

— Ruch Library —

Return to normality was brief

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

We hoped to be a full-service library again, but due to a rise in COVID-19 cases, on August 13 all county library events were canceled. Online programs, virtual storytimes, and Take & Make kits remain available. Check jcls.org for updates. When cases subside, to reserve meeting space go to jcls.org, then to “Menu,” then to “Ruch Branch,” and scroll to the bottom to “Reserve Room.” Our large Community Room can be split in half for small groups, or if you have up to 80 people, you can reserve both halves.

Did you see the lovable forest gnomes last winter at Ruch Library? We will be offering a free workshop from 1-3:30 pm on November 20 for you to learn to make your own! We'll provide all the materials, including a tomato cage for the base, and fir and pine boughs. We welcome other greenery of different shades and textures. You will staple together fabric hats and gloves and then staple them directly to the greenery, so you don't need sewing skills. Registration for this class is required. Sign up at Ruch Library or online at jcls.org.

When COVID-19 protocols permit, our Preschool Storytime will start at 11:30 am Tuesdays. The Babies and Wobblers Storytime (zero-three years), an early



You can learn how to make a forest gnome at Ruch Library. Photo: Thalia Truesdell.

literacy program, begins at 10:15 am on October 5.

Be sure to update your child's library card for the new school year in preparation for discovering new worlds at the library.

Our digital services representative, Nicole, is here on Thursday afternoons to help with

questions about your phone, computer, or other device. Call 541-734-3990 or email digitalservices@jcls.org for an appointment.

Starting September 25 and running through October, the Southern Oregon Stitchers will display some of their finest pieces, showing myriad styles of decorative work done by their nimble hands. Don't miss it!

During the pandemic lull, the new books just kept pouring in, and now we have rearranged spaces to accommodate them. We look forward to sharing these books with you! There are many, many great new titles, authors, and subjects pertinent to these exciting and turbulent times. C'mon in and check us out!

Thalia Truesdell

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— Applegate Library —

Library offers tech help

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

As we head into the final quarter of the year, you will now be able to book our meeting room through December 2021. The community room is space (with chairs, table, and a kitchenette) for up to 50 people to gather, discuss, associate, and recreate at no cost to you. All you need to book is a full-service or annual, nonresident library card in good standing. The meeting room can be booked outside of the library's open hours. To learn how to book the Applegate Branch Library meeting room and to see the policies and information for doing this, go to jcls.libcal.com/reserve/ap-meeting.

Program Spotlight: Computer and tech help

The digital services team at JCLS is here to help with all of your tech-related questions, bewilderment, concerns, and fears. The team is available by phone (541-734-3990) or by email (digitalservices@jcls.org) and will be at the Applegate Branch Library from 10 am-12:30 pm every Wednesday.

Upcoming events

Make your own vinegar. Vinegar has a ubiquitous history with humans across the planet and the ages. Learn how vinegar can be incredibly varied and nuanced in flavors and how to make it from just about any ingredient. We will taste vinegars, and you will make your own apple cider vinegar. Kirsten Shockey is a founder of FermentWorks and the online Fermentation School, as well as award-winning author of multiple books on fermentation. Her new book, *Homebrewed Vinegar*, will be available to

purchase. [Editor's note: Due to COVID-19 concerns, this event has been canceled.]

Friends of the Applegate Library (FOAL) Book Sale. Browse hundreds of titles of gently used and withdrawn books. All proceeds go to FOAL in support of programming at the Applegate Library. 2-6 pm Friday, September 24, and 10 am-2 pm, Saturday, September 25.

Take & Make Kits: Art-themed crafts, five-plus years. Paint, draw, chalk, stamp, origami, card-making—all these ideas, supplies, and more can be found in this kit supporting the library's fall theme of Diversity in the Arts. 2-6 pm (while supplies last), Friday, September 24.

Take & Make Kits: Autumn-themed crafts, five-plus years. Pick up a kit with autumn-themed ideas, including a mini pumpkin. 2-6 pm (while supplies last), Friday, October 15.

Take & Make Kits: Wine-inspired crafts, 21-plus years. Adults will have the opportunity to make wine charms and a cork-decorated votive candle. 2-6 pm (while supplies last), Friday, November 12.

Driftwood Planting with Succulents, 13-plus years. You don't need any gardening experience or a “green thumb” to create beautiful living art pieces. Sioux Rogers will present ways to use nature's elements to make planters for succulents. 11 am-noon, Saturday, November 20.

As of this writing, masks will be required in all library buildings and during library programs.

Christine Grubb

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Josephine
Community Library

— Williams Library —

The library offers ways to enrich your life

BY AMBER GUIENT

Have you taken advantage of all JosephineLINK can help you with? JosephineLINK is an online community resource directory where community members can access current information for hundreds of community service organizations. You can browse by category or search by keyword. Categories include rent assistance, volunteer opportunities, food assistance, family services, recovery support, veterans' services, and much more. You can find JosephineLINK on the library website at josephinelink.org.

Brainfuse Helpnow online tutoring

It's always helpful to have more help. Brainfuse Helpnow's online classrooms host a multitude of resources such as homework help, a 24-hour writing lab, an adult learning center, and foreign-language labs—free with your library card. Live tutors are trained not to provide answers, but to help users master a problem's underlying academic concepts. Tutoring and homework help services are offered in Spanish for all subjects offered in English.

Master classes through Udemy

Patrons can browse through thousands of various classes taught by professionals in the field, all free with a library card. Udemy makes it easy to dive in whether it's a skill that needs some brushing up or is completely new. Choose a class from any subject, like one of dozens of available guitar classes. Then check out a guitar

from the Library of Things and hop on that new hobby.

Some harvest help

Whether you're a gardening novice or a cultivation expert, the library's resources page should catch any green thumb's eye. The gardening subject guide lists a variety of local and general resources from fun gardening DIY seed bombs to Udemy gardening master classes. Recommended reading curated by local librarians covers helpful subjects, topics, and tips that can help grow a garden and knowledge.

Recommended reading from your librarians

Having trouble deciding what to read next? Whether you are looking for an audiobook for that road trip, a date-night DVD, or books for a family read-aloud, Shelf Shopper can meet all of your family's reading, listening, and viewing needs. Simply submit the Shelf Shopper form; a local librarian will pick a selection of materials and notify you when they are ready to be picked up during curbside service.

Find the Shelf Shopper form under the CATALOG menu at josephinelibrary.org.

The Williams branch library is open from 1-6 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, and from 11 am-4 pm Fridays.

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Staff Spotlight ~ Susie Head Beckham Applegate Branch Library Assistant



How long have you worked at the Applegate Branch Library? I started volunteering when I “retired” from my long-time (about 20 years!) job with Les Schwab Tires. Within about six months there was a position available at the library, which I was hired for over six years ago.

What do you like most about your job? I so enjoy and look forward to my hours at the library. The very best part is getting to see, share, visit, and connect with community members I've known for much of my life. And learning new computer skills, hearing of new authors, and making new friends is an added bonus!

What do you like to do when you're not working? Friends, family, yard, animals, gardening, baking, and reading fill every minute of my day!

Where did you grow up? I grew up right where I live now! I went to Applegate School when it was just four rooms—two grades to a room. I've never traveled much outside of Oregon, but have lived in such beautiful places, including the Oregon coast and Lake Oswego. Applegate has always been “home” to me. My three beautiful daughters are spread among Oregon City, Oregon; Idaho Falls, Idaho; and Dublin, Ohio, giving me places to visit and play with my eight grandkids!

What fun facts would readers like to know about you? I'm really good at sudoku and crossword puzzles, and I can recite several old poems from memory! And, my first pet was a cow named “Mousie.” A dairyman gave her to me because he didn't think she'd live because she was so small. She lived for 11 years!

What are three words to describe you? I'd like to be thought of as friendly, kind, and helpful.

Who is your favorite author? Sandra Dallas.