

Buck Williams Hired



Blazer Head Coach Nate McMillan is bringing former power forward Buck Williams back to Portland as an assistant coach. The announcement comes with the hiring of two other veteran coaches, Bernie Bickerstaff and Bob Ociepka as Blazer assistants.

6 Drown in 3 Days

A man drowned Monday night on the Sandy River, the sixth metro area drowning in 3 days. Authorities say

metro area rivers are running dangerously for swimmers because of swift currents brought on by snow melt in the Cascades.

Cartoonist Dies at 60

John Callahan, a Portland cartoonist and musician who stepped beyond the boundaries of political correctness, to contribute to nearly 100 newspapers and magazines, has died at age 60. A quadriplegic since a traffic accident at age 21, Callahan was also the author



Week in The Review

of 10 books.

Detectives Interview Gore

Portland detectives interviewed former Vice President Al Gore this past week in San Francisco, a law enforcement source confirmed to KATU. Police were following up about allegations that he sexually



abused a license Portland massage therapist four years ago during a visit at a Portland hotel.

Military Leak Risks Lives

The top U.S. military officer says the leak of U.S. military documents about Afghanistan could put American lives at risk. Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters in Baghdad Tuesday that he was "appalled" by the leak.

Ties Cut to BP CEO

BP's board has let Tony Hayward go as chief



executive officer nearly 100 days after the oil leak crisis in the Gulf of Mexico began. The gaffe-prone Hayward will take a job at a BP outpost in Russia, while collecting an \$18 million severance package.

Cannabis Café Moves

Portland's first cannabis café has opened in a new location at 322 S.E. 82nd Ave., after a short stint on Northeast Dekum Street. The café will be open to those enrolled in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program who are also members of Oregon NORML.

Police Update Racial Profiling Plan

Showing progress and work to do

By Jake Thomas THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland police gave an update on the plan to address racial profiling before the city's Community and Police Relations Committee, showing that it had made some progress, but still has work to do.

In 2009, the city released its plan to address racial profiling. It called on the police bureau to change its hiring practices in order to diversify its ranks, improve officer training, foster more interaction between the police and the community, and analyze traffic stop data to get

a better scope of the issue.

The committee, composed of both police and citizen members, recently heard from Assistant Chief Larry O'Dea, also a committee member, on what the bureau had done to change its hiring practices to bring greater diversity to it, leaving updates on other portions of the plan for a later date.

The plan called on the bureau to have 10 percent of its new hires in 2009 be either women or ethnic minorities.

O'Dea told the committee that 12.3 percent of new hires were female, surpassing the bureau's goal. However, only 7.1 percent of new hires were minorities.

"So we did make some improvements in that time frame," he said.

He also reported that 40 percent of individuals who signed up for the initial police exam were minorities, up from 26 percent in 2008.

O'Dea said that the bureau sent recruiters down to Los Angeles last February to look for potential hires. Past efforts hadn't been particularly fruitful, with candidates reluctant to uproot themselves. But this time was different, he said, because of the poor economy.

He also described other changes the bureau has made in its hiring policies aimed at removing barriers to minority applicants.

The bureau once required two years of college for all applicants, but now allows individuals who've had experience working for the city, the military, or as a reserve volunteer to apply.

Part of the plan also calls for expediting the background check process, which sometimes can

take the better part of year and turn off potential applicants, according to O'Dea. He also said that he would be consulting with retired and current minority police officers to see how the hiring process could be improved.

When other committee members asked what the current racial breakdown of the police force is, he said he didn't have the numbers on hand. He also noted that he wasn't sure how many hires the bureau would make since it is under-funded by

police officers. All three of the police members of the committee noted that its ranks are very diverse, attract community-minded individuals, and could be a rich source for future police officers.

"A reoccurring thing is people want to see Portlanders born and raised in Portland become police officers," he said.

During the public comment period, Dan Handelman of Portland Copwatch, said that

Police Union Elects Turner

The Portland police union has elected a 19-year veteran officer as its next president.

Daryl Turner will also be the first black president to lead the Portland Police Association, representing 950 police officers. He spent 10 years on the union's executive board.

The 51-year-old Turner works the day shift at Central Precinct in the Portland Police Bureau. He previously worked in the drugs and vice division, training division and helped in gang drug enforcement.

Turner is from Newark, N.J., and began his career in law enforcement in July 1991.

The former union president, Sgt. Scott Westerman, is facing internal investigation for two road-rage encounters and stepped down in April.

\$2.5 million, but expected it to be substantial because 87 officers will be eligible for retirement this summer.

"We've got a great list we want to start hiring off of, but need to make sure they're not over hiring," he said.

The committee also discussed the potential of recruiting from the Police Bureau's Cadet program, which Commander Mike Crebs, a committee member, likened to "a boy scout program for police."

Cadets' ages range from 16 through 21, and learn the basics of law enforcement from

conversation the committee was having was interesting, but the bureau wasn't pursuing its objectives in other key areas.

He noted that police Chief Mike Reese recently hired Portland Business Alliance Vice President Mike Kuykendall to an assistant chief job earlier this month.

His organization and the Albina Ministerial Alliance, a coalition of historically black churches, faulted Reese for hiring Kuykendall without any community input and not hiring someone of color for the key position.

in diversity Print

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