

Black Leadership Conference Makes Campaign Plans

by Bob Lothian

The Black Leadership Conference organized a community campaign structure for governor candidate Neil Goldschmidt at its third general meeting Saturday.

After discussing a report on activities conducted on Goldschmidt's behalf so far, about 25 community residents gathered at Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church organized into three committees.

The three committees are: precinct organizing, scheduling and planning, and communications. Those wishing to get involved can contact Ron Herndon, co-chair of the Conference.

"It's going to be so very important for us to get involved in the Goldschmidt campaign and we'll have to get a variety of organizations involved at all levels," Herndon said.

Deaths on Oregon Highways

Fifty people died in Oregon traffic accidents in June, bringing the total for the first half of 1986 to 274. Although the month-end total was down from 58 deaths recorded in June, 1985, the yearly total is up. Last year, 228 deaths were recorded in the first six months.

Double fatality accidents were recorded in Morrow, Multnomah and Josephine counties. Morrow County had two double-fatality accidents.

The 50 June deaths included 23 drivers, 12 passengers, eight motorcyclists, six pedestrians and one bicyclist.

Totals by county are: Baker, 4; Clackamas, 1; Columbia, 2; Douglas, 4; Grant, 1; Jackson, 3; Josephine, 4; Klamath, 5; Lake, 1; Lane, 4; Lincoln, 1; Linn, 2; Malheur, 1; Morrow, 4; Multnomah, 7; Polk, 2; Umatilla, 1; Washington, 1; Wheeler, 1.

The July fatality count began with ten fatalities during the Fourth of July holiday weekend. There were nine fatalities recorded during the Fourth of July holiday in 1985.

Youths Denied Driving Privileges

Almost 900 Oregon youths between the ages of 13 and 17 were denied driving privileges during the first six months of 1986, according to the Motor Vehicles Division. This is a 41 percent increase over the 627 denials made between January and June of 1985.

Denials are based on court convictions involving alcohol or drug possession, use or abuse. Courts then order DMV to deny licenses or permits.

Most of the 884 denials during the first six months of this year were for alcohol offenses. Minors in possession of alcohol or drugs accounted for 847 of the total. Nineteen denials were for having an open container or drinking alcohol in a motor vehicle, and four were for driving under the influence.

Fourteen denials were ordered for miscellaneous alcohol and drug offenses, such as theft, delivery or manufacturing of a controlled substance.

Males accounted for 74 percent of all denials.

Denials of driving privileges for first offenders is one year or until the person becomes 17, whichever is longer. Repeat offenders are suspended for a year or until the person becomes 18, whichever is longer.

DMV statistics show 84 second denials, seven third denials and three fourth denials (all males) during the first six months of 1986.

The 1983 law is the nation. Driving privileges may be denied even when the offenses are not related to driving a motor vehicle.

Prime Rate Reduced

First Interstate Bank of Oregon today changed its prime rate from 8.5 to 8.0 percent. First Interstate Bank of Oregon's prime rate refers to the bank's publicly announced prime rate which is a base rate used to price some loans. It may not be the lowest rate at which the bank makes any loan.

First Interstate Bank of Oregon is an affiliate of First Interstate Bancorp, the nation's ninth largest banking company with more than 1,000 domestic offices and 38 offices doing business overseas.

Conference before the May primary. Herndon said that as the November general election approaches, Conference committees will likely be organizing community residents to help with lawn signs, canvassing, fundraising and community campaign meetings.

"We certainly have quite an opportunity to be influential in this campaign and we should take advantage of it," Herndon said.

Whether Goldschmidt or Paulus wins, Herndon said, the Conference will be watching the new governor to make sure they hold to promises made to the community during the campaign.

Before the May primary, the Black Leadership Conference met with each candidate and went over a list of questions and issues deemed important to the black community. The candidates' responses formed the basis for the Conference endorsement.

Also at the Saturday meeting, the Conference discussed whether to endorse other candidates. Singled out were the races between City Commissioner Margaret Strachan and Robert Koch for the City Council, between Gladys McCoy and Glenn Otto for County Commissioner, and between Jim Hill and L.B. Day for State Senator.


"The organization could gain added credibility if it did not appear that we're turning our backs on any other black candidate," said Lucious Hicks.

"My position," said State Representative Margaret Carter, "is that if we're going to support anybody, they are going to put forward the interests of the black community."

The issue was not resolved at Saturday's meeting, so the Conference steering committee will meet separately and discuss whether to make additional endorsements. The steering committee will then report back at the next Black Leadership Conference meeting, Herndon said.

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