

## Healing

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“criminal justice system, domestic violence, community violence, education, immigration policy, mental health and wellness, religious and spiritual practices, poverty, and youth empowerment.

“Portland is known as a pretty liberal place, but how does that play out in reality, when it comes to supporting issues of equi-

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ty?” Brown says.

“What does that mean for a mother or father trying to advocate for their child in the education system? How much support do we really give to lesbian and gay youth?”

“What we are trying to do is move beyond the lip service of Liberalism and empower our communities to move forward in creating social justice.”

Everyone is welcome to attend. The first day will feature therapists, teachers, and

community activists from across North America who will describe programs created in their communities that promote equity and access for all. Sessions will focus on colonization and its legacy; representations of marginalized groups; Roosevelt High School’s anti-bullying work; therapy, healing and social change; and how to create social justice in health, education and spiritual practice.

Presenters include: Nocona Pewewardy, Michelle Maher, Allegra Richardson Warren, Michael Yellowbird, Judy Lewis and Cornel Pewewardy.

Day two will be focused on the Portland community and will include sessions on youth empowerment, sex trafficking, community activism for the 21st Century, and how to dismantle white supremacy in immigration, the justice system, policing, health care and human rights.

Presenters and panelists include Gabby Santos, Se-ah-dom Edmo, Rev. Cliff Chappell, Multnomah Youth Commissioners and Angela Nusom. Sunshine Dixon will stage her original play, “Hand of Time.”

This year is the second time Portland has hosted the conference. And from now on, it will come to Portland every second year.

## Celebrating the Vote



PHOTO BY BOBBIE FOSTER

Former Vermont Gov. Madeleine Kunin, sashed at center right, traveled to Oregon last weekend to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote in the state. She spoke on her book, “The New Feminist Agenda: Defining the Next Revolution for Women, Work, and Family,” at the Oregon Historical Society. Kunin was joined by, from left, former Secretary of State and former Historical Society CEO Norma Paulus; former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts, and former U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Furse.

## Minors

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mercial sex industry, you’re automatically a victim....Because they are children we know that they are not psychologically developed enough to make an adult consensual decision, understanding the full consequences for their life, when they are involved in the commercial sex industry.”

In 2005-6 Shared Hope worked with 10 sex trafficking task forces across the United States, to investigate the commercial sexual exploitation of children – most of them girls.

They sent undercover buyers into the trade to learn more about the men who buy sex from minors, the people who transport girls or facilitate child prostitution, and the traffickers – or pimps – who profit from the trade. Smith said she found girls just like her granddaughters being bought and sold.

“The harder thing as we got out there and I started getting information back was that the buyer was not a tourist from another country. He was an ordinary guy in America. So, ordinary guys are driving demand for somebody else’s daughter in their own

communities.”

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has estimated that at least 100,000 minors are victimized every year in America’s commercial sex industry,

The figures cited by anti-trafficking activists would be shocking, if they were accurate

Scaife said. Girls rescued from traffickers report being compelled to service 5-10 clients a day.

“That’s a million men a day purchasing a sex act with a child in this nation,” she said. “That’s shocking.”

The figures cited by anti-trafficking activists would be shocking, if they were accurate. They’re not. David Finkelhor, a

researcher with the Crimes Against Children Research Center, and an acknowledged expert, says the 100,000 figure is simply “a guesstimate.”

Asked if the evidence supports the idea

that a million men a day seek sex from juveniles, Finkelhor said,

“Whoa! This is speculation upon speculation.”

After his work was used inaccurately in a much-cited but flawed study, Finkelhor created a fact sheet on juveniles trafficked into prostitution.

“Unfortunately, there are no credible or

supported estimates of the problem,” the fact sheet notes.

Finkelhor notes that nationwide, the number of girls involved in sex trafficking who were taken into custody by law enforcement in 2006 was 1,400.

“No-one believes this estimate fully characterizes the problem,” the fact sheet says, yet “this is among the most recent and clearly defined of the estimates and counters the assumption that all the estimates are large.”

Finkelhor also says it is false that the average age of entry into the commercial sex trade is 13. That number was based on interviews with children rescued from trafficking, who all are minors to start with. No study has determined the average of entry into prostitution.

Read the rest of this story online at [www.theskanner.com](http://www.theskanner.com)



## McCreary

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business off the ground.

“I opened my door at the end of August and most of the people are finding me again that I used to insure a long time ago,” says McCreary. “Starting a business in this economy has always been a challenge. But it’s been a fun challenge.”

He says he’s gotten much of his business from friends, family and fellow church members passing along the word.

He has also utilized social media. McCreary is catching up with the new wave of technology and his daughter Alanna is helping move that process along; McCreary says he let her play around with the agency’s Facebook page one night and the amount of “likes” tripled by the next day.

Although he embraces technology advances, McCreary believes some business is best handled the old fashioned way.

“Nowadays you can buy a policy without even having to step foot in an office,” he says. “Companies want to do business in

that way and they also give discounts based on that.

“The person online is not invested in you. All they’re doing is giving you a rate.

‘Don’t look at the minimum coverage as a way of buying insurance’ says McCreary. “When you’re buying your first car, a lot of people just put the state minimums on it. State minimums are usually higher than the next step up’

Whereas, when you go in to see someone, you get that person’s personality. You get to actually experience them. When a time of crisis comes you want to talk to someone personal to hear your side of the story.

“I love GEICO and all of them. They’ve got great commercials but in a time of need you need to actually talk to someone.”

The industry has undergone a number of changes beyond just technology, according to McCreary.

One of those changes is how a customer is

rated.

McCreary suggests that young people shopping the insurance market have good credit scores because that is one of the new things companies are looking for. In terms of car insurance, he also notes that companies look for clean driving records, college degrees and whether a person has taken Dri-

ver’s Ed or a defensive driving course. Companies reduce rates for grade point average, usually 3.0 and above, in some cases as well.

He encourages insurance shoppers to be thoughtful because at the end of the day, it’s about the money.

“Don’t look at the minimum coverage as a way of buying insurance” says McCreary. “When you’re buying your first car, a lot of people just put the state minimums on it. State minimums are usually higher than the next step up.”

“Take the time to check out rates. It takes about 15-20 minutes to get an actual quote from someone. You never know when you’re paying too much. In this day and age, saving every bit of money is good.”

Find out more about the company at [www.mccrearyins.com](http://www.mccrearyins.com).