

42nd Annual Quilt Show in Grants Pass in May

BY LIZA CROSSE

The Rogue Valley Piecemakers will hold their 42nd Annual Quilt Show on Friday and Saturday, May 10-11, 2024, at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in Grants Pass. The Pavilion will be full of beautiful quilts on display. We will have lots of surprises and special displays as this year's theme is "The Wild and Scenic Rogue!"

The show will feature beautiful bed, lap, and children's quilts, innovative art quilts, other fabric-related items, and quilts made by guild members celebrating the theme. Knowledgeable guild members will be on hand both days to answer questions about quilts and quilting. Back by popular demand are demonstrations and "make and take" classes that will be held on both days at no additional cost.

The Piecemakers' Heartworks Boutique will sell gently used sewing supplies, quilts, and gifts handcrafted by guild members. Vendors from Oregon and California will sell fabrics, patterns, and the latest notions and machines.

Attendees could win door prizes (given away hourly on both days) or raffle items of themed baskets and prizes. They can also purchase tickets for a chance to win the Piecemakers 2024 Opportunity Quilt, "Misted Pines." Proceeds will benefit the Josephine County Humane Society and Josephine County Search and Rescue. A silent auction will include quilts, wall hangings, and other items. Auction and Opportunity Quilt winners

will be announced prior to the close of the show on Saturday afternoon.

Quilt Show hours are 10 am-4 pm both days at the Josephine County Fairgrounds on Route 199, Grants Pass. Admission is \$5 per day; children under 12 are admitted free. There is ample free parking.

The purpose of the Rogue Valley Piecemakers is to contribute to the growth and knowledge of quilting through friendship, inspiration, education, and community outreach. Our meetings provide a time to enjoy fellowship, learn more about quilting techniques, and share experiences about the art of making quilts. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in quilting. Our activities include Sit and Stitch, Show and Tell, demonstrations and workshops,

classes taught by professional teachers, and the Comfort Quilt program.

Visitors are welcome! Join us on the first and third Mondays of the month from 9 am-noon at the Fruitdale Grange, 1440 Parkdale Drive, Grants Pass.

For more information, please stop by one of our meetings, write Rogue Valley Piecemakers, PO Box 5652, Grants Pass, OR 97527, or visit rvpiecemakers.com.

Liza Crosse
lizacrosse@comcast.net



Applegate Valley residents Deb Wheeler and Lauri Dobbs practice the ancient craft of quilting.



All funds raised from the purchase of raffle tickets for the Misted Pines quilt (above) will go to the Josephine County Humane Society and Josephine County Search and Rescue.

Quilting in the Applegate Valley

Our pioneer forebears were thrifty and talented quilters, turning every scrap of fabric into warm bedding and beautiful quilts. A few pioneer quilts still exist, and some have been documented.

The most famous quilt in the Applegate Valley is the McKee Bridge Quilt, which depicts historic scenes in the upper Applegate Valley. It was made in 1989 by Pearl McKee Byrne, who was then 96 years old, as a fundraiser for the repair of the McKee Bridge. Pearl was born in 1894 on Big Butte Creek and lived to be 101. Other artists who helped make the quilt were Bonnie Connolly and Pearl's daughter Evelyn.

Heritage is important to most quilters, many of whom had a loving family member who helped them learn to sew or quilt, passing knowledge down through the generations. Today there are several Applegate Valley quilters, myself included, who are active with the Rogue Valley Piecemakers in Grants Pass.

Deb Wheeler was inspired by her grandmother and mother-in-law, who did all kinds of needlework. She is also grateful to have some quilts that are over a century old, passed down through the family of her husband, George Wheeler. The quilt tops were pieced in the 1920s in California, then were quilted in Jacksonville nearly a century later. The legacy lives on!

Lauri Dobbs, who was until recently the president of the Rogue Valley Piecemakers, learned to sew with the guidance of her mother and grandmother. Her mother sewed most of her clothes. Lauri was inspired by a coworker to try quilting. She took a class and then was hooked! Lauri makes both art quilts and traditional quilts.

If you own vintage quilts that were made in the Applegate Valley or by pioneers who landed here, please email me with their story and photos.

Liza Crosse • lizacrosse@comcast.net



A "view to remember" at Vista 222.

An exceptional community venue awaits your special occasions

BY BARBARA HOLIDAY

High on a verdant hill, overlooking acres of grapevines, glistening ponds, and forested mountains, lies Vista 222, a community event space in the Applegate Valley—where such spaces are few and far between—that is ready to accommodate your special occasions.

Owner Richard Braden, a self-described farmer for more than 60 years, dedicated two years to develop this unique property as a community event venue. Opened in 2021, Vista 222 hosts both indoor and outdoor events and offers a patio, covered outdoor areas, grassy areas, and three separate indoor areas, including an indoor bar—not to mention an extraordinary "view to

remember," an undeniable description on their website.

The Applegater will be holding its 30th birthday celebration there on June 2, but Vista 222 is also a venue for weddings, receptions, and a multitude of functions, from small and intimate to large and lavish. Due to its incomparable location and amenities, it has attracted folks from far and wide, including Alaska, Japan, New York, and San Diego.

Vista 222 is described as a "wine-centric" event venue for good reason. The property off Missouri Flat Road includes 72 acres, 23 of which are planted in pinot noir grapes and 25 acres in chardonnay grapes. Winemaker Greg Paneitz, a former



The Applegater's 30th Birthday Bash will be held at Vista 222. Join us for the festivities in this special setting.

owner of Wooldridge Creek Winery, has been partnering with Richard since 2010, when the property was operated as Serra Vineyards and managed by Richard's daughter. Greg works his magic to create rosé of pinot noir, chardonnay, and pinot noir wines under the Vista 222 label. All three of these elegant wines will be served at the Applegater's 30th Birthday Bash, and all three wines were personally tasted and approved by members of the Applegater Board of Directors.

In addition to the vineyards on the Vista 222 property, Richard's company, Padre Properties, owns vineyards in the Applegate and Illinois valleys, which also produce top-quality grapes.

Not only are weddings of all sizes celebrated at Vista 222, but also birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, baby showers, reunions, retirements, and celebrations of life. Private groups, nonprofits, and corporate and small businesses have

held events at this unique venue. A local hospital, for example, hosted a cocktail social for over 600 attendees, and a comedy show, with cocktails and a food truck, attracted more than 100 attendees. In the near future, Vista 222 will offer walking trails, hikes, and educational tours of the vineyard

property for groups. Carolyn Behrens, general manager, oversees event planning and execution and ensures that no details are overlooked for your event.

For the last few years, Vista 222 has sponsored an annual community Easter Eggstravaganza, which drew close to 900 attendees last year and offered live music, food, games, and egg hunts. This year, the event is scheduled for Saturday, March 30.

For more information about the Easter Eggstravaganza, or to book your special event, contact Carolyn at 541-450-9422 or admin@vista222.com, visit their website at vista222.com, or follow them on Facebook at [facebook.com/Vista222](https://www.facebook.com/Vista222).

The Applegater hopes to see you at Vista 222 on June 2 to help celebrate our 30th birthday (see details on page 1). Come experience this unique venue and marvel at that "view to remember."

Barbara Holiday
barbara@applegater.org