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Kitzhaber prepares to visit rural areas, discuss issues

PORTLAND (AP) — Gov.-elect John Kitzhaber says he will travel to areas of eastern and southern Oregon that he lost to Denny Smith Tuesday in a bid to begin healing the wounds of an acrimonious election.

"My transition, which begins today, is going to reach across the state," Kitzhaber said Wednesday. Moving to put the election behind him, Kitzhaber picked veteran political operative Tom Ileson to head his transition team. Ileson worked for Sen. Mark Hatfield and former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt and currently is a PacificCorp vice president.

The Democratic former Senate president expressed optimism that he would be able to work with the new Republican majority in the Legislature and keep on track his crusade to extend health care to thousands of uninsured working poor.

However, he acknowledged that the heated governor's race had created hard feelings in some rural areas.

Kitzhaber said that's why he's planning to go on a tour of the state within a few weeks.

"It's important to sit down with people in rural parts of Oregon to begin talking about these issues," he said.

Kitzhaber said he found it gratifying that he won so resoundingly on a day when Republican can-

didates were sweeping election races in other parts of the country.

Smith had tried to tap into anti-government, anti-tax sentiment in his election fight with Kitzhaber, but had trailed badly in public opinion polls throughout the campaign.

One prominent Republican, Sen. Gordon Smith of Pendleton, said Wednesday that Smith's candidacy was a case of "right message, wrong messenger."

"My sense is that people never felt comfortable with Denny," Smith said. "John was able to appear the fly-fishing Marlboro man. Denny never got beyond the bomber pilot image that he has carried."

An emotional Smith today said he wouldn't officially concede the race until most of the absentee votes were counted. However, he said he had little doubt that Kitzhaber had won the race.

"Let me congratulate John, because it looks like he won," Smith said at a news conference at his Salem campaign office.

The Salem newspaper publisher broke down in tears several times as he talked about the race he had waged for the governor's office. At one point, his wife Deanna walked up and put her arm around her husband as he dabbed tears from his eyes.

"I feel I did real well," Smith said, stifling sobs.

Washington may feel impact of Prop. 187

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — The California initiative endorsed this week by voters to deny public education and most health care to illegal immigrants will have a ripple effect on Washington state, advocates for immigrants predict.

Hispanic groups in Washington vowed to begin boycotts and organize against any attempt to introduce a similar measure in Washington, while state officials braced themselves to deal with reverberations from the California initiative.

"Washington state could be the recipient of tens of thousands of people from California," said Jerry Martinez, director of the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs. "People will go where they perceive job opportunities exist. Washington has got to wake up to that."

The fate of voter-approved Proposition 187 was in the hands of the courts, the result of legal challenges filed by immigration activists and a coalition of California school districts.

A federal judge immediately

barred enforcement of all sections of the measure for a week pending a hearing. And a state judge barred enforcement of the sections expelling illegal immigrants from California schools.

Washington is home to about 500,000 Hispanics, a population that is expected to double in eight years, Martinez said. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service estimates Washington was home to 26,200 undocumented people in 1993.

Judith Billings, Washington's superintendent of public instruction, said her office will watch the California court battle, which could take years to resolve.

"It's my strong, strong feeling we owe all of our children, regardless of what their family background is, equal access to the finest education we can offer them," Billings said.

She said she had no idea how many undocumented children attend Washington schools.

Martinez said he was discouraged by the passage of the proposition because the issue "broke down along racial lines" and may

lead to similar attempts in other states.

"We do not need polarization. It is all going to be on the table and it is going to get big in Washington," Martinez said.

The new law has serious social consequences, Martinez said.

It is impossible to "throw a whole group of people out in the street and not assume that in a significant way you are contributing to chaos," he said, referring to the withdrawal of public education for the illegal immigrants.

Tony Abeyta, a member of the state Commission on Hispanic Affairs, called the measure "a reactionary, racist, bigoted and misinformed effort to turn back the clock, not only on all of the progress our people have achieved but to deny us in the future."

Vicky Stifter, director of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project in Seattle, said much of the new law was moot because illegal immigrants in California and Washington could receive virtually no public benefits anyway.

■ POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene police department Oct. 31 through Nov. 8.

- A 19-year-old male student was cited for shoplifting and possession of less than one ounce of marijuana at the Bookstore on Oct. 31. According to police reports, the suspect placed four cassette tapes in his backpack and left without paying. When police arrived, they found the marijuana with the tapes in his backpack.

- A 27-year-old male transient was arrested for shoplifting at the Bookstore on Nov. 1. According to police reports, the suspect put a bath sponge in a blanket he was wearing and left the store. When confronted by an undercover security guard, the suspect confessed and asked to be taken to jail.

- A 15-year-old juvenile transient was arrested for shoplifting at the Bookstore on Nov. 1.

- A male student reported theft on the 1200 block of Alder Street on Nov. 2. According to police reports, the victim entered an area restaurant, hung up his ski jacket and went to the restroom. When he returned, the jacket and his wallet were gone.

- A 40-year-old man was arrested for robbery in the third degree at the Bookstore on Nov. 2. According to police reports, the suspect was observed taking toothpaste, peanuts, cashews and a sweatshirt from the Bookstore without paying. When confronted by security, the suspect ran off but was detained by bystanders. The suspect became combative and was sprayed with pepper mace and handcuffed by security.

- A 27-year-old man was cited for theft in the first degree Nov. 4. According to police reports, the suspect sold a bicycle stolen from the University to an

area pawnshop. The suspect claims a man named "Phil" gave it to him.

- A 19-year-old male student was cited for minor in possession of alcohol and criminal trespass in the second degree on the 900 block of East 19th Avenue on Nov. 5.

- A 46-year-old man was cited on two counts of telephone harassment on Nov. 5. According to police reports, the suspect continued to phone University employees after being warned to stop.

- A man reported his \$460 bicycle stolen from the 800 block of East 13th Avenue on Nov. 5.

- A 22-year-old student was arrested for theft in the third degree at Autzen Stadium Nov. 5. According to police reports, the suspect removed the baton from a police officer's belt and started walking into the stadium. When police confronted the suspect, he initially resisted but gave the baton back and told police "it was just a joke." He was lodged in the Lane County Jail.

- A 26-year-old male transient was arrested for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana on the 1100 block of Mill Street on Nov. 7.

- Theta Chi Fraternity reported a burglary Nov. 7. The suspect(s) took \$2,205 in stereo equipment. Method of entry is unknown.

- A 19-year-old male transient was arrested for robbery in the second degree, theft in the second degree and giving false information to police on the 1100 block of Patterson Street on Nov. 8. According to police reports, the suspect kicked the robbery victim in the groin and stole a pack of cigarettes and a lighter.

—Compiled by Joe Harwood