

THE HOLLYWOOD Star NEWS



AT LONG LAST
Vacant Broadway eyesore goes up for auction. **PAGE 5**

★ SERVING NORTHEAST AND NORTH METROPOLITAN PORTLAND NEIGHBORHOODS ★ DECEMBER 2024 ★ VOLUME 42, NUMBER 6 ★



PIECE CORPS

give speed puzzling a whirl

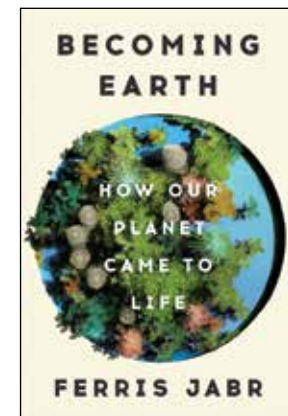
NEED FOR SPEED Keep the winter blahs at bay with a new twist on an old pastime. **PAGE 10**



FESTIVE FAIRS Celebrate Portland's rich range of cultures and traditions at holiday markets. **PAGE 8**



TOWERING LOVE STORY
Giraffe House pays tribute to the woman who gathered and curated collection. **PAGE 11**



PORTLANDER PUBLISHED Ferris Jabr tells the story of our planet in his new book. **PAGE 7**

BUSTLING BROADWAY
New owners of Costello's Travel Caffe carry on neighborhood tradition. Learn more and discover other Broadway businesses inside. **PAGE 16**



CULTURAL CORNERSTONE Mural pays tribute to Irvington and other theaters of yesteryear. **PAGE 2**

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★ STAR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



BY TONY GREINER

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TECHNOLOGY LAB OPENS

Self Enhancement Inc. has launched a new technology laboratory, aimed at giving students and families a chance to employ these machines in SEI's after-school programs and in its African American Cultural Center.

The lab is at the Tony Hopson Senior Center, 3920 N. Kerby Ave. Details: www.selfenhancement.org or email Harvestt@selfenhancement.org

MURAL CELEBRATES IRVINGTON THEATER

In addition to the majestic Hollywood Theatre, Northeast Portland had several other movie theaters, back in the day. One of those was the Irvington, which operated at 1337 N.E. Broadway. It opened in 1925, when the only movies were silent. It had a couple of renovations, putting in a sound system and at some point, a curved screen. It showed movies until 1990. The building now houses the Bluefin Tuna sushi restaurant.

In October, the Northeast Broadway Business Association, with support from building owners Katherine Schroeder and Tom Gustafson, and grants from the Irvington Community Association and Metro Regional Refresh arranged for the creation of a mural on the exterior of the old theater. Artist Julia Hunkler was selected from bidders provided by the Portland Street Art Alliance, and the mural evokes the interiors of those old theaters. Portland Street Art Alliance also played a hand in the mural on the backside of the Broadway Grill, which you can view from Northeast Weidler Street.

VENDORS JOIN FORCES

Now It's Done Seasonings, a local spice merchant, has joined with Cherry Sprout Produce to sell spice mixtures online and at a brick-and-mortar store. Sonya and Jonathan Richardson launched their company in 2010



Left: Artist Julia Hunkler paints a mural on the side of the building that formerly housed the Irvington Theater.

Above: The completed mural evokes the feeling of the interiors of old movies theaters that once proliferated in Portland.

(Sara Sjol)

as an online store.

Each mixture has about 20 different ingredients, and they attest that they aren't mostly salt. Blends are made for chicken, fish, dry rubs and other combinations.

Cherry Sprout is found at 722 N. Sumner St. To order, call 503-347-9119, email nowitsdone@outlook.com or visit online, https://nowitsdoneseasonings.com/

ALAMEDA BOY SCOUT TROOP 100 DOES GOOD

For over a century, Troop 100 of the Boy Scouts of America has given boys a chance to test their wings and try new things, learning leadership skills while having outdoor adventures. They aim for overnight outings in all seasons, and all the activities are planned by the Scouts, for the Scouts. Adults assist only when necessary.

The troop, which meets at the Fremont United Methodist Church, has recently seen some of its members earn the Eagle Scout rank via projects at the Blanchett Farm, which grows food that feeds homeless people in Old Town. The farm also helps people in recovery, and develops skills in

gardening, maintenance and animal care.

A highlight of the year is a weeklong summer camp on the Hood Canal in Washington that includes relay races that combine a number of sports, like a pentathlon.

But as boys age out at around 18, new members are always needed to keep the troop thriving. They are especially looking for boys in sixth to ninth grade. If you know someone who might enjoy or benefit from the experience, contact Brian Bray at 503-975-8525 or visit https://cptroop100.mytroop.us/

ARTS GROUPS GET GRANTS

Portland City Council announced on Oct. 31 that the Office of Arts and Culture was funding over \$4 million in grants to 80 different arts groups for the coming year. This money is for public performances and school work, as well as subsidies for the rent at the five performance spaces managed by Portland's 5.

Among the recipients are The Hollywood

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The Hollywood Star News

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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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★ STAR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Theatre, \$84,000; Portland Playhouse on Northeast Prescott, \$63,000; Ethos Music Center, with headquarters on Killingsworth, \$42,000; Alberta Abbey Foundation, \$28,000; and several that were awarded \$21,000 grants: The Children's Healing Art Project, based in the Lloyd Center; Corrib Theater, which presents some of its programs at the Historic Alberta House on Northeast 23rd Avenue; PassinArt Theatre company on Killingsworth; and Triangle Productions, which puts on plays and musicals in Northeast Portland.

GARDENING, LANDSCAPING WORKSHOPS OFFERED

The East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District is offering a number of workshops using the Zoom platform for gardeners and such. Classes include "Climate Resilience in Your Yard," "Creating an Edible Landscape," "Introduction to Naturescaping," "Stormwater Solutions," "Landscaping for Wildlife," "Native Plants" and "Urban Invasive Weeds."

The workshops are free, but you will need to download the Zoom software to your computer. Sign up at <https://emswcd.org/workshops-and-events/>

LEARN SOMETHING NEW AT SENIOR STUDIES INSTITUTE

Portland Community College's Senior Studies Institute continues rolling along. Currently there are about 250 members, who develop, teach and attend short programs on various topics. No grades or homework, just the joy of learning (or teaching) something you are interested in.

Most presentations are two hours or less, and are a mixture of Zoom and in-person classes. There is an annual registration fee, but once that is paid, there is no charge for attending any or all classes.

Yearly dues are \$40 a year for individuals, \$70 for couples. Recent classes in the Northeast Portland area include Japanese families that lived in Mosier, near Hood River before World War II, "My Family's Escape from the Nazis," "Ethics and Objectivity in Journalism" led by Brian



Whether you're looking to be active or to simply relax, there's something for the entire family this holiday season at the Northeast Community Center. (NECC)

Monihan of Pamplin Media, and "Drawing Celtic Knots." For details and to register, visit <https://www.ssidpx.org/class-schedule.html> or contact Betty Woods at Box 80744, Portland, OR 97280 or ssimembership2@gmail.com

NECC OFFERS CONNECTION, COMMUNITY OVER HOLIDAYS

This holiday season, the Northeast Community Center (NECC), located in the heart of the Hollywood District, offers a welcoming space for people of all ages to stay active, connect and create memories.

NECC offers a range of fitness options from yoga and cardio classes to strength training. Enjoy the pool for lap swimming, open swim sessions and water aerobics. Or, wind down in one of the center's saunas.

Bring the family for drop-in sports sessions, including pickleball and basketball, for ages 5 and up. Adults can also enjoy separate drop-in times for games at their own pace.

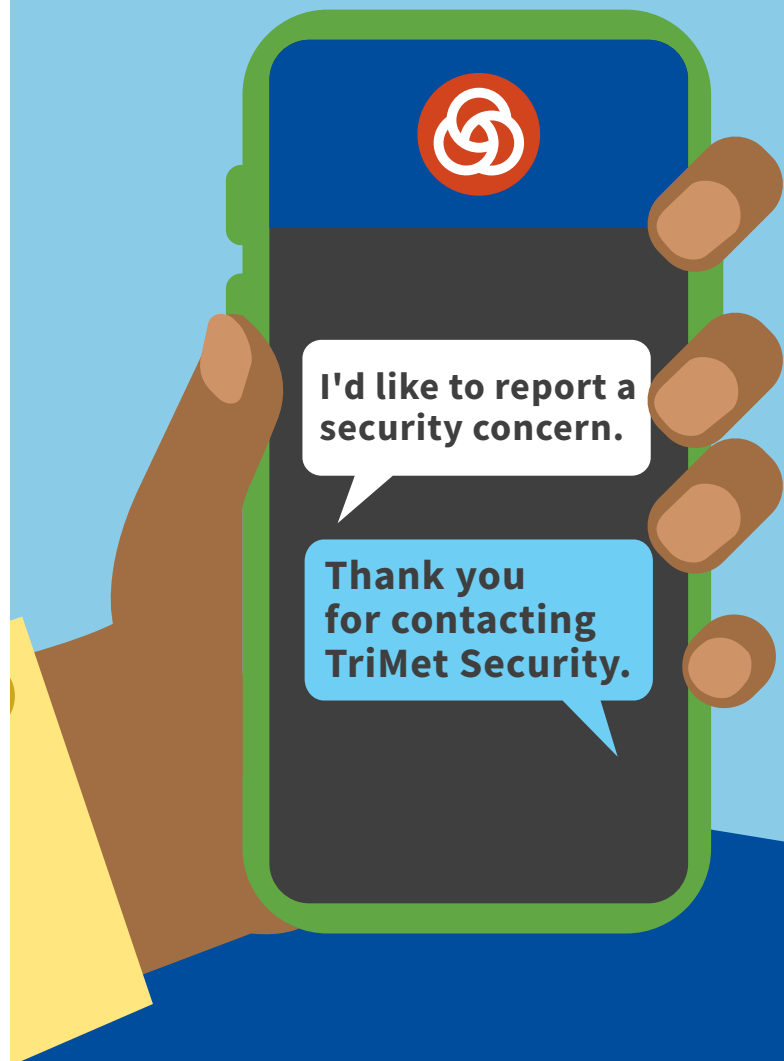
Don't miss NECC's Holiday Flash Dance. Join instructors for a Zumba-inspired, family-friendly dance class filled with energy and laughter.

Check out the book swap station in the

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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★ STAR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

lobby and enjoy some quiet reading during the holiday season.

Visiting Portland for the holidays? NECC offers convenient one-month memberships. Find out more at necommunitycenter.org or call 503-284-3377.

FAREWELL TO JIM AND PATTY'S COFFEE

After many years of satisfying Portland's caffeine needs, Jim and Patty's (aka "Coffee People") closed the doors of its Fremont Avenue store, and the outpost in Beaverton on Nov. 11. The company, which pioneered



drive-through coffee service, had undergone hard times after Jim Roberts died from a long illness. Fundraising efforts were not enough to keep the doors open, and so, like all things, this too must

pass.

Take a moment to raise a mug of your favorite coffee drink in tribute and thanks.

MILLNER BUILDING OPENS

Self-Enhancement Inc. and the Community Development Partners opened the new Dr. Darrell Millner Building on Sept 12. The name recognizes the contributions of historian and longtime PSU professor Millner, who specializes in the history of African Americans in Portland.



Dr. Darrell Millner

The building, at 5020 N. Interstate Ave., in the Overlook neighborhood is an apartment building owned by the two institutions, with 63 units.

The target renters are families, primarily Black, that were displaced from the

neighborhood over the years by urban renewal projects. There are 17 apartments set aside for very low income families, earning 30% of the area median income, or AMI. For a household of four people, that would be \$35,400 a year. A three-bedroom unit for those folks will rent for \$792. There are also discounts for people earning less than 60% of the AMI.

The complex includes a community garden, play area, bike storage and a few parking spots. It is close to MAX stations and the #4 and #72 bus lines. For details and to join the waiting list for units, visit <https://www.albertalive.com/millnerbuilding> or call 503-875-8996.

The same groups had a groundbreaking ceremony for another apartment complex



The Grotto Christmas Festival of Lights features indoor choirs, outside caroling, puppet shows and thousands of twinkling lights in displays spread across the grounds.

(The Grotto)

in October. Named the Strong Family Apartments, each of the 75 apartments is for households making less than 60% of the area median income. Named for the Strong family, which owned the 1-acre plot, the building will be at North Alberta Street and Williams Avenue.

To join the wait list for these units or others, email PHBWaitlist@portlandoregon.gov or call 503-823-4147.

GROTTO FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The Grotto presents its annual Christmas Festival of Lights through Dec. 30. Walk through the grounds to hear music, attend a service and see the more than 2 million lights.

This year marks the 100th since the Servite Friars of the Roman Catholic Church built the sanctuary atop and around a mesa. It takes an hour to 90 minutes to tour the area. Various choirs from the area will be performing in the chapel, and there is outdoor caroling, puppet shows and more music in the plaza.

Admission for adults ranges from \$14-19, less for children, with value nights and discounts for advance purchase. Cards only, no cash at the gate. Free parking, with an overflow lot at the Park and Ride at 9481 N.E. Sandy Blvd., which will have free shuttle buses. The Grotto is at 8840 N.E. Skidmore St. <https://thegrotto.org/christmas-festival-of-lights/>

HELP KIDS LEARN TO READ

Start Making a Reader Today (SMART) has been helping elementary school kids (Pre-K to third grade) get a grip on the sometimes perplexing skill of reading. Since it started in 1992, 150,000 volunteers have read with 312,000 children, and put more than 4.7 million books in their homes.

The organization seeks volunteers at several locations in North and Northeast Portland. Those include the Villas de Mariposa apartment complex at 5020 N.E. Killingsworth St., the Blazers Boys and Girls Club at 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., and the Boise-Eliot Elementary School at 620 N. Fremont St. For more information, call 971-634-1628 or visit www.SMARTReading.org

NE PDX HAS THE BEST PIZZAS IN THE BEST PIZZA TOWN

For the past few years, several foodie magazines have named Portland the best pizza city in the United States.

The Oregonian's Michael Russell recently named what he considers the best 15 pizzerias in the city. As pizza aficionados know, what brings a pizza to the top level is not the toppings, but the crust, and local pizza joints offer a wonderful variety of crusts. Many can be found in North and Northeast Portland.

They include Ranch Pizza, which despite its name offers thick-soft Detroit/Sicilian-style pies at 1760 N.E. Dekum St. Reeve Cafe, at 7727 N.E. Sandy Blvd., offers traditional pizzas, but also a unique version based on the Honduran tacos made by the owner's mother. No Saint, at 1603 N.E. Killingsworth St., has a sourdough pizza baked enough to put some char on it, while Beaumont-Wilshire's Red Sauce, 4641 N.E. Fremont St., strikes a balance between the carefully applied toppings, which are often local and unusual, for example, peaches and ricotta.

At Cafe Olli, at 3925 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., their pomodoro (aka "tomato") sauce and stracciatella (a buffalo-milk cheese that is stretchy like mozzarella but at the same time a bit softer) won

top honors. Over on Mississippi Avenue, Lovely's 50-50, 4039 N. Mississippi Ave., was featured on the television series "Top Chefs: Pizza" a few years ago and continues to wow folks. Here the dough is a whole-grain sourdough, topped with creative combinations of ingredients, such as corn, frisee and Ragusano cheese, which is made only in Sicily.

VISIT BUSINESSES OWNED BY NATIVE AMERICANS

November was Native American month, but you can patronize Native-owned businesses in the area year-round. Muscles + Heart Fitness in Hollywood has a holistic approach, helping people get general fitness, as well as recover from injuries. 503-421-4049 or musclesandheart.com. In Overlook, Seven Circles Natural Medicine has naturopathic and Chinese medicines with an on-site pharmacy. 5819 N. Greeley Ave., Suite 101, 503-278-3385.

LIBRARY HOURS SET

Multnomah County Library now has standardized hours for all its locations, as well as online email, chat and telephone services. The hours have been higgledy-piggledy for the past 10 years, but no more. With exceptions for power failures and the like, the hours are Monday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tuesday noon-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sundays noon-6 p.m.

GRANTS OFFERED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

The East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District is offering grants from \$5,000-\$70,000 for projects in Multnomah County, east of the Willamette River. Among the projects to be considered are school and community gardens, training people for careers in natural resource preservation, habitat restoration projects, environmental health projects for "underserved and environmentally impacted communities," and planning for more complex projects.

Interested people should read the "2025 Partners in Conservation Grants Handbook," which has details, contact information and more. The application is due Dec 17. Find the booklet at <https://tinyurl.com/swcdgrants>.

Smaller projects costing less than \$2,500 are also supported by the Small Projects and Community Events grants. These are awarded monthly, first come, first serve. Questions on that should go to Heather Nelson Kent, heather@emswcd.org or 503-935-5370.



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★ STAR DEVELOPMENT NEWS



BY PHILL COLOMBO

PHILLCOLOMBO@STAR-NEWS.INFO

BROADWAY & 33RD VACANT EYESORE TO BE AUCTIONED

A mid-December City of Portland auction will feature, among other real property, the former early-20th-century Ammunition Factory and later Gordon's Fireplace Shop, a four-story building sitting at the corner of Northeast Broadway and 33rd Avenue. The edifice has long been a target of graffiti artists.

Although the City of Portland foreclosed the property in June, lenders paid off the roughly \$100,000 in liens before the city could hold a September auction. The building was placed in private receivership and the commercial real estate auction house Ten-X was appointed to conduct the sale of the property.

Bidding ends Dec. 18, and the opening bid is \$225,000.

UNTAGGED VEHICLES CAN BE TOWED WITHOUT NOTICE

Portlanders who park untagged vehicles on public rights-of-way face having to retrieve their property from towing yards.

In mid-November, the city began towing without notice vehicles without license plates and a visible vehicle identification number after the City Council approved the move to help clear streets of unregistered and abandoned cars.

Cars that have a license plate but with an



(City of Portland)



(Ten-X)

expired registration can still be reported to the Abandoned Auto Hotline, and may be towed using that process, but the automatic towing order is for cars without identification at all.

Because the effort is only several weeks old, it's difficult to gauge how successful it is. Motorists believing their vehicle was towed can call Portland Police Auto Records at 503-823-0044 to locate it and learn how to get it back.

More about towing is available at portland.gov/transportation/regulatory/towing-faq. In addition, the Portland Bureau of Transportation has a hardship fund for victims of auto theft and others living on low income who need to retrieve towed and impounded vehicles.

Built in 1918 and first used as an ammunition factory, the 27,000-square-foot former Gordon's Fireplace Shop, on a 0.41-acre property at Northeast 33rd Avenue and Broadway, is up for auction in mid-December. The opening bid is \$225,000.

Photos: The building in 1930, and today.

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BIRD ALLIANCE GETS LAND FOR HOSPITAL, NATURE PARK

Bird Alliance of Oregon will create a new wildlife hospital on 12.5 acres of open space at 2800 N.E. 82nd Ave. The new Wildlife

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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★ STAR DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Appearing joyful despite the work, Friends of Mt. Tabor Park volunteers work the last Saturday of each month between January and November to clear unwanted vegetation. (North Tabor Neighborhood Association)

Care Center will be a complete a nature sanctuary with nature trails and park space for public use, educational programs, several collaborative projects and other wildlife viewing opportunities.

Bird Alliance of Oregon reviewed more than 100 sites to find a location meeting strict criteria necessary to house a wildlife hospital in an increasingly crowded region.

The property is a large developable site, easily accessible by foot, car and public transportation and also big enough to provide necessary isolation for animal housing and treating injured wild animals.

The site is a former landfill used as a rock quarry and later filled with rubble from I-205 construction. The alliance advocated

policies to remediate brownfield sites like this one and put them back to productive use. The organization will turn this open space into a destination that benefits the community, the local environment and regional wildlife.

"We are so excited to join the Northeast 82nd community," said Debbie Elliott, Bird of Alliance of Oregon Board of Directors president.

"For decades, we've worked with East Portland partners and community members on issues like climate resilience, increasing the urban tree canopy, peacefully coexisting with wildlife and increasing access to nature. Now, we have the opportunity to work as neighbors alongside this vibrant and caring community"



Owners of this 3,153-square-foot triplex at 201-203 N.E. Sixth Ave. are seeking a zoning change to allow for six new properties. The new buildings will generally be between Northeast Everett & Couch streets and Northeast Grand & Sixth avenues.

(Portland Bureau of Development Services)

VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP TABOR PARK ON LAST SATURDAYS

Self-styled "Weed Warriors" will continue their Last Saturday stewardship events into the new year.

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park have been meeting on the last Saturday of the month between January and November to help improve the ecological health of the park. Volunteers are cautioned to wear closed-toe shoes and long pants. Warriors supply gloves, tools and plant ID help.

Projects include pulling ivy, digging out blackberry and mulching.

Learn more and register at <https://tinyurl.com/4pmxpn48>

PERMITS ISSUED

In Arbor Lodge at 1250 N. Bryant St., Montana 5 LLC of Tualatin secured a permit to construct a three-story, 19-unit

apartment building.

APPLICATIONS FILED

In Concordia at 4944 N.E. 34th Ave., Ramon Edwards Sr. and Lucy Thomas-Edwards are seeking to develop their property into a six-cottage cluster at 5010, 5024, 5028 and 5032 N.E. 37th Ave. Pending deconstruction of a 2,358-square-foot single family residence on the property since 1949, neither two-story cottage structure will have a garage.

In Kerns at 201-203 N.E. Sixth Ave., Couch Davis Apartments LLC of Lake Oswego filed to deconstruct a 3,153-square-foot triplex and is seeking a zoning change to allow for six properties generally between Northeast Everett and Couch streets and Northeast Grand and Sixth avenues.

In Laurelhurst at 522 N.E. Royal Ct., Aaron Eisner has filed for a permit to build 288-square-foot, detached garage.



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★ STAR FEATURE

Kenton author digs the dirt

Ferris Jabr's 'Becoming Earth' explores planet as living organism

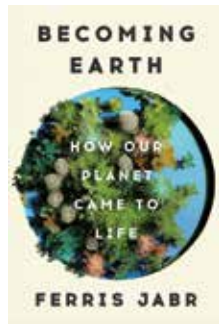
By Tony Greiner
tonygreiner@star-news.info

It's been a good year for Ferris Jabr. The Kenton resident has distinguished himself as a top-flight science writer with his first book, "Becoming Earth: How Our Planet Came to Life."

Jabr (rhymes with "neighbor") grew up in California, before heading to college in the east, where he launched a career writing



Ferris Jabr



articles for magazines including The New York Times magazine, National Geographic, Harpers and Scientific American.

Ten years ago, Jabr found himself being able to choose where he wanted to live, rather than having to live near his work. Having visited the Pacific Northwest several times, he decided to give Portland a try.

After renting places in the Lloyd District and the Sabin neighborhood, in 2020 Jabr and his husband bought a house in Kenton.

His book is based on research that supports, expands and sometimes corrects chemist James Lovelock's "Gaia hypothesis."

That idea, first put out in the 1970s, is, in Jabr's words that the "components of the planet, all the organisms plus all the rock, water, and air, form a single, self-regulating, living system." Or more succinctly, "the history of life on Earth is the history of life remaking Earth." This seems almost self-evident now, but it was out-there thinking 50 years ago.

Jabr was motivated to write the book based on an example of this interplay. The Amazon



One chapter of Ferris Jabr's book, "Becoming Earth," is devoted to the garden he and his partner planted at their home. Right: Their backyard before and two years after planting. (Ferris Jabr)

rainforest is not just a result of rain — it also creates rain. In fact, almost half of the water that falls on the forest started in the forest. It is, in Jabr's words "a garden that waters itself." More astoundingly, the Amazon rainforest puts more water vapor into the air than it pours out into the Atlantic Ocean every day.

Animals have a role as well. Think of the great wildebeest migrations on the Serengeti plains, or how the herds of millions of woolly mammoths, and later the American bison, created the Great Plains, just as the Great Plains led to the rise of those herds.

But there's more. The tiniest of microbes make soil, and humans — the most influential animal — change almost everything they touch. For example, farming has reduced the level of topsoil in Iowa by over a foot since farmer-settlers began plowing that land less than 200 years ago. Not to mention the effect of roads, dams and irrigation projects, power lines and internal combustion.

Needless to say, humans' prowess at changing the environment for our benefit could lead to our downfall, although Jabr thinks the sheer numbers, adaptability and creativity of our species will make human extinction unlikely in the near term. But he does point out "there's a vast spectrum

between existence and extinction."

The launch of "Becoming Earth" began this summer at Powell's City of Books, and since then it has been reviewed and lauded by The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Sierra, NPR Science Friday, The Atlantic and Kirkus Review, who said Jabr has "the curiosity of a reporter, the mind of a scientist, and the lyricism of a poet." All of the reviews point out the beauty and wonder his writing evokes.

Close to home, Jabr devotes a chapter of the book to the garden he and his partner have planted, producing beauty and edibles, and changing his concept of soil. Jabr enjoys living in Kenton and is an avid baker and fan of "The Great British Baking Show." His go-to spot in Kenton for coffee and baked goods is Posie's Cafe on North Denver Avenue.

Jabr spoke at the Portland Book Festival



early in November, and will speak Dec. 7 at the Hillsboro Wild Arts Festival and at a "Science on Tap" program this coming April at the Alberta Rose Theatre. Meanwhile, those who are curious should check out his website, ferrisjabr.com, which has links to Jabr's writing and interviews, or better yet, read his book.

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★ STAR FEATURE

Festive fun

Two holiday events invite Portlanders to celebrate rich cultural traditions

By Maggie Grainger
maggiegrainger@star-news.info

ScanFair marks 40 years, draws thousands to annual event

Experience the magic of a Nordic Christmas market at the 40th annual ScanFair, going on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7 and 8, at the Oregon Convention Center.

Started in 1984 by the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation — now known as Nordic Northwest — the event attracts thousands of people looking to immerse themselves in the sights, sounds, crafts and cultural holiday traditions of northern Europe, which includes Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland.

Shawn MacArthur, Nordic Northwest's director of development, says guests attending this year's festivities will find favorites like photo ops with Joulupukki (Finnish Santa) and the Viking Ship as well as the return of an onsite tattoo truck. Guests can dine on Nordic delicacies and take home baked goods like kanelbullar (Swedish cinnamon buns), cardamom buns and aebleskiver (Danish snacks made from fried batter) and enjoy mead tastings and glogg, a sweet mulled wine.

"There will be 116 vendor booths at the event," MacArthur says. "Vendors have great gifts for the holiday season, from sweaters to swords."

MacArthur says Scandinavian food contests — another crowd favorite — will also be back. Brave individuals can take to the stage on Saturday for the pickled herring contest and on Sunday for the meatball eating challenge.

"The meatballs are a lot more popular, and spots fill up fast," MacArthur says.

Those interested in participating can sign



ScanFair celebrates all things Nordic at the Oregon Convention Center Dec. 7-8. Enjoy the Lucia procession, a Viking ship display and vendors selling Scandinavian baked delicacies, art and other items. (Nordic Northwest)



up at the Nordic Northwest table (booth #135) near the entrance.

Guests can also enjoy a kids arts and crafts area, a gnome scavenger hunt, raffle and two

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Know before you go

When: Dec. 7-8; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday

Where: Oregon Convention Center, 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Cost: \$15 (ages 12 and older); \$10 (youth 6-11); free for children 5 and under. Tickets may be purchased at nordicnorthwest.org/scanfair.

More: Tickets are valid for both days. Be sure to grab a wristband before leaving on Saturday. ScanFair is collecting toys as part of the KGW Great Toy Drive. Bring toys to the Nordic Northwest table (booth #135) and receive a free raffle ticket.



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★ STAR FEATURE



You'll feel like you've traveled to Deutschland at the German American Society's Weihnachtsmarkt Christmas Market on Dec. 7. Food, arts and crafts, an appearance by St. Nick and more will be part of the annual festivities. (German American Society of Portland)

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days of entertainment. On Saturday, there will be a presentation of the Scandinavian of the Year award and on Sunday guests can watch the Oregon Lucia Court, an official Oregon heritage tradition and scholarship program for young women.

"I love the Lucia celebration, which is a Swedish tradition where there is a procession of Lucia and her handmaidens, accompanied by star boys," MacArthur says. "Lucia has a candle crown on her head, and everyone sings Christmas songs."

"I love that we can see this tradition in Portland at ScanFair each year."



German American Society hosts Weihnachtsmarkt Christmas Market

The magic of a traditional German Christmas market comes alive at the German Haus, located at the German American Society of Portland from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.

The building will be adorned with festive decorations for its annual Weihnachtsmarkt — a Portland version of the traditional German Christmas Market.

Guests can enjoy local entertainment, children's performances and live music while browsing offerings from Northwest artisans and food vendors. Santa will be making an appearance and authentic crafts and ornaments from Germany will be

available for purchase. "We'll have over 100 vendors and German-made nutcrackers, smokers, decorations, ornaments, Lebkuchen hearts and Glühwein, too," says Executive Director Mark Luecht.

"Holiday traditions in Germany are great, and it's hard to choose just one."

Luecht became executive director about three months ago, and he says being involved in events like the Christmas Market and planning for 2025 has been gratifying.

"It's been most rewarding meeting the members and hearing their stories about the society," he says. "It's 153 years of history and heritage in Portland."

Know before you go
When: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7
Where: German American Society of Portland, 5626 N.E. Alameda St.
Cost: \$5 general admission (16 and older)
More: www.germanamerican.org; The German American Society of Portland is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization connecting people with German and American heritage in Portland since 1871. The organization has been offering German language classes at the German Haus since 1964.

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★ STAR FEATURE

Portland Puzzle Company hosts weekly speed puzzle events, and the competition is fierce

Putting the pieces together



(Mike van Schoonderwalt)

One evening's winning team was The Puzzle Sharks, who assembled this puzzle in quick time. (Portland Puzzle Company)

By Maggie Grainger

maggiograinger@star-news.info

On your mark, get set, puzzle! Every Tuesday evening passionate teams of puzzlers meet up at the People's Courts on Northeast 82nd Avenue to race the clock during a competitive round of speed puzzling.

Hosted by the Portland Puzzle Company, the event has taken off over the past few months with more than 20 teams at a time battling for jigsaw bragging rights.

"I am a big sports person, so the idea of making puzzles competitive was very intriguing to me," says Portland Puzzle Company co-owner Andrew Weatherly. "It was also a new and fun way to introduce people to puzzling."

The company — which started making puzzles during the COVID-19 pandemic — held its first live event in September 2023 at its manufacturing facility in Southeast Portland.

Only four people showed up. "We didn't know what to expect, but the feedback was positive," Weatherly says. "Over the next few weeks, we started seeing more and more people show up, and in early December, we had a night where 20 teams showed up."

"We had to scramble to find tables." In fact, the events have grown so popular that the Portland Puzzle Company is a sponsor of the national Portland Jigsaw Masters, which takes place here in the Rose City.

"This past August, we had over 500 participants compete in the three-day event, which holds individual, pairs and

Every Tuesday at 7 p.m., teams pack the People's Court for speed puzzling. So far, the team record for a 500-piece puzzle was 22 minutes, 25 seconds (Portland Puzzle Company)



team competitions," Weatherly says. "It was extremely fun, and we are happy to participate in it again next year."

In the meantime, they host weekly singles and pairs events on Mondays at Contrarian's Game Cafe in Vancouver, Washington, and team events at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at The People's Courts.

"Since we actually manufacture the puzzles, we can print a new one every week that nobody has seen before," Weatherly says. "Choosing an image can be tricky though. I want the puzzle to be challenging enough, but not too hard that people don't finish in the given timeframe and leave frustrated."

During the Tuesday evening event, teams of up to four people face off to complete a mystery 500-piece puzzle in record time.

As of this printing, the record completion time for the team event for a 500-piece puzzle was 22 minutes, 25 seconds and the pairs record for a 250-piece puzzle was 19 minutes and 44 seconds.

"The majority of people are competitive when puzzling; however, it is an extremely

friendly atmosphere. It is one of the things I like the best about it," Weatherly says. "Everyone has the same goal of completing the puzzle and everyone cheers each other on."

As far as strategy is concerned, Weatherly says it's interesting to see how each team approaches the table.

"When puzzling, most people do the outside edges first, right? Well, with speed puzzling it's not that simple," he says. "I would say make sure all the pieces are facing up first and then start sorting pieces by colors and shapes."

"This can especially be effective during team events, as each member can have a particular role on their team."

Aside from hosting events and manufacturing custom puzzles, Portland Puzzle Company also holds monthly contests for artists and photographers to promote their work. Online submissions are accepted the first two weeks of the month and then people vote on their favorites.

"We encourage everyone to participate, so if you have an image you would like to submit,



be sure to check out our website and social media to see the next contest," Weatherly says. "The winner of the contest will receive 25 free puzzles."

Weatherly believes puzzles are experiencing a renaissance right now because people are looking for a way to connect.

"Doing a puzzle is a great way to get away from your phone and other distractions for a little while and decompress," he says. "When you're putting a puzzle together with a group of friends or family, it's a laidback activity where you can chat with one another."

Visit portlandpuzzle.com to learn more about upcoming speed puzzle events, shop artist designs or create your own custom puzzle.

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★ STAR FEATURE

A TOWERING TALE OF LOVE

Giraffe House collection rises above the ordinary, pays tribute to Montavilla woman who curated it

MIKE
on a
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Michael Wright | mgw1424@gmail.com

You would have to be in a very big hurry to cycle past Northeast 76th Avenue and Burnside Street and not notice several nearly life-size sculpted giraffes looming high above your sightline.

Happily, my mission

is to not only notice scenes that are out of the ordinary, but to stop, observe and ask: Why?

In this case, it was more of a “What the heck?” I pulled my bike to the curb behind a camouflaged pickup truck that was painted in a giraffe motif with the words “Giraffic Park” boldly painted on the doors. These gentle giants give the Montavilla neighborhood a distinctly African safari feel for blocks around.

I met Bert Lybrand last month to learn more about the fascinating display in his yard. As it turns out, the garden display is the top of the iceberg when compared with the immense collection of giraffes of all sizes and descriptions inside his house. In fact, it is likely this private collection will soon be in the “Guinness Book of Records” as the largest of its kind on the planet.



Left: “Something tells me it’s all happening at the zoo,” comes to mind when entering the Lybrand Giraffe House.

Below: The label of the 2004 chardonnay is a head-turner.

(Photos by Mike Wright)



Lisa Allen Lybrand began her collection as a 12-year-old and never stopped. I saw tiny ceramic giraffes, bedspreads adorned with the gentle giants, a shoe and boot collection, a teapot, one tall single-malt whiskey bottle and a rare bottle of 2004 chardonnay.

Sadly, a long-planned trip to Africa to see giraffes in the wild was derailed in 2019, when Lisa was diagnosed with breast cancer. She battled the disease for three years. However, due to the chemo treatments, she then developed leukemia. Lisa couldn’t fight that off and died in August 2022 at the too-young age of 64.

As a way to carry on her legacy and work through his grief, Bert took up the mission to keep the Giraffe House as a

vibrant tribute to his wife’s work.

Bert has begun to offer tours of the home, acting as a personal docent, to raise funds for charities that he and Lisa have supported throughout the years. One of those is Neighborhood House, whose mission is to “Connect neighbors, build community and improve lives.” All of us at the Star News connect with that concept of building community ... it’s our why.

If Giraffe House doesn’t catch your eye, you aren’t paying attention. And if Lisa and Bert’s love story doesn’t bring a few tears, I’d be surprised.

For me, it’s an affirmation that love is eternal. Often with lots of tall tales.



Clockwise from left: Bert Lybrand painted his Chevy truck as a surprise for his wife, Lisa, who curated the giraffe collection for five decades. The size of the Lybrands’ giraffe collection may be worth an entry in “The Guinness Book of Records.” No Gucci or Prada here. Only authentic “giraffe-approved” shoes and purses allowed.

(Photos by Mike Wright)

STAR HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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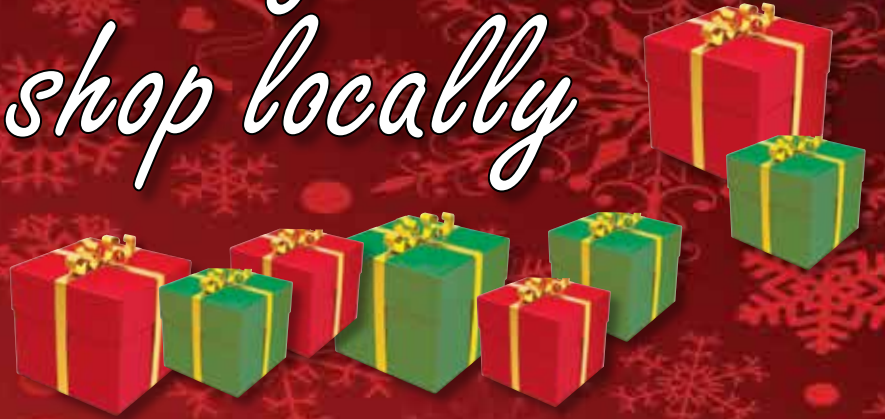
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★ STAR HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

2024 Holiday Gift Guide

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BY MAGGIE GRAINGER

MAGGIEGRAINGER@STAR-NEWS.INFO

Broadway is always bustling. The street, which runs from the Southwest Hills to Madison South, is known for its numerous restaurants, coffee shops, boutiques and specialty stores but there's more to the thoroughfare than meets the eye. From artist spaces and sexuality centers to vintage finds — both of the clothing and wine varieties — there's lots to appreciate and discover in the area. Happy holidays!

PAISLEY STUDIOS

As a multimedia artist, Bonnie Paisley understands the importance of space — both personal and physical — when it comes to the creative process.

But she also knows finding a studio space at a reasonable rate can be a challenge in Portland. So several years ago she decided to take matters into her own hands and came up with the concept of a membership-based shared space for women artists.

The result: Paisley Studios, which opened in 2019.

"In a city like Portland that really prides itself on its creative economy, artists are constantly being pushed out and there's not a lot of spaces," she says. "My daughter had just entered kindergarten and I was eager to make more time for my own studio practice and find a more suitable space for the growing number of students in my classes. Maybe other artists



As an artist herself, Bonnie Paisley knew firsthand how coveted affordable studio space could be. So she opened Paisley Studios to provide a bright, fully equipped, shared environment for local creatives. (Paisley Studios)

would be willing to share space, too." Paisley quickly discovered there was definitely a demand and now has eight to 12 rotating artists using the studio at any time. "I've had members who've stayed three years, some who've stayed three months," she says. "There's no minimum commitment, and I base the price off the first studio I ever had in Portland, which was \$125 a month." Members have unlimited access to the

large, light-filled space, storage area, tools, library and the built-in community that comes with creating in a shared environment. "Being an artist is kind of lonely if you're just doing it by yourself, so being around — or adjacent to — other people that are working makes it feel like you're not alone," Paisley Scott says. "I think it's important for people to have spaces where they feel comfortable



regardless of who they are and what type of work they make."

An accomplished artist herself, Paisley received her MFA in 2004 from Portland State University and teaches at various spaces around Portland including a weekly class at Paisley Studios. This year she had the opportunity to focus more on her own projects, including a year-long mentorship program based out of New York City.

"It's been really exciting for me, but it means I've had to step back from teaching a little bit," she says. "It helps me be a better ambassador of why it's important to do art."

ADDRESS: 707 N.E. Broadway #202/203 **WEBSITE:** paisleystudiospdx.com **INSTAGRAM:** @paisleystudiospdx **DON'T MISS:** Paisley studios sends a monthly newsletter highlighting new classes, local art/artists, member- and student-related features and other art-related topics.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



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★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK



HEAVENLY CREATURES

Experience a little bit of heaven on earth at Heavenly Creatures, a whimsical wine bar on Broadway.

The bar — which is the vision of Joel and Jena Gray Gunderson — first opened in 2022 and has been delighting wine enthusiasts of all levels ever since.

“We hope our guests feel transported to a small wine bar or restaurant like the ones we love in Mexico City or Paris and Barcelona,” Jena says. “Where sharing a couple of glasses of wine and a meal become that perfect evening you’ll remember forever.”

With Joel’s more than two decades of experience as a sommelier in Portland and Jena’s background in event design, the duo were excited to work together to bring their dream to life.

“We dreamt up a space where we could celebrate the wines we have loved and admired for years alongside the kind of bar food we are excited about — soulful, French-inspired dishes — without taking ourselves too seriously,” Joel says.

The result is an intimate space perfect for cozying up on date nights, catch-up sessions or small group gatherings.

“If I am giving pointers on tasting wine, I would say drink broadly, try to attach one or two notes to the wines you drink, but don’t get too bogged down in it,” Joel says. “Most of all, remember to enjoy it.”

Adds Jena: “We named our bar Heavenly Creatures because it is the perfect description for the wines we seek out and for the experience we offer.

“Our wines don’t always fit the mold of the traditional but we feel that serves to make them all the more special.”



Joel and Jena Gray Gunderson bring some foreign flavor to Heavenly Creatures, their wine bar on Broadway, with French-inspired small plates and wines from many regions.

(Heavenly Creatures)

ADDRESS: 2218 N.E. Broadway
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INSTAGRAM: @heavenlycreaturespdx DON'T MISS:

Heavenly Creatures hosts weekly Burgundy specials on Thursdays. Come in and see what they’re pouring this week.



Carlee Smith opened Parcera Vintage just three months ago, and the welcome response from the neighborhood was immediate. Smith says she’s happy to own a store where she lives. (Parcera Vintage)

PARCERA VINTAGE

Looking for a way to brighten up these long, dreary winter days? A new vintage shop on Broadway aims to lighten any room and mood with vibrant threads and unique treasures.

Parcera Vintage just opened its doors in September and is already feeling the love from the Broadway community and beyond.

“I love having a store in the neighborhood that I live in,” says owner Carlee Smith.

“Every day I get a customer that is so happy that there’s a new store in this space and people are excited to welcome me. It has been very sweet.”

Parcera, which is a Colombian word that means close friend or homegirl, is full of

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Advertisement for 'WE ARE OPEN' sign with balloons and contact information for the Star News.

Advertisement for Timmco Insurance featuring Susie Ames and Brian Timm, with a stopwatch graphic.

★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK

Carlee Smith sources the goods she sells at Parcera Vintage from a wide variety of reputable vendors. Having been a co-owner of a clothing store for years, she's happy to be back in the retail world. (Parcera Vintage)



bright, fun, colorful designs — by design. Smith, who co-owned a clothing store downtown for years, missed retail and knew it was a good omen when she saw the “for rent” sign outside the building that now houses Parcera. Now on any given day customers can find treasures from vendors like Wildflower Vintage, Merry Pop-In Shop, Dyke Whimsey, Saint Gemma Vintage, Chula Charmer, Sun Worshipper Vintage, Hightower Vintage, Shop Love George, White Buffalo Asdzaan, Briana Christine, Shop Babyface and more. “I would like to shout out my amazing vendors that make the store look beautiful,” she says.



ADDRESS: 1428 N.E. Broadway INSTAGRAM: @parceravintage DON'T MISS: Take advantage of their December sale and check their Instagram account for info on upcoming pop-ups and collaborations.



THE CENTER FOR COUPLES AND SEX THERAPY

Let's face it — sex can be an uncomfortable topic to talk about, whether it's in regard to our own sexual health or intimacy with a partner.

Thankfully, nothing is off the table when it comes to this subject at The Center for Couples and Sex Therapy. Since 2018, their team of therapists has been helping individuals and partners navigate complex subjects through in-person, group and virtual sessions.

Ellie Buhr is the director of operations at The Center and says it's important for patients to know they are not alone in their discomfort talking about sexuality and intimacy.

“Our society teaches us to be ashamed of our sexuality,” Buhr says. “As children, we're taught that it's wrong to talk about sex, and we're definitely not encouraged to explore our sexual desires and preferences. So, of course, it's hard to talk about our sexual wants and needs as adults — that's what makes sex therapy so powerful.”

Buhr says anyone can benefit from their services, whether they're in a newer relationship or have been together for decades or looking for someone to talk to about their own sexuality or anxiety.

“We will never force or push you to talk about anything you're not comfortable discussing,” she says. “You enter a private space with a down-to-earth, compassionate therapist who has received professional training specifically to learn how to talk about sexuality with ease.”

LEARN MORE

Interested in finding out if the Center would be a good fit for your needs? Some common concerns therapists help clients navigate include:

- Infidelity
• Divorce
• Low libido and/or desire discrepancy
• Penis-related erectile and ejaculatory difficulties
• Anorgasmia
• Coping with infertility
• Sex and anxiety
• Sexual trauma
• LGBTQIA, Kink/BDSM, alternative sexualities
• Sex and serious or chronic health issues

Buhr continues: “The truth is, all relationships can benefit from therapy. Therapy is a wonderful resource for any individual or couple who want to go deeper, cultivate more sexual satisfaction in their lives and find more love and joy in their relationships.”

However, she does note that if you've noticed more fighting in your relationship, feel emotionally distant from each other or are having a hard time talking openly about your sexual relationship, then it might be a sign therapy is the right next step.

“Our lives are complicated. Intimacy and pleasure are crucial to our overall happiness and our ability to manage the stress life throws our way,” Buhr says. “Investing in professional support with a therapist is an excellent way to make sure your relationship and your sexual health needs aren't falling to the wayside.”

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

ELIZABETH E. WELCH



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★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK



Costello's Travel Caffe owners Kyle Shepard and Tumiko Watson love the location of their shop on Broadway because it's a multigenerational neighborhood. (Costello's Travel Caffe)

ADDRESS: 2923 N.E. Broadway WEBSITE: thecenterportland.com INSTAGRAM: @thecenterportland DON'T MISS: Schedule a free, 30-minute confidential consultation on their website to get started.

COSTELLO'S TRAVEL CAFFE

When Kyle Shepard and Tumiko Watson took over as owners of Costello's Travel Caffe last year, they knew they had big shoes to fill.

The beloved coffee shop first opened in 2003 and was the brainchild of Chris Costello and his family, who wanted to pay homage to European-style cafes they encountered while traveling abroad.

"I was drawn to the space because it's just so unique and old-school. I feel like places like this don't exist much anymore," Shepard says. "The community has really embraced us as we try to carry on the tradition the Costello's started."

Shepard previously worked as a barista at the cafe and Watson has been a professional baker since 2013 so they already had an idea of what they wanted to do to maintain the space and its local legacy.

"We like being on this part of Broadway because it's a generational neighborhood," Shepard says. "You have people who used to come in when they were small children and are now grown adults. One of our cooks, Henry, used to come in with his grandparents."

"There's a lot of history here." One piece of tradition they definitely wanted to keep alive was the cafe's signature pastry selection, and Watson was up for the task.

"I first knew I wanted to be a baker when I was 13 years old after having watched too much Food Network," she says. "Kyle and I had



wanted to open our own bakery/cafe but had to put that dream to bed after COVID. Then this opportunity presented itself to us last year."

Customers can now enjoy sweet treats like Watson's brown sugar chocolate chip cookie, which is Shepard's favorite.

"Miko has been perfecting the recipe for years. It's the best I've ever had, period. I think it's because of her secret ingredient," he says.

A visit to the cafe isn't complete without treating yourself to their signature Mexican chocolate zucchini muffin which Shepard says is the perfect blend of cinnamon and chocolate.

He adds: "We can't take credit for that recipe though. It's a Costello's original."

ADDRESS: 2222 N.E. Broadway WEBSITE: https://costellocafeandbakery.square.site INSTAGRAM: @costellocaffee DON'T MISS: The PNW chapter of the Radical Faeries - which has met up at Costello's weekly for 20-plus years - is holding a holiday bazaar on Dec. 8 from 5-8 p.m. Come enjoy a talent show and browse local artisan booths.



Star sighting



Happy holidays from Sullivan's Gulch. Furry fan, Fifi, loves shopping locally and supporting all of Star News' advertisers.

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



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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ARTS AND CULTURE

PAINTINGS FOR SALE

Dec. 5. 6-8 p.m. The Irvington Tennis Club is hosting a reception for painter Xochilt Ruvalcaba, in the upstairs lounge. Ruvalcaba is best known for her paintings of flowers in vivid colors. This reception will close out a show that has been on display since October, and the works will be for sale. Admission is

free. 2131 N.E. Thompson St., 503-287-8749, <https://irvingtonclub.com/>

'FEZZIWIG'S FORTUNE'

Dec. 6-22. 8 p.m.; 3 p.m. Dec. 15, 21, 22. Mr. Fezziwig, you may remember, makes an appearance in "A Christmas Carol" as the happy businessman who employs a young Ebenezer Scrooge. The "Fezziwig's Fortune" play picks up after the Christmas ball featured in Dickens' story. \$21-30. Twilight Theater; 7515 N. Brandon Ave.; 503-847-9838; www.twilighttheatercompany.org/

ART SALE AT CHURCH

Dec. 7. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. More than 20 artists and artisans will be offering their work for sale at Grace Memorial Episcopal Church. 1535 N.E. 17th Ave., 503-287-0418.

DOODLING AT CAFE ELEVEN

Dec. 8. 12:30-2:30 p.m. Pam Consear of All Hands Art will lead some doodling exercises for those who feel stuck in a rut, artistically or otherwise. Consear has a YouTube channel on the topic of art and freeing yourself to do it. The fee for the doodling session is \$20. Cafe Eleven can be found in a bungalow at 435 N.E. Rosa Parks Way. If you have a blank journal or sketchbook and favorite pens or pencils, bring them. Children under 8 are free if they come with a paying adult. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/coffeedoodle>

PAINTINGS AND POSTCARDS

Dec. 14. 4-6 p.m. There will be a reception to kick off a display of works by painter Kristin Kwan. Kwan takes inspiration from the pre-Raphaelite painters of 120 years ago. The next day kicks off the gallery's annual postcard show in which everything



A giclee watercolor by Kristin Kwan, who is showing at Nucleus Portland Art Gallery. (Nucleus Portland)

is on a 5x7-inch card. Nucleus Portland Art Gallery, 2916 N.E. Alberta St., <https://nucleusportland.com/>

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Until Dec. 21. 7:30 p.m.; 2 p.m. Dec. 8, 15. The comedy-horror musical "Little Shop of Horrors" will be put on by Triangle Productions. The show, with music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman, is based on a classic B movie about a man-eating plant from outer space. The cast features Ryan Edinger as Seymour, Abbe Drake as Audrey and Kimo Camat as the voice of Audrey II. Don Horn directs. \$20-40; The Sanctuary; 1785 N.E. Sandy Blvd., 503-239-5919; www.trianglepro.org



A glass poinsettia at Alberta Street Gallery. (Dan Bernard)

HOLIDAY EVENTS

SHOP LOCAL MONTAVILLA

Dec. 1-21. Pick up a passport at a participating business and eat, drink, shop and play your way through Montavilla in December. Earn stickers for your purchases and be entered to win prizes from your favorite Montavilla vendors. This shop-local event culminates with the Merry Montavilla Soiree on Dec. 21. For a list of participating businesses, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdfwvw8m>

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Dec. 1-2, 6-8. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Rose City Park Methodist Church will be selling Christmas trees in their church parking lot. Cash, check or credit card is accepted. 5850 N.E. Alameda St.

FREMONT HOLIDAY FEST

Dec. 6. 4-7 p.m. Celebrate the holidays with local flavor and a strong sense of

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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Thursday, December 5
REPEAL DAY
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Drink specials all day

Wednesday, December 11
DRAG QUEEN BINGO
w/ POISON WATERS
7pm · \$20 adv, \$25 at the door · 21 & over

Friday and Saturday,
December 13 & 21
DICKENS CAROLERS
Carolers in Dickensian garb sing your holiday favorites

Sunday, December 22
LOOSEWIG JAZZ SERIES
hosted by BRENT FOLLIS
7pm · Suggested donations:
\$20 adults, \$10 students

Wednesday, December 25
WHITE ELEPHANT BINGO
1pm · 2:30pm · 4pm · Free with RSVP
Win Christmas presents!

Tuesday, December 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE
JENNIFER BATTEN & FULL STEAM
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In Masonry Chimneys

- The smoke chamber funnels smoke and heat from your firebox to your flue lining. The smoke chamber can reach temperature of 2000 degrees during a high heat event (chimney fire).
- The smoke chamber is required to be sealed smooth with refractory mortar to protect exterior combustibles from igniting.
- Wood can be found inside smoke chambers, which can lead to house fires.
- Heat can transfer through masonry and actually ignite combustibles on the other side of a row of brick without actually touching it.

Facts on WOOD BURNING FIREPLACES
Flues in Masonry Chimneys

- HOLES IN FLUE LINING:** Gaps between tiles will allow heat and gases to escape the flue and potentially get into your home.
- CRACKED TILES:** Cracked tiles will also allow heat and gases to escape the flue and potentially get into your home. These can be caused by a high heat event.
- UNLINED FLUES:** Unlined flues are not capable of protecting the combustibles of your home from high heat events.
- A 2000° chimney fire can transfer heat through brick and ignite combustibles in your home.
- A stainless steel lining with insulation is essential to protecting your home from fires. Liners come with a lifetime warranty and are tested to withstand 2000° chimney fires.

INDUSTRY GUIDELINES
Chimney Safety Institute of America (csia.org) According to the CSIA (csia.org) problems such as gaps, cracks, and spalling in your chimney's flue can present serious risks to your home and family, because your chimney can no longer performs its intended function - to safely contain and vent the products of combustion to the outside.
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) "If the flue liner in a chimney has softened, cracked or otherwise deteriorated so that it no longer has ability to contain the products of a combustion (i.e., heat, moisture, creosote, and flue gases), it shall be removed and replaced, repaired or relined..." NFPA 211-Standard for Chimney, Fireplaces, Vents, and Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances (2006)

Fire investigators estimate that 40% of house fires that start from the chimney, start in the smoke chamber.

Additional Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 211 Standard for Chimney, Fireplaces, Vents, and Fuel Burning Appliances 2010 Edition: "11.2.1.13 The inner surface of the smoke chamber shall be large rounded smooth with an insulating refractory mortar."

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community. This family-friendly festival is a community celebration featuring a variety of activities, with a focus on local arts, crafts and holiday cheer. Northeast 42nd to 50th Avenues and Fremont Street.

ADX SHOW AND MARKET

Dec. 6. 5-9 p.m. The ADX (Art Design Exchange) art gallery in Buckman is opening its doors for a show of artistic works combined with a general holiday market with vendors, live musicians and a puppet show. The market is only on Dec. 6, but the gallery will remain open until Jan. 25. 417 S.E. 11th Ave., <https://artdesignxchange.com/>

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

Dec. 7. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. The German American Society's holds "Weihnachtsmarkt," its version of the



ADX puts on its annual holiday crafts market. Vendors, live music and a puppet show will be part of the fun Dec. 6. (Sydney Spencer)

traditional German Christmas markets that are held in almost every town in the country. Portland's version will feature crafts, food, spiced wine (aka "Glüwein"), baked goods and Father Christmas. The organization, established in the city in 1871, also offers German language classes. Admission is \$7.18, counting ticket administration fees, and required for people over 16. 5626 N.E. Alameda St., 503-775-1585. Details and tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/gerammarket>

QUEER ALL YEAR: A HOLIDAY MARKET

Dec 7. noon-7 p.m. Local queer artisans



Purchase a Christmas tree at Rose City Park Methodist Church on Dec. 1-2, 6-8. (RCPMC)

offer amazing goodies — think bone jewelry, one-of-a-kind handmade apparel and silly queer stickers. There also will be a cardmaking station, music and a raffle (proceeds will go to Operation Olive Branch). Admission: \$1-\$4 or pay what you can. Lloyd Center, 2201 Lloyd Center.

MONTAVILLA TREE LIGHTING

Dec. 7. 4-6 p.m. Enjoy an evening of music, friendship and cheer as the Montavilla Plaza Christmas tree. Tree will be lit at 5 p.m. Southeast 79th Avenue and Start Street

LAURELHURST FUNDRAISER

Dec. 8. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Laurelhurst School is hosting its Winter Bazaar. It is a fundraiser for the school, and all are welcome. 840 N.E. 41st Ave.

SANTA SATURDAY

Dec. 14. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Bring your kids and camera to this free event. Grab some cocoa and a snack and get those holiday photos wrapped up Montavilla-style. Board Bard Games, 7960 S.E. Stark St.



Local queer artisans are holding a holiday market Dec. 7. (Queer the Way)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Dec. 24. Rose City Park Methodist Church will have two services, one for families at 7 p.m. and a candlelight service at 10:30 p.m. Pastor David Weekley will lead the services, which will have plenty of music. 5830 N.E. Alameda St., 503-954-2830, www.rcpumc.org/

GIFTS FROM GALLERY

Until Dec. 31. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. The Alberta Street Gallery is presenting its annual gift show. 1829 N.E. Alberta St., 503-954-3314

MONTAVILA WINTER DONATION DRIVE

Dec. 1-31. If you have a little extra during the season of giving, consider donating to Rahab's Sisters, a community for women, trans and nonbinary folks experiencing poverty, houselessness and isolation. Collection bins will be located at businesses throughout the district. Find details at <https://tinyurl.com/2s3aueas>

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Jan. 4. Boy Scout Troop 100 in Alameda will be recycling Christmas trees, and request a \$10 donation. The proceeds go

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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the Bach Cantata Choir will present four of the sections of the composer's 1723 "Christmas Oratorio" on Dec. 20. (Bach Cantata Choir)

to pay for their Scouting adventures. Two locations — Northeast 27th Avenue and Fremont Street or the St. Rose of Lima School, 5309 N.E. Alameda St.

INGENERAL

HOMEBUYING HELP FOR LOWER-INCOME FOLKS

Dec. 14. 10-11:30 a.m. and 11:30-1 p.m. Proud Ground, a group that strives to give lower-income people a chance to buy, rather than rent a place, is having Get Started sessions. To enroll, people need to have these qualifications: You haven't owned a home within the past three years, are a permanent resident or citizen of the United States, or have a valid work visa or ITIN. Also needed is a credit score above 620, a minimum household income of \$35,000, stable employment for a minimum of two years, no bankruptcies within the last four years and at least \$3,000 in savings. Questions: Contact Martha at 503-493-0293 extension 109, or martha@proudground.org

CHESS MOVES

Sundays. 1:30 p.m. Costello's Cafe and Bakery welcomes duffers, masters, kibitzers and other folks who enjoy pushing pawns or otherwise spending an hour or so with the ancient game. Bring a board and chess clock if you have one, but if you don't, don't worry. 2222 N.E. Broadway, 503-208-9373

MUSICNOTES

JOHN NILSEN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Dec. 1. 3 p.m. John Nilsen, a Portland resident who has had a long and successful

career, selling more than 1 million records, will present a Christmas concert with The Tide, another local group. Each artist will do a set and conclude with a communal "Silent Night." \$15 suggested donation at the door. Rose City Park Methodist Church, 5830 N.E. Alameda St., 503-954-2830, www.rcpumc.org/

PYXIS QUARTET

Dec. 3. 7-8 p.m. The Pyxis Quartet are four local classical musicians who play music by local composers. This program has pieces by Darrell Grant, Caroline Shaw, Kirstin Volness, Kenji Bunch and Gabe Kahane. Tickets \$26-36.50. The Madeleine; 3240 N.E. 23rd Ave., 503-446-4227, www.45thparallelpdx.org/concerts/portland-school/

WOMEN'S QUARTET SINGS CHRISTMAS

Dec. 8. 3 p.m. The Sirens, a quartet specializing in harmony, will put on a program called "Deck the Halls," consisting of traditional and new Christmas songs. Donations for the Bradley Angle domestic abuse treatment center will be welcomed. Rose City Park Methodist Church, 5830 N.E. Alameda St., 503-954-2830, www.rcpumc.org/

CHRISTMAS VESPERS

Dec. 15. 4 p.m. The Rose City Park Methodist Choir and Handbell team will be featured in the churches Vesper service. David Weekley will preside over the service, which will feature pieces by John Rutter and others. A donation will be collected for Greater Good Northwest. Rose City Park Methodist Church, 5830 N.E. Alameda St., 503-954-2830, www.rcpumc.org/

CELLO CHRISTMAS

Dec. 15. 8 p.m.; Dec. 16. 7 p.m. The six local players of the North Pole Cello Sextet will put on their version of the Duke Ellington/Billy Strayhorn reimagining of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite." Tickets \$26-36.50. The Madeleine; 3240 N.E. 23rd Ave., 503-446-4227, www.45thparallelpdx.org/concerts/cello-christmas-2024/

VOICES OF WINTER

Dec. 22. 3 p.m. Northwest Vocal Arts will present its inaugural concert, "Voices of Winter: What Sweeter Music," with seasonal songs, a brass quintet playing Gabrieli and new works by local composers. Tickets \$15-\$30. Rose City Park United Methodist Church, 5830 N.E. Alameda St., 503-804-8251; <https://www.nwvocalarts.org/concerts>.

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO OF BACH

Dec. 20. 7:30 p.m. The Bach Cantata Choir will present the master's "Christmas Oratorio." The soloists, 50-voice choir and 15-member orchestra will be led by Ralph Nelson. It was originally written in 1723 as a series of six short pieces to be performed at church services over several days between Dec. 25 and Jan. 6, but this performance will feature four of the sections in one performance. Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, 1907 N.E. 45th Ave., 503-282-0965. Tickets \$35, available at www.bachcantatachoir.org.

STUMPTOWN SOUL HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR.

Dec. 22. 7 p.m. An all-star cast of Portland musicians will light up the stage at the ninth annual "Stumptown Soul Holiday Spectacular." This event features a variety

of holiday music, from soulful to classics to acoustic to original songs. Tickets \$30 in advance, \$35 day of the show. Minors with a parent or guardian \$10 in advance and \$15 day of the show. The Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 N.E. Alberta St., 503-719-6055, albertarosetheatre.com

FOR SENIORS

MEDICARE FALL OPEN ENROLLMENT

Dec. 7. Deadline for switching from original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan, or adding prescription drug coverage (known as Part D). If you do sign up for a new plan, it will take effect on Jan. 1. Those already enrolled in Medicare should have received their Annual Notice of Change information in the mail. For people already in a Medicare Advantage plan, you can switch to another plan up until March 31. Medicare Advantage and Medigap plans can differ quite a bit in what they cover, so be sure to study your options before picking one. A good place to start is with www.medicare.gov or call 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227). You will be talking with a Medicare employee, not a private insurance company.

NE VILLAGE PDX

NE Village is an organization that helps seniors age in place. They do that by providing services and support in daily life and building community and friendships. The next volunteer orientation session is in January, but there is a session for people interested in joining the community on at 11 a.m. Dec. 16 at the Community for Positive Aging, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave., 503-895-2750 or email info@nevillagepdx.org.

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Advertisement for Pitch Us Your Story Ideas. Encourages readers to share their ideas with the community by contacting editorial@star-news.info. Includes a graphic of a baseball with 'STORY IDEAS' written on it.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS From The Coon Team



Name: _____ Age _____

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By entering this contest you agree to have your name published in the January Star News

COLORING CONTEST!

ENTRIES MUST BE
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Winners will be announced
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