

# THE SKANNER

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW



## INSIDE

- 25th Infantry History [page 2](#)
- Democratic Revolt [page 4](#)
- Labour Unions Fight [page 5](#)

# BROADBAND



President Obama visited the Portland Intel factory last week to promote education, job growth and increased access to high speed internet as a means to expand the United States economy.

## Region Looks to Expand Broadband

### Why everyone must have access to high-speed Internet

By Helen Silvis  
Of *The Skanner News*

In his State of the Union speech, President Obama stressed the importance of high-speed Internet access for all, pointing out that America's top engineers give our current broadband infrastructure a miserable D grade.

To compete internationally, Obama said, we need to have both a strong national network and a technologically trained workforce.

"Within the next five years, we'll make it possible for businesses to deploy the next generation of high-speed wireless coverage to 98 percent of all Americans," he promised. "This isn't just about faster Internet or fewer dropped calls. It's about connecting every part of America to the digital age. It's about a rural community in Iowa or Alabama where farmers and small business owners will be able to sell their products all over the world. It's about a

firefighter who can download the design of a burning building onto a handheld device; a student who can take classes with a digital textbook; or a patient who can have face-to-face video chats with her doctor."

Being wired for speedy Internet access is crucial for the U.S. national economy and for our state and local economy. But 100 million Americans still don't have access to broadband connections at home.

So last year, the FCC laid out a national broadband strategy that includes major investments in broadband and urges government at all levels to push for robust competition.

#### Portland's Newest Effort

That's why the City of Portland launched a new Broadband Strategic Planning effort Jan. 28, which seeks to deliver affordable high-speed Internet to every home and

See INTERNET on page 3

## Surprising Prison Report

### AP finds statewide prison population is Whiter, more violent

By Nicholas K. Geranios  
The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Washington state's prison population has become whiter and older in the past decade, and more of them are violent offenders, an Associated Press review of Department of Corrections records has found.

And while running the prison system eats up 5 percent of the state budget, there appear to be few places that funding can be cut without resorting to releasing inmates early, as some states have done.

"The main way to save money is to close a facility and lay off staff," said Tom McBride, a spokesman for the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, whose members are concerned the state is running out of prison beds. "When you look at our prison population, it's hard to find anybody who doesn't deserve to be there."

Indeed, reforms started in the 1980s have dramatically changed the prison system's population. While Washington has a relatively small prison population — about 17,000 for a state of 6.6 million people — the percentage of inmates serving time for violent crimes is greater than the national average.

The idea of releasing some inmates early to help reduce the projected \$4.6 billion deficit in the next two year state budget is being discussed in Olympia, officials say, although no bill has been introduced.

"We have taken no position on that," said John Lane, of Gov. Chris Gregoire's policy office.

At a legislative hearing on Wednesday, Steve Aos of the Washington State Institute for Public Policy estimated that cutting 60 days off the sentence of low and moderate risk offenders could save the state \$4.6 million a year, with just a 15 percent probability that crime would rise as a result.

The Corrections Department cannot release inmates early without authorization

See REPORT on page 3

## INDEX

- News .....2,3,8
- Calendar .....2
- Opinion .....4,5
- Bids/Classifieds.....6-7

## Start-Up Looks to Compete With Big Shots

### Nyxio Technologies stakes claim on smart TVs, tablet computers

By Lisa Loving  
Of *The Skanner News*

With big-screen smart TVs, hand-sized tablet PCs — and space-age video eyewear straight out of Star Trek, for watching movies, playing games or reading e-books — the Nyxio Technologies showroom in the Lloyd Center District looks like the annual Las

Vegas Consumer Electronics Show.

Here you can test the company's flagship product, the big-screen VioSphere, which combines an HDTV with a personal computer and Windows Media Center Edition technology — meaning you can surf the web, play DVDs, stream music and Skype your mom in Chicago. And then you just might decide to watch your favorite TV show.

Engineer Giorgio Johnson, founder and

CEO of Nyxio, is a native Portlander whose education and work experience has translated into the perfect mix of design, development and production of forward-thinking media hardware.

"This is a Portland company, it's an Oregon company," he says. "What we do here could put us on the map in regards to

See NYXIO on page 3