

RENO HAPPENINGS



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The budget is \$741,000, about half of it from the federal government.

However, county Social Services Director May Shelton has asked for \$1.1 million to hire 14 new employees to keep up with the rising caseload. Budget Director Bob Jasper says it is doubtful the county can afford to continue all existing programs.

Welfare may go back to state

RENO—A suggestion is being studied to turn the Washoe County child welfare services back to the state because of the budget constraints.

Municipal insurance pool suggested

RENO—The associations that represent counties and cities in Nevada are examining the possibility of setting up an insurance pool for coverage of local governments.

Up to 10 local governments have expressed interest in being included in the pool which would start

July 1. Among them would be Fallon and Douglas, Pershing, Churchill and Humboldt counties.

Many cities, counties or other governments cannot get coverage or face skyrocketing premiums.

Wayne Carlson has been working with the Nevada League of Cities and the Nevada Association of Counties to form the pool. Governments would pay premiums into the central pool from which the claims would be settled.

Joint mining venture planned

HAWTHORNE—Two companies are joining to develop a gold mining operation at the old town of Rawhide northeast of Hawthorne.

Kiewit Mining Co. and Plexus Resources plan the joint venture. They suggest their will be 250 persons employed at the site during construction and the mine will be operated by 135 workers.

Prison officials probe death

CARSON CITY—An inmate has been stabbed to death at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center, Warden John Slansky said.

The stabbing is under investigation.

Slansky said the stabbing took place Monday in the center's main yard and two or three inmates are

considered possible suspects. Slansky said the name of the victim would not be released until his relatives are notified.

Democrats vote on party platform

RENO—Washoe County Democrats voted against taking platform stands on the death penalty and gun control at their biennial county convention last weekend in Reno.

However, county Democrats supported a platform plank opposing U.S. intervention in Central America and vowed to step up efforts to register Democrats.

Convention delegates, meeting Saturday at the Airport Plaza Hotel, decided not to tackle the death penalty issue after being told it would hurt Democratic candidates.

"We're putting something on our candidates they don't need," delegate Peggy Bowen said. "You're giving something to the Republicans to use against us."

However, delegate Bob Fulkerson argued for an anti-death penalty plank, saying the practice is a "barbaric and backwards thing to do."

Delegates also sidestepped a platform plank reaffirming the right to bar arms after one delegate said it was "too controversial" an issue to deal with.

"It's too controversial and it's likely to hurt our candidates in any form," delegate Cheryl Kohler said.

However, after lengthy debate, delegates voted in favor of a platform plank strongly opposing U.S. military and economic intervention in Central America.

The platform plank also opposes President Reagan's efforts to help the Contra

rebels in Nicaragua.

Assemblyman Bob Sader, D-Reno, urged Nevada Doms to step up voter registration efforts, saying they have been "outhustled very badly" by state Republicans.

Citing the slim loss by Rep. Harry Reid, D-Ne., to Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Ne., in 1974, Sader said every vote would count in this year's elections.

Reid is expected to face former Democratic Congressman Jim Santini, now a Republican, in the general election for Laxalt's seat this year. Laxalt is stepping down from his post after two terms.

At the convention's opening session Friday night, Reid, Reno Mayor Pete Sferazza and Sparks Mayor Jim Spoo all extolled traditional liberal values in speeches to delegates. Sferazza is running for the seat held by Congressman Barbara Vucanovich, R-Ne.

Airport contract appeal dismissed

CARSON CITY—An appeal stemming from the Washoe County Airport Authority's attempt to sub-contract for airport crash, fire and rescue crew services was dismissed Tuesday by the state Supreme Court.

The ruling favored the Airport Authority of Washoe County Fire-fighters Association, which won a lower court order holding that the airport could subcontract for such services but had to bargain first with the union to exercise that right.

The association complained in January 1985 that the airport authority was trying to fire union members and replace them with employees of the subcontractor, J & J Services of Green Bay, Wis.

The Supreme Court said it lacked jurisdiction to consider an appeal in the case.

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