Welcome 2016! Coming in to a new year, lots of us have ideas to set new goals, new beginnings, make a difference, or change ourselves. All of these can start right here at your local library. No matter which library you frequent—Applegate, Ruch, Jacksonville, or our neighboring library in Williams, the minute you walk in the door you are making a difference. If you set goals and want to research the best and most direct way to accomplish them (or just how to start), you can find that here. New beginnings can start by volunteering or joining a library Friends of the Library group. You can change the world by reading to a child. And with that we change ourselves—it’s that easy. So what are you waiting for?

Here’s what’s happening at Applegate Library:

• “Talk story” with David Kennedy. Second Saturday of every month at 7 pm. Have a story to share? This is where you can tell it.
• Game day. Last Friday of the month all day in the Community Meeting room.
• Birds and birdhouses with John Jackson of Bugs R Us. Saturday, March 5, at 11 am.
• How to attract hummingbirds with Wild Birds Unlimited. Saturday, April 9, at 12 noon.
• Natural History of the Oregon Trail with John Jackson of Bugs R Us. Saturday, May 1, at 11 am.
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• Storytime is every Saturday starting at 10:30 am.

All of these programs are free! For more information, contact branch manager Lisa Martin at 541-846-7346 or lmartin@jcls.org.

With spring just around the corner, Bonni Criswell will present “Applegate Gardening: Defying Deer and Drought” on Saturday, March 12, from 2 to 4 pm. Bonni is a landscape designer, Master Gardener, and plant enthusiast. Gaining experience through a small gardening business, she earned her green thumbs by getting down and dirty. She has also worked in the nursery industry since 2008. Bonni has called the Applegate home for almost ten years, where she not only tends to her two young boys, but also fervently collects eryngiums, Zauschnerias, Hebes, and other such curiosities. She is thrilled to share her gardening insights and zeal for plants with the local community this spring.

During March and April, Jackson County Libraries are celebrating Shakespeare on the 400th anniversary of his death. There will be a variety of programs county-wide from sonnet writing to insult hurling to birthday parties. And oh, yes, plays, too. Check out the calendar at www.jcls.org for specific programs and times.

On March 5 and 6 is “Broken Pots Mosaic” for homeschooled children through the Oregon Coast Children’s Theater and Youth Arts Programs. This is a Saturday workshop to create a pot, and a short class on Sunday to grout the project. The program is free and targets children in fifth through eighth grades, although younger children are welcome with an accompanying adult. Space is limited, so please sign up in advance.

On March 10 at 5 pm is “The March of the Stuffed Animals,” part of the Bedtime Math Program for preschoolers, who should come in pajamas with a favorite stuffed animal. There will be fun games and activities. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required.

In May and June, Ruch Library will be the county destination for the traveling exhibit, “Clink: A Taste of Oregon Wine,” which will coincide with the Applegate Wine Trail tour on May 30. Come check out the exhibit and local wine lore on display.

See you at the library!

For more information, contact branch manager Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-7438 or ttruesdell@jcls.org.