News Release

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New library district to be made official
Swearing-in ceremony scheduled for elected board members

GRANTS PASS, OR, June 13, 2017—Establishment of the Josephine Community Library District is on the agenda for the Board of County Commissioners Weekly Business Session, Wednesday, June 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the Anne Basker Auditorium, 604 NW 6th Street. Board Order 2017-027 and 2017-028 will formally establish both the library district and the board of directors for the district as a result of this past May election.

“We’re ready to begin making decisions as a board,” said Jennifer Roberts, library district board member-elect. “The district will need to start developing policies, and setting up accounting and legal services.”

Board members plan to meet for a workshop session this Thursday at 5:15 p.m. at the staff room for the City of Grants Pass, 101 NW A St. All future meetings will be held at the Grants Pass branch library. Notices will be sent in advance, and agendas and minutes will be posted at josephinelibrary.org.

Board members will be officially sworn in during a ceremony on Wednesday, July 5 at 8:30 a.m. at the Josephine County Court House, 500 NW C Street, in Courtroom 1. The first Josephine Community Library District public board meeting will immediately follow the ceremony beginning at 9 a.m. at the Grants Pass branch, 200 NW C Street, in the Ben Bones Room. Board members are Beecher Ellison Position 1, Laurel Samson Position 2, Jennifer Roberts Position 3, Judy Williams Position 4, John Harelson Position 5.

On May 16, 2017, voters passed Measure 17-79 to form a library district in the noncontiguous areas surrounding the branch libraries in Grants Pass, Williams, Wolf Creek, and Illinois Valley. The measure passed by 53 percent of the vote at a rate of 39 cents per $1,000 of assessed property value for owners within the boundaries of the library district. This tax will begin to be assessed starting July 2017, and the library district will start to receive tax receipts in November 2017.
For more information during the transition of operations from the current nonprofit to the new library district, contact the library by phone at 541-476-0571, email to info@josephinelibrary.org, or visit the website at josephinelibrary.org.

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The libraries in Josephine County closed on May 17, 2007. Four months later, committed community members formed Josephine Community Libraries, Inc., a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring long-term library services for every county resident. By December 2009, JCLI had reopened all four shuttered locations. In May 2017, citizens placed a measure on the ballot to permanently fund the libraries, which passed by 53 percent of the vote. For 10 years, the libraries were supported by generous donations and the heroic contributions of more than 360 volunteers annually. Now, JCLI is committed to a seamless transition of library services to the newly formed library district and is working to support the district effort until the anticipated transition is completed in 2018. Anyone interested in getting involved with the library can send an e-mail to info@josephinelibrary.org. Those interested in donating can send a check or money order payable to "Josephine Community Libraries" to P.O. Box 1684, Grants Pass, OR 97528 or make a secure donation on the website, www.josephinelibrary.org.