

METRO

The Portland Observer



Gabriel's Courage

Freedom fighter wins pardon more than 200 years after organizing revolt

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SECTION B

Community Calendar

Obama in Portland

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama will be in Portland Friday, Sept. 7 for a fundraiser at the Oregon Convention Center. Tickets for the 8 p.m. speech are \$25 with a more intimate pre-event reception charging \$500. Visit donate.barakobama.com/c2portland to register.

Vancouver Sausage Fest

Friday, Sept. 7, thru Sunday, Sept. 9, the 36th annual Sausage Festival featuring music, food and family fun will take place at St. Joseph's Parish in Vancouver. Free shuttle service is available. Visit stjoevanschool.org for more information.

Organic Festival

Friday, Sept. 7, thru Sunday, Sept. 9, St. Philip Neri Church, 2408 S.E. 16 Ave., will host the Muddy Boots Organic Festival to educate and raise organic awareness. Enjoy music, food, family activities and more.

NW Indian Crafts

Friday, Sept. 7, at 6:30 p.m., the Fort Vancouver Historical Reserve, 1501 E. Evergreen, hosts a free first-Friday event to highlight crafts of the Pacific Northwest Indians. Bring a blanket or lawn chair for seating. Call 360-816-6231 for more information.

Fall Swimming Lessons

The Portland Parks will be offering fall swimming lessons for ages 6 months to adults at various pools throughout the Portland-metro area. For rates, registration and information, contact 503-823-5130.

Children's Gardening

Wednesday, Sept. 12, at the Woodlawn Community Garden, 7200 N.E. 11th and Claremont, the first of three classes begin teaching children ages 6-12 the art of organic gardening. Students will enjoy sharing the bounty of their harvest with the food bank. Contact portlandparks.org or 503-823-1617 for more info.

Fun on Foster

Saturday, Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., enjoy food, music, workshops, family fun, and the Foster Art Walk. Bring your dog for the charity dog wash, funds benefiting animal rescues. This event is free; contact 503-774-2832 for more information.

Craftsman Workshops

The Northwest Woodworking Studio is registering participants for fall workshops, classes and lectures. Explore wood craftsmanship and learn the art. Visit northwestwoodworking.com or call 503-284-1644 to register.

Elders in Action

Volunteer advocates are needed to assist seniors in finding solutions to current issues. Training classes start in September. Visit eldersinaction.org or call 503-235-5474 for more information.

Tax Help in Rockwood

VITA tax aide for low-income families will begin to assist clients at the Rockwood Community office, 18709 S.E. Stark. Clients are seen by appointment only. Appointments will be made on Wednesdays only from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., by calling 503-816-1530.

Neighborhood Farm Stand

Locally grown vegetables and bouquets of fresh flowers will be available to the public, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Sunday, at the Redeemer Lutheran Church, NE 20th and Killingsworth. The stand supports local refugees and immigrant farmers.

Relationship Transformation

Peace-Making, a local group based on non-violent communication and conscious awareness, hosts a seminar that includes information how to have better relationships both personally and professionally. For more information, call 503-228-7256.

Interstate Farmers Market

A farmers market is held each Wednesday through Sept. 26 from 3 - 7 p.m. just off Interstate Avenue between Overlook Park and the Interstate Kaiser Permanente Campus. The market is known for its variety of quality fresh local produce, baked goods, cut flowers, artisan cheese, meat and fish.

Parks Jobs Offer Worldly Lessons

Young workers graduate from school of life

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

While most think of graduation occurring in the spring, end of summer means moving on from the school of life for many young people.

Their temporary jobs, internships and journeys are coming to a close, in an ideal world having imparted the lessons nearly impossible to find in the halls of a high school or on a college campus.

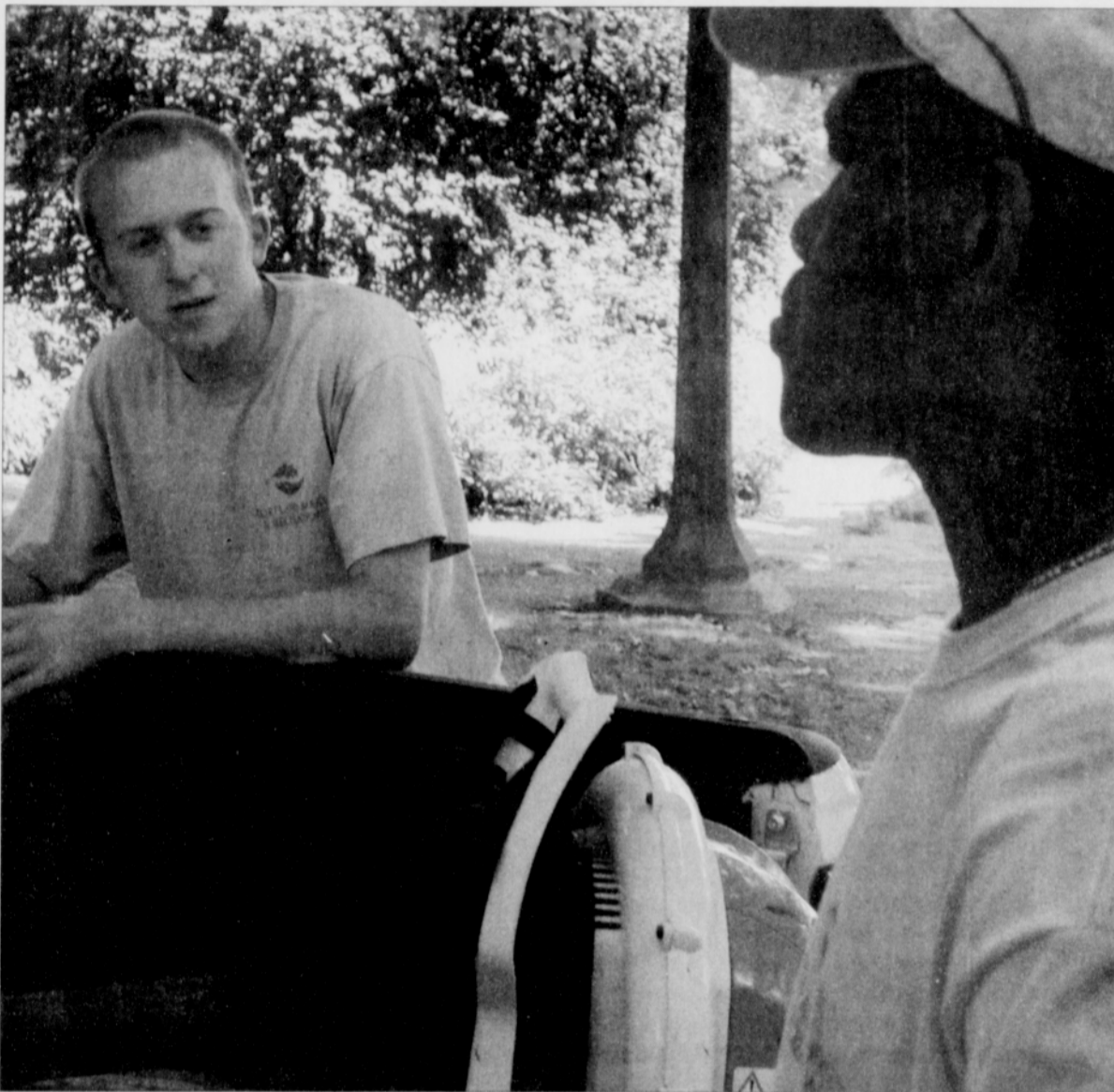
Portland Parks and Recreation offers an example of the quest for such extracurricular benefits as Philip Downing follows Dennis Phillips on his rounds through the greenspaces of north and northeast Portland.

Awaking before dawn, they were nearly overtaken with exhaustion by the early afternoon when they made it to Irving Park to address the overflowing irrigation system and clean one last bathroom before turning in.

What looked like a typically tiring day intensified as they tested the sprinklers. A homeless man launched a barrage of insults at them, claiming that they had intentionally soaked his blankets hidden in the bushes.

Downing, 19, watched intently from the sidelines as Phillips, 51, tried to diffuse the man's emotions, welcoming him to let his blankets dry in the sun. He eventually wandered off raving in the neighborhood, where Phillips made sure police were called.

The scene was ugly, but Phillips pointed out that someone with less experience might have engaged a physical assault. As it was, the confrontation failed to disturb the dozens of people sunning themselves in the



BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Temporary parks worker Philip Downing, 19, discovers spending money and life lessons under the watchful eye of Dennis Phillips, who will be able to retire from Portland Parks and Recreation with full benefits in six-and-a-half more years of his nearly two-decades service as landscaper and role model.

field on the other side of the bushes and playing in nearby basketball and tennis courts.

Although excitement of this nature rarely punctuates their routine, Phillips encourages Downing to learn from inevitable variations.

"Every day is different, so I try to point out to him

different situations, and he can hopefully deal with different things in the future," Phillips says. "I do it not as a mentor, but as a fellow human being giving him the kinds of experience that can be a tool as he goes through life."

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Plans Set for Guild Lake Reunion

Neighborhood was long-ago home for African Americans

A special reunion of residents and employees from Guild's Lake Courts, the only defense housing project within the city to accept African American residents in the 1940s, has come about from an ongoing study of this long ago northwest Portland community.

The gathering, along with a photographic exhibit and presentations, will take place Saturday, Sept. 15, beginning at 11 a.m. in the Con-way lot, at Northwest 23rd Avenue and Savier Street. The celebration, as part of the Slabtown Community Festival, will be free and all ages are welcome.

Tanya March, organizer of this 60th Year Guild's Lake Courts Reunion, welcomes all former residents, employees, students of the elementary school and Fruit and Flower daycare, as well as neighbors, family and friends.

Introductions and reminiscing begin at 11 a.m. at McMenamins Tavern and Pool, 1716 N.W. 23rd Ave. At 1 p.m., the reunion reconvenes across the street for a "show-and-tell" at the meeting room inside the Northwest branch of the Multnomah County Library.

People are encouraged to bring memorabilia, photos and scrapbooks chronicling life at Guild's Lake.

Built in 1942-43 in the sandy environs along Northwest St. Helens Road,



Guild's Lake Courts was one of the largest temporary World War II housing developments in the country and became home to a significant population of African Americans.

Guild's Lake Courts, with its 2,600 units, was one of the largest temporary housing developments ever built in this country. Its purpose was to house part of the mass influx of families relocating here in search of employment in the area's bustling wartime steel and shipbuilding industries.

Immediately after World War II, Guild's Lake Courts was made available to the general public as affordable housing. The

development became home to a significant population of African Americans and was the only defense housing project within the city limits to accept African-American residents.

Following the Vanport Flood of 1948, over 500 evacuees were relocated to trailers on the Guild's Lake site. In the 1950s, the 300 acres of rows of houses, community centers and school comprising Guild's Lake Courts were all dismantled and the

site redeveloped. Today, landmarks of the site are the Montgomery Park complex, Pyramid Brewing and numerous industrial businesses.

In 2005, Tanya March, a doctoral candidate in the Urban Studies Department of Portland State University, initiated an examination of Guild's Lake Courts. Complementing her extensive archival research, March is conducting interviews with people closely associated with the site.



Lou Gossett Jr.

Actor Brings Focus to United Way

Community advocate and academy-award-winning actor Lou Gossett Jr. will be in Portland this month to promote the nonprofit health and human-services group, the United Way.

Gossett will kickoff the agency's annual Community Campaign with a keynote breakfast address on Friday, Sept. 20 at 7:30 a.m. at the Oregon Convention Center.

The event also provides updates on local United Way projects and com-

munity needs. Local residents will be recognized for their outstanding volunteer efforts, support of United Way, and contributions to the community.

Gossett remains one of the most sought after and busiest veteran actors in the film and television industry today. His unique talent for portraying powerful and charismatic characters has charmed audiences worldwide, resulting in an impressive amount of coveted awards, including an Oscar,

Emmy and Golden Globe.

His passion for his work is matched only by his strong belief in helping others by giving back to the community. He serves as a spokesperson and a behind-the-scenes leader for many charitable organizations.

Cost for the breakfast is \$60 per person or \$500 per table of 10. You can RSVP at unitedway-pdx.org or call the United Way events line at 503-226-9366.