



Quartet ES, an internationally known string quartet, will play at Jacksonville City Hall in January.

World-class chamber music at Jacksonville City Hall

BY MARSHALL THOMPSON

Classical music lovers are looking forward with excitement to Sunday, January 14, when the Assembly Room at Jacksonville City Hall will become a concert hall. At 3 pm Quartet ES, an internationally known string quartet, takes the stage, launching a three-concert series presented by Jacksonville OR Friends of Classical Music (JORFCM). This nonprofit organization formed this year to bring chamber music to Jacksonville.

Seating is limited. Demand for wintertime classical music in Jacksonville appears to be strong. Tickets became available on October 1 and have been selling steadily. On November 1, more than two months prior to the January concert, 50 percent of the 100 seats available had been sold. The Assembly Room at City Hall is ideal for chamber music but offers limited seating. The first concert may sell out early, so we encourage music lovers to reserve their seats right away.

The ensembles scheduled to perform in January, February, and March, consist of truly gifted artists, many of whom graduated from Julliard and/or graced the stage at venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. It is a thrill to hear them perform. When classical music is played with such artistry, there is hope for humanity.

Tickets

Please join us at the concert. All tickets are just \$25 for general seating. City Hall is wheelchair accessible. During their visit to Jacksonville, artists will stay at the newly remodeled Magnolia Hotel, directly across the street from City Hall. Donors and volunteers are invited to a private reception with the musicians.

Visit our website at jorfc.org to purchase tickets and learn more about the concerts and artists. Donations are welcome too.

Marshall Thompson
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New Ruch Library manager

Welcome home, Megan Pinder!

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

Ruch Library welcomes Megan Pinder as the new branch manager just as the library received new, expanded hours and in time for a busy school year. Megan has been the bilingual library specialist with Jackson County Library Services for several years in the outreach department, but now is back working in her childhood stomping grounds in the Applegate Valley.

Megan grew up in the Applegate, splitting time between her dad, who was living off-grid on 20 acres on Humbug Creek, and her mom, who was in Ashland. She attended Light Valley Waldorf School in Jacksonville, then Ashland High School. She took a Spanish class in college and fell in love with the language. Following her dream of being a farmworker, she headed off to Mexico, where she met and briefly married the father of her son, Indigo.

After Megan returned to the United States, she finished college and began teaching Spanish and ESL (English as a second language) classes at Eagle Point High School. It was there she met her current husband, Matt Pinder. They began an adventure that included two years in Indonesia and two years in Mexico, teaching in international schools, which Indigo attended. They had agreed they would return to the States in time for Indigo to attend high school so, when that time came, they settled in Ashland and later Talent. Their Talent home was lost in the Alameda Fire, and now they have their eyes open for somewhere in the Applegate for their next home.

Megan has big plans for Ruch Branch Library. She has had a steady calendar of programs for the community, has welcomed the weekly classroom visits and Kaleidoscope preschool program, and is hopeful that she can find the connections and programs to identify and engage the Latinx community in the Applegate. She is also forging relationships with the homeschool families and network, so they can be better served. Another dream she has is to start a seed library on a small, local level.

Cooking, reading, and knitting are among Megan's hobbies. She particularly loves modern fiction, magical realism, and connections with her current interests. She looks forward to traveling to Mexico again, where the food and people have stolen her



Megan Pinder returns to the Applegate as the new manager of Ruch Library.



Megan Pinder with her father, Timothy Williamson, at the Ruch Barter Fair.

heart. Someday she would like to go to Germany, where she has family.

Megan would love to hear from you! What programs would you like to see at Ruch Library? What day and time work best for you?

Now that the library is open four days a week, they are hoping to reach more people and would love to see you there. C'mon in and introduce yourself, get a library card, attend a program, and check out all the library has to offer you!

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Voices of the Applegate concerts

BY JOAN PETERSON

We're dreaming of a white Christmas, and you will hear us sing it at two concerts in December:

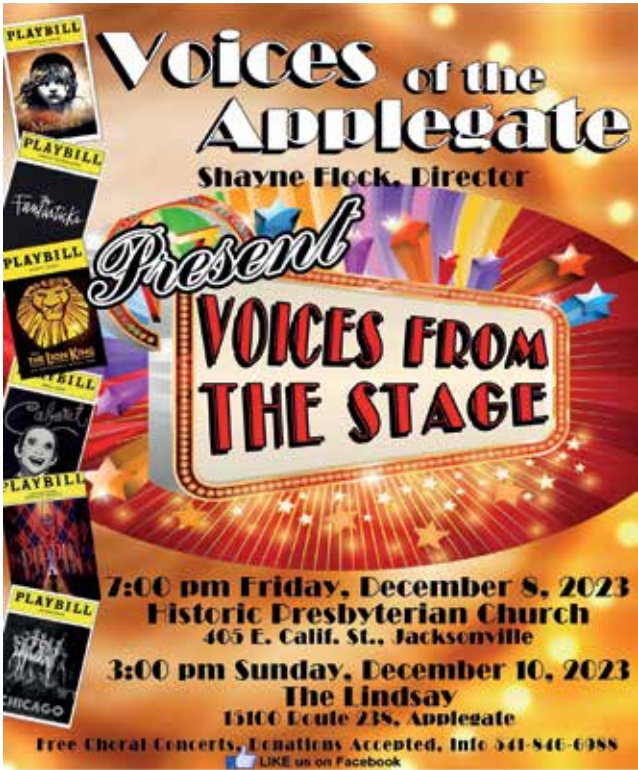
- 7 pm Friday, December 8, at the historic Presbyterian Church at the corner of 6th and California Streets in Jacksonville
- 3 pm Sunday, December 10, at The Lindsay Lodge, 15100 Highway 238 in Applegate

We have a joyful seasonal selection of music for the holidays: Broadway tunes from *The Lion King*, *Les Misérables*, *Cabaret*, and *All That Jazz*, as well as music from *The Fantasticks* and *Corner of the Sky*.

You won't want to miss it, and you'll even be invited to sing along with us!

Refreshments will be available. There is no admission fee, but donations are always

appreciated. Call me for more information at 541-846-6988.



Free overdose reversal training in Williams

Rogue Harm Reduction offers free overdose reversal training, including free take-home Narcan/naloxone (to reverse opioid overdose) and fentanyl testing strips. Overdose intervention training typically lasts about 20 minutes. Fentanyl test strips training takes about 10 minutes. Walk-ins are very welcome! We encourage our neighbors in the valley to come meet us, ask questions, and get trained.

Winter schedule

Training and distribution days are from 5:30-7:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month, as follows: Thursday, December 7; Thursday, January 4; Thursday, February 1.

We are located at the Sugarloaf Center at 206 Tetherow Road in Williams. Park in the large gravel parking lot and take a short walk to the upper grounds at the end of the driveway. Or, if needed, drive through to the upper lot next to the Sugarloaf building.

We hope to see you at the Sugarloaf Center in Williams!

More harm reduction in the Applegate/Rogue Valley

HIV Alliance, 132 NE B Street. Grants Pass: Every Thursday 11 am-4 pm (naloxone and harm reduction)

Max's Mission: maxsmmission.org (Free naloxone by mail!)

Contact Rogue Harm Reduction at rogueharmreduction@gmail.com.

Find us on Instagram @rogueharmreduction.

Rogue Harm Reduction is a volunteer-run nonprofit health collective interested in promoting community wellness and harm reduction strategies in response to substance use and other community health concerns. We work in partnership with and are trained by the HIV Alliance. Learn more at hivalliance.org.