



Stay Cool in Portland
Park fountains open for water play
See Metro, page 6



Hired by District
Former school board candidate to lead community engagement
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Portland Observer

Established in 1970

Volume XLVIII • Number 29



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Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Retiring public servant Antoinette Edwards (center) is honored on her retirement by Mayor Ted Wheeler and the other members of the Portland City Council for her work in community advocacy and directing Portland's Office of Youth Violence Prevention.

Salute to a Fierce Advocate

Antoinette Edwards retires from office helping youth

Antoinette Edwards, a retiring public servant and advocate from the African American community who has directed the Portland's Office of Youth Violence Preven-

tion since 2011, had her last day on the job declared as an official day in her honor last week by the Mayor and Commissioners.

Edwards, 66, is known for creating the Community Peace Collaborative, a public forum which facilitates biweekly meetings where difficult conversations take place between community members and police. The

topics range from officer-involved shootings and abuse to reconciliation and ideas for reducing violence among youth and take place at the North Portland Community Policing Center at Northeast Emerson Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

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31 Dead, 2 US Shootings, 1 Tie to Hate

AP PHOTO/JOHN MINCHILLO

Mourners gather at a vigil following a nearby mass shooting this past Sunday, in Dayton, Ohio. It was the second mass shooting in the U.S. in less than 24 hours, with the first taking place in El Paso, Texas, Saturday that authorities said appears to be a racially motivated hate crime.

Read more about the mass shootings that occurred this weekend on Page 4.



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William DeMerrit (left) and Shayna Blass co-star in "Indecent," the ethnically diverse exploration of Jewish identity which utilizes a touchstone of Yiddish theater, the 1906 play "The God of Vengeance," as the vehicle to explore a vibrant lost history of a piece written ahead of its time.

Diverse Play Explores Jewish Identity

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY
DARLEEN ORTEGA



Paula Vogel's beautiful play about Jewish identity, "Indecent," grapples with themes of outsiders facing threats to their freedoms and basic human rights, apropos in an age when synagogues face a resurgence of deadly violence.

What does it mean to show

up as oneself, when one exists at the margins of privilege and identity? How does one withstand pressure to conform, to assimilate, to succeed on terms that function to erase that which makes us distinct?

It is a struggle familiar to immigrants and outsiders of

all kinds, those of us who have faced the hazards of annihilation or demonization or oppression or genocide. To be accepted--indeed, to survive at all--often involves erasing ourselves or our communities, accommodating the pressure to blend in and to validate how the dominant group defines goodness and success.

"Indecent," playing at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland through October, grapples with these questions with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Fire Investigation Underway

Portland Police and Fire and Rescue are asking the public's help to identify persons of interest in a residential fire investigation involving a three alarm fire at a home on Northeast Garfield Street on July 5. Surveillance video from a neighboring apartment complex recorded several people that authorities wish to identify for the fire that resulted in property damage and injured two.



'Beloved' Author and Nobel Laureate Dead at 88



Toni Morrison, the internationally acclaimed author whose prose spoke to the hardship and resilience of the African American experience, died Monday night at Montefiore Medical Center in New York, NBC reports. The 88-year-old was the winner of the 1993 Noble Prize for Literature, 2012 Presidential Medal of Freedom, and author of the novels "Beloved," "The Bluest Eyes,"

The Week in Review

"Sula," "Song of Solomon," and many others.

Warren Calls Out White Supremacy

Presidential hopeful Elizabeth Warren said during a democratic debate that white supremacy should be labeled as domestic terrorism, saying to resounding applause: "it poses a threat to the United States of America." That comes after FBI Director Christopher Wray's assertion to the U.S. Senate that roughly 100 domestic terrorism-related arrests since October were connected to white supremacy.

Missing Man Found

Gresham Police have successfully located a missing 67-year-old man with dementia, James Lee Rivers, over 30 hours after he was reportedly last seen. Rivers had been last seen at the Safeway at 1001 SW Highland Dr. between noon and 12:30pm Sunday and was reported found by Gresham Police by 10:30pm Monday.

Woman Sues Portland for Protest Injury

Michelle Fawcett filed a lawsuit against the city of Portland Tuesday for injuries she said she suffered during an Aug. 4, 2018 protest against right-wing extremists. The 53-year-old woman's claim is that she was struck in the arm by a flash-bang grenade, causing third-degree chemical burns, other physical injuries, and mental and emotion distress, stated the lawsuit, which seeks \$250,000 in damages.



Rapper Returns to U.S.

Rapper A\$AP Rocky returned to the U.S. Saturday after being freed from a Swedish jail the night before, pending a verdict in his trial. Rocky, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, is accused with two others of beating a 19-year-old man in Stockholm on June 30, though he's plead not guilty. The verdict will be announced Aug. 14.

The INSIDE

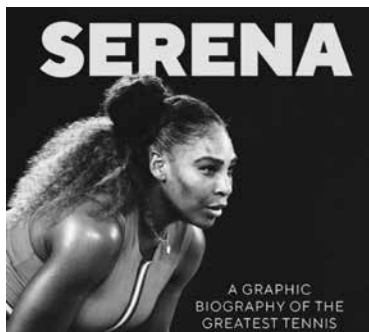
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LOCAL NEWS

PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Shanice Clarke is the new director of community engagement for Portland Public Schools.



Former Candidate Hired by District Clarke to lead community engagement team

BY DANNY PETERSON
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Shanice Clarke, one of the two African American community leaders who ran for the Portland School Board last May, has been hired as the district's new director of community engagement.

Clarke, who lost to long time resident and Port-

land city employee Michelle DePass in the election, accepted the new job last week, continuing a commitment she expressed during her campaign to elevate the power and voices of students, families and community to advance student achievement.

Clarke will leave her current position at Portland State University to take a lead role in forming the Portland School District's strategic direction for public dialogue as part of a Strategic Partnerships

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

PSU Athlete Shot Dead, Sister Charged

Following the shooting death of 22-year-old former Portland State University basketball star Deante Strickland Friday afternoon, Deante's sister, Tamena Strickland, has been charged with three criminal counts related to the death and wounding of two other family members.

30-year-old Tamena Strickland is charged with one count of murder with a firearm and two counts of attempted murder with a firearm, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced Monday.

According to court documents, Portland Police responded to reports of a shooting at approximately 2pm on Friday in the 6200 block of Northeast 42nd Avenue.

When officers arrived, they located Deante Strickland suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest and died just north of the residence.

Two others, a 25-year-old woman and a 67-year-old woman, who were also Strickland's relatives, were also transported to the hospital after being found by police with gunshot-related injuries.



PSU athlete Daunte Strickland (left) and sister Tamena Strickland.

The 25-year-old, who is Strickland's cousin, told police she heard gunshots while in the bedroom of her residence, where the 67-year-old woman and Deante and Tamena Strickland were located. When the 25-year-old approached the living room, she saw her cousin, Tamena Strickland, direct a silver handgun in her direction and shoot her.

Tamena Strickland surrendered to Portland Police with her attorney at around 7pm that evening and officers also found a black gun box on the front passenger

seat floorboard in a vehicle associated with the alleged suspect.

Deante Strickland was slated to play for PSU's football team after playing two seasons of basketball with the Vikings. He earned a degree in June and was preparing to compete in football in his fifth year, for graduate school.

"We are all deeply saddened and grieving about this tragic news," said Viking Basketball Coach Barret Peery, who recruited Strickland back to his hometown in 2017, a statement from PSU said.



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31 Dead, 2 US Shootings, 1 Tie to Hate

**President
condemns hate,
but not guns, in
response**

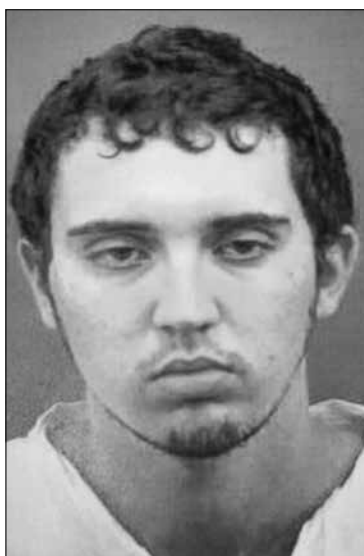
Two shooting sprees that amassed 31 deaths, dozens injured by Monday's count and occurred less than 24 hours apart over the weekend—one in El Paso, Texas, that authorities said appears to be a racially motivated hate crime on Saturday—and one in Dayton, Ohio on Sunday.

Officers gunned down the Ohio shooter at the doorstep of a bar-turned-hiding place in the middle of Dayton's nightclub district and arrested the El Paso shooter as hundreds fled a crowded Walmart shopping center. Though the two attacks staggered a nation accustomed to gun violence, the bigger shock may have been that the death toll wasn't worse.

In the Texas border city of El Paso, a gunman opened fire Saturday morning in a shopping area packed with thousands of people during the busy back-to-school season. The attack killed 22 and wounded more than two dozen, many of them critically. One of those killed died early Monday at a hospital.

Hours later in Dayton, Ohio, a gunman wearing body armor and carrying extra magazines opened fire in a popular nightlife area, killing nine and wounding more than two dozen people.

The El Paso shooting was being



21-year-old Patrick Crusius (left) and 24-year-old Connor Betts were the alleged perpetrators of two separate mass shootings that occurred over the weekend in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio, respectively.

investigated by law enforcement as a possible hate crime.

In response to the violence, President Donald Trump on Monday condemned the weekend shootings as barbaric crimes "against all humanity."

"In one voice, our nation must condemn racism, bigotry and white supremacy," Trump said, adding that he had directed the FBI to examine steps to identify and address domestic terrorism.

Authorities worked to confirm whether a racist screed posted online shortly beforehand was written by the man arrested, a post that mirrored some of Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric. The border city is home to 680,000 people, many of them Latino.

Some, like Ernesto Carrillo, whose brother-in-law Ivan Morena



was killed in the Walmart attack, said the president shares blame for inflammatory language Carrillo called a "campaign of terror."

El Paso authorities offered few details about the assault, but Police Chief Greg Allen described the scene as "horrific" and said many of the 26 people who were hurt had life-threatening injuries.

In Dayton, the bloodshed was likely limited by the swift police response. Officers patrolling the area took just 30 seconds to stop the shooting, which unfolded around 1 a.m. on the streets of the downtown Oregon District, Mayor Nan Whaley said.

Video released by police shows 24-year-old Connor Betts being shot down by officers, just steps away from entering a bar filled with hiding patrons.

Had police not responded so quickly, "hundreds of people in the Oregon District could be dead today," Whaley said.

Betts' 22-year-old sister, Megan Betts, was among those killed in Dayton.

Authorities identified the El Paso suspect as 21-year-old Patrick Crusius from Allen, a Dallas suburb which is a nearly 10-hour drive from El Paso.

El Paso Mayor Dee Margo said he knew the shooter was not from his city.

"It's not what we're about," the mayor said at a news conference with Gov. Greg Abbott and the police chief.

President Donald Trump tweeted Monday that Washington "must come together" in the wake of the shootings "to get strong background checks" for gun users. But he provided no details on what sort of legislation he would support.

The Democrat-led House has passed a gun control bill that includes fixes to the nation's firearm background check system, but it has languished in the GOP-controlled Senate.

Trump suggested Monday that a background check bill could be paired with his long-sought effort to toughen the nation's immigration system, though he didn't say how. He also signaled he would oppose large-scale gun control efforts pushed by Democrats, saying, "hatred pulls the trigger, not the gun."

Trump has reneged on previous pledges to strengthen gun laws.

Democratic presidential candidate and former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke, who is from El Paso and was at a candidate forum Saturday in Las Vegas, appeared shaken after receiving news of the shooting in his hometown.

He said he heard early reports that the shooter might have had a military-style weapon, saying we need to "keep that (expletive) on the battlefield. Do not bring it into our communities."

The shootings were the 21st and 22nd mass killings of 2019 in the U.S., according to the AP/USA Today/Northeastern University mass murder database that tracks homicides where four or more people killed — not including the offender and came less than a week after a 19-year-old gunman killed three people and injured 13 others at the popular Gilroy Garlic Festival in California before dying of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The shootings come after a link to right-wing extremism was found for every extremist killing in the US in 2018, according to a January 2019 report from the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism, Business Insider reported.

--Associated Press contributed to this article.

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Salute to a Fierce Advocate

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“There are few people I would call a hero. You’re a hero,” remarked Mayor Ted Wheeler at the special ceremony at City Hall, calling Edwards the glue holding the community together and one who lent a voice to those that had none, declaring July 31 as “Antoinette Edwards Fierce Advocate Day” in Portland.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz said Edwards was “inspiring,” and Commissioner Nick Fish expressed gratitude to her for “being a role model.”

The emotion in the air was evident when Wheeler read the city’s proclamation aloud as Edwards’ husband, Keith, shed tears of joy.

Edwards said she was “in gratitude for the love. I feel the love.” In her closing remarks she addressed the city directly.

“Portland, we don’t have to make it great again. Just keep it good and make it better...my parting words for the community, beloved community: we are so much stronger together,” she said.

Edwards was known for inviting in and getting buy ins from ex-gang members who have turned a new leaf and re-integrated back into the community to participate in the round table discussions, with some even being hired to perform youth outreach for those in gangs or on the cusp of adopting the lifestyle, in order to prevent them from continuing in activities that promote violence.



PHOTO BY ADAM THOMPSON/THE OFFICE OF MAYOR TED WHEELER

Antoinette Edwards, a tireless community advocate and the director of Portland’s Office of Youth Violence Prevention retired last week. The City Council honored her by proclaiming July 31 as “Antoinette Edwards Fierce Advocate Day” in Portland.

The office more broadly advanced trauma informed care to create a space for healing. Edwards was thanked for being the change agent to make that possible.

Edwards told the Portland Observer she was “humbled beyond words” by the proclamation and attributed the honor to the power of community.

“I’ve had the opportunity to work with people and their grief with trauma, losing loved ones to gun violence... from being wounded to using their wisdom to help others.... If it wasn’t for community, I wouldn’t be here.”

She added she’ll “never retire from the community,” but is looking forward to spending more time with her grandkids and husband.

Edwards served four mayors during her tenure with the city. She received multiple awards for her advocacy, including the Gladys McCoy Citizen Involvement Award from the Citizen Involvement Committee of Multnomah County in 2009, the 2013 Social Justice Fund Northwest Jeannette Rankin Award, and the 2015 Equity Foundation’s Women Who Lead Award.

Former Candidate Hired by District

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and Engagement team.

“I ran for the board because of my deep commitment to advocating for racial equity and social justice in our public schools and creating deep opportunity for our community to be involved. My new role will allow me to braid the knowledge and experiences of our community to re-imagine PPS,” Clarke said.

A career educator who is originally from Jamaica, Clarke is joining Portland’s largest school district after helping to launch and run a resource center for black students at PSU aimed at supporting their continued education and elevating their voices, called the Pan-African Resource Center.

In her bid for school board, Clarke ran on a platform of incorporating a holistic approach to education, including doing crisis intervention and focusing on improving systems to address students’ needs. She cited an audit of Portland Public Schools by Oregon Secretary of State’s office showing dramatic shortcomings in outcomes for students of color in the district as helping to inform her on the needs.

Clarke holds a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from University of Northern Colorado where she studied culturally responsive pedagogy and researched better ways of serving diverse students.

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Stay Cool at Portland Parks

The first week of August has ushered in the warm days of summer and Portland Parks and Recreation is reminding folks they can help you stay cool. The fountain at McCoy Park in north Portland (above) and five other interactive park fountains are open for water play. In addition to indoor and outdoor pools, there are splash pads featured in several neighborhood parks open through Labor Day.

Music Millennium Barbeque Jam

You're invited to enjoy the food, live music, entertainment and prizes when Music Millennium hosts its 27th annual customer appreciation barbecue.

The celebration will take place Saturday, Aug. 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the parking lot of the homegrown music store located at 32nd and East Burnside. Yummy eats and drinks will come from the event sponsors and everyone will have a chance to spin a Wacky Wheel of Wonder and win prizes. The grand prize is limited edition metallic print of the Grateful Dead in July of 1968!

The musical lineup includes Ragon Linde, a multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, and recording artist based in Portland; Roselit Bone, a band that has perfected an infectious and powerful live show; Rich Layton & Tough Town, keepers of the flame for American roots music; Reverberations, inspired by the garage and psychedelic sounds of the 60s; Tracey Fordice, a popular award winning band from Portland;

Johanna Keith & the Paradigm Crushers, a 3 piece rock band from Portland; and Louder Oceans, described as "eclectic rock" and a fusion of 70's psychedelic and 90's alt rock.



PHOTO FROM TRACEY FORDICE BAND WEBPAGE

From rock, blues, R&B and soul, the Tracey Fordice band does it all. The popular Portland band will be one of the groups performing on Saturday, Aug. 10 for the 7th annual customer appreciation barbeque at Music Millennium.



Celebrate Smokey Bear's Birthday

Kids and their families are invited to celebrate Smokey Bear's 75th birthday with a free event for kids and their families on Saturday, Aug. 10 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Fort Vancouver's Visitor's Center, 501 E. Evergreen Blvd.

Sponsored by the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Friends of Fort Vancouver, and the National Park Service, the day will include fun activities, historic Smokey videos, wildfire prevention safety and, of course, you can wish Smokey Bear a happy birthday in person and enjoy a piece of birthday cake to celebrate this milestone birthday.

The real Smokey Bear was a little cub saved by firefighters during a wildfire in New Mexico. His paws were badly burned when he clung to a smoking, burned out tree. News of the little bear's rescue spread quickly across the nation and soon became a national icon for promoting fire safety and wildfire prevention. He received so many gifts of honey and an outpouring of mail that he was assigned his own zip code!

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Obituary

In Loving Memory

Michelle Diane Holmes-Graves

Michelle Diane Holmes-Graves was born Jan. 25, 1955 to Joe Holmes Jr. and Ethel Mae Wilson. She attended Sabin and Vernon elementary schools and John Adams High School where she graduated in 1974. Michelle attended college courses at Portland State and earned her certificate in business. She soon launched a career in retail and quickly became a manager for Lane Bryant clothing stores.



After being diagnosed with heart disease Michelle was on a mission to live life to the fullest. People who were unaware of her condition would not have been able to guess because Michelle never complained. She always wore her bright smile, witty with her delivery in conversation and always showed love to her husband, children and grandchildren. She had a fond love for shopping, lots travel and family barbeques. Her favorite word was "right" and her husband, also known as "Russian," referred to her as Viva Las Vegas. Anyone who knew Michelle knew she was going to BBQ rain, sleet or snow. She loved it when her daughter Angela came and took her on shopping sprees and fine dining. Angela's favorite word to her mother was "mom, I got you".

Michelle attended the Highland Christian Center faithfully and danced with the 503 Sliders on Mondays and Thursdays at the Elks Lodge. Michelle lost her battle with heart disease on Saturday, July 27, 2019 where the Lord called her home peacefully.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Jarvis Marshall. She leaves to grieve her loving husband Donald D. Graves; daughters Clinttina Williams (AC Williams III) and Angela Holmes (Scott Chapman) son Clinton Holmes-Graves; grandchildren Robin Richmond and Legacey Williams; sisters Rosemary Manus of Los Angeles and Joe Ann Holmes of Portland; and brother Michael Lee Holmes of Seattle. She also had many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and associates who all will miss her tremendously.

Michelle is absent from the body but will remain in our hearts and minds forever.

Rest in Peace

Windy Williams

Windy Williams was born Jan. 10, 1960 and beloved by her friends and family. She departed July 1, 2019. A Homegoing celebration is being planned for Aug. 10 at 1pm at Portland Metro Assembly of God on 5004 Ne 6th Ave in Portland.



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Marilyn Keller and Ron Steen are two of the musicians to perform at Sunday's 'Summer in the City' neighborhood party at Augustana Lutheran Church.

Summer in the City

Augustana Lutheran Church on the corner of Northeast Knott and 15th Avenue is hosting its annual "Summer in the City" neighborhood party on Sunday, Aug. 11 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. All are welcome to this free outdoor concert event featuring a barbecue, book sale, children's games and music from some of Portland's most notable jazz mu-

sicians, including Marilyn Keller, Shirley Nanette, George Mitchell, Kevin Deitz, Ron Steen and other guests. There will be a jazz/gospel worship service beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, call the church at 503-288-6174 or visit online at augustana.org.

Serena Graphic Book Release

Serena Williams is the most successful tennis player – male or female – of the modern, professional era, with more Grand Slams than either Steffi Graf or Roger Federer. She's a 23-times Grand Slam Champion and ranked #1 over 10 consecutive years.

Always a fierce competitor, her story – which began on the cracked public courts of Compton, Calif. – is also one of overcoming challenges through sheer determination, drive and talent.

In a new innovative illustrated biography

by Mark Hodgkinson, a tennis author and journalist based in London, Serena's tennis is explored like never before: Stunning graphics explore her serving patterns, signature power ground strokes, and her movement – as well as showcasing her

astonishing records, spanning over two decades in the tennis elite.

Drawing on conversations with Serena over the course of her career, and on interviews with those closest to her, the book is an ultimate celebration of arguably the greatest tennis player of all time and, without question, a true global icon.



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OPINION

Vaccines Save Lives and Protect Future Health

Rejecting the misinformation and the fear

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

I've never forgotten my family's sadness over the senseless death of my childhood neighbor little Johnny Harrington, who lived three houses down from our church parsonage in segregated Bennettsville, S.C. Johnny stepped on a rusted nail and died of the resulting tetanus infection because his



hard-working grandmother had no doctor to advise her nor the money to pay for health care. Over the last four decades the Children's Defense Fund has fought alongside many others to champion policies and programs that work to ensure every child in America gets vaccinated against preventable diseases like tetanus, polio and measles.

Yet in 2019 headlines like "New U.S. measles cases break 25-year-old record" are creating fear and worry, especially among parents. How can it be that we are

seeing more and more outbreaks of a disease declared eliminated in the United States nearly two decades ago? The answer involves a web of linked factors: the spread of misinformation and falsehoods by a small but vocal number of vaccine opponents, gaps in vaccination coverage, and a national and global increase in outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

The U.S. has already recorded well over 1,000 cases of measles this year—most of them occurring in children. As we explain in a new brief, this growing crisis is putting our children at risk and must be stopped.

The facts are simple: Vaccines are safe. They are highly effective. They are supported by every major American medical society and government agency and are a routine part of pediatric care. Yet the growing number of outbreaks suggests more must be done to support immunization and halt the spread of serious—and potentially deadly—diseases. The bottom line is that to stop the spread of measles and other serious diseases, parents must have access to factual information from trusted sources to combat fraudulent information spread by the anti-vaccination movement in the U.S. and around

the world.

To ensure that parents are equipped with the facts, health care providers, educators, children's groups, policymakers and faith leaders must be vocal advocates for vaccinations, and policies must support vaccination and limit exemptions only to those with legitimate medical reasons.

Why are vaccines so important? Vaccines save lives and protect against long-term health consequences. They reduce disability and suffering, contribute to longer life expectancy, and help lower

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Food Stamps Helped Me Get Back on My Feet

Cutting them is a lose-lose

BY JILL RICHARDSON

The Trump administration has proposed a rule that will cut an estimated 3 million eligible people off food stamps while depriving half a million eligible children of school lunch.



I've been on food stamps.

I spent most of my life with mental illness, and it was not diagnosed until a few years ago. Not knowing there was a reason everything was so difficult for me, I pushed myself until I could push no more.

I got good grades in school, and went to college on a scholarship. I got my degree and then got a full-time job like I thought I was supposed to.

I began getting severe migraines every day at the age of 14. That was my body telling me that I was doing more than I could handle and I needed to stop and heal. I had a migraine every day for 23 years. Working was hellish and painful, and I still tried.

When I could no longer handle an office job, I tried being self-employed and working from home. I could never make enough to really get by on. Then I went on food stamps. It didn't mean I could stop working. I got \$70 a month so I could eat, but I still had to pay rent

and put gas in my car, and for that, I worked.

Food stamps did its job for me. It helped me get through a tough time until I could get back on my own two feet.

I'm fortunate I didn't have children. If I did, my kids would have suffered through my financial insecurity through no fault of their own. But food stamps and school lunch would have helped ensure they had a chance in life despite being born to a mom too sick to make ends meet.

While the moral righteousness of food stamps justifies the program on its own, there are other benefits to it as well.

Food stamps are a huge stimulus to the economy. Families spend their SNAP benefits to buy food from local businesses like grocery stores, and that creates jobs — from the store clerk stocking the shelves, to the truck driver transporting the food, to the farmers and ranchers producing the food.

For every \$5 the U.S. government spends on food stamps, it generates \$9 in economic activity. That's an incredibly effective stimulus.

Federal school breakfast and lunch programs do more than help food security too — they help kids succeed. Imagine trying to pay attention or take a test while you're hungry. School breakfast and lunch helps kids from low income families break the cycle of poverty when they grow up, because it helps them benefit more from their education.

The movement to cut low-income people who are eligible for food stamps and school lunch off of those programs isn't just immoral, it's short-sighted.

The Trump administration claims the measure will save money because there will be less federal spending on helping hungry people eat. In addition to the cruelty of "saving money" by taking food from the hungry, it will also ultimately harm the nation by

removing the economic stimulus that food stamps provide and making it that much harder for half a million already poor kids to do well in school.

Forcing kids to go hungry is a lose-lose.

OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is pursuing a PhD in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She's currently based in Montana. Distributed by OtherWords.org.



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OPINION

African Americans Built Ships and a Legacy

History recalled in World War II era exhibit

BY JACOB NIERENBERG

Despite being treated as second-class citizens at best, African Americans bravely served the United States in times of war. While World War II was no different, some of the most important work that African Americans were doing to support their country took place far away from the battlefield. You can learn about that work at The National WWII Museum's special exhibit, Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II, now on display at the Oregon Historical Society, where you can also learn about the brief history of Vanport—a city that not only helped rebuild the United States Navy, but helped integrate the state.

Vanport doesn't exist anymore, and by the time it was destroyed in 1948, many Oregonians wished it didn't exist, seeing the city as a ghetto for the people too black or too poor to live in Portland. But from 1942 to 1945, Vanport was America's largest wartime housing project, home to thousands of Kaiser Shipbuilding Company laborers. At its height in late 1944, roughly 42,000 people lived there, making it Oregon's second-largest city.

est city.

During World War II, two of the Kaiser Shipyards were in Portland, with a third across the Columbia River in Vancouver. The three facilities produced almost half of the nearly 1,500 ships built by Kaiser from its founding in 1939 to the war's end. Thousands of people moved to Portland and Vancouver for work, but the cities lacked the space to handle the population boom. To accommodate the new workers and their families, Vanport was built in just four months.

Many of these workers were African Americans leaving the South. An estimated 6,000 of them lived in Vanport in its peak years, giving the city one of the highest percentages of black residents outside the South—comparable to Detroit and Chicago—a fact made all the more surprising given Oregon's history. Years before it joined the United States, in 1859, Oregon passed a series of black exclusion laws forbidding African Americans from settling there. Like the Jim Crow laws of the South, these laws remained on the books until decades after the Civil War. Before Vanport, African Americans constituted less than one percent of Oregon's population.

The Kaiser Shipyards closed after the war ended, and when the jobs left, so did many of Vanport's residents. The city's population had fallen by nearly half by 1947; more than one quarter of those who remained were African

Americans, shut out of Portland by discriminatory housing practices. An Oregon Journal article published that year claimed that Vanport's "large colored population" made it "undesirable" to many Oregonians, but conceded that "as long as over 20,000 people can find no other place to go, Vanport will continue to operate whether Portland likes it or not."

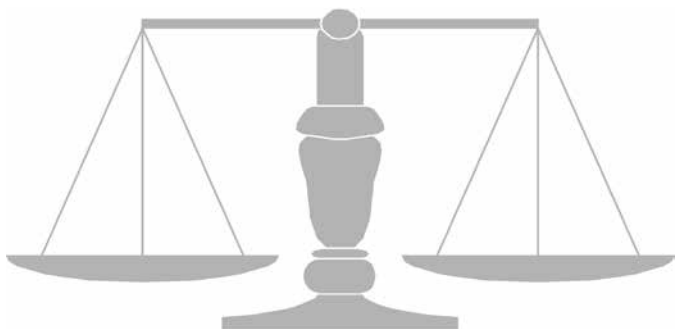
On May 30, 1948, Vanport was washed away in a sudden and catastrophic flood. In the aftermath, many of the displaced African Americans resettled in Portland's Albina District. The neighborhood was one of the few areas not off-limits to them, but it was densely populated by the city's preexisting black population.

It's difficult to tie Vanport's legacy to the Civil Rights Movement that would follow. But looking across the broad sweep of American history, Vanport is emblematic of how African Americans were willing to defend the freedom that they were denied, at home as well as abroad.

The National WWII Museum's special exhibit, Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II, will be displayed at the Oregon Historical Society through Jan. 12.

Jacob Nierenberg graduated Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in American Studies, focusing on race and dissent in post-WWII America, and a master's degree in Journalism.

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In the Penal Colony

— Portland Opera presents 'In the Penal Colony,' a play that exposes a nightmarish machine of executions. Now playing through Saturday, Aug. 10 at the Hampton Opera Center, 211 S.E. Caruthers St. For tickets and more information, visit portlandopera.org.

Courage and Cleverness — Miss Trunchbull hates

children and just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda, has courage and cleverness in equal amounts and could be the school pupils' saving grace. 'Matilda, The Musical,' based on the beloved children's novel, is now playing through Aug. 18 at the Lakewood Center for the Arts in Lake Oswego.



Beer Auction to End Youth Homelessness — New Avenues for Youth, a nonprofit helping prevent and intervene in youth homelessness invites the community to a beer tasting event and live beer auction fundraiser with more than 50 different breweries to support the group's mission. The event will be held Saturday, Aug. 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Leftbank Annex, 10 N. Weidler and Broadway. For more information, visit newavenues.org.

Summer Free for All — Portland Parks and Recreation's "Summer Free for All" series is back with

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

amazing events all summer long for both kids and adults, including movies, concerts, free lunch and play events and more. For details, a guide is posted online at portlandoregon.gov/parks.

Read for Fun and Prizes — Multnomah County encourages kids to read for fun and prizes this summer. The annual Summer Reading program is in full swing at all branch libraries. To help grow interest, the library also offers dozens of free summer reading events, camps and classes to keep youth of all ages playing and learning.

Norman Sylvester Band — The Norman Sylvester Band plays Thursday, Aug. 8 at noon in the Franz Cancer Center courtyard at Providence Hospital; Saturday, Aug. 10 at the Spare Room; Sunday, Aug. 11 at the Elephant Garlic Festival in North Plains; Saturday, Aug. 17 at 9 p.m. for the Canby Boogie Fest; and Sunday, Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. at Millennium Plaza Park in Lake Oswego.

Twilight Tuesday — The Oregon Zoo is staying open late for a special Twilight Tuesday extra on Aug. 20 featuring animals that are active at dusk, fun activities for families, food and beverages from local vendors and live entertainment. The festivities will begin at 4 p.m. and last until 8 p.m.

Summer at the Square — This month Pioneer Courthouse Square, downtown, is offering free weekly summer events, including Noon Tunes concerts on Tuesdays, wellness activities on Wednesdays and Flicks on the Bricks movies on Friday evenings.

Vaccines Save Lives

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

health disparities, and they are one of the greatest successes in public health and modern medicine. From 1994 to 2016, childhood immunizations prevented an estimated 281 million child illnesses, 855,000 child deaths, and nearly \$1.65 trillion in health care costs. Every dollar invested in vaccination yields \$3 in direct benefits and \$10 in benefits when societal costs are included. They also save money for states and localities, which shoulder the often high cost of tracking and treating those who are infected. For instance, measles costs an average of \$32,000 per case.

Measles is a very good case study in the benefits of vaccines. Before the vaccine was introduced in 1963, measles killed

approximately 400-500 American children every year. Measles can result in severe and lifelong health consequences for those who do survive. It is also highly contagious—so much so that an unvaccinated person walking through a room up to two hours after someone with measles has left has about a 90 percent chance of getting sick.

The very young face heightened risk: most infants do not get their first measles vaccine until they are about one year old, and the consequences of infection can be particularly severe in babies and young children. A third of all measles cases in the current U.S. outbreaks occurred in children younger than five, and most were children under age 18 who had not been fully vaccinated.

The trend towards vaccine hes-

itancy and refusal has grown globally in recent years as misinformation about the safety of vaccines are shared by members of the anti-vaccination or "anti-vax" movement on the internet and social media have sown seeds of doubt in parents around the world. But we must not allow misinformation and fear to drag a new generation of children backwards into danger.

With the start of a new school year around the corner, it's critical for parents and guardians to make sure their children are up to date on vaccines. The science is clear: vaccines work. Vaccine preventable diseases are dangerous and can be deadly. Quick action must be taken on multiple fronts to slow, halt, or eliminate disease outbreaks in the U.S. and abroad. Our children's lives depend on it.

Marian Wright Edelman is founder and president emerita of the Children's Defense Fund.



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FOOD

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Ingredients

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- 1 cup cashews
- 1 1/2 cups cooked brown rice
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley
- 1 1/2 cups shredded carrots
- 1/3 cup chopped green onions
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons smoked paprika
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1-2 teaspoons salt, to taste

Directions

1. First, cook your rice if you don't already have some leftover in the fridge. Gather all the ingredients.
2. Mash the drained/rinsed black beans in a large bowl, leaving a few beans whole.
3. Pulse 1 cup of cashews (or other nut/seed) in a food processor until breadcrumb size. Don't leave these out unless you have to, they add so much texture and you'll miss them!
4. Add all the ingredients to the bean bowl and mix well with a large wooden spoon. Shape into patties about 3-4 inch thick.
5. To pan-fry or grill, refrigerate the shaped patties for at least 30 minutes. Then grill for a few minutes on each side. Use 2-3 tbslp oil if pan-fried.
6. To bake, preheat the oven to 350 degrees F and line a baking sheet or two with parchment paper. Place the patties on the pan(s) and bake for 20 minutes. Flip, bake for 15 more minutes. Remove from oven.
7. Serve on hamburger buns and any burger fix-



ings you love! Go with the classic: vegan mayo, ketchup, mustard, pickle slices, lettuce, tomato and onion. Or get creative: barbecue sauce, Sriracha vegan mayo, avocado and arugula, etc.

Diverse Play Explores Jewish Identity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

insight and humanity, holding them open rather than answering them. A cast of seven Jewish actors, diverse in terms of age and racial identity, appear as actors in various productions of "The God of Vengeance," a touchstone of Yiddish theater. The story of that particular play becomes the vehicle to inform us about the play's vibrant lost history, and to help us grapple with the questions of identity that continue to plague the Jewish community.

It is hard to capture just how compelling and relevant this deep dive into Yiddish theater actually is. It was news to me--as, I expect, to most people--that in 1906, a young Polish-Jewish writer, Sholem Asch, wrote a play that was perhaps ahead of its time and perhaps outside of time itself. In "The God of Vengeance," an innocent Jewish girl, Rifkele, who is the daughter of a brothel owner and a former whore who aspire to respectability, falls in love with Manke, one of the prostitutes who works for her father. In their quest for respectability, Rifkele's parents have commissioned a Torah (the sacred handwritten scroll of the first five books of the Jewish scriptures) for their home, not because they are so pious but in order to attract a good husband for their daughter. When they discover Rifkele's relationship with Manke, the brothel owner, in a scene that shocked even the least observant Jews, angrily discards the Torah, and casts out his wife and daughter.

At its first reading in Warsaw in 1906, the play shocked and offended people with its depiction of two women in love, its sacrilegious treatment of the Torah, and its centering of characters who were not at all the sort that a marginalized community would want to highlight. The play was written in Yiddish, the mother tongue that tied together the community of Ashkenazi Jews in Central and Eastern Europe at the time, a beleaguered community that had endured centuries of pogroms and segregation. At the time the play was written, Jews disagreed about whether interaction with the secular, non-Jewish world would help or hinder their survival as a community, and what such interaction should look like. The first professional Yiddish theaters in the 1870s were part of a movement toward making Yiddish a

language of the arts, philosophy, and science--but Asch's play was viewed by many in that world as shaming the Jews in front of Gentiles.

Nevertheless, "The God of Vengeance" found surprisingly enthusiastic audiences for many years, with successful productions all over Europe in several different languages. Its reception in the U.S. was more mixed; a Yiddish production in New York in 1907 sparked disagreements in the Yiddish press over whether the play was indecent or an artistic triumph, and an English-language production in 1923 (which revised the play to darken the relationship between the two women) was shut down for obscenity, supported by the testimony of a prominent rabbi. The play simply did not portray who American Jews wanted to be in the world, and eventually Asch, after the Holocaust, banned further productions of it.

"Indecent" becomes a compelling rumination on this history. We follow the playwright and his wife; a tailor who becomes so inspired by the first reading of the play that he spends much of his life managing productions of it; actors who embody the story on stage while experiencing the intersections between their own lives and the play's handling of hypocrisy and forbidden love. As I watched the shifts in the play and the artists, I felt in my body the many times I have experienced pressure to show up in certain ways to benefit my community or to avoid hindering its ambitions.

The design of this production, beautifully directed by Shana Cooper, lifts the play to a plane that feels both deeply embodied and also spiritual. A uniformly wonderful cast that, importantly, includes Jews of color, inspires reverence for the role of art to help us look where we had never thought to look for inspiration and hope. And three on-stage musicians carry the soul of the play in the sounds of the accordion, clarinet, and violin. I left inspired, understood, and grateful to so many artists--including the playwrights Sholem Asch and Paula Vogel--who have lifted these questions and struggles for identity to places that are so hard to reach.

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer.

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