

CLIMATE, from page 10

biggest city in the U.S., and it was under water. That's hundreds of thousands of people and families that were impacted, and when you impact a family, you impact children and you put the whole system under duress and that causes conflicts.

I know that's a long road I've just taken you on, from floods in New Orleans and Houston back to playing in children's backyards, but one of the things we've taken from our children in this whole stranger-danger culture, and penning them indoors, is that free movement and play with other children that allows them to negotiate, share and invent games together.

I grew up doing that. I have eight siblings. We invented games all day long. We hardly spent time on TV. We've taken that away from children and we've put them into these structured sports activities and we've put them on screens. And what I'm advocating strongly is that we take them off of screens and we stick them in dirt, and we give them a stick and a ball and other kids to play with and we set them free, in a sense, to do what they naturally want to do, which is climb and jump and invent and create and have battles and imaginary play and shape their world.

And if they can shape their world and their imaginations in the woods and build tree houses and invent games and battles, then they can invent solutions to the climate crisis. And they can build new cities and new forms of cities.

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MARY DEMOCKER

The capacity to imagine and then create out of that vision is intimately linked to raising children able to solve the climate crisis and transition this world to something that's healthy and thriving for human beings and all living things.

I'm not advocating for sending them out on their own, by any stretch. When my kids were younger, I was scared to send them out. I don't want to belittle parents' fears. It's not the parents who are to be judged here. What I'm

looking for is a way to support parents in allowing that kind of play for their children and at the same time, feeling safe themselves as parents.

E.G.: You write in one section of your book, "I honestly don't care whether you drive an electric car or a Hummer." That's not a statement I think that most people would expect to hear from a climate activist. Can you explain?

M.D.: We have to be really careful about blaming individuals and put our attention on

the source of the problem. The source of the problem is, in my opinion, the petrochemical companies and their investors, their CEOs and the politicians that they've been allowed to buy. Those politicians are carrying out industry agendas, and they're doing it beautifully. They're doing it better than they ever have before right now under Donald Trump's administration. We have to be really careful not to knock each other down at this point. The progressives are so good at eating each other alive.

We have to support one another as people, as communities, as families, as people who care about one another, who care about our children and care about the planet and care about a beautiful thriving ecosystem in every place that humans live and every place that they don't.

Everybody wants that, and I think it's really easy for us to get pulled into criticizing one another and keeping score on who's eating what and who's driving what, and the fact is, we're all captive in a petro-culture. We're stuck within a dirty energy infrastructure. And when we start to come at it from that point of view, it illuminates our path much more, and it allows us to be more gentle on ourselves and gentle on each other. Ultimately, that's what's going to help us transition out of this outmoded and dangerous dirty energy infrastructure that's literally killing us to something that's life affirming and healthy for everyone.

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Stuck

by Ron Sanford

As it starts to slither down
I rush to grab my poncho.
Meteorologists were off!
Dang it! I try to glom onto my poncho
When is this crap going to end?
Iced in from all sides, I can't find it
I am helpless before the elements
An awning and warm clean clothes
To separate from the chill
Next time I will not be stuck
Stuck in this hell

Looking forward

by Daniel Cox

Two shadows intertwine. One heartbeat.
A soul and spirit
and soon-to-be-discarded earth suit.
Oh what marvel it will be
The journey in itself will be
an intergalactic field trip
but it's not my time to die.

Need health insurance?

CareOregon's goMobile Team makes it easy for you to get dental, mental and physical health care under the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Our community partners host us on these dates, where we can check your eligibility for OHP, enroll you in Medicaid/OHP and make your doctor appointments!

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMUNITY CENTER

19600 S Molalla Ave, Oregon City
April 4 9-11 a.m.
April 18 9-11 a.m.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

SACAGAWEA HEALTH CENTER

1060 Eisenschmidt Ln, St Helens
April 2 9-12 p.m.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

CLACKAMAS SERVICE CENTER

8800 SE 80th Ave, Portland
April 10 10-12 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

50 SW 2nd Ave, Portland
April 3 9-11 a.m.
April 10 9-11 a.m.
April 17 9-11 a.m.
April 24 9-11 a.m.

EAST COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

24375 SE Stark St, Gresham
April 9 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

FREEDOM FOURSQUARE CHURCH

660 SE 160th Ave, Portland
April 23 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

HUMBOLDT GARDENS HEALTH FAIR

5033 N Vancouver Ave, Portland
April 20 2:30-5:30 p.m.

JOIN

1435 NE 81st Ave, Ste 100, Portland
April 12 12-2 p.m.

MT HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student Union - 26000 SE Stark St
Gresham
April 3 12-2 p.m.
April 17 12-2 p.m.

PCC SYLVANIA COLLEGE CENTER

12000 SW 49th Ave, Portland
April 11 9-11 a.m.
April 25 9-11 a.m.

WORKSOURCE GRESHAM

19421 SE Stark St, Portland
April 5 2-4 p.m.

PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION

111 W Burnside, Portland
April 12 8-10 a.m.
April 26 8-10 a.m.

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

PSU TriO - 4th Floor Rm 425,
1829 SW Broadway, Portland
April 11 12-2 p.m.
April 25 12-2 p.m.

STREET ROOTS

211 NW Davis St, Portland
April 26 12-2 p.m.

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

3 NW 3rd, Portland
April 24 2-4 p.m.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

BEAVERTON CITY LIBRARY

12375 SW 5th St, Beaverton
April 5 9-11 a.m.

Invite goMobile to your event or location!

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