

slow speed. Police believe the girls later pronounced dead. Oregon State Police spent time with the victim's family.

# Library proposal falls short again. What now?

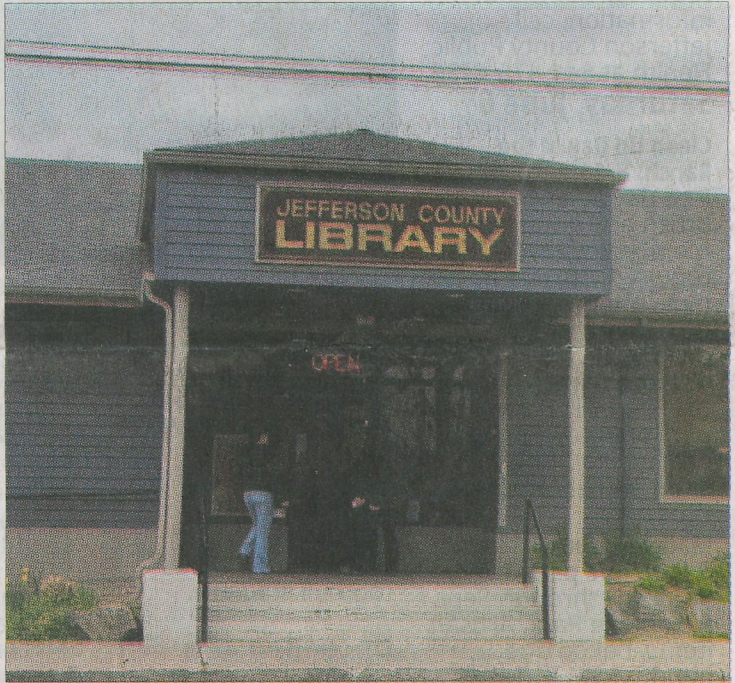
By Candice Stilwell  
Madras Pioneer

Yet again, the Jefferson County Library District's proposal for a new library building did not pass the vote in May. Jefferson County Library director Jane Ellen Innes, the library staff and the board of directors are now working to create a new plan that continues operations as is.

"I think we were all a little disappointed," Innes said. "I think the board wanted this for the community and the community voted that they didn't want it. So we're just going to figure out a new way to provide the best services we can with the space we've got."

Innes said that currently, the library actually takes up three buildings and uses a storage unit. She explained the system is like having each room of a house separated. "It's like having your living room in one house, your bedroom in another and your closet in another," Innes said.

The plan proposed to voters



CANDICE STILWELL/MADRAS PIONEER

The Jefferson County Library did not get voters' approval for an expansion, for the second year in a row.

this spring was smaller and cost \$5 million less than the original plan. There were also plans to modify the current library building into a community center.

The chair of the library board,

Susan Stovall, said that the way the library currently has to operate is "extremely inefficient" when voting was about to begin in late March. But 65.73% of

See **JEFFERSON**, 3A

# home, many birds in house fire

think even some going to be able to put people in."

The flames of

She has an executive master's degree in public administration, a Bachelor of Arts in business management and an associate

Starting in 2021, he spent two years as the senior advisor for the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Before that, he worked as

Henderson as "a trusted friend" and an "excellent chief of staff" as Henderson transitioned to work as TriMet's chief operating

D.C. He has also been deputy press secretary for former Virginia governor Tim Kaine.

Henderson has a ma

## JEFFERSON

Continued from 1A

voters were not in favor of the plan.

"I honestly don't know," Innes said when asked about why the bond did not pass. "I think maybe it's just the economy right now and everything is more expensive, it's just hard for people right now. It's hard to know."

However, the other two measures voted on did pass. Innes said the library bond was different because it was more broad. Both of the passing measures were more specific to Camp Sherman.

"We do have part of our district in Camp Sherman, but it's not a significant number, Innes said.

The library district's board will meet sometime this summer to revise their strategic plan for the next few years in light of the expansion not passing. "And, you know, we'll take all this into account when we do it," Innes said.

The proposal in May was scaled back from last year's expansion plan, which also failed to pass the vote, with 53% voting no.

While Innes said that the

*"I think maybe it's just the economy right now and everything is more expensive, it's just hard for people right now."*

### Jane Ellen Innes

Jefferson County Library director

last election cycle was informative in how the library district needed to adjust its plan, she feels differently this time. "I don't know if I've gained any insight or not," Innes said. "I really think what I personally have learned is just that we just need to move forward with the spaces that we have."

The plan to put a new library branch into Culver is still in motion to be finished this fall. "I think looking at our demographics, it was just the right thing to do at the right time," Innes said. "Culver is really growing, and I think that we need to recognize where the growth in the community is and take our services to those areas."

Innes said work to expand their outreach services through their book-mobile will also continue.

When the Culver branch

was announced, Stovall said that "outreach has always been a high priority to serve the outlying areas of our district."

"We're tossing around a lot of creative ideas," Innes said. "I have a real creative staff and we'll talk with the board and see which direction they want to go in and then proceed."

Innes said the goals of the staff to focus on early literacy and providing services to the community remains a priority for the board, and highlighted that the library offers more than just books. "We do so much more than that," Innes said.

The library also works with local schools to support early literacy efforts, and lends things beyond books such as board games and trail cameras. They also have museum and park passes available.

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