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# Applegater

Photo by Teya Jacobi

applegater.org



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Celebrating  
~24~  
Years

## Think embers and continuous fuels

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Another March, another drive over the Siskiyou and Sierras down to Reno for the annual WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) Conference. This year our Applegate Fire District's new office manager, Tallie Jackson, joined me for the trip. Reno is a good, well-rounded conference for her to learn more about the WUI and the wildfire

issues that we all face here in the Applegate.

I've attended this conference the past dozen or so years and looked forward to seeing some old friends, learning new concepts, and hearing how the coming summer wildfire season was sizing up. The wet winter was definitely discussed. Not much new science-wise, but there was a lot



This home ignited due to fine fuels around it during the 2002 Missionary Ridge Fire in Colorado.

was honored in Reno by receiving the 2017 Wildfire Mitigation Legacy Award—the first time anyone has received this honor.

In past *Applegater* articles I've discussed the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) course I took from Dr. Cohen. I've used his photos to help explain the HIZ, I've discussed how to define your particular HIZ, I've quoted Dr. Cohen on "discontinuous fuels," I've called him "the HIZ guru,"

and I've shared his work with you, my Applegate neighbors.

When I looked up those old articles on the HIZ, how it differs from "defensible space," and why homes burn in wildfires, I found that it's been *over ten years* since I wrote them! Time sure does fly (or maybe I'm just getting old?)! But, considering how

mitigation specialist for decades. Dr. Cohen

See *THINK EMBERS*, page 24

See *THINK EMBERS*, page 24

## Paragliders to add color to the sky soon!

BY DAVID DOBBS

Each June I get a quick glimpse of the paragliding event called Rat Race - Sprint Paragliding Competition and Super Clinic as I drive past Woodrat Mountain on Highway 238. How many paragliders can cluster suspended in midair? Who can stay aloft the longest? Who can spot the target on land first and race to retrieve it? Does the first one down have to pay for a round of wine? Regardless, they are probably enjoying themselves while I'm attempting to drive responsibly while (not) heeding the posted warning signs not to look up.

The 2017 Rat Race competition runs from June 18 through 24. Practice day is June 17.

For those of you who want to enjoy the paragliding event with your feet on the ground and your eyes safely following the action in the sky, the event coordinators recommend visiting Fiasco, Longsword, or Red Lily wineries. They all have ample parking and viewing spots. "Longsword is probably the best seat in the house," claims paraglider Norm Young. "It has plenty of

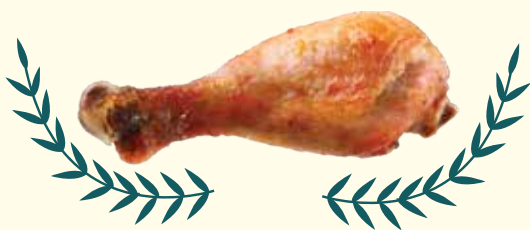
See *RAT RACE*, page 3



Rat Race paragliding competitors will add color to the sky and a temptation for you to look up while driving (don't do it). Photo: Julie Gever, flickr.com.

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## OBITUARIES

**Ed Reilly**

October 13, 1955 - March 9, 2017



Ed Reilly, a pillar of the Applegate community, passed away suddenly, by heart attack, on March 9. An avid outdoorsman, Ed had just completed a hike with friends on the Lower Loop Trail at Cantrall Buckley Park. He was 61.

Ed grew up in Rumson, New Jersey. When he was 17, he quit high school and married his sweetheart, Jody. An uncle of Ed's, who lived in Mill Valley, California, offered to rent his small cabin in the hills to the young couple, so they packed the car and nine-month-old Jessica and drove cross-country to California. In their search for rural property, they found their dream location on Sterling Creek, where they lived for 42 years.

In Oregon he took a job with the US Forest Service (USFS) on a tree-planting crew in the Applegate Ranger District. Over the years, Ed assumed a series of increasingly responsible positions before transferring to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), where he played key roles in a number of high-profile projects. Ed was always interested in learning new things and was an early adopter of computer technology. He worked with USFS and BLM for a total of 30 years, retiring in 2012.

Ed embodied the community spirit of the Applegate, helping friends and neighbors without asking anything in return. He used his geographic information system skills to map the Applegate River watershed—a benefit to a multitude of local organizations, especially the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC). In 2000 Ed caught wind of a proposed “National Fire Plan” project, immediately met with APWC, and helped get a grant approved. The result was the Applegate Fire Plan, the first community wildfire plan in the nation. This plan included a public education piece on the hows and whys of reducing fuel hazards. This fire plan was more than a piece of paper—it became a way of life in the Applegate. Ed was a big promoter of landowner responsibility to ensure healthy and fire-resistant tree stands on private lands.

Exemplary land stewards, he and Jody cared for 40 acres on Sterling Creek, transforming their property from an overgrown fire hazard to a diverse, wildlife-friendly, and firesafe woodland. The property is an intensively managed small woodland farm that integrates forest health with utilization of forest by-products. Ed worked a pole-building Wood-Mizer sawmill, which had been crafted from material harvested from the property. With timber he milled, Ed built a tree house, pole barns, toys for his grandchildren, and furniture for his home. He took trees from neighbors' properties and returned them as

milled lumber for free, because they were neighbors.

Ed was very active in the Jackson/Josephine Small Woodlands Association. A true conservation leader, Ed played a prominent role in developing regional forest restoration strategies. In 2010, Ed and Jody were honored as the Jackson County Tree Farmers of the Year in recognition of their long-term efforts in forest stewardship.

Ed was a natural teacher and enjoyed sharing his experiences with others. He and Jody led many tours of their property over the years, including countless classes for Oregon State University-Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center's land steward and forestry and natural resource programs.

Using skills from his BLM days, Ed recently completed an environmental assessment so the Applegate Trails Association could begin construction of the East Applegate Ridge Trail above Ruch.

In 1984, Ed took the lead in establishing the first Ruch Library in the building next to Ramsay Realty. Ed focused on the bookcase project and helped supervise, build, and paint the shelves. The work was done on-site outdoors using donated plywood and volunteer labor. Ed's young children, Jessica and Jason, became early library users, and we all benefited from his community energy.

Ed was all about community. A few years ago Ed organized neighbors to put out a fire started by lightning. The Oregon Department of Forestry was swamped with other fires at that time; the fire was under control quickly.

Ed was also a member of the Cantrall Buckley Park Committee, where he volunteered for a variety of projects. When he died, Ed was preparing to take on management of a large ecological restoration project at the park. He was looking forward to figuring out how to improve the park's natural drainage, redesign much of the landscape, replace the irrigation system, and modernize the parking.

Adventurous and always learning, Ed and Jody traveled widely from Asia to Europe to South America. As a tree lover, Ed couldn't help but visit some of the forests in these far-flung locales, and he always brought back pictures and stories of his new discoveries.

Ed leaves behind his wife, Jody; two children: daughter Jessica (Ahcho) and son Jason (Stephanie); and four grandchildren: Colin, Minya, Madilyn, and Delaney.

He will be missed.  
*NOTE: Contributors to this article include Neal Anderson, Max Bennett and board members of the Jackson/Josephine Small Woodlands Association, David Calaban, Tom Carstens, Jack Duggan, Brett Fillis, Pat Gordon, Katy Mallams, Jody Reilly, and Sandy Shaffer.*

I have known Ed and Jody Reilly since I was about 15. We met at the Pennsylvania House commune on East Side Road in the Upper Applegate. We were all very young. Many years later I started working with Ed at the Applegate Ranger District. Ed could do it all: National Environmental Policy Act, GIS (geographic information system), fire, woods work. We were both present for the inception of the Applegate Partnership and the Northwest Forest Plan.

In the 1990s, Ed and I were the only ones on the forest deemed “essential” employees

**Nadine Levie**

January 9, 1944 - March 28, 2017



Kirsten Shockey, left, with mother, Nadine Levie.

For those of us who had the good fortune of knowing Nadine Levie, as a friend, healer, and neighbor, her passing brings such grief, tempered by many joyful memories.

Stepping into Nadine's acupuncture clinic, adjacent to the Applegate Post Office, was like entering another world. Nadine's boundless curiosity was evident in the many tomes that lined her shelves and the diverse healing techniques that she employed on her patients—acupuncture, holistic diet, cupping, tuning rods, Tong Ren drumming, and sound healing among them. It was a common occurrence to hear her go on at length about a new approach to or method of alternative medicine that she had recently delved into, as she continued to learn and grow.

I remember sharing countless deep, meaningful conversations woven together by her attunement to the seasonal cycle in our valley and its impact on us, its human residents. She observed and shared these patterns with us, her lucky patients and friends, helping us see that we were just a small part of a larger web that holds us together.

So many times, before I lay down on the treatment table, we would talk at length about life on the farm, or our relationships, or some other pertinent topic that revealed

our parallel experiences, to the point where these synchronicities became commonplace, though no less special. Whether it was a discussion about the over-aggressive mating habits of male ducks, a run-in with a bear, cougar, or coyote, the challenges of raising a child through the teenage years, or an exciting new diet, Nadine had endless stories to share, rich with her years of experience, wisdom, and compassionate insight. Though I started seeing her for acupuncture, over time I came just as much for the deep bond of friendship with her, the respite from hectic daily lives, and the opportunity to unwind mentally, physically, and spiritually in the comfort of a small room with this incredibly gifted, intuitive healer, resembling a shaman more than a doctor.

Nadine will be missed by all of us who felt her healing touch, enjoyed her quirky, inquisitive, determined, and caring presence, and grew to behold her as a godmother of sorts, caring for us as though we were her extended family.

May she rest in peace, and may we be so fortunate to find ourselves so timelessly wise, so abundant in experience, and so giving as to impact our community with as much grace, compassion, dedication, and good humor as she did.

Ben Yohai  
benyohai@gmail.com

Nadine is survived by daughters Kirsten (Christopher) Shockey and Ursula (Ted) Raymond; son Gernot (Aspasia) Bartels; grandchildren Jakob (Lydia) Shockey, Kelton (Nicole) Shockey, Dmitri Shockey, Ariana Shockey, Tobias Bartels, and Lila Bartels; and two great-grandchildren.

during the Clinton furlough, and we worked together on the first programmatic consultation on spotted owls in Oregon. It was a fun two weeks! Later Ed became a part of the US Forest Service Terrestrial Salamander Taxa Team, which included myself and other experts in the region, that developed the first conservation strategy for the Siskiyou Mountains salamander, our endemic salamander. He was instrumental in GIS modeling for the project. When he went to the BLM, I got to work with him on different versions of landscape analysis that again put him in the thick of the Siskiyou ecology.

Ed was always a person of note—a key player in analyzing the ecology and fire history of the Siskiyou and southwestern Oregon. He was a man of many talents, and he has touched many with his life and work. He was great man—one of my mentors and my friend. My wife, Debra, and I wish Jody, Jessica, Ahcho, and my good friend and fellow biologist Jason all of our love.

David Clayton • dclayton@fs.fed.us

What a treat, what an honor, to have known Ed Reilly.

I revel in the added bonus of having had the chance to work with Ed for several years. Ed always approached our work relationship as my cohort, but in reality,

he was my mentor. I learned so much from Ed—likely more than I realize, more than I ever thanked him for. I appreciated that he always saw me as an equal. My impression is that he viewed everyone that way, recognizing that every person “at the table” has something to offer.

Speaking of tables, our kitchen table owes some serious thanks to Ed (and his wife, Jody). Chris, my husband, and I grow exceptional onions every year thanks to the Reilly's green thumbs. I think we are still propagating a garlic strain from Sterling Creek, and we just polished off some dried Thai peppers from the Reilly garden. We have incorporated other tried-and-true tricks of the trade, shared by Ed, into the garden; sometimes we reflect on our hard work and success while sitting in chairs that Chris built from an incense cedar, harvested from our yard, that Ed milled up for us, and the chair pattern was in a book borrowed from Ed! If I remember correctly, on that occasion we had the fortune of enjoying some delicious bounty from the Reilly kitchen table.

Anyone who knew Ed will surely agree that he had a lot to offer at every table he joined, gladly sharing his knowledge, his perspective, soaking up what others had to offer, and encouraging discourse collaboratively—that word: Ed breathed it, embodied it—collaboratively seeking

# Community Inventory Report from the Little Applegate Valley

BY MEGAN FEHRMAN AND TOMI HAZEL

In the spring of 2014, a couple of neighbors met to plan a series of community meetings to map our resources using ideas based on exercises called Community Asset Mapping and Scenario Practices—that is, setting up a session to record information about the strengths and resources of a community and then envisioning solutions to challenges and brainstorming how to move beyond imagined constraints. Once community strengths and resources are inventoried and mapped, the group can more easily think about how to build on their assets to address community needs to improve the health of particular places and environments.

Thirty folks from various neighborhoods and farms in the Little Applegate attended the first meeting. We recruited a local farmer to emcee the meeting, while Megan Fehrman and Tomi Hazel facilitated the group process. Tomi Hazel hung up some posters on systems and talked the group through the concept and procedure. We all agreed that none of the data or information was to be photographed or posted online and that this was just a pen-and-paper exercise for our community.

Everyone went to work as we began the first of two poster-making sessions. In the first round, groups worked together by place—each farm or homestead teamed with neighbors to jot down, on the ten posters, resources they had, thus starting to map the assets that the community held. They had five minutes per poster, and the categories ranged from local businesses, nonprofits and community organizations, skills and knowledge, equipment, natural resources, transportation, and communication systems.

In the second session, we broke into groups based on interest areas, with each group analyzing just one of the posters. Folks began clumping the information into bubbles on a new piece of poster paper and then looking to see how the bubbles related

to each other. Lines were drawn between bubbles, with action words on the lines or where the intersection of bubbles suggested places of overlap and collaboration. We did all this in about two hours.

Two months later we gathered again. We hung the 20-plus posters in two parallel lines so that folks could tour the first meeting's work. Then we brainstormed what was missing—were there other categories that seemed crucial to have on the map? What actionable projects leaped out of the information? Where could we go from here? Several committees formed to work on new categories or to move forward with the obvious projects. A bulletin board at Buncom, a bus stop at Crump, and a farm store at Yale Creek Ranch made the agenda. Several small businesses in our valley talked about sharing bulk buying and about recycling by-products between operations. We could share event calendars and set up better communication systems. There was a lot of enthusiasm for this community inventory process, and some of the projects have seen some progress. We are now planning our next meeting for late spring or early summer of 2017.

Talking about this experience with folks from around the Applegate generated interest from other neighborhoods. We hope that this report encourages and enables other community inventories or, at the very least, encourages some mutual exchange among residents in the various drainages of our eclectic valley.

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## ■ ED REILLY

*Continued from page 2*

efficiency, analytically unpacking tough issues, pragmatically solving problems.

Sharing recipes and travel stories, trading gardening tips and produce, talking art and ecology—these are some of my favorite memories with Ed. With confidence, I know this perspective is not uniquely mine. What a treat, what an honor, to have known you, Ed. You will be missed.

Jena Volpe • jvolpe@blm.gov



Ed Reilly was the man I'd go to at the US Forest Service for detailed maps of the Applegate watershed to run in the *Applegater*. Before that time (I think

it was the mid-1990s), maps showing ownership of all the government agencies and industrial and private properties did not exist. Nor were there maps showing all roads, streams, riparian areas, proposed timber sales, etc. These maps were a wealth of information to those who were interested.

My many conversations over the years with Ed started with me requesting maps or articles I hoped to get from him for the paper and often ended talking about music. He was the only person I knew who was into the band Government Mule more than me—Ed had seen them in concert multiple times. Ed was the man, and I know he's still rockin'.

J.D. Rogers  
541-846-7736

## —APOLOGIES—

Melvin Guches, younger brother of the late Chuck Guches, should have been mentioned in the obituary that ran in the spring *Applegater*. We apologize for the omission.

# Wanna go for a ride?

BY BRYAN HUNTER

Wanna go for a ride...on your bike? Now that spring is here, you may enjoy some pedaling pleasures—around the block, on nearby mountain trails, or across town. The simple joys of coasting down hills and cruising through the landscape are a delight for us all. But be careful—cycling can be dangerous! Cars and trucks driven by distracted folks don't mix well with two-wheelers, partly because we're not all aware of some of the "Rules of the Road."

I've recently learned two unobvious legalities regarding cars and bikes. First, when passing a cyclist, the car driver is required to stay six feet from the bicycle rider (I think it's so that if the rider falls over, the car won't run over the rider). "Hold on," you may say, "to do so would make me cross the double yellow line and that's illegal!" Which brings me to the second Road Rule: when passing a cyclist, pedestrian, horse, etc., you need to maintain that six-foot clearance so you are allowed, in fact required, to cross the double yellow line when safe and oncoming traffic permits. Astonishing, right?

Did you know that bicyclists are forbidden to ride against traffic, on sidewalks, and in crosswalks? And, of course, when we're on our bikes, we must abide by all traffic laws. Given the laws of momentum, gravity, and inertia, it can be difficult to adhere to the nuances of stop signs and red lights, but they're important signposts for safety and civility. And at night, please have lights front and rear!

Some years ago, at sundown in Williams, I was struck from behind by a beater car with one misaligned headlight (and me with no bike lights...). I miraculously



Bryan Hunter and daughter Hazel across from Williams Store in downtown Williams.

survived with limited injuries. A perfect storm of ignorance and poverty, I suppose, when I failed to glance back at the jalopy or move farther away into the gravel.

Some 15 years have elapsed, and I'm still riding, now with lights and extreme caution, enjoying the thrill evermore. Most of the time cars are respectful of me in the road, but it only takes one time to wind up splattered. And while most of the roads are safely navigable with the shoulder, there are some treacherous spots!

So, a handful of us have embarked on the process of attaining some bike lanes in our Williams Valley. Our first phase will connect our downtown area from the post office/general store to Williams Elementary School, a distance of two-tenths of a mile. We envision a lane for biking, walking, horses, and more on each side of the street. We're working on a number of feasible designs in conjunction with Josephine County Public Works, Oregon Department of Transportation, and other bicycle advocacy groups.

Stay tuned for our progress as we turn the wheels of safe and enjoyable nonmotorized travel. And keep your eyes alert for those of us not in solid metal one-ton vehicles with seat belts!

If you've a passion for bike lanes in Williams, join us.

Bryan Hunter • 541-846-9443

## ■ RAT RACE

*Continued from page 1*

room, plenty of parking, lots of landing going on (depending on the task for the day), and, of course, wine." He adds that the organizers of the event try to keep bystanders at only those mentioned places "due to potential traffic-accident issues and massive overcrowding and transportation issues at top launch."

So choose your spot and take a folding chair, your favorite smart device, and this issue of the *Applegater* to reference the following:

- For local event information: facebook.com/RatRacePG/
- For a live broadcast of the event: mphsports.com/media/ustream.html. This site may have live updates on the track logs from the GPS tracking devices the paragliders use.
- For a live view of the race: xcfind.paragliders.com/map.html?id=59. Typically many of the pilots also have their GPS device postings here. You can view their routes overlaid with geographical imagery and the roads to get your bearings.
- For past photos: Go to Flickr and search for "Rat Race Paragliding." This URL will get you started: flickr.com/search/?text=rat%20race%20paragliding.

Norm explains that the event is judged by several criteria, including hitting waypoints, coming in first to the goal location, and not jumping the start



Rat Race photo by Julie Gever, flickr.com.

cylinder before the race begins. All this information is officially judged once contestants have uploaded their tracks from the GPS devices. "No maneuvers are encouraged," Norm says. "That sort of thing occurs at Lost Creek Lake during the later summer months and involves tow up by boat to maximize altitude, then, after release from the tow line, acrobatic maneuvers during the free flight down."

Some paragliding trivia: (1) Paragliding was developed and named by NASA. (2) The oldest female paraglider, according to Wikipedia, is Peggy McAlpine from Northern Cyprus, who took to the sky at the age of 104 from a 2,400-foot peak. (3) Paragliding is not hang gliding (framed-wing design) or parasailing (a parachute). (4) It is not as dangerous as it looks as long as the paraglider avoids bad weather conditions. But Norm admits that, if your gear fails, the thing to do is "throw your laundry [reserve parachute]...and pray."

David Dobbs  
LDDobbs@yahoo.com

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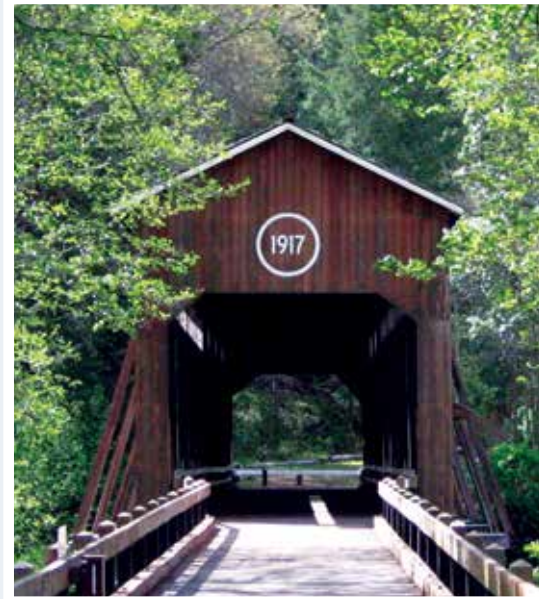
BizBits highlights businesses new to the area, holding special events, or offering new products. If you are a business owner, let us know when you move into the area or to a different location, hold a special event, expand your business, or mark a milestone. Email Shelley Manning at [manningshelley@icloud.com](mailto:manningshelley@icloud.com).

## Dress up for the McKee Bridge Centennial Celebration

We sure hope this isn't the first you've heard about McKee Bridge's first Centennial Celebration, but if so, check out the cover of the spring *Applegater* ([applegater.org](http://applegater.org)) for the details. Then dig into the back of the closet for those old fashions from back in 1917 and come on out on Saturday, June 10, dressed for the occasion and the time period.

Prizes will be awarded throughout the event for those who dress up for it. You don't want to miss it!

For more information, contact Paul Tipton at 541-846-7501 or [mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:mckeebridge1917@gmail.com).



## BOOK REVIEWS

### IBM and the Holocaust

Edwin Black

Is there anyone who hasn't heard of the Holocaust? When Germany liquidated six million Jews along with gypsies, homosexuals, and whomever else they deemed undesirable?

I've heard of folks who believe that the Holocaust never happened. They may be the same folks who believe that the earth is flat, the sun rotates around the earth, the moon landing was staged, and aliens live inside Mount Shasta.

They should read Edwin Black's book. It sheds a blinding light on the Holocaust and International Business Machine's (IBM) involvement with the Nazis. In addition to being an author, Edwin Black has been an investigative journalist who specializes in corporate misconduct.

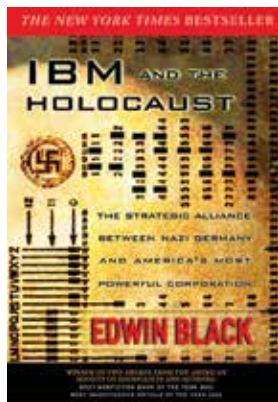
This is one of the most amazing books that I have ever read on corruption. IBM, one of America's once-greatest corporations, now has me thinking that the words "corporation" and "corruption" might be one and the same. Even worse is that Black uncovered many other American corporations that aided the Nazis.

Can you guess why? Money! Thomas S. Watson, IBM's chairman at that time, was dreaming of trainloads of money, while Hitler had other plans for his trains.

What got Black interested in IBM's connection to Hitler and his Nazi killing regime was a 1993 visit with his parents to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. Both of Black's parents were Holocaust survivors from the same camp in Poland. His mother managed to escape from a boxcar on a train headed to Treblinka, a camp in Poland where people were immediately exterminated by gas chamber. Unfortunately, she was shot while escaping and buried in a shallow mass grave.

Black's father had escaped earlier from a guarded line of Jews. Afterward, he saw a leg protruding out of the snow from a mass grave. The leg belonged to Black's mother, and she was still very much alive. He pulled her out, and together they managed to evade the Nazis hunting for them.

On the day of the Black family's visit to the Holocaust museum, the first display they saw was an IBM Hollerith D-11 card-sorting machine. The only explanation attached was that it was used by the Nazis to organize the 1933 census



that first identified the Jews in Germany.

After staring at this machine for an hour, Black turned to his parents and promised them that he'd find out more. It took him years, with the assistance of more than one hundred different people in America and Europe, to gather 20,000 pages of information to put the puzzle together.

In his book, Black lays out the history of IBM, founded in 1896 by Herman Hollerith, a German inventor, as a census-tabulating company. He also tells of Thomas Watson's history, which shows him to be a very calculating, self-absorbed, power-hungry, money-grabbing predator.

Hitler had personally awarded Watson the highest medal that the Nazis had for a non-German, the Merit Cross of the German Eagle with the star, due to Watson's "Promethean gift of punch card technology that enabled the Reich to achieve undreamed of efficiencies both in its rearmament program and its war against the Jews [and] for his refusal to join the chorus of strident anti-Nazi boycotters and isolators and instead open a commercial corridor the Reich could still navigate." The medal ranked second in prestige only to Hitler's German Grand Cross.

When America went to war with Germany, Watson was torn about what to do with his pride and joy that Hitler had bestowed on him. When he asked his friend President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Roosevelt told Watson to return it. (If Roosevelt had only known about the ongoing connection between Watson and Hitler!) Reluctantly, Watson sent his trophy back to Hitler, but he made sure that the Nazis had the IBM tabulating machine and the cards to feed it until the end of the war. The cards were especially important because they enabled the Nazis to be extremely efficient in identifying Jews, keeping their trains running with phenomenal precision, and keeping track of troop movements.

*IBM and the Holocaust* is better than any spy book. I can't recommend it enough. In fact, I think some of the information about IBM should be taught in any class about World War II.

While the Holocaust would have happened with or without IBM, the number of people murdered would never have approached six million without its support of Germany.

J.D. Rogers • 541-846-7736

### Up Sterling Creek Without a Paddle

Paul Fattig

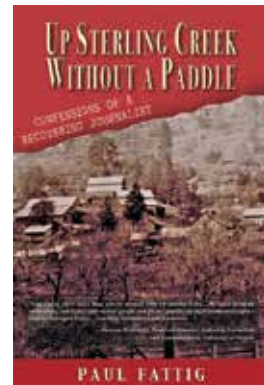
If you're a long-time resident and read the *Medford Mail Tribune*, you may be familiar with Paul Fattig's writing—punny, loquacious, and nostalgic about the history of the land and people (and critters) of the Applegate Valley and all things local. You'll find that and more in this memoir of a late-in-life move by Paul and his wife, Maureen, to a long-abandoned property near the long-abandoned town of Sterlingville. It seems to me that Paul is "recovering" from the constraints of print journalism and enjoying the freedom of "real-life" journalism.

His lively storytelling combines his journal of years spent rehabilitating the burned-out cabin, in which he and his wife now live, with a generous dose of digging, literally, into local history—like the old mine adit and ancient vehicle graveyards on the property. His grandparents once lived in the Applegate. He weaves in references to lots of dogs and cats and the interconnected lives of people living and working together in the rural canyons of the Applegate River drainage.

A strong sense of family is evident throughout, from Paul's upbringing (well, his parents attempted it) in the little town

of Kerby, Oregon, with tales of juvenile derring-do, as well as reminiscences of interesting relatives. (Due out soon is another book, *Madstone*, about Paul's draft-dodging uncles hiding out in the Kalmiopsis area during World War I.) Several generations of his family get a thorough examination, counterpointed with tales of the new generation, the combined children of Paul and his ever-suffering wife.

Building or restoring a house has destroyed many a marriage, and the charred eyesore the Fattigs started with could have dissolved several marriages. In the end, this is partly a love story as we follow these childhood sweethearts through all the trials and tribulations of creating "a silk purse from a sow's ear." It's a testimony to their mutual



commitment that they seem to come through all the hard times by finding the humor in almost any situation. Neither ghosts nor rattlesnakes nor midnight strangers at the door seem to keep these two from enjoying their piece of paradise up Sterling Creek, still looking for that #\*&!^ paddle. If you like local history, you need to read this book.

Paul Tipton • [ptipton@frontier.com](mailto:ptipton@frontier.com)  
**Full disclosure:** This reviewer was employed by the Fattigs during their cabin restoration. His name is noted in the book, and his picture is in the centerfold photos. But it is a good book. Honest. Read it. —PT

### Why we care

The creek sounds swirl and dance behind me. I lie on a fallen tree in the dead heat of summer. The air is still clear in mid-July, for the fires have not yet started. The trickles and splashes that lull me suddenly transpose into footsteps and snapping twigs; a person is present, but I do not jump or startle. I get up with ease to greet him, a familiar stranger with a loyal hound. I do not feel threatened or worried because this is a community.

Two years later, I find myself on a winding trail deep in the public lands surrounding my home. The wildflowers, some taller than my own waist, have erupted over the marshy landscape surrounding the mountain lakes that attracted me to the site. For all of my hike, I am alone and see no sign of any other humans. It isn't until the dusk is greeting the day on my way back to the trailhead that I hear a commotion. In the distance I am able to make out two daughters and two fathers with armloads of sleeping bags and small camping supplies. Smiling, I thought of how wonderfully fortunate we are to live in a place where children are raised so close to nature and where we feel safe enough to bring our children to remote places such as this.

We trust and love and gather. We are drawn together by the splendors of nature that surround us in our small valley. Our home is what links us together. I feel just as safe with the people I meet at Williams Creek or on the Bigelow Lakes Trail as I do with my own family because we have an understanding. We respect the land and respect each other; to be stewards of our environment is to be stewards to ourselves. May we continue to see our community flourish with trust, and let us never forget the interconnectedness of our natural and social environments.

Chloe Lindgren • [lindgrenc@sou.edu](mailto:lindgrenc@sou.edu)

~ 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**

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

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All materials submitted for publication must pertain to the Applegate Valley, be original (no reprinted articles, please), and be the intellectual property of the author unless otherwise credited.

All articles submitted to the *Applegater* are subject to edit and publication at the newsmagazine's discretion and as space allows. When too many articles are submitted to include in any one issue, some articles may be placed on our website or held until the following issue.

Letters to the editor must be 450 words or less. Opinion pieces and articles cannot exceed 700 words. Community calendar submissions must be brief.

All photos submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi) or "large format" (e.g., 30" x 40"). If you have questions, email [gater@applegater.org](mailto: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](mailto:gater@applegater.org) by the deadline.

**Poetry Corner**

*Summertime and the Living ain't so Easy*

by H. Ni Aodagain

On the West Coast  
we battle apocalyptic waves  
of fire, water, and earth

Forests burn the length of Oregon  
and California  
the streets of L.A. seep with water  
and all of us wait  
for the big one

the great quake  
that lies asleep under  
the Cascadian Subduction Zone

that two centuries ago  
swallowed villages whole  
like the yawning mouth  
of a mammoth whale

while in Baltimore, Ferguson  
and Henderson,  
Chicago and Cincinnati,  
black men and women  
fight for their lives  
in jail cells, on corners,  
selling cigarettes  
from the back of a paddy wagon  
and lose

\*\*\*

And it is the writer who  
speaks the truth, names  
the falsehoods,  
uncovers the lies

but now, in post post-capitalist  
Amerika  
the writer is told,  
"create a following,"  
look into the magic box  
and count the number of "likes"  
you get, before your voice is heard.

Revolution is too strong a word  
and has lost its meaning  
for those busy  
checking their Facebook

\*\*\*

Never mind that  
the bees are dying and  
we might run out of food

Never mind that,  
instead of talking about  
the 9.8 billion people the earth  
will need to support by 2050,  
we should be providing basic  
contraception to the women  
of the world free of charge, paid for  
by their local government

Are these radical ideas? You betcha  
'cause the last elephants/tigers/lions  
are being slaughtered  
by rich white men who deem it  
their right to hang trophies  
on the walls of their den

\*\*\*

and the Animas River  
turned toxic orange from a federal  
agency "screw up"

and it didn't snow  
in Ketchikan, Alaska  
last winter

and half the population  
of this country, the greatest  
nation on earth,  
buys their clothes at Goodwill,

See SUMMERTIME, page 21

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

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San Francisco, CA

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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:  
August 1**

**Editorial Calendar**

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

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**Masthead photo credit**

**Teya Jacobi** took this photo at the Middle Fork of the Applegate River, a popular swimming area.  
Thanks again, Teya!

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Jackson County  
**Library**  
Services

## — Applegate Library —

The silent auction at Applegate Library was a great community event that raised over \$600. A huge thank-you to the Applegate School Class of '65 and to all the generous donations from the community. Money from this event makes it possible for the Friends of Applegate Library to schedule classes and programs throughout the summer.

I recently had the privilege of attending the Oregon Library Association conference in Salem. What an event! It was exciting to see the many young librarians who are serving in the state of Oregon. I am very hopeful for our next generation of readers and leaders. The three most exciting classes I attended were "Understanding Our Patrons' Needs," "Author Talk with Maggie Stiefvater," and "Playing Well with Others." These classes really opened my eyes about ways to better serve the community.

School will soon be out and Summer Reading will begin. There are lots of other activities, too, so be sure to check them out. The following programs are sponsored by the Friends of Applegate Library and are free to the public:

- Wednesday, July 12, 11 am - 1 pm. John Jackson will be here to show the kids how to build small motors.
- Wednesday, July 19, 11 am - 1 pm. Allie Parkin will give another class on clay pot creations.
- Friday, July 28, 2:30 - 4:30 pm. Create a wire sculpture with Thalia Truesdell.
- Wednesday, August 9, 12 - 2 pm. Create a fairy/mini garden scene in a small pot or container. All items will be provided; just bring your imagination.

Spots are limited so be sure to call the Applegate Library and get your name on the list.

Other community events scheduled in our meeting room are:

- Sangha Meditation on Mondays through Thursdays from 6 - 7 am.
- Yoga on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 - 9:30 am.
- Knitting on Tuesdays at 2 pm.
- "Talk Story" with David and Malcolm Kennedy on the second Saturday of each month at 7 pm.

For more information, contact branch lead Lisa Martin at 541-846-7346 or [lmartin@jcls.org](mailto:lmartin@jcls.org).

## — Ruch Library —

We now have hot-off-the-press books for you! These books, available to our patrons in Ruch, are not holdable, so kiss that 74th place on the waiting list goodbye! Hooray!

It has been a delight having the kindergarteners and seventh- and eighth-grade Ruch School students at the library every week this year. This is why we chose this property next to the school, and the children's library skills and interest attest to its success. We hope to see you all during the summer!

Summer at Ruch Library will be a lively time as we all strive to "Build a Better World." In addition to eight scheduled programs, we will have Legos available at all other times. And what could be better than all the books, computers, movies, audiobooks, and magazines we always have for you? Though we are a small branch, we are mighty! Don't forget we have access to all the materials in the whole system and are happy to order from other branches for your convenience.

- Saturday, June 24: Little Dresses for Africa, 11 am - 3 pm drop-in. Ages 8+. Children ages 8 - 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a gently used pillowcase(s) to be turned into a dress for a girl in Africa or an adult t-shirt to become a pair of shorts for a boy. Trim will be available. We need people to iron, cut, and pin, while the owners of the sewing machines work their magic. (Thread, trim, and pillowcase donations are welcome!)
- Thursday, June 29: Wire Sculpture, 1 - 5 pm drop-in for ages 4+. Let your imagination go wild with colorful telephone wire. (Any bendable wire donations are welcome!)
- Saturday, July 15: Wood Sculpture, noon - 3 pm drop-in for all ages. Scrap wood and tacky glue offer unlimited possibilities for building.
- Saturday, July 22: Give Someone a Hand, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm drop-in for ages 6+. Stitch around your traced hand and create a special keepsake.
- Tuesday, July 25: Wildlife of the Siskiyou Mountains, 1 - 2 pm for all ages.

Join John Jackson as he takes us on a virtual tour of the wildlife just outside our door. This is his newest program.

- Thursday, August 3: Build a Village, 1 - 4 pm drop-in for all ages. Build part of a cardboard village or city to grace the library for a month, and then take your part of the creation home.
- Saturday, August 5: Cairns, 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Teen program for ages 12 - 19. Build a personal rock cairn and paint it bright colors.
- Tuesday, August 8: Flashlights from an Altoids Tin (STEM Program), 1 - 2 pm for ages 8+. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration required. John Jackson will teach you how to create a flashlight out of an Altoids tin.

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](mailto:ttruesdell@jcls.org).



**Williams Elementary School "Fashion Re-invention" winners** Ava and Stella Spliethoff with Southern Oregon Sanitation representative Shea Sigafos. The Spliethoff sisters' "Spring is in Bloom" entry used wood, old nails, and tin cans to create shelving for plants. Placing second was Harley Scott's "Red Buccaneer," and in third place was Elijah Reyes's "Futuristic Flower." (See more information on page 22.)

Josephine  
Community



My library  
works for me.

## — Josephine Community Libraries —

### Williams branch weekly storytime

Bring the whole family to children's storytime at 3:30 pm every Wednesday at the Williams branch of Josephine Community Libraries.

### Build a Better World: 2017 Summer Reading Program June 24 - August 5

Families are invited to join the free Summer Reading Program at any of the four branches of Josephine Community Libraries in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, or Wolf Creek.

Children ages birth through 12 years old can enjoy creative crafts and storytelling sessions and play "reading bingo" for special prizes.

Teens can earn a weekly raffle ticket for each book read and the chance to win a \$50 gift certificate to Oregon Books and Games every week.

Parents who attend with their children every week have a chance to win a \$100 gift card to Fred Meyer at the end of the reading program.

The Summer Reading Program is free and offered during regular library hours at all four branches. Funding for the Children's Summer Reading Program is made possible by the Oregon State Library Ready to Read Grant. For more information, call your nearest library branch, email [info@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:info@josephinelibrary.org), or visit [josephinelibrary.org](http://josephinelibrary.org).

### Bugs-R-U at the Williams branch

Save the date for Bugs-R-U at the library this summer! Bugs-R-U will visit the Williams branch of Josephine Community Libraries from 2 to 3 pm on Wednesday, July 12, to offer a free program highlighting the life cycles of rare butterflies and moths from all over the world. No registration required.

The library is located at 20695 Williams Highway and is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 1 to 5 pm. For more information about Williams Branch Library, contact manager Evelyn Roether at 541-846-7020 or [eroether@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:eroether@josephinelibrary.org).

## — Friends of Ruch Library —

We had just moved to our new home in the upper Applegate when my husband, Curt, announced that he had signed me up for volunteering at the A-frame Bookstore next to Ruch Library. You did what, where, when?

Yes, I love books and libraries. Yes, I believe strongly in community service. Yes, I have volunteered with Friends of the Library in several communities. Yes, I was looking forward to being a part of our new community. Knowing this, Curt spoke with volunteers from Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) while visiting Buncom Day festivities when I was out of town. So...what could I say? I jumped in!

It has been a fantastic experience that began with volunteering at the A-frame Bookstore and working with Thalia Truesdell, Ruch Library manager, then moving on to become president of FORL. Meeting like-minded people in our community, who soon became friends, and admiring the talents and enthusiasm of an incredible community have been a joy.

It is our hope that more community members will join us as volunteers.



Whether you are new to the community, want to hang out with interesting people, find you have more time to give back to the community, or are looking for a way to offer community service as a part of your educational plan (yes, we even have high-school students, who will

receive community service credit!), please consider joining us. Opportunities are plentiful—be a part of the FORL (we get together monthly), work two-hour shifts at the A-frame (lots of time to read great books!), help with library programs, or take part in our seasonal book sales while enjoying community celebrations.

To join us, drop us a note at the Ruch Library, stop by the A-frame Bookstore, or come to our September board meeting!

Peggy Mekemson, President  
Friends of Ruch Library  
[curtandpeg@aol.com](mailto:curtandpeg@aol.com)

**Note:** The A-frame Bookstore, located across the parking lot from Ruch Library, is open Tuesdays and Saturdays 12 to 4 pm, and Thursdays 1 to 5 pm. **Bring this article on your next visit, and we will treat you to a book of your choice (most books included)!**

## Voices of the Applegate Concerts

Voices of the Applegate, our community choir, concluded its spring session with two spectacular performances. The first was an evening concert held in the Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville on April 7, and the second was held in the afternoon of April 9 at the Applegate River Lodge on Highway 238 in Applegate.

The program consisted of a variety of music from around the world, including France, Russia, Ireland, and Armenia, as well as our own American Midwest. We took the audience with us on this adventure, and the performances brought joy to all who attended.

Directed by Hope Harrison, Voices of the Applegate is comprised of about 25 community members of all ages. New members are always welcome to join. No audition is required, only a love of music. There is a charge of \$55 per person for each fall and spring session.

The next session begins in early September, with rehearsals from 7 to 8:30 pm every Wednesday for 12 weeks, and ends with two concert performances in November.

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

## NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

### — Applegate ACCESS Food Pantry —

Applegate ACCESS Food Pantry operates out of the back of Ruch School cafeteria on Mondays from 9:30 - 11:00 am, except holidays and when school is in session.

When you come to the pantry, remember that you are on school grounds, so please observe the speed limit and no-smoking regulation.

If you bring your kids, keep them with you; please don't let them wander. When you are taking food that is on the dock or

tables, please be mindful of others who are behind you—some have large families and need more food or are picking up a box for neighbors who are unable to come to the pantry themselves.

Please help us in thanking Ruch Country Store for their weekly donations, and be kind to our volunteers. It wouldn't be possible to run the pantry without these dedicated folks.

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

### — Summer at Pacifica —

**New Caterpillar.** Thanks to contributors and supporters, a new Caterpillar science trailer will be ready for action in fall 2017. Thank you all!

**Birds and wildflowers.** Bird and wildflower identification sheets, hung at all the kiosks, will help you learn more about and enjoy the great trails at Pacifica. Take these learning guides on the trails with you and then return them to any kiosk or the office when your hike is done. Enjoy! The multitude of wildflowers that bless Pacifica's trails come in three waves: early spring, late spring, and early summer...which is right about now. So go for a hike or horse ride or dog walk, and you might see mule's ears, monkey flowers, cat's ears, pussy-toes, coyote mint—a whole zoo-full of flowers!

**New for horseback riders.** Thanks to Kay Johnson and her Brushrider friends, there are new trails (up to seven miles long), new trail signs, and a picnic table under a tree at the far side of the property.

**New for budding scientists-naturalists.** The first three of 10 to 20

activity stations (birds, insects, tracking, and many more over the next three years) on the Caterpillar's Outdoor Discovery Trail are finished. The trail will center around Friendship Pond, and each station (like those in the Caterpillar) will have one to four hands-on activities. The stations are available free for budding naturalists and scientists and their families. There will be nine different and special Summer Day Camps (see list on page 8).

**Gardens need volunteers.** Work is also progressing on a Fragrant Labyrinth Garden and the Pollinator Garden. The more hands that are involved, however, the faster and more fun the work goes.

If you would like to put a few hours into these or other projects, the monthly Volunteer Day is the third Sunday of each month from 9 am to noon or whatever works for you.

Have a great summer—spend some of it enjoying Pacifica!

Peg Prag  
peg@pacificagarden.org

### — Rotary Club of Jacksonville-Applegate —

Rotarians have been at work improving the lives of young people in the area. A recent effort of the club was the delivery of dictionaries to third graders at Ruch, Jacksonville, and Madrone Trail Schools. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn. Teachers help students learn to use their personal dictionaries to become good writers, active readers, and resourceful learners.

The club provided financial support to help Cub Scouts Pack 17 launch a weather balloon in April as part of their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) training. The balloon reached 60,000 feet and is now lodged at 8,800

feet in the mountains of Nevada waiting for the spring melt so it can be retrieved and its data analyzed.

In our ongoing support of the playground renovation at Cantrall Buckley Park, the Rotary Club has pledged \$1,000 toward the final renovation of the RV park.

The Jacksonville-Applegate Rotary Club meets each Thursday morning from 7 to 8 am at Bella Union Restaurant, 170 West California Street, Jacksonville. Please join us to hear interesting speakers and learn about our upcoming projects to better our community and the world.

For more information about the Rotary Club, contact Peggy Carlaw at 805-801-3882 or pcarlaw@gmail.com.

### — SMART —

We have now wrapped up the SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) program for the 2016-2017 school year. The goal of SMART is to get children enthusiastic about reading.

I started as a SMART volunteer at the beginning of the 2016 school year. I wasn't totally sure what I was getting myself into, but, simply speaking, it was an exceptionally rewarding experience, and I can't wait to do it again. To see the kids' faces each week and watch the kids grow throughout the year was priceless. I passed along the idea of joining SMART to some good friends, and they became hooked as well.

The process of becoming a SMART volunteer at Applegate School, where I volunteered (Ruch and Williams schools also have programs), was exceptionally simple. I contacted our coordinator, filled out a short background check and application, and attended a brief orientation at the school. Then came what I thought would be the hard part: meeting the kids and getting them interested in reading. It wasn't hard! The students have over 100 books to pick from. It was always fun to watch them browse before making a selection.

Okay, so if you have read this far I'm guessing you're thinking, "But you have to teach them to read, and that's hard!" I had similar thoughts before I volunteered, but learning to read becomes the natural by-product of the enthusiasm. When I read with my assigned students, I focus on understanding their body language. One boy is a fantastic reader, but sometimes he wants to take a break and have me read the story. I believe this gives him the chance to focus on the pictures and use his imagination rather than just reading out loud. Having me read also enables conversations about what is happening in the story. My other student is just learning to read and has made significant



Applegate School SMART volunteers, from left to right, Kathy Kiewer, Fred Hall, Jean Hall, Babette Rapp, Seana Hodge, and Rich Halsted. (Steve Rapp not pictured.)

progress. As the year progressed, he started identifying more and more words, and his confidence improved substantially. At the end of each month, and at other special times, each student can take home a book to keep.

(This is where I make my pitch, so please read on.)

We still have students who would benefit from the SMART program, and it would be great if we had more volunteers. This program does require a one-hour-a-week commitment on days school is in session. Also "life happens," and the SMART volunteer may have to miss a day or two. No problem. We can work it out.

All right, if you have read all of this, I'm hoping you can join us next year. For Applegate School please contact Seana Hodge at 541-660-8317 or shodge@siskiyou.com. For other schools just contact the main office, and I guarantee they will help you out. For those unsure, contact me at rich.halsted@gmail.com, and I'll be glad to share more of my experience. Thanks to all the SMART readers who are certainly making a difference in our community!

Rich Halsted  
rich.halsted@gmail.com

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## THE STARRY SIDE

## Philosophically speaking

BY GREELEY WELLS

My love for the night sky, which came to me as a child through a grandmother figure (a story I've told before in this column), is deeply ingrained in me. Now that I've taken up video work, I'm capturing movies of the moon, clouds, trees, sometimes a star or planet, sunsets, and other sky-related images. I'm up at all hours noticing things; I often suddenly run outside in the middle of the night with the camera and tripod in order not to miss some colorful dance the moon is doing. These images are finding their way into my films (see [greeleyandfriends.com](http://greeleyandfriends.com)).

It's what the unaided eye sees that fascinates and intrigues me and that I try to capture in my video images. When I look at the night sky, I realize that I am looking at what the whole human race has been looking at during its entire existence. It's hard to explain how connected I feel with that sense of history and with my fellow man and woman across time, place, and culture. I can't be out in the night without looking up and feeling that connection. Looking at the sky, I am sharing the lifetime of humanity. That warm feeling of fellowship and commonality with humanity gives me great joy and peace. I'm so grateful for that beautiful spread of solar and cosmic things over our heads at night.

**This season**

Summer is upon us. As early as April, by the time I go to bed the Summer Triangle is

Illustration from [stellarium.org](http://stellarium.org).

already coming up in the east. It will soon be the primary celestial object of summer, merged and mingling with the beautiful spread of the Milky Way. In the east, the last rising part of the Summer Triangle is the bright star, Altar. (I've put some lines on the illustration to help you see what I'm describing here.)

Stars on either side of Altar make an almost three-in-a-row, Orion's beltish

look. This constellation is Aquila, the eagle. Just outside the large Summer Triangle is a smaller triangle composed of Aquila the eagle, Delphinus the dolphin, and the little arrow called Sagitta.

There are so many wonderful constellations out there—about 80 in total. This season, one of my favorites is the dolphin, Delphinus. My love for Delphinus comes from how “real” it looks and feels.

Even though it is only five stars, it is clearly—to me at least—a dolphin jumping over a wave on the surface of the ocean. Even though I don't see the ocean, my mind fills it in. Maybe it's part of the Milky Way? Anyway, it's a constellation that I always look for and enjoy. I hope you find in it the same little treat, a little nighttime gift.

**Of note**

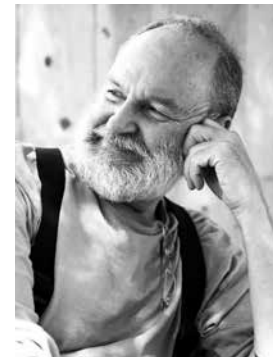
That brightest of all “stars” in the south is the planet Jupiter, beyond the arch of the Big Dipper's handle. Venus is now a morning star, a real treat for early risers, especially when a crescent moon is in the east, too. Early risers may also be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of little Mercury low in the pre-dawn sky.

The modest Delta Aquarid meteor shower gets as big as it gets on July 28. Your best chance of seeing it is pre-dawn. The wonderful, strong, and predictable Perseids are visible many nights around their peak on August 12. They are a must-see.

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

Greeley Wells • [greeley@greeley.me](mailto:greeley@greeley.me)  
(I love hearing from you!)

**Note:** Don't miss the total eclipse on Monday, August 21. For more information, see my “Starry Side” in the Fall 2016 *Applegater*.



Greeley Wells

## Sign up for Pacifica Summer Day Camps

Give your kids a summer to remember! Community experts are teaching their skills and specialties to our youth! Join us for a wide range of exciting day camps at Pacifica, 14615 Water Gap Road (2.3 miles from Highway 238, near Williams).

Each camp runs Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm. See dates below. The cost is \$150. Scholarships are available, as well as discounts for siblings and for multiple camp sign ups.

**Yoga Camp:** Playful Practice, June 26 - 29 (ages 6 - 12). Kids, summer, and yoga: a great combination! Through a combination of yoga poses, games, themed craft projects and relaxation time, kids will be able to strengthen their bodies, minds, and spirits. Taught by two local

yoga instructors, this camp is sure to create lasting memories, new friendships, and a foundation for health and well-being. Teachers: Clair Highfield RYT, Allee Gus RYT250.

**Classic Camp:** A Variety of Fun, July 10 - 13 (ages 6 - 10). Summer days filled with arts and crafts, songs, outdoor games, nature activities, and more! If you love to create, play, sing, and explore, this is the perfect camp for you. Join us! Teachers: Patty Goodin, Leah Markman.

**Summer Fun:** Sewing Camp, July 17 - 20 (ages 8 - 14). Join us for four days of fun learning how to sew. Students will work on basic hand and machine-sewing skills. There will be a number of fun activities that will help build on these skills, time to

play outside in the sun, and focus on fun crafts inside. Teachers: Serene Dussell, Heidi Carlson.

**Theater Camp:** Dramatic Adventures, July 24 - 27 (ages 8 - 18). Young actors of all skill levels are welcome. Join local experts in discovering the wonderful world of the stage! The focus will be on improvisation, theatre games, and group-building activities that help support building self-confidence and collaboration skills! Shane has over 20 years of experience working in theatre as a performer, director, and producer. Teachers: Shane Skinner, Madeline DeCoursey.

**Rock Band Camp:** Jammin', July 31 - August 3 (ages 8 - 14). Students will learn the mechanics of song writing, live stage performance, and production, and write at least one original piece to perform at the end of camp! Teacher Brian Risling is a professional educator and musician with extensive stage experience; Frankie Hernandez is a professional musician. Students will view Pacifica's recording studio, originally built by Steve Miller, and record a track there with Grammy-award-winning engineer Dennis Dragon.

**Art Camp:** Passion for Paint, August 7 - 10 (ages 8 - 18). Explore yourself and the world around you through the medium of paint. Learn the art principles of color, contrast, mark making, layering, and incorporating “self,” while being inspired by nature's beauty. Set your imagination free as you play with paint, creating original drawings, paintings, and creations

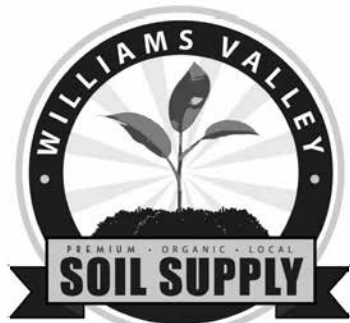
to take home. Teachers: Mary Collins, Shauna Sorce.

**Creativity Camp:** Makin' Magic, August 14 - 17 (ages 6 - 14). Bring your playful spirit for a fun week of creating from scratch. We will use a variety of materials, including recycled items, to make original creations. The possibilities are endless as we use our imagination, the inspiration of nature, and the support of each other to produce daily creations to keep for ourselves or share with others. Teachers: Patty Goodin, Mary Collins.

**Camp Botanica:** Plant Fairies of Pacifica, August 21 - 24 (ages 5 - 9). Join Ms. Dandelion for a week of exploring plants from a fairy's perspective. If you were a fairy, how would you use a mullein leaf? If you were an elf, what plants would you use as medicine for a bee sting? Plant-related stories, songs, games, and creative projects will weave together this playful week. Teachers: Lauren Kemple, Alexa Trost.

**Connecting with Nature Camp:** Ancestral Awareness, August 28 - 31 (ages 6 - 12). Connect with your inner wild child and learn to walk in balance and harmony with the living world. Explore the ponds, creek, and wild areas of Pacifica. Campers can learn and practice a variety of primitive and survival skills. This camp incorporates storytelling, art, games, and sensory-awareness activities with ecology, stewardship, and wilderness skills. Teachers: Shauna Sorce, Vanessa Martinez.

More information: contact Vanessa at 541-621-6278 or [vanessa@pacificagarden.org](mailto:vanessa@pacificagarden.org).



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\*promoting ecological, economic and community well-being in the Applegate watershed through on-the-ground projects and strategic collaborations.\*



DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

# It's not all smoke

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Once a forbidden topic, cannabis now seems appropriate for dinner-table conversation—especially in the Applegate Valley. If you want to impress your dinner companions, here are some interesting facts to impart.

- In 1997, a hemp rope dating back to 26,900 BC was found in Czechoslovakia, making it the oldest known physical object to be associated with cannabis (mastersoffinen.com/eng/histoire).
- Hemp was outlawed in 1937, but saved the life of George Bush Sr. in 1944 when he was forced to parachute from his burning military airplane. Fortunately for Mr. Bush, hemp had been brought back into popularity in 1942 due to numerous military needs, and US-grown cannabis hemp had been used to create the webbing of his parachute. Fire hoses, rigging, and ropes of the ship that picked up Bush were woven from hemp, and parts of his military aircraft engine had most likely been lubricated with hemp seed oil. Cannabis hemp was also used to stitch military shoes like the ones Bush Sr. wore that day.



Basket made from hemp (s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com).

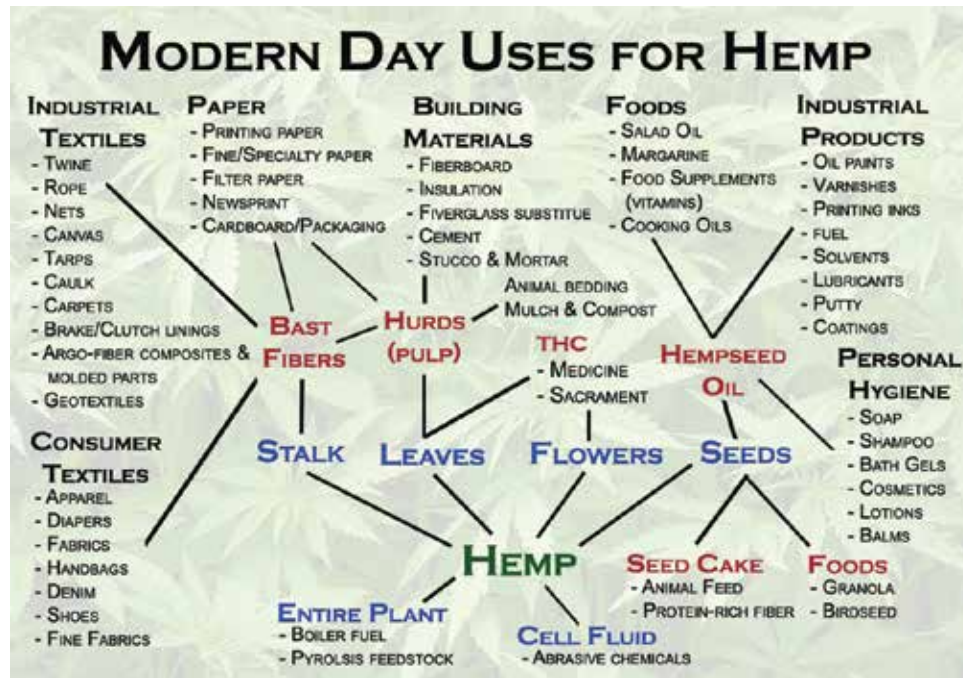


Diagram from [azmarijuana.com/marijuana-info/what-is-hemp](http://azmarijuana.com/marijuana-info/what-is-hemp).

- Both hemp and marijuana come from the same cannabis species, but there is a major difference between the two: the levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). While hemp has virtually no trace of THC, pot has around 10 percent; some strains of marijuana can have as much as 27 percent. It's the THC in marijuana that gets people high. Hemp produces a cannabinoid called CBD, a non-psychoactive component of the cannabis plant that blocks the high typically associated with marijuana, according to the National Center for Biotechnology Information ([livescience.com/24552-what-is-hemp.html](http://livescience.com/24552-what-is-hemp.html)).
- There are over 25,000 uses for hemp according to estimates by The North American Industrial Hemp Council. Hemp in its entirety—its fiber, seeds, and

- oil—is so versatile that it has been used in clothing and food and as an ingredient in building material. Hemp paper was also used for maps, logs, and even for Bibles that sailors brought on board ship.
- More than 120,000 pounds of hemp fiber was needed to rig the 44-gun USS Constitution, America's oldest navy ship, affectionately called "Old Ironsides."
- During the Revolutionary War the demand for hemp soared due to its durability, availability, and natural resistance to decay. The British colonies were legally required to grow hemp.
- "Hemp fiber was so important to the young republic that farmers were compelled by patriotic duty to grow it and were allowed to pay taxes with it. George Washington grew hemp and encouraged

- all citizens to sow hemp widely. Thomas Jefferson bred improved hemp varieties and invented a special brake for crushing the plant's stems during fiber processing" ([farmcollector.com/farm-life/strategic-fibers](http://farmcollector.com/farm-life/strategic-fibers)).
  - The first hemp laws, passed in 1619, were "must grow" laws. If an American farmer did not grow hemp, the farmer would be jailed or kicked out of the country as a non-patriot.
  - From 1631 until the early 1800s, cannabis hemp was legal tender (money) in most of America ([darcfoundation.org/history-of-hemp.html](http://darcfoundation.org/history-of-hemp.html)).
  - There were an estimated 8,400 hemp plantations in 1850.
  - The demise of hemp was cinched in 1937 when Congress passed the Marijuana Tax Law. This was clearly an ill-conceived law, as World War II presented numerous needs for hemp, as evidenced above.
  - Competing industries successfully managed numerous smear campaigns, linking marijuana and hemp as one and the same, calling it the "evil weed," but it was the 1936 radical propaganda film, *Reefer Madness*, that was the nail in the coffin of cannabis. Another movie, *Hemp for Victory*, released in 1942, encouraged patriotic farmers to re-start their hemp production.
  - Hemp is once again legally being grown in specific states. To verify where new legislation is encouraging industrial cannabis, visit this site: [ncsl.org/research/agriculture-and-rural-development/state-industrial-hemp-statutes.aspx](http://ncsl.org/research/agriculture-and-rural-development/state-industrial-hemp-statutes.aspx).
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## Cantrall Buckley Park news

BY JEREMY CRISWELL

Let's start off with a big thank-you to everyone who came out to help with our park cleanup in March. This is a community park, and each of you proved that by showing up, working hard, and making a big difference. The winter snows brought down larger than usual tree debris throughout the park, and the tremendous turnout made short and fun work of a very big job! We had volunteers of all ages who came with shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, and trailers from not only Ruch and Applegate, but also from Williams, Medford, and Ashland, which shows what a large geographic footprint our park serves. Thank you!

Campground project final phase is under way. Using funds from a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Title II grant, water and electrical hookups have been brought to three campsites and to our host site. We've also begun a major fundraising campaign to fund the rest of the project, which will include expanding our potable water capacity, adding a new group area restroom, and extending power and water to 31 sites, which will allow our park to host RV travelers for extended stays. The funds from RV users will add to our park's sustainability and will allow us to even better serve community!

**Fundraising efforts.** We will again be raffling off two airline tickets to be used anywhere in the continental United States with no blackout dates! Last year's tickets made their way to Applegate resident and park lover Carianne Lewis, who along with her two children, Lincoln and Amara, just returned from a trip to visit family in Chicago.

Where might you like to go if you had two tickets in your hands? Pick up some raffle tickets at one of our summer events in the Applegate to have your chance!

Monarch Waystation at Cantrall Buckley Park is complete! What started out as an idea to help bring more monarch butterflies back to our area has culminated in a wonderful garden that was planned,



Airline raffle winners in action.

funded, and implemented in May with the help of Applegate School middle-school students and staff, Applegate Valley Garden Club, US Forest Service and BLM, Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates (SOMA), Grange Co-op, and many individual community members. "The waystation is a very positive project that brings science and learning into a real-life setting, where it becomes a teaching tool for students. It also gives the public a good example of how they can create a small garden project in their own backyards to help meet the basic needs of monarchs and pollinators," said Janis Mohr-Tipton, who was instrumental in putting this plan together.

You can find the waystation close to the entrance of the park. Wander through the garden and see a variety of native nectar plants, milkweed, shelter trees, and a miniature "puddling" pond where monarchs can find water, salts, and minerals. SOMA has provided the park with take-home brochures that can help you get started on your own pollinator garden! We hope to see many monarchs and all of you enjoying Cantrall Buckley Park throughout the spring and summer.

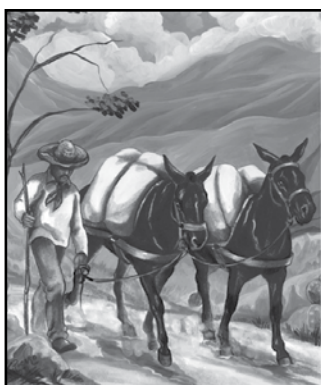
Jeremy Criswell • jerr37@jeffnet.org

### Cantrall Buckley Park campground improvements need funding

Park plans call for adding 33 new RV sites with water and power beginning in 2019, as well as new restrooms in the group camping area, a dumping station for RVs, a new water storage and pumping system, and improvements to the roadway. These upgrades would make the campground more self-sustainable financially by increasing occupancy from the current 25 percent. It would also provide much needed lodging in our area for visitors to enjoy the delights of our valley.

The total budget for the project is \$360,000. The Oregon State Parks County Opportunity Program is expected to provide a grant to match the \$180,000 that the community needs to raise by the end of 2018. Park and campground operations are conducted by a partnership between Jackson County and the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit corporation that has already provided many improvements to water systems and roads and two new RV sites with water and power at the group campsite.

Make a tax-deductible donation: (1) go to [cantrallbuckley.org](http://cantrallbuckley.org), or (2) mail your check to GACDC Campground Fund, PO Box 335, Jacksonville, OR 97530.



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## CANTRALL BUCKLEY COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**When:** Wednesday, July 5, from 9 -11 am

**Where:** Meet at first parking lot inside the front gate for team assignments

**Bring:** Community Spirit!

Gloves, bags, and grabbers provided, along with snacks and water.

See you there!

For more information, contact organizer Janis Mohr-Tipton at 541-846-7501.



Left photo: The LaFave family—Johnny, Arianna, Brennan, and Michelle—raking debris at Cantrall Buckley Park. Right photo: Tom Carstens with the pile of debris collected by over 80 volunteers.

## Applegate School field study and service program continues in Cantrall Buckley

BY DARRELL ERB JR.

Applegate middle-school students are back in the field this spring!

Continuing a science field-study program the school started last year, students are working to design and plant pollinator gardens in Cantrall Buckley Park. The field study also includes work in the classroom, where guest speakers joined science teacher Star McAdam to expand student understanding about the importance of pollinators and the critical role of soil, water, and plants in providing habitat for these creatures.

Speakers who have presented so far are Tom Landis, retired US Forest Service (USFS) nursery expert, who discussed native plants specific to pollinators, and Jakob Shockey, Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council riparian manager, who shared information about the local watershed and human impacts on it. Additional guest speakers included Joni Brazier, forest soil scientist with USFS, and Bonnie Criswell, landscape designer and community educator, who presented on plans to help students with garden designs and habitat requirements for monarchs.

Work in the park started in May, when students began to break ground and plant the native species that support monarchs and other pollinators.

"The community's willingness to get with our students and provide the scientific

background needed for this project is fantastic," said Star. "Our students will have such a rich science background to build upon as they develop these pollinator gardens."

The work expands on efforts to raise, release, and support monarch butterflies, a program at the school headed by staff member Linda Kappen. "Planting pollinator gardens in the Applegate Valley is a great next step in our program," Linda said. "We have the opportunity to include students in creating habitat-rich spaces where pollinators of all kinds can thrive."

Linda's work has had an increasingly important impact on the school as more and more teachers are integrating the work she is doing with their own science lessons.

It's a great opportunity for kids to get their hands dirty doing science. We know from research that practical experience increases long-term learning, and we also know that doing work that is beneficial to the community and for the Earth builds students' citizenship and character. This is a win-win for our kids!

Special thanks to Janis Mohr-Tipton, who has been instrumental in designing and coordinating this valuable project at our school.

Darrell Erb Jr., Principal  
Applegate and Williams Schools  
[darrell.erb@threerivers.k12.or.us](mailto:darrell.erb@threerivers.k12.or.us)

## Applegate School mural will celebrate life in the Applegate

Applegate students are working with local artist Jeremy Criswell to create a mural that celebrates the abundant life we enjoy in the Applegate.



As part of the school's "Artist in Residence" program, Jeremy worked with students in all classrooms, from grades K-8, to create images to

adorn an outdoor mural featuring a tree full of life.

Under Jeremy's tutelage, students diligently sketched their images, transferred their sketch to clay, then painted their images in glaze.

Students crafted tree parts and various animals—fish and four-legged creatures, birds and insects—to decorate the tree.

Funds for the program were raised last year at Fred and Jean Hall's farm at a barn event, where music was played by the Family Carr and Applegate students. Poetry was read by students of Applegate School, and pieces of art by professionals, enthusiasts, and students were auctioned off.

Darrell Erb Jr., Principal  
Applegate and Williams Schools  
[darrell.erb@threerivers.k12.or.us](mailto:darrell.erb@threerivers.k12.or.us)

Various life forms will be featured on the mural created by artist Jeremy Criswell with the help of Applegate School students, including Laura Kliewer, Zeyna DiBiasi, Claire Emmons, Kaylee Easley, Owen Elmore, and teacher Linda Kappen.

**BIRD EXPLORER**

**The elusive Barn Owl**

BY PETER J. THIEMANN

The Barn Owl is a species that lives in the Applegate Valley and on every continent except Antarctica. It is mainly a tropical and subtropical bird that has expanded its range northward, often following human land development.

True to its name, we can find this nocturnal owl in our barns, roosting or nesting in roof timbers in daytime. Go to Hanley Farm in Central Point and ask to visit their big barn—you will most likely see one or more Barn Owls.

As an image hunter, I have been frustrated by this species, simply because there is often no light when they are out hunting mice and other rodents. When they are roosting or nesting, it is always dark, and I don't like to use a flash or other disturbing lighting.

But there was an exception one day. While climbing up a mountain cliff to look for a nesting Prairie Falcon, I discovered right next to the falcon's nest a small

cave entrance with a Barn Owl guarding it.

With good light, here was finally my opportunity to capture this elusive night owl with my camera. Not wanting to disturb what appeared to be a nesting owl, and not being able to see into the cave, I had to guess if there was a nest. But then, on another visit, I observed two Barn Owls at the cave entrance—a sure sign of a nesting pair.

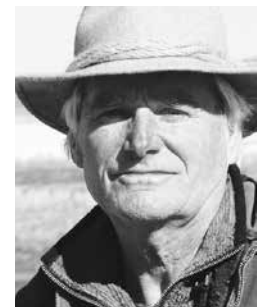
What struck me most was the fairytale quality of my Barn Owl images with lichen-covered rocks and this mysterious dark cave entrance!

In Chapter 13 of my book, *Great Gray Owl in California, Oregon, and Washington* (available on Amazon), there is more about our fascination with owls. We have all heard about the folklore surrounding these mysterious creatures of the night that fly and kill silently. Often the only sound is the death cry of its prey.

Peter J. Thiemann

peterjthiemann@gmail.com

Photos courtesy of Peter J. Thiemann flicker photo stream.



Barn Owl guarding cave entrance.



A pair of nesting Barn Owls.

**Wiggle your toes in the river and think lampreys**

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council is working with local biologists and organizations to help understand lamprey eels and their habitat in the Applegate Watershed. If you have any stories or historical observations about lampreys in the Applegate River and its tributaries, we would love to hear from you. Email us at contact@apwc.info or drop by our office at 6941 Upper Applegate Road in Ruch.

Here is information about lamprey eels from an article in the winter 2017 issue of *The Confluence* (Rogue River Watershed Council newsletter) written by Stewart Reid, PhD, an independent conservation biologist who has been working with lampreys for close to 20 years.

Lampreys begin life as eyelash-sized ammocoetes (larvae), with no eyes or teeth. Ammocoetes burrow in fine sediments, where they are abundant, but rarely seen,

and are filter feeders, living on the suspended microorganisms in the water. They play important roles as water cleaners and bioturbators, or mixers, of bottom sediments. This goes on for five to seven years, with ammocoetes growing close to pencil size. So, when you look at a sandy or silty stream bottom between your toes, think lampreys.

When ready, ammocoetes transform, growing eyes, teeth and a sucker mouth, but they don't start feeding yet. They swim to sea, where young lampreys begin to feed, growing up to two and a half feet. Then they come back, but not necessarily to their birth stream. Instead, they look for any suitable stream, as long as it smells like ammocoetes, which the Rogue River does.



This lets them know that it's a good place to spawn. In fresh water, adults stop feeding, swim upstream, then hide under cover to prepare for spawning. This usually takes almost a year, using up body reserves—females shrink a quarter of their length.

In spring, males and females build shallow nests, or redds, moving and arranging rocks with their mouths. After spawning, adults die, settling on the bottom, contributing rich bodies full of marine nutrients to the rivers in which their young will rear.

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## The California Tortoiseshell butterfly in flight this summer

BY LINDA KAPPEN



California Tortoiseshell butterfly

The California Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis californica*) is of the Nymphalidae family of butterflies. It is dark brown with a reddish-orange tinge and big and small black spots on the middle of the upper side. A dark brown to greyish pattern, which resembles a dead leaf or tree bark, appears on the underside of the wings. The butterfly's wingspread can be up to 2.5 inches.

As with most species, the male perches looking for females. The females will lay their eggs in bunches on the host plants. As the young caterpillar grows, it feeds on the leaves in a close group with other caterpillars.

Adults overwinter and will fly early in the day, coming out on warm days through late winter and spring. In mid-spring, the Tortoiseshells mate and lay eggs for another brood. In southern Oregon, these butterflies may have up to two or three broods some years.

The overwintering adults feed on fir-needle exudate in early spring. Exudate is a substance excreted by fir needles. Adults will later use nectar for food and visit mud puddles or damp spots in roadways.



Tortoiseshell underside

They can be seen in flight from January to November. April through August are peak months for this butterfly.

Host plants are species of *Ceanothus* (wild lilac). Breeding occurs in the *Ceanothus* zones of the mountains. This butterfly lives in lower elevations in clearings and at edges of forests and in woodlands, canyons, river corridors, and brushy areas. They have a wide range on the western side of the Rockies from British Columbia, on the Pacific Coast, to Baja, and east to Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, and Wyoming.

The California Tortoiseshell is known to have irruptions or "outbursts" in

population. They hibernate, reproduce, and live here throughout the summer. In fall they will overwinter here again with some emigrating south to live. There is still much to learn about the reasons for the large irruptions of the California Tortoiseshell. One reason may be the health and optimal conditions for specific predators of the butterfly, e.g., a parasitic wasp. Thus a good year for parasitic survival results in lower numbers for the butterfly, and vice versa.

The last large population irruption of this butterfly that I witnessed locally was around 2001, when hundreds of California Tortoiseshells flew around Applegate School and were seen in large groups puddling on the track, which is decomposed granite. There may have been a smaller irruption in 2009 in our mountains, including the Cascades. After witnessing an irruption, folks sometimes mistake the butterflies for migrating Monarchs, only to find out they are indeed California Tortoiseshells. It would be awesome to witness another irruption of this beautiful insect!

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

### Notes from a Rogue entomologist

## Insects on milkweed—more than just monarchs

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

Monarch butterflies are always a welcome sight, and finding caterpillars with their bright yellow and black bands feeding on a milkweed plant is inevitably a delight. Add in a chrysalis that is adorned with gold trim and it is easy to see why such a spectacular species is the focus of so much attention.

The fact that monarch butterflies engage in an annual migration covering thousands of miles is remarkable. Unfortunately, the overwintering sites in Mexico for the population of monarchs that migrate into the Eastern and Great Plains states have been under threat, and while they are now largely protected, climate change and habitat destruction loom as very real concerns for this charismatic species.

Our western monarchs overwinter in California and while the threat there is not as severe, the western population has declined over the last 20 years. In response to the reduced numbers of monarchs, there has been a nationwide effort to plant milkweed and monarch waystations to encourage them in their migration. Milkweed plants contain toxic chemicals that the monarch sequesters and uses to deter predators, accounting for its dramatic coloration that acts as a warning sign to potential predators.

However, monarchs are not the only insects that can live on milkweed and survive the toxins produced by the plant.

Locally, there are three insect species other than monarchs that you will often find when you are out searching milkweed plants for monarch caterpillars. The oleander aphid is probably the most

commonly seen. The oleander plant is in the same botanic family as milkweed and also produces some similar toxins. The oleander aphid is bright yellow with dark legs, feeds on the plant sap with a sucking mouthpart, and can reproduce rapidly. You often find milkweed plants whose pods are completely covered with these small insects. Gardeners growing milkweed often consider these aphids a pest and unwanted competition for the desired monarchs. Look for articles on the web, like the one titled "10 Good Ideas for Keeping Milkweed Aphid-free...and 1 Bad One" at [monarchbutterflygarden.net/control-aphids-milkweed-plants](http://monarchbutterflygarden.net/control-aphids-milkweed-plants).

Another milkweed-sucking insect is the small milkweed bug, which is extremely common in our region. (There is also a large milkweed bug that has distinct red coloration and, while it is reported to be in Oregon, I have never observed it here in the Rogue Valley.) The small milkweed bug is often confused with the boxelder bug as they are both "true bugs" and have a similar size and shape. In addition, both insects have some orange to red coloration. You can tell the difference—the small milkweed bug's markings are more pronounced, making an X shape on the insect's back, and the small milkweed bug can also have two white spots towards the rear end.

The last of my trio of local milkweed insects other than monarchs does not have any yellow, orange, or red warning coloration, but it is, to my mind, the most striking of the bunch. It is popularly known as the cobalt (or blue) milkweed beetle. This metallic-blue beetle is found in

the western US and is fair-sized (between a quarter-inch and a half-inch long). Occasionally you can find quite large populations feeding on milkweeds, and when that happens they are hard to miss.

Both the cobalt beetle and the monarch have evolved the same physiological mechanism for dealing with the toxin produced by the milkweed plant. Additionally, the adult cobalt beetle and the final stage of the monarch caterpillar have also developed an interesting adaptive behavior whereby the insect cuts the stem or mid-vein of the leaf prior to feeding on it. This reduces the sap flow and lessens the amount of toxins moving into the leaf that is being consumed.

The monarch butterfly is one of our most recognizable insect species, but this summer when you see a milkweed plant, please keep an eye out for some of the lesser-known insect inhabitants that can survive on this poisonous host.

One of the pleasures of studying insects is their immense diversity, and the group of insect species that can thrive on milkweed plants is no exception.

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Top photo: Oleander aphids ([wildernesscenter.org](http://wildernesscenter.org)).Middle photo: Small milkweed bug ([commons.wikimedia.org](http://commons.wikimedia.org)).Bottom photo: Cobalt milkweed beetle ([thoughtco.com](http://thoughtco.com)).

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## APWC's Butcherknife Creek project, a cut above

BY BARBARA SUMMERHAWK

Fifteen miles west of Grants Pass, Butcherknife Creek slices through the northwesternmost section of the Applegate watershed, feeding into Slate Creek right below Hayes Hill, the highest point on Highway 199 between here and the coast.

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) has been working to replace this creek's rusting and dilapidated culvert, which is a serious barrier to fish passage and makes passable the only road providing ingress and egress to residents of Butcherknife Creek Road and Onion Mountain Road. The culvert will be replaced with a bridge this summer when streamflows recede. In keeping with the APWC mission to maintain and restore ecological health to the valley, this project will provide access to the creek for coho salmon, a threatened species listed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries.

Butcherknife Creek is a tributary of Slate Creek, which is one of our watershed's most important streams due to its potential for highly productive habitat for coho and chinook salmon and steelhead. Butcherknife Creek flows year-round in the upper reaches of the Slate Creek watershed and provides adult and juvenile salmon and steelhead crucial cold water refugia and rearing habitat.

Coho, it should be noted, were once as prevalent as chinook salmon, but are now at five percent of historical levels because of human impact on aquatic habitat. Historically, coho, chinook and steelhead provided food for Native Americans and settlers and for bears and other wildlife, besides supplying nutrients for small fish after the adults have spawned and died.

Replacement of the culvert has been a five-year project. The APWC and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologists began developing this project in 2013 based on fish passage and habitat needs in the watershed, but the design



The dilapidated Butcherknife Creek culvert will be replaced with a bridge this summer.

and funding were complicated, time-consuming, and expensive. Removed from Josephine County Public Works management, Butcherknife Creek Road is now maintained by local residents, who don't have the resources to replace the culvert. The APWC worked with all the stakeholders: landowners along the private road, permitting agencies, design reviewers, contractors, engineers, fisheries biologists, funders, and so on.

Soon the Butcherknife Creek Project will be completed, providing safe passage for salmon to upstream habitat and safe passage across the creek for emergency vehicles that currently could collapse the culvert. This is an example of the collaborative work the APWC provides in bringing landowners and agencies together to improve the health of the Applegate watershed.

All of our projects can benefit from efforts by volunteers willing to work on activities in their realm of interest and ability. If you would like to support and join in the APWC's mission "to promote ecosystem health across the Applegate watershed through stewardship, education, and restoration carried out in partnership with landowners, agencies, and other interested parties while contributing to local economic and community well-being," visit [apwc.info](http://apwc.info), our Facebook page or Instagram site, or email us at [contact@apwc.info](mailto:contact@apwc.info). The watershed needs you!

Barbara Summerhawk  
Applegate Partnership and Watershed  
Council Board Member  
[barbara@apwc.info](mailto:barbara@apwc.info)

## Update on the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project

BY DON BOUCHER

The Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project (UAWRP) is designed to implement actions to restore structure and processes in the Upper Applegate watershed and provide for landscape conditions resilient to disturbances and climate change. The project aims to protect the following important community-identified values: recreation (motorized and nonmotorized), late-successional forests (northern spotted owl habitat), biodiversity (both plant and animal), important connectivity corridors, roadless and unmanaged areas, sustainable flow of goods and services, and human life and property. This proposal is a result of over a year and a half of meetings and workshops with the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and community members. The most recent meeting was held on April 19.

In addition to building relationships with local communities, this planning process helps us to move toward the vision and goals in the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA) Guide by engaging the community early and often in the process.

The "benefits from nature" concept of this planning process underscores relationships between ecological, social, and economic conditions in and around the AMA. This concept aligns well with goals in the Applegate AMA Guide and the Applegate Fire Plan, i.e., to manage the land adaptively to achieve social and ecological sustainability. Using this approach, we hope to highlight the goods and services provided by forests to communities.

To further refine proposed actions, the planning team organized the key community values into three major themes: (1) water and aquatic habitat, (2) terrestrial biodiversity, and (3) community and culture. For each of these, the team described objectives to protect, enhance, or maintain important values. The community identified projects to deal with threats to those key values.

The following is an example from the list of actions for the UAWRP:

Two of the objectives identified by the community are (1) manage forests to increase biodiversity and (2) develop and maintain habitat-connectivity corridors. One of the actions that will address these objectives is to enhance pollinator habitat to benefit monarch butterflies and other

native pollinators. To enhance pollinator habitat, UAWRP would plant native pollinator plant species on five sites in the Upper Applegate Valley (Flumet Flat Campground, Jackson Campground, Kanaka Gulch Flat/Kanaka Gulch, and Nick Wright Flat). A low-intensity prescribed fire in the fall to burn grassy fine fuels would improve the site before seeding. In addition to providing butterfly habitat, this action would provide the following benefits: wildlife species diversity, natural pest control, nutrient cycling/soil fertility, recreation opportunities, scientific and educational opportunities, as well as identification of cultural and intrinsic values. This is just one example that you will find in the scoping notice.

Additionally, this planning and implementation effort will utilize adaptive management principles. Adaptive management is a process that bases management actions on clearly defined outcomes and monitoring to determine if actions are meeting desired goals. If not, the process facilitates changes in management that will best ensure those outcomes are met. The most critical and challenging component of adaptive management is to monitor the work that we do. As we move through the planning process, we will engage with the community to provide input as we develop a monitoring strategy for the Upper Applegate project.

By now many of you will likely have seen the scoping letter or notice asking for comments on the proposed Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project. We are in the process of seeking comments and concerns related to the proposed implementation actions to determine if there are issues or other aspects that we did not consider, and whether there are any alternative ways to achieve the project's purpose. Proposed project descriptions and maps are available by stopping by the Star Ranger Station at 6941 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, Oregon, or calling 541-899-3800.

For those who have been involved through the lengthy series of meetings and workshops, we sincerely want to say thank you.

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

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Applegate AMA Team Leader  
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest  
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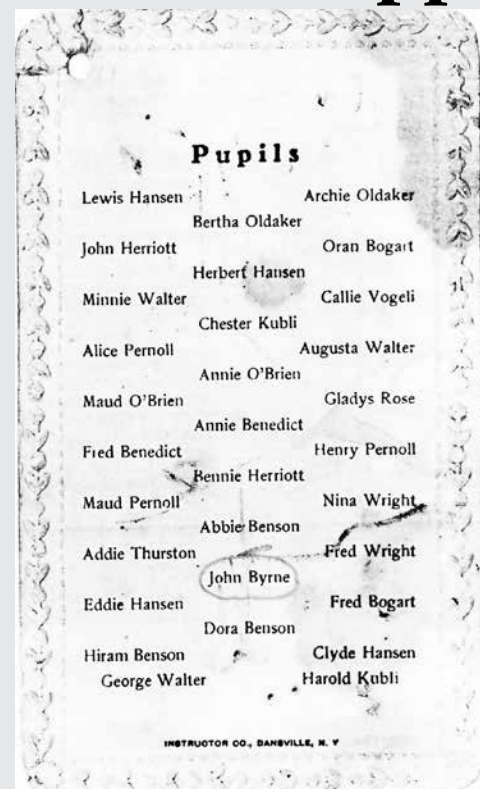
## Back in Time | Applegate School history

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

Applegate School was built in 1879-1880 on land donated by Rial Benedict. This school was on the west side of Humbug Creek near where the Applegate School stands today.

My grandparents were living on Humbug Creek, where my dad, John Byrne, was born in 1887. His oldest sister and brother were already going to Applegate School. The family moved from there to Forest Creek and then to Watkins in the Upper Applegate area. However, an Applegate School card (see photo) lists my dad in attendance while he was staying with the family's good friends, the John O'Briens, who lived a few miles from the school.

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



Applegate School, 1902 SOHS Photo #15376

## Discover Stories on the Land

In 1995 George McKinley and Doug Frank wrote *Stories on the Land: An Environmental History of the Applegate and Upper Illinois Valleys for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)*. It has languished on the BLM website ever since. But in 2018 *Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.*, will be publishing this fascinating book to make it more widely available. Following is an excerpt; look for more excerpts in future issues of the *Applegater*.

### The Applegate and Illinois valleys, at the beginning

The story of the origin of the Applegate and Illinois valleys begins 200 million years ago, when the continental land mass of which they now form a part was submerged beneath the Pacific Ocean, shifting west from the African continent. The accumulated debris at its forefront, transformed by heat, pressure, and time, eventually produced the Klamath Geologic Province of today. By about two million years ago, the basic topography of the region was similar to that of today.

The arrival of the early Holocene Epoch in southwest Oregon, about 10,000 years ago, brought a climate significantly cooler and moister than at present. During this time the conifer species of today expanded their range upslope from riparian bottoms. During the hotter, drier mid-Holocene, beginning 7,500 years ago, oak savannah/woodland communities probably spread across the area, taking residence in places they dominate still. The late Holocene, from approximately 4,500 years ago to the present, brought a return of cooler, moister weather to the region.

Is it a coincidence that the consensual date for the presence of resident humans in the Applegate and Illinois valleys approximates the onset of the Holocene epoch? Because the first humans almost certainly were in southwest Oregon by at least 9,000-8,000 years BP, we find a parallel between evolution of the ecosystems and that of humans in southwest Oregon. It is interesting to speculate upon the formative influences these partners in evolution may have had on each other in this earlier era.

Contemporary discussion has focused upon fire as a medium of interaction between the earliest humans and the young environment. One commentator, C.R. Clar, writing in 1959, before the recent paradigm shift in understanding prehistoric human-plant relationships in North America, suggests that the native inhabitants showed little interest in fire, calling the notion that these peoples consciously used fire as a tool “fantastic”: It would be difficult to find a reason why

the Indians should care one way or another if the forest burned. It is quite something else again to contend that the Indians used fire systematically to ‘improve the forest’... yet this fantastic idea has been and still is put forth time and again.

In his classic study, *Fire in America: A Cultural History of Wildland and Rural Fire* (1982), S. J. Pyne takes a stand at the other end of the spectrum, suggesting not only that natives had a profound interest in and understanding of fire, but that their use of fire virtually created the fire regimes and forest stands that existed throughout the Pacific Northwest prior to European settlement.

However, James Agee, in *Fire Ecology of Pacific Northwest Forests* (1993), reacts against such broad generalizations, saying that Pyne pushes to its “illogical extreme” the idea that native cultures utilized fire in so sophisticated a manner. In his view, “the role of human beings in the ignition and spread of forest fires is important, but this importance varies from place to place and from culture to culture.” Agee gives three examples: At least three common patterns of Native American burning were found in the Northwest: frequent burning in west side prairies and adjacent dry Douglas-fir forest, maintenance of small patches of open prairie for agriculture or hunting by coastal or mountainous tribes, and widespread burning by inland or ‘plateau’ tribes east of the Cascades.

In the Applegate and Illinois valleys specifically, evidence exists that natives burned their landscape for a variety of reasons: to control pests; to stimulate new plant growth for a number of uses; to provide browse, grasses, and berries for game; to reduce undergrowth as an aid for hunting; to more easily hunt insects; and to reduce wildfire hazard, particularly in residential areas.

Of greatest interest, however, is the role these fires played in environmental change in the region. It is less important to isolate anthropogenic fire from the evolution of plant communities than to note its participation in that evolution. Indeed, since anthropogenic fire has been so intimately involved in the environmental history of the region, Wayne Rolle, in a watershed analysis prepared for the US Forest Service, claims that “its role in the development and maintenance of pre-settlement plant communities cannot be segregated from that of fire from natural causes.”

*Note: Excerpted by Diana Coogle from pages 5-14 of Stories on the Land: An Environmental History, by George McKinley and Doug Frank.*

### Applegate Valley history

## Hippy communes revisited—Part 2

BY DIANA COOGLE



Molto Bene commune residents. Photo courtesy of Mike Kohn.

The hippy communes in the Applegate Valley, like other communes of the 1970s, were founded with inspiration from Woodstock and in response to the Vietnam War and the riots of the time. In the face of those events, says Mike Kohn, co-founder of Molto Bene, “it felt good to try to live an ideal.”

One ideal, of course, was “peace and love.” East Side House was known as the “good-vibe commune.” Co-founder John Hugo says, “It was all ‘come up, kick back, relax.’ No one would judge you. There was no drunkenness, no fighting—it was all peace and love.”

But life is never all peace and love (except maybe at East Side House). Even the spiritual orientation of Trillium Farm, where each household hosted a spiritual day a week without advocating any particular religious path, did not eliminate friction caused by “the difference in people’s ability to manifest their dreams and do what they said they would do,” as co-founder Chant Thomas says.

Another problem, Mike says, was simply the difficulty of holding land in common.

For Bryan Newpher, at Laser Farm, the most difficult thing was “the emotional part of it, stuff that happened between people.”

Neither Molto Bene nor Laser Farm had much of a structure for dealing with conflict, but, Mike says, “Blowups were rare. If you sat on a thing for a while, you realized the other person had legitimacy for whatever the thing was.” Something similar worked at Laser Farm. “There was always somebody to turn to, to talk to,” Bryan says, then added, “Life is not an easy one, whether you’re on a commune or living in standard-type relationships.”

One of the greatest benefits of living in community was for the children. Mike, whose two daughters were born and grew up at Molto Bene, says, “There were lots of adults who treated them like human beings, interacted with them constantly, didn’t put them down in front of a television.” Childcare was shared by all the parents.

Children at Trillium attended Trillium’s own school, where I used to teach, but Molto Bene children went to Applegate School. Lori Hava, co-founder of Molto Bene, said about her relationship with other parents in the school, “Some of the ladies in the Applegate School were quite cool to me,” adding “but the teachers and staff were very nice.” Mike’s election to the school board—long hair and scraggly beard notwithstanding—proves the larger community’s tolerance and acceptance of the commune.

Applegate businesses were another lasting benefit. Even East Side House, with all its laid-back attitude, helped start (along with folks from Trillium and others) Co-operative Forest Workers, a tree-planting company. “We took care of our families by working in the woods,” John says. Indeed, he is still in that business. Laser Farm started two seed companies, Peace Seeds and Seeds of Change. Lori bought and ran what was known as the “hippy store” in Ruch. With his knowledge of wood-burning stoves gained in his years at Molto Bene, Mike started a chimney-sweep and stove sales business. Other commune members have built good businesses with their crafts.

Both Mike, from Molto Bene, and Bryan, from Laser Farm, cite “tolerance” as the most lasting influence of communal living. Bryan says, “Welcoming people into your life: I carry that with me and I live that today. Our house is full of people every weekend—a dozen or more, sharing the preparation of food, eating together, the camaraderie. It’s very much a communal living experience.”

But if it was all so good, why did the communes disappear?

“It’s difficult for humans to share fully all their resources,” Lori says. “There is a nuclear focus in raising children. People don’t want to make that effort of communal living.”

Chant says, “Community has to have people who are out for the greater good, not people who are out for themselves.”

Mike points to the lack of engagement, socially, in the outside world.

Essentially, though, as Tolstoy said in *Anna Karenina*, “Every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” Eventually, people just found other ways to live.

Nonetheless, nostalgia runs deep. “If there was a major snowstorm or freeze,” John says, “those were the nights we gunned up the sauna, then walked down to the river across a few feet of ice and jumped in.”

“We were together for a long time and are still friends,” Mike says, “so something worked right.”

Chant has just sold Trillium to another intentional community who will continue Trillium’s legacy of cleaning up the land and forest activism.

“The decision to disband Laser Farm came in the wintertime,” Bryan says. “My wife decided to leave and move from the farm. There was only a small group of people left. I was pretty much worn out. We sold the land for twice what we paid for it. I gave all the money to my wife and wandered off to the world.”

Diana Coogle • dicoog@gmail.com

### Four communes in the Applegate

- Laser Farm (1969 - 1974) on Thompson Creek Road
- East Side House (1973 - 1979) on the Applegate River
- Molto Bene (1974 - 1990, or thereabouts) on Slagle Creek
- Trillium Farm (1976 - present; now called “Friends of Trillium”) on the Little Applegate

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# Camping is trendier than ever!

BY SHELLEY MANNING

Do you love camping and the great outdoors? With the abundance of campgrounds in the Applegate Valley, why not unplug from your daily routine with a camping adventure! A hot cup of coffee in the morning chill can become a sublime experience. You can play, watch nature, hike, swim, make art, bicycle, meditate, paddle, and fish until you snuggle up at night in your cozy sleeping bag.

Camping has become trendy, as evidenced by Hipcamp (hipcamp.com), a website like Airbnb, but for camping, that helps you find public and private campsites across the US (including in the Applegate and neighboring areas).

Fees and length of stay at campgrounds vary. For more information on specific campgrounds, search the internet or visit recreation.gov. Star Ranger John McKelligott invites you to contact him at jmkelligott@fs.fed.us or 541-944-1176 if you have questions about camping in the Applegate.

**Beaver-Sulphur Group Campground.** Popular for hunting and family reunions, Beaver-Sulphur Group Campground has six tent sites and four trailer sites. The entire campground must be rented. There is a vault toilet. Bring your own water and pack out any trash. Access hiking trails Charlie Buck/Baldy Peak Trail 918 and the Little Grayback Trail 920.

**Cantrall Buckley Park and Campground.** One of only two public access points on the Applegate River, Cantrall Buckley Park is 88 beautiful acres on 1.75 miles of the Applegate River. The campground has 30 campsites under native laurel and pine trees with fire rings and picnic tables. The group site can accommodate up to 100 people and can be reserved through Jackson County Parks. The park recently added two RV sites, with water and power, within the group camping area. Individual sites are first come, first served. The restrooms are modern, with coin operated showers. Currently there are no RV hookups on individual sites, but fundraising efforts for improvements are under way. For more information, see the Cantrall Buckley Park article on page 10.

**Carberry Campground.** Four miles past the dam on Applegate Lake you will find this quiet and peaceful campground for tent campers. Ten campsites have picnic tables and fire rings. Cool off in Cougar Creek or practice your trout-fishing skills. Campers bring their own water and use vault toilets. First come, first served.

**Harr Point and Tipsu Tyee campgrounds.** Both are accessible from the Payette Trail, which winds around the

eastern shore of the Applegate Lake, and can also be reached by boat. Each has five campsites. Campsites are first come, first served. Bring your own water and pack out your trash.

**Hart-tish Park and Campground.** Located on Applegate Lake, Hart-tish Park and Campground has a boat ramp and a grassy day-use area for swimming. Just past the dam are seven tent sites, eight RV sites without hookups, and a group site. Campfire and barbecue pits are provided, along with showers and restrooms. The general store has snacks, sells day passes, reserves campsites, and rents kayaks. Fishing enthusiasts can catch trout and bass. Hart-tish is across the road from the Collings Mountain "Bigfoot Trail." Be sure to reserve a site.

**Jackson Campground.** Located on the Applegate River, Jackson Campground provides swimming, fishing, and hiking along the river. Eight shaded tent sites and one group site are first come, first served and open year-round. There are modern restrooms and a day-use area for picnics. Reserving a site may be possible by calling the camp hosts, Tom and KT.

**Squaw Lakes.** High in the pristine wilderness you will find secluded Squaw Lakes, a breathtaking campground with abundant wildlife. Nineteen campsites around the lake are spread out for privacy. Advanced reservations are mandatory. Paddle boats are permitted, as are swimming, hiking, biking, and fishing. There is a one-mile interpretive hike to Little Squaw Lake. Porter service for \$10 a trip may be available to help with your gear.

**Watkins Campground.** Rustic Watkins Campground has 14 campsites with picnic tables (some of which have seen better days) and fire rings. It is located on a steep hillside with no terracing, so pitching a tent is a challenge. From the top of the campground you can peek at Applegate Lake through the trees; trails lead down to the Lake. Bring your own water. Vault toilets are provided.

**Wrangle Campground.** With access for hikers to explore the Pacific Crest Trail, Wrangle Campground, at Wrangle Gap, has five campsites, picnic tables, fire pits, a rustic shelter, a community kitchen, and a cabin built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Seven Miles Ridge Trail is also accessible. Opens in June. First come, first served. Bring water, pack out trash. Vault toilet.

From hiking adventures to still mountain lakes, make the Applegate the place for your next camping experience.

Shelley Manning  
manningshelley@icloud.com



Left photo: View of Applegate Lake from Hart-tish Park and Campground. Right photo: Jackson Campground on the Applegate River. Photos: Shelley Manning.

## ★ Campground Locations ★

**Beaver-Sulphur.** Take Highway 238 to Upper Applegate Road 8.5 miles, left on Forest Road 20 for three miles. \$50 for group campsite (entire campground). More information: 877-444-6777 or recreation.gov.

**Cantrall Buckley.** Take Highway 238 to Hamilton Road approximately one mile, turn right on 154 Cantrall Road. Individual campground \$16/night; group campground \$65 the first night, then \$50/night (reservations required). More information: 541-774-8183 or jacksoncounty.org/parks/Day-Use/Cantrall-Buckley.

**Carberry.** From Highway 238, take Upper Applegate Road 18.5 miles to junction of Forest Road 777, take right for .3 miles. \$15/night. More information: 541-899-9220 or applegatelake.com.

**Harr Point and Tipsu Tyee.** From Highway 238, take Upper Applegate Road to Applegate Lake, cross the dam, follow County Road 959 about three miles, turn right on Forest Road 100 for a half mile to Squaw Arm Parking Area. Hike about 0.25 mile (Harr Point) or 1.25 miles (Tipsu Tyee) west along Payette Trail. Also accessible by boat. No fee. More information: search fs.usda.gov.

**Hart-tish.** From Highway 238, take Upper Applegate Road 16 miles. \$20/night. Reservations: 877-444-6777 or reserveamerica.com. More information: 541-899-9220 or applegatelake.com.

**Jackson.** From Highway 238, take Upper Applegate Road 7 miles. \$20/night. More information: 541-816-2115 or applegatelake.com.

**Squaw Lakes.** From Highway 238, take Upper Applegate Road 15.5 miles to Applegate Dam, cross the dam and continue up for 8 miles. \$15/night. Reservations mandatory, bring documentation. Reservations: 877-444-6777 or reserveamerica.com. More information: 541-899-9220 or applegatelake.com.

**Watkins.** From Highway 238, take Upper Applegate Road 18 miles. \$15/night. More information: 541-899-9220 or applegatelake.com.

**Wrangle.** From Highway 238, take Upper Applegate Road 8.5 miles to Forest Road 20 for 18 miles to Wrangle Gap, then left on Forest Road 2030 for less than a mile. No fee. More information: search fs.usda.gov.

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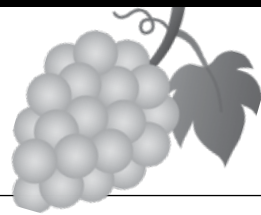
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## GRAPE TALK

## Red grape leaves are pretty but...



BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

As a rural realtor, I often show vineyard properties for sale in the Applegate Valley. Late last summer while walking with a buyer, I noticed beautiful red leaves on some of the vines. I thought the leaves were especially pretty with their unusual red veins. A few weeks later, though, I learned about grapevine red blotch-associated virus (GRBaV).

Vaughn Walton, an associate professor of horticultural entomology at Oregon State University (OSU)-Oregon Wine Research Institute in Corvallis, leads a research program on the biology of horticultural insect pests, especially those associated with grapevines. He has worked with thrips, leafhoppers, treehoppers,

mealybugs, rust mites, phylloxera (a species of lice that preys on vines), and stinkbugs in vineyards. Dr. Walton's lab was the first to record the spread of grapevine leafroll and red blotch viruses in Oregon.

The red blotch virus is one of over 60 different viruses identified in grapevines since the 1960s. It was already prevalent in California when it was first observed in Oregon in 2009. Red blotch differs from most grapevine-infecting viruses in that it has DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) rather than RNA (ribonucleic acid), so identification depends on genomic tools. DNA testing of a specimen from the early 1940s at University of California, Davis, proved the presence of red blotch

in Sonoma County decades ago. The virus is moving very slowly in the Willamette Valley, but is spreading quickly in southern Oregon and the Applegate Valley. So far it has not been reported in vineyards outside North America.

Like leafroll disease, red blotch causes a reddening of the basil leaf margins from late August through September. Unlike leaves affected by leafroll, however, the red-blotch leaf stays relatively flat and the green

Center (SOREC), OSU's extension service in Jackson County, says, "The identity, biology, and management of potential red blotch vectors is currently a major topic of research at SOREC."

These and other scientists are studying the causes of this new virus, the vectors spreading it, and the effects of the disease on grapes and the wines produced from those grapes. Effects include reduced yields, reduced sugar content, delayed fruit ripening, reduced production weight, elevated acidity, diminished color, and altered tannins.

Using infected scion and rootstock in grafting can spread the disease. Other factors could be insect vectors, including suckers like leafhoppers and treehoppers, drought and other environmental stresses, soil conditions, and fungal pathogens.

Vineyard owners need to be sure they are using scion and rootstock that have been tested with a DNA-based molecular test. Treating plants for treehoppers, the most likely vector, may help prevent further infestation and slow down the spread of red blotch.

It's not just vineyard owners who should be grateful to the work being done to identify the vectors that spread this disease and to find a solution for it. Because red blotch virus affects grape quality, valley economics, and, ultimately, the taste of our wines, we should all be grateful!

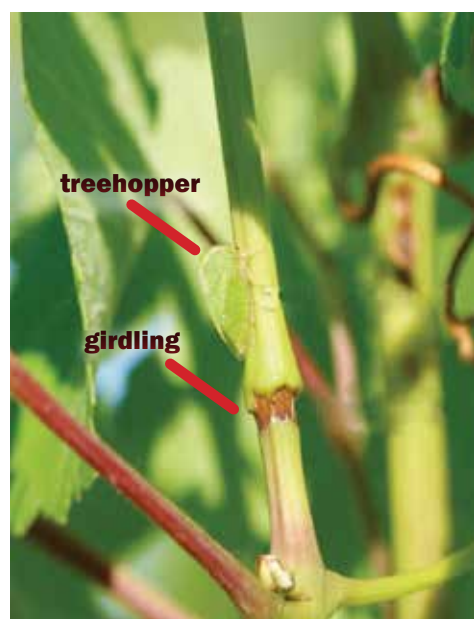
Debbie Tollefson  
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Debbie Tollefson



Vaughn Walton, associate professor of horticultural entomology at OSU-Oregon Wine Research Institute, Corvallis.



Treehopper adult feeding on cane, causing girdling.



About one week after girdling, the leaf or cane will change color.

veins often change to pink or red. Red blotch can affect both mature and new leaf plantings. The disease can be confirmed only through DNA-based analysis, since visual diagnosis can be complicated by the multiple viruses that could be infecting the vines and by the fact that a vine with no symptoms can often test positive for the virus.

Richard Hilton, entomologist at Southern Oregon Research and Extension

## Quady North viognier is Editor's Choice

Quady North 2015 Steelhead Run Vineyard Viognier is Editor's Choice and received 93 points in *Wine Enthusiast's* June 2017 Buying Guide. Also listed are Quady North 2015 Eevee's Vineyard Grenache Blanc (91 points), Quady North 2013 Mae's Vineyard Syrah (91 points), and Plaisance Ranch 2014 Carmenère (90 points).

## Lomakatsi partnering on Upper Applegate Road Demonstration Project

BY SHANE JIMERFIELD

The Applegate watershed hosts an amazing diversity of wildlife habitat, forest types, and recreation opportunities. It provides clean drinking water to homes and businesses and water for irrigating farms and orchards. But a changing climate and decades of fire suppression

are threatening its ecosystems and human communities that depend on the forest for their quality of life and clean water.

Lomakatsi is a nonprofit ecological restoration, education, and training organization. For more than 22 years, it has worked across the region in partnership

with agencies, communities, schools, tribes, organizations, and private property owners to restore ecosystems and increase the sustainability of ecosystems, communities, cultures, and economies.

Lomakatsi is excited to again partner with the US Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management, and the Nature Conservancy to bring its extensive individual and collective experience in ecological forest restoration to the Upper Applegate Road Demonstration Project. The project will demonstrate four treatment alternatives in close proximity to each other so that scientists and the public can evaluate the results of different treatment types. (See article by Don Boucher in the spring 2017 *Applegater*.)

The partnership has been seeking community participation in the project, including offering public tours of the sites to increase knowledge of the project.

This spring Lomakatsi's forestry technicians have been preparing demonstration sites for treatment, marking trees to be removed on all four treatment sites. Although none of the treatment alternatives has a timber focus, small-diameter trees will be removed as a by-product of restoration effort. Sale of these small-diameter logs will help fund additional restoration work. This commercial timber harvesting is scheduled for May through July and will utilize a helicopter for yarding. Although a helicopter is expensive to use, helicopters provide the lightest touch on the land, a high priority to Lomakatsi. Minimizing on-the-ground impacts to vegetation and soil is important ecologically and significant to the evaluation of results.

Working with USFS, Lomakatsi's technicians and inspectors will oversee the



In fall 2016, community members and representatives from the Applegate Neighborhood Network, Applegate Trails Association, US Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, and Lomakatsi reviewed the project sites and discussed the project's design and objectives.

project, supervising contractors to ensure they are meeting treatment specifications and following guidelines. Lomakatsi will periodically monitor project sites to measure and compare the effectiveness of the different treatment types.

In the fall, Lomakatsi's technicians and restoration saw crew will be completing the treatment prescriptions by carrying out noncommercial thinning. When thinning activities are completed (anticipated in November), Lomakatsi will offer a public tour to review the immediate outcomes. Slash pile burning should be completed within two years.

Project partners and community members are hopeful that this collaborative process can be carried forward into a larger community-supported project over the next few years in the Upper Applegate Watershed. Learn more about that project on page 13 of this *Applegater*.

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## OPINIONS

## Best practices for growing cannabis

BY EVELYN ROETHER

To support harmonious relations between the burgeoning cannabis industry, the broader community, and our local environment, a group of local growers and residents recently produced a brochure titled *Growing Cannabis: Best Practices for a Successful Grow, Happy Neighbors and a Healthy Environment*. Originally produced for and sponsored by the Williams community, the brochure has expanded its reach into greater southern Oregon and is available at local businesses and several government agencies.

Here are some suggested best management practices for cannabis growers.

**Noise**

- Check the noise levels at your property line. If you can hear your equipment, so can your neighbors.
- If you must produce loud noise, mitigate it, e.g., insulate structures, use low decibel fans, etc.

**Light**

- Make sure no light is leaving your property from sunset to sunrise.
- Hooded lights and blackout tarps are the best practice for lighted greenhouses.

**Traffic**

- Educate yourself and your employees about school zones, speed limits, and the presence of children and wildlife on the roads.
- If possible, hire local employees and organize carpools to reduce the number of trips associated with your operation.
- If you share an access road with neighbors, talk to them early in your process about ways to reduce the impact of associated traffic and road maintenance.

**Visual impacts and setbacks**

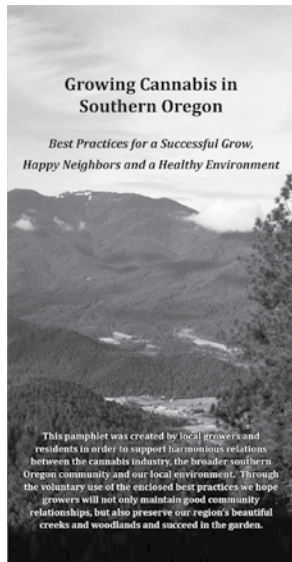
- Before building a fence, consider whether you need one and allow a reasonable setback from roads and lot lines.
- Try to build with materials that blend in with your environment or plant a hedgerow of fast-growing shrubs and trees instead.
- Follow all legal setbacks from lot lines and keep grow activities a respectful distance from neighbors' homes. Best practice is 100 feet from property lines for structures and 15 feet for fences.
- Incorporate wildlife corridors so that deer and other critters have safe passage.

**Fire safety**

- Have fire safety rules and a fire plan and make sure everyone you work with is familiar with them.
- Familiarize yourself with our local fire season and regulations.

**Water usage**

- Research your water rights and respect their limits.
- Consider using rainwater catchment, drip irrigation, and mulch, and make a plan for water conservation.



- Don't take water that is not legally yours to use.

**Erosion and pollution**

- Leave buffers of native vegetation around all waterways (best practice is 100 feet).
- After conducting activities that expose bare soil, re-seed, mulch, and create sediment traps.
- Pick up trash and limit sources of pollution.
- Provide appropriate bathroom facilities so that human waste is not a source of pollution.

**Wildlife.** Benefit the

wildlife that share our beautiful valley through organic practices; fertilizer and trash containment; generous setbacks; corridors; water conservation; noise, light and pollution mitigation; erosion control; and traffic safety.

**Scale.** Consider succeeding with a smaller grow before scaling up. Risks for neighbor conflicts, pest outbreaks, mold, labor shortages, and cost overruns all increase with the size of your grow.

**Indoor versus outdoor.** Consider growing outdoors. Outdoor grows are less expensive to operate, easier to manage, use less energy, and have fewer impacts on the environment and neighbors. If you do choose the greenhouse approach, consider using renewable energy.

**Fertility and pest management.** Consider growing your cannabis organically. Organic production is less expensive, better for the grower's health, and increasingly mandated by state testing standards.

**Employees.** Consider hiring local help and paying living wages. By hiring local, you support the local economy and help alleviate many of the negative impacts of transient laborers.

**Links to useful references**

- Oregon Sungrown Growers Guild ([oregonsungrown.org](http://oregonsungrown.org))
- Oregon Department of Agriculture (water quality, cannabis, pesticide resources)
- [oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/AgWQ/Pages/AgWQPlans.aspx](http://oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/AgWQ/Pages/AgWQPlans.aspx)
- [oregon.gov/ODA/agriculture/Pages/Cannabis.aspx](http://oregon.gov/ODA/agriculture/Pages/Cannabis.aspx)
- [oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Pesticides/Pages/CannabisPesticides.aspx](http://oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Pesticides/Pages/CannabisPesticides.aspx)
- Oregon Department of Forestry, fire regulations ([swofire.com/p/fire-season-regulations.html](http://swofire.com/p/fire-season-regulations.html))
- Oregon Water Resources Department ([oregon.gov/OWRD/pages/index.aspx](http://oregon.gov/OWRD/pages/index.aspx))
- Oregon Water Resources Department, Josephine County Watermaster (541-479-2401)

For more information or to order copies of the brochure, please email your request to [goodneighborpractices@gmail.com](mailto:goodneighborpractices@gmail.com).

Evelyn Roether

[goodneighborpractices@gmail.com](mailto:goodneighborpractices@gmail.com)

## Serpentine geology makes the Applegate unique

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

The lush, dense forests of our region sometimes give way to sparsely vegetated, rocky, and unique habitats called "serpentine barrens," where the underlying serpentine soil influences vegetation in very obvious ways, making the casual observer ask: "What is going on here?"

Many people are familiar with and have visited the largest area of serpentine in North America, the Josephine Ophiolite, roughly situated between the coast and Grants Pass where one can see California pitcher plants (*Darlingtonia californica*) and hike the unique Kalmiopsis Wilderness. While the Applegate doesn't have Darlingtonias, the biological diversity and unique flora of our watershed are also heavily influenced by the occurrence of serpentine.

If, like me, you are not a geologist, the following explanation sums it up in a tangible way:

"Terrestrial life, perched on the Earth's continental crust, has evolved on soils formed from relatively low-density rocks such as granite that are rich in silica, calcium, potassium, and phosphorous. The chemistry of these soils is usually amenable to plant growth almost by definition. Deeper in the Earth, forming its mantle and most of its oceanic crust, are darker and denser ultramafic (high iron and magnesium) rocks and minerals. Near the surface they may become serpentinized—altered in contact with water. These submarine rocks are seldom seen on land but occasionally become stranded on the edges of continents during the process of subduction (the disappearance of one crustal plate beneath another). The resulting terrestrial islands of ultramafic rock, or serpentine outcrops, are truly 'unearthly' in their appearance. (Serpentine is technically a mineral, but the same word is often used for ultramafic rocks, the soils that form from them, and the unique ecosystems that form on them.) Serpentine soils are deficient in plant-essential nutrients and often also in organic matter... whereas they are enriched in magnesium and sometimes in nickel, chromium, and cobalt. This unusual chemistry gives rise to rocky, sparsely vegetated landscapes that form striking boundaries with the lush vegetation on neighboring soils. In some parts of the world, serpentine has given rise to spectacular levels of plant endemism" (*Serpentine: The Evolution and Ecology of a Model System*, edited by Susan Harrison and Nishanta Rajakarua).

In other words, serpentine comes from deep in the Earth and is very old. Although serpentine occupies less than one percent of the land surface of the earth, it has an ecological importance that far outweighs its extent, making it special where it occurs—like the Applegate! Everyone should also be aware of the possible threats to the survival of its rare plants and ecosystems from ongoing land management activities.

Get out and see some of the unique serpentine habitat in the Applegate River



The red, weathered serpentine rock of the Red Buttes gives rise to unique plant communities. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

Watershed this summer! And don't forget your plant identification manual!

• **Big Red Mountain.** Use Forest Service Road 20 on the Siskiyou Crest to access the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) at either Siskiyou Gap or Wrangle Gap. Plants to see: split-hair paintbrush (*Castilleja schizotricha*) and Lee's lewisia (*Lewisia leana*). Threats: Off-highway vehicle (OHV) impacts.

• **Observation Peak.** Use Forest Service Road 20 on the Siskiyou Crest to access the PCT at the signed PCT crossings west of Jackson Gap. Plants to see: Henderson's horkelia (*Horkelia hendersonii*) and Whitney's milk vetch (*Astragalus whitneyi*). Threats: OHV impacts and public land grazing.

• **White Mountain.** Head east on the PCT from Cook and Green Pass to access this remote and interesting geologic area in the Condrey Mountain Roadless Area. Plants to see: Siskiyou willow-herb (*Epilobium siskiyouense*) and Lemmon's sword fern (*Polystichum lemmonii*). Threats: Public land grazing impacts.

• **Red Butte.** Head west on the PCT from Cook and Green Pass. Walk below the serpentines of Cook and Green Butte on your way to the iconic Red Buttes themselves. Continue west along the PCT in the Red Buttes Wilderness to see more serpentine at Kangaroo Mountain and Kangaroo Springs. Plants to see: Baker's cypress (*Hesperocyparis bakeri*), Siskiyou fritillary (*Fritillaria glauca*), and Siskiyou hastingsia (*Hastingsia serpentinicola*). Threats: Chromium mining and US Forest Service proposal to reintroduce public land grazing in the Red Buttes Wilderness.

• **Sucker Gap.** Located within the Red Buttes Wilderness along the Boundary Trail. Plants to see: Howell's lousewort (*Pedicularis howellii*) and false turtlehead (*Nothochelone nemorosa*). Threats: None. Thankfully, it's protected wilderness.

• **Bolt Mountain.** Unusual low-elevation serpentine between Wilderville and Murphy. Park at Fish Hatchery Park and hike the Bolt Mountain Trail. Plants to see: Hall's violet (*Viola hallii*), Indian dream fern (*Aspidotis densa*), and large flowered star tulip (*Calochortus uniflorus*). Threats: None currently.

Suzie Savoie

Conservation Chair, Siskiyou Chapter  
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## OPINIONS

**River Right | Big numbers!**

BY TOM CARSTENS

*It's clearly a budget. It's got a lot of numbers in it.* —George W. Bush.

The combination of big snowmelt and big rain has meant that all our rivers have big water. River flows are measured in cubic feet per second (CFS); these numbers are also big right now. The folks I paddle with study these numbers. You could call it “risk-budgeting.” Little kayaks on big, roiling water can make for interesting trips.

It is budget time and that brings another set of big numbers. Federal, state, county—everyone's trying to match needs with resources. Well, the feds, not so much—they can spend without regard for income in spite of being over \$20 trillion in the hole. It's hard to wrap my head around that number, which comes out to over \$61,000 of debt for every American. Not sure how that'll be repaid. At least, by law, Oregon's state and local governments must balance their budgets.

Our legislature has been trying to work out a \$1.6 billion shortfall in projected revenues. The Democrats want to raise taxes. They contort themselves into framing income redistribution schemes that make it seem like someone else will be

paying the tab. But they don't fool most of us—in the end, we know who pays the tab. Beleaguered, Republicans are suggesting we try cutting some spending.

Last February, the joint Senate-House Committee on Ways and Means held a series of meetings throughout the state to gather public input on what to do. Did you attend the one in Ashland? Even though speakers were limited to two minutes each, it was a full three-hour parade of sacred cows competing to spare the knife. I brought up the uncomfortable fact that the state actually has an unfunded liability of around \$22 billion (and growing), mostly due to future Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) pension obligations. That full amount is not yet a deficit on today's balance sheet, but it does represent promises for which we have no idea how we'll pay.

Not really understanding how big that number is, I worked out that 22 billion seconds ago or 697 years is the year 1320, which is 172 years before Columbus first set sail. And the world was still flat! Put another way, that's over \$5,000 per Oregonian. It's so much money that our

legislators don't really have a clue how they're going to deal with it. Out of around 4,400 bills presented this session, not one addresses this.

Give credit to our own Senator Alan DeBoer. He's about the only guy in Salem actually looking for solutions to this huge problem. He thinks the PERS unfunded liability will eventually reach \$50 billion if we don't act. Now, that's a wow.

Among other things, he's tinkering around with individual and corporate taxes to try to get at the “unfunded” part. He should be careful: we don't want to look like Illinois, breathlessly trying to tax our way out of financial difficulty while citizens and businesses scurry off to states with more favorable tax climates. Think of it as the “self-draining swamp effect.”

Sooner rather than later, we're going to have to look directly at the “liability” part, i.e. the lopsided contract the public employee has with the taxpayer. That's going to take some political courage and leadership. Without it, we're going to see some real pain. All those sacred cows could be headed for the slaughterhouse. We're already seeing consequential cuts to local



Tom Carstens

school budgets. (Why do schools always seem to be the first to get the ax?)

Meanwhile, DeBoer is also looking at how the state could relieve the PERS liability from local governments. A significant percentage of our two county payrolls is encumbered by pension costs. Josephine County tries to work in these costs up front with each new hire, but it's hard to project; legislative relief will be needed to address the spiraling pressure. Jackson County maintains a “rainy day” fund, but the county can't keep this up forever—PERS will someday “eat our lunch,” says the county administrator.

At least we can take some budget comfort here in the valley. Our Applegate Valley Fire District is one public entity that provides great support at a bargain-basement price. Small numbers, zero drama, big payback. Maybe we ought to put those guys in charge.

See you on the river...but watch those numbers!

Tom Carstens  
541-846-1025

**Global warming and sustainable agriculture**

BY RAY SEIDLER, PHD

“Climate change” is the long-term trend in the Earth's climate (changes in temperature, wind, precipitation, strength and frequency of extreme weather events). “Global warming” refers to the increase in Earth's average surface temperature due to increased concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG). “Sustainable agricultural practices” are farming techniques that protect the environment, soil health and productivity, and public health, human communities, and animal welfare.

How does all this come together?

A lot of Applegate Valley agriculture is known to involve sustainable and near-sustainable agricultural practices. These practices protect neighbors, use few if any toxic synthetic pesticides, and attract more consumers who seek foods, plants, and “vine imbibes” with enhanced health and nutritional properties.

Climate models suggest that global warming from the release of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide) will change everything about our future agriculture industry.

The graph shows temperature trends anticipated for Jackson County, including

the Applegate area, through the year 2100 based on mathematical modeling conducted by US Geological Survey scientists. The upper line represents the mean maximum temperature scenario that assumes consumption of fossil fuels at the accelerating rate we have exhibited to date (“business as usual” or BAU). Meanwhile, the lower line assumes we change the trajectory and slow the rate of accelerating fossil fuel use and GHG emissions by about 50 percent.

As illustrated by the graph, we have already experienced a 1.5-degree F mean increase in annual temperature during the 1950 to 2005 period. It shows another 4 degrees F expected to be phased in over the next 40 years, with an additional 4.1-degree F increase (9.6 degrees F total) by the end of the twenty-first century if we follow BAU.

These models predict less snowpack for summer irrigation, earlier spring snowmelt providing less irrigation water during the late growing season, and a reduction in soil moisture. Anticipated are:

- Changes in the current natural fauna and flora

- A necessity to change crops using cultivars more adapted to a warmer environment (such as different grape varieties)
- Possible losses of beneficial biological control and pollinator populations
- Warming river temperatures as riparian vegetation zones change (disappear?)
- A significantly increased area involved in wildfires and, therefore, increased potential for soil erosion

Scientists have estimated that the global food system and conventional agriculture practices contribute one-third of the GHG emissions and account for some 30 percent of the world's energy consumption (nature.com/news/one-third-of-our-greenhouse-gas-emissions-come-from-agriculture-1.11708). Fossil fuel combustion for the production of ammonia fertilizer, mining, and shipping of other mineral fertilizers, soil preparation, synthesis and application of pesticides, manufacturing farm equipment, and the harvesting and shipping of food thousands of miles from where it was produced all contribute to energy demands. In the Rogue Valley, we are now receiving fruits, including table grapes, from Chile, located some 6,000 miles away.

Adding to the problem is the loss of soil organic matter as carbon dioxide, largely since World War II, due to farming practices that physically disturb the soil

and use nonspecific toxic chemicals to control pests. This destroys the soil's health and sustainability.

Scientists believe that if some atmospheric carbon dioxide gas is sequestered back into the soils to again form soil organic carbon, further global warming can be at least partially slowed. It is possible that 5 to 15 percent of annual global carbon dioxide emissions can be offset by increased global soil carbon sequestration (cdn2.sustainabilitylabs.org/ecosystem-restoration/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Soil-Carbon-Sequestration-Impacts.pdf).

Financial incentives to sequester carbon by using sustainable agricultural practices include improved fertility and soil water-holding capacity and increased crop yields.

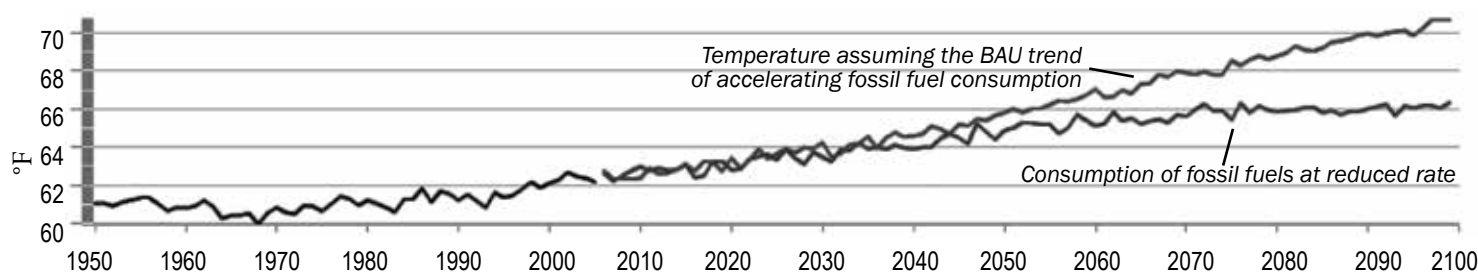
Soil carbon sequestration is only a minor part of the total repair of global warming. Reduction in fossil fuel emissions coupled with soil carbon sequestration is vital for buying time to find more significant ways to slow climate change.

Practices that facilitate soil carbon sequestration are:

- Decreasing the level of soil disturbance (tillage)
- Increasing the mass of organic inputs to soils (organic fertilizers free of toxic chemicals, plants with numerous deep roots)
- Improving soil microbial diversity and abundance by increasing soil organic matter and avoiding or limiting toxic pesticides
- Adopting year-round cover crops and crop rotation.

Ray Seidler, PhD  
rayseidler@msn.com

Ray Seidler is a retired professor of microbiology, former senior research scientist with the US Environmental Protection Agency, and board member of Our Family Farms in Medford, Oregon.



Temperature trends for the Rogue Valley from 1950 to 2100 using data from the US Geological Survey (2.usgs.gov/climate\_landuse/clu\_rd/nccv/viewer.asp). Graph provided by Alan Journet, PhD, of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now.

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## OPINIONS

**Behind the Green Door | Make America green again**

BY CHRIS BRATT

The Sierra Club recently sent us (my wife, Joan, and I are members) two separate mailings. One was a "Certificate of Appreciation," which honored our "45 years of outstanding leadership preserving, protecting and enjoying America's great outdoors, wildlands, and wildlife." The certificate reminded me that our family has been on the right side of environmental causes for ages, and that protection of our precious natural resources continues to require a long-term commitment from concerned individuals, families, and communities. It also reminded me that future generations, including our grandchildren, are relying on all of us to leave them a healthy, peaceful, and functioning world environment. A planet that right now requires what a past Sierra Club executive director called "CPR" (conservation, protection, and restoration).

The second Sierra Club communication was a call to action for their 2.7 million members to defend our natural legacy of public lands and waters. The message outlined possible threats from the Trump administration and Congress to our amazing national and natural holdings that include:

- More than 400 national parks, 560 national wildlife refuges, and nearly 250 million acres of other lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
- 154 national forests (Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the BLM Medford District manage 66 percent or 324,669 acres in the Applegate.)
- 873 federally recognized National Conservation Areas encompassing almost 32 million acres.
- 129 national monuments, of which two are in the Applegate's backyard.
- 680 wilderness areas protecting over 106 million acres in 44 states, including 16,709 acres in the Red Buttes Wilderness in the Applegate.
- National historic sites, battlefields, recreation areas, national preserves, memorials and more.

All Americans are the heirs to these magnificent places, so let's not allow private economic interests to carve up our public lands for profit.

If you want to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy them as we do, become an active Applegate stakeholder and volunteer for a local or regional environmental organization.

Most frightening are President Donald Trump's executive orders, which negatively affect social-justice issues and threaten to end the government's role in protecting the environment. He has proposed cutting the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) budget by 31 percent and EPA jobs by 20 percent (3,200). He also wants to end EPA programs and regulations that would help reduce the effects of climate change (which he believes is a hoax).

Another executive order requires a review of the Antiquities Act of 1906 to look for what Trump's administration calls "government overreach." After this review, it's possible that our local Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument designation could be removed or diminished, along with other national monuments.

Further, the Trump administration has inspired lawsuits by Oregon timber companies and associated groups to challenge the BLM's failure to sell more timber, which is what they believe is called for in the Oregon and California (O&C) Lands Act of 1937. Other timber-industry lawsuits assert that the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, managed by the BLM, has improperly allowed

O&C lands to be included within its borders. This new administration is gearing up to cut a lot more timber by lowering protections on a lot more local public land.

The Donald Trump presidency has popularized anti-environmentalism through its support for more conservative family values, private-property rights, and political self-determination for rural communities. This has attracted disgruntled people who are fearful of their economic future and suspicious of government, which has used these anxieties to compromise environmental laws, ethics, science, and public participation.

All concerned people, especially environmentalists, must develop a smarter approach to solving these economic and social problems. We need to come up with proposals to keep rural areas viable, create local jobs, and organize these alienated folks. In the meantime, we must face these threats to a sustainable environment head-on and continue to give America CPR, making it green again.

Let me know if you're on board.  
Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

**Unsafe shooting on Anderson Butte**

BY NEAL ANDERSON

Anderson Butte is an increasingly popular recreation area for hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, hunters, motorcyclists, and people just out for a scenic drive. Located in the Little Applegate watershed, south of Jacksonville and just west of Medford, Anderson Butte totals 11,742 acres, most of which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Generations of people have grown up learning to shoot and hunt on Anderson Butte, and it has been a remote escape for many. However, as Medford and the wildland-urban interface (WUI) have expanded, Anderson Butte is no longer secluded. Many homes now surround Anderson Butte, and hundreds of people are regularly out in the woods or on the trails that crisscross the area.

When Anderson Butte was logged, roads were constructed by cutting into the ridges; landings for logging were created by leveling land on the outside curves of the roads. Now these areas are often used for target shooting. The land drops away

from these staging areas, and bullets not stopped by targets can go out into the trees and land below.

What may look like unpopulated forest often has a house or a trail only a few hundred feet away. Today, 70 homes—inhabited by people, their pets and livestock—are situated within one-mile radii of popular shooting sites. Bullets fired from some of these landings have a range as far as five miles, based on shells collected at the sites. In January 2016, a bullet coming from a popular shooting site on Anderson Butte went through the door of a home about a mile away.

That hasn't been the only incident. The complex of ridges and valleys of Anderson Butte creates short sight lines, making it challenging to see or hear where shooting is coming from and trapping motorcyclists and equestrians on public trails for fear of being hit if they move.

Bullets from Anderson Butte target-shooting sites have whizzed by hikers on the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail, hit trees on

private land while people were working outside, and hit outbuildings.

Instead of shooting out into space from those landings, some people have shot at targets across or down the roads. This illegal activity is dangerous for those driving vehicles and their passengers, especially since there are many blind curves on those roads. Sometimes people have shot across roads using the banks uphill of those roads as backdrops; shooters may not be aware that many trails for recreation are above those banks.

A group of people, including homeowners near Anderson Butte, recreationists, and members of the National Rifle Association, has contacted the BLM, our elected representatives, and the sheriff's department about unsafe target shooting on Anderson Butte. Recognizing the danger, the BLM positioned concrete barriers and posted signs to discourage unsafe shooting. The BLM continues to communicate to those participating in recreational target shooting that firearms must be discharged toward a backstop sufficient to stop a bullet's forward progress.

The BLM and the sheriff's department will increase patrols on Anderson Butte to help curb unsafe shooting. These efforts are not trying to curtail Second

Amendment rights, and no one wants to limit the actions of those who follow safety principles while enjoying public BLM land. Most of those shooting from those Anderson Butte sites simply don't realize how many people they are putting at risk.

Unsafe target shooting affects people who enjoy recreation on Anderson Butte and people who live nearby. We hope that people going to Anderson Butte for target practice will obey these basic gun-safety rules:

Shoot only if you know what is beyond your target and if you have a sizeable backdrop that will catch any bullets missing your target—otherwise, you are putting other people at risk.

Don't shoot across or down a road—such shooting is illegal, and others use these roads.

Some local organizations offer free gun-safety courses. Shooters can also become members of the Medford Rifle and Pistol Club in Central Point or the Jackson County Sports Park Shooting Complex in White City, with one of the best shooting ranges in southern Oregon.

Thank you.

Neal Anderson  
(No relation to Anderson Butte)  
ngeoanders83@wildblue.net

**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 focus on 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](mailto:gater@applegater.org) or mail to *Applegater*, Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

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## OPINIONS

## 20 years of BLM failure

BY JACK DUGGAN

The 1995 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plan (RMP) listed areas to be managed for off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation. "Timber Mountain/John's Peak (TM/JP) 16,880 acres" was one of them. No written description or maps defined any of these areas. These 43 characters within those quotation marks set off a controversy about issues of trash, trespass, noise, and erosion that has impacted Applegate residents for more than two decades. Major players include BLM, local residents, and the Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA).

For five years this undefined area was included in BLM and Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation brochures. In 2000, leaflets declaring that motorcycles were taking over the mountains were distributed throughout the valley. BLM had issued a permit to the MRA to hold a three-day event with routes that would include county roads and private property. The permit was pulled.

In 2003 BLM began an environmental review for the TM/JP with a scoping (public comment) period in which the public could say what issues should be included in the environmental impact statement (EIS). At the first public meeting for that process, Kristi Mastrofini, now BLM's Ashland field manager, Medford District Office, presented slides of the MRA logo and began promoting the organization.

In 2006, while BLM was in the process of developing a draft EIS, area residents finally saw maps of the proposed OHV area. The name and acreage have changed many times since. The draft EIS, released in 2009, was widely criticized for failing to consider scoping issues, failing to show a full range of impacts, and failing to account for the costs of implementation. In 2012 the BLM held a six-month "alternative dispute resolution" process that resulted in an agreement to disagree.

While the draft EIS was in development, the BLM issued a categorical exclusion (CX) to repair damage to an area known as Bunny Meadows. There were no objections to this CX until BLM put up a sign naming it a "staging area" and posted a kiosk map that included the MRA logo and showed trails across private property. The next CX came in 2014, a proposal to "maintain and rehabilitate" 72 miles of OHV trail

over a period of five years. The CX did not meet the criteria for a CX nor for a trail designation and was appealed by numerous individuals and organizations.

In 2016 BLM issued a new RMP that presented an interim plan to be used for "existing roads and trails." No definition of existing roads and trails was provided. That should mean the roads and trails considered existing must be legally established. There are no legally established OHV trails in the Applegate.

Now comes another CX to "maintain" 65 miles of trails over two years. It is little different from the 2014 CX, meeting neither the criteria for a CX nor the criteria for trails. The very damage BLM seeks to repair was caused by their promotion of user-created trails. Many of us see this as an attempt to legitimize user-created OHV trails that have never been legally and appropriately evaluated.

It is clear to me that BLM is biased toward off-road machine recreation. At the time of those 43 characters in 1995 and during the development of the draft EIS, BLM's recreation coordinators were both OHV enthusiasts. The Medford District has the highest number of proposed OHV areas of any BLM District in Oregon. Hikers and bicyclists must pay their own way to do an environmental review before building trails to meet BLM specifications, but OHV enthusiasts get to create trails wherever they like with no cost to them and no environmental review. It is no wonder residents are ignored.

Residents are once more preparing appeals to the latest CX—our First Amendment promises that "Congress shall make no law...abridging the right of the people to petition their government for a redress of grievances." (Unfortunately, this article will be published after the deadline for appeals has passed.)

So let's petition our government. Let's spread the word that this is no way to be a good neighbor or a good member of our community. We may have to live with BLM, but they have to live with us. Together we might all get them to take a more balanced view.

Jack Duggan  
shanachie@hughes.net

*Jack Duggan lives in the Applegate where he would be surrounded by the proposed OHV area.*

## From the Siskiyou Crest to the Rogue River: Federal land management in the Applegate Valley

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

The scope and scale of currently proposed or approved federal land-management projects in the Applegate Valley are staggering. The region we love and call home could be significantly altered by the cumulative impact of federal land timber sales, new roads, off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails, and increased livestock grazing on the Siskiyou Crest. From the mouth of the river and through the foothills to the Siskiyou Crest, our neighbors managing federal land have big plans—some good, some bad, some ugly.

In an attempt to produce timber volume, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has recently proposed a flurry of timber sales in the Applegate Valley, some bad and some ugly. They have either proposed or approved timber sales from Wilderville to Williams, Thompson Creek and throughout the Middle Applegate, to Little Applegate and Upper Applegate. The BLM has approved, but not yet logged, the Pilot Thompson Timber Sale, extending the length of Thompson Creek. They have also approved, but not yet sold, the controversial Nedsbar Timber Sale in the Little and Upper Applegate Valleys. That sale would cut some of the last low-elevation, late seral forests in the Little and Upper Applegate watershed, build new logging roads, and generally reduce both forest health and fire resilience by logging large, old trees and dramatically reducing canopy cover. The BLM has proposed "re-packaging" the sale for auction in the fall.

The Grant Pass BLM is proposing the Pickett West Timber Sale in the western Applegate Valley near Wilderville, Murphy, and North Applegate Road. The sale would log healthy, fire-resilient old forest and build numerous new roads into relatively intact native habitats. Many logging units are located along the proposed Applegate Ridge Trail, and two new roads would be built on top of the proposed trail corridor. Recently, the BLM also proposed a new timber sale in the Middle Applegate and has identified the entire area from Ruch to Thompson Creek for potential logging and "vegetation management." This includes places like the Wellington Butte Roadless Area, China Gulch, Forest Creek, Humbug Creek, Ferris Gulch, and Slagle Creek.

The BLM also recently approved a categorical exclusion (CX), allowing OHV trail maintenance and de facto designation on 23,000 acres and 65 miles of unauthorized motorcycle trails. The project covers a vast region from Forest Creek, China Gulch, and Upper

Humbug Creek to Jacksonville, Central Point, and the Rogue River. Despite the massive scale of the project, the CX shields the agency from environmental analysis and public comment. All 65 miles of unauthorized OHV trails have been built without authorization or attention to trail standards, creating extreme environmental impacts. The BLM has approved motorized use on "existing" trails (with no definition of "existing") that impact the endangered Gentner's fritillary (the official flower of Jacksonville), northern spotted owl nesting habitat, riparian areas, the Wellington Butte Roadless Area, and the proposed Applegate Ridge Trail, a broadly supported nonmotorized trail. The CX can only be described as ugly and is being appealed by numerous community organizations.

On US Forest Service (USFS) land, the agency is updating its grazing management plans for the first time since the 1960s. The project is known as the Applegate Grazing Complex and covers 166,452 acres in the Little and Upper Applegate watersheds, including the high meadows of the Siskiyou Crest. The agency is considering grazing in long-ungrazed areas, including the Red Buttes Wilderness Area and numerous botanical areas. Public land grazing is currently impacting water quality, biodiversity, and a multitude of other resources.

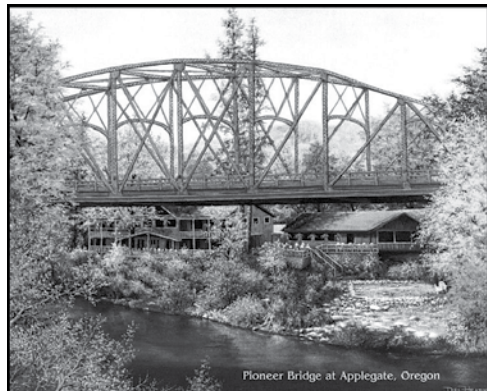
Meanwhile, the BLM and USFS are proposing a joint project in the Upper Applegate. The project is being planned under the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA). The concept is to promote innovative and ecologically balanced public land management through collaboration and public input. Currently the project is developing into a comprehensive plan encouraging outdoor recreation, improving pollinator habitat, reducing watershed impacts from damaged or unnecessary forest roads, reducing fuel risks, and maintaining resilient forest conditions through the use of prescribed fire, fuel reduction thinning, and commercial thinning in both natural (but previously logged) and plantation stands. Many in the community are hopeful that the final proposal is one we can support.

Through the good, the bad and the ugly, Applegate Neighborhood Network will be here representing community and conservation interests. Join us. There is a lot to do.

Luke Ruediger  
541-890-8974

Applegate Neighborhood Network

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## Applegate Lions Club members go back to school

Members of Applegate Lions Club recently completed work on a new swing set at Applegate School, bringing with them their expertise, tools, heavy equipment, and lots of opinions about how to proceed! "These guys were lots of fun," said Darrell Erb, principal. "They all had ideas about the best way to do things. I did my best to stay out of the way as they do great work!"

The Applegate School staff and students want to shout out a giant thank-you to our local Lions Club!

Lions Club members volunteered at Applegate School. Top photo: Larry Hogan. Bottom photo: Stephen Rapp.



# Williams has a town council?

BY MIKE SMITH

The Williams Town Council and Citizen's Advisory Committee (WTC/CAC) started over 30 years ago when Josephine County had over a dozen citizen advisory committees. All the others stopped functioning due to lack of volunteer interest or challenges in communicating with the county. The Williams CAC is the only active CAC left in the county. Purely an advisory body, lacking any formal authority or budget, it allows Williams residents to participate in land-use, long-range planning, and other issues relating to the planning and development of Williams.

The organization has two primary functions. One is to hold town meetings on matters that are timely and important to the community or that present difficult problems or discontent. These meetings give WTC/CAC a chance to support residents on projects that are beneficial to the development of Williams, such as bike, horse, and pedestrian pathways, or events that encourage a healthy community.

The WTC/CAC's other primary function is its advisory role to the Josephine

County Planning Division. The CAC reviews, researches, and may comment on development permit applications that it receives from the county. If an application appears controversial or could have significant community impact, the WTC/CAC can call a town meeting for discussion and input, which may inform the CAC's advisory comments to the county.

Historically, the WTC/CAC has assisted the community with challenging issues such as industrial logging, a proposed cell tower near the elementary school, and the sale of hard liquor in Williams. In recent years, the WTC/CAC saw little activity until the legalization of marijuana. Since then large recreational marijuana grows have been submitting applications to the county for processing plants, inviting community comment.

Of course, the introduction of any industrial-scale business into a region that includes residential areas, such as the "green gold" (marijuana) industry in Williams, comes with its challenges. As many residents know, marijuana production has many social and environmental impacts,

especially when we consider the cumulative effects. Local citizens have clearly expressed to WTC/CAC their complaints and concerns, such as traffic, excessive noise, and light pollution from greenhouses.

At this point, issues concerning noise and night light are particularly difficult to resolve when the grow is on property zoned EFU (exclusive farm use), which is considered "resource land" zoning that is possibly protected by an old "Right to Farm" act. If the grow is on property zoned RR (rural residential), current county ordinances apply. The state legislature has ruled that counties can pass "reasonable regulations" to mitigate these issues on "resource lands." Many counties have passed such measures. Josephine County has yet to consider such action.

The WTC/CAC is currently working to help resolve some of the growing pains we are experiencing. By holding town meetings and encouraging citizen involvement in the planning and development of Williams, perhaps we can collectively find solutions to the very real problems we face and nip them in the bud. As one of the permaculture principles states, "We are the problem; we are the solution."

Mike Smith, WTC/CAC member  
 applegatevolunteer@gmail.com



## How Clean IS Your Well Water?

with Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

Ever consider what might have gotten into your drinking water? Is your well head surrounded by dirt, or in a little building outside where your pet raccoon or rat has made it's home?

Often your well is out of sight and out of mind. Just because you turn the faucet on and water comes out doesn't mean you are fine.

Take a walk out to the well where the casing comes up out of the ground and look around. Is there insulation falling around the top of the well, spiders, ants, frogs, or mouse droppings? If this stuff is around the top of your casing then, **EWV**, because there is always a chance that it can get into the well & contaminate your water source.

When you get back to the house and can think again - give you favorite Water Well Pump and Filtration Service a call and ask about getting your water tested. It just might be time to ensure that you have safe clean drinking water for your family.

*Water is a geological cocktail, so DRINK MORE WATER!*



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Pay attention

Dear Applegater:

I was lucky enough to attend an event in the Applegate Valley where my husband and I visited with old friends and neighbors. Even though my family moved to Ashland over 20 years ago, many of our friendships in the Applegate remain intact. The closeness and caring of living for 20 years in the valley are still very meaningful and grounding in our lives.

At the gathering, we all spoke about the happenings of the past year and our gratitude and love of place. We spoke about fears for the next four years, and a number of friends spoke of their commitment to their watershed and their valley, focusing their attention on what's taking place close to home. While it's very worthwhile and beneficial to take care of our families, neighbors, and friends, I feel the urgency of issuing a strong warning not to bury our heads in the sands or close ourselves off in the mountains. It's important, now more than ever, to stay awake, stand up, and be heard. I'd like to remind my friends that Hitler, too, was elected into a democratic government and demagogues have a way of distorting the truth, separating groups from one another and destroying democracy. After World War II there was a famous quote from a European priest that I paraphrase and update here: "First they came for the Muslims and I say nothing, then they came for the Mexicans, the gays, the blacks and I still say nothing. And then they came for me."

Although I am not saying it will happen, and I actually have confidence in our people's love of country, but anything can happen, especially if good people are in hiding, not speaking out or standing up. The beauty and strength of living in the United States is that we have safeguards, we have freedoms, and we need to keep them alive and current. Yes, care for our communities close to home and still pay attention to what is happening around you because you are truly not separate from any of it.

Sincerely,

Sheila Canal, Ashland, Oregon (Applegate Valley property owner)

...

### Climate changes

Editor:

Maybe all folks living in Oregon, the nation, or the world think the same. Certainly, many of us in the Applegate Valley think this is the best place in the world to live. But we are also noticing the rising temperatures that the weather service reports—over two degrees during the last century. We are noticing the trend of reducing snowpack, even though we've had a couple of decent snow years. Water shortages resulting from this trend are also troubling us. And we are aware that drought is becoming an ever-present threat while our fire season and fire risk are both increasing.

It's time for Applegaters to join concerned peoples across the nation and the planet in addressing the global warming that is causing these climate changes. And we need to do it before our entire way of life is compromised.

Fortunately, we can do this. The Oregon legislature is considering placing a cap on the climate pollution that is causing our problems. The proposal will reduce pollution and generate funds earmarked to provide economic assistance to rural southern Oregon as we transition to a clean-energy economy with better-paying jobs. Data show us that reducing climate pollution can help our economy.

Sincerely,

Alan Journet, Jacksonville, Oregon

Co-facilitator, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

...

### Community issue

Dear Editor:

A problem with large-scale cannabis production that has not been mentioned is that it often invites crime. When a large crop of cannabis nears harvest, there is the likelihood of theft, and the perpetrators (as well as the growers) are often armed. This should be mentioned in meetings concerning the pros and cons of this new community issue, as it has been a real problem in other locations.

Thank you,

Pete Gerard, Jacksonville, Oregon

### SUMMERTIME

*Continued from page 5*

while the elite attend  
 NY Fashion Week  
 pretending we can all go on  
 like this

And I don't know how to fit  
 into this poem  
 the millions of refugees  
 that have streamed into Europe  
 running from  
 insane zealots with arms,  
 both sides intent  
 on killing each other 'til  
 no one's left standing

\*\*\*

The I Ching says,  
 "may you live in interesting times"  
 the Buddhists call it *samsara*  
 the Christians—I gave up on them  
 a long time ago,

and the only thing that makes sense

is to plant lettuce in October, 'cause  
 it's way too warm for fall spinach

sing praise to the velvet-petaled rose  
 as she opens one last time

bring water to the raspberries  
 and hope to see the shy green frog  
 hiding among their canes

Speak truth  
 Honor beauty  
 Practice love

All else is folly.

H. Ni Aodagain  
 hnauthor@gmail.com



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## NEXT GENERATION

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

### Ruch student wins park season pass

Ruch Community School is very excited to announce that first-grade student Savannah Barclay won a Cantrall Buckley Park Season Pass for 2017!

Savanah created a scene that she often enjoys—the playground at our favorite local family park and campground, Cantrall Buckley. She then submitted her design and was declared the winner.

The annual contest encourages local children to draw favorite activities at the park and campground. A panel of judges reviews all the drawings submitted, and their votes determine the winner.

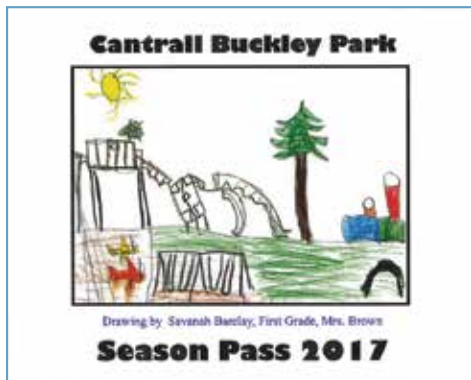
Savanah received a season pass for her family and her classroom teacher, Mrs. Brown. “I love playing on the monkey bars,” shared Savanah with a smile. She also enjoys helping stack wood and working on structures in the park. Savanah plans to spend a lot of time this summer in our very own Cantrall Buckley Park, making memories to last a child a lifetime!

Cantrall Buckley Park and Campground supports community youth and their families. With 1.75 miles of Applegate River frontage, it is one of only two public access points to the river. It provides a swimming hole, fishing opportunities, beautiful picnic spots, and a newly renovated playground where children like Savanah can spend lots of time playing on monkey bars and other equipment.



Top photo: Savannah Barclay and her teacher, Mrs. Brown.

Bottom photo: Savannah's winning design.



If you would like to join the efforts to modernize the campground and provide utility hookups to the campsites, please visit [gacdc.org](http://gacdc.org) for more information.

### The best classroom is outside!

It seems that the world of education is always looking for a new math curriculum, strategies for assessment, or a new and better way to manage student behavior. We should look no further than right outside the front door.

Students from Ruch Community School recently spent a morning in the Jackson Creek Wetlands with their teacher, Ryan King, and forest park volunteer and retired teacher, Clayton Gillette. Joined by other volunteers, students pulled blackberry bushes, hauled gravel, and restored parts of the trail that meanders through the Wetlands. Engaged in a classroom activity and lesson that was the furthest thing from textbooks, notebooks, or computers, the students instead were armed with gloves, shovels, and wheelbarrows. Nature was their classroom!

Students at Ruch Community School know better than anyone that they learn most outside while providing a service to their community. Service learning combines the principles of experiential learning with service to the community. In the process, it supports students' personal, academic, and social development.

“We look forward to regular work and fun visits with your students in the future



Great crew, and great job done!

as they can lay claim to adopting the Jackson Creek Wetlands as their very own creation,” stated Tony Hess, Jacksonville Forest Park volunteer. “They showed up with great enthusiasm and demonstrated hard work.”

So, while other institutions are desperately searching for curriculums to boost test scores, I suggest getting outside with your students and staff. Discover services that can be performed by your students, and offer them something greater than a grade: a sense of ownership and passion for the environment around them. Give them a sense of belonging and connection to their community—then watch your test scores take off.

Authors are students of Ruch School teacher	Applegate by Lori Yates	Rogue River by William della Santina
<b>Jennifer Drane.</b>  valley by Katie Costello Applegate Valley So much to do lots to see Run outside and play Swimming in the lake Have fun hiking, and biking See the scenery	Have you ever been to Applegate? Where salmon jump lake to lake. The geese fly and say GOOD-BYE! Oh you must come to Applegate. The lake dances beautiful with majestic colors. Come join us with the fun in the sun. Applegate, awaits you...	I feel the spray of the raging river, I hear the sound of the splashing rapids, I see the glistening of the calm water, I taste the sweet summer in the air, I love the glorious Rogue River, Flowing through my heart forever.

Ruch School information provided by  
Julie Barry, Principal  
541-842-3850 • [julie.barry@medford.k12.or.us](mailto:julie.barry@medford.k12.or.us)

### “Science+” a success

Applegate School staff and students welcomed a big crowd of parents and community members on Monday, April 24, for “Science+,” a celebration of science and learning. There was plenty to do for those who attended!

In addition to science projects and classroom exhibits, Pacifica’s Caterpillar, the touring science museum, was on hand to provide information on pollinators. And Liese Murphree with ScienceWorks Museum in Ashland led an exciting show using liquid nitrogen.

Students’ science projects were on display, and families received passport stamps for each of the areas they attended, to qualify for a drawing held at the end of the evening.

Three students were honored at the district level for their projects. Cody Locke,



Seventh grader Aiden Fimbres fills up a balloon with gas during the “Science+” ScienceWorks Museum presentation.

grade five, received a Gold award for his experiment, “Comparing Hackamores”; Chris Hartley, grade five, received a Gold award for his “Battery Life versus Temperature” experiment; and Max Vidlak, grade four, received a Silver award for his experiment, “How Many Seeds.”

### Applegate School National Junior Honor Society members recognized

Capping the Science+ celebration was the induction into the National Junior Honor Society, where hard-working students joined a time-honored and elite society of young scholars whose commitment to academia, citizenship, and leadership are recognized.

Pictured are 2017 inductees (front row) Maria Cross, Seth Davis, Lily Emmons, Soren Emmons, Lexi Hill, and Ronan Hodge; (back row) Macy Kliever, Hunter Krouse, Coral Lowry, Carlen Nielsen, Emma Singleton, and Nate Vidlak. Teachers Star McAdam (left) and Michelle Stone (right) presented certificates. Existing members Sam Vidlak, Bree Saunders, Marly Marcoulier, and Lucas Cross officiated.



Applegate School's new inductees display their certificates from the National Junior Honor Society.

### Great things are happening at Williams Elementary!

#### Literacy Night was fun for all

Students and families who attended the recent Literacy Night at Williams Elementary were pleased to see a special guest that night: The Cat in the Hat! This coincided with our library’s book fair, and those present were able to purchase books and other items that promote literacy. Folks came early and enjoyed a hot-dog dinner, then went to the gym to participate in loads of games that emphasized learning.

There was also an academic corner where parents could pick up information on how to help support their students’ learning by grade level. The night ended with ice-cream sandwiches and a classic Dr. Seuss story read by Principal Erb. It was a fun night. Hope you can join us next year!

#### Williams students back in the garden again

Sarah and Shayne Ayrsman are two wonderful volunteers who have agreed to be garden coordinators for our school. Students are getting their hands dirty preparing beds for spring planting. All grades are involved—we believe students should learn by doing, and our garden provides a great opportunity for them to learn where their food comes from and the work it requires in order to realize a harvest.

#### Southern Oregon Sanitation taught us the three Rs

No, not “reading, ’riting and ’rithmetic,” but “Recycle, Reduce, Reuse.” Our students are learning not only how to grow their own food, but also how to keep our land beautiful and clean. Second and third graders have even taken a further step and made reusable fabric grocery bags to help reduce the use of plastic bags. Students have also written letters to encourage businesses that still provide styrofoam cups and takeout boxes to find biodegradable solutions.

#### Re-invention Show uses recycling

Inspired by the three Rs, Williams Elementary held a Re-invention Show on April 10 to honor Earth Day and to culminate a school-wide unit on reducing, re-using, and recycling.

#### Local star cast in Music Man

A talented student in our fourth-fifth classroom, Samantha Solano, was cast in *Music Man*, a play produced in Grants Pass. The entire school was able to watch the performance along with neighboring schools and districts. We were proud to see one of our own on stage.

#### Thanks to two generous folks!

A special thank-you needs to be expressed to James Kalfas and Greg Cox for their generous contribution of the new banner that has been placed on our gymnasium wall. The banner reads “Williams Elementary, Our School, Our Family, Our Community.”

#### Reader board facelift under way

Our reader board is getting a facelift and will be moved closer to the road for your viewing pleasure! Look for the board in the near future. It will be placed close to the stop sign in front of the school and will list important events and exciting news.

#### Smokey Bear was in the house

The kindergarten and first-grade class received a surprise visit from Smokey Bear. Remember, only you can prevent forest fires!

#### Upcoming events

Coming soon Williams School will have a visitor from the National History Museum. There will also be an all-school field trip to Pacifica, a trip to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) in Portland, and a jet-boat excursion on the mighty Rogue River to ride out the school year!

Lots going on in our growing school!

Applegate and Williams school information provided by  
Darrell Erb Jr., Principal  
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# A view worthy of a trail: East ART progress

BY DAVID CALAHAN

Since March 23, the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) has watched our locally hired crew lean into the task of creating a new hiking trail high on the slopes above Bishop Creek. Whack, whack, whack, foot by laborious foot, grubbers and Pulaskis bit into the earth, leaving a narrow brown path that crept slowly across the incredibly beautiful and diverse landscape of our valley. On the ground, progress was measured in hundreds of feet per day. On the map, progress was measured in tiny quarter-inch segments.

By now the actual construction of the 5.6-mile East Applegate Ridge Trail (ART) is nearly completed. Although improvements at the primary trailhead off Sterling Creek Road are done, a number of tasks still need to be accomplished before the trail is officially opened to the public, hopefully this summer. The trail's proximity to Jacksonville, jaw-dropping views, and an easy grade for the first three miles are bound to make the East ART very popular. Shortly after we started, the trail was discovered by mushroom pickers, hikers, mountain bikers, and critters, all pleased to be using a trail across those steep slopes.

For me, reality set in during the first days of trail building. After so many years, thousands of volunteer hours, and thousands of dollars, this community dream was coming true. But as the thin brown line grew, I had to ask myself, what have we done? "If you build it, they will come." It is true, they will come. I know in a short time the disturbed earth will blend again and from a distance the trail will disappear. Mother Nature is an excellent healer. But I had to wonder, will all the benefits of the trail outweigh the impacts of so many humans coming to what once was a difficult place to visit? Analyzing this question from many angles, I felt my internal scales tipping heavily to "yes," and every thoroughly delighted and astonished hiker reinforces that conclusion. The trail is a good thing.

This undertaking has elicited so much support it is impossible to thank all those who deserve it. But some special praise should be given to the ATA board (past and present); Siskiyou Upland Trails Association; Annette Parsons; Duane and Katy Mallams; Zach Million, recreation planner with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); the late Ed

Reilly; Rogue WorkSource; Northwest Youth Corps; and all those volunteers who showed up for the three East ART work parties. Few can appreciate how much these people have put into this project.

For those wielding a tool, the work caused some sweat and maybe a blister or two. Funding for the trailhead improvements, trail planning, and construction came from REI, the Schwemm Family Foundation, Title II grants, fundraising, and your donations.

What's next for the East ART and ATA? First we seek funding to establish an improved trailhead on the west end off Highway 238 near Forest Creek Road. Then we start planning for the Center ART, from Highway 238 to Humbug Creek. This section of trail will access the 7,000-acre Wellington Wildlands, which is comprised of all the public lands between Highway 238, China Gulch, Humbug Creek, and the Forest Creek ridgeline. Even though these public lands look and feel like wilderness, they do not have official



Aerial photo of East ART view by Scott Harding.

wilderness status or protection. ATA is convinced that the public can sway BLM away from logging the few isolated patches of timber in this incredible backyard gem. It is our

hope that BLM will recognize the true value of recreation in southern Oregon, especially nonmotorized recreation in wild places, and give it the attention it deserves.

ATA has two more scheduled events. On Sunday, June 18, Alex Weinbrecht (alex@applegatetrails.org) will host a horseback ride on the Enchanted Forest Trail. Bring your own horse. On Sunday, July 9, Diana Coogle (diana@applegatetrails.org) will host a hike on Mount Elijah. For more information, go to applegatetrails.org.

When it is ready, you must go up on the East ART. The grade is gentle, and the views, starting in a few hundred yards, get better and better around every corner. It is a whole new way to see the Applegate. See you on the trail.

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

## Williams says farewell to beloved teacher Joanne Wardle

Joanne Wardle has been teaching school for more than 30 years (since 1985), the past seven of which have been at Williams Elementary School. Now retiring, she will spend her last day with students on June 15.

While Joanne may be looking forward to retirement for sleeping in on school days, gardening, traveling, and spending precious time with her grandchildren, there are those at Williams Elementary who say she will be sorely missed.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Joanne for the past three years," said Darrell Erb, principal. "She's an amazing teacher—so committed to students and this community, so caring and positive—we will miss her big-time. She picked us all up every day!"

The search has begun to fill Joanne's position. There is always a new chapter, but Joanne's service has left a legacy at Williams Elementary.



"Joanne's story is one of unselfish service to us all, and her impact will live on," said Mindi Gallegos, office manager at the school. "We will miss her infectious smile, her upbeat disposition, and, best of all, her home-baked goodies!"

We wish her the best in her retirement!

## Annual Williams scholarships awarded

Each year scholarships toward ever-increasing college expenses are given to deserving students who live in the Williams School District. This year a total of \$3,250 was awarded to three exceptional students. Congratulations to:

**Autumn Hewitt • Autumn Wilkins-Kahn • Calder Wilson**

The Williams Community Scholarship Fund was established in 1982 by Ray and Peg Prag, Wendell and Irene Shampine, and Burt Eikleberry. In the last 35 years, well over \$50,000 has been awarded in the form of 115 well-earned and much-needed scholarships of varying amounts.

Originally, money for these scholarships was earned by selling soft drinks at Pioneer Round-Up. Later, funds were raised by selling plants, mainly donated by Forestfarm. Each year most of the earnings were awarded as scholarships, while a small portion was saved and invested so that the Williams Community Scholarship Fund could award scholarships based on annual interest earnings. This year, however, with such outstanding students, more money was given out than earned, making your donations all the more important.

In the face of rising tuition costs and the increasing importance of continuing education, the scholarship fund was created to "promote post-secondary education for members of the Williams community." Scholarships are awarded on the basis of scholastic achievements, extracurricular activities, financial need, and long-range goals.

Please consider donating to the Williams Community Scholarship Fund. Donations enable us to provide more and/or larger scholarships. One hundred percent of donated funds goes towards scholarships. There are no administrative costs—the five Board members volunteer their time. Donations from community members stay in the community. For more information, contact Peg Prag at 541-846-1100 or peg@pacificgarden.org.



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## Look who's reading the Gater

Take us with you on your next trip. Then send your favorite "Reading the Gater" photo to [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org) or mail to *Applegater*, PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.



**Photos, clockwise from top left:**

- Diana Potts** was pleased to find a review in the *Gater* restaurant section of a hot tapas bar in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.
- Karen Giese**, stranded on Whidbey Island, searched the *Applegater* for rescue services.
- Annette Parsons and Jim Clover** checked the *Gater* events calendar to see who's on the bill at the Amargosa Opera House in Death Valley Junction, California.
- Kiana and Andres Raber** traveled safely to Cloud Gate, aka "The Bean," in Chicago's Millennium Park, thanks to the *Applegater's* updated GPS application.

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

**THINK EMBERS**

*Continued from page 1*

many new folks move to the Applegate each year, I'm thinking it's time to bring back those messages for a quick review. After all, with all the rain we got this winter, the fine fuels, grasses, and weeds are already tall and plentiful.

You may remember that statistically, most homes are destroyed in wildfires because embers or firebrands flying ahead of the fire land on fine fuels that catch and ignite the home. (A wildfire roaring through the forest is *not* the most common cause of homes burning—it moves too quickly.) However, if the home is covered with pine needles, has leaves in the gutters, or firewood stored underneath the deck, rest assured those flying embers will start ignitions everywhere. The photo on page 1 from the 2002 Missionary Ridge Fire in Colorado illustrates how a home with fine fuels on and around it can ignite, while the thinned mature trees are still standing.

Studies from large fires as far back as 1961 have shown a 95 percent survival rate in homes with two things: a (well-maintained) fire-resistant roof and 30-60 feet of vegetation clearance (Stanford Research Institute, Howard et al. 1973). However, a 30- to 60-foot vegetation clearance is not a hard and fast guarantee that your home will survive! There are other sources of burnable materials besides

vegetation. "Fire spreads as a continually propagating process, not as a moving mass" (*Reducing the Wildland Fire Threat to Homes: Where and How Much?* by Jack D. Cohen, PhD). If there are *any* fuels leading to your home, the fire can and will spread.

So think about things like your garage, carport, or a neighboring house, the old wooden fence around the yard, or even a wood mulch pathway to the front door. If you live in a neighborhood with homes close together, fire could spread from house to house. What if a neighbor is burning a slash pile on their property and your wood fence catches fire? Could it lead to your house? Or if the school bus stopped to drop off the kids and the exhaust pipe spewed embers onto your mulched pathway, leading right up to the front door?

Yes, I'm describing a "home ignition zone" or HIZ—the area surrounding your home that has fuels that could lead a fire to the house itself. Every HIZ is different, and it is possible (and common!) to share an HIZ with a neighbor. Break up the fuel lines, make them "discontinuous," and maintain this work over time. You'll be better prepared for fire season, and your local firefighters will thank you!

Sandy Shaffer

[sassyoneor@gmail.com](mailto:sassyoneor@gmail.com)

For more information on the HIZ, contact me via email or check in with the Applegate Fire District. Free pamphlets are available!

### Fire season is approaching: Be ready, be set, go!

The Applegate Valley Fire District No. 9 reminds us that every year homes in southwest Oregon are threatened by wildfire and other emergencies. Follow the Ready, Set, Go evacuation process provided by the Rogue Valley Fire Prevention Cooperative.

**Ready**...make copies of important papers, set aside a supply of water and food, designate a place to go, and plan a way for friends and family to find you.

**Set**...pack your emergency kit, water, and food; point your car so it's facing out the driveway; and monitor local news stations for updates.

**Go**...act quickly, close all windows and doors, and leave for your designated location in a safe manner. Do not return home until told to do so by incident officials.

You are responsible for your family's safety. Be prepared, stay informed, and remember: Ready, Set, Go! Visit the Rogue Valley Emergency Management website at [rvem.org](http://rvem.org) to learn more about the Ready, Set, Go evacuation process.



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