

# County candidates state platforms

Vowing to cut expenses and improve Josephine County governmental efficiency to make the county a better place, four commission candidates spoke their pieces during a public forum.

The program was held at Lorna Byrne Middle School in Cave Junction on Wednesday night, Oct. 20. Approximately 45 persons attended the event, organized by Dave Toler, a member of the Three Rivers School District board; and sponsored by "Illinois Valley News."

Making comments and fielding questions were incumbent Jim Brock and challenger Jim Raffenburg for Position 2; and Cheryl Walker and Dwight Ellis for Position 3.

Assisting Toler during the forum were seven students from Steve Morgan's government class at Illinois Valley High School. They collected written questions and read them to the candidates. In addition, Andy Bebeau, who graduated from IVHS this year, served as time-keeper for candidate responses.

The government class students were Nicole Navarro, Megan Miller, Jenna Lorensen, Tanya Carey, Echo Reagan, Megan Wilkinson and Paul Koci. In addition, Navarro sang the national anthem a cappella.

Raffenburg, a former NASA administrator and current reserve sheriff's deputy and court mediator, noted his proven leadership experience, as did Ellis, Walker and Brock.

But Ellis and Raffenburg took issue with Brock's statement that if he is not re-elected, the county board would have only two years experience, as that's how long Commissioner Jim Riddle has served.

Raffenburg, who has served as a county planning commissioner, also took issue with a Grants Pass "Daily Courier" report about his candidacy. (See his ad on page 11).

All four candidates

stressed the need to reduce county expenses. Raffenburg especially dunned Brock in that area, saying that the commissioners have known for several years that \$17 million in O&C "safety net" funding will end in 2006, but that no money has been saved.

Brock noted that during his eight years on the board in Position 3 (he ran for Position 2 after defeating longtime Commissioner Harold Haugen,) he has done just that.

He said that he has implemented performance-based budgeting to hold county departments accountable to objective standards and performance benchmarks.

Brock added that he is developing a "fair and equitable" compensation and benefits policy for county employees "with fairness to taxpayers."

In addition, said Brock, he has privatized certain government services to improve efficiency and service. He also pointed to his leadership developing the county fire plan; and working toward economic development and ensuring that infrastructure projects are planned or under way, such as at I.V. Airport.

Raffenburg said that he will put an end to excessive paid leave, and "lead by example."

He said that he will institute a minimum manager-to-employee ratio of seven to one, adding that he sees "county managers wandering around Downtown Grants Pass because they don't have anything to do." Brock said that the ratio isn't that high.

Raffenburg said that he will "implement strict spending controls" and prioritize funding for sheriff's office patrol and jail staffing. He said that the county also needs to consolidate its purchasing to save money.

He and Ellis said that they will be available for citizens to talk with them, as did Walker.

Walker also said that

she will work for local control and seek citizen involvement in local issues.

Regarding land-use policies, the former state legislator said that they should "be flexible enough to serve the needs of communities without taking away the rights of private property owners to use their land."

As a commissioner she would "consolidate services, contract for services, cut unnecessary expenses, and offer incentives to reward county employees for documented cost savings."

She said that she will fight to continue receiving O&C money, and base county department budgets on performance.

She would have "an open door" for citizens and an "open mind." She also wants to develop a long-term countywide plan "to help maintain the quality of life in the county."

Ellis said he would strive to adjust the manager-to-staff ratios, and "maximize the impact of taxpayer dollars to provide, stable, efficient and consistent services."

He noted that he served the U.S. Air Force for 24 years, and has been executive director of the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce. Under his direction, the organization has grown from 373 members to more than 800. He was chosen the state's top chamber executive director this year.

"One of my goals as commissioner," he said, "is to secure funding for our county." He said that there are areas to reduce costs, and that he will pursue them for citizens.

He is in favor of additional funding for the county jail so that "if you do the crime, you do the time." Ellis added that he will be able to find such funding without the need for a levy by cutting expenses, but that if the levy passes he would "do away with it" as it would not be necessary under his leadership.



Candidates for two seats on the Josephine County Board of Commissioners attended a public forum in Cave Junction on Wednesday night, Oct. 20. The event was organized by Dave Toler (bottom, center) and aided by students from Steve Morgan's government class at Illinois Valley High School.

# Williams man found shot

Williams resident Thomas Albert Rives, 19, apparently shot himself in the head and subsequently died on Sunday, Oct. 24, said Josephine County Sheriff's Office.

He was found at 395 E. Fork Road by emergency personnel at approximately 2:08 p.m.

He was taken by a Life Flight helicopter to Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford, where he died at approximately 4:30 p.m.

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8 p.m. to midnight  
Two bands will play!



\$3 cover charge with costume, \$5 without

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See page 20

## Brock has made county better and deserves to be re-elected

Do Josephine County voters want to Keep a commissioner who has produced improvements or take their chances with an untested candidate who promises them?

The Daily Courier editorial board chooses the former and as a result, endorses Jim Brock in his Nov. 2 race for commissioner, Position 2. Brock has helped the county clear many important hurdles in his eight years in office. What's more, he's eagerly tackled new and important issues, such as employee compensation and the shake-up of the county's Finance Department in the wake of an embezzlement.

Brock's experience could be extremely valuable when the federal government's "safety net" for Western Oregon counties

comes up for renewal in 2006. This is a \$5 million-a-year issue that will be in the hands of a Board of Commissioners with a total of two years of experience if Brock loses ...

... Brock came on board in 1997 when the commissioners had turned county government into a laughingstock with their ineptness in building the Juvenile Justice Center. They had a \$1 million overrun and rejections of their plans by the federal government, which was providing a low-interest loan. Two years later, the center was done – and at no additional cost to taxpayers.

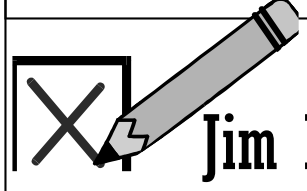
The board, with Brock, has had similar success in cleaning up problems

at the county airport in Merlin, building an adult jail and making the commissioners' business much more open to the public.

Brock is also the only commissioner who voted to cut the outrageous nine weeks paid leave for 140 county managers ...

...The Daily Courier editorial board hopes (Jim) Raffenberg can deliver if

County Commissioner  
Position 2



**Jim Brock**

elected, but thinks voters would do better to elect instead a person who actually wrestled with county problems and won: Jim Brock.

Reprinted from the Grants Pass Daily Courier and paid for by Citizens to Elect Jim

## New Classes Offered at Deborah Dawson's Center for Artfull Being



**Beginning Drawing for Adults**  
Basic drawing for those who have always wanted to learn but were afraid. Non-critical approach in a calm and serene environment.  
Thursday mornings 10 to 11, November 18 through December 9.  
Cost for 4, one-hour classes is \$50  
Supplies are pencils, eraser and drawing tablet.

**Advanced Drawing for Adults**  
This class is for those who want to improve their drawing skills and produce finished works. We will study technique and composition.  
Tuesday mornings 10 to noon, November 16 through December 7.  
Cost for 4, two-hour classes is \$80.

**Inner Art of Women - Self Exploration**  
This workshop will focus on inner and outer self-image. We'll explore our light and shadow side using a variety of media in a safe and non-critical environment.  
Saturday, November 13, 1 to 6 p.m.  
Sliding scale \$20 to \$50 for 5-hour workshop.

**Sign-up** at Blue Moon Café or Studio 203 above Blue Moon. Phone 596-2023.

Private Lessons and Gift certificates for the holidays are available at \$20 per hour.

**November Art Walk:**  
Deborah Dawson will show her newest work at Blue Moon Café.