

Long Wait Is Over For New Northeast Portland Grocery

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The long wait for grocery store-starved northeast Portland will end Wednesday, Dec. 5 when store officials and neighbors "break bread" together and open the Concordia New Seasons Market.

The event marks the end of a seven-year campaign by the neighborhood to restore a supermarket to the old Wilshire Park Sentry Market at Northeast 33rd and Killingsworth.

According to New Seasons manager Brian Rohter, store officials will share a giant sandwich made from "a really big baguette" with community volunteers who helped bring the store into existence. There will be numerous free samples and demonstrations inside.

Another celebration is



New Seasons Market Opens Dec. 5 at Northeast 33rd and Killingsworth. PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

planned for Saturday, Dec. 8. Outside the store there will be barbecue and chili for sale, with all proceeds going to the Urban League of Portland.

The store itself will be just under 30,000 square feet. There will be an emphasis on natural and organic foods, but non-organic products will also be

stocked when they are significantly cheaper. The store will produce its own baked goods, salads, sandwiches and deli items, and there will be tables for on-premises consumption. There will also be "full-service" meat and fish sections that can respond to special orders.

A new satellite building

houses the existing Rib Express restaurant and a liquor store.

The Concordia Association has been seeking a grocery on the site since the Wilshire Park Sentry Market closed in 1994. When Thriftway sought to replace it with a new, larger store they discovered to their dismay that the city had rezoned a satellite parking facility to the south for residential use as part of the Albina Community Plan process.

City Council eventually rezoned the entire property "CS," a commercial designation with strict site design standards for new construction and remodels. But the council, and particularly commissioner Charlie Hales' refused to consider removing Northeast Emerson Street to link the two parcels together, as did several resi-

dents of Northeast 34th Avenue.

The property was eventually sold to the Nicholson Development of Kirkland, Wash. They at first proposed to develop a small grocery and a Rite Aid store on the site, a plan that received a less-than-enthusiastic neighborhood response. Then, late last year, Nicholson recruited New Seasons. At the same time, Hales' aid Jillian Detweiler proposed that instead of removing Emerson, it be moved north 50 feet to provide a large enough footprint for the store.

Concordia land use chair Hector Roche spent several meetings negotiating development and operations agreements to ensure that the store would serve the community and be compatible with its neighbors, espe-

cially the closest ones. Eventually, some of the past schemes' strongest critics helped carry petitions to have Emerson moved so that the project could go ahead.

All did not go smoothly. Glitches in the construction process pushed the opening past Rohter's original deadline of September, and annoyed some neighbors. However, most of those involved say that the end result was worth the hassle.

"I feel great," Roche says. "We're finally going to get the store."

As for New Seasons he says, "I'm really confident about the store owners. They've really gone out of their way to hire people from the community."

The Concordia store will employ about 110 people, company officials said.

Local Army Guard Unit Called to Action

Deployment from Oregon is the largest since World War II

(AP) — Members of the 41st Infantry Brigade of the Oregon Army National Guard will serve in the Sinai Peninsula beginning this spring, Oregon Guard officials said Monday.

The brigade will provide one infantry battalion for the Multinational Force and Observers mission, which will serve from spring 2002 to January 2003, Army Guard spokesman Maj. Jeff Julum said.

"It's a mission that was designed back in the 1970s by the United Nations to prevent further conflict between the Egyptians and Israelis," he said.

Between 500 and 550 soldiers will be deployed, Julum

said. That marks the largest operational deployment by the Oregon Army National Guard since World War II.

The brigade is headquartered in Tigard and has three units, one apiece in Forest Grove, Cottage Grove and Ashland. One of these units will be activated. Its members were to be notified Monday night.

The battalion will relieve a similar force based in Arkansas, which was called up last month, said Maj. Gen. Alexander Burgin, commander of the Oregon National Guard.

While the troops' mission won't have any direct link to operations in Afghanistan, its deployment is the direct result of the Sept. 11 terrorist at-

tacks, Burgin said. Since Sept. 11, National Guard troops have been used to backfill behind regular troops being deployed in the war against terrorism.

As active duty forces are sent to Afghanistan, National Guard units replace them around the world, Burgin said.

The Oregon Army National Guard members join about 500 Oregon Air National Guard troops that have been guarding the Northwest air space since Sept. 11.

In all, the U.S. Department of Defense has pressed more than 55,000 national guard and reserve troops into active duty since Sept. 11.

Holidays are Busy for Green Thumb Kids



Green Thumb students in the Portland School District's horticulture magnet program take time before Thanksgiving to offer floral arrangements for sale to the public at the Blanchard Education Services Center in north Portland. A second winter sale featuring poinsettias grown by students, candle rings, floral arrangements, green arrangements and more will be held Thursday, Dec. 6, again at the services center, located at 501 N. Dixon. For more information, contact Joanne Barta at 503-916-5818. PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Questioning of Foreigners in Terrorism Probe Okayed

(AP) — Attorney General Hardy Myers on Tuesday cleared the way for state investigators to question foreign visitors as part of the federal terrorism probe.

Myers said state law doesn't forbid his agency or State Police "from conducting such interviews as part of a criminal investigation to identify and apprehend people who have conspired, or are conspiring, to commit crimes."

Myers' comments were in a memo to his Criminal Division, which he directed to "assist the federal government in the interview process."

Portland police have refused a request from U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft

to interview foreign visitors - the first police department in the nation to do so on grounds that it would violate state privacy laws.

But Myers said the state law does not prohibit posing the kind of questions the FBI is trying to get answered.

The state law, he said, pertains to asking questions about "political, religious or social" activities or views of people who aren't criminal suspects.

Myers said his advice directly affects only state investigators and that local police must depend on their own counsel.

The Oregon State Police were awaiting guidance on how to handle the request.

Youth of Color Support Group Formed

A new support group for gay and lesbian youth of color is being formed by the organizations Love Makes a Family and Brother to Brother.

The group will replace Rainbow Youth, which was discontinued at the end of summer when it lost the support of its sponsoring agency.

The new project will be staffed by Des Anderson, the youth and schools organizer at Love Makes a Family and Stephan Herrera, HIV and youth coordinator for Brother to

Brother. Both had worked with Rainbow Youth during the past year.

"It's unacceptable to abandon these youth," says Des Anderson. "We were just beginning to establish a supportive, safe environment for queer and questioning youth of color. When the group was disbanded the youth were left with no support."

The new group will support the youth in setting and carrying out their own programs.

For more information, call Anderson at 503-228-3892 or Herrera at 503-417-7991,

Scholarships Promotes Health Care Careers

The Kaiser Permanente African American Association of the Northwest has awarded Kennasha Roberson of Portland and Michelle Washington of Vancouver a \$1,000 scholarship each to pursue careers in health care professions.

"Part of the Kaiser Permanente African American Association's mission is community outreach," says Gwen Riggins, RN, member of the Association. "We'd like to help increase the number of African-Americans in health care professions, where we've been traditionally underrepresented, says Riggins. "So we'd like to offer financial help to students seeking careers in health care."

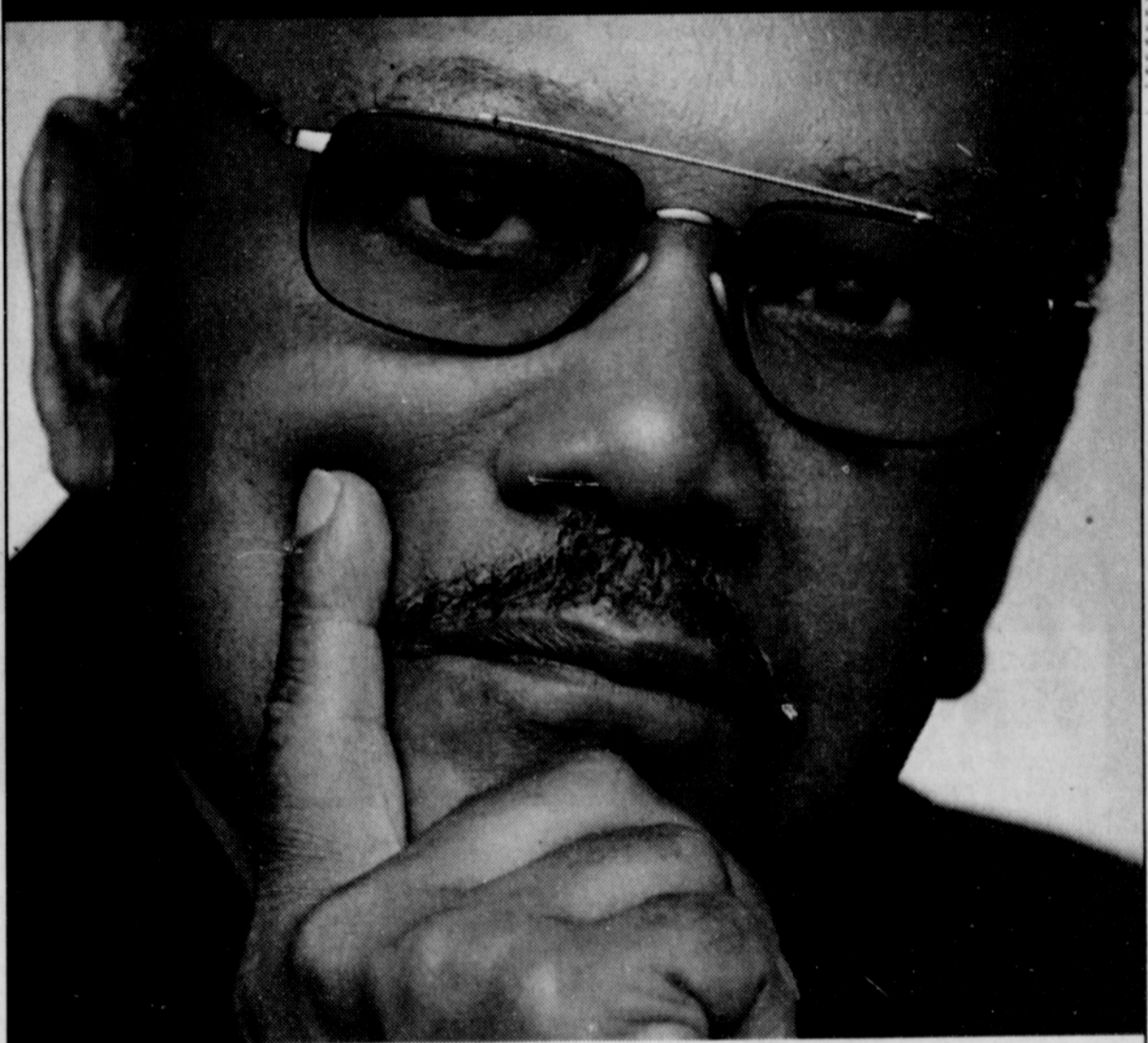
Kennasha Roberson, a graduate from Benson High School in Northeast Portland, is

attending the University of Oregon this fall. She is pursuing a major in nursing, to help her become a nurse mid-wife.

Michelle Washington graduated from Mountain View High School in Vancouver. Michelle is attending the University of Washington this fall and will major in pre-medicine. She would like to go on to medical school and become a physician.

The Kaiser Permanente African American Association of the Northwest provides a forum to encourage professional and personal growth, career development, opportunity, and enhancements in the work environment for African-Americans within Kaiser Permanente and to facilitate diversity initiatives within the organization.

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