

Volume XX, Number 42

"The Eyes and Ears of The Community"

October 31, 1990



What ever happened to minority business Part 3 PAGE 5

Topic for His/Hers Older Men and Younger Women, Older Women and Younger Men PAGE 6



First Interstate Bank Announces Community Lending Center and Home Ownership Program

First Interstate Bank has announced East Region, and Dick Anplans to open a Community Lending Center at its Walnut Park branch on Martin Luther King Blvd. In addition to offering the Bank's standard loan programs, this lending center will focus on lending to first time home buyers in inner-city neighborhoods.

Robert Ames, president of First Interstate Bank, announced the creation of the lending center and, at the same time, unveiled a new bank program designed to help low-and moderate-income people buy homes.

"First Interstate has an ongoing commitment to assist home buyers in all areas of the state and across the economic spectrum" Ames said. "The Community Lending Center and the new mortgage program are sound, progressive efforts to continue to meet that commitment."

The idea for the Community Lending Center grew out of joint efforts commenced last April by Janice Wilson, senior vice president of the bank's Metro

derson, senior vice president of Residential Loan Services, to develop ways to increase the bank's lending in inner-city neighborhoods. According to Wilson,

"One of the goals of the Community Lending Center will be to meet the needs of as many neighborhood home buyers as possible." The Community Lending Center will open in

December with a staff of three including manager Ralph Nickerson. Nickerson comes to First Interstate Bank with fifteen years experience in real estate lending in the Portland area. In addition to provid-

ing information and counseling to indi- ship seminars at times and locations the December opening of the center. viduals looking to buy homes, the new





convenient to the neighborhood residents. Major features of this program designed lending center will offer homeowner- The seminars will be held in cooperation for purchasers who will occupy the home with community organizations, and will include:

Grace Collins Receives "Champion For Children" address topics such as:

* how to budget the money needed for closing a home purchase;

*how to be prepared for the increased cash requirements of the total housing expense;

home financing programs that are available; and

*how to anticipate and prepare for home maintenance.

Interstate's center is similar to one of the proposals in a report recently issued by Gretchen Kafoury, Portland city commissionerelect.

The new lending program will commence with

*First Interstate Bank will donate funds to a non-profit organization to provide a grant of 1% to be applied toward down payment on both conventional and FHA loan requests.

*A flexible housing expense to gross income ratio.

*Recurring monthly obligations can *how to evaluate be used for credit verification.

*Minimum down payment.

*No extra fees for lower loan amounts. *Mortgage Credit Certificate program availability.

The program is similar to a plan The concept of First announced earlier by U.S. Bank. "As one of the state's real estate lenders, we are eager to offer viable programs that will increase the availability of residential loans," said Dick Anderson. "In combination with programs offered by other banks, this will serve to strengthen the inner-city and community as a whole. We know one program will not fit everyone. We will continue to look for lending programs that we can tailor to fit the individual needs of home buyers."

Building a New Urban League

In 1987, the Urban League of Port- The League recently approached and land received monies toward a capital returned \$150,000 to the Collins Founfund project to remodel and renovate the dation with a proposal in hand seeking Mentzer Building which was across from \$120,000 for capital funds to include the

the League's present headquarters on renovations for the relocation and ex-



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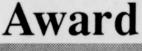
3,000,000 and no accidents

Observer **Endorsments of Ballot** Measures and Candidates

Evelyn Collins, long-time operator of the Grace Collins Day Care Center on N.E. Russell St. in Northeast Portland, was honored recently as the 1990 recipient of the "Champion for Children" award.

The award is given annually by the Edgefield Children's Center, Inc. of Troutdale, Oregon, and is presented to an individual whose accomplishmenst have benefitted children and/or highlighted the needs of children and families in the community.

Ms. Collins, one of five nomi-





Grace Collins

nees, was nominated by Edgefield board member Tom Stearns and was presented the award at a special dinner/dance at the Marriott Hotel on October 25.

The Grace Collins Center, named after Ms. Collins' mother, has operated for over 35 years, serving more than 10,000 children, mostly low-income.

Ms. Collins in known in Northeast as the "foster godmother" of many former recipients of daycare at the Collins Center and in conversations with some, they state that they can think of "no individual more deserving".

Alcoa Aluminum. Because of the vari-Mentzer Building and other properties were sold. One of the priorities of the present League President, Dr. Darryl Tukufu, was to clear up some loose ends. and paying back monies that were held in reserve.

donate funds for capital improvements programs at the League. or add to the general fund respectively.

North Williams and Russell. The League pansion of the League's Whitney M. received \$150,000 from the Collins Young Learning Center, miscellaneous Foundation, \$5,000 each from KATU renovation at the Urban Plaza, the pur-Channel 2 and Vanexco, a subsidiary of chase of telecommunication equipment, computers, and a van to be used for all ous financial problems that the League League programs and a challenge grant became entangled after that time, the of \$30,000 toward the establishment of a program stabilization fund. This grant must be matched by an additional \$30,000 grant and will provide money for the development and start up of programs at This meant going to these past funders the League with a requirement that the program be able to pay the money back to the stabilization fund within one fiscal The League was granted permission year. The stabilization fund will provide by Vanexco and KATU to use their an expanded base for the development of



Adoption is Kid Stuff PAGE 11

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Don't forget to vote on Tuesday November 6.

Roberts Centers Campaign Around Social Programs

BY ANGELIQUE SANDERS

Governor candidate Barbara Roberts, in an attempt to bring up living standards for lower-income Oregonians, is focusing her campaign on social programs.

Her first priority, should she tion take office as Governor, is to re-vamp financing of education, as the burden of education in Oregon falls to property taxes, causing disproportionately high state taxes and an inability to expand or using improve education with limited revenue. Her proposal is to lift the burden of education from homeowners, and enact a 5% sales tax (which would not be included in necessities such as food, housing, utilities, and medical expenses). Roberts expects that, while the sales tax would barely affect lower-income citizens monetarily, it would give them "a better chance for prosperity through quality education.'

"Ballot five [the property tax measure] would be the worst decision we could make for Oregon," Roberts said in an interview Saturday. "It affects programs of police protection, low income families, and human services ... any time we cut back, social programs pay first!"

Roberts also has proposed a seven-point battle plan against crime and drugs, including: more prison cells

·longer, tougher mandatory sentences ·mandatory inmate work programs ·prison drug treatment i-ntensive supervision of parolees ·registration of sex offenders -community policing and crime preven-

Part

this

of the focus for community "clean-up" seven-point plan is the problem that, currently, 61% of Oregon's inmates end up back in jail. At a cost of \$2,000 per year for intense supervision--not just

parole, but to ensure that ex-inmates are adhereing to drug reform programs, attending work, and "succeeding" outside of prison--it is a much cheaper plan than paying the tens of thousands it costs to return crime-committers to jail for a year or more.

> In a statement issued by Roberts' campaign, she stated that "Oregonians should not accept a tragic loss of their personal safety and security. We absolutely cannot tolerate that some of our

and drugs--throwing their lives down a rat hole--and destroying grieving families in the process...Frohnmayer has a record he can't defend. He's been Oregon's Attorney General for a decade ... a

> CANDIDATES FOR **GOVERNOR:** Secretary of State Barbara Roberts (Democrat) and **Attorney General Dave** Frohnmayer (Republican) face off in November sixth's election. The Observer did not have the opportunity to inter-

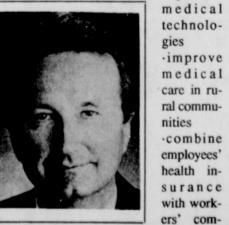
decade during which we've suffered the greatest epidemic of crime in our state's history." And in fact, in those ten years, crime has taken staggering leaps: Linn County reflects a 36% rise; Josephine County, 35%; and Lincoln County, 40%. Drug offenses have climbed 275% in Marion County, and 405% in Multnomah County. Oregon's sex crimes have jumped 24%, and 13% for rape.

Health care is another issue Roberts is faced with, and she proposes

kids will inevitably get involved in gangs a comprehensive program for Oregonians, that will:

help small businesses afford quality health care for employees

·reduce health care costs by cutting administrative overhead and reducing duplication of



health insurance with workers' compensation

expensive

·facilitate senior citizens' coverage ·keep the Office of Health Policy under her strict jurisdictions.

As it stands, nearly one in six Oregonians has no health care coverage at all. Roberts seeks to change that.

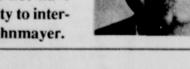
As for affordable housing, families making 50-80% of the median income are having trouble finding affordable places to live. Roberts wants to

establish "vitality zones", in which poorer neighborhoods would be lifted (through special tax credits to developers who invest in rehabilitating those areas) thus also employing residents of those neighborhoods. She expects to pull \$80 million from the legislature's general fund and form a new Oregon Housing Trust Fund to finance housing projects and assist emergency shelters.

To build up Portland's North/ Northeast communities, Barbara Roberts wants to build up community service programs, and steer youth away from drugs, "because, let's face it," she said, "poverty is linked to crime. Prevention at youth is the key. We should give youth a sense of belonging, without belonging to a gang ... the black community's support to such programs is the key." When asked if there's anything she'd like citizens of Northeast Portland to know about her, she said, "I think the unique thing I have [as a governmental candidate] is I've been there; I've been poor. When you're there, you feel cornered, like there's no way out ... we need a governor who respects diversity, who works against racial hatred. I think my record is very clear."

Roberts is endorsed by Portland's Rainbow Coalition, the Oregon Black Political Convention, and Oregon's Black Leadership Conference.

·create a comprehensive plan for Oregon communities



view Mr. Frohnmayer.