



THE SKANNER

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW



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Bullseye On Black Youth?

Black, Muslim people singled out by anti-gang, terror efforts

By Lisa Loving
Of The Skanner News

Law enforcement and elected officials say drastic federal budget cuts could shut down gang resistance and outreach programs and that increased use of RICO laws against gang members are in order.

Meanwhile, Portland City Commissioners last week voted unanimously to rejoin the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

There is a sense in the community that these two developments are linked and that young Black males – especially Muslim converts – are set to be surveilled, spied on and entrapped by the FBI and Portland Police.

Community activist and Fire Frashour Campaign member Rahsaan Muhammad says there is a growing convergence between the government's potential use of Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), the JTTF and the demographics of our local community.

"If you check statistically religious conversions or acceptance in America, the number one religion that young Black males are leaving is Christianity, and the number one religion that they are joining is Islam," Muhammad said. "So one of the greatest fears is that young Black males join Islam in all its different forms, creating a growing number of young men who will not be willing to go along with America's wars against Islamic countries."

This has happened before. As the Tribune reported in 2002, retired Portland Police terrorism expert Winfield Falk was found to have stolen 851 surveillance files dated from 1965 through the early 1980s that had been destined for shredding after it was confirmed that the city's information gathering was illegal.

They included members of the Black Panthers, Peoples Food Co-Op, and local elected officials.

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GUARD DUCKS



Members of the Oregon Army National Guard, New and Old, go through an Enlistment and Re-Enlistment Ceremony on the Field of Autzen Stadium during the Oregon Duck's Spring Game on April 30, 2011.

The Skanner News Voter Guide

Most decisions will affect local education districts and your wallet

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

Yes it's election time again. And this time it's all about schools – well, mostly. Portland School District has put forward two measures: a bond seeking money to repair school facilities and playing fields; and a levy to support educational programs. Parkrose School district is also asking voters to approve a bond measure for school facilities. And there are school board elections

in eight districts: Centennial, Corbett, David Douglas, Gresham Barlow, Lake Oswego, Parkrose, Portland and Reynolds.

Mt. Hood Community College, Multnomah Education Service District, and Portland Community College have directors' elections. Throw in a contest for Gresham City Council and the Scappoose Fire District bond and there's plenty to play for.

Ballots are being mailed out now for the May 17 Special

Election. Each registered voter will receive a ballot, and all ballots should be delivered by Thursday, May 5.

Voters who do not receive a ballot by May 5 should call the Elections office at 503-988-3720.

Voters can mail their voted ballot back with one first class stamp or drop off their ballot at any Official Drop Site in Oregon. Voted ballots must be received by 8 p.m., May 17.

Measure 26-121 Portland

School District Bond

A yes vote would issue \$548 million in bonds that would add \$2 per assessed \$1,000 in property taxes for six years, then would be reduced. The funds are needed, the district says, to rebuild nine schools and repair 86 schools to bring building and equipment up to standard. Needed repairs would improve fire and safety, electrical, plumbing, lighting, roofing and heating systems. Earthquake

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Seminar Offers Free Help to Entrepreneurs

Self-Employment Conference promises the 'unvarnished truth'

By Brian Stimson
Of The Skanner News

If you're thinking of opening up your own business – whether it be a food cart or beauty salon – the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council is holding a free, day-long seminar that will attempt to allay fears and give a healthy dose of reality to the life-altering

decision.

The Self-Employment Conference will feature two keynote speakers – Gayle Beacock of Beacock Music Company and Mark Paul of Synergy Consulting Group – as well as a number of panels that cover a number of different small business models. The free event will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17 at The Hilton in Vancouver, Wa. Register at

www.swwdc.org.

Kathy Condon, the event's co-coordinator, said the conference will give honest advice about the various commitments that it takes to start and run a small business.

"Our biggest concern is that we don't want to make it sound so hard they want to stay at home and pull the blankets over their

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