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FEBRUARY 2025/ VOLUME 38, NO. 6

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It could happen here

New power lines in Forest Park would add to fire danger

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Long before infernos roared through Los Angeles, Portlanders feared fire would destroy Forest Park, their singular 5,000-acre wilderness refuge. Portland General Electric's current plans to erect high-voltage transmission lines through the park only add fuel to those fears.

"LA looks exactly how we could look in a few seconds," said Ann Ruttan, who lives along Northwest Skyline Boulevard in the park.

"That could easily happen here," she said, a thought that troubles her "every night when I go to bed."

Ruttan knows more about the risks than most. She was in Santiam Canyon in 2020 when the skies darkened at 4 p.m. and three towns were destroyed by flames. That inspired her to join and co-chair the Forest

Raging fires in Southern California dominated national attention last month and have Portlanders asking whether something similar could happen to Forest Park.

Continued on page 6

City Council's oldest member motivated by what's new in District 4

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

At 70, Olivia Clark is the oldest member of the expanded Portland City Council, a body dominated by a younger generation.

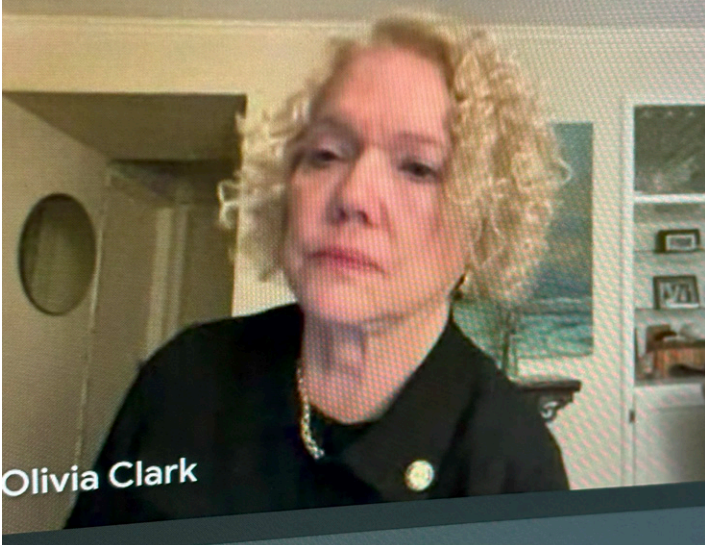
Clark thought her experience in government and public affairs, as well as involvement with neighborhood associations early in her career, would make her a good council chair. But finding her colleagues deadlocked between her and Candace Avalos for the top seat, she stepped back to allow compromise candidate Elana Pirtle-Guiney to take the role.

"I'm going to look for the middle ground and common sense," Clark told the NW Examiner in explaining her philosophy and decision to concede.

Clark is one of three council members from District 4, which encompasses the entire west side of the Willamette River and a pocket of Southeast.

"I think we have a great group of people on the council," she said after two weeks on the job. "I think everyone wants to do the right thing."

Continued on page 8



District 4 City Councilor Olivia Clark has been making the rounds to neighborhood meetings since her election in November.

Hazardous waste facility proposed next to Montgomery Park

Rapid Response Bio-Clean sweeps homeless camps

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The first word of redevelopment plans at Northwest 27th and Nicolai was out of the ordinary, to say the least.

"A new facility for accepting, processing and disposal of waste and vehicles, including human and pet remains and medical waste. ... Portable toilet and sewage disposal services."

No mention of nuclear waste, though not much else was left out.

Welcome to what was recently touted as Portland's next urban center. In 2019, Unico Properties purchased the Montgomery Park complex for \$255 million. It had plans for hundreds of units of mid-rise housing, with public plazas, retail services, a streetcar destination stop and a pedestrian bridge to Forest Park.

Unico backed out last year, selling the property for \$33 million to local property owner Jordan Menashe, who has not announced plans for the 18-acre property.

Continued on page 9



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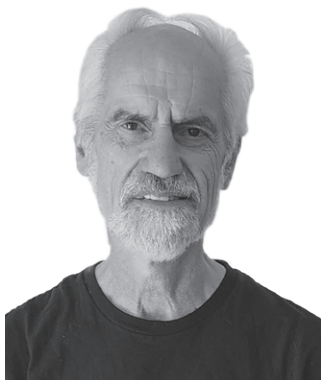
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Lost on the yellow brick road

Our recently installed city officials are getting plenty of advice on the top issues facing Portland, but I have some observations on what’s going on at the lower end. That’s where the Portland renaissance took root during the Goldschmidt Era, as residents were encouraged to remain in the city by giving them a voice in shaping their neighborhoods, schools and the downtown. The city’s pioneering neighborhood program, providing funds and channels for participation, became a model touted across the country.

That program still exists, though it has been renamed to reflect the diminished role of neighborhood associations. The original structure of independent neighborhood coalitions across the city has also been diluted by charter reform, reduced to just four large districts that don’t reflect any particular character or interests.

The four new coalition offices are swamped with expectations to provide at least skeletal services to large conglomerations of neighborhoods having no common history. Never mind coming together on public policy goals; just connecting each to internet service, online meeting technology, liability insurance and tax filing support is blowing gaskets.

Meanwhile, some of the most effective citizen advocacy is happening outside the system. Friends of Couch Park and Stadiumhood Neighbors are making news and getting results in the often-forgotten southeast corner of the Northwest District. Friends of Wallace Park has been functioning for six years, sponsoring communitywide celebrations and volunteer cleanup events in the manner typically carried out by



neighborhood associations.

These independent groups formed by neighbors to address pressing issues perceive no benefit in joining what was once the mightiest Portland neighborhood association of them all, the Northwest District Association.

Neighborhood activists across the city increasingly go directly to the City Council with their biggest concerns, teaming up to make pointed presentations in the three-minute public comment slots at the beginning of each council session. They typically bring a handful of speakers, who in turn lay out complex situations. On occasions, this direct approach has sparked intense interest from and follow-up from council members. The same process is now being employed frequently at the Multnomah County Council, which has

jurisdiction over an expanding range of livability issues.

The direct approach is preferred by citizens serious about making change because the filters and layers of official participation dampen rather than enhance their best approaches. Staff at the Office of Community and Civic Life have been hostile to areas of the city deemed privileged, and aides to council members have generally been no better. Official citizen advisory bodies, such as the Northwest Parking Stakeholders Advisory Committee, bring a cadre of city officials to get buy-in on city expenditures rather than modifying their assumptions based on local feedback.

Those going through the official channels have found that getting a sit-down meeting with a council member has been harder than reaching the Wizard of Oz.

The new system is supposed to get beyond all the obfuscation because each district now has three representatives on council. We can expect some improvement, but such access would only make OCCL more irrelevant, which in the end will—like any institution—cause it to resist with all of its resources. The same may hold for the district coalitions, which at first blush appear to be more interested in forming their own internal committees than creating a better path to the people holding power.

A better neighborhood system would not need more funding; in fact, it would probably need far less. Everything in the way of good citizens getting together and sharing their best ideas is a detriment, and vital grass-roots organizations can cover their necessities from donations and membership dues, just as the groups mentioned above have done.

Some have suggested that there will be no need for district coalition offices or even neighborhood associations because council members in each district will be more approachable. They may have stumbled upon something, but for the wrong reason. Citizens and neighborhoods will always need to come together and find their voice. We have to ask if the system Portland has created advances that goal or rather has just kept people busy chasing their tails.

Above all, we need to appreciate the difference between public goals and the means of accomplishing them. Agencies are created to serve social missions. Over time, they tend to preserve the agencies and lose track of the mission. ■

Readers Reply

Letters can be sent to: allan@nwexaminer.com or 1209 SW Sixth Ave., #303, Portland, OR 97204. Letters should be 300 words or fewer; include a name and a street of residence. Deadline: third Saturday of the month.

Follow the money

I’m an avid reader of the NW Examiner and most recently have found your commentary on the PGE Harborton project helpful in crafting my public comments for the hearing.

In your opinion piece [“Old friends once in high places,” January], you wrote about Earl Blumenauer’s turnabout. That is interesting, so I followed the money,

PGE major stockholders include BlackRock and JPMorgan. BlackRock’s major investors include Vanguard and State Street Corp. JP Morgan’s top investors are Vanguard, BlackRock,

State Street and Geode Capital.

Blumenauer received campaign donations last year (per Open Secrets) from Greenbrier Industries (whose top owners include Vanguard and State Street) and Next Era Energy, whose major investors are Geode, BlackRock, Vanguard and State Street.

In my opinion, his support for PGE has nothing to do with the power grid. It’s all about the rich getting richer. I heard unofficially that the investors want only to be in position to service more AI data centers.

Nancy Orr
NW Barclay Terrace

Power lines cause forest fires

Former City Council members Charlie Hales and Earl Blumenauer apparently said that years ago they in concept endorsed Portland General Electric’s Phase III application for power lines through Forest Park [“Old friends once in high places,” January]. In doing so, they claimed to be concerned about wildfire risk.

Huh? A perfunctory Google search reveals that about half of the most destructive wildfires in California history have been ignited by power

lines and that Pacific Gas & Electric admitted to more than 414 “ignition events” caused by its power lines in the 2015-2017 period. The Eaton Fire in Los Angeles that is in the news may have been ignited by arcing power lines in high winds.

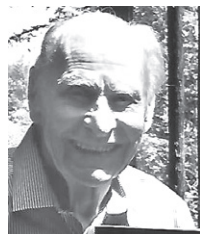
If you care about wildfires in the park and the region, putting new ignition sources through Forest Park is a really bad idea.

John DeVoe
NW 29th Ave

Cont’d on page 5



Howard Hermanson



Howard Eugene Hermanson, who lived and practiced interior design in Northwest Portland for many years, died Jan. 12 at age 96. He was born on May 10, 1928, in Alexandria, Minn., and moved with his family to Washougal, Wash., as a teen. He graduated from Camas High School. He attended the University of Portland and Portland State University. He married Fran Andresen in 1962; she died in 2021. He was a competitive skier and won the Oregon Collegiate Championship in both downhill and slalom skiing in 1954. He was a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club. He lived in a house on Northwest Skyline Boulevard that he built in 1963, and operated Hermanson Design Group at Northwest 24th and Quimby streets until he was in his 80s. A biography by Sheri Clostermann, "Howard Hermanson by Design," was released in 2019. He is survived by his sons, Howard Jr. and Jon; and one grandchild.

William Blount



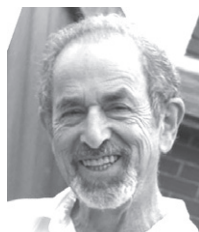
William Kay Blount, a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club and the Arlington Club Toastmasters, died on Jan. 5 at age 94. He was born in Portland on Aug. 15, 1930, and graduated from Irvington Elementary School and Grant High School, class of 1948. He received a degree in economics from Stanford University in 1952. After serving as a lieutenant commander in the Korean War, he received an MBA from the Stanford Business School. He was a stockbroker for 60 years at Blyth and Company, Blyth Eastman Dillon, PaineWebber and UBS Financial Services, retiring at age 87. He was a founding trustee for the Doernbecher Foundation and the James F. And Marion L. Miller Foundation and was a trustee of Lewis & Clark College and a Hoover Institution overseer. He was married to Nancy Jaggar for 56 years. After her death, he married Janet Ball. He is survived by his wife, Janet; sons, Brian and Kevin; daughter, Susan McNiel; six grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

Thomas R. Hussey



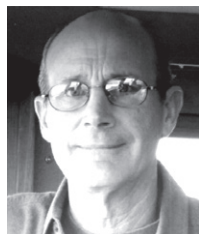
Thomas Raymond Hussey, a resident of Portland Heights, died Dec. 15 at age 81. He was born on May 4, 1943, in Portland, and graduated from Grant High School. He graduated from Oregon State University as chemistry major in 1967. He married Diane Davies that year, and they moved to Portland in 1970. In a long career at Kaiser Permanente, he worked in marketing, enrollment and designed health plans. He served on the boards of the Multnomah Athletic Club and Black Butte Ranch and was a member of Ascension Episcopal Church. His wife, Diane, died last year. He is survived by his son, Matthew; daughters, Shannon and Andrea; and five grandchildren.

Morris J. Galen



Morris J. Galen, a member of Congregation Beth Israel and a 1943 graduate of Lincoln High School, died on Dec. 4 at age 97. He was born in Portland on Oct. 7, 1927, and graduated from the University of Oregon Law School in 1950. He practiced law for nearly 70 years, cofounding the firm of Tonkin, Torp and Galen in 1974. He married Evelyn Brounstein in 1951; she died in 2007. He served as treasurer of the Oregon State Bar, was a member of the Board of Bar Examiners and a trustee of Reed College for more than 30 years. He established the Galen Endowment for the Advancement of Legal Writing scholarship program at the University of Oregon Law School. He is survived by his son, Solana; daughter, Candi; and two grandchildren.

John May



John May, whose construction company remodeled DoveLewis Animal Hospital in the 1990s, died on July 24, 2024, at age 81. May was born on Jan. 23, 1943, in Philadelphia, and moved with his family to Portland when he was 14. He attended Lincoln High School and West Linn High School. After four years in the U.S. Coast Guard, he studied graphic design at Portland State University. He founded John May Construction Co., and ran the company for more than 25 years.

He married Judy in 1969. He is survived by his wife, Judy; children, Jack, George and Kellie; and four grandchildren.

Darcy L. White



Darcy Lynn White, the former musical director for Northwest Children's Theater, died Dec. 4, 2024, of lung cancer at age 65. She was born on Oct. 28, 1959, in Portland and grew up in Goose Hollow. She attended Ainsworth Elementary School, graduated from Lincoln High School in 1977 and attended the University of Washington. She graduated from the Linfield University School of Nursing. She worked as a psychiatric nurse with adolescents in drug and alcohol rehab and was most recently a senior manager of provider relations and behavioral health at Providence Health Plans. She was an award-winning pianist in Portland for 41 years and musical director at multiple theaters. She founded Cabaret White in 2017. She lived in the Northwest District as an adult. She is survived by her sisters, Cherie Shaver and Sam Earle; and brother, Craig White. Glenn D. McMath.

Death Notices

PAUL D. COHN, 88, 1954 Lincoln High School graduate.

CATHERINE (COTTEL) DUUS, 90, 1951 Lincoln High School graduate.

CYRUS E. LAM, 89, 1953 graduate of Lincoln High School.

PATRICIA LOWES, 93, member of Multnomah Athletic Club and Town Club.

GLENN D. MCMATH, 62, resident of Willamette Heights and broker at Windermere Realty on Northwest Johnson Street.

THOMAS J. MILLS III, 56, 1986 Lincoln High School graduate.

EUNICE LULU PARSONS, 108, studied at Pacific Northwest College of Art.

CATHERINE 'KATIE' (SUTHERLAND) THOMPSON, 96, a graduate of Catlin School.

RALPH WELLS, 77, longtime Northwest District resident.

The Northwest Examiner publishes obituaries of people who lived, worked or had other substantial connections to our readership area, which includes Northwest Portland, Goose Hollow, Sauvie Island and areas north of Highway 26. If you have information about a death in our area, please contact us at allan@nwexaminer.com. Photographs are also welcomed. There is no charge for obituaries in the Examiner.

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Forest Park is home to a rich array of wildlife.

Forest Park a jewel

I started getting your newspaper about two years ago when we moved to Forest Heights and have enjoyed reading it. Your article on PGE [“Power ploy,” January] and its plans to clear-cut many acres of Forest Park was very eye-opening.

I think PGE is planning for power consumption growth to support the data center growth in Hillsboro. Over the last 28 years I’ve lived in the Portland-Hillsboro area, I have seen large tracts of farmland converted to warehouses and now to data centers—all in the name of progress. Forest Park area is one of the jewels of Portland, and these attempts to spoil it need more public attention.

I even made my daughter (a college student keen on making a change) read the article. We recently debated whether journalism is dead, with me taking the side that it’s lost its relevance while she had made very convincing rebuttals. I was glad to show her that I was wrong and that good journalism has a very strong role to play in our society.

Kiron Pai
NW Pinnacle Drive

Charge big users more

I appreciate Portland General Electric’s commitment to sustainable energy, but not its plans to destroy hundreds of old trees and wildlife habitats by installing power lines and towers across wide regions of Forest Park near where I live.

Here is a suggestion: Very large houses tend to draw considerably more power than apartments and small homes. I suggest that PGE charge these people more per kWH of electricity. There’s a program that allows you to save by using electricity off-peak, but this is a more powerful idea.

Without selfish people living in

excessively energy-consuming houses, demand for electricity would not be increasing so much. I strongly suggest a “gross user” premium on the rich. By charging perhaps one and a half times as much per kWH, destructive projects like the proposed one in Forest Park might not be needed. The extra revenues collected could fund more sustainable power projects not involving this type of destruction.

I would appreciate a reply from PGE management or anyone else involved in local government. Whether politically unpopular or not, it is the right thing to do. Greed that costs everybody else in society should be discouraged.

Revel Grant
NW Portland

Reject PGE plan

After reading the PGE proposal in the NWExaminer and The Oregonian, I urge the City Council to vote no. For 57 years, I have lived a block away from Lower Macleay Park in Forest Park, a place where my two sons explored.

I suggest the council reject this proposal and have PGE come back when it can present a proposal that is outside of the park. The current proposal is too destructive by not only cutting down 5 acres of old-growth timber but disrupting existing wildlife.

PGE does not have a sterling record for equipment maintenance.

Marceline Gearry
NW Savier St.

Keep Balch name

I have lived in Northwest Portland most of my life, and I think Balch Creek should keep its name. Claims that a different name would be in “alignment with the values of inclusivity” is meaningless, and we have bigger fish to fry.

Alana Smith
NW Raleigh St.

JUDIE DUNKEN
REAL ESTATE



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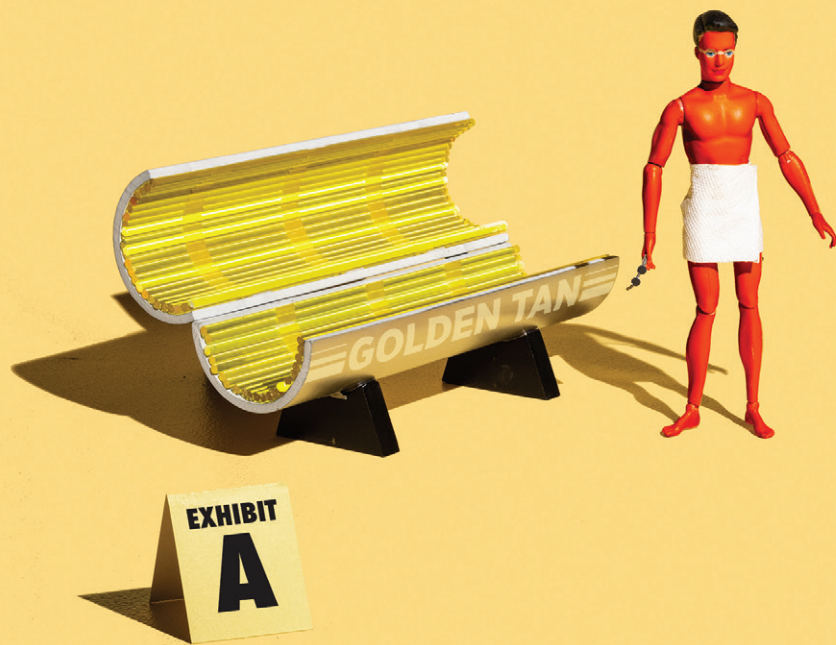
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Parallel power lines from the Portland General Electric Harborton substation cut relatively narrow paths through Forest Park. The proposed expansion would remove trees in the median area circled in red.



“Power line faults are one of the major sources of wildfire ignitions.”
—Journal of Electric Power Systems Research

“Fire” cont’d from page 1

Park South chapter of Firewise, a Portland Fire & Rescue program mobilizing citizens against wildfire threats. They knock on doors, remove flammable materials near buildings and try to get the message out that even small measures can make a difference.

Ruttan’s Firewise co-chair, Ralph Brooks, agrees with her assessment.

“There were many comments on NextDoor to the effect that it could never happen here,” Brooks said. “It absolutely could happen here. Look at the Santiam Pass fire.

“Climate change is a reality, especially here in the late fall,” he added. “We didn’t used to have such conditions here.”

While Firewise volunteers root out dangers close to the ground, PGE intends to run high-voltage lines through the forest. Though power lines are not the leading cause of forest fires, they have been linked to many of the worst.

“Eight of the most destructive fires in California history were power line-ignited,” said Ralph Bloemers, executive producer of the documentary, “Elemental: Reimagine Wildfire.”

Is a conflagration more likely if the

PGE project goes through?

A Portland hearings officer considered testimony on PGE’s application Jan. 29, but his ruling will be based on the Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan, which does not have a measurable standard for fire potential.

For that matter, no scientific assessment of added fire risk due to the power lines has been conducted. Those risks would rise in four categories, however, according to a broad consensus of informed opinion.

1– Contact with power lines

Overhead power lines can ignite fires if they come into contact with trees or other combustibles. That is why a 125-foot-wide swath of the forest, ultimately about 20 acres, would be cleared to reduce the possibility of trees falling onto lines or of towers tipping over under severe conditions. The risks are reduced by removing or pruning trees, managing undergrowth and insulating wires, but they cannot be eliminated.

According to the official report of the Portland Bureau of Development Services released Jan. 17:

“The addition of new transmission



Forest Park has history of fire

Forest Park has been ravaged by fire before, though few witnesses are still around.

The history-making fires occurred in 1889, 1940 and 1951.

In 1889, the Balch Creek Canyon Fire burned about 9,000 acres, beginning near the bottom of the canyon and moving over the ridge-line into Cedar Mill.

The Bonny Slope Fire of August 1940 burned about 3,000 acres between Northwest Skyline Boulevard and Cedar Mill. High temperatures and strong winds were factors, but the cause of the fire was never determined. It destroyed 11 buildings, and 150 homes were evacuated.

Extremely dry conditions on Aug. 19, 1951, contributed to the West Hills/Forest Park fire, which began near Leif Erikson Drive in Forest Park. It crossed Skyline Drive and spread into Bonny Slope. It burned about 2,000 acres over three days and engaged about 500 firefighters.

In the following years, two 10,000-gallon water tanks and a reservoir were built along Leif Erikson Drive to supply fire engines, and bulldozers cleared fire lanes through the park for emergency access.

Although no major fires have broken out in the park since 1951, the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire and the 2020 September Wildfire Smoke Event prompted an update of the Multnomah County Communitywide Wildfire Protection Plan in 2023.

“The last six years have been a particularly dynamic period of wildfire and wildfire smoke impact in Multnomah County,” the report reads. “Catastrophic-level events that have dramatically indicated the need for ongoing planning and coordination among wildfire and wildfire smoke-management partners.”

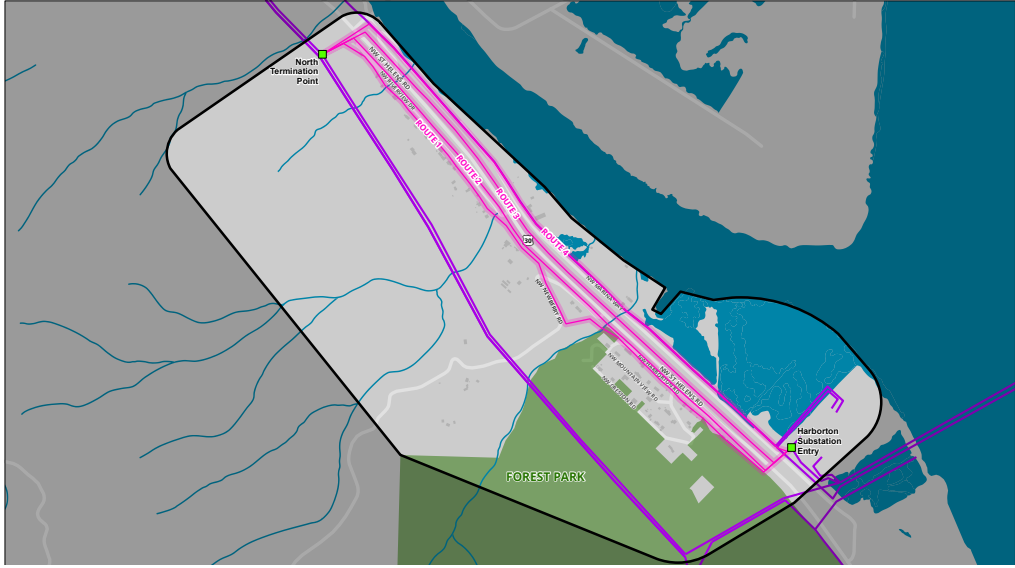
—Allan Classen

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Fifteen fire lanes cut through Forest Park, but a Portland Fire & Rescue spokesperson said many are passable only on foot.

lines introduces risk of wildfire into an area. According to an article from the journal of Electric Power Systems Research, “Power line faults are one of the major sources of wildfire ignitions. Downed lines, vegetation contact, conductor slap or component failures can produce fault currents and sparks that may ignite fires under hot, dry and windy conditions.”

2 – Drying the forest

The clearing would interrupt the tree canopy, bringing direct sunlight to the forest floor, thereby drying the ground, grass and trees. The park would be more susceptible to ignition, which would burn more rapidly and intensely than in an uninterrupted forest.

“It would dry out the edges of the canopy, increasing the area of even higher wildfire risk,” Brooks said.

Carole Hardy, who teaches environmental policy at Portland State University, is also a spokesperson for the Forest Park Conservancy.

“Once you start cutting the forest, you can’t go back,” Hardy said.

Removing a swath of the forest would introduce invasive plants and wildlife, compromising the ecosystem.

“Construction of logging roads that are proposed will compact and erode soils on these highly steep slopes,” Hardy said.

Bloemers, who believes PGE has been responsible in the past by shutting down power transmission during periods of high risk, nevertheless said, “creating large openings in the forest will cause drying.”

According to the BDS report:

“Expansion of the power line corridor threatens to exacerbate the spread of invasive species present in existing clearcuts, which poses a threat to the local ecology and increases wildfire risk. Any time mature trees are removed, carbon sequestration is lost and forest vulnerability to high wind, ice and wildfire increases.”

3 – Delayed detection

A fire ignited in the heart of the park would not be seen as readily as one along a suggested alternative route parallel to U.S. Highway 30, where a steady flow of motorists with cellphones would probably tip off fire departments within minutes.

“This will be dependent upon community observation,” said Rick Graves, public information officer for Portland Fire & Rescue. “With the proximity of Forest Park to Portland and all the regular use, our alert will come from a 911 call or notification from a park ranger while working within the park.”

4 – Response difficult

A wildfire in Forest Park could be reached only by small-scale fire vehicles via fire lanes, and not on most of those. Had PGE heeded a recommendation from a consultant, it could have located the lines along the highway, where large fire trucks could reach it.

Graves explained some of the limitations involved in fighting fires in the park, where the bureau uses small “brush unit” fire trucks and ATVs.

“These are all useful tools, but the reality is, the topography and vegetation is ever changing in Forest Park,” he said. “Some of the fire lanes within the park are now quite grown over and impassable through any means but hiking in, even if it says ‘fire lane’ on a map.

“Each year we get a few smaller fires within the boundaries of the park, and through the use of our ATVs, backpack bladders and long, high-pressure wild-land-style hoses, we have been able to keep these small.”

Needless to say, “they have not been the large fires that the greater LA area has recently experienced,” he said.

For that, Thurman Bridge Firewise captain Nora Gruber, could only say, “We have been very, very lucky.”

The best human interventions may not be enough.

“The public has unfair expectations of the firefighters and what they can do,” Bloemers said.

He and Gruber still think the public should focus on the risk-reduction strategies of Firewise, which they believe have a better chance of making a difference compared to taking on a utility company. But why neglect a known risk-magnifier just because other sources may be more common? Should Portland add to the known fire risk in the park?

“I think that’s asking the right question,” Ruttan said. “Tell PGE to get their power line out of Forest Park.” ■

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

Evacuation no straightforward affair

Whatever the cause, escaping Forest Park in the event of a wildfire may be complicated. Many areas have only one exit route, and narrow roads without shoulders could be jammed. The extent of the danger area and the overlay with escape routes would be largely unknowable in the moment.

Residents would be notified of a serious fire through the Community Emergency Notification System (CENS), also known as reverse 911, operated by the Portland Bureau of Emergency Communications.

All cellular and land-based phones within a defined geographic area would receive alerts, but the messages would not answer predictable questions: Which route should I take, based on my location? Are any roads blocked by fallen trees or traffic? How much time do I have?

“These messages are very rigid in nature and do not have the ability to alter or add any nuance to the message,” said Rick Graves, public information officer for Portland Fire & Rescue. “These are simply a set of messages, such as ‘shelter in place’ or ‘evacuate.’

“The reason the language is canned and not nuanced for any particular emergency is the need to have it available in all the languages that are observed by the jurisdiction,” Graves said.

Law enforcement personnel on the scene may provide information tailored to the situation, he said.

—Allan Classen

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HISTORIC OFFICES FOR LEASE

**“I’m going to look
for the middle
ground and common
sense.”**

— Olivia Clark

"City council" cont'd from page 1

Her first public overtures have been toward two new citizen groups active just west of downtown, Friends of Couch Park and the Stadiumhood Neighbors.

“There is so much frustration with the open-air drug dealing and the fentanyl Fridays,” she said about an event involving free distribution of drug paraphernalia and harm reduction supplies at Northwest 19th and Burnside streets.

An anarchist group called Portland Peoples Outreach Project is behind the giveaways at this and six other Portland locations.

Clark also tells of bands of thugs chasing residents off the streets and of public defecation in front of their homes.

Despite residents’ persistent engagement with Portland police and local officials, “things are not improving,” she said.

“They’re very frustrated, and I understand,” she said, noting that the activists brought “very compelling testimony” on their travails at a recent council public comment period.

Clark is considering their plea for a city-declared public emergency to address the situation, which has been referred to council member Sameer Kanal, co-chair of the council’s Public

Safety Committee. The content of an emergency declaration needs more discussion, but she pledges to remain involved.

Stadiumhood convener Michelle Milla is encouraged by Clark’s response.

“We kicked around ideas like insti-



tuting curfews, increased patrols, permit enforcement, street closures, expansion of Portland Clean and Safe, regulation of drug paraphernalia, school zone law enforcement, etc.,” Milla said.

Kanal is tentatively scheduled to do a walking tour of the immediate neighborhood on Feb. 24.

Clark also met with the Northwest District Association Planning Committee in January and gave some hints at her policy positions.

“We inherited a zoning code that favored single-family homes,” she said. “We need more housing and taller buildings.”

She asked committee members how they felt about the five-story height limit that has shaped the Slabtown area.

Committee members told her that they liked the existing height limit and that preservation of historic houses is important.

“Waiving historic protection to favor density has consequences,” committee member Joni Johnson said. “If you take historic houses away, that changes the nature of the city.”

Although Portland population growth has stagnated, and vacancies abound in commercial buildings, Clark said, “I am not concerned about growth [because] we will become a climate refuge.”

But the association’s concerns “didn’t raise the immediate issues that the Stadiumhood and Couch Park groups did,” she said. “They didn’t have the same level of frustration.” ■

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EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Location: Guild Mortgage, 720 NW 14th Ave, Portland, OR 97209 (each month, a different Pearl District business will host)

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Above: Rapid Response Bio-Clean is considering using this vacant warehouse at Northwest 27th and Nicolai to store and handle hazardous wastes, even storing human remains.

Left: Rapid Response Bio-Clean removes unsanctioned campsites under contract with the city of Portland and other local jurisdictions.

"Hazardous" cont'd from page 1

The first imprint on the sprawling site may be etched by a company with something less lofty in mind. Rapid Response Bio-Clean sweeps homeless camps under contract with local governments.

The company held a pre-application conference with the Bureau of Development Services on Jan. 15, the first step toward gaining approval to build in Portland. Rapid Response, based in Milwaukie, may be looking for a more local base of operations, one within walking distances of many of the sites it sweeps.

It is not clear whether Rapid Response is moving or adding a second location. The company did not return messages from the NW Examiner.

Erik Opsahl of Xavier Development has concerns about a hazardous waste

facility in the neighborhood.

"It definitely seems at conflict with the Montgomery Park Area Plan to have a crematorium/bio-waste disposal facility next door," Opsahl wrote in an email to the Examiner. "Best case scenario is that one of the neighboring property owners that owns other properties in the industrial area offers to exchange properties with Rapid Response and move the operation further away."

Another neighborhood-based developer, Noel Johnson, is also troubled.

"It probably hurts the recent public/private efforts to enable new housing and jobs investments around the former ESCO and the struggling Montgomery Park office properties," Johnson wrote. "A facility for the cleanup needs created by having thousands homeless is today's reality, but there are many options that are more ready to go in Northwest Portland

with fewer adjacency issues. If the city follows the rules, it will take years to get through the regulatory regime."

Steve Pinger, co-chair of the Northwest District Association Planning Committee, wondered about the neighborhood impact of processing property removed from campsites, which must be stored for a time to give campers an opportunity to reclaim it. He suggested that this system could cause campers to congregate on Northwest Nicolai.

Documents submitted to the city by Rapid Response read: "Proposed operations include recreational vehicle and automobile dismantling; future cremation of human and pet remains, including natural organic reduction or composting, as well as storage of human remains; medical waste sterilization and recycling; portable toilet and sewage disposal services for pump trucks only; and waste-tire disposal."

The functions may go beyond what Rapid Response has done before. The company's website lists the services it provides for urban camp cleanup:

- Homeless encampment cleanup
- Towing abandoned vehicles, boats, RVs
- Feces/urine cleanup
- Patrol services
- Medical waste cleanup
- Illicit drug removal
- Virus/bacteria disinfection

Warren Rosenfeld, a partner in the development group planning to redevelop the 22-acre former ESCO site to the east of Montgomery Park, offered no immediate critique, though he wondered if a Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities permit might be required by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. ■

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Welcome by appointment

Cultural Center Annual Membership Meeting Slated for February 25, 2025

The Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center (NNCC) will hold its annual membership meeting at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, February 25, 2025. As has been our practice in recent years, the meeting will take place as a Zoom hosted teleconference. Members of record as of FEBRUARY 15, 2025 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 terms beginning in 2025 will be elected. The new Board will elect officers for 2025 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 persons for Directors 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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Multnomah County chair not in step with neighborhood activists



Jessica Vega Pederson spent an hour walking with neighbors of the newly coined “stadium hood” in December. She also listened to a drumbeat of livability complaints.



BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson did a walkalong on the seedy side with

Stadiumhood Neighbors in December. Considering the impression she left on Couch Park-Providence Park area residents, she might as well have taken a bus.

“You walked our neighborhood recently,” Michael Goodman wrote in an email to Pederson last month. “I personally pointed out the critical issues surrounding Cathedral School, where Portland People’s Outreach Program hands out crack pipes and other enabling materials right near the school.

“These are not tools for treatment or rehabilitation. They are tools for enabling drug addicts to continue their behavior ... no questions asked.”

Goodman charged that Portland Street Medicine, which receives Multnomah County funding, covertly underwrites PPOP.

PSM Executive Director Andra Carrick denied giving any financial support to PPOP, though she praised its work and described partnering at its outreach events.

**“What is occurring is not harm reduction. It is enabling.”
—Chris Kleronomos**

Pederson’s office also refused to condemn PPOP’s activities, issuing this statement:

“Multnomah County’s Harm Reduction program does not ask someone’s organizational affiliation when collecting used or contaminated syringes at service sites.

“Multnomah County is statutorily required to prevent and respond to communicable diseases. Harm reduction is a critical best practice, with over 30 years of evidence that it reduces the spread of disease. It is also a core part of our Health Department’s comprehensive overdose prevention and response system.”

Goodman is troubled that Portland Street Medicine gives legitimacy to activities harming his neighborhood.

“What is even more infuriating is that

Dan Bissell has been appointed to the Emergency Medical System Advisory Council,” he wrote.

Bissell, cofounder and board president of Portland Street Medicine, was recently named to that council.

“How in the world is it possible that someone responsible for this level of damage is now in a position to advise on the future of the very system he’s helping to break down?”

Goodman was not alone in these concerns.

“I echo Michael’s sentiment that Bissell must be removed,” wrote Chris Kleronomos, whose medical practice is near the PPOP weekly distribution site.

“I also was in attendance as you toured our neighborhood and witnessed the destruction and wanton disregard for even the most basic of social

contracts,” Kleronomos wrote in an email to Pederson. “You and I spoke at length. I am a medical professional with experience in this area. I and my organization are over the political grandstanding and buzzword approach to this issue. What is occurring is not harm reduction. It is enabling.”

Pederson responded through her policy adviser Natalie Minas. “I accompanied Chair Vega Pederson on the stadium neighborhood walk, and it was important ... to see the neighborhood and hear directly from the diverse group of folks on a shared goal to improve conditions in this neighborhood.”

Minas wrote that the work of the Emergency Medical System Advisory Council “is not directly related” to the issues identified on the tour and that Bissell’s appointment was made unanimously by the County Council.

“The chair’s office is committed to showing up for hard conversations and hearing concerns directly from residents, even when we do not always agree. The neighborhood walk offered one opportunity to do that,” she wrote. ■

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The original **ANNA BANNANAS** (above) at 1213 NW 21st Ave. closed last month after 30 years in business. The owners cited rising costs of ingredients and lack of foot traffic.

POR QUÉ NO TAQUERIA owner Bryan Steelman is negotiating a lease for a third restaurant at Northwest 21st and Everett streets (photo far right). The original Por Qué No opened on North Mississippi Avenue in 2005 and a second location was added on Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard three years later.

WEST COAST BENTO, 2368 NW Thurman St., closed since last February due to owner Dan Baer’s shoulder surgery, will reopen Feb. 3.

Vijay Kumar and fiancée Lexy Foong plan to open a hamburger-focused restaurant and bar in the former **MIO SUSHI** space at 1317 NW Hoyt St. The unnamed venture will be a half block west of Silk Road, their cocktail lounge.

Gabriel Pascuzzi closed **MAMA BIRD** (upper right) at 2145 NW Raleigh St. but intends to reopen on Feb. 7 in the same spot with a new theme. Bistecca will be a wood-fired steakhouse with Italian touches.

Japanese ramen restaurant **AFURI** closed its Old Town location at 50 Southwest Third Avenue last month. Afuri CEO Taichi Ishizuki cited the lingering negative perception of downtown Portland’s safety, declining tourism and high office vacancy rates.

FRANK’S NOODLE HOUSE, the Chinese restaurant known for handmade noodles, will open its third location at 122 NW 10th Ave. in the former Little Big Burger spot this month. Co-owner Dennis Fang called it a “very popular location” within two blocks of Powell’s City of Books.

PROPER PINT has leased space for its third taproom at 2251 NW Quimby St. As at its locations in Multnomah Village and Southeast Portland, no food is prepared on premises, but patrons are invited to bring takeout food from nearby restaurants and carts.

PALOMAR, a Cuban cocktail bar at Southeast Ninth and Division streets, is moving to larger quarters at 1422 NW 23rd Ave., the former home of Southland Whiskey Kitchen. Owner Ricky Gomez is looking for more foot traffic than he found in six years in Southeast Portland. He plans to open as soon as April.

CHAMPAGNE POETRY ASIAN FUSION + LOUNGE, a patisserie on Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard, will launch a second location at 1620 NW 23rd Ave. next to St. Jack. Owner Dan Bian, who attended Le Cordon Bleu in Portland, plans a more substantial menu in the new restaurant, which does not have a targeted opening date.

CAFFE AND BARBA MINGO owner Michael Cronin has retired from the restaurant business and will not reopen the Northwest 21st Avenue restaurants, which were badly damaged in a fire last August.



Top left: The original Anna Bannanas closed after 35 years.
Top right: Mama Bird is becoming Bistecca.
Above: Por Que No is looking at a space at Northwest 21st and Everett.

NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 31, No. 2 “News You Can’t Always Believe” FEBRUARY 2025

One billion and counting

Billionaires are in the news these days, and Northwest Portland has its own. The Nob Hill Bar & Grill joined that select company when the billionth steak fry came off the grill since the Nobby opened in 1986.

While a single fry may not be valued at one dollar in some circles, tell that to a hungry diner about to pounce on the next one on their plate. From all appearances, they would sell their birthright for the next bite, and dangling a dollar bill in exchange would not deter them.

So come on in, and be proud that you’re welcome in the home of a billionaire. And don’t grab a steak fry off someone else’s plate unless you want to learn the hard way what a dollar is worth today.



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GREATER NORTHWEST PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT MAP

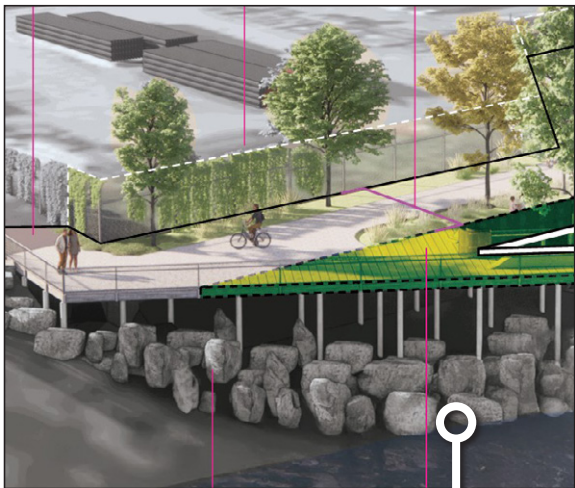
JAPANESE INSTITUTE

The Portland Japanese Garden canceled plans to create a home for the Japanese Institute on 3.65 acres in Willamette Heights and is attempting to sell the property, which it purchased for \$4.35 million in 2022.



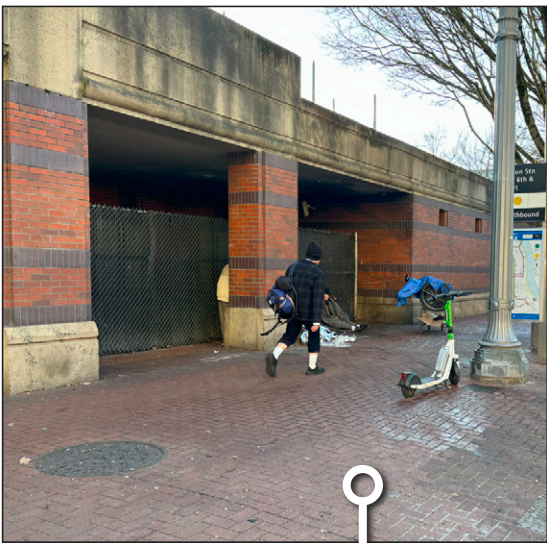
GREENWAY TRAIL

Construction of a greenway trail with access to the Willamette River in Linnton has been blocked for years by the owner of Harmar Steel, George Webb, who controls the riverfront property. A default judgment is being sought against Webb's company and the city of Portland.



GREYHOUND BUS STATION

The full-service 96-bed homeless shelter in the former Greyhound Bus Station at 550 NW Sixth Ave. will close in March as Multnomah County transfers funding to Bybee Lakes Hope Center in North Portland.



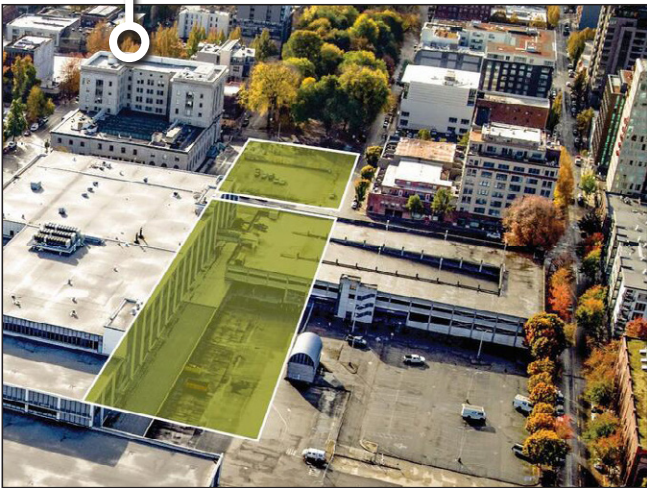
FREEWELL APARTMENTS

Freewell Apartments, marketed as a new standard for luxury living, is now leasing. The building at 2030 NW Raleigh St. is directly north of the proposed Slabtown Park. Rents range from \$1,600 to \$4,400, with up to eight free weeks offered. The owner is California-based Prometheus Real Estate Group, which has offices in Slabtown.



SELF-STORAGE FACILITY

Construction has finally begun on a six-story self-storage building with six retail spaces at Northwest 14th and Upshur streets under the Fremont Bridge, two years after it was approved by the city. The owner is Weston Investment Co.



NORTH PARK BLOCKS

Alternative designs for the three-block extension of the North Park Blocks. Construction will begin with the southern-most block now used as a parking lot for Pacific Northwest College of Art. The entire project is to be completed in about 2030.



The Cardinal Times

New ‘85 to Jive’ policy keeps some off the dance floor

By LEILA HOLTE

Senioritis kicked in early this year. According to the ‘85 to Jive’ attendance spreadsheet, as of January 17 over 30% of seniors have an attendance rate below 85% compared to 13% of juniors, 12% of sophomores, and 11% of freshmen.

The new ‘85 to Jive’ policy states that students must have 85% attendance or higher to attend school dances, including winter formal and prom. This 85% threshold includes all absences, excused and unexcused. However, a student can talk to Lincoln’s student engagement and attendance coach, Edwina Koch, about any legitimate reasons for missing school. Koch can help the student form a modified plan.

Koch explains the importance of this policy and its intention.

“85% is around 25 of school days missed and that is research-backed ... If you’re falling under that threshold you start to have mental health be impacted, grades be impacted and then people start to fall down this slippery slope,” said Koch.

Koch says the basic routine of going to school was impacted by the pandemic.

“Being online we were all taught we can do things at home, and so encouraging students to come back into the building and physically commit to being here every day has been extremely hard,” said Koch. “Our goal at Lincoln is to just recreate and find ways to foster that relationship where you have to commit to being here in order to succeed.”

Koch emphasizes the importance of the policy as a motivator to improve attendance because it is an alternative to suspension or expulsion.

“The dances are ... the best thing that we can think of because they’re not a hugely impactful thing if you don’t go, but they also still matter to people,” Koch said.

Senior Ciara Crouse finds the policy somewhat frustrating as she has trouble focusing in class.

“When you’re taking a bunch of classes that all have projects [that] you can complete really easily, or it’s really hard for you to focus in school because [you aren’t] able to listen to music, or people [are] being loud, or it just not ... the best place for you to work, it’s a lot easier to not go to classes and go somewhere else to work and be productive with your time,” said

Crouse.

Senior Charlotte Cetnar-Cook believes that the policy may not be an effective motivator for all students.

“Maybe it motivates some people who are right around the threshold, but for people with really low attendance, I would guess it doesn’t impact them very much,” said Cetnar-Cook.

Crouse says that the policy does not motivate her to attend school more often.

“I don’t think it’s worth going to some of my classes just to go to a dance when I could be doing other things with my time,” said Crouse.

Crouse questions the shared knowledge of others’ attendance by student ID on the spreadsheet used to check one’s attendance percentage.

“It’s weird that it’s public knowledge...I’ve heard people being like ‘oh my gosh, try hard’ because a person has 100% attendance. I’ve heard a lot of different types of stuff like that,” said Crouse.

Despite the mixed feelings, Koch’s ultimate goal is to help students who struggle with attendance through policies like ‘85 to Jive.’

“Policies are a way to set culture and it helps get these ideas into students’ minds from all



Lincoln’s ‘85 to Jive’ policy aims to encourage better student attendance.

By LEILA HOLTE

angles, from support staff, from educators, from myself, and from students,” said Koch.

Vintage clothing experts turn thrifting into a business

By SCARLETT DEMPSEY

The culture of thrifting is undeniably massive in Portland. Attracting Portlanders for its unique items, cheap prices and sustainability, the thrift scene ranges from digging through bins of clothing at Goodwill to specially-curated vintage markets and shops. This love for the hobby is visible at Lincoln High School, where each day students roam the hallways in second-hand fashion.

While thrifting is a common pastime, certain Lincoln students have found ways to take thrifting to the next level and profit off of their vintage finds. Senior Quinn Brown sells vintage clothes on Depop (@qbstreetwear) and Ebay, and started his business in 2023. Before becoming an online seller, thrifting was a favorite hobby of his.

“I like going [to the bins] by myself,” said Brown. “I found some pants that were cool that didn’t fit me and I sold them. I realized I could do that with other stuff, so I started doing it a lot.”

Brown has expanded his love for thrifting and selling to his friends as well. Senior Ben Henry de Tessan was inspired to start his own Depop (@benhdet) and Ebay business from Brown. He recently got verified as a top Depop seller, and enjoys the job for multiple reasons.

“It’s different every time I go. I can’t think of a lot of jobs where every time you go there’s new and different things every time,” said Henry de Tessan. “I’m always learning new things about

vintage clothing, pop culture and history. [...] It encourages me to learn more about the era where [the clothes] came from.”

Many vintage clothing sellers at Lincoln source their items from the Goodwill bins, drawn in by the massive amounts of clothing and by-the-pound pricing, however, junior David Twigg has bought clothing in bulk from online sellers to sell on his Depop (@shopdavidpdx), which helped promote his business.

“It was fun because it was a lot of [cloth-

“I’m always learning new things about vintage clothing, pop culture and history. [...] It encourages me to learn more about the era where [the clothes] came from,”

~ Ben Henry De Tessan
Senior

ing],” said Twigg. “I never had that much stuff to sell before.”

The students’ businesses have continuously grown and improved since they started. Sellers have picked up tips that have helped them gain more audience and sell more pieces on Depop and Ebay. Brown has noticed this progress in his own shop as well.

“I used to spend so much time actually at the



Lincoln students use online platforms such as Depop and Ebay to sell vintage clothing sourced from different thrift stores.

Photos Courtesy OF QUINN BROWN DAVID TWIGG AND BEN HENRY DE TESSAN

bins, just working as much as I could there,” said Brown. “Over the last six months, I realized it’s a lot better to just try to focus on the quantity of items you can sell versus selling them for high prices.”

Henry de Tessan agrees that gaining more experience with sourcing clothes and selling allows him to sell even more.

“I’m a lot more organized with it than before. I’m a lot more sure of what things to pick up, what will sell, and more behind how Depop works and the algorithm,” said Henry de Tes-

san. “Just ways that I can sell more clothes.”

While Twigg and Henry de Tessan do not plan to continue their businesses full-time after high school, they both agree that it will be a fun and flexible side-gig or summer job. Brown is planning to take a gap year after high school to continue thrifting, selling and building his business.

“It took a long time to get going [...] for the amount of time I was working and putting into it,” said Brown. “Now, I’ve learned more and how to sell more.”

The Rothko Pavillion: A push for a more connected Portland Art Museum

By CURTIS BEAUBRUN

Museum wings are typically named after the largest donor. However, the new expansions to the Portland Art Museum will break this pattern with its new centerpiece, The Rothko Pavillion.

The pavilion will be named after prominent contemporary artist and Lincoln Alumni Mark Rothko, class of 1921, as the main donor of the expansion project has chosen to stay anonymous. The pavilion will honor Rothko’s legacy as well as his connection to Portland.

According to the PAM’s website, Rothko first came to Portland after emigrating from Russia when he was ten.

The new pavilion will display some of Rothko’s paintings. The museum has a 20-year loan with Rothko’s children, Christopher Rothko and Kate Rothko Prizel.

“I think of it as a major Mark Rothko exhibition taking place over 20 years because [the museum] will be getting one or two pieces at a

time and they’ll be switched out on [an] annual basis,” said Ian Gillingham, head of press and publications at the museum.

In addition to Rothko’s artwork that will be displayed in the pavilion, an additional 300 new pieces of art will be displayed.

The goal of the pavilion is not just to create more space to show art, but also to create a more cohesive relationship between the two wings of the museum, as well as illustrate connections between the artwork displayed throughout the entire museum.

“It’s important to highlight these connections so [the museum will] have collection areas,” said Hana Layson, head of youth and educator programs at the museum. “But also you will see Native artists. In the contemporary wing, you’ll see Native artists in the American art wing as well.” said.

Sophomore Evie Richardson frequently visits the museum.

“It’s been kind of hard because I like going to the Portland Art Museum a lot, and so I’m sad that a lot of the main art has been put

away,” said Richardson, referring to the fact that during the expansion much of the museum’s collection was not on display. “But I’m excited to see the new vibes that they’re going to have going on.”

These renovations will be completed by the end of 2025.

“What we really want for the museum [is for it] to be a place where young people can think of themselves as... art appreciators,”

~ Ian Gillingham
Head of press and publications at the museum

Entrance to the museum is always free for students under 17, and college students can get passes for the full year for \$25.

“What we really want for the museum [is for it] to be a place where young people can think



Architects built a model of what the remodeled Portland Art Museum will look like after the addition of The Rothko Pavillion. The model will be displayed in the entrance of the museum in February.

By CURTIS BEAUBRUN

of themselves as... art appreciators,” said Gillingham. “Even if they’re not making a career in art, think of themselves as creators and really really inspire the creativity of people.”

Pearl association improperly erased meeting recordings

NW Examiner prevails in grievance case

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The Zoom era has introduced a new level of accessibility to public meetings, allowing citizens to drop into sessions from their homes or phones, even to play recordings later at their convenience.

But online meetings also provide an opportunity for top-down control, giving the chair or meeting host total control of who may enter the meeting, who may speak or who may be expelled at the click of a mouse without the knowledge of other attendees.

David Dysert, who has chaired or co-chaired the PDNA Planning and Transportation Committee since 2017, used the built-in recordings to assist him in writing the official meeting minutes, and then erased the recordings.

If there were any discrepancies between his minutes and the recordings, no evidence remained.

After the NW Examiner requested links to recordings several times last year and got claims that the files were technically corrupted, Dysert finally revealed why they no longer existed.

Near the end of a committee meeting last summer, Dysert shared rumors that a local restaurant chain was in financial trouble, then mentioned several of its branded outlets in the Pearl. The Examiner followed up with an email requesting specifics. No reply. The Examiner asked for the recording and learned only that it was not available.



David Dysert

The dual chair and secretary role was also practiced by Stan Penkin, who was president of the PDNA board for seven years before stepping down to run for Portland City Council last year. The minutes taken by Dysert and Penkin while chairing meetings were approved by their boards and committees without controversy or debate.

If the bodies served by dual-role leaders expressed no discontent with the practice, what was the harm?

The matter goes to the heart of public records law: Who do the records belong to? Oregon Public Meetings Law, as well as the federal government and

jurisdictions across the nation, recognize that records produced by public bodies belong to the public, and that the bodies producing them are merely their caretakers.

Recordings and full transcripts are useful for news reporting, confirming exact words in rapid-fire exchanges that could otherwise only be paraphrased.

The Examiner published at least two stories critical of Dysert using verbatim exchanges derived from recordings of committee meetings. The most recent was a July 2023 story on Centennial Mills at which Dysert was pressed by a committee member charging that PDNA “had no seat at the table” when Prosper Portland completed an agreement with a buyer of Centennial Mills.

Last July, Dysert told the Examiner he would never share meeting recordings and did not believe he was required to do so.

The Examiner then filed a grievance to PDNA, which Dysert, as interim board chair, dismissed as lacking “standing,” based on “consultation with counsel retained by District Four Coalition.”

“Recordings of such meetings are not considered official organizational records per the ONI (Office of Neighborhood Involvement) standards and our bylaws,” he wrote. “Meeting minutes are official records and are distributed and available for every public PDNA meeting.”

The Examiner appealed the denial to the District Four Coalition, which reached a different conclusion.

“While neighborhood associations are not required to record their meetings, if they do, those recordings become public records and must be provided when requested,” read the coalition’s decision, which was approved unanimously by its board.

The grievance also claimed that PDNA did not follow its own bylaws, which require an effort to mediate disputes informally before ruling on the merits of a complaint.

“There is no doubt that the handling of the grievance was not consistent with the PDNA bylaws,” the coalition concluded.

At the PDNA board meeting after the final grievance ruling was issued, board member Angelina Shamborska defended her association’s rejection of the complaint because “we went to the coalition and asked, ‘Do we have to share?’ and they said no.”

“We got bad advice,” said board member Glenn Traeger.

District Four Coalition Executive Director Darlene

Urban Garrett denied that she advised PDNA that the recordings could be withheld and denied underwriting legal expenses.

Garrett did concede, however, that the appearance of neutrality in handling the grievance could be questioned.

“Handling grievances is not something we’re good at,” she said. ■

UPDATE:

Despite District 4 Coalition’s decision that meeting recordings must be made available to the public upon request, David Dysert did not respond to the Examiner’s request for the recording of the first meeting held after the ruling. Nine days after that meeting, requests to him and to co-chairs of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association board have not led to resolution.

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“While neighborhood associations are not required to record their meetings, if they do, those recordings become public records and must be provided when requested.”
—District 4 Coalition decision on grievance filed by NW Examiner

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-New Year for the Trees-

Thursday Feb 13th at 5:30pm

Enjoy free hot chocolate.

Meet near the playground.

Join us to celebrate the trees!

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Portland Police Bureau identified vehicles without license plates across downtown and the Central East-side Jan. 15. The mission led to two arrests, eight citations, recovery of two stolen vehicles and two stolen bicycles.



Erica Naito-Campbell, author of "Portland's Audacious Champion," a biography of her grandfather Bill Naito, will speak Wednesday, Feb. 5, 5:30 p.m., on the first floor of Pacific Northwest College of Art, 511 NW Broadway. The event, sponsored by the Pearl District Neighborhood Association, is free and open to the public.



Lincoln High School senior Jacob Ali DeShaw was named student of the month by Portland Pearl Rotary for December. He has been president of Brothers of Color since his sophomore year. He plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in architecture.



Friends of Couch Park will celebrate Tu B'Shvat (New Year for the Trees) with free hot chocolate on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 5:30 p.m. Meet near the playground.



The Messenger Bell in the Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza was temporarily removed last month for restoration and storage. A fund-drive is underway for a complete reconstruction of the plaza, a project of the David Campbell Memorial Association. For information, visit DavidCampbellMemorial.org.

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife built a tunnel under U.S. Highway 30 near Linnton to provide safe passage for northern red-legged frogs to reach their spawning grounds along the Willamette River. The project was completed in November, ending the 10-year saga of the Harborton Frog Shuttle, in which volunteers hand-carried frogs during winter nights to reach their spawning grounds along the Willamette River. Photo by Rob Lee



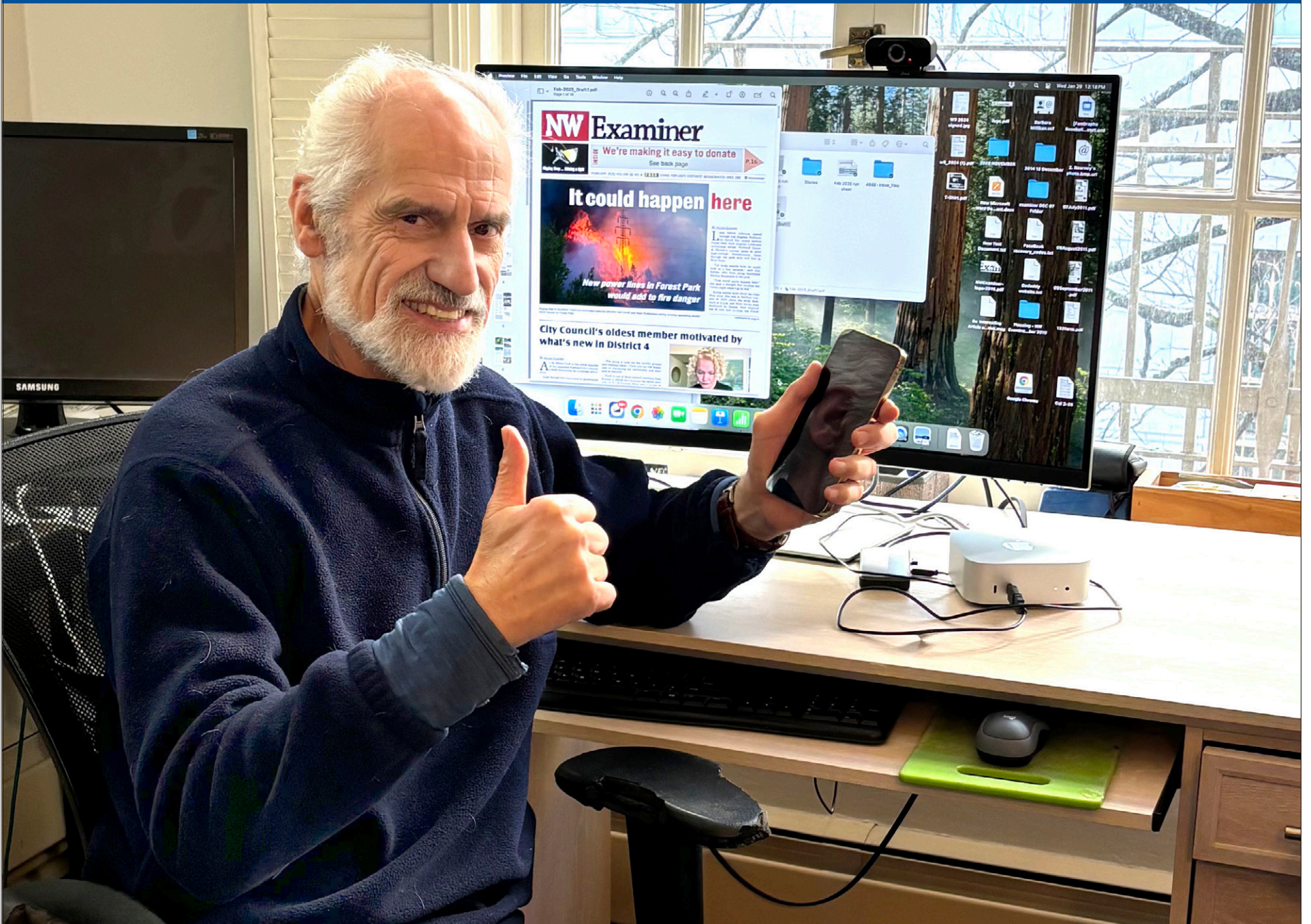
Middle School Information night at Sauvie Island School, 14445 NW Charlton Rd., will be held Thursday, Feb. 20, 6-7 p.m. Current students, alums, parents and teachers will share their perspectives and answer questions. A pizza and salad buffet will be provided. RSVP to info@sauvieislandschool.org.





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3. Set up a one-click payment process for the foundation.

4. Paid all legal fees for establishing the foundation.
5. Erase the financial shortfall for the newspaper's past operating deficit.

This is only the beginning. Changes underway will lead to expanded revenues and a permanent reduction in overhead expenses.

With you, our readers and supporters, we can get there!

Allen Classen

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