



# INDIVISIBLE BENTON COUNTY

N e w s l e t t e r

May 19, 2026

## Why Cynicism Feels Smarter Than Hope

Cynicism has been having itself a little parade lately. *The system is too far gone. The rules are rigged. The institutions are captured. The fascists have already won.* Maybe. Or maybe that's what fear sounds like when it has learned to speak in a graduate seminar voice.

Because **cynicism** feels smarter than **hope**. Of course it does. Cynicism gets to predict the collapse from a safe distance. It doesn't have to build anything. It doesn't have to risk anything. It doesn't have to knock doors, file lawsuits, organize neighbors, protect elections, pressure officials, make art, teach history, raise money, lose a round, get back up, and try again.

But naming danger is not a substitute for *resisting it* For *fighting it*. There is a point where “realism” becomes a velvet fainting couch for people who do not want the burden of action.

**Cynicism is not the opposite of naivety. Discipline is.**

The answer is not cheerful delusion—it’s disciplined, clear-eyed resistance. Hope doesn’t require pretending the courts are fair, the rules are clean, or the odds are good. Hope means understanding exactly how bad the terrain is and fighting anyway.

**Hope is bravery. It is a discipline. It wears a hero’s cape and demands that you believe in—and fight for— a beautiful future.**

Hope is the bravery to fight when the evidence is ugly, the path is blocked, and the powerful have stacked every available deck against you. Hope tells you to file the appeal, make the call, teach the lesson, show up at the meeting, stand up in church and speak your truth, protect your neighbor, document the abuse, count the votes, feed the organizers, print the flyers, and refuse to hand tomorrow over to the worst people in the country just because they got there before you and they’re brandishing crowbars.

We’re not the first to face hostile courts. We’re not the first to face rigged rules. We’re not the first to look at captured institutions and ask, “Well, butter my biscuit, how exactly are we supposed to get through that?”

Every expansion of democracy in this country has run straight into the people who insisted it was impossible. Abolition was impossible. Labor rights were impossible. Women’s suffrage was impossible. Civil rights were impossible. Marriage equality was impossible. Every hard thing was impossible right up until enough people made themselves *impossible to ignore*.

And no, history does not guarantee victory. The arc of the moral universe does not bend itself. It has to be dragged, shoved, litigated, organized, protected, funded, sung over, marched for, bled for, and occasionally chased down the street with a broom and a fog horn.

The cynic looks at that work and calls it pointless. The authoritarian looks at that work and calls it dangerous.

Authoritarians don’t need people to love them. They don’t need people to believe them. They only need enough people to conclude that resistance is futile.

Cynics get to feel right for doing the authoritarian’s work. They’ll say they are just being realistic. They’ll say they are done being disappointed. They’ll say they refuse to be fooled again. Fair enough. Nobody is obligated to be cheerful while the house is on fire.

But there is a difference between refusing false comfort and mistaking despair for truth.

***“This is hard”*** is not the same as ***“this is over.”***

The hopeful person looks at the work ahead, takes a deep breath, and dives into the deep. Because they are brave, and they want better for themselves and the world.

**We need hope for the fight now. We need fighting hope. Disciplined hope. Stubborn hope. The kind that knows the water is deep, the current is ugly, and the shore is already crowded with people explaining why swimming is pointless, and dives anyway.**

**—Lady Libertie, from *The American Pamphleteer***

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## CALENDAR

### May

- **5/19** | [Oregon’s Primary Election](#). Drop at a Ballot Box by 8pm!
- **5/20** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **5/20** | Song gathering. [Sign up!](#)
- **5/23** | Indivisible BC at the Saturday Market. 8am - 1pm. Email [farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org).
- **5/25** | Earth’s Greatest Enemy Film showing. See below!
- **5/27** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **5/27** | Indivisible General Meeting. **Corvallis Community Center**. [Sign up!](#)

- **5/30** | Indivisible BC at the Saturday Market. 8am - 1pm. Email [farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org).

**If every news article coming out infuriates you, come to the Benton County Courthouse on Wednesdays at 5pm! Show off your best sign and see how many honks and thumbs up you get! There are more of us than you think!**

## June

- **6/03** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/05** | Postcarding. 1 - 3 pm, The Plaza. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/05** | Visibility Brigade Banner Making Session, 4-5:30 pm, Unitarian Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/06** | Indivisible BC at the Saturday Market. 8am - 1pm. Email [farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org).
- **6/06** | Democracy Day, national freeway bannering. See below. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/10** | Indivisible General Meeting. [Corvallis Library](#). [Sign up!](#)
- **6/10** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/13** | Indivisible BC at the Saturday Market. 8am - 1pm. Email [farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org).
- **6/14** | Piñata Workshop. See below!
- **6/17** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/20** | Indivisible BC at the Saturday Market. 8am - 1pm. Email [farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org).
- **6/20** | Philomath Pride. See below.
- **6/24** | Indivisible General Meeting. **Corvallis Community Center**. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/24** | Weekly Wednesday Protest. [Sign up!](#)
- **6/27 - 6/28** | Resistance Bootcamp. See below.
- **6/28** | Albany Pride. See below.
- **6/28** | Open Streets Corvallis. See below.

*Scroll down for flyers about other community events.*  
**To learn more about our ongoing campaigns [click here](#)**



## Drop Off Ballots Today, May 19!

Oregon primary ballots are due today. Drop them off at a **ballot drop off box** no later than **8pm!**

There is one in front of Benton County Courthouse, or find the nearest one [here!](#)

**Exercise that activism muscle this summer!**



**We need volunteers to help with these events!**

**Philomath Pride - June 20**

Email: [events@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:events@indivisiblebc.org)

**Open Streets Corvallis - June 28**

Email: [visibilitybrigade@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:visibilitybrigade@indivisiblebc.org)

**Albany Pride - June 28**

Email: [events@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:events@indivisiblebc.org)

**Farmers Market - Every Saturday through November!**

Email: [farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:farmersmarket@indivisiblebc.org)

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## **We have New Email Addresses!**

Email [info@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:info@indivisiblebc.org), with general questions, comments, and suggestions.

Email [newsletter@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:newsletter@indivisiblebc.org), to send items for the newsletter (space permitting, and subject to editorial review).

Email [voter@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:voter@indivisiblebc.org) with questions or comments about voter outreach.

Email [legislative@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:legislative@indivisiblebc.org) for legislative-related issues.

Email [events@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:events@indivisiblebc.org) for questions about specific events.

Email [community@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:community@indivisiblebc.org) for questions about community outreach activities.

To read about the general organization of our committees, visit our website [HERE](#).

## Resistance Bootcamp

# REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



# INDIVISIBLE RESISTANCE BOOTCAMP

A weekend of practical, interactive training for organizers, activists, & community leaders in protest safety, organizing strategy, and pro-democracy movement sustainability.

JUNE  
**27 & 28**  
PORTLAND, OR

Options for training include Community Resilience as Resistance, Organizing for Strategic Action, Sustainable Safety Practice, and a Bonus Track on various topics. Learn more here: <https://resistancebootcamp.us/>. This is a wonderful opportunity to level up your activism and meet others across the state who are building the resistance movement!

**Indivisible Benton County** is willing to cover the requested \$40 registration donation for a limited number of Indivisible BC members, with the ask that they will coordinate session attendance with us and report back what they learn. Please email [events@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:events@indivisiblebc.org) if you are interested in attending.

## Feed the Families Fundraiser

Food aid restrictions will be coming later this year due to the Big Ugly Bill. And food scarcity has increased for our most vulnerable Latino/a communities in Benton and Linn Counties. The fear of going to work or even shopping has made it challenging for community members to meet their basic needs.

In partnership with Indivisible Benton County and East Linn Indivisible, [Casa Latinos Unidos](#) is [raising funds to support local families](#). 100% of all donations will help supply local Latino/a families with food, household supplies, toiletries and other necessities.



## CASA LATINOS UNIDOS FUNDRAISER



### Matching Funds Available!

Sign up for regular monthly donations, and your initial contribution will be **DOUBLED!**\*

*\*While funds last. Donations to Casa Latinos Unidos are tax-deductible. Donate online [here](#), or mail check donations to P. O. Box 716, Corvallis, OR, 97339. Made possible by a grant from the Indivisible national organization.*

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## Visibility on Democracy Day

### On Saturday, June 6th, D-Day, Democracy Day, we land again.

81 years ago, thousands gave everything on the beaches of Normandy to stop fascism.

On June 6th, 2026, on overpasses across our nation, the Visibility Brigade launches that same spirit of resistance against the American fascist billionaires. Peacefully, visibly, and powerfully. Join us at one of the many locations long the I-5 corridor, and help shine a light on our current fight to save democracy.

We'll hold a banner-making session the day before on June 5 from 4-5:30 pm at the Unitarian Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle. Email [Visibilitybrigade@indivisiblebc.org](mailto:Visibilitybrigade@indivisiblebc.org) with any questions!

- 6/5–Banner Making Session: [Sign up!](#)
- 6/6–D-day National Freeway Bannering Day: [Sign up!](#)



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## FUNdraiser - Piñata Workshop

**June 14**, 12pm-2:30pm at the Avery Park Lions Shelter

Learn how to craft your own piñata at FUNdraiser's Piñata Workshop. A ready-made piñata base for you to decorate and fill with candies and toys will be supplied along with crepe paper, colorful tissue paper, stickers, and other adornments. A selection of packaged fruity treats, candies, and little toys will be at the ready to be stuffed into your own piñata. We'll also learn the dramatic history of the piñata. Kid and kids-at-heart friendly! \$25-50 donation encouraged.

Email [FUNdraiser541@proton.me](mailto:FUNdraiser541@proton.me) for more information and to secure your spot.

Funds raised at these events are entirely dedicated to grants distributed by **NeST** to people directly affected by detentions and/or deportations. In association with local law firms and organizations, NeST is planning to expand the use of FUNdraiser donations to cover legal costs associated with preemptive intake of immigrants by law firms. People are being taken when they do the right thing by checking in at court and immigration appointments. Securing representation ahead of time makes immediate help possible. This new legal fees program should be up and running by June. Make a piñata to help!

To learn more about NeST, or to donate, visit [this website](#).

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## Growing Ancestral Roots

**GROWING ANCESTRAL ROOTS**

GROWING ANCESTRAL ROOTS

**GARDEN PLANTING PARTY**

Join us as we come together for a community planting day!

We're looking for volunteers to help get plants in the ground and bring this garden to life.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY:  
MAY 17 AND  
MAY 23-24**

1468 SE Alexander Ave,  
Corvallis, OR 97333

Starts at 10am

**LUNCH PROVIDED!**

**Growing Ancestral Roots** is on fire this spring and summer! Enjoy the outdoors and play in the dirt to feed your neighbors! Come out and support this amazing local organization! Sign up [here](#).



**JOIN US FOR**

## COMMUNITY DINNERS

We're bringing our community together through warm, nourishing meals served twice a month.

Join us for community dinners that celebrate culture through food, where dishes reflect the traditions and flavors of those who prepare them.

DATES	TIME	LOCATION
April 23, May 7, May 21, June 4, June 18	Dinner served at 6:00 PM	1975 SE Crystal Lake Dr, Corvallis OR

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR COOKS TO HELP PREPARE MEALS INTERESTED IN COOKING?  
CONTACT: ARACELY AT 512-709-8003

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT: SCAN THE QR CODE OR CALL ARACELY AT 512-709-8003**




**BRINGING CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND FOOD TOGETHER!**

If you can cook, sign up to help and have an amazing meal .

## Free FOOD BOXES

**BOXES AVAILABLE WEEKLY  
DELIVERY OR PICK UP AVAILABLE**

**BOXES WILL INCLUDE:**

- CHILACAYOTE
- EPAZOTE
- ASIAN GREENS
- SWEET CORN
- LETTUCE
- ONIONS
- KALE
- CARROTS
- BROCCOLI
- AS WELL AS NATIVE AND CULTURAL VEGETABLES
- ...AND MORE!

Fresh food boxes are available to support healthy eating in our community.

Each box includes a variety of fresh produce and traditional Mexican, Guatemalan, and Chinese ingredients.



These food boxes are open to everyone in our community.

We also hope to reach and support those who may experience medical or health-related challenges that make accessing fresh food more difficult.

Scan to sign up and get involved



Produce provided by





**IF INTERESTED CONTACT  
ARACELY: (512) 709-8003**

<https://growingancestralroots.org>

## Support Local Community Events

RURAL RAINBOW COALITION + CORVALLIS PRIDE PRESENT:

# ALT PROM: } FRIDAY GOTHIC GLAM } 05/22

A SAFE AND AFFIRMING PROM EVENT  
FOR LGBTQIA+ TEENS AND ALLIES

FREE!

*MUSIC • FOOD • PHOTO BOOTH  
MINI DRAG SHOW*



AGES: 14-18  
SCHOOL ID REQUIRED

6:30PM-9PM

CORVALLIS COMMUNITY CENTER

2601 NW TYLER AVE, CORVALLIS, OR 97330

Alt Prom is back! If you would like to volunteer at the event or would like more information please contact us at [admin@corvallispride.com](mailto:admin@corvallispride.com)!

Grassroots Games  
presents

# Play It Forward Game Night

**MAY 23 5:30 PM**  
Springhill Cellars Winery  
2920 NW Scenic Dr.  
Albany, OR 97321  
Family friendly - All ages!

\$10 online  
\$15 at the door



**A FUNDRAISER FOR**  
**ALBANY PRIDE**  
EST. 2019

**Board Games!  
Trivia!  
Live Music!**

Join us for a night full of fun, food, music, and friendly competition!

Tickets here: 

# PRIDE IN THE PARK

## JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

### AT 1:00 PM

Event generously sponsored by Friends of Parks & Recreation  
Drop in to participate. If you have a large group,  
email us at [mt\\_volunteer@corvallisoregon.gov](mailto:mt_volunteer@corvallisoregon.gov)

**ACTIVITIES • MUSIC • TREATS**  
**ALL AGES & ABILITIES WELCOME**  
Volunteer with P&R to beautify the Avery Park corner by Lions Shelter with rainbow ribbons in celebration of Pride month with our LGBTQIA+ friends!



# EARTH'S GREATEST ENEMY

A NEW FILM BY ABBY MARTIN

Join us to watch *Earth's Greatest Enemy*, a documentary exposé of the world's biggest and most unaccountable polluter: the US military.

3:45 PM - Doors  
 4:00 PM - Film Starts  
 6:00 PM - Q&A with organizers of the PSL

**MON 5/25**  
**DARKSIDE THEATRE • 215 SW 4TH ST**

RSVP for a ticket  
<https://form.jotform.com/261359108472055>



## OFFERS & NEEDS MARKET

Give what  
you can



Ask for  
what  
you need




**MAY  
27  
6-8PM**

**MANYWORLD**  
 1013 Nw Taylor Ave  
 Corvallis OR 97330  
 manyworld.diy  
 \$5 Suggested Donation (NOTAFLOF)



Free family fun in the forest!

# GET OUTDOORS DAY




UN DÍA EN EL BOSQUE ¡Diversión gratuita en el bosque!

**MAY 30 | 30 DE MAYO | 10AM-3PM**  
PEAVY ARBORETUM, CORVALLIS, OR

Outdoor activities for everyone  
Actividades al aire libre para todos


- fishing • pesca
- snacks • bocadillos
- crafts • artesanías
- games • juegos

Shuttle from / Transporte disponible desde  
Crescent Valley High School  
No onsite parking at the arboretum / No hay estacionamiento en el bosque



[beav.es/SVo](http://beav.es/SVo)

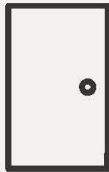
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## Keep Our Community Safe

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WITH IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

## DON'T OPEN THE DOOR



Communicate through the window or closed door. Immigration can only enter your home with an arrest warrant signed by a judge

## REMAIN SILENT AND DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING

You have the right not to speak. Say out loud that you will not answer questions or sign any documents without a lawyer present.



## DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION FOR SEARCH



You have the right to refuse permission for immigration authorities or police to enter or search your car or person unless they have a warrant signed by a judge.

## TAKE PHOTOS, VIDEO AND/OR NOTES

Inform the officer that you will be using your right to record. Take photos, record the interaction, and write down the details.



## REPORT ICE ACTIVITY TO THE COMMUNITY HOTLINE



PIRC will contact rapid response teams that will verify and document immigration activity and offer support to affected people.

## CONFIRM NEWS AND RUMORS



Do not share unverified information, as this only creates fear. Ask people sharing news about ICE to share their sources and have witnesses call PIRC to verify.



**PIRC HOTLINE:  
1-888-622-1510**

# COMMUNITY ALERT

The PIRC hotline has seen an exponential increase in the number of calls we are receiving during this current assault on our communities. The hotline is staffed almost entirely by volunteers who are working around the clock to respond to this crisis. In order to help us meet the challenges of this moment and to center those most impacted, we have an ask of the community.



## Please continue to CALL the hotline with any urgent concerns:

- You are witnessing ICE presence (suspected or confirmed)
- You have witnessed or have information about an ICE detention
- You're looking for a missing loved one

## Please TEXT the hotline with nonurgent issues:

- Questions about accessing non urgent resources (as long as it isn't needed within the next 24 hours).
- Photos of possible ICE sightings, license plates, etc. If urgent, please call first before sending text messages



## Please EMAIL:

- [press@pircoregon.org](mailto:press@pircoregon.org) for any media inquiries.
- [volunteers@pircoregon.org](mailto:volunteers@pircoregon.org) for questions about volunteering, donating to the PIRC Resource Center, and Migra Watch.
- [pircpdx@gmail.com](mailto:pircpdx@gmail.com) with any VIDEO footage of ICE activity (please be sure to include information about date, time, location, any other relevant info) OR any other general inquiries



**HOTLINE: 1-888-622-1510**



## Our Mission

Indivisible Benton County is a grassroots organization of volunteers committed to advance bold and progressive actions and policies. We are determined to resist corruption, authoritarianism, and inequality. We educate, engage, and mobilize to promote values of inclusion, tolerance and fairness with the goal of helping build a more perfect and representative government that is For The People and By The People.

[Donate Here](#)



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