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# Portland Observer

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

## Angola Medical Clinic has Portland Roots OHSU physician, students contribute to global community



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CAPUIA FOUNDATION

*Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capua, executive director of Oregon Health and Science University's Avel Gordly Center for Healing and assistant professor of psychiatry at the OHSU School of Medicine, opens the gates to her Good Samaritan Health Care Center in Angola, joined by patients and clinic personnel. The Portland native and other members of the Capuia family founded the non-profit clinic.*

BY BEVERLY CORBELL  
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Monique Hedmann just had an experience she'll never forget. She and two other medical students of color were able to join a mission this summer to bring hope and medical care to a beloved global community by spending time at a health care center established by a Portland-based foundation in Angola, on the southwestern coast of Africa.

The catalyst that led to the international visit was Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capua, executive director of Oregon Health and Science University's Avel Gordly Center for Healing and assistant professor of psychiatry at the OHSU School of Medicine.

Moreland-Capua, who is described as a physician, scholar, educator and orator at OHSU, is known for the voice she gives to increasing access to quality health care here at home and for people in Africa. She gives speeches about her foundation and work in Angola, and it was after

hearing her speak, at different times, that the three students from Oregon and California felt moved to get involved to the point that Moreland-Capua became a close advisor to all three.

"During my first year of medical school Dr. Alisha spoke to my class and she has been such a mentor," Hedmann said. "To do this with her, it's amazing, a dream come true."

Although they were in Africa for only a week, the experience was profound for Hedmann and the other students, Kelley Butler and Shane Hervey.

"I found new confidence in myself as a black woman in Africa — it was an all-encompassing hug," Butler said. "I came back with self assuredness as a black woman and a future physician; it was so involved and so personal."

Hervey, a third-year medical student at OHSU, said his first international experience made a distinct impression on him.

"We were in the clinic from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and I saw

four or five patients a day, while Dr. Alisha saw 30 or 40," he said. "It was very exciting. We had a full waiting room and people outside the door."

Butler, a fourth-year medical student at the University of California Irvine, was visiting Portland a couple of years ago when she and Hervey went to hear Moreland-Capua speak at OHSU, and the pair built "a really meaningful connection" with her and, years later, accepted her offer to go to Angola.

In the more than five years since the Good Samaritan Health Care clinic opened in Cacuo, outside the capital of Angola, it has seen between 800 and 1,100 patients annually, according to Daniel Capuia, Moreland-Capua's husband and her co-founder of the Capuia Foundation, a fundraising arm for the nonprofit clinic.

The couple met when they were students at Jefferson High School. Alisha is an Oregon native, and Daniel's family left Angola for Oregon in the mid-1970s because of an ending war.

Angola gained its independence from Portugal in 1975, but then the country erupted in a civil war that didn't end until 2002. It was then that Daniel's father, Estevao Capuia, was urged to go back home and help rebuild his country. He

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*Nurse Joana Ribeira-Alves (left) meets with Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capua of Portland at the nonprofit Good Samaritan Health Center in Angola started by the Portland-based Capuia Foundation. Ribeira-Alves has been with the clinic since it opened five years ago.*

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# Monument Inspired by Eagle Scout

The first African American memorial in the city of Vancouver will be dedicated Saturday recognizing the historical contributions of black U.S. Army Buffalo Soldiers stationed at Fort Vancouver.

The memorial was the inspiration of Wilson Keller, a 17-year-old Eagle Scout who recently learned about the sacrifices and bravery of Buffalo Soldiers.

“It’s so important to represent the entirety of our armed services history and the Buffalo Soldiers from the 24th and 25th Infantry who served honorably,” Wilson said.

The National Park Service, the



The historical contributions of black U.S. Army Buffalo soldiers stationed at Fort Vancouver are recognized in a new memorial that will be dedicated during a public ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 11 a.m.

Historic Trust, the Buffalo Soldiers Moses Williams Chapter, the Community Military Appreciation Committee, Boy Scout Troop #648, as well as private and business donors assisted with the installation.

The public dedication will take place Saturday, Sept. 21 at 11 a.m. in front of the Infantry Barracks at the Fort Vancouver National Site. Buffalo Soldier veterans, in-

cluding members of Willie Morehouse’s family, a Buffalo Soldier who served in Vancouver will be guests of honor.

“We are proud of Wilson, his troop, and all of the partners who made this overdue memorial a reality,” said David Pearson, Historic Trust chief executive officer and president. “The Buffalo Soldiers are an important part of U.S. history, as well as to this community.”

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## The Week in Review

### NAYA Sued for Abuse

A 29-year-old Native American woman filed a \$750,000 lawsuit last week against the Native American Youth and Family Center claiming the organization failed to protect her from sexual assaults by a janitor at NAYA’s school in north-east Portland when she was 17.

### Officer Cleared in Texts

Portland’s Independent Police Review Panel cleared a police officer last week regarding his texts and exchanges with right wing organizers of protests downtown. Early on, Mayor Wheeler and others had raised the possibility the officer was bias, but responded to the concluded investigation by saying it would have been more fair to have given the officer the benefit of the doubt.

### Fired Superintendent Settles

The Portland School District paid \$675,000 last month to settle a wrongful termination lawsuit filed by Yousef Awwad, the district’s former deputy superintendent. Awwad claimed he was fired for opposing the hiring of Superintendent Donyall Dickey, whom the district hired and immediately let go in 2017. Awwad was also under investigation for a relationship with a subordinate, but it was determined he adhered to district policy by disclosing the relationship to his supervisor.

### Sued by Animal Rights Group

An animal rights group filed a complaint last week urging federal regulators to fine Portland Community College \$10,000 each for the deaths of four lambs and two calves on the Rock Creek campus, saying the deaths could have been prevented. According to the complaint, the lambs were killed by predators, likely coyotes, and twin calves were born “small and weak” and later died.



### Kaepernick Ad Wins Emmy

Nike’s controversial ad featuring Colin Kaepernick, the NFL player sidelined after protesting justice issues at NFL games, was honored with an Emmy Award Saturday. The “Dream Crazy” ad, created by Portland’s Wieden+Kennedy ad agency and produced by Park Pictures, won the Creative Arts Emmy for Outstanding Commercial.

### Public Advocate Resigns

Oregon’s public records advocate announced her resignation last week after 18 months on the job saying she felt she was “put in an unethical position” by Gov. Kate Brown’s staff who wanted her to work for the governor’s interests instead of the public interest.

### Man Killed in Hit and Run

Police say a driver struck and killed a person walking on North-east Portland Highway near 45th Avenue at around 8 p.m. on Sunday night and then left the area. No arrests have been made.

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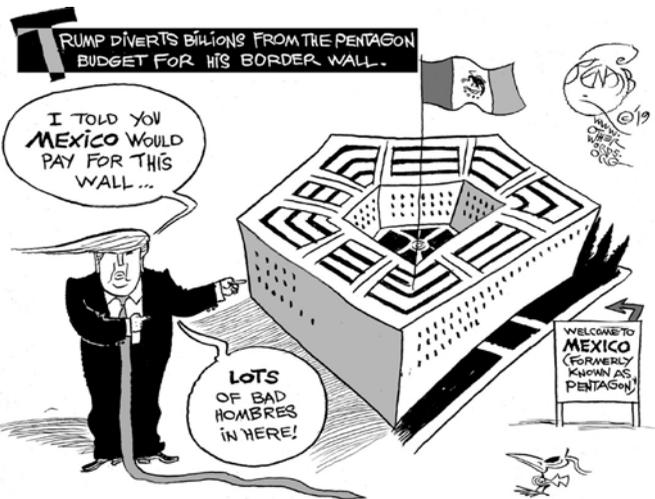
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# LOCAL NEWS

## New Leader in Justice

### Erika Preuitt to oversee community corrections

Erika Preuitt, a longtime probation and parole officer from Portland's black community, and a nationally recognized leader in community corrections, has been named the new director of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice.

Preuitt has come up through the ranks of the department over the past 25 years. She served as interim director for the last 11 months and with last week's appointment by the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, she now officially oversees the 600-person department made up of parole and probation officers, juvenile court counselors, custody service specialists, corrections technicians and administrative staff.

Multnomah County has won praise for its innovative corrections practices for juveniles and adults and for its alternatives to incarceration. But because of recent public safety cuts made by the Oregon Legislature, the department is expected to face some of its most challenging times in the months ahead.

County officials say Preuitt is known for fighting to keep caseload sizes at levels that allow



PHOTO BY MOTOYA NAKAMURA/MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS  
*Erika Preuitt, a longtime community justice advocate and nationally recognized leader from Portland, is the new director of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice.*

parole and probation officers the necessary time to work with people involved in the justice system — focusing on high-risk individuals as well as addressing racial and ethnic disparities in the public safety system.

"I have been honored to grow up in this agency," Preuitt said Thursday.

"It gives me a unique perspective of our strengths and where we need to improve. I look forward to

working with our beautiful tapestry of staff as we implement the Workforce Equity Strategic Plan, recover from devastating budget reductions and affirm our commitment to evidence-based practices, reducing racial and ethnic disparities within our system."

Preuitt grew up in northeast Portland. She was raised in a family entrenched in public service.

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## OLCC Urges Caution on Vape Pens

### Cannabis retailers, vape pen users advised

BY BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

With a handful of recent deaths and hundreds of people becoming ill from using vape pens, Margo Amala, owner of Urban Farmacy, is taking no chances.

"We are scrutinizing every product on our shelves and asking clarification from each vendor as to what's exactly in their product," she said. "We're taking this pretty seriously."

That's exactly what the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which oversees legal cannabis sales in the state, wants people to do.

OLCC Executive Director Steve Marks is asking processors



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
*A licensed cannabis retailer in Portland shows a marijuana vaping pen. Authorities are warning distributors and licensed marijuana processors to scrutinize their vape pen products for possible harmful additives.*

and retailers to take voluntary steps to review vaping devices and cartridges that may contain additives.

Marks is asking licensed processors to report any previously undisclosed additives, including Vitamin E oil, tocopheryl acetate or alpha-tocopherol. Retailers are asked to review their vaping products and to check with manufacturers about ingredients.

Six people nationwide — including one in Oregon — have died of lung disease because of vaping either marijuana or tobacco, and more than 450 in 33 states have been diagnosed with illnesses related to vaping, with an average of 19 years old.

The Oregonian recently reported that Drs. Jason Wells and David Hotchkin of the Oregon Clinic warned that "vaping is dangerous"

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# Angola Medical Clinic has Portland Roots

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

had previously been a supervisor of veterinary services at a veterinary hospital.

But before he went, Estevao Capuia visited his son and daughter-in-law in Washington D.C., where Moreland-Capuia was working toward her medical degree at George Washington University School of Medicine at the time. The three sat at a kitchen table and agreed that the most pressing needs in Angola were the development of agriculture, education and health care, but couldn't agree on which should come first. His daughter-in-law, not surprisingly, said a health clinic should come first, but no consensus was reached.

The elder Capuia then visited Angola for a month, but while he was there he had an accident that

resulted in an open fracture of his finger. He went to a government hospital, just to learn that they had no supplies or antibiotics, which after a 10-hour search, he was finally able to secure. That was enough to change his mind.

"When he got back to DC, he had an emergency procedure," Moreland-Capuia said. "Then he sat at the same table and said, 'Remember our conversation? I think you're right about a clinic.'"

The clinic is a reality now, but it wasn't easy to get off the ground because the Capuia family didn't want to risk outside influence or the possibility of corruption, even ruling out help from the International Monetary Fund and the European Union.

"So 18 of us formed a foundation," said Moreland-Capuia. "We didn't want NGOs (non-govern-



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Daniel Capuia (second from left) and his wife Dr. Alisah Moreland-Capuia (center), founders of the Portland-based Capuia Foundation, gather with the three future doctors who joined them in Africa this summer where they got valuable experience at a nonprofit medical clinic started by the Capuia family. Monique Hedmann (far left) and Shane Hervey and Kelley Butler (right) are the medical students pictured.



PHOTO COURTESY

OF THE CAPUIA FOUNDATION  
The exterior of the newly-built healthcare clinic in Angola founded by Portland physician Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia and her family-based Capuia Foundation. This past summer, Dr. Moreland-Capuia brought three medical students from Oregon and California to the African country to spend a week at the clinic treating patients as part of their training as future doctors.

ture med school students) through OHSU."

The Capuias also describe some of their motivations behind the clinic on a video on the clinic's website, where Daniel Capuia talks about the turmoil in the country before his family left.

"It was chaos — there were bombings everywhere," he said. "The Cubans were there and the Soviet Union was there and there was no way to stay. We had to flee."

Daniel Capuia knows the path ahead will not be easy.

"Sometimes you have to look back to see where you come from. If you want to make a change, make a difference, that's the route you have to take," he said in the video.

When the clinic first opened, about 40 percent of patients could not afford an exam, he said.

"It's now up to 90 percent," he said. "My father was adamant — they will never be turned away if they can't afford it."

The clinic is the only full-service clinic in an area with a population of 550,000, he said, a staggering statistic. "It's a lot of work, a lot of time and effort," he said. "But it's 'heart work' because we can see lives being changed and being affected."

Creating the clinic has even wider implications for Angola, Moreland-Capuia said in the video, and the government has recognized that this model for health care is one the entire country can benefit from.

"We are the catalyst for a large transformative movement that we believe is happening in Angola," she said.

To learn more about the Good Samaritan Health Care Clinic and the Capuia Foundation and to donate to the effort, visit the website [TheCapuiaFoundation.org](http://TheCapuiaFoundation.org).

mental organizations) or the government involved. We wanted it to be a family affair."

Moreland-Capuia said that 99 percent of funding goes straight to the clinic, which employs one physician, Dr. Andre Miranda, two nurses, one medical technician and one midwife.

"The clinic was literally built one window at a time, one door at a time, and everyone with the last name Capuia made a contribution, whatever they could," Moreland-Capuia said.

It wasn't just a matter of putting up a building, though.

"We definitely built this with the community; we didn't just impose it," she said. "We had to do infrastructure — water and lights — and all the employees are Angolan, to help build the local economy. We're proud of the model."

Moreland-Capuia is also proud of the three students. Both Butler and Hedmann have master's degrees in public health, and Hervey is thinking about going into pediatrics. But moreover, they are now ambassadors for the clinic in Angola.

"The inaugural group," she said. "They can open up to others and we will set up rotation (for fu-



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# New Leader in Justice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Her mother was the first African American woman hired as a police officer by the City of Portland and the state of Oregon in 1973. She was also one of the first five women placed on street patrol. Even with a demanding job, Preuitt's mother volunteered as a coach, was active in her church and served as "officer friendly" in local schools.

Preuitt's father is award-winning blues musician and community activist Norman Sylvester who currently is a leading advocate for a statewide Health Care for All organization.

"The example they set put me on a path of wanting to build community and influence the lives of those involved or impacted by community violence," Preuitt said of her family.

"My mother modeled courage and perseverance. She exhibited what it meant to care about the community and engaged us in these efforts at an early age. I love northeast Portland and wanted to be a part of making a difference in the community where I lived," she said.

Preuitt said she was exposed to social justice issues early in life as a student at St Mary's Academy.

"These experiences led to focusing my career on making a difference in my community, particularly working with women,



PHOTO BY MOTOYA NAKAMURA/MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS

The new director of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Erika Preuitt (center), poses with her family, including her father, Norman Sylvester (on her left) and mother Carmen Sylvester (on her right).

families and gang-involved individuals," she said.

Preuitt was first assigned to Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice Intensive Case Management Program working with justice-involved women. She also spent significant time assigned to the Adult Gang Unit, helping gang members change their behavior. Her talents were quickly noticed as she was promoted to community justice manager, then district manager, and then director of the Department's Adult Services Division. She was promoted to deputy director of the Department

of Community Justice in April 2018.

In 2017, Preuitt was also sworn in as the first African American president of the American Probation and Parole Association, the international advocacy organization for pretrial, probation, parole and community-based corrections professionals. She served as president of the group for two years.

During last week's ceremony marking her appointment, Preuitt thanked the county managers who had mentored and supported her career including Elyse Clawson, Joanne Fuller, Carl Goodman, Truls Neal

and Scott Taylor.

Preuitt said she will remain steadfastly committed to ensuring staff feel supported in their work. She also wants the department to continue learning, and always looking to the latest evidence-based best practices. And she plans to grow its work to better emphasize trauma-informed care.

"The work of community corrections is so important because of its multiplying effect. We are change agents," she said. "When our staff helps people to change their lives, a family is restored and communities grow stronger."

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## OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY  
DARLEEN ORTEGA



# Something for Every Taste

### Oregon Shakespeare Festival current season near complete

As the long season of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival nears its close, I don't want to miss the opportunity to offer five more reasons to head to Ashland, along with my previous take on the other six shows. There is something for every taste, and also plenty of opportunities to stretch your mind and broaden your tastes.

Three shows run on the outdoor stage through the second weekend in October. Smoke from local fires has complicated programming in the outdoor stage in recent years, and for part of this summer performances have been moved to a smaller indoor theater—but for the rest of the season you should be able to catch the outdoor shows on the stage under the stars where they were meant to be seen.

My favorite of the three is "Alice in Wonderland," director Sara Bruner's loving take on the classic tale of confusion and delightful nonsense. Bruner, in her first turn as an OSF director after four brilliant seasons in the acting company, has found a particularly resonant way into this material that has stuck with me since I saw it back in June. She has located in Alice the important quality of curiosity—and as played by the fierce and resolute Emily Ota, this Alice embodies curiosity as a superpower. As her path



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM/  
OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Lauren Modica (Duck), Amy Kim Waschke (Dodo), Emily Ota (Alice), Katy Geraghty (Eaglet) and Robin Goodrin Nordli (Lory) star as the Oregon Shakespeare Festival presents a loving take on the classic play "Alice in Wonderland."



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM/OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

William Thomas Hodgson (Malcom), Russell Lloyd (Ross) and Chris Butler (Macduff) are part of a stellar cast in Mexican-born director Jose Luis Valenzuela's production of "Macbeth," now playing through Oct. 11 at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

takes her on the most confusing of journeys, Alice greets each moment of disorientation with a genuine impulse toward inquiry. As gamely played by a host of talented OSF veterans who know how to communicate through not just words but inventive movement (assisted by the clever movement direction of Jaclyn Miller and the music of Cedric Lamar), the trippy characters Alice encounters challenge her with everything from intimidation to whimsy to dizzying illogic, yet she remains relentlessly inquisitive. I have reflected on Ota's portrayal often in the past few months; she and Bruner's buoyant production have helped me to see Alice as an inspiring hero, and to give curiosity its due as the superpower that it is. This production plays through Oct. 12.

Mexican-born director Jose Luis Valenzuela has been a treasure of American theater and a leader among Latinx theater artists for decades—and he is a director who inspires loyalty and admiration from actors. His unmistakable touch shows in the visual beauty and artistic intention evident in OSF's production of "Macbeth," which scrimps on neither violence nor gorgeousness. Aided by a stellar cast, Valenzuela envisions a backstory for the famous Scottish conspirators which, though not excusing their hard turn toward extreme

lethal ambition, makes some sense of it. The chemistry and talent of Amy Kim Waschke and Danforth Comins as the lead couple grip your attention even as their characters descend into the despicable carnage of their ambition, and the witches in this production (the amazing Erica Sullivan, Miriam Lauren, and Robin Goodrin-Nordli) are especially interesting; although I have not seen this view echoed elsewhere, their arresting energy struck me as less clearly malevolent than caught in the tragic tendency of ambitious humans to attempt to leverage prophetic insight in directions it was never meant to go. This production plays through Oct. 11.

"All's Well That Ends Well" generally strikes me as a play that doesn't stand up very well to scrutiny—but OSF's production mines it for delicious moments of movement, humor, and poignant recognition of how regularly what passes for love is really ill-advised magical thinking. Helen (an arresting Royer Bockus) inspires affection as the determined young woman who contrives a way to win the otherwise unattainable man she believes she loves without quite having thought through what will happen next. Daisuke Tsuji's performance as the object of her affection contains a complexity that holds the tension of how the callow Bertram could nevertheless inspire such desire—and the two together illuminate the ways in which their respective blindness is related. I especially appreciated the way that director Tracy Young employed music to bring a certain lightness to this production, especially in an early and memorable moment between Helen and a grateful King of France (the brilliant Kevin Kenerly) that flavors the play with appropriate whimsy. That lightness allows the production to glide over some of the play's

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# RELIGION

## Church Hosts Pastor and Jazz Service

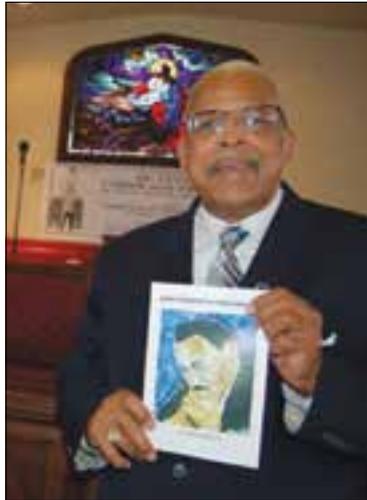
Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 N.E. 14th Ave., will host Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes for a book signing, sermon and special jazz service on Sunday evening, Sept. 22.

Haynes, senior pastor of Allen Temple CME Church, will give a 5 p.m. talk on his book about the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., with whom he marched, entitled "God's Prophet in Non-violence."

He will then be the preacher at the following 6 p.m. jazz service.

Haynes was an organizer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in Texas. He co-organized the Black Panther Party in Dallas and helped

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PORTLAND OBSERVER ARCHIVE PHOTO  
Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, senior pastor of Allen Temple CME Church, and a copy of his book "God's Prophet in Non-Violence."

## Serving Locally for 25 Years

Rev. Dr. T Allen Bethel and his wife Daphne are celebrating 25 years of service at Maranatha Church of God and several special events are being planned for Oct. 25-27.

Bethel has made an impact with his life's work here in Portland and beyond. He has been a community leader in the fight for justice and equality for those that are underserved and victims of police brutality and assaults.

The kickoff to Dr. Bethel's 25 year celebration occurred when Portland Rose Festival Foundation President Teri Bowles-Atherton had a Rose planted in his honor on the church grounds this past July. Also in attendance at



Rev. T. Allen Bethel



Rose Festival Foundation President Teri Bowles-Atherton helps plant a rose bush at the Maranatha Church of God earlier this year in honor of Rev. T. Allen Bethel and his 25th year of community service as pastor.

this celebration were members of The Royal Rosarians and Portland Rose Society, along with members of the community and Maranatha Church.

**"God's Prophet in Non-Violence" by Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes**

**Book Signing & Sermon Sunday, Sept. 22, 5 p.m. Augustana Lutheran Church**

Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, senior pastor of Allen Temple CME Church, Portland, to talk about his book "GOD'S PROPHET IN NON-VIOLENCE" about the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with whom he marched, Sunday Sept. 22, 5 pm at Augustana Lutheran Church; and preach at the 6 p.m. Jazz Service.

5 pm Book Signing w/Dr. Haynes

6 pm Jazz Gospel Service w/Dr. Haynes preaching

Jazz musicians:

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Ron Steen, Kevin Deitz,  
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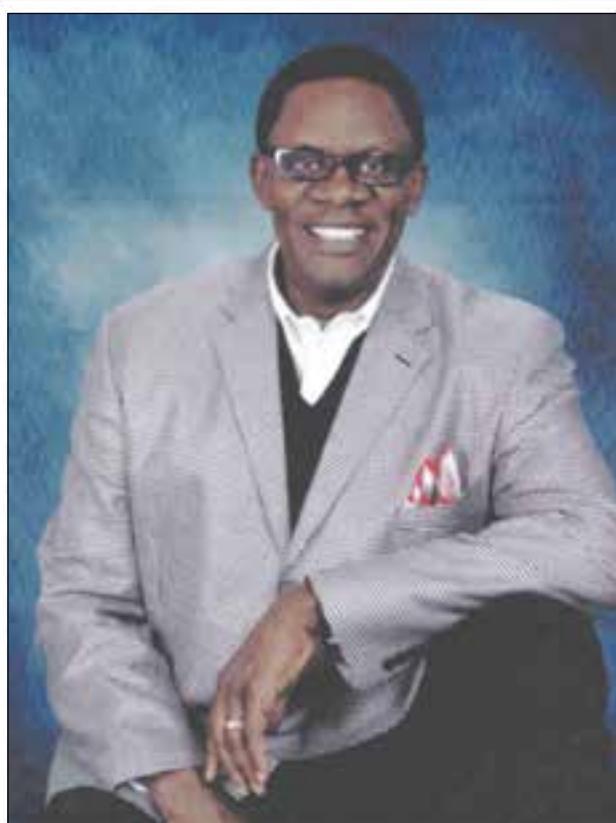
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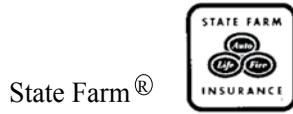
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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY BLAINE TRUITT COVERT

Luca Veggetti's "Ensemble for Somnambulists" returns to Portland for the NW Dance Project's "Infall" performances, three original dance works on three nights, Thursday, Sept. 26 through Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Newmark Theater, downtown.

## Original Dance Works

You're invited to enjoy three original dance works from three acclaimed European choreographers when the NW Dance Project presents "InFall," Sept. 26

through Sept. 28 at the Newmark Theater, downtown.

All three shows will include a world premiere by Patrick Delcroix; Ihsan Rusten's Le Fil

Rouge; and Luca Veggetti's Ensemble for Somnambulists (sleep walkers).

For tickets and more information, visit [nwdanceproject.org](http://nwdanceproject.org).

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You're invited to enjoy a live bird show, presented by The Falconer, when the Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver hosts the 23rd annual Sturgeon Festival, Saturday, Sept. 21 on the grounds of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, 4600 S.E. Columbia Way.

## STURGEON FESTIVAL SHOWCASES NATURE

You're invited to celebrate Columbia River ecosystems with breathtaking birds, remarkable reptiles and spectacular sturgeon, showcased at the 23rd annual Sturgeon Festival, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Water Resources Education Center on the grounds of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, 4600 S.E. Columbia Way.

Sturgeon is a family of fish that has been in existence more than 100 million years. Activities for the festival will also bring the

return of The Falconer for a live bird show, featuring a variety of raptors. Later in the day, a riveting live reptile show is presented by Steve's Creature Feature. Other live, native fish species will be on display, including baby salmon and lamprey.

There's a lot in store for families, including hands-on crafts and science activities. Participants will learn about recycling, trees, water safety, and the importance of actions you can take to protect our Columbia River ecosystem.



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

# OPINION

## Presidential Election 2.0 is Not Good Enough

It's déjà vu all over again

BY OSCAR H. BLAYTON

The defeat of the Democratic presidential candidate in 2016 was crushing, and many reasons have been given for why Hillary Clinton's bid for the White House went down in flames. Some people blame her failure to visit key states often enough. Others blame a lack of enthusiasm on the part of African American voters. And then there were the Russians, among many other things.

But four years after their humiliating defeat, many Democrats seem to be leaning towards agreeing that what they did in 2016 is good enough for 2020.

Enter Joe Biden, stage right, with a broad toothy grin and promises of moderation and electability.

The reaction of many African Americans to Joe Biden's appearance on the political horizon is a huge yawn of boredom. What many white politicians and policymakers in the Democratic Party do not realize is that African Americans understand that Donald Trump is not the sole problem we face today. He is merely the symptom, not the disease. And the disease has festered for centuries, mutating from one epoch to another – through slavery, Reconstruction, the civil rights movement, down to today. It is not enough to just beat Trump.

Conservative and moderate Democrats stuck their heads in the sand after November 2016 and ignored the white supremacy dynamics that were in play during the election. They resolutely proclaimed that Trump rode into office on economic anxieties. Black folk have much more economic anxiety than whites but we did not vote for Trump. Trump rode into office on anxieties over the loss of white supremacy.

In 2008, what voters of color saw in Barack Obama was a step towards social justice and racial equality. What they saw in Hillary Clinton in 2016 was a privileged white woman who had once equated youth of color with animals and called them "superpredators."

Now Democrats are asking for a "do over" in 2020, serving up a moderate-to-conservative Democrat trailing a foul-smelling political history that we ignore at our own peril. If we unpack Joe Biden's political history, we find the following:

School Busing – In 1974, as a



junior U.S. senator from Delaware, Biden promised his white constituents that he would oppose desegregating schools by busing students. In the 1970s, it was clear that many school districts were segregated along racial lines because housing patterns were likewise segregated, and busing students was the most logical solution to achieve school integration. Biden did not care about the social injustice of segregated schools. He only wanted to satisfy his racially bigoted white constituents. Because of politicians like him, school districts today are more segregated than they were in the 1970s. This is an argument backed by data. The National Center for Education Statistics' data show that the percentage of African American students attending majority white schools is down to 23 percent from a high of 44 percent in the 1980s. The current situation is equivalent to the integration level in 1969.

The Hyde Amendment – The original Hyde Amendment, passed in 1976, barred the use of federal funds to pay for an abortion except to save the life of the woman or if the pregnancy arose from incest or rape. Biden voted for its adoption and has staunchly supported that law until recently, when he began his current presidential campaign. He insists that his decision to flip on this issue was not due to politics, but he has expressed no other reason that makes sense.

Anita Hill – When Clarence Thomas was nominated to the U.S.

Supreme Court in 1991, Biden was the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. His aggressive questioning of Anita Hill, an African American law professor who accused Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment, appeared to many Americans to be inappropriate and hostile. Hill told the Huffington Post Live that Biden did a disservice to the American public when he refused to call other witnesses who could have corroborated Hill's characterization of Thomas' behavior as sexually inappropriate. And she asserted that this failure got in the way of bringing to the public a better understanding of sexual harassment. It took Biden almost 18 years to offer an apology to Anita Hill after acknowledging that his actions during the Thomas hearings were "wrong." But this 2019 apology was so weak and disingenuous; Anita Hill refused to accept it.

The 1994 Crime Bill – Biden does not deny that he was the architect of the 1994 Crime Bill. But what he does deny, in the face of facts to the contrary, is that it led to mass incarceration in America. And the weight of that outcome was borne mostly by people of color. Attempting to execute a complicated two-step shuffle, Biden denies that the bill led to mass incarceration while at the same time trying to distance himself from responsibility for the impact of the bill. But his maneuvers have been met by sharp criticism from several other Democratic presidential candidates who believe he should accept responsibility for fostering such bad policy.

The road to Donald Trump was paved with politicians like Biden, their big grins and folksy sayings masking an indifference to the suffering of people of color. You can find them at every level of government, professing not to be racist, but tolerating racism in local, state and federal policies. Politicians like these ask us to forget and forgive while they provide us with nothing but empty promises and disappointment. But there must be some accountability for politicians like Biden because, while he is not the first of his kind, unless people of conscious act, he will not be the last.

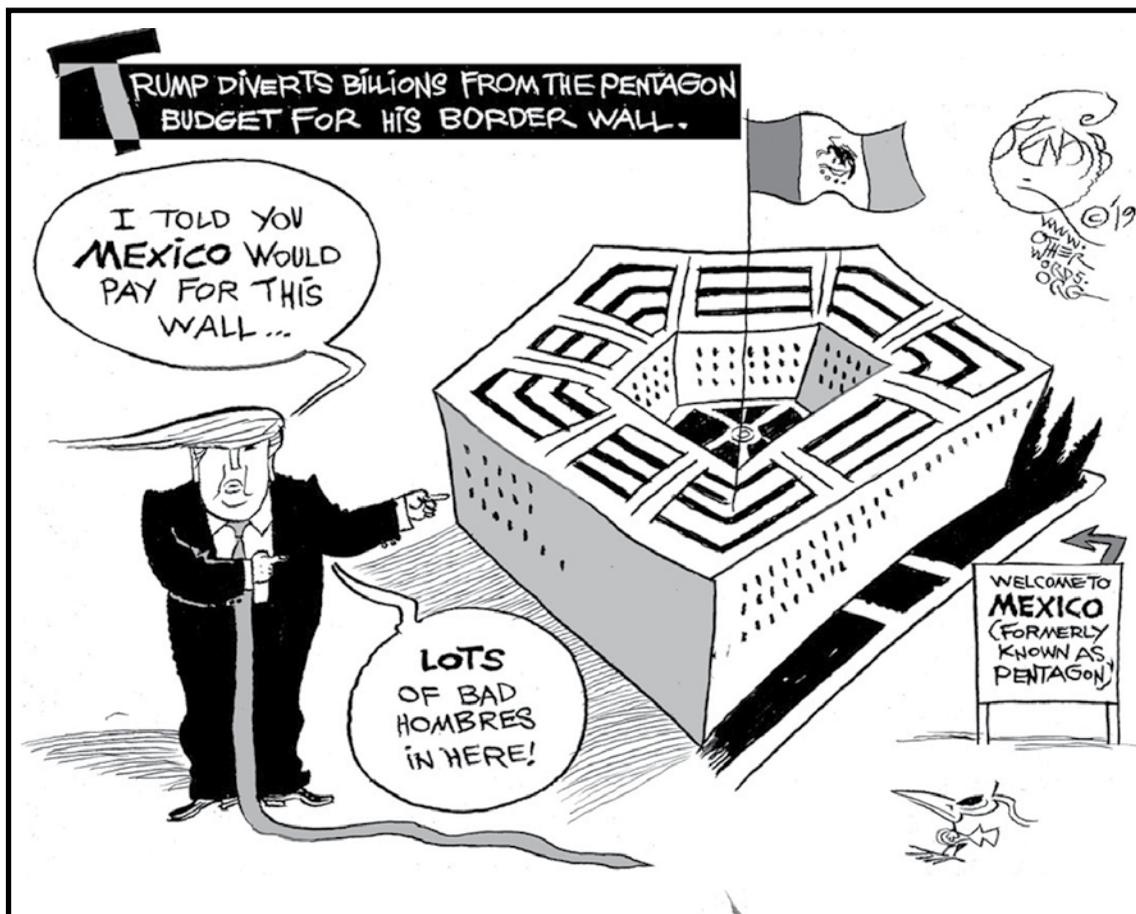
One way to bar the doors to elected office against politicians who shrug off their past trespasses and look to escape responsibility for causing human suffering is to borrow the three strikes rule from Biden's 1994 Crime Bill.

According to the Department of Justice's Criminal Resource Manual, the three strikes law was created to take violent criminals off the streets by giving them enhanced punishments. Since Biden wrote a bill that supported the idea that a three strikes rule would bring an end to bad behavior, perhaps that concept should be applied to him.

Opposition to school busing – strike one. The Hyde Amendment – strike two. Anita Hill's treatment – strike three. And for good measure: The 1994 Crime Bill – strike four.

Joe, you're out, go home.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.



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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### Portland Community College (PCC)

#### Facilities Plan II: Development Planning

**Bids Due: November 5th, 2019 at 2:00 PM Pacific Time**

Portland Community College (PCC) invites qualified architectural and urban design firms to submit proposals for the second phase of its college-wide Facilities Plan. It is anticipated that this contract will be two years from the date the contract is signed by PCC.

The proposed project will expand on the work conducted in the first phase of the Facilities Plan, which was essentially an existing conditions assessment of all college-owned facilities, to determine appropriate development patterns and growth capacity. Also included will be an assessment of possible new locations for college expansion to meet future demand. Visioning exercises and development strategies are anticipated outcomes that will meet academic programming and support service goals of the college. More detailed information is available in the full RFP.

Interested proposers must submit a proposal pursuant to the provisions of this solicitation to Robert Lowe, or designee, at the Office of Planning & Capital Construction, Suite #260, 9700 SW Capitol Highway, Portland OR 97219.

**SOLICITATION DUE DATE AND TIME (CLOSING):  
November 5th, 2019 at 2:00 PM Pacific Time**

Proposals will be opened and recorded. The number of proposals received, the identity of proposers, or the contents of any proposal will not be disclosed to the public until all proposals have been evaluated, negotiations completed if required, and a recommendation for award has been published.

Proposers are solely responsible for ensuring that Portland Community College receives its proposal.

**LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

**A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING is scheduled for 10/1/2019 from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM at the PCC's Cascade Campus, 705 N Killingsworth St, Portland, OR 97217, Terrell Hall Building, Room 122.**

Prospective proposers may obtain the RFP and its mandatory addenda on the ORPIN website:

<https://orpin.oregon.gov/open.dll/welcome>. Interested proposers who are not equipped to download the document may request a copy of the RFP by contacting: Robert Lowe, Office of Planning and Capital Construction by email: [robert.lowe3@pcc.edu](mailto:robert.lowe3@pcc.edu).

Emerging small businesses, as well as minority-owned, women-owned, and service disabled veteran-owned enterprises are encouraged to submit a response to this RFP solicitation.

All questions and comments regarding this solicitation shall be directed ONLY IN WRITING to Robert Lowe, by email to: [robert.lowe3@pcc.edu](mailto:robert.lowe3@pcc.edu).

**PROPOSALS SHALL BE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SOLICITATION. THE COLLEGE MAY REJECT ANY PROPOSAL NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL PRESCRIBED REQUIREMENTS.**

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### CONSTRUCTION AUDIT SERVICES

**Proposals Due by: October 8, 2019 - 2:00PM (Pacific)**

Portland Community College ("PCC" or "College") is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to provide Audit Services for construction projects undertaken by the College. The College proposes to enter into a price agreement with up to three qualified firms.

Interested Proposers must submit a Proposal pursuant to the provisions of this Solicitation to:

Portland Community College  
Office of Planning and Capital Construction  
9700 SW Capitol Highway - Suite 260  
Portland OR 97219

**Proposals must be submitted NO LATER THAN:  
SOLICITATION DUE DATE AND TIME (CLOSING):  
October 8, 2019 at 2:00 PM Pacific Time**

Proposals will be opened and recorded following solicitation closing. The number of Proposals received, the identity of Proposers, or the contents of any proposal will not be disclosed to the public until all proposals have been evaluated, negotiations completed if required, and a recommendation for Award has been published.

**Proposers are solely responsible for ensuring that Portland Community College receives its Proposal.  
LATE, FAXED, OR EMAILED PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Prospective Proposers may obtain the RFP document, and any Addendum issued, from the State of Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN). Proposers must register with ORPIN at: <http://orpin.oregon.gov> to obtain the RFP.

Emerging small businesses, as well as minority-owned, women-owned, disadvantage-owned, and service disabled veteran owned enterprises are encouraged to submit a response to this RFP solicitation.

**All questions and comments regarding this solicitation shall be directed to James Lasseter by email to: [james.lasseter@pcc.edu](mailto:james.lasseter@pcc.edu).**

**PROPOSALS SHALL BE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SOLICITATION. THE COLLEGE MAY REJECT ANY PROPOSAL NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL PRESCRIBED REQUIREMENTS.**

**Dated this 18th Day of September, 2019  
James Lasseter - PCC Buyer and Contract Specialist**

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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) SOURCING

### MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Event No.: RFP-35-2020

Sourcing Event Name:

Youth Stability and Homelessness Prevention Services

Proposals due by 4:00 P.M. on: October 28, 2019

Pre-Proposal Conference:

There will be a pre-proposal conference for this sourcing event on Thursday, September 26th at

1:00PM at The Multnomah Building, Room 126, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, OR, 97214.

Attendance is: Optional

### Youth Stability and Homelessness Prevention Services

#### SUMMARY:

Multnomah County Department of County Human Services' Youth and Family Services Division (YFS) is seeking proposers from whom it may purchase Youth Stability and Homelessness Prevention (YSHP) services for youth under the age of 18.

#### RFP AVAILABILITY:

To access the RFP, visit <https://multco.us/purchasing/bids-proposal-opportunities> then scroll down for new business opportunities.

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Multco Marketplace Supplier Network. Suppliers will need to register at this portal in order to submit a response. Proposals are accepted until, but not after, 4:00PM on the close date of the Sourcing Event.

Multnomah County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if not in compliance with the Request for Proposals (RFP) procedures and requirements and to reject any or all proposals or to cancel the Sourcing Event if Multnomah County finds it is in the public interest to do so.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY PURCHASING

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Last year's Eagle Creek Fire was a massive and destructive wildfire in the Columbia River Gorge that became a life and death scenario for people trying to escape the flames. "Escape from Eagle Creek," is a new documentary produced by University of Oregon media graduate students that gets its premiere on Sunday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Clinton Street Theater.

# Escape From Eagle Creek

A new documentary about the massive 2017 Eagle Creek Wildfire in the Columbia River Gorge is receiving its red carpet premiere and some deserving recognition.

The short film produced by University of Oregon media graduate students, including Danny Peterson, a Portland Observer reporter for the past two years who recently accepted a new reporting job at KOIN, will premiere at Clinton Street Theater, 2522 S.E.

Clinton St. on Sunday, Sept 22 at 6 p.m.  
 "Escape from Eagle Creek" shows how a hike in one of Oregon's most beautiful destinations becomes a life or death scenario for 150 people who are blocked from exiting due to the wildfire.

With interviews from survivors who became their own rescuers, the documentary features videos and photos from the hike, as well as testimony from the hikers of the harrowing experience that changed their lives.

The film was accepted at this month's Oregon Independent Film Festival for Best Environmental Documentary. It was named Best of the Northwest from the Alliance for Community Media and won an Emerging Talent award from the Alaska International Film Awards.

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## Something for Every Taste

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

trouble spots and helped me to see the resemblance between the mistakes these characters make and the typical ones that I might see in real life, including in myself. The production plays through Oct. 13.

Rosa Joshi is a classical director to watch for; her take on Shakespeare's "Henry V" last year at OSF took audiences by storm, and next year she will be back to direct "Bring Down the House," a two-part adaptation of "Henry VI." I can't say that her "As You Like It" is as exciting as her work on the history plays (I was also amazed by the production of "Richard III" that she recently directed in Seattle), but there is still much to admire in this production. Joshi has a compelling design aesthetic and, like in the other productions I have seen, this one has an unusually keen visual and aural sensibility, imparting through costumes, set, sound, and lighting a compelling contrast between the restrictive, male-dominated world of the court and the relative freedom of the Forest of Arden where women are in charge. This production also employed all female designers, in keeping with Joshi's commitment to making space for female sensibilities in the male-dominated world of classical theater. The

play deals with love and identity--how love changes us, how we try to change it, how the identity we adopt affects how we are able to express and receive love-- and this production benefits from a buoyant cast who approaches the material with joy and playfulness, and experiments with casting

leave very happy. It's meant to be a celebration of inclusivity, and director Christopher Liam Moore has underlined that point by casting several roles with people with disabilities. For me, the musical's nod toward racial equality left me dissatisfied; its analysis feels dated, white-centered, and oblivious to ways in which the talented black performers are being up-



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM, OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival presents "Hairspray--The Broadway Musical." Pictured are Kimberly Monk, Safiya Fredericks and Johnique Mitchell as members of the 'Dynamite' ensemble.

many roles with women and with trans and non-binary actors. Like the heroine, Rosalind (a luminous Jessica Ko), this production experiments with gender presentation to discover a new kind of freedom and authenticity. The production plays through Oct. 26.

Finally, a popular production of "Hairspray" pops with energy and enthusiasm, and fans of this particular musical will likely

staged. That said, I can't fault any of the performances; everyone is showing up with joy, enthusiasm, and their hearts fully engaged. The production plays through Oct. 27.

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*.

## Church Hosts Pastor and Jazz Service

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

to expand it across the state. He currently serves as chairperson of the Albina Ministerial Alliance for Justice and Police Reform and is a past President of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Jazz musicians Marilyn Keller, Ron Steen, Kevin Deitz and George Mitchell will perform. All are welcome.

Augustana Lutheran Church is under the direction of pastor Dr. W. J. Mark Knutson.

## Caution on Vape Pens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and suspected it was a factor in the death of the Oregon patient, whom they treated. They said the person who died was likely vaping cannabis oil that was bought at two legal cannabis stores, but they hadn't determined yet what the product was. Some experts have pointed to chemicals added as thickening agents such as vitamin E acetate, but not have named it directly.

Amala said vendors are also taking precautions and she has gotten letters and statements from many of them. She said, so far, she's only pulled one product off her shelves

because of questionable additives. Some companies state they are only using straight cannabis oil with no additives for their vape pens, she said, while others state they are not using any thickening agents. Some just list "natural flavor" which is very undefined.

Last week Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar announced that the Federal Drug Administration is working on a policy to outlaw most flavored vape tobacco products. Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden also proposed a new nationwide e-cigarette tax, which would include e-cigarettes as a taxable nicotine product.

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