

Inside:

Kerby water

District project
under fire

Page 1

Letters to the Editor

Your community
forum

Pages 2 & 3

County funding

Safety net lack
concerns board

Page 5

Music and motors

T. Lund a man of
many talents

Page 7

CJ Art Walk

Final '07 program
conducted

Page 10

Need help?

Service Directory

Page 17

Kerby H2O project has detractors

By MICHELLE BINKER
IVN Staff Writer

Although still at least a year away from delivery to subscribers, the Kerby Water District (KWD), many years in the planning, could be said to be in the home stretch.

Finding a location for a reservoir and linking to the city of Cave Junction municipal water supply are among the final steps in securing reliable domestic water for many Kerby residents.

Through aerial and on-the-ground surveys, a site zoned and approved by Josephine County Planning Dept. for this use was chosen for the new storage tank. KWD Executive Director John Plute said that the location was chosen because it is at a suitable elevation to take water on an on-demand basis from the Cave Junction system.

Of all eligible sites, Plute said, one property owner was really receptive to locating a tank on his property.

However, not all is flowing nicely. Because of a plan to place the 125,000-gallon storage tank on the ridge above Glendon Road, tensions erupted during a KWD board meeting Wednesday night, Dec. 12 at the RCC Kerby Belt Bldg.

Some Glendon residents have been circulating a petition to prevent KWD from locating the tank on the ridge above their homes. Among those neighbors, Mike McNelly says that his concerns are about the design of the connection and safety of

(Continued on page 4)

**Letters to Santa
and
Holiday Greetings
from merchants**

Pages 11 through 15



Holiday happenings Saturday, Dec. 15 in Cave Junction included a visit by Santa Claus (top photo) during the Illinois Valley Merchants Association Santa's Village at the county building. Games and gifts were provided free. At I.V. Family Coalition (above and right) toys and food were given. Attendees received groceries from Josephine County Christmas Basket Program, and toys through the Oregon Dept. of Human Services. (Photos by *Illinois Valley News*)



County home repair funds possible

Josephine County is considering applying for 2008 Community Development Block Grant funds from the State of Oregon to continue the Josephine County Home Repair Loan Program.

The county has applied and received funding during 2003, 2005 and 2006. The funding for the '06 grant year is fully committed to individual home owners, and the county is assessing the need for additional funding.

Each year the state holds a competition for block grant funds from the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development. This is the portion of such funds distributed to the state for the rural areas. These areas must compete, and are given based on need. The funding can be used for "Public Improvements and Community Facilities in addition to Housing."

The Josephine County Home Repair Program assists low-income home owners with needed repairs to their homes by providing zero percent interest, and deferred payment loans up to \$25,000 per home. The program is often the only solution for many low-income home owners whose needed repairs are beyond their limited budgets.

Home owners faced with urgent, often dangerous situations such as faulty wiring, outdated electrical panels, leaking roofs, failing septic systems and broken heating systems many times are unable to get a bank loan to complete these repairs. Even smaller, less-pressing repairs can be too expensive for home owners on fixed incomes.

Often these ADA repairs or improvements, such as the

addition of wheel chair ramps, handrails or bathroom alterations are necessary in order for them to continue with their daily lives. This program makes these repairs possible because there are no payments due until the home is sold.

The program has rehabilitated more than 30 homes during the past several years and 12 more are in process. Said the Housing Authority of Jackson County:

"The homes are not only repaired for the individual currently living in the residence, but it upgrades the structure for the future, contributing to a better housing stock in the community. This grant funding has the added benefit of contributing to the local economy by employing small contractors and providing funding for materials purchased."

(Continued on page 4)

Green to be honored

Community remembers Tom

A community memorial fund raising effort to honor former Cave Junction Mayor Tom Green is planned for Wednesday, Dec. 19 in Ken Mann Memorial Gym at Illinois Valley High School beginning at 6:30 p.m.

An open mic setting will give folks an opportunity to speak or offer a song. Those interested in performing should contact De Spellman, who has coordinated the effort. She can be reached at 415-1380.

Many people have expressed a desire to remember Green's legacy, and to that end, efforts are being made to set up a scholarship fund. The 'Tom Green Good Kids Scholarship,' Spellman said, will be available to graduating seniors from Illinois Valley High School who have turned their lives around. Collec-



A memorial has materialized at the site of the murder, and candlelight vigils have been held. (Photo by *Illinois Valley News*)

tion cans will be seen at various businesses.

Also a fund for funeral expenses has been established at Sterling Savings Bank; donations can be made there.

A memorial service also will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 22 at Bridgeview Community Church.

Murder suspect sent for mental evaluation

A 19-year-old youth, who listed the name of the man he is suspected of murdering as a contact person when booked into Josephine County Jail, has been sent to the Oregon State Hospital in Salem for psychiatric and medical assessment and treatment.

Kerby resident Timothy M. "Tim" Waddell, charged with the Monday, Dec. 10 murder of former Cave Junction mayor Tom Green, attended a competency hearing at the Josephine County Courthouse in Grants Pass on Friday, Dec. 14. Circuit Court Judge Allan Cook presided.

Following the 30-minute hearing, during which Waddell claimed that he is being poisoned in county jail and asked for a motel room, the judge OK'd an order to take the suspect to Salem. Waddell also asked that he be shot, rather than poisoned.

He had been held without bail on a charge of murder following the death of Green, 70, said Sheriff Gil Gilbertson. Additionally he was charged with second- and third-degree assault in connection with an incident with jail deputies while he was being booked.

He also was under a suicide watch at county jail.

Waddell is suspected of attacking Green without provocation and repeatedly banging Green's head on the pavement in front of "Tom's Home" on S. Sawyer Avenue in Cave Junction.

At the time, he told persons at the scene that God had spoken to him, telling him that Green was evil. After the attack, Waddell stayed at the scene, and kept a white cloth in front of face because, he said, the air was poisoned.

Green for many years opened his home to young people needing a place to stay. He is highly regarded in the community by many for what are seen as selfless efforts to aid youth for no other reason except to help them.

Waddell, one of the



TIMOTHY WADDELL
(Josephine County Jail photo)

youths who had awhile back lived at Tom's Home, reportedly blackened Green's eyes in an unprovoked assault at the residence three days before the murder for which he is charged.

Green was known for insisting that those at his home find work, gain education, and behave themselves. He washed their clothes and fed them, all at no charge.

Through the years, perhaps as many as 25 or 30, the easy-going Green helped hundreds of youth.

At the scene of the murder on Dec. 10, a woman said that Waddell had exhibited characteristics of schizophrenia. She said that she was retired from two decades of social work, and extremely familiar with the condition.

Others have indicated the possibility of the condition, and it was noted on Dec. 10 that the suspect is known to use methamphetamine and marijuana, the sheriff said.

Wikipedia states in part, "Schizophrenia is a psychiatric diagnosis of mental illness characterized by impairments in the perception or expression of reality. It is most commonly manifested as auditory hallucinations, paranoid or bizarre delusions or disorganized speech and thinking."

"The onset of symptoms typically occurs in young adulthood. Diagnosis is based on a patient's self-reported experiences and observed behavior. No laboratory test for schizophrenia exists."



Season's Greetings & Best Wishes from *Oregon Caves Chevron*