



Multiple successes

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Disaster brings good change

A late-winter storm with strong winds strewed downed trees, huge limbs, and woody debris throughout the park! It was uncertain if we could even hold our planned event on April 20. And we would have to remove still more hazardous trees before that date.

Much gratitude goes to Ryan King, principal of Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS), who offered the use of the school grounds, including a covered pavilion, community garden, and the surrounding area, so we could hold the event on April 20 as planned. This meant that the Oldtime Fiddlers, who were available *only* on this date, could still play, as well as the ROCS student singers and their teacher, Jerry Flock. Their music and singing filled the air for over two hours. Black Barn Farm was there with tasty delights for purchase.

This year the event planning committee invited other groups and organizations to set up information booths to engage with the community and showcase the spirit of volunteerism that vitalizes many aspects of life in the Applegate Valley. Many of the nine participating groups need more members and volunteers to help them continue to serve the needs and visions of our community.

Seeing how well these groups engaged the event attendees, we plan on including even more groups next year. If you are interested, let us know.

The raffle of locally made products, generously donated, raised funds for revitalizing the park this fall with native trees, shrubs, and other plants adaptive to our changing environment. So far, we have \$530 toward this effort. If you wish to contribute to this fund, contact me or Janelle Dunlevy at janelle@apwc.info.

Appreciation for park improvements and cleanup

Thanks to the park staff, the water system has been restored with a new pump, irrigation lines, and sprinklers! Grass seed has been sown in the new dirt, so please avoid those areas.

The removal of more than 100 trees required lots of cleanup. According to Andrew Austill, Jackson County



Dead hazard trees in Area B near the parking area were removed for safety. Photo: Janis Mohr-Tipton.

parks manager, "Trees are dying in all our county parks, with Cantrall Buckley Park being one of the hardest hit areas. This has been a priority as we have to make our parks as safe as possible for visitors and park users."

A shout-out to Applegate Valley Fire District's Brian Mulhollen and crews, who were instrumental in helping drop and remove many subdominant trees, to the Northwest Youth Corps, who assisted the fire department, and to Eric's Tree Service and Brierville Fire and Forestry, who helped remove a lot more trees and do cleanup.

The Bureau of Land Management employees did frontage cleanup on Cantrall Road and assisted in the park.

Community volunteer cleanups and ground preparations will take place in early June. Fall will be planting time. Please contact me if you can help.

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Grandmother Agnes's daughter, Nadine Martin, at Dragonfly Place in Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Family Archive 2024.

Park's Cultural Committee promotes diverse cultures

BY MARY BUCKLEY MIKKELSEN

The Cultural Committee of Cantrall Buckley Park, under the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC), was established in January 2021 to promote the history of diverse cultures on the Applegate.

Our first project is Dragonfly Place, a site honoring the Takelma natives of southern Oregon and, in particular, Grandmother Agnes Baker Pilgrim, known and loved by many for her ecological work and spiritual guidance. Grandma Aggie, as she was lovingly called, restored the traditional Salmon Ceremony on the Applegate River at Kanaka Flats and later on the Rogue River at Ti'lomikh Falls. She was one of the 13 Indigenous Grandmothers who traveled the globe promoting the care of Mother Earth and saving traditional wisdom. Grandmother passed on November 27, 2019, at the age of 95.

Jackson County Parks approved a memorial to Grandma Aggie to be erected in the park at the site of a multilevel platform containing picnic and activity space. The area includes a place for an interpretive sign and future native plantings.

Working in conjunction with Grandmother's family and the Siletz tribe, the committee designed Dragonfly Place, a work still in progress at this time.

The APWC park committee and numerous other volunteers cleared the site of brush and invasive species. We restored trails, set up a new picnic table and benches, and installed a large stone with two metal dragonflies, engraved with a dedication to Agnes. A second stone at the site will be engraved with more honors to her. We will add an interpretive sign later this year after doing extensive research on Grandma Aggie's history and accomplishments. As winter-storm cleanup continues, we will be busy finishing these projects.

The natural amphitheater in Area B of the park, across from Dragonfly Place, will be a cultural display and activities area. Plans are in the works for a space for lectures, permanent displays, and performances.

Future projects for the APWC Cultural Committee include history memorials of Black and Chinese residents of the Applegate. Folks with information about these histories are welcome to contact the committee heads or to join us.

We invite everyone to visit Dragonfly Place and enjoy this tribute to Grandma Aggie.

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