

47
years
of
community service

‘City
of
Roses’



**Awakening
Your Mind**
*Plays worth
a journey to
Ashland*
See Opinionated
Judge, page 4

**McCoy Gets a
Lifeline**
*Academy finds
space and
support at PCC*
See Local News, page 3



Portland Observer

Volume XLVI • Number 37



www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • September 13, 2017



Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity



Sgt. Erik Hargrove works out of Portland Community College's oldest public safety facility, a former dentist's office that was converted to work space a few years ago on the Cascade Campus of north Portland. The small building would be replaced as part of a proposed new property tax bond levy that would pay for needed upgrades across the college district.

Public Safety Building Challenge

**PCC bond would
increase lifespan of
campus facilities**

Ensuring student success includes providing a safe and supportive learning environment, and on any given day Portland Community College's public safety officers are called to deal with everything from a disruptive individual in the cafeteria to locked keys in a car.

At Cascade Campus, the staff works out of the college's oldest public safety facil-

ity, a modest one-level structure on Killingsworth Street at Commercial Avenue, at the east edge of campus. It was originally built as a residence in 1952 and later served for several years as a dentist's office.

The list of problems at the aged building is long and poses challenges for the seven officers who work there. According to their supervisor, Sgt. Erik Hargrove, there are windows that don't open, paper-wrapped wiring and peeling paint. The heating and cooling systems need frequent service and there are structural issues with the roof.

The small room that serves as the men's locker room still has the plumbing and out-

lets for the dental practice's nitrous oxide and oxygen lines, and the basement is still equipped for sterilizing dental tools. On a recent visit, the only place to stow an officer's bicycle was in the bathroom.

"This space was never intended to house us," said Hargrove. "A lot of things are cobbled together just because they've had to be, as opposed to being designed specifically with public safety input into how a space is intended to be used."

PCC's other campuses have purpose-built public safety offices, but as Hargrove described, the most critical problem at Cascade is that its safety office is dif-

ficult to find and the exterior -- complete with metal bars on the windows and front door -- is forbidding instead of welcoming or reassuring to the campus and community.

"People just don't know where we are, and it's tough to differentiate us from any other structure in the neighborhood as opposed to being part of the college," he said. "Our entry way is the farthest point from the edge of campus and it's set into the wall, and until you're almost past it you don't know what's here."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6