

Applegaters pitch in for animals

BY LAURA AHEARN



Students from Ruch Outdoor Community School visit the Jackson County animal shelter in February to kick off their project. Photo: Richard Jacquot.

Applegate students, families, nonprofits, and businesses are supporting Friends of the (Jackson County) Animal Shelter (FOTAS) in several new and exciting ways.

Applegaters are creative. During the spring semester, seventh-grade students at Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) shared their artistic talents by painting ceramic tiles and rocks to donate for sale at Deck the Paws Holiday Fair. This new event will be held on December 7 from noon - 4 pm at Phoenix Plaza Civic Center. Individuals and families can bring their pets for portrait photos with Santa Paws and Cat-Elf, and shoppers will find a wide array of unique handcrafted gifts and décor. ROCS students are not only pioneers in the community-wide drive to create handicrafts but they also will be responsible for setting up and staffing their own table at the fair, with presentations on pollinator gardening and bird identification.

Teacher Jennifer Drane says, "Doing service, like this FOTAS project, is vital to help students have more empathy and feel they are part of the community." What do the students think? "This project is fun!" "Cool." "When I think about animals, I think in color."

If you would like to join the fun of creating for the fair, come to Art for Animals at Miners' Bazaar (235 East California Street, Jacksonville) on June 30 from 11 am - 2 pm. Art and crafting materials will be provided; a \$5 donation to FOTAS is suggested. You can also join the FOTAS Elves group on Facebook. Call Laura Ahearn at 458-226-0600 for more information.

Applegaters are inviting. June 8 is McKee Bridge Day, and this year McKee Bridge Historical Society has invited FOTAS to collaborate in a new event: Doggy World! Join us from 11 am - 3 pm for informative talks about Dogs of Service and the FOTAS Street Dog and Working Cats programs. Applegater Dr. Jeffrey Judkins of Animalkind Holistic Veterinary Clinic will speak about particular health threats that our pets face in the Applegate Valley. You can see the inspiring creations

of ROCS students and purchase animal-themed merchandise and yummy treats. Bring your dogs (on leads) to run the for-fun agility course and enter the Grrrreatest Canine Talent Show at 1 pm. Every pooch will win a prize—for best sit, cutest costume, etc. One contestant claims her border collie can tap dance! Thank you, Ruch Hardware, Grange Co-Op, and Dazey's Hubbard's Home Center, for supporting Doggy World. (See schedule below.)

Applegaters are generous. Indigo Grill, Applegate's newest restaurant, has donated a delicious dinner for two as part of the New Jacksonville+Applegate Experience package to be auctioned at Paws to Celebrate on June 21. This FOTAS fundraiser will be held at the Bigham Knoll Ballroom in Jacksonville. Applegate residents Josh and Kaylyn Kimball, owners of the just-opened Kimball's Artisan Wines in Jacksonville, have contributed a gift certificate. The lucky winners will also enjoy lodging and wine tasting at our area's newest bed-and-breakfast winery, Rellik Winery, and beverages and a crafty experience at Miners' Bazaar.

Several Applegate boutique wineries have donated their flagship wines for Paws to Celebrate. Here's a shout-out to Cowhorn Vineyard & Garden, LongSword Vineyard, Troon Vineyard, Schmidt Family Vineyards, and Wooldridge Creek Winery. Wine-drinking animal lovers will truly have cause to celebrate!

Applegaters are adopting. Okay, this isn't a new way to help our animals, but here are the newest statistics on animals adopted through FOTAS by residents of the greater Applegate area in 2018: 58 dogs, 27 cats, and 6 rabbits and guinea pigs.

Through the new Working Cats program, Applegate Valley has the opportunity to help significantly more cats.

Visit FOTAS at McKee Bridge Day to learn more. And bring your dogs for a fun run through the agility course and a prize in the Grrrreatest Canine Talent Show.

Laura Ahearn

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Doggy World Schedule

June 8, 2019, McKee Bridge Picnic Area

Time	Activity	Presenter
11:30 am	How to Walk a Dog	Laura Ahearn, FOTAS volunteer
11:45 am	FOTAS Working Cat Program	Madeline Vance, FOTAS volunteer
12 noon	Threats to Pets in the Applegate	Dr. Jeffrey Judkins, Animalkind Holistic Veterinary Clinic
12:20 pm	The Street Dog Program	Bob Crowley, FOTAS volunteer
12:40 pm	Dogs of Service	Dahna Dow, RN, LCSW
1 pm	Talent Show	Janeen Sathre, MC
Following talent show	K9 Search and Rescue	Eric Ronemus, Jackson County Search and Rescue K9 Team
3 pm	Breakdown and Cleanup	

The Applegate Open rises again

BY SIMONA FINO

Look up to the sky over the next few months and you may see a wondrous sight—a human in flight! The Applegate Valley, particularly Woodrat Mountain, is a well-known world-class paragliding and hang gliding site, and in summer months our skies are often dotted with the colorful wings of those in flight.

While it may be tempting to let your gaze go upward to view the paragliders while you're driving down the highway, be safe and pull over so as not to cause an accident. There is a perfect

spot for you to do just that—LongSword Vineyard. Located at 8555 Highway 238, about two miles outside of Ruch, LongSword will once again be hosting the headquarters of the national championship paragliding event, the Applegate Open, which will be held June 15 - 22 and is expected to attract nearly 200 pilots, according to race organizer Dan Wells.

Paragliding competitions have been held for the last 16 years at Woodrat Mountain. This is the second year for the Applegate Open, which will bring more pilots than ever. There's just nothing like seeing all the pilots racing to the goal at LongSword and maneuvering to land in the meadow next to the vineyard.

Come celebrate the beauty and exhilaration of flight with LongSword! On two Saturdays, June 15 and June 22, LongSword will open from 12 - 5 pm for two special paraglider-viewing parties. On the 15th, Danielle Kelly and her band will bring fun, feel-good dance music in the form of '50s and '60s soul and jazz covers, and the All Smoked Out BBQ food truck



Paraglider landing at LongSword Vineyard in 2018. Photo provided by Kate Vangeloff, LongSword.

will be on-site serving up home-cooked barbecue. On the 22nd, Sweetgrass will keep everyone moving with their original roots music, and the Wok Star food truck will be available for some delicious Asian tacos and stir-fry. Bring your friends and family (and maybe some camp chairs and blankets) and watch the paragliders land before you!

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to fly? Wonder what it feels like to soar like a bird with just the sound of the wind? Try a tandem flight! Sam Crocker of Sundog Paragliding School in Medford offers tandem flights as well as instruction. He can be reached at 503-781-1795 or samwise19@hotmail.com. Sam is a member of the Rogue Valley Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association and competes in the Applegate Open.

Whether you're someone who wants to watch the action or someone who's ready to jump off the mountain, we invite you to join in the thrill of flight!

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Student Corner: Environment Question

Our intrepid reporters tracked down four students at four schools to ask:

"What is the biggest problem facing the environment today and why?"

Here are their answers.



Carlen Nielsen, ninth grade, Hidden Valley High School. I believe the biggest problem with the environment today is the increase in the number of animals becoming endangered and going extinct due to many inhumane reasons, some of those being habitat loss and slaughtering.



Natalia Sahr, eighth grade, Applegate School. Climate change. Human activity, for example, burning fossil fuels and chopping down forests, is leading to drastic effects on ecosystems around the world and the earth's temperature. In 12 years these changes will become irreversible, and this terrifies me.



Evan Leonard, sixth grade, Ruch Outdoor Community School. I believe the biggest problem with the environment today is logging. The reason is that so many animals need healthy forest habitat [which is being destroyed by logging] to live and some of them are endangered.



Savanna Rogers, fifth grade, Williams School. Car exhaust and the ozone layer. People should walk, bike, or use the AIRPod 2.0 compressed air-powered car that uses fresh air instead of emitting poisonous exhaust. It won't completely cleanse the world, but it's a step in the right direction.