

"Digging deep, Shining a light"



p. 3 The old end-around



p. 8 Sam rude but right



FEBRUARY 2023/ VOLUME 36, NO.5

FREE

SERVING PORTLAND'S NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOODS SINCE 1986

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# Has I-405 land gone to the dogs?



A grim sign speaks to the state of things under the freeway along Northwest Thurman Street

The Wallace Park off-leash area is overused in the opinion of many neighbors. Photo by Matt Erceg

## Should it?

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

anya March has been imagining a dog park under Interstate 405 ramps for nearly a decade. Meanwhile, cities around the country have advanced parallel projects beneath their elevated roadways, enriching formerly forsaken urban ground for the benefit of canines and

other community uses.

March, who has chaired the Northwest District Association Parks Committee since 2015, is thrilled to see her idea finally take wing. The topic is now high on the association's agenda, and preliminary steps are in motion.

One enthusiastic backer is Tad Sav-

inar, an artist and civic leader whose family owns property under the shadow of the bridge ramps along Northwest Thurman Street between 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> avenues.

After seeing an illustrated account of what Milwaukee has done in two

Cont'd on page 6

# Former council candidate spurs leadership at the grass roots



BY ALLAN CLASSEN

adim Mozyrsky narrowly lost to eventual winner Rene Gonzalez in last spring's primary race for City Council. He is not sure he will run again, though new charter amendments would make such a bid

Mozyrsky has, however, doubled down on his commitment to re-energizing grass-roots democracy. This year he became president of the Goose Hollow Foothills League as well as chair of Neighbors West-Northwest, the coalition of 11 Westside neighborhood associations. Mozyrsky is also sparking an effort to empower and unite neighborhood associations citywide. He is organizing a gathering of Portland neighborhood leaders and allied organizations to take place March 9 at the Laurelhurst Club in Southeast Portland. His goal is to build up to an all-neighborhood summit, something that has not occurred in Portland since the mid-1990s.

Portlanders already demonstrate the energy and goodwill to turn the city around, Mozyrsky says. He has seen citizens patrol their neighborhoods, pick up trash and work collec-

Cont'd on page 5



An architect's rendering shows minimal changes to the Northwest Cultural Center's exterior. Image by HPA Architect

# Buyer delays purchase of landmark community center

Risks scare off lenders, could that mask a negotiating ploy?

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

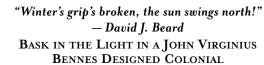
embers of the community-owned Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center overwhelmingly approved a sale of the property to a Las Vegas-based development company for \$4.75 million last spring.

To the organization's board and its 527 members, it seemed almost too good to be real. Not only would the sale revenues underwrite a perpetual fund for projects benefiting the community, the 1909 National Historic Register structure at 1819 NW Everett St. would be saved by transforming it into a public accommodation. The plan was touted as a "lifestyle" boutique hotel with restaurants, bars, a spa, entertainment and event spaces.

The challenge of selling a functionally dated building with an enormous seismic retrofit obligation had vexed the board for years. Ongoing negotiations with the center's former tenant, Northwest Children's Theater & School, fell through because the board was not satisfied that satisfactory preservation and safety work would be undertaken by the theater.

Founders Developments originally agreed to close the sale by the end of October but

Cont'd on page 7





#### 2646 NW Cornell Road

The essence of Bennes' elegant architectural style fills the house with warmth — from the main level where guests can enjoy the granite fireplace, wood floors and coved ceilings to the top floor with skylights and versatile floorplan. The public spaces, porch, gardens and patios invite guests to wander as they please. If ever there was a house for entertaining your friends and family, this is it. Just across from the secret steps that leads to Chapman School and nearby NW 23rd Avenue. 4 bedrooms, 4 full & 2 half baths, one-car attached garage,

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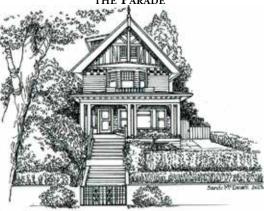
#### 2327 NW Northrup Street, Unit #10

The Northrup Commons, designed by award winning Sienna Architects in 2000, is a one-of-a-kind neighborhood gem that fits into the eclectic NW diorama. Enjoy the innovative architectural spaces in a multi-level condominium building. Uber urban, it feels a bit NYC with its private elevator access, south light balcony, open living spaces and the custom updates that the original owners have added. The best part is that it is in the heart of the Alphabet neighborhood just steps to all things NW.

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,429 Sq. Ft., 1 garage parking space, RMLS  $\sharp 23525063\ \$695,000.$ 



"Mardi Gras is a state of mind." — Ed Muniz.
EMIL SCHACHT FESTIVE DESIGN WAITING FOR
THE PARADE



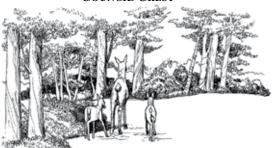
#### 224 NW 20th Avenue

Laissez le bon temps rouler! One of Architect Emil Schacht's early city homes, filled with creative energy and light. A custommade wrought iron gate leads into the sculpted private front garden. The open, friendly porch welcomes you into generous public areas highlighted by architectural detailing and a corner-set wood burning fireplace with a mantle that warms the dining room. Bedrooms upstairs and a third floor open to your needs as an art studio, exercise room, study or playroom. The fenced backyard and garden is presided over by a cement fountain of Bacchus peering out from the laurel bush as water cascades from his mouth and hands into a rock surrounded pond below — setting the scene for all kinds of celebration. Bonne chance.

3 bedrooms, I &  $\frac{1}{2}$  baths, built 1903, 2,355 finished Sq. Ft. + 893 unfinished Sq. Ft. in basement. RMLS #22478689

"Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth." — John F. Kennedy

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sandi, WYDouell 2009

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FAIRCREST, LOT 18, 0.18 acres (7,940 Sq. Ft.) per Portland Maps. RMLS #22485410 \$225,000.

"So many of our friends are in awe that we actually downsized our home of 38 years and have moved on. Life is short, think of the possibilities... we have so many lovely memories and gratitude for our house to pass on to the new family. Our advice: talk to your realtor well in advance before you make decisions about remodeling, how to facilitate a move and what needed improvements are best to do in anticipation for selling your home. A deadline schedule to strive for really helps! Many thanks again for all your help to get us through this huge transition we are just so grateful to be where we are now."

- S.W. and P. L.

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# The end-around justifies the means

ast month I wrote that extreme tolerance in any direction can become intolerance in another. Days later, a classic example of that tendency jumped from the pages of Willamette

The paper offered 15 ways to improve Portland, one of which would substantially upzone all single-family homes to address the housing shortage. Writer Nigel Jaquiss recognized that this would stir neighborhood association resistance, but was nonplussed. "We recommend an end-around: Just upzone the entire city.'

An end-around is a football term that in general application means "an evasive trick or maneuver" or solving a problem through indirect means.

Again brandishing the NIMBYism label, Willamette Week advised the city to ignore neighborhood concerns and act boldly.

Bypassing rather than reasoning with neighborhood associations was deemed wise because, in the words of developer and Planning and Sustainability Commission member Eli Spevak, neighbors love their single-family homes.

To the intelligentsia, that is a problem. It is all right to love your country, your city or your favorite football team, but to love one's home is to become unworthy of inclusion in civic discourse.

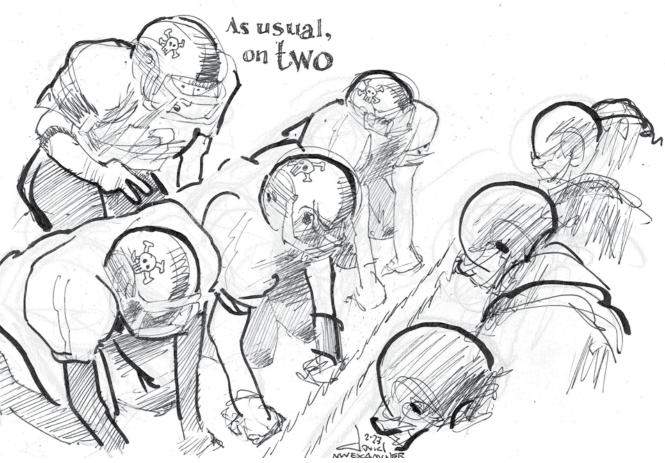
In delivering his dig, Spevak may have inadvertently wandered off the anti-neighborhood script. Critics consistently accuse neighborhood associations of not representing their constituents. But in this case, he implied that the neighborhood associations are formidable because they speak for the strongly held values of their members. Nothing is more annoying than contending with insignificant players who nevertheless are too sturdy to defeat by democratic

What other group of Portland citizens would be disparaged so broadly and shabbily? Could one replace "neighborhood associations" with any other demographic or interest group and get away with it? And what became of tolerance? When words and reason fail, emotions take the helm and epithets erupt.

"Death to single-family housing" becomes a war cry that ends all debate. The news media and political actors do not countenance a rational counterpoint.

And there is a counterpoint.

The inevitable consequence should all residential zones permit higher-density development is that every such



The Portland Pirates used the end-around play so often they dropped the name.

parcel becomes more valuable overnight. While most current homeowners might ignore the "gold mine" created under their feet, future owners would not. The high price their real estate ultimately commands dictates that only an apartment building makes economic sense for the buyer. In short, high land values are the enemy of affordable housing, and upzoning raises land values.

The primary interest group speaking against densification in Portland is neighborhood associations. Having isolated and discredited them long ago, City Hall was outmaneuvering them with end-around plays years before Willamette Week suggested it.

The new city commissioner of the Office of Community & Civic Life, Dan Ryan, announced his plans for the bureau's future without even mentioning neighborhood associations. The city code governing OCCL puts support for neighborhood associations and neighborhood coalitions above all. A hidden-ball attempt to revise the bureau's purpose in 2018 never came to a City Council vote, yet its name was changed and its direction transformed administratively until virtually all of its staff and resources are now directed elsewhere.

"We will continue to advance the removal of systemic barriers to fair and just distribution of resources, access and opportunity, starting with issues of race and disability," Ryan wrote.

How can anyone argue against fairness, justice and inclusion of the disadvantaged? Those broad social goals are not the bureau's official or primary purpose, but anyone saying otherwise is marginalized for their supposed intolerance.

So the old end-around play keeps working, even when we know what's coming.  $\blacksquare$ 



## Readers Reply

Letters can be sent to: allan@nwexaminer.com or 2825 NW Upshur St, Ste. C, Portland, OR 97210. Letters should be 300 words or fewer; include a name and a street of residence. Deadline: third Saturday of the month.

#### **Pedestrians share blame**

We have a driver/pedestrian problem in Portland. Fatalities are at a record high for cyclists and pedestrians alike. Though it's easy to blame drivers, pedestrians should show more vigilance toward moving traffic.

Many who use the crosswalks assume that those bars are a safety shield preventing them from injury. Do not assume drivers see you. I've dealt with people walking right out into traffic and expecting me to stop. Portland is very dark due to weather, trees and the artificial lighting. It is impossible to see pedestrians on a rainy night with lights reflecting off my windshield from opposing traffic.

The most dangerous stretches are in the Northwest District, though it has all the bells and whistles for pedestrian crosswalks and speed bumps. The traffic "engineering" going on—barriers, painted streets, green lanes, blue lanes, closed streets—is an overwhelming sensory load on the driver and an invitation to an accident. Paying attention to all these nonsensical barriers is taking our attention off the more important thing—safety.

The intentions of the city and Portland Bureau of Transportation are good, but the implementation is wrong and our pedestrians are in peril.

Todd J. Elliott SW Patton Road

## No respect from Café Nell

I'm pleased to see the NW Examiner tackling the Café Nell issue ["When neighbors see this, why do they fear this?" January 2023]. It's bewildering to me (putting it nicely) that the owner and the city are behaving so shabbily. I'll certainly be spending my dining budget in places that have a little more respect and empathy for their neighbors. I hope this paper continues to shine a light on the topic.

> Clark Hays NW 24th Place

# ımıner

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#### **Robert Braaten**



Robert Leroy Braaten, who grew up in the Guild's Lake area, died Dec. 20 at age 89. He was born on May 11, 1933, in Grand Forks, N.D., and moved to Portland as young child. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1951. He served in the Army in Korea. After his return, he worked for Timber Structures. He

worked for the Portland Police Bureau from 1967 until his retirement in 1990. He is survived by his children, Carol, James, Leslie, Jill and Bobbi; sister, Patricia Elliott; former wife, Mary Brown; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Beverly Braaten.

#### **Ed Tyler**



Carroll Edward Tyler, who was prominent in real estate and civic affairs who lived in Goose Hollow, died Jan. 9 at age 91 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's. He was born Nov. 15, 1931 in Portland. He graduated from Washington High School in 1949 and in 1953 from the University of Oregon, where he also

received a master's degree in 1961. He married Joyce Langdon in 1953. He began his career as a high school teacher and administrator and later worked in educational research at the University of Oregon and the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. He later became a realtor and part owner of Cronin & Caplan Realty Group, retiring in 1997. He served as president of the Oregon Association of Realtors and several local chapters. He was chairman of the Pastoral Council at St. Mary Cathedral Parish, volunteered at Goose Hollow Family Shelter and Green Gables Guest House of Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center. He was a board member of Lift Urban Portland. His wife, Joyce, died 13 days after his death. He is survived by his son, David; daughters, Laura and Felicia; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

### **Joyce Tyler**



Joyce Tyler, who lived in Goose Hollow, died Jan. 22 at age 90. Joyce Langdon was born on Oct. 14, 1932 in Portland. She graduated from Grant High School and attended the University of Oregon. She married Ed Tyler in 1953. She worked at Snelling and Snelling Employment

Agency in Eugene and Portland. She was a stockbroker with Paine Webber. She volunteered at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter and Washington Park Information Services. She is survived by her son, David; daughters, Laura and Felicia; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Her husband, Ed, died 13 days before her death.

### Paula E. Bentley Mathews



Paula Mathews, former director of the Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center, died Dec. 10, at age 79 from pulmonary fibrosis. Paula Hollingshead was born on March 24, 1943, in Tulsa, Okla. She graduated from Checotah High School and received a degree in journalism at the University of Oklahoma. She

married Phil Bentley, and they moved to Gresham, where she worked as a public information officer for Gresham schools and later for the Gresham Outlook. She served on the Gresham City Council and twice ran for Multnomah County commissioner. After her divorce from Bentley, she attended massage school. She married Doug Mathews in 1997. She is survived by her husband, Doug; daughter, Kate Bentley; siblings, Cecil Hollingshead, Ann Christie and Perry Mohegan; and her husband's children, Rick Mathews, Stephanie Mathews, Diana Borchardt and Doug Mathews Ir.

#### **Steve McCarthy**



Steve McCarthy, the founder of Clear Creek Distillery and longtime resident of Willamette Heights, died Jan. 2 of Parkinson's disease at age 79. He was born Seattle on Jan. 7, 1942, and grew up in Roseburg. He graduated from Reed College in 1966 and from New York University School of Law in 1969. He was the

first executive director of Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group at the University of Oregon. He practiced law, served as deputy director of TriMet and in 1985 founded Clear Creek Distillery, which he operated for more than 30 years. He received a governor's appointment to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. He served on the boards of Reed College and Earthjustice. He married Lucinda Parker in 1969. He is survived by his wife, Lucinda; and daughter, Abigail. There will be a memorial service in Reed College Auditorium on Saturday, April 22, at 3 p.m.

## Dr. Ayland 'Bing' Ottinger



Ayland "Bing" M. Ottinger, who practiced medicine in Northwest Portland, died Dec. 19, at age 89. He was born in Salt Lake City on Feb. 16, 1933, and attended the University of Utah. He received his medical degree from University of Maryland Medical School in 1958. He then moved to Portland for his

internship at Oregon Health Sciences University. He married Judy in 1961. After he served as a physician at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, he returned in 1964 to Portland, where he was in private practice. He is survived by his wife, Judy; children, Matthew and Kristin; brother, Gordon; and four grandchildren.

### **Nancy Lee Anderson**



Nancy Lee Anderson, who lived in Arlington Heights in the 1960s and '70s, died Nov 22 at age 97. Nancy Lee Baumhover was born Sept. 6, 1925, in Portland, where she attended Catlin Gabel Day School and Washington High School. She also attended Oregon State University. She married Arland Anderson in

1950, and they raised a family in Arlington Heights before moving in 1980 to Wilsonville, where she was on the Planning Commission and served on the Library Foundation board. In 2008, Nancy and Arland moved to Scio. He died in 2011. In 2016, she moved to Albany. She is survived by her daughters, Barbara Andersen, Maryliz Herron and BJ Andersen; and seven grandchildren.

#### Thomas Marineau



Thomas Marineau, a principal at Linnton Elementary School, died Jan. 18 at age 93. He was born in Weiser, Idaho, Oct. 7, 1929. He attended elementary and high school in Spokane, Wash., before transferring to Grant High School in Portland. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from Oregon

State University. After military service, he taught and was an administrator at many schools across the city. He was a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club. In 1957, he married Suzanne Davis. He is survived by his son, Craig; daughters, Catherine Locke and Anne Smyth; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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## **Death Notices**

High School in 1944.

MOREY KAUFMAN, 89, purchasing agent for Montgomery Ward.

DR. WALTER R. LIST, 87, Multnomah Athletic Club and Mazamas member.

LYNN (McGuire) Duniway, 86, graduated from Lincoln High School in 1954.

WILLIAM WETMORE, 99, attended Chapman Elementary School. REIDUN ZANDER 72, member of the Multnomah Ath-

letic Club. MARY ELLEN SHATTUCK, 84, member of the Parish of

JOAN (HICKEY) KINZEL, 84, graduated from Lincoln





Vadim Mozyrsky participated in a We Heart Portland cleanup in Northwest Photo by Wesley Mahan Portland last summer.

"Former council" cont'd from page 1

tively for community betterment while City Hall has looked elsewhere for solutions. He wants to turn that process around so that policy formation starts with the people and their ideas.

"Our missions [as neighborhood associations] are not dictated by the city," he said. "They are dictated by the people who live in our neighborhoods."

The associations themselves have sometimes lost sight of their role, he said.

"Why are we here? Why are we gathered as neighborhood associations? We have to have a place to talk about the issues—and more than that—to act."

With neighborhoods held to the sidelines, local governments have misdiagnosed and mishandled major challenges. He bemoaned the wasted funds flowing through the Joint Office of Housing Services on a recent neighborhood listserv post.

"Everything I've seen so far ... screams that the JOHS has poor accounting mechanisms and even worse accountability mechanisms. Examples include All Good Northwest billing JOHS \$525,000 in unallowed expenses (including \$330,000 in double-billed payroll), as well as the 20,000 tents purportedly bought and distributed in two years with almost no paperwork and no tracking as to where the tents went.

"The \$525,000 was recouped only after a tip was submitted to the good government hotline. And I'm still trying to wrap my mind around where the 20,000 tents are located. A source told me that people would receive the brand-new tents and then turn right back around and sell them.

"I have not heard of any neighborhood association taking a stand [on this] one way or the other," he concluded.

tions he was elected to lead.

The Portland Office of Community & Civic Life contracts with NWNW to provide staffing and administrative support for its member neighborhood associations. He believes oversight of that contract has taken too much of its board's attention and caused it to rely on guidance from the city.

"As a [coalition] board, we're supposed to be discussing the bigger issues that affect our neighborhoods and not just the minutiae," he said.

At the meetings of NWNW and GHFL Mozyrsky has chaired this year, he has pointed in modest, practical directions rather than unveiling a grand manifesto. Public safety will evidently be paramount.

He invited two members of Gonzalez's staff to update GHFL members on safety and crime concerns surrounding unsanctioned camping and trash.

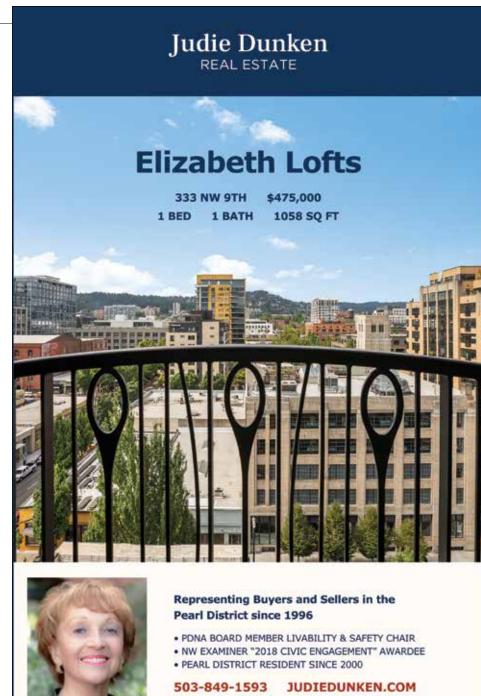
Tom Miller, transition leader for Gonzalez, underscored a new attitude at City Hall.

"Neighborhood associations have threat, frankly, been under years," Miller "Neighborhood associations have lasting value in this city as far as Commissioner Gonzalez is concerned."

The second speaker at that meeting, Sgt. Zach Kenney, reported on the Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct Neighborhood Response Team, which he leads.

Later in that meeting, Mozyrsky provided an example of neighbors raising their own concerns rather than merely reacting to city initiatives. He suggested creating a fenced in off-leash dog park along Southwest Madison Street near the reservoirs where dog owners often take their pets.





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Each office is indepen



Above: Rendering of Milwaukee's dog park, which is not yet completed.

Upper right: Foxtown Landing will bring a brewery, pub and broad public spaces adjacent to the dog park.

"I can't imagine any

rational objections to a

dog park."

- Roger Vrilakas,

neighborhood representative

Right: Encampments under the freeway do not stay swept for long.

"Gone to dogs" cont'd from page 1

years, Savinar beamed, "This is a fantastic presentation."

The overview was delivered by two Milwaukee city officials at an NWDA Zoom meeting last month.

The \$1.6 million multi-faceted project has transformed a "forgotten about land" under Interstate 794 into a venue for free concerts, a farmers' market, pickleball courts and a dog park. The public investment precipitated \$12 million plans for a three-story brewery and event complex to be called Fox-

town Landing. It will include outdoor dining on a spacious, multitiered courtyard adjoining the dog park.

Calling Milwaukee's venture a public/private partnership of the kind Portland used to be known

for, Savinar is contributing \$2,000 to investigate current conditions in the area, policy restraints and potential alliances to be considered before moving forward.

There will be no pictures. The consultant hired for the preliminary study will not be asked to illustrate the vision. Savinar does not want to invite public expectations before knowing what is can be built.

Due diligence considerations aside, "I think a dog park is a terrific idea," Savinar said.

One point not in contention is that the status quo is not working under the viaducts.

The state-owned land along this three-block stretch of Thurman Street draws some of the largest unsanctioned campsites in the central city. With no nearby residences or businesses providing eyes on the street, debris and dangers have to get out of hand before massive sweeps are carried out by the city. In a few weeks, things return to what has come to be seen as normal.

Savinar, whose family has held this property since 1945, remembers a time before the freeway intruded in the 1960s. Norm Thompson Outfitters' original store was a major attraction at

> Northwest 19th and Thurman until it closed in 2006.

"Viaducts are a community killer," he said.

Could going to the dogs refer not just to the area's decline but its rebirth?

> March thinks so. "There's a real

need for more dog space," she said, noting that 53 apartment buildings have been erected in the district in the recent years without additional park space of any kind.

While the population within walking distance has soared, pet ownership has risen even faster, driven by a spike during the pandemic, she said.

U.S. News & World Report ranked Portland the number one American city for dog owners. Considering that about 40 percent of U.S. households have a dog, the Rose City might far exceed that

The same factors drove the Milwaukee project, Matt Dorner, Milwaukee's



economic improvement director, said that 9,500 apartment units had been built within three miles of the park since 2010, and a survey showed that 70 percent of these new downtown residents felt dog facilities were of high importance.

The Milwaukee project, launched in 2020, was not a pioneer. Similar efforts around the country now include Dallas, New York, Sacramento, Calif., and Tampa Bay, Fla.

Dorner was accompanied by Milwaukee city council member Paul Schwartz, who answered some of the concerns voiced in Portland.

Schwartz said emissions for vehicles on the freeway have not been an issue in Milwaukee. Although some studies indicate that living near a freeway can increase health risks, he reasoned that brief visits to a dog park have limited

As for vehicle noise disturbing people on the ground, he said it has not been a problem there.

"It wasn't even a thought" during the frequent free concerts held under the freeway, he said.

Dorner and Schwartz said homeless camps were not uncommon under the Milwaukee interstate, though that was not an impetus for Foxtown Landing.

Jozell Johnson of the NWDA Planning Committee cautioned against using homeless removal as a justification for a dog park in Northwest Portland. Johnson and March are heading a subcommittee to advance the project.

Norm Duffett, who chairs Friends of Wallace Park, likes the idea of another dog park, in part to take pressure off the over-used Wallace Park off-leash area.

Planning Committee member Roger Vrilakas, a frequent critic of development projects he has reviewed in his 40 years on the committee, is all on board with this one.

"I can't imagine any rational objections to a dog park," Vrilakas said.

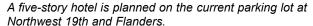
Planning Committee co-Chair Greg Theisen said, "There's a ton of incredibly underused land under [Interstate 405]." He expects neighbors will eagerly get behind the project. ■

> COMMENT ON NWEXAMINER.COM or email: allan@nwexaminer.com











Tanya Toby, CEO of Founders Developments.



Dan Anderson, president of Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center.

"All is on track and going very well."
—Tanya Toby,
CEO, Founders

**Developments** 

"Buyer delays" cont'd from page 1

then asked for three more months as provided in the sales agreement. That still wasn't enough time.

Founders CEO Tanya Toby sent NNCC President Dan Anderson a Jan. 12 email asking for more time to raise the money, which she hoped would arrive in the third quarter of this year. Complaining that lenders had backed away from the project after weighing its peculiar risks, Toby proposed to work around the predicament by using a construction loan to finance the sale.

"Once the construction loan commences, the remaining balance less the deposits will be paid off," Toby wrote.

Anderson said the board agreed to extend the closing date but would not release the new deadline.

Meanwhile, Founders is paying NNCC \$50,000 a month and covering property

maintenance costs until the sale goes

Local developer Robert Ball said it is not uncommon for a construction loan to be arranged to facilitate site acquisition, but the developer must still demonstrate sufficient equity in the project and must have all land-use approvals and building permits in hand before a construction loan is approved.

One NNCC member with business and development experience is skeptical of Founders' intentions and capacity to deliver.

"Most construction loans actually require the property be already bought ... because [the lenders] want to tie the property up as collateral for the construction loan," the man, who asked to remain anonymous, wrote in an email to the NW Framiner

"Construction loans are seen as the

most risky because you usually find things no one planned for," he continued. "It sounds [Founders has] put the seller in a box to lower the price at the last minute. They don't sound like they have money for the deal."

Anderson and Toby were asked to respond to suspicions raised in the email. Anderson replied with a 320-word explanation he labeled as "not for attribution in any manner."

Toby did not respond, although she was quoted in Willamette Week as sending a Jan. 26 email saying "all is on track and going very well."

The NNCC annual meeting with be held at 6 p.m., Feb. 16, via Zoom. To attend, register via nnccpdx.com. Anderson promised that any updated information will be shared with members. ■

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## There are worse things than intensity toward a mission



Sam Adams

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

¶irst, let me say I know nothing about Sam Adams' interactions with city staff since he went to work for Mayor Ted Wheeler a couple of years ago. But all the accusations of rude or intimidating behavior by female employees that led to his dismissal sent me to my notes for some perspective.

For 12 years, Adams worked for the most

effective Portland mayor since Neil Goldschmidt. Vera Katz got things done, and echoes from her sharp tongue may still reverberate in City Hall. Power is not always polite, but a willingness to wield power-even laced with temper-when necessary often reflects a passion to carry out the will of the constituents.

I saw Adams use power appropriately while chairing the 2010-11 Northwest Parking Stakeholders Advisory Committee, a forerunner to the parking

plan subsequently adopted by City Council. Late in the process, Deborah Haynes, who owned the former Blush Beauty Bar on Northwest 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, raised a series of objections to parking meters. She questioned the committee's authority to make such decisions, complained about potential ill effects on merchants, objected to policies differing from those in downtown, accused proponents of punishing retailers and said businesses found the whole plan confusing.

Adams answered her concerns one by one,

though none to her satisfaction.

"I can tell you the business community has felt very left out," said Haynes, though it was her duty to keep them informed.

In one meeting in July 2011, she registered her dissatisfaction with Adams' answers 12 times. If his answers were on point, she brushed them aside as unconvincing.

> Although patient most of the way, eventually, Adams grew heated.

> want to hear thoughtful concerns and objections that we can respond to, but I can't have Whac-A-Mole time so that every time we move forward with something that will actually be better for everyone ... you whack something else.'

> I don't believe Haynes had been spoken to that way before, at least in public. She dropped out of the conversation and

off the committee. Perhaps she felt disrespected and disempowered.

The parking plan went forward, and decades of enmity between retail and residential interests faded into history. Business people and neighborhood representatives now work together on the current Northwest Parking Stakeholders Advisory Committee, saving their cringe moments for pedantic lectures from city staff on how to get along.  $\blacksquare$ 

> **☑** COMMENT ON NWEXAMINER.COM or email: allan@nwexaminer.com

#### **Cultural Center Annual Membership Meeting Slated for February 16, 2023**

The Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center (NNCC) will hold its annual membership meeting at 6:00 PM on Thursday, February 16, 2023. As has been our practice for the past two years, the meeting will take place as a Zoom hosted teleconference. Members of record as of February 15, 2023 who wish to attend the meeting will need to register in advance. Please watch our web site www.nnccpdx.com for more information about this meeting and the advance registration process.

Director nominees for the term beginning in 2023 will be elected. The new Board will elect officers for 2023 immediately following the membership meeting. An update on the status of the pending sale of the building, the Northwest Neighborhoods Fund and related matters will be presented.

If any member of the corporation wishes to nominate for Directors persons other than those proposed by the Nominating Committee, said member shall do so by delivering to the Secretary not less than ten (10) days prior to the Annual Meeting a petition signed by at least ten (10) members naming the nominee or nominees and stating that each nominee has agreed to serve if elected. The Secretary shall state at the Annual Meeting, prior to the election of directors, the names and qualifications of those nominated by petition. Nominating petitions may be delivered to the NNCC Secretary by US Mail at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center, P.O. Box 96116, Portland, Oregon 97296-6116.

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"I want to hear

thoughtful concerns

and objections that we

can respond to, but I

can't have Whac-A-Mole

... every time we move

forward."

– Sam Adams



For by grace you have been saved though faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9.

Liturgical worship Sundays at 11:00, Bible study on Revelation Sundays at 9:45 Ash Wednesday worship, February 22 at 7:30

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# GREATER NORTHWEST PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT MAP

#### **BALCH CREEK TOWNHOUSES**

Balch Creek Townhomes at Northwest 28th and Thurman streets were completed last summer but there are still no apparent residents in any of the 16 homes. The three- and four-story units are listed at \$1.15 to \$1.4 million.



#### **SLABTOWN PARK**

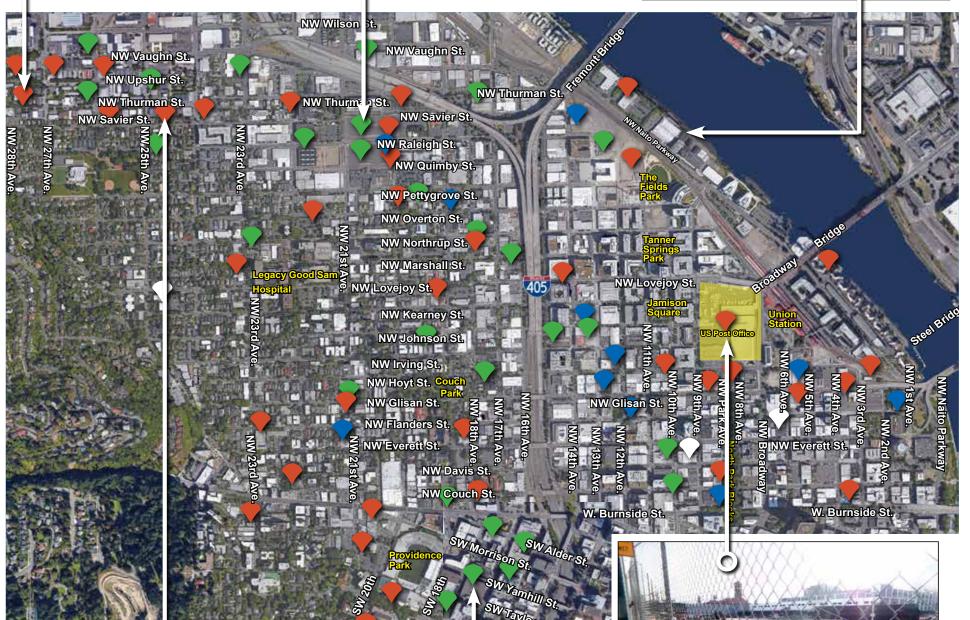
Neighborhood representatives are growing anxious that the promised Slabtown Park on the eastern half of the block bounded by Northwest 20th, 21st, Pettygrove and Quimby remains in limbo. The deadline for property owner Guardian Real Estate Services to transfer the land to the city has been extended 15 months and is now at the end of 2023.



#### **CENTENNIAL MILLS**

Prosper Portland has slashed the price of the 4.4 acre Centennial Mills property at 1362 NW Naito Parkway to \$8.25 million in an agreement with MRL Ventures, a Portland company owned by Tim Ralston. His plans involve three residential/retail buildings. The developer has two years to obtain land-use approval and close the sale.







#### THESIS HEADQUARTERS

Construction of a four-story office building on the site of the former Forest Park Post Office reveals cross-laminated timber. It is being built for Thesis, a boutique architecture company that will be moving its headquarters from the Pearl District.



#### PRESS BLOCK TOWER

The Oregonian's former printing building between Southwest 16th, 17th, Yamhill and Taylor is gone, making way for Press Block Tower, a 24-story building with 341 residential units.

#### **POST OFFICE SITE**

An investment team that includes Portland's Melvin Mark has signed an agreement with Prosper Portland for exclusive negotiating rights to become the lead developer of the 14-acre former central post office site. Demolition of the complex has begun. Colorado-based Continuum was chosen as the lead developer in 2018, but the company backed out in 2021.









Proposed Under Review In Construction

Other

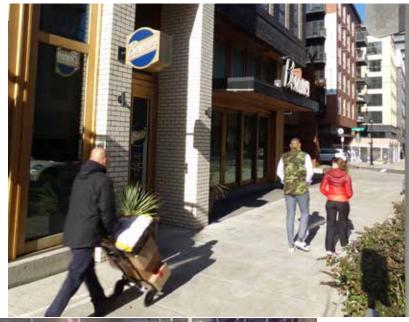
For an interactive and continually updated version of this map, visit:

NextPortland.com

Also see the development map maintained by the Goose Hollow

Foothills League:
goosehollow.org/images/GooseHollowDevelopmentMap.pdf

# Besaw's bounces back with help from a friend





Workers are on site, supplies are being delivered and Besaw's may open early this month.

# NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 29, No. 2

"News You Can't Always Believe"

February 2023

## Official bar of the Super Bowl\*

The Nob Hill Bar & Grill has been known for many things over the last 37 years, but we have never been more proud than to be called the official Bar & Grill of the Super Bowl.

Nobbys has a great football tradition. Many of our patrons have been watching the Super Bowl here on our fairly big screens since before this year's players were even born.

Nobby patrons not only care about the game, they are knowledgeable. There is hardly a play that goes by but someone at the bar will notice a mistake on the field or a faulty interpretation of the rules.

And left a message. They still haven't called back. I'm sure they're

We have noticed that many companies get their names out by buying television ads during the Super Bowl, so we thought we would do them one better ... by being an official sponsor of the game!

We called the NFL last week



en't called back. I'm sure they're busy working out other big licensing deals. Anyway, they didn't say no. I'm sure it will all get worked out by game day.

Hope to see you at Nobbys Feb. 12. Arrive early. The best seats will go fast.

 $*Final\ authorization\ pending$ 

BURGER COUNT 1,295,233

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## 'Hopefully for another 100 years'

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

ana Flug preserved the 120-year legacy of Besaw's, Northwest Portland's oldest hospitality brand, through the trials of redevelopment and the pandemic before being forced to close two years ago.

Flug is also overseeing its rebirth as the restaurant and the associated Solo Club cocktail lounge are poised to reopen this month. She remains the owner, but Stage 4 colon cancer thwarted plans to make the comeback on her own. Friend and fellow restaurateur Ramzy Hattar, who operates River Pig Saloon and Papi Chulo's in the Pearl District, will make it happen.

"Cana always had hopes of reopening," Hattar said.

Those hopes could be intuited from faded signs in the window promising

Besaw's would be back in business "next month." The signs never changed. Tables and supplies visible through the windows remained in place as years passed.

"The thought of letting go of Besaw's was really hard for her," Hattar said.

For the past eight months, Flug and Hattar have been working together on a new version of Besaw's. She had been vacationing in Hawaii recently but plans to return for the reopening and to again greet guests, a practice that helped solidify her loyal clientele.

When Flug bought the business in 2005, it was at its longtime location at Northwest 23<sup>rd</sup> and Savier in a humble wooden building with a kitchen too tiny for the demand. People in the trade were amazed that she served 1,000 meals a month there. C.E. John Co., bought the quarter block for redevelop-



Ramzy Hattar

Below: Lines often formed to get in the old Besaw's location. Photo by Wesley Mahan





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#### 4th Saturday CleanUp

Feb 25, 9am–10am: help pick up litter in our neighborhood; sponsored by SOLVE. Check out our website for more info or email mikayla@nwportlandhostel.com.



Cana Flug exchanged hugs and well-wishes when she left the old location in 2015. Photo by Wesley Mahan

ment, and the parties could not come together on a lease extension.

A bitter public battle ensued over rights to the Besaw's name. In 2015, the restaurant closed, reopening the following year in a much larger space in the L.L. Hawkins building, with Solo Club taking a separate space across a courtyard.

Hattar found the attorney who helped Flug to reach a settlement allowing her to take the name to the new location. C.E. John was allowed to call their new four-story mixed-use structure the George Besaw Building.

In a June 2015 NW Examiner story titled "Besaw's forever," Flug thanked the community for taking up her cause and marshaling the public opinion that allowed her to challenge a major regional developer and survive.

"I feel just overwhelmed with the outpouring of support and love," she said. "It just totally warms my heart to be a part of such a community."

Hattar does not promise to replicate the food of Besaw's last iteration, though he said it would be "very similar."

He intends to honor the legacy, which to him means "an always lively, always fun place that always felt like a community restaurant."

One thing new Hattar will bring is "a true happy hour with pub-style fare. The old Besaw's always had

Such happy hours have been a casualty of the COVID era, he said.

Hattar reminds newer patrons that Besaw's was never one thing. It went through many owners and sometimes was known simply as the Solo Club. It had several locations, though all were near  $23^{\rm rd}$  and Savier until its current home. It closed entirely at several intervals, including for most of the 1980s.

While the 2016 move "did change the atmosphere, it was not for the worse," he said. "It's everything you want for a neighborhood restaurant and bar. ... hopefully for another 100 years." ■

## International urban scholar to address Portland's crisis



BY ALLAN CLASSEN

 ${
m M}$ ichael Mehaffy, whose international career in urban philosophy and design was salted with a recent term as president of the Goose Hollow Foothills League, has some things to say about Downtown Portland's dire predicament.

"The Death and Life of Downtown Portland: Hope Beyond the Current Crisis," is the title of his upcoming address to the Downtown Neighborhood Association. The multimedia presentation will be held Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m. via Zoom. (Email info@portlanddowntownna.com for a link.)

"I will start with a 'big picture' view of how a thriving downtown Portland has become a dreary place since the early 2000s," said Mehaffy, who now lives in White Salmon, Wash., while commuting regularly to Sweden, Britain and other countries on consultancies. For years he has worked with the Prince's Foundation, chaired by King Charles. He was

the project manager of Orenco Station, a walkable, mixed-use development in Hillsboro.

But Portland is never far from his thoughts.

"What went wrong?" he asks.

For insight, he turns to the author of "Death and Life of Great American Cities," the 1961 book that upended urban planning orthodoxy in the United States.

"Jane Jacobs described it perfectly: the self-destruction of diversity, over-privileging high-end development and ignoring the roots of the housing crisis," Mehaffy said.

In a blog written in 2017, when he lived in Portland, he wrote:

'It is not wise to over-concentrate on the existing cores, in the belief that this 'voodoo urbanism' will magically benefit all of the city's residents. Like George H.W. Bush's 'voodoo economics,' this approach reveals a naïve faith in the capacity of the top of the economic pyramid (or the core of the city) to generate wealth that trickles down to all the rest."

Mehaffy advises Portlanders to "stop believing in silver bullets (silver skyscrapers?) and supply-side hokum, and invest again in human capital."







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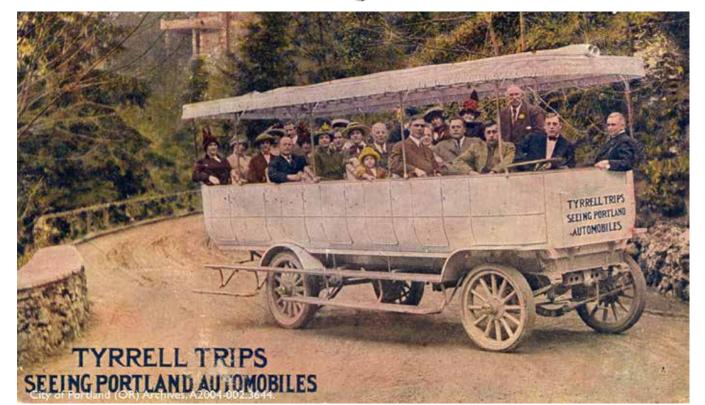
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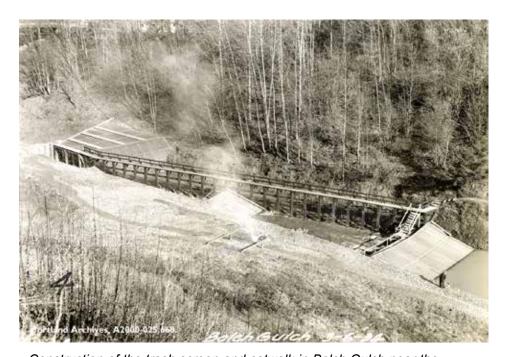
A postcard promotes Tyrrell Trips in Washington Park, circa 1908. City of Portland Archives, A2004-002.3644.



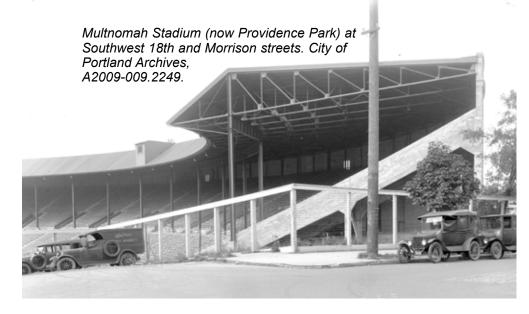
The Jacob Kamm residence at Southwest 14th and Main streets, 1946. City of Portland Archives, A2001-045.988.



A trolley heads toward Council Crest in 1949.



Construction of the trash screen and catwalk in Balch Gulch near the Thurman Street Bridge was completed in 1934. City of Portland Archives, A2000-025.668.





SW Alder Street at SW 18th Avenue looking west toward Burnside Street, circa 1935. City of Portland Archives, A2005-001.9.

#### CORRECTIONS:

We incorrectly printed the birth year of Deborah Lynn Johnson in her obituary last month. She was born in

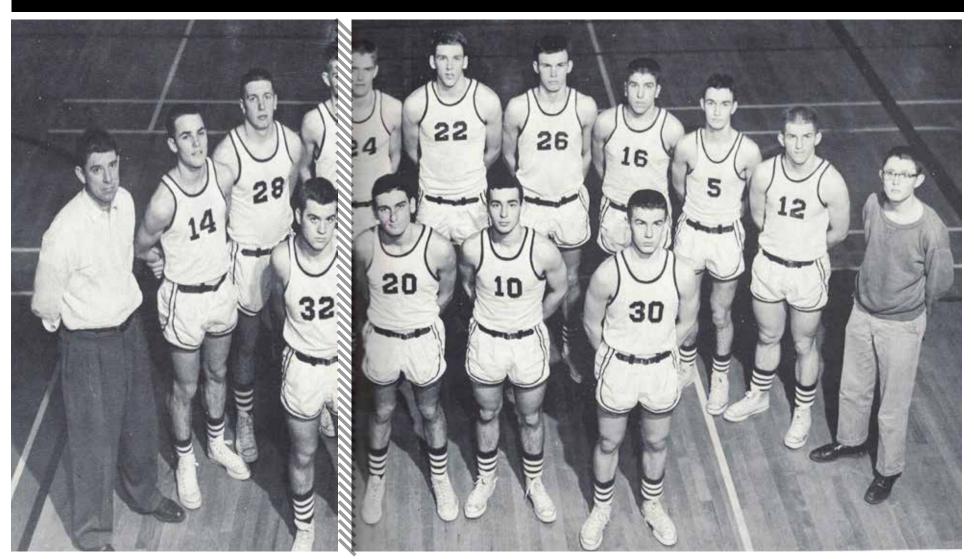
Our January story referred to the proposed commercial development at Northwest 28th and Thurman streets as Food Hall & Beer Garden. That was a description of the project by neighbors and not an official name.

The Lincoln High School basketball action photos in the January edition were inaccurately credited. They were taken by Sarah Quist.

That story also claimed Lincoln's last basketball state championship was in 1952. Lincoln last won in 1957. See the story on page 13.

N M Bodecker Creative Foundation at 2360 NW Quimby St. is in a mixed-use zone, not residential zone, as stated in a Snapshots caption in January.

# Lincoln's 1957 hoop crown not to be forgotten



Front row (L-R): Pete Verdurman, Henry Berez, Eric Bliltz and Carl Haag.

Back row: Coach Sturdiviant, Pat Doherty, Tom Mason, Paul Schwabe, Ron Anderson, Andre LaBorde, Tim Hindman, Jim Satalich, Jack Vollstedt, Paul Goddard and Alan Ainey, manager.



The band gives out

Above: Gyms were packed for big ballgames in

Right: Bill Burton and Paul Goddard accept the championship trophy.





Lincoln High School boys basketball team asserted that Lincoln's last state championship was in 1952. That was not true. Lincoln also won the 1957 title, as several alums soon informed me.

Bill Farrens, president of the class of 1957, has vivid recall of the team and the factors behind its success. The class had 500 students, overwhelming the new building at Southwest 14<sup>th</sup> and Salmon streets, which opened only five years earlier with a

capacity per class of about 300. The large influx flowed from Columbia Preparatory school, which had been associated with the University of Portland until its closure in 1955.

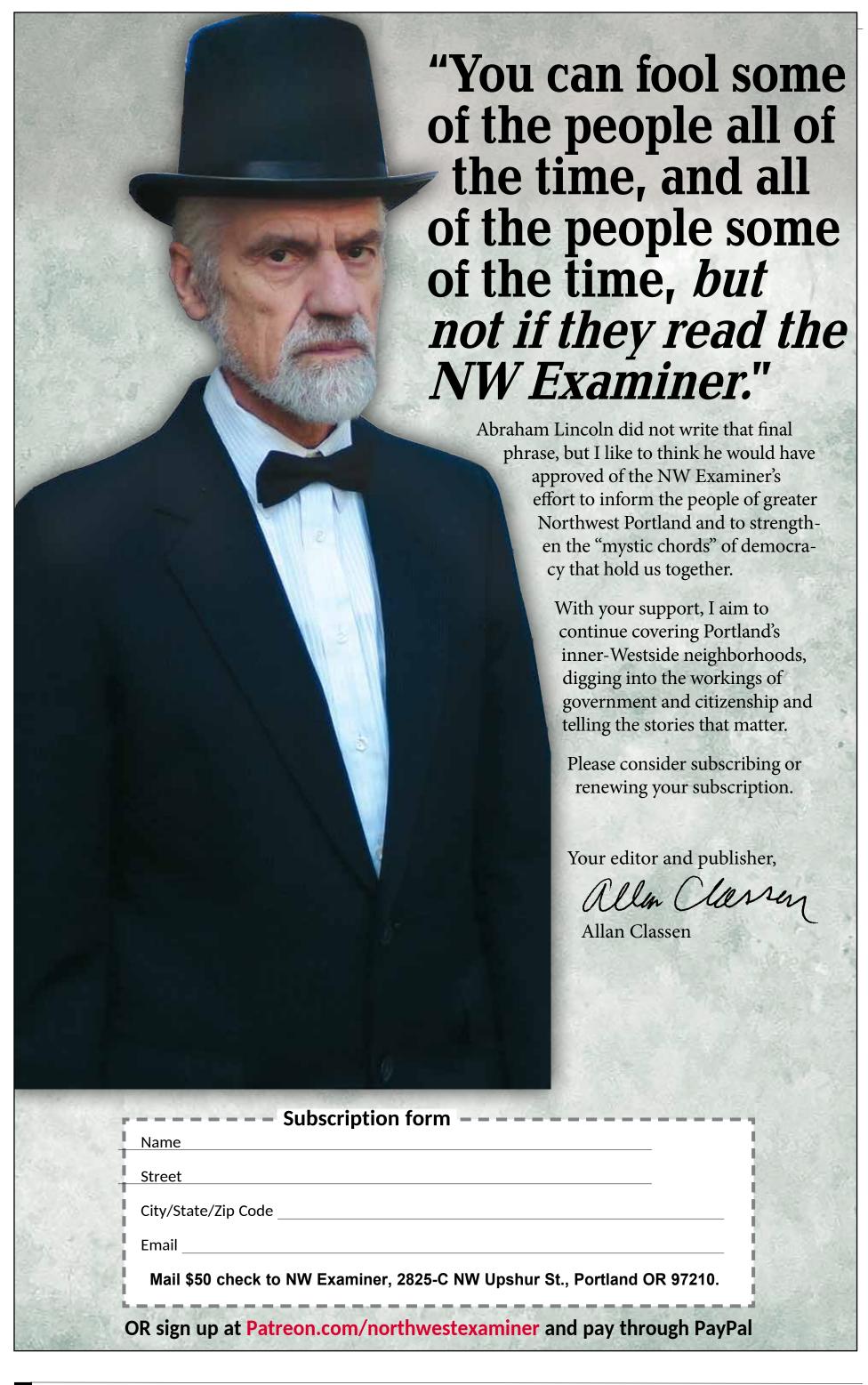
The 1956-57 team improved markedly after losing to three teams in the first half of the Portland Interscholastic League season. It was undefeated in the second half of league play and swept the state tournament in Eugene with three dominant games before edging Central Catholic 42-40 in the championship game.

The top players were Andre

LaBorde, who was named to the all-city all-star team; Tim Hindman, a center who made second team; and Paul Goddard and Pat Doherty, both earning honorable mentions. Ron Anderson, despite gaining no PIL recognition, made the first state all-tournament team, while Goddard was on the tournament second team.

While the 1952 team had one extraordinarily tall player in 7-foot Swede Halbrook, the 1957 edition had three starters of notable height: LaBorde at 6-foot-6 and Hindman and Anderson, each 6-foot-4.

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This cluster of RVs and tarps along Northwest 29th Avenue near Nicolai street is being blamed by neighbors on NextDoor.com for frequent reports of gunfire. "I was sitting in my living room when once again I heard gunshots coming from, you guessed it, Wilson and the 29th/30th area," posted Denise Etter Lindgren. "This is becoming an almost daily occurrence." Alicia Fitzsimmons wrote: "I just talked to the officer who responded to shots fired last week at 27th and Upshur ... who also said has responded to other reports of gunfire at 29th & Nicolai."



The Portland Chinatown Museum celebrated the Year of the Rabbit with a Dragon Dance Parade through downtown Portland on Jan. 28. The parade featured the Portland Chinatown History Foundation's 150-foot long dragon. Along the way, lions "plucked the green" for good luck.



Lynn Redmond wrote that her car was intentionally hit from behind by a male driver in a red BMW near Northwest Skyline Boulevard and West Burnside Street last month. "The BMW struck my car from behind twice, so it wasn't an accident, and then drove to my side, threatened me with a weapon, and took off eastbound on Burnside," Redmond wrote on NextDoor.com. She filed a police report but has not been contacted by the bureau. A NextDoor reader photographed this car with no license plates, noting that it had been parked overnight off Skyline.



Lincoln High School senior Charlie Slayton was honored as student of the month by Portland Pearl Rotary in January. He helps prepare food for homeless people as part of Cards Cook. Slayton is president of Culinary Cardinals, co-president of Animation Club, Game Development Club and Film Club.



Ava Rispler was chosen as December's Portland Pearl Rotary student of the month. The Lincoln High School senior co-edited the school's 2021 and 2022 yearbooks and served as a liaison between students and administrators. She plans to study business administration at the University of Florida.



A frequent nest for homeless camping under the east end of Flanders Crossing has been fenced off to prevent recurrences. "Just think, we won't ever have to clean it out again," said Sally Mize, a volunteer who proudly accepts the moniker, Pearl Trash Queen.

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