

# Applegater



Help us  
create a  
new logo!  
See Page 2

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world  
... Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead

May 1, 2008  
Volume 1, No. 1

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper  
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 9,000

Postal Patron  
May-June 2008

## Applegater — R.I.P. August 1994 to March 2008

Welcome to Volume 1, No. 1 of the new *Applegater!* The *Applegater* has been transitioned from the Applegate Partnership to the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. (AVCN), a newly formed nonprofit (we have applied for nonprofit status) corporation whose sole focus is to publish a great newspaper. Effective April 1, 2008, there is a new Board of Directors—some with familiar names—in place to guide the paper to new heights. The directors are Greeley Wells (chairman), Gary Brauer, Linda Fischer, Hal Macy, Paula Rissler, and editor J.D. Rogers. The editorial board remains much the same with some newly added members: Chris Bratt, Linda Fischer, Jan Perttu, Rauno Perttu, J.D. Rogers, Sandy Shaffer, Greeley Wells, Connie Young and Marvin Rosenberg.

You may have noticed that the old Gator logo has disappeared with this issue; it was not part of the transition, nor was the original name, which is now spelled "Applegater."

We're excited about the possibility for expansion, change and new opportunities for the paper. Our first opportunity is to create a new logo that better graphically depicts the Applegate and its communities. So we're looking to the community for suggestions. If you're interested in submitting logo ideas to us, please see "Help us create a new logo" on page 2 for more details.

Two things that haven't changed:

(1) Our mission statement. As always, the mission statement focuses on the community and reads: *The nonprofit Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., (AVCN) provides the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Watershed with a communications vehicle, the Applegater newspaper, free of charge to all watershed residents. Our bimonthly paper presents constructive, relevant, educational and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects such as:*

- natural resource issues
  - ecology and other science information
  - historical and current events
  - community news and opinions
- AVCN encourages and publishes

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## Applegate Fire District Awards Banquet

BY CAREY CHAPUT



Recipients of Annual Awards for 2007. Front row from left: Cody Goodnough, Matt Durant, Dan Moulin, Mike Kuntz, Dan Boyajian, Nina Kiskadden, Cris Usher, Tim Johnson. Back row from left: Tailese Goodnough, Ron Slack, Wim Roeloffs, Jack Lynch

The Friends of the Applegate Fire District (Friends) hosted a wonderful evening of camaraderie and pride on February 29 when the Applegate Firefighters celebrated another extraordinary year of serving this diverse community. It was an evening to recognize the accomplishments and acknowledge the spirit that guides the future of this fire district.

The banquet, held at Applegate Community Church on North

Applegate Road, is one of four annual events hosted by the Friends to support the firefighters. A dinner of superb tri-tip and chicken was provided to the distinguished guests and volunteers. Local entertainment provided great background music, and a fireman's salute opened the award ceremony. The annual video contained rare photos and a compilation of acts of bravery and camaraderie from the past year's events and incidents. Volunteer firefighters

Tailese and Cody Goodnough take the opportunity to collect photos from training and emergency scenes throughout the year to help accomplish this great annual contribution.

Accolades and awards in recognition of 2007 were given to the following individuals:

Spouse of the Year—Julie Hunt  
Marc Chaput Spirit Award—Fred Secco  
Hall of Flame—Al Chachere and  
Cody Goodnough

Chief's Award—John "Wim" Roeloffs  
Firefighter of the Year—Matt Durant  
Rookie of the Year—Ron Slack Jr.  
Firefighter of the Year—Daniel Boyajian  
EMT of the Year—Tailese Goodnough  
First Responder of the Year—Cris Usher  
Instructor of the Year—Dan Moulin  
Most Alarms—George Butcher  
Most Drills—Nina Kiskadden  
Fuel Reduction Award—Sandy Shaffer  
Maintenance Award—Jack Lynch  
Officer of the Year—Cody Goodnough  
District Employee of the Year—  
Mike Kuntz

Student/Intern of the Year—  
Tailese Goodnough  
Safety Recognition Award—  
Larry Hunt

See AWARDS, page 2

## BIRDS OF SUMMER

BY TED GLOVER



Spring is here—the wild flowers are coloring the landscape and the summer birds are beginning to show. The first to arrive in March are band-tailed pigeons, tree swallows and the beautiful rufous hummingbirds.

It's a great time for migrating birds as they head north following the food supply and preparing to raise their young. Watch this month for spectacular Lazuli bunting, black-headed grosbeak, white-crowned and golden-crowned sparrows, kingbirds, tanagers and wood warblers.

We are blessed in this part of Oregon with many spectacular species—

none more so than the Bullock's oriole. Look for them in deciduous trees, along streams, and in open areas foraging for fruit, nectar, and even small insects. They breed here and build incredible hanging nests made of various plant fibers suspended from branches as high as 60 feet.

Another bird we look forward to seeing (and hearing!) in the summer months is the colorful yellow-breasted chat. This bird is often hiding in thick, brushy areas and is heard long before it is seen.

Spring migration will bring many birds to the shores and marshes of

southern Oregon as well. A trip to the coast should be exciting in early May. We made a trip to the coast in February during the great weather, but were disappointed in the lack of bird life along the coastal areas. We did see more than 70 species of birds, but very few at the shore. However, we spotted a group of white-winged scoters, a life bird for us, making the trip worthwhile.

Ted A. Glover • 541-846-0681

Bird photos above from left: Tree swallow (Jacob W. Dingel/PGC); lazuli bunting (A. J. Hand/www.marymoor.org); Bullock's oriole, rufous hummingbird and white-crowned sparrows (Bob Barker/www.naturenm.org).

## Upcoming Events



**SOUTHERN OREGON  
PUBLIC SAFETY EXPO  
& EMERGENCY VEHICLE SHOW**

**Saturday, May 10 • 9 am to 5 pm**  
**Jackson County Expo**

This volunteer-led, one-day Public Safety/Emergency Vehicle extravaganza features all Public Safety entities in southern Oregon, as well as regional and national public safety agencies.

If you've ever wanted to **climb on a fire engine** or **learn about police K-9 units**, now's your chance.

This event promises to be **fun for the entire family!**

For more information, call  
Rob Underwood at 541-973-8575

### Southern Oregon Public Safety Expo Event Team

Rob Underwood, *Event Organizer, Lieutenant, Applegate Fire District*  
Dan Moulin, *Deputy Event Organizer, Agency Recruitment Lieutenant, Applegate Fire District Supervisor, Southern Oregon Regional Communications*  
Rogue Valley Fire Prevention Co-op, *Agency Recruitment/Logistics/Partnership/Fire Prevention: Mark Northrop, President; Dana Sallee, Vice President*  
Derrick Laughlin, *Onsite Logistics Firefighter, Kingsley Field Fire Department*  
Michelle Fuss, *Fire & Life Safety/Demonstration Logistics, Fire & Life Safety Specialist, Jackson County Fire District #3*

## APPLEGATER

FROM PAGE 1

differing viewpoints and, through the *Applegater* newspaper, acts as a clearinghouse for this diverse community. We are dedicated to working together with community members to maintain and enhance the quality of life that is unique to the Applegate Watershed.

(2) The need for funding. Because AVCN is all about the *Applegater*, we will be able to focus more on grants and fundraising so that we can continue to publish the *Applegater* at no charge to our readers. Our new fundraising committee has been and will be very active in grant-writing, and also very creative in planning fundraising events. As plans finalize, we will, of course, keep you informed. Much thanks to the many who already have contributed to keep the new Gater afloat.

We are looking for new energy. If you would like to be part of the revitalized *Applegater* or have any questions, please contact the following:

Greeley Wells—541-840-5700, [greeley@carberrycreek.net](mailto:greeley@carberrycreek.net)

J.D. Rogers—541-846-7736, [mumearth@apbb.net](mailto:mumearth@apbb.net)

We are excited about the future of this beloved and important newspaper, and look forward to many more years of publication. We welcome any and all suggestions. Thank you for your continued support!

### Help us create a new logo

The *Applegater* needs a fresh logo to replace the alligator! Bring on your creative juices and let 'em go. Be it the obvious apple, gate or bridge, or something entirely new and different, we are open to all ideas. Here are the details on what we need:

- Dimensions: 8" x 10"
- Full color
- Deadline: June 1
- Email high resolution (300) digital file to [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org) or mail hard copy to *Applegater*, 181 Upper Applegate Road, PMB 308, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

Questions? Contact Barbara Holiday at [holiday@echeloncp.com](mailto:holiday@echeloncp.com) or 541-218-8606.

### Special thanks to Sandy Shaffer and Phil Dollison

We owe a great deal of gratitude to Sandy and Phil for volunteering to tackle the maze of government red tape and successfully create our new nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. Because of their efforts, we already are on track to make the *Applegater* the best that it can be.

Thank you, Sandy and Phil!

## Voices of the Applegate to perform

The Voices of the Applegate Community Choir will be performing at the Applegate River Ranch House from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 15. The choir consists of 35 members of the Applegate community, many of whom have been singing together for more than five years.

The music will contain many folk songs from the 60s and 70s, as well as other arrangements assembled by the director, Dave Marston.

Refreshments will be provided. The concert and refreshments are free of charge, but donations are always happily accepted.

Come join us for a joyful Father's Day afternoon at the River Ranch House.  
Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

## Applegate School painting volunteers

June work parties are Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14. (We aren't going to work on Sunday because it's Father's Day.) For more information and to find out how you can help, call either Stephanie Hart, principal of Applegate School, at 541-846-6280, or Sandi at 541-846-6372 or 541-660-5173 (cell).

## AWARDS

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Century Club-Response to over 100 Alarms:

George Butcher—122

Dan Moulin—120

Bob Ettner—110

Ron Slack—103

Carey Chaput • 541-899-1050

**Join Our Team!**  
**Applegate Fire District**  
**541-899-1050**

## ADVERTISERS!

**We can help you reach your market—**  
**Grants Pass, Medford and the Applegate Valley**

**Call Ruth Austin**  
**541-899-7476**

or

**Matthew Eldridge**  
**541-941-6834**

## Applegater

ISSUE	DEADLINE
July-August	June 1
Sept-Oct	Aug 1
Nov-Dec	Oct 1
Jan-Feb	Dec 1
March-April	Feb 1
May-June	Apr 1

## WHO WE ARE

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. is an applied for non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the publication of the *Applegater* newspaper, which we feel reflects the heart and soul of our community. Contributions should be made out to either the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. or to the *Applegater*.

### Our Mission

The nonprofit Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., (AVCN) provides the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Watershed with a communications vehicle, the *Applegater* newspaper, free of charge to all watershed residents. Our bimonthly paper presents constructive, relevant, educational and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects such as:

- natural resource issues
- ecology and other science information
- historical and current events
- community news and opinions

AVCN encourages and publishes differing viewpoints and, through the *Applegater* newspaper, acts as a clearinghouse for this diverse community. We are dedicated to working together with community members to maintain and enhance the quality of life that is unique to the Applegate Watershed.

### Acknowledgements

The *Applegater* is published bimonthly by the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. and is funded by donations from our loyal readers and advertisements for local businesses.

Special thanks to Carole Moskovita for layout; Barbara Holiday, Joan Peterson, Sue Maesen and Paul Tipton for editing; Barbara Holiday, P. R. Kellogg and homeschoolers Kelton and Jakob Shockey for proofreading.

### Board of Directors

Greeley Wells, Chairman  
Gary Brauer, Treasurer  
Linda Fischer, Secretary  
Hal Macy  
Paula Rissler  
J.D. Rogers

### Editorial Board

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Linda Fischer  
Jan Perttu  
Rauno Perttu  
Marvin Rosenberg  
Sandy Shaffer  
Greeley Wells  
Connie Young

All articles, stories, opinions and letters that appear in the *Applegater* are the opinion and property of the author, and not necessarily that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.

### PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

The *Applegater* requires that any and all materials submitted for publication must be the intellectual property of the author unless otherwise credited.

Letters to the Editor cannot be more than 450 words. Opinion pieces and unsolicited articles cannot exceed 600 words. Community calendar submissions must be to the point. All submissions must be received either at the address or email below by June 1 for our next issue.

*The Applegater*  
c/o Applegate Valley  
Community Newspaper, Inc.  
181 Upper Applegate Road  
PMB 308  
Jacksonville, OR 97530  
Email: [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org)

## Community Calendar

**Applegate Valley Garden Club** meets at 1:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month from September through May. For meeting locations and programs call Sandra King at 541-899-9027 or Betty Lou Smith at 541-846-6817.

**Applegate 4-H Swine Club** meets on Tuesday following the third Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. For more information contact Charles Elmore at 541-846-6528 or Barbara Niedermeyer at 541-846-7635.

**Applegate Christian Fellowship.** For service times, call 541-899-8732, 24 hours/day.

**Applegate Friends of Fire District #9** meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Fire Station—1095 Upper Applegate Road—at 7:00 pm. New members are welcome. For more information, call Bob Fischer 541-846-6218.

**T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** meets every Tuesday morning at Applegate Church, 18960 North Applegate Road (at the corner of Hwy. 238 and N. Applegate Road). Weigh-in starts at 8:30 am; the meeting starts at 9:00 am. Come join us!

**Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).** Meets Thursdays at 6 pm. For meeting information, call Connie Young at 541-846-6051.

**Applegate Valley Community Forum (AVCF)** meets the third Thursday of each month, location alternating between Applegate and Ruch. For more information, call Pat Gordon at 541-899-7655.

**Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation** meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Applegate Library on North Applegate Road in downtown Applegate. For more information, call toll-free at 866-289-1638.

**American Association of University Women (AAUW)** Grants Pass area meets monthly from September to June. College degree required for membership. Days and locations vary. Contact Ann Kistler 541-471-1963 or Kathy Kirchen 541-846-9039.

**AA Meetings** Tuesday nights at 7 pm in Williams. Upstairs at the American Legion Hall. Contact Stan at 541-846-0734.

**Applegate Library Hours**  
 Sunday..... closed  
 Monday..... closed  
 Tuesday..... 2 pm - 6 pm  
 Wednesday..... closed  
 Thursday..... closed  
 Friday..... 2 pm - 6 pm  
 Saturday..... 10 am - 2 pm  
 (Storytime will be held Tuesdays at 2:30 pm.)

**Ruch Branch Library Hours**  
 Sunday..... closed  
 Monday..... closed  
 Tuesday..... 11 am - 5 pm  
 Wednesday..... closed  
 Thursday..... 1 pm - 7 pm  
 Friday..... closed  
 Saturday..... 12 pm - 4 pm  
 (Storytime will be held Tuesdays at 11 am.)

**Friends of Ruch Library Board of Directors** meets monthly. Check with the Ruch Library for schedule. 541-899-7438.

**Food & Friends.** Senior Nutrition Program invites local 60+ seniors to enjoy a nutritious, hot meal served at 11:30 am Monday through Friday at the Jacksonville IOOF Hall located at the corner of Main and Oregon Streets. A donation is suggested and appreciated. Volunteers help serve meals or deliver meals to homebound seniors. For information about volunteering (it takes 40 volunteers to keep the Jacksonville program going) or receiving meals, call Food & Friends at 541-664-6674, x246 or x208.

**Williams Library Hours**  
 Sunday..... closed  
 Monday..... closed  
 Tuesday..... closed  
 Wednesday..... closed  
 Thursday..... closed  
 Friday..... closed  
 Saturday..... closed

**Josephine County Farm Bureau** For meeting information, call Connie Young at 541-846-6051.

**Upper Applegate Grange #839** Business meetings: first Thursday at 7:30 pm. Potluck/Social meetings: fourth Friday at 7:30 pm, open to the public. Join us for informative meetings, fun and involvement in community service. Sponsors of Boy Scout Pack #18. Call 541-899-6987.

**Williams Rural Fire Protection District Meetings:** fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Williams Fire Department.

**Williams Creek Watershed Council Meetings:** fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Williams Creek Fire Station. The Public is welcome. For more information, call 541-846-9175.

**Williams Grange Pancake Breakfast,** second Sunday of each month, 8:30 am to 11:00 am. Closed July and August. Bring the whole family! 20100 Williams Hwy, corner of Tetherow Road near the Williams General Store. For more information, call 541-846-6844.

**Wonder Neighborhood Watch Meetings,** second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm, Wonder Bible Chapel.

**Applegate Fire District Board of Directors** meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Station 1 – 18489 N. Applegate Rd. at 7:30 pm. Except for the months of March, April and May, which are held at Headquarters – 1095 Upper Applegate Rd. For more information, call 541-899-1050.

**Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN)** meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the Ruch Library. All interested persons are welcome to attend. ANN is a community organization dedicated to protecting, preserving, and restoring the Applegate watershed. For more information about ANN, call Duane Bowman, 541-899-7264.

**Women Helping Other Women (WHOW)** meets the second Thursday of the month at 10036 Hwy 238 (Gyda Lane) at 6:30 pm for a potluck meeting to plan work parties at each other's homes. New members are welcome. For more information, call Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-8741 or Sioux Rogers at 541-846-7736.

**Email calendar information to**  
[gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org).

## Library News JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

### Applegate Branch

The Friends of the Applegate Branch Library are looking for new members to keep our library alive. We have worked so hard these past few months to open the doors of our library, even though the hours have been shortened. Now we need enough support from our membership to keep those doors open.

Carol Karvis, who works at the library desk on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm, is eager to have a book sale to raise money for the Friends of the Applegate Library (FOAL), but we still need more books. If you have any to contribute (now is a good time to clean off your library shelves at home!), please bring them to the Applegate Library during the hours that the library is open (Tuesday and Friday from 2 to 6 pm, and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm) and leave them with the librarian at the desk.

FOAL is sponsoring a program at the Applegate Branch Library on June 8 at 3 pm that you won't want to miss. Jeni Foster will be presenting her Oregon Chautauqua program entitled: "Birdsong: Birds as Metaphor in American Folk Music." Jeni weaves both traditional and contemporary folk songs throughout her narrative to expand upon the stories of everyday Americans and well-known moments in our country's history. She will invite members of the audience to sing along on the choruses of songs chosen to illustrate her program. Please come and have an enjoyable afternoon at the Applegate Library on Sunday, June 8.

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

### Ruch Branch

Many thanks to all the supporters of Ruch Branch Library for the expanded service hours. The campaign to raise money for two years of extended hours for the branch was a success. Thanks also to the patrons who are utilizing the hours and filling the library with people of all ages on Tuesdays from 11 am to 5 pm, Thursdays from 1 pm to 7 pm, and Saturdays 12 noon to 4 pm. Storytime is Tuesday at 11 am.

In March, the Friends of Ruch Library had their annual meeting and had good community response with ideas for future programs and events for the community to enjoy. Thanks to the offering of a generous local webmaster, the Friends will have a website ([www.FORL.org](http://www.FORL.org)) where you can keep updated about happenings at the library. You also can follow library activities throughout Jackson County at [www.JCLS.org](http://www.JCLS.org) and link to your local library.

Storyteller and author Thomas Doty kept the audience entertained with "Doty & Coyote: Stories from the Native West." Doty has kept the old stories alive and presented newly created ones, which he says "keeps his storytelling art vibrant and healthy." Following this great program, we celebrated our community with potluck foods and flute music presented by Loren Trottmann, a local homeschooled youth, who is very involved at the library.

The Jackson County libraries are thriving and the statistics show the open hours are being well-utilized, with high circulation of materials, programs well-attended, and people getting the reference help they need. Each library has a suggestion box, so please let us know how we are doing to meet your needs. It takes a community to support the library, and the library is there to support the community.



Coming soon will be "Summer Reading" in Jackson County Libraries, a three-part program serving children and youth from 0 to 16 years of age. This summer 0 to 12-year-olds can "Catch the Reading Bug" at their local library. There will be reading folders, activities, prizes and incentives, and programming at each branch in Jackson County. Twelve- to 16-year-olds also will have an exciting program with the theme "Metamorphosis @ Your Library," with reading folders and prizes, too. Sooooo, check it out! The programs will start as soon as your school lets out for the summer. Come in at that time and find out the schedule of special events and activities offered at your library.

Summer reading is designed to motivate children and teens to read during the summer to prevent loss of valuable reading skills and to become regular library users. It also supports early literacy with the Read-to-Me program for children 0 to 3 years. The real reward for families is discovering the many informational and recreational services that the libraries offer. Also, the connections, socialization, and networking help establish community.

So come to your local library and catch that reading bug! And if you are an adult, perhaps you'd like to get involved as a volunteer and help make it your program, too.

Janis Mohr-Tipton • 541-899-7438

### Babies in the Library

Join us on Thursday afternoons at the Ruch Branch Library for reading, rhymes, songs, and FUN!

The Babies in the Library class is for pre-walking babies and a caring adult. Classes will be held every Thursday at 12:00 pm from April 24 to June 12 at the Ruch Branch Library, 7919 Highway 238.

For more information or to pre-register, please call the Ruch Branch Library at 541-899-7438 or contact Margie Cicerella, project coordinator, at 541-774-6995 or email [margicic@jcls.org](mailto:margicic@jcls.org).

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## TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

# When not to buy gold

BY RAUNO PERTTU

As a long-time economic geologist, I've been getting many questions on commodity prices lately, especially concerning gold. Over almost 40 years of work in the minerals industry, I've seen a few cycles in supply and demand. For several reasons, this current market is the strongest in that time. Energy, metals and minerals prices are at all-time highs and, if you listen to analysts, many say these prices will continue to climb. Gold prices could possibly reach \$1,200 or \$1,400 per ounce; some say \$3,000 per ounce. However, I think it is likely that the price has peaked for now. I would strongly suggest that you don't buy gold (or silver) for investment purposes now. The old saying, which so many gold buyers ignore, is "Buy low—sell high," not the other way around.

Before the current boom, gold prices and many commodity prices were depressed for a decade. Gold prices from 1998 to the spring of 2002 languished below \$300 per ounce. Some analysts stated that gold was finished as an investment and might never break \$300 again. Since the autumn of 2005, when gold rose through the \$450 level, the price of gold has had an accelerating price climb. After last September, when gold prices broke \$700, the gold price formed a classic spike. Since its peak at above \$1,000 per ounce in March, gold has corrected to the lower \$900s at the time I write, which is still a stupendous price to those of us in the resources industry. It appears to me to be an even bet on whether gold again climbs through \$1,000 as predicted by many analysts (and perhaps to as high as \$1,400) or whether it seesaws downward at the beginning of an erratic slide. If it slides, the bottom of that slide is very difficult to predict, but could be \$600 to \$700.

A quick overview of overall commodities prices may be helpful. As I mentioned, along with gold, most minerals and metals prices were depressed, and even severely depressed, for several years before they began their climb of the past five years. During the decade of depressed prices, many mines

shut down, new projects were canceled, and key people in the industry found other work.

When demand began to grow, supplies and the ability to increase production were limited, and the expertise to find and develop new reserves was in short supply. The accelerating shortages created rapid price increases in an international bidding war for resources to meet industry demand. Key to the soaring commodities demand and prices was strong world economic growth, particularly of China and India. With its exploding growth, China abruptly switched from a raw materials seller to a major consumer. To fuel this growth

**There are now suggestions that at least some commodity prices are near their next down cycle. First is the apparent worldwide economic slowdown. The booming Asian economies will be hard-hit by a slowdown of our and Europe's economies. Although countries like China and India are developing their own middle class market demands, they still rely heavily on their ability to sell their goods to us.**

and the cars of a new middle class, Asian energy demand, plus the Middle East mess, triggered a huge increase in the cost of oil, which in turn increased the cost of other energy sources and the cost of producing minerals and, therefore, the sale price of minerals. For those of us in the United States, the sliding value of the dollar in international business further increased minerals prices, including gold, because minerals are internationally priced commodities.

There are now suggestions that at least some commodity prices are near their next down cycle. First is the apparent worldwide economic slowdown. The booming Asian economies will be hard-hit by a slowdown of our and Europe's economies. Although countries like China and India are developing their own middle-class market demands, they still rely heavily on their ability to sell their goods to us. A slowdown in demand will lead to slowdowns in production and decreased world consumption of raw resources. At the same time, mining companies have increased their production capacity of

metals and minerals to take advantage of the current high prices. Soon, these companies with expanded production capacity may be competing for smaller sales markets. This is the classic price cycle I have seen several times myself.

Gold has some unique quirks. While the use of gold in industrial and technological applications is growing, the largest use of gold continues to be in jewelry. Gold jewelry in some Asian countries constitutes a form of currency, and gold jewelry is required to be essentially pure gold. The jewelry is bought and sold based largely on its weight in gold. In India, gold jewelry forms a woman's dowry at marriage and

can determine her desirability to suitors. Gold jewelry purchased for dowries makes India the world's largest gold consumer.

Part of the dramatic price rise of gold has been tied to the exploding economic development of India and China. Many people in these countries see gold as a hedge against the uncertainties of currency and as a way of storing and hiding a portion of one's wealth. Rising wages have meant the ability to buy more gold. However, the gold price has recently risen much more quickly than the purchasing power of the new middle class. Purchases of gold jewelry and investment gold in Asia, which had been growing, softened during the last quarter of 2007 because, even with more money to spend, the number of ounces that money was able to purchase declined.

For many of us in the non-dowry world, the high gold price has resulted in the sale by their owners of huge volumes of gold jewelry, gold watches, and all things gold-bearing. At the same time, new gold jewelry purchases are being hampered by the limits of our

pocketbooks. The net result is a glut of gold on the market. Further, remember that in jewelry and in most applications, gold is not actually physically consumed, and will eventually be recycled. For the reasons discussed and other factors, the current high gold price likely will be the trigger for the next down cycle.

Beyond normal supply and demand, part of the pricing of gold is emotional, and the emotions of those who control central bank gold supplies may be the most important. The buying and selling of gold by central banks, with their enormous reserves, can create a huge uncertainty in the price of gold. If, for example, central bank officials were to increase gold sales, we likely would see a rapid decline in gold price. The actions of central banks are not well connected to normal workings of world supply and demand, and because gold has this central bank ownership factor, gold is less connected to market fluctuations and less predictable than other commodities.

I personally believe that we are near, if not already past, the peak of the current gold cycle, and I would not be buying gold as an investment. However, if I had any spare gold lying around, I would pay attention to the market and be prepared to sell it soon or to hang on through the next down cycle.

Because of my view on the current gold price, I also would be cautious about buying the stock of major gold-producing companies. Their stocks are often a reflection of the current and anticipated gold price, and if the price of gold declines, so will their stock prices. Smaller, growing gold companies, however, should do well because the current gold price is so high that it could decline substantially and still provide good corporate earnings from high-quality new projects. The problem for those not in the industry is in how to select good companies from the more common lemons. Remember gold is lemon yellow.

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## DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

# Ride a 'real' gator

BY SIOUX ROGERS

May and June are enthralling months of the year. The spring blooms have faded, the winds of March and the dampness of April are over and gone. The new cycle is starting: we plant and we start to reap.

For me personally, this year started off with what appeared to be insurmountable mountains. What I discovered was, most mountains are really molehills, especially when friends help with the climb. My garden so mimics life, or is it the other way around? Sometimes I plant a flower, hoping it will be an enhancement of beauty in my garden. Instead, the flower turns into a vicious weed. The reverse also is true. At times, what I think of as major drama in my life is just part of life. Nothing more, nothing less. My garden and friends are my calming spirits.

A few weeks ago, my Father died. He was 97 years old, lived alone, did his own shopping and kept his own books straight to the penny. On the day of his funeral, my 98-year-old mother-in-law died. She was like a mother to me. She was my first mother-in-law 44 years ago, and remained an active, loving part of my life until the day she was gone. The thought of not talking to either of them every Sunday is grievous, but their blooming time was over. It was long and glorious, as it should be.

In the garden, one always can replant, re-do, and remake. Real life is not always so easy. Now I have decided "to spend less time worrying about who is right, and more time deciding what is right" (from "Life's Little Instruction Book"). Losing a parent or a friend, either through death or otherwise, is what it is—a loss.

Moving on now. Let's replant and refurbish food, flowers and friendship. Mid to end of May is the perfect time to get all those warm-weather crops in the ground. Warm-weather crops are tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, etc. Cabbages, broccoli, and dark leafy greens already should be in the ground. Basically, plant what is in the nursery as little seedling/starts. That will keep your brain from going on overload.

Remember, your garden does mimic real life. Think how different your children and friends are. So, just because it is May, and your neighbor is planting cantaloupe, that may not work for you. Keep an eye on your garden and your heart. Plant what grows best



David Gray, 1911-2008, and daughter Sioux riding a real gator. (Photo courtesy of Paul Gray.)

for you, in your own garden.

Heart and feelings aside, let's be creative this summer. Same old, same old is—old. How about planting your tomatoes in this lovely, space-saving style? The idea, 30 years ago, is from my gardening brother-in-law, Milt. Find or buy two-foot-long ceramic sewer pipes. Position the sewer pipes anywhere, as long as there is full sun. Place a water saucer under the sewer pipe and fill with amended soil. I would suggest placing a tall strong support deeply into the soil you have dumped into the ceramic sewer pipes. Then place your little tomato plant next to the support. You can now have a tomato patch in any sunny spot. You can even (carefully) move them around—if you decide you have chosen the wrong location.

Here is another "hot" idea: your morning coffee. Enjoy it in a big mug, but save those dang coffee grounds! Coffee grounds are very high in nitrogen, which means good leaf growth, and also are acidic. Add the grounds, or even leftover black coffee, to ferns, hostas, blueberries or any acid-loving plant.

Varoom! Is that what the slugs and snails have often done to your newly planted seedlings? Did they nibble up breakfast, lunch, and dinner all in 20 minutes? Do the coffee thing again. Well, of course, no cream and sugar. I have coffee grounds around all of my leafy greens, broccoli, cabbage and everything else I planted in the spring. Actually, I ran out of coffee grounds for the last row, so this will be a controlled "coffee grounds vs. slug test." The theory behind coffee grounds and creepy crawlers is that when their "feet" touch the caffeine, it is absorbed into their bodies. That is a fatal metabolic flaw for a slug or snail.

Speaking of creative: how about trellis planting "outside the box"? Vertical space is always a hassle for me, short of a fence or a ready-made trellis. I have neither. So this year I am taking

an old wooden ladder and stringing it with up/down supports. That should qualify as vertical. I actually may use all four sides and just plant on each side the four different varieties of cucumbers that my sweetie-pie and I compulsively bought. I know this is not an absolutely unique idea. I, personally, have just never stuck an old ladder in the middle of my "tidy" vegetable bed.

For many years I have used dead lilac branches to prop up my peonies. This works great, because eventually you cannot see the dead lilac branches; they blend in. This year, those dead branches with multiple "fingers" also will go ker-plunk into my tidy vegetable garden. Here is the plan: I will take several (which translates to 12 for me) tall "fingered" branches and place them closely side by side in a long straight row. I will plant several runner beans at one end and let them travel to the other end. Not sure if this really will work. It will, however, save me the trouble of building a bean trellis. Anyhow, it will look interesting. Remind me to fess up about all these plans—like what worked and what didn't. One piece of advice: if you use a branch as support for anything, before sticking it in the ground make sure it is dead, not just sleeping. I planted a "dead" branch several years ago and guess what? It grew! I probably should have done CPR first to confirm its demise.

As I roll around in the dirt, not quite ready to push up daisies, I dedicate this column, with love and gratitude, to Mom, who loved me unconditionally, taught me to cook and to clean crystal chandeliers. And to my Dad, whose love for me lasted until his last breath, who taught me to ride a real gator, to drink Scotch and to think outside the box.

For the love of dirt,  
Sioux T. Rogers  
mumearth@apbb.net  
541-846-7736



## WELL WATER, REAL PROPERTY, AND YOU

with Bob Quinn

Dear Bob Quinn:

My wife and I have been reading your interesting columns on well water long enough to know that before we make an offer on a parcel of land on which to build our dream home, we should know something about the potential for a reliable water supply. But how do you do this?

It's been said that information is the key to making wise decisions, so you would be wise to seek the advice of a reputable well driller. A computer print-out of other wells in the area in which you will be building would be a help. Such a tool can show you the depth of other wells, the flow rate, along with estimated costs for drilling. More than a few real estate contracts for property are written to include a contingency, calling for an adequate supply of water.

If you're planning to buy property in an area where adequate water could be a problem, it might be a good idea to arrange for the well to be drilled with a reputable contractor (with the owner's permission, of course). If a water source is not uncovered, you are only out the cost of the drilling—a fraction of what it might have been.

Bob Quinn is on the board of directors for the Oregon Ground Water Association and owner of Quinn's Well Drilling and Pump Service located at 6811 Williams Hwy. As part of a tradition of information that began more than 50 years ago, these columns are provided to help take the mystery out of well drilling and groundwater.

Visit Quinn's web site at [www.quinnswell.com](http://www.quinnswell.com)—it's a tremendous source of information. We provide well drilling, plus we install, maintain and repair complete water pumping systems. Contact our professional staff by phone, e-mail, or visit our office.

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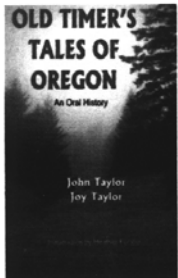
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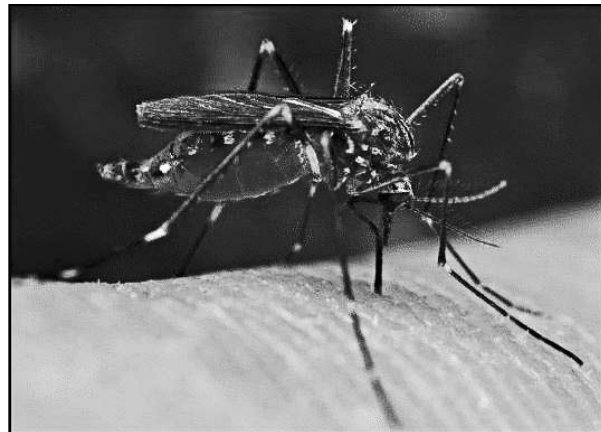
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## Spring fever or mosquito bite?

BY EUGENE PAPINEAU, MS

Warm weather is around the corner and with it will be the inevitable arrival of mosquitoes. Some of the first to arrive in early spring will be those adult mosquitoes that have made it through the winter and are looking for a blood meal that they need to produce eggs for a new generation of unwanted biters. The Applegate area also has its share of the western treehole mosquito, whose larvae live in the rot cavities of oak and madrone trees that fill up with rainwater during winter storms. The larvae hatch into adult mosquitoes in late spring and like to bite in the daytime in shaded areas around the home. They are carriers of dog heartworm and a serious problem in some areas of the county.



Once summer arrives, mosquitoes will start hatching from eggs laid in a variety of containers found around homes such as old tires, buckets, tubs, barrels, boats, tarps over woodpiles, swimming pools, ornamental ponds, water troughs, and the list goes on and on. Any container that holds water is capable of producing mosquitoes. The best way to prevent these sources from becoming a mosquito-producing nightmare is to empty out the water. No water, no mosquitoes!

These nighttime-biting container-breeding mosquitoes are the kind of mosquitoes that can carry West Nile virus (WNV). WNV has been documented in mosquitoes in many areas of the county, but as yet has not been found in the Applegate area. These mosquitoes also are capable

of carrying other forms of viral encephalitis such as St. Louis and western equine. All these diseases are carried into an area by wild birds that are fed on by local mosquitoes. The virus lives in the mosquito and is transmitted to a new host in the mosquito's saliva when the insect bites a person or animal.

To protect yourself against these disease-carrying insects, be aware that peak mosquito-biting times are from dusk to dawn. Take extra care to use repellent (DEET) and wear protective clothing while outside during these hours. WNV vaccine is available for horses through your local veterinarian and, if you have not already had your horses vaccinated, now is the time to do it.

If you are overwhelmed by mosquito hoards this spring or summer, the Jackson County Vector Control District is here to help. Technicians are available to treat breeding areas to prevent mosquitoes from hatching, and fogging trucks can eliminate adult mosquitoes from around your home. The District also has a disease surveillance program that tests dead birds (crows, raven and jays) for WNV. Jackson County's mosquito control programs begin the first week in May. Information about these programs can be found on the web at [www.jacksoncountyvectorcontrol.org](http://www.jacksoncountyvectorcontrol.org) or by calling 541-826-2199.

Eugene Papineau, MS • 541-826-2199  
Manager, Jackson County Vector Control District

## Spring, landscaping and groundwater exemption

BY KATHY SMITH

With the ever increasing days of sunlight and warm temperatures, many of us are perusing seed catalogs, planning this year's garden or redesigning our landscape.

It was brought to my attention this past year that even some of the long-time garden and landscaping experts in our area were unaware of the exempt groundwater use each landowner is entitled to from their individual well or a shared well according to Oregon Water Law. By exempt, the Oregon Water Resources Department means water use that does not require a water right obtained through registration, certificate of registration, application for a permit, permit, certificate of completion or ground water right certificate.

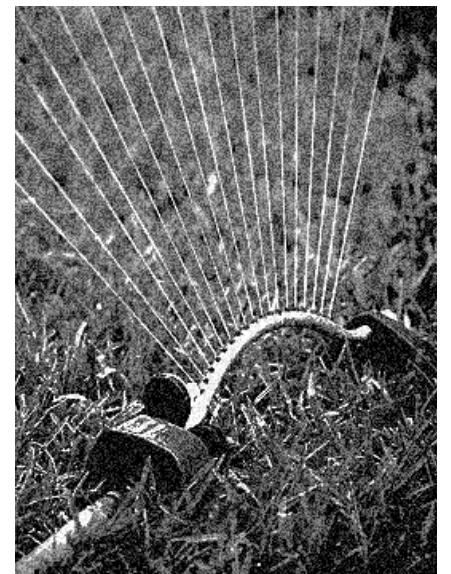
In terms of irrigation, the exemption for the use of groundwater described by Oregon Revised Statute ORS 537.545 Exempt uses (1) (b) is "Watering any lawn or non-commercial garden not exceeding one-half acre in area." This means that for an individual landowner, a total of not more than a half acre may be irrigated from the combined groundwater sources on the property. The reason combined sources of groundwater are mentioned is because there be may be more than one well on the

property, or a combination of sumps and wells. In addition, if two or more landowners are sharing a well, the allowed exempt use would then be a total of a half acre of irrigation for the two properties.

I am frequently asked if the landowner can water a half acre in one area one week and a different half acre the next. The answer is no; the half acre is at a fixed location.

So while I encourage you to get out and enjoy the sunshine while growing your own food or planting flowers, remember to limit your groundwater use to one-half acre of irrigation unless you have additional groundwater rights. And, as always, if you have any questions, call me at 541-471-2886.

Katherine A. Smith • 541-471-2886, ext.223  
Watermaster, District 14



*"The only realistic solution to blackberries is cobbler."*

— T. J. Pierce

# New weed groups offer 'Pulling Together Days'

BY BARBARA A. MUMBLO



Both Jackson and Josephine County Weed Boards were disbanded some time ago. For several years, folks in southwestern Oregon have wanted to coordinate dealing with invasive species/noxious weeds. To work on this issue, two new groups have formed recently. They are the Jackson County and Josephine County Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs).

Through the dedicated facilitation of Amy Wilson (with the Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation and Development Council), these groups have come a long way in getting organized. Both are having "Pulling Together Days" to work on controlling weeds in some areas in the Rogue Valley and to give members of the community a chance to learn about weeds with hands-on experience.

This is the first year for this event in southwestern Oregon. We were inspired by a similar event in Bend, where this has been going on for several years and has grown to include multiple counties. Last summer when I drove through La Pine, I was pleasantly surprised to see a sign on Highway 97 that said "Control Noxious Weeds—It's Your Responsibility." I thought, "Now there's a town that knows about this subject." Many people have become more aware of the natural resources of their community on the east side.

Josephine County's "Pulling Together Day" will be Saturday, June 14, at Tom Pearce Park, 3700 Pearce Park Road (approximately three miles east of the city of Grants Pass). Folks will meet at 9 or 10 am to work on yellow star thistle and Scotch broom in the more natural area upstream where there is a disc golf course.

Jackson County's "Pulling Together Day" will be Saturday, June 28. At 9 am folks will meet to pull weeds at various sites, including Prescott Roxy Ann Park, Denman Wildlife Refuge, North Mountain Park in Ashland, Valley of the Rogue State Park, Jefferson Nature Center in Medford, and the Bear Creek Greenway in Central Point near the Expo turnoff. Weed pullers will receive a T-shirt and are welcome to meet at noon at Hawthorne Park in Medford for a complementary barbecue (beer tent for those of appropriate ages) and celebration of our natural resources.

See the contacts below for more information. If you are interested in assisting in any way—coming to a site to pull weeds, sponsoring the event, having a booth at the event (noncommercial booths only), helping to set up—we'd be glad to have your help.

Contacts for "Pulling Together Days"

**Josephine County**  
Robin Taylor, 541-471-6549 or  
Amy Wilson, 541-582-1118 ext 23

**Jackson County**  
Barbara Mumblo, 541-899-3855 or  
Bob Budes, 541-899-3928

Barbara Mumblo • 541-899-3855  
Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District

Photos above:  
Don't be taken in by their pretty flowers. These plants have all become invasive pests in the Oregon landscape. From left: Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*); Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*); and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*).

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## Porcini-ing

BY DR. MICHAEL AMARANTHUS

In the woods here in Oregon there is a special creature that hides beneath the soil surface. This creature can appear suddenly and take your breath away. No, it isn't a stalking carnivore that eats squirrels like candy. It can't swiftly slice into the soft underbelly of a porcupine or take down a frightened deer. It's not a Mutual of Omaha Wild Kingdom moment.

Nope, this riveting creature is a fungus. No kidding. This fungus, a "bolete," isn't an extraordinary athlete that catches prey with stunning speed and agility. However, it does pop out of the earth with amazing size and speed. Italians love them and call them "porcini" (little pigs) for their round bulbous shape and delectable meaty flavor. It is called the "cep" in France, the "steinpilz" in Germany, and the "king bolete" in English-speaking countries. A basidiomycete, this fungus is in the Boletaceae family, genus and species *Boletus edulis*, if anybody cares about these taxonomic giberishisms.

The "king" is actually the fruit of a fungus that lives as threads in the soil and is attached to roots as a mycorrhizal associate, usually with conifers, but also sometimes with hardwoods. It has an obligate association with the roots of these trees, aiding them in absorbing nutrients and water while receiving sugars from the tree's photosynthesis. In the fall in many places it is difficult to find them without insect larvae in them. But the *Boletus edulis* in the spring is almost

completely free from worms and highly prized.

Mycologist friends of mine tell me there are two distinct populations of the king in Oregon. One occurs in the fall and is widespread in a variety of forest conditions, soil, and elevations. The second occurs in the spring in mysterious islands of conifer forests scattered around the high Cascades. Wandering around for 30 years, I've brushed into evidence of the "spring" king on a couple of occasions, but they were often unidentifiable young buttons or were way "over the hill." Slimy, buggy and decomposing bolete-like, it was difficult to imagine what they might have looked like in their prime.

### The year 2007

I'm a guy who wanders through the woods looking for nothing in particular, which is to say everything. Over the years, wandering around the forests of the world I've seen many things: monkeys, a jaguar, tree kangaroos, thundering herds of wild emus. I've bumped into a startled bear while in an inflatable kayak. I faced off against a brightly colored wild cassowary in a tropical forest and observed one very pissed-off Tasmanian devil in the temperate Eucalyptus forest. But what I really wanted to bump into was a flush of the storied spring kings. Suffice it to say that I have been much graced in the woods. But for years I've had to endure the descriptions from my friends of their glorious finds of spring kings—a true mushroom-hunter's dream.

My wife Eileen and I have a cabin that sits on 200 acres near the Pacific Crest trail in the southern Oregon Cascades. The cabin is named Cabina Morchella in honor of the morel mushrooms that occur on the property in May of every year, sometimes stretching into the first week of June. Hunting morels with friends and preparing the delicacies with homemade wine has been a May tradition for more than a decade. As has my scouring the areas around the cabin for mushrooms of all shapes and sizes.

I often hunt mushrooms with Chuck. Chuck is a 77-year-old Italian with a passion for wild mushrooms, tremendous energy, and an uncanny ability to find "shrooms." In the first week of June 2007, Chuck and I went shrooming around the cabin to find the last remnants of spring morels. After several hours of hiking and the discovery of a few scattered and dried-

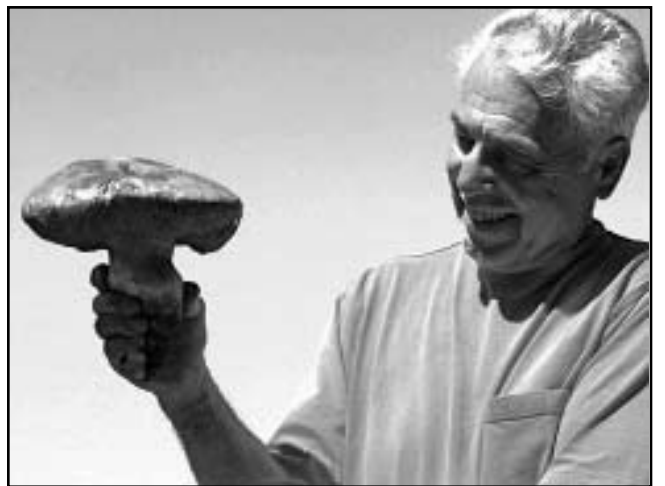
up morels, I returned to the truck, tilted the seat back as far as it would go and closed my eyes to "recharge my battery." Then something weird happened. I had a porcini dream. I saw them: large mushrooms clustered beneath an inch of pine and fir litter. And what really was weird was that I recognized exactly where this cluster was. It was about a mile away, along an abandoned skid road, in a mix of young fir and pine in a former timber harvest unit. I rolled down the window and hollered at Chuck, "Chuck, I know where the porcini are! I saw them in a dream. Let's go get them." Chuck, always ready for a challenge, jumped into the truck.

In a few minutes we parked the rig and scampered up the hill to investigate the spot in my dream. I stood there in disappointment, turning slow 360s in search for humps in the duff. Of course, it was Chuck who made the discovery. About 30 feet away there were giant humps in the duff in a line that extended another 20 feet down the skid road. Sure enough, they were spring kings; giants with some caps over a foot in diameter. We filled our bags.

I don't have any heavy message to share. I certainly don't think I have any mystical powers. But I witnessed a magic moment. They were there. Big, dignified, great masses of huge rounded flesh erupting from the earth. Spring kings!

I think sometimes there is much where we think there is nothing. Where there were no spring kings, there were spring kings. And in my own backyard. Mother earth has many mysteries to share. Remember that.

Dr. Michael Amaranthus • 541-476-3985



Above: All Mr. Mustang contestants participated in the opening number. It was so popular, they did an encore at the end of the program. (Photo by HVHS yearbook staff.)

Below left: Seniors Jordan (l) and Justen (r) Nielsen danced their hearts out during the opening act of Hidden Valley's Mr. Mustang competition. (Photo by Barbara Holiday.)

Below middle: In the talent competition, Mr. Mustang wannabe Taylor Willi did his own take on Kenny Chesney's "She thinks my tractor's sexy." (Photo by Barbara Holiday.)

Below right: Mike Kirkwood was crowned "Mr. Mustang" by Kaylee Van Leeuwen at Hidden Valley High School's fundraiser for Children's Miracle Network. Kaylee's 9-year-old twin brothers, Kenneth and Kyle, are the 2008 Children's Miracle Network's national ambassadors. Born at just 24 weeks of gestation, both boys weighted less than two pounds. (Photo by HVHS yearbook staff.)



## Mr. Mustang crowned at Hidden Valley High Annual fundraising event for Children's Miracle Network

Mike Kirkwood, the 2008 "Mr. Mustang," was crowned on April 2 during a heated competition at Hidden Valley High School (HVHS).

Organized by seniors, this year the annual Mr. Mustang event raised \$1,300 for the Children's Miracle Network. The monies will go toward a bililight for the neonatal unit. A bililight, costing around \$8,000, is a phototherapy tool to treat newborn jaundice, which can cause brain damage.

Other competitors included seniors Curtis Belew, Cory Dean, Jordan Nielsen, Justen Nielsen, Jeramiah Sayre, Travis Warren and Taylor Willi. Leading up to the crowning were several intense segments: an unforgettable opening act with all contestants; the viewing of each competitor's personally created video; talent; formal wear; and, lastly, the critical question-and-answer segment.

The event was organized and emceed by senior Bibiana Guerrero, who was supported by Sam Edwards and Kim Deforest's student government class.

Barbara Holiday  
541-218-8606



## MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

# More to worry about

BY CHRIS BRATT

Many people say there is a first time for everything. For me, this is the first time that I'm finally in tune with the majority of Americans on at least on one issue. A recent *New York Times*/CBS News poll found that most of us are unhappy with our country's direction. More than 81 percent of the people surveyed said they believe that "things have seriously gotten off on the wrong track." It seems to most of us that the promises of the past eight years have gone unfulfilled. This record-high public dissatisfaction has crossed all issues, and we now face serious repercussions, especially regarding the overall condition of our environment and, in particular, our natural resources.

In addition to the many crises our country is enmeshed in at home and abroad, we have plenty of bad news to be outraged about right here in the Applegate and throughout the northwest. Hopefully, there will be some relief to the present assaults on the environment and to public gloom when we elect a new administration later this year.

Perhaps issues like the multi-billion-dollar buyout of greedy Wall Street bankers, spending \$12 billion a month on the Iraq war, and a faltering economy will be sorted out by electing a less reckless group of congressional representatives.

A host of equally distressing problems associated with the environment probably will require a total reorganization of our federal land management agencies and their adoption of a more reassuring conservation ethic. It's surely time for these agencies to develop a new positive path with a solid recovery plan for our nation's and Mother Nature's resources.

Beyond these larger national challenges, many states and local communities still will be facing the aftermath of the more subtle limitations on their ability to protect our environment. New rules and regulations being put into force by the outgoing administration are reducing environmental protections, enforcement of our environmental laws and public participation opportunities. With little-noticed procedural and policy moves over several years, this administration has made it much more difficult for the public to influence decisions that would protect species, reduce unrealistic logging levels, restrict off-road vehicle use and affect a multitude of issues that impact communities.

During the past eight years the budgets of the U.S. Forest Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have been slashed. Drastically lower budgets have reduced each of these agencies' ability to do their jobs as custodians and caretakers of our public lands. The agencies also

have been under the political control and influence of people whose sole aim has been to shift policy priorities and exploit our public resources for the benefit of large corporate interests. Reduced budgets and political pressure to eliminate long-standing protections for fish and wildlife habitats have led these agencies to do less analysis of their actions and thereby raise the potential for causing harm to the environment. In many cases these policies have violated the law and built resentment and conflict in affected communities across the country.

A perfect example of the current administration's excessive influence over these agencies is BLM's recent ramped-up logging proposal for their Western Oregon Forest Plan Revision (WOPR).

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**New rules and regulations being put into force by the out-going administration are reducing environmental protections, enforcement of our environmental laws and public participation opportunities.**

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Thousands of people, including a coalition of hunting and fishing groups, environmental groups, newspaper editors, congressional representatives and other state and federal agencies, have criticized the WOPR for attempting to roll back the protections of BLM's existing forest plan.

#### More Worries

Recently a team of federal scientists created to advise the BLM concluded that the WOPR probably overestimates the habitat that will be left for fish and wildlife and underestimates the environmental impacts. The BLM and the Bush administration have exhibited no credibility on environmental issues, especially given that their flawed WOPR began as a result of an out-of-court "sweetheart deal" settlement with the timber industry.

Isn't it time our elected representatives, public land management agencies and the public find a way to foster a new conservation ethic—one that does not propose plan revisions or timber sales that are politically motivated and unrealistic in their environmental impacts? The science has become undeniable: environmental problems are having serious impacts on our public lands and communities. Let's hope we can elect a new administration that is not so willing to exploit our natural resources or disobey our environmental laws. That will give us a lot less to worry about.

If you think you have more to worry about than I do, let me know.

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988

## Open Invitation to Home Schoolers

■ Have you ever wondered what your local public schools offer you?

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■ Did you know that our libraries and computers are available for you to enhance your homeschool experience?

■ Did you know that we are also looking for your view and input as to how we can better serve you? We also invite you to attend our Site Council Meetings.

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**Applegate: 846-6372**

**Principal: Stephanie Hart**

**Williams: 846-7224**

**Principal: Michelle Sesock**

■ Applegate and Williams Schools invite you to connect with your community and share information.

*Without your help we still will have a school, but it's not nearly as complete as it could be with the added energy that a few more people could bring to the effort.*

*If you want to get involved but don't know how, start with a call to your public school.*

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with photographer/author George Wuerthner Thrillcraft

**The Environmental Consequences of Motorized Recreation**

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For more info, call KS Wild at 541-488-5789 or visit [www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org)

# Mac & Cheese

BY MIKE HIGGINS

A while ago I made a macaroni and cheese casserole. Karen usually does this dish and all I usually do is taste and add some seasonings at critical points. This time I got to do it all. That's because I read an article in the *New York Times* on "Mac & Cheese" (making me an instant expert!), and I was challenged and inspired to go where I have never been.

The *Times* article cited a 20-year-old book by John Thorne: "A good dish of macaroni and cheese is hard to find these days. The recipes in most cookbooks are not to be trusted . . . usually it is their vexatious infatuation with white sauce, a noxious paste of flour-thickened milk, for this dish flavored with a tiny grating of cheese. Contrary to popular belief, this is not macaroni and cheese, but macaroni with cheese sauce. It is awful stuff and every cookbook in which it appears should be thrown out the window."

"Starting at about the turn of the 20th century, there was a huge fashion for white sauce in America—chafing-dish stuff like chicken à la king or creamed onions," Thorne said. "They were cheap and seemed elegant, and their legacy is that people choose 'creamy' over everything else. But I maintain that macaroni and cheese should be primarily cheesy." Mr. Thorne's recipe is a step in the right direction—it combines a whole pound of cheddar cheese with half a pound of macaroni.

More from the *Times*: Marlena Spieler, author of a forthcoming book, "Macaroni and Cheese" (*Chronicle*), agreed that most recipes simply do not have enough cheese. "I believe in making a cheese sauce and also using shredded cheese," she said.

But Spieler refuses to forgo white sauce altogether. "You need a little goo to keep the pasta and cheese together," she said. Having made a global study of the subject, she ticked off a list of alternative binders: mascarpone, crème fraîche, eggs, heavy cream, egg yolks, cottage cheese, butter and evaporated milk, which she deems a little too sweet but "delightfully trashy."

I am fortunate to have a sinfully sufficient supply of cheese. Some cheddar types available for my mac & cheese include: Sonoma Bear Flag brand aged Dry Jack; Cabot Vermont Extra Sharp (white) Cheddar; Bandon's Full Cream Extra Sharp (white) Cheddar (Tillamook, Oregon); Joseph Farms Extra Sharp Black Label Premium Cheddar Cheese, aged over three years (California); Tillamook Vintage White Extra Sharp Cheddar Cheese, aged over two years (Tillamook, Oregon); and Tillamook Special Reserve Extra Sharp Natural Cheddar Cheese, aged over 15 months (Tillamook, Oregon).

For a salty bite, I have some Cello brand Pecorino Romano, aged over nine months (Italy). For a mellow richness, I could include some aged Stella Asiago (Wisconsin).

I also have something called "Kerrygold brand 100% natural," a cheddar-like cheese from Ireland that is rich but mellow. The package indicates "Aged Cheese with a Distinctive Taste and a Natural Hint of Sweetness." I think the suggestion of sweetness comes

from its rather low acidity. I will buy more of this pale golden cheese from Costco. (Support the tribe.)

The *Times* article goes on to mention a peppery, Caribbean style "macaroni pie" that has its roots back to times when genuine cheddars were brought in by boat from England, Australia, and New Zealand. I always add some cayenne to the béchamel sauce.

Béchamel sauce was presumably invented by Louis de Béchamel, Marquis of Nointel, Grand Chamberlain of King Louis XIV. Except for the addition of nutmeg, this white sauce must have been around forever.

Julia Moskin, who wrote the article, tells how surprised she was by a recipe that called for dry, uncooked elbow macaroni. As the dish baked, the pasta cooked up well and absorbed lots of flavor. That's a brave new way, but I decided to just shorten the cooking time on the pasta. Moskin advises, "When in doubt, add more cheese."

Since I have some really flavorful chunks (what's the difference between hunk and chunk?) of ham, left over from a braised shank of *Gusto's Brand* ham, I buried some pieces in the casserole. That's a legal variation.

As it came out of the oven, my mac & cheese was golden brown and crusty on top, dangerously bubbling and hot, and intensely cheesy and creamy throughout. And I ate the experiment. And it was good!

After much pondering, I made the béchamel sauce (including nutmeg and cayenne) with heavy cream and half-and-half, loaded with three types of cheese: Tillamook Special Reserve Extra Sharp Natural Cheddar Cheese, Cabot Vermont Extra Sharp (white) Cheddar, and my last hunk of *Dubliner*.

I chickened out on using uncooked elbow macaroni, but did way undercook it. I also used less béchamel sauce, but the load of cheese melted and made it plenty moist when I baked it at 375 degrees. After about 35 minutes, I pulled it out and topped it with more Tillamook for extra color, and put it back in for five minutes.

Karen said it was too dry, but she liked the flavor and the crispy pasta. It was not as creamy as hers, but did have nicely browned and crunchy pasta. And lots of flavor, what with the *Gusto* ham chunks buried below the surface. I thought it was the best-ever mac & cheese.

The swelling, undercooked pasta may have absorbed some of the liquid and allowed the top to get properly crispy. Also, I used a large ceramic baking dish rather than a deep *Corning Ware* type so there was lots of surface to get golden brown. And I used convection for at least 15 minutes.

Before deciding how to proceed, I checked out the Betty Crocker recipe. The inclusion of a little mustard and *Worcestershire* is traditional, but that would not make sense with a true béchamel sauce with nutmeg. More significant is Betty's wimpy ratio of two cups milk to two cups cheese. Betty works for General Mills, which don't do cheese. (Yoplait yogurt is not cheese.)

Betty bakes hers at 350 degrees for

only 20 to 25 minutes "or until bubbly," not likely to create the type of crust I prefer.

The food business fascinates me. Most of the brands we see in supermarkets are owned by oligopolies like General Mills, Nestlé, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Kraft, Unilever, Vargil, Tyson, ConAgra, etc. Sometimes they get together and fix prices (ADM) or otherwise rig the market. Generally, they are very ingenious and always looking for new ways and new places to sell products.

General Mills is now the world's No. 5 food company, and No. 3 in the United States with gross annual revenues of \$11.1 billion. General Mills recently put Betty Crocker to work on a book for Hispanics in the U.S. called "Cocina Betty Crocker: Favorite American Recipes in Spanish and English." In that book, next to Betty's instructions for Macaroni and Cheese, are directions for *Macarrones con Queso*. Can you imagine that?

General Mills owns Old El Paso brand, and that website also features a "Mexican Macaroni and Cheese" dish, which calls for radiatore pasta (which is not macaroni!), red bell pepper, olives, and a can of Old El Paso chopped green chilies. (Betty suggested using American cheese.)

The food business is complicated. General Mills owns Haagen-Dazs. But sales of Haagen-Dazs are managed in the U.S. by Dreyer's, which is owned (majority interest) by Nestlé.

Dreyer's is the No. 1 ice cream manufacturer in the U.S. Following a merger with the local ice cream interests of food giant Nestlé in 2002, Dreyer's now manages Dreyer's and Edy's, and super-premium Starbucks ice cream and Haagen-Dazs. Of course, Haagen-Dazs is not really Scandinavian, but a name thought up by its creator, Reuben Martus.

Nestlé is the world's biggest food manufacturer, with well over 500 factories in 85 countries, and a portfolio that ranges from baby foods to pet care, from chocolate to mineral water. It grosses \$33.8 billion annually in the U.S., and \$81.6 worldwide.

ADM is listed as No. 2 in the world, with \$36.2 billion in food sales. ADM owns brands like *Armour*, *Cooks*, *Butterball*, *Libby's*, *Hunts*, *Wesson*, and dozens more. The entire company does about \$500 billion per year, including food products, animal feeds, and industrial products (gasohol, non-petroleum oils, solvents and emulsifiers, plastics, and starches). They are organized so that many ADM facilities produce products in all three sectors using the same raw ingredients.

## ADM's Food products:

**Acidulants**—Lactic acid and citric acid are used for a wide range of food products for adjusting acid balance and killing bacteria.

**Baking aids**—For industrial bakers, ADM provides sweeteners, baking powder, yeast foods, dough conditioners, dry honey and molasses, and other baking products.

**Cocoa**—ADM is the largest cocoa processor in the world (beating out Cargill).

**Emulsifiers and stabilizers**—lecithin, starches, and xanthan gum, which are used by food manufacturers to adjust texture and freshness.

**Flour**—Custom-milled flours for manufacturing breads, cakes, tortilla, etc. ADM is the No. 1 milling company in the U.S.

**Nutritional additives**—Vitamin E, choline, soy dietary supplements (isoflavones), and soluble fiber.

**Oils and fats**—ADM is the No. 1 cooking oil company in the world, and makes shortening and margarine.

**Protein**—Soy and wheat proteins, which are added to a number of food products used in meat substitutes, soy milk, protein bars, and other foods.

**Sweeteners**—Corn syrups, maltodextrin, dextrose, fructose, and others used in food manufacturing (No. 1 over Cargill).

ConAgra is the No. 2 U.S. food company \$14.5 billion in annual revenue, and No. 4 in the world. The company does a worldwide total of \$20 billion annually, much of it raw food materials (grain products), cattle and hog feed, and poultry. ConAgra also owns 48% of Swift & Co. ConAgra is the largest U.S. supplier to food services and restaurants.

ADM is subsidized by a great deal of corporate welfare. James Bovard of the Cato Institute wrote about it: "The Archer Daniels Midland Corporation (ADM) has been the most prominent recipient of corporate welfare in recent U.S. history. ADM and its chairman Dwayne Andreas have lavishly fertilized both political parties with millions of dollars in handouts and, in return, have reaped billion-dollar windfalls from taxpayers and consumers. Thanks to federal protection of the domestic sugar industry, ethanol subsidies, subsidized grain exports, and various other programs, ADM has cost the American economy billions of dollars since 1980 and has indirectly cost Americans tens of billions of dollars in higher prices and higher taxes over that same period. At least 43 percent of ADM's annual profits are from products heavily subsidized or protected by the American government. Moreover, every \$1 of profits earned by ADM's corn sweetener operation costs consumers \$10, and every \$1 of profits earned by its ethanol operation costs taxpayers \$30." For Bovard's entire article, see <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa-241.html>.

In 1997 General Mills entered into a joint venture in China with Want Want Holdings, Ltd., a producer of snacks and beverages. Their brands are Hot Kid and Want Want. General Mills bought Pillsbury in 2001, which had owned Wanchai Ferry noodles and wantons. The key product in China was the Wanchai Ferry refrigerated dumpling (think Pillsbury biscuits).

General Mills now has about 3,600 employees in China and runs 50 Haagen-Dazs cafes, where richer Chinese spend \$9 for a pint of ice cream.

Wot's it all mean? Betty Crocker pushes her mac & cheese recipe because it uses one-quarter cup of Gold Medal flour. She promotes her Mexican Macaroni and Cheese (no flour) because it uses a small can of Old El Paso green chilies. What will Betty do to sell mac & cheese in China?

I'm going to work on a mac & cheese recipe using Wanchai Ferry dumplings, white sauce using Gold Medal Flour, topped with Want Want rice crackers y queso. Yum yum!

Mike Higgins • 541-899-7553



Above: Jamie Richardson, All-State, first team All-Conference, and defensive first team. (Photo by HVHS staff.)

Left: HVHS girls' basketball played their hearts out in their first-ever State championship final game, losing to Sutherlin 28-26. (Photo by Life Touch.)

Below: Mike Schaefer, girls' Coach of the Year. (Photo by HVHS staff.)



## HVHS basketball teams top Skyline conference

BY BARBARA HOLIDAY

For the first time in Hidden Valley High School's (HVHS) history, not one but *two* teams were crowned Skyline Champions in the same sport. Both the girls' and the boys' basketball teams knocked all competitors out of the court.

In State competition—even with the state's best scoring defense—the girls' team lost the final game against Sutherlin by just two points. The boys' team, winners of the State title in 2005-06, made it to the third round before being eliminated by Brookings.

Here are the outstanding players named to special teams:

### Girls Basketball

Jamie Richardson was named to the All-State team. Named to the All-Conference teams were: Jamie Richardson, Laura Silva and Megan Swanson, first team; Ashley Seal, second team; Edwards and Haley Fikso, honorable mention; and Jamie Richardson and Ashley Seal, All Defense.

### Boys' Basketball

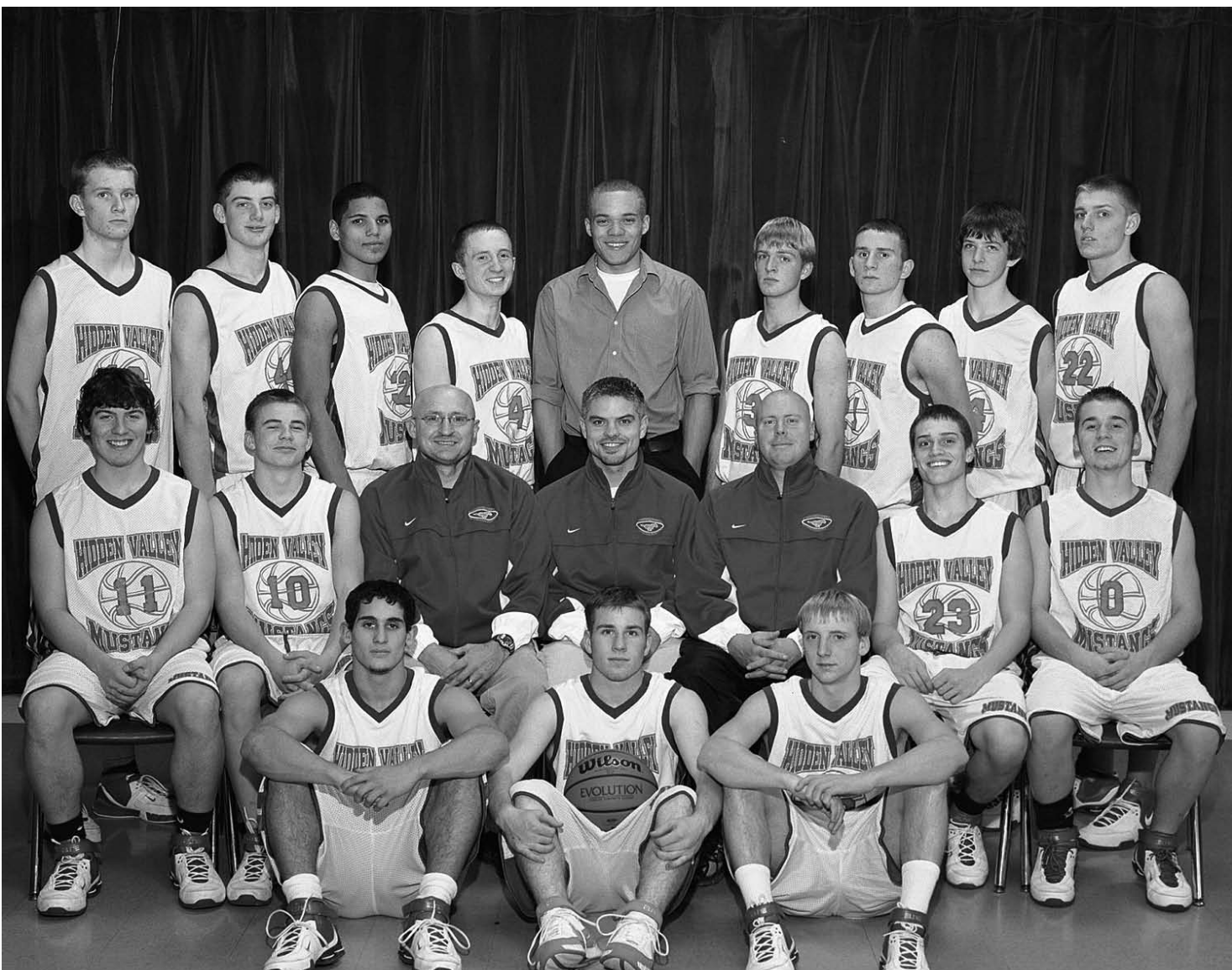
Saxon Gotfried, All-State honorable mention, first team All-Conference and first team Defense; Kyle Bleser, second team All-Conference; Earl Crawford and Jake Scott, All-Conference honorable mention.

In another coup, both the girls' coach, Mike Schaefer, and boys' coach, Robert Jackson, were recognized as Coaches of the Year.

(This is Robert Jackson's second nod this year; he also was Coach of the Year for volleyball.)

Hidden Valley appears to be unstoppable in all sports at all levels. Please continue to support this high school's extraordinary athletic teams (and let's somehow get them some "real" restrooms at the field—they deserve it!).

Barbara Holiday  
541-218-8606



Above: Saxon Gotfried, All-State honorable mention, All-Conference first team and defensive first team. (Photo by HVHS staff.)

Left: HVHS boys' basketball, the reigning Skyline Conference champs, fought hard in State but fell to Brookings in Round 3. Photo by Life Touch.)

Below: Robert Jackson, boys' Coach of the Year. (Photo by HVHS staff.)



*Maintaining Defensible Space***Is your defensible space alarm clock ringing?**

BY SANDY SHAFFER



**W**hen the Applegate Fire Plan was written in 2002, developing “defensible space” was one of our primary objectives. Many residents contacted Fire District #9 or the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) for a home inspection and thinned out vegetation within 100 feet of their homes to make them more fire-safe in 2002 and 2003. When did you do *your* work? Is *your* defensible space alarm clock ringing? Depending upon what type of vegetation you have growing around your home, it may be time to do some maintenance work right now, before this summer’s Fire Season!

**For new residents:** Creating defensible space consists of thinning out vegetation that can carry fire or burning embers to your home. This usually is outward at least 100 feet from the house, depending upon slope and vegetation. Things we usually look at include:

- ladder fuels (that can allow surface fire to move up into tree crowns)
- tree crown spacing (so that a fire doesn’t spread from tree to tree as quickly)
- continuous fuels (that lead right up to your home’s siding, outbuildings, decking, vehicles and other hazards such as propane tanks)
- access and egress (thinned vegetation along your driveway can make a wider fuel break and allow fire vehicles to get to your home)
- fuels in contact with the home (trees overhanging the roofline, near a chimney, underneath windows)
- home-building materials and condition

**Every homesite is different, so it is important that you have your local fire district or someone from the ODF come out and assess your home’s defensible space needs!** (You also can find more information on *Defensible Space and the Home Ignition Zone* at <http://rvjpc.com> or <http://firewise.org>.)

**Defensible space maintenance:**

Initial thinning around your home can be a *big* task, but once you’ve done this, it doesn’t take more than a few hours of work each spring to maintain your defensible space! (Isn’t that a small price to pay for a more fire-safe home?) If you’ve been doing annual maintenance, you know. Raking fall leaves, spring and early summer mowing, and some light pruning might be all you need. But if you’ve let things go a few years, here are some tips and a step-by-step way to simplify the process.

**Tip:** Get to know the characteristics of your native trees. Most have favored aspects; for example, fir trees like a cooler northern exposure, while oaks love the sunny south. What direction does *your* homesite face?

Oaks, madrone, alder and big-leaf maple will resprout for years after cutting, so you continually have to cut down the new shoots, which have become ladder fuels. (This is something that you can use as a management tool—knowing that you can have a healthy young tree sprout up in a few years! [*photo 1*]). However, conifers (fir, pine and cedar) do not resprout when cut. And did you know that the hardwoods have been known to slow down a crown fire because they hold moisture in their leaves and have fewer oils than conifers? So having a mixed-variety forest is a *good* thing.

**Tip:** Ladder fuels can be tough to figure out (*photo 2*), but knowing a little about how and why plants burn can help. A general rule of thumb is that flames from plant materials could be about three times the height of the plant. So, six-inch tall grass could produce up to 18-inch tall flames, and a three-foot shrub could throw flames nine feet into the air!

**Tip:** Use fire-resistant plants in your landscaping—they don’t readily ignite from a flame or embers, so won’t significantly contribute to the spread of fire near your house. The physical characteristics of a plant make them fire-resistant: moist supple leaves, little dead wood or needles within the plant, sap is water-like, not thick

and resinous. (For more information on fire-resistant plants, including flowers, land covers, shrubs and trees, go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/describes/> or <http://rvjpc.com>.)

**Tip:** Your home’s survivability during a wildfire could depend upon summer weather patterns! Do you know if afternoon prevailing winds affect your homesite or property? Find out, and then take more care in thinning outward from your home in that direction to try and decrease a potential fire’s spread.

**Tip:** Your access route could make the difference as to whether your home survives a wildfire. Once you’ve thinned per your fire inspector’s recommendations,

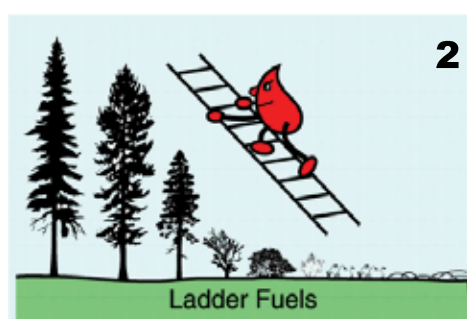


walk the driveway *each spring* looking for ladder fuels and branches that have begun to infringe on your access route’s fuel break, and trim them back. (*photo 3*). And clean up thick accumulations of dry leaves along the roadbed to prevent spot fires.

**Tip:** Do you have a reflective address sign at the street and at *every* split in your driveway? Reflective signs will show up at night or when visibility is low (*photo 4*). Make sure your signs are well-placed and visible! (This also could mean valuable minutes saved in a life-threatening emergency!) The first address sign is free from Fire District #9.

**Tip:** Maintaining your defensible space *isn’t* just about vegetation—it also includes general cleanup around your homesite, removing debris and trash, repairing damaged roofing, etc. It’s *easier to catch everything* if you follow a routine, looking at your property at several *scales* and *heights* rather than the front, side or back yards. An assessment system of *five simple steps* (or *zones*) has been developed by wildfire behavior experts to measure a home’s ignitability and fire preparedness, and I think they also work very well when considering what maintenance you need to do on your defensible space. Below I’ve listed the five zones and then applied things to look for within each one during an *annual maintenance check*. (Note: *this approach is not*

See DEFENSIBLE, page 13



The concept of “ladder fuels.”



**DEFENSIBLE**

FROM PAGE 12

for new homeowners or those who need to begin their defensible space evaluation! Again, you can find more information on Defensible Space and the five-step Home Ignition Zone at <http://ruffpc.com> or <http://firewise.org>.

**Five-Zone Approach to Assess Defensible Space Maintenance Needs**

1. Overall landscape and your home's relationship within this landscape
2. Chimney to eaves
3. Eaves to foundation
4. Foundation to immediate landscaped area
5. Immediate landscaped area out to the extent of your defensible space

**Zone 1: Overall landscape and your home's relationship within this landscape**

- The direction or aspect of your home can determine the type of vegetation and therefore how fast it regrows. Do you need to rethin your trees to maintain the original spacing of six to eight feet (average) between trees?
- Examine your driveway—your ingress/egress routes—for clearances, damaged or unhealthy trees. Look up! Remove leaners and trim overhanging limbs or new ladder fuels all along your driveway.
- Has there been any disease or mortality in your forest stands that you should remove? (Remember: no dead materials within the first 100 feet around your home!)
- Have you added an outbuilding, a fence line or expanded the deck recently? New improvements *push out* your defensible space/home ignition zone, so you'll need to thin and remove hazardous fuels in these areas.
- Have there been any changes on neighboring property (a new home built, a road cut, a timber harvest with piles of slash untreated) that could affect fire spread onto your own property? If so, try to mitigate them.

**Zone 2: Chimney to eaves**

- Look up—for tree limbs overhanging the roofline, or within 10 feet of your chimney and trim them back (*photo 5*).
- Are the roofs of all structures in good shape? Is it a fire-resistant material and sound with no shingles damaged or missing? If it's tile, are all openings covered with a fine wire mesh, so that embers, animals and leaves can't enter?
- Are your roofs clean of litter and debris? What about the gutters? Clean them all!

**Zone 3: Eaves to foundation**

- Attic, eave and soffit vents and crawl spaces: walk all around your structures checking to make sure they are securely covered with a fine wire mesh of one-quarter inch or less. Clean out litter or trash, and cut away all plant material.
- Check all window screens to make sure they are in good shape. Metal screens won't melt in the event of a wildfire.
- Vegetation underneath windows should be low enough that flames *cannot* reach to the sill. Use fire-resistant plants; trim or replace as needed.
- House or structure walls: in good shape, no damaged siding or holes, and no flammable materials stored against the walls. Firewood should be at least 30 feet from structures. Some green, healthy, fire-resistant plants against a home's siding actually can help deflect radiant heat from a wildfire's flames. But keep plants away from windows and other openings!
- Decks or balconies: what's underneath? No vegetation, weeds, litter, leaves or storage—they can all ignite from embers. Screen in the crawl space underneath with fine-mesh wire.
- Foundation lines are a common place for leaves and litter to accumulate. Know when your trees drop their leaves or needles (madrone in July; pine needles in August or September; and oak later in the fall) and keep them raked, especially during fire season!

**Zone 4: Foundation to immediate landscaped area**

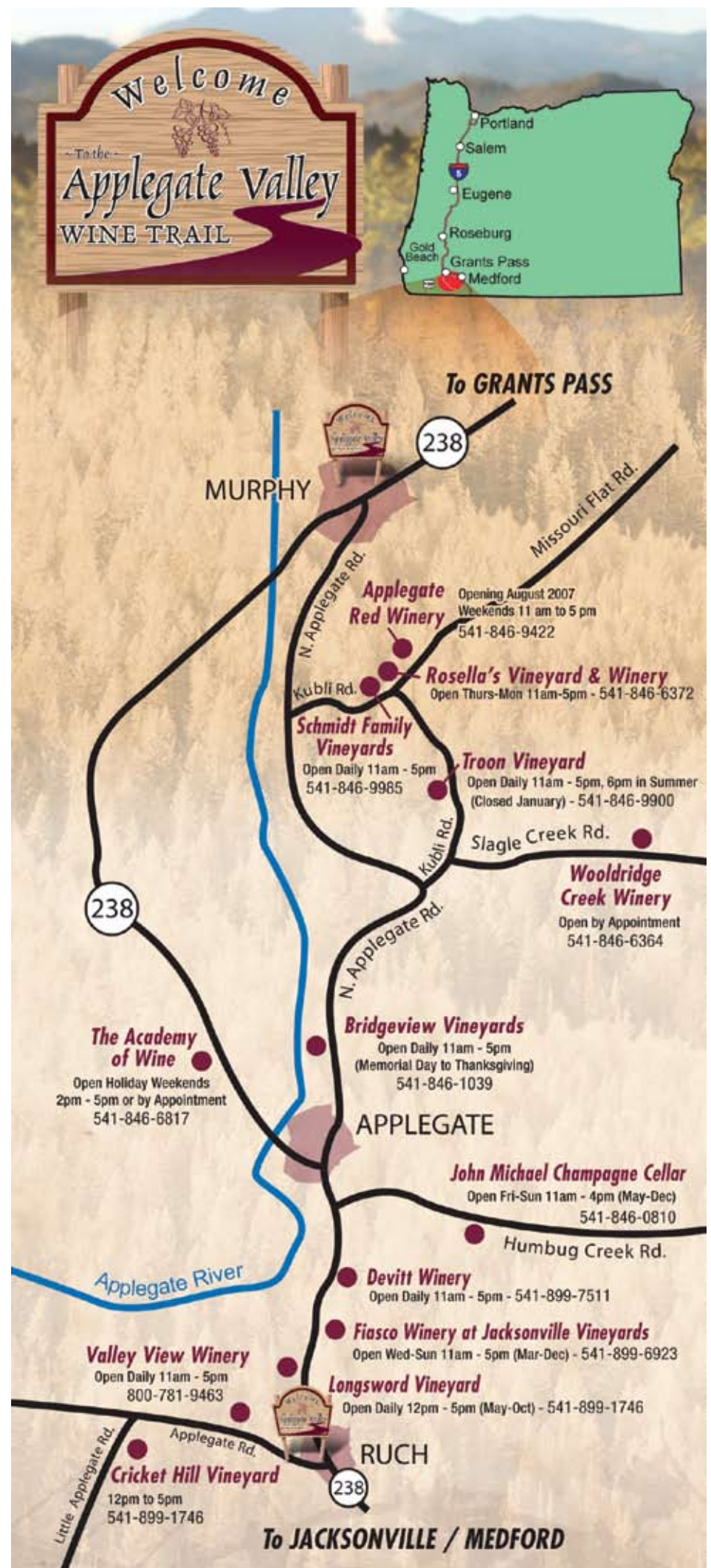
- Your yard: are you using fire-resistant plants? Coniferous shrubs such as juniper have high amounts of resin and dead plant materials in them, so are highly flammable. Replace them!
- Groundcovers: bark, chips, peat or mulch are all flammable. Keep them several feet away from the house foundation, and break up the chain of fuels by replacing some with rocks, pebbles or pavers.
- Vegetation around or under items such as propane tanks, power poles and lines, RVs and motor vehicles should be removed or trimmed down prior to Fire Season.
- Outbuildings: thin vegetation around them just like the main home and garage!

**Zone 5: Immediate landscaped area out to extent of your defensible space**

- Analyze this zone by looking for *continuous trails* of anything flammable that leads to your home. This could be a wooden fence that surrounds the yard and is attached to the wood siding of your house. It could be a pathway of old redwood bark that leads to the garden, or a row of juniper bushes lining the driveway all the way up to the garage door. It could also be a *vertical* chain of small shrubs planted underneath a fir tree whose crown is inches from your power line. Think flammable as you look around and up, find those chains, and break them up. And, take one last look at the spacing of the tops of your trees. Are they growing closer and closer together? Might be time to cut some firewood?

We hope this information helps you assess the condition of *your* defensible space, so that maintaining it each year becomes simpler and a springtime routine.

Sandy Shaffer • 541- 899-9541





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## BLM and Nature Conservancy offer interpretive hiking opportunities at Table Rocks

Wildflowers are beginning to show their color, vernal pools are buzzing with life, springtime is returning to the southern Oregon landscape. It is time once again for the annual Table Rocks guided hike season. From April 1 through June 6, the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and The Nature Conservancy are offering the public two separate interpretive hiking opportunities, one on weekdays and one on weekends.

### GROUP WEEKDAY HIKES

Various school and community groups have been guided by the Table Rocks Environmental Education Program to the tops of Upper and Lower Table Rocks for more than 20 years. Groups of 10 individuals or more of any age are welcome to sign up for these free, interpretive hikes. Participants enjoy spectacular views of the Rogue Valley and surrounding mountain ranges while learning about the unique natural and cultural history of the Table Rocks. Guides are available Tuesday through Friday. Hikes begin around 9:00 am and last about four hours. The schedule already is quite full, so please reserve a day as soon as possible. For more information visit our website: <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/tablerock/index.php>.

### WEEKEND SPRING HIKE SERIES

The Nature Conservancy and the BLM are offering their annual series of guided, educational walks on the Table Rocks in April and May. This popular weekend hike series promises a spectacular view of the valley, a natural wildflower display, and expert interpretation from specialists on the natural and cultural history of the area. Anyone from the community is welcome to sign up. There is no fee to participate, but reservations are required. To reserve a space on a hike, call the BLM Medford District Office at 541-618-2200. Participation is limited to 30 individuals per hike unless otherwise noted. The weekend hike schedule can be viewed on the BLM's Table Rocks website and The Nature Conservancy website: <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/tablerock/index.php> and <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/oregon/preserves/>.

Participants in both the weekday and weekend hikes should dress for the weather and bring a lunch and something to drink. There is no drinking water at either Upper or Lower Table Rocks. Restrooms are available at both trailheads. To help protect this special place and its inhabitants, dogs are not allowed on the trail. The hikes range from three to five miles roundtrip along a moderate grade trail, and last three to five hours.

### 2008 TABLE ROCKS WEEKEND HIKE SEASON SPRING SCHEDULE

**Saturday, May 3—10:00 am**

**LOWER TABLE ROCK—Legacy of a Landmark**

Jeff Lalande, archaeologist and historian for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, will discuss the role of the Table Rocks in the culture and legends of the Takelma Indians, as well as some history of the Table Rock area during the "Indian Wars" of the 1850s.

**Sunday, May 4—10:00 am**

**UPPER TABLE ROCK—Layers of Time**

Bill Elliott, assistant professor of geology at Southern Oregon University, will describe the formation of the Table Rocks and unique geological features observed along a hike to the wildflower-covered top of this ancient lava flow.

**Saturday, May 10—10:00 am**

**UPPER TABLE ROCK—Wonderful Wildlife**

Come learn about life in the wild with Jeff Stephens, wildlife biologist for the BLM, on a hike investigating the biology and ecology of animals found on and around the Table Rocks.

**Sunday, May 11—10:00 am (Mother's Day)**

**LOWER TABLE ROCK—Family Hike**

Join Greta Gardiner, a BLM environmental interpreter, on a family hike to the top of the rock! This is a general information hike suitable for all ages. Topics will include plant and flower identification and the cultural history of the area. Bring water, your lunch, and your curiosity!

**Saturday, May 17—10:00 am**

**LOWER TABLE ROCK—Living with "Titanakh"**

Come discover the unique cultural history, ethnobotany, and general ecology of the Table Rocks with BLM naturalist Leah Schrodt.

**Sunday, May 18—10:00 am**

**UPPER TABLE ROCK—Nature Sketching**

Join illustrator and naturalist Irene Brady on a nature-sketching trip. Get advice from this skilled professional as you recreate the beauty of the Table Rocks. Bring a camera if you wish. If it rains, we'll skip the sketching to explore and enjoy Table Rocks natural history. Bring your sketchpad, drawing tools, waterproof sifter, sack lunch and water bottle. For more information about Irene, see [www.natureworkspress.com](http://www.natureworkspress.com). Participation will be limited to 12 individuals.

Contact: Leah Schrodt, Project Coordinator, 541-618-2468.



Woodwaste that Biomass One can turn into energy. (Photo by Biomass One.)

## Biomass survey coming this summer

BY TOM CARSTENS

By now you're probably aware of efforts underway to determine other ways, besides open burning, to dispose of our wood waste and slash in the Applegate. Some residents have indicated a strong interest in reducing the number of smoky days we experience in our valley. There is a useful alternative: conversion to electricity! All over the country, there are many locations where biomass waste is combusted efficiently to produce steam to turn turbines that power electrical generators. When burned in a biomass electrical generation plant, there is better than a 500-to-1 reduction in smoke emissions.

Biomass One has operated a 25-megawatt facility in White City since the 1980s. This plant produces enough energy to power around 20,000 homes, converting about 355,000 tons of waste annually. In February, the Rough and Ready Mill in Cave Junction started its own biomass electrical generation facility for the Illinois Valley. About half of the biomass is being donated by their neighbors. Woody biomass is already in use as fuel at more than 50 industrial sites across Oregon.

Someday this type of facility might be viable for our own valley. In the meantime, the Applegate Biomass Study Group (ABSG) would like to know if any of you would be interested in hauling some or all of your slash to a drop-off point instead of burning it. Biomass One has indicated that, if there's enough interest, they would haul it away from a common drop-off point in the Applegate.

ABSG has made arrangements with Southern Oregon University to conduct a survey of valley residents to determine the degree to which we'd be willing to change the way we dispose of our wood waste. About 700 Applegate Valley residences will be selected randomly to receive the mail-in survey form. This form will be quick and easy to fill out. The forms will be mailed this summer and results of the survey published in the fall. Responses will be completely confidential. We're hoping that, if you happen to receive a survey, you'll take a few minutes to fill it out and mail it back to SOU in a prepaid envelope. How you feel about this is important to ensure that any future money is well spent.

I'll provide you with more details of this project as we get going. Thanks!

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

## Solar homes and businesses wanted for tour

BY TOM CARSTENS

For several years, the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) has promoted a nationwide series of solar tours featuring solar-powered homes and businesses. The idea is to spur interest and to educate folks in this up-and-coming energy market. Oregon Solar sponsors this tour for our state. The tour is conducted in October of every year. The city of Ashland has held a successful tour for several years now. Last year, Shady Cove, Phoenix, Talent, and upper Rogue residents also had their own tours.

Since we have quite a few solar homes and businesses in the Applegate Valley now, the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) would like to sponsor a similar tour in the Applegate Valley. Many of you already have shown an interest in learning more about this.

Here's the idea: On one Saturday next October, we'll have an open-house type tour that will feature several of the solar systems in the valley. Owners will make themselves available for a few hours to explain their systems, tax and rebate incentives, and how they got started. A map showing the locations of volunteer participants will be prepared. Some of us participated in a similar tour a couple of years ago, which generated a lot of interest and some new solar homes.

If you're a solar system owner and would like to help explain your setup to others thinking of doing the same thing, I'd like to hear from you. Please give me a call so I can start coordinating with you. Those of us who have solar understand how great it works—let's spread the word about small electric bills!

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## Tall Tales from the Editor

# Twitching or Praise the Lord

I had just finished watching the last DVD of the first season of HBO's "Deadwood" when I realized I was hooked on yet another soap opera. At that point our border collie, Tuesday, stood up on the foot of the bed and started gagging. "No, no, no, Tuesday, let's go outside. Come on, hurry." But she didn't listen to me. Women rarely do. She proceeded to regurgitate some god-awful, dreadful, smelly, watery substance that had me gagging and running to the bathroom. After I recovered, I stripped the bed before the mattress was tattooed with yet another stain.

Poor little Tuesday had more than a minor tummyache. Her eyes were dilated, she held her head up so that her nose was pointing towards the ceiling, her nose was dry but runny, her body was cold to the touch, and she had developed a dreadful body twitch. Oh my god, help!! My bride and private nurse, Sioux, was out of town. I was on my own.

I was afraid that since it was 11:00 pm, our vet wouldn't be available. I was very relieved after I called the vet and she said, "Bring her in." All I needed now was a police escort with flashing red lights and screaming sirens for my midnight emergency room vet run. With county budget cuts, I figured that wasn't going to happen!

I was telling Tuesday, "Everything will be okay, baby" as the vet drew blood and ran some tests that showed her white blood cells and t-cell counts had bottomed out. I was told that Tuesday needed to stay at the vet's office, where they immediately started her on a couple of antibiotics. They would re-run the blood test in the morning and let me know her prognosis. I told Tuesday, "I'll come get you tomorrow. You'll be fine, don't worry." As she stood there twitching, she sure didn't have a look of "I'll be fine." The next morning, though, she was fine. We never did figure out what the problem was, but Tuesday was back playing ball without a twitch.



Little Ms. Tuesday after her speedy recovery.

On the drive home from the vet on that traumatic evening, I feared the worst. It was strange how Tuesday's twitching brought back memories of another "twitching" event. Boyd Uselton and I had been at the Waffle House in Plainfield, Indiana, where, over a pot of coffee, we were once again plotting our future. Out of the blue, I got up and boldly walked to the other side of the restaurant where I introduced myself to a table full of exquisite girls. The next thing I knew I had committed our band to

**To bail me out, I wooed Carl "The Moose" Allen on guitar and Mardy "The Chick Slayer" Wilson on drums. Their response was "You did what, Rogers?! You are more brain dead than we thought!"**

play the following Sunday at the girls' Pentecostal church in Indianapolis. This happened right after the folks at the table next to the girls introduced themselves as the "exquisite ones" church elders. It is amazing what one will do for a hopeful date!

When I returned to our table, Boyd asked, "Well, how did you make out?" When I told him what I had done, he pointed out that we didn't even have a band. Boyd and I were a duo at that time called "Roadside Table." We really weren't even a duo—Boyd would play a set and then I would play a set. To bail us out I now had to convince a couple of Avon, Indiana, dudes that Boyd and I had been bandmates with the fabled band called "The Hand Me Downs." This was a band that had conquered Indiana's rural world of rock and roll. These "trendsetting" places included Lake Bean Blossom, Cuba and Gnawbone, Indiana. Yes, we had been the reigning kings in our minds!

To save myself, I wooed Carl "The Moose" Allen on guitar and Mardy "The Chick Slayer" Wilson on drums. Their response was "You did what, Rogers?! You are more brain dead than we thought!" When I pointed out that we would only have to play three songs, they reluctantly came on board. "Rogers, you owe us big time now." I am still

working that one off. We worked up The Byrds song, "Jesus is Just Alright" (later recorded by the Doobie Brothers), a song Boyd and I wrote called "Lord I'm So Weary" (about a guy on death row), and reworked the Spencer Davis Group song from "Gimme Some Loving" to "Gimme Some Jesus." Come show time we were all a little nervous. None of us had ever been in a Pentecostal church before, let alone played Pentecostal rock and roll.

I was told by one of the church elders that there would be a hymn followed by a prayer. He would then introduce us. I was to go to the pulpit and give my sermon. He told me he was thrilled that a young man such as myself was walking in the light. I had failed to mention the sermon part of our show to my bandmates. They all screamed in unison, "You're doing what?"

After our introduction I found myself standing at the pulpit with a completely blank mind. Although that was no different from normal for me, I suddenly blurted out, "And now Boyd Uselton will deliver the sermon that you have all been waiting to hear tonight." I walked back to my guitar. Boyd, whose frantic eyes looked like a wild beast caught in high-beam headlights with no place to run, slowly walked up to the pulpit to a congregational chorus of "Praise the Lord." He spoke about five words and passed out cold, falling down from the pulpit. He lay there under the cross, twitching away. The congregation erupted with cheers of "Hallelujah" and "Sweet Jesus." People then began running up to Boyd, placing hands upon him, looking to the heavens with a vociferous "Praise Jesus!" There also were people running around the sanctuary speaking in tongues, a new language for me.

Carl was found hiding behind his guitar amp, tightly squeezing his beloved Rickenbacker 12-string guitar as if the end were near. Today he is a very religious man. Mardy sat paralyzed behind his drum set fortress. As for me, I wondered, as Boyd slowly stirred and came around, might he be ticked off? But he passed out again, continuing on with his twitching.

There are a great many other things that can cause one to develop an uncontrollable or involuntary twitch such as a tax audit, flashing red lights in your rearview mirror, a court subpoena, or finding out your job has just moved offshore. Then there's the eviction notice from the county that might be posted on your front door to make room for yet another tasteless, cheesy, foreign-owned strip mall. Of



Mardy "The Chick Slayer" Wilson, J.D. Rogers and Boyd Uselton pictured 30-plus years after playing at the Pentecostal church.

course we all know that in Oregon the country really owns your home anyhow. Just try not paying your property taxes and see what happens. You might have developed your twitch after receiving a scorpion sting, a hornet bite or a kiss from a "no-see-um" gnat. Or after the wall street bankers rewrote the bankruptcy laws for everyone but themselves, followed by new legislation that will bail themselves out of the subprime lending fiasco that they created. Oh yes, that bailout will be with our tax dollars. Maybe your twitch started about the time you realized how under-reported the inflation rate really is in America. Maybe your twitch started when you figured out that our security has been sold to China. This sellout has allowed the moneychangers to build themselves a bigger Wall Street money vault.

**There are a great many other things that can cause one to develop an uncontrollable or involuntary twitch such as a tax audit, flashing red lights in your rearview mirror, a court subpoena, or finding out your job has just moved offshore.**

Just recently it was me who developed a sudden twitch—after reading the quote below. I realized how close to reality these words currently echo. This has happened because we have let it!

*"I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency . . . the banks and corporations that will grow up around them will deprive the people of their property until their children wake up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered. The issuing power should be taken from the banks and restored to the people, to whom it properly belongs."*

~ Thomas Jefferson, letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, Albert Galatin (1802)



The Editor, J.D. Rogers  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinion Pieces and Letters to the Editor represent the opinion of the author, not that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper. We are a community-based newspaper that receives diverse opinions on different topics. Letters should be no longer than 450 words, and may be edited for grammar and length. Opinion Pieces should be no longer than 600 words. All Letters and Opinion Pieces must be signed, with a full street address or P.O. Box and phone number. Individual Letters may or may not be published in consecutive issues.

Address Opinion Pieces and Letters to the Editor to:  
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### All-night floodlights

Dear Editor:

The power went off one night in the Applegate area. We sat with candlelight wondering what we could do for entertainment.

The suggestion was to dust off the big ten-inch scope and take advantage of the complete darkness without conflicting floodlights.

Imagine our disappointment when it was discovered there was a complete cloud cover.

There was a time we could really appreciate the country atmosphere without all-night floodlights. My suggestion would be to utilize motion-activating lighting. It would be most effective controlling thievery, plus it would save energy.

Please will someone point out the Milky Way for me?

Jack Van Syoc, Applegate

## OPINION

### Roles and responsibilities in the Wildland Urban Interface

BY SANDY SHAFFER

In early March I was in Reno for a three-day conference of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. The focus of this conference was the Wildland Urban Interface or WUI, and it truly was a national and international conference.

One topic kept coming up over and over again in various contexts, and it's something that might directly affect everyone in the Applegate. You may have heard of the term before: Appropriate Management Response or AMR.

A few weeks ago our own Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest asked for comments from the public about this concept. Per the Forest Service, AMR "encompasses a range of possible responses to unplanned fires, from monitoring (watching the fire burn to ensure objectives are being met) to full suppression (putting the fire out)." They want to produce an environmental assessment for the forest this coming May. But if you think that AMR would affect only the wilderness areas, read on for a surprise.

In Reno, I listened to at least six talks by six different people on employing AMR in more of our nation's wildfires. To me, part of the reasoning seems to be to shift some of the fire suppression costs from the U.S. Forest Service to other entities, mainly state and local. But there are a host of other concerns that completely muddle up the concept. One thing that resonated with me in all this mud was that the private landowner is not impervious to this issue. We are in the middle of it, even if we don't live next to a wilderness area.

Many agree that not every wildfire in the wilderness or roadless areas needs to be fully suppressed immediately. (Fire is a natural process in our forests, but a century of fire suppression has caused significant levels of fuels buildup.) So, how long do you keep watch over a wildfire, making sure it doesn't destroy valuable resources or private land? And who defines "valuable resources"? Do state or local firefighters stand ready for weeks or months on end while the feds watch a wildfire creep slowly toward the WUI? If so, who pays the bills to wait? Could private lands be considered fuel breaks by federal firefighters? Is point-protection around a home adequate for private property? These are all questions that were raised during this conference.

However, one BIG issue thrown onto the discussion table caught my attention—that of the roles and responsibilities within the WUI (where you and I live). Who should be responsible for what? What I read between the lines of this oft-asked question is: how much should private landowners and residents be held accountable to care for their lands—all of their acres, not just a defensible space? Because we're all (federal, state, local and private) land managers of a sort, or at least we should be. So, in our checkerboard ownership patterns of southwest Oregon's forests, how might the liability for wildfire get divvied up?

Just something to think about as you go about preparing your rural property for this summer's fire season. And keep reading the newspapers because one never knows when one of those seemingly inconsequential articles just might affect us some day soon.

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**OPINION**

**Krouse/Hill river mining again?**

BY STEVE ROUSE

Congratulations to the Applegate community for your support in denying the proposed river mines.

But are the Krouse/Hill mines back in the news again?

To recap, 700 letters from the community voicing their opposition to these mines resulted in denial by Jackson County. The arguments presented by the community were so convincing that Copeland determined that appeals to the Land Use Board of Appeals would be unsuccessful. It became evident during the appeal hearing that North Applegate Road is substandard by today's requirements. It would be too dangerous to be used as a haul route for the Krouse mine. The transportation application was denied.

Jackson County initially approved both floodplain mining applications as submitted. During the appeal, SAVE experts studied the floodplain applications and discovered they did not comply with federal standards. The Copeland studies claimed they "consulted" with the feds and were given permission to modify the requirements. SAVE experts contacted these federal agencies and discovered this was not true. Copeland experts had used reduced peak river flows that understated the impacts of erosion and flooding on adjacent properties from the proposed mining operations. When given the opportunity to rebut these inaccuracies, Copeland experts remained silent. This "modified" data could have threatened people and property if SAVE had not challenged these proposals. Floodplain applications were denied.

So what is going on now?

Copeland is continuing to pursue State mining permits for both Hill and Krouse at the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). Right now Jackson County is determining John Hill's vested rights under Measure 37. If vesting is granted, this may allow mining outside the floodplain on the Hill property. On March 13 they applied to build a bridge across the Applegate River on the Krouse property. This would provide a way to transport gravel and set the stage to reapply for another mining floodplain application.

Why does Copeland continue to pursue these river mines on land zoned EFU? This

land is the most profitable resource close to their processing plant. Copeland has been controlling the processing of gravel and then selling the public the final product as asphalt, gravel or concrete. Unfortunately, Copeland has not secured adequate resources. We encourage Copeland Companies to develop alternative resources. Bob Copeland has provided generous support to the community in the past. He presently finds himself in a difficult business situation in conflict with the interests of the Applegate community.

Why does SAVE continue to oppose the river mines? The Applegate River historically meanders across the floodplain in this area, creating unstable conditions for any development activity. Federal guidelines are designed to protect this environment from abuse and degradation. Previous river mines downstream have been captured by the river. River mines clearly are an improper development that experts concur could have a devastating and prolonged impact on fisheries and the riparian ecosystem. The current Hill mine proposal threatens similar consequences by excavating 19 feet below the existing floodplain. At the County hearing, the Krouse mine site was proven vulnerable to river channel migration and mine pit capture causing increased erosion and flooding.

How can you help?

- Share this information with friends.
- Send much-needed tax-deductible donations to fund experts supporting our opposition to river mines.
- Write letters of opposition to Jackson County Planning
- Join our email group for updates at SAVE@APBB.net.
- Attend a community potluck fundraising dinner at 6 pm on May 13 at the Applegate River Lodge.

Please send tax-deductible donations made payable to NAWPA to:

NAWPA (North Applegate Watershed Protection Association)  
 1190 Slagle Creek Road  
 Grants Pass, OR 97527  
 For more information, see www.SAVEAPPLEGATE.com or call 541-846-1082.  
 Steve Rouse \* 541-846-1082



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## THE STARRY SIDE

# Stargazing in the dim spring sky

BY GREELEY WELLS

Spring night skies are noted for their huge blank and dim areas. That's because we are looking right out into space away from our own Milky Way galaxy. The stars outside our galaxy are far away and thus small and faint. The galaxy is like a huge plate that is actually visible only slightly all around the horizon line and below, and invisible to us under our feet. It does tip up from the east as the night progresses so more comes into view. Most of the year we look through it at our closest neighbors who live in the Milky Way galaxy with us. There are wonderful exceptions to this dim darkness that make for quite an exciting opportunity to stargaze. We're not so overwhelmed with billions of stars and the brighter ones show up with little competition.

Our main companions are easy to see. The very bright Arcturus is high in the east in May and overhead in June. You can find him by following the arch of the Big Dipper's handle high in the northern sky. Sight away from the dipper along the handle as it goes almost overhead to Arcturus, which is in Bootes, the Shepherd. The rest of him is a bit vague but very kite-like. Arcturus is at the bottom of the kite where you'd tie on the tail. (See illustration.)

In keeping with the theme of dimness is Leo the Lion. Note the backwards question mark with Regulus below as the point—this time very well highlighted by Saturn right next to it in May, but pulling away from it in June as the constellation moves decidedly west, soon to set.

Also fitting into our dim theme is Cancer, which is very subtle until it is highlighted for you

by Mars in May, when the moon shares a binocular field with Mars. Cancer is a dim blast of millions of stars in a tight and beautiful slow-motion explosion. With clear skies you can see it with your own eyes. In June, Mars moves east towards Regulus and Leo.

### The Planets

Venus is no longer with us, being in the Sun. Not literally, of course, just visually from our point of view. It's really way out past the Sun on the other side of it, moving to slide back out in August. Sadly, neither a sunset nor a sunrise with my favorite bright and beautiful girl.

Jupiter is in some of that blank sky area, rising after 1 am and spending the morning first east and then in the southern sky. At May's end Jupiter is rising at midnight in the east and moving up and across the southern sky. On the nights of May 23-24, Jupiter and the moon accompany each other all night long. By mid June it's rising one and a half hours after sunset, but staying as bright as ever and you'll find it quite low in the southern sky.

Saturn is in the belly of the Lion! On May 3 Saturn stops against the starry background, and slowly starts moving eastward away from Regulus. It won't return to Regulus for nearly 30 years! On May 12 an eight-day-old moon joins Saturn and Regulus to make a trio. If you're a telescope person,

this is the time to enjoy the rings with shadows across Saturn's face.

As mentioned earlier, Mars graces Cancer, also called the Beehive and professionally named M44. It's part way up the western sky at dusk. On May 22 and 23 Mars moves through the beehive. Get out your binoculars! It's in the west, just upper left of the Gemini twin stars. Mars also has a nice brush with a crescent moon on the 9th of May. On May 25 the Phoenix spacecraft touches down in the northern hemisphere of Mars, an area never before explored. What will it show us, what will we learn? The human race exploring other planets—wow! Now in June, Mars actually streaks east to Leo. By the end of June, Mars passes Regulus, the brighter of the two and they make a nice triangle together in that western sky.

### Of Special Note

Spring/early summer moons: On May 22, the full moon is called Grain Moon, Green or Corn Moon. June's moon on the 18th is the Fruit Moon.

A few days later, on June 20, is the solstice, called the longest day of the year. Actually June 14 is the earliest sunrise at 4:31 am. The latest sunset is June 27 at 7:33 pm at 40° latitude. There's an hourglass diagram that's used to create what we call the longest day this year, which is the 20th of June, at the "moment" the sun is at its highest and hottest. So why does summer continue to warm even as the sun spends less time in the sky and gets lower? It's counter

intuitive! Just found this explanation: It takes a long time for that heat buildup to dissipate. So I guess the heat still produced plus the residue heat that lingers creates all that temperature rise. Is this intuitive enough? I leave it to you.

In late June come the Bootid meteors, which also should be favorable this year. Morning is always better but on June 27, the radiant is up all night. (May or may not be impressive. The scientists are never really sure.) The radiant is overhead coming "out" of Bootes where Arcturus lives, and is close to overhead and westerly.

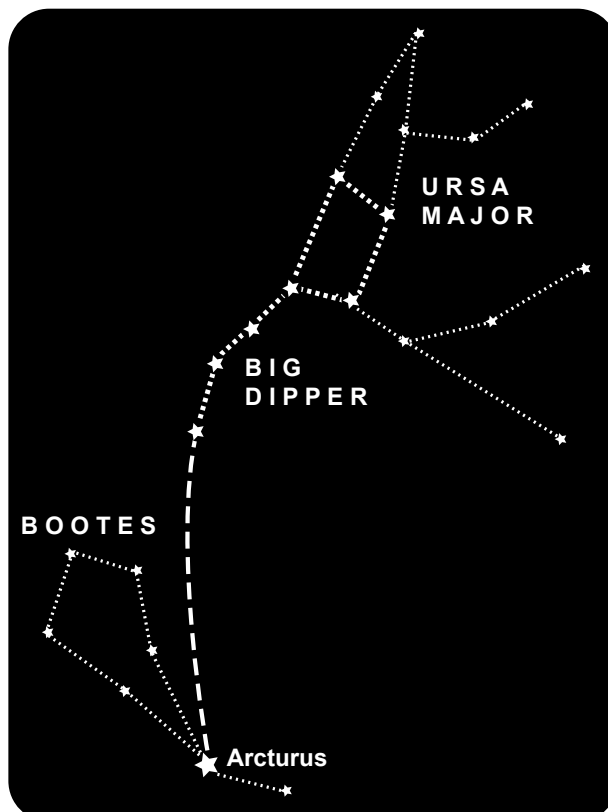
OK, look out or whatever: June 13 is the only Friday the 13th of the year. In South America the unlucky day is Tuesday, in Italy the unlucky number is 17, etc., so it's cultural not literal! Relax.

To close the circle (of the Milky Way galaxy) by June's end, Deneb, in Cygnus the swan, is up in the east with the band of our galaxy, the Milky Way, rising enough to be seen along the eastern horizon. Vega, in Lyra, is even higher, and these are two of the three stars of the summer triangle yet to show up. The third star is Altar in Aquila, the eagle.

Ah... summer. Welcome! I'm really ready for your arrival this year.

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## APPLEGATE OUTBACK: MY OPINION

# The extermination of the horsefly

BY BOB FISCHER



I believe in the concept of biodiversity, that each species of plant and animal has a place and a purpose on this earth, whether or not we humans understand or appreciate it.

Having assumed mastery of our planet, I believe that mankind also has assumed responsibility to maintain it in as natural a state as we possibly can. Not when it is convenient and not just when it is economical.

Now that I have established my position of record on the moral and philosophic high ground, I have a confession to make.

I can see no reason for the continued existence of horseflies! I hate horseflies, or deer flies as they also are known. Hate Them! This is not a phobia. I like snakes, I find horny toads interesting, and I am on speaking terms with many lizards. But horseflies are different. Horseflies are evil.

Horseflies do not bite for food or to protect themselves; they bite to inflict pain.

Mosquitoes are bad enough with their clever, soft whining approach and their guerrilla-like stabs for blood. You don't even feel the pain until they have gone. Like true guerillas, mosquitoes receive little respect, which means they are consistently underestimated.

My old hunting partner actually could ignore mosquitoes when they landed on him. While I slapped and complained, he sat unperturbed by the whirring insects that covered us. He

had hide the color and consistency of plywood, and the patience of a mountainside. Those characteristics helped him overcome mosquitoes.

But I once watched that same man drop his rifle, backpack and hat into a stream as he reacted to a horsefly bite while trying to cross a fallen log.

Show me a man who can ignore the wretched stinging bite of a horsefly and I will show you a cadaver.

Horseflies don't care anything about guerrilla tactics; they are the strike force of the insect world. Horseflies make no attempt at stealth, but depend on their sense of timing for protection. Their timing is incredible. Rarely do horseflies appear unless you have both hands committed to some activity that will keep you from retaliating.

A favorite horsefly technique is to attack fishermen wading in a noisy stream. Not only can the angler not hear a fly approaching over the river noise, but it is difficult to react even after he has been bitten. An off-balanced retaliatory blow or a misplaced step and you can end up like I once did—soaked to the skin and 30 yards downstream without my fishing gear.

One time I watched my friend, Rex Fletcher, under horsefly attack during a barbecue get-together at his place. He was carrying a large bowl full of home brew to a table. Just short of the table he cocked his head as though to listen closely. His body suddenly stiffened, his head snapped back, and he

began slapping the back of his head and neck hard enough to chip vertebrae. The bowl was forgotten with his pain and rage—it dropped to the ground where it behaved exactly as you would expect a ten-gallon bowl to behave.

The despairing groans from everyone at the bowl's explosive destruction were almost overpowering, but they were overcome by the roar that burst from Rex's mouth. In what I recognized as a classic response to a horsefly bite, Rex's cry of "YAAAAHHHH!" announced both his pain and his resolute decision to battle this ancient enemy. Having scraped the attacker from his neck, Rex circled warily waiting for the next attack that was certain to come.

Horseflies are very stubborn. They are not like the psychopathic yellow jackets that attack anyone at anytime. Once a horsefly establishes a target, they return again and again to bite that same person. So, if you are not the unlucky victim, it is often safe to stand nearby and watch the whole thing take place.

And that is exactly what occurred. While we watched, the horsefly landed twice on Rex's bare arms and neck. Both times the fly managed to get into the air before Rex's blows fell.

Finally, Rex steeled himself for the time-honored "let-him-bite-you-so-you-can-kill-him horsefly-elimination technique." Rex stood still as the fly came buzzing in. He stayed calm and still as the horsefly landed on him. Then

he erupted into a frenzy as the horsefly bit. The horsefly was unable to disengage quickly enough to escape. It was caught by the flurry of blows, stunned and then knocked to the dirt.

Had it been a mosquito, Rex would have been satisfied with a simple brush-off. Even a tick, flea or yellow jacket would have been forgotten once it was no longer a threat. But horseflies, which give no quarter in their battles, rarely receive it either.

With another blood-curdling "YAAAAHHHH!" Rex stomped the horsefly into the ground, repeatedly jumping on it with both feet. Time and time again he pounded it, screaming each time he did so.

Finally, with his shirttail hanging loose and a trickle of blood draining down his neck from the first bite, Rex stood with his head hanging, exhausted but triumphant. A few of the guys over at the picnic tables applauded.

Scattered conversations indicated that many of the guys deplored the death of the fly. I wanted to stand and discuss this with them, but the line at the broken bowl was getting long. For it took quite a while for everyone to jump up and down on the dead horsefly while raising their arms and screaming "YAAAAHHHH!" Good old home brew.

Bob Fischer  
541-846-6218

## BACK IN TIME

## Ruffled feathers

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

Turkeys! Not my favorite farm animal. Actually, I can't remember seeing very many turkeys on Applegate farms, but my McKee grandmother had half a dozen or so. She always fixed a turkey dinner for Thanksgiving and Christmas and I did not mind their demise for a good reason. To a young child they seemed so big and frightening and, since they were not fenced in, they roamed wherever I might be.

I did not mind crossing the scary foot bridge over the river and the quarter mile walk to grandmother's, but having to escape those turkeys before getting to her front gate was quite a challenge. Those turkeys would chase me, probably thinking I had some food. On one of my visits I had stayed until Grandmother said it was beginning to get dark and I better get home. I took off in a hurry and on the way I walked under some big fir and pine trees. Then I felt some splats on my head. I looked up and saw those darn turkeys roosting on the limbs above. Ohhhhhhhhh, I was so mad!!!

Years later my brother raised the same kind of turkeys on his ranch here in the Upper Applegate. He started with a small flock and found it quite profitable.

He kept the hens, selling the eggs to a hatchery. I helped with some of the egg gathering and there was one old hen who did not like my taking her eggs. When I made the gathering, about every hour, she would bristle up and give me a good peck on my hand. My brother said to throw her over the fence into another area since she wanted to set on her eggs and become a momma. So I then tried to get a hold of her tail feathers before she could peck me, but she would spring from her nest and outrun me.

I became exhausted after each chase around that big nesting area. Finally I managed to grab a part of her tail, which left her with fewer feathers. Eventually, she lost all of them and I still was unable to catch her. That's when my brother couldn't stop laughing at my problem and came to help. He soon took care of it by outrunning her. She would still ruffle her feathers and bristle whenever she saw me coming near. Poor thing—she did look funny with no tail feathers.

In the spring my brother's large brooder house would be full of young ones that were later turned out in his fields to finish growing on a special mix



Morris Byrne and his large flock of turkeys on Upper Applegate Road circa 1942 (from Evelyn Byrne Williams collection).

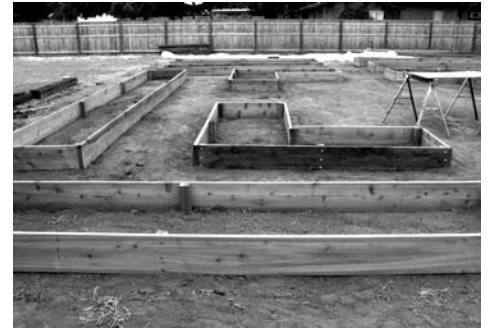
of grains put in feed boxes. In following years, the boxes were replaced with large metal self-feeding containers, which saved time and energy in keeping the turkeys fed. My brother soon found the turkeys were more profitable than his cattle and began raising large flocks of the white, broad-breasted ones, both for eggs and meat. A truck would come to take the turkeys for processing before Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For many years the turkey ranch on Upper Applegate Road, and even a second ranch on Highway 238 in Ruch, were landmarks well known by locals. Eventually progress put my brother out

of business as it became cheaper to have large operations all in one big building.

Years went by without seeing a turkey in the Applegate, but now I see the same old kind of turkeys that my grandmother and brother first had. I don't know if there really were wild turkeys here in those days; I don't remember ever seeing any. All I can say is that I don't dislike them now, but when they come in my yard I sure get tired of chasing them. Again!!

Evelyn Byrne Williams  
with Janeen Sathre  
541-899-1443



## The genesis of David James and Greenleaf Industries

BY SIOUX ROGERS

I thought I had met my true soul mate or at least my twin—give or take a few years and different parents. Well, he looked like I usually look: grubby, well-worn boots, dirty fingernails and all.

I was sitting in his office, chatting on and off the record with David James, founder of Greenleaf Industries. David, a very modest man, asked that I talk more about Greenleaf than about him. I protested, saying, “But David, I interviewed *you*.” He insisted that Greenleaf is what is important and what needs to be written about. Actually, David and Greenleaf are difficult to separate. So to oblige David, this article intertwines the man, the business and the genesis of them both.

Greenleaf Industries states in its brochure that it “is a nonprofit organization serving as the Northwest’s largest horticulture training center providing quality training and employment opportunities for men and women who have developmental disabilities (DD). Greenleaf has become an admired model opening new horizons for the DD population within our

community.”

David said, “My entire life has been about happenings, a journey of coincidences. I was waiting for a bus and I missed it and just happened to meet this guy. He turned me on to the next ‘thing.’ My life has been a good ride.” David has a great sense of humor, focus, direction and kindness.

After receiving a degree in agriculture from Chico State, David moved to Williams, Oregon. In 1977 he took his first job with the agricultural extension office in Grants Pass, helping people work in their own gardens. At the same time, his mission clearly was already on a path as he began a 4-H community project for the DD population. David mentioned that he had no idea he had the easy ability to work with the DD. He did and still does.

In 1980, he received a HUD community block grant that funded the beginnings of Greenleaf. The City of Grants Pass furnished the land back then. It was next to a sewage plant where Greenleaf remained for 14 years. They moved to their current site in 1995. The

primary workers at Greenleaf consist of 21 DD adults. David said that as a social service program they not only try to be productive, but also to maintain very high standards. “We have so many different abilities; we use the strength of everyone to bring out their best. This is like family here: birth, marriage, death.”

Much of the following is from the Greenleaf web site ([www.greenleafindustries.org](http://www.greenleafindustries.org)) and reprinted because of David’s pleading to write more about the business.

“In 1982 the Greenleaf staff wanted to reward its DD workforce for a job well done and decided to organize a camping trip to the coast. It was an instant success and the Greenleaf retreat has become a ‘much-looked-forward-to’ annual event, a four-day getaway and reward to our employees for their dedicated service.”

Greenleaf strives to be a self-reliant program. “Over 94% of our total operating budget is generated through plant sales or related services. Our nursery produces over 2.5 million plants

including over 300 varieties of flowers and vegetables.”

Greenleaf is “dedicated to improving the quality of life for those with disabilities...” In that vein, their community gardens contribute to feeding the area’s homeless! How is that for the old saying, “I was sad because I had no shoes until I saw a man without any feet”?

Greenleaf is a model of excellence for more than just producing an excellent product at a fair price. It is a model for allowing a person to achieve, before judgment, their best potential. David James himself—although his great modesty will protest—is a visionary without an ego. David is in tune and in touch, and continues to walk on a path as a leader with an untethered mission.

Sioux Rogers • 541-846-7736

*Photos above: Greenleafers gather last summer at the completion of the Greenleaf Garden, which was funded in part from a grant from the 4-Way Community foundation and was designed and built by “volunteer extraordinaire” Ron Willing. The raised bed gardens are used by Greenleaf’s 4-H Club to grow flowers and vegetables.*

## OH, COUNTRY LIFE!

Oh, country life! A million things to do, always a million things. And so many that never get done; like the ironing—that pile of shirts has been sitting on the dryer for months . . .

Those pretty bedding plants we bought last week are still languishing in their little plastic pots, growing more root-bound by the minute. They mutely plead for release; but I cannot look at them as I walk by, past the half-weeded flower garden, on my way to water the hens, and clean up what’s left of the chicken feed that the raccoons knocked over last night, before the squirrels and the wild birds eat it all for breakfast!

The weeds in the veggie garden keep coming back. I spent hours weeding yesterday, but the little weeds come up so much faster than the seeds I planted, and the wild morning glories have major roots lurking somewhere down deep in the dark. No matter how many I pull, they keep sending up new shoots.

My dog Nick has his ball, he’s whining by the garden gate—I call, “Not now, Nick!” and notice another big clump of bindweed, smugly spreading

out its skirts to sun itself in the lettuce patch that was weed-free just days ago. And look—the cat has rearranged the carrot seedlings. Again.

The rosy headed finch just dive-bombed me for walking by the spruce tree. No wonder. I can hear chirping—her babies have hatched. At least something has gotten accomplished around here. Now she starts the big race to bring them enough food fast enough. “Cheep, cheep, cheep!”

The bird feeder needs filling, and I trip in the giant hole the dogs have dug, looking for gophers. Where did we put the gopher traps? Where is my husband when I need him? He was planting those new apple trees, but the neighbor’s bull escaped, and he rushed off to help. . . .

The phone is ringing as I walk in to get a cool drink. It’s my friends, calling from the city. They want to take a break from their hectic life and slow down in the quiet country of the Applegate. Should I tell them to bring kneepads and work gloves along with their pretty sun hats?

Anny Zweifel • 541-846-0685



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## Oregon Animal Sanctuary opens with Dedication Ceremony

BY BARBARA HOLIDAY

On a picture-perfect spring day, the Oregon Animal Sanctuary on Upper Applegate Road opened its doors to more than 100 supporters with a dedication ceremony highlighted by the blessing of Agnes Baker Pilgrim. Agnes, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, is the oldest living female who is a direct descendant of the Rogue River Indians who once lived in southern Oregon for 20,000 years.

Joining Agnes in the blessing ceremony were Russell Beebe, a local woodcarver and sculptor (and of Anishinabe heritage), and Agnes' grandson, Tyson Storm, who accompanied the ceremony with his flute-playing. Drummers were spread throughout the audience.

Lloyd Mathew Haines, whose vision created this lovely sanctuary, assured everyone that "We intend to be good neighbors and do wonderful things in the Applegate."

Two former endurance horses have the place to themselves right now, but as the sanctuary is developed slowly and thoughtfully, species from llamas and guinea pigs to birds and reptiles will be



housed and cared for there.

A public Grand Opening is tentatively scheduled for June, with one event possibly held in Medford and the another in the Applegate.

In the meantime, the sanctuary is open for visits by appointment only. Call Julie Fritz, farm manager, at 541-899-8627. For more information about the sanctuary, visit their website at [www.oregonanimalsanctuary.org](http://www.oregonanimalsanctuary.org).

Barbara Holiday • 541-218-8606

*Photo top: Overlooking the front pastures of the Oregon Animal Sanctuary where two horses rule, but may have company in the near future.*

*Photo bottom: (from left) Russell Beebe, Tyson Storm, Agnes Baker Pilgrim and Lloyd Michael Haines at the dedication ceremony of the Oregon Animal Sanctuary in Applegate. (Photos by Barbara Holiday.)*



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# Williams Creek Watershed Council hosts fish trap on Williams Creek

BY ARTHUR SHERMAN

In spring of 2007, the Williams Creek Watershed Council (WCWC) along with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Middle Rogue Steelheaders, Bureau of Land Management's Grants Pass Resource Area and many local volunteers, operated a fish trap on lower Williams Creek.

The trap was part of a statewide effort by ODFW to monitor juvenile salmonid production as part of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. One objective was to estimate the number of Chinook salmon fry as well as Coho salmon and steelhead smolts migrating out of Williams Creek. This project also helped determine the abundance of pre-smolt steelhead, Coho salmon, and resident cutthroat trout.

Fish eggs, or roe, hatch into alevin or sac fry. The fry quickly develop into parr. Parr stay for one to three years in their natal stream before becoming smolts. As smolts, their body chemistry changes to allow the fish to live in salt water.

The trap looks like a large mesh cone lying on its side on a floating platform. Fish swimming downstream pass into the trap and then into a holding tank. Each day the trapped fish were removed carefully, identified and counted. All the fish were then put back into the creek. Fish were trapped and counted in Williams Creek between March 5 and May 31, 2007.

The resulting data provides important baseline information for measuring trends in fish populations. It also is used to identify factors that limit the health of the fishery. All of this is used to develop management strategies designed to protect and improve fish populations.

Four different species comprised the majority of salmonid fish caught in the trap: Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, steelhead trout, and cutthroat trout. The fish counts were used to estimate the total numbers of fish of each species passing the site.

After the fish are identified and measured, their fins are marked to avoid double-counting.

Chinook salmon juveniles were the most abundant species caught in the trap. Approximately 120,000 young Chinook migrated toward the Pacific

Ocean during the trapping period. These fish came from eggs in the fall of 2006 and emerged from their shallow nests in stream gravels (called redds) in late winter/spring 2007. After two to six years in the Pacific they will return to Williams as adults.

Approximately 3,900 Coho smolts, a federally protected species, outmigrated during the period. These fish were spawned in fall/winter 2005-2006 and emerged from their redds in spring 2006. They will migrate to the Pacific for one to two years, and then return as adults.

Approximately 3,300 steelhead smolts outmigrated. These are on their way to the Pacific to grow to adulthood after residing in Williams Creek for one or two years. Additionally, there were approximately 3,500 pre-smolt steelhead (fish about a year old or less). These fish may reside in the mainstem Applegate (or possibly the Rogue River) for the summer months and return to Williams Creek or other Applegate tributaries to over-winter another year before heading to the ocean. Steelhead life histories are generally more variable than those of other species.

Approximately 1,900 cutthroat trout of varying ages outmigrated from Williams Creek. These fish simply may migrate to and from the Applegate and Rogue Rivers and then back to Williams Creek and its tributaries. The larger rivers provide more food while the smaller streams provide refuge and spawning habitat. As far as it is known, Applegate River cutthroat do not migrate to the ocean.

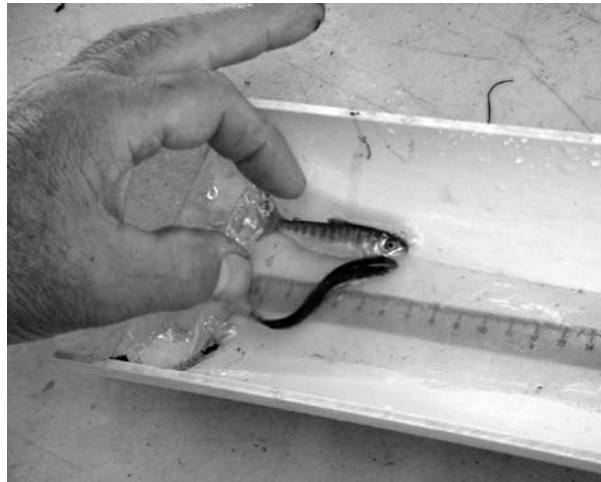
Additional native species caught in the trap were Pacific lampreys, small-scale suckers and sculpins. Non-native species caught include numerous reddsides shiners, bluegill, and one Umpqua pike minnow.

The Williams Creek Watershed Council and ODFW are operating the trap again in spring 2008. For more information on this project, please call WCWC at 541-846-9175.

Arthur Sherman  
WCWC Council Coordinator  
541-846-1024



Volunteers remove fish from the smolt trap.



After the fish are identified and measured, their fins are marked to avoid double-counting.

Trapped fish are identified, measured and counted.



The trapped fish are all carefully returned to the creek.

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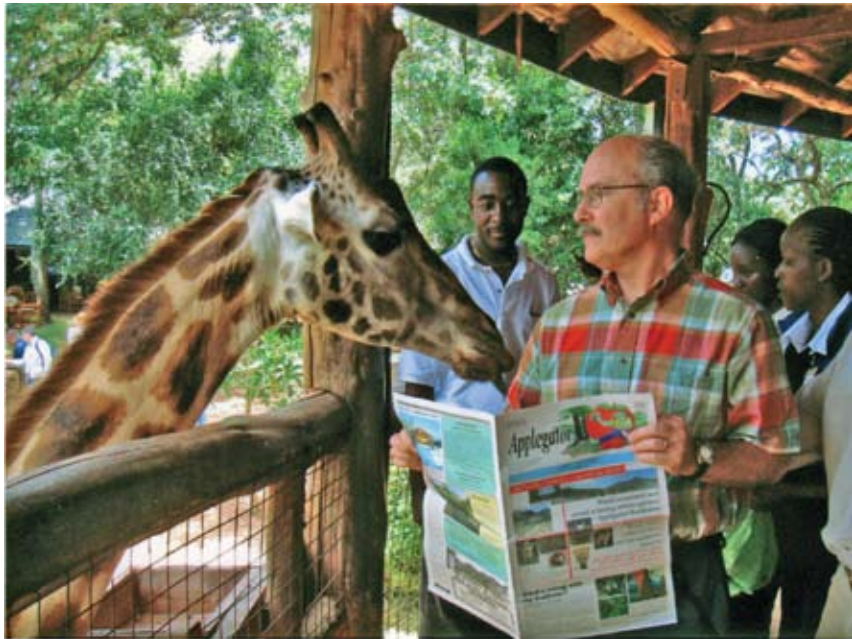
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## Look who's reading the Gater!



Our on-the-go Gater readers (clockwise from top left):

- Kathy Rodgers scans the Gater in Antarctica as her penguin pals look on.
- Dale Prohaska is reading the Gater at the Art in the Applegate show, a benefit for the Gater, using a carved horse for support.
- Mike Walsh spent a leisurely weekend in Seattle with the Gater close at hand.
- Ron and May Scriber on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, reading the Applegater. They are wearing matching "Vote for Kristy Lee" shirts in support of the American Idol contestant from Selma.
- Tim Johnson of Ruch reads the Applegater to a Rothchild's giraffe in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Take us with you on your next trip.  
Then send us your favorite  
"Reading the Gater" photo.**

Keep those articles, letters, opinions and "Reading the Gater" photos coming in. You are the Gater! All of you — donors, writers and our good readers — please accept our most sincere and grateful thanks.

The *Applegater* Staff and Board



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