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Beyond White Culture

Diversity at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival

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Summer Jobs for Youth

Program is more than just a paycheck

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Portland Observer

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Lorenzo Poe is retiring as a longtime educational leader for equity in Portland Public Schools.

PHOTO BY ZACHARY SENN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

'Our Kids Can Achieve'

Retiring school leader on defying expectations

BY ZACHARY SENN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

One of Portland's most influential black educators has retired. Lorenzo Poe dedicated the past 40 years of his career to making public education in Portland more equitable. He says that he plans to continue to advocate for academic accessibility for people of color and the disadvantaged in his retirement.

Poe has been one of the region's defining figures in ed-

ucation. As someone who attended Jefferson High School in his youth, he says that he has first-hand knowledge of racial disparities in Portland Public Schools. Low expectations for students of color were prevalent in the district at the time of his attendance and remain for too many people today, he says.

"I was a student who, quite honestly, very few people believed in," Poe told the Portland Observer. "They thought that I wouldn't amount to much."

With his potential untapped, Poe said that his grades faltered at Jefferson. A select few educators, however, understood his capabilities, and he obtained entrance to Oregon State University.

"My counselors told me that it was probably for the

best if I thought about entering the military," said Poe. "At that time, there was the war in Vietnam. That didn't seem like an attractive alternative to me."

After his college admission, Poe went on to earn both a Bachelor's and Master's degree from OSU. He says that despite entering the university with a low grade-point average, his grades flourished once he began his studies at OSU.

After working out of state in the private sector, Poe returned to Portland and began a 32-year stretch at Multnomah County, where he was later appointed by then-County Commissioner Ted Wheeler to serve as the

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The Week in Review

Trump Jr. Outreach Called Treason

Hillary Clinton's former running mate, Sen. Tim Kaine, said Donald Trump Jr. may have committed treason last summer when he agreed to meet with a Russian lawyer under the pretense of getting dirt on Clinton. "We are now beyond obstruction of justice," the Virginia Democrat told CNN Tuesday. "This is moving into perjury, false statements and even potentially treason."

Taking DeVos to Court

A Portland woman filed a lawsuit against Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos Monday claiming the Trump cabinet official unlawfully rescinded a Borrower Defense Rule which allows students of predatory institutions to file for loan forgiveness in federal court. Niesha Wright, 40, earned an associate's degree from the now closed ITT Technical Institute.



Jay-Z to Play Portland

Jay-Z has announced tour dates for his latest album, 4:44, a critical success compared to his 2001 classic Blueprint and a response record to Beyoncé's landmark Lemonade album. In a rare Portland stop Jay-Z will perform at the Moda Center on Dec. 14. Tickets go on sale this Friday.



ACLU Fights Presidential Vote Commission

The American Civil Liberties Union went to court

Monday to fight against releasing sensitive voter information to a commission created by President Trump and headed by Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach. The ACLU and others see the request as a red herring, which would violate civil rights, privacy and start a nationwide voter suppression movement.

Age to Buy Tobacco Raised to 21 in Oregon

A proposed new law that would raise the legal age to buy tobacco to 21 in Oregon cleared the Legislature last week and now awaits the expected signature of Gov. Kate Brown. The effort is meant to curb young people from adopting lifelong addictions to tobacco products.

New Bike Sales Tax to Support Roads

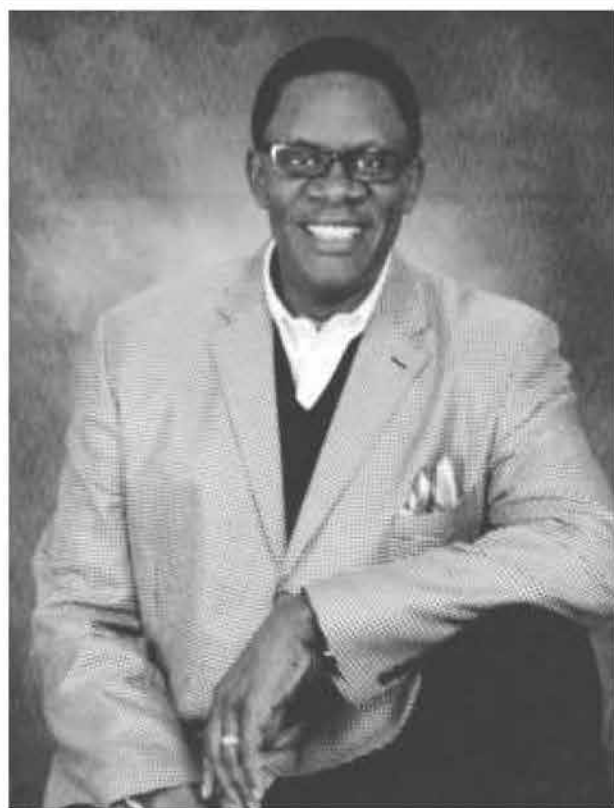
Despite opposition from small businesses and cycling advocates, a \$15 tax will be applied to bicycle purchases over \$200 in Oregon, the first such levy against bicycles in the nation as part of a new revenue package to support transportation funding in the state.

Interstate Tolls Approved for I-5, I-205

The Oregon Legislature passed a bill which calls for tolls on I-5 and I-205, stretching from the Oregon-Washington border, through the metro area and ending in Wilsonville. The price will depend on the time of day, with increased tolls during rush hour. The law expects to raise \$5.3 billion in new taxes and fees to pay for major expansions and improvements for mass transportation.

Woman Survives Stabbing

A woman who was stabbed 20 times outside of the Belmont Inn bar was released from the hospital last week as she recovers from the June 29 attack. Timothy Beasley, 35, an off duty security guard at the inn has been charged with attempted murder and robbery.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

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early stages, so do Chiropractic check-ups. Detected early, spinal defects are not only easier to treat, but may save a lot of pain and money, as well as reducing the chance of a disabling spinal disorder. To arrange for your checkup, or for answers to any questions you might have about your health, call our office at the number below.

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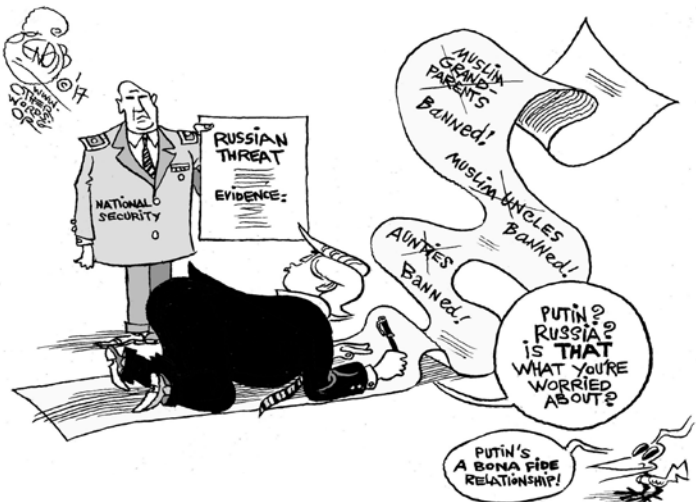


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This page
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What's on your list today?



Hundreds of young people gather to kick off the SummerWorks internship program operated through Multnomah County and the city of Portland. The program primarily serves young people who are low income or from diverse communities.

Summer Jobs for Youth

Program is more than just a paycheck

A record number of local youth will be gaining valuable work experience through SummerWorks. The summer jobs program operated by the city of Portland and Multnomah County is expected to accommodate as many as 1,150 young people from across the Portland metro region.

The program is placing 16-to-24-year-old participants in work opportunities at roughly 200 job sites. The participating employers represent the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

Young people who take part in the program work in paid 180-hour internships, and receive on-the-job training and mentoring. The program aims to provide local young people with the opportunities necessary to gain valuable real-world work experiences. SummerWorks is specifically targeted at low-income and minority youth.

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith and Mayor Ted Wheeler attended the annual welcoming ceremony on June 30 where hundreds of the young participants had the opportunity to network with eligible employers and sign up for bank accounts.

"I'm proud to kick off another season of SummerWorks, an amazing program that gives

young people real-life experience in the workforce with access to mentoring that will help prepare them for the high-skill jobs we know are coming to our region," said Wheeler.

The event was keynoted by Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Adrienne Nelson, the second black female judge in Oregon's history and a community leader known for speaking about the values of diversity, education, professional development and equity.

SummerWorks, a private-public partnership supported by a wide coalition of local governmental entities was started in 2009, and has placed 4,816 youth in summer jobs since then.

Legislative Highs and Lows

Session ends with progressive wins, defeats

BY ZACHARY SENN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Oregon Legislature adjourned its current session on Friday, hailing several progressive victories. Tenant advocates and other activist groups, however, are worried that some of the state's most pressing problems were not addressed.

Among initiatives passed by

the Democrat-controlled House and Senate being hailed as the session's most notable accomplishments were protections for women's healthcare, a bill that allows undocumented children to receive insurance coverage under the Oregon Health Plan and a law aimed at curbing police profiling.

House Bill 3391, which will take effect as soon as it receives Gov. Kate Brown's expected signature, will require a substantial amount of women's healthcare initiatives to be provided by private insurers. The measure is known as the Reproductive Health Eq-

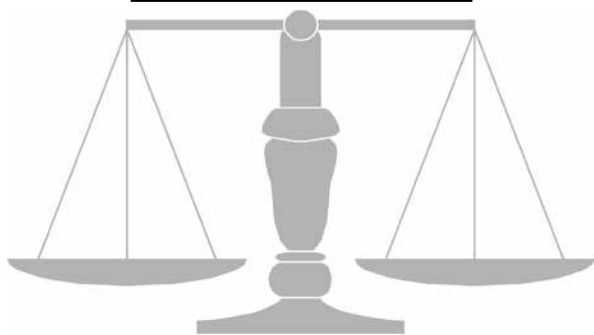
uity Act, and will require private insurers to provide treatment and diagnosis of sexually transmitted diseases, abortion services, and pre- and post-partum pregnancy care at no out-of-pocket cost. It also requires insurers to provide services to all women in the state, regardless of their immigration status.

The Cover All Kids Act, Senate Bill 558, also extends healthcare to undocumented children in Oregon.

In a statement, Imelda Dacon-

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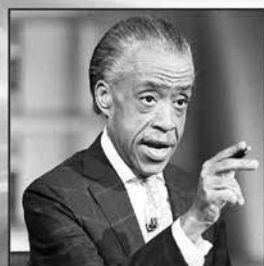
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CONTINUED FROM FRONT

county's equity director. It was in this capacity, he says, that he began to more closely examine the racial disparities in Portland's educational systems.

"There continued to be a gap between the educational outcomes of African Americans and white students," said Poe. "I really wanted to see that change."

Poe successfully ran for a position on the Portland School Board, and served as a board member from 2002 through 2005. He says that his knowledge of the achievement gap between white students and students of color motivated his campaign.

"We had to come to the district and demand that they pay attention to the gap," Poe said. "There were a number of schools, primarily where African Americans were

attending, that required immediate attention and resources."

Following his tenure on the school board, Poe was brought on as a staff member at the district. Since 2009, he has worked as the Chief Equity and Diversity Officer for PPS. He developed the Racial Equity Plan, which he says was one of the first educational equity plans to specifically target racial disparities in the nation.

He says that there have been measurable improvements in Portland's educational achievement gap since the plan was approved in 2010. Among other things, the plan's implementation has reduced the disproportionate expulsion rates of students of color and boosted the graduation rates at schools with higher minority populations.

Poe says that addressing the district's culture is essential to tackling the racial achievement gap. "Part of the problem at PPS is that in spite of our rhetoric we don't truly believe, across the board, that our kids can achieve," Poe said.

Initiatives like the Courageous Conversation program have helped to inspire occasionally uncomfortable conversations among educators and students, however, that are challenging teachers to reevaluate the role that race may

play in their own unconscious biases.

Following his retirement, Poe says that he has confidence that the district will continue moving in the right direction. He adds that community pressure on the district will continue to improve learning conditions and academic outcomes for students of color. "We've said as a community that we want to see the achievement gap addressed," said Poe. "I have to believe that the community won't tolerate the district walking away from that."

Despite his retirement, Poe plans to continue fighting for educational equity in his capacity as a community leader. "I've been doing this professionally for 40 years," Poe said. "I have grandchildren in this district. I'm going to stay involved, because this is my passion."

Poe says that the community should recognize the problems facing the district, and continue to encourage it to seek out long-term solutions to racial disparities in Portland's classrooms.

"There's a lot of work to be done, but we've done some good work," he said. "We've got to be willing to criticize the district for its shortcomings, but we also have to be willing to acknowledge where we're making gains."

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Legislative Highs and Lows

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

es, chief executive officer and president for Northwest Permanente, said that the bill represents an investment in Oregon's future economic health.

"When kids are covered, there's an immediate and long-term return on investment," Dacones said. "They tend to have higher incomes and surpass their families' incomes, so as adults they pay more taxes."

House Bill 2355 is also headed to the governor's desk. The measure, which is known as Fair Shot for All, will require law enforcement agencies across the state to begin collecting demographic data from officer-initiated traffic and pedestrian stops. The data will be analyzed by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, which will then make recommendations based on their findings to the governor and relevant legislative

councils.

The measure also requires cultural competency training for all state and local law enforcement officers.

Oregon also joined a number of states that allow judges to remove firearms from individuals who are exhibiting warning signs that pose a danger to themselves or others. A law that would require that all of the state's grand jury proceedings be recorded is also awaiting Brown's signature. The bill passed in the wake of the police shooting of unarmed black teenager Quance Hayes of Portland, who died in February. A grand jury opted not to criminally charge the officer involved in Hayes' death.

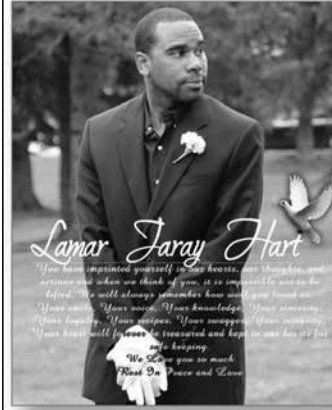
The session, which ended three days before its constitutionally mandated deadline of July 10, also saw the passage of a landmark transportation package. The age for tobacco sales was also raised from 18 to 21.

The Legislature failed to act, however, on creating protections for the state's roughly 594,000 renting households. Stable Homes for Oregon Families is a diverse coalition of stakeholders, including labor unions, the Community Alliance of Tenants, the Asian-Pacific American Network of Oregon and OPAL Environmental Justice.

In a statement, the coalition said that the Legislature's failure to pass House Bill 2004, which would have lifted the statewide ban on rent control in its original form, represented a "failure of leadership."

Despite the lack of renter protections, a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge did rule on Friday that Portland's emergency ordinance requiring landlords to pay tenants' relocation fees in certain circumstances is indeed legal, and does not violate the statewide ban on rent control.

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A Matter of Life and Death

Medical issues relating to complex genes and donor matches in blood cancer patients are a special dilemma for multiracial people. Emmy-nominated director Jeff Chiba Stearns explores the meaning of race in medicine in the documentary "Mixed Match," an important human story in which race is no longer just about identity, it is a matter of life and death. Screens on Wednesday, July 19 at 7 p.m. at the NW Film Center at the Portland Art Museum.

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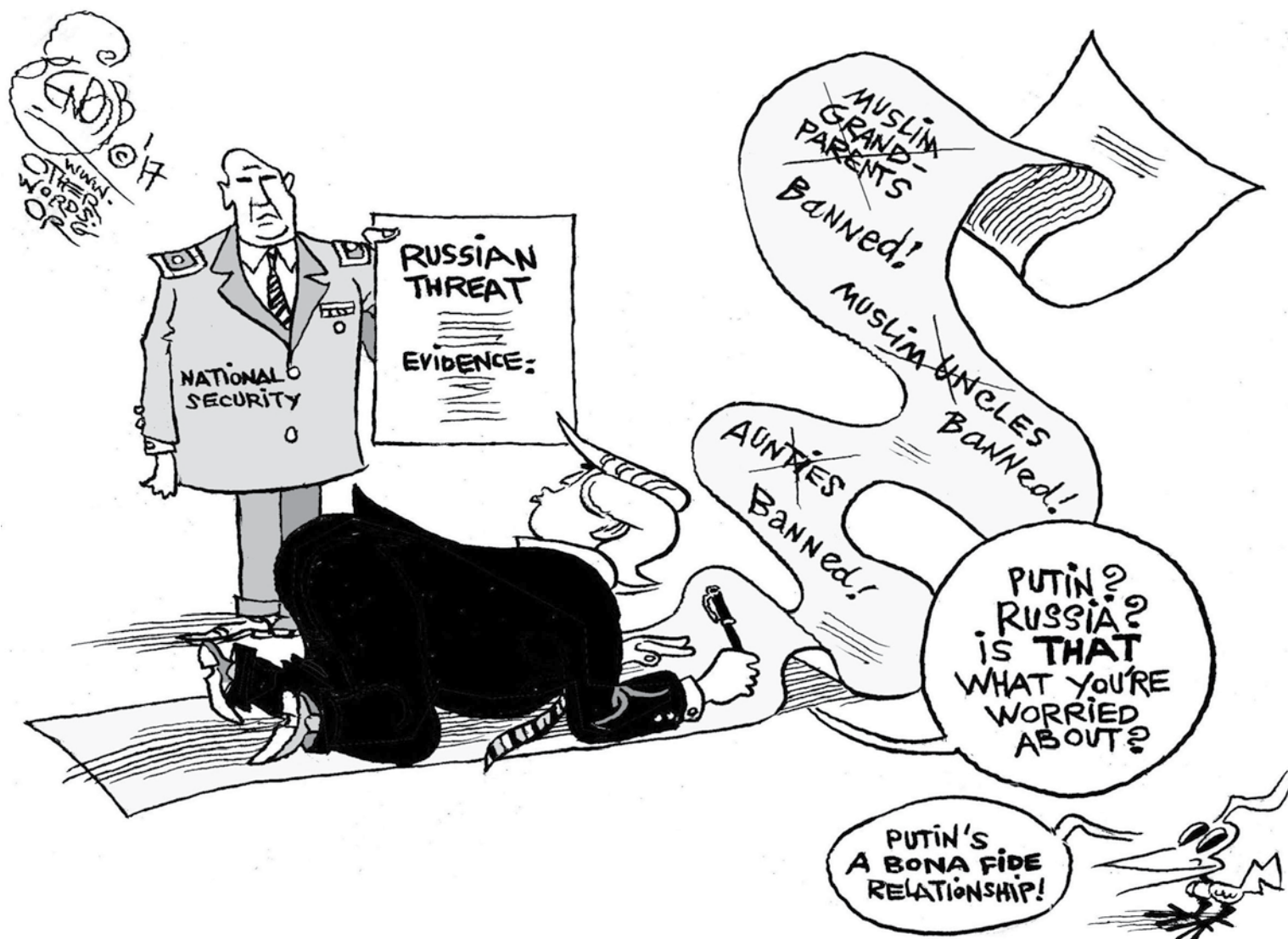
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OPINION



Sham Election Commission Needs to Shut Down

Panel's clear aim is voter suppression

BY MARC H. MORIAL

It was clear from the moment it was announced that the federal "Election Integrity Commission" was nothing more than a vehicle for voter suppression.

With an intrusive request for personal voter information, the commission has ventured into the territory of intimidation. Fortunately, state officials aren't having it. At least 44 states, including Oregon, are refusing to comply with the request, wholly or in part.

"I find this request for the personal information of millions of Marylanders repugnant; it appears designed only to intimidate voters and to indulge President Trump's fantasy that he won the popular vote," Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh wrote in response to the request.

In my home state of Louisiana, Secretary of State Tom Schedler said, "My response to the Commission is, you're not going to play politics with Louisiana's vot-

er data."

Even in the deep-red state of Mississippi, Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann told the Commission, "Go jump in the Gulf."

I'm proud of the nation's state officials for standing firm in defending the rights of their constituents and resisting an obvious ploy to invade citizens' privacy and restrict their right to vote.

The commission's vice chair, Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, has repeatedly lost in lawsuits filed by the ACLU over his efforts to make it harder for people to register and vote. Last month, a federal magistrate judge fined him \$1,000 for misleading the court by attempting to shield

against Kobach, accusing him of repeatedly exploiting his Commission role to promote his candidacy for Kansas Governor and to solicit campaign contributions.

"We deem the President's Election Integrity Commission to be a baseless tool to promote voter suppression and Mr. Kobach's unlawful abuse of his role as head of the Commission for partisan ends only underscores the illegitimacy of the Commission itself," Lawyer's Committee President and Executive Director Kristen Clarke said.

The 2014 report of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration -- headed by Mitt Romney's lawyer Ben Ginsberg and President Obama's lawyer

tion in improving the accuracy of voter lists;

- Measures to improve access to the polls through multiple opportunities to vote before the traditional Election Day and the selection of suitable, well-equipped polling place facilities, such as schools;

- State-of-the-art techniques to assure efficient management of polling places, including tools the commission is publicizing and recommending for the efficient allocation of polling place resources; and

- Reforms of the standard-setting and certification process for new voting technology to address soon-to-be antiquated voting machines and to encourage innovation and the adoption of widely available off-the-shelf technologies.

It's unlikely the current administration is looking to implement those bipartisan recommendations; the report has been removed from the federal government's website.

With the vast majority of states opposed to cooperating with the Commission, it's time to kill this insidious, anti-democratic sham. Kill the commission, and work together on expanding democracy.

Marc H. Morial is president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.

It's unlikely the current administration is looking to implement those bipartisan recommendations; the report has been removed from the federal government's website.

a document regarding his advice to Trump on how to make voter registration harder. And just last week, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law filed a formal Hatch Act Complaint

Bob Bauer -- made several key recommendations:

- Modernization of the registration process through continued expansion of online voter registration and expanded state collabora-

Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

OPINION

Stand Up for the Human Right of Health Care

Join allies for a healthy America

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

In a country that says it values life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, how can any of our leaders of any political party or ideology propose actions to slash health care for tens of millions of the neediest in order to give tax cuts to the extremely non-needy wealthy, favoring millionaires over mothers, billionaires over babies, and powerful corporations already garnering huge sums in government subsidies over children?

That is what the Senate version of the already obscenely unjust House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA) would do. Crafted in secret by 13 white men without a single hearing, the Senate health bill that purports to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) actually caps and cuts Medicaid — an indispensable lifeline that has served America's most vulnerable children, mothers giving birth, people with disabilities and vulnerable elderly well for more than 50 years.



But in a representative democracy like ours the people elect members of Congress to represent us and be our voice. As members of the Senate headed home to their districts for their July 4th recess it's up to us to fulfill our democratic duty and make sure our voices are heard and make sure our Senators fulfill their democratic duty to protect all their constituencies and not just those who make campaign contributions to them or their political party.

Here are five of the many ways the Senate's misleadingly and wrongly named "Better Care Reconciliation Act" (BCRA), more appropriately named the "Worse Care Reconciliation Act," harms children, offers worse care and makes us question the moral judgment of our Senate leaders:

1. Ends Medicaid as we know it, jeopardizing the health of 40 percent of America's children. Medicaid currently ensures comprehensive, affordable health coverage for 37 million low-income and disabled children, including 40 percent of all children with special health care needs, and covers more than 40

percent of all births. Who is going to meet this huge need if Medicaid crumbles?

2. Slashes \$772 billion in Medicaid to give tax cuts to wealthy individuals and powerful corporations, placing the interests of those who need help the most below those who need no government assistance. The 400 highest income taxpayers alone would receive tax cuts worth about \$33 billion over 10 years. Millionaires would get tax cuts exceeding \$50,000 a year. The Senate bill would cut \$100 billion in taxes for drug companies and health insurers.

3. Makes at least 22 million more Americans uninsured, 15 million from Medicaid alone. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates 15 million people would become uninsured in 2018 and a total of 22 million people would be added to the ranks of the uninsured by 2026. The CBO concludes this bill alone would result in a 26 percent reduction in Medicaid funding over 10 years and grow to a 35 percent reduction by the end of the next ten years as the cap on funding tightens.

4. Severely restricts Medicaid dollars that now help disabled chil-

dren and adults remain at home, in communities and out of institutions and help schools and child protection agencies better meet children's needs.

5. Leaves millions of Americans paying more for less health care. Premiums, deductibles and other forms of cost-sharing will dramatically raise costs, particularly for older and sicker people, and at the same time states will be allowed to limit coverage for essential health benefits such as maternity and pediatric care, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, and habilitative care.

Good health in our country with the biggest economy in the world should be a right and not a privilege for all and not just for the wealthy. Every life is sacred and of equal value. I agree with Dr. King that "of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhuman."

So please stand up and make your voice heard in no uncertain terms. Be as loud and as persistent as you can until your leaders do the right thing for all their constituents and all in America.

Demand that your Senators reject the cruel and unjust "Worse Care"

Reconciliation Act. Ask them to do for your children and family members what they enjoy at taxpayers' expense for their own children and family members. Your voices have already made a difference. Recent national polls show fewer than one in five people approve of the Senate bill. But keep going and increase the pressure on anyone seeking to wipe out the health protections everyone in America needs and deserves.

Visit or call Senators' state offices. Join other allies for a healthy America in town hall meetings and other forums. This is a life and death struggle for millions of people of all ages about who we are and what we value as a nation.

If you believe that children's lives are as important as corporate profits and babies' and mothers' chances to be healthy are as important as billionaires and millionaires, stand up and be heard. Do not be fooled by the alternative and fake name of the Better Care Reconciliation Act. It's a Trojan horse — rotten to the core. No amount of tinkering can fix it. Urge your Senators to step up to #ProtectMedicaid and all generations from health injustice.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund.

Tricks, Games Meant to Suppress Minority Voting

Skewing democracy white

BY ROBERT C. KOEHLER

Every real problem this country — and this planet — face is replaced by a fantasy problem, which all the powers of government then pretend to address. Meet Donald Trump, master of the street con, trickster extraordinaire.

How many cabinet positions and high-level government posts have been filled by someone whose life work and *raison d'être* make him or her the least qualified person imaginable for the job? Names burst from the news: Scott Pruitt, Betsy DeVos, Rick Perry, Jeff Sessions . . .

And now there's Kris Kobach, who brings an ironic twist to the con, in that he's actually a perfect fit for the position he has recently been given by Trump: vice chairman of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, a.k.a., the voter fraud commission, whose mandate is to stanch the flow of illegal people swarming into America's polling places by the millions and, ahem, voting. Good God, they almost threw the election to Hillary last year.



Kobach, Kansas secretary of state, is the guy who developed Crosscheck, a voter-tracking system that is ingenious in its inanity:

It finds people on the list of registered voters in participating states who have the same names, like . . . oh, James Brown (actual example) . . . and declares that they are one person voting multiple times.

And they are then subject to removal from the voter roll, even (eye-ball roll is appropriate here) if their middle names differ. This is such an obviously inept process it's hard to believe anyone on the planet takes it seriously. But it's part of hardcore Republican governance.

It's almost as though, in an eerie way, Trump Republicans really do believe that illegal voters are invading the system — if not technically illegal, then morally illegal, in that voting against Trump proposals or Republican ideas in general (the wall, the elimination of Medicaid) is a sign that that you're not a real American. And this is especially true if you belong to a racial minority.

The mission of Kobach's commission is to ensure that Republican America holds strong, even as the party itself sinks ever more deeply into minority status.

The New York Times editorial board defined the "real goal" of the Commission on Election Integrity thus: "to make voting harder for millions of Americans, on the understanding that Republicans win more elections when fewer people vote."

Investigative reporter Greg Palast, who has long been sounding the warning about Crosscheck, put it a bit more bluntly: "This country is violently divided, but in the end, there simply aren't enough white guys to elect Trump nor a Republican Senate. The only way they could win was to eliminate the votes of non-white guys—and they did so by tossing Black provisional ballots into the dumpster, ID laws that turn away students — the list goes on. It's a web of complex obstacles to voting by citizens of color topped by that lying spider, Crosscheck."

American quasi-democracy has a long, long history of what one might call protective racism, and it hasn't gone away. What requires protection is the status quo of power. And nothing is more inconvenient to the status quo than real democracy, with regular people having a say in the creation of their social structure. That means the politically powerful are always vulnerable, especially if they focus on serving their own in-

terests, not their constituents'. You can see the problem with that.

The Crosscheck program, as well as the presidential claim that the problem with America's democracy is that too many people are voting, are examples of contemporary — deeply coded — racial politics. According to Palast, Crosscheck's list of suspect voters in the 2016 election "was so racially biased that fully one in six registered African-Americans were tagged in the Crosscheck states that include the swing states of Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, Arizona and more."

Forget about the Russians. Election tampering is a game played by Republicans. And it's hardly limited to Crosscheck. Another highly effective vote suppression measure is the recent spate of strict voter ID laws, which, according to a study by researchers at the University of California San Diego, "skew democracy in favor of whites and those on the political right."

This is because "the lack of proper identification" — that is, a government-issued photo ID — "is not evenly distributed across the population. Studies show that a lack of identification is particularly acute among the minority population, the poor, and the young," according to

the study.

Furthermore, existing laws are not applied evenly. Instead, "poll workers disproportionately ask minorities for identification." And, the study notes, "these laws are passed almost exclusively by Republicans and . . . they tend to emerge in states with larger black populations."

Other tricks and games meant to suppress minority voting include fewer polling locations, shorter hours for voting, repeal of same-day voter registration and the disenfranchisement of felons and (in three states) ex-felons, which is one of many shattering consequences of the country's expanded prison-industrial complex.

"The effects of voter ID laws that we see here are eerily similar to the impact of measures like poll taxes, literacy tests, residency requirements, and at-large elections which were used by the white majority decades and centuries ago to help deny blacks many basic rights," the study concludes.

The fraud is committed by those who govern, not those who vote. It comes from the top down.

Robert Koehler, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is a Chicago award-winning journalist and editor.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Steeped in Culture

Jerry "J Boog" Afemata, a reggae singer of Samoan descent who was raised in Compton, Calif., and steeped in Samoan culture as the son of a Samoan chief, performs in Portland on Tuesday, July 18 at the Wonder Ballroom, 128 N.E. Russell St. The youngest of seven children in his family, Boog credits his sister with being one of his earliest musical influences. She played piano and he began to sing along when she brought home a Bob Marley songbook. Other siblings offered exposure to other genres, such as rap and R&B, which allowed J Boog a sense of freedom to be himself.

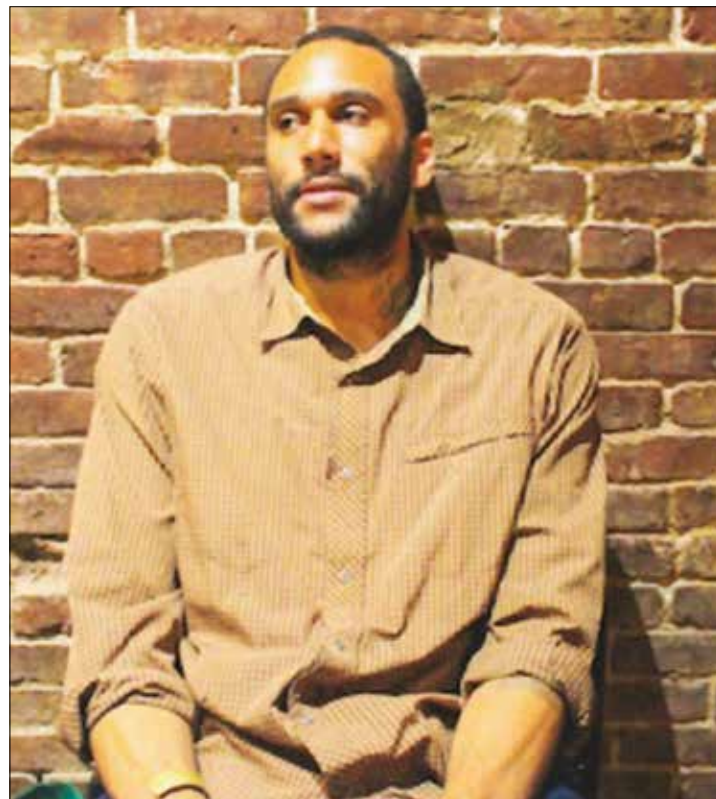
Oakland Poets Front Open Mic

The community is invited to hear movement activist Tongo Eisen-Martin and another acclaimed poet from Oakland, Calif. at the next Ghost Town Poetry Open Mic session, Thursday, July 13 at 7 p.m. at Angst Gallery at 1015 Main St., in Vancouver.

Eisen-Martin, author of the critically-acclaimed poetry book "Someone's Dead Already," is a black educator whose work in Rikers Island was featured in the New York Times. He has been a faculty member at the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, and his curriculum on the extrajudicial killing of black people, "We Charge Genocide Again!" has been used as an educational and organizing tool throughout the country.

He will be joined on stage by Derek Fenner, another Oakland activist, artist and researcher who has a decade of experience as an art educator in the juvenile justice system.

Ghost Town Poetry Open Mic is hosted by Christopher Luna and Toni Partington of Printed Matter Vancouver.



Oakland Poet Tongo Eisen-Martin will perform Thursday, July 13 for the 'Ghost Town Poetry Open Mic' session at Angst Gallery, 1015 Main St., in Vancouver.

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PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM

Disguised as a male actor, Viola (Jamie Ann Romero) sneaks a moment of tenderness with Will (William DeMeritt) in "Shakespeare in Love," one of the diverse plays this season at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

Beyond White Culture

Diversity at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival has opened all but one of its eleven shows for 2017. Why should you travel down to Ashland to partake?

For all the challenges that living in this state -- and, indeed, traveling to southern Oregon specifically--presents for people of color, some of the best theater anywhere is happening at OSF. We have the opportunity to see the stories of people of color, written by people of color, and featuring artists of color who, as in other fields, otherwise disproportionately struggle for work. Increasingly,

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY
DARLEEN ORTEGA



OSF is a place where theater casts the vision for living beyond white supremacy culture.

My favorite of this season's plays, unfortunately, closed on July 6 -- but I write about it first because the production will be re-mounted by Portland Center Stage this fall. Its name, "Mojada," is a racial epithet--in English, it would be "wetback," a derogatory term applied to people crossing the southern U.S. border without papers. But the playwright, Luis Alfaro, himself the son

of Mexican-American farmworkers, is known for lifting up the voices of the marginalized with sensitivity and respect, and this play goes deep in its exploration of life among Mexican immigrants in Los Angeles.

The subtitle of "Mojada" is "A Medea in Los Angeles," and Alfaro has taken the ancient Greek story of Medea and located it among immigrants fighting to build a

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Iranian Culture Festival -- The community is invited to enjoy live music and dance performances, local and authentic Iranian food and deserts, traditional arts and crafts and more at the 18th annual Iranian Festival on Saturday Aug. 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the South Park Blocks, downtown. Attendance is free, but canned food donations will be accepted to support the Oregon Food Bank.

Summer Reading and More -- Kids of all ages can sign up for the Multnomah County Library's 2017 Summer Reading Program at any branch. Participants will also find engaging storytimes, crafts, classes and camps. Signing up for the program gives participants (or their parents) a gameboard to engage in literacy-building activities. As they complete levels, participants earn books, free passes, restaurant coupons and other prizes.



Pompeii Exhibit at OMSI -- Preserved bodies cast by volcanic debris in the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius and nearly 200 other artifacts on loan from the unparalleled collection of the Naples National Archaeological Museum in Italy are part of the new OMSI exhibit, Pompeii: The Exhibition. Now showing through Oct. 22.

Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, July 14 at 6 p.m. at the Gresham Arts Festival; Sunday, July 16 at 6 p.m. at the Vancouver Sunday Sounds Concert Series; and Wednesday, July 19 at Billy Blues in Vancouver; Thursday, July 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Camas Summer Concert Series; Friday, July 21 at the Blue Diamond; and Saturday, July 22 at 8:30 p.m. at the Estacada Summer Celebration.

Life of an Iconic President -- One hundred years after his birth, John Fitzgerald Kennedy remains a subject of endless fascination for millions of Americans. The Oregon Historical Society's current exhibition "High Hopes: The Journey of John F. Kennedy" explores Kennedy's early life, his road to the presidency, and the changes he effected during his time in office. Runs through Nov. 12.



Summer Concerts and Movies -- The city of Vancouver presents another summer of free concerts and movies. Noon concerts are held each Wednesday through Aug. 9 at Esther Short Park, and "Sunday Sounds" concerts take place each Sunday night through Aug. 13 at Columbia Tech Center Park. Friday night movies are held at various parks through Aug. 1. For a complete schedule, visit cityofvancouver.us/events.

History Hub -- Oregon Historical Society exhibit for young people explores the topic of diversity with interactive objects and pictures that tell the stories of the people of Oregon, past and present. With puzzles, touch screen activities and board games, History Hub asks students to consider questions like "Who is an Oregonian?," "How has discrimination and segregation affected people who live in Oregon?," and "How can you make Oregon a great place for everyone?"

Discount Tickets -- Low income families and individuals can purchase \$5 tickets to classical musical performances in Portland as part of a unique program called Music for All. Participating organizations include the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theater, Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Friends of Chamber Music, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Piano International, Portland Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and Portland Vocal Consort.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Award-winning R&B artist Norman Sylvester and Friends will perform during this weekend's Gresham Arts Festival.

Live Music for Gresham Arts

This weekend's Gresham Arts Festival will be bigger and better than ever with more than 150 artists, live music and free family fun. It's all happening on Friday evening, July 14 and all day and night Saturday, July 15 in historic downtown Gresham.

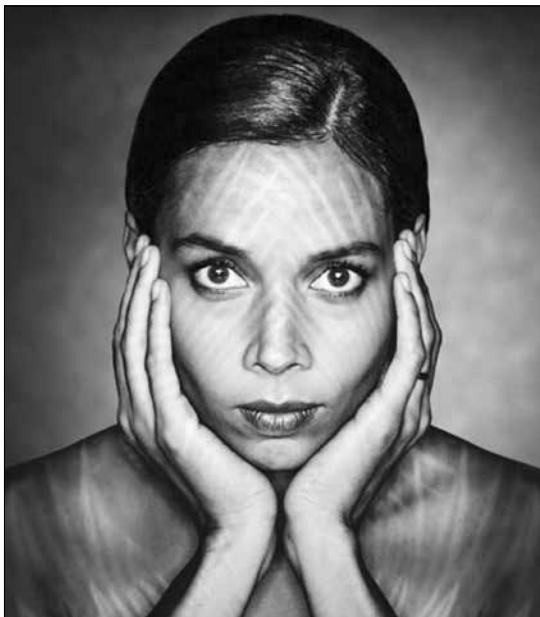
The festival draws thousands from around the region each year to meet, browse and shop from a

carefully curated crop of Northwest artists and artisans, ranging from painters, potters and sculptors to woodworkers, photographers, jewelers and more.

Two new events will be added this year. On Friday evening, an Art Under the Stars charitable silent auction event will include pieces donated by Arts Festival artists, with proceeds donated

to Gresham Outdoor Public Art. While bidding, attendees can enjoy award-winning R&B artist Norman Sylvester and friends on a beautiful summer evening. Beer, wine and food will be available for purchase.

On Saturday evening, Gresham's Got Talent will showcase a wide array of talented entertainers at the Gresham Arts Plaza.



Rhiannon Giddens



Aimee Mann

Oregon Zoo Summer Concert

World-class artists Aimee Mann and Rhiannon Giddens will front the next installment of the Oregon Zoo Summer Concert series on Sunday, July 16 at 7 p.m.

Mann first hit the airwaves with the band 'Til Tuesday and its

hit "Voices Carry," and amid the image-conscious MTV era of the mid-1980s she instantly stood out as a songwriter of probing intelligence and surpassing craft.

Giddens, lead singer of the Grammy-nominated country-blues

band Carolina Chocolate Drops, tours in support of her latest solo album, Freedom Highway.

The zoo's Summer Concert series runs through Sept. 9. For tickets and more information, visit zooconcerts.com.



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Free Blues Concert at Dawson Park

Award-winning soul, blues and R&B vocalist Curtis Salgado, touring in support of his latest CD, the Beautiful Lowdown, will give a free concert at Dawson Park in north Portland on Wednesday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m.

With his roots in Oregon, Sal-

gado is back on the road after recovering from quadruple bypass surgery last March. With a career spanning 40 years, he is a true musical giant. From co-fronting the Robert Cray Band to leading his own band, NPR calls him "a blues icon" with a "huge voice."



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Daily Show Host Coming to Eugene

Trevor Noah, the most successful comedian in Africa and host of the Emmy and Peabody award-winning "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central will perform back-to-back shows in Eugene on Saturday, Aug. 26. The second show was added to the schedule just last week after the first show was sold out. For tickets, visit HultCenter.org or call 541-682-5000.

Beyond White Culture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

better life in a U.S. culture which they experience as alien and hostile. Here Medea is a young undocumented immigrant who sews piecework for a pittance out of her home, and trusts her husband Jason to fight his way to a better life for their family. Their border crossing has left her traumatized and afraid to leave their little home in Boyle Heights, while Jason appears better equipped to play by new rules that seem to reward cunning, ambition, and sacrifice. But at what cost?

This production, which I've seen several times and hope to see again in Portland, is devastating in its depiction of how those at the margins are often subtly pushed to turn on each other to compete for the scraps that oppression affords them. Alfaro captures so poignantly the trauma and desperation that commonly characterizes the immigrant experience, and the countless ways in which being othered chips away at one's identity, seeding a sense of desperation that can lead a good person to make choices he would never have considered. Medea (embodied with wrenching, prophetic honesty by Sabina Zuniga Varela) is the main tragic heroine here, but she is not the only one; all the characters hold in these portrayals complexities of goodness and moral failure that are the natural result of pressure to confirm to new

rules. The dilemma creeps into their language, as they constantly process the loss of a former way of life and the new customs that first confound and then convince them of the need for selfishness and greed. It's the American way.

Director Juliette Carillo and her marvelous cast and creative team will move this remarkable production to Portland in November. At a time when our ideas of immigrant and refugee experience and our analysis of the pressures on the marginalized desperately need grounding in deeper reality, this production provides a necessary re-frame. It's worth prioritizing.

The remaining OSF season offers many reasons to prioritize a trip to Ashland as well. For a start, a wonderful production of "Julius Caesar" runs all season through October. Director Shana Cooper has approached this timeless tale of political intrigue from the standpoint of the toll which cycles of violence exact on the human body and soul. Shakespeare's history play is built around power plays and shifting allegiances and manipulation of public opinion that will feel familiar; this production uses movement to emphasize how such shifts are ultimately inevitable and relentless. Fight choreography moves between literal and metaphorical, until eventually actors are killed and rise again moments later to resume fighting. An excellent multiracial cast con-

veys the stress on their bodies with such visceral force that I felt breathless even watching them. One leaves with an appropriate recognition that war, including the merely political kind, destroys in more ways than we usually recognize.

A fine production of "Shakespeare in Love" also runs all season through October. Riffing off the Academy Award-winning Hollywood screenplay of the same name, this stage adaptation offers an opportunity to see a talented and very diverse cast play and sing and goof on the joy of making theater and on the importance and joy and inspiration of pursuing love wherever and however it materializes. It is perhaps the most broadly appealing of all the shows on offer this season, packed with deftly-executed comic bits and an uncomplicated warm heart.

The world premiere of "Hannah and the Dread Gazebo," by Korean-American playwright Jiehae Park, offers an entirely different lens on immigrant experience. As Hannah prepares to take the exams that will make her a board-certified neurologist, her grandmother's death prompts her to travel to South Korea, where her parents have returned after many years living in the U.S. The play shifts between the perspectives of Hannah and her brother (who live in the U.S. but are accustomed to feeling alien both at home and in South Korea), their



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM

A Korean-American family offers a window on the immigrant experience in "Hannah and the Dread Gazebo," one of the stories of people of color written by people of color now playing at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

parents, whose experiences of alienation weigh on them in an entirely different way, and various mystical South Korean characters. The Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea provides a potent manifestation of other wounds that arise and lay unresolved in families like Hannah's.

Park's play, nimbly directed by Chay Yew, explores questions of identity, loss, and generational differences in a non-linear and sometimes poetic way that gently serves up questions that we don't think to ask, and that recognizes the value of leaving such questions unanswered. The production features a strong and buoyant cast; I especially appreciated Amy Kim Waschke's stoic and yet surprisingly lovable portrayal of Hannah's depressed mother and Jessica Ko's captivating shifts through a whole host of mystical characters.

Shakespeare's "Henry IV" is actually two plays, and this season Part One and Part Two are both being performed and can be seen separately or back-to-back. They are directed by two rising African-American directors, Lilliana Blain-Cruz and Carl Cofield, and feature largely the same very strong diverse cast. They concern the reign of Henry IV, whose kingdom is embattled by rebellions in both parts, and his troubled relationship with his oldest son and heir, Prince Hal. In Part One, Hal seems determined to thwart his father's expectations,

wasting his resources and considerable intelligence in hard-living with his drinking buddy, the older Sir John Falstaff. Blain-Cruz's production sets the play in a modern context and is one of the most accessible Shakespeare histories I've ever seen, conveying Hal's dissolution and the play's many conflicts with a current and visceral urgency.

Part Two continues Hal's journey away from Falstaff and toward the expectations of the throne. Though its tone is much more somber, Cofield's production includes some deeply funny bits involving a host of outrageous side characters. Daniel Jose' Molina's Hal bristles with intelligence and wit, and G. Valmont Thomas is fine as the scheming Falstaff. The ensemble cast of both shows embodies a dazzling variety of characters, shifting nimbly from broad comedy to nuanced melancholy. The productions offer a feast of great acting, especially for Shakespeare aficionados.

I'll post soon about the remaining shows, including a particularly strong outdoor season.

Darleen Ortega, a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity, serves on the board of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Her movie review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer. Find her movie blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM

Voices of the marginalized are lifted up with sensitivity and respect in "Mojada," a play that explores life among Mexican immigrants. The production just finished its run at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and will get a repeat production this fall by Portland Center Stage.

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A sandy beach for swimming, a first for the Portland waterfront, takes shape on the west side of the Willamette River in South Waterfront Park.

Poet's Beach Opening

A first for the Portland waterfront takes shape with the opening of Poet's Beach. The sandy stretch of beach was officially opened for swimming Tuesday by Portland Parks and Recreation, created along a shoreline beneath the Marquam Bridge on the west side of the Willamette River in South Waterfront Park. The site will be maintained as a public swimming location for the summer months through Sept. 4 with American Medical Response (AMR) life-

guards surveying the site for safety and life jackets available to beach visitors. Beach signs were crafted and installed by the Human Access Project, a group promoting use of the Willamette River and other volunteers for Portland Parks and Recreation. Safety is the top priority of the Poet's Beach pilot project. The swim area is also designated to serve a wide demographic, including families, and all levels of swim proficiency, not just experienced swimmers.

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1 Canada Day International Joke Day National Postal Worker Day	2 Build a Scarecrow Day First Zeppelin Flight in 1900.
3 CARICOM Day (Caribbean Day) Dog Days Begin	4 Independence Day National Country Music Day	5 <i>P.T. Barnum born, 1810</i>	6 National Fried Chicken Day National Kissing Day	7 Macaroni Day	8 Liberty Bell Cracks In 1835 Video Games Day	9 ○ Barn Day, <i>Second Sunday in July.</i>
10 <i>Martin Provensen born, 1916</i> Teddy Bear's Picnic Day	11 <i>E.B. White born, 1899</i> Cheer Up the Lonely Day	12 Paper Bag Day	13 Go West Day National French Fries Day	14 Bastille Day	15 Cow Appreciation Day	16 ◐ <i>Apollo 11 Lifts Off on it's voyage to the moon in 1969.</i>
17 <i>Karla Kuskin born, 1932</i> <i>Disneyland Opens In 1955.</i>	18 National Caviar Day	19 Stick Your Tongue Out Day	20 Moon Day (<i>First landing on the moon.</i>) International Chess Day	21	22 Pied Piper of Hamelin Day	23 ● <i>Robert Quakenbush born, 1929</i>
24 Amelia Earhart Day <i>Marvin the Martian First debuted in cartoons in 1948.</i>	25 Thread the Needle Day	26 <i>Bert's Birthday (Sesame Street Character)</i>	27 <i>Bugs Bunny First debuted in cartoons in 1940.</i>	28 <i>Ernie's Birthday (Sesame Street) First Fingerprint taken</i>	29 <i>NASA Established in 1958</i> National Lasagna Day	30 ◐
31 <i>First US Patent Issued Granted to Samuel Hopkins in 1790.</i>						

FOOD

Trail Soup

BY PAUL A. NEUFELDT

A soup that uses purely dehydrated ingredients. This is great for backpacking and as emergency food supplies.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup dried, quartered and sliced-potatoes,
- 1 cup dried, halved lengthwise and sliced-carrots
- 1/2 cup dried, sliced and quartered tomatoes
- 1 cup dried, diced onions
- 1 cup lentils
- 1 cup dried seaweed in 1-inch pieces
- 1/4 cup dried, minced garlic
- 1 cup Brown rice flour (for thickening)

- 1/2 cup dried, diced shitake mushrooms
- 1/2 cup powdered vegetable broth
- 1/2 cup nutritional yeast.
- Chunks jerky, added to taste

Directions:

1. Cut vegetables into thin, smaller pieces before drying them. Dry for 14 hours at 135 degrees (*or longer if still contain any moisture*). Best to dehydrate onions and garlic outdoors as they have a strong odor.



2. Stir in the dried lentils in hot water, let simmer until lentils are soft, about 45 minutes. Drain the water, setting it aside.
3. Blend lentils in a blender until smooth, adding back just enough of the cooking water as needed to blend smoothly. Pour soup onto fruit roll sheets that work with the dehydrator you are using. Dehydrate on medium temperature until crumbly and completely dry; usually 14 hours at 135 degrees will work for this as well.
4. Mix all ingredients except jerky, crumbling in cooked-dried lentils, in equal parts in large mixing bowl. Separate into freezer bags, or airtight solid containers for later use (*great for backpacking using a lightweight camp stove*).
5. Will keep for up to a year unrefrigerated, in a dry, sealed container, until reconstituted (*cooked in boiling water*). Makes about 20 servings.
6. To rehydrate and cook, mix 2 parts water to one part dry ingredients, adding jerky to taste and bring to a boil on camp stove for ten minutes. Serve immediately.

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