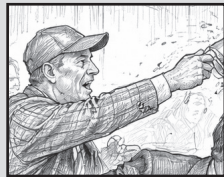


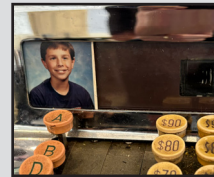
INSIDE



p. 3
Funding fuels fights



p. 9
An upside-down system?



p. 10
John's Cafe
53 years later

APRIL 2026/ VOLUME 39, NO. 8 **FREE** SERVING PORTLAND'S NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOODS SINCE 1986 [nwexaminer](#)

Fighting for his values

Councilor Mitch Green says he knows how to balance his two sides

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

I first saw Mitch Green in a suit when he was assuming office as a District 4 city councilor in 2025. Before that—and in all his campaign materials—he wore working-man’s shirts or sweaters with rolled up sleeves. But formally attired Green assured me he understood his different roles and the sartorial tone expected of each.

Of the six members who formed the council’s progressive caucus in 2025—and he says he is no longer part of Peacock—Green is the one most able to converse across the aisle. As he frequently reminds, he has a Ph.D. in economics, which he put to use as a senior risk analyst for the Bonneville Power Administration.

He gets along with his two District 4 colleagues—Olivia Clark and Eric Zimmerman—despite fervent disagreements on some issues. At a City Club forum in February, all three agreed that collegiality described their working relationships, a trait not so apparent in Portland’s three other council districts.

But his compromising ways go only so far.

“I am a socialist, and I’ve been pretty honest about who I am,” he said. “I’m not going to apologize for being a DSA (Democratic Socialists of America) member. ... I’m proud to be part of that organization because they have a pretty unabashed pro-working class politics.”



For his first duties as a District 4 city councilor, Mitch Green looked the part.

He believes he has handled his two sides well.

“At the dais, I very seldom wear a firebrand [hat],” he said. “The part of me that’s like megaphone in hand, out on the picket line doing the rally—that’s always going to be a part of me, and that’s an important political

Continued on page 6



Councilor Mitch Green was in casual mode for a meeting with Pearl residents last year. Photo by Allan Classen

Lawmaker denies blame for failed needles legislation

Sen. Lisa Reynolds says ‘harm reduction’ strategy must be upheld

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

State Sen. Lisa Reynolds spoke to 60 constituents at a Northwest District Association meeting March 25 and told them she was sorry for the way a bill to regulate handouts of needles and drug paraphernalia died in her committee this spring.

“I’m very sorry for how this all went down this session,” Reynolds said. “Don’t get me wrong on that; it did not go how I would have preferred.”

Which is not to say she did anything wrong.

“I also want to be clear: This measure would not have passed out of our committee. ... I will tell you that we did not have the votes in our committee to move it. ... It wasn’t just Lisa Reynolds unilaterally making this decision,” she said.

Senate Bill 1573 had flaws that could not be rectified, she said, promising to make another effort in 2027 to limit the negative community impacts of irresponsibly run needle handouts on the surrounding community.

The bill banned such activities within 2,000 feet of a school or childcare facility; she wanted it to be 1,000 feet. The bill created a private right



Sen. Lisa Reynolds

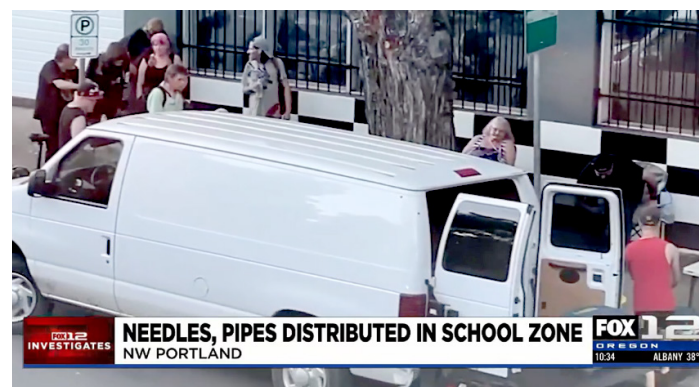
to sue violators; she wanted only a registry or licensing of such programs.

“These measures would have done away with harm reduction,” Reynolds said, referring to an approach that provides clean supplies to reduce health risks for street drug users.

“We want to look at a bill that doesn’t reduce harm reduction,” she said.

Sen. Lisa Reynolds said the failure of the SB

Continued on page 8



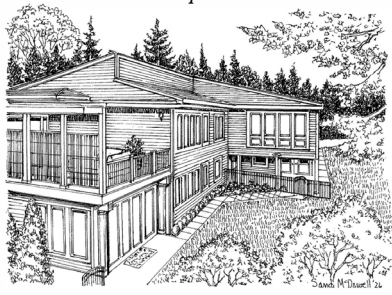
The Portland People’s Outreach Project set up tables with supplies for drug users along Northwest 19th Avenue for years.



Long after the Friday night distributions were finished, the effects could be seen along Northwest 19th Avenue.

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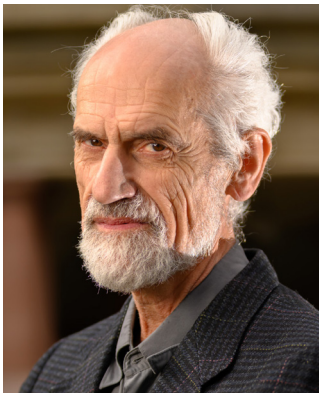
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Mini-bureaucracies entangle, stymie neighborhood associations

If you step up to a ticket window at the bus station and ask how much it costs, you will hear, "Where are you going?"

To belabor the obvious, you cannot know how much it costs to go somewhere if you don't know where that is.

That proposition has not been obvious to people running the coalition of neighborhood associations in our part of town. When the smaller coalition of 11 inner Westside associations ballooned under charter reform to more than 30 associations in three quadrants of the city, cries went up that the new arrangement demanded far more work with only a slight increase in city funding.

They were right, but it was still beside the point. Knowing where you came from does not dictate where you should be going. The reset opportunity begged for deeper thought. Now some are finally asking: Why are we here? What do we want? What is the best way to get there?

Under a city ordinance, the primary purpose of the Office of Community & Civic Life and the coalitions it underwrites is to serve neighborhood associations. That's why the city contracts with coalitions to provide operating funds and to establish standards of performance.

In the absence of a clear vision, the Westside coalition office has for decades been staffed by an executive director and three or four assistants offering administrative assistance and various degrees of guidance on issue advocacy. More recently, the staff launched coalition-wide committees on topics such as land-use and public safety.

This pattern is what caused District 4 Coalition President Todd Zarnitz to recently issue a manifesto declaring that the coalition should not be a "super neighborhood association and central power broker. ... We are a support service, not a substitute for local leadership."

It may take a while for the discussion to go anywhere. Initial reactions diverted into the matter of whether associations should sometimes make joint statements, which most agree are appropriate at times.

But the central question is: Can the paid staff do anything that helps associations be more effective? They can certainly relieve activists from technical and administrative chores, such as taking care of online and email registries, filing taxes and reports



AI illustration by ChatGPT

required by governments, etc., headaches likely to bog down a succession of volunteers having to learn the protocols.

But hiring and supervising a staff is another kind of headache that has proven even further from the wheelhouse of neighborhood leaders. In the past decade, the most bitter disputes that have divided the coalition's board members have played out as power struggles over which faction could weaponize the staff against the other side.

At one point, coalition leaders attempted to expel the Goose Hollow Foothills League from the coalition because the league's president wrote a letter accusing a board officer of meddling in their internal affairs. That led to two years of hostilities, during which coalition staff stifled league actions.

Disagreements among coalition board members often turn to accusations of mistreating staff. Last year, a grievance was raised by staff against a board member for rude behavior.

I was even dragged into the abyss five years ago when the coalition board determined that I was creating a hostile work environment for a transgender coalition employee because I had written an editorial contrary to their point of view. I was banned from

attending coalition meetings—though they were legally required to be open to the public—for three months and scolded for not stating my pronouns.

This all-encompassing pettiness would largely disappear if there were not workers to put in the middle of it.

Meanwhile, several independent citizen groups addressing neighborhood issues have cropped up and are quite effective. They have been frequently mentioned in the NW Examiner: Friends of Couch Park, Stadiumhood Neighbors and Friends of Wallace Park. They do not have paid staff, freeing them to devote their energies to addressing the most critical problems and opportunities around them.

Instead of laborious three-hour sessions arguing over rules and procedures, these independent groups tend to hold freewheeling gatherings to coordinate activities, spark ideas and enjoy each other's company.

Administering a city contract may not be the route to neighborhood empowerment. In fact, it may be more of a millstone. Coalitions can be mini-bureaucracies that mimic City Hall, or they can be people having fun doing what they do best—building their community. ■

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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.

Arnold solves problems

The two lead articles ["Bike cop Eli Arnold gears up for another run" and "City shelter is making Pearl District better," March] were very informative.

Eli Arnold's views of Portland's deficiencies and needs revealed him to be a thoughtful leader and problem-solver. Current officials need to accept his wisdom and deliver or step aside. We do not have the luxury of persistently

ignoring the first obligation of government: protect its citizens. Citizens means legal residents.

You provide a terrific public service.
Marc Y. Green
SW Vista Ave.

Shelter harming Pearl District

Rob Layne is being disingenuous at best ["City shelter is making Pearl District better," March]. As a Pearl resident, I can say that things have

gotten worse since the opening of the Northrup shelter. There are more homeless people camping in the neighborhood during the day, condominiums are selling for less than they were a year ago, and anecdotal evidence would suggest that apartment occupancy is declining. I walk the neighborhood with a heightened sense of vigilance. And yes, there is more garbage in the streets.

Jim Spencer
NW Marshall St.

Pearl feels unsafe

I just read the homeless article in the NW Examiner. I live at Northwest 14th and Pettygrove. My truck was recently broken into, and I lost a few valuables.

I've been living in this area for three years, and ever since the shelter moved in, the area has felt unsafe. Shopping at Safeway is a nightmare, with all the homeless congregating there through-

Cont'd on page 5

The NW Examiner

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Dr. Michael Sears



Dr. Michael Sheridan Sears, a resident of Willamette Heights for over 40 years, died on Jan. 29 at age 82. He was born on July 27, 1943, in Atlanta, and grew up in Missouri. He graduated from Shawnee Mission East High School in 1961, from Baker University in Baldwin, Kan., in 1965 and earned a doctorate in chiropractic from the University of Western States in Portland in 1983. He married Janet Francis, and they served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Panama in the 1960s. He married Leslie Kroft in 1983. His chiropractic practice was on Northwest Thurman Street in Northwest Portland for about 30 years. He also taught yoga and volunteered his medical services at Outside Inn for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Leslie; daughter, Kelly; stepchildren, Josh Morrison and Shahn Hughes; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Hunt Lewis



Cicero "Hunt" Lewis III, who grew up in and lived many decades in Portland Heights, died Aug. 21, 2025, at age 83. He was born on Jan. 12, 1942, attended Ainsworth Elementary School and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1959. He attended the University of Oregon and the University of Colorado at Boulder. He served in the Army. Later, he sold insurance and founded a roofing company. He was a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club. He is survived by his wife, Penelope; daughters, Nicole Lewis and Kristin Dunn; sister, Sally Van Linge; and four grandchildren.

Patricia Bentley



Patricia Bentley, a longtime resident of Arlington Heights, died Feb. 17 at age 91. She was born on Sept. 10, 1934, in Cincinnati. She worked as a flight attendant before marrying John Bentley in 1960 and moving to Portland. They raised three children, Emily, John and Sally. She was an artist who produced paintings and quilts. She volunteered at the Oregon Historical Society. Her husband, John, died in 2022. She had six grandchildren.

Tom Prochaska



Tom Prochaska, an artist and longtime professor at Pacific Northwest College of Art, died March 3 at age 80. He was born on March 9, 1945, in Chicago, and grew up in Des Plaines, Ill. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1968 and an MFA from Pratt Institute in New York in 1970. After living on the East Coast and in Europe in the 1970s, he moved in 1980 to Portland, where he cofounded Atelier Mars studio in Southeast Portland and ran it for 33 years. He was a painter, printmaker and draftsman who used a range of materials, including kiln-formed glass. His work is in permanent collections at the Tacoma Art Museum, The Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University, Portland Art Museum, China National Academy of Fine Arts and the New York Public Library. A retrospective exhibit will be held April 1-May 2 at Froelick Gallery, 714 NW Davis St., where a celebration of life will be held April 11, 5 p.m.

Judith Holman



Judith Holman, a former Northwest District resident, died Feb. 22 at age 85. Judith Graham was born on Sept. 24, 1940, and grew up in Fruitland, Idaho. She graduated from Portland State University in 1962 with a degree in economics. She married Bob Hormel, and they settled in Southwest Portland and had two children. After a divorce, she married Mike Holman in 1986. She was a member of Mazamas and climbed major peaks around the world. They moved to Washington in 1998. She was a board member of Neighborhood House. She is survived by her husband, Mike; daughter, Melissa; son, Eric; stepdaughters, Heidi Holman and Emily Stone; brother, David Graham; sisters, Janis Dillard and Marilou Smith; and seven grandchildren.

Kenneth Scales Jr.

Kenneth Scales Jr., a 1959 Lincoln High School graduate and honored athlete at the Multnomah Athletic Club, died March 18 at age 85. He was born Sept. 22, 1940, and grew up in Portland. He graduated from Linfield College and worked as a stockbroker for many years. He excelled at many sports and received the Sportsmanship Award of the Multnomah Athletic Club, where he was a member. He married Donna Mason, and they had two children, Kasie Pranghofer and Scott Scales. He is survived by his immediate family and his brother, Michael Scales.

Obituaries cont'd on page 14

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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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 Rebecca Boraz



The Pearl Safeway attracts people leaving the Northrup Street Shelter.

out the day. Safeway has had to implement a lot of security measures that affect residences. I can't tell you how many times I've seen people smoking on the streets or passed out on the ground. Who knows if they are alive, and I don't see the city do anything. They can say crime is down but are they talking about break ins?

The amount of screaming I hear at night is crazy. Most residents normalize it. That's not how we should live. The city gives us tickets for overtime parking, but there are no tickets for sleeping on the street.

Thank you for speaking the truth on what's going out here.

Manuel Varguez
NW Pettygrove St.

Pearl violence increasing

You do a great job covering the increased violence in the Pearl District, largely caused by the new shelters and the Oasis camp at Northwest Broadway and Glisan. The campers leave Oasis every day and gather in the North Park Blocks between Everett and Flanders, where they can do drugs and drink alcohol, which is prohibited at Oasis.

We had the stabbing last week. Today at

noon, a woman who lives in North Park Lofts was approached and assaulted twice, first by a woman saying she was going to kill her, then by a man swinging a 2x4 at her. Police were called (see photo), about 10 police officers showed up, they hit him with pepper balls, which weren't effective so they held him on the ground until they could wrap him up and take him into custody. In my opinion, the city has cleaned up downtown and pushed all the troublemakers into Old Town and Northwest Portland. The fancy Pearl District is now the dumping ground for Portland's most dangerous people. The condo I bought 12 years ago for \$335,000 is now for sale at \$225,000, no takers. We aren't just losing our quality of life, we're losing our life savings too.

I hope you will continue to write about this problem. The police officers readily acknowledge the rapidly increasing crime in the North Park Blocks and other parts of Northwest Portland. They are trying their best, but they've told us we've got to get louder and more assertive with the City Council.

Greg Harmon
NW Eighth Ave.

Stop bitching

For the record, not all Pearl District residents believe "the Northrup Shelter is driving down their quality of life." Not all Pearl District residents feel more compassion for the Rudinsky's \$5 million loss than for the destitute street brothers who struggle with poverty, mental illness and addiction. Not all Pearl District residents are NIMBYs.

The Pearl District is what we make it. Stop bitching and DO something to make it better or move.

KJ Crumrine
NW Lovejoy St.



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Far left: "Megaphone in hand, out on the picket line doing the rally—that's always going to be a part of me," Green told the NW Examiner.

Left: Backed by Democratic Socialists of America supporters at Portland State University, Green threatened to block funding to the university.

"Fighting" cont'd from page 1

function that I think I can still play, even as an elected official. But I don't think that's an appropriate function for my work at the dais [where] my work is to advance policy and to try to win over my colleagues.

"Sometimes I think there are folks out in chambers who would prefer that I'm a little bit more radical and have much more fight in my voice. I think there are people who prefer I attack my colleagues, and I don't do that—especially with my colleagues."

A delicate balance, perhaps, "but I don't think I've misled anyone," he said.

Protest and the purse

Some likened his militancy in pursuit of political goals to that of President Donald Trump.

That was related to a statement he made before DSA faithful at Portland State University last spring after a library occupation turned into an extended takeover causing \$1.2 million in damages and taking five months to reopen. He insisted that all charges against students be dropped, and he backed that demand with his special leverage as a legislator.

"Portland State University depends on Portland City Council for a number of things that they want to do, so if we

want to show up and use our lever on City Council, it's through the power of the purse," Green announced to the news media.

"So on this day of action, I'm just going to say that I know that the administration is planning to build a performing arts center, and they're going to come to City Council for money for that. And if they want my vote, they're going to have to drop the charges on those students. And they're going to need my vote to get that money because I am in solidarity in coalition with other leftists on City Council. We know how to stand up and fight back."

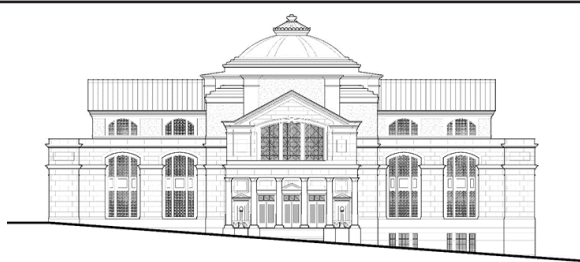
"To me he's using a position of power to threaten, intimidate and blackmail PSU," said Goose Hollow resident

Kara Colley. "That sounds to me like an abuse of power and analogous to what Trump is doing."

Later, Green explained to the NW Examiner why his position was different from Trump holding up funds to get his way in Ukraine, for example.

"I think it was an unfair characterization because Donald Trump is holding up already legislated and approved funds that Congress has already decided are good things that should flow. He is saying, 'I will stop that payment unless you get on board with my program.'

"I'm not the executive, and I don't have any power to do that, but when I ran for this office—and I



Cultural Center Annual Membership Meeting Slated for April 21, 2026

The Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center (NNCC) will hold its annual membership meeting at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. As has been our practice in recent years, the meeting will take place as a Zoom hosted teleconference. Members of record as of March 16, 2026 who wish to attend the meeting will need to register in advance. Please watch our web site www.nccpdx.com for more information about this meeting and the advance registration process.

Director nominees for the terms beginning in 2026 will be elected. The new Board will elect officers for 2026 immediately following the annual meeting. An update on the pending sale of the building, Board nominations, 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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NWDA ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE



The 2026 NWDA annual membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19th at 6:00PM. Find meeting info at: NWDAPortland.org

Members wanting to declare candidacy for a seat on the NWDA Board must do so by Tuesday, April 14th by emailing secretary@nwdaportland.org





The new City Council and Mayor Keith Wilson represented the face of charter reform on their orientation day

talked to students at Portland State University—I told them I would fight for them. I think it’s disingenuous to say that and then immediately not fight for them, especially where I’m in a position where the bully pulpit does matter, and I know that Portland State University is going to be sniffing around for some money for this new performing arts center.

“If I have an opportunity to influence their decision by letting them know where I stand—what my values are—I’m going to use it, and I don’t think that’s Trumpian.”

Doom loop

There was another situation in which Green shocked mainstream

observers. The U.S. Bancorp Tower, better known as Big Pink, sold to Jeff Swickard last July for \$45 million, 12% of its 2015 sale price of \$372 million. It was among a spate of fire-sale deals involving major downtown real estate and fed into a “doom loop” narrative, in which collapsing property values lead to collapsing tax revenues, combining to thwart public and private efforts to bring about recovery.

In an exchange on Chat with Peacock members later retrieved by Willamette Week in a public records request, Green expressed no fear.

“I think the sale of Big Pink at such a discount relative to its previous valuation is a really good thing,” he wrote. “It’s good for two of the following reasons.”

He then explained that lower property values would reduce rents across the board, while providing an opportunity for the city or nonprofits to acquire buildings more cheaply for residential use.

Asked later by the Examiner to explain his position, he offered a more anodyne version.

“[Some] are suggesting that my economic credentials are called into question for saying such a thing, but I’ll tell you, it is a fundamental fact of a market economy that if you’re going to have prices reflect values in a market, then you need to have the opportunity for conditions to adjust. And what happened in the last decade in this city was a run-up in valuation, and some of these buildings were acquired by hedge funds or outside investment firms with heavy loan finance.

“So Jeff Swickard saw an opportunity, and ... he’s already talked about all of his plans to activate the space,” he said. “When you buy that low, you can afford to set the rents at bargain prices too so you can induce tenants to come in, and that’s going to be great for our downtown activation.”

In other words, capitalism self-corrects, and social benefits will rebound to society. But that’s not his core approach to providing affordable homes for all. There he sees a need for social housing, the vision he and a delegation of city officials explored in a trip to Austria last year.

In a statement posted on the city’s website, he wrote, “Our current

housing system is constrained by federal funding and policies beyond our local control. We need a model that is financed and governed right here in Portland. That model is social housing—permanently affordable, high-quality housing for all that serves the public good, not private profit.”

Tenant rights are essential.

“Imagine a system where tenant unions are not just a reaction to crisis but are built into the governance structure of the housing itself. This would create a powerful, citywide voice for renters to ensure their homes are maintained and their rights are respected,” he wrote.

Can't please all

Under a city charter in which council members gain election by reaching a 25% support threshold, the Examiner asked him if 25% of voters love what he’s doing while a majority hate it, would he define that as success?

“I think success would be to have most people think I’m a fair and good steward of the public trust. You’re not going to make all the people happy all the time, but I ran for this seat because I said I was fighting for very specific values. I think I’d be a failure for me to abandon those values.”

The respect of most voters would be nice, but in Portland’s unique ranked-choice voting system, it only takes 25% to win. ■

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"Lawmaker" cont'd from page 1

1573 "needle bill" was not her fault.

"I've never read one of these harm reduction studies," resident Joe Springer said, "But unless those harm reduction studies include the harm to the community ... I fail to see how any harm reduction study could be taken seriously."

Several audience members said Reynolds publicly blamed the bill's defeat on the unwillingness of its proponents to compromise on the sticking points she outlined.

"We've been requesting assistance from your office and trying to engage with you for a long time," said Michele Milla, chair of Stadiumhood Neighbors, the Northwest/Southwest Portland citizens group that asked for legislative help after their neighborhood was plagued by weekly paraphernalia handouts by Portland People's Outreach Project at Northwest 19th and Burnside streets until 2025.

"It specifically would not have ended harm reduction in the state of Oregon, as you asserted. We were just looking to partner with you on how to make some common sense guardrails.

"I was a part of those negotiations. We absolutely did accept those amendments and can release records to that effect. So, we did not appreciate being thrown under the bus. I just wanted to go on record saying as much," Milla said.

"It's terribly unfortunate, Sen. Reynolds, that you killed this bill," said Laura Curry. "Working with members of Stadiumhood and Sen. [Christine] Drazan, we appealed to

your office. Sen. Drazan generously supported us through this process. She was the champion for this bill, and my recollection is that Sen. Drazan came back to us with the idea that we needed to shorten the distance from 2,000 feet to 1,000 feet, and also amend the penalties.

"And as a collective, we agreed to everything that was asked of us to get this bill passed, so I hold the killing of the bill at your feet," Curry said.

Autumn Sharp, another neighbor who worked for the bill, is running against Reynolds in the May Democratic Party because she said Reynolds falsely blamed citizens for the bill's defeat.

SB 1573 "could not be interpreted in any way to end harm reduction in the state," she added.

At the March 25 forum, Reynolds did not dispute charges that she left citizens out of negotiations.

"I could not come to agreement with the carrier [Drazan] on that, so, in the short time we had in short session, we were not able to move that bill forward. I see folks shaking their heads—go ahead—I'm frustrated too," Reynolds said.



**"We want to look at a bill that doesn't reduce harm reduction."
— Sen. Lisa Reynolds**

One participant challenged the efficacy of harm reduction head on. Lance Orton runs a program in Old Town, CityTeam, that provides residential treatment and recovery services for addicts.

"As probably one of the only intravenous heroin addicts on this call—who was addicted to heroin for 10 years in this city—I would strongly suggest that when it comes to harm reduction, particularly needle exchanges, they only work if treatment is connected to the actual distribution of those needles," Orton said.

"I'm personally not a big fan of the harm reduction model. ... I would also suggest that when distributing needles, it's so much better to have a clinic where the addict has to go to and exchange their needles. The one-for-one is a much better model. It's in a place that is safe, far away from communities. Treatment is part of the exchange, where you are offered a case manager. You're offered opportunities to get off the drugs," he said.

"The PPOP group is an absolute problem," he continued. "They absolutely need to be taken away from our community, because they are not helping people get sober. They are not helping people get away from these

drugs. They're actually harming the addicts like myself, and it drives me absolutely crazy."

"That's a really excellent point, and one that I will definitely take to heart ... as we start crafting this bill," Reynolds said.

She does not support PPOP's approach either.

"I agree with you all that PPOP is not a good neighbor," she said. "It is not a good player in this space. I have said that, and I stand by that."

NWDA President Todd Zarnitz offered a thumbnail summary: "A bill that neighborhood volunteers, desperately trying to improve the safety and livability of their community and who spent many months [in] the legislative process, was slapped down by their own representative."

Nothing of the partisan politics behind the actions of state senators was discussed at the neighborhood meeting. It may be revealing enough that a proposal with bipartisan support at the start was shelved strictly along party lines. After Reynolds refused to bring SB 1573 out of committee, the senate took the unusual step of having the entire body vote on overriding her decision. All 11 Republicans voted for bringing it out, and 17 Democrats voted against.

Nothing changed as a result of the eleventh-hour gambit, other than putting all senators on record with how they stood. And that suggests incumbents must be prepared to defend their position on whose harm reduction is uppermost. ■

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Neighborhood leader says system is upside down



Todd Zarnitz

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The new chair of the District 4 Coalition wasted no time putting his cards on the table. Before taking the gavel, Todd Zarnitz circulated a 1,000-word manifesto.

Zarnitz was not calling for more power to the assemblage of 30-plus neighborhood associations he now leads; just the opposite. He thinks the coalition should have less.

"We are a support service, not a substitute for local leadership," he wrote. "The District 4 Coalition is currently drifting toward a 'flow up' model, acting as a 'super neighborhood association' and central power broker.

"We must immediately implement a 'flow down' strategy that democratizes access to the city."

When he engaged coalition

Local associations should set the tone, not district coalitions

representatives directly at a March 2 board meeting, the clear distinction between top-down and bottom-up got hazy.

"I don't understand what you're [saying], said Don Baack, a Hillsdale Neighborhood Association representative. "I understand what your words say, but I don't know what that means physically. ... I think we're getting off track."

Former coalition chair Vadim Mozyrsky said, "I hope this is not a one-or-the-other type of deal, and I think the conversation is: Can we have both?"

"This was presented as either neighborhoods are able to advocate for their own needs, or we have to go through the District 4 Coalition to get things done. But I'm not sure whether those are exclusive."

Mozyrsky described a "united we stand, divided we fall" reality in which neighborhoods joining voices increases their power.

Sylvan Highlands Neighborhood Association representative Sally Kneuen said her association is small and needs the coalition's support to tackle major land-use issues.

"I'm not advocating yes or no," said board Vice President Kent Snyder, instead focusing on a "desperately really high priority" for holding a board retreat.

"We have a new executive director," Snyder continued. "This is a perfect time for us to get together and say, 'What services does the neighborhood association see? How can this coalition best serve those? What is our purpose?"

And we should do it right away."

If Snyder's suggestion was intended as a deflection, the board did not follow up. No plans for a retreat or vision assessment were made.

Marshall Gannett of the Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association wants to pursue the questions Zarnitz raised.

"I read your draft presentation, and I thought it was a breath of fresh air, frankly," Gannett said.

"There's an agenda here that I'm expected to buy into and support, and I got the feeling that the coalition viewed itself as—like you said—a big neighborhood, and we were all going to leverage the power of all the individual neighborhoods into some agenda that didn't originate with us.

"I really think we should take a really careful look at the sort of philosophy that is embodied in what you've written and discuss it. I'm a big supporter."

Glenn Traeger of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association said, "It seems, after reading your paper, that you want to get the coalition away from policy building and to more distribution of information, getting back to basics. ... I think that's great."

Marita Ingalsbe of the Hayhurst Neighborhood Association agreed with Mozyrsky that "we need flow down and flow up depending on the situation" but thanked Zarnitz for "thinking through this and bringing this topic up."

Reflecting a week after the meeting, Zarnitz told the NW Examiner "I'm not

sure I'm getting anywhere" in advancing his bigger picture of the coalition's future.

"It's not there yet," he said, though perhaps things could move in a month or two.

He's not sure adopting a resolution or policy document would get to the heart of the situation, which may take "pushing the culture a little bit."

Zarnitz is not the first person to suggest a limited role for neighborhood coalitions. City Code 3.96 outlines the duties of entities within the Portland neighborhood system.

A district coalition will:

A. Provide training and orientation, information and support services to neighborhood associations within the areas of neighborhood associations served;

B. Facilitate communication between people and government;

C. Promote public participation within the areas of neighborhoods served on issues of livability, safety and public policy;

D. Promote, encourage and support the participation of members of diverse communities within the areas of neighborhoods served; and

E. Administer contracts or memorandums of understanding and operate the district coalition in accordance with standards. ■

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John's Cafe: Same as it ever was



Left: Christine and Jimmy Kapsopoulos raised their son Tom at their cafe, where he remains a daily presence. Center above: The new owners of John's Cafe in 1973. Right above: A grade school photo of Tom Kapsopoulos adorns the cash register.

Greek couple has owned and operated it for 53 years

BY MICHAELA LOWTHIAN

Time seems to stop at John's Café, an old-school diner at the corner of Northwest Broadway and Everett. I ordered a BLT before I saw the cash only sign.

A woman with a prescient gaze and a panoramic view stands at the counter, taking in all that goes on inside and outside the cafe.

"Have you been here before?" she asks, though I presume she already knew.

She wants to know if I live nearby, whether I'm working today.

Wanting to keep up my side of the conversation, I ask if they are open weekends.

"Six days a week."

"Do you work all those days?"

"Yes. I've worked here 53 years."

So has the man at the stove. Meet Christine and Jimmy Kapsopoulos, on the job for 53 years except for times when one of them has had to be in the hospital.

They closed for a few months last year due to Christine's health.

Their son, Tom, the little boy in a grade school class photo on the ornate brass cash register, asked her at the hospital if it was time to retire. No, what she wanted was to go back to work and return to the people who've been coming here for years.

"This is their dream," he said.

Tom grew up here, and the restaurant holds a den of memories. There was once a little bed in the corner where he slept on weekends while his parents worked. He walked deposits to the bank when he was 8 years old.

"I'm making deposits, and there were taverns all around. And they'd be yelling out, 'Little Tommy's walking down the street,' and every guy would be looking out the window. There was never a concern or a doubt that Jimmy and Christine's little boy wasn't going to make it to the bank and back."

In those days, his parents left for work at 4:30 a.m. and worked until it closed at 10 p.m. He didn't see much of them during his early school years. His grandmother, who spoke no English and lived to be 101, walked him to and from school.

Back in the '70s, he says, the patrons were mostly blue collar workers who worked in the fields and the factories.

"There were a lot of winos, especially when they first opened up," he said. "Then in the '80s, industry started changing. The people started changing, too, and going out at night. You started

seeing more drug dealers, and then late '80s to early '90s, you started seeing the Pearl. So you started seeing different people. The city started getting cleaner and at the same time dirtier."

Until the '90s, John's Cafe was Central Precinct's main hub, and their first stop of the day. Tom recalls climbing in and out of police cars for fun.

The couple once owned a quarter of this block, the building that includes the Golden West Hotel. In 1987, they sold it to Central City Concern.

Now the Army Corps of Engineers is gone; workers from the Customs Office are gone.

But not everything has changed. John's Cafe is known for repeat business.

"The first customer that walked in the front door—I mean the very first one when they got the keys—Alan Peters still comes here to this day," Tom said.

His parents still get up at 4:30 a.m. to be here by a quarter to 5. His dad works in the kitchen and his mom works out front as it's always been.

Tom has had careers of his own, but now he's here keeping a close eye on things.

"It's been an honor to be able to grow up down here and watch the respect toward my mom and dad—an immigrant family from Greece who met here in Portland, established a business and created a family. So I'm helping them finish their dream." ■

NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 32, No. 4 "News You Can't Always Believe" APRIL 2026

Something strange is going on

Someone out there is apparently paying close attention to the goings-on in Portland, and there's something about the city's new flag that incites strange responses.

The lines and figures may not mean much to passersby, but if seen from the air—and possibly by a space visitor—they might have hidden meaning. Whatever that might be, it is focused right here at Northwest 23rd and Lovejoy streets at the front door to the Nob Hill Bar & Grill.



What could it mean? Do aliens assume the flag indicates the location of the leader of the world? Is this where the takeover of planet earth begins? Are alien abductions coming?

One thing you can rely on: We love our city, and we will defend it. And if the agents from regions beyond are just looking for a good lunch, they will be charged the same price as anyone else.

So drop in at Nobbys and see what else might be new. The mayor is also welcome, should he want to deliver the city's official position.

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BETTER HALF SANDWICHES



BETTER HALF SANDWICHES has leased part of the former Food Front Cooperative Grocery building at 2375 NW Thurman St., which has been vacant for three years.

The deli, founded by husband-and-wife team Kelly Haarsager and Alan Oborn in 2020, was forced to move after Portland

Public Schools acquired its location on North Fremont Street. An August opening is planned.

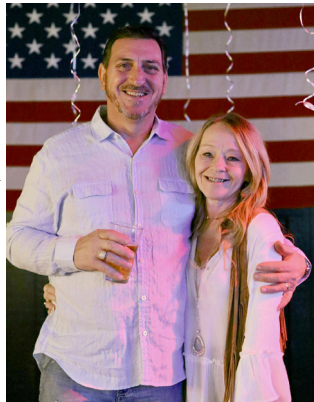
Better Half will occupy 2,000 square feet of the 8,000-square-foot building. Mark New (left), whose company bought the property in October, hopes to find a food market to rent the remaining part of the structure.

Better Half will be open for breakfast and lunch, featuring a lemongrass tofu sandwich, house-made chips and hash browns. Coffee drinks will include espresso.

BROCK'S BLIND

Linnton's old Decoy Saloon has a new owner and a new name—**BROCK'S BLIND BAR & GRILL**.

Owner Polly Merwin is a 37-year service industry veteran who also owns and operates Brock's Bar and Grill, located near her home in Woodlawn, Wash. She named both businesses after her grandfather.



"People from 24 years ago, lifelong friendships were forged at the Decoy. There's a lot of swirl around this place," said Merwin, who used to work at the Decoy. "It used to be a very vibrant bar."

Merwin met her husband, Brent, at the Decoy more than 20 years ago, and he will be running the kitchen.

Brock's Blind is located at 107110 NW St. Helens Road.



SAY WHEN

Top Chef alum B.J. Smith will open **SAY WHEN** restaurant and lounge at 305 NW 21st Ave., in a spot last occupied by Lightning Will.

"I'm very excited to be back on 21st. I'm really glad. I can even see my first restaurant from here," Smith said,

referring to Smokehouse 21, which closed in 2019.

French classics such as croque monsieur, croque madame, cassoulet and pommes frites will be on the menu. Talk about local, the bread will come from Ken's Artisan Bakery across the street and meat from the Revel Meat Co. plant in Canby.

"We're going with blue-collar French," he said.

THE DOGS ARE OUT ON 23RD

Besties Corey Guidry and Derek Skorupski opened a hot dog shop called **BESTIES** at 740 NW 23rd Ave.

"We have our standard dogs, and a rolling list of things that come out. We'll always be experimenting," said Guidry. "You can get a lunch for \$10."

They also sell fresh juices.

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Briefly . . .

JEBALE COFFEE SHOP opens April 4 in Lovejoy Square, 1350 NW Lovejoy St., last home to Nossa Familia. They will use single-origin beans from Uganda. Jebale's first location is in The Portal in Vancouver. Jebale (jay-ba-lay) is an expression that means well done or doing good.

MONO SPACE, a high-fidelity listening gallery at 608 NW 13th Ave., is backed by the Strata Foundation, a philanthropic organization exploring new ways to engage with the arts. Some listening events are free; others are ticketed.

IPNOSI, a small boutique at 616 NW 23rd Ave. since 1996, has closed.

A used bookstore, **KID HERMES THE TRICKSTER**, opened in the Medical Arts Building at 1030 SW Taylor St.

SPIN THE BOTTLE wine and vinyl record shop opened at 1112 NW Marshall St. in the Streetcar Lofts. It's open Wednesday-Sunday with hosted happy hours and listening parties.

CVS in downtown Portland on the corner of Southwest Broadway and Yamhill closed recently.

LOST AND FOUND will open a thrift store at 1001 NW 14th Ave. in the long-empty building last home to Key-Bank.

GREENLEAF JUICE, 810 NW 12th Ave., has closed.

Due to extensive flood damage, **THE KOHLER STORE** at NW 12th and Glisan streets closed. The Lake Oswego store remains open.

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GREATER NORTHWEST PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT MAP

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A quarter of the former Food Front Cooperative Grocery building, closed since 2023, has been leased to Better Half Sandwiches, a deli founded in St. Johns in 2020 by husband-and-wife team Kelly Haarsager and Alan Oborn. They plan to open in August.



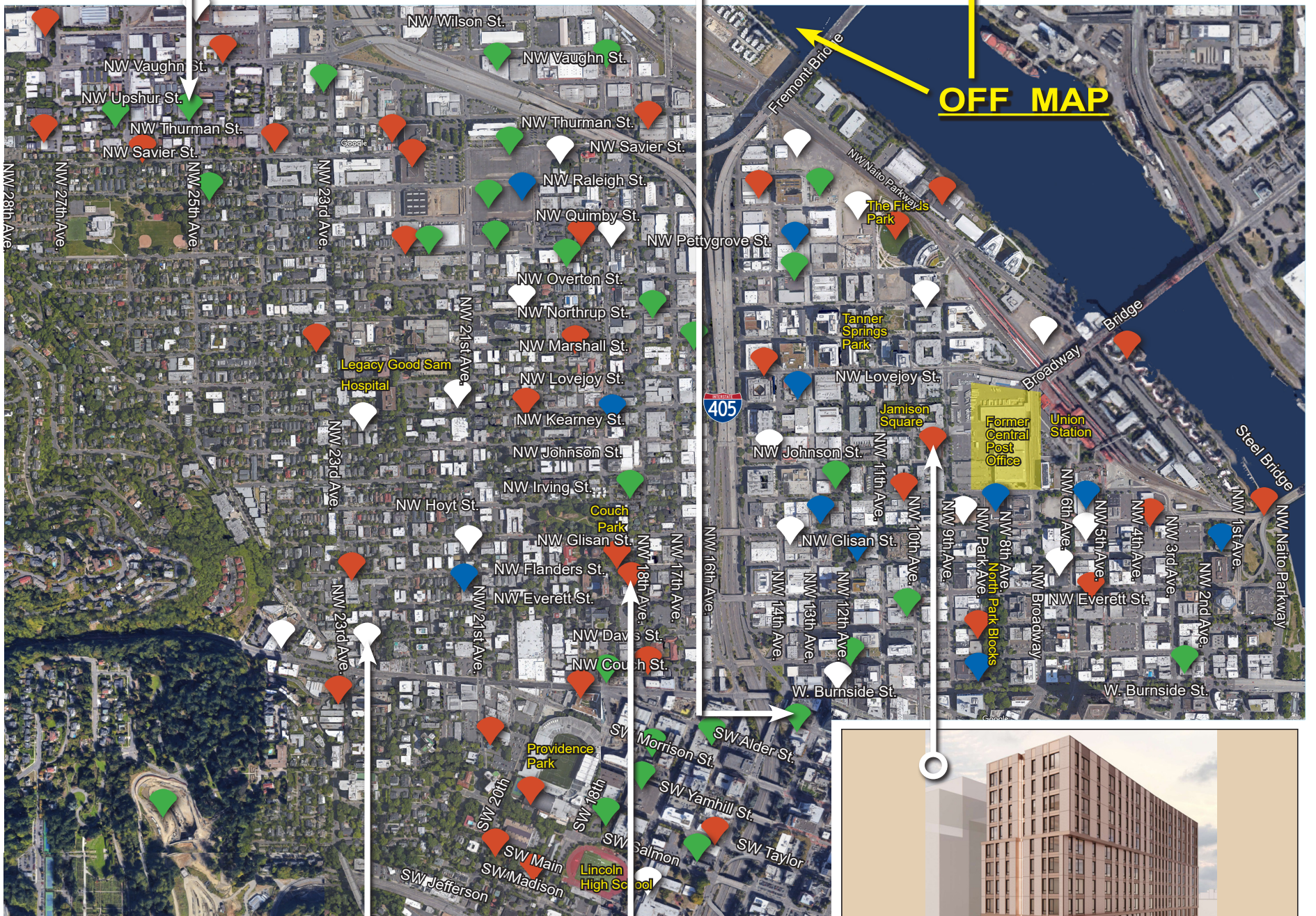
TAFT HOME

McMenamins is converting the former Taft Home, a low-income structure erected in 1907, into a 63-room hotel with a gift shop, three restaurants and a skybridge linking it to the Crystal Ballroom. Cassidy's Restaurant and Bar and Scooter McQuades will remain open during the renovation.



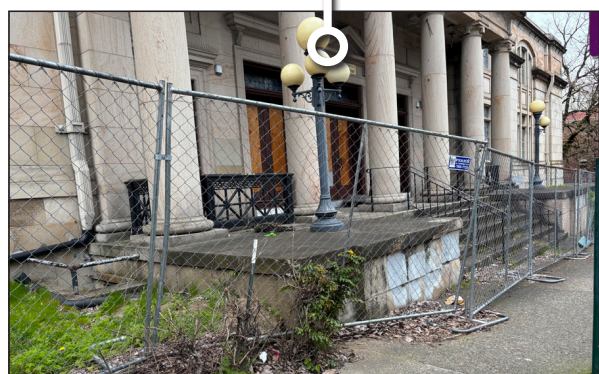
TERMINAL 1

The Port of Portland shared plans to turn its former marine terminal on Northwest Front Avenue into a mass timber and housing innovation campus. The plans were shared last month at a Reimagine the River conference. The 39-acre site could include the University of Oregon's Acoustics Research & Energy Studies in Buildings Labs and manufacturing facilities.



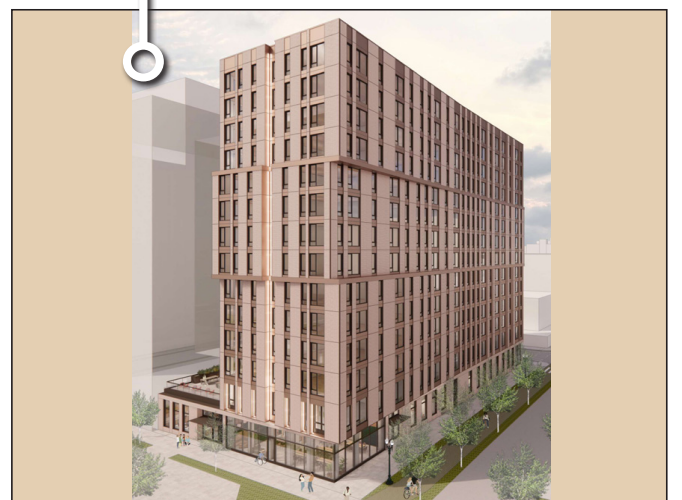
ELEPHANTS DELICATESSEN

Elephants Delicatessen's flagship location at 115 NW 22nd Ave. was badly damaged by fire March 10, and remains closed. "We are assessing the damage and are going to do everything we can to rebuild," according to a statement posted on the company's website.



CULTURAL CENTER

The sale of the Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center, 1819 NW Everett St., remains in limbo four years after a Las Vegas developer proposed converting the 1911 national landmark into a social club and hospitality center. Founders Developments has stopped making monthly payments and is seeking assistance to pay \$250,000 in fees required to review a redevelopment application. A virtual annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, at 6 p.m.



NORTHWEST NINTH AND JOHNSON

Prosper Portland is seeking an adjustment for a 232-unit low-income housing project at Northwest Ninth and Johnson streets to define a 100-foot-wide window atop the 14-story building as a bay window, thereby allowing it to extend over the public right of way and provide more interior space. Pearl District Neighborhood Association Planning and Transportation Committee reviewed the application Chair Sean Sweat said, "It feels like cheating."



This page produced entirely by Lincoln High School students.

The Cardinal Times

PPS changes district zones to increase Jefferson High School enrollment

By SIRENA CHEN and SKYLAH FOSTER

On Jan. 13, the Portland Public Schools (PPS) school board voted unanimously to end a policy allowing students who live in Jefferson High School's catchment area to attend McDaniel, Grant or Roosevelt instead of Jefferson. The board then adopted Superintendent Kimberlee Armstrong's proposal for new zones to increase Jefferson enrollment to 1100 students or more by the 2030-2031 school year. The zones will change in fall 2027, first affecting students who are currently in 7th grade.

Jefferson was considered a focus-option high school because it allowed students to dual enroll at Portland Community College for college credit. Jefferson principal Drake Shelton explained that as an option school, some students in defined "dual assignment zones" were able to choose to attend a high school other than Jefferson.

Shelton said that "instead of increasing the enrollment, [the dual assignment zone] decreased it."

Jefferson currently has approximately 400 students, while the district's other high schools each have more than 1000. Low enrollment leads to less funding and fewer educational programs able to be offered at Jefferson.

The school board weighed two other scenarios for the new zoning plans. Scenario A would have sent Beach Elementary School's Spanish dual immersion program to Roosevelt, while all other feeder schools would go to Jefferson. Scenario B would have sent

both Beach and Peninsula Elementary School students to Roosevelt and the remaining feeders to Jefferson. The adopted Scenario C zones Beach and Peninsula to Roosevelt, Irvington Elementary School to Grant, and all other feeders to Jefferson.

PPS board student representative Ian Ritoro said that in the hundreds of emails he received from community members, an overwhelming majority of students opted for Scenario B because it maximized Jefferson enrollment without tanking another school's student count.

"Many in the community viewed [Scenario] B as a sort of reparations for Jefferson, which had been critically under enrolled for years and years," said Ritoro. "I was disappointed that [the board] did not end up taking the student representatives' recommendation into account."

Principal Shelton believes Jefferson will be able to offer more programs such as Advanced Placement (AP) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes in the future as enrollment rises.

"We also will be continuing our partnership with [Portland Community College] with the growth of enrollment," said Shelton.

Increased enrollment at Jefferson would change the racial makeup of the school. Jefferson is currently 47% Black or Native American students, but the adopted proposal predicts that this number will drop to 26%.

Jefferson seniors and district student council representatives Brian Nguyen and Taliyah Pratt hope

that Jefferson can maintain its unique culture.

"[We're] trying to preserve [old murals] and bring those over to our new school, especially since they have a lot of Black... and multicultural themes inside of them," said Pratt.

They also aim to keep the Jefferson community feeling intimate and close-knit.

"A lot of incoming students are going to feel displaced," said Nguyen. "We're trying to figure out ways on how to make incoming students feel comfortable in our school environment."



Portland Public Schools has planned to renovate and modernize Jefferson High School since 2012.

By SKYLAH FOSTER

Lockdown strengthens door policies

By SCARLETT DEMPSEY and MEGHAN WHITTEN

Sirens sounded, followed by announcements to "secure the perimeter" and then "lockdown." On Feb. 17, what began as a typical day at Lincoln High School quickly shifted into a lockdown. Instead of sitting at their desks, students hid in corners, some trembling, others confused. Two people not affiliated with Lincoln, aged 15 and 22, fled the scene of a stabbing near the MAX train at Southwest Main Street and Southwest Broadway, according to Principal Peyton Chapman. The suspects then fled and ran to Lincoln.

The secure perimeter was announced at 10:57 a.m. because of police activity outside but was immediately turned into a lockdown when the suspects entered the building at 10:58 a.m.

According to Vice Principal Travis Johnson, the people jumped the South fence near Blue Star Donuts at 10:57 a.m. and were then let into the commons at the athletic entrance by a student at 10:58 a.m.

Police were in pursuit when the suspects were let into the building and the two individuals were arrested by the Portland Police Department (PPD) inside Lincoln on the second floor in front of the counseling office and were arrested at 10:59 a.m.

According to Johnson, once the suspects were ap-



Performing at the Lunar New Year festival at Lincoln, left to right, senior Noah Von Dem Brunch, senior Kaden Wong, junior Marshall Brayton and two of their teammates.

By HANA FARES

prehended, the admin and campus security went to each classroom unlocking doors and giving the all clear to each classroom over the next 20 minutes. All classes were cleared by 11:30am.

Senior Dylan McCleary was scared, especially knowing her sister was in the building. They were both on the fourth floor.

"I was definitely feeling a lot of fear, just knowing that this is actually happening at our high school," said McCleary. "I am now having more fear for [my sister] too because she is a freshman and I'm not going to be able to be around her [during school emergencies]."

Following the lockdown on Feb. 17, Lincoln's administration put signs on all of the school doors indicating that opening a locked door for anyone, including friends and classmates, will result in an automatic suspension and that cameras will be more closely monitored. Vice Principal Travis Johnson explains that it has always been against the rules to let people into the building through doors that are locked.

"There's nothing new. We've always been [saying] 'don't open doors.' We're advertising it more. That's what feels new," said Johnson. "We have students that had consequences for opening the doors for other people ... We're going to put effort over here to make sure that we're ... getting the word out and then using cameras to track it."

Principal Chapman emphasizes that these door policies are designed to benefit the community and ensure the safety of everyone by not allowing non-students into the building.

IB Chem'music'stry: Teachers who were in bands

By CURTIS BEAUBRUN

Teaching chemistry is not the only thing IB Chemistry teachers Joel Laney and Nathan Watson share in common. The teachers both played in bands as teenagers and college students.

Both started playing in bands during their high school years, Laney as a vocalist and guitarist, and Watson as a guitarist. Laney was inspired to join by his love for music and producing.

"I've played music my whole life, and I've played in bands since high school to COVID," said Laney. "The synergy out of a group of people, like the music that's produced, is far greater than the individual parts."

Meanwhile, Watson looks back on his years in his Ska band named Five Times Fast, where he was a member in high school and college.

"Those are formative times where you're just becoming an independent adult for the first time, exploring your interests with close friends, so I look back on those times really, really fondly," said Watson.

Being in a band helped both of them improve their life skills. For Laney, this was communication and time

management.

"[Being in a band taught me] how to work with a group of people towards a collective goal," said Laney. "[It also helped with time management] because there are X number of people that are relying on you to show up at a certain place at a certain time and to be prepared."

For Watson, being in a band helped him develop more confidence.

"When you're able to stand in front of a group of people and perform music that you wrote or put yourself out there... it helps you to build confidence in public speaking, in just being in crowds in general," said Watson.

Both teachers recommended joining a band.

"Beyond just the playing and creation of music and the creativity, there's a satisfaction and joy that comes from...becoming as good as you can at something," said Laney.

"It really makes you think about life in a slightly different way from a perspective of a performer and artist," said Watson.

As chemistry teachers, they are able to use their love for music to better teach the subject.



Chemistry teacher Nathan Watson still regularly meets with the members of his band to play music.

Courtesy of NATHAN WATSON

"I use music as an analogy in some of my lesson planning. I talk about how music can be a way to think about quantized energy versus continuous energy," said Watson. "A piano plays individualized notes, versus a violin, which you can kind of play a spectrum of sounds on."

Roma Hartman



Roma Lue Hartman, who lived in Willamette Heights and Arlington Heights, died March 3 at age 95. Roma Nelson was born on March 14, 1930, in Ferron, Utah, and grew up in Salem. She graduated in 1952 from the University of Oregon School of Nursing, then located in Northwest Portland. She renewed

her nursing license in 1974 and worked for many years in local clinics. She was a lifelong artist in watercolors, beading, tile ceramics, tailoring and furniture refinishing and was a member of the Oregon Society of Artists. In 1951, she married Stanley E. Hartman; he died in 2007. She moved to Bethany Village in 2010. She is survived by her daughters, Deborah Hartman and Donna Morrow; brother, Grant Nelson; sisters, Irene Williams and Shirley Cook; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Roger Leachman



Roger Mack Leachman, a Goose Hollow resident, died on March 19 at age 83. He was born in Stillwater, Okla., on June 3, 1942. At age 8, his family moved to Richmond, Va., where he graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School. He graduated with an English degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1967

and from the University of North Carolina with a master's in library science in 1973. His studies were interrupted by service in the Army. He had a long career in librarianship in Virginia, Minnesota and Michigan. He moved to Portland in 2011, where he served on the board of the Goose Hollow Foothills League. He was awarded the NW Examiner Good Government Award in 2018. He is survived by his son, James; daughter, Emily; and two grandchildren. There will be a celebration of life on Sunday, May 17, 2:30 p.m., at Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33rd Ave.

Death notices:

BARBARA COVEY, 96, Forest Heights resident.

CHARLES GILMAN DAVIS JR., 73, 1970 Lincoln High School graduate.

ROBERT E. JOSEPH, 90, former Hillside resident.

STEPHEN REID METZ, 67, grew up in Portland Heights.

MARY JULIANN DIETZLER, 82, member of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and Portland Garden Club.

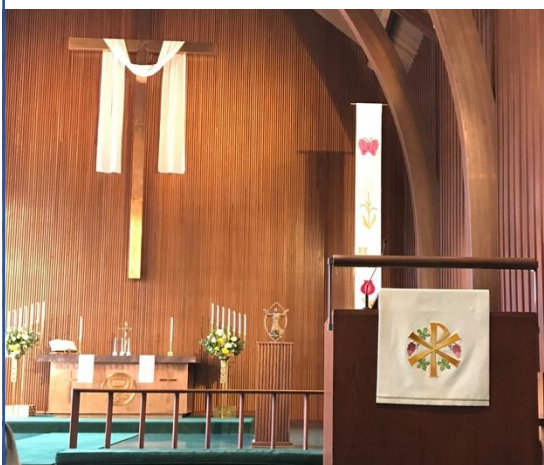
JACK PORTLAND, 79, artist and instructor at Pacific Northwest College of Art.

LORRAINE (ENGBRECHT) DUNEZANT, 95, member of St. Patrick's Grade School class of 1944.

DR. GEORGE FREDERICK GROSS, 84, surgeon at Good Samaritan Medical Center.

PETER PITTOCK, 80, grew up in Portland Heights, 1963 graduate of Lincoln High School.

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Indeed!

Hallelujah!

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Good Friday worship 7:30

Easter Festive worship with
Columbia Brass, organ and
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And He shall reign forever and ever.
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Cornell Road was closed for the last half of March due to a major landslide between the tunnels. Another mid-month landslide created a sinkhole under Cornell between Northwest Thompson and Skyline Boulevard, a section that remains closed.

Southwest Fairmount Boulevard has also been closed since March 27 due to another landslide.



County funding to operate the River District Navigation Center on Northwest Naito Parkway may end July 1. The Pearl District Neighborhood Association has not taken a position on continued operation of the center, though there is a growing consensus that a good neighbor agreement has failed to mitigate livability impacts in the vicinity.



Volunteers pushed cars along Northwest 28th Avenue away from the fire that consumed the Forestry Center in 1964. Paul Hoopes, who grew up in Willamette Heights (1960-1980) colorized and enhanced an Oregonian photo and posted it on the We Grew Up in Willamette Heights Facebook page.

Sharon Meieran, who is contemplating a run for Multnomah County chair, shared her assessment of the county's structural and accountability problems with Friends of Couch Park recently. Displaying a convoluted organizational chart reflecting the current dysfunction in county government, Meieran said no one knows where money is flowing, and no one is overseeing grants to measure results.



After two Better Ideas Forums organized by the NW Examiner in February and March, three working groups will develop action plans in the areas of government structure and responsiveness, making cleaner, more enticing streets and sidewalks; and bringing businesses and residents to the city's core.

Am I doing this for nothing?

substack



I am deeply grateful for all who have subscribed and donated to the NW Examiner and made it possible to continue our mission. Free distribution made sense in our formative years (our first 35), and we remain committed to informing the public as broadly as possible.

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Allan Classen, Editor & Publisher

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