

Foster Kids to Hoop it Up

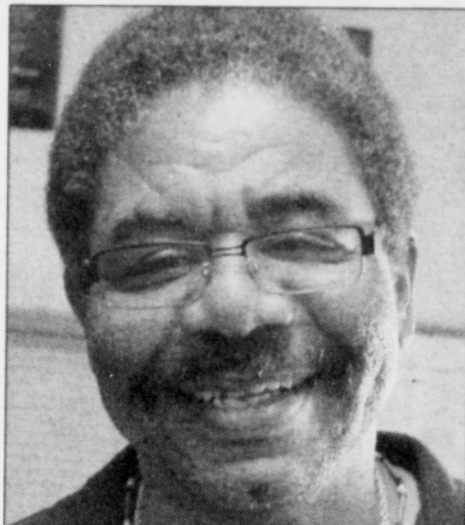
Camp geared for skills both on and off the court

Kids who are receiving foster care services are invited to participate in a basketball camp that is being hosted just for them.

Organized by UR SUCCESS, a Portland-based non-profit organization that helps kids discover their potential, the second annual camp will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 21 and 22 at the Northeast Community Center.

The camp will be directed by Coach Earl Chaney and will teach skills youth can practice on the court and in life. While the fundamentals of basketball will be covered, players will learn teamwork, cooperation, self-control and fun.

Boys and girls, entering kindergarten through 12th grade are invited. The cost is \$50, which includes a shirt, snacks and a special treat at the awards ceremony. Foster kids



Earl Chaney

should contact their Department of Human Services caseworkers about financial assistance, and limited scholarships are available through URSUCCESS.

Youth who are interested in participating can download the application form at ursuccess.org or can contact the organization by calling 971-340-5577 or emailing earl@ursuccess.org.

Chaney said URSUCCESS also welcomes donations to support the camp and is grateful for the community support.

Blighted Properties



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A northeast Portland home is the subject of a complaint for overgrown grass and weeds, trash and debris lying about.

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about two weeks after being notified to fix the problem.

However, for other lower-level problems, like overgrown grass and weeds, complaints won't be followed up on unless they are done online, said Caron.

BDS launched an online form last month for people to file complaints about properties with overgrown grass, the most common complaint during the summer months. So far it's generated about 50 postings.

Caron said that the online reporting form, which requires a digital picture, saves staff time and resources since they don't have to log a complaint over the phone or leave the office to inspect the property.

Some residents of Portland have noticed an increase in nuisance properties.

"I think it has gotten more noticeable," said Belinda Clark, the co-chair of the Concordia Neighborhood Association in northeast Portland.

Clark said that some residents of the neighborhood have asked about what sort of recourse they have with the rise in nuisance properties.

When asked about the new online reporting system, she said that she's optimistic, and just hopes that it does result in people's complaints being addressed.

"At least people will feel like their voice is being heard," she said.

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