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Portland Observer

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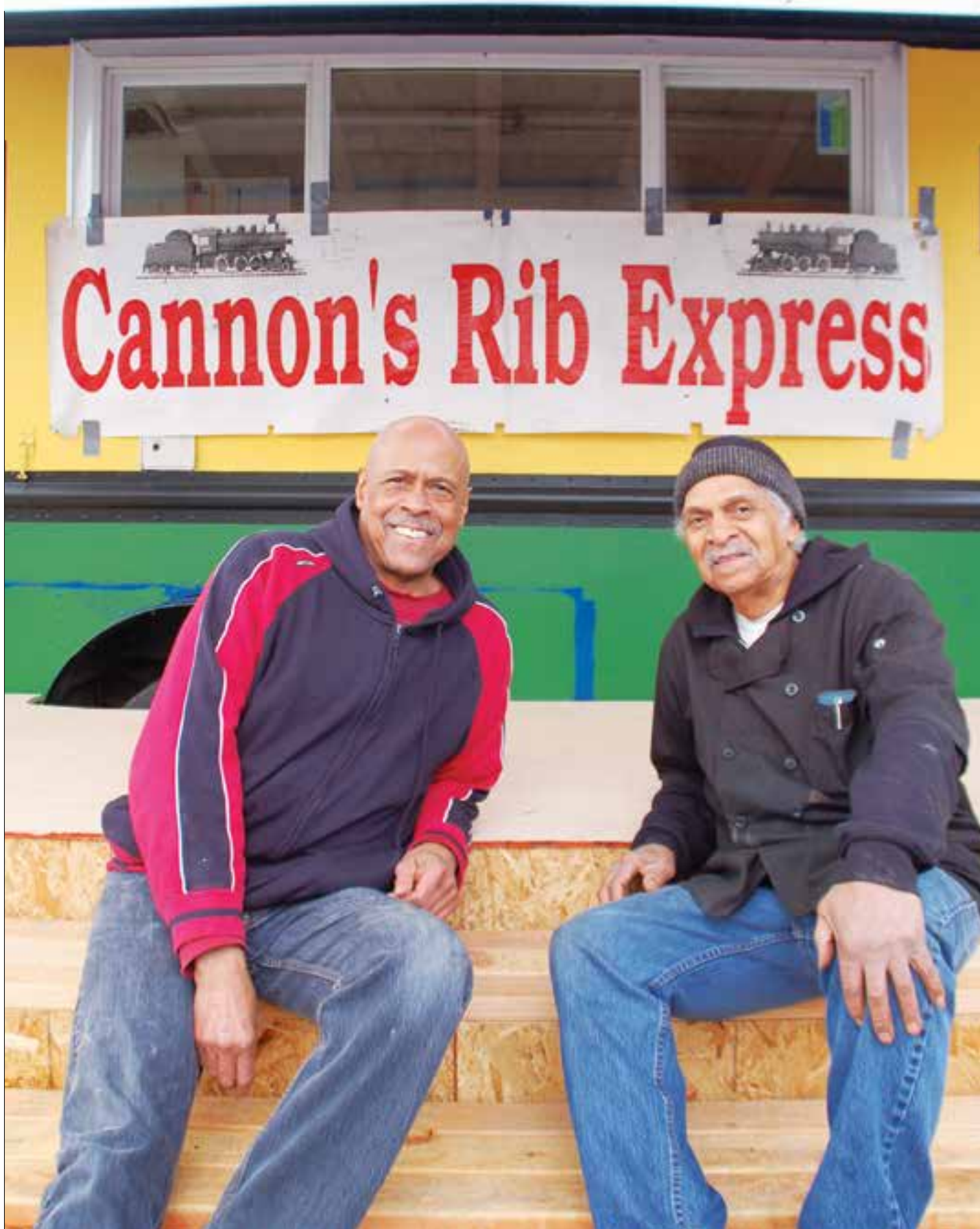
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Committed to Cultural Diversity



Wayne Cannon downsizes to keep barbeque history alive

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In an effort to keep a piece of Portland barbecue history alive, Cannon's Rib Express, which has cemented itself as a community hub with its award-winning hickory smoked dishes and friendly atmosphere for a generation, is moving from a fixed-location, sit-down restaurant—where the cost was getting too high to operate—to a food cart, proprietor and chef Wayne Cannon told the Portland Observer.

“We’re in the process of trying to maintain a reasonable price of our product and keep the costs down to survive,” Cannon said.

Cannon's previous location near Northeast Killingsworth Street and 33rd Avenue, a counter-serve venue with patio seating, has shuttered its doors and Cannon will now be amongst a shared plot of food carts that includes Jacksons Catfish Corner, Star Kitchen Thai Food, and Kee's #Loaded Kitchen—at the corner of Northeast Beech and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. It's a move that coincides with an explosion of food carts in the Rose City over the past two decades.

Cannon received help making the transition from other food cart operators and his friend, Darnell Lowery, whom he met at a men's church group at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in north Portland.

“I was crying the blues about the cost of labor and things of that nature and Darnell, being the humanitarian that he is, volunteered to help me out in my problem. He's been a total asset to the business,” Cannon, 78, said.

Since joining Cannon's team about a year ago as a part time chef, Darnell, 70, has not only contributed his business acumen from having run a small business himself for many years—“Special Touch Ceramic Tile”—but also one of his family's secret recipes, “Helen's Sweet Potato Cake,” to the menu. Much to Cannon's delight, they're selling--well--like hot cakes.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Wayne Cannon (right), longtime owner of Cannon's Rib Express and his friend and part-time chef Darnell Lowery, are encouraging customers old and new to their new food cart on the corner of Northeast Beech and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The cheaper-to-operate location replaces the restaurant space Cannon rented out for several years at the New Seasons Market on Northeast 33rd Avenue.

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An undated photo from KATU via AP shows the Hart Family, a white couple and their six adopted black children.

Couple Killed Entire Family

A final chapter in the death of an entire family from southwest Washington.

A jury in California last week determined that Jennifer and Sara Hart committed murder when they gave their six adopted black children as many as 19 doses each of Benadryl before driving their SUV over a steep

cliff and into the Pacific Ocean last year.

All eight members of the family died. Previously they had been portrayed on social media as a happy, multi-racial family. One of the boys gained national attention when he was photographed in tears while hugging a white police officer during a 2014

protest in Portland.

The couple's story began to unravel in March of last year, when they fled their Woodland, Wash. home after a visit from social workers investigating charges they were neglecting the children. A neighbor had filed a complaint with the state saying the children were being deprived of food as punishment.

If cops called for no reason, bill would allow lawsuit

Three African American state lawmakers have introduced a bill that could allow a person of color to sue someone who called the cops on them for no reason.

It's an experience familiar to one of the bill's sponsors, Rep. Janelle Bynum, who had police called on her for "campaigning while black," in what became a national story.

Bynum was canvassing for votes in her Portland suburb district last summer when a Clackamas County deputy responded to the scene and realized nothing was wrong.

It's one of several instances where people of color have had police summoned by their presence for little else than apparently minding their own business, like the man from Kent,



Rep. Janelle Bynum

Wash. who had the police called on him by a hotel security guard in December for simply making a phone call to his mother in the lobby of the Double Tree at Lloyd Center.

The bill was partly inspired by an opinion piece in the Oregonian written by Oregon civil rights attorney Erious Johnson and his wife, Nkenge Harmon Johnson, president of Urban League of Portland, in which they called for the creation of a new crime called "malicious summoning."

"When they have police called on them for no reason, people are hurt," Johnson recently testified to representatives on the House Judiciary Committee. "It's an element of segregation."

Though House Bill 3216 doesn't include the possibility of criminal charges, it would create a path for people to file a small claims court suit of up to \$250 and could soon be voted on by the House Judiciary Committee.

The Week in Review



Police Shooting Protest (KOIN PHOTO)

Dozens of people marched through the streets to the Northeast Precinct Saturday demanding justice for Andre Gladen, a blind, mentally ill black man fatally shot by police last January. Gladen's family believes the knife he's accused of holding was planted by the officer who shot him. A Grand Jury ruled the shooting was in self-defense.

Motel 6 to Settle Lawsuit

The national chain Motel 6 agreed Thursday to pay \$12 million to settle a lawsuit filed by the state of Washington, claiming names of hotel guests were improperly provided to immigration officials for two years. Some people staying at seven Motel 6 locations in the state were detained or deported.



Booker Calls for Reparations

Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., on Monday introduced a bill that would study the possibility of reparations for descendants of slaves, embracing a push that recently has caught the interest of fellow 2020 Democratic presidential candidates.

Goldschmidt Portrait Stolen

Police arrested a man on multiple misdemeanor charges Saturday for stealing and then burning a small portrait of former Mayor Neil Goldschmidt that was part of a collection of mayoral photos from the entryway of Mayor Wheeler's office at City Hall. Jeffrey T. Black, 50, said he took the portrait to shed light on the plight of survivors of sexual assault.

Burgerville Workers Unionize

Overcoming anti-union propaganda, workers at Burger-ville restaurants at the Oregon Convention Center and Montavilla said they refused to be intimidated by company managers and voted last week in favor of union representation at both locations. It makes the Burgerville Worker's Union undefeated in five elections.

Law Would End Time Changes

The Oregon Senate has passed a bill that would abolish annual time changes and make daylight saving time permanent for the state. The bill now heads to the state House for consideration with the support of Gov. Kate Brown.

Paper Tickets Going Away

Pending TriMet board approval in May, the transit agency announced last week that it will officially stop accepting most paper tickets when the year ends Dec. 31. Passengers are being directed to the tap-to-ride Hop Fastpass system, an electronic fare card that allows riders to pay for rides in advance. Cash fares will still be accepted on buses.

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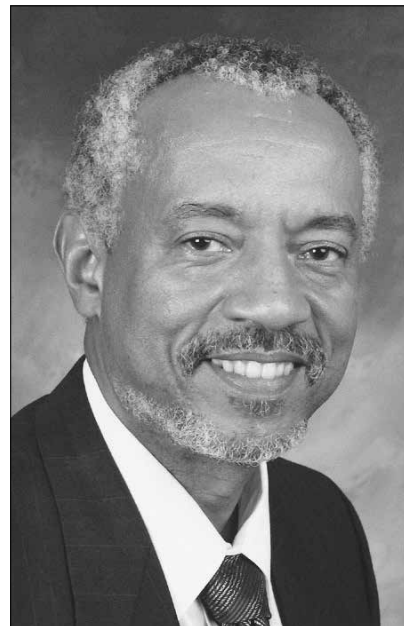
Named First Citizen

Ron Herndon, education advocate honored

Ron Herndon, a leader in Portland's African American community who is well known for successfully advocating for children by promoting equity in the Portland School District, has been named Portland First Citizen, a prestigious award to honor civic achievements and business leadership within the community.

Presented annually by the Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors, the individuals named Portland First Citizens form an honor roll of the city's most prominent leaders.

Herndon has been the Director



Ron Herndon

of Albina Head Start in Portland for more than 40 years, providing comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and

parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. He has taken the organization from 126 children in 1975 to more than 1,000 children today and expanded the number of Head Start sites from 1 to 25. He is a former teacher, counselor, college instructor and VISTA volunteer.

Herndon also served as president and board chair of the National Head Start Association from 1991 to 2013. As chair he provided leadership and support to Head Start programs across the nation including advocating for over 900,000 low-income children and families.

Herndon will be recognized at the 91st annual Portland First Citizen Banquet on Friday, April 19 at The Nines, downtown, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The impacts past and future to Portland's African American community were addressed last week in final comments on plans by the Oregon Department of Transportation to upgrade a 1.7 mile segment of I-5 at the Rose Quarter.

Does I-5 Fix Fail on Equity?

In final comments, impacts on black community cited

Governmental leaders from Portland and Metro have thrown shade to a plan to expand a segment of I-5 to fix a bottle neck at the Rose Quarter saying the Ore-

gon Department of Transportation failed to address equity issues when studying the project, including the impact to a black population which was displaced from the area and would return under a new vision for the neighborhood.

As the public comment period on the highway construction project came to a close last week, Portland City Commissioner Chloe

Eudaly called for a more extensive review of the impacts of the proposed \$500 million renovation, joining a large number of voices critical of the project, including the Portland School Board, and environmental and community groups.

The project involves adding

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Rib Pit Finds Way to Survive

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

It's been an addition that's really sparked up our dessert sales," Cannon said.

The southern dish rounds out the classic barbecue staples like ribs, chopped pork, chicken, and beef brisket that Cannon offers, many of which are covered in his own family's barbecue sauce recipe.

Cannon jokes that even behind the kitchen the recipes are still tightly guarded, even amongst the chefs. "I won't give [Darnell] the recipe for my barbecue sauce, he won't give me the recipe for his sweet potato cake," he said with a chuckle.

Cannon originally bought his rib pit business in 1995 from Chuck Hinton, who ran it as "Chuck Hinton's Rib Express" for 10 years prior. Hailing from California, Cannon has since established himself as an active member of the community. During hardships, he's provided food, like feeding the homeless, or preparing meals for families who are grieving, he said.

"I learned a long time ago when there's a death in someone's family, what they need more than anything is for someone to provide food because they don't have time to cook," he said.

Cannon has also been a mentor to many young people in the community, providing them with their first high school jobs, including André Lightsey-Walker, a Grant High School and University of Oregon graduate—where he was a track star—who now works at Metro; Charles Taylor-Love, who is now a footwear designer at Columbia Sportswear; and Honoré Arias, a Lewis and Clark Law School graduate.

"The lessons I learned working for Wayne back then still inform my decisions today, and I am very thankful for his friendship and the formative experiences I had working for him," Arias said in a written thank you letter to Cannon, one of several he's received over the years.

Cannon over the years has hosted weekly summer concerts with saxophonist Reggie Huston and, now that he's more centrally located and also next to the annual Beech Street Block Party, a popular event in the African American community, he expects to be a part of community celebrations for years to come. He also hopes to be in a position to throw concerts or events on his own again in the future.

"We're community-orientated and trying to stay that way and maintain that philosophy," he said.

Does I-5 Fix Fail on Equity?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

merging lanes, capping the freeway in a small portion of the 1.7 mile area, and adding two new pedestrian and bike bridges spanning the freeway.

It has gained criticism in part due to the proposed auxiliary lanes cutting even closer to the hillside near Harriet Tubman Middle School which serves a large African American community and already experiences pollutants outside due to traffic congestion. ODOT has claimed that the project would improve air quality because it would keep traffic moving.

"Although it would be nice to fix the bottleneck on I-5 and the project includes \$250 million for surface street improvements focused on better pedestrian, bike, and transit infrastructure, as it stands the added auxiliary lanes on I-5 will not deliver meaningful safety, environmental, or equity benefits to Portland," Eudaly said.

In a letter addressed to ODOT Commission Chair Tammy Baney,

and co-signed by Mayor Ted Wheeler, Metro Council President Lynn Peterson called for ODOT to adopt a racially sensitive approach to proceeding with the project, citing the hundreds of families and businesses that were displaced in the 1950s in the predominately black Albina neighborhood during I-5's original construction.

Peterson also backs Albina Vision Trust, a volunteer group seeking to re-develop the community of lower Albina with the construction of affordable housing and new public plazas, and other measures.

"[The highway project] is a once-in-generation opportunity to build over the divisive, trenched highway and reconnect inner east Portland neighborhoods to the Willamette River. Let's take the opportunity to fix the problem that was created when I-5 was originally constructed," Albina Vision chair Rukaiyah Adams said in her own letter, in which she also called for an environmental impact statement from ODOT.

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Virginia head coach Tony Bennett, guard Ty Jerome (left) and their teammates celebrate after beating Texas Tech Monday for an NCAA college basketball championship. (AP photo)

Virginia's Clutch Win

Virginia's nail-biting trip through the NCAA Tournament will go down in history as one of the most clutch performances from game-to-game by any championship team.

The Cavaliers' overtime victory over Texas Tech Monday made them just the sixth title team to win multiple-overtime games in a tournament, and the first since Arizona accomplished the feat in 1997.

They outscored their opponents by a scant combined 45 points, the third-lowest margin of victory by a championship team since the field

expanded to 64 teams in 1985.

The only comfortable game was their opening win over No. 16 seed Gardner-Webb, and that came after falling into an early hole. Virginia beat Oklahoma 63-51 in the second round, edged Oregon 53-49 in the regional semifinals and needed a last-second floater to force OT in a win over Purdue.

"We have a saying: The most faithful win," Virginia coach Tony Bennett said. "These guys were so faithful. Obviously we had some amazing plays."

Associated Press

School Board Candidate Forums

Two Portland School Board candidate forums this week will provide the public the opportunity to hear from eight hopefuls vying for four seats in a May election.

The first discussion with the candidates, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Portland Council PTS and the Bus Project, will be Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. at school district headquarters, 501 N. Dixon St. The second, hosted by Black Voices United, will be Saturday April 13 at Maranatha Church at 4222 N.E. 12th Ave, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For Zone 2, encompassing schools that feed into both Cleve-

land and Jefferson High Schools, two African American community members—Shanice Brittany Clark and Michelle A DePass—have put their hats in the ring for a seat that won't be contested by its current holder, Paul Anthony.

Amy Kohnstamm is running for re-election against challenges Deb Mayer and Wes Soderback in Zone 3. Zone 1 only has Andrew Scott as a candidate. Of all the people running, only Eilidh Lowery in Zone 7, won't be able to make it to either forum, though she'll provide statements for moderators to read in her absence. Robert Shultz is the other candidate running in Zone 7.



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In addition, Legacy's "Trauma Nurses Talk Tough" \$6 discounted bicycle helmet sale and Health Pavilion offering free health screenings on Saturday from 12-4pm.

New to the GITH festival, Movie in the Park Friday night June 21 featuring the movie "Black Panther"

Festival hours: Good in the Hood "Kick-off Party" Music by DJ Pryce and Hosted by MC Seezinin Friday June 21 King School Park 6-10pm, Saturday June 22, Good in the Hood Parade (NE MLK) at 11am. Saturday and Sunday June 22-23 Festival continuation 11:00am to 10:00pm.

If you're interested in becoming a Food Vendor, selling your merchandise at the Market Place, having an information booth in our Information Village, participating in the Parade, becoming a Kids Space sponsor or volunteering at this year's festival. Contact GITH Hotline at 971-302-6380 or email: www.goodnthehood.org



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Preparing Meals for Easter

Union Gospel Mission expects to serve 500 free meals to those experiencing homelessness or anyone in need on Easter Sunday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This year's menu consists of ham, scrambled eggs with cheese, biscuits with sausage gravy, a fruit cup, cinnamon rolls and coffee, orange juice and water to drink. The mission is also assembling 500 gift bags which will include socks, hand warmers, a hat, and a hygiene kit.

More than 120 volunteers will be involved in preparations and serving the day of the event.

On Monday, donations were still needed the event.

"We could use more hams for our Easter celebration as well as ground or whole bean coffee," said Lori Quinney, Union Gospel Mission food service coordinator.




A volunteer at the Union Gospel Mission, downtown, serves meals for Easter.

Donation Expands Youth Mentoring

Friends of Baseball, a Portland-based non-profit supporting baseball and softball programs for boys and girls, will be able to hire a new youth mentor for after school and summer enrichment programs because of a new investment from the Portland Diamond Project, the organization behind the effort to bring Major League Baseball to Portland.

The donation to Full Count, Friends of Baseball's after school and summer youth program, continues the local support for a one-week summer program that started in 2015 and has since grown to serving 12 communities in Portland and east Multnomah County, serving more than 600 students. More than 80 percent of the youth who participate in the program are youth of color.

The new youth mentor position will be set up as an AmeriCorps public service job for one year and has a starting pay of \$15 hourly. To apply, visit friendsofbaseball.org/wearehiring.



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CALENDAR April 2019

1 April Fool's Day One Cent Day MP3 audio format first patented, 1989	2 Author Hans Christian Andersen born, 1805 International Children's Book Day	3 Find-A-Rainbow Day Pony Express established (1860) 1st iPad in U.S., 2010	4 First U.S. flag approved (1818)	5 National Read a Road Map Day Booker T. Washington born, 1856	6 North Pole Discovered In 1898 U.S. entered World War I (1917)	7 No Housework Day World Health Day, established 1948
8 Trina Schart Hyman born, 1939	9 Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant (1865) Margaret Peterson Haddix born, 1964	10 Encourage a Young Writer Day National Sibling Day U.S. Patent System established (1790)	11 President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, 1964 (1964)	12 Author Beverly Cleary born, 1916 Space Shuttle Columbia First Launched, 1981	13 3rd President Thomas Jefferson born, 1743 Lee Bennett Hopkins born, 1938	14 Palm Sunday Webster's Dictionary Published, 1828

‘Amazing Grace,’ a Fitting Tribute

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY
DARLEEN ORTEGA



My annual trip to attend the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival in Durham, North Carolina, always yields a crop of films that would be hard to find any other way. I saw 16 feature-length films over the four-day festival; I'll cover eight here and the rest next week.

As it happens, one of the best films I saw opens at Cinema 21 in Portland on Thursday, April 11—a long-delayed Aretha Franklin concert film called “Amazing Grace.” In early 1972, 29-year-old Franklin, at the height of her career, recorded a gospel album at the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles. The album is not only one of the most popular gospel records of all time, but is Franklin’s bestselling album. Sydney Pollack was on hand to film the event over two nights, but the film portion of the project was shelved because the sound and images were not in sync, and the film was only finished after Pollack’s death. Its release was delayed by the wish of Franklin herself, although her family readily consented to its release after her death last year.

The film’s release all these years later feels, if anything, more impactful; we have the opportunity to watch the young queen

of soul singing black gospel music in exactly the setting and with the exact community where such music is meant to be played, and the film conveys something of the music’s genuine meaning for her. She is accompanied, thrillingly, by gospel legend Rev. James Cleveland and the Southern California Community Choir, and watching them thrill and respond to Jackson’s glorious singing is itself transporting. The film feels so intimate, capturing the sweat of Franklin, Cleveland, and the other singers and the spontaneous emotional response of members of the choir and congregation, which includes Mick Jagger and Franklin’s minister father. Franklin is particularly fascinating to watch; she expends vast quantities of energy, mostly with only a very slight smile, and, indeed, seems to contain an otherworldly combination of fire and stillness.

The film recently premiered at this same church, with some of the choir members and the choir director in attendance. That feels only fitting; we are invited in to what was for them an epic experience of worship. What a gift!

Full Frame this year featured a range of truly wonderful biographical documentaries, each taking a uniquely effective ap-



PHOTO COURTESY AMAZING GRACE LLC

Aretha Franklin’s long-delayed concert film “Amazing Grace” captures the late Queen of Soul recording a gospel album at the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles.

proach to its subject. My favorite was “**Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am**,” which examines the cultural and literary legacy of the great Nobel Prize-winning author. The film capitalizes on the fact that Morrison, now in her 80s, is herself a great interview subject; in an extended interview for the film and also in clips from many past interviews, she dazzles with her perspective on her work, on black experience, on the publishing world—well, on pretty much anything. The

film also makes excellent use of interviews of others (such as Angela Davis and Oprah Winfrey) with whom Morrison shares important intersections—people who were influenced and inspired by her writing, her contemporaries, her longtime editor. Their cumulative impact helps us to better appreciate the remarkable clarity and resilience it took to produce such a brilliant body of

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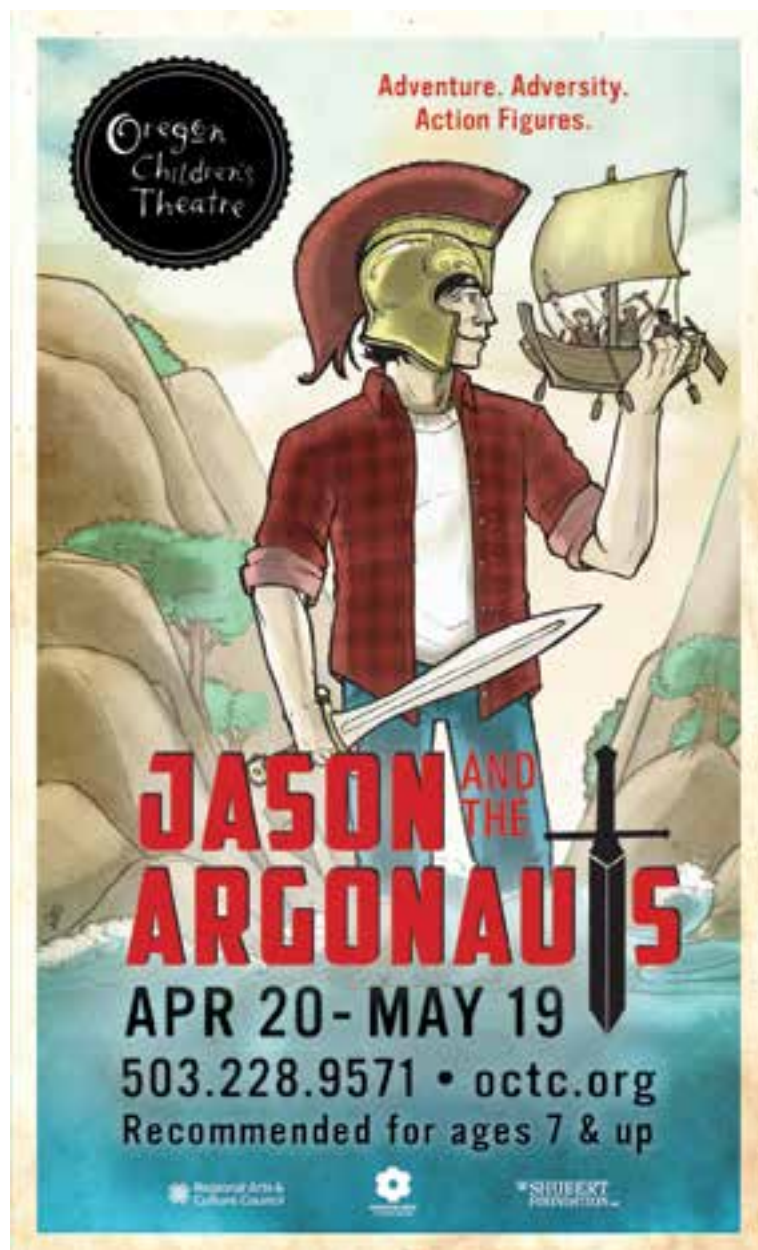
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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Soul'd Out Festival Presents

Portland's Soul'd Out music festival presents trumpeter, composer and arranger Theo Croker, grandson of the legendary trumpeter Doc Cheatham, for a concert Wednesday, April 17 at the Jack London Revue, downtown. A multi-instrumentalist from Florida, Croker is at home playing standards, swinging post-bop and groove-oriented electric jazz.



A young explorer shows off his critter discovery during a field survey of amphibians and reptiles.

Critter Count Adventure

You're invited to make Saturday, April 13, a day of discovery as Vancouver's Water Resources Education Center celebrates its 19th annual Critter Count.

The day will begin at 9 a.m. at the Water Center, 4600 S.E. Columbia Way, with a search for amphibians and reptiles in the morning to help wildlife officials monitor the health of local natural areas. A wildlife expert and a site coordinator will be on hand at each location to help. Frogs and other amphibians are extremely sensitive to water quality and changing

environmental conditions. Keeping track of the numbers provides a better understanding of the challenges they are facing.

Participants should come equipped with boots, warm clothes, a lunch, and if possible binoculars, officials said. They must also provide their own transportation to field sites. All ages are welcome to participate, but children must be accompanied throughout the survey by adults.

For more details, visit cityofvancouver.us/watercenter or call 360-487-7111.



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PHOTO BY MICHAEL DURHAM/OREGON ZOO.

Oregon Zoo keeper Julia Low (foreground) shows a jar of tiny butterfly larvae to Coffee Creek inmates and correction officials during a tour of the zoo's butterfly lab last year.

Inmates Help Endangered Butterfly

Innovative program works with Oregon Zoo

Bringing butterfly conservation work into a medium-security prison is a rewarding process for the women inmates at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville.

For much of the past year, the women in custody raised and cared for Taylor's checkerspot butterfly larvae as part of a collaboration with the Oregon Zoo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Institute for Applied Ecology.

They recently transferred 476 of the growing caterpillars back to conservation biologists for

release on western Oregon prairies near Corvallis, and another 246 were scheduled for release this month. It is the second-ever release of Taylor's checkerspots in Oregon — the first being last year's inaugural release of 562 Coffee-Creek-reared caterpillars — where only two known populations of this rare Northwest butterfly remain.

Coffee Creek's butterfly conservation lab launched in May 2017, with funding from the federal fish and wildlife agency and the help of an Oregon Zoo Foundation grant. Zoo staff taught inmates how to care for butterfly eggs and raise larvae, supporting their efforts along the way. In 2018, inmates also learned how to care for the

adult female butterflies that lay the thousands of eggs needed for the program's success.

In addition to the inmates that rear the Taylor's checkerspots, another team of inmates is dedicated to the care and harvest of the 2,200 plantago plants that feed the larvae.

Though once abundant across the inland prairies of the Pacific Northwest, the Taylor's checkerspot has now lost 99 percent of its grassland habitat to successional plant growth, agriculture and urban development. And while the butterflies themselves are small, the restoration of their high-quality native prairie habitat also benefits a multitude of other species associated with this ecosystem.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Used Books and Media Sale

Thousands of used books, movies and more in all genres and areas of interest will be available for purchase at great deals when the New Friends of the Beaverton City Library hold for their annual spring sale, starting with members only on Wednesday, April 10 and open to all through Sunday, April 14 at the Main Beaverton City Library, 12375 S.W. Fifth St.

Diverse Play on Gun Violence



What do we do when someone is lost violently and unexpectedly? In a world premiere play coming to the Shoebox Theater in southeast Portland, a cast of six diverse women bring the story of Brandon, a young man who is always in and out of trouble, until he is shot in the back by a member of his own community.

"A Dark Sky Full of Stars" is world premiere play by Don Zolidis and directed by Portland's Jocelyn Seid and is being brought to the stage by Theatre Vertigo, a local theater group, Thursday, April 11 through May 12 at Shoebox Theater, 2110 S.E. 10th Ave.

Seid is returning to Theatre Vertigo after performing in "A Maze" in their 2016-17 season.

For tickets and more information, visit theatrevertigo.org or call the box office at 503-482-8655.

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Sister Tigers Settle In

PHOTO BY KELSEY WALLACE,
COURTESY OREGON ZOO

Two new Amur tigers to the Oregon Zoo, sisters Eloise and Bernadette, have begun venturing outside to explore their surroundings. The 2-year-olds have stripes that are unique to each individual, similar to our fingerprints. Bernadette has one stripe on her front left paw, for example and Eloise has two, zookeepers said.

'Amazing Grace,' a Fitting Tribute

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

work that is so singularly and unapologetically focused on African American experience, particularly at a time when that subject matter was considered absolutely unworthy of literary notice. In addition to archival footage of Morrison herself, the film also carefully curates visual art from other African Americans in a way that lifts up Morrison's thematic significance. Morrison inspires as someone who managed, by the sheer force of her intellect and personality, to bring an astounding amount of light into the American literary landscape. Watch for the film's theatrical release sometime this year.

The career of journalist Mike Wallace, best known for his hard-hitting interviews on "60 Minutes," is the subject of **"Mike Wallace is Here."** For decades, Wallace was everywhere, the quintessential dogged interviewer; indeed, the film opens with an exchange between him and Bill O'Reilly in which the latter claims to have been inspired by Wallace and, indeed, to have beaten him at his own game. (Wallace, in his 90s by that time, appears entirely unimpressed.) Although director Avi Belkin grew up in Israel and is too young to have consumed "60 Minutes" at its height in the 70s and 80s, he nevertheless correctly discerned that Wallace's career is a fascinating vantage point for reflecting on the ways that television journalism has changed in the decades since its advent. Working from more than 1700 hours of footage, Belkin assembles a compelling case that this hard-driving, prickly personality may well have been driven by insecurities and an out-

sized ego and may not have been a favorite of his colleagues, but also worked with a kind of integrity that is increasingly hard to find, inspired by an actual desire to know the answers to the hard questions he posed. The interviews sampled here are riveting—with notoriously difficult world leaders like Ayatollah Khomeini and Vladimir Putin and outsized personalities like Leona Helmsley, Oprah Winfrey, Shirley MacLaine, and a young Donald Trump—and occurred in a context in which media companies appear to have been more prepared to defend independent efforts to get past pat answers to more difficult truth (in contrast to now, when so much of the media is corporately connected to its subjects). Although definitely not a contemplative figure, Wallace emerges as someone who used his questions of others to interrogate his own views. The film will be released theatrically in July.

Ninety-year-old Dr. Ruth Westheimer was present for the screening of **"Ask Dr. Ruth,"** the immensely entertaining film about her life—and that is hardly surprising once you get a sense of how absolutely irrepressible she is. People less than half her age can scarcely keep up with her, and this investigation into her life story both reveals her buoyant persona and grounds it in a history that is quite full of loss and suffering. The only daughter of very loving Orthodox Jewish parents, Westheimer was sent away to a Swiss orphanage at the age of 10 to save her from the threat of deportation by the Nazis and, after two years of correspondence with them, never saw her parents again and later learned they had been murdered, likely at Auschwitz. The film employs quite ef-

fective animated sequences to depict her early seminal experiences at the Swiss orphanage, where the Jewish children were treated as a servant class and Jewish girls were not allowed to attend high school. We meet her first boyfriend and learn about her own emerging consciousness, while also exploring her surprising leap to fame in the relatively prudish 1980s as a sex therapist who was both controversial and quite beloved for her easy frankness. Still quite active as a



PHOTO COURTESY PERFECT DAY FILMS
The new documentary 'Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am,' focuses on the Nobel Prize-winning author, the black experience and the publishing world.

writer, speaker, and public personality, Westheimer appears to have no time for fear or regret, only enthusiasm. The film will be released theatrically on May 3 and will appear on Hulu in June.

"Jim Allison: Breakthrough" celebrates an iconoclastic immunologist who pioneered an approach to cancer treatment which now offers real hope to patients who have not been able to find it. His story, well told in this engaging and suspenseful tribute, provides

an instructive example of the barriers that hinder real innovation inside any system which, like the worlds of medical and pharmaceutical research, is too big to fail. All or most of the incentives reinforce and reward the usual ways of thinking, and block and even punish visionary approaches. The film tracks Allison's relentless and personally costly efforts to persuade a pharmaceutical company to invest the staggering resources needed to test his ambitious thesis for how to activate an effective immune response to certain cancers, and notes that both Allison and one of his best allies experienced significant early losses to cancer in their own families; the film makes the case that those losses (in addition to Allison's innate iconoclastic streak) motivated the two to push for ideas that seemed to others too risky to invest in. In this story, Allison's lifelong passion for playing the harmonica also feels somehow critical to teaching him to trust his own creativity. It's an inspiring and hopeful story, and will have its theatrical release this summer.

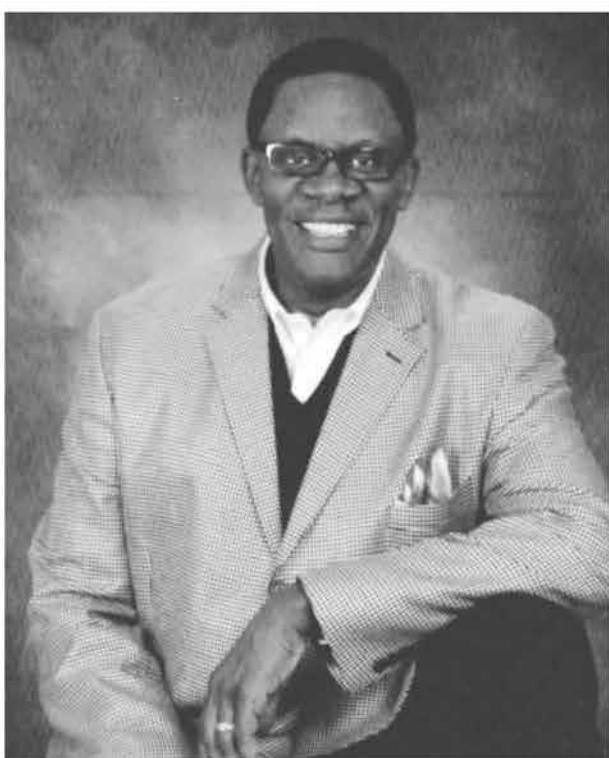
"Scared of Revolution" isn't quite as easy to pin down and, for me, wasn't as successful as the other biographies. It profiles Umar Bin Hassan of the Last Poets, an African-American group of performance poets and musicians that was a major influence on the emergence of hip-hop. I suspect that, for those already familiar with the Last Poets, this film might be much more intrinsically fascinating; it focuses less on presenting the Last Poets in their heyday in the 1960s and more on Hassan looking back with some sadness on his life. Still, his life and struggle for meaning and voice in a context of generational poverty, violence, and addiction is worthy of attention even without all the context I would have wanted for understanding his legacy. You can follow the film at <http://www.thelastpoetsfilm.com/>

I saw a number of films that ex-

plored manifestations of systemic racism. One of the best was **"Decade of Fire"** is an investigation into the destruction of the South Bronx in the 1970s. The story is personal to co-director Vivian Vasquez (working with Gretchen Hildebran); Vasquez, the daughter of Puerto Rican immigrants, grew up in the South Bronx in the 60s, a time when it was a thriving and very diverse community in which African Americans, Puerto Ricans, Irish, and Jewish folks lived in relative harmony. But by the 70s, most whites had moved out of the community, blacks and Latinos forced out of other parts of the city due to redevelopment moved in by larger numbers, and the predominantly older housing in the South Bronx disintegrated. For the decade of the 70s, an extraordinarily high number of buildings were destroyed by fire—just at a time when it appeared the government policy was to just "let them burn."

The public narrative was that the black and brown people living in the South Bronx were essentially uncivilized and didn't have any respect for property. Vasquez and others reflect on how that narrative got into their heads—and how some residents eventually came to resist it. James Baldwin, Stokely Carmichael, and others began to challenge that the destruction was really a matter of government policy—and the film sets out to address how redlining, policies that made it impossible for people of color to obtain home loans, the construction of highways that primarily served white suburbs, speculator absentee landlords with no intention of maintaining buildings to minimum habitability standards, and other aspects of segregation and racism were the real cause of the South Bronx's "decade of fire," and describes how residents eventually found ways to take matters into their own hands. The direc-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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of osteo-arthritis and the amount of pain a person suffers. In fact it has been found that pain and osteo-arthritis are both caused by the same problem. Mechanical stress on the bone and joints is the biggest cause of pain and also the cause of that deformity of the joint your doctor calls osteoarthritis.

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OPINION

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'No One Can Prove I Committed a Crime!'

A Russiagate reality check

BY JILL RICHARDSON

Donald Trump is bragging that the Mueller report did not prove he colluded with Russia during the 2016 election.

For most of us, when we rate how we're doing in our jobs, we don't say, "Nobody can prove I committed a crime!" or even, "I didn't commit a crime!" and then pat ourselves on the back for a job well done.

At this point, we've seen the Trump White House in action for over two years. Several investigative books and articles corroborate the chaos and disorder within it.

Let me say for a moment, to the people who are angry at the state of the country, who feel left behind and disrespected by the media, government officials, academics, and other elites, your feelings are valid. Your desire to be treated with respect and dignity, to have your concerns taken seriously, and to have a government that makes policy to help you and your family live safe, happy, and



productive lives is valid.

However, even if Trump gives a voice to your anger, he doesn't appear to do much more than that in terms of solving your problems, or America's problems.

Trump appears to run his administration like he ran his businesses — and in this case, that's not a good thing. When people advocate running government like a business, I understand them to

American people. A business's obligation to shareholders is mostly financial. The government's obligation to the American people is far more.

A leader in government should be a public servant, called to serve the people and improve the nation. A business leader can just be someone who wants to get rich for themselves.

I don't want a leader who runs the country like a business. I want

decisions and found himself in a scrape, his father bailed him out.

What's more, Trump and his father used corrupt practices and racial discrimination to build their real estate empire.

Trump appears to use his business and the presidency to bring wealth, glamour, and attention to himself. If he's doing so without producing evidence of the specific crime of collusion with a foreign power, that doesn't mean he's do-

the people and improve the nation. A business leader can just be someone who wants to get rich for themselves.

I don't want a leader who runs the country like a business. I want them to run the country like a country.

Trump's business is even more different. He was born into wealth, connections, and property, so he didn't have to earn his way to the top with experience, education, and skill the way other CEOs do. When Trump made bad financial decisions and found himself in a scrape, his father bailed him out.

What's more, Trump and his father used corrupt practices and racial discrimination to build their real estate empire.

Trump appears to use his business and the presidency to bring wealth, glamour, and attention to himself. If he's doing so without producing evidence of the specific crime of collusion with a foreign power, that doesn't mean he's doing a good job for the rest of us.

OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is pursuing a PhD in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She lives in San Diego. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

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mean that the government should be more efficient. However, there are some key differences between government and business — and even more between government and Trump's businesses.

A business is accountable to its shareholders. The government is supposed to be accountable to the

them to run the country like a country.

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The government is supposed to be accountable to the American people. A business's obligation to shareholders is mostly financial. The government's obligation to the American people is far more.

A leader in government should be a public servant, called to serve

What Health Care Means for Families Like Mine

My newborn got life-saving care and I got a GED

BY KATY MORENO

As a young mother doing it on my own, Medicaid has become a necessity.

After giving birth at 17, I re-enrolled in high school in my hometown of Austin, Texas. But I felt lost. I didn't know how I could take care of my son — an experience that was entirely new and scary for me — and finish school.

Meanwhile, my son Futur faced his own health concerns. The first few months of his life involved constant visits to different doctors trying to diagnose him. He was struggling to hold down food, and no one knew what we could feed him without making him sick.

At six months old, he was referred to a specialist who diagnosed his condition, and he was given new medication to treat it. Futur had his first birthday in January, and his health has dramati-



cally improved since he received the proper medication.

Throughout this frustrating experience, there was one constant that helped give me some peace of mind: Medicaid.

Thanks to Medicaid, I received prenatal care through providers I trusted. Medicaid helped cover my delivery and hospital stay when I gave birth. Medicaid helped cover all the doctor visits we needed to make sure Futur could eat.

Medicaid became a major lifeline and support as I figured out how to be a new mom. While I take pride in being independent, I know that without programs like Medicaid, I wouldn't be able to properly care for my baby.

The country is currently having two very different conversations about health care.

Some elected officials and candidates for office are debating how to expand access to care to more Americans. Meanwhile, states like Texas still reject the opportunity to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, which makes it harder for young people like me to

get the care they need to live with dignity.

We're the ones who get lost in the debates in statehouses and Washington. And there are so many of us. Here in Texas, nearly 1.7 million people could benefit if our state decided to expand Medicaid — including more than

born, and I'm grateful that I did. But I worry about the millions of other young people in my situation struggling to make ends meet and unsure of where to turn for that help.

That's what programs like Medicaid can provide — a support network during challenging times.

would have been possible without Medicaid. Medicaid saw my son and me through uncertain times, and we're covered by the program now as I work to create a better future for us.

As debates continue around how to improve our health care system, please remember that

We're the ones who get lost in the debates in statehouses and Washington. And there are so many of us. Here in Texas, nearly 1.7 million people could benefit if our state decided to expand Medicaid — including more than 600,000 who don't have any coverage now.

600,000 who don't have any coverage now.

Rather than making it harder to get access to Medicaid, as many are proposing, we should be focusing on ensuring everyone can get access to the care they need.

Despite the complicated process, I was able to get enrolled in Medicaid for myself and my new-

And that support can make all the difference.

I'm proud to say that since Futur's birth, I earned my GED and am currently working towards a certified nursing certificate. Meanwhile, I'm working two minimum wage jobs and have the full-time job of being a parent.

It's still hard. But none of this

programs like Medicaid are more than a political talking point — they help people like my son and me stay healthy and live happy, dignified lives.

Katy Moreno is an 18-year old mother and GED graduate pursuing her certified nursing certificate in Austin, Texas. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

OPINION



Charge of 'Identity Politics' Mostly Cynical

Divisive as the division it claims to combat

BY JOSHUA ADAMS

As the 2020 campaign lurches to a start, get ready to hear a lot about "identity politics."

If a candidate mentions or draws attention to her race, gender, or sexuality, some people say, she's making our country "more divided." We need to stop engaging in identity politics and start appealing to the "average" American, they say.

Which raises the question: Just who is "average"?

To be blunt, I'm convinced the charge of "identity politics" is mostly cynical. It's a rhetorical whip used to guilt women, queer folk, and minorities into not advocating for their specific political needs. It's as divisive as the division it claims to combat.

I was born in raised in Chicago — a microcosm of our country's immense diversity as well as its segregation. Being a black man from the south side of Chicago, I have experiences that are different from someone who lives in a



majority-white town in southern Illinois.

Why is mentioning this difference divisive? How does remaining silent about the specific issues that affect me help?

Politicians can't talk to "average" voters. They have to persuade real people — voters with different backgrounds, who share most of the same concerns, but sometimes different ones. People accused of

better health care, and a public health response to drug addiction, politicians in both parties scramble to promise all of those things and more. When black Chicagoans ask for the same resources, the response is often: "No, what you need is more police."

It would be hard to imagine Donald Trump going to a small town in Ohio and making only one comprehensive appeal to white voters there: "What do you have

GOP is "the party of Lincoln." These same conservatives often blast identity politics as a distraction from policy issues, yet bring up oversimplified history that has no relevance to the present black experience instead of policy.

Pundits on Fox News often suggest that residents of the "heartland" are "more" American than those who live in major cities or on the coasts. What is that other than identity politics, appealing to people's sense of "we deserve more" and "they deserve less"?

When people blame "illegal immigrants" for "taking their jobs" but never critique the businesses and corporations that exploit workers of all races, that's identity politics, too.

All communities have the right to accurately, clearly, and genuinely state what they want — not to be told what they need. When we accept underlying ideas about who "deserves" help and who doesn't, that's based on two identities: who we think "we" are and who we think "they" are.

That's called "identity politics." The trick is that we don't see it as "politics" when it appeals to our own identities.

Joshua Adams is a writer, journalist and assistant professor at Salem State University. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

When people blame "illegal immigrants" for "taking their jobs" but never critique the businesses and corporations that exploit workers of all races, that's identity politics, too.

practicing "identity politics" are often just people fighting for the particular issues that affect them.

People who are critical of this are often blind to the ways that ordinary politics center their own (real or imagined) identity. Politicians direct "identity politics" to them all the time — they just can't see it.

For example, when white people in Appalachia demand jobs,

to lose?" Obviously those voters would feel they deserve a more detailed pitch than a dice roll. So why did we find it acceptable when he offered exactly that — political crumbs — to African-American voters in 2016?

When Republicans come to African -American communities and historically black colleges, often the very first thing they do is "remind" the audience that the



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'Amazing Grace,' a Fitting Tribute

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

tors mean to highlight patterns that exist throughout the U.S., to equip people of color to push back on the sorts of narratives that blame us for problems we do not create and have limited ability to impact, and to inspire creative thinking about to find real agency in addressing problems like these that persist throughout American cities. It's a clarifying and helpful effort. You can follow the film's distribution and future screenings at <http://decadeoffire.com/>.

"**Always in Season**" won a U.S. documentary special jury award at Sundance for moral urgency, and it is easy to see why. It focuses in part on a 2014 incident in a small North Carolina town where, one Friday, a black high school student, Lennon Lacy, was found dead in a mobile home park that he frequently visited, hanging from a swing set. The local police chilled over the long weekend and then told quickly ruled the case a suicide, despite protestations from boy's family and others close to him that he showed no signs of suicidal intentions

The film asks the question whether lynching is really a thing of the past in the U.S.; Lacy's family believes he was lynched, and the film inquires as to what seems to have been a very cursory investigation that fails to pursue leads and evidence that would support their concern. The more time the film

(ably directed by Jacqueline Olive, herself a Southern black single mother) sits with the perspective of the marginalized, the more we notice other things--like how strange a suicide in a public place actually is. An NAACP investigator notes an alarming and rising number of such "suicides" among black men in the last ten years.

Despite the fact that those incidents, like most lynchings, took place in public and, in one case, was publicly advertised ahead of time, no one has ever been prosecuted (as is so often the case). The film puts Lennon's case in its historical contest and builds appropriate discomfort with patterns that persist on suspicious deaths of black men and the bland public response that exists, even when the FBI is involved. Olive seeks to equip us to look more deeply and question the too-easily-reached official narrative around such deaths, and to understand the mechanics of systemic racism and how the legacy of lynching persists even to this day. You can follow the film and watch for screenings at <https://www.alwaysinseasonfilm.com/#home-section>.

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer. Find her movie blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.

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Obituary



In Loving Memory

Latawnya June Whitney

Latawnya June Whitney (Brownie), 38, answered God's calling on April 1, 2019. She will be deeply missed but never ever forgotten.

She was born in Portland on June 30 1980 to parents Tracey Bernard and Samuel Whitney III. She graduated from Jefferson High School in 1999.

Home going services are scheduled for Saturday, April 13 at 11 a.m. at Philadelphia Church, 238 N.E. Mason St.

In Loving Memory

Roger E. Smith

Services for Roger E. Smith, who passed away on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at home at the age of 68, will be held Wednesday, April 10 at 11 a.m. at Bethel AME Church, 5828 N.E. Eighth Ave.

He had three children, LaMarcus Deshawn Smith and Kyna Harris (Royal), both of Portland,



and Shatima Walker of Colorado Springs, Colo.; two extended daughters, Calla Jones (Herman II) and Manuella Martin, both of Portland; eight grandchildren and six extended grandchildren. Survivors also include six living sisters and a brother: LaVerne E. Davis (Ralph) of Fairview, Bernice Farris-Fields, Berta Mae Stevens (Chris), LaRan A. Smith, Yvonne Crockett and Rickey Smith-Penny of Portland; and Yvette O'Bannon (Marvin) of Lakewood, Wash.

Teen Party Alcohol-Free

Clark County middle and high school students are invited to join a drug and alcohol free celebration for youth with swimming, basketball, a DJ, video games table games, giveaways and prizes on Friday, April 19 from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Vancouver's Firstenberg Community Center, 700 N.E. 136th. Sponsored by youth educators working to prevent substance abuse among their peers.

Shirley Nanette and Albina Soul Revue Band –

Portland's soul music history and an R&B and jazz music showcase of historic proportion will be celebrated when Portland vocalist extraordinaire Shirley Nanette joins the Albina Soul Revue Band, perform her seminal 1973 album 'Never Coming Back.' Show is Saturday, April 13 at 9 p.m. at the Holocene, downtown. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.



A Racially Divided World – PassinArt presents "The No Play," conveying a racially divided world at the apex of the Jim Crow segregation era. The title is derived from the many "no" signs that dotted the landscape during that despot era. Finals shows are Saturday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 14 at 3 p.m. at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. For tickets, visit evenbrite.com.

Priced Out Film Screening – The Multnomah County Central Library, downtown, invites the public to a screening and discussion of the locally filmed documentary 'Priced Out,' which looks at how skyrocketing housing prices are displacing

Portland's black community and reshaping the entire city. Screens Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m.

Links Masquerade Ball – The Portland chapter of The Links present the Phantom Phantasy Masquerade Ball on Saturday, April 27 at the Adrianna Ballroom, 918 S.W. Yamhill, from 6 p.m.-11 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Portland Links Scholarship Fund and Programs. For tickets, visit online at wrefinc.ejoinme.org/register2019.

Norman Sylvester Band – "Boogie Cat" Norman Sylvester plays Friday, April 12 at Wilf's; Saturday,



April 13 at the Spare Room; Friday, April 19 at the Rogue Pub in North Plains; Saturday, April 20 at the Vinyl Tap; Wednesday, April 24 at Billy Blue's in Vancouver; Friday, April 26 at Clyde's; and Saturday, April 27 for the Inner City Blues Festival.

Roots-n-Harmony Benefit – Cathedral Park Performing Arts Collective hosts their 3rd annual benefit show and silent auction "Roots-n-Harmony" on Saturday, May 4 at 6 p.m. at the Wayfinding Academy in St. Johns. The all-ages event includes a buffet-style dinner, live music, theatre performances and a silent auction and raffle to benefit the collective's student scholarship program.

Zoo for All – The Oregon Zoo has launched "Zoo for All," a discount program that provides \$5 admission for low income individuals and families. Visitors may purchase up to six of the \$5 tickets by bringing a photo ID and documentation showing they participate in low income service, like the Oregon Trial Card, Medicaid, Section 8, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Head Start.

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