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LOCAL NEWS

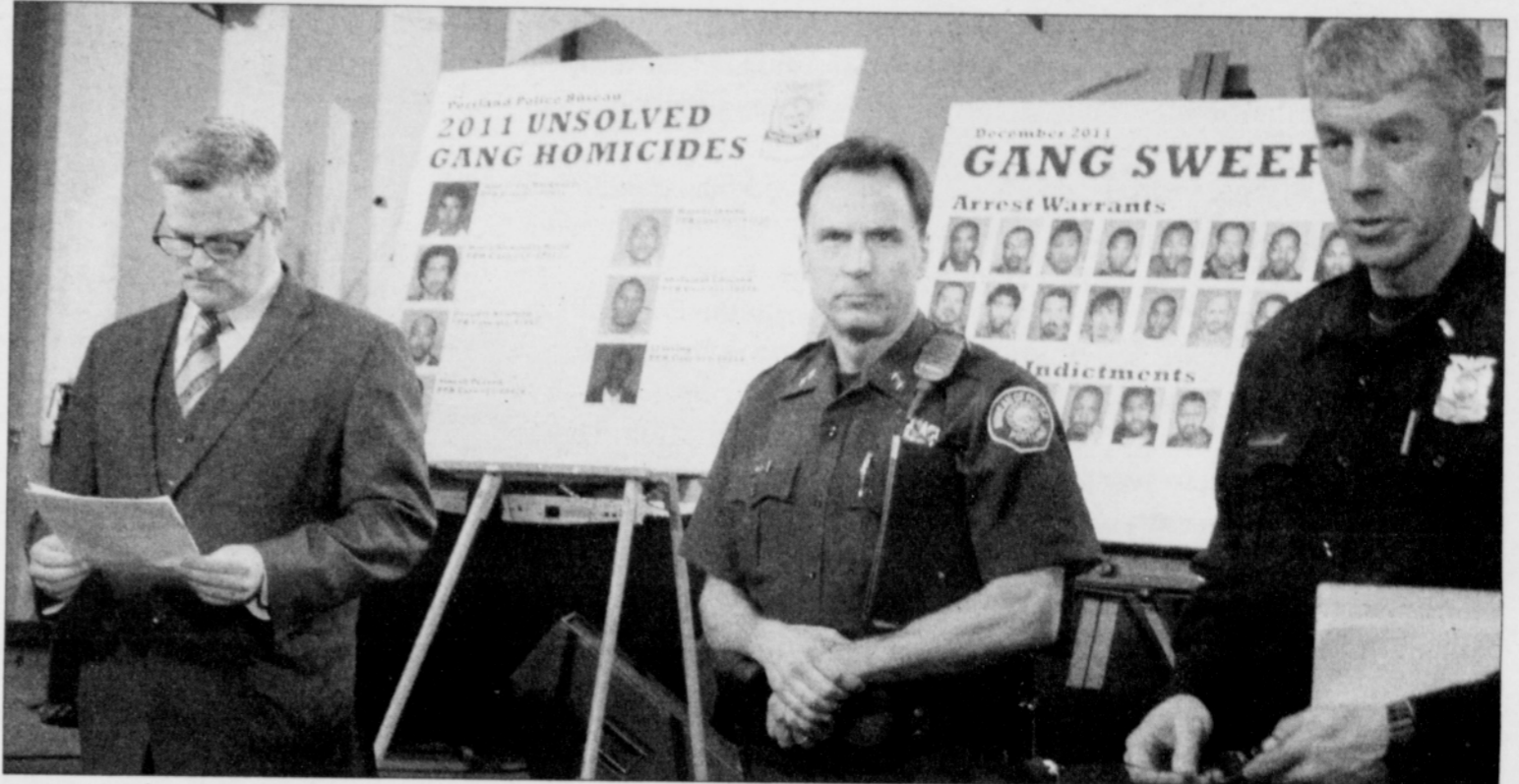


PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mayor Sam Adams (from left), Police Chief Mike Reese and Lt. Robert King attend a news conference Tuesday to announce 31 gang-related arrests.

Gang Sweep Leads to 31 Arrests

Portland Police have made 31 gang-related arrests in recent days with more to come, officials announced Tuesday.

Police said the enforcement is focused on one of the city's most violent gangs, known as the Rolling 60s Crip gang.

The investigation has also resulted in 13 federal indictments for a variety of drug, weapons and other offenses as a result of the joint efforts of several gang prevention and task force teams.

While the arrests are critical to the long-term strategy of curtailing

gang activity, officials said prevention, education and intervention are also necessary for a safe and healthy community.

"We are not going to be able to arrest our way out of this problem," said Eric Hendricks of the Portland Police Bureau.

Spirit Mountain Holiday Toy Drive

Guests at Spirit Mountain Casino made the holiday toy drive for OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital a success with the donation of 7,300 toys. Accepting the gifts Tuesday on behalf of the hospital is Sandra Westfall. Also pictured is Spirit Mountain executives Randy Dugger (left) and Rodney E. Ferguson.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Celebrating Generations

Santa Claus visited the first-ever holiday party Sunday at the new Bridge Meadows housing community in north Portland, where a gift was given to every youth resident living in the multi-generational community of grandparents, adoptive parents and foster children.

PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER