

43rd annual Quilt Show in Grants Pass in May

BY LIZA CROSSE

The Rogue Valley Piecemakers will hold their 43rd annual Quilt Show on Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10, at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in Grants Pass. The pavilion will be full of beautiful quilts on display. We will have lots of surprises and special displays, as this year's theme is "A Whimsical Magic Life!"

The show will feature beautiful bed, lap, and children's quilts; innovative art quilts; other fabric-related items; and quilts made by guild members celebrating the theme. Knowledgeable guild members will be on hand both days to answer questions about quilts and quilting. Back by popular demand are demonstrations and "make and take" classes that will be held on both days at no additional cost. These include a fabric flower bouquet, a beaded wool bowl, fabric postcards, and a folded fabric butterfly, as well as more traditional Sashiko and Crazy Quilt stitching.

Board President Candy O'Brien chose the show theme for 2025 with the freedom and imagination of childhood in mind. "I thought about what were some of the most magical times in my life growing up. For me, what stood out is when we used our imagination at play, making up our own games. I wanted all of us to tap back into that imaginative mind of ours and use our childlike soul to remind ourselves that those little girls are still part of us." Candy challenges all quilters "to look inside yourselves and invent an imaginary world which none of us have seen." Whimsical President's Challenge quilts, based on the show's theme, will be on display.

The Piecemakers' "Heartworks Boutique" will sell gently used sewing supplies, quilts, and gifts handcrafted by guild members. Vendors from Oregon and California will sell fabrics, patterns, and the latest notions and machines.

Attendees could win door prizes (given away hourly on both days) or raffle items of themed baskets and prizes. They can also purchase tickets for a chance to win the Piecemaker's 2025 Opportunity Quilt, "Whimsical Woodland." Proceeds will benefit the Rogue Valley Humane Society and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Josephine County. A silent auction will include quilts, wall hangings, and other items. Auction and Opportunity Quilt winners will be announced prior to the close of the show on Saturday afternoon.

Quilt Show hours are 10 am-4 pm both days at the Josephine County Fairgrounds, on Route 199 in Grants Pass. Admission is \$5 per day; children under 12 are admitted free. There is ample free parking.

The Rogue Valley Piecemakers includes members from all over the Rogue Valley, including several members from the Applegate Valley. The purpose of the Piecemakers is to contribute to the growth and knowledge of quilting through friendship, inspiration, education, and community outreach. Our meetings provide a time to enjoy fellowship, learn



You could win the Piecemaker's 2025 Opportunity Quilt, "Whimsical Woodland," by attending the quilt show.

more about quilting techniques, and share experiences about the art of making quilts. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in quilting. Our activities include Sit and Stitch, Show and Tell, demonstrations and workshops, classes taught by professional teachers, and a Comfort Quilt program.

Visitors are welcome! Join us on the first and third Mondays of the month from 9 am-noon at the Fruitdale Grange, 1440 Parkdale Drive, Grants Pass.

For more information, please stop by one of our meetings or write Rogue Valley Piecemakers, PO Box 5652, Grants Pass, OR 97527, or visit our website RVPiecemakers.com.

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2025 "Whimsical Woodland" Opportunity Quilt Raffle

Raffle tickets are \$1 each, 6/\$5, or 30/\$20

The drawing will be held on May 10 at the Rogue Valley Piecemakers' quilt show. Proceeds will benefit the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Josephine County and the Rogue Valley Humane Society. To purchase tickets, contact Liza Crosse at lizacrosse@comcast.net.

About the quilt

This quilt was inspired by the world-famous "Brimfield Awakening" design, which features an ancient quilting technique called "English Paper Piecing," or EPP. Many EPP quilters were charmed by the beautiful "Hibernation" fabrics by Scandinavian designer Tilda. A close look reveals intricate designs featuring little creatures and botanical motifs across the quilt. EPP group members Gayle Clark, Yvonne Cook, Brenda Ferrario, Sandie French, Kim Gillett, Kerry Keating, Trudy Kinsel, Janet Nies, Cathy Penland, Janet Sheldon, and three Applegate Valley residents, Debbie Wheeler, Liza Crosse, and Lauri Dobbs, all contributed to the EPP and applique work. Stellar quilting was provided by member Candy O'Brien. The dimensions of the queen-sized quilt are 93" x 93".

A successful open house at the Applegate Museum

BY JOAN PETERSON

On January 11, at 11 am, the doors to the Applegate Museum opened in downtown Applegate, and the fun began. There was a raffle for a beautiful bike, which will continue at the museum until we have sold 30 tickets. There was an endless supply of cookies, cakes, and treats to purchase for small donations. There was also hot chili and chicken soup for lunch, and a variety of hot drinks to warm ourselves from the chill of the day.

There was also a hat contest, with a supply of hats on hand in case you didn't have one of your own and plenty of decorations to make your own. The children's table had a coloring sheet of the pictured museum. Copies will be available for a donation when the museum is open.

But the highlight of the day was a circle of people for storytelling. Many "old-timers" were there, folks who have lived in the Applegate for over 50 years, and even some people who came for the open house from as far away as Trail. Larry Smith, from Jacksonville, talked about Robbie Collins, who saved the atmosphere of Jacksonville by purchasing many of the buildings and restoring them so that the town became a tourist attraction as well as an old-time mining town. Ken Chapman told the story of the Elmore family saving his trailer home from a fire before he even knew them. Other people told stories about incidents from the 1970s and '80s. All in all, it was a wonderful community event, and everyone went away hoping for more opportunities for storytelling.

The Applegate Valley Historical Society's (AVHS) open house ended at



Bicycle being raffled off to benefit the Applegate Valley Historical Museum. Photo: Janis Mohr-Tipton.

3 pm, but many people stayed around, eating the treats that were on hand to buy and just visiting and looking through the artifacts in the museum. In the future, AVHS will have an ongoing fundraiser at the museum with a few antiques and yesteryear's collectibles available for purchase.

We will soon have open hours on weekends and during the Applegate Farmers Market when it resumes in the spring. Presently, if individuals or a small group want to see the museum, tours are available by contacting Barbara Niedermeyer at 541-659-3984, Janis Mohr-Tipton at 541-846-7501, or Maryanna Reynolds at 541-941-0000.

There was some discussion about saving the museum from a lawsuit that could take away the property that the museum rests on. Look for notices about a court case in the near future. Try to come to the courthouse to give your support for our community's AVHS museum and land when a date is set for the hearing.

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Two Applegater columnists retiring

You will probably notice that Sioux Rogers's quirky and immensely popular gardening column, "Dirty Fingernails and All," is missing in this issue. After untold decades of writing for the *Applegater*, Sioux has decided it is time to retire. Readers will miss her column, and, we're sure, will join us with shouts of appreciation for entertaining and educating us all these years.

The other retiring columnist is our book reviewer, Christin Lore Weber, who again and again, since the fall 2019 issue of the *Applegater*, has enticed us into reading books she herself enjoyed, giving us penetrating analyses and well-based enthusiasm in her reviews. Thanks to Christin for helping us choose books to read all these years.

One of the best things about the *Applegater* is that it truly is a community newsmagazine. Our columnists and other contributors are volunteer writers. They give the community their knowledge of things about which they are passionate—gardening, books, the beauties and uniqueness of the Applegate, and the organizations to which they have dedicated their time.

Would you like to be a regular contributor, too, and give the *Applegater*—and its readers—a column about your passion for a hobby or your work? Whether it is birds, wine, gardening (columns we have had in the past and would love to continue to share with readers) or some other topic, step forward and let us know. The *Applegater* is a wonderful way to spread your love of something Applegate-related to the rest of the community.

Email Annika Hodges, editor in chief, at annika@applegater.org, to discuss the possibility.



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