

Federal funding appears at stalemate

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Josephine County Commission Chairman Jim Raffenburg spent last week in Washington, D.C. as part of a continuing lobbying effort to secure federal funding for timber-dependent counties.

But he found that those efforts are being overshadowed by a looming showdown between the Democrat-controlled Congress and President Bush regarding the Iraq War.

Members of Oregon’s congressional delegation succeeded in placing a one-year extension of the county payments program into an emergency supplemental funding bill. That same bill contains appropriations for the continuous War on Terror, but Congressional Democrats have attached numerous other provisions to the legislation, including an 18-month timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

As such, Oregon’s rural counties are caught amid a political firestorm.

“Our issue of funding and the federal government living up to its obligations to the timber counties and rural counties of the United States

is going to be a casualty of war on this,” Raffenburg said. “We’re caught in the crossfire, and in the end, we may end up as collateral damage.”

Raffenburg said that all the add-ons have greatly diminished the likelihood of continued federal funding for Oregon’s rural counties. He added that Bush may veto the legislation over the attempted changes to his Iraq policy.

“When you see how Congress has loaded up, on both the House and Senate side, with nondefense spending, and we’re part of that, then that leaves a sour taste in the president’s mouth,” Raffenburg said.

“He would probably still sign it if that’s all it was,” he said. “But Congress is adding a provision that would require a withdrawal in 2008, and that, I think, is a bridge that the president won’t cross.”

Raffenburg, accompanied by Jackson County Commissioners David Gilmour and C.W. Smith, spent most of his time lobbying congressmen from Western states, as well as members of the influential Rules and Appropriations committees.

All told, Raffenburg said that he visited a dozen congressional offices, as well as Oregon’s entire five-member delegation.

But Raffenburg said that the federal representatives were less than receptive to his pleas.

“They let you talk, but they’re not hearing anything you say,” Raffenburg said. “Once they find out you’re from Oregon, they don’t care. It really is a case where Congress is tired of hearing about O&C, tired of hearing about county payments and tired of hearing Oregon whine about money.

“That’s really what it kind of comes down to. We’re not whining, we’re demanding what is right. But they see it as whining because they don’t care.”

Raffenburg said that he is “pessimistic” about the prospects of a long-term reauthorization. And even if a one-year reauthorization is granted, Oregon would receive less money than it has in the past.

“The reality isn’t all that great, and nothing has changed,” Raffenburg said.

“We’re still almost exactly where we were in September,” he believes.

CJ deputy contract could be canceled

Citing a lack of coverage, Cave Junction Mayor Tony Paulson is taking steps to terminate the city contract with Josephine County Sheriff’s Office.

He is organizing a public workshop that would include the city’s insurance agent, the council, and either Sheriff Gil Gilbertson or Undersheriff Don Fasching. The mayor made his announcement Monday night, March 12 at the end of a two-hour council meeting.

“We’re not getting our 40 hours a week due to staffing issues,” said Paulson. He added that he’s spoken with the sheriff and his top aide, and that they understand his position.

The city is paying \$24,000 per quarter for law enforcement in city limits.

City councilors tended to agree with the mayor that canceling the contract would not lessen the coverage now being received. Plus, it would save money.

In another matter, the council devoted an hour to discussion and a public hearing before voting 4-1 to conditionally approve a land partition for O’Brien resident Don Hall. He sought a two-lot land partition for property at 457 Stage Stop Drive off S. Old Stage Road.

Councilman Russell Ehrman cast the “no” vote.

Three people besides Hall spoke in favor. But adjacent property owner Lora Holmes stated her opposition, and at one point took the council to task for what she saw as favoritism toward the applicant.

She stated her concerns about a number of issues, including drainage and the types of vegetation Hall has planted. Hall’s request was OK’d with the condition that he add curbs, gutters and sidewalks to the north side of his frontage.

In another matter, the council spent 35 minutes dealing with a code interpretation regarding streets for a master planned development. The request was by builder Hoyt Patton Jr.

Following discussion with Patton’s representative, Rick Riker, owner of a Grants Pass planning and research service, the council agreed that he should submit an improved plan for a development by Patton at 117 N. Junction Ave. next to Lorna Byrne Middle School.

Full staffing needed to accommodate 170 jail capacity

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
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Last month, Josephine County commissioners approved a maximum 170 capacity for the county jail in Grants Pass.

But the new cap doesn’t mean that 170 inmates will be immediately detained in the 260-bed facility, because of staffing issues.

Sheriff Gil Gilbertson said that the new policy is intended to “clean up language” in the county’s 2003 ordinance, which established

a 5-1 inmate to deputy ratio.

Commission Chairman Jim Raffenburg said that ratio was based on an “arbitrary number,” and needed change.

“I’ve never understood the reason for the jail cap or the way it was set up,” Raffenburg said. “It never made any sense to me.”

He said that the old ratio was based on the square footage of the county’s old jail, and that the fact that there was an overcrowding problem during the 1990s.

“We certainly don’t have

that problem with the new jail,” Raffenburg said.

The old policy had shifted capacity decisions to the commissioners, he said, but this change gives Gilbertson more discretion over those matters.

Under the new policy, Gilbertson has the ability to declare an emergency if officer safety or inmate safety are threatened. If the number of inmates is beyond the jail’s capacity, the sheriff can release them and be immune to liability for that.

But before releasing any inmates, he must inform the county’s Circuit and Municipal Court judges, the district attorney, the county’s legal counsel, local police chiefs and the commissioners.

All police agencies would then be advised to write citations to offenders rather than taking them into custody. And Gilbertson also would be able to place inmates on a forced release agreement.

Under state law, the county can be held liable if an inmate is released prematurely and commits another crime. But the new policy addresses those issues and serves to reduce the county’s potential liability in such a scenario.

“It’s a risk management tool for the county,” Raffenburg said.

Gilbertson said that his agency would require 40 jail deputies to run at the 170.



HOME VALLEY BANK plans to move to a new location in Cave Junction, hopefully by the end of this year. Work at the Downtown CJ site, the former Select Market, is under way. The approximately 3,500-square-foot building will boast vaulted ceilings and a fireplace in the lobby. The exterior will include rockwork and a water feature. There will be parking on both sides of the building. Indications are that the former grocery store eventually will be razed. (Photo by Michelle Binker/IVN)

Rogue Gallery notes displays

Rogue Gallery & Art Center is featuring artist Jan Schmitz in its outer gallery.

She has taught art, owned her own gallery and explored her art in the Rogue Valley for more than 40 years. Her new work is mixed media and collage incorporating graphite, paint and foils to make her rich surfaces.

“Transformation of Form,” an exhibit by Anne Kinkade and Cathy Valentine, continues in the main gallery through Friday, March 17. This varied exhibit features coiled basketry, encaustic paintings, paper and encaustic vessels, and willow constructions.

Ryan Vollmer’s senior project and solo art show will run for one more week in the student gallery. He is a senior at South Medford High School.

Rogue Gallery & Art Center was founded in 1960 to promote and support the arts in the Rogue Valley.

Rogue Gallery & Art Center is open Tuesdays through Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It participates in the Grants Pass First Friday Art Walks.

“We want to strive to meet that,” Gilbertson said.

For now, the jail is limited to between 120 and 140 inmates. The 170 figure cannot be met under the sheriff’s office current staffing levels, and would depend largely on the success of a May 15 public safety levy.

Undersheriff Don Fasching said that an additional five to six deputies are needed to achieve the higher capacity.

“We would only raise the jail population if we had the staffing to safely do it,” Fasching said.

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1. Volatility of pathogen—live or killed. How sick will the vaccine make you?
2. Carrying agent—some vaccines have used toxic agents such as formaldehyde.
3. Increasing incidence of autism is directly linked to vaccines (per my own research, Ohio State University, 1997)
4. Beware of implied causal factors i.e. cervical cancer vaccine HPV is associated with cervical cancer. Association does not necessitate causality. Candidiasis is an example of opportunistic infection associated with many diseases. It is an agent weakening to the immune system. There are seldom “magic bullets.” (H. pylori, the bacteria associated with a type of ulcer is an exception)
5. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) has been associated with vaccines & toxic exposures such as out-gassing baby furniture (plastics, solvents) paints & carpets



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