

COUNTY
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However, Hare spent the bulk of his speaking time expressing the importance of better forest and wildfire management. In particular, he proposed salvaging debris left over from fires, which he claimed was a popular strategy among county residents, one that effectively reduces the fuel load for future fires and increases revenue. Additionally, he zeroed in on the \$60,000 the county lost in park reservations due to the smoke this summer, advising that it is an important problem to solve: “Every

year that someone tries to come here for a reservation or whatever and they get turned away they’re just gonna go someplace else and they’re gonna have that negative impression; we can’t have that into the future.” Morgan spoke after Hare, and focused her time on discussing programs benefiting the school districts. Funded by marijuana tax dollars, such programs included the appointment of juvenile case specialists and school resources officers, with the goal of encouraging children to avoid reckless behavior. In addition, Morgan detailed prospective apprenticeships for juveniles in partnership with colleges in the

region among other institutions. She concluded her address by stressing the importance of emergency preparedness, using the examples of the extreme winter weather of early 2017 and devastating fire season that our region has not completely left behind yet. Additionally, she praised the Illinois Valley’s Community Emergency Response Team, calling it a “model to all of southern Oregon.” DeYoung closed out the meeting with a monologue that covered various topics, from hiring a new fairground director and public information officer for the county, to fire suppression innovations and the process of securing stable funding for the sheriff and law

enforcement in general. The commissioner praised the financial and infrastructure growth of Josephine County, contrasting it with the situation 10 years ago: “We’re not a laughingstock and don’t let anyone ever tell you that. When somebody prints that in the newspaper, they’re not telling you the truth. Nothing could be further from the truth.” In addition, acknowledging that the meeting may be the last one held in Cave Junction in which Hare will serve on the board, DeYoung commended his colleague’s performance: “Commissioner Hare is gonna leave this county government with one hell of a legacy ... I’m sorry to see him go.”

After wrapping up the meeting, the commissioners joined the city council in a roundtable-style joint city/county workshop. Attending councilors were Lindsey Gillette, Jean Ann Miles, and Mark Dillinger. If you would like to view this workshop, as well as the entirety of the Sept. 12 meeting, the full video is available on YouTube at <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCFn2Pze8Qd9MIEmZArfIKyg> or by going to youtube.com and searching for “Josephine County.”

Publisher’s note: The Illinois Valley News was not notified that this meeting was to take place in Cave Junction.

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