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From left to right, Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury, Central City Concern staff members John Karp-Evans, Elissa Black and Freda Ceaser, and Commissioner Loretta Smith at the announcement of 'Flip the Script.'

## 'Flip the Script'

Program attempts to reduce recidivism by working directly with parolees

By *Melanie Sevckenko*  
Of *The Skanner News*

**W**hen Freda Ceaser was released from prison in 2004, she was determined never to return.

"While I was there, I saw people come and go, and sometimes two or three times," Ceaser told *The Skanner*. "Seeing that helped me realize — you can either learn from this, or you can be that person that keeps coming back."

Originally from Portland, Ceaser came from a modest family of pastors. She graduated from high school and left home at 18. After losing her apartment, See FLIP on page 3



Jineth Frias poses for a photo in a T-shirt featuring her slain son, Bassil da Costa, at an anti-government protest marking the third anniversary of his killing by security forces during weeks of unrest in Caracas, Venezuela. In the three years since his death, her family's predicament, like that of Venezuela, has only worsened. Her refrigerator is almost always empty and she's lost 22 pounds, in what Venezuelans call the "Maduro Diet."

## Venezuelan Food Shortage

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## Oscars Mishap and Wrap-up

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# JOHN LEWIS SPEAKS



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Congressman John Lewis answers questions from the audience after he and his co-creators, Andrew Aydin and artist Nate Powell talked about their graphic novel trilogy "March" at the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall in Benaroya Hall Feb. 22. "March," the third installment of which was awarded the 2016 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, tells the story of the Civil Rights Movement as Lewis experienced it.

## Small Business Lender Rebrands as Ascent

Formerly known as Albina Opportunities Corporation, the organization makes loans to businesses that can't access traditional credit

By *Christen McCurdy*  
Of *The Skanner News*

**F**ive years ago, after 15 years driving a truck for Waste Management, Tyrone Bailey decided to strike out on his own.

Bailey had had a side job as a truck driver for a construction company. When his boss there retired, Bailey started his own business, Bailey's Construction, providing hauling and excavating for construction sites.

Recently he received a \$50,000 loan to upgrade to a larger, better-outfitted truck, making him eligible for a wider variety of jobs.

The loan — and other services, including technical consulting and support — came from Ascent Funding, which just recently changed its name from Albina Opportunities Corporation.

"They've been pretty awesome for me," Bailey told *The Skanner*. "I'm kind of new with this entrepreneurship stuff. It's year

number five. Because of them I've been able to keep going."

Albina Opportunities Corporation, a Portland-based nonprofit provider of business loans and advisory services, announced its name change in mid-February.

The organization was founded in 2008 and has extended more than \$6 million in loans and lines of credit in its existence, focusing on minority-owned and women-owned businesses located in low-in-

come neighborhoods. The organization only offers loans or credit to organizations that have been turned down for conventional bank credit.

"I'm proud to be a part of it, that they will help a little guy like me," Bailey said. "If I go to the bank or something like that, it's so much red tape that I don't have qualification (for credit). One way or the other something is missing."

He said in addition to the

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## Kevin Washington Named CFO of Impact NW

Washington brings to Impact NW more than 20 years of financial experience

By *Melanie Sevckenko*  
Of *The Skanner News*

**T**he educational and social services provider Impact NW recently named Kevin Washington its new chief financial officer.

Originally from Detroit, Michigan, Washington earned a master's degree in accounting from Walsh College, an MBA from Temple University,

and a bachelor's in business from Morehouse College.

He brings to Impact NW more than 20 years of experience as a cost analyst, financial analyst and accountant from diverse industries that include entertainment, healthcare, construction and alternative energy.

After two years in Tokyo, Washington had been living and working in Honolulu when he learned about a position at Impact NW. While his



Kevin Washington

professional background is largely in multi-national for-profit compa-

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