

**In the Penal Colony**

– Portland Opera presents ‘In the Penal Colony,’ a play that exposes a nightmarish machine of executions. Now playing through Saturday, Aug. 10 at the Hampton Opera Center, 211 S.E. Caruthers St. For tickets and more information, visit portlandoper.org.

**Courage and Cleverness**

– Miss Trunchbull hates children and just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don’t abide by her rules. But Matilda, has courage and cleverness in equal amounts and could be the school pupils’ saving grace. ‘Matilda, The Musical,’ based on the beloved children’s novel, is now playing through Aug. 18 at the Lakewood Center for the Arts in Lake Oswego.



**Beer Auction to End Youth Homelessness** – New Avenues for Youth, a nonprofit helping prevent and intervene in youth homelessness invites the community to a beer tasting event and live beer auction fundraiser with more than 50 different breweries to support the group’s mission. The event will be held Saturday, Aug. 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Leftbank Annex, 10 N. Weidler and Broadway. For more information, visit newavenues.org.

**Summer Free for All** – Portland Parks and Recreation’s “Summer Free for All” series is back with



amazing events all summer long for both kids and adults, including movies, concerts, free lunch and play events and more. For details, a guide is posted online at portlandoregon.gov/parks.

**Read for Fun and Prizes** – Multnomah County encourages kids to read for fun and prizes this summer. The annual Summer Reading program is in full swing at all branch libraries. To help grow interest, the library also offers dozens of free summer reading events, camps and classes to keep youth of all ages playing and learning.

**Norman Sylvester Band** – The Norman Sylvester Band plays Thursday, Aug. 8 at noon in the Franz Cancer Center courtyard at Providence Hospital; Saturday, Aug. 10 at the Spare Room; Sunday, Aug. 11 at the Elephant Garlic Festival in North Plains; Saturday, Aug. 17 at 9 p.m. for the Canby Boogie Fest; and Sunday, Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. at Millennium Plaza Park in Lake Oswego..

**Twilight Tuesday** – The Oregon Zoo is staying open late for a special Twilight Tuesday extra on Aug. 20 featuring animals that are active at dusk, fun activities for families, food and beverages from local vendors and live entertainment. The festivities will begin at 4 p.m. and last until 8 p.m.

**Summer at the Square** – This month Pioneer Courthouse Square, downtown, is offering free weekly summer events, including Noon Tunes concerts on Tuesdays, wellness activities on Wednesdays and Flicks on the Bricks movies on Friday evenings.

# Vaccines Save Lives

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health disparities, and they are one of the greatest successes in public health and modern medicine. From 1994 to 2016, childhood immunizations prevented an estimated 281 million child illnesses, 855,000 child deaths, and nearly \$1.65 trillion in health care costs. Every dollar invested in vaccination yields \$3 in direct benefits and \$10 in benefits when societal costs are included. They also save money for states and localities, which shoulder the often high cost of tracking and treating those who are infected. For instance, measles costs an average of \$32,000 per case.

Measles is a very good case study in the benefits of vaccines. Before the vaccine was introduced in 1963, measles killed

approximately 400-500 American children every year. Measles can result in severe and lifelong health consequences for those who do survive. It is also highly contagious—so much so that an unvaccinated person walking through a room up to two hours after someone with measles has left has about a 90 percent chance of getting sick.

The very young face heightened risk: most infants do not get their first measles vaccine until they are about one year old, and the consequences of infection can be particularly severe in babies and young children. A third of all measles cases in the current U.S. outbreaks occurred in children younger than five, and most were children under age 18 who had not been fully vaccinated.

The trend towards vaccine hes-

itancy and refusal has grown globally in recent years as misinformation about the safety of vaccines are shared by members of the anti-vaccination or “anti-vax” movement on the internet and social media have sown seeds of doubt in parents around the world. But we must not allow misinformation and fear to drag a new generation of children backwards into danger.

With the start of a new school year around the corner, it’s critical for parents and guardians to make sure their children are up to date on vaccines. The science is clear: vaccines work. Vaccine preventable diseases are dangerous and can be deadly. Quick action must be taken on multiple fronts to slow, halt, or eliminate disease outbreaks in the U.S. and abroad. Our children’s lives depend on it.

Marian Wright Edelman is founder and president emerita of the Children’s Defense Fund.

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