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The Portland Observer

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Committed to Cultural Diversity

Starting Students Off on the Right Foot

Nordstrom Kicks Off 12th Annual Giving Campaign to Shoes That Fit with \$1 Million Goal

Nordstrom teamed up with Nike and Shoes That Fit to donate 40,000 shoes for kids in need. From August 11 through October 15, we're inviting customers to participate in our 12th annual Shoes That Fit giving campaign with a goal of raising \$1 million.

A shoe delivery event was hosted at Dr. Martin Luther King Elementary school. The event included free Nikes for all students, gift bags for the kids, a DJ and a special appearance from soccer star Crystal Dunn from the US Women's National Soccer Team and the Portland Thorns. Nordstrom employees helped kids get fitted for their sneakers.

Each fall, Nordstrom looks forward to helping kids start off the school year on the right foot. This year reaches an exciting milestone, providing more than 300,000 pairs of brand-new, properly fitting athletic shoes to kids in the local communities we serve since 2010.

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of Shoes That Fit, Nordstrom is looking forward to raising the bar with our biggest giving campaign to date. "Giving



PHOTO CREDIT TO SHAWNTELL WASHINGTON

King Elementary students pose with soccer star Crystal Dunn, Amy Fass, CEO of Shoes That Fit, Tacey Powers, Executive Vice President, General Merchandising Manager at Nordstrom and Jen Ewell, Brand Marketing Director at Nike

back to the community has been rooted in our 121-year history, since our beginnings as a shoe store," said Jamie Nordstrom, chief stores officer at Nordstrom. "Helping to provide for the basic needs of children and families is core to who we are at Nordstrom. We're excited to team up with

Shoes That Fit and Nike to help kids start the school year feeling comfortable, confident and ready to learn."

"Shoes That Fit is honored to partner with Nordstrom and to continue growing the partnership to provide shoes to more children who need them," says Amy Fass,

CEO and Executive Director of Shoes That Fit. "Their core values of family, integrity and respect fit hand in glove with our own—they know how important it is to invest in a child's dignity. And the kids love Nike! They truly understand the joy and confidence that these shoes inspire."

Rent Cap Increase for Oregon Renters



A 'Now Leasing' sign hangs off an apartment building staircase in southeast Portland, Ore., on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2021. (AP-Sara cline)

Evictions have increased statewide

According to State officials the 2023 rent cap in Oregon will be 14.6%. The news comes as statewide evictions are increasing and the pandemic tenant protections are coming to an end on September 30.

Rent in the coming year for a \$2,000-per-month unit may be increased by \$292 monthly under the 2023 cap. Those who live in the city of Portland may be eligible for relocation assistance depending on how much their rent goes up. As soon as next month, renters could receive notice of

a massive rent increase.

Many Oregon families lack an affordable and safe place to call home, this announcement marks a very real threat of increased housing instability and homelessness among those with below income living wages. Kim McCarty, Executive Director of Community Alliance of Tenants whose organization's Renters' Rights Hotline has experienced an increase in calls since the pandemic. McCarty stated "People with housing who are just barely making it are already terrified of being forced to live in cars or in tents and their fears are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Oregon Teacher of the Year Program Celebrates 16 Regional Winners for 2023

Oregon educators honored for their outstanding leadership and impact

The Oregon Department of Education, in partnership with the Oregon Lottery, announced Oregon's 2023 Regional Teachers of the Year! All across the state this week, communities have held celebrations recognizing these 16 regional winners.

Every day in Oregon classrooms, teachers offer their innovation, energy and content mastery in support of students across the state. The Oregon Teacher of the Year Program recognizes and honors teacher excellence, with the state Teacher of the Year serving as the face and voice of exemplary educators across Oregon. Candidates for Oregon Teacher of the Year are exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled licensed public school educators in grades preK-12.

"Through countless challenges in the past several years, Oregon educators have



continued to consistently come through for Oregon's students," said Colt Gill, Director of the Oregon Department of Education. "It is with high honor that we celebrate these 16 Regional Teachers of the

Year from across the state!"

Regional winners were identified through a local nomination, application and selection process facilitated by Education Service Districts. Applicants submit-

ted testimonials and letters of support and were assessed by a diverse panel of regional representatives on the attributes of leadership, instructional expertise, commitment to equity, community involvement, understanding of educational issues, vision and professional development.

Each Regional Teacher of the Year will receive a \$1,000 award from the Oregon Lottery, and is automatically considered for the honor of 2023 Oregon Teacher of the Year which will be announced later this fall.

"The Oregon Lottery is honored to play a role in celebrating Oregon educators' hard work, passion, and dedication," said Oregon Lottery Director Barry Pack. "The Teacher of the Year Program provides well-deserved recognition to teachers across Oregon who are helping their students build a foundation for the future."

2023 Oregon Regional Teachers of the Year include Ron Antlitz, Gwen Bartlett, Sydney Thompson, Connie Robbins, Ben Lawson, Travis Reeser, Derek Burbank, Scott Crowell, Heather Greel, Ken Dickey, Amanda Jensen, Laury Rodriguez, Steven Taylor, Steven Taylor, Erin Green, David Duncan and Rosa Floyd.

Additional information about the program can be found on the Oregon Teacher of the Year website.

Overcoming Problem Gambling

Oregon Summers

Fairs and festivals. Barbeques and beaches. Summertime in Oregon has so much to offer — so many distractions from life's daily challenges. For some of us, it's easy to throw ourselves into a flurry of summer fun instead of doing the important work of overcoming issues that might be negatively affecting us. Issues like out-of-control gambling.

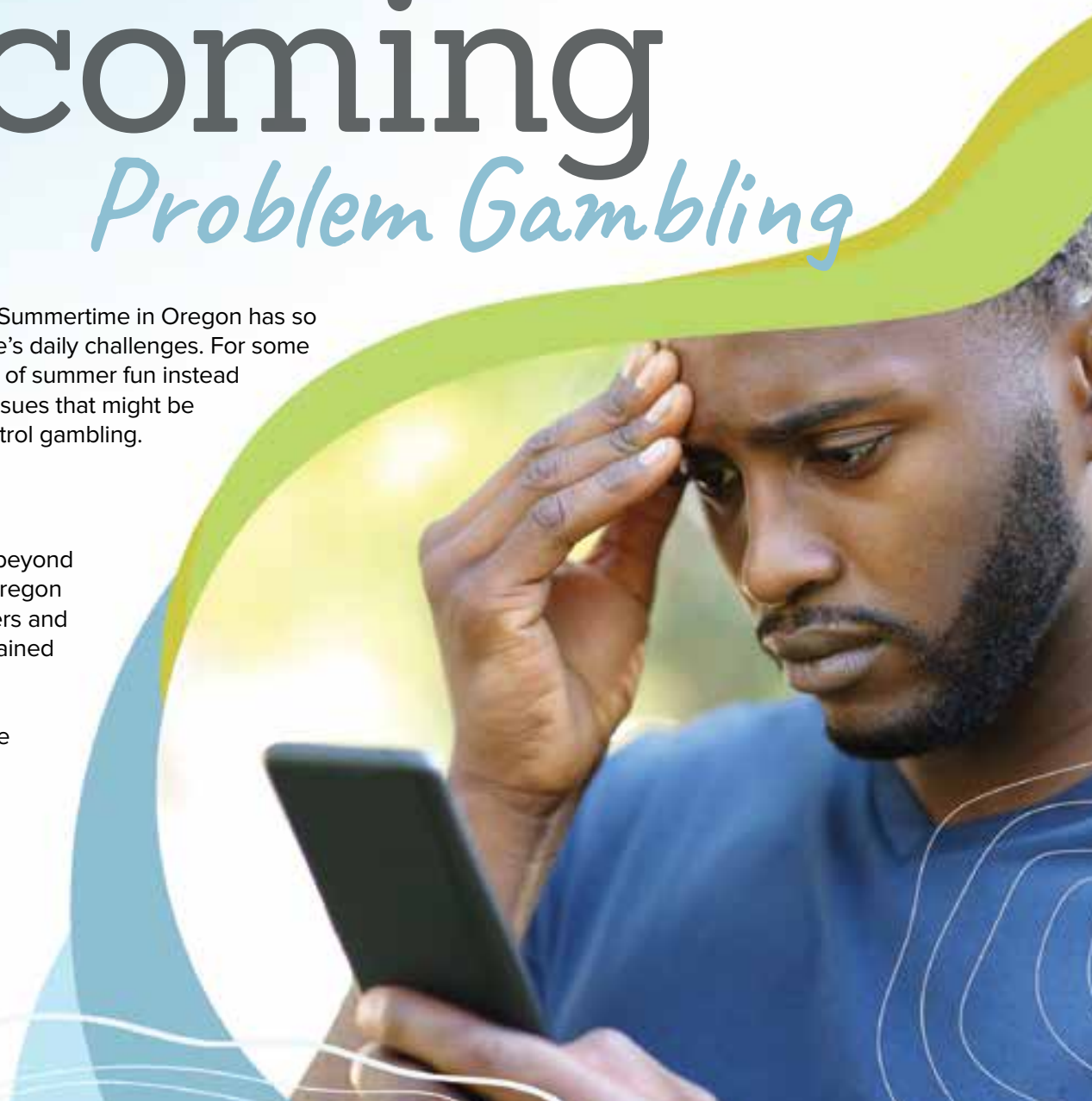
Free Help is Available

If you have a gambling habit that has grown beyond your control, help is available. Through the Oregon Problem Gambling Resource (OPGR), gamblers and those who love them can get support from trained addiction counselors, often right from home. Treatment is effective. People are ready and waiting to provide better mechanisms to cope and to heal. And, best of all, it's free.

All it takes is a phone call, a text, or an online chat to get started. Reach out. Let this summer be your season for change.

For more information, visit

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ENTERTAINMENT



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The Portland Observer

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PUBLISHER: Mark Washington, Sr.

EDITOR: Shawntell Washington

OFFICE MNGR/CLASFS: Lucinda Baldwin

Admin.Coord.: Quayuana Washington

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Kenya Anderson

LOCAL NEWS



Buddy Walk Photo

The Downs Syndrome Network Oregon Presents Buddy Walk

The Downs Syndrome Network Oregon will be having a Buddy walk. The walk will take place on September 25 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Celebrating almost 76 Years of Service from the Heart, Lake Oswego Lions Club continues to love and support the Downs Syndrome Network of Oregon and we will be back to serve up our famous hot dogs and "Lions-burg-

ers" at the 2022 Buddy Walk on Sunday, September 25th!

Down Syndrome Network Oregon began in 2002 by two women whose children were born with Down syndrome. It began as a small group of parents getting together to share their experiences over coffee. It did not take long to realize the value of a support network of

parents and caregivers who are raising a child living with Down syndrome or other challenges.

Community members can contact the Volunteer Coordinator if anyone is interested in volunteering to help. If you'd like to join a Buddy Team or make a donation, Lake Oswego Lions Club Buddy Team can be found at For more information see <https://dsno.org>.

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Unitus Hispanic Heritage Celebrations

Unitus Community Credit Union is proud to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month to honor the history and culture of the Latino and Hispanic communities and their social, cultural, and economic contributions. This annual month-long celebration is held from September 15 – October 15.

As part of Unitus ongoing commitment to creating an inclusive environment for staff, members, and community, the credit union is proud to partner with local community organizations that are dedicated to creating stronger

communities for all. Unitus is proud to host several upcoming events, while supporting partner-led events throughout Hispanic Heritage Month.

The next event that will be approaching is the El Festival de Mariachi on September 25th. This will be held at the Ron Tonkin Field in Hillsboro. The event is free and open to the public from noon–6 p.m. There will be local high school and professional mariachi bands performing.

Unitus is proud to be involved with local community initiatives

that provide support for Latino and Hispanic communities. "We are proud of our partnerships and the connections we continue to make within our communities," said Steven Stapp, President and CEO of Unitus Community Credit Union. "Through these partnerships, we can better identify and remove barriers that are preventing community members from accessing financial services. We believe we are stronger together and when we collaborate to create inclusive spaces, we all benefit."

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A PLACE FOR FRIENDS

Rent Cap Increase for Oregon Renters

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

justified. The leading cause of the homelessness that we see throughout the state is the rising cost of housing, and the lack of affordable housing leading to evictions. Having a job is no longer an indicator of your ability to remain housed."

JOIN is a homeless services agency helping families avoid homelessness and get stable in housing after life on the streets. Katrina Holland who is the Executive Director of JOIN says "More families falling into new homelessness due to evictions or rent increases will be stretching our homelessness response system beyond its already burdened capacity. What we see with homelessness now is nothing like what it could become. These conditions affect not only our ability to say yes to folks

looking for rent assistance, but also how many people we can say yes to. Rent assistance only goes so far for so many as rents continue to increase."

The Oregon Law Center advises if you applied for rent assistance before July 1, 2022 and haven't received it, you should contact the agency they applied through to see if they need anything else from you to speed up the application. If your landlord takes you to eviction court, contact the Oregon Law Center Eviction Defense Project at 888-585-9638.

Stable Homes for Oregon Families is a coalition of housing advocates, labor unions, education and health professionals, businesses, and citizens who believe in the stability of home. They are a diverse coalition of people and organizations that recognize Oregon's opportunity to help solve the housing crisis and secure our future.

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SPORTS

Griner Release Negotiations Strained

Whelan, Griner families to meet President Biden

(AP) -President Joe Biden plans to meet at the White House with family members of WNBA star Brittney Griner and Michigan corporate security executive Paul Whelan, both of whom remain jailed in Russia, the White House announced Thursday.

"He wanted to let them know that they remain front of mind and that his team is working on this every day, on making sure that Brittney and Paul return home safely," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said at Thursday's press briefing at the White House.

The separate meetings are to be the first in-person encounter between Biden and the families and are taking place amid sustained but so far unsuccessful efforts by the administration to secure the Americans' release. The administration said in July that it had made a "substantial proposal" to get them home, but despite plans for the White House meetings, there is no sign a breakthrough is imminent.

"While I would love to say that the purpose of this meeting is to inform the families that the Russians have accepted our offer and we are bringing their loved ones home — that is not what we're seeing in these negotiations at this time," Jean-Pierre said.

She added: "The Russians should accept our offer. The Russians should accept our offer today."

Griner has been held in Russia since February on drug-related charges. She was sentenced last month to nine years in prison af-



WNBA star and two-time Olympic gold medalist Brittney Griner is escorted from a court room after a hearing (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

ter pleading guilty and has appealed the punishment. Whelan is serving a 16-year sentence on espionage-related charges that he and his family say are false. The U.S. government regards both as wrongfully detained, placing their cases with the office of its top hostage negotiator.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken took the unusual step of announcing two months ago that the administration had made a substantial proposal to Russia. Since then, U.S. officials have continued to press that offer in hopes of getting serious negotiations underway, and have been following up through the same channel that produced an April prisoner

swap that brought Marine veteran Trevor Reed home from Russia, said a senior administration official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in advance of Thursday's formal announcement.

The negotiations, already strained because of tense relations between Washington and Moscow over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have also been complicated by Russia's apparent resistance to the proposal the Americans put on the table.

The Russians, who have indicated that they are open to negotiations but have chided the Americans to conduct them in private, have come back with suggestions

that are not within the administration's ability to deliver, said the administration official, declining to elaborate.

The administration has not provided specifics about its proposal, but a person familiar with the matter previously confirmed it had offered to release Viktor Bout, a convicted Russian arms dealer who is imprisoned in the U.S. and who has long been sought by Moscow. It is also possible that, in the interests of symmetry, Russia might insist on having two of its citizens released from prison.

Biden spoke by phone in July with Griner's wife, Cherelle, and with Whelan's sister, Elizabeth, but both families have also re-

quested in-person meetings. On Friday, Biden plans to speak at the White House with Cherelle Griner and with the player's agent in one meeting and with Elizabeth Whelan in the other, according to the official.

The meetings are being done separately so as to ensure that each family has private time with the president. But the fact that they are happening on the same day shows the extent to which the two cases have become intertwined since the only deal that is presumably palatable to the U.S. is one that gets both Americans — a famous WNBA player and a Michigan man who until recently was little known to the public — home together at the same time.

In the past several months, representatives of both families have expressed frustration over what they perceived as a lack of aggressive action and coordination from the administration.

Cherelle Griner, for instance, told The Associated Press in an interview in June that she was dismayed after the failure of a phone call from her wife that was supposed to have been patched through by the American Embassy in Moscow left the couple unable to connect on their fourth anniversary.

Whelan's relatives have sought to keep attention on his case, anxious that it has been overshadowed in the public eye by the focus on the far more prominent Griner — a two-time Olympic gold medalist and seven-time WNBA all-star. They also conveyed disappointment when Whelan, despite having been held in Russia since December 2018, was not included in a prisoner swap last April that brought home Reed.

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Portland Youth Philharmonic performs

PHOTO BY MASON PEREZ

Portland Youth Philharmonic Announces Premiere

The 99th season is packed with performances, including never before heard works

Portland Youth Philharmonic (PYP) is the United States' longest running youth orchestra. In its historic 99th season, PYP is excited to present beloved classic masterworks alongside many new compositions that are sure to awe and inspire audience members from all walks of life.

Award-winning pianist Llewellyn Sanchez-Werner returns to Portland to make

his debut with the Philharmonic Orchestra in performances of Ponce's *Balada Mexicana* and Stark's *Variations for Piano and Strings*. Llewellyn is known for his "mesmerizing artistry and extraordinary ability to communicate" (*The Post-Standard*), as well as his "masterful technique and a veritable deluge of sonorities" (*La Presse Montreal*). PYP will conclude the season with Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* in collaboration with the Portland Symphonic Choir.

"This year, the Portland Youth Philharmonic is introducing many pieces never before heard in our community, including multiple world premieres," noted PYP's Musical Director David Hattner. "We'll also present PYP's first-ever performance of the Ninth Symphony by Beethoven, a momentous occasion and

our first collaboration with the Portland Symphonic Choir. Our season, like our entire history, is a crescendo that leads to the 100th anniversary season next year!" Coined as "perhaps the most exciting orchestra in Oregon" by Oregon Arts Watch in 2022, PYP hopes to uphold that praise in Season 99 by commissioning and showcasing a wide array of new works by talented composers from around the world.

One such composer is Jeff Scott whose work was commissioned by PYP in 2021. This will be PYP's second commission of Scott's work. "More than ever, the future of classical music is in need of new voices, influences and a lean towards creative autonomy between musicians and presenting organizations," stated Jeff Scott. "For this reason, it was an honor to collab-

orate with David Hattner and the Portland Youth Philharmonic, who in my opinion are the face of our musical future."

PYP believes in providing excellent music education to all young musicians, which lends itself to a wonderful musical experience for all to enjoy. With thoughtful training and challenging and rewarding compositions, the Philharmonic Orchestra performs at a level that rivals many of their professional counterparts. The season opening concert is on November 12, 2022 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. To learn more about PYP's concerts, composers, musicians, and to purchase tickets, visit portlandyouthphil.org/concerts. In-person tickets start at \$15 for seniors, \$20 for adults, and live stream passes are \$13. Tickets may also be purchased at the venue door.



Confederates (2022) Photo by Jenny Graham

Oregon Shakespeare Festival King John & Confederates

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY
DARLEEN
ORTEGA



Having now made my own final trip to Ashland this season, I heartily recommend that you make the effort, too—particularly to see the two final shows to open.

“King John” is the show I would most have hated to miss this season. That’s saying a lot, since I can’t claim to be a fan of Shakespeare’s history plays, which are always dense with political battles that are a fair distance beyond what I know I am motivated to absorb. But director Rosa Joshi has a gift for transforming the Bard’s histories into the most riveting theater which also manages to evoke with surprising clarity the misuses of power that plague us in the present. Only Joshi can keep me on the edge of my seat with material like this.

A piece of how Joshi does this is by engaging actors who we don’t

normally see in these hyper-masculine, war-driven stories—that is, a very diverse cast of female and non-binary artists. The production was mounted in conjunction with upstart crew collective, Joshi’s long-standing project with cast members Kate Wisniewski (a mercurial King John) and Betsy Schwartz (seen here as the dangerously self-assured Lewis) that has for 16 years produced strong productions of Shakespeare’s histories with casts of female and non-binary artists. Joshi and her artistic partners are not so much saying something about gender as they are capitalizing on what these artists can bring to these hyper-masculine stories about power and violence and intrigue and unchecked ambition. They present male characters as male, but don’t underline the point; there are no fake beards in evidence, and there is no artificial lowering of voices. Yet the artists capture things in breath-catching ways—a battle scene broken down to the

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Meet Parkrose’s Drumline Instructor

BY PHYLLIS HARRIS

From a distance, if you listen closely you can hear modern pop music being played and accompanied by the laughter of students. As students engage and focus on Beyonce’s Crazy In Love, they attentively shift into their next song of this year’s themed “Pop Divas” performances in preparation for upcoming football games. This is thanks to Johnnie Ballard, the new drum instructor at Parkrose high school.

Keija Lee, head band director at PHS boasted about her colleagues track record with the program over the last fourteen years. “It’s a joy to work with him, he’s so positive all the time he’s been kind of a rock.” With a genuine smile on her face she added “he’s been kind of a rock and steady in the program. He truly loves our kids and just has a heart of gold.”

Ballard recalls some of the adults that had an impact on his life, “my uncles are all musicians and the story goes that I would tap and beat on everything! My parents told me they took me to the Ringling Brothers Circus and that’s how I started drumming.”



Johnnie Ballard, native of Rochester New York is currently a husband, father, and Special Education champion.

Ballard perfected his craft at the School for Performing Arts in Rochester along with indulging in the mentors around him, “like I said, my family are all musicians and my uncle was kind of like a

big influence because he too was a drummer. I used to watch him at tent revivals and listen to my big cousin play. I started play-

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North by Northeast Community Health Center is the only clinic in Oregon devoted to African American health. We provide welcoming, high quality health care to adults who have Oregon Health Plan. Since 2006, our priority has been to serve the local African American community and to reduce the deadly effects of high blood pressure and diabetes. We are accepting new patients, and if you’re uninsured, we can help you get covered!

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Full set of Jackson 5 outfits. Photo by Rebecca Sapp, courtesy of the GRAMMY Museum

Motown: The Sound of Young America Showcasing in Portland

The GRAMMY Museum's exhibition travels to the Oregon Historical Society

The Sound of Young America will be on view at the Oregon Historical Society in downtown Portland from September 23, 2022, through March 26, 2023; this exhibit shares the story of the famed record company and the artists who collectively changed the musical direction of the nation.

Berry Gordy, Jr., was the visionary behind both the music and the Black-owned record company he named Motown. A former prizefighter and songwriter, he believed that talent could be found on nearly every

Detroit street corner. This blend of gospel, blues, and pop quickly became "The Sound of Young America," crashing the American pop charts and challenging the British Invasion. From Motown came the Supremes, Stevie Wonder, the Temptations, Smokey Robinson, Gaye, the Jackson 5, and others.

Motown: The Sound of Young America features stage outfits from many of the label's top performers, interviews with Motown legends, and opportunities for visitors to get deep inside the creative process perfected at Motown. Visitors will also experience interactive displays, including an opportunity to perform the Supremes' "Stop! In The Name of Love" on stage and learn the Temptations' signature dance moves.

"One of my favorite parts of the exhibition is a jukebox where visitors can play their fa-

vorite Motown hits in the gallery," said OHS Boyle Family Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk. "While this exhibition provides important context on a pivotal period in American pop culture history, it also engages visitors in fun interactive experiences that will provide a sense of nostalgia for many."

Some of the iconic pieces on display in the exhibition include the iconic "Butterfly" gowns worn by the Supremes, a harmonica and keyboard played by Stevie Wonder and many more. The Oregon Historical Society's museum is open seven days a week, Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 12pm-5pm. Admission is \$10, with discounts for students, seniors, teachers, and youth. Admission is free every day for OHS members and Multnomah County residents. Learn more and plan your visit at ohs.org/motown.

Spirit of Halloweentown Returns



Giant pumpkin in the Spirit of Halloweentown

St Helens recreates movie magic and other Halloween fun

Each year, the city of St. Helens, Oregon undergoes a magical transformation, decking out its Riverfront District in all things Halloween as homage to two movies that were filmed in the town: Disney's "Halloween town" and the vampire-novel-turned-movie "Twilight."

The only visiting Holographic Alien on Earth will be answering pressing questions about visitations, abductions, intentions, and more. This state of the art visual and audio effect will be seen for the first time worldwide exclusively at Spirit of Halloweentown. In the same building The Museum of Peculiarities and Oddities filled with whimsy and stories will entertain everyone.

The new Water Taxi will ferry people to Sand Island in the middle of the Columbia River for a viewing Big Foot, a scavenger hunt, games, fireside marshmallows, stories and more. --Back this year is the Spooky Shuttle taking visitors to uptown St. Helens for

pizza, candy, a ghost story from a fabled puppeteer and the Scarecrow Walk. The Haunted House has been a favorite and now with upgraded features and animatronics props, it is even more fun and scarier than ever.

The Dark Market offers Spirit of Halloweentown merchandise. The most popular event of Spirit of Halloweentown is the lighting of the giant pumpkins. Participants start the holiday season by counting down the seconds until two giant pumpkins are lit in the city's historic town square. In 2022, the Pumpkin Lighting Ceremony takes place on Saturday, October 1st. One pumpkin is a replica of the giant pumpkin featured in "Halloween town" and the other is an enormous work of steampunk metal art. The pumpkins, which both stand over six feet tall, are available for photo opportunities every day until the end of October. The plaza is home to many other photo opportunities like huge crows and an over seven foot tall hand carved scarecrow. General admission tickets to Spirit of Halloweentown, along with special celebrity engagement tickets and a full list of events, are available on the festival's website at www.spiritofhalloweentown.com.

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Oregon Shakespeare Festival King John & Confederates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

elements of breath and falling and repetitive motion, for example, or a king whose petulance is captured in the way he curls his body on his throne.

The cast is phenomenal and consistently strong. Most actors are inhabiting multiple roles and all participate in collective scenes where their bodies function to capture a sense of the movement of armies and political factions. Jessika D. Williams chews up every scene as the Bastard, an ambitious opportunist who thinks he can capitalize on proximity to power but who often registers the most astute response to its manipulations. Brenda Joyner is heart-breaking as Arthur, a young man who is destined to be a political pawn. Lisa Tejero as the Cardinal conveys brilliantly how a religious leader employs potent symbols like weapons. Aysan Celik communicates the fury of Constance, a rare female character, with movement as much as with words.

The entire cast works together to convey a sense of how actions and rash decisions of the powerful reverberate among those with less agency; how violence spreads exponentially; how justifications shift as body counts rise. The production makes smart use of projections, lighting, and costume design to realize the ideas with specificity. In the end, whether or not you want to concern yourself with the historical specifics of the story, this production has left you with a visceral sense of the themes important to the story. It's as exciting an experience of theater as one can hope to have.

"Confederates" isn't as successful, but for complicated reasons that still counsel engagement. Playwright Dominique Morisseau, working on a commission from Penumbra Theater and OSF as part of its American Revolutions United States History Cycle, was invited to create a work about the Black experience of the Civil War and chose to focus on the experience of Black women. Inspired by Dr. Joy DeGruy's work in explicating what she describes as Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome, Morisseau produced a set of parallel stories set 160 years apart, centering a current-day Black woman professor, Sandra, and an enslaved Black woman, Sara, who spies for the union army.

I say "parallel" because that is what the playwright clearly intends—the women share similar attributes, including that both must navigate a world in which the expectations of them feel functionally impossible, where their agency and freedom are very specifically impacted by the ac-



King John (2022). Photo by Jenny Graham

tions of a Black man, a white woman, and a Black woman. The dangers Sara faces are concrete, physical, and immediately life-threatening; she seeks to support the war effort for what she believes will be her liberation, yet her brother Abner thinks that is men's work, her white mistress and former playmate Missy Sue seeks to exploit and seduce her, and an enslaved woman, Luanne, who sleeps with the master, jeopardizes and complicates Sara's aims. Meanwhile, Sandra faces constant challenges to her agency and dignity. A Black student, Malik, believes the grade she has given him reflects favoritism toward white students; her white student assistant, Candace, offers support that feels like sabotage; and a younger Black colleague, Jade, questions Sandra's solidarity in a tenure fight. As things play out, Sandra comes to suspect that any one of the three could be responsible for an act of harassment—a period photo of a Black wet-nurse with a white infant at her breast, but photo-shopped with Sandra's face and posted on her office door.

Both stories play out on parallel stages, with the same actors pivoting between the roles of Abner and Malik, Missy Sue and Candace, and Luanne and Jade. The tension and the overlaps between the stories increase and heighten, until the simple sets

for each begin to merge. Morisseau means for us to notice, as she did in a discussion of the play in the New York Times, that the two Black women protagonists are "united in being the most socially expendable."

The play is strongest in telling Sara's story. Erika Rose embodies Sara's power, tenacity, and fear, conveys the sheer athleticism necessary to navigate all the attempts on her life and safety and to fight for agency over not only her life but over self-definition. Morisseau succeeds in presenting this enslaved character as much more than a tragic figure, even employing humor strategically as highly resilient people do. She wants us to know that enslaved people were more than tragic victims, that they fought back strategically and well.

The parallels with Sandra's experience don't always connect. My own experience as a Brown woman leaves me little room for doubt that Black women face struggles like those depicted here—the sense that anyone can say anything about you, do anything to you without much or any risk. Yet the play doesn't grapple well with how Sandra's exercise of her own power plays into the dynamics of her situation. There is no justifying what she experiences, and I don't question that institutions like these peculiarly deny justice to Black women. But Sandra has options that Sara does not,

and how she exercises them feels underexamined.

There is the additional problem of audience. I saw the play, as I often do, in a very predominantly white audience at a theater whose institutional dynamics I know well from the inside; indeed, they have landed hard on my own Brown body. Morisseau's use of humor in depicting the situation of these Black women evoked laughter, but I was not persuaded that that laughter indicated recognition—which contributed to my own disinclination to join in the laughter. I might well have felt different about it in a different audience—a problem not of Morisseau's own making. There aren't easy solutions for BIPOC artists to exercise agency in telling the stories they want and deserve the opportunity to tell on stage.

All that said, Morisseau's provocative play, full of good performances, and intelligently directed by Nataki Garrett, deserves an audience. Stories like these merit an audience, and some practice in the telling and in the listening.

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



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INVITATION TO BID

**METRO PARKS AND NATURE
On-Call Gutter Cleaning, Maintenance and Related Services
ITB 4067**

Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws
of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 NE
Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, is hereby requesting
sealed bids for On-Call Gutter Cleaning, Maintenance and Relat-
ed Services.

Sealed bids are due no later than 2:00 p.m., October 5, 2022,
at BidLocker: [https://bidlocker.us/details/3102_ltb_4067_On_
Call_Gutter_Cleaning_Maintenance_And_Related_Services](https://bidlocker.us/details/3102_ltb_4067_On_Call_Gutter_Cleaning_Maintenance_And_Related_Services)

Metro is inviting bids for On-Call Gutter Cleaning, Maintenance
and Related Services for the Parks and Nature Department.
The contract contemplated consists of on-call gutter and down-
spout service, and moss removal and treatment service for Met-
ro facilities and sites including approximately 25 residential sites
as well as office and commercial space throughout the Metro
Region, park facilities, nature parks, and boat ramps. There may
be supplemental working conditions for some of the venues.

Bidding documents/RFP documents can be viewed and down-
loaded from the BidLocker website:

[https://bidlocker.us/details/3102_ltb_4067_On_Call_Gutter_
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obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see www.oregonmetro.gov.

INVITATION TO BID

**2022-84 Invitation to Bid for Fisher's Landing
Transit Center Refresh Project General Contractor**

Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area (dba C-TRAN)
has issued an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for the Fisher's Landing Tran-
sit Center Refresh Project General Contractor.

This ITB may be found at [https://www.c-tran.com/about-c-tran/
business/procurement/bid-and-proposal-opportunities](https://www.c-tran.com/about-c-tran/business/procurement/bid-and-proposal-opportunities).

Bids will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September
30, 2022.



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SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

**Midland Library
Bid Package B - All Remaining Scopes, Portland, OR
BIDS DUE: October 5th, 2022 at 5:00PM**

Swinerton Builders is requesting subcontractor bids for The Hol-
gate Library Project, 38000 SF renovation with an addition, this
includes site electrical infrastructure and site.

Scope already assigned: Building Mechanical, Building Electri-
cal, Building Plumbing, and Building Low Voltage, and Mass Tim-
ber Frame.

01 - Surveying, 01 - Final Cleaning, 02 - Saw Cutting - *COBID*,
02 - Demolition/Deconstruction, 02 - Dumpsters, 03 - Concrete
- *COBID*, 03 - Architectural Precast, 04 - Masonry, 05 - Metal
Fabrications - *COBID*, 06 - Casework, 07 - Waterproofing, 07
- Membrane Roofing, 07 - Wall Panels - Composite, Metal, Fiber
Cement, 07 - Joint Sealants, 07 - Firestopping, 07 - Expansion
Joints, 08 - Doors, Frames & Hardware, 08 - Glass & Glazing,
08 - Overhead Coiling Doors, 08 - Window Film, 09 - Painting
and Acoustic Panels - *COBID*, 09 - Fireproofing, 09 - Flooring
& Tile - *COBID*, 09 - Framing, Drywall & ACT, 10 - Lockers,
10 - Fire Extinguishers & Cabinets, 10 - Bathroom Accessories,
10 - Signage - *COBID*, 10 - Operable Partitions, 11 - Fall Arrest
Systems, 11 - Playground Equipment and Surfacing, 12 - Bicycle
Racks Site Furnishings, 12 - Window Coverings, 26 - Electrical
- Site Infrastructure, Site Lighting *COBID*, 26 - Solar Panels,
31 - Earthwork - *COBID*, 32 - Fences & Gates, 32 - Landscape
- *COBID*, 32 - Paving - *COBID*, 32 - Temporary Fencing, 32
- Striping and Parking Specialties, 32 - Fencing and Gates, 32 -
Site Concrete

Bid Packages and Plans located at several plan centers
and SmartBidNet [https://app.buildingconnected.com/pub-
lic/565395ced928350a00e70b61/projects/631980dced71b-
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The Parkrose Drumline

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

ing the drums at the age of three and here I am." Ballard hopes that his son will one day follow in his footsteps too since he is already joining him in sessions.

Ballard has made Portland his home and is rooted in the community. He studied at Warner Pacific College and received his master's degree in Education, is

an honored band member at several metropolitan churches, and helps out at his sister-in-laws' venue the infamous World Stage Theater.

Being a member of the Drum Corps International (headed by Ronnie LaGrone) has been a highlight of Ballard's career. He is optimistic that Portland will invest in its youth when it comes to supporting the Performing

Arts locally. "We should be encouraging our young people to engage in the arts when possible and to pursue their dreams." Ballard explained this is an authentic way to build community, "all my friends are products of the Performing Arts scene and music programs, this has had a lifelong impact on my life and the joy it's brought me is immeasurable."

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