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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Chefs were thanking customers last week at the iconic food cart pod at Southwest Alder and 10th Avenue, downtown, as they served up last meals before clearing out to make room for the construction of a new Ritz-Carlton hotel. City officials and private donors are trying to secure another place for some of the carts a few blocks away at the North Park Blocks.

Alder Food Carts Move

Group offered help on new location

BY DANNY PETERSON

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Some of the food carts of the iconic Alder Street Food Cart Pod, downtown, have found a temporary home in the old downtown Post Office parking lot, thanks to an anonymous donation that covered towing costs and support from the city, with the hopes of securing a new permanent home along the North Park Blocks.

The collection of food carts at Southwest Alder and 10th Avenue were the first to give Portland a reputation for being a food lover's paradise without the trappings of brick and mortar restaurants. Sunday they were all cleared out after 20 years to make room for a new Ritz-Carlton hotel, which began construction Monday.

"It's sad to move but the reality is, this is private land, we have no way to control the owner's actions," Michael Xu, who helps run Shanghai's Best Street Food, told the Portland Observer.

He added that he's appreciated the

help that's been offered by city officials so far, "They reacted so fast. That's so lucky we have them to help us."

A group of businesses, non-profits and the City of Portland—spearheaded by Commissioner Chloe Eudaly—is attempting to create a space for the food carts on the North Park Blocks between Burnside and Northwest Davis, with a tentative move-in date of July 15

The effort is backed by a Go Fund Me page that aims to raise \$300,000 to cover the costs of towing, electrical, and to develop a long-term solution for food carts in Portland.

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Oregon Minimum Wage Increases

July has ushered in a raise for minimum wage workers in Oregon. Under a regional formula accounting for inflation and geographic differences in local economies, employers in the Portland area will now pay at least \$12.50 an hour, 50 cents higher than before and higher than other parts of the state.

Single-Family Zones Eliminated

The Oregon Senate responded to an affordable housing shortage on Sunday by giving final legislative approval to a bill that would effectively eliminate single-family zoning in large Oregon cities. It will allow duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes and "cottage clusters" on land previously reserved for single family houses.

Life Sentence for Hate Death

An avowed white supremacist who drove his car into a crowd of counter protesters during a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va. last year was sentenced to life in prison Friday. James A. Fields Jr. pleaded guilty to 29 federal hate crimes as part of an agreement that eliminated the death penalty as a possible punishment.

The Week in Review



Scooters Fished from River

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office's dive team spent two days in the Willamette River in Portland last week, recovering 57 e-scooters and bikes, so many that they had to quit at one point because they ran out of space to get them back to shore.

Max River Tunnel Considered

Metro and TriMet are taking concrete steps this summer to determine if it's feasible to build a tunnel underneath downtown Portland and the Willamette River to speed up light rail trains and provide an alternative river crossing to the aging Steel Bridge. A website by the government agencies asks

for comments on the tunnel concept.

Carter Dishes on Trump Vote

Former President Jimmy Carter said Friday he believes President Donald Trump actually lost the 2016 election and is president only because of Russian interference. Carter made the comments during a discussion on human rights at a resort in Leesburg, Virginia.



Superintendent Hire Extended

The Portland Public Schools Board of Education voted unanimously last week to extend Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero's current contract by another two years through June 2022. The approval came after board members offered a positive review of his performance, crediting him for putting the district on a footing to improve student outcomes in future years.

