

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— A Greater Applegate —

Listening session coming soon to a neighborhood near you

What do a childcare co-op, a community center with coffee and recreation, a tool-lending library, an east valley organic food store, better internet, local shuttle bus service, neighborhood phone trees, and comprehensive trail maps have in common? These are a few of the ideas that have surfaced in A Greater Applegate’s first two neighborhood listening sessions.

A Greater Applegate (AGA) is visiting neighborhoods throughout the Applegate Valley this year to learn what people love about where they live, what our assets are, what challenges and barriers people see, what opportunities exist, and what is missing. The information is being gathered and compiled through the fall of this year and will be presented at three events: a Delegation from Neighborhoods in September, followed by two 20/20 Community Vision convenings in the Jackson and Josephine county sides of the valley in October. Local elected officials and other decision makers will be invited to these meetings along with the general public.

In October and November AGA went to the Little Applegate and Upper Applegate/McKee Bridge areas of the Applegate Valley, where we gathered some fascinating information from residents. We went on hiatus for the winter, but will resume neighborhood listening sessions in March.

The neighborhood listening sessions will be supplemented by visioning sessions at our Applegate Valley Nonprofit Network



Applegate community members share ideas at a neighborhood listening session.

and Business Network in May and June, as well as special visioning sessions for younger and Latinx residents. We will also provide a survey for everyone who can’t make it to one of the in-person sessions. We hope to hear from at least 500 people.

Our goal is to establish community priority projects for the next few years and gather the resources (financial or in-kind) to achieve them.

Once we conclude the listening and visioning sessions, we will produce a 20/20 Community Vision document, which AGA and other organizations can use to garner support for activities aligned with organizational missions. We also will provide training to community members interested in developing their facilitation skills to lead action teams and working groups in their neighborhoods or across the Applegate Valley

We have confirmed all neighborhood listening sessions through June and will confirm all 20/20 Community Vision meetings soon. Times and dates being considered are evenings and weekends to accommodate residents. Check our website at agreaterapplegate.org for frequent updates.

Our current schedule for the remainder of the year follows:

- March 1, 2 - 4 pm, Applegate/Humbug Creek, Applegate School
- April 2, 2 - 4 pm, Thompson Creek, English Lavender Farm
- April 23, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, North Applegate/Slagle Creek, 1410 Kubli Road
- May 14, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Ruch, Applegate Valley Fire District Community Room
- June 11, Provolt, Dorothy Gale’s Event Centre
- July 9-12, Williams
- July 23-26, Griffin Lane/Sterling Creek
- August 13-16, Murphy/Wilderville/Wonder
- August 26-30, Elliott Creek/Applegate Lake/Carberry Creek
- September 21-25, All Neighborhood Delegation
- October 22, East Valley 20/20 Community Vision Convening, Ruch Fire Station Community Room
- October 27-29, West Valley 20/20 Community Vision Convening

We are looking for community spaces in or near these locations to hold meetings. If you know of a location, we would love to hear from you! AGA will facilitate, set up, and provide food and beverages. All we need is a convenient space for 25-plus people. We have heard from other neighborhoods and are working with them to schedule additional meetings where possible. If you consider yourself a neighborhood and have a place to meet, let us know!

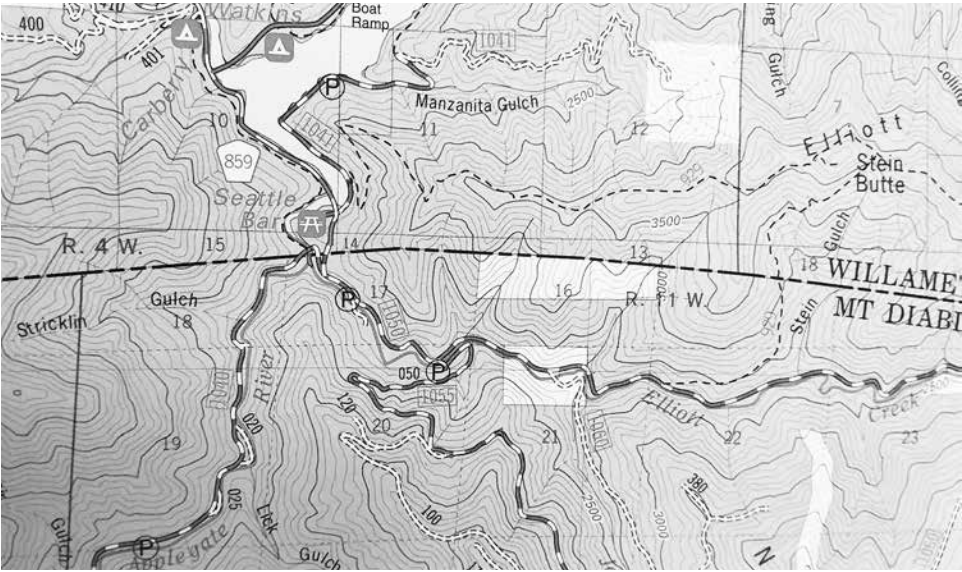
Business Network off to a great start

A Greater Applegate is pleased to announce that the launch of the Applegate Valley Business Network at the Applegate River Lodge was attended by nearly 50 local business people! Attendees received valuable insights from Governor Brown’s Regional Solutions, Business Oregon, Travel Southern Oregon, Jackson County Business Librarian, Laurel Briggs Creative Marketing and Design, and the Illinois Valley Revolving Loan Program for small businesses.

The launch was followed by the formation of a steering committee, which has prioritized creating an Applegate Valley brand logo for growers, makers, and creators; a map of Applegate businesses; and welcome signs to the Applegate Valley. Many other projects are under consideration. If you are interested in joining this effort or becoming a charter member of the Applegate Valley Business Network, please let us know.

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— McKee Bridge Historical Society —



The Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819 set the boundary between New Spain and “Oregon Country” at the 42d parallel. The 1846 Oregon Treaty gave the USA the land between the 42d and 49th parallels. Congress created the Territory of Oregon in 1848, reaffirming “the 42d degree of north latitude” as the boundary. Why isn’t that the OR-CA state line?

MBHS invites student creativity contest entries

The McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) is having a Creativity Contest! We invite students in grades K-8 and of equivalent ages to enter. Find an interesting story, person, item, or landmark that relates to the history of the Upper and Little Applegate valleys, from the Red Buttes and Blue Ledge Mine, past Applegate Lake and McKee Bridge, and through Ruch to the Logtown area. Present your idea using any medium you want. You don’t have to live in the Applegate to be a contestant—all students are welcome.

You can write an essay, draw a picture, sculpt something with clay, sing a song, or put on a skit. We’ll award prizes in three categories: grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. All entrants will receive free root beer floats at McKee Bridge Day, and the top three places in each category will receive generous cash prizes and an array of MBHS gifts such as T-shirts, water bottles, and tote bags.

So what might a kindergartener do? Make a rubbing of a headstone at Logtown Cemetery and add drawings to tell the settler’s story. Give a demonstration of games played by pioneer children. Or learn to sing a song like “Shoo Fly, Don’t Bother Me” (1869) that was popular with early Applegaters. (An appropriate level of adult assistance for K-2 students is encouraged.)

Ideas for grades 3-5: Write a story based on an old photo. Make a drawing of a historic building like the 1911 Star Ranger Station—or make a replica using popsicle sticks. Does your family have an interesting antique like a bed-warming pan, a sickle, or an anvil? Give a demonstration of how it was used and tell us how it came to your family.

For grades 6-8, how about finding some portraits taken by Peter Britt of an Applegate family like the Camerons or Cantralls and constructing a family tree? Or explain why Stricklin Gulch and

lower Elliott Creek are in California—if the 42nd parallel is supposed to be the line between Oregon and California, shouldn’t these places be in Oregon? Who was Roxy Ann, and how is she connected to McKee Bridge?

There are many ways to find a fun project. Take a close look at the mosaic wall at Ruch Library. Read some “Back in Time” articles published in the *Applegater* (they are online at applegater.org). Go on a hike (what is that odd building on the Collings Mountain Trail?). Interview someone who has lived in the Applegate for a long, long time. Wouldn’t you love to hear the story of the man who was born on McKee Bridge in December 1941?

Check out the MBHS Facebook page for more ideas!

To enter the Creativity Contest, submit an entry form by June 1. The easiest way is to fill out the form on the MBHS Facebook page. Printed forms are available at Ruch Country Store and at the office of A Greater Applegate, both located in Sunshine Plaza in Ruch. Or send an email to mckeebridge1917@gmail.com, and we’ll send you the form. If you have any questions or need help with your research, send a message on Facebook or by email.

Completed entry forms can be emailed to mckeebridge1917@gmail.com or snail-mailed to PO Box 854, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Entries will be judged after being displayed or performed at McKee Bridge Day on June 13. Mark your calendars and plan to be dazzled by creativity!

A special ‘thank-you’

Thank you to everyone who made Christmas on a Covered Bridge a wonderful success. Special thanks to the Voices of the Applegate members who led carols and the Ruch Outdoor Community School orchestra for their inspiring performance.

A photo appears on this page. Please share yours on the MBHS Facebook page.

Laura Ahearn
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Food pantry invites visitors, donations

Hello from all of us at the food pantry!

We would like to thank our generous donors and contributors who help us keep the pantry going. We couldn’t do it without you! We would also like to thank our volunteers for their loyalty, dedication, and hard work. All of you are a pleasure to work with.

If you are interested in seeing how our pantry works, come by and see us. We are located behind Ruch Outdoor Community School at 156 Upper Applegate Road in Ruch. Our hours are 11:15 am - 1 pm Mondays. We hope to see you there.

If you’re interested in keeping our pantry going, donations are always greatly appreciated. To donate, make checks out

to ACCESS/Applegate Pantry and mail them to or drop them off at 3630 Aviation Way, Medford OR 97504.

Any questions? Feel free to contact us. Thank you!

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