

Rogue Valley Television now available on streaming platforms

Daily Courier

Rogue Valley Television, the government-access station operated by Southern Oregon University, a project of the college's digital media center, is available now on several streaming platforms and as an app for most devices.

The university announced Tuesday that the channel is available on Roku, Amazon Fire, Apple TV and also as an app on iOS and Android phones in addition to being available on local cable and over the air.

RVTV actually offers four cable channels across Josephine and Jackson counties: RVTV Prime, RVTV Civic, RVTV Voices and RVTV Grants Pass. Prime, Civic and Grants Pass channels carry public hearings and meetings live and often with a replay. They cover the cities of Grants Pass, Medford and Ashland, the Ashland School District, SOU and Rogue Valley Transportation District meetings, among others.

The Voices channel offers lifestyle, education and entertainment programs put together by the community and Southern Oregon University students.

RVTV began 35 years ago on cable before expanding to availability on its own website around 20 years ago. The upgrade extends availability even more.

Briefly

Joe's Place Ministries sets fundraiser concert

Joe's Place Ministries, a local Christian organization serving teens and young adults who are homeless, at risk or in need, is holding a country-themed fundraising event.

Joe's Goin' Country will be on June 8 in the covered arena at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in Grants Pass.

It starts at 5 p.m., with dinner and dessert, live and silent auctions and raffles.

Tickets are \$40. Get them at joesplaceministries.org.

SOU hosts concerts next week in Ashland

Two concerts are planned at Southern Oregon University next week.

The SOU Jazz Ensemble will present an evening of smooth jazz, high-energy rock, funky grooves and sultry Latin rhythms on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The concert will include performances by the full, large band as well as smaller student-led ensembles.

The SOU Percussion Ensemble, joined by guest artist Andy Heglund from the University of Nevada, will perform Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Highlights of the program include the Maraval Road Steel Pan Ensemble, student compositions, two world premieres by Left Edge Percussion, "Bench Music" by Deena T. Grossman and "Five Things To Never Not Say" by Mark J. Knippel.

Both concerts will be in the SOU Music Recital Hall, 450 S. Mountain Ave. in Ashland.

Tickets to each concert are \$15 general, \$10 for seniors and free for full-time SOU faculty and students.

Both concerts are free to livestream.

Call 541-552-6348 or go to oca.edu.edu/events.

Looking for fans of author Art Campbell

Author, blogger and fellow UFO researcher Tim Mounce is seeking people who knew Arthur "Art" Campbell, who published books about UFO research as well as pioneer history.

Mounce said he's working on a salute to the author, who died in 2017. Campbell lived in the Pacific Northwest and was laid to rest in Medford. Mounce can be contacted at allthingsunexplained@yahoo.com.

— Staff reports



Photos by JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

Jacksonville City Councilor Ken Gregg and Carolyn Kingsnorth, president of Historic Jacksonville, show the main room of the Old City Hall, used until recently for city meetings. Now plans are to make the space into a museum. The door at the back leads to the city's old jail cells and the fire engine bay, which already holds historic artifacts.

Jacksonville plans new museum

By Edith Decker
of the Daily Courier

JACKSONVILLE — It's not difficult to imagine Jacksonville's Old City Hall at the corner of South Oregon and West Main streets becoming a museum. It's halfway there already.

At the back of the building is the first city firehouse with a bay that holds the volunteer firefighters' original hook and ladder and a wagon hand pump. The section, along with one of the two city jail cells, is available for public viewing already, along with some displays about the city's big fires. Atop the building is the city's fire bell, still ready to ring in case of emergency.

"The whole town is a museum," says Jacksonville City Councilor Ken Gregg, but a more traditional museum will provide an overview and a hub for walking tours.

The 1,100-square-foot museum the city and local historians are working to create will house important artifacts donated by locals eager to have their treasures appreciated.

"They're just waiting for the museum to open," says Carolyn Kingsnorth, president of Historic Jacksonville, Inc. "And a lot of it will be interactive with a lot of video."

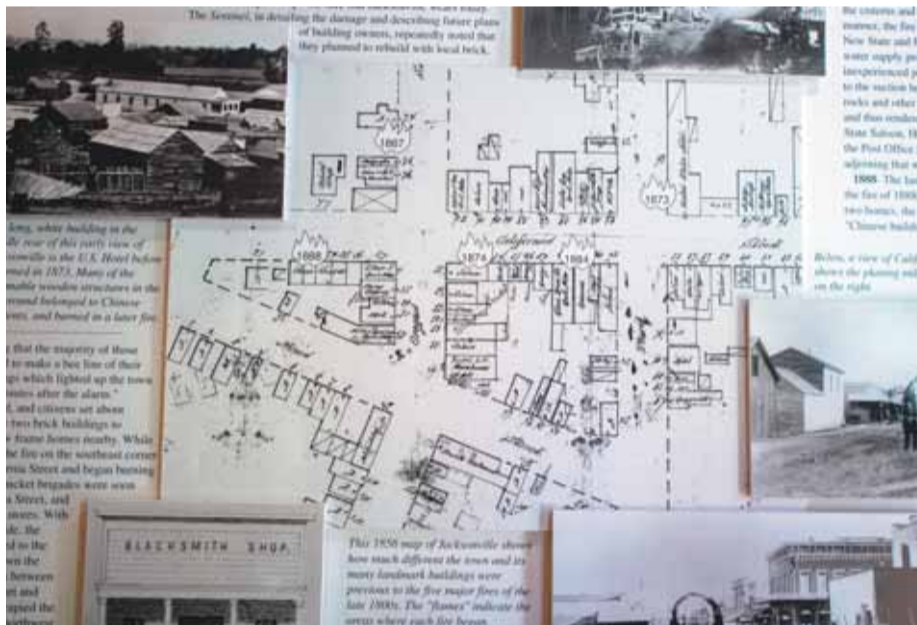
The museum will offer basics about Jacksonville's chapters in history — the original people on the site, the discovery of gold, its thriving Chinatown, the effects of the Great Depression.

The 1881 brick building is Oregon's oldest government building remaining in continuous use, Kingsnorth says. Until 2020, the town's city council met in the larger portion of the one-story building.

But when the former county courthouse was refurbished and the city council began meeting there, the Old City Hall was left mostly empty.

Years ago, the nearby old county courthouse was an enormous museum, along with the county jail, run by the Southern Oregon Historical Society. But financial woes, led the society to pull back.

"Where's the museum? — The visitors center gets that question literally



Opposite the Old City Hall's fire equipment bay, a display educates about the major fires in Jacksonville's history.

three times a week," says Kingsnorth. Historic Jacksonville has stepped in to operate tours of some of the city's treasures like the Beekman House and Beekman Bank, along with walking tours of one of the most historic cities in the state.

Gregg, Andrea Thompson and other city councilors approached Historic Jacksonville about the idea of using the building, which still belongs to the city, for the museum idea.

They began working together with the State Historic Preservation Office on plans and possibilities. Kingsnorth started submitting grant applications — and has received several, including a state Certified Local Government Grant of \$17,000 and \$37,500 from the Jacksonville Boosters Foundation. Historic Jacksonville has committed \$10,000. More grants are being written.

Nearly all the work will be done by city employees to save money and help organize the effort, Gregg says. A final budget will depend on the approved plan.

The main room of the hall, once used

for all city business, then for large meetings, needs to be made compliant for accessibility, which will mean removing an old lift and installing ramps inside and out. Updates to the bathroom, which takes up one of the former city jail cells, will need to be completed. Displays will replace the open spaces.

A final design for the project is expected in October from Alchemy of Design, a Portland firm that specializes in museums.

"In a perfect world," Gregg says, the museum might open next summer. But that's assuming the funds are raised.

In the meantime, Historic Jacksonville volunteers are continuing their guided tours nearly year-round and working to develop an app that will give walking tours on demand — or information on a single location. Some of the online tours may be available by mid-summer says Kingsnorth.

Reach reporter Edith Decker
at 541-474-3724 or
edecker@thedailycourier.com.

Take a tour

Historic Jacksonville continues with its tours of the historic town this summer.

For more information, see historicjacksonville.org or call 541-245-3560.

Here's what's happening:

BECKMAN HOUSE MUSEUM, 470 E. California St., Jacksonville; this 19th-century home is furnished with family artifacts; 30-minute "19th Century Life" tours are offered between 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every first and third Saturday June 1 through Aug. 17; tours are \$5 per person, reservations suggested.

BECKMAN BANK, 110 W. California St., Jacksonville. Step inside the Beekman Bank where \$1 billion in today's money crossed the counters in gold. Get a tour from Mr. Beekman on Saturdays and Sundays, May 25 to Sept. 1, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; free.

WALK THROUGH HISTORY, downtown Jacksonville, leaving from City Hall, 206 North Fifth St., 541-245-3560, online at historicjacksonville.org; one-hour walking tours trace town history through buildings, businesses, churches, architecture; offered at 10 a.m. every Saturday through Aug. 31; free, no reservations required.

VIDEOS AND UPCOMING VIRTUAL TOURS. Currently available online at historicjacksonville.org are separate videos featuring the Walk Through History tour, historic homes and the historic Jacksonville Cemetery. Coming soon is an app to download that will supply walking tours and information on a particular location the user might be standing in front of.



At the back of Old City Hall in Jacksonville is the former fire hall. The glass at left hides a view of original fire equipment. The bell in the tower on top is original and rang to warn residents of fire. One of the building's two jail cells can be viewed at right.



Ken Gregg shows the back of the Old City Hall, which already contains Jacksonville's old pumper and hook and ladder along with other displays, in the fire equipment bay. The entire building will be converted into a museum once funds are raised.