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Waddell trial rescheduled

Due to rescheduling, proceedings regarding the accused murderer of former Cave Junction Mayor Tom Green will get under way Thursday, April 2 with presentation of evidence in Circuit Court in Grants Pass.

Tuesday, March 31 had been scheduled as the opening date for the trial of Timothy M. Waddell, 20, accused in the death of Green on Dec. 10, 2007. The trial itself is set to begin on Friday, April 3 and continue the following week.

Green, who was 70, died on Sawyer Street in front of his Cave Junction residence. It was known as Tom's Home, and Waddell, an Illinois Valley resident, had stayed there. Green, lying on his back, had suffered injuries to the back of his head.

Waddell was taken into custody at the scene by Josephine County Sheriff Gil Gilbertson, who responded with two Oregon State Police troopers. The suspect is charged with murder, and third- and fourth-degree assault. He was sent to the state hospital in Salem for mental evaluation after the incident. He has been in county jail in Grants Pass since June 10, 2008.

Public safety council eyes budget woes

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

During recent years, the components of Josephine County's criminal justice system that rely on state dollars have been less vulnerable to budget cuts than county programs.

But in light of the state's current revenue crunch, the opposite is now true.

That funding issue was discussed during a Thursday, March 26 meeting of the Josephine County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) at Grants Pass City Hall.

Participants included District Attorney Stephen Campbell, county commission Chairman Dwight Ellis, Sheriff Gil Gilbertson, Community Justice Director Abe Huntley, Juvenile Justice Director Janine Wilson, Gary Berlant from the Public Defenders Office, and Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety Chief Joe Henner.

Trial Court Administration
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10,000-acre public stewardship project announced

Hope Mountain project of Master Stewardship Agreement to bring 35 jobs to area

By MICHELLE BINKER
IVN Staff Writer

Some \$1.4 million in hand from American Recovery & Restoration Act (ARRA) funds soon will be put to work reducing wildfire risk to Illinois Valley communities, thanks to a stewardship contracting agreement

announced by the U.S. Forest Service.

The Hope Mountain Stewardship project is the first supplemental agreement under the 10-year, 10,000-acre Wild Rivers Master Stewardship Agreement (MSA) between the Rogue River-Siskiyou National For-

est, Ashland-based Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and Siskiyou Project, of Illinois Valley.

Siskiyou Project Executive Director Shane Jimerfield explained that the purpose of the MSA is to address the problem of fire and ecosystem restoration by restoring

federally managed lands next to communities. Addressing the Rotary Club of Illinois Valley on Tuesday, March 24 in the Junction Inn, he said that the plan seeks to build workforce capacity within Illinois Valley to keep jobs in the area and localize product utilization.

The 890-acre Hope Mountain project, according to Jimerfield, will include workforce training to create a crew to implement restoration prescriptions and should create up to 35 full-time jobs with family wage incomes.

The 2003 AARA legislation broadened stewardship authority of the forest service and the Bureau of Land Management. It allows the agencies to use stewardship contracts to achieve a broad range of land management goals for public land that meet local and rural community needs. Projects include watershed restoration, road and trail maintenance to enhance water quality, reducing fire risk by thinning forests, improving wildlife habitat, and reducing noxious weeds by re-establishing native plant species.

"This project is among the first of its kind in that it implements a large portion of the stewardship authority in one project," Jimerfield stated.

The goals of the projects, he said, are: ecological restoration and climate change

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Southern Oregon Guild (SOG) has reopened its gallery in the RCC Business & Entrepreneurial Center in the former Masonic Belt Lodge in Kerby. Mike Wilbourn (above) and several other SOG members hung paintings and arranged artwork in the building's

new wing last Thursday and Friday, March 26 & 27. The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. The public is welcome to visit the new art space (Photo by Michelle Binker, *Illinois Valley News*)



Employees of XL Cable Construction, a Medford-based contracting firm working for Charter Communications, removed cable-system lines from utility poles in and around Cave Junction last week. In spite of the line's physical removal, some cable customers report receiving a bill for cable service through April. See story on page 3. (Photo by Michelle Binker, *Illinois Valley News*)



Arrest noted in CJ assault

A 29-year-old Cave Junction man found himself in trouble with the law once again following an incident at King's Golden Gate Restaurant in Cave Junction.

Josephine County 9-1-1 dispatch received a call at 3:43 p.m. on Friday, March 27 from a man who claimed he was just punched by Jeremy Justin Beck.

According to police logs, Beck came to the back door of the restaurant and asked owner Anthony Chen to give him some rice. Chen refused, at which point Beck was reported to have punched him in the face. Chen suffered a broken tooth in the attack, but refused medical attention.

Beck was reported to be intoxicated during the incident.

Police logs state that a Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) deputy phoned Beck in response to the complaint. Beck apparently told the deputy that he was ready to go to jail and said he had "already busted someone's mouth."

The deputy arrested Beck in Downtown Cave Junction on charges of fourth-degree assault, second-degree burglary and two counts of criminal trespass. Beck was lodged in Josephine County Jail on those charges.

Weed in the workplace bill debated

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

The debate about employees and issues surrounding their use of pot at work under Oregon's medical marijuana law was played out at the state capitol in Salem on Wednesday, March 18.

During a hearing before the House Business & Labor Committee, testimony was heard over House Bill 3052. That piece of legislation, sponsored by Rep. Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg), expands the ability of employers to prohibit the use of medical marijuana at work.

Hanna testified in favor of the bill, along with representatives from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and Associated Oregon Industries (AOI). House Republican Spokesman Nick Smith said that business groups have legitimate concerns about current medical marijuana policies.

"Over the past several years, there has been a lot of confusion and litigation as far as whether cardholders are able to use marijuana while they are working," Smith said. "Businesses have been concerned about the implications of people who have used marijuana in the workplace and what that means for workplace safety and consumer safety."

"This bill clarifies state law and gives employers the state laws they need in order to comply with federal drug free workplace rules."

AOI Vice President J.L. Wilson said that employers actually are put at risk by the existing law.

"Basically, at its inception, the statute said employers did not have to accommodate medical marijuana," noted Wilson. "But the courts ruled that the language meant something else, that employers did not have to accommodate marijuana on an employer's time and place."

"Ever since medical
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