

UPDATED: 9 :59 a.m. PDT, November 13, 2007

Portland, Partly Sunny with Showers 45° F • Complete Forecast | Home Page | Site Index | RSS Feeds | About Us | Contact Us | Advertise



SEARCH:



- NEWS
- BIZ
- SPORTS
- H.S. SPORTS
- FORUMS
- BLOGS
- VIDEO
- ENTERTAINMENT
- LIVING
- JOB
- AUTOS
- REAL ESTATE
- CLASSIFIEDS
- SHOPPING

[OregonLive.com](#) - [Site Index](#) - [News](#)

The Oregonian

• 14-Day Archives | Paid Archives
• Subscribe | Today's Paper & More

TOP STORIES

- The cost of sustainability fame
- Day-trippers' fees might fix lodge
- MAX safety 'too late for me'
- [More Headlines](#)

BLOGS

Breaking News

- More than 1,000 Clackamas County residents without power this morning 7:51 a.m. PT
- Former Portland Archbishop George to lead U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops 7:50 a.m. PT
- [More Entries](#)

Politics

- Race for president: In the polls 10:43 p.m. PT
- [More Entries](#)

OREGON REDDIT

Hottest posts

- Novick Takes Eastern Oregon by Storm
- Expose Yourself To the Realities of Sexual Violence Against Women
- [More](#)

TODAY'S PHOTOS



Click image to enlarge
By Rob Finch
High winds and rain hit downtown Portland in the mid morning Monday.
• [See More Photos](#)

FORUMS

Oregon Forum

- Mortgage meltdown. by baillie 11/12/2007

- [Part 1: Saying thank you to veterans](#)
- [Part 2: Memory of soldier drives house fundraiser](#)

Memory of soldier drives house fundraiser

Memorial - First up, a new home for Cpl. Jeremiah Johnson's kin; then perhaps a foundation to help others

Monday, November 12, 2007

BRENT HUNSBERGER
The Oregonian Staff

Elizabeth Johnson stood to speak about her late son and looked out at more than 100 people -- more than she ever expected.

"I don't know hardly anyone here," said the mother of Army Cpl. Jeremiah Johnson, as she looked at the faces -- most strangers. "But you have met Jeremiah."

The people spilled out of the conference room and into the crowded lobby of a Vancouver-area home builder on Sunday to launch a drive to build a 1,700-square-foot house for Johnson's widow and two children. The 23-year-old died from a severe brain injury sustained on duty in Baghdad.

[CONTINUE STORY](#)

Advertisement

The crowd gathered at the offices of New Tradition Homes, which discounted the land for the house and will oversee its construction. Organizers hope the two-story, three-bedroom home can be built by April for Johnson's widow, Gale Johnson, 24, son Isaiah, 5, and daughter Rya, 3.

Along with Cpl. Johnson's mom, Johnson's former youth pastor Luke Hanes spoke during a half-hour memorial service at Sunday's event. Hanes recalled how Jeremiah and Gale met in first grade. He attended her ballet performance and she his Little League games. They held signs together at a right-to-life rally.

"At church, I could never find her," Gale's mom, Kathleen Kelley, said later. "She was chasing Jeremiah around."

Gale did not attend the event. She sent a text message, which her mother-in-law read during the service: "I can't do it today."

"It opens the wound again," Kelley explained.

An enlarged set of plans for the home had several dozen squares colored in, each representing a \$100 donation. At the front of the conference room, a list of companies donating labor and equipment contained more than 40 names.

Organizers say they've already lined up volunteers to pour the foundation. The framing, lumber, doors, nails and concrete have been donated, too.

"We had a steel company offer to build the house with steel instead of two-by-fours," said Janet Dearing, a member of the committee organizing the fundraising drive. "We thanked them. But we didn't want to redo the plans."

SHARE THIS STORY

- [Reddit](#)
- [Digg](#)
- [del.icio.us](#)
- [Google](#)
- [Yahoo](#)
- [How Does It Work?](#)

SITE TOOLS

- [E-mail This](#)
- [Print This](#)
- [Newsletters](#)

- » [Love in the Time of Cholera Sweepstakes](#)
- » ["A Christmas Carol" Ticket Sweepstakes](#)
- » [OregonLive.com Contests!](#)

SPONSORED LINKS

- [Oregon Lottery](#)

8:36 p.m. PT

- I am on the same page...
by squoz 11/12/2007
- 8:42 p.m. PT
- More

Hot Topics

- Religion
- Townsquare
- National Politics
- US at War
- All Forums | Highlights

Several of Johnson's friends came up with the idea. Deering said the group hopes eventually to organize Jeremiah's House into a nonprofit foundation to help others in the community.

Besides in-kind donations, the group has raised \$10,000 for the Johnson home. It needs an additional \$50,000 to purchase the lot. Anyone interested in helping can contact Salmon Creek Foursquare Church in Vancouver or Stephen Staudinger at New Tradition Homes.

Brent Hunsberger: 503-221-8359; brenthunsberger@news.oregonian.com

MULTIMEDIA

Multimedia Blog

- MAX beating victim talks to reporters
- Calcagno carries Canby
- More Entries

News Videos

- Gromfest II (8/30/07)
- Cultural summer camp (7/24/07)
- Spanking controversy (7/22/07)
- More

VIDEO



Witness: Simpson Asked for Guns



National Right to Life Endorses Thompson



Raw Video: Blast Kills Philippine Congressman



- More AP Video



Home | News | Sports | Forums | Blogs | Multimedia | Entertainment | Jobs | Autos | Real Estate | Classifieds | Shopping
 Complete Forecast | RSS Feeds | RSS Terms & Conditions | Site Index | About Us | Contact Us | Advertise | Help/Feedback
The Oregonian - The Oregonian Business Center | Hillsboro Argus

© 2007 Oregon Live LLC. All Rights Reserved. Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our User Agreement, Privacy Policy and Advertising Agreement.