



Volunteer helpers from the teen drop-in center work on the revitalized garden space on the Sugarloaf Community Association property.

What's happening at the Meraki Project this winter

BY MARIA RICHARD

The nonprofit Meraki Project is bringing educational, wellness, and healing groups to Williams, as well as exercise classes, bodywork, art, and music.

We started a fall garden in the main garden area at Sugarloaf Community Association with the help of teens from the onsite teen drop-in center.

The garden space had not been used over the last few years, so it was nice to revitalize it with donations from Takubeh Agricultural Supply Store and Feral Farms, and with help from Pacific Sensi.

We also started a free wellness book exchange and a kids' book and toy exchange.

We have weekly and monthly classes and groups, including yoga, children's art classes, women's Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, EcoRecovery, sound healing, women's singing circle, and a Williams resiliency meeting. Currently, Red Tent is held on each new moon, Women's AA meetings are on Wednesday nights, and EcoRecovery groups meet on the second Sunday of each month. Licensed acupuncture and licensed massage are available by appointment.

Check out the schedule on the Sugarloaf Community Association website



Meraki Project started a free wellness book exchange, along with a kids' book and toy exchange.

at sugarloafcommunityassociation.org. Toward the bottom of the page, click on "Meraki Project in the Green Room," then "Scheduled Offerings."

Holiday craft fair

We are planning a holiday craft fair from 10 am-2 pm December 14. For sale will be handmade jewelry, art, handmade bird houses, local crafts, and paintings. For more information, email merakiproject24@gmail.com.

Rental space

Space is available for rent if you are looking for a comfortable small space for groups, activities, meetings, or celebrations. We are located at 206 Tetherow Road, Williams, in the green building on the Sugarloaf Community Association property. Please contact me for more information.

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gift itself, and some will entitle the finder to an extra prize, like a gift certificate from a local business.

Share the holiday splendor of McKee Bridge with distant friends and family! The new edition of MBHS holiday cards, four stunning views of the bridge for just \$10 plus \$2 shipping, can be purchased online at mckeebridge.org/product/holiday-cards.

Mark your calendar and bring the family to this joyous event. Enjoy the holiday spirit, and support your local community and Oregon's best covered bridge.

Laura B. Ahearn • mckeebridge1917@gmail.com



On December 14, join the hunt for painted rocks! Finders will win an extra prize (in addition to the rock).



Homemade pies will be available to purchase on McKee Bridge on December 14.

Upper Applegate Grange reopens

BY MARGARET PATTERSON

Exciting news! After remaining dormant since 2016, the Upper Applegate Grange 839 was reorganized in September 2024 with 14 new Grangers and 4 Junior members. The Grange is already over 40 members strong and has requested more applications for additional potential members. The Grange helps every member develop to his or her fullest potential, and the opportunities are many. Members enjoy many benefits:

- Opportunities to attend leadership conferences
- Association with others who share your values and concerns
- More than 150 contests for baking, textiles, crafts, and art
- Discounts on utilities, prescription drugs, and financial planning
- Access to online informative communications

For more information, visit grange.org or email upperapplegategrange@gmail.com. Upper Applegate Grange is located at 3901 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville.

Margaret Patterson
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Potluck held recently at Upper Applegate Grange 839. Photo: Taylor Maddox.



First meeting of the newly reorganized Upper Applegate Grange. Photo: Rebecca Maddox.



Finding your holiday tree in the woods



Multiple options available for purchasing permits!

For many families, venturing out onto public lands to cut a tree is an annual holiday tradition! The process of obtaining permits differs a bit by agency, but families are able to cut holiday trees on US Forest Service (USFS) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands using a permit from either agency.

Here are a number of options by which the public can obtain permits:

- In person at USFS and BLM offices (with the exception of the Wild Rivers District Office in Cave Junction). We recommend you call the specific office where you plan to purchase a permit ahead of your visit to ensure the office is open as we head into the winter season (fs.usda.gov/detail/rogue-siskiyou/about-forest/offices). All offices started selling permits on November 14 to coincide with the rec.gov online permit availability.
- BLM-issued holiday tree permits are available for purchase online at forestproducts.blm.gov/customer/permitselect/OR.
- USFS-issued holiday tree permits are available for purchase online through recreation.gov. To purchase a permit, visit recreation.gov and search for Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) Christmas Tree Permits. It is important to carefully read the overview and need-to-know information prior to purchasing the permit. Visitors will also need to set up or log in to a recreation.gov account to complete the transaction. Permits are \$5 per tree with a \$2.50 processing fee added on (per order, not per tag).
- Many local businesses across southwest Oregon are selling holiday tree permits. The current vendor list is available on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest website at tinyurl.com/4krdamye. Please call the vendor to ensure passes are available.
- Per the Every Kid Outdoors initiative, fourth graders are entitled to one free tree permit with a valid Every Kid Outdoors pass (everykidoutdoors.gov).

Each permit allows the cutting of one personal-use tree, and a permit is required for each individual tree visitors wish to take home.

Permits for trees are \$5 per tree and are nonrefundable. There is a limit of five tree permits per household, and the permits may be used only on those lands open to Christmas tree harvesting that are administered by the RRSNF and the BLM Medford District. Free printable maps that identify these areas are provided at the time of permit purchase on recreation.gov, as well as for home printing on the RRSNF website at tinyurl.com/pxew72em. Those wishing to use digital maps and navigation systems can download the free maps to use on the mapping app, Avenza. Maps will also be available on a limited basis in front of offices.

More information, including tree-hunting tips, guidelines for where people may cut their trees, and safety tips, can be found on the RRSNF website indicated above.

Happy tree hunting from the RRSNF and the Bureau of Land Management Medford District!