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Sept. 11, 2001
We Remember

Water will soon flow in Kerby

By STEVE FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

Fourteen-year Kerby resident Terry Plute said she hopes that the days of trucking in water to her home and storing it in large tanks will soon be a thing of the past.

On Wednesday, Sept. 3, the Josephine County Board of Commissioners met with approximately a dozen Kerby residents at the former Masonic Temple in Downtown Kerby to officially approve formation of the new Kerby Water District.

Applause erupted from the small crowd of landowners, business owners and interested parties as commission Chairman Harold L. Haugen presented the official welcoming document to founding water district member Gail F. Lebowitz.

The Kerby Water District (KWD) is a domestic water supply district formed by Kerby landowners that will help bring water to the town for drinking, washing dishes, showers and other domestic purposes.

Plute said her water supply from her well ran out two years after she moved to Kerby. At one time she said her family would drive around town with a waterbed bladder to fill with water for her house.

And the Plutes were not alone.

“When the Kerby Wa-

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I.V. youth charged in girl's death

A charge of criminally negligent homicide has been issued against Illinois Valley resident Dustin Culver in connection with a motor vehicle accident in which a girl died.

Culver appeared in Josephine County Circuit Court Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Tygrachet Rose Lorentz, 13, died of injuries when the pickup truck that Culver was driving crashed on April 24 in the 2900 block of Dick George Road, according to information from Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO). Culver was 13 at the time of the crash.

The vehicle, according to JCSO, was taken by Christopher Cueva, then 14. His mother told deputies that he took the pickup without permission.

The vehicle was found upside-down in a ditch with Culver, Lorentz, Cueva, and Orion Bellus, then 14, at the site. All were eighth-grade students at Lorna Byrne Middle School in Cave Junction.

Culver remains free pending a trial.



BARNBURNER -- Blanchet High School was no match for the Illinois Valley Cougars in a non-league game in Cave Junction Saturday. The Cougars compiled 392 yards rushing to beat the Cavaliers 41-6. Mike Pagnotta led the charge for the Cougars with five touchdowns. Cougars' quarterback Josh Coronado completed two passes for 28 yards and a touchdown pass. Illinois Valley's defense held the Cavaliers to 115 rushing yards. The Cougars (2-0) will host Gold Beach on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 1 p.m. The freshman/sophomore Cougars play at Gold Beach Thursday, Sept. 11.

Deputies cracking CJ crime cases, says Auburn

Even without a canine deputy officially assigned in the city, Cave Junction deputies are taking a bite out of crime, providing “excellent news.”

That was the gist of a report to the Cave Junction City Council during its meeting in city hall on Monday night, Sept. 8.

“August was a busy month,” noted Deputy John Auburn, city contract officer from Josephine County Sheriff's Office.

He reported 385 total calls or incidents during the month.

They included 12

alarms, five burglaries, four stolen cars, 10 disturbances, one assault, and three criminal mischiefs.

“My co-workers and I have been spending a lot of time in Jubilee Park,” said Auburn. We have issued citations to everyone we have caught violating city ordinances regarding drinking in public.

“I have noticed a decrease in transients that loiter there. However, it is a continuing problem.”

The city park is one “hang-out area” pointed to by a group of city merchants concerned with a

recent spate of business and residential burglaries.

The deputy noted that, “Three subjects have been arrested in connection with the Bear Images burglary. Two agreed to be interviewed, and one confessed to a total of six burglaries in city limits.

“They named their accomplices, and the three remain in custody pending several charges. This is excellent news,” Auburn noted, “and hopefully we will see a decrease in burglaries occurring in town.

“Two people have been arrested in connection

with several residential burglaries in Illinois Valley,” he continued.

“With the high-volume burglaries in the area, hopefully the courts will make an example of these individuals.

“Other people need to see that this type of conduct is not acceptable,” Auburn said in his report.

He also noted that additional night coverage is under way.

(Editor's Note: See ad elsewhere in this issue regarding a citizens patrol meeting on Thursday, Sept. 11.)

Lightning-caused fires quenched or contained

Most of the 20-plus fires started by last week's lightning storm on the Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests have been declared contained or out.

On the Siskiyou National Forest, 10 three-person engine crews and approximately 50 other firefighters are assigned to continue with efforts, with most of the fires contained and in the mop-up phase.

“We successfully contained all the lightning fires on the Siskiyou National Forest, thanks to the hard work and excellent cooperation between federal, state, local and contract resources,” said District Ranger Pam Bode of the Illinois Valley and Galice Ranger Districts.

For more information and updates on the fires, the public can phone (541)

592-4020.

Officials from the Rogue River National Forest expected to have the Lewis Creek Fire on the Applegate Ranger District contained on Monday, Sept. 8.

Crews built fire line 90 percent around the half-acre fire, and a 20-person contract crew and a helicopter with water drops continued working on the fire Monday. The Whiskey Peak Fire, also on the Applegate Ranger District, is also declared out at less than one-tenth of an acre.

The Tolman Creek Fire near Forest Road No. 2080 on the Ashland Ranger District has been declared out at one-tenth of an acre.

In the northern portion of the Prospect Ranger

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SUMMER SUNSET -- Distant smoke made for a brilliant sunset over the weekend.

CJ council OKs Daisy Hill partition

Cave Junction councilmen voted 5-0 to conditionally allow splitting a 19.08-acre parcel into two tax lots during their meeting Monday night, Sept. 8 in city hall.

The request was by Grants Pass resident Jerry

Linkhart for property on Daisy Hill Road. Voting occurred after a public hearing.

Following a question by Mayor Ed Faircloth, Councilman Sandi Lund indicated that she was the only council member to

have visited the site.

Linkhart said he wanted approval in connection with selling part of the property. He thought for years, he said, that there were two parcels, but found in working on the

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Siemer will miss job at I.V. center

By BRITT FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

Celia Siemer wishes she didn't have to leave the Illinois Valley Family Resource Center. Especially since it isn't by choice.

Her position with the Job Council (housed in the center) -- one she's held for five years -- assisting low-income individuals in the valley overcome barriers to finding permanent employment for five years has been cut due to budgetary reasons.

She is being transferred to the Job Council in Medford. Although looking forward to meeting new people and being in a different environment, Siemer said it all doesn't yet seem real.

“I love working out here. I'm really sad about leaving,” said Siemer, whose last day will be Friday, Sept. 12. “I feel like I'm letting a lot of people down.”

Helping adults has become a calling of sorts for Siemer, who said she always felt that working with youth was her passion, something that came naturally.

Prior to coming to the Family Resource Center, she worked with teen-age parents and at-risk students at I.V. High School. She also has volunteered in valley schools and was a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and an area 4-H leader.

“It's almost magical,” Siemer said of the nature of working with her adult clients, a majority of whom receive welfare.

Over the years she's seen many of them conquer their shortfalls, problems and reluctances toward finding a job and improving their lives.

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