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39  
years of  
community serviceSpecial  
Coverage  
IssueBlack  
History  
Month and 1

Super Bowl Spotlight

Jennifer Hudson in her first  
public appearance since the  
slayings of her mother,  
brother and nephew  
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# The Portland Observer

'City of Roses'

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## Week in The Review



### WES Commuter Rail Opens

After nearly 15 years in the making, the first TriMet WES (Westside Express Service) commuter rail line opened for regular service Monday, connecting the cities of Beaverton, Tigard, Tualatin and Wilsonville with rush hour service. See story, page A2.

### Obama Blames Himself on Daschle Tax Controversy

President Obama took responsibility Tuesday for mistakes in the handling of the tax controversy that led to Tom Daschle's withdrawal as his nominee to be health and human services secretary. Obama told NBC "I'm frustrated with myself" for unintentionally sending a message that there are "two sets of rules" for paying taxes, "one for prominent people and one for ordinary folks."

### Steelers Win in Wild Finish



The Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Arizona Cardinals to win the NFL's Super Bowl XLIII football game

Sunday in Tampa, Fla. Steelers wide receiver Santonio Holmes got both feet in the end zone to catch the game winning touchdown pass from Ben Roethlisberger with just 35 seconds left in the game.

### Holder First Black A.G.

Eric Holder, President Obama's pick for the nation's top law enforcement officer, was sworn in Tuesday as attorney general, promising to return the department to a past standard of following the facts and law without regard to politics and ideology. He is the first African-American to hold the post.



### Cops with Bogus Degrees

Criminal charges won't be filed against nine Washington State Patrol troopers who were investigated over whether they knowingly used phony college degrees to obtain higher pay. Four of the troopers live in Vancouver.

### Landmark Hotel Closed

The Columbia Gorge Hotel, the 1920s landmark which has housed the likes of Rudolph Valentino, Shirley Temple, Calvin Coolidge and Franklin Roosevelt, has closed. The owners say they face health problems and more than \$4 million in mortgage debt, while financing has run out and two sales have fallen through.

### 75-year-old Sentenced for Burying Dog Alive

A 75-year-old Forest Grove man who buried his daughter's dog alive has been sentenced to 120 days in jail for misdemeanor animal abuse. Hyrum Long said Tuesday he was trying to euthanize the dog in October when he hit it on the head with a hammer and buried it up to its neck. The dog was rescued by police but later euthanized by a veterinarian because of injuries and long-term neglect.

## What to Eat?

More often it's organic and local

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In the early 1970s Earl Butz, Nixon's agriculture secretary, adopted the mantra "get big, or get out" and instituted policies that gave rise to massive agri-giants that dominate the country's food supply and put the squeeze on the smaller food producers.

But the story of what people put in their mouths is beginning to change dramatically because of grocery outlets like Portland-based New Seasons Market.



Brian Rohter

The new model is centered on providing people with organic, natural, and locally grown food, an audacious departure from the national grocery chains New Seasons competed with when it opened its first store in 1999.

Brian Rohter, New Seasons' chief executive officer, sat down with the Portland Observer to discuss the success of his business model in rough economic times, and why the store isn't as pricey as you might think.

Rohter said New Seasons attempts to tap into a social current that has been gaining steam.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture report states that the demand for organic foods has steadily risen over the last decade. Organics made up 2.5 percent of the retail food market in 2005 and is expected to nearly double by

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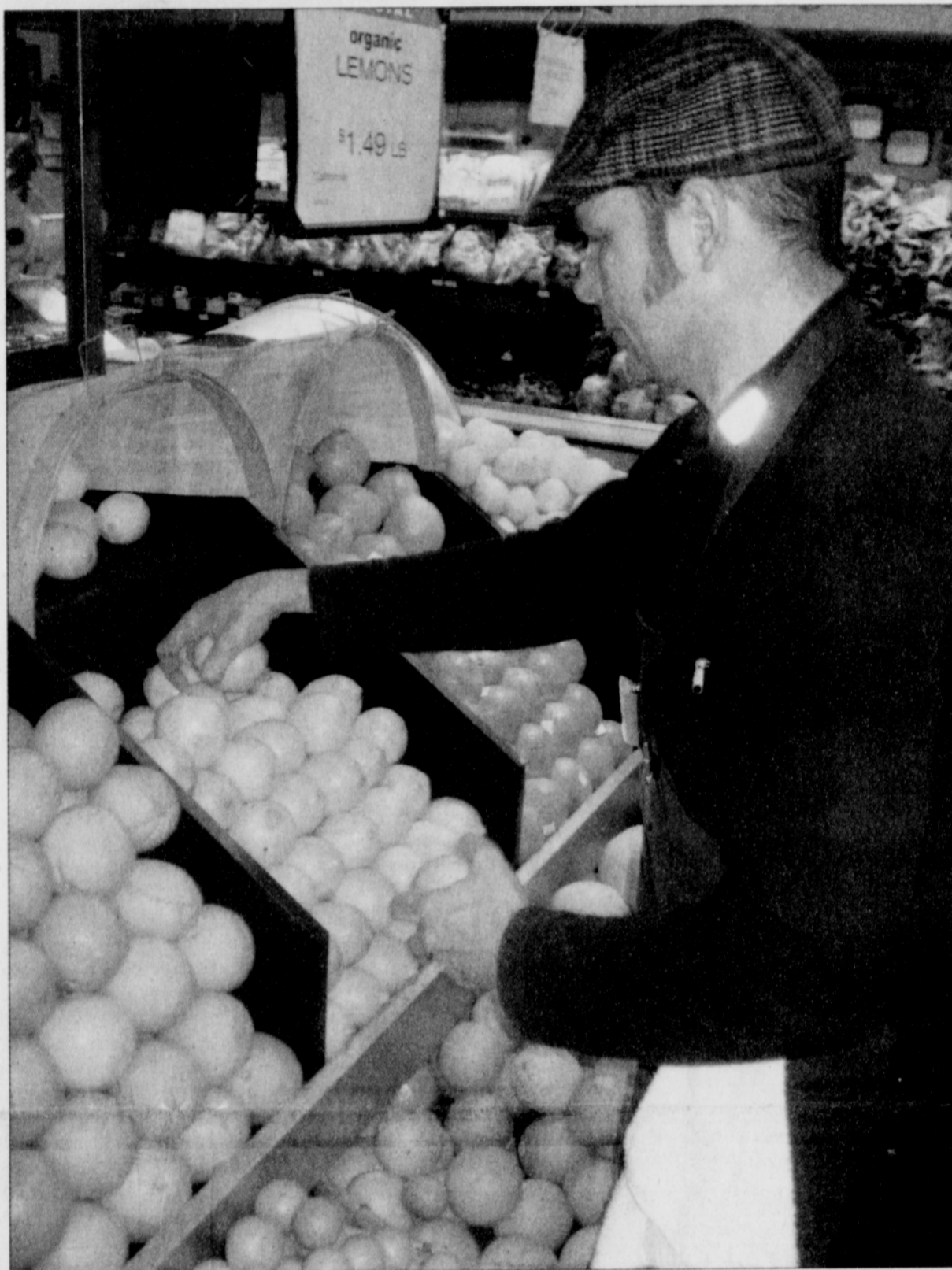


PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Organic, natural and locally grown produce is making Portland-based New Seasons Market a leader in a grocery business that's changing with people's tastes. Produce clerk David Dryden attends to some of the products at the New Seasons Seven Corners store on Southeast Division Street.

## Police Precinct Closures Considered

Economic grip requires cuts

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As the recession roars on nothing seems to escape its icy grip, including police services in Portland.

Facing a budget shortfall, the city is requiring across the board cuts to the tune of five percent. For the Police Bureau, it has resulted in plans for a massive reorganization that involves a shuffle of its personnel and the closing of two precincts -- all in hopes that law enforcement won't have to cut policing

programs.

Under the proposed plan, two of the bureau's three precincts would be closed. The North Precinct in the St. John's neighborhood would become a police training center. The Southeast Precinct off of Burnside would turn into a traffic and tactical operations division.

By reducing police operations and management costs, fewer officers would face layoffs, city officials said.

Another option would be cutting community policing programs, such as Neighborhood Response Team, which assigns liaisons to neighborhood organizations to address livability issues. This does not seem to be a route the city wants to take.

Several neighborhood associations contacted for this story said they didn't feel as though they knew enough about the proposal, but had concerns about losing the two neighborhood precincts.

"Honestly, I think it's a horrible idea," said Damien Chakwin, president of the Lents Neighborhood Association in Southeast.

He worries about a cut to any sort of law enforcement services in an area of the city that has been nicknamed "Felony Flats."

A representative for the Portland Police Association couldn't be reached for comment.

"I think that given the current economic situation it sounds like there is a

truly good opportunity to save some costs," said Brian Renauer, chair of Portland State University's department of criminology and criminal justice.

However, he said that the police bureau in its current form is more decentralized and allows for greater community access and accountability.

Portland Police Spokesperson Mary Wheat said that the bureau's command structure will stay largely intact so that the police shouldn't be any less accountable. In fact, under the plan there will be an additional captain at each of the three remaining precincts. She also added that both of the former precinct

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'Azur and Asmar: The Princes' Quest,' is inspired by North African fairytale that has captivated the imaginations of children and adults alike. Baba Wagué Diakité of Mali, an artist, author and Cascade Festival of African Films committee member, will serve as host and storyteller during its Portland screening.

## Film Festival Honors Black History

Cascade campus hosts 19th annual event

The 19th annual Cascade Festival of African Films, held in honor of Black History Month at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland, will open Friday, Feb. 6 with a lineup of more than 20 screenings from or about the African continent playing through March 7.

Always free and open to the public, the festival attracted more than 5,000 filmgoers last year. The current line-up, begins with the adventure film "Zaina" Rider of the

Atlas," directed by Bourlem Guerdjou of Morocco, at McMenemy Kennedy School, 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.

The renowned African American director Charles Burnett will be this year's featured director. He will present his epic film, "Namibia: The Struggle for Liberation," starring Carl Lumbly, Danny Glover, Joel Haikali and Obed Emvula, as the centerpiece film on Friday, Feb. 20 at the Hollywood Theater.

Kevin Arkadie will introduce and discuss his documentary film, "FESPACO," a behind-the-scenes look at the Pan-African Film Festival through the eyes of six filmmak-

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