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Holiday Events Inspire

Ian Wilhelm is intrigued by ZooLights, the holiday season attraction at the Oregon Zoo. See page A7 for a complete calendar of holiday events.

The Color Purple
coming to
Portland

See Entertainment
inside, page A7



The
City of Roses

Portland Observer

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Week in The Review



New Name for Landmark

The University of Oregon wants its name in lights. The school has consolidated its Portland programs at a building in Old Town and proposes to change the message on the building's landmark sign from "Made in Oregon" to "University of Oregon." The sign is notable for its leaping deer — with a red nose during the holidays.

Human Services Targeted

A proposed state budget for the next two years protects education from cuts, but requires deep cuts in some social services. Gov. Ted Kulongoski, saying the economic meltdown requires hard choices, calls for reducing the amount of money for seniors, the disabled and child care.

Auto Execs Pledge Cuts

A humbler group of auto executives returned to Congress this week, pledging to slash costs, including their own salaries, and to accelerate the design and construction of fuel-efficient cars if Congress coughs up another \$25 billion to bail them out.

Gas Lowest in 3 Years

The average price of a gallon of gas in Oregon has hit \$1.92, the lowest prices in nearly three years. With the global economy faltering, crude oil may fall even further, driving average gas prices down to \$1.50 to \$1.75 a gallon, according to AAA.

Downs Parole Hearing

The Oregon Parole Board next week will consider the case of Elizabeth Diane Downs, the child killer convicted of shooting and killing her 7-year-old daughter and trying to kill her two other children outside Springfield in 1983.



Hudson Family Killer Arrested

It's been more than a month since the shooting deaths of Jennifer Hudson's mother, brother and nephew, but the case is picking up steam. Hudson's estranged brother-in-law, William Balfour, was arrested Tuesday for three counts of first-degree murder.

Trampled Worker Not Trained

A family attorney says a temporary worker trampled to death by customers at a New York Wal-Mart store had no training in crowd control. Jdimytai Damour had been working at the store for only a week when stampeding shoppers knocked him down on the day after Thanksgiving.

Generics Work the Same

There is no evidence that brand-name drugs given to treat heart and other cardiovascular conditions work any better than their cheaper generic counterparts, U.S. researchers said on Tuesday.



President-elect Barack Obama speaks with U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton after announcing that she will be his choice for U.S. Secretary of State during a Monday news conference in Chicago. (AP Photo)



Eric Holder



Bill Richardson



Susan Rice

Obama's Team

Clinton is top tier choice

(AP) — President-elect Barack Obama is expected to nominate New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson to head the Commerce Department, a senior Democratic source said on Tuesday.

The appointment of Richardson, a former U.N. ambassador and energy secretary who became an Obama supporter earlier this year after dropping his own presidential bid, would make him the first Hispanic named to Obama's rapidly filling Cabinet.

Obama promised "a new dawn of American leadership" in a troubled world on Monday when he announced a strong-willed national security team headed by Hillary Rodham Clinton, who fought him long and bitterly for the presidency, and Robert Gates, the man who has been running two wars for George W. Bush.

The president-elect said he hadn't changed his mind about bringing most U.S. combat troops home from Iraq within

16 months but added a cautionary note — he'll consult with his military commanders first.

While his new team may be a bit more centrist — some war opponents might even say hawkish — than many Obama supporters might prefer, he said the withdrawal timetable he emphasized in the presidential campaign is still "the right time frame."

Clinton, as secretary of state, and Gates, remaining as defense sec-

retary, will be the most prominent faces — besides Obama's own — of the new administration's effort to revamp U.S. policy abroad.

At a Chicago news conference, Obama also tapped top advisers Eric Holder as attorney general and Susan Rice as ambassador to the United Nations. He named Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano to be homeland security secretary and retired Marine Gen. James Jones as White House national security adviser.

*The time has
come for a new
beginning.*

— President-elect Barack Obama

The choices had been telegraphed days earlier but were remarkable all the same — still another major turn in Clinton's extraordinary career, a show of faith in Gates and action to support Obama's frequent talk of desiring robust debate among seasoned, opinionated people in his inner circle.

Denouncing White House "group think," Obama signaled a break from President Bush's tendency toward an insular management style and go-with-the-gut diplomacy.

"The time has come for a new beginning," said Obama, flanked by flags on a stage with Vice President-elect Joe Biden

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Finding Help During Hard Times

Agencies
are lifeline
for those in
economic stress

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As a wave of economic distress washes over the country, Oregon is getting soggy as well. Throughout the state, people's economic problems mount as the economy sheds jobs, people lose benefits, and there seems to be less slices of the economic pie to go around.

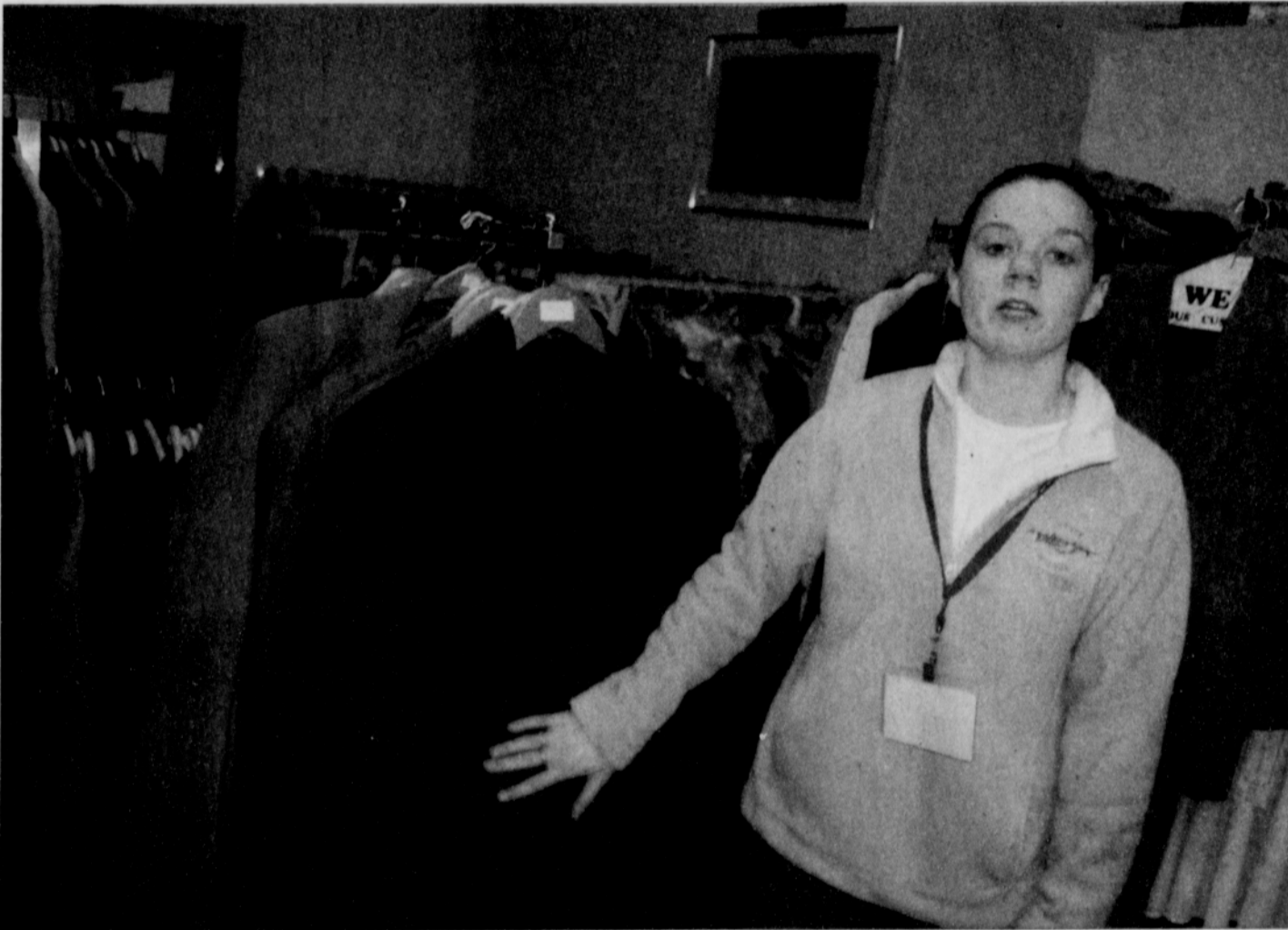
However, you don't have to whether the economic downturn on your own. There are a number of services that can help with some relief during hard times.

If your food budget is being crowded out by other demands, there are ways around it. Families with children may qualify for free, or reduced cost, breakfast and lunch programs if their school participates in the National School Lunch Program.

People unable to afford food can also access the federal food stamp program. The program is meant to ease the burden of buying food so that needy people can better cope with other expenses, not to completely take care of food needs.

The amount of food stamp recipients people are eligible to receive varies, but the average benefit per household is \$176 a month. For more information, call 1-800-723-3638.

The Oregon Food Bank, with its food pantries throughout the state, is another option for surviving economic turmoil. The food



Trisha Furst sees the impact of economic distress on people's lives at the Human Solutions Helping Hands Community Store and Training Center, 9999 N.E. Glisan St., where free clothing is offered to men and women needing assistance to overcome multiple employment barriers. The agency also has an on-site computer lab, offers life and job skill courses and runs a homeless shelter.

If you have young children, need to work, and are having your budget squeezed, you might also be eligible for the state's Employment Related Day Care, which subsidizes childcare costs for people who make 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

bank can also point you in the direction of other agencies that can help make sure your stomach isn't empty. Call 503-282-0555 on visit the food bank's website at oregonfoodbank.org.

Women who are pregnant or have small children are eligible for the Women, Infants, Children federal nutrition program. The average benefit is \$54. WIC eligibility is limited to women who are at

least 185 percent below of the federal poverty level, or \$39,200 for a family of four.

If you have young children, need to work, and are having your budget squeezed, you might also be eligible for the state's Employment Related Day Care, which subsidizes childcare costs for people who make 185 percent of

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