

Christmas on a covered bridge, 2020 edition

BY LAURA AHEARN

McKee Bridge will once again be dressed up this holiday season with fir boughs, twinkling lights, fancy wreaths, and glittering decorations. McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) is working with A Greater Applegate (AGA), Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS), and other groups to organize a community-wide Holiday Festival of Lights in the Applegate.

MBHS plans to have decorations up no later than December 17 and will set up generators to illuminate everything on December 19, 20, and 24, and maybe at other times (weather permitting). If we have enough supplies and volunteer help, we'll also deck out Star Ranger Station and the kitchen shelter at the picnic grounds. With these treats added to the perennial dazzling display at Cameron Bridge (northern junction of Eastside and Upper Applegate Roads), taking an evening drive through the Upper Applegate will be a sure way to brighten up the end of 2020.

Do you have spare lights or artificial trees to donate? Would you like to help put up or take down the decorations? Please let us know at mckeebridge1917@gmail.com.

While MBHS can't host "close-up" activities like last year's—we won't be decorating cookies, caroling, or enjoying the third-grade orchestra from ROCS—we will open the museum trailer with many new items on display and sell a new line of MBHS T-shirts sporting classy logos by local artist Whit Whitney and other nice merchandise to complete your holiday shopping. Unisex and women's style tees are just \$12 (\$15 for XXL), youth sizes \$10. Plus we'll have special illuminated



A gentle lamb watches over Wilda, daughter of Deb and Leila McKee, in the Logtown Cemetery, where volunteers have cleaned markers. Photo: Alan Caddell.

Holiday Gnomes for sale, \$20 each while supplies last. You can reserve yours by purchasing through Paypal or contacting the email address above.

These are just a few of the initiatives discussed at the MBHS annual meeting on Saturday, October 17, at the Applegate Valley Fire District Training Center. Members also reviewed a series of business matters—the condition of MBHS's finances (solid), challenges to planning events in 2021 (insurance and permits in addition to pandemic restrictions), the timeline for the mandatory engineering inspection of McKee Bridge—and unanimously approved this slate of directors and officers:

Director, Office in 2021	Term
Laura Ahearn, President	Sept 2019-2022
Paul Tipton, Vice President	Sept 2020-2023
Barbara Mumblo, Secretary	Sept 2018-2021
Dale Petrasek, Treasurer	Sept 2020-2023
Bob Van Heuit	Sept 2018-2021
Pamela Sewell	Sept 2020-2023
Steve Ahearn	Sept 2020-2023

The meeting then turned to ongoing and planned projects to preserve and promote the fascinating stories of Applegate Valley's past. A slide show offered a sneak preview of the Logtown-McKee Bridge History Trail, which will take its initial form as a nine-by-sixteen-inch tri-fold brochure if pending grant applications are successful. Work on the

ground to prepare the trail is already under way, thanks to a \$500 grant from AGA. Volunteers have inspected and cleaned dozens of monuments and plaques marking the graves of early pioneers at Logtown Cemetery. Exquisite carvings often emerge as the layers of moss, lichen, and grime are gently removed. (If you would like to help with this ongoing work, send a note to mckeebridge1917@gmail.com.)

MBHS is extremely grateful for the generous financial support received from the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon, which is folding due to dwindling membership and lack of community involvement. We trust this will not be the case here in the Applegate, where we have the most beautiful, second-oldest, authentic covered bridge left in Oregon!

Please consider becoming a MBHS member for 2021. Renew a past membership, or give a membership as a holiday gift (a certificate of membership will be mailed per your instructions). It's still only \$20 per household for the entire calendar year.

Laura Ahearn
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Applegate Fire District provided a safe location for the socially distanced MBHS annual meeting. Photo: Pam Sewell.



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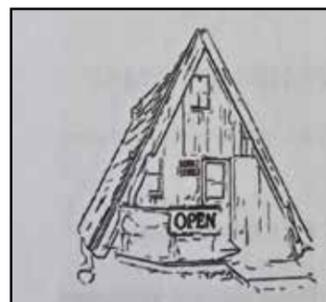
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Friends of Ruch Library

Bookstore News

Our bookstore is closed until our volunteers feel it is safe to reopen. In the meantime, check out our community Little Libraries for free books.

- Ruch Community School
- China Gulch Road
- McKee Bridge



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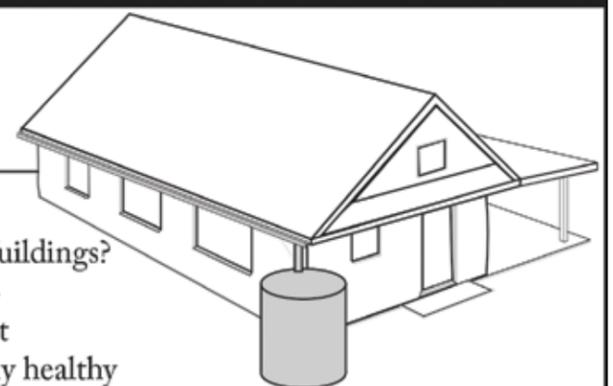
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