



The

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Sustainability on Tour

House Speaker puts weight behind energy conservation

BY JAKE THOMAS/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, lavished praise on Portland for taking initiatives on sustainability that she said would pay dividends in economic growth during a visit to the city Thursday, which included a tour of a recently weatherized home of a northeast Portland family.

"When I come here I always know I'm going to see the future," said Pelosi, speaking to reporters. She said that Portland was far ahead of the rest of the country in fighting climate change, promoting alternative transportation, and developing renewable energy. She praised Portland Congressman Earl Blumenauer for his work on the issues.

"Mr. Blumenauer showed us the way with his sustainability initia-

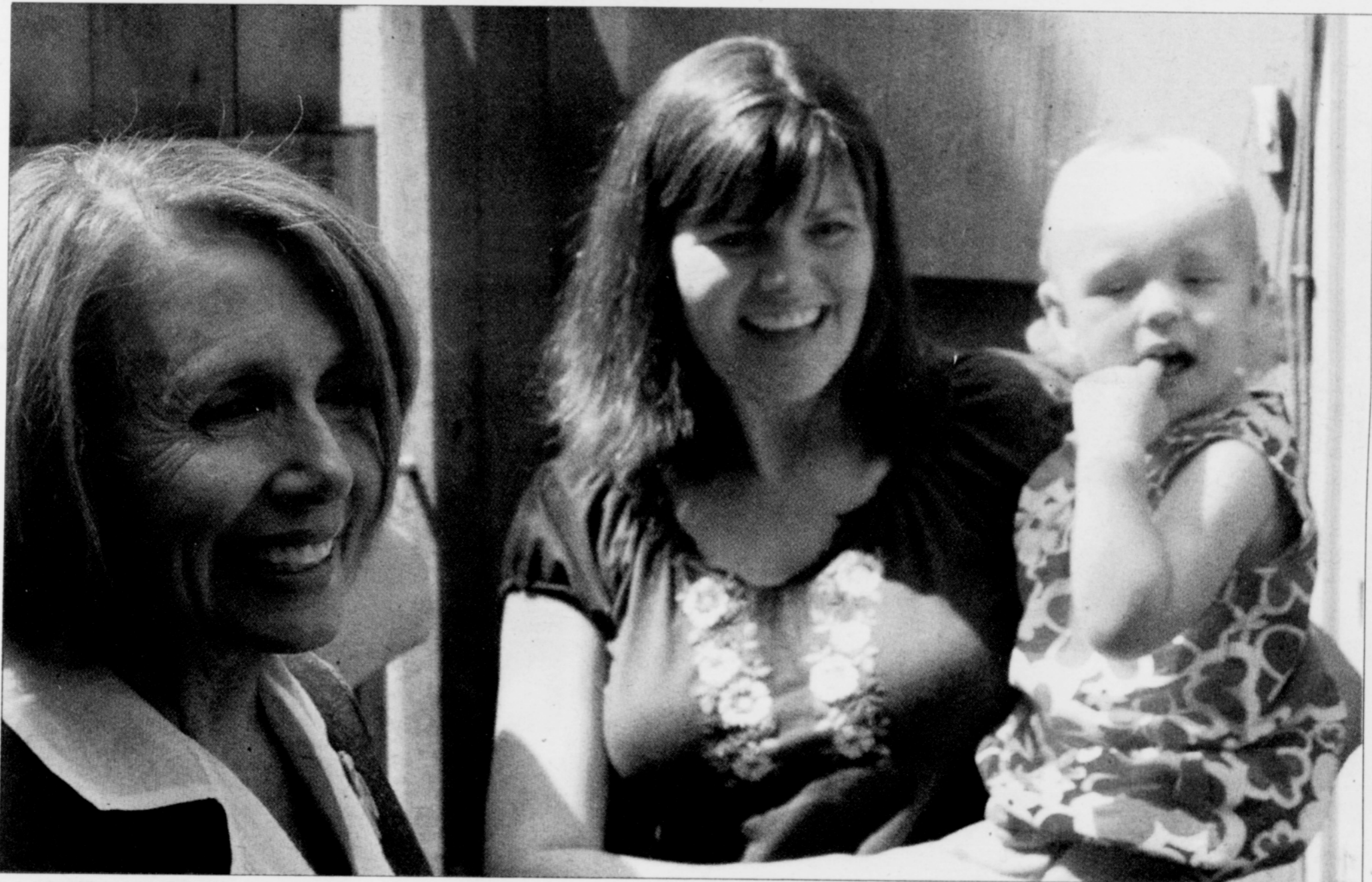


PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, puts a spotlight on energy conservation and economic stimulus efforts during a visit to a northeast Portland couple's home. Pictured with Pelosi are homeowner Heather Ficht and her young daughter.

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PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Closed signs go up at Yam Yam's Southern Cooking and Barbecue, 7339 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Yam Yam's Closes

Eatery struggled after drug bust

Yam Yam's Southern Cooking and Barbecue, an eatery on North Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard that has struggled to stay open after being labeled a drug front in a federal investigation, has closed.

Two men, who declined to comment, were hauling kitchen equipment out of the restaurant on Thursday. The process of gutting the eatery already appears to be well underway, with big heaps of furniture and miscellaneous items heaped up inside. A red "closed" sign in one of its windows.

In October, Yam Yam's was the subject of a search warrant as part of a federal investigation into a Portland cocaine ring that resulted in the arrest of 24 Crip gang members, including James Ray "Lonnie" Yoakum, who was fingered as the group's kingpin.

Sixty thousand dollars were seized from a safe in the eatery, which investigators alleged was drug money. Yam Yam's owner Larry Matthews was also \$415,000 in default on the

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