

# Candidates Count on Experience



Gary Hansen

## Hansen asks voters to return him to office

Gary Hansen, a former Metro counselor, state legislator and county commissioner has filed for his old office to represent north and northeast Portland on the Multnomah County Commission. Hansen spoke to the Portland Observer about some

of his issues:

### What are your priorities?

They're relatively simple. I'd like to place workers at our county jails to help the mentally ill who are sometimes on a revolving door at the jails. In some cases, people are very much eligible for benefits, and that includes health, which might include drugs that may really help stabilize them, but they're too fragile to know how to get their cases reestablished. So the first thing is to move some caseworkers' right into the jail system itself. More long term is to convince the Legislature that the tobacco settlement dollars, that so far have been used to pay off some education bonds, be shifted to community mental health. And I think this is a real good time to do that because the state's looking at opening a state mental hospital.

### How about with law enforcement? With the recent shootings do you see anyway to better incorporate mental health with law enforcement?

It would be an incredible improvement to get response teams that include mental health workers. One of the problems with

*continued* ▼ on page 8



Maria Rubio

## Rubio draws on prior work with Tom Potter

Maria Rubio worked for former Mayor Tom Potter as an advisor on public safety, bringing decades of experience with her to the job. She now hopes to represent north and northeast Portland on Multnomah County Commission. The Portland Observer talked to her about her priorities for the job:

### What are you running for?

My priorities are public safety, equity, and collaborative governance. I'm very interested in looking at our public safety system city and county wide. I worked for Mayor Tom Potter for four years, and during that time we funded a study to look for ways the county and city could save money and be efficient and effective. I'm also very interested in disaster preparedness and making sure our communities are prepared. In particular, I'm interested in reaching communities that are more vulnerable. With equity, I'm interested in health equity, economic equity, in terms of living wage jobs. I would really like to blur the lines of governance [between the city and the county] so we can work more closely together.

### What are some examples of that?

The mental health system and how the police are having to deal with mental illness and where those things cross. One source of mental health funding belongs to the county and the police are under the control of the city.

### What are you most proud of from your work in Tom Potter's office and what would you like to bring to the county?

I was the mayor's public safety policy advisor. I was working with the Police Bureau trying to change the organizational climate and how they do business. Part of the mayor's goal was to incorporate more community policing goals. People were

*continued* ▼ on page 8

shop online

**NEW SEASONS MARKET**

**NOW DELIVERING**

Your favorite neighborhood grocery store now delivers groceries right to your home or office.



**www.newseasonsmarket.com**  
you click. we deliver. (or pull up for pick up)

## Week in The Review

### Church Snooter Sentenced

Latwan Brown, 32, was sentenced to a minimum of 20 years in prison Monday for shooting another man to death at Portland's New Hope Missionary Baptist Church during a December 2008 funeral. The victim, Darshwan Cross died. Police said both men had a history of gang involvement.

### Terrorism in Moscow

Two suicide blasts ripped through two commuter trains in Moscow during the morning commute on Monday, killing at least 38 people and injuring dozens of others. Russian officials blamed the coordinated bombings on homegrown Islamist rebels.

### Militia Plotted Cop's Deaths

Federal raids in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana lead to the arrests of nine Christian militia members Monday alleged to have been plotting to kill a police officer and bombing his funeral procession.

### Pipe Bomb Causes Boom

A loud explosion Sunday night that shook homes in southeast Portland has been traced to a pipe bomb explosion along the Willamette River near the Sellwood Bridge. Police were trying to figure out who detonated the bomb and why.