

National/Regional

Paulus not surprised by Goldschmidt's gain in polls

EUGENE (AP) — Republican gubernatorial candidate Norma Paulus says she's not surprised by the big gain made by Democratic opponent Neil Goldschmidt in a recent statewide poll.

The survey essentially placed the two candidates in a dead heat.

"I said a year ago it would be up and down," Paulus said Tuesday after a campaign appearance before a Eugene civic club.

Earlier, during an interview with editors at The Register-Guard newspaper, Paulus said the poll shows only that Goldschmidt has picked up support from previously uncommitted

Democrats.

"I didn't lose any support," she said.

The survey of Oregon voters, published by The Oregonian newspaper in Portland on Sunday, showed Goldschmidt leading Paulus by 45 percent to 44 percent with 11 percent of those questioned undecided.

The results were an improvement for Goldschmidt over those recorded in March, when the newspaper's poll put Paulus ahead by 49 percent to 40 percent.

Goldschmidt has since then boosted the visibility of his campaign; engaged in a well-publicized debate with his

Democratic primary opponent, Sen. Ed Fadeley of Eugene, and won the endorsement of the state's biggest teachers union.

Goldschmidt also has reported spending close to \$1 million in cash and in-kind contributions on his campaign through mid-April, compared with only \$405,000 for Paulus.

"It's taken a whole year and a million dollars for him to come back up even (in the polls)," Paulus said, adding that she was not worried that Goldschmidt had raised more money than her campaign.

"The bad news for Norma Paulus is

that he has raised a million dollars. The good news for Norma Paulus is that he has spent it all," she said, adding that it has been easier for her to raise money since figures for the two campaigns became public earlier this month.

"As a matter of fact, I've had a lot of people that said earlier, 'Oh, you don't have anything to worry about,' who are now coming forth with money," she said.

Goldschmidt and Paulus are both expected to easily win their respective party nominations in the May 20 primary, according to The Oregonian poll.

Groups make plans to prevent expected prostitution upswing

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland neighborhood groups have started to make plans for fighting the upswing in prostitution that traditionally takes place when the weather improves in spring and summer.

Working under the "Save Our Neighborhoods From Street Crime" banner, a broad-based citizens' committee plans to exert pressure on prostitutes, their customers and city officials.

Unlike past years, when neighborhood protests were sporadic, committee members say this year they plan to organize, start early and not slack off.

"This is a logical progression," said committee member Ron Herndon, who also is co-chairman of the Black United Front. "For the past several years, people have pleaded with city government to do something about prostitution."

"And over the years folks have seen very little has come of that," Herndon said. "People have tried to make use of the city officials,

but they have found that if there is going to be any change, it will ultimately have to come from the people themselves."

He said the 30-member committee planned a rally today night in northeast Portland to gather community support for fighting prostitution.

"We're sick of seeing our neighborhoods disintegrate before our eyes," said committee member Toni Williams. "Every year when the weather gets better and the prostitutes start to work the streets, some well-meaning group springs up and has a rally or march against prostitution."

"Then, when the rally or march is over, the effort dies down," she said. "Not this time. It's going to be different this year because we're going to zero in our attention on prostitution."

Williams said the three-month-old committee wants the city to allocate additional police resources to sections of the city in which prostitutes work.

Terrorism causing people to cancel tours in Europe

PORTLAND (AP) — More Pacific Northwest residents are canceling European travel plans because of fears about international terrorism, travel agents say.

John Curtin, president of John Curtin Travel and Tours Inc., Portland, said he has seen the worst decline in business in his 30 years in the travel industry.

"It's hurting terribly," Curtin said. "We've never had this kind of pressure before. It hasn't been like this ever."

Dollar volume for his agency is down about 70 percent from last year, Curtin said.

Bookings for all of Europe have fallen about 70 percent, reservations for Mediterranean countries are down 100 percent, and after recent bombings in England, reservations for Great Britain are dropping as well, Curtin said.

"Europe is now what we'd just call closed," said Paul Johnston, co-owner of Ambassador Travel in Eugene. "Right now it's a hot spot, and why walk into it? That's how our travelers feel."

Major carriers of package tours, such as American Express, TWA and Globus Gateway, are canceling or consolidating their package tours to Europe, several agents said.

Mediterranean cruises, once a strong seller for the travel industry, are virtually non-existent now, and many of the cruise liners are being diverted to the South Pacific, Hawaii and Alaska.

Agents hope their customers will be diverted as well, and are moving their advertising dollars away from Europe to other areas.

But some agents are concerned they will lose money because people avoiding Europe will not opt for other distant foreign countries, choosing instead to travel in the United States.

"It takes just as much time to sell a \$100 ticket as it does to sell a \$1,000 ticket, only you make 10 times less," said Kathleen Chapman, manager of the Lloyd Center branch of Meier and Frank World Travel Bureaus.

Travel plans for some student groups have been dropped. Jon Steiner, a French teacher at McNary High School in the Salem-Keizer School District, has scrapped plans to take his family and 21 students on a 17-day trip to Europe in June.

"We did cancel two weeks ago — it was just after the bombing (of Libya)," Steiner said.

Volcano spouts steam, rumbles

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — Earthquake activity under Mount St. Helens was reported at slightly elevated levels Wednesday and the volcano again spouted a steam plume, a U.S. Geological Survey spokesman said.

"The number of earthquakes under the volcano increased slightly over the weekend, prompting the University of Washington to increase the earthquake category from 'background' to 'slightly elevated,'" said Steve Brantley of the USGS.

Another "degassing event," one of many over the past five days, was reported shortly after 5 a.m. Wednesday, but there were no eyewitness reports, and so it was not known whether the emission of steam was mixed with ash, Brantley said.

Geologists took measurements on the north flank of the lava dome in the crater of the southwestern Washington volcano on Tuesday and found no change in the rate of swelling.

Brantley said the recent events do not signal an imminent eruption. Even though geologists cannot measure other parts of the dome due to lack of space around it in the crater, they are confident it is not swelling on a large scale because there has not been an increase in rockfalls off the crater's walls or formation of new ground cracks on the dome.

Oregon Daily Emerald

Gypsy moth spraying now underway in county


PLEASANT HILL (AP) — Aerial insecticide spraying to kill gypsy moth caterpillars finally got under way in Lane County Wednesday.

Lorna Youngs, spokeswoman for the multi-agency spray project, said one helicopter began spraying a biological insecticide in Lane County about 5:55 a.m. and was still spraying three hours later.

The spraying had been scheduled to start Monday, but was delayed because of unfavorable weather conditions. Wednesday's spraying was south of Pleasant Hill and west of Dexter.

A second helicopter resumed spraying near Glide in Douglas County, where spraying began last week. Spraying there was halted about two hours after it began Wednesday because of a developing air inversion that prevented the spray from reaching the ground, Youngs said.

A total of 195,000 acres have been targeted for spraying in Lane County.



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