

street roots.org



Quite possibly the last newspaper standing

NUTRIA-ITIOUS, BUT NOT EVERYONE'S TASTE

Nutria meal distributor runs afoul
with animal rights activists,
rat lovers.

Page 5



'I'm the resider'

REUTERS/KEVIN LAMARQUE

Guess which former president is eyeing Portland for a new home?

BY WEST WINDS
UNEMPLOYED WRITER

Former president George W. Bush is reportedly looking at property in Portland's west hills as a possible retirement home and a site for his beleaguered library.

The news of Bush's move was tipped to the press after a tourist saw Bush and a real estate agent on the Pittock Mansion grounds. A spokesperson for Bush said that the former commander in chief has been speaking with several property owners in Portland's west hills and has made an offer on at least two residential properties

and a large tract of forested land. The properties are believed to be both for a private residence and his presidential library, which has been stalled in a legal dispute at its proposed site at Southern Methodist University in Texas.

"Mr. Bush has always felt an affinity with Portland," said Pasty White, Bush's spokesman. "He has always wanted to live near the city, remembering how welcoming the people were there."

"Da f%@\$ is he talking about?" asked Bill Admissen, a Portland vendor who dropped his stack of street papers when told of the news. "You

sure he's got the right Portland?"

Former president Bush's father, former president Bush, dubbed Portland "Little Beirut" because of the violent uprisings the president incited with his visits. The younger Bush has said he has felt no such hostility from the city that once served up a \$20,000-a-plate dinner for former vice president, Nixon operative and Halliburton multi-millionaire executive Dick Cheney. While visiting Bend three years ago to talk about Republican theories on forest management, Bush spoke fondly

See RESIDER, page 3

Homeless team courted for new Major League Soccer stadium

BY O.W. MAISHINS
UNEMPLOYED JOURNALIST

Homeless residents across Portland chanted and sang for 40 minutes Thursday after news spread that a homeless soccer team was being courted for the new Major League Soccer stadium. Police issued 86 citations.

The Homeless World Cup is traditionally a street soccer event, played in pitches, but as the popularity of soccer grows, along with homelessness, the expectation is that homeless teams could become a regular feature at the new stadium. Homeless people are not allowed to play soccer on Portland's streets.

The new team's presence is expected to draw worldwide attention among the homeless community. Past Homeless World Cup events in Edinburgh, Scotland; Copenhagen, Denmark; and most recently in Melbourne, Australia, attracted

tens of thousands of players and spectators - most of them living in extreme poverty and on the streets - to the host cities.

"We are elated with the news," said Ismella Rationes, an avid soccer fan experiencing homelessness. "I know it hasn't been formally announced yet, but we know the city needs more resources for the homeless, and a new sports venue seems like the answer we've been waiting for."

Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber made the announcement in March that Portland would be host to the 18th team in the MLS. However, the Portland Timbers will not join the regular season until 2011. A homeless league has the advantage of starting right away, said



PHOTO BY PHOTOWORK

Tens of thousands of people experiencing homelessness and their fans flocked to Melbourne, Australia, in December 2008 for the Homeless World Cup. The event is now in its fifth year and gaining support from homeless leagues across the world. Homeless leagues are now courting the owners of the newly approved Major League Soccer stadium in Portland as a new hub for events.

See SOCCER, page 12