

## Jail gets federal contract with Nunes' help

The U.S. Marshals Service has agreed to house federal prisoners in the Tulare County Pretrial Facility in a deal worth as much as \$1.5 million a year to the county, Rep. Devin Nunes announced.

The congressman worked with Sheriff Bill Wittman for about a year to find a federal contract for the jail facility. The Marshals Service recently agreed to use the facility, paying \$52.04 per prisoner per night with an expected minimum population of about 60 prisoners but up to 100. The role of the Marshals Service is to transport federal prisoners, among other duties. The Federal Bureau of Prisons may also house prisoners



under this agreement.

The state-of-the-art jail, which features a courtroom and nearby airstrip, has been dormant for some time because the county lacked the funds to keep it open. The federal contract will help the facility reopen.

"I am pleased our hard work over the past year has paid off in a way that will help Tulare County use this great facility," Mr. Nunes said. "I think this is an example of how local and federal government agencies can come together in an arrangement that benefits both sides without an extra burden on the taxpayer."

Sheriff Bill Wittman said he was pleased they found a creative solution to the va-

cant jail facility.

"I applaud Congressman Nunes for his hard work in obtaining an agreement to house federal prisoners in Tulare County," Sheriff Wittman said. "I look forward to the day when we will reopen the Pre-Trial Facility, thereby providing better law enforcement for our citizens."

The agreement was approved by the Marshals Service, and by a unanimous vote by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

"We greatly appreciate the efforts of Congressman Nunes to reach agreement on a rate to house federal prisoners," Board Chairman Bill Sanders said. "With his help, we have taken an important first step toward reopening the Pre-Trial facility."

### Tour— cont'd from page 1

innovative, hard working and concerned about the quality of life here in the Central Valley."

The ag tour group traveled with the congressman by charter bus throughout the 21st Congressional District. The congressional district has the highest agricultural output of any in the United States.

Day one the group toured:

*Western Milling, Goshen  
Sun-Maid Raisins, Kingsburg  
Wawona Frozen Foods, Clovis  
Cobb Ranch, Fresno  
Friant Dam, Fresno  
Sweet Home Ranch, Dinuba  
Haagen-Dazs, Tulare*

Day two the group toured:

*Naturally Nuts, Visalia  
Bassett's Cricket Ranch,  
Visalia  
Golden Maid Ranches and  
[Fruit] Packing, Strathmore  
Kasbergen Dairy, Tulare*

## Nunes sponsors natural gas legislation

With natural gas consumption expected to rise about 38% in the next two decades, Rep. Devin Nunes moved to secure ample supplies to meet the demand and keep prices down.

Mr. Nunes joined with fellow colleagues to introduce a bill that will help streamline the development of terminals for the shipment of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Liquefied natural gas is natural gas chilled to -260 degrees Fahrenheit, allowing for easier transportation from large-producing fields.

"We're seeing more consumption of natural gas in home heating, industrial use and power generation to meet tougher environmental and safety standards. Natural gas is a clean burning fuel that will continue to im-

prove air quality here in the Central Valley and throughout the state," Nunes said. "This bill ensures an adequate supply of this clean fuel for our future."

Natural gas is the cleanest fossil fuel, producing about 50% less carbon dioxide than coal and 33% less than oil. More abundant supplies of natural gas will also help America build a more diverse energy portfolio because it is used to produce hydrogen for fuel cells and to power alternative-fuel vehicles.

Specifically, the bill would make the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) the lead agency concerning the siting, construction, expansion and operation of LNG import terminals.

The agency is currently



working on about 30 projects around the nation, including one at the Port of Long Beach. As lead agency, FERC can better ensure that LNG facilities meet critical safety standards and ensure terminals are developed in a timely manner.