

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering vendors and friends we lost this year.

Bob Eckerson

Bob was a part of Street Roots for many years. He was a big-hearted guy who always supplied his regular customers with a paper, a laugh and a conversation. A regular vendor at the Sellwood QFC and the Beaverton Farmer's Market, Bob has left big shoes to fill for the vendors who follow.

Terrence "Tee" Mills

Terrence Mills was part of the social fabric at Southeast 12th Avenue and Oak Street. Between St. Francis Parish and Red and Black Cafe, Tee was always community-minded and always willing to lend a helping hand. A Portland native and longtime vendor, Tee's spirit was also inextricably connected with the Street Roots family. Tee was a Vietnam veteran. He fought hard his entire life. Unfortunately, cancer was the last battle he couldn't win. Tee will be missed by everyone here.

Tony Mitchell

Tony was only with us for a short time but still made a big impact on the vendor program. A regular face on Northeast Broadway, he always brought a smile and a good sense of humor in all his interactions.

Leroy Weiss

While never a Street Roots vendor, Leroy was a big member of the family. For many years he lived in Musolf Manor just above the SR office before moving to the Macdonald Center residence where he lived out his last years. Even after the move, Leroy still managed to maneuver his wheelchair to the office most mornings for a cup of coffee, always with lots of cream and sugar. Vendors and staff became accustomed to opening the door for him and bringing him a perfectly brewed cup of coffee each morning.

— Cole Merkel

Hopes of housing for the new year

BY SARAH HANSELL
STAFF WRITER

Allison Strange came to Portland to leave behind the old memories of her son, whom she lost to cancer, and to be with her boyfriend. She came looking for a fresh start in a new place. And that's exactly what she found at Street Roots.

"A better one than I actually expected," she said.

Allison's boyfriend, who was already a Street Roots vendor, tried to tell her how much people cared about the newspaper and the vendors who sell it.

"I thought he was exaggerating, to be honest with you," she said. "I thought, there's no way that many people care about one newspaper, especially when it is to help

VENDOR PROFILE Allison Strange

the homeless people or the poor people. I thought, there's no way."

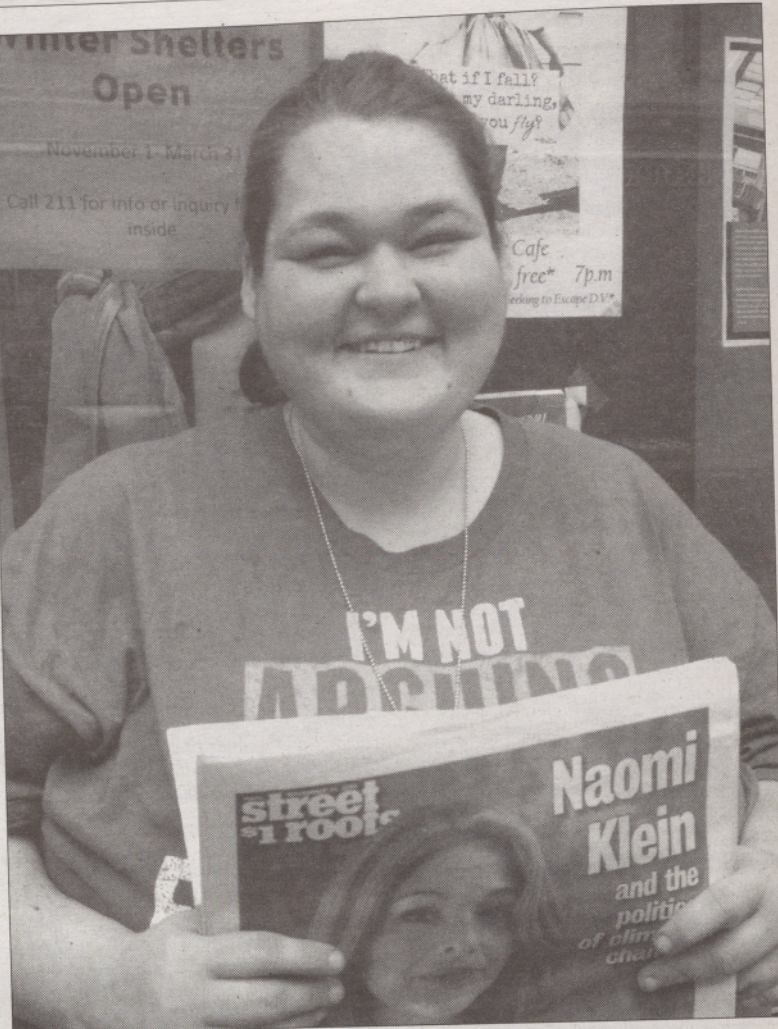
In the small town she came from in Tennessee, she hadn't seen the kind of genuine care from strangers she found in Portland — especially for people living on the streets. Instead, she saw a lot of intolerance for people experiencing homelessness, especially from the law.

"But then I kept selling (the paper) and I was like, these people actually do care."

In early November, when Portland was in the midst of heavy winds and freezing rain, a woman who passed by Allison every day and never bought a paper gave her one more reason to trust in people's kindness.

"Until that day I didn't know she actually knew I existed," Allison said. "She stops by and gives me money and tells me to get off the street for the night and go to a hotel room."

The woman paid for Allison's hotel room, getting her out of the freezing weather for the night. It's the interactions like this, and the interactions with people who take the time to stop and talk with her, that mean



the most to Allison.

"It's not just the customers. It's the ones that stop every day," she said. "I've got a couple that stop every day and talk but they never buy a paper, but they stop and they talk and they give me hope."

Allison has noticed, and heard from others, that she seems to make more selling Street Roots than her male counterparts. She thinks perhaps men face more judgment for their situation of homelessness. This advantage, however, is obviously reversed when it comes to the reality of living on the streets.

"If I didn't have my boyfriend, I could not do this," she said. "Because it's really scary when we're out there camping at night knowing that anything could happen to you."

But, with the help of government

assistance, she and her boyfriend hope to be housed in the next year. She also hopes to get more of her work published. She writes poems and short stories about her experiences. Street Roots has published two of her poems — the first time any of her writings have appeared in print.

"It was like a dream come true, actually," she said.

She also hopes to one day open a small handmade jewelry shop. She makes bracelets now, and in the past has made earrings and necklaces as well. For now, though, Street Roots is what she and her boyfriend rely on for some income.

"I want to let people know that some of us are just down on our luck and selling Street Roots is our only option. And it's a great opportunity."

Answers to puzzles on page 15

J	E	W	B	O	E	E	F	I	K	E	E	S
E	V	B	I	H	S	H	V	I	L	E	K	I
D	B	V	A	S	I	C						
S	T	E	E	L	E	W	I	L				
B	O	M	B	O	W	O	M	I	G	O	V	R
I	N	C	O	I	S	I	S	L	E	I	C	I
H	E	V	I	S	I	A	K	S	O	I	K	E
I	O	E	S	O	B	I	E	G				
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I	D	E	B	E	M	O	D	E	I	C	E	D
F	O	W	A									
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1	8	5	3	4	8	1	2	9
9	4	1	2	5	8	1	3	8
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5	1	4	8	9	3	1	2	
8	9	3	1	1	2	4	8	5
1	8	2	5	3	4	9	1	8
8	5	1	9	8	3	2	4	1
3	1	8	4	2	5	8	9	1
4	2	9	8	1	1	5	8	3



Street Roots is a proud member of the International Network of Street Papers, now more than 120 papers strong, worldwide.

Thank you for giving a hand up in Portland and supporting your neighborhood vendor!