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Portland Observer

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Sgt. Erik Hargrove works out of Portland Community College's oldest public safety facility, a former dentist's office that was converted to work space a few years ago on the Cascade Campus of north Portland. The small building would be replaced as part of a proposed new property tax bond levy that would pay for needed upgrades across the college district.

Public Safety Building Challenge

**PCC bond would
increase lifespan of
campus facilities**

Ensuring student success includes providing a safe and supportive learning environment, and on any given day Portland Community College's public safety officers are called to deal with everything from a disruptive individual in the cafeteria to locked keys in a car.

At Cascade Campus, the staff works out of the college's oldest public safety facil-

ity, a modest one-level structure on Killingsworth Street at Commercial Avenue, at the east edge of campus. It was originally built as a residence in 1952 and later served for several years as a dentist's office.

The list of problems at the aged building is long and poses challenges for the seven officers who work there. According to their supervisor, Sgt. Erik Hargrove, there are windows that don't open, paper-wrapped wiring and peeling paint. The heating and cooling systems need frequent service and there are structural issues with the roof.

The small room that serves as the men's locker room still has the plumbing and out-

lets for the dental practice's nitrous oxide and oxygen lines, and the basement is still equipped for sterilizing dental tools. On a recent visit, the only place to stow an officer's bicycle was in the bathroom.

"This space was never intended to house us," said Hargrove. "A lot of things are cobbled together just because they've had to be, as opposed to being designed specifically with public safety input into how a space is intended to be used."

PCC's other campuses have purpose-built public safety offices, but as Hargrove described, the most critical problem at Cascade is that its safety office is dif-

ficult to find and the exterior -- complete with metal bars on the windows and front door -- is forbidding instead of welcoming or reassuring to the campus and community.

"People just don't know where we are, and it's tough to differentiate us from any other structure in the neighborhood as opposed to being part of the college," he said. "Our entry way is the farthest point from the edge of campus and it's set into the wall, and until you're almost past it you don't know what's here."

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The Week in Review

Support for Kaepernick

Colin Kaepernick's protest movement rolled on without him Sunday, as about 50 members of his Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity marched in Detroit and players around the NFL sat or knelt during the national anthem. Kaepernick remains unsigned after opting out of his contract with the 49ers. His supporters believe he's being punished for protesting police brutality by refusing to stand during the national anthem last season.



Portland Police to Stop and Purge All Gang Designations

The Portland Police Bureau announced Friday it will stop documenting gang members and purge all gang designations because being labeled a gang member can have a negative impact on the person who may be making attempts to overcome life challenges. It ends a policy that started more than 20 years ago and disproportionately impacted minorities.

Apartment Fire Burns 6 Units; People Jump from Windows

A fire suspected to have started from a candle and then spreading to involve propane tanks burned through six apartment units Tuesday morning near Northeast 162nd and Glisan. At least five people jumped out of their apartment windows to escape the fire. Three people were taken to the hospital for treatment.

Columbia Gorge Fire Keeps I-84 Closed Another Week

Interstate 84 through the Columbia River Gorge east of Portland remained closed because the Eagle Creek forest fire, which erupted from illegal fireworks on Sept. 2. State transportation officials expect it will take another week to get the highway safe to open by removing rocks, debris and damaged trees in risk of falling.

Monster Hurricane Hits Florida, Gets Downgraded

Florida was taking measure of the damage Monday after Hurricane Irma flooded streets, spawned tornadoes, knocked out power to millions of people across the state and snapped massive construction cranes over the Miami skyline. The monster hurricane hit the Florida Keys on Sunday as a Category 4 and downgraded to a tropical storm as it finally pushed its way out of the state and into Georgia.

Jantzen Beach Carousel Secured

After five years in hiding, the Jantzen Beach carousel has finally been traced to a location. The non-profit group Restore Oregon announced last week that they have acquired the historical J.W. Parker carousel and are currently storing it until they find a suitable place in the local area where it can once again be available for public use. The carousel was carved for the world's fair in 1904 in St Louis.



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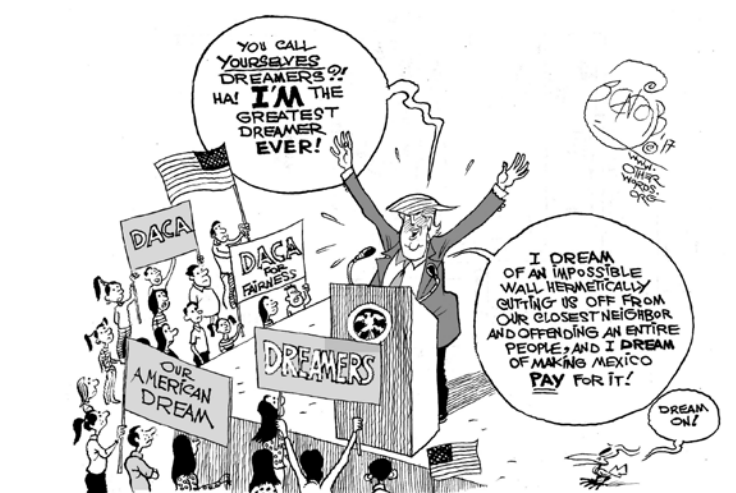
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What's on your list today?®



Portland Community College is providing classroom space for McCoy Academy, saving a future for the non-profit private high school serving underserved students in Portland since 1988.

McCoy Gets a Lifeline

New support
puts Academy
back in action

BY DANA LYNN BARBAR
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The McCoy Academy is back and better than ever! The alternative school for underserved and disenfranchised youth has found a second home with Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland.

Originally located on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, the academy faced financial struggles when they lost their lease to a building that was sold and demolished to make way for condominiums. The school's founder and executive director, Rebecca Black, strived to obtain the funds necessary to stay, but could not raise enough and the academy was forced out in June.

Now the school has the fortunate opportunity to continue on with PCC. Part of the nonprofit Oregon Outreach, McCoy Academy had already built a relationship with the college over 25 years.

After the loss of property, however, Dr. Karin Edwards, president of the PCC Cascade Campus, helped with an initiative to create a space for McCoy within the college. From there, Black worked with Rakeem Washington, who directs the Opening Doors Grant, a juvenile justice educational reentry program at PCC. Washington also serves as Executive Director for the Portland Observer.

Part of McCoy's diverse student population benefits from the Opening Doors program. Together, PCC and the alternative school found a way to keep McCoy active by offering classroom space and enrollment options at the college. The students' first day of classes was Monday.

The students are now provided with the chance to earn college credits, as well as a chance to acclimate to a college campus, which is more than they received at the previous location.

Katie Carpenter, assistant executive director of Oregon Outreach, plans to implement a new program for adults to obtain a G.E.D., which can be housed at the office site now that the students are at the college campus.

Black and Carpenter are thrilled that McCoy Academy, a long-time resource that has offered significant help to the community, was saved.

"As hard as it was to move, the end result was amazing," Black said.

McCoy Academy was named after the late Gladys McCoy, a former Multnomah County chairperson, school board member and the first African American elected to public office in Oregon.

Big Scare as Truck Speeds by Protest

A truck twice speeding through a street lined with protestors in Vancouver caused quite a scare on Sunday in an incident with echoes of Charlottesville, Va. when a white racist was accused of driving into a crowd of peaceful protestors last month, killing one woman.

There was no arrest or injuries reported in the Vancouver incident. It happened after a rally

organized by a right-wing group called Patriot Prayer drew counter protests in both Portland and Vancouver.

Police said the driver involved may have been provoked to speed away from a threat. There were reports of people dressed in black covering their faces, clothing throwing rocks and water bottles at the truck. The driver was questioned, detained and released. His

truck was described as a black Chevy Silverado with Oregon plates, flying two large American flags, several small flags from the windows, along with a Confederate flag decal.

Police said seven people were arrested in Portland when some counter-protesters gathered at Waterfront Park began to throw rocks, smoke bombs and other projectiles at officers.

Awakening a Sense of What You've Been Missing

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY JUDGE
DARLEEN
ORTEGA



Plays worth the journey to Oregon Shakespeare Festival

To my mind, the best theater experiences awaken a sense of what you have been missing -- by telling a story you had not thought to wonder about -- or one neglected in the theater world, or by speaking in a theatrical or musical language whose potential is yet untapped. Several shows are still playing at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival that offer just such opportunities to experience theater in fresh ways.

UniSon: The great August Wilson well deserves the recognition he has received from the dominant culture, but likely would not be pleased to find that some of the theaters which now produce his plays from time to time produce few or no other playwrights of color. I adore Wilson's work, but feel certain that such tokenism

would have roiled him; he was all about honoring the distinctness of neglected voices. I experienced "UniSon" as a canny rejoinder to that trend; this new play is August Wilson as we have never seen him. Its creators have used access to Wilson's unpublished poetry to mount something distinct: a highly intuitive exorcism of the demons and depths of one African American man, and a meditation on living and dying.

In many ways, I feel unqualified to describe what is happening here; this production so clearly springs from African American experience, and speaks in a theatrical language outside the dominant one we are used to seeing on stage. I felt it calling forth different faculties, urging me to let go of diagnosing what was



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Kevin Kenerly (left) and Steven Sapp are a boxer and poet with a shared past in "UniSon," derived from the great African American Playwright August Wilson, now playing at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

happening and just let the music and poetry wash over me. I found myself asking why I wanted to know which words came from Wilson and which didn't, which experiences were based on "fact" and which weren't. I also found myself questioning my attachment to conventional storytelling. This

work feels somehow less angular, more fluid.

Its creators, the theatrical group Universes, have a track record of working from a place of clarity. Their work includes "Party People," a rousing tribute to the Black Panthers and the Young Lords which was created for OSF and

eventually moved to the Public Theater in New York last fall. As with that work, "UniSon" revels in music and movement, and lives inside a world in which all words feel like song lyrics, whether or not they are sung. Here the action revolves around a successful writer who bequeaths his possessions to a young protégée with instructions not to open a particular trunk; she cannot resist, and then finds herself on a journey through unknown dark reaches of her mentor's psyche. I recommend entering this world ready to feel the music and poetry in your body. Keep it visceral; these artists are showing the way.

Off the Rails: For the first time ever (and long overdue), OSF is producing the work of a Native American playwright. This world premiere of Randy Reinholz's play loosely but recognizably adapts Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" to tell the story of Pawnee tribal members' experience of 19th century life in and around the Indian schools which were so instrumental to the genocide of Native cultures. At times the fit with Shakespeare feels uncannily apt, particularly in terms of Momaday and Isabel, the siblings at the heart of the play. Momaday's death sentence for impregnating his Irish sweetheart (whom he has married in the Pawnee way) feels suitably arbitrary; at the time depicted, Irish were outcasts and mostly not recognized as white, so this enlistment of the justification of white supremacy feels appropriately sinister. And Isabel's location at a cross-section of conversion to Christianity and pride in her Pawnee heritage feels



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Norman 'Boogie Cat' Sylvester and his daughter Lenanne Miller will once again front the Uptown Dance Party celebrating Sylvester's and the late B.B. King's shared birthday, Saturday, Sept. 16 at the Adrianna Hill Grand Ballroom, downtown.

Boogie Cat's Dance Party

Celebrating twin birthdays, friendship with B.B. King

The Norman Sylvester Band featuring his amazing daughter Lenanne Miller and the smooth sounds of Renato Caranto will celebrate the Portland bluesman's shared birthday with the late King of the Blues B.B. King on Saturday, Sept. 16 at the Adrianna Hill Grand Ballroom in the Pythian Building, 918 S.W. Yamhill.

Sylvester grew up in Bonita, Louisiana, hearing BB King on the juke boxes as well as other Blues legends.. After moving to Portland, he learned to play guitar from his high school buddy Isaac Scott. Though Sylvester first played Gospel, Soul, Funk as well as the Blues, he realized over 32 years ago that he was destined to

be a bluesman and started the Norman Sylvester band.

After playing the first Waterfront Blues (then Rose City) Festival in 1987, BB's manager called them to open for BB King at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. That show really launched the band into a period of great success that continues to this day. They opened again for BB in 1991 and connected with him when possible after that.

When the Blues men were together, BB referred to Sylvester as his "Birthday Brother." They were born on the same day, 20 years apart.

The band continues to dedicate Boogie Cat's birthday party to the King of the Blues. Tickets are \$10 in advance at tickettomato.com or \$12 at the door.

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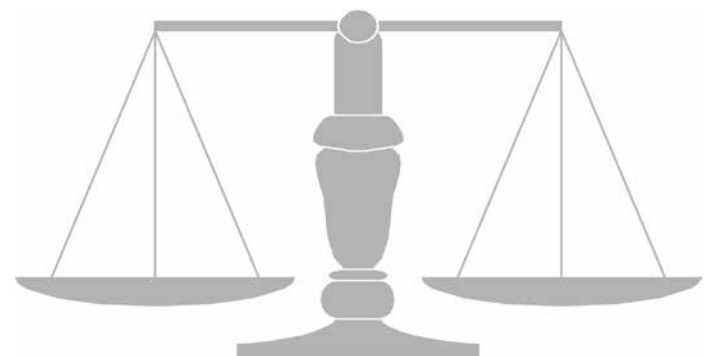
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Portland Community College's Cascade Campus' aging public safety building on North Killingworth Street poses challenges for staff.

Public Safety Building Challenge

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

PCC's bond measure on the November ballot includes funding for safety and security upgrades throughout the college, as well as \$3 million for a new, dedicated facility on the same site at Cascade. As with the current office, the new building would include space for the City of Portland police staff who partner with Cascade's officers.

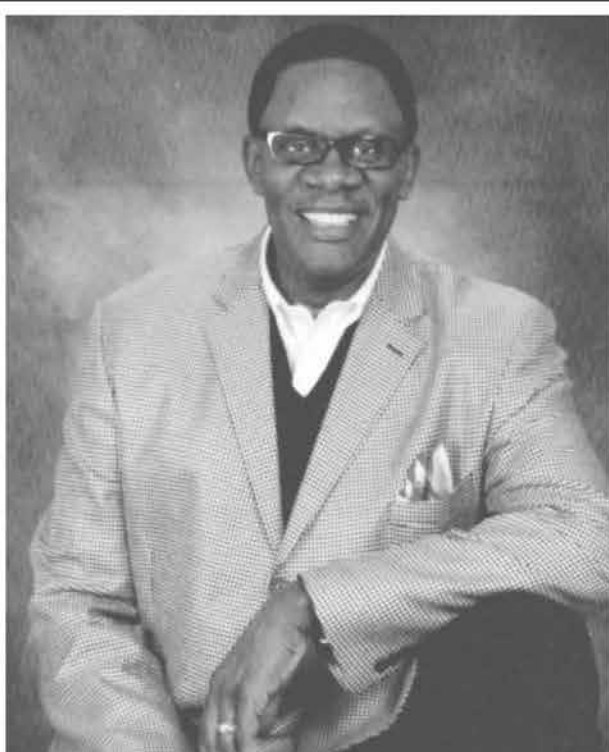
The total PCC bond facing voters is \$185 million and would

also fund improvements to PCC job training centers, including the facility at Northeast 42nd and Killingworth; increase the lifespan of other facilities across the district; improve workforce training programs to better align with current and future jobs; and invest in training for Health and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) programs.

If approved, the measure will not increase the tax rate because it is a renewal of an expiring bond passed by voters in 2000. It's es-

timated to maintain the tax rate of 40 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value for the next 16 years.

For Hargrove, connectivity with the campus and community is vital to public safety's mission, "If we had a space that was designed to make it very well known what is here, then people would be more inclined and able to find us and utilize the services that we provide," he added.



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PORTLAND OBSERVER AutoReview

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The 2017 Chevrolet Bolt is an electric car that provides over 230 miles of driving range per charge.

Rewriting the electric car playbook

The all-new 2017 Chevrolet Bolt rewrites the electric car playbook, providing over 230 miles of driving range per charge and coming in No. 1 out of 24 compact cars rated by U.S. News and World Report.

The latest addition to a growing class of alternative fuel vehicles, the 2017 Bolt EV comes standard with a huge 10.2-inch touch screen, Wi-Fi hot spot capability, voice recognition, and

support for Apple CarPlay.

The Bolt starts very well-equipped at \$36,620 and comes fully loaded at \$41,885 with things like heated front and rear seats, forward collision warnings with pedestrian detection, and a bird's-eye view camera.

The business end of the 2017 Chevy Bolt is its 60-kWh lithium-ion battery pack and 200-horsepower electric motor, which drive the Bolt's front

wheels through a single-speed automatic transmission. Give the accelerator a firm press, and the Bolt zips away from a stop like ... well, a bolt of lightning.

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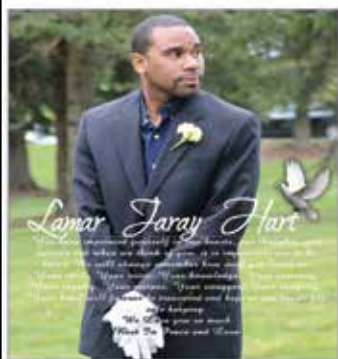


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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



'Night School,' a powerful film that displays compassion and empathy to illustrate the daily struggles of three adults students on the fringes. Screens Sunday, Sept. 17, and again Tuesday, Oct. 17 at the Northwest Film Centre's Whitsell Auditorium at the Portland Art Museum, downtown.

Tender Film on Students Shut Out

The socially minded documentary "Night School," a tender, empathetic film that illustrates the daily struggles of those on the fringes gets a screening at The Northwest Film Center's Whitsell Auditorium at the Portland Art Museum, downtown.

Director Andrew Cohn's work

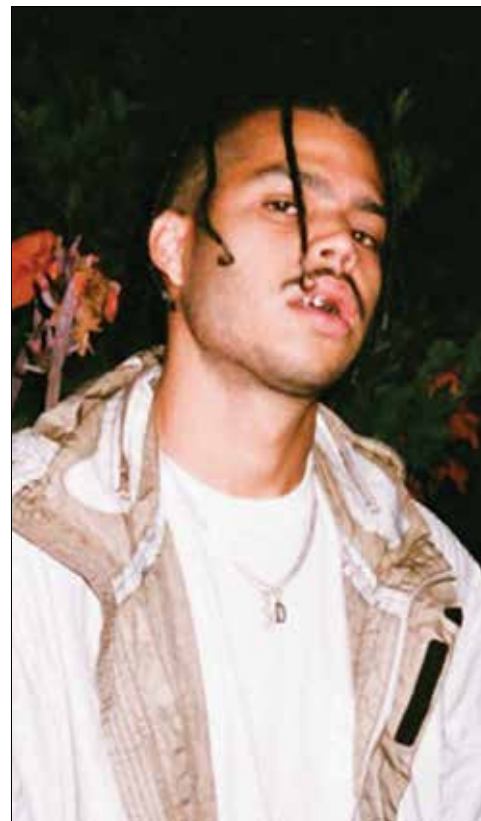
illuminates the particular struggles of three adults students who are enrolled in night school and seeking a better life and increased job security. The dead-end work, street violence and isolation they have faced are captured in a film that teasingly looks at the larger forces at play, prompting us, as

citizens, to delve further into these issues facing millions of everyday Americans.

"Night School," will show at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17, and on Monday, Oct. 23, also at 7 p.m.

Admission is \$9 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, and \$6 for children.

A Rap Star's Gothic Touch



D33J, a Los Angeles producer known for giving a gothic touch to the soulful beats of fellow rap artists like Lil Yachty, Tory Lanez and Killavesi, plays in Portland this month just as he releases his long-awaited debut album "Death Valley Oasis" on Anticon Records.

The album is described as deconstructed futuristic R&B, with lush ambient dreamscapes and appearances from his Anticon labelmates Deradoorian and Baths and Weddit crewmates Shlohmo and Corbin.

D33J plays Friday, Sept. 15 at the Wonder Ballroom, 128 N.E. Russell St.

Los Angeles rap artist D33J



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You're invited to celebrate Beaverton's many cultures as the city's International Celebration, retuning this Saturday, Sept. 16 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Tualatin Hills Athletic Center, 50 N.W. 158th Ave.

A Welcome for Everyone

Celebrate cultures from around the world

Beaverton is hosting a week of family-friendly entertainment and special events to showcase the importance of being welcoming.

"It's a critical time to remind

everybody who lives here that you're welcome and we treasure the culture that you bring to our city," said Mayor Denny Doyle. "In Beaverton, we're from all over the world."

Featured events begin Friday, Sept. 15 and run through Sept. 24 at various locations, including an interfaith river walk, a story slam, emerging entrepreneurs fair, com-

munity potluck, film screening and more.

The largest event of the week is the city's International Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Tualatin Hills Athletic Center, located at 50 N.W. 158th Ave. The festival will demonstrate many cultures through music, dance, interactive activities, food and art.

"Welcoming Week is a chance to celebrate the values that unite us as neighbors," said Beaverton's Diversity Advisory Board Vice Chair Oswaldo Bernal. "It makes our city more welcoming to everyone who calls Beaverton home."

For the complete schedule, visit beavertonoregon.gov/welcoming-week.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Electronic, R&B and Dance

Los Angeles producer and DJ Tokimonsta stops in Portland on her world tour this Friday, Sept. 15 at the Holocene. Her unique take on indie electronic, R & B and dance music has her breaking barriers in the male dominated industry. She has collaborated with Jessie Ware, Kelly Roland, Justin Timberlake, MNDR and more.



Show and Tell Maker's Faire



Play testing is in progress for the makers of Weird City Games at the Portland Mini Maker Faire, returning this weekend at OMSI.

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) will present the sixth annual Portland Mini Maker Faire, a family-friendly showcase of creativity and cool DIY technology taking place on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 16 and 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Among the anticipated highlights will be the return of Walking Beast, a giant walking "spider" that took more than 6,000 hours for its Maker to develop. Maker Chris Malone will display his soapbox derby cars, Steampunked R2-D2 and WALL-E the robot, and the Portland State Aerospace Society will show off

its new "OreSat" project, the future launch of Oregon's first satellite into space.

In all more than 150 makers will participate in the event. Hands-on activities are among the most sought-after favorites, augmented by a rich menu of exhibits, talks, demonstrations and performances that bridge arts, crafts, science and engineering.

The Portland Mini Maker Faire will take place throughout the OMSI campus, in the north parking lot and inside the museum. Regular admission to OMSI applies, which is \$16 for adults and \$10 for kids and seniors.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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.



Free Zoo Day for Seniors -- Local seniors can reconnect with wildlife during Senior Safari, a free day at the Oregon Zoo for anyone 65 or older coming this Tuesday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Seniors can bring along one free companion for the day and attend animal talks, explore the grounds, and enjoy free rides on the zoo train and carousel.

Wake of Vanport Movie Screening -- A documentary about the 1948 flood that destroyed the city of Vanport, displacing hundreds of black shipyard workers and other populations, told by survivors and others, screens Friday, Sept. 29 at 1 p.m. at the McMenamins Kennedy School Theater in northeast Portland. Immediately following the screening, there will be an opportunity for discussion. Admission is free. Reservations are required.



Norman Sylvester -- 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Wednesday, Sept. 13 at Billy Blues in Vancouver; Saturday, Sept. 16 for the Uptown Dance Party at the Adrianna Hill Ballroom; Friday, Sept. 22 at the Rogue Pub; Saturday, Sept. 23 at Clyde's; Friday, Sept. 29 at the Blue Diamond; and Saturday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. for the Portland Guitar Society's Faces of Guitar showcase at Portland State University.

Kubrick on Film -- The nonprofit Hollywood Theatre on Northeast Sandy Boulevard continues its summer showcase of legendary directors with "Kubrick on Film," a screening of films by Stanley Kubrick during September. For the complete lineup, visit hollywoodtheatre.org.

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.



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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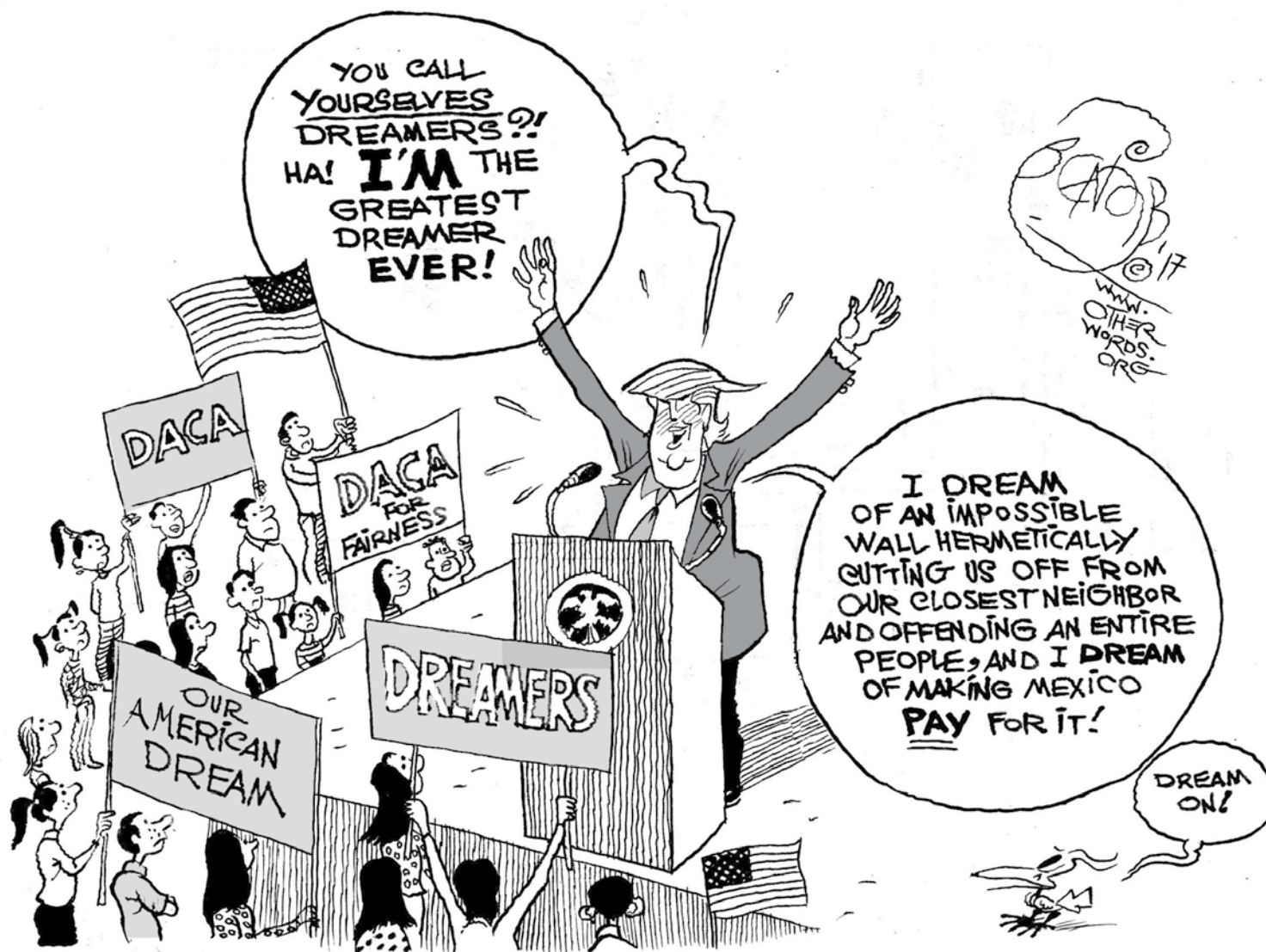
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OPINION



Tax Cuts for the Rich Help the Rich, Not You

It hard to keep
an eye on the truth

BY JOSH HOXIE

Soon you're going to hear about taxes.

You'll see images of families flashing across your TV screen while a soothing narrator assures you that the tax plan being debated in Washington really is good for you. The newspapers you read, the social media apps you scroll through, the websites you frequent, and the snippets of radio you catch will all feature ads talking about it.

That's what a marketing blitz looks like, and there's one coming for the Trump tax plan. It will be well-produced, well-orchestrated, and completely devoid of facts.

President Trump started his sales pitch for his tax cutting agenda in Missouri in August, where the assembled audience was treated to a fact-free sermon on the virtues of his plan. Gone were any specifics of what's in it, or who gets what.

Looking at Trump's tax plan from the campaign, as well as what the Republican majority in the House of Representatives



have proposed, we can see the basic outlines of what's coming.

Corporations will see their nominal tax rates drop from 35 percent to 20 or even 15 percent. Individual rates will go down — possibly for everyone, but definitely and most strikingly for the very wealthy. Overall tax revenue will tank, potentially by as much as \$10 trillion over ten years.

What does all this look like in the real world?

On the corporate side, we know for sure that lower corporate taxes do not create jobs.

In the ads to come, maybe you'll see a guy in a hard hat claim that corporate tax cuts will put him back to work. He's lying.

A recent Institute for Policy Studies report looks at 92 profitable companies that already pay an effective 20 percent tax rate, thanks to loopholes. On average they've cut jobs, even as the rest of the private sector saw a 6 percent jobs increase.

On the individual side, half of the proposed cuts will go to millionaires, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. Less than 5 percent go to families with household incomes below \$45,000.

This is probably the biggest wealth grab in American history by the wealthy, for the wealthy. Selling it as a middle-class tax

cut, regardless of the images in the ads you see, is just old-fashioned lying.

And finally there's the revenue. Trump claims his tax cuts will pay for themselves with increased economic growth. That theory's been debunked many times over and yet remains stubbornly in play.

So what happens when trillions of dollars of tax revenue get slashed?

Congress currently bans itself from passing bills that increase the deficit in one of their better acronyms — Pay As You Go (PAYGO). That means the tax cuts Trump proposes will have to come out of public programs.

No matter how much hype you hear, you'd better believe those cuts are gonna hurt. From food assistance like the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program to Head Start, and from clean water protections to unemployment insurance — it's all on the line.

It's hard to keep an eye on the truth when savvy marketing campaigns are hell-bent on deflecting your attention away from it. Don't buy it. The Trump tax cut plan is disastrous for working families and for anyone who cares about a fair and just economy.

Josh Hoxie directs the Project on Taxation and Opportunity at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

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

Boycott Coke and Pass the Soft Drink Tax

Both actions will do public good

BY LEW CHURCH

Eleanor Greene's commentary (You Can Vote Every Day With Your Dollars, Portland Observer, Aug. 23 issue) was right on the mark. In the age of Trump, while some of us push for impeachment at the federal level, it is vital at the local level to boycott corporations that sell out workers and consumers alike, and to support progressive ballot measures community by community.

Here in Portland, we have a chance to do just that by supporting a ballot measure to appear before voters next year. The proposal is to pass a soft drink tax in Multnomah County, a much-needed step to protect our kids and our community from a perfectly legal, but nevertheless deadly substance to our health and wellbeing.

But how are soft drinks and other sugar products harmful, much less deadly, to folks in Oregon and the other 49 states? For one thing, obesity is at epidemic levels. For another, it is estimated that 30 percent of Americans, or nearly 100 million people, are either pre-diabetic or have Diabetes Type 1 or Type 2.

Like taxing cigarettes (another 'legal but deadly' product), a tax on soft drinks is a way to decrease consump-

tion, increase public resources for education and health care programs, and to encourage multinational food corporations -- like Atlanta's Coca-Cola company -- to move more quickly to make and market a healthier product. That is, to stop marketing and selling "diabetes in a bottle."

At Portland State University, our local Gray Panthers chapter believes more advocacy for the public good is needed both before the election, and possibly, afterwards, as well. That more is a boycott against all Coke products, including Coke, Tab, Sprite, Fanta, Fresca, Mello Yello, Ramblin Root Beer, Dasani, PowerAde, Minute Maid and (in a recent corporate acquisition) Vitamin Water.

But why boycott Coke products? Why not simply just vote for the soft drink tax itself? There are several reasons. The first is called Citizens United.

Longtime Oregonians, consumers and activists alike note that in our 'liberal, progressive' state, many ballot measures start out at 20 points ahead in the polls and appear to be sure bets to pass on election night -- only to fail miserably, by as much as 20 points, after a barrage of out-of-state cash embalsms and then entombs such proposals. Take Measure 97, the GM food labeling, and the fluoride ballot measure of a few years ago in Multnomah County, as examples.

Also, we know from the lies of the Trump Administration and from TV advertising paid for by Wall Street firms that all you have to do is lie often enough and long enough to convince enough swing voters in key locations (think Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania in the last presidential election) to reverse the expected outcomes of elections.

Between now and the 2018 election, Portland Gray Panthers will circulate petitions both to sign folks up to not buy Coke products, and, to vote for the soft drink tax. Depending on the outcome of the election, our coalition will then evaluate whether to consider extending the boycott any further.

A soft drink tax has been made law in several U.S. cities already, including Philadelphia, Seattle and San Francisco. Portland needs to reject some of our recent right-wing behavior and live up to our progressive reputation. A few bad actors can certainly taint Portland's image, from the deranged but still racist murders on a MAX train in May to the alt right rally in downtown Portland where some of us were dismayed to observe a Confederate flag softly blowing in the wind on the shores of the Willamette River.

One frequent alt-right argument against taxing sugar products is totally bogus: That a so-called 'sales tax' on some grocery items is somehow 'harm-

ful' to minority communities. This argument posits that it 'penalizes the poor' for low-income folks to not have the individual 'freedom' to buy sugar products, willy-nilly. This is a lie.

Coca-Cola, in particular, as the emblematic brand of global capitalism, has a long history of penalizing the poor. The American Friends Service Committee organized a boycott of Coke decades ago to protest the white power, white minority apartheid regime in Pretoria. Environmental activists have boycotted Coke to protest the company's role in opposing passage of a national bottle bill, or recycling legislation. Lastly, UK anti-slavery organizer, and progressive evangelical Christian, William Wilburforce, organized a 20-year "sugar boycott" to help end the British slave trade in the early 1800s.

Health care -- as we are witnessing in Washington, D.C. -- is at the center of a civil war now. Let's at least take back, in Multnomah County, a small part of our health care, from the false advertising and sugar-drenched profits of the Coca-Cola corporation's 'profits first, health care last' business model. As one PSU organizer has stated bluntly, "They will sell you diabetes -- and call it freedom."

Lew Church is the coordinator of the Portland Gray Panthers and founding publisher and editor of two activist Portland State University papers, the PSU Rearguard and PSU Agitator.

An Anti-Poverty Program that Makes It Pay to Work

So why won't the feds expand it?

BY ADITI KATTI

Imagine a government-funded anti-poverty tool that encouraged people to work. Now imagine that it's popular with both Democrats and Republicans, in red states and blue.

Turns out we've had just such a tool since 1975: the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC.

The EITC is of the most popular and effective anti-poverty tools. It's a refundable tax credit for workers in eligible low-income families, especially those with children.

The credit works on a phase in, phase-out system. Qualifying families receive more tax credits as income increases up to a certain threshold, and then slowly phases out as income increases past that point. That makes it less likely that workers will turn away jobs or raises for

fear of losing benefits.

The federal EITC helped 6.5 million low-income families in 2015, including 3.3 million children. However, the current EITC -- which tops out at around \$5,500 for families with two kids -- isn't enough to help the millions of families struggling financially. Childless workers get almost no benefit at all, and millions of single parents still struggle.

Proposals to expand the credit are popular among politicians of both parties, including Republicans Paul Ryan and Marco Rubio, Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown, and former President Obama. Their ideas include expanding the credit for childless workers and increasing the credits given to low-income families.

However, the federal government has been dragging its heels, leaving it to states to try to fill the gap. Hawaii recently adopted a state-level EITC, bringing the total to 29 (plus the District of Columbia). Others include Republican-led states like Oklahoma, Louisiana, Iowa,

and Kansas.

But the feds just can't agree on how to fund it.

At a time of extreme inequality, the best option would be to raise the funds by increasing taxes on the wealthy. In Hawaii, for example, the credit is offset by higher rates for those earning more than \$300,000 annually. More than 107,000 low-income Hawaiians are expected to benefit from this legislation.

Yet others favor raising revenue from existing taxes that hit the poorest the hardest, like gas and sales taxes.

However, this seems unfair, since people without jobs have to pay these taxes even though they don't benefit from the EITC. A better solution would be to reduce these regressive taxes and make sure wealthy individuals and large corporations pay their fair share.

Since taking office, President Trump hasn't displayed any interest in expanding the EITC.

Instead, he's sought to make it more difficult for working families to benefit by requiring that recipients provide Social Security numbers when claiming the

credit. This would make it harder for immigrant families, both documented and otherwise, to claim the credit even if they qualify for it.

Meanwhile, the president is hitting the road to campaign for tax cuts for the wealthiest. All of his tax proposals to date would significantly cut taxes for the wealthy, giving more and more breaks to corporations and their wealthy CEOs.

There were high hopes that Ivanka Trump might become a champion of such family-friendly policies. But one of her main contributions to the Trump campaign, an "affordable" childcare policy, would amount to a pitiful \$20 in help for families making under \$40,000, Bloomberg estimates. And it appears to have been removed from the Trump website.

Rather than fighting to make it more difficult to get the EITC, the Trump administration should work to expand the credit, and actually help make America great for the middle class.

Aditi Katti is a Next Leader at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by OtherWords.org.



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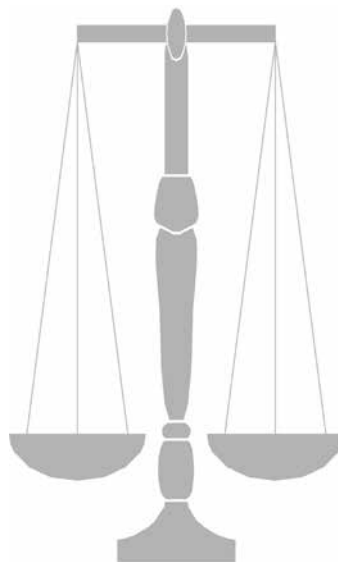
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Awakening a Sense of What You've Been Missing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

poignant and ripe for exploitation in the way Shakespeare's plot demands. At other times, however, the connection to "Measure for Measure" seems to constrain the more significant stories that beg to be told; I wanted to see, for example, more exploration of the Indian schools than this treatment allows.

What this play lacks in clarity of vision the production makes up for in the beauty and joy of watching seven Native American actors generously lay their hearts out on the stage. They occupy several different intersections that will feel familiar to many mixed and marginalized people: What does cultural loyalty require? What are the reasons to compromise? How, if at all, should one accommodate the culture of white supremacy? Which reasons for doing so are justified? I was moved to watch these Native actors hold these questions with such love and grace, particularly in combination with Momaday's Irish love and two African American characters who convey similar lived wisdom.

One challenge of this production for me is that it locates virtually all white evil perpetrated against indigenous peoples in one character, even inviting the audience to boo him. OSF audiences are still mostly white,



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Placed in an Indian school where his culture is erased, a 19th Century Native American (Shaun Taylor-Corbett) is visited by the spirit of his Native American grandfather (Brent Florendo) in 'Off the Rails,' now playing at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

and that device lets them off far too easily, especially since oppression of indigenous people is hardly over. Indeed, the problematic choices of two other white characters are brushed off and even played for humor. I suspect that too few audience members will notice how problematic such choices are.

Still, the challenges of absorbing this production, like the challenges I imagine may exist for those playing in it, strike me as resonant with the experiences of indige-

nous and other oppressed peoples. How do we seize the spaces we can for our truth, and find our authentic voices, even when all the spaces we are allowed to enter involve some degree of accommodating the comfort of those with more power? The work of struggling with such questions, beautifully embodied here, may well account for the sort of evolved consciousness one often sees in indigenous leaders, and in many artists.

Three wonderful outdoor shows beauti-

fully round out the season's offerings, all making use of deliciously diverse casts to enliven old stories. My favorite, "*The Merry Wives of Windsor*," sets Shakespeare's rather messy comedy in a fantasy world that melds Elizabethan and 1980s sensibilities (complete with hilarious use of '80s music, dance moves, and costume touches), and the result evokes nonstop delight. I found it surprisingly moving to watch a production of "*Disney's Beauty and the Beast*" in which the princess and her evolving prince are played by two brilliant African American actors, assisted by a talented cast of enchanted servants. And a gorgeous production of "*The Odyssey*" offers a visual feast of movement and imagery; watch especially for what, for me, is now the definitive depiction of the sirens.

The outdoor shows play until mid-October, and "*UniSon*" and "*Off the Rails*" play until the season ends the final weekend of October. The journeys are well worth the journey to Ashland.

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.



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MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

11 Make Your Bed Day <i>World Trade Center attack in 2001</i>	12 National Chocolate Milk Shake Day	13 National Peanut Day Positive Thinking Day	14 <i>Francis Scott Key wrote the 'Star Spangled Banner', 1814</i>	15 Make A Hat Day National Hispanic Heritage Month <i>Begins Sept. 15, ends Oct. 15</i>	16 Collect Rocks Day Mayflower Day Mexican Independence Day Stepfamily Day	17 Citizenship Day National Apple Dumpling Day Constitution Day
18 <i>The New York Times was first published in 1851</i>	19 International Talk Like a Pirate Day <i>Poet John Keats Wrote 'To Autumn' in 1819</i>	20 <i>First Railroad Station Opened</i> <i>Magellan started search for Spice Islands, 1519</i>	21 Miniature Golf Day World Gratitude Day International Peace Day <i>H.G. Wells born, 1866</i>	22 First Day of Autumn California Native American Day Dear Diary Day	23 <i>Nintendo founded in 1889 - made playing cards</i>	24 Good Neighbor Day National Bluebird of Happiness Day <i>Supreme Court est. in 1789</i>
25 <i>Mary Poppins Debuted in 1964</i> <i>Balboa discovered the Pacific Ocean in 1513</i>	26 <i>Johnny Appleseed born John Chapman, in 1774</i>	27 Crush A Can Day <i>First Steam Locomotive Run (1825)</i>	28 <i>First Airport Opened (1909)</i> <i>William the Conqueror Invaded England, 1066</i>	29 <i>Stanley Berenstain The U.S. Army was est. in 1789</i>	30 <i>Alvin Tresselt born, 1916</i> <i>Safety Pin Invented (1849)</i>	



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FOOD

Sausage and Egg Picnic Pie

A simple and easy to eat main picnic course.

Ingredients:

- 800g of sausage
- 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper
- 4 sage leaves, finely chopped
- 500g of puff pastry
- 1 egg, beaten
- salt to taste
- black pepper
- 8 pheasant eggs, or small hen's eggs
- 1 handful of parsley, small, finely chopped
- 1/2 tsp thyme leaves, finely chopped



Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/gas mark 6.
2. Bring a pan of water to a boil and boil the eggs for 4 minutes (6 if using hens' eggs). Plunge directly into cold water and leave.
3. Skin the sausages and mix with the herbs and a good pinch of cayenne. Season with salt and pepper. Peel the eggs carefully.
4. Divide the pastry in half and roll half of it into a rectangle that fits in a baking tray. Flour the baking tray and lay the pastry on top. Add a layer of sausage meat, leaving a little space around the outside. Put the eggs down the middle, making a little groove with your thumb as you go for added stability.
5. Now gingerly build the remaining sausage meat around the eggs.
6. Roll out the other half of the pastry. Brush the edges of the first sheet with beaten egg and lay the other sheet of pastry over the top, pressing to stick and crimping to pimp. Now brush all over with egg and make a few slits in the top. Chill.
7. Bake for 25-30 minutes, rest for a few minutes and serve, or leave to cool for a picnic.

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