



CONCORDIA NEWS

A free publication of the Concordia Neighborhood Association

April 2022

Earth Day events dot the calendar

Earth Day may appear as one 24-hour period on any calendar. But there are several days this month when volunteers have the opportunity to make a difference for the environment – right here in Concordia.

The Community events calendar on Page 8 offers several opportunities, including the April 2 Concordia Neighborhood Litter Pick Up.

UO announces plans for CU site

By Nancy Varekamp
CNews Editor

Concordians greeted with delight – and some relief – the March 1 announcement by the University of Oregon (UO) that it plans to purchase the Concordia University (CU) campus.

It ended the wait of two years and 18 days for neighbors to learn the fate of the 115-year-old, 13-acre campus. Some feared it might be what neighbor Kristen Hagstrom described as, “just parceled

“It just feels it’s the right time. We need to address the mental health needs of our children.”

– Joann Scheck

out and sold to the highest bidder.

“This seems like best case scenario for the neighborhood,” she added. “It seems like they really want to be here in the neighborhood.”

Sarah Pearson and husband Trae bought KISS Coffee on nearby Ainsworth Street only a few months before the February 2020 announcement that Concordia University would close. The CU campus had its own dining facilities and didn’t bring a lot of business to KISS. But she looks forward, with UO’s presence, to a renewed energy of more people coming and going.

“I think it’s exciting. I think Concordia is such a beautiful campus. To see it empty was really sad.”

For Joann Scheck, who lives a stone’s throw from the campus, UO’s plans to create the Ballmer Institute for Children’s Behavior Health brings the campus full circle. When she entered Concordia College as a freshman in 1956, it was to become a teacher to help fill the enormous need schools were experiencing with the Baby Boom generation.

“It’s going back to its roots, instead of going off in some other direction,” she



Concordians report they are enthusiastic about the University of Oregon’s plans for the former Concordia University campus and to share the grounds and facilities. Clockwise are Charlie, Kristen and Gus Hagstrom; Sarah Pearson; and Concordia University alumna Joann Scheck. Photos by Brad Hagstrom and Nancy Varekamp

said of the dormant campus. Just as there was a mid-century need for teachers, according to Joann, now schools have a tremendous need for more behavior health professionals.

“It seemed like Concordia always had a mission, and here we have this mission now that U of O is going to develop something that’s so needed. It just feels it’s the right time. We need to address the mental health needs of our children.”

Kristen worked for Concordia University for two years as an academic counselor in the College of Education, housed in Faubion School. She was one of many Concordians laid off in 2020. When more programming moves from UO’s Old Town facility, she expects new employment opportunities may open.

The mother of two, she’s also glad to hear that neighborhood use of the campus is on the minds of UO leaders. Campus

grounds and facilities traditionally hosted many events and opportunities for youth.

“We were always checking out books from the children’s library,” Kristen added. “It was such a fun place to go and read on a rainy day.”

Editor’s note: For a recap of UO’s March 1 announcement about purchasing the campus and its commitment to the neighborhood, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/current-topics/cusale.



Nancy Varekamp is semiretired from her career in journalism, public relations and – her favorite work engagement – writing and editing targeted newsletters.

The spring egg hunt is almost here

It’s back by popular demand: the Concordia Neighborhood Association Spring Egg Hunt event, Saturday, April 16, beginning at 9 a.m. in Fernhill Park.

Face painting and games are available prior to the 10 a.m. egg hunt. Don’t be late. The hunt always ends quickly.

Adult volunteers are needed Friday, April 15, beginning at 1 p.m. in McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room. The core group of egg hunt planners need your help stuffing plastic eggs with candy.

The call is also out for volunteers to begin hiding the eggs in the park at



7:45 a.m., Saturday, April 15, and more volunteers to help pick up any debris at noon. Donations to the egg hunt are also

welcome. Visit ConcordiaPDX.org/egg-hunt-donation-form for the donation form.

From the Board

By Peter Keller, CNA Chair



Spring brings more change to Concordia

We had a large turnout in March for our quarterly Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) general meeting, and for good reason. Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty made herself available for a Q&A, and we had two University of Oregon (UO) representatives speak about UO plans to purchase the former Concordia University campus.

We still have an available volunteer board position, At Large 4.

If you're interested in what the commissioner had to say, you can read the recap at ConcordiaPDX.org/hardesty-2022.

Visit ConcordiaPDX.org/UO-recap-2022 for a recap of our conversation with UO representatives Jane Gordon, Portland vice provost, and Matt Roberts, community relations assistant vice president. UO plans to create the Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health to educate behavioral health professionals to work with pre-K-12 students. Eventually, UO may house its entire Portland campus at the Concordia property, approximately 700 students. Matt and Jane assured us that UO will be a good neighbor.

The CNA board will put together a good neighbor agreement. We've heard that people would like

access to the sports field and facilities as well as the library. If you have more suggestions for the good neighbor agreement, please send them to me at Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org.

Our March CNA board meeting was also busy. We introduced our new CNews editor, Rob Cullinan. Rob is a career newspaper reporter and most recently was a staff writer for the Portland Tribune. Rob is also a musician and has experience writing about music, so we welcome his expertise as he'll be keeping our events calendar in tune as well. Rob will officially take the reins of CNews in April and will edit the May issue.

Gordon Riggs, our media team lead, has decided to step down from that paid, contract position. He'll continue in his role as graphic designer. Therefore, we are looking for candidates to fill the media team lead position. See the job description in the ad on Page 8, and please reach out to me if you're interested.

We still have an available volunteer board position, At Large 4. This is open to any qualified Concordian. Find qualifications in Section VII at ConcordiaPDX.org/CNA-bylaws

Finally, we heard from a CNA ad hoc committee investigating changing the neighborhood name from Concordia to something new. The CNA board voted down a motion to take a poll of the neighborhood re: the name change, and the ad hoc committee disbanded due to lack of support for the idea.

Native Portlander Peter Keller has lived in Concordia since 1997. He runs a small marketing agency with partner Max, out of their home studio. He loves exploring outdoors with and without his dogs.

CNA Board of Directors

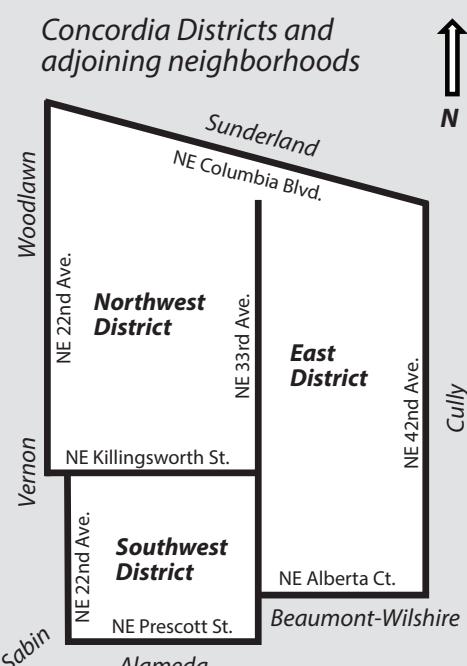
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 Northwest 1 | NW1@ConcordiaPDX.org Isham "Ike" Harris
 Northwest 2 | NW2@ConcordiaPDX.org Amelie Marian
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 At Large 4 | AL4@ConcordiaPDX.org Available
 At Large 5 | AL5@ConcordiaPDX.org Ben Taylor
 At Large 6 | AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org Brittany van der Salm

CNA meeting venues

Phone numbers and/or URLs to attend virtual CNA meetings:

- Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX
- ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMEetings

Concordia Districts and adjoining neighborhoods



5736 NE 33rd Ave • Portland • (503) 249-3983 • mcmenamins.com

Concordia Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting

1st Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, April 6, 7 p.m., venue: see box below, contact Peter Keller, Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org

Future meeting dates: 5/4, 6/1, 7/6, 8/3, 9/7, 10/5, 11/2

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, June 1, 7 p.m., venue: see box below

Future meeting dates: 9/7, 11/2

Social Committee

If you'd like to volunteer to help plan fun, community building events, contact Javier Puga-Phillips at Social@ConcordiaPDX.org.

Media Team

1st Monday of the month, Monday, April 4, 6 p.m., venue: see box below, contact Gordon Riggs, MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org

Land Use & Transportation Committee

3rd Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, April 20, 7 p.m., venue: see box below, contact Ben Taylor at AL5@ConcordiaPDX.org

Finance Committee

Last Wednesday of the month, Wednesday, April 27, 7 p.m., venue: contact Heather Pashley, Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org

Community Room Rental

For info and scheduling, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/community-room-rental or contact Javier Puga-Phillips at CNARoomKennedy@gmail.com.

CONTACTS

CNA Chair

Peter Keller, Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNA Vice Chair

Brittany van der Salm, AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNA Secretary

Joseph Fraley, Secretary@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNA Treasurer

Heather Pashley, Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org

North Community Safety Team

Jacob Brostoff & Daniel Franco-Nunez, north.pdxteam@PortlandOregon.gov, 503.823.4064

SUBMISSIONS & ADVERTISING

Submissions to Concordia News: Deadline is the 10th of the month preceding the upcoming monthly publication. Contact CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org
 Submissions to CNA website: Submit nonprofit news & events to MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org
 Advertising: Gina Levine, CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org, 503.891.7178

MEDIA TEAM

CNA Board Liaisons: Heather Pashley, John McSherry
 Media Team Lead: Gordon Riggs, MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org, 503.515.8209

CNews Editor: Nancy Varekamp, CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNews Graphic Designer: Gordon Riggs

Media Team: Chris Baker, Erin Cooper, Kathy Crabtree, Keith Daellenbach, Jon Dickman, Steve Elder, Michael French, Tamara Anne Fowler, Tami Fung, Gina Levine, Vanessa Miali, Javier Puga-Phillips, Gordon Riggs, Rob Rogers, Marsha Sandman, Nancy Varekamp, Karen Wells, Carrie Wenninger, Tara Williams

Concordia Neighborhood Litter Pick Up

Care about your neighborhood? Want to help?

What: Join SOLVE and your neighbors for a litter pick up in the Concordia Neighborhood.

When: Saturday, April 2nd, 9:00 am – noon

Where: Meet in Alberta Park, NE Ainsworth & 22nd

Registration: Pre-registration is required! Please sign up ahead of time and fill out the volunteer waiver form:

SOLVEOregon.org/opportunity/a0C8W00000V8b0o

Questions? Contact Gina Levine at CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org or call 503.891.7178.

More info: ConcordiaPDX.org/NeighborhoodLitterPickUp



Concordia Art Works

Metalsmith's jewelry reflects his experiences

By Maquette Reevorts
Alberta Art works

Claudio Starzak was born in the Argentine Patagonia. After school, he and his friends would hang out at a local handicraft store, where he was introduced to metalsmithing, a common profession in Argentina.

With a modest set of tools, he spent years traveling through South and Central America. Claudio visited various cultures, experienced pre-Columbian

"My mission as an artist remains to inspire love, joy and harmony by bringing more beauty into this world."

- Claudio Starzak

and sacred sights, sat with healers and shamans, and met master jewelers – all while honing his metalsmithing skills.

His artwork reflects his experiences and stories. Organic, flowing precious metals embrace crystals and natural gems. A master of rings, earrings and pendants, he creates much of his work using an overlay technique, building up

Precious metals, crystals and natural gems grace the artwork of Claudio Starzak. Photo by Maquette Reevorts

designs using layers of metal.

"My mission as an artist remains to inspire love, joy and harmony by bringing more beauty into this world."

Custom and casted wedding rings are a big part of Claudio's business. A good percentage of his jewelry is made from casting originals, but commissions from custom work kept his business afloat through COVID-19 times. It was also during that period that Claudio Starzak Jewelry was robbed, and he lost half of his inventory.

There was an almost 50% drop in jewelry sales during this time because no one was socializing and, therefore, not dressing up with jewelry. Claudio is looking forward to a productive and busy summer season.

Discover more at ClaudioStarzakJewelry.com.



Michel Reevorts, aka Maquette, holds a master of arts degree in art education, serves Alberta Art Works as director and Alberta Street Gallery as a board member. She is also a practicing artist. Contact her at Maquette@AlbertaArtWorks.org.



Letter to the editor

To the Editor:

I write to you as the pastor of St. Michael's Church which is located at 6700 N.E. 29th Ave., adjacent to Faubion School. As COVID-19 broke out, St. Michael's members were not able to volunteer at the Oregon Food Bank and even unable to make individual donations of food. This had been a significant focus of our service.

We also knew that there were people in our own neighborhood who might be hungry as the pandemic affected the economy. So we built a blessing box, installed it at the corner of 29th and Dekum Street, stocked it with food and encouraged people to "Take what you need, and give what you can."

The box has been well used and supported by members of the commu-

nity and St. Michael's. A few weeks ago, we discovered that our blessing box had been destroyed. We are considering whether to replace the box, move it or find another way to support the needy in our community.

We have received many words of encouragement from folks, but also have heard a couple of discordant notes, and obviously someone felt strongly enough to smash our little box.

We will decide on our next move soon. Do you have input you would like to make? Please let us know at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 6700 N.E. Holman St. Portland 97211, or you can email SCarlson@stmikelslutheran.org.

Thank you for being partners in a wonderful neighborhood!

- Pastor Phillip Brandt

CNA respects the views and beliefs of all Concordians, and their cultures and faiths. The views expressed by this writer do not necessarily reflect the views of CNA. For details about submitting a letter to the editor for publication, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/CNewsSubmissions.



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Reader's Opinion

SRV issue was a missed opportunity

By Andy Pfandler
Concordia Neighbor

I followed with interest the discussion around siting the Safe Rest Village (SRV) at the Whitaker site, ultimately I feel saddened and a little ashamed at the way things played out. I understand why Portland Public Schools (PPS) chose not to approve using that location, and I have a problem with the way our community reacted to the proposal. Instead of sending out flyers and letters I wish we had collectively said "Maybe not here, how else can we help?"

The flyer that ended up at my house in November was full of dog whistles and not based in reality. It was also hypocritical. Do those who rent or own undergo mental health screenings when moving here? Are our choices around drug use, pets or anything else scrutinized?

The request for engagement in the letter the Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) sent to PPS seems reasonable. But to me, the tone in that

letter is "not here." There is not even a throwaway sentence about wanting to support or provide housing for people who are homeless.

I think we need to do more to support our neighbors. Does the CNA represent all people living in the neighborhood or just those privileged enough to be living in a parcel? Do you want people to leave, or do you want to help, maybe both?

I work at a nonprofit that provides behavioral health support to people living in shelters. My No. 1 recommendation: ask people what they need. Experiencing homelessness is traumatic, and can cause a loss of agency and voice. I'd like to believe that we as a community can find ways to lift up the voices of people who have been marginalized and dehumanized. Individually, you can talk to people, the discomfort fades quickly. Systematically, the CNA could work to include our unhoused neighbors. What great ideas can we collectively brainstorm to lift up people's voices?

In lieu of asking what people need, here are some suggestions based on my experiences: organize trash pick ups, provide sanitary ways for people to use the bathroom, set up a system for clean water, be friendly, advocate for housing-first policies, help people wash their clothes, give them money and let them choose, support mutual aid groups or nonprofits doing this work.

I think the SRV idea is a good one, the Whitaker site was not the place, and I wish we had been more welcoming. We can do better.

CNA respects the views and beliefs of all Concordians, and their cultures and faiths. The views expressed by this writer do not necessarily reflect the views of CNA. For details about submitting a Reader's Opinion piece for publication, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/CNewsSubmissions.



CNA Annual Spring Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16 at Fernhill Park

Games and face painting start at 9 a.m.

The hunt begins at 10 a.m. SHARP. Don't be late – it ends in a flash!

Questions? Interested in helping out?

Please contact Javier Puga-Phillips at Social@ConcordiaPDX.org or call or text 323.573.1516.



SAVE THE DATE

THE EVENT THAT CHANGED ALL

EASTER AT SOJOURN CHURCH

APRIL 17, 2022 AT 10 AM

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Volunteers rescue and foster lost pet rabbits

By Mac Larsen
CNA Media Team

Take a walk down the grocery store aisle during this season. You see chocolate, marshmallow and stuffed rabbits, and the list goes on and on.

For many, spring brings bunnies to mind more often than any other time of year, unless you're a volunteer for Rabbit Advocates. Then bunnies are a year-round concern.

Concordian Brian Duval is a volunteer with Rabbit Advocates and recently rescued a large white rabbit from his neighbor's yard.

"I was in between fostering rabbits, so I took the offer to take this one in, and foster it for the time being," Brian said. "He's just hilarious, following me around everywhere, nipping at the bottom of my pants to pet him."

"You know, it takes a really long time for a rabbit to warm up to you. But this guy was like, 'I'm ready for a friend.' And I was like, 'Me too,' so we put in the adoption papers."

Rabbit Advocates is an all-volunteer

nonprofit founded in Portland 20 years ago. The mission is to help stray domesticated rabbits find new owners after they've been abandoned or otherwise left without permanent homes.

"There are domestic rabbits and wild rabbits, which are different animals. And these animals that we're fostering and we're rescuing are domesticated rabbits that are meant to be pets," Brian said.

The most noticeable difference between pet rabbits and wild rabbits is size and color. A wild rabbit usually is small and solid brown. If a rabbit looks larger, has spots or is white, then the rabbit may be a lost pet.

Rabbit Advocates' volunteers are trained to care properly for the rescued rabbits until permanent homes are found.

"In 2021, Rabbit Advocates rescued 160 new bunnies from perilous situations and found excellent adoptive homes for 148 bunnies with the help of 85 certified foster families in the Greater Portland Area," cited the Rabbit Advocates year-end report.

According to Brian, Rabbit Advocates' work is important because domesticated rabbits can't defend themselves in the wild. "They don't have the breeding to understand predators or survive."

Rabbit Advocates educates the public about the differences between wild and pet rabbits, how to spot the differences and provides rescue and adoption resources for those who've found lost rabbits.

If you're interested in adopting or fostering a bunny through Rabbit Advocates, visit RabbitAdvocates.org.

As for the rabbit Brian rescued from neighbor Peter's yard, he named it Morgan. "I couldn't name him Peter. That would be too obvious."



Mac Larsen is a graduate student at the University of Oregon, pursuing a master's degree in journalism. He grew up in Concordia neighborhood and can be found frequently on Alberta Street, complaining about all the construction.



Concordian Brian Duval rescued Morgan from his neighbor's yard. Usually, he just fosters lost, domesticated rabbits for the Rabbit Advocacy organization – but this one he adopted.



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Vernon IB World School
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www.vernonpta.org

The Maker Fair is organized by the Vernon PTA. A percentage of the proceeds will support enhancements at Vernon such as field trips, art, music, STEAM, garden education and facility improvements.

You're invited to tour local linear arboretum

By Jim Gersbach
Linear Arboretum Founder,
Concordia Tree Team Member

You're invited to join me on a free walk to explore the Concordia Linear Arboretum Saturday, April 16. The 90-minute walk, sponsored by Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry, will start at 9 a.m. at the southeast corner of 30th Avenue and Ainsworth Street.

Concordia is fortunate to have one of a handful of Portland's tree-lined medians. It's a stretch of about 1.5 miles from Fernhill Park to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Since 2005, the median – and the right-of-way planting strips on the north and south sides of the street – have been designated by the city as an investigational arboretum.

Here, city residents can get to know less familiar, approved street trees, including ones in a trial for suitability in this climate.

Originally conceived as a grand entrance to the city from the east, Ainsworth was envisioned as a boulevard with a tree-lined median running from

Concordian Jim Gersbach is public affairs specialist for the Oregon Department of Forestry and former urban forestry specialist for the city of Portland. His volunteer activities include serving on the Concordia Tree Team, founding the Ainsworth Linear Arboretum, acting as an outreach guide for the Hoyt Arboretum, and providing education as well as leading planting and pruning crews for Friends of Trees.

the Columbia Gorge to the Willamette River.

The only part ever developed as such is what exists today. The original Ainsworth planting was a classic monoculture – a single species of tree (*Acer platanoides*) that conformed to the uniform look so prized by European city planners.

That made Ainsworth more vulnerable to any pest or disease that especially

Exposing people to great new options is what the Ainsworth Linear Arboretum is all about.

afflicted maples.

Portland's mild climate can support hundreds of different tree species. As the city began to allow and then encourage more choices of species, many people still selected only what was familiar.

Exposing people to great new options is what the Ainsworth Linear Arboretum is all about.

When trees die, we replace them with diverse species and new cultivars with better forms or disease resistance.

Over 16 years, diversity in the median has grown from six to 47 species, and now there are trees native to Oregon.

Many people and organizations have helped. Trees and mulch have



Concordian Jim Gersbach will lead people of all ages on an April 16 walking tour of the Ainsworth Linear Arboretum. Pictured taking their own pre-tour are Naomi Anderson, Audrey Sullivan, Willa McCauley, and Gina and Crosby Levine. Photo by Nancy Varekamp

been provided by nurseries, Friends of Trees and Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry. The parks folks have also removed dead trees, ground the stumps to enable new plantings and watered young ones for the trees' first two summers. Members of the city Youth Conservation Crew have weeded and mulched.

Because Portland has experienced multiple drought years, I have hand-watered a lot of the trees beyond two years to help them establish.

Editor's note: CNews space is limited, and there just wasn't room for all of the information Jim Gersbach provided. To see his full-length story, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/2022-linear-arboretum-tour.

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Deli is one of few in the country to go vegan

By Marsha Sandman
CNA Media Team

From motorcycles sales to six punk barbershops to operating a bioplastic company to the early years of food carts to bagels, Justin King has the heart of an entrepreneur.

Inspired by his East Coast Jewish

*Inspired by his
East Coast Jewish
Ukrainian-Polish
grandparents –
Ben and Esther
– Justin grew up
eating bagels.*

Ukrainian-Polish grandparents – Ben and Esther – Justin grew up eating bagels. He went from New York to Miami and finally settled here 23 years ago.

With his first deli in 2019 in the Roseway neighborhood on Sandy Boulevard, his latest business is Ben and Esther's Vegan Jewish Deli at 1800 N.E. Alberta St in the former Random Order Pie Bar location.



After living east, south, north and west, Marsha Sandman is home at last. And she wants to hear your story. Contact her at MarshaJSandman@gmail.com.

News from the NET

Progress is underway in preventing spill risks

By Erin E. Cooper

Concordia/Vernon/Woodlawn Neighborhood Emergency Team

Many Oregonians are unaware that more than 90% of the state's liquid fuel reserves – oil, gas, diesel and jet fuel – are stored along a six-mile stretch of the Willamette River, between Sauvie Island and the Fremont Bridge.

This area is known as the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub. These fuel storage tanks sit on river banks that will experience liquefaction in the event of a major earthquake – meaning the ground will become highly unstable, more so than many other parts of Portland. Relatively speaking, that ground is expected to experience “extreme shaking,” compared to the lesser “severe shaking” anticipated for the Concordia neighborhood.

Because most of the tanks are over 50 years old and none are retrofitted for earthquakes, experts say between 95 and 195 million gallons of fuel could spill into the Willamette River and into the Columbia River, not so far away from Concordia. That’s a spill of the same magnitude as the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Spill off the coast of Louisiana.

The loss of Oregon’s fuel reserves would also severely restrict earthquake recovery efforts across the state.

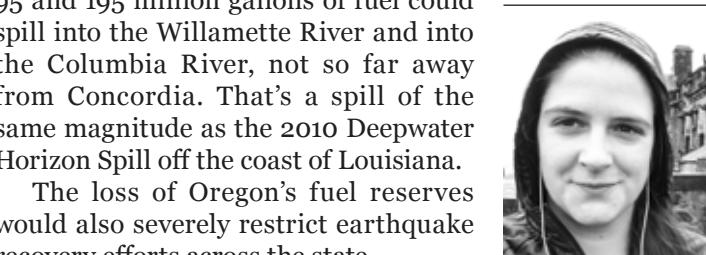
Fortunately, after years of warnings from scientists and expressions of

concern by citizens, the Oregon Legislature passed SB 1567, to require owners of these storage tanks to complete seismic vulnerability assessments by 2024.

Owners will then work with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to design and implement seismic risk mitigation, although this requirement does not yet have an established timeline.

A Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake may not wait until the completion of seismic retrofits throughout the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub. However, it is encouraging to see politicians from both political parties voting to minimize the environmental and economic liability of storing our fuel along the river.

A major earthquake will create many challenges and struggles for Oregon. Investing in minimizing disasters related to fuel storage will shorten recovery times and make the region more resilient.



Erin E. Cooper is a marine biologist living in Woodlawn. She spends a lot of time thinking about disasters and has been a NET member for many years. Contact her at OceanListener@gmail.com.

That's right, it's vegan, one of a very small handful in the entire country. The Ben & Esther's team started making lox with salt-roasted carrots, swapped the whitefish for brined-and-smoked hearts of palm and began baking babka and rugelach with vegan butter.

The shift ended up being a hit, especially among Portland's vegans. He also operates a Ben & Esther's in San Diego, and he plans to open another one in Seattle.

“I've been plant-based for a long time. When I opened Ben & Esther's, I was very business-minded, and I thought that opening a traditional Jewish deli would be good for business.

“After a year, I couldn't reconcile that with my principles,” said the vegan.

To stay true to his beliefs, Justin transformed it to vegan, complete with his redefined versions of lox, corned beef, brisket, white fish and knishes, to name a few.

Along with bagels and a variety of schmears, Ben & Esther's also offers Jewish pastries that include babka, challah and hamentashen.

The two local Ben & Esther's are open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., seven days a week and can be reached at 503.265.8470.

True to his core philosophies, Justin also operates a storefront on Hawthorne Boulevard that feeds anyone who walks in the door. That location will also soon house a vegan bakery.

A father of three and a Hare Krishna, Justin practices yoga and stays true to his principles.

“You don't have to sacrifice the integrity of your food,” he said. “You can have traditional anything in a less harmful way. Principle over profit.”



Manny Gallardo tends the counter and offers customers bagels and a wide variety of traditional Jewish deli delicacies at Ben & Esther's Vegan Jewish Deli. Yes, everything is vegan. Photo by Marsha Sandman

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APRIL 2022

1 an arial celebration of Pink Floyd

2 **DARK SIDE**
a piece for assorted lunatics
feat. **LOVE GIGANTIC**

3 two shows
RUSSELL HOWARD

6 **THE GREATEST GENERATION**
The Double Dumbass Tour

7 **LIVE WIRE RADIO**
WITH LUKE BURBANK

8 **SCIENCE ON TAP:**
DIFFERENT
Gender Through the Eyes
of a Primatologist

9 **RISE UP**
the music of Hamilton
and Broadway

14 **ALAN DOYLE**
+ Chris Trapper

15 a Rock Opera
singalong mashup
JESUS TOMMY SUPERSTAR
presented by Low Bar Chorale

16 **MICHAEL NAMKUNG**
Good Pain
The Art of Being Hurt
+ Steven Gosvener

21 **JUDY BLUE EYES**

22 **CROSBY, STILLS & NASH** Tribute
with members of
The NowHere Band
+ CSN guitarist Jeff Pevar

23 **LADY SINGS THE BLUES**
a tribute to
BILLIE HOLIDAY

27 **MAKANA**

28 Chamber Music
Northwest presents
IMAMI WINDS
We Cannot Walk Alone

29 **BOOKLOVER'S BURLESQUE**
the Sci-Fi Edition

30 **THE MYSTERY BOX SHOW**
10 year anniversary
+ final show!

albertarosetheatre.com
3000 NE Alberta
503.764.4131

Community events calendar

April 1-30

ALDER COMMONS RECYCLING

Location: 4212 NE Prescott
Drop off your styrofoam and batteries for recycling.

Details: aldercommons.org/calendar



Friday, Saturday, April 16, 9am

CNA SPRING EGG HUNT

Location: Fernhill Park
After a two-year, pandemic-related hiatus, the egg hunt is back.

Details: See Pages 1 & 4

Thursday, April 21, 5-8pm

SCREENING: "FANTASTIC FUNGI"

Location: Alder Commons, 4212 NE Prescott

It's all about nature at "Doccos & Tacos: Fantastic Fungi" at Alder Commons. It begins with dining on tacos from the food cart in the parking lot, followed by screening the documentary and a discussion.

Details: app.aldercommons.org/program/doccos-and-tacos-fantastic-fungi

Saturday, April 23, 10am

ALBERTA STREET CLEAN UP

Location: TBD
Alberta Main Street plans to team with SOLVE Oregon to pick up litter and generally improve the appearance of the street & sidewalks.

Details: albertamainst.org



Friday, April 8, 7pm

LET'S GET PHYSICAL

Location: McMenamins Kennedy School Gymnasium

This is an aerobics-inspired dance night for adults 21 and older to dress in their over-the-top workout gear and dance to '80s & '90s tunes. DJ Gregarious and VJ Disorder combine forces to bring high-energy music and inspirational videos.

Details: mcmenamins.com/events/231769-lets-get-physical for reservations and admission prices

Monday-Saturday, April 11-16

SPRING WORKSHOP WEEK

Location: Alder Commons, 4212 NE Prescott

Alder Commons offers seven workshops over six days, all open to the public.

Details: app.aldercommons.org/program/spring-workshop-week

Community calendar items

Admission to events is free unless otherwise noted. Priority is afforded to local events sponsored by – or which benefit – local nonprofit organizations. Submit information to CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org by the 10th of the month preceding the event.

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