



Volunteers distribute food for low income residents at the Oregon Food Bank in north-east Portland.

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Hunger Grows

Progress recorded in Oregon

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture released a new report showing the fifth consecutive annual increase in the number of food insecure Americans nationwide. The total number of people who struggle to buy food increased to 38 million in 2004.

The good news is that Oregon experienced a drop in the rate of food insecurity hunger, putting the state near the national average for both hunger and food insecurity.

Oregon's hunger rate decreased from 5.8 percent of the population in 1999-01 to 3.8 percent in 2002-04. The rate of food insecurity decreased from 13.7 percent of the population in 1999-01 to 11.9 percent in 2002-04.

The improvement was tied to improved food stamp outreach resulting in an 80 percent increase in Food Stamp participation, Child Nutrition Program outreach, in-

creased funding for and use of emergency food, and making the Child Care Tax Credit refundable.

Even with the improvement, more than 1 in 10 Oregonians experienced difficulty purchasing food due to a lack of resources at some time during the year.

Oregon Food Bank officials say we need to keep working to ensure that families reach economic stability—that they have the resources they need to meet all of their basic needs.

This information comes at a critical time. The House is currently considering \$50 billion in cuts to a number of vital support programs, including food stamps, Medicaid, and other safety net programs serving low-income households. These cuts would reduce access to important resources and result in increased hunger.

Center Scales Back Hours

Helping survivors from Gulf Coast

Housing services for Hurricane Katrina survivors in the Portland area will continue on the site of the former Washington High School campus at Southeast 14th Avenue and Stark Street, but have moved to the portable classroom building.

As a result of lessening demand and under federal guidance through FEMA, a number of the many agencies involved in efforts to support survivors have moved services back to their respective agency locations. Those agencies include Multnomah County, Oregon Department of Human Services, American Red Cross, and the Community Welcoming Committee.

Since the Center's inception in early September as part of "Operation Welcome Oregon," nearly 1,000

hurricane survivors received assistance with housing, education, employment, health and mental health services.

The Interim Housing Center will continue operations through the end of the month. The center is equipped with staff and technology to aid families and individuals in locating housing, furniture, utility assistance and financial details.

Regular hours for the center will be Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center will be closed Friday for Veterans Day and on Thanksgiving, Nov. 24.

For information on donations and volunteering, visit www.211info.org or call 211 or 1-800-SAFE-NET.

First Hispanic Oregon Chief Justice

(AP) — Members of the Oregon Supreme Court picked Paul J. De Muniz to be the next chief justice, replacing Wallace P. Carson Jr., who is retiring.

De Muniz, the first Latino member of Oregon's highest court, was elected unanimously to be the court's 37th chief justice.

De Muniz was first elected to the Supreme Court in 2000. He was a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals for a decade and a

Salem attorney before that.

The chief justice is the administrative head of the state's appellate, circuit and tax courts. De Muniz starts his new job Jan. 1.

Carson praised De Muniz's work ethic and ability to work well with the other court members.

"I am confident that his integrity and his common sense will serve this state and this court well for many years," Carson said.

Police Profiling Courses

continued from Front

Portland City Council adopted a nondiscrimination resolution that defines racial profiling as any police-initiated action that relies on the race, ethnicity or national origin rather than the behavior of an individual or information that leads the police to a particular individual who has been identified as being, or having been, engaged in criminal activity.

Police Bureau's emphasis on community policing, according to Training Division Captain George Babnick.

"The effective community policing officer must be more than just a law enforcer," said Babnick. "They must be critical thinkers, problem solvers, and they must have effective communication skills. It offers officers important perspectives that encourage real problem-solving efforts."

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