



For The Skanner news alerts
Text "NEWS" to
503-715-0890 or
scan this QR code



The Skanner news alerts

Drugs, Guns, Cash

New report details forfeitures to Oregon law enforcement

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

Oregon's law enforcement agencies seized more than \$1.8 million in cash and goods during 2011 drug busts, according to a report from the state's Asset Forfeiture Oversight Advisory Committee.

Among the assets seized were more than 30 cars and trucks, guns, computers, televisions, a safe, a refrigerator, a snowmobile, a lawn mower, grow materials and, of course, drugs.

The forfeiture report mines data from Oregon's online reporting system, which started up in July 2010. The 2011 data is the first full year of reports from across the state.

"We only have a year and a half of data, so it's a bit early to really see overall trends," says David Fidanque, executive director of the Oregon branch of the American Civil Liberties Union. He has served on the forfeiture oversight committee since 1989.

He says that what we are seeing is a dramatic difference in how individual jurisdictions are handling the costs – including things like attorney fees and storage.

"Some jurisdictions were taking a very large percentage off the top for costs, particularly for attorney fees. I think that's an issue the oversight committee needs to monitor going forward," he says.

Compared to the six months of data available from 2010, about 8 percent more funds were distributed in 2011. However the costs of seizing those forfeited assets jumped by 600 percent.

Oregon's civil forfeitures grossed \$1.2 million. And \$170,453.37 of it went to attorney fees.

Under Oregon law, in most cases, police must be able to charge a crime before seizing assets. Some exceptions exist, for example where there is a previous pattern of crime. The proceeds are distributed accord-

See DRUGS on page 3

VILLAGE MARKET

The healthiest corner store in North Portland is celebrating one year of affordable fresh produce and food to go. The Village Market, at 632 North Trenton St. in New Columbia, is offering balloons, barbeque and music on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28, during open hours from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. "This is going to be a good old-fashioned come as you are sort of thing," says manager Mychal Tetteh, at right. "It's a celebration for people to come out and connect." For more information call 503-548-0374.



PHOTO BY LISA LOVING

There's a Hole in the Safety Net

Homeownership, foreclosure prevention dangling in city budget

Lisa Loving
Of the Skanner News

Portland housing advocates are crossing their fingers in hopes City Commissioner Nick Fish, whose portfolio includes the Portland Housing Bureau, can fill a \$700,000 city budget gap that would eliminate funding for homeownership, foreclosure prevention and other services to low-income and communities of color.

The proposed budget cuts

impact homebuyer services, credit clean-up programs and foreclosure prevention services offered by the African American Alliance for Homeownership, the Native American Youth and Family Center, Hacienda Community Development Corporation, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives Inc., Proud Ground, and the Portland Housing Center.

In a sense, these are programs funded by the city that help mitigate the impacts of gentrification; nevertheless

within the coming year's budget, the Office of Management and Finance recommended they be eliminated completely.

And as far as the budget process is moving at this point – they are.

"What we heard from Nick Fish is that they're really trying to bridge that gap – they're trying to find the money," said Jen Matheson, a housing program outreach specialist at the NAYA Family Center.

"What's unfortunate is that the way the General Fund budget is

configured, that recommendation about not funding homeownership got carried through to the Mayor's budget," she said.

"We're in a holding pattern, but we feel hopeful that Nick is our champion and will find a way to fund our programs."

Fish said Tuesday morning that he and his staff have had a plan throughout the budget process for filling in the holes on homeownership and that he's confident that will happen.

See BUDGET on page 3

INDEX	
News	2,3,6,7,11,12
Opinion	4,5
A & E	8,9,13,14
Fashion.....	10,12
Bids/Classifieds	15

Humboldt Closure Ceremonies June 8

The Skanner News seeks historic school photos from the 1960s

Lisa Loving
Of The Skanner News

As the Portland Public Schools prepares to close down Humboldt K-8, The Skanner News is partnering with the school's community to create an online "time capsule" to help keep that community in touch.

For former and current students, their

families, and staff, a special celebration is planned at Humboldt on Friday, June 8. Starting at 4:30, the school hosts an Open House and Picture Gallery Walk.

The event allows local residents to walk the halls one last time and admire artwork done by the students over the past year.

There will also be a photographic display of the 51-year-old school's history, which is already going up in the hallway display

boards – but a bigger show is planned for the school gym.

At 5 p.m. principal Willie Poinsette leads a celebration ceremony, recognizing important teachers, staff, community members – and, of course, kids – who have made Humboldt school a beloved institution over the decades. A special highlight will be a per-

See SCHOOL on page 3