

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.
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Applegater

Photo by Kathy Kliewer

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Volume 9, No. 1

Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
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Celebrating
~21~
Years

Applegate Fire Chief Fillis to retire

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Alas, after 20 years as our fire chief, Brett Fillis is retiring! Yup, at the end of March he and his wife Connie will head to Baja, so I sat down with him recently to pick his brain one last time.

I got to know Brett in 2001 when the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council received a grant to write the first community fire plan in the nation. A long-time resident of the Applegate, Chief Fillis saw the value of a community-based plan and was one of our strongest supporters, actively participating through every level of the plan's development and implementation. To this day, very few local fire chiefs have played as active a role in their community's fire preparedness as our chief.

History lesson: Brett got his first fire truck at age two. When he was five or six, he tried to fix the babysitter's lighter, accidentally setting the family's garage on fire. When he was 16, he was invited to attend "drill night" at Rogue River Fire District, got hooked, and started taking college classes at night to get his fire science degree. He was hired by Valley Fire Service (now Rural-Metro) immediately after graduating high school.

When Brett was hired in 1995 as our fire chief, there were five fire stations, the apparatus/engines were very "used," volunteer firefighters were handed used gear, and training was hit-and-miss.

District constituents' ISO property insurance rating levels were at seven (10 being the worst).

Twenty years later the district has seven stations, which lowered ISO rating levels to six (meaning lower homeowner insurance rates for constituents). We also have a fleet of 27 updated and specialized engines and vehicles, top-quality air packs, medical and rescue equipment, and over 40 academy-trained volunteers, all with their own sets of gear!

Quite a change, so I asked Brett what his "strong suit" was—what enabled him to be successful in making so many improvements to the district? He said it was because he could not accept that "this is the way it is." (His favorite word as a kid was "why?") He felt his ability to "color outside the box" helped him find creative and economical solutions to the unique challenges our fire district faced.

And unique we are, with homes, mobile home parks, businesses, farms, wildland-urban interface residences, campgrounds, and recreational sites all



Chief Fillis, with wife Connie, received a Certificate of Commendation from the Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association in 2004. Photo: Lang Johnson Photography.



An advocate of real training scenarios, Fire Chief Fillis watches over a prescribed fire-burn training exercise.

under one fire district's jurisdiction. Our firefighters need to be multi-skilled here in the Applegate, and we've benefitted greatly from the fact that Brett and Chief Dan Petersen (Fire District #3) developed the first minimum 40-hour training curriculum for southern Oregon in 1982!

Chief Fillis also has very good financial sense. Our fire



Chief Fillis believes in recruiting firefighters at an early age.

district now utilizes a five-year financial planning system, which is supported by constituents and funded through levies. Our multi-talented fire staff pitches in to refurbish engines to fit our district's long, narrow driveways, whether it be for a wildfire or a medical call. They also write grants for new equipment, help build and repair stations, and service vehicles in-house! Chief Fillis feels that being fiscally 'frugal' as a district, as patrons, as employees, and as volunteers is our strongest asset.

I asked Brett which single part of this job he most enjoyed, and, if you know him, you're not surprised by his response. He's a people person; he loved meeting the district's patrons, assisting us to work through the county permitting process for new home development, and also helping us to achieve our fuel-reduction goals.

See CHIEF FILLIS, page 11

SAVE THE DATE!

The Applegater's Annual Summer Soirée

Saturday, June 25, 6 to 9 pm
Schmidt Family Vineyards

Join us for dinner, wine, live music by The Evening Shades, and silent auction.

Watch for more details on our Facebook page.

Grow with respect

BY JAKOB SHOCKEY

So you've moved to the Applegate with plans to "grow" this year. You're from Florida, New York, or Texas, and you've rented a house with some old pastureland or with a place for a greenhouse. Maybe you're on a hillside and plan to clear out that manzanita and bulldoze some terraces. The green-rush is on, and even though the local market is flooded, your get-rich endeavor doesn't

really depend on the Oregon market anyway, does it? So while we are being real with each other, let me give you some neighborly and honest advice on how to be respectful of this watershed and its community.

Generally, Applegaters tend to beat around the bush in a conversation if it's an uncomfortable topic. I'm not going to do that here.

Following are some of the things that people are thinking, but few will say to your face.

If you are putting in a grow and plan to water it, get a water right. That's what everybody else has to do, and many of our creeks can barely balance the legal irrigation draws with fish and wildlife needs during the summer without the additional burden of your Honda pump. And please, don't illegally use your household well for your irrigation needs. It's not an endless supply down there in

See RESPECT, page 24

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ISSUE

COMMERCE - COMMUNITY

Maslow Project benefit

Paul Tipton awarded first place at Smoked Salmon Festival

As a benefit for the Maslow Project, the second annual Southern Oregon Smoked Salmon Festival was held in October 2015 at the Britt Gardens in Jacksonville. “Maslow Project is a nonprofit grassroots organization based in Medford, Oregon, providing street outreach and basic needs, crisis intervention and advocacy, and essential support services to homeless children and youth—ages 0 to 21—and their families throughout Jackson County,” according to their website (www.maslowproject.org). Its mission is “to offer every homeless child and youth the probability of success and the opportunity for a better life. The Maslow Project does this by providing resources for basic needs, removing barriers to education and employment, and fostering self-sufficiency in a collaborative and empowering environment.”

Mary Ferrell, founder and executive director, started out on her own in 2000 doing what she could, then founded the grassroots organization in 2006. The organization has been a nonprofit since 2009.

Two Jacksonville residents, Frank Kukla and Ted Trujillo, started the Smoked Salmon Festival two years ago to benefit the Maslow Project and to challenge and reward the talents of those who enjoy making smoked salmon. Contestants in 2015 hailed from all over Oregon; there was even one entrant from Alaska who flew in for the event with his tribe’s entry! Each contestant provided three pounds of smoked salmon, then a half dozen or so judges from local restaurants and food-related occupations sampled a three-ounce portion for judging. The rest was brought out for the attending crowd and served in paper trays filled with little cups of samples of each entry identified by number. As usual,



Paul Tipton cooks up the winning smoked salmon for the 2015 Smoked Salmon Festival at Britt Gardens.

everyone got to vote for their favorite in the People’s Choice award.

This year the People’s Choice Award, a Big Chief smoker donated by Smokehouse Products of Hood River, went to Bret Hildebrand of Klamath Falls. Third place and \$200 went to Peter Mendell of Bend, while second place and \$500 went to Luke Grim of Portland.

The first place prize of \$1,000 was awarded to an “astounded” Applegate resident, Paul Tipton. Paul entered the contest “because lots of people told me they liked my smoked salmon, probably because I was giving it away,” and the fundraiser was for an organization that he strongly supports.

Beer, wine, and food tastings are included in the ticket price for attendees, and a good crowd was on hand for the festivities. Watch for news of the 2016 festival at www.southernoregonsmokedsalmonfest.com, then come out next October to enjoy an afternoon of smoked salmon tasting and good libations—and see Paul defend his title.

In the meantime, Paul says, “If you can afford to do so, send a check to Maslow Project to support its work making our community a better place for everyone.”

For more information, contact Paul Tipton at ptipton@frontier.com.



From left to right: Ted Trujillo, along with sponsor Scott Jensen, Frank Kukla (foreground), and Mary Ferrell, announces the winners: Bret Hildebrand, Paul Tipton, Luke Grim, and Peter Mendell. Photo: Gene Rimmer Photography.

A changing of the guard: New fire chief appointed

With Fire Chief Brett Fillis retiring at the end of March, the Board of Directors (BOD) of our Applegate Fire District is pleased to announce that we have signed a contract with his successor, Michael S. McLaughlin. Mike has been a captain with the San Bernardino County Fire Department for the last ten years and has been in the fire service for 24 years.

This past fall the BOD undertook a comprehensive campaign to find the right individual to become our next fire chief. We received ten applications for the position, and a small committee whittled those down to six possible applicants who met our basic requirements and needs. We ended up with five applicants attending an all-day “assessment center” at our new Community Center in early December.

A 17-member committee, who would observe, evaluate and ultimately recommend the top candidates, was comprised of district volunteers, captains, officers, BOD members, three members

of the community at large, a Rogue Valley fire chief, and representatives from the US Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

After a full day of six different types of tests, challenges and interviews, the group identified the top three candidates for final BOD consideration. After personal interviews with each of those candidates, and a thorough background check, the BOD signed a contract with Mike McLaughlin as our new fire chief. Those of us on your BOD are very pleased with our decision, and we look forward to working with Mike.

Mike will begin working with Chief Fillis on March 1 to help smooth the transition. He will take over as our Fire Chief on March 30, 2016, when Chief Fillis retires. We will introduce Mike and his family to the Applegate community in the Summer *Applegater!*

Sandy Shaffer
Board of Directors
Applegate Valley Fire District #9

Historic home and garden tour: ‘Unique Jacksonville...Enjoy our past, savor our present’

Join the Jacksonville Boosters Club for this year’s Home and Garden Tour on Saturday, May 14, and Sunday, May 15, between 11 am and 4 pm. In addition to four historic homes, one modern-day Craftsman-style home, and two gardens, a very rare and interesting tour of the backstage areas of Britt Festival will be included.



See the historic Minerva Armstrong house on tour in mid May.

To top off the tour and leisurely day in Jacksonville, there will be a complimentary tasting of three wines at Daisy Creek Vineyard.

Transportation around the entire route will be by trolley. A brochure containing a complete listing, pictures, and descriptions of all the properties on the tour will be provided when tickets are purchased. There will also be a map showing the location of the properties and the trolley route. People will be able to start the tour at any location they choose.

Tickets are \$20 and are available by calling Judy at 541-899-4070 or Linda at 541-899-1666. Tickets will also be available on tour days outside the Jacksonville Post Office and Visitor Information Center on Oregon Street. The Visitor Information Center (541-899-8118) will be able to answer questions as the event draws closer.

Woodland Charter School Spring Soirée

Woodland Charter School invites you to attend its Fourth Annual Spring Soirée auction and dinner on Saturday, April 16, 2016, from 5:30 to 11 pm at the Josephine County Fairgrounds Floral Building in Grants Pass.

This festive event is a fundraiser for Woodland Charter School, a tuition-free public school in Murphy, Oregon. Highlights include dinner and dessert catered by local favorite, The Haul, live music and dancing to the original vaudevillian folk band Intuitive Compass, and locally crafted beer and wine. The silent and live auctions feature a multitude of fantastic items, including a Club Northwest membership, Disneyland getaway, and organic farm shares.

Woodland Charter School opened in 2012 with 60 students in first through

sixth grades. It currently has 135 students in first through eighth grades.

Woodland is a Waldorf public charter school that seeks to kindle a lifelong love of learning by providing a developmentally appropriate, arts-integrated curriculum that engages the whole child: head, heart and hands. Its unique approach to classical academics includes Spanish, woodworking, music, and handwork.

Tickets are available at www.woodlandcharterschool.org or by calling Erika Fey at 541-659-3267. Tickets are \$28 each or \$190 for a table for eight.

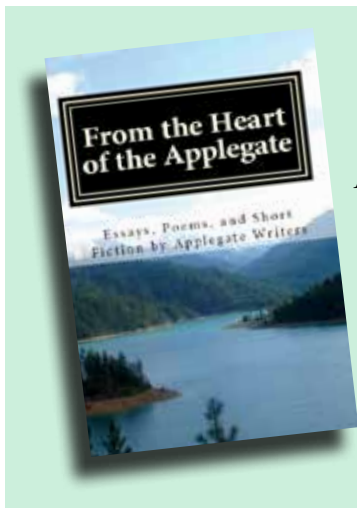
The funds raised will support campus development, artistic aspects of the curriculum, and other crucial needs of the school. To make a donation, please contact Erika Fey at 541-659-3267 or wcsparentcouncil@gmail.com.

From the Heart of the Applegate

Anthology of original essays, poems, and short stories contributed by Applegate Valley writers in support of the *Applegater*.

Available now for \$16 at:

- Amazon.com and www.applegater.org
- Applegate Valley Realty, Jacksonville
- Bloomsbury Books, Ashland
- Oregon Books, Grants Pass
- Terra Firma, Jacksonville



~ FINE PRINT ~

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 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

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All materials submitted for publication must pertain to the Applegate Valley, be original (no reprinted articles, please), and be 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 and as space allows. When too many articles are submitted to include in any one issue, some articles may be placed on our website or held until the following issue.

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"). If you have questions, email gater@applegater.org.

Photos submitted for the masthead are on a volunteer basis. Credit is given in the issue in which it appears, on our website, and on our Facebook page.

All submissions for the next issue must be received at gater@applegater.org by the deadline.

A huge THANKS to these generous donors to the Applegater.

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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 11,000 and a readership of more than 20,000, we cover Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate, Williams, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, Jerome Prairie, and areas of Medford and Grants Pass.

For more information, contact: Ron Turpen • 541-601-1867 ron.turpen@gmail.com

Next deadline: May 1

APWC: Working hard to meet its mission

BY JANELLE DUNLEVY

It has been five years since the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) lost project manager Tim Franklin to a devastating vehicle crash in the Applegate. We have learned many things the hard way since then, and appreciate the hard work and dedication required to develop successful projects in a watershed that is 493,000 acres with multiple counties and a checkerboard of publicly and privately managed lands.

The APWC mission is "to promote ecosystem health across the Applegate watershed through stewardship, education, and restoration carried out in partnership with landowners, agencies, and other interested parties while contributing to local economic and community well-being." We are striving to embody our mission by providing the community with a quarterly lecture series that brings local professionals to the valley and provides information on current natural resource issues and projects that employ local contractors and supplies when possible.

We are entering our second full year of our lecture series. We have provided the community with presentations on the impact of fire on our landscape, climate trends and projections, invasive weeds, and the monarch butterfly. During the most recent lecture in January 2016, presenter Ryan Sandler, with the National Weather Service



On Humbug Creek at the Highway 238 bridge, invasive reed canary grass was removed. With the help of Middle Rogue Steelheaders and Applegate School students, the streambank was stabilized and additional plants were added.

in Medford, gave us an informative and entertaining presentation about southern Oregon's unique climate. Did you know that we are at the northern extent of a Mediterranean climate with warm summers in comparison to the Mediterranean's hot summers, and we have a high pressure system during the summer and winter that creates our dry summer and wet winter? Our next lecture will provide the community with information on native species recovery, including coho salmon, beaver restoration, and other species that we encounter in the Applegate. The lecture's date and location will be announced via flyers, our website and Facebook page, the *Applegater* Facebook page, emails, and other social media tools.

The Third Annual APWC-sponsored Film Festival at Red Lily Vineyards will be held on Wednesday, August 10. The film is yet to be determined, and we are open to
See APWC MISSION, page 19

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,
Welcome to 2016 and our Commerce and Community issue.
So many articles, so little space! Briefly, our feature articles highlight food businesses in the Applegate (pages 12 and 13), the Williams community (page 12), community members who give back (page 23), and community education (page 23). And you can read how Applegate and Ruch school students contribute to the community (page 22).
Enjoy this latest issue. And, as always, feel free to send us your comments. We listen.
Barbara Holiday • gater@applegater.org

Masthead photo credit

Kathy Kliever of Williams shot these beautiful, colorful poppies in Ashland last spring. Thanks, Kathy!

Editorial Calendar

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

BY LILY MYERS KAPLAN

My first career was born from my love for the earth. Working in a greenhouse, I tended to nature. Planting, propagating and pruning. Feeding and watering. Back then (*long* before marijuana farms) I was called a Grower. Tending to the soul of nature was foundational to my service. Forty years—and several careers—later, I still tend to nature—the inner nature of humans and the essential nature of all beings.

A unifying thread winds through my subsequent careers—from horticulture-therapist to program director, from workshop leader to hospice volunteer manager, and finally, to minister and soul-coach. Death is that thread, a necessary force for transformation.

Transformation is expressed when leaves fallen from trees decay into nutrient-rich compost, feeding seedlings-to-come. It is in the organic flow of seasons—the vitality of summer dying into autumn, then winter, followed by new forms sprouting in spring.

So, too, death-as-transformation is expressed through cycles of human development. Teens die to adolescence in order to become adults. Old patterns of behavior give way to new, healthier ones as we grow. Graduating from college and leaving a job or home requires a death of the old life in order for a new one to be born.

For me it was the actual, real deaths of my family, one right after the other, which stunned, then catalyzed transformation in life-as-I-knew-it. I'd sat beside the deathbed of my father, followed two years later by my mom. Three months after that I ushered my sister across the threshold, then, in nine months, her husband, in a gestational symbolism. I underwent a death of my own after all that loss. Confronting my own mortality, I knew—with the kind of *knowing* that is far more than understanding—how precious it is to be alive. I vowed not to squander my life-force.

The very idea of living more deeply in tandem with nature—honoring its cycles and caring for what I most deeply value—became an urgent call. Putting to rest a life in the vibrant Bay Area, I moved to the equally, yet differently,

vibrant Applegate, where I have mapped these cycles in a Medicine Wheel crafted on my land.

Medicine Wheels are symbolic structures found in native and indigenous cultures world-wide. From the monolithic rock circles of Stonehenge to simpler, non-intrusive footprints left by native peoples in North America, Medicine Wheels often look much like wagon wheels lying on their sides—spokes marking each of the four cardinal directions. Built with natural objects gathered from the lands upon which they rest, they symbolize wholeness.

The wheel on our land has, at its center, a pole reaching to the sky, surrounded by a single circle creating a center-place filled with objects—simple offerings from friends who recognize the potency that has gathered there. They recognize it as a place that honors all life—human and other-than-human—and its inherent cycles.

Walking the trail to this wheel, this place here in the Applegate, I know that no matter what is stirring in me or in the hearts of those who join me, we will remember that in the east there is always and forevermore a new beginning—a sunrise, spring, and birth or rebirth. I take solace in recounting that, in the south, the place of high noon, heat, summer, and adolescence, there will always be new ones to bring renewal and a fresh perspective to the world. In the west, the place of sunset, and the maturation of autumn, I find acceptance of death and its necessity for growth or change. I often stand in the north, the place of deepest night, winter, and rest—where the reflective quality of budding elderhood soothes my 60-something self amid a culture which celebrates youth.

My life no longer centers on careers—more importantly it centers upon purpose—mine and others'—and the renewal of seeds that are hidden below the surface. I take my place in the circle, carrying my personal mission and supporting others to honor theirs. Looking back to my beginning as a Grower, I recognize this truth: that I am a Grower still—a Grower of Souls.

Lily Myers Kaplan • 541-708-1383
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Unexpected visitor

BY BARBARA ELLIS

One spring day I was on the deck, soaking in the exhilarating energies of renewed life. Enjoying the relaxation, I stretched forward as I remained seated and, for a brief moment, my gaze angled downward. Just then, a small winged creature alit on the strap of my sandal.

My first impression—admittedly, a very telling one of my human perspective—was that this critter was ugly. Knowing better, I immediately redirected my thoughts to the beauty that had to be the true essence of this visitor. While welcoming it, I also thanked it for respectfully avoiding direct contact with my skin!

When I engaged in intuitive communication, my guest seemed mildly surprised, but not so startled as to beat a hasty retreat. I was in no hurry and neither, evidently, was it. We lounged peacefully while absorbing and becoming acquainted with one another's energy. Once I sensed an adequate level of comfort, I asked for permission to view it more closely—unless that would be received as a disrespectful intrusion. With its consent, I gently raised my still-sandaled foot. Closer inspection confirmed the creature's six legs and two antennae. Perhaps an inch long, its back looked like that of a flat-shelled water turtle; it was dark green, speckled with black, and fringed uniformly around the edges. Now I was genuinely able to admire its physical beauty, in addition to its profound inner beauty. Yet I still expressed gratitude for its courtesy of remaining perched exclusively on the fabric of my shoe.

Though my primary focus was on my new friend, I couldn't refrain from feeling awed by the vibrancy of color I had already been enjoying in the vicinity. It occurred to me to ask this being if it experienced comparable appreciation of such joyful displays of nature. Yes, it replied, but not in the same manner as people do. Rather than a predominantly visual affectation, its species takes in the exquisite emotion or feeling evoked from the bountiful colors of the natural world. Furthermore, it seems to compartmentalize the various feelings in different locations within its physical form. Wow! I paused to imagine

this type of experience. As foreign as it struck me, there would be some definite advantages. Beyond the poignancy of undiluted emotion, which could be almost incomprehensibly delightful, the separation of feelings could alleviate the debilitating chaos that results from tumultuous concurrent emotions.

I decided to ask my visitor if it would like to extend a message to a larger audience. Belying its steadfast stillness, this critter exuded elation at the prospect of the invitation. Might this be the purpose of the encounter? It reveled in the idea of sharing that which it had guided me to perceive experientially in a matter of mere seconds. Here's the challenge: how do I verbally express that which is so foreign to the common human experience as to not have words allocated for it within our languages? My best attempt will inevitably fall woefully short of an accurate portrayal. Nevertheless, here goes. Color, or light in general, is multidimensional to the extent that I literally stepped into it, as if into a whole new world. It surrounded me in relative closeness yet did not even begin to feel stifling. I found myself reaching out to touch that which I would not have recognized as light from my conventional experience. It was gorgeous. It was fluid, moving in graceful undulations, almost like breathing, although less rhythmically regimented. Its composition included changing contours. I gleaned an impression of texture, as well, but this surreal-seeming event came to a conclusion before I could get any idea of potentially apt similes. The world of light into which I momentarily entered felt intricate without being garish. Again, I wish that I possessed the ability to articulate the experience well enough for you to perceive it as your own.

Let me assure you that I am of entirely sound mind. I was under the influence of neither intoxicants nor mind-altering drugs. Such an "organic" high is provided from Nature itself and available for all. It is the feeling of pure connection with others' inspirational perceptions and wisdom.

Barbara Ellis
barbara@interspecies-inspirations.com

Wilfred Louis Simendinger 1920 – 2015

Wilfred Louis Simendinger, who lived for more than 30 years on Upper Applegate Road in Jacksonville, passed away on Saturday, December 19, 2015, from natural causes.

Wil grew up in Summerhill, Pennsylvania, and served in the US Navy during World War II. He worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad before and after serving in the navy.

After moving to La Mirada, California, he was a city councilman and mayor for 11 years and worked for



Wilfred Louis Simendinger
on his 94th birthday on
September 10, 2015.

AT&T for over 30 years. He and his wife Rachel, one of the founders of Ruch Library, were avid Los Angeles Dodger fans. They also loved backpacking and fishing.

Wil collected, displayed and operated antique toy trains, and will be remembered by the local Applegate Train Club. He also will be remembered for his work as president of the McKee Bridge Historical Society to help save the

historic McKee Bridge. Wil is survived by daughter Terry and sons Mark and Tim Simendinger. Wil

left seven grandchildren: granddaughters Rachel Stull, Ellie Brink, Anna Baker, and Rebecca Bramnick, and grandsons Ben, Luke, and Chad Simendinger. He also left nine great-grandchildren: Peter and Isabella Stull; Addison, Emelia, Elliot, and Charlee Baker; Sydney and Maddox Brink; and Malia Simendinger.

Wil's ashes will be interred next to his wife of over 50 years, Rachel Sorrells Simendinger, at Eagle Point National Cemetery in Eagle Point, Oregon.

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— NOTICE —

The Community Calendar, usually found on this page, has been temporarily relocated to our website at www.applegater.org. We hope to return the calendar to this location in the near future.

ONLINE ARTICLE

Visit our website to read a timeless article, "Riparian ecosystems: At your service," by the late Tim Franklin, written while he was project manager at Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council.

••• BIZBITS •••

Welcome to BizBits, a section that highlights businesses new to the area, holding special events, or offering new products. If you are a business owner, please let us know when you move into the area or to a different location, hold a special event, expand your business, or mark a milestone. Email gater@applegater.org.

•••

CrushPad Creamery. A recent venture of Wooldridge Creek Winery located on-site and offering homemade cheeses from both cow and goat milk, “ranging in style from soft and creamy to hard cheeses that are aged over one year.” 818 Slagle Creek Road, Grants Pass. Phone: 541-846-6364; www.wcwinery.com.



•••

The Great Unbaked Raw Chocolate Factory & Unbakery. Opened late last year at 8880 Williams Highway, Unit B, Grants Pass/Murphy. Hours are 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Thursday. Website: www.thegreatunbaked.com. Phone: 541-450-9080. See article by Laird Funk on page 12.

LEHI Pump Service, Inc., is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Their story in their words: It all started in our beautiful town of Applegate in 1976 with Les Hill (first generation). And because of you, our customers, the business grew. In 1979, Ron (second generation and Les’s son) joined the family business. Some years we barely kept it together, working day by day, month by month. But you kept calling. We greatly appreciate your support over the years, which allowed us to continue providing water to your homes and fields and adding Dustin (third generation, Ron’s son, and Les’s grandson) in 2000. Our goal is to continue providing our outstanding, loyal customers (without you, there would be no LEHI!) with knowledgeable, honest, reliable, and affordable water-well pump service for many years and generations to come.

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BOOKS & MOVIES

— Books —

The Witches Stacy Schiff



The Mayflower landed on our eastern shores in 1620. Harvard College was established in 1636, and by the time of the 1692 infamous Salem witch trials, villages throughout Massachusetts Bay Colony were vying for Harvard’s theology-schooled clergymen. Harvard tuition was paid with wheat, butter, parsnips; a side of beef covered a year’s tuition. Laws requiring public grammar schools began in the 1640s, and ignorance was considered satanic. The ability to read the Bible was the crucial be-all of Puritan life.

Schiff has stated in interviews that she loves to actually smell and touch original documents, and we readers are the lucky beneficiaries of her thorough research. For those who care, her 495-page book contains 67 pages of very small-print notes. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Joseph Ellis says about

the book: “*The Witches* is the fullest and finest story ever told about Salem in 1692, and no one else could tell it with the otherworldly flair of Stacy Schiff.”

Puritan life placed extreme emphasis—and I do mean *extreme*—upon sin and the devil, this in a feverish, small-town atmosphere where everyone knew everyone else’s every foible and failure. Even a bruise was considered a punishment from God or a “mark of the devil.” People not only gossiped about these things, but also pointed to them in church and prayer meetings, with accompanying ecclesiastical demands for punishments, apologies, and fines. Punishments, such as head and hands locked in the stocks, were severe, public, and humiliating. Though providing a very rural, small-town milieu, Massachusetts Bay Colony was a highly litigious society; neighbor sued neighbor for such as an errant pig in a garden. Combine this with the constant fear of Indian attacks, homes burned to the ground, women and children kidnapped while men were away serving as guards and fighters in Indian wars (ten percent of the male colonist population—including my eighth great-grandfather, Nathaniel Sutliff—was killed in King Phillip’s War of the 1670s), and you get an environment ripe for witch hunting.

Schiff details much of this overburdening pressure and fear and much of the grinding hard work by all, including children, when she writes: “When she was not tending livestock, the garden or a fire, when she was not baking or candle-making,

a Puritan girl was meant to be knitting, spooling, or weaving. A five-year-old could be relied upon to sew a counterpane or spin flax.”

Bible quotations, interpreted as “Spare the rod and spoil the child,” were widely known and rigorously applied. The first two teenage girls to twitch and writhe, to moan and scream accusations were daughters of the Salem Village clergyman, Samuel Parris. Present in the Parris household was the slave, Tituba, brought by the family from the West Indies. She brought with her, and thus influenced the children with, that society’s beliefs in magic and spiritualism.

The first person to be accused of being a witch by the teens had been a relatively well-off woman, Sarah Good, widowed and reduced to begging in a community where downward mobility was often considered suspect, a sign of God’s disfavor. When Good (and her five-year-old daughter) was turned away from neighborhood doors with less than she considered adequate, she was known to walk away mumbling and muttering—much to her detriment, as Cotton Mather wrote of murmuring as “the devil’s music.”

The accusations snowballed in a community full of resentments, jealousies, and grudges. A culmination occurred in the severe winter of 1692, during which 14 women, five men, and *two dogs* were hanged (not burned as many believe) for witchcraft. Schiff details the overzealous and often inept proceedings, held in a bar, by a couple dozen men considered to be community leaders. Some were unschooled other than their autodidactic knowledge of their businesses, guard service, church, and other local activities.

The Witches is an exposé to vex the image many of us have of the kindly Pilgrims and Indians sitting down to Thanksgiving turkey and pumpkin pie. It also should give moderns pause about preconceptions and judgements: 1692 Salem Village folk believed firmly in the imminent Apocalypse, in Satan, in hellfire—and in witches. They believed in conspiracies by the foreign swarthy men (the Native Americans), by an overweening government (Britain), and even by rumored unfair plans of neighboring towns and villages. Beware.

Julia (Helm) Hoskins
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.

— Movies —

Chocolat

Reviewer rating: 5 Apples

Genre: Romantic comedy-drama

PG-13 (Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.)

Opened: December 2000

Cast: Juliette Binoche, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp, Alfred Molina

Director: Lasse Hallström



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

Binoche) and her young daughter.

When

Vianne opens

a magical chocolate shop during the week of Lent, it soon becomes clear that this conservative and rigid town is not a good fit for her. While the townspeople are understandably drawn to Vianne’s warm personality, her beauty, and her rich chocolate creations, she and the town’s leader, Comte de Reynaud (Alfred Molina) are instantly at odds. Right about now, I have to pause the movie to fetch a mug of rich, hot chocolate because I know in the next scene that Vianne is going to pour a mugful of thick and creamy hot chocolate



for a rebel townspeople (Judi Dench) and I won’t be able watch without drooling.

And just when I think I can’t drool any more, in walks a handsome gypsy man named Roux (Johnny Depp). Need I say more? Again, I hit the pause button of my television remote to visit the pantry in search of leftover Christmas chocolates. I double-dog dare you to make it through this film without craving chocolate! Roux eventually becomes Vianne’s love interest, but because Roux is quite a free spirit, it is not without some effort on Vianne’s part. We are given the idea that Vianne, with her beauty, charm and chocolates, typically gets what she wants,

but this town and this man prove to be a bit of a challenge for her. Her chocolates contain some magical powers, some of which have a very funny effect, while another manifests in a woman who needs courage to leave her abusive husband. There are some touching scenes where Vianne helps the woman—the film is not all about love and romance with Roux. Darn!

Nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Picture, this romantic comedy-drama is lusciously filmed and beautifully acted by the entire cast. I give it five out of five apples for its sweet, mysterious, and adventurous storytelling. It’s perfect for a cold, cloudy afternoon by the fire with a warm blanket and, well, some chocolate.

Mikell Nielsen
mikell@mikelllouis.com

BACK IN TIME

Logtown Cemetery comes alive!

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

Several years ago, after Carl Offenbacher made and donated a beautiful wrought iron gate to Logtown Cemetery, plans were proposed to remove the old falling-down fence and install new fencing to go with the gate. Even with some monetary donations and willing volunteers to do some of the work, the project seemed beyond the financial capabilities of the Logtown Cemetery Association. As time went on and more ideas were sifted through, a solution began to evolve that has brought the old cemetery to its new look: a black chain link fence that runs along the front and a no-climb field fence enclosing the three other sides.

I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who worked on removing trees, brush, and old fencing. Though I have been asked not to list their names, as they seem to be shy about their good deeds, I feel blessed to live in a community with them in it. I would also like to thank the entities that helped the association secure the necessary capital

to buy and install the fence: Oregon Parks and Recreation Division (with an Oregon Historic Cemetery Grant), Oregon Community Foundation (with a gift from Maggie Purves), McKee Bridge Historical Society, and the Logtown Cemetery Association (for keeping the project on the front burner).

Some of the following history of the cemetery is from John and Marguerite Black, who were charter members of the cemetery association. For many years Marguerite was the secretary and John was the sexton. They are now buried in the cemetery that they loved so much and donated their valuable time to.

On September 20, 1892, John M. McKee sold his 160-acre homestead at Logtown to Austin Albright for \$600. This included a two-story log house, barns, sheds, farmland, and some mining ground. It also included the graveyard, which by this time contained several rows of graves of miners and early settlers, some of them McKees. However, McKee's deed to Albright did not mention any land set

aside or reserved for a cemetery. Legal ownership of this graveyard was passed along to each purchaser of the property until 1929.

The old cemetery, then called Laurel Grove, was located about 400 feet up the hill on the east side of the Jacksonville-Crescent City road (now Highway 238). In 1929, a group of local people rebuilt the wire fence with new cedar posts donated by Mark Winningham. No written records of burials were kept in the early days, but Elva Smith, who grew up near Logtown and knew everyone, kept track of names and dates on hand-drawn maps as best she could during the 1920s and 1930s. Issac Coffman, long-time sexton of the Jacksonville Cemetery, often assisted with burials in Logtown during the 1930s.

The Logtown Cemetery Association was formally organized at a meeting held at the cemetery on May 14, 1939. Those who attended were Elva and Ed Smith, Pearl and Harry Whitney, Bill and Gertrude Winningham, L. Frank

and Anna Lozier, Emma Smith, E. Igo and wife, Minus and Osie Pence, Leonard McKee, and John and Marguerite Black. They voted to change the name of the cemetery back to Logtown and agreed that all persons who had relatives buried there or owned a plot

were considered members with a right to attend annual meetings and vote.

In a subsequent meeting, the association filed applications for incorporation and made plans to obtain legal title to the south half of the cemetery. Property owners of portions of the cemetery were Walter W. and Edith Bell, residing in California, and Paul E. and Mildred Pearce, residing in the Applegate. Both parties graciously donated land to the association.

The cemetery has gone through a few facelifts over the years. In 1939 a rustic archway with a carved wooden sign, donated by the local Civilian Conservation Corps, was installed. In 1949 the cedar archway became unsafe and was replaced with railroad iron and a wire gate. A well was drilled in 1950 and a hand pump installed. In 1958 a group of members planted a row of slips from Maryum McKee's yellow rose bush (Logtown Rose) along the front on the north side of the gate. Later on, the Applegate Garden Club set out more slips on the south side of the gate.

There are only a few of us old-timers left with memories and stories of the people buried there. There are probably more McKees or relatives of the McKees buried there than other families, but there is no doubt that a who's who of the Applegate is etched in stone throughout the cemetery.

If you have an interesting story about someone buried in Logtown, send it to Janeen Sathre at djsathre@gmail.com or 1517 Palmer Creek Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

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

The cedar archway was installed in 1939.



The wrought iron gate was made by Carl Offenbacher.



All those dead trees—again

BY BILL SCHAUPP AND ELLEN MICHAELS GOHEEN

A similarly titled article in the June 2003 *Applegater* began as follows: "Those of us who make our living surveying for and diagnosing the causes of tree mortality and then offering recommendations for managing forest insects and pathogens are used to focusing on dead and dying trees. Our perspectives, relative to those of others, are probably a bit peculiar. We see the few red and gray trees even when they are surrounded by a sea of green ones. We watch the weather closely, not anticipating our vacations, but instead wondering where and what the next outbreak will be. Wet years are 'good for fungi.' Fog banks on hillsides are 'spore clouds.' Trees in dense stands in dry years are 'bark beetle bait.' Mostly, we can predict the likely outcomes of shifts in weather patterns; that is, we know which insects or fungi will likely be involved in disease, dieback, and tree death in given situations. But even after decades of close observation, we can sometimes be surprised by how quickly things change and how large the scale of the impacts can be."

Now that there is a similar situation in the Applegate with all those dead trees—again, it seems appropriate to hear from us once more.

How did we get here? The 2013 drought followed by the snow drought of 2014 diminished tree defenses in interior

areas of southwest Oregon, especially in very dense stands. Subsequently, tree mortality due to insects and plant pathogens has increased. This is especially evident in the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion, which includes the Applegate.

In the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA), which encompasses the entire Applegate River watershed, the results of the 2015 aerial detection survey illustrate a large increase in conifer mortality—pines, firs and Douglas fir—as compared with previous years (see graph). Note that after the dry years of 2007 through 2009, another increase in mortality was detected.

How do we determine this trend? Since 1951 the USDA Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry have been doing an annual aerial survey to detect tree mortality in Oregon. Two observers fly in a small airplane in a grid pattern over all of the forested lands in Oregon. They map the locations of recently killed trees, estimate their number, and provide a "cause of death" based on tree species affected and the pattern of mortality

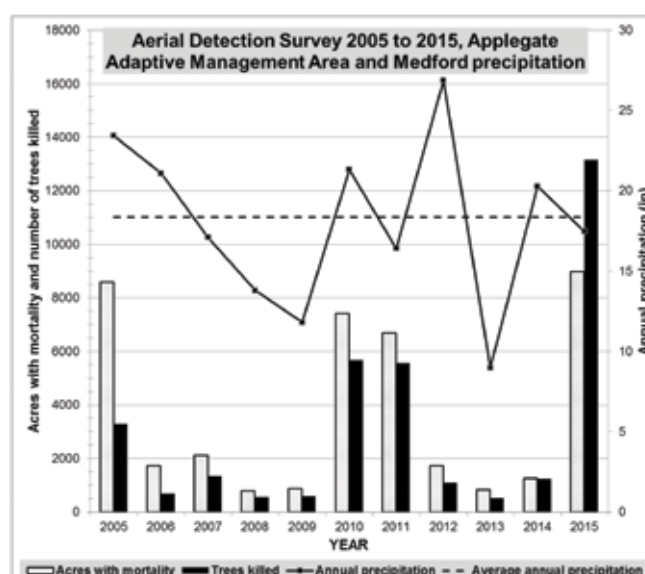
observed. Obviously, they don't map small dead trees in the understory, and they miss many trees when visibility isn't perfect, so we consider the numbers we detect lower than what we would actually measure on the ground. We ground-check a sample of the dead trees we map to give us an idea of how valid our estimates are. We can be confident that the data derived from the aerial survey provides us with good information on mortality trends over time. These data, maps, reports and related information are posted on the Internet at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/forest-grasslandhealth/insects-diseases/?cid=stelprdb5286951. These surveys and a number of studies have shown that particular types of tree mortality occur in pulses, often in response to drought or other weather conditions.

What factors other than drought are involved? The insects and pathogens associated with the tree mortality are all responding to trees under stress, mostly water stress. That explains why there is more mortality where water is less available—on rocky soils, on heavy clay soils, on drier, hotter aspects, at lower elevations, and in heavily-stocked stands. Other vegetation—grass, forbs, shrubs, or hardwood trees such as oaks and madrones—competes with pines, Douglas fir, white fir, and incense-cedar for moisture. When water is in short supply, trees are weakened and their chemistry changes. Chemical changes may result in direct attraction of insects to weakened trees or to increased ability by insects and fungi to overcome tree defense mechanisms.

Although the winter has begun with ample precipitation, it is likely that 2016 will be another year of elevated conifer mortality in the AMA. This is due, in part, to the enlarged beetle populations that exist within currently infested conifers and the life-cycle length of the beetle species involved. Another year of below-average precipitation will exacerbate this situation.

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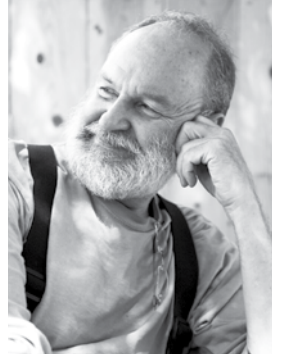
Bill is a forest entomologist and Ellen is a plant pathologist with the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection in Central Point, Oregon.



THE STARRY SIDE

Imperceptible movement

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

Let me put you in your car on a freeway, going as fast as the speed limit. That book on the seat next to you is just there, still and quiet, even though you both are flying through space. Now look out the window. Things that are close fly by your fast-moving car. But the farther away they are, the slower they go by, like that mountain on the horizon. Look at the way the sky of stars and even our moon stay in the same place for long periods of time while you're driving at night! It's a bit of a weird effect.

How does it work? Those stars seem to just hang there because they are unbelievably far away from earth. They really are moving relative to our spinning

planet: they slowly work their way from east to west because we are spinning west to east. But from our point of view, most of the time they don't appear to be moving at all. If you notice a bright star or the moon moving, it's because there's something stationary right next to it (like a mountain or horizon line) to compare it to. So things are moving, just really slowly.

In a way, this conundrum is comforting. The world we are a part of and living on—our home itself—is also speeding through space, yet we hardly know it and never feel it. Even though the stars may be moving at fantastic speeds, we can't detect that movement

without terrific scientific effort. Even as we are moving at thousands of miles per hour around the sun, and all of us in the whole solar system are tracking at tremendous speed through our Milky Way galaxy, all these movements are undetectable to us. All seems quite stable and predictable here on earth. It's a seemingly safe, knowable, gentle and beautiful cosmos we live in. There are so many other more "important things" to worry about. But let's appreciate the luxury of having this curious and interesting question to ponder. After all, like the movement of our galaxy, we're slowly getting older and rarely notice that, either!

And in May the constellation Lyra, with its bright star Vega of the summer triangle, will be high in the east heralding summer treats.

With the rising of the Big Dipper (follow the arch of the handle) is the very bright Arcturus in the constellation Boötes. To its east is that crown shape, Corona Borealis. In April, a little farther east, rises Hercules, the hourglass shape.

Other events of note

March 20 is the vernal equinox and the official start of spring. Days and nights are about equal for a week or so, and the sun rises due east and sets due west. I've made a mark on my rooftop star-observation deck railing to show it. I'm working on marking the other solar events. I missed the winter solstice because of endless overcast, but some day I'll get it!

Many of the planets have been easy to see if you're an early morning, before-dawn riser. Venus is the main treat, being by far the brightest. A beautiful little crescent moon visits very close to Venus at dawn on April 6.

Second only to Venus is Jupiter, who's been rising earlier and earlier with the constellation Leo. Jupiter has been living in the constellation Leo for a year or so, and is now up just about all night. Jupiter's solar year is 12 of ours, so it spends a year in each of the zodiac constellations—almost imperceptible movement.

Wishing you clear, dark night skies and bright stars.

Greeley Wells • greeley@greeley.me

Illustration: Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar 2016.



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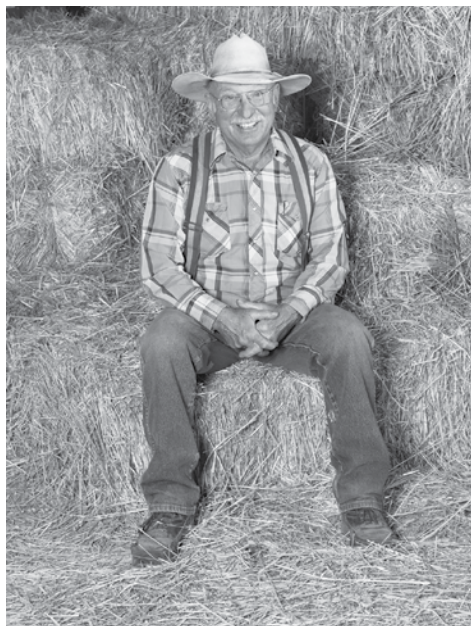
Ron, Jody and Dustin Hill lehipump@gmail.com

Cowboy up!

BY SANSA COLLINS

There's no denying Jerry Henning is a cowboy. From his hat to his truck to the border collie circling his ankles, he's country through and through. Everybody knows Jerry. He has lived in the Applegate Valley since 1974 and is a vital part of the community. Jerry serves on the mounted Josephine County Sheriff's Posse, volunteering his time and expertise to track down lost hikers. Boy, can he tell you stories. Yeah, he's a little rough around the edges, but give his heart a spit-shine and you'll see it's made of gold.

In 2009, Jerry was hired as a farmhand for Sanctuary One, the care farm that has since grown into a vibrant part of the Applegate Valley. Working with the frugal budget of a responsible nonprofit, he found new ways to reclaim the term "Jerry-rig." Did an 800-pound rescue pig bust the gate latch? No problem, Jerry can fix it. Are the Angora goats rubbing their fuzzy butts on the fence again? Don't worry, Jerry knows a guy who can hook us up with an old street sweeper brush for them to rub on instead. Need to unload thousands of pounds of donated dog food stacked



Jerry Henning, farmhand at Sanctuary One since 2009, is a role model for at-risk youth who work at the farm and also a Big Brother volunteer.

on pallets? Get Jerry on the tractor. If you have a barn full of hay you'd like to donate, just call us up and we'll send him on over. Just be sure to have a slice of pie ready because this old cowboy's sure got a sweet tooth.

In addition to all the farm work, Jerry serves as a mentor for the at-risk youth who come to work at Sanctuary One. Many of these kids have no positive male role models in their lives, no one to

show them by example what good work ethic is. Thanks to his time volunteering with the Big Brother program, Jerry has developed an easy, joking way with the kids. The boys especially respond to his example, soon vying to make him proud with how many irrigation pipes they can lay out or how many wheelbarrow loads of compost they can shovel into the garden. Even if they're at the farm for only a couple of hours, the kids will leave with a positive memory of the time they came out to Sanctuary One and Jerry showed them how to "cowboy up."

When you adopt a farm animal from us, Jerry can often be hired to transport your new animal to you. Take a look at our website at www.sanctuaryone.org to see all the fun, fuzzy faces of our rescued alpacas, llamas, horses, goats, sheep, ducks, chickens, geese, cows, rabbits, and, of course, cats and dogs. Like any reputable rescue, we have a no-breeding policy to ensure that we're not adding to the overpopulation problem. And it goes without saying that our babies should never end up on a plate. But if you just want some happy hens to scratch around the farm or a pair of goats to help keep the blackberries at bay, we encourage you to consider adopting a rescue animal. Every animal adopted into a loving home opens up

space to rescue another, so when you adopt one animal from us, you're really saving two animals.

Sanctuary One boasts a support base that is as varied as it is passionate. We are thrilled to see so many different types of people among our staff, interns, volunteers, donors, and visitors. We all have different diet and lifestyle choices, but we can all agree that the magic created at Sanctuary One transcends differences and equalizes us as human beings sharing the earth with other creatures. You might be a rancher or a vegan artist, a hippie mama, an old cowboy like Jerry, or something in between.

Whoever you are, we invite you to visit the sanctuary. There is a place for you here. You might be inspired to volunteer, walk rescue dogs, or weed in our gardens. You might fall in love with one of our adoptable animals and bring home a new horse or goat to your farm. You might be moved to donate to support our amazing work. Now is the time to "cowboy up" and become a part of Sanctuary One.

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Open Source Seed: The past meets the future

BY JONATHAN SPERO

Not long ago, all seed was in the public domain. If you bought seeds, you owned them outright. No longer. In recent decades, the balance between the power of seed companies and the rights of those who grow plants from the seeds has shifted sharply against the grower.

In the 1980s it became legal to patent seeds. Now, saving the seeds or improving them with further breeding becomes a crime. Taken together with seed industry consolidation, this means fewer choices for growers. A company can buy, and remove from production, a line that might compete with its profitable line. The farmer, once the heart of an independent society, is now at risk of becoming only a cog in someone else's food system.

There is a new choice: the Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI). Instead of accepting restricted so-called

"intellectual property" (what makes life intellectual property, anyway?), new cultivars can now be pledged to open source. Instead of accepting restricted seeds, buyers can choose open source seed varieties, which they own outright, can save, resell or improve, and, at the same time, support breeders and seed companies committed to public access.

The concept of open source *software* says that if you create coding, you can "free" its use and commit it to be open source. If you use a sequence of open source coding in creating something new, you owe no one, but you commit that new software to likewise be available. The "free" carries forward.

Applied to seed, if you use an open source-pledged seed variety to create something new, the new variety must also be open to being freely used, shared or improved by others. In less than



open
source
seed
initiative

two years, more than 250 varieties from more than 20 breeders have been pledged to open source. These include seeds from Williams breeder and seedsman Don Tipping, at Seven Seeds Farm, and from myself. More than 20 seed companies, several based in Oregon, now offer Open Source seeds.

The Open Source pledge says: "You have the freedom to use these OSSI-pledged seeds in any way you choose. In return, you pledge not to restrict others' use of these seeds or their derivatives by patents or other means, and to include

this pledge with any transfer of these seeds or their derivatives."

Open Source seed is a new choice for farmers and gardeners, a choice where the grower once again is in control. A list of Open Source pledged seed and links to seed companies that sell them can be found on the Open Source Seed Initiative website at www.osseeds.org.

OSSI invites anyone

who has created a new variety to pledge it to open source. It also invites seed companies to partner in promoting these unrestricted seeds, and food producers, retailers, processors, and restaurants to become food partners.


This is the OSSI alternative: seed that is owned by the grower and cannot be restricted. To learn more, visit the Open Source Seed Initiative at www.osseeds.org. When buying garden seeds, look for the OSSI logo.

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Sioux Rogers

BY SIOUX ROGERS

The root vegetables mentioned below are but three of many underutilized and extremely nutritious garden plants that are easy to grow and very delicious.

Burdock

How would you like to have more than 23,000 family members and still be referred to as a weed? Yikes! That's the case with the Daisy family (also known as Asteraceae or Compositae), of which burdock is an outstanding representative. Burdock is also known as gobo and by at least a dozen other names. Sadly, it is often referred to as a nasty thistle weed, too. If you have cultivated or wild burdock growing in your yard, you are very lucky. If you don't have it, plant it.

Here are a few precautions before planting. The plant can grow anywhere from six to eight feet tall. Since Burdock is thought to come from Japan, I believe when you plant it, it tries to go back to Japan. I once planted burdock and never did find the end after digging three feet. Burdock looks like a long, skinny, brown carrot. When cooked its texture

resembles a cooked carrot or parsnip, but it has an earthy, nutty flavor. It is crisp and crunchy when raw. Unlike a carrot, however, it is not so yummy when raw.

Burdock is noted for its exceptional medicinal qualities as well as its flavor. Medicinally it is said to have excellent blood purifying qualities, expelling toxins via the kidneys and liver. All parts of the plant can be used. The seeds have been used as an effusion for throat and chest ailments, and leaves and stems can be used as an appetite stimulant and remedy for indigestion. Burdock is very low in calories and contains inulins, which are polysaccharides that help regulate blood sugar. This plant is an excellent source of potassium and other minerals, as well as small quantities of folic acid, riboflavin, pyridoxine, niacin, and vitamins E and C (www.nutrition-and-you.com/burdock-root).

Celeriac

Also called turnip-rooted celery, knob celery, or celery root, celeriac is a variety of celery that is cultivated for its

edible roots, hypocotyl, and shoots. If you have never seen celeriac in the store, it is white-beige, not green like celery. It is not a smooth ball, but rather gnarly. It has a wonderful crunch and snap when eaten raw. It is actually easier to grow than celery in that most of the "work" is happening below ground, not above as with its celery cousin.

Celeriac, another underused, easy-to-grow vegetable, is said to be one of 11 excellent foods for arthritis (www.sharecare.com/health/bone-joint-muscle-health/health-guide/manage-joint-pain-arthritis/best-foods-joint-pain-8#slide-11). If you are practicing organic gardening and have healthy soil full of fat earthworms, your root vegetables like celeriac will be chock-full of minerals. Like celery, celeriac can be used raw and chopped up in salads. It can also be sliced, grated, and cooked as you would a potato.

Horseradish

The first rule about horseradish is plant it in a container! If you don't follow

this simple advice, you may become the next horseradish farmer on planet Applegate.

This underappreciated root is in the same Brassicaceae family as mustard, broccoli, and cabbage. The word "horse" most likely refers to its strength.

Horseradish is easily grown in any well-drained soil. A couple of old tires piled up works quite well and keeps the roots from going berserk around and about the garden. Because of its kinship to cabbage, horseradish attracts the same pests. Handpicking the small cabbage worms off the large leaves is the easiest way to control them.

The extremely pungent and distinctive odor of the horseradish is due to its phytochemicals. One of the best doctors I have ever known, Dr. J. David Walters, advised me to grate the horseradish and then take a very deep breath. Wow! If nothing else, short of falling on the floor, my sinuses were dramatically cleared. Horseradish is underused and underappreciated for its high antioxidant qualities and immune stimulating properties. It is also said to inhibit the mutation of healthy cells into cancerous cells (www.organicfacts.net/health-benefits/vegetable/horseradish/).

Take the time to look up more of the highly beneficial properties of these plants. If you have a garden, take care of yourself by growing the most nutritious plants you possibly can.

Sioux Rogers
dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm



Photo, left: Burdock (rosewoods.com/burdock). Center: Celeriac (theknobblyplate.co.uk/celeriac). Right: Horseradish (bakingwithzombies.com/2014/11/18/horseradish/).

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Cantrall Buckley Park

NEWS

Help create the community mosaic mural

BY JEREMY CRISWELL

Thank you to all who participated in the community mural input days during the summer and early fall, when we asked just what kind of mural you would like to see in your park. We received wonderful ideas and inspiration from well over 100 people and have come up with a terrific mural concept.

Common themes included Applegate Valley trees, river, and native plants, along with fish, turtles, flowers, butterflies, and local rocks. All of these have been incorporated into the concept—a mosaic mural that honors the environment in which we live. A sketch of the final concept will soon be displayed around the community. The mural itself will be 26 feet long by 7 feet tall and will cover the exterior wall of the Cantrall Buckley Park restroom next to the new playground. The restroom is scheduled for renovation this fall.

So what's next, you ask? Well, as this is a community project, it seems only fair to let the community take part—by creating some of the ceramic tiles that will make up the mural. We have already made plans for week-long tile-making workshops at Ruch and Applegate Schools in April, and are in talks with Woodland Charter School

and our local homeschool group to do the same. In these workshops, kids will have the opportunity to make ceramic fish, flowers, native plants, and bug tiles that will become part of the mural.

Beyond involving the local schools, I will be holding community tile-making days at my studio in Ruch. These will be fun afternoon and evening events where small groups will be invited to draw and paint in clay, while enjoying friends, music, and good times. Gather up to eight folks with whom you would like to share a few hours of fun, then call or email me to set a date for your own workshop. Consider a girls' or guys' evening out, bring your book club, garden club or art group! Maybe even a birthday event or wine tasting! There are dates available in March and April.

Come be part of this wonderful project and help bring the vision of the community to life. And if you'd like to donate to this wonderful project, please use the donation box at the Ruch Country Store or send a check to Park Mural Project, PO Box 3107, Applegate, OR 97530. Thank you!

Jeremy Criswell
541-899-9024
jerr37@jeffnet.org

Riverside trails at Cantrall Buckley Park

Access to the beautiful Applegate River is available year-round in your community at Cantrall Buckley Park. Most Applegate Valley residents do not live on the river or have a friend with riverfront property who is willing to let them recreate there. My wife and I live on a south-facing slope high above the river, so that free-flowing water is an attraction any time of the year and especially when summer takes hold.

In the past two years the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) has reopened two riverside loop trails at the park. The half-mile Upper River Trail is my favorite because of the view from the big boulders lining the edge of the river. The half-mile Lower River Trail has a whole different feel with lots of shade along the river, occasional short paths to the water, and, should you take it, a short but difficult loop trail back with a fantastic view of the valley as your reward. Both trails are well marked.

Park cleanup April 23

Want to get Cantrall Buckley Park ready for opening on May 1? Come on out to the park on Saturday, April 23! We'll meet at the new playground. You can see all the new stuff that's been added and help pick up trash and dead limbs. Receptacles and refreshments provided. We'll work from 9 to 11 am or thereabouts.



Upper River Trail at Cantrall Buckley Park.
Photo: Annette Trujillo.

Weather permitting, ATA will give these trails a shot of maintenance, perhaps with your help, on Saturday, April 23. Volunteers will gather at the park from 8:45 am to 1 pm. ATA will provide lunch and some tools. Bring gloves and your favorite digging tool or power trimmer/brush-cutter.

In partnership with the Cantrall Buckley Park Committee, ATA is working on the design and installation of new kiosks in the park and informational pedestals along the trails. A new map will soon be at strategic locations throughout the park. Once again, ATA says thanks to our map-maker, Annette Parsons, to our volunteers in general, and to a GPS.

ATA invites you to visit the park often. Flowing water is a powerful force. Stand by the river and give it a little time to let your stress flow right downstream. Amble along the river. It is amazing how restorative it can be. You might try this before you make that next medical appointment.

David Calahan
Chair, Applegate Trails Association
david@applegatetrails.org



Signing of the March 1997 Participating Agreement. Seated, from left to right: Jackson County Commissioners Ric Holt, Sue Kupillas, and Jack Walker. Standing: (unknown), Terry Mitchell, Dick Goble, Jack Shipley, (unknown), (unknown), Terry Black, Tom Fiske, and Tom Brovarney. Contact gater@applegater.org if you recognize the "unknowns."

History: Saving Cantrall Buckley Park

The story of Cantrall Buckley Park's salvation begins in the spring of 1996. By then, declining timber revenues had put Jackson County parks in financial jeopardy. After 15 years of decreasing revenues, Jackson County finally closed several parks, including Cantrall Buckley.

This closure sent a shock wave through the Applegate Valley. Cantrall Buckley Park was beloved by people from all over the region. It was, after all, one of the few places where folks could access the Applegate River. Generations of settlers and farm families had used the old "Cantrall swimming hole." Thousands of people from all over the Rogue Valley had enjoyed the park for picnicking, camping, swimming, fly-fishing, boating, and hiking.

In this crisis, Jack Shipley broached an idea. Why couldn't the residents of Applegate Valley run the park? At the time, Jack had retired as director of public works field services for the City of Grants Pass and now served as chair of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC). He had a good sense of how to run a park and how this vibrant community could help.

He talked things over with Su Rolle of the US Forest Service (USFS), who was then the coordinator for the Applegate Adaptive Management Area. Su liked the idea and asked Terry Black to give Jack a hand. Terry was community planner at the Star Ranger Station on Upper Applegate Road.

So, with tremendous energy and passion, Jack and Terry organized the effort to save this precious site. Many people were thrilled with the idea of a community-run park and offered to help. The Cantrall Buckley Park Ad Hoc Committee, representing several community organizations, local service clubs, valley businesses, and staff from the Bureau of Land Management and USFS (Star Ranger Station), was formed. The committee wrote a letter to Paul Korbulic, program manager for Jackson County Parks, offering to assume responsibility for irrigating the park through the summer while more options to keep the park open were being explored. Paul saw this as the beginning of solving the county's problem and agreed to the proposal.

Over the next year the committee worked in the now-closed park, trimming grass, picking up trash and downed wood, and irrigating trees and shrubs. That winter the flood of 1997 hit the valley hard, increasing the clean-up work. Tuffy Decker donated heavy equipment and his expertise. The Applegate Lions Club repaired the picnic tables. The

Applegate Grange and other neighbors helped with cleanup. Federal flood relief grants eased the financial strain.

In the meantime, Jack, Terry, and Paul worked on a unique legal agreement to keep the park open. The resulting Participating Agreement, signed by the Jackson County Commissioners at a March 17, 1997, ceremony at the park (see the fuzzy old *Applegater* photo above), codified a collaborative relationship between the county and the citizens. Cantrall Buckley Park, now a county park in name only, would be run entirely by volunteers with a budget, a marketing plan, and an operating schedule. The Jacksonville-Applegate Rotary Club worked with Dave Clayton to sponsor several fundraising concerts, which made thousands of dollars. The Ad Hoc Committee opened a bank account. Terry Mitchell was hired as the on-site superintendent, and by the spring of 1997, the park was back in business. This was the first time any public park in Oregon was to be managed entirely by the community it served.

Initially the Ad Hoc Committee operated under the umbrella of APWC. But because park management did not fit within the charter of APWC, the committee formed a new nonprofit organization, the Applegate Valley Community Center. In 1998, this group morphed into the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC). Although it has been modified over time, the agreement is still in place, and the volunteer Park Committee is alive and well.

The list of citizens who helped keep our park open is a long one. Many local businesses and organizations lent their time, equipment, and expertise. There are, however, several key individuals without whom this effort would not have been successful, who truly put spade to dirt to make it happen. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for the time and effort they devoted to save our park.

If you have more information or want to know more, give me a ring.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

Key individuals who helped keep Cantrall Buckley Park open

Terry Black, Bud Childers, Dave Clayton, Chuck Dahl, Tuffy Decker, Tom Fiske, Ed Frutchey, Dick Goble, Pat Gordon, Jerry Hyde, Larry Hyde, Ellen Levine, Hal Macy, Vivian McAleavey, Dale McFall, John McKelligott, Terry Mitchell, Abbey Rodgers, Phil Schwimmer, Jack Shipley, Thalia Truesdell, and Greeley Wells.

Many of these folks are still here. If you see them, give 'em a pat on the back.

Chief Fillis was always available to assist the public

■ CHIEF FILLIS
Continued from page 1

However, because residents of the Applegate tend to be older and retired, Chief Fillis' toughest challenge over the years was recruiting and keeping volunteer firefighters. He offered up advice for his successor: *be aware of and manage* the impacts of change on the volunteers. Standards for training are constantly changing, so keeping the district's "training bar" high while still having fun is a challenge.

What has the chief achieved, personally, during his tenure here? In his own words, "It's knowing

that the things I have been a part of have made a difference." He feels his legacy is "a better-equipped and better-trained group of firefighters," and that our fire district is one of the best in southern Oregon.

Chief Fillis hopes Applegate patrons will remember him as a "dedicated, hard-working public servant who was always available to assist the public, regardless of their problem, emergent or non-emergent." And his local fire agency colleagues? He hopes they remember him as "someone who thought it was more important to work together than getting hung up in how we were going to do it."

Always the team player, our chief.

Some people move through the windows of your life leaving dim memories, if any. Not so Brett Fillis—he definitely left his mark here in the Applegate, and we wish him all the best in retirement.

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneor@q.com



At the Special Districts Association of Oregon's annual awards banquet in 2009, Chief Fillis and Applegate Valley Fire District #9 were awarded "Outstanding District Program" for their "collaborative, innovative and invaluable efforts" in implementing the Applegate Fire Plan.



Photo, left: Brett discusses emergency preparedness with the community. Photos, right (clockwise from top): Brett in his first fire truck, Chief Fillis and fire district board chair Ed Temple at ribbon-cutting ceremony for Station 7, Brett with his prize catch during a fishing trip to Baja.



Personal notes from retiring Fire Chief Fillis

Any amount of success that is placed on the job that I have done is due to the enthusiasm and support that has been given to the Applegate Valley Fire District by the patrons and those members who make up the district (volunteers, staff, board members, budget committee, and Friends of the Fire District). This job is easy and fun when everyone has a similar goal. When things become focused around a single individual or group and the goals no longer are aligned, the job becomes difficult and no longer fun.

To the patrons

I have had the privilege of meeting many of you during non-emergent times, and, in most cases, I was able to easily help you in one way or another.

Others I have met during emergent situations, which generally were not good days for you or your family. During those times I always intended to show compassion, but occasionally you may

have seen my aggressive side when something needed to be done and it needed to be done quickly. If I offended you and wasn't able to fix that part of our relationship before we concluded our time together, I sincerely apologize and hope that if I was "short" with you, you at least understood the reason why.

To residents of the district

Over the years the Applegate Fire District, as well as many other agencies, has been active in preaching "preparedness" for our residents, be it from wildfire, flood, or any other disaster that may affect us. In the last couple of years, we have been talking more about being prepared for a potential large-scale earthquake. If this occurs and happens to the degree that is being predicted, the only way residents will pull through an event of this magnitude somewhat successfully will be because they are personally prepared.

The type of preparedness that I am speaking of is not of the 72-hour nature. This type of preparedness means being prepared to take care of yourself and your family for *two weeks*. Due to the extent of this type of disaster, assistance from federal, state, and county agencies will be slow and overwhelmed. I believe that the fire district will be hard-pressed to meet its normal responses to what we consider basic services due to the lack of things that we generally take for granted, like phones, roads, power, and bridges, to name just a few.

If you are pretty confident this will never happen, then don't worry about it. If you think that the possibility exists, start preparing yourself and your family.

To members of the Applegate Fire District

It has been my pleasure to have been

associated with you for the last 20 years. Every one of you has given a piece of yourself to make this fire district function and, ultimately, an entity that is relied upon by our fellow citizens during their time of need.

For that reason and many others, any credit that has been given to me in regard to how this district has operated is because of your efforts.

One of the things that I have learned is that the last chief is also the target to blame, which I am okay with. You will soon have a new fire chief who will be dependent on you for input and support. The new chief will also be dependent upon you for understanding when a change is required to be made. Change is tough on people. Resilient people handle change with style. Tough people handle change with ease. You are resilient *and* tough.

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The Great Unbaked: Raw chocolate business a sweet addition to the Applegate

BY LAIRD FUNK

Raw, unroasted chocolate? What? That might have been all that Wade and Jennifer Davis would have had to say about the subject 20-some years ago when they, like many neighbors, moved here from southern California. Even later, when Wade became a successful concrete contractor in our area and Jennifer was a stay-at-home mom, it might have still been a puzzle.

But while Wade was setting forms and finishing concrete, Jennifer was starting to look for healthy alternatives to the sugary desserts and snacks her kids clamored for. While experimenting, she came upon the subject of raw chocolate, chocolate unlike the standard commercial offerings. All commercial chocolate, even the healthier dark chocolate, is roasted or heated above 118 degrees, a temperature above which, Jennifer believes, some of the nutrients are lost.

Through her experiments Jennifer learned that raw chocolate, while a superior choice, was sometimes temperamental to work with, with missteps resulting in a bitter product. But it wasn't long before Jennifer was turning out chocolate goodies that were delicious and liked by all who tried them. Eschewing refined sugars, she opted for sweeteners like coconut nectar, palm sugar, raw agave nectar, maple syrup, and yacón syrup from the Philippines, Indonesia, and South America.

After the 2009 economic mess lessened the need for concrete, Jennifer decided to make her chocolate hobby a business, calling it "The Great Unbaked New Raw Chocolate Factory," and selling her creations to the public. She created a certified kitchen in her home and started making goodies on a bigger scale, but she needed more chocolate.

She found she could not use just any cocoa beans because, while the beans were considered raw, they still might have been subjected to temperatures over 118 degrees during the fermentation and drying process used to

prepare the beans for market. Seeking suppliers who monitored their process more carefully and kept the temperature down, she now brings in chocolate from small family processors in Ecuador, Bali and the Dominican Republic.

While sales may have been a bit slow to begin with, the quality and flavor of the chocolate creations soon made friends and customers for the company wherever they were marketed. Starting by wholesaling to local retailers, Jennifer steadily built the business and increased production of her sweet offerings. Now her "Great Unbaked" line of products is found in most health-food stores in the Applegate Valley, Ashland, Grants Pass, and even in California, Texas, and New York. Sending out sample packs to likely outlets has spurred sales significantly.

Business was so good that it soon outgrew her house and its small certified kitchen. While searching for more space for her equipment and new employees, she thought of the building that had been Myron Meehan's cabinet shop just east of Murphy. They had been using part of it as a warehouse for Wade's business, but those days were done. The building was spacious and in a good location, but it was still an industrial space not suitable for a commercial food producer. That didn't stop Jennifer.

She and Wade gutted the interior, moved out the resident bats in the ceiling, and began building. Dividing up the space, they created an amazing commercial kitchen as big as some houses and equipped it with everything they needed to produce the quantities of chocolate they envisioned. Bright and roomy, the space features gleaming stainless-steel work surfaces, skylights for lighting, refrigerators, storage spaces, and the pride of the place: a grinder that holds 65 pounds of chocolate at a time.

They also made spaces for an office and their newly launched retail sales endeavor. Stepping in, you are greeted

by the smell of chocolate and a wonderful display of their products: the now famous truffles are joined by delicious seasonal candies, chocolate syrup, hot chocolate mix, and even an unbaked chocolate-dipped brownie made with nut flours.

Jennifer appreciates her location on the Applegate Wine Trail, and sees her chocolates as a nice addition to the local wines and other specialty agricultural products being offered in our valley. Myron Meehan might be surprised at the changes to his shop, but I suspect he'd like the chocolate just fine.

Laird Funk
541-846-6759

The Great Unbaked New Raw Chocolate Factory is located at 8880 Williams Highway, Unit B, Grants Pass, OR. Phone: 541-450-9080.



Photos, top: A very recognizable storefront with a "chocolate" mural by John Michener. Bottom: The retail space where customers are greeted by the fragrance of an abundance of chocolate products made by owner Jennifer Davis.

The community of Williams

BY GABRIELA EAGLESOME

If people chose *not* to participate, donate, or give freely of their time and energy, Applegate Valley communities like Williams would look a lot different. In the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, Jimmy Stewart is about to jump off a bridge, but an angel intervenes. The angel shows him that he made a difference and flashes a world before his eyes that would have been an awful place had he not been in it. Without public engagement our communities would similarly lack warmth and welcoming qualities.

Although communities experience friction, public interaction reduces conflicts and misunderstandings. Neighbors squabbling over a fence, an eyesore or noise, can easily find themselves helping another family put their lives together after a fire. Working for the good of a community smooths over personal differences and helps people shift their perceptions from insular to communal.

An institution's health and longevity depend on the people behind it, and its ability to retain volunteers and attract participants. Some initiatives begin with great enthusiasm and eventually peter out. Many people regret the demise of the Williams newsletter, for example. Others become part of the culture, like the Williams' Grange, which is supported by many volunteers, some of whom have been working at the number one community gathering, the Pancake

Breakfast, for almost 20 years. Their fortitude is to be applauded. It isn't easy to organize such a big operation.

The beauty of the Pancake Breakfast is that it brings disparate community members together and simultaneously raises money for the grange to continue to provide a public space. Brian Barton, a Pancake Breakfast volunteer, Grange Master, and maintenance go-to guy, directly interfaces with the public. He frequently greets people at the intake window for the breakfast food orders. He hears many suggestions and complaints by people following their natural instinct to improve or critique the world around them. Brian's response is often, "When is the last time you volunteered here?" A casual observer might have good ideas. But as a volunteer it might be more apparent why not to implement them. Also, as a volunteer, it is easy to see that there are rewards, such as interacting with other people. The drawbacks include being in the public eye and thus open to scrutiny. A volunteer can appreciate the grind of showing up, even when that is not convenient, or the feeling of burnout, when the repeated effort does not seem worthwhile anymore.

In this age of the Internet, community work transpires via Jo's List, an electronic email list that circulates far beyond Williams, and two Facebook groups. The community feels connected

See *WILLIAMS*, page 13

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A honey of a restaurant comes to Ruch

BY DIANA COOGLE

Colin Cox, owner-chef of the new Honeysuckle Café in Ruch, might not have learned to cook from Julia Child, but she would have approved of his style. “You don’t have to cook fancy or complicated masterpieces,” she said, “just good food from fresh ingredients.” That’s precisely what you’ll find at the Honeysuckle Café.

“This is the template we’ve been wanting to do for years,” Colin says, “a breakfast-lunch restaurant that sources local ingredients.”

It was the source of those local ingredients in the Applegate that was the key selling point for the Coxes to buy the restaurant next to the Ruch Country Store. Colin, who is originally from Ashland, along with his wife and business partner, Monique, moved here last summer from northern Idaho, where Colin had been a corporate chef, working 50-60 hours a week. If he had to work that hard, he thought, he should be working for himself and have time to be with his family.

Coming back to southern Oregon

after 20 years, Colin looked around the Applegate and thought, “Wow! This place has really taken off—good farms, all the wineries. It’s like Southern France!” The restaurant for sale in Ruch seemed the perfect opportunity to fulfill the template.

He and Monique could lease the building and equipment without having to buy the business. “We could make it our own and do it our own way,” Colin says.

Monique identifies their “own way” as “scratch cooking” and “using local vendors as much as possible.” For instance, they pickle locally sourced carrots for the Bánh Mì (Vietnamese sandwich) on the menu. They make their own molé for Mexican-style dishes, their own sauces for the noodle bowls, and their own hollandaise sauce, which, Monique says, is so different from the over-salted commercial variety that people don’t even recognize it.



Honeysuckle Cafe owners Colin and Monique Cox cook from scratch using fresh ingredients from local vendors. Photo: Tom Carstens.

“We’re trying to get each component touched by the Applegate or made by Colin’s hand,” Monique says.

They give a lot of credit for the restaurant’s success since its opening on July 14, 2015, to the Applegate purveyors who supply them with the fresh ingredients that make great food: Rise-up! Artisan Bakery for bread; By George Farm for cheese; Pennington Farms for berries; Moon Shadow and Do-re-mi farms for eggs; Whistling Duck and Wandering Fields farms for vegetables; Wooldridge Creek Winery and Guzzo Family Vineyard for wine; Martha Straube, who raises grass fed-and-finished Dexter beef, for beef. “We couldn’t be doing what we’re doing without these people helping us. There are amazing resources right here,” Monique says.

Monique also makes her own cocktail mixes. She is glad to make a Bloody Mary, an old-fashioned, or a greyhound, but she and Colin emphasize that the Honeysuckle Café is not a bar; it’s a community restaurant.

“We appeal to a broad base of people,” Colin says: “farmers, neighbors, folks from the Fellowship, forest service workers who would come in during the fires last summer. We developed a menu to appeal to everybody”—vegetarian selections as well as meat, gluten-free bread, or farm-fresh eggs by request. As for allergies, Colin accommodates.

The Honeysuckle Supper Club is another popular community-based function at the Honeysuckle Café. Once a month Colin and Monique announce a date for a dinner to showcase their specialties. Jim Sartorio, a frequent Honeysuckle diner from the Little Applegate, says the Supper Club dinners are “pretty darn good.”

Colin recognizes that it’s a “pretty cool time to be a chef,” but he dismisses the idea of cooking as art, saying it’s “just a job.”

“It’s a blue-collar job,” he says, “not an art form. It’s no more glamorous than being a mechanic.”

Nonetheless, Colin enjoys the “art” aspect of creating good food. He likes foods with “strong, punchy flavors,” foods that rely on freshness. He likes food with big contrasts, such as Bánh Mì, where “sweetness plays off the heat.” He experiments with Mediterranean, Asian, and Mexican recipes, altering them to fit his whim. “I don’t have to stick to traditional Bánh Mì,” he says. “I’m not Vietnamese. I can change it as I like.”

If cooking is “just a job,” it’s a job Colin Cox is good at.

Diana Coogle • dicoog@gmail.com
The Honeysuckle Café is located at 7360 Highway 238 in Ruch. Phone: 541-702-2525. Visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/The-Honeysuckle-Cafe-646255768840407/>.

■ WILLIAMS

Continued from page 12

by knowing who has lost or found a dog, if fire threatens homes, or where and when cultural events take place. People can weigh in on projects such as the Traffic Safety Action Committee’s strategies for calming traffic in downtown and other areas of Williams.

The Internet saves time, but the community heart keeps ticking because of the in-person meetings that take place. The town council convenes on issues of community concern as they arise, such as spraying roadside weeds, which threatens Williams’ organic cachet. Like-minded people get together to solve problems, raise awareness, and energize others. A broad spectrum of activities caters to horse lovers, environmental preservationists, children, the artistically inclined, and so much more.

Without the many volunteer organizations and other public-oriented services, Williams would be a collection of isolated families. Instead, Jo’s List is full of emails from people looking to move to this vibrant community. It takes work and dedication to maintain the elements that make up Williams’ sense of community, but it makes Williams a pleasant and, above all, a civilized place to live.

Gabriela Eaglesome
gabrielas@aol.com

Note: If you would like to write an article like this about your own community, please let us know. Email gater@applegater.org.

Voices of the Applegate Spring Concerts

Voices of the Applegate will hold its spring concerts on Friday, April 1, in the Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville and on Sunday, April 3, at the Applegate River Lodge. The four-part harmony selections present a variety of styles and subject matter from the Beatles to Simon and Garfunkel and from madrigals to the old Hebrew song, “Oseh Shalom” (He Who Makes Peace).

Our community choir is just beginning its fifteenth year of performances, and we are delighted to have Blake Weller as our director to teach and inspire us.

Find us on Facebook under “Voices of the Applegate,” and listen to selections from “The Magnificat” as it was performed at the Applegate River Lodge. When you visit Facebook, don’t forget to “Like” us!

We always welcome new singers, whether or not you read music. Each member pays tuition of \$55, which covers the cost of our director, accompanist, music, venues, and a few scholarships.

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

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Elegant Sheepmoth is a prize to observe

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The *Hemileuca eglanterina*, also known as the Elegant Sheepmoth, is a diurnal (day-flying) moth of the Saturniidae family of moths, and often is mistaken for a butterfly.

Elegant Sheepmoths are found in northern California and southern Oregon. Banded with bold black markings, the background color on the forewing looks wine-colored to pink, with hind wings yellow to orange in color. However, background colors can vary. On some moths, the black markings can be absent altogether with rosy-pink forewings and yellow hindwings. The wingspan of this moth can reach close to three and a half inches.

The moth can be seen in flight from summer to fall. It has a wide range throughout the Pacific Northwest from British Columbia to California, stretching over to northern Arizona to west of the Rockies in Colorado. Its wide range makes this subspecies highly likely to be encountered.

Mid-elevation to high montane forests provide habitat for the Elegant Sheepmoth. Host plants in the forest can be of the Rosaceae family, such as serviceberry, rose, and bitter cherry. The moths lay eggs in a ringed

pattern around a stem of host plants or other plants nearby. Eggs overwinter and hatch in spring. Fully grown caterpillars pupate into a cocoon in loose soil or leaf litter near the host plants. Adults emerge in summer to fall. The adult does not feed. Sometimes it may take up to two years to complete its cycle.

An interesting fact about the sheepmoth is that the hairy spines of the caterpillar urticate, which means they emit a chemical that can cause irritation or stinging if not handled carefully. I experienced this first-hand when I stopped on a forest road to move a caterpillar out of the roadway.

The accompanying photos were taken at different locations and years in southern Oregon, with some years producing more of this moth than others.



In August 2011 a sheepmoth was found laying eggs on a stem of a plant on the roadside near Dutchman Peak on the Siskiyou Crest. Another photo shows a pair mating on Mount Ashland in August 2010. The sheepmoth pictured on the hand was being observed below Little Hyatt Reservoir in June 2015 during a butterfly course through Siskiyou Field Institute.



Elegant Sheepmoths can be a real challenge to net and observe as they fly erratically a few feet off the ground, bobbing along in an up-and-down pattern, then disappearing into the bushes. Catching one to observe is a real prize!

Linda Kappen
humbukkapps@hotmail.com
Linda earned a naturalist certification from Siskiyou Field Institute, and hosts two-day butterfly courses there.

Photo, left: Elegant Sheepmoths mating on Mt. Ashland. Photo: Jill Hamilton.
Photos, top right: Elegant Sheepmoth in hand. Photo: Linda Kappen. **Center right:** Sheepmoth with eggs. Photo: Jill Hamilton.
Bottom right: Elegant Sheepmoth caterpillar. Photo: Linda Kappen.



ATA year in review

BY DIANA COOGLE

2015 was a great year for the Applegate Trails Association (ATA), culminating in the award of a Title II grant for \$12,000 through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Those dollars, coupled with several thousand more from fundraising events, a grant from REI, and generous donations, will enable us to begin actual trail construction for the Jacksonville end of the Applegate Ridge Trail (ART), a proposed non-motorized trail to extend from Grants Pass to Jacksonville. It looks like BLM is (at last) moving on the surveys and paperwork necessary for construction to begin. We have set our sights on turning dirt by next fall!

Measured by fervent response, our Call of the Wild fundraising event last September was a huge success. The enthusiasm more than compensated for the small turnout, so much so that we are planning a second Call of the Wild outdoor seminar on October 1, 2016, at Cantrall Buckley Park. Once again we'll have great food, lots of kids' activities, and interesting workshops on nature topics relevant to the Siskiyou Mountains and our valley. Plan to be there! And if you have expertise in an outdoor topic that you

would like to share in a workshop for that event, let us know.

We were sorry to lose Michelle LaFave as a board member in 2015. She had been such a vital part of the organization, bringing to it such energy and attention to detail, that we feel her absence keenly. Maybe it takes two people to fill her shoes because now two new people dedicated to non-motorized trails in the Applegate have joined the board. Alexandria Weinbrecht brings the equestrian point of view, and Luke Ruediger brings his intimate knowledge of the area's trails and ecology, along with an understanding of the workings of the BLM and US Forest Service in protecting these lands. We are so fortunate to have these two people on the board!

We are fortunate to have the other board members, too: David Calahan, board chair; Mike Kohn, treasurer; and Josh Weber, long-time board member. We are especially fortunate to have many strong supporters among non-motorized-trail users. We are looking forward to an exciting year—the beginning of the East ART trail and ATA-led hikes.

Diana Coogle • 541-846-7447
ATA Board Member

ATA Hike and Event Schedule

Visit www.applegatetrails.org for more details.

DATE	HIKE	MEET	LENGTH	RATING
Saturday April 23	Cantrall Buckley Park Maintenance Lunch provided; bring loppers, digging tools. Some tools provided.	Cantrall Buckley Park, 9 am to 1 pm. Assemble 8:45 am.	4 hours	Moderate to difficult
Sunday May 15	East Applegate Ridge Trail (East ART) Off-trail thru hike with shuttle.	Bunny Meadows Staging Area. Forest Creek Road at Longanecker. 9 am	6 miles	Moderate to difficult
Sunday June 4	National Trails Day Equestrian trail ride, Four Creeks/East Fork Trail, Williams.	Trailer pool at Pacifica, 14615 Water Gap Road 9 am	7 miles	Easy to moderate
Sunday June 19	Wildflower hike to Frog Pond with Luke Ruediger, local naturalist. Location depends on snow levels.	Swayne Viewpoint Applegate Lake 9 am	4 miles	Difficult

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Jackson County Library Services

— Applegate Library —

Welcome 2016!

Coming in to a new year, lots of us have ideas to set new goals, new beginnings, make a difference, or change ourselves. All of these can start right here at your local library. No matter which library you frequent—Applegate, Ruch, Jacksonville, or our neighboring library in Williams, the minute you walk in the door you are making a difference. If you set goals and want to research the best and most direct way to accomplish them (or just how to start), you can find that here. New beginnings can start by volunteering or joining a library Friends of the Library group. You can change the world by reading to a child. And with that we change ourselves—it's that easy. So what are you waiting for?

Here's what's happening at Applegate Library:

- "Talk story" with David Kennedy. Second Saturday of every month at 7 pm. Have a story to share? This is where you can tell it.
- Game day. Last Friday of the month *all day* in the Community Meeting room.
- Birds and birdhouses with John Jackson of Bugs R Us. Saturday, March 5, at 11 am.
- How to attract hummingbirds with Wild Birds Unlimited. Saturday, April 9, at 12 noon.
- Natural History of the Oregon Trail with John Jackson of Bugs R Us. Saturday, May 1, at 11 am.
- Storytime is every Saturday starting at 10:30 am.

All of these programs are *free!*

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

— Ruch Library —

With spring just around the corner, Bonni Criswell will present "Applegate Gardening: Defying Deer and Drought" on Saturday, March 12, from 2 to 4 pm. Bonni is a landscape designer, Master Gardener, and plant enthusiast. Gaining experience through a small gardening business, she earned her green thumbs by getting down and dirty. She has also worked in the nursery industry since 2008. Bonni has called the Applegate home for almost ten years, where she not only tends to her two young boys, but also fervently collects eryngiums, Zauschnerias, Hebes, and other such curiosities. She is thrilled to share her gardening insights and zeal for plants with the local community this spring.

During March and April, Jackson County Libraries are celebrating Shakespeare on the 400th anniversary of his death. There will be a variety of programs county-wide from sonnet writing to insult hurling to birthday parties. And oh, yes, plays, too. Check out the calendar at www.jcls.org for specific programs and times.

On March 5 and 6 is "Broken Pots

Mosaic" for homeschooled children through the Oregon Coast Children's Theater and Youth Arts Programs. This is a Saturday workshop to create a pot, and a short class on Sunday to grout the project. The program is free and targets children in fifth through eighth grades, although younger children are welcome with an accompanying adult. Space is limited, so please sign up in advance.

On March 10 at 5 pm is "The March of the Stuffed Animals," part of the Bedtime Math Program for preschoolers, who should come in pajamas with a favorite stuffed animal. There will be fun games and activities. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required.

In May and June, Ruch Library will be the county destination for the traveling exhibit, "Clink: A Taste of Oregon Wine," which will coincide with the Applegate Wine Trail tour on May 30. Come check out the exhibit and local wine lore on display.

See you at the library!

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

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NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— Applegate Valley Community Grange —

Bingo is a happening at the Grange every third Sunday of the month from 4 to 7 pm for \$1 per game. Game proceeds are split evenly between winning players and the house. Occasional “on the spot” prizes and “specials” will be awarded for some games. Snacks and beverages are available, so bring your friends and have a great time at the Applegate Grange at 3901 Upper Applegate Road, four miles south of Ruch.

Coming Sunday, April 17, is the 2016 Spring Fair and Plants Sale from 11 am to 3 pm. Bring your friends and family and enjoy artwork displays; music; vendors with local plants, nursery stock (including heritage apple trees), and gardening products; arts and crafts; and locally produced food products and handmade items (including hand-printed scarves and handmade dolls). There will be silent auction items to benefit future Grange fairs, and educational stations to learn about spring gardening in

the Applegate Valley, how to attract Monarch butterflies and other beneficial pollinators, and how to identify invasive plants. There will also be activities and a play space for children. You can visit the Grange snack bar for food and beverages available to purchase.

So follow the signs from Ruch to 3901 Upper Applegate Road, where admission and parking are free.

Meet your local producers, artists, vendors, musicians, community members, and neighbors. You’ll have a great time enjoying the vibrant culture of our community *and* be supporting our growing local Applegate Valley economy at the same time.

This is also a call for more interested crafters, vendors, musicians, educational stations, and artists to display their work. Call or email me for more information.

Janis Mohr-Tipton
541-846-7501

janismohrtipton48@frontier.com

— Applegate Food Pantry —

The Applegate Food Pantry would like to thank everyone for their donations through the holidays. They made a big difference. We would also like to thank the students at Ruch School for holding a canned food drive and the school for allowing us to run the food pantry from the back of the cafeteria. Thank you also to the Ruch Country Store for their weekly donations.

I personally want to thank the volunteers who help keep the pantry running smoothly. To all of our clients who come each week: thanks for being patient with us when we are running behind schedule for some reason.

Please remember when you come to the pantry to drive *slowly* through

school grounds and leave your cigarettes behind. Smoking is not allowed on school property.

Also, as you go through the line to get your perishable items, produce, and bread, remember that there will be others behind you, even if they are not there yet. People usually show up later in the morning.

The pantry’s hours of operation are Mondays from 9:30 to 11 am. Sign-ins are not allowed after 11 am. We are closed the last Monday of each month and any Monday that Ruch School is in session.

Charlotte Knott

Applegate Food Pantry Manager
541-899-8381

— Williams Grange —

Here is the current lineup of activities at Williams Grange:

Mondays—Abby’s yoga from 9 to 10:30 am.

Tuesdays—Zumba from 9 to 10 am; men’s group at 7 pm (every second and fourth Tuesday).

Wednesdays—Alix’s yoga from 7:30 am to 9:30 am; Cass’s yoga from 6 to 7:30 pm.

Thursdays—Zumba from 9 to 10 am; Ecstatic Dance with Kris from 5:30 to 8:30 pm (no class every fourth Thursday); OSGG at 7 pm (every fourth Thursday); aikido class for kids from 2:30 to 3:30 pm, and for older children from 4 to 5 pm (for more information, call Michelle at 541-244-1885).

Fridays—Cassidy’s yoga from 9 to 10:30 am.

The Grange is available year-round to rent for classes or events like

birthdays and meetings. Contact Sandi Brown for cost and details, as well as contact numbers for class instructors and new classes added after this issue of the *Applegater* has been printed.

Pancake breakfasts are held every second Sunday from 8:30 to 11 am with a bluegrass jam from 11 am to 1 pm. Upcoming dates are March 13, April 10, and May 8 (Mother’s Day).

There are various other activities during the year. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/pages/Williams-Grange/113382085361984 or contact Sandi Brown at goldenpaw7@aol.com or 541-846-6919. Williams Grange is located at 20100 Williams Highway in Williams, just before Tetherow Road. Please drive slowly.

Sandi Brown
goldenpaw7@aol.com
541-846-6919

— Pacifica —

Pacifica is 420 preserved acres of forest and field, pond and trails located 2.3 miles from Highway 238 on Water Gap Road toward Williams in the Applegate Valley. You’re welcome anytime during daylight hours to visit and enjoy Pacifica’s five to seven miles of trails on horseback or foot, go fishing, have a picnic, go bird-watching (March - May are superb), and enjoy the spring wildflowers...coming soon! You can also make arrangements to stay in the unique, historic Pond House, which sleeps 12. Pacifica’s events and activities can be viewed on our website at www.pacificagarden.org.

This spring we are excited to start working toward real bathrooms at Pacifica. We need community matching funds to start the likely year-long process. To help with this effort, we are selling “I Support Pacifica” cards for your vehicle for \$25. Although we won’t tow your car away if you don’t have a card(!), we will appreciate your show of support by displaying one. You can get a card by sending your name, street address, email address, and a \$25 check to Pacifica, PO Box 1, Williams, OR 97544.

And in spring don’t forget Forestfarm@Pacifica for a great selection of interesting plants, from butterfly plants to fruit plants, drought plants to shade. With a selection of 5,000 kinds of plants, Forestfarm is one of the foremost mail-order nurseries in the country. You can order plants online, by phone at 541-846-7269, or pick them up Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. The nursery will also be open from 9 am to 2 pm on these Saturdays: April 16, 23, and 30, and May 7 and 14.

We were fortunate and very thankful to have a wonderful team of Americorps volunteers assist us for two weeks this winter (see photo of the handy stairs that they built). We would also like to thank the Kinsman Foundation for helping us to replace the leaking roof on the Pond House and the Oregon Community Foundation for helping us to replace the leaking roof on the Cedar Center—both just before (thank goodness) our wonderful winter rains started.

The Pacifica Arts Guild has also been busy. If you would like to become a supporter (no membership fee, just some volunteer time, if possible, or offering a class), please email peg@pacificagarden.org to be put on the list. You will then receive notices of classes and the *free* Art Sunday activities (the third Sunday of each month) at Pacifica.

We are introducing a Skill-



Pacifica is grateful to the Americorps volunteers, pictured above, who built these stairs.

Exchange and Learn-Share: free “class” get-togethers where everyone learns and everyone helps. We’ll try to always have at least one knowledgeable person present. If you’d like to take a class, teach a class, or share a skill, we’ll help in any way we can (with supplies, advertising, etc.). Just decide on a time, the amount of money you would like to make (if any), and the minimum number of people you would like to attend. Everyone is clambering for classes, so think about it! The list of classes will be on Pacifica’s website at www.pacificagarden.org.

The Arts Guild is sponsoring its Fourth Annual Sculpture Contest. This year’s theme is Earth and Sky (and anything that lives there). Sculptures will be due by June 24. The sculptures will be on display from June 26 through 30. On June 26 there will also be a fun free session of cairn building. Anyone, any age, can do this, so put it on your calendar and come have some fun building your own sculpture.

This summer Pacifica is also working on a buzzing Pollinator Garden and an exciting Children’s Adventure Garden. One station of the children’s area is a small barn that we’ll need help building. Please come and join in a mini barn raising tentatively scheduled for the weekend of July 16.

Wish list: A golf cart (with or without utility bed) would be a great help. But, what we wish for most when we blow out the candles are volunteers. We need a few volunteers (no special requirements or hours) to help us preserve and enhance Pacifica’s natural beauty and potential. If you are interested, please call us at 541-846-1100.

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GRAPE TALK

**Let's grow grapes—
how hard can it be?**

BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

If you are living in the Applegate Valley, you probably know someone who is growing grapes. Whether they have one vine or acres of grapes, our valley is the perfect microclimate for many varietals, and the explosion of the grape industry is evident on every road. A great showing by many southern Oregon wines at the 2016 *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition (see sidebar for some southern Oregon winners), coupled with the naming of southern Oregon as one of the top 10 wine destinations in the world for 2016 by *Wine Enthusiast* magazine, has been a huge boost for local wineries. But will this boost trickle down to individual growers and increase the profit margin for grape growers big and small in the Applegate?

As a realtor, I know that grapes on a piece of land for sale attracts the baby boomers looking for their retirement

Grape growers Dan and Patti Buren of Buren Vineyard.



dream home. Those grapes and the potential of making one's own wine is very appealing, but what is the reality of growing grapes?

Dan and Patti Buren, owners of Buren Vineyard on North Applegate Road, moved to the valley in the 1990s and, with a partner, bought the Applegate Store and Café, managing it through the early 2000s. They first developed their property on North Applegate by planting an acre of cabernet sauvignon vines. Initially they did all the work themselves, and still do a great deal of it, including spraying, bird netting, canopy development, and pruning. Later they planted merlot and syrah vines. A few years ago they hired professionals to graft viognier onto merlot and syrah vines and now have around three acres each of cabernet and viognier.

The Burens hire one vineyard worker when needed. They work with other grape-growing friends, including Annette Parsons and Jim Clover, and Bob and Barb Finley, and pick for each other in trade of chili or a brisket lunch. They also try to hire experienced pickers if they are available, but those workers are spread thin during harvest season.

When asked about the economics of grape growing, Dan stressed that contract negotiation is very important. It is great if you can negotiate top dollar for your crop and a single winery will take all of your tonnage. But having to deliver tonnage to multiple locations adds to your costs. Dan said the price range for cabernet and viognier grapes has fluctuated from \$1,600 to \$2,000 per ton depending on the quality and on the supply and demand—some years there are too many



Ron and Laurie Burley, owners of Steelhead Run Vineyard.

good grapes of a certain varietal and other years not enough. A few years ago a number of vineyards grafted some of their root stock to pinot noir because of the high demand and increased price per ton for that varietal.

Like the Burens, Ron and Laurie Burley, owners of Steelhead Run Vineyard on Highway 238 in Applegate, started out doing most of the work themselves. Today most of their vineyard management is done by Herb Quady's company, Applegate Vineyard Management (AVM).

In 1989 the Burleys left their jobs in the semiconductor industry and moved to their home on the Applegate River. In 1993 they planted two acres of grapevines and became the ninth vineyard in the Applegate Valley.

Until 2007, the Burleys worked tirelessly on their growing vineyard, hiring and training one inexperienced worker. That worker had friends and relatives who were also trained and added to the Burley's vineyard team. Ron kept his operational costs down that way, then increased his costs by hiring AVM to manage the operations.

Ron still negotiates his contracts and currently provides grapes to 12 different wineries. Steelhead Run now has 20 acres planted with seven varietals, including chardonnay, riesling, viognier, pinot gris, merlot, syrah, and tempranillo. The vineyard's high-potassium terroir makes for some lovely wines, evidenced

Southern Oregon medal-winning wines at the 2016 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

- Red Lily Vineyards 2012 Tempranillo—Double Gold
- Schmidt Family Vineyards 2012 Merlot—Gold
- Quady North 2012 Cabernet Franc, 2012 Steelhead Run Syrah, 2013 Syrah, and 2014 Pistoleta—Silvers
- Schmidt Family Vineyards 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2012 Malbec, 2012 Pinot Noir, 2012 Syrah, and 2014 Riesling—Silvers
- Valley View 2012 Syrah—Silver
- Quady North 2014 Grenache Blanc and 2011 GSM—Bronzes
- Red Lily Vineyards 2013 Life of Riley Pinot Noir, 2012 Red Blanket, and 2013 Night School—Bronzes
- Schmidt Family Vineyards 2014 Albarino and 2013 Tempranillo—Bronzes
- Troon Vineyard 2014 Druid's Fluid, 2014 Longue Carabine, and 2013 Zinfandel—Bronzes

There were a number of other winners in southern Oregon, including Pebblestone Cellars taking Best of Class for its 2014 Ellis Vineyard Viognier.

by the silver medal awarded to Quady North's 2012 Steelhead Run Syrah at the 2016 *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition.

Ron said that his biggest challenge in the early years was avoiding a divorce and added that there are better and easier ways to make money. He believes that anything less than 50 acres should be done for fun, not for financial gain. We will have to wait and see if this labor-intensive grape-growing, still a "hobby" for many Applegaters, becomes a more lucrative occupation.

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avrealty@gmail.com

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Native Species Recovery in the Applegate Watershed, ODFW/APWC
3rd Annual Summer Outdoor Film (8/10/16 @ Red Lily): TBA
Fall Lecture: Establishing Healthy Riparian Areas & Native Plant Workshop, APWC
Winter Lecture (Jan. 2017): TBD

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Notes from a Rogue entomologist

When insects meet the press

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

Insects and the press have a love-hate relationship—the press loves to hate insects. A couple of examples came up over the past few months. At the end of 2015 there was a national news story about an increase in “kissing bugs” and Chagas disease (see note below), which kissing bugs can carry. Kissing bugs are large blood-sucking insects that will feed on a person's face while they are sleeping, thus the name.

As usual, there was some truth in this story, but it got way more press than it deserved. Since 1955 there have been fewer than 40 cases of Chagas disease transmission documented in the US, but it's a given that whenever you have a story featuring a large blood-sucking insect, you are well into “if it bleeds it leads” territory.

I got a call from one of the local news outlets, and explained that kissing bugs are not an issue locally. However, after the story aired nationally, I fielded three inquiries about kissing bugs, including one from a doctor's office. In all cases, the suspected kissing bug was our native and quite common western boxelder bug (also known as the maple bug) that is a frequent home invader. I got off easy—a lab at Texas A&M University received 800 inquiries, resulting in fewer than two dozen cases that actually involved kissing bugs.

There is no doubt that insects that feed on human blood make good copy. In fairness, I admit that I am not entirely innocent in this regard—I have penned columns on bedbugs and, more recently, head lice. But the press does have a way of amplifying things.

In researching the kissing bug story, I found out that kissing bugs



The boxelder (or maple) bug, a common home invader (www.volcanolands.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Boxelder-Bug-1.jpg).

have been making headlines for years. In 1899 L.O. Howard, one of the premier entomologists of the time, commented on stories about a kissing-bug “epidemic”: “By ‘epidemic’ is meant the newspaper epidemic, for every insect bite where the biter was not at once recognized was attributed to the popular and somewhat mysterious creature which had been given such an attractive name.”

Another story on insects that got some national press concerned research done at North Carolina State University, where all the insects found in 50 houses were identified. This was a fascinating study of the diversity of insects and other arthropods, such as spiders, that show up in our homes. The headline or lead invariably focused on the finding that the average house contained over 100 species of insects, making it sound like we are literally surrounded by insects! But in combing through the original study and hearing one of the authors interviewed on the Jefferson

Exchange, I understood that the vast majority of the insects identified were minute, and that the researchers were not finding the insects that *live* in our houses so much as the insects that *die* there. Many small insects fly or crawl into homes and cannot survive long. The insects collected in this study were more often dead than alive, with windowsills and even spider webs being particularly good places to find specimens.

Four groups were found in every house: ants, carpet beetles, gall midges, and cobweb spiders, with an honorable mention to psocids (book lice), which were found in all but one house. Ants and cobweb spiders were no big surprise; neither were carpet beetles, especially since dead insects are one of their favorite foods. Gall midges (very tiny flies) have no business being in a house; they essentially float in like aerial plankton.

Book lice were interesting. Small and innocuous, they are known to be house inhabitants, although I have never seen one in a home. The only book lice infestation I have observed locally was years ago in a chinchilla farm (and you read that correctly). I suspected the high humidity where the chinchillas were being reared was a cause of the problem, as book lice thrive in humid conditions, which might explain their prevalence in North Carolina, especially in summer months when this study was conducted.

But, to my mind, the most curious result of this research was not what species were found, but what species they did *not* find. Not a single maple bug was seen (and no kissing bugs, either).

Richard J. Hilton

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Note: Chagas disease is a debilitating infection that harms the victim in two stages: an acute phase that begins about a week after the bug bite and causes fever and occasional swelling at the site of the bite, and a chronic phase that shows up as long as 25 years after exposure, where the patient's organs are irreversibly damaged. Organ damage primarily targets the heart and digestive system (<http://mentalfloss.com/article/73604/1899-kissing-bug-epidemic-probably-wasn't>).

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Applegate AMA: Public workshop addressed key questions

BY DON BOUCHER

On January 20, the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management hosted a workshop to discuss the Upper Applegate Planning Area of the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA). More than 30 residents of the Applegate Valley attended. The purpose was to provide the opportunity for early public engagement and to integrate community values in the development of project proposals in the Upper Applegate Planning Area. The workshop began with a discussion of the selection of the Upper Applegate watershed as described in the winter 2015 edition of the *Applegater*. This was followed by group discussions that were centered on some key questions.

The first question discussed: *What are the benefits from the land within the Upper Applegate Planning Area?* Seven small groups identified important values associated with the planning area. A sampling of the responses included a wide range of values, such as habitat for a range of wildlife species, improving fire resilience across the landscape, clean air, sustainable supply of high-quality water, maintaining productivity of the land, protecting roadless areas, maintaining visual quality/aesthetics of the area, maintaining or improving habitat for pollinators, reducing noxious weeds, maintaining healthy plant communities, maintaining recreation opportunities, and maintaining quality fish habitat.

Groups were next asked to identify possible threats to those values. These responses included threats such as fire, insect and disease, damage from illegal off-highway vehicles, poorly designed roads or lack of road maintenance, poorly planned or ecologically unsustainable management, current federal agency budgets and capacity, noxious weeds, drought and climate change, long-term camping and human trash, and

conflicting legislative mandates. Of particular note was the concern regarding trust issues between the communities and agencies. A high priority of this collaborative planning work is to help begin to build that trust.

The final question: *What management actions may be needed to mitigate those risks?* These responses ran the range from little to no management to extensive management. A key part of the responses related to maintaining the existing infrastructure as well as maintaining treatments over time.

This meeting was very valuable in beginning the planning process for the Upper Applegate watershed. The next step is to have agency resource specialists begin to share what is known about the planning area. We intend to supplement this with presentations by community members who have knowledge of the area. It is important to note that we do not have a predetermined proposal in mind. One of the more challenging aspects of planning is to put a vision down on paper. To accomplish this, we hope to continue meeting with the community, as well as go out in the planning area and discuss important values and issues.

As was stated in the previous issue of the *Applegater*, the AMA is really about how we communicate and work together to find common ground, resolve differences, and work toward successful outcomes. We have the ability as agency and community members to create and maintain an atmosphere of collaboration and learning. If you have questions, comments, or other thoughts, please feel free to contact me.

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APWC striving to work collaboratively in a vastly diverse community

■ APWC MISSION

Continued from page 3

recommendations. Two extraordinary films, *Damnation* and *A River Between Us*, were viewed on beautiful evenings in a wonderful setting in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Outreach is not our only task when working to meet our mission. We also have a number of on-the-ground projects either completed or being implemented or developed with our partners, which include private landowners, public agencies, and the Williams Creek Watershed Council. We are developing projects—ranging from fish passage to large wood implementation—on Little Applegate River, Forest Creek, Powell Creek, Williams Creek, and Slate Creek. We are implementing or completing projects on Thompson Creek, Munger Creek, Powell Creek, Humbug Creek, Iron Creek, and the main stem of the Applegate River,

which include riparian restoration, large wood placement, and streambank stabilization.

In the fall of 2015 we partnered with the Bureau of Land Management to implement a large wood project in the upper reaches of Powell Creek, installing over 100 pieces of large wood across 25 different sites. Many of the sites can be observed from Upper Powell Creek Road. This section of the creek did not go dry during the 2015 drought and can provide important habitat for rearing juvenile salmonids in future years. We hope this project will provide additional habitat and improve ecological functions in that sub-watershed.

APWC is striving to work collaboratively in a community that is vastly diverse, from the headwaters of the Applegate River to its confluence with the Rogue River. We hope that through our successful projects and positive outreach we will continue to gain support from the community. For more information about APWC and our projects, please contact us at 541-899-9982 or contact@apwc.info.

Janelle Dunlevy • 541-899-9982
Note: See article by the late Tim Franklin online at www.applegater.org.

Siskiyou Field Institute offers free community learning

BY KATHLEEN PYLE

You don't have to be a hiker or a botanist to learn at Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) in Selma. Each year SFI welcomes the community for a series of Friday Night Free Learning programs designed to inform attendees about our region's natural history. And we provide the popcorn, too! This year's spring Free Learning lineup is action-packed, with inspiring programs on varied subjects—from setting up wildlife trail cams to a tour of Oregon coastal trails by hiking-guidebook author William Sullivan.

On February 26, local wildlife biologist Romain Cooper and partner Christi Dunn will share advice on shopping for and using trail cams to observe wildlife. The couple has years of experience getting acquainted with their backyard's wild inhabitants via critter cam. They'll show "greatest hits" highlights from their collection.

The March 18 free program focuses on hopes for the Klamath River's restoration (the Klamath is also the subject of two 2016 SFI field courses). The Jason Atkinson-produced film, *A River Between Us*, will be screened, and some background will be provided on the Klamath Basin Water Recovery and Economic Restoration Act of 2015, which Congress failed to pass late last year. We'll also discuss some possible options in light of that failure.

In April, Dr. Robert J. Lillie relates the "Beauty from the Beast" story of Pacific Northwest geologic history. By learning to live with the beast of earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, we can more fully appreciate the beauty that surrounds us in the form of spectacular scenery in national, state, and local parklands. Lillie draws on his experience as a geology professor, park ranger, and graphic illustrator as a reminder that our hometowns and iconic parklands are subject to geologic processes that affect our lives and livelihoods. Dr. Lillie will have copies of his recently published *Beauty from the Beast* book at the program.

May's Free Learning double bill first offers a William Sullivan program on Saturday afternoon, May 7, following his SFI field course at Babyfoot Lake at the edge of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. He will take us on a visual tour of Oregon coastal trails, including some of his recent hikes from the updated *101 Hikes on the Oregon Coast*.

Also in May (date to be determined), SFI will again host the Oregon Humanities Conversation Project. This year's topic is "In Science We Trust?" led by science communicator Gail Wells of Corvallis. As a nation, we trust scientists and medical experts more than any other group except military leaders. Why then is the relationship between citizens and science often fraught with misunderstanding and



Oregon Humanities executive director Adam Davis led last year's conversation at Siskiyou Field Institute.



Dave Clayton, Applegate resident and Rogue-Siskiyou wildlife biologist, presented a Siskiyou Field Institute Free Learning program on Pacific fishers last fall.

mistrust, especially on topics like climate change? Ms. Wells will ask participants to consider the role of science in guiding policy and how citizens can use science to make better-informed decisions.

Dr. Robbin Thorp, professor of entomology, returns to SFI in June to instruct a field course on native bees. Dr. Thorp will also discuss "The Intriguing World of Native Bees" in a free Friday evening public program on June 10. Come early and grab a seat—Dr. Thorp's lectures usually pack the house.

Two early summer SFI Free Learning programs will happen off-site. Dr. Susan Harrison of University of California, Davis, presents a program on climate change and its impact on plant communities on Friday, July 1, in Ashland. Dr. Harrison's program is partially based on her years of research in the Illinois Valley. On July 8, Illinois Valley historian Dennis Strayer will talk about early tourists who visited the Oregon Caves in a presentation at the Oregon Caves Chateau. Strayer and Greg Walter are teaming up to teach a field course at the caves on July 8 and 9 that will revisit two historic hiking trails.

For more details on SFI Free Friday Learning programs and the Institute's 2016 menu of field courses, visit www.thesfi.org. And don't miss our annual spring fundraising brews-and-live-tunes naturefest, Birds and Brews, scheduled for Saturday, May 28.

Kathleen Pyle
Program Coordinator
Siskiyou Field Institute
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OPINIONS

River Right: How many monsters in the room?

BY TOM CARSTENS

When I first took up kayaking, it quickly became apparent that I could use some schooling. Understanding how to control my puny little vessel in all that big water was crucial to my survival.

Applegate Valley settlers thought schooling was a good idea, too. They tucked numerous small schools into the valley so their kids could get a basic education without having to walk—or ride a horse—too far. It was a simpler time—no standardized tests, no compulsory attendance, no state bureaucracy, no teachers' unions. Some things haven't changed, though: teachers still fork over their own money to help pay for stuff in their classrooms, and parents still organize endless fund drives.

Ex-Governor Kitzhaber called this funding gap the “Tyrannosaurus in the Room.” Essentially, it's the difference between what the state does out and what the school districts want to spend. Beginning in 1850, we paid for our public schools through property taxes; expenditures were controlled locally. When voters put a cap on property taxes in 1990, the state took over. Now, two-thirds of school funding is controlled by the state.

Where does it go? Oregon's Constitution requires the legislature to fund the school system at sufficient levels—and to report to us biannually on how that's going. Anybody seen that report? Most estimates figure that we're underfunding our schools by just under two billion dollars per year. Talk about a monster in the room! Nevertheless, every other year or so we're asked to approve a new tax that will supposedly fix the gap.

So here we go again. Public employees' unions are pushing for a measure, innocuously titled Initiative 28, to be put on the November ballot that would establish a new “gross receipts,” i.e., sales tax on businesses with more than \$25 million in sales. And it ain't small—we're talking \$2.6 billion per year. This represents better than a 25 percent hike in total tax intake for the state and the largest tax increase in history. This could be the “Godzilla in the Room.” The president of the Senate predicts that this effort “will tear our state apart.”

We're told vaguely that all this largesse ripped from big business will go straight to our schools and a few public services. I'm not so sure. Last year, none of the \$72-million corporate kicker went

to the school fund as voters had directed.

Why are the unions pushing this initiative? Could it have something to do with the fact that our public employees' pension liabilities are \$20 billion in the hole? Could this be the “King Kong in the Room”? We know that the latest bill for teachers' pensions in our local districts will soon come due—to the tune of millions of dollars. The Oregon Business Council is skeptical that any of this money will find its way to the classroom when we're dealing with such a huge pension deficit.

Economists at the Oregon Investment Council tell us that a tax this big tends to discourage investment, spark an out-of-state exodus, cut employment, and raise prices. Instead of soaking businesses, maybe we ought to try asking their advice about what's needed. Especially since they're the ones who will hire our kids.

Our schools are in trouble. We're ranked near the bottom of the nation in high school graduation rates. It's the “Moby Dick in the Room.” A recent study published by *Education Week* ranks Oregon 38th overall in performance and 39th in funding. We get what we pay for.

We do have a funding gap. If we could somehow ensure that our tax money would indeed find its way into classrooms, who wouldn't be supportive? But nobody ever tells us *exactly* where the money is destined. And it's almost impossible to verify where it actually ends up. We deserve better. It's time for the legislature to put this mess right.

If you talk to teachers and parents, you'll discover that they have a bazillion ideas on how we can put money to better use in our system. I'm not sure the legislators, the bureaucrats, or the unions are listening to the right folks.

The world is changing rapidly, and we need to get our kids ready for it. Let's not continue to senselessly throw more money at the monsters in the room.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

Note: To get your head around this issue a bit better, read “Feed the Beast” by Pulitzer Prize-winner Nigal Jaquiss at www.wweek.com/portland/article-24661-feed_the_beast.html.



Reprinted with permission from artist Dominic DeVenuta and Willamette Week.

CO₂: Villain or scapegoat?

BY REX GAROUTTE

With politicians racing to control CO₂ emissions, we need to rethink the cause of climate change and understand that CO₂ levels in the atmosphere are an indicator and not a cause. Greenhouse gases don't let heat in and then keep it from radiating away. These gases reflect heat in both directions, giving us a zero gain.

Of all the atmospheric CO₂, eight percent is absorbed by surface plants and 92 percent is absorbed by the oceans with the current base level of atmospheric CO₂ at .04 percent. Once in the ocean, it is used by plants or converted to an acid or a carbonate. These compounds will precipitate out and, given time and pressure, become hydrocarbons again.

Those who have worked with CO₂ know that water's ability to absorb the gas is directly related to temperature. The cooler the water the more CO₂ is absorbed. To illustrate this, before you go to bed, take two sodas and open them. Place one on the counter and one in the refrigerator. The next morning, pour each of them in a glass and check which one still has some carbonation. The coldest soda will have more carbonation.

These facts about CO₂ mean it is impossible for the gas to be the cause of climate change. If it was the cause, then the planet would go into a positive feedback: the ocean would release more CO₂ into the atmosphere, which would cause more warming, which would release more CO₂, and on and on.

So if we use rising atmospheric CO₂ levels as an indicator of warming, then what is the cause? My uncle clued

me in to what he thought was the cause, and the math backs it up. At no time in the planet's history has there been this much warm-blooded biomass. In 1950 the world's population was around 2.5 billion.

Because of disease, famine, and war, it took humanity 10,000 years to get to that level. Thanks to technology, population growth is now doubling every 40 years. Current estimates are 7.8 billion people. Each person generates 100 watts of heat. Add to that all the animals that we use for food and as pets (700-watt cows to 10-watt cats), and we see that warm-blooded biomass becomes a significant part of the heat on the planet.

This steady source of heat changes the baseline of the planet's heating-cooling cycle. With most human actions that involve generating heat, there is a starting point and a stopping point. These allow the heat to become part of the heating-cooling cycle and to eventually be dissipated. Warm-blooded biomass is only going up, so it changes the balance point and the planet's mean temperature.

Given that the only solution to the problem is population control, this becomes an extremely difficult problem to resolve politically.

I won't bore you with the math, which includes numbers like 510 trillion, but if you are interested in the numbers, I'll be glad to email them to you.

In order for me to do my part in cutting excess biomass heat, I'm going to give up exercising.

Rex Garoutte • rosellas@apbb.net

Denying climate science

BY ALAN JOURNET

Leaders of 196 nations now agree with the US Department of Defense, every professional scientific society and academy that has expressed an opinion, an increasing number of fossil fuel and other corporations, and 97 percent of practicing climate scientists. They all agree that our planet is warming and that humans are the primary cause.

Even amid this remarkable agreement, we still encounter those in the Applegate Valley who continue to claim that climate science consensus is a conspiracy and a hoax. If so, it has to be the mother of all conspiracies.

Rejecting the science usually relies on one of two misjudgments: (1) the warming reflects a natural cycle or (2) the warming has slowed or stopped for nearly two decades.

1. It's a natural cycle

This often flows from the claim that we are still emerging from the last Ice Age, which was most intense 18,000 to 20,000 years ago.

Indeed, the last Ice Age was most severe about 20 millennia ago, but its primary cause, together with that of the three Ice Ages overtaking us during the last two million years, is well understood: the Milankovitch cycle is a combination of three sub-cycles involving the Earth's orbit around the sun and the tilt of its axis. Those blaming this cycle for our current warming should know that the evidence shows us that these three cycles in combination are throwing us back into another Ice Age. They are cooling, not warming factors.

Another “natural cycle” argument implicates solar radiation. Though it's reasonable, we reject it because solar radiation has been declining since the

1970s, exactly when warming has been at its most torrid. A third argument is volcanic activity. But this is rejected because volcanos have a net cooling impact; this effect can be seen by looking at the global cooling occurring after each major eruption.

The “natural cycle” explanation is convenient for those denying human culpability, but it simply does not pass muster.

2. Warming has slowed for nearly two decades

Climate science deniers trot this explanation out every time there seems to be a few years' hiatus in the warming trend. The deniers now go back to the magic year of 1998 and argue that warming since that year has slowed or halted. The data from 1998 through about 2010 certainly seems to exhibit a slowing of the warming trend seen from 1970 to 1998. Statistical analysis of this pattern reveals, however, that the apparent slowdown is an illusion and the warming is no different from the previous trend.

But two further lines of evidence lead to a rejection of this claim: First, our focus on atmospheric temperature obscures the real story. In fact, only about two percent of retained heat energy contributes to atmospheric warming, while over 93 percent ends up in our oceans. This increases oceanic energy content. The ocean trend of rising heat energy content has never slowed. (It's called global warming, not atmospheric warming, for a reason.) Second, for those who cherry-pick subsets of a large data set to make their point about a confounding trend, an inspection of the micro-trend

See *CLIMATE SCIENCE*, page 21

Happy Mother's Day!

MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Picking a fight with Uncle Sam

BY CHRIS BRATT

The recent lawless seizure and occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns, Oregon, by approximately two dozen cowboy commandos has led to a national airing of some serious questions regarding public land management, use, and ownership.

While I and many other citizens also have some serious issues over how our public lands are managed, we don't conspire to take them over by force. These self-styled militiamen came to Oregon to do just that. Brandishing guns and with complete disregard for our existing state and federal laws, they insisted that the refuge and all other public lands in the west belonged to them (ranchers, loggers, and miners).

This emboldened armed militia group contended that our federal government unconstitutionally seized the refuge land from the state of Oregon years ago. The group argued that rural public land management problems could be resolved only by returning these federal lands to state and local private control. Specifically, it called for Oregon's treasured Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to be "shut down forever" and that the 188,000-acre preserve and

breeding grounds for migrating birds be given to ranchers and miners to exploit.

The media has characterized these would-be ranchers as "occupiers." But I think of them as invaders, saboteurs, outlaws or domestic terrorists. Like outlaw gunslingers in an old western movie drama, this armed group is taking the law into its own hands by taking over and terrorizing a rural community sanctuary. Using its twisted interpretation of our Constitution and sometimes acting in the name of "the Lord," the group calls this seditious action a "moral and righteous stand for the future of this country."

The beliefs of these outlaws seem to be a throwback to a long-gone frontier culture that glorified land usurpers and gunfighters who used unjustified violence to get their way. (Where are sheriff Gary Cooper, John Wayne, and their posses when we need them to run these outlaw cowboys off the range?)

These outlaws don't seem to be aware of the fact that the bird refuge is more beneficial to the ecosystem than raising cattle or that an economy based on public land preservation, restoration, and recreation offers a lot more chances

for maintaining our rural Oregon communities. If the outlaws could understand and accept these changed range conditions as reasonable, they wouldn't have to challenge them in such a violent fashion. At the very least they should have considered nonviolent civil disobedience, a more peaceful American tradition, to defy what they thought were unjust laws.

By using civil disobedience and a nonviolent sit-in or stand-in, they could have strengthened their position on the issues they were concerned about. Instead, they relied on bullying, hostile dialogue, and firearm displays everywhere they went.

At the time of this writing, most of these insurgents were in jail, and one of their leaders was killed at a police roadblock. They had taken over the refuge for more than a month and had rejected all calls to leave the occupied buildings and area. Despite pleas—from the county sheriff, many local residents, Oregon's governor, politicians, conservationists, other law enforcement agencies, tribal leaders, and many other people—to leave the refuge peacefully early on, their uncompromising actions led to jail and death.

They are now "accused of using threats, intimidation, or force to stop federal officers from doing their duty." These misguided lawbreakers also have tried to instigate a revolt against the federal government and have terrorized a rural community. Now they will be judged by some of the federal laws they have tried to overthrow.

There are better options than ignoring our laws and using guns to frighten our fellow citizens. There is little popular support for turning our public lands over to the states, private corporations, or individuals. And the conservative politicians who advocate for handing over federal public lands to the states should stop encouraging lawbreakers to defy federal authority and incite armed insurrection. Nineteenth-century frontier cultural myths won't work in the twenty-first century.

So leave your guns at the door. Or better yet, leave all your weapons at home.

If you think I should be left at the door, let me know.

Chris Bratt
541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

Climate propaganda

BY ALAN VOETSCH

I'm tired of climate change propaganda. I'm tired of the news media and some politicians and local activists making claims no one can prove. Ever. I'm tired of every storm, every drought, every fire, every wet year and every dry year being the fault of man. Of course they don't always say that—usually it's just called "climate change." But what they want you to believe is that it's all "man-made" climate change. *Baloney!* If so, prove it! They cannot, and because they cannot they should not be making the claim. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has lied, colluded, cheated, and manipulated data to try to prove its point. It uses algorithms in its computer "models" that guarantee a warming result. What kind of science is that? It isn't science—it's big government propaganda. This is the alarmist religion, their belief system. This is an agenda in action, an agenda that will shut down the global economy.

Let's look at the history of IPCC's movement. In the 1960s and early 70s, it was "beware of the cooling." Then it was "we're all going to cook." Because the Earth's climate in general is either slightly warming or slightly

cooling, it finally figured out it would cover all the bases if it just used the term "climate change." Confusing and not specific, it covers all possible scenarios. Any event that happens can be blamed on man. The IPCC wants us confused. It wants to sell the concept of climate change (which is always happening to a greater or lesser extent), but hopes that we will believe that every weather event on Earth is the fault of Man and we will elect progressive politicians to save the planet. If you're unsure what a "progressive" is, it's what far-lefties were called early last century before they had to change to the term "liberal" because their politics became so unpopular. These are the folks who believe that government is best suited to make all the decisions for the common folk.

Now let's look at the accuracy of those predictions: wrong on freezing and wrong on cooking to death. Looking back at IPCC predictions from years past shows it has been wrong about pretty much everything. Its models have been and are wrong. It is currently adjusting past temperature records to hide the fact that temperatures have been stable for so long. This is a fact

children and grandchildren will inherit: The earth is warming and we are the primary cause. However inconvenient it may be, the time has come to accept the science and respond accordingly by changing our behavior.

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■ CLIMATE SCIENCE

Continued from page 20

from 2011 through 2015 is advised. This short period reveals a rising trend steeper even than before 1998 with a return to temperatures exactly on the previous warming trajectory. In other words, there has absolutely been no slowdown in atmospheric warming.

The message should be clear to anyone concerned about the planet their

that all recent records and all parties involved have agreed on, but now they are adjusting older measurements lower to make it appear that temps have been rising all along. This is just sad and desperate.

Most stories have two sides, right? When one side says "Here's the truth so believe us because the debate is over," and "climate 'deniers' should be prosecuted and thrown in jail," then you have proven to me and others that you have no leg to stand on. If there's a debate about the facts of someone's theory, it is resolved when a preponderance of the evidence says so and not before. In this particular debate, the IPCC's refusal to listen to opposing viewpoints and the way it responds to people who have differing opinions says all there is to say. It believes if it keeps repeating the mantra, sooner or later everyone will believe it.

Suggested reading: *The Greatest Hoax* by US Senator Jim Inhofe—there are several reasons to read this

book, not only for the political battles regarding climate change, but also how our government works. *Unstoppable Global Warming Every 1500 Years* by S. Fred Singer—excellent history of Earth's climate patterns. *The Satanic Gases* by Patrick J. Michaels—our atmosphere, weather, and how the whole system works. *The Real Global Warming Disaster* by Christopher Booker. *Scared to Death* by Christopher Booker and Richard North has a chapter titled "Saving the Planet: Global Warming—The New Secular Religion." Also, blogs by Judith Curry and Climate Depot.

My goal is to urge you to read original sources. Do your own research. Once you've been educated, it is much harder to be brainwashed. I am willing to loan most of the books mentioned, but they are also usually available on places like eBay for just a few dollars if you buy used. Feel free to contact me if you're interested.

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 **must be relevant to the Applegate Valley** and 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 number 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.

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 news, art, writing, photography and any other creative pieces to gater@applegater.org.

RUCH SCHOOL

Ruch School students partner with JCFC to provide firewood to needy

Earlier this year, Ruch Community School students Anna Rabe-Hemming, Zach Goodnough, and their teacher, Ryan King, were invited to give the closing remarks at the Climate Change Summit held at The Commons in Medford, Oregon. It was there that Anna and Zach impressed members in the audience so much that they were approached to represent Ruch School in a partnership with the Jackson County Fuel Committee (JCFC). The collaboration would result in a service project that provided much-needed firewood to the families of the Applegate Valley.

Ruch Community School's mission includes providing service learning for their students so that they may identify the needs of their community and then be engaged in experiences that would help facilitate health and wellness.

Anna put it this way: "I like participating in these activities because it warms my heart seeing someone smile. It makes me feel good that I was able to help my community!"

On Monday, January 11, students from Ruch Community School, members of JCFC, and Applegate Valley volunteers began their task of preparing trees for firewood that would be offered, free of charge, to families needing warmth in their homes. Students were involved in chopping, splitting, stacking, loading, and ultimately delivering the wood. In addition to the actual labor, students met with the JCFC and learned about the health of our trees and the results



Preparing firewood for needy families are, from left to right, Cassandra Auker, Bart Hawkins, Alexis Hodge, Maddie Strain, Vincent Delgado, and principal Julie Barry. Photo: Matt Epstein.

of thinning on the overall health of the forest. They were taught how to safely handle tools, such as axes and splitters, and how to successfully work with a team. They learned that they can be part of something greater than themselves and provide assistance to others.

Anna summed it up best: "We love, we care, we share."

Ruch Community School would like to thank the Jackson County Fuel Committee, our neighbors and community members of Applegate Valley, and our parents and students for the hard work and compassion they have for their community! Many thanks to Bart Hawkins with Keller Williams Realty for involving himself and his family in this worthwhile project.

Anna Rabe-Hemming

Julie Hill Barry

Principal, Ruch Community School
julie.barry@medford.k12.or.us

Applegate School students to contribute to park mural

What's over 25 feet long, brings a tear to parents' eyes, and something Applegate School students will want to show their own children some day? Well, nothing quite yet, but it's in the works!

Applegate School K-8 students will work with local artist Jeremy Criswell to create a ceramic mural for Cantrall Buckley Park. The students will be given clay to create their individual contributions. When combined with students' pieces from other local schools, the park-themed ceramic mural will be over 25 feet long!

The mural project is sponsored by the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation's Park Committee at no cost to the school and is incorporated as part of the Applegate Artist-in-Residence (AAiR) initiative.

Applegate students have already enjoyed creating art as part of the AAiR initiative this past October when art teacher Joan Kennedy spent a week with K-8 students teaching watercolor



Applegate School first-grader Emily Sumrall works on a bug painting with Artist-in-Resident Joan Kennedy. Photo: Linda Kappen.

painting. K/1 students painted bugs, 2/3 students created salmon, 4/5 students chose a "view out of the window" theme, and middle school students chose a watershed theme to dovetail with the Applegate River Field Study.

Darrell Erb Jr., Principal

For more information about this field study, see "Applegate School students up to their knees in study" on page 22 of the Winter 2015 *Applegater* at www.applegater.org.

APPLEGATE SCHOOL

Applegate middle school students brave rain, mud, cold to benefit river

The many thousands of salmon and trout that will swim by Cantrall Buckley Park in the future won't know it, but they will have the students of Applegate School to thank for a nice, comfortable stretch of cool water.

The endangered western pond-turtle population might also consider drafting a thank-you note to the students—their home on the Applegate River got just a bit cozier this past January, when students and members of the Park Committee partnered to plant native trees and shrubs along the riverbanks.

Students in grades six through eight braved cold, wet weather to participate in a "service-learning project" in what Applegate School teacher Jill calls a "habitat-restoration-in-the-mud-and-rain day."

This school year has been a "Year of the River" for Applegate's middle school students. In multiple trips to the Applegate River, students have studied watershed science and health, the natural history of rivers, various modern problems facing rivers, and fresh drinking water supplies. On one much dryer day, students also visited Herb Pharm in Williams to witness firsthand how agriculture can coexist with healthy stream sustainably.

For Jill and her middle-school



Applegate middle school students plant native trees and shrubs along the river at Cantrall Buckley Park.

teaching partner, Michelle Stone, the extra effort involved in taking learning outside is well worth it. As Howdyshell said, "Students may or may not remember the formula for how to find the surface area of a cylinder in the future, but without a doubt, when they return to Cantrall Buckley Park many years from now, they *will* remember that they planted those red-twig dogwoods on the shores of the Applegate River."

Good things can happen when schools partner with organizations in the community, and this event was no exception.

Darrell Erb Jr., Principal
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Applegate School's Concert in the Barn fundraiser slated for April 17

Musicians Kevin Carr and Josie Mendelsohn will be featured at the Concert in the Barn on Sunday, April 17, at 3 pm, that will benefit the Applegate School Artist-in-Residence (AAiR) initiative. Students from the Applegate choir and Strings Program will also perform. Students may share original poetry and writings and perform in a "reader's theater."

Organizers and hosts Fred and Jean Hall are busy convincing local artists to donate a piece of art for the silent auction at this event. Art from Applegate School students will also be for sale this year.

"This event is amazing! It's a jaw-dropping effort that Fred and Jean make each year to put this together," said Darrell Erb, principal of Applegate School. "I really urge folks to come out for this. Kevin and Josie are truly amazing, and our kids will be on hand to perform as well, so please get out and support them!"

"The AAiR initiative is an important part of our school," said Darrell. "We're hopeful to broaden our base of support and expand our enrichment offerings for our students. The benefits of students doing art are tremendous and lifelong."

The concert will once again be held at Fred and Jean Hall's barn at 950 Kubli Road, Grants Pass.

2015 volleyball team to be placed on Applegate School's Wall of Fame

The 2015 volleyball team will join other undefeated Applegate Cougars teams on the Wall of Fame in the school's gymnasium. The 2015 team went 10-0 against stiff competition in the Southern Oregon Middle School Athletic Conference, Small Schools Division. Coaches Heather Devos and Sandi Garoutte are no strangers to the Wall of Fame—their 2013 club also posted an undefeated record.



Applegate School's 2015 "Wall of Fame" volleyball team, from left to right: Bree Saunders, Carlen Nielsen, Johanna Devos, Marisa Elmore, Teryn Powers, Coty Wiginton, Kennedy Smock, Kaiyah Fisher, Alia Seal, Macy Kliewer, Sydney Locke, and Alyssa Seal.

Applegaters flash donor and volunteer spirit

BY LYN HENNION

“We get great satisfaction out of making this a vibrant, healthy environment,” say my Applegate friends and neighbors connected to The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF). Here are a few of their stories.

Former resident Priscilla Bixler wanted her charitable giving to be anonymous during her lifetime; it remained so well after her death in 2010. Now the donor behind the original Applegate Library Fund of OCF has been revealed.

The Bixlers had a ranch near the Applegate Library, which Priscilla visited regularly. She was cheerfully hooked on books, and because of that the library gets a significant financial boost. Her permanently endowed fund, established when Priscilla was in her mid-90s, has granted \$10,000 to \$12,000 annually since 2006—a total of \$104,070.

Community 101 gives students an opportunity for real-life learning through philanthropy and volunteering. A class



Priscilla Bixler

gets \$5,000 (from eight quiet Applegate donors) to award to nonprofit groups of its choice. Kids do research to determine community needs and then present the grants.

Led by teacher Jason Straube, Ruch School has one of the most successful of OCF's 50 Community 101 projects in the state. 2015's Diaper Dash fun run raised \$900 in diaper donations and \$550 cash.

This year's team includes 12 students in grades five through eight who will visit the Family Nurturing Center in Medford. The \$750 donated by last year's group upgraded the run-down “wobblers” area with rubberized floors and specialized toys.

Pat Gordon's involvement as an OCF donor is part of her “personal affairs in order” project. Gordon learned that a charitable gift at her death could help causes she's passionate about, so she established the Pat Gordon Fund for Public Libraries and Small Woodlands.



Ruch School students at the Community 101 2015 Diaper Dash. Photo: Dawn Roelke.



Photo, top left: Priscilla Weaver and Matt Epstein. Photo: Marilyn Hawkins. Photo, bottom, from left to right: Tom Carstens, OCF donor relations officer Heidi Binder, and Kathy Carstens. Photo: Cristina Sanz, OCF.

“Stewardship is a basic principle for me,” says Pat. “Through education and modeling, we can honor the earth and the human community.”

In the 1980s Pat was an original organizer of the effort to start a public library and became the first librarian at Ruch Library. She was also deeply involved in woodlands planning efforts during the 44 years she stewarded 80 acres in the Middle Applegate.

Priscilla Weaver has been a volunteer grant reviewer for the Reed and Carolee Walker Fund of OCF for eight years. The fund supports many organizations serving people in poverty throughout Jackson County, including the Applegate Food Pantry, which distributes food boxes weekly in Ruch.

“Serving as a reviewer is one of the most satisfying volunteer efforts I've ever made,” says Priscilla. “We're able to dig into grant applications and provide OCF staff with detailed analysis of nonprofits and their projects.”

Matt and Donna Epstein have been involved in giving and volunteering for two decades. Matt served on the Walker Fund Advisory Committee and as a grant evaluator. The Epsteins founded and managed the Applegate Food Pantry for 14 years. Now Matt works with Ruch School on special projects, volunteers as a SMART reader, and serves on the Applegate Fire District Budget Committee.

“We want to help rural students get expanded learning opportunities and assist people who have trouble meeting their basic needs,” Matt says.

Attorney Alissa Weaver lives

near Logtown Cemetery and chairs the Walker Fund Advisory Committee. Much of Alissa's legal work involves juvenile dependency cases, and clients receive services from the organizations the fund supports, such as St. Vincent de Paul, the Family Nurturing Center, and Goodwill.

With specialized skills and her observations of social service agencies from her clients' perspectives, Alissa got involved with OCF because she wanted to know how nonprofits work best.

“There's a unique Applegate vibe, and people are good at taking care of their own,” says Alissa. “We're here because of conscious decisions, and I believe that makes our community involvement efforts more intentional, too.”

Tom and Kathy Carstens have been involved with charitable giving since they moved to the Applegate in 2004. Recently, they established a new Donor Advised Fund.

“Donors can give advice on where to direct their resources,” Kathy emphasizes. “We work through OCF to avoid reinventing the wheel.”

Tom has been a volunteer with The Nature Conservancy, Applegate Fire District, Britt Festivals, Applegate Trails Association, the *Applegater*, the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation, Cantrall Buckley Park Committee, and Northwest Rafting Association. Kathy supports Britt Festivals, CATS, Sanctuary One, and Art in the Garden in Grants Pass.

“We give because we love it here,” Tom says. “I've moved around a lot, and this is the first real taste I've had of community.”

Lyn Hennion

The Oregon Community Foundation
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Lyn Hennion lives at Buncom. She serves on OCF's Southern Oregon Leadership Council and is a past member of the statewide board of directors. Visit www.oregoncf.org for more information on OCF.

Community education at White Oak Farm

BY TAYLOR STARR

Nestled in a quiet corner of the Williams valley, White Oak Farm & Education Center is a working organic farm and sustainable-living education center. The farm was established as a nonprofit organization in 2002 with the help of the Equity Trust, a national land trust. For the past 13 years, staff and volunteers have spent their time managing the gardens, fields, and forests, hosting local school groups, holding preschool and summer camps for children, and teaching adult workshops on subjects ranging from natural building to ecological forestry. We are blessed with a great teaching farm with three acres of organic gardens, pastures, an orchard of over 40 fruit-tree varieties, diverse perennial plantings, extensive woods for hiking, and a straw-bale farmhouse. The farm is also home to flocks of chickens and turkeys, a small herd of goats and sheep, and many thousands of honeybees.

This season, in addition to our many children's events, we are also developing an expanded adult education program. Our goal is to offer a diverse

set of community education classes that help Applegate residents both new and old develop and care for homesteads large and small. One of the great things about life in the Applegate is how folks from different backgrounds can connect around our mutual desire to be self-reliant and take care of many of our most basic needs locally. Many of us strive to grow our own food, raise our own meat, and build our own homes, to name just a few. Our class series aims to support folks with knowledge, techniques, and tricks to make our homesteads more sustainable, productive, and beautiful. Classes will range from half-day forays into herbal medicine-making (March 5), perennial plant care (April 16), and fermentation (May 7), to a two-week Permaculture Design Course (PDC) from March 18 through April 1. This course will offer participants the opportunity to dive deeply into the theories and practices of permaculture, a comprehensive system of agricultural and social design principles centered around simulating or directly utilizing the patterns and features observed in

natural ecosystems. With permaculture, challenges such as drought, pests, and labor shortages can often be addressed through thoughtfully designed systems.

Our PDC is titled “Permaculture in Action!” Lectures, slide shows, discussions, hands-on projects, tours, and student design projects will seek to highlight ways to incorporate

permaculture principles into practical sustainable living. Our teaching philosophy focuses on providing students with the principles, techniques, and skills needed to actually create homesteads, farms, businesses, and lifestyles that are functional, profitable, and sustainable. In addition to the White Oak site, we will also tour an organic herbal medicine farm, an organic bakery and permaculture community, and a working permaculture seed farm. Southern Oregon is a hub of the permaculture, natural building, herbal medicine, and organic seed movements, and as such is an incredible place to see functional established examples of “permaculture in action.” Just think, people will be



Participants in a fermentation workshop at White Oak Farm.

joining us from all over the country to see what is happening right here in the Applegate!

Our broad vision

for our community education program is to help further the growing movement in southern Oregon toward self-sufficiency and sustainability. Our region is famous for many things. Working together, let's make learning how to

live well on the land one of them.

For the many new residents of our beautiful valley (as well as long-time Applegaters), we invite you to come out to the farm this spring. Join us for a class, sign up your child for preschool or summer farm camp, or just stop in and say “hi” at the Williams Farmers' Market on Mondays at the Williams Grange from 4 to 6:30 pm starting in May. You can also check out our website at www.whiteoakfarmcsa.org for more information on the farm and all our programs, or email us at info@whiteoakfarmcsa.org.

Taylor Starr, Director
White Oak Farm & Education Center
info@whiteoakfarmcsa.org

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:
 —Famished, **Diana Coogle** searched the Gater for the best place to dive for trout at Lago di Garda near Verona, Italy.
 —**John Taylor** found the bronze landmark, Manneken Pis, in Brussels, Belgium, with help from the Applegater's GPS.
 —**Linda Yates** wisely chose the Gater over Paris's Louvre Museum in her quest for world-famous antiquities.

Add to this community and place while you are here

RESPECT

Continued from page 1

the ground, and all your neighbors have their straws in the same pool. Nobody likes it when wells run dry—just ask the folks up Humbug Creek.

While we are on the subject of water, please make sure you leave plenty of space between your grow and the riparian habitat to keep your overpriced soil amendments from soaking into the creek. Seriously, nitrogen and creeks don't mix well. If you did plant too close to the creek, don't cut down the riparian trees that are "blocking your sun." It's rude, illegal, and those trees are now serving an important function in filtering up your fertilizer before it gets to the water.

If you're building an irrigation pond, don't put it along the creek or river—are you sensing a theme?—as it will inevitably become a breeding ground for invasive plants and animals that don't play well with the local aquatic species. And your irrigation pond could wash out in a high-water event like we have every so often, causing a lot of erosion, not to mention the loss of your investment.

If you are concerned about rodents, erect raptor poles around your grow instead of using d-CON or any other anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs). Simply drive three- to six-inch wood poles into the ground with a height of around 15 feet. Add an 18-inch crosspiece at the top for a perch, made from two-inch thick wood, and orientate to an east-west direction so that it's more visible in

low light. These artificial raptor perches are used all over the world to help keep rodents out of large-scale plantings. You provide a safe vantage point for the hawk, and she eats your mice and voles. What a deal! The problem is, if any of those rodents have tasted an AR in the last nine days, your hawk will die, too. So get your neighbors to pack up the poison, too.

Finally, some general suggestions for getting along:

Don't call yourself a farmer. It's hurtful to the people actually growing food in this valley for a thousand times less money.

Pay your "trimmigrants" a fair wage, but be aware that many local businesses can't afford to offer the same under-the-table \$30 an hour. You are making it harder for everyone else to find labor during the fall.

Tip the person serving you at the café, and buy a Britt Festival ticket instead of trying to cut through the fence. We all know you have a wad of cash in all four pockets, so don't be stingy. Your buying power is supporting local farmers and small family restaurants.

In closing, welcome to the Applegate. It's a beautiful place to live, with a diverse community of residents. Whether you plan on sticking around and growing some roots, or just making some money and moving on, I invite you to add to this community and place while you are here.

Jakob Shockey • 541-890-9989
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