

Daniel suit reversed ...

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and any changes he wanted to make other than that had to come to us with a personnel change or request form.”

That original dispute lead to the filing of three lawsuits and much public acrimony between Daniel and the commissioners.

Daniel said the commissioners were attempting to micromanage his department, and that court action was very necessary to defend the sheriff’s authority over its operations.

“Their job is to supply funding for the different county departments,” Daniel said. “They got a big head and decided to run all the different county departments, so we butted heads.

“I felt like I was pushed into a corner and had no alternative but to file a suit against them because they controlled all the money.”

A Jackson County Circuit Court subsequently ruled in Daniel’s favor in all three cases. Ellis said that the commissioners were advised by their attorney to appeal the ruling regarding Bank’s promotion.

We felt all along that the Circuit Court judge hadn’t come to the right decision,” Ellis said. “That’s why we appealed it.”

Daniel said the recent ruling is “terrible” and will undermine sheriffs throughout the state.

“It sets a terrible precedent,” said the former sheriff. “A case like this impacts all the sheriffs in Oregon because it’s basically taking away (our) sheriff’s independence.

“The commissioners should not be involved in trying to run the sheriff’s office. This ruling gives them more authority to tell the sheriff who he has to

have where. It’s a very bad ruling.”

Daniel said the decision should be appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court. However, he cannot be a party to any such litigation, because he is now a private citizen.

“The problem is, I’m no longer the sheriff, so I lost my standing in the case,” Daniel said.

Current Sheriff Gil Gilbertson said late last week that he still is reviewing the ruling, and plans to consult an attorney and the state sheriff’s association.

“I don’t want to make any rash decisions, so I want to look at this thing in its entirety,” Gilbertson said. “Before deciding which way to go with this, I want all the facts. But I want to be very careful when I analyze it so we don’t waste the public’s money or recklessly throw away the authority that was granted to us by law.”

Ellis said he is pleased with the appellate court ruling, and that Gilbertson and the commissioners have a good enough relationship to work through any potential disputes.

“I expect no lawsuits out of the current sheriff,” said Ellis. “We can sit down and talk with (him) and settle most of the disputes and questions we have between our two offices.

“We’re just going to do business as we usually do and work with the sheriff for any changes he wants to make,” Ellis said.

Gilbertson said that he is optimistic that any potential future disagreements between him and the commissioners could be settled outside a courtroom.

“The last thing I want to do is have any litigation or lawsuits,” Gilbertson said.

Guv in D.C. for O&C funds

(Continued from page 1)

cluded in an appropriations bill for the U.S. military action in Iraq and Afghanistan. But a provision also was attached, calling for a timetable for the withdraw of U.S. troops from Iraq, and President Bush has vowed to veto the legislation due to that issue.

Taylor said that the veto threat will not deter Kulongoski’s efforts, as there are “other avenues” available to ensure the procurement of the federal funds.

“What we’re hearing is, it’s going to be tough, and that’s the reason the governor’s going back to lend whatever hand he can,” Taylor said. “There’s still work to be done, and that’s part of the reason he’s going back to make the case.”

Kulongoski is scheduled to return to Oregon on Saturday, April 21, Taylor said. After he comes back, the governor plans to visit several of the rural Oregon counties that would be most affected by the federal fund-

ing loss.

It is not yet known whether he will visit Josephine County, as details have yet to be finalized.

“We are looking at some travel,” Taylor said. “We’re very busy with session right now, but we’re looking to incorporate some travel into his calendar in the next couple of months.”

Taylor said that Kulongoski has been in contact with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

“The governor has had conversations with both of their offices and they’ve indicated their support,” Taylor said.

Kulongoski is determined to ensure the survival of Oregon’s rural communities, Taylor said.

“The governor is still optimistic that the program will be reauthorized,” Taylor said. “He’s not giving up. He doesn’t give up easily, and he’s not going to give up on this.”

Golf group seeks par financially

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

When it first opened in 1976, the nine-hole Illinois Valley Golf Course was a heaven of sorts for golfers from throughout the area.

Membership was high, and people regularly came from as far away as Ashland, Grants Pass and Medford to take advantage of its affordable golf games.

However, declining membership and rising maintenance costs have caused the course’s board of directors to seek new management and ownership proposals.

“Basically, it’s time to look for a different way out of our financial doldrums,” said Kit Fluck, golf association board chairman.

Continued financial difficulties prompted the board to call a shareholders meeting in March. During that meeting, the shareholders directed the board to seek proposals for improving the balance sheet.

Kerby resident Jerry Work is among the board’s newest members. He joined earlier this year to replace a member who resigned. Work, who also serves as board president of the Southern Oregon Guild, said that he hopes to use his experience to help turn around the course.

“Each year for the past several years, it’s been running at a deficit,” Work said. “One of the reasons I was asked to come on board is to help find a proper path forward.”

Work said that for years, the board has borrowed against the value of the course’s 58 acres of land in order to cover its operating losses.

“It’s incurred \$325,000 of indebtedness at this point,” he said.

Further complicating matters is the fact that the course is down to 56 active members. Work said that it would need another 50 members for solvency.

“If we had around 100 members, our financial picture would look very different,” Work said. “We would no longer be losing money. We would be able to create enough of a surplus to pay off our existing indebtedness and start building the kinds of reserves we would need for improvements in the future.”

The board has begun advertising that it’s seeking proposals from golf professionals, existing golf courses, real estate companies and developers within a 180-mile radius of the area. Options include the “outright purchase of the land and golf course,” Work said, but the board is open to suggestions.

“We don’t want to shut anyone out with a good idea,” Work said. “We just know that we can’t keep trying to do the same thing and expect different results.”

The board will accept proposals until July 15, and it’s anticipated that it will make a decision by July 31.

“If we can’t find a proposal that is acceptable that allows golf to be continued, we’re going to have to do something different that might not result in having golf here,” said Work. “But we’ll try our very best to have golf here if we can.

“We’re not closing the doors. It’s not like we’re hanging a ‘For Sale’ sign on it or walking away,” he said.



BRUSH RIG CRASH - A Type VI fire vehicle used primarily for suppression of wild-land blazes was totaled Tuesday night, April 10 on Squaw Mountain Road, said Chief Harry Rich of Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD). The driver, identified as 10-year veteran, Capt. Joe Feldhaus, was taken by American Medical Response ambulance to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass. He was examined and released, Rich said. The cause of the accident, which occurred while Feldhaus was in a non-emergency mode is still under investigation, the chief said. Feldhaus has returned to duty. (Photo by Dale & Elaine Sandberg/IVFD Media Dept.)

RCC President Angstadt decries budget proposed for community college support

Oregon’s community colleges will be unable to adequately serve students and train needed workers based on the 2007-2009 biennium budget, said Peter Angstadt, president of Rogue Community College.

The budget, recommended March 22 by the co-chairmen of the State Legislature’s Joint Committee on Ways and Means, lists \$458 million for the Community College Support Fund, “far short” of the amount the State Board of Education and community college advocates have sought.

“Community colleges need \$529 million this biennium or we will never meet the demand of providing the 663,000 skilled workers the state says must be ready by 2014 to stabilize the state’s economy,” Angstadt said. “We have been very clear that Oregon’s 17 community colleges need to receive \$529 million to support Oregon’s students.

“We cannot make the investments in skill training that Oregonians are asking for,” Angstadt noted. “We must start training now to ensure that Oregonians who want to work have the capacity to meet industry demands.”

During the past six years all community colleges, including RCC, have been cutting budgets, eliminating programs, and laying off employees. This year, with state revenues at record highs and support from businesses across Oregon, the community colleges anticipated funding that marked a real investment in

workforce training, he added.

The co-chairmen’s budget shuts the door on that opportunity, Angstadt said. There are currently more than 350,000 students in Oregon community colleges.

Gov. Kulongoski had proposed an appropriation of \$483 millions in his recommended budget, Angstadt said. While community college representatives appreciated the effort to increase the fund, they also recognized that even at the governor’s number, some colleges would still be cut-

ting classes and services and raising tuition.

“This is just one step in a long process,” said Dr. Kevin Talbert, RCC Board chairman. “Between now and the end of the session, legislators will be hearing daily from community members, college board members, employees, and students as well as business leaders from across Oregon.

“Community colleges can provide powerful solutions for Oregon’s future, but they can’t do it without an investment that minimally meets the needs of students.”

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Any food, drink or “medicine” which creates harmful side effects are to be considered toxic to the body.



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