

Untitled

by Dani Wyatt

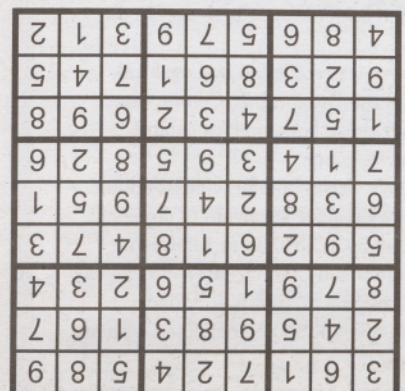
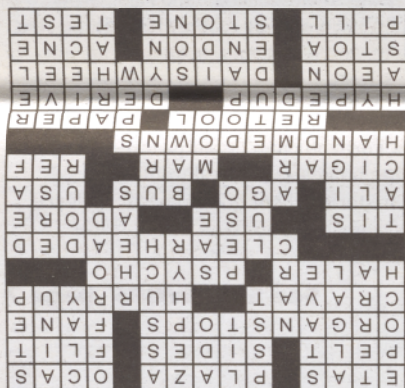
Love tiz 2 be kind,
love has no reason 2 unwind.
Compassion tiz hard 2 come by,

although we make it by.

Life is what U make it,
live it 'til it's full,
don't pull no punches,
'cuz we all can throw a ball.
Yet we still are all one
In heart an' soul.

Live in spirit,
Listen 2 ur heart,
She will hear ur plea,
"just love me."

Answers to puzzles on page 15



VENDOR PROFILE

Roy Cochran

BY LEONORA KO
STAFF WRITER

Roy Cochran says he is rough around the edges but reveals he has a big heart and a taste for classical music.

He was born in Toppenish, Washington, on the Yakima Indian Reservation.

"I took after my grandfather and used to whittle little balls, chain links, little monkeys and whatnot. Also I used to make knives for whittling. (I'd find a blade, get a vise, chip it down and sharpen it up, make a handle and voila: I'd made another knife. Always doing things with my hands."

When Roy was in the 11th grade, his father needed him to earn money for the family.

Roy says: "He took me out of school and put a mud shovel in my hand, and said, 'We're pouring cement, boy.' My Dad never wanted me to have books. He put me straight into physical work, doing things with my hands. I love doing things with my hands."

Roy ended up in Texas, working as a skilled cement finisher for 26 years and once worked for one of the nation's largest construction firms, Lee Lewis Construction. But the pay was poor.

"I'm making \$4.70 an hour on a payroll job," he says. "It's difficult. You have to get more than one job to survive. But, cement work takes up all your energy, and you don't have time for another job. It's been a struggle for me all my life, as far as that goes. My ex-wife disappeared with our boys, and it really took a lot out of me. I went the wrong direction with the course of my life that time."

Roy left Texas, had some personal difficulties in California and moved to Oregon to be closer to family and to sort things out.

He is glad he found Street Roots. He sells papers outside Safeway at Northwest 13th Avenue and Northwest Lovejoy Street.

Roy uses his Street Roots money to pay for his phone and enjoy one of his lifelong hobbies: music. When he was young, he played the trumpet, and he has written two songs. Now Roy listens to

music on his phone.

"I love classical music, and I have seven songs," he says. "I like 'Für Elise' and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony; that's No. 1. I don't want it playing on my phone when I'm selling papers, but it'll get real dead and I'll turn on my classical music and listen to it."

Roy also finds that the paper is a good conversation starter with customers.

"Street Roots helps me express my thoughts on social issues," he says. "We'll get to talking, the light will turn green, but then they'll step back. Then the light'll turn red. They'll glance up every now and then, and they're talking, and wait for the next green light before they walk. They'll say, 'OK, see you next time,' or 'See you later. I might come back later.'"

Roy's positive Street Roots experience has led him to

recommend the job to two others, who are now vendors.

"I've been putting my problems aside and helping others right now," Roy says in a thoughtful voice. "Just being a friend, without them even realizing you're being a friend. 'Cause it's hard being on the streets. You're

around a lot of crazy stuff. There's like a homeless mentality that's easy to slip into.

"But belonging to something like Street Roots helps you pull yourself up out of that. Keeps yourself kind of centered and focused toward where you can set some goals and reach them."



Out of Luck?

Free Counseling
for Gambling Problems

Call 503-239-5952



VENDOR WORK ADS

Farmer Shaun: If you need gardening, clean-up or any general labor services call Farmer Shaun. 971-222-9938.

Missed an issue? Check out
back stories at streetroots.org



Sourcing & roasting craft coffee to
benefit programs at Central City Concern.

IN STORES

New Seasons Market, Whole Foods, Food Front
Cooperative Grocery, Green Zebra, Chuck's
Produce and Will Leather Goods.

AT YOUR OFFICE

Interested in serving Central City Coffee at your
office? Get in touch with us and we can help you
make that happen. 503.226.7387

ON OUR WEBSITE

Buy Central City Coffee online and have it
shipped directly to you or a friend.

Follow our Facebook page for updates and specials.

centralcitycoffee.org [facebook.com/CentralCityCoffee](https://www.facebook.com/CentralCityCoffee) coffee@cccconcern.org

alberta coop
grocery

small carts
big hearts



good.local.food
1500 ne alberta st.
albertagrocery.coop
503 287 4333
open to all 8:30am- 10pm daily