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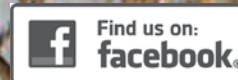


Photo by Nansi Myers

WINTER 2012
Volume 5, No. 4

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper
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Postal Patron

McKee Bridge restoration Has \$491K, need \$49K more

BY ROBERT VAN HEUIT

In August 2012, the federal government awarded a grant to Jackson County in the amount of \$491,048 to restore the McKee Bridge. The total cost to restore the bridge is estimated at \$547,250. The McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) is required to raise matching funds in the amount of \$56,202. To date, MBHS has raised over \$7,000 toward that goal. However, due to the required grant process, *we still need another \$5,000 by early January 2013.*

Members of the MBHS board of directors have met with the Jackson County Road Department and have developed a tentative schedule for the project. In accordance with federal law, the State of Oregon will administer the grant. The first order of business is for the State of Oregon to circulate a request for proposal (RFP) to design the repair. This will be done in January 2013. After receipt of the proposals, the State of Oregon will award the engineering design to the best qualified engineering firm. The firm will then proceed to design the repair program. After completion of the design, the state, county and MBHS will review the plans.

After the plan is accepted, the State of Oregon will solicit bids to perform the work. When the contract is awarded to the lowest qualified bidder, the work can commence.

In order to receive the grant money, the matching funds will need to be given to the State of Oregon (Oregon Department of Transportation). It is expected that MBHS will need to give about \$12,000 to Jackson County, who will forward that amount to the State of Oregon in January

2013. The State can then bill the federal government for the portion of the grant money that will be used for the RFP and engineering design. Because work in the river channel can be conducted only from June through October for environmental reasons, it is expected that the repair work will not be performed until summer of 2014. MBHS will need to give the remaining matching funds (about \$44,000) for the project to the county in January 2014.

We have an enormous task ahead of us to raise that amount of money. Members of our board of directors have made contact with a number of charitable foundations and hope to have significant financial assistance from them toward accomplishing that goal.

We still need financial assistance from all of you. You can make a contribution by sending a check to MBHS, P.O. Box 854, Jacksonville, Oregon 97530. We also have a website on the Internet. Please look it up. The address is www.mckeehistoricalcoveredbridge.org. You can also make a PayPal contribution through the website if that is convenient. We have already received some generous contributions, which are much appreciated. MBHS is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation—all contributions are tax-deductible.

Thank you all for your support. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 541-899-2927 or rvanh2000@yahoo.com.

Robert E. Van Heuit, President
McKee Bridge Historical Society
541-899-2927

Dolores Durando: An Applegate woman of limitless talents

BY BARBARA HOLIDAY

At 91, one would think she'd done it all and could rest on her laurels. But not Dolores Durando. No, not Dolores.

At the age of 90, her first novel, *Beyond the Bougainvillea*, was published by Bell Bridge Books. Now just 91, she recently held stage at a book-signing event for her second novel, *Out of the Darkness*, also published by Bell Bridge.

And she's got two more books in the works. Her third book is comprised of short stories that are mostly conversations with her champion miniature donkey, Tennessee Ernie, who is terribly spoiled and has quite the attitude. The fourth is gradually becoming a lengthy manuscript about a young man's journey through life during 1960s San Francisco.

According to her publisher, *Beyond the Bougainvillea* was one of the top 100 Amazon Kindle books last year. The protagonist, Marge Reagan, escapes a brutal life on the plains of 1920s North Dakota, and heads for Los Angeles to make her place in the world, ultimately encountering racism, discrimination, betrayal and finally redemption. The life of Dolores' aunt was one of the inspirations for this story.

Out of the Darkness is based on



Best-selling author Dolores Durando, a Williams resident, proudly presents her second novel, *Out of the Darkness*, at a book-signing event at Evergreen Bank in Grants Pass. (Photo by Barbara Holiday.)

Dolores' personal and horrific experiences and observations over 35 years in the mental health arena. Marty, a young man in the 1950s, not only has no hope in life, but his alcoholic mother gets rid of him by locking him up in a mental institution. The brutality he endures is shocking. Marty is saved by the friendship of an old man who leads him to love and happiness. Already the reviews on Amazon are terrific: four and five stars out of five.

See DURANDO, page 13



Mushroom hat contest winners Bethany LaLonde and Joseph Chick of Ashland. (Photo by Michael Lebowitz, LongRun Pictures.)

Wood sprites and mad hatters turn out for the first annual Enchanted Forest Wine Run

BY ANNETTE PARSONS

Two hundred and seventy runners, including kids, turned out for the first annual Enchanted Forest Wine Run on September 29, starting and finishing at Wooldridge Creek Winery in the middle Applegate Valley.

Race directors Timothy and Krista Olson and Marjorie Gosling sure know how to put on one tough but fun half-

marathon, and their 5K and kids' runs were also huge successes.

The course began in the beautiful vineyards of Wooldridge Creek Winery, with commanding views of the middle Applegate and Williams Valleys. The 5K and the quarter mile kids' run ended there, but the half-marathoners then headed up Slagle Creek Road and into the Enchanted

Forest, where forest magic and surprises awaited! The rugged course led runners through the Bureau of Land Management's Enchanted Forest trail and onto the Felton Memorial trail. From there, runners navigated a network of lovely private trails above and around the Clover Creek vineyard in the Applegate, and known for its gewürztraminer grapes.

Fanciful costumes were encouraged and prize categories included "Best Fairy" and "Finders of Magic Mushrooms." Mad

See ENCHANTED, page 8

ATTENTION!

If there is an address label on your *Applegater*, a donation is required to keep the paper coming to you. Please be sure to make an annual donation of at least \$10 to cover our expenses. Thank you!

NEW FEATURES

They Live Among Us.....page 13
Featured Advertiser.....page 14
Next Generation: Applegate Valley students.....page 23

A huge THANKS to the generous donors who recently donated to the *Applegater*.

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WHO WE ARE

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to the publication of the *Applegater* newspaper, which, we feel, reflects the heart and soul of our community.

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 quarterly paper presents constructive, relevant, educational and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects such as:

- natural resources
- 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

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The *Applegater* requires that any and all materials submitted for publication 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 brief.

All photos submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi) or "large format" (e.g., 30" x 40"). Any questions, email gater@applegater.org.

All submissions for our next issue must be received either at the address or email below by the deadline.

The Applegater
c/o Applegate Valley
Community Newspaper, Inc.
P.O. Box 14
Jacksonville, OR 97530

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DEADLINES

ISSUE	DATE
Spring	February 1
Summer	May 1
Fall	August 1
Winter	November 1

Fall masthead photo credit

Williams resident Nansi Myers stopped her car on a cold, frosty morning near Provolt to take this issue's masthead photo.

Photo Specs

To be printable, all photos submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi) or "large format" (e.g., 30" x 40").

Advertisers!

We can help you reach your market. The *Applegater* is the only newspaper covering the entire Applegate Valley.

With a circulation of 9,200 and a readership of over 20,000, we cover Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate, Williams, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, Jerome Prairie and areas of Medford and Grants Pass.

For more information, contact:

Sally Buttshaw
541-646-8418
sallybuttshaw@ymail.com

Next deadline: February 1

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Community Calendar

AA Meeting There is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous every Wednesday at 7 am at the Williams Community Church Fellowship Hall on East Fork Road in Williams. This meeting is open to those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking, and also to anyone interested in the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from drinking.

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Grants Pass Branch meets monthly from September through June. Days, times, and locations vary. All those who hold an associate of arts, a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university are welcome to join. Contact Connie Johnson at budcon@charter.net or 541-476-2567, or Angie Bifano-Sokol at angiebifano@hotmail.com or 541-862-8228. Visit our website at <http://aauwgrantspass.org>, and see us on Facebook.

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

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 Road. For more information, call 541-899-1050.

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 Friends of Fire District #9 meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Fire Station—1095 Upper Applegate Road—at 6 pm. New members are welcome. For more information, call Bob Fischer 541-846-6218.

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.)

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.

Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council meets the 4th Thursday of the month at the Applegate Library. For more information call 541-899-9982.

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.

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.

Friends of Ruch Library Board of Directors meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at Ruch Library. All are welcome. 541-899-7438.

Grants Pass Nordic Ski Club meets on the first Thursday of the month, November through April, at the Newman Methodist Church at 7th and B Streets in Grants Pass at 7 pm. Ski outings are on Saturdays. Listings are on the snow phone at 541-592-4977.

Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation meets the second Wednesday of January, April, July and October at 6 pm at Applegate Fire District Station 1, 18489 North Applegate Road. For more information, go to www.gacdc.org.

Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) meets Thursdays at 6 pm. For meeting information, call 541-474-6840.

Ruch 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.)

Sanctuary One is open to the public for farm tours every Wednesday and Saturday at 10 am. Recommended donation is \$5. Please check out our website for details: www.SanctuaryOne.org and call to reserve a spot. 541-899-8627.

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association meets the first Monday of each month, 7:30 pm, at the OSU extension. For more information, please contact sobeekeepers@gmail.com.

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Monday 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!

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 to 11 am, followed by the Bluegrass Jam, 11 am to 1 pm. Closed July and August. 20100 Williams Hwy. near Tetherow Rd. Information 541-846-6844.

Williams Grange #399 Business Meeting, second Tuesday of each month, 7 pm. 20100 Williams Hwy. near Tetherow Rd. Information 541-846-6844.

Williams Library Hours
 Sunday.....closed
 Monday.....closed
 Tuesday.....1:30 pm - 4 pm
 Wednesday.....1:30 pm - 4 pm
 Thursday.....closed
 Friday.....closed
 Saturday.....12 pm - 4 pm

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

Women Helping Other Women (WHOW) meets the second Tuesday 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.

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

Send your calendar information to gater@applegater.org. Be sure to keep the Gater updated with any changes to these Community Calendar listings.

Firing away at media distraction

BY TOM ATZET

There were loads of media coverage of the tenth anniversary of the Biscuit Fire. My comments emphasize fire's behavior as ecosystem process and a tad about how the anniversary was covered.

Let me start with an anecdote. It happened over 20 years ago. As I vaguely recall, the climax of this science and values seminar at the Southern Oregon University Union bottom floor was billed as a shoot-out between the timber industry and environmentalists, represented by Greg Miller and Jack Shipley, respectively. Like circling vultures, reporters and cameras lined up at the back of the room to cover the impending contentious debate. Unbeknown to everyone, Greg and Jack had been talking and listening to one another, backstage, about their visions for our valley. They walked out together and jointly announced that their commonalities greatly outweighed their disparities, and they would emphasize collaboration.

That caused a bit of commotion in the back of the room as many of the reporters and all of the camera crews immediately packed up and left.

I can't say that this anecdote characterizes the behavior of the media—after all it's only one observation and I have not objectively studied coverage as an issue. It's just a feeling that controversy and the sensational get more attention than unbiased, solid information. I have, however, studied and analyzed ecosystems and the role of fire (including the Biscuit) in southwestern Oregon since the late 1960s. and I think our community could have been better served by a focus on basic fire concepts rather than dredging up old controversies.

Closure in science is frowned upon. Since "we can't learn what we think we know" (don't know who first said this, maybe Yogi, but I am willing to learn), it's imperative to keep an open mind. However, we are surer of some concepts than others. For example, we are almost certain that each of us will die, sometime. But the proposition that everyone will be taxed is less certain. Similarly, in ecology, some concepts carry more power than others.

Let's review some of what we think we know. Ecosystem fire is temporally and spatially universal. Records document that fires have occurred throughout the Applegate Valley for at least the last 12,000 years (Native American information), and probably as long as lightning has been around. Although the second half of the previous sentence is supposition, it is widely regarded as virtually certain.

Fire is essential for maintaining ecosystem functionality across the landscape. Fire assures some level of mortality, stimulates reproduction, and helps to redistribute resources (carbon is a biggie) for growth and survival. Severe fire often produces open space, allowing new combinations of genes (reproduction) to be tested under changing environmental

and biological stresses. We assume that the best adapted survive, but there are always individuals that are just flat-out lucky. Regardless, all add to species diversity.

Fire produces a range of severity effects across the landscape, which varies by elevation aspect, slope, live and dead fuel loads, weather and random chance, to name a few. Until the Biscuit Fire, southwestern Oregon national forest records indicate that high severity fire, sometimes called "stand replacement fire," typically occurred on less than 20% of the area burned. Low severity fire, where a scattering of vegetation is lightly burned skipping about half of the area, usually occurred on over half the burned area. In other words, fires create a mosaic of landscape effects and diversity that tend to increase ecosystem resilience. One of our communities' main goals is to eliminate "house replacement" fire.

In the last few decades, local burns have included an increasing proportion of high severity fire (Quartz about 40% and Biscuit about 50%). Speculation about this increase includes global warming, intense fire suppression, management practices, salvage, backfires and lack of management. Causal relationships in ecology typically comprise a nonlinear combination of all of the above. Complexities are often lost on those who prefer straightforward single-factor explanations. While it may be exciting and controversial to speculate and assign blame, the focus should be recognizing valid behavior and trends.

Have you ever noticed that when greeting a friend the intensity of the greeting is related to the amount of time you've been apart; the greater the length of the absence, the more intense the greeting. Similarly, the intensity of a fire is inversely related to the frequency of occurrence. The greater the amount of time between fires, the more severe the effects. I'm not sure what builds up during absences between friends, but in the ecosystem, live and dead fuels accumulate faster on more productive sites.

Most, if not all, of how the Biscuit Fire behaved was expected, except maybe for the size and the proportion of high-severity fire. But that also seems to be in keeping with the current national trends—larger and more severe fires.

Most of us understand the principles for sustaining our own health. Fire is a bit like exercising the human body—it both breaks down and builds up structure (and there are many beneficial ancillary effects). Both exercise and fire may sometimes be unpleasant and cause pain, but nonetheless contribute to long-term health and sustainability. We do understand how fire serves the basic long-term needs of ecosystem health; dredging up old controversies is an unneeded distraction.

Tom Atzet
jatzet@budget.net

It's just a feeling that controversy and the sensational get more attention than unbiased, solid information.

BORED?

Check out our online calendar
 jam-packed with events all over southwest Oregon.

www.applegater.org

Happy Holidays!

Upper Applegate Grange gets a new name

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

The new name for the Grange on Upper Applegate Road has been officially accepted by the National Grange—it is being rechartered as the Applegate Valley Community Grange (AVCG) #839. This reflects the greater region of the Applegate Valley that we serve in Jackson County.

The members of AVCG have been busy over the summer with reorganizing, cleaning, and preparing this wonderful 1950s building for meetings, rentals, and community gatherings. We are currently working on establishing a website for easy access with the community. There are many exciting goals being formulated for building the organization and serving the community. The membership has already begun offering community service with a public meeting place provided for the Fort Complex Fire in August. Presently, AVCG is sponsoring a “Warm Clothing Drive” for our local neighbors in need of warm coats, blankets, sleeping bags, scarves, hats, and gloves. Ruch Country Store is providing a drop-off. For more information, contact Arlene Aron at 541-951-6707.

On November 4, the members of AVCG had their first community-wide Harvest Brunch fundraiser where 250 people attended a delicious breakfast prepared with food supplied by Applegate Valley organic farmers, ranchers, and food artisans. The Turner Moore Band that sprouted from the Jacksonville area provided catchy rhythms to floor-stomping music throughout the event. Danny Moore, who provided guitar and vocals, spent time growing up in the Applegate Valley. All the rest of the members grew up with down-to-earth ethics as well, and combined forces to create their unique band. They handed out free stickers with their new website, so follow this new local band at www.turnermooreband.com.

The “Put ‘Em Up” Preservation Contest was a real success with two simple categories: “Savory” and “Sweet.” The community and Grange members brought their finest to offer: jams, salsas, canned fruits, and herbed vinegar—anything that was preserved for winter keeping. The winners were Rosie Demmin for pear



Two-hundred fifty people attended the Applegate Valley Community Grange's first community-wide Harvest Brunch on November 4. The Turner Moore Band entertained. (Photo by Claude Aron.)

chutney (savory), and Martha Straube for red pepper jelly (sweet).

One Grange member organized a “Gratitude” table where seeds, produce, and prepared foods were offered as gifts to those who came to the event.

The members of the AVCG invite you to join us to continue to expand our presence as a vibrant hub that educates, serves, and supports our community. Membership is open to any resident in the Applegate Valley over the age of 13 years, 6 months. You can use your skills for personal and community growth, or

developing new skills. You'll meet other members of the community, and join them in service and fun. You can participate in charitable fundraising and learn about legislative work to support rural farming and sustainability.

Come help us grow! For more information, contact Master Melissa Matthewson at applegategrange@gmail.com or 541-846-6297, or Secretary Janis Mohr-Tipton at janismohrtipton@jeffnet.org or 541-846-7501.

Janis Mohr-Tipton • 541-846-7501
janismohrtipton@jeffnet.org

Funny cone-like things sticking out of the ground

If you've spent time in the woods in southern Oregon, you've probably run into these brown or purple-colored cone-like organisms protruding from the forest floor or a nearby road cut. Many have wondered what these strange items are... cones from trees? Plants?

Actually, they are plants—parasitic plants to be exact. The California ground cone (*Boschniakia strobilacea*) is a member of the broomrape family that parasitizes the roots of nearby madrone trees and manzanita shrubs.

Because it's a parasite, it doesn't make its own energy and thus does not have green leaves. But it does have flowers. These stick out from the bracts in spring. The bracts look very similar to cone scales from a conifer tree, hence the name ground “cone.” There is another

ground-cone species found near the coast and farther north that is parasitic on salal.

Ground cones do not have roots—instead they have haustoria, root-like organs that penetrate the roots of their host. True and dwarf mistletoe plants also have haustoria. To the best of my knowledge, ground cones do not represent a significant threat to the health of their hosts.

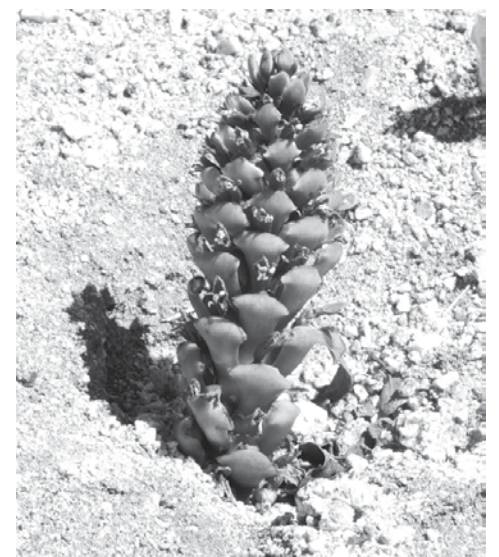
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This article is reprinted from <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/groundcone>.



Top photo: Ground cone in flowering state (<http://picasaweb.google.com/!h/photo/-eq5XHDWTer4BisRtats8A>).

Right photo: Ground cone found in southern Oregon (http://www.redorbit.com/education/reference_library/science_1/plants/1112564818/bost2/).



Poetry Corner

Now Winter Nights Enlarge
by Thomas Campion (1567 - 1620)

Now winter nights enlarge
This number of their hours;
And clouds their storms discharge
Upon the airy towers.
Let now the chimneys blaze
And cups o'erflow with wine,
Let well-tuned words amaze
With harmony divine.
Now yellow waxen lights
Shall wait on honey love
While youthful revels, masques, and courtly sights
Sleep's leaden spells remove.

This time doth well dispense
With lovers' long discourse;
Much speech hath some defense,
Though beauty no remorse.
All do not all things well:
Some measures comely tread,
Some knotted riddles tell,
Some poems smoothly read.
The summer hath his joys,
And winter his delights;
Though love and all his pleasures are but toys
They shorten tedious nights.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

What did your mom tell you?

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Of course we never listened to mom, especially when she said, "Do as I say, not as I do." What nonsense! Why did she do it in the first place? Okay, this is easy. I am not your mom, just an experimenting gardener with very dirty fingernails and cracked heels (ick) to boot. Never the less, this is a great time to listen to my past season's flaws and successes. Nothing in gardening is a failure, just an experiment.

Last "summer" started out very early, like in the middle of a snowstorm. You may have heard this story already, but just humor me. I had a call from the *Daily Courier* newspaper in Grants Pass. They had read my article about cup gardening. They wanted to come out and do a full story on this crazy idea. My friend came over and we planted these wee little plants in ten-inch plastic cups, bottoms cut out. The newspaper reporter came over, took his pictures and it started snowing. The next morning the garden was solid snow, like really solid—no cups, no plants, nobody was home. Moving right along into spring, then summer, wow, giant healthy plants. The cups had acted like mini greenhouses. Granted these cup crops were cold-weather crops, not tomatoes and yummy melons, but still, can't argue with success.

Now I forgot what the point was... Oh yes, experiment—make it up as you go along.

Experiments that did not work

Here is what did not work in my summer garden. I'll save the good stuff for last.

My gutter garden failed, in that only about one quarter was viable.

My squashes and melons planted in five-gallon containers behind the asparagus bed withered on the vine. Well, not the zucchini, but I still did not have enough to run to the neighbors and leave abandoned zucchinis on their back porch, or feed extras to the deer and chickens. Saga will be ongoing, but I think nasturtiums will win out, assuming I remember to water them once in awhile.

Tomatoes in our microclimate were their normal struggling, icky flavor and very sparse.

We also realized that the "new" very black cherry tomato looks beautiful but tastes awful, even after it ripens, which takes forever. Basically it tastes like a glass marble!

My other melons and squashes planted in big tires in full sun did nothing except struggle. I do believe that out of the five tires, I had one unidentifiable round "melon."

Experiments that did work

Here is what I did right and what I will repeat next year.

Instead of fussing with trellises for all the climbing things we plant, I simply made eight cylinders, about one foot tall and three feet around, from some field fencing wire I had salvaged. I hooked the cylinders together however I could. I planted on the outside bottom of the tall cylinder and vroom—up the climbers went, without any help from mom.

I planted a few themed wheelbarrows. First was a "lemonade" stand. The old wheelbarrow had lemon grass, lemon verbena, lemon geranium and stevia for sweetening. If I can beat the frost, I will unroot all of these plants and place them in pots because they are frost-tender. Next year I may do the same using a larger wheelbarrow and sinking the pots into it so that I

Planted in a concrete sewer pipe next to the house, this tomato plant is still putting out blossoms.



can easily lift them at the end of the season. I also did a "Mint Julep" cart. Mint needs to be contained, we all know that, so that is exactly what I did. I did a variety of mints. This is the second year in the same cart. They seem to hide in the cold but pop right up again in the spring, bigger and better.

Japanese eggplant right outside the kitchen door did great. I rotate every other year between eggplant and basil. Pretty boring, but it works.

I did more miniature lavender, parsley, sage, rosemary, and other edible herbs and flowers right outside the kitchen door again. In the same area I have horseradish in a large container. Even though I have some of the same plants elsewhere, it is wonderfully convenient and fun to just walk out the door and pick the seasonings for the feast of the night.

Experiments to try next year

Here is what I should have done or will do next year:

The gutter garden would have worked better if I'd had a deeper gutter to use.

Given that I don't and won't, I need to pay better attention to what is planted in them. I thought that miniature gourmet lettuce would be perfect. The roots are shallow and lettuce tolerates shade. The basil at the far end did great, but then I seem to have good luck with planting basil anywhere, so why waste the gutter plan. The lettuce probably needed much more water, like



Sioux Rogers—And the beet goes on.

twice a day in the hottest part of summer. On the other hand, that is way too much work, and we eat much more kale and chard than lettuce. What was I thinking? (Slap forehead.) Okay, no lettuce in the gutters, but maybe some radishes. Small ones though.

The other plan is strawberries—their runners can just trail over the sides so they will not replant and spread into my everywhere. And last, but not to be forgotten, are nasturtiums. I love to decorate salads with them, and the trailing varieties would be lovely backed up to the chicken coop. Saga of decisions will continue, but I have a hunch the nasturtiums will win. Remind me to water the gutter.

The squashes and vines, whether in five-gallon containers or tires, need full sun, more compost and regular watering. They were clearly neglected.

One tomato, planted in a concrete sewer pipe next to the house, is still green, ripening up the tomatoes and putting on more blossoms. Just thought I'd brag because I have no more concrete sewer pipes or room around the south side of the house. So next year we will plant tomatoes with our friends in their sunny, lower-elevation, well-fertilized plot.

So what did mom say...geez, I cannot remember. But I am telling you, there is no such thing as failure, unless you do not try.

Dirty fingernails and all
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BACK IN TIME

To Victoria and return—Part Two

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

John and Pearl Byrne have been traveling north from the Applegate area to Victoria, Canada. The year is 1937, and they have been car camping along the way and enjoying the company of John's sister Maud, her husband Harold, and their son Bernard. We join them again as they contemplate crossing the border into Canada.

Dad's Story, Part Two

One of the Canadian officials was a little officious, and reprimanded Harold for not having his papers with him. Said he might not be able to get back into the U.S. without them. It made us some uneasy, but we decided to smuggle Harold back over the border in some manner regardless of the cost. On all our trip we were treated very courteously by everyone.

A short distance north of the line we encountered several small stands close to the highway, all selling native honey. Pint and quart containers stacked up in pyramids, and it looked very inviting, so we bought some. The young man selling said it was of native production, and we found it to be very nice tasting honey.

We began to sit up and take notice, as we are now in Canada. Crossed the Fraser River and reached New Westminster at 4 pm. Another nice little city. Camped at "Hollywood Auto Court" about eight miles this side of Vancouver. The cabins were modern and the prices reasonable, although they were due for a raise July 1. Supper over we drove into Vancouver, this stretch of highway being called the "King's Way." Vancouver claims a population of 246,000. We had intended doing more cooking on the trip, but the women are lying down on the job, and the men voted a sit-down strike, so we dined at the "White Lunch."

What one notices most in Vancouver are the cars and the people. The city

seems to be several years behind the U.S. Lots of small cars of old vintage and the trucks also. They must use a great deal of sawdust and coal, as we saw a lot of this being transported in sacks loaded on open trucks. The people are typically English as far as we are able to judge, and it seemed off to see so many people of our type. We were told that Victoria was more English than Vancouver, but we were unable to see much difference.

Drifting around the city, Harold who was the brains of the party this day conceived the idea of following one of the sightseeing busses, which proved very satisfactory. Bernard maneuvered in behind one of the busses leaving at 2 pm, and we followed it all the way through Stanley Park, making a complete circle. At Prospect Point work is under way to build a bridge across Burrard Inlet to North Vancouver. Looking northeast across the inlet, one can see North Vancouver and a beautiful array of high mountains, rivers, and inlets—a very enticing picture to a hunter or fisherman. These parks are all beautiful, and it is useless to try to describe them.

We traveled east, then north, and then gradually turned south, where we could look out across the channel to Vancouver Island. At this point another halt was made at a tea garden. We pulled ahead of the bus and waited, viewing a monument erected to the memory of Captain Fraser. We did not know just where the bus was going next. When the bus pulled out the driver gave us several

lusty toots of the horn, whether it was in salute or derision, we do not know, as anything might be thrown at a car bearing a California license. Ahem!

We wound around through a maze of beautiful homes, flowers, hedges and lawns, as there are a lot of retired and wealthy people in Vancouver. Back in the city we took in a show at the Century Theater. When we came out it was 8 pm, and the

sun looked to be still about a half hour above the horizon. We are far enough north that the days are pretty long. We stayed at our same camp and "500 rummy" was enjoyed until a late hour. This developed into somewhat of a cutthroat game, and we ourselves were most always in the hole. Sometimes from a dead silence the word "rummy you" would be shouted from our lusty throats, and the occupants of the

adjoining cottage would turn over with a groan, as in some of these cottages, a thin partition separates the two, with a garage on each side. Anyway, they were Californians, or most of them were, and were used to disturbances.

We boarded the "Princess Victoria" and were off for Nanaimo at 11 am. Large rafts of logs are in evidence, and one gets a better view of the country above North Vancouver. The trip across was pleasant, but uneventful, reaching Nanaimo at 1:30, a city of 7,000. There was something peculiar about the name of this city, and every time we tried to pronounce it, everyone tried, until it became a joke. We lunched at Shasta Café at 2 pm, and headed north over a good paved highway. Passed through Wellington, a large coal-mining district.

June 28. The weather warm and clear again this morning. Headed for Butchart's Gardens, located several miles northeast of the city. Passed a large observatory, but did not feel like spiraling up to it. After winding around through some low hills we made a sharp left hand turn, then went down into a parking court. We noticed one officer here, but on our return he was gone. We were allowed to wander at will about the gardens without attendant.

To describe these gardens would be impossible. The sunken part of the garden is an immense mined out quarry. From an observation point you look down into a

mass of flowers and shrubbery. The erosion on the rocky sides of the walls has allowed the flowers to grow in profusion aided by frequent rains. Strips of green lawn and masses of flowers of every description. The air is heavy with the odor, and we could almost feel the thousands of honeybees struggling upward to some hives we saw later. We sure would like to taste some of that honey.

Up early June 29. The weather is a bit cloudy. We boarded the S.S. Iroquois at 9:15 am, and are off for Port Angeles. Bernard got some more pictures, leaving the docks, and an aeroplane passing us, skimming low to the water. This is quite a little trip, and one gets the swell of the ocean. We began to feel rather peculiar, so went inside and sat down as near the center of the boat as possible and practiced rhythmic breathing. This helps a lot if you know how it is done, and one would look so undignified leaning over the rail. Pearl had a Calvin Coolidge look on her face, and Maud sort of a do-or-die. Maud and Bernard finally made a hasty trip out on deck, but we did not follow. They probably were looking at the scenery.

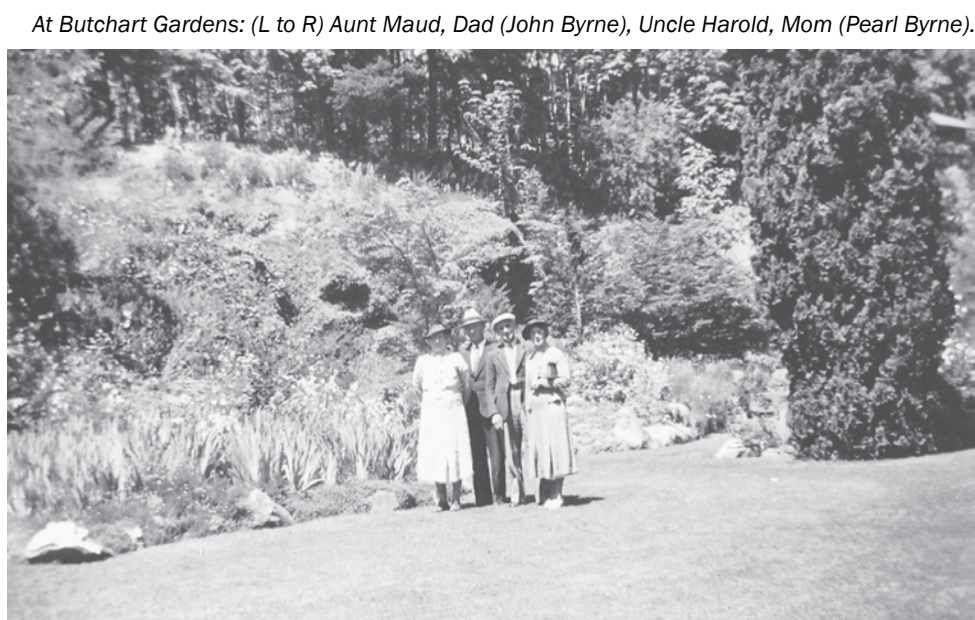
And finally: We are getting back to the crooked highway (Roseburg and south), but there is a good deal of historic interest here in all these placer streams and mountains. Occasionally you catch glimpses of the old road, and can visualize a team and wagon bumping and grinding around a narrow mountain road. It is certainly a long step from those days to our present mode of travel.

Grants Pass seems to be the tourist city of them all. The whole of Sixth Street is turned over to the tourists parking, and you can leave your car parked here all day if necessary. We lost track of our timetable here, but it is some time in the afternoon, and we are headed toward home. The Applegate country looked very good, and the outline of the blue Siskiyou looked inviting. At odd times, for amusement, we have looked over maps of this country, of Canada, of Alaska, and we have a great desire to see them at close range, but we believe if we ever had the good fortune to do this, there would come a time when we would be glad to come home.

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre
541-899-1443

Author's Note: John has been gone for over 40 years, but this wonderful story of a cherished trip he took so long ago keeps him a part of our family—his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
—Janeen Sathre

The air is heavy with the odor, and we could almost feel the thousands of honeybees struggling...



Get along little doggie, Applegate style, up on Carberry Creek near Steamboat Cemetery. (Photo courtesy of Bob and Linda Fischer.)

Happy
Holidays!

Here's hoping 2013 brings good fortune to all.

Applegater Newspaper
Staff and
Board of Directors

THE STARRY SIDE

Speeds

BY GREELEY WELLS

Imagine this: You're peacefully sitting alone in your chair. You reach out for your cup of coffee and bring it to your lips. Your arm moves carefully so as not to spill, probably at a speed of about a half-mile per hour. Now imagine you're in your car having that same drink while driving at 65 miles per hour. Even though the car is moving fast, your body feels still inside the car—as if "at rest."

Now consider that our planet is spinning on its axis; at the equator that's about 1,000 miles per hour, yet we still feel "at rest" just as we did in our moving car. Now add this: we're circling around our sun at 67,000 miles per hour! But wait—there's more: the sun is revolving around a path in our galaxy at 490,000 miles per hour, and the galaxy itself is spinning through the universe at 1.3-million miles per hour. And finally, have you heard of the big bang? Well, we all, every atom of us, have been moving away from that central beginning at another amazing cosmic speed. And we've been doing this for some 12 to 15 billion years! So is there really something like being "at rest," or are you just dizzy by now?

Ahhhh...December and the winter sky. For many of us it's our best and favorite sky, though it's so cold we can't spend a huge amount time watching it. There's Orion the hunter, probably the clearest and one of the biggest and best-known constellations of all. If a person knows one constellation, it's probably Orion. I've had people ask me in midsummer, "Where's Orion?" They don't realize it's a winter constellation. Actually, it is up in summer in the southern hemisphere, where it's winter for them while it's summer for us. So it is somewhere on the planet each night.

Below and behind Orion, and to the left (east), is Sirius, the dog star, the brightest star in the sky. It's Orion's faithful dog, in the constellation Canis Major. In front of Orion is that beautiful little "V" of Taurus the bull. And still farther ahead of Orion lie the seven sisters, the Pleiades. To make things interesting—and a little confusing—Jupiter is up, bright and centered between Orion and Taurus.

The large square of Pegasus we've watched rising this summer in the east is, in December, passing the zenith (top) of the sky and descending. In January, Pegasus has moved to the western horizon and in February, it's setting farther down each night.

Early one morning in mid-September, I saw several things I had never noticed before. Cassiopeia (it's the "W" or "M" or something in between as it spins around Polaris, the North Star) was hauling the whole Milky Way around with it, from the north/south across the sky we've been seeing to the east/west we will be having for part of the winter. The second thing I

hadn't ever noticed before was that at that moment the Big Dipper, Ursa Major, was standing tiptoe on the end of its handle, totally upright and touching Grizzly Peak! And to its left was the Little Dipper, Ursa Minor, hanging from its tail, the North Star, straight down as if the star were a nail in the wall of the night. Last, I noticed that the two brighter stars next to each other in the Little Dipper's handle looked

next to Aldebaran for months now, and gets closest to the Hyades "V" of Taurus (4 2/3°) on December 11. The rest of the season, he is the beacon of the night: the brightest star or planet to be seen, and up all night long.

Mars is low and hard to see in the sunset; it's a poor season for viewing Mars.

Saturn takes part in an early morning moon show. The waning crescent moon

January 2-4 has the Quadrants. Draco, the constellation low in the

northeast, is their "radiant"—the place they seem to originate. The Quadrants could have 40 to 100 meteors an hour at the best of times. (Note: There are no guarantees in this meteor-prediction business.)

Moons in winter when full are low in the sky; crescent moons in winter get higher and higher. This is the opposite of the sun, which is high in the summer and low in the winter. Just as the sun has its yearly change, the moon does a monthly change from low to high and back.

The full moon on December 28 is called the Moon Before Yule or the Long Night Moon. On January 27 the full moon is known as the Old Moon, or Moon After Yule. The full moon on February 25 is called the Wolf Moon, Snow Moon, or Hunger Moon.

The winter solstice is on December 21. Actually, the earliest sunset (4:35 pm) is on December 21 and the latest sunrise is January 5. Because most of us experience sunsets more often than sunrises, December 21 feels like the "shortest" day.

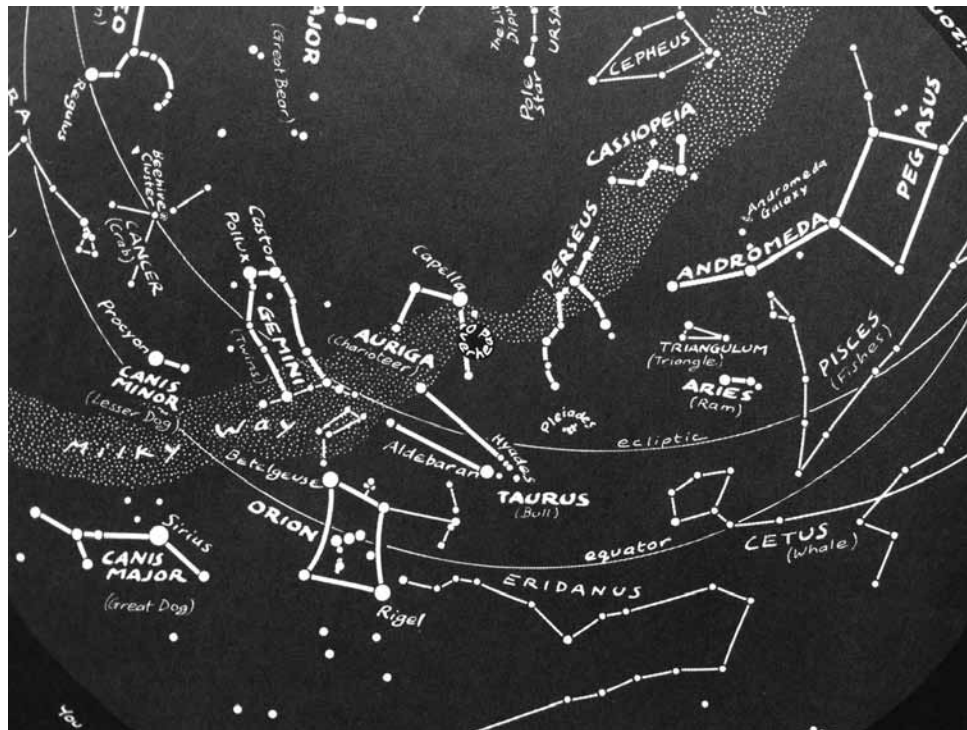
Finally, this just discovered: Comet Ison may become a day "star" in November and December 2013. This comet has been called "a daylight-brilliant immense-tailed Sun-Grazer, to rival the few great ones of the past four centuries." To find out more from Guy Ottewell (who writes the yearly sky calendar to best all sky calendars, in my opinion), go to: http://issuu.com/universalworkshop/docs/comet_ison?mode=window&viewMode=singlePage.

So very likely, but not a sure thing yet: Comet Ison for next year at this time. Oh boy!

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Greeley Wells



This south-facing illustration is from To Know the Stars by Guy Ottewell.

a lot like—and were almost perfectly parallel with—the two brighter Big Dipper handle stars; and midway between them was another set of two similarly oriented stars, a little dimmer and a little smaller but completing a sequence: two by two by two. I love these sorts of "design elements" I find in the sky. They help me realize that The Great Creator is also the Master Artist.

THE PLANETS

Venus is still rising in morning twilight in early December. But she is ending her season of drama in the morning sky. As the season moves on, Venus gets lower, until in January she will be rising steadily at 7 am and so low in the dawn light that she'll be almost gone from view. I've been seeing Venus as a "day-star" when the crescent moon has been close by to help me find her. The way to do this is to determine their relative positions while it's dark and easy to do, and then in the daylight find that same position after you spot the little crescent moon. In other words, when you can see the moon in the daytime sky, you can find Venus—but she's bright enough to see only if you know where to look.

Jupiter dominates the night, rising in early evening and setting just after sunset. Early in December he moves into the evening sky at midnight, setting almost at dawn. On the night of Christmas, he is right next to Aldebaran and the almost-full moon—spectacular! Jupiter has been

moves downward through a diagonal line of bright stars and planets: first Spica (December 9), then Saturn (December 10), Venus (December 11), and Mercury (December 12) close to the horizon line. Saturn is rising around 2 am in January, and by February at 11 pm. So Saturn is rather high in the morning sky, and getting higher.

Mercury begins December as high away from the sun as it ever gets; it's low in the dawn, if you can find it. Mercury is below Venus and Saturn, and slowly sinking for the rest of December. (I think we lose it for the remainder of the winter.) Mercury is closest to beautiful Venus on December 9, when they are only about six degrees apart.

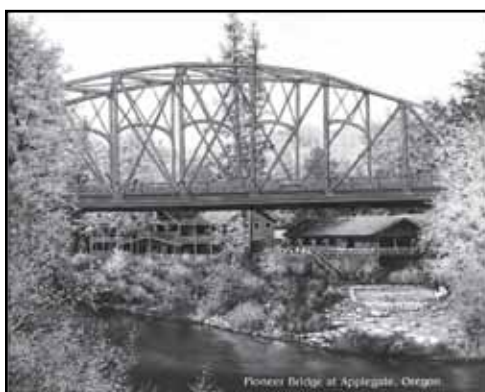
OF NOTE

The Geminid meteor shower appears in perfect form, with no moon and very favorable viewing conditions, on December 13-14. These meteors often radiate strongly out of the Gemini twins, up over Orion's head. There should be all-night viewing—so no excuses to miss this thrill, weather permitting. If you're hard core like me, you might also try to catch some meteors before dawn, which is usually the best viewing time.

There are also quite favorable Ursid meteor showers on Saturday, December 22. These seem to radiate from the Little Dipper, Ursa Minor, in the north. They tend to be faint and medium-sized. Finally,

"The things that will destroy America are prosperity at any price, peace at any price, safety first instead of duty first, the love of soft living, and the get-rich-quick theory of life."

—Theodore Roosevelt



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TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

Bend but don't break

BY RAUNO PERTTU



Rauno Perttu

Because I spent my undergraduate years at the University of Oregon, I've always been a Ducks fan. I'm also a strong supporter of the Beavers, but I love my Ducks. Everyone knows about their potent offense, but this year's Ducks football team also has a strong defense that is known for its "bend but don't break" attitude. Several years ago, I appreciated the same attributes in two old and cracked poles. I'll explain.

Exploration geology can be a dangerous profession. Over the years, I've had several very close calls that could have ended very badly. Sometimes events were out of my control and, at other times, I was just being stupid. I've had close calls in helicopters and small planes, in vehicles on dangerous roads and on non-roads. I've hung from cliffs, and crawled around inside abandoned mines and third-world mine workings. It was in an abandoned mine in Chile where I met those "bend but don't break" poles.

Twenty years ago, I was more agile and sometimes willing to take foolish chances. I had been asked to check out a gold prospect in Chile's Atacama Desert, which is the driest place on the planet, and is also one of the most mineralized places in the world. I arrived at the abandoned gold mine and met two local prospectors who were there to show me the property. They were very small and wiry with tanned and weathered faces. I guessed neither weighed more than 90 pounds.

The prospectors led me into the old mine working, and a short distance inside, just far enough in that the light was starting to fade, they stopped. None of us had a flashlight. I doubt they owned one, and I hadn't planned on being underground. Our access was blocked by a dark hole that

stretched across the entire width of the adit. This was a shaft that had been sunk to reach lower levels of the mine. I threw a rock into the dark shaft and listened as it ricocheted off the shaft walls. The fading bounces told me the shaft was deep. I was puzzled as to what the miners planned to show me. One of them went back toward the entry, and a few moments later came back with two long poles. The poles were old, only a very few inches thick, dry, with a spiraling wood grain and with deep cracks along the grain.

I wondered where they had acquired these poles out here in the desert where no plants of any kind grew. Next, I wondered what they planned to do with those poles. As I puzzled, they laid the poles side by side across the 12- to 15-foot-wide pit. In turn, each got onto his hands and knees. They grasped the poles firmly with their hands and, as they scooted forward over the abyss, they placed their lower legs at angles across the poles, and proceeded to "walk" across the gaping black hole by alternately sliding a hand and leg forward along the poles. They had clearly done this many times.

They crossed the shaft and beckoned me to join them. This was one of my stupid moments. I got onto my hands and knees and copied their actions. Unfortunately, I was not 90 pounds; I weighed close to 200. I didn't think those poles looked nearly strong enough to support me. As if to

confirm my worries, the poles made loud popping sounds as I inched forward. The popping sounds echoed off the adit walls, and the poles bent ominously as I inched across the black void below. After what seemed an eternity, I reached the other side, with the poles (and me) still intact.

On the other side, we walked a short distance in the rapidly fading light and came to the end of the adit. The rock wall told me that the reason the adit ended and a shaft went down was because the gold

vein ended at the wall, and the old miners had followed the ore shoot the only way they could, which was downward. Our adventure over the pit and potential death had been a waste of time.

Now I faced the prospect of recrossing the pit. I was relatively certain that I had weakened the poles to the point they couldn't possibly support me on the way back. I wanted someone to be able to eventually haul my body out of that black pit and ship it back home, so I insisted that they cross back first. They would be trapped if I went first and broke the poles.

The prospectors crossed the pit with little difficulty, although the poles now made noises from their 90-pound weights. My turn came, and I was almost certain I was living my last moments. As I was about a third of the way across, the poles sagged deeply, and one of the poles made an exceptionally loud pop. I froze and waited a moment. Nothing further happened,

so I cautiously continued. As I reached the other side, I felt I had survived a near-death experience. The miners asked me what I thought and I told them I was not encouraged by what I had seen. They immediately wanted me to go back across with them to look again. This time, I decided I had exhibited enough stupidity for one day and declined.

Afterward, I sometimes wondered if I had weakened the poles enough that they eventually were unable to support even a 90-pound body, or if another, perhaps fatter, geologist was persuaded to attempt the crossing, only to disappear into that black pit.

As I've gotten older and remembered geologists who were killed in various ways while doing exploration, and thought about my close calls, I've gotten more cautious. Still, those stupid adventures of yesterday make exciting memories, but I also remind myself you have to be around to have those memories.

Some of my close calls have taught me important lessons. When I reflect on this one, the only lesson that comes to mind is "Don't be so stupid!"

As I write this, the Ducks haven't yet had their key game at University of Southern California. I hope that their "bend but don't break" defense helps them win that important game, just as my "bend but don't break" poles allowed me to be around to enjoy that game.

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

Twenty years ago I was more agile and sometimes willing to take foolish chances.

ENCHANTED

FROM PAGE 1

Hatter Timothy Olson, former two-time winner of Pine to Palms 100-mile run from Williams to Ashland, led the charge for ten youngsters on a quarter-mile run in the Wooldridge Creek vineyard.

While the 117 runners in the 5K finished their vineyard run and enjoyed tasting Wooldridge Creek wines, and the ten children enjoyed playing with the Mad Hatter and Queen of Hearts, 143 half-marathoners were sweating it out on the trails up the hill. After the finish, many seasoned runners admitted it was "one tough half," including Jim Clover, owner and creator of the Clover Creek property trails. Jim said he felt more beat after that 13.1 miles than he did after a 50-mile run in South Dakota the previous month. The half-marathoners were rewarded for their

efforts with a lunch by Fulcrum Dining after the race.

In the 5K, Eric Boehmer, 39, of Grants Pass won overall with a time of 20:34, with the first woman, Quinnan Picton, 32, Medford, placing fifth overall at 23:43. Other notable finishers in the 5K included the impressive juniors: Ally Waldron, 15, of Medford; Xavier Bodager, 10, Grants Pass; Hayden Ellis, 9, Ashland; Amanda Forrester, 14, Glendale; Joe Stranberg, 10, Ashland; and Jazmin Fox, 8, Medford.

The 5K senior group included Peter Stevens, 64, of Newburgh, Indiana, in 15th place overall. Others in the over-60 age division were Linda Smith, 63, Grants Pass; and Beverly de la Fuente, 60, Montague, California.

In the half-marathon (13.1 miles) Scott Breeden, 22, of Bloomington, Indiana, won overall with a time of 1:39:23. The first woman finisher, in fifth place overall, was 31-year old Becca Kern of Salem with a time of 1:53:33. One intrepid junior ran the half: TJ Hooks, 15, from Ashland, placed an impressive 16th overall.

The 60-plus half-marathoners included Suzanne Ray, 60, Jacksonville; Douglas Naverson, 63, Jacksonville; David White, 68, Ashland; Tom Bedell, 63, Bandon; Tom Ahle, 63, Ashland; Jim Clover, 70, Applegate; Hank Smith, 64, Grants Pass; and Ted Warrick, 72, Applegate.

Ted and Mary Warrick are the proprietors of Wooldridge Creek Winery



Photos, left to right: Runners at the start of the Enchanted Forest Wine Run, and the Mad Hatter and Queen of Hearts. (Photos by Michael Lebowitz, LongRun Pictures. www.longrunpictures.com.)



Fairy runners, left to right, Sydnee Fox and Jazmin Fox. (Photo by LongRun Pictures.)

with partners Greg Paneitz and Kara Olmo. Ted and Greg ran the half-marathon while Mary and Kara helped out at the finish line and the Wooldridge aid station.

It takes a village to host an event like this, and without the many volunteers and sponsors it

would not have been possible. Many thanks to Wooldridge Creek Winery, Noble Coffee, Fulcrum Dining, Pearl Izumi, Smith Optics, Ultraspire, Good People Run, High Gear, Rogue Valley Runners, Siskiyou Outback Race, First Endurance, Clover Creek Vineyards, Applegate Trails Association, and Southern Oregon Runners for all the help and great stuff!

Big thanks also to all the runners who turned out to make this such a delightful success. We hope to see everyone back again next year for even more excitement and fun.

Annette Parsons • 541-846-6656
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Connecting to the source

BY HALEY MAY

When considering traveling for an extended period, cost is a major concern—plane tickets, bus fare, taxis, food, hotel rooms, campsites, and hostels all require money. For those who have not developed a career and will not have income on the wing, this is no small challenge (especially in the face of an economic downturn). Luckily, anyone can fulfill dreams of travel through international communities like Facebook, Craigslist, Rideshare, CouchSurfing, HelpX, Hostelworld and WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms).

All of these web-oriented tools can make travel cheaper for decent amounts of time (over two weeks). Both HelpX (short for “help exchange”) and WWOOF offer work-for-housing/food trades. HelpX includes babysitting, cooking, cleaning, gardening and yard work in exchange for a place to stay and/or groceries and meals. WWOOFing is typically a half-day’s work on an organic farm for room and board, and an unforgettable experience that you cannot buy.

My interest in WWOOFing began when I decided to travel for a year. I also had the desire to reconnect with the “roots,” both literally and figuratively, of that which sustains me: food. Having been raised on a farm, I was not convinced by the prevalent attitude that food is limitless, easy to get and ever more convenient to consume. Because most of us are not

regularly faced with the reality of resources and work required for its production, the lack of connection with what we eat is understandable. The media encourages the illusion that food comes from “somewhere out there.” Besides wanting to rediscover homegrown food for myself, I wanted to work outside and travel the world. WWOOFing made all of this possible for me.

I’m writing this article from Hawaii, where my WWOOFing experience began in September 2011. I was on the North Shore of Oahu at a farm called Mohala for two months. I remember being amused by the directions provided by the farm’s director, Mark Hamamoto: “Turn left at the ‘Goats for Sale’ sign.” Though twice the amount of typical work hours were asked of me, I also had twice the opportunity for hands-on experience forming soil blocks, planting, making compost, harvesting, selling at market and, of course, weeding. It was worthy work for fresh papaya, lilikoi (passion fruit), lemons, pomegranate, arugula, collard greens, dino kale, basil, lemongrass, and oregano, as well as introductions to Hawaiian/Asian foods like poke (raw fish salad) and natto (fermented soybeans). I learned an enormous amount by immersing myself into the work.

I was not surprised when I came home from my eight-month trip to Hawaii, Fiji and New Zealand that this symbiotic style of farming is going on



Haley May and Mark Hamamoto weeding at Mohala farm in Oahu, Hawaii. (Photo by Andrew Peterson.)

in the Rogue Valley and the Applegate region. When I was in Wyoming this summer, my grandmother, Joan Peterson, sent me an article from the *Mail Tribune* providing some details, a piece that I recommend looking up online. In June 2012 the *Tribune* describes the WWOOF trend succinctly: “(A)s the organic and, more recently, eat-local movements have picked up speed, the number of WWOOF farms—more than 1,500 in the United States—also has grown. WWOOF farms in Oregon tripled in number to 92 over the past six years. More than a third of those are in Jackson and Josephine counties.” What better place to WWOOF than here in southern Oregon.”

The numbers are impressive, considering that WWOOFers are unpaid volunteers and often outside their zone of comfort. Even with my background, I ran into my own “growth opportunities.” Centipedes and fire ants, well-worn dirt-

caked clothes, and competition with mice for my food were not easy to accept. But what I came to realize is that it is amazing what you can get used to and how little you actually need to live. And if you can arrive at a point where this becomes realized, discomforts and inconveniences become a small price for the experience, as many WWOOFers can agree.

Those of us who have had the pleasure of living in the Applegate know this is where the “good life” is; there is an awareness about the sources that sustain us. Whether you are interested in travel or just want to get your hands dirty, opportunities are waiting at home and abroad. Think about it over the winter months. For myself, I find it exciting to discover and share novel and useful ways of fitting into the circle of life. As said in Hawaii, “Ola Mai Ka Piko...” (connecting to the source).

Haley May
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Restoration on Thompson Creek gaining statewide support

BY ELIZABETH MURPHY

Turn south at the Applegate Store and you'll wind your way along one of the most important fish-bearing tributaries in the Middle Applegate. Thompson Creek still maintains the greatest number of fish distribution miles in the Middle Applegate and, as of a 2004 assessment, has chinook salmon to reach Mile 1, coho salmon to reach Mile 9, summer and winter steelhead to reach Mile 10.8, and trout to reach Mile 12.8. In addition, numerous Thompson Creek tributaries, such as Tallowbox Creek, Jamison Creek, Ninemile Creek, and Darnell Gulch, are also fish-bearing.

The suitability of Thompson Creek for fish habitat is largely due to its wide valley and low gradient. From Ninemile Creek to the Applegate River, over 56% of Thompson Creek has less than a 4% gradient. The valley form of Thompson Creek points to the historical existence of a gentle meandering stream that deposited the deep fertile soils prized by farmers in the valley.

Despite its innate potential for fish habitat, Thompson Creek, like most of the low-elevation waterways in the Applegate Valley, is critically degraded in condition. Elevated stream temperatures and dissolved oxygen severely limit water quality important for aquatic life.

This has placed portions of Thompson Creek on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's 303(d) list for water-quality-limited streams. Thompson Creek also lacks important fish habitat conditions, such as large wood, off-channel alcoves, and complex pools, which create conditions that fish need for rearing, refuge and spawning.

Thompson Creek is not unique in its degraded condition. Across the Applegate Valley, logging or clearing of riparian areas, pasture encroachment, and stream straightening have interfered with the benefits of a functioning riparian area. Riparian zones are the transitional areas between land and streams. They provide shade, pollution control, and large wood to improve water quality and conditions for aquatic life. An example of the effect of riparian areas on stream condition is that many Applegate Valley tributaries have elevated temperatures due to lack of streamside shading.

Since 2004, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) has recognized Thompson Creek as one of the priority areas for restoration work. In 2008, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board funded the development of a restoration action plan to identify the most

One of the key factors in successful restoration work is the participation of engaged and enthusiastic landowners...

important actions to improve conditions on Thompson Creek.

One of the key factors in successful restoration work is the participation of engaged and enthusiastic landowners who are interested in improving the condition of riparian and aquatic systems. Thompson Creek is fortunate enough to have a large group of such landowners, who value stewardship of the creek and their role in it. Because of this, the APWC has been working with landowners along two contiguous miles of Thompson Creek to implement riparian restoration work and

instream habitat improvement.

This project has attracted the attention and support of numerous agencies and partners, including the US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Freshwater Trust, because of the effect that this scale of restoration work could have on stream condition as a whole. This winter, riparian restoration will begin on the downstream portion of the project area with money from Pacific Power's Blue Sky Habitat Fund. Funding is pending for planned future phases of the project that could begin as early as summer 2013. The APWC and the Thompson Creek community look forward to the start of this exciting project, which promises to be a model of community-supported restoration and the strategic prioritization of restoration to benefit Applegate Valley fisheries as a whole.

For more information on riparian and fish habitat restoration in the Applegate Valley, please contact Elizabeth Murphy at riparianprogram@arwc.org or 541-890-8458.

Elizabeth Murphy
541-890-8458
Applegate Partnership and
Watershed Council

OSU Small Farms to offer online course

BY GARRY STEPHENSON AND MAUD POWELL

Oregon State University (OSU) Small Farms is offering a hybrid version of its flagship farm business course, Growing Farms, at the Southern Oregon Research and Extension center in Central Point this winter. The course will run on Monday evenings from January 28 to February 25 with two additional field trips.

Small farms, ranches and vineyards shape the character and landscape of the Applegate Valley, and the Growing Farms course helps to ensure that new businesses can become financially viable.

Growing Farms Online converts and expands OSU's highly successful beginning farmer workshop series, Growing Farms: Successful Whole Farm Management, into an online course. Like the workshops, the online course fosters holistic planning by integrating the physical, biological, family and business components of farms and ranches. The online course will be ready for full use in late 2013, and will be offered in

combined online and face-to-face, as well as other methods.

In Oregon, geography, distance and driving time can be an obstacle for farmers to attend educational programs. For instance, the OSU Small Farms Program has offered its eight-week face-to-face beginning farmer and rancher workshop series since 2007. Although the workshops are highly effective, they are limited to several sites per year where OSU Small Farm Program faculty are located. Also, in the face of shrinking resources, distance education is vital to accessibility of extension educational programs.

The process of converting what we teach face-to-face into a form for delivery online is challenging and time-consuming. The OSU Small Farms Program has been working closely with an online curriculum specialist and OSU's Professional and Non-Credit Education division to develop the content and appearance of the course.

Content areas for Growing Farms have been refined in workshops since 2007. The framework and titles are:

- Dream It: Strategic Planning
- Do It: Farm Operations
- Grow It: Production
- Manage It: Farm Finances
- Sell It: Marketing Strategies
- Keep It: Managing Risk and Entrepreneurship Developments

Online learning technology now makes it possible to create and deliver a very high-quality educational product, one that is graphically rich and engaging. A key part of the online course is six "case study" farms and ranches. Through in-depth videos, these growers offer their first-hand experience and advice. The case studies represent a variety of production systems and scales.

Our preferred method for offering the course will be a blended or hybrid online and face-to-face approach. Participants will

use the online course for basic learning while face-to-face meetings will be used for discussions, hands-on learning and farm tours. Another option will be a standard, fully online method supported and facilitated by instructors.

The project is supported by a USDA/NIFA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant and is a powerful partnership between nonprofits Ecotrust, Mercy Corps Northwest and OSU's Small Farms Program and Austin Family Business Program. The project is also part of the innovative partnership between Oregon Tilth, Inc. and the OSU Small Farms Program.

For more information and to register for Growing Farms, contact Shaina Bronstein. To register online, go to <https://secure.oregonstate.edu/osuext/register/488>.

Garry Stephenson and Maud Powell
OSU Small Farms
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ED. NOTE: Parts of this article were previously published in the Oregon Small Farm News (Vol. VII No. 4 Page 11).

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2012 Forest Report Statewide Summary

- The forest sector provides for 76,073 direct jobs that generate approximately \$5.2 billion dollars in total income that includes wages, proprietor income and property income.
- The forest sector has a total industrial output of \$12.7 billion.
- The goods and services purchased by these industries support 37,000 indirect jobs, and payroll spending by the forest sector supports another 43,000 induced jobs.

For more information, see <http://theforestreport.org>.

Thank you volunteers!

The *Applegater* gives a big thank you to the 50-plus volunteers who help produce this community newspaper every issue. The volunteers help with everything—writing articles, proofreading, preparing the paper for mailing (see photos below) and more.

We are looking for someone to write the new feature, “They live among us” (see the first interview on page 13).

We can always use more help, so if you'd like to volunteer, please contact J.D. Rogers at 541-846-7736.

Is your Gater missing?

Some irate readers are not receiving their *Applegater*. If this has happened to you, please report it to your local postmaster, not your mail carrier.

Sanctuary One: Garden comes of age

BY DELLA MERRILL

At Sanctuary One we get things done through a spirit of collaboration, partnership and fun. There's nowhere that shows up better than the evolution of our front garden. Starting with a patch of dirt as hard as a cook pan just a few short years ago, with lots of hands, manure and donations we've turned the space into a garden that pleases every sense. Here is a brief pictorial history of its 2012 evolution.

Special thanks to the following for making this happen:

- Sanctuary One volunteers and visitors
- Veterans
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If you are someone who loves to garden or has a business with plants you'd like to donate, give us a call. There's always more to be done.

Call Della at 541-899-8627 or email education@sanctuaryone.org.

Della Merrill

541-899-8627

General Manager

Sanctuary One

info@sanctuaryone.org



Top photo: “Before”—Sanctuary One garden in April.
Bottom photo: “After”—garden in June.



Thank you to the dozens and dozens of volunteers who spend hours prepping the *Applegater* to meet US Postal Service requirements so that the newspaper safely reaches your mailbox.

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BIRDMAN

Name that jay

BY TED A. GLOVER

When I visit with friends in the Applegate Valley who are nonbirders, I often hear a reference to the blue jays they see regularly in their yards and along the roadways throughout our area. This reminds me why ornithologists always capitalize the names of bird species, and why, although the birds are clearly blue jays, they are not Blue Jays, as that name is reserved exclusively for the familiar crested

jay found primarily east of the Rockies.

In our neck of the woods, the common jays we see are the Steller's Jay (with their bold, dark-blue coloring; dark, nearly black head and foreparts; and magnificent dark crest) and the even more prevalent Western Scrub Jay. Until the 1990s, ornithologists called this bird simply scrub jay. But after careful study the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), which is responsible for the

formal naming of birds in North America, split the scrub jay into three species: the Western Scrub Jay, the Island Scrub Jay and the Florida Scrub Jay.

Even now, there is a movement under way to split the Western Scrub Jay into two separate species since there is a definite difference between the birds seen along the west coast from Baja California north into Washington, and those birds living in the interior west from eastern California and Nevada and all the way to west Texas.

The Western Scrub Jays in our area are much more colorful than their relatives inland. You can spot them throughout the Applegate Valley, particularly in oak woodlands and in your own yards and parks. Look for the brown back that contrasts sharply with the blue nape and wings. Did you know that Western Scrub Jays pair up for long-term bonds and live throughout the year in the same territory? It's been reported that the young of a pair can stay close for some time and help raise subsequent broods.

Two more birds to watch for this time of year are often referred to as "little brown sparrows." But they, too, have specific names to remember. The Golden-crowned Sparrow returns to our area from its northern breeding grounds and spends time foraging in dense undergrowth. It has a golden crown with black borders. The White-crowned Sparrow has a gray breast and a bold black-and-white striped crown. It is very common in our area in the winter, often seen in flocks of 20 or more, and will often remain in the same area for many weeks. It, too, prefers brushy habitat and can be seen scratching among leaf debris with both feet as it looks for seeds and small insects.

Ted A. Glover
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Ted A. Glover



Photos clockwise from top left: **Western Scrub Jay** (Lee Karney, fws.org), **Island Scrub Jay** (Bruce Smithson, California), **Florida Scrub Jay** (Robert Owens, fws.org), **Golden-crowned Sparrow** (Dave Menke).



Photo of rainbow taken by Maxie Jarrell on Water Gap Road in Williams, Oregon. The old Topper house was built around 1900.

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THEY LIVE AMONG US

Master woodworker creates handmade guitars

BY PAULA RISSLER AND J.D. ROGERS

Recently Paula Rissler and J.D. Rogers of the *Applegater* met with artist John Woods at his studio in Williams, Oregon. John has been a master woodworker for years, specializing in handmade guitars.

Paula: John, give us a little background on yourself and your family. How long have you lived in the valley, etc.?

John: My wife, Jan, and I have two children. Wendy lives in Montana and works as a buyer for an herb company. Jaxon lives in California and is a cinematographer for movies. Jan and I bought this property in 1972. We moved here from Laguna Beach, California. We are both avid gardeners. My specialty is growing garlic and Jan grows gorgeous flowers. Both Jan and I are retired now.

J.D.: The guitars that are in different stages of construction here in your studio are absolutely beautiful. As a guitar player myself, I appreciate the opportunity to see your process—your artistic ability is quite evident in these guitars. When did you decide you wanted to build custom guitars?

John: When I was in the service back in the 1960s, I bought an old tenor ukulele and started to play with some of my service buddies. I wanted to get a guitar but I couldn't afford a decent one. So I decided to build my own. 1969 is when I built my first one.

Paula: Did you take classes in guitar building?

John: No, I bought a book called *Classic Guitar Construction* by Irving Sloane. I still have the book—in fact, here it is. It was published in 1966 and got me going.

J.D.: You must have a favorite type of music and guitarist.

John: I really like all kinds of music; anything with guitars. My favorite guitarist? Man, that's a tough question. I guess Lee Ritenour.

Paula: What types of wood do you like working with and how long does it take to build one of these beauties?

John: This guitar is clear walnut and it is beautiful, but my favorite wood is koa, which is native to the Hawaiian Islands. Brazilian rosewood is also a good wood, but it is hard to get these days. It takes about a year to build a guitar. Here's one that I am working on now that has a cedar top. The wood came from the Biscuit Fire that burned almost 500,000 acres in 2002 in the Siskiyou National Forest.

J.D.: John, that is my favorite guitar. Can we work out a deal? It is great that you can use this local wood in something that is so beautiful.

John: I hate to break the news to you, but that guitar is going to a recording studio in Dana Point, California, where multi-instrumentalist recording star David Lindley records his music. This is the second guitar I've built for this studio.

Paula: Do you do repair work on guitars?

John: I did at one time, but there was just too much junk coming in that I did not want to work on. So I stopped doing repair work.

J.D.: Do you build mostly acoustic guitars?

John: Yes, but I also construct acoustic electric guitars.

Paula: You are so talented working with wood—do you do other types of art with wood?

John: I used to make bowls and boxes.



Look at the inlay on this cherry wood bowl. However, now I just concentrate on guitar building.

J.D.: Do you sell your guitars in music stores? What is the price range for one of these puppies?

John: It's just word-of-mouth; I sell directly to folks. As far as cost goes, it depends on a lot of factors—they can run between \$1,000 to \$5,000 dollars. If I won the lottery, I would just build guitars till the money ran out.

Paula: Thanks for showing us your studio and your gorgeous guitars.

J.D.: I know what I am putting on my Christmas list this year.

For more information about John Woods and his guitars, visit his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/john.woods.7796?fref=ts.

Paula Rissler
541-601-8949

J.D. Rogers
541-846-7736



Photo, top left, John Woods at work; top right, guitar in progress from curly koa wood with maple neck and ebony fretboard; bottom right, intricate inlay work.

"They live among us" is a new feature highlighting people of interest who live in the Applegate Valley. The Applegater is looking for a volunteer to take on this column each issue. If interested, please contact J.D. Rogers at 541-846-7736.

DURANDO

Deborah Smith, vice president of the publisher Bell Bridge Books, says: "Dolores brings tremendous insights to her stories. She has lived a long, fascinating life, and she draws from her vivid observations and personal experiences in a way that few writers can equal. Readers connect with her authentic descriptions and her



Dolores Durando's creations:
Top photo, alabaster mountain lion;
bottom photo, acrylic painting of Indian chief.

deep intuition for the diversity of human nature. When you finish reading one of her novels you feel that you've returned from a journey into a world that's very different from your own but also very familiar." Quite the tribute.

When Dolores finishes writing her fourth book, tentatively titled *No Greater Love*, she's quitting the writing profession, she says. Ha!

Love affair with miniature donkeys

Dolores bred, trained and showed Mediterranean miniature donkeys until 2009, winning untold ribbons for her expertise and dedication.

Always a writer, Dolores scribed many amusing short stories about donkeys that were published in the newsletter of the National Miniature Donkey Association, on which she was a board member for 14 years. (Read one of her short stories on page 16.)

Artist extraordinaire

So far we've established that Dolores Durando is a best-selling author and a beribboned owner and breeder of miniature donkeys. But let's not stop there. Because Dolores has always enjoyed challenges, she sculpts in unforgiving alabaster and paints with watercolors. Over the years, she has won first, third and several honorable-mention awards from numerous juried competitions. Even so, she considers herself to be an "ambitious amateur" who paints for pleasure, not glory.

The beginning

Hailing from what Dolores calls a "backward little town on the North Dakota-Minnesota border," she claims that

her family was "so poor we made church mice look prosperous."

In 1939, just after Dolores graduated from high school, the family picked up and moved to Spokane, Washington, where her 15-year-old brother brought home the biggest paycheck as a caddy at a posh golf course, and Dolores washed dishes at a Kress dime store lunch counter.

Ah, but she spent her evenings dancing and flirting with the soldiers from nearby McChord Field, learning all the latest dance steps like the swing and jitterbug, and relishing in the sounds of the Big Bands like Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller, who frequently played in Spokane.

When a relative told her that defense factories were hiring in California, Dolores leapt onto the next bus and found work at the Douglas Aircraft Santa Monica factory, first in the cowling department on the B-29, and later as "Rosie the riveter" on the wing flaps.

By day, news of the war boomed from loudspeakers, and women at home cheered when German casualties were announced. (Dolores always wondered if German mothers grieved the same as American mothers did when they got the heartbreaking news.) But at night, after working ten-hour days, six days a week, you could still find Dolores and her friends dancing to the Big Bands—an experience, she says, she will never forget.

Career in mental health

After the war, Dolores worked at the Van Nuys Veterans Hospital as a nurse's aide in the amputee ward until it closed,

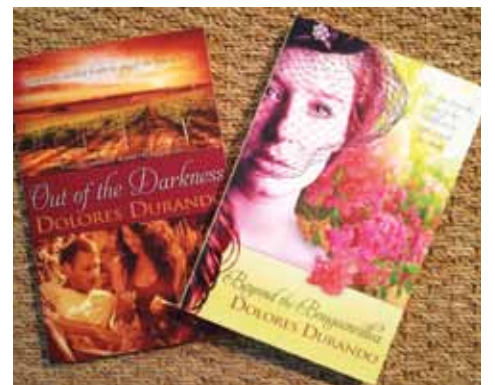
then moved to the San Fernando Veterans Hospital. Dolores would eventually become a licensed psychiatric technician at Sonoma State Hospital in Sonoma.

She, along with three of her four children, then established and maintained five homes for mentally ill adults, and served on mental health and addiction advisory boards in California and Oregon.

Dolores "retired" to the Applegate Valley 25 years ago.

So what's next on the horizon for this uber-talented woman? I'm holding my breath.

Barbara Holiday
sfholiday@aol.com

**Win free books**

Bell Bridge Books has generously donated several book sets containing both of Dolores Durando's published books for *Applegater* readers. Be among the first five to email us at gater@applegater.org to claim your book set. Pickup or delivery can be arranged.

FROM PAGE 1



JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

Applegate Library

Fire at the Applegate Library

We need your help!

In August of this past summer, a neighbor was awakened at 1 am by someone at her door shouting that there was a fire on the Applegate Library property. Since her home is adjacent to the library, she knew that she would have to act fast and called 9-1-1 immediately. Luckily, the Applegate Fire Department is situated right next door to the library, so the firemen were able to save not only the neighbor's property, but the main building of the Applegate Library as well.

However, the small house that served as our storage building was burned to the ground with all of its contents, which included the entire supply of books that had been collected all year long to sell at our library book sales. The book sales provide most of the money that the Friends of the Applegate Library use for activities like the summer reading program and other programs that become available from time to time for the community.

The Friends of the Applegate Library is now in the process of raising money for the construction of a storage building for our books. The Jackson County Library System (JCLS) will provide some of the funds from their "discretionary budget," but resources are limited so we are obliged to seek donations from our community to augment the funds from JCLS.

Jackson County Parks Department has cleaned up the burned area where the building once stood, and the site is now ready for the new building. Plans are in the making for a structure of about 500 square feet with natural lighting and shelves to store all of the books that will be sold at future book sales.

We are appealing to you, our Applegate Community, for tax-deductible donations to the building fund. Please consider how much our library means to our community, and how you would like to see it continue to serve us. Checks can be made out to "Friends of The Applegate Library" and mailed to Carol Hoon, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3257, Applegate, Oregon 97530.

If you have questions concerning the donations, please call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988.

Ruch Library

Happy holidays from Ruch Library!

Be sure and stop by the library this month for books on holiday baking, crafts, clutter busting, and more. Pick out a book that you can read while snuggled near the fire, or an audio book for a trip to grandma's.

Children are welcome to select a gift book for themselves when they visit the library between Hanukkah and Christmas.

We have a variety of craft activities scheduled for December on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm. Drop in and get your creative juices flowing.

December 6. Greeting Cards: We will have a wide selection of materials for you to make a unique card. All ages are welcome.

December 13. Ornament: Make an orb ornament with interesting paper, and maybe become inspired to later create one

with some family photographs. All ages.

December 20. Christmas Origami: Fold a star, bell, Santa, angel; or try your hand (and patience) on a reindeer. Ages six and up.

During December we will have an activity that should be fun for all ages, while teaching you a little about geography. Match international toys with their countries of origin on our large world map, and receive a prize for your efforts. All ages are welcome, but children seven and under will need parental supervision.

Lego Fun will be offered on Thursday, January 3, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Come in and create something fun with Legos and then leave the building blocks here for next time.

Hope to see you at the library!

Thalia Truesdell
Branch Manager
Ruch Library
541-899-7438

FEATURED ADVERTISER

Each issue, the Applegater will feature one of our valued advertisers. Here is the story of the Applegate River Ranch Lodge & Restaurant in Applegate, Oregon, one of our loyal advertisers and supporters.

Applegate River Ranch Lodge & Restaurant

BY SALLY BUTTSHAW

The site of the Applegate River Ranch Lodge & Restaurant has been a community gathering spot since the 1800s. That tradition is carried on today by the Davis family, Richard, Joanna, Duke and Dusty, who purchased the site in January 1992, opened the Applegate River Ranch House that year, and opened the Lodge in May 1997. It has been a family-run operation for 21 years, since Duke and Dusty were young boys. They also employ local residents.

Many community events have been hosted at the Lodge over the years, including fundraising events for this newspaper, Save the Pioneer Bridge (the green bridge in Applegate), and many others.

The beautiful rustic lodge has seven themed rooms available for guests. They also offer a honeymoon suite. The lodge is pet-friendly, with several resident pets on the grounds and in the lobby. An impressive cathedral ceiling with a massive stone fireplace is the centerpiece of the main lobby, which also welcomes many musical events throughout the year. Duke is a saxophone player who sits in with various bands that entertain in this cozy room. He also books the musicians who play there. The music is an eclectic offering of rock, country, bluegrass, reggae and more. Something for everyone!

The restaurant is capably run by Dusty, with dinner served from 4 to 9 pm every day except Monday and Tuesday. The menu changes seasonally, but when I stopped in, the dish that caught my eye was the ahi tuna with pineapple bruschetta. Entrees include chicken and meat dishes with vegetarian selections available. Also on the menu are enticing salads, soups and pasta dishes. Local wines are also offered.

The lodge hosts many weddings, family reunions, and community events. Some guests return annually with family

or friends to celebrate holidays, wedding anniversaries, or birthdays. Outside is an area with shelter and seating—great for when the warmer weather returns.

The lodge is located at 15100 Highway 238, Applegate, Oregon. For more information, contact Joanna Davis at 541-660-0244.

Sally Buttshaw
541-646-8418
sallybuttshaw@ymail.com



Main entrance to the Applegate River Lodge.



Stone fireplace in the lobby.



Honeymoon suite at the Lodge.
(All photos by Sally Buttshaw.)

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Volunteer firefighting: Commitment from the heart

BY JEFF VINYARD

We are lucky to live in one of the most beautiful places in the world, and we need to protect it.

I have believed in volunteering since I was very young. If you wait for a convenient time to help others, you may never make it happen. Especially with emergency situations—they don't wait for you to get off the couch.

My name is Jeff Vinyard. I have a six-year-old daughter who is fortunate enough to attend Ruch School. I moved here from Klamath Falls in 1983. I own and operate Oregon-Land.com, the real estate brokerage in the Applegate Store complex and have been in the industry since 1994, specializing in rural properties in southern Oregon. I have supported our community by providing school supplies to all the elementary students in Ruch, Williams, Jacksonville and Applegate schools, and have contributed to the American Red Cross. I'm currently an active member of APPLE, a committee formed to promote place-based education at Ruch School.

Since joining the Applegate Valley



Volunteer firefighter Jeff Vinyard and daughter Gracie.

Fire District #9 in June 2001, I have come to realize the benefits of my association with the district as a firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

Along with the camaraderie of being a member of this great group of dedicated volunteers and staff comes a degree of responsibility to help keep the residents of our district safe and out of harm's way whenever possible. This is a responsibility not taken lightly by the staff as well as the volunteers of our district.

Although the initial academy and training does require a small time commitment, the positive results are too numerous to list. The district's dedication to ongoing training and procurement of the most advanced equipment has propelled our district into one of the finest fire departments in the state.

The requirements to retain your standing as an active member of the Applegate Fire District Volunteer Association vary slightly depending on what station you are assigned to. The required drills and training are a very important part of being prepared for any number of emergencies. These emergencies range from wildfires to structure fires and from automobile wrecks to heart attacks and allergic reactions.

I have been a firefighter for nearly 12 years. I have been on as many as 109 alarm calls in one year, but I average in the area of 50 to 60 alarm runs a year, which is really not a huge time commitment. If

you think about it, that is only one alarm a week. Our district responds to 500 to 600 alarms a year. It gives you a feeling of pride driving back to the station with residents lining the streets with signs thanking the department for the efforts put forth in times of distress. It may not be everyone's cup of tea to run into burning buildings or forests, but you really don't know until you have had the opportunity to provide your neighbors with the potentially life-saving efforts for which you have trained.

I believe everyone who reads this either knows firsthand or knows of someone who was helped by the emergency response of a local fire district.

If you are interested in a rewarding career or would simply like to help out the community in which you live, please consider becoming a volunteer with Applegate Valley Fire District #9. It is very important for you to know that the district understands that a member's family always comes first.

For more information on our fire district or to find out more about the benefits of volunteering, stop by the headquarters at 1095 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, Oregon, or call 541-899-1050.

Jeff Vinyard
541-899-0646
oregonjeffie@yahoo.com

Fire safety lessons

BY CAREY CHAPUT

Fire Prevention Week is recognized nationally on the second week of October each year. This year's campaign message was "Know Two Ways Out."

The staff of Applegate Fire District delivered a challenge to both local elementary schools by asking everyone to participate in making family escape plans. Students were asked to complete a plan with their family, then turn it in to their principals by the end of Fire Prevention Week. A class from each school was chosen for outstanding participation. Mrs. Yerby's second-third grade blend class from Applegate School and Mrs. Hammers' second-third grade blend class from Ruch Elementary were the winners of this year's challenge. Firefighters from the Applegate Fire District drove a fire truck to each school and delivered pizzas and a safety message to the winning classes. We thank

all of the teachers and families who made this program such a success.

It's important that family escape plans show two ways out of each sleeping room and that smoke alarms have been checked for working condition. We ask everyone to have a properly operating smoke alarm outside each sleeping area; know two ways out; when you get out, stay out; and have a designated meeting place.

Fire Prevention Week is a great time to remember to practice your family escape plans, just as the end of daylight savings is a time to set your clocks back and check or replace smoke alarm batteries. Early detection is so vital to your family's survival.

Unfortunately, fires do happen, and too often they could have been avoided by just practicing fire safety.

Here are a few of the most common

fire hazards to watch out for while we enter our cooler season:

With the cooler days and nights, we will start using warming fires and space heaters again. Please be cautious of flammable material being too close to the heat source.

Please keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.

Candles are beautiful to enjoy, but should always be blown out when leaving or going to bed.

Have your chimney cleaned at the beginning of the season to reduce the hazard of having a flue fire and use well-seasoned firewood.

Many fires start in the kitchen and can be avoided by not leaving the area while cooking. Turn the stove off if you have to leave, even for just a minute.

By practicing your escape plans, you will know what to do in an emergency. Make sure that everyone in your household knows two ways out of each room. Stay low, and go to the designated meeting



Volunteer firefighter getting the best of a structure fire.

place. Call 9-1-1 as soon as you are safe, and never go back in for anything. Let us do what we train so hard to do: serve you in an emergency situation.

Please contact fire district office manager Carey Chaput at 541-899-1050 if you would like more information on any of these fire safety lessons.

Carey Chaput
541-899-1050
Applegate Valley Fire District

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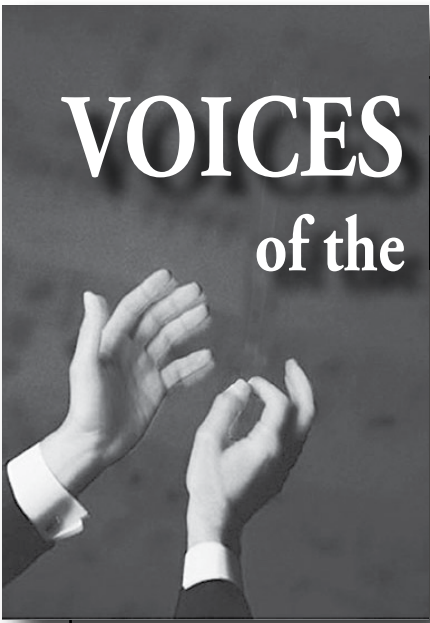
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VOICES of the APPLEGATE

Voices of the Applegate will sing again

Voices of the Applegate ended their fall session with two concerts in November, one in Jacksonville and the other at the Applegate Lodge. The program was full of exciting pieces from the classics of Vivaldi and Handel to songs from ABBA and Africa.

We will be starting our spring session on January 16, 2013, with rehearsals at the Applegate Library, 18485 North Applegate Road, every Wednesday evening from 7 to 8:30 pm. The session will last 12 weeks with concerts on Friday, April 12, and Sunday, April 14. The times and places for the events will be announced in the next *Applegater*.

We are a community choir; no auditions are necessary. We love to sing four-part harmony in a variety of arrangements from classical to modern. All are invited to attend our rehearsals and become part of our energetic choir directed by Blake Weller and accompanied by his lovely and talented wife Julie.

For more information, call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988.

Dolores Durando Short Story

Following is a short story from Dolores Durando's yet-to-be-published book about her mischievous, blue-ribbon winning miniature donkey, Tennessee Ernie.

The Christmas bells were ringing, lights twinkled from every storefront, last-minute shoppers were crowding the aisles.

We had not gone very far when I became aware that some sinister force was at work below the belt line.

Unobtrusively, I tugged frantically to restore those panty hose to their original position, but to no avail.

My steps were slowed to a crawl and to just keep my balance became a challenge.

Ernie said, "Why are you stumbling around like that? Stand up. I'm surprised a woman of your age would walk in that suggestive manner. You're embarrassing me."

"Well, Ernie," I said, "since you ask, I'm having a problem that I really can't explain to you. Ladies of my generation do not discuss their intimate apparel with the opposite sex."

"Sex, sex?" Ernie snickered. "What do old ladies know about sex? Say, did I ever tell you the one about..."

"Ernie," I gasped. "Hush your mouth and give me a hand here before I fall down."

With every step, those panty hose crept lower, coiling around me like a boa constrictor.

As we neared the feed store, a couple of wannabe cowboys were lounging on the porch. They started to laugh when they saw us. The tall, skinny one with the bib overalls and the shiny new boots said, "Lookit that. Lookit the swing on that old mama when she walks. Wisht I had a swing like that in my backyard. And lookit that fuzzy-looking dog leading her."

Ernie was furious. "Ernie," I said, "ignore that ignorant creature, I'm in real trouble here. Have I not stood by you in your time of need? Your operation? When you got your teeth floated? The farrier thing?"

In the meantime, those panty hose had sneaked down and were nudging my boot tops. I was nearly on my knees, securely hobbled. Those panty hose had accomplished in a very short time what my male companion had tried to do for years.

I staggered to the curb, sat down and cried. A man came over and said sympathetically, "Lady, you seem to be in trouble, can I help you?"

"Yes," I sobbed, "do you have a knife?"

Ernie got hysterical. "What? A knife? A knife? Don't do it. Please don't do it. I'll be good. There's always hope. Think of your children. Think of me. You know I can't stand the sight of blood. I'm calling nine-one-one."

"Ernie," I said, "turn your back, close your eyes, stop blubbing."

I kicked off my boots and with a few strokes of the knife I freed myself from the clutches of those one-size-fits-all that had

threatened to paralyze me for life.

"Free. Free at last." I skipped down the street like a sixteen-year-old. I wanted to detour the feed store but Ernie wouldn't hear of it.

They laughed when they saw us coming. The wannabe in the bib overalls said, "Hey, mama. You're a lot spryer goin' than comin'."

Ernie stepped closer. Suddenly there was a scream of pain and an outraged voice bellowed, "Lookit my boots. My brand new boots are all ruind. I think my foot is broke and I'm all messed up."

Ernie said innocently, but with a devilish twinkle in his eye, "Pardon me, I'm so sorry. Did I accidentally splatter you when your foot got under my foot? Imagine that. I can see that green is not your best color. Sorry about that. Merry Christmas to you, too."

"Ernie," I said, "I love you. Let's skip all the way home." And we did.



The spoiled Tennessee Ernie showing off—and probably winning a blue ribbon for his beloved owner, Dolores Durando.

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Photos by June Symens



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Place an ad!

Contact Sally Buttshaw at 541-646-8418 or sallybuttshaw@ymail.com. \$12 for three lines of text (approximately 120 characters and spaces). Advance payment required (payment accepted online at www.applegater.org).

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Fire: Who does what when?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Recent studies are indicating that there is confusion regarding some wildfire terms, and that perhaps a better understanding of these terms could help save some homes from perishing in wildfires.

Fire prevention. Fire preparedness.

Fire protection. Fire suppression.

Do you think there's a whole lot of difference between them, especially in regard to who does what? Let's take a look at definitions, starting with Webster's. And in this article we'll talk about both structural and wildfires, because often one becomes the other.

Prevent: "to keep from occurring, avert, hinder"

Prevention: "the act of preventing, effectual hindrance"

Some of my first thoughts regarding preventing unwanted fire are: not playing with matches, having a screen across your fireplace, keeping space heaters away from flammables, having your chimney cleaned annually, being aware of and following local fire season restrictions, being prepared with shovels and a hose when you do a burn pile, and checking weather conditions before you do a prescribed burn.

These mostly apply to private landowners, but commercial and agency forest workers also have a responsibility to do safety checks when working. Checking local fire restrictions would apply to being both at home and also while traveling, sightseeing or hiking. What about local or county jurisdictional responsibility to enact and enforce safe building codes? Or fire agencies communicating effectively and efficiently with residents when fire danger increases? Those are both a form of fire prevention.

Prepare: "to put things or oneself in readiness, get ready; to put in proper condition"

Preparedness: "the state of being prepared; readiness. possession of adequate...forces, ...resources and potential, especially as a deterrent to an attack"

Fire preparedness could include any/all of these actions: having a neighborhood telephone tree, having fire extinguishers in your home, providing a defensible space around your home so that firefighters can safely defend it, preparing your family for a fire (or any emergency situation) with

written evacuation plans, and even to providing an extra water supply or fuel breaks across your property that firefighters could utilize to fight a wildfire more effectively.

But think further: wouldn't teaching your livestock to quickly enter trailers be preparing them? When the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) thins trees next to a populated rural area, aren't they preparing their lands to be a little more fire resilient? And isn't it about being more prepared when our local Fire District puts up all of those signs announcing the next volunteer firefighter academy? Or when the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) helps us prepare for fire season by doing home inspections, helping us get grant funds to help pay for fuel reduction work on our rural properties? When ODF hires new crews at the start of fire season, they are getting prepared to protect private property. And of course, if you and a couple of your friends get together to clean up an elderly neighbor's rain gutters and yard before fire season, that's helping to prepare them!

Protect: "to defend or guard from attack, invasion, loss, etc." "cover or shield from injury or danger"

Protection: "the act of protecting or the state of being protected"; "a thing, person, or group that protects"

In addition to helping prepare us, the ODF also protects our private rural properties from nearby wildfires, and they provide protection for all BLM lands in our area. The US Forest Service protects their lands if a wildfire is nearby. Our local Fire District provides structural protection for our homes when a fire is near and, if they are the first on scene of a wildfire, they will start to protect our private property until others arrive. But as landowners we can also help protect our homes from a spreading wildfire by thinning our stands and removing ladder fuels, so that the wildfire's behavior is slowed to a level that allows the professional protectors to keep it away from our homes.

Going even further, parents can help protect their homes from burning by teaching their children to respect fire and be careful, and also by not leaving matches where children can find them. What about

helping someone protect? If you have a wide, open driveway, doesn't that help firefighters stay safe as they rush to help defend/protect your home and property? And if there were a large fire burning a mile away, who might be the first person to protect your home from flying embers getting in an open window or catching your patio furniture on fire? Wouldn't/shouldn't that be you, the homeowner?

Suppress: "to stop or arrest..." "to vanquish or subdue, quell or crush"

Suppression: "the act of suppressing"

We might think of fire suppression as the same as fire protection. It is mostly the same people, but suppression is actually putting out a fire. Suppressing wildfires is usually just for trained firefighters, but sometimes a fire gets so large that we have forestry workers or the National Guard helping suppress a fire. Structural fire suppression is the responsibility of our local fire districts. But because structural fire suppression is very dangerous for the untrained, going to the prevent and prepare mode is the best defense: be careful with fire in and around the house, have an adequate defensible space, use fire-resistant building materials and plants, keep dry leaves, needles and other flammables away from structures during fire season.

Anyone who lights a debris burn pile is responsible for full suppression of it when they're finished with their work (or if it begins to get out of control). But again, let's think beyond the obvious and the ways to assist fire suppression efforts. Good reflective address signs and arrows along a wide driveway speed up the arrival of fire suppressors. Having the previously mentioned extra water supply along with a water pump and a couple hundred feet of fire hose on your rural property can surely aid their suppression efforts. Evacuating when you're told to do so makes fire suppression efforts safer for firefighters. And moving up the chain of command, declaring states of emergency at the state or federal level can expedite fire suppression efforts.

To summarize (and voice my opinion), I guess I'm suggesting that everyone does have a role of some sort in fire preparedness, prevention and protection,

...preparing your family for a fire... with written evacuation plans,...an extra water supply or fuel breaks across your property...

as well as an "assist" in fire suppression. So, let's all do our share so that we don't ever have to get to that point of declaring a state of emergency in the Applegate.

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneOR@q.com

"A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain."

—Attributed to Mark Twain



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TALL TALES FROM THE EDITOR

Graduation gown or SF party

The following is an excerpt from the short story titled "Graduation gown or SF party" about flying to the Bay Area for Applegate student Eric Rissler's graduation from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. The excerpt begins late in the evening after graduation ceremonies when Eric and J.D. are celebrating an epic night in San Francisco, the land of the strange and oh so much fun. To enjoy the beginning of this adventure, read it online at www.applegater.org.

I could hear the music pulsating out of a club named Ruby Sky as we approached it. The line to get in must have been over a block long, not to mention all the people just hanging out front. I couldn't believe some of the girls there weren't frozen stiff—whoever said the micro-miniskirt would never return. Thank god they were wrong on that prediction.

As we walked past the wall of people waiting to get into the club, Eric was collecting kisses, high fives and "right-ons"—apparently, his graduation gown was quite the draw.

An armload of girls went gaga over Eric and his gown, practically climbing into his arms. One girl is giving him her phone number by programming it into his cell phone, only to find out that high tech was down (dead battery) and no one had a low-tech pencil.

Two of the girls walked over to me. One said, "Hey, I know you, you're that guy, right?"

"Which guy's that?" I said.

"You know, that guy. Come on, what's your band called?"

"Well, there was Papier Maché, Shaliko..."

"See, we knew it. You are very famous, yes?"

I just responded with, "Maybe ten feet either side of my mailbox."

With that, the girls giggled and said,

"Oh, and he's funny, too."

The girls tried to drag us (you bet, drag us) into the Ruby Sky through the exit door. The bouncer, whose wrists were bigger than my thighs, said, "I don't think so."

When he checked everyone's hand for a re-entry stamp, secret tattoo, handshake, whatever it was, Eric and I didn't have it.

The girls, each hanging on Eric's arms, pleaded: "Please, he just graduated."

The bouncer said, "I can see his gown—good job, bro. I still can't let them in. Besides it's closing time in there."

As we walked on past Ruby Sky, we ran into a homeless man wearing a haggard A's baseball cap, a couple of frayed plaid shirts, and newer pants that were a little too long in the legs, with duct tape to hold the sole onto one of his shoes. Our new best friend was happy about Eric's graduation and wondered if we might help a guy out and drop a few coins into the 16-ounce Coke cup he held up.

"You know we'd love to be able to help you out, but if old Eric here doesn't have a job by, say, tomorrow, he'll be living down here with you."

Our new best friend said, "That's a tough one. I look for work all the time—there ain't no jobs."

He told Eric if he wound up down here on the streets to look him up and he'd teach him the ropes. Adding, "Yeah, baby, even if you wind up here, you got that piece of paper."

That got me to wondering how many of these homeless people we've been stepping over and around have college pedigrees. Every month when the newscaster announces unemployment figures, I'd like to hear the homeless numbers, too. I'm thinking it might be growing faster than that "no inflation" they're always telling us about.

After several blocks of traveling with our new best friend, during which we talked life on the streets, jobs all going to China, and the best malt liquors, he bids us farewell when a cutie pie walked past us and asked if we wanted to spend a hundred dollars for a good time.

All along the way there were homeless people sleeping in doorways, lined up along the grimy, stained, trash-strewn sidewalks in their unwashed bedrolls. I've never seen so many homeless people and empty storefronts. You can tell a lot of these homeless folks have mental problems when you hear them talking to imaginary people. Wasn't there some California governor—who looked like he belonged in a wax museum and later became our president—who helped balance the California state budget by emptying mental hospitals? It appears that that is still going on.

I wonder how many other homeless people are there because of the new Great

Depression we're in. I don't believe for a second that it ended a few years ago like the talking heads (that was a great band) like to tell us. Are we becoming a third-world country? Because that's what it feels like with so many beggars standing on street corners. It seems to me that all of these homeless souls add up to an army's worth of people, of which many are war veterans from Vietnam, Desert Storm, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. Is Iran next?

There are lots of unemployed folks going back to school in hopes of not becoming one of the homeless. Since we have become a country where outsourcing our jobs overseas is the preferred business model, maybe even a college degree won't keep one from living on the streets.

On we soldiered to the Sugar Club. It's way after hours when we arrive, but there's a mob of happy people out front.

One guy grabs Eric's graduation cap and throws it up in the air saying, "I never got to do that." A beautiful angel caught the cap and placed it back on Eric's head with a nice kiss. Then everyone congratulated him with

hugs and, of course, more kisses.

As we were leaving the scene in front of the Sugar Club, two of the most exquisite-looking girls, who must have modeled for *Ebony* magazine, came up to Eric and asked him, "Do you want an all-night party with both of us? Just \$200."

I pointed out that the night's long gone; the sun will be up soon. Ignoring me, one of the girls said to Eric, "We must be more than you can handle."

Without skipping a beat, Eric said, "Are you saying that because I'm white?"

"No, no," she said.

Eric's response: "You are, you are saying that because I'm white." The crowd, many of whom could have been in the famous Star Wars: Episode 1 spaceport cantina scene, was standing around us listening to the whole conversation; quite a few of them were laughing or sporting big grins.

"I didn't mean anything by that. Really. Congratulations on your graduation."

Then they both vanished into the crowd of club-hoppers.

Day 3. I feel like I just climbed into bed as I'm getting up and longing for a shot of quadruple espresso. Eric is still sacked out. I could call room service, but by the time they got here, I could have been down at the restaurant. I ride the elevator five floors down to the main lobby. When the doors open, I'm thinking, did I walk into the Hotel California? You know, the Eagle's song. There's a line something like "There's no leavin'." Maybe someone slipped something in my drink last night and it's just hitting me. I close my eyes and open them. No, what I've seen is real. There were seven dwarfs in wheelchairs staring at me. Wasn't there a movie called "Snow White and..." No, they weren't in wheelchairs. Did one of them really say to me, "You look like you need a 'hair of the dog.' Care to join us in the lounge?"

No, what I've seen is real. There were seven dwarfs in wheelchairs staring at me.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Editor



The Editor, J.D. Rogers
541-846-7736

OPINION

Model BLM collaboration process tested by Pilot

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

The Pilot Joe timber sale above Cantrall-Buckley Park has been proposed as a model of forest management and community collaboration for the public lands of southwest Oregon. The goals of this project as defined by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) include fuel reduction, the restoration of complex forest conditions, the retention of old-growth trees, and the accelerated development of old-growth characteristics. The timber sale was touted as a restorative approach where timber production was a by-product of ecologically based treatments.

Unfortunately, the recent logging of large, old-growth trees has threatened to unravel the delicate collaborative process. Controversy revolves around the marking and removal of old-growth trees—some over 150 years old, as well as other large, dominant trees. The trees were cut despite the appeals of many collaborative members that they be retained. The removal of these trees is clearly inconsistent with dry forest restoration principals, the project's stated goals, the Environmental Assessment (EA), and the prescription as outlined by BLM staff at stakeholder meetings and public field trips.

Many of the trees removed had the structural conditions and fire resilience stated to be a part of the "desired future condition." Identified in the EA as "Ecosystem Restoration Goals," the retention of large, old trees would have helped to "increase the average diameter of the residual stand," and served to "accelerate the development of structural complexity such as large tree structures." Unfortunately, BLM's treatments have done otherwise and bring into question the agency's commitment to dry forest restoration principals, the first of which is to "protect and conserve all older trees (trees greater than 150 years of age)."

BLM will tell you that they cut only two old-growth trees, documented to be 182 and over 200 years old, and that these are only a small percentage of the project. They do admit, however, that other large trees should not have been cut and were inconsistent with project prescriptions.

Why is this important? Because

so little of Oregon's old-growth remains, and old-growth trees are key components of healthy and fire resilient forests. Large old trees are important for spotted owl, Pacific fisher, and many other species. Also because BLM is proposing these pilots in older forests while claiming that old trees will be saved.

BLM pilots are seen as a solution for forests in western Oregon and beyond. With the goal of "maintenance of older trees," the pilot is sold as forest restoration, but it appears to be driven by industrial timber interests. Old trees have high ecological and social value, and have been the point of contention in federal land management for decades. In fact, BLM claims that the pilot projects were proposed to address "the gridlock and conflicts" that have "stymied" federal land management. Much of this conflict is directly related to the removal of old-growth trees. According to the EA, the ability of the agency to move forward "depends in part, on the social acceptability of restoration techniques." The protection of old-growth trees was proposed as a way to avoid this controversy while maintaining important ecological values.

Unfortunately, with the removal of many large, old trees, BLM has welcomed conflict and gridlock back into the debate. The agency has further inflamed the long-standing lack of trust between the BLM, local citizens, and the environmental community, by implementing treatments that lack environmental integrity and contradict statements made throughout the collaborative process. This lack of accountability does not foster a collaborative environment, nor does it help the collaborative move forward in a positive way. The entire point of collaboration is to move past long-standing issues, including a lack of accountability, responsibility, and trust.

Luke Ruediger
Community representative for
BLM Pilot Interdisciplinary Team
541-890-8974

ED. NOTE: See photos provided by Luke Ruediger online at www.applegater.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

To the Editor:

Over on the four-mile mark of Carberry Creek Road, with workers and construction projects all summer, I got an up-close experience of the Complex Fire. Most of it was just over the border into California five to seven miles away.

There were several mountains between us so I actually never really feared for direct fire at my location, though you never know. But the smoke, traffic and other effects were quite apparent. Sandy Shaffer's missive and daily updates were a constant companion each day along with watching the weather for hints of possibilities. It colored my sunsets, took out the stars, and made breathing unpleasant many times. I made a video that spun a 360° from clear sky to red and back to clear in one evening. It really gave a flavor to the summer for me.

And the most important thing to say is that it made me aware of and grateful for the very large number of good folks who kept me, the community and much of the forest safe.

Thank you to all: the firefighters at the front lines, those behind them in planning and strategizing and mapping, in medical prep and help, in vehicles of all sorts from helicopters and airplanes to trucks and busses, for the food and other creature "comforts" that must be provided, the citizenry and volunteers who provided all sorts of needed unknowns, too much in all to be remembered and thought of. There were too many unsung heroes, undocumented moments and gifts to remember and record.

Please, from all of us in the Applegate, southern Oregon in general, and northern California, please accept this late note of deep thanks and remembrance.
Greeley Wells, Applegate

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Notes from a Rogue entomologist

Louis Gentner and the naming of species: More than a fritillary

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

Louis Gentner was no stranger to finding and naming new species. From 1930 to 1962, he was the entomologist at Oregon State University's (OSU) Southern Oregon Experiment Station (now part of the Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center). Not only did Louis (pronounced "Louie") study agricultural pests and investigate control measures as part of his job, he was also a prodigious insect collector and taxonomist. By my count, Louis has eight insect species named after him, and he also named at least seven other species of insects. Locally, however, the Gentner name is recognized primarily due to the Gentner's fritillary.

The story of the how Louis Gentner and his daughters collected one of our local wildflowers and then recognized it was an unusual and unique species is a great example of biological diversity and discovery right in our backyard. It also serves as an illustration of taxonomy in action. Taxonomy, also referred to as systematics, is the branch of biology that deals with identifying and naming species, attempting to create an orderly system to classify the vast array of living things. You might think that the definition of what constitutes a valid species would have been worked out by now, but biologists are still arguing over the precise details.

The simple definition of a species is a population of individuals that can successfully interbreed and reproduce. Thus, horses and donkeys are in the same genus, *Equus*, but are considered separate species because when they interbreed, their offspring (mules) are sterile. The idea of

having a unique genus-species name for all the different types of living things dates back to the 1750s and was initiated by a Swedish botanist/naturalist, Linnaeus. The fact that this system is still operating after 250 years with the naming of well over a million and a half species is a testament to its utility and versatility.

This wildflower, ...found only in southwest Oregon and two locations in northern California, is... considered endangered...

Nevertheless, the first species of insect to bear the Gentner name illustrates how mistakes are made and corrected in the world of taxonomy. The two most common mistakes that occur in the naming of species are "synonyms," having multiple names for a single species, and "homonyms," having one name refer to more than one species. As it happened, a species originally named by Louis Gentner resulted in a homonym.

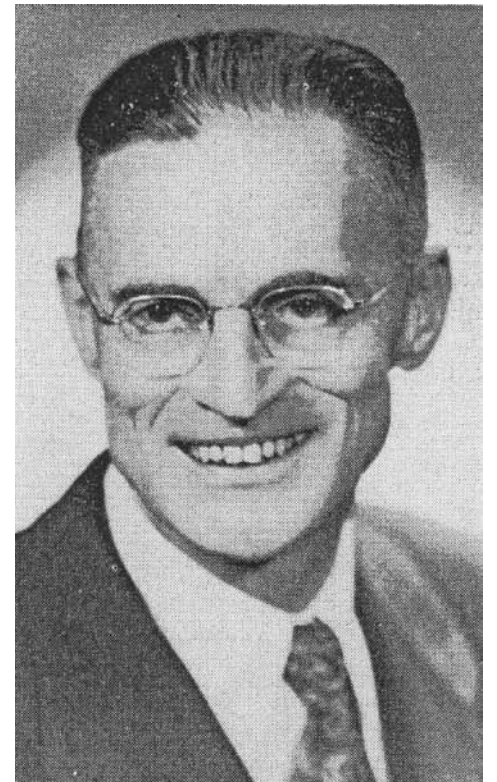
Louis's specialty was flea beetles, particularly those in the genus

Chaetocnema. In 1928, through studying flea beetles collected by himself and others, he identified and described a new species, naming it *Chaetocnema parvula*. "Parvula" means small in Latin, and since flea beetles are small to begin with, this species was quite small. Years later, in 1940, a Hungarian researcher studying the same genus discovered that another species of flea beetle found in Ceylon had already been named *Chaetocnema parvula*. Communication being what it was in the first half of the last century, it is no surprise that Louis was unaware that he had chosen a name that had already been claimed. The rules of nomenclature are heavily based on precedence, so the oldest name stands and the newer name has to be changed. The researcher who unearthed this problem gets to come up with a new name. In this case the species that Louis had identified was renamed *Chaetocnema gentneri*, recognizing Louis' initial work.

Altogether, I found a total of 14 species of flea beetles that Louis described and named, seven of which are still considered valid species names. Louis's final scholarly work on taxonomy was a description of all the species of *Chaetocnema* north of Mexico, 36 species in all. This work served as his PhD thesis, and Louis was awarded his doctoral degree from OSU in 1953 when he was 61 years old. In 1979, the year before he passed away, Louis dispersed his personal collection of insects, including 50,000 specimens representing 1,000 different species, most of which were given to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

In addition to being an authority on flea beetles, Louis was simply an incredible insect collector and he was alert enough to know when he collected something that was distinct or unusual. New species are often named after the person who first collects them, which is why there are at least eight insect species named *gentneri*. While Louis was primarily a coleopterist, or beetle expert, only four of the species named for him are beetles: one weevil, two click beetles, and the aforementioned flea beetle. The other four species consist of two aphids and two fly species.

Louis Gentner was a keen observer



OSU entomologist Louis Gentner has eight insect species named after him. In this 1957 photo, he was Chairman, Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America.

of nature and it was no accident that he recognized the fritillary his daughter collected as being distinct from the fritillaries that are most often observed. After the Gentner family searched and found more specimens, Louis passed them on to the botanist at Oregon State University, who determined that they represented an entirely new species and gave it the name *Fritillaria gentneri*. This wildflower, which is found only in southwest Oregon and two locations in northern California, is currently considered endangered due to human development and competition from exotic weeds. But the Gentner legacy goes beyond our native fritillary and extends to flies and aphids and flea beetles. Louis cast a wide net, and in doing so he helped to put in place a few new pieces of the puzzle that is life on earth.

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Southern Oregon Research
and Extension Center
richardhilton@oregonstate.edu



Photos, left to right: *Fritillaria gentneri*; flea beetle named by Louis Gentner.



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MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Open for discussion

BY CHRIS BRATT



Chris Bratt

Prologue

In the midst of writing this *Applegater* article about negotiating better solutions to natural resource problems, I received word that the Farmers' Ditch concrete dam on the Little Applegate River has finally been removed. It's probably old and virtually unknown history now, but the Farmers' Ditch Dam removal project became one of the most complicated and frictional series of negotiations on which our community has ever worked.

After at least 12 years of work with outstanding contributions by local individuals like Jan Perttu and Daniel Newberry (executive directors of the project) and a host of other members of the Applegate Partnership and the Applegate River Watershed Council (ARWC), the once-blocked coho salmon and steelhead runs on the Little Applegate River now have access to an additional estimated 30 miles of upstream fish habitat. Irrigators now also have a reliable supply of water.

In the late 1990s, it seemed like a no-brainer to get rid of the dam and associated irrigation ditches that were not functioning well for farmers or fish. Soon after initial discussions were held between ARWC and the 41 irrigators using the dam and ditches, an agreement was signed by all participants.

The agreement called for switching the water rights of the 41 irrigators from the Little Applegate River to the main Applegate River (impounded water from behind the Applegate Dam).

With a very generous outpouring of financial and other help from federal and state agencies, environmental groups and other organizations, enough grant money was raised to build the new system of pumps and pipes to supply water at no cost to the irrigating landowners. The main cost to the landowners in the project was to pay their share of future electricity bills for pumping water to their properties.

I won't go into detail about the extended controversies that ensued over issues like acquiring easements,

construction problems, self-interest and distrust among irrigators, bureaucratic hang-ups and bickering over state water policies. But we learned there are no simple answers to complex resource management questions. You can negotiate solutions that might work for everyone, but you can't always make everyone happy.

I wish the project had taken less time and energy, but I honor the process, the long-suffering participants, and all the fish that are now able to swim farther upstream.

Having your say

Judging from all the politics and philosophical debates this past election year, our local communities that contain natural resources are being looked at for policy changes that will supposedly "strengthen the economy." I've heard

these policy-change words before. They usually mean rolling back environmental protections, cutting more trees, building more pipelines to move oil and gas, and congressional edicts that give up more of the farm for an industry to exploit.

Here in the Applegate, local people have worked together for years to strengthen our economy while improving the environment and forging solutions through partnerships with government, landowners and business folks. If new, disruptive top-down policy changes are instituted, they could destroy the trust we have built while negotiating local solutions. It could cause a reassessment of the right role for people in local communities to effectively influence fair solutions regarding the use of our natural resources. I don't see our community giving up our rights to affect resource management conclusions. We definitely want and deserve a say on issues that affect

our personal lives, our environment and our community's well-being.

Over the last three decades, I've had the opportunity to work (volunteer) on any number of local innovative and collaborative approaches to solving controversial natural-resource issues. After working in this more collaborative framework, I've come to believe that a negotiated or mediated process is a

more positive way to solve environmental and other problems. Though not always totally successful, and many times contentious, it does empower local people, helping them make better choices that improve their communities.

Local community participation in negotiated solutions is a basic principle that allows us to take an active role in a

democratic society. I have believed in this tenet for a long time. It is only by community members getting familiar with local problems, speaking up during negotiations, and being able to protest poor decisions that can help prevent what many of us consider to be an ongoing crisis in resource management today. This kind of citizen action helps teach all of us about the need for resource and community sustainability. Using community ideas in the negotiating process over the last few years has brought more confidence that our public land-management agencies are capable of managing public resources for our collective interests. It has also brought an end to some of the more harmful and egregious practices, especially in our forests. Without direct citizen participation and action, there would still be unrestrained clear-cutting, road-building and pesticide use, along with overcutting in the forests surrounding our communities.

Having to negotiate with people who insist on wanting a say when questionable issues turn up is not always an easy or quick way to resolve a disputed action. This is true no matter which side of a controversial issue you're on. Most people will argue fiercely for their points of view and usually don't give up easily. There is also a question of fairness when negotiations take place. Most of the time, people representing the public agencies or corporate interests are paid wages for participating, while citizen groups receive no money for taking part. Another stumbling block can be who controls the negotiation proceedings and produces the paper trail and decision documents. Collaboration principles and protocols must be developed first and agreed upon before negotiations begin.

Of course, public agencies like the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service don't usually think about using negotiation as a tool for resolving contentious questions. These agencies are the decision makers by law, but are often forced into mediation by successful litigation against them. But I think negotiations, mediated or not, should be used first and more often by these agencies to build public trust, avoid litigation and to shape better, more acceptable resource management outcomes. The agencies also need to embrace the controversies within the negotiation process because it teaches the participants to focus on the facts. In addition, it promotes discussion of all perspectives and can create productive and innovative solutions.

If you're ready to have a say, there are lots of local resource management topics now open for discussion in the Applegate. Let me know and I'll sign you up for the next go-round.

Chris Bratt
541-846-6988

Another stumbling block can be who controls the negotiation proceedings and produces the paper trail...

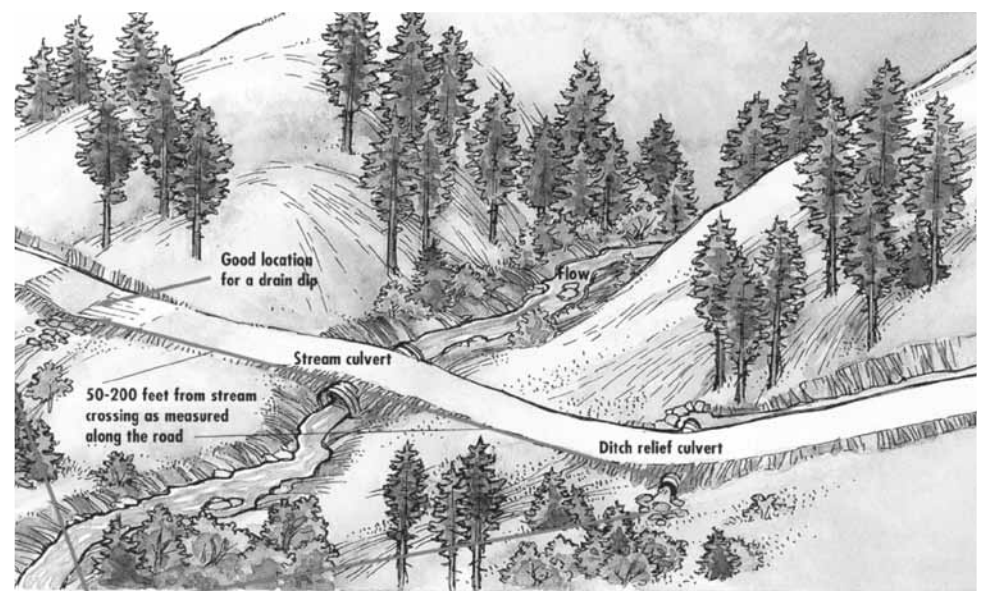
You can observe a lot by watching: Check out your road system

When it's raining hard is the perfect time to head outside and check out your road system. Is water running off the road—or down the middle? Are the culverts flowing freely—or plugged up with sediment or debris? Now is the time to find out.

The recent debate about the Clean Water Act and logging roads (which is now at the Supreme Court) highlights the importance of disconnecting roads from streams whenever possible. In a nutshell,

the issue is about keeping muddy water from roads and ditches from draining directly into streams. Drainage dips, ditch relief culverts, and even bales of straw can be used to intercept sediment or divert it off the road where it can be filtered through vegetation instead of draining directly into a stream. (See diagram at right.)

From the November 2012 E-Newsletter of SW Oregon Woodland News produced by OSU Extension Service, Jackson/Josephine Counties.



Ditch drainage should be directed into a vegetation filter, and not allowed to continue flowing down the ditch and into the stream.

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Cantrall-Buckley Park NEWS

A new playground for your park

As you've probably read in previous *Applegater* articles, we're looking forward to making major improvements in both the day-use area and the campground at Cantrall-Buckley Park. The final phase of the Campground Improvement Project to make it RV-friendly will come later in this decade. First, over the next couple of years we hope to replace the day-use restrooms and remodel the playground.

Jackson County Parks has tentatively scheduled replacement of the restrooms for their 2014-15 fiscal year. The new building will probably be a prefabricated concrete structure similar to the building that was added to the campground in 2008. It is anticipated that placement of the building with a crane will mandate its location on the existing playground. In preparation, we've started planning for the new playground and next year will begin our fundraising campaign.

A group of Applegate mothers who regularly take their kids to the playground have signed on to help the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) park committee with design and the fundraising campaign. They've come up with some innovative ideas to make Cantrall-Buckley's playground attractive to more people. We're still working on the design, but this article will describe some of the features being discussed.

Naturescapes and playscapes

A "naturescape" is a playground

inspired by nature, promoting exploration and exercise in a natural setting. A naturescape creates an outdoor learning environment that incorporates native plants, trees, edible landscaping, logs and boulders to climb on, a children's garden, real wood blocks, plenty of room to roam and run, buckets and pipes to make music, and loose building materials that encourage creativity.

The word "playscape" describes a landscape type that is completely designed for play, not just a place with equipment that is associated with the word "playground."

These new words demonstrate how much exciting innovation is occurring in defining what used to be called the "playground."

Playground design

Following a theme of "Living with the Land—Natives and Settlers," the playground area could contain simple equipment such as a wooden house (fort, log cabin), bridge, balance beam, metal bars, steps, ladders, swings, a slide that uses the natural slope of the land, obstacle course, merry-go-round, hammock net, and track ride. Logs and boulders could serve as a border for the playground area. The uphill side of the playground might benefit from a rustic log fence to keep children out of the upper roadway. Rustic log benches and a couple of picnic tables will be positioned around the playground area.

Local builders, landscape designers,

and artists will be employed wherever possible. The plan will incorporate noncommercial equipment, including wooden and metal play structures that blend with the landscape and fit with the historical playground theme. Health and safety will be considered in selection of materials, such as in wood treatments.

Nature trails

The playground would provide an inviting gateway into the nature trail system with natural artistic elements such as carved wooden poles framing the trailheads and a musical art piece. Rustic native and pioneer shelters including bark houses, log cabins, and a Chinese mining camp could be located near the playground along the trails with educational signage to explain the natural and cultural history of the area (see "Education"). These shelters could be built as a community effort and would not be a part of the playground itself.

We will improve upon the existing nature trails with a focus on their becoming a naturescape or playscape near the playground. Natural elements such as logs for climbing, steps cut into downed trees, boulders, wooden platforms and bridges, a series of carved wooden mushroom totem poles for hopping, living willow structures by the river, and a ropes course (as in the "Tangle" in Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park, Perth, Australia). Our goal will be to beautify and define a trail system while providing a natural place to play and have an adventure.

The Applegate Trails Association (ATA), which has been busy creating and improving trails and trail access around the Applegate Valley, has expressed interest in participating in the trail improvement project.

Education

The rustic shelters mentioned earlier could be part of an outdoor natural and cultural history exhibit with educational signage talking about the history of this area, perhaps including a mural that depicts a timeline.

Safety considerations

Crosswalks to the river and to the trail above the playground, and a sign along the road, immediately before the playground, asking drivers to go slowly and watch for children, would enhance safety aspects of the playground. Playground rules, e.g., no glass or alcohol, no smoking, etc., will be posted. Finally, after demolition of the present restroom building, concrete could be poured over the existing pad to recycle the impacted area into part of the playground area to be used for scooters, skateboards and bikes.

Planning

If you'd like to join us and take part in the planning effort, we're certainly open to new ideas and points of view. Contact Dave Laananen at the phone number or email address below.

David Laananen and

Michelle LaFave

541-846-0500

david.laananen@asu.edu



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RVHPA Donations

Jason and Liza Smith's home burned down last summer. They live at the base of Mule Mountain below Applegate Lake. Jason and Liza allow the Rogue Valley Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (RVHPA) to land in their fields during its events. After their home burned, RVHPA took up a collection.

As you may know, Woodrat Mountain is internationally renowned as a flying site. Once the drive was published on an international pilot's forum, donations came from as far away as Australia. In total, pilots raised \$2,100 and presented a check for that amount to the Smith's in August.

On a similar note, the Portland paragliding club held their annual fundraiser for Ruch School during the Starthistle fly-in over Labor Day. They presented a check for \$753 to Ruch School, which will be used to pay for some students who are traveling to Washington, DC.

OSU Extension Classes

Grape Pruning

Saturday, February 16, 9 am - Noon

Cost: \$10 public; free to Master Gardeners with badges

This is a beginner's class for people with little to no experience in pruning grapevines. This class is a lecture and demonstration activity only. The student will understand cane and spur pruning, and propagating grapes from cuttings. At class end, students will be allowed to select cuttings from the table-grape varieties grown at the Extension facility.

Fruit Tree Grafting

Wednesday March 13, 2013, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Prepayment of materials fee of \$25

George Tiger, Retired OSU Horticulture Agent

Learn how to create your own apple tree or save grandpa's favorite apple tree. The techniques and tools for grafting fruit trees will be taught. Participants will choose apple tree varieties to make three grafted starts to take home. Limited to 25 people.

Call 541-476-6613 to register.

Classes held at 215 Ringuette Street, Grants Pass, OR.

NEXT GENERATION

"Next Generation" is a new section featuring the talents of our local students. All schools in the Applegate Valley are encouraged to submit art, writing, photography and any other creative pieces to gater@applegater.org. For more information, contact J.D. Rogers at 541-846-7736.

RUCH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Submitted by Julie Hill, Principal, Ruch School
541-842-3850, julie.hill@medford.k12.or.us

In September, students from Ruch Community K-8 School, grades four through six, traveled to the Oregon coast for a three-day, two-night Outdoor Education Experience. In line with the school's new focus on place-based learning, this was an extraordinary opportunity to connect the Common Core Standards being taught in the classroom to the rich environment in which the students live. Here are a few student testimonials about their experiences.

Lily Martin, Grade 5. When I first heard the news that we were going to the Oregon coast, I was ecstatic! My favorite parts were the sand castle building competition, the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration), the Coast Guard Station and the campfire activity where we were able to bond as a group.



Asher Ilten, Grade 6. The beach was my favorite part of the trip because we all were able to run, sing songs, do skits and have s'mores at the campfire while the sun was setting!



Christine Agnifili, Grade 6. The first night we slept at the Newport Aquarium. The girls were in the shark tunnel and the boys in the fish tunnels. We also went to the SOU Hatfield Marine Science Center...I liked the ducks!

The Scarecrow Meets a Friend

John the Scarecrow is sitting in a cornfield on the farm during the day. He is lonely and doesn't want to sit on the farm. A butterfly comes flying by. The butterfly landed on a leaf. "Are you lonely?" said the butterfly to John. John said, "Yes, where are you going?" "To the garden," the butterfly answered. "I want to go with you. Can I come?" asked John. The butterfly said, "Yes." John asks the butterfly to get the stick on the ground to help him walk. The butterfly picks it up and gives it to John. The butterfly flutters out of the cornfield. John runs after the butterfly. They run past the post office, through the library, down the slide at the park, and end up in the garden. John spots another scarecrow. John was excited because he had been lonely for a long time. John introduces himself to the garden scarecrow. "My name is John the Scarecrow, what is your name?" The garden scarecrow says, "My name is Jacob the Garden Scarecrow." "Nice to meet you. Do you want to be my friend?" asks John. "Yes!" replied Jacob. So John planted himself next to Jacob and they became friends. Neither had to be lonely anymore.

Written by Ms. Neiswanger's first-grade students at Ruch School.



Photos from a three-day Outdoor Education Experience at the Oregon coast enjoyed by Ruch School students in grades four through six.

"Children learn best through their everyday experiences with the people they love and trust, and when the learning is fun. And the best place for these experiences is outdoors, in the natural world." —Unknown

Christmas tree permits available



It's that time of year to start thinking about the annual family trip to the woods for a holiday tree.

Tree permits are available at forest service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices, as well as at numerous vendor locations in southwest Oregon. The permits allow for the cutting of personal-use trees for Christmas and other holiday events. A permit is required for the harvest of each individual tree. Please contact your local forest service or BLM office, as permits may be available sooner than the official start date.

The permits sell for \$5 per tree and are nonrefundable. There is a limit of five tree permits per person. The permits cover a large area that includes the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Coos Bay and Medford Districts of the BLM, where lands are open to personal-use tree harvesting. Maps with directions to cutting areas will be provided at time of purchase.

The Christmas-tree permit tag is validated after harvesting your tree by

cutting out the date, month and year on the tree tag and securely attaching it to the cut tree in a visible location before transporting it.

Important note

Christmas-tree harvest is not allowed in wilderness areas, campgrounds, developed recreation areas, national monuments, research natural areas, areas of critical environmental concern, or within fences or posted tree plantations, within 200 feet of state highways or on private lands. Christmas-tree cutting is also not permitted within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, the Wild and Scenic Rogue River Corridor and Recreation Areas. This stresses the importance of having your tree permit map with you, along with a local forest or BLM map, and a good understanding of your location prior to cutting.

Virginia Gibbons
Public Affairs Officer
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
541-618-2113

Storytelling Guild: "Pass the Book" book drive



The Storytelling Guild of Jackson County is once again collecting gently used and new children's books for its "Pass the Book" program. Each year the Storytelling Guild distributes children's books to agencies in Jackson County to share with the families they serve. From Head Start to the Children's Advocacy Center, from the Dunn House to foster children, from the Community Health Centers to Healthy Start, in 2012 over 6,000 children's books made their way into the hands of children—in their homes, in waiting rooms, at Kids Unlimited, at the Boys and Girls Club in Talent, in Juvenile Hall, at On Track, the Magdalene House, Rogue Valley Medical Center Pediatrics, Medford Railroad Park, the Family Nurturing Center, through Jackson County Health and Human Services Vital Links program, through Mid-Rogue Oregon Health Plan, through Child Development Services, at Access, at the Maslow Project, to Lithia Springs residential treatment, through the Happy Smiles program, Healthy Start, and at La Clinica de Valle clinics, and to the Butte Falls Community/School Partnership.

Books may be donated to "Pass the Book" during the month of January at all 15 branches of the Jackson County Library. Books are needed

for all age groups from babies to teens. Board books for babies are especially needed. Share your love of books and reading: donate children's books to the Storytelling Guild's "Pass the Book" program.

The Storytelling Guild is a group of volunteers dedicated to serving the community by providing opportunities for children to be exposed to the magic of books and the joy of reading. "Pass the Book" is just one of their programs. They also present an annual "Book Walk" fashion show of books to third graders, present a weekly preschool story time at the Medford Library Wednesdays at 11:30 am, sponsor a free show at the Craterian each January, provide 24-hour access to Dial-a-Story at 541-774-6439 in English and Spanish, and provide a scholarship to an RCC student passionate about early literacy and/or early childhood education. The Storytelling Guild is best known for the annual Children's Festival. Planning has begun for the 47th Children's Festival at the Britt Grounds in Jacksonville in July 2013. Exact dates of the three-day festival will be announced in January. More information about the Storytelling Guild is available at www.storytellingguild.org.

Questions? Email Anne Billeter: billeter@entwood.com.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

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At this special time of year we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the clients we have worked with in 2012. We really appreciate your support.

Don and Debbie Tollefson



Photos, top row from left:

—Ken Bierly visiting Beechworth, Victoria, Australia, where convicted murderer Ned Kelly was condemned to hang in 1880.
 —Some Thompson Creek, Applegate, beauties enjoying sunny stories in the Gater.
 —Stef Rosenberg hides behind her smuggled Applegater in Cienfuegos, Cuba.
 —In spring, all the New Zealand kiwis read the flowery news in the Gater.

Photos, middle row from left:

—Gus the cat is close to dozing off while sniffing the Applegater.
 —Teya Jacobi, last issue's masthead photographer, at St. Mark's in Venice, Italy,

Photo, right:

—The Applegater's own webmaster, Joe Lavine, shows off the Applegater website on his iPad while in Avignon, France.



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