



An Evening of Art & Wine was held throughout Kerby on Friday, April 24. (Clockwise from top, right) Attendees sampled Windridge Estates wines at the Southern Oregon Guild's Artists' Center at the RCC Business and Entrepreneurial Center; Libby Goines performed at Kauffman Wood Products; Jackie Henry-Ross shared classical Spanish guitar music at Hampton's Rock Shop; and at Yanase Jewelers, custom designs featuring diamonds were on display. Other participating locations were the Kerbyville Museum and It's a Burl. (Photos by Zina Booth and Michelle Binker, *Illinois Valley News*)

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Approximately 16 residents turned out for a lively town hall meeting on the evening of Monday, April 27, when the Josephine County Board of Commissioners came to the county building in Downtown Cave Junction.

Commission Chairman Dwight Ellis was absent, but Commissioner Sandi Cassanelli and Vice Chairman Dave Toler were present to discuss issues.

Before members of the public began arriving, Cassanelli and Toler met as planned with Mayor Don Moore and City Councillor Carl Jacobson.

Moore asked if any efforts are being made at the county level to draw businesses to Cave Junction. He said that the city's unemployment rate probably is 5 percent higher than in the rest of the county.

"We need to be treated fairly out here," Moore said.

Toler replied that Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc. (SOREDI) will soon hire a staffer assigned to the county.

The application deadline for that position was Friday, April 24, and 20 applications were received, Toler said.



Josephine County Commissioners Dave Toler (left) and Sandi Cassanelli. (Photo by Michelle Binker, *Illinois Valley News*)

The commissioners have approved six economic development tasks for that staffer to work on once he or she starts that position, Toler said. One task includes formulating an economic development plan for the county's airports in Illinois Valley and Merlin.

Moore briefed the two commissioners on recent city happenings. He said that the 3.5-acre piece of property next to Illinois Valley Golf Course recently was purchased for development of deep holding ponds, in case the city needs to discharge into the river.

The city currently sends its treated discharge to the golf course for watering, Moore said, but that enterprise is on "pretty shaky ground" financially, and is being operated by volunteers.

Moore said that four holes recently were dug around the city-owned swimming pool on E. River Street to determine if there is water under its foundation. Some underground water was dis-

covered, he said.

Instead of fixing the pool, Moore said the city could possibly use the site as

a water park, complete with benches and a barbecue area.

"I think that gives better utilization to the community," he said. "It's within our financial means to do this."

Moore estimated that it would cost around \$80,000 to install a water park.

He added that the city is looking at possible state grants to help fund it. He said that the pool is "useless the way it is right now," and has been shut down for three years.

He called it an "eyesore."

Toler announced that the commissioners will be given a presentation within the next week regarding the county building in Cave Junction. A budget gap for its operating expenses is growing because the sheriff's office substation has moved to the basement of city hall, he said.

The gathering grew more contentious when Kerby resident John Bowler asked the commissioners if there is a long-term plan for rural law enforcement in the county.

County board's CJ town hall spurs lively participation

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What are my options?
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Pregnancy Center
592-6058
319 Caves Hwy., Cave Junction
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\$5 OFF first visit with Denise

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Bikini Wax \$20 with Patty

Crystal: **Hi-lights** starting

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National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 7

The call to pray for our nation

Open for prayer 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Valley Evangelical Free Church
498 Laurel Rd., Cave Junction

Forest Edge Farm

Congratulations Gray Conway
for winning a llama felt hat
of your choice at the Kerby Evening!

Visit the ranch
or visit the
Guild Gallery to try
our hats
and more.
592-6078

Come Celebrate

with
Irene Guerrero-Acevedo
and **family** and **friends**

Ocho de Mayo

Friday, May 8, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Grand Opening

of her new

FARMERS

Insurance location at
118 Palmer Street, Cave Junction
next to Dr. Nordal's

All are welcome
Appetizers catered by
Carlos' Mexican Restaurante
Live Latin Music
Special Beverage Sampling
Door Prizes

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