

— Ruch Library — Preschool storytime resumes

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

We are happy to be open for browsing again, and our patrons are delighted. Ruch Outdoor Community School students are once more coming weekly for stories, activities, and research.

Preschool storytime (for three- to five-years-olds) has started and has changed to 11:30 am Thursdays. The library is not open during that time, so children and their parents can sit together, and then browse together. Masks are required of everyone five and older. There will be no group craft, but there will be an activity for each child to take home. Registration is required, either at the library or through jcls.org. We have a cap of 12 people, each of whom must be registered. The Babies and Wobblers program is still on hold.

The Community Meeting Room is once more available for use and reservations. Visit jcls.org, go to the menu, select Ruch Library, and scroll down to "Reserve a Room."

Nicole from JCLS Digital Services is here from 2-4:30 pm Thursdays to help with your tech questions regarding your devices. You can make an appointment at 541-734-3990 or at digitalservices@jcls.org. We also now have Connectivity Kits available for check-out, which offer a laptop with its own Wi-Fi that can access the internet from anywhere. Check it out!

Rogue Reads is a community reading program that aims to engage Jackson County residents in dialog and bring the community together by promoting tolerance and understanding about differing points of view. This year, starting

on December 1 and running through February, Rogue Reads will focus on indigeneity, community, the environment, and more. There are books for every age, so this is a great family program. We will provide Take and Make activities, have a large display of indigenous folk art from the Americas, and join some county-wide activities, as well. Visit jcls.org for more details.

The Friends' A-Frame bookstore is now open from 1-3 pm Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and the Book Barn Sale runs from noon to 4 pm the first Saturday of each month.

We are planning on having indoor, in-person programs again in the spring, highlighting local history, gardening, jewelry making, and more. We are unable to plan too far in advance, so please check out jcls.org for the current programs. Thanks for your patience and flexibility during this difficult time. We appreciate your willingness to don a mask to help keep yourself and others safe. We have managed to stay open for most of the pandemic, and although we had to deny access to browsing for some of that time, we have continued to offer library services, virtual programs and classes, electronic books, movies, magazines, Library of Things, and more to keep our patrons happy.

Thank you all for remaining cheerful and understanding. We hope to see you soon!

Thalia Truesdell

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— Applegate Library — Library open again

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

The Applegate Branch Library is open once again for computer use and browsing, and meeting rooms are open for reservations. Our digital services specialist is here from 10 am-12:30 pm Wednesdays to help with tech issues. Masks that fully cover nose and mouth and social distancing are still required.

Upcoming events

Take & Make Kits. Seasonal Greens, for ages six-plus. Make a fresh wreath, tree, or pot using herbs, greens, and berries. 2-6 pm beginning December 3.

Readings by the Applegate Poets from their new book, *Penned Up: Writing Out the Pandemic*. 2-4 pm Sunday, December 12.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Three Sisters Garden, 18-plus years. Pick up a kit that includes corn, bean, and squash seeds, seed starter trays, potting soil, and instructions. 2-6 pm beginning December 17.

Celebration of Christmas lights in the Applegate. Come see the lights at the library and have refreshments with other revelers. Starting at 4 pm Tuesday, December 21.

Poetry Recitations by Diana Coogle. A dozen poems by eight poets—T.S. Eliot, Robert Frost, Edward Hoagland, G.M. Hopkins, among others—recited from memory. 3-4 pm Tuesday, December 21.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Dream Journals, 13-plus years. Inspired by themes in *The Marrow Thieves*, this kit contains everything you need to start your own dream journal. 2-6 pm beginning December 28.

Take & Make Kits. Winter Craft, three-plus years. Make a winter-inspired glittery craft. 2-6 pm beginning Friday, January 7.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Water and Oil Project, three-plus years. In *We Are Water Protectors*, author Carole Lindstrom describes a "black snake" that poisons the water. With this kit, learn about a type of "black snake" (oil) and how water and oil don't mix. 2-6 pm beginning January 11.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Wild Rice Soup, 18-plus years. Pick up a kit with supplies to make wild rice soup. The kit will include wild rice, recipes to make the soup, and a packet of dried parsley. The Rogue Reads adult title, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer,

honors indigenous wisdom and discusses several plants that play a significant role in Native cultures. 2-6 pm beginning January 21.

Take & Make. Valentine's Day Craft, eight-plus years. Make a heart-inspired card or craft to give to loved ones. 2-6 pm beginning, Friday, February 4.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Practicing Gratitude, 18-plus years. Pick up a kit with supplies to incorporate a practice of gratitude into your life through letter writing. The kit will include stationery, stamped envelopes, scrapbook-style embellishments, information about the benefits of practicing gratitude, and some suggestions of whom to write to. 2-6 pm beginning February 11.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Friendship Bracelets, nine-plus years. This kit encourages you to make a bracelet for yourself and one to give to a friend to show that you care. 2-6 pm beginning February 22.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Birdwatching Kit, 18-plus years. Pick up a kit of birdwatching supplies. The kit will include guides to common local birds, a flyer with information about how to be involved with Cornell University's Project Feederwatch, a bird data recording sheet, information about birdwatching materials that can be checked out from the library, and materials to make a pinecone bird feeder. This kit is offered in partnership with the North Mountain Park Nature Center in Ashland. 2-6 pm beginning Feb 25.

Note: All Take & Make kits available only while supplies last.

Program spotlight

Library2Go (the Oregon digital library consortium) focuses on books and magazines in ePUB and Kindle formats, as well as MP3 Audiobooks. This means you can check out and read or listen to titles on nearly any device you have, from a simple eReader to the latest iPad. There are more than 35,000 titles to choose from and a collection of always-available content. Uses the Libby or OverDrive app. Check out the digital content services at jcls.org.

Christine Grubb

Applegate Branch Library Manager

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— Williams Library — Striving to maintain connections

BY AMBER GUIENT

A program entitled "Loneliness and Aging During COVID-19: Making Space for Our Elders," with Pamela Slaughter, will start at 5 pm Thursday, December 9. During this virtual Oregon Humanities Conversation Project, participants can explore beliefs surrounding loneliness and aging. Most people are finding ways to remain connected to their loved ones during COVID-19. Some are even reaching new levels of intimacy in relationships. But for isolated elderly people who are not computer literate, loneliness has only become more intense in recent weeks. What beliefs do we hold about loneliness and aging? If we have elderly neighbors and loved ones, what might they need at this time? This program is open to teens and adults. Registration is required. For more information, email info@josephinelibrary.org or call 541-476-0571.

JosephineLINK

JosephineLINK is an online community resource directory where community members can access current information for hundreds of community service organizations. You can browse by category or search by keyword. Categories include rent assistance, volunteer opportunities, food assistance, family services, recovery support, veteran's services, and much more. JosephineLINK can be found on the library website at josephinelink.org.

Josephine Community Library Foundation

Josephine Community Library Foundation raises funds to support

special programs beyond the reach of the library's tax-funded operating budget including technology upgrades and building improvements.

Through December 31, make your annual contribution during the End-of-Year Fundraising Drive. Visit jclfoundation.org and make your donation to support the critical work of the library in our community.

Sponsors for this drive are Cauble, Selvig, and Whittington; Edward Jones; Hart Insurance; and Republic Services.

For more information about Josephine Community Library Foundation or library building projects, visit jclfoundation.org or contact Executive Director Rebecca Stoltz at rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org or 541-476-0571, ext. 200.

Williams branch hours

The Williams branch is open 1-6 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, and from 11 am to 4 pm Fridays. For more information, email info@josephinelibrary.org or go to josephinelibrary.org.

Holiday closures

All four branches of Josephine Community Library in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek are closed on the following days in observance of national holidays: Saturday, December 25, and Saturday, January 1.

Amber Guient, Manager
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Staff Spotlight ~ Christine Stark Grubb Applegate Branch Library Manager

How long have you worked at the Applegate Branch Library? Since January 2018 as manager, but I have been with JCLS for 14 years. I started as a page at the Jacksonville Branch Library after being a stay-at-home mom for 17 years!

What do you like most about your job? Hands down, the patrons are the reason I'm here! This community is so diverse and interesting! Sharing and connecting with and learning from the patrons is the best part of this job. Of course, I also love the beautiful building with its hand-painted murals, and working alongside the ever kind and helpful Susie is a bonus!

What do you like to do when you're not working? Spending time with family—four adult children and three grandchildren—takes up much of my *other* time. Quilting (I made my first quilt for my first grandchild), cooking (really good at Korean food), reading, hiking, camping (tent, but would prefer RV!), gardening (though I don't have a garden right now), and animals (I recently trapped, neutered, and rehomed 16 feral cats in my neighborhood).

Where did you grow up? I was born in South Bend, Indiana, where I lived with my parents and four siblings. I went to school in Erie, Pennsylvania. In 2002 I moved with my husband and our four kids from Virginia to Oregon.

What fun facts would readers like to know about you? I kissed Huey Lewis (of Huey Lewis and the News) when he had a concert at my university. I was a Quartermaster Captain in the Army. My first assignment was in South Korea, where I learned to speak Korean and cook Korean food. I've also jumped out of airplanes.

What are three words to describe you? Perspicacious, brave, and compassionate. (I aspire to be those things!)

Who is your favorite author? Among many, Barbara Kingsolver, Elizabeth Gilbert, Thich Nhat Han, and William Martin.

