

The INSIDE

The Week in Review

Page 2

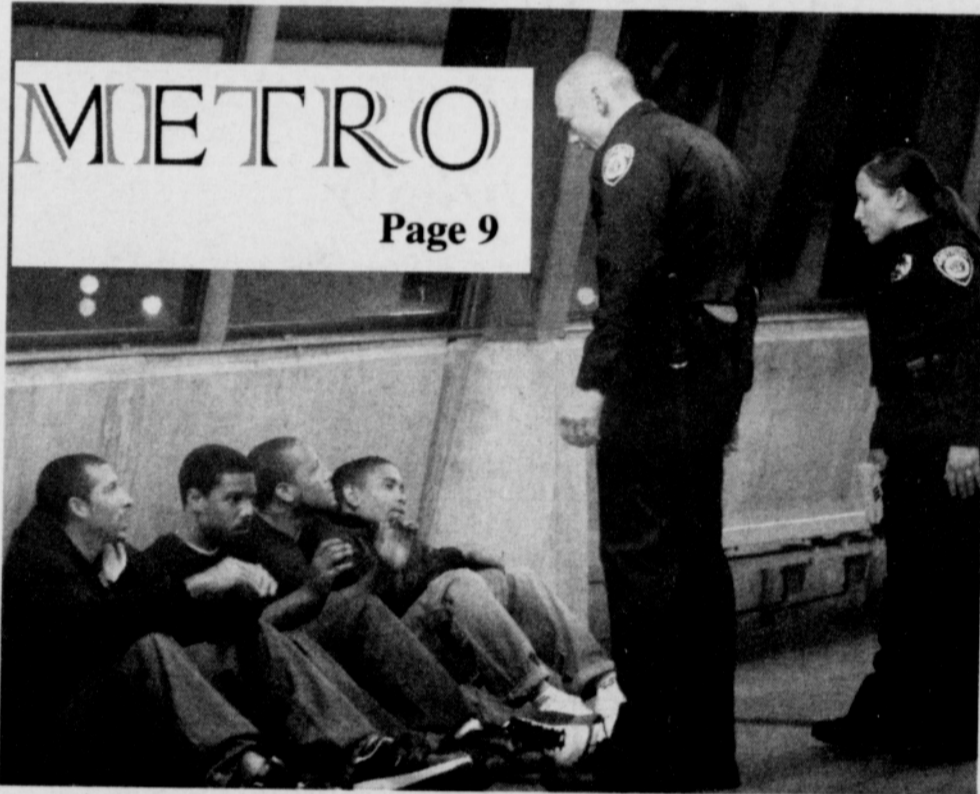
CALENDAR

Page 6



LAW & JUSTICE

Page 7



METRO

Page 9



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

pages 8-12

CLASSIFIEDS

page 13

OPINION

pages 14-15

FOOD



pages 16

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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Officer Garrett Dow explains how Portland Police are using high-tech license plate scanners [pictured behind him on the roof of a police squad car] in an effort to reduce crime. The press conference was held last Wednesday after the American Civil Liberties Union reported on the use of the new technology nationwide and questioned how the technology infringes on privacy issues.

Tracking License Plates

Scanner technology gathers huge database

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Police are responding to an American Civil Liberties Union investigation on the use of high-tech police license plate scanners to record and monitor the movement of motor vehicles from

across the city.

Unlike the old method of getting behind a car and manually examining a vehicle's plates, the more familiar practice, this new technology automatically and electronically scans the license plate numbers of automobiles to the left, right, and ahead of the patrol car using it.

Though the scanners have been used on Rose City streets since 2008, Portland police have

continued ▼ on page 5

Sequestration Cuts to Rental Assistance

Cuts to federal spending from sequestration will begin impacting rental assistance programs in Portland and Multnomah County.

Starting Aug. 1, participants in public housing and Section 8 programs will shoulder rent increases of 1 to 2 percent of their income, which is between \$1 and \$50 a month for most housing recipients, according to Home Forward, Portland's housing authority.

Other cuts are coming from inside the agency with a voluntary lay-off and retirement program for employees, a freeze on pay increases for staff, and a mandatory furlough of two days with the option of a third day.

Home Forward said the reductions also mean that the agency will not draw anyone from its new 3,000-person Section 8 waiting list until April 2014 at the earliest, more than

a year after the list was created.

The actions help close a \$5.3 million local funding gap created by federal sequestration.

"While we haven't yet had to remove anyone from our programs, this creates real pain for residents and staff, and we can't offer near-term hope to those waiting for a voucher," said Steve Rudman, Home Forward executive director.