

Applegater

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Photo by Chelsea Fine

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Photo by Tasha Knowlton

Albino gopher digs Applegate home

BY TASHA KNOWLTON

This interesting albino gopher belongs to John Hill and Francine Decker. They were working in the Bottroff's field when they found it. John and Francine managed to get a hold of it and decided to keep the gopher as a replacement for their old albino gopher. Its bright white fur and glowing red eyes make it a very intriguing creature.

This gopher has a good home and goes everywhere with John and Francine in a large bucket filled with fresh dirt.

Successful Williams Garden Party at Herb Pharm

BY BONNIE JOHNSON AND PREM MILES

A fundraiser for Josephine County Libraries Inc. (JCLI) and the Williams Branch Library was held June 21 with wine-tasting, live music, food and a fabulous silent auction.

The Williams Friends of the Library's Garden Party Fundraiser in the beautiful Herb Pharm Gardens, on Bonlinda Lane in Williams, couldn't have been nicer. Attendees from Grants Pass, Murphy, the Applegate area and, of course, Williams, came to show their support for libraries and enjoy a perfect afternoon in exquisite gardens.

The event was co-sponsored by the Williams Friends of the Library and JCLI,

Josephine Community Libraries, Inc. the 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that has re-opened the library in Grants Pass. Thanks to JCLI's creativity, hard work, enthusiastic volunteers and ongoing fundraising efforts, plans are now in place to reopen the Williams branch library in November of 2009. Watch for the Grand Opening Day events!

The fundraiser party at Herb Pharm on June 21, 2009 was perfect for strolling in the gardens, sipping unique local wines, listening to live music and enjoying the very good food. The herb and flower gardens were at their peak, due to the spring rains and the excellent work of the gardeners.

Ray Reussner delighted the attendees with his suburb classical guitar music. The food was scrumptious and plentiful and wine swirled in the special commemorative glasses ordered just for the occasion. Local residents, Grants Pass folks, and Applegate Valley library supporters all mingled and enjoyed each other's company on a special Fathers' Day outing.



Ten local wineries donated wine for the fundraiser

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Hiking the Applegate

BY JANEEN SATHRE

I have been enjoying the hiking trails in the Applegate for many years now, from the highest points around Dutchman Peak to the lowest ones nestled in the Enchanted Forest. It always amazes me how many trails there are to explore, each with its own variety of flora and fauna, and all of it contained in the wonderful Applegate watershed.

Most of these trails have been maintained by the US Forest Service. Sadly, as their funds have become constricted, many of the trails are disappearing back into wilderness. Some of the trails are difficult to get to and others difficult to maintain, such as those in the Red Butte Wilderness where restrictions against chain saws or motorized equipment apply.

wild rhododendrons, meadows filled with wild flowers and cool clear water feeding the Applegate River. Knox McCoy thought it was beautiful too, and in the early 1900s lived at Frog Pond in a cabin built to incorporate several large cedar trees. McCoy appears to have been quite a character according to several tidbits of information that have been handed down about him. For instance there was the time he visited my grandparents, where he slept in the barn as a pit stop on his walk to Jacksonville for supplies. He was thinking how nice a blackberry pie would be and knew if he picked some berries on his way, my grandmother would make one. Since it was a hot day and he didn't have a container to put the berries in, he took



Clearing the way

Photo above: Part of the Sierra Club's Rogue Group work crew with Alison Laughlin followed by Al Collinet and JoAnne Eggers.

Photo right: Maggie Purves and Kathy Carstens, Red Butte Wilderness Trekkers, hard at work clearing Frog Pond/Cameron Meadows trail



However, these trails provide some of the best connections for us to know and understand the vibrant history of the environment we live in.

Many of these trails were used by the early miners who came here in the 1850s, men who probably followed in the footsteps of their predecessors in the area, the Native Americans. There are funny names given to camp sites (No-See-Um), old remains of cabins, and even obsidian arrowhead pieces lying on the trail. Although some stories are lost forever, many have been written down for us to enjoy.

One such trail is the Frog Pond/Cameron Meadows four-mile loop. The hike winds through one of the most beautiful old-growth forests, delicate

his long johns off, tied knots in the legs and proceeded to fill them with berries. According to my grandmother, it seemed that McCoy rarely bathed, so the thought of eating those berries out of his underwear was not very appetizing. It is this kind of history, in addition to the sheer beauty of the trail, that makes it important to not lose this part of our Applegate heritage.

With that in mind, volunteers from the Red Butte Wilderness Trekkers and the Rogue Group of the Sierra Club got together last year to clean the Frog Pond Trail. We thought it would be a one-day project, but after coming back a second

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