

FBI Team Ups with Portland on Guns

New task force investigates gun crimes

In response to a persistent and concerning rise in local gun violence, Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt and Acting U.S. Attorney Scott Erik Asphaug joined area law enforcement partners last week to announce a new initiative to coordinate and focus local and federal law enforcement resources on investigating and prosecuting gun crimes in Multnomah County.

The Portland Police Bureau, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and Gresham Police Department entered into a voluntary agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice—to include the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)—to deputize a small contingent of local law enforcement officers to focus exclusively on investigating gun violence and crimes involving firearms.

The federally-deputized officers will be assigned to the Metro Safe Streets Task Force, officials said. All of agencies involved have agreed that community and law enforcement programs designed to prevent gun violence before it

occurs are critical to solving this public health crisis.

The new gun violence focus does not seek to preempt or replace any existing or proposed prevention-based gun violence reduction efforts. Rather, this new initiative is focused on investigating shootings after they occur and, where appropriate and supported by evidence, charging those responsible in state or federal court.

Officials said because the purpose of the collaboration between law enforcement is to interdict gun-related harm in our community, local law enforcement deputized under this new agreement will play no role in enforcing immigration law nor performing any crowd management duties at First Amendment demonstrations or events.

Participation in the Metro Safe Streets Task Force is meant to give local law enforcement a greater ability to coordinate investigations across both the federal and state judicial systems; access federal forensic testing and analysis resources; access needed equipment such as vehicles, additional police radios and computers; and receive funding for overtime costs not currently funded by local agencies.

Management of the Metro Safe Streets Task Force will be shared among the Special Agent



Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt

in Charge of the FBI in Oregon, Special Agent in Charge of the ATF Seattle Field Division, the Multnomah County Sheriff, and the chiefs of the Portland Police Bureau and Gresham Police Department.

The frequency of gun violence in Portland and greater Multnomah County demands an immediate response to quell the staggering statistics, officials said.

Officials said the greatest potential for building stronger communities and controlling violent crime will be achieved by increasing the number of neighborhood organizations actively involved in these same efforts, by them developing programs for young people in our community and having dedicated staff to work against violence.

My Top 10 Films for 2020

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

is, to my mind, a wholly successful film adaptation of the August Wilson play. It benefits from an absolutely stunning cast—Chadwick Bozeman in his final role and Viola Davis both deserve Oscars for their performances, and the supporting cast members (especially Colman Domingo and Glynn Turman) are equally fine. Legendary blues singer Ma Rainey (Davis) gets more screen time than she has in the play, and the film grounds the action in the physical settings that drive the story, offering contrasting windows into the southern venues where Rainey was most understood and venerated away from the white gaze and the Chicago recording studio where she and her band are a commodity to be exploited by white supremacy.

7. I can't help wondering if *"The Dissident"* failed to garner awards recognition and a spot on any lists of the year's best films for the same reasons that it failed to secure a streaming platform on Netflix—that our government and business interests are reluctant to assist in bringing attention to the implications of the murder of journalist Jamal Kashoggi for the world community and for the U.S. specifically. This excellent documentary really awakened me to the causes for concern, and does a masterful

job of connecting dots that to this day have garnered shockingly few repercussions for the Saudi government.

8. *"Crip Camp"* forever changed my perspective and made me ashamed that I knew so little about the legal and civil rights history it imparts. The film begins with exploration of a camp in the Catskills, Camp Jened, where, from 1951 to 1977, disabled adolescents had experiences of freedom and access that were unheard of in their otherwise sheltered lives and likely would even be hard to come by today. stories like this are so underexplored never ceases to amaze me; we are so fortunate that LeBrecht and

9. *"The Father"* left me shaken and disoriented—and, yes, I am recommending it. Although there have been some good films about people experiencing dementia, this is the first one to approach the subject from the vantage point of the person in decline—here, an 80-year-old man named Anthony (an astounding Anthony Hopkins).

10. *"David Byrne's American Utopia"* is a work of sheer delight. Director Spike Lee is really in his wheelhouse here, offering us a way to experience in film a Broadway concert show that Byrne created with a mesmerizing group of 11 musicians from all over the world.

Supporting Oregonians

COPING WITH PROBLEM GAMBLING

It's no secret that things aren't normal right now. Even with brighter days on the horizon, we all still have added stress for a variety of reasons. While we can all get outdoors for a breath of fresh air, we still need to be aware of appropriate precautions. Physical distancing further limits our access to our support systems as well as the tried and true things we do to simply feel better. It's not insurmountable, but it sure is an uphill climb some days.

While feeling down or isolated is natural for anyone, it's especially true for those struggling with problem gambling. Without the support systems and predictability of a "normal" day-to-day routine, the urge to bet more than you can afford can quickly become almost irresistible.

Help is Available
Luckily, here in Oregon, help is available. Through the Oregon Problem Gambling Resource (OPGR), gamblers — and those who love them — can get support from trained addiction counselors, often right from home. Treatment is effective. Professionals are ready and waiting to provide mechanisms to cope and to heal. And, best of all, it's free.

Why Wait?
Most people who get started with OPGR report that they only wish they had done so sooner. The program helps see you through some of the challenges ahead and gives you the confidence and the support structure to feel better. All it takes is a phone call, a text or an online chat to put you on the path toward the calm and the fulfillment you deserve.

For more information, visit

OPGR.ORG
OREGON PROBLEM GAMBLING RESOURCE