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What's on your list today?®

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY VINCENT REYNOLDS

Bonnie Ratner (left) and Skeeter Greene focus on interracial friendships in 'Hazardous Beauty,' one of the attractions at this month's annual Fertile Ground Festival of New Works festival.

Hazardous Beauty

The intersection of gender, race and class draws fire when a new piece that focuses on interracial friendships comes to this month's Fertile Ground Festival of New Works.

"Hazardous Beauty" follows two women - one black, one white - as they become "critique" partners in a memoir writing class.

What starts out as a writing critique turns into a penetrating dive into each other's lives, including hard choices in love, work, art and aging. Can they be allies for each on this writer's journey or will hard words fly, old wounds fester, and women weep? And what does it matter?

Written by Portland-based

playwright Bonnie Ratner, this staged reading will be performed at Portland Abbey Arts, 7600 N. Herford Ave., courtesy of Community Dream Productions, on Friday, Jan. 29 and Saturday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at boxofficetickets.com/go/event?id=307523.

Non-profits' Spending under Cloud

Roy Jay, a prominent African American business leader and community advocate, is firing back against an Oregon Department of Justice investigation to determine if he unlawfully profited from the non-profit groups he headed.

A spokesperson, R. Weldon Woodruff, issued a statement on behalf of Jay on Friday, claiming "a conspiracy to discredit one of Portland's hardest working business and community ambassa-



Roy Jay

dors." State investigators are trying to determine if there was an inappropriate use of funds for Jay's tax-exempt Independent Development Enterprise Alliance, an umbrella organization for his African American Chamber of Commerce, Project Clean Slate and Ride Connection's shuttle program, the Portland Tribune reported. Jay, through an attorney, Charles Paternoster, denied any wrongdoing.