

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— Applegate ACCESS Food Pantry —

Applegate ACCESS Food Pantry operates out of the back of Ruch School cafeteria on Mondays from 9:30 - 11:00 am, except holidays and when school is in session.

When you come to the pantry, remember that you are on school grounds, so please observe the speed limit and no-smoking regulation.

If you bring your kids, keep them with you; please don't let them wander. When you are taking food that is on the dock or

tables, please be mindful of others who are behind you—some have large families and need more food or are picking up a box for neighbors who are unable to come to the pantry themselves.

Please help us in thanking Ruch Country Store for their weekly donations, and be kind to our volunteers. It wouldn't be possible to run the pantry without these dedicated folks.

For more information, contact manager, Charlotte Knott, at 541-899-8381.

— Summer at Pacifica —

New Caterpillar. Thanks to contributors and supporters, a new Caterpillar science trailer will be ready for action in fall 2017. Thank you all!

Birds and wildflowers. Bird and wildflower identification sheets, hung at all the kiosks, will help you learn more about and enjoy the great trails at Pacifica. Take these learning guides on the trails with you and then return them to any kiosk or the office when your hike is done. Enjoy! The multitude of wildflowers that bless Pacifica's trails come in three waves: early spring, late spring, and early summer...which is right about now. So go for a hike or horse ride or dog walk, and you might see mule's ears, monkey flowers, cat's ears, pussy-toes, coyote mint—a whole zoo-full of flowers!

New for horseback riders. Thanks to Kay Johnson and her Brushrider friends, there are new trails (up to seven miles long), new trail signs, and a picnic table under a tree at the far side of the property.

New for budding scientists-naturalists. The first three of 10 to 20

activity stations (birds, insects, tracking, and many more over the next three years) on the Caterpillar's Outdoor Discovery Trail are finished. The trail will center around Friendship Pond, and each station (like those in the Caterpillar) will have one to four hands-on activities. The stations are available free for budding naturalists and scientists and their families. There will be nine different and special Summer Day Camps (see list on page 8).

Gardens need volunteers. Work is also progressing on a Fragrant Labyrinth Garden and the Pollinator Garden. The more hands that are involved, however, the faster and more fun the work goes.

If you would like to put a few hours into these or other projects, the monthly Volunteer Day is the third Sunday of each month from 9 am to noon or whatever works for you.

Have a great summer—spend some of it enjoying Pacifica!

Peg Prag
peg@pacificagarden.org

— SMART —

We have now wrapped up the SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) program for the 2016-2017 school year. The goal of SMART is to get children enthusiastic about reading.

I started as a SMART volunteer at the beginning of the 2016 school year. I wasn't totally sure what I was getting myself into, but, simply speaking, it was an exceptionally rewarding experience, and I can't wait to do it again. To see the kids' faces each week and watch the kids grow throughout the year was priceless. I passed along the idea of joining SMART to some good friends, and they became hooked as well.

The process of becoming a SMART volunteer at Applegate School, where I volunteered (Ruch and Williams schools also have programs), was exceptionally simple. I contacted our coordinator, filled out a short background check and application, and attended a brief orientation at the school. Then came what I thought would be the hard part: meeting the kids and getting them interested in reading. It wasn't hard! The students have over 100 books to pick from. It was always fun to watch them browse before making a selection.

Okay, so if you have read this far I'm guessing you're thinking, "But you have to teach them to read, and that's hard!" I had similar thoughts before I volunteered, but learning to read becomes the natural by-product of the enthusiasm. When I read with my assigned students, I focus on understanding their body language. One boy is a fantastic reader, but sometimes he wants to take a break and have me read the story. I believe this gives him the chance to focus on the pictures and use his imagination rather than just reading out loud. Having me read also enables conversations about what is happening in the story. My other student is just learning to read and has made significant



Applegate School SMART volunteers, from left to right, Kathy Kiewer, Fred Hall, Jean Hall, Babette Rapp, Seana Hodge, and Rich Halsted. (Steve Rapp not pictured.)

progress. As the year progressed, he started identifying more and more words, and his confidence improved substantially. At the end of each month, and at other special times, each student can take home a book to keep.

(This is where I make my pitch, so please read on.)

We still have students who would benefit from the SMART program, and it would be great if we had more volunteers. This program does require a one-hour-a-week commitment on days school is in session. Also "life happens," and the SMART volunteer may have to miss a day or two. No problem. We can work it out.

All right, if you have read all of this, I'm hoping you can join us next year. For Applegate School please contact Seana Hodge at 541-660-8317 or shodge@siskiyou.com. For other schools just contact the main office, and I guarantee they will help you out. For those unsure, contact me at rich.halsted@gmail.com, and I'll be glad to share more of my experience. Thanks to all the SMART readers who are certainly making a difference in our community!

Rich Halsted
rich.halsted@gmail.com

— Rotary Club of Jacksonville-Applegate —

Rotarians have been at work improving the lives of young people in the area. A recent effort of the club was the delivery of dictionaries to third graders at Ruch, Jacksonville, and Madrone Trail Schools. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn. Teachers help students learn to use their personal dictionaries to become good writers, active readers, and resourceful learners.

The club provided financial support to help Cub Scouts Pack 17 launch a weather balloon in April as part of their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) training. The balloon reached 60,000 feet and is now lodged at 8,800

feet in the mountains of Nevada waiting for the spring melt so it can be retrieved and its data analyzed.

In our ongoing support of the playground renovation at Cantrall Buckley Park, the Rotary Club has pledged \$1,000 toward the final renovation of the RV park.

The Jacksonville-Applegate Rotary Club meets each Thursday morning from 7 to 8 am at Bella Union Restaurant, 170 West California Street, Jacksonville. Please join us to hear interesting speakers and learn about our upcoming projects to better our community and the world.

For more information about the Rotary Club, contact Peggy Carlaw at 805-801-3882 or pcarlaw@gmail.com.

Help support the Applegater by purchasing these unique items!

Book. *From the Heart of the Applegate* anthology of original essays, poems, and short stories contributed by Applegate Valley writers in support of the *Applegater*. Available now for \$16 at Amazon.com and applegater.org; Applegate Valley Realty, Jacksonville; Bloomsbury Books, Ashland; Oregon Books, Grants Pass; and Terra Firma, Jacksonville.



Planter. Beautiful planters built with donated local wood and volunteer labor. See these useful and long-lasting "Applecrates" at Applegate Valley Realty, 935 N. Fifth Street, Jacksonville. A stock planter box, 12" wide x 22" long x 14" deep, starts at \$40. For more information, call Chris Bratt at 541-846-6988.



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