



News Release

Open the door to knowledge

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Library meeting to be held in Cave Junction on January 7

CAVE JUNCTION, January 2, 2008—A meeting to discuss the reopening of the libraries in Illinois Valley will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 7, at the County Building, 102 South Redwood Highway, in Cave Junction.

The meeting is sponsored as a joint effort between the Friends of the Illinois Valley Library and Josephine Community Libraries, the nonprofit organization dedicated to reopening and operating the libraries throughout Josephine County.

"At this meeting, we'll provide information about the current status of the libraries," said Linda Naydol, president of the Illinois Valley Friends of the Library. "We'll also gather ideas and volunteers for increasing awareness, raising funds, and getting more and more people involved," she said. Naydol is also a key volunteer for Josephine Community Libraries, having served as the vice chair of the founding steering committee from September through November, at which time governance of the organization was transferred to its first official board of directors.

Doug Walker, president of the Josephine Community Libraries board of directors, will also be on hand to hear input and answer questions. "We hope to gather input from the public about how they want to run their libraries," Walker said. "It's important for our organization to hear from all the different communities in Josephine County, to make sure that the library solutions we come up with serve all our citizens as fairly as possible."

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Last May, Josephine County closed the library system due to lack of funding. Josephine Community Libraries responded by incorporating in September with the goal of raising funds privately to reopen and operate the libraries, possibly as a public-private partnership with the county.

"To raise funds, we're setting up a membership structure similar to that of public broadcasting," Walker said. "In this structure, library members make yearly contributions to provide for long-term sustainable operations year after year. The libraries would still be accessible to everyone at no charge," he added.

So far, citizens have contributed nearly \$40,000 to the effort. The first major fundraising event will be a benefit concert held at 8 p.m. Saturday January 19 at the Rogue Theatre in Grants Pass. The opening act will be "MTV" and the headliner is "FUNKtional Fusion." The concert is sponsored by The Daily Courier, Hart Insurance, Home Valley Bank, Dutch Brothers, and The Rogue Theatre. Tickets at \$20 each are on sale at Home Valley Bank, The Daily Courier, and the Dutch Brothers café.

Naydol said she is looking forward to a lively turnout at the Cave Junction library meeting. "In addition to the opportunity to get questions answered and sign up to volunteer," Naydol said, "we will have library window decals, buttons, and bookmarks available." For more information about the Illinois Valley library meeting, people can call Naydol at 592-3289.

People interested in getting involved with the library effort can send an e-mail to info@josephinelibrary.org. Those interested in making a contribution can make their check or money order out to "RCC Foundation / Josephine Community Libraries." Contributions may be mailed to Josephine Community Libraries, P.O. Box 1684, Grants Pass, OR 97528.

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