

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

### Delegation in town

The first official sister city delegation from Kathmandu, Nepal, will be in Eugene until Feb. 25.

The public will have an opportunity to meet the three delegates Feb. 21 at the Asian Festival and at the Feb. 22 "Taste of Nepal" presentation at 7 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room.

The delegates are Navindra Raj Joshi, deputy mayor of Kathmandu, Sri Govinda Shah, an environmental specialist, and Bhikshu Maitri, president of the Kathmandu-Eugene Sister City Committee.

The delegation will also be studying wastewater and sewage treatment methods in Eugene and Arcata, Calif.

Eugene City Councilman Shawn Boles led the last delegation to Kathmandu from Eugene in October.

The sister city agreement between Eugene and Kathmandu began in 1975 between the mayors of the two cities.

### CISCAP sponsoring benefit

The Committee In Solidarity with the Central American People will sponsor a benefit dinner to help raise money for community organizations in El Salvador Feb. 26 at 6 p.m.

The dinner is at the Central Presbyterian Church in Eugene. A donation of \$5 to \$10 is requested, and people are being encouraged to donate school supplies, tools and medical supplies.

The community organizations receiving aid include rehabilitation centers for disabled veterans, women's organizations and labor unions.

William Hernandez, the International Representative for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, will speak at the dinner. The FMNL is a Salvadoran political party composed of former rebel organizations.

Supplies donated will be taken to El Salvador by a caravan of trucks scheduled to arrive in El Salvador in mid-March. The caravan is being organized by a national organization similar to CISCAP.

For more information, contact CISCAP at 485-8633.

# County jail will turn felons away if levy doesn't pass, sheriff says

By Vegar Stokset  
Emerald Contributor

At least 33 criminals would be turned back into the streets from the Lane County jail daily if voters turn down a \$5.8 million per-year law enforcement levy, a county official said this week.

With no correctional services available, burglars, robbers and violent offenders, including parole and probation violators, would walk right back into the community, posing a severe threat to the citizens, Sheriff Bob McManus said.



SHERIFF S. LEVY

McManus warned that if the March 23 levy fails, Lane County would lose critical law enforcement and treatment services "desperately needed" to secure the health and security of its citizens.

"We are only asking the voters for continued support for the present level of services,"

McManus said. "No enhancements or additional programs are proposed."

The levy, which would cost each homeowner 53 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, would replace a three-year levy that expires June 30. The old levy funded 13 patrol officers and several community corrections programs.

The first serial levy adopted in March 1987 substantially helped Lane County provide treatment and correctional programs for offenders. The main goal was to reduce pressure on jail space by providing a wide range of alternative correctional services.

In 1986, Lane County received a court order placing a cap on the number of inmates it could keep in the jail. To prevent overcrowding, a significant number of inmates had to be released earlier than normal. But both in 1987 and 1990, voters approved serial levies that funded programs easing the needs for jail beds.

By addressing the cause of the offenders' problems and providing professional help in the various levy funded programs, the need for imprisonment decrease, McManus said.

"After going through the programs, many offenders stay away from crime, and we do not have to spend a lot of money on locking them up in jail," McManus said.

The real problem for many offenders is related to alcohol and drug abuse rather than criminal tendencies, McManus said. He said levy funds are

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Bob McManus,  
Lane County sheriff

crucial for continued treatment of the lower-risk offenders, and that jail space should be reserved for the more serious criminals.

The forest inmate work camp in Alma is one of the levy funded programs that has helped free up jail space. The camp can hold more than 120 offenders, and they work in areas including parks maintenance, trail building and remodeling. Estimates show that when the camp is full, the number of early jail releases declines up to 19 per day.

The Community Corrections Center, which also receives levy dollars, engages a daily average of 67 inmates in regular employment in the community. The center helps to rehabilitate offenders and free up law enforcement resources.

Another program provides treatment services for young offenders with alcohol- and drug-related problems. In addition, levy money funds the county's psychiatric hospital.

All these programs help the offenders develop and maintain a constructive lifestyle, McManus said.

The levy also funded half of Lane County's patrol force. If the patrol positions are cut, people in rural districts are at risk of not receiving emergency assistance.

The understaffed department will then barely be able to respond to the most lifethreatening calls, McManus said.

Marcola, McKenzie, Mapleton and Lowell-Dexter would lose their resident deputies and the remaining nine patrol officers, and two supportive positions would be cut from the main office patrol and investigation.

The planned cut in the state's budget, including reduced supervision of 12,000 offenders statewide, further increases the need for local programs.

"I am not saying that the levy is going to solve all our problems, but at least it will help the problem from perpetuating itself," McManus said.

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