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## Local Theater Director Profiled

*Kevin Jones writes  
about police incident*

See story, page 3



## School Superintendent Leaving

*Carole Smith  
packing up after  
lead crisis report*

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# Portland Observer 46

'City of Roses'



Volume XLV  
Number 29



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PHOTO COURTESY NAIM HASAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Albina Head Start staff members Valerie Thomas and Evelyn Lopez join hands with their preschool kids and long time Portland education advocate Serena Stoudamire Wesley (center) during a special visit earlier this year. The most diverse Head Start staff in Oregon is poised to be on the losing end of a new state law that penalizes early education providers that hire parents and people of color with practical experience over new employees with college degrees.

# Preschool Promise Conflict

## New requirements fail kids of color, advocates say

BY CERVANTE POPE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Early education serves as an important avenue for a child's transition into their future formative years, but recently implemented legislation could negatively impact some of these children culturally.

A shift in requirements rolled in by the Oregon Preschool Promise demands a Bachelor of Arts degree from present and future early development educators,

which could potentially hinder the needed educational relationship between minority students and their culturally experienced preschool instructors.

Part of the legislation, which passed in December, is beneficial. The Oregon Department of Education's Early Learning Division seeks to award a handful of early learning facilities with funded contracts that would expand preschool options across the state. But the attempt to increase the quality of instructors in the process risks isolating kids of color, especially at Albina Head Start, the most diverse Head Start staff in Oregon, a program with a decade of flawless federal reviews and annual local audits.

According to longtime backers of the

organization, the legislation devalues the experience of well-trained instructors who have deep cultural knowledge and parenting experience to create good learning conditions for some of our most vulnerable children.

Kali Ladd, executive director for the KairosPDX Early Learning network, says the problem with Oregon Promise is that there are "unintended consequences." KairosPDX is a non-profit organization that tackles some of the consequences of Portland's low minority graduation rates and educational inequity.

The group provides culturally competent consulting and services to current in-home providers and families, friends and neighbors who serve under-represented

youth including low-income youth and youth of color.

KairosPDX has been in place in Portland for years, including Albina Head Start, whose instructors risk being negatively affected by the Preschool Promise decree.

"In my 40 plus years with Head Start, I have seen absolutely no connection between a BA and a good teacher," says Ron Herndon, the director of Albina Head Start. "This is not about professionalizing; we don't need this veneer of respectability placed upon us by people on the outside that feel this is going to help."

According to Herndon, Albina Head Start has the most diverse demographics

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# Gun Waver Banned

Michael Strickland, the videographer who was arrested at a Don't Shoot Portland rally July 8 for brandishing a gun on protesters, has been banned from two local institutions.

Both Portland State University and Portland Community College announced last week that Strickland will not be allowed on any of the institutions' campuses in the future. PCC's ban is infinite with the possibility of appeal, while PSU's will only last for two years.

Strickland is being held on a \$250,000 bail for two felony counts of unlawful use of a weapon.

PSU Public Safety Chief Phil Zerzan said in a statement that Strickland's ban was a direct reaction to his recent arrest.

PCC spokeswoman Kate Chester stated that Strickland has attended many events at the college's different campuses, including making the rounds in April during PCC's Whiteness History Month, where he filmed



Michael Strickland

and made his presence known, causing concerns from others but never posing a direct threat.

She said the ban was prudent because "the overall temperature" at PCC was a concern.

## Recruiting for Black Leaders

The Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF) is recruiting participants for its highly successful leadership academy.

The year-long training program addresses the personal, cultural, civic and professional needs of emerging African American leaders in Portland who hold a lifelong commitment to fighting for racial justice and creating lasting change in the black community.

An information session about the program will be held on Thursday, July 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Center for Self Enhancement, 3920 N. Kerby Ave.

Applications are available at [goo.gl/forms/uIkJUb5Cxfus7fz23](http://goo.gl/forms/uIkJUb5Cxfus7fz23). The deadline to apply is Aug. 5.

For more information, you can also contact Lakeith Elliott at PAALF by email at [leadership@paalf.org](mailto:leadership@paalf.org) or by phone at 503-548-1416

## The Week in Review



### Melania Trump Speech Backfires

Melania Trump has come under fire for delivering a speech on the first night of the Republican National Convention that appeared to copy portions of Michelle's address to the Democratic National Convention in 2008. Donald Trump's campaign denied allegations of plagiarism.

### Officer Targets Black Lives Matter

Police officer Tom Newberry of West Linn was placed on leave Thursday for an investigation into reports he made flagrant statements against the Black Lives Matter movement on social media. Some of the posts implied violence, such as driving through BLM protests as "target practice."

### Civil Rights Suit Filed

Former spokeswoman for former Gov. John Kitzhaber, Nkenge Harmon Johnson, the current executive director of the Urban League of Portland, filed a federal civil rights suit against Kitzhaber and former First Lady Cylvia Hayes on Friday, claiming she was fired after express-



ing concerns that Haynes was improperly asking her to mix campaign roles with her official state duties.

### Bastille Day Attacks

Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlej plowed through a Bastille Day celebration in Nice, France on Thursday night with a white cargo truck and automatic pistol, killing 84 attendees. France's investigation into Bouhlej revealed he had researched the attacks in Orlando and in Dallas before carrying out his plan.

### Officers Killed in Baton Rouge

Gavin Long, a 29-year-old black separatist, bombarded gunshots on Baton Rouge police Sunday, killing three and injuring three more. He posted many videos and writings online under the name "Cosmo Setepenra" encouraging people to "fight back" against police. One of his victims was African American.

### Police Can Help Not Arrest

Portland is joining a few other cities partaking in a program that allows police to offer help to those holding small amounts of cocaine, heroin or meth, without a criminal charge. Under the Enforcement Assisted Division (LEAD) program, the discretion to charge would be up to the officer, according to the Mercury.

### Springwater Corridor Cleanup

Mayor Charlie Hales announced Friday the city's plan to rid the Springwater Corridor of its homeless camps. The plan began Monday the 18 with social service provider outreach sweeping the trail to offer as much assistance as possible, with a clearing of trash and belongings happening on Aug. 1.

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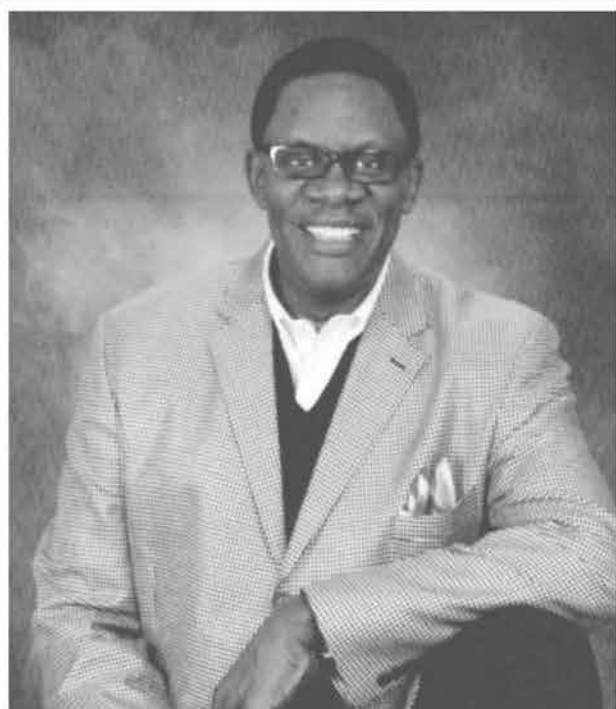
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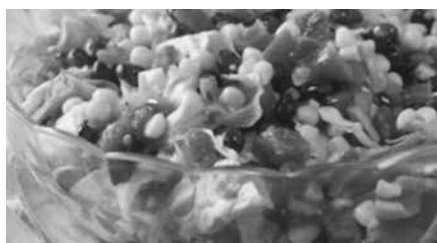
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This page  
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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?

# LOCAL NEWS



Portland School District Superintendent Carole Smith announced Monday that she has moved up her plans for retirement, stepping down now in wake of a lead crisis and a report about what went wrong and why.

## Report Sinks Schools Chief

### District put off health and safety issues

Citing the conclusion of an investigation of elevated levels of lead in school buildings, Portland Public School Superintendent Carole Smith on Monday said she will step down now rather than wait a year to retire.

The 38-page report, conducted by the Stoll Berne law firm at the school board's behest, concluded

that the district's efforts to test water, fix problems and notify the public have been woefully inadequate — if not nonexistent in some cases — for 15 years.

"There has been no 'top down' management and no supervision in this area," the report states.

The investigation found that because of budget restraints, Portland Public Schools made infrastructure and maintenance a lower priority than direct education services for years, and that neither the school board or administration considered lead in water as a sig-

nificant issue.

Portland's water system doesn't contain lead, but officials say the water can leach lead from older buildings and homes that used lead-containing solder in fixtures and fittings made of lead-containing brass.

Without federal mandates for testing water systems in school buildings and discoveries of lead in other public school systems in Oregon, Gov. Kate Brown recently called on Oregon's 197

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## Local Theater Director Profiled by Police

Long time Portland theater director Kevin Jones says he was subject to racial profiling by Portland Police for just sitting in his car.

The 63-year-old black co-founder of the August Wilson Red Door Project, an organization committed to fostering the racial diversity of young people in the arts, wrote about an incident he experienced Friday outside of the Artists Repertory Theatre on a PDX Backstage Yahoo group, while parked outside the theater in his 1976 BMW at the time.

"I was profiled last night in front of ART sitting in my car," Jones



Kevin Jones

wrote. "I wasn't manhandled. But the hand was on the gun."

Jones declined to have his story shared on Facebook by his supporters, though Portland actress Michele Mariana wrote a letter to Police Chief Mike Marshman and Mayor Charlie Hales.

"I want someone, someone in power — someone white, to get mad and stop this," his post continued. "This shit hurts."

Jones is currently working on a show influenced by what's going on with Black Lives Matter called "Hands Up," where seven play-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**



State Rep. Tobias Read helps break down barriers to college for low income, first generation students by supporting Future Connect students at Portland Community College.

# Expanding Reach for Future Connect

## Program breaks barriers to a college education

There are 1.3 million reasons why Portland Community College's Future Connect Scholarship Program is looking bright.

The PCC Foundation-funded program that breaks down barriers to college for low-income,

first-generation students was recently awarded a \$1.3 million grant from the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission to broaden the reach and impact of its services in the Portland area.

The money was allocated as part of the state's new "Aspirations to College" legislation, which recently disbursed \$3 million to similar community college programs throughout the state.

The funds will help PCC provide nearly 3,000 students with critical services and support. This

includes 480 new students being able to access coaching, instruction and transfer assistance. Program staff will also be able provide outreach services to more than 2,500 high school students residing within PCC's service area. The Future Connect staff will increase from eight to 13 by the end of the summer.

"The Future Connect team is excited about how the grant will positively impact our capacity to serve students better, earlier and further into their college careers,"

said Josh Laurie, PCC Future Connect manager.

In addition, some of the grant money will go toward bolstering other college programs that serve similar student groups. These include PCC's Fostering Success and Project Degree programs, as well as funds for the purchase of 47 laptops available for check-out by all PCC students at college libraries.

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, the Future Connect Program has had 1,200 students come through its doors. Support to make the pro-

gram thrive also comes from the cities of Portland, Beaverton and Hillsboro and from donors.

Future Connect provides scholarships, in-depth advising and college success coaching to low-income and first-generation students so they have a guided path through college, all the way to completion of a certificate or degree.

To mark its five years, Future Connect leaders will pursue an external evaluation of the program to measure its impact and to determine areas of improvement.

The Northwest Community Gospel Choir will be auditioning for sopranos, altos and tenors on Saturday, August 6, 2016. The choir performs three Gospel Christmas concerts with the Oregon Symphony each December at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Audition materials will be provided. Rehearsals begin on October 8. The ability to sight read is preferred, but is not essential.

For more information and to schedule an audition time call **503-416-6303**

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# Named Champion of Change

## Equity push brings White House honor

The White House honored Portlander Desiree Williams-Rajee Friday along with nine others from around the country as "Champions of Change for Climate Equity."

An equity specialist for the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Williams-Rajee has successfully worked with communities of color and low-income residents on a quest to educate them on climate change.

She has partnered with several community organizations to create a climate plan that not only significantly reduces carbon emissions, but also includes a preparation plan for climate impacts and outcomes in overlooked communities.

Identifying as black and Filipina, Williams-Rajee recognized quickly after moving to Portland



Desiree Williams-Rajee of Portland is honored by the White House for her efforts to include communities of color and low-income residents on matters involving climate change.

the disproportionate access areas of color had to action towards climate change.

"It did not take long to discover in Portland the people who benefited from sustainability initiatives did not look like me; the color green was in fact synonymous

with the color white and other prickly nouns like exclusion and gentrification," Williams-Rajee said. "When the opportunity arose, I was intent that the City of Portland's new Climate Action Plan would serve to correct that imbalance."

# Learn Lead Poisoning Prevention

A series of free workshops where participants learn how to prevent lead exposure in their home are offered by the nonprofit Community Energy Project.

The one-hour sessions are especially helpful for households with children or pregnant women in housing older than 1978, or those concerned about lead exposure. Qualified participants receive a free

kit of safety and testing supplies.

The upcoming workshops are Monday, Aug. 1 at 2 p.m. at the East County Women Infants and Children's (WIC) office at 600 N.E. Eighth St. in Gresham; Tuesday, Aug. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Energy Project at 2900 S.E. Stark St., Suite A; and Saturday, Aug. 27 at 3:30 p.m. at the Multnomah County Central

Library, downtown. Register for the classes at [communityenergyproject.org](http://communityenergyproject.org) or call 503-284-6827, extension 109.

# Schools Chief

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

school districts to craft procedures for testing lead, radon and other chemicals at their campuses.

In her statement, Smith said it was critical for the school board to figure out how to work together with each other as a governing board and in partnership with the superintendent.

"It is with this understanding and significant concert that I have decided to retire from Portland Public Schools now," she said.

The school board will conduct

an immediate search for Smith's replacement.

"This timing gives the board the opportunity to bring in interim leadership this summer before the beginning of school, as we continue a national search for a permanent superintendent," school board Chairman Tom Koehler said in a statement. "The board will double down on its focus to lead the district and make decisions in the best interest of the 48,000 kids we serve and the taxpayers and voters to whom we are accountable."

# Theater Director Profiled

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

wrights share monologues on how they feel about the institutional profiling of black people, the Red Door Project website reads.

"Racial profiling is not a new story. It's a very old story. It is not something that is difficult to

find out more about. If it's not something you have researched from a historical perspective, we recommend you do so and then use your position, voice and privilege to influence the situation in a productive and healing direction," Jones told the Willamette Week.

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# OPINION

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## A Voting Rights Victory in Maryland

Almost 6 million U.S. citizens are effectively locked out of the democratic process

BY MARC MORIAL

Thousands of Marylanders will regain the right to cast their ballots this election year, thanks to the state's lawmakers.



The Maryland House and Senate recently voted to override a veto by Governor Larry Hogan to ensure that ex-offenders will automatically get their right to vote back once they've been released from prison.

Previously, Maryland required all individuals with past felony convictions to complete all terms of their probation and parole before their access to the polls could

be restored through a lengthy and confusing process. That policy — which disproportionately impacted communities of color — was unduly punitive.

It delayed the restoration of voting rights for men and women who'd already paid their debt to society by completing their prison sentences. This kind of voter disenfranchisement must not be tolerated in a nation that professes to be governed by democratic tenets.

So as of March 10, an estimated 40,000 Maryland men and women currently on felony probation or parole will have their right to vote restored. For many of them, this will come in time to vote for local

and national leaders, including our nation's next president.

Maryland is joining 13 other states, plus the District of Columbia, in immediately restoring the voting rights of ex-offenders upon their release — plus two states, Maine and Vermont, that don't strip anyone with a criminal conviction of their voting rights, including when they're behind bars.

While there's much to applaud, this victory isn't enough. That's because 11 states permanently bar certain ex-offenders from ever voting again.

Today, almost 6 million U.S. citizens are effectively locked out of the democratic process because of laws that disenfranchise citi-

zens convicted of felony offenses. "These restrictions serve only to further alienate and isolate millions of Americans as they work to regain normalcy in their lives," said Representative John Conyers, a Michigan Democrat who's authored legislation that would safeguard voting rights for ex-offenders nationally.

Because of the enduring tangle of race and the criminal justice system in our nation, convicted felons disproportionately come from communities of color, effectively disenfranchising not only individuals but entire communities. Throughout our nation, nearly one in 13 African-American adults is banned from voting be-

cause of laws that disenfranchise the formerly incarcerated.

And it should come as no surprise that the states with the harshest policies just happen to be those with legacies of slavery, segregation, discrimination, and voter suppression. Just like voter ID laws, felon disenfranchisement is a tactic that suppresses voter turnout.

*Among other benefits, voting promotes public safety. Civic engagement establishes a vested interest in the well-being of the communities where ex-offenders make their homes, work, and pay taxes. We're a stronger and truer democracy when all of our citizens enjoy this fundamental right.*

## The Problem with 'Blue Lives Matter'

Tragedy creates some confusion

BY JILL RICHARDSON

We're not long into summer, but already we're long on tragedy. Police shootings of black men in Minnesota, Louisiana, and beyond. A mass shooting of police officers in Dallas.

Yet this surplus of tragedy seems to have created some confusion. So let's clear things up.

There's a difference between cops killing unarmed black people and the horrific murder of cops that just occurred in Dallas.

I don't wish to diminish the losses in Dallas, or the loss suffered any time a cop is killed. That's a tragedy beyond words. But it's still different from the

deaths of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, and so many other black men and women who've lost their lives at the hands of the police.



The cops who killed Sterling and Castile were employed to protect the public. Sterling and Castile, in other words, paid the salaries of their own killers with their tax dollars. The murderer in Dallas, on the other hand, was no public servant.

Anyone who kills a cop faces severe penalties. The Dallas shooter, after all, is now dead. But cops who kill unarmed black men, most of the time, walk free. Indictments are uncommon, and convictions are rare.

Any time a cop is killed, the entire nation agrees that it was a crime and a tragedy. President Obama came back early from

Europe to speak at a memorial service for the officers in Dallas, where former President George W. Bush also spoke. That's not necessarily the case when cops kill black men.

value as human beings by digging for any imperfection to justify the act. But that's what happens to black men killed by cops.

Police departments or unsympathetic journalists dig up old mug

shots, petty rap sheets, or any suggestion the deceased might have used drugs or had a record, even if none of those alleged crimes would have been punishable by death. They blame victims for not following instructions, or diminish the problem by calling out "black-on-black violence."

the killing of cops and the killing of black men by cops is that both are tragedies. In both scenarios, beautiful human lives are snuffed out for no reason at all.

So why is it right to say "Black

*Anyone who kills a cop faces severe penalties. The Dallas shooter, after all, is now dead. But cops who kill unarmed black men, most of the time, walk free. Indictments are uncommon, and convictions are rare.*

Moreover, nobody is now looking into the records of the murdered officers to find out if they ever did anything wrong. Nobody wonders if perhaps it's their own fault that they're dead — because of course it isn't.

It's unspeakably wrong to blame victims of a heinous crime for their own deaths, or to diminish their

The only equivalence between

Lives Matter" but not "Blue Lives Matter"? Because our nation already believes that cops' lives matter. But not everybody values black lives, and that's the problem.

*OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is the author of Recipe for America: Why Our Food System Is Broken and What We Can Do to Fix It. OtherWords.org.*



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# OPINION



## Well Intended but with Devastating Consequences

### Pre-school promise risks isolating kids of color

BY RON HERNDON  
AND KALI THORNE LADD



Black Lives Matter... it is a mantra we are all too familiar with. A mantra that emerged out of the brutality experienced from police and law enforcement. It is on the news and in the lens of anyone who can snap a picture. But there is another reality not talked about enough that gets to the heart of the same ethos. The idea that black children's lives matter, and if we don't do something to radically change how we support and educate them, we risk doing damage

that maintains a similar brutality with devastating consequences for years to come.

Portland and Oregon need to move beyond the semantics of "equity talk" to implementing policies and scale programs that do more than recycle privilege and the status quo.

One in three black children in Oregon live in poverty. Black children are 4-5 times more likely to be disciplined in schools, as early as kindergarten. Nearly 70 percent of these children are highly concentrated in the Portland metro area. Forty-four percent experience food insecurity and while 49.2 percent of black households are led by women, only 5 percent of black women participate in WIC (compared to 88 percent of WIC participants that are white).

Inequities in access to some basic fundamental needs are rampant and lay a foundation for whether or not children survive or thrive. This, of course does not take into account the added weight and stress of systemic racism and racial oppression that black children and families are subject to

every day.

Hope lies in the seeds of early-childhood and K-5 interventions. These upstream solutions are designed to lay a foundation at the critical time when the human brain is still being formed. Harvard research tells us that 700-1,000 neural connections are made per second in the first year of a child's life. The child's brain is literally growing rapidly...second by second. The good news is, we know what to do.

As the State of Black Oregon succinctly highlights – in order for black youth to succeed in school, they need the basics of good physical and mental health, a strong cultural identity, sufficient hours spent learning and positive teacher interaction and perception.

This is easier said than done though... In a series of studies, a University of Iowa research team led by Andrew Todd finds images of the faces of five-year-old black boys are sufficient to trigger whites into heightened-threat mode. "Implicit biases commonly observed for black men appear to

generalize even to young black boys," the researchers write in the journal Psychological Science.

What does that tell us? If positive teacher interaction and perceptions are critical to the success of black children, then who spends time with them -- their race and ethnicity -- in their most formative years matters. This is true now, more than ever.

In Multnomah County, over 600 African-American children are in Head Start/Early Head Start. An untold additional number are in family-based care. Thirty percent of the educational professionals in these settings are people of color. This is a significantly higher percentage than in the K-12 system. How are we supporting these early childhood professionals?

Oregon has recently introduced the Pre-school Promise legislation intended to seed ideas and pilots that exemplify how we can creatively support children in early childhood and give more children access to quality early learning experiences. In the legislation was a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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## Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY GREG PARKINSON

Ernie Lijoi as Jesus and Ithica Tell as Judas in 'Jesus Christ Superstar,' opening Thursday, July 21 at the Post 5 Theatre in Sellwood. Performances of the rock opera will run through Aug. 20.

## 'Jesus Christ Superstar' Rock Out

Jesus Christ Superstar, the spectacular musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, will open Friday, July 21st at Post 5 Theatre, 1666 S.E. Lambert in Sellwood. It will be the first time in 20 years the show has been produced theatrically with a professional cast in Portland.

The rock opera tells the story of Jesus from Judas' point of view. Energetic, powerful, and

propelled by a stirring score, the play illuminates the transcendent power of the human spirit with a passion that goes straight to the heart. Because of violent content, the production is not recommended for children.

Performances are at 8 p.m. each Thursday through Sunday through Aug. 20. Admission is \$20. Tickets will be available at the door or may be purchased at [boxofficetickets.com](http://boxofficetickets.com).

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Laquida Landford, a community organizer and health worker, surrounded by kids at the Community Cycling Center's Bike Repair Hub at New Columbia in north Portland. Landford has partnered with the center to create a bike ride addressing the deep wounds communities of color have suffered due to gentrification, with an emphasis on healing.

# Healing Wounds of Gentrification

## *Activists plan Saturday bike ride to build understanding*

Gentrification is the major talking point of the city today, but for many neighborhoods it has been a reality for far too long.

Activist Laquida Landford has partnered with the nonprofit Community Cycling Center and Donovan Smith of Ignorant/Reflections to create a "Gentrification is Weird!" bike ride addressing the deep wounds communities of color have suffered due to gentrification, with an emphasis on healing.

"Black people in Portland have been displaced. There are not spaces and places to have a conversation," explains Landford. "I thought the ride could connect the conversation around Portland's black his-

tory, particularly around Vanport. I hope the ride can provide resources and build a bridge for new black people in Portland to learn about the history."

Borrowing its namesake from a popular design produced by Smith's Ignorant/Reflections clothing line, which uses provocative imagery to create conversations, the "Gentrification is Weird!" ride will include live performances, guest speakers, food, and informational booths from an array of community organizations. There will be live performances by the Poetic Justice crew, poetry by Llundyn Elliott, and DJ Ryder will be spinning.

Mayor-elect Ted Wheeler has pledged to

attend the event and field questions from Smith, a former reporter for both the Portland Observer and the Skanner.

Wheeler called the event a great way to act together to affirm the city's dedication to a healthy, vibrant and diverse community.

"Displacement can rip people from their schools, churches, and neighbors. Portland's history on this issue illustrates it all too well," Wheeler said.

Smith calls the thread of history to present day conditions as evidence of a renaissance in the city.

"People are demanding the history of Portland and Oregon be told like it really is

more and more. Gentrification is weird! The ride is just another piece to the puzzle that is the renaissance we're living in right now."

The ride will begin at noon Saturday, July 23 at the Community Cycling Center's Bike Repair Hub in New Columbia at North Trenton Street and Woolsey Avenue and will travel to Vanport, where community members will share stories, history, and healing.

Biketown, Portland's Nike-themed rental service, will have some bikes available for borrowing on the ride.

For more information or if you need to borrow a bike, email Landford at [llandford@communitycyclingcenter.org](mailto:llandford@communitycyclingcenter.org).



# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



## Warty Pig Meets Dad for First Time

It was a big day for the Oregon Zoo's rare Visayan warty piglet Thursday when the 5-week old had his first play date with dad. A species considered among the most endangered in the world, he wasn't a bit shy, sniffing his way around the habitat and enjoying a game of "hop on pop."

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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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Pioneer Courthouse Square's summer movie series 'Flicks on the Bricks' presented by SmartPark returns Friday, July 22, with *Big* (Rated PG). Movies begin at dusk for the next five Fridays through Aug. 19. Admission is free. You can bring low back chairs, pillows, cushions or bean bags to truly make the Square your 'Living Room.' Food and beverages will be available for purchase.



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Shakespeare-in-the-Park**-- Concordia University in  
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learn more visit omsi.edu.**Summer Story Time** -- Children of all ages  
and their parents are invited to drop in for free  
summer story time at Concordia University in  
northeast Portland. The events are scheduledeach Saturday through  
the month of August  
from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
at Concordia's George R. White  
Library and Learning Center.**Norman Sylvester** -- Boogie Cat Norman  
Sylvester plays Friday, July 22 at Clyde's;  
Norman is a guest with the BB  
King Tribute at the Estacada  
Summer Celebration,  
Saturday, July 23 at 8 p.m.;  
the band plays Friday, July  
29 at Restaurant 503 in West  
Linn; and Saturday, July 30  
at Roadhouse 101 in Lincoln City.**Clothing Closet** -- Each first Saturday of the  
month, a complimentary breakfast and clothing  
drive takes place at First AME Zion Church,  
4304 N. Vancouver Ave. The goal is to clothe  
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at 503-317-1089.**Fourth Sunday Jam Night** -- A friends and  
family variety comedy show in a Saturday  
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MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

				1 Canada Day International Joke Day Day National Postal Worker Day	2 <i>First Zeppelin Flight in 1900</i>	3 Build a Scarecrow Day Dog Days Begin
● 4 CARICOM Day (Caribbean Day) <b>Independence Day</b>	5 <i>Eid al-Fitr, Muslim Holiday (6th in North America)</i> <i>P.T. Barnum born, 1810</i>	6 <i>First Picture Postcard Made</i> National Fried Chicken Day National Kissing Day	7 Macaroni Day	8 <i>Liberty Bell Cracks In 1835</i> Video Games Day	9 National Sugar Cookie Day	10 Barn Day <i>Martin Provensen born, 1916</i> Teddy Bear's Picnic Day
◐ 11 <i>E.B. White born, 1899</i> Cheer Up the Lonely Day	12 Battle of the Boyne Paper Bag Day <i>(paper bag manufacturing machine patented)</i>	13 Go West Day National French Fries Day	14 Bastille Day	15 Cow Appreciation Day <i>First Boeing 707 Flew In 1954</i>	16 <i>Apollo 11 Lifts Off on it's voyage to the moon in 1969</i>	17 <i>Karla Kuskin born, 1932</i> <i>Disneyland Opens In 1955</i>
18 National Caviar Day	○ 19 Stick Your Tongue Out Day	20 <i>Moon Day (First landing on the moon.)</i> International Chess Day	21 National Junk Food Day	22 Pied Piper of Hamelin Day	23 <i>Robert Quakenbush born, 1929</i> Ice Cream Cone Introduced In 1904	24 Amelia Earhart Day <i>Marvin the Martian First debuted in cartoons in 1948</i>
25 Thread the Needle Day	◐ 26 <i>Bert's Birthday (Sesame Street Character)</i> <i>Jan Berenstain born, 1923</i>	27 <i>Scott Corbett born, 1913</i> <i>Bugs Bunny First debuted in cartoons in 1940</i>	28 <i>Ernie's Birthday (Sesame Street Character)</i> <i>First Fingerprint taken</i>	29 <i>NASA Established in 1958</i> National Lasagna Day	30 National Cheesecake Day	31 <i>First US Patent Issued Granted to Samuel Hopkins in 1790</i>



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## Preschool Promise Conflict

### CONTINUED FROM FRONT

of both students and staff in Oregon, with around 56 percent of the children being black and approximately 42 percent identifying as Latino. In terms of the demographics of teachers, Herndon says the staff's ethnicities approximate the children.

Part of what upsets Ladd and Herndon, who have been working together in exposing the possible aftermath of the Promise legislation, is that there isn't any existing proof that a Bachelor's Degree has any affect on the validity of a preschool educator.

"People continue to build upon this myth that this will professionalize the occupation of a preschool teacher and perhaps it looks good to someone who doesn't know, but I've seen people come into the program with BAs and children run them out of the room," says Herndon. "For terms of what you get for what you invest, it's not a good investment."

That's not to say Herndon or Ladd feel a higher educational degree is a total waste, but in terms of a BA being a necessity to properly handle children, it means little.

Ladd received her BA in Elementary Education from Boston College and a Masters in Education Policy from Harvard University, so "for her to say that a BA doesn't give you any better experience in education, that's saying something" according to Herndon.

Head Start has a Center Training Assistant (CTA) Program which integrates interested parents into a career in early childhood development by offering paid training and classroom instruction as well as a substitute position once training is complete. Since 2010 alone, 70 parents have been hired on as educators with CTA.

Another important factor to consider is the financial barrier preschool educators face returning to college.

Sandy Stevens, who instructs

parents in the Head Start CTA Program at Mt. Hood Community College, sees this as a major concern along with the high turnover rate that comes when preschool teachers with degrees are hired away by competing forces.

"We cannot compete with the salaries of a school district," says Stevens. "I've been with Head Start since 1985. It's a good program. I've earned my BA and my Masters over time and people wonder why I choose to stay. I like the work that I do for this community and I don't want to leave it."

Per Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) standards, the higher the degree of the instructor, the higher star rating the facility or program receives and this puts additional pressure against the experienced preschool teacher who lacks the advanced degree.

Further, a higher star rating gets a facility or program more funding, which again proves a problem for retaining proven and existing early development educators.

"It neglects the needs of communities of color," Stevens says. "We've got staff members that speak nearly 30 languages at Head Start, yet we don't get a high star rating. I just don't see it as being very fair."

Since the legislation is still fairly green, the repercussions have yet to be completely evident. To Herndon, whatever complications arise will only burden an already lagging educational system.

"Education is about 30 years behind. They're not concerned about our outcomes; they're concerned about our pedigrees. That's why we're so behind compared to rest of the world," says Herndon.

"We would not have Apple or Dell computers, Microsoft or Facebook -- none of them were started out of a BA degree, those were started out of practical training and personal experience. If it's okay for high tech, why would we not dumb down our expectations for teacher performances to be consistent with a myth about teacher preparation?" Herndon says.

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# Devastating Consequences

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

provision intended to “professionalize” early childhood educators by requiring these educators to have a BA degree.

Though no doubt well intended, this provision could have devastating consequences and will have an adverse impact on the African-American, Native American and Latino early childhood workforce. Pre-school children from these ethnic groups will experience fewer and fewer teachers from their respective communities. As in the K-12 system, this BA policy risks isolating some of the most vulnerable children and create the conditions in which implicit bias can prevail.

Once more, there is no compelling research demonstrating that a preschool or Head Start teacher with a BA has better child outcomes than a well-trained teacher without a BA. A teacher, particularly a teacher of color, that has deep cultural knowledge and has received years of excellent on the job training is just as, if not more powerful than the latter. We have several training examples -- such as apprenticeship programs that are found at community based organizations and community colleges -- designed to prepare individuals entering skilled crafts such as carpenters or electricians. How can we learn from them to build a strong early childhood workforce and preserve the talented teachers who now risk being deemed “unqualified”?

It’s worth mentioning that there is no funding to increase in wages to match the BA qualification leaving little incentive for people to go back to college and saddle themselves with debt. That is, if they could actually get accepted into college in the first place. The inequities on the higher education side related to access and completion are already well documented.

“Traditionally, we have viewed higher education as an antidote to inequality, but our higher education system, like so many of our institutions, is rife with racial and class disparities, from enrollment to completion,” reads the report, titled Less Debt, More Equity: Lowering Student Debt While Closing the Black-White Wealth

Gap.

A few years ago eight Portland area teachers and administrators met and discussed teaching training they received at a local four year college. All eight individuals obtained bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and combined they had over 70 years of teaching experience. The common theme all eight educators shared was how poorly prepared they were to teach children. They also commented there was no clear indication their college professors had in fact ever been successful public school teachers! The idea of master teachers training and teaching up and coming teachers has not been explored meaningfully in the current higher education system.

We now have an opportunity to do something different. An opportunity to retain diversity in the early childhood workforce while creating pathways and professional development that ensure we have high-quality early childhood educators teaching our youngest children well. We have an opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue about teacher prep and teacher training based on what currently works and what currently exists instead of creating a new system that could ultimately do more harm than good in serving children who already have so much in the world stacked against them. Failure to meaningfully do this erodes belief that true systemic change for under-served kids is in fact the goal. Instead of listening to what community says they need, an avuncular approach of “let us tell you what’s best” under-scores an entirely different intent.

Ultimately, preschool aged black children are harmed by policies that do not ensure they are taught by the absolutely best trained adults; adults trained by successful practitioners with excellent experience teaching black children. Early childhood programs must be administered and funded to ensure black children are prepared to do well during their entire academic careers. Every policy and practice impacting these children should be based on successful outcome-based practices.

In the K-12 system we have

seen time and again where evidenced-based practices founded by communities of color have been largely ignored despite the compelling evidence that these very programs -- founded and led by the communities being served -- have a higher likelihood of being successful. Self-Enhancement Inc. is a perfect example of this. Despite their middle school being recognized as out-performing schools with similar demographics, there is not concerted effort to replicate the elements that made these students successful.

It is exciting Oregon is embarking upon the promise of change. It is exciting there is intentionality around supporting our youngest children having access to the highest quality early learning environments. It is a lever for systemic change that cannot be underscored enough. Let us start this work on the right track. In the absence of this commitment to do so... to listen to community, assess what is working, adequately fund successful organizations, build pathways and engage master teachers, we again consign black children to the vagaries of public school systems that have fallen short in serving them well.

*Ron Herndon is a longtime community activist and director of the Albina Head Start program. Kali Thorne Ladd co-founded KairosPDX, a non-profit focused on delivering excellent, equitable education to underserved children, their families and their communities.*

## Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



The 29th annual Oregon Brewers Festival will take place Thursday, July 27 through Sunday July 31 at Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

## Toast to Beervana

Get ready to toast the 29th annual Oregon Brewers Festival, one of the nation’s longest-running and best-loved craft beer festivals.

This year’s event will feature 88 beers from craft breweries across the nation, including two gluten-free products. There’s also plenty of live music, food booths, craft vendors and homebrew demonstrations.

The Oregon Brewers Festival takes place Thursday, July 27 through Sunday July 31 at Tom McCall Waterfront Park in downtown Portland. Gates open at 11:30

a.m. daily, and taps are open from noon to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and noon to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

There will be no admission charge to enter the festival grounds. But in order to consume beer, the purchase of a 2016 12 ounce souvenir tasting mug is required and costs \$7.

The Oregon Brewers Festival was founded in 1988 as an opportunity to expose the public to microbrews at a time when the craft brewing industry was just getting off the ground.



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# FOOD



## Corn and Black Bean Chopped Taco Salad

*A chopped salad recipe featuring corn, black beans and zesty tomatoes combined with iceberg lettuce for a side salad*

### Ingredients:

- 3 cups chopped romaine and iceberg lettuce
- 1 can (8-3/4 oz each) whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 can (15 oz) whole black beans, drained, rinsed
- 2 diced Roma Tomatoes
- 1 lime, finely grated peel and Juice
- 1/2 cup finely chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tablespoons sesame Oil
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- Handful or two of crushed tortia chips

### Directions:

Toss together all ingredients in large bowl until combined. Sprinkle crushed totia chips over the top before serving.

# RELIGION



New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 3725 N. Gantenbein, will celebrate its 70th anniversary with a series of festivities and services.

## A Legacy Worth Celebrating

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, a historic African-American congregation at 3725 N. Gantenbein under the director of pastor Rev. J. Walter Hills II, has big plans for its 70th Anniversary Celebration, an event you don't want to miss.

"A Legacy Worth Celebrating, Joshua 4:21," will be the theme of the platinum jubilee. And as part of the festivities, New Hope will be honoring former pastors, organizing a reunion choir, producing a souvenir booklet and a hosting a magnificent banquet.

The festivities will begin on Wednesday, Aug. 10 at 7 p.m., with guest preacher and former Pastor, Rev. Robert C. Joiner; then pick up on Wednesday, Aug. 17 at 7 p.m., with guest preacher and former pastor Dr. Johnny Pack IV. On Friday, Aug. 19 at 7 p.m., the Reunion Choir will be in concert. On Saturday Aug. 20 at 4 p.m., the Magnificent Celebration Banquet will be held at Self Enhancement, Inc. The banquet speaker will be the Honorable Margaret Carter with music by Tamara Stephens, Minister Terry Davis, and more.

On Sunday, Aug. 21, former Pastor Rev. Walter M. Brown Jr. will bring the message during 10



Rev. J. Water Hills II

a.m. services and the Reunion Choir will sing. The 70th Anniversary will close out the same Sunday at 3 p.m. with guest preacher and former associate minister, Rev. Robert Houston of Frankfort, Ken., music by the Reunion Choir and more.

For churches, groups, agencies, other businesses and individuals who would like to reserve space in the souvenir booklet or need more information, call New Hope at 503-281-0163 or email newhopepdx@comcast.net. To reserve your banquet ticket, call or email New Hope or go to Eventbrite.com.

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