



Pack 17 scouts at Camp Baker in Florence in July 2022. Photo: Erik Johnsen.

Applegate Cub Scout Pack forming

BY ERIK JOHNSEN

We've teased about it for a couple issues, but now we're going to make it happen!

It seems we have enough interest for a Cub Scout Pack for the Applegate Valley that we can put earnest effort into it. This comes after seeing public interest in Pack 17's rocket launch at Pacifica Gardens back in the spring and learning about A Greater Applegate's efforts to build community and opportunity in our area at one of their visioning sessions.

Why Cub Scouts? You already live in the great outdoors, but the difference is we do things in the outdoors *together*. We make friends, and we take time to do things as a family. This is the definition of community. We're helping each other to raise our kids right. And if we do things

right, we're also having a lot of fun in the process.

By the time this runs, we will likely have had a few meetings to attract interest, and will have recruited at some back-to-school events. But it's not too late to join! Go to beascout.org and search for the Cub Scout Pack in your zip code. If you don't see one, inquire with Pack 3039 in Central Point, which is our placeholder for newly forming cub scout packs. You're also welcome to email pack17jacksonville@gmail.org, and we can help inform you about what's going on and how to get involved. We hope to see you soon!

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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Woodland Charter School is ready for the new year

BY CHRIS CARMIENCKE

Woodland Charter School, located on Murphy Creek Road just north of Hidden Valley High School, is ready for the 2022-2023 school year. We provided two new summer activity programs for enrolled students this past summer.

Woodland, tuition-free and open to all students, is a Waldorf-inspired charter school and is part of a worldwide movement to make Waldorf educational philosophy more accessible by bringing it to the public school system. Woodland is part of the Three Rivers School District but has a Charter Council that sets policies and oversees the administration of the school, allowing a certain level of autonomy, creativity, and flexibility.

The vision of the Woodland is to provide an alternative school choice for local families while creating a school community environment that attends to the needs of the whole child. Recognizing the whole child in the educational program is the first step toward laying the foundation necessary for each student to continue the lifelong educational process.

Woodland is a first-through-eighth-grade public school and has a capacity of 200 students, 25 in each grade. We still have openings in several grades for the 2022-2023 school year and short waiting lists for other grades. We anticipate having more than 180 students this fall!

This past summer, Woodland hosted a two-week Activity Camp and a two-week Jump Start for enrolled students. This was the first time Woodland ran programs for students in the summer. Both programs were well attended, were free, and allowed students to take part in games, arts, crafts, gardening, and water activities. It was a great way for students to stay connected to the school, to spend time with their peers, and to beat the heat.

Students had a chance to play water games, including sponge jousting and slip-and-slide, to paint rocks and hide them for the incoming first-grade students, to make rosemary and lavender salt sachets, to needle felt, and to paint with watercolors.

There was also a chance to work in the school garden, take nature walks, and explore fabric dyeing using hammers, plants, and traditional tie-dyeing methods. We are hoping to continue to offer more programs to our students both during the summer and also on Fridays during the school year.

The amazing staff at Woodland is stable, moving into the 2022-2023 school year with the vast majority remaining the same as last year.

One major change in staffing is the addition of myself (Chris Carmiencke) as the education director, replacing Wensdae Davis who was in this role for three years and navigated the difficult COVID years. I was the eighth-grade teacher at Woodland last year, had been a public school administrator for six years prior, and am excited to be taking on this role after having a year to get to know the school as a teacher. Woodland is also adding a child development specialist to the school staff to support our students and their personal growth and academic success.

Woodland is continuing to refine the opportunities for our students and has hopes of adding music, Spanish, and gardening programs as soon as qualified staff are hired to take on these teaching positions.

We are planning many great opportunities for our students this fall with school festivals, assemblies, field trips, outdoor school, and more traditions at Woodland. Our students are enriched by the Waldorf curriculum and enjoy games class, handworking, gardening, and nature studies, which are all a part of the rigorous academic program Woodland crafts to meet the requirements of the Oregon Department of Education.

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

Chris Carmiencke
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