

AVFD honors its own at annual awards event



At the annual Applegate Valley Fire District awards ceremony and dinner on February 2, the Firefighter of the Year award (photo, above left) was presented to Julian Ramirez (left) by Battalion Chief Cody Goodnough. Volunteer of the Year award (photo, above right) went to Tim Ryan (left), with Operations Chief Chris Wolfard presenting. For a list of additional awards, see page 22. *Photos courtesy of Rob Underwood.*

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The next generation of philanthropists is already doing good works

BY DIANA COOGLE

The meeting room of the Josephine County Foundation (JCF) at Hidden Valley High School (HVHS) is a bit of a mess. Cardboard boxes tumble along two walls. The meeting table seems incidental. The focus is on action.

The action signified by this mess is the Guatemala Project—donations of lightly used school supplies (binders, notebooks) packaged by JCF volunteers for shipment to Guatemala later in the month.

The Guatemala Project represents the desire to “make a difference,” the founding principle of JCF. Under the leadership of HVHS teachers Chris Pendleton (now JCF’s executive director and board treasurer) and Dale Fisher, students founded JCF



Promoting the Healthy Food Festival are JCF members, from left to right, Shaley Petropoulos, North Valley High School; Milo Dolantree, Hidden Valley High School; Cheyanne Dodge, North Valley HS; and Aria Back, Hidden Valley HS.

in 2011 with the vision of vibrancy, health, education, and prosperity for every individual in Josephine County. Like the boxes overflowing with school supplies

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50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee

July 14, 2018

Cantrall Buckley Park Golden Jubilee

Coming this summer!

Join the Applegate Valley community in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Cantrall Buckley Park, which officially opened on July 14, 1968.

When: Saturday, July 14, 2018, 11 am to 7 pm

Where: Cantrall Buckley Park, 154 Cantrall Road, Ruch
The whole park is reserved for the day.

How: Concerts, exhibits, food, spirits, and much more!
The event will emphasize our Applegate community and its history.

We are soliciting the participation of local businesses and organizations.

Contact Tom Carstens, event coordinator, at 541-846-1025 or bumsonwheels@gmail.com (subject line: Golden Jubilee).
Ditto if you’d like to help with planning!

For more information, visit gacdc.org and the calendar on applegateconnect.org.

A historic moment for A Greater Applegate

BY SETH KAPLAN

February 1 marked a historic turning point for A Greater Applegate (formerly GACDC), as the organization handed back operational control of Cantrall Buckley Park to Jackson County Parks and launched the new Applegate Valley Connect community website. These and other developments align with our new mission: “To sustain and enhance the communal, environmental, and economic vitality of the Applegate Valley.” It’s a big mission, but it also takes us back to the original vision of the founders of GACDC of “Sustaining Vitality in the Applegate.” We want to acknowledge and thank Treasurer Larry Anderson and long-time member Lynn Funk, who resigned from the board at the end of 2017, as did Park Committee Chair Tom Carstens. Tom will stick around to lead the 50th anniversary celebration of the park on Saturday, July 14. All these community leaders will be missed, although, in this valley, no one is ever too far away to ask for help!

For more than two decades, GACDC/A Greater Applegate focused on maintaining

Cantrall Buckley Park, but it has remained committed to community visioning and launching new projects. Below are some of the key projects and strategies we are undertaking.

While A Greater Applegate will no longer be operating the park, we remain committed to its improvement. The new Park Enhancement Committee, chaired by Janis Mohr-Tipton, will benefit from about \$120,000 in recent grants to take on some wonderful new projects. We will partner with the county to install solar panels, a sundial, and an educational kiosk. We also will be providing public art, pollinator gardens, benches, educational programs for students, and more.

The new Applegate Valley Connect at applegateconnect.org is a free open-source website for Applegate Valley businesses, nonprofits, and others to share all the great events, activities, resources, and services across our valley. Committee chair, Barbara Holiday, and our consultant, Community Systems, LLC, have led this effort. Register

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