

Drug Trafficking Network Busted

Police say a major drug dealer arrested

A north Portland man is facing a federal indictment that alleges he ran a cocaine empire throughout the city that regu-

larly sold 10 kilograms or \$300,000 worth of merchandise a month, while using local barbecue eatery Yam Yam's for money laundering.

Portland police said they had long suspected that James Ray "Lonnie" Yoakum was at the center of a large drug trafficking operation that distributed



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Yam Yam's on northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard is swept up in a major drug trafficking case, but the owner of the restaurant has not been charged with any crime.

Public Hearing: Equitable Access to Services

Portland, Gresham, and Multnomah County are preparing the 2010-2015 Consolidated Plan, which directs how local federal dollars are spent on affordable housing, economic opportunities, and programs preventing homelessness.

WHEN: October 28
WHERE: King Elementary School
4906 NE 6th Avenue
TIME: 6:00-8:00 pm
Trimet: Bus Lines 6 & 72



For more information: www.portlandonline.com/phb/conplan

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cocaine throughout the city using a gang network. But it could never quite come up with enough evidence to take action, until now.

After months of eavesdropping on Yoakum's phone conversations and conducting surveillance on his home, the Metro Gang Task Force, which is comprised of multiple federal and local law enforcement agencies, says it has the goods on Yoakum.

"These indictments and arrests should send the clear message that we will not tolerate criminal gang activity in our community," said Acting United States Attorney Kent S. Robinson, in a statement.

Yoakum moved to Oregon over 20 years ago from Los Angeles. Eight years ago he was convicted in multi-defendant conspiracy case that in-

olved moving cocaine from Los Angeles to Detroit.

The Metro Gang Task Force alleges that Yoakum is a long-time affiliate of the Crip gang, and used it to circulate cocaine throughout Portland and Vancouver.

Although Yoakum allegedly moved large quantities of the lucrative drug and was caught carrying over \$11,000 in cash, he lived in a humble duplex in north Portland with three children and a granddaughter.

Last month, the task force raided his home and Yam Yam's on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

No drugs were found at the duplex, but authorities found more than \$60,000 in cash in the safe at Yam Yam's.

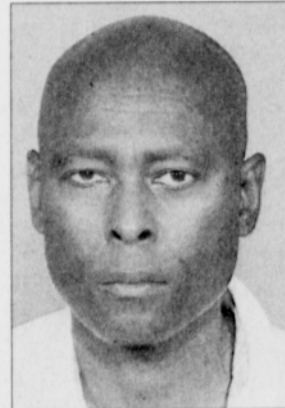
Officials said Larry Mathews, who owns the restaurant and lives in the same duplex as

Yoakum, told authorities that the money came from refinancing the business, but an Internal Revenue Service inquiry refuted that claim.

A federal search warrant was also served on an in-home daycare facility in Gresham, where a resident was charged as a co-conspirator.

Throughout the course of the investigation two of Yoakum's sons were arrested. Lonnell Demarcus Yoakum was arrested for an Aug. 20 gang-related shooting of Emmanuel Dante Hall in front of K&C Market on North Killingsworth Street.

His brother, Jaricho Ray Yoakum, was also arrested on



James 'Lonnie' Yoakum

armed robbery and attempted murder charges.

Law enforcement has arrested 19 individuals believed to be involved in the trafficking ring on federal firearm and drug charges as part of a 10-month long effort that

targeted gang activity in the area.

Over the course of the investigation, law enforcement seized 35 firearms, more than \$101,000 in cash, about three pounds of crack cocaine, about seven pounds of powder cocaine, and eight vehicles.

Yoakum has pleaded not guilty. Mathews has not been charged with any crime.

Public Option Survives Debate

(AP)-- Health care legislation heading for the Senate floor will give millions of Americans the option of purchasing government-run insurance coverage, Majority Leader Harry Reid announced Monday, although he stopped short of claiming the 60 votes needed to pass a plan

steeped in controversy. Reid, D-NeV., said individual states would have the choice of opting out of the program.

His announcement was cheered by liberal lawmakers, greeted less effusively by the White House and noted with a noncommittal response by

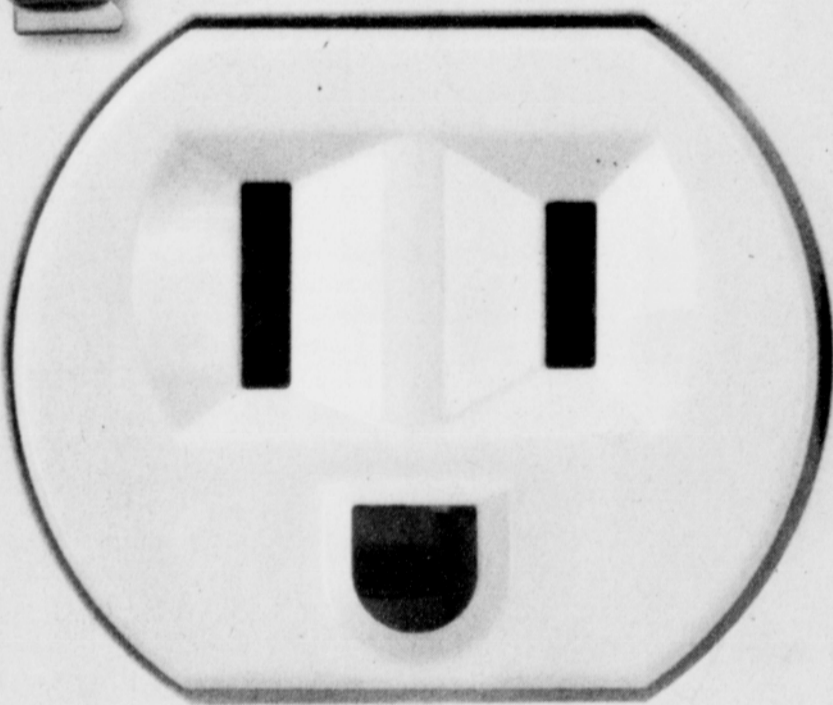
Democratic moderates whose votes will be pivotal.

Reid said, "While the public option is not a silver bullet, I believe it's an important way to ensure competition and to level the playing field for patients with the insurance industry." He said a long-delayed Senate debate on

President Barack Obama's call for an overhaul of the health care system would begin as soon as the Congressional Budget Office completes a mandatory assessment of the bill's cost and impact on coverage.

Changes on the public option — and numerous other provisions in the measure — are possible during a debate expected to last for weeks.

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De La Salle North Catholic High School welcomes middle school students and their families to our Open House. Join us and find out what our college preparatory urban high school has to offer! Find out about our Corporate Internship Program, diverse student body and our affordable tuition.

Sunday, November 1st, 2009
Time: 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Location: De La Salle North Catholic High School

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Open House Highlights

- Meet our faculty/staff
- Interact with current students, parents, and coaches
- Tour our campus
- The Children's Community Clinic will be offering free health screenings to all children 0-18 years of age. A parent or guardian must be present with child.
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