

— Ruch Library —

Ruch Library's beloved Liz Hampton is retiring



BY DAVID HAYWOOD

A lot has happened at the Ruch Library. First and foremost, it is with mixed emotions that I announce the retirement of Ruch's beloved Liz Hampton. While I am happy to see Liz reorienting her focus toward care for herself and her loved ones, she has been a community institution whom I had the privilege of working with, and relying on, in the first months of my role as Ruch branch manager. I couldn't have asked for a more gracious, cheerful, and helpful person to introduce me to the community, and she will be sincerely missed. Thank you for everything, Liz!

On that note, we will soon hire for the position Liz left vacant, so be on the lookout for a new member of the Ruch library community in the coming weeks!

This spring, we will have three public programs at the Ruch library. Back by popular demand, our Spring programming theme will be "Read Outside," and all of our programs will align with that theme.

Arriving on or around March 7 is a Take and Make kit to encourage children (and their parents or caregivers) to read outside. The kit will include seed bomb supplies, a journal, nature poems, reading lists, and a map of Cantrall Buckley Park labeled with places to read outside that I found with great help from Janis Mohr-Tipton.

On March 25 from 1 - 3 pm, please come to the Ruch library for *Wildflowers of the Applegate & Southern Oregon*, a program by Barbara Mumblo, a retired botanist and Applegate Valley resident. At this program you will learn about the many wildflowers that will populate

our beautiful Applegate Valley and southern Oregon this spring.

Our final program, *Backyard Birding with the Rogue Valley Audubon Society*, will take place on April 15 from 1-2 pm. Join Jackson County Library System and the Rogue Valley Audubon Society to learn about birding in your own backyard. Novice and experienced birders alike are invited to learn about simple identification practices and create a pinecone bird feeder—made with birdseed and peanut butter or vegetable shortening—to attract birds to your backyard this spring.

Lastly, we are very excited to welcome Kaleidoscope Play and Learn (KPL) to our branch. Through KPL you will discover how children learn through play and daily activities: singing songs, telling stories, creating art, and having fun! Kaleidoscope Play and Learn is open to everyone—young children (ages 0-5) and their families, caregivers, and parents. We do not have a firm start date yet, so if you are interested, please bear with us while we get this program up and running! No preregistration is required.

If you would like to become a member of the Friends of the Ruch Library, January and February are their annual membership months. You can pick up a membership brochure at the Ruch library.

As always, we thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you soon!

David Haywood (he/him/his)
Ruch Branch Library Manager
Jackson County Library Services
dhaywood@jcls.org

541-494-3284 • 7919 Highway 238

— Applegate Library —

New hours and new open day at Applegate Library

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

As of Monday, April 10, the Applegate Library days and hours will be changed to the following:

- Closed Sundays and Mondays
- Open 10 am - 4 pm Tuesdays and Fridays (formerly 2 - 6 pm)
- Closed Wednesdays
- Noon - 7 pm Thursdays (new day/time)
- Noon - 4 pm Saturdays (formerly 10 am - 2 pm)

Upcoming events

Preschool Storytime: New time! Fridays 11 - 11:30 am.

Take and Make: Read Outside Kit (5+ years) Get outside with your family on Friday, April 14. Pick up a kit (while supplies last) with supplies for a variety of outdoor fun:

- Help our natural ecosystem with some seed bomb supplies and instructions.
- Explore and record your findings with a journal and some nature journaling prompts.
- Celebrate National Poetry Month with some nature poems.
- Experience some local parks and walking trails—we'll provide the maps!
- Plus, some reading lists to get reading outside!

Ask the Expert: Questions to Ask Your Provider (18+ years). Do you leave your health care provider's office without being clear about their recommendations? Do you have trouble understanding chart notes and diagnoses? Rebecca Taylor, RN, BSN, can assist with these questions and more. Learn when you should see

your doctor and how to access support for a family member with a disability or chronic illness. This will be a "drop-in time" for your questions. 1 - 3 pm Saturday, April 22.

Backyard Birding with the Rogue Valley Audubon Society (18+ years). Join JCLS and the Rogue Valley Audubon Society to learn about birding in your own backyard. Novice and experienced birders alike are invited to learn about simple identification practices and create a bird feeder to attract birds to your backyard this spring. The feeder will be a pinecone feeder made with bird seed and peanut butter or vegetable shortening. 4 - 5 pm Thursday, May 11.

Reminders

The Applegate Library meeting room can be booked for your meeting, program, or event (even when the library is closed) by going to jcls.libcal.com/reserve/ap-meeting.

If you have a collection of items that you would like to share with the community by displaying it in our display case, please contact staff at the library.

Wi-Fi is available 24-7 in our parking lot as well as our building.

Digital Services will still be available, but the date/time is to be determined. Please check in with us!

Christine Grubb • 541-846-7346
Applegate Branch Library Manager
Jackson County Library Services
cgrubb@jcls.org
18485 North Applegate Road

Rogue Advocates working to keep our home livable

BY LISA BALDWIN

Public involvement is at the core of Oregon's land use planning system, and as much as any one person may be committed to staying informed and involved, it is difficult, to say the least, to keep up with all that goes on in the community.

Rogue Advocates, a nonprofit organization, can help. Rogue Advocates' mission is cultivating livable and sustainable communities in the entire Rogue Valley region, including, of course, the Applegate watershed, as the Applegate River is the largest tributary of the Rogue River. By monitoring land use proposals in Jackson and Josephine counties and maintaining a comprehensive land use tracking program, Rogue Advocates works to ensure that land use proposals at the city and county level are responsible and in tune with the goals of a more livable and sustainable community. When any land use proposal raises concerns, Rogue Advocates takes appropriate action. A first step is educating the public about the concerns and encouraging residents to engage in the land use process. When necessary, Rogue Advocates will pursue litigation to make sure city and county governments comply with Oregon's land use laws.

Some examples of proposals that would raise livability and sustainability concerns are those that have a strong likelihood to decrease farmland, forestland, or open space; to negatively impact water quality or water quantity; to harm habitat for critical species. Rogue Advocates' Land



Waters Creek, a major tributary of Slate Creek, running high after heavy rains.

Use Watchdog Program prioritizes the preservation of farmland for continued production of food and fiber.

In keeping with their goals of educating the public and encouraging residents to participate in the land use process in their own communities, in November 2022, Rogue Advocates put together and published a guide, "How to Participate in Land Use Decisions." The free guide is available for download from the Rogue Advocates website (rogueadvocates.org). From the home page, click the Resources tab and the guide will show on the drop-down list. It is a good, brief tutorial on how to get involved and how to navigate the ins and outs of land use regulations.

Since 2006, Rogue Advocates has been actively working to protect the public interest and ensure that planning agencies follow the law. Take a few minutes to browse around on the website; there is plenty of interesting information relevant to rural residents and an invitation to get involved. Check out their board of directors and you will find neighbors and friends, all working for the continued health and benefit of our beloved valley.

Lisa E Baldwin
lisa@applegater.org

A unique barn is bursting with books

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

We are not farmers, but our barn is bursting with gently used books that can raise awareness, nourish the soul, and feed the brain. Here we can sow seeds of curiosity and wonder and then reap unlimited knowledge of our world and beyond.

We are the Friends of Ruch Library (FORL), and we invite you to our Book Barn, open the first Saturday of each month, where book sales are by donation. This tradition of First Saturday sales began in 2018, became sporadic during the pandemic, and returned to the newly refurbished barn in March of 2022. You may not have noticed the Book Barn, situated adjacent to the Ruch Library and the charming A-Frame Bookstore. It is quiet and unassuming, but it springs to life one afternoon each month as people come to pore over the vast array of books on almost every subject and genre, appealing to all age levels and interests. The barn is lined with bookshelves and tables that display over 6,000 well-organized books, assuring something for everyone.

Each month FORL features one special category, which is currently "Award-winning Authors." Special sections throughout the Book Barn include Christian fiction, westerns, large print, science fiction, fantasy, and poetry, to name a few. About half of the books are non-fiction, the most popular of which are biographies, history, cooking, gardening, crafts, and art. We have a section of over 500 books just for children, juniors, and young adults, and over 150 CDs.

Donations are always appreciated! Clean, unmarked, gently used books and DVD donations are accepted when you shop. Books can also be donated at the



Patrons peruse the Book Barn adjacent to Ruch Library. Photo: Barbara Krack.

library (10 am - 5 pm Tuesday, 1 - 7 pm Thursday, 11 am - 4 pm Saturday), or the A-Frame Bookstore during its open hours of 1 - 3 pm Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. We do not accept materials that are soiled, stained, moldy, or frayed. (Please do not leave your donations on the A-Frame Bookstore deck. Too many books are damaged by rain.) We also cannot accept encyclopedias, magazines, outdated computer or travel books, tax or finance books older than five years, religious tracts, or VHS tapes.

We want to invite the Applegate Valley community to visit and shop at the Book Barn during the first Saturday of the month from noon - 4 pm, October through June, and 11 am - 2 pm July, August, and September. The A-Frame Bookstore is open the days the library is open, between the hours of 1 - 3 pm. Both resources are treasures of the Applegate that no one should miss! No other used bookstores can be found between Medford and Grants Pass (except the Christian Store in Jacksonville). Our community is grateful for this service and the Friends of Ruch Library that operates these gems. We hope to see you soon!

Thalia Truesdell
thaliatruessedell@gmail.com