped him get to Washington, and from there he was in and out of apartments and jobs, donating plasma to make ends meet. Since moving to Portland in March, everything from injuries to no resources for a phone has prevented Justin from finding steady work.

"Learning the city, learning the people, learning how to operate the politics of life, you know. That's also been a huge distraction. I think that has been a good thing though, just generally that I've been able to experience a lot of different things, and I have a little bit more of an understanding of what life is."

Despite the difficult times Justin and his brother Bryan have faced in Portland, he still says it is his favorite city in the world — he loves the music scene, the architecture, the art. These were things he found missing in his small hometown.

"If you don't do sports, you were pretty much a no one. You pretty much fall into the classic small town nothing kind of life."

Justin and Bryan hope to eventually make enough income to pursue the things they care about. They started working at Street Roots on the same day, about five weeks ago. The newspaper is an ideal ware for the arts-inclined brothers to sell — and it's something they can believe in.

"It's not a Rupert Murdoch kind of controlled situation. It's not cookie-cutter, nonsense news. It's people that actually care about what they're doing."

Justin finds that one of the most valuable parts of working at Street Roots is the connections he's made with vendors, staff and customers alike, some who have become close friends.

"It's a good thing for my brother too, so that's a good thing for me."

You can find Justin selling in front of the McDonald's in front of Northeast Grand Avenue and Weidler. You can find the profile on his brother Bryan in an upcoming issue.

CORRECTION

In our Sept. 26 editorial about the funding for housing programs for homeless schools, we incorrectly stated that a proposed \$75,000 grant from the Department of Human Services amounted to \$15,000 per year. It's grant would actually have been \$75,000 per year over the five-year period.

The information on the grant in the story, "Home work," was correct.

Please report any errors to our managing editor, Joanne Zuhl, at 503-228-5657, or write to joanne@streetroots.org



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