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Remembering Sam Cooke

(AP) -- More than 40 years DeCurtis, a contributing editor sound that melded blues and

"The language of the artistry

would be hard to think of

Cooke, says the late singer John Legend without Sam Details of the shooting are still

Born Jan. 22, 1931, Cooke was

son of a Baptist minister. His

mother was a native of Mound

by two former slaves. Sam

parents and six siblings boarded

a Greyhound bus to Chicago.

Stirrers" in 1951, making albums

at Specialty Records. Tall and

lodious voice, Cooke drew

and larger venues that included

Cooke began his writing and

Soul, Gospel legend was ahead of his time

after his tragic, violent death, at Rolling Stone magazine.

legendary soul and gospel coupled with a kind of vision of

singer who penned "A Change a better world is something the

is Gonna Come," which found song stands for," DeCurtis said.

a new audience with the elec- "Certainly his influence extends,

tion of America's first black to contemporary artists. It

But Cooke's brother, L.C. people like Alicia Keys and

Forty years after his tragic death, Sam Cooke is a soul and

Cooke was among the first Bayou, Miss., a town founded

rights to his music and to form Cooke was 2 years old when his

first in everything," L.C. Cooke recording career with the "Soul

He was Motown before handsome with a smooth, me-

President Barack Obama's crowds of swooning young

rhetorical nod to "A Change is women at gigs in auditoriums

Sam Cooke is still known as the

president.

gospel legend.

ing company.

should also be known for his

pioneering business acumen

that put him years ahead of his

black performers to own the

his own recording and publish-

'If they look at it, Sam was

said. "All his masters belong to

Sam, and that was unheard of.

Motown was even invented."

Gonna Come" after his 2008

election victory was a testa-

ment to Cooke's enduring sig-

time in the music industry.

Folk Icon Keeps Her Edge

More than 50 years after her markable interpretations of debut, singer-activist Joan Baez songs by artists such as litical edge that initially made and especially Bob Dylan -

Baez will bring her three-octave vocal range and trademark vibrato to Portland, Friday, Aug. 14, when she performs as part concert series presented by NW Natural.

Baez has released more than Earle 30 albums and recorded songs in eight different languages. In and righteous," said Krista addition to her own body of work, she is known for her re-

gospel. He co-founded his own

record label, SAR Records, in

1961, signing such artists as

Bobby Womack, Johnnie Tay-

had formed his publishing com-

pany around 1959. Sam Cooke's

contract with RCA Victor stipu-

lated that after 30 years all of his masters would belong to

Contemporary artists would

"To this day, artists struggle

with the business aspect of their

work. He signed artists and he

wrote for artists. He did it in-a

time when it was much more dif-

ficult for artists, specifically

significance of his break-

At age 33, Cooke was shot to

death on Dec. 11, 1964, at the

Hacienda Motel in Los Angeles.

disputed, but the hotel's manager

told police she killed Cooke be-

An abbreviated life and the

circumstances surrounding his

death have not diminished his

legacy. Last year, "Rolling

Stone" ranked Cooke No. 4 on

its list of the 100 greatest sing-

ers of all time, and he's in the

L.C. Cooke recalled being

stopped at an airport a few

years ago by a disc jockey, who

told him his brother's music gets

more airplay than any other de-

"Somebody is always giving

something in his honor, and

ceased celebrity.

After six years, he made the they call me to give interviews,"

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

cause he threatened her.

through, said DeCurtis.

Unfortunately, Cooke didn't live long enough to realize the

black artists," DeCurtis said.

do well to follow Cooke's path,

L.C. Cooke said his brother

lor and Billy Preston.

him, his brother said.

said DeCurtis.

Joan Baez

maintains the charisma and po- Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger whom she famously dated for several years in the 1960s.

Baez's most recent album, "Day After Tomorrow," builds on and interprets contemporary of the Oregon Zoo's summer tales of social injustice by songwriters such as Tom Waits, Elvis Costello and Steve

> "Joan Baez's voice is radiant Swan, the zoo's events coordinator. "And with such a vast catalogue of great songs to draw from, she's sure to put on an amazing show."



First Couple **Best Dressed**

Michelle Obama are edging out Hollywood stars on Vanity Fair's International Best-Dressed List.

The president makes the list for the first time in the magazine's latest issue, joining his wife, who has been named twice before.

No longer on the list is Angelina Jolie, although her husband Brad Pitt remains, based on a poll of fashion insiders. Other stars getting the honor are Penelope Cruz, Anne Hathaway, NBC correspondent Tiki Barber and James Bond star Daniel

Craig. The Obamas weren't the only stylish political dressers named. French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy made the list along with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his companion, Diana





Michelle Obama

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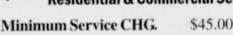
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Pie Contest at Peninsula Park

the Apollo Theater.

nificance, said Anthony leap to secular music with a L.C. Cooke said.

when the second annual Portland Pie-Off takes place on North Albina Avenue and is community! Rosa Parks Way.

A pie contest and commu- to meet other pie lovers, win and bring it along with your nity celebration will take off fun prizes, swap recipes and friends and family to the park eat pie!

Sunday, Aug. 16 at 1 p.m. at Pie stands for sharing. Pie is to register online at Peninsula Park, located at humble and Pie is versatile. Pie portlandpieoff.com but in the

The rules are simple: make a Step up to enter your pie, \$5 The event offers a chance homemade pie (or several pies) donation per pie appreciated.

to enjoy an afternoon. Partici-Why pie? Pie is egalitarian. pants are strongly encouraged spirit of pie, it's all very simple.

Cocaine Contributed to Death

An autopsy report says cocaine contributed to the death of TV pitchman Billy Mays.

The 50-year bearded TV personality died of a heart attack in his sleep. His wife found him unresponsive June 28 at their condo in Tampa, Fla.

A release from the Hillsborough County medical examiner's office Friday said Mays had last used cocaine days before



TV pitchman Billy Mays died of a heart attack.

The report said that although Mays died from heart disease, cocaine use was a contributing cause of death.

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