

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.
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Applegater

Photo by Teya Jacobi

applegater.org



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Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
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Celebrating
~23~
Years

Grand plans for McKee Bridge Centennial Celebration

On Saturday, June 10, 2017, from 11 am to 3 pm, the McKee Bridge Historical Society will host a grand centennial celebration on the bridge and in the park with a variety of activities and events. After two years of not holding the traditional McKee Bridge Day due to restoration work and an aging committee, we are pleased to offer a special celebration of the bridge this year on the one hundredth anniversary of its construction.

In 1917, after much discussion and attempts by early Jackson County movers and shakers to create a rail line into the Applegate to facilitate moving copper ore down from the Blue Ledge Mine (in the Upper Applegate drainage above Elliott and Joe Creeks), it was ultimately decided to build the McKee Covered Bridge to provide safe crossing of the river. The land was donated by “Deb” McKee and his wife, grandparents of Evelyn Byrne Williams, our beloved local historian. Jason Hartman and Sons built the bridge, which has withstood numerous floods, as well as decay and aging, and has required many restoration efforts over the past century. It still stands proud today because of the support of the local community.

At the celebration, featured musicians will be the Old-Time Fiddlers, playing from 11 am to 1 pm, followed by cowboy poet and balladeer Butch Martin and singer-songwriter Christina Lynn Martin presenting original works relating to the bridge

See *MCKEE BRIDGE*, page 3



McKee Bridge (left photo) in 1930 after damage from a big storm and major flooding, and (right photo) in 1927. After 100 years, it remains a beautiful historic marker in the Upper Applegate. Photos courtesy of Evelyn Byrne Williams.

Applegate inns abound

BY SHELLEY MANNING

As locals, we know what fun activities abound in our area. So how about taking a “staycation” right here in our own backyard?

Take your sweetie to the Britt Festival and surprise her with a romantic stay in Jacksonville. Enjoy the country life weekend in Applegate Valley’s wine region. Find out what tickles your fancy in any of these Applegate inns.

Applegate River Lodge

Joanna and Richard Davis built the lovely Applegate River Lodge from the ground up. With Richard’s design, Joanna’s decorating skills, local and imported logs, and lots of community participation, the Applegate River Lodge opened in May 1997. Ideally located on the Applegate River, the lodge has

See *APPLEGATE INNS*, page 12

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The Applegate mourns the loss of vintner Jim Devitt

A stellar wine maker, an uncommon intelligence, a ready smile.

These apply to Jim Devitt, owner of Devitt Winery, who died on Friday, January 27, at 83.

Often heralded as one of the best winemakers in the valley, Jim and his wife, Sue, opened the tasting room at Devitt Winery on Highway 238 in Jacksonville in 2003. In the past his winery produced between 2,500 and 3,000

cases a year. He wanted to keep his operation small and manageable.

Jim previously owned and operated Pope Valley Winery in the Napa Valley from the early 1970s until the late 1990s. His son Steve grew up working at Pope Valley Winery and went to the University of California, Davis, to study viticulture and enology. Steve is currently vice president of wine making at Darioush Winery in Napa.

With his engineering background, Jim developed new systems for the wine industry. Jim and Devitt wine maker Brendon Butler (Jim and Sue’s grandson) collaborated on the Auto Topper, a wine



Tasting-room visits with Jim Devitt at Devitt Winery were always fun and educational. From left to right: Brooke Nielsen, Jim Devitt, Carlen Nielsen, and Mikell Nielsen.

system for filling wine barrels without overflowing and spilling. And, as Jim told the *Applegater* a couple of years ago, he enjoyed experimenting with many grape varietals, including cabernet, syrah, viognier, zinfandel blends, merlot, and a dessert wine.

Tasting-room visitors at Devitt Winery received more than generous pours—Jim was also generous in sharing his extensive knowledge of wine making.

The winery will remain open with Brendon at the helm to continue Jim’s legacy. Jim is survived by his wife, Sue, and his children, Steve, Bob, Susan, Victoria, Jeff, and Doug.

Applegate Valley history

Hippy communes revisited— Part 1

BY DIANA COOGLE

I, too, was a hippy. I know communal living—the women in braids and long skirts, the men in long hair and beards, all the beads, headbands, homemade clothes. And the music! The drumming and guitars and singing. Hanging out at the pond, full-moon festivals, gardens, potluck gatherings, dancing naked by the river in the full moon.

“It was our golden years, for sure,” says John Hugo, co-founder of East Side House, one of four communes in the Applegate: Laser Farm (1969) on Thompson Creek Road; East Side



A May Day celebration at Trillium Farm. Photo courtesy of Chant Thomas.

House (1973) on the Applegate River; Molto Bene (1974) on Slagle Creek;

See *COMMUNES*, page 12

COMMERCE - COMMUNITY

OBITUARIES

Remembering Chuck Guches

April 29, 1930 - December 2, 2016

One of the first sounds of spring for the past 40 years has been that of Chuck Guches's tractor chugging up Thompson Creek Road in Applegate to a neighbor's house where he would find a garden to be rototilled.

When our family moved here

40 years ago, the woman we bought our farm from told us, "When you need help, call Chuck." And it was true. And we did. Chuck prepared our garden for us for about 38 years. Now, we, as well as many other families in the valley, wonder who will ever take his place.

Chuck and Bev Guches were married for 60 years. They met right here in Applegate when Bev's family managed the first Applegate Store on the corner of North Applegate and Highway 238. Chuck's family moved to Applegate from Medford, where Chuck and his two brothers, Ralph and Richard, and his sister, Verna Williams, were born. Chuck attended Provolt School until the eighth grade and then went on to high school.

Chuck was born April 29, 1930, the son of Vernon R. Guches and Viola E. Guches (Meadows). He was in the US Army from 1952 until 1954. He and Bev were married on November 23, 1956.

Chuck worked for several timber companies until he found Timber Products, where he worked for 32 years



until retiring. He never stopped working, though. After he retired, he began taking on local jobs with his tractor, and, when word got around the valley that he was for hire for mowing and rototilling, he had more work than he could handle. The trick was to get on his list early enough in the spring so that he could make it to your house in time for the crops to be planted. His rule was, "Don't plant until Memorial Day weekend." He knew the climate well enough to understand that anything could happen during those spring months, and a frost could hit anytime.

Chuck and Bev have one son, Roy, who lives next door to Bev. When I asked Bev if Roy would take Chuck's place with the tractor work, she just smiled and shrugged her shoulders. "Roy bought that tractor for Chuck, so it's his now." But that didn't really answer my question, "Who is going to take Chuck's place?" That will be a hard place to fill.

Joan Peterson
541-846-6988

Richard "Dutch" Offenbacher

January 26, 1932 - January 23, 2017

Richard Leroy "Dutch" Offenbacher, 84, passed away on January 23, 2017, peacefully and in his own bed, next to his high school sweetheart and wife of 65 years. He was born January 26, 1932, "on the Applegate," to Leon and Lola Offenbacher.

Dutch was a fourth-generation Applegate Valley cattle rancher and spent his early years working on his father's ranch. The Offenbacher family came from Bellheim, Germany, in the 1880s and were related to the Orth family in Jacksonville.

Dutch graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1949, where he lettered in all sports and played on the 1948 Class B State Championship Basketball team. Dutch married Ann Killingsworth in 1951 and enjoyed their life together thereafter.

Leroy, as his mom called him, enlisted in the navy and served from 1950 to 1954, based primarily in San Francisco; he hitchhiked from base to home many times when on leave. Dutchy, as his friends called him, came back to the Applegate, bought a cattle ranch on the Applegate River (now Red Lily Vineyards), and raised registered Hereford cows. He also raised a daughter, Dana Lynne Schefstrom, and a son, Carl Ray Offenbacher.

Richard, as no one ever called him, was a past president of the Jackson County Stockman's Association and the Applegate School Board. He was also a Shriner and member of the Masonic Lodge No. 10. After selling the ranch, "Dutchman" (as Bruce Matheny called



him) went to work for the Grange Co-op, and later for the Oregon Department of Forestry as a forest practices officer until retirement in 1989.

Dutch and Ann traveled from Anchorage, Alaska, to Key West, Florida, and to Australia in their retirement years and had many great trips with good friends. They also enjoyed their family and watching the Applegate River from their kitchen table.

His name was "Grandpa" to Rachel, Annie, and Joe. He was called Great-grandpa by Zakiya, Silas, Zavin, Kaysen, Azaria, and Justice. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Elvis Offenbacher.

A small family service will be held at the Jacksonville Cemetery. Please direct any donations to Applegate Valley Fire District No. 9, 1095 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

Major General David S. Trump

1933 - 2017

Major General (Dr.) David S. Trump, 83, of Grants Pass, Oregon, passed away at home on January 24, 2017. Dave, along with wife Elaine, owned and managed Silver Star Vineyard on Kubli Road for 24 years.

Dr. Trump was born in Cleveland, Ohio, to Dr. Frank and Mary Trump in 1933. Dave attended Michigan State University and Ohio State University medical school, where he graduated cum laude. After an internship at the University of Colorado, he completed a four-year general surgery residency at Marquette University and was awarded a master of science in 1964. He then entered a three-year pediatric surgical fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. During the last year of this program he served as chief surgical resident

and instructor in surgery at Harvard University. Simultaneously, he joined the Air Force Reserve Medical Corps.

Dave's medical career took him and his first wife, Judith Bean, and their three children to Phoenix, Arizona, where he practiced pediatric general, urologic, and cardiac surgery for 20 years. In 1977 he married Elaine Olness, who was by his side in the operating room and beyond for the next 39 years.

Understanding the fears parent and child face when a child undergoes surgery, Dave authored the book, *Once Upon an Operation*, in which each patient starred as the main character. Seeing the importance of a dedicated pediatric hospital, he was instrumental in founding Phoenix Children's Hospital, where he served as chief of surgery. He also served



as chief of multiple surgical residency programs and was a fellow and member of many other professional organizations. In 1987 he earned a master of science in health services administration, retiring from private practice to spend a year applying experience and knowledge as medical director of Mercy Care Plan. He twice led a Project Esperanza surgical team in Brazil.

After becoming Air Force Deputy Surgeon General for Reserve Affairs, he was awarded the rank of major general in 1988. Dave and Elaine moved to Washington, DC, so he could combine medical and military experiences working in a civilian position as dean of the Military Medicine Education Institute

and vice president of Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

In 1993 Dave and Elaine moved to the Applegate Valley in Oregon. He joined Grants Pass Rotary Club, in which he was chairman of the District Rotary World Community Service Committee and traveled to administer polio vaccinations and apply hand prostheses in India and Africa. Dave was elected to the Board of Education of Rogue Community College and was a member of the Board of Directors of Southern Oregon Adolescent Study and Treatment Center (now Kairos). He received Rogue Community College's Outstanding Citizen Award in 2011.

Dr. Trump is survived by his wife, Elaine; his brother, Richard; daughters Patty Bell (Lee) and Susan Felstiner (Paul); son Jeff (Kimberly); and seven grandchildren: Kawika Bell, Makaanani Bell, Carl Felstiner, Alden Felstiner, Jack Trump, Sam Trump, and Michael Trump. A Celebration of Life will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church on Friday, March 3, at 11 am. Military Honors will follow at Eagle Point National Cemetery at 3 pm. Remembrances may be made to the Alzheimer's Association (PO Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090), The Rotary Foundation (PO Box 1201, Grants Pass, OR 97528), or Calvary Lutheran Church (909 NE A Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526).



**National celebration to
welcome home all veterans
who served during the period
of the Vietnam War.**



Wednesday, March 29, 2017 • 10 am to 2 pm

A barbecue lunch, service providers, and guests speakers will be at the event.
Please come and show your support. All are welcome!

Riverside Park Trevillian Pavilion • 304 SE Park Street • Grants Pass, OR

Grants Pass Vet Center • 541-479-6912

~ 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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PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

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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Masthead photo credit

Teya Jacobi captured "one of her favorite views" on her Little Applegate River property. Thank you, Teya!

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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 ronaldaturpen@gmail.com

Next deadline: May 1



Crafts of Colrain Open Studio Tour

A Crafts-of-Colrain style tour in the Applegate?

Last year, for the second time, I was fortunate enough to explore "The Crafts of Colrain." Colrain is an incredibly beautiful hill town in western Massachusetts, and although it is sparsely populated, it is home to many talented artists. It was a beautiful fall day when my friends and I hit this tour, and we took our time and our map and explored each of the 16 home-based studios.

I felt very lucky to once again have the chance to pick out meaningful, beautiful, and locally designed gifts and personal treasures, and I knew that this was a model that could work in the Applegate. After all, is there a lovelier setting than the Applegate? Do we have many home-based artists? Could they use a weekend that brings new patrons to them? And are these mostly rhetorical questions? Perhaps, but I would venture

to say that many in the Applegate could use a weekend modeled after the "Crafts of Colrain" that helps others find their next handmade *prize*.

This is a call to all those in this valley who might be interested in organizing a similar event this year in the Applegate. Thalia Truesdell and I will be hosting an exploratory meeting at Ruch Library on Thursday, March 16, at 7 pm. All artists and residents of the Applegate who are intrigued with this concept should check out the Crafts of Colrain website at craftsofcolrain.com/html/index.html.

Let us know of your interest—attend the March 16 meeting, send an email to audreye2@charter.net or thaliatruesdell@gmail.com, or call me at 541-899-8728. We hope to see you!

Audrey Eldridge • 541-899-8728 audreye2@charter.net

Get your very own McKee Bridge t-shirt.

■ MCKEE BRIDGE

Continued from page 1

and the early mining era. The Stray Cats Car Club will display classic cars of the period, and the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association, Branch 141, will have engines on display.

A select group of artists and vendors will have items for viewing and sale. We'll offer a number of unique raffle items—themed baskets, some surprise high-value raffles, and also a standard 50/50 raffle—something for everyone!

In addition to a variety of tasty food choices, we'll also have a bake sale and root beer floats. After eating, you can wander over to the bridge and take in the historical displays there. Get your very own McKee Bridge Centennial t-shirt and other items at the traveling museum, and check out the McKee Bridge quilt that depicts the history of the area.

Come join us for an afternoon of fun for the family and a celebration of our local history. For more information, contact Paul Tipton at 541-846-7501 or ptipton@frontier.com.

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Two years: \$24.99

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Poetry Corner

Hopes for 2017

by Janis Mohr-Tipton



May the year 2017 bring strength and stability as the triangle represents.

Healing and empowerment that the eight petals in the lotus symbolize.

Warmth and desire for service and giving that the hearts embody.

May we each think of taking care of ourselves and centering with our communities.

Keeping truth and respect for each other alive and thriving.

Hope that we each can find caring and calmness to balance the stresses of change, and experience growth.

And always think of thriving and not just surviving for 2017.

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••• BIZBITS •••

BizBits highlights businesses new to the area, holding special events, or offering new products. If you are a business owner, 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 Shelley Manning at manningshelley@icloud.com.

Advanced Installations. Started two years ago by Tenaia Chavez, Advanced Installations is an authorized retailer of satellite Internet service Excede. Many of Tenaia's clients are residential customers who live outside the service area of other high-speed Internet providers. Advanced Installations also offers nonstop video surveillance of legal recreational marijuana grow sites, as state law requires. Owners of recreational grows who live off-site can check in remotely, and seasonal employees are happier because they have Wi-Fi access. Wineries are also benefiting from Excede Internet's video surveillance. 5113 Table Rock Road, Central Point • 541-879-0473

•••

Apple Outlaw. Blair Smith and Marcey Kelley's eight-acre organic apple orchard supplies most of the apples for production of their Apple Outlaw hard cider, which is distributed in Washington, Oregon, and California. Apple Outlaw is focused on strengthening its local presence and sponsored a community project where people donated their backyard apples for a Community Cider that Apple Outlaw produced. Establishments that served this cider donated their profits to the Ashland Food Project. Blair gives classes in pruning and cider making, and Apple Outlaw collaborated with Wooldridge Creek Winery to make a cider-wine hybrid. A tasting room at Whistling Duck Farm Store will open this spring. appleoutlaw.com



•••

Applegate River Lodge. Happy anniversary to the Applegate River Lodge Restaurant! Opened on January 21, 1992, the restaurant has been family-run for 25 years. After a hiatus in January 2017, the restaurant reopened on Valentine's Day, February 14, and offers a seasonal, locally sourced menu featuring favorites like red oak-grilled mushrooms, Gorgonzola shrimp, and rib-eye steak. Entrees range from \$16 to \$29. Open Wednesday - Sunday, 5 - 9 pm (later on music nights) • 15100 Highway 238, Applegate • 541-846-6082 • applegateriverlodge.com

•••

Dye Hearts. Tie-dye artist Michelle Ava offers a sure way to brighten your day—vibrant, colorful tie-dyed clothing! After relocating last fall from Cleveland, Ohio, Michelle now calls Williams home. She brings her artist's background and 30 years of tie-dyeing experience to her creations. Her clothing prices are between \$12 and \$65, and she guarantees her apparel not to shrink or fade. Michelle is also open to custom tie-dyeing items like furniture slipcovers and duvet covers. Find Dye Hearts in stock in Williams at Takubeh, 20690 Williams Highway, or the Dye Hearts booth at the Monday Farmers' Market. Visit dyehearts.etsy.com to shop online. For custom orders, contact Michelle at mitch@dyehearts.com or 216-406-7037.



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Forage and Plow Farm. Formerly Black Dog Ranch, Forage and Plow Farm has moved to the Little Applegate and is excited to announce its 2017 Free Share CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). By investing in the season, you share in the harvest just like with a traditional CSA. The difference with a free share is that you get to choose what goes into your basket. Once a week, you visit Forage and Plow Farm's produce stand to fill up your basket with fresh, organically grown veggies. This model saves on time and labor, which provides more affordable prices to CSA members. The 30-week season costs are: (1) quarter share for \$15 per week, (2) half share for \$26 per week, and (3) full share for \$45 per week. Visit forageandplowfarm.com or call Cheyenne and Brock at 541-899-3121.



•••

Pollinator People. Owned by Rebeca Ramm, Pollinator People offers goods and services related to pollinators and pollinator gardens and specializes in ethical honey bee swarm relocation and organic pollinator garden development. Pollinator People rescues and relocates unwanted honey bees to the Southern Oregon Pollinator Sanctuary, a remote Applegate forest dwelling that is being developed to provide safe pesticide- and GMO-free pollinator plant food and organic dwellings for all of Oregon's local pollinators. Plans are to open the sanctuary to the public for events and workshops related to plants, pollinators, and people. Milkweed starts and Mason Bee cocoons and housing will be for sale to the community this spring. Currently located at Pickers Paradise, booth No. 329, in Medford, with plans to expand to a larger retail shop. 541-240-8124 • info@pollinatorpeople.com • pollinatorpeople.com

•••

Silver Springs Nursery. All plants are grown from seeds and cuttings at this wholesale nursery specializing in native species. Wanting to promote the use of native plants in the landscape, James Kraemer, president of Silver Springs Nursery, recently added nectar plants to his inventory. Because these plants attract pollinators, they are a great addition to gardens as well as landscapes. Silver Springs Nursery is open to the public by appointment only for orders of \$50 or more. James is passionate about native plants and will share his enthusiasm and expertise as he helps you select plants for your project. If you, too, are a native-plant enthusiast and your dream is native plant propagation, call James at 541-899-1065. You just might find a mentor. 700 Hamilton Road, Applegate • silversprings@q.com • silverspringsnursery.com

From the Editor

Our unsung heroes

"It takes a village." The *Applegater* would not exist if it weren't for the generosity of our volunteers. Every quarter, they donate their time and energy to everything from copy editing and proofing to bookkeeping and "webmastering." They deal with multiple deadlines, deadline revisions, last-minute submissions, etc., and they remain cool, calm, and collected in doing what needs to be done. As a gesture of gratitude, we would like to acknowledge this extraordinary team of dedicated volunteers.

Also part of this village, but not included below, are Karan Dump, our bookkeeper, and, of course, the Board of Directors. They copy edit, proofread, write articles, deliver the *Applegater* to numerous drop-off locations, plan and organize fundraisers—whatever it takes to produce this newsmagazine every quarter.



Tom Carstens. When Kathy and I moved from Atlanta, Georgia, to the Applegate Valley in 2004, we discovered the *Applegater* and read every issue cover to cover. It was a fun way to catch up with what was going on in the community. I enjoy writing and decided to see if I could contribute. As a volunteer with several Applegate organizations over the years, I came to know many of our wonderful residents.

This enabled me to gain a pretty good perspective of what was going on in the valley. Almost four years ago, I thought the paper could use more of a balance in the opinion pages, and J.D. Rogers, who was the editor at that time, agreed to try out my column, which is designed to illuminate a more traditional perspective and, I hope, offer some solace to fellow conservatives. Later, I was asked to join the Editorial Committee, which is one of my favorite volunteer jobs—what wonderful people to work with.

Margaret Perrow della Santina. I live in the Applegate with my husband, my son, and a flock of chickens. I am associate professor of English and education at Southern Oregon University and director of the Oregon Writing Project at SOU. My favorite writing courses to teach emphasize grammar as rhetorical choices, rather than rules that must be followed. I appreciate my long and beautiful commute to work and am always happy to come home to the view of the Red Buttes. I love the *Applegater* because it is a vehicle for bringing together many voices as part of one community.



Kathy Kiewer. I am married with three children and live in Williams. I have a BA degree in theater and film and also hold an elementary school teaching credential. I enjoy volunteering at my children's school as a SMART reader, a PTSG member, and a classroom volunteer. I have been a volunteer for the *Applegater* for two years—it keeps me active in the community, and I find it fun, fulfilling, and quite interesting! I like the wide variety of articles based on local happenings and events—the *Applegater* is

an excellent resource for letting the community know about new businesses, sharing current events, and connecting the community as a whole! I especially appreciate that the people directly involved in the production of this paper are our neighbors and understand our community the best!

Joe Lavine. My wife, Suzanne, and I moved to Oregon nearly a decade ago after I retired from a career working with computers in the San Francisco Bay Area. We found a home on a hill, with great views, near the northern end of the Applegate Valley. I took over webmaster duties for the *Applegater* in 2009, and I have also served on the Board of Directors. I make sure that the *Applegater* is available on our website every quarter.



Ni Aodagain. I have been volunteering with the *Applegater* as a copy editor since this past summer. I think the *Applegater* rocks, and I love that I can do a small part in making it the high-quality newspaper that informs our community. I so appreciate that the *Applegater* brings together so many diverse voices and celebrates all the amazing aspects of our valley.

Mikell Nielsen. Having lived in Williams off and on for a collective 29 years, I really love this beautiful place. I spent my summers swimming in the Applegate River and Williams Creek and riding my horse all over East Fork Road and surrounding areas. And although I swore I would never live here again, my husband and I returned to the valley to raise our family because of my idyllic childhood experiences—we wanted nothing less for our kids. Now I am a professional photographer and appreciate the beauty of our valley more than ever. By volunteering as a proofer for the *Applegater* for the past two years, I am able to give back to this beautiful community and area that has given so much to me.



Sandy Shaffer. My husband, Don, and I retired to the Applegate Valley in 1999 and built our dream house in the forest. However, two wildfires in our area quickly got me working with local agencies to obtain grants to help spread the message of why and how to mitigate hazardous fuels on private properties. I recognized that the Applegate's rural setting across three county jurisdictions made consistent and effective communications a real challenge, especially in an emergency situation. I

See *UNSUNG HEROES*, page 5

Creating our future together: Applegate Valley Economic Vitality Roadmap

BY BONNIE RINALDI

Have you heard about the Applegate Valley Vitality Roadmap? With assistance from Rural Development Initiatives (RDI), working with the Ford Family Foundation, we have already had three community meetings, which, in a fast action, four-month process (October 2016 – January 2017), have initiated the development of a “roadmap to economic success in the Applegate Valley.”

After an initial phase for background input and assessment, the community has identified priorities for action to sustain and improve the vitality of the Applegate Valley. This overarching desire was to support existing farms and businesses

without harming our environment or lifestyle. Education, housing, travel accommodations, branding Applegate as “organic,” and numerous other ideas were components of the finalized list of priorities for action:

- Maintain Applegate Valley authenticity, sustainability, and quality of life.
- Create a sustainable inter-generational, hands-on network that provides learning opportunities for youth.
- Create an intra-Applegate Valley support system that makes it easier for local businesses to be successful, including development of low-impact lodging opportunities.

Teams were created to develop action steps to pursue these priorities and will present these steps at the next community meeting on March 2 from 5:30 to 8 pm at the Applegate Valley Fire District community room, 1095 Upper Applegate Road, Ruch. RDI will continue to assist us in identifying potential funding sources and other resources to help us make progress.

It is important that we define the future of our community in order to preserve it as we like. Your input is critical to guiding the future of the Applegate!

Please attend one of the upcoming meetings to be a part of this process.

For more information, visit the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (your neighbors who manage Cantrall Buckley Park) website at GACDC.org. Look for the “AV Roadmap Project” tab at the top of the website. You can also contact

Amanda Close at RDI at aclose@rdiinc.org or 206-919-0186.

Bonnie Rinaldi
Chair, Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation
bonnie@rinaldinet.com

Volunteers needed!

The *Applegater* team is looking for volunteers to help organize our next big fundraiser to be held this summer.

If you would like to join the Fundraising Committee, please contact Debbie Tollefson at debbie.avreality@gmail.com or 541-973-9184.

Stories of Southern Oregon project: Folks, fields, forests

Tell your story. Scan your photographs. Preserve your family history. Share your proud heritage.

Do you have a logging story to tell? Were you raised on a farm or ranch here in southern Oregon? If your answer is yes, then please consider sharing your proud heritage with others at the 100th anniversary of the McKee Bridge celebration on Saturday, June 10, from 11 am to 4 pm.

Southern Oregon is rich with stories about generations of families who have plowed fields, run cattle, or worked in the dense forests or in the mills. Share your memories with your community by participating in the Stories of Southern Oregon project, an online library at Southern Oregon University (SOU). Participants will be able to videotape a ten-minute story, scan up to five photographs, and receive a flash drive with their video and images along with a sample set of archival supplies. SOU faculty members Maureen Battistella and Vicky Sturtevant and local historians will be on hand to help folks along and demonstrate how to

preserve family documents for generations to come.

Story Days are scheduled throughout Jackson and Josephine counties in May and June: Eagle Point Public Library and the Eagle Point Vintage Fair on May 11 and 13; Del Rio Vineyards and the Gold Hill Museum on June 1 and 3; McKee Bridge 100th Anniversary Celebration on June 10; Grants Pass Public Library on June 15; Smokejumper Base Museum in Cave Junction on June 17; Pottsville Museum's Antique Tractor Fair in Merlin on June 18; and Kerbyville Museum on June 24. Well-known historian Dr. Jeff LaLande, US Forest Service (retired), will talk about the history of logging in southern Oregon at some of the events. Later in the year, videotaped stories will be shared at 4-H booths at the Jackson and Josephine county fairs.

The National Endowment for the Humanities Common Heritage Program funded the Stories of Southern



Horse-drawn plow circa 1910.
Photo courtesy of Hillcrest Orchards.

Oregon project with a grant to SOU to collect and preserve agricultural and logging family histories in Jackson and Josephine counties. Co-investigators Maureen Battistella (assistant professor affiliate and research anthropologist at SOU) and Dr. Victoria Sturtevant (SOU sociology professor emerita) will work with SOU students, local libraries, historical societies, and youth groups to identify heritage families who will participate in the project.

“This project is important because it helps southern Oregon’s largely rural communities trace, preserve, and share their rural heritage,” says Maureen. “It will document how and why population growth, economic development, and new agricultural opportunities have affected southern Oregon’s heritage industries.”

Stories, photographs, and memorabilia discovered during heritage day events will be digitized and made available to the public, thanks to the expertise of SOU librarians and the Southern Oregon Digital Archives at Southern Oregon University’s Hannon Library. The Southern Oregon Digital Archives is a publicly available digital portal, making stories available to the world over the web. Jeff LaLande is a consulting historian.



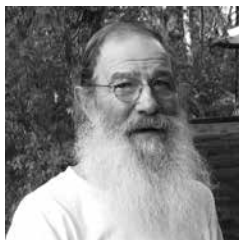
Logging near Butte Falls circa 1940.
Photo courtesy of Jeff LaLande.

While some of southern Oregon’s landscape has changed dramatically over the last hundred years, there are many families who still work the land and harvest timber in the forests. In some areas, though, historic family farms have yielded to housing developments, pear trees have been pulled out to make room for vineyards, and the biggest trees stand tall only in memory. The project will increase awareness of the heritage of work life in agriculture and timber and highlight the importance of preserving and sharing community values.

The Stories of Southern Oregon project builds on and extends the heritage preservation model developed for earlier grants awarded to SOU by the Oregon Heritage Commission, the Rogue Valley Winegrowers Association, and the Erath Family Foundation.

For more information about the Stories of Southern Oregon project and to find out about additional Story Days, visit storiesofsouthernoregon.com, email storiesofsouthernoregon@gmail.com, or call 541-552-0743.

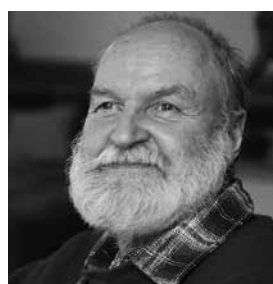
■ **UNSUNG HEROES** feel the *Applegater* helps fill a big piece of this void, and *Continued from page 4* so for the past 15 years I’ve been a regular writer for the *Applegater*, studying and sharing new science and technology about wildfire and emergency preparedness issues. I also serve on the *Applegater*’s editorial committee.



Paul Tipton. I chose the Applegate Valley as home in 1972 and still consider it to be the best place in the world to live. I am now retired from work in forestry, in viticulture, and on many local construction projects. A strong supporter of the *Applegater* since its inception and a believer in it as a valuable part of our community connection, I have, in recent years, copy edited, proofread, written articles, and tried to keep a poem somewhere in a corner of the Gater. I have a good feeling

about being part of the somewhat amorphous team that comes together each season to put together a newsmagazine that is a credit to, and a reflection of, our diverse community. And I really appreciate what everybody else does to make life in the Applegate such a wonderful experience.

Greeley Wells. As a 26-year resident of the Applegate community, I have been involved with the Gater since its inception. I have enjoyed our paper for its local flavor, insights, and information. The Gater makes me continually aware of the special place in which we live. As I write, make art, serve, volunteer, and enjoy this beautiful place, I realize it’s the people who are represented by this wonderful newspaper that count.



— SEE MORE INFORMATION AND ARTICLES ONLINE —

- Community Calendar
 - Book review of *Spooked* by J.D. Rogers
 - Movie review of *Hidden Figures* by Mikell Nielsen
- Visit our website at applegater.org.

Applegate Valley Beekeepers tend bees organically

BY SHANNA ROSE

Bees are responsible for one-third of the food we eat. Without bees, we could be faced with a world also without avocados, lemons, apples, melons, berries, and many other foods.

The demise of bees worldwide is not news to anyone. CCD, or Colony Collapse Disorder, is a multi-faceted, poorly understood problem with a variety of causes. Neonicotinoids, a common ingredient in pesticides, are directly responsible for the death of bees and other pollinators. They also disrupt bee navigation, which is crucial to survival of a bee colony. Neonicotinoids are already banned in the European Union, and many US states are considering a similar ban.

Other possible causes of CCD include lack of proper amounts and types of forage (flower nectar and pollen), environmental toxins, erratic weather patterns, and commercial migratory beekeeping, used for California almond pollination, which can transfer diseases and the varroa mite to various locations. The varroa mite is a relatively new but destructive parasite that some beekeepers fight with chemicals and medications that can further weaken bees. Meanwhile, the mites may adapt and become resistant to the miticides.

By discouraging certain practices and advocating others, the Applegate Valley Beekeepers help hobby and backyard beekeepers keep their bees strong, healthy, and better able to withstand mites and other diseases. Hope lies in the beekeeping renaissance of backyard and hobby beekeepers and small farm apiaries. The Applegate Valley Beekeepers and similar groups that practice natural, sustainable, and organic methods of beekeeping could be the link that keeps bees a vital part of our ecology.

Some beekeepers harvest honey in the fall and feed their bees sugar or corn syrup for the honey that would otherwise be their winter food. The Applegate Valley Beekeepers advocate waiting until

spring to harvest honey and then taking what is left from the bees' winter supply.

Beekeepers who love to garden may find more ways to keep bee populations healthy. Planting herbs like oregano, thyme, basil, rosemary, and mint may help control mites. Growing sunflowers or buckwheat can provide bee forage in July and August, when blackberry blossoms, the primary summer nectar source in the Rogue Valley, are no longer available. In early spring, willow, crocus, poppies, and fruit-tree flowers, like cherry and plum, will help the bees during their expansion period. In summer, squashes, melons, and cucumbers provide forage for bees, who, in turn, provide pollination for higher yields of vegetables.

When apple and plum trees are cut down to make room for vineyards, bees lose important forage. As bad as star thistle is for pastures, it is an important nectar plant for bees at a time of the year when little else is available. Knowing that bees use invasive plants like blackberries and star thistle to make delicious honey makes those plants easier to tolerate!

Beekeepers feel that bees repay them well for the care they take of them. They find peace in the buzzing of the hive or the frenetic movements of a swarm. To not disturb or accidentally crush bees during a hive inspection, beekeepers must learn mindfulness, moving slowly and purposefully. Beekeeping is a balm to the multitasking mind. Stings are a small consequence of learning how to work with bees—a reminder to be more present.

The Applegate Valley Beekeepers are a good support for the backyard or hobby beekeeper who chooses to tend bees in a more natural and sustainable manner than is generally done with commercial operations. With a range of experience, members help one another as mentors and students, farmers and homesteaders, working professionals and friends.

Shanna Rose • shanna2rose@gmail.com



Laird lights off the syrup season.

Sap tap wrap

This year we had four days of sap tapping weather—January 28 - 31—with temperatures ranging from the high 20s to the high 40s. I set 25 taps in 23 trees and collected a total of 75 gallons of sap. One tree with two taps produced seven gallons in four days!

I was able to use my barrel-stove evaporator for the first time, and it performed at least as well as my propane range. With the evaporator in operation six or seven hours a day, I was able to keep pace with the incoming flow. The syrup was finished on the propane stove with the temperature kept below the boiling point. After a final filtering, I was able to bottle five quarts of medium-dark syrup with a great flavor.

All in all, it was successful, though short, season.

If you are interested in tapping our local big-leaf maples next season, give me a call.

Laird Funk • 541-846-6759

Give back to nature—plant native!

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

The Applegate Valley is located in the Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregion, which contains more than 3,500 plant species, of which 280 are endemic, meaning they are native here and grow nowhere else on earth. A biological assessment by DellaSala and others (1999) ranked the Klamath-Siskiyou as the fifth richest coniferous forest in the world in terms of species diversity.

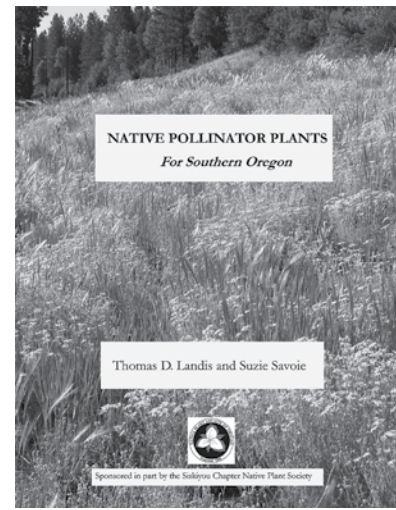
Much of the plant diversity we see in our region is a result of pollination of flowering plants by a variety of pollinators, including bees, moths, butterflies, beetles, flies, hummingbirds, true bugs, ants, and spiders, many of which have co-evolved with the plant species they pollinate. Co-evolution has created specialization—90 percent of the insects that eat plants can develop and reproduce only on the plants with which they share an evolutionary history. A commonly known example of this is monarch butterfly caterpillars that eat only milkweed plants.

The evolution of pollination has created mutualistic relationships between plants and pollinators with shared benefits. For example, a bee gets protein in the form of pollen from a plant's flower, and, in return, the plant gets a mechanical pollen transfer from a pollinator, aiding in the sexual reproduction of the plant. Because most of these mutualistic relationships are highly specialized, conservation of native plant diversity is extremely important for the protection of native pollinator populations.

Co-evolution and specialization have benefitted pollinators in many ways, but with specialization comes risk. If the larval host plant or floral food source that a pollinator is reliant on disappears, so does the pollinator.

Once common along the Oregon coast, the Oregon silverspot butterfly fell to only four populations by the 1990s due to habitat loss and degradation. The Oregon silverspot has only a single larval host plant: the blue violet (*Viola adunca*). Without the rearing program at the Oregon Zoo, it is likely that the Oregon silverspot would be extinct. Landscaping that includes blue violet instead of other exotic ornamental plants would help this species recover within its historic range.

Examples of host plant larval specialization for butterflies in the Applegate include wild parsley (*Lomatium spp.*) for Anise swallowtails; deerbrush



Local guidebook written by Tom Landis and Suzie Savoie.

and other *Ceanothus* for California tortoiseshells; bleeding heart (*Dicentra spp.*) for Parnassians; stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) for red admirals; pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis spp.*) or pussytoes (*Antennaria spp.*) for American painted ladies; and canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) for California sisters.

The small amount of protected habitat in the United States is not enough to ensure the survival of native plants and pollinators. Our own backyards and properties need to provide habitat as well. Lawns in the US are estimated to cover 63,000 square miles, about the size of Texas. Most people landscape with ornamental plants that have very little, if any, ecological value for native species. By planting natives we can turn our lawns, backyards, or back forty into habitat for wildlife and pollinators.

The task of transitioning a yard, garden, or large piece of property back to native plants can seem daunting. Thankfully, southern Oregon has many resources to help you learn how to create beneficial habitat. The Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society, the Siskiyou Field Institute, and the Oregon State University Extension Center's Land Steward Program are great places to learn about native flora and land stewardship.

Folks who just need a little introductory information to get started should check out this local guidebook: *Native Pollinator Plants for Southern Oregon*. Through our mutual work with Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates, Tom Landis and I wrote this guide to feature practical native plants that can be found in local nurseries or through native seed sources. The guide provides information on plant form, nectar resources, bloom time, host-plant status, and propagation methods. Printed copies of the guide are available by emailing klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com, or you can view or download the guide for free at klamathsiskiyouseeds.com. Special thanks go to the Siskiyou Chapter of the Native Plant Society for providing funding for the initial printing of the guide. The second printing has been paid for through support from Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates and donations from native plant and pollinator enthusiasts such as you!

This spring, give back to nature—plant native!

Suzie Savoie
klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com

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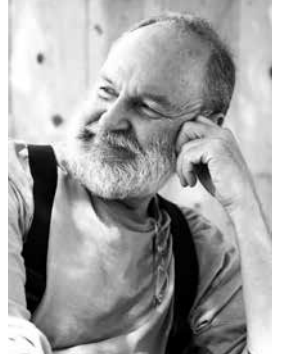
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THE STARRY SIDE

How fast are you moving?

BY GREELEY WELLS



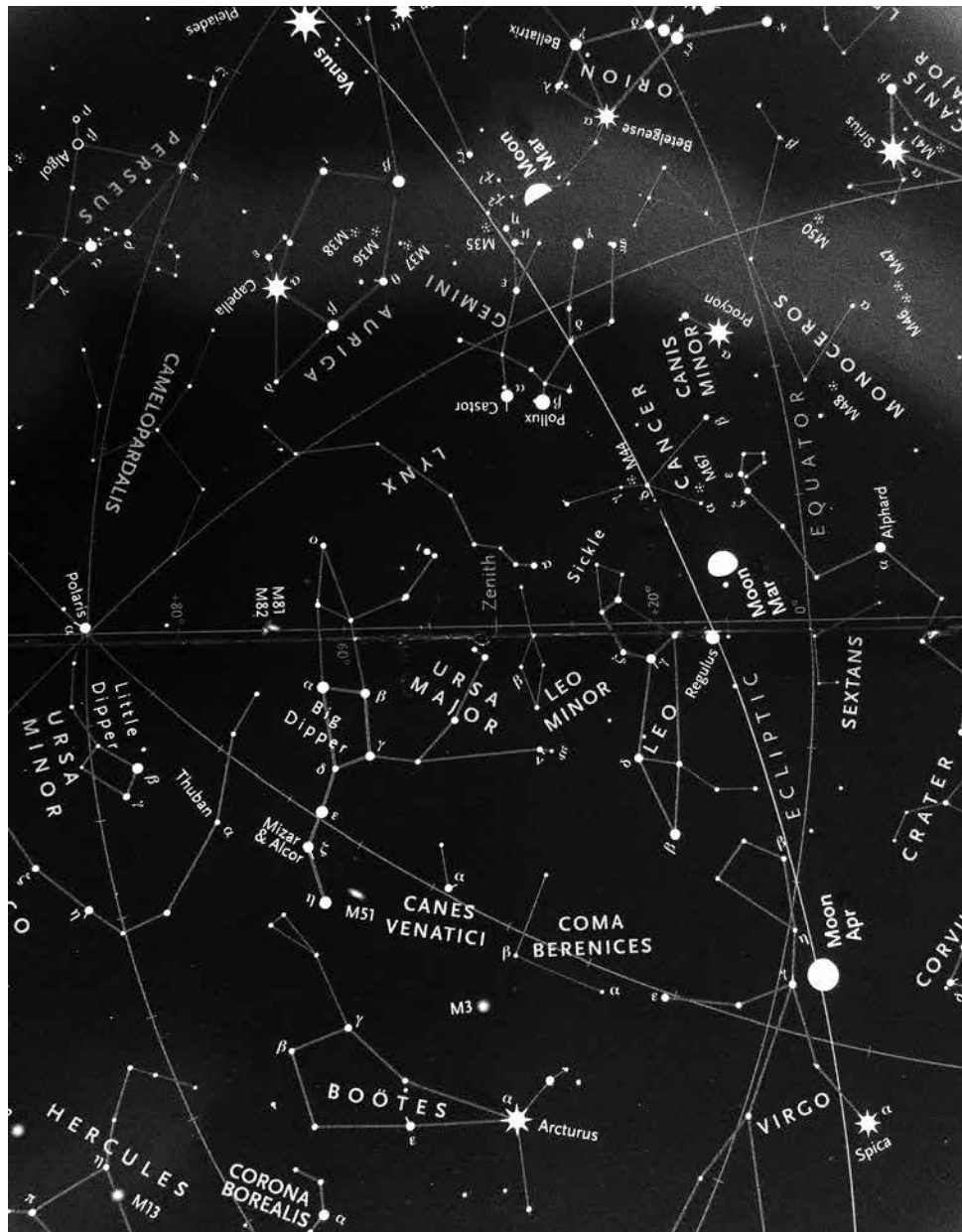
Greeley Wells

You probably have no idea how fast you are moving. Even though we can't feel it and it doesn't seem like we're moving, and even though we talk about the sun rising and stars moving overhead, what's really happening is the earth is moving. Fast. Our planet spins at about 1,000 miles per hour and travels through space around the sun at about 67,000 miles per hour! This orbit around the sun (sometimes called a solar year) creates one year on earth.

And here's something else we don't usually think about: Our sun is in orbit too, through the Milky Way. The sun travels at about 500,000 miles per hour as it circles the Galactic Center. One of these orbits is called a galactic year. Of course, we—planets, moons, meteors, asteroids, and comets—are all pulled along with the sun in this bigger orbit.

Now for some perspective on distance: Just how big is our galaxy? Let's start with the distance between the sun and the earth. This distance, a mere 93 million miles, is known as an astronomical unit. Astronomers use the astronomical unit as a way of measuring incredibly big distances in the solar system. This rather average-sized galaxy of ours is 100,000 light-years across. (A light-year is the distance sunlight travels in a year.) Each light-year is about 63,241 astronomical units. So how wide is our galaxy? About 586,941,600,000,000,000 (or 600 quadrillion) miles! No wonder it takes us 240 million years to make just one circuit around the galaxy.

But wait, there's more. Our galaxy is also moving through the universe. Our closest galactic neighbor, and the only galaxy we can see with our naked eyes, is the Andromeda galaxy. Our Milky Way galaxy is traveling around 270,000 miles per hour right



This new image style comes from stellarium.org, a great free website that's like putting a planetarium on your computer. I can't recommend it enough! Just plug in your coordinates, and you can see the day or night sky in 3-D. (My previous love, the *Astronomical Calendar* by Guy Ottewill, is no longer being published, but Guy still has many other wonderful things to experience at universalworkshop.com.)

toward it! In the distant future, the two will collide, but that's another story.

Why don't we feel all this movement? Because we are all moving at the same speed. We are speed demons many times over and don't feel it or even know it!

As winter sets, spring rises. While writing this in early January, I notice Orion way in the west at 3 am, when I usually rise to meditate, and by dawn he's setting. That early morning view is a glimpse into the next season.

The Big Dipper has been low in winter and is now rising high in the northeast over the North Star, carrying Leo the Lion with it even higher in the center of the sky. The curve of the Big Dipper's handle is pointing to bright Arcturus (in Bootes) and on to Spica (in Virgo, with bright Jupiter nearby). To the right of Spica is Corvus, a crow that is a parallelogram. Next rising in the east is the curved crown of Corona Borealis; following that, the hourglass of Hercules. All rise in the east and move across the spring sky. Or rather, they appear to rise across our sky! We are so self-centered it seems it's the other things that are moving. But remember, it's we who are moving, not the sky.

Other events of note

- March 20 is the equinox, when day and night are equal. An interesting thing about the equinox is that the whole world experiences it in the same way because the sun rises due east and sets due west relative to every place on earth.
- By May, bright Vega has risen, foretelling summer—Vega marks the first third of the Summer Triangle.
- A couple of spring meteor showers are worth mentioning. The early morning of April 2 could potentially yield 100 Lyrid meteors per hour! With Vega near Venus (and a crescent moon, which won't affect viewing), this will be a glorious morning. Hope for a clear sky. Then May 5 through 7 in the pre-dawn darkness, face east and look up for the Eta Aquariids—up to 10 to 20 meteors an hour. The moon will set just before the prime time.

Here's to clear, dark night skies and bright stars for you.

Greeley Wells
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Increased tree mortality in the Applegate AMA

BY BILL SCHAUPP

In the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA), which encompasses the entire Applegate River watershed, the 2015 aerial detection survey results showed large increases in acres with conifer mortality and killed trees, as compared with the three previous years (Figure 1).

These increases were likely due to heightened tree stress and lowered tree defense initiated by dry weather, especially the severe drought of 2013 and smaller and less persistent snow amounts in 2014 and 2015. Heightened temperatures added additional stress and likely exacerbated the impact of reduced precipitation. Conifer mortality was concentrated in crowded stands on lower-quality growing sites.

In our report on the 2015 mortality increase, in the Spring 2016 *Applegater*, we described the aerial detection surveys. That article began with a lengthy quote from our previous article on “all those dead trees” in the June 2003 *Applegater*. The quote ends with “But even after decades of close observation, we can sometimes be a bit surprised by how quickly things change and how large the scale of impacts can be.” In certain areas of the AMA, there was indeed a bit of surprise in 2016.



Aerial detection surveys show increases in conifer mortality and killed trees. Photo: USFS.

Compared with 2015, the aerial survey results for 2016 indicate a doubling of acres with current mortality and nearly six times more killed trees, an amount that is literally “off the chart” (Figure 1). This averages overall to about four killed trees per mapped acre in 2016, as compared with a bit over one tree per mapped acre in 2015, indicating an intensification as well as an expansion of conifer mortality last year.

Ninety percent of the conifer mortality mapped in 2016 in the AMA affected Douglas fir and was attributed to the flatheaded fir borer, *Phaenops drummondii*, a beetle species in the family Buprestidae, the metallic woodborers (Figure 2).

As in previous years, fieldwork found that the flatheaded fir borer (FFB) was the only agent consistently associated with such mortality of Douglas fir in the Applegate drainage.

This woodborer-caused Douglas fir mortality is a characteristic situation primarily occurring in the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion of southwest Oregon, although it occurs elsewhere in the West associated with drought. At Ferris Gulch, for example, smaller amounts of Douglas fir mortality occurred occasionally in previous years, becoming epidemic in 2015 and 2016. Other locations in the AMA that were heavily impacted by FFB in 2016 include lower Thompson Creek and Armstrong Gulch near Buncom, although FFB-caused mortality was widespread at lower elevations, especially in the Jackson County part of the AMA.

In addition to large losses of Douglas fir, pine mortality remained at an elevated level in 2016, due almost entirely to the western pine beetle (*Dendroctonus brevicomis*) killing large and medium-sized ponderosa pines (Figure 2). The mountain pine beetle killed an estimated 150 sugar pines in 2016, more than two to four times the total in each of the previous six years. Beetle-killed sugar pines are often among the larger pines in a stand, survivors of previous selective logging and the introduced pathogen *Cronartium ribicola*, the cause of white pine blister rust disease. In 2016, fewer than half as many true firs were killed by fir engravers, *Scolytus ventralis*, as compared with 2015. Although still at an elevated level, the reduction in true-fir mortality may result from improved moisture conditions at the higher elevations of the AMA.

It is unknown if this level of mortality will persist in 2017. A relatively large amount of precipitation has fallen thus far in fall and winter, which, if continued, should reduce tree stress in 2017 and favor tree defense over beetle attack. However, a large adult beetle generation emerged in 2016 from the many infested and killed trees, and this may have successfully overcome additional host trees that will die in 2017.

The relatively crowded condition of many forest stands in the AMA indicates a potentially significant degree of background stress caused by competition for limited resources, especially around pines, which need space and light to thrive and which succumb to bark beetles when crowded and stressed. Douglas fir growing on sites in the AMA that are marginally suited for them are already stressed; unfavorable weather adds more stress, providing opportunistic insects an improved chance to reproduce at the expense of more trees. Unfortunately, the surprisingly large recent mortality increase in the AMA in 2016 prevents reasoned predictions for 2017.

Bill Schaupp • 541-858-6125
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Southwest Oregon Forest Insect and Disease Service Center
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Note: Oregon Department of Forestry's forest health fact sheet on the flatheaded fir borer can be found online at oregon.gov/ODF/Documents/ForestBenefits/flatheadedfirborer_2016.pdf.

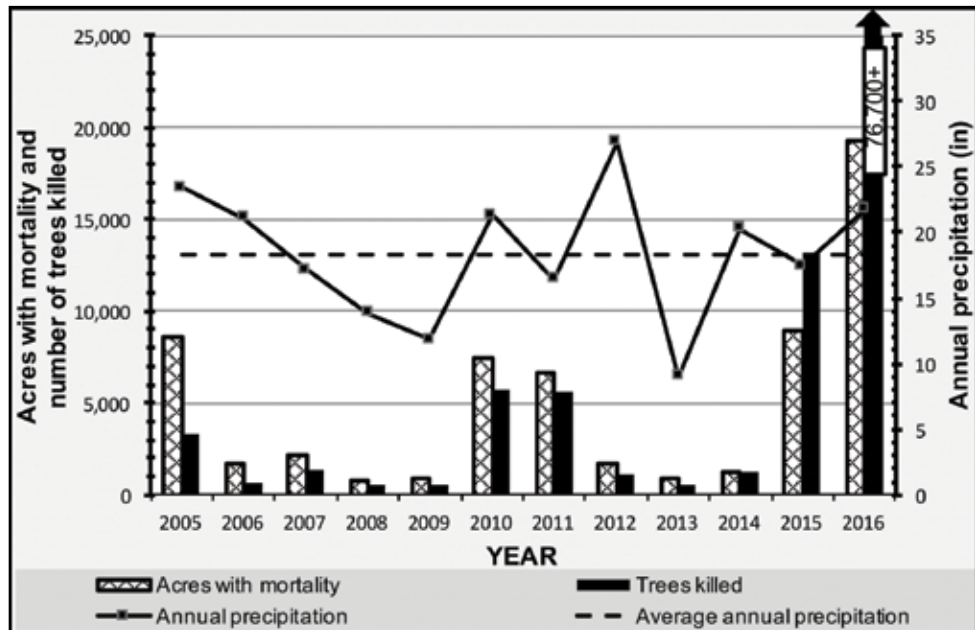


Figure 1 (left). Aerial Detection Survey from 2005 to 2016 for all lands within the Applegate Adaptive Management Area and Medford airport annual and average annual precipitation.

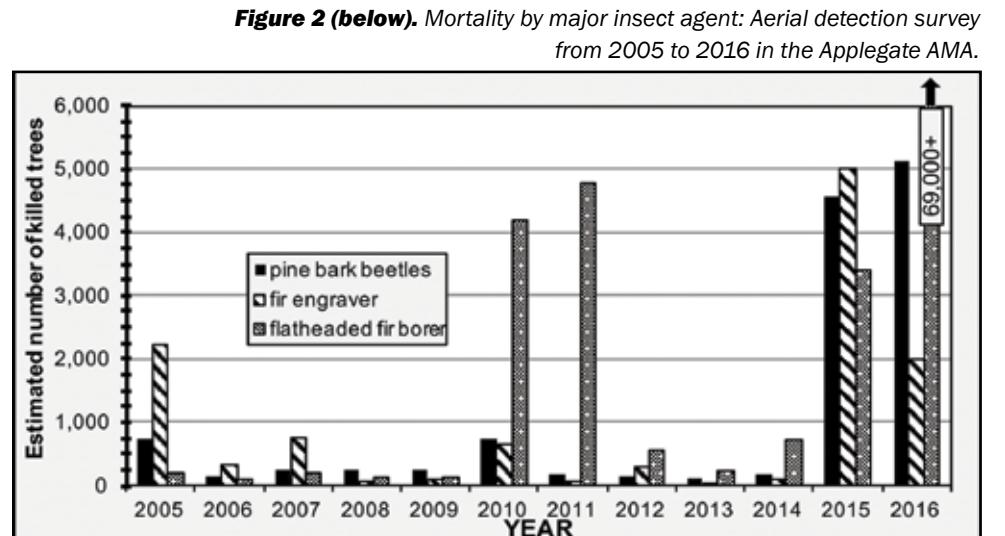


Figure 2 (below). Mortality by major insect agent: Aerial detection survey from 2005 to 2016 in the Applegate AMA.



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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Munching and mulching strawberries

BY SIOUX ROGERS

How did strawberries get their name? According to almanac.com, "One theory is that woodland pickers strung them on pieces of straw to carry them to market. Others believe that the surface of the fruit looks as if it's embedded with bits of straw. Still others think that the name comes from the Old English word meaning 'to strew,' because the plant's runners stray in all directions and look as if they are strewn on the ground."

There are four basic types of strawberries for the home gardener: June bearing, everbearing/day-neutral, alpine, and musk.

June-bearing strawberries produce a very fast but short crop, ripening in late spring to early summer. The harvest is short-lived; the flavor is superb.

June-bearings are easily explained, but when it comes to everbearings/day-neutrals, things get rather confusing. So stay with me and see if you can make heads or tails of the distinction between day-neutral and everbearing strawberries. According to one reputable source, "all day-neutral strawberries are everbearing, but not all everbearing strawberries are day-neutral. The distinction between everbearing and day-neutral strawberries is blurred" (homeguides.sfgate.com/difference-between-everbearing-dayneutral-strawberries-43384.html). In order to produce *more* strawberries, the wonders of modern science developed the day-neutral strawberry from everbearing strawberry plants. This modern-day strawberry will produce a high yield of fruit continuously all summer and into the fall if the temperature remains between 35 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

Alpine strawberries are very small, but have the essence of strawberry flavor. Alpine varieties can be red, yellow, or white. I have planted these before; they are extremely prolific with runners, but are very small and difficult to pick because it is hard to tell when a white or yellow strawberry is ripe. The upside is that these are an amazing and

worthwhile delicacy, guaranteed to drive your taste buds to ecstasy.

I am not familiar with musk strawberries, but here's a description from *Mother Earth News*: "Musk strawberries produce small fruits with a pungent aroma and complex flavor. Berries tend to be precious and few; improve fruit by adding male plants every couple of years. Musk strawberries are too rowdy for containers" (motherearthnews.com/organic/).

Left alone, alpine or musk strawberry plants will become a lush ground cover with small amounts of edible fruit.

Having said all this, I honestly never pay attention to these categories. When I want a special variety of a strawberry based on a specific characteristic, I order some from a catalog. Otherwise, I *never* buy strawberry plants—friends who grow them usually are anxious to give away the runners, something akin to getting rid of zucchini.

Strawberries are so easy to plant and grow—perhaps that is why they are a backyard favorite. Strawberries can be planted in just about anything you

can think of, e.g., rain gutters, strawberry pyramids, old tires, hanging baskets, large-diameter PVC pipes, old rain boots, old tubs, you name it.

If you are buying bare-root strawberries, try for hardy disease-resistant varieties like Benton, Hood or Puget Sound. When planting, spread out the strawberry roots without bending them. The hole needs only to be deep enough to cover the roots, with the crown portion above the soil, not buried. Strawberries sprawl and, in no time at all, will be fraternizing with all your other plants; give them adequate space. Space rows four feet apart and plants 20 inches from each other.

When plants are growing, make sure they get enough water to keep their shallow roots from getting thirsty. Keep the beds heavily mulched with pine needles, wood chips, straw, black

plastic, or old leaves (never use walnut leaves). By using organic material to mulch, you are encouraging microscopic microbial activity in the soil and retaining moisture and nutrients. Those are very good things.

Here is the sad part. In order to have a bountiful crop of strawberries next year, you should clip off as many of the blossoms from the first-year plants as you can emotionally handle. Since I am a wimp, I clip just half of the blossoms, and I will still have a great crop next year. Lordy, Lordy, don't forget to also pick off the runners.

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Sioux Rogers



Photo, right: Strawberries planted in pockets (chefjessicabright.com).

Photo, below left: Space your strawberries carefully (sunnysidelocal.com/growing-resources/strawberry-plants-2/).

Photo, below right: Little alpine strawberries (vegetablegardendjp.blogspot.com/2010/06/apple-bagging-with-footies.html).



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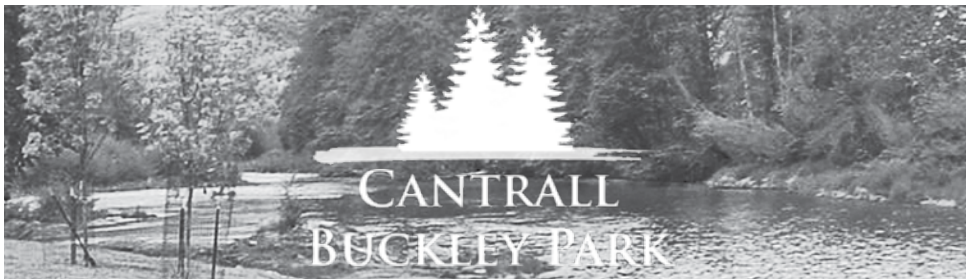
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Cantrall Buckley Park news

BY TOM CARSTENS

Restroom renovation delayed

In January, Jackson County Parks decided to delay renovation of the park's day-use restroom. This is disappointing for all of us; in its current state the restroom is difficult to maintain and just not very welcoming.

As you may know, this facility has not seen any improvements for over 40 years. In 2015, Jackson County Parks won a grant from Oregon State Parks and Recreation to finally address this sad facility. Plans were put in place to tear down the surrounding deteriorating wooden structure, put on

a new roof, and replace all the fixtures.

Your volunteer Park Committee has plans to landscape the area around the restroom to make it a lovely place for family. We also have a beautiful art mosaic mural ready to be placed on the exterior walls facing the playground. This mural was designed by Applegate Valley kids, who also made the tiles with their parents with support of lead artist Jeremy Criswell from Upper Applegate. Our community donated \$20,000 for this colorful piece of art that honors all donors to the mural and to our new playground. All of these plans, too, will have to be delayed.

In explaining the delayed renovation, Jackson County Parks program manager, Steve Lambert, wrote that "the restroom rehabilitation project at Cantrall Buckley Park will be completed in the fall of 2017. The project was originally scheduled to take place this winter, but due to our current project load and the active winter weather patterns that have kept our crews busy the past month or so, we think it is best to start the project in September when weather is more suitable and time allows. The rehabilitation of the facility is of utmost importance to the Park Program, and we are committed to seeing the project through to completion as it will be a great addition to the recent playground renovation. Thanks for working with us on this project."

So, Jackson County Parks told us that they'll start work in September and finish by the end of December because that's when the state grant expires. The Park Committee is heartbroken to have to ask everyone to undergo yet another season with this facility in such disrepair.

Campground upgrade begins

We're starting Phase 3 of our campground renovation project. In Phase 1, we put in a new state-of-the-art environmentally friendly wastewater treatment system, including new pumps and tanks. Phase 2 was the new campground restroom and shower facility. Additionally, we have put in new water lines and paved the entrance road.

All in all, we've spent almost \$600,000 over the past ten years for these needed improvements. We can thank our local contractors, the US Forest Service, Oregon State Parks and Recreation, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Jackson County Roads and Parks Department, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for their generous support.

Now we aim to finally complete this project. We will bring our campground up to current recreational vehicle (RV) standards with full electrical, water, and sewer hookups, a new restroom for the group campground, reconditioned campsites, and a new loop road that can accommodate all classes of RVs. These improvements will cost another \$400,000. We'd like to thank BLM who got us started on Phase 3 with a \$5,000 grant. With this money we have added two RV sites to the group campground and brought electricity to our camp host site. We have also begun receiving individual and group donations. Jackson County Parks plans on helping us with a matching grant from State Parks in August of 2018.

This means we have a year and a half to raise \$200,000. We will be calling on many of you to help us with this terrific project, which will bring more tourism dollars to our valley. For those who'd like to get a jump on things, you can send a check to GACDC Campground Fund, PO Box 335, Jacksonville, OR 97530. You can also donate directly to the campground fund using the contribution link on the GACDC website at gacdc.org.

Donations of \$1,000 or larger will be permanently honored at the campground. Thank you!

Tom Carstens, Chair
Cantrall Buckley Park Committee
541-846-1025



Steve Lambert (left), Jackson County Parks program manager, and Laird Funk, GACDC board member, discuss the restroom renovation.
Photo: Tom Carstens.

Dangerous tree felled in the playground

Last year we asked the US Forest Service at Star Ranger Station to take a look at the trees in the park and identify any safety hazards. The dendrology folks did find some problem trees. One in particular caught our attention: a huge old ponderosa pine with a scary lean right over the playground. The tree was over a hundred feet tall and could have caused some real excitement down the road.

On a cold Friday in January, Chuck Dahl, owner of Pacific Slope Tree Company in Williams, strapped on his tree-climbing equipment and shinned to the top of that old pine. Several volunteers below held their breath as massive trunk chunks thudded to the ground with thunderous quakes. *Thunk... thunk... thunk!* Chuck worked for hours to bring down this granddaddy. We are milling some of the downed wood to make new picnic tables.



Top photo: Chuck Dahl on his way to the top of a huge ponderosa pine. Bottom photo: Wood from the pine tree is being milled to make new picnic tables.
Photos: Tom Carstens.

Free passes for park cleanup on March 11

We would like to invite all of you to a community park cleanup on Saturday, March 11, at 9 am. This was a tough winter for trees, and we have a lot of downed wood to pick up. To sweeten the pot, we're offering free season passes to everyone who gives us a hand. Bring work gloves. We'll provide coffee, water, snacks, and bags. If you have a pickup, wheelbarrow, scoop shovel, rake, or chain saw, you can bring those too.

See you there!

Park fees to rise

Fees at Cantrall Buckley Park have not been increased in many years, while operating costs have continued to rise, creating a deficit. Therefore, after much discussion, the board of the Greater Applegate Community Development Center (GACDC) has decided to increase the day-use entrance fees to Cantrall Buckley Park effective May 1. These new fees, outlined below, are consistent with state parks fees and those for Applegate Lake.

- Day-use vehicle fee increases from \$4 to \$5.
- Season Pass increases from \$20 to \$25. Season passes can be purchased at Applegate Store, Ruch Country Store, and Tiff's Trading Post.
- Senior Season Pass increases from \$10 to \$15.

Campground fees are unchanged. Thank you for supporting our park!
GACDC Board

To the "civic-minded, community-oriented individuals"

who recently removed our large 600-pound barbecue grill from Cantrall Buckley Park

Most people would assume that the barbecue was stolen, but we can only hope that you have taken it out to be repaired and refurbished and will return it in better shape than you found it.

Because Cantrall Buckley Park operates on a shoestring budget, the generosity of the community is essential to its support. So it would be in keeping with this tradition of this community spirit for you to repair and refurbish our barbecue. As an example, last year we received donations from local citizens to replace 12 pedestal barbecues.

We look forward to the return of our refurbished barbecue or a \$1,000 tax-deductible donation to replace it before the May 1 season opening.

We thank you in advance for your concern for the welfare of the park. If you would like, when you return our barbecue, we will be happy to place your name on a donor plaque, as we have done with many other citizens who have made the park dream real.

Sincerely,
Rick Barclay, Park Manager



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BIRD EXPLORER

Rare winter visitors

BY PETER J. THIEMANN

We live in an area with a mild winter climate, and every year some rare bird species shows up that comes from the far north or the cold east or that forgot that it was time to head south.

The Vermilion Flycatcher, with its exotic red coloring, is a species one would expect to find in summer in southern California, Arizona, or south Texas, with its wintering grounds in

Mexico. But this year, a male Vermilion Flycatcher was seen regularly at the Crescent City Harbor, next to the Marine Mammal Center, where he caught flying insects all winter long. If you go there right now, you may still be able to see this exotic wild bird in the willows at the ocean—a truly spectacular bird.

The Red-naped Sapsucker is another brilliantly colored rare bird in

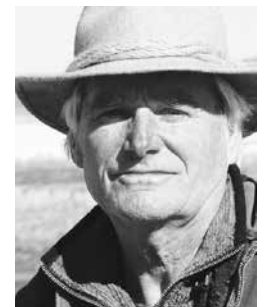
our area that comes from the cold interior west. He has been seen since October 2016 on a single large gum tree off a parking area at Emigrant Lake recreation area near Ashland. That gum tree has many small drinking holes that this sapsucker shares with the common Red-breasted Sapsucker and several Anna's Hummingbirds. The tree is very mature and healthy and provides plenty of sap.

Finally, there is the Lapland Longspur, a tundra bird from Siberia, Alaska, and Canada that can be seen with large flocks of Horned Larks that also

come from the north. Mudflats of lakes like Lost Creek are good places to look for this handsome rare bird.

So, next winter take your binoculars and spotting scopes and look for exotic rare winter visitors. You may find a surprise or two.

Peter J. Thiemann
peterjthiemann@gmail.com
Bird photos by Peter J. Thiemann.



Vermilion Flycatcher



Red-naped Sapsucker



Lapland Longspur

Save money. Save energy. Stay comfortable.

Install an energy-efficient ductless heat pump

Could this be the year you make your home more comfortable while reducing your utility bills? In 2017, Jackson and Josephine County homeowners and small businesses have a unique opportunity to invest in energy-efficient heating and cooling technology at a reduced price. With a ductless heat pump, you can save 25 to 50 percent on your heating costs when compared to a traditional electric heating system.



for customers, and provides guidance on incentives and financing. In addition to cost savings through the group purchase, customers of Pacific Power are also eligible

for an \$800 rebate if upgrading from another electric heating system.

Ductless heat pumps are highly efficient zonal heating and cooling systems that have at least one head unit indoors (see photo), usually placed high on the wall, a compressor located outside, and a refrigerant line connecting them. Because there are no ducts, these systems are often easily installed within a day.

Energize Rogue is a group purchase program that reduces the regular price of a ductless system, simplifies the entire installation process

Energize Rogue is a community-driven campaign that utilizes two volunteer committees, one to conduct outreach about this opportunity to save energy and money, and another to choose an installation contractor through a competitive bidding process. A locally owned company, Allied Comfort Pro, is the selected contractor for Energize Rogue, and the ductless systems are manufactured by Mitsubishi, which has an excellent reputation for superior technology in the industry.

For homeowners and small businesses to be eligible for the Energize Rogue group purchase, the first step is to participate in a free community workshop. Participants will learn more about the group purchase program, hear from installation professionals and program partners, and have an opportunity to ask questions.

The nonprofits Rogue Climate and Northwest SEED (Sustainable Energy for Economic Development) have teamed up to bring Energize Rogue to our community, partnering with businesses, energy professionals, and volunteers to boost awareness and provide considerable cost savings. This project is made possible by a US Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant.

To attend a *free* Energize Rogue workshop, visit energizerogue.org or call 541-236-5027.

Upcoming Workshops
Register in advance

Tuesday, March 14
Ashland Library, 6 - 7 pm

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Central Point Library, 6 - 7 pm

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The workload was 'ginormous.'

■ COMMUNES

Continued from page 1

and Trillium Farm (1976) on the Little Applegate, all founded by people wanting to live their ideals.

The most basic ideal was back-to-the-land living, from the flourishing gardens at East Side House to Molto Bene's vegetables, home-brewed beer, wine from their own vineyards, chickens for eggs, goats for milk and for meat, and, even, one year, a field of wheat for their own bread.

Other visions, and the means of their enactment, varied greatly. "Basically we were there just to have fun," John says of East Side House. At Trillium, though, part of the vision was to find a trashed-out piece of land and rehabilitate it. There, everyone had to live by what co-founder Chant Thomas called a "very specific (and challenging) set of agreements."

The only rule at Molto Bene was "no dogs in the kitchen." At East Side House there were "no rules except good behavior," John said, but that rule must have implied the incompatibility of hard drugs with good behavior, since hard drugs weren't allowed. East Side House had "the most beautiful swimming hole on the gorge," according to John and every hippy, cop, and biker who met there. "Good behavior" there also meant there would be no tobacco, no dogs, no

fighting, and no glass bottles at the swimming hole.

People from Laser Farm, an acronym for Latin American Studies for Esoteric Research, traveled the world to collect genetically pure seeds for a seed bank. Beyond that, the vision of Bryan Newpher and the other co-founders was simply to share their lives with people, a vision easily fulfilled at Laser Farm: in the summer as many as 150 people could be living there, sleeping in tipis, in the barn, in temporary shelters, in the main house with its four bedrooms, or in individual dwellings.

Music was ubiquitous.

"There was always someone who wanted to play music," says Lori Hava, co-founder of Molto Bene, "whether in the Big House in the evenings or in the gazebo or while hanging out in the meadow."

Music was always playing at Laser Farm—if not guitars and tambourines, then the Grateful Dead on the stereo system. Because East Side House had a reputation as a fun place to go—a better place for a vacation than Mexico, said a mid-1970s *Medford Mail Tribune* article—members of a chamber ensemble from Britt came there to go swimming. They played a free concert inside the house, then came back later for a concert on the beach, playing to a crowd of



The "Big House" under construction at Molto Bene. Photo courtesy of Mike Kohn.



Orion Society Forgotten Language Workshop circa 1998 at Trillium. Photo courtesy of Chant Thomas.

40 people, all naked, including the musicians.

"Back-to-the-land," for the most part, meant that the workload was—Chant's word—"ginormous." There were gardens to keep, houses to build, and even, at Molto Bene, at least for the first year, water to haul. (After that year someone built a ram pump.)

"Everyone worked hard," says Molto Bene co-founder Mike Kohn, "some more than others, but people

helped maintain things, grow things, mend fences. Those who didn't work as hard physically might bring humor, music, and other support to the group."

That unequally shared workload, in other places, caused friction. At Trillium, Chant says, "The real workers were always badmouthing people who were sitting around the pond in the sun, doing crafts and playing music."

The best thing about living in community for Bryan was "conversation, singing, songs, music, lovemaking, sharing the work." For Lori, it was getting to know what it was like to live in nature "on a basic level: creating our own homes—no electricity for common conveniences—the beauty of the area. I got really strong walking from the Big House to my own house in the dark," she says. "It was considered wimpy to use a flashlight in the full moon."

"Good fences make good neighbors" (Robert Frost). Relations between the communes and the larger community were generally good. Molto Bene's neighbors "accepted us for the hard-working people we were," Mike says. A neighbor of Laser Farm, Charlie Elmore, of a generations-long Applegate family, was "one of our best allies," Bryan says. The Elmores, for instance, helped with the haying. "They were very supportive in a joking way," Bryan says. "They were amused by us."

Diana Coogle • dicoog@gmail.com
Note: Part 2, in the Summer Applegater, will focus on difficulties and fond memories of communal living.

Experience being a 'local tourist.'

■ APPLGATE INNS

Continued from page 1



seven large rooms with different themes reflecting the history and character of the area, such as the Gold Mining and the Cattleman rooms. Each room has a spa tub and a deck overlooking the river. There is a honeymoon suite (see photo, above), as the lodge hosts between 25 and 40 weddings a year. The lodge also has live music events, a restaurant, and a bar. In the mornings, guests enjoy complimentary bagels and coffee. And the lodge is pet friendly!

•••••

Bybee's Historic Inn

Built in 1857, Bybee's Historic Inn is a grand-luxury, Victorian bed-and-breakfast just one mile from downtown Jacksonville. An authentic Victorian kitchen has a huge antique stove from which delicious three-course breakfasts are made to each guest's dietary requirements. Six themed rooms, lavishly decorated, are outfitted with romantic bathtubs and luxury linens.



Complimentary wine, custom-made treats, and rides to town are all provided for guests. Bybee's hosts weddings and special events, too. When owner Tina Marie was inspired to create a historic retreat, co-owner and cousin, Vikki Lynn, couldn't resist being swept up in the vision.

•••••

Elan Guest Suites



Cherie Reneau and Duane Sturm, proprietors of Jacksonville's Elan Guest Suites, conceived of and built this boutique hotel and art gallery in 2005-2006. According to Cherie, Elan was invented as it evolved. Original art graces the walls of the suites, which are

spacious and airy with sophisticated decor and countless amenities, including kitchenettes. Cherie customarily welcomes the guests, "staging" the suites for their arrival and presenting them with gift certificates for local restaurants and the GoodBean coffee shop. Elan is close to the Britt grounds, tucked quietly off the main drag. The art gallery is used for a myriad of purposes, including private dinner parties for guests.

•••••

Horsefeather Farms Ranchette



Located on the Applegate River in Applegate, Horsefeather Farms Ranchette is an animal lover's paradise. Maryanna Reynolds (see photo, above), who, with husband, Neal, also owns the Applegate Store and Café, moved here 14 years ago from Santa Rosa, California, so they could have all the animals their hearts desired. The ranchette is a rustic bunkhouse with a separate bedroom with a king-sized bed, a wood-burning stove, bunk beds, a kitchen, and a full bath. It can accommodate couples, families, pets, and even a horse or two! There, you can have a true taste of country life in its cozy warmth, introduce your kids to farm

animals, relax on the Applegate River, and, in season, enjoy the lush gardens. As an option, you can have breakfast at the nearby Applegate Cafe included with your stay.

•••••

Jacksonville Inn



Built in 1861, the Jacksonville Inn is a historic landmark with eight guest rooms themed and decorated to reflect Jacksonville's rich history. Furnished with antiques, the rooms have various amenities, including a spa tub for two in the Peter Britt room. In another room a brick in the wall hides a treasure trove of notes left behind by past occupants. Off-site, the Jacksonville Inn offers four luxurious private cottages with king-sized beds, flat-screen televisions, whirlpool tubs, and steam showers. The presidential cottage is truly fit for a president and was once occupied by former president George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush. All accommodations include a full-service breakfast in the Jacksonville Inn's dining room. *Wine Spectator* and *Wine Enthusiast* magazines have given the inn high accolades. Look to the Jacksonville Inn for its after-Britt festivities and late-night menu.

See APPLGATE INNS, page 13

Two butterflies of the Nymphalidae family

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Mylitta Crescent

The Mylitta Crescent butterfly (*Phyciodes mylitta*) belongs to the Nymphalidae family.

Its wingspread can be up to one and a half inches. The upper side of its wings ranges in color from bright orange to yellow and features thin black markings and spots. The underside is a blurry rusty-orange with yellow and orange markings.

It lays its eggs on the undersides of host-plant thistles: native *Cirsium*, milk (*Silybum marianum*), or European. Through naturalization of other thistle species and their relatives, the mylitta has become widespread. Larvae feed on host plants living inside a web nest. Later, half-grown larvae will overwinter or hibernate on host plants.

Adults nectar on host-plant flowers of thistle, asters, rabbitbrush, pearly everlasting, and many others. Two or more broods occur from March to mid-October, and they can be seen throughout spring, summer, and fall from sea level to elevations up to 8,000 feet. Some habitats are fields, roadsides, parks, and meadows.

The range of the Mylitta Crescent is from southern British Columbia south through California, Mexico, and the Rocky Mountains. It is a common butterfly throughout its range.

Mylitta Crescent is easily recognizable after you get to know it in the field. Sometimes just when you think you aren't going to see many butterflies, a mylitta will show up and warm your day!

Western Meadow Fritillary

The Western Meadow Fritillary (*Boloria epithore*), also known as the Pacific Fritillary, is another member of the Nymphalidae family. This butterfly can have a wingspread of up to one and three-quarter inches. Mostly bright orange, this butterfly has black lines, triangle-tipped arrowhead markings, and black spots on the upper side of its wings. The underside has beautiful purple-brown markings

and a row of dark circles on the hindwing.

Males patrol frequently, flying low in their search for females. Single eggs are laid on species of violets, mostly redwood and evergreen (*viola sempervirens*), western dog and hookedspur (*viola adunca*), and stream and pioneer (*viola glabella*). Larvae will eat the edges of leaves and sometimes the flowers. They diapause (hibernate) in the third or fourth instar. ("Instar" is a term used for a stage in the development of a caterpillar.) Feeding in spring, the larvae turn to chrysalis, producing a single flight in early summer to early fall.

Adults will nectar on pearly everlasting, thistles, blackberry, strawberry, cinquefoil, and other plants. Habitats for the Western Meadow Fritillary are wet meadows, streamsides, and healthy green open places from valleys to mid- and higher-elevation mountains.

Their range in the Pacific Northwest is from western Alberta, British Columbia, and from the coast throughout the western United States.

The Western Meadow Fritillary flies slow and low, stopping on flowers to nectar, but can still remain somewhat



Western Meadow Fritillary on American bistort



Western Meadow Fritillary on blue-headed gilia

elusive. Sometimes it will get busy enough on flowers to allow for a closer encounter for you to enjoy its light beauty and, if lucky, catch a photo. This butterfly is one of my favorites when visiting mid-elevation meadows, which it frequents throughout the warm days of early to late summer.

Linda Kappen
humbukkapps@hotmail.com
Butterfly photos by Linda Kappen.



Mating Mylitta Crescent on Oregon sunshine

■ APPLGATE INNS

Continued from page 12

Magnolia Inn



The Magnolia Inn is located near the shops, restaurants, and attractions of Jacksonville. The unique vintage style of each room reflects the warm hospitality of innkeepers Robert and Susan Roos, who have loved the inn since their first stay there, on vacation. In 2007 they left their corporate jobs in the hospitality industry in Orange County, California, to become its owners. With a southern, old-fashioned appeal, the Magnolia Inn even has a pet-friendly room downstairs. Susan says the upscale continental breakfast is amazing, with pastries from local bakeries. The chocolate mint cookies deserve a paragraph of their own.

TouVelle House

TouVelle House bed-and-breakfast is an authentic 1916 craftsman house with six guest rooms. In 2013, after years in law enforcement in Los Angeles, Jamie Kerr, a Medford native, convinced her husband, Sean, that they should follow their dream of owning a bed-and-breakfast. They bought the TouVelle House, and Jamie went to culinary



school. The gardens of the B&B allow Jamie a farm-to-table approach with the breakfasts she makes daily for guests. Jamie takes great pride in keeping TouVelle House up to her particularly high standards, while Sean, who takes care of the gardens, grounds, swimming pool, and bees, covers everything else, from entertaining guests in the morning to doing maintenance. Each room has feather beds and fancy sheets and a glass water bottle to fill from the water coolers on each floor.

Wine Country Inn, McCully House, Wine Cottages



Wine Country Inn is one of three properties offered by hotel group Country House Inn in Jacksonville.

Inns around the Applegate Contact information

- **Applegate River Lodge**, 15100 Highway 238, Applegate; 541-846-6690; applegateriverlodge.com. Rates: \$130 - 165.
- **Bybee's Historic Inn**, 883 Old Stage Road, Jacksonville; 541-899-0106; bybeehistoricinn.com. Rates: \$145 - 199.
- **Elan Guest Suites**, 245 West Main Street, Jacksonville; 541-899-8000; elanguestsuites.com. Rates: \$190 - 260.
- **Horsefeather Farms Ranchette**, 13291 Highway 238, Applegate; 541-941-0000; horsefeather-farms-ranchette.com. Rates: \$100 - 235.
- **Jacksonville Inn**, 175 East California Street, Jacksonville; 541-899-1900; jacksonvilleinn.com. Rates: \$159 - 465.
- **Magnolia Inn**, 245 North 5th Street, Jacksonville; 541-899-0255; magnolia-inn.com. Rates: \$124 - 179.
- **McCully House** (240 E. California Street, Jacksonville) and **Wine Cottages** (220 E. C Street, Jacksonville); 541-899-3953; countryhouseinnsjacksonville.com. Rates: \$209 - 299.
- **TouVelle House**, 455 North Oregon Street, Jacksonville; 541-899-8938; touvellehouse.com. Rates: \$135 - 199.
- **Wine Country Inn**, 830 North 5th Street, Jacksonville; 541-899-3953; countryhouseinnsjacksonville.com. Rates: \$139 - 209.



Wine Country Inn, the most economical of the three, has 27 comfortable and tidy rooms, two with Jacuzzi tubs. Wine Country Inn is pet friendly and treats its guests to a Continental breakfast. It also provides check-in and other services for

guests of Country House Inn's two more luxurious properties: McCully House and the Wine Cottages. McCully House, on California Street, offers five deluxe rooms and two luxury suites. The Wine Cottages are on C Street and feature private entrances, outdoor sitting areas, king-sized pillow-top beds, flat-screen televisions, and other amenities. Guests of McCully House and Wine Cottages are given vouchers for breakfast at six of Jacksonville's eateries.

No matter which accommodations you choose (try them all), you are bound to have an exciting new experience as a "local tourist."

Shelley Manning
manningshelley@icloud.com

Cabin fever: Stir-crazy or think tank?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

A full week of being snowbound finally started getting to me. Never mind that hubby had tried going to town earlier in the week and got the car stuck in well over a foot of snow on our driveway. We'd received almost an inch of rain, the snow was melting, and the temps were up, so I took off to get some errands done.

After creeping down our hill and skidding across our bridge, I breathed a huge sigh of relief as I turned onto a plowed and rocked road. Moving towards Buncom and the Little Applegate River, I could hear the river well before I got there. Feeder streams flowing across roads, flooded pasture, debris everywhere, and it was still raining. Would our local rivers flood, I wondered?

I barely made it back home safely—got a little too close to the inside of a curve on the driveway and hubby had to come down and dig me out. On the computer I had some emails from neighbors who were monitoring and comparing the Little Applegate's rising waters at various locations. And the fire chief called me to talk about possible

breaching along the main Applegate River later that night. He'd been working with both Jackson and Josephine County Emergency Services departments, the Red Cross, the state's Department of Transportation, and the Army Corps of Engineers to be ready to set up shelters if we did see some flooding of homes that night.

To me this is what the Applegate is all about: people working together to address issues and get things done—across property boundaries and across jurisdictions. And hasn't this been the way of America—people working together for a better future—ever since our country was formed?

Because of our checkerboard landownership pattern, we here in southwest Oregon *have had to work together* with our neighbors to accomplish successful management goals. We set the trend out of local necessity, but the concept has gone national, with collaborative groups all across the country working together on local land-management issues.

And it seems to me that the next steps of collaborative work were a natural also—to plan and work together during *all* natural disasters, not just wildfires.

We now have CERT teams (Community Emergency Response Teams) popping up in many communities. We have detailed emergency evacuation plans for families via the Ready, Set, Go! program, as well as documents telling us what to include in family emergency kits in case power and other services are cut off for extended lengths of time.

We have automatic Citizen Alert systems in both of our counties, whereby all affected families receive emergency information in a timely manner so that we can appropriately react at the family level. We Applegaters also have developed many "telephone trees" to be able to alert neighbors to an emergency situation in our immediate area.

And of course much has been done to address wildfire risks in southwest Oregon, with several programs such as Firewise and Fire-Adapted Communities developed to guide homeowners in fire-prone areas (the Applegate) to


work *together* to make their homes and neighborhoods fire-resilient. While these are now national programs, they are still very applicable to our rural settings, especially right now!

A decade ago over 90 percent of the Applegate's residents had "defensible space" around their homes. But we all know that vegetation grows back (especially in wet years), meaning that we have to work annually to maintain a clean, defensible homesite. So what would that percentage be today? As you read this article, do *you* have a defensible space around your home?

It's time to take stock of the fuels on our properties and make a work list for the coming months. As we do this inventory, we should also consider those with whom we share a driveway or property line. Working together and sharing the load can create an even larger fire-resilient neighborhood.

Connecting individual properties that have lower fuel loads, healthier vegetation, safe access/egress and defensible homes *can* affect a wildfire's behavior and help make a safer area for firefighters to do their job. Maybe save lives and homes as well?

I'm in—are you?
Sandy Shaffer • sassyoneor@gmail.com



Burn reminder

Before burning outdoors any time of year, check with your fire district to make sure that day is an official burn day and not a *NO* burn day. **No illegal burning!**
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Jackson County
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— Applegate Library —

Applegate Library's first Basket Raffle raised over \$300! Beautifully arranged baskets, created with the help of Evan Martin, Friends of Applegate Library (FOAL) member Lynn Towns, and our giving community, enticed young and old. Thank you, Applegate, for making this event so wonderful.

Over the winter, knitter extraordinaire Carol Hoon started a knitting class. Due to the high level of interest, she will continue the class on Fridays from 2:30 to 4 pm in the Applegate Library Community Room. For more information, please contact Carol at orcarolhoon@gmail.com.

Spring break will soon be upon us. As we look for fun things to do to keep the kiddos learning, we have put together a few events you may be interested in. All these events are free to the public and sponsored by FOAL.

- Saturday, March 18, 1 pm. Local Author Kristi Cowles will be here to sign and promote her new book, *One More Wolf Sings*.
- Tuesday, March 28, 2:30 pm. Alli Parkin from Squirrel Medicine Pottery will be teaching how to craft a pinch pot.
- Wednesday, March 29, 12 to 2 pm. Emery Hoon will demonstrate how to make a paracord bracelet.
- Friday, March 31, 2 to 6 pm. Make your own keepsake box, turning an ordinary box into a work of art.

• Saturday, April 1, 10:30 am. Join us for storytime and a craft.

Applegate School's class of 1965 is holding a silent auction fundraiser at the library from March 1 through March 24. All proceeds will go to FOAL.

Auction items include a night at the Beachfront Inn in Brookings, ten pounds of free-range Applegate beef, a handmade afghan, a Red Robin gift card, lots of Dutch Bros items, an In-N-Out Burger gift card, two spaghetti night meals from Karna & Sons, two free meals at Applegate Store, and much more.

Here's a bit of history about Applegate School in 1965:

- Bruce Matheny was both principal and a seventh- and eighth-grade teacher.
- The eighth-grade class had eight students.
- Three of those students still live locally and have worked together to give back to the community through this fundraiser.

Come by the library to see the photos and history display of "Applegate 1965."

Applegate Library is located at 18485 North Applegate Road and is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 2 to 6 pm and Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm.

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

— Ruch Library —

Spring into reading at Ruch Library!

Free computer classes! Ruch Library is hosting two levels (Level 2 and Level 3) of computer classes this spring, consisting of four classes each.

Level 2: Word processing, digital photo processing, file management, and graphic design. Thursdays, 4 to 6 pm, March 9 through March 30.

Level 3: Advanced word processing, spreadsheets, computer management, and Internet services. Thursdays, 4 to 6 pm, April 13 through May 4.

Computers and cameras will be provided. Space is limited, so please sign up in advance at Ruch Library.

Ruch Library is the heart of the community, and we like to share that with everyone. In March we will have a community display of ceramic vessels belonging to Applegate residents. Vases, bowls, sculptures—old, new, large, small—we will have it all. Come and see our eclectic display!

In April, we will switch to a display of miniature scenes assembled by the Southern Oregon Miniature Club. These tiny dioramas are a wonder to behold, and you won't want to miss them.

Saturday, April 1, is the Great American Folksong Revival. Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) welcomes Tim Holt as he revisits the golden age of folk music.

Join in with Tim on songs in the good old hootenanny tradition. This will be fun for all, and lyrics will be provided!

The McKee Bridge Centennial will be celebrated on Saturday, June 10. During the month of May, Ruch Library will be part of the pre-celebration. Our display cases will feature the history of the bridge, old photos, other memorabilia, and a sample of raffle prizes in our display cases. We have a great collection of local history books and documents as well.

Be sure and visit the FORL book sale at the Centennial Celebration at the bridge in June. (There will also be a FORL book sale at Buncom Day on Saturday, May 27, from 10 am to 3 pm.)

Ruch Library is open Tuesdays from 10 am to 5 pm, Thursdays from 1 to 7 pm, and Saturdays from 11 am to 4 pm. The library is located at 7919 Highway 238.

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



My library works for me.

— Josephine Community Libraries —

New books at the Williams branch

Below are some titles newly available at the Williams branch.

■ Children

- *The Rescue Mission* by Maria S. Barbo
- *Just Grandpa and Me* by Mercer Mayer
- *Froggy Goes to the Doctor* by Jonathan London
- *Old Dog Baby Baby* by Julie Fagliano

■ Adult

- *Learning from Dogs: Innate Wisdom from Man's Best Friend* by Paul Handover
- *Pilgrims Wilderness: A True Story of Faith and Madness on the Alaska Frontier* by Tom Kizzia
- *In the Kitchen with Rosie: Oprah's Favorite Recipes* by Rosie Daley
- *The Woman Who Borrowed Memories: Selected Stories* by Tove Jansson

Williams branch weekly storytime

Bring the whole family to children's storytime at 3:30 pm every Wednesday. For more information, contact Williams branch manager Evelyn Roether at 541-856-7020 or eroether@josephinelibrary.org. Williams Branch Library is located at 20695 Williams Highway in downtown Williams and is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 1 to 5 pm.

Upcoming exhibits at the Grants Pass branch

• *Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America*, February 10 through March 14

More than any other founder, Alexander Hamilton foresaw the America we live in now. He shaped the financial, political, and legal systems of the young United States. His ideas on racial equity and economic diversity were so far ahead of their time that it took the nation decades to catch up. This traveling, multi-panel exhibit from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History covers the life and achievements of Alexander Hamilton.

• *Anywhere but Here: The History of Housing Discrimination in Oregon*, April 2 through 8

This seven-panel exhibit comprised of photographs, text, and quotes chronicles Oregon's largely unknown history of discrimination, segregation, and displacement, the progress in overcoming this history, and the challenges that remain.

Accompanying this traveling exhibit is a community-wide Oregon Humanities Conversation Project titled "Homeless in the Land of Plenty" on Wednesday, April 5, from 5:30 to 7 pm, facilitated by CommuniTalks founder and director Ryan Stroud of Portland. In the United States, families with children are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population. How does homelessness affect the lives of all people within a community? What does it mean for there to be masses of people who are not adequately housed? Join storyteller Ryan Stroud to share your stories and learn about the experiences of others.

Cow Scrabble

Join the fun at the Libraries legen"dairy" Cow Scrabble Tournament. This signature fundraising event will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Grants Pass High School Commons, 830 NE 9th Street, Grants Pass.

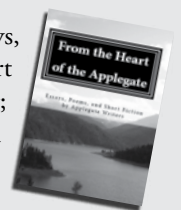
Cow Scrabble is a tournament where individuals and local business-sponsored teams compete against each "udder" during four consecutive Scrabble games for points. Teams compete for "Josie," the coveted Cow Scrabble trophy, and to be crowned the "Smartest Business in Town."

This exciting afternoon of game play will be a blast and will help raise "moo"lah for the libraries in Josephine County. To become a business sponsor team or register as an individual player, contact JCLI development manager Rebecca Stoltz at rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org or 541-476-0571 x114.

For more information about Josephine Community Libraries, contact Brandace Rojo at 541-476-0571 x112.

Help support the Applegater by purchasing these unique items!

Book. *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 applegater.org; Applegate Valley Realty, Jacksonville; Bloomsbury Books, Ashland; Oregon Books, Grants Pass; and Terra Firma, Jacksonville.



Planter. Beautiful planters built with donated local wood and volunteer labor. See these useful and long-lasting "Applecrates" at Applegate Valley Realty, 935 N. Fifth Street, Jacksonville. A stock planter box, 12" wide x 22" long x 14" deep, starts at \$40. For more information, call Chris Bratt at 541-846-6988.



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NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— ACCESS Food Share Gardens —

Imagine every town in Jackson County growing enough fresh vegetables to help feed the hungry in its community. That's the hope and mission behind the ACCESS Food Share Gardens. Since 2010 these highly productive, volunteer-run gardens have been providing thousands of pounds of fresh organic produce to ACCESS emergency food pantries.

Do you love to garden? Want to learn? Come volunteer in a Food Share Garden! Near the Applegate Valley, there is a garden at the Oregon State University Extension on Hanley Road, Central Point. ACCESS is also planning

on collaborating with the school garden at the Ruch Community School this year.

No gardening experience or green thumb is required. The Food Share Garden's on-site garden managers will teach you. Come to de-stress, connect to others, and serve your community.

Volunteers are encouraged to take vegetables home for their own consumption because all of us can benefit from eating more veggies—especially those that are sustainably grown.

To volunteer or obtain for more information, contact Kim Barnes at 541-779-6691 x309 or freshaccess@accesshelps.org.

— Applegate Community Church —

Greetings, Applegate community, from your neighbors at Applegate Community Church (ACC).

Over the holidays, we reached out to our hungry and hurting community with 20-plus boxes of food, which is probably double the usual amount of our annual food drive. Applegate School and the Lions Club helped with this endeavor, along with many generous donations from our church members who keep our food pantry (Joseph's Storehouse) stocked so we can help people whom God brings our way.

Former President Reagan once proposed, "If every church and synagogue in the US would adopt ten poor families beneath the poverty level...we could eliminate all government welfare in

this country." Whether his proposal was sufficient or not, this dilemma of neediness is of growing concern.

We are a small congregation with limited resources. Hopefully, by God's grace and His empowering Holy Spirit, we here at ACC will be a faithful lighthouse on the hill in the center of Applegate, pointing souls to Christ and filling stomachs with food, all in the name of Jesus Christ!

May our humble influence cause the community to be a better place to live.

"He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many a curse" (Proverbs 28:27).

Parker Reardon, D.Min.
parkerreardon@gmail.com
Pastor, Applegate Community Church

— Pacifica —

Funds still needed for new Caterpillar!



Pacifica's beloved nature-science program, the Caterpillar, needs a new trailer. The current 20-year-old unit has decayed to the point that it is no longer roadworthy. Without a new trailer, this program can't continue.

The Caterpillar's school visits have enriched the lives of many children in local schools for 16 years. The various educational programs offered are the equivalent of a field trip going to schools, which is more economical than busing whole classes from schools. This great program depends on public support to continue serving the children in Josephine and Jackson counties.

We're grateful to community members who have already contributed. Your much-appreciated donation is tax-deductible—Pacifica is a 501(c)(3)

nonprofit organization. Mail your check to Pacifica, Caterpillar Program, PO Box 1, Williams, OR 97544. Donations also can be made through PayPal on Pacifica's website at pacificagarden.org. For more information, call 541-846-1100.

Thank you from the staff and Board of Directors at Pacifica!

Pacifica's Cedar Center Improved!

Thanks to grants from the Four Way Community Foundation, the Carpenter Foundation, and the Oregon Community Foundation, Pacifica's Cedar Center community building has new, efficient ductless heat pumps (see photo below). These new units replace barely functioning heaters dating from 1978. In addition, the oak flooring has received a durable new finish. All of this means a more comfortable and bright space for community events. For more information, call 541-846-1100 or email info@pacificagarden.org.



— Applegate ACCESS Food Pantry —

Located at the back of Ruch School at 156 Upper Applegate Road, the Applegate ACCESS Food Pantry is open on Mondays from 9:30 to 11 am. There are no sign-ins after 11 am. The pantry is closed on the last Monday of every month and whenever Ruch School is not in session.

Please remember to say thank you

to all of our wonderful volunteers. We have a great group of people who help our operations run smoothly. I would not be able to do this without them, especially lately when I am not able to make it down there myself.

For more information, contact pantry manager Charlotte Knott at 541-899-8381.

— Applegate Valley Garden Club —

During the holidays, the Applegate Valley Garden Club (AVGC) contributed to the ACCESS Senior Shoebox Program, which has been bringing holiday cheer to seniors in the Rogue Valley for over two decades. This program serves low-income seniors, persons recovering from health issues, and those with disabilities by delivering beautifully wrapped shoeboxes full of small, thoughtfully chosen gifts.

AVGC member and project chair Janis Mohr-Tipton contacted Nicki Bell, ACCESS coordinator for the shoebox program, and found that the program had not yet extended to the Applegate Valley. Following Nicki's suggestion that we could distribute in our own communities, club members collected an abundance of recommended items and created 31 shoeboxes. Among the categories of ACCESS-recommended items were dental care, toiletry, personal care, first-aid supplies, stationery, books, and nonperishable food items.

The shoeboxes were distributed to deserving seniors and adult participants at the December Applegate Food Pantry. The club also created three family boxes with appropriate items for each family member and delivered those to Ruch School for their holiday help program. With the extra items, Janis created ten



gift bags for homeless teens who came into the Maslow Project for help over the holidays.

The club is very happy that our own communities in the Applegate Valley were served in the ACCESS Shoebox Program for the first time. The members hope to continue this service.

If you or your organization would like to contribute or join us in creating an even bigger program next year, contact AVGC leader Gaye Anderson at 541-899-5952 or Janis Mohr-Tipton, Shoebox project coordinator, at 541-846-7501 or janismohrtipton48@frontier.com.

ACCESS volunteers distributed more than 1,400 shoeboxes in the Rogue Valley in 2015 and more than 1,700 shoeboxes in 2016.

For more information on this or other ACCESS programs, contact Nicki Bell at 541-774-4324 or visit their website at accesshelps.org.

— Williams Grange —

Current activities at Williams Grange include:

- Mondays: Yoga with Abby from 9:15 - 10:45 am; Yoga with Kendra from 5:30 - 6:45 pm
- Tuesdays: Zumba with Wensdae from 9 - 10 am
- Wednesdays: Yoga with The Community Yoga Collective from 9 - 10:15 am; Yoga with Cassidy from 5:30 - 7 pm
- Thursdays: Zumba with Wensdae from 9 - 10 am; Aikido for Kids with Sense Michelle from 2:30 - 5:30 pm; Williams World Music Choir with Harmony

Haynie (through May 4) from 6 - 8 pm

- Fridays: Yoga with Cassidy from 9 - 10:30 am
- Saturdays: African Drumming with Skijah from 3 - 4:30 pm
- Sundays: Pancake Breakfast and Bluegrass Jam (second Sunday of each month) from 8 am - 1 pm; Ecstatic Dance (first, third, and fifth Sundays) from 11 am - 1 pm

For more information or to reserve a date, contact Cassidy Geppert at williamsgrangerentals@gmail.com or 707-391-6964. 20100 Williams Highway, Williams, Oregon.

Nonprofit organizations in the Applegate Valley are welcome to submit news and event information to the Applegater. Email gater@applegater.org.

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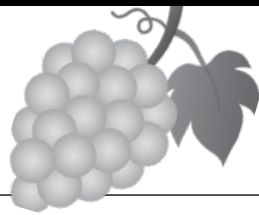
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GRAPE TALK

The grape and wine community



BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

A theme of this issue of the *Applegater* is “community.” A significant part of our community are the people who grow grapes, create wines, and enjoy wines from the Applegate Valley.

In 1982, the Oregon Winegrowers Association recognized the grape-growing community in southern Oregon as the Rogue Chapter of the association. In 1991, the Rogue Valley received approval as an American Viticultural Area (AVA). In 2001 the Applegate Valley was designated an AVA within the Rogue Valley AVA.

The Applegate Valley Oregon Vintners Association (AVOVA) is the organization of wineries and wine makers in the Applegate Valley, of which there are 18 members. This group of wine professionals shares information and resources during their quarterly meetings. Current officers of AVOVA are president Joe Ginet of Plaisance Ranch, vice president Liz Wan of Serra Vineyards, treasurer Duane Bowman of Cricket Hill Winery, and secretary Debbie Schultz of Schultz Wines.

AVOVA’s main activity is fundraising for advertising and marketing Applegate

Valley wines. Their twice yearly “Uncorked” events occur the Sunday before Memorial Day and the Sunday before Thanksgiving.



Top photo: Suzy and Joe Ginet, current president of AVOVA.
Bottom photo: New tasting room at Cowhorn Vineyard and Garden.

Growers and wine makers are just one part of the wine community—there is also a much larger community of wine aficionados and connoisseurs.

Among this community of wine enthusiasts are members of many wine clubs throughout the Applegate Valley. Sponsored by individual wineries, these clubs allow both wine novices and wine experts to try new releases, participate in tastings, receive special discounts, and mingle with wine makers.

Most clubs have a multilevel system, with each level requiring the purchase of a certain number of bottles. Many clubs offer a choice of white or red or a combination, but some clubs don’t offer choices. Each level also has different discounts, perks, and special events available to its members. Some wineries have a limited number of openings in each tier, and often there can be a waiting list to join a winery’s wine club.

If you are new to the Applegate Valley and you appreciate wine, wine

clubs are a great way to meet other wine lovers and be introduced to various local wines. Stop by your favorite winery to sign up or check online to see what they have to offer. Through the years, I have joined numerous wine clubs in Monterey and the Applegate Valley, and one of the perks is getting access to some of the wineries’ wine libraries, including past wines not available to the general public.

There are lots of ways to enjoy our local wines with friends, at informal clubs and gatherings. I have thrown parties where everyone brings wine of a certain varietal and covers the bottle so they don’t know what they are drinking. Then everyone votes on their favorite. Or gather together a number of local wines of all varietals, cover the label, and ask guests to vote on their favorite. I also have participated in pairing parties where each couple pairs a wine with a dish they have created.

I would love to hear from the Applegate Valley community about some of your informal wine clubs and gatherings. Get the wine conversation going—it’s lots of fun and educational too, but please drink and drive responsibly!

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avrealty@gmail.com



Debbie Tollefson

Southern Oregon medal-winning wineries from 2017 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

Double Gold

Schmidt Chardonnay 2014

Gold

Moulton Family Wines Bordeaux Blend Trinity 2013
Serra Tempranillo 2014

Silver

Red Lily 2013 Tempranillo
Red Lily 2014 Night School
Schmidt 2015 Viognier
Schultz 2012 Merlot Steelhead Run
Schultz 2014 Pinot Gris Steelhead Run
Schultz 2012 Syrah Steelhead Run

Bronze

Lorelli 2011 Quattro Foglie
Moulton Family Wines 2013 Cabernet Franc
Red Lily 2013 Red Blanket Tempranillo
Schmidt 2013 Tempranillo
Schmidt 2013 Syrah
Schmidt 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon
Schmidt 2015 Pinot Gris
Schmidt 2015 Albarino
Schmidt 2013 Duncan’s Choice
Schmidt 2013 Soulea
Serra 2014 Malbec

Congratulations to all the great grape growers, wineries, and wine makers in our valley.

Voices of the Applegate Spring Concerts

A wonderful concert is on the calendar this spring with Voices of the Applegate. Our director, Hope Harrison, has provided us with a spectacular variety of music from jazz to classical, including “Lazy River,” “Riverdance,” “Blue Skies,” “A Celtic Blessing,” and an assortment of classical pieces.

Upcoming concert dates

- Friday, April 7, 7 pm, at the Historic Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, 405 East California Street, Jacksonville
- Sunday, April 9, 3 pm, at Applegate River Lodge, 15100 Highway 238, Applegate

There is no admission charge, but donations are greatly appreciated.

New director, Hope Harrison, has an impressive background in music: 30 years of choral directing in Oregon schools, a masters degree in musical education from the University of Oregon, and the recipient of many professional achievements as a music instructor, including awards as the choral director for Klamath Falls High School, McLoughlin Middle School, and Hedrick Middle School. Voices of the Applegate members are so pleased to have Hope as our choral director for this coming year. For more information, call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988.

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Annual Maintenance Overturns Murphy's Law

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

The Murphy's Law for wells & pump systems is - they will cease to function primarily at a time when the need for them is the greatest.

This same law applies to the family car, and if you think it makes you mad to be without transportation for a time, you don't even want to know how it feels not to be able to get a drink of water, a shower, or (even worse) flush the toilet. Oh, did I mention that this usually happens when you have out-of-town guests in your home? An annual maintenance check and service for your well's pump system can save you a lot of unhappiness.

Similar to the annual tune-up for your vehicle or regular oil changes, the annual pump maintenance helps to ensure the smooth functioning of your water system. A qualified service technician should examine the pump, check to see that it is functioning properly, make certain that the amperage is neither too high or low, and check the points on the motor. Such annual maintenance can help avoid future problems and should also reveal whether the pressure tank is waterlogged.

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Upper Applegate Demonstration Treatment Units

BY DON BOUCHER

On December 9, 2016, personnel at the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest gave Applegate residents a tour of the Upper Applegate Demonstration Units so they could review and discuss the treatments and study methodology. Over 20 people attended the field trip.

The Upper Applegate Demonstration Units were designed to evaluate fuel and restoration treatments in a statistically creditable way. Crossing the boundaries of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (USFS) land, these demonstration sites serve as locations for tours to engage stakeholders.

On these sites, four treatment alternatives were replicated

eight times on ten-acre units in a blocked experimental design. Units and permanent plots were established and measured in 2005 with noncommercial treatments completed between then and 2016. Planned merchantable tree removal will be completed in spring 2017, and plots will be measured after treatment. This work overlaps the Upper Applegate Road project on USFS lands, approved by the National Environmental Policy Act. These demonstration units will provide opportunities for public engagement, dialogue, and understanding of alternative fuels and

restoration treatments with carefully designed, side-by-side examples.

The field trip in December stimulated many informative and valuable discussions regarding the demonstration units. Some comments focused on overall management of USFS lands. We heard that, in general, Applegate residents support active management with a strong preference for comprehensive restoration that includes attention to the understory, invasive species control, and native plant seeding. Field trip participants wanted treatments to focus on meeting fuel-reduction and restoration objectives while minimizing impacts. Additionally, participants expressed a strong desire that we review and monitor past units where thinning has occurred.

The protection and retention of legacy trees (including hardwoods) was widely supported, and there appeared to be some support for a skips-and-gaps approach to treatments. The herbaceous monitoring component of the demonstration plots was of interest, especially the preservation of the herbaceous understory in clumps.

The use of plastic to cover slash piles

was another topic of discussion. Several people were quite adamant that the use of plastic could be a "wall" to community support and suggested that the USFS test the efficacy of alternatives such as Kraft paper or no cover. The USFS recognizes that public support depends on careful project implementation and contract oversight for cleanup of polyethylene and the prevention of undesirable impacts. Participants expressed the importance of burning piles within two years and removing plastic from any piles left unburned. Testing different methods fits well with the concept of adaptive management, and we will be looking at ways we can address the concern of plastic-covered slash piles.

The USFS will finalize treatment prescriptions

for the various demonstration units this spring. Then a comment period will allow the community to review and comment on the prescriptions and on the designation of trees to be cut. Some time in March,

The Four Treatment Alternatives

Control

No treatment

Fuels Thinning

Thin from below
Retain consistent canopy cover

Minimal Fuels

Thin only fuels <7" in diameter at breast height

Ecological Restoration

Restore fire resistance
Promote early seral tree species
Emphasize spatial patterning
Thin to reference densities

the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest will hold a workshop to explain how the trees are designated and offer the community another chance to review and comment on the marking of trees. The USFS also hopes to give community members a chance to do some sample marking so they can experience the process of deciding which trees are cut.

The plan of the demonstration project includes using some abandoned ditch lines as trails for access to the units to facilitate review of the treatments, though there is currently no formal decision in place to do so. An environmental analysis would be needed first. Comments during the field trip suggested that the USFS needs to consider how to prevent motorized use of these trails.

We are hoping to implement the demonstration units

in the late spring or early summer. During implementation, we will provide opportunities for community members to view operations as well as to review units post-treatment. We are in the process of preparing a website where background information and monitoring results will be available.

If you have questions, comments, or other thoughts, please feel free to contact me.

Don Boucher

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Stewardship Coordinator

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

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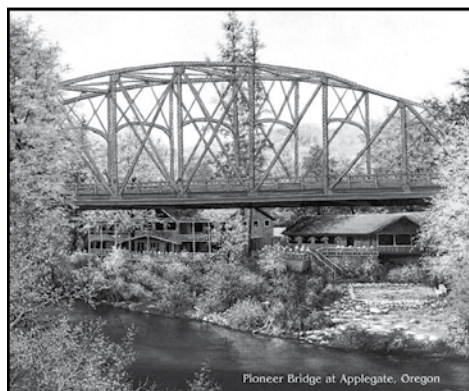
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Notes from a Rogue entomologist

Partnering to address pesticides in streams

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

Reducing pesticides in our streams and surface waters is the goal of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP). The PSP, developed by the state of Oregon, brings together a wide array of state and local agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture (ODA), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon State University (OSU), the local OSU Extension, soil and water conservation districts, and experts in forestry and health.

Over the past three years, I have been involved in a local PSP project focusing on the Middle Rogue (Bear Creek) watershed. The state initiated this project in 2014, taking water samples

from various tributaries of Bear Creek and testing them for pesticides. The monitoring focuses on those pesticides that are the most problematic or most used. The good news was that none of the detected pesticides were above any threshold levels, but the bad news was that a number of different pesticides were detected, some frequently. The testing showed that most of the pesticides found were herbicides or weed killers. No fungicides and only a few insecticides were detected.

In light of these results, I became involved in a program of education and outreach to our local pesticide users. Pesticides can get into streams in many ways: in the air due to spray drift, and in water via leaching

Photo, left: Stream being sampled for pesticides. Photo: Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District.

Photo, below: Old DDT containers collected for disposal. Photo: Oregon Department of Agriculture.



through the soil or in surface runoff. The problem is complicated by the fact that in the Bear Creek watershed, pesticides are used in a variety of settings, including agriculture, forestry, rights of way, as well as residential and landscape use.

Over the years, my work has revolved around the integrated management of insect and mite pests in orchards and vineyards. In this project, however, I found myself confronted with an issue that went well beyond my expertise. So with assistance from the ODA, I and my colleagues at OSU undertook a collaborative approach.

Personnel from the Integrated Plant Protection Center at OSU, which has a wealth of experience related to the proper use and application of pesticides, held focus groups with growers and other pesticide users. The purpose of these focus groups was to raise awareness and foster dialog regarding ways to tackle the problem. The growers I work with strive to be good stewards of the environment—the land is their number-one asset, and they realize that it is their job to take care of it.

At my invitation, OSU's expert in spray technology recently traveled to southern Oregon from Hood River to lead workshops for our orchardists and vineyardists to provide the latest information on sprayer calibration and application in order to minimize the amount of spray drift. It is incumbent on everyone who uses pesticides, from homeowners to the large-scale growers, to use these materials responsibly, always following the label. When pesticides are used, they need to be applied correctly with every effort taken to prevent their

movement off target. That is the goal of this partnership.

An additional component of the PSP was to conduct pesticide-collection events locally. To date, three events have been held; these were aimed at growers and other commercial pesticide users and resulted in the collection and proper disposal of over 25,000 pounds of unwanted and unused pesticides, including many old containers of DDT.

When I checked with the DEQ to see if any sampling had been done in the Applegate watershed, I was informed of a statewide survey done around five years ago where a sample was taken from the Applegate River near Highway 199. In that sample a single pesticide, the herbicide diuron, was detected at a low level. Diuron is the most commonly found pesticide in streams across Oregon. This pre-emergent herbicide is used in a variety of crops and in non-crop areas such as roadsides. In response to these types of findings, Oregon Department of Transportation took action and, from 2010 to 2015, reduced their use of diuron by almost 90 percent.

The PSP approach to this problem has been employed in other watersheds in Oregon with positive results. While our local partnership by itself will not resolve the issue, it does provide a means to address the problem in a proactive and cooperative way.

Richard J. Hilton

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OPINION

Smokey the Bear says 'resist'

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

President Trump is now in the White House signing executive orders and taking unilateral actions that could destroy the social fabric of our communities and the integrity of our environment. In my lifetime, I have never seen a threat that is so widespread and comprehensive. As a community and as a nation we must stand up for freedom, respect, and environmental responsibility.

On January 21, 2017, millions of people around the world joined the Women's March in opposition to the Trump agenda. Locally, 8,000 people, including many Applegaters, showed up in Ashland to protest Trump, his cabinet, and his agenda.

Trump has responded to the protests by signing executive orders and memorandums that threaten the rights of women and immigrants, eliminate important environmental regulations, and encourage development of the Keystone XL, Dakota Access, and even the local Jordan Cove LNG pipeline in southern Oregon. These pipelines have been strongly opposed by local communities, affected landowners, tribal governments, and large numbers of the American population.

Trump has also imposed a "gag order" on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the Interior so they cannot publicly

comment on the effects of Trump's new climate policy. Although Trump can avoid the media if he likes, stating that he would rather communicate directly with the people through social media, government agencies, including our local forest service, have been barred from open lines of communication with the public. Routine decisions once made locally regarding public communication, public involvement, the announcement of public meetings and press releases now must be cleared by the administration in Washington, DC, adding another layer of big government and a hindrance to local collaboration.

In response, the folks within the National Park Service have gone rogue and are posting on Facebook and other sites in opposition to Trump's gag order. Numerous websites, Facebook pages, and Twitter accounts have been created that provide opportunities for federal employees to speak out on their own personal time. Thus far, the coalition represents Arches, Shenandoah, Yosemite, Badlands, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Blue Ridge Parkway, and Great Smoky Mountains national parks. It's time for Crater Lake, Lava Beds and Oregon Caves to get involved. As I write this article, government agencies like the EPA, the US Forest Service, and the National Weather Service are also joining in, creating unofficial Twitter accounts

to defy the gag order. In fact, nearly every science-based government agency is now involved.

Trump is severing the ties between our government agencies and the public, harvesting mistrust, and impacting our ability to create meaningful relationships, transparent planning processes, and collaboration. Many wonder how this inability to openly communicate will affect local collaborative processes like the Applegate AMA, the Upper Applegate Demonstration Treatment Units, future timber sales, trail development, and other local federal-land-management projects heavily supported by the community. These popular land-management projects depend on open, transparent lines of communication, trust, and respect between collaborative partners.

To make matters worse, Trump has instituted a hiring freeze on government employees. Trump's order states that "no vacant positions...may be filled and no new positions may be created, except in limited circumstances." The idea is to trim the federal workforce through attrition despite the fact that, since 1994, according to the National Finance Center, the US Forest Service (USFS) workforce has declined by 45 percent. Current staffing levels leave many important issues, including species surveys, road and trail maintenance, recreational management and project monitoring,



minimally addressed. Under Trump, this will only get worse. Locally, it means professionals such as botanists, wildlife biologists, recreation planners, and firefighting personnel cannot be hired.

Many wonder if agencies like the USFS can continue collaborating with local communities, implementing science-based management, and providing acceptable levels of transparency under a Trump administration. When campaigning in Oregon, Trump vowed to increase public land logging and reduce environmental regulations. Many are concerned how this might affect BLM's already timber-heavy approach. The future is uncertain, but as long as federal agencies and the public cannot communicate effectively, controversy, gridlock, and litigation will prevail.

We are being thrust back into the era of corporate dominance, secretive government management, and ineffective environmental regulations that could leave a lasting legacy of environmental destruction, impoverished local communities, and a devastated resource base. In the short term, corporate and industrial interests will thrive; in the long term, we will all pay the price.

Even Smokey the Bear says "Resist." I, for one, will be happy to join him.

Luke Ruediger
541-890-8974

OPINIONS

River Right | Process? Fuhgeddaboutit

BY TOM CARSTENS

As a member of the North West Rafters Association, Oregon's oldest whitewater association, I'm proud of our safety record. Before we head out on a club trip, we go over route procedures and hold a thorough rapid briefing. We also inspect each other's gear to make sure we are taking every precaution possible. It takes a little time, but it's worth it. It's a process.

Process is important. If the process is right, usually the outcome will be acceptable. This applies especially in a representative democracy like ours. Our republic, with all its warts, generally depends on deliberative process and compromise, often accompanied by agonizingly slow checks and balances. If you ask me, our founders got the process part right. If an idea can survive all that scrutiny and debate, it's probably going to work out all right. No kings or dictators here.

We have at least one exception to this on the books—the Antiquities Act. In 1906, Congress gave the president the authority to “withdraw,” i.e., “protect,” certain segments of federal land. No need to consult with anyone. The original idea was a quick fix to stop the looting on Native American archaeological sites in the southwest, “confined to the smallest area compatible with management of

the objects to be protected.” Despite good intentions, it wasn't long before President Roosevelt figured out that *he and he alone* could decide the size of the parcel that needed protection. Scrutiny? Fuhgeddaboutit. Within two years, he had summarily withdrawn over 800,000 acres, including the Grand Canyon. Deliberative process? Fuhgeddaboutit.

Most subsequent presidents haven't been able to resist the seductive allure of rule by *diktat* (exceptions: Nixon, Reagan, Bush 1). Former president Obama is the reigning champ of the Antiquities Act. No shrinking violet, “The Man with the Pen” set aside a total of 34 monuments—more than 550 million acres.⁽¹⁾ Environmental Impact Studies? Fuhgeddaboutit.

In the week before Obama left office, it felt like a wild raft ride through Rainey Falls. That galloping pen of his took off again and whoosh! In one stroke, he just about doubled the size of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument to around 114,000 acres. Economic assessment? Fuhgeddaboutit.

The logic of the checkerboard map of the expanded monument is hard to follow (see below). And what about all that private land (the white squares)? I'm not sure I'd want to be a landowner within those boundaries. Who knows what mischief the feds will

conjure up in the coming generations? Ranchers are concerned. What about water rights? It's not mentioned in the president's proclamation, but we all know that federal rights trump those of the rest of us.

Here's how Mr. Obama put it in his edict: “All federal lands and *interests* [italics are mine] in lands within the boundaries described on the accompanying map are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or other disposition under the public land laws...other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument.”

I don't really understand what all that means, but it doesn't sound good. Federal “interests”? Menacing.

The boundaries also capture a fair amount of land that had been reserved for sustainable timber harvest under the 1937 Oregon and California Lands Act. I'm sure someone will challenge this peremptory change of land use, but I doubt it will come to much. A presidential land grab under the Antiquities Act has never been overturned by our courts. I guess Congress could revoke the Antiquities Act. Fuhgeddaboutit. But any president can diminish monument boundaries. It's been done 17 times before.⁽²⁾ Could happen.



Tom Carstens

However annoying, there was some process, albeit pretty skimpy. There were a couple of public hearings and the testimony was sent to the White House. Elected officials differed; their opinions were also sent up the line. The referenced scientific research is almost impossible to find, but I have no doubt that the critters are happy, jumping from one checker space to the other. Anyway, I suspect that the real motivator was to stop any possibility of future logging and mining.

Will the Bureau of Land Management's budget get the increase this expansion warrants? Fuhgeddaboutit. It'll be the same old story: the vaunted “better land management” never really materializes, roads are decommissioned, and fire risk accelerates.

Maybe we can figure out a way to kayak in.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

⁽¹⁾ To see a list of Obama's monuments (with photos), google up “January 16 *Business Insider* Obama monuments.”

⁽²⁾ For a review of all monuments and their histories, google up “NPS Archeology Program” and click on “Antiquities Act” in the menu, then “Maps,” then “Monuments List.”

OSGG working toward cannaculture terroir

BY PETE GENDRON

Greetings from the Oregon Sungrown Growers' Guild (OSGG)! As spring approaches and we set our sights on our gardens and crops, we see new things in bloom all around us. One of the things blooming is a terrific opportunity for developing recognition of the Applegate.

The Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) and Rural Development Initiatives (RDI) have been working on the brand recognition that our quality products deserve. From meat to dairy to wine, our products are world-class, and, when it comes to idyllic scenery and a rural lifestyle, we stand out as exceptional.

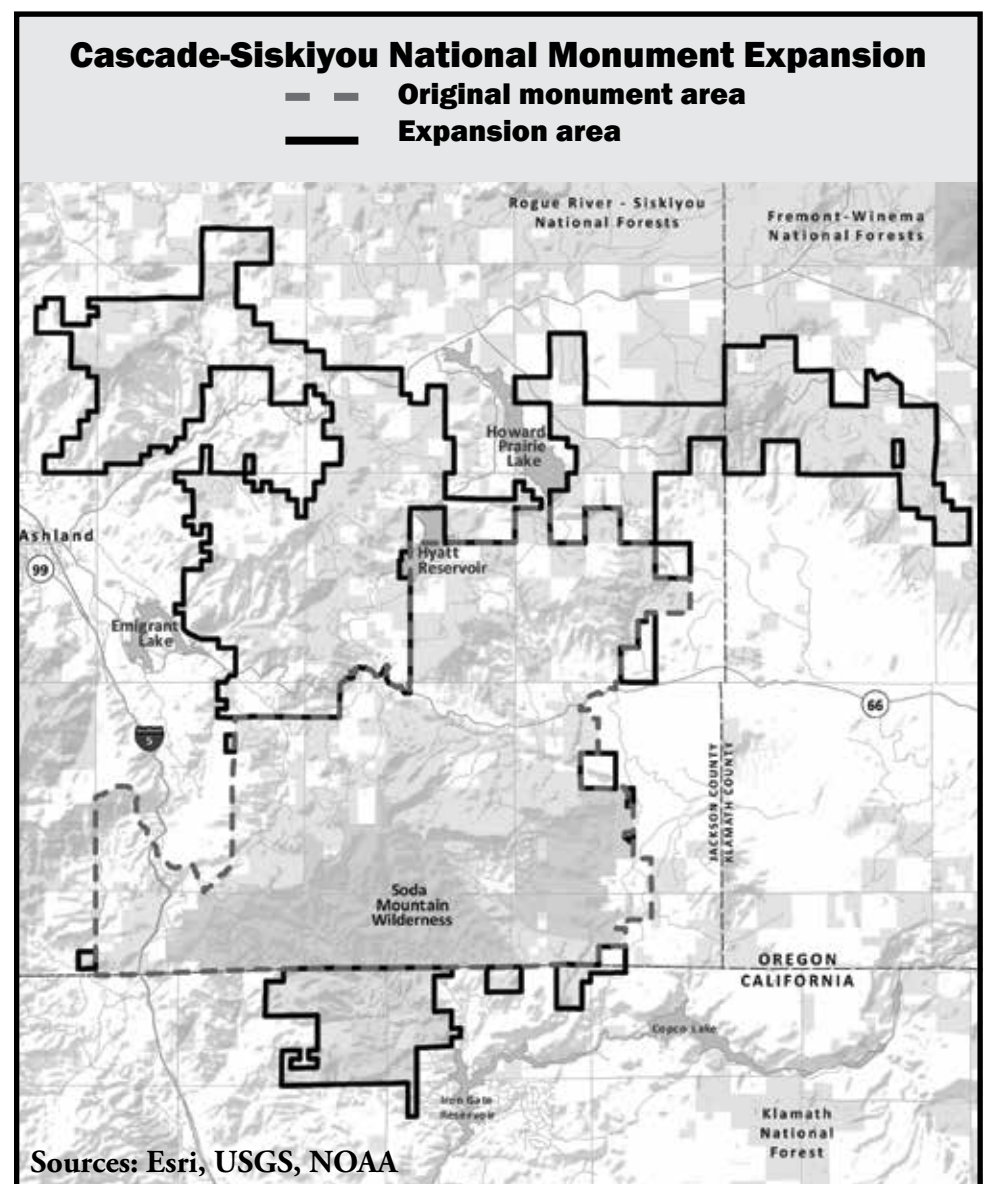
The idea of branding is not new—it's a marketing tool used to distinguish a product or service from the competition. It is also used to define an area with unique qualities and desirable attributes. Anyone for Umpqua ice cream? How about a trip to the Rose City? While it may be obvious that Portland is a brand, what about us?

With soil and climate conditions carefully mapped and documented, we have in place two cornerstones of the establishment of the Applegate name. Whether we are looking at internal branding to bring tourism and support local business, or external branding to add value to Applegate products sold all over the west (and through the Internet), factors are at play that we can take charge of now.

The OSGG is working at the state level to have cannaculture terroirs—like viticulture regions—recognized and protected in the interest of supporting our communities and small family farms. At the same time, local efforts like the Applegate Roadmap Project are proceeding to ensure the integrity of the Applegate brand for all of us, regardless of the crop, product, or service we provide.

You probably already know some of our members. We're friends and neighbors, responsible cannabis cultivators who are members of the

See OSGG, page 24



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OPINIONS

Behind the Green Door | Community face-off

BY CHRIS BRATT

Near the end of 2016, I attended two very long public hearings about the proposed expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument east of Ashland, Oregon (Applegate's backyard). Both meetings attracted hundreds of people who listened to many speakers taking turns arguing for or against the proposed monument expansion.

Of course, I spoke in support of the monument's expansion (only two minutes were allowed for each person because so many people wanted to speak) along with many other monument supporters. We advocates for expansion believe that "The Cascade Siskiyou National Monument is an ecological wonder, with biological diversity unmatched in the Cascade Range...a biological crossroads...the interface of the Cascade, Klamath and Siskiyou Ecoregions in an area of unique geology, biology, climate and topography" (taken from the first words of the June 2000 proclamation establishing the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument by President Clinton).

The opposition, in voicing some of its main objections, cited a lack of public disclosure, findings, or implications of expanding the monument. In addition,

some opponents claimed that the president lacks authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to include Oregon and California Lands Act (1937) forestlands in any monument designation. All three Jackson County commissioners, who, prior to the hearings, had already gone on record opposing the expansion, suggested that Jackson County was not included in the planning process. As anyone can imagine, these were large, controversial hearings where many strong, diverse opinions were expressed from both sides of the expansion issue.

Ordinarily, I welcome differences of opinion on how our public lands and monuments should be managed. But these two public hearings had a different tenor. I was struck by how many of the opponents had such outspoken fear, anger, and distrust of the expansion supporters and processes. These voices of resentment were aimed at stopping a legal planning process and the president's power to expand our local landmark national monument.

Many speakers in opposition of the expansion called it a backroom deal to "lock up" these public lands. There were strong innuendos expressed that portrayed supporters as land-grabbing

special-interest groups that are not well represented by the people living in southern Oregon.

Nor were there any kind words for the Bureau of Land Management (which is managing the monument), the two US senators from Oregon, or the City Councils of Ashland and Talent because of their support of the monument expansion. Ironically, I heard only one person use unfriendly words about the outstanding ecological and other non-commodity values present in the monument. Though the monument area does have unmatched biodiversity and wildlife habitat worth protecting, the opposition couldn't find one redeeming factor in all its allegations.

Well, despite all the accusations and deceptive railing against the expansion by opponents, a larger monument has become a reality. In January 2017, President Obama used his power under the federal Antiquities Act to approve a more limited expansion—47,624 acres rather than 66,500 acres. (See expansion map on page 20.)

But my guess is that all of the opposition's misleading language that was expressed at these hearings will continue in other public land debates across

the West and the nation. Also, the deceptive rationale being used by opponents that contends that we who support protecting public lands and monument-worthy areas are "locking up" these lands is just plain nonsense. How can an area be locked up if all visitors are free to enter and enjoy the conservation and recreational designations? How can an area be locked up if locals can continue to use the area for grazing their cattle or other granted entitlements? In reality, it has been the timber, mining, and ranching industries that have kept much of our public land locked up for decades.

Many local environmentalists will always be working to promote protection for ecologically integrated lands like this monument. Perhaps better choices could be made if we could bring multiple perspectives to find solutions to the expanding cultural challenges. It's not too soon for our dissident communities to talk about cooperation and common cause on issues instead of continued resistance to seeking new opportunities for agreement.

Chris Bratt
541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

Industrial cannabis production is not good for the Applegate

BY TAYLOR STARR

I have called the Applegate Valley home for the past 15 years. In that time, I have come to love its clean water, dark night skies, bountiful farmlands, and rural charm. I love its people and the spirit of care and community that makes it a safe and supportive place to live, work, and raise a family. And yet many of the things that many of us love about this unique place are at risk.

It would be difficult not to notice the changes that are currently impacting our valley. With the legalization of commercial cannabis production in 2014 and the influx of industrial grows, there have been many accompanying negative impacts. These grows are largely bankrolled by out-of-state corporations and implemented with little regard for neighbors, streams, or wildlife. The construction of giant greenhouses on gravel pads degrades our best agricultural land while raising its price astronomically due to the influx of corporate cash. If we turn our best farmland into fields of gravel unaffordable to most inhabitants, how will we provide for our community's food security and maintain our agricultural way of life?

The impacts don't stop there, however. These giant greenhouses are heated, lighted, and cooled with massive amounts of electricity, mimicking the sun and wind while producing bright lights, constant noise, and pollution. At a recent Williams Town Council meeting, neighbors of an industrial grow with 14 greenhouses eloquently

described the obliteration of peace and quiet that they had enjoyed for decades in their rural residential neighborhood. Their description of industrial fans just feet from their property line emitting deafening noise 24 hours a day for months on end was heartrending. Industrial or poorly managed outdoor grows can also be extremely detrimental to adjacent rivers and streams through runoff and erosion. Growers also use an array of harmful chemicals to combat molds, mites, and pests, leading to chemical contamination of both the environment and the final product. At the same time, the traffic created by large crews of workers contributes to the growing level of unsafe conditions on our small rural roads.

The irony is that folks have been organically growing cannabis here for decades on a small scale with minimal impact to neighbors or the environment. Indoor, energy-intensive, noise-and-light creating industrial activity is not appropriate for the Applegate. It does not rely on our climate or soils for its success. In fact, it would be more appropriate for an industrial-zoned site in Medford or White City, close to distribution channels, labor, and power.

Cannabis is a naturally resilient and productive plant that thrives in our climate; why not grow it outdoors on family-scale farms with organic practices and minimal impacts? The Applegate could be a model of sustainable cannabis production with a profitable, marketable,

and community-friendly industry, or we could become an overcrowded, greed-driven, and polluted place that barely resembles the home we love.

These industrial grows will continue to proliferate if citizens don't take a stand and reject them. We are not powerless to watch our valley's rural character be irrevocably changed. County government is working on regulations for cannabis that address light, noise, pollution, traffic, and other impacts. If you are concerned by the developments in your neighborhood, come to a town or county meeting and express your support for sensible standards. Write a letter to the editor, and organize with your neighbors to express your concerns. If you are a landowner, consider a conservation easement or restrictive covenant on your property to protect

it from future degradation. If you are a consumer, educate your friends and dispensary about the benefits of outdoor organic cannabis for the environment and your health. And if you are a grower, inform yourself about best practices for cannabis production that mitigate impacts, and then act in good faith to grow conscientiously.

The Applegate has experienced many changes over the years, and yet its rural character has persevered. It has remained a place defined not just by its beauty, peace, and quiet, but also by its caring community of folks looking out for each other in times good and bad. Unless we come together now as a community to define how we want to protect this character, it may be lost.

Taylor Starr
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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. Opinion pieces and letters to the editor **must be relevant to the Applegate Valley**. Opinion pieces are limited to 700 words; letters are limited 450 words. Submissions will be edited for grammar and length. Opinion pieces **must** include publishable contact information (phone number and/or email address). All letters **must** be signed, with a full street address or PO Box and phone number. **Anonymous letters and opinion pieces will not be published.** Individual letters and opinion pieces may or may not be published.

Email opinion pieces and letters to the editor to gater@applegater.org or mail to *Applegater*, Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., PO 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 student essay to be published

"We sat for a while. I sat and ate crackers. Then, I felt a tug. I was so excited! I could hear the splash of the fish."

This is an excerpt from an essay written by Cora Snoke, a fifth-grade student at Ruch Community School. Cora's essay, titled "Applegate Lake," earned her recognition from the Oregon secretary of state through the second *Oregon Blue Book* Essay Contest.

"The *Oregon Blue Book* is the official state fact book about all levels of government in Oregon, Oregon's arts and history organizations, our education systems, our elections history, our economy and how various levels of government are financed. The *Blue Book* is compiled and published by the Oregon State Archives, a division of the Oregon Secretary of State's Office" (oregonsosblog.us/2016/05/secretary-state-invites-oregonians-ages-contribute-oregon-blue-book).

Cora and all the students from Ms. Major's 3/4/5 multi-age classroom at Ruch Community School participated in the contest by creating essays about their favorite thing to do in Oregon's great outdoors.

As a runner-up in the elementary division, Cora's essay will be published in the soon-to-be-released *Oregon Blue Book*. In addition, Cora, her parents, and her teacher have been invited to the state capitol in March for the *Blue Book* release



Cora Snoke (center) was recognized for her winning essay. From left to right, Julie Barry; father, Ken Snoke; mother, Sara Hyman; teacher, Sara Major; school board chair, Karen Starchvick; and Medford School District superintendent, Brian Shumate.

event. There, she and her parents will be able to share her story with an Oregon state representative and a state senator.

"I think that you will agree with me when I say our future is bright, and I am as proud of Cora and the rest of the students submitting essays as they are of our state," said Jeanne P. Atkins, Oregon secretary of state.

Cora and her parents were invited to Medford School District's school board meeting on Monday, January 23, 2017, to be recognized for her winning essay.

Ruch Community School is very proud of Cora and her dedication to being an exemplary ambassador of our school. Congratulations, Cora!

Julie Barry
541-842-3850

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

Committee formed to study Williams Elementary School viability

Williams parents and community members, along with representatives of the Three Rivers School District (TRSD), have formed the Williams Elementary School Viability Committee.

The committee's first action will be to distribute a survey in the Williams School catchment area to gain a more comprehensive picture of its community in terms of the number of students who are in the area, the school choices parents are making, and the potential for raising the school's enrollment.

"We're at the stage where we need information in order to move forward in an effective, positive way," said Darrell Erb Jr., principal of Williams School. "This is an opportunity to take a look at our community in a new way and to find ways to make our school a more dynamic and inviting place for students to learn and grow."

The committee is hopeful members of the Williams community will respond to the survey in large numbers.

"Your participation with this survey would be greatly appreciated," said Greg Cox, father of a Williams School student.

"We love this school and want it to stay as Williams Elementary into the future!"

The survey can be obtained in paper form from Williams Elementary School, Williams General Store, Williams Country Store, Provolt Store, the Williams Branch Library, and Williams Indoor Winter Market at Pacifica.

The survey can also be obtained at sites.google.com/a/threerivers.k12.or.us/williams-elementary-school, on Facebook by searching for these two pages: "97544" and "Williams local (97544)," and on Jo's List (for subscribers).

The committee was formed in response to the TRSD school board's request for district superintendent David Valenzuela to research the school's viability. Enrollment has been around 60 students over the past several years, which prompted the board's request.

Contact Darrell Erb or Mindi Gallegos at Williams Elementary School at 541-846-7224 or Stephanie Allen-Hart at the district office at 541-862-3111, ext. 5201. Also, Greg Cox, parent and committee member, can be contacted at 541-846-6594.

Applegate students return to Cantrall Buckley: Long live the monarchs!

On first impression, the Applegate Valley is truly awe-inspiring with fruitful vineyards, a sparkling river, and majestic mountains. Folks who live here have reason to be proud of their home; visitors leave reluctantly, with a promise of return.

One particular visitor, however, is not feeling welcome here lately. The monarch butterfly, once plentiful, has come into hard times—its habitat is disappearing as agricultural activity increases in favor of commercial crops.

For Applegate School students, though, this situation provides a learning and service opportunity.

Thanks to a partnership with Janis Mohr-Tipton of the Applegate Valley Garden Club and Bonnie Allison of the US Forest Service, science teacher Star McAdam's students will visit Cantrall Buckley Park this spring to study the park's flora and fauna and develop pollinator gardens for monarchs. The program will also bring local experts into the classroom to discuss the scientific importance of supporting pollinators in their journey across the valley.

"It's a great opportunity for students to learn how ecosystems work," said Star. "Hands-on science enriches learning and helps students understand the sensitive nature of ecosystems and our role as stewards of them."

For Applegate students, ensuring monarch butterflies are healthy and happy in this valley is a tradition.

Linda Kappen, a member of Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates and an instructional aide at the school, has been keeping monarchs at Applegate School for some time. The pollinator garden behind the school's office attracts the butterflies to lay their eggs on its milkweed. Linda takes the caterpillars from the garden and nurtures their development until they are fully grown.

Tagged as part of the Washington State University study, the monarchs are then released, often by the hands of Applegate students. Teachers in the school use Linda's program to enrich their students' study of science.

This program at Cantrall Buckley Park is part of the school's evolving participation in monarch stewardship.

Fire station tour interrupted by an emergency

The Applegate Valley Fire District opened its doors to Applegate School teacher Kellie Halsted's second- and third-grade students on Friday, January 27, as a reward for winning a school-wide competition initiated by the fire district.

Students were challenged to go home and take "selfies" while they changed batteries in smoke detectors and sat with their families to make a family fire escape plan. By having the highest percentage of participants of all classes, Kellie's students earned the trip to the Ruch fire station.

The students toured the station, and each was awarded a fire helmet. Predictably, students were awed by the equipment and engines and listened carefully as firefighters explained their important jobs.



It turned out that the highlight of the visit was not the tour or the helmets or even the equipment and engines. Rather, it was a loud fire alarm that sent fire personnel into their well-drilled emergency mode!

Applegate students were in a state of wide-eyed disbelief as they were treated to an up-front-and-close view of fire personnel departing for a real fire call.

Kellie was delighted with her little charges. "They were safe, responsible, and respectful during all of this excitement," she said.

Applegate and Ruch schools to meet for Battle of the Books matches

Ruch Community School will host Applegate School in two Battle of the Books matches on Friday, March 3, at 1 pm.

Both schools will participate with their elementary and middle-school teams for this "neighborly" competition. The match is part of a growing partnership between the schools.

"Being able to collaborate and engage in activities together is the beauty of being small schools," said Julie Barry, Ruch School principal. "These opportunities

will facilitate the community building that will build long-lasting relationships in the future."

Darrell Erb, Applegate principal, agreed. "We're just so close in proximity and nicely aligned in terms of what we believe is best for students. It makes sense to get our kids together for some constructive struggle!" he said.

The schools' volleyball teams scrimmaged earlier this year, and other ways to get the schools together are being explored.



Both teams keeping strategy close to the vest. Photo, left: Applegate Battlers (from left to right) Zeyna Seck, Chris Hartley, and Freyja Moeves. Photo, right: Ruch Battlers (from left to right) Cimara Phillips, Katlyn Hathaway, and Lupita Estrada.

WAHOO! The East ART is scheduled to begin!

BY DIANA COOGLE

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has given the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) the go-ahead for building the East ART,



Hiking the East ART with ATA.

the eastern-most leg of the proposed Applegate Ridge Trail between Cathedral Hills in Grants Pass and the Jacksonville Woodlands.

After years of doing the preliminary work of meeting BLM criteria, jumping through their hoops, writing grants, and raising money, we are so excited! We plan to start trail construction by the end of March. We're planning some work-party days for all enthusiastic trail builders who want to help with this project, tentatively set for April 1, April 30, and May 21. Watch our website (applegatetrails.org) or our Facebook page for more details.

Although our energy is now going towards the actual trail building, we are still planning to hold some hikes this summer. On May 13, Mike Kohn will lead a hike up Mule Mountain. On June 11, Alex Weinbrecht will lead an equestrian "hike" on a trail of her choosing, and

on July 9, Diana Coogle will lead a hike up Mount Elijah, when the wildflowers should be in full bloom on one of the best wildflower hikes in this

part of the Siskiyou.

ATA has also booked some showings of our film, *Walking the Wild Applegate*, directed by Tim Lewis, about the thru-hike ATA board members Josh Weber and Luke Ruediger made along the route of the proposed Applegate Ridge Trail. The film was shown at the Siskiyou Film Festival in February. Upcoming showings are Friday, March 3, at Three Rivers Outdoor store in Grants Pass and Wednesday, April 12, at the Jackson County Horseman's Association meeting. Contact Alex Weinbrecht at alex@applegatetrails.org for more information if you are interested in attending one of these showings.

In addition to Applegate Trails Association t-shirts, ATA will have some handsome caps for sale at any of our events. Look for them when you're there!
Diana Coogle • dicoog@gmail.com

We got dirty with construction of the Jack-Ash Trail!

BY NEAL ANDERSON

The Jack-Ash Trail, which will connect Jacksonville and Ashland along the ridgelines between Anderson Butte and Wagner Butte, has begun with construction of Phase 1. This trail is designed for people who want to enjoy the outdoors by leg-powered (nonmotorized) means—hikers, runners, bicyclists, equestrians, bird-watchers, and people who just want to mosey along. The views are awesome, and the diverse ecosystems include mature woodlands, open grasslands, and summer shade.



SUTA's first trail work party in November 2016.

After years of planning by the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association (SUTA) and the Medford Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the community actually began constructing the Jack-Ash in late 2016 with help from the BLM staff, the Northwest Youth Corps crew, and several dozen SUTA volunteers. People were jazzed at just how much solid, passable trail they had constructed in one morning. Within a month, some gentle slopes with red flagging had been transformed into a flat dirt trail weaving along hillsides.

Local crews will be hired to construct more of the trail in early 2017 with financial support from Title II grants and other fundraising. Portions will be open for foot traffic in mid-2017, with use by bicyclists and equestrians to follow after the trail has solidified a bit. We are constructing more than four miles out of a total of 15 miles of new trails for Phase 1 of the Jack-Ash. The trail will allow users to make many loops with the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail and the existing networks of BLM roads and trails.

SUTA organizes work parties on the Jack-Ash Trail and the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail, designated by Oregon Parks



Creating a pathway on the Jack-Ash Trail.

and Recreation as southern Oregon's first Scenic Trail. The first trail-work party was held on February 18; future work parties will take place on Saturday, March 18, and Saturday, April 22, from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. SUTA serves mid-morning snacks and lunch. For details, see sutaoregon.org.

Come enjoy the trails, and join us at the light-hearted yet constructive work parties. If you would like to donate, please log onto sutaoregon.org. Especially consider joining us for the work party on April 22, when you will be able to see a large chunk of the newly constructed Jack-Ash Trail.

Neal Anderson
ngeoanders83@wildblue.net

Trail horse trials at Pacifica

If you are looking to spice up your trail rides or show your partnership between you and your horse, you will enjoy the Grayback Brushriders Trail Horse Trials on May 7, 2017, at Pacifica, 14615 Water Gap Road, Williams. The trials involve a three-hour ride, about seven miles long, with judged obstacles and situations one might encounter along a trail anywhere. The first rider will go out at 9 am.

Riders are judged on how well the horse and rider negotiate the obstacles, with emphasis on safety and calmness. The entry fee is \$20 preregistration and \$25 the day of the ride. For rules and entry forms, email trottingalongmelody@gmail.com or call Kay Johnson at 541-846-6077.

Over the past years, Pacifica has played host to many horse events, such as Saddle-up for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Poker Rides, fundraisers, Trail Horse Trials, seminars and clinics. Pacifica is a scenic 400-acre facility with beautiful views and a very diverse environment, perfect for horses and riders.



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Photos, clockwise from top left:
 —**Debbie and Don Tollefson** relax with the Gater after touring the huge warehouse where Mardi Gras floats are stored in New Orleans.
 —**Gary and Cyd Ropp** use the Applegater as protection from saguaros in Tucson, Arizona.
 —**Pam Newham** reads to the lonely statues on Easter Island.
 —**Brooke Nuckles and three-year-old son, Tanner**, entertain the sharks at the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Groups like OSGG, RDI, and GACDC can work together at state and local levels.

■ OSGG

Continued from page 20

community. We advocate for sustainable farming, organic practices, and the small-business approach to development that allows us to maintain the integrity of our traditional farming lifestyle while building on the opportunity of a growing (pun intended) market sector.

After the passage of Measure 91 in 2014, the state of Oregon recognized cannabis as a legal, regulated plant. In 2015 Oregon established rules for businesses to follow, and in 2016 updated farming laws to reflect the changes in the public attitude toward this plant family. Cannabis is now required to be treated like any other agricultural commodity because it is recognized as a farm crop in Oregon.

So now, in 2017, groups like OSGG, RDI, and GACDC can work together at state and local levels to promote awareness of our quality products, to improve our recognition in the marketplace, and to use the same tools that establish and allow our local brand to further enhance our quality of life.

This is best accomplished with the participation of all of our friends and neighbors. The future is here! These efforts dovetail together to build a strong community. You can help by joining a

group like OSGG if you are a cannabis cultivator or have a related venture, by coming to Applegate Roadmap meetings as a business owner, or by sharing your input with GACDC to ensure that your goals as a community member are heard and acknowledged by your peers.

All these efforts are designed to create a sustainable environment that includes everyone. From our most senior members with their wealth of knowledge to our youngest members looking for an opportunity to participate locally, we all can be involved in building our vision of the future of the Applegate together. We can define how the world sees us and be a force for sustainability and responsible, managed growth moving forward.


OSGG will remain a strong voice for family farms and sustainable agriculture, will support our rural lifestyle while understanding that growth can be managed. Development through community involvement is the way to both provide for a wonderful future for our children and the success of all of our small, community-based businesses. Please visit us at oregonsungrown.org to learn more.

"Pioneer" Pete Gendron
 President

Oregon Sungrown Growers' Guild
pioneerpete@oregonsungrown.org

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

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