



## Plans proceed for fall celebration

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Spring has been happening for the wildflowers and wildlife at the park. The park rangers and park hosts have been taking good care of the site and preparing it for public use again.

A time like this reminds us just how important this county park is to our community. We all have missed it, but it's great to be able to use it again with safe distancing for awhile.

In March, ten hazard trees were removed in picnic areas, creating new stumps. The county is removing dead and dying trees, but visitors should always watch for dead debris and any dead leaning trees when hiking in the park.

The park enhancement team will be rescheduling work days and the

resumption of work projects. Watch for announcements to volunteer for cleanup, weeding, and mulching in areas of the park or contact Janis at [janis.agapark@gmail.com](mailto:janis.agapark@gmail.com).

We are hoping to hold our planned park celebration and dedication ceremonies for donors and artists, so *save the date*—September 26. You are all invited. When we get clearance to plan and schedule a large group event, we will post the details in the fall *Applegater*, on flyers in the communities, and at [applegateconnect.org](http://applegateconnect.org). This promises to be a very exciting time of bringing community back together, and what a perfect place to celebrate!

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A sculpture by Jacksonville artist Cheryl D. Garcia of a Henderson's Shooting Star near the entrance to Cantrall Buckley Park accompanied by a new interpretive sign designed by Gregg Payne featuring identification, educational information, artist's statement, and community donors who supported the sculpture's installation.



A depiction of a Northern Flicker perches on a tree nearby an interpretive sign with information about the species. Artist Cheryl D. Garcia is expected to be on hand at the park celebration planned for September 26.  
Photos: Janis Mohr-Tipton.

## Voices of the Applegate

### Spring concerts rescheduled for the fall

BY JOAN PETERSON

Our spring concerts were canceled because of the COVID-19 virus, as were so many concerts and performances this year. We were almost ready to perform with only two more rehearsals to go in March when the virus hit and everything closed down. But coming this fall, we are picking up where we left off and have moved our spring concerts to the fall season.

Choral selections will include songs in English, Latin, and Spanish. There will also be songs performed by ensembles: a duet, a solo, and pieces played by



Voices of the Applegate has rescheduled its spring concerts for the fall.  
Photo: Kathy Escott.

saxophone and piano. Music music music is the theme, celebrating all of its beauty, romance, love, and power.

Voices of the Applegate, under the direction of Shayne Flock, will begin rehearsals on September 1 at the Ruch library meeting room at 6:30 (the remaining rehearsals will begin at 7 pm, as we will have half an hour for registration on September 1). Rehearsals end at 8:30 pm. No audition is required.

The concerts will be performed the week before Thanksgiving, the first one in Jacksonville, on Friday, November 20, at 7 pm at the Old Presbyterian Church, 405 California Street, and the second one in Applegate on Sunday, November 22, at 3 p.m. at the Applegate Lodge, 15100 Highway 238 in Applegate.

Hand sanitizers will be available at both venues. Refreshments will be available at the Applegate performance. There will be no admission charge, but we readily accept donations.

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## Roving Reporter

### COVID-19: How can boomers help?

BY TOM CARSTENS

*"As sickness is the greatest misery, so the greatest misery of sickness is solitude"* (John Donne, 17th century English poet).

Being cooped up to avoid a pandemic is certainly nothing new to humankind. We might not be as miserable as those sequestered medieval plague victims, but it's no picnic. But even worse than solitude, to my mind, is the feeling of utter helplessness when so many need help. Lending a hand in the physical sense is pretty tough for us boomers, since we're deemed to be especially vulnerable to the ravages of this virus.

Helping out *vicariously* is possible, however, through our local charitable nonprofits, many of which are well suited to funnel our contributions to the folks who need it most. Right now.

*"For now I ask no more than the justice of eating."* (Pablo Neruda).

We can't go wrong with food pantries. With so many folks out of work, food security is a major concern. Our local food pantries are hiring staff and working in overdrive. Their immediate need, surprisingly, isn't our individual grocery drop-offs. Most food pantries already have donor food sources, like grocery outlets and local farms, and the Oregon Food Network supplies provisions in bulk for pennies on the dollar. This system enables most food banks to get substantially more food out of a financial contribution than is possible with small donations of groceries. So, because of the high demand for their services right now, they desperately need cash donations.

In Jackson County one of the major players in charitable food distribution is ACCESS, which operates thirteen pantries in the Rogue Valley. One services the Applegate Valley. It's located at the Ruch Outdoor School, 190 Upper Applegate Road, where food is distributed on Mondays from 11:30 am to 1 pm. They also offer an expanded distribution schedule at two sites in Medford. People who need to supplement their pantries can find more information on the ACCESS website, [accesshelps.org](http://accesshelps.org), or by calling 541-779-6691. The ACCESS website also lists other nonprofits that operate their own food banks in Jackson County. To help out with a financial contribution, we can find all the information we need on the website. ACCESS will let us earmark our donations to help with utility bills or rental payments if we'd prefer.

The Josephine County Food Bank operates nine food pantries throughout the

county including one in Williams, which is located at the the Williams Community Church, 228 East Fork Road. Food is distributed there on Tuesdays from 10 am to noon. The JoCo Food Bank partners with several organizations that help with food supply. The charity also owns the Raptor Farm, which produces 20 tons of fresh produce annually. More information, including how to donate, can be found on their website, [jocofoodbank.org](http://jocofoodbank.org), or by calling 541-479-5556.

Another enterprising food pantry is the Medford-based Gleaning Network, which partners not only with grocery stores but also with local businesses, such as Silly Zack's Bakery. This nonprofit is looking to expand its membership to keep up with the soaring demand. Like other food pantries, Gleaning Network "asks no questions" when distributing food to those who are struggling. More information can be found on their website, [thegleaningnetwork.org](http://thegleaningnetwork.org), or by calling 541-665-1500.

For broader help for those experiencing distress due to job loss during this crisis, there is a host of other nonprofits that are helping out. For example, United Way of Jackson County ([unitedwayofjacksoncounty.org](http://unitedwayofjacksoncounty.org)) is partnering with 23 other organizations to address 12 core areas imperiled by economic loss due to the pandemic, including housing and rent assistance, child care, and transportation. This organization is meeting this emergency by pledging to apply donations within 24 hours of receipt and will honor specific donor requests, including for Josephine County charities.

St. Vincent de Paul of Medford is another broad-based charity that is helping with free bag lunches, grocery bag distribution, rent assistance, and utility bills. To contribute to their efforts, please check out their website, [stvincentdepaulmedford.info](http://stvincentdepaulmedford.info), or call 541-772-3828.

*"We only have what we give"* (Isabel Allende).

In the end, though, we should consider supporting any charitable cause with which we are familiar and comfortable. Since the effects of this economic disaster are likely to be long lasting, we can anticipate that our neighbors' needs will continue even after our economy opens up again. And by helping our neighbors, we'll feel a lot less miserable.

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The ACCESS food box assembly line. Food is distributed at the Ruch Outdoor School on Mondays.  
Photo: ACCESS.