CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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(Comments will be limited to 3 minutes per individual and shall be limited to comments on non-agenda items or on agenda items that do not otherwise provide for public comment.)

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Manufacturing Technician 1 (MT-1) now an ODE Industry-Recognized Credential, Tom Thompson email to Carol Doty
“Beloved librarian Amy Blossom retires after 30 years,” Mail Tribune, by Tammy Asnicar, posted March 28, 2017
“Health Watch: Reading helps you relax,” Mail Tribune, Posted March 24, 2017

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h)

STUDY SESSION – To review and discuss Board members’ short- and long-range planning tasks

FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS:
April 29, 2017 – Medford Comic Con
May 11, 2017 – Budget Committee Meeting
May 4, 2017 – Board Study Session
May 11, 2017 – Board Regular Meeting
BEFORE THE JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING APRIL 23-29, 2017 AS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

WHEREAS, National Volunteer Week was established by the President of the United States in 1974 as a way to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers; and

WHEREAS, through countless acts of generosity, time and talent by library volunteers, all fifteen Jackson County Libraries are able to provide enhanced services and activities within their communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Jackson County Library District Board proclaims April 23-29, 2017, as National Volunteer Week and calls upon citizens to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities.

DATED this 13th day of April 2017.

JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD

__________________________
Maureen Swift, President

__________________________
Susan Kiefer, Vice President

__________________________
Monica Weyhe, Director

__________________________
Jill Turner, Director

__________________________
Carol Doty, Director
MINUTES

ATTENDEES
Present at the meeting were Board Members Maureen Swift (Board President), Susan Kiefer (Vice President), Carol Doty, Jill Turner, Monica Weyhe, Mark Bartholomew (Legal Counsel), Lisa Marston (Executive Administrator), Jamar Rahming (Library Director)

CALL TO ORDER
President Maureen Swift called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS
Swift read a proclamation for National Library Week which takes place each year during the second week of April. The proclamation was then passed around the table and signed by all Board members.

Next, Swift asked for introductions. Library Director Jamar Rahming introduced Kyna Moser, the new JCLD Marketing Coordinator; and Vice President Susan Kiefer, who also serves on the Jackson County Library Foundation (JCLF) Board, introduced JCLF’s new Executive Director, Amy Drake.

CONSENT AGENDA
MOTION: Doty moved to approve the minutes from the Board’s February 3, 2017 study session and February 9, 2017 regular meeting. Weyhe seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

ORAL REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE
There were no comments from the public.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS
Library Director’s Report
Rahming reported that he and Director Weyhe had met with the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) to get more clarification on the Bixler donation that will benefit the Applegate Branch Library. Rahming explained that they needed a short narrative explaining the intended use of funds, this was done via email which was distributed to all Board Members.

Referring to his Library Director’s Report in the packet, Rahming spoke about his experience attending Legislative Day, remarking that JCLS is very fortunate to have local support from both Alan DeBoer and Pam Marsh who are ardent library supporters and in favor of retaining the current level of funding for public libraries. Weyhe suggested that, in the future, Board members should also be encouraged to participate in Legislative Day.

Next, Rahming reported that he and Director Doty had a good meeting with the President, Vice President and Treasurer of the Friends of the Applegate Library. The Friends Group wanted to use the Bixler funds for hours and staff salaries; however, such a request would be outside the parameters of the gift. After Swift asked him to expand on his meeting with the Storytelling Guild, Rahming reported that the meeting gave him an opportunity to meet members of the Guild and express how thankful and appreciative the District is for their efforts.
There was also a brief discussion among Rahming and Board members about the news that Douglas County will be closing its libraries due to a lack of funding.

**Amy Blossom’s Retirement**
Rahming announced that Amy Blossom, Ashland Branch Librarian and Zone Manager, would be retiring in April. Swift presented Blossom with a plaque signifying the Board’s sincere appreciation of her 30 years of dedication and service to Jackson County library patrons and the community. A brief recess was called to allow the Board and attendees to celebrate Blossom’s retirement.

**Financial Report**
Referencing the financial report in the Board packet, Swift said that the finances looked good and no questions were asked.

**NEW BUSINESS**
**Collection Development Policy – First Draft**
Swift requested more time to review the draft Collection Development Policy included in the Board packet. Doty stated that she had already sent several edits to staff. Weyhe suggested that the Board might be able to adopt the policy in April, especially if Board members could send any edits or comments to Susan Bloom within the next week or so. Swift agreed, but reserved the option to postpone the adoption until May, if necessary. Susan Bloom, Access Services Coordinator, then summarized the process library staff used to develop the policy. Turner asked what changes were made to the new policy. Bloom replied that the previous version of the policy was wordy; the revised policy seeks to simplify the content, while retaining the same goals. Bloom added, too, that upon approval of the Collections Development Policy, staff will create a more detailed Collections Management Manual to outlined the procedures that will be followed to implement the policy. Board members then offered several suggestions regarding implementation. Bloom offered to provide links to other libraries’ Collection Development Policy.

When the issue of wait time for books and other library materials was raised by the Board, Rahming promised that the “holds to wait ratio” would be addressed immediately as it relates to access, which is one of the Districts goals identified in the Strategic Plan. In closing, Swift advised Board members to submit suggestions to Bloom and Rahming for inclusion in the next draft.

**Amendment to Agreement with Ruth Metz Associates**
Swift reported that, on behalf of the Board, she and Kiefer had asked Ruth Metz of Ruth Metz Associates to continue working with JCLD regarding service quality issues raised during the performance assessment.

**MOTION:** Doty moved to approve the Amendment to the Agreement for Library Consultant Services with Ruth Metz to include a correction to “Approved as to legal sufficiency”. Weyhe seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**
**Short-Term and Long-Term Tasks Update**
Swift invited Board members to share updates. Weyhe asked about the contract with the technology consultant, Lucien Kress, since the technology team was interested in scheduling meetings with him. Swift answered that the contract had been signed on March 9, 2017 by Bartholomew and herself and that meetings could be scheduled immediately.
Turner reported that she and Weyhe had yet to meet to discuss staffing, and suggested that the two get together and compare schedules prior to departing today’s meeting.

Doty announced that Facilities Committee had met twice and has already drafted the short- and long-term plans.

Swift announced that she and Kiefer had not done a cost analysis yet; however, they had developed an administrative needs list.

When Board members expressed an interest in seeing what the other groups were doing since there are areas that overlap, Swift suggested that the groups circulate their drafts as they completed them. Since the Facilities group already had a draft, Marston offered to send that out to the Board and Rahming.

Lastly, the study session with Ruth Metz to review the short- and long-term plans was scheduled for May 4, 2017, from 12:30-5:00 p.m.

**Comic Con Update**

Swift reported having a very successful meeting with the Medford City Council regarding Comic Con, and referred everyone to page 30 of the Board packet, which was a link to a story by Channel 5 News detailing the upcoming event.

Next, Laura Kimberly, Medford Branch Manager and Lead Medford Comic Con Organizer, distributed a separate Medford Comic Con packet to the Board and invited questions. Hearing none, Kimberly explained that she wanted the Board to see the vendor and other event forms. She also briefly reviewed the Comic Con Workshop Schedule and described some of the events listed.

Media coverage for the event will include *Rogue Valley Messenger*, which will have an article in April written about Medford Comic Con; and Channel 12 News, also a vendor, will be covering the event. *Camino’s* a Hispanic magazine based out of Talent, Oregon, will be donating $4000.00 worth of services to produce videos thanking the sponsors of the event; they are also producing a video and pictures to be used for promotional purposes, showing how JCLD is helping to bring the community together and meeting the goals that were set in the Strategic Plan.

**JCLS Hours Update**

Swift announced that Rahming had sent out a revised JCLS Hours Proposal. Rahming that, following the previous Board meeting, he had gathered more information pertinent to the hours’ change, meeting with branch managers and working with staff to identify what needs to be updated to reflect the new hours, i.e., program schedules, website content, window decals, etc. Rahming believes this plan will allow JCLD to shift seamlessly to the revised hours. He chose not to send out the new schedule until the beginning of April. This should provide ample notice, while minimizing confusion.

**MOTION:** Turner moved to approve the updated JCLS Hours Proposal submitted by Library Director Rahming. Kiefer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Fines and Fees Policy**

Swift referred to a document being circulated by Kathy Kudo, Secretary of the Presidents Forum, regarding a Fines Amnesty Program that the San Francisco Library created, recalling that the Board had discussed a similar program in the past. Kiefer concurred that this was on the Board’s list of action items. Turner suggested that fines could be one reason why JCLS’s number of cardholders is unusually high compared to
other library systems and expressed her hope that this will be one of the things Rahming can get to this year. Doty expressed her wish that fines amnesty somehow be partnered with the Summer Reading Program. Rahming immediately stated that he would prefer not to wait, requesting instead that it be placed on the Board’s meeting agenda for April.

Weyhe shared her experience in working through a couple of Fine Amnesty Programs. Between the materials recovered and the community’s appreciation, she stated that a program like this is well worth it, adding that a six-week window would allow for patrons who may be traveling during that time to also participate.

Rahming added that while fines do not bring in that much, lost materials do cost the District a lot of money. Several examples of fine amnesty programs were suggested by the Board based on their experiences.

**COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

**Correspondence Committee**

Kiefer received correspondence from a patron asking why the library no longer has a passport program. Her response to the patron explained how cost issues and a lack of support had led to the program’s demise. While disappointed, she said the patron understood the reasons.

Swift mentioned contact from a patron at the Jacksonville Branch Library who had been bothered by fumes caused by work being done on the roof. Marston offered to contact Facilities Maintenance to find out who the contract was and to send the incident report to Kiefer so a response to the patron can be drafted.

**Facilities Committee**

Other than the Short- and Long-Term Facilities Plan reported on earlier, Doty did not have anything to add, but did praise JCLD Budget Committee member George Prokop for his efforts on both of those plans.

**Policy Committee**

Kiefer reported that there are policies the committee is working on.

**Technology Committee**

Weyhe and Turner reported that the e-rate discount had finally been approved for the wireless access points, so that project will be underway soon. Kiefer added that Hunter Communications was in the process of installing fiber for the Prospect Library Branch.

Weyhe shared that she had received an email from Cindy Cabral, the District e-rate consultant, about going out to bid for phone service this year. However, since the annual discount only amounted to $250, it was agreed that it was not worth going through the onerous e-rate procurement process for such a small amount. Marston reported that IT Manager Ron Sharp was still seeking bids for VOIP systems, but that any procurement would be handled outside of the e-rate program.

**Individual Reports**

Turner briefly described her recent trip to Washington, DC, which included a tour of the Library of Congress. She then handed out several LOC bookmarks.

Doty reported that RVCOG had reduced its membership dues. She also spoke about the Food and Friends Meals on Wheels program and the financial hardship the organization is currently facing. She encouraged the Board to individually contribute if they could. She also distributed a letter she had written, inviting
approximately 40 representatives of Jackson and Josephine County school districts and other stakeholders to the MT-1 Conference, which will be held on May 4, 2017 from 9:30 - 11:30 am at the Medford Library. She then briefly described the meeting.

Weyhe stated that she had shared OCF’s Heidi Binder’s contact information with Amy Drake, and described Ms. Binder as friendly, knowledgeable and great to work with.

Swift called attention to articles in the back of the Board packet, which included an essay by Library Director Jane Eastwood on supporting democracy and creating a welcoming environment for everyone in accordance with the ALA’s Bill of Rights. The other item, a New York Times article, relates to the MT-1 program, and seemed like a timely piece to include in the Board’s packet.

Adjourn
Swift adjourned the meeting at 11:04 am.

\s/ Donovan Edwards
Recording Secretary
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Revenue Category</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>Current Month</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>YTD Budget Remaining</th>
<th>Percentage received</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Current Property Tax Collections</td>
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<td>Prior Year Property Tax Collections</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td>8.67</td>
<td>8.67</td>
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<td>Reimbursements From RCC</td>
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<td>Ready To Read Grant</td>
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<td>Inter-library Loan Fees</td>
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<td>Library Card Replacement Fees</td>
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<td>1,142.20</td>
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<td>Late Fee Charges</td>
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<td>58,983.68</td>
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<td>Lost/Damaged Materials</td>
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<td>5,176.01</td>
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<td>Photocopy/Fax Sales</td>
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<td>Patron Refunds</td>
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<td>(1,675.19)</td>
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<td>On Line Fee Collections</td>
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<td>6,496.10</td>
<td>(10,303.90)</td>
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<td>Hulburt Donation</td>
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<td>125,821.00</td>
<td>(9,179.00)</td>
<td>93.20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Friends Donations</td>
<td>65,000.00</td>
<td>1,302.66</td>
<td>42,634.66</td>
<td>(22,365.34)</td>
<td>65.59%</td>
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<td>Library Foundation Donations</td>
<td>5,900.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>8,035.14</td>
<td>2,135.14</td>
<td>136.18%</td>
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<td>General Public Donations</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>1,784.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR Community Foundation- restricted</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>12,869.11</td>
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<td>EJ Smith Trust-Restricted</td>
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<td>(85.00)</td>
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<td>Ted Gerlock-Restricted</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>(15.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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<td>Carpenter Foundation-Restricted</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
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<td>Library Foundation Donations- CP</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>(50,000.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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<td>Oregon Community Foundation- Applegate</td>
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<td>Beginning Fund Balance-Unrestricted</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>217,123.38</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>14,942,556.86</td>
<td>(618,443.14)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>291,028.78</td>
<td>14,942,556.86</td>
<td>(618,443.14)</td>
<td>96.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>15,561,000.00</td>
<td>291,028.78</td>
<td>14,942,556.86</td>
<td>(618,443.14)</td>
<td>96.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>Current Month</td>
<td>YTD Actual</td>
<td>YTD Budget</td>
<td>Remaining</td>
<td>Percentage received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Cost</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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<td>Accounting Services</td>
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<td>6,626.36</td>
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<td>76,308.22</td>
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<td>Bank Fees/Interest Expense</td>
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<td>30,000.00</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>Legal Services</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>19,595.78</td>
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<td>Memberships and Dues</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>1,838.59</td>
<td>161.41</td>
<td>91.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>881.88</td>
<td>1,118.12</td>
<td>44.09%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>48.26</td>
<td>231.23</td>
<td>768.77</td>
<td>23.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration/Tuition/Travel</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>308.46</td>
<td>5,220.81</td>
<td>5,779.19</td>
<td>47.46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special fees and Expenses</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>360.00</td>
<td>(360.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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<td>Transfers To Foundations</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising/Legal Notices</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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<td>Alarm Services</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>2,351.40</td>
<td>(351.40)</td>
<td>2,702.80</td>
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<td>Building Repair/Maintenance</td>
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<td>34,918.08</td>
<td>314,747.72</td>
<td>104,252.28</td>
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<td>25,527.38</td>
<td>224,576.46</td>
<td>90,423.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Custodial Supplies</td>
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<td>651.19</td>
<td>8,216.78</td>
<td>(8,216.78)</td>
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<td>Property Rental/Lease Expense</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
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<td>Security Services</td>
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<td>Signs and Signal Materials</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<td>Building Repair/Maintenance- B-7</td>
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<td>Facility Furnishing Expense</td>
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<td>79.00%</td>
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<td>LS&amp;S Contract</td>
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<td>3,689,664.47</td>
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<td>Library Materials</td>
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<td>Grant Funded Programs</td>
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<td>150.00</td>
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<td>City Participation</td>
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<td>Strategic Plan Initiative</td>
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<td>15,450.00</td>
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<td>7,725.00</td>
<td>(7,725.00)</td>
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# Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
From 3/1/2017 Through 3/31/2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>Current Month</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>Percentage received or spent to date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>227,000.00</td>
<td>17,713.01</td>
<td>141,609.75</td>
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<td>Natural Gas</td>
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<td>Telecom-Voice and LD</td>
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<td>4,853.59</td>
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<td>Telecom-Wide Area Network</td>
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<td>Telecom-Internet Services</td>
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<td>Municipal Assessments</td>
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<td>Hulburt Donation</td>
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<td>Library Friends Donations</td>
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<td>General Public Donations</td>
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<td>OR Community Foundation-restricted</td>
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<td>301.17</td>
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<td>Gerlock Trust Books</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
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<td>Carpenter Foundation Books</td>
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<td>Library Foundation Donations- CP</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>1,448.11</td>
<td>48,551.89</td>
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</table>

**Subtotal Materials and Supplies** 9,537,856.00 619,879.33 5,535,061.45 4,002,794.55 58.03%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Current Month</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>Percentage received or spent to date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Outlay</td>
<td>227,000.00</td>
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<td>227,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contingency</td>
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<td>750,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Fund Balance</td>
<td>5,046,144.00</td>
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<td>5,046,144.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Program Expenses** 15,561,000.00 619,879.33 5,535,061.45 10,025,938.55 35.57%

**Total Expenditures** 15,561,000.00 619,879.33 5,535,061.45 10,025,938.55 35.57%

**Net Revenue Over Expenditures** 0.00 (328,850.55) 9,407,495.41 9,407,495.41 0.00%

Date: 4/4/2017, 11:08 AM
Staff Development

I attended the LS&S annual Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. It is a forum for library directors and the company’s executive team to discuss trends in the industry, best practices, and strategies for better serving front line staff and clients alike.

I am taking eight staff to the OLA conference on April 19-22. Most of the staff attending represent our rural locations. This is a first-time library conference experience for many of the attendees. In the past, most of the attendance consisted of Administration, Ashland and Medford staff. Consequently, we are working to ensure services and professional development opportunities are equitably disseminated throughout the organization.

Ginger Bull, Library Associate at White City, earned a scholarship to attend OLA from REFORMA OR, an organization that collaborates and supports libraries that serve Latino communities.

Bixler Grant Update

I submitted the requested proposal to OCF for intended use of the Bixler funds. OCF contacted me and indicated that Mr. Bixler wishes for the funds to be devoted entirely to “access” initiatives for the Applegate community exclusively. Thus, he is not in favor of the funds applied for programming and technology initiatives. Therefore, the funds can only be used for one of the items in the proposal I submitted, which is the non-resident fee for Josephine County students that attend Applegate Elementary School. Further, though we provided explanation about why the funds could not be applied for increasing hours, Bixler still requests that a component of the grant increase library hours. The District is expected to receive a check for $15,000: $5,000 for non-resident resident fees for Applegate students over the next couple of years and $10,000 for increase in hours.

JCLS in the Media

The South Mountain Friends Meeting (Quakers), Jackson County Library Services, and Friends of the Medford Library, sponsored Art Exhibition: “Thirty-Nine (39) Questions for White People.” This is a nationally recognized exhibition that opens dialogue on race relations specific to white privilege. This exhibit invoked some controversy, a couple of editorials were published in the Tribune. Moreover, I spent a week or better returning telephone calls to address concerns regarding this exhibition. Most of the customers I spoke with did not agree with the programming offering, but welcomed our intellectual freedom stance.

A dissatisfied customer with a colorful history with JCLS elevated his concerns to the media. He is concerned about customer’s abuse computer use time, people coughing in the library, and sleepers. Laura Kimberly, Betsy Randolph, and I, all separately listened and addressed his concerns. However, that did not preclude him from approaching Channel 5. They interviewed
him in front of the Medford Library. His interview has not reached the web or news programming yet.

The media covered the outside protesting of the preliminary hearing that Jordan Cove LNG hosted at the Medford Library to discuss their third application for the Pacific Connector Pipeline project. Close to 200 protesters gathered around the library. We anticipated the protesting and potential conflict and summoned additional security for the event. Fortunately, the protesting was peaceful.

Medford Branch Security

Addressing security issues is an on-going challenge. We experienced a high volume of security incidents in the month of March. Below are some of our action steps in assuring our staff and customers a safe library environment:

- The sprinkler systems has been reset to go off in the late hours of the evening and early hours of the morning to discourage individuals sleeping, using narcotics, or loitering around the library when we are not open and staff/security are not present.
- Additional and brighter lighting has been added in the library reserved lot, around the outside parameter of the library, and in both garden areas.
- Public works with the City of Medford has installed LED lighting in the library public parking lot to increase visibility and improve safety.
- Shrubs and trees around the building and in both garden areas has been trimmed, cleaned, and removed to improve safety, visibility, and help with loitering during and after library operation hours.
- Security cameras and mirrors have been approved by the Jackson County Library District. Wiring for the cameras begins on Monday, April 10. Lisa Marston and Laura Kimberly gave all of the cameras a name this morning to help identify location and identified six cameras that would be the most important to have in place before Medford Comic Con. The security company hopes to have at least five cameras in place by Medford Comic Con on Saturday, April 29.
- Laura Kimberly via phone and email Diamond Parking Services and the City of Medford Manager's office to report safety issues, speeding issues, and drug paraphernalia in the parking lots around the library.
- Laura Kimberly contacted via phone and email the City of Medford Manager's office and the Medford Police to notify them of the increase mental health issues as well as incidents occurring at the library or in/outside of the library.
- The City of Medford Parking Commission and Jackson County Library District approved the installation of two speed bumps in the library public parking lot, which will be installed in April around the book drop area to decrease speeding, improve safety and visibility, and increase the well-being of staff and patrons.
- We are working on no open carry stickers on all entrances to the library.
- Facilities maintenance built two personal baggage boxes to help staff and security decrease the amount of personal property being brought into the library.
- The security company received a binder of security procedures, helpful information, protocols, and other pertinent information pertaining to the Medford Library.
• We are working on the possibility of getting sharps containers in the public restrooms of the library.

Ashland Branch Manager Opening

LS&S HR Recruiter conducted a national search for the Ashland Branch Manager position. Our candidate pool is narrowed down to four candidates that are participating in Skype interviews on April 12th. Two finalists will be invited to interview with our administrative team and meet with staff the first week of May.

Web Development

Our web and marketing team continue to strive to make our site more user friendly. Here's a brief update on a few of site changes we've released this past month:

• Launched Research Help guide to serve as an intermediate page for getting started with databases as suggested by Ken Loaders.
• Implemented archives for library blogs, “Music at 205” and “Now You're Cooking!”
• Rearranged some home page tiles for a more mobile friendly approach.
• Standardized text formatting for left column of homepage, reformatted hours box for better legibility.
• Added a link to all hours from homepage, as suggested by Kyna.
• Added Strategic Plan and Comic Con to the site header.
• Added direct links to L2G and Hoopla below the Digital Resource box on right column.
• Alt-text on all homepage items (rolling out to all images site-wide).

Planned updates:
• Launch of the new Health & Lifestyle guide.
• Reworked Subject area of research section.
• Revamped header categories.
• Site footer. (In initial build stages, see attached)
• Improved mobile site formatting.

Branch/Department Narratives

Outreach Department

Booktalks-The spring session of booktalks for 4th, 5th and 6th graders began in earnest during March. Anna Monders presented 30 programs at eleven different elementary and middle schools including Butte Falls and Rogue River. She shared great books with 1116 teachers and students.

Anna also did an author interview with author Karen Harrington, who has published three junior novels. Read it on her Booktalk Blog at http://jclsbooktalkblog.org/
Outreach to Childcare (From Nancy) - Children are making great strides in their early literacy skills because of our involvement as a partner in the Kaleidoscope Program. We have one little guy who loves the storytime part and has learned to participate and control his actions as he sits on the Alfombra Mágica (Magic Carpet). One week I emphasized the cutting line with a big purple line and held the paper while he cut. The following week he drew a line and then cut out on the line! These skills of self-regulation and fine motor control are big stepping stones to kindergarten readiness. This little guy is one example of how the group is progressing.

One of our OCC storytime volunteers, Leigh Hood, sent this note back on a book. The note says, “A 2-yr old girl hugged this book when we reached the last page!” Leigh reads every week in two classes at a child care site and demonstrates the importance of reading.

Gold Hill Branch
The rainy month of March brought us several new patrons, along with shamrocks! With every new card, we hand out book bags supplied by our Friends group. Included in the bag, we like to give out local information as well as library information.

Rogue River Branch
Rogue River Assistant, Marissa Holman, held one of her famous craft parties celebrating St. Patrick’s Day. The children of Rogue River, could help make a big rainbow, play bean bag toss, into shamrock’s that she made, play with homemade green playdough, make a bracelet or necklace, or make and decorate a card to celebrate the day. The Rogue River Friends sponsored the local store owner, Laura Fleming of Wild Birds Unlimited, to talk about ‘Nesting Season’. We had a wonderful turnout of 22 adults.

Jacksonville Branch
The Friends of the Jacksonville Library hosted Lauren Pellon for a musical program. This gift to the community brought in 65 people for an amazing performance. Lauren brings 30 instruments, some of which are over 100 years old. They include a hurdy-gurdy, penny whistle
and an archlute. Lauren sang and her voice was as delightful as her instruments. We look forward to having her back on her next tour.

**Applegate Branch**
Spring break at the Applegate Branch had 54 people attending, 3 different classes, such as Pinch Pots, with Allie, crafting Para Cord bracelets, making a Keepsake Box, and a Gaming Day. One young man had such a great time, he has volunteered to continue the gaming day, because they “liked the librarians”, Lisa Martin and Susie Beckham, so much. It will be called ‘S. O. Melee’, and will be open to the public. Applegate School Alumni Class of 1965, put on a Silent Auction, to raise funds for the Applegate Friends of the Library. Everyone had a fun time and $636.00 was raised.

**Ruch Branch**
From Trudy: “After year-long weekly class visits, the middle school students from Ruch Community School now all know how to use the card catalogue, Novelist, and how to place holds. Ruch Manager, Thalia Truesdale, was instrumental in assisting the school children with this goal. They are now about to tackle a new scavenger hunt in our library. I expect teams will consist of engaged students, all contributing to reach their team goal. Ruch patrons are very thankful and excited to have the new addition of Hot off the Press items to choose from, which have been flying off the shelf.”

**Ashland Branch**

The Ashland Fire Department led a training for 21 staff members from Ashland, Central Point, Talent and Phoenix. Each person handled the extinguisher and put out a "fire,” great hands-on training.
Let me take a moment and explain myself. I dislike Donald Trump because I think he traffics in rumor, immuno and conspiracy theories to perpetuate doubt and stifle dissent; he stokes racism, fear, and xenophobia and willingly associates with white supremacists to widen political division; he uses the office of the presidency to enrich his personal and family finances; and he prefers to represent only those who voted for him, dismissing the 54 percent who didn’t.

They disliked Barack Obama because they thought he was a Kenyan-born Muslim who forced socialism onto America. So, to respond to their argument, I can see their point. Those two things are totally the same.

David Chiribelli
Medford

What if?

What if industry and corporations were held to a higher standard of ethics, like the professions? That’s the question historian R.H. Tawney asked in the 1930s.

What if industry had a different bottom line than “pecuniary gain” for their owners and stockholders. What if corporations had to consider the social good of what they produced and how they produced it, the health and well-being of their workers, the cost to the environment, the outrageous salaries of their CEOs?

Interestingly, the profession Tawney used in his example as a model for industry was medicine. How ironic that medicine today has become more like industry: The bottom line seems to be all about money.

We have the means to provide

Art exhibit confusing

A recent art exhibit at the Medford branch of the library leaves me confused. The exhibition is titled “50 Questions for White People.” It consists of questions typed onto rectangular pieces of paper, which were then placed on display inside a glass case. An example of one of the questions is, “What do white people eat?”

Forgive me, but I would like to suggest that not only does this exhibit not constitute art, but the whole idea is naive and silly. What troubles me the most is that the library apparently spent taxpayer dollars to sponsor this exhibition. Isn’t there some better way to use this money?

Apparently, this exhibition is an attempt to make some sort of a statement about race. If we are going to ask truly frank and enlightening questions about race in this country, let’s be brave enough to ask the questions no one dares to ask, such as, “Why are so many people — of all races, ages and genders — afraid of young black men?”

Surely the library — of all places — can make a more intelligent effort to discuss the important issues facing our society today.

Pete Miller
Medford

Destroying the system

I’m amazed as the 1 percent try to destroy the system that encourages them to become rich and powerful. It gives credence to the adage, capitalists will sell the rope with which we hang them. You’d think they’d grasp they’ve won.

Our system of private enterprise allows people wealth

...and down is up

Trump supporters battle cry to downsize the federal government include having safety nets removed that protect the individual. Federal regulations in place through the EPA and banking, such as the Dodd-Frank rule, make it more difficult for corporations to ruin the environment or to bilk Americans out of their money. However, the rhetoric is full of holes.

Through Trump’s policy, he threatened to cut off funding to “sanctuary cities” who choose to protect diversity, to look at the laws passed specifically by states to legalize recreational marijuana, and through the EPA, to revoke a special waiver that gives California the capacity to regulate greenhouse-gas pollution from car tailpipes.

Trump’s plan is to use federal power to overturn previously passed state laws. The point to note is that the federal downsizing only seems to be effective in removing regulations that affect corporations. Another caveat, follow the money, many of these changes cut funding to the states from the federal government. Watch your local taxes go up. When they say leave it to the states, as we can see, the federal government intervenes at will. If you believe good is bad and bad is good, full steam ahead with the Trump agenda.

Kathy Lambe
Medford
A Profound Work of Art

Humanity, it seems, is finally waking up. A young black woman from Olympia, Washington, Naima Lowe, has created the most brilliant and profound piece of artwork ever created by a human being. It's titled "thirty-nine [39] questions for WHITE PEOPLE" and is now on display at the Medford Branch Library.

As I read through these questions I'm stunned into speechlessness and my heart is broken open by every one of them. And the last question brings them all to the point we humans must finally and fully acknowledge and accept: that love is everyone's natural essence and has everything to do with everything in the whole universe. And, if we don't all start conducting ourselves in alignment with this truth, this love, we are soon to be relegated to simply a sad memory in the history of the world.

I don't think it matters who gets credit for bringing profound truth (love) to our attention. All that really matters is that we all simply accept the truth and start living our lives according to it.

Jackson Mayes (a white man)

Ashland

(Copied from the Mail Tribune 3/20/17)
TAX-EXEMPT USE CERTIFICATE

THIS TAX-EXEMPT USE CERTIFICATE is executed by the Jackson County Library District (the “District”) as of April __, 2017, in connection with the issuance by Jackson County, Oregon (the “County”) of its General Obligation Refunding Bond (collectively, the “Bond”) to establish certain facts that are necessary to determine that the interest on the Bond can be tax-exempt for federal income tax purposes. The representations of the District expressed in this Tax-Exempt Use Certificate may be relied upon by Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP (“Bond Counsel”) in connection with the rendering of its opinion with respect to the tax-exempt status of the Bond.

SECTION 1. General

1.1 Due Inquiry. The undersigned is a duly authorized officer of the District and has made due inquiry with respect to and is fully informed as to matters set out in this Tax-Exempt Use Certificate, and makes the certifications herein in good faith. To the best of the undersigned’s knowledge and belief, such facts, estimates and circumstances are true, correct, and complete, and the expectations of the District stated herein are reasonable.

SECTION 2. Information on the Library Projects and the IGA

2.1 The Library Projects. The District is a party to an Intergovernmental Agreement Between Jackson County and Jackson County Library District for Lease and Sublease of Library Facilities and Property executed June 24, 2015 (the “IGA”), pursuant to which the District leased the County’s library facilities and agreed to operate those facilities. The District acknowledges that the library facilities described in the IGA were financed, in whole or in part, through general obligation bonds issued by the County on a federally tax-exempt basis. Those facilities, to the extent financed through the general obligation bonds, are referred to collectively herein as the “Library Projects.”

2.2 The Intergovernmental Agreement. Pursuant to Section 25 of the IGA, the District agreed not to take any action that would cause the County to violate any of the “express or implied conditions on those bonds.” Among these are the County’s covenants not to use the Library Projects in such a way as to jeopardize the tax-exempt status of those bonds. Section 3 of this Tax-Exempt Use Certificate provides additional guidance on the private use limitations applicable to the Library Projects, compliance with which is necessary in order for the interest on the Bond to be and remain federally tax-exempt.

SECTION 3. Private Use Limitation

3.1 The District acknowledges that in order for the Bond to be issued on a tax-exempt basis, the uses of the proceeds of the Bond, and the Library Projects refinanced with such proceeds, are subject to limitations on Private Use (as defined below).

3.2 Lease. The District will lease any portion of the Library Projects to any person who is not a state or local governmental unit other than as otherwise described herein.

3.3 Limitations on Private Use. At all times while the Bond, including any period during which such Bond remains outstanding, less than ten percent (10%) of the Library Projects will be used, directly or indirectly, in a trade or business carried on by a person other than a state or local governmental unit (“Private Use”).
3.4 **Unrelated/Related Disproportionate Use.** At all times while the Bond, including any period during which such Bond, as refinanced, remains outstanding, less than five percent (5%) of the Library Projects will be used, directly or indirectly, in the trade or business of a person other than a state or local governmental unit that is unrelated or related and disproportionate to the governmental use of the property being financed.

3.5 **Private Use Defined.** For purposes of Section 3 of this Tax-Exempt Use Certificate, Private Use consists of any contract or other arrangement including, without limitation, leases, management contracts, guarantee contracts, take or pay contracts, put or pay contracts, output contracts, research contracts, or naming rights contracts which provides for use of any portion of the Library Projects by a person or persons who are not state or local governments on a basis different than the general public. The City and the District will not enter into any such contract or arrangement unless the County and the District have obtained advice from Bond Counsel that such contract or arrangement would not, under current law, in and of itself, jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the Bond.

3.6 **Exceptions to Private Use.**

(A) **General Public Use.** The Library Projects may be used by any person or entity, including any person or entity carrying on any trade or business, if such use constitutes “General Public Use.” General Public Use is any arrangement providing for use that is available to the general public at either (i) no charge, or (ii) on the basis of rates that are generally applicable and uniformly applied. For this purpose, rates may be treated as generally applicable and uniformly applied even if (i) different rates apply to different classes of users, such as volume purchasers, if the differences in rates are customary and reasonable, or (ii) a specially negotiated rate arrangement is entered into, but only if the user is prohibited by federal law from paying the generally applicable rates, and the rates established are as comparable as reasonably possible to the generally applicable rates.

(B) **No Priority Rights or Other Preferential Benefits.** No portion of the Library Projects will be used by any person or entity under any arrangement that conveys priority rights or other preferential benefits.

(C) **200 Days General Public Use Arrangements.** The Library Projects may be used by any person or entity under any arrangement that is available to members of the general public and that does not otherwise convey priority rights or other preferential benefits if the term of the use under the arrangement, including all renewal options, is not greater than 200 days. For this purpose, a right of first refusal to renew use under the arrangement is not treated as a renewal option if (i) the compensation for the use under the arrangement is redetermined at generally applicable, fair market value rates that are in effect at the time of renewal, and (ii) the use of the financed property under the same or similar arrangements is predominantly by natural persons who are not engaged in a trade or business.

(D) **50 Days Negotiated Arm’s-length Use Arrangements.** The Library Projects may be used by any person or entity under any arrangement (other than as an owner) for a term (including renewal options) not longer than 50 days, provided the arrangement is negotiated at arm’s-length, and the compensation paid for the use is at fair market value.

(E) **100 Days Limited General Public Use Arrangements.** The Library Projects may be used by any person or entity under any arrangement for use (other than as an owner) for a term
(including renewal options) of not longer than 100 days, provided that the arrangement would be General Public Use except that it is not available on the same basis for use by natural persons because generally applicable and uniformly applied rates are not reasonably available to natural persons not engaged in a trade or business.

(F) Incidental Use Arrangements. The Library Projects or any portion thereof may be used by any person or entity where the use is incidental if, except for vending machines, pay telephones, kiosks and similar uses, the use does not involve the transfer of possession and control of space separated from other areas of the facility by walls, partitions, barriers and the like, the nonpossessory use is not functionally related to any other use of such facility by the same person (other than a different nonpossessory use) and all nonpossessory uses do not in the aggregate exceed 2½% of one of the Library Projects.

3.7 Management and Operations Contracts. The District will manage and operate the Library Projects. The District has not been a party to any management contract with any person or entity for management services to be provided to the District at or with respect to the Library Projects. The District will not enter into any such contract that does not satisfy the requirements of a “qualified management contract” under Revenue Procedure 2017-13 unless it consults with Bond Counsel to determine that such contract would not, under current law, in and of itself, jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the Bond.

3.8 Monitoring and Measurement of Private Activity. The District covenants to monitor the amount of Private Use at each of the Library Projects to ensure that the aggregate amount of such Private Use at the Library Projects will not exceed the applicable limits described in this Section 3.

Dated as of this __ day of April 2017.

Jackson County Library District

____________________________

____________________________
Re: Submission of Collection Development Policy for adoption by the Jackson County Library District Board

Staff submits the revised Collection Development Policy for review. A markup and clean copy are attached. This version represents feedback from the Policy Committee and members of the District Board.
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY – MARKUP COPY

GENERAL STATEMENT

The mission of the Jackson County Library District is to connect everyone to information, ideas and each other. The Jackson County Library Services Collection Development Policy supports the strategic direction, goals and objectives of the Library as expressed in the Jackson County Library Services Strategic Plan 2016 -2021. Jackson County Library Services is the third largest public library jurisdiction by population in Oregon, serving a population of over 200,000 through fifteen branch libraries located throughout the county. The collection consists of printed materials, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, databases, and digital materials.

SCOPE

The library selects materials in a variety of formats and languages to best serve the needs of the community. Selections are made by library staff to provide a balanced collection of educational, recreational, and cultural materials appealing to the interests of our diverse population. Materials will be provided in convenient and cost effective formats. The collection will emphasize current, popular materials and stimulating children’s interest in and appreciation for reading, while maintaining a core collection of classic works and local history. The greatest value is received by focusing on the most popular and widespread formats and by not duplicating the comprehensive collection efforts of college and research institutions. Material selection is based on awareness of community interests and concerns, national and international issues and events, publishing trends, new insights, societal trends, and the professional judgment of selectors regarding the material’s value to the Library’s collection. It is the Library’s intention that the collection addresses the needs and interests of its communities and reflects the diversity of the entire library service area. The library will strive to meet or exceed the “Enhanced” designation as set forth in section D: Materials, of the Standards for Oregon Public Libraries.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The Library will uphold the freedom to read as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement and the Freedom to View Statement adopted by the American Library Association.

While anyone is free to select or reject materials for themselves or their own minor children, the freedom of others to read or inquire will not be restricted. The Library does not stand in loco parentis (in the place of parents). Parents and guardians, not the Library
or staff, have the responsibility to guide and direct the reading, listening and viewing choices of their own minor children.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COLLECTION

Responsibility for Selection
The responsibility for the selection of library materials rests ultimately with the Library Director. Under the Director’s guidance, the professional staff has responsibility for the selection of materials. All staff members and the general public are encouraged to recommend materials for consideration. The library collection shall be an unbiased and diverse source of information, representing as many viewpoints as possible.

Selection Criteria
Jackson County Library Services selects materials for all ages and relies extensively on professional review sources. Material is not excluded because of the race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or political and social views of the author. Inclusion of materials does not imply agreement with or endorsement of content.

A. General criteria for selecting all formats of material include, but are not limited to:

- Patron interest and demand
- Historical significance of author or subject
- Timeliness of material
- Local emphasis
- Diversity of viewpoint
- Budgetary considerations
- Authority and accuracy
- Literary and artistic merit
- Cultural influence

These criteria apply to both purchased and donated materials.

B. Languages

The Library collects recreational and educational material in languages other than English for adults and juveniles to meet the needs of a diverse population, focusing on Spanish, which is spoken by a significant minority of residents in Jackson County.

C. Patron Driven Acquisitions

Jackson County Library Services welcomes suggestions from the community for possible purchase of materials. All suggestions are given serious consideration. Titles are considered by the same criteria as all other materials purchased for the Library.
D. Local Authors and Self-Publishing

Authors who live within the boundaries of Jackson County may donate copies of their book to be added to the collection. The Library accepts donated copies of self-published books but does not guarantee inclusion in the collection. Items donated to the Library become the property of the Library and may not be returned to the donating party.

E. Additional criteria for the selection of audio, visual, and other non-print formats:

- Technical quality of production
- Artistic merit

E. DVD and Music Collection Guidelines

Jackson County libraries maintain a broad selection of entertainment, informational, and instructional DVDs. The emphasis is on popular materials and is balanced with classic films, independent films, foreign films and documentaries. Music CDs are collected across all styles and genres.

F. Digital Resources

Digital resources, including eBooks, audiobooks, streaming video, government documents and databases are subject to the same general selection criteria as other materials. Digital resources extend the reach of the Library because they are available remotely and when libraries are closed.

G. Gifts - Donation of Books Policy

Jackson County libraries accept donations of books and other material in good condition. Donations are accepted at all locations and an acknowledgement form is provided upon request. The library reserves the right to accept or discard any donated materials.

DESELECTION AND COLLECTION MAINTENANCE

Withdrawal of material from the circulating collections is a vital part of successful collection maintenance. Continuous evaluation is necessary and materials are regularly removed to maintain a current, accurate and appealing collection. An item may be deselected for several reasons, including:

- Out-of-date information
- Wear or damage
- Item no longer responds to current needs or interests
- Materials in the format are no longer collected
- Insufficient use or lack of customer demand

Deselected items may be given to the Friends of the Library to sell or may be recycled at the discretion of the Library.
CONTROVERSIAL MATERIALS
Individual items, which in and of themselves may be controversial or offensive to some patrons or staff, may be selected if their inclusion will contribute to the range of viewpoints in the collection as a whole and the effectiveness of the Library’s ability to serve its community.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS
The Library recognizes the right of individuals to question materials in the library collection and has developed a process to address concerns. The process includes the opportunity for an individual to discuss his or her opinion with a librarian, to complete a written Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials, and to request a review of the material by librarians responsible for materials selection and the Library Director. The Library Director will reply in writing to the individual. The decision of the Library Director may be appealed to the Library District Board. The Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials is attached to the policy (Attachment A).

The material in question, except for a copy the staff uses for the review process, will remain in the collection pending the Library Director's written decision.
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY
Adopted by the Jackson County Library District Board on ____________

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Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

Date: ____________

If you have concerns about library materials or resources, please complete all sections of this form to ensure prompt consideration by library staff.

MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION

Author/Producer: ______________________ Publisher: ______________________

Title: ____________________________________________________________________

Date/Edition: ___________________

Type of Material:

_____ Book  _____ Magazine/Newspaper  _____ Video/DVD/CD

_____ Electronic Database  _____ Audio/CD  Other __________________

Did you read, review or listen to the entire work or a portion of the work? ____ All  ____Part

Please describe your concerns regarding this material:

What specific pages/sections illustrate your concerns?

What action would you like the Library to take?

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: ____________________________________________________________________ Telephone: ______________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________ Email: ______________________

Please send completed form to: Library Director, Jackson County Library Services 205 S. Central Ave, Medford, OR 97504
Fwd: Oregon Industry Recognized Credentials

From: Carol Doty <cdoty@jacksoncountylibrarydistrict.org>
To: Lisa Marston <lmarston@jacksoncountylibrarydistrict.org>, Maureen Swift <mswift@jacksoncountylibrarydistrict.org>
Date: 4/2/2017 5:53 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: THOMPSON Tom - ODE <tom.thompson@state.or.us>
Subject: Oregon Industry Recognized Credentials
Date: March 30, 2017 at 10:41:01 AM PDT
To: "cdoty@jacksoncountylibrarydistrict.org" <cdoty@jacksoncountylibrarydistrict.org>

Carol,

The Manufacturing Technician 1 credential has been approved as an Industry Recognized Credential starting during the 2016-2017 academic year. Information about approved credentials can be found at http://www.oregon.gov/ode/learning-options/CTE/resources/Pages/Industry-Recognized-Credentials.aspx. Please review the information about the credential and let me know if there are errors in that information.

Tom Thompson

Oregon achieves . . . together!

Tom Thompson
Education Specialist Industrial and Engineering Systems
Secondary Postsecondary Transitions | Office of Teaching, Learning and Assessment
503-947-5790
Tom.thompson@ode.state.or.us
| www.oregon.gov/ode
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Beloved librarian Amy Blossom retires after 30 years

Tuesday
Posted Mar 28, 2017 at 12:01 AM

By Tammy Asnicar for the Mail Tribune

For many Ashland residents, Amy Blossom is the heart and soul of their public library.

“She’s a remarkable person,” says author and longtime library patron Molly Best Tinsley. “I can’t imagine the library without her.”

Although Blossom “loves working at the library,” she says it’s time to step away. Retirement plans include “precious time” with her grandchildren and hiking and traveling with her husband, Brad Galusha, and friends.

A public reception and open house will be held in her honor from 1 to 3 p.m. April 3, her last day, at the library, 410 Siskiyou Blvd.

Blossom greets every one of the 650 to 900 library patrons who come through the door each day with a huge smile, patrons say.

“The library is an open, welcoming space,” says Maureen Battistella, a longtime friend and library patron. “Amy has created a culture of kindness and care. She meets everyone eye-to-eye with compassion and that huge smile.”

“She has been the library manager since my husband and I have been in Ashland,” says Midge Raymond, author and co-founder of Ashland Creek Press. “So to us, Amy Blossom is basically synonymous with our lovely library. She remembers every face, every story, and is a master at connecting like-minded souls, when it comes to books as well as so much more.”
Battistella, an Ashland-based writer and Southern Oregon University associate professor, says she’s visited libraries all over the country. “The Ashland library operates how libraries are supposed to operate. That library is different than any library in the country and different than any other library in Jackson County.”

The credit, Battistella says, goes to Blossom.

“She’s the reason our library is so central to our culture and our community.”

A big chunk of Blossom’s 40-year career — 30 years to be exact — has been devoted to the Ashland library.

Blossom says she’s always believed a library should be “a community center.”

“That’s been my goal here,” she says. “And the Ashland library truly is.”

“She is such a huge supporter of and an advocate for the creative arts in town and has made the library a hub for so many of us,” says Raymond. “The Ashland literary community is so strong and vibrant because Amy is such a big part of it.”

Blossom has “given local writers an opportunity to be in the limelight,” says Steve Scholl, owner of Ashland-based White Cloud Press.

In addition to her work as library manager, he says, Blossom has been a key player in the Chautauqua Poets and Writers events, and she organized a number of Author Nights and book fairs at the library.

Scholl says he’s known Blossom for 22 of the 24 years he’s lived in Ashland.

“Amy and I share a profound love of books and literature,” he says. “She’s the bedrock of the local literary community. She will definitely be missed.”

Tod Davies, an author, screenwriter and small press owner, gives kudos to Blossom for hosting the Ashland Book and Authors’ Fair and making it a “great success.” The annual event has grown into a weekend festival.

“This is an incredible writers’ community,” says Davies. “And Amy has been incredibly supportive.”
Blossom, as an unflagging supporter of poets, also created events for writers and readers during the annual National Poetry Week, says Battistella.

Both Scholl and Battistella say Blossom was instrumental in the Jackson County Library Foundation’s Community Reads programs and Arts and Lecture series.

In addition, Blossom was host and commentator on the Rogue Valley Community Television program “Open Books, Open Minds.”

Produced by Battistella, the program ran for six years and kept Southern Oregon poets, authors, screenwriters and playwrights in the spotlight — a well deserved venue, Blossom says, for all the authors “in the valley who work very hard.”

Tinsley comments on the “enormous challenge” that writers have getting published and making a living.

Blossom, she says, gave space and time for writers to share their voice, their vision and “compare war stories.”

Blossom’s community connections stretch beyond the walls of the library. She sits on many citizen advisory committees, and as a member of Ashland’s Culture of Peace Commission, she helped guide the colorful, dramatic Peace Wall down the hill from the library.

Blossom’s career began in Chicago, where she worked in a private corporate library. She later worked at a public library in Colorado, where she discovered that public libraries are “definitely my calling.”

Soon after moving to Oregon in 1986, Blossom was hired as a part-time reference librarian at the Medford library. She transferred to Ashland and worked there as a part-time reference librarian for the next 10 years.

She was named manager of the Ashland branch in fall 2007. And for the past decade, she also has served as zone manager, overseeing operations at 10 other branches.

Blossom recalls summer 2007 as both a highlight and a low point of her career.

A decade ago, a $7 million deficit in federal funding sliced away nearly 80 percent of the county library budget; the county commissioners shut down the entire library system.
When the doors of all 15 branches were locked on April 7, 2007, it marked the largest library closure in U.S. history.

“We were demoralized,” recalls Blossom.

In the midst of what ended up being a six-month closure, Blossom rallied the troops for Ashland's 2007 July Fourth parade.

“We wanted to keep libraries in the forefront,” says Blossom. “As soon as we turned the corner of Liberty Street, the crowd stood up and applauded.”

She says they received a standing ovation along the entire parade route.

“It was overwhelming and heartening,” she says. “It was not about me, it was about libraries.”

The support gave them hope, she says, that the libraries would reopen. And they did, after the county outsourced operations to a private firm.

In May 2014, Jackson County voters approved a special library district, independent of county government, and a permanent tax levy to stabilize funding.

Blossom says it's “wonderful to not have to worry daily if we will have the dollars to open the doors.”

Tinsley recounts the early days when the Ashland library was situated in the old Carnegie Building.

“A musty little library; so small up there on the hill,” she recalls.

Nevertheless, Blossom was “always thinking of the future possibilities” of a new library, she says.

Battistella believes Blossom’s collaborative spirit and advocacy for literacy helped win voters over in the successful campaign that passed a bond measure to renovate or rebuild all 15 branches in 2000, as well as the library district measure in 2014.

“Amy believes libraries are for everyone,” says Cathy Shaw, Ashland's mayor from 1989 to 2000, and political action committee member who worked with Blossom on many library campaigns.
“She's always upbeat and does everything she can to get to ‘yes.’ ‘I don’t know’ is not in her lexicon, just as ‘no’ is not.”

And in typical Blossom “self-effacing humility,” Shaw says, Blossom lets her staff take credit for many of the programs and activities at the library.

Whether it’s movie night for families, game day for teens, Baby’s First Book, Book Club in a Bag or Toddlerobics, Blossom, in fact does say, her staff “created it” or “it was their idea.”

“I just helped move it forward.”

Battistella says that Blossom’s legacy is her ability “to execute opportunity for others to shine.”

— Reach Grants Pass freelance writer Tammy Asnicar at tammyasnicar@q.com.
Health Watch: Reading helps you relax

By More Content Now

TIP OF THE WEEK

Read for relaxation

People who aspire to read more books may have any number of motives. They might want to increase their vocabulary, expand their perspective or learn something new. But one factor that is often overlooked is the fact that reading can help you relax.

Studies have shown that reading for just 6 minutes can reduce your stress levels by up to 68 percent.

That should be reason enough to spend more time with a book.

So instead of deciding which shows to binge-watch next, head down to the library. Whether you prefer science fiction, romance or memoir, devoting even a little time to a book will give you a chance to let go of the day.

ENERGY

5 natural ways to boost energy

In today’s busy world, people are more exhausted than ever before. As a result, we ingest drinks with sugar and caffeine, only to feel even more sluggish by the end of the day.

These five tips on how to stay alert may surprise, both in their simplicity and effectiveness:
— Make sleep a priority. Whatever you’re doing late at night can wait.

— Reduce carb intake. Carbs fill you up but make you sluggish.

— Try chia seeds. Studies have found these miracle seeds can provide sustained energy. In addition, they contain a host of essential nutrients.

— Stay hydrated. You should drink between 10 and 15 cups of water a day.

— Exercise daily. The more you work out, the more energy you’ll have.

RECOVERY

How to prep for surgery

Surgery is performed to correct a problem or make you feel better. Your procedure might be performed in the hospital, at an outpatient surgery center or even your doctor’s office. Whatever type of surgery you’re having, you most likely will be given some type of anesthesia to keep you comfortable.

Planning ahead for surgery and anesthesia can help ensure a successful procedure and smooth recovery. The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) encourages you to take simple steps to be ready for the big day, starting with talking with your physician anesthesiologist, a vital member of your care team.

Here are a few tips when preparing for surgery:

— Do your homework

— Get healthy

— Find out who will be giving your anesthesia

— Talk with your physician anesthesiologist

— Follow pre-surgery directions and diet

— Wear comfortable clothing

— Bring a friend
ILLNESS

3 ways to kick a cold

Feel feverish and congested? You’ll no doubt want to squash this bug as quickly as possible — after all, your life doesn’t stop when a cold comes on. Here are three remedies so you can get better fast.

— Get to bed. Eight hours a night is recommend, but give yourself some extra Zs when you’re feeling ill. Your body will recover more quickly.

— Add more vitamin C. When you feel a cold coming on, take 2 grams three times a day until you feel the last of your cold symptoms.

— Drink up. Your body needs fluids when fighting a cold to help keep the mucus membranes open. Drink plenty of water or tea, but avoid alcohol and soda.

— Brandpoint