

Beneficiaries of Federal Retirees to Receive Refunds

Refund checks to beneficiaries of deceased federal retirees will be in the mail the last week in October, according to the Oregon Department of Revenue. Senate Bill 1136, which was recently signed by the Governor, authorizes the department to issue over 6,500 refund checks totaling \$8 million to beneficiaries. Up until the time SB 1136 was signed into law, beneficiary refunds were limited by law to either \$1,000 to \$10,000 depending on the federal retiree's date of death limited beneficiary refunds. SB 1136 removed

that limitation specifically for beneficiaries of federal retirees. The same bill also authorizes the department to issue refund checks during the 2001-03 biennium to federal retirees and beneficiaries who did not previously file protective claims for 1991-1995. "We plan to send these checks as soon after July 1, 2001 as possible," said Ben Gille, of the department. He added that until the time the refunds are sent, interest, ranging from eight to 11 percent would continue to accrue. The department estimates that it will send

\$105 million in refunds in the 2001-03 biennium. Eligible federal beneficiaries who have not filed a refund form have until April 16, 2001 to file a claim. The forms and instructions are available at the department and through its Web site: www.dor.state.or.us/19Forms/Revforms.html for more information, a special Oregon toll-free number is available Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. except Wednesdays when the hours are 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The number is 1-877-877-6198. For TTY (hearing or speech impaired

only), the year-round, toll-free number is 1-800-886-7204. In Salem the number is 503-945-8617. These numbers are answered by machine only and are not for voice use. Spanish speakers may call a special message line at 503-945-8618. The refunds are based on a 1998 Oregon Supreme Court decision clarifying that Oregon must tax federal, state and local government retirees equally. Eligible federal retirees and their beneficiaries have received refunds of state taxes paid on their federal retirement benefits from 1991-1997.

Mayor Vera Katz Pledges To Seek Repayment

Mayor Vera Katz released a statement regarding her intent to recoup fraudulently obtained funds from Portland Police officers. While she is anxious to do so, Katz said she would wait until the District Attorney completes his review before proceeding with attempting to collect repayment, so as not to affect the District Attorney's decisions to prosecute.

"As Police Commissioner, I am responsible for maintaining the public's confidence in this organization. The public's confidence in our police force is a central bond of trust, critical to our community policy philosophy. We know it must be regained. The vast majority of officers in the Portland Police Bureau perform their duties in an uncompromising fashion, with the utmost respect for the citizens of Portland and the trust that we place in them. Unfortunately, a few officers were involved in a very serious pattern of misconduct.

"I believe this problem cuts to the core of the very qualities that every officer in the police department should possess - honesty, integrity and a commitment to the well being and protection of the city they serve. I am deeply disappointed in those members of the Portland Police Bureau who profited or allowed others to profit by falsifying their timesheets. The police officers that reported this incident are truly representative of the spirit

and character of the Bureau and they deserve our appreciation and recognition.

"The city does not have the authority to prosecute the officers criminally. That prerogative lies with the Multnomah County District Attorney. The Police Bureau initially discussed this case with the District Attorney's Office in February and periodically provided them updates during the course of the investigation. In a letter of declination dated June 9, 1999, the District Attorney declined to prosecute. However, they are currently reviewing the case again.

"While I am very anxious to seek repayment of any inappropriately obtained funds, we will wait until the District Attorney completes his review before we proceed with repayment, so that our actions do not affect the District Attorney's decisions to prosecute."

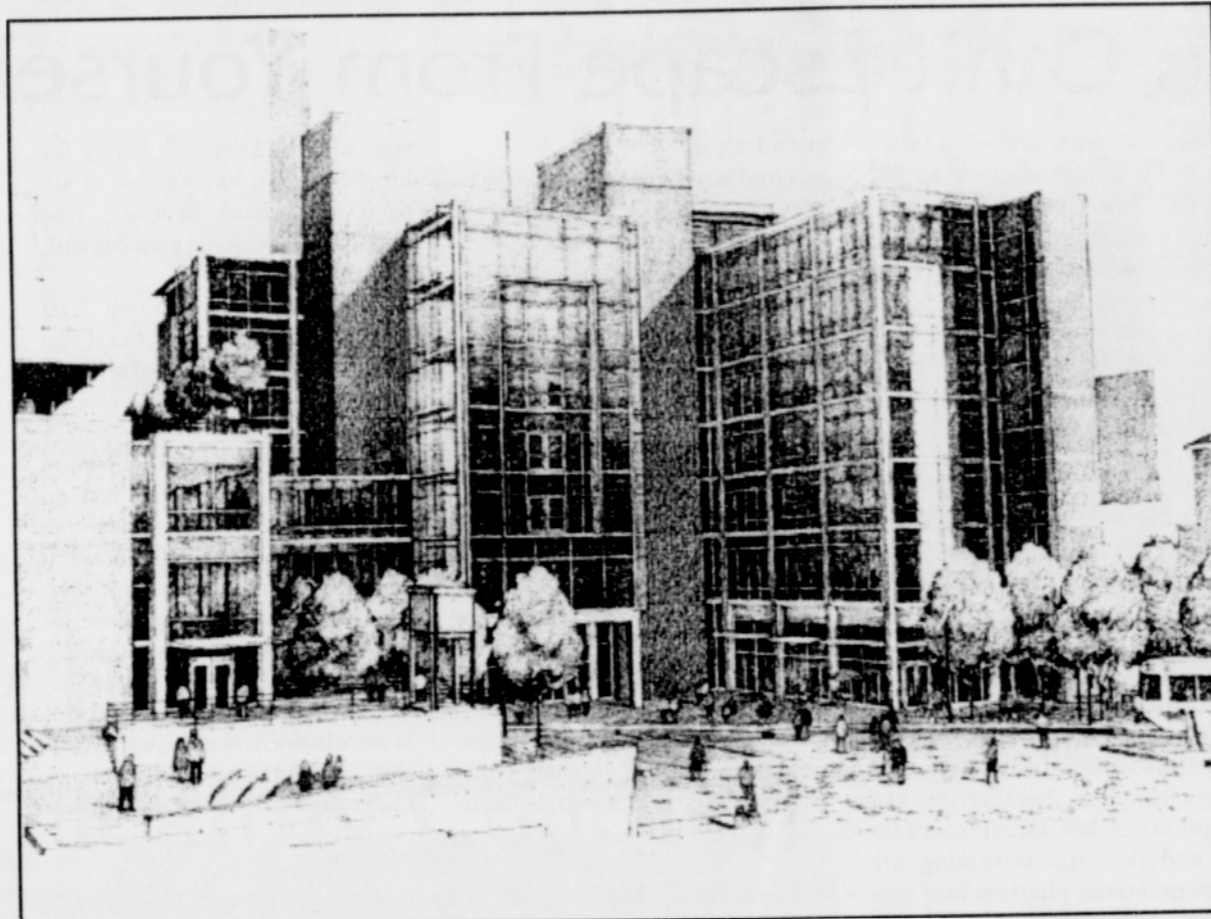
Following an internal investigation, including hundreds of hours of interviews with employees involved with the Central Precinct drug missions, the Bureau concluded that supervisory sergeants granted overtime and "cuff time" for many hours that had not been worked. The city imposed sanctions on officers of varying degrees including termination, demotion, and letters of reprimand.

Katz said the Bureau is also reviewing internal controls to prevent this type of activity from re-occurring.

PSU Architecture Department Lecture Series Offers Preview Of Newest Addition

Portland State University's Department of Architecture offers to help answer the question "How are open spaces designed?" through a series of free, informal public talks. The PRAXIS Lecture Series brings local architects to campus to explain the design of contemporary buildings. The series is devoted to discussing projects in their early design phases, so the public has the chance to preview and ask questions about many of the area's more influential projects. The first lecture in the series on Wednesday, October 6 focuses on the new PSU Urban Center, scheduled to open in January, 2000. All lectures in the series are free on Wednesdays at noon in The Vanport Room of Smith Center, Room 338 (Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway) on campus.

The illustration of the PSU Urban Center is the work of Christopher Chinn with Thomas Hacker and Associates



Collaborative Effort Feeds Inner Eastside Schools

The third annual Food for Thought, a benefit for eastside neighborhood schools, will be 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Sept 26, in the Atrium at Legacy Emanuel Hospital. More than 30 eastside restaurants, breweries and wine shops will participate by providing food and drink for the extravaganza.

Food for Thought, organized by a volunteer committee of parents, is an evening of fun, food

and music for community members interested in raising money for area schools. Participating schools are Alameda, Boise-Eliot, Buckman, Hollywood, Irvington, Laurelhurst, Sabin and Sunnyside.

This collaborative effort between eastside business owners, their patrons, and the neighborhood schools creates a marvelous atmosphere of support for our kids," said Susan Stone, com-

mittee chair. "We're looking forward to an even more beautiful, tasteful, and tasty event this year."

In two year's the event has raised more than \$80,000 which was divided equally among participating schools and used, in part, to fund math instructional training for teachers, a science lab coordinator and playground equipment. The goal for this year's event is to sell 750 tickets

and raise \$50,000 with more than 95 percent of the proceeds directly funding school-identified programs and projects.

In addition to food and beverages for the evening, a raffle includes \$1000 in travel certificates donated by Azumano Travel, four Bed & Breakfast gift certificates, and twenty \$50 gift certificates from participating restaurants. Music will be provided by Ken Barry, pianist.

Group Advisory Effort Leads To PCC Building Inspection Degree

They came together, hammered out a curriculum and created from the ground up the new Portland Community College two-year degree in Building Inspection Technology. And the degree requirements dovetail those of the State Building Codes Division of Consumer and Business Services. Students with construction experience

seeking a change will be glad to know the night program at PCC will start up this fall at the college's Sylvania Campus.

The Building Inspection Technology Advisory Committee, led by program leader and PCC department chair Tom Gillespie, featured city building officials, building inspectors and plans examiners who

came together with a common goal in mind: develop a program to train future building inspectors and plans examiners.

For more than two years, committee members and Gillespie crafted what they believe will give graduates of the PCC Building Inspection Technology program a solid foundation of knowledge to

build on as they enter careers in the building inspection and plans examiner fields.

For more information on the Building Inspection Technology degree at Portland Community College, contact Tom Gillespie at 977-4166. The new program is located at the college's Sylvania Campus, 12000 S. W. 49th Avenue in Portland.

Parent Surveys Show High Satisfaction With Portland Public Schools

Teachers, administrators and staff in Portland Public Schools received a strong vote of confidence in surveys reported to the School Board (Aug. 23). Most of the parents polled last spring (93 percent) believed that, "Overall, my child's school is a good one." Some 87 percent believe that children are learning what they need to know in subjects like reading, writing and math. "This degree of customer confidence would

be the envy of many corporations and government agencies," said Stephanie Mitchell, assistant director of Portland Public Schools Research, Evaluation and Assessment, who led the survey effort. The surveys are the first in a series of annual surveys that the district will conduct as part of its school improvement and accountability initiatives. The Spring 1999 surveys include a statistically valid, random telephone

survey of 400 parents representing different grade levels and ethnic groups throughout the school district. Written surveys also were conducted on a pilot basis with parents and students. Beginning in Spring 2000, written surveys of parents, students and staff will be conducted at every school. Each year, schools will receive results of the surveys conducted with their own parents, stu-

dents and staff, to use in developing and updating individual school improvement plans. "That information will provide schools with information they need to plan, and it will help parents and the community understand our successes and our challenges," Supt. Ben Canada told the School board.

For more complete survey results, visit the school district's web site at www.pps.k12.or.us.

More School News

PORTLAND — "The Oregonian" is reporting Superintendent of Portland Public Schools Ben Canada should receive about 16-thousand dollars for his first year's performance bonus. The paper says he didn't earn

his full bonus of 20-thousand dollars because he failed to finish all projects he and the board had agreed to.

But he did make improvements in test scores, dropout rates and student attendance.

Recycle it or Eat it.

PORTLAND — The Metroregional government is looking at a new that would have citizens either eat food or recycle it. They couldn't just throw it in the garbage. Officials say there is growing concern about the heaps of food waste ending up in the landfill in Arling-

ton. Metro estimates the tri-county area sends about 54-thousand tons of scraps to the landfill during the course of a year. The plan is only being investigated at this point but, if it's implemented, it will probably be modeled on the food recycling program in San Francisco.

KENNEDY SCHOOL
McMenamins

SEPTEMBER

The Henry Cooper Blues Band
CD Release Party · Thursday, September 2 at 7pm

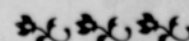
Alisa Wolfe Band
Thursday, September 9 at 7pm

Evening with an Author
Featuring Joanna Rose
with a Deli Buffet and Edgefield Wines
Wednesday, September 15 at 7pm
\$35 per person · 21 and over

Battle of the Bands: Round 3
Steve Bradley vs. The X Angels
Thursday, September 16 at 7pm

John Coltrane's Birthday Bash
Historical Tribute featuring
Saxophonist Brian Dickerson
Thursday, September 23 at 7pm
Birthday Cake and Sweet Potato Pie

An Evening in Autumn
Music by Chatta Addy · Thursday, September 30, 6pm



McMenamins Kennedy School
5736 NE 35rd · Portland, Oregon · 249-3983
All ages welcome unless noted · No cover charge unless noted

