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**Beethoven
Classic**



Portland Opera presents 'Fidelio,' a score that pays tribute to freedom, fidelity and the human spirit
See Arts & Entertainment, page A7

Foxworth Looks Back

Homegrown top cop retires after a tumultuous 27-year career
See story, page A3



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**Week in
The Review**

Blacks, Youth Drive Vote

Barack Obama was the overwhelming choice of the one in 10 voters who went to the polls for their first time Tuesday — a racially diverse group of mostly twentysomethings. One in five of the new voters was black, almost twice the proportion of blacks among voters overall. Another one in five of the new voters was Hispanic.

Obama's Grandmother Dies

Barack Obama's grandmother, whose personality and bearing shaped much of the life of the Democratic presidential contender, died one day before the election. Madelyn Payne Dunham was 86. Last month, Obama took a break from campaigning and flew to Hawaii to be with Dunham as her health declined.

Catholics, Muslims Talk

Scholars launched their first Catholic-Muslim Forum on Tuesday. The three-day meeting in Vatican City comes two years after Pope Benedict angered the Muslim world with a speech implying Islam was violent and irrational. In response, 138 Muslim scholars invited Christian churches to a new dialogue to foster mutual respect through a better understanding of each other's beliefs.

Phillies Celebrate Series Win

Success-starved Philadelphia celebrated its first professional sports championship in a quarter-century on Friday, showering the Phillies World Series baseball champs with confetti, brotherly love and screaming cheers.

Gasoline Prices Falling

The Oregon statewide average for regular unleaded dropped 29 cents this week to \$2.57, while the national average declined 24 cents to \$2.39. Both averages are at their lowest level since late February 2007, according to AAA Oregon.

FCC Looks at Cable Prices

The Federal Communications Commission has opened an investigation into the pricing policies of major cable operators, including Comcast and Verizon Communications. The agency wants to ensure the companies' customers are getting treated fairly.

Autism in Rainy Areas

Children who live in the wettest counties of Oregon, Washington and California are more likely to have autism, but it is unclear why, researchers reported on Tuesday.

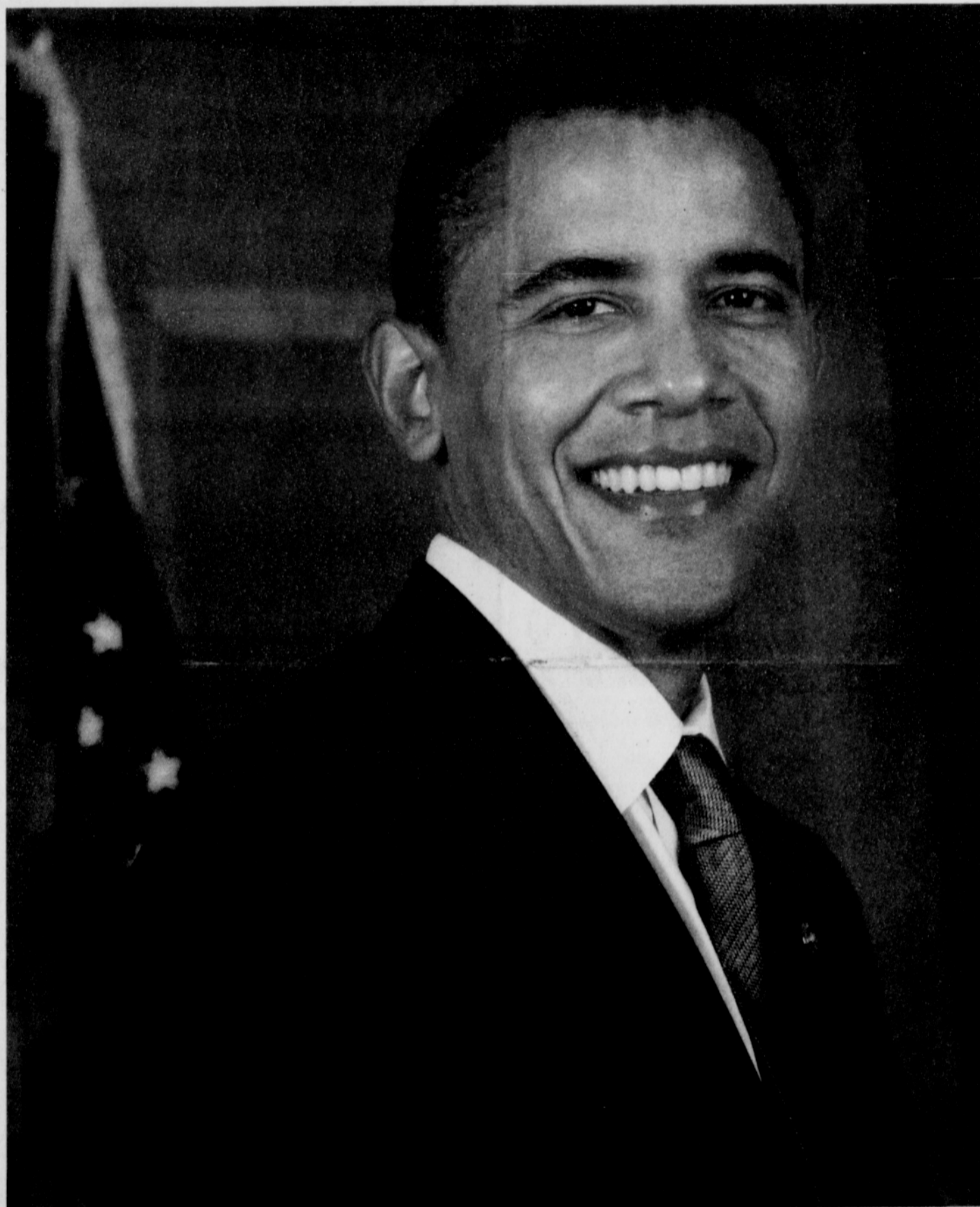
Driver's License Tests Fall

The number of Spanish speakers taking the test for an Oregon driver's license has plummeted since requirements took effect last year that require verification of Social Security numbers. Gov. Ted Kulongoski ordered the changes, which bar illegal immigrants from getting a license.

Snow Hits Ski Areas

A significant amount of snow fell on Mount Hood Monday and with more snow in the forecast ski areas hope to open in time for Thanksgiving.

Obama Wins!
First black president elected



Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., was elected president Tuesday, becoming the first African American or any person of color to win the nation's highest office.

(AP) -- Barack Obama was elected the nation's first black president Tuesday night in a historic triumph that overcame racial barriers as old as America itself.

The son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, the Democratic senator from Illinois sealed his victory by defeating Republican Sen. John McCain in a string of wins in hard-fought battleground states — Ohio, Florida, Virginia and Iowa.

A huge crowd in Grant Park in Chicago erupted in jubilation at the news of Obama's victory. Some wept.

McCain called to concede defeat — and the end of his own 10-year quest for the White House.

Obama and his running mate, Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, will take their oaths of office as president and vice president on Jan. 20, 2009.

As the 44th president, Obama will move into the Oval Office as leader of a country that is almost certainly in recession, and fighting two long wars, one in Iraq, the other in Afghanistan.

The popular vote was close, but not the count in the Electoral College, where it mattered most.

There, Obama's audacious decision to contest McCain in states that hadn't gone Democratic in years paid rich dividends.

Obama has said his first order of presidential business will be to tackle the economy. He has also pledged to withdraw most U.S. combat troops from Iraq within 16 months.

Fellow Democrats rode his coattails to larger majorities in both houses of Congress. They defeated incumbent Republicans and won open seats by turn.

The 47-year-old Illinois senator was little known just four years ago. A widely praised speech at the Democratic National Convention, delivered when he was merely a candidate for the Senate, changed that.

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Vote is One for the Ages

Folks take delays in stride as history is made

(AP) -- Lines stretched around buildings and crossed city blocks as people waited to cast ballots in the historic presidential race between Barack Obama and John McCain. Touchscreen voting machines malfunctioned in some precincts, yet voting Tuesday appeared to go smoothly overall. The biggest trouble was big crowds. But folks seemed to take it in stride. "People are happy and smiling," Sen. Benjamin Cardin said as he voted at a Maryland school. "People are very anxious to be voting. They really think they are part of history, and they are."

In the East, electronic machine glitches forced some New Jersey voters to cast paper ballots. In New York, eager voters started lining up before dawn, prompting

erroneous reports that some precincts weren't opening on time.

In the West, Californians also faced long lines, but voting went smoothly. In Orange County, south of Los Angeles, about 400 people were on hand to treat problems with the county's all-electronic voting system, said Brett Rowley of the registrar's office. "We've got paper ballots as a backup," he said.

Heavy rain plunged a handful of Los Angeles polling places into the dark, forcing some to move voting booths outside until electricity was restored. Voting didn't stop. Election officials predicted turnout rates as high as 80 percent in California, the country's most populous state and the holder of the most electoral votes.



People wait in line to vote on election day at a polling station in Washington, D.C. (AP photo)

In Virginia, State Board of Elections executive secretary Nancy Rodrigues said she expected 75 percent of the state's registered voters to cast ballots.

Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell urged voters to "hang in there" as

state and country officials braced for a huge turnout in that hotly contested state. More than 160 people were lined up when the polls opened at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown. "I could stay an hour and a half at the front

end or three hours at the back end," joked voter Ronald Marshall.

Hundreds converged on polling precincts in Missouri, another

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years of
community service