

**— Williams Library —**  
**Events and programs are free!**

BY BRANDACE ROJO

Library events and programs are offered at no charge and are open to the public. Registration is not required, and a library card is not necessary to participate in library events and programs unless otherwise noted.

**Williams Weekly Storytime.** 11–11:30 am every Friday. Themed storytime and craft session in a safe and fun environment

**Virtual communication booth.** Community members can reserve the communication booth for virtual meetings at the Williams branch library at no cost. The space is large enough for one person to conduct a virtual interview, take an important call, or FaceTime with a loved one in a quiet space. It is equipped with a height-adjustable desk, outlets, and the ability to hard wire a device to the library's high-speed internet for seamless connection. Patrons can bring their own device or borrow a library laptop, if needed. Funding for the virtual communication booth was provided by A Greater Applegate.

**Get a library card**

Take advantage of thousands of books, e-books, and audiobooks with a library card. Find recommended reading, attend library programs for all ages, use public computers, and check out useful items like laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots. Josephine County residents who live within the library district boundary get an annual library card at no cost. Community members living in Josephine County who do not live in the library district have several

options to get a library card, including a \$15 quarterly card, volunteering, and more. Josephine Community Library Foundation is also happy to sponsor the cost of annual household library cards at no cost to the requesting community member. Stop by your preferred branch for more information and to sign up.

**Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.** Register your children under the age of five for free online or stop by your nearest library branch in Grants Pass, Williams, or Wolf Creek during open hours and fill out a paper form. In eight to 10 weeks, you'll receive the first book. After that, age-appropriate books will arrive monthly. The first book every child receives is *The Little Engine That Could*, which is Dolly Parton's favorite book. The message of the book is timeless, encouraging children to never give up, do their best, and stay positive no matter what. To sign up, visit [josephinelibrary.org](http://josephinelibrary.org) and find Dolly Parton's Imagination Library on the Children page under the Youth/Family menu.

**Williams branch new hours.** 1-6 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday; 11 am-6 pm Friday.

Williams branch library is located at 158 Tetherow Road, Williams. Contact branch manager, Amber Guient, at [aguient@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:aguient@josephinelibrary.org) or 541-846-7020.

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**Mini Applegate Library**  
Made by Christine Grubb, her husband Steven, and library staff as a centerpiece at a recent library celebration. It is currently on display at the library. (Notice the Applegater in the front stand!)

**Groundbreaking economic study of the Applegate Valley needs your support**

BY JEANETTE LETOURNEUX

A few years ago, members of the Wellington Wildlands Council (WWC) were bitten by a mission bug to figure out what really makes up the economic base in the Applegate Valley.

In its work to protect the Wellington Wildlands from logging and keep its recreational assets intact and viable, WWC has had many conversations about the relative importance of historic extractive industries in our modern economy. Since the 1990s, there have been many changes, and now wineries, agriculture, recreation, tourism, and many diverse small businesses contribute to our economy and need to be included in measuring the economic health of the valley. But how can this be done in an unbiased fashion with community involvement so that the results will be useful for future planning and accepted by those who live here?

In a desire to support a robust economy for the Applegate Valley, WWC applied for and received two Innovation Grants from A Greater Applegate (AGA). Our goal is to better understand the "Economic Generators" or types of businesses that contribute jobs and income for the people. We'd also like to understand the qualitative benefits and impacts of those businesses.

**Expert support**

In partnership with AGA, we are now working with a dynamic faculty member and a graduate student from the University of Oregon (UO) Institute for Policy Research and Engagement (IPRE). They have designed an impartial study that will incorporate data from diverse organizations—from the Oregon Secretary of State, Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc (SORED), Oregon Department of Employment Rogue Valley, the Applegate Valley Vision, and many other sources.

We are very excited about this opportunity and the proposed project! The UO team will implement an applied research project that will provide a data-driven analysis of the local economic landscape. In addition, the economic study will engage local business owners via a survey and community meetings. IPRE will develop the community survey to capture local input, and WWC and AGA will lead community outreach about the survey.

**Why is this project important?**

Many of us think we can name the industries that are the real drivers of this valley, but we may not understand what those drivers contribute to the local economic base. Our valley has experienced substantial shifts in the local economy, which may present opportunities to both support the environment and build prosperity—but may also create problems such as competing priorities from different industries, organizations, and the public about the resources in our forests and watersheds. Our economic well-being depends on all of us understanding the realities and issues underpinning our local economies.

A well-founded study will help focus priorities and establish productive strategies in the context of our evolving economy. The study will identify our top economic drivers and will assess their needs. It will help direct future actions to sustain our local economy and the well-being of the Applegate Valley. The results of the study will provide a fact-based understanding of our current economy and will help our communities and local businesses strategize about how to sustain a thriving community.

The analysis has already begun, and the project will conclude by the end of the year. The estimated total cost is \$7,500, of which we have raised \$3,000, leaving a balance of \$4,500, for which we are seeking funding. Any amount that you can give is appreciated, and no donation is too small!

If you would like to help us continue our efforts, please donate at [wellingtonwildlands.org](http://wellingtonwildlands.org) or send a check to WWC, PO Box 1137, Jacksonville, OR 97530. The economic study is the only project we are funding at this time, and 100 percent of your donation goes toward the project.

If you wish to receive a copy of the scope of work, which details the project, or have any questions, please email me. Thank you so much for your consideration to help complete this valuable project!

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