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NW Book Festival -- Meet the authors in person, get inspired and ask questions at the 7th annual NW Book Festival, Saturday, July 25 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Pioneer Courthouse Square, downtown. Over 200 acclaimed and well known authors from Oregon and out of state will be attending.



New York Rapper Tour -- New York rapper Himanshu Suri, better known by his stage name Heems, will be playing the Star Theater, downtown on Wednesday evening, July 22. Heems was a member of the alternative hip hop group Das Racist. This is his first tour since dropping Eat Pray Thug, a critically acclaimed album post 9-11 and in the wake of today's political climate.

Playwrights Festival -- Portland Center Stage's 17th annual JAW: A Playwrights Festival brings free staged readings and a host of exciting performances and artists labs, with dance, theater, clowns, cabaret and more, during all day sessions on Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, July 26 at the Gerding Theater at the Armory, 128 N.W. 11th Ave. JAW is a chance to digest new plays while they're still in development. No tickets are required.

Science of Ripley's Believe It Or Not -- What's more amazing that Robert Ripley's legendary compendium of oddities, anomalies and fantastic feats? The science that underlies them! OMSI presents "The Science of Ripley's Believe It or Not!" a 6,000 square foot interactive exhibit that explores the real science behind the unbelievable. The collection of intriguing objects and astonishing artifacts is open through Sept. 7.



Summer Kids in the Park -- Another schedule of fun and healthy activities for kids during the summer months is now underway in three of Gresham's largest parks. Free and open to all kids under 18, events are scheduled for two hours every weekday at Main City, Vance and Red Sunset parks. A free lunch will be served, and kids can just drop in. No advance registration is required.



Uniquely Oregon Photo Exhibit -- An impressive collection of photographs celebrating people, places, and a potpourri of images unique to Oregon is the theme of this photo exhibit on public display through July 31 in the George R. White Library and Learning Center at Concordia University in northeast Portland. The art can be viewed during normal library hours.



A.J. Java Hosts Concerts -- A.J. Java, a community cafe across the street from Peninsula Park at 6425 N. Albina Ave., welcomes the public to a series of free summer concerts each Friday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and featuring Cuban sandwiches and a potpourri of Latin sounds.

Norman Sylvester -- Boogie Cat Norman Sylvester and his band perform Friday, July 24 at Trail's End Saloon in Oregon City; Saturday, July 25 at Halibut's; Thursday, July 30 at Hawthorne Lobster House; Friday, July 31 at Restaurant 503 in West Linn; and

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Saturday, Aug. 1 at Roadhouse 101 in Lincoln City.

Farmers Market at the Square

-- Local farmers, food producers and hot food vendors from the region fill Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland's downtown living room, each Monday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until Sept. 28.

Soulful Showcase -- Blacque Butterfly presents spoken word, live music and featured artists on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 8 p.m. at E'Njoni Café, African-Mediterranean cuisine at 910 N. Killingsworth St.

Safe and Free at Matt Dishman -- The Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St., has opened its doors to teenagers this summer as part of a plan to provide safe and free activities for youth, age 18 and younger through Portland Parks and Recreation. Registration is required.

Summer Reading for Kids -- Kids of all ages can sign up at any neighborhood library of the Multnomah County Library system for a free summer reading program that entices kids to read for pleasure and maintain the skills they learned during the school year, while also encouraging lifelong library use.

Chicago Steppin' Classes -- You have seen the R. Kelly video, now it's time to learn the dance. Groovin' High Steppers offer Chicago Steppin' classes at the Rockwood Community Center and the Colwood Golf Center. All levels are welcome. No partner is needed. First two lessons are free; \$20 monthly fee includes both locations. For an event schedule, announcements and more information, visit the website groovinhighsteppers.com

Portland's Saturday Market -- Portland Saturday Market in Old Town brings some of Oregon's best handmade products, good eats and live entertainment from street musicians and other artists. Located next to the Willamette River at 2 S.W. Naito Parkway, Saturday Market is also open every Sunday through Christmas Eve.

Music Millennium Free Shows -- The Music Millennium, 3158 E. Burnside, hosts in-house live performances. Enjoy free music and the opportunity to meet artists. Call 503-231-8926 for a schedule.

Fourth Sunday Jam Night -- A friends and family variety comedy show in a Saturday Night Live format with local recording and performing artists, bands, dance crews, poets, and drama groups, takes place each fourth Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. at Celebration Tabernacle, 8131 N. Denver Ave. The free event is open to the community.

Live Jazz -- Every Friday and Saturday from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Third Degrees Lounge at the River Place Hotel, 1510 S.W. Harbor Way. No cover or minimum purchase. For more information, visit pdxjazz.com.

Politically Charged Comedy -- Hari Kondabolu brings his politically and socially charged comedy to Portland's Helium Comedy Club for three nights of laughs, Thursday, July 23 through Saturday, July 25. The Brooklyn-based comic has done standup on the Late Show with David Letterman, Conan, Jimmy Kimmel Live, Live at Gotham, and John Oliver's New York Standup Show. Kondabolu is also a writer and correspondent for the Chris Rock-produced Totally Biased W. Kamau Bell. Tickets range from \$16 to \$30 and can be purchased at harikondabolu.com/shows.



Discount Admission -- OMSI visitors pay only \$2 per person for general admission on the first Sunday of each month as well as discounted admission of \$5 to the Planetarium, OMIMAX Theater and USS Blueback submarine.