

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

Finally, it's 2021! Let's try that again.

BY SETH KAPLAN

Spring is the time for renewal, so no better time than now to announce that A Greater Applegate (AGA) is calling a "do-over" on 2020. Readers who follow AGA may remember that 2020 was the year we intended to visit every part of the Applegate Valley to hear your ideas for our collective future. We made it to Little Applegate, Upper Applegate, and Humbug Creek before COVID-19 put an end to community gatherings.

Now, ever hopeful, we replace 20/20 Community Vision with Applegate Valley Vision and move forward with our plan to visit Thompson Creek, North Applegate/Slagle Road, Ruch, Provolt, Williams, Griffin Lane/Sterling Creek, Murphy, Wilderville/Wonder, and Elliott Creek/Carberry Creek during the coming months. Still uncertain about COVID-19 and its impact on the Applegate, our intention is to conduct listening sessions in each of these areas during the outdoor months and use the indoor months to draft a vision document based on what we learned.

We are looking for outdoor settings in each of these areas where we can gather in groups of 25-40 (or whatever the restrictions are at the time) to break bread (at a distance) and share ideas about your neighborhood's and your community's future. Please contact us if you (1) can provide or know of a good outdoor location in one of these areas, (2) want to help plan or recruit for the listening session in your area, or (3) want to be notified when the listening session is scheduled for your area.

More good news from AGA

Our popular Small Business Technical Assistance program, funded by Business Oregon, has been extended until June 2021! Designed to support local businesses impacted by the pandemic, this program provides Applegate Valley businesses and startups with free support to sustain or grow your business during this extended challenging time. Local businesses have used this program to develop a marketing or communication plan, design or upgrade a website, set up online bookkeeping



Back to the vision-drawing board: Outdoor gatherings are planned in Applegate Valley neighborhoods so residents can share ideas about the community's future.

procedures, receive tax advice, and more. This program was previously used to create the still-available online eight-session e-commerce training, available at the AGA website (agreaterapplegate.org), and the Applegate Marketplace (applegatemarket.org). If you are a sole proprietor or a small business with employees, you are eligible for this free technical assistance.

In 2020, AGA used COVID-19 emergency funds from the Oregon Community Foundation, the Ford Family Foundation, and local donors to create the Mutual Aid Network and to provide food and other resources to Applegaters. One of these efforts has become the Farm to Food Pantry program, funded by Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation. This program will enable us to provide meat and produce from local farms and ranches to the Ruch and Williams food pantries with a local in-kind match. Applegate Valley producers interested in participating in this program should contact Megan Fehrman at megan@agreaterapplegate.org.

Contact us at info@agreaterapplegate.org to learn more about any of these programs or other offerings and opportunities from AGA.

Seth Kaplan, Executive Director
A Greater Applegate
seth@agreaterapplegate.org

Food bank still here to help

Your friends at the Ruch Food Pantry would like to take a moment and give special thanks to those who really stepped up with donations during this pandemic. We appreciate all of our supporters, and we look forward to seeing you.

Our hours are 11:30 am to 1 pm on Mondays (closed holidays) on the backside of Ruch School. Come check us out!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.
Deborah Price, Manager, 541-826-9149
Michelle Bollinger, Assistant Manager
541-218-6471

You can now hit the Upper Applegate History Trail

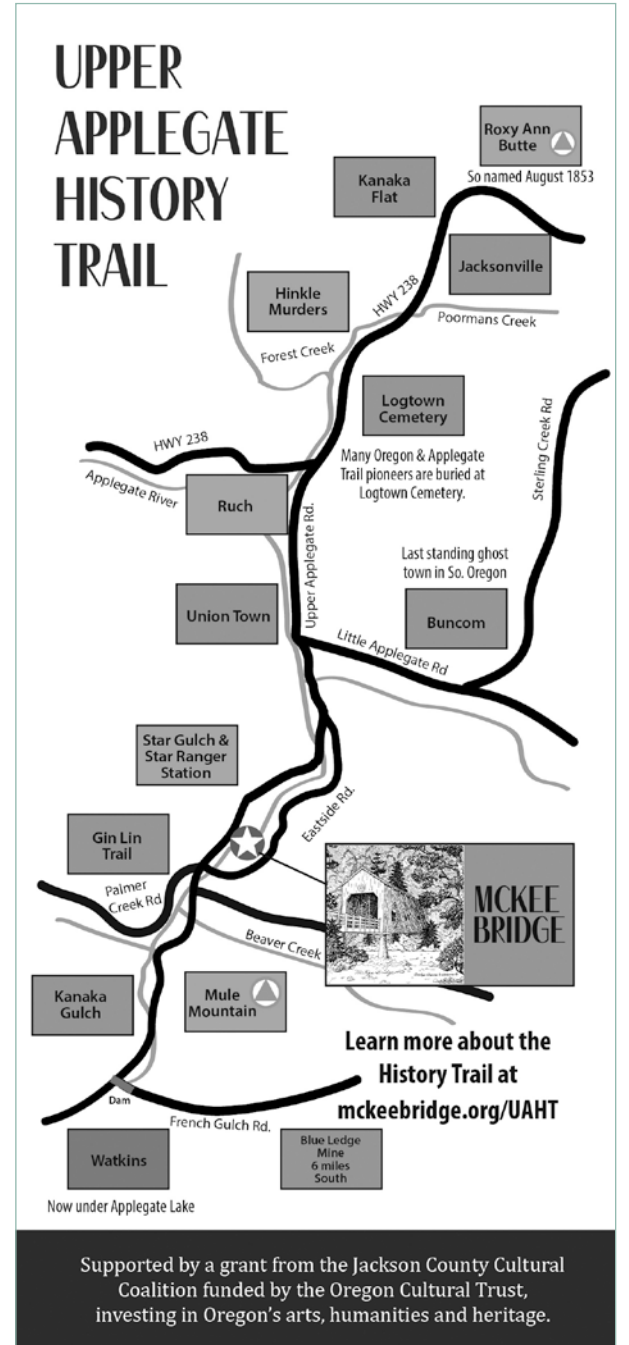
BY LAURA AHEARN

McKee Bridge Historical Society has a treasury of vintage photos and historical relics collected by founder Evelyn Byrne Williams and her mother, Pearl McKee Byrne, which has inspired the Society to relaunch its website and inaugurate an Upper Applegate History Trail. The Society received a \$1,500 grant from the Jackson County Cultural Coalition to develop the History Trail, and by the time you read this article you should be able to take a look at the "work in progress" at mckeebridge.org.

Information about the History Trail will be provided on the MBHS "rack card," a dedicated page on the website, and (soon, we hope) on a printed and downloadable nine- by 16-inch, two-sided map. Don't worry if your favorite Upper Applegate saga or site isn't included in the rollout—the web page is dynamic, so send us your recommendations at mckeebridge1917@gmail.com.

In 2021 the society will apply for more grants to install interpretive panels at McKee Bridge. There are conceptual designs for panels at additional locations—Seattle Bar, for example, where the Blue Ledge Mining Company had a placer camp in 1906-09 and attempted to build a hydro plant and even a massive smelter. The MBHS collection includes original journals, logs, and correspondence from the Blue Ledge Mine, revealing true statistics about operations in contrast to the hyperbolic descriptions published in the early 1900s about the mine's performance and potential.

Applegater Chelsea Rose, at Southern Oregon University's Laboratory of Anthropology, serves as academic advisor on these projects. Robert Kentta, Cultural Specialist for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, has provided invaluable guidance. Ruch resident Christina Ammon has pitched in to edit text. Laurel Briggs, Creative Marketing Design, is the graphics and website designer.



The McKee Bridge Historical Society has created an Upper Applegate History Trail that is available as a printed card and on its website.

If you're a Facebook user, follow McKee Bridge Historical Society for posts about fascinating Applegate pioneers like the Collings and Byrne families of Watkins, Mary Terrier Buckley (she had five husbands), and the Culy and Shearers of Steamboat.

If you are not a Facebook fan, you can find these stories at mckeebridge.org.

Become a member of the society to enjoy access to the Virtual Museum and other members-only benefits. Membership is still only \$20 per year for your entire household.

Laura Ahearn
McKee Bridge Historical Society
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com

Nonprofit organizations in the Applegate Valley are welcome to submit news and event information to the Applegater. Email gater@applegater.org.

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