

JoCo Parks and Public Health saw big budget changes

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IVN copy editor

With the 2021-2022 fiscal year starting this month, the Josephine County Board of Commissioners took the opportunity at their June 23 meeting to review and approve the supplemental budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The supplemental budget consists of unexpected costs and gains that arose over the last year, and therefore could not be planned for when the budget was first conceived.

JoCo Finance Director Sandy Novak gave a presentation on the supplemental budget. She remarked, “The supplemental is codifying decisions already made by the board in requesting transfers from one fund to another. Operating funds do not purchase capital. Funds must be moved to the property or equipment reserve in order to purchase capital. This includes savings for large projects, or buying a simple copier.”

Novak continued, “There are a few of these transfers in the supplemental budget. Much of the extra income represented is CARES Act funding.” She mentioned a major transfer was over \$100,000 to JoCo Public Health for waiver of restaurant inspection fees to lessen the financial burden on eateries during the lockdown.

According to Novak, the Parks Department and jail commissary brought in more revenue than expected, revenue that will be put into the property and equipment reserve for future purchases.

In addition, the county is in the process of doling out relief funds appropriated by the state to local businesses that had to temporarily close due to a spike in coronavirus cases in April.

The last major element of the supplemental budget Novak mentioned was the retirement of Airports Director Larry Graves, who was replaced by his deputy Jason Davis earlier this year. “Airports had an overlap in directors, which will need to have more budget in order to handle payroll for the next couple of payrolls,” said Novak.

“We anticipate these costs to settle sometime in the next year,” she added. Commissioner Darin Fowler replied, “I’m surprised it’s only this many that had some sort of drastic change. Because it’s been quite a year.”

The board voted 2-0 to adopt the supplemental budget, with Vice Chairperson Herman Baertschiger joining Fowler in voting yes. Board Chairperson Dan DeYoung was not in attendance.

LIBRARY RETURNS TO REGULAR HOURS

All four branches of Josephine Community Library in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek have resumed standard operating hours.

Hours in Illinois Valley are as follows:

- Wed | 11 am–6 pm
- Thurs/Fri/Sat | 11 am–5 pm

For more information, visit josephinelibrary.org.



541-592-4778
josephinelibrary.org



YOUTUBE ...

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Included among the questioned information was the statement that the coronavirus was started by wireless internet technology in China and that the vaccines are causing car accidents in Josephine County.

YouTube’s policy states it “doesn’t allow content about COVID-19 that poses a serious risk of egregious harm.

“YouTube doesn’t allow content that spreads medical misinformation that contradicts local health authorities’ or the World Health Organization’s (WHO) medical information about COVID-19.”

For example, experts have warned that anti-vaxx conspiracy theories can have deadly consequences. The difference between getting the vaccine or not can be the difference between living and dying, especially with more infectious mutations of the virus emerging.

However, the JoCo commissioners did not see it this way, and chose the side of the anti-vaxxers.

“The YouTube ‘kerfuffle’, whatever we want

to call it, finally came to local Josephine County government, where censorship has kind of run into tradition and common sense,” Commissioner Darin Fowler said. “It used to be in America, you could say whatever you want and if someone disagrees with you, they don’t have to stand there and listen to them. But if I expect people to leave room for my opinions then I have to leave room for their opinions even if I disagree, which, you know, logic tells you I’m going to disagree with something eventually. But it’s amazing to me that we are allowing censorship of free speech in America.

“And it’s not happening from the government all the time. This is from private business. And so, they get out over their skis, think they’re all that and decide that they’re smarter than the customers they have and that just shows some American arrogance that happens when you have a successful business or concept like YouTube.”

Fowler added, “I’m not against YouTube. I’m just against people thinking they’re smarter than everybody else and they can decide what we want to hear. That really

bothers me because you’re shutting down honest public debate, you’re putting your finger on the scales and if that makes sense to you then you’re clearly an idiot.”

Vice Chairperson Herman Baertschiger joined Fowler in launching a strongly-worded attack on the YouTube ban: “This YouTube thing, you know, I don’t even know if it’s a canary in the coal mine, but it’s a slow erosion of our First Amendment rights. It’s the drip, drip, drip, and then the next thing you know it’s gone and I implore that whatever your political affiliation, this slow erosion of our First Amendment right adversely affects everyone, and it also separates this country from many, many other countries on this planet. Most countries you do not have the right of freedom of speech, so please don’t take it for granted, and please pay attention.”

After YouTube banned the June 23 meeting video, it was decided that the county would no longer post videos to YouTube. Recordings of meetings can be found on the county website until a permanent platform is decided on.

Southern Oregon Criminal Defense and Marijuana Law

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Benefit event for Ben Campbell and Jammer Dave in memory of their late wives Nichole Campbell and Carla Korrel

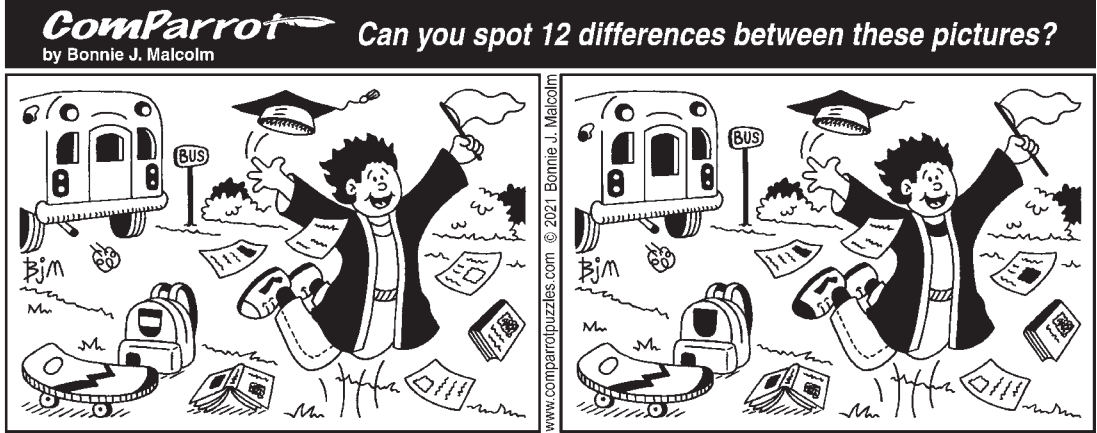
Friday, July 9th 6 pm

Guest artists:

Dawna Crocker, Rosie Wittman,
Jammer Dave, Ben Campbell,
Lee Spivey and Dusty Jones

Donations at the door.
Door prizes throughout the night

McGrews
Restaurant & Lounge
O'Brien, OR



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