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Hopefuls Debate**
*Communities
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**Young, Gifted
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*Honoring 28
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The Portland Observer 45

'City of Roses'



Volume XLV
Number 15



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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mayor Charlie Hales and others gather at Peninsula Park in north Portland to address a spate of gunfire in local communities. The news conference featured Mr. and Mrs. Bradford, an elderly couple who live in fear after their home of 40 years was shot up earlier this month in suspected gang-related violence. Also pictured is Antoinette Edwards, director of the Mayor's Office of Youth Violence Prevention.

**After caught in
crossfire, elderly
couple pleads
for peace**

BY CERVANTE POPE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A string of shootings has pushed an elderly black couple to plead for an end to gun violence while local law enforcement has pledged to step up efforts to combat local gangs.

Over four dozen rounds of bullets blasted through three homes just off North Albina Avenue and

'We Live in Fear'

Ainsworth Street across from Peninsula Park during the early hours of Sunday, April 3. Luckily no one was injured, but the many nearby residents were left shaken, including Mr. and Mrs. Bradford, a couple in their 80s.

The Bradford's home was among those caught in the crosshairs of the suspected gang activity.

In efforts to publically address and openly discuss the gunfire and a spate of shootings across the

city, Mayor Charlie Hales stood in Peninsula Park last Thursday with the Bradfords, police, the U.S. Attorney for Oregon, the Multnomah County District Attorney and other community leaders.

Charlie Mae Bradford sat sweetly next to her husband as she described some of the damage done to her home of 40 years, before leading into her heartfelt request:

"We live in fear now. We want to feel safe in our home again. We

want everyone to feel safe again. Please stop the shooting, we need to get to caring for each other. Please put down the guns," Bradford pleaded.

A few members of Enough is Enough, an organization of women who have lost loved ones to gang violence, shared the personal accounts of lives lost to gunfire.

Of those present, Perlia Bell, Shannon Taloff and Kiar Chaney chose to speak. Bell's daughter, Asia, was killed in a shooting

back in 2002, while Taloff's son Anthony Jackson was killed last summer, and Chaney's brother Marquis being gunned down in March of last year.

Assistant Police Chief Kevin Modica, State Rep. Lew Frederick and U.S. Attorney Billy Williams spoke on the collaborative efforts of law enforcement agencies to abate gang violence. Adult parole and probation gang unit supervisor Bryan Smith talked about working with other agencies and rehabilitation programs targeted to former perpetrators.

"We all live here," said Pas-

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The Week in Review

Lowest Jobless Since 1976

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to a record low of 4.5 percent in March, the lowest point since comparable records began in 1976. A year ago, Oregon's unemployment rate was 5.7 percent.

Rent Freeze Demanded

A large group of protesters disrupted a meeting of the Multnomah County commission Thursday to demand that the local governing panel declare a housing

disaster and immediately enact a one-year rent freeze and eviction moratorium. The commission took no action on the proposal by Portland Tenants United.

Glass Maker Adds Controls

Bullseye glass, the southeast Portland company believed to be one of the sources of heavy metals detected in the city's air, indicated in a letter released Monday by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality that it will start

using cadmium again after installing a pollution control device in a controlled furnace.

Student had Zest for Life

Her zest for life was contagious and it's what friends of 18-year-old Haruka Weiser are trying to focus on as they struggle with grief over her murder. The first-year student at University of Texas in Austin was found dead on the school's campus last Tuesday. She was a native of Portland and attended the Arts and Communications Magnet Academy in Beaverton.

NFL's Will Smith Killed

Former New Orleans Saints player Will Smith was killed Sunday night in a case of road-rage by a Humvee-driving man who rear-ended his Mercedes and then shot him in the back and side, according to a police warrant. Smith, 34, was beloved by fans for helping the Saints win the 2009 Super Bowl.

Navy Accommodates Portland

After Portland Mayor Charlie Hales refused to travel to Mississippi to commission the USS Portland because of the state's new anti-gay law, the Navy Tuesday announced the commission-

ing will take place in Portland. The law signed by the Mississippi governor earlier this month allows churches, religious charities and privately held businesses to decline services to people whose lifestyles violate their religious beliefs.

Neal, Iverson to Naismith

Shaquille O'Neal and Allen Iverson will be inducted into the 2016 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame later this year, officials announced last week. Iverson was an 11-time NBA All-Star and O'Neal was a four-time NBA Champion in 19 years in the NBA.

We're Master Planning Madison High School and we need your help!



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Arts Tax Due and Many Confused

Paying it isn't as easy as it seems

BY CERVANTE POPE

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

We get it; statistically speaking, Portland is one of the biggest creative hubs in the United States. That isn't news to anyone, but the Portland Arts Tax is, to some.

The goal of the tax is to provide an artistic outlet for young kids in schools by bringing art teachers into 70 elementary schools across six Portland school districts, as well as supporting the city's artistic organizations.

The measure first popped up on

a ballot back in November 2012 and to date has raised a combined \$24 million for the Regional Arts and Culture Council and Portland area schools. Yet, four years later, residents are still either uninformed of the Arts Tax, or uninformed on how to pay it.

Aware of this issue, Elders in Action has sought to help those perplexed by the process by breaking down the details and providing a streamlined outline of the tax's

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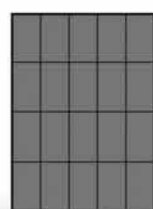


Portland has become a very popular place to live, attracting buyers/renters from within the Portland region and from other parts of the country. It is one of the most beautiful cities in America, the rivers, mountains, and its resources are one of the country's finest.

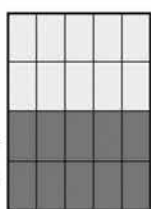
The Portland Observer believes that an adequate supply of affordable housing is the foundation of healthy communities. Living in decent housing provides a safe environment and an opportunity for people to hold jobs, succeed in school and contribute to their communities.

It is an on-going effort to respond to housing needs, the Portland Observer has developed a Housing Special Edition full of information available affordable rental information and homeownership programs. Depending on your income, you could be eligible for home repair, down payment assistance, rental housing assistance and other affordable housing assistance.

This year's Housing Special Edition will be published on April 27th with the ad deadline on April 20th. Join in our annual special, showcasing your organization.



Full Page

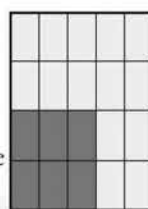


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The INSIDE

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CLASSIFIEDS

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CALENDAR

page 15

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LOCAL NEWS



Portland mayoral candidates Deborah Harris and Ted Wheeler face representatives from Portland's communities of color at a Thursday forum sponsored by the National Association of Minority Contractors.

Mayoral Hopefuls Debate Communities of color hear from candidates

BY CERVANTE POPE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Given Portland's strained racial history and today's divide between economic classes, the argument of who should guide the city as its next mayor was the topic of conversation for residents at a mayoral debate for Portland's communities of color.

Addressing the topics of housing, jobs and transportation for minorities within the city, the candidates participating in the Thursday forum sponsored by the Oregon branch of the National Association of Minority Contractors at New Song Church in northeast Portland, included the sole minority candidate for Portland Mayor Deborah Harris, current Oregon Treasurer Ted Wheeler, Multnomah County Commissioner Jules Bailey, and activists David Schor and Sarah Iannarone.

A specially-curated panel of

minority business and advocacy organizations sat across from the row of predominately Caucasian candidates, visually calling attention to the racial rift in Portland's government.

A shortage of housing for minority and low income residents, along with housing displacement from gentrified neighborhoods, were two issues that opened the debate.

"A big part of what we have to do in affordable housing is create these pathways for people to actually be able to own their homes," said David Schor.

Yet it was a question from Bishop Steven Holt of the Kingdom Nation Church that both confused the mayoral candidates and received one of the most eye-opening responses of the night. Not one candidate effectively answered the Bishop's question on how to assimilate displaced families back into the community.

Jules Bailey acknowledged the problem when given a second chance to respond.

"We do have an affordability crisis in this city and displacement

is on a lot of people's lips," Bailey said. "But one of the reasons it's so hot in this campaign right now is that the affordability crisis and displacement is starting to affect middle and upper middle class white families. This has been going on in communities of color for a long time, for decades."

One member of the audience showed how distraught she was on gentrification issues by storming the stage and ripping up Bailey's name card, delaying the debate.

As a result, the jobs and transportation topics were cut extremely short, but each candidate seemed to come to the same consensus of guaranteeing work for minority contractors and devising plans to grant more access to public transportation for those economically pushed to the outer limits of the city.

The candidates' closing comments made a last ditch efforts to gain support, but demonstrated that no matter who wins, how to address gentrification within minority communities and throughout the city as a whole will be a top priority.

Madison Rebuild Planning Begins

The planning process has begun for rebuilding Madison High School in northeast Portland as part of the Portland School District's plans to rebuild many of its aging schools.

Members of the community are invited to participate in the Madison Master Planning Design Workshop this Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. till noon in

the Madison High School cafeteria.

Anyone who wants to participate in the workshop discussion and comes in early at 8:30 a.m. can receive a free breakfast and free child care. The planning session will begin at 9 a.m.

For information, visit the Madison Bond Project website MadisonBond.pps.net or call 503-916-2222.



RIDE MAX?

Track work will disrupt MAX service May 8–21

We're making much-needed improvements to the MAX tracks along 1st Avenue in Portland City Center to help trains run on time. Sunday, May 8, through Saturday, May 21, the Blue and Red lines will run on different routes downtown. The Green Line will run between Clackamas Town Center and Rose Quarter only. All MAX lines will run less frequently, and trains will be crowded.

To see how your trip will be affected, visit trimet.org/firstavenue.

TRIMET

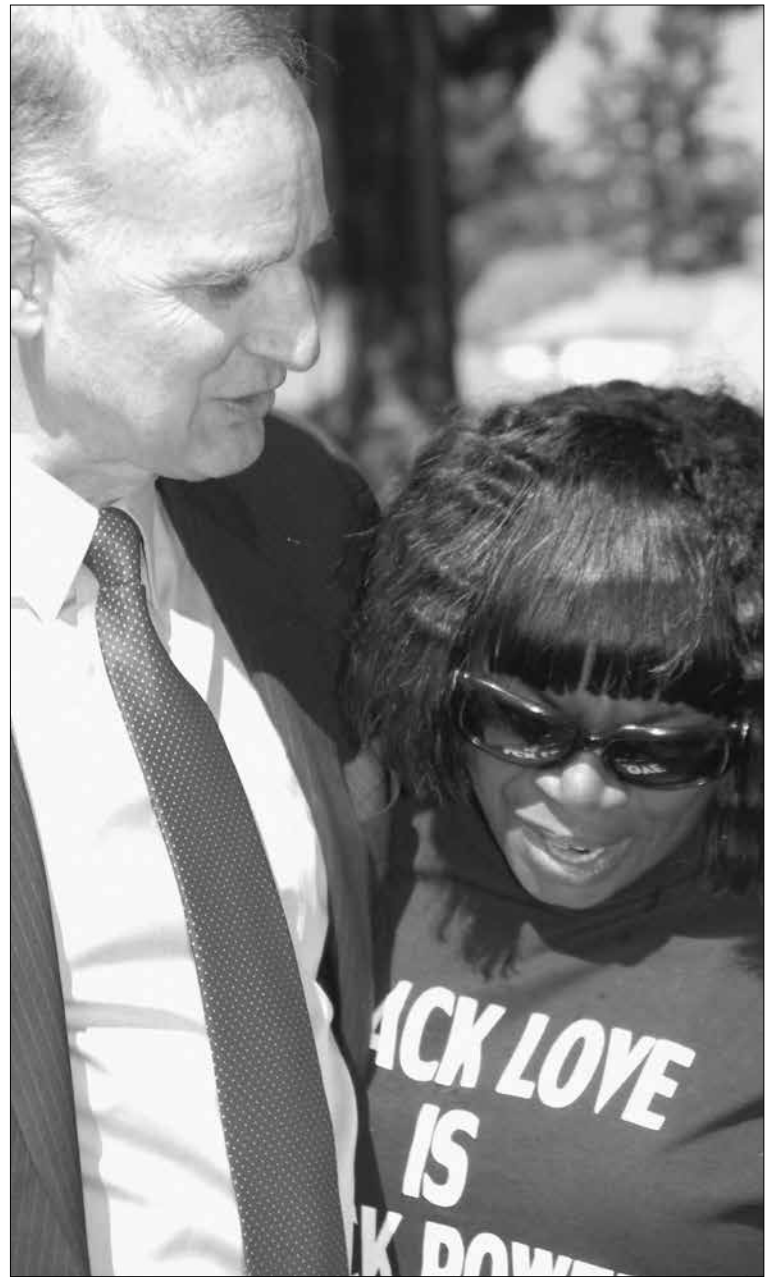


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill embraces Perla Bell, the mother of Asia Bell, a Portland woman who died of gun violence in 2002.

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'We Live in Fear'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

tor Mark Strong, a member of the local African-American clergy. "This is a problem for all. Whether it's black, white, Hispanic, it's everybody's problem."

So far this year, police have responded to 45 gang-related shootings, up from 36 at the same time

a year ago. There's been 15 people wounded and one person killed with 414 bullet casings recovered at crime scenes, authorities indicated.

The effort to make the community safer from gunfire was to target the individuals who are pulling the triggers, "The worst of the worst," to get them off the street and incarcerate them, police said.

Arts Tax

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

information. As it stands, every adult living within Portland city limits that makes a minimum annual income of \$1,000 has to pay the \$35 tax fee. The Arts Tax form is separate from federal and state income tax forms, and applies even if you don't file your taxes.

The 2016 Arts Tax is due on April 18, with a \$15 penalty for late payment. Tax payments received after Oct. 17 come with a \$35 penalty, doubling the tax. Certain factors do qualify residents for an exemption. If you're single and your annual income is less than \$11,770, or if you're a couple

with an annual income of less than \$15,930, you don't have to pay.

In order to opt out, however, you must still complete the Arts Tax form every year, providing a proof of income via copies of your tax form, or federal form 4506-T.

If you're over 70 years old, disabled, and fall within low income guidelines, the option of permanent exemption is available by completing a separate form.

All these forms and qualifications can be tricky to keep up with, so Elders in Action is available for assistance at 503-235-5474.

The City of Portland Revenue Division encourages everyone to pay their tax online (portlandoregon.gov/artstax) as the quickest and easiest way to avoid the penalty fee.

Slate of Documentaries Worth Watching

Scoping out the best at Full Frame

I just made my annual sojourn to Durham, North Carolina for the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, the premier documentary film festival in the U.S. It's a highlight of my year and gives me a chance to scope out some of the best documentaries to watch out for. I saw a terrific slate of films, all worth seeing. Here's what I saw, in order of my preferences--and where I can, I've noted distribution information.

1. "Two Trains Runnin'" blew me away with its melding of several musical and civil rights' stories, all culminating in the events of June 1964. During the very time period that hundreds of college students traveled to Mississippi for what came to be known as Freedom Summer, a critical turning point in the Civil Rights Movement, two groups of young white men--musicians, college students, and record collectors--also separately traveled to Mississippi, but their interest was music, not activism. They came in search of Skip James and Son House, obscure country blues singers who had recorded magnificent music 30 years before and then disappeared. Through a deftly assembled collection of interviews, remarkable archive footage, and brilliant animated sequences, the film captures what a foolish thing this was for young whites to do at the time--only thinkable because most whites outside the South could not really comprehend the extent of the racial divide that severed their own country. And the thrill and danger of the search for musicians who had captured their imaginations (very much in the manner of "Searching for Sugarman") becomes a touchstone for the awakening of white Americans to the importance of the struggle of their black brothers and sisters and the beauty and truth that has long fought for expression in their music. The very summer--indeed, the very weekend--that Andrew Goodwin, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner were murdered by the police and the Ku Klux Klan, these other young men made a similar journey, discovered these two forgotten voices, and brought them to play at the Newport Folk Festival a month later to a thunderstruck audience of privileged folk fans. Watching their faces as they listen to James' gorgeous falsetto is like watching a spiritual awakening. This remarkable film captures the way in which music holds and carries the truths we are not yet ready to recognize in full,

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY JUDGE
DARLEEN ORTEGA



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA PICTURES

Samantha Montgomery in "Presenting Princess Shaw," in inspired film about a talented singer who became an Internet sensation after toiling in obscurity for years.

and the confluence of forces that came together at that time in our history through the voices of black Americans and birthed social action that we still desperately need today. The film had its premiere at Full Frame and features music from James and House as well as some of the greats who have covered them. You can follow the film on its website (twotrainsrunnin.com) and on Facebook to look for screenings; I am really hoping it will find a broad audience.

2. "Presenting Princess Shaw" was my favorite film at the Portland International Film Festival this year, under its former title, "Thru You Princess." It holds up well on second screening, and at

Full Frame Princess Shaw herself came on stage afterwards and performed a couple of songs and took questions (plus I caught her in the halls for a hug the day before). This genuine, open-hearted, and talented singer toiled in obscurity for so many years, posting songs and a video diary on YouTube (that is, into the void)--until a visionary Israeli musician and composer, Kutiman, built arrangements around her original acapella music and she became an internet sensation. In the meantime, the director of this film found her while making a doc about "YouTubers" and connected with Kutiman and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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OPINION

Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

Raising Taxes Could Actually be a Good Deal

Investing in our prosperity

BY ISAIAH J. POOLE

This time of year, a whole lot of Americans are feeling taxed enough already.

But the astonishing momentum of Bernie Sanders's presidential candidacy reveals something else: Millions of taxpayers are willing to entertain the idea that some of us aren't taxed enough, and that it's hurting the rest of us.

Sanders has propelled his race against Hillary Clinton on a platform that would ramp up government investment — in infrastructure, education, health care, research, and social services — while boosting taxes on the wealthiest Americans and big business to cover the cost.

Clinton's own vision is less ambitious, but it's also a far cry



from "the era of big government is over" days of her husband's administration.

The old conservative epithet against "tax-and-spend liberals" hasn't completely lost its sting, says Jacob Hacker, a political science professor at Yale University who pushed the idea of a public option for health insurance during the Affordable Care Act debate. But "we are moving toward the point where we can have an active discussion" about why "you need an activist government to secure prosperity."

Hacker's latest book, with Paul Pierson of the University of California at Berkeley, is *American Amnesia: How the War on Government Led Us to Forget What Made America Prosper*.

Hacker and Pierson argue that it was "the strong thumb" of a largely progressive-oriented government, in tandem with "the nimble fingers of the market,"

that created the broad prosperity of the post-World War II era. Conservative ideologues and corporate leaders then severed that partnership.

Anti-government activism replaced the virtuous cycle of shared prosperity that existed into the 1970s with a new cycle that's reached its apogee in today's radical Republican-run Congress: Make government unworkable. Attack government as unworkable. Win over angry voters. Repeat.

But in today's mad politics, growing numbers of voters seem to have gotten wise to the routine and how it's been rigged against them. Some are gravitating toward Donald Trump, as Hacker puts it, out of "the need to put a strong man who you know is not with the program in Washington in charge."

Sanders has the opposite vision. He's looking to spark a people-powered reordering of what

government can do, with the biggest wealth-holders paying the share of taxes that they did when America's thriving middle class and thriving corporate sector were, together, the envy of the world.

That vision is embodied in the People's Budget, a document produced by the Congressional Progressive Caucus as an alternative to the House Republican budget.

It's based on the premise that America can break out of its slow-growth economic malaise through a \$1 trillion infrastructure spending plan that would create more than 3 million jobs, increased spending on green energy research and development, and universal access to quality education from preschool through college.

"There are two messages that come out of the progressive budget," Hacker said. One is that "we can actually increase investment if we don't cut taxes further on

the wealthy." The other is that "if we got tougher with the modern robber barons in the health care and finance and energy industries, we could actually achieve substantial savings without cutting necessary spending."

Unfortunately, the People's Budget won't get close to a majority vote in Congress — and that's if it gets a vote at all in the dysfunctional Republican House.

Yet together with the debate provoked by the Sanders campaign, Hacker says, it shows that now "we have a little bit more of an opening for the kind of conversation we should've had 20 or 30 years ago, when we were trashing government and abandoning all of these long-term investments that are essential to our prosperity."

Isaiah J. Poole is the online communications director at Campaign for America's Future. OurFuture.org. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

Contributions by Women Past and Present

Her place is simply where she makes it

BY MARC H. MORIAL

There is no arena in American life, or beyond the borders of this country, where a woman's presence can neither be noted nor celebrated. Women have played—and continue to play—a major role in our nation's culture, politics and economy.

The traditionally held belief of a "woman's place" has long created obstacles for women who have ventured into the business arena. It was a notion that dictated that a woman's natural place was in the home, and when women worked outside of the home, it largely dictated what kind of work was appropriate for her. From the late 1800s and its initial boom of female workers and entrepreneurs in America, to Maria Contreras-Sweet, the founder of ProAmerica Bank and current head of the Small Business Association, and Oprah Winfrey's media empire, we know that a woman's place is quite simply where she makes it.

My own respect for strong, accomplished women was instilled by my mother, a highly-respected

educator and civil rights activist who recently published a memoir, "Witness to Change," about her own remarkable life.

Despite issues of gender parity and gender equity that continue to plague our boardrooms, conference rooms and banks, women have long contributed to the economic vitality of our country. Yesterday's entrepreneur laid the groundwork for today's businesswoman, who continues to defy odds,



Women own nearly 10 million of the businesses in America—making up 36 percent of the nation's businesses. These businesses generate more than \$1.4 trillion in annual revenue and employ 8 million people. Women are starting businesses at record rates, exceeding the national average, and there has been remarkable spike in small business ownership by women of color.

In 2002, there were fewer than one million businesses owned by women of color, representing 14

nesses and their businesses can be found in any conceivable industry.

There are many factors that can be attributed to this historic growth. The gender pay gap, and the glass ceiling above the ladder of success that is littered with cracks but has yet to be shattered, surely plays a motivating role for many women who have decided to invest in themselves and their talent. The Great Recession and the slow start, especially for communities of color to recover from the immense loss of capital and

The growth in businesses owned by women of color belies the ugly reality that African American and Latina business owners struggle to fund their startups. Women tend to start their businesses with half as much money as men, they are more likely to use their personal savings, and are less likely to access bank loans, funding and venture capital. To foster the growth and long-term survivability of businesses owned by people of color, the National Urban League has created Entrepreneurship Centers that provide management counseling, mentoring and training services geared toward the development of management skills that enable minority entrepreneurs to obtain financing that support job creation and preservation.

Entrepreneurship plays a vital role in our economy and the National Urban League will continue to play a vital role in shoring up the efforts and success of all businesses that create the jobs that save our cities. The small businesses owned by women of color are helping to bring jobs to struggling neighborhoods, creating new economic pathways in underserved communities and deserve their fair share of recognition—every month of the year.

Marc H. Morial is president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.

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break glass ceilings and produce much-needed jobs and revenue. This is especially true in the case of women of color, who are the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs in the United States.

percent of women-owned firms. As of 2012, there are nearly 3.8 million firms owned by women of color, comprising 38 percent of women-owned businesses. Today, women of color own 4 in 10 busi-

nesses, is likely another motivating factor. The ever-widening gap between the haves and the have nots has also played a part in women of color tapping into their entrepreneurial spirit.

OPINION



Wall Street Should Pay a Sales Tax

Proposal finally gets some traction

BY SARAH ANDERSON

In case there was any doubt, the presidential election fight has confirmed that blasting Wall Street, even eight years after the financial crisis, is still a vote-getter.

Hillary Clinton has said she'd like to jail more bankers. Donald Trump has skewered the hedge fund managers who are "getting away with murder." And Bernie Sanders has made Wall Street accountability a centerpiece of his campaign.

Of course, financial industry lobbyists aren't about to take this lying down. In recent weeks, they've turned up the heat on lawmakers to block one particular measure that Sanders has mentioned in nearly every stump speech: taxing Wall Street speculation.

Americans are used to paying sales taxes on basic goods and services, like a spring jacket, a gallon of gas, or a restaurant meal. But when a Wall Street trader buys millions of dollars' worth of stocks or derivatives, there's no tax at all.

Sanders has introduced a bill

called the Inclusive Prosperity Act, which would correct that imbalance by placing a small tax of just a fraction of a percent on all financial trades. It wouldn't apply to ordinary consumer transactions such as ATM withdrawals or wire transfers.

Wall Street lobbyists are claiming that such taxes would still hurt mom-and-pop investors. The Investment Company Institute, which represents the trading arms of J.P. Morgan, Goldman Sachs, and the leading hedge funds, recently fired off a letter to Congress arguing that a Wall Street speculation tax would "harm all investors, especially middle-income American workers saving for retirement."

In reality, the type of tax Sanders is promoting would target the high rollers in the financial casino. Because the tax applies to every trade, it would hit the traders engaging in computerized split-second stock-flipping the hardest. That's a good thing, because that kind of trading makes markets less stable and adds no real value to the Main Street economy.

For ordinary investors in low-turnover pension funds, the costs would be negligible — like a tiny insurance fee to protect against crashes caused by reckless and often automated speculation.

Under the Sanders plan, the tax rate would range from 0.005 per-

cent to 0.5 percent, depending on the financial instrument. By contrast, ordinary sales taxes currently average 8.4 percent.

In addition to discouraging dangerous speculation, such taxes would also raise money that could be spent on urgent needs, like making college affordable and fixing our crumbling roads and bridges.

Since it's hard to know how traders will react, it's difficult to calculate exactly how much money we're talking. Robert Pollin, a professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, predicts the Inclusive Prosperity Act could generate around \$300 billion per year in new federal tax dollars. The Tax Policy Center estimates that a financial transaction tax with

a slightly lower rate could raise up to \$541 billion over 10 years.

More than 30 countries already have forms of speculation taxes that raise billions of dollars per year. These include many fast-growing financial markets, such as the UK, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Switzerland. In the European Union, 10 countries have committed to implementing the world's first regional transaction tax.

It's encouraging to see Wall Street lobbyists agitated over the possibility of a speculation tax. It means this option is finally gaining the traction it deserves.

Sarah Anderson directs the Global Economy Project at the Institute for Policy Studies. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

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Dreamy, alluring and occasionally unorthodox, alternative R&B artist SZA (Solana Rowe) performs with Joyya and Risky Star on Wednesday, April 13 at 8 p.m. at the Wonder Ballroom, 123 N. Russell St. Presented by the Soul'd Out Music Festival.

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Young, Gifted and Black

A salute to student success

The Portland Observer is honored to salute Young, Gifted and Black students from Portland Public Schools.

Highlighting the success of these local students and their families, the Young,
CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



Mathias Thelus
Grant High School



Ja'Juan Yoakum
King School PK-8

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Jazzing it Up on Alberta



The Harlem Quartet brings a new attitude to classical music with a varied repertoire that includes works by minority composers. The group performs Thursday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alberta Rose Theater in northeast Portland.

Friends of Chamber Music present the "Harlem Quartet," a New York-based ensemble dedicated to advance diversity in classical music by engaging young audiences through a repertoire that includes works by minority composers. Named for the Harlem Renaissance, the quartet was founded in 2006 by the Sphinx Organization.

The group will perform the program "Jazzing it Up" on Thursday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 N.E. Alberta St. All seating is \$40 general admission, half-price reserved student tickets, \$5 student rush and \$5 Arts for All tickets, subject to availability. Call 503- 503-764-4131 or visit fcm.org.

Slate of Documentaries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

found he had struck gold with this performer. This inspired film will get a theatrical release in late May—expect a longer review from me then. In the meantime, follow the film on its website (magpictures.com/presentingprincessshaw/) and on Facebook.

3. **"Weiner"** is a surprisingly illuminating window into the political career of former New York Congressman Anthony Weiner, who famously resigned his House seat after an embarrassing "sexting" scandal in 2011, and made a bid for mayor of New York City in 2013. One of the film's directors, Josh Kriegman, served as Weiner's congressional chief of staff before becoming a filmmaker, and the film benefits both from his perspective on Weiner—much more nuanced than the feeding frenzy around his stupidest mistakes—and also from the more distanced perspective of his co-director, Elyse Steinberg. They began filming their documentary when Weiner launched his mayoral bid and were along for the ride when new revelations about Weiner's former behavior restarted the media frenzy and derailed what had been a promising return to politics. What emerges is a very insightful portrait of a smart politician with good ideas that may well threaten those at the top of the power structure, whose failings bring out the worst in everyone else. If only the media were as relentless in investigating leaders who lie to Congress about the basis for war as they are about investigating salacious and stupid behavior like Weiner's. He certainly suffers from the kind of hubris and narcissistic tendencies common to politicians, but actually also seems more self-aware and willing to own up to his mistakes. In the end, it seemed to me that this film, without ever directly saying it, reveals more about what is wrong with American politics and the media—including how much we love to have someone to judge—than it does about Weiner's well-documented failings. It won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance and will have a limited theatrical release beginning in May.

4. **"Sherpa"** focuses on the experience of the Himalayan locals who for decades have jeopardized their lives in order to literally power the ambitions of wealthy adventure junkies from mostly Western countries who are intent on sum-

mitting Mount Everest. These guides glean a relatively small slice of the economic benefit but assume as much as 30 times more risk than the tourists they assist, who scarcely notice the effort that goes into bringing them creature comforts and transporting all their equipment to the various camps along the route. In 2014, a major avalanche which cost the lives of 16 Sherpas brought these dynamics to a head in surprising ways, and the way the Nepalese government and Westerner climbers and expedition heads responded to the concerns raised by the devastated community of Sherpas as a result is shocking and very telling. The perspective of this marginalized community turns out to be both a literally and metaphorically important window into the many ways in which privilege affects perception. It has won documentary film awards in Australia and will, I hope get a limited U.S. theatrical release, given the critical acclaim that it has justly garnered. Follow it on its website (sherpa-film.com) and on Facebook.

5. **"Kiki"** won a Full Frame Human Rights award, and was my favorite of the films in competition that we saw. It sheds a long-overdue spotlight onto a particular New York underground expression of ballroom, a flamboyant performance-based art form that has long been popular and life-sustaining among LGBTQ people of color. The Kiki balls offer a safe and empowered space for LGBTQ youth of color to enact modes of gender expression that often have not been safe for them to express elsewhere, and the Kiki community provides a haven for a particularly vulnerable youth population disproportionately susceptible to homelessness, violence, and HIV. The film offers windows into the scene and especially into the stories of seven people—their hopes, their struggles, and the beauty they each express on the runway and in the world. It's not an art form that I know well, and a lot of the joy of the film comes with the opportunity to appreciate the courage and tenacity it takes for these young people to find a form of expression that feels authentically theirs. Hearing their stories is important and enriching, and motivated me to continue to shake loose of the ways in which norms of gender conformity blind me and all of us from seeing and appreciating real beauty in the world. Hopefully the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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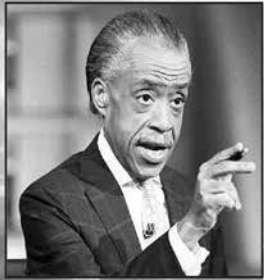

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



The 10th annual Billie Holiday Tribute Night comes to the Alberta Rose Theater on Saturday, April 16, sponsored by Siren Nation, the local nonprofit that showcases and creates performance opportunities for women.

A Tribute to Billie Holiday

Siren Nation, a local nonprofit that showcases and creates performance opportunities for women, presents Lady Sings the Blues, the 19th annual Billie Holiday Tribute Night to showcase one of the greatest jazz singers and songwriters of our time.

"Lady Day" was a jazz singer and songwriter who had a huge

impact. Her vocal style, strongly inspired by jazz instrumentalists, pioneered a new way of manipulating phrasing and tempo. Above all, she was admired all over the world for her deeply personal and intimate approach to singing.

The event on Saturday, April 16 at 8 p.m. at the Alberta Rose Theater in northeast Portland will

feature performances by Carra Barratt, Emily Overstreet, Mia Nicholson, The Dolly Partners (featuring Shelley Short and Alia Farah), Lenore, Kris Deelane, Phoebe Spier, Ezza Rose, Josie Seid and more!

Tickets are \$15 with proceeds benefitting the 2016 Siren Nation Festival.



The legacy of jazz trumpeter Clifford Brown is celebrated by PDX Jazz.

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PDX Jazz celebrates Jazz Appreciation Month in April with a slate of events beginning with a tribute to iconic jazz trumpeter Clifford Brown named after his signature tune, "Joy Spring." The performance, featuring Charlie Porter, a Seattle area trumpeter, will be held Thursday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alberta Abbey, N.E. Alberta St.

"Jazz Town," a film premiere produced by Eric Cain as part of OPB's "Oregon Experience" will screen on Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m. at the Moriarty Auditorium at North Killingsworth and Albina Avenue on the Portland Community College Cascade Campus.

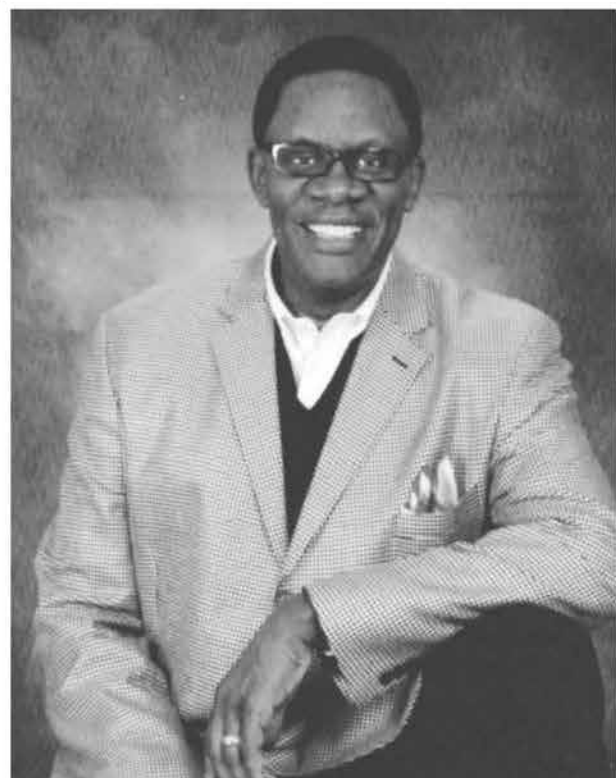
The film explores a vibrant but

short-lived period of Portland history post World War II when there was an eruption of music and nightlife with black clubs on North Broadway and Williams Avenue. Presented largely through first-hand accounts as told by local residents, the program will showcase the kinds of music and the parade of musicians that put Portland on the "jazz map."

On Sunday, April 24 at 3 p.m. at Alberta Abbey, PDX Jazz will recognize founding board member and life-long jazz advocate Wayne Thompson, who died earlier this year, with a musical celebration of life concert.

Then on Saturday, April 30 at 4 p.m., the Incredible Journey of Jazz under the direction of Darrell Grant, will present a music program designed for students to tell the story of jazz music, also at the Alberta Abbey.

For a complete list of the upcoming shows, visit pdxjazz.com/events.



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82nd Avenue of Roses Parade and Street Fair -- The East Portland Chamber of Commerce hosts this official Rose Festival community parade and celebration for the whole family on Saturday, April 30, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Eastport Plaza, 4000 S.E. 82nd Ave.



Inner City Blues Concert -- Top blues, R&B and soul artists in Portland headline the 'Healing the Health Care Blues' Inner City Blues Festival to advocate for universal, publicly funded health care, Saturday, April 16 at the North Portland Eagles Lodge. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The show starts at 6 p.m. and lasts until midnight. Admission is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Visit tickettomato.com; Peninsula Station, 8326 N. Lombard; Music Millennium, 3158 E. Burnside; Geneva's Pure Perfection, 5601 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd; or Musician's Union Local 99, 325 N.E. 20th Ave.

Poetry Month at Chinese Garden -- According to Chinese tradition, a garden landscape without poetry is not complete. This April, you can learn about the poetry in the La Su Chinese Garden, downtown, as well as the historical and aesthetic traditions of poetry in Suzhou-style gardens with workshops, tours and multiple poetry series. Learn more at lansugarden.org.

Music Millennium Free Shows -- The Music Millennium, 3158 E. Burnside, hosts a series of in-house live performances. Enjoy free music and the opportunity to meet artists. Call 503-231-8926 for a schedule.

Animating the Daily Grind -- A work space becomes a stage as the Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre/Northwest re-launches its popular Table of Contents, at CENTRL Office, in the Pearl District, a

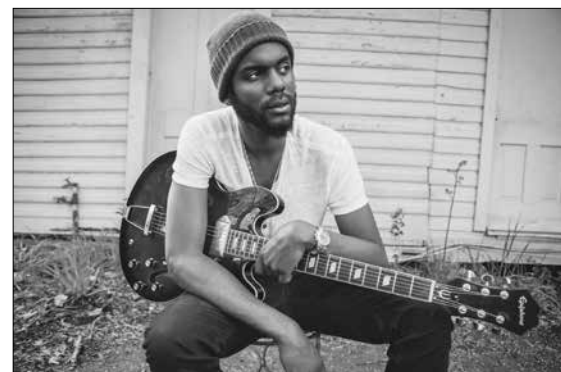
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

collaborative, co-workspace at 1355 N.W. Everett St., Suite 100. Tickets for performances on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16 are \$25 and require advance purchase at heididuckler.org/northwest.

Norman Sylvester -- Boogie Cat Norman Sylvester and his Saturday, April 16 at 6 p.m. at the Inner City Blues Festival at the North Portland Eagles Lodge, 7611 N. Exeter; Friday, April 22 at the Blue Diamond; and Saturday, April 30 at Clyde's.

Fourth Sunday Jam Night -- A friends and family variety comedy show in a Saturday Night Live format with local recording and performing artists, bands, dance crews, poets, and drama groups, takes place each fourth Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. at Celebration Tabernacle, 8131 N. Denver Ave. The free event is open to the community.

Discount Tickets -- Local low-income families and individuals can purchase \$5 tickets to classical musical performances in Portland as part of a unique program called Music for All. Participating organizations include the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theater, Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Friends of Chamber Music, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Piano International, Portland Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and Portland Vocal Consort.



Distorted Guitar and Smooth Vocals -- Gary Clark Jr. brings his distorted guitar sound and smooth vocal style to Portland. The Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter and virtuoso guitarist from Austin, Texas, will perform Thursday, April 14 at the Roseland Theater, downtown.

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Slate of Documentaries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

positive notice the film is winning at film festivals will help it snag a distributor; for now you can follow it on its website (kikimovie.com).

6. **"Hooligan Sparrow"** tells a story of political awakening with remarkable parallels to "Two Trains Runnin'." After coming to NYU for school, filmmaker Nanfu Wang returned to her native China intent on making a film about a maverick activist, Ye Haiyan (known as Hooligan Sparrow), who had made a name for herself on the internet advocating for sex workers' rights. In the post-show screening that I attended, Wang explained how, like most Chinese, she had not been particularly awake to the oppressive tactics employed by her own government—but soon she found herself a target of government surveillance and intimidation along with Sparrow and her band of activist colleagues as they pleaded for justice for six elementary school girls who were sexually abused by their school principal. All the activists' actions (including Wang's actions in filming) are technically legal—but the response of police and hired thugs who intimidate them, assault them, arrest Sparrow and others, and hold them for days without due process reveals a government absolutely intent on preventing any real accountability for official actions, even deplorable ones. The struggle of Wang and her subjects to document their experience—including using secret recording devices and hidden-camera glasses—and even to find places to shelter them in the face of black-listing and relentless surveillance is an important window into the stakes for the struggle for human rights in China—and, to my mind, a perhaps more visible look at the tactics used by the powerful everywhere to silence dissent. You can follow the film on its website (hooligansparrow.com) and on Facebook; it's currently making the festival circuit and hopefully will find a distributor.

7. **"Life, Animated"** won the audience award at Full Frame and its director, Roger Ross Williams (who also directed the terrific "God Loves Uganda"), won a documentary directing award for this film at Sundance. It's a beautiful and moving depiction of a particular family's journey with autism. Owen Susskind was an apparently happy and normal child until, at age three, he stopped talking and began regressing in other ways. After years of unsuccessful attempts to reach him, Owen's parents discovered that they could converse with him through the Disney characters that he loved so well—and indeed, eventually

they discovered that Owen had the entire Disney catalog memorized and, to a large degree, experienced life through the lessons he had learned from his beloved Disney films. Through a skillful blend of interviews and beautifully animated sequences, this inspiring film tells the Susskinds' story and illustrates an important breakthrough in recognizing that the passions of kids with autism can provide an important pathway to helping them make connections and build satisfying lives. The film will receive a theatrical release in July and, until then, you can follow it on its website (lifeanimateddoc.com) or on Facebook.

8. **"Kate Plays Christine"** is a particularly fascinating Rubik's Cube of a film that wrestles with the complexity of finding a truthful vantage point for story investigation. Its writer-director, Robert Greene, who won a screenwriting award for the film at Sundance, builds it around actress Kate Lyn Sheil's preparation to play Christine Chubbuck, a young news anchor who notoriously shot herself on the air in 1974, in a dramatic film about her life. We follow Sheil's attempts to transform her physical appearance and to learn more about Chubbuck's life and relationships in order to try to understand her dramatic and inscrutable actions. As the film unfolds, both Chubbuck's and Sheil's motivations remain elusive—even more so when you realize that there is no film actually being made except the one you are watching; the entire project is an inquiry into story-telling itself. We are being had—but, in a sense, we are always being had when someone tells us a story, including a true one. And what is a true point of view for telling a personal story, especially one like this one about a sensational act by a depressed person angry about, among other things, the sensational vantage point that makes television news inherently false? And how real are Sheil's struggles with playing her? This quirky film grapples productively with the craft of acting, the quandary of suicide, and the challenge of understanding another person's story.

9. **"The Bad Kids"** is a moving cinema verite' examination of a Mojave Desert High School that serves "at risk" kids. The film, which won a special jury prize at Sundance, invites you to sit with the experience of these kids and the adults who try to help them—and without directly giving you much history, you get a sense of the social, emotional, and economic pressures that have pushed these kids to the edge. Indeed, their struggles often seem to be the fall-out from the struggles of their parents. The approach of this school and its principal is a

moving example of love in action—of really dealing with these kids where they are, making genuine and concrete offers of help which sometimes can be accepted and sometimes, heartbreakingly, can't be. With these kids, a rigid approach just won't work—but loving limits and real investment in them as people offers hope that inspires. The film recently acquired a distributor and can be followed on its website (thebadkidsmovie.com) and on Facebook.

10. **"Trapped"** explores the alarming effects of "TRAP" laws (targeted regulation of abortion providers), which since 2010 have achieved their aim of shutting down the majority of abortion clinics in southern states and have taken hold in other states as well. The regulations impose unworkable restrictions on abortion providers that have nothing to do with safe performance of the procedure and everything to do with forcing the shutdown of clinics and making abortions practically impossible for women by requiring them to travel expensive and unworkable distances, often for statutorily required extra visits. The film illustrates how a constitutional right has been essentially regulated out of existence in large swathes of the country, increasingly leading to an alarming return of dangerous attempts by women to end unwanted pregnancies. The treatment here is reasoned and comprehensive and focuses needed attention on a trend about which most people are not well-informed. It won a special jury prize at Sundance and is currently in limited release. It will also air on public broadcasting in June. You can follow it on its website (trappeddocumentary.com).

11. **"Starless Dreams"** won the Grand Jury Prize and an Inspiration Award, and invites you to sit with the experience of young women living in an Iranian juvenile detention center. These teenagers have committed serious crimes like theft, drug trafficking, and even murder, but filmmaker Mehrdad Oskouei (himself the father of a teenage girl) builds the space and trust necessary to gently coax from his subjects the stories of abuse and deprivation that appropriately broaden the picture of their actions. My own experience leads me to expect that one might hear similar stories from girls in detention here in the U.S.; the filmmaker subtly raises questions about the world these girls can expect and the societal failures that have brought them to this place. I'm not sure it will get a U.S. theatrical release, but it is worth keeping an eye out for an opportunity to give these girls your ear.

12. **"Sonita"** won a filmmaker award at Full Frame and an audience award at the Portland International Film Festival. It follows

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Young, Gifted and Black

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Gifted and Black program is aimed at promoting student success and creating a vehicle for inspiring other students.

More than 130 student nominations from kindergarten through 12th grade were submitted and 28 finalists were selected.

The effort was put together by the district's Office of School-Family Partnerships. The honored students were photographed by professional photographer Marquis Johnson-Bey and interviewed by retired Portland Public Schools administrator Dr. Carolyn Leonard. Their photographs and inspiring stories will be shared with students, fami-

lies and community members throughout Portland, including a Young, Gifted and Black booklet and web page.

In addition, the community is invited to attend the seventh annual Young Gifted and Black Tribute at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon St., on Wednesday, April 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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CALENDAR April 2016

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

				1 <i>Jan Wahl born, 1933</i> April Fool's Day One Cent Day	2 <i>Author Hans Christian Andersen born, 1805</i> International Children's Book Day	3 <i>Find-A-Rainbow Day</i> <i>Pony Express established (1860)</i> <i>First iPad sold in the U.S. in 2010</i>
4 <i>First U.S. flag approved (1818)</i>	5 <i>National Read a Road Map Day</i> <i>Educator Booker T. Washington born, 1856</i>	6 <i>North Pole Discovered In 1898.</i> <i>U.S. entered World War I (1917)</i>	7 ● No Housework Day World Health Day, established 1948	8 <i>Trina Schart Hyman born, 1939</i>	9 <i>Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant (1865)</i>	10 <i>Encourage a Young Writer Day</i> <i>National Sibling Day</i> <i>U.S. Patent System established (1790)</i>
11 <i>President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, 1964 (1964)</i>	12 <i>Space Shuttle Columbia First Launched Crewed by John Young and Robert Crippen - 1981</i>	13 <i>3rd President Thomas Jefferson born, 1743</i> <i>Lee Bennett Hopkins born, 1938</i>	14 ◐ <i>Webster's Dictionary Published, 1828</i> <i>Titanic Struck sank at 2:20 AM on April 15.</i>	15 <i>Income Tax Day</i> <i>Artist/Inventor Leonardo Da Vinci born, 1452</i>	16 <i>Garth Williams born, 1912</i> <i>Aviator Wilbur Wright born, 1867</i>	17 <i>Sherlock Hemlock's Birthday (Sesame Street character)</i>
18 <i>Paul Revere's Famous Ride (1775)</i> <i>Great San Francisco Earthquake In 1906.</i> Pet Owner's Day	19 <i>Humorous Day</i> <i>Revolutionary War began (1775)</i>	20 <i>Scientists Marie & Pierre Curie isolate radium (1902)</i>	21 <i>Kindergarten Day</i> <i>Barbara Park born, 1947</i>	22 ○ Earth Day established 1970 Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day	23 <i>Passover Begins at Sundown</i> <i>William Shakespeare born, 1564</i>	24 <i>Library of Congress established (1800)</i> Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day
25 <i>Anzac Day (Australia, New Zealand)</i> <i>Hubble Telescope launched, 1990</i> World Penguin Day	26 <i>Hug a Friend Day</i> <i>National Pretzel Day</i> <i>Seismologist Charles Richter born, 1900</i>	27 <i>Administrative Professionals/ Secretaries Day</i> Tell a Story Day	28 <i>Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day</i> <i>Take your Daughter to Work Day</i>	29 ◑ <i>Arbor Day</i> <i>Zipper Day (patented by Gideon Sundback in 1913)</i>	30 <i>National Honesty Day</i> <i>Anniversary Louisiana Purchase completed (1803)</i>	

Slate of Documentaries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

the story of Sonita Alzadeh, an Afghan teenager living illegally in Iran and attending a school for refugees who desperately wants to be a rapper. Among the obstacles she faces? She lives in a culture that forbids women from singing publicly, that sees her as useful only

for obtaining a valuable marriage contract that will help her desperate family, and that severely limits any kind of self-expression. The filmmaker ends up walking some interesting lines as Sonita enlists her for help in getting to the U.S. and in navigating her mother's disapproval—but it is a compelling window into Sonita's culture and

into the ways that even the most oppressed teenagers struggle to find their voices. It is slated for a theatrical release in late May.

13. *"Behemoth"* has garnered awards internationally and is a devastating depiction of environmental degradation wrought by coal mining in Inner Mongolia. The director takes a poetic approach to the subject, drawing a parallel to Dante's *Inferno*, and I must say, I

did feel as though I was watching hell for 90 minutes. The director lingers and finds the scope and angles for depicting what is happening to a formerly lush landscape in a way that makes your heart ache, as does his focus on the exertions of the people who perform the agonizing and hellish work of moving coal and doing other senseless acts. You can almost feel their bodies breaking down—and sure enough, many such workers become very ill and are not well-supported by industry or the Chinese government. The power of the images here is best experienced on the big screen, and there is no mistaking the importance of bearing witness to this scale of human folly.

14. *"Call Me Marianna"* has achieved awards recognition in Europe and at Full Frame, where it won a new filmmaker award, and examines the sex reassignment journey of a woman in Poland. Although its pace drags a bit and the accompanying music is more annoying than effectively portentous, the film is nevertheless an interesting window into one woman's experience, which involves the loss of relationships and even a court battle, as well as a cascade of health problems. I appreciated the opportunity to witness how a non-famous person in central Europe navigates these particular treacherous waters.

15. *"Raising Bertie"* is the fruit of the filmmaker's six-year journey with three young black men in rural Bertie County in North Carolina, trying to launch independent lives in the face of limited opportunities, economic hardship, and a paucity of inspiration and hope from adults around them. The film started as an exploration of an alternative high school founded by a determined powerhouse of a local woman, but the school closed early in the filming for lack of funding. The young men themselves are certainly worthy of the filmmaker's attention, and they do manage to survive, but I would not call it thriving. The film is an opportunity to fill out some details of your picture of the challenges faced by young men in communities like these; if you are paying attention at all, the legacy

of slavery is hard to miss.

16. *"Gleason"* follows the story of Steve Gleason, a Spokane native and popular former player for the New Orleans Saints who was diagnosed with ALS at age 34, just as he and his wife Michel were starting a family. The couple is as genuine, courageous, and good-hearted as any two young people who have faced such unthinkable challenges could possibly be, and Gleason has led significant advocacy on behalf of ALS patients—but I also think the film could have benefited from a more mature directorial perspective and perhaps with a bit more time for the story to unfold. ALS is as brutal as it gets; I suspect it would be an unusual human being who could do this story justice as a director. That said, it won special mention from the Grand Jury at Full Frame, and Gleason and his family are the most sympathetic subjects imaginable. The film will be released theatrically in July.

In addition to the feature-length films I saw, I caught excellent two shorts. *"I, Destini"* is an animated short co-directed by a Durham teenager who reflects on the differences between the experience of her African American family (including a brother accused of a serious crime) and her white classmates. Her parents helped her with the project, which began when she was 13, including by working on the animation itself. There is something profound about a family working through trauma by drawing together their response to what happened—and the film is quite powerful. If you're interested in screening the film, visit idestini.info, where you can also watch a clip of it. *"The Black Belt"* examines the after-effects of the Alabama legislature's decision in 2015 to close 31 DMV locations in predominantly black communities to save \$100,000 for the state. Residents must now obtain voter ID cards from ramshackle mobile units that visit those communities very rarely. The film documents a particularly clear example of institutionalized oppression. Watch for it on the website for Field of Vision, theintercept.com/fieldofvision.

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In 2004 James founded his company and has since flourished as a serial entrepreneur. His national media placements include PR Week, CNN, MSNBC, and Black Enterprise Magazine. As a result of his father's recent near fatal battle with colon cancer, Devin increased his agency investment into disease prevention, public health equity issues and spearheaded a national campaign for the leading advocacy organization on colon and rectal cancers, Fight Colorectal Cancer.

In 2015, James became an author with the release of *Inside Ferguson: A Voice for the Voiceless* and just wrapped up his 2016 national tour with Barnes and Noble. The memoir is a multi-pronged thesis on institutional racism, cultural competence, implicit bias and other social justice issues and is nominated for book of the year by the North American Society for Social Philosophy for its contribution to social change. As part of American history, the tell-all details his experiences working with Ferguson and Missouri government immediately after Michael Brown, Jr. was killed by a police officer.

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