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An extra edition for an extra-important cause: Help keep the Applegater coming!

Since 2021, the *Applegater* has published an extra edition each year—and every year, our readers have shown up to donate when it means the most. Our annual matching-funds drive begins November 1, giving you an especially powerful opportunity to support local, independent news.

From November 1 through December 31, 2026, every donation to the *Applegater* will be doubled, up to a total of \$12,000! Through our membership in the Institute for Nonprofit News (INN), we once again qualify for INN’s annual NewsMatch program. National funders who believe in the importance of community journalism will match donations from individual supporters made during November and December, up to \$1,000 per donor.

We’re excited to continue building on this support as we work to keep local journalism available to everyone in the Applegate Valley. Your donation helps us report on the people, issues, events, and communities that make the Applegate what it is.

We depend on donations to cover most of the costs of publishing the *Applegater*, and recurring monthly gifts are especially valuable. Even a pledge of \$5 a month helps provide steady support throughout the year. And during the NewsMatch period, the full annual value of a recurring gift can be matched—a potential 12-to-1 boost to your support! Just click the Donate button at applegater.org and select “Make this a monthly donation.”

Four times a year, the *Applegater* delivers 24 pages of local news and information—free of charge—to more than 12,000 mailboxes across the 700 square miles of the Applegate Valley. Additional copies are available at dozens of local businesses throughout the watershed. What makes this possible? You do.

The *Applegater* is published by Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., a nonprofit organization created by Applegaters, for Applegaters. We are sustained by the generous support of our readers, donors, and local advertisers.

Whether you donate online by credit card or send a check in the envelope included with this extra edition, your support makes a difference. The *Applegater* is the only free newspaper delivered directly to homes throughout the Applegate River Watershed, bringing you stories about your neighbors, neighborhoods, and communities that you won’t find anywhere else.

Help keep the *Applegater* coming in 2027 and beyond.

Use the reply envelope included in this extra edition, and be sure to date your check November 1–December 31, 2026, so your donation qualifies for the matching funds.

You can also donate by credit card at applegater.org. Look for the red “Donate Now” button on the home page, or click “Donate Today” at the bottom of the list in the far-right column.

Thank you for keeping local journalism alive and thriving. You are the Gater!

With much appreciation,
Applegater Board of Directors
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Jacksaphine Count(r)y Fair celebrates the Applegate Valley

BY MIA LACERTE

The Applegate Valley came together this September to celebrate Jacksaphine Count(r)y Fair, bringing a week of art, music, food, outdoor activities, local makers, and community gatherings throughout the Valley. We watched costumed paragliders take to the sky, launched pumpkins, listened to live music, shared poetry, hiked our trails, played disc golf, danced, gathered at farmers’ markets, celebrated our Granges, and connected with neighbors throughout the Valley. It was a wonderful week of celebrating the people, places, and traditions that make the Applegate special. Community leaders, artists, musicians, families, local businesses, organizations, volunteers, and neighbors all contributed to making the week such a memorable celebration.

A Greater Applegate (AGA) is grateful to everyone who participated, volunteered, organized, donated, sponsored, shared their talents, supported local businesses, or simply showed up. Events like Jacksaphine Count(r)y Fair are a wonderful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together. To help support the continuation of events like these and the community-building work that happens throughout the year, AGA launched the Applegate Love Club during the fair. The Love Club provides an ongoing way to support local farmers, artists, businesses, community events, and resilience work through a small monthly gift. Learn more at agreaterapplegate.org.

Mia Lacerte
mia@agreaterapplegate.org



One-night-only screen print at Jacksaphine Count(r)y Fair. Photo by Trace Harding.

Provolt Recreation Site fires up as community hotspot

BY CHARLOTTE HYDE

September was a big month for community-building at Provolt Recreation Site (PRS). On a blustery Saturday, nature enthusiasts congregated for the inaugural event See Our Salmon and Friends: A Celebration of our Native Wildlife. Hosted by the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Provolt Volunteer Team, this event was originally slated to launch in 2025. When an

extended government shutdown prevented federal partners and exhibitors from participating, we decided to postpone until this year. The date may have been a bit too early to see salmon, but it wasn’t too early to celebrate them and the other amazing wildlife that make their homes along the Applegate River.

A big draw of the day was a series of talks by biologists and restoration experts. Monica Magdaleno, a biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program, kicked off the day with fish facts so interesting that an otter strolled by to listen! Jakob Shockey, Executive Director of Project Beaver, offered a treasure trove of information on how beavers literally shaped this valley. APWC’s Aquatic Restoration Program Director, Luke Wimmer, explained our aquatic restoration work, including a recently completed large woody debris project at PRS. Next up was Jeff Schlecht, president of the newly formed Rogue Klamath Chapter of Trout Unlimited, who discussed the organization’s river stewardship initiatives.



APWC’s Aquatic Restoration Program Director, Luke Wimmer, introduces Monica Magdaleno, biologist with ODFW’s Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program, during “See Our Salmon & Friends” at Provolt Recreation Site. Photo by Janelle Dunlevy.

See PROVOLT REC SITE, page 3.

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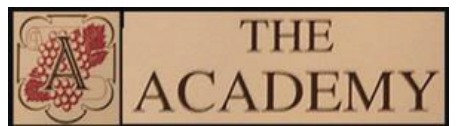
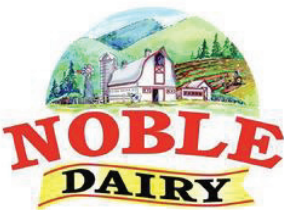
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Special appreciation to our amazing auctioneer, Jason Straub!

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OPINION

Why I’m voting yes for the Williams Fire District levy

BY HEATHER GLASS, WILLIAMS RESIDENT AND OWNER OF THE WILLIAMS GENERAL STORE

As someone who has lived and worked in Williams for many years, I’ve had the privilege of getting to know this community and the people who make it a special place. Every day at the Williams General Store, I see neighbors helping neighbors, visitors discovering our valley, and the strong sense of community that makes Williams unlike anywhere else.

I’ve also seen that, when emergencies happen, we depend on each other—and on our local fire district.

Over the years, I’ve had to call the fire department several times for emergencies at or around the store—for a suspected overdose, a stroke, a severe allergic reaction to a bee sting, someone who passed out in their car, and vehicle crashes involving the store and nearby property. In those moments, getting help quickly was imperative.

Whether it’s a wildfire, medical emergency, vehicle crash, or structure fire, having trained firefighters already here in Williams matters. When an emergency happens, minutes matter.

Over the past several years, I’ve also been impressed by how the Williams Rural Fire Protection District has managed its finances, working hard to make the most of every dollar provided by taxpayers and aggressively pursuing grants for staffing, training, equipment, and wildfire preparedness. The Williams District also partnered with Applegate Fire District to share resources and administrative services, saving Williams about \$100,000 each year.

I appreciate how the District handled the tax levy decision. Before the board unanimously voted to place the levy on the ballot, they held months of public meetings that gave residents opportunities to ask questions, voice concerns, and better understand the financial challenges. That transparency matters.

The grants that helped improve service were never intended to fund operations forever. As they come to an end, we must decide whether to maintain the level of emergency service we’ve worked so hard to build.

The District has been clear about the consequences of a failed levy. More than half of its operating budget would disappear, making 24-hour staffing financially impossible. Emergency response would rely primarily on volunteers and aid from neighboring departments.

A strong Williams Fire District also strengthens emergency response throughout the Applegate Watershed, where neighboring communities depend on one another through mutual aid and shared resources.

Williams has always valued its independence and its ability to solve problems close to home. Supporting our fire district is an investment in our community and keeps emergency services based here, where a local board elected by Williams voters makes decisions.

No one enjoys paying more in taxes, and every voter should ask tough questions. I believe those questions have been answered through responsible financial management, successful grant funding, cost-saving partnerships, and an open public process.

For me, this vote comes down to personal experience. When someone at my store needed emergency help, the Williams Fire District responded. I want that same help to be here for my family, my customers, my neighbors, and everyone who lives in Williams.

This November, I’ll be voting yes on the Williams Fire District levy because I believe in investing in Williams, protecting Williams, and keeping decisions about Williams in Williams.

Heather Glass
Wrfpsupportteam@gmail.com

■ PROVOLT REC SITE

Continued from page 1.

Caleb Galloway, APWC’s Riparian Restoration Project Manager, followed with an overview of the restoration work that APWC has implemented at the site over the past several years before leading a guided site tour.

In addition to the talks, we were joined by our friends from Applegate After Dark, Siskiyou Field Institute, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, Klamath Bird Observatory, and the Oregon Center for Creative Learning. Filled with natural curiosities and hands-on activities, this event was an exciting debut for a celebration that we hope to grow for years to come. If your organization is interested in joining next year, please reach out to Charlotte at charlotte@apwc.info. Otherwise, keep an eye out for See Our Salmon 2027!

Three days later, attention turned to the skies as Applegate After Dark and Pollinator Project Rogue Valley (PPRV) teamed up to host the second annual Twilight Zone: Big Bang and Bugs. Applegate After Dark’s co-founding member Liz Shen shed light on the harm that artificial light at night does to wildlife and human health, then offered practical solutions to nighttime lighting needs. Next, Ethan Robinson, PPRV’s Pollinator Pals Manager, brought the audience into the fascinating realm of moths. APWC’s board secretary and backyard astronomy expert, Barbara Summerhawk, introduced the planets and constellations currently visible in the night sky. As night descended, visitors examined some of the moths found at the

Provolt Recreation Site, then experienced the debut of Applegate After Dark’s new smart telescope via a stargazing session. As enthusiasm for the preservation of the Applegate’s dark skies continues to grow, stay tuned for future dark sky events!

Only a few days later, through A Greater Applegate’s Jacksaphine Count(ry) Fair “Sunday Funday” event, APWC and the Provolt Volunteer Team hosted a self-guided scavenger hunt focusing on fascinating natural features of the site. Last but not least, the fourth year of the Grow Youth Program, co-managed by APWC and the BLM Environmental Education Program, kicked off with the first of 29 field trips that will unfold throughout the fall. Over the next few months, students from second to twelfth grade, from nine schools across the Rogue Valley, will come to the Provolt Recreation Site to tackle scientific field studies and hands-on service-learning projects. This program nurtures the critical connection between youth and the natural world around them. The Grow Youth Program is funded by a BLM Title II Grant and is at no cost to schools or families.

Provolt Recreation Site has a lot to offer. If you stop by, you might see equestrians on horses or locals swimming, strolling, or walking their dogs. You could see a great blue heron, a salmon, or even a beaver. And if this fall is any indication, there’s a good chance you’ll see community-building in real time.

Charlotte Hyde
Education & Outreach
Program Director
charlotte@apwc.info

~ IMPORTANT REMINDER ~

In order to assure that your donation is doubled, please be sure to date your check no earlier than November 1, 2026, and no later than December 31, 2026.

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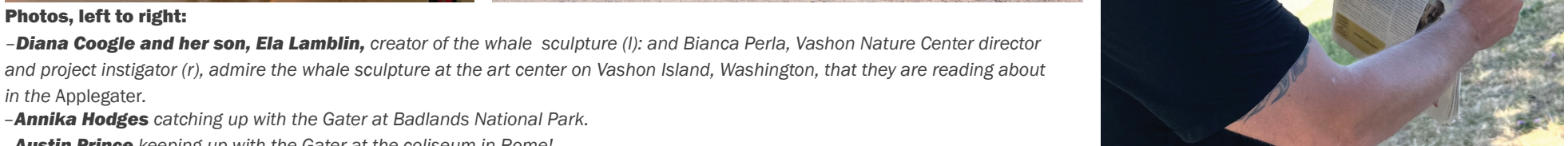
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Keep those articles, letters, opinions, and “Reading the Gater” photos coming in. You are the Gater!

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◀ Cover Photo ▶
Fall on Humbug Creek by photographer Linda Kappen.

Look who's reading the Gater!

Take us with you on your next trip. Then send your favorite "Reading the Gater" photo (must include the physical paper) to gater@applegater.org or mail to *Applegater*, PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.



Photos, left to right:
–Diana Coogle and her son, Ela Lamblin, creator of the whale sculpture (l): and Bianca Perla, Vashon Nature Center director and project instigator (r), admire the whale sculpture at the art center on Vashon Island, Washington, that they are reading about in the Applegater.
–Annika Hodges catching up with the Gater at Badlands National Park.
–Austin Prince keeping up with the Gater at the coliseum in Rome!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Williams Fire Levy

BY JAMES KROIS

The Williams Rural Fire Protection District (WRPD) is asking for an operating levy of \$1.35 per thousand of assessed property value on the November 3 ballot. This will enable the department to have a 24/7 EMT response to emergencies in Williams.

The number of incidents is only part of the story. Timing can mean more than life and death. The time between an accident and the arrival of a first responder can severely alter the outcome of a medical emergency.

I have personally experienced the agonizing 45-minute wait for an ambulance coming from Grants Pass. A Williams volunteer helped direct the ambulance to our home. Waiting through the pain and blood loss was all we could do at the time.

Since the current levy was passed, Williams has had 24/7 staffing of both firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs). Most alarms the WRPD responds to are medical. In the event of a stroke or heart attack, time

is critical to a positive outcome. With passage of the new levy, the WFRPD will have continued 24/7 staffing with an EMT. All money collected through the levy will be used in-house for staff wages and equipment.

A staffed fire department makes insurance companies happy, which may lower your rates. As a member of the Williams community, I urge you to vote yes to support the Measure 17-128 levy.

James Krois
Jameskrois34@gmail.com

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