

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES



The team of A Greater Applegate, including departing executive director, Seth Kaplan (far right), and new co-executive director, Angelique Stewart (seventh from right).

AGA focusing on supporting working groups and community action teams

BY MEGAN FEHRMAN

As we move from spring to summer here in the Applegate, we get to see seeds grow into plants, flowers bloom, bees wake up, and the river bustling with spring runoff—the whole world seems to come back to life. This theme is holding true for those of us working at A Greater Applegate (AGA) too. We are waking up to a new season as we wish our departing executive director, Seth Kaplan, a very happy retirement and our new co-executive director, Angelique Stewart, a hearty welcome to the team. We also welcome some great new community members onto our board. We invite you to learn more about, and support, all that we currently have going on!

One of AGA’s primary roles is to support working groups and community action teams that are coming together to implement projects and strategies from the *Applegate Valley Vision*.

In keeping with this edition’s theme of “Fire and Water,” it feels timely to mention the Forest and Fire Working Group that has been meeting regularly for the past year. This is a multi-stakeholder group made up of organizations and agencies working in the forests of the Applegate Valley with the goal of promoting forest health, restoration, and fire resiliency on public and private land.

Among other things, this group is working on a Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) project proposal with the NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service) that would provide money for private land fuels reduction in the Applegate (see the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council article by Nathan Gehres on page 15). They are also looking at how to integrate local needs identified in the Applegate Community Wildfire Protection Plan into the larger Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan and planning a Fire Education and Preparedness Fair for 2024.

AGA is working with the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council and community members to host a Water Security Education event for June 17. This event will be the first of two—this one offering a number of presentations on water conservation and storage measures for household and residential landscapes. The second event, tentatively scheduled for the fall, will be a series of workshops

for local irrigators. (For more information, see the article by Jim Reiland on page 3.) We look forward to seeing what kind of conversation and action come from these educational events.

Water is vital to our agriculture in the Applegate, and so is having markets for all the amazing food that is grown here. A Greater Applegate continues to work with local farmers, ranchers, and food entrepreneurs to grow and sustain the three farmers markets that we have in the valley. By the time you read this, you will be able to visit the Williams Farmers Market on Mondays, the Applegate Evening Market in Ruch on Wednesdays, and the Murphy Farmers Market on Fridays to get fresh, locally produced fruits, vegetables, meat, honey, jams, treats, and so much more. We will also continue to run the Farm to Food Pantry program this summer by securing more funding from the Oregon Food Bank to buy local produce, meat, and eggs from our farmers to distribute at the food pantries in Ruch and Williams as a way to provide more healthy food for our lower-income families.

A Greater Applegate exists to build community and to increase our capacity to thrive. We do this through developing relationships and connections, helping people and groups gain the skills and resources they need, knowing where the community wants to go and taking action to get there, and working to increase a sense of unity, pride, and resilience in the Applegate—not only in regard to fire and water, but in many other ways as well. Please consider supporting this important work through a donation and/or by getting involved with a working group or by forming a community action team.

Oh, and when it isn’t a month for reading the *Applegater*, tune into Applegate Valley Connect (applegateconnect.org) to keep up to date with some of the latest news, stories, events, and projects happening in the valley.

We look forward to learning more about you and how we can work together in the future.

Megan Fehrman
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Fire and water and ice cream

BY LAURA AHEARN

McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) offers a summertime twist on this *Applegater’s* theme: Ice cream! Join MBHS for an ice cream social at McKee Bridge on Saturday, June 10, from 11 am-3 pm. How about a root beer float while you float in the swimming hole? We’ll sell yummy novelties, drinks, and snacks. Face painting. The Old Time Fiddlers from noon-2 pm. We’ll present the check to scholarship winner Natalia Sahr during intermission at 1 pm. (Timothy Root will receive his at his family reunion.)

While enjoying your treat at the social, check out an exhibit about the history of social life in the Applegate Valley, from the Athapaskan Nee-Dash feather dances to pioneer dance halls, baseball tournaments, picnics, and horse races, to Grandma Aggie’s revival of Takelma practices to inspire the entire community. The History Working Group of A Greater Applegate has provided financial support for this display.

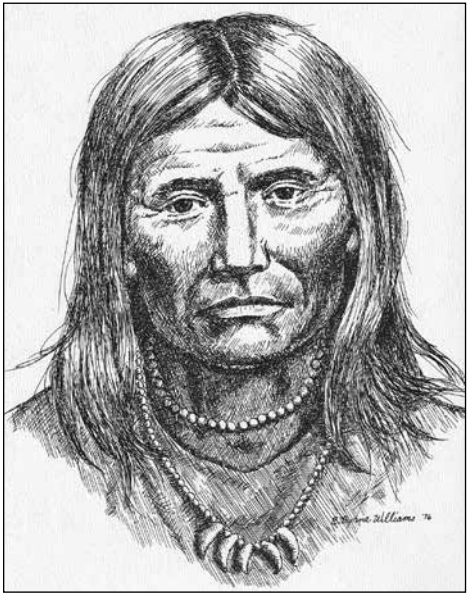
And we have some very special historical creations about history to share: In the 1970s, MBHS founder Evelyn Byrne Williams, well-known artist and owner of The Lamplighter Gallery in Jacksonville, created 15 pieces in different media interpreting iconic photos of historic Native Americans. Local collectors and history buffs can now own this marvelous artwork. Eleven- by 14-inch prints are only \$20, prints in 16- by 20-inch mattes are \$35, and we have a limited number in custom barnwood frames, made with love by a special volunteer and family member. Come see the collection on June 10!

Thank you for helping MBHS write the next chapter of social history in the Applegate Valley.

Laura Ahearn
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Portrait reportedly taken in 1864; photographer unknown. Set may have been erected outside.



Kintpuash aka “Captain Jack”
by E. Byrne Williams.

■ AVHS

Continued from page 3

a committee from Applegate attended the Southern Oregon Historical Society meeting and requested the building. That same committee became a society on April 27, 1989, so they could obtain the building.

Roar and Mary Kjaer and John Pernoll donated land to AVHS so the building could have a home back in Applegate. With the help of the Applegate Lions Club and Ben Watts, the building was moved from Jacksonville to its current location in Applegate on September 25, 1993.

With the help and support of our society and community during the intervening years, we opened our doors on May 10, 1997, with a show by Myrtle Krouse of personal artifacts from years gone by. Myrtle was the founder and benefactor of our society.

It saddens me and other AVHS members to think that this property and building could be taken away from the Applegate Valley community. A Greater Applegate (AGA) is helping where they can, be it getting the word out about us or helping with flyers. AGA’s community survey found that folks in the Applegate Valley *want* a local museum. Hopefully folks will show their support. We would love to hear from you. Let’s *all* pitch in and help the museum to continue its mission.

After meeting with the County Planning Department, we found we would have to jump through many hoops—plus the costs run high—if we were to move the

building. The county representative said, “You own the land; why move?”

Thus, we are focusing on enhancing what we already own. We have major landscaping, tree removal, and fence building to do on the property, among other projects. Watch for new signage. We continue to seek donations, and are active in the Jackson County Heritage Association.

Do you want to join AVHS? Yearly membership is \$25 for one person, \$40 for two, and \$50 for a family. Send name(s), address, and email to AVHS, 3120 Thompson Creek Road, Applegate, OR 97530. In June we will be open on weekends. More help would mean more open days. We’ve been holding meetings at a private home for a long time, especially since COVID. We are now meeting at the museum on the first Monday of the month at 9 am. You can park across the highway on the store lot. Everyone is welcome.

We greatly appreciate your community support, whether you come in person, help financially, write support letters, or donate work time. We appreciate any support to this tiny museum here in Applegate.

Visit applegatehistoricalsociety.org for future information. While our website is under construction, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this community project. Together we can make it work!

Barbara Niedermeyer
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