

# Jetty tops funding list

BY ERIN DIETRICH  
*Headlight Herald*

**GARIBALDI** – Repairs to the Tillamook Bay south jetty have been named Tillamook County's top federal funding priority for the 2011-2012 federal budget.

During their annual federal funding prioritization workshop on Jan. 19, county commissioners decided to request that Congress earmark \$600,000 for engineering work on the south jetty.

"Both jetties need to be able to be safe and, historically, it's one of the most dangerous jetties on the Oregon coast," said County Commissioner Mark Labhart.

Jetty repairs at Tillamook Bay have topped the county's priority list for seven of the last eight years.

"We believe pretty strongly this is how we got the funding for the north jetty," Labhart said, referring to the more than \$15 million in repairs completed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in

September 2010.

The two jetties are rock walls that jut into the ocean to create a channel for boats to more safely enter and exit the bay.

The south jetty has lost about 900 feet since it was completed in 1979.

After the engineering study is completed, the actual repair cost is estimated to be \$31 million.

Other top priorities include \$1 million for reconstruction of the Shilo Levee in Tillamook, and \$229,334 for a remodel and ADA access ramp for the library and community hall in Garibaldi.

The Shilo Levee was built by the U.S. Corps of Engineers to channel floodwaters from the Wilson River away from U.S. Highway 101 and the Highway 101 bridge.

"The Corps came in, built the levee and turned it over to the county," Labhart said.

"It's definitely failing. We need to do major repairs to the

levee."

While a comparatively small sum, repairs to the library and community hall in Garibaldi were selected as a priority because the building also serves as an American Red Cross shelter site.

The City of Garibaldi is seeking funds to provide ADA access to the 1950s-era building, which also serves as City Hall and houses the Garibaldi Fire Station.

Commissioners also listed several alternate projects on their priority list, including \$2.5 million for repairs to Nehalem City Hall, \$17 million for county road maintenance, \$4.1 million for a wastewater upgrade for the City of Bay City, and \$1.5 million in flood-reduction projects for the Tillamook Bay Estuary Partnership.

Labhart said Tillamook is one of the few Oregon counties – possibly the only county – to bring groups and projects together and prioritize them for Congress to consider for earmark funding.