

QUESTIONS

Continued from Page A10

How well does the Batters Intervention Program work?

When an offender pleads a felony down to a misdemeanor, that offender may escape jail time but often is mandated to attend the batterer intervention program. How much good does that actually do?

According to Stubblefield, the 52-week program can do a lot of good. The program challenges the beliefs and values that have supported the mindset that allowed them to be abusive. To have those beliefs challenged is tough, Stubblefield said.

"About three months into the course they don't like the course, they don't like the teachers, they don't like the curriculum. But by 52 weeks they get it."

In fact, she says, men who are well into the program will begin challenging the beliefs of men new to the program.

"A lot of times these men in the class will take the message from someone who has been in their shoes better than for someone who is a program facilitator," Stubblefield said.

But the best test of the

program is the comments of victims who have maintained a relationship with their former abuser.

"They are able to state how drastically different (the former offender) is since completing the program," Stubblefield said. "That's the true testament. It goes to show it's not just a combination of two people (bad chemistry); there is more to it — that the abuser was a choice for the abuser and given the tools, they can choose a different way."

Why did Rep. Greg Barreto (R-Cove) vote against the law?

Although acknowledging that a crime could be committed with a gun, he cited Section 2 of the law, which prohibits guns and ammunition from being owned "if the person is subject to a court order that was issued or continued after a hearing for which the person had actual notice and during the course of which the person had an opportunity to be heard."

"This means he has not been convicted," Barreto said. "I think in some of these instances... they go too far and start taking away a person's rights before they are convicted of a crime."

DOC moves forward on Deer Ridge expansion

By Paris Achen
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Department of Corrections plans to move nearly 800 inmates in late February to a vacant medium-security facility at Deer Ridge Correctional Institution in Madras.

The move, which will cost \$2.5 million, is the first in a two-step plan to accommodate unanticipated growth in the state's prison population. The inmates will be moved from a smaller minimum-security complex at Deer Ridge that lacks room for more beds.

"That plan is in motion," said DOC Director Colette Peters.

The entire plan involves opening 200 more beds. If fully implemented, the expansion is estimated to cost a total of \$9.5 million.

"It gives you an idea of how expensive correctional facilities are," said Sen. Richard Devlin, D-Tualatin,



Courtesy Department of Corrections

The Department of Corrections is moving forward with a plan to move 800 inmates to the Deer Ridge Correctional Institution in Madras.

co-chairman of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

DOC's biennial budget failed to account for the cost because the state projection for the inmate population ballooned between April and October.

That means lawmakers might need to approve up to \$9.5 million in new expenditures at DOC during the legislative session that begins Feb. 1.

Some lawmakers have suggested they might have to raid a \$40 million Justice Reinvestment fund dedicated to paying for a suite of county-level support services designed to keep offenders out of prison. County officials have said such a withdrawal of funds could deal a deadly blow to the two-year-old Justice Reinvestment program.

The male inmate population was 13,386 as of Wednesday. The trigger for opening the 200 additional beds is 13,490, Peters said.

Inmate populations can vary from day-to-day, the DOC director said.

"When I look at these negative numbers I want to get

excited and say, this is the trend, and we are moving forward, but unfortunately, the variance is ever so slight," Peters said.

The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission has been spearheading an effort to urge and assist counties in curtailing the number of offenders that judges send to DOC. Each county in November received a target monthly number for reductions, which in concert would allow DOC to avoid opening the 200 additional beds at Deer Ridge.

"By all accounts, (counties) are doing a good job with the intake population," said House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson, D-Portland, a member of the Oregon Task Force on Public Safety.

"What we are seeing is people aren't leaving as quickly as we assumed that they would."

"I just want to make sure that we reflect on the record that counties are working hard to manage their input into the system," Williamson told the ways and means committee Friday.

"This shouldn't be a reflection on them or their

programming under Justice Reinvestment."

Programming differs from county-to-county but can include probation officers, counseling, mentoring, housing, substance abuse treatment, better criminal case management and other services.

Williamson has committed to defending the Justice Reinvestment fund from a raid, but she faces a host of competing interests during the 35-day session in February and early March, according to lawmakers.


Sen. Alan Bates, D-Ashland, is pessimistic that DOC can avoid the expansion at Deer Ridge in the spring. Bates said he has visited all but two prisons in the state.

"These prisons are jammed," Bates said. "These people are squeezed in every corner. Sooner or later, we are going to have to make some changes. Deer Ridge is the most logical place to expand now."

"I think when you come back in February, you are going to have to tell us you are going to have to open up more beds," Bates told Peters.

Student of the Week

Andrea Butterfield has earned a cumulative GPA of 3.84. She has done this through a combination of EHS classes and online courses. She has taken two AP English courses as well as higher level science classes including Physics and Advanced Biology. She has also excelled in the Family and Consumer Sciences. Congratulations Andrea on your Academic success at EHS.



Andrea Butterfield
Enterprise High School

Proudly Sponsored by
Community BANK
Member FDIC

Joseph 432-9050
Enterprise 426-4511
Wallowa 886-9151

The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.

SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, BIOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, PROMETHEUS, PHILOSOPHY, CALCULUS, CHEMISTRY

Winding Waters
A Non-Profit Community Health Center



OHSU Resident
Alex Zweig, MD
12/28/15- 1/21/16

Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday
9:00am to 1:00pm

603 Medical Parkway
Enterprise, OR 97828

Free Delivery & Take-Away Anywhere in Wallowa County!

Appliances



JOSEPH HARDWARE

Lowest Prices on Quality Brand-Name Appliances Around!





We have a great selection on-hand. Special orders at no additional cost & **FREE DELIVERY** to your home in Wallowa County.





101 South Main St. Joseph, Oregon
541-432-2271 johard.com