

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

# Exciting developments with the Applegate Valley Vision

BY SETH KAPLAN

The release of the Applegate Valley Vision ([agreaterapplegate.org/20-20-community-vision/](http://agreaterapplegate.org/20-20-community-vision/)) is all we hoped it would be and more. Thanks to the creativity of hundreds of community residents, business owners, organizations, and regional allies, the 90 strategies and over 500 ideas for action have sparked a burst of energy.

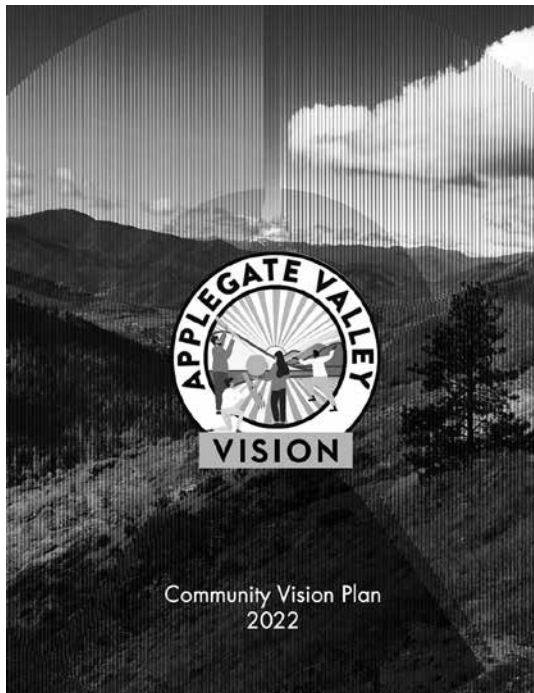
To bring some of these ideas to fruition, AGA offered community members an opportunity to apply for grants to support projects in alignment with the values expressed in the Vision. We received 35 Innovation Grant applications asking for over \$60,000. This is more than double the number of applications we have received in any prior year and more than three times the level of funding requests. Even after we doubled our granting amount to \$14,000 this year, the review panel has a huge challenge sifting through so many innovative ideas. The task is difficult, but we are thrilled with the creativity displayed once again in the Applegate Valley. We hope we can help most of these projects along, one way or another.

Another example of action birthed by the Vision is the number of working groups forming to address its different pieces. These community and professional volunteers are taking on projects from the Vision that are of greatest interest to them. As of this writing, working groups are focused on art, Destination Applegate, education, food and farm, forest and fire management, local history, and outdoor recreation.

Some of these groups are already engaged in projects with funding, some are still determining which projects to undertake, and some new groups may be forming between the time this article is written and published. It is a dynamic time for the Applegate Valley!

A Greater Applegate is facilitating the emerging working groups, but these are truly community efforts, and we welcome other organizations and community leaders to facilitate or co-host working groups aligned with the Vision. If you see something in the Applegate Valley Vision that tickles your fancy, let us know. We will do what we can to support your effort.

There are other ways you can support the Applegate Valley Vision and A Greater Applegate. The number of projects we can complete will be determined in no small part by the speed and success of



The cover of A Greater Applegate's Community Vision Plan.

fundraising. Projects generated out of this visioning project rely on funds and volunteers to come to life. You can help by donating to AGA through our website ([agreaterapplegate.org/support-our-work](http://agreaterapplegate.org/support-our-work)) or mail a check to A Greater Applegate at PO Box 335, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

A Greater Applegate is not only looking for working group members. We are eager to recruit new board members interested in helping us implement the Applegate Valley Vision and steer the organization into an exciting future. If you want to know more about becoming a board member with A Greater Applegate, let me know.

Finally, this seems like a good time to share that I will be retiring from A Greater Applegate in the spring of 2023. Megan Fehrman will continue doing what she does so well as one co-executive director. We are hiring for a second co-executive director to support a collaborative leadership process. Go to [agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org) to learn more about this fantastic opportunity. I can honestly say this has been the best job I've ever held, and I look forward to contributing to A Greater Applegate and the Applegate Valley in a new capacity.

All this enthusiasm and energy percolating in the Applegate Valley now is exactly what community building is about. And we can never get enough of it! Join us!

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McKee Bridge bedecked with Christmas finery. Photo: Ricardo Berrera.

## Fourth annual 'Christmas on a Covered Bridge'

BY LAURA AHEARN

How, you ask, could McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) beat last year's holiday event at magical, historical McKee Bridge? How about a special appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus to hand out gifts to children ages 0-18? Follow that with community caroling led by members of Voices of the Applegate, a bigger, yummiest bake sale than last year, and shopping for wonderful gifts and décor.

MBHS will decorate and illuminate Star Ranger Station, the rustic Depression-era picnic shelter, and McKee Bridge from December 10 into the New Year. Saturday, December 17, will be a fun day of activities at the bridge from noon-6 pm. Free hot beverages! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be giving presents between 3 and 3:30 pm. And then singing. Come share the wonder of the holidays at our 105-year-old bridge!

We have some other news to share: MBHS is offering two scholarships of \$2,500 each to students who plan to graduate from a high school in Jackson County or Josephine County, Oregon, or

from a homeschool equivalent, and who enroll in an accredited four-year college in summer or fall, 2023. Other eligibility criteria are:

- Significant tie to Applegate Valley—Have lived or attended school in the Applegate Valley (the entire watershed), or be a lineal descendant of an Applegate Valley resident.
- A minimum, cumulative, unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Intent to major or minor in history, archaeology, nonprofit management, or a field of engineering or technology relevant to the MBHS mission.

The goal of this scholarship is to build interest, engagement, and skills to support the continued survival of McKee Bridge and development of Applegate Valley historical resources. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2023. Email [mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:mckeebridge1917@gmail.com) for the application packet.

Happy holidays, everyone!  
Laura Ahearn  
[mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:mckeebridge1917@gmail.com)

### Free anti-overdose drugs available

Rogue Harm Reduction offers free lifesaving overdose medication and HIV tests from 10:30 am-1:30 pm the first Sunday of each month at the Sugarloaf Center, 206 Tetherow Road, Williams. Park in the large gravel parking lot and take a short walk to the center at the end of the gated driveway.

Volunteers offer free doses of Narcan (which delivers naloxone) to take home to reverse opioid overdose, along with instructions for use (allow 20 minutes), as well as free fentanyl test strips, take-home HIV tests, and condoms and lube. Walk-ins are welcome.

For more information, email [rogueharmreduction@gmail.com](mailto:rogueharmreduction@gmail.com).

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. Volunteers work in partnership with and are trained by the HIV Alliance. For more, go to [hivalliance.org](http://hivalliance.org).

Nonprofit organizations in the Applegate Valley are welcome to submit news and event information to the Applegater. Email [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org).



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