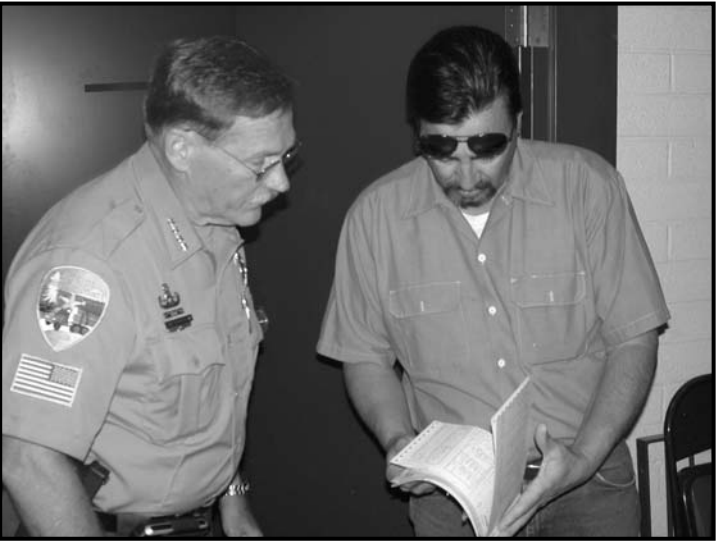




Sheriff Gil Gilbertson and Mayor Tony Paulson in former city jail. (Photos by Scott Jorgensen, I.V. News)

Use of CJ City Hall for sheriff’s facility mulled

(Continued from page 1)

The volunteers could be trained to investigate crimes when they occur, Gilbertson said, and help provide evidence to deputies.

Having a substation would enable residents to file reports and conduct any other police business in a central valley location, Gilbertson said.

But he cautions that the CJ substation concept is only being examined, and that no final decisions will be made right away.

“We’re not going to have this happen overnight,” Gilbertson said.

At the Josephine County Bldg. on Redwood Hwy. JCSO’s substation shares space with other entities, including Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (IVSWCD).

Any potential change of location for JCSO’s substation could affect the building’s other tenants, said Josephine County Chief Operations Officer Marie Hill.

The county charges maintenance and utility fees to many of its departments to cover those costs.

“What is difficult is the utility costs,” Hill said. “We charge by square foot, so those costs will be borne by other users of the building.”

Hill said that she has yet to discuss specifics of the plan with Gilbertson.

“I don’t know what his timeframes are,” she said. “I think we’ll have to wait and see how it unfolds.”

Earlier this year, Gilbertson launched a feasibility study on the logistics of moving JCSO’s operations from the county courthouse in Grants Pass to the county jail there. Building

maintenance and utility fees were among the obstacles to such a move.

However, Hill said that establishing a JCSO substation at CJ City Hall could be easier than relocating all its operations to the jail.

“Really, it’s moving office space vs. moving his entire operation,” Hill said.

The maintenance of the Josephine County Bldg. was discussed Thursday, July 5, when Hill met with the building’s tenants to discuss that issue.

In the county’s recently adopted ‘07-’08 fiscal budget, the Building and Operations Maintenance (BOM) fund was cut by two-thirds, said Hill during the meeting. That cut leaves the county with three janitors to clean all its buildings, which limits maintenance of the county building to once a week.

“With once a week, cleaning just really hasn’t been sufficient because the bathrooms get dirtier than that,” Hill said during a Monday, July 9 interview.

Hill said that she is in discussions with the county’s Community Corrections Dept. regarding possible use of work crews to bolster maintenance.

“They’re willing to work with the building operations people to arrange to have some work crew assistance,” Hill said.

Volunteers are sought to help with customer service and other functions at the county building, and there is one vacant office there.

Potential volunteers can phone Terri Town, of IVSWCD, at 592-3731. Potential tenants can contact Hill at 474-5426.

Transit board has openings

Applications are being accepted to fill several vacancies on the Josephine County Public Transit Advisory Committee.

Representatives are needed from the Illinois Valley and Wolf Creek/Sunny Valley areas including business members of chambers of commerce, the religious community, and bus riders.

The duty of the committee is to advise the Josephine Community Transit Program and the county board of commissioners about matters pertaining to public transportation.

The committee is formed of at least five members who represent the diversity of the community. Each member will serve until replaced by another representative.

Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. Applications are available at the county commission office at the Josephine County Courthouse, Room 154, Grants Pass; or on the Josephine County Website on the Board of Commissioner’s page, www.co.josephine.or.us.

For more information phone 474-5221.

Zoning for CJ annexations queried; appeal hinted

(Continued from page 3)

Singer responded to Sommer’s allegations regarding the city’s infrastructure.

“On my last visit, I did not see the wastewater treatment plant ‘rendered ineffective’,” Singer wrote. “I spoke with the operators and was assured that everything was operating very well. Did I miss something?”

Singer wrote that the city’s water plant also appeared to be in good working order.

“On my visit to the water plant it seemed as if everything was going well and again, the operator said the plant was functioning very well,” Singer wrote. “Your e-mail seems to say that, mathematically, there should not be any water available to the city. Did I miss something?”

Similar comments were

made by Singer regarding the city’s budget.

“We do receive an audit of the city’s finances and no major financial problems were noted,” Singer wrote. “Did the auditors miss something?”

In an interview last week, Sommer defended his written complaint.

“The main reason I’m appealing is that the city cannot provide the services that such a zone change would require,” Sommer said. “The infrastructure does not exist.”

Sommer also claimed that the city failed to provide adequate notice to the Dept. of State Lands about the zoning change.

The city already “has limits with the service it supplies,” Sommer said, particularly with regard to its sewer system.

Fire danger level raised

The public use fire danger level on land protected by Oregon Dept. of Forestry’s Southwestern Oregon District climbed to “high” (yellow) at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 4.

The Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) remains at Level I.

The fire danger level has been “moderate” since fire season was declared on June 11.

Fire precaution levels assigned by the S.W. Oregon District, located in Medford, affects state, private, county and Bureau of Land Management forestland in Jackson and Josephine counties. The district has unit offices in Medford and Grants Pass.

Here is a summary of public-use restrictions now in effect:

*All open burning of debris is prohibited. This includes burn barrels.

*Fireworks are prohibited, except in cleared areas such as green lawns and

driveways.

*Camp fires are allowed only in designated campgrounds. This restriction includes charcoal-fired barbecues; however, stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed.

*Vehicles, including motorcycles and ATVs, are not allowed on unimproved roads.

*Smoking is allowed only in vehicles and only while on improved roads.

The following activities are not allowed between 1 and 8 p.m.:

*Chain saw use. During other hours, users must have an ax, shovel and fire extinguisher on-site, and provide a one-hour fire watch after using the saw.

*Mowing dry grass (except for agricultural purposes, such as cutting hay).

*Cutting, grinding or welding metal. During other hours, a water supply must be present at the work site, and work may proceed only in a cleared area.

Two dead in holiday wrecks

Preliminary statistics show that two people died in traffic-related crashes during the 30-hour Fourth of July holiday period in Oregon, said Oregon State Police.

The reporting period was from 6 p.m., Tuesday, July 3 through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 4.

Based on confirmed information, OSP on July 3 at 10:50 p.m. investigated a crash involving a car and cow on Hwy. 20 approximately 20 miles east of Burns. The 19-year old driver died from injuries.

On July 4 at 10:35 p.m. Portland Police Bureau investigated a hit-and-run crash. A 44-year old man crossing a street was struck by a pickup truck. The pedestrian died later at a Port-

land hospital. The 59-year old driver was subsequently arrested on charges including driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUII).

Last year, eight persons died in Oregon traffic crashes during a 102-hour Independence Day holiday period. Previous 30-hour Fourth holiday periods show the following fatalities:

*1973, nine; ‘79, no fatalities; ‘84, five; ‘90, two; 2001, one.

OSP troopers responded to 42 traffic crashes and arrested 27 drivers for DUII during the 30-hour period. Four other DUII arrests, three of which were in the Portland area, occurred after midnight. Last year, troopers made 81 DUII arrests during the 102-hour period.

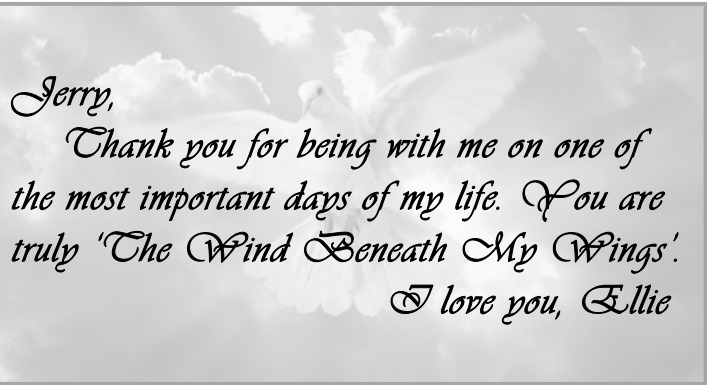
Cave Junction’s sewer system has never been repaired, and its sewer plant is “inoperable” under certain conditions, including storms, Sommer said.

“The city has not proven that it can provide those services. That’s the bottom line,” Sommer said. “There is no evidence in the record where the city said it can provide those or proven that it can provide those services.”

Polk said that as of Monday, July 9, he has received no notices from LUBA regarding Sommer’s appeal. He also denied that Sommer has reviewed any city documents pertaining to infrastructure issues.

“He has never submitted a written request for information,” Polk said.

Sommer said that he expects the land-use appeals process to take approximately six months.



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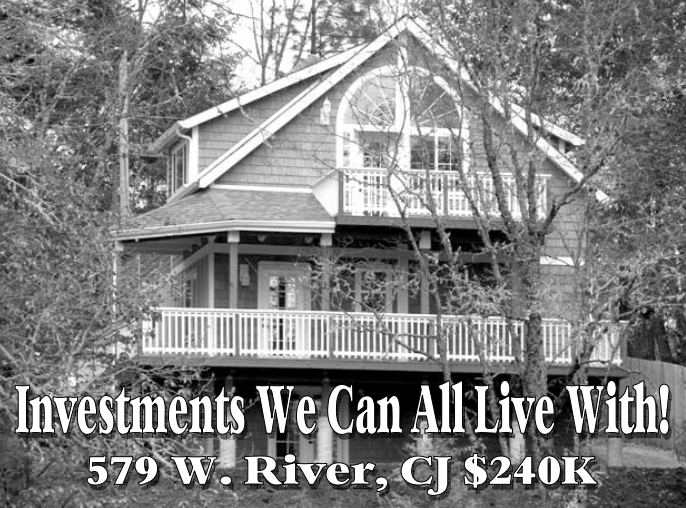


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