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William DeMerrit (left) and Shayna Blass co-star in "Indecent," the ethnically diverse exploration of Jewish identity which utilizes a touchstone of Yiddish theater, the 1906 play "The God of Vengeance," as the vehicle to explore a vibrant lost history of a piece written ahead of its time.

Diverse Play Explores Jewish Identity

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY DARLEEN ORTEGA



Paula Vogel's beautiful play about Jewish identity, "Indecent," grapples with themes of outsiders facing threats to their freedoms and basic human rights, apropos in an age when synagogues face a resurgence of deadly violence.

up as oneself, when one exists at the margins of privilege and identity? How does one withstand pressure to conform, to assimilate, to succeed on terms that function to erase that which makes us distinct?

all kinds, those of us who have faced the hazards of annihilation or demonization or oppression or genocide. To be accepted--indeed, to survive at all--often involves erasing ourselves or our communities, accommodating the pressure to blend in and to validate how the dominant group defines goodness and success.

"Indecent," playing at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland through October, grapples with these questions with

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Fire Investigation Underway

Portland Police and Fire and Rescue are asking the public's help to identify persons of interest in a residential fire investigation involving a three alarm fire at a home on Northeast Garfield Street on July 5. Surveillance video from a neighboring apartment complex recorded several people that authorities wish to identify for the fire that resulted in property damage and injured two.



'Beloved' Author and Nobel Laureate Dead at 88



Toni Morrison, the internationally acclaimed author whose prose spoke to the hardship and resilience of the African American experience, died Monday night at Montefiore Medical Center in New York, NBC reports. The 88-year-old was the winner of the 1993 Noble Prize for Literature, 2012 Presidential Medal of Freedom, and author of the novels "Beloved," "The Bluest Eyes,"

The Week in Review

"Sula," "Song of Solomon," and many others.

Warren Calls Out White Supremacy

Presidential hopeful Elizabeth Warren said during a democratic debate that white supremacy should be labeled as domestic terrorism, saying to resounding applause: "it poses a threat to the United States of America." That comes after FBI Director Christopher Wray's assertion to the U.S. Senate that roughly 100 domestic terrorism-related arrests since October were connected to white supremacy.

Missing Man Found

Gresham Police have successfully located a missing 67-year-old man with dementia, James Lee Rivers, over 30 hours after he was reportedly last seen. Rivers had been last seen at the Safeway at 1001 SW Highland Dr. between noon and 12:30pm Sunday and was reported found by Gresham Police by 10:30pm Monday.

Woman Sues Portland for Protest Injury

Michelle Fawcett filed a lawsuit against the city of Portland Tuesday for injuries she said she suffered during an Aug. 4, 2018 protest against right-wing extremists. The 53-year-old woman's claim is that she was struck in the arm by a flash-bang grenade, causing third-degree chemical burns, other physical injuries, and mental and emotion distress, stated the lawsuit, which seeks \$250,000 in damages.



Rapper Returns to U.S.

Rapper A\$AP Rocky returned to the U.S. Saturday after being freed from a Swedish jail the night before, pending a verdict in his trial. Rocky, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, is accused with two others of beating a 19-year-old man in Stockholm on June 30, though he's plead not guilty. The verdict will be announced Aug. 14.