



Photo by Linda Kappen

**EXTRA EDITION**  
November 2025

*Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine*  
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 13,500

Celebrating  
**~31~**  
Years

*Donate in November and December  
and your contribution  
will be doubled.*

## An extra edition for an extra special cause: Keep the Applegater coming!

Each year since 2021, we have published an extra edition of the *Applegater*. And each year, you, our readers, have stepped up to donate when it means the most—during the annual matching-funds drive beginning November 1. We can't thank you enough for keeping the *Applegater* alive and well!

From November 1 through the end of 2025, every donation you make to the *Applegater* will be doubled—up to a grand total of \$15,000! Thanks to our membership in the Institute for Nonprofit News (INN), we have again qualified for INN's annual NewsMatch program, where national funders interested in supporting community publications will match local individual donations (up to \$1,000 each) made in November and December.

This year, we're also thrilled to share that the *Applegater* has been selected to receive an **additional match** from the **Education Partner Fund**, supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. This means your donations could be matched twice—an extra boost to help us continue informing and engaging our community.

We rely on these donations to cover most of the costs of publishing the *Applegater*. Especially helpful are ongoing donations to the *Applegater*. Pledges of even \$5 a month go a long way toward ensuring the stability of our operations. Plus, during the NewsMatch period, if you make a recurring pledge, NewsMatch will match the full annual value of your pledge—a 12-to-one bonus! (Just hit the donate button on the applegater.org home page, then click on "Make this a monthly donation.")

Four times a year—at no cost to recipients—24 pages of articles appear in more than 12,000 mailboxes throughout the 700 square miles of the Applegate Valley, bringing you news and information about the neighborhoods you live in. Even more copies are distributed to dozens of local businesses.

What makes that possible? You do. The *Applegater* is published by a nonprofit organization—Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.—established by Applegaters, for Applegaters, and supported by our generous donors and advertisers.

Whether you donate online with a credit card or write a check and use the envelope included in this issue to mail it to the *Applegater*, we appreciate your support for the only news source delivered free to your doorstep that covers the many communities of the Applegate River watershed and provides information about your neighbors and neighborhoods you won't find anywhere else.

To keep the *Applegater* coming, please send your check (\$1,000 is the maximum individual donation that can be matched)—made out to the *Applegater*—to PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530, and mail it in the reply envelope inserted in this extra edition. **Be sure to date your check between November 1–December 31, 2025, or your donation cannot be doubled.**

Credit cards are accepted at applegater.org. Look for the yellow "Donate" button on our home page (or click on the "Support the Gater" link at the bottom of the list in the far-left column).

Thank you! You are the Gater!

With much appreciation,  
Applegater Board of Directors  
gater@applegater.org • applegater.org

## Fair fun in the Applegate Valley

BY MEGAN FEHRMAN

The Jacksaphine Count(r)y Fair returned in 2025 for a week of events celebrating the beauty, flavors, and diversity of the Applegate Valley, a place shared by Jackson and Josephine counties.

From the Lower Applegate to the Little Applegate, events included music, bike rides, floats, paragliders, cook-offs, pepper roasts, BBQs, downtown takeovers, dark skies, a pop-up art gallery, poetry, a pickleball tournament, and more. It also served as a fun(d)raiser for A Greater Applegate, and we thoroughly enjoyed our time out and about in the community!

Thank you to all who joined us for one or more of the events!



Spectators at Moulin Ruch, the kick-off party for this year's Jacksaphine Count(r)y Fair, enjoyed a beautiful sunset and vaudeville performances while members of the Rogue Valley Hang Gliders and Paragliders Association landed in costume at LongSword Vineyards. Photo by Mia Lacerte.

See FAIR PHOTOS, page 3.

## A fiery success for cancer prevention

BY LIZA CROSSE

It was a glorious September evening when more than 150 people came together at the beautiful Red Lily Vineyards for the sold-out "Fire and Vine" benefit dinner. Our purpose was to support the Applegate Fire District's "Wash for Wellness" campaign, address the extremely high incidence of cancer in firefighters, and help reduce cancer risk for our Applegate firefighters.

We celebrated our community and our wonderful Fire District. The company



A beautiful evening at the successful Fire and Vine Benefit dinner. Photo by Liza Crosse.

was delightful and the food delicious. Amazing sponsors laid the groundwork for success. Thanks to generous donors and local bakers who lent their skills for the fabulous cakes, the auction was very successful.

**We are happy to report that we achieved our goal of raising \$25,000!**

As promised, the Applegate Fire District will be purchasing a specialized washer/extractor, which removes carcinogens from the firefighters' personal protective equipment, or "turnouts."

We deeply appreciate the support of the Applegate community! Please see the advertisement in this issue of the *Applegater* for a list of our amazing sponsors and donors. Thank you to each and every one.

For more information about the Friends of the Applegate Fire District, which hosted this event, and the issue of cancer in firefighters, please visit our webpage at friendsfapplegatefire.org.

Liza Crosse, Secretary  
Babette Rapp, President  
Friends of Applegate Fire District  
lizacrosse@comcast.net

In the fall 2025 issue, the article "Rebuilding Community with A Greater Applegate" by Megan Fehrman was incorrectly attributed to Gabrielle Pullen. We apologize for the error. An incorrect caption was published in the "Look who's reading the Gater!" section. The caption for the bottom right photo should have read: "**Jennifer Strange and Terry Moore** staying current with the Gater at the Orson Welles garden at the Medina in Essaouira, Morocco." The article "Turtle Tales" was incorrectly attributed to Megan Fehrman. The article was written by Suzie Savoie, who also organized the event it describes. We regret the error and extend our sincere apologies to Suzie for the misattribution.

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# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS...

for supporting the  
Applegate Valley Fire District and the  
Wash for Wellness Campaign and the Fire and Vine Benefit!

Special thanks to Red Lily Vineyards for providing a beautiful venue for our benefit dinner  
and to Kingfisher Farms for flowers for the event.



## Fire Chief

The Atrium Foundation  
Hidden Valley Market

David and Lauri Dobbs  
Schultz Glory Oaks

Perry Cook

## Captain

Joe & Carol Neil  
Left Fork Farm  
Quinn's Well & Pump  
Troon Vineyard  
Richard Hassanein  
Southern Oregon Subway  
Tim & Liza Crosse

Judy Crowe  
Pennington Farms  
Mike & Liv Schneider  
Weldon Cleaners  
Erinn Kearney  
Advanced Air  
Lehi Pump

## Engineer

Laura Donnell  
Barking Moon Farm  
Steve & Priscilla Weaver

Pavo Real Vineyard  
Code 3 Coffee & Snacks  
Stu & Janine Schneider

Rob Schumack

**Thank you to the many generous donors who have supported this campaign by  
contributing fabulous auction items!**

Four Diamonds Vineyard, Crooked Barn Vineyards, Schmidt Family Vineyards, Vista 222, Dwell Wines, Quady North Winery, Sundog Paragliding School, Left Fork Farms, Pot Rack, Cigar Cave, Donna Miller, Wooldridge Creek Vineyard, Applegate River Golf & RV Resort, Pat & Leah Bernard, Fields Home & Improvement Center, Whistling Duck Farm, Pennington Farms, Barking Moon Farm, Sarah & Ben Lipkings-Monard, Cindy Nichols, Amelia Maier, Calathea, Oshala Farm and The Station Market & Café, Pat Stree, Silver Gray, Rosellas Vineyard & Winery, Enchanted Massage, Mike & Cindy Gervais, Ray Gierloff, The Kitchen Store, Stacie Brink, Confluence Clinic, West Main Spirits, Katie Mergel, The Britt Music and Arts Festival.

**Love and appreciation to our generous and creative cake makers!**

Deborah Dunham, Tracy Raggi, Eve Phalan, Vicki Wade, Mary Cotton, James Daw/A Perfect Bite, Jennie Brown, Dana Kammaraad/ Seize the Cake, Stacie Brink, Provolt Store, Jackie Wolfard-Rodgers, Food for Less

# Women for the Land: Soil Sampling & Testing Learning Circle

BY CARLY BOYER

Discover how to assess and improve soil health at this hands-on workshop designed for women in agriculture.

**WHEN:** 9 am-3 pm Tuesday, November 18 (with a social hour from 3-4 pm).

**WHERE:** Rusted Gate Farm, 5700 Upton Road, Central Point, Oregon.

**Description:** Join American Farmland Trust and Oregon State University Soil Health Extension Specialist Shannon Cappellazzi, PhD, for an interactive workshop focused on all things soil. Participants will learn soil health principles, use their senses to assess soil health, and collect soil samples using scientific methods for

testing. The group will also discuss the differences between common soil tests and how to select the right one for their farm's goals. Be prepared to get dirty!

This event is free to attend, but registration is required. Catered lunches will be provided by Jefferson Farm Kitchen, and travel stipends are available upon request. Register at <https://farmland.salsalabs.org/soilnov2025/index.html>.

For questions or accommodations, contact Carly Boyer using the information listed below.

Carly Boyer  
cboyer@farmland.org  
541-546-0434

## FAIR FUN

Continued from page 1



The bicycle ride through Jerome Prairie, the scenic western edge of the Applegate, drew people of all ages from around the Applegate and Grants Pass. After a nearly seven-mile ride, the bikers appreciated food, drinks, and live music from the Jacksaphine Band at Apricity Vineyard. Photo by Megan Fehrman.

A bat walk and a demonstration on the marvel of moths were featured at this Applegate After Dark event hosted at the Provolt Recreation Site. The night concluded with guided sessions on astronomy and astrophotography. It was a full and engaging evening on how to enjoy our dark skies! Photo by Liz Shen.



## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

BY DIANA COOGLE

While you're writing that check for the *Applegater* during these double-your-money two months (heartfelt thanks to you from the board!), consider also helping the *Applegater* by joining the board. We have openings for an ad manager, a grants manager, a distribution manager, and, after the turn of the year, a secretary. We also need someone to monitor the website, as our dedicated host, Joe Lavine, would like to retire after the first of the year.

The commitment is to monthly meetings and to helping fulfill the tasks that keep the board functional and the paper in

circulation. We are a group of community-minded individuals enthusiastic about the *Applegater* and the service it provides for the community. The *Applegater* is where we have decided to put our volunteerism to work. Join us! We would love to have you.

Contact me with inquiries.

I can't wait to hear from you.

Diana Coogle  
Chair, Applegater Board of Directors

P.S. Don't forget to donate in the next two months—and date your check after **November 1**.



Leo, the resident cat at Wooldridge Creek Vineyard, participated in the "Art in the Vineyard" event. The grounds were filled with artists of all mediums and attendees were encouraged to spend dollars locally to support our growing art community. The air was filled with beautiful music from Bekkah McAlvage of the Rosa Lees and with smells of pizza being served up from The Haul's mobile pizza oven. Photo by JB Palasini.



We finished the festivities with a good old-fashioned BBQ at the Salant Family Ranch. Photo by Christina Ammon.

**~ IMPORTANT REMINDER ~**  
In order to assure that your donation is doubled, please be sure to date your check no earlier than November 1, 2025, and no later than December 31, 2025.  
*Thank you for your support!*

EST. 1980

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PENNINGTON  
FARMS

JAMS BERRIES PIES

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

A heartfelt thank you to all who wandered with us during the Jacksaphine Count(r)ry Fair!

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HIKE SWIM SIP EAT ... AND MORE!



Wander  
APPLEGATE  
.com

This land was made for wandering.

◀ Extra Edition November 2025 ▶  
Published by Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.  
PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530 • gater@applegater.org

◀ Cover Photo ▶  
Maple leaves fallen from trees 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](mailto:gater@applegater.org) or mail to *Applegater*, PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.



**Photos, left to right:**  
-**Jack and Cindy Luce** reading the *Applegater* at Vigeland Sculpture Park in Oslo, Norway.



-**Erich and Amber Thalmayer** and **Louann and Rick Faist** reading the *Applegater* in the Swiss Alps.



-**Laura Martin (R)** points to some Oregon crafts featured in the *Applegater* to her sisters **(L-R) Diana Coogle and Sharon Coogle** at a break between classes at the folk school in North Carolina.

## Pacifica's 26th annual Winterfest

BY HARMONY OLTMAN

Come celebrate the season, support local makers, and gather in community at Pacifica's 26th annual Winterfest—a beloved holiday tradition where creativity, community, and the spirit of the season come together. This year's bazaar will be held 10 am-4 pm, December 6 and 7, filling the valley with two days of handmade gifts, live local music, delicious food, and festive joy.

Our market is full of heart, featuring the work of local artists, crafters, and herbalists. You'll find small-batch herbal products made from locally harvested plants, beeswax candles, an abundance

of hand-thrown pottery, cozy knits, dried flower wreaths, original artwork, and meaningful gifts made with intention. Each item carries the spirit of its maker, and every purchase helps keep our local creative community thriving.

As you shop, delight in live performances by talented local musicians infusing the winter atmosphere with heart and soul. And don't miss the delicious local food—from seasonal bites and homemade treats to comforting favorites that nourish the body.

For the first time ever, all Pacifica students in our educational programs will

be selling handmade art they have been working on throughout the fall, set up in the Maker Space during Winterfest. Students will donate half of their proceeds to a cause of their choice. The remaining profits will be shared among the students. It's a meaningful opportunity for young makers to contribute to their community and learn the value of both generosity and entrepreneurship.

Winterfest is also a place for families to make memories. This year, kids can take part in our festive photo booth and holiday craft-making station, where little hands can get creative and leave with something special. It's a joyful space to play, make, and capture the magic of the season.

More than just a market, Winterfest is a chance to slow down, reconnect, and celebrate what makes this valley so

special—our people, our creativity, and our shared love for meaningful gatherings.

So, bundle up, bring your friends and family, and join us for a weekend of warmth, wonder, and wholehearted celebration at Pacifica's Winterfest.

In addition, at Pacifica this fall and winter, we have a lineup of seasonal workshops and classes that offer a chance to slow down, get creative, and craft your own handmade gifts for the holidays. Whether you're new to making or already love working with your hands, these gatherings are a wonderful way to connect, learn, and gain new skills.

Find more information and register on our website at [pacificagarden.org](http://pacificagarden.org) under the "Classes & Workshops" section.

Harmony Oltman  
[harmony@pacificagarden.org](mailto:harmony@pacificagarden.org)

# APPLEGATE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)

One plan to guide wildfire preparedness and resilience in the Applegate Valley.

The Applegate community created the first Community Wildfire Protection Plan in the nation in 2002. The Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) has secured funding to update this important document to meet the current needs of our community.

The CWPP update is a collaborative effort by local organizations, an advisory committee, and community input. For more information, contact Nathan Gehres at [nathan@apwc.info](mailto:nathan@apwc.info).

### What are the goals of the CWPP update?

To plan and prioritize activities to reduce wildfire risk.

To coordinate residents and resources during a wildfire event.

To create recovery plans for the aftermath of emergency events.

For more information, including community meeting dates and locations, a community survey, development updates, and more, visit the CWPP webpage.



<https://www.applegatepartnership.org/cwpp>

