



Director's Report June 2024

Special Highlights

Butte Falls Historic Marker Installation

Director Kari May traveled to Butte Falls on Saturday, May 4 for the dedication of a new historical marker placed at the Butte Falls Library. Joyce Hailicka was a founder of the Big Butte Historical Society and was instrumental in establishing a library in Butte Falls, helping transport a former drive-through burger joint from Medford to Butte Falls and convert it into a library. She also led efforts to establish several museums, a playground, and lamps in the town square.

The marker includes a picture of the building on wheels as it was transported from its original location in Medford, and a brief history of Hailicka's contributions to the Butte Falls community. The dedication event was lowkey, as Joyce's memorial service was held earlier that day. Many of Joyce's friends and family came to the library after the service and enjoyed visiting with one another while looking at the display of materials and photos Branch Manager Shone Ellis had curated, which showcased the many areas that Joyce was involved with over the years.

Representative Marsh OLA Award

Representative Pam Marsh won the Oregon Library Association's Legislator of the Year Award for championing libraries' importance to Broadband connectivity. Since she was unable to attend the conference in April, she stopped by the Medford Library to pick up her award from Director May.

Jacksonville Chamber Dinner

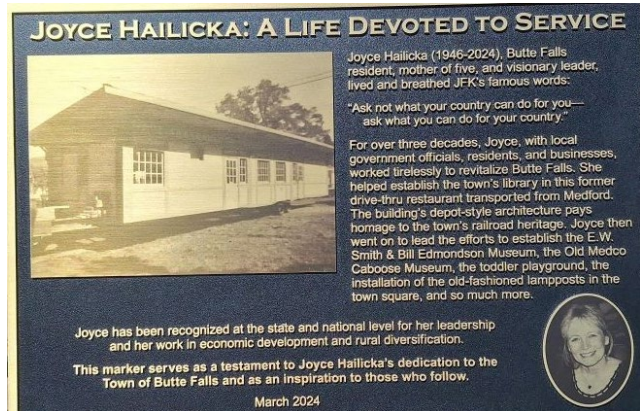
Director May attended the Annual Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Dinner along with Jacksonville Branch Manager Rina Pryor on May 9. The event was held at the recently opened Parkhurst Wine Cellars tasting room and included recognition of the new members who joined the Chamber in the past year. Pryor and May enjoyed mixing and mingling with local business owners.

Public Services

Central Area

Central Point

On May 4th, Central Point branch hosted a Star Wars Day Craft Party. While *A New Hope* played in the background, patrons of all ages had five different craft stations and activities to choose from. Several Friends of



the Library members volunteered on the day of the program and joined in on the fun. Patrons came prepared in various costumes, and pool noodle lightsaber duels ensued.

The S.O. Fun! program focused on the concept of “home” this month. Library Specialist Noel O’Brien read stories featuring the theme, prompting discussion on what home is and what it means. Kids and accompanying adults made watercolor lanterns to decorate their own homes.

Another popular program in May was the Moth Map Art program for adults. Each participant was given the same instructions and materials, and every attendant made unique moths out of old aviation maps. The program fostered a sense of community and camaraderie as the artists admired one another’s work.



Medford

At this month’s Windows in Time program co-sponsored by the Southern Oregon Historical Society, the McKee Bridge Historical Society provided light refreshments. Presenter Laura Ahearn shared stories about Indigenous women who survived the 1868-69 smallpox epidemic. Attendees learned more about these women, their descendants, and others who joined the vibrant community that became known as Watkins before it was destroyed in the 1970s to build the Applegate Dam.

UBOB participants who finished five books off any of the 2023-24 lists using either Beanstack or the paper passports were entered to win a gift card from Barnes and Noble. When Medford Children’s regular patron Jasper was notified that he had won one of them for his age group, he sent a personal email of thanks in response. In it, he expressed his love for the library and library staff, and included a drawing of a red wolf and a report that he was especially proud of that he wanted them to read. Such an enthusiastic and sweet response brought smiles to staff’s faces.



Ever thoughtful towards the comfort and happiness of patrons, Librarians Elanna Erhardt and Kayla Samnath created a coloring station near the electric wheelchair charging station in the Grand Reading Room. These stations were recently installed in several branches, and this simple addition gives people waiting for their mobility device to be charged something creative and fun to do to help pass the time.



Lower Rogue

Applegate

Applegate has been welcoming in the Spring with popular programming that has attracted patrons from far and wide. Library Associate Ann Nguyen is skilled in a variety of floral arts, and she taught patrons how to make beautiful flower crowns out of fresh blooms.

The month finished with a field trip to the library for each class from the Applegate School Kindergarten through 3rd Grade. It is always energizing to have the branch full of kids excited for summer, and staff were happy to help them end the school year and spread the word about Summer Reading. After the class visits wrapped up, staff worked to fill one of the display cases with an intricate I Spy diorama featuring tin toys. They put the finishing touches on just in time for Summer Reading to start in June. Full of plenty of hidden features for the young (and young at heart) patrons to look for, this tradition is beloved at the branch and is sure to be a hit.

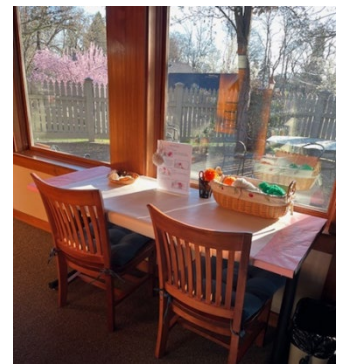
Gold Hill

The Romance Readers Bookclub at Gold Hill has been popular since its inception several years ago. Last month, however, was extra special for the group. After having read selections by both authors, the club was treated to a

panel discussion and meet and greet with local authors Maisy Yates and Megan Crane. They discussed their writing processes, feminism and the intersection of romance novel culture, and they took questions from book club members too. The program was co-sponsored by local bookstore Rebel Heart Books.

Jacksonville

Last summer, Jacksonville staff came up with the idea of having a table in the Children's area with a rotating craft or art project for kids to do on their own or with their families. The idea was so popular that it has now become a permanent fixture. Recent crafts have included yarn pom-poms, chalk art, and animal stencils. Patrons love to sit by the window, enjoy the view, and relax with some quiet self-guided creativity.



Rogue River

May saw Rogue River's fledgling Paws to Read program's best attendance to date. Staff hope the community will continue to use this fantastic resource through the summer as a supplement to summer reading, and a way to encourage reluctant readers to read with more confidence.



Patrons got their green thumbs on making air plant terrariums in May. These quirky plants do not need soil to survive and instead get most of their nutrients from the air and a good soak every couple of weeks. Attendees decorated their biodomes with shiny polished rocks, shells, and a friendly bird or two to keep the plants company.

Ruch

Ruch invited local botanist Barb Mumblo to the branch to present a seminar on Noxious Plants of Southern Oregon. Mumblo taught patrons how to recognize invasive plants and discussed a variety of treatment options. She stressed proactive prevention as the best strategy, which is why it is so important for local people to be able to identify noxious species.



Upper Rogue

White City

The week of Mother's Day, patrons gathered at the White City branch to decorate mugs for the mother figures in their life. Staff streamed quiet music to keep the creative vibes going, and everyone had an amazing afternoon of painting and chatting. These colorful cups are sure to be treasured mementos, and patrons were left with happy memories of making them together.



Prospect

May saw the return of Prospect's local farmer's market, and the library provided an activity table for kids to color or read while their adults leisurely shopped for homemade sourdough and plant starters. The Art Lab has been gaining ground, and this month's project had artists applying their creativity to cyanotypes. Made by exposing light-sensitive paper to sunlight (or a grow light if the weather isn't cooperating), the prints are then developed in water to create a permanent image. Patrons had a wonderful time experimenting with different objects and cutting out silhouettes to make different pictures.

On May 30, Prospect Charter School hosted a Read S'more Literacy Night. Prospect staff hosted table promoting the Summer Reading Program and played into the theme offering camping Mad Libs style activities.

Eagle Point



A local Cub Scout pack revamped the Eagle Point Fairy Garden with some new soil and flowers. Staff and patrons alike are grateful for their hard work and are already enjoying the colorful outdoor space. It is sure to see plenty of use this summer as patrons look for a peaceful place to beat the heat.

Eagle Point held its Annual Star Wars Day celebration on May 6, with the theme of The Revenge of the Sixth. It was a marathon of fun for patrons with activities, crafts, plenty of themed displays to browse, and a photo booth with a professional cosplayer. After making lightsabers in the library out of foam, the only thing left to do was to put them to the test. The event ended in style with an epic laughter-filled battle on the front lawn.



May saw bittersweet last library visits of the school year for six different classes. All the first graders from Hillside and Eagle Rock Elementary Schools got a library tour, storytime and snack, and a book bag with a book to keep, which was generously provided by the Eagle Point Friends of the Library. The Hillside Elementary Special Education class has been coming to the library once a month, and they finished the year by presenting the Eagle Point staff with some beautiful art that is now on display in the children’s area.



Butte Falls

The Art Adventure Club is going well. Every other Saturday, staff work to offer different art projects for teens and young adults. Their efforts have been rewarded, and they now have a steady group of patrons who come almost every

week. On May 4, the art project was making paper flowers for Mother’s Day, and everyone had a wonderful time making a diverse array of flowers that can be treasured long after most blooms would have wilted away.

On May 18, Butte Falls welcomed Scott Goode with Nourishing Systems, who gave a presentation on how, if it is properly cultivated, soil can be used for far more than just growing crops. Goode showed that soil is effective at capturing carbon dioxide, which can help in the fight against global warming. Patrons commented that Goode is full of knowledge and a lot of fun to listen to, and they had a great time asking questions about how to optimize their own land use.

Bear Creek

Ashland

Fifteen middle school students were honored by the Friends of the Ashland Library at the Essay Award Ceremony. Contestants were asked to describe a book they had read and explain how it touched their lives. Ninety-four essays were submitted, and the panel of judges described the process of choosing the winners from each grade as “challenging but fun.” An enthusiastic gathering of families, teachers, friends, and community members crowded the Ashland Public Library Gresham Room to hear the prize winners and cheer them on as they read their essays. The pictures and essays of the cash prize and honorable mention winners are available on the [Friends of the Ashland Library’s](#) website.



May 8th marked the ninth annual Ashland Reads program, at which almost 200 first graders and over 50 Rotarian Volunteers paraded to Ashland High School for a celebration of literacy. Children’s Librarian Lyn Heerema was delighted to join in the fun and helped present parts of the program, which featured songs, book talks, and a special visit and storytime by local author Tish Mcfadden. Heerema also helped by participating in book selections and facilitating the purchase of backpacks donated by the Ashland



Friends. But perhaps the most fun was getting to promote the Summer Reading Program onstage to the eager audience. Having spent the year honing their skills, they are excited to keep feeding the reading bug and look forward to making their first library visit of the summer soon.

On May 14, the Children's department offered a fairy garden program with natural materials staff had collected in the days leading up to the event. With quiet music playing in the background, participants took the project very seriously, creating beautiful and intricate tiny gardens.

On May 9th, Teen Specialist Miki Hocker and Teen Librarian Katie Fischer visited Ashland Middle School's library and ran a fun outdoor activity where students planted sunflower seeds in biodegradable egg cartons. Students really enjoyed the outdoor component and became very attached to their tiny gardens. Because this activity was held outside of the library, it gave Hocker and Fischer the opportunity to make new connections and interact with students who do not typically visit the library during their lunch visits.



Hocker and Teen Specialist Lyn Snell teamed up to lead a fun and engaging cyanotypes program, where teens and parents learned about the science of camera-less photography through sun printing. It was received well, and teens enjoyed being able to make their own take on sun photography.

Librarian Brianna Levesque led a needle felting program in which participants learned to make wool bees. As is typically the case in library craft programs, participants ranged from experienced to beginner. This never poses a problem, though, and soon the group was happily getting to know one another, and the more experienced ones in the group shared tips and helped each other. It is always a treat to hang out in the library building community while learning and creating together.

Phoenix

Phoenix Branch Manager Jody Fleming returned a call to a patron who uses the meeting room at the Phoenix branch regularly. She said the library's services and support through the pandemic and fire have been "heart melting." The patron was very appreciative of her calling before the branch opened and said that the library system is the "role model for all institutions in the country."



Talent

The big event at the Talent Library in May was the annual Spring Book Sale hosted by the Talent Library Club. This year the sale was held on the same day as the City of Talent Craft Crawl, and many of the attendees wandered in looking for a place to beat the heat and rest their feet and ended up staying to browse both the sale and the library. Several families gathered in the children's area where their kids could play on the train table and do crafts, and the adults were having just as much fun catching up with one another. It was great to see so many people relaxing and utilizing all of what the library can offer as a center of the community.

Over the school year, branch staff get to know the students that visit with their classes every month. In May, they usually make their last trips before the year wraps up, and one of these was particularly sweet for the Talent staff. Branch Manager Patrick Mathewes had told the class about the Unofficial Oregon Battle of the Books challenge they could participate in when they first visited the library in Fall. This JCLS program used the lists of titles from the Oregon Battle of the Books and asked kids who signed up to read five books. Those who completed the task would receive one of several titles as a prize.

One of the visiting students from a local special education class particularly took the challenge to heart. He immediately knew which prize book he was working towards and was very excited to let Mathewes and his teacher know about it. Though he has been discouraged at times, the idea of that book has kept him motivated throughout the entire year, and he has kept plugging away at the challenge. With the Library UBOB program wrapping up, Mathewes assured him that he would save the title he was interested in earning and keep it till he'd completed his log. When the teacher called to set up the last class visit, she told Mathewes that the boy had managed to read four of the five books needed and was about to start on his fifth. Not wanting his hard work to go unrewarded, she and Mathewes agreed that they wanted to award his prize a little early and honor him in front of his classmates during the class visit. They were all very proud of him and several of his fellow students are now interested in participating in UBOB next school year.

Community Resources

The Community Resources Team has been hard at work in May. There have been some upgrades to the working space in the department which has allowed for better organization. The team enjoyed incorporating an order sheet into the SharePoint page to provide a more streamlined way to share resources and essentials with all branches more equitably. The department has also seen an uptick in mental health resources requested this month. This increase in need culminated with Community Resources helping a handful of people establish mental health care and assisting others access needed assessment resources.

Outreach

May was a remarkably busy month for Outreach. A major highlight was the long-awaited Rogue Comic Con, held in-person for the first time since 2019 in Pear Blossom Park. Despite the rain, the community turned out in droves, and the Library booth was busy throughout the daylong event. Over seven hundred people stopped by to say hi, show off their costume, pick up a comic book, or chat about their favorite graphic novel. Many people remembered the Comic Con as having gotten its start at the Library, and staff are proud to see how large it has become and that it is such a treasured event in the community calendar.

At Home Services

Library Specialists Kateri Warnick and Mackenzie Pollack visited most of the assisted living communities in Medford to pass out flyers promoting At Home Services. They recently gained another volunteer who has added a route in a new area, and staff are excited to be spreading the word in the hope of signing up as many locals as they can.

Business Librarian

Business Librarian Roslyn Donald hosted Bruce Gillooly of interface.AI for a presentation on how artificial intelligence is impacting small business at the Medford branch. Several people attended, and the ensuing discussion was lively and informative.

DART

DART started the month of May with a bang by having three visits scheduled for the first week, including Rogue Comic Con. DART added three new locations during May: The OHRA Center in Ashland, Rogue Retreat Crossings, and the Self-Sufficiency Office of Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). The OHRA Center is a shelter for people experiencing homelessness in the Ashland area. Staff and residents at OHRA were interested in DART and expressed excitement at having future visits.

Crossings Campground with Rogue Retreat has been a work in progress for over a year due to site construction and relocation, and DART was excited to finally schedule visits to their location beginning in May. DART's initial focus at Crossings is to offer a pop-up computer lab and will include the assistance of a Digital Services staff member and a Resource Specialist. On DART's first visit, one of the patrons DART staff often sees over at the Kelly Shelter was present. They excitedly told all their friends about DART and convinced them to sign up for library cards and listen to the services the library could offer them.



In addition to these new locations, DART attended an event at the ScienceWorks Museum in Ashland called “Sparking Action!” which focused on fire safety and preparedness. Smokey the Bear was present and posed for a picture with the DART van. The outreach coordination staff of the Science Works Museum were excited about the tech van’s presence and expressed a desire for future collaborations between the museum and DART.

Education Services

Education Services’ MAYgical month was chock-full of interactions with the community on both a student and administrative level. The team hosted lunchtime popups at Eagle Point Middle, Eagle Point High, and McLoughlin Middle Schools to share information about upcoming events, databases, and platforms offered by JCLS that are beneficial for students. They also promoted summer reading programs and helped

students to get ready for it by signing them up for cards and showing them how to register for the event in the Beanstack app.

The team also conducted the popular program, Book Speed Dating, for 8th graders at Shady Cove and saw great engagement between the kids and the new titles they were introduced to.

Education Services Specialist Bella Silva, Community Librarian Evelyn Lorence, and Phoenix Branch Manager Jody Fleming attended the Phoenix Health and Wellness Fair and had a blast spreading the word about the upcoming Summer Reading challenge and programs at the Phoenix branch and getting students and their families registered. Staff were happy to see so many familiar faces who stopped by for a free book in English or Spanish, and many shared stories of their love of the library and favorite memories involving staff members.

Digital Services

What’s that quote again? “Digital Services Help Interactions are like a box of chocolates; you never know what you’re going to get.” Or something like that, anyway. Luckily for JCLS, Digital Services Specialists are always up for the many requests they get every month. In May, help topics covered ranged widely and were a testament to the skill of the Specialists. The list of support and teaching included assistance with Office, Google Workspace, Libby and Library2Go, Kindle and iCloud management, file permissions issues, MyChart, and many more. DS is grateful to be able to help so many patrons with their diverse technology needs.

Patrons continue to flock to the Digital Estate Plan class presented by Digital Services Specialist Nicole Vukcevic and Laurel Bucher. This has been one of their most popular classes and more sessions are planned over the coming months. Head of Adult Services in Ashland Ellie Anderson and Digital Services Supervisor Eric Molinsky met with Ashland Senior Services Coordinator Shannon Holt to line out classes for the ongoing partnership for the summer season. Classes planned were the Computer and Phones Basics series, along with a presentation of the Digital Estate class in July.

Human Resources

The Volunteer Recognition Party was held in the Medford branch to celebrate all the wonderful people who generously donate their time to JCLS. Nearly fifty volunteers were able to attend and had a lovely time mixing and mingling with one another over snacks and beverages. Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Devine presented year-of-service awards and special recognition to volunteers who consistently go above and beyond in their branches.

Marketing

Like many other departments, preparation for Summer Reading kicked into high gear in May. The department has been kept busy putting final touches on advertising that will begin with programming in June. The summer



event guide is now available and has been distributed in many locations throughout the county. They were also included as an insert in the *Rogue Valley Times*.

Media Coverage:

Ashland News on Ashland Reads event: <https://bit.ly/3Xe2WgO>

Ashland News on Essay Contest: <https://bit.ly/4bJzkw6>

KOBI on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: <https://bit.ly/3yO2EDh>

KDRV on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: <https://bit.ly/3VbyxNI>

KTVL on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: <https://bit.ly/4cci8Px>

Notable Video:

May Read This!: <https://bit.ly/3K55cPK>

Support Services

Collection Development

In May, the featured Database of the month was JobNow from Brainfuse. JobNow provides a myriad of tools and guides for anyone exploring career options, whether they be new or seasoned job seekers. It also offers live online coaching for résumé help during daytime hours, which is an incredible resource.



Collection Development Manager Laurin Arnold assisted two different library systems who reached out to her to learn more about the JCLS Library of Things. Both libraries were looking to either start or expand their own library of things collections, and Arnold advised them as to some of the best practices JCLS has learned over the years.



Technical Services

Technical Services staff prepared and added several fun and practical new items to the Library of Things collection. Just in time for Summer, there are plenty of outdoor lawn games such as a wooden Ladder Ball game set, a giant Tic-Tac-Toe game, a BucketBall set, and a foam axe-throwing game. Patrons are sure to be excited by the addition of a bread machine, and another Interactive Companion pet cat, which are lifelike cuddly animatronic cats that have been proven to assist people suffering from memory degeneration disorders and other diseases. Also added were air quality monitors and home Radon detectors.

JCLS is now partnering with Jackson County Jail & Juvenile Detention centers to receive withdrawn library materials. Paperback editions that are still in good condition will now be sent to these local services for an extended life.

Facilities

There are many projects in the works for JCLS Facilities as we finish out fiscal year 2024, but two notable accomplishments in the past month include the installation of security cameras inside and outside the Central Point Library, as well as the next step in the Phoenix Pollinator Garden project: a signed contract with local firm Arkitek for the design and engineering plans.