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Arrest Busts Crime Spree



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A table top filled with recovered guns that were stolen from cars, buildings and storage units during a six month crime spree are displayed at a news conference with Portland Police Det. Mark Georgioff (left) and North Precinct Police Commander Jim Ferraris.

Mountain of stolen goods recovered

BY JAKE THOMAS

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland police have apprehended a man whom they believe spent more than six months prowling cars and storage units, allegedly stealing what could be hundreds of thousands of dollars in goods.

Detectives from North Precinct arrested 37-year-old Michael Pavlicek and charged him multiple counts of theft in connection with at least 100 thefts from storage units and

Police opened up a room brimming with the stolen bounty on Thursday. Inside was a small mountain of goods. A snowboard, greasy DeWalt power tools, a jacket for ABC News, a table full of laptops, a sawed-off shotgun, a cigar humidor with an Air Force insignia, taped-up and tattered boxes full of electronic goods, even a riding lawnmower, were among the items recovered.

Speaking to reporters, Det. Mark Georgioff said that there were easily 35 victims, and possibly 50 in total. He said that Pavlicek likely began his alleged spree around December.

"This guy was rather prolific," he said. Police believe that Pavlicek would target

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Plastic Bag Ban Drafted

Law would target supermarkets

BY DREW DAKESSIAN

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland is gearing up to join the ranks of other cities, like San Francisco, in banning plastic bags. Mayor Sam Adams has made good on a promise to draft up an ordinance banning single-use plastic bags from supermarkets, but even in a city that has prided itself on its green reputation the proposal still faces opposition and isn't in the clear yet.

Last year, Seattle passed a 20-cent fee on plastic bags, but was shortly overturned by voters after significant push back



PHOTO BY DREW DAKESSIAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER Mason Brock turns into a bag monster during a rally in support a ban on plastic grocery bags in front of City Hall.

from industry groups. In Oregon, similar efforts have also fallen flat. During the last Legislative session, Oregon lawmakers punted on a bill that would ban plastic bags state-wide.

Proponents of the ban say that plastic bags are seldom recycled, and create big messes after making their way into waterways. They also add to the country's dependence on oil since it is a key ingredient in manufacturing them.

The ordinance would prohibit the provision of single-use plastic or non-recycled paper carryout bags at big grocery stores like Fred Meyer, Albertsons and Safeway or large retailers with pharmacies; require the regulated stores to charge a minimum of 5 cents for recycled paper or compostable plastic bags, and provide reusable bags, at no cost, to seniors and low-income residents.

The ordinance will be voted on in August.

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