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Barriers to Fair Housing Fought

Public testimony will guide new policies

Barriers to fair housing will be the subject of a public hearing by the Multnomah County Housing and Community Development Commission on Wednesday, July 6 at 7 p.m. at the Multnomah Building, 501 S.E. Hawthorne, in the first floor Board Room.

Individuals and organizations are invited to testify on any barriers to fair housing and housing choice, including discrimination in

financing, purchasing or renting a home based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation source of income or the presence of children in the household.

The public hearing is needed to evaluate current housing barriers and make recommendations for addressing them, officials said.

The last time a similar review was completed, in 1996, discrimination based on race in both renting and purchasing homes was verified. It resulted in the development of Housing Connections, a web-based service that allows users to search for a wide variety

of housing options.

In addition, testimony will be accepted about a city of Portland policy that guides the location of new publicly funded affordable housing units.

The hearing will be accessible to people with mobility impairments. Testimony can also be submitted by email to bhcdinfo@ci.portland.or.us or by letter to the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, attention Fair Housing, 421 S.W. Sixth Ave., Room 1100, Portland, OR 97204. Written testimony must be received by July 29.

Medical Pot Crackdown in California

Suspects accused of also trafficking street drugs

(AP) - Federal drug agents launched a wide-ranging crackdown on medical marijuana providers in northern California, arresting at least 17 people last week in San Francisco and Sacramento.

Fifteen people were arrested in San Francisco as drug agents searched three pot clubs and more than 20 homes and businesses June 22, authorities said.

The searches capped a two-year investigation into an alleged marijuana and ecstasy trafficking ring, Drug Enforcement Administration agent Javier Pena said Thursday.

"It was a large scale operation" with ties to other countries, Pena said. The pot clubs were fronts for operations having to do with "illegal cultivation of marijuana, money laundering and distribution of ecstasy," he said.

An attorney for a Sacramento husband and wife who were also arrested said he believed the sweep may have been prompted by the U.S. Supreme Court's medical marijuana ruling two weeks ago. The high court said federal law prohibiting the sale and distribution of narcotics supersedes state medical marijuana laws.

First Assistant U.S. Attorney Lawrence Brown in Sacramento said the Supreme Court



A federal law enforcement agent carries marijuana plants seized during a raid of a medical marijuana club Wednesday in San Francisco, Calif.

ruling "lays to rest any question whether federal authorities have jurisdiction."

California is one of 10 states, including Oregon and Washington that allow the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Dr. Marion Fry, 48, and her husband, attorney Dale Schafer, 50, were arrested on a sealed indictment handed up a week ago. It charged them with conspiracy to grow and distribute marijuana between August 1999 and September 2001 from their storefront California Medi-

cal Research Center in Cool, a Sierra foothill community northeast of Sacramento.

"Marijuana (for medicinal purposes) was legal in this part of the United States until this month, so any attempt to hold them as serious criminals would have been, I think, inappropriate," said their attorney, Laurence Lichter. "They are charged with violating the old marijuana laws, which are now back in effect, and I'm hoping that the jury will see ... that Dr. Fry was acting as a physician."

Vancouver Diversity Effort Recognized

The City of Vancouver has been recognized for its efforts at responding to the needs of its diverse populations.

The Association of Washington Cities named the city Diversity

Champion of the Year.

"We are extremely proud of this award," said Assistant City Manager Betsy Williams who has been the team's executive sponsor since the city started working on diver-

sity efforts five years ago. "We have worked very hard to take the steps necessary to ensure that we are able to respond to the needs of all of our diverse community."

The state association's judges

commented that the city's Diversity Policy and Advisory Council has stepped forward in the effort to empower diverse communities and that the City is on the forefront of leadership.

Police Looking for Burglar

The Portland Police Bureau asking the public for assistance in locating 66-year-old William Clifford Grandy.

Grandy is currently wanted on a no bail parole violation warrant in connection with a prior conviction for burglary in the first degree.

Grandy is a transient and described as a 5-foot 7-inch tall black male weighing approximately 200 pounds.

Anyone with information should call 911 or CrimeStoppers at 503-823-HELP.

Major Lottery Scam Letter Mailed

Elderly targeted to give personal information

An elderly woman recently lost \$7,000 to a lottery scam, along with six other victims who were duped by the elaborate scheme.

Letters have been sent out to people in states such as Georgia, Florida, California and Pennsylvania stating "our records indicated that we have not received a claim for your last year's shared winnings" up to \$750,000. The letterheads list two Salem, Ore.-area addresses fraudulent companies called "Golden Lotto Mega

Bucks" and "Top Hat Lotto."

The Oregon State Police Detectives assigned to the Gaming Enforcement Division are investigating the fraudulent letters.

The letters ask the victim to call an "866" phone number, where they are told a check equaling 1 percent of the "unclaimed winnings" will be sent to them to help pay the premium prior to receiving the award. Upon receipt of the check the victim is asked to deposit the check into their account, then withdraw

the same amount and have the funds wired back through Western Union.

No victims have been identified in Oregon yet, but investigators believe there may be others. Investigators are working with other federal and state agencies in the ongoing investigation.

The Oregon State Police and Oregon Lottery recommend that if anyone receives a similar bogus lotto letter; do not provide personal information; do not send money; and keep the letter to notify the Oregon State Police Gaming Enforcement Division.

Anyone with information or who has received a similar letter in Oregon is asked to contact Detective Rich Dennis, Oregon State Police Gaming Enforcement Division, at (503) 540-1409.

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Crack Cocaine, Handguns Seized

Shawn Rashad Jones, 28, has been charged with distribution of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

He was arrested May 25 after local police and federal law enforcement officers seized approximately three ounces of crack cocaine, three semi-automatic handguns, a ballistic vest and approximately \$3,000 from a home at 618 N.E. 93rd Ave.