

Drugs

continued from page 1

ing to a formula that sends percentages to: drug treatment; the state general fund; children's relief nurseries; the asset forfeiture oversight fund; and for cleaning up drug houses.

Law enforcement agencies can keep and use a portion of the assets seized.

The report shows that in Oregon last year, \$400,597 was distributed according to the formula. Drug courts, for example, received \$204,000, and the state's Children's Relief Nursery Fund received \$102,000.

The remainder, \$620,000 went to law

this information.

Gresham police and the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office shared in the proceeds of joint cases.

Of the funds that stayed with the police department in 2010 and 2011, none has yet been spent, says Ryan Rees, a senior Police Administrative Support Specialist in the Records Department.

"The PPB intends for all of these funds to go to a drug treatment program selected by the Chief," Rees said.

Sgt. Pete Simpson said the funds, which amount to \$200,000, are earmarked for the Service Coordination Program that works with long-term offenders.

Until 2000, when Measure 3 passed, police departments could seize assets even when no arrest was made, and law enforcement kept forfeited assets.

"The ACLU were pretty much the only opponents of the original law," Fidanque says. "Allowing law enforcement to confiscate property from individuals without requiring an arrest, never mind a conviction, was an invitation to corruption."

Marijuana accounted for the largest number of drug seizures, with methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine next in number. Possession charges topped the list of arrests, with delivery and manufacture of drugs accounting for the most of the rest.

The Feds Play by Different Rules

Federal law mandates all of the proceeds of federal forfeitures to go to law enforcement.

"There has been some abuse," Fidanque

Marijuana accounted for the largest number of drug seizures

enforcement agencies across the state. The agencies must report how they spend the money, and it varies from agency to agency.

Portland Police Kept \$300,000

More than \$300,000 ended up with Portland Police Department, while \$25,000 went to the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

Portland police took 33.3 percent off the top for attorney fees. That suggests that more than \$100,000 went straight to the private forfeiture attorney who handles forfeiture cases for the City Attorney's office. And it included a share of the value of two cars that PPD is now using in their investigations. Ellen Osoinach, an assistant attorney with the city did not know the total for 2011. The Skanner News has requested

Budget

continued from page 1

Part of a proposed \$4.8 million budget for "housing safety net" programs and services overall, the cuts came in Mayor Sam Adams "Proposed Budget," released last week.

But the way the budget process works involves a level of give-and-take, Fish says, and he and his staff are waiting for a look at the mayor's "Revised Proposed" Budget, due out later this week, to see the status of the short-fall.

"We originally made a request for \$4.8 million, which we say funds the safety net," Fish said. "So that covers the homeownership programs, foreclosure prevention, emergency shelters, homeless street outreach, short term rent assistance, and a number of other tools. "The strategy was to get the biggest amount of money we could get in the mayor's budget and then close the gap," he said.

According to Fish, as each bureau was

asked by Adams to suggest a range of program reductions — assuming budget cuts of 4, 6, and 8 percent — the mayor's move to bail out Portland Public Schools with \$7 million earlier this month "created a slightly bigger hole."

My job is just to close the gap.

--City Commissioner Nick Fish

"So we have essentially three bites at the apple," Fish said. "The goal was to get the biggest possible number in the 'Mayor's Proposed,' and I believe his \$4.1 million number in a tough budget year was a strong number.

"Our current strategy is to find the additional \$700,000 and include that in the mayor's 'Revised Proposed,' and if we are still not able to close the gap, I will bring an

School

continued from page 1

formance by the school's signature Chargettes all-girl dance team.

Then from 6 to 8 p.m. the school is throwing a Community Carnival, offering food, games, music and fun for the general public. All children must be accompanied by adults.

"We want to make it a positive celebration," Poinsette said. "When you think of how many wonderful things have taken place in this building, we want to capture some part of that for our community."

Poinsette — who will herself be retiring this year after 45 years as an educator — has

Class photos are sought, plus any snapshots of school activities, including teachers, classrooms and field trips

been working overtime to coordinate dozens of parents and school alumni in building Humboldt School's legacy for the many thousands of children who have passed through its doors.

In an effort to preserve the school's history, The Skanner News is working to digitize hundreds of photos gathered up by the school staff and supporters, which will be organized into a series of slide shows, videos and interviews kept on the newspaper's website for years to come.

However one problem is that the school has no images from the decade of the 1960s. So we are calling out to school supporters, family and students to contact us for scanning of your images from that decade.

Class photos are sought, plus any snapshots of school activities, including teachers, classrooms and field trips.

Please contact Lisa Loving at 503-285-5555, or email lisa@theskanner.com with your historic images of Humboldt School. In case you haven't been there in awhile, it's located at 4915 North Gantenbein Ave., in Portland.

For more information about Humboldt's closure ceremonies call the school at 503-916-5468.

'DiaTribe'



PHOTO COURTESY/ALAN WONE

An historic performance event this Friday, "DiaTribe: From the Village to the Streets," is a cultural collaboration between African and African American hip-hop, drumming, dance, krumping and spoken word artists from around the region. The event is headed up by Ghanaian master drummer Obo Addy, recording artist Mic Crenshaw, and poet Alan Wone, who will appear alongside a large cast of musicians, dancers and singers. Above, Obo Addy, at left, samples a Ghanaian-style krump for fellow performers in rehearsal. The show will be recorded for a documentary project and then distributed around the country as an educational curriculum about the connections between African and African American culture. The event is Friday, May 25, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Alberta Rose Theater, 3000 NE Alberta Street, Portland. Find more information on the Facebook fan page, DiaTribe: From The Village To The Street.

says, "but the reason there hasn't been more is that federal agencies are focusing for the most part on organized crime, cocaine, heroin and international drug trafficking.

"They aren't interested in what the bulk of

state and local government do — going after the low-level drug dealers," Fidanque says.

Read the rest of this story online at www.theskanner.com

