

No bail for 2 charged with murder of local man

By Dan Mancuso
IVN Staff

Bail was denied at a bail hearing Nov. 22, for Kyle Forester and Renee Erdington. In accordance, Forester and Erdington are being held without bail in the shooting death of William Anthony Roberts July 27.

According to Lisa M. Tanner, chief deputy district attorney for the Josephine County District Attorney’s Office, “Under ORS 135.420(2)(a) – when a defendant is charged with murder, aggravated murder or treason, release shall be denied when the proof of evidence or the presumption is strong that the person is guilty, which is a legal determination by the court to determine if bail should be granted.”

During the hearing that lasted nearly three hours, Tanner made her case against the defendants. Testimony given by Oregon State Police detective Bryan Scott told a story intertwined with evidence from video, defendant interviews, and physical evidence collected between the “76” and the final resting place of Roberts’ vehicle on US 199.

Scott testified that video evidence showed Erdington and Roberts in what appeared to be socializing at the Union 76 / Circle K store in Cave Junction shortly after 1:30 a.m. The video also shows both Erdington and Roberts’ vehicles leaving the location without incident.

At 1:58 a.m., a 911 call was made for “shots fired” near the “first bridge” which was deemed beyond available resources at the time. According to Scott, “... gun shots in the county are a regular occurrence,” and they felt it was not necessary to respond.

Also, Scott reported during the investigation that 9mm shell casings were found in the parking lot of the Going Deep Sushi restaurant and five 0.45 caliber shells were found along the road leading to Roberts’ vehicle. One 0.45 caliber bullet was found behind Roberts’ rear window and fragments of another 0.45 were found in and around Roberts’ body.

Scott also attested that video showed the defendants using Roberts’ credit card the following day at Wal-Mart. Other video showed Roberts’ phone being sold at a “phone sales ATM” where the defendants received \$20 for the phone. After arresting the defendants July 29, Roberts’ wallet and 9mm pistol were found at the defendants’ residence.

The next hearing is set for March 1, 2017. According to Tanner, “... at trial, the state is required to prove beyond a reasonable doubt, a higher standard that the defendant is guilty of murder.”

Art sounds



(Photo by Judy Hoyle, Illinois Valley News)

Around the Hearth’s George Leverett (left) Josha Zacha and Anwyn Leverett (not pictured). The occasion was Alan Laurie’s one man show: “Barnyard Beasts & Beauties” a pop-up gallery event at the Illinois River Valley Arts Council’s offices on Caves Hwy. at Junction Ave.

Quilters have fun while helping others

Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

The Valley Girls quilting group met Nov. 28 to award grants to three nonprofit I.V. organizations. The total amount of the funds granted came to \$3,500.

Jenna Larkin, I.V. Boys and Girls Club program director received a check for \$1,500 for the club. Connie Hicks, director of Healing Hearts and Hooves (HH&H) received a check for the same amount. A third check of \$500 was awarded to the Dome School for a specific

classroom project.

Carol Dickson has been leader of the Valley Girls since its inception eight years ago and was mistress of ceremonies for the presentation.

“The I.V. Boys and Girls Club is the core group we donate to. We raffle off a quilt every year, we make comfort quilts for kids in need and we make quilts for the Chateau at the Oregon Caves as a legacy that will go beyond us,” Dickson said.

“When we started, there was a quilt store in town, and when the store closed, we decided

to keep going. We raise money for nonprofits who help kids,” she continued.

Referring to the Illinois Valley’s unsavory reputation in the minds of many area residents, Dickson praised the quilt show for raising a positive image to outsiders.

“We’re on the map in the quilting world as one of the good things happening here,” she said. “In eight years we’ve given out \$25,000.

“As a nonprofit, we don’t keep any money. Our funds are managed by the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO). We’re grateful for that help and also

the help given us by the Boys and Girls Club. They donate the bus and gas for the winery tour that takes place at the same time. The bus picks up folks in Grants Pass and gives them a tour of the Valley.

“We’ve also partnered with Valley businesses who give discounts around town. By them offering this, people stay around town a little longer and maybe get to see the good side of our community. Everything we do is through partnerships,” Dickson said.

SEE QUILT ON A-10

Illinois Valley Chorus presents a tribute to the Beatles

Rogue Community College (RCC) Illinois Valley Chorus presents “Love is All You Need -- a Tribute to the Beatles,” Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. at Immanuel United Methodist Church, 200 Watkins St. in Cave Junction.

According to the RCC I.V. Chorus director Kate Campbell, “The Beatles were prodigious song-writers, particularly John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Their music has been a soundtrack for the last three generations of rock and pop music lovers. The band’s pre-Beatle incarnation started as “The Quarrymen” in Liverpool before 1960. Many of us remember the

moment the “Fab Four” hit the news and became a sensation in the U.S. for the first time.”

Campbell said she’s discovered that the Beatles tribute music has been “An emotional and fun visitation to some of the youth, for her and many of the chorus members.

“Many of our older singers have waited a long time to sing beloved Beatles tunes in chorus. The RCC Chorus on the Redwood Campus performed this musical tribute last year in Grants Pass, so the library already had the scores. We are happy that Cave Junction

is getting a taste of this spectacular medley of favorites. A line-up of soloists will assist in bringing a separate set of Beatles songs to our audience, who will be invited to participate.” Campbell said.

New chorus member Dan Quinn shared that he’s had a terrific time learning the music. “This is my first term taking the class. It’s been great learning how to read music by singing songs I know.”

The I.V. Chorus is a class offered by RCC. The tuition fee is waived if the student is not taking the class for credit.

For those unfamiliar with the Beatles’ history, Wikipedia

reports, “In the early 1960s, their enormous popularity first emerged as “Beatlemania,” but as the group’s music grew in sophistication, led by primary songwriters Lennon and McCartney, they came to be perceived as an embodiment of the ideals shared by the counterculture movement of the 1960s.”

Wikipedia goes on to state, “The Beatles are the all-time best-selling music artists in the United States. They have had more No. 1 albums on the British charts and sold more singles in the UK than any other act. They have received 10 Grammy Awards, an Academy Award for Best Original Song

Score and 15 Ivor Novello Awards. Collectively included in Time Magazine’s compilation of the 20th century’s 100 most influential people, they are the best-selling band in history, with estimated sales of over 600 million records worldwide. The group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988, and all four including Ringo Starr and George Harrison were inducted individually from 1994 to 2015.”

RCC sponsors this concert and offers it free of charge to the community. A reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow immediately after the concert.