



DAVID KINDER

Mayoral hopeful Jefferson Smith makes a point at last month's debate sponsored by the Examiner, as Charlie Hales and Eileen Brady wait their turn.

## Candidates stake claim in the 'hood

Portland's next mayor took on two strong contenders at a Northwest Examiner-sponsored debate attended by about 275 people last month. Of course, voters will have to wait until May or perhaps November (in case of a run-off) to know which is which.

In answers to 11 questions on neighborhood and livability issues related to the greater Northwest Portland, each candidate gave evidence of preparation and connection to at least some local constituents.

On Pages 6-7, we break down their answers and offer analysis. The newspaper's endorsement will be announced in April.



MIKE RYERSON

Sue Lee (right) with her longtime friend Bonnie Lee at last month's Free Sue Lee rally.

## Friends rally to free Sue Lee from guardian

By Allan Classen

The Northwest Examiner's February cover story about Sue Lee, the longtime 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue merchant suffering under the constraints of a court-appointed guardian/conservator, touched a nerve.

A flood of emails, letters and comments from readers, almost all aghast that a person's rights could be so utterly ignored, ensued. Many asked how they could help.

A rally was held in front of Lee's former store last month. Peggy Abernathy, who is coordinating the effort to "free Sue Lee," emceed the event.

Stephen Ying, president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and chair of the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, also spoke.

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## Depression-era projects blend into background

By William Cornett

Works Progress Administration projects still serve and entertain residents of Northwest Portland some 70 years after their creation. Most are more subtle than Timberline Lodge or the stonework at Joseph Wood Hill Park on Rocky Butte, and they don't attract pilgrimages in the manner of the Woody Guthrie materials in the lobby of the Bonneville Power Administration. Chances are good you've walked or driven through or past them recently without noticing.

The WPA was a New Deal program providing jobs for artisans, artists and writers while creating public facilities across the country. It came in the wake of the Civilian Conservation Corps, an earlier federally funded program that gave construction work to unemployed men, and throughout its existence it drew more criticism than the CCC.

Amusingly, a 1939 poll indicated that citizens considered the WPA to be both the strongest and weakest accomplishment of the Roosevelt Administration. This perception held despite the fact that WPA road projects, totaling more than 650,000 miles, could have paved a route to the moon and back with plenty of material left over for scenic overlooks. The WPA also built airports, sidewalks, schools, city halls, sewer systems, several hundred hospitals and innumerable public restrooms.

Despite this record of productivity, critics loudly proclaimed that WPA workers spent most of the workday leaning on their shovels, or worse yet, producing subversive works of art. Oregon was no exception, as both Gov. Charles Martin and Mayor Joseph Carson opposed Roosevelt's New Deal while in office, although both men were Democrats. Oregon Republicans were no kinder to the WPA, with one party member asserting to The Oregonian in 1936, "On project after project, the story is the same. Waste, extravagance, blunders."

In Portland, the WPA conducted a Household Service Demonstration Project to teach women domestic skills so they might seek employment. This project was based at 829 NW 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. WPA-staffed kitchens also supplied

hot lunches to elementary school students throughout Portland.

From its offices on First Avenue just south of the Burnside Bridge, the WPA also put writers to work assembling and editing the American Guide Series through the Federal Writer's Project. It also hired playwrights and actors to perform throughout the country as part of the Federal Theater Project and provided venues and paychecks to musicians under the auspices of the Federal Music Project.

In Oregon, these efforts produced "Oregon: End of the Trail," the state guide to Oregon, as well as contributions to a Federal Writer's Project book about the Oregon Trail,

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### INSIDE



Where are the burgers?  
Neighborhood Food & Beverage Guide tells it all!

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# New Businesses

Story and photos by Karen Harter



Suzann Baricevic Murphy, W(here) Realty.

## W(here) Realty

2330 NW Irving St., 503-222-0223  
www.where-inc.com/landing

Suzann Baricevic Murphy has opened her first residential real estate agency, staffed by five to eight experienced realtors. She plans to expand with another office in Uptown in April, employing 20 to 30. A first-generation immigrant from Croatia, she's lived in Portland most of her life. After earning a Santa Clara University degree in civil engineering with a business minor, she's worked in real estate and construction for 23 years. Murphy values community participation and donates a portion of profits to charities supporting medicine, education and the elderly.

## Doctors Express

25 NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Pl., Suite 11, 503-305-6262  
www.doctorexpress.com

Dr. Lou Perretta and operations expert Guru Sankar, a former Intel executive, will open their second Portland area urgent care facility March 15. After Rochester School of Medicine and a residency at University of Illinois Chicago, Perretta worked 18 years as an emergency room doctor at Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital. The national franchise provides a "bridge" between local hospital emergency rooms and primary care physicians for efficient, affordable care in a calm setting for people who need walk-in acute care. They offer vaccinations and advice for overseas travel. One of a cadre of six doctors covering both locations will work 8 a.m.-8 p.m. every day, backed by state-of-the-art diagnostic tools. Their grand opening is March 20.



Christina Unga of ChildRoots with her son.

## ChildRoots NW

1740 NW Flanders St.  
www.childroots.com

Expanding from her East Burnside location, Christina Unga, executive director of ChildRoots, anticipates opening in Northwest in April. She is already providing "hardhat" tours to parents of 6-week to 6-year-old prospective enrollees. Recognized by the Oregon Environmental Council for its sustainability practices, ChildRoots will occupy nine classrooms in the 9,000 square feet previously occupied by Children's Creative Learning Center, with a capacity for 110 students. A mother of six, Unga will hire 35 new teachers for the science, arts and play-based learning center. ChildRoots uses wooden toys and encourages healthy organic food choices and creative outdoor activity.

## Fulcrum Fitness

2065 NW Miller Rd., 503-922-2258  
www.fulcrumfitness.com

David Levy, who has a 15-year fitness and physical therapy background, has created the Fulcrum Method. He offers yoga, nutrition, lower-back solutions and post-rehabilitation work. As president and founder, he recently opened a third location in Forest Heights. Levy holds titles as a champion bodybuilder and was a collegiate sprinter. The other two locations are on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and in Sellwood, and he's planning to open another in Beaverton. The website describes introductory offers and events in March.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Four large elm trees in front of the Johnson Street Professional Building at Northwest 19<sup>th</sup> and Johnson will be cut as part of a mixed-used redevelopment project supported by the **Northwest District Association Planning Committee**. The committee voted 4-3 to support the proposal, which includes the planting of 13 6-inch-diameter street trees as mitigation. ... **Stadium Flowers** moved from Southwest 20<sup>th</sup> and Burnside by Jeld-Wen Field to 10 NW 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. ... **Seams to Fit Home** moved from 2259 NW Raleigh St. to 1820 NW Thurman St. in December. ... **Threads Count** men's consignment shop at 1536 NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. has applied with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission for an on-premises alcohol sales license. ... Owners of the **Oyster Bar** on North Williams are opening **The Parish** restaurant in the former **In Good Taste** corner at 231 NW 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. ... **Keen Footwear** purchased a five-story, historic landmark building at Northwest 13<sup>th</sup> and Glisan for its national headquarters. The company is moving from leased space at Northwest 13<sup>th</sup> and Lovejoy. ... An unidentified bidder won an auction to buy the **U.S. Custom House** at 220 NW Eighth Ave. for \$4.74 million. Since 2004, the **General Services Administration** has made several attempts to sell the 111-year-old landmark, but all have fallen through. ... Last month we printed the wrong name for **Caps & Corks**, the bottle shop and bar at 1000 NW 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.

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