

## A dream of showing off the wild Siskiyou through the arts

BY DIANA COOGLE

Like a coyote lifting its muzzle to sing to the stars, the Siskiyou Crest Coalition is calling to Applegate artists: Hallo-o-o, out there! Do you cherish the valleys and mountains, wildflowers and forests, rivers and streams along the Siskiyou Crest? Do you take spiritual and artistic inspiration from this wild nature?

The Siskiyou Crest Coalition, an organization in the Applegate dedicated to the protection of this area, is dreaming big these days. One of our dreams is to create a show of visual arts, along with a reading of poetry and creative nonfiction, enhanced by original music—works by local artists that showcase the Siskiyou Mountains area.

Let's show the world how special and beautiful the Siskiyou are!

This will be a juried show. The subject of the art must be the wild nature of the Siskiyou—its flora and fauna, its amazing bio- and geological diversity, its climate and beauty, or even the threats to these things from logging, road-building, climate change, and so forth.

Subject matter must be specific to the wilds of the Siskiyou. A beautiful photograph of an Applegate vineyard? No, but a striking photograph of a field of mule's ears at Donomore Meadows—yes. A painting of that gorgeous rich-red maple tree in your back yard? No (it's not native), but a painting of the yellow light under an autumn-gold bigleaf maple—yes. A poem about the sound of the rain on the roof—no, but a poem about the Ponderosa pines drinking the first rain of fall in long, thirsty quaffs—yes. No sculptures of grizzly bears, but a cougar, a black bear, a fisher—all good. Any place along the Siskiyou Crest is fair-game subject matter; it doesn't have to be in the Applegate.



A tapestry weaving by Louann Faist depicts Wilderness Falls in the Siskiyou Wilderness Area.

All arts are eligible—visual arts, including painting, drawing, and photography (and video, if we have the space); plastic arts, including sculpture, mosaic, ceramic, and paper; literary arts, including poetry and literary non-fiction (350 words or fewer); textile arts, such as weavings, small quilts, and soft sculptures; and musical compositions.

Deadline for submissions is May 1.

We'll give details about where to obtain entry forms and how to submit them in the spring *Applegater*. In the meantime, you can contact me with questions.

We are in the early planning stages, looking at creating this celebration of the Siskiyou probably at summer's end, maybe at a winery. If you would like to offer your space, let me know. If you want to get in on the excitement of planning, let me know, and if you think you would like to submit a piece or are just excited by the idea, let me know that, too. Encouragement is good for organizers.

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The Cougar Publishers coloring book team: From left, Grace Haughey, Sonia Ginet, advisor Thalia Truesdell, Sarah Dehaas, Lola Hemming, and Angela Redfield. Photo: Brandee Tolner.

## Students to publish a Cantrall Buckley Park coloring book

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

The Middle School students in sixth through eighth grades at Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) get to choose one focus from a variety of projects to work on throughout the school year. We are very excited about one such project—the Cougar Publishers. The students working on this project are Angie, Lola, Ollie, Sarah, and Sonia. I, Thalia Truesdell, am advisor.

Our project is to create a coloring book and reference guide in an alphabetical format based on the local flora, fauna, and other features found in Cantrall Buckley Park. Each page of this educational and entertaining book will be filled with art created by all kindergarten through fifth-grade students and our advisory group.

Our book is directed toward all ages and people, from locals to visitors. The book's reference guide will present colored photos of the flora and fauna shown

on the alphabetical coloring pages, and information about each. We are making this book for our community here in the Applegate Valley and hope it will be enjoyed by many.

The printing cost per book will be \$5. Unfortunately, we can only print as many copies as we know in advance have been sold. We are hoping to raise enough money through donations and grants to provide a coloring book for each ROCS student. Because we want to make this park treasure readily available to the whole community, businesses are encouraged to purchase multiple copies to resell or to make available for their customers to color.

They will also make a great gift! To order copies or make a donation, please call ROCS at 541-842-3850. Thank you!

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## The *Applegater* board welcomes Barbara Holiday, our newest member

BY DIANA COOGLE

If anyone is more dedicated to the *Applegater* than Barbara Holiday, I can't imagine who it would be. Barbara was editor in chief for umpteen years, and, of course, also a member of the board. When she resigned, she continued association with the newsmagazine as its layout editor.

But that just wasn't enough.

"I never let it go in my mind," Barbara said. "I always felt it a part of me." She is glad to be back "on the inside," where she can help make decisions, act as historian, and take over much of what Mike Schneider, who will leave the board in January, has been doing with ad sales. In addition, she said, she would "help anyone do anything," words any board chair loves to hear.

About his interview with Barbara, Bert Erling, our editor, said, "Barbara showed deep awareness of how the

*Applegater* operates and the value of its presence in the community. She has ideas that can help it continue to thrive and improve its presence in the community."


As the newest and yet also longest-serving member of the board (a wonderful oxymoron), Barbara brings with her an invaluable institutional memory. Equally invaluable are her creative ideas, her artist's eye, her connections with the community, and her love of that community and of the *Applegater*.

Speaking personally, I'm delighted to be working with Barbara on the board again. Speaking for the board, who voted on her membership with enthusiastic "ayes," I extend to her a warm handshake, a warm welcome, an *Applegater* email address, and, now, about those ads....

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