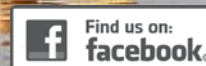


Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.
P.O. Box 14
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Applegater

Photo by Teya Jacobi

www.applegater.org



SUMMER 2015
Volume 8, No. 2

Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 10,500

Celebrating
~21~
Years

ANNUAL SUMMER SOIRÉE



SUNDAY, AUGUST 16
RED LILY VINEYARDS
6 - 9 PM

LIVE MUSIC
DINNER BY ELEMENTS TAPAS BAR
WINE & BEER
SILENT AUCTION

TICKETS ON SALE
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Applegate Store
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Ray's in Jacksonville
Ruch Country Store

\$50 PER PERSON
Must be over 21
No pets

*Tickets will not be sold after August 9
and will not be available at the door.*

All proceeds benefit the Applegater newsmagazine.
No refunds; all sales final.

The solution is zero

BY HEATHER MURPHY

The news that our penchant for consumption has us galloping headlong toward a resource shortage is not exactly hot off the presses. Nor is the news that the waste resulting from this habit is damaging the environment.

What might be news is that there is a vibrant and growing sustainability movement, “zero waste,” which directly addresses issues of pollution and shortage caused by waste. The goal of zero waste is that nothing, ever, becomes garbage.

The phrase “zero waste” was coined in the 1970s, when Paul Palmer, a chemist, developed Zero Waste Systems, a company that repackaged chemicals from the burgeoning electronics industry for further use by consumers, thereby forestalling their entrance to the environment. Later Palmer founded the Zero Waste Institute, which rejects practices like recycling refuse and recirculating used clothing as mere extensions of garbage management, since their end result, however far down the line, is items in the dump. “The best way to avoid waste,” according to the Zero Waste Institute,

“is to reuse everything over and over—perpetually.”

Consumer goods that are specifically designed and manufactured for perpetual reuse and zero waste have a life cycle termed “cradle to cradle.” “Cradle to grave” refers to *current* unsustainable modes of production that ultimately lead to scarcity and pollution.

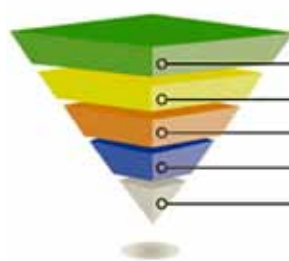
Various assembly lines around the world are now making headway “closing the loop” in all phases of manufacturing, with more joining them each year.

Anheuser Busch, GM, Toyota, Subaru, and Xerox now have zero waste-to-landfill production sites among their plants, and Bridgestone Tires recently gained the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) certificate of validation of zero waste for their tire manufacturing facility in Wilson, North Carolina.

Zero waste is quickly gaining traction as a workable model for the future. Many businesses and nonprofit groups have joined the Zero Waste International Alliance, a nonprofit organization of

See ZERO WASTE, page 12

Waste to landfill: getting to zero



- Reduce. Then what can't be reduced
- Reuse. Then what can't be reused
- Recycle/Compost. Then what can't be recycled or composted
- Recover. Using state-of-the-art combustion processes to generate clean, renewable energy, and then
- Dispose of that which has no other uses and must be landfilled

From www.triplepundit.com

Fire report: This year the intensity level was higher

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Once again I made the late-March trek across the Cascades to attend this year's Wildland Urban Interface Conference in Reno. The conference is put on by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, with folks from across our nation and around the world attending.

As I drove over for the tenth year in a row, I wondered whether I'd find something new to write about for the summer *Applegater*. After two days of lectures, panel discussions and networking, I hadn't heard many new concepts or research results. However, I did come away

with a pair of *unnerving* perceptions: first, we are seeing unprecedented fire weather and behavior globally. And second, a whole lot of people seem to be unwilling to take control of their fire risk. *Not a good combination!*

Fire seasons are starting earlier and lasting longer. Southern California is pretty much in “fire season” every month of the year now. Drought conditions are being declared somewhere almost daily, it seems. In Jackson County there was no open burning allowed

See INTENSITY LEVEL, page 8



Celebrate McKee Bridge Day Saturday, June 13 11 am to 3 pm

McKee Bridge Day will kick off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 am to mark the official opening of the restored McKee Bridge. A number of special guests are expected to assist in that ceremony.

There will be a quilt show on the bridge, great food, children's crafts, boat races in the irrigation ditch, prizes, a bake sale, a craft sale, a 50/50 raffle, music by Dan Doshier and Off the Wall Music, and more! It is hoped that this will be the best party ever.

The latest restoration of our 98-year-old covered bridge was completed in February. Friends and members of McKee Bridge were very generous in helping us raise over \$62,000 in matching funds to go along with the two major grants needed for the restoration effort. ODOT administered the work, and the result is a bridge that is stronger than the original construction. The Board of Directors of the McKee Bridge Historical Society wishes to thank all of the members and friends who so generously contributed to the Restoration Fund. Come out and see the wonderful restored bridge!

Before the bridge was closed for restoration, it was estimated that more than 6,000 people visited the bridge each year. Most came from Oregon and California, but others came from all over the world. The sign-in log showed that the bridge was visited by people from every continent in the world except Antarctica.

For more information, go to www.mckeehistoricalcoveredbridge.org.

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SUTA suits us, and ATA is at it again

BY DIANA COOGLE

With recreation trumping timber for bringing money into the Rogue Valley these days, the two trail-building organizations in the Applegate, the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association (SUTA) and the Applegate Trails Association (ATA), have important roles to play. And the roles are looking good!

ATA just received a \$10,000 grant from REI to build the East ART, the first section of its Applegate Ridge Trail. This trail will connect Cathedral Hills trails in Grants Pass to the Jack-Ash Trail, which SUTA is building between the Applegate and Ashland and thence to the Pacific Crest Trail. SUTA's plans are also moving along well, with the imminent completion of the BLM's Environmental Assessment. Some time in the not too distant future, hikers will be walking from the California border to Grants Pass along the scenic ridges above the towns of the Rogue and Applegate valleys. It promises to be a popular route, bringing hikers to the area who will happily spend their money here. (Just think how glad they will be to spend a night in town after all those nights in a tent.)

One big step toward completing these ambitious trail systems was SUTA's recent suggestion to the Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA) that they work together. "The MRA was shocked," said Hope Robertson, SUTA president. After all, motorcyclists and hikers are historical enemies.

Recognizing that as an unproductive attitude, SUTA and MRA, under its new president, Jack LeRoy, started looking for, and soon found, common ground: trash concerns, shooting ranges along their trails, potential shared parking lots and kiosks, shared "policing" of trails. Chuck Steahly of MRA and Hope worked out a formal Memorandum of Understanding that allows the two organizations to address those concerns together.

Then they started working on the biggest issue: trails. SUTA is strictly

nonmotorized. MRA, of course, uses the motors SUTA wants to avoid. How, then, could they share trails?

By taking turns making accommodations for each other, Hope said. For instance, SUTA wanted to use an old BLM road up Anderson Butte currently used by motorcyclists. MRA expressed its concern about that plan in a meeting with SUTA. Consequently, SUTA, working with the Medford BLM, has proposed a different nonmotorized route, adding one and a half miles to the total mileage of the trail, but allowing the motorcyclists use of the old road. In another place, SUTA may use an historic hiking trail currently used by motorcycles, and the MRA can consider building a new route for their use. Decisions can be made on the basis of best usage. For instance, a very steep motorcycle trail, challenging and fun for motorcyclists, is too steep for horses so might as well remain motorized. "Besides," Hope pointed out, "when the weather is too dry, motorcyclists can't use the trails, and when the trails are too wet, hikers don't want to."

"It was the only way to go," Hope said. "Otherwise, it's all fights." Jack added that the agreement would benefit "all forms of recreation in our forests."

SUTA has also been putting in the last of the 22 directional signs and installing several interpretive signs on the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail, using Title II funds. Thanks to a grant from REI, they will construct a small bridge across Deming Creek on the north end of that trail and add an interpretive sign about the historic flumes found along the ditch.

ATA is hoping that the scoping document for the East ART will be ready in early summer. While they are waiting for BLM to unravel the red tape, they're turning their attention to the trails at Cantrall Buckley Park. Last year ATA volunteers opened a loop trail to the north along the river. This spring a group of volunteers cleaned and prepared the trails at the south end of the park, along the river and then above it. Bushes were cut back, horsetail ferns and blackberries cleared away, trails widened and strengthened, cairns built on the rocks to mark the path, and 14 fiberglass trail-post signs installed.

Cantrall Buckley is the only place in the Applegate with a public trail along the Applegate River, and it is lovely.

Diana Coogle
dicoog@gmail.com

SUTA board member Joy Rogalla, and Duane Mallams, the consummate trail finder for SUTA and ATA, prospect for the Jack-Ash trail route on the north side of the Anderson Butte ridge complex above the Grub Gulch trailhead.



Handcrafted 'Applecrares' for sale

Beautiful planters or multi-use boxes called "Applecrares," built with donated local wood and volunteer labor, are for sale. All proceeds will help sustain the *Applegater*.

You can see these sturdy, useful and long-lasting Applecrares at Applegate Valley Realty at 935 N. Fifth Street in Jacksonville. We are looking for additional outlets in the valley to display and sell our Applecrares and for customers to buy or order them.

The price of a stock planter box (see photo), 12" wide x 22" long x 14" deep, starts at \$40. Applecrares can also be customized. To buy one, get more information, or volunteer to help, call Chris Bratt at 541-846-6988.



Handcrafted Applecrares available for purchase now.

Discovering Pacifica: A garden in the Siskiyou

BY GABRIELA EAGLESOME

I love Pacifica. I love hiking among its madrones, manzanitas, and pines. I love its vistas of Grayback, its ponds and hills and meadows with horses, its ceramics and other classes, family night, Caterpillar Programs for kids, and the caring, tending, and planting on the property. Pacifica hits many of the built-in receptors in my psyche that make it feel like it's home, the way life should be.

Ray and Peg Prag are humble

about having established this wonderful place. As Peg says, "We didn't know what we were getting into."

After graduating from the University of California, Davis, in the 1970s with an MS in horticulture, Ray, with his wife, Peg, moved to Williams to establish Forestfarm, a primarily mail-order plant nursery. With an emphasis on nurturing local varieties and providing long-term jobs for people in the area, their business flourished.

Not having children, Ray and Peg began thinking of a different kind of legacy, one that would preserve the 7,500 varieties of plants they had cultivated over the years—a botanical garden, perhaps, and an educational and plant-preservation facility that would also serve other purposes to benefit the community.

In 1998 this vision found fulfillment. At the same time that the



old Messinger Farm was going into foreclosure, with the possibility that the 420 acres would be subdivided, a person close to Ray and Peg came into a large sum of money that he wanted to donate to a nonprofit organization. This combination of events resulted in Pacifica.

Now, Forestfarm itself has been donated to Pacifica. The process is almost finished. Fifteen employees keep their jobs at the nursery, and the 7,500 varieties of plants have found a

home at the new Water Gap Road site.

The land is open to the public, and classes and other educational opportunities are offered free of charge or for a minimal fee. It is wonderful to see this confluence of vision and goodwill fulfilled. Everyone benefits.

It takes a lot to maintain the property and to offer low-cost programs to the public. Donations and volunteer efforts are always welcome.

If you have not been to Pacifica, come soon to enjoy its many events and activities or even its solitude. If you have been to Pacifica, please come again! The address is 14615 Water Gap Road, Williams, OR. To learn more, visit www.pacificagarden.org and www.forestfarm.org.

Gabriela Eaglesome
gabrielas@aol.com

Pacifica's Summer Day Camps

Give your kids a summer to remember! You've seen the big green science-exploring machine, "The Caterpillar," traveling to your elementary schools for the past 14 years! Your friendly Caterpillar teachers are once again offering exciting day camps at Pacifica. More information: Vanessa at 541-621-6278 or vanessa@pacificagarden.org.

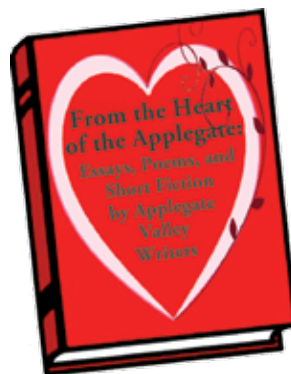
- **Camp Botanica (ages 6 - 12)**, June 22 - 25. For young plant enthusiasts.
- **Family Herbal Project Day ~ Calendula-Lavender Sunscreen**, June 26.
- **Crafty Crafters Camp (ages 6 - 12) ~ Ready, Set, Sew**, July 6 - 9.
- **Game and Story Camp (ages 7 - 13) ~ Players and Plots**, July 13 - 16.
- **Kitchen Camp (ages 6 - 12) ~ Cookin' Up a Storm**, July 20 - 23.
- **Nature Camp (ages 6 - 13) ~ Surviving the Great Outdoors**, July 27 - 30.
- **Awaken Camp (ages 8 - 15) ~ Chi/Prana Fusion**, August 3 - 6.
- **Acting Camp (ages 6 - 12) ~ Dramatic Adventures**, August 10 - 13.
- **Music Camp (ages 6 - 12) ~ Camp Jam**, August 17 - 20 with Grammy-winning engineer Dennis Dragon.
- **Art Camp (ages 6 - 12) ~ Imagine, Create, Discover**, August 24 - 27.

Get published—and support a good cause!

We're excited about the submissions we have received so far for *From the Heart of the Applegate: Essays, Poems, and Short Fiction by Applegate Valley Writers!* We're still looking for more, so send us your literary masterpieces by the June 30 deadline.

Here are the details:

- Writers must be current Applegate Valley residents (including Williams).
- Submissions can be in three categories: poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction.
- Writers may submit up to three poems and/or one prose piece. Prose pieces should fall between 800 - 2,500 words.
- Submissions should include an author's bio and photo.
- Photographs to accompany the submission may be included but are not required.
- Photos must be of commercial print quality (high resolution).
- There is no restriction on the topic.
- Previously published works are not eligible for inclusion.
- Copyright reverts to the writer after publication.
- Email submissions to gater@applegater.org.



All proceeds will help support the Applegater. If you have any questions, please email gater@applegater.org. We look forward to receiving your submissions and getting this unique book out to the world!

WHO WE ARE

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the publication of the *Applegater* newsmagazine, 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* newsmagazine, 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* newsmagazine, acts as a clearinghouse for this diverse community. We are dedicated to working together with community members to maintain and enhance the quality of life that is unique to the Applegate Watershed.

Acknowledgements

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

Special thanks to Diana Coogle, Margaret della Santina, Melissa Rhodes, and Paul Tipton for copy editing; Diana Coogle, Kathy Kliwer, and Mikell Nielsen for proofing; Beate Foit for bookkeeping; and webmaster Joe Lavine.

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

PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

Any and all materials submitted for publication must be original (no reprinted articles, please) and the intellectual property of the author unless otherwise credited.

All articles submitted to the *Applegater* are subject to edit and publication at the newsmagazine's discretion.

Letters to the editor must be 450 words or less. Opinion pieces and articles cannot exceed 700 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 at the email address below by the deadline.

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Applegate Valley Community
Newspaper, Inc.
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A huge THANKS to the generous donors who recently contributed to the *Applegater*.

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Job Opportunity

The *Applegater* needs a self-motivated advertising salesperson for Josephine County. Existing book; generous commissions. Must know Excel. Email resume to gater@applegater.org.

Editorial Calendar

ISSUE	DEADLINE
FALL (Sept-Nov).....	August 1 <i>Agriculture / Wine</i>
WINTER (Dec-Feb).....	November 1 <i>Holiday / Arts</i>
SPRING (March-May).....	February 1 <i>Commerce / Community</i>
SUMMER (June-Aug).....	May 1 <i>Environment / Fire / Recreation</i>

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Masthead photo credit

Teya Jacobi took this peaceful and refreshing summer shot of her friend Melissa Verbena at Little Squaw Lake.

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

With a circulation of 10,500 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:

- Jackson County—Ron Turpen
541-601-1867
ron.turpen@gmail.com
- Josephine County—TBD

Next deadline:

August 1

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Happy summer to everyone! This is our "Environment / Fire / Recreation" issue, in which we introduce "zero waste," a way of life that *should* spread like wildfire (see pages 1 and 12). Speaking of fire, we've covered that, too, on pages 1 and 8. For recreation news, read Diana Coogle's article about SUTA and ATA on page 2 and Cantrall Buckley Park News on page 10. Then there's "Grape Talk" on page 17 that lists a different kind of recreation that can be found at our local wineries.

Throw some school news, a few opinion pieces, and articles from BLM and the US Forest Service into the mix, and we've got an issue packed with good reading. There are some interesting online articles, too, so be sure to visit www.applegater.org.

Our first fundraiser for the year, benefiting the *Applegater* and Cantrall Buckley Park, was great fun for everyone who turned out on May 31. We thank the Applegate River Lodge and all the other donors for helping make it a success.

Now we turn our attention to our annual benefit at Red Lily Vineyards, which will be held on Sunday, August 16, this year. See page 1 for more information, and watch our Facebook page for updates.

Enjoy the latest issue. And, as always, feel free to send us your comments. We listen.

Barbara Holiday • gater@applegater.org

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Community Calendar

Alcoholics Anonymous. Open meeting 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 September through May, usually Thursday evenings or Saturday mornings at Bethany Presbyterian Church. Membership is open to those holding an associate of arts degree or higher from an accredited college or university. Contact Susan Riell at riells@sbcglobal.net or 541-956-2159, or Linda Rahberger at lr97526@gmail.com or 541-659-4669. Visit grantspass-aa.uw.net, Facebook and Pinterest.

Applegate Christian Fellowship. For service times, call 541-899-8732 24/7.

Applegate Fire District Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Station 1, 18489 North Applegate Road at 7:30 pm, except for March, April and May, when meetings are held at Headquarters, 1095 Upper Applegate Road. For more information, call 541-899-1050.

Applegate Food Pantry, located behind Ruch School, is open most Mondays from 11:30 to 1 pm. Call Arlene at 541-951-6707.

Applegate 4-H Swine Club meets on Tuesdays 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 at 1095 Upper Applegate Road at 6 pm. New members are welcome. For more information, call Bob Fischer 541-846-6218.

Applegate Library is open Tuesday and Friday from 2 to 6 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. Storytime is Tuesday at 2:30 pm. 18485 North Applegate Road.

Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) meets 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 fourth Thursday of the month at the Applegate Library. For more information, call 541-899-9982.

Applegate Valley Community Grange meets the second Sunday of each month for a potluck and a business meeting. Call 541-846-7501 for times. 3901 Upper Applegate Road.

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 seniors (60-plus) to enjoy a nutritious, hot meal served at 11:30 am Monday through Friday at the Jacksonville IOOF Hall 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 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 Elmer's, 175 NE Agness Avenue, Grants Pass, at 6 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 is open Tuesday from 11 am to 5 pm, Thursday from 1 to 7 pm, and Saturday from 12 to 4 pm. Storytime is Tuesday at 11 am. 7919 Highway 238.

Sanctuary One is open to the public for farm tours every Wednesday and Saturday, 10:30 am to noon, April - October. Minimum donation is \$10. Reservations are required. Call 541-899-8627 or email info@sanctuaryone.org.

Siskiyou Audubon Society (free program) meets the second Tuesday of each month, September - June, at 6:30 pm at Grants Pass High School cafeteria (Room 611), 830 NE 9th Street, and features expert birding scientists and bird biologists. Refreshments served. More information: John Taylor 541-476-9846.

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association meets the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm at the OSU extension. For more information, please contact sobeekers@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 Highway 238). Weigh-in starts at 8:30 am; the meeting starts at 9:00 am. Come join us!

Williams Creek Watershed Council meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the Williams Fire Station. The public is welcome. For more information, call 541-846-9175.

Williams Grange Business Meeting, second Tuesday of each month, 7 pm. 20100 Williams Highway near Tetherow Road. For more information, call 541-846-6844.

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 Highway near Tetherow Road. For more information, call 541-846-6844.

Williams Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 1 to 5 pm. Preschool Storytime every Tuesday at 1:30. Chess Club every Monday from 3:45 to 5 pm. All ages welcome at free programs led by local volunteers. Free Wi-Fi 24/7. 20100 Williams Highway. For more information, call Danielle Schreck at 541-846-7020.

Williams Rural Fire Protection District meets the 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 Highway 238 (Gyda Lane) at 6:30 pm for a potluck meeting to plan work parties at each other's homes. New members welcome. For more information, call Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-8741 or Sioux Rogers at 541-846-7736.

Wonder Neighborhood Watch meets the second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm, Wonder Bible Chapel, 11911 Redwood Highway, Wilderville.



2015 Rising Stars winner includes Hidden Valley alumni

The Evening Shades, a local indie rock band, was the winner of the South Stage Cellars 2015 Rising Stars competition. Among the four band members are two Hidden Valley High School graduates: Justen Nielsen (2008) and Matt Tayvis (2001).

Photo, left to right: Matthew Tayvis (bass, piano), Sam Kovic (lead guitar, backup vocals), Mark Thales (lead vocals, guitar), and Justen Nielsen (drums). Watch for upcoming gigs at nearby venues. For more information, check out their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheEveningShades>. Photo by Mikell Nielsen.



Outdoor Adventures for Hikers, Naturalists and Families 2015 Summer Season

The Spirit of the Forest in Words and Photos

Friday - Sunday class, June 5-7; Selma

Mark Turner and Diana Coogle

Orienteering

Saturday, June 13; outside Ashland - Brennan McGinnis

Geology of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

Saturday, June 13, Greensprings area - Jad D'Allura

Botanizing Poker Flat and Bolan Lake

Wednesday-Friday, June 24-26 - Linda Vorobik

A Beginner's Guide to Medicinal Plants

Saturday-Sunday, June 27-28; Selma - Karin Rohland and Laurel Peña

Serpentine of Smith River Canyon Geology & Ecology

Sunday, June 28, Selma - Larry Broecker and Susan Harrison

Botanizing Bigelow Lakes

Friday, July 10 - Linda Vorobik

Rockhounding on Brown Mountain

Saturday, July 18 - Chas Rogers

Forest Sleuthing: The Science of Tree Rings

Saturday, July 25; Selma - Lyndia Hammer

Geology of the "Recent" Siskiyou Road Trip

Saturday-Sunday, August 8-9, Selma to Port Orford - John Roth

Register for these classes and more, request a catalog, reserve a room at www.thesfi.org or call 541-597-8530.

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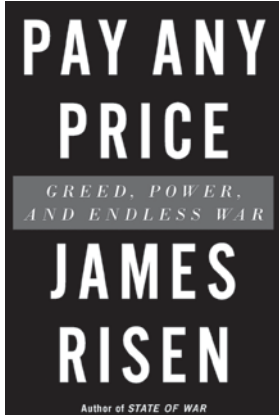
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BOOKS & MOVIES

— Books —

**Pay Any Price—
Greed, Power,
and Endless War**

James Risen



Risen's story is not a pleasant one. It is a tale of manufactured fear, too much money, and unaccountable officials. For starters, we learn about:

- the story of President Bush's "enhanced interrogation" program;
- the details behind President Obama's "killer drone" program;
- unsupervised planeloads of cash that "disappeared" somewhere in the streets of Baghdad (we're talking many billions here);
- ruined lives following the Abu Ghraib prison scandal;
- the outrageous fabrication of intelligence that served only to enrich private contractors with public funds;
- the offensive story of otherwise decent citizens succumbing to raw greed in a secret flow of never-ending cash;
- unwarranted secrecy that has allowed federal officials to violate the law with impunity in the pursuit of power and prestige;
- shameful acquiescence by some segments of the military.

After 9-11, sheer panic caused Congress to throw money at our national security apparatus faster than it could spend it. It was a boon to hustlers. Widespread fear led to hasty passage of the so-called "Patriot Act" and executive waivers of long-standing legal protections for our citizenry. It was the start of "anything goes." And, boy, did it go! The question now is: Will it ever stop?

In this book Risen states: "America has become accustomed to a permanent state of war. Only a small slice of society—including many poor and rural teenagers—fight and die, while a permanent national security elite rotates among senior government posts, contracting companies, think tanks, and television commentary, opportunities that would disappear if America was suddenly at peace. To most of America, war has become not only tolerable but profitable, and so there is no longer any great incentive to end it."

The disturbing climate of cover-up, secrecy, and fear has prevented us from having a true national debate on how to strike a balance between individual liberties and state protections. It's time to have that debate—this book is a good start.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

James Risen is an investigative reporter for the *New York Times* who has written extensively about governmental and corporate malfeasance in our interminable "War on Terror." Since 2006, Risen has been pursued by the Department of Justice from both the Bush and Obama administrations for refusal to reveal his sources. *Pay Any Price* will not improve his legal difficulties.

Federal employees and contractors who have tried to work within the system to expose unlawful and unethical conduct on the part of our officials have not fared well. They have faced prosecution, firing, defamation, harassment, and even physical threats. Standard whistle-blower legal protections have been tossed out the window. This is why Edward Snowden chose to go outside the system to expose unconstitutional conduct by the National Security Agency. Many of the sources for this book are people just like Snowden, but who are afraid to follow his path.

Martin Marten

Brian Doyle



Shakespeare and James Joyce and other literary greats sometimes invented words

to express what the native tongue did not provide. Gabriel García Márquez and various Latin American authors use magic realism to express the ineffable: a character opens his mouth to speak, and out flies a tiny bird. Well, Brian Doyle, in his major books, *Mink River*, *The Plover*, and now his latest, *Martin Marten*, uses those authorial devices plus his own personal litany of the peculiar and the poetic.

Martin Marten is in essence a book about communication, about reaching deep into the self and into the innermost selves of others to get at the fundamental truths. Even the trees reach out to each other. As do the rocks: "And this is not even to consider the ancient slow stories of the rocks and their long argument with the lava inside the mountain."

Doyle is obviously very philosophical about all nature, especially the animal world, demonstrated by Moses the crow (*Mink River*) and The Plover of that title, and very much so with the furry piquant marten in this new book. The setting is on the slopes of Mount Hood in the fictionalized village of Zigzag, peopled with a variety of eccentrics and good plain working sorts of all ages, genders, and proclivities. The principal characters are Dave, a 14-year-old boy approaching manhood, his hardworking parents, and his brainy young sister, Maria. The young male marten of the title saves the six-year-old sister when she is caught in a massive September snowstorm. He mysteriously beckons her to a dry haven inside a hollowed tree trunk.

There is romance of every sort, the force—I would impose here—that through the green shoot drives the flower (taken from the title of a Dylan Thomas poem). "He [the little marten] was, that day, more than thirty miles from home and filled with some strange energy that forced him through the woods like a headlong verb in a forest of crowded nouns" (page 168). Is that not delightful?

Doyle, being Doyle, inserts yet another dimension here and there: he lets the silent narrator muse to us readers about the process of knitting together a book. Here: "Hardly ever does a story just stop, right in the middle of the crucial moment like this one, but we had better do so now" (page 164). And there: "and no man would set foot in that place again for another twenty years, which is long past the end of this book, so we have nothing to say of that young man when he does arrive."

This is not a sugarcoated story of cute animals. All these creatures, including the human kind, prey upon one another in order to survive, the larger and more agile frequently making "a delicious meal" of the smaller and slower. The quick and the dead. There is even a very old bobcat who *may* have committed suicide at the end of his long and wily life; he seems to have headed straight down the mountain into a deadly snare. Who knows? As Mr. Douglas, the resident hunter-trapper of the story frequently reminds us, "If you think you know for sure..."

There may be those who will feel that this book, with all its depictions of communication between the likes of rocks and trees, bugs, stream and lake critters, and among the furry folk of the mountain and the world, is just so much anthropomorphized nonsense. But most will feel a gentle happiness at having read it, if only for the compelling adventures of the diverse human creatures reaching out to each other on our own Mount Hood.

I wonder if the Timberline Lodge will have even more visitors than ever this summer after this book makes the rounds. I know that I, for one, want to drive around on the west side of the mountain, poke into any remote general store, and just sit by some log or stream and see what creatures show up to interact.

Julia Helm Hoskins • 541-899-8470
julmudgeon@aol.com

Julia Helm Hoskins is the author of *She Caves to Conquer*, a novel set in the American Midwest and in southern Turkey.

Some glowing words about this review directly from author Brian Doyle: "Ah that is lovely thank you. You GOT the deep urge of the book—I savor that. I mostly smile at people who don't get what I am trying to do (they post online shrieking) but I really dig people who do. I love good reviews, sure, but more so I like to feel the connection. B"

— Miniseries —

The Pacific

HBO 10-part miniseries

Reviewer rating: **5 Apples**

1 Apple—Don't bother
5 Apples—Don't miss



HBO aired this World War II miniseries in 2010, but I just discovered it a few weeks ago when my wife scored it at a yard sale.

This true story follows the First Marine Regiment from 1942 to 1945 through the beach assaults at Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, and specifically draws on the experiences of three marines:

- Eugene Sledge, played by Joseph Mazzello, is the author of a memoir *With the Old Breed*.
- Robert Leckie, played by James Badge Dale, is the author of a memoir *Helmet for my Pillow*, and many other books.
- John Basilone, played by Jon Seda, was the first enlisted marine to win the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Battle of Guadalcanal, and became one of the most highly decorated enlisted marines of all time. He also was awarded the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart.

An incredible amount of research went into this miniseries—the producers wanted everything to be as accurate as possible. One of the directors, Tim Van Patten, said, "[*The Pacific*] is not about

America versus Japan. It's about war, and how horrific it could be."

The miniseries won a Peabody Award, several Emmy awards, including Outstanding Miniseries, and a Golden Globe nomination.

The Pacific caused me to ponder these questions: What did the war do to its participants? How can one survive something so horrendous? How can a viewer watch what these guys did and expect to just move on with things?

For me this was the most intense, brutal, in-your-face personal war movie I have ever seen. It raised every kind of emotion that my mind possesses.

J.D. Rogers • 541-846-7736

**Voices of the Applegate**

Voices of the Applegate, our community choir, held its spring concerts on April 10 in The Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville and on April 12 in the Applegate River Lodge. The four-part harmony selections presented a variety of styles and subject matter from Broadway musicals such as "Kiss the Girl" from *The Little Mermaid*; "Let The River Run" from the motion picture *Working Girl*; and Pergolesi's "Magnificat," a 17th-century composition with six movements.

We are delighted to have Blake Weller as our director to teach and inspire us. We have just ended our 14th year of performances. Admission is free although donations are always welcome.

Our community choir welcomes new singers, whether or not you read music. Each member pays \$55 tuition, which includes remuneration for our director and our accompanist, our music, our venues and a few scholarships.

Find us on Facebook under "Voices of the Applegate," where you can listen to selections from "Magnificat" as it was performed at the Applegate River Lodge. When you visit our Facebook page, don't forget to "Like" us!

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

BACK IN TIME

First year of school

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

The excitement in 1932 of my first day in a one-room schoolhouse is more memorable than on any other school day. I hardly slept the night before, just anticipating my being there in a new dress that my mother had made, my brand new shoes, and a colorful lidded lunch pail.

To help my shyness at that time, I was so glad to have my sister, Gladys, going along with me, even though she was much older and in the eighth grade. Also, my first cousin, Doug McKee, and my second cousin, Marcene McKee, would be joining me in the first grade.

I already knew the wonderful teacher, Miss Jeannette Gore, because she boarded at my grandparents' home. She was so very well liked and became a close friend of our family. Thus I headed off on the mile-long walk to school with great anticipation of

all the fun I would have on my first day at McKee School.

Miss Gore greeted everyone and assigned seats. There was a primary table about three feet by six feet and maybe 20 inches high with six small chairs. (In later years I was given one of these chairs that my children and others enjoyed using.)

We had a first-grade reader and workbooks with about 50 pages, in which we copied the alphabet, made words, and wrote numbers. To me, the best part of the book was coloring the pictures; sometimes we were told what colors to use, and other times we could create some of our own colorings. Miss Gore made a weekly inspection of our assignments, and we usually got As.

Recess was the best, but the playground did lack for equipment, except



McKee School.

for a large slide, which I did not play on due to my fear of heights. Also, the older boys would wipe it with wax paper, always in good supply from our sandwich wrappers, which made for an extremely fast ride. "Anti-Over" was a favorite game with the older boys. This game consisted of two teams, one on each side of the school, throwing the ball back and forth over the roof. If you caught the ball, you got to throw it back over. The only other rule was to not break a window in the school building. To the best of my knowledge all windows remained unbroken.

And, of course, where would we be without the game of baseball? Our school lacked enough older students for a full team, so, reluctantly, some of us younger children were asked to fill in. One year we were taken to the Uniontown School to play a game, and I was scared to death that a ball would come my way! I don't recall who won, but I do remember the teacher at Uniontown was Miss Inlow and ours was Mrs. Bertha Haskins. Priorities!

At Thanksgiving time, Miss Gore must have contacted our mothers about making some costumes in which

to celebrate the season. We were dressed as Indians and pilgrims. I remember the scratchy gunnysack clothing we wore as the Indians, but I was very proud of the hand-painted designs and the turkey feather on our headbands. It is amazing to still have a couple of pictures of us in our costumes.

It seemed as though that first year of school went faster than any other, and then I was looking forward to summer vacation. On that last day of school, I was bragging to Marcene that my birthday was June 22 and after lunch on that day I was going to have a big birthday party with a delicious birthday cake for all to enjoy. Well, much to my regret, she remembered that date and her mother brought her to our house for the celebration. I was shocked and so embarrassed, and my mother was totally flabbergasted. The truth was that no party had been planned, not even a cake baked because the wood cookstove made the house too hot in June. Lois, Marcene's mother, and my mother actually had a nice visit, but I never really got over that embarrassment!

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre • 541-899-1443



Costumed students. Front row: Albert Anderson, unknown, Carmelita Lewis, unknown, Rosella Offenbacher, Clara Faye McKee, Evelyn Byrne. Back row: Gladys Byrne, Frances Port (?), Vonetta Rupretch, Lester Anderson, George Taylor (?), Victor Anderson (?). Anyone know the "unknown" students or can confirm the (?) students? Let us know!

Sweet madrone

BY LILY MYERS KAPLAN

It was the click-clunk sound of the nippers as I cleared the tick-bush brush from the trail that did it. Or was it the under-scent of pine in the spring-fresh wood that brought the memory alive? Maybe the fact that, as I had done forever, I was making a home out in the wild.

It started when I was five—digging holes with teaspoons in the damp earth, thinking I would tunnel my way to China. It progressed at six to building bridges across the cold creek with found rocks lugged across the grassy field. At eight my two older sisters, Sally and Lois, and I found the sugar-pine grove where we each staked a claim on our own house—a small circle of young trees in which we built tables and chairs of granite gathered from up the hill.

Just last Sunday, as I carefully pulled poison oak and re-laid gnarled branches to outline a path to the sweet madrone grove, the memory claimed me. The image of Lois and me hanging doorbells on boughs for utmost respect and privacy blended with memories of our back and forth visits for tea parties. A tender smile gave way to a few mournful but peaceful tears—a wish she could be alive to visit me here in the Applegate—rolling down my cheeks as I recalled our secret dugout and brick-lined hiding holes filled with treasures.

Because we covered them with endless piles of aromatic needles, our young minds were sure that they would be safe, always.

The memories came unbidden but were not unwelcome. I called out to Seth, "I've been doing this forever!" "What?" he hollered back from up the trail, saw in hand.

"Making a home in the woods," was my reply. I reminded him of my early life and the sisterhood forged through forays into the woods behind the back-beyond where we fell in love with earth. Was that the birth of my calling here to Applegate Valley? More deeply fulfilling than homestead-dreaming is my love—or more accurately, my complete passion, *abandon*, even—when it comes to carving out a spot in which to nestle in nature. *This* is where I remember my soul.

My mind wanders beyond the tasks of garden and mulch, tilling and pruning, cleaning and clearing. *A practice of Sabbath*, I think. *Time each day for more being—and less doing.*

"Sweet Madrone Circle!" I shout back up the hill to Seth. "That's what we should call it. This is where we will gather strength for all that lies before us. Here is where



our spiritual coffers will be filled. *This* is why we moved here."

We have lived in the Applegate Valley for less than three months. We barely know the boundaries of our land. We have myriad dreams of garden and sanctuary held in check by jobs and travel and building a livelihood. Time, it seems, is not our friend. "Patience and persistence," I remind a client who is frightened

about how much lies ahead. I think to myself, *Good advice, Lily. Pay attention!*

While Seth and I tend to our psychic rooting here in the Applegate, we find ourselves falling hard in love with carpets of fluorescent pink shooting stars and feather-like heads of blood-red Indian warriors. They punctuate what we have discovered today—our sacred circle of madrone.

Madrone, it turns out, is revered and considered sacred in some Native American traditions where it is called The Tree of Depth and Integrity. The madrone's uncanny ability to twist and turn as it reaches for light shows me that I,

too, can do the same. I run my palm over the smooth maroon bark and consider the many layers that have slowly peeled over umpteen years to reveal this inner beauty, her satin skin. Words rise up in me as I embrace the magnificent tree... *The Madrone, she wears her heart on her sleeve. Her true nature, layer by layer, is revealed—unabashed and unafraid!*

Seth and I, too, have shed many layers to come to this moment, this place, and this new life. We, in our 18 years together, have dreamed of leaving behind a much too busy life in order to live a new story. Still, we struggle to find it. Yet we are surprised each morning as we wake to the beauty before us, finding ourselves *here*, living in a fresh, new way.

Lily Myers Kaplan • 510-390-1098

lily@reshfoundation.org

Lily Myers Kaplan, author of *Two Rare Birds: A Legacy of Love*, is the founder of *SoulWorks and the Spirit of Resh Foundation*. For more information, visit www.aboutsoulworks.com or www.reshfoundation.org.

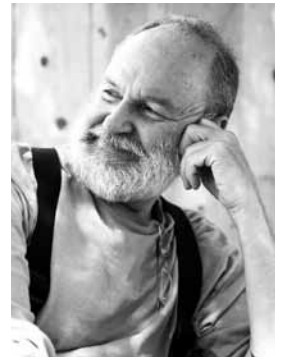
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THE STARRY SIDE

Once in a blue moon

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

Anyone eager for summer? Well... at least a summer with no fires and some water? Anyone confused about the weather? I sure am.

Whether you're eager for summer or confused about the weather (or both), summer is upon us. In the summer sky, the planets' different sizes, speeds, and especially distances from the sun really affect what we see. Think about it: the earth goes around the sun in 365 days. But Mercury is the speed demon going around the sun—and very close to it—4.15 times in one of our earth years! That's why, in our sunrises and sunsets, Mercury is seen low and moving fast. Venus is the second speediest, taking about 224 of earth's days to get around the sun. Venus also appears in our sunrises and sunsets and is by far the brightest planet. Venus is closely followed by Jupiter in brightness, but Jupiter goes just once around the sun in 12 years. That puts him in each constellation of the zodiac for a whole year! Right now he is moving toward Cancer from Leo the Lion. As a point of comparison, Mars goes around the sun in 1.88 earth years. (Mars is presently behind the sun and invisible.) Way out there past Jupiter is Saturn with its beautiful rings, at 30 earth years per solar year! Saturn is currently in Scorpio for about two and a half years. To view each planet easily, remember where it is hanging.

The Summer Triangle has been in our pre-dawn mornings for a while now, getting higher and higher. Each morning's sky reveals the next season's evening sky. The Summer Triangle is prepared to grace our summer, as it always does. Its bright star Vega in the constellation Lyra comes first, toward the northeast. Up next in the east is the star Deneb in the Northern Cross—technically known as Cygnus the

Swan. And finally, a little farther south, we see Altair in the constellation Aquila: the eagle, the three stars in a row. These are some of the first stars out each night in the eastern sky. As they move together across the sky toward the west, they carry half the

Milky Way—all the way from Cassiopeia in the north through the Triangle to Sagittarius in the south, where the center of our galaxy is.

This leads us to the south, which I don't often talk about. The stars and

constellations to the south tend to be dim. I frankly don't know many of them, and I tend to be seduced by the stronger, easier mid and northern skies. Sagittarius is one of the few southern constellations I know well. The English call it the Teapot, and it really is. There's a handle on the left, a triangular spout on the right, and a triangular top. There's even a spoon above. It's really a centaur with a bow and arrow. The center of our galaxy is just upper right of Sagittarius.

Other events of note

At the top of my list is the famously regular and spectacular Perseid meteor shower on the morning of August 13 (and each day on either side of that). There could be 50 to 100 meteors per hour in clear northern dark skies near Perseus, Capella, and Cassiopeia. The lesser Delta Aquarids, radiating from Aquarius, overlap and may increase the numbers.

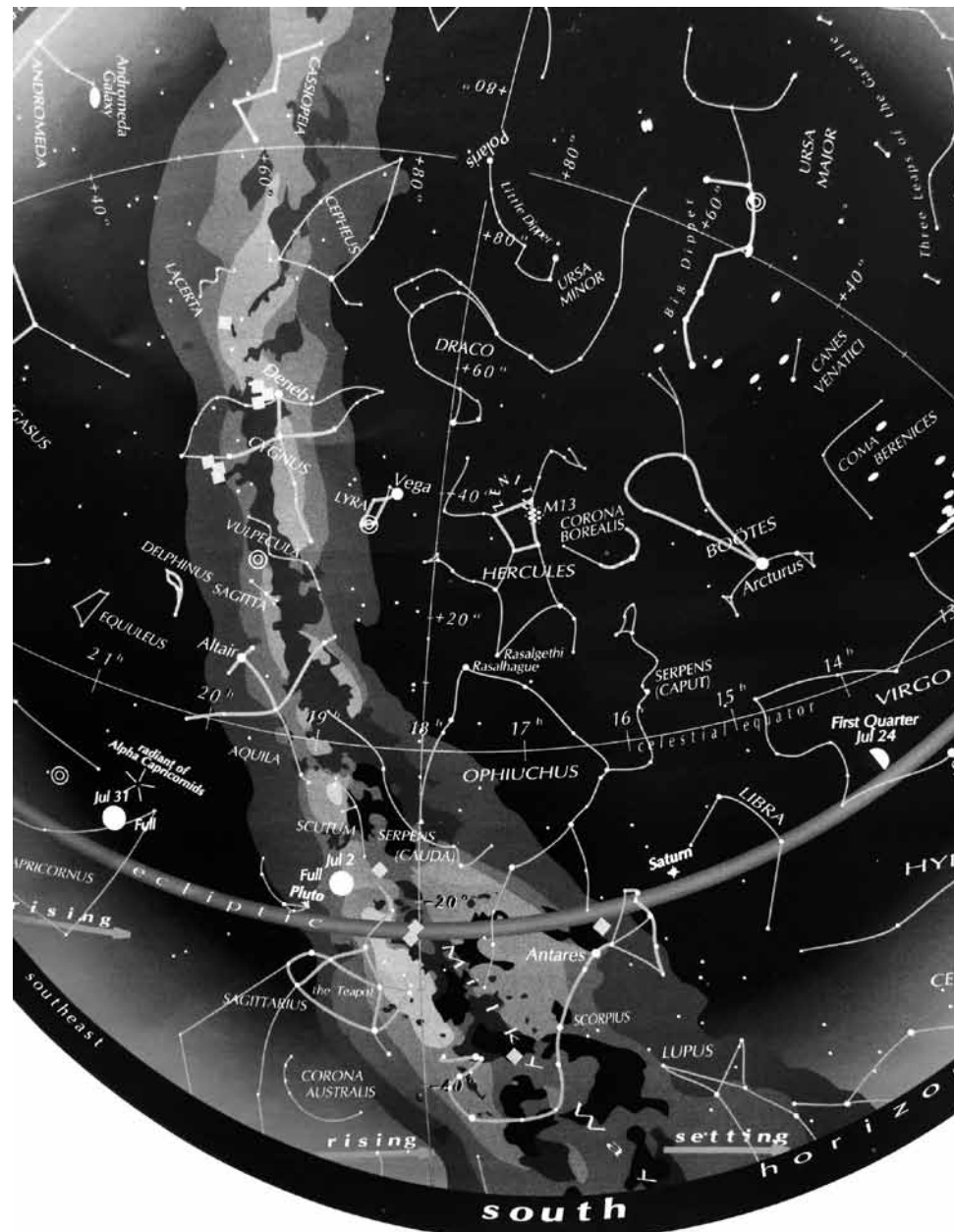
Summer solstice is June 21, with the longest days and shortest nights.

July has a blue moon. Two full moons appear, on July 2 and July 31, the latter being the blue one. It's rare, which is why we sometimes say "once in a blue moon."

A fabulous close conjunction of Venus and Jupiter, late June-early July, shines above the sunset and evening—oh boy! There will be a swell scene on the evening of July 16: close and bright Venus, Jupiter, and Regulus. These three will be joined by the moon on July 18, making a small circle of bright bodies. On July 19, an even smaller circle of the moon, Venus, and Regulus will appear around dusk.

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

Illustration: Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar 2014.



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Making rural residential areas fire resilient

BY BRIAN BALLOU

Wildfires strike rural residential areas in Jackson and Josephine counties every year, and every year homes and outbuildings are threatened and some are destroyed.

The number one way for landowners to ensure their homes and outbuildings will survive a wildfire is to take action before summer to reduce the amount of flammable vegetation around their structures.

This is not new information to many long-term residents in southwestern Oregon, and many people have taken the measures necessary to make their structures defensible against wildfire. State and county laws have detailed instructions about what kind of vegetation to cut and how big a fuel break must be around homes and other structures. In many areas, landowners are banding together with their neighbors to take *community action*

toward wildfire protection. This latter scenario *holds more promise* since it reflects the adoption of an attitude to take action against a very solvable problem.

A new program, called Fire Adapted Communities, strives to not only provide information about protecting structures and wildland landscapes against wildfire damage, but also instills the will among residents to take ownership of the problem—and the solutions. Following a checklist to meet state or county fuel-break regulations can reduce the threat of wildfire damage, but the beneficial effects are short-lived. Adopting wildfire-protection principles and practices as a necessary fact of life results in structures and landscapes that are *continuously* resilient against wildfire.

Making a fire-adapted community comprises many elements. Structures need to have fire-

resistant roofing, such as asphalt shingles or metal. Flammable landscaping plants, like juniper and cypress, shouldn't be growing near windows or tucked under roof eaves. The landscape around a home shouldn't have dead vegetation or thickets of highly flammable brush, primarily thickets of blackberry and manzanita. Tall, dry grass around structures and along the roadside and property lines should be mowed before fire danger becomes extreme. An address sign for the home should be at the foot of the driveway, and the driveway itself must be passable for fire trucks. A clear escape route should be part of the escape plan for every resident.

Southwest Oregon is a fire environment. It is impossible to exclude wildfire from the landscape. In fact, by trying to exclude fire from the landscape for so many years, the problem has become worse. Where there were once many grass and oak woodlands, there are now brushfields and overgrown conifer forests. It is within these overgrown wildland areas that thousands of homes now stand.

Residents need to make every effort to *not cause* a wildfire. Making the

effort to keep homes, outbuildings, and private lands less vulnerable to wildfire year after year is a practical step toward accepting ownership of the solution. Fire departments and wildfire protection agencies will always be there to do whatever is possible to save lives and property from fire. But working together—fire protection professionals and landowners—will ensure a long-term favorable outcome when the inevitable strikes.

For more information about Fire Adapted Communities, contact the Applegate Valley Fire District's office at 541-899-1050, the Oregon Department of Forestry at 541-664-3328, or online at www.fireadapted.org.

And don't forget that classes are available through the Oregon State University Extension Service in Jackson and Josephine counties to help landowners learn strategies to not only protect their lands against wildfire, but also improve forest health, exclude invasive plants, and protect soil, air and water resources.

Brian Ballou
541-664-3328

Oregon Department of Forestry

INTENSITY LEVEL

FROM PAGE 1

much of March due to "unsafe" fire or weather conditions. Private landowners and professional fuels folks alike are hard-pressed to find enough days to get our slash piles burned.

Australia has seen some wicked weather! In 2013 temperatures were 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit!) for *over a week* when their "bush" fires broke out. In October alone they had 627 fires within a two-week period, burning 405,000 acres!

Last year's Washington State Carlton Complex (in July) started with an extraordinary lightning storm: 2,500 strikes with a *50 percent ignition rate* (10 to 15 percent ignition is more the average). Within days, erratic 45-mile-per-hour winds had blown four fires in four different communities out of control. One run burned 123,000 acres in nine hours! (The size of that area is one-third *larger* than the city of Portland.) All firefighters could do was try to move the fires around homes. In the end, over 300 homes and a lot of community infrastructure were destroyed. What I found interesting was that the damage was so widespread that there was no power to *surviving* homes for *nearly a month* after the fires were out! This seriously hampered post-fire communications and rehabilitation.

I also heard the fire chief from Twain Harte, California, say that recently they have been replacing their "worst historical fire" on an *annual basis*. Their Rim Fire last year sent smoke all the way to Salt Lake City! So, wildfires are not just a "local" problem.

Everyone in Reno was using the term "situational awareness" when discussing the wildfire picture. The whole western region of the country seems to be in the same boat regarding weather and drought, wildfire and wildland-urban interface conditions. As one speaker said, "This isn't going away, so we have to get our head around it."

The other disturbing message I heard in Reno was that residents in several of these severe fires were "waiting to be told" to evacuate. They didn't take the initiative themselves. Many others were unaware of the danger approaching. While I didn't hear that any lives were lost, the concept that urban interface residents are not aware of smoke, fire, lightning or severe weather in their area and how it might affect their property (or their life?) is astounding, and scary.

Are we like that here in the Applegate? I like to think not, but I also wouldn't want to have to test the theory. We are in wildfire country. We need to address our own property's fire risks by reducing fuels on and around our homes and access routes. We need to develop, agree to, and *practice* implementing a family evacuation plan, including pets and/or livestock. No one else is going to do this for us.

We need to pay attention to weather and fire danger, because Mother Nature is often unpredictable, moving at her own schedule and intensity. In severe weather, phones and social media might not be operable. *You may not get that reverse 911 call!*

Mother Nature doesn't use social media and neither should we when it comes to possible life- or property-threatening fire weather. Develop and maintain your own "situational awareness" by being prepared and alert.

This is our valley, our home, and our responsibility.

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneor@q.com

Note: If you would like free information regarding defensible space, fuels reduction, or evacuation planning, call the Applegate Fire District (541-899-1050), the Oregon Department of Forestry (Jackson County: 541-664-3328; Josephine County: 541-474-3152), or your local fire district.

Ruch School students create firewise demonstration sites and learn how to be fire adapted

The Applegate Valley Fire District, the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative, the Bureau of Land Management, and Ruch School sixth- and seventh-grade students came together to assess Ruch School for potential fire hazards before fire season begins.

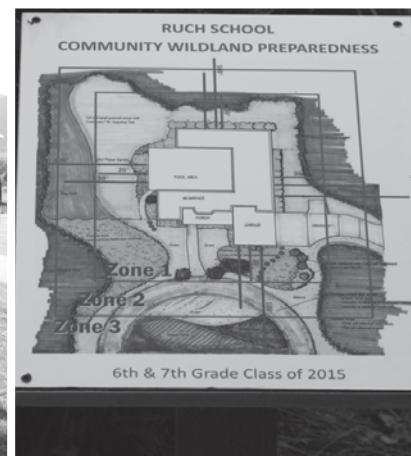
Students learned about fire science, fire behavior, fire-adapted ecosystems and communities, and the three zones that make up a defensible space. They put what they learned into practice by assessing their own school, helping build firewise demonstration sites, planting fire-resistant plants, and clearing fuels on the school grounds. Students then went to their own homes to assess them for potential fire hazards.

In addition, students nominated vulnerable members of the community to receive assistance from Oregon Department of Forestry crews to do fuel-reduction work around their homes.

The project was funded by a \$500 firewise grant offered by the National Fire Protection Association and sponsored by State Farm Insurance. The Plant Oregon nursery and community members donated plants, and Advanced Landscape Services donated mulch.

This project integrates fire science and safety on school grounds to be used for educational purposes for years to come and brings community awareness about defensible space and the need to be prepared for the upcoming fire season. Community members are encouraged to stop by Ruch School to see what the students have created.

For more information on creating a defensible space around your home, please stop by the Applegate Fire District Office at 18489 North Applegate Road or call Carey Chaput at 541-899-1050.



— See more articles online — www.applegater.org

- Annual Children's Festival, July 11 to 13, at Britt Gardens, Jacksonville
- "First graders become published authors at Ruch Community School" by Curtis Mekemson
- Lavender Trail, June 26 to 28: "Lavender is a 'blooming' business in the Applegate Valley"

Burn reminder

Before burning outdoors any time of year, check with your fire district to make sure that day is an official burn day and not a **NO** burn day.

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Josephine County • 541-476-9663 (Press 3)



BLM impressed by Community Alternative effort

BY JOHN GERRITSMAS

A project in the Applegate that is currently in the planning phase is Nedsbar. This project is designed to harvest timber, improve the transportation system (roads) for forest management, reduce fuels that support unwanted fire effects, and thin forest stands to promote growth, health and vigor. The project design features include protections for the northern spotted owl, other wildlife habitats, sensitive plants, clean water, and soil productivity. The project is on Oregon and California (O&C) lands in the Little Applegate watershed and is to contribute to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Medford District's annual timber harvest for fiscal year 2015.

Having worked with residents in 2011-12 on the Bald Lick timber sale (also referred to by residents as the White Hat project), the BLM met with leaders of the Applegate Neighborhood Network to request working together again in a meaningful way prior to notifying the general public of the project. While BLM was developing alternatives for the project, a community effort was under way to provide a Community/Citizens' Alternative. That effort resulted in a highly detailed alternative that is being analyzed by BLM resource specialists along with BLM-developed alternatives in the project's environmental assessment. The Community Alternative provides for no harvest activity in Senator Wyden's proposed primitive backcountry areas, provides for a 20-inch diameter limit in timber harvest units, and does not construct roads.

Some of you may have heard that the alternative proposed by BLM at the public meeting in Jacksonville in June 2014 is no longer being considered. It was

an important starting point to identify all of the potential units in which a timber harvest might occur. After substantial field work since then, the BLM created two other alternatives that better meet the intent of the recovery plan and habitat management for the northern spotted owl. One of the BLM alternatives constructs new roads while the other does not. Both alternatives include yarding logs with a helicopter.

Those who have worked to develop the alternative should be proud of their effort! I am not aware of any such previous proposal to a timber sale that has been produced by members of the community in such a detailed manner. Of particular interest to the BLM are the social points of view of this project that include the spiritual, visual, philosophical, and local economic approaches to forest management. These factors will also influence the final project design and are best identified by area residents. In addition, BLM and community interests are now working to agree on the metrics that will be used to evaluate all the alternatives in the most unbiased manner possible.

We also intend to have a session for residents so both the BLM and the community alternative designers can jointly help explain the ecological, economical and social underpinnings of each alternative and the analysis and results in the environmental assessment.

In addition, a community team has indicated that they would like to monitor the tree marking as it occurs. BLM will commit to having a review of the mark prior to the sale being sold. BLM will also work with the community team to monitor implementation of the project.

All of these actions will better inform final decisions for the project and implementation of treatments that are consistent with the project's environmental assessment and design.

While the process of collaborating on the Nedsbar project is not yet finished and its efficacy not yet determined, this is certainly an example of the kind of an "idiosyncratic" approach envisioned for the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA), of which the project area is a part. The Northwest

Forest Plan used the term "idiosyncratic" to describe a homegrown and unique out-of-the-box way of approaching a task. The Applegate AMA has a rich history of these kinds of attempts to try new ways at managing BLM public lands. We hope to be successful—again!

John Gerritsma
541-618-2438
(Acting) Associate District Manager
Medford District
Bureau of Land Management
jgerrits@blm.gov



— Report illegal burning —

If you witness what you think is illegal burning—of prohibited materials or on a no-burn day, report it to the following:

- Jackson County Environmental Air Quality at 541-774-8206 or Josephine County Environmental Health Services at 541-474-5325.
- If the fire is burning, also call your local fire department.

Penalties: \$600 fine per incident and further legal action if required.

Prohibited materials include wet garbage, plastic, wire insulation, automobile parts, asphalt, petroleum products or treated materials, rubber, asbestos, animal remains, animal or vegetable matter resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking or service of food, any material that emits dense smoke or noxious odors. This applies to open/barrel burning and solid fuel burning devices such as wood stoves. (From Jackson County Health & Human Services website at www.jacksoncountyor.org.)

For more information, contact Tom White with Jackson County Environmental Air Quality at 541-774-8206 or Josephine County at 541-474-5325.

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Cantrall Buckley Park NEWS

Turtle and trails are coming to Cantrall Buckley Park

BY HEATHER TUGAW AND AUDREY ELDRIDGE

Spring has sprung, and the energy to improve Cantrall Buckley Park, the Applegate Valley's premier community-run park, has grown across the Applegate Valley. Many volunteer organizations are now working on a range of park improvement projects. The nonprofit Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) is managing the effort and has collaborated with the Ford Institute Leadership Team, the Applegate Trails Association, and several other volunteer organizations to make Cantrall Buckley Park more accessible, enjoyable, and safe. And there are many ways anyone can help. Please read on!

Playground rehabilitation

GACDC's Park Committee is gearing up to rejuvenate the 40-year-old playground at Cantrall Buckley. Plans include rehabbing existing equipment to conform to current safety standards and replacing several structures. GACDC has worked closely with Applegate parents to

discuss project designs and meet the local community's needs and interests. So far, the \$57,000 project has attracted over \$50,000 in donations and pledges. All donors will be permanently recognized in the new community-inspired artwork coming to the park. Construction is set to begin this coming fall. See the accompanying box to find out how you can help us reach our goal.

Enchanted Turtle Habitat Playscape

In addition to playground rehab work, the Ford Institute Leadership Team (a volunteer group) is working to expand the play areas while informing the local community about the imperiled western pond turtle. This group will be building the Enchanted Turtle Habitat Playscape in Cantrall Buckley Park's playground. Did you know that the Applegate Watershed is home to this native turtle? You find these beautiful, shy, and quiet reptiles living in the river, lakes, ponds, and riparian

forests. However, their numbers are rapidly diminishing, and this playscape is a gentle way of educating children—and the rest of us while the children play.

The gem of the Enchanted Turtle Habitat Playscape is an artistic, locally made, colorful and fun concrete and tile turtle for children to climb on. A local Applegate artist, Jeremy Criswell, has been hired to design and build the play structure. Because every turtle needs a nice place to sun, large cedar logs and boulders will be installed for the young and the young of heart to play on. Educational signage will be installed near the play structure to inform families about the pond turtle's habitat and life cycle and what we can do to protect its home and habitat. For those who need a rest, a lovely bench will be installed near the playscape.

The group has already raised several thousand dollars and is close to reaching its goal. If you'd like to help finish the project, you can send a check to Ford Family Foundation, Enchanted Turtle Habitat Playscape, c/o GACDC, PO Box 3107, Applegate, OR 97530.

Hiking trails

We have hiking trails in the park! The Applegate Trails Association (ATA) is busy working to improve trail access, map trails, and install trail signage in Cantrall Buckley Park. Over a dozen volunteers recently attended an ATA work party and successfully cleared a majority of the trail adjacent to the river. The next phase of the project is to GPS the trail system so a map of the park and trails can be created. In addition, trail signage will be installed allowing visitors to find their way around the many trails.

Community collaboration

Volunteers working with these three organizations are collaborating on a single grant from the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District to fund several other park-wide projects, such as the development of educational kiosks, ecological interpretive signage, invasive species removal, and restoration of native

Donors

Here are recent donors to the Cantrall Buckley Park Playground Project and Turtle Playscape (with apologies to our Oregon endangered species).

Private Community

Grey Wolves (\$5,000+): Carpenter Foundation, West Family Foundation
Northern Spotted Owls (\$4,000+)
Marble Murrelets (\$3,000+)
Pacific Fishers (\$2,000+)
Oregon Spotted Frogs (\$1,000+):
Applegate-Jacksonville Rotary Club
Siskiyou Mountain Salamanders (\$500+): Anonymous (2)
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimps (\$1-\$500):
Robert Abernathy, Larry & Gaye Anderson, William & Alison Benton, Christopher Bratt, Larry & Shannon Buscho, Scott & Sara Cole, Cassandra & Gary Connor, P. Gordon, Robert Jones, Michael & Schuyler Loos, Annette Parsons, Joan Peterson

Business Community

Applegate Store & Cafe
Pioneer Financial Planning, Jacksonville
Savannah Fine Linens, Jacksonville

Collection Boxes

Community collection boxes are located at the Ruch Country Store, Provolt Store, Applegate Store & Cafe, and Ruch Hardware-Tiff's Trading Post. Total collected: \$558.

A huge "Thank You" goes out to all our donors!

We have now received over \$50,000 in donations and pledges (including in-kind labor) toward our goal of \$57,000!

•
Checks can be mailed to GACDC, PO Box 3107, Applegate, OR 97530.

Photo left: Audrey Eldridge (right) with the Ford Institute Leadership Team, and Lori Tella with Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, plan for native plant restoration in the park. Photo by Tom Carstens.



Photo below: Imperiled pond turtle sculpture, inspiration for the new turtle art piece being created for Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo by Yathin S. Krishnappa.



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BIRD EXPLORER

The story of Acorn Woodpeckers

BY PETER J. THIEMANN

In the Applegate Valley and all through southern Oregon where there are oak trees, you may find the “clowns” of the woodpecker tribe: the Acorn Woodpeckers. They are highly sociable and visible as they often work in family groups.

In dead trunks of trees or in the bark of live trees, they create food storage granaries with many holes. On live trees the holes are shallow and do not penetrate deep or kill a tree. There is one large live ponderosa granary tree in the TouVelle State Recreation Area on the Rogue River

that has tens of thousands of acorn storage holes. These granaries are maintained constantly by the woodpecker group and defended by chasing away squirrels and other birds. Half of their food comes from acorns, especially in winter, and in spring and summer they glean insects from new growth in oak trees and even catch them on the fly.

Acorn woodpeckers breed in colonies consisting of several male breeders, a number of egg-laying females, and many more male and female

nonbreeding helpers. The females lay eggs in common nest cavities and often destroy or remove eggs that have been laid before their own first eggs. None will survive until all females in the group have laid their eggs. When the last eggs are laid, they are incubated by females, and all adults in the group raise the young.

Nonbreeding helpers from outside the group will compete for vacancies, both male and female, to prevent incest. Sometimes helpers have to wait for years while looking for an opportunity to become part of the breeding group of another colony.

By late April, the young Acorn Woodpeckers are fully grown and are looking just like the adults. Sometimes they follow the adults from tree to tree, spreading their wings upon landing on a tree, begging for food. Much activity can be seen around their favorite

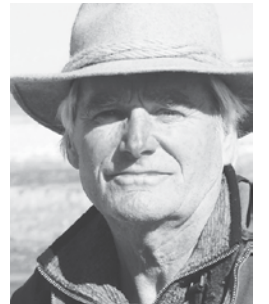
granary tree holes as parents are stuffing freshly caught insects into holes to be retrieved by a frenzied gang of youngsters—quite a scene!

As we are experiencing climate change, it is ever more important to recognize how bird populations adjust. Observing wild birds in natural habitats helps us understand this dynamic process. A decline of a specific bird species has implications far beyond the loss of joy a bird sighting may bring.

The Acorn Woodpecker has two subspecies, one in the dryer Southwest, and the other in the three Pacific states. As the California drought pushes some bird species to the north, we may see the southwestern subspecies of Acorn Woodpecker here in Oregon soon, as has happened with other bird species. Keeping our oak savannah in southern Oregon healthy and intact should be a priority.

Go out to experience the “clowns” of the woodpecker tribe—they are a great show in nature.

Peter J. Thiemann
peterjthiemann@yahoo.com



Peter J. Thiemann

Acorn Woodpecker photos courtesy of Peter J. Thiemann, Flickr photo stream.



‘Nature’s benefits’ and the Applegate AMA

BY DON BOUCHER

As we shared in the previous edition of the *Applegater*, the US Forest Service (USFS) is developing a strategy to implement needed restoration in the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA). Restoration includes vegetation management, wildlife and aquatic habitat improvement, hazardous-fuels reduction in the interface area adjacent to homes, infrastructure maintenance, and other projects that will help maintain a more resilient ecosystem that is able to withstand major disturbance agents such as fire or insects and address a changing climate. By the end of this summer, we hope to have identified high-priority projects on which to begin work.

Nature’s benefits

Currently, the Interdisciplinary Team is utilizing an approach that focuses on the benefits that nature provides. These values are sometimes called “ecosystem services,” though we prefer the term “nature’s benefits.” Simply put, nature’s benefits are goods and services, including water quantity and quality, timber and nontimber forest products, soil health, wildlife habitat, aquatic habitat, recreation opportunities and cultural enrichment, as well as the intrinsic value of nature, among some others.

This approach is built around three fundamental questions:

1. Why are forests important for human well-being?
2. What ecological structures, processes, and functions sustain the benefits that people value?
3. How does our management affect ecological conditions and benefits?

In other words, this approach is built on understanding the condition of the landscape and implications for sustaining

nature’s benefits over time. Considering ecosystem services also encourages interdisciplinary understanding across resource areas. For example:

How do soil-plant associations help us identify sites that are suitable for specific uses (forest products, habitat, water quality improvements, etc.)?

How does geologic context help us identify critical groundwater inputs?

Based on our understanding of potential habitats and areas that are critical for delivering wood and gravels for fisheries, which culvert(s) should we prioritize for replacement?

We are also considering how a single, strategically located action could result in multiple benefits across domains. Vegetation treatments, for example, can enhance habitat connectivity, provide structural complexity, reduce fire risk, generate forest products, and contribute to local economic well-being. Understanding ecological context can help us identify sites on the landscape that are most conducive to beneficial outcomes.

This process is participatory and collaborative. There is a great opportunity for coordinated cross-jurisdictional management in the Applegate AMA. Utilizing the adaptive management approach outlined in the Northwest Forest Plan and the Applegate AMA Guide, we can develop methods that will best reflect the needs of the land and communities. Learning will include social and political knowledge, not just biological and physical information.

“Story maps”

As part of the planning process, USFS specialists have been developing maps that display key information about the Applegate Watershed. These maps include

information on geology, landforms, soils, hydrology, aquatic and terrestrial habitats, plant associations, fire history, infrastructure, insect and disease risk areas, land allocations, fire regimes, and other pertinent information. This isn’t by itself unique. What will be beneficial for residents is that this mapped information will be published as a “story map.”

A story map will let us present a series of maps on an Internet site to show different data for the same location, such as a set of thematic maps about a sub-watershed. In addition, the user will be able to zoom into an area or pan to look at adjacent areas. These maps will also include images, video, and web content to provide further information.

Though this information is being compiled for USFS lands at this time, we are beginning to engage with specialists

from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to expand this work to BLM-managed lands and ultimately, with cooperation from private landowners, cover the entire Applegate Watershed.

Currently, we are beginning the process of engaging with local community members to discuss thoughts and ideas around implementation of restoration projects. Part of the vision is described in the Applegate AMA Guide: “Management actions in the Adaptive Management Area are completed with full public involvement and disclosure. Relationships between communities and agency personnel are open and honest; information is easily accessible.”

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Applegate AMA Team Leader
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
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Oregon universities go environmentally friendly

BY MELISSA RHODES

Waste at Oregon universities has been steadily decreasing due to a newfound environmental awareness among students and faculty. They take pride in giving extra care to the environment by reducing electricity, fuel, and solid waste. Oregon universities place trash bins all over campuses, which separate waste into three bins: landfill, recycling, and paper. Separation of waste is critical to avoid a toxic methane gas that is produced when different garbage types mix in a landfill.

These universities find noteworthy ways to help protect the environment:

Southern Oregon University (SOU) educates students to be proactive toward environmental problems. Some students run environmentally friendly projects, such as zero waste; others hope to build a recycling center, while many others repurpose things for their art. SOU sustainability and recycling employee Roxane Beigel Coryel said, "SOU works to educate the campus to reduce generated waste and to divert as much waste as possible from the landfill via reuse, recycling and composting. We are also continuously striving to reduce energy use on campus by upgrading lighting, investing in more efficient equipment, and infusing green building practices in all renovation and new construction projects." In particular, the on-campus dorms are almost self-sustained by using solar panels built onto the roofs. Green lighting not only saves energy and lasts longer, but also reduces glass, plastic, and gas waste by simply reducing the number of light bulbs used.

University of Oregon's student-run "Campus Zero Waste Program" takes "environmentally friendly" to a new level by separating compost, white paper, mixed paper, cartons/glass/metal/plastic, and garbage in every building. They also accept toner cartridges, cell phones, lights, batteries, cassette tapes and more.

Oregon State University also encourages students to produce less waste. An example is Dixon Recreational Center,



which houses two cardio rooms, two weight rooms, two gyms, six racquetball courts, three squash courts, three multipurpose rooms, a 42-foot-tall climbing wall, a one-tenth mile indoor track, a 25-yard pool, a dive well, a hot tub, three sand volleyball courts, and the Adventure Leadership Institute. The giant building is totally powered by the users' efforts. "Oregon State University is very environmentally friendly!" exclaims student Samantha Damon. "Dixon runs completely off the treadmills and machines. I like that it uses no outside power."

Western Oregon University's club, The Green Team, promotes "save the environment, save the world" as they try to educate students to recycle and reuse water bottles and other products. Eighty-four percent of used water bottles will end up in landfills or littering streets where they can make their way to our rivers, lakes or oceans through the storm-drain system. Western Oregon University specifically invites students and staff to buy reusable water bottles in order to lower the amount of plastic wasted or littered. "To sustain is to continue" is student Miranda Sommer's environmental mentality.

For more information about zero-waste campuses across the country, visit <http://www.grn.org/page/zero-waste-campuses>.

Melissa Rhodes
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Melissa is currently a junior at SOU and plans to pursue a master's degree in English. We thank her for volunteering to research and write this article and take photos.

ZERO WASTE

FROM PAGE 1

businesses and communities that work together with government and industry to promote a zero waste future. They define the practice as "designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials [and to] conserve and recover all resources, not [to] burn or bury them." Their goal is to eliminate "all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health."

Although no business in southern Oregon has yet achieved official "zero waste" status, many are working hard to reduce waste that ends in landfills. The Ecology and Sustainability Resource Center at Southern Oregon University,

for instance, has recently been given a silver rating and a "five out of five" status by The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. See the "Oregon universities" article on this page for examples of what SOU and other Oregon universities are doing to work toward zero waste and help protect the environment.

Applegate businesses and community groups can join the zero waste effort, too. Go to the website of the Zero Waste International Alliance, <http://zwia.org>, for inspiration and information.

Imagine what we could do by eliminating all waste. Imagine the future.

Heather Murphy

junestar108@gmail.com

Moving toward a zero waste lifestyle

Here are a few ways to start living the zero-waste lifestyle to prevent waste in the various aspects of your life (from onegreenplanet.org).

1. Down with disposables.

The kitchen is filled with disposable items that are responsible for a whole lot of waste. Try these alternatives instead:

- Replace paper towels with reusable rags.
- Pack meals with reusable sandwich bags.
- Use non-disposable or biodegradable dinnerware.
- Bring your own shopping bags.
- Try earth-friendly sponges.

2. Buy in bulk.

Disposable containers generate 13 million tons of plastic waste in the US. Taking a few minutes of planning before you head to the grocery store can help eliminate that waste. Bring mason jars to the grocery store to hold bulk items or foods from the deli counter. Check out zero waste shopping from Trash is for Tossers at <http://www.trashisfortossers.com/2013/08/zero-waste-food-shopping.html>.

Consider buying bulk castile soap to use as hand and dish cleaner instead of buying a bunch of little bottles of different cleaners. Castile soap can also be used as body wash and shampoo.

3. Love your leftovers.

Forty percent of all food goes to waste in the US. Check out these recipes from We Hate to Waste at <http://www.wehatewaste.com/recipes/> and learn to love your leftovers. Whatever can't be salvaged should be composted!

4. Shop secondhand.

Carbon Trust estimates that three percent of global CO₂ emissions are associated with the purchase and use of clothing. This number includes outsourced production, shipping, washing, and drying. Shopping secondhand saves good clothing from a landfill and reduces the overall demand for clothing production.

5. Take care of clothes.

Buying fewer items of higher quality will save you money in the long run and make it more likely you will take the time to mend rips and tears instead of throwing out an article of clothing.

6. Bring your lunch. According to RecycleWorks.org, disposable lunches (to-go packaging, plastic utensils, etc.) generate 100 pounds of trash per person annually. Check out these waste-free lunch supplies from ReUseIt.com and save some waste and money as well (<http://www.reuseit.com/waste-free-lunch.htm>).

7. Go digital. The average office worker uses two pounds of paper per day! Take notes on your laptop and communicate with your colleagues via email rather than using paper.

8. Recycle. Unless your office has gone completely paperless, chances are there are stacks of paper that could be recycled. While reusable water bottles are the *best* option, any plastic water bottles should be recycled as well. Introduce a recycling bin to your office. You can even make a game out of it with help from Recyclebank (www.recyclebank.com).

9. Simplify cleaning supplies.

White vinegar and baking soda are your new best friends. These all-natural alternatives to dangerous chemical cleaners are versatile and effective and eliminate plastic bottle waste.

Check out this link for a list of zero waste alternatives for all your bathroom supplies: www.trashisfortossers.com/2013/08/zero-waste-alternatives-ultimate-list.html.

10. Make your own cosmetics.

Save money, avoid harsh chemicals, plastic containers, and packaging by making your own cosmetics. Check out Free People's blog for instructions on how to make your own natural cheek and lip stains, perfume, shampoo, make-up remover, and more (<http://blog.freepeople.com/?s=natural+make+up>).

These are only a few of the ways you can live with less waste. For more information on adopting a zero-waste lifestyle, check out these other resources:

- www.zerowastehome.com
- www.storyofstuff.org
- www.yesmagazine.org/planet/42-ways-to-not-make-trash
- www.trashisfortossers.com
- www.utne.com/environment/zero-waste-living-ze0z1306zpit.aspx

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Winged beauties of summer

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Hoffman's Checkerspot

The wingspan of a Hoffman's Checkerspot (*Chlosyne hoffmanni*), a butterfly of the Nymphalidae family, is usually around one and three-quarters inches. The closed wing or underside of the hind wing spots are more of a creamy off-white color than bright white. Rows of spots have distinct thicker black outlines.

The Hoffman's has a narrow range of distribution in the Cascades through Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. South of Oregon the narrow range extends through the Sierra Nevada mountains of California.

This butterfly lives in various mountain habitats: meadows, streamsides, and openings at edges of forests, including old forest roads.

The larvae of Hoffman's Checkerspot feed on various native asters; adults feed on flower nectar. Eggs are laid in groups on the underside of host plant leaves. Young larvae overwinter (hibernate).

The butterfly can be seen in flight from May through September with June and July being peak months. They have been observed and counted at the summer Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Butterfly Count. Last year a group of us saw one on a moist old logging road that ran through the forest.

The photo here was taken in July at Lassen Volcanic National Park, where I saw these butterflies on a few trails from highest to lower elevations. The butterfly pictured allowed me a lengthy and close-up photo shoot on the banks of a creek on a very warm but pleasant day. It was a nice end to a long hike.

Red-winged Wave Moth

The Red-winged Wave (*Dasyfidonia avuncularia*) is a moth belonging to the Geometridae family. Its wingspan reaches



Hoffman's Checkerspot Butterfly



Red-winged Wave Moth

up to 1.8 inches. The Red-winged Wave moth has a wide distribution in the forests of western North America. It can be seen in flight from April through July.

A known larval food plant for this moth in the Pacific Northwest is bitter cherry. Adult food is the nectar of fruit trees and ceanothus, as well as puddling. Puddling is a common behavior of moths and butterflies to obtain nutrients from wet or damp areas found on forest roads or anywhere a puddle of water or dried up puddle may be found.

The adult moth is day-flying (diurnal) and is not known to come to light, so the best chances of seeing it may be on a sunny part of a forest road. Because it is

a day-flying moth, with bright colors and a wing shape similar to a butterfly's, it is often mistaken as a butterfly.

I found the pictured Red-winged Wave puddling on a forest road with other day-flying moths and some butterflies. I have seen this moth only one or two times in the last five years. This year, however, there seems to be an abundance of them throughout the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

In spring sunlight, this stunning moth, with its striated lines and blend of colors, reminded me of a brightly colored metallic watercolor painting.

Linda Kappen
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Cultivate your sense of wonder

BY KATHLEEN PYLE

Ever notice reddish plumes blooming every April above that blind curve on Highway 238? How about the snag that hosts a flock of sun-worshipping turkey vultures near Cantrall Buckley Park? Our bioregion is full of natural wonders. Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) offers a summer slate of field classes designed to answer the whats, whys and wheres underlying those wonders.

Classes exploring our Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion's botany, geology, birds, invertebrates, and watersheds vary in length from one to three days. Some include camping; most involve hiking. Two classes are priced especially for family budgets. All promise to deliver authentic learning experiences that expand your understanding of how our mountains and valleys formed, what grows here and why, and how to identify the many birds visiting our area. We also offer classes that will build your confidence while embarking on your own wilderness adventures.

Embraced by mountains

The unusual east-westerly direction of the Klamath-Siskiyou mountain range and its lack of glaciation—plus relatively mild winters—has created protective habitats for old-growth forests and the animals and plants that depend on them. Harsher habitats, on serpentine slopes and canyons, have fostered rare plants that evolved in their tolerance for heavy metals and low nutrition.

Interested in helping to classify plants in some of these lesser-botanized areas? Then consider joining two SFI classes: "Botanizing Poker Flat and Bolan Peak" and "The Cryptic World of Red Buttes Wilderness." In the midsummer "Botanizing Observation Peak," we'll explore a high-elevation serpentine ridge with its own unique flora. In "Exploring Conifer Country in the Russian Wilderness," we'll trek to Little Duck Lake and see 17 different conifer species in a granitic area referred to as the bioregion's botanical "Miracle Mile."

How it all happened

The Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion is a geologist's delight. From the Josephine

ophiolite showing Illinois Valley geologic history in a visible layer cake and the green serpentine slopes of Smith River Canyon on Highway 199, to the volcanic splendors eastward in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, there's a lot of rocky terrain to explore. Consider joining our tour of "Smith River Canyon's Serpentine Geology/Ecology," or hiking some geological history in "Geology of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument," or getting the whole-picture view of "Geology of the Recent Siskiyou" in a van trip from Selma to Port Orford. There's fun learning for the entire family in "Rock Hounding on Brown Mountain," Mt. McLoughlin's sister peak.

From desert to forest

Speaking of volcanic, SFI sponsors two 2015 field courses at Lava Beds National Monument (LBNM). The first, in early June, focuses on the Monument's flora and bird life in varied habitats including sagebrush steppe, cave, ponderosa pine forest, and grassland. Botanist Sean Smith has just published a book on LBNM flora, and all students in the class will receive a copy. Frank Lospalluto will guide us on the birding segment. In July, we'll return to the monument to study bats and cave ecology.

Two of our classes will study forests. "Spirit of the Forest in Words and Photos" combines photography and nature writing with coaching by two published artists: local writer Diana Coogle and Washington State photographer Mark Turner. As you learn to capture the spirit of the forest, you'll uncover your own creative spirit. In July, a one-day class on dendrology, the science of tree rings, will give you clues for unraveling the mystery of calculating tree ages.

Skill builders

If you have a summer goal of honing your outdoor skills, consider the one-day "Orienteering," a hands-on guide to using compasses, navigating by solar position, and reading maps. Two local herbalists will teach "A Beginner's Guide to Medicinal Plants," starting with some basic botany and ending with the formulation of your own herbal product to take home.

Looking toward fall, our class schedule offers a birding class that combines visual identification skills with smartphone apps for reference.

Siskiyou Field Institute has also scheduled a professional workshop for specialized study of plant groups, including willows, eriogonums (buckwheats), lichens, and graminoids (rushes, sedges and grasses).

If you're a Jackson or Josephine County teacher or classroom assistant, or nonprofit outdoor educator, a scholarship could help subsidize or pay your total tuition. These are made possible through the Rogue Valley and Siskiyou Audubon Societies. Contact SFI's program coordinator Kathleen Pyle

at programcoord@thesfi.org for more information.

For more details on our field course schedule, free Friday Night Learning events, or youth camps and wilderness trips, visit www.thesfi.org or call 541-597-8530.

Kathleen Pyle

programcoord@thesfi.org

* That's Indian warrior (*Pedicularis densiflora*), a hemiparasitic plant that often parasitizes manzanita roots.

** Turkey vultures migrate from Northern California in the spring, often flying north in the thermals along the Rogue River. Any guess why they roost (not nest) near the highway?

Two crops for the price of one

BY JONATHAN SPERO

One advantage of smaller scale in farming is the ability to inter-crop—to have more than one crop growing in the same area. This past year I grew both sweet corn and kale for seed on the same plot.

Corn grows from spring till fall. Kale, for seed, is planted midsummer and overwinters to flower in the spring and make seeds the following summer. Once I harvest the corn, it is too late to plant the kale. So I decided to "double-crop"—to seed the kale in between the corn rows.

I plant my corn using a two-foot/four-foot spacing by planting two rows two feet apart followed by a four-foot space. The four-foot space is weeded with a rototiller, then seeded with a cover crop as the corn matures in August. Usually the two-foot rows I keep weeded with a wheel hoe, but this time I planted kale down the middle. Shade from the corn would slow down the kale, so I seeded in July instead of August, sprinkling seeds between the rows of corn.

The corn did indeed keep the kale suppressed. When I harvested the corn, the kale plants were small and stunted. But the corn harvest was in no way diminished by the kale at its feet. And when I mowed the corn and weeded and thinned, the kale jumped back, even though it was already



Siber Frill kale in bloom at the end of April.

October. By December the kale plants had recovered and were growing. The rows are six feet apart with corn "stumps" and a strip of cover crop clover down the middle. If all goes well, the kale will flower in the spring and go on to produce seed.

When people claim that "conventional" agriculture is more productive than organic methods of growing, they are only considering one crop at a time. Maybe the corn is a little less productive than corn grown with more chemicals, and maybe the kale quantity could be a little higher with a monoculture, but I have both crops at once, on the same ground, and I do not think any monoculture can match that.

The stand of Siber Frill kale is about 80 percent full and was in full flower at the end of April. In a few spots the weeds overtook the emerging kale. There was no loss in the corn from combining these two crops.

Jonathan Spero
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USFS taking action: Trash mars headwater streams of Applegate River

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Mattresses, beer bottles, car parts, broken camping gear, plastic wrappers, carpets, diapers, bags of household garbage—these are some of the many items dumped by campers and recreationalists on headwater streams of the Applegate River, namely the Middle Fork of the Applegate, Carberry Creek and Elliott Creek. Nestled at the base of the Siskiyou Crest and the Red Buttes Wilderness, this area is one of the Applegate Valley's premier recreation areas, including the Middle Fork National Recreation Trail. It is not uncommon that large bags of left-behind trash are torn apart and strewn about by wildlife on the banks of these beautiful mountain streams.

From the gold rush era up until the 1980s, there were cabins on federal mining claims on these streams; however, fast forward to 2015 and these old cabin sites have become de facto camping and recreation spots—what the US Forest Service (USFS) calls “dispersed recreation.” Because this area is not an official campground, there is no trash service, campsite maintenance, or fees.

“Trash is an ongoing problem primarily during the hot summer months when visitor use is higher and people want to camp,” said Brian Long, recreation program manager for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

Brian couldn't say for sure why this problem is occurring, but he attributed it in part to the growth of the Rogue Valley. “With more and more people moving there, visitation has increased and oftentimes more visitation means more trash,” he pointed out. He thought another reason could be a lack of education on proper camping techniques. “Many of the

people who camp there are inexperienced and infrequent campers and aren't fully aware of the ‘pack it in, pack it out’ procedures,” he said. “In some instances I suspect that dumping trash there is a cheaper alternative than taking it to a legal dump. In fact, last year on a district clean-up day I found a discarded lawn mower.”

USFS has tried to address this issue for years through patrols of the area by fire prevention staff, recreation personnel and law enforcement, sometimes handing out trash bags to visitors and campers. They have also installed educational and informational signs to encourage trash removal and organized clean-up days with local partners, residents, and volunteers.

The efforts of USFS are often stymied because a large portion of the area affected by this trash dumping is just over the border in California. “Some of our partners who help with our recreation projects are restricted to specific counties or states, so we can't use their services in the Middle Fork area, since it is in California and not Oregon, or in Siskiyou County and not Jackson County. Also, at times the number of visitors is overwhelming for our current workforce and we are not able to spend the amount of time there that may be necessary to adequately address the problem,” Brian said.

Because of these challenges, the USFS is looking to take further action. “The Middle Fork is a nice area—great swimming, nice scenery, good hiking—and it is free. We don't want to block all access, but ideally we would like to either charge the visitors or change their thinking so they take better care of

the area. Last year we visited all the campsites to determine future management of each, and we are working toward blocking off or installing barriers to discourage use in some locations. We have also talked about developing a closure order that would restrict alcohol consumption, which might help with the party atmosphere that has developed there,” Brian said.

In Curry County, on the southern Oregon coast, a group of local citizens formed a nonprofit group called the Trash Dogs (www.trashdogs.org) to tackle a similar problem in their area. Its mission statement: “The Trash Dogs is a volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining trash-free national forestlands and all roads in Curry County, Oregon.” Its motto: “Cleaning up the forest, one big pile at a time.” Some expenses are funded through USFS via Title II grant funds.

According to Donna Mickley, Siskiyou Mountains district ranger, the Trash Dogs have been an incredible asset for the national forest. “If there were volunteers willing to assist us in a similar way with cleanup in these dispersed recreation sites during the summer months, it would help us immensely,” said Donna. Having participated in camp cleanups



Carpets are clearly visible in this trashed dispersed campsite on the Middle Fork of the Applegate River. Photo by Suzie Savoie.



Another trashed dispersed campsite, this one on Elliott Creek. Photo by Suzie Savoie.

in the Middle Fork area, Donna knows firsthand what kind of trash is dumped or left behind by campers.

Applegaters take pride in the quality of the public land that surrounds the valley, and many want to see the Middle Fork area treated with the respect it deserves. “It would be nice to see visitors take care of it as if it were their own backyard. Since it is public land, in many ways it is every US citizen's backyard,” said Brian.

Suzie Savoie
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Boy Scouts clean gravestones in Logtown Cemetery

Logtown Cemetery welcomed another visit from Boy Scout Troop 7. Connor McKeenan, who is working towards his Eagle Scout badge, proposed a community service project that would facilitate the cleaning of headstone markers in the cemetery. Connor and members of his troop, friends, and family, spent hours cleaning 400 gravestones in the oldest part of the cemetery.

Although many volunteers come together to clean the property twice a year, very little time is available to maintain gravestones—many markers were unreadable because of years of neglect. The people who are buried in the cemetery were pioneers, veterans, and people who helped shape southern Oregon. Because of Connor and his team, their names and the



dates of their lives are visible once more. One individual was born in 1796; another had a fishing pole, line, lure, and a trout engraved into the marker—all previously unknown to us and now visible to all.

Thank you Boy Scout Troop 7.
Scott Traina
s.traina@charter.net



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JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

— Applegate Library —

Summer is upon us and what a great time to be at the library! “Summer Reading” will begin on June 12 at 2 pm. Reading is a great activity during the summer. We have books on camping, hiking, water safety, planting—you name it, we can find something for you!

But first, great news! The new Library District has approved a Nonresident Library card effective July 1, 2015.

Here is a look at what is happening at Applegate Library this summer:

June 13. “Superfoods” with nutritionist Barrett Gifford, 2 - 3 pm. Informative talk on healthy foods.

June 19. Weaving with Thalia Truesdell, 3 - 5 pm. Come and learn how to weave natural materials into great masterpieces.

June 23. Map it Out, 2 to 5 pm. Be creative with maps. Arts/craft.

July 10. Face painting with local artist Angela, 2 to 6 pm.

July 10. Book talk with Anna Monders, 3 to 5 pm. Book talk and recycle craft fun, ages 10 and up.

July 15. Firefighter Randi Ann Martin and Smokey Bear, 12 to 1 pm. Applegate student follows her dreams to

become a firefighter. Encouragement for boys and girls to find and follow the hero within. Enjoy a visit by Smokey Bear.

July 24. “Aquaman” with John Jackson, 2:30 to 3:30 pm. This program highlights seashells, plant life, and preserved animal life and features sea life coloring pages, real seashell souvenirs, and take-home guides.

July 28. Rich Glauber, 2 to 3 pm. Music educator who specializes in creating interactive musical experiences for participants of all ages.

August 4. Recycled t-shirt capes, 4 to 5 pm. Enjoy the afternoon transforming t-shirts into superhero capes.

Storytime is every Saturday at 10 am with a craft following, and Game Night is on the last Friday of the month at 5 pm.

Jackson County Library Director Kim Wolfe retired on April 30. It was a pleasure to work with Kim—she taught me courage, confidence and patience. Thanks for believing in me, Kim!

Come enjoy the fun!

For more information, contact branch manager Lisa Martin at 541-846-7346 or lmartin@jcls.org.

— Ruch Library —

Ruch Library is gearing up for an exciting summer of programs, story times, and air conditioning, and we hope to see you often.

Preschool story times are Tuesdays at 11:30 am. Babies and Wobblers story time for children three and younger is Thursdays at 4 pm with lots of movement and rhyme to cultivate early literacy. The Summer Reading Program, “Every Hero Has a Story,” begins June 6 and offers incentives, activities, prizes, and fun for *all* ages!

We also have several fun and educational programs this summer:

Saturday, June 13, 1 to 2 pm: “Beneficial Insects, the Heroes of the Garden” with Gail Saito. Create seed balls to toss (plant) to grow plants that attract these beneficial insects. For all ages; sign-up required.

Thursday, June 18, 2 to 3 pm: “Heroes Among Us: Volunteer Firefighting.” Meet Randi Ann Martin, Applegate’s youngest firefighter, and learn what it is like to be in the fire department as a woman, teenager, and student. Randi Ann will have activities for all ages.

Thursday, June 25, 2 to 3 pm: “Real Heroes Don’t Wear Capes!” with Amber Bishop. Children ages three and up will explore the concept of “heroes” with a simple but engaging discussion of everyday heroes—from doctors and search-and-rescue dogs to adoptive pet owners and political activists. Children will also make an upcycled flower pot and plant a tree to take home and nurture as a reminder of their hero potential.

Thursday, July 2, 2 to 4 pm: Anna Monders will present a mini book talk coupled with a craft project: “Found Object Animals: Create Your Own Creature from Everyday Materials,” for ages 10 and up.

Saturday, July 25, 1 to 3 pm: “Robots!” Create a cardboard robot (and give it pretend superpowers). For all ages.

Tuesday, July 28, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm: “Music in Action.” Rich Glauber, a gifted troubadour/music educator, specializes in creating interactive musical experiences for participants of all ages. His performance is an upbeat mix of songs, creative movement, storytelling and comedy, all imbued with a healthy dose of good, clean fun.

Saturday, August 1, 2 to 4 pm: “Folk Heroes who Shaped World History.” Join members of the Applegate community as they present songs, live dioramas, stories, and skits about famous and infamous folk heroes throughout history. Learn the truth (?) about Billy the Kid, Pocahontas, Robin Hood, and more. For all ages.

Thursday, August 6, 1:30 to 2:30 pm: Bats with John Jackson. It’s all about these flying mammals and their important role in the ecosystem.

The program features preserved bat specimens as well as a bat skeleton and bat echolocation sounds. The audience receives instructions on building a bat house, bat identification sheets, and bat coloring pages.

For more information, contact branch manager Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-7438 or ttruesdell@jcls.org.



— Williams Branch Library —

Free summer fun for the family Adopt-an-Hour Success.

Williams Friends of the Library’s third annual Yard Sale Fundraiser was a huge success! Thank you, community, for raising \$1,970 towards the Adopt-an-Hour Program, and thank you, Herb Pharm, for matching the community’s contribution. The Adopt-an-Hour Program guarantees that our library will remain open three extended hours per week for another year (12 hours per week). Anyone interested in contributing to the Adopt-an-Hour Program, please visit josephinelibrary.org to make a secure online donation, or stop by the Williams branch library.

Williams Friends of the Library meets the last Tuesday of each month at noon. Everyone is welcome to this informal group. Opportunities include helping with programs, events, and tasks to keep our branch vibrant and strong.

Summer Reading Program. The children’s Summer Reading Program begins June 20 and runs through August 1. Children are rewarded for reading with weekly prizes. Crafts and gardening projects are also offered. Keep those reading skills sharp through the summer! Sign-up begins in June.

Literacy in the Garden. Our library has joined with Williams Elementary School to share the wonderful garden located right behind the library. Garden classes, workshops with special guests, craft projects, and more are offered free of charge to families throughout the growing season. This program combines library resources, including books and research databases, with hands-on experiences for children of all ages. Volunteers share their unique skills while working with



Jade enjoys craft time in the garden.

the children in the garden. For more information, contact Danielle Schreck at dschreck@josephinelibrary.org or call the Williams branch at 541-846-7020.

Preschool Storytime is an ongoing program held on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm, with stories followed by a craft project.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. We are currently in need of volunteers to work the front desk and to help with the children’s Summer Reading Program, Literacy in the Garden, book sales, and other events.

To join Friends of the Library, volunteer, or share your skills with local children, please stop by the library.

The Williams branch library is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 1 to 5 pm. The Wi-Fi hotspot is free 24/7.

For more information, contact branch manager Danielle Schreck at dschreck@josephinelibrary.org or call the Williams branch at 541-846-7020.

Friends of Ruch Library seeks program ideas and volunteers

It isn’t Ruch’s best-kept secret, but there is a good chance you have never been to visit the A-frame Bookstore. It is next to the Ruch Library and has some of the best book bargains in Jackson County. A dollar and a half will get you a hardback, including recent best sellers; a dollar provides access to a wide selection of trade paperbacks. Children’s books are less. CDs and DVDs are also available.

Saving money on a great book bargain is only the beginning of the story, however. The Friends of the Ruch Library (FORL) operates the A-frame. The money people spend on books goes toward helping the library. For a while, when Jackson County’s budget was extremely tight, these funds, plus generous donations from the community of Ruch, played a vital role in keeping the library open.

“We owe a deep vote of gratitude to the volunteers and community members who gave so much during the hard times,” said Peggy Mekemson, the newly elected president of FORL (and my wife). “Fortunately, the recent creation of the Jackson County Library District guarantees continued funding for the library. We are now free to return to FORL’s 32-year history of providing programs and other types of support that enrich the contributions the library offers the people of Ruch and the surrounding community.”

FORL’s officers and board members have jumped into planning programs for the coming year. In addition to Peggy,

officers include Kaye Clayton as vice president, Cynthia Cheney as secretary, and Bryan della Santina as treasurer. Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month in the Ruch Library Community Room from 6:30 to 8 pm. Agendas are posted on the library bulletin board and on FORL’s Facebook page. Public input is always welcome.

The meeting on June 4 will be focused on planning library programs for the coming year. “We would love to hear from members of the community about the type of programs they would like to see,” Peggy noted. “Come by, meet the new board, and share your ideas,” she urged. “Refreshments will be served.”

Another opportunity to meet FORL volunteers, and buy books, is at Buncom Day on Saturday, May 30, from 10 am to 3 pm in the old Buncom post office.

“Our ability to serve the library and the community is totally dependent on volunteer support and donations,” Peggy said. “Opportunities to help include serving two-hour shifts at the A-frame, donating books to be sold, volunteering for community events such as Buncom Day and our seasonal book sales, and making

financial donations for the ongoing support of the organization. Memberships in FORL are also available.”

The A-frame Bookstore is open Tuesdays from 12 to 4 pm, Thursdays from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturdays from 12 to 4 pm.

Curtis Mekemson
curtandpeg@aol.com



NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— Applegate Food Pantry —

The Applegate Food Pantry is doing well and continuing to support this community, but our role in managing it is coming to an end and this will likely be our last update (more about that later). The new manager, Charlotte Knott, is doing a great job, and we thank her for her efforts and wish her well.

There is an ongoing need for volunteers, particularly to help in the back room filling boxes with canned and boxed goods and bringing them to our clients. If you can spare a few hours on a Monday, even just once a month, please call Charlotte at 541-899-8381.

Some people have been dropping off non-food items (like old electronic equipment) by the loading dock of the Ruch School where the pantry is located. Please *don't* leave non-food items there. The pantry is able to accept donations of food items only and cannot accept other types of items, nor does the school have the resources to deal with them. There are electronic recycling locations in Jackson County where these can be discarded at no charge. (For more information, go to roguedisposal.com/e-waste-disposal.)

The green-bag program is continuing, but since the number of bags being turned in at the Applegate Store has dwindled to a very small number and it's a long extra drive for Charlotte, please drop off your bags at the Ruch Store only. The remaining drop-off dates for the rest of the year are: June 13, August 8, October 10, and December 12.

Summer hours: From June 15 to September 7, the pantry will be open from 10 to 11:30 am on Mondays. Then regular hours from 11:30 am to 1 pm will resume.

Now for a personal note: It has been 12 years since Arlene first wrote an article for the *Applegater* about the trials and tribulations of moving to the country for us former city folks, and nine years since we began volunteering at the food pantry. It has been a wonderful journey and of all the places we have lived, this is probably the place we have felt most connected to. This is a wonderful community, and we were thrilled to make so many friends here. The Applegate is a very special place.

So it is with much regret that we are leaving and moving to Medford. Taking care of a seven-acre property and a large tri-level home and commuting into town several times a week have just become too difficult for us. We probably could have held out a little longer, but we chose to make the move while we are still young and healthy enough to do so without it becoming an overwhelming task.

We know it's the right time for us, but we will certainly miss the quiet beauty of rural living and our friends (though we don't intend to lose them). We will miss waking up in the trees and the best weather in southern Oregon. We also know that we have experienced more kindness and generosity than we could have imagined. Of course there are a few things we won't miss, such as poison oak, the constant battle to find deer-resistant plants (I am convinced there are none), the turkeys pooping on our hot-tub cover, and the occasional bat that found its way into our home to dive bomb us!

Thank you all for being part of our Applegate experience.

Claude and Arlene Aron
541-951-6707

— For Love of the Applegate —

Paying it back...or forward

Once again, we want to share some of the wonderful work and opportunities about the many (more than 28) nonprofit-type organizations that make our lives in this valley so rich! Perhaps *you* should think about joining in on the efforts and become part of one or more of these groups.

Here is what several of these groups are providing to you and what they need right now:

The Applegate Trails Association (ATA) is a nonprofit Oregon group formed by community residents to develop a system of hiking, mountain-biking and equestrian trails in the mountains of the Applegate Valley. ATA is cooperating with public land agencies, community organizations, and private landowners to preserve and connect historic trails for future generations and to conserve our valley's valuable resources—the land, the views, and the biodiversity—for nonmotorized use by people of all ages and levels of ability.

Their most ambitious project, the Applegate Ridge Trail, will follow the ridgeline along the middle Applegate Valley, offering glorious panoramic views and displays of wildflowers. ATA has a hike every month and would love to have you join them. Please visit www.applegatetrails.org to see photos of the beautiful views from these hikes, maps of the trails, and the hiking schedule.

The ValleyCats, one of the newer musical groups in the Rogue Valley, performs in a variety of styles: light jazz, classic pop and standards, their interpretations of 60s rock favorites and of composers and performers of our time, with a little bluegrass, folk, and Broadway show tunes thrown in for good measure. The group, consisting of Kristi Cowles and Clint Driver, welcomes Crystal Reeves, who brings with her a lively violin, mandolin, and sweet vocal harmony.

The ValleyCats enjoy performing for friends (present and future) and have been known to sing and play for their supper. Mostly, though, they donate their talents and ask audiences (or hosts) to donate to nonprofit organizations in which they are involved—the Applegate Food Pantry (ACCESS), Habitat for Humanity, and local public libraries and schools. To schedule a performance, please contact Kristi Cowles at 541-846-7391.

The McKee Bridge Historical Society is a small group of volunteers who have tirelessly cared for McKee Bridge, one of only four covered bridges left in Jackson County (out of the original 100 or so). McKee Bridge was used for mining and logging traffic beginning in 1917. Then, in 1956, the bridge was declared unsafe for vehicular traffic. With the help of many other organizations, the bridge was restored for pedestrian use in 1965.

The years do take their toll, and once again major repairs were needed to keep the bridge safe. The McKee Bridge Historical Society raised over \$62,000 in matching funds in three years to accomplish this—and will be celebrating the opening of the newly restored bridge and cutting the ribbon on June 13 with their best party ever—a quilt show on the bridge, ribbon cutting with county officials, great food, music, vendors, ice cream floats, children's crafted boats in boat races, prizes, bake sale, craft sale, and a 50/50 raffle.

What a great community event for the young and old alike. For more information, contact Robert Van Heuit at 541-499-6132 or <http://www.mckeehistoricalcoveredbridge.org/>.

Please check out For Love of the Applegate's calendar on our website for more information about the happenings in the Applegate Valley along with contact information for all those organizations.

Thalia, Erika, Audrey and Kristi
www.forloveoftheapplegate.com

— Applegate Valley Community Grange —

Something new at the Applegate Grange

The Applegate Valley Community Grange (Grange) is hoping to be more open to the community by having monthly potlucks and community nights at the Grange. No meetings or business, just a social get-together with everyone invited and all sorts of possibilities: game nights, music jams and dancing, speakers and presenters, or whatever other suggestions we receive. We're looking for input on how to move forward, and welcome suggestions from anyone in the community. We have the facility and want it to be used to benefit the community in any way possible to enhance all our lives.

On May 10, we held a special Mother's Day Brunch at the Grange with the Cantrall Buckley Park Committee, which benefited the playground structure at the park.

Thank you for your support of all community nonprofits. We are the community we create!

For more information, contact Paul Tipton or Janis Mohr-Tipton at 541-846-7501 or applegategrange@gmail.com.



"Sargeant" Fran Hopkins sets up the food for the Mother's Day Brunch. Photo by Tom Carstens.



Teri Caldwell pulls a casserole out of the oven at the Mother's Day Brunch. Photo by Tom Carstens.

Wayside parking lot: Reflections from the GACDC

As many of you are aware, the former Wayside Park in "downtown" Applegate has new owners with exciting development plans. The Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) is delighted that these plans include community access to the swimming hole at the park.

The GACDC was entrusted with the title deed to the Wayside parking lot in 1999. We are charged to see that usage of the property we know as Wayside Park is maintained in a way that provides for community use of the swimming hole. The GACDC worked with the last proposed buyer of the park property in 2013. Unfortunately the plans for "Oh Oregon Frontier Park" did not pan out, and the park and parking lot have continued to sit dormant. The GACDC desires to work with the new owner of the park property to provide parking and community access to the swimming area.

We are fully supportive of the use of the parking lot in conjunction with the new owner of the park, who is assuring community access plans for the swimming hole but is not able to put that commitment in writing. There has been some misunderstanding about our position: in a nutshell, the parking lot is

not ours to sell, but ours to share. For the sale of the parking lot to occur, the same community access conditions would be legally attached to assure community access to the swimming hole in perpetuity. Communication became strained because the new owner of the park property could not accept those conditions of sale.

We are now working with the new owner to agree on the least-restrictive long-term lease of the parking lot in conjunction with community access to the swimming hole. "Let our people swim" mirrors our sentiments exactly. The many letters—filled with passion and pride—that we've received urging our support of the new park development plans have been most welcome. Your support strengthens our resolve to maintain community access to the swimming hole for ourselves and future generations.

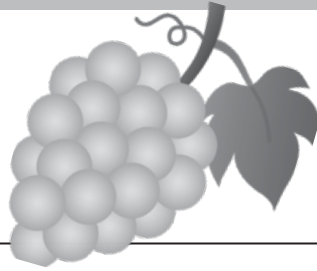
And for any of you folks interested in becoming a board member of GACDC, you are highly encouraged to contact us through our website at www.gacdc.org and consider a commitment with us. The more community representation we have, the better able we are to carry out our mission.

Board of Directors
GACDC
www.gacdc.org/contact-us.html

Happy Fourth of July

GRAPE TALK

Summer fun at Applegate wineries



BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

As a resident of the Applegate Valley, I value its bucolic vistas, rows of grapes, and beautiful Applegate River. You can appreciate the scenery that makes the Applegate so special even more when visiting our local wineries. Not only can you enjoy some top-notch wines along with the view, but many wineries also provide outstanding entertainment options during the summer season. If your idea of recreation is enjoying a great glass of wine, good food or wonderful musical entertainment, there are a number of choices this summer at some of the local valley wineries.

Schmidt Family Vineyards. Jocelyn Schmidt let me know about their planned Father's Day (June 21) Classic Car Show, cosponsored by RCMhotrods.com, to support Canine Angels. She also talked about TGIF activities with live music, free admission and great wood-fired pizza, salad and wine by the glass or bottle. During the summer months the winery stays open later on Fridays—from noon to 8 pm—to start your weekend off right.

Valley View Winery. There will be a Father's Day celebration on June 20 and 21 with a food truck and wine and beer specials. I was also told about a special luau planned on a Sunday in June with

hula dancers and food by Sunrise Café. The Hearts and Vines Fundraiser will again be held at Valley View on August 15, and a Winemakers Dinner with Jacksonville Inn is planned for August 29.

Red Lily Vineyards. A fun and relaxing music series will be held every Thursday from June 4 to September 10. Enjoy a glass of wine or snacks from 6 to 8 pm by the Applegate River while listening to a great collection of musicians.

Plaisance Ranch. Joe Ginot, president of the Applegate Valley Vintner Association, checked in with his schedule for events at his Plaisance Ranch. On June 26, he is hosting "Wine Down" with Sonido Allegra as entertainment, and on July 24 with David and Phil. On August 18 through 22, Plaisance Ranch will participate in the Oregon Wine Experience. Vince Herman will entertain at the winery on August 28; Pearl Party will headline on August 29. September 25 will be the last Wine Down of the season.

Troon Vineyard. Chris Cunningham, Troon's new general manager, checked in with a long list of entertainment happenings. Starting June 5 through 7, Troon will provide food pairings with their new summer wine releases (pinks and whites). On June 7, there will be

a concert by Adam Knight and the Coyote Club from 5 to 7 pm. Enjoy a Quidditch Tournament hosted by Jared Masters (costumes are encouraged for all you Harry Potter fans) on June 13 and 14. June 21 is a Solstice Party/Father's Day event with a concert by Jeff Kloetzel and his band from 2 to 4 pm. June 28 has an evening summer concert with the Rogue Suspects from 5 to 7 pm, and on July 12 from 5 to 7 pm, Jared Masters returns in concert. On July 26, Relative Soul joins Troon's summer concert series from 5 to 7 pm. August 2 is Troon's Anniversary Celebration with Jive Coulis, and on August 9, Gary Margason plays from 5 to 7 pm. Rogue Rage Duo plays on August 23 from 5 to 7 pm. There will be live music by Acousta Noir for the Cellar Dweller Release parties on September 19 and 20.

John Michael Champagne Cellars. For the first time food will be served Thursday through Sunday starting this June through December. So you can sip their local champagne and wine and try some of their gourmet snacks.

Wild Wines Winery. There are four "Summer Sundays": June 21 from 4 to 8 pm, music by the Alphadelics and food by Organic Assets; July 26 from 4 to 8 pm; August 30 from 4 to 8 pm; and September 27 from 3 to 7 pm. All events are free and family-friendly.

All the other Applegate Valley wineries will have wine tasting available.

Summer is the best time to enjoy the many varieties of Applegate Valley wines and the beautiful surrounding scenery.

If you are a wine aficionado, don't

Local winery addresses and hours

- John Michael Champagne Cellars, 1425 Humbug Creek Road, Jacksonville. Open Thursdays through Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm.
- Plaisance Ranch, 16955 Water Gap Road, Williams. Open every day except Tuesdays from 12 to 6 pm.
- Red Lily Vineyards, 11777 Highway 238, Jacksonville. Open daily 12 to 5 pm.
- Schmidt Family Vineyards, 330 Kubli Road, Grants Pass. Open daily 12 to 5 pm.
- Troon Vineyard, 1475 Kubli Road, Grants Pass. Open daily from 11 am to 5 pm (11 am to 6 pm on Labor Day).
- Valley View Winery, 1000 Upper Applegate Road, Ruch. Open daily 11 am to 5 pm.
- Wild Wines Winery, 4550 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville. Open Fridays through Sundays from 12 to 5 pm.

For information on other local wineries, go to www.applegatwinetrail.com.

miss the Oregon Wine Experience (World of Wine) in Jacksonville on August 18 through 22. And always drink responsibly.

Debbie Tollefson

debbie.avrealty@gmail.com

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Irrigation & Property Cleanup

Geothermal: A cleaner, more efficient way to live

BY RANDAL LEE

According to the US Department of Energy, heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) account for 48 percent of a typical home's energy use and its greatest operational costs. Consequently, property owners are increasingly turning toward innovative solutions that present significant long-term savings.

Fred Gant, an independent building consultant for Southern Oregon Green Rating Services, says, "Homeowners are becoming more educated about efficiency, driving market trends." Energy-conscious consumers are adopting new technologies and carefully selecting materials and appliances, reducing environmental impact and financial liability.

Geothermal technology is one such method embraced by homeowners. It is cleaner and more efficient than conventional HVAC and meets contemporary lifestyle demands. A 30 percent federal tax credit for ground source heat pumps and installation is also motivating homeowners to examine how they heat and cool their homes, but taxpayers must act quickly: the credit is set to expire next year.

Applegate Valley residents can save big on utilities by converting their propane or oil supplied systems to geothermal. Scott Rosendahl, co-owner of Advanced Air & Metal, Inc., and director of its Advanced Geothermal division, says, "It is not uncommon for people to save up to 70 percent on heating and cooling by switching to geothermal." He adds, "Geothermal is both an environmentally sensitive and financially responsible solution: customers replacing a conventional system often recoup their investment within three to five years."

The savings generated by converting to geothermal are twofold. Customers notice immediate savings on utilities and long-term savings on the serviceable life of the equipment. According to the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), geothermal equipment has double the life expectancy of conventional heat pumps.

To Rosendahl, the benefits of geothermal exceed monetary gain. "Look," he said, "I have lived in rural Jackson County for the last 20 years. Geothermal technology has provided a cleaner, more efficient way to live, translating into both savings and proactive environmental stewardship." According to WaterFurnace, a leading manufacturer of geothermal equipment, installing a geothermal heat pump is the environmental equivalent to planting 750 trees.

There are essentially two parts to a geothermal system: the indoor mechanical unit and an outdoor exchange loop. Like the outdoor condenser coil of a conventional air-to-air heat pump, a geothermal system incorporates an in-ground "coil" consisting of high-density polyethylene pipe and a solution of water and antifreeze that is pumped through the loop, acting as a heat exchanger. The fluid that circulates through the loop is much colder than the ground temperature in the winter and much warmer than the ground temperature in the summer. In the winter, the cold fluid passing through the loop is warmed by the ground temperature. That heat transfer initiates the process necessary to heat a home. In the summer, the fluid passing through the loop is cooled by the ground temperature; therefore, heat is extracted from the home, transferred to the



Advanced Air & Metal installed this geothermal system with a horizontal loop at a Rogue Valley vineyard.

solution traveling through the pipe, and ultimately dispersed to the earth.

With several loop configurations available, ground source heating and cooling is a viable option for any property owner. Loop fields are most commonly laid out horizontally, buried five feet below the earth's surface, or vertically inserted in wells and sealed with a thermally conductive grout. Pond loop or open-loop configurations are also available.

The length of the loop is determined by the size of the home being conditioned. Properly sizing the loop is the most critical part of geothermal design. Each property is different, and every system should be designed specifically to the home and soil conditions. Improperly sized loop fields will under-produce, failing to achieve the

desired exchange, output, and efficiency. It is, therefore, advisable to consult with a geothermal expert with a history of successful installation and satisfied customers.

Scott Steingraber, owner-wine maker of Kriselle Cellars, a Rogue Valley vineyard, says, "We endeavor to exercise environmental stewardship in all that we do; to that end, geothermal fits our business model and has been financially advantageous." He adds, "Advanced Air & Metal has done an exceptional job designing our custom system and maintaining it; we anticipate many years of pinpoint comfort in our tasting room."

Randal Lee • 541-772-6866

Advanced Air & Metal
randal@advancedairandmetal.com

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Ruch Library will be presenting a program, "Folk Heroes Who Shaped World History," featuring civilization's most immortal mortals, on Saturday, August 1.

This will be a "revue" featuring folk heroes, defined as anyone at the center of a much-told legend, and starring *you!* We need players—people willing to sing a ballad, present a short skit, sit and be a portrait while a narrator tells about your character, etc. This could be effortless (Mona Lisa) and fun (Bonnie and Clyde).

Costumes and props are encouraged, or come as you are (Johnny Appleseed). Please stop by Ruch Library at 7919 Highway 238, Ruch, or call 541-899-7438 or 541-899-8741 to sign up for a character or two.

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The role of tour guide at Sanctuary One: Telling stories of success on nature's stage

BY JILL TOWNSLEY

"Welcome to Sanctuary One at Double Oak Farm. My name is Jill, and I will be your tour guide." So begin the lines to a script that hold more weight than any words I recited on a theatrical stage. Prior to each tour, I get the same jitters in my stomach I once experienced as an amateur theater actor. But the nervous feelings now stem from a desire to adequately convey to my audience the powerful message of healing, community, and sustainability that is inherent in the mission of the farm.

Luckily, this is no one-woman show. I am joined by a glorious band of characters on this pastoral stage, each with a compelling true story to tell of heart-warming healing.

But I am getting ahead of myself. As your tour guide, I first introduce you to the farm itself. Back in the mid-1800s, it was a 55-acre cattle ranch in the heart of the Applegate Valley. In 2007, local philanthropist Lloyd Matthew Haines purchased and repurposed the land according to his vision of a nonprofit care farm. As such, Sanctuary One made its public debut in 2008.

So with that prologue aside, the stage is now set for the dramatic entry of our furry cast. Sanctuary One specializes in the rehabilitation and re-homing of abused and neglected animals whose personal tales would otherwise end tragically. Enter stage left...curious Comet. Comet is a four-

year-old mustang mare, brought to us by Strawberry Mountain Mustang Rescue in Roseburg, Oregon. As a newborn foal, cord still attached, she was a castaway of a reservation roundup, tagged for auction with little hope for survival. Luckily, we successfully found a wonderful home for her, but as fate would have it, her loving owner passed away. Not to worry. As is our policy, our gates always swing both ways in the event that an adoption does not proceed as expected. Comet is flourishing here and awaiting an opportunity to enrich the life of another human caretaker.

Now meet Holly, a four-month-old calf and burgeoning star at the farm. When only days old, she was found abandoned in the trunk of a car. Rescued by an animal control agency in California, she was then transferred to a dairy farm as a temporary foster home. Unfortunately, she contracted salmonella. Farm Sanctuary in Orland, California, then assumed her care, and after weeks in isolation she received a clean bill of health and was finally able to join our lively troupe. Now she is thriving and has even bonded with one of our adult cows, Cookies.

But the tour stories are not limited to our large animal companions. As part of your tour, we will also visit the dog, cat, rabbit, chicken and newly completed FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) cat habitats. One energetic member



Armadillo Technical Institute youth with Holly, a four-month-old calf found abandoned in the trunk of a car and now thriving at Sanctuary One.

of our canine ensemble who will catch your eye is Gabe, a five-year-old miniature poodle who came to us from the Southern Oregon Humane Society (SOHS). As part of their Saving Train campaign, Gabe was rescued from a Las Vegas shelter where he was likely to be euthanized. Although highly adoptable, Gabe was incredibly stressed at SOHS, ripping out one of his toenails when scratching at his cage door. With our cage-free and highly enriching environment, Gabe has truly blossomed since coming to Sanctuary One. Now it is just a matter of finding that perfect forever-home for Gabe that will complete his success story.

These anecdotes are just a few of the tales you may hear when visiting

the sanctuary. In addition, you will directly experience the beauty of the farm's natural set design. With tour season now in full swing, the landscape will be bustling with freshly grown produce, beautiful perennials, and nature's own improvisations under the forest canopy.

The "curtain" opened on our tour season on Saturday, April 25. Public tours are by reservation only on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10:30 am. Tours last about 90 minutes with an admission fee of \$10 per person. Reservations can be made by calling the farm at 541-899-8627 or emailing info@sanctuaryone.org.

Jill Townsley
Sanctuary One Board Member-Volunteer
info@sanctuaryone.org



The new William Driscoll and Alicia Theophil FIV Cat Cottage at Sanctuary One formally opened on Friday, April 24, with over 40 people attending, including the Driscoll family and many animal welfare advocates and leaders. The new Cat Cottage addition is complete with indoor and outdoor access, an intake/isolation area, and furnishings including chairs for visitors.

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OPINIONS

River Right: Peeling the onion

BY TOM CARSTENS

After several years of kayaking, I've never heard any kayaker mention politics. Running white water can be dangerous and you never know when you're going to need a hand (or a rope). We all count on each other to be there in an emergency. Could politics get in the way? Better not to find out. There's lots of other stuff to talk about anyway.

Have you ever felt cross at someone who sees the world a bit differently? Have you ever seen someone respond foolishly when reacting to a political argument? Have you ever felt a friendship threatened over strongly held views? We've all experienced this. Often we choose the easier path: avoidance. Lots of other stuff to talk about.

When I was growing up, my parents had a lot of dinner parties. My dad was a college professor, and he enjoyed provocative, but respectful, dialogue with his fellow faculty and students. From the corner of the living room, I loved to listen to the lively, engaging, and rigorous debates. It always astonished me how cleverly my father could argue politics from any perspective. He was a teacher and loved to stimulate thoughtful discussion. That's when I learned how much fun it can be to investigate all sides of an issue. If we can understand the whole onion, it can be enlightening when we peel off the layers of nuance and perspective. This approach can lead us not only toward a more informed frame of reference, but it also might help us better understand where the other person is coming from.

I've been thinking about this as our legislature has been steamrolling the Democrat Party agenda this session. Even the Speaker has acknowledged that there's been virtually no compromise on anything. The Republicans have been shut out, even though they represent a viewpoint shared by half the population of Oregon (okay, slightly less than half). Virtually no dialogue, no amendments, no deals. The process is legal but seems flawed. Is there nothing to learn from the Republicans' perspective or the constituents they represent?

The antics in Salem basically mirror us, the electorate. We aren't much interested in compromise either. A Stanford-Princeton study last year pointed out that our political preferences trump every other difference, including even race and religion. According to the study (Google up "Iyengar-Westwood Report"), Americans are uncompromising

rascals when it comes to differences between liberals and conservatives—even in nonpolitical contexts. I've heard it called "political discrimination."

The study came up with some interesting stuff, including that a lot of us would rather our children didn't marry someone from "the other side." (Reminded me of my "future" father-in-law...but that's another story.)

We're not this ornery out here in the Applegate, are we?

Have you ever been involved in a so-called "open forum" that was explicitly hostile to participation from "the other side"? It happens more often than we realize. The combative controversy over the proposal to establish a Siskiyou Crest National Monument comes to mind. The whole idea was dreamed up without any community input, and when it was finally on the table, neither "side" wanted to offer a seat to the other. And nobody really learned much.

And how about the occasional political gatherings here? It's pretty rare to have a good political mix participating in these things. It's just assumed that we'll hear nothing of worth from those with different leanings. The onion goes unpeeled, and we don't learn much.

Have you ever seen a political stance affect an unrelated, nonpolitical event in the Applegate? I sure have. Uninformed assumptions made about propriety, knowledge, legality, motivation, and even intelligence have sometimes caused us to act in strange ways toward each other. Mining, logging, and land use are examples of topics that seem to bring out the worst in us. Compromise doesn't appear to be in the cards. My way or the highway.

I'm constantly humbled by the rich, eclectic character of this community. In the end, I believe most folks want a good outcome; they just see the way to get there differently.

I'm saddened to see politicians of either stripe denigrate and demean each other. They aren't listening, they aren't learning, and they aren't governing very well. Maybe we could set a better example for them. Peeling the onion doesn't have to make us cry.

Should I bring this up around the fire ring at my next river camp? If I do, I'll make sure all the paddles are stored well away.

See you on the river.

Tom Carstens
541-846-1025

Natural history of climate changes

BY ALAN VOETSCH

First let's address the 97 percent "scientific consensus" lie. This lie has been exposed for quite a while, and not even 97 percent of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change climate scientists agree (<http://www.forbes.com/sites/alexepstein/2015/01/06/97-of-climate-scientists-agree-is-100-wrong/>).

Second, here are some excellent informative reading/video materials you must check out if you have a real interest in climate truth. Read *The Real Global Warming Disaster* by Christopher Booker—tons of terrific info. Watch these videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPzpPXuASY8>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpfMM3bVbhQ>, and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-m09IKtYT4>.

These will show why today's climate is perfectly normal and in line with historical averages. You will also learn that sea levels have risen over 400 feet since the last glacial maximum. Also, our sun is by far the biggest driver of climate, and the peaks and valleys of solar activity explain almost all the climate change we've witnessed. There will always be localized effects of climate that may change more or less than global averages. There can be no doubt that civilization impacts our local environments, and we all need to keep our houses in order. But globally, we really don't matter much, at least as far as temperature increase or decrease is concerned. The sun is in charge.

Five to nine thousand years ago earth enjoyed the Holocene Climate Optimum with warmer temperatures than today. Then there was the Pre-Roman cooling lasting from 750 BC to 200 BC before the Roman Warming, which began in 200 BC and lasted until 500 AD. Climatic cooling then ushered in the Dark Ages, which ended about 1,100 years ago with the Medieval Warming and temperatures again higher than today. That warming ended with the Little Ice Age beginning about 1450 and lasting until 1850. We are now in the Modern Warming, which should last for several hundred years. Of course there will be some up and down bumps because climate is always changing due to natural variability. But the trends and patterns have repeated many, many times. This is established science and history that climate "scientists" do not seem to be aware of.

Let's talk about CO₂ emissions. We've all been told that CO₂ increases global temperatures. It's actually the other way around. Did you know that rising temperatures precede CO₂ increases by 800 years? And that 95 percent of greenhouse gas is water vapor? Why don't we legislate *that*? CO₂ makes up 3.5 percent of greenhouse gas, almost all of it natural. Only 0.117 percent is from man. Bacteria and animals produce 150 gigatons; humans produce 6.5 gigatons. Volcanoes produce more CO₂ than all human activities. Did you know that climate-related deaths have dropped 95 percent in the last 80 years while emissions have gone up? Did you know that life expectancy, agricultural production, gross domestic product and population have spiked sharply upwards along with CO₂ emissions?

Alarmists have said that when CO₂ emissions rise, temperatures will also rise. Over the last 16 years, while CO₂ emissions have continued to climb, temperatures have remained fairly steady. It also brings into question the global cooling from 1940 to the mid-1970s. What does this mean? It means that the science used for their predictions is wrong. Here's why: the algorithm they use on their computer modeling assumes that rising CO₂ emissions will force higher temperatures. Under that assumption, *all* of their models predict rising temps. Recent and past trends prove that wrong. CO₂ is most effective as a warming agent at or under 20 parts per million (PPM). We are near 400 PPM. Above 20 PPM, CO₂ has a diminishing effect.

I simply must address the crazed alarms I see several times each day about how 2014 was the warmest year ever. Fact is, it may be 0.01 C warmer than 2005 and 2010, but by much less than the margin of uncertainty (0.05 C). These temps are averaged with ocean temps, so 2014 was actually in about fourth place for land temperatures. Earth's average temperature for the last decade has changed very little. The key issue remains the growing discrepancy between climate model projections and actual observations—2014 just made the discrepancy between the two larger, continuing to prove the climate models wrong.

Remember, do your own research.
Alan Voetsch • 541-899-1090

OPINION PIECES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinion pieces and letters to the editor represent the opinion of the author, not that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. As a community-based newsmagazine, we receive diverse opinions on different topics. We honor these opinions, but object to personal attacks and reserve the right to edit accordingly. Letters should be no longer than 450 words. Opinion pieces should be no longer than 700 words. Both may be edited for grammar and length. All letters must be signed, with a full street address or P.O. Box and phone number. Opinion pieces must include publishable contact information (phone and/or email address). Individual letters and opinion pieces may or may not be published in consecutive issues.

Email opinion pieces and letters to the editor to gater@applegater.org, or mail to *Applegater* c/o Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. P.O. Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.



Maple tapping season a bust

Several people have asked me how the maple-tapping season went this year. The short answer: there was no tapping season this year. We had only four or five days with the proper freezing nights and warm days required for sap to run. The flow per tree was very much reduced also. Due to the lack of rain again, taps in trees that normally would provide two or three liters per day gave only a couple of cups before ceasing to flow.

I think that future years will probably provide good tapping seasons, but with climate change clearly affecting our area, we can never know if the weather will be right for tapping.

Keep your fingers crossed, and pray for good old wet and freezing winter weather.

Laird Funk • 541-846-6759

MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Public lands under siege

BY CHRIS BRATT



Chris Bratt

"This land is your land, this land is my land" is the first line of the chorus in this famous Woody Guthrie folk song. I've always taken it for granted whenever I sing this song that it's referring to the hundreds of millions of priceless acres of land federally managed in our country (mostly in the west—see map). The majority of these lands were acquired through federal land purchases from France, Mexico and Russia between 1786 and 1867. Seizures of Native American territory were also made by the federal government. Those lands are now public lands that belong to and benefit every American citizen.

While federal agencies like the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service (USFS) and National Park Service (NPS) are authorized to manage most of these public lands for us, as trustees, they are mandated to protect and improve the environment for succeeding generations. In

addition, more than 300 million citizens throughout our country have the right to express an opinion and comment on the use, management, protection and future of these vast invaluable lands and the natural resources they contain. Also, regarding these public lands, "each person has a responsibility to contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the environment" per 42 USC 4331 (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) signed into law on January 1, 1970, by Richard Nixon.

But it has become a crucial time for continuing public control over public land as outlined above. There is a growing number of defiant, aggressive individuals and groups in our country who don't even recognize the legitimacy of the federal government or environmental laws. Neither do they acknowledge the authority of the public land management agencies. Many of these folks refuse to

abide by the laws of the land and insist that their rights to use public land for private purposes trumps federal control. Their intent is to eliminate the present public land ownership safeguards and weaken environmental laws. Among these people are freeloaders, lawbreakers and emboldened extremists carrying guns and itching for a fight. They are definitely not looking for compromise or concession on any of their beliefs.

During the next few years, we are going to see more and more anti-government, anti-environment attacks on public lands in the west (like the recent BLM mining dispute in Josephine County). On a larger scale, there are state representatives and members of Congress who are offering legislative proposals that will give states or local governments ownership authority to manage these public lands. Recently, Alaska's Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski introduced a budget amendment to sell off our public lands and 51 senators (mostly Republican) voted in favor. The goal of these malcontents is to eventually privatize the natural resources available on these spectacular prairies, rivers, mountains, forests and national parks and collect all revenues for local or regional purposes only. The result is "The Ruin of the West," which happens to be an excellent story on the subject in the February 2015 issue of *Harper's Magazine*. Check it out.

A good example of what has already transpired regarding the transfer of public lands to state control took place in Utah in 2012, when the state's legislature overwhelmingly passed Utah's Transfer of Public Lands Act. The

wording of this state law demands the federal government turn over more than 30 million acres of public land to the state. The transfer of these public lands was slated to happen at the beginning of this year, but no further state action has been taken to enforce the law. These kinds of laws are gaining momentum in eight other western states, but it remains to be seen if any of these state laws will be valid when they reach the courts.

Hopefully, the movement to transfer our public lands to the states will be resolved by the courts before any congressional action is taken on the issue. In a Nevada case last year, a US District Court ruled that "the public lands in Nevada are property of the United States because the United States has held title to those lands since 1848 when Mexico ceded the land to the United States."

What does the future hold for our public lands? I don't have a definite answer to that question. But I do know that if we dispose of these lands that we all own by transferring control to unknown exploiters, we will lose all the environmental protections and citizen participation in decision making presently in place—forever.

I say, don't throw away these rights for reactionary ideas that foster discord, greed and hate. Abide by the present laws, rely on the facts and best science, and make sure everyone hears you sing, "This land is your land, this land is my land."

If you sing another tune, let me know.

Chris Bratt
541-846-6988



Where have all the salmon gone?

BY REX GAROUTTE

In late September 1998, you could stop at the Applegate Store, walk to the south side of the bridge, and see large numbers of spent salmon in the eddy below. Since then, the numbers of salmon have dwindled to near nothing. What happened?

The first thing we have to understand is that, unlike the Rogue River, the Applegate River is *not* stocked. The salmon that use the Applegate are native or "lost" hatchery fish.

We've been told that the decline in salmon has been caused by habitat destruction. This belief seems to fall apart if you consider that this past winter the steelhead run was one of the best seen in years with a large percentage being natives. Salmon and steelhead need the same environment, so why would one be doing well and the other declining?

The key is how and when the migration starts. When steelhead start their spawning cycle, they enter rivers randomly and bunch up once upriver. Salmon tend to school up at the river's mouth. It is at this point that salmon are vulnerable to pinnipeds (seals and sea lions).

When pinnipeds are surrounded by plenty, they focus their energy on maximum nutrition with the least effort. That makes the salmon's liver the prime target. This behavior means that they're

not killing a few fish, but dozens a day. If you've fished for salmon in the ocean, you've probably had a fish stolen from you by a pinniped. They seem to target the middle of the belly to get the liver.

This behavior made the news several years ago when pinnipeds found the Dalles Dam fish ladder. When relocating the offending pinnipeds didn't work, they had to be destroyed.

The reason this has become such a problem is the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act. Although the driving force of this law was to protect whales, all pinnipeds were added to the list.

A study begun in the 1990s found that pinnipeds were having an impact on salmon runs. The study estimated that there were approximately 85,000 pinnipeds on the West Coast in 1998. Current estimates have the population doubling every 10 years, which would mean that we now have around 300,000 hungry pinnipeds off our coast.

If you want to see this for yourself, take a drive to the mouth of the Smith River at the end of September to see the hundreds of pinnipeds lying on the banks of the river.

So with this problem getting worse every year, what can we do to mitigate it? There are three ways to control this problem: (1) increase the number of

salmon to what the habitat can support, (2) limit the human harvesting that is already taking place, and (3) control pinniped numbers. This would require changing the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow harvesting of pinnipeds. If this can't be accomplished, then perhaps a breeding program to increase orcas and great white sharks could be implemented to reduce pinniped numbers. Makes you want to go surfing.

On a local level, request the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to start a salmon-stocking program to bring the numbers up. And if you have a pond with

bass or sunfish, take steps to make sure that during a flood, those fish cannot get into the Applegate River. These fish are *not* indigenous to Oregon and, if introduced into the river, could have a negative impact on the salmon fry. The river is already at risk from the introduction of bass and sunfish to Applegate Lake.

Rex Garoutte
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For more information, visit http://www.psmfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/expand_pinniped_report_2010.pdf and http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/SeaLion/fact_sheet.asp.

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NEXT GENERATION

"Next Generation" features the talents of our local students and school news and updates. All schools in the Applegate Valley are encouraged to submit art, writing, photography and any other creative pieces to gater@applegater.org.

APPLEGATE SCHOOL

Applegate School is proud of student accomplishments

We would like to acknowledge the Applegate School students mentioned below for their participation in the multi-school competitions listed, and also for consistently placing in the top three.

Battle of the Books. Bringing home the first-place trophy from the annual Three Rivers School District Battle of the Books Competition on April 25, were Applegate School Level 2 students—fifth graders Maria Cross, Lily Emmons, Carlen Nielsen, and Emma Singleton. Our Level 1 students—third grader Chris Hartley, and fourth graders Joaquin Martinez and Natalia Sahr—tied for third place.

Each student was required to read 10 books for the competition. Teams from each elementary school in the district competed after months of preparation to test their knowledge about the author, title, characters and plot of all 10 books. Congratulations to our amazing readers on your hard work and achievements!

Science Fair. Fifth-grade student Maria Cross was the second-place winner in the Three Rivers School District Science and Engineering Fair in the category of Animal Science & Microbiology.

The Science Fair is an opportunity for students in the school district to apply the scientific method to conduct independent research. The results of each student's research is presented in a district-wide science fair at the district office in Murphy, where the students' efforts are displayed and students are interviewed to determine the scientific merit. Judges award prizes to students who have used the scientific method properly and have demonstrated thoroughness in their studies and who then compete in regional, state, national and international science fairs.

Rotary Students of the Year. Eighth grader Josh Saunders and fifth grader Maria Cross were awarded the "Outstanding

Student" award by the Rotary Club of Grants Pass. Each year the Rotary Club honors a fifth-grade and an eighth-grade student by recognizing excellence in academic achievement, character, school involvement and service. Congratulations to Maria and Josh for their achievements and character.

Spelling Bee. We would like to congratulate third grader Laura Kliewer, fifth grader Carlen Nielsen, and seventh graders Caitlyn Rabjohn and Jasmine Williams for being chosen to represent Applegate School in the district-wide Spelling Bee.

Carlen Nielsen placed third at that district competition on April 14. Great job, Carlen! We are so proud of all of our Super Spellers.

American Mathematics Contest. Eighth-grade students at Applegate participated in the American Mathematics Contest (AMC), which consists of a multiple-choice exam designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem-solving skills. An AMC award is presented to the top three students from each participating school. Applegate student Moesha Guient earned the first-place award and Wyatt Arnsdorf earned second place.

Presidential Physical Fitness. Presidential Physical Fitness Award winners are Lexi Hill, Ronan Hodge, Isaac Hill, Teryn Powers, Azalea Stinson, and Masey Embury. These kids are seriously fit! This award recognizes students who achieve an outstanding level of physical fitness. To earn this award, students must score at or above the 85th percentile for their age level in five different activities testing their strength, speed, endurance, quickness, and flexibility.

Congratulations to all of these Applegate School students for their exceptional achievements.

Seana Hodge
shodge@siskiyou.com



Photos, from left to right,

top row: **Battle of the Books**

First place team—Lily Emmons, Maria Cross, coach Grandma Jean (thank you, Grandma Jean!), Emma Singleton, and Carlen Nielsen.

Third-place team—Chris Hartley, Joaquin Martinez, and Natalia Sahr.

Middle row: **Science Fair** winner Maria Cross.

Spelling Bee winner Carlen Nielsen.

Bottom row: **Presidential Physical Fitness Award**

winner Azalea Stinson, Isaac Hill, Ronan Hodge, Masey Embury, Lexi Hill, and Teryn Powers.

RUCH SCHOOL

'Climate change': Classroom, community, and environment merge

"Make it Happen," reads a sign on the board. Goals have been listed, tasks distributed. Groups of eighth-graders at Ruch Community School are clustered around the classroom. One group designs a lesson on composting for the first-grade class. Another researches state incentives for renewable energy at schools. Several students discuss factors influencing the decline of honeybees. Others clink science glassware as they measure dissolved oxygen in an aquarium filled with Chinook salmon eggs.

Science teacher Ryan King views his job as "teaming with students to compress global issues down to their local relevance." He asks students: "What do you want to learn about this issue?" "How can we work together to envision solutions and imagine possibilities?" "Will we be active participants or passive bystanders in our community, our environment?" And he's amazed at what can happen when he moves aside and lets students take charge of their own learning.

How did this class come about?

In 2012, a group of parents and community members formed in response to a Medford School District budget deficit that threatened to close Ruch School. The goal of APPLE (Applegate Partners Promoting Local Education) was to ensure that Ruch would remain a vibrant part of the district by developing a unique school identity tied to the community and natural environment where students live.

Sustainability was at the heart of APPLE's vision: sustainability of the school and community, of course, which we understood to be in a symbiotic relationship. But we were also coming to understand the importance of *environmental* sustainability in that equation. In this valley—where vineyards are replacing orchards, debates persist over forest and wildfire management, GMO laws are evolving, the watershed is changing—sustainability issues are part of everyday life. It's important that young people learn to participate actively in these conversations.

With input from Ryan King (then a graduate student in Southern Oregon University's Environmental Education program), APPLE and Ruch School principal and teachers envisioned a community school where place-based learning revolved around projects related to the local environment. The superintendent and school board endorsed APPLE's proposal; the ground was fertile for the school and students to grow roots and let their potential bloom.

When Ryan King became the science teacher in 2013, teachers across grade levels had already begun incorporating place-based learning into their classes: farming worms, volunteering at an animal shelter, constructing a vegetable garden. Ryan tapped into that energy, developing a program to reflect the school's identity: a middle school sustainability class. Five locally relevant domains emerged: forests, food, water, energy, and waste. Within these domains, students undertake meaningful project-based learning.

Two months after welcoming new salmon eggs into the classroom, students released the grown-up fry into the Rogue River as part of the US Department of Fish and Wildlife's Salmon Watch Project. Students studied the salmon life cycle, habitat requirements, and cultural significance to the region. "Watching the salmon eggs grow up was really neat. We were able to track their development each day," says eighth-grader Tabitha Kohler.



Ruch School students removed parrot-feather weeds from a local creek.

"I love working outside, especially with my fellow Ruchians," says Nolan Bartlett, reflecting on his experience helping restore a local watershed. In partnership with the Lomakatsi Restoration Project, students planted tree saplings: ponderosa pine, Oregon ash, Oregon grape, incense cedar and big-leaf maple. In addition to learning about a healthy watershed, students removed parrot-feather weeds from a creek and met with natural resource professionals to learn about job opportunities in ecological restoration.

Eighth-grader Ivy Guss-Gonzalez notes, "Learning about sustainability has made me care more about the world." Ivy's comment suggests a counterpoint to the prevailing narrative of education, which is often driven by what is *not* working. Teachers find themselves in a climate of ever-increasing quantifiable accountability, new mandates, new academic standards, and new tests; in turn, a climate of fatigue, inadequacy, and apathy can undermine teachers' imaginations and sense of what's possible.

But a "climate change" is taking place at Ruch School. Focusing on what *might be*, Ryan King finds stamina in being a teacher-leader in a school that values sustainability and community. Together, he and his students ask: How might we make this world a better place, today and tomorrow? Together, they examine the *possible*, using *place* as the context, *projects* as the engine, and *sustainable communities* as the goals.

Margaret Perrow della Santina
541-899-9950

To learn about the sustainability class and current projects at Ruch School, visit the school website at www.ruchschool.org.



On Earth Day, Ruch School eighth-grade students teamed up with their elementary counterparts to clean up Cantrall Buckley Park, remove invasive species, reduce wildfire fuel, and enjoy a beautiful day.

Fire-resistant plants versus chocolate cake

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Looking for a short tutorial about fire-resistant plants, I consulted the website of Wasco County, Oregon (<http://co.wasco.or.us/>). There, I gleaned a list of fire-resistant plants. Before I share that list with you, though, let's cover a few basics about *fire-resistant*.

Fire-resistant plants must be alive to do their job. If a plant is listed as fire-resistant but is not also deer-resistant, there could be a conflict of interest.

Planting fire-resistant plants and then interspersing them with highly flammable plants negates the first. This reminds me of my mother who ate huge slices of double-decker chocolate cake with a small glass of nonfat milk. Didn't work—she was stout.

Planting fire-resistant plants close to decorative flammable objects—maybe a wonderful old wooden ladder with flowerpots hanging from it—is bad news, except for the fire. “Oh goodie,” says the fire. “Now I have an easy way to climb up to the roof.”

If you are planting trees chosen from the fire-resistant list—actually all trees—remember to plan ahead. At maturity, the canopy (the spread of the tree) should be at least 10 feet away from a structure's roof. Even better if it's 30 feet away. The trees should also be at least 10 to 30 feet away from each other, based on their predicted mature size.

“Resistant” is different from “retardant,” so don't confuse the two words. Resistant is like trying not to eat that big piece of cake. Retardant is when the dentist sutures your lips closed. No way can you eat the cake.

According to *Fire-resistant Plants for Home Landscapes*, a Pacific Northwest Extension publication, plants that are *fire-resistant* have the following characteristics:

- Leaves are moist and supple.
- Plants have very little dead wood and tend not to accumulate dry, dead material.
- Sap is water-like and does not have a strong odor.



According to *Fire-resistant Plants for Home Landscapes*, “Homeowners should take active steps to minimize...the fuel and fire hazard around their homes...[in order to] create a fuel break and help protect their home by blocking intense heat.”

In contrast, plants that are *highly flammable* have these general characteristics:

- Contain fine, dry or dead material, such as twigs, needles, and leaves.
- Leaves, twigs, and stems contain volatile waxes, terpenes (e.g., essential oil from conifers), or oils.
- Leaves are aromatic (strong smell when crushed).
- Sap is gummy, resinous and has a strong odor.
- May have loose or papery bark.

Avoid planting both ornamental and native plants like ornamental juniper, bitterbrush, manzanita, sagebrush, and ceanothus around your home. They can be highly flammable.

Bark mulch is often used in home landscapes. If you landscape with bark mulch, keep it at least 30 feet away from buildings.

Below, I have excerpted from the Wasco County list of fire-resistant plants, to include only plants that I am very familiar with. These are plants I know grow just dandy in southwest Oregon. The list for “Trees—Deciduous” was extremely long, so I listed a mere few.

The bottom line: keep dry plants and volatile plants far away from your house. Deciduous plants, i.e., ones that drop their leaves, must be removed. *No* dry or dead material next to a house.

Perhaps this information will help, or maybe you find lists boring and long. No matter— safety first. Fire-safe property is up to you.

Sioux Rogers • 541-846-7736
dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm

— Fire-resistant plants —

Ground covers

Carpet bugleweed
Creeping phlox
Creeping thyme
Hens and chicks
Kinnikinnick
Sedum or stonecrops
Snow-in-summer
Wild strawberry

Perennials

Chives
Coralbells
Coreopsis
Cranesbill geranium
Daylilies
Evening primrose
Hostas
Iris
Lamb's ear
Lupine
Red-hot poker
Yarrow

Shrubs and broadleaf evergreen

Cotoneaster
Lilac
Oregon boxwood
Oregon grape holly
Privet
Rhododendron
Snowberry
Western azalea
Western spirea

Shrubs—deciduous

Blue mist spirea
Flowering currant
Goldflame spirea
Pacific serviceberry
Red osier dogwood
Wood's rose

Trees—conifers

Lodgepole pine
Ponderosa pine
Sugar pine

Trees—deciduous

Alder birch
Ash
Aspen
Beech
Black locust
Horse chestnut
Maples
Oaks
Walnut

This is a partial list of fire-resistant plants from <http://co.wasco.or.us/>.

Dyer's woad—unwanted in the Applegate Valley

BY BARBARA MUMBLO

For several years, I've been noticing Dyer's woad plants (*Isatis tinctoria*) in the Provolt area. Dyer's woad is a major noxious weed (invasive species) of concern around Yreka and is found in smaller amounts in southwest Oregon. Around Yreka, it covers some fields much like our yellow star thistle does here.

Dyer's woad is in the mustard family. It can resemble some of our weedy mustards—tall with yellow flowers, but if you look more carefully you'll notice that the leaves are pointed and have a blue-green tint with a white mid-vein. To me the plant looks like a bouquet of lighter yellow flowers.

The feature that really distinguishes it, though, is the fruit. When the pods are mature they hang down and turn a dark brown. This species produces lots of tiny seeds and can grow near water (or not). It

can easily move down the river...or along a road if the soil is moved.

I've seen these plants off Highway 238 in the area where the old bridge is on Powell Creek. I'm thinking this weed may have been brought in when Highway 238 was rerouted away from the old bridge. There are also some plants located in the fenced areas where the road relocation occurred, as well as at the Provolt Seed Orchard. The Bureau of Land Management has been working on controlling this weed and will do so again this year.

While you are out and about, let us know if you see some Dyer's woad in different locations. Recently some was spotted near the Applegate River downstream of the site on Highway 238. We'd like to get rid of this species before it becomes more widespread and more difficult to control.

Give me a call if you find some.
Barbara Mumblo • 541-899-3855
Botanist, US Forest Service
Siskiyou Mountains
Ranger District
bmumblo@fs.fed.us

Photo left: Dyer's woad plant.
Photo bottom: Mature Dyer's woad pods.
Photos by Barbara Mumblo.



Applegate Partnership throws its weight around

BY BARBARA SUMMERHAWK

Having acquired the use of a medium-sized Caterpillar excavator, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) is taking out stubborn, hard-to-remove blackberry bushes that suppress the regeneration of young trees and shrubs. The big machine is needed to extract the invasive berries along Thompson Creek so that native trees and shrubs can be planted in their place along the stream, to provide shade and cool water temperatures for returning salmon.

Part of the larger Thompson Creek restoration project, blackberry

removal is an ongoing riparian restoration project partially sponsored by the Oregon Water Enhancement Board (OWEB) and private funders, according to Jakob Shockey, riparian program manager for the APWC.

In the near future, the APWC

hopes that the Caterpillar excavator along with an operator can be contracted out to local landowners in need of large-scale blackberry extraction. Blackberry pie and jam may be sweet, but the bushes are invasive and destructive.

Watch the Applegater Facebook page or check out the APWC home page at www.applegatepartnershipwc.org for updates on the possibility of contracting the big machine from the APWC.

Barbara Summerhawk
APWC Board Member
barbs@apwc.info



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Look who's reading the Gater

Take us with you on your next trip. Then send your favorite "Reading the Gater" photo to gater@applegater.org or mail to *Applegater*, P.O. Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Photos will appear as space allows.



Photos, clockwise from top left:
 — While in Tokyo, **Alberta Heagney and Anne Rota** check the Applegater for directions to Mount Fuji.
 — Celebrating four birthdays in Sayulita, Mexico, are long-time friends (back row) **Paula Rissler, Cathy Dunlap, Rona Jones, Nancy Fleishman, Leslie Meier, Toree Wilkening,** (front row) **Suellen Willi, the Applegater, and Teri Becker.**
 — **Beth Anderson, Julie Barry and Shalynn Lathrop** practice Italian with the Gater at Grinzane Cavour Castle in Medford's Sister City, Alba, Italy, during a student exchange trip.
 — **Kathy and Tom Carstens** share the Applegater with new friends in Nepal.
 — Between dives at Glover's Atoll, Belize, **Randy Costello** relies on the Gater for news from home.



Keep those articles, letters, opinions and "Reading the Gater" photos coming in. You are the Gater!

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