Mazama sweeps games at Klamath Union
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City to discuss water bill surcharge
Not all City Council members support fee

By SARA HOTTMAN
H&N Staff Reporter

Mayor Todd Kellstrom wants the Klamath County Jail open to its full capacity — and soon.

His proposal is admittedly a quick-fix: temporarily apply a 6 percent surcharge to city water bills.

It would look like an added fee on monthly bills of city residents and Klamath County residents who use city water.

"It certainly isn’t the best overall plan, but it is the only plan currently that would get the jail cells open very quickly," Kellstrom said.

Another option — swapping restricted county road funds for unrestricted city funds — the county could use the money for the jail — and a tax levy — are "all viable," Kellstrom said. "But the surcharge is a quick fix for the short term."

In response to budget cuts, Klamath County Sheriff Tim Everson closed two of three pods at Klamath County Jail, cutting its capacity from 152 to 64 beds.

Since then, property crimes and failure-to-appear charges have increased dramatically in the county.

City Council members have mixed views on the mayor’s proposal.

Bad Hart, Ward 1: "I don’t think it's a good idea," he said. "But because it’s legal doesn’t mean it’s right."

Hart would not elaborate on his stance, but said he believes the fairest way to fund the jail is for all residents to share the cost burden.

He said he will wait until the Council’s work session Tuesday to address the matter.

"What bothers me is we're having a budget issue as a Council," he said. "We’ve never weighed the pros or cons. My mind could be changed one way or another."

"The Council needs to sit down and discuss it as a group, not one-on-one, not through the newspaper," Trish Serler, Ward 2 said. "I don’t think it’s a good idea to meeting those things to death."

We have some good proposals on the table and we need to move forward," Serler said. "We need a long term, mid-term and long-term plan."

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-Donny Osborn

 uncertain future

Giffords’ husband will go on space mission

Mark Kelly will lead final Endeavour trip

HOUSTON (AP) — The astronaut husband of Sen. Gabrielle Giffords said Friday his wounded wife would embrace his decision to rocket into space in two months and he expects her to be well enough to be at his launch.

Space shuttle commander Mark Kelly refused to say whether the congresswoman took part in his decision and declined to go into details about her condition or whether she can communicate.

"I know her very well and she would be very comfortable with the decision that I made," Kelly told reporters.

His decision, announced Friday, comes just four months after Giffords was shot at the head outside a Tuscon, Ariz., supermarket. His choice to lead space shuttle Endeavour’s final voyage was made easier, he said, by having a "broad consensus" for the rapid progress in rehab.

The 46-year-old astronaut said he never imagined in the immediate aftermath of the shooting that he would ever fly the two-week mission. Mark Kelly immediately quit training after the Jan. 8 shooting.

Kelly said he told his mother there was no way he could abandon his wife.

Within two weeks, Gil- fords was transferred to TIRR Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston and that’s when he started returning to work.

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