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CTS Principal Cheryl Bickle. Photo by CTS.

NE Portland School Provides Stability For Homeless Children

BY MARSHALL HAMMOND

“We’re like an oasis,” says Cheryl Bickle, principal of Community Transitional School. “I find that we’re a much calmer school than most public schools, like the ones my grandkids are in. These kids don’t need any more chaos or drama in their lives. They need calmness so they can just settle down. Their lives are so unpredictable.”

Located in a single story building near the corner of NE Killingsworth and NE Cully, Community Transitional School (CTS) looks like any other small school. Student art and motivational slogans tacked to cork boards cover the walls of the main hallway. Plastic cups full of colored pencils pack the shelves of classrooms. A guinea pig sits in an aquarium in a corner.

But CTS is unique. Almost all of the 80 students currently enrolled at the K-8,

tuition-free school are experiencing some level of housing instability. They may be living in shelters, cheap motels, transitional housing, on a friend’s floor or camping with their families in cars or on the street. The school’s mission is “to provide at-risk children with a stable educational environment that promotes their academic and personal growth.”

According to data from 2023, Portland has the highest percentages of homeless families and unaccompanied youths in the country. Homelessness and housing instability create significant hardships for children who, like other kids their age, are trying to attend school. They’re more likely to be absent, less likely to graduate and more likely to fall behind their age group academically. Stress, anxiety and low-self esteem are prevalent.

“Part of the challenge is that you have to convince [the students] that they are really capable,” says Bickle, who has been the Principal at the school since its founding in 1990. “Sometimes they say, ‘Oh, I’ll only be here a week or two, I’m not gonna stay.’ But you have to convince them to try hard. They don’t necessarily feel like they’re real success stories, so you have to work with them on that.”

According to Bickle, being around other kids experiencing the same difficulties can be easier for children who might feel otherwise feel alienated from their peers. “The children [at CTS] are often facing the same problems that everyone is facing in the room,” says Bickle in an interview posted on the school’s website. “They don’t have to be embarrassed about being homeless, they don’t have to be embarrassed about living in their car or only coming to school maybe once every three days because they’re moving around so much.”

CTS has four state-certified teachers, including Bickle, who teaches third through fifth grades, along with two full-

Five Years of Alba: Empowerment, Equity and Evolution

BY BEATRICE LIEBRECHT

The Alba Collaborative is a program that supports 9-17-year-olds who are living in unstable environments, have run away or have been kicked out of their homes. The Alba Collaborative was launched by New Avenues for Youth in 2020 to help prevent youth homelessness in the Portland community.

With the objective of reuniting adolescents and their loved ones, the Alba Collaborative provides crisis intervention, emergency shelter and housing, mentorship and family mediation. Their outreach team also meets the youth in their communities—at schools, parks and other public places—to connect them with wraparound services. This year they are celebrating their fifth anniversary of hard work and community impact. Sarah Nedeau, Senior Director of Programs at New Avenues, states, “Over the last five years, 91 percent of the youth who have come to the Alba Collaborative have left the program to stable homes”

In response to the rising number of homeless and at-risk adolescents in Portland, local business and community leaders established New Avenues for Youth in 1997. The founders wanted to give young people access to education, job training and chances for healing and growth since they saw that the community needed more than simply basic needs like food and shelter. They felt that every young per-

son should have the opportunity to flourish and have a reliable, independent life. Nedeau says the Alba Collaborative is “a key program of New Avenues for Youth’s wider homelessness prevention services.” She continues, “These services aim to stop homelessness before it even starts because we know that every day a youth spends on the streets increases their risk of long-term homelessness.” The name Alba translates to “dawn” or “sunrise” in Spanish and Italian, reflecting the program’s initiatives to bring hope, new beginnings and fresh starts to the youth they aid.

The Alba Collaborative provides a number of important services aimed at preventing and resolving youth homelessness. Those include emergency shelter, case management, family mediation and reunification assistance and affirming programs for adolescents who identify as LGBTQIA+.

Alba works to provide assistance through family mediation and reunification programs, with an emphasis on reunifying young people with their families whenever possible. They put a strong emphasis on programs that are affirming and culturally appropriate, especially for adolescents who are LGBTQIA+, youth who have survived sex trafficking and youth who have been harmed by gangs. The Collaborative also provides Safe Place locations throughout the community that work to connect ado-

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Housed, Unhoused Frustrated With City’s Handling of Homeless Situation

BY CHARLOTTE HANSCOM

Every night, thousands of Oregonians sleep on sidewalks, in tents and in cars. Homelessness is continually increasing and is currently one of the main issues the city faces. Mayor Keith Wilson is focused on ending unsheltered homelessness and has a goal of adding 1,500 new overnight shelter beds to the city by December 2025. This plan will cost an estimated \$28 million, and the Metro Council voted unanimously to send the city \$15 million of the funds. However, it is currently unclear how this project will receive the rest of the funding necessary.

In local neighborhoods, some are frustrated by how the city is choosing to deal with homelessness. Recently, a petition promoting community-led deterrents was organized and signed by residents near SE 34th Ave. and Powell Blvd. As of June 18, there have been 283 verified signatures.

The petition asked for material support and community backing to “install visible deterrents—planters, barricades and cones—immediately after the June 2–9 sweep.” Planter beds have been newly installed on SE 34th Ave. and Powell Blvd. in an attempt to discourage tent setup and prevent RVs from parking on the street.

Charles Reneau, one of the petition signers and a regular visitor to the neighborhood, describes the situation on SE 34th Ave. and Powell Blvd. as “a very long, ongoing problem.” Over the years, he has observed “the increase in camping from the beginning of the pandemic, and the increasing number of fires started.” Reneau explains, “That made me concerned about the health and safety of everyone on the street.”

Supporters of the petition hope it will spur reform. Karen Gregos, who signed

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PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID PORTLAND, OR PERMIT NO. 4618

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Rs Representatively Speaking

BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROB NOSSE

By the time you're reading this, the legislative session is probably over. I have to submit this column before the legislative deadline, and I didn't feel comfortable making predictions about how things will end. There are still bills that I care about that might make it and the transportation package that I wrote about a few months ago has not yet passed. Instead of attempting to guess the future, I decided I would write about one of my favorite topics—Medicaid. It's basically been Medicaid all the time for me for the last year and a half. Unfortunately, the news is not great.

At the end of May, the US House of Representatives passed what has been coined the "Big Beautiful Bill," though in reality it's more of a "Big Bad Bill." It passed on a razor-thin 214-215 vote, (thank you so much, Congressman Bentz). It does multiple things that harm the Medicaid program—known here in our state as the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Here are a few highlights which are really more like downsides.

Over the next 10 years, our state could lose over \$7 billion that comes to us to fund healthcare. That's not an abstract budget cut, it's money that pays for doctor visits, hospital stays, prescriptions, mental health treatment, substance use support, dental care and more for 1.4 million Oregonians.

The bill would require eligibility checks every six months. Yes, you would need to re-apply every six months. This adds bureaucratic hurdles that lead to people falling off the rolls even when they still qualify and when they're legally entitled to care. It's red tape for red tape's sake, and the people who will suffer the most are the ones who can least afford the consequences.

It also forces our state to slash funding for immigrant health care and makes it nearly impossible for Planned Parenthood to serve Medicaid patients by banning reimbursement to their clinics. Currently, the bill prohibits Medicaid funds from being spent to pay providers that "are nonprofit organizations that



are primarily engaged in family planning services or reproductive services, provide for abortions other than for Hyde Amendment exceptions, and which received \$1,000,000 or more (to either the provider or the provider's affiliates) in payments from Medicaid in 2024." That's not just ideological overreach, it's a direct attack on health care services and the people who rely on them.

This bill also introduces mandatory copays, ending Oregon's no-cost-sharing policy we've had since 2016.

It's estimated that 100,000 to 200,000 Oregonians could lose Medicaid coverage simply because of the increased difficulty of proving continued eligibility. And while the bill targets Medicaid directly, its effects may ripple further—many private insurers model their coverage on Medicaid standards, so cuts to covered services could affect people across the state, not just those on the OHP.

If this sounds bad, it's because it is bad. These changes will hit Oregon harder than most states because we have chosen, time and time again, to be a leader when it comes to inclusive healthcare. We have worked to maximize coverage under the program, particularly under the ACA expansion back when Obama was President. We also cover immigrants with-

out a legal status who don't yet qualify under federal Medicaid rules. (The bill will punish our state financially if we continue to do this.) We've expanded access for children and for communities who've historically been shut out of care. We've built a system that reflects our values. Per our state constitution, healthcare is a right, not a privilege and we've tried to act accordingly. The "Big Beautiful Bill" would punish states like ours for doing the right thing.

It is disgraceful that Republicans in Congress are dressing up a bill that is also a tax cut for the wealthy while cutting health care for the poor in the language of "government efficiency." This deficit-busting gut punch of the "Big Beautiful Bill" is a big, beautiful handout to the wealthiest among us.

As I write this, the US Senate is taking up the bill and their version harms Medicaid further, reducing one of the funding mechanisms our state uses, capping them at 3.5 percent for expansion states, down from the current 6 percent that we utilize. (The House bill just freezes it at the current rates.) The Senate version also reduces state-directed payments to providers. This is a type of funding cut as well.

Some say it's unlikely to pass, and I hope they're right, but I remember feeling confident it wouldn't get out of the House and then it passed in the middle of the night by a single vote. (Again, thanks, Congressman Bentz.) I'm not making any predictions about this time either.

However, if the Senate moves forward on this bill, in theory they want to be done by July 4, and something passes, Oregon will have to respond. We'll have to ask ourselves what we're willing to do—and spend—to maintain the care we've promised to our communities. That's not going to be easy.

I'll be watching this closely. If the US Senate makes progress on its version of the bill, do I write about that in my August column or do I share my observations about the ups and downs of the Session? Stay tuned; we will see what feels more newsworthy.

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New Live Nation Venue Could Threaten Portland's Independent Music Scene

BY MADELEINE VOTH

Some changes are coming to the Eastside with the anticipated building of a new Live Nation music venue, which is set to open in 2026 and whose building is valued at \$17.3 million. With these new changes have come conflicting opinions throughout the Portland community about how the construction of this venue will impact the city, primarily the rich independent music scene that flourishes in Portland.

Live Nation Entertainment, the world's largest live entertainment company, owns more than 150 venues nationwide and controls major divisions like Ticketmaster and Live Nation Concerts. Until now, Portland remained the only large US city without a Live Nation-owned venue. That's about to change.

According to the building permit filed with the city on February 21, 2025, the venue will be located at SE Main St. and SE Water Ave., just north of the Hawthorne Bridge. Plans show a 62,000-square-foot, three-story building with a mezzanine, 1,280 fixed seats and a total capacity of 3,500 spectators. Additional features include food services, artist locker rooms, a loading dock, offices and an artist lounge.

While some might be excited about the possibility of the new venue, the general sentiment of Portlanders is shrouded in worry about Live Nation's threat to the city's independent music scene. According to PollStar's 2022 venue data, 88 of the top 100 amphitheatres in the world are located in the US and of these, 56 of them are operated by Live Nation, meaning that Live Nation operates 64 percent of the top-grossing amphitheatres in the US.

This dominance in venue ownership and ticketing has drawn scrutiny from artists, fans and lawmakers alike.

Currently, Live Nation and Ticketmaster are being sued by the US Department of Justice and 40 states, including Oregon, for anti-competitive and monopolistic practices. Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Kanter stated, "The live music industry in America is broken because Live Nation-Ticketmaster has an illegal monopoly...Our antitrust lawsuit seeks to break up Live Nation-Ticketmaster's monopoly and restore competition for the benefit of fans and artists."

Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield praised a March 2025 New York ruling that denied Live Nation's motion to dismiss the case. "Live Nation and Ticketmaster don't want to be held accountable for the monopoly they have created. We are going to fight to make sure Oregonians aren't faced with these inflated prices, and that artists have control over where they perform," Rayfield said in a press release.

These positions are echoed among those within the live music scene as well. Garrett Baxter, a professional freelance musician in Portland, fears what introducing a large venue to a city that might not be ready for it could do to the local music scene. "I don't see the Live Nation venue doing anything positive for the small scene. I don't imagine that anything could wipe out the local music scene, but it could certainly devalue it. Or potentially, the flip side could be true, exposing the scale of large venues in a city that's not ready for it."

Baxter plays bass at a num-



Digital rendering of what the proposed new venue would look like. Image courtesy of Oregon Public Broadcasting.

ber of venues in Portland, a few of which include Portland Center Stage, The 1905, Mississippi Studios and Jack London Revue. About his time as an artist in Portland, Baxter remarks, "As I've spent more time in the scene, I've noticed that it's imperative that there are independent and self run programs keeping the city going and providing institutions for it, which Portland has not always been the best at doing for itself."

He continued, "I see something like a big, giant, super venue opening...it already seems so far outside of the realm of what I wish could immediately be happening. But also, it sounds like the Live Nation building is an attempt [for Portland] to be seen and recognized on a large scale, which I'm not sure if it is what's best for Portland. We're a completely different size scene with different needs and a different

scale of industry."

Local advocacy group MusicPortland, a nonprofit trade organization for music industry workers, has been a key opponent of the venue. Jamie Dunphy, a board member of MusicPortland and City Councilor, made the protection and growth of Portland's music industry a centerpiece of his campaign.

According to Dunphy, in September 2024, MusicPortland filed an appeal against the land use permit, otherwise known as the approval of the use of land by the local government. In filing this appeal, MusicPortland, among other groups, argued that the conditional use permit that they were applying for should consider the long track record of abuse, manipulation and corporate bad behavior by Live Nation. About 100 people testified before City Council, yet the council still

granted the permit to the company partnered with Live Nation for the building of the venue.

While the future of this development is unclear, one thing is: Portlanders are fighting to keep the city's independent music scene safe from corporations that might threaten it. Moving forward, Baxter urges patrons to "follow the artists, not the venues. Go to local shows, follow the members of everyone in the band...when you go see a Portland artist, follow the members of everyone in the band and see what they're up to. And don't go to just one venue, go all around." Following this, Dunphy urged community participation, "The community should continue to rally to try and prevent this enormous corporate entity from coming in and decimating community, the way they have in every other city."

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VioletSuitesPDX Boutique Hotel is Hidden Gem in Belmont Neighborhood

BY ELLEN SPITALERI

July is Disability Pride Month, which commemorates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in July of 1990. This year's theme is We Belong Here and We're Here to Stay, which dovetails perfectly with one of the major goals of the owners of VioletSuitesPDX Boutique Hotel, located in The Bora building at 905 SE 14th Ave.

The hotel features five suites with fully-equipped kitchens, in-unit washer and dryer and other amenities to make guests feel right at home; free parking is provided in a gated area adjacent to the building.

But what sets this hotel apart from others is the Chinook Suite, which has a mobility-accessible bathtub, a roll-in shower and smooth floor surfaces for ease of moving in a wheelchair or with a walker. The kitchen offers lowered counter tops with roll-in space underneath to offer the comforts of home for accessibility/mobility travelers.

The suite also features a space under the bed to accommodate a Hoyer Lift, which is "a mechanical lift used to help caregivers safely transfer individuals

with limited mobility between surfaces," said Kathryn Larsen, The Bora building manager and director of business development. "It is uncommon to find a hotel that offers space under the bed for the Hoyer Lift; I have been told the Chinook Suite is a rarity for that," she added.

Larsen recently attended the governor's conference on tourism in April, which focused on accessibility and mobility, and was surprised to learn that a large number of travelers are not catered to. "We feel quite fortunate to be able to offer the Chinook Suite to the accessibility community," Larsen said.

In fact, the owners of the hotel decided the issue was so important that they decided to become a verified Wheel the World hotel; that organization was founded nearly 20 years ago with the goal to provide detailed accessibility information to travelers with mobility issues.

Wheel the World "sent out a representative to measure our counter tops and check on the tub and the grab bars" in the shower, Larsen noted. The hotel is now certified by that organization and

is listed on their website, theworld.com.

VioletSuitesPDX Boutique Hotel opened in the summer of 2023 and is on the second floor of The Bora building in the Belmont neighborhood. The property includes an elevator and stair-free main entrance.

The purpose of the purchase was for the commercial space on the first floor, where Larsen's brother, Dr. Brad Larsen, the founder and executive director of Portland Mental Health and Wellness, opened his business.

The prior owner of the building had set up short-term rentals on the second floor, one of which they lived in. The address is zoned for a hotel and that is what sparked the new owners, Dr. Larsen and his partner Ofelio Resendez, to open VioletSuitesPDX Boutique Hotel.

The hotel is now locally, LGBTQ and BIPOC owned. Kathryn Larsen added that the owners named the building for their beloved dog, Bora, which means violet in Korean, where the name VioletSuitesPDX Boutique Hotel originated.

Her brother and his partner



VioletSuitesPDX Boutique Hotel, located on the second floor of The Bora building. Photo by Kathryn Larsen.

made some cosmetic and interior design changes, including painting each suite a different color and outfitting each one with colorful artwork, Larsen noted.

The best thing about the location of the hotel in the Belmont neighborhood is the opportunity to provide a service to the community, Larsen said. She feels comfortable recommending restaurants and other local activities to guests from out of town. "It is a treat to be surrounded by great restaurants, venues and local shops. It's walkable, full of character and offers a safe neighborhood feel," she said.

For her, the best part of her job is interacting with guests. "I love to see the joy in people who travel here to go to a concert or a family gathering; what warms my

heart is to turn somebody's day around," Larsen said.

The best compliment came in mid-June when the family staying in the Chinook Suite asked to extend their stay another night because they were enjoying themselves so much, she said.

VioletSuitesPDX Boutique Hotel has become known as a "hidden gem," Larsen said. "With no large signs out front to announce its presence, it's a quiet discovery for those who know where to look. We are grateful for the wonderful reviews and returning guests."

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Museum of Dogs: A Romp Through Art History For Dog People

BY DAVID KROGH

The subtitle for the book *Museum of Dogs* describes its contents. However, you don't have to be a dog person or even a dog owner to appreciate the value and interest of this book. The publisher, Chronicle Books, describes this book as "quirky and fascinating, collecting the best canines in art history" including figurines and paintings from several different museums around the world. Among the many items illustrated within is a Greek bronze dog statuette chewing on a bone from the second century BC. There is an illustration of an etching of a sleeping dog done in 1640 by the famous Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn. There is even a photo of a German bronze inkstand of a scratching dog created about 1530-1550. And there are many more dog items included from as far back as 3,000 years ago to as recent as the 1900's.

The author, Jessica Poundstone, lives with her family and her Chihuahua/Pug Stanley in SE Portland. Her work has included art, writing and editing, but she currently works as an abstract artist. "My work explores the way art affects us emotionally, combining color, structure and soft-

ness to create a space for contemplation, comfort and connection." Her art business and paintings/prints are further described at her website, jessicapoundstone.com.

Poundstone's love of dogs, her interest in art history and her familiarity with Chronicle Books all helped provide the motivation for developing this book. Surprisingly, it wasn't difficult to find many different examples of dog art out there. "I wanted to include many dog artifacts—pieces that represented the ancient connection between humans and dogs. I think we are more used to seeing paintings of dogs, so I wanted the images in this book to be more fresh and surprising. I also wanted to only include images where dogs were the main character. It was not at all hard to find images that fit the bill! The harder part was narrowing them down."

What is especially complimentary about this book is not only the quality of the illustrations but also the information for each, including (if known) the artist, date of creation, location and description of the item/painting. A section in the rear of the book includes additional notes for several of the items and another

section lists image credits. According to Poundstone, all the images within the book "were free to use via museums' public domain/open content designations." In return, she provided each museum with information about the image use and included a copy of an E-Book version for their reference purpose.

The images are not in any specific order. Thus, the reader will be looking at different types of imagery from different art history ages with every page. "But the book is not meant to be deep in art history, nor is it meant to be an in depth history of dogs," says Poundstone. "There are other books that do those things quite well. In this book, I'm hoping to delight people with images of dogs they may have never seen before, and to remind us all that every piece of art has many stories behind it. And oftentimes those stories are wonderful: charming, funny and heartwarming. Art and art history don't need to be dry, academic or boring." In addition, according to Poundstone there are only three American artists included within the book. "I wanted to represent as many cultures as possible with



Author Poundstone and Stanley. Photo by Christopher Dibble.

images of dogs that felt like they should be 'part of the pack' I was creating. North America, South America, Asia, Europe and Africa are all represented in the book."

Poundstone concluded saying, "This is my first book published with an independent publisher; I have self-published books in the past. I love dogs, I love art and I love research, so this was really a dream project." She also indicated she would like to do another book sometime in

the near future.

Poundstone has already participated in several events for her book and more will be announced. For additional information about events, the book, the author or to order the book online, visit museumofdogsbook.com. Books can also be purchased through the publisher's website, chroniclebooks.com, and is available at several local booksellers, including Literary Arts Bookstore and Powell's Books, both in SE.

Imperial's Outdoor Seating Evolves With Changes to City Programs

BY KRIS MCDOWELL

At the end of March, Imperial Bottle Shop & Taproom owners Alex Kurnellas and Shawn Stackpoole received notice from the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) that their furniture in the street plaza on SE 31st Ave., which had been in place since the pandemic, would have to be removed. Imperial was given approximately 29 days to remove the furnishings.

Imperial, at the corner of SE Division St. and SE 31st Ave., had applied for, and received, a Healthy Business space for outdoor dining during the pandemic. Initially, the street was only closed on weekends with the business putting out furniture each day and bringing it back in at night. Eventually, the furniture and A-frame seating set ups designed to keep people safe and warm during the winter were a regular fixture on the fully closed street. Throughout the life of the permitted space, customers of Imperial and other nearby businesses and neighbors utilized it, and it became a community space. Parents could feel comfortable with their children in the area that was free of cars and local musicians often played.

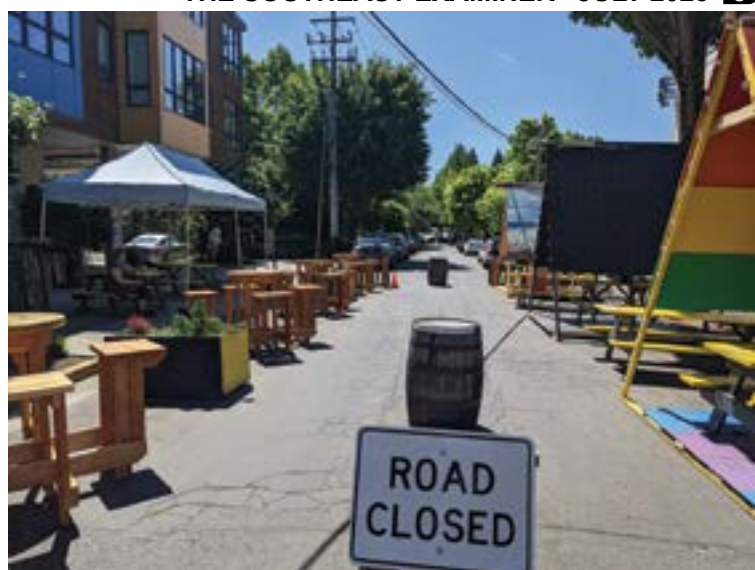
By early 2023, Imperial was notified that the Healthy Business program would be ending and rolled into the outdoor dining program. With the status of the outdoor seating and closed street in limbo during the transition, Kurnellas said that they were essentially on a month to month lease. While there were a “couple of touch points” with Imperial between then and early 2025, nothing solid was communicated in terms of the future of the space. According to Dylan Rivera, PBOT Public Information Officer, “The PBOT plaza program wanted to take this site under our program, with modifications, in order to save it. During that process, there was a nearby fire. Just before noon on February 26, Fire & Rescue crews responded to a fire in a home at 2525 and 2527 SE 31st Ave., just south of Imperial Bottle Shop.”

The fire brought the outdoor space to the attention of the fire department because “there was a person inside the burning building awaiting response from firefighters, who were delayed because they had to drive around the block. Because the plaza did

not have a city permit, it was not on the maps that firefighters use, so they did not anticipate the need to take another route to reach the site. When firefighters gained access to the street south of the plaza, they had difficulty reaching the fire hydrant on the east side of the street, which was obstructed by the furniture that was in the street,” said Rivera.

After plaza coordinators, traffic engineers, fire inspectors and the Fire Marshall evaluated numerous scenarios regarding the street closure, it was determined that the plaza on SE 31st Ave. would not be feasible and furnishings would have to be removed from the street by April 29. Kurnellas noted that while the fire department provided meaningful feedback, the issue was non-negotiable.

Imperial announced via social media the need to remove their furnishings and received significant community support. People wanted to put together petitions to oppose the decision, Kurnellas said, “But deconstructing, moving, storing, moving back and reconstructing everything would be an endeavor that



Imperial's former street plaza on SE 31st Ave. looking south from Division St., provided ample seating for the neighborhood. Photo by Imperial.

costs us a decent amount of money and, more importantly, a lot of our time.” The decision was “discouraging” after the winter season, when they and many other businesses see lower revenues. Imperial had also suffered multiple break-ins and incurred losses related to repairing the damage.

Not one to give up entirely, Kurnellas applied for the \$1,200 permit to have sidewalk seating along SE 31st Ave. as a replacement for the street space. Under the permit's regulations, he was able to configure seating so that he only lost the use of one of the tables that had been in the street plaza, and is “confident that we'll be able to keep the same vibe and

community going with our new set up.”

Kurnellas said, “PBOT was great working with the entire time.” Rivera went on to explain that, “PBOT has worked closely with the owner of Imperial... [and] ensured Imperial was not penalized for the fire violations from their street closure obstructions...during the adjacent building fire, since we were working with this business toward a transition to a plaza with new site plan at the time.” Kurnellas is also appreciative for the support and assistance Mayor Wilson's office provided facilitating conversations with both PBOT and the fire department.

Housed, Unhoused Frustrated With City's Handling of Homeless Situation

from page 1

the petition, believes that even if it does not directly cause change, it is “letting our city administrators know that we're concerned, we're affected, and we're hoping they do something about it.”

Many who are houseless are also frustrated with the city. SE Portland resident Will is currently houseless, and has been on and off for 25 years. He says of the city sweeps, “I'm irritated, I'm upset, I'm frustrated because they're trying to treat us like animals.” Will explains that the city's treatment of the houseless feels dehumanizing, stating, “All they do is just throw us somewhere where they think that they should throw us, and then treat us like we don't have opinions, like we have no rights.” He adds, “I would like to see them give us options on what we would like to do, instead of forcing us.”

Multnomah County's Joint Office of Homeless Services reports that, as of April 2025, 15,541 people are experiencing homelessness in Multnomah County. Will, who has traveled around and interacted with the houseless population, believes that the number is likely higher, stating, “I don't think the city understands how big the problem really is.”

Each person experiencing homelessness is an individual

with their own story. Will notes, “Most people think that just because we're houseless that we're unorganized, that we're uneducated. But many of us have master's degrees.” Will himself has a master's degree in psychology and minored in law at Portland State University. He also studied alcohol and drug counseling at Portland Community College and worked in social work for 10 years. He explains, “We are still part of society. We just have our own way of doing things. Not all of us are thieves, not all of us are fatty [fentanyl] users. Help those, yes, but don't blame someone else's actions on all of us.”

While the sweeps may mean temporary peace and calm to homeowners and businesses, they can represent upheaval and uncertainty to the houseless population. “They can just come out here right now and just take my stuff, and they wouldn't even care,” says Will, adding, “It's ridiculous that they're allowed to do that.” He recalls that two months ago, “they came down with tow trucks, and they told everyone they had 20 minutes to get their stuff out of their RVs, and they started hooking them up and taking them—taking their homes.” He explains that in sweeps, getting possessions back is not always guaranteed, as of-

ten times, “they don't even have the stuff anymore, and they're supposed to.”

Houselessness is complicated, and there's no perfect solution. Will states of Wilson's shelter bed plan, “It doesn't matter how many they build, it's the way they treat us.” The balance of addressing both immediate needs and underlying causes is difficult, and it is key to keep empathy and understanding at the center of conversations around houselessness. Will expresses that most of the houseless population “are just trying to survive and live our lives,” stating, “We're trying to make sure that the people who are making it hard on us stop...but it's not that easy when we continuously get shunned because of what they do.”

As Portland continues to grapple with the growing crisis of houselessness, balancing compassion and practicality is a challenge. For some residents, steps such as installing deterrents and city sweeps are a way to reclaim a sense of safety and stability in their neighborhoods. For many who are unhoused, those same actions feel like further exclusion. Meaningful progress will depend on acknowledging the frustrations of both sides and ensuring that solutions are built not just for, but with, those most affected.

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Pedalpalooza Bike Rides



Bike Summer (aka Pedalpalooza) is a festival of bike fun taking place through August 31. The Pedalpalooza tradition has been ongoing for over 20 years and now lasts all summer long. Hundreds of different events are organized by people just like you.

Most rides are free and open to the public. With multiple rides happening most days, there's

something for everyone. Check out what's happening any day of the week at shift2bikes.org/bike-summer-calendar.

The festival is 100 percent volunteer-run. In addition to leading a ride, you can also volunteer to help with much-needed tasks. There are a wide variety of duties, dates and times volunteers are needed for. Visit bit.ly/3ZS7Ksu

for additional details and to sign up.

For those who would like to make a financial contribution to this much beloved volunteer-run community festival, donations can be made at bike-summer.org/support. Bike Summer is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible, not to mention much appreciated.

Summer LGBTQIA2S+ Resources

With summer upon us, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is sharing resources to promote well-being, safety, security and inclusion among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, two-spirit, questioning and (+) (LGBTQIA2S+) youth. "We've shared this list of resources the last few years because young people in our state need to have access to resources that help them celebrate the diversity of their identities all year long, not just during the school year," said Dean Sidlinger, M.D., M.S.Ed., health officer and state epidemiologist at OHA.

Communities, families and trusted adults play a critical role in supporting their LGBTQIA2S+ young people against potential

suicidal behavior, depression and substance use. Many local, state and national resources are available as well to help them thrive all summer, and all year.

The Oregon Youth Resource Map (oregonyouthresource.com) is designed to help young people ages 16-25 and their allies connect to youth-serving resources, organizations and leadership opportunities. The map centers youth needs and voices, and includes services for health and mental health care, housing, education and more.

TransActive at Lewis & Clark Graduate School works to empower transgender and gender-expansive children, youth and their families living healthy lives free of discrimination through a

range of services and expertise. Find out more at bit.ly/45AbjaM.

PFLAG (formerly Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) offers quick tips to parents and caregivers for supporting their LGBTQIA2S+ children during their coming-out process. PFLAG has eight chapters in Oregon, including in the Portland metro area (pflagpdx.org).

The Family Acceptance Project, lgbtqfamilyacceptance.org, works to increase family and community support for LGBTQIA2S+ youth, decrease health and mental health risks and promote well-being. An Oregon-specific page is also available.

The Trevor Project promotes suicide prevention and crisis intervention for LGBTQ+ young people. Public education materials are available on its website, thetrevorproject.org.

Outside In (Portland) welcomes and encourages all from the LGBTQIA2S+ community to connect, feel seen and heard and provides free resources such as counseling, medical services and wraparound support for homeless youth and other people who have been marginalized and meet diagnostic criteria. Call 503.535.3828 or visit outsidein.org.

New Avenues for Youth's Sexual & Gender Minority Youth Resource Center in downtown Portland provides culturally specific support for LGBTQIA2S+ youth. Their Youth Opportunity Center in Rockwood is open 24/7 for youth ages 9-17 in crisis or who need a safe place to stay. Visit newavenues.org for more on these locations and their resources.

Free Lunch + Play



Photo by PP&R.

More than half of Portland's school-age children qualify for free or reduced-priced meals during the school year. To help fill the summertime meal gap, Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) offers the Free Lunch + Play program, part of the Summer Free For All series of events. Nutritious meals and fun activities—sports, games, arts, crafts, music and other activities—for kids and families are available when school is out.

The program is delivered in partnership with four local public school districts (Portland, Centennial, David Douglas and Parkrose) at about two dozen parks across the city (Monday-Friday) and two Mobile Lunch + Play sites in East Portland (days vary). In SE, the program will be held at Creston Park (4454 SE Powell Blvd.) 11:30 am-1 pm, Essex Park (SE 76th Ave. and Center St.) 11:30 am-1 pm and Mt. Scott Park (SE 72nd Ave. and SE Ramona St.) 12-1:30 pm. All three locations will operate through

Friday, August 22 (no program Friday, July 4).

Free lunches are for youth 18 years old and under. If you plan to bring 10 or more youth age 18 and under to receive free lunch, please call 503.729.0332 or email alicia.hammock@portlandoregon.gov at least five business days in advance to ensure enough lunches will be available. Meals must be eaten on-site in the designated area per USDA Federal guidelines.

For the "Play" portion of the program, PP&R is teaming up with 15+ program partners to provide arts, culture, literacy and recreation fun. Organizations like Arts in the Parks, the Portland Opera with their mobile truck, Opera ala Cart, and the Rose City Rollers with their Skatemobile, will be popping up. All activities provided are free.

Full details for Free Lunch + Play at locations across the city can be found at portland.gov/parks/arts-culture/summer-free-all/free-lunch.

Tree Permit Fees Eliminated or Reduced

Portland Parks & Recreation's (PP&R) Urban Forestry division is making it easier and more equitable for Portlanders to care for the city's trees. Starting July 1, most Urban Forestry tree permit fees will be eliminated or significantly reduced, due to funding from the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF). This removes financial barriers for Portlanders while continuing to protect and preserve the city's urban forest.

"We heard you. Permit fees have been a burden for many," said City Forester Jenn Cairo, who led the effort to make this change. "With this new funding, we can remove those costs—making it easier for people to protect trees, improve safety and contribute to a greener, healthier Portland."

The permits themselves, however, will still be required. Property owners must apply before removing or working on regulated trees, but the fee will be waived in most cases.

Permit applications which

will no longer require a fee include tree removal and replanting; street tree pruning (with inspection); tree chemical treatment; street tree attachment permit; ornamental tree lighting permit application—street trees; and administrative reviews and appeals. The replanting waiver application fee will be reduced from \$100 to \$50.

This equity-first approach reduces barriers for communities disproportionately affected by environmental and economic challenges. The move also sustains the urban canopy by ensuring tree removals are followed by new plantings. Finally, thanks to the PCEF funding, the reduction or elimination of fees won't reduce the level of service or programming.

Overall, this is a big step forward to a healthier, more accessible urban forest—and this effort is a direct response to community voices. For full details on Portland tree permit requirements, visit portland.gov/trees or call 503.823.TREE.

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Summer Reading Tips

SMART Reading, the state's largest volunteer-driven nonprofit organization devoted to children's literacy, helps students build their own personal libraries throughout the school year. They've also created resources to encourage reading over the summer break, lessening the likelihood of the infamous "summer reading slide."

Take advantage of your local library

School may be on break, but your local library is open. Not only can you check out new books from the library all summer long, but your library likely has storytimes and activities for kids planned. They may also have a summer reading challenge with prizes for those who reach reading goals. Visit multcolib.org to see what they have going on.

Set summer reading goals

You can also create a personalized summer reading challenge for your child, either a certain number of minutes spent reading in a week/month or a certain number of books finished. This allows you to create a schedule that best meets your child's needs, as well as sets rewards you know will be particularly motivating for them.

Plan a reading adventure

If you're going on a vacation or visiting anywhere new, find a book about the place or one written by an author from the place. Ask questions about the stories like "What do you remember learning about this place?" or "Do you recognize that food or landmark?" Even if travel isn't planned, you can make reading an adventure by reading in a new place or in a new way, like in a

park, tent or the dark with a flashlight.

Make sure to read for fun

Summer is a great time to try out new books without the pressure of finishing them. Encourage kids to check out different kinds of books from the library and stop reading if they find out the story isn't for them. Summer is too short to force a book you aren't enjoying! And remember, reading is reading. Whether it's a graphic novel, comic book, cookbook or joke book, it all counts and helps build valuable reading skills.

Set a good example

Kids learn by example. If they see you reading everyday, even for a short time, they'll likely want to copy you and pull out a book of their own. Encourage family reading time when everyone reads a book together or independently.

Take reading on the go

Have a few spare minutes when your kids are between activities or waiting for appointments? Keep books in the car or a travel tote bag to fill those minutes with reading. Traveling to the next activity is also a great time to ask kids about what they're reading. When you're in the car, on the bus or walking somewhere, ask your child what types of books and topics they're enjoying the most and what they like about them.

Don't forget to write

Reading and writing go hand-in-hand. Encourage fun summer writing projects, like sending letters or postcards to friends and family (even if they live in the same neighborhood), keeping a journal or writing their own book or poem.

PP&R Outdoor Pools Are Open



Photo by PP&R.

Portland Parks & Recreation's (PP&R) popular outdoor pools opened for the summer June 20 and will remain open through August 22. To support community needs, three pools (Pier, Creston and Peninsula) will remain open through September 5, extending swim opportunities for individuals and families into late summer. Activities at PP&R pools include swim lessons, open-play swims, lap swimming, water fitness classes, summer swim team and junior lifeguard and junior swim instructor programs.

To reduce cost as a barrier for all recreation programming, including swimming, City of Portland residents can register for the Access Discount Program to receive an ongoing discount of up to 90 percent. The pass is valid for 12 months from the date of enrollment and no proof of income is required. In addition to admission to recreation centers and pools, the pass can be used for classes, camps, swim lessons and other registered activities; preschool and after-school programs; and personal training.

Visit portland.gov/parks/discount for Access Discount Program information.

As part of PP&R's Summer Free For All series of events, people can enjoy free weekly swim sessions at select outdoor pools including Creston Pool (Mondays 6:30-8 pm), Montavilla Pool (Tuesdays 6-8 pm), Grant Pool (Wednesdays 1-3 pm) and Sellwood Pool (Wednesdays 6:30-8 pm). For full schedules and information for all PP&R pools, visit portland.gov/parks/recreation/pools.

Stay Cool, Safe During Heat Waves

The city of Portland has put together a list of resources for residents to stay cool in hot weather. The resources include cooling centers, fountains, splash pads, places to swim, cooling your home without air conditioning and staying hydrated.

In extreme heat, Multnomah County and the city of Portland will open cooling spaces such as centers, shelters, community centers, libraries and misting stations. A complete list can be found at multco.us/programs/help-when-its-hot or by calling 211.

Find a place to splash around in one of Portland Parks & Recreation's (PP&R) interactive fountains and splash pads. Locations and hours can be found at portland.gov/parks/recreation/splash.

PP&R also owns and operates four indoor pools and seven outdoor pools (most of which opened mid-June). Locations and hours can be found at portland.gov/parks/recreation/pools.

Swimming in the Willamette and Columbia rivers can be fun and refreshing as well. But be careful as drowning can be

caused by very cold water, high river levels, fast moving water and debris from storms and runoff. Find parks with water access and get important safety information at portland.gov/parks/guide-swimming-portland-rivers.

Air conditioning units can be expensive, both to run and purchase. If you have access to air conditioning, using fans, strategically opening windows and covering windows when the sun hits them can help you keep cool and safe.

Both ceiling fans and box fans use less energy than air conditioning systems. From evening to early morning, add a box fan to open windows to move the cooler air inside more quickly. During the day, while your windows are closed, use fans directly on your body. Fans don't actually cool down the air, but having a breeze can help your body cool faster.

By opening windows strategically, letting outside air in can possibly cool your home. During the evening, night and early morning, open your windows to let cooler air in. During the daytime, when the outside temperature is warmer than inside

temperature, keep your windows closed.

When the sun hits your windows, the inside of your home heats up. Close blinds and drapes to block incoming heat. Insulated drapes, blackout curtains and honeycomb style blinds are particularly energy efficient.

Portland's tap water is some of the best water in the world. Drink plenty of water throughout the day. Save money and reduce your use of plastics by filling reusable water bottles with tap water before heading outdoors or taking car rides. Fill your pets' water bowls regularly.

Finally, when hot weather arrives, people are encouraged to check on family, friends and neighbors. Some people are more at risk, including people with health conditions, the very young and very old. In recent years, people who lived alone and did not have air conditioning experienced the highest rates of illness and death. Our unsheltered neighbors are particularly vulnerable as well. Call 911 to request a welfare check by Portland Street Response or other emergency responders.

A Bike Bus For Adults

Following two successful community bike events in April and May, the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) has announced that their series of monthly bike rides for the 2025 City Bike Bus season will continue. A bike bus is often a group of students biking to school—but in this case, it's adults biking together to downtown. Join the City Bike Bus on the second Wednesday of the month, now through October.

Riders can choose from one of nine routes across the city, four of which run through SE Portland to reach downtown. The northernmost route starts at NE Roseway near Glenhaven Park, south of that starts at SE Mill Park near the East Portland Community Center, the next begins on SE Woodstock and the southernmost route utilizes SE Springwater/SE Johnson Creek Blvd. Start at the beginning or join anywhere along the route.

All nine routes will have a bike bus departing from their

start location at a different time, designed to come together at Salmon Street Springs downtown at 8:15 am where participants can enjoy coffee, breakfast treats and tunes. PBOT's Bike Bus website, portland.gov/bikebus, provides a map and estimated arrival times at intersections along each route to let people know what time to "catch the bus."

The nine designated routes utilize Portland's extensive, low-traffic Neighborhood Greenway network to ensure a comfortable commute for all. New commuters are welcome and encouraged to join. No rider will be left behind.

For those that would like to join the Bus but don't have a bike, PBOT recommends riding with BIKETOWN, Portland's easy, affordable and super-fun way to get around. Just hop on one of their e-bikes and be on your way. The BIKETOWN website, biketown-pdx.com, has a map of station locations around town, pricing and more.

Alberta Rose July Highlights



Ruthie Foster by Alberta Rose Theatre.

Three highlights from the many shows at Alberta Rose Theatre in July are headlined by women, bringing a variety of talents to the stage. Starting Tuesday, July 1, 7 pm, The She Rose Show, brought to you by Marya Stark and Sedona Swan Soulfire, emerges as a transmission of beauty, hope and liberation. The show offers an immersive multi-modality experience of sacred song, dance, ritual theater, puppeteering and visuals in celebration of the emergent Divine Feminine. Experience The She Rose Show and participate in a collective ceremony to remember the truth of our extraordinary human nature, rise from the collective shadows, celebrate the feminine and bloom of the rose of the heart..

Friday, July 18, 8 pm Carolyn Wonderland plays original, bluesified, cosmic soul music, mixed with heavy doses of Tex-Mex and riff-fueled rock 'n' roll. She has been performing professionally since the age of 15 and has led a colorful and adventurous life. On the road her entire career, she's played with icons from Townes Van Zandt to Levon Helm, from Buddy Guy to Hubert Sumlin, from Bob Dylan to John Mayall, all while writing her own story.

Ruthie Foster brings her full band along to rock Alberta Rose Thursday, July 24, 8 pm. The four-time Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter mixes a wide palette of American song forms, from gospel and blues to jazz, folk and soul. Drawing influence from legendary acts like Mavis Staples and Aretha Franklin, Foster developed a unique sound unable to be contained within a single genre. Tacoma-based singer-songwriter Stephanie Anne Johnson opens the show.

Tickets for these shows, and a full line up of shows at Alberta Rose, can be found at albertarosetheatre.com. Many shows allow minors when accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Student Jams and Community Sings

With school out for the summer, Artichoke Community Music is offering opportunities for students to gain experience performing and learning and for the community to come together to sing. There are four open mic nights, starting Wednesday, July 2, 7 pm with a free session for teens and young adults hosted by Katy Ohsiek of Foamboy. Performers are invited to share music, poetry, comedy or stories with a supportive audience. Both soloists and groups are welcome and the audience is open to all.

Wednesday, July 9 is an all ages hip-hop open mic with Jason Yelton. Sign ups begin at 6:30 pm with open mic starting at 7 pm. A \$5 cover will be charged at the door.

Acoustic Village July 16, 6:30 pm is hosted by Richard Colombo. The return of this open mic night invites you to "be part of the heart." Make sure to arrive early to throw your name in the hat to play a cover or original. Tickets (available only at the door): \$5-\$10.

Queer Open Mic Night is the final one of the month, July 23, 6:30 pm. You'll find a vibrant and inclusive space where everyone, seasoned performers and first-time speakers alike, are welcome to share their voices and stories. Hosted by Richard Colombo, the event is all about celebrating diversity and fostering a supportive community. Expect a night of poetry, music, storytelling, comedy and more, with a focus on queer experiences and perspectives. Come as you are, express yourself freely and connect with others in an atmosphere of acceptance and respect. Tickets (only available at the door): \$5.

There are also focused jams for serious students. Monday, July 7, 6:30 pm is Dave's Lowdown Youth Blues Jam with Backbeat Music Academy Rhythm Section, a free learning-focused jam for student-age musicians of all levels who are serious about developing musicianship. Sunday, July 20, 2 pm the Student Jazz Jam is led by Max Tucker. Musicians/performers get in free; listeners pay a sliding scale donation (\$5-\$10) at the door.

Finally, there are two Tuesday night Community Summer Sings with Radix Vocal Ensemble and Leela Grace, July 1 and 8. Doors open at 6:30 pm and seats are first come, first served. Beer, wine, soft drinks and light snacks will be available for purchase. Tickets are sliding scale (\$5-\$10) and available at artichokemusic.org.

Krueger and Kapnek at Sidestreet Arts

Sidestreet Arts is thrilled to present "In Form" as its July featured show. Artists Denise Krueger and Jennifer Kapnek will be in attendance for the First Saturday Artwalk July 5, 5-7 pm and their works will be on display Thursday, July 3-Saturday, July 26.



Reaching Out Sea Spine Pods by Denise Krueger.



Portland ceramicist Krueger calls herself a "podmaker." Her pods look like they have been plucked from the tidepools of the Oregon coast. Many collectors of Krueger's work report buying her pieces and hanging them on their walls in a swooping design, as if they had been found swept ashore after a storm. Like many things of the sea, her work is peaceful, beautiful and might even bring serenity to the viewer's soul.



Historic Acer Maple: Autumns Mermaid by Jennifer Kapnek.

Painter Kapnek creates luminous paintings with botanical themes that move beyond the 2D by using branches to add sculptural dimension. She cleverly extends these branches beyond the painting substrates, but also seamlessly incorporates these natural elements with the surface of each of her paintings. Lush leaves are lovingly rendered alongside fig, maple and apple branches. The stunning paintings are sure to be appreciated by all lovers of Mother Nature.

Sidestreet Arts, 140 SE 28th Ave., is open Thursday-Sunday, 12-5 pm and can be found virtually anytime at sidestreetarts.com.

Montavilla Street Fair

The Montavilla/East Tabor Business Association (METBA) presents the 12th annual Montavilla Street Fair Sunday, July 27, 10 am-6 pm. The family-friendly celebration takes place in the historic Downtown Montavilla area.

Last summer, organizers estimated 25,000 people attended the Street Fair, making it one of the largest of all street fairs in all of Portland. Organizers expect 30,000 to attend this year, which would make it one of the largest one-day events in East County.

"We're thrilled to have such a tight-knit community that steps up to make large-scale events like our street fair possible, and the economic impact is significant," said Neil Mattson, METBA. "Like most, this community has been altered by the pandemic; we lost some key businesses, but there are many more new ones getting established. If you haven't been to Montavilla in a while, Street Fair is the perfect time to check out what this community has to offer."

The event will take place on SE Stark St. between SE 76th and 82nd avenues. An anticipated 150+ vendors will be present selling food and drink, art, hand crafts, clothing, as well as marketing local products and services. As in previous years, the fair corresponds with the Montavilla Farmers Market, adding an additional layer of fun and activity.

Music will be performed on four stages, offering a diverse mix of local Portland music. The tunes will range from kids' focused and singer-songwriters on the Plaza Stage to national touring artists headlining the Main Stage.



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21ten Summer Residency

21ten Theatre is excited to announce that four groups of talented local artists, out of 28 applicants, have been selected to bring their original work to their space for the month of July. The program is the Second Annual Summer Residency, enabling local theater artists to self-produce a show, with rehearsal time, performances and a stipend, all at 21ten.

The One is a new work by Andrea Parson, directed by Jessica Wallenfels. A devised solo play, told through evocative movement, storytelling and a clown sensibility. Parson juxtaposes her modern day search for love with images of a 14th century medieval anchoress, weaving in and out of a sacred, comedic and personal reflection about love and loving.

La Mariposa, a devised solo performance ritual, created by Sofia Leonila Marks and Isabel Strongheart McTighe and developed in part with The Hatchery at Many Hats Collaboration, is about a girl who has forgotten her name. She is haunted by dreams of her body becoming an expansive landscape. Mariposa searches for her identity in a dream world between a girl's bedroom and the desert where spirits dance.

From local writer and composer erin rachel comes *un/seen*, a devised play, immersive story and sound experience exploring unseen connections, impermanence and everyday magic. Blending narrative performance and dynamic sonic landscapes, each performance will invite reflection on the choices we make and the invisible threads that shape our everyday.

The Rainbow Passage, a new play by Ajai Tripathi, follows a recovering drug addict who travels into the memories of his catatonic twin sister, a professor of radio astronomy, in order to rally their family to free her consciousness from being trapped on the horizon line of a black hole. Featuring an all Desi cast of characters, the play is both science fiction and a metaphysical family drama about meditation, addiction and letting go.

Summer Residency performances run Thursday, July 3-Sunday, July 27. Thursday-Saturday shows at 7:30 pm, Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets start at \$15 and can be purchased at 21ten.org/buy-tickets.

Summer Free For All Returns



Movie in the Park. Photo by PP&R.

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) is bringing back their wildly popular series of Summer Free For All events for 2025. Free live music, movies and cultural events start Wednesday, July 2 citywide, thanks to the 2020 voter-approved Parks Local Option Levy (Parks Levy).

This year's program features more than 40 events for all ages, including multicultural festivals, free outdoor movies, concerts and more ways to experience community across the city. "It's just not summer in Portland until Summer Free For All gets going again," says PP&R Director Adena Long. "There is nothing like experiencing live music or enjoying an outdoor movie with your loved ones in your favorite neighborhood park."

Events include festivals, concerts (starting at 6:30 pm), movies (starting at 7:30 pm with screenings beginning after dusk) and special events. In inner SE alone, you'll find a Son de Cuba concert Thursday, July 10 at Mt. Tabor Park Amphitheater; the movie *Galaxy Quest* Thursday, July 17 at Colonel Summers Park; the movie *Despicable Me 4* at Brentwood Park Friday, July 18; and a Wamba concert at Kenilworth Park Saturday, July 19.

For a complete schedule and information about events taking place throughout July and August, visit portland.gov/parks/arts-culture/summer-free-all/cultural-events. Schedules are available in English and Spanish, with more languages coming soon, including Ukrainian, Tongan, Russian, Somali, Chinese and Vietnamese.

Beer Keg Strongman 2

Back by extremely aggressive demand, the Kernside business association is bringing the chaos, camaraderie and keg-hoisting madness back for another round. The inaugural Beer Keg Strongman event took place in April on Rainbow Road and was more successful than the organizers could have imagined.

Taking place Saturday, July 12, 11 am-4 pm, this time the event will be lifting kegs at Migration Brewing Co. (2828 NE Glisan St.). Participants need not be seasoned lifters to join. Just try hard, cheer louder and enjoy the community chaos of "lifting heavy sh*t in the name of strength and that brief glimmer of Portland summer joy."

The event is presented by Inner Beast PDX, Lone Fir Fitness and Migration Brewing. For more information and to sign up, visit kernside.org/event.

New Allie Hankins Work

Portland-based dancer, performer and performance maker Allie Hankins presents her latest work, *By My Own Hand, Part 4: MELODY*, Friday, July 11-Sunday, July 13. The solo work engages the biomechanics of voice and interweaves movement, memory and sound. In this piece, analog tape recorders with looping tapes of varying durations create unexpected rhythmic patterns, rich textures and an imperfect, wavering chorus of voices. Throughout the performance, the recurring sonic fragments are paired—and continually re-paired—with dances, actions and images, generating an ever-evolving soundtrack that layers and distorts the audience's associations with time, memory and meaning.

Within an intricate tapestry of wails, laughter, overtones and unexplained sounds, *MELODY* becomes an excavation and repurposing of the performance series' own shadow or ghost, blending lamentation, dreamscape, intricacy and humor. At once methodical and mundane, otherworldly and mysterious, the work exists somewhere between an elegy and a manifesto; between a reckoning with the past and an ache for an impossible future. Refusing to settle fully into any single world, *MELODY* invites audiences into a liminal, continuously shifting space of dissonance, entanglement and transformation.

Performances take place 7:30 pm nightly at Shaking the Tree Theater, 823 SE Grant St. More information and tickets (sliding scale \$10-\$45) at alliehankins.com/upcoming.

Fighting and Delighting Films

Highlighted films in July at Tomorrow Theater include a Fight the Nazis double feature, a look at Frida and Kate Bush's mystical art film. Saturday, July 5 has two iconic films, *The Sound of Music* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, that celebrate courage in the face of authoritarianism. Whether your weapon is a song or a whip, these classics remind us that standing up to evil never goes out of style. *The Sound of Music* starts at 3:30 pm, followed by *Raiders of the Lost Ark* at 7:30 pm. Tickets are sold separately, \$15 per film.

Celebrate Friday Kahlo's birthday Sunday, July 6 by joining photographer and model Alexandra Gomez of Studio Who for an afternoon centered around identity, creative process and self-portraiture. Gomez will introduce the film and give a short talk on the art of self-portraiture in advance of a screening of *Frida*, a movie about Kahlo, who channeled her image and her life into her work. She'll also be raffling off a portrait session to audience members. Tickets are \$15 for the event that starts at 4 pm.

Step into the visual realm of avant-pop diva Kate Bush, a world rich with mythology and magic, full of striking fashion, sumptuous sets, deep symbolic imagery and imaginal resonance Friday, July 25, 7 pm. The special screening of Bush's mystical art film *The Line, The Cross, The Curve* is hosted by Gina Altamura, live music and arts event curator and DJ. The film was written, directed by and starred Bush and released in 1993 as a companion piece to her album *The Red Shoes*. The screening will kick off with a curated selection of some of Bush's most iconic music videos. Tickets (\$15) for this event and others available at tomorrowtheater.org.

Arts events, livestreams and fun news? Email your press releases and images to: goingout@seportland.news

AE Arts & Entertainment

PNW Wonderland Tour Kick Off



Avery Hill (left) and Jaspar Lepak (right).

Longtime friends and frequent collaborators Avery Hill and Jaspar Lepak are kicking off their PNW Wonderland Tour, which will run from Sisters to Seattle, in Portland. The kick off offers a transformative weekend of music, creativity and connection.

Friday, July 25, 7 pm is a live concert of all-original folk music at The Artichoke, 2007 SE Powell Blvd., one of Portland's most cherished listening rooms. Known for their poignant songwriting and evocative storytelling, Hill and Lepak will each perform a heartfelt set that invites audiences into the natural and emotional landscapes of their lives. With lyrics rooted in the rhythms of nature and the nuances of personal experience, their songs linger long after the final note—offering reflection, resonance and a renewed perspective.

The following morning, Saturday, July 26, 10 am-noon, the duo will lead a special songwriting workshop titled "The Intersection of Women and Nature in Songwriting." Designed for both experienced songwriters and curious newcomers, the workshop explores the deep connections between women's lived experiences and the natural world. Through thoughtful prompts and writing exercises, participants will be guided to uncover and amplify their own creative voice.

Lepak crafts feminist folk songs that are poetic and resonant, with a voice often compared to Kate Wolf and Nanci Griffith. Her 2024 release *So Strong*—inspired by love, loss, motherhood and the fight for reproductive justice—debuted at #6 on the Folk Radio Chart. Her music is bravely honest, tender and sometimes playfully defiant.

Hill is a singer-songwriter, storyteller and teaching artist known for her thoughtful lyrics, intricate melodies and warm, engaging presence. Her 2024 album *The One Who Remembers* explores memory as a portal through time—linking past, present and future. Whether performing or teaching, Hill brings humor, heart and deep insight to her work.

Together, Hill and Lepak offer more than just a performance—they create an experience of honest expression, community and purpose-driven art.

Tickets for the concert (\$20), the workshop (\$25-\$40) or both events are available at bit.ly/hill-lepak-tour-25. Space is limited.

Mary Flower and Carla Sciaky Performance

Sunday, July 27, 7 pm Mary Flower takes the Artichoke stage with special guest Carla Sciaky. Flower is much-heralded for her instrumental prowess and delicious singing voice. She also has an exceptional ability to bring the music of another time, place and culture alive for contemporary audiences around the world. Above all, she inspires others to learn, pick and immerse themselves in the world of acoustic fingerpicking blues performed on the guitar.

Joining Flower is Sciaky, with her ethereal and expressive voice. She is known for creating a warm intimacy with her audience that is both transformative and powerful. Her music is an interweaving of originals, traditional ballads and covers of folk friends such as Pete Sutherland, David Mallet and Kate MacLoes, accompanied by her exquisite fingerpicking style on guitar.

Advance tickets (\$20) can be purchased at artichokemusic.org/livemusic.html or at the door (\$25). Artichoke Music is located at 2007 SE Powell Blvd.

Author Events at AHC



Simon Benson from Chester Benson's book.

July sees two author events at the Architectural Heritage Center (AHC). The first is Saturday, July 19, 10-11:30 am, where Author Darrell Jabin will speak about his book *Theaters of Oregon: Before the Show Began*. Theaters have always captured our imaginations. Their architecture and lighting have drawn us inside. Their decorative lobbies let us know something special was about to happen. Jabin toured and took photos of dozens of theaters and researched opera houses, Chautauqua vaudeville and movie palaces.

Oregon's Traveling Historian, as Jabin is known, has taken dozens of trips around Oregon. He has gathered interesting stories about people, places and events to share on social media, in videos and in hundreds of presentations throughout the state. Tickets are \$15 AHC members and \$25 general public.

The second is a free event the following Saturday, 12-1:30 pm. Chester Benson will talk about his book, *Simon Benson, Immigrant, Lumberman & Philanthropist*. Simon Benson came to Oregon in 1867 from Norway as a teen. He made his fortune in logging and then turned to local philanthropy, leaving his mark on Portland and the Columbia River Gorge. Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase.

The events take place at AHC, 701 SE Grand Ave. Tickets for the Jabin event and registration for the free event available at visitahc.org.

Trash Babe Productions Show



XO-interstitium is the culminating work of a three-year collaboration between JmeJames Antonick and Patsy Morris, with music by Geovanny Vega. What began as JmeJames' vision evolved into an equal collaboration, birthing both this evening-length performance and the formation of their collective, Trash Babe Productions.

The piece explores the interstitium—the space between—of our bodies, our relationships and shared consciousness. *XO-interstitium* reaches beyond the physical into the exo-interstitium: the connective tissue of all that is.

Rooted in embodied healing, the work traverses stages of somatic research: in Honey Touch, we co-regulate through touch; in Lantern Consciousness, we invoke play and movement to foster neuroplasticity; in Body Veil, we uncover magick—our innate power through dance. These threads converge in *XO-interstitium*, the final movement in communion with shared consciousness.

The show runs Friday, July 18-Sunday, July 20 at Performance Works NorthWest (4625 SE 67th Ave.), 7:30 pm each day. Tickets (\$15-\$25, under 18 free when accompanied by an adult) available at pnw-pdx.org.

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Sugarpill Drag Show

Local artist Sugarpill has announced the “Sad Girl Summer” drag show will take place Friday, July 11, 7-10 pm at the historic Clinton Street Theater (CST), 2522 SE Clinton St. The annual drag show is dedicated to exploring the melancholy alongside the joy of the season. A diverse group of 13 queer and trans performers will take the stage for a unique production that offers a space for queer art that is often overlooked in traditional drag shows.

“Sad Girl Summer is about acknowledging and celebrating the darkness that doesn’t go away when the sun comes out,” producer and host Sugarpill explains. “This show fills an unmet need, providing a platform for artists under immense political and emotional pressure to express themselves authentically, and for audiences to connect with that.”

In 2024, Sad Girl Summer distributed over \$1,800 to 15 artists across three smaller week-night shows. This year, Sugarpill takes a different approach with one marquee event, just ahead of the Portland Pride Festival.

CST, a bigger venue, the weekend date and more performers means higher expenses. With sponsorship from local brand Citizen Ruth, Sugarpill is able to offer sliding scale pricing. This gives attendees flexibility to select the price that works best for them. Find tickets (\$12-\$20) or purchase a sponsorship package at sadgirlsummer.com. All seating is the same, regardless of the price paid per ticket.

OMHOF Inductees, Scholarship Winners

The Oregon Music Hall of Fame (OMHOF) announces 2025 inductees and scholarship winners Tuesday, July 15, 5 pm at Laurelhurst Club (3721 SE Ankeny St.). The free, public event will have complimentary appetizers and a no host bar.

This year seven scholarships will be awarded, each \$2,500, to students from a variety of Oregon towns and cities. The scholarship recipients will be on hand and will perform live.

OMHOF was formed in 2003 to promote and preserve the musical arts in the state of Oregon. Since its formation, OMHOF has been in the forefront of fundraising for music education in schools that do not have existing music programs and awarding high school seniors scholarships for their college musical studies and degrees. For more information, contact Janeen Rundle OMHOF Co-Founder & Director of College Scholarships/Music Education at janeen@omhof.org.

PDXWLF Call For Participation



Love Diodes by Curtis McHenry. Photo by Steve Roberts.

While Portland soaks up summer sunshine, plans are underway to brighten the darkest days of winter. The Portland Winter Light Festival (PDXWLF) invites artists, performers, designers, engineers, architects and community groups to submit proposals for the 2026 Festival. The call for participation is now open, offering an opportunity to be part of one of Portland’s most beloved and impactful creative events.

Proposals incorporating light in any form—including sculpture, performance, fire, video, projection, sound and interactive works—are encouraged. Submissions are welcome from individual artists, collectives, community members and venues. No prior festival experience is necessary; PDXWLF welcomes emerging artists and first-time participants with bold ideas and a creative spirit. Businesses, storefronts, nonprofits and property owners interested in hosting artwork are also invited to get involved.

Full details and applications are available at pdxwlf.com/call-for-participation. Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis through Thursday, August 28. Early submissions are strongly encouraged to maximize opportunities for support, promotion and creative collaboration.

The 2026 PDXWLF will take place February 6–14, 2026, filling Portland’s streets with free, glowing art installations, immersive sculptures, performances, music and unforgettable moments. For its 11th year, the Portland Winter Light Festival is proudly Presented by PGE.

The 2026 Festival theme, “All the Little Things,” celebrates how small actions and objects can carry extraordinary weight. Insects working together can move mountains. A tiny stone can reflect light. A single memory can spark a future. PDXWLF is seeking proposals that explore the power of small things to create a big impact.


Make Music Together

Music Together of Portland invites you to experience the joy and magic of music this summer. Create memories that will last a lifetime, and connect with other families in your neighborhood as you sing, dance and jam along. The summer session runs Tuesday, July 8–Saturday, August 9 and there is still space available.

Classes for children ages birth to age eight are offered at two SE locations—Waverly UCC, SE 33rd Ave. and Woodward St., and Moreland Presbyterian Church, SE 18th Ave. and Bybee Blvd.

Classes include Babies—a musical parenting class for new parents with babies up to eight months; Mixed-Age—family music time with babies, toddlers and/or preschoolers; and Rhythm Kids—drumming, singing and dancing for ages four to eight. Visit musictogetherpdx.com or call 503.236.4304 to register.

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Film Classes Galore at MMU

Movie Madness University (MMU) offers a number of Single-Session Classes and one Multi-Session Class in July. The Single-Session Classes are offered on different days of the week, making it easier to find something that will fit into nearly any schedule.

Starting right off Tuesday, July 1, 6:30 pm is *Jesus Shows You the Way to the Highway*. The 2019 film, the second from filmmaker Miguel Llansó, is set in the year 2035 and is delightfully audacious in concept and execution. The class will discuss how subversion and remixing of expectations can yield a truly unique and blissfully bizarre film.

The Celluloid Closet is the focus of the Thursday, July 3, 6:30 pm class. It will go through the complex journey from book to documentary and celebrate the life and work of film historian, gay activist and Iconic Queer Ancestor Vito Russo.

Monday, July 7, 6:30 pm is a deep dive into the Hong Kong blockbuster, *Internal Affairs*. The class will include a brief discussion of the making of the film, the assembly of cast and crew, the identity and politics of Hong Kong and its citizens at the time of production and notable remakes.

The only Sunday class is July 13, 12 pm. Eddie Muller, host of Turner Classic Movies’ *Noir Alley*, celebrated writer, film historian and founder/president of the non-profit Film Noir Foundation, presents *If I Should Die Before I Wake*. Muller will discuss the literary roots of the film, the cross-cultural legacy shared by the US and Argentina during the post-WWII era, as well as the rescue, restoration and rebirth of this stunning noir.

Finishing out the Single-Session Classes is John Sayles’ *Lone Star*, Wednesday, July 30, 6:30 pm. The class will explore the film’s setting in a tiny Texas border town, intertwined cultures, intergenerational trauma and how the past influences the present as well as the film’s subversion of both personal and national myth making.

In the Multi-Session Class, Emotional Pain in Beautiful Places, the class will look at *Sideways* Monday, July 14 and *The Descendants* Monday, July 21. Both films follow emotionally adrift characters, struggling to find meaning in midlife, but they are suffering in beautiful locations. Class starts at 6:30 pm each night.

Single-Session classes are \$18 members/\$22 non-members. The Multi-Session class is \$36 members/\$44 non-members. Registration and more information found at moviemadness.org.

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JULY 2025



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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">I She Rose Show</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">sacred song, dance, ritual + more</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">AUG 28</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">KRUGER BROTHERS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">+ Salinas Road</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">II TRIPLE CLICK LIVE!</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">live podcast recording</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">AUG 30</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">Dare & Derriere</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">aerial burlesque</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">13 CANDLELIGHT</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">6:30PM a Tribute to Adele 8:30PM Hans Zimmer</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">SEP 5</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">Come Together</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">burlesque tribute to The Beatles</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">18 CAROLYN WONDERLAND</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">bluesified, cosmic soul music</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">SEP 10</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">OTTMAR LIEBERT AND LUNA NEGRA</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">23 SCIENCE ON TAP</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Doctors by Nature How Ants, Apes, & Other Animals Heal Themselves</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">SEP 11</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">Nellie McKay's Strange Days</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Get Away From Me Tour</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">24 RUTHIE FOSTER</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">full band show! + Stephanie Anne Johnson</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">SEP 12</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">LEATHER & LACE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">A TRIBUTE TO ALL THINGS FLEETWOOD & STEVIE</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">25 Booklover's Burlesque</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Banned Books Edition</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">SEP 23</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">MASTERS OF HAWAIIAN MUSIC</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">GEORGE KAHUMOKU JR. DANIEL HO & TIA CARRERE</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">26 Riddles! Puzzles! WhoDunnits!</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">HEY RIDDLE RIDDLE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">live podcast recording</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">SEP 25</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">HOWIE DAY</p>

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Wellness Word

Editor's note: Wellness Word is an informational column which is not meant to replace a healthcare professional's diagnosis, treatment or medication.

What is Naturopathic Medicine? Why Might I Consider a Naturopathic Practitioner?

Let's be honest: naturopathic medicine is a little unclear. Is it just herbs and vitamins? Are naturopaths real doctors? And why would you see one instead of a "regular" provider?

Chances are you've seen a naturopathic clinic in your neighborhood or know someone who swears by their naturopathic doctor (ND). Naturopathic medicine is a unique approach to healthcare that blends modern science with natural therapies. It's grounded in the belief that the body has an innate ability to heal when given the right support. Rather than just managing symptoms, naturopathic doctors aim to identify and treat the root causes of illness.

In Oregon, naturopathic doctors are fully licensed medical professionals. They attend a four-year naturopathic medical school—such as the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland—and are regulated by the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine. Their training includes conventional medical sciences, diagnosis, and pharmacology, along with natural therapies like nutrition, herbal medicine, lifestyle counseling and physical medicine. In Oregon, licensed NDs can prescribe medications, order lab work and imaging, perform minor procedures and even serve as primary care providers.

People often seek naturo-

pathic care for ongoing or complex conditions such as fatigue, digestive disorders, autoimmune diseases, hormonal imbalances like thyroid issues or menopause, chronic stress and anxiety, allergies, metabolic conditions and more. Many patients also see NDs for preventive care, looking to optimize sleep, digestion, immune function and long-term wellness. Some patients use naturopathic medicine as a stand-alone form of primary care, while others use it alongside conventional care to create a more integrated health plan.

One of the biggest draws of naturopathic care is the time and attention patients receive. Appointments with NDs are often 45-90 minutes long. This allows for a more detailed understanding of your health history and current concerns. This deeper relationship supports personalized care and allows providers to explore not just what's wrong, but why it's happening. Another reason people turn to naturopathic medicine is the preference for natural treatment options. While NDs are trained and licensed to prescribe medication, they often begin with lifestyle changes, dietary support, herbal medicine and other non-pharmaceutical interventions. The flexibility to offer both natural and conventional options is one of the unique benefits of working with a naturopath.

Many patients also appreciate that naturopathic care focuses on prevention. Rather than wait-

ing until something goes wrong, NDs help patients build resilience and improve their overall health before symptoms appear. This proactive approach can be especially helpful for those with a family history of chronic illness or for anyone who simply wants to feel better day-to-day.

When searching for a naturopathic doctor it's a good idea to get referrals from friends, or read online reviews on Google and Yelp. *Portland Monthly* publishes a Top Docs edition every year that includes the highest rated naturopaths in town. Also, your insurance company will have a list of covered naturopaths that you can access online. Most Oregon insurances cover both in person and telemedicine naturopathic visits.

In short, naturopathic medicine is not alternative—it's an integrated, respected part of the healthcare landscape. Whether you're managing a chronic condition, seeking a fresh perspective or looking for a provider who takes time to truly understand your health, naturopathic medicine may be a great fit. It offers thoughtful, whole-person care rooted in science, nature and a deep respect for your body's ability to heal. And it's probably available right in your neighborhood.

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Neighborhood Notes

Buckman Community Association By Susan Lindsay

The Buckman Community Association (BCA) Summer Events are here! Thursday, July 17, co-hosted with Portland Parks “Summer for All Programs,” the BCA presents Buckman Movie Night in the Park showing *Galaxy Quest*, the 1990s spoof on Sci-Fi genre films and TV series starring Sigourney Weaver, Tim Allen and a host of other actors. All are welcome! The movie starts at dusk. Come by the BCA booth to find out more about us, our upcoming picnic and to get a free seltzer while supplies last.

Next, Saturday, July 26 is a chance to clear out your garage and bring your gently used (or new!) building materials to donate to the ReBuilding Center 9 am-12 pm, in the Salmon St. parking lot of Hinson Church (SE 20th Ave. and SE Salmon St.). What to bring: doors, windows, lighting, tools (hand and working power tools), working appliances, bricks (no mortar) and pavers, complete boxes of fasteners, tile, insulation.....but no paint, chemicals or lumber with nails.

Finally, Sunday August 3, 4-8 pm, is our annual Buckman Picnic in the Park at Colonel Summers. Music, games for kids, bouncy house, free ice cream and more. This all volunteer, all donated funds event is partially sponsored this year by our picnic partners Key Bank and Central City Concern, as well as a host of individual donors. Please consider being one! Tax-deductible and great local cause of community building, donations \$5-\$1,000 gratefully accepted and you’ll get a receipt! Just visit our website, buckmanpdx.org, and give directly via the Give Lively Link! Volunteers are needed! Please contact buckmanpicnicteam@googlegroups.com. BCA Board and general meetings are held every second Thursday of the month, save in August. To contact the BCA anytime, reach us at buckmanboard@googlegroups.com.

Kerns Neighborhood Association By Rebecca Boenke

Kerns Neighborhood Association and Buckman Community Association have successfully signed a Good Neighbor Agreement with Central City Concern for the CCC 16XBurnside location (formerly Lolo Pass Hostel). This agreement has been long in the making and was a respectful collaborative effort.

Kerns has secured a group to study our streets to make them safer. The PSU Masters of Urban Planning students have selected two key high-crash intersections in our corridor, E Burnside St. at 20th and 28th avenues. The study, called “Better Block PDX Pathways,” will look at ways to make them safer over the course of a year. The students were so excited about this project that a rare two groups will be studying our high-crash corridor! The output of their project can help inform proposals to the city on investments in green space and safer crossings for the four schools between 20th and 28th avenues. It was clarified that while implementation of the students’ proposals isn’t guaranteed, many “Better Block PDX Pathways” projects have historically been adopted by the city.

Debbie Caselton from the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) delivered an informative presentation about upcoming rainwater infrastructure improvements in Kerns. Stormwater planters throughout the neighborhood capture rainwater and filter it through natural processes, thereby diverting rainwater from the sewer system. The most significant component of the project involves “daylighting” several key intersections to enhance safety by improving visibility. Working in partnership with PBOT, BES has identified four priority locations for these improvements: the intersection at NE 28th Ave. and Couch St., behind the Laurelhurst Theater; the area around Vino and Sidestreet Arts at SE Ash St. and SE 28th Ave.; and the corners near Pine Crest Terrace at SE Pine St. and SE 28th Ave. PBOT focused on SE 28th Ave. because it has the highest number of pedestrians within the project area. This project will likely remove very little parking, and much of the parking that is removed will be places where people were not actually parking legally. Next steps includes business consultation, particularly regarding temporary removal of street seating. Residents can request additional catch basins, although they would likely fall outside the current project’s scope (details at portland.gov/bes/buckmankerns). BES primarily has the responsibility for both planters and trees, but community members can participate through the Green Street Stewards program by “adopting” a planter. For more information, contact Debbie at debbie.caselton@portlandoregon.gov.

Kerns Neighborhood Association is hosting another FUNdraiser at Migration Brewing Co. Thursday, July 17, 5-9 pm. We’ll have live, local music and BINGO. Join us for some great food and drink and fun times. Migration is located at 2828 NE Glisan St.

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association By David Petrozzi

Looking for some family fun for the 4th of July holiday? The Mt. Tabor Open tennis tournament will be held Friday, July 4-Sunday, July 6 at the tennis courts in the park. This free daytime event will feature 100 players, most of whom live in our area, playing matches throughout the day beginning at 9 am. And on Thursday, July 10, enjoy a free concert brought to you by Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (show time 6:30 pm). Protip: bike or take public transit to avoid any pesky parking issues!

During our June meeting, MTNA explored building on recent outreach events to continue engaging and supporting older adults in our neighborhood. We’re interested in ensuring all seniors have a voice in our community to discuss important issues like building resilience, disaster recovery preparedness, traffic safety, park access, support for home repairs, aging in place and more. Working with our partners, we plan to assess all of the resources currently available for seniors and ensure they have easy access to any help they may need. In the future, MTNA plans to provide the same type of support for kids and families living in our neighborhood as well.

In May, MTNA was a proud participant at the Archeology Roadshow—displaying pictures and information from Mt. Tabor dating back to 1892, a testament to our continuing neighborhood history project. We were especially proud to be joined by the Montavilla Neighborhood Association and the Wisdom of the Elders organization for this rich, cultural event. Also, keep an eye out for information on our second ‘Taborhood’ community forum planned for Fall. This is an opportunity for you to speak directly to our District 3 city council members. You’ll hear what priorities our government is currently pursuing and have an opportunity to let them know what you value as a member of the community.

Join us at our next meeting Wednesday, July 16, online via Zoom and in person at Taborspace. For more information, visit our website, mttaborpdx.org to sign up and for further details.

Richmond Neighborhood Association By Allen Field

The Richmond Neighborhood Association met June 9 at Central Christian Church, 1844 SE Cesar Chavez Blvd. Meetings are the second Monday of the month 7-9 pm, except January. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. People can participate via Zoom—the link to register is on the agenda, posted to richmondpdx.org and the RNA’s listserv. Meetings are recorded and posted to the website. Email richmond-

continued on page 15

LE

Letter to the Editor

Editor’s note: Letters to the Editor are to be less than 300 words. The Southeast Examiner reserves the right to edit for length or content.

To the Editor:

Portland’s leadership does not get what Vision Zero means in real life. It means that the east side of the city has Zero Vision at night. There are fewer than one quarter of the light poles on the vast majority of east side streets than there are on the west side of town.

And the east side is active 24 hours a day. More people out, more people and vehicle movement equals more accidents and

deaths—added, of course, to fewer police officers on the street at night to enforce the speed limits that do not kill people.

The excuse that light poles are too expensive is bogus if you compare the cost of lighting to the loss of lives. Let’s get creative folks and turn the lights on—especially in the high crash corridors.

Nancy Chapin (Born here, lived and worked in Portland 50 of my 85 years.)

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Neighborhood Notes

from page 13

nasecretary@gmail.com to get on the listserv.

The RNA's annual Board election took place June 9 and 10. At the June 9 meeting, candidates Claire Cofsky, Brian Hochhalter, Debby Hochhalter and Audrey Moss gave candidate statements. All the candidates were elected to the Board.

The Board voted to donate \$100 to the Hawthorne Street Fair, August 24. The RNA is hoping to have a booth at the street fair. The Board also voted to pay the \$125 booth fee for the Clinton/Division Street Fair, September 6.

Saturday, July 19, 9 am-noon, Richmond Styrofoam/Stretch Plastic and Metro's Batteries/CFL/Sharps Collection will be at Central Christian Church. The event is free—the RNA will cover the \$10 per 45 gallon bag styrofoam recycling fee charged by Green Century Recycling. Styrofoam must be sorted, clean and dry, and without tape, labels, cardboard, laminate, staples, glue, ink, paint or food residue, or it will be rejected. Please check the RNA's website for important details on sorting styrofoam and plastic film at bit.ly/44bww8t.

We will also have bottle drop fundraiser for Love Our City Community Food Pantry—bring your Oregon refundable bottles and cans.

We are offering a senior/disabled person pickup service for the July 19 event. Contact richmondcleanup@gmail.com by Monday, July 14 to sign up for the pickup service or to volunteer for the event.

Come to our next meeting, July 14, to learn about the RNA and issues in the neighborhood.

South Tabor Neighborhood Association

By Cathy Kudlick

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our neighborhood's annual garage sale/garden tour June 7! More than 50 households opened up their yards and exchanged wares. This year, we added a refreshing intergenerational, multi-genre mix of live music. Neighbors gathered in front of a pop-up garage stage to enjoy the full band sounds of Charboneau, solo songs of echo onda and 90's covers from Franklin High School band, Wire Tap. And STNA Board member Taran Nadler launched his photography show "Inhuman Portraits," that will be up at The Porch Coffee Space, 6725 SE Kelly St., through July. For more, see our latest issue of the South Tabor Crow at southtabor.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/South-Tabor-Crow-Issue-5.pdf.

STNA continues to push for greater traffic safety along SE Powell Blvd. Construction has started on a few crossings, but we remain vigilant, knowing that more needs to be done.

Along with residents at Findley Commons, an affordable housing complex opened in 2022 for formerly houseless veterans at SE 54th Ave. and Powell Blvd., we're co-hosting a summer BBQ Friday, July 25, 5-8 pm. We'll have dinner, followed by lawn games and socializing. All neighbors are welcome. Bring a side dish or dessert if you'd like! For questions, contact treasurer@southtabor.org.

We're also working with SE Uplift's Climate Justice Action Committee to increase the tree canopy in our neighborhood as part of Urban Forestry's Yard Tree Giveaway Program. Stay tuned for details through STNA's mailing list.

Neighborhood associations aren't about telling you what color you can and can't paint your house or to be gatekeepers about who belongs. We're here to build community, stay informed and act on things we collectively agree are important to us. Everyone who considers South Tabor home is welcome at our monthly STNA meetings, held in person on the third Thursday of every month.

Join us at our next in-person meeting Thursday, July 17, 7 pm at a location TBD. We'll hold our annual Board elections, so come get involved. To get the latest and to sign up for our low-traffic mailing list, visit southtabor.org.

NE Portland School Provides Stability For Homeless Children

from page 1

time instructional assistants and one full-time teacher's aide. There's also a full-time teacher providing one-on-one instruction through a federally funded program called Title I. A small staff of administrators and volunteers handle enrollment and transportation and other functions.

The school runs on a budget of approximately \$1.4 million a year. The county chips in about \$92,000, the rest is provided by foundations and other organizations and private individuals. Local charities and aid groups donate food, clothing and school supplies.

Unlike schools in the PPS system, CTS does not receive federal funding from the McKinney-Vento act, a federal law passed to better support homeless school children by funding transportation, meals, school supplies and other services. But with the help of the community and private donors, CTS has managed to endure for 35 years, and Bickle says the school is adequately funded.

Students are given two meals a day, free school supplies, soap, shampoo, other toiletries, donated clothing and other crucial items. Every weekend they are sent home with a bag of groceries provided by the Sunshine Division—a food based charity founded by the Portland Police Bureau in 1922. Twice a year dentists from the Tooth Taxi foundation come to the school offering free dental care. Once a year

optometry students from Pacific College provide free eye exams.

CTS provides bus service to students across a 120 square-mile area. The routes are constantly changing to meet the needs of students who tend to move frequently.

"This school will help you no matter what," says Divai, an eighth grader who has been attending CTS for four years. "If you live far, they'll still go far to pick you up, they'll come and drop you here, and take you back. They'll do anything for you, to help you with anything that you need."

It's impossible to know the impact CTS has had on the community. Thousands of at risk kids have enrolled there over the years. Some stay and graduate the eighth grade. Others are forced to leave by circumstances beyond their control. "That's probably the most frustrating thing—the opportunities that they lose out when they have to leave," says Bickle. "But then I also believe that along the way there will be other people helping all these kids."

It's clear the school has had a big impact on eighth grader Diva, who will be moving on to high school in the fall. She'll miss her friends. "They really make my day brighter. At home it's usually a little boring, but then when I come here it's just like, really bright."

For more information about CTS, visit transitionalschool.org.



Business Association Notes

82nd Avenue Business Association

By Jacob Loeb

The 82nd Avenue Business Association held its Annual Meeting June 17 at the My Brother's Crawfish restaurant. Attendees heard from TriMet about the new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service planned to replace the 72 line on 82nd Ave. Duncan Hwang from APANO presented information on the organization's housing development work in the area and the launch of a Chinese American restaurant history archive, "Behind the Wok" (apano.org/behind-the-wok).

TriMet is working on updates to Line 72 along 82nd Ave. with a new BRT service under its FX (Frequent Express) branding, similar to the FX 2 line on the SE Division St. This planned enhancement will include stop reductions and relocations. TriMet will replace boarding areas with modern bus station platforms offering more seating coverage and schedule information. They plan to decrease travel time by using longer articulated hydrogen-electric buses with three-door boarding, signal priority at intersections and possibly utilizing Business Access and Transit (BAT) lanes, which would take over the outside lanes in some areas along 82nd Ave. People interested in learning more can visit trimet.org/82nd. The 82nd Avenue Business Association has a board member on the Community Advisory Committee to help represent businesses in the engagement process. Please email communityaffairs@trimet.org and info@82ndaveba.com if you have a business-specific comment about the project to share with the Committee.

Association members in attendance voted to reelect six returning board members for two-year terms. Jacob Loeb, Nancy Chapin, Lura Frazey, Autumn Tarter, Benjamin Fisher and Jamie Lovell will continue to lead the nonprofit for the 2025-2026 term. David Raycroft and Ahlam Osman left the board with the association's appreciation for their years of service to the community. There are still board positions available. Contact info@82ndaveba.com for more information on participating, and visit 82ndaveba.com/join to sign up your 82nd Ave. adjacent business.

Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association

By Jocelyn Jester

SOLVE is proud to partner with the Portland Timbers for their 2025 Stand Together Week. Stand Together Week is a comprehensive, week-long community initiative that supports nonprofit projects and creates volunteer opportunities throughout the Portland metro area. Members from the Portland Timbers organization will join the Hawthorne Boulevard Monthly Trash Clean Up Saturday, July 12, 10-11:30 am. Reserve your space to join this special litter clean up event at bit.ly/4e8bjRu.

Plus, we have sponsorships available for the Hawthorne Street Fair Sunday, August 24. Contact administrator@hawthorneblvd.com to learn more!

Five Years of Alba: Empowerment, Equity and Evolution

from page 1

lescents with assistance promptly. The Alba Collaborative offers a wide range of services by utilizing alliances and other programs with the same goal: to prevent and intervene in youth homelessness.

Through customized case management, the program assists the youth in determining and pursuing their objectives, while also providing them mentorship. They also offer resource recommendations, job training and placement and assistance with basic requirements.

The Alba Collaborative operates under a culturally responsive partnership model, providing 24/7 crisis services to youth experiencing or at risk of housing instability in Portland. Multnomah County's Department of Human Services, Youth Progress, New Avenues for Youth and the National Safe Place Network are all partners in this joint initiative.

"We're proud of all the work we've done at The Alba Collaborative and all the youth we've helped gain stability,"

Nedeau notes. In the past five years, the Collaborative has connected with 1,100 youths, making it a key program of New Avenues' wider homelessness prevention services.

The Alba Collaborative has been commemorating this milestone by sharing the story of the Collaborative and its mission with community partners, business leaders and donors to encourage contributions, "so we can continue doing this valuable work in the community," Nedeau explains. There is always more to be done so they don't pause their efforts to continue to connect with youth in the community.

After a fantastic five years, the Alba Collaborative is here to provide a safety net when needed, working with families and adolescents to provide a safe shelter, resources to assist youth achieve long-term stability and an extra layer of support. Nedeau highlights, "If you or someone you know could use some support, please reach out to us at info@newavenues.org."

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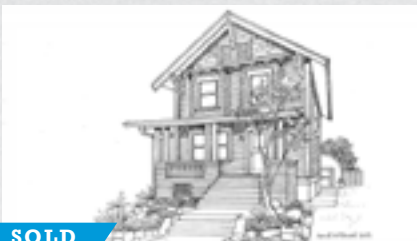


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