

## — Applegate Library —

### Check out mobile hotspots!



## — Ruch Library —

### Full STEAM ahead!

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

Did you know that, through the Jackson County Library System (JCLS) Connect program, library users 18 years and older in good standing can check out mobile hotspots for up to two weeks? And JCLS provides free Wi-Fi access in all 15 branches, including the Applegate Library—where it's warm and dry!

#### Upcoming events

**Preparing your Digital Life for your Death, 10-11 am Friday, March 1.** Have you ever wondered what happens to your digital accounts after death? Or how your loved ones will get access to those accounts to save precious data, such as photos and videos? Or how they would close them after you pass on? This program will help you and your loved ones take practical steps to prepare your digital legacy.

**Wild and Woolly Felting, 8+ years. 3-5 pm Thursday, March 28.** Let's celebrate spring and our pollinators making adorable needle-felted bees! This fun and easy fiber arts workshop will explore the techniques of needle felting, a dry method of felting that uses a special needle, loose wool, and a foam surface to create 3-D sculptures. All materials provided. Class is led by local fiber artist Corbin Brashear of Wild and Woolly Feltworks. Her work can be viewed at wildandwoolyfelt.com.

**Second Annual Applegate Music Festival, 3+ years. 12-4 pm Saturday, March 30.** Love piano music? We will have that! Love guitar, violin, and cello? We will have that too! Browse the library, pick up your holds, and listen to local musicians play various instruments and songs. Whatever your pleasure, these artistic, fun, and talented musicians are sure to send you on your way with a smile on your face and a song in your heart. And maybe even a new book!

- 12-12:45 pm: Singer-songwriter-keyboardist Noah
- 12:50-1 pm: Violinist Malila
- 1-1:45 pm: Classical pianist Debbie Lyons
- 1:50-2 pm: Violinist Malila

- 2-2:45 pm: Cello player Lisa Truelove
- 3-3:45 pm: Singer-songwriter-guitarist Cole Cullen

**Oregon State University (OSU) Master Gardener presents "Starting a New Vegetable Garden," 18+ years. 12:30-2 pm Saturday, April 6.** The best time to start is *now* (any time of the year—even the dead of winter). Soil is the number one ingredient. Beyond that, well, that's up to what you have at hand. Whether starting from seeds or seedlings is also a consideration depending upon how much work you want to do and how much time you have. John Kobal, an OSU-certified Master Gardener, will discuss the ways to start a new vegetable garden.

**Card Making, 14+ years. 1-2:30 pm Saturday, April 20.** Learn the art of making your own greeting card. Come join us for a fun and creative "make and take" class and leave with your own handmade card!

**Make a Spring Flower Crown, 8+ years. 4-5 pm Thursday, May 9.** Learn how to make a flower crown using all natural materials. You will be able to choose from a variety of fresh spring greenery and flowers to create your own nature-inspired adornment.

#### Reminders

The Applegate Library meeting room can be booked for your meeting, program, or event (even when the library is closed) by going to [jcls.libcal.com/reserve/ap-meeting](http://jcls.libcal.com/reserve/ap-meeting).

Wi-Fi is available in our parking lot 24-7. A Digital Services representative will be here on Tuesdays from 10 am-12:30 pm on a first come, first served basis. Or you can make an appointment at [digitalservices@jcls.org](mailto:digitalservices@jcls.org) or call 541-734-3990.

Preschool Storytime is 11-11:30 am on Fridays.

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BY MEGAN PINDER

This spring our focus is on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). In addition to the events listed below, we will be launching the Ruch Seed Library. Just like books, seeds should be free and accessible to all!

#### Spring events

**Kaleidoscope Play and Learn, 0-5 years. 10:30 am-noon Thursdays.** Discover how children learn through play and daily activities: singing, telling stories, creating art, and having fun! Open to young children and their families and caregivers.

**Preschool Storytime, 3-5 years. 10:30-11 am Tuesdays (except May 28).** Bring your preschoolers to enjoy stories, rhymes, songs, and fun at the library.

**Computer and Tech Help, all ages. 10 am-12:30 pm Tuesdays and 2-4:30 pm Thursdays.** Meet with a digital services specialist by appointment or drop in.

**Tween/Teen Movie Hangout, 10-14 years. 3:30-6 pm first and third Thursdays.** Stop by Ruch Library to enjoy a movie (and popcorn) with other tweens and teens! There will be time to discuss movie options and vote for a favorite before showtime at 4 pm.

**Strawberry DNA Extraction, 13+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, March 2.** With only a few household items, you can extract deoxyribonucleic acid from strawberries! Learn how—and live your CSI dreams—in this hands-on program.

**Author Talk: *Life Along the Applegate Trail*, 13+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, March 9.** Local author Linda Lochard will discuss her novel, *Life Along the Applegate Trail: A Tale of Grit and Determination*.

**Wildflowers and Rare Plants of the Applegate, 12+ years. 2-3 pm Saturday, March 16.** The Applegate is known for its incredible botanical biodiversity. Local experts Suzie Savoie and Luke Ruediger will share information, photographs, and species range maps from across the Applegate watershed, including endemic plants from the region that grow nowhere else on earth.

**Full STEAM Ahead Saturday Matinee Series. 1-3:30 pm fourth Saturdays.** Join us for three Full STEAM Ahead movies: *Hidden Figures* on March 23 (PG, 9+ years), *The Imitation Game* (PG-13, 11+ years) on April 27, and *Wall-E* (G, all ages) on May 25. Doors open at 1 pm, showtime is 1:10 pm. Popcorn provided!

**Special Storytime: Become a Boxitect! 3+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, March 30.** Listen to the story "Boxitects" by Kim

Smith—and then create something magical of your own with a cardboard box.

**Seed Saving for Gardeners, 13+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, April 6.** To kick off the gardening season and the launch of the Ruch Seed Library, farmer and founder of Siskiyou Seeds, Don Tipping, will teach seed-saving techniques for garden standbys.

**Make Your Own Silicone Bouncy Ball with Marissa Shepherd, 12+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, April 13.** How are plastics made? Why do plastics take so long to degrade? Come explore these questions and more as you make your own silicone bouncy ball with Marissa Shepherd, professor of chemistry at Rogue Community College.

**Fuel Mitigation Close to Home: Defensible Space and Home Hardening with Local Fire Experts, 18+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, April 20.** Local fire departments and risk reduction experts will discuss how to create a defensible space in and around your home, as well as other fuel mitigation strategies.

**Molecular Gastronomy, 18+ years. Noon-1 pm Wednesday, April 24.** Explore kitchen chemistry through molecular gastronomy, a branch of food science that focuses on the physical and chemical processes that arise when cooking. We will conduct some hands-on edible experiments!

**Noxious (Invasive) Plants of Southern Oregon: Identification and Treatment Options, 13+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, May 4.** Local expert and botanist Barbara Mumblo will teach us how to recognize invasive plants and give us some treatment strategies.

**Watch Me Grow: A Pea's Journey from Seed to Leaf, 5+ years. 1-2 pm Saturday, May 11.** Observe a pea's transformation from seed to seedling! We will have examples of pea seedlings in various stages of growth for kids to explore, and they will take home their own peas in a clear container so they can follow a pea's journey.

**Trebuchet vs Catapult, 9+ years. 4-5 pm Thursday, May 30.** In this program, kids will learn the difference between a catapult and a trebuchet, will make one of them, and will have an opportunity for some friendly competition.

Megan Pinder

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Grand opening ceremony of the new Williams Library Branch in 2023.

Josephine  
Community Library

## — Williams Library —

### History of Williams Library Branch

BY BRANDACE ROJO

The old Williams Library structure opened in 1977. Due to lack of running water or a restroom, that temporary building was not intended to be the permanent home of the Williams library.

When the library district was formed in 2017, Josephine County gifted the structure to the library district. The land belongs to Three Rivers School District and, for years, the library operated on school property rent-free thanks to a generous partnership! That former

Williams branch was gifted back to Three Rivers School District in 2023 and is now the home of a Head Start facility.

The new Williams branch opened its doors in fall 2023, featuring running water, a restroom, expanded books and other materials, updated technology, including broadband internet, a designated children's area, 1,000 square feet of library use, and ADA parking.

Funding for the new Williams library branch came from local donors and other funders, including Four Way

Community Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, A Greater Applegate, Roundhouse Foundation, Ford Family Foundation, and a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) via the Oregon State Legislature and former Representative Lily Morgan.

#### Fun facts about Williams Library

The Josephine Community Library record for most books checked out at one time is held by a Williams branch patron. Brian B. checked out 953 items in one visit last September during The Great Escape program, when Williams library staff and volunteers asked the community to check out as many books as possible. In order to lessen the load of books that needed to be moved, patrons were asked to keep the books at home until the new branch opened.

Lucy Fitzpatrick was the first Williams librarian in the 1970s, operating out of a

small room at the Williams Grange with the help of assistant Irene Champagne.

In the early 1980s the Williams Branch became the only library in the county to sport a hitching post in the parking lot—an addition requested during a summer when readers arrived on horseback and had only the bumper of the librarian's car to tie their mounts to.

During the 1990s, Kathryn Roether, a former librarian, opened a library in the straw-bale studio behind her house. It was open to the public at certain times, had a library-like checkout system, and was a very busy place! In 2016, her daughter, Evelyn Roether, was Williams branch manager for a period of time.

#### Virtual communication booth

Community members can reserve the new communication booth for virtual meetings at the Williams branch  
See *WILLIAMS LIBRARY*, page 21.