

# METRO

The Portland Observer

**Trail Blazers Hire  
Maurice Lucas**  
Basketball great joins  
Nate McMillan staff  
See Sports, page B6



35  
years of  
community service

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Kids Create! Workshop

Kids learn how to make their own paper during special workshops at the Portland Children's Museum on Wednesday and Saturday this week and next week. For more information visit [www.PortlandChildrensMuseum.com](http://www.PortlandChildrensMuseum.com)

### Oxbow Campfire Program

On Friday, Aug. 5 or Saturday, Aug. 6 come to Oxbow Regional Park to learn how plants have been used for thousands of years for food and medicine with naturalist Natalie Norman and Miriam Burk from Portland Parks and Recreation. The event starts at 8:30 a.m. and lasts until 9:30 p.m. For more information, call Metro at 503-797-1850.

### Free Ice Cream and BBQ

In celebration of National Night Out Against Crime, Portland Trailblazer's Jerry Moos will host a community celebration with free ice cream and barbecue on Saturday, Aug. 6 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Harney Park at Southeast 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Harney Street. There will also be a basketball clinic for kids and great music featuring Brentwood African Drummers. For more information contact Havilah Ferschweiler, Weed and Seed Site Coordinator at 503-988-6127

### Bark in the Park

More than 1,000 local residents and their dogs are expected to participate in the annual "Bark in the Park" on Saturday, Aug. 6 at the World Trade Center garage on Southwest Salmon between First and Naito Parkway. There will be a doggie costume contest, pet adoptions and vaccinations available. For more information visit [www.ofosa.org](http://www.ofosa.org).

### Adopt-a-Pet Fair

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Adopt-a-Pet Fair will take place at the Oregon Humane Society at 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd., Saturday, Aug. 6 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 7 from noon to 6 p.m. Fun time activities like Spin the Prize Wheel and Face Painting are planned.

### Native American Literature

Celebrate Native American literature in the Collins Gallery located on the third floor at the Central Library, 801 S.W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. Former literature professor Loi Welch will give a lecture at the opening reception on Saturday, Aug. 6 at 2 p.m. The exhibit goes until Sept. 29.

### Athletic Coaches Meet

If you are a coach or interested in coaching athletic teams, you're invited to join a meeting of the Northwest Coaches Association to share knowledge and expertise with others. The event will take place at the University Club of Portland located at 1225 S.W. Sixth Ave. on Tuesday, Aug. 9 at 6:30 p.m. For more information visit [www.nwcoaches.org](http://www.nwcoaches.org)

### Red Cross Safety

Learn safety for yourself and family from the American Red Cross. A range of classes for learning how to baby sit children to performing CPR are scheduled. Courses are intended for children aged 8 through adult. For more information visit [www.redcross-pdx.org](http://www.redcross-pdx.org)

### Drumming and Rhythm

The North Star Ballroom, 635 N. Killingsworth Court, hosts beginning drumming and Ghanaian rhythm classes on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. On Wednesdays, an intermediate level of the drumming is offered in addition to an African aerobics/dance class. All classes are taught by Chata Addy. For more information call 503-632-0411.

## Following the Yellow Brick Road

to Recovery

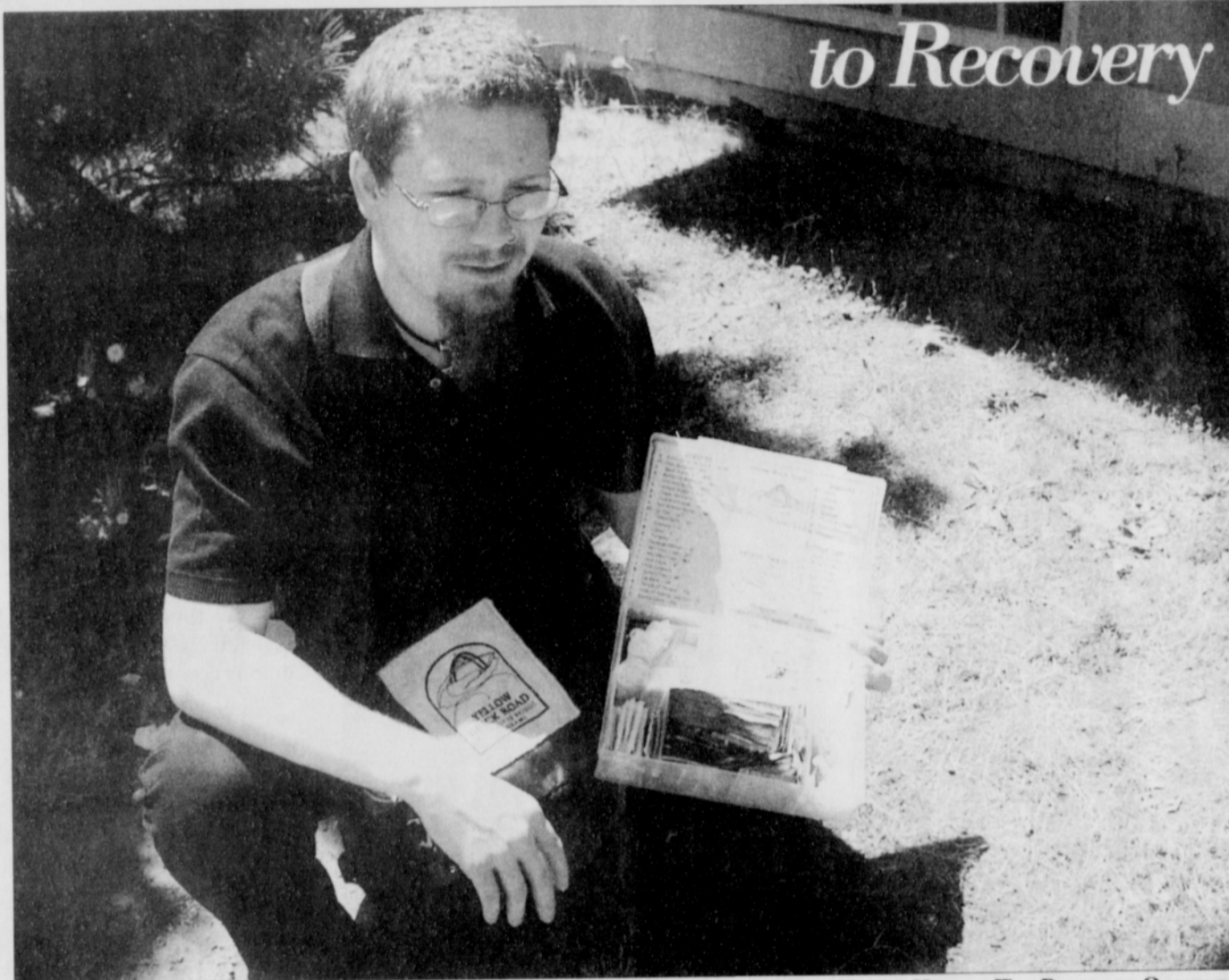


PHOTO BY NICOLE HOOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Yellow Brick Road program supervisor Dennis Lundberg shows some of the supplies handed out to Portland's homeless community.

### Homeless youth program helps with day-to-day living

BY NICOLE HOOPER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Every evening, at least two volunteers from the Yellow Brick Road program roam around downtown Portland looking for homeless youth to provide health items, dog food or just for a friendly chat. With goodie bags strapped over their shoulders, they supply Portland's homeless community with necessary hygiene tools. But they aren't just simply hanging out condoms or Q-tips; they are using these small tools to build lasting relationships with the community.

It's only when they help a homeless teen become self-sufficient that the volunteers' efforts are truly complete. For the past 20 years, the Yellow Brick Road has helped homeless youth live day-to-day.

It's just one of the programs sponsored by the Willamette Bridge Janus Youth Programs. The name is reference to the popular movie Wizard of Oz because founder Jerry Fest believed that the program was a way to help homeless youth find their way back home while recognizing that the journey could be unsafe.

Giving a condom to a teenager may be

*When a young person is ready to come  
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- DENNIS LUNDBERG, PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

seen to some as if the program is endorsing premarital sex but instead, the volunteers would like to be viewed as realistic.

"We try to find spaces in-between the ideal and the unsafe," said Dennis Lundberg, program supervisor. "It's saving their lives by giving condoms. They are going to have sex whether or not we give them a condom, but at least with the proper tools they will be protected from HIV."

Like many non-profit volunteer driven organizations, the program's budget is tight. A large portion of supplies are donated by the kindness of community members and local businesses. Area schools have organized sock drives because the homeless youth only have their feet to get around, instead of a bus or a car. Dennis Lundberg often gives presentations to local churches in order to organize supply drives.

"If you want to do something to help homeless people in your community and you don't want to give your spare change,

it's simple to organize a supply drive," Lundberg said.

Currently, Yellow Brick Road operates with only 13 volunteers and 12 volunteer floaters, but are always looking for more. Most are female and only one is not white. The six-month commitment is demanding, but rewarding.

Often, the reason a child becomes homeless is because of mistrust in the adult figures in their lives, so street credibility is something that volunteers like Lundberg guard with the utmost protection.

"More important than the supplies we give out (is that) we are trying to build relationships. When a young person is ready to come in off the streets, they know Yellow Brick Road will be there for them," Lundberg said.

For more information, contact Dennis Lundberg at 503-542-4705 or visit [www.jyp.org](http://www.jyp.org).

## Young Latina's Trip to Australia Broadens Horizons

Local student makes trek with 37 others

Snorkeling in the colorful barrier reef of Australia sounds like a dream come true for some.

Youngster Josephine Gamez-Reyes, a student at Faubion Elementary School in northeast Portland, recently had the chance to do exactly that, along with hiking, rock mining and swimming in Sydney's Olympic pool.

It was all part of a 15-day People to People Student Ambassador Program to Australia. Gamez-Reyes traveled with a delegation of 37 students from throughout the Portland area.

Gamez-Reyes said she loved hiking on Fraser Island, taking the Ferry, and collecting thunder eggs.

"We had so much fun! The people in Australia were so friendly and they always

asked us about the Student Ambassador Program," she said.

Gamez-Reyes was specially selected to participate in the educational travel program and has completed the academic credit requirements related to the program's culture and heritage excursions.

"I was so proud to be able to represent my country and my culture," Gamez-Reyes said. "My mom says that I am a very lucky Latina and to never forget the adventures I had in Australia."

Before departing, she attended several orientation meetings with program leaders and fellow delegates to learn about the destination and prepare for the journey. President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded People

to People in 1956. He believed that ordinary citizens of different nations could make a difference where governments could not.

For more information, visit [www.studentambassadors.org](http://www.studentambassadors.org).



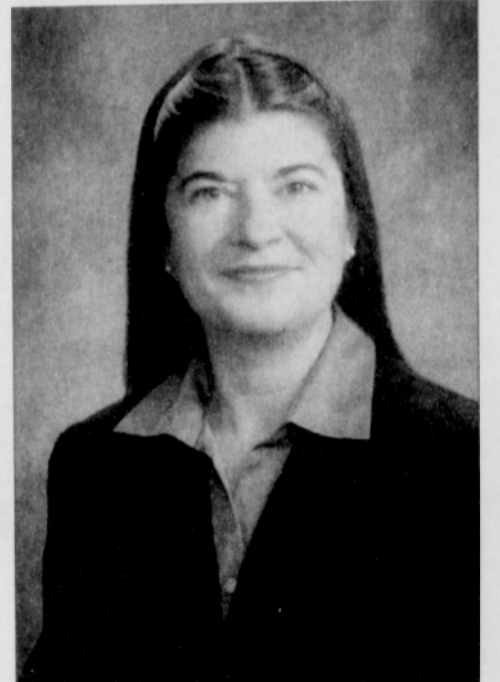
Josephine Gamez-Reyes



Student Josephine Gamez-Reyes (center) arrives at the Portland Airport for a trip to Australia with other youth in the program.

*I was so proud to be able to represent my country and culture. My mom says ... to never forget the adventures I had in Australia.*

- JOSEPHINE GAMEZ-REYES



Superintendent Vicki Phillips

## Meetings to Plan Future of Local Schools

Public participation for input scheduled at various locations

Everyone who cares about local students and schools is invited to help Portland Public Schools craft a strategic plan for the next five years.

School District officials said the plan would define the goals and outcomes the community wants for students, specific actions the district will take and measures to hold the school district accountable for progress.

Five community meetings on the Strategic Plan have been scheduled over the next six weeks beginning Tuesday, Aug. 9 at 4 p.m. at Grant High School, 2245 N.E. 36th Ave.

The following sessions are Wednesday, Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. at Roosevelt High School, 6941 N. Central; Thursday, Aug. 25 at 7:30 a.m. at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon St.; Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. at Cleveland High School, 3400 S.E. 26th Ave.; and Saturday, Sept. 10 at 8 a.m. at Benson High School, 546 N.E. 12th Ave.

Many community groups, school employees and parents have already weighed in and the beginning of a plan is taking shape, school officials said.

Titled "Getting Results, Sustaining Hope!" the plan starts to identify broad areas of work and a set of measurements to track the schools' progress.

"We want to hear from all corners of the community," said Superintendent Vicki Phillips. "Are your hopes and priorities for Portland Public Schools students reflected in the plan? Are the goals

listed the proper goals? Is it clear how we will measure success? Are we measuring the right things? We hope for wide participation in this effort, because in the end, it will take all of us working together to gain the results we want for our children."

For more information, or to offer comments on the Strategic Plan, visit the Portland Public Schools website, [www.pps.k12.or.us](http://www.pps.k12.or.us)