

WBS to address CJ deputy and concerts

CJ Schatza
IVN copy editor

At this morning's Board of Josephine County Commissioners' meeting, the board is expected to issue a proclamation, sign an agreement with ODOT and consider several economic development requests.

As of press time, this weekly business session was slated for 9 a.m. at the Anne G. Basker Auditorium in Grants Pass.

According to the board agenda, the week of July 17-23 will be proclaimed as Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week.

"The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) defines community supervision as programs which oversee offenders outside of jail or prison, and are administered by agencies or courts with legal authority to enforce sanctions," according to the Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association website. "This includes probation and parole. The goals of community supervision include easing instructional crowding and costs; preventing further criminal behavior through surveillance, rehabilitation, and community integration; and addressing victims' needs through restorative justice.

"It takes a special kind of person to be a pretrial, probation, or parole officer: passionate, compassionate, knowledgeable, lifelong learner, adaptable, understanding, and balanced... just to name a few."

The commissioners are set to consider the following administrative actions at today's meeting:

- Approval of Contract between Josephine County and WS Environmental, LLC dba Western State Environmental for Existing Jet-A Aircraft Fuel System Decommissioning and Removal at the Grants Pass Airport
- Approval of ODOT

Agreement No. 35327 for Civil Engineering and Installation for the WAVE Inductive Charging System for Transit Vehicles

-Approval of Economic Development Request for Small Business Development in Rural Josephine County

-Approval of Economic Development Request for the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce for Concerts in the Park Project

Under the board's consent calendar, the following matters will be discussed and likely approved:
-Minutes (Draft minutes are available for viewing in the Board's Office) Weekly Business Session -

July 6, 2022 County Administration Workshop - July 7, 2022
-City of Cave Junction Contract Deputy Agreement
-Amendment No. 8 to Intergovernmental County-Lease Agreement for Sheriff's Office Substation

-Amendment No. 4 to Lease Agreement with CASA of Jackson County, for Lease of County Property at 304 NW D Street, Grants Pass

For full coverage of the July 13 county meeting, tune in to next week's edition of the Illinois Valley News.

Oregon GOP taps new leader after another chair resigns

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Oregon Republican Party has its third new leader in less than 18 months, after the unexpected resignation of its acting chair last week.

Justin Hwang, a Gresham restaurateur and former legislative candidate, has stepped into the role of party chair following his election to vice-chair in late May, the party announced Wednesday. Hwang fills the spot left by outgoing chair Herman Baertschiger Jr., who announced he was resigning effective July 5, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.

"I'm excited to bring a fresh voice to the Party along with my years of experience as a small business owner," Hwang said in a

statement Wednesday.

The owner of a chain of Portland area teriyaki restaurants, Hwang emigrated to the U.S. from South Korea and obtained his citizenship in 2006. He ran for the state House in 2018 and the state Senate in 2020 and lost both times to state Sen. Chris Gorsek, D-Troutdale. He is the first Korean American to serve as the chair of the state party.

The party is hoping to dig out of the minority in the state Legislature, claim at least one more of Oregon's six congressional seats, and win the governor's race for the first time in four decades.

In March 2021, state Republican party

officials ousted much of their leadership team, tapping state Sen. Dallas Heard of Myrtle Creek as party chair. In the same election, Baertschiger, a Josephine County commissioner and former state senator, won the role of vice-chair.

However, earlier this year Heard resigned his party position, complaining of "endless slander, gossip, conspiracies, sabotage, lies, hatred, pointless criticism, blocking of ideas, and mutiny brought against my administration" by other Republicans.

Baertschiger, as vice-chair, moved into the top party role. He quit last week, saying it was time to pass the torch.

In January 2021, not long after the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, a disconnect between state party members and GOP elected officials was displayed when members of the Oregon GOP's 22-person executive committee approved a resolution that suggested that the attack might have been a "false flag" designed by foes of then-President Donald Trump in order to discredit him.

That prompted Republicans in the state House — led by Christine Drazan, now the GOP nominee for governor — to issue a statement criticizing the state party.

"The election is over," the statement said in part.

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