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PPB Sergeant patch

Bill Examines Cops' Mental Health

Introduced in the legislature next month, the measure aims to address mental well-being of officers

By *Melanie Sevckenko*
Of *The Skanner News*

A new bill to be introduced during the legislative short session next month is asking for all Oregon police officers to take a closer look inward — at their mental welfare.

As it's drafted, the measure states that a law enforcement officer must meet with a mental health professional — be it a psychologist or counselor — at least once every two years.

"All I am suggesting is that we create a wellness situation where an officer gets a chance to talk," said State Sen. Lew Frederick, who initiated the bill.

His new legislation is largely an amendment to an existing law that

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The device heats tobacco sticks but stops short of burning them, an approach that Philip Morris says reduces exposure to tar and other toxic byproducts of burning cigarettes.

Anti-Smoking Plan

Plan puts the FDA at the center of debate on 'reduced-risk' products like e-cigarettes page 9

Oregon Voters Approve New Tax to Help Support Medicaid page 8

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN HONORED



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women Washington held a ceremony honoring the families of missing and murdered indigenous women before leading the Women's March in Seattle from Cal Anderson Park on Capitol Hill to the Seattle Center Jan. 20.

34 Percent of Local Households Struggling

Analysis looked at 700 Oregon households across every county in Oregon

By *The Skanner News*

A new report published by Worksystems reveals that a higher percentage of Oregon households are struggling to make ends meet.

Commissioned every three years, the study "Self-Sufficiency Standard for Oregon Counties" determines how much families throughout the state

must earn to meet basic needs without the aid of public or private subsidies.

It does this by looking at the costs of everyday amenities, including food, child and health care, transportation and other expenses, as well as the cost of taxes.

The analysis looked at 700 Oregon households, in various sizes and combinations, across every county

in the state.

The study's general takeaway is sign of widening inequality across Oregon, as both urban and rural families alike struggle to stay afloat.

In all Oregon counties, the income needed to meet basic needs increased between 2008 and 2017. For a family with two adults, one preschooler, and one school-age child, the standard climbed on average

by 23 percent, across the state, while the median wage increased only 10 percent.

Moreover, a parent working full time and earning any of the 2017 Oregon minimum wages will fall short of meeting the standard for a family with a child.

Developed by Diana Pearce, director of the Cen-

See **STUDY** on page 3

Nathan Brannon Headlines Homecoming Show

Portland-born comic to take the stage Jan. 29

By *Christen McCurdy*
Of *The Skanner News*

Nathan Brannon is coming back to Portland.

Brannon was born and raised here, but moved away a year ago, spending part of his time in Los Angeles and on the road. He'll be at the Hollywood Theatre Jan. 29 to headline *Minority Retort*, an ongoing showcase for comedians of color hosted and produced by local comics Jason Lamb, Julia Ramos and Neeraj Srinivasan.

Previously the showcase took place in smaller clubs, like *Curious Comedy* on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

and the *Siren Theater* in Old Town. Host Jason Lamb also has a regular segment, also called "Minority Retort," on XRAY FM's "X-RAY in the Morning" show, featuring interviews with Portland's creatives of color.

The goal of the standup showcase, according to event organizers, is to provide comedians of color — including local as well as national guests — with a platform to speak their minds and share their unique perspectives, as well as reach the diverse comedy audience that exists within the so-called "Whitest city in America." Opening for Brannon Monday will be Northwest comics Thomas Lundy,



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATHAN BRANNON

Nathan Brannon

Mona Concepcion and Wilfred Padua. For more information about this event, visit <https://hollywoodtheatre.org/events/minority-retort-nathan-brannon>.

Brannon won the Seattle International Comedy Competition in 2014

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