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Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
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Celebrating
~30~
Years

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That's thanks to the annual NewsMatch campaign through the Institute of Nonprofit News (INN). As members of INN, the *Applegater* sees donations received by December 31, 2024, doubled as part of a national matching-gift campaign benefiting nonprofit news groups across the nation.

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However you choose to give, the *Applegater* is grateful for your support. We do what we do for you, and only continue to appear in your mailbox because of you.

Thank you!



Donate here or visit applegater.org.

Annual holiday extravaganza supports student scholarships

BY LAURA B. AHEARN

It's the most wonderful time of the year... to enjoy McKee Bridge decked out in greenery and aglow with thousands of twinkling lights. On November 30, McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) volunteers plan to decorate the bridge, the Depression-era community kitchen in the picnic grounds, and Star Ranger Station. The displays will be illuminated 24/7 into the New Year.

Saturday, December 14, is the big day—the 6th Annual Christmas on a Covered Bridge. This family-friendly community celebration funds the MBHS Scholarship Program. To date, we have supported six Applegate Valley high school graduates who are now at college studying to become engineers, nonprofit managers, and maybe even historians. Your purchase of that perfect homemade pie at the Mega Bake Sale will be a yummy treat now and a contribution toward the future of our valley.

Festivities from noon-5 pm December 14 include Santa and Mrs. Claus, free hot beverages, and handcrafted gift items like quilts, crystal light-catchers, and jewelry, as well as MBHS bling. We will again offer the classy table centerpieces made with fresh cedar and fir, which proved extremely popular last year. Please bring cash or



Centerpieces similar to the above will be made with fresh cedar and fir and offered for sale at the McKee Bridge Christmas event.



The historical McKee Bridge will be decorated by volunteers. Photo: Ely Phillips.

check—we can't count on cell service to take cards.

New fun activity

New to the festivities this year: a painted rock hunt! Each rock is a unique
See MBHS SCHOLARSHIPS, page 3.

Planning for our future: Updating the Applegate fire and emergency plan

Share your voice and help reduce wildfire risk

BY NATHAN GEHRES

As a very active wildfire season comes to a close, we can thank the hard work of our local firefighters, and a bit of luck, that the Applegate Valley escaped mostly unscathed. Now, there is an opportunity for the residents of Applegate to do our part to help protect our community by working together to update the Applegate Fire Plan.

The Applegate Fire Plan is our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), published in 2002 by longtime Applegate residents Jack



Upper Applegate Fire, summer 2024. Photo: Applegate Valley Fire District. See FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLAN, page 20.

Let's talk turkey!

Celebrating the holidays with Applegate Valley wines: A guide to perfect pairings

BY CATHY RODGERS

During the holidays, we gather with family and friends to share delicious meals and toast cherished traditions. This year, elevate your celebrations with exceptional wines from our local family-run vineyards, paired with some great food, including vegan and vegetarian.

RiverCrest Ranch pinot noir

Start your holiday celebrations with a farm-fresh, garden-grown, wood-fired,

vegetarian pizza from the Applegate Country Club. This satisfying and festive pizza brings Cynthia Torp's spice and labor of love to life in every slice. Pair it with an exquisite glass of RiverCrest Ranch pinot noir, a beautifully crafted, medium-bodied wine that is bright in acidity with silky tannins. This wine will enhance any gleeful gathering. Cheers!

See HOLIDAY WINE PAIRING, page 9.

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