



# THE SKANNER™

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW

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



## INSIDE CAREERS Edition

## Costly Funding Plan

### How power brokers fast-tracked the 'Education URA'

By Helen Silvis  
Of The Skanner News

City Council approved Portland's new Education Urban Renewal Area, May 16, in a three to one vote. It was a major victory for Mayor Sam Adams, PSU President Wim Wiewel and the Portland Development Commission.

Usually the victory ends the battle. This time, the controversy has intensified.

From the publication of the draft plan to the final city council vote, the Education URA was fast-tracked in just over a month. Opponents say the decision was taken too quickly.

"It's a complicated concept and to have just one month to explain this to the public was too short a time," says Debbie Aiona, a board director for the League of Women Voters, which opposes the new URA.

Moving too fast? A downtown Urban Renewal Area has been in the works since fall 2010, says PDC spokesman, Shawn Uhlman. And Mayor Adams spoke about plans for an Education URA in his 2011 and 2012 State of the City speeches. Moreover, planners have been working with Multnomah County and Portland Public Schools to cut a deal that everyone can be happy about.

"From an outreach standpoint and a partnership standpoint, I think what we have done here is work very proactively with all the partners," says Uhlman. "The outreach we have done is very similar to the other URAs."

So what's different about the Education URA?

For starters, the original City Center URA proposal was put on hold for more than a year. In December 2010, Adams decided to jettison the original plan. Behind closed doors, in 2011, plans for a streamlined URA, tightly focused on Portland State University and its spinoff research industry, took shape.

By April 6, 2012, when the PDC posted

See URA on page 3

# HAPPY GRIMM



PHOTO BY LISA LOVING

Gov. Kitzhaber visited the set of "Grimm," in Portland's NW industrial area, to celebrate the return of the popular fantasy show for its second season. The party included NBC executives, politicians, cast and crew, and staffers from the state Office of Film and Television. Also on hand was the actor and activist Ed Asner. Grimm will contribute \$50 million to Oregon's economy in 2011-12.

## Race and Organ Transplants

### Study: African Americans least likely to find a living kidney donor

At every transplant center in the nation, African Americans are the least likely to receive a kidney from a living organ donor.

Research published in the American Journal of Kidney Diseases, the official journal of the National Kidney Foundation, used data gathered from all 275 transplant centers in the U.S., and showed that those facilities serving predominantly African American populations had even higher rates of living donor transplant disparities.

"We were quite disappointed to find that not a single center in this country had equal attainment of live donor kidney transplants in African Americans and non-African Americans," said the study's lead author, Dorry Segev, MD, of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

"We were hoping to find at least a few centers where there as racial parity, so we could learn best practices," Segev said. "We were surprised to find that those centers that treated the highest percentage of

African Americans actually had the highest racial disparities."

In Portland, the Multicultural Integrated Kidney Education Program is working to get ahead of the statistics through health leadership classes for youth. M.I.K.E. President Cheryl Neal says prevention is the best way to save lives from kidney failure.

"African Americans are, roughly and proportionately, about four times more likely to be treated for kidney failure," she said. "About 70 to 80 per-

cent of kidney failure is preventable by eating well, staying fit with physical activity, avoiding salt, drinking water – simple things we know can improve our health in general."

Studies show that living kidneys – donated by a compatible individual – last longer and are generally healthier than kidneys taken from a deceased donor.

The Johns Hopkins study showed that at transplant centers with the highest disparities on living organ donation,

See KIDNEYS on page 3

## One Student's Struggle Against Gangs

### Juan Rogel's sights are set on making the Olympic boxing team

With his sights set on the 2016 Olympics, boxing hopeful Juan Rogel has packed a lot into his short life.

Raised in Mexico and North Portland, he had no parents to steer his path. But with help from Portland's outreach workers and staff at Roosevelt High School, Rogel managed to rise above the pull of street gangs.

"You want that support and you want

respect," he says about his feelings as a struggling high school student.

Rogel graduated with a high GPA, and has now graduated from Heald College with a paralegal degree – all while working to support himself at McDonalds. He shared his success at the Gang Task Force meeting at the Northeast police precinct May 25 and received an ovation.

Rogel's long-term personal ambition is to

make the boxing Olympic team. Training at Knott Street and Grand Avenue boxing clubs, he has been sparring with professional boxers and getting encouragement to fight the best amateur boxers.

"I'm 21 and now I can go anywhere," Rogel said. "So I have to think about do I want to become a Pro or stay in amateur?"

See BOXING on page 3

### INDEX

News .....2,3,5,6

Opinion .....4

A & E .....5,8

Healthy Food.....6

Bids/Classifieds .....7