

Professor to discuss the future of racial diversity in Oregon

ASTORIA — Although 2010 Census data show Oregon's population becoming more racially diverse, the state remains one of the whitest in the nation.

Many Oregonians value racial diversity and the dimension and depth it adds to our lives, yet we remain largely isolated from one another and have yet to fulfill the vision of a racially integrated society. What does the racial integration of place require of us, and how might we prepare to create and embrace this opportunity?

This is the focus of "White Out? The Future of

Racial Diversity in Oregon," a free conversation with Willamette University professor Emily Drew at 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19 at the Astoria Public Library, located at 450 10th St.

This program is hosted by the Lower Columbia Diversity Project and Astor Library Friends Association and sponsored by Oregon Humanities.

Drew is an associate professor of sociology at Willamette University, where she teaches courses on racism, race and ethnicity, urban sociology, mass media and social change. She earned her doctorate from Loyola

University Chicago and has published articles in Critical Studies in Media Communication, Television & New Media, and Tourism & Cultural Change.

Through the Conversation Project, Oregon Humanities offers free programs that engage community members in thoughtful, challenging conversations about ideas critical to Oregonians' daily lives and the state's future. Oregon Humanities is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and a partner of the Oregon Cultural Trust.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Willamette University professor Emily Drew will speak about racial diversity in Oregon Aug. 19 at the Astoria Public Library.

For more information about this free community discussion, contact Ami Kreider at 503-325-7323 or akreider@astoria.or.us

Cannon Beach Chorus welcomes new members

The first rehearsal of the fall season is set for Sept. 12 in Cannon Beach

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach Chorus will begin rehearsals for the 2016-17 performance year on Sept. 12 at the Cannon Beach Community Church, located at 132 E. Washington St.

The non-audition chorus will begin its 27th year of singing and welcomes singers age 16 and older. Rehearsals are held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Monday evening and are led by choral director of John Buehler.

The repertoire for the fall season — focusing on Christmas celebrations around the world — will include "Gloria," a three-movement work for mixed voices by British composer John Rutter; "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "Silent Night" arranged by John

Rutter; and carols from Venezuela, France, Spain and Nigeria.

Chorus membership is comprised of individuals from Ocean Park, Washington; Astoria; Warrenton; Gearhart; Seaside; Cannon Beach; Manzanita; Nehalem; Wheeler; Rockaway Beach and Tillamook.

The Cannon Beach Chorus is an advocate for choral music education in public schools and offers a vocal scholarship annually to students participating in choral singing. The 2016-17 recipient is Ellie Whitlock, a freshman music major at Pacific University.

Choral members are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early for the first rehearsal, since music will be distributed and the necessary paperwork completed.

For more information, visit www.cannonbeachchorus.org. For carpooling opportunities, call 503-436-0378.

Voluntary Stewardship Program explained for agricultural lands in upcoming workshops

PACIFIC COUNTY, Wash. — Washington state's new Voluntary Stewardship Program is a first-in-the-nation approach to promoting agriculture while protecting environmentally sensitive areas on agricultural lands — including streams, wetlands, aquifers and geologically hazardous areas (collectively called "critical areas"). Enabled under the state's Growth Management Act, the VSP uses a collaborative process to identify, coordinate, and build upon existing programs and practices that address agricultural impacts on critical areas.

In Pacific County, the VSP will build upon local knowledge and best practices for farming and conservation activities to help individual farmers create voluntary, site-specific stewardship plans for their lands.

"The VSP is not a new

set of regulations," notes Tim Crose, director of Pacific County's Department of Community Development. "Instead of imposing new regulations on agricultural lands, the VSP provides an opportunity for the agricultural community to voluntarily work together for effective, locally tailored environmental stewardship."

To introduce the VSP to landowners, four workshops will be hosted at locations throughout the county:

- 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 22, Naselle-Grays River Schools, 793 State Route 4, Naselle.

- 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23, Willapa Valley High School, 22 Viking Way, Raymond.

- 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, Shoalwater Bay Tribal Center, 2373 Tokeland Road, Tokeland.

- 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, Pacific Coast Cranberry Museum, 2907 Pioneer Road, Long Beach.

In each workshop, the VSP process will be described using maps and visual displays to show where agricultural activities and critical areas intersect in the county. Existing conservation strategies and agricultural practices will be discussed with regard to how county critical areas can be stewarded under the VSP while promoting sustainable agricultural activities at the same time.

All interested stakeholders, including farmers and farm associations, tribal representatives, local environmentalists, government agencies, and other public parties are encouraged to attend a nearby workshop to learn more about the VSP and are

also invited to the regular meetings of the Working Group developing the VSP plan for Pacific County. These meetings are held from 5 to 7 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Commissioners Meeting Room at 1216 W. Robert Bush Drive in South Bend.

More information on all meeting opportunities can be found online at www.co.pacific.wa.us/dcd/VSP.htm or by calling 360-875-9356.



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