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Progress for Kerby H₂O seen

By SHANE WELSH
Staff Writer

Kerby Water District wants to go with the flow.

And \$2,500 will help the district finish an Environmental Assessment (EA) which would allow construction of a new water line to begin as soon as funding has met final approval by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA).

Board members met Thursday evening, April 15 in the RCC Kerby Belt Bldg. to discuss progress regarding construction of a proposed pipeline that would give residents of Kerby access to city of Cave Junction water.

John Plute, board president, later that evening received a \$15,000 technical assistance grant from USDA Rural Utilities. Grant funds will be used to finish the EA and complete required preliminary engineering.

The initial EA didn't meet approval by USDA because three required environmental agencies, the Legislative Commission on Indian Services, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, hadn't been contacted and included in the assessment.

The two Kerby Water District board members present Thursday night voted unanimously to approve \$2,500 of the grant funding to be used to pay Popadoplus, the Portland firm who began the initial assessment, to complete the final EA.

Once the assessment is completed, it will be sent to Mona Ellison of USDA for final approval, which should be complete by June 29, said Plute.

(Related photo on page 7)

Adopt-a-Mom help solicited by CJ center

Many new moms will celebrate their first Mother's Day this spring on Sunday, May 9.

This year, the Pregnancy Center of the Illinois Valley is requesting some special help for Mother's Day and is asking people to "adopt a mom" during April and May.

Adopting a mom involves praying for the adoptee daily, or sending an extra donation or gift that will help the mother specifically. The gift item could be for her baby, funds for diapers and wipes, a Bible, or another creative idea.

Those wishing to participate in this short-term effort can phone 592-6058.

Spring Recycle Round-Up will be held Saturday, April 24 from 9-2 at I.V. Visitor Center (See ad on page 3)



READY FOR RESCUE - Members of the Josephine County Search and Rescue (SAR) Mountain Rescue Unit underwent arduous training recently in the Shan Creek area and at Hellgate Overlook. The unit will serve as a support team for the American Medical Response Reach and Treat Team (RATT). Cave Junction resident Ruth Highbarger (left) of the county team, and John Mann (above) of the Portland RATT participate in water rescue skills training. Photo immediately below shows Annetta Cooper, leader of the Mountain Rescue Unit, and Jim McNutt of JoCo SAR working with a Stokes basket for removing injured persons. In bottom photo Mari Kynsi and Doug Walker, both of JoCo SAR, prepare lines for reaching, retrieving and rescuing injured or stranded persons. JoCo SAR recently added 20 new members for its efforts. (Photos by Jim McNutt and Michael Gibbs)



De Spellman & 'Cowboy'

Prevention aide hired by I.V. Fire

De Spellman, a volunteer firefighter with Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFSD), has been hired as the first fire prevention coordinator in the district's 50-year history.

Spellman, who was 2002 Firefighter of the Year, has been a volunteer for nearly four years.

The stipend position is part of the new Illinois Valley Fire Plan, said Fire Marshal Jerry Shafer.

"She will be organizing community input into the fire planning process, as well as continuing to provide excellent fire prevention education, for which she is known," said Schaeffer.

Spellman most recently was a fire technician for the valley's Forestry Action Committee, providing education and outreach to residents on defensible space and fire safety, the fire marshal added.

IVFD, he said, is coordinating development of the I.V. Fire Plan with the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan.

"The plan's purpose is to identify community priorities for reducing the risks of wildfire in Illinois Valley," said Schaeffer.

A kick-off community meeting will be held on May 19 in the Josephine County Bldg. in Cave Junction. The meeting, said Schaeffer, will be to introduce residents to the fire plan and the process that will be undertaken to identify the community's priorities for wildfire hazard reduction.

"A series of community meetings will be held throughout the valley during June, July and August to elicit participation in identifying areas of fire concern, and projects to reduce fire risks," said Schaeffer.

I.V.'s Fire Plan is being coordinated by Tracy Katelman, a consulting forester from ForEverGreen in Eureka, Calif. She wrote the Lower Mattole Fire Plan, said Schaeffer, for an area in Humboldt County, Calif.

Schaeffer noted that the plan has been used "as a national model in terms of the level of community participation in developing prioritized fire hazard reduction projects."

