

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 Individual Letters may or may not be published in consecutive issues.

Address Opinion Pieces and Letters to the Editor to:  
 The Applegater c/o Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.  
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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

## JACKSON COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

## PETS OF THE MONTH



**Kiki - #K0919**  
a mellow and loving  
5-year-old Tabby



**Moose - #K1279**  
a friendly 6-month-  
old black Lab mix



**O.J. - #K0939**  
a handsome boy  
with long orange fur



**Siskiyou - #K1127**  
a young black and white girl who loves  
caring for orphaned kittens



**7 Lab pups**  
Check out the current se-  
lection of adorable pups!



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