

Star NEWS

THE HOLLYWOOD



VISUAL FEAST
Artists bring stimulating visions to Guardino Gallery. **PAGE 15**

★ SERVING NORTHEAST AND NORTH METROPOLITAN PORTLAND NEIGHBORHOODS ★ FEBRUARY 2024 ★ VOLUME 41, NUMBER 8 ★



BUSY boulevard

ROSEWAY/ROSE CITY PARK Enterprises on this stretch of Sandy put the focus on local. **PAGE 10**



KID-FRIENDLY FUN Keep boredom at bay with this list of activities suitable for the entire family. **PAGE 3**



OPEN BOOK Gregory Heights library greets patrons after revamp that was on time, within budget. **PAGE 4**



PETS' LIFELINE Portland's leash laws keep our community and furry friends safe. **PAGE 15**



FRESH IDEA
This Valentine's Day, give the gift of a living plant that will conjure fond memories beyond February. **PAGE 6**



WINTER WONDER There were some bright spots during the recent ice and snow. **PAGE 9**



FAT TUESDAY, LOUISIANA-STYLE Portland cues up fun with Mardi Gras ball, parade. **PAGE 2**

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THE HOLLYWOOD STAR NEWS
NORTH AND NORTHEAST METRO NEIGHBORHOODS
2000 N.E. 42ND AVENUE PMB 142
PORTLAND, OREGON 97213

★ STAR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Mardi Gras will be out of this world

By Denise Szott

The Mysti Krewe of Nimbus kicked off the 2024 Portland Mardi Gras season in January with Mardi Gras Galaxy as this year's theme. The party continues this month with events celebrating the lash hurrah before Lent.

The Portland Mardi Gras Ball is an evening of live music, dancing, space-age costumes, Mardi Gras royalty and more. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with show at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Wonder Ballroom, 128 N.E. Russell St. Dress up and dance to TooLoose Cajun Zydeco Band, Outer Orbit with special guest Arietta Ward, plus an All-Star Musical Revue with Kris Deelane. Authentic Cajun food from the



Participants in the 2020 Mardi Gras Parade were a feast for the ears and eyes as they made their way down North Mississippi Avenue.

(Mysti Krewe of Nimbus photos)

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Bayou Brothers is available for purchase. This is a 21 and over event; tickets cost \$30 and can be purchased at <https://wonderballroom.com/events/the-2024-portland-mardi-gras-ball/>

Then, on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 13, stop in with your youngsters at 6 p.m. at Luke's Frame Shop, 4703 N. Albina St., for the annual Kids Costume Pageant. Next stop is the Portland Mardi Gras Parade, which will march down North Mississippi Avenue from Skidmore to Fremont Streets starting



Dress up in your best galaxy-trekking apparel for the Portland Mardi Gras.

at 7 p.m. The honorary parade marshal this year is Portland blues and gospel singer LaRhonda Steele. It's a free, family-friendly event with costumes, marching bands, music, revelry and plenty of beads, followed by after-parties at participating Mississippi bars and restaurants.

The Mysti Krewe of Nimbus formed in 2010 to celebrate Mardi Gras in Portland and is composed of locals and former Louisiana residents who love the food, music and culture of the Big Easy.

ARTIST CHOSEN TO CREATE N. PORTLAND LIBRARY WALL

Sadé DuBoise has been selected to create a 12-foot-by-16-foot glass wall for the renovated and expanded North Portland library, 512 N. Killingsworth St.

The work will be based on an original painting DuBoise will create. The artist is seeking community ideas and perspectives to help shape the artwork that will be in the Black Cultural Center of the renovated library. Adinkra symbols will be featured in the project. Adinkra symbols originated in Ghana and represent concepts or aphorisms.

One community session was held in January and the next is being planned for February. Information will be at multcolib.org.

DuBoise sought community ideas for

shaping the artwork in the library, part of a 1,500-square-foot expansion creating a building of 10,200 square feet.

The Multnomah County Library, working with the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) is seeking "vibrant and new

artwork that represents the community in a beautiful, inspiring space," said Vailey Oehlke, director of libraries.

The North Portland library has long been a cultural and meeting center for Portland's Black community. The expanded building, designed by LEVER Architecture, is expected to highlight the diversity and history of the



Sadé DuBoise

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Places to pick up the Hollywood Star

Libraries: Albina, Gregory Heights, Hollywood, Kenton, and North

Grocery stores: New Seasons on Interstate, Williams and Broadway/33rd

Fairleys Pharmacy and 42nd Street Station

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community, according to a news release.

The design will preserve the historic Carnegie building while providing greater space for community gatherings in the new Black Cultural Center. An outdoor gathering space also is expected to be part of the design.

The work is part of the voter-approved 2020 bond for building, rebuilding and expanding nine library buildings, including the Albina library. The historic Carnegie building at 215 N.E. Knott St. will become a family and children's center. South of that structure, a new building is under construction on Northeast Russell Street.



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Community reporters needed for monthly Hollywood Star newspaper serving Northeast and North Portland neighborhoods.

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- ★ Be able to meet monthly deadlines.

If interested send resume to:
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★ STAR FEATURE

Beat cabin fever this winter with these kid-friendly activities

By Maggie Grainger

maggiograinger@star-news.info

Baby, it's cold outside. Portland winters are notoriously unpredictable and this year has been no exception. Snow closures, icy flurries and our signature rain have all made appearances — and it's only February.

Add in some cooped-up kids and winter can feel never ending. Thankfully, there are lots of indoor activities, classes and play zones throughout Northeast designed to help little ones (and their parents) shake out some of that pent-up energy, get moving and have fun.

NE SWAP AND PLAY

Come and explore this unique community space. The main play area is home to a cozy reading corner, climbing structures, a play kitchen and market, a Lego table, art table and more, and members also have part-time access to the Youngston Hall, which has play structures and bikes. The swap room is accessible from inside the playground and members can drop off donations and take anything they'd like. Check the website for an updated list of acceptable items to donate.

ADDRESS: 5830 N.E. Alameda St. in the basement of the Rose City Park United Methodist Church **WEBSITE:** neswapandplay.org **HOURS:** Open to members from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. daily. Wednesday play is by reservation only and is \$5 for members, \$20 for nonmembers. **COST:** Sliding scale for monthly memberships

THE WIGGLE ROOM

Kids are encouraged to get their wiggles out at this 2,000-square-foot playspace that includes a climbing structure, giant swing, rotating toys and guest musicians. Bonus: Parents can enjoy a glass of wine while their children burn off some stored-up energy.

ADDRESS: 1925 N.E. 42nd St., Suite C **WEBSITE:** thewiggleroom.com **HOURS:** Varies by week. Check website or Google for latest updates. **COST:** \$12 per kid/\$8 for babies

LIBRARY STORYTIME

Let imaginations soar during library storytime. Check your local branch for baby and toddler-centered activities that include interactive stories, songs, movement, games and open playtime.

ADDRESS: Varies **WEBSITE:** multicolib.org **HOURS:** Varies by location **COST:** Free



No need to stay cooped-up in the house just because it's winter. There's lots to do, such as warming up in the soaking pool at McMenasins Kennedy School or learning how to skate at Lloyd Center's ice rink. (McMenasins Kennedy School)



(Lloyd Center)

THE NEST

Blow off some steam at the Nest. This indoor center is an active kid's dream with a ninja frame obstacle course, rock climbing walls, game room and a full-service cafe on site.

ADDRESS: 6517 N.E. Sandy Blvd. **WEBSITE:** nestplayground.com **HOURS:** 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday **COST:** \$12 per child

MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL SOAKING POOL

The historic soaking pool at Kennedy School is a not-so-hidden gem among Portlanders. Book an hour soak with the family, then take some time to explore the grounds and enjoy a meal. The on-site movie theater usually plays family-friendly flicks both old and new.

ADDRESS: 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave. **WEBSITE:** mcmenasins.com/kennedy-school **HOURS:** Hotel guests: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. General public: Daily 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. **COST:** \$10 per person for an hour soak

(ages 12 and up), \$5 (ages 3-11), kids 2 and under, free. Neighborhood residents free with proof of address

LLOYD CENTER ICE SKATING

Channel your inner Olympian at the historic Lloyd Center Ice Rink. Strap on some skates and let the music and the crowd move you on a memorable afternoon out.

ADDRESS: 953 Lloyd Center **WEBSITE:** lloydice.com **HOURS:** Varies. Check website for more details **COST:** \$4-\$20 depending on age/event. Skate rentals \$5

THE PEOPLE'S COURT

Let some energy out on the court ... The People's Court. This indoor sports heaven has pickleball, pingpong, bocce, cornhole, an arcade and two restaurants onsite, making it the perfect place to play on a rainy day. Check the website for upcoming clinics, classes and camps.

ADDRESS: 2700 N.E. 82nd Ave. **WEBSITE:** thepeoplescourts.com **HOURS:** 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays **COST:** Depends on game and time of day

SUNRISE BOOKS

Sunrise Books is more than a bookstore — it's a curated space designed to let kids explore their creativity and build community together. Enjoy baby storytime on Tuesday mornings and toddler storytimes on Thursdays. Come in Friday mornings for SHINE playgroup, which is for kids 18 month to 4 years old and their parents. Don't miss out on their monthly shoe-tying club, too.

ADDRESS: 4605 N.E. Fremont St., Suite 208 **WEBSITE:** sunrisebookstore.com **HOURS:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday **COST:** Storytimes are free. Playgroup is \$5; reserve a spot online.

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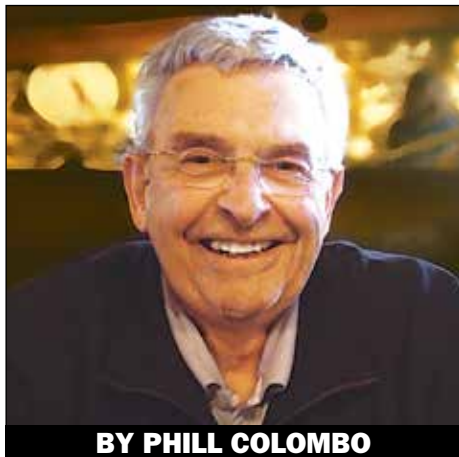
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★ STAR DEVELOPMENT NEWS



BY PHILL COLOMBO

PHILLCOLOMBO@STAR-NEWS.INFO

PUBLIC ENGAGED TO FIND FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Portland Parks & Recreation and Portland Fire & Rescue are contending with similar challenges while continuing to provide services to meet community needs and maintaining the public infrastructure that supports all Portlanders.

Currently, both the Parks and Fire bureaus are struggling to manage failing public infrastructure that needs to be improved or replaced.

Consequently, both bureaus are working together to evaluate funding options for programs and infrastructure essential to a safe and revitalized city, an effort to support ongoing services, address service gaps, and repair or replace failing facilities after Commissioners Dan Ryan and Rene Gonzalez directed their bureaus to work together on community engagement to learn more about how best to invest in Portland's parks and recreation and fire and rescue services.

"Portland parks are where we play and seek

refuge in beauty; we must protect these assets for generations to come," Ryan said. "We also know Portlanders are experiencing significant tax burdens, so we need to balance existing taxes with new bond measures. Portlanders must have their voices heard in what services they want and how they want their public resources invested."

In November, the bureaus commissioned a poll of likely voters for the November 2024 election, and the poll found 70% satisfied with the Fire Bureau's quality of services and 75% satisfied with the Parks Bureau's. Additionally, most community members said they visit a park or recreation center at least weekly.

There was strong support for a bond when facility repairs and improvements were proposed for both Portland Parks & Recreation and Fire & Rescue together.

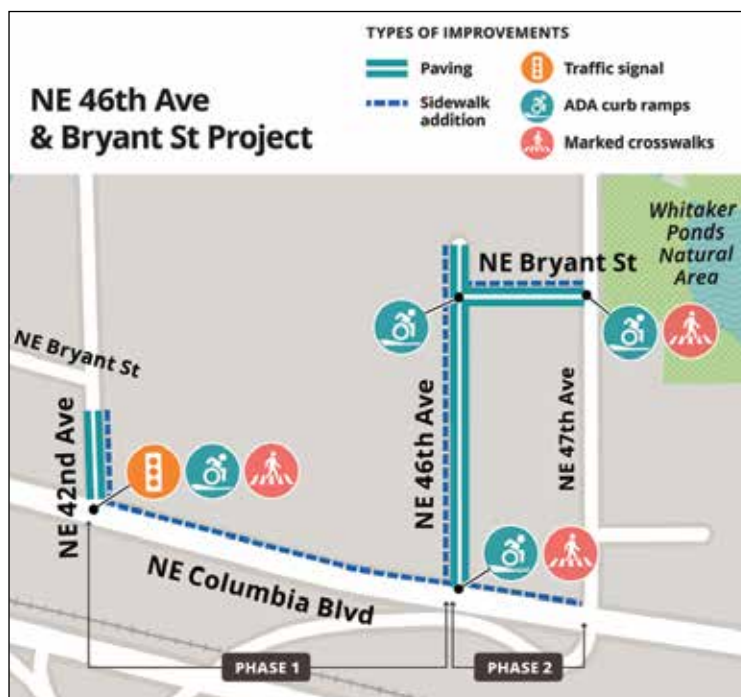
Top priorities from potential voters included fire emergencies and urban wildfire response; maintaining water quality in local rivers and streams; protecting parks and natural areas; planting and maintaining trees; providing free and low-cost recreation programs for kids, families and seniors; and repairing and restoring parks and recreation facilities.

Highest support was for a renewal of the Parks Five-Year Local Option Levy—continuing to preserve parks, recreation, nature, water and improve safety.

Learn more about Portland Parks & Recreation's Sustainable Future Program at: www.portland.gov/parks/sustainable-future

NORTHEAST 42ND/COLUMBIA IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

The Portland Bureau of Transportation began construction in late January to install a new traffic signal, ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, sidewalks, street lighting and trees to the intersection of Northeast 42nd Avenue



Phase one of work to improve roads, sidewalks and intersections is underway. The yearlong project will see a new traffic signal installed at Northeast 42nd Avenue and Columbia Boulevard and other improvements, requiring lane restrictions on the boulevard throughout 2024.

(PBOT)

and Columbia Boulevard.

As part of the first phase of the 46th and Bryant Local Improvement District, the Bureau advised Portlanders to expect lane reductions on Northeast Columbia Boulevard. One lane in each direction will serve travelers on the Boulevard near 42nd Avenue during the approximately yearlong project. A temporary walkway will serve pedestrians, and flaggers will assist with accessing the avenue north of Columbia Boulevard.

Concrete will be used to rebuild the intersection instead of asphalt with the objective to improve durability and reduce long-term maintenance for the transit-heavy corridor. The contractor will reopen lanes on Northeast Columbia Boulevard as soon as it is safe to do so. The work is weather-dependent,

and the schedule may change.

Anyone interested can sign up for construction updates on the project by visiting portland.gov/transportation/pbot-projects/lid-projects/construction/ne-46th-avenue-bryant-street-local

GREGORY HEIGHTS LIBRARY REOPENS

One of the smaller renovation efforts to freshen up Multnomah County Library branches, Gregory Heights Library swung open its doors in early January, revealing new paint, new carpeting and new furniture.

The branch, located in Roseway at

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

PAULSON COLETTI TRIAL ATTORNEYS PC. personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, reckless driving. Includes image of a medical mannequin with 'KIDNEY TRANSPLANT' and 'EXHIBIT' labels.

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★ STAR DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Open for business after a six-month renovation, Gregory Heights Library showed off its interior improvements. The branch in Roseway was the first to open of 10 undergoing renovation/expansion work.

(Multnomah County Library)



7921 N.E. Sandy Blvd., had its six-month renovation completed on time and within budget.

New features at the branch include improved shelf height, creating more space for people and better sight lines; an inviting children's area with soft seating and colorful animal chairs; an engaging teen area with plush seating for studying and connection; new, comfortable reading room chairs (both with and without arms) as well as new lounge chairs in the adult area; and automated materials handling to increase checking in and sorting of materials designed to get items to patrons more efficiently.

Multnomah County Library is working to build, expand and renovate library spaces funded by the voter-approved 2020 library building bond, resulting in rebuilding and expanding nine libraries and a series of refresh projects at smaller branches.

ADVANTIS, RIVERMARK CREDIT UNIONS TO MERGE

By the end of 2024, Rivermark and Advantis Credit Unions will be fully merged. The mid-January announcement said the merger will enable both institutions to do more good for their members and that the merger had the backing of both credit unions' boards as well as respective CEOs and leadership teams.

Advantis and Rivermark are currently applying for and expect to receive state and federal regulatory approval. The final word on the merger will come from both credit unions' membership. The majority needs to vote to approve the merger, and no changes will be seen until late this year or early next year.

PERMITS APPROVED

In Alameda at 3225 N.E. Fremont St., Jeanette Felix et al. of Seaside were issued a permit to build a single-family, three-story residence with a basement additional dwelling unit and attached garage on vacant lots.

In Cully at 4907 N.E. Ainsworth St., Noah and Dena Lieberman have permission to build a detached garage and flower studio, removing an existing driveway and relocating it to the new structure, which will include a bathroom and a storage area.

In Portsmouth at 7651 N. Hereford Ave., Tistilal Housing LP of the Native American Youth and Family Center in Northeast Portland has permission to demolish a two-story, six-unit, multifamily building built in 1973 and replace it with a three-story, 58-unit, affordable multifamily building with on-site parking, central courtyard with play structure and gathering spaces with pedestrian circulation.

APPLICATIONS FILED

In Boise at 3530 N. Mississippi Ave., Miss Ave HQ LLC of Southeast Portland wants to build a new structure with an attached, covered walkway to create additional restaurant seating space.

In Concordia at 2946 N.E. Columbia Blvd., Tarr Acquisition LLC has filed for a permit to install a 15,000-gallon storage tank.

In East Columbia at 1223 N. Hayden Meadows Drive, Hayden Meadows of Southwest Portland filed for a permit to develop an eight-cart food pod with two accessible parking spaces, a seating area and fire table, landscaping and walkways.

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★ STAR FEATURE



A fresh alternative

While Valentine's Day bouquets or chocolates are terrific, this year, try giving a gift that lasts

By Rita Shelley
ritashelley@star-news.info

For those looking to celebrate Valentine's Day with significant others, festive breakfasts with heart-shaped waffles come to mind, as do token gifts and, of course, exchanging cards. Roses on the breakfast tray are another gift-of-fondness go-to. But the outlay for cut flowers is subject to seasonal demand and market uncertainties and shipping costs, all of which drive up costs, even in the Rose City.

Alternatively, consider gifting a different "fresh" option, an indoor plant from locally owned shops such as Crewel Summer Plants

at 4727 N.E. Fremont St. or Garden Fever at 3433 N.E. 24th Ave.

"A plant is something that's beautiful and living that can last a long time," Garden Fever co-owner Tim O'Neal said. "It's not just an object."


Plant types that are tolerant and forgiving of not enough (or too much) light and water, are especially good choices as gifts. O'Neal invites consideration of air ferns, for example. As inferred from their name, their requirements are simple, including that they don't need soil, much less skill or intuition.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Plants make excellent Valentine's Day gifts that can be more economical and long-lasting than traditional stems and bouquets. (Crewel Summer Plant Shop)

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★ STAR FEATURE

They like a soaking spritz every two weeks or so, care that can be provided by an indoor gardener of almost any age or temperament. They're ideal for containers that can be suspended from the ceiling, advantageous when floor space is limited or in homes they share with pets.

Peperomia is another of O'Neal's recommendations. As with air ferns, Peperomias' requirements are few and their ability to recover from too little (or too much) love is remarkable.

Crewel Summer Plant Shop also caters to all varieties of ages and skill levels, including those with or without access to ideal growing conditions. For added delight, the store sells crystal disco balls that double as planters.

As with any holiday that includes gifts, Valentine's Day is for choosing something that will be meaningful to both give and receive. With plants, there is the added benefit of a gift that will be around beyond February.



Requiring little attention, air ferns, above right, are easy-to-care-for plants for those lacking a green thumb, but there are also many other plants to choose from.

(Wikipedia, top right; Garden Fever, right Shop)



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Enjoy the ice now that it's gone!



Scenes from around the Northeast neighborhood during the January snow and ice storm.

Photo credits clockwise from photo at left: Michael Fazzi, Kelley Fitzpatrick, Lisa Perkins, Kelley Fitzpatrick, Joe Perkins, Kelley Fitzpatrick.

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★ STAR FEATURE

An inukshuk seen on the steps of a home on Northeast 32nd Place. Someone created at least six of these sculptures during the recent snow and ice storm and placed them around neighborhood. (Mike Wright)



**MIKE
on a
BIKE**



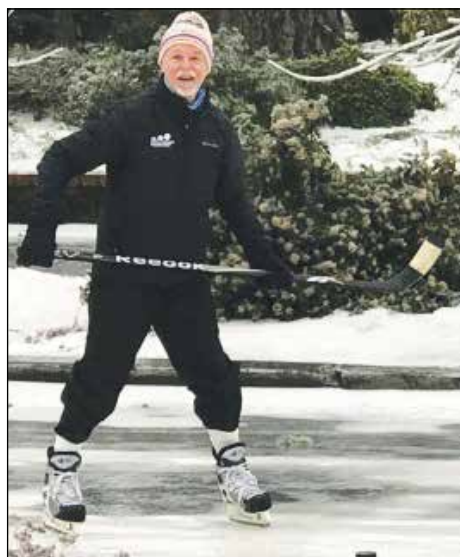
Michael Wright

Recent storm brings some unexpected winter magic

Mike On A Bike traded in his two wheels for a pair of skate blades last month as a severe ice storm brought Northeast Portland to a standstill.

A native hockey-playing Canadian, I couldn't resist the call of the icy streets in our neighborhood. I had only seen such perfect skating roads once before here in Portland, so with no hesitation, I dug out my hockey stick and a puck, laced on the skates and in minutes was weaving through the seemingly never-ending Alameda ice rink.

The streets were almost deserted, but for two little ones laughing and sliding on saucers down



Sometimes Mike gets off his bike and returns to his Canadian roots by strapping on a pair of ice skates. (Mike Wright)

their frozen driveway and two men out for a walk (slide?). I was the lone skater.

During my skate, I noticed an intriguing snow sculpture by the sidewalk. On closer inspection, I recognized it as an icy version of an inukshuk, the kind the Indigenous people near the Arctic Circle used to build out of rock. I shook my head and smiled as I glided away.

A few blocks later, I saw a miniature version of the same sculpture and then two more, all sitting on the lower steps of homes. The structures were built with chunks of the frozen surface of the recent snow that was crusted from the freezing rain that followed.

I was fortunate to see a woman clearing her path at one of the homes. "What's up with the inukshuks?" I asked. "The what?" her reply. "Oh, you mean this little guy. We have no idea, he just appeared as if by magic today."

When I explained that I had seen at least five others, dotted around the neighborhood on my morning skate, she smiled, "So there is still magic in snowstorms. Tell me more about, what did you call them? Inukshuks?"

I explained about the Canadian history of these sentinels. The word "inukshuk" means "in the likeness of a human."

For generations, Inuit have created impressive stone markers on the vast Arctic landscape. Inukshuks serve several functions, including guiding travelers, warning of danger and marking places of reverence.

On my route back home, I stopped at one of the creations and placed my hockey stick next to it, with the puck on one arm, and snapped this photo. "That's my column for the month." I thought as I skated home.



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★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK

Coming up roses on Sandy

From comic shops to cat hotels, Rose City Park and Roseway are home to a treasure trove of local businesses



BY MAGGIE GRAINGER

MAGGIEGRAINGER@STAR-NEWS.INFO

It's true! Sandy Boulevard is more than a thoroughfare getting people from point A to point B — it's actually 90-plus blocks teeming with restaurants, bars, vintage shops and totally unique Portland establishments. Today we're highlighting

businesses that call the Rose City Park and Roseway portions of the strip home.

So the next time you feel yourself going on autopilot, take a minute to stop and look around — you'll be amazed at what you find.

COSMIC MONKEY COMICS

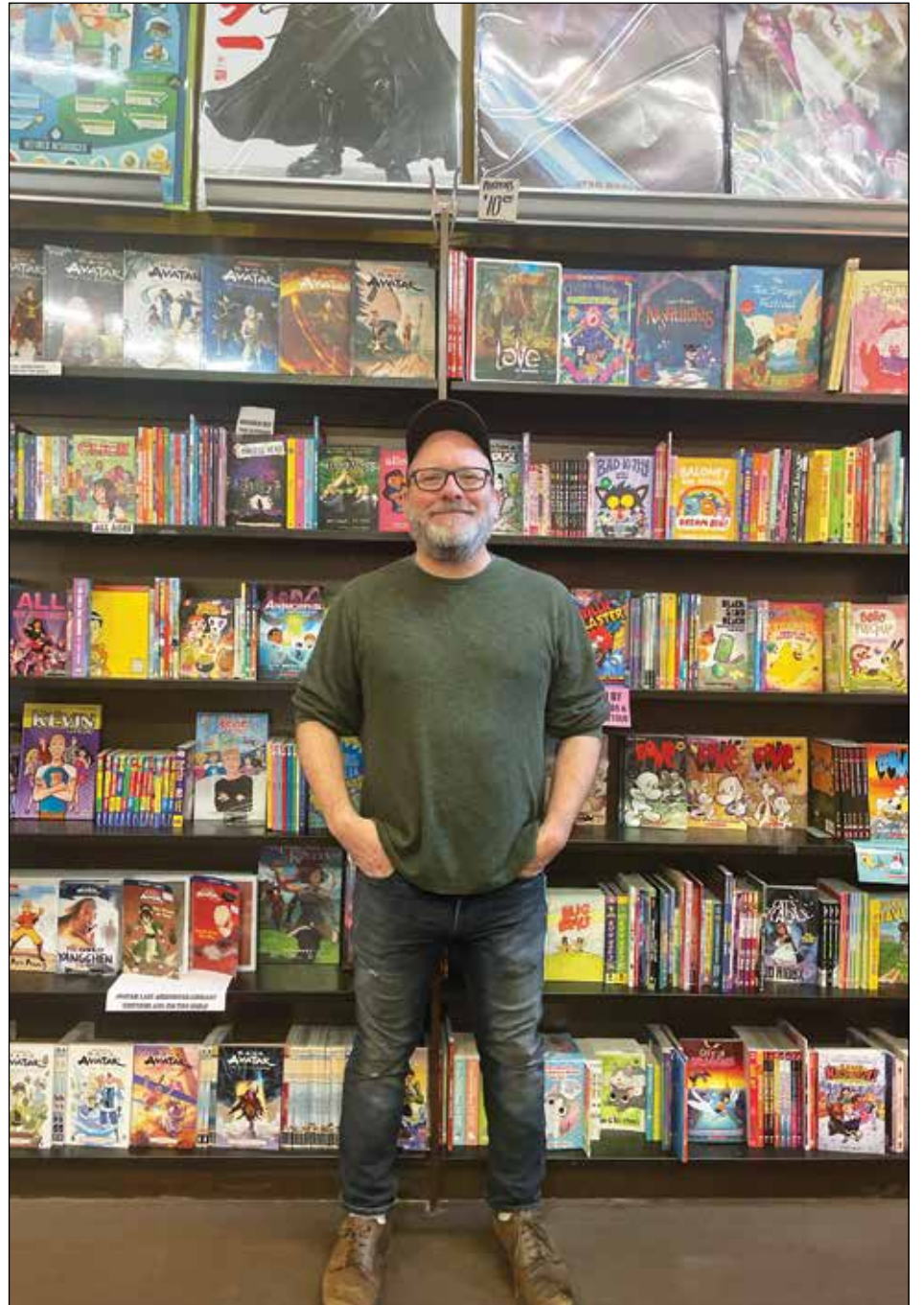
It's an age-old question: Is there really such a thing as having too many comics?

According to Andy Johnson, the owner of Cosmic Monkey Comics, the answer is a resounding no.

In fact, it's his love of color panels and serial storylines that inspired him to open the first Cosmic Monkey Comics location more than 21 years ago in the Gateway Shopping Mall.

"I started selling comics to be able to buy the ones I wanted to buy and just never stopped," he says.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Cosmic Monkey Comics owner Andy Johnson (right) started selling comics over two decades ago and the fun hasn't worn off. His store on Northeast Sandy Boulevard is packed with graphic novels, zines, comics and collectibles and often hosts guest panels and events. (Maggie Grainger)



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★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK

After only a year in business, Johnson's store was so popular he was already outgrowing the space. He started looking to expand when he found the current location on Sandy Boulevard. He eventually closed the Gateway location and has been on Sandy for more than 17 years.

"I was actually going to just use it for storage and have a small shop at the front, but people from the neighborhood kept coming in," he says.

Inside you'll find new and rare comics, kids' books, collectibles, graphic novels and more. It also often plays host to guest artists and illustrators and workshops.

"We're always running out of room on the shelves," Johnson says. "Our books are like grains of sand — we have so many of them, but we always want to make sure the good stuff and the stuff people are looking for is out there and easy to find."

Comics have always played a role in Johnson's life. He devoured the classics like Richie Rich and Archie as a kid before graduating to crime fighters and superheroes.

His interests eventually led to conventions and selling his own work. A shop was the next logical step.

Johnson says one of the coolest things about running a comic book store is seeing how excited people get talking about their favorite series or characters.

He also gets excited seeing families come in and parents and kids picking out comics together.

"I just like when people are reading comics," Johnson says. "Anything that gets people excited about reading makes me happy."

Check the Cosmic Monkey website and Instagram page for upcoming guest panels and events.



Meowhaus has two locations on Northeast Sandy Boulevard and is, well, the cat's meow. Owner Anya Stites says feline friends will be right at home whether there for a spa visit or an extended overnight stay. (Maggie Grainger)

ADDRESS: 5335 N.E. Sandy BLVD. **WEBSITE:** cosmicmonkeycomics.com **INSTAGRAM:** @cosmicmonkey **DON'T MISS:** Mark your calendars now. On May 4, customers get to pick up to five free comics to celebrate Free Comic Book Day. Be sure to get there early; there's usually a line down the block.

MEOWHAUS

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- CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK



options as well as spa services like nail trims, baths or body shaves. Each suite comes with climbing ramps, a litter box and views of the hotel's active aviary.

"Each room is big enough so they can move around but not too big that the cats are like, 'I'm in this ginormous, strange place,'" Stites says. "We figure out what each cat likes. We practice with each one and let them come out of their shell and let them tell us what they want to do."

Guests can expect lots of cuddles, play time and attention during their stay. Owners can expect progress reports and regular check-ins from Stites' staff, so they know their furry family member is in good hands.

ADDRESS: 5244 N.E. Sandy Blvd. and 6025 N.E. Sandy Blvd. **WEBSITE:** meowhaus.biz **INSTAGRAM:** @meowhaus **DON'T MISS:** Spring and summer rooms fill up, so be sure to call several weeks in advance of your trip to check availability.



An aviary at Meowhaus keeps feline friends stimulated from a safe distance and behind glass. (Meowhaus)

The cat resort, which has two locations on Northeast Sandy Boulevard, offers feline friends spacious suites, spa treatments and lots of cuddle time — whether their owners are gone for a week or a day.

Owner Anya Stites decided to get into the cat hotel business after more than two decades as a veterinarian technician. Not ready to fully retire, she decided to turn her passion for cats (and years of expertise) into Meowhaus.

Now 12 years later, she continues to offer a home away from home for cats of all ages, diets and special needs.

"I love cats, so I thought, 'Why don't we open a kitty hotel?'" she says. "It wasn't such a big thing, and it still isn't."

There are 44 suites between the two locations and both offer day and overnight

OHANA HAWAIIAN CAFE

Looking for a sliver of sunshine during the dreary Portland winter? Look no further than Ohana Hawaiian Cafe in Rose City Park.

The restaurant, which has a second location in Milwaukie, has been dishing out delicious Hawaiian plates with a side of smiles since 2006.

Owner Matt Ho says he and his wife, Sandie, knew they had their work cut out for them when they took over the building 18 years ago.

"All Sandie and I saw was potential, and we were excited," he says. "We wanted to brighten and bring some love to the neighborhood."

This has been their motto ever since.

"When people are having a rough day, it's our goal to turn that around through good food and service," Ho says. "A customer once said we were like a little lighthouse on Sandy."

This friendly attitude and love for the community is also right there in the name. Ohana literally means family in Hawaiian.


In fact, Sandie was eight months pregnant with their first child when they opened the store and many of the recipes have been passed down from Ho's mother and grandmother.

"My Japanese great-grandmother had a little newsstand in downtown Honolulu

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Clockwise from top right: Ohana owner Matt Ho, with his wife, Sandie, and two daughters; Haupia (house-made coconut dessert); and the Luau Plate, which includes Kalua Pig, Lau Lau (pork wrapped in taro leaves and ti leaves and steamed), Lomi Lomi Salmon, Rice, Macaroni Salad and Haupia. (Ohana)





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Photo by Jennifer Alyse

★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK



Maranatha Kebede named Yigebe's Ethiopian Coffee after his grandmother, Yigebashal, who drank coffee at least three times a day. After working in the tech industry, Kebede opened the shop last March, bringing the rich flavors of Ethiopian coffee to Northeast Portland. (Maggie Grainger)

in the '50s," he says. "Mom would help with food prep in the shop. She has a photographic memory and taught us all the recipes before we opened."

One recipe Ho holds close to his heart is for their kalua pork.

"Traditionally, the whole pig is cooked underground with lava rock and ti leaves in an imu (underground oven) to get that earthy flavor," he says. "My mom taught me

how to mimic the imu in the oven using banana leaves and other ingredients."

It's traditions like these that he hopes to pass on to his own family.

"My youngest daughter just told me recently she'd be too sad if Ohana ever closes," Ho says. "She wants to carry it on."

ADDRESS: 6320 N.E. Sandy Blvd. **WEBSITE:** ohanahawaiiancafe.com **INSTAGRAM:** @

ohanahawaiiancafe **DON'T MISS:** Any dish that incorporates their teriyaki marinade and glaze which is made from scratch daily. For dessert be sure to check out their Purple Okinawan Sweet Potato Haupia Pie, made with a shortbread crust and studded with macadamia nuts from a family farm on the Big Island.

YIGEBE ETHIOPIAN COFFEE

Drinking coffee is more than what's in the cup — it's about building community.

That's the vision of Maranatha (Marvin) Kebede, the owner of Yigebe's Ethiopian Coffee, which opened its doors in March 2023. Located at the intersection of Northeast Sandy Boulevard and 58th Avenue, the shop exclusively uses authentic, responsibly sourced Ethiopian coffee.

"In Ethiopia, coffee is not just a drink, it's a social event," Kebede says. "People resolve

problems over coffee and get together.

"People roast, grind and brew together. It's a whole experience. They might not know each other but get together in a coffee setting and chat about their day."

Named after his grandmother, Yigebashal, Kebede, along with his business partner Firehiwot Morkama, aims to bring the rich flavors of Ethiopian coffee to Portland.

"My grandmother started her day with coffee and had it at least three times a day," he says. "She was always joking, and I wanted to create a welcoming environment and name it after her."

Kebede had dreamed of opening a coffee shop back when he lived in Oakland, California, and was working in the fast-paced world of tech. After moving to Oregon, he

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK



Marantha Kebede sources all of his coffee beans from Ethiopia, the birthplace of coffee.

realized his dream could become a reality when he found an ad for the space on Craigslist one day.

"I like the location, and I saw the potential," he says. "The owner wanted someone in the coffee business to take over, so I told him my vision."

All of his beans are from Ethiopia. Kebede works closely with Temesgen Beriso, a coffee farmer and family member who goes back and forth from Oregon to Ethiopia to source beans.

"Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee," Beriso adds. "Coffee comes from the word



Above: Marantha (Marvin) Kebede and his crew at the coffee shop.

'Kaffa' which is an area of Ethiopia where there is arabica coffee."

And as for Kebede's go-to drink? A dark latte.

"I'm about more coffee and less creamer," he says. "If you want the real taste, it has to be black."

ADDRESS: 5730 N.E. Sandy Blvd. **WEBSITE:** yigbecoffee.com **INSTAGRAM:** @yigbecoffee **DON'T MISS:** Grab a bag of Yigabe's Natural Guji coffee beans so you can enjoy a cup at home.

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Left: In Ethiopia, coffee isn't just a drink, it's a social event, and Kebede's shop at 5730 N.E. Sandy Blvd., is a cozy, clean and inviting space. (Yigabe Ethiopian Coffee)

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★ STAR PET CONNECTIONS

Leash laws help keep community safe



BY LISA LAKES

LISALAKES@STAR-NEWS.INFO

In Multnomah County, your dog must be on a leash when you are outside your home or fenced yard. The leash should be less than 8 feet long, and under the “control of a capable person.” If your dog is allowed to roam “at large” (without leash, fence, gate, etc.) you could be fined. According to Multnomah County law (<https://multco.us/county-attorney/multnomah-county-code>):

“Allowing a dog to be at-large is a Class C Infraction, which carries a fine of up to \$150 for the first offense and may increase with each instance.”

This law is basic urban dog safety, yet it is sometimes disobeyed by novice dog owners who have not thoroughly learned dog behavior and handling. Dogs react differently in different situations, at times surprising their owners.

The correct approach is to prepare for any contingency by keeping the safety of dogs and people foremost. Keeping your dog leashed is not only the law, it is also a

Resources

• **Multnomah County Law:**

www.multcopets.org/news/leash-your-dog-protect-petlandia

• **Dog-bite law in Oregon:**

www.findlaw.com/state/oregon-law/portland-dog-bites-the-basics.html

• **What to do when a roaming dog approaches:**

www.preventivevet.com/dogs/what-to-do-when-approached-by-an-off-leash-dog

• **Nuisance dogs:**

www.multcopets.org/animal-nuisances

community safety issue.

Dangerous interactions occur when an owner is not aware of or disregards their dog’s past behavior. If your dog bites someone or another dog you could be held liable, although Oregon has a one “free bite” precedent.

Have you ever been in a situation where a peaceful walk is traumatized by an off-leash dog rushing you and your pet? Is your dog reactive to other dogs, yet a neighbor allows their dog to approach yours with the comment, “Oh, Rover is fine with other dogs.”

The internet is full of suggestions if you find yourself in a dangerous situation. You may give yourself time to escape by tossing treats toward a strange dog or popping open an umbrella in the approaching dog’s direction. However, there is no one-size-fits-all answer. Each situation is different.



Miss Bess and Willa Jolene always wear their leashes when leaving the yard.

(Lisa Lakes)

Be prepared to respond calmly and quickly to protect yourself and your dog. Be vigilant and avoid dogs if they are off leash. If you have a potentially dangerous dog in your neighborhood, you may submit an Animal Nuisance Complaint form with Multnomah County Animal Control.

Keeping you and your dog safe is a full-time job. It’s helpful to get to know your neighborhood, your neighbors and their dogs. Stick to routes you know are safe and avoid dogs that are off leash.

If your dog or you are attacked by another dog, call 911 immediately.




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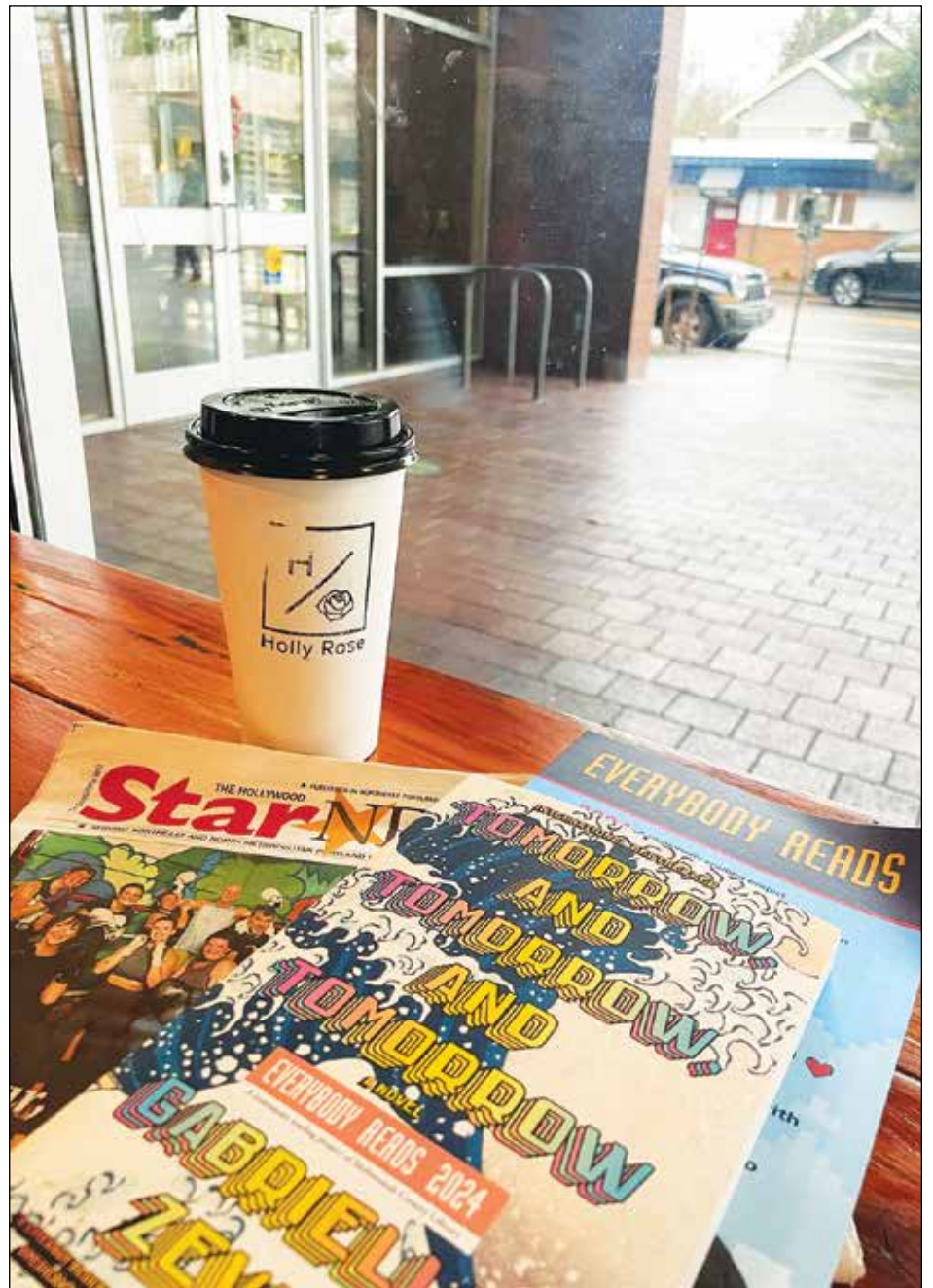
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Star News sighting



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- Registration forms on-line at www.seniorsoftballportlandoregon.com or contact: William Tidd, PASS League Administrator at wtidd96218@aol.com or call 443-996-1011 or 360-967-2321.

Nothing like a hot coffee, good book and the latest issue of the Star to turn those Portland winter blues around. Visit any Multnomah County library and grab a free copy (while supplies last) of Gabrielle Zevin's hit novel, "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow," as part of its Everybody Reads

initiative, a community reading project made possible by The Library Foundation. Dive into this sweeping story at Holly Rose, the coffee shop attached to the Hollywood branch, before catching the author in conversation at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall on April 4.

Where did you spot the Star? Send a photo with a short blurb (3-5 sentences), your name and the neighborhood to maggiegrainger@star-news.info and it might be featured in an upcoming issue.

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★ STAR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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SELF-DEFENSE EMPOWERS ADULTS, YOUTH

Feb. 6, registration opens for Rose City Self-Defense Classes that meet Saturdays March 16, 23 and 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Rose City Self-Defense empowers girls, women and the LGBTQ+ community, with a focus on engaging communities of color, people with disabilities, folks with unstable housing, as well as safety for sex workers. There is also youth programming for fourth through eighth grades, including after-school programs and summer camps, as well as workshops for ages 10-18. Free. Details and schedules at portland.gov/community-safety/rose-city-self-defense.

EAT PANCAKES, SUPPORT LIONS



Feb. 17, 9 a.m.-noon. Pancake Breakfast. All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast with scrambled eggs, sausage links, juice, coffee and tea. Proceeds help the Lions Club provide eyeglasses and hearing

aids to the community. \$7. Community for Positive Aging, 1840 N.E. 40th Ave.

HEAR A STORY, MAKE A CROWN

Feb. 18, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Drag Queen Story Hour featuring Kisses Major Ash. The event includes a craft activity, light snacks and refreshment. All ages welcome. Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave. (inside Community for Positive Aging).

EAT LOCALLY GROWN FOOD

March 3, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Share Fair. Find out what's happening at the local level to develop a sustainable food system and learn the many benefits of CSA for your health, the environment and more. Sign up for a subscription to the best-tasting, 100% local food. Local chefs will demonstrate seasonal cooking and share samples. Free. www.pnwcsa.org/csasharefair. 831 S.E. Salmon St.



Above left, "Imperfect Light," painting by Tena Naverette and "Waterfall," leather/dye by Angela Morrow are on display this month at Guardino Gallery. (Guardino Gallery)



Kisses Major Ash will be featured at the all-ages Drag Queen Story Hour on Feb. 18, which will include snacks and a craft activity. (Community for Positive Aging)

ENJOYARTS

GROOVE TO SUNDAY SOUL

Sundays at 9 p.m. Soulful Sunday, curated by PDX Soul, features a weekly residency show of R&B, funk and soul at Alberta Street Pub showcasing artists and musicians who have performed with Prince, Stevie Wonder, Allen Stone, Aretha Franklin, Gino Vannelli and Chaka Khan. Free.

SEE GLASS, WOOD ART

Feb. 1-25. Guardino Gallery. Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. John Groth shows blown and kiln-fired glass and Tena Naverette shows paintings in the main gallery. Angela Morrow has leather work and Joy Perry shows wood sculpture in the feature area. 503-281-904. guardinogallery.com. 2939 N.E. Alberta St.

CHOIR BRINGS 'SUPERBACH'

Feb. 2, 2 p.m. (Doors open at 1:30.) Bach Cantata Choir of Portland "SuperBach" concert. Directed by Conductor Ralph Nelson, vocal and instrumental musicians will perform Cantatas #38 and #149 by Johann Sebastian Bach. Each features chorus, soloists and orchestra, including a large group of brass musicians. Also presented will be Bach's great "Double Concerto for Two Violins" as well as works by Venetian composer Giovanni Gabrieli featuring a large chorus and seven brass musicians. Free will offering. 503-702-197. bachcantatachoir.org. Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, 1907 N.E. 45th Ave.

FILM LOOKS BACK 50 YEARS

Feb. 10, 3 and 7 p.m., Q and As after each showing. Foxy Brown 50th Anniversary with Pam Grier. Actress and icon Pam Grier originally became known in the early '70s for starring in blaxploitation films including "Coffy," "Foxy Brown," and "Sheba Baby." She returned to prominence in 1997, starring in Quentin Tarantino's "Jackie Brown," for which she received a Golden Globe nomination

for best actress. Grier is also known for her role of Kate "Kit" Porter on six seasons of the television series, "The L Word," and for her powerful autobiography, "Foxy: My Life in Three Acts." \$50. 503-493-1128

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Friday, February 2
NATIONAL TOT DAY
 Happy hour pricing on Cajun tots all day

Tuesday, February 6
PORTLAND FILM FESTIVAL
MONTHLY INDIE FILM NIGHT:
BLACK VOICES
 7pm - \$8 - Q&A to follow
 Advance tickets recommended

Sunday, February 11
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 3:30pm kickoff - Free - Theater
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Wednesday, February 14
DRAG QUEEN
BINGO W/
POISON WATERS
 7pm - \$20 adv, \$25 at door - 21 & over
 Advance tickets recommended

Sunday, February 18
A BINDING TRUTH
FILM SCREENING
 2pm film - 3:30pm Q&A - \$14
 Advance tickets recommended

Sunday, February 18
LOOSEWIG JAZZ SERIES
 hosted by **BRENT FOLLIS** ft.
DAN FAEHNLE QTET
 (of Pink Martini)
 7pm - Free - Gymnasium
 Suggested donations: \$20 adults, \$10 students


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★ STAR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

hollywoodtheatre.org/. Hollywood Theatre, 4122 NE Sandy Blvd.

BEER AND BLUEGRASS JAM

Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m. Bluegrass & Brews, down home fun and music, all pickers welcome. Free. 971-346-2198. Tomorrow's Verse Taproom, 4605 N.E. Fremont St.

FOR SENIORS

SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE

Feb. 19, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Learn about activities and services offered by Northeast Village PDX that support seniors opting to remain in their own homes and stay involved in their community. The member-led organization serves residents in Northeast neighborhoods as they engage with and help one another. 503-895-2750. Community for Positive Aging, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave.

GET HELP WITH TAXES

By appointment on alternate Mondays until April 11. In-person tax assistance for seniors through CASH Oregon. 75-minute appointments. 503-895-2750. Community for Positive Aging, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave.

AVOID FINANCIAL SCAMS

Feb. 28, noon-1:30 p.m. Financial Beginnings Workshop. Volunteers from nonprofit Financial Beginnings work to empower youth and adults to take control of their financial futures. In this workshop, learn the basics of financial protection and avoiding scams. Registration required. 503-288-8303. Community for Positive Aging, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave.

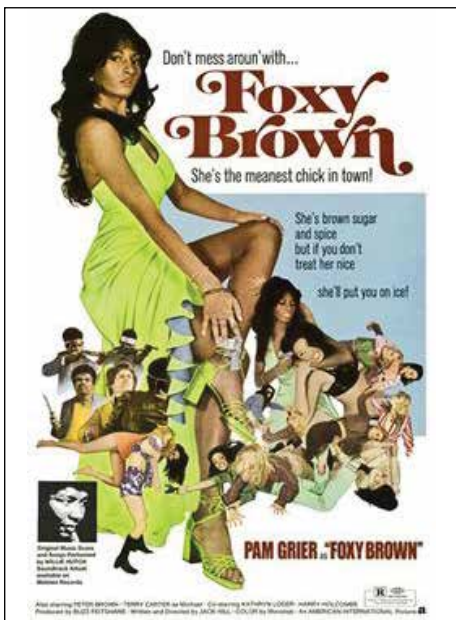
SPOTLIGHT ON OREGON HISTORY

Feb. 29, 11 a.m.-noon. Oregon Black Pioneers presentation. Representatives from Oregon's organization dedicated to preserving

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Learn how to take better control of your finances at a Feb. 28 workshop put on by volunteers from Financial Beginnings. (Community for Positive Aging)



Far left: The Hollywood Theatre celebrates the Foxy Brown 50th Anniversary. Legendary actress Pam Grier will be in attendance Feb. 10. (Hollywood Theatre)

Alberta Street Pub's Soulful Sunday showcases R&B, funk and soul every week at 9 p.m. (Alberta Street Pub)



Bach Cantata Choir Ralph Nelson, Artistic Director

Free "Super Bach" Sunday Afternoon Concert
GREAT ALTERNATIVE TO THE SUPER BOWL!!
Sunday, February 11, 2pm-3:30pm
J. S. Bach: Cantata 38; Telemann: Trumpet Concerto
Charpentier: "Te Deum"

Rose City Park Presbyterian Church
NE 44th and Sandy Blvd.
Complete info at: www.bachcantatachoir.org



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★ STAR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

and documenting our state's African American experience will highlight key individuals and events that characterize unique and centuries-old Black history. Registration requested. 503-288-8303. Community for Positive Aging, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave.

INGENERAL

GAIN CELTIC WISDOM

Feb. 16-17. Celtic author John Philip Newell presents a two-day retreat based

on his book, "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul." Keynote address is Friday from 7-9 p.m. for \$10 admission. Retreat is Saturday 9 a.m. - noon for \$30 admission, followed by a free (registration required) 4-5:30 p.m. screening of "Hebridean Treasure: Lost and Found." Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, 1907 N.E. 45th Ave. Registration and details at johnphillipnewelpdx.eventbrite.com
Art Requested

EVERYBODY READS

The 2024 "Everybody Reads" selection of the Multnomah County Library is about friends whose design of a video game brings them fame and fortune, while changing the course of their lives.

The book, "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow" is by Gabrielle Zevin, who writes

for both adult and young adult readers. The book was on The New York Times bestseller list and Time magazine's Book of the Year.

Everybody Reads is a project intended to bring together people across the county to connect, discuss and reflect on the same book in a variety of events and activities, according to a library news release. The project is supported by The Library Foundation and Literary Arts.

While supplies last, free copies of the book are available at library branches including Kenton, 8226 N. Denver Ave., and Hollywood, 4040 N.E. Tillamook St. The ebook may be downloaded on the Libby app.

Related activities on games and creativity are in regional libraries and some online. They are listed at multcolib.org/events-classes or by typing into a browser

Multnomah County Library Everybody Reads 2024 and clicking on "Attend an Everybody Reads event."

The final event, "An Evening with Gabrielle Zevin," will be at 7:30 p.m. April 4 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 S.W. Broadway. Tickets, \$21-\$65, are available from Literary Arts: literary-arts.org/event/ebr2024/.

LABYRINTH, TAIZE OPEN

Feb. 17. 4 p.m. Walk a contemplative labyrinth in the second-floor Great Hall. At 5 p.m., a Taize/Healing and Wholeness service begins in the sanctuary. The elevator to the second floor is inside the Northeast 16th Avenue door, between Schuyler and Hancock Streets. www.westprespd.org. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock St.

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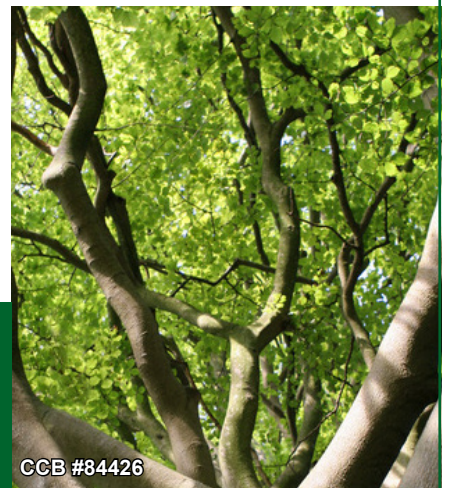
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Chelsie Coon

Licensed Broker In Oregon
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~ Introducing Chelsie Coon ~

We are excited to announce Chelsie Coon (James' wife) has joined the Coon Team. Chelsie has over 15 years of real estate experience and she will be a welcomed addition to our team.

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1909 Bungalow in the coveted Grant Park neighborhood. This home offers the perfect blend of historical charm and modern conveniences. Formal entry and living room with charming bay window, hardwood floors and beautiful period woodwork. Lives light and bright with tall ceilings throughout the main level. Updated kitchen with newer stainless KitchenAid appliances and a large pantry. 2 bedrooms on the main with jack-n-jill bathroom, plus a big bedroom upstairs in the finished attic. Finished basement with family room, laundry, 4th non-conforming bedroom and bath. Updated mechanicals, including a newer EV fast charger off the extra-long driveway that can accommodate 3 vehicles. Great schools: Beverly Cleary + Grant High. Conveniently located close to restaurants, shopping and freeway access.

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