

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

Applegate Valley networks prioritize next year's actions

BY SETH KAPLAN

In the last issue of the *Applegater*, A Greater Applegate (AGA) shared the early results from our community listening process, including the key emerging priorities and strategies. Our next step is to compile and organize all we heard into categories to bring back to the community for further action. Community convenings will take place in the spring, and we will talk more about them in the next *Applegater*.



A Greater Applegate hosted a business network meeting on September 21 at Red Lily Vineyards.

Similarly, this summer, we were already able to meet with the Nonprofit and Business Networks to clarify and solidify the priorities we heard from them and to recruit volunteers to begin addressing strategies and projects where there is the greatest interest. A big thanks to all the community members who continue to bring so much creativity and enthusiasm to this process! We had two high-energy meetings. The Nonprofit Network met at Moulton Family Winery on July 27, and the Business Network met at Red Lily Vineyard on September 21. We are grateful to the 70 attendees from both networks who enthusiastically helped us fine-tune their priorities and so generously volunteered to move the identified priorities to action.

Business Network priorities

The Business Network identified and agreed to implement three priorities to strengthen our local business sector:

1. Marketing and Advertising.

- Strategies include:
- Collective marketing and advertising
 - Incentives and education to encourage residents to buy locally
 - Use of the Applegate Valley logo and Applegate Valley Made and Applegate Valley Grown decals to promote local products, in keeping with AGA's Applegate Valley branding efforts
 - Contributing to, distributing, and promoting the Applegate Valley business map and ApplegateMarket.com business directory

2. Community Engagement and Outreach.

- Strategies include:
- Recruiting and mentoring new businesses to the area
 - Partnering with AGA to identify how best to support emerging businesses
 - Offering business-to-business gatherings and supports
 - Inviting hemp and cannabis businesses into the network
 - Encouraging businesses to engage with community organizations and events

3. Event Coordination. This committee will help AGA catalog existing events, like Uncorked, Lavender Trails, and the Applegate Open, and work to promote these events outside the area to bring more visitors and revenue to the Applegate. The committee will encourage organizations to place their activities in the Applegate Valley Connect calendar and will also look at ways to support new events that reflect the best of the Applegate.

Nonprofit Network priorities

The Nonprofit Network also identified three strategies they will take on.

These include:

1. Nonprofit collaboration to strengthen the overall sector, including:

- Volunteer, board, and donor recruitment
- Organizational trainings
- Resources (financial, insurance, legal, etc.)
- Fundraising and community awareness events
- Peer-to-peer support, including review of each other's grant submissions

2. Communication and outreach.

Participants are interested in ways to collectively use tools like the *Applegater* and Applegate Valley Connect to increase outreach, including reaching Spanish speakers and differently abled residents.

3. Community engagement.

Community organizations are particularly interested in engaging better with young people as well as recruiting neighborhood volunteers for specific projects.

In addition to identifying the above priorities, the Nonprofit Network formed "affinity groups" to focus on issues of more narrow but still high concern. Many of the nonprofit affinity-group issues also came up frequently at the neighborhood listening sessions. We are excited to see this crossover interest and anticipate nonprofits taking leadership roles in the Community Action Teams next year. The affinity groups include:

- Outdoor Recreation and Wildland Preservation
- Food, Farm, and Water
- Forest Management and Fire Protection
- Healthy, Vibrant, and Livable Community/Human Services
- Arts and Culture
- Applegate Valley History

If you are interested in participating in any of these groups, please contact AGA Network Coordinator Ashley Bradfield at ashley@agreaterapplegate.org or 541-702-2108. The fun is just beginning, so join in!

The Business Network is open to existing Applegate Valley businesses and anyone interested in starting a local business. The Nonprofit Network is open to all organizations serving the Applegate Valley, whether or not they are registered as a nonprofit or physically located in the Applegate Valley. If you are part of an established organization or someone getting started, you and your contributions are welcome.

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Special holiday fete planned at McKee Bridge

BY LAURA AHEARN

McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) is once again presenting Christmas on a Covered Bridge. Volunteers will dress up McKee Bridge with greenery, garlands, and glistening lights to celebrate the 2021 holidays. We'll decorate and light up the Star Ranger Station and the 1936 community kitchen at the picnic grounds too. Visit these sites December 17 through New Year's Day and enjoy the sparkling scene. Come out on December 18, in particular, for special events and shopping opportunities.

Here are some 2021 happenings that MBHS will celebrate:

- In the spring we installed a sturdy 120-volt power station. MBHS volunteers no longer need to babysit unreliable and noisy generators to illuminate the holiday display. We'll be able to keep the lights on from dusk to 10 pm with no refueling, no frostbite, and no disappointing darkness (unless Pacific Power goes down!).

- We launched our website with a "virtual museum" containing almost 1,000 photos and relics, keyed to a map of the Applegate watershed. Check it out at mckeebridge.org.

- MBHS received several grants to develop and install interpretive panels at the bridge and Logtown Cemetery and to repair historically significant grave markers. The first project, preserving the story of freed slaves who emigrated to Jackson County in 1853, is now complete. Coming up: Some surprising information about the engineering of McKee Bridge and the stories of the Watkins residents whose graves were moved from the Collings Cemetery to Logtown by the federal government in order to build Applegate Dam. We believe the government missed or misinterpreted a lot of information about these folks.

- McKee Bridge was transformed into an art gallery on September 12, bedecked with stunning antique quilts, needlework, paintings, and a special exhibit by the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society. Students from Ruch Outdoor Community School put on a creative and colorful display, including quilts fashioned from paper—what a cool idea!

- We elected Linda Todd to the MBHS Board at the Annual Meeting on September 12. Past President and longtime Director Bob Van Heuit ended his term but remains a very active volunteer with his wife, Marilyn, who is making delightful snow people. Pick one up at the bridge on December 18.

- McKee Bridge passed her mandatory structural inspection in October. Although



Mary Belle "Mollie" Ray (1880-1956), keeper of the Christmas Carrot Pudding recipe. Photo: 1886 portrait by Peter Britt, SOU Hannon Library.



Mollie's grandmother Mary Buckley (1831-1917). Did she carry the recipe across the Oregon Trail in 1851? Photo: 1886 portrait by Peter Britt, SOU Hannon Library.

some minor work is required, we're now confident that the bridge will remain open to the public for at least the next six years. MBHS pays for these inspections and handles maintenance, like removing fallen leaves, eradicating graffiti, and repainting the railing. Thank you to everyone who has donated to support this community commitment that dates from the 1960s.

Keep an eye on mckeebridge.org/events or the MBHS Facebook page for more details about Christmas on a Covered Bridge on Saturday, December 18. We can promise you entertainment by the Ruch Outdoor Community School orchestra, unique gift shopping, and an *amazing* bake sale. We'll feature recipes handed down from the Applegate's earliest pioneer families.

How about trying Mollie Ray's Christmas Carrot Pudding? We bet this recipe originated with her grandmother, Mary Terrier Zelmor Enyart Billups Smith Buckley, who immigrated to Oregon in 1851. (Yes, she had five husbands!) The recipe was preserved for us by Clara McKee O'Brien Smith. Which sauce will you choose?

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CARROT PUDDING (antique)

1 C. sifted flour	1 egg
1/4 C. shortening	1 C. grated potatoes
1 C. grated carrots	1 C. chopped walnuts
1 C. raisins	1 t. each salt and cinnamon
1/4 C. citron	1/2 t. each cloves and nutmeg
1 C. sugar	
1 t. soda	

Stir 1 t. soda into potatoes. Mix all together and steam about 3 hours. Do not fill jars or cans much over half full. Serve hot with brandy, rum, or lemon sauce.

Brandy sauce:

1/2 C. sugar	2 t. butter
2 T. flour	3 T. brandy
3/4 C. cold water	Pinch of salt

Mix together sugar, flour, and salt. Add water. Boil 5 minutes. Add brandy and butter.

This recipe was Molly Ray's, who was one of our members 35 years ago. I got it from Louise Dunlap. It's really good.

Clara Smith

Carrot Pudding recipe from the Upper Applegate Extension Home Study Group, 1981.