

Corrections moves forward on second women’s prison

By Paris Achen
Capital Bureau

SALEM — State corrections officials are requesting \$3.8 million to continue laying the groundwork for opening a second women’s prison in Oregon, as soon as June 2017.

The Oregon Emergency Board will consider the request Wednesday. The board already approved \$1 million in May to make building repairs at Oregon State Penitentiary Minimum, where the second women’s prison would be housed.

Opening the prison would cost about \$20 million and comes as officials project a \$1.7 billion shortfall in the statewide budget 2017-19 to maintain existing services.

Lawmakers approved \$55 million in grants to counties over the past three years with the hope of avoiding such a scenario. The grant proceeds are intended to pay for programs that help keep offenders out of prison. Despite those concerted efforts, the population at the state’s sole women’s prison — Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, has hovered over the 1,280 limit since May. The population reached an all-time high of 1,315 in November, said Liz Craig, an administrator in the DOC Office of Communications.

State officials have used the 1,280-population threshold as a trigger for opening a second women’s prison.

Gov. Kate Brown allocated \$17.5 million in her proposed budget Dec. 1 to open the second women’s prison. The women’s prison population changes daily but was rough-



Pamplin Media Group

Gov. Kate Brown’s administration is pressing the opening of a second women’s prison despite a \$1.7 billion budget shortfall. The Oregon Emergency Board will vote Wednesday

ly 20 over capacity at the time Brown unveiled her budget.

The proposal provoked outcry from criminal justice reform advocates and others.

“With a budget shortfall of nearly 1.7 billion (dollars), are we really doing this?” responded Andrea Lundell, communications director for the Oregon Justice Resource Center, in a Dec. 1 tweet.

“A second women’s prison at a cost of \$20 million over (the) next couple of years is fiscally and socially irresponsible,” Lundell tweeted Monday. “The E Board should say no to a second prison. Focus should be on maximizing impact of (alternatives) to incarceration wherever practical.”

Marion and Lane counties both have started work release programs that are projected to keep 21 to 26 women out of prison. Those programs alone would address overcrowding at Coffee Creek.

Several legislators also plan to sponsor bills that

would help reduce the women’s prison population.

Rep. Carla Piluso, D-Gresham, for example, wants to expand an early-release program that already has saved 182,642 state prison bed days. Known as short-term transitional leave, the program has been “the most successful sentencing change” in recent years in terms of saving money and increasing public safety, said Michael Schmidt, executive director of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

Inmates eligible for the program are released 90 days short of their sentence. Piluso’s bill could increase that to 120 to 180 days.

Despite those efforts, Brown included the prison in her proposed 2017-19 budget.

“Gov. Brown found it would be irresponsible for the state not to set into motion plans to address future capacity concerns,” said Bryan Hockaday, a spokesman in the governor’s office. “However,

Gov. Brown remains hopeful that through thoughtful and well-coordinated collaboration with Oregon counties and community corrections, more women will have access to workforce and transitional training programs.”

If officials can avoid opening the second prison, Brown plans to ask lawmakers to invest those savings in “proven initiatives that help people to be successful and avoid the criminal justice system all together,” Hockaday said.

“Not only is the opening of OSPM costly to taxpayers at a time when state resources are already so limited, it is contrary to Oregon’s approach of justice reinvestment to reduce recidivism and supporting the self-sufficiency of prior offenders,” he said.

Oregon State Penitentiary Minimum — an annex of the Oregon State Penitentiary — was mothballed in 2010 to save money during the recession.

FOR THE RECORD

Dispatch log

Monday, Dec. 5

- 9:06 a.m.: Wallowa County Sheriff’s Office responded to a horse loose in Joseph.
- 1:41 p.m.: Person refusing to leave business in Enterprise.
- 3:11 p.m.: Enterprise police arrested John William Fine, 49, of Joseph for failure to register as a sex offender.

Tuesday, Dec. 6

- 12:02 p.m.: Report of non-injury crash in rural Wallowa.
- 3:37 p.m.: Enterprise police responded to the scene of an investigation in Lostine.
- 6:29 p.m.: Report of violation of restraining order in Enterprise.
- 7:57 p.m.: A noise complaint was lodged in Enterprise.

Wednesday, Dec. 7

- 7:35 a.m.: Report of domestic disturbance in Wallowa.
- 11:31 p.m.: Emergency report of a disturbance was made in Enterprise.
- 10:36 a.m.: Controlled burn reported in Joseph.

Thursday, Dec. 8

- 8:01 a.m.: A caller found two trees in pots along Highway 82, like they had fallen out of a vehicle.
- 1:22 p.m.: An ambulance was requested in Troy.
- 7:07 p.m.: An unsecured building was reported in Enterprise.

Friday, Dec. 9

- 12:03 a.m.: Missing persons were reported in rural Enterprise. Wallowa County Search and Rescue soon located a subject whose vehicle got stuck and was walking out on the road.
- 2:49 p.m.: Traffic crash was reported on Highway 82 in rural Enterprise.
- 2:01 p.m.: A single vehicle rollover accident was reported on Highway 82 near Minam. No one was seriously injured.
- 5:45 p.m.: Report of harrasment was lodged in Wallowa.

Saturday, Dec. 10

- 5:10 p.m.: A follow-up investigation was begun in Wallowa.
- 5:37 p.m.: Wallowa County Sheriff’s deputies arrested David Alexander Lewis, 21, for menacing. Lewis posted bail and was released.
- 9:38 p.m.: An ambulance was requested in Wallowa.

Sunday, Dec. 11

- 11:00 a.m.: Report of a vehicle that could be a road hazard parked along the river in rural Wallowa.
- 12:41 p.m.: An injured deer was reported in Joseph.
- 1:53 p.m.: An overdue hunter was located as Search and Rescue was responding.
- 2:12 p.m. A possible scam was reported in Lostine.
- 6:10 p.m.: A crash was reported in Minam Canyon.
- 6:13 p.m.: A deer was reported hit on Highway 82 near milepost 48, near Wallowa.
- 6:33 p.m.: A complaint of unsafe sledding was lodged in Enterprise.
- 7:37 p.m.: A vehicle slid off the roadway in rural Wallowa.

OBITUARY

Leonard Oathe Hanks

September 14, 1927 to December 6, 2016

Leonard Oathe Hanks of Enterprise passed away Dec. 6 at age 89.

He was born Sept. 14, 1927 in Santa Cruz Calif., to Oathe Corbin Hanks and Mary Leona Keim.

Leonard enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a member of the Moose Club and Veteran’s of Foreign Wars. He served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy. He worked in construction for much of his life and lived in California, Alaska and Oregon.

He married Linda Hanks, of Enterprise, who survives him. They had one daughter, Michelle (Alfredo) Hernandez of Enterprise, and two grandchildren, Luis and Lucas Hanks. Leonard had three siblings: Chester Hanks of Enterprise, Helen Groig of Rogue River Valley, Ore., and Gladys Coleman of Santa Rosa, Calif.

A celebration of life mass will be Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. at St. Katherine Catholic Church in Enterprise. A graveside service including military honors will take place after and a reception will follow.

Memorial donations may be made in Leonard’s name at Umpqua Bank.

DEATH NOTICES

Colleen Evans

Colleen Evans of Wallowa died Dec. 9 at her home at age 89. At this time no services are planned. A full obit will be published at a later date. Bollman Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

George Floyd

George Floyd of Lostine died Dec. 11 at his home at age 96. At his request there will be no services. A full obit will be published at a later date. Bollman Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

About Obituaries

The paper accepts obituaries from the family or funeral home. Information submitted is subject to editing. Send obituaries by e-mail, obits@wallowa.com; fax, 541-426-3921; or mail, PO Box 338, Enterprise, OR 97828. The deadline is 2 p.m. Monday.

Weather Forecast

Courtesy of Weather Underground. www.wunderground.com

	High	Low	Conditions
Dec. 15		30 18	Snow
Dec. 16		21 6	Cloudy
Dec. 17		17 6	Partly cloudy
Dec. 18		18 13	Clear
Dec. 19		24 20	Snow
Dec. 20		30 23	Snow
Phases of the moon			
Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 29	Jan. 5
Full Moon	Last Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter

WALLOWA COUNTY SUNRISE AND SUNSET DEC. 14-20

(from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
Dec. 14 Rise: 7:21 Set: 4:06	Dec. 15 Rise: 7:22 Set: 4:06	Dec. 16 Rise: 7:22 Set: 4:06	Dec. 17 Rise: 7:23 Set: 4:07	Dec. 18 Rise: 7:24 Set: 4:07	Dec. 19 Rise: 7:24 Set: 4:08	Dec. 20 Rise: 7:25 Set: 4:08

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**Deb's
APPAREL**

Holiday Party!
Friday, December 16th
10am - 3pm

Story Telling by Kathy Hunter
11:00 - 11:30am
1:00 - 1:30pm
**Holiday Crafts, Games,
Snacks & Hot Apple Cider**

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of our Kids' Loft
with Giant
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