

47
years
of
community service



July 4th Waterfront Blues

Fighting hunger
with holiday
weekend show

See Metro, page 11

Good in the Hood

Annual event
brings unity to
the community

See photos, page 9



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PHOTO BY ZACHARY SENN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

James Lea shows off his '79 Chevrolet El Camino at Alberta Park in northeast Portland, the car he says was at the center of controversial racial profiling arrest Portland police made in 2011 when Lea while trying to park during the West Coast Hip Hop Awards at the Roseland Theatre, downtown. Police said they apprehended him because they saw a gun in the vehicle, a firearm he was licensed to carry. The charge was later dropped, but Lea is now facing \$8,000 in legal bills after he sued and an appeals court ruled his detention was legal.

Even after false arrest, Portland man must pay up

BY ZACHARY SENN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

All that James Lea wanted was a public apology from the Portland Police Bureau following his unwarranted arrest, during which he was publicly humiliated in a local tabloid. Now adding insult to injury, the Portland man is being compelled to pay the court fees that the city of Portland accrued throughout his five-year-long legal battle.

Lea had hoped that his case would bring attention to the unnecessary escalation of conflicts between police officers and people of color that have marred law enforcement relationships in minority communities in Portland and

Adding Insult to Injury

across the country, and possibly result in better training for the city's police force. Instead, he is facing a charge of up to \$8,000 for the city's legal bills since he sued City Hall and lost.

According to Lea, racial profiling played a role in his arrest, which took place on Aug. 19, 2011, the evening that the West Coast Hip Hop Awards were held at the Roseland in downtown Portland.

He was looking for parking and pulled into a parking lot when the ordeal began. While paying a parking attendant, Portland Police Bureau officer Sgt. Richard Steinbronn began waving a flashlight into Lea's '79 Chevrolet El Camino, which had been left running.

"I was standing a couple of feet away to pay the park-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4