

## Portlander Phil Walden, 1927-2011: Coach, Father Figure, Mentor

Lisa Loving  
Of The Skanner News

A beloved track coach and teacher with more than 50 years of working with area kids, Phil Walden's memorial service, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 10, promises to be a moving event.

The celebration of life starts at noon at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 8501 N Chataqua Blvd., and is followed by an open-mike gathering from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Center for Self Enhancement, 3920 N. Kerby Ave.

Founder of the Albina Sports Program and the Albina Road Runners Track Club, Walden touched the lives of thousands of youth. He passed away Monday, Aug. 22, from cancer.

"A lot of people who are professional in this community got their start with him," said Leon McKenzie Jr., head track coach at Benson High School. "Most people who work with kids now want to make money doing it - he gave money. And all of his time, and all of his resources, consistently, for a long time."

Walden is especially remembered as giving his time to work with kids from all area schools - inner North and Northeast as well as Gresham high schools where so many families have been scattered to over the



Carol and Phil Walden

years.

McKenzie, who along with his wife Grace is working to publicize the memorial services, says Walden sacrificed his own family time to make sure every kid who wanted it was able to participate in sports.

"I was one of the kids who he used to come by in his wrecked station wagon, and pick up and take to meets and keep you out of trouble, when I was just living with my dad and on the borderline of getting in trouble.

"And I've been the head track coach at Benson for 26 years and he came along for

the last 20 years helping me out with my kids at Benson," McKenzie said. "We want people to know how great he was."

"He didn't do it alone - he and his wife together, Carol was right there beside him," Grace said, adding the Walden's entire family was gracious in sharing his time with so many other children and youths.

"I would just say Coach Walden saved lives," McKenzie said. "I would say surely he saved the lives of many individuals, and myself included."

porters are launching the Phil Walden Scholarship, as well as annual sports events. Contributions can be made at Albina Community Bank in the name of Coach Phil Walden, or online at [www.coach-philwaldenfund.com](http://www.coach-philwaldenfund.com).

"He never wanted any praise for it, he never wanted any attention, he always wanted to stay in the background," McKenzie says. "But now since he's gone on, we want to put him out front where he belongs."

Musical guest Linda Hornbuckle will highlight the memorial services, and a slate of speakers as well as video clips will re-tell Walden's life and dedication to young people across the metro area since the 1960s.

"I just think the impact he had on many young people across the community for this long needs to be celebrated," McKenzie says.

"He was happy if somebody graduated from high school, made it through college and then gave something back.

"So it was about sports, but in the end, it was about using sports as a vehicle to reach your full potential as a person. I think that's what he did

To continue his legacy, friends and supporters so well," McKenzie said.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

### Multnomah County Library Builds Bigger E-Book Selection

Multnomah County Library has expanded its e-book collection with 8,500 new nonfiction e-books on economics, science and technology topics. The e-books complement the library's current general nonfiction e-book offerings with more in-depth nonfiction that will be especially helpful for academic and other research. This new service is made available through "patron-driven acquisition." This means that the library pays for books only as patrons use them. The patron-driven acquisition model is becoming widespread in large libraries across the country because it provides a cost-efficient way for libraries to offer deeper coverage on subjects that are not primarily driven by popular use, and respond to patron interests without making permanent purchases or taking shelf space. It also provides a way to offer materials that have shorter periods of relevance and are common targets for theft. Each title can be viewed online and downloaded for up to seven days. To view a title, a library cardholder simply clicks on the title in the library catalog and enters his or her library card number (no PIN required). There is no limit on the number of people who can access an e-book simultaneously, or to how many times an e-book can be viewed.

Downloading the e-books requires Adobe Digital Editions, the same software patrons are using to read e-books from Library2Go, the popular service that provides a large selection of fiction e-books. The new e-books are searchable, printable, and offer tools such as note taking and citation assistance.

### Madison High School Library Book Sale

The annual Madison High School book sale is coming up! Each Madison student will be able to choose a free book from the sale, teachers will be able to take books for

their classrooms, and student musicians will perform during the sale.

Drop off donations of books, CDs, DVDs, or VHS tapes to collection bins at the school entrance, 2735 NE 82nd Ave., from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. from September 26 - 30; on Sept. 29 donation hours are from 5 - 8 p.m. You can also email [laurens@alum.swarthmore.edu](mailto:laurens@alum.swarthmore.edu) for pickup of a box.

Come out and show your support for Madison and their school library by shopping at the sale 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1 and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2.

Madison's library is one of the more heavily used high school libraries in Portland (and 400 additional students from Marshall next year will increase usage), yet it has no budget for new books. Madison students want and need new books to read for pleasure and to support their studies.

For more information contact librarian Nancy Sullivan, at [nsulliva@pps.net](mailto:nsulliva@pps.net) or call 503-916-5220 x79370.

### Oktoberfest in St Johns

If you enjoyed seeing the trees on Lombard Street lit up last winter, then mark the 8th of October on your calendars now. The St Johns Boosters are joining with McMenamins St Johns Pub to present the 1st Annual Oktoberfest from 1-8 p.m. on Saturday with food, live music and beer.

This is a big benefit fundraiser to pay for lighting the trees that line downtown St Johns. Come one, come all and please mention this to your friends and neighbors. Everyone in Portland should know, what is going on the 8th of October in St Johns!

### Concordia University Hosts Community Events in October

Concordia University invites the public to attend the following community events this October 2011.

All events are free and open to the public and will take place on the Concordia University campus, 2811 NE Holman Street in Portland, unless otherwise noted. For more information, visit the Concordia

University website at [www.cu-portland.edu](http://www.cu-portland.edu).

Nursing Information Session- Mon., Oct. 17, 6:30-8 p.m.

Learn about Concordia University's Bachelor of Science in nursing degree during our monthly information sessions. For more information, go to [www.cu-portland.edu/nursing](http://www.cu-portland.edu/nursing).

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Health Care Administration Info Session- Tues., Oct. 18, 6:30-8 p.m.

Come learn about Concordia's Bachelor's degree in Health Care Administration. For more information, go to [www.cu-portland.edu/healthcare.cfm](http://www.cu-portland.edu/healthcare.cfm).

**MY FATHER'S HOUSE MINISTRIES** Come and Experience Faith and Miracles!

Join us for *Rosh Hashanah* The Jewish New Year Celebration

**Friday, September 30th at 7pm**

Join us for a night of **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7TH AT 7PM** Breaking Family Curses

**Feast of Tabernacles**  
WE WILL BE RECEIVING OUR FIRST FRUITS OFFERING  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14TH AT 7PM**

**New Song Community Center**  
2511 NE MLK Blvd • Portland, OR 97212  
Corner of NE MLK Blvd and Russell Street  
Doors open at 6pm for every service.

For directions or more information, call 503-488-5481 or log on to [www.mfhmportland.com](http://www.mfhmportland.com)