

Applegater



**Help us
create a
new logo!**
See below

*"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

July 1, 2008
Volume 1, No. 2

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

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Connie Willson Young to say farewell to the Applegate

BY BARBARA HOLIDAY

When Connie Young, née Willson, was born in Grants Pass in 1937, little did she know that she still would be living, some 70 years later, on the same property on which she was raised. Now, with that property on the market, life as she knows it in the Applegate Valley will be coming to an end.

Connie reminisced about the days gone by, which included bank and train robbers hiding out nearby (see page 13), as we chatted in her home on a perfect spring day with husband Lon (who is "still my best friend after 48 years of marriage") at her side, her chickens clucking about, her dog napping, and her beloved tractor within sight (see photo).

Connie's parents, Clif and Lois Willson (see photo), operated the Willson Dairy Ranch near Provolt. They purchased the ranch from Clif's parents, who had moved there from Big Springs Ranch east of Yreka in 1913 when Clif was just five years old. About 120 head of dairy cows were milked twice a day for 37 years on that ranch. Connie, younger sister Jeanne, and two younger brothers, Willy and Doug ("Shorty"), were raised there. (Willy, a trucker, still lives on the farm close to Connie; Jeanne is a Wimer



Connie starts her Massey-Ferguson 265 tractor and will pull a big trailer to load hay, then bring the hay into the barn. She's already taken care of 50 acres of hay; another 50 acres will be cut and baled soon.

resident; and Shorty died at 46 of a heart ailment after working for the Rural Fire Department for more than ten years.)

Fifty-six cousins from both sides of Connie's family also lived in the Applegate. Connie's maternal grandmother, "Grandma Gray," after whose family Grays Creek Road was named, believed that Murphy School would have closed without her family during the 40s, 50s and 60s. And Grandma was right—Murphy School closed just a couple of years after her death around 1976. (The building is now headquarters of Three Rivers School District.)

"I was always Daddy's right-hand 'man,'" Connie said proudly. One of her

jobs at the dairy was to raise the baby calves. That consisted of training the calves to suck on her milky fingers in order to learn to drink from a pail until they were weaned at three months. After graduating from Grants Pass High School in 1956 and spending a year studying music and religion at Multnomah Bible College in Portland, she returned to the ranch to earn money to continue her studies. She would help spread manure in the fields in the morning, then go to work as a practical nurse at the long-gone Osteopathic Hospital in Medford. It was at the hospital that she met Lon, who was visiting a friend's mother. There ended Connie's plans to return to college.

See YOUNG, page 12

McKee Mercantile opens at McKee Bridge

BY RUTH AUSTIN

A new destination for visitors to enjoy near the site of the historic McKee covered bridge built in 1917 is McKee Mercantile (yes, it is spelled the old way with two Ls). This newly renovated and decorated shop is centered between

the covered bridge and McKee Bridge Restaurant and Store, and offers one more treat for a relaxing summer's day. It is just a stroll away from the cool waters of the Applegate River and swimming area, and a stone's throw from the picnic

area with the old picnic shelter so well made from river boulders in the 1930s.

Rose Marie Leever, the creator of McKee Mercantile, is one of the valley's "new pioneers"—her Upper Applegate home was built in the 1950s. She created McKee Mercantile, decorating and filling it with attractive gifts and home decorations that have an Applegate flavor. There are paintings, prints, glassware, and various artworks. A children's section is included with books and gifts. It will please locals as well as visitors. The most important aspect of the Mercantile is this: all of the hard work, preparation, and energy that went into the shop will be returned to the community. Profits from the sales will be donated to improve and benefit the children of our valley through an educational facility that Rose will designate. Rose confided that "children are my life. I feel strongly how we teach our children."

Many years ago, Rose's parents, Gertrude and Martin Heitkamp, loved the

See MERCANTILE, page 13



Photo: Maggie Shreve

Help us create a new logo part two—

One more chance to become world-famous!

Thank you to all of you who submitted a logo for the *Applegater*. We very much appreciate your efforts.

We're still looking, though, for that perfect piece of artwork that depicts what the Applegate Valley is all about. Besides an apple, a gate or a bridge as we mentioned last issue, how about agriculture, animals, artists, rivers, wineries, sunshine, incredible views of valleys and mountains, community. And, you are welcome to design the masthead, which incorporates the name "*Applegater*" plus all the miscellaneous information above the date/issue bar.

We hope this will get those creative juices flowing!

Here is a more detailed list of what we need:

- Dimensions: Logo only—6" wide x 3.25" high
Masthead—10.25" wide x 3.75" high
- Full color
- High-resolution (300 dpi) digital file, either .tif or .jpg format
- Hard copy original
- Deadline: August 1

Email to gater@applegater.org or mail to *Applegater*, 181 Upper Applegate Road, PMB 308, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

Questions? Contact Barbara Holiday at gatergraphics@aol.com or 541.218.8606.

We look forward to receiving your creations and announcing our new logo and its designer in the next issue.

Thank you!

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK about articles in the Gater.

As part of the *Applegater's* new, independent status, we would like to reach out to all of you loyal readers for some honest feedback about the content in the paper (past, present as well as future issues). What have you enjoyed the most? What articles would you judge as just "OK" and what articles are of no interest to you? Also, what would you like to see added in future issues? To assist you in this process, we have listed the following areas for you to mark one to ten.

One indicating the least interest and ten the most exciting.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Birds/Bugs/Animals _____										
2. Gardening _____										
3. Fire Concerns _____										
4. Food/Diet/Recipes _____										
5. Local Programs/Activities _____										
6. Music/Art _____										
7. Local School Events _____										
8. Star Gazing _____										
9. Editorial Column _____										
10. Conservation/ Environmental Issues _____										
11. Books/Poetry _____										
12. Medical Advice _____										
13. Fun/Games _____										
14. Local History _____										
15. Letters/Opinion Pieces _____										
16. Other _____										
Comments _____										

Cut this out and mail to *APPLEGATER*, 181 Upper Applegate Road, PMB 308, Jacksonville, Oregon 97530, or scan into your computer and email to gater@applegater.org We thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to this request, which will help us to improve your community newspaper.

The Board of Directors and the Editorial Committee

Ruch Library Community Program Questionnaire

The Friends of the Ruch Library program committee is planning a series of free programs for the benefit of our community. The first set of programs will be held on the first Friday of each month at 7 pm, starting in September. For future programs, we would like to have your input about your interests and when you're most available to attend. Please help us by filling out the short questionnaire below and turning it in to the library. Thanks for your support!

1. What kind of programs would interest you? (check all that apply)

- Arts/Crafts
- Music/Performing Arts
- Poetry/Literary Readings
- History
- Science (geology, botany, etc.)
- Health/Medical
- Practical Skills (gardening, animal training, etc.)
- Documentary Films (with discussions)
- Other (please specify) _____

2. Which days and times would you generally be available? (circle one choice per line)

Monday evenings	Yes!	No!	Maybe
Tuesday evenings	Yes!	No!	Maybe
Wednesday evenings	Yes!	No!	Maybe
Thursday evenings	Yes!	No!	Maybe
Friday evenings	Yes!	No!	Maybe
Saturday evenings	Yes!	No!	Maybe
Sunday evenings	Yes!	No!	Maybe
Saturday afternoons	Yes!	No!	Maybe
Sunday afternoons	Yes!	No!	Maybe

3. Do you have an interest in presenting a program at the Ruch library that you think might be of interest to our community? If so, please let us know what the topic is in the space below. Be sure to include your name and how we can contact you.

Questions? Comments? Contact Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-8741.

The Gater is gratified by the support received by these recent donors

Jeffrey Anderson
Grants Pass, OR

Jody Perry
Grants Pass, OR

V. C. Post
Central Point, OR

Evelyn Williams
Jacksonville, OR

Chris Bratt
Applegate, OR

The Gater needs your donations!

We hope you will take a few minutes to fill out and mail the "Tell us what you think about articles in the Gater" questionnaire on this page. Your input is essential for us to know what direction to guide the *Applegater* through these changing times.

One thing that has not changed is the *Applegater's* funding situation. Right now, we must cover our costs with only advertising revenue and donations. We are unable, at this time, to seek funding from grants, which usually contribute a significant percentage of our expenses. Since the *Applegater* became its own entity this past April, we have been waiting (and waiting) for the IRS to grant our 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Until we receive that official IRS notice, we cannot apply for grants—and the post office charges us 60% more for postage!

Any and all donations are greatly appreciated to insure the continuing publication of this free community newspaper.

Please mail your donation to:

Applegater
181 Upper Applegate Road,
PMB 308
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Thank you from the Board, staff and volunteers

ADVERTISERS!

We can help you reach your market —Grants Pass, Medford and the Applegate Valley call Ruth Austin • 541-899-7476 Matthew Eldridge 541-941-6834

Applegater

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Sept-Oct	Aug 1
Nov-Dec	Oct 1
Jan-Feb	Dec 1
March-April	Feb 1
May-June	Apr 1
July-August	June 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; and Lisa Crean for bookkeeping.

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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 August 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

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.



JACKSON COUNTY Library Services Library News

Friends of the Applegate Library

Our summer reading program, "Catch the Reading Bug," starts at the end of school for Jackson County children. The teen program is called, "Metamorphosis at Your Library."

Besides reading we will be doing some crafts and other fun activities this summer.

Jan Chapman, a retired art teacher, will be giving an art class for children at 3 p.m. in the Applegate Library on Friday, July 25.

The entire month of July will sponsor a paperback book sale in the lobby of the library during our open hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2-6 p.m. and Saturday 10-2 p.m. All books are priced at 25 cents to \$1.00.

Friends of the Applegate Library are pleased to announce that a fundraising event will take place on Saturday, October 4, 2008 to benefit the library. This will include local artists as well as gardeners who wish to show and sell their products. We encourage our friends and neighbors who are interested in helping to organize or contribute to this event to call Susan Bratt, 541-846-6111, or Joan Peterson, 541-846-6988.

Joan Peterson
541-846-6988

Audio service expands

The popular Library2Go downloadable audio book system available through Jackson County Library Services is taking a leap forward. With the help of a \$75,000 grant, the service now offers children's books, young adult books, and videos. This month, 934 children's and young adult books go online along with 812 movies, 150 of which are "always available." Remaining titles have limited checkouts, but can be put on hold by library card holders.

Funding comes from the Oregon State Library's Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) competitive grant program. The grant was awarded to the Oregon Digital Library Consortium for the benefit of member libraries including Jackson County Library Services. Formed in 2005, Oregon Digital Library Consortium is dedicated to the goal of delivering more online services to library card holders through shared purchasing power and resources. The ODLC is the first consortium of its kind in Oregon devoted to the electronic resource sharing needs of public libraries and currently serves 2.7 million Oregon residents.

Library card holders of Jackson County Libraries and other member libraries can access best-selling digital audio book titles and videos online. All titles are playable on a PC. Most audio book titles also can transfer to any Windows' Media Player compatible MP3 or CD for listening on the go.

Access to the service is available 24/7 through the Library2Go link at www.jcls.org. For more information or help to get started, contact your local branch library or e-mail infolib@jcls.org.

Contact: Kim Wolfe,
Jackson County Library Services
at 541-774-6443



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Metamorphosis @ Your Library Teen summer reading program

Teens are invited to Metamorphosis @ Your Library this summer by participating in the Jackson County Library's teen summer reading program. Sign up starts as soon as school is out.

After completing five activities, participants may enter their name into a grand prize drawing for a Nintendo Wii gaming system as well as into local drawings for MP3 players, gift certificates, and other great prizes. For more information about the teen program, contact your local branch library or visit our Web site at www.jcls.org.

This year the teen summer reading program is sponsored by Wal-Mart, the Million Dollar Club of Jackson County, Jackson County Library Services, the Jackson County Library Foundation, and local Friends of the Library groups.

Contact: Marian Barker
Youth Services Manager
541-774-6423

TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

Growing and shrinking trends

BY RAUNO PERTTU

Our daughter Emily has grown up. Last week, she passed her qualifying exam for her PhD program at Berkeley. This means that, with two or three more years of research, she will finish her degree in biological engineering. On June 14, she will marry Creighton Helms from Medford, now a Coast Guard officer based in San Francisco.

When Emily asked me to consider a father/daughter dance song, the old Harry Belafonte song, "Turn Around," came to mind because it seemed so appropriate. In my mind I still see her and her friends running up and down the basketball court and my wife Jan and I driving the noisy group to and from games and pizza parlors.

My mother, who passed away in January, will be attending the wedding in spirit. With the death of my mother, our last parent, Jan and I became the oldest generation. Emily and our son Kirk are still early in their lives. Jan and I are at a—how do I say this—more mature stage. Although our lives remain insanely busy, it's a time when I increasingly recognize limitations in many forms.

I recently went to the Grants Pass antique street fair and determined that either most of the items for sale weren't really old because I remembered using them when they were new—or perhaps I'm also an antique. Up until she died, my mother told me she still considered herself to be that eighteen-year-old girl of 70 years earlier. I know what she meant. Our internal mirror sees us as that young, energetic person we once were. It's a shock to go to a reunion and see all those old people, and easy to decide that, while they might have aged, I haven't.

Even in my enduring self-image of youth, I often stop to realize the incredible changes that have occurred in my short years. Many have been

for the better. Some have not. I also realize that most problems may have altered their appearance, but remain basically unchanged. Our baby-boom generation thought we could correct the world's problems. That would have been nice.

Still, we've made some progress. Our social progress is reflected in two of the three current presidential candidates being a woman and an African-American. Our scientific advancements and technical progress have been spectacular, and are reflected in our ability to buy everyday products inexpensively that would have been inconceivable a few years back. Our

Our internal mirror sees us as that young, energetic person we once were. It's a shock to go to a reunion and see all those old people, and easy to decide that, while they might have aged, I haven't.

progress in medicine also has been spectacular, although an increasing number of people aren't able to afford those benefits.

Forty years ago, our consensus was that much of the world would soon collapse into hunger and poverty. China and India faced imminent starvation and disaster. The collapse didn't happen. Today, our consensus leans toward China and India becoming the dominant economic powers in the world. They are on track to become such, but have many serious problems to solve before our new expectation becomes future reality.

In my youth, the Cold War and its created crises in Cuba, Vietnam, and Eastern Europe were nagging worries. Today, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan are replacement worries. The troubles in Israel and their part of the Middle East have remained consistent.

However, when I pause and

consider the biggest changes in my lifetime, and on future challenges for our children's generation, I focus on broader issues.

The foremost issue remains our growing population. While the world's population has doubled from three billion in 1960 to more than six billion today, our concerns over it have puzzlingly diminished. This growth continues to be a key contributor to many of today's problems and shortages.

For example, as China, India and other poorer nations become middle-class, their increasing resource needs are triggering soaring energy and

this problem of raising the world's standard of living, and of protecting and improving our environment in the face of a growing population, is our children's most difficult task. As an eternal optimist, I also believe it is a solvable task. So far, all the doomsday scenarios of each decade have failed to come to pass, although we have an unending ability to create new doomsday worries.

Another continuing change in the world is one I personally regret, and it is interwoven with that troublesome population trend. When I was young, the world was still a big place. It had seemingly unexplored jungles in Africa and South America. It had mysterious lands with strange customs. It still had wild frontiers in places like Alaska. It was easy to get away to unpopulated, pristine places.

Much of the mystery and adventure have faded from today's world. The jungles are being cut and replaced with farmland. Those once mysterious foreign lands are now the scenes of disaster and conflict on our nightly news. The empty frontier places of my youth now twinkle at night with the lights of new residents in the former wilderness. To me, the world is diminished as a result. Our children and their children, who grow up in this shrunken, homogenized world, probably won't recognize the loss.

Rauno Perttu • 541-899-8036
jrperttu@charter.net



Applegate River Ranch Lodge & Restaurant

Lodge open 7 days a week
Starting October 1st
Restaurant hours 5-9 pm
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
Live music on Sunday
Restaurant—846-6082
Lodge—846-6690



Eve's Garden Cafe & Tea Room

Located in downtown Applegate

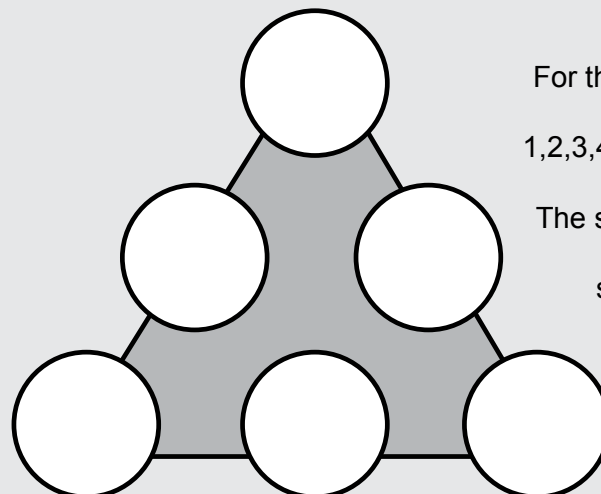
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Brain Teasers

Submitted by Marvin Rosenberg

Test your brain with a MAGIC SQUARE. Fill each of the nine spaces below with numbers one through nine (one number in each space) so that every vertical, horizontal and diagonal adds up to 15.



For this MAGIC TRIANGLE, place the numbers 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 in the circles, one in each circle. The sum of each side of the triangle must be the same number. (hint:12)

Answers on page 21 .
Next issue – How to make a simple kite!

DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Oops in the garden

BY SIOUX ROGERS

I wonder how much you readers actually listened and did in your own garden what I suggested in my last column. Seems as though I had all these wonderful ideas, but that is as far as I personally went.

Actually, I did do some creative planting, but it did not involve cucumbers crawling over propped up dead branches or using an old ladder as a wraparound trellis. Did I really suggest that?

I had an ugly area—oh, unkind me—well, an area “in the raw” but with very fertile soil. This is rather ironic since the fertility came about because I was covering with cardboard an awful and ugly weed patch. The cardboard broke down as it was supposed to. The weeds were then mostly gone or very easy to pull up, and in the soil was a bonus of an abundance of earthworms. I then realized I had this very fertile area, but it was way far away with leftover sprawling plants. By sprawling I mean like major squashes and pumpkins. Well duh, the sprawl married the now very fertile weed patch. Perfect, and who cares that it is out of the way. No urban sprawl in my garden.

I wonder if I really was born under a cabbage leaf and I had a cradle made from a cucumber. So often I am amazed at the similarities of garden happenings and real life. While I have titled this column “Oops in the garden,” I could just as well have titled it “Oops in my life.” Listen up to garden goofs and real life.

Too much of any fertilizer can actually “burn” the plant. That happened to me once. Well, I did not burn, but I had too much “fertilizer” (my doctor called them vitamins). I became very toxic, big red blotches and all.

It is so tempting to think “more is better,” but often it is not. Too much water in your garden, unless you have a lily pond, can rot or actually drown your plants. Too many toys or sweets for your kids will either rot their sense of reality or their teeth. Too much or the wrong fertilizer can cause, for example, lush green leaves and no fruit or flowers. Too much of any fertilizer can actually “burn” the plant. That happened to me once. Well, I did not burn, but I had too much “fertilizer” (my doctor called them vitamins). I became very toxic, big red blotches and all.

It is just as ridiculous to try and grow a coconut tree in our northwest backyard as it is to try growing rhubarb in Texas. This little information is relevant to “When in Rome, do as the Romans do.” In other words, go native. Plant what grows in your area. That usually means checking with the local nursery or the old-timers from your area. Unfortunately, I have found many

nurseries selling plants that are not only unable to grow easily in this area, but they are invasive. So how is this in real life? Well, some people, as some plants, truly do not have a broad growing tolerance. They are either city, country, mountain or desert folks, etc. That is fine, just like your garden. Just know what grows where and it will thrive.

Some people, either in their gardening state of mind, or another state of mind, suffer from the “Lust Syndrome” or “must have everything.” Too much of anything is out of balance. The sense of “precious” is lost. Gluttony devalues and bloats your life. Sadly, I confess to having “lust syndrome” when it comes to plants. I mean really BIG lust, but not for a coconut tree. And I do “lose” many plants. I mean “lose” in that I can’t find or remember where I planted something. Well, of course, I do fancy an excuse. I spend hours in our garden enjoying, working and eating the harvest. The rest of my excuses go like this: I buy all my clothes at thrift shops or they are hand-me-downs. We don’t have many toys. Will that do?

How many times have you thought about or actually have “thrown out the baby with the bath water”? New or unbalanced gardeners tend to do the same, thinking, “The only good bug is a dead bug.” Most of us have been educated to know that ladybugs are “good” and cutworms are “bad.” Actually, without making a sweeping judgment on all the garden creepy crawlers, remember these little preaches: The garden is where the bugs live, not you. It is their home. Actually it is a very small percentage of all of the things that creep, crawl, fly or go bump in the night, which are true pests. The secret is BALANCE. Keep your garden and your life in balance and it will stay healthy. There will always be a few creepy crawlers in your garden and in your life. The helpful insects and friends should always be holding the teeter-totter level.

Some cultures and some gardens thrive within close quarters, others do not. One needs to respect and know who is who and who needs what. In my many years of gardening I have discovered the instructions for spacing not always to be suitable or accurate. I tend to like a rather crowded garden that

looks like a quilt. I also have found that plants grown close together can shade a smaller plant, which craves shade. This type of planting can be done only when your soil is very well prepared. The roots go down for nourishment and do not need to sprawl sideways. This is no different from comprehending the importance of a good foundation when building a house, raising a child, or maintaining a friendship.

Neither life nor a rewarding garden comes with a free lunch! One must weed out the weeds before they spew nasty seeds all over. Pay attention! What makes your garden healthy and thrive? What makes you healthy

Each garden and each gardener’s life is uniquely their own. Difference is, people can lie about what makes them happy—I know I can. But my garden never lies to me. I must pay attention.

and thrive? Each garden and each gardener’s life is uniquely their own. Difference is, people can lie about what makes them happy—I know I can. But my garden never lies to me. I must pay attention.

I know I am an enigma to many of my friends who have wandered through our garden, marveling at it. As they are walking they also are forced to listen to me babbling about everything that is wrong and what I would never do again. Why, I ask myself then, do I keep gardening? I have made so many mistakes—big, bad and obnoxious. The answer is, I am so grandly rewarded. Every nook, every rock, every dead plant, every thriving plant has a story, a reason and a season. My garden, any garden, mirrors life. It changes, it moves, it grows. It lives, it pays it dues, and it dies. Pay attention, there is often a beautiful rose, standing strong in the middle of a thunderstorm. My sister Judith in real life has often been that rose for me. That is what really matters. Every garden has its rose, just pay attention.

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Tips on Summertime Sprinkling #12

with Bob Quinn

Dear Bob Quinn,

We have never had any problems with our well—plenty of water for our needs and more than enough to run a sprinkler for lawn and garden. A neighbor tells me that during warm weather we should run enough sprinklers to keep the pump running continuously. Why should that be?

The first reason is that if your pump is going on and off during sprinkling, the power demand is significantly greater. This increased demand to phase the pump in and out can be as much as 30%-40%, according to the experts.

That translates into a real dollar cost and wasted power resources. Just as important is the fact that such on-off, on-off cycling also takes its toll on your pump, and over a period of time will shorten its life expectancy.

Both of these costly conditions can be avoided simply by turning on enough sprinkler heads to keep the pump in operation continually, or install cycle stop valve. Look for future article on cycle stop valves.

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 — 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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WHOW!

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

WHOW! We are alive and kicking here in the Applegate. Women Helping Other Women (WHOW) is a group of versatile Applegate women eager to trade work hours to accomplish burdensome, tedious, or challenging jobs in our homes and on our properties. Most of us are workaholics by nature, so when four of us get together to tackle a task we can accomplish an amazing amount of work at a three-hour work party.

The group meets monthly for a potluck planning meeting during which time we record our credits and debits in the WHOW notebook, laugh a lot, and plan several work parties for the coming month. Usually three women attend each three-hour work party. The jobs we can tackle range from painting, rock wall building, garden drip system installation, ditch digging, tree pruning, window washing, weed pulling and housecleaning to computer help. At the planning meeting, most women choose one job from the month's selection based on interest, convenient scheduling, expertise and/or tools available—or the host's reputation for preparing an excellent lunch!

Often the host will offer a job that requires little or no direction on her part. The workers know just what to do. Sometimes a host will write out an extensive "Honey-Do" list and women are invited to select a job that appeals to them, check it off, and then start another. In three hours, the list is done!

Other times the work for the day is a real education. WHOW women have learned to stucco a straw bale home, install and texture sheetrock, build a cob house and raised beds. We share knowledge of composting, gardening, carpentry, fuels reduction, and even interior design. We share not only our talents, but also our tools, reducing the need to buy or rent tools for an occasional job. One woman owns a carpet shampooer, another a tree pruner.



From left: Karen Giese, Sioux Rogers, Thalia Truesdell, Kaye Clayton

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We utilize a system of credits and debits similar to a checkbook to maintain balance within the group. Every three-hour work party worked earns one credit. Likewise, the host is debited a credit for each woman who comes to help her. At the planning meeting someone will cry out, "Oh, no! I am a negative three!" Someone else will rejoice that she is a "plus two" and decide to splurge and have a party to divide the irises and weed the strawberries.

The work parties often start at an early hour in the summer to beat the heat, later in the winter, and always end with a delectable lunch prepared by the host. Frequently workers leave with a bag of cuttings from the flower bed, fresh lettuce and arugula from the garden, seeds, eggs, or a recipe for the dessert they just shared.

WHOW welcomes new members at any time. The club has no dues. We are a very diverse group of able-bodied women from all walks of life, all ages and backgrounds. What we have in common is a desire for camaraderie while we work. We meet the second Thursday of each month at the home of Thalia Truesdell at 6:30 pm for our potluck planning meeting. Call Thalia at 541-899-8741 with any questions.

Thalia Truesdell • 541-899-8741
thalia@thaliaweaver.com

Yoga for the garden

BY TERI AUKER BECKER

As the weather gets warmer and days longer, the outdoors summons many of us to come outside and plant anything from tomatoes and peppers to impatiens and petunias. The first bloom of spring is like a gun at the starting line. Out we go, full of great intentions, but out of shape, to take on the some of the most demanding tasks of the year. Unlike ballet dancers who warm up for hours to perform for a half hour, gardeners dash outside to spend three or four hours crouching over flower beds, weeding, digging, and pushing wheelbarrows. Then comes the ice packs and Motrin for bruised muscles and stiff joints—you get the picture!

The ancient art of yoga and gardening have many parallels. Both require agility and physical strength. They each require discipline and persistence. Gardening and yoga are both known to enhance calmness and balance. Both are in harmony with nature and hope for growth and change. Yoga can teach a person the skills with which to avoid the strains and injuries that come from gardening. It teaches us to become more aware of the muscles involved, to move more slowly and, most of all, to remember to breathe. Breathing sounds so simple, but every one of us tends to inhale and hold our breath during exertion. Yoga teaches us to focus on breathing, to let out deep sighs, to relax.

Some of the best stretches for gardeners are the ones learned by yoga beginners. Most yoga sessions begin with relaxation exercises such as simple breathing, neck and shoulder rolls, wrist and hand warm-ups, gentle back bending, side stretches and chest openers. Some warm-up examples include

stretching out your hands by opening the fingers wide, followed by making a fist. As you close the hand, roll each finger toward the palm, starting with the pinkie finger. While working in the garden, you will no doubt be stooping and bending over a lot. The back and legs will need to be warmed up and strengthened. Some good warm-ups include gentle lunges, either with the back leg straight (runners stretch) or resting the back knee on the ground (low lunge). Remember never to let the front of your knee go farther forward than your ankle. For the back, you can do cat and dog stretches. Starting on your hands and knees, round your back up and drop your chin and tailbone. Then reverse that by lifting the tailbone and arching your back, chin and head rolling up last.

There are many choices and many different styles of yoga classes offered in the Rogue Valley. If you have never done yoga before, keep in mind your age, your lifestyle and your body type, then take the time to choose the right style of yoga for you. If you feel that you do not have the time for a class, there are many books and DVDs available. Be sure to look for a beginner's version. Two that I recommend are "Yoga for Gardeners with Gail Dubinsky" (DVD) and *Yoga for Your Life* by Margaret D. Pierce and Martin G. Pierce (book). And remember, spend the last few minutes of your gardening day just looking at and appreciating the fruits of your labor.

Teri Auker Becker • 541-846-9149

Editor's note: Teri Becker is a yoga instructor and gardener in the Applegate Valley.

MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Forest management at the crossroads

BY CHRIS BRATT

There is a popular adage that says, "If you come to a fork in the road, take it." Actually, we are facing that very dilemma today in our public forests. We have to decide which fork to take. Taking one fork will continue us further into the past conflicts of widely divergent opinions regarding forest land management here in Oregon, and here in the Applegate in particular. But I don't think we want to go down that road again. The other fork offers the opportunity to lead us into more attractive alternatives for solving some of these seemingly intractable forest land issues. I think most of us would like to go in this new direction.

I also think we can safely say that the bureaucratic inaction of our Congress (where are those promised county timber payments?) and failed leadership of the Bush administration these past eight years have favored the resource extraction industries. We need, and hopefully will get in the upcoming November election, a more conservation-minded leadership who will allocate the wherewithal to solve problems and be willing to look at new forest management solutions.

Presently, there are energizing ideas coming from conservationists and federal agencies that can bring people together to hammer out compromises to meet the ecological and social goals necessary

Presently, there are energizing ideas coming from conservationists and federal agencies that can bring people together to hammer out compromises to meet the ecological and social goals necessary for good forest management.

for good forest management. This means we need support from all elected officials. At the very least, voting Oregonians should take this opportunity to send a clear message to all prospective candidates for office that extractive industries, such as mining, logging and fishing, must be required to keep ecosystems healthy and functioning. Commodity interests, in order to continue using public lands, must protect our valuable resources and provide community jobs. The timber industry, abetted by our public land management agencies, must never again be able to mistreat our public forests across the landscape as they have in the past.

Currently, I am encouraged by a new direction in forest management being forged locally by our two federal land management agencies. They are experimenting with innovative methods using public collaboration and forest restoration as their primary goals. These community and restoration-based models are being urged forward by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service and a number of community organizations.

I recently attended a field tour hosted by the Josephine County Stewardship Group that visited a series of sites in the most westerly part of the Applegate. This area is being proposed for a forest management project by the Forest Service and we were looking at some of the unique ecosystems that are being considered for restoration management.

This collaboration effort centered on forest restoration is called the Butcher Knife-Slate Project. It is taking place on 6,000 acres off

Highway 199 west of the hamlet of Wonder. The project is an innovation proposed by the Forest Service to partner with Josephine County and interested community groups representing interests from logging to forest protection to economic development. The issues being examined include transitioning to a small diameter/second-growth timber industry, sustaining economic ventures such as restoration and thinning, forest resiliency to fire, protecting homes from fire, and finding new markets for forest products.

The Butcher Knife-Slate Project also will be experimenting using long-term (10-year) stewardship contracts over this 6,000-acre landscape. Stewardship contracts provide for a more flexible goods-for-service exchange where no money will change hands. Any removed products would be sold or used by the stewardship contractors to offset their labor costs. These contracts trade forest products with some commercial value for revenue needed to fund the restoration components.

The BLM is even further along in their efforts to promote community forestry and forest restoration. They have three similar projects, also in Josephine County. All of their projects are aimed at restoration to improve forest health, reduce potential for catastrophic wildfires, and create more good-paying jobs. Like the Forest Service project, BLM's projects are a collaboration among a diverse group of participants that includes loggers, environmentalists, community groups and the BLM. [For more information on the BLM restoration projects, see Voice of the Wild Siskiyou newsletter, Winter 2008 (www.siskiyou.org) and Medford Mail Tribune, June 1, 2008 (www.mailtribune.com/environment).]

The BLM and Forest Service are making a commendable effort by moving their forest management alternatives down this new road. They are advancing a stronger conservation agenda and ethic by proposing these restoration projects. This is the direction in which forest management must continue to travel, and our communities need to support these agency efforts for change. I believe this willingness to find new solutions to past problems associated with over-intensive forest management will help the agencies meet their mandates for a sustainable flow of forest products. It also will improve the ecological condition of the forest and build the necessary trust with the affected communities at the same time.

Don't forget: let your congressional representatives know that projects like these need their support, and be sure to vote for more conservation-minded leaders. If you want to know which ones, give me a ring

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Siskiyou National Forest. Photo: portlandindymedia.org



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Is there support for a wood waste drop-off point in the Applegate?

BY TOM CARSTENS

History. Some of you might remember the biomass drop-off service that was provided in Murphy in the 1990s. Biomass One, the wood waste electrical generating facility in White City, picked up woody biomass and urban wood waste that residents dropped off there in lieu of open slash burning or land fill deposits. Community support for the operation grew gradually from 4,900 green tons dropped off in 1994 to 9,700 green tons of waste in 1999. A large portable grinder (see photo 2) processed the wood waste, then Biomass One trucked the chips to White City where they were converted to electricity. Unfortunately, the operation had to be halted for safety concerns. Occasionally large metal items would be accidentally left in the wood waste, the grinder's centrifugal force could potentially sling this metal quite a distance, which might have endangered vehicles on Highway 238. According to Gordon Draper, vice president of Biomass One, a grinding site needs to be a safe distance from a highway and with about an acre's worth of buffer around the grinder. Gordon says that his company would love to come out and start picking up our wood waste again if we could find a suitable site. Right now, Biomass One makes a monthly pickup at Jo-Gro in Merlin (9,100 green tons annually) and could swing easily into the Applegate Valley to haul off more stuff. According to Gordon, he wouldn't charge for the service. A sorter would be required to screen the material (get that metal out!) and stack it for loading into the grinder.

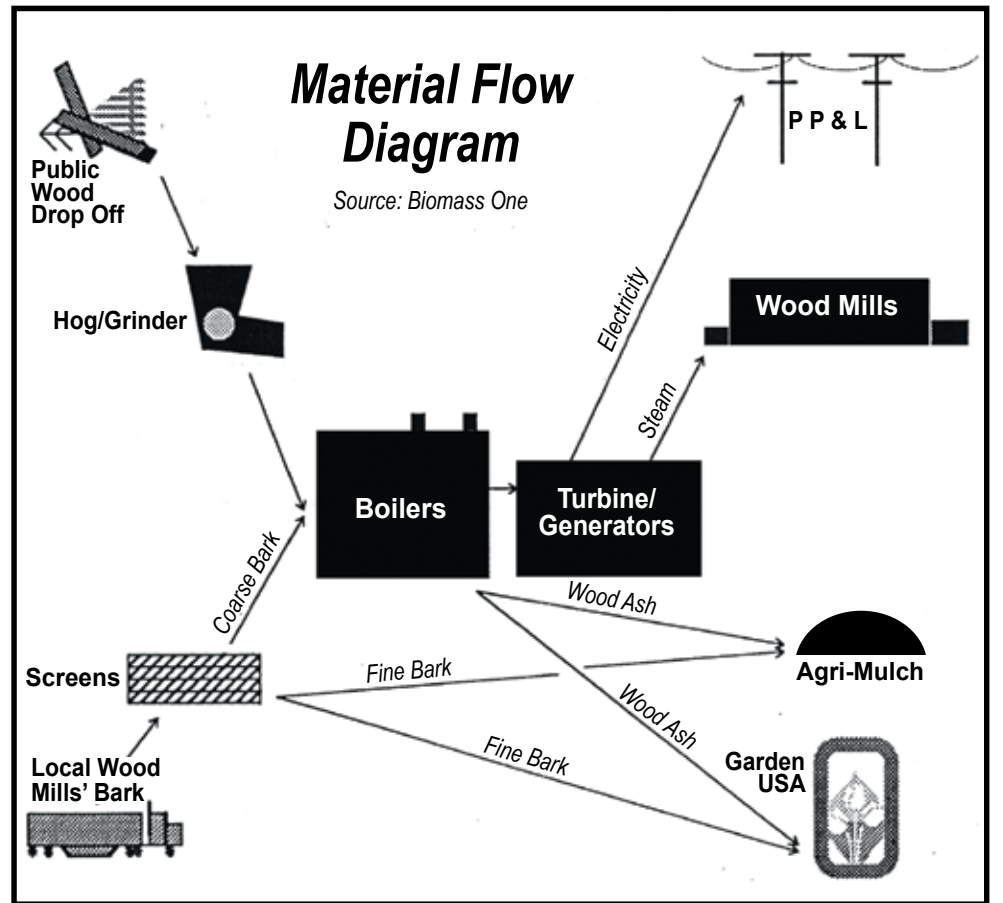
fill, foundations, etc., and by farmers and the landscape industry for soil enhancement.

Biomass One produces 35 tons of this ash per day—that's 35 tons of junk that are not fouling our air. Biomass One claims that one ton of open burned slash wood releases 17 pounds of particulate matter and 140 pounds of carbon monoxide into the air; whereas that same ton burned in a biomass boiler produces only about an ounce of particulates and just 1.7 pounds of carbon monoxide.

Rough and Ready Lumber Mill in Cave Junction recently installed a small biomass plant to handle mill waste. Link Phillippi, president of Rough and Ready, says that everything about his operation has been positive so far. "You can't even smell the smoke!" he says proudly.

Waste to Energy. A second benefit is the dramatic reduction in construction wood waste that's now dumped into landfills. In addition to its own waste, Rough and Ready also takes about half of its hog fuel from nearby public and private forests. Typically, Biomass One consumes over 300 thousand tons of wood waste annually. Chip trucks loaded with this stuff would stretch from Medford to Redding. That's a lot of material that *isn't* going into our landfills!

Almost all of this biomass can be converted to electrical energy. Water jackets around the boilers produce steam that is used for two purposes. Some of the steam is used to power equipment on site or for use by lumberyards to heat kilns to dry finished lumber. Most



losing only around two million board feet to mechanical removal! As we've seen, the combination of a century of fire suppression combined with a virtual halt to traditional logging puts our forests at great risk to large, unnatural lightning-caused fires.

The U.S. Forest Service is interested in thinning these small diameter fuels and they have supported a special type of selective harvesting under what's called a "stewardship contract." They also have a special grant program to help new biomass plants get started. In fact, the feds,

According to Deputy Chief Chris Wolfard, Applegate Fire District #9 has already responded to four calls this year to contain slash pile burns that got out of control.

Drawbacks. Of course, there are some drawbacks to setting up a drop-off/sort point. It's a definite chore for us to load and unload a pickup with hard-to-handle slash; it's much easier to just burn it in place as we've always done. And with the price of gas going out of sight, the cost to haul this stuff might make it tough on our household budgets. Furthermore, a good-sized lot would



Benefits. There are some good things that might happen if we were to support a return to this kind of an operation.

Cleaner Air. For one, we would see a reduction in smoke and hazardous particulate matter that frequently clogs our valley's air. Slash burning generates some very small particles that can lodge in the lungs, creating health problems for some. Biomass plants are required by the Environmental Protection Agency to install efficient pollution scrubbers to eliminate this material. The ground-up waste, known as "hog fuel," is burned efficiently in large "boilers" or "fireboxes." Almost everything is burned. The tops of these boilers don't even need smokestacks. Any unburned particulate matter that remains is blown straight to state-of-the-art "electrostatic precipitators." These use a system of air circulation over charged rods and plates to remove fine particles from the smoke. This "boiler rock" ash is used by the construction industry for back

of the steam, however, is run through steam turbines connected to powerful electrical generators. The electricity produced is sent directly to the grid (see diagram above). This dual use of the steam is why these types of biomass plants are called "cogeneration" plants. Cooling towers save water by condensing the steam for recycling in a closed-loop water system.

Electrical production varies depending on the size of the plant. Rough and Ready Lumber produces 1.5 megawatts (MW), which is enough to power about 1,000 homes. Biomass One runs three big turbines and produces 30 MW. This is more than enough to power all of Medford's residential needs.

Reduced Wildfire Risk. Maybe the greatest benefit of all is the potential to stimulate commercial fuels reduction in our dangerously overgrown forests. The Southern Oregon Timber Industry Association estimates that the Rogue River National Forest is growing around 423 million board feet per year, while

the state, and the Oregon Energy Trust all have aggressive grant and tax incentive initiatives to encourage biomass processing. These incentives help offset the currently high costs of harvest and delivery.

According to the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), our state now has about 50 industrial sites processing woody biomass, with more on the way. The Oregon Department of Energy (DOE) says that our state gets 6% of its energy from biomass, which is twice the national average. DOE claims that figure can double in the next 20 years if a larger portion of the woody biomass accumulating in our forests can be utilized. OFRI estimates that approximately two million green tons of biomass fuel could be harvested annually over this period. It's really the ultimate in renewable energy because this undergrowth keeps coming back!

Another side benefit to reducing our open slash burning would be the lower fire risk in our own neighborhoods.

have to be leased or purchased, a sorter hired, and a small dozer obtained.

Incentives. There might be enough in credits and incentives to pay for all this, though. A year ago, a renewable fuels bill, HB2210, was signed by the governor. Among other things, this law set up a tax credit of \$10 per green ton of slash that's converted to energy. As a scale of reference, this would be the equivalent of about \$97,000 per year at the rate we were dropping off biomass in Murphy in 1999.

Waste Potential. How much of this stuff do we have, anyway? A study conducted by TSS Consultants estimates that public and private sources in our valley could potentially provide around 95,000 green tons of biomass annually. This could take the form of woody material generated from thinning, logging, agricultural, or construction activity. Residential wood waste could be a big part of this. Recovery data tell us that a total of around 50,000 green

See BIOMASS, page 9

BIRDMAN

Coastal birding

BY TED GLOVER



A trip along the Oregon and Washington coasts is great any time of the year, but springtime is especially beautiful. A mass of scotch broom in yellow splendor greets the traveler everywhere and the rhododendron, azaleas, bleeding heart, camas, dogwood—even Oregon grape—add color all along the roadways.

With the spring migration underway, a full assortment of songbirds is visible at every stop. Warblers abound, as do swallows, grosbeaks, tanagers and flycatchers. Along the shores and inlets we spotted hundreds of western and glaucous-winged gulls, along with many Wilson's phalaropes whirling around in circles as they fed on mosquito larvae and small insects.

Farther out in the ocean waters and along the small rocks that dot the coast, we spotted pelagic cormorants, with their distinctive white flank patches, and the pigeon guillemot, with its conspicuous white wing patches. A highlight was spotting a male Pacific loon with its pale gray head and black and white checkered back.

Farther north in the Olympic range we saw many gray jays and red crossbills, along with pine siskins and American goldfinch. The best thing of all, however, was watching the spectacular display of the male blue sooty grouse attempting to attract the female by inflating colorful neck sacs of yellow and red. We saw several of these birds on the trip to Hurricane Ridge. All in all, we saw 121 species of birds on our ten-day jaunt.

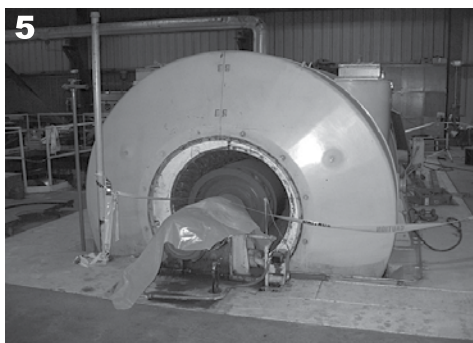
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Photos clockwise from top: Heermann's gull (*Larus heermanni*); Ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*); Western gull (*Larus occidentalis*); and Pelagic cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*). Photos by Mike Baird, www.bairdphotos.com

BIOMASS

FROM PAGE 8



tons of yard debris and wood waste are collected annually from all of Jackson and Josephine Counties. That's a lot of potential electricity! With the rising costs of fossil fuels, someday it might be economically feasible for someone to set up a local electrical cogeneration plant right here. But in the meantime . . .

What should we do? We might want to consider taking up Biomass One's offer to pick up our wood waste. Before we start identifying a drop-off site or hiring a sorter, though, it makes sense to see if our residents and businesses would even support this kind of operation. Some of you will be selected at random this summer to answer this very question. A short multiple-choice survey form will be mailed; you'll be able to fill it out in just a couple of minutes and send it back via postage-paid return envelope. I'll be working at Southern Oregon University to tabulate the results. So give me a call if you have any ideas or questions. I'd

love to hear from you. I'll publish the results in late fall.

For now, the Rough and Ready Lumber Mill four miles south of Cave Junction says they'll be happy to take your logs or wood chips if you'd like to sell them for energy conversion. You can call the mill at 541-592-3116 if you have any questions. Biomass One accepts a much wider variety of woody waste debris and will take it off your hands if you want to haul it to White City and pay a small tipping fee. Biomass One can be reached at 541-826-9422.

Tom Carstens
541-846-1025

Photos:

1. The author in front of a week's supply of "hog fuel."
2. Loading waste into Biomass One's portable grinder.
3. Off loading biomass
4. Biomass One Generator
5. Biomass One's electrostatic precipitators
6. The author with Rough and Ready's steam turbine.

APPLEGATE OUTBACK: MY OPINION

You want to smell like a man



BY BOB FISCHER

In the beginning, it is probably safe to say that man smelled as strong as the animals he pursued and those that pursued him. At some point, man's opposing thumb and forefinger just naturally allowed him to develop a spoken language.

The first sentences must have been, "Would you mind moving downwind, Torg? Your body odor is enough to gag a maggot."

The next few thousand years were spent searching for scents and perfumes that changed or masked the human aroma.

"We are civilized, we don't like being predators and we sure as heck don't want to smell like them."

For a long time we smelled like flowers, then citrus fruits and vegetables became popular scents. Recently the trend is toward more natural aromatic statements. Man is not quite ready to smell like a man. But at least hunters are willing to smell like other animals. Specifically, like other animals' urine.

Seriously! There are a lot of hunting products out there that allow us to smell like deer or elk urine. As much as I would like to get a big buck or bull elk each year, I'm not sure it would be worth smelling like urine to do so.

I used to hunt with a friend named John Kilroy, who works at the Jackson County Court House. John worked hard at changing his own odor into something else. He used doe-in-estrus urine on calm days and skunk scent on windy days. His skunk scent came from a dispenser attached to his hat.

Maybe the reason for my friend's hunting success was that he changed his scent one other way: When we crossed a deer trail he went through the droppings like your mother tests grapes in the supermarket. Squeezing and jabbing, crushing and sniffing.

That was in the woods. At home he couldn't change a dirty diaper or clean up the puppy's mess without gagging.

Even after his second child, his wife handled the messy jobs, saying, "John has such a weak stomach."

He was a master! The guy who walked around smelling like a skunk and finding fresh deer dung had his wife convinced he had a weak stomach—a truly gifted man.

My present hunting partners, Rick Montoya and Rick Colbert, also take the hunter scent very seriously. Montoya tries to overpower the human scent, not change it.

One day Montoya, Colbert and I were at our hunting camp preparing for a morning deer hunt. Montoya was splashing himself with a strong smelling liquid, dousing his hat, boots, armpits and the area best described

as the confluence of his anatomy.

"Wherever you develop smell, that's where you need it," Montoya explained without stopping. "Montoya, isn't that turpentine?" I asked.

"Sure! Turpentine is a natural compound and smells like the woods. Plus, it's powerful enough to erase the human scent," he said.

"Yes, but it also is powerful enough to peel paint. Are you sure you want it near your skin?"

"No problem," Montoya said condescendingly. "Modern fabrics, like the ones you see adorning my body, are designed to wick moisture away from the skin, not toward it. Remember, it wicketh away, it does not wicketh in." This last Shakespearian statement was given with turpentine can held high.

Ten minutes from camp, Montoya began to twitch about on the truck seat in convulsive movements, not normally a cause for concern, but he was driving. At the same time, he began speaking in tongues, a little surprising even for Montoya.

"Montoya, are you all right?" Colbert asked.

"EERPP WHEEEFFF!" he said with feeling. At this point the truck began doing things on the gravel road that were not consistent with the undulations of the road itself.

"Montoya, are you all right?" Colbert repeated. The truck went sideways and stopped. We bailed out of the truck just in time to hear an elk herd crash through the dark woods.

Montoya was doing a dance in front of the headlights that would have made a headless chicken proud.

At the same time, he was ripping off his clothing as fast as he could get a handhold. Colbert and I tried to help alleviate the poor man's suffering, but we couldn't catch our breath between guffaws.

Throughout this sequence, Montoya was making noises that sounded like a coyote in heat. "OOOWEEEEEO-W O W O W O W O W O - WOWOWOOO!" he said caninely. Then, "WATER, WATER, WATER, WATER, HURRY, HURRY, HURRY, HURRY, PLEEEZE!"

I threw him my canteen, because it is not safe to get near a guy who rips his clothes off in the middle of a road in the headlights of a truck! Montoya began to wash himself at a rapid rate.

"It just goes to show you," Colbert said, as we watched Montoya doing things to himself that would have meant a jail term in most cities, "turpentine wicketh where it wanteth to!"

Bob Fischer
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THE STARRY SIDE

The heart and heat of Summer

BY GREELEY WELLS

Last time in Spring we talked of standing "on" the flat disc of our Milky Way Galaxy looking out into dark and almost faint sky. Now our Milky Way has risen in the east and with it our lovely summer triangle made up of the brightest stars in three different constellations. All three in the white mists of billions of stars and other celestial objects, that makes up our Milky Way Galaxy.

Let me take you outside for a look. After all it's warm and wonderful out there at night under those beautiful stars and as it cools with night even the mosquitoes will go away. Come on out, bringing me along in this article, and a comfortable chair that leans back to show you the sky. Remember where your sun rises? That's east, put it to your left. And where it sets? That's west, put it to your right. You're feet are now facing south. So get comfortable and look up. Hope you have a friend, spouse or child with you.

The Milky Way is rising in the east (your left). It starts from over our head in the north arching high in the east and ending close to our feet in the south. In the south you'll notice the Milky Way bulging and brightening, that is the center of our Milky Way Galaxy that we live in. That very center is in the constellation: Sagittarius, the archer or tea pot. It's above your feet, a little left or east, and really looks like a tea pot. A

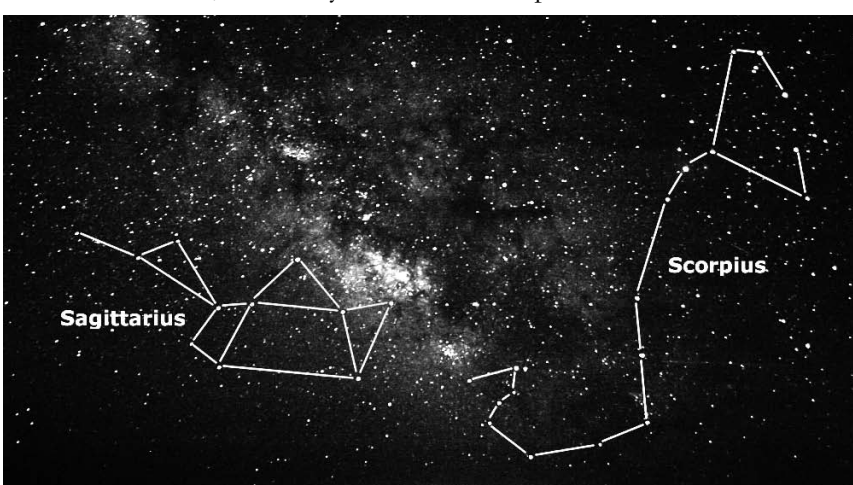


Photo: www.utahskies.org

handle on the left forms a trapezoid of four stars, and a spout on the right, of three stars, out of which seems to flow the Milky Way's milk! There's even a triangular top. In July, bright Jupiter is close to the upper left and above it is a small configuration of stars that is the tea spoon for the tea pot. It's even right side up with the handle to the left. To the right of all this is Scorpio, still very much in the bulge of the Milky Way. See the bright and reddish star, the "Rival of Mars," it's called Antares. It's the middle of three stars sort of diagonally horizontal and to their right is another three in a row of vertical stars. Imagine the first three the arching body of the scorpion; the right hand vertical three in a row make the shoulders of the outstretched claws. Hey, the 3/4 size moon joins Scorpio on July 13th, right between and below these two trio's of stars! To the lower left of Antares, and probably going to or below the horizon line, is a line of stars that sweep down to the left and up again ending in two small stars close together. That's the scorpion's stinger, look out! When you finally figure out all this constellation I think you'll be amazed at how "accurate" it is. How much like a scorpion.

So July 13th might be a good night to do this star/constellation looking or in August go out the night of the 12th/13th and see meteors too! (See below.) A valuable technique for finding the right stars is to squint a bit blocking out the confusion of lesser stars leaving only the bright ones, which these constellations are mostly made of.

THE PLANETS

Venus has not been around for some time now while it went behind the sun. Now it is just barely becoming visible in the western sunset's evening sky by the end of July. It's in the west-northwest. It's so close to the sun that it sets only about 45 minutes after the sun does. But it's so bright it may be the first "star" you see in the west. Good luck seeing it. By July 30th Venus is very close to Mars and Saturn. They make a

tight planet line with Regulus added about 30 minutes after sunset. The configuration of planets is now this: to the left and highest is Mars then diagonally to the right and lower is Saturn then Regulus, a star, is low close to Venus who is by far brightest and rightmost and lowest. By the end of the month Venus will set about a hour after sunset. Almost all this is so close to the horizon line that if you don't have a wonderfully low west-northwest or can't climb a mountain, you may miss it. In which case you'll be seeing only the highest: Mars and maybe Saturn. (That's my fate, here on Carberry Creek.) With a good low horizon later in August the group is joined by Mercury who will be the dimmest. Way above all this in the west is the bright Arcturus "follow the arch [of the big dipper's handle] to Arcturus".

Jupiter is half a sky away from all the other Planets in the south above the handle of the tea pot Sagittarius. And he pretty much holds his position slowly drifting both months. It's a fairly good position for a telescope view.

Saturn joins Mars and Regulus in July, see below and above.

Mars is very close to the brighter Regulus on July 1st. On the tenth and eleventh it is visited by Saturn. Both are in the west and setting a little over an hour after the sun. See above for August happenings, if you have a good low north-western sky. By the end of August Mars falls lower towards the sunset's afterglow to be gone from view in September till next year.

OF SPECIAL NOTE

Well the most exciting time of the night sky each year is August 12 for me. Like clockwork the Perseid Meteor Showers grace our night skies. The moon sets by midnight or so. The showers are active from July 17th - August

24th but crowning night of August 12/13 is the best. Perseids are fast, bright and leave a persistent trail most often. The radiant is in the north east below the "W" of Cassiopeia in Perseus. They are good after midnight and best predawn but any time will get you some if you're patient.

So if you're still in your chair facing south try to lean way back to see all the sky, especially the north overhead where Perseid is.

One more thing to consider if you go out early in the morning to see the show: you'll be seeing the winter sky up there! Yes, early mornings show you a sky that is about a season or two later, actually predawn in August is actually a November sky. So notice Orion and even the dog star Sirius rising in the east before dawn. This is why the ancients called this hot weather the Dog Days of summer! I can imagine the ancients trudging out to the fields in the cool of the early dawn and seeing Sirius rising. Wouldn't you do a lot of your work then before the heat of the day?

The moon on August 2nd is a slim sliver that hovers left of Venus. August 3rd the moon is below and between Mars and Saturn. Watch for it on the 4th as it's moved to the left of Mars. This is an excellent opportunity to notice that it moves about a fist's width at arms length each night. Step out those evenings to see it right after sunset.

July's full moon, the Hay Moon or Thunder Moon, is on the 18th and August's full moon, the Grain Moon, or Green Corn Moon is on the 16th. I've been calling these moons by the month in which they appear but really they are seasonal moons. Three sets for each of the four seasons. We publish every two months so it doesn't come out "right." So I just call them, a bit inaccurately, by the month. I hope you'll forgive me.

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Cantrall-Buckley Park Improvement Project

BY LAIRD FUNK



“What the heck is going on here?”

That was the gist of most questions asked by folks who stumbled upon the frenetic construction activity at Cantrall-Buckley Park these last few months. Well, what was going on was that after nearly three years of talking, planning, designing and fundraising, the Cantrall-Buckley Park improvement project got under way with a bang. Work was started on a three-phase project that will ultimately create a whole new potable water system and new parkwide wastewater treatment system (Phase 1); great improvements to the campground including a new restroom building with showers (Phase 2) (see photo above); and finally, full utility hookups for each vehicle campsite and the addition of four yurts (Phase 3).

The project is funded by grants from Oregon State Parks and The Small

Community Incentive Fund, as well as some assistance from Jackson County. It is under the direction of the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) which has operated the park in partnership with Jackson County since 1996. The project began with a grant from the United States Forest Service for a sewer design for the campground. This was stretched far enough to obtain designs for a complete wastewater collection and treatment system that will use a wetland process to treat the wastewater and then disperse that treated water through underground drip systems in the campground landscaping.

Phase 1. The new treatment system includes replacing all existing septic tanks and adding an impressive 10,000 gallon tank for the campground sewer. These tanks will pump their effluent to the treatment cell where

it will flow below the ground surface through a constructed, lined wetlands planted with nutrient-loving water plants, which will not only use some of the nutrients themselves, but as importantly provide a growing surface on their roots for a complex bacterial mass to use more of the nutrients. This system is only the second one in Oregon (see photo bottom right), but is ideally suited to Cantrall-Buckley’s needs.

The next step in the process, the drip dispersal system in the campground, is also a fairly rare process in Oregon and this one may be the largest yet in the state. Initially the system will keep the meadow area in the campground green, and will be expanded as the campground is renovated to irrigate screen shrubbery plantings and fence line plantings (using native Oregon plants). Currently the campground has no irrigation rights to the Applegate River. This new system will allow it to be attractively landscaped to improve its ambience.

The work started in the middle of freezing January with the short-notice arrival of our 10,000 gallon tank which had to be installed immediately. Rising to the challenge, Jim Bottroff and Tuffy Decker and their crews arrived on site January 21 on a rare snowless day after an exciting time trying to get a giant tracked excavator and other equipment up an ice covered Cantrall Road and campground driveway. A driveway, mind you, which stayed ice-covered for the entire installation job. Two days later the giant hole was ready and when the truck with the tank finally struggled up the hill, the crews pulled out all stops and had that tank off the

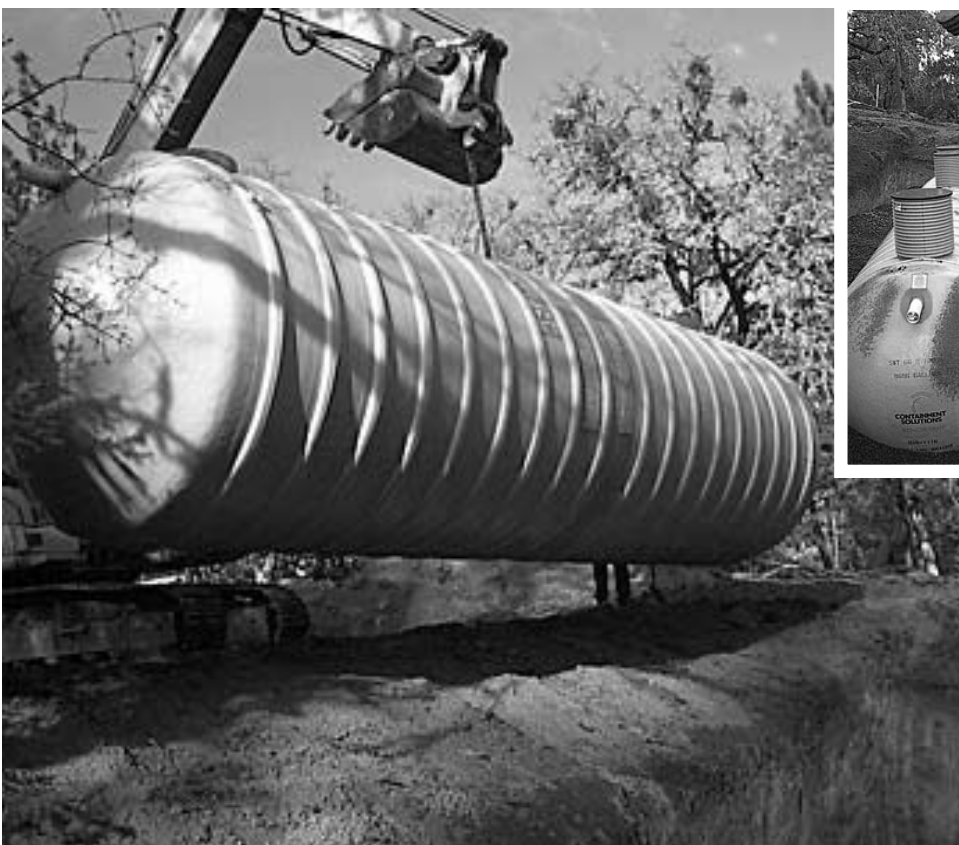
truck and in the ground, covered in just over five hours! (see photos bottom left and middle) Just then, the snow, which had held off for three days, resumed with a fury, but the job was done and to quote Tuffy, “It really was a good, fun, productive day!”

On March 20, everybody crawled out of hibernation and began the work of installing the pipelines that tie everything together. Tuffy and Jim’s crews were joined by Greg from Jacksonville Bore and Drill. Trench work began in the campground with three crews working. Hundreds of feet of trench per day got finished. Between March 20 and the end of April, 5600’ of various trenches were dug and filled with a total of 6600’ of 1”, 2” and 3” pressure pipe, and 4100’ of 1”, 2” and 3” electrical conduit, and seemingly thousands of cubic yards of gravel backfill.

At the same time, three septic tanks were installed and two 8’ square concrete block buildings constructed to house the control panels and electrical gear, which make the whole process go. Sometimes there were five crews working at once in various places in the park, quite a change from the normal sleepy pace during the early spring at Cantrall-Buckley.

Things have quieted a bit right now, and the park is getting ready for visitors. But pretty soon, maybe by the time you read this, we are jumping into constructing the wetland and installing a 15,000 gallon potable water tank. Stayed tuned for more of the story next time!

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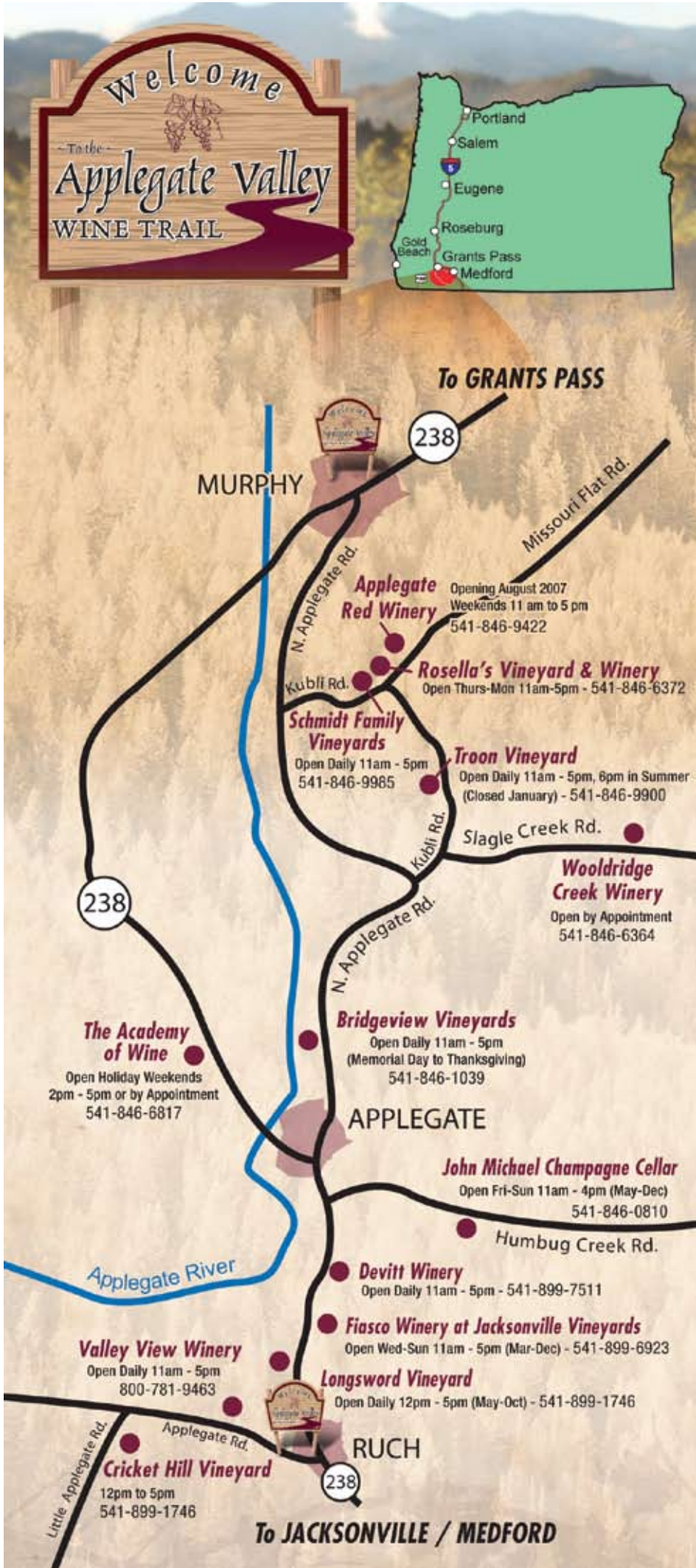
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Left: Clif and Lois Willson, Connie's parents, celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in 1957. Right: Lon and Connie Young will "miss so much about the Applegate Valley, but my father's farm most of all," where four generations of family have lived.

After marrying Lon in 1959, the couple lived in White City while Lon worked at Firply Plywood Mill. They continued to help her dad milk cows and put up crops, eventually moving back to the farm in 1969. When her mother died in 1975, her father sold the dairy cows and started raising beef, cattle and alfalfa hay. Connie and Lon already had purchased 20 acres of the farm in 1969 and added 18 acres in 1977. They, too, invested in beef cattle, and started raising alfalfa hay to sell. In 2000 Lon retired from Boise Cascade after working there for 15 years. They still raise grass-fed whiteface beef and grass hay. "We have six baby calves born this fall. One pair is twins. We already have three sold to be harvested in October," says Connie.

"Agriculture has been the love of my life," Connie enthused. "I love to grow things and watch the results of my labor. I pressure can or freeze vegetables from our garden, and enjoy my flowers and the crops we raise. We have our own beef for the freezer, raise chickens for eggs, and try to be as self-sufficient as possible."

This year Connie and Lon are growing an experimental crop of grass hay called "DUO." It is a mixture of developed fescues (a perennial grass that has narrow spiky leaves) and ladino clover (a giant form of white clover). Ampac Seed Company of Tangent, Oregon, furnished the seed and will send people to check its progress and production this season. Pictures are being taken and records kept of the crop's progress for Josephine Soil and Water Conservation District and for Ampac.

Two acres of land are leased to Syngenta, "a leading provider of innovative solutions and brands to growers and the food and feed chain" (according to its website), on which the company grows sugar beet seed, hybridizes it, cleans and processes it in Eugene, then sells it to the sugar beet growers in Jefferson County. Explained Connie: "The unique semi-Mediterranean climate here in the Applegate Valley gives the beet seed grower a two-year crop in just one year."

Never one to idle, Connie has been active in several agriculture organizations. She served as Oregon Farm Bureau Women's advisory council representative serving Jackson, Josephine and Douglas Counties for 13 years, resigning in 1989. She is special programs chairman for the Josephine County Farm Bureau,

vice chairman of the Josephine Soil and Water Conservation District, and a member of the Inland Rogue Water Resource Committee, which is working on the Clean Water Act (SB1010). Since Bear Creek Watershed Council merged with Inland Rogue, they are fine-tuning the regulations in relation to the Oregon Administrative Rules.

Connie has been an active member of the *Applegater* newspaper editorial board since the paper's inception in 1994. She also has served on the Board of Directors of the Applegate Partnership for the last 12 years, and gives the Partnership credit for "contributing to cooling the polarization that was so prevalent in this valley about 15 years ago [between farmers and environmentalists]." Not only has she learned a lot from working with the environmental community, she feels that they, too, have learned from her as a representative of the values of most farmers in this community. "Agriculture is my passion and I strive to preserve my way of life by farming in a manner that protects my environment. I love this valley and wish it could stay a farm community," said Connie.

Baptized in the Applegate River at 13, Connie is active in the Provolt Community Church, where she is chairman of the church women's group and sings tenor in the church choir and gospel quartet. The quartet performs at the Community Church Christmas celebration (usually at Ruch Community Church) and the Community Ice Cream Social held at Williams Community Church in July. They also sing at community functions like Pacifica's Christmas celebration. "My Christian faith is very important to me, and I try to live it every day," states Connie.

Lona Riley, Connie's only daughter, and husband Terry Riley both work at the Oregon State Police Academy near Salem, and live in Aumsville, Oregon, where Connie and Lon will relocate. The Rileys have two children—Savannah, who recently graduated from Oregon Institute of Technology in Portland and is married to Scott Lundquist; and Ethan, who is a freshman at Cascade High School near Stayton, Oregon.

"I love the Applegate Valley. My family has made their living farming, logging and mining here. I believe we have taken good care of our natural resources, protecting our environment and putting more into the land than we



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MERCANTILLE

FROM PAGE 1

Upper Applegate area and bought a large acreage from pioneer families. Rose's mother always envisioned a large area for a senior park in the Applegate. Rose has carried forward her mother's visions of helping the community. Family lands in the Rogue Valley included the old Gore Ranch and extended into the area of the new U.S. Cellular Community Park and the Southern Oregon Nursery. It is from these lands that the Applegate Valley community has been the recipient of many donations.

Rose and husband Richard (Dick) Leever's background includes a history of working through local organizations to better our community. You may have seen them working in many locations. In the early 1990s, Rose put much effort into starting a local community center and received a Carpenter Foundation Grant to research this project. At that time there wasn't enough community support for a community center. The Leevers volunteered at the Upper Applegate Grange, and were regulars helping the Rural Action Team, which is now staffed by volunteers and used by Search and Rescue and our local, county, state and forest service for strategic command in fire season.

Wherever the Leevers saw a need, they stepped in. Ruch Library and Ruch School both received generous grants of funds or volunteer time. We are appreciative of the Leevers for all their contributions to the Applegate Valley.

It is hoped that the community will enjoy and support this new addition to the McKee Bridge area, especially knowing the benefits it will bring. Visit the McKee Bridge with your family and

guests. Enjoy a summer day browsing McKee Mercantille and learning the history of the bridge. Linger a minute over the cool water of the Applegate River under the wooden beams of the covered bridge. Bring a picnic or enjoy a meal at McKee Bridge Restaurant. Maggie and Preston will take good care of you. Be sure to try a slice of homemade pie!

It is said there was a gas station and repair shop built around the 1950s near the site of the Mercantille, and one up the road owned by Bert Harr. What would be your guess of the price per gallon of gasoline in those days—15 to 20 cents?

Take a trip to the past, too. Imagine walking the area, perhaps with a parasol or straw hat, hearing the distant clang of men at the horseshoe pits, and the excited fun of children at the swimming hole. Races and simple games of skill and camaraderie. And always a watermelon to enjoy, perhaps cooled in the stream. The aroma of cooking at the campgrounds, and later at the picnic shelter. Imagine the happy days of hard-working Applegaters, free from labor and responsibilities for a day, walking over these same lands. Come to the McKee area, eight miles up Upper Applegate Road on the left, and live the old fashioned way for a day. It is one of the closest ways we can return to the past!

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YOUNG

FROM PAGE 12

take. This is a wonderful place to live. God has used his holy paintbrush to decorate and design this beautiful place," added Connie.

But family is calling, so it's off to Aumsville she must go, taking with her sweet memories of a life well spent in the Applegate Valley. You can bet that

this unstoppable woman will stay active in farming somehow, join another church, and sing in another choir. And with lifetime fishing and hunting licenses, she is sure to enjoy the company of her best friend for years to come.

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Tales of the
Wild Wild Applegate

Connie Young has some interesting tales to tell about the Applegate—most were passed down by her father, Clif. Some stories took place in Williams, which, by her dad's account, was a known hideout for notorious bank and train robbers in the early 1900s.

Connie and her brother Willy enjoyed a lively phone conversation while recalling the following stories.

Legend has it, according to Clif, that Bill Miner, the "gentleman bandit," hid out in Williams. This is the same Bill Miner about which the 1983 movie, "The Grey Fox," was based.

Clif himself told how he used to camp out with robbers "Tomestone" Jones and his son "Oregon" Jones in a hideout around Williams Highway and Powell Creek in Williams. According to a document on www.mugshots.com, we know that Oregon was arrested at least once for assault and robbery in Josephine County in 1923 (see photo).

Another story involved the local game warden, whose intent was to bust the Swearingen brothers because of their illegal still, but who wound up stripped and tied to a tree for three days. The game warden promptly transferred to Klamath Falls, where he was killed on an Indian reservation. "Something to do with the Chief's daughter," Connie was told.

And then there's Zeke Barnes, a friend of Connie's brother Shorty, who was a known poacher but was never arrested. Seems that everyone knew Zeke was feeding six kids and close to a dozen grandchildren who were living with him. One day while Zeke and Shorty were parked at the Williams Store with a load of "wood" in Zeke's truck, an officer of the law happened to stop by. After inspecting the truck, the officer told Zeke that his "wood was bleeding," and let him go.

—BH



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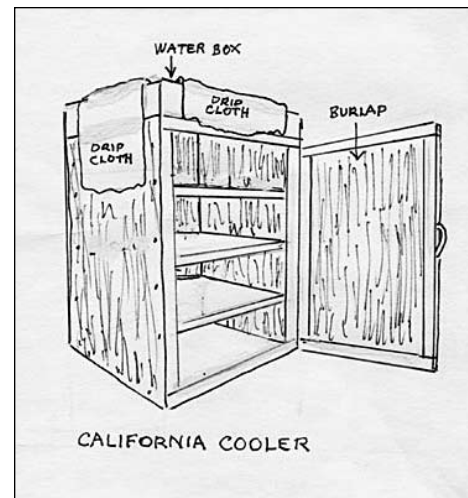
Food preservation

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

The preserving of food for the coming winter season was a hard and time-consuming necessity. Even though nearly everyone living in the Applegate in the early 1930s had a farm animal or two, a vegetable garden, and possibly an apple tree, many food items came from the surrounding countryside. I have written about the hunting of deer and bear, fishing for trout and the harvesting of honey, but there were other delectable foods to be harvested as well.

Sometimes a camping trip to

Keeping food edible for a few days could be a challenge. I remember the family having a cold closet in our house and also using what we called a “California Cooler.” The closet



Huckleberry Mountain would be arranged where the collection and preserving of huckleberries were the ultimate goals of the trip. (I do not remember exactly where this mountain is, but it may be near the Prospect area of the Rogue Valley.) My mother used a large copper boiler with a wooden rack inside to keep glass jars from resting on the bottom of the boiler and possibly breaking from the heat. This boiler, when filled with water and the berry-filled glass jars, which were sealed with a screw-on lid and rubber gasket, was placed over a fire and brought to a boil.

Commercial pear orchards in the Rogue Valley also supplied fruit for canning. Many people, including my mother and me, would work at the packing house during the harvest season and take home rejected pears. One year my brother and mother were working at the packing house and sending home a lot of pears that my dad and I spent long hours cleaning and preserving. I don't remember having any fun doing that!

Another way of saving food for the coming winter would be to dry it. I remember corn cut from the cob being placed on sheets laid on the roof of the house with sheer curtain material secured over the top. This allowed the air to flow through but kept the birds from eating the corn. Mother made a very good corn soup from the dried kernels.

Everything that could be pickled was. The pickling of vegetables allowed them to be canned without the worry of botulism and made for some delicious eating. Of course, making dill pickles from cucumbers was common, but beets also were a favorite. Sugar is a great preservative, and many jams and jellies filled the cupboard in autumn. In earlier times a layer of hot beeswax or paraffin was poured on top of the cooked fruit in the jar, thus sealing in the flavor to be savored on a cold winter morning at breakfast.

was built into the house by leaving an opening in the floor and ceiling, then building a cabinet or closet over the openings. This allowed the cool air from under the house to circulate into the space. A screen was placed over the openings to

keep out pests and shelves were placed in the cabinet on which to set food. Pans of milk were kept in there—some to drink, others to be made into cottage cheese, or the cream skimmed off the top to make butter.

The California Cooler was used outside in the summertime where the air would move through a screen of gunnysack material surrounding a wooden frame. On top of the frame was a wooden box for water with the ends of the burlap in it. The water would wick down the sides of the box and the air moving through would cool the interior. A cool shady area in the yard made this an even more effective way of keeping our food cool.

Thankfully, today I use my freezer and refrigerator to keep food fresh or tastily preserved; however, it could be said that some of the flavors of the past are missed.

Evelyn Byrne Williams
 with Janeen Sathre
 541-899-1443

*Photos above from left:
 The all-purpose boiler tub had many uses, such as canning, laundry (note the scrub board and bluing) etc.
 Old canning jar with rubber gasket and screw-on lid.
 Summertime outdoor California cooler.*

Correction:



This photo was incorrectly captioned in our last issue. The correct caption should read: "Morris Byrne and turkeys circa 1942."

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FARM TALK

No farms, no food Supporting Applegate Valley farms

BY MELISSA MATTHEWSON

I read a study recently by the New Economics Foundation in London that stated every dollar spent locally generates twice as much income for the local economy. I was pretty excited to read that. Then, I went on to think about the possible ripple effect of local spending. In his book *Eat Here, Reclaiming Homegrown Pleasures in a*



Photo: Jon Sullivan, PDphoto.org

Global Supermarket, Brian Halweil sums it up: "The farmer buys a drink at the local pub; the pub owner gets a car tune-up at the local mechanic; the mechanic brings a shirt to the local tailor; the tailor buys some bread at the local bakery; the baker buys wheat for bread and fruit for muffins from the local farmer. When these businesses are not owned locally, money leaves the community at every transaction." What a perfect example of how spending consciously in our communities comes full circle.

There has never been a better time to support our Applegate Valley farms. Food costs are rising all over the world. The price of bread is up by at least 20 cents. Pasta costs double what it has in the past. Economists say food inflation is the highest it has been in 15 years. Gas prices are over \$4.00 a gallon. Grain prices are through the roof. Wheat supplies are in peril. Spring weather has been swirling from frost to heat to rain. It is getting more expensive to cut hay, plant corn, feed cattle and drive produce to market, not to mention pear blossoms frosted out and the challenge of growing vegetables and fruits in variable weather conditions. It only makes sense to turn to local farms in light of these global trends. Here are ten reasons we should support Applegate farms:

1. It is better for our economy. As stated above, one dollar spent locally actually translates into double the income benefits to our local economy. On average, the American farmer receives 20 cents of each dollar spent on food. That's not much considering how much expense goes into producing high-quality food products from the farm. If we support local farmers with our dollars, in turn, they receive the full retail value for their product, keeping them in business over the long-term.
2. Food we buy from the local farm is fresher. There is no doubt about it. You can't really argue with that point. The corn you just bought at the farm stand was picked that morning or the beef you just put in your freezer was raised on lush Applegate grass and sent to the butcher just a few days before. We can all taste the difference between a strawberry picked from an Applegate farm as opposed to one picked underripe and shipped from California.
3. It just tastes better. Fresh food has vitality to it that food shipped from other places does not have.
4. Typically, you get more variety from a local farm. Local farmers are experimenting with heirloom varieties, so you may have an opportunity to taste a type of apple or tomato that you never have before. Arkansas Black or Cherokee Purple. With names like that, you can't go wrong. Red delicious may be a standard in the grocery stores, but the crispness and sweetness of an heirloom apple from an old cranky homestead tree is pure bliss.
5. By supporting your local farm, you are actively creating new relationships and community. You are getting to know your farmer. Putting a face on food. You also build your own solid family relationships as you spend more time around the table together, enjoying the hard-working abundance of our valley.
6. Food brings stories. We all have some memory related to food. Many of our experiences and celebrations center on food. You can probably tell me a long story about your grandmother's date nut raisin bread or the time you burnt the turkey at Thanksgiving. We all have stories to tell and we will only create more stories and authentic experiences by supporting our local farms.
7. We become more in touch with the seasons when we support local farms. We know when the raspberries come on, or the apples are picked, or when the animals have reached full weight, or when they calve or lamb. And when we know these things, we are more in tune with our natural world and the

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changing of each season. We are blessed to have such dramatic shifts in seasons from snow to frost to spring to heat to changing leaves. Farming goes hand-in-hand with those shifts and by knowing the seasons, we know our world more deeply.

8. Food travels an average of 1,500 miles before it reaches your table. It is actually better for the environment if you buy your neighbor's goat milk. And with fuel prices the way they are, buying locally defrays some of those transportation costs.
9. Buying locally saves farmland. Farms are disappearing at an increasing rate to suburban developments and urbanization. Supporting our Applegate farms slows this trend and demonstrates the value of keeping farmers on the land doing what they do best.
10. Restores integrity to our food system. I stole this from the agricultural economist, John Ikerd. There is so much truth to this statement. Purchasing food locally becomes more than just convenience and low prices. It becomes relationships, builds trust, reliability, fairness, compassion, and responsibility. It goes beyond the bottom line to the future of our secure food system.

So, go call your local farmer, order your beef, stop at the farm stands along Highway 238, go to the Williams farmers' market, eat at our local restaurants that serve local farm products, join one of the many Applegate CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture), or find a new way to support our hard-working Applegate farmers in any way you can. By doing so, our agricultural and rural community will continue to thrive and flourish.

Melissa Matthewson
541-776-7371, ext. 208



Tall Tales from the Editor

Apple cider or D.C. lap dancers

While sitting in the nook of our living room at the old round oak pedestal table, I was admiring this table's century worth of party stains, and worn finish. Our border collies, Tuesday and Utah, were both sacked out. Tuesday had a tough morning biting at all the flying insects in the garden, and Utah was worn out from marking trees around the house. Me, I was sipping a large glass of apple cider from last fall's pressing. With each swallow, I was thinking, mmm, mmm, this tastes better than old Jim Beam. Is that a sign of age?

From the window in the nook I can look out over a large portion of our fragrant and hearty flower garden in bloom. A little farther out is the vegetable garden with the newly rebuilt cedar raised beds and irrigation system. Our tomatoes may cost around a hundred dollars a pound, but, oh my, the flavor. Besides, if I prorate the new raised beds and irrigation system over the next five decades or so, the cost of our tomatoes might drop down to—well, if I dream hard enough or drink more cider—a few cents a pound.

Our tomatoes may cost around a hundred dollars a pound, but, oh my, the flavor. Besides, if I prorate the new raised beds and irrigation system over the next five decades or so, the cost of our tomatoes might drop down to—well, if I dream hard enough or drink more cider—a few cents a pound.

On past the vegetable garden is our heritage apple orchard—the source of apples for the cider I'm drinking. This particular cider blend consists of Arkansas Black, Yates, and Golden Russet apples. I do believe it's time to refill my glass.

Outside the nook windows and to the left are two bird feeders that supply a never-ending smorgasbord show of many feathered visitors such as black-headed grosbeaks, purple finches, dark-eyed junco, Chipping Sparrows, white-breasted nut hatches, Rufus-sided towhee (they feed on morsels that fall to the ground) and a pair of Steller's jays.

For 13 or 14 years now Steller's jays have been nesting on our rain gutter downspout. This nest is conveniently located a dozen feet from the bird feeders. I don't know if it's the same jays using this nesting site year after year for I do not know how long a Steller's jay lives. I do know the jays never paste a remodeling permit from the county when they make their yearly repairs or completely rebuild their home. In

most neighborhoods the Steller's jay is classified under homeland security as a terrorist. Ask any robin that's been run out of their home by these thugs and they will tell you. Our jays, however, seem to be quite mellow. Maybe that's because like most critters around here, two in particular, they have trained me to keep the food bowls, or in this case, bird feeders, filled at all costs. No matter the price of feed, rain or shine, day or night, they are full.

Lucky for me it is jays and not an acorn woodpecker that has taken a liking to our rain gutter downspout. Over at Bill Dunlap's place is an acorn woodpecker that hammers out his calls for love on his rain gutter downspout. Bill's new buddy starts his routine at 5:00 am—an alarm clock without a snooze button or an "off" switch. As the days turned to weeks and then a month, Mr. W. Pecker's call for feather-tickling love had gone unanswered, much to poor Bill's chagrin.

One morning over coffee (Bill needed several cups), I suggested he post an online ad with the Lonely Hearts Club to find a lover for Mr. W. Pecker. You could write something up like "Hey, I'm a single acorn woodpecker. I'm looking for someone with whom to share my nuts. I have a passion for hammering downspouts at the crack of dawn." After thinking about it, you might want to scratch that last sentence. You don't want two woodpeckers pecking on your downspout every morning. So let's go with "I'm told I have a handsome red topknot and that I drill the nicest holes around. If you're looking for a family bird, then I'm the woodpecker for you!"

But, like with so many of my great ideas that I share with folks, Bill just looked at me with a "What are you drinking in your coffee, Rogers?" and changed the topic. He asked me if I've seen any good movies lately. I said, "Yep, I recently rented a B-grade movie called 'Pecker.' But before I got into my critique of this offbeat film, Bill asked, 'JD, who do you think will win the election this fall?' I said, 'Well, I can't rightly say. I do know I'm tired of the regurgitated sound bites from Laurel and Hardy. They all say 'vote for me - I'll take care of you!' I just find that one gets into your wallet from the left side and the other one picks it from the right.'"

Do I think there will be any earth-shattering changes? No. Look at the legislation our Washington, D.C. lap dancers recently passed. They're going to spend \$165 billion to finance next year's leg of the Iraq war. If history is any indication, they will spend that plus a lot more. We're being told we

are going to be replacing some stuck-in-the-12th-century tribal system with a 22nd-century democracy. I'm not holding my breath, but right here in the good old northwest, where we already have 22nd-century democracy, we are told by these same D.C. lap dancers that we are not worth spending \$23 million annually for Jackson County or \$17 million a year for Josephine County to keep our timber-dependent counties solvent. A hundred years ago, the federal government made a pact with all of Oregon's timber-dependent counties. That pact stated that 25% of the government's revenues from timber sales would go to the county to offset county expenses like schools, libraries, law enforcement, etc. The federal government isn't in the timber business anymore. Depending on your point of view that may be a good or a bad thing, but one thing that hasn't changed is the expense of running our county governments. Maybe if we placed larger tips in the G-strings of those D.C. lap dancers, we, too, might cash in on some of those government handouts called aid, or as I call it, welfare.

There was another huge spending bill passed by the House and Senate to the tune of \$290 billion called farm "welfare" aid. There is cake for almost every conceivable idea (that has nothing to do with farming) that you can think of, but not even a crumb for us lowly northwest timber-dependent counties.

Hey, not to fret if you are a large industrial factory agribusiness. You will be able to grow more subsidized genetically modified corn (Monsanto is loving that) that can be made into high fructose corn syrup. Can you say "obesity?" All that corn syrup will need a new home and it will be yours. Just try to find many canned or processed foods in your larder without this welfare product being listed in the ingredients.

Being that this is an election year, just about every hand that is stuck out begging for your tax dollars has been kissed by Congress with a big welfare smile. There is even a foreign "welfare" aid. Do you think any of those folks pay even a dime in to the U.S. Treasury?

Since we peasants here in the northwest don't qualify for county "welfare" aid, I believe it's time to have our elected county tax assessors prepare a property bill for federal lands within the counties and send it to the House of Representatives.

Here in the colony lands known as the northwest, we can't even get a bag of welfare instant rice handed out to our counties. That all got sent out under something titled Humanitarian "Welfare" Aid. One could fill pages with the redistribution of American's middle-class wealth that the government calls "aid" versus its true meaning: welfare.

Since we peasants here in the northwest don't qualify for county "welfare" aid, I believe it's time to have our elected county tax assessors prepare a property bill for federal lands within the counties and send it to the House of Representatives. If the county assessor so desired, I could help with the congressional address information.

Some of you folks probably think I'm just whining or need to cut back on my apple cider consumption. The problem for me is that I'm troubled by the plague of complacency that seems to have swept through America. For the price of a big-screen TV to watch the never-ending seasonal sporting events or the latest in canned-laughter sitcoms from a vibrating recliner with a six pack of one's favorite brew or corn syrup drink in hand, we still let the D.C. lap dancers spend and balloon the American peso on whatever aid program they choose, most of which don't do one damn thing for the taxpayer.

Well, now that that's off my chest, the dogs and I are going to go out to the orchard and check the apple crop for this year's apple cider production. I'll be needing some.



The Editor, J.D. Rogers
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Beware - gas rip off

Dear Editor:

Earlier this week my wife purchased gas at the Spirit Gas Station in Jacksonville (recently remodeled Shell station) paying with a Visa card as we usually do for gas purchases. Curious about the cost of the purchase due to the astronomically high gas prices in general she checked the receipt she was given. Upon noticing that the per gallon price was listed as \$4.20 instead of the \$4.12 per gallon posted on the sign in front of the station, she questioned the clerk about this discrepancy. She was told that this additional amount was due to the fact that she had used a credit card for the purchase. When asked why she was not informed of this price difference before the gas was pumped, she was told that the business was not required to advise customers of the price difference between paying cash or using a credit card and had no intention of doing so. While we have not yet been able to verify if this is technically legal (I believe that Arco stations have had a difference between cash and credit card prices, and they have informed customers of this difference before pumping the gas). We feel this is wrong and that this business is intentionally misleading customers.

We want to inform Applegate and Jacksonville residents about the unscrupulous practice of this business and encourage them to purchase gas elsewhere. With the criminally high cost of gas we do not need to be ripped off further by an unscrupulous business intentionally misleading customers with no regard for dealing honestly with their customers.

Curt and Bonnie Cooter, Applegate, OR

River Rock and Perspective

Dear Editor

For a long while many hard working folks in Jackson and Josephine Counties were simply amused when Steve Rouse would demonstrate his personal naivety as expressed in a letter in the *Applegater's* May 1st edition. Now, though, most admit to utter amazement when confronted with the extent to which Rouse will go to broadcast his own lack of understanding.

Regarding the Krouse and Hill properties as sources for aggregate materials, Rouse advises the Copeland Companies to go someplace else and develop other resources. What he seems to fail to understand is this: if one is in the business of processing gravel, one would need to start at a place where there is gravel to process.

If that were not the case, we could all cheerfully drill oil wells in our back yards and, with the current price of crude, we could live happily ever after on the proceeds. So, assuming the rocks in Steve Rouse's head are off limits and not available for processing, where would he suggest Copeland go?

One of the issues that Rouse talks about is the fact that the Applegate River meanders across a floodplain, and removing gravel could alter its course. But what Rouse, with his snap-shot-in-time mentality seems to be failing to take into account, is the river has been doing this for a very long time. If it hadn't been meandering, there would be no floodplain to begin with. There was an Applegate River long before there was Steve Rouse, and there will be an Applegate River long after he's gone. If somebody removes gravel now, the river will simply fill it in over time. Unless, of course, some future Steve Rouse comes along and tries to preserve the hole.

As Rouse continues his hostile attack against Copeland and the working men and women of southern Oregon, he calls on local residents for support. But what some of these would-be supporters might want to take into account is, these working people are paying into funds from which many of them might need to draw for retirement and healthcare someday. These working folks shop at stores and business, and pay local taxes that support schools and needed public infrastructure. Hard-working people comprise the engine that drives our local economy.

Do we really want to throw all of that away for some gravel that's only temporarily here anyway?

Robert Bennett, Grants Pass, OR

Dirt Luvin' comrade

Dear Editor

Hello my dear dirt luvin' comrade...Reading your column from the May/June issue just about made my day...maybe even my week. Seeing you and your loving father with that alligator told me that you knew how to have a good time (not sure about the gator). My heartfelt sorrow for your losses but listen here, those losses seem to be sort of like those sticks you put into the ground to hold vines up...they root and become another element of your garden universe. Whomever or whatever allowed you to use your wisdom to live your life so fully should be remembered in song...maybe a nice rockabilly or even a hymn..the words should include coffee grounds, creepy crawlers and "circle," which refers to the cycle of a life no matter what or where you are growing.

As for "support" for those viney-type fruits and veggies, think hard about the support your friends gave you during those damp months...always checking on you, thinking about your needs and finally providing a "trellis" to support your new growth. A win-win situation...ask ole Jack who needed to climb the beanstalk...

Here's to dirty fingernails, good friends and a big bowl of fresh string beans. Thanks for your energy, Sioux. You will give a summary of your successes and 'loop's at the end of this adventure...I'll bring the Scotch. May your column continue to brighten all of our days.

Merrell Schwimmer, Ruch, OR

Kudos to all

Dear Editor,

It has been enjoyable getting to know you. I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the *Applegater*. I always look forward to your column of "Tall Tales" and Sioux's "Dirty Finger Nails and All" articles. They are very informative and fun!

Another one I specifically enjoy, and look for right away, is Greeley Well's "The Starry Side." Having lived in Portland for so long with articles like this easily accessible, I really appreciate that he writes things like this for our community. I write down the dates on my calendar to watch for and often send it off to my son, or share it with friends that don't live in our area, to help inform them of the coming attractions. I like the way he is entertaining yet factual.

Once again, as I said to you at Ruth Austin's, I love our community. It offers things that other places just don't have. And the *Applegater* is one of them.

Thank you, and the *Applegater* staff for the great job.

Best Wishes,

Dana Moran, Ruch, OR

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Are we ready for fire season?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

As I write this, it's still chilly and raining; but by the time the *Applegater* is mailed out, we could be starting this year's Fire Season. The long-range weather prediction for our region is calling for another couple of weeks of below-average temperatures and normal precipitation. However, the three-month outlook through August indicates **normal** temperatures with **drier** than normal rainfall.

Since I never second-guess Mother Nature, I recently talked to some of our local experts about how they see our 2008 Fire Season shaping up. I included fire suppression and fire protection agency folks, a forest fuels expert and a weatherman (I love talking to these guys—I always learn something new!). Concerned about ubiquitous budget cut stories in the news, I started with our local fire resources: will we have enough fire staff trained, lookouts manned, engines and aircraft at the ready?

Dan Thorpe, ODF's (Oregon Department of Forestry) district forester for SW Oregon, is always great to talk to. As you may know, ODF provides fire protection for BLM-managed lands as well as private wildland fire protection (not structural protection, though—that's provided by Applegate Fire District #9, Williams Fire and Rural-Metro Fire Dept.). Dan said that a moderate increase in funding will allow ODF to have the same amount of protection as in the past few years: the same amount of firefighters, engines, bulldozers and aircraft. Some differences to note: there was very little turnover in firefighters, so this year's crews are more experienced (yea!). Also, the Tallowbox lookout will most likely not be manned this summer since the rebuilding is still ongoing; but Onion Mountain, Dutchman and Sexton Mountains will all be manned. And something refreshing to note about ODF: their fire budgeting allows for a carryover of unused fire suppression funds from one year to the next. Dan reported that our District saved a few hundred thousand dollars last year, so this was credited to this year's budget. Nice to know, in case our Fire Season is hotter than normal.

Natalie Simrell, BLM's Assistant Fire Management Officer, told me that even though BLM's fire management contract with ODF is up for renewal on July 1, it will remain the same this summer, with fire staff, aircraft and engine counts the same as last year. And, the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest's Aviation and Fire Staff Officer, MJ Harvie also confirmed that their engines, crews, prevention patrols, lookouts, Interagency Hotshot Crew, Regional Rappel Crew and two dispatch centers will also be staffed at last year's levels.

Mutual aid agreements among fire agencies are, of course, in place (we're so lucky here in SW Oregon to have agencies who work together!). I also verified that the infamous Medford tanker base will be open and operational to support multiple agency aircraft, including ODF's tankers in Medford and Redmond (they each will be "back

home" **every night** this summer, per Dan). Closer to home, Applegate's Fire Chief Brett Fillis told me the District has a few more volunteers this year, while equipment, staff and seasonal firefighters remain the same; but, we have a **new fire station** opening this month at the junction of Griffin Lane and Sterling Creek Road! So, seven stations now for our Applegate Fire District!

Given all that, I think fire resources look good for this summer; so what about the season's severity? Scott Lewis, weatherman for Channel 12 KDRV, informed me that there IS a difference between a forecast and an outlook, although most people don't distinguish between the two. He doesn't "do" outlooks, but turned me on to the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center, where I got those long-term temperature and precipitation outlooks. Our rainfall is average so far for the year (September through October), and the outlook is that we are not in danger of falling into a drought situation (unlike parts of California and Hawaii!) anytime soon.

The last, not least, but definitely most complicated item left in this analysis is the forest fuels themselves. Charley Martin is BLM's fire ecologist (and also a fire behavior analyst on national fire teams), and he shared with me a recent fuel moisture sample data set collected on May 19 for an area in the Grants Pass Resource Area that could be comparable to the Applegate. Fortunately Charley's a nice guy: he also interpreted the data for me!

Keep in mind that the 19th was the last of that five-day hot spell, and we've had considerable rain since then. I learned that the foliar (or live needle) moisture content is an indicator of how easily a conifer stand could initiate into, and sustain a crown fire; on May 19 they were very much average, at 120-140%. The large dead fuel moisture or 1,000-hour fuel moisture measurement on a south-slope location on May 19 was at 23%, which Charley would consider low. However, the average measurements between a north and a south slope location were average for May. Charley said that the rain we had in late May would add several percentage points of moisture back into the 1,000-hour fuels numbers, but that for each week of warm, dry weather, they will again drop 1-3% in moisture content.

And why is this important, you ask? The 1,000-hour fuels moisture content is a strong indicator of the degree of fire intensity one might expect. Below 18%, things are getting serious. As a point of reference, our area usually sees this measurement drop below 10% in the height of our hot weather in August or September. More rain, I say! I'll quit complaining of the cold, too.

But, to quote my father-in-law Bill, "it is what it is." All we, as humans who are sometimes responsible for starting wildfires, can do is to prepare our properties, our homes and our families. Are you ready for Fire Season?

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Prescribed fire in the Applegate

It's good for the land and good for the community

BY PAUL E. GALLOWAY

As the window closes on this year's spring burning program, the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District would like to thank valley residents for their cooperation and understanding as we continue to use prescribed fire as a tool to address both undesirable fuel loads in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), and returning natural processes to play in the restoration of forest health. "I'm excited about the prescribed fire program on the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District," states District Ranger Linda Duffy. "In addition to implementing work identified in the Applegate Fire Plan designed to protect our communities, we also are working with partners to restore the forest to a more fire resilient state."

Why are we doing this?

A variety of objectives drive the district's prescribed fire program. Principal among them is the implementation of the Applegate Fire Plan. The Upper Applegate Road project is an example of a project area identified in the Plan that focuses on fuels reduction to decrease the risk of wildfire within the WUI. Another objective for a prescribed fire treatment is to combat the threat of insects and/or disease. This is particularly critical within some of our mature pine forests that are competing with encroaching Douglas fir and other understory species for water and nutrients, thus increasing the risk of pine bark beetle mortality. This year's underburn at China Gulch in the upper Applegate was designed to address this issue (while also reducing fuels in the WUI) and conserve and restore the historic pine stand that was naturally dependent on periodic fire. Still a third objective, as evidenced by the recent Mule Mountain and Doe Hollow projects, is to improve wildlife habitat that also is dependent on periodic fire to rejuvenate plant species that provide food and cover for a variety of species in the area.

I thought prescriptions were signed by a doctor

The prescriptions in this case are developed by the fire and fuels

professionals at the Ranger District to address the different objectives desired by the project proponent. The fuel types and density, terrain, proximity to homes and access are a few variables. Treatment of the area and the burn plan are developed that specify conditions that successfully will meet the objectives of the project. This is why the treatments you see and the timing of the burning vary greatly from project to project. Some projects will require hand piling slash and burning the piles at a later date (often in the middle of the winter). Others will utilize a helicopter to ignite a brush field in the fall in order for the vegetation to recover for the next spring green-up. And still others will broadcast burn understory vegetation and/or slash in the spring, striking the balance of consuming the undesirable fuels, while retaining the mature overstory. Of course, all of these scenarios are dependent on a multitude of factors prior to any ignition taking place. Prescribed fire managers are constantly adjusting plans in order to complete their projects within the appropriate "burn window." This window can open and close very abruptly and consists of numerous factors—fuel moisture, air temperature, humidity, smoke management, availability of equipment and personnel, etc. "It's always a challenge to get your burning program accomplished here in southwest Oregon due to the complexity of our landscape and limitations in our burning window," said Fire Management Officer Mel Wann, "but that challenge is also what keeps our juices flowing."

The prescriptions are working

Not unlike your visit to the doctor's office, prescriptions are written to relieve and prevent the spread of symptoms that are affecting the health of the patient. Here's a look at some prescribed fire examples that describe how one script wouldn't fit the symptoms these projects were trying to treat.

China Gulch

A major objective of this 175-acre underburning project was to reduce the

risk of future pine bark beetle activity. Treatments also were aimed at reducing fuel loads and decreasing the risk of high-intensity wildfires in the WUI. The prescribed burning has succeeded in providing desirable wide spacing around most remaining Ponderosa pine. Future risk of infestation by pine beetles should be much less now than it would have been in these units in the absence of treatment. Douglas fir and madrone were substantially reduced where these species were close to pines, and oaks remain well represented in the stands. Working with staff from the Southwest Oregon Forest Insect and Disease Service Center, the district secured special Forest Health Protection funding to implement the project. "The Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District, in our opinion, is demonstrating considerable skill in attaining multiple objectives in prescribed burning treatments," said Don Goheen, entomologist with the disease center. "The District has an ambitious landscape level prescribed burning plan and is actively seeking to integrate pine bark beetle risk reduction along with other appropriate objectives into planning and implementation."

Mule Mountain and Doe Hollow

These projects, totaling approximately 1,800 acres, were designed to reduce natural fuel loads and enhance wildlife habitat. Partnering with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Oregon Hunters' Association, the Ranger District staff designed these projects to remove decadent, less palatable wildlife forage. Implementation last year with the use of a helitorch allowed these projects to be completed quickly within the burn window, and recovery has been dramatic during this year's spring green-up. OHA is more than ready to continue teaming with agencies to improve wildlife habitat with these types of projects," says Jim Danikin of the Rogue Valley Chapter of Oregon Hunter's Association.

Star Gulch

This 125-acre hazardous fuels project required mechanical thinning and hand piling due to the fuel load and proximity to private structures. The piles were burned during the early

spring this year, and resulted in a fuels treatment that complements an adjacent fuels project on BLM-managed land, continuing the federal land management agencies commitment to implement high-priority WUI projects identified in the Applegate Fire Plan. "We'll continue to look for those projects that leverage our efforts with those of our BLM colleagues to promote a more fire-resilient landscape and fire-safe communities in the Applegate," explains Assistant Fire Management Officer Mike Hackett. "Our upcoming Upper Applegate Road project will provide more of this type of opportunity."

What's next?

Encouraged by the success of these and other recent projects, the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District is looking forward to planning for and implementing a variety of projects that will use prescribed fire as a management tool to restore the fire-adapted landscape of the Applegate and enhance the safety of its residents. In addition to the Upper Applegate Road project mentioned earlier, projects in the Carberry Creek, Beaver Creek, White Rock, Yellowjacket Ridge, Palmer, Sourdough, and French Gulch areas are in various stages of development or implementation. These projects will have a variety of, and often times, multiple, objectives and will be implemented as the resources become available and the prescriptions can be met. "I'm really encouraged by the results of our recent efforts and excited about our future plans," offers District Ranger Duffy. "Our monitoring shows that the projects are well thought out and executed, providing significant improvement to a fire-adapted landscape that hasn't benefited from those periodic fire events in recent decades. We also feel these projects will help change wildfire behavior from the high-intensity burning that has been experienced recently to one that lowers the risk to our communities and firefighters when the next late summer lightning storm arrives."

Paul E. Galloway
541-471-6755

Partnership Coordinator
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Can you identify this plant?

Yes? Then you're probably wrong, because this is not what you're thinking; it is "potentilla recta," the sulfur cinquefoil—and this is bad, bad news.

What is it?

The sulfur cinquefoil is native to Eurasia, but it first appeared in Canada about a hundred years ago. From there it spread. It's not much of a problem in the east, but once it reached the high, dry plains, it blasted off. It is now a major problem plant in Montana and Idaho, and already has appeared in great quantities in northeastern Oregon.

Now, we're inundated with exotic plants that don't really belong in Oregon, but this one is particularly worthy of note for two reasons:

1. Sulfur cinquefoil is very aggressive. Once it gets established, it crowds out everything else. After a few years, you have a field of nothing but sulfur cinquefoil.

2. Sulfur cinquefoil is just getting a foothold in the Applegate area. If we wipe it out now, we can prevent this ugly weed from taking over.

Cinquefoil is so successful because it can tolerate a wide range of environments. I have found it in open pastures (grazing animals won't touch it because it contains tannin, which also is bad for the soil). I have found it hiding at the edge of bushes. I have found it close by a running creek. It seems especially fond of any place where wild strawberries grow (the two species are distantly related). There are only two places where I have never seen cinquefoil: (1) in wet or marshy soil and (2) on the floor of a well-established conifer forest.

A healthy, happy cinquefoil will get up to about 18 inches and its flower stalk can reach 24 inches. It has pale yellow flowers with five petals during its flowering season in June through August. Although the plant itself is hard to notice among all the grasses, those flowers are easy to see from 10 meters away.

Cinquefoil is a perennial; as it grows it stores energy in its root system. It propagates both through root growth and seed generation. In the fall the plant dies back but the roots remain alive. In early spring it sprouts again. If you want to kill the plant, you must kill the roots.

My nasty experience

BY CHRIS CRAWFORD

I did not realize it at first, but I had one of the earliest infestations of the sulfur cinquefoil weed in Jackson County. Official records show only one infestation of cinquefoil in south-central Oregon, in the northeast part of Jackson County. But when we moved into our new place in the Applegate in 1996, there already was an infestation—we just didn't realize what it was. By 1998, it had taken over an acre of land and I knew there was something wrong. I called at the Jackson County Agricultural Extension and left a message describing the weed, but nobody ever returned my call—they probably thought I was crazy because sulfur cinquefoil had never been reported within a hundred miles.

By 1999 I realized that I had to do something drastic, so I loaded up my backpack sprayer with a load of glyphosate (the trade name is "Roundup®") and went to work. I sprayed more than an acre of solid cinquefoil, but I did a rather rough-and-ready job of it. It seemed to kill off the stuff, so I left it at that.

But in 2000 it came back—nowhere near as strong as it had been, but there were still a lot of cinquefoil weeds. This time I pulled out the sprayer and hit each weed individually. That seemed to do the trick.

In 2001 I was suspicious, and started looking for cinquefoil in March. Sure enough, I found plenty of infant plants. The soil was soft from the rains, so I started pulling them out. Over the years, I have developed a method for quickly and effectively pulling out cinquefoil. I use a broad knife about two inches wide. You could use a narrow hand spade to do the same thing. I plunge the knife almost straight down into the soil about two inches away from the plant. When it has penetrated four inches or so, I flip the knife back, popping

up a divot containing most of the root mass. I work my fingers underneath the main root ball and pull it out.

If the cinquefoil you're attacking is a first-year seedling, you don't even need to pop the divot. Loosening the soil is enough to permit you to pull the plant up from the top and get the root out. However, if your target has already survived a year, the root mass will be much larger and you have to dig it out. With practice and soft soil, it's not so difficult.

However, that's not the end of your problems. Cinquefoil is smart enough to stagger its sprouting period over months. You can come through in March and wipe out everything, only to come back in April and find a new crop. Different plants will sprout at any time between March and July. That means that you have to keep coming back to the same area at least once a month.

The soil starts hardening in May, after which you must rely on herbicides to kill it off. What works? There have been large-scale tests by agronomists spraying entire areas. They have found picloram (sold as "Tordon®" or "Grazon™") to be at least three times more effective than glyphosate. I very much doubt that you have an infestation large enough to require area-wide spraying; you will probably get more done, using less herbicide, by spot spraying. At this point, I'd like to digress with a little lecture on herbicide effectiveness.

Why is this weed so persistent?

There are three possible explanations:

1. Cinquefoil seeds remain potent for many years and I'm fighting the newly germinated seeds. This can be only part of the answer, because when I dig up the weeds about 40% of them have extended root masses, meaning that

they germinated in previous years. The scientists say that cinquefoil seeds remain viable in the ground for up to four years. I think that's an average figure; I believe that some seeds remain viable for many more years.

2. My low-dose approach is stupid: it kills the plant above ground, but not the roots, so the plant comes back the next year. This is also only part of the answer, because I am seeing a steady decline in the number of plants, even in areas that I have marked off as poison only.

3. I miss some every year. This is likely; the plants can be hard to notice when you're marching along a grid.

What you should do

The most important thing is to keep your eyes open for sulfur cinquefoil. If you find any sulfur cinquefoil on your land, I suggest that you treat the infestation as a very serious situation. This stuff spreads fast; putting off an hour's work this year will only set you up for many hours of work next year. Dig it out or poison it as soon as possible. If you see one plant, examine closely all the ground within ten feet of it—there are probably more. Also, make a mental note of the location of every plant you find so that you can come back to that spot next year looking for new sprouts.

The good news is that you really can wipe out this species. I already have eliminated it from a number of locations on my land where it was just starting to get established. I discovered a small infestation on my neighbor's land about three years ago. With his permission, I have been patrolling those areas closely each year and this year I found only about a dozen plants. I believe that I will have eliminated the last of my cinquefoil in maybe five more years.

Chris Crawford, Applegate landowner
541-899-9150

Got starthistle?

BY BARBARA MUMBLO

It's that time of year when you start to notice star thistle's abundant yellow blossoms in the Applegate. On national forest lands in the Applegate (especially around Applegate Lake) you'll notice much less of this plant. This is due to all the hard work by the Jackson County Community Justice crews over the last 8 years. They have spent many hot days pulling and bagging yellow starthistle for the Forest Service in the Applegate and all their efforts are really proving worthwhile. Hopefully you don't have starthistle or (as many of you have told me) you've gotten rid of yours or are on the way to that goal. But there may be a few of you who still don't know what this plant is.

What is yellow starthistle?: Starthistle is that spiny yellow-flowering plant along roadsides and in dry open areas. It is a winter-hardy annual that normally begins growth in the fall but is most noticeable when blooming in July–September. It is a native of the Mediterranean region. It can cause "chewing" disease, a type of poisoning in horses that can cause paralysis of the esophagus.

Ways to prevent getting it:

Starthistle is often introduced by infested seed, soil, gravel, or hay/straw. Heavy equipment can bring it in from seeds or plants that are on the equipment. Infestations have been spread along roads by road maintenance activities when infested soil is moved from one location to another. Ask that equipment being used on your property is clean of soil and plants before being brought there and ask for noxious weed-free seed/materials. Oregon has started a certification process for noxious weed-free hay and straw.

There's no one easy way to get rid of this. The method you choose depends on your site and what you feel comfortable with. I think that hand pulling is the most effective method but is very time consuming. If the site is irrigated and other plants are growing you could probably out-compete the starthistle. If you want to use chemicals I suggest you use them when the plants are small and spot spray individual plants. Roundup will work and I hear a new chemical—Milestone—is effective.

If you've found a good method, let me know and I'll pass that information



Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)

along. Give me a call at 899-3855 (Barb Mumblo).

We're lucky that yellow starthistle is our main noxious weed of concern. It really is easier to get rid of than some of the other noxious weeds out there.

To find out more about other weeds in our vicinity—check out the Jackson County CWMA website (www.jswcd.org/CWMA/) or Oregon Department of Agriculture's website (www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/Weeds/).

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

EARL'S PEARLS

Poison oak: prevention and treatment

BY EARL SHOWERMAN, M.D.

Poison oak is ubiquitous across the low elevation woodlands of the Applegate Valley, especially in areas where the soils have been disturbed, where it flourishes as ground cover, shrubs and vines. Most people are sensitive to the oil found on the leaf, stems and roots of the plant, which causes a delayed allergic reaction called contact dermatitis. Poison oak contact dermatitis usually appears one to two days following exposure to the plant oil and results in a very itchy red rash with raised red bumps and tiny blisters, often in line with the specific area of contact. If the face is affected, there may be marked swelling also.

Prevention is much more effective than treatment because poison oak dermatitis can take weeks to resolve. When you are around poison oak, stay on the beaten path away from the plants and wear protective clothing and gloves.

You also can prevent poison oak oil from adhering to your skin and causing a reaction by washing unprotected skin with soap and water within 30 minutes after contact with the plant. Technu and Zanafel are commercially available cleansing agents that will help remove the plant oil up to four to eight hours after contact. Ivy Block or Ivy Shield are barrier creams that can be applied prior to exposure and will help prevent an outbreak if you bathe within eight hours of contact.

Poison oak contact dermatitis is not contagious, although scratching the rash can be very harmful to the skin and increases the chances of getting a secondary infection. The treatment of contact dermatitis includes agents to reduce itching like Burrow's solution soaks, which help dry the oozing sores. Hydrocortisone and prescription cortisone

creams or ointments may be applied three to four times a day to reduce the local inflammation. For best effect, topical cortisone creams should be applied after washing the affected area with warm water, patting dry, and then applying a thin layer of medication. Wrapping the skin with a clear plastic wrap after putting on the cortisone medicine also can increase its absorption and effectiveness. In severe reactions, injections or a short course of oral cortisone medicine such as prednisone or Medrol may be needed. Most of the time short-term treatment with these medicines causes few serious side effects. Take medicine with food to help prevent stomach upset from these drugs. Antihistamine drugs can help relieve itching. Oral antibiotics are prescribed if an infection develops, usually indicated by increased redness, swelling and heat.



Poison oak (*Rhus diversiloba*)
Photo: www.sbcsar.org

Proper treatment will usually improve poison oak symptoms within two days. While the rash is not contagious from person to person, the plant resins may be present on your clothing or shoes, or in your pet's fur. Be sure to wash your hands, clean your nails, and wash your clothes and pets with soap and water to get rid of all the plant oils that may cause this common skin reaction.

Earl Showerman, M.D. • 541-899-8721

Kristi Cowles makes her Applegate debut



Photo: Annie Driver

Recording artist and recent Wisconsin transplant to the Applegate, Kristi Cowles, makes her Applegate musical debut with Clint Driver (right) on lead guitar and vocals and Steve Driver (left) on bass guitar. The trio performed to a standing-room-only venue at the home of Clint and Mary Driver..



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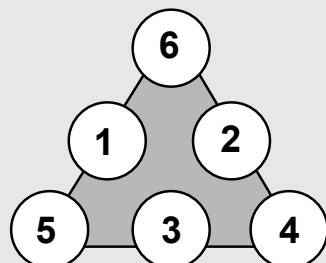
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Answers to puzzles on page 4:

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The Jackson County Master Gardener Program, a program of Oregon State University Extension, educates local gardeners on the art and science of growing and caring for plants. Trained Master Gardener volunteers extend sustainable gardening information to their communities through educational outreach programs.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

There is a fee of \$5.00 per class unless indicated otherwise. The classes are held at the OSU Extension Center located at 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, Oregon. 541-776-7371. Saturday classes 9 am-12 pm - weekday classes 7 pm-9 pm.

July Class Schedule

Thursday, July 10
FUR & FEATHERS IN THE GARDEN
Bob Reynolds, Master Gardener Advisor

We all share our gardens and yards with critters of many varieties—some are welcome while others are not. This class will teach how to encourage those that are welcome and discourage those that aren't.

August/September Class Schedule

Tuesday, August 12
WILDFLOWERS IN THE HOME GARDEN
Lillian Maksymowicz, Master Gardener

Tuesday, September 9
PROPAGATION OF PERENNIALS
A panel discussion with Master Gardeners Marsha Waite,
Terri Tefteller, Marjorie Neal and Jody Willis

Fall is the best time of year to divide perennials. A panel of Master Gardeners will discuss how to successfully propagate daylilies, dahlias, irises, and all crown root plants.

To learn more about Jackson county Master Gardener Association, go to: <http://extension.orst.edu/sorec/mg>.

Chris Greene • 541-664-5898 (after 10 am)
cgreene00@juno.com

Upcoming OSU Classes

INTRODUCTION TO BIODYNAMIC AGRICULTURE

Oregon State University Extension Service is offering an introductory class on biodynamic agriculture. The class is scheduled for **Saturday, June 28, 2008, 9 am to 3 pm** at the OSU Extension Auditorium, 215 Ringuette Street, Grants Pass. There is a \$25 fee for the class for individuals and this includes lunch. Please pre-register before June 25 at 541-476-6613.

Biodynamic agriculture, conceived of by philosopher Rudolph Steiner, is a method of agriculture that treats farms as unified and individual organisms, emphasizing the interrelationship of the soil, plants, and animals as a closed, self-nourishing system. It is considered to be one of the first modern ecological farming systems and focuses on the use of prepared manures and composts.

There will be a field visit to Seven Seeds Farm and lunch is included in the price.

The instructor is Don Tipping, co-owner and operator of Seven Seeds Farm, a certified biodynamic farm and educational resource in Williams, Oregon. Don is also a native plant enthusiast, basket weaver, restoration forester, ethnobotanist and avid tree planter. Don currently serves on the board of the Siskiyou Sustainable Cooperative.

Introduction to biodynamic agriculture is one of the Small Farm program classes offered through the OSU Extension Service. Information on this class and other Small Farm classes is available at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/josephine/> under Small Farms.

Contact: Maud Powell • 541-776-7371

TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE

Oregon State University Extension Service and the YMCA are collaborating to present "Tai Chi for Better Balance." This 12-week class is free for students 60 years and older and is limited to first-time students. **Classes start July 2, 2008** at the YMCA, 1000 Redwood Avenue, Grants Pass. There will be a Wednesday and Saturday class or a Tuesday and Thursday class at 1 pm. Classes are limited to 25 per class and pre-registration is required. Call 541-476-6613 to register. (No YMCA membership required for class.)

This class improves motion by increasing flexibility and strengthening muscles used in better posture and balance. This can lead to significant reduction in falls for the elderly. It has many health benefits including improved posture and spinal alignment, improved strength, with increased range of motion and flexibility, while lowering blood pressure. Tai Chi significantly improves one's ability to relax and manage stress. Just wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

Leon Harris and Wes Hamlett are the instructors. Both have extensive background in internal and external styles of martial arts. They have taught in the Grants Pass area for years.

Lorena Becker • 541-476-6613 • Lorena.Becker@oregonstate.edu



Graduating seniors admire the white cowl presented to them as members of the National Honor Society. These cowls were worn over their gowns at graduation on June 3, 2008.

Hidden Valley High School recognizes excellence

BY BARBARA HOLIDAY

On May 27 at Hidden Valley High School, in the gymnasium packed with families and friends, National Honor Society members were recognized, and teachers bestowed the "Recognition of Excellence" award on outstanding students. Here are those students:

National Honor Society (see photo)

Amanda Berry, Kyle Bleser, Adam Clisby, Destinee Hernandez, Hannah Longo
Justen Nielsen, Jasmine Schoen, Sage Sherer, Brienz Wilkening, Taylor Willi

Recognition of Excellence

Student of the year: Ashley Seal (selected by students and staff)

English

English I	Sydney Miles
English II	Dairen Olvera
English III	Connor Kasler
English IV	Stephanie Roberts
Honors English I	Kara Fikso
Honors English II	Matt Pepitone
AP Comp	Andrew Watson
AP Lit	Sage Sherer
Student Government	Bibiana Guerrero

Math

Prealgebra	Jake Tatom
Algebra	Alexandria Huff
Geometry	Marquelle Thornton
Algebra II	Taylor Bars
Precalculus	Lauren Clisby
Calculus	Hannah Longo
AP Computer Science	Keaton Freude
HTML/Dreamweaver	Micah Schmidt
Visual BASIC	Jacob Smith

Science

CIM Science	Carlee Nelson
Biology	Matthew Morse
Chemistry	Jasmine Schoen
Physics	Grayson Back
Marine Biology	Jayna Lack
Astronomy	Jaclyn Morris
Anatomy/Physiology	Brittiany Eckler
Zoology	Max McClarnon

Vocational

The Exceptional Child	Andy Aldridge
Life Skills	Michelle Murphy
Foods I/II	EJ Guerrero
Culinary Arts: ProStart	Cisne Mendoza
Child Development	Shelby Benson
Masonry	Shawn Borman
Welding I/II	Tyler Noble
Metals Lab	Lane Radford
Construction Fundamentals	Cory Cline
Advanced Construction	A.J. Esson
Agriculture I	Kala Crowley
Advanced Agriculture	Cheyenne Charley

Social Studies

World History	Stephen Zelenka
US History	Sylvia Sutherland
AP US History	Erik Crew
Government	Chase Estep
Economics	Margaret Shoemaker
Psychology	Lincoln Weaver

Foreign Language

Spanish I	Margarita Rodgers
Spanish II	Daniel Aguilar
Advanced Spanish	Ceanna Fain
French I	Tim Iwamizu
French II	Brittney Elmore
Advanced French	Jorden Nielsen

Fine Arts

Introduction to Visual Arts	Selina Barrett
Color and Design	Sasha Begley
Commercial Art	Alex Gautschi
Advanced Art	Brian Ramos
Annual	Erika Olds
Acting	Caitlin Christian
Jazz Band	Justin Duby
Concert Choir	Corey Orton
Swing Choir	Matt Combe
Concert Band	Jesse Canady

Business

Computer Graphics	Lindsey Conard
Recordkeeping	Brittney Saunders
Marketing	Chloe Wilson
Microsoft Office Suite	Kristen Doran
Desktop Publishing	Sarah Rydell
Personal Finance	Cece Rosas

Health / PE

Health I/II	Aaron Faust
Coaching Principles	Matti Lindgren
Sports Medicine	Jessie Hanger
Strength and Conditioning	Kendra Morgan
Strength and Conditioning	Eddie Lord
Aerobics	Hannah Guches

Special Award

Superlative Improvement	Laura Silva
Superlative Improvement	Dustin Fox



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ART SHOW

at the Applegate Branch Library
brought to you by Art After School

The art on display is acrylic on canvas by a group of students who attend Applegate School. The Art After School class was taught by Linda Karen with volunteer local guest artist Lois Robinson helping.

The paintings on display are by:

- Grace Grigsby—5th grade
- Jasmine Weight—5th grade
- Makena Grigsby—4th grade
- Sofia Hart—4th grade
- Michael Iwamizu—4th grade
- Shelbie La Pan—4th grade
- Angel Larson—4th grade
- Molly Qintero—4th grade
- Amy Watson—4th grade



Look who's reading the Gater!



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

- Dave and Dee Laananen catch up on Applegate news at Siena's Piazza del Campo.
- Dave Hamann reading on top of Mt. Roberts tram overlooking Juneau AK.
- Aaron "Bart" Fricke and his mother Barbara Barnes at Bart's law school graduation from Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana, May 18, 2008.
- Nancy Coliver with the Gater on a very windy afternoon in Tokyo, Japan.
- Sarah Coliver reads the Gater at the monkey park on a hill overlooking Kyoto, Japan
- On a recent trip to Israel, Marc Zurcher and his niece, Beth Wendy Wacker, take time to enjoy their copy of the Applegater.
- Carole Moskovita and Roger Vanderbeek take a break on top of Chalk Basin cliffs overlooking the Owyhee River in Oregon.

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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