

50¢

39 years of community service

No Let Up to Ice, Snow

Winter's grip expected to mount in coming days

See page A3



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Wednesday • December 17, 2008

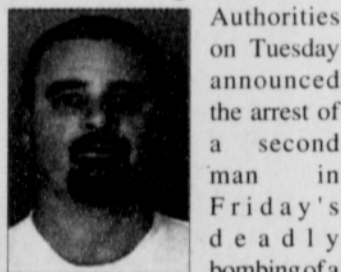
Week in The Review



Education Secretary Picked
President-elect Barack Obama announced Arne Duncan, the head of the Chicago school system, as education secretary Tuesday and declared that failing to improve classroom instruction is "morally unacceptable for our children." See related story, page A2.

Man Shot During Funeral
Police are looking for a man who shot another man during a Portland funeral Friday at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. The victim, Darshawn Lavone Cross, 31, died from his injuries on Monday. See story, page A2.

Bank Bombing Arrests



Authorities on Tuesday announced the arrest of a second man in Friday's deadly bombing of a Woodburn bank, and said the two police officers killed in the blast thought the bomb was a hoax and were trying to open it when it detonated. The announcement came hours after the first suspect Joshua Turnidge, 32, appeared in court.



Shoes Thrown in Contempt
The most unexpected point in a carefully scripted, two-day presidential trip came when a reporter threw his shoes at George W. Bush during a press conference in Baghdad, both of which Bush artfully dodged from behind the podium. See story, page A2.

Walsh Son's Killer Named

Ottis Toole, a serial killer who died more than a decade ago, is the person who murdered the 6-year-old son of "America's Most Wanted" host John Walsh in 1981, police in Florida said Tuesday. The announcement brought to a close a case that has vexed the Walsh family for more than two decades.

Oregon Jobless Rate Rises

Oregon's unemployment rate rose to 8.1 percent last month from 7.2 percent in October. The figures reflect a decline of 6,300 jobs in November, following a drop of 11,700 jobs the month earlier. See story, page A3

Feds Cut Key Interest Rate

The Federal Reserve cut its target for a key interest rate to the lowest level on record Tuesday and pledged to use "all available tools" to combat a severe financial crisis and prolonged recession.

First U S Face Transplant

A woman so horribly disfigured she was willing to risk her life to do something about it has undergone the nation's first near-total face transplant, the Cleveland Clinic announced Tuesday. The patient's name and age were not released, and the hospital said her family wanted the reason for her transplant to remain confidential.

Clinic on the Mend

Garlington Center's rough year

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In the early 90s, Ryan Hamit had a "bad spell" and ended up in a hospital struggling with a personality disorder. He bounced from various social service agencies and hospitals, encountering counselors that talked down to him and seemed to make problems worse.

Things got better when he started using the Garlington Center, a longtime local mental health provider with multicultural roots, currently operated by Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare.

At Garlington, he found himself better respected by the staff and not talked to as if he was a confused child, like he had at other places. Hamit started to improve.

"I wouldn't be near as well off if it wasn't for the Garlington Center," said Hamit.

But over the past year, Garlington has had its own bad spell. It almost collapsed financially when Cascadia fell into financial turmoil. Then the center had a devastating fire.

Named after the late Rev. John Garlington, an African-American minister who worked closely with the poor, the Garlington Center is one of the most culturally sensitive providers of mental health



PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Boarded up windows show where a fire gutted Portland's major provider of mental health services for low-income minority populations and other local residents, the site of a former NIKE outlet store. Temporary trailers will soon open behind the Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. location to accommodate clients.

and substance abuse services in the area. It also connects people with stable housing and jobs.

"These are the folks, where if they don't have these services, they're going to be downtown costing the community a lot more money," said Jim Hlava, Cascadia's vice president of housing.

Essie Mae Morphis, an African-American client of the center for about 10 years, explained how Garlington has provided her with care that has no parallel in its cultural tactfulness.

"If I couldn't get my meds I'd be somewhere in a state hospital," said Morphis of the value she places on Garlington services.

Cascadia's chief executive officer Derald Walker explained that the center helps people through group therapy, helping them develop a sense of stability, and assisting them in managing their own medication regimen.

Statewide, Cascadia has an operating budget of about \$42 million, which comes from a patchwork of state,

county, and federal funds, according to Walker. It services about 525 people, he added.

Last summer, the non-profit nearly collapsed financially due to mismanagement. According to reports on Multnomah County's website, Cascadia was hemorrhaging money due to a faulty billing system (among other problems) that essentially didn't charge the appropriate sources for services.

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Economy Wallops Transit

TriMet pins some hopes on Obama

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As Oregon gets walloped by waves of economic tribulation, TriMet is no exception.

Portland's mass transit provider is facing several hurdles as it tries to balance more ridership with falling revenues, increased deficits and other competing demands.

Like many local governments, the agency is pegging some of its hopes on the federal policy changes coming when the Obama administration takes power next month.

As a transit system that provides 34 million rides a year, TriMet is particularly susceptible to economic fluxes, explains Carolyn Young, the agency's executive director for communications and technology.

In August, diesel prices soared to \$3.95 a gallon, which blew a \$4 million hole in TriMet's budget. As a consequence, TriMet had to raise its fares to \$2.

"We're still digging our way out of that," said Young. She explained that lower diesel prices in the last month still haven't assuaged the agency's gaping deficit, and that it's difficult to get a handle on whether or not fuel prices will stay low.

To make matters worse, two other areas of the economy, which

TriMet's health is closely linked, are faltering.

The transit provider relies heavily on a payroll tax to finance its operations. With unemployment topping 8 percent this source of this revenue has fallen. TriMet's

revenue means less service.

Instead, Young said the mass transit provider is postponing some capital projects and new routes to help it cut costs.

TriMet has earned distinction for getting people out of their cars, making Portland seventh in the nation for transit use.

In the last year, economically-squeezed commuters have started using TriMet even more, causing ridership to jump by 17 percent. The increase has put a heavy strain on the Max light rail lines and certain bus lines, like the 72. The problem has been particularly acute during rush hour.

"We have more people who want to ride us than we have service," Young said.

The local transit system has also come under fire for having faulty ticket dispensers, prompting one frustrated rider to create the website trimetdown.com to monitor the problem. Young acknowledged the issues, pointing out that some machines are 20-years old. She said that TriMet has ordered 40 new machines, and four are out currently.

She explained that some cities have moved toward an electronic system to dispense tickets



"We have more people who want to ride us than we have service."

—Carolyn Young, TriMet executive director for communications and technology

investments in stocks and bonds are also doing poorly.

"We're just starting to feel it," said Young of the effects of the economic downturn.

She said the last thing TriMet wants to do is cut services or layoff drivers.

Raising fares is never easy, and is a prickly balance. If the mass transit provider raises fares, people who rely on it can't use it as often as they need to, but less



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Bundling Up Against the Cold

Ariana Jenkins, 21 months, walks outside her northeast Portland home Sunday for her first experience ever in snow and ice. More snow with the possibility of freezing rain is in the forecast over the next several days. See page A3.

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