



## Clark College Grants Tenure to Educators

Recognized for Professional Excellence and Exceptional Expertise

Clark College Board of Trustees unanimously granted tenure to 14 outstanding educators. Tenure is awarded by the college's board of trustees based on professional excellence and outstanding abilities in their disciplines. The granting of tenure is based on the recommendations of tenure review committees to the Vice President of Instruction, which are then forwarded to the President, who presents a final recommendation to the board of trustees. Recommendations are based on self-evaluations, tenure review committee evaluations, student evaluations, supervisory evaluations, and peer evaluations. The final decision to award or withhold tenure rests with the board of trustees.

### Mohammad (Giga) Alqeeq, (Cybersecurity)

With over 18 years in information security and software development, Giga earned his IT associate degree from Everett Community College, where he later taught and conducted security research. He runs QeeqBox, a company focused on advanced digital security tools. At Clark College, he



Back row, left to right: Trustee Marilee Scarbrough; Giga Alqeeq, Cybersecurity; Gibran Zogbi, Accounting; Molly Lampros, Communication Studies; Jesse Morse, English; Victor Morales, Philosophy; Brandon Johnson, Automotive; and Trustee Suzanne Donaldson. Front row, l-r: Teresa Lashchuk, Nursing; Halina Brant-Zawadski, Nursing; Janine Rieck, Health Information Management; Jay Fancher, Anthropology; Cydney Topping, English; President Dr. Karin Edwards; and Vice President of Instruction Dr. Terry Brown. Not Pictured: Josie Lesage, Environmental Science; Brian Miyake, Surveying & Geomatics; and Natasja Swartz, Chemistry.

helped build the Cybersecurity BAS program and leads workshops on privacy. His student-first teaching style emphasizes adaptability and humility.

### Halina Brant-Zawadski, (Nursing)

Halina holds degrees in biology and nursing, including a Ph.D. from the

University of Washington. She joined Clark in 2022 after extensive work as a nurse and educator. Known for her trauma-informed, inclusive approach, she's a calm and supportive presence for students in both clinical and classroom settings.

### Jay Fancher, (Anthropology)

Jay holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology and has 20 years of teaching experience. Since joining Clark in 2014, he's served as interim chair and brings

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Councillor Loretta Smith, Portland City Council District 1, Adena Long, Director of Portland Parks & Recreation, Naomi Likayi, Artist and Graphic Designer, Sondra Burtzos, Capital Project Manager, City of Portland

## Portland Parks & Recreation Completes Transformation, Reopens Expanded 25-Acre Parklane Park

Huge Investment in Outer Southeast Portland with Playground, Splash pad, Skate Park, Sports Fields, Much More

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) has completed the long-awaited expansion of outer Southeast Portland's Parklane Park. Following a five-and-a-half-year design and construction process, the park is now open and has been transformed from five acres to

an impressive 25 acres of recreational space in District 1. It is now Portland's largest developed park east of I-205.

The new Parklane Park features a new playground, splash pad, basketball and tennis courts, soccer fields, pavilion for community events, covered picnic areas, community garden, skate park, dog off-leash area, paved walking paths, additional restrooms, parking, public art, and hundreds of new trees.

"The expanded Parklane Park is a community centerpiece," says PP&R

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# PCC Student Named 2025 Cooke Foundation Scholar

## Awarded \$55,000 Scholarship to Attend NYU This Fall

When your family cries tears of joy, you know it's a big deal. Portland Community College's Diego Lobato has been named a 2025 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholar, joining a cohort of 90 students nationwide recognized for their academic achievement, leadership, and perseverance. It's the fifth time in the past 20 years that a student from PCC has earned the honor.

The Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is one of the most competitive and generous in the nation, designed to support high-achieving community college students with financial need. Each recipient is awarded up to \$55,000 annually to complete their bachelor's degree, with support covering tuition, living expenses, books, and required fees. Scholars also receive extensive educational and career advising, access to internships, and funding for graduate studies.

"Earning a Jack Kent Cooke scholarship means the world to me," said Lobato. "It eases my financial worries tremendously and affirms that I am on



Headed to New York University this fall, Diego Lobato has been named a 2025 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholar, earning \$55,000 to pursue his degrees

the right path. I called my mom the moment I found out – she cried."

Originally from Chula Vista, California, Lobato is a nontraditional student who was raised in a single-parent Hispanic household in San Diego. Now living in downtown Portland, he is completing his Oregon Transfer degree with a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) focus, centered on mathematics and computer science.

Lobato will be attending New York University in the fall, where he plans

to pursue a joint bachelor's degree in Economics and Computer Science. His long-term goal is to build a technology business focused on creating large-scale positive social change.

"PCC has been instrumental in my journey, and I could not have done this alone," Lobato said. "I've been fortunate to build an amazing support system that has propelled me toward my goals."

He also expressed gratitude to faculty and mentors who played a key role in his success.

"PCC offers outstanding resources which I was able to use to build a strong transfer application — it's an incredible institution," he added. "PCC has forever changed the trajectory of my life and made my dream of higher education a reality."

It is one of the largest groups of scholars in the Foundation's 25-year history, with more than 1,600 applicants from community colleges across the country. The 90 scholars were selected from a semifinalist pool of 467 students based on academic excellence, leadership, persistence and unmet financial need.

"This year's cohort reflects the remarkable talent and determination thriving in community colleges nationwide," said Giuseppe 'Seppy' Basili, executive director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. "As we mark 25 years of impact, we remain committed to amplifying the successes of these students and opening doors to the opportunities they deserve."

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation has invested nearly \$304 million in scholarships and \$136 million in grants since 2000, dedicated to advancing the education of exceptional students with financial need. For more information, visit [www.jkcf.org](http://www.jkcf.org).

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# LOCAL NEWS



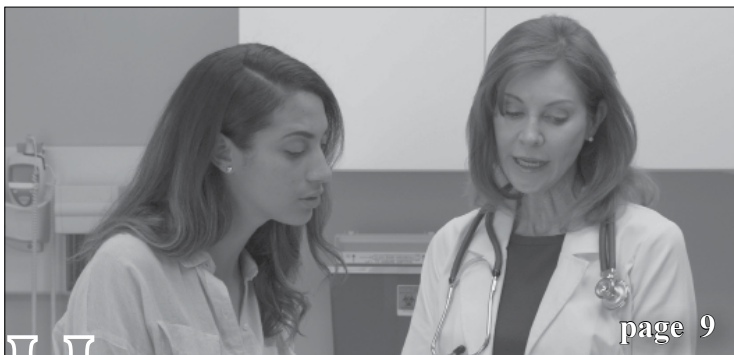
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## Arts & ENTERTAINMENT PDX Jazz Presents The Brandee Younger Trio!



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## HEALTH Focusing on People with Rare and Severe Diseases

### The Portland Observer

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## Lacing Up for a Good Cause!

### CCC President to Run 1,500 Miles

Clackamas Community College President Dr. Tim Cook is lacing up his running shoes and setting out on a journey — running 1,500 miles across Oregon, connecting all 17 of the state's community colleges.

An avid marathoner, his goal is to run to each community college, averaging 32 miles per day. The campaign, running for Oregon Community College Students (ROCCS) aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by students and advocate for increased state funding to support their basic needs.

At Clackamas Community College, 38% of students reported food insecurity in a survey this spring. They also shared challenges with affording child care and transportation. At the state level, a survey from The Hope Center reported:

- Food insecurity: Approximately 41% of students reported experiencing food insecurity.
- Housing insecurity: About 52% of students

faced housing insecurity, which includes difficulties such as affording rent, utilities or the need to move frequently.

- Homelessness: Nearly 20% of students experienced homelessness, indicating a lack of stable and safe housing.

On Monday, June 16, Cook will start his run at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Ore. From there he will work his way across eastern and central Oregon, then south to Klamath Falls, up the Willamette Valley, over to the coast up to Astoria, down through the Portland metro area and finishing in Hood River where he plans to end his run with a jump in the Columbia River.

"Some have questioned why I'm doing this run and why I would subject myself to this, but our students deserve to be able to afford college and be able to pay for rent, child care, groceries and transportation," Cook said. "If this run helps raise awareness and funding for basic needs, it will be worth every blister."

Oregon's community colleges serve approximately



Clackamas Community College President Dr. Tim Cook running a marathon in Vermont in 2024.

200,000 students, accounting for 52% of all public and private higher education enrollments in the state. The funds raised during the ROCCS campaign will be distributed to each community college, directly supporting students' essential needs. To donate or learn more about the run, visit [run4roccstudents.org](http://run4roccstudents.org).

## Explore Trucks of All Sizes

### A Free Touch-A-Truck Event

Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel is pleased to invite families and children of all ages to the third annual Touch-A-Truck event, which will be held from 9 am to noon on June 21, at Clackamas Community College, located at S.E. Harmony Road in Portland.

This is a hands-on event where children of all ages will be able to explore trucks and vehicles of all sizes, from fire engines, ambulances, school buses, and more. Meet firefighters, talk to a first responder, and hear from numerous community organizations that will be on hand to provide education and hands-on safety demonstrations for families.

Members of the Randall Children's Hospital Child Injury Prevention team will be there to help families learn more about water safety, car seats, and boosters at a child passenger safety station. They will also get home safety tips to keep children safe and avoid unnecessary trips to the hospital. Health educators and certified child passenger safety technicians will be available to answer questions and provide parents and caregivers with hands-on demonstrations.

Children can visit the safety stations and enjoy a variety of vehicles on display. Each family will leave with supplies and education to ensure children stay safe.



A child touching a schoolbus at the 2024 Touch-A-Truck Event.



# Sensitive Information Being Use Without Consent

## Many States Sue to Block the Sale of 23andMe Personal Genetic Data

(AP) — Twenty-seven states and the District of Columbia on Monday filed a lawsuit in bankruptcy court seeking to block the sale of personal genetic data by 23andMe without customer consent. The lawsuit comes as a biotechnology company seeks the court's approval to buy the struggling firm.

Biological samples, DNA data, health-related traits and medical records are too sensitive to be sold without each person's express, informed consent, Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield said in a news release about the lawsuit. Customers should have the right to control such deeply personal information and it cannot be sold like ordinary property, it said.



A 23andMe saliva collection kit is shown on March 25, 2025, in Oakland, Calif. (AP Photo/Barbara Ortutay, File)

23andMe customers use saliva-based DNA testing kits to learn about their ancestry and find long-lost relatives. Founded in 2006, the company also conducted health research and drug development. But it struggled to find a profitable business model since going public in 2021. In March it laid off 40% of its staff and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the Eastern District of Missouri, raising concerns about the safety of customer data.

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals said last month it aimed to buy the company for \$256

million. Regeneron said it would comply with 23andMe's privacy policies and applicable law. It said it would process all customer personal data in accordance with the consents, privacy policies and statements, terms of service, and notices currently in effect and have security controls in place designed to protect such data.

A court-appointed, independent consumer privacy ombudsman was due to examine the proposed sale and how it might affect consumer privacy and report to the court.

# Portland Parks & Recreation Completes Transformation, Reopens Expanded 25-Acre Parklane Park

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Director Adena Long. "It helps address the significant lack of parks, open spaces, and recreation in the Centennial neighborhood. With so many new amenities on 25 acres, this is a major investment in East Portland, an exciting project that will benefit Portland for generations."

Parklane Park serves 2,824 nearby residential units. 828 of them did not have ready access to any parks or natural areas prior to this project. The park's immediate neighbors to the east are Oliver Middle School and Parklane Elementary School in the Cen-

tennial School District, with a combined enrollment of nearly 900 students ranging from kindergarten students to 8th graders.

System Development Charge (SDCs), not tax dollars, funded the park project. SDCs are one-time fees from new developments that support Portland's growing infrastructure.

The park was designed by local landscape architecture firm, Walker Macy, and constructed by Stacy Witbeck. A Local Improvement District (LID) funded by the park project and managed by the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) created street and sidewalk improvements that improves access to and around

the new park.

The ceremony included Portland Parks & Recreation Director Adena Long, District 1 Councilors Loretta Smith and Jamie Dunphy, and other community partners.

Portlanders have been instrumental in shaping the design for Parklane Park through a project advisory committee and a series of community gatherings between fall 2019 and summer 2020. This engagement process resulted in a design that reflects the community's values and desires. For more information on Parklane Park, please visit the project page at [portland.gov/parks/construction/parklane-park-project](http://portland.gov/parks/construction/parklane-park-project).

# Clark College Grants Tenure to Educators

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

subjects like fossils and ancient civilizations to life. His teaching fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and cultural empathy, aligning with the college's DEI mission.

**Brandon Johnson, (Automotive)**

With 23 years of experience and multiple certifications, Brandon brings industry expertise from Subaru, Ford, and GM. Though new to teaching, he excels at mentoring. His relatable stories and patient guidance help students connect theory with real-world automotive problem-solving.

**Molly Lampros, (Communications)**

Molly holds multiple degrees in communication, psychology, and teaching. She's worked in public service and taught for 15 years at Clark. Passionate about trauma-informed education, she builds strong student relationships and inclusive, discussion-based learning environments.

**Teresa Lashchuk, (Nursing)**

With over 30 years in clinical nursing, Teresa joined Clark in 2011. She encourages critical thinking and inclusion, making students feel supported. Her real-world approach to nursing education keeps her curriculum relevant and engaging.

**Josephine (Josie) Lesage, (Environmental Science)**

Josie earned her Ph.D. from UC Santa Cruz and brings ecology field experience to her teaching. A passionate advocate for outdoor learning, she uses active strategies to spark curiosity and help students appreciate life's natural patterns.

**Brian Miyake, (Surveying and Geomatics)**

Brian transitioned to teaching after a leadership career in land management mapping. At Clark, he builds strong industry ties and helped lead his students to a national competition victory. Known for his culturally responsive teaching, Brian

ensures all students feel seen and supported.

**Victor Morales, (Philosophy)**

Victor holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and brings over a decade of teaching experience. At Clark, he founded the Philosophy Club and uses inclusive methods—like roleplays and simulations—to foster critical thinking and encourage diverse voices.

**Jesse Morse, (English)**

Jesse holds an MFA and Ph.D. in creative writing and has taught at Clark since 2018. Co-director of the Spring Writing Workshop and author of a poetry collection, Jesse focuses on equity, cultural inclusiveness, and student-centered learning.

**Janine Rieck, (Health Information Management)**

Janine earned degrees in Health Information Management while teaching and completing the tenure process. She creates inclusive, well-supported online learning environments and founded a student club to promote community service and engagement in the field.

**Natasja Swartz, (Chemistry)**

Natasja holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry and has taught at several colleges. Her research combines chemical science and cultural heritage. At Clark, she fosters student success through inclusive teaching and innovative curriculum that encourages creative thinking.

**Cydney Topping, (English)**

With degrees in English and writing, Cydney has taught at community colleges her entire career. At Clark since 2015, she designs inclusive courses that reflect student experiences and co-leads efforts to redesign the literature curriculum with a student-centered focus.

**Gibran Zogbi, (Accounting)**

Gibran has a doctorate in business and industry experience with major firms and startups. A supportive and energetic teacher, he emphasizes not just technical knowledge but personal character, encouraging students to grow as professionals and people.



## Summer Free For All Returns for 2025 Citywide Fun at No Cost

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) is bringing back its beloved Summer Free For All series for 2025, a community favorite made possible by the voter-approved 2020 Parks Local Option Levy. The festivities begin with Free Lunch + Play on Monday, June 23 at 22 park locations and apartment complexes across East Portland. Live music, movies, and cultural events will follow citywide starting July 2.

During the school year, more than half of Portland's students rely on free or reduced-price meals. To help fill the gap during summer, PP&R's Free Lunch + Play program offers nutritious meals and engaging activities for children and families when school is out. Starting June 23, kids can take part in games, sports, music, arts, and crafts, all led by trained staff and community partners. The program runs Monday through Friday at parks throughout the city and also reaches two East Portland apartment complexes through Mobile Lunch + Play, which operates from June 23 through August 22.

This summer's Free For All series includes more than 40 events designed for all ages, from multicultural festivals and concerts to outdoor movies and community celebrations. Schedules are currently available in English and Spanish, with additional translations coming soon in Ukrainian, Russian, Somali, Chinese, Vietnamese, and more.

"It's just not summer in Portland until Summer Free For All gets going again," said PP&R Director Adena Long. "There is nothing like experiencing live music or enjoying an outdoor movie with your loved ones in your favorite neighborhood park."

The 2025 movie lineup includes *Inside Out 2*, *Coco*, *Despicable Me 4*, *The Sandlot*, and *Guardians of the Galaxy*. Live performances will feature well-known local acts such as Norman Sylvester with Lenanne Miller, BridgeCity Soul, Conjunto Alegre, Too Loose Zydeco, and more. Community festivals like the East Portland Summer Arts Festival, Washington Park Summer Festival, and The Kidz Outside Festival also return this year.

The Summer Free For All series is made possible by the Parks Levy, which

allows PP&R to deliver on its promises to Portland voters. The levy funds free family-friendly events, recreational programming, swim lessons, fitness and arts classes, and teen- and older adult-focused activities. Importantly, it eliminates cost as a barrier to participation in these vital community offerings.

The official Summer Free For All kick-off celebration will take place on Thursday, June 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Parklane Park. Everyone 18 and under is invited to share a meal and enjoy activities in the sun. Free lunch will be served between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The East Portland Summer Arts Festival returns July 12 and 13 at Ventura Park, with Edna Vasquez headlining day one as part of her Best of Both Worlds tour. Day two features Portland Taiko and Friends, promising an evening of powerful drumming, dance, and musical storytelling. The Washington Park Summer Festival will be held August 9 and 10 at the Rose Garden Amphitheater, with performances beginning at 6 p.m. each evening. This year's acts include Tempos Contemporary Circus and the Portland Cello Project performing the music of Radiohead.

At Gateway Discovery Park, free summer activities will take place Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 23 through August 22. No registration is needed. Children can enjoy arts and crafts, games, cultural activities, and more. Free lunches will be served daily from 11 to 11:45 a.m. as part of the Free Lunch + Play program.

Free Open Play Swim will also be available at six outdoor pools across the city each week. Creston Pool hosts sessions on Mondays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Peninsula Pool on Tuesdays from 1 to 3:45 p.m., Montavilla Pool on Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m., Grant Pool on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m., Sellwood Pool on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., and Pier Pool on Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., with an expected opening date of July 14.

PP&R's Fitness in the Park program returns as well, offering free outdoor group fitness classes for ages 14 and older. Beginning June 23, classes will take place at eight locations citywide, including Irving Park, Ventura Park, and Mt. Scott Park.

For full schedules, event listings, and additional information, visit [portland.gov/parks](http://portland.gov/parks).

## Trump Directs ICE to Expand Deportations



President Donald Trump, left, escorted by Air Force Col. Angela F. Ochoa, Commander, 89th Airlift Wing, walks from Marine One to board Air Force One, Sunday, June 15, 2025, at Joint Base Andrews, Md., for a trip to Canada to attend the G7 Summit. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

## Democratic-Ran Cities Targeted

AP- President Donald Trump on Sunday directed federal immigration officials to prioritize deportations from Democratic-run cities, a move that comes after large protests erupted in Los Angeles and other major cities against the Trump administration's immigration policies.

Trump in a social media posting called on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials "to do all in their power to achieve the very important goal of delivering the single largest Mass Deportation Program in History."

He added that to reach the goal officials "must expand efforts to detain and deport Illegal Aliens in America's largest Cities, such as Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York, where Millions upon Millions of Illegal Aliens reside."

Trump's declaration comes after weeks of increased enforcement, and after Stephen Miller, White House deputy chief of staff and main architect of Trump's immigration policies, said ICE officers would target at least 3,000 arrests a day, up from about 650 a day during the first five months of Trump's second term.

At the same time, the Trump administration has directed immigration officers to pause arrests at farms, restaurants and hotels, after Trump expressed alarm about the impact aggressive enforcement is having on those industries, according to a U.S. official familiar with the matter who spoke only on condition of anonymity. Protests over federal immigration enforcement raids have been flaring up around the country.

Opponents of Trump's immigration policies took to the streets as part of the

"no kings" demonstrations Saturday that came as Trump held a massive parade in Washington for the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army.

Saturday's protests were mostly peaceful. But police in Los Angeles used tear gas and crowd-control munitions to clear out protesters after the event ended.

Officers in Portland, Oregon, also fired tear gas and projectiles to disperse a crowd that protested in front of a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building well into the evening.

Trump made the call for stepped up enforcement in Democratic-controlled cities on social media as he was making his way to the Group of Seven economic summit in Alberta, Canada.

He suggested to reporters as he departed the White House for the G7 on Sunday evening that his decision to deploy National Guard troops to Los Angeles was the reason the protests in that city went peacefully.

"If we didn't have the National Guard on call and ready, they would rip Los Angeles apart," Trump said.

The shift also came as Trump is grappling with the impact his mass deportation effort is having on key industries that rely on workers in the country illegally.

Trump posted on his Truth Social site Thursday that he heard from hotel, agriculture and leisure industries that his "very aggressive policy on immigration is taking very good, long time workers away from them" and promised that changes would be made.

That same day Tatum King, an official with ICE's Homeland Security Investigations unit, wrote to regional leaders telling them to halt investigations of the agriculture industry, including meatpackers, as well as of restaurants and hotels, according to the U.S. official.





The community at the Juneteenth Festival. Photo courtesy of Juneteenth website.

# Juneteenth Oregon's 53rd Annual Parade

## Dedicated to Preserving the History of Juneteenth

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming 2025 Juneteenth Oregon's 53rd Annual Parade and Festival, which will take place on Saturday, June 21, 2025, in Portland, Oregon. As a local nonprofit dedicated to preserving and amplifying the history and

legacy of Juneteenth, we are honored to continue the tradition founded by the late Clara Peoples, a beloved community leader who organized Oregon's first Juneteenth celebration in 1945.

Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth "Independence Day" or "Freedom Day," commemorates the day Union troops enforced the abolition of slavery and liberated enslaved African Americans in Texas on June 19, 1865, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. This significant day marks the end of slavery in the United States and is celebrated annually to honor the struggle for freedom and equality.

Our Juneteenth Oregon celebrations kick off with The Clara Peoples Freedom

Trail Parade at 11am, featuring our 2025 Grand Marshal Pastor Dennis Payne II and First Lady Debra Ingram Payne of First AME Zion, along with community organizations. The parade will start at King Park (School), proceed South down MLK, and then West on N. Knott, ending at the festival location.

The festival will commence around 12:30pm, following the parade, and promises an array of festivities including live music and entertainment, art, food, educational booths, cultural exhibitions, community resources, and a children's play area. This year's festival, presented by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and NECA IBEW and produced by PDX JAZZ, will feature performances by Ta-

hirah Memory, Kirk Green, Vursatyl, and Bridge City Soul.

We are excited to offer a variety of local vendors, food vendors, a beer and wine garden, raffle prizes, and a kid's area. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors: The Oregonian, Kaiser Permanente, Urban League of Portland, Moda Health, Providence Health Plan, CareOregon, Pride Northwest, Portland Trailblazers, Trimet, Pacific Power, Onpoint Credit Union, Arrow Sanitary Service, and The City of Portland.

We hope to see you there to celebrate this important day with us. Let's come together to honor the history and legacy of Juneteenth, and enjoy a day filled with joy, community, and culture.





Mike Bennett cutting the ribbon to the Portland Aquarium. (Photo credit Portland Aquarium)

## Mike Bennett's Portland Aquarium!

### No Live Animals - But Vibrant Cartoon Sea Creatures

The Portland Aquarium is home to 100% cartoon marine life characters—handcrafted by artist Mike Bennett and his team. While everything you'll see is made of art, light, sound, and storytelling, there's a strong educational current running through the experience. We worked closely with Chanel Hason, our local marine biologist,

to curate accurate and inspiring ocean facts throughout the space. You'll even get an Explorer Compendium—a field guide packed with info about all 100 species you'll encounter on your journey through Bennett Bay. It's where creativity and curiosity collide! The Portland Aquarium is fully ADA accessible. Our entire experience is designed to be navigable for guests using wheelchairs, mobility devices, or strollers. We want everyone to feel welcome exploring the wonders of Bennett Bay!

At this time, tickets to the Portland Aquarium are only available for purchase in per-

son at the Cascadia Marine Lab a.k.a. our front lobby. If there's a wait when you arrive, no worries—we've got a digital waitlist system! You can check out the Mike Bennett Studios museum and gift shop while you wait, or explore other parts of downtown Portland. We'll send you a text when it's your turn to dive into the depths of Bennett Bay. Starting in July we will start hosting birthday parties and other private events in the mornings before we open at 11am. If you are interested in renting our space for a private event or tour, let us know and send an email to [pdxaquarium@mikebennettstudios.com](mailto:pdxaquarium@mikebennettstudios.com).

## Don't Miss This on October 29, at The Old Church



Brandee Younger, harpist, composer and bandleader.

### PDX Jazz Presents The Brandee Younger Trio!

BRANDEE YOUNGER is revolutionizing the harp's role in modern music. Over the past fifteen years, she has worked relentlessly to stretch boundaries and limitations for harpists. In 2022, she made history by becoming the first Black woman to be nominated for a Grammy® Award for Best Instrumental Composition. That same year, she was also nominated for an NAACP Image Award and later, the winner of the 2024 NAACP Image Award in the category of Outstanding Jazz Album for her latest album Brand New Life. Ever-expanding as an artist, she has worked with cultural icons including Common, Lauryn Hill, John Legend, Pharoah Sanders and Christian McBride.

Her original composition "Hortense" was featured in the

Netflix Concert-Documentary, Beyoncé: Homecoming and in 2019, Brandee was selected to perform her original music as a featured performer for Quincy Jones and Steve McQueen's "Soundtrack of America". Brandee is often noted for standing on the shoulders of the very women who ushered in the harp as a clear and distinct voice in jazz & popular styles – particularly Detroit natives Dorothy Ashby & Alice Coltrane. Her latest album, Brand New Life, builds on her already rich oeuvre, and cements the harp's place in popular culture. As the title of the album suggests, Brand New Life is about forging new paths—artistic, personal, political, and spiritual. Younger's music is imbued with a sense of purpose and respect of legacy, creating a larger platform for the harp to reach newer and wider audiences than ever before. In addition to performing and recording, Brandee Younger is on the faculty at New York University, Steinhardt School and The New School College of Performing Arts.

# Reo's Ribs

## Mississippi BBQ and Soul Food

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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## ‘ZooNights’ Returns with Music, Food, and Fun All Summer Long

### Oregon Zoo’s Friday Night Series Kicks Off June 20 with Live Music from Hit Machine

When summer returns to Portland, it’s cause for celebration — and time to soak up the good vibes at ZooNights! Friday evenings, from June 20 through Aug. 22, guests can enjoy live local music, food carts, animal encounters and activities for all ages at the Oregon Zoo.

“Nothing beats summer nights in Portland,” said Jamie Inglis, the zoo’s events director. “And ZooNights is the perfect way to soak up the sunshine, listen to stellar local performers and enjoy an evening at the Oregon Zoo.”

ZooNights features live music on the lawn at 6:30 p.m. and activities starting at 5 p.m. The



ZooNights takes place Friday evenings from June 20 through Aug. 22, with live local music, food carts, animal experiences and activities for all ages. Photos by Fred Joe, courtesy of the Oregon Zoo.

series kicks off June 20 with Hit Machine and continues June 27 with Tom Petty tribute band Petty Fever. The following week features a special Thursday Zoo-

Nights (due to the July 4 holiday on Friday) with country belter Jacquie Roar.

Food and snacks will be available, including the ever-popular

elephant ears, plus a selection of local beer and wine for adults.

ZooNights is a special event and is not included with regular daytime admission. Tickets must

be purchased online in advance. For more information, visit [oregonzoo.org/nights](http://oregonzoo.org/nights).

As part of Metro, the Oregon Zoo helps make greater Portland a great place to call home. Committed to conservation, the zoo acts globally on behalf of species from pikas to polar bears. Over the past 30 years, it has prevented extinctions, expanded populations, advanced conservation science, and formed powerful communities to protect wildlife in the Northwest and around the world. To plan your trip, go to [oregonzoo.org/visit](http://oregonzoo.org/visit).

Support from the Oregon Zoo Foundation enhances and expands the zoo’s efforts in species recovery, conservation education and animal well-being. Members, donors and corporate and foundation partners help the zoo make a difference across the region and around the world. To contribute, go to [oregonzoo.org/give](http://oregonzoo.org/give).

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# Oregon to get Lower-Cost and Lifesaving Treatment in 2026



Oregon to get lower-cost and lifesaving treatment in 2026

## Focusing on People with Rare and Severe Diseases

Beginning January 1, 2026, Oregon will be able to increase access to lower-cost, lifesaving cell and gene therapies for people on Oregon Health Plan (OHP), the state's Medicaid program.

Oregon is one of 35 states that applied in 2024 to join a multi-year initiative with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to negotiate lower costs for innovative therapies. By lowering costs for participating states, the Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model will improve access to transformative treatments for people who have health coverage through Medicaid and live with a rare or severe disease.

States will initially focus on providing lower-cost therapies for people living with sickle cell disease, a genetic blood disorder that affects 120,000 individuals nationally, the majority of whom are Black, African American and/or Hispanic. Approximately 800 Oregonians live with sickle cell disease.

The average lifespan for people living with sickle cell disease is 20 years shorter than the national average life expect-

tancy. Individuals living with the disease can experience severe and painful symptoms such as organ damage and strokes, resulting in multiple hospitalizations, organ failure and even death. CMS estimates that 50-60% of people living with sickle cell disease are enrolled in Medicaid and the U.S. health system spends \$3 billion each year on care for people living with the disease.

"The cost of cell and gene therapies for sickle cell disease is a real barrier that prevents Oregonians from living longer, healthier lives with less pain and fewer trips to the emergency room," said Emma Sandoe, Medicaid Director for Oregon Health Authority. "This initiative is a big step forward in promoting innovative treatments and increasing access to lifesaving treatment."

Cell and gene therapies are one-time treatments that can transform lives by correcting underlying causes of a disease, addressing symptoms and stopping the progression of diseases. However, gaining access to these potentially life-changing treatments can be difficult because they can cost millions of dollars.

Through the Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model, CMS will negotiate agreements with participating pharmaceutical manufacturers on behalf of states. Pricing for treatments will be tied to specific outcomes for Medicaid members including improved access to innovative treatment, improved health as well as reductions in health care costs and burdens to state Medicaid programs.

# HEALTH



Cleveland Indians right fielder Melky Cabrera sprays sunscreen before a baseball game against the Texas Rangers, Sunday, July 22, 2018, in Arlington, Texas. (AP Photo/Sam Hodde, File)

## You Should Wear Sunscreen Even If You Have Darker Skin

### Excessive Sun Exposure Can Cause Painful Sunburn, Experts Warn

People with darker skin still need to wear sunscreen — for more reasons than one. Too much ultraviolet exposure from the sun can lead to sunburn, dark spots and wrinkles, and increased risk of skin cancer.

The melanin in darker skin offers some extra protection from the sun, but dermatologists say that isn't enough on its own.

"Everyone needs sunscreen. But the reasons that one might be reaching for sunscreen may differ depending on your skin tone," said Dr. Jenna Lester, who founded the Skin of Color Clinic at the University of California, San Francisco. White people are overall more likely to get skin cancer compared to Black and Hispanic people. But Black and Hispanic people are less likely to survive the most dangerous kind of skin cancer called melanoma, according to the American Cancer Society.

Black patients more commonly get melanoma on their hands and feet — places that are more shielded from the sun. Still, sunscreen is an additional protective layer that helps prevent a host of other problems including sunburns, hyperpigmentation after acne, rosacea and dark patches on the face.

Dr. Oyetewa Asempa at Baylor College of Medicine often reminds her darker-skinned patients: "All of the problems that you're coming to see me for are caused or worsened by the sun." To stay safe in the sun, it's important to grab sunscreen with a sun protection factor or SPF of at least 30 and reapply every two hours. People headed for the pool or beach should put on sunscreen beforehand, remembering to reapply liberally and after getting out of the water.

Most people don't wear enough sunscreen when they apply, Lester said. Make sure to put two long fingers' worth on the face and a hefty blob for the body.

Look for chemical-based sunscreens to avoid ashy white cast. Two key ingredients in mineral-based products — zinc oxide and titanium oxide — are the culprits for that pesky discoloration on dark skin. Tinted sunscreens contain pigments that block visible light from the sun, offering additional protection against dark spots. And wearing a hat or sun-protective clothing with an ultraviolet protection factor or UPF grading can provide an extra safety boost.

Whatever the sun protection routine, it's important to keep it up, Lester said. Some UV rays can climb right through car and house windows to cause sun damage even when indoors, making it even more important to take care of the skin while the sun shines.

"It's about trying to make it a daily habit," she said. "Consistency over intensity."



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Rhonda Grayson and Jeff Kennedy pose for a portrait on Monday, June 16, 2025 in Moore, Oklahoma. (AP photo/ Nick Oxford)

## Tribal Slavery Descendants' Fight for Recognition!

### Juneteenth Highlights Fight for Full Citizenship in the Tribal Nations

Juneteenth may mark the day in 1865 when enslaved people in Galveston, Texas found out they had been freed, but thousands of people in Oklahoma are still fighting for full citizenship in the tribal nations that once held their ancestors in bondage.

Several tribes practiced slavery, and five in Oklahoma — The Cherokee, Seminole, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Muscogee nations — signed reconstruction treaties with the U.S. in 1866 abolishing it three years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. They granted the formerly enslaved, known commonly as Freedmen, citizenship within their respective tribes.

Only one of those tribes, the Cherokee Nation, continues to fully grant the rights of citizenship.

For descendants of people who were enslaved by tribal nations, Juneteenth is both a celebration of freedom for people of African descent and a reminder of their struggle to

be fully embraced by the Indigenous communities with whom they share history and in many cases ancestry.

Traditionally, Freedmen in the Muscogee Nation celebrate Emancipation Day on August 4, marking when the tribe's council drew up a law to declare them free, said Rhonda Grayson, the founder and director of the Oklahoma Indian Territory Museum of Black Creek Freedmen History.

She traces her lineage to formerly enslaved people listed on a 1906 U.S. census of Native Americans who had been forcibly removed to Oklahoma. Known as the Dawes Rolls, the census created two lists - those who appeared Native and those who appeared Black. Those with African ancestry were put on the Freedmen rolls, although many also had Native ancestry.

Last week, the Muscogee Nation Supreme Court heard arguments in a case brought by Grayson and Jeff Kennedy, who are fighting for their citizenship rights and recognition within the Muscogee Nation.

"Our ancestors were Muscogee people of African descent," said Damario Solomon-Simmons, an attorney representing Grayson and Kennedy whose ancestor was also a Freedmen in the tribe. "We were transformed into 'Freedmen' by the Dawes Commission."

Their ancestors were also forced on the Trail of Tears, and after the Civil War they

were granted citizenship and served in the tribe's legislative bodies, Kennedy said.

"We believe that the (Muscogee) Nation would not be what it is today without the bloodshed and tears of those African people," he said.

But, in 1979, the tribe adopted a new constitution restricting citizenship to Muscogee people "by-blood." Grayson and Kennedy's lawsuit countered that citizenship requirement is a violation of the 1866 treaty, and in 2023 a Muscogee Nation district court agreed. The Muscogee Nation's citizenship board appealed and is asking the Supreme Court to overturn that decision.

"That provision has guided our Nation for decades and reflects the will of the people through a democratic process," Jason Salsman, a spokesperson for the Muscogee Nation said in a statement. "We believe that any change to our citizenship laws must come from our own citizens—not from outside interpretations."

The court's ruling is expected later this year, and it could open the door for thousands of new members to the tribe.

For Grayson, the legal battle is about more than their birthright to citizenship she said, it's also about setting straight the historical record.

"We weren't just slaves," Grayson said. "Our people need to know that. Our young people need to know that."

## A Juneteenth & Pride Celebration

### RACE TALKS Hosts 4th Annual History of Black Drag in Portland

Uniting to Break the Chains of Racism, founded in 2011 by activist and educator, Donna Maxey, and led today by Dr. Shaina Maxey Pomerantz as Executive Director, is proud to present the Fourth Annual History of Black Drag in Portland. This powerful event serves as a celebration of both Juneteenth and Pride Month, highlighting the rich legacy and contemporary brilliance of Black drag performers in Portland.

Originally launched in 2022 as a response to increasing political and cultural attacks on drag queens, this event has become a vital space for community education, celebration, and resistance.

This celebration serves as a vital platform for Black and Brown queer communities in Oregon, especially as they face systemic exclusion and violence.

The event honors the cultural and political contributions of Black trans women and femmes, whose leadership helped establish Pride as we know it.

It also recognizes Juneteenth, the time the last enslaved Black people in Texas learned of the Emancipation Proclamation, marking a symbolic end to slavery in the U.S.

In a political climate where drag and trans communities are increasingly targeted, this event stands as a bold act of joy, resistance, and solidarity. As a Black femme-led organization, RACE



Isaiah Esquire – Acclaimed Portland-based dancer and choreographer

TALKS recognizes Black Americans' pivotal contributions, specifically Black trans women whose struggle is commemorated in the establishment of Pride.

"This event is more than entertainment—it's a celebration," says Dr. Shaina Maxey Pomerantz. "It uplifts Black queer and trans voices, reclaims space, and creates a safe, inclusive environment where families and allies can come together in collective joy and resilience." The Juneteenth & Pride Celebration will be held at McMenemy's Kennedy School on Thursday, June 19, 2025. Doors Open at 6:30 pm and the show Begins at 7:00 PM. All ages and allies are welcome. Children under 12 attend free (must be accompanied by an adult). Email [info@racetalkspdx.com](mailto:info@racetalkspdx.com) for more information.

*In Loving Memory*

**Ivory Joe White**

A memorial service will be held on Friday, June 20, 2025,  
at 1:00PM at Piedmont Church of Christ  
5338 North Borthwick Street, Portland, Oregon 97217



# SOLVE Launces Summer with Solve Campaign

## Taking Action and Preserve Outdoor Spaces

Summer is here, and with it comes more opportunities to enjoy the PNW's beaches, parks, and rivers. However, the increased outdoor activity also leads to more litter and strain on the environment. To combat this, SOLVE is launching its Summer with SOLVE campaign, designed to take action, connect communities, and celebrate the beauty of our region through environmental action.

"Summer is a time to enjoy the outdoors, but it's also a time to ensure these spaces remain clean and sustainable for future generations," said Kris Carico, CEO of SOLVE. "Together, we can create cleaner, more inviting spaces that reflect our pride in our region and our commitment to caring for the environment. By working together, we can make a significant impact and inspire others to join in the effort to protect our natural spaces that we love to enjoy, especially during summer."

SOLVE kicked off summer with Pick It Up, Portland!, a city-wide celebration on World Envi-



SOLVE volunteers at Sellwood Riverfront Park

ronment Day, June 5. The event focused on four different locations across Portland: Market Street Downtown, Holladay Park, Sellwood Riverfront Park, and Eastbank Esplanade. This was the first of many volunteer opportunities offered by SOLVE this summer, with more projects planned throughout the season, including the ongoing Waterway Cleanup Series, protecting the health of local rivers, streams and creeks.

As outdoor recreation increases, SOLVE volunteers will remove litter from parks, neighborhoods, beaches, and riverbanks. Maintain recreation sites and public green spaces. Mulch around native trees and shrubs. Remove invasive plant species that thrive in summer months like Japanese knotweed, Himalayan blackberry, and Scotch broom

Upcoming Summer Events include the Post-4th Cleanups

(July 5-6) during this event volunteers will tackle the debris left behind from holiday celebrations to help restore outdoor spaces and shorelines. Next is the Willamette River Cleanup (August 9) which is focused on cleanup of the Willamette River, combating litter both on the water and along the riverbanks. Following that is the Waterway Cleanup Series (ongoing through September) which is a series of cleanup efforts dedicated

to preserving Oregon's rivers and streams during the peak outdoor season. There is also the Monthly Detrash Portland Events which are Community cleanups in Portland's business districts, focusing on revitalizing key areas in the city.

Looking ahead, SOLVE is also preparing for its annual Beach & Riverside Cleanup, September 20-28, part of the global International Coastal Cleanup, World Rivers Day and National Public Lands Day initiatives. This summer, SOLVE invites you to take part in protecting and preserving the natural spaces that make our region special. Whether you're volunteering at a cleanup event, leading your own group, or taking on a DIY project, there's a way for everyone to get involved.

Try the Trash Bag Challenge—pick up a bag of litter, then challenge friends or co-workers to do the same. Pass the bag, spread the impact, and inspire others to take action.

Every effort counts. Together, we can keep our neighborhoods, parks, and waterways clean and beautiful for generations to come.

For more information about Summer with SOLVE and how to get involved, visit [solveoregon.org/seasons](https://solveoregon.org/seasons) or follow us on social media.

## OREGON PROBLEM GAMBLING RESOURCE

# OPGR

## TIME TO REFLECT

When the summer sun starts shining, many of us get a new sense of optimism. As the spring clouds break, we start to look forward to weekend getaways, summer road trips, and changing up some habits for our health. Maybe cutting back on gambling is one of those healthy changes you want to make.

## YOU'RE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

At OPGR.org, they have research-supported tips and tactics to help you make the changes that work for you. Take a quiz, check out free resources, or download Evive, an app that's free for Oregonians, to help you cut back or pause your gambling.

Explore your options on your terms. You've got this.

Visit [OPGR.org](https://OPGR.org) and take back control.