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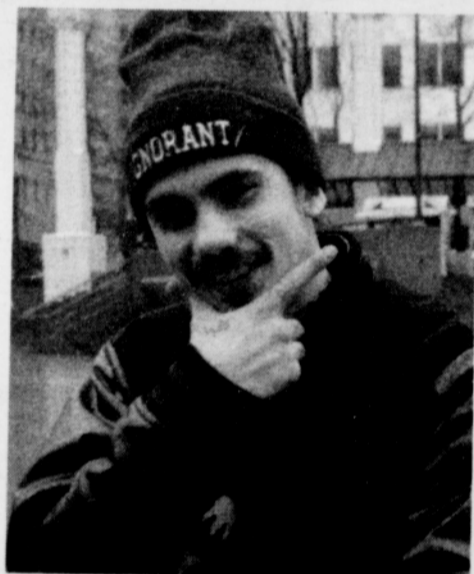
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What's on your list today?.

LOCAL NEWS

Remembering Charles Jordan

First black city commissioner inspired leadership

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales ordered all city flags to fly at half-mast through Saturday, April 12 for former City Commissioner Charles Jordan who died on Friday.

People from all over the city are remembering Jordan for his leadership, especially in his role as a former director of Portland Parks and Recreation.

City Commissioner Nick Fish called him a presence that will be remembered, especially for his advocacy of making Portland parks serve families and children.

Current parks director Zari Santer remembered him in a similar vein, saying that Jordan looked at parks as being something to help people have a sense of pride in, not only their neighborhoods, but themselves as well.

Just a few hallmarks of Jordan's tenure include popular PP&R programs such as the free Movies in the Park, plus innumerable youth initiatives. Jordan also gained public support for critical parks bond and levy measures.

He oversaw 44 new Portland parks and natural areas during his tenure.

"Charles Jordan is established in history as one of the heroes of Portland," says Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz. "His many contributions to our community live on, and his memory will inspire others to reach beyond ordinary goals to achieve greatness. Charles Jor-



Former City Commissioner Charles Jordan, a longtime community leader, died Friday. He was 77.

dan epitomized the best in community-building leadership in Portland."

In June 2012, the Portland City Council voted unanimously to rename the University Park Community Center in north Portland in honor of Charles Jordan.

After spending his early life in rural Texas, Jordan served as an officer in the U.S. Army. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Gonzaga University in education, sociology and philosophy. In 2001, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Law degree by the University of Vermont.

Jordan spent 10 years as Portland's first African-American City Commissioner, beginning in

1974. He served 14 years as Director of Portland Parks & Recreation and retired in 2003.

Jordan was the force behind Portland landmarks such as Pioneer Courthouse Square, the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, Delta Park, Southwest Community Center, renovations to Tom McCall Waterfront Park, the Matt Dishman Community Center, and many more public projects and successes.

As City Commissioner, he was noted for his innovative and unconventional approaches to problem solving. Jordan developed the Community Juvenile Officer Program that put Portland Police officers in local

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Portland Urban League Career Fair

The Urban League of Portland is hosting an upcoming job fair as part of its mission to bridge the employment gap for people of color.

The free event on Tuesday, April 22 at the Lloyd District Double Tree Hotel comes as a National Urban League 2014 State of Black America report examines income, wealth gaps, and under-employment numbers for black Americans.

"Our response to this crisis is to bridge this employment gap by building a well-qualified workforce with employment services, and ad-

vocating for more equitable employment policies, while working alongside our dedicated partners in the private sector who are committed to diversity and who recognize the Urban League is an unparalleled resource to connect them with talented and qualified diverse candidates in our city and region," said Urban League of Portland president Michael Alexander.

As overall unemployment rates fall in Oregon, the official unemployment rate for black Oregonians is 17.6 percent, more than double

that of the state as a whole. Blacks only make up about 2 percent of Oregon's total population.

The fair will feature more than 50 employers who are looking to diversify their workforce. The organization has also directed additional resources and staffing towards its Workforce Department, which provides services to individual jobseekers, to respond to the growing demand in the African American community for job-seeker support, especially amongst the long-term unemployed.