

# Bye-bye blackberries at Provolt Recreation Site

BY CALEB GALLOWAY AND JANELLE DUNLEVY

Opened to the public in 2020, the Provolt Recreation Site (PRS) has provided new opportunities to enjoy the Applegate River. Hiking, horse riding, education, volunteering, and swimming are just a few of the activities



Provolt Recreation Site recently received BLM Secure Rural Schools Title II funding to help address invasive species including Himalayan blackberry, starthistle, and poison hemlock.

taking place. With increasing use and ongoing restoration, improving the site is more pertinent than ever. New trails, new sites, and site improvements, including a vault toilet and picnic benches, are in the works.

One important project is the removal of invasive plants. A plague of on-site invasive species, including blackberry and star thistle, is allowing these noxious plants to spread off-site and into our beautiful watershed. Invasive plants are also diminishing the diverse habitat of the recreation site and blocking access to some areas.

The Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) is excited to announce that we have received funding from the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Secure Rural Schools Title II funding opportunity to continue the removal of noxious and invasive plants at the PRS. We will partner with local volunteers, schools, and the BLM for this project. With these many hands, we can accomplish this daunting task more easily.

Removal will take place over the next three years, targeting Himalayan blackberry, poison hemlock, yellow star thistle, bachelor's buttons, Dyer's woad, and more. Following removal, we will sow native grass and forb seed to diversify our native plant communities. We will also

spread acorns across all sites to encourage the more natural, oak-dominated habitat that was originally on-site. These efforts will improve public use and entice more wildlife into the area.

How can you help? The involvement of our community

can never be underestimated. Volunteers will be a key part of this project. If you are interested in helping with this or any other activity at the Provolt Recreation Site, then the Provolt Volunteer Team (PVT) is for you. Led by Liz Shen, local landowner, volunteer, PRS user, and APWC staff, the PVT is the main conduit for helping improve this community site.

Ranging from trail building and trail maintenance to site planning and rehabilitation, the Provolt Volunteer Team has been pivotal in advancing the Provolt Recreation Site. If you would like to learn more about these opportunities, contact Liz Shen at provoltvolunteerteam@apwc.info or Caleb Galloway at calebg@apwc.info. You can find additional information at applegatepartnership.org/upcoming-events. The APWC would also appreciate the donation of acorns for this project, preferably from local black or Oregon white oak trees.

Let's all work together to help improve our watershed, our community, and our public sites.

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## NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

# Woodland Charter School to add kindergarten

BY CHRIS CARMIENCEKE

Woodland Charter School, in Murphy, continues to have a wonderful 2022-2023 school year. We have maintained our enrollment of 180 students in grades one through eight with 25 stable staff members and many parent volunteers who have created an exciting learning community with a Waldorf-inspired curriculum. We are thrilled about the academic and personal success of our students and are looking forward to continuing to have a positive and productive school year.



A rainbow as seen from Woodland Charter School. Photo: Brittanie McKirachan.

We had several wonderful events in December and January. In early December our students celebrated the power of light, in a time when darkness is so prevalent, through an event called the Spiral of Light. Each grade level met in a darkened room with soft music played by student support assistant Helene Bisnaire. One by one students walked through the spiral, lit a candle, and placed it among cedar boughs to slowly illuminate the room.

Woodland was also able to bring back an event from the past, the Winter Assembly. It was held just before our winter break at Hidden Valley High School. We had an amazing turnout of students, families, and relatives, who enjoyed songs, dancing, poetry, and more. Each grade performed at the direction of their class teacher and gave the audience a lovely showcase of all the grades at Woodland.

In January, our Leadership Club led the school in a celebration of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. They read a biography of Dr. King to younger students and allowed older students to hear the seminal "I Have a Dream" speech in its entirety. Students were then provided time and materials to create their own dreams and post them for all the school to see on a display board at the Juniper Shelter. This event was developed, coordinated, and led by our Leadership students.

With a local grant from the Josephine County Cultural Coalition, we have recently purchased a classroom set of ukuleles, tuners, and cases from Larry's Music for our eighth-grade Wolf Class students. The Wolf Class students are in the beginning stages of

learning to play and are excited to become competent ukulele players.

One bit of big Woodland news is that we are planning to bring kindergarten to Woodland Charter School for the fall of 2023! Although this will not be official until we announce we are registering kindergarten students, we are moving forward with our plans to make this dream a reality. We will keep the readers of the Applegater posted about updates in future articles.

Lastly, Woodland has started a great new after-school program that happens on Fridays—participation in the Mt. Ashland Youth Ski Program. We have been taking nearly 40 students to Mt. Ashland on Fridays to learn to ski or snowboard. We will continue this wonderful program until March 3.

Woodland is nearly at full capacity, but we do have a few openings in Grades 1, 2, 3, 6 and 8! We continue to provide an in-person, full-time charter school experience that is different from a traditional school through an integration of art, music, and developmentally appropriate thematic learning experiences in a lovely outdoor and indoor learning environment. We are proud of the care and kindness we show in meeting the needs of families in Josephine and Jackson counties who are looking for something different, and we appreciate the continued support of Three Rivers School District for sponsoring us.

If you are interested in knowing more about Woodland Charter School, or are interested in enrolling, visit our website at woodlandcharterschool.org or send us an email at enrollment@woodlandcharterschool.org.

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