

Upper Bear Gulch and West Bear Gulch trails now open!

BY JIM REILAND

On Saturday, June 1, the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association (SUTA) will celebrate opening five miles of new trail within the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail System (SMDT) between the Wolf Gap, Tunnel Ridge, and Bear Gulch trailheads. This National Trails Day Event will be held at the Wolf Gap trailhead, approximately three miles off Sterling Creek Road. Festivities will begin at 9 am with a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by family-friendly activities that include refreshments, natural history, trail design and maintenance displays, and, of course, hiking on the new trails!

SUTA volunteers and a hired crew of Applegate residents built these trails to create a variety of hiking options from several trailheads. There's a two-mile out-and-back trail to an overlook of the Little Applegate Valley and Siskiyou Crest, and at least a dozen loop-and-lollipop routes (out-and-back combined with a loop) ranging from five to ten miles, starting from the Tunnel Ridge, Wolf Gap, or Bear Gulch trailheads. Visit sutaoregon.org for a trail map, more information, and directions to the trailheads.

The new trails, designed by SUTA volunteer Duane Mallums, were approved by the BLM in 2021 and funded by private donations and an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Recreational Trails Program grant. The Upper Bear Gulch and West Bear Gulch trails weave through oak woodlands, chaparral, grassy meadows, and mixed conifer forest as they gently descend (or climb, depending on where you start!) the south side of Bear



Joy Rogalla, SUTA president, with Chloe on the new trail with Anderson Butte in the background.

Mountain between Wolf Gap and Tunnel Ridge. Views are stunning at every turn—Wagner Butte to the east, Red Mountain and Dutchman Peak to the south, and the Red Buttes Wilderness to the southwest. Sharp eyes may spot hawks and golden eagles soaring on thermals above the trail or elk grazing on a distant slope. Wildflowers, including three of our area's four Frittilaria species delight early-spring walkers; jaw-dropping scenes of vivid fall colors splashed across the mountainsides await the autumn hiker. These trails are accessible during winter months, except immediately after heavy snow; summer hikers and runners may want to get an early start on warm days.

The new trails are meant for *foot traffic only*—they are narrow, traverse steep terrain, and pass through numerous rocky outcrops considered treacherous for equestrians or mountain-bike riders. We hope you come out to enjoy these trails, a new “gem in the crown” of the SMDT-Jack-Ash Trail System.

Jim Reiland

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••• BIZBITS •••

Applegate Station Market and Café. Have you stopped in to see the new market and cafe? It is bright, attractive, and off to a great start. The managers, Will and Amelia, hope all patrons visit, relax, and enjoy a cup of local, organic coffee or espresso, a cold, refreshing lemonade, or house-made pastry on a comfy chair or couch. With emphasis on local, quality, and specialty, they stock locally obtained meats, fruits, jams, wine, beer, and handcrafted soaps and candles. They have big plans to build on their beginnings with food trucks, picnic tables, and a cold-case deli with seasonal sandwiches, fruits, and vegetables. 15095 Highway 238, Jacksonville • 541-702-5030 • applegatestation.com.

Applegate Valley Chiropractic and Wellness Center in Ruch is now doing more than chiropractic. Dr. Anne has expanded her practice to include prenatal care, pediatrics, cold-laser therapy, nutrition, and sports medicine. Her dedication to healing extends to animals, too, with her Grace Victory Home Animal Sanctuary, which adopts injured and stray animals. 7370 Highway 238, Jacksonville • 541-899-7467 • applegatewellness.com.

Art in the Garden, a fundraiser for the Grants Pass Museum of Art. Many artists are participating this year—both long-time favorites and some new—and will be selling one-of-a-kind treasures in several private gardens, including Cascadia Vineyards and Winery in Wilderville. Purchase tickets for this self-guided tour at Diamond Home Improvement, The Kitchen Company, The Grants Pass Museum of Art, Greenleaf Industries, and Redwood Nursery in Grants Pass. Tickets are \$25 each. Saturday-Sunday, June 8-9 • 10 am-4 pm • facebook.com/GrantsPassMuseumOfArt.

Community Glass Recycling Center. The Applegate Valley Vintners Association, in collaboration with Ruch Country Store, A Greater Applegate, and Rogue Disposal, is sponsoring a community glass recycling center at Sunshine Plaza on Highway 238 in Ruch. The vision is to have glass recycling available at a few spots throughout the valley—and this is the first location! This bin is for non-redeemable glass only and available for use every day of the week.

Finding Foundations Convention. There is something for the whole family at this two-day event. Visit the free outdoor vendor area, with access to dozens of local, small businesses, ranging from soaps, jewelry, flowers, baked goods, and food trucks. Take classes at the Education Hall on canning, sourdough bread baking, beekeeping, and gardening, with a variety of speakers and Q&A sessions. Tickets required. Noon-8 pm Friday, June 28, and 9 am-1 pm Saturday, June 29, at Edgewater Christian Fellowship (not a church event), 101 Assembly Circle, Grants Pass • wearefindingfoundations.com/convention.



McCully House Inn now has a bakery! Manager and baker Bella Grubb calls its style “British inspired”—those pastries, cookies, biscuits, and traditional British scones—and influenced by the story of Jane McCully, who, with her husband, John, built the house in 1860 and who later kept it solvent by baking bread and pies for local miners. Both Bella and her brother, Henry Grubb, do the baking and create the menu. Stop by for coffee, tea, and those delicious baked goods. For more information, contact Bella Grubb at thebakery@mccullyhouseinn.com. 240 East California Street, Jacksonville.

Meraki Project. A new nonprofit, whose mission statement is to enhance physical, mental, and spiritual well-being through education, wellness, movement, music, and the arts, is now working out of the green building on the Sugarloaf Community Association property. Meraki (Greek for putting love into your work) is offering space to anyone interested in hosting an educational workshop or small classes like yoga, dance, music, poetry jam, art, jiu-jitsu, etc. Says Maria Richard, director, “Meraki would like to create a positive collective in Williams for the community to come together!” Hours are 7 am-9 pm Saturday-Sunday; weekdays by appointment only. 206 Tetherow Road, Williams • merakiproject24@gmail.com • 415-686-4284.

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