

— Williams Library — Spring into reading!

BY SARAH MEYER

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.

Unofficial Battle of the Books

Join Josephine Community Library for the Unofficial Battle of the Books (UBOB). Students can read books, earn digital badges, and have fun during the school year! UBOB is a voluntary reading motivation and comprehension program that uses the current book lists provided through the official statewide Oregon Battle of the Books. This program is open to all students in third through twelfth grades, with a special focus on homeschool students and those attending schools not participating in or forming a team for the official Oregon Battle of the Books. UBOB offers a relaxed, self-paced reading experience, perfect for students who want to enjoy the fun and benefits of reading without the pressure of competition. Battle questions are available for those who want an added challenge.

Register and learn more at josephinelibrary.org/unofficial-battle-of-the-books or at your preferred library branch and participate in the reading challenge through May 15, 2025.

Upcoming events

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

K9 Reading Buddies. Trained therapy dogs provide a nonintimidating environment for children to learn to read out loud. Young readers have the

opportunity to explore language and books during this special storytime. 3-4 pm Tuesdays.

Adult Williams Book Club. From gripping plot twists to heartwarming characters, participants can unravel the wonders of literature together. Explore what you love about the books you're reading or the ones you've recently finished. 12-1 pm the last Saturday of every month.

The history of libraries in Josephine County. Want to know more about the library's story? The Josephine Community Library we know today would not exist without the passion, commitment, and tireless contributions of thousands of volunteers, staff, and community members. Visit josephinelibrary.org to learn more and find "Our Story" under the "About" menu. josephinelibrary.org/about-the-library/our-story.

Local history research at the library. Heads up, history buffs! Take a look back in time in historic periodicals, browse books on Oregon's rich history, and find highlights on local historic sites with our online subject guide. Find the "Local History subject guide" under the "Education and research" menu at josephinelibrary.org.

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

Williams branch library is located at 158 Tetherow Road, Williams.

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Learning adventures offered at Pacifica

BY PEG PRAG

Here are some upcoming programs offered to students at Pacifica.

PALS (Pacifica Alternative Learning School)

For 30 students on Mondays. Each week, half the day is dedicated to outdoor educational learning and fun for home-based learners. The other half is project-based creating with local craftspeople.

Call Vanessa at 541-621-6278 for more information.

Field trips

For any school. Field trips include an academic element, a learning game or hike, and a craft on themes ranging from birds, insects, water, and plants to sculpture.

Call Vanessa at the number above for more information.

Forest Fridays

For 25 students, an outdoor enrichment program focused on mindfulness, nature awareness, and experiential learning for kids ages 6-12. Forest Fridays is starting up again this March for an 11-week spring session!

Visit pacificagarden.org for more information.

Passports to the World

A new Wednesday program at Pacifica, for children ages 8 to 12. This project-based social studies intensive will run from March 6 through the end of April. Each week, students will explore a new region of the world through its art, food, traditions, and myths, and create projects related to these places.

Text Corbin at 541-659-9839 for more information.

Kindness Matters Youth Theater

For children ages 6 through 10. This group creates a safe space through theater games and sharing circles for children to explore their creativity, learn social



Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyou

skills, and deepen friendships. Currently in its third year, the program culminates with a child-created performance for the community.

Text Corbin at 541-659-9839 for more information.

Outdoor School

For fifth or sixth graders from schools in any district. Students come for two days and three nights of nature education, emotional development, and fun. This school involves over 500 students.

Visit pacificagarden.org for more information.

Student Leadership

This program cultivates leadership skills, ecological knowledge, and social intelligence to allow high school students to mentor fifth and sixth graders at Outdoor School, giving them increased confidence and a sense of purpose.

Call Clair at 541-787-5762 for more information.

A Rae of Light

Ongoing dance classes for all ages. Email araeoflightdance@gmail.com for more information.

Pacifica is located at 14615 Water Gap Road in Williams. Visit pacificagarden.org for more information.

Peg Prag

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Essay *The kindness instinct*

BY GAY BRADSHAW

A few months ago, I read about a man who, one winter morning, was walking along a river embankment on his way to work. It was cold, even for a back-eastern-blasted January. Bent over and inward, trying to keep the wind from finding any uncovered cracks between skin and cloth, the man



Although strangers, Coco Rabbit immediately saw Etienne in need and supported him with tender care. Photo: Gay Bradshaw.

glanced at the water's gray scales, when suddenly he spotted a dog—a dog!—in the middle of the river, thrashing, his mouth wild with fear. Barely slowing his stride, the man pulled off his heavy waterproofed jacket and the dense woolen sweater his mother had made and threw himself into the flow. Wrapping himself around the dog's windmilling arms, he pulled them both to safety onshore. As he sat stunned and shivering, cloaked in a silver thermal blanket on the ambulance tailgate, the man was asked what made him do what he did. He answered, "I don't know—I guess it was instinct. I don't even like dogs."

The incident of the dog-saving man is one of countless examples of kindness between species, including nonhumans such as moose and their calves strolling unharmed through groups of wolves, macaque monkeys caring for motherless chickens, lionesses bringing orphaned oryxes into their fold, leopard seals coming to the aid of hapless humans, cats nursing

wounded squirrels, leafing trees sending nutrients to stumps, and Icelandic orcas adopting newborn pilot whales. Each of these acts sheds a different light on the nature of instinct. When we look more carefully behind Tennyson's myth of mindless tooth and claw, we discover that it is kindness and compassion that rule nature's ways, not violence. The setting sun, the ocean's vast expanse, a forest's comforting quiet—all reflect the primal urge for collective peace.

Kindness and compassion do not need planting. They already lie within. Listen again to the man in the river: "I don't even like dogs." Kindness is not about what we think. Kindness is about doing the right thing. "Seeds of loving kindness, compassion, joy, and equanimity," writes Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh, "are inside. Through the practice of mindfulness, the seeds of suffering will shrink, and positive seeds of kindness will grow." Every drop of kindness we give waters seeds of kindness in another, and those seeds will seed yet more kindness in someone else, and on and on until we all return to the gentleness of lionesses, orcas, wolves, leafing trees, and savers of dogs.

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Diana Coogle to address the Unitarian Universalists of Grants Pass

BY RACHEL WINTERS

Join us on Sunday, April 13, when author and 50-year Applegate resident Diana Coogle will be giving the "Message of the Morning" at the service of the Unitarian Universalists (UUs) of Grants Pass.

Diana will be following our theme of "This I Believe," talking about her strong faith in nature as healer, companion, and spiritual center, with readings from her published books, including earlier JPR commentaries, recent poems, and poems about her late husband.

Diana Coogle has been a speaker at UU gatherings several times in years past, and we look forward to having her address us again with her entertaining and meaningful

talks and readings. Her words—often wise, always entertaining—are good reminders of why we, as Unitarian Universalists, gather: "To find meaning and live more deeply. We create connections within, among, and beyond us, calling us to our better selves, calling us to live with wisdom and compassion."

The service starts at 10:30 am at 129 NW E Street in Grants Pass. All services are also live-streamed on Zoom. You can find the link for the Zoom service and other information about the Grants Pass Unitarian Universalists at uugp.org.

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www.applegatepartnership.org/upcoming-events

APPLEGATE PARTNERSHIP & Watershed Council

www.facebook.com/applegatepartnership

"promoting ecological, economic and community well-being in the Applegate watershed through on-the-ground projects and strategic collaborations."

HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO