



'Break the Silence, Break the Stigma,' uses the power of theater to shed light on the shame and stigmas surrounding mental illness.

## Break the Silence, Break the Stigma

Stories meant to start dialog toward healing

A new production shedding light on the shame and stigma surrounding mental illness comes to Portland next week. "Break the Silence, Break the Stigma" uses the power of theater combined with the real life stories of Oregon residents who have experienced hard and often silent adversities.

The show brings together Portland's Playback Theater Troupe in collaboration with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Multnomah

County and Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare to bring six stories of struggle, triumph and hope to Portland audiences.

The organizations hope that the impact of sharing personal stories brings people together, fosters awareness and connects people with themes and issues that we all face but generally ignore.

"This event creates an opportunity to talk about something that affects 1 out of 4 Americans each year and illustrates the various avenues that can be taken in the journey toward recovery," said Cascadia's chief executive officer Derald Walker.

After the powerful perfor-

mances, the audience will have an opportunity to talk with community members and mental health professionals and learn more about Oregon's Mental Health community.

This one-time only production takes place Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Artists Reparatory Theatre, 1515 S.W. Morrison Ave. Tickets start at \$25 and are available at [breakthesilence.brownpapertickets.com](http://breakthesilence.brownpapertickets.com).

## Death Settlement

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ly cost taxpayers many millions more in damages."

The settlement does not resolve any factual disputes, and expressly does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of the city, its police department or any of the officers. The settlement has nothing whatsoever to do with the

criminal proceedings, the press release said.

All six officers are charged with second-degree assault, misconduct in office and reckless endangerment. Three of the officers face a manslaughter charge and a fourth officer faces the most serious charge of all, second-degree "depraved-heart" murder. Three of the officers are black and three are white. Their attorneys have asked the judge in the case to move their trials out of the city. The hearing is set for Thursday.

## NAACP Justice Event Correction

The NAACP Portland Branch and Common Cause Oregon will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act with Oregon Gov. Kate Brown during an event "Oregon Journey for Justice" on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. at the Billy Webb Elks Lodge, 6 N. Tillamook St. Proceeds will support racial justice and open democracy advocacy efforts.

The Portland Observer regrets publishing the wrong day of the week for the event in last week's issue.

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