



# The Portland Observer

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## Week in The Review

### Hurricane Drives Up Oil Prices

Hurricane Katrina drove energy prices to new highs Tuesday, with crude futures topping \$70 a barrel and wholesale gasoline costs surging to levels that could lead to \$3 a gallon at the pump in some markets. Hurricane Katrina is expected to have caused enough damage to pipelines, storage tanks and refineries that it could take weeks, and in some cases months, before operations return to normal.

### Disaster Brings Looting

With much of the New Orleans flooded by Hurricane Katrina, looters floated garbage cans filled with clothing and jewelry down the street in a dash to grab what they could. In some cases, looting on Tuesday took place in full view of police and National Guard troops.

### Rapper Shot, Survives



Rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight was shot in the leg early Sunday during a party hosted by Grammy-winning hip hop artist Kanye West, police said. Knight, 40, was hospitalized in good condition. He was shot during a celebrity-studded party at the Shore Club, one of the many celebrations in Miami Beach ahead of the MTV Video Music Awards. See story, page B6.

### Poverty Rate Rises Again

The nation's poverty rate rose to 12.7 percent of the population last year, the fourth consecutive annual increase, the Census Bureau said Tuesday. The percentage of people without health insurance did not change. Overall, there were 37 million people living in poverty, up 1.1 million people from 2003.

### Iraq Sees More Dead

Heavy fighting broke out in western Iraq between pro and anti-government tribes Tuesday, leaving at least 35 people dead from both sides, hospital officials said. The outcome could affect the ease with which foreign extremists move in and out of the border area.

### Grads Earn High Math Scores

The high school class of 2005 earned the highest-ever marks on the math portion of the SAT, a modest change that continues the steady 25-year trend of improvement on the country's most popular standardized college entrance exam. Scores improved for all ethnic groups, though significant gaps remain.

# Gulf Coast Misery

## New Orleans devastated

(AP) — Rescuers along the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast pushed aside the dead to reach the living Tuesday in a race against time and rising floodwaters, while New Orleans sank deeper into crisis, with Louisiana's governor ordering storm refugees out of this drowning city.

Two levees broke and sent water coursing into the streets of the Big Easy a full day after New Orleans appeared to have escaped widespread destruction from Hurricane Katrina. An estimated 80 percent of the below-sea-level city was under water, up to 20 feet deep in places, with miles and miles of homes swamped.

"The situation is untenable," Gov. Kathleen Blanco said. "It's just heartbreaking."

The number of dead was still unclear, a day after Katrina slammed the Gulf Coast with 145-mph winds. But one Mississippi county alone was believed to have lost as many as 80 people — 30 of them from a beachfront apartment house that collapsed

under a 25-foot wall of water. And Louisiana said many were feared dead there, too, making Katrina one of the most punishing storms to hit the United States in decades.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said hundreds, if not thousands, of people may still be stuck on roofs and in attics, and so rescue boats were bypassing the dead.

"We're not even dealing with dead bodies," Nagin said. "They're just pushing them on the side."

The flooding in New Orleans grew worse by the minute, prompting the evacuation of hotels and hospitals and an audacious plan to drop huge sandbags from helicopters to

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A young man wades away from a grocery store in New Orleans Tuesday. Flooding is up to 20 feet deep in some areas of the city. (AP photo)



Floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina cover parts of downtown New Orleans.

# Diane Linn PUSHES BACK

## Multnomah County Chair overcomes opposition

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Diane Linn has had a lot on her mind lately.

As the Chair of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, she's been in a hot seat of praise and criticism and her stance on issues like gay marriage equality, a temporary tax to help schools and social services or her relationship with other county officials.

It would seem as though the public either loves her or hates her, depending on which side of the political fence one falls on. But she doesn't let the negativity get her down. Instead, she fights back.

"I'd rather get in big trouble than to sit around and not do anything. I know that if I've made a really controversial decision, I've made progress," Linn said in a recent conversation with The

Portland Observer.

Explaining her stance on both gay marriage and those who oppose it, Linn said, "Everybody should be honored in the community regardless of who they are."

She drew a parallel between gay rights and the controversy that surrounded interracial marriage in the 1950s, citing the popular 1967 movie, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?"

"The compelling part of the experiences was having my kids be so supportive," Linn said.

That kind of support and the positive results of her work for the county are what keep her going. Despite the squabbles, Linn said she'll be running for reelection next spring.



PHOTO BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Diane Linn, Chair of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, remains steadfast in her political position, with plans to run for reelection this spring.

do it to talk to people about what we're here to do and how we're doing it."

This is an important part of the job, to say the least, as Linn is in charge of more than 4,500 employees, a \$1 billion budget and the well being of the county's residents.

She said quitting now would do a great disservice to those she wants to stand up for, whether some naysayers like it or not.

"I'm worried about my hometown," Linn said. "We're disinvesting in our education. We're making it harder to buy homes and making it harder for the middle class."

She said she would be very upset when it's time to be a grandmother, if her four children — two of her own and two of her partner, John Rakowitz of the Portland Business Alliance, could not afford to live in Portland.

"If our kids can't come back here

to live and work, we lose the heart and soul of our city if it's not a place where middle class families can flourish," Linn said. "There's a prevailing attitude that business is bad. We need to be more proactive in attracting family wage jobs."

Linn has helped make rightful employment more accessible to women and minorities through a Diversity Initiative that charts the county on a course of cultural competence via multilingual programs.

A Portland native, Linn knows community involvement is key. She started the Office of School and Community Partnerships to focus on bridging the gap between schools and the programs that surround them, supporting the philosophy that education is the backbone of society.

"The schools are the focal point of a neighborhood. I'm on the community school front," she said. "Every public school should provide a great education."

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# Consolidation Closes Killingsworth Chapel

## Era ends for local landmark

BY ERIKA-LEIGH GOODWIN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

There has been a recent buzz in Portland's African American community with the reported closing of a landmark funeral home serving north and northeast Portland.

The Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes has provided funeral services for its community since 1933, becoming an iconic structure known for putting loved ones at rest and helping their families cope in times of grief.

The Killingsworth chapel was closed on Aug. 15. However, David Hinton, general manager made it clear that the local funeral home was not closing its doors to the community, it is opening new doors and offering more services at a new location.

"I want to make this very clear, we are not closing, we have merged," Hinton said.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes at 430 N. Killingsworth St. has closed and the building will be sold with its employees and services being transferred to the larger Ross Hollywood Chapel at 4733 N.E. Thompson St.

Hinton said families will be able to receive the same quality of service from the same employees at Ross Hollywood Chapel, 4733 N.E. Thompson St., and the Lombard Little Chapel of the Chimes, which is now called Killingsworth St. Johns Lombard Little Chapel of the Chimes at 3018 N. Lombard.

The Hollywood chapel is less than four miles from the Killingsworth site.

"People drive farther than that to go to church," Hinton said. "I am not, I repeat, I am not abandoning my community," Hinton said. "I have listened to my families and they have said the chapel (Killingsworth) was too small, too dark or too out of date."

The Ross chapel seats double the capacity of the Killingsworth building and it has a room for receptions as well as additional staff and directors.

"I'd like to invite people to come by and see the new facility."

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