



JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT (JCLD)
REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Large Meeting Room, Medford Branch Library
205 S Central Ave, Medford, OR
Dial 1-669-900-6833 to attend by phone
Enter Meeting ID (access code): 965 9527 6734
Or, click the link below to attend using Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/96595276734>
January 21, 2026, at 3:45 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

INTRODUCTIONS / PROCLAMATIONS

NA

AGENDA AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL

CONSENT AGENDA (5 minutes)

- 1. December 3, 2025 Work Session Meeting Minutes.....1
- 2. December 17, 2025 JCLD Regular Board Meeting Minutes.....3

ORAL REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE (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. The Board will listen to all comments but will not respond during the meeting)

NEW BUSINESS (Discuss/Action)

- 3. Administrative Action- Susan Kiefer **(20 minutes)**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 4. Union Update- Brynn Fogerty.....

REPORTS (Inform)

- 5. Library Director- Kelda Vath **(5 minutes)**7

COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS (Inform)

- 6. Relationship Committee- Susan Kiefer & Patty Jensen**(5 minutes)**

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f): To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(b) to consider dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or change brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent who does not request an open hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS/OBSERVANCES:

- February 4, 2026 Board Work Session
- February 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- February 6-8, 2026 SDAO Annual Conference- Seaside, OR

The Jackson County Library District Board meets regularly at 4:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at the Medford Library in the Board Conference Room, unless otherwise noticed. You may find proposed agendas and prior meeting minutes at www.icls.org. If you have further questions or would like to be added to the email notification list, please contact the Executive Assistant at 541-774-6406 or director@jcls.org.

If a physical accommodation is needed to participate in a Jackson County Library District meeting, please contact the Executive Assistant at 541-774-6406. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, preferably in writing, will assist us in providing reasonable accommodation.



MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Present at the meeting were: Board Members Susan Kiefer (President), Marta Tarantsey, Patty Jensen, and Kevin Keating. Marissa Shepherd (Absent)

Additional attendees: Kari May (Library Director), Josh Letsinger (Community Engagement Manager), Joan Vigil (Assistant Director-Public Services), and Yoli Diaz (Executive Assistant)

President Kiefer called the meeting to order at 3:33p.m. Roll call was taken. The Land Acknowledgement was read.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Inform/Discuss)

Strategic Planning

The board work session, led by Community Engagement Manager Josh Letsinger and Library Director Kari May, focused on the timeline and process for developing the 2026–2030 strategic plan.

Letsinger outlined the current phase of the process, noting that community listening sessions are underway through December and January. Letsinger and May shared that two out of five planned community sessions have taken place, with Ashland having 25 attendees, and Eagle point having nine. Director Keating expressed concern about low visibility of the sessions, concerns about low attendance and community awareness of the sessions, and asked about marketing efforts. Letsinger acknowledged the challenge but emphasized balancing outreach with available resources such as social media, Valpak, and local media; Director Tarantsey noted that there was front-page coverage in the *Rogue Valley Times* about the Community Sessions. She suggested focusing on synthesizing high-quality feedback of these sessions rather than recreating previous large-scale surveys. Letsinger explained that outreach is occurring through multiple channels.

Data gathered from late 2024 through early 2026 will be aggregated, along with an assessment of the current Strategic Plan’s effectiveness. This phase includes forming preliminary strategic focus areas, updating organizational metrics, and establishing performance measures informed by both community input and staff data. The team noted that broad community research conducted two years ago during the facilities master planning process, which reached over 200 residents remains valid, so a new large-scale community survey is not planned. Instead, targeted surveys and listening sessions will provide updated insights.

The Board discussed the need for a plan that balances adaptability with clear priorities. They emphasized maintaining strong core services, collections, programs, and staff support while being realistic about new initiatives given limited resources. They also highlighted concerns about community perceptions of safety and comfort in the library, agreeing these issues should be accounted for in the plan. Revisiting the mission and vision statements may also be appropriate. Director Tarantsey proposed the Board draft a vision for the next five years to go alongside the Strategic Plan.

In the spring, the library plans to hold a “Champions Session” with key staff and community partners to refine strategic themes, align priorities with community needs, and shape detailed goals and objectives. A full draft of the strategic plan is expected by late spring or early summer, after which it will be shared for feedback. Staff will also conduct an internal employee survey to gather additional insight.

Overall, the board expressed confidence in the process and alignment around creating a strategic plan that is thoughtful, data-informed, and flexible enough to guide the library through the next five years.

ADJOURN

President Kiefer adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

/s/ Yoli Diaz

Recording Secretary



MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Present at the meeting were: Susan Kiefer (President), Patty Jensen, Marissa Barrientos Shepherd, Marta Tarantsey and Kevin Keating.

Additional attendees: Kari May (Library Director), Heather Scott (Finance manager), Kelda Vath (Assistant Director, Support Services), Joan Vigil (Assistant Director, Public Services), Bryn Fogerty (HR Manager), Josh Letsinger (Community Engagement Manager), Hannah Harding (Legal Counsel), and Yoli Diaz (note taker)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Director Keating called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call was taken, and the Land Acknowledgement read.

INTRODUCTIONS / PROCLAMATIONS

NA

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Director Tarantsey moved to approve the consent agenda; Director Kiefer seconded, the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

ORAL REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM AUDIENCE

Staff member Glenn Kaphammer brought forward a concerning incident that took place earlier this week at the Talent Library, where an individual was observed viewing inappropriate content involving children on a public computer.

NEW BUSINESS

Audit Report

Finance Manager Heather Scott presented Aria Bettinger and Jason Meis auditors with Soren. Bettinger presented the FY 2025 audit, reporting an unmodified, clean opinion conforming that the district's financial statements are greatly presented. She highlighted the required adoption of GASB 101 on compensated absences, which adjusted the district's beginning net position but did not impact budgetary or daily operations. The audit also reviewed compliance with Oregon Laws and budget requirements, noting two minor budget overages that were not considered significant concerns. The auditors reported no issues with the management, found accounting estimates and controls reasonable, and noted continued improvement in audit quality.

MOTION: Director Tarantsey moved to accept Audit report as presented, Director Jensen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Employee Handbook

HR Manager Brynn Fogerty presented the revised Employee Handbook, noting it had undergone extensive review by the Policy Committee, Board work sessions, management staff, and legal and HR consultants. She

explained that the revisions primarily reflect updates to existing policies driven by changes in law. During discussion, Director Jensen thanked staff for the substantial work involved. Director Shepherd raised concerns regarding the reporting structure and the timing of the handbook's approval considering ongoing unionization efforts. Library Director May clarified that union-related matters would be addressed separately and noted that the handbook is a living document subject to future revisions. Fogerty added that the handbook may be amended as needed, including following union negotiations or future legal changes. Director Shepherd moved to table the handbook; the motion did not receive a second and therefore failed.

MOTION: Director Tarantsey moved to approve Employee Handbook as proposed; Director Jensen seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed 4-1

Tarantsey-Yes

Kiefer-Yes

Jensen-Yes

Keating-Yes

Shepherd-No

Unfinished Business

Friends Foundation Library MOU

The Library Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was presented by Library Director May using the clean version, which incorporated minor revisions from the version presented the previous month. The changes consisted primarily of grammatical corrections. She noted there had been some confusion between the redline and clean versions and stated that the revised clean version was intended to improve clarity for all. Director Keating asked whether there were any questions prior to proceeding to a vote. Director May expressed appreciation to Joan Vigil for her work on the document and thanked all involved for their efforts and contributions.

MOTION: Director Jensen moved to approve Friends Foundation Library MOU, Director Kiefer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Vote:

Tarantsey-Yes

Kiefer-Yes

Jensen-Yes

Shepherd-Yes

Budget Committee & Budget Officer Appointments

Finance Manager and Committee Member Heather Scott presented the process for appointing the Budget Officer and new Budget Committee members. She noted that this year's process mirrored prior years and reviewed the memorandum outlining the selection process. There were four qualified candidates for the two open committee seats and one single Budget Officer position seat. Heather Scott was nominated by Director Jensen to be the Budget Officer and was appointed without objection. In addition, two new Budget Committee members were recommended: Alicia Van Riggs and Dave Kanner. The Board agreed that the already scheduled March, April, and May for work sessions could accommodate budget discussions. Director Shepherd, along with other Board members, expressed appreciation to all applicants and to Arti Kirch for her service as a Budget Committee member.

Motion: Director Kiefer moved to appoint the two new Budget Committee members. Director Jensen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Director's Report

Library Director May shared several positive updates happening across the libraries. The discussion began with Director Jensen, who shared favorable feedback about the Kid Librarians section, noting that she enjoyed it and hopes it can expand to all branches. Director Keating asked a question regarding weaving, to which May explained that branch libraries are adjusting and reprioritizing sections to make room for growing collections. Director Keating also inquired about a potential change to the Community Resources Team. May explained that the team is shifting toward a more integrated, solutions-focused approach to community services, working to streamline referrals and help patrons access resources more efficiently.

Pop Survey Report

Brystan Strong, Programs Coordinator presented a detailed POP Survey Report. The program survey received 290 responses, with 222 fully completed. In gathered input on program attendance demographics, scheduling preferences, and desired offerings. Results confirmed many existing practices such as strong attendance at early literacy programs and high engagement from seniors, while also highlighting new opportunities including interested in stress management, local history, college prep and branch specific programming. Most respondents attend programs at one primary branch, and marketings through the library website remains the most effective outreach method. Moving forward, Strong will meet with branch staff to review survey results and program data to evaluate attendance, capacity, frequency, and staff workload, with the goal of maintaining sustainable and engaging programming.

Union Process

Library Director Kari May gave a brief update on the staff unionization process. May shared that JCLS received notice on or about December 1, 2025, regarding unionization. She explained that the SEIU local 503 OPEU has been designated as the exclusive bargaining representative for eligible employees and outlined the next steps. Steps include meetings between union representatives and staff, and the formation of negotiation teams. Director May emphasized that all negotiations will be conducted in executive sessions. Kari May, Brynn Fogerty HR Manager and Joan Vigil Assistant Director Public Services will be the representatives for the district. She noted that the district has retained an employment attorney to support the process and will provide updates to the board throughout the collective bargaining process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocacy Committee

Director Tarantsey shared that the Advocacy Committee will be shifting its focus this year from intensive outreach to communities and city councils. At least one city council meeting is scheduled for 2026, and Director May has coordinated with Jackson County regarding next appearance following budget process. The committee plans a strategically timed approach that builds renewal of local relationships and aims to strengthen connections across all levels of decision making.

Facilities Committee

Director Kiefer gave a quick update on the Facilities Committee. Since the last meeting, the committee has met with county representatives and are moving forward with updating intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the County.

Relationship Committee

The committee's report covers the main points, including the efforts to strengthen collaboration between the Foundation Board and District Board. Plans are underway to organize a few "meet and greet" interactions to help both boards understand each other's roles and support one another more effectively. The next scheduled meeting is in February 2026.

Director Keating adjourned the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

/s/ Yoli Diaz - Recording Secretary



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This report is designed to align with the strategic goals as outlined in the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. It demonstrates how the programs, services, and activities accomplished this month further the Library's mission to connect everyone to information, ideas, and each other. To ensure a consistent voice among contributors, ChatGPT was used to assist with editing.

Goal 1: Energize Library Services & Resources

Strategy 1: Improve and Enhance the Collections

The Butte Falls Branch partnered with Collection Development Manager Lauren Arnold to weed the Large Print collection, creating space for new materials and displays. Plans are underway to centralize video collections to improve visibility and access, including relocating junior videos next to the adult collection. A facilities request for shelving revisions has been submitted, and upcoming refreshes of the YA, Junior, and ER sections will further improve space use and support expanded high-demand displays, particularly graphic novels and new materials.

Technical Services completed a successful test using high-demand McNaughton leased titles with the ILS (Integrated Library System) Stock Rotation feature. Once holds for popular titles decline, leased copies are systematically rotated through branches before being returned to the vendor. Beginning with smaller branches and moving toward Medford, items spend approximately 30 days at each location, ensuring patrons across the district have opportunities to browse and borrow popular materials.

The Book Club Bag Committee announced the winter selection of titles. The new lineup includes *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn, *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman, *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams, and *The Wedding People* by Alison Espo. These selections support engaging, shared reading experiences for book clubs across the district.

Strategy 2: Diversify and Increase Programming and Events



Rogue Reads is well underway, bringing the community together through a shared reading experience during the winter months. This year's selected title, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt, was chosen for its accessibility, availability, and broad appeal.

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By encouraging residents across the district to read the same book, the program fosters connection and shared conversation across differences. Rogue Reads also supports intergenerational engagement through a companion picture book for families, *The Octopus Escapes* by Maile Meloy, expanding opportunities for participation and discussion across all ages.



Community members can participate in Rogue Reads by completing the Rogue Reads Bingo Card through Beanstack or by picking up a physical card at their local branch. While the program centers on books and reading, JCLS also offers engaging complementary programming. This year's activities launched in a literally big way with support from the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). As part of the ocean-themed quarter, OMSI presented its Amazing Whales program at the Medford and Ashland libraries, complete with a life-sized inflatable whale. OMSI also brought its Crime Lab program to the Rogue River

Branch, connecting hands-on learning with the mystery elements of the community read selection.

Teens at several locations will participate in a calming winter craft-and-movie program, creating Ocean Sensory Jars while watching an ocean-themed documentary through Kanopy. In Prospect, teens also took part in an escape room challenge designed to help Marcellus the Octopus escape the aquarium. Due to strong engagement, this escape room experience will be offered at additional branches throughout the winter.

Another program of note is the Death Café, which provides a welcoming space for open, community-led conversations about death. Participants gather informally to share discussion over tea and cake, with the goal of increasing awareness of death in order to help people live more fully. These sessions are intentionally agenda-free and are not intended as grief support or counseling. The program is highlighted both for the importance of the topic and for its strong connection to the themes of aging, death, and dying explored in the Rogue Reads selection. Several branches are hosting Death Café programs throughout the winter, extending opportunities for meaningful reflection and dialogue across the district.



The Adult Services departments at Ashland and Medford worked together to offer programs to celebrate the 250th birthday of Jane Austen. Ashland offered Regency-inspired decoupage crafts and a Birthday Tea with cucumber sandwiches, tea, and scones from Lovejoy's Tea Room. Four branches (Applegate, Ashland, Central Point, and Medford) featured a living history performer, Tames Alan in regency garb to demonstrate what ladies wore and looked

like in Jane Austen's time. One person who attended the Tea commented on how much she appreciated the opportunity to connect with new people who shared an interest in Jane Austen's writing. She said she noticed people all around the room getting to know each other over tea and games.



In Medford, Brooke Friendly guided participants through the historical roots of English Country Dance, highlighting its evolution from the 1600s through the eras of Jane Austen and the Victorian period. Attendees, alongside Adult Services Librarian Carrie Tannehill, learned traditional dance patterns and choreography before dancing together as a group. These Jane Austen themed programs received additional visibility through coordinated promotion

by the JCLS Marketing Team, which developed dedicated posters, flyers, screen banners, social media content, and a custom JCLS sticker to support outreach and attendance.



At the Applegate Branch, a group of tech-inspired children participated in a ScienceWorks program focused on hands-on circuit building. One participant creatively integrated a red LED light into a drawing of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, combining technology and imagination in a memorable learning experience



The Ashland Children’s Department hosted its annual Welcome Winter event, a beloved tradition that draws families from across the county. Children and adults alike left with smiles and handmade beeswax candles, after an afternoon of seasonal creativity and connection. The event was further enriched by the annual reading of *The Polar Express*, presented by former OSF actor Barry Craft and his partner Jessica Sage, who is the Artistic Director of the Rogue Theater Company.

Ashland Teens hosted a popular “Make Your Own Snowglobe” program alongside its monthly Crafternoon, drawing participation from tweens, younger teens, and older teens. The mix of age groups created meaningful opportunities for teens to interact and connect across grade levels. This program reflects a positive trend in Ashland teen services, with increased participation from older teens, and highlights the community benefit of providing shared creative spaces for both middle and high school students.

At the White City Branch, younger patrons explored the science behind making tamales while enjoying the opportunity to sample them ahead of the holiday season. Participants learned about the many steps involved in the process and expressed appreciation for the time and effort required. One young patron shared excitement about helping make tamales with their family during the holidays, highlighting the program’s impact in connecting learning with cultural and family traditions.



Families and young patrons gathered at the White City Library for a special late-night Storytime featuring festive treats, a photo booth, and a beloved stuffie sleepover. After the library closed, the stuffed animals enjoyed one last story before being tucked in for the night. When staff returned the following day, they discovered photos capturing the playful “shenanigans” the stuffies had gotten into, extending the sense of fun and imagination beyond the program.



PAWS to Read visited the Eagle Point Branch for a special Babies and Wobblers storytime, bringing therapy dogs and their handlers together with some of the library’s youngest patrons. While PAWS to Read regularly visits Eagle Point on Thursdays to support early literacy through reading with dogs, this program offered a unique opportunity for infants and toddlers to engage with the dogs in a gentle, welcoming storytime setting.



Santa Claus made a special visit to the Central Point Library to read stories and take photos with local children ahead of the holiday season. Staff thoughtfully selected storytime titles and ensured a welcoming, inclusive experience by offering a variety of refreshments, including allergen and gluten-free options. One parent shared appreciation that the available milk-free treats allowed her children to fully participate, underscoring the library's commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

The Prospect Branch launched its first How Do They Do That? monthly program, aligning with the Rogue Reads theme. The Branch Manager shared insights into scuba diving, including training, equipment, and local diving opportunities. The program drew attendees from across the county, reflecting growing interest in branch-specific programming and cross-district engagement.

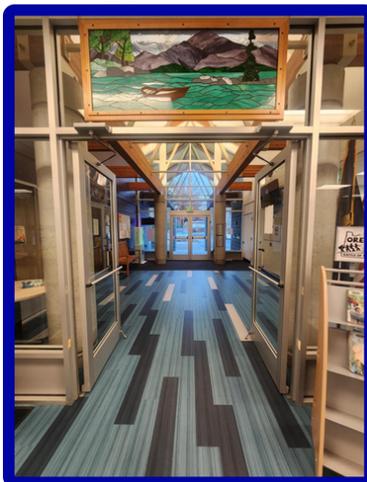


The Rogue River Branch hosted a Ukrainian Holiday Social Hour, a drop-in program led by Library Associate Nataliia Guiterrez Zaiets. Patrons enjoyed learning about Ukrainian culture and traditions, and the program resonated strongly with the community, generating interest in future Ukrainian Social Hours.

Technology Education introduced a new approach to scheduling branch classes, inviting managers to select preferred programs and dates for March 2026 through February 2027 through a survey process. The strong response resulted in more branches scheduling desired classes, while also allowing the department to refine and solidify its annual schedule.

Strategy 3 – Enliven and improve facilities

The Rogue River Branch was closed from December 22 through January 3 for carpet and flooring replacement. During the closure, staff continued to support patrons by providing back-door holds pickup and worked diligently to prepare the space for reopening. The branch reopened on January 5 with refreshed flooring and carpeting, receiving positive and appreciative feedback from the community.



Strategic Plan Goal 2: Extend Access to the Library

Strategy 2 – Expand and diversify marketing and promotion

The Prospect Branch welcomed Marketing Supervisor Robin Leiserowitz and Community Engagement Manager Josh Letsinger for a discussion focused on local community needs and effective ways to reach patrons using familiar communication methods. One immediate outcome of the visit was a collaboration with Marketing Specialist Mariah Mills to update the in-branch TV display to highlight individual branch programs for the quarter. This new approach is being explored by the Marketing team, and Prospect served as a pilot location for the initiative.

In December, Adult Selection Librarian Felishia Jenkins and Digital Selection Librarian April Bozada-Armstrong were guests on JX Reads from Jefferson Public Radio's Jefferson Exchange. They discussed recommended reading for the holidays, end of year book lists and book awards. <https://www.ijpr.org/podcast/the-jefferson-exchange/2025-12-09/jx-reads-book-awards-end-of-year-lists-and-jcls-staff-recommended-readings>

Strategy 3 – Work to remove barriers to use of the Library

During a December visit to the Central Point Library, two patrons from Crescent City sought historical phone books from the 1970s to revisit personal memories. While the materials were not available on-site, Branch Manager Carrie Turney Ross coordinated with the Medford Reference Desk, where Adult Services Specialist Jackie McGarry quickly confirmed the availability of Polk's Directories covering the entire decade. The patrons were delighted and immediately traveled to the Medford Library to explore the collection, highlighting the value of staff collaboration and system-wide resources.

The Courier Team also reported a noticeable increase in the use of the Ashland Book Lockers, with all lockers fully occupied multiple times during the past month. Couriers shared that patrons frequently express appreciation for the service when seeing lockers being loaded at the YMCA, underscoring the lockers' growing role in expanding convenient access to library materials.

Goal 3: Engage the Community More Fully

Strategy 1: Increase Outreach and Community Partnerships

Education Services Librarian Evelyn Lorence and Education Services Specialist Bella Silva hosted library orientation visits for teens at Hanby Middle School and for all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students at Prospect Charter School, supporting student engagement with library and literacy resources during the extended break. These visits introduced students to the catalog, digital resources, Teen Page, Homework Help Center, and Beanstack, helping make library services more accessible and relevant. Lorence and Silva, joined by Library Specialist Abigail Awai, also tabled during all three lunch periods at Scenic Middle School, promoting Spark Space, Rogue Reads, library card signups, and other resources, with strong interest from first-time library users.

In partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Steering Committee, Library Specialist Kateri Warnick and Outreach Supervisor Amanda Maya Dickson tabled at The Children's Museum of Southern Oregon to promote the free monthly book program for children ages 0–5. The team enrolled new children and assisted additional families with updating contact information to ensure continued participation, expanding access to early literacy resources across the community.



Specialists Kateri Warnick and Eva Nava, along with Outreach Supervisor Amanda Maya Dickson, tabled at the indoor Growers Market held at Rogue X to promote the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Engaging with many attendees with “Dolly” in tow the team shared library information, distributed Winter Event guides, and offered book giveaways, expanding awareness of library services and early literacy resources.

Outreach to Childcare Library Specialist Eva Nava, with support from Spanish Services Coordinator Milagros Morales, partnered with the LISTO program to host a Winter Fun Family Literacy Night at the Medford Library. Working closely with the preschool teacher and program director, the team created an engaging evening of winter-themed stories, songs, and activities, along with general library information designed to welcome first-time visitors. The event supported in-person family engagement while monthly storytime offerings remain online and drew a great crowd, creating a shared, memorable literacy experience for families.

Outreach to Childcare Specialist Bethany Peabody delivered 150 Baby’s First Books to the Asante Birth Center.



Specialists Peabody, Nava, Warnick and Outreach Supervisor Maya Dickson held a fun-filled holiday craft event at Rogue Valley Mall. Providing crafts, button making and library resources, they interacted with many people while distributing library information, Winter Event Guides, as well as distributing books.

Impact Story: A longtime participant in At Home Services, who was previously a librarian, often shared stories about her career with At Home Services Specialists Mackenzie and Kateri, as well as the volunteers who delivered her books. As her health declined and she was no longer able to continue receiving services, her daughter reached out to express gratitude for the program, writing, “They have been the highlight of her last few years, and I thank you again for providing this wonderful service to the community.” This message reflects the meaningful role At Home Services plays in supporting connection, dignity, and quality of life for homebound patrons.

Ashland Adult Services partnered with the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy to offer a workshop on using technology to participate in citizen science projects, including Project FeederWatch and other birdwatching initiatives. Staff from both organizations co-presented, strengthening community partnerships and laying the groundwork for future collaborations across the county's libraries.



December was a festive month at the Eagle Point Branch, reflecting the library's strong community connections. Art students from Eagle Point High School painted holiday-themed windows throughout town, including at the library. Later in the month, the Eagle Point High School Choir visited the branch to perform holiday songs for staff and patrons, a tradition that staff value as a meaningful expression of community partnership.

Fourth-grade students from Sacred Heart Catholic School toured the Medford Children's Library, learning about available resources and becoming familiar with the layout of the space. Students received library cards if they did not already have one and engaged in conversation with staff, sharing insights about their school and strengthening connections between the library and local classrooms.

During their visit, students also learned about America's Battle of the Books and the ways the Medford Children's Library can support their participation, including access to titles on the reading list and guidance in navigating library resources as they work toward completing the program.



In partnership with A Greater Applegate and community leaders in Williams and Ruch, the Ruch Branch is supporting the development of Resiliency Hubs—safe gathering spaces equipped with backup power, emergency communications, and supplies to assist residents during emergencies. Branch Manager Megan Pinder and Operations Coordinator Crystal Zastera have been engaged in this work

since spring 2025. In December, they met with A Greater Applegate to begin drafting a memorandum of understanding that will define JCLS's role in the Resiliency Hub and serve as a potential template for future partnerships.

Branch Manager Megan Pinder completed 18 hours of professional development and earned her Amateur Radio Technician License through the FCC. In collaboration with other Resiliency Hub partners, she will continue hands-on radio and communications training throughout 2026. This ongoing training will support effective operation of the radio equipment to be purchased for the branch by A Greater Applegate and strengthen coordination among Resiliency Hub members during emergency situations.

As part of its 2026–2030 Strategic Plan development, JCLS hosted two community listening sessions in December:

Medford Branch – December 4

Rogue River Branch – December 18

These sessions were promoted to encourage public input on library programs, spaces, and partnerships, reinforcing JCLS commitment to community-driven planning.

Additional Marketing Highlights;

On December 4, JCLS issued a press update spotlighting Mango Languages, a digital resource for language learning, as part of its ongoing effort to promote educational tools and expand digital engagement. December’s Database of the Month was Mango Languages. Digital Selection Librarian April Bozada–Armstrong shared information and resources with staff to support it’s promotion and feature on the library website.

Strategy 3 – Advance ongoing work to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment in facilities, services, and resources for all segments of the community, notably the Latinx population, unhoused individuals and families, tribal members, and homeschool groups

In December, the Jacksonville Branch hosted a concert by the Cascade Strings Trio, featuring a mix of familiar and new pieces. Following the performance, a parent shared appreciation for the opportunity to expose her children who are learning to play instruments. She noted that concerts of this kind are often cost-prohibitive, and expressed gratitude for a free, high-quality cultural experience accessible to families in the community.

Throughout the fall academic term, a sight-impaired patron regularly visited the Jacksonville Branch to use public computers for coursework. Staff provided ongoing assistance with logging in, navigating research tools, using accessibility features in Word, and scanning and submitting completed assignments. The patron later shared that one of their papers would be published in their school’s academic journal, crediting library staff for their support and guidance.



The Ashland Branch created a Greeting Card Station in the Adult Services area, offering free cards, pens, and stamps to patrons. The initiative encouraged community members to reconnect with loved ones during the holiday season and was designed to be accessible, with instructions provided in both English and Spanish. Greeting cards were donated, making stamps the only cost to the library, and the station supported meaningful

connection at a time of year when many people reach out through written correspondence.

Strategy 4 – Current and Accessible Technology

To improve the online searching and browsing experience for both patrons and staff, catalog records for nearly all hoopla formats were removed from the public catalog on January 20. (Hoopla's unique Binge Pass records remain visible.) This change addresses the way the large volume of hoopla records can overcrowd search results and create the misperception that JCLS prioritizes digital purchasing over its physical collection. Hoopla continues to be a valued service, and patrons are encouraged to access its full catalog through the hoopla app and website, as 85% of users already do. JCLS also continues to feature hoopla through prominent catalog links and select keyword searches to ensure discoverability

Goal 4: Nurture the Library's Infrastructure

Strategy 1: Foster additional internal communication and engagement across all branches

In partnership with Data and Analytics Coordinator Regina Mannino, the Collection Development (CD) team released the 3rd annual State of the Collection Report (SOCR) at the end of November, covering FY25. The SOCR fulfills three functions:

- Explains the work done by CD, and highlights the accomplishments within a given fiscal year
- Presents a snapshot of the collection in both data and narrative form
- Outlines future/current projects for the CD department in the current fiscal year, in this case FY26.

Supervisors and managers received a preview of the SOCR at their November 12 meeting, with the final version released on November 26. The SOCR has become a valuable tool for strengthening internal communication and organizational transparency, while supporting reflection, future planning, and the preservation of institutional memory.

Adult Services Librarian Meghan Thompson and Technology Education Specialist Luntha Tahuna partnered to launch a Library Job & Resume Workshop at the Medford Library. The program offered drop-in, 20-minute one-on-one sessions during two two-hour periods, providing personalized support for job searching and résumé development. Due to positive response, Thompson and Tahuna plan to continue the series with expanded marketing to reach additional patrons.

Strategy 4 – Strengthen support and engagement with the Friends groups and the Library Foundation

Central Point Branch Manager Carrie Turney Ross made quick work of fostering the relationship with the Central Point Friends of the Library. This group of dedicated volunteers has a presence in the library every day through their book sales. As the team prepares to do some rearranging in the building, Turney Ross took the opportunity to learn about the CPFOL's needs and what was needed for library's collections. Through creative problem-solving, ongoing conversations, and teamwork, Central Point staff, Facilities staff, and the CPFOL have found a solution that will enhance their ability to continue their ongoing book sale in a way that supports the needs of both organizations.



Staff from the Jacksonville branch joined the Jacksonville Library Friends and the Storytelling Guild to march together in the town's annual Victorian Christmas parade, drawing cheers and joyful shouts of "We love our library" as they made their way down Main Street.