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pack 'em in

JULY 2026/ VOLUME 39, NO. 11

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The mysterious Mister Gilbert



(Above) Michael Gilbert testified before Multnomah County commissioners against restrictions on needle handouts, saying there is no evidence that the practice increases litter or drug use.

(Right) Gilbert plays a behind-the-scenes role at Portland People's Outreach Project drug paraphernalia handouts.



The scientist and his team of needle-dispensing street toughs

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The cluster of masked hoodlums seen on video taunting Michelle Milla at her front gate the night of Sept. 13, 2024, did not happen along randomly. A masked stranger had earlier looked up at the security camera mounted on her house on Northwest 19th Avenue and said, "Hi Michelle."

They knew who she was and where she lived. Perhaps more disturbingly, she knew what they had against her.

Before reaching her gate and safety, Milla and her friend Pete Colt were walking near her home when about 12-15 masked people boxed them in, front and back. They moved faster to no avail.

"They chased us block to block to Everett, calling out, 'You gotta run ... Where are the rest of your friends?'"

She and Colt finally found refuge in the King's Hookah Lounge just a half block from her house. They called the Portland Police, which sent two officers to escort them.

Colt, a street savvy protector of this area for decades, told

Continued on page 6

Moses shall lead them

PBOT pays consultant in the strangest of places

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Why does the Portland Bureau of Transportation pay the consultant running meetings of the Northwest Parking Stakeholders Advisory Committee out of "meeting and office supplies"?

Christine Moses has provided her services through EnviroIssues Inc. since 2024. With her payments piled in, meeting and office supplies expenditures have exploded from about \$5,000 a year to \$50,000.

Lumping her services in with office supplies has been the practice for at least two years, despite numerous questions from committee members and this publication.

Is it akin to hiding a secret stash in a sock drawer? Does it shield payments from the eyes of city officials and auditors? Could it be a ploy to bury funds to a DEI specialist where the Trump administration

won't notice?

All questions are fair game because no better explanations have been offered.

I grew so frustrated with the stonewalling that I did something extraordinary: I spoke in the public comment period of the SAC meeting in May. Even that elicited no answers, either at the moment or in the following month. Later, when the official recording of the meeting was released, I found that it ended just before the public comment period, which I found suspicious of foul play. (The missing section has since been added.)

To be sure the message got out, I reenacted my statement and posted it at <https://nwexaminer.com/p/the-message-the-bureau-of-transportation>.

Then I asked SAC members whether they have been properly informed about the meeting

Continued on page 8



The Portland Bureau of Transportation has been hiding payments to consultants serving a neighborhood advisory body under "meeting and office supplies."

Pearl shelters closing, details still in air

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

The controversial Northrup Street Shelter is expected to close this year, though no one knows when.

Pearl District Neighborhood Association President Bruce Studer announced to 500 people at a June 22 town hall in the Armory

that he had just been assured by Portland Solutions Director Skyler Bocker-Knapp that the last day would be in "late fall," which ends Dec. 21.

The best chance for an earlier closure would come if the city finds another use for the space at 1435 NW Northrup St., in

Continued on page 13

Watch for details on NW Examiner District 4 candidates debate on Sept. 14

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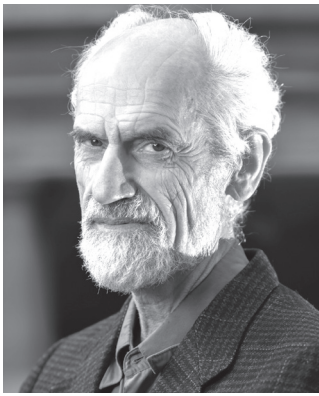
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Portland’s paradox

Sooner than most cities, Portland grasped the transportation paradox known as induced demand, sometimes stated as, “You can’t build your way out of traffic congestion.”

Road-building zealot Robert Moses defied all limits in erecting bridges and running parkways through New York City in the mid-20th century, yet every massive project just bred more traffic and congestion. For decades, the press and public accepted his diagnosis that the solution lay in constructing the next grand bridge or throughway.

Moses was a true believer in this approach, which coincidentally expanded his political power and financial hold over the city. He controlled public authorities that collected tolls from every driver, and those authorities could not be retired as long as he issued more bonds for additional infrastructure.

By the 1960s, transportation scholars caught up with the game and demonstrated why new roadways compounded the problem they were intended to relieve: They caused more people to drive. New Yorkers filled the new lanes like water running downhill.

It didn’t help that Moses pooh-poohed every alternative to automobiles. He let the subways and mass transit decline and become so unreliable and uncomfortable that most commuters were forced to drive.

Moses visited Portland in 1943 and imparted this vision on the Rose City—an auto-centric plan that included Interstate 405, the Harbor Drive Expressway and the Mount Hood Freeway. We built the first, installed and later removed the second, and rejected the third. More importantly, we developed comprehensive plans that emphasized alternative transportation and preserving livability. Avoiding auto trips became our north star.

We can argue about whether we’ve struck the right balance, but our plans now account for the reality of induced demand.

How long will it take us to recognize that induced demand also pertains to the “freeway” of social services for addicts, mental illness sufferers and others unable to live independently in our city? Provide the path of least resistance to those incapable



of acting in their best long-term interests, and they will flow toward it.

Like Robert Moses, advocates of expanding social services to all in need will see evidence that increasing the supply is the only answer. Also like Robert Moses, this path paves their personal security and that of the institutions they represent, not to mention their political hold over their party. Their pitch for public donations and government dollars is buttressed by data on the ever-expanding consumption of their services. Meals served, tents distributed and supplies handed out have been the metric to measure accomplishment.

Eventually, Moses lost political standing as the horrific growth of New York City auto trips overwhelmed the assurances he had been making since the 1930s. In 2018, the same city became the first in America to limit private auto access to its downtown.

When will Portland realize that the spiraling demand for addiction, mental health and homeless services has something to do with how we supply it?

We may be inducing that demand by no-questions-

asked provision of the things this population seeks. What became of a social contract to provide immediate services to those in need in return for their enrollment in a program of recovery and independence? Without such a figurative contract, an overwhelming share of recipients take what they can get at the moment and opt out of further engagement.

How will we know if we have been inducing demand and compounding the problem we seek to solve? Studies asking where aid recipients came from abound; most of them superficial and few persuasive because they have reflected the assumptions of the parties commissioning them.

The test is on the streets. Is our city becoming cleaner and safer?

The impending closure of the Northrup Street Shelter and the River District Navigation Center will eliminate about 300 shelter beds in the Pearl District later this year. If we do not see a corresponding increase in the number of people living outdoors, that suggests our past practices have induced demand. If the number actually goes down, I would take that as more than a suggestion. ■

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.

Spend Green's \$1 million where it can do the most good

In May, Councilor Mitch Green proposed and the council approved redirecting \$1 million from the homelessness sweeps budget into sanitation and hygiene. Now the city has to decide how to put that money to work. Here is a proposal:

Stand up a single sanctioned, serviced site—a designated lot with toilets, running water, showers, trash collection and the low-barrier jobs the amendment calls for. Everything Green's amendment funds could be concentrated in one place, where it can reach people, instead of scattered down a

hundred sidewalks. When the city sweeps a campsite, offer not only shelter placement, as we do today, but a designated, sanctioned campsite. Let’s take the councilor at his word. He says the goal is dignity, not displacement. Meeting people where they are. A serviced site delivers exactly that. It is voluntary. Campers there won’t be swept anywhere. It is simply a place to go that has a bathroom, which is more than a doorway on Northwest Glisan Street offers. It would also move tents and human waste off the sidewalks of Northwest, the Pearl and Old Town into one managed place. That serves our unhoused

neighbors and the rest of us at the same time. Is \$1 million enough? It won't build a pod village. Those run a few million a year. But toilets and water are procurement, not construction. They can be gotten in a matter of weeks. Portland ran sanctioned campsites under the previous mayor. Money is no longer the obstacle. So the question is simple: Will the city let the dollars it just moved do the thing they were intended to do?

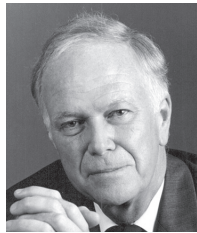
David Gray
NW Couch St.

Comments on nwexaminer.com

Tom Dundon deal akin to extortion

Richard Vidan
Spot on! Economic consensus shows that major league sports arenas and stadiums rarely provide a positive financial return or massive economic growth for host cities. While proponents argue that facilities boost local business and tax revenue, extensive research indicates that sports venues do not increase overall employment or average income levels.

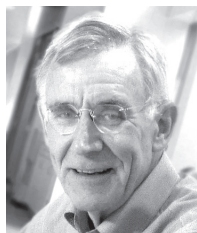
Robert W. Packwood



Robert W. Packwood, a U.S. senator for 27 years who lived in the Campbell Court Apartments in recent years, died June 6 at age 93. He was born on Sept. 11, 1932, in Portland. He graduated from Willamette University in 1954 with a degree in political science. After attending law school in New York, he returned to

Oregon to become the youngest member of the Senate in 1968 at age 36. During his 27-year tenure, he was an advocate for abortion rights and environmental protection. He resigned in 1993 over allegations of sexual misconduct before an anticipated Senate expulsion vote. He formed a lobbying and consulting firm in Washington, D.C. He married Georgie Oberteuffer Crockatt in 1964; they divorced in 1991. He married Elaine Franklin in 1998. He is survived by his son, William; daughter Shyla Middleton; stepsons Simon and Jonathan Franklin; and three grandchildren.

George M. Crandall



George Miller Crandall, a prominent architect and Northwest District resident for many decades, died on June 9 at age 88. He was born in Sudbury, Ontario, on July 16, 1937, and moved to Tucson, Arizona, to major in civil engineering at the University of Arizona from 1956 to 1960. He returned to

earn an architecture degree from the university in 1967. He married Laura Ann Chestnut in 1960. They moved in 1968 to Portland, where he was the lead architect for Skidmore, Owings and Merrill when it designed the 42-story U.S. Bancorp Tower known as "Big Pink." In 1998, Crandall and Don Arambula co-founded Crandall Arambula. He chaired the urban design company of the American Institute of

Architects' Portland chapter. He published a book, "Fixing Your City: Creating Thriving Neighborhoods & Adapting to a Changing World," in 2018. Ann Crandall died in 2007. He married Marilyn Sewell in 2009. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; and daughters Robin Crandall and Laurie Crandall.

Marjorie Kafoury



Marjorie "Mimi" Kafoury, a Pearl District resident since 2004, died June 10 at age 82. Marjorie Murlin was born on April 7, 1943, in Rochester, N.Y., and graduated from Central Valley High School in Spokane, Wash. She attended Washington State University and Portland State University. She married Stephen

Kafoury in 1976. She was elected to the first Metro Council in 1978, and was later director of government relations for the city of Portland for 19 years. She served on the boards of the City Club, Portland Playhouse, Portland Center Stage and Oregon Planned Parenthood. She is survived by her husband, Stephen; brother, William Murlin; stepdaughters, Deborah Kafoury and Katharine Kafoury; and three step-grandchildren.

Joan Strand



Joan Strand, a longtime Portland Heights resident who cofounded the Women of Good Samaritan, died June 6 at age 95. Joan Blakely was born n May 13, 1931, and attended Alameda Grade School and Grant High School, graduating in 1949. She volunteered with Green Gables Guest House at Legacy Good Samaritan

Medical Center and for Hopewell House. She married Don D. Strand, who preceded her in death. She is survived by her sons, Doug and Don; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on Friday, July 24, 2 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

Frank F. Lolich Jr.



Frank Ferdinand Lolich Jr., who grew up in Northwest Portland, died June 7 at age 80. He was born on July 29, 1945, in Atlantic City, N.J., but moved as an infant to Portland. He starred as a baseball pitcher at Central Catholic High School and Brigham Young University. He was drafted by the New York Mets in

1966 and pitched five seasons in their minor league system. After earning a degree at Portland State University, he worked for 30 years for the Campbell Soup Co. In 1975, he married Linda Olsen, and they operated Lolich Farms, specializing in u-pick blueberries. After their divorce, he married Cheryl LaMont in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl; daughters, Erin and Dina; stepchildren, Erin and Brian; siblings, Ron, Barbara and Patti; and one grandchild.

Roger Decker



Roger Phillip Decker, who spent most of his career at the Braley & Graham GM auto dealership on West Burnside Street, died April 19 at age 84. He was born on July 18, 1941, in Portland and attended Alameda Grade School and Grant High School. He married Karen Davis in 1967; she died in 1999. He married

Lynda Wonacott in 2001. He was a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club. He is survived by his wife, Lynda; daughters, Kim Reed and Elizabeth McBride; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Hugh V. Lacey III



Hugh V. Lacey III died in his Northwest District home on May 3 at age 72. He was born on Sept. 15, 1953, and grew up in Portland Heights, where he attended St. Thomas More Catholic School. He graduated from Jesuit High School. He had a

35-year career selling commodities for several firms. He is survived by his brother, Dan; and sister, Ann Lacey. A celebration of life will be held on Friday, July 24, 1-5 p.m., at the Old Market Pub in the Garden Home neighborhood.

Death notices

WILLIAM H. SACK, 91, lived 43 years on Northwest Vaughn Street.

MARGARET BEATTIE, 74, graduate of Ainsworth Grade School and Lincoln High School.

ELIZABETH HYSLOP, 88, Goose Hollow resident.

DAVID E STEINER, 89, grew up in Goose Hollow.

JOHN R. EMRICK, 83, former owner of Norm Thompson Outfitters.

JEANNE BARTHELMESS, 95, docent at Pittock Mansion.

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detail of image:
Rebecca Boraz



Trail Blazer's owner Tom Dundon is demanding \$600 million in improvements to the 1995 Moda Center.

Scott Spencer

I suspect Tom Dundon currently has more negotiating leverage than the city. If the Blazers leave, Portland would still own an aging arena requiring substantial maintenance, and attracting another NBA franchise would likely require many of the same investments being debated today. Dundon is also a seasoned businessman who built his fortune through hard-nosed negotiations. Assuming he is bluffing would be a risky negotiating strategy.

Multnomah adopts limits to needle distribution

Talian Giardini

I love this, but it should not have taken two years and countless government hours to get this common sense ordinance passed. Only in Portland and most of the West Coast is this tolerated. We need to make it illegal to hand out pipes and foil.

Richard Cheverton

So much energy expended, so little return. It avoids the central issue--government support of hard-core drug use. The harm reduction people are laughing in their tin foil over this cowardice.

Follow the money on participatory budgeting

Suzanne Kahn

I'm puzzled. I thought the charter change to three city councilors per district was to create more diverse "power" over city spending and projects. If the councilors are doing their job, why would we need the public to directly control \$16 million? And frankly, more than doubling the City Council and

their offices was already a budget cut. Unknown and unaccountable entities don't inspire confidence.

Northrup Shelter closing pushed off

Kris Bennett

Low barrier shelters enable addicts to be addicts. They do nothing to help anyone, and certainly do not belong in any neighborhoods. Mayor Wilson needs to start thinking about law abiding citizens rather than bending over backwards to enable homeless addicts.

The message Bureau of Transportation didn't want to hear

Jon Gramstad

[The consultant was] self described as "a boutique consulting firm specializing in restorative conversations." One needs to ask, what lame ass bureaucrat saw that and said, "Wow, we really need a restorative conversation"?

Roger Sanders

How much algae in democracy's reflecting pool must we ignore?

Reset Oregon's Bottle Bill

Mike Burton

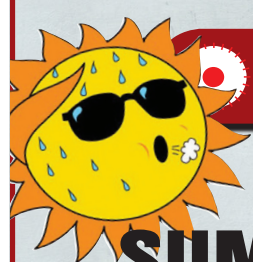
Phil and Ken are forward thinking on an issue that has been a hallmark for Oregon but has turned into an issue in many ways. A one year pause to think through the issues is a good idea. I especially like the idea to take cash out of the system and replace it with non-cash incentives.

Kate Ludwig

Such good ideas. ... I loved the Bottle Bill but we need dramatic changes. Now.

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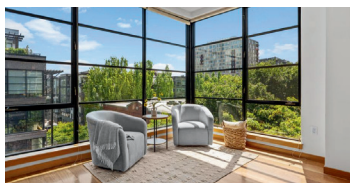
Stellar City view from this 12th floor. Nice office space with built-ins as you enter condo. Utility room with storage. Gorgeous floors and large balcony.

RECENTLY SOLD



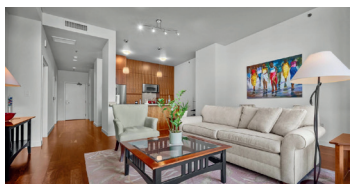
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Michael Gilbert told Multnomah County Commissioners that there are better ways to reduce harm from used syringes than interfering with the needle distribution program he supports.



Two years ago, Michelle Milla needed a police escort to safely reach her front gate.

"The mysterious" cont'd from page 1

her he had never encountered anything like it before. Nor had she.

As police officers let her off at her gate, her tormenters had the final chilling words: "Goodnight, Michelle." "Sleep well."

After their intimidating performance, the band regrouped nearby, where another camera caught their debriefing. The now-unmasked young marauders were greeted by a middle-aged man, who gave high-fives and hugs.

That gray-haired man supporting and perhaps orchestrating the action was Michael Gilbert, who, according to a

since-deleted LinkedIn page, is a senior lead scientist at Booz Allen Hamilton, a major provider of cybersecurity services to the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission. The page also described Gilbert as a "public health technologist."

What business did Gilbert have with street hooligans? The cheerleader may also be their financier. The Friday night drug paraphernalia handouts at Northwest 19th and Couch streets were started in 2015 by Portland People's Outreach Project, an unregistered entity whose website touts the radical philosophy that everyone has the right to choose what they put into their bodies without social judgment or sanction. The project was launched by nurses bringing

supplies on their bicycles, but things ramped up in 2023 when the group got a van, a clean new stretch model registered to Michael Gilbert.

PPOP's 19th and Couch location put it on a collision course with Milla, who moved there with her husband in 2023 and began documenting the patterns eating away at their safety and "quiet enjoyment" of their home. She and neighbors formed Stadiumhood Neighbors the next year. They took photos and videos, held counter demonstrations in which they stood together in vigils by the tables where supplies and snacks were handed out. Eventually the news media took interest, especially KPTV, which broadcast its own investigations and even-more revealing videos.

Stadiumhood invited elected officials to walk with them through their neighborhood and see for themselves. That led to proposed state legislation to regulate mobile "harm reduction" supplies near schools. Multnomah County just adopted its own ordinance as a stopgap measure awaiting possible state action in 2027.

None of this could be pleasing to Gilbert, who is not a recent convert to the libertarian approach to illicit drug use. He was involved with a harm reduction campus organization as a student at Harvard University, according to his LinkedIn page.

While PPOP describes itself as "a volunteer peer-run organization," Gilbert, who lives in a large single-family home in Pleasant Valley in outer southeast Portland, stands apart from the people availing themselves of survival supplies.

In May, Gilbert testified at two Multnomah County hearings on a Safe School Zones ordinance that passed unanimously last month.

"My name is Michael Gilbert," he told the commission. "I'm an epidemiologist and sometimes advisor and volunteer with Portland Peoples Outreach Project, among other local public health outreach programs.

"Portland People's Outreach Project offered a Friday night mobile syringe services site at Northwest 19th and Couch starting in 2015 ... based on the prior and consistent presence of people who used drugs and the longstanding unmet need for harm reduction resources outside of brick-and-mortar business-hour services."

At his second appearance a week later, he was pressed to refute complaints of used needles, garbage and impacts on neighbors around PPOP sites, of which there are now seven in the city.

"I think the association between the operation of that program and the presence of drug litter is spurious," he testified, "and if the presence of drug litter persists, despite our absence for more than a year [from 19th and Couch streets], this further strains the assertion."

What would be unreasonable about merely banning needle handouts within 1,000 feet of schools? County Commissioner Julie Brim-Edwards asked.

"I think it's an arbitrary distance based on a tenuous if not completely spurious assertion that the presence of a mobile syringe program increases the presence of drug litter or the prevalence of public drug use," Gilbert replied.

PAULSON
COLETTI
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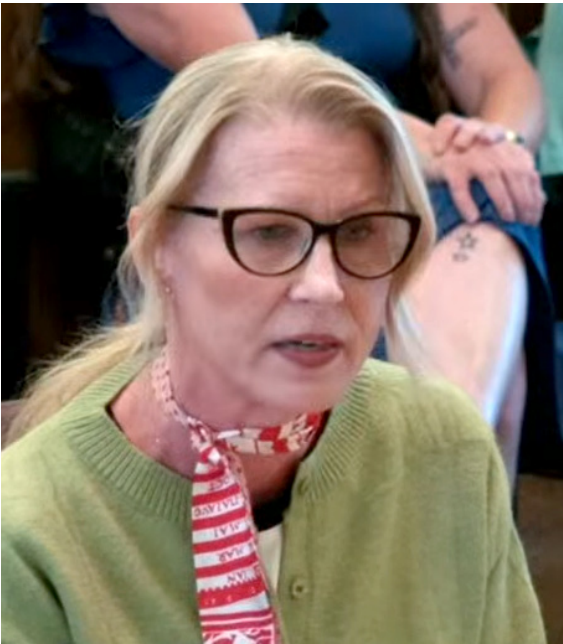
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Dear
Patsy

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Michelle Milla testified for the county's Safe School Zone ordinance.

After chasing Michelle Milla across her neighborhood, the masked Portland People's Outreach Project showed their faces.

That assertion set off even County Commissioner Meghan Moyer, a staunch supporter of harm reduction in general.

"I think it is profoundly naive to try to say that by having a needle distribution site we in no way contribute to people openly using drugs in the vicinity," Moyer said. "Of course they do."

"My child went to MLC [Metropolitan Learning Center]," she continued. "I don't think anybody who was around Couch Park over the last decade didn't know what an absolutely serious situation that was."

Gilbert was left to blame something else for the drug litter.

"I would like there to be fewer discarded syringes in the neighborhood. I would also like the prevalence of HIV and hep C to be lower, so that any needle sticks that do occur from the needles that persist in the neighborhood are less likely to harm any child who should encounter them. So, if you want to reduce the risk of harm related to drug litter, we should reduce the prevalence of hep C and HIV," he said.

Talia Giardini also testified at that meeting. Giardini is a nurse and a recovering substance abuser.

"PPOP does paraphernalia distribution," and does not provide health care, she said. "PPOP isn't known for following rules or respecting community. They are known for intimidating the public, including myself and people in this room. Last week, I was harassed by PPOP right outside this boardroom for using my free speech."

Giardini was referring to an incident

recorded on a Multnomah County security camera. After leaving the May 21 board meeting, she said Gilbert stepped in front of her and called her a liar. She responded in kind, and soon the head of building security hurried to intervene.

"He [Gilbert] was in her face," said a Stadiumhood member. "He was very aggressive."

We left messages with Gilbert to explain his side of things, including the suspicion that he orchestrated harassment of Milla, but got no reply. We are particularly interested in how he connects his role as an epidemiologist to supplying paraphernalia to sufferers of the drug epidemic. Could PPOP be his laboratory for testing his theories?

Gilbert did not return our phone messages.

As for the harm imparted on communities by the untethered practice of harm reduction, Milla bears the scars. She told the Examiner that she had largely shut down her reaction to the 2024 incident when she was chased by a PPOP throng in her neighborhood.

"I've sort of not tried to process that, but I felt it all coming back when I saw Mike Gilbert. I really had to work up the courage to testify knowing he would be in the room," she said.

After going through the proper steps, seeking to meet with PPOP representatives and find compromise through proper channels, she ran into "violent intent ... It feels terrible. It still feels terrible."

"It's not something a resident should be knocked up against." ■

County ordinance passes unanimously

Last month, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted an ordinance establishing safe school zones in which mobile distribution of syringes is banned. Violators may be subject to civil action by the county to stop further distribution. It goes into effect on Aug. 24.

The measure is a stopgap in anticipation of more comprehensive regulation through state action in 2027, which District 17 Sen. Lisa Reynolds has promised to introduce.

Friends of Couch Park President Kara Colley, who worked for two years for sanctions against needle handouts in her neighborhood, called the modest ordinance a victory.

"It's setting a community standard of what is not acceptable next to schools," Colley said. "It's not perfect, but it's a small step forward for common sense."

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Christine Moses is paid for about eight-10 hours a month to facilitate a 90-minute meeting of the Northwest Parking Stakeholders Advisory Committee, but the budget shown committee members gives no clue as to where the money comes from.



ESTIMATED 2025-2026 Beginning Balance	
Project/Program	Expenditures Budgeted
Administration	
Staff	\$ 195,000
Meeting and Office Supplies	\$ 50,000
Annual Report and Outreach Materials	\$ 15,000
On-Street Parking	
RWC Contract Annual Data Collection & Analysis	\$ 80,000
Off-Street Parking	
Paystation(s) & expenses for Shared Parking	\$ 10,000
Off-Street Parking Set Aside	\$ -
TDM Programming	
NW Bike Parking Fund	\$ 12,000
Providence Park Enforcement Program	\$ 24,000
Transportation Wallet	
Transportation Wallet Program TOTAL	\$ 404,559
Capital Projects	
NWIM	\$ 400,000
Pedestrian Lighting - phase 3b	\$ 60,000
23/Kearney curb extension	\$ 300,000
Ped-scale lighting at 23/Kearney	\$ 250,000
20/Everett corner improvements	\$ 300,000
Curb Extension Painting + Maintenance	\$ 7,800
2026-2027 Total Expenditures	\$ 2,108,359

By the numbers

A public records request was fulfilled after this story was written.

Christine Moses has been paid \$33,475 for her work on behalf of the Northwest Parking Stakeholders Advisory Committee in the past 22 months. Her hourly rate is \$244.

Monthly breakdown of her time:

2 hours	Preparation with PBOT staff
1.5 hours	SAC meeting
1 hour	Debrief with PBOT staff
1 hour	Travel time to and from meeting
3.5 hours	Additional meetings (average)

Three other outside consultants are also being paid to staff the same meetings; two trade off in taking notes (even though the meetings are recorded and transcripts made automatically) and one to handle “strategy meetings if sensitive parking management issues are moving forward.”

Their hourly rates range from \$120-\$183 per hour. All receive an hour of paid travel time to attend the monthly meetings. Together, they received \$42,407 over the past 22 months.

website listing all payments to vendors, in this case to Buffalo Cloud Consulting. On her website, she defines her services as “diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging coaching,” work that helps in “healing my own racial trauma.”

In 2024, as President Donald Trump prepared to take office and declared war on government DEI programs, checks to Buffalo Cloud stopped.

Unbeknownst to the public, Moses continued her work as an employee or contractor of EnviroIssues., a Seattle-based firm with a broader range of services. We asked her if Trump’s policy was the reason for her new affiliation, and she said no.

Under whichever auspices, Moses still serves the Northwest Parking SAC, though her share of the take-home pay is harder to decipher. In fiscal year 2024-25, PBOT paid EnviroIssues \$56,000, and in the current

fiscal year, \$145,000. Not all of may have been for Moses’ services, but the share that was is a riddle.

How are SAC members or the public to know how much that is?

Moses and PBOT gave us no specifics. PBOT spokesperson Dylan Rivera affirmed the peculiar budget category and said the committee was aware of it.

“We shared with the committee during the meetings the total value of meeting support services that EnviroIssues was expected to provide,” said Rivera, who does not attend SAC meetings.

“This is not true,” said Pinger, a SAC member since 2022 and its most persistent monitor of performance details.

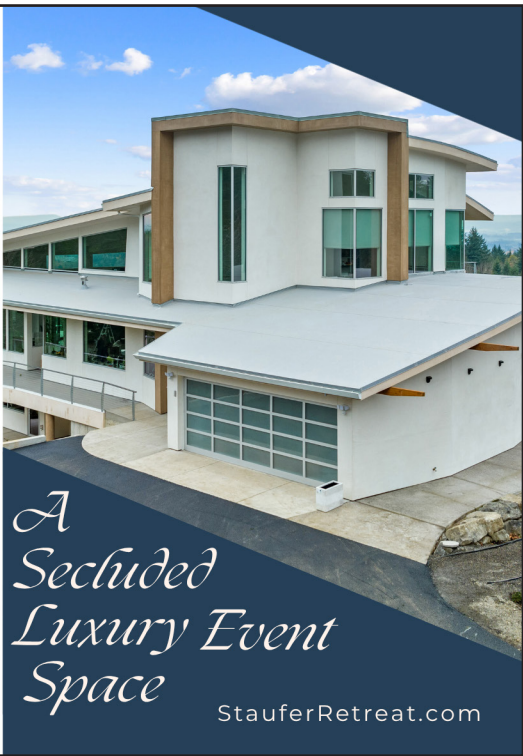
Pinger said this and other pertinent information have not been provided to the

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Welcome by appointment

Neighbors resist plan to park on Washington Park field

By Allan Classen

Officials of Explore Washington Park shared their plans to use the park’s soccer field for overflow parking four weekends this summer, but Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association representatives were leery.

They worried that allowing more cars into the park would bring traffic congestion, damage the field and possibly pave that way for a permanent parking lot. At the May meeting of the association board, there were also concerns about the lack of public outreach or studies to consider alternatives.

“How come no one’s doing a [traffic] circulation study, an environmental impact study and an engineering study?” AHNA board member Jay Shoemaker asked EWP interim Executive Director Mara Gross.

Without further community engagement or studies, EWP went ahead with an application to Portland Parks & Recreation on June 12.

AHNA President Darcy Wheelles responded with an eight-page letter to interim PP&R Director Sonia Schmanski two weeks later.

“Although presented as a temporary proposal, the 2025 EWP Transportation Access Plan ... explicitly states that temporary use of the Sherwood Field is intended to evaluate and demonstrate the feasibility of permanent parking on the site,” Wheelles wrote. “This proposal, therefore, cannot be reasonably viewed as a stand-alone nor short-term action. Approval of temporary parking will establish the precedent and create momentum to fulfill the plan for permanent conversion of the field to a parking lot.”

Arlington Heights neighbors remember the “temporary” 129-space West Lot opened during construction of the MAX station that remains in use 28 years after the station was completed. This despite the association winning a court decision showing the city had erred.

This application does not satisfy the 2018 Washington Park Master Plan or the EWP Transportation Access Plan, she wrote.

“EWP did not study alternative transportation options



for the north side of the park and did not complete a comprehensive traffic and alternative transportation study or environmental impact studies,” Wheelles’ letter continued. “The application is silent on field remediation: Who will repair the field following the temporary project, and how will repairs be funded?”

While EWP credited the presence of AHNA board member Kathy Goeddel on its own board as evidence of community engagement, Wheelles countered:

“No community nor neighborhood input, outside of discussions with AHNA’s representatives on EWP, was sought. ... Throughout the plan development process and subsequent discussions, neighborhood representatives consistently opposed conversion of Sherwood Field to parking and repeatedly requested evaluation of alternative strategies.”

The Olmsted Network, based in Washington, D.C., which describes itself as the “only national organization dedicated to championing Olmsted parks, places

and principles through advocacy, education and stewardship,” has taken an interest.

“Washington Park reflects the Olmsted tradition,” wrote Olmsted Network President Sue Breitkopf. “John Charles Olmsted recommended the changes in 1903 that gave the park its present name, entrance and circulation, building on Frederick Law Olmsted’s vision of parks as democratic spaces offering respite and access to nature for all. Open meadows are not surplus land awaiting development—they are fundamental to the park experience.

“The Olmsted Network respectfully urges Portland Parks & Recreation to protect Sherwood Field and prioritize people and landscape over the storage of automobiles,” Breitkopf concluded.

Wheelles said PP&R staff expects to process the application in July. Meanwhile, the association is considering a petition- and fund-drive to prepare should the plan move ahead. ■

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Pearl Culinary Farmers Market beyond all expectations



The Pearl Culinary Farmers Market has “re-ignited” Northwest 13th Avenue. Aerial photo by datguy_eddy

NOBBY NEWS

Vol. 32, No. 7 “News You Can’t Always Believe” July 2026

The one and only World Cup Watch Party

The Nob Hill Bar and Grill’s World Cup Watch Party draws competitors from around the world. Never mind those people in short pants chasing a ball who knows where, this Watch Party is the real thing.

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BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Those who have written Portland’s epitaph have not visited the Pearl District lately, certainly not on a Sunday, when the Pearl District Culinary Farmers Market bursts with energy.

“What began as a Pearl District gathering has grown into something the whole region is talking about—drawing visitors from Slabtown, the suburbs and beyond,” said Bruce Studer, president of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association, who announced the bold plan only two months earlier. “It has exceeded every expectation.”

About 2,000 visitors came to the opening day on June 7, and by the end of the month, the crowd was much larger. A third block of Northwest 13th Avenue will be added in July to accommodate the swelling interest.

Envisioned by Portland food and culture maven Kimiko Matsuda and Andina Restaurant founder Peter Platt, the market sells peak-season local produce,

artisan baked goods, flowers and local wines. Ready-to-eat meals are served by vendors and Pearl restaurants. Cooking demonstrations by local chefs, followed by live entertainment in the four-hour time slot between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. every week.

“We wanted to create a place where people can discover something new, connect with the people behind their food,” said Matsuda, executive producer of the market.

“The Sound Stage has become a signature attraction, spotlighting culinary chefs and outstanding live music every Sunday,” Studer said. “There is simply nothing else like this market in the city or state.”

Soul singer Tahirah Memory, Chamber Music Northwest, DJ Jess the Ripper and The Low Bar Chorale performed in June.

“This is more than a market,” Studer said. “It’s a reflection of the energy, creativity and community spirit that make the Pearl District special—and honestly, we’re just getting started.” ■



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grows



Maher “Mike” Makboul is “heartbroken” about closing the Sultan Cafe.

Sultan Cafe closing this month

The Sultan Cafe, operated at Northwest 18th and Quimby streets for 22 years by Maher “Mike” Makboul, will close by the end of July.

The COVID pandemic knocked down his business about 85% six years ago, but the combined departure of the Northwest Ambulatory Surgery Center and Jaguar Land Rover from the adjacent blocks finished him. A landlord he calls “unsupportive” didn’t help.

“It’s heartbreaking to watch it go down the drain,” said Makboul, who came from a Lebanese restaurant family in New York City. “It’s been my blood sweat and tears for 22 years. It’s meant everything to me.”

Google describes the Sultan as a “diverse cafe with hookah and coffee drinks plus a variety of light eats such as sandwiches and soups.” The menu includes gyros, shawarma, panini sandwiches, kebobs, burgers and salads.

He has tentative plans to revive the business in a food cart pod near Portland State University.

Briefly . . .



SHIRTZENPANTS, (above) 800 SW Washington St., a new thrift store across from Darcelle XV Plaza distinguished by a giant pair of denim-wearing legs at the entry. Products are categorized as “lumberjack,” “fancy” etc. This is SP’s third location (the others are in St. John’s and Beaverton). The cash wrap counter is made of two old pianos side by side and facing buyers, who may tinkle away while checking out. Earn a discount by writing a poem and submitting it to Poem promo. Open daily 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

2ND STREET USA, 820 SW Washington St., is a resale shop next to Shirtzenpants. It is part of an international company founded in Japan that sells “a creatively curated selection of luxury, street wear and vintage.”

CRYSTAL DELULU, featuring “luxury crystals for your most delusional (but iconic) life, just opened at 1455 NW 11th Ave. by Fields Park.

VOLUMES DESIGN LIBRARY, on the second floor at 426 SW Harvey Milk St., opened recently. Though not a lending library, visitors are invited to hang out, work or explore the vast collection of books, magazines and ephemera. A \$5 donation is suggested. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 1-5 p.m.

A chicken pick-up window and Portland-themed mural are nearly complete at **DAVE’S HOT CHICKEN**, which is taking over the Santa Fe Taqueria space, 839 NW 23rd Ave.



Forest Park Drive-In to reopen after 60 years

The long-abandoned 1960s-style drive-in restaurant at 8410 NW Skyline and Germantown roads is making a comeback.

Plans to improve the interior walls, add an exterior ramp and add a trash enclosure were filed with the Portland Permitting & Development office last month by the owner of an adjacent property. The restaurant, which has seating for 14, will not be enlarged.

The tenant who will be making the improvements is an LLC named “Pals of Forest Park” recently formed by Travis Henry, a Portland Heights resident.

Henry owns Henry Point Development, which has built substantial commercial, residential and public buildings in the metro area.

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21

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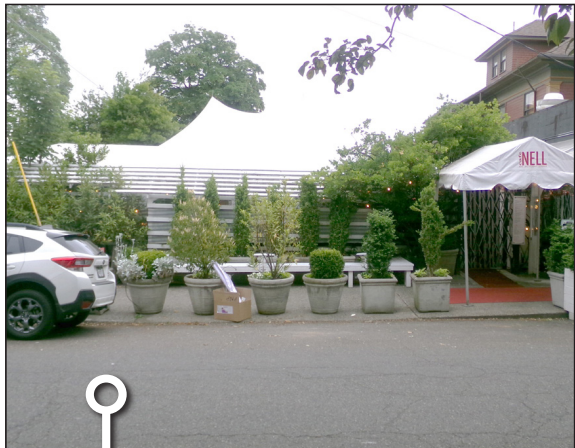
2640 NW ALEXANDRA AVE.

Preliminary interest in siting a residential drug treatment facility in the former White Shield Home at 2640 NW Alexandra Ave. in Willamette Heights has been abandoned. The only access is via the Alexandra Bridge, which does not have the weight capacity for emergency vehicles.



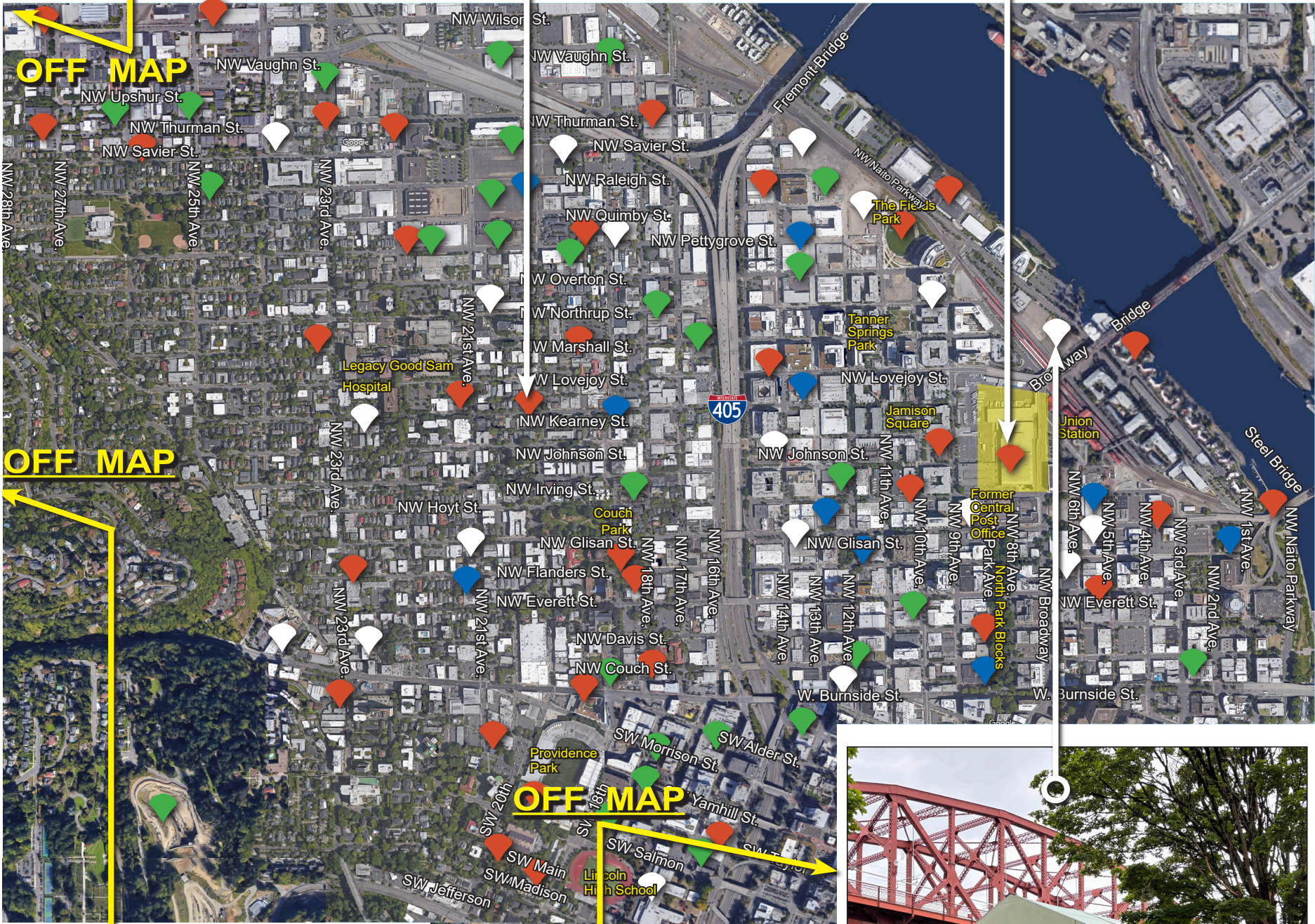
CAFE NELL

Cafe Nell's COVID-era temporary parking lot structure has been removed to make way for a two-building affordable housing complex at Northwest 20th and Kearney streets. Developer Parker McNulty of Carbon group now plans six- and seven-story buildings with a total of 95 units instead of a single tower.



NW NINTH AND JOHNSON

The second project on the former US Postal Service site will resemble the first: a 13 or more story, 200-unit affordable apartment building. It will occupy the northeast corner of Northwest Ninth and Johnson streets, across Johnson from 14-story, 230-unit affordable residential building approved earlier this year. Unlike the first project, preliminary plans include structured parking and commercial spaces.



FOREST PARK DRIVE-IN

The long abandoned 1960s-style drive-in restaurant at 8410 NW Skyline and Germantown roads may soon have new life. Henry Point Development, under a new LLC called Pals of Forest Park, plans to remodel but not expand the 700-square-foot building, according to plans filed with the city last month. Henry Point Development, founded by Portland Heights resident Travis Henry, has done residential, commercial and public infill projects in the metropolitan area.



KELLER AUDITORIUM

Advocates for Reimagining the Keller Auditorium are scaling back plans in light of city resistance to funding the \$236 million vision. Karen Whitman, chair of the project, now says the auditorium does not need immediate repair. The new slogan is "support an affordable fix to save the Keller Auditorium."



NAVIGATION CENTER

The city-owned River District Navigation Center, now a 24/7 residential facility for 90 people, will close when Multnomah County operating funds end Aug. 31. The city will not take over operation except as a possible warming center during extreme weather.





The Northrup Shelter, which drew up to 155 people a night in the winter, is to close by the end of the year.

"Pearl shelters" cont'd from page 1

which case the shelter could be gone within as few as 30 days.

Absent another city program to replace it, the city has no economic incentive to close the shelter before the end of the year. A \$108,000 penalty has already been paid for early cancellation of the 12-year lease under terms that require further rent payments through Dec. 31.

The city has not done all it could to keep neighbors informed. The amended lease agreement was reported on KPTV a month after it was signed.

"It was signed behind closed doors last month without any public announcements," said John DiLorenzo, the attorney representing owners of the adjacent Oro Apartments, who are seeking damages for lost business revenue due to operation of the shelter.

Linda Witt, chair of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association Shelter Oversight Committee, finds the latest timetable disturbing.

"I'm extremely disappointed," Witt told the NW Examiner. "It now appears the mayor is setting the stage to keep the shelter open through December—walking back the earlier indication that it would close on June 30.

"We've also learned that, effective July 1, the city may dramatically scale back—or possibly eliminate—the Central City Concern trike crews that have been essential to keeping the Pearl clean these past few months.

Chase McPherson, executive director of Northwest Community Conservancy, later said the cleanup crews will continue in the 1,000-foot radius around the shelter, but no longer serve the entire district.

"Taken together, these backroom decisions make it clear that the mayor remains dismissive of the enormous livability and safety burdens he places on neighborhoods and small businesses

when he installs low-barrier overnight shelters in dense residential districts," Witt said.

"Keeping the Northrup Shelter operating for another six months will prolong the humanitarian misery we witness daily in the Pearl and further delay the district's ability to recover," she added.

In nine months, she said the shelter has failed to move homeless people toward stability, while burdening the neighborhood with a sharp rise in safety, crime and livability problems.

"What makes this even more disheartening is that these impacts are ultimately for nothing," she said. "The overnight shelters continue to show minimal success in moving people meaningfully along the service continuum, yet they inflict severe and ongoing livability and safety harms on taxpaying residents and businesses."

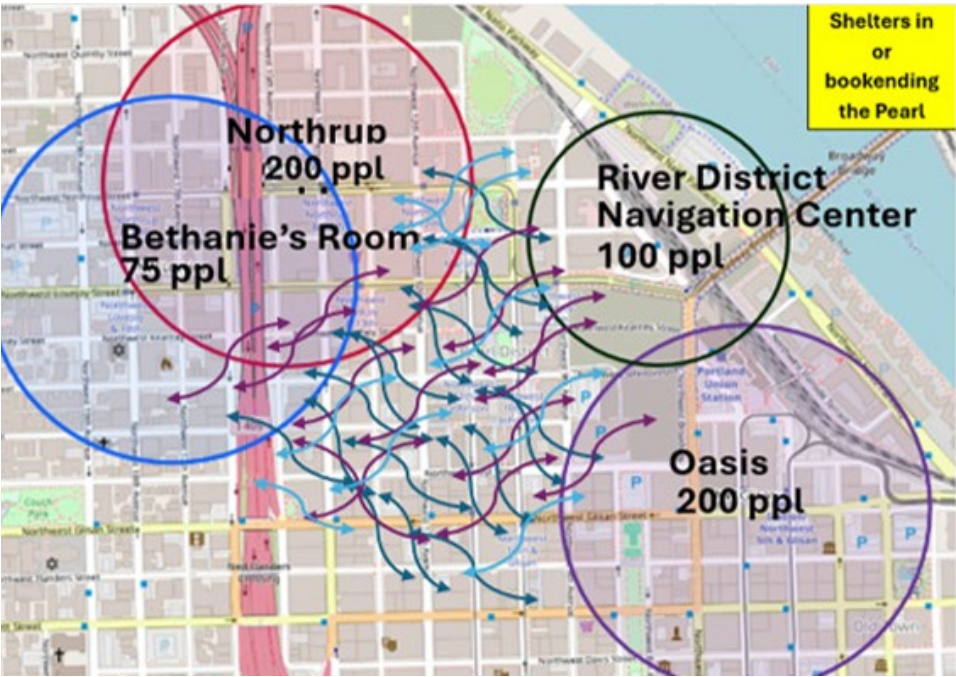
Navigation Center

Days are also numbered for the Pearl's other major shelter, the 24/7 90-bed River District Navigation Center at 1111 NW Naito Parkway. Multnomah County pulled its funding, and Mayor Keith Wilson's plan to convert it into an overnight shelter was blocked by District 4 City Councilor Eric Zimmerman's amendment.

The Navigation Center will close Aug. 31 and thereafter be used only as a warming shelter during severe weather.

Neighbors 4 Safe Smart Shelters, chaired by Joan Neice, wants a total closure and removal of the temporary structure that houses the center.

Otherwise, "the temporary green hut would be left in place and abandoned, an open invitation for squatters, encampments, drugs, crime, fires and worse," Neice wrote. ■



The Pearl District Neighborhood Association produced monthly reports in livability impacts related to shelters and the Oasis Day Center. This one suggests a concentration of problems in the pathways between them.



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Nomination deadline: July 25

Nominee

Category:

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Snapshots

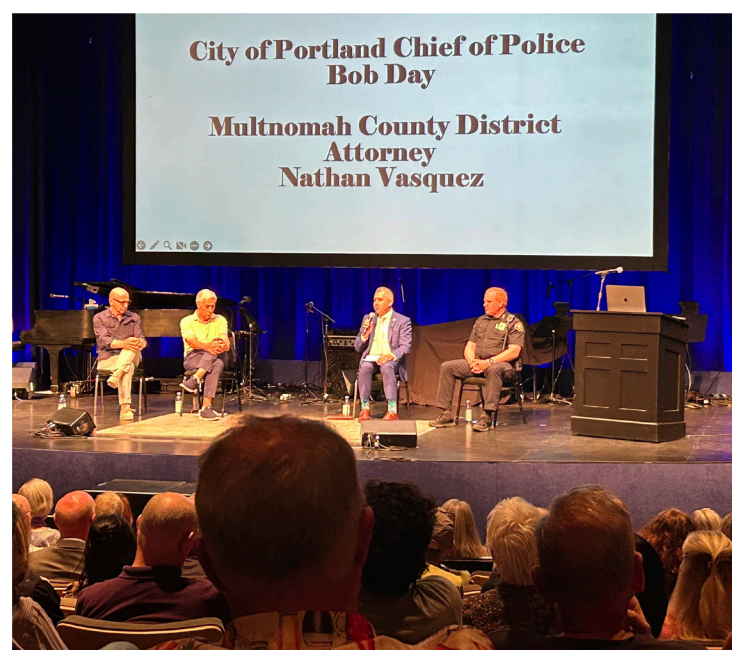


Lincoln High School senior Skylah Johnson was Portland Pearl Rotary Club's June student of the month. Her activities included varsity soccer, The Cardinal Times, Literature Society and Indie Music Club. She plans to major in English at the University of Puget Sound.



Multnomah County closed the Burnside Bridge to vehicles for five hours on May 30 for a centennial celebration that included music, food, exhibits and a Chinese dragon dance. Photography by Janette Quan-Torres

Pearl neighbors nearly filled the Armory auditorium on June 22 for the third time in a year for a public safety forum featuring Portland Police Chief Bob Day and Multnomah County District Attorney Nathan Vasquez. The event was sponsored by the Pearl District Neighborhood Association.



At the 1975 opening of O'Bryant Square, recently reinvented as Darcelle XV Plaza, Willamette Heights resident Eric Grimm rolled out his Sunshine Sandwiches food cart. Eric's mother, Gere, said he went on to better things, such as the Blazing Saddles food booth at the Country Fair in Venita, before retiring from a career as a software engineer at Intel.



Julie Ball, the daughter of Rocky Benevento Jr. and granddaughter of the famed Portland Beavers groundskeeper, is about to release her first book, "The Gecko In The Cinnamon Broom: Tucker's First Adventure." She recently met fellow ex-Portlander and author Wendell Maxey at a book fair in West Palm Beach, Fla., where she now lives.



Adrienne Alexander and Hollywood, the former empress and king of the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Oregon, arrived for the grand opening of Darcelle XV Plaza, the first park named for a drag queen.

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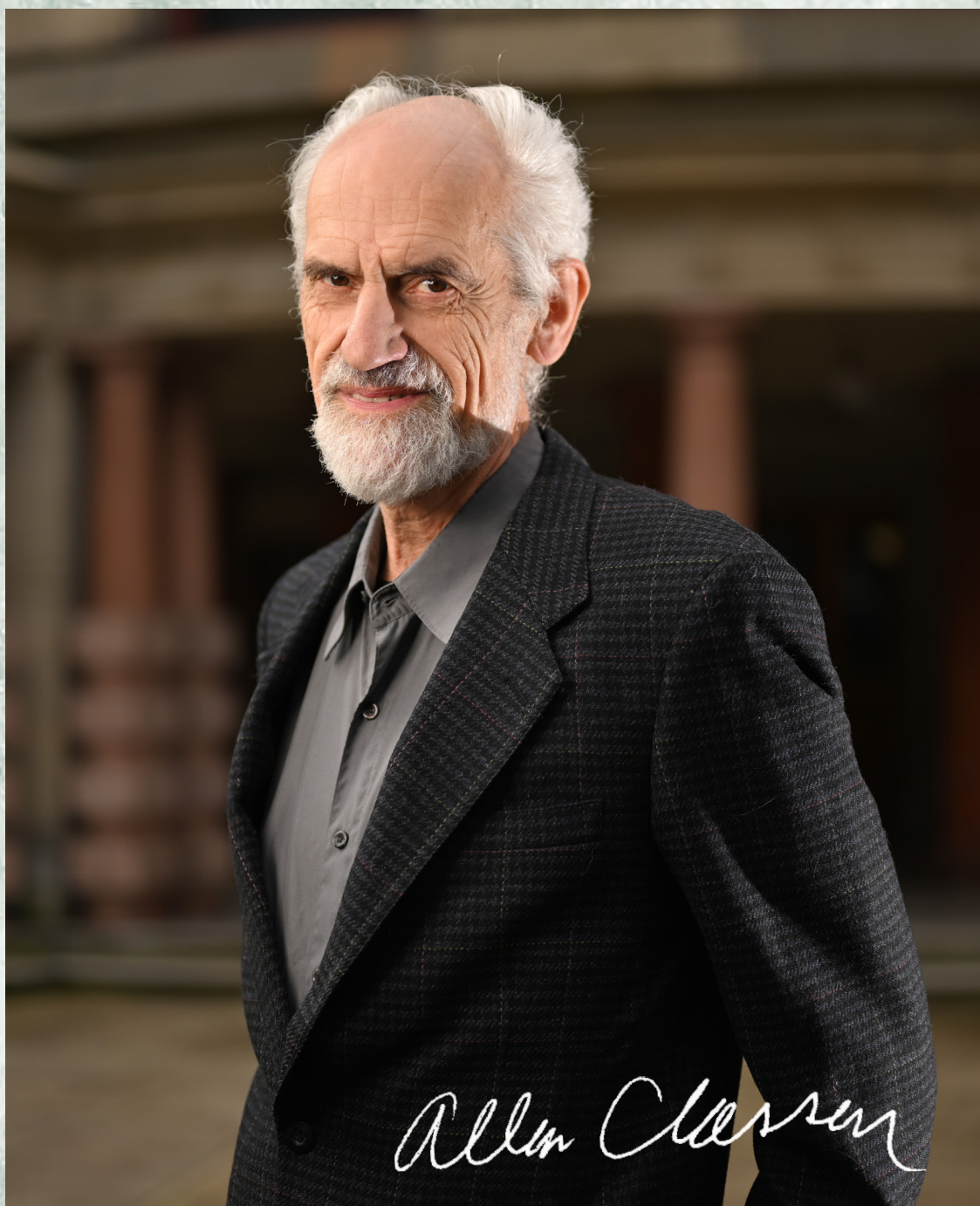
Rob

“There is a lot of change going on in Portland, and it is helpful to have a forum for concerned citizens to read about and discuss issues of importance to them and their community”

Jim Lindsay

“Thanks for this. We need it! It’s a time that calls out for some sunlight on our governance at all levels.”

Anonymous



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