

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

# Looking for innovations to Applegate Valley Vision

BY SETH KAPLAN

A Greater Applegate urges organizations and community members to apply for one of AGA's Innovation Grants to implement strategies identified in the Applegate Valley Vision. This document is a new plan developed through two years of community conversations with hundreds of locals to identify the issues and projects of greatest interest to Applegate Valley residents and businesses.



More than 100 community members, government officials, and volunteer facilitators gathered at two convenings at the Ruch Fire Station (seen here) and Pacifica Gardens in June.

More than 100 community members, government officials, and volunteer facilitators gathered at two convenings at the Ruch Fire Station and Pacifica Gardens in June to hear the plan presented by A Greater Applegate and to begin forming working groups to turn ideas into action. Working groups continue to form and grow as we collectively define and develop feasible ways to address community priorities.

One of the more exciting aspects of the planning and implementation process so far is the engagement of agencies outside the Applegate. We are seeing lots of support for a locally created plan from agencies across the region and throughout the state. We anticipate the Applegate Valley Vision will be used by community members, local organizations, and local government to inform and direct actions in our area for years to come.

### Innovation Grants

One way to participate in moving the plan forward is through the Innovation Grants program, which provides a total of \$10,000 to organizations and community members working to implement any of the strategies in the sections of the plan shown in the graphic accompanying this article. Innovation Grants are jointly funded by the USDA Rural Development Rural Placemaking

Innovation Challenge and The Ford Family Foundation Rural Community Building Department.

Individuals or organizations can apply for an Innovation Grant by submitting an application and a narrative of no more than three pages describing the project and its connection to community priorities as identified in the vision plan. Grants can be requested for as much as \$2,500 although typical grants are in the range of \$500-\$1,500.

Innovation Grants program replaces the AGA Momentum Grant program, which funded 15 local organizations and projects in the last two years covering arts, history, the environment, public safety, and more.

Through the Applegate Valley Vision and its implementation process, the community is being engaged and empowered to share and refine creative, locally grown ideas and to turn those ideas into action as placemaking projects and strategies. Projects and strategies may apply to a specific neighborhood, unincorporated town, or the entire Applegate.

Together, we are co-creating a vision for the Applegate Valley big enough to hold the dreams and aspirations of all of us who love this place we have chosen to call home!

Go to A Greater Applegate's website ([agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org)) to see the Applegate Valley Vision and learn how you can participate. There, you can also download an Innovation Grant application, as well as find more details about each of the strategies depicted on the accompanying graphic. The deadline for submitting applications to A Greater Applegate is October 15th and awards will be announced before Thanksgiving.

Contact me with questions about the Innovation Grant process. Contact Megan Fehrman ([megan@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:megan@agreaterapplegate.org)) to learn more about the Applegate Valley Vision and its implementation.

Seth Kaplan,  
Executive Director  
A Greater Applegate  
[seth@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:seth@agreaterapplegate.org)  
[www.agreaterapplegate.org](http://www.agreaterapplegate.org)



Go to [agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org) to see the Applegate Valley Vision and download an Innovation Grant application, as well as find more details about each of the strategies depicted on the above graphic.



Will Matney was raised in this home built in 1859 on the Matney homestead. In this photo from around 1890-95, are (probably), from left, sister Amanda, perhaps uncle Walter, sister Nancy, and parents Margaret and Carrel. Photo: Southern Oregon Historical Society.

## Bringing Will Matney home

BY LAURA AHEARN

Online databases like findagrave.com will tell you that William Wesley Matney, born on April 29, 1871, is buried at Logtown Cemetery. That is not true. Not yet.

Will's uncle, Walter Jefferson Matney, crossed the Oregon Trail in the same renowned 1843 wagon train as the Applegate brothers and Marcus Whitman.\* Walter's younger brother, Carrel Broadwater Matney, followed in 1850, and the Maupin family in 1853.

Carrel Matney and Margaret Ann Maupin married in 1859. Margaret was 14 years old; Carrel was 27. They had 17 children who survived infancy (another three pregnancies ended in stillbirths or early deaths). Will was in the exact middle of these 17 children.

Carrel was a blacksmith and helped David Linn build the Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville. The family farmed a homestead on a draw north of the Applegate River which we still call Matney Gulch. Will attended the one-room Drake school on James Buckley's farm.

On April 29, 1895, his 25th birthday, Will married a member of another pioneer Applegate family—15-year-old Grace Viola Pearce. Will built a sturdy house uphill from the original 1859 Matney dwelling. On May 29, 1896, Grace gave birth. The baby died two days later and was never given a name. Local lore and a small metal sign suggest that Baby Boy Matney was buried at Logtown Cemetery.

Grace divorced Will in 1898, took back her maiden name, and became a teacher. She never remarried, nor did Will. He lived with his widowed mother, Margaret, after Carrel committed suicide in 1903.

The dead have been buried at Logtown Cemetery from as early as 1855. But there was no sexton, no record-keeping system. In the 1920s, one person who was almost literally related to everyone, Elva Smith, started keeping notes and sketching a map about who she thought was buried where. Maybe there were still some wooden crosses or painted rocks to guide her—we don't know. No formal system existed until Logtown Cemetery Association (LCA) was incorporated in 1939.

By 1945, dozens of Matneys had been buried at Logtown Cemetery, including—

we think—Baby Boy Matney. On April 13, 1945, Will Matney purchased a plot. Surely Will wanted to be interred at Logtown near his son.

But...Elva didn't record exactly which plot Will had purchased. In 1949, Will was committed to the Oregon State Hospital due to dementia. He died there on October 5, 1952. His body was cremated by the hospital. The ashes were placed in a small urn, and the urn was placed in a closet, one of nearly 3,500 cremains discovered in the "room of forgotten souls" in 2004.

Early this year McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) helped LCA secure a grant from the Historic Cemeteries Commission (HCC) to build an online database. An MBHS volunteer took on the monumental task of scanning and inputting old receipts. When she came to Will's receipt, she saw that the cemetery's records as well as second-hand sources said that Will was buried at Logtown. Really? When and where? Research disproved this "fact" about Will, which probably took root decades ago when someone made up "temporary" metal markers and erroneously stamped that Will was buried with Baby Boy Matney.

MBHS located a great-great-great-nephew, who has submitted the paperwork to claim Will's cremains. The hospital should send the ashes to MBHS in September. Will will be buried in the plot marked for his son. Grace died in 1962 and is buried close by, in the Pearce family plot.

The HCC grant will allow MBHS to install permanent markers telling this story and many other forgotten stories of the early pioneers who—we think, but cannot always prove—are buried at Logtown Cemetery.

Are you interested in helping MBHS preserve Applegate history? Come to our annual meeting at McKee Bridge on September 17. Members get to indulge in a chili cook-off! Sign up at [mckeebridge.org/donate-become-a-member](http://mckeebridge.org/donate-become-a-member).

Laura Ahearn  
[mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:mckeebridge1917@gmail.com)  
*\*If you need to brush up on this chapter of Oregon history, go to [oregonencyclopedia.org](http://oregonencyclopedia.org) and search "Marcus Whitman," "Jesse Applegate," and "Applegate Trail."*

## SPIN OUT GARAGE

ROD & CUSTOM SHOP  
-EST. 1965-

RAY WARMINGTON  
OWNER

541-846-0546

[WARMINGTONCOACH29@GMAIL.COM](mailto:warmingtoncoach29@gmail.com)

SPECIALIZING  
IN  
COLLISION  
REPAIR  
AND  
RESTORATIONS