

## Welcoming winter— A time for reflection, renewal, and transformation at JCC

BY JULIE RAEFIELD

As the rain returns and the mountaintops begin to receive their winter coats of white, our community, too, begins to mirror the natural cycle of hibernation. This is a time when we as individuals and as a community slow our pace, gravitate to warm indoor spaces, ponder our purpose, and reinvest in our internal roots. It is a time to transform the past year into a vision for the future of the year ahead.



*Creating together is just one way to enjoy community at JCC!*

Jacksonville Community Center

(JCC) is likewise taking the winter period to reflect, renew, and transform. As we plan for the year ahead, we are reinvesting in our mission—to sustain a community center that serves as a gathering place for all ages, with programs that meet community needs, enhance the quality of life, and promote community involvement through education, cultural activities, music, arts, recreation, and wellness. We are gearing up for more programs, events, classes, and community partnerships. We are seeking ways to bring more enrichment opportunities to all.

This year of growth has offered many lessons. We have learned that folks in Jacksonville and our surrounding neighboring communities are excited about rebuilding connections. That explains why programs and events at JCC have drawn so many new participants and sometimes fill to capacity! What a wonderful sight to see

people laughing, learning, playing, listening to music, and creating art together again.

We know that this beautiful vision—one that reflects a healthy community—is one that is shared by most of our neighbors and is the likely reason most chose to move to this area.

As winter settles in, please consider how you can become a

greater part of creating and nourishing this vision. We invite you to sit beside a warm fire (or heater vent) and picture yourself here—volunteering, becoming a donor, taking a class, holding a private event, attending a music concert, or sending your children or grandchildren to a youth program. An investment in our success is a great way to nourish the soil of this beautiful community that ultimately offers you more friendships, fun, and beauty.

If you need more information on JCC's upcoming programs or events, volunteering opportunities, or philanthropic needs, please visit our website at [jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org](http://jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org). We can't wait to see you here!

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## You're invited to an open house at Applegate Valley Historical Museum

BY JOAN PETERSON

The Applegate Valley Historical Society Museum, located at 15050 Highway 238 in Applegate, will be holding an open house from noon-4 pm January 11, 2025. Coffee, tea, cookies, and/or pastries will be available.

The Applegate Valley Historical Museum is housed in what is probably the oldest commercial log structure in Jackson County. It was constructed without nails and made from hand-hewn logs.

Used in the 1880s as a farmers and miners cooperative, it was later enjoyed as part of Pioneer Village in Jacksonville. It was restored by the Applegate Valley Historical Society in 1989. This rural museum honors and recalls the history of those who settled in our valley.

Come to the open house on January 11 and see the displays of the pioneers who were the first residents of the Applegate Valley.

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### *Voices of the Applegate comes to a close*

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Voices of the Applegate will no longer be offering singing opportunities in this community at this time.

To those of you who have been a member of the choir, a dedicated audience member, or beneficiary to the choir of any kind, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your engagement and support over the years.

We wish you all joy, ease, and a sweet melody in any other ventures of heart and soul and sound you create or sustain from hereon.

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## The 2024 Chris Bratt Environmental Advocacy Award goes to Diana Coogle

BY ROSE GERSTNER

At the annual fall fundraiser for the Applegate Siskiyou Alliance (ASA) last September, Executive Director Luke Ruediger surprised the heck out of Diana Coogle by presenting her with the Chris Bratt Environmental Advocacy Award.

This award, named in honor of long-time Applegate environmental activist Chris Bratt, is given annually to an Applegate resident who has worked hard on behalf of the ecological and scenic values of our mountains and valleys.

During her 50 years in the Applegate, Diana Coogle has lived that advocacy. Jefferson Public Radio listeners who were around in the '80s, '90s, and '00s will remember her stories, aired weekly, about living in the "mountains above the Applegate River of southern Oregon," the tag line for her commentaries. Many other people have felt the impact of her advocacy through her books, including a hiking guide to Applegate trails, coauthored with Janeen Sathre. Her direct environmental work includes ten years on the board of the state Sierra Club, action with the Thompson Residents for Environmental Education (TREE), and, most recently, involvement with the Siskiyou Crest Coalition, for which she organized the highly successful Siskiyou Crest Festival of Art, Science, and Culture in July 2023.

Chris Bratt, who died in 2019, was a champion of the environment and of the Applegate River watershed, a hard-working, unstoppable defender of the wild landscapes of our region and its water, trees, and wildlife. He worked on herbicide issues, policy issues, lawsuits, timber sales, off-road vehicle issues, and the utilization of small-diameter trees for timber. He started TREE to fight (and often successfully stopped) federal timber sales in the Applegate, wrote an environmental column, "Behind the Green Door," for the *Applegater* newsmagazine



Surrounding the Chris Bratt Memorial Rock at Cantrall Buckley Park are the following recipients of the Chris Bratt Environmental Advocacy Award: (back row, left to right) Marion Hadden and Jack Duggan, and (front row) Diana Coogle and Suzie Savoie. Recipients not pictured include Cheryl Bruner and Chant Thomas. Photo: ASA.

for decades, and served on the boards of Headwaters, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, the Rogue Institute, the Geos Institute, the *Applegater*, and the Applegate Neighborhood Network (now known as Applegate Siskiyou Alliance).

ASA is proud to recognize those in our community who, like Chris Bratt, work to protect our wildlands and keep both the scenic and the ecological values of the Applegate intact. Past winners of the Chris Bratt Environmental Advocacy Award are Marion Hadden (2019), Cheryl Bruner (2020), Chant Thomas (2021), Jack Duggan (2022), and Suzie Savoie (2023).

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## Welcome to our new editor, Annika Hodges

As the incoming editor in chief of the *Applegater*, Annika Hodges has moved to the Rogue Valley from Portland, after graduating from Eastern Oregon University last June with a *cum laude* degree in English and writing. We are so pleased to have her.

As the previous editor in chief of, social media manager of, and reporter for Eastern Oregon University's student newspaper, *The Voice*, Annika comes well-qualified for her job here. With that experience, she already knows how to oversee production of a paper and how to manage a team of writers, copy editors, and others who serve to put a newsmagazine such as the *Applegater* together. She is eager to take over the reins, under the capable tutoring of Barbara Holiday, who officially leaves her position with the *Applegater* on December 31.



Annika Hodges has recently joined the *Applegater* as editor in chief.

Annika will be attending *Applegater* board meetings and reaching out to the Applegate community for their ideas about how she can best serve them as editor of their newsmagazine. She has already made plans for meeting people and learning about our community. She has connected with A Greater Applegate, learned about and

contacted businesses and nonprofits in the area, and gone to open-air markets, libraries, and other organizations and activities in the Applegate.

If you would like to meet Annika, send her a "welcome" email and suggest a meeting. She would love to get to know you. Her email address is [annika@applegater.org](mailto:annika@applegater.org).

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