

LOCAL NEWS

Police Critic Runs for Council

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opportunity to do the right thing.

PO: You expressed interest in getting management of the Police Bureau if elected. Usually this bureau has gone to the mayor. What if the mayor took it?

JR: Mayor Sam Adams decided last year that he was busy with other things, and found the person most willing and most reasonable to dot that task in Dan Saltzman. That has failed. I'm interested in it because of my advocacy around the Chasse event. I'm interested in it because I think it's a very complicated problem to solve. And it's a problem that no one on City

Council knows how to solve, but I do. The issue isn't really the police union contract or rules or rules or laws. The question really is about post traumatic stress disorder and how do we get police officers who have a mental illness help and support to and get back to work.

PO: Are you saying that the officers involved in the Chasse incident have PTSD?

JR: Christopher Humphreys [an officer involved in the incident], coincident with the discipline Saltzman imposed, filed a disability claim stating he had a stress-related disorder, which is labor parlance for an anxiety disorder that we would call in the psychiatric business a post-trau-

matic stress. This is a permanent injury that has no cure. There are police officers all over the nation receiving treatment, including in the Portland Police Bureau. We need to start talking about how we can create a support structure so that they can talk about this openly. He had to hide it for months. He had to call it something that it's not. And when he was asked to come back from his first claim he ended up shooting a 12-year-old girl with a shotgun.

PO: When Saltzman reversed himself on placing Humphreys on paid-leave, did he do the right thing?

JR: The union's argument was that there should be an investi-

gation, that there should be a process. You can't just take an officer's guns and badge away. Saltzman was clearly unfamiliar with the police union contract. He's clearly either incredibly poorly advised or politically pressured. And both of them are the wrong qualities to have in the person whose about to go and negotiate the contract with the police union. I expect that we're going to get taken to the cleaners. That's what this is about.

PO: How can City Hall get people back to work?

JR: I think the city can do a couple things. It can model and embrace diversity. I think that diversity is an economic issue as well as a cultural issue. And the

city, by modeling that for the rest of the community, brings people in and finds them positions of power and respect. I think Sam had a fascinating set of ideas in his campaign that he has since completely dropped around the creative capacity of the city. Portland has transformed into a creative community not only of people who knit tea cozies, but people who design computer systems. We're building an intellectual capacity here, which is quite astounding and we need to look carefully at the interests and needs of those people who come in here so that they stay.

For a complete interview visit portlandobserver.com

Tax Measures go to Voters

More than 1.7 million Oregon voters' pamphlets have been delivered to post offices for delivery this week.

The 92-page pamphlet contains a total of 204 arguments for and against Measure 66 and Measure 67.

Measure 66 raises the tax on household income of \$250,000

or more and individual income of \$125,000.

Measure 67 uses a sliding scale to raise the state's corporate minimum tax.

The deadline for registering to vote in the Jan. 26 special election is Tuesday, Jan. 5.

Ballots start going in the mail on Friday, Jan. 8.

Wal-Mart Eyes Hayden Meadows

Wal-Mart is going to give it another try in Portland.

The mega-retailer announced plans last week to build a north Portland store near Delta Park where it could draw business from across the river in Vancouver.

The 86,000-square-foot store would be among a number of big-box stores in the Hayden Meadows area. Additionally, the company said it will expand its Southeast 82nd Avenue store to include groceries.

Wal-Mart and Portland have held a contentious relationship. Twice in the past five years Wal-Mart has pulled back on proposed stores amid criticism from Sam Adams for its labor practices. Adams is now the city's mayor.

Smart TV has Built-in PC

A local entrepreneur has a new product to condense the number of electronic gadgets consumers have in their homes and put Portland on the map.

Giorgio Johnson, chief executive officer of Nyxio Technologies, is working on the VioSphere, which he described as a television with a built-in PC.

It allows users to simultaneously surf the Internet and watch television on split screen, with capabilities for wireless connections, and a DVR drive. All of it can be operated on a touch screen, much like an iPhone.

"It's one of a kind," said Johnson, a native of Portland and graduate of Benson High School.

The VioSphere also lets people plug into Skype, a web-based application that works

like a phone and is popular with people who want to talk over long distances, but not pay hefty phone fees.

For many families, the television is where they gather for their nightly entertainment. But with the Internet, some family members sequester themselves in their individual rooms. Johnson hopes that a device that offers so many features will bring them back together.

Johnson said that he has even bigger plans for the VioSphere. He hopes to launch an online video game network, with titles that can't be found anywhere else.

Currently, he is using Portland as a test market.

"Portland is a family city, and it has a lot of tech-savvy individuals," he said.

For more information, call Johnson at 503-290-9690.



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