

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.
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Applegater

Photo by Linda Kappen

applegater.org



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Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 11,000

Celebrating
~24~
Years

AVFD honors its own at annual awards event



At the annual Applegate Valley Fire District awards ceremony and dinner on February 2, the Firefighter of the Year award (photo, above left) was presented to Julian Ramirez (left) by Battalion Chief Cody Goodnough. Volunteer of the Year award (photo, above right) went to Tim Ryan (left), with Operations Chief Chris Wolfard presenting. For a list of additional awards, see page 22. *Photos courtesy of Rob Underwood.*

See AVFD AWARDS, page 22

Cantrall Buckley Park Golden Jubilee



Coming this summer!

Join the Applegate Valley community in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Cantrall Buckley Park, which officially opened on July 14, 1968.

When: Saturday, July 14, 2018, 11 am to 7 pm

Where: Cantrall Buckley Park, 154 Cantrall Road, Ruch
The whole park is reserved for the day.

How: Concerts, exhibits, food, spirits, and much more!
The event will emphasize our Applegate community and its history.

We are soliciting the participation of local businesses and organizations.

Contact Tom Carstens, event coordinator, at 541-846-1025 or bumsonwheels@gmail.com (subject line: Golden Jubilee). Ditto if you'd like to help with planning!

For more information, visit gacdc.org and the calendar on applegateconnect.org.

The next generation of philanthropists is already doing good works

BY DIANA COOGLE

The meeting room of the Josephine County Foundation (JCF) at Hidden Valley High School (HVHS) is a bit of a mess. Cardboard boxes tumble along two walls. The meeting table seems incidental. The focus is on action.

The action signified by this mess is the Guatemala Project—donations of lightly used school supplies (binders, notebooks) packaged by JCF volunteers for shipment to Guatemala later in the month.

The Guatemala Project represents the desire to “make a difference,” the founding principle of JCF. Under the leadership of HVHS teachers Chris Pendleton (now JCF’s executive director and board treasurer) and Dale Fisher, students founded JCF



Promoting the Healthy Food Festival are JCF members, from left to right, Shaley Petropoulos, North Valley High School; Milo Dolantree, Hidden Valley High School; Cheyanne Dodge, North Valley HS; and Aria Back, Hidden Valley HS.

in 2011 with the vision of vibrancy, health, education, and prosperity for every individual in Josephine County. Like the boxes overflowing with school supplies

See PHILANTHROPISTS, page 22

A historic moment for A Greater Applegate

BY SETH KAPLAN

February 1 marked a historic turning point for A Greater Applegate (formerly GACDC), as the organization handed back operational control of Cantrall Buckley Park to Jackson County Parks and launched the new Applegate Valley Connect community website. These and other developments align with our new mission: “To sustain and enhance the communal, environmental, and economic vitality of the Applegate Valley.” It’s a big mission, but it also takes us back to the original vision of the founders of GACDC of “Sustaining Vitality in the Applegate.”

We want to acknowledge and thank Treasurer Larry Anderson and long-time member Lynn Funk, who resigned from the board at the end of 2017, as did Park Committee Chair Tom Carstens. Tom will stick around to lead the 50th anniversary celebration of the park on Saturday, July 14. All these community leaders will be missed, although, in this valley, no one is ever too far away to ask for help!

For more than two decades, GACDC/A Greater Applegate focused on maintaining

Cantrall Buckley Park, but it has remained committed to community visioning and launching new projects. Below are some of the key projects and strategies we are undertaking.

While A Greater Applegate will no longer be operating the park, we remain committed to its improvement. The new Park Enhancement Committee, chaired by Janis Mohr-Tipton, will benefit from about \$120,000 in recent grants to take on some wonderful new projects. We will partner with the county to install solar panels, a sundial, and an educational kiosk. We also will be providing public art, pollinator gardens, benches, educational programs for students, and more.

The new Applegate Valley Connect at applegateconnect.org is a free open-source website for Applegate Valley businesses, nonprofits, and others to share all the great events, activities, resources, and services across our valley. Committee chair, Barbara Holiday, and our consultant, Community Systems, LLC, have led this effort. Register

See A GREATER APPLGATE, page 7

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OBITUARY

Arthur Coulton

February 13, 1938 - January 20, 2018

My very dear friend and neighbor, Arthur Coulton, died on Saturday, January 20. His wife, Kristi Cowles, and his community of close friends gathered to pay their respects and assist in his burial on the mountainside above his home next to his beloved deceased wife, Linda.



Arthur was born in Toronto, Canada, on February 13, 1938, into a large, close-knit Latvian Jewish family. When Arthur was 13, his parents moved their immediate family to Palm Springs, California. After a number of years living in southern California, where his children were born, Art moved to the Rogue Valley with his second wife, Linda. They started a leatherworking business, Country Spirits, with a primary focus on handmade shoes, sandals, and boots. They also designed and created handbags, belts, pouches, and other leather goods, and marketed their products at fairs throughout the western states for many years. Arthur and Linda were juried artists at the Oregon Country Fair beginning in 1978 and were well-known throughout that venue. Local people who own their products may still remember Art and Linda 20 years from now because the craftsmanship they put into their shoes ensured that they would last a very long time. Art often joked that his products had a lifetime guarantee: his lifetime!

In 1984, Arthur and Linda moved into a yurt on their property on Humbug Creek, quickly establishing themselves deep in the Applegate community while building their home and leather shop. When Linda died of cancer in 2006, Art was so grief-stricken that few thought he would survive. But the old dog got on

the internet and learned new tricks, almost immediately finding Kristi, a Wisconsinite. Love blossomed, and, in October 2007, Kristi sold her bed-and-breakfast in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and moved to the Applegate. During their first year together, Kristi surprisingly “took to the shoe shop,” becoming a welcome addition to Country Spirits.

In the last months of Art’s life, as things became difficult, their community came

together to care for both of them. Praise is due to all those whose selfless efforts helped to comfort these two elder hippies through that time.

Because of my own efforts in assisting Art and Kristi, a good friend referred to me as “a true mensch.” I do aspire to be such a person, but I mentored with the one who personified that description—Arthur Coulton, a true mensch (“someone to admire and emulate, someone of noble character, someone with rectitude, dignity, and a sense of what is right, responsible, and decorous”).

Arthur is survived by his loving wife, Kristi, a brother, three sons, six grandchildren, and a host of Canadian cousins. This quote from his son speaks volumes: “My dad always viewed the world as what it could be, not what it is, and sought to live his life in a way that exhibited those values. His wisdom, perspective, and insight will be sorely missed.”

Arthur lives on in our hearts and minds and on our feet, so comfortable in our Country Spirit shoes.

Paul Tipton, in collaboration
with Kristi Cowles
ptipton@frontier.com



Land Steward students learn about trees and forestry during a field-based class.

Living on Your Land 2018

BY JACK DUGGAN

More than 100 years ago the Agricultural Extension system was created to spread the knowledge of land-grant colleges to rural farms, helping to improve food production. Soon farmers’ wives wanted to share in the knowledge, learning how to process those crops into food for the table. Children joined in with the establishment of 4-H. Today the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC) offers a wide range of affordable learning—covering topics like farms, orchards, livestock, forests, food preservation, and gardening.

In 2009 the local extension began offering a holistic program to guide people in managing their land to achieve environmental and personal goals. The 11-week Land Steward Program covers everything from pastures to forests, wildlife, fire, water, and more. Each year the programs fills up with some 35 students.

But not everyone can afford the time to take this program, so in 2011 the Land Steward Program started offering a one-day conference, Living on Your Land, covering a range of diverse topics for landowners.

This year’s conference will be held at the Grants Pass Rogue Community College

(RCC) campus on Saturday, April 14, 2018. The Land Steward Program has partnered with the Rogue River Watershed Council to offer a selection of classes on How Streams Work, Riparian Restoration, Water Rights, Fish Biology, Water Quality, Rainwater, and Springs. The ever-popular Funding Panel will return with a host of agencies sharing how you can get help to accomplish tasks on your land.

Classes on geology, irrigation, native plants, dehydrating food, citizen science, fire ecology, weeds, tree diseases and insects, weed management, and fruit trees are also included.

There will also be a panel on Neighbors, the Good, the Bad, the Legal. Panelists include a real estate broker, a landowner, law enforcement, and others who deal with neighbor issues.

Informational materials and a complete list of classes, with descriptions, are still being developed as the *Applegater* goes to press, but you can get on the list to receive a mailed brochure by calling SOREC at 541-776-7371. Registration will be online through RCC.

Jack Duggan
541-899-7310

An interview with Mary Jacks,
Sunshine Plaza owner

BY DON AND DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

For 41 years, Mary Jacks has owned and managed the Sunshine Plaza in Ruch. She has been a fixture in the Applegate Valley since the 1970s, and many businesses owe their success partially to her and her late husband’s pioneering commercial shopping center in our valley. Here is her story.

Where and when were you born?

I was born Mary Estremado on June 6, 1930, in the family home on Galls Creek Road in Gold Hill. My parents had two boys and three girls. Two of my siblings, Jean and James, are still living in Gold Hill. I was raised on the family farm and went to school in Gold Hill. Twelve grades were in the same building from the basement to the second floor. I graduated with the class of 1948 and, in 1952, I married Robert (Bob) Wesley Jacks.

When did you come to the Applegate Valley?

Bob was into logging, road-building, and construction in the area with many private and federal projects. He had



Mary Jacks, long-time owner of Sunshine Plaza in Ruch. Photo: Don Tollefson.

the opportunity to purchase property in Ruch from Hunter & Best, the McDough Brothers, Archie Pierce, and Wes Lincoln. In 1976 the beginnings of Sunshine Plaza started with the construction of the grocery store, now Ruch Country Store. Red Bowman was the contractor. The second phase started in 1977. The shopping center was built for the original tenant, Western Auto and Hardware, and took a total of

four years to construct. In 1979, after the center was completed, Bob died. **When Bob died, you were left with a daughter, property, and a business to run. At that time, and as a woman, was that a lot on your plate?**

It wasn’t easy, but many of the original businesses are still operating, though some with different owners. We still have a grocery store (originally Ron’s Market, now Ruch Country Store) and a restaurant (originally Lumberjack Café, now Honeysuckle Café).

Current and past businesses include a real estate office (Applegate Valley Realty), a resale shop (Born Again), a beauty shop (Salon 238), Applegate Christian Fellowship, a movie rental house, an exercise studio (Body and Soul), a chiropractor (Applegate Chiropractic and Wellness), a massage therapist (Haley May LMT), a tax accountant (Applegate Tax Service), and many more over the 41 years of my ownership.

Don and Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avrealty@gmail.com

3rd Annual
Williams
Propagation Fair

The Third Annual Williams Propagation Fair is coming up soon!

The event will be held on Sunday, March 11, from 11 am - 4 pm at the Sugarloaf Community Association park shelter at 206 Tetherow Road, Williams. The Williams Grange will hold their seed swap earlier that morning.

The fair is a free event, with scion of many different fruit trees provided free to the public. Grafting scions to rootstock provided for sale will also be available.

Scion is the fresh year’s wood-growth of a fruit tree. When trees are pruned in the winter, scion is collected, labeled, placed into the refrigerator, and sealed in plastic until spring, when rootstock becomes available. The scion (which determines the variety) is then grafted onto the rootstock that has the desired size, soil preference, and disease-resistant characteristics.

There will also be a potluck and educational opportunities at the fair. This is your chance to share your own scion as well as extra food-plant cuttings or divisions.

This propagation fair is 100 percent volunteer-driven.

For more information, visit scionexchange.wordpress.com.

Stories of Southern Oregon: Hear the stories. Meet the storytellers.

BY MAUREEN BATTISTELLA AND THALIA TRUESDELL

The Stories of Southern Oregon folks will be back in the Applegate this spring. Join them for a preview of video interviews and to honor the Applegate storytellers at Ruch Library on Saturday, May 5, from 2 to 4 pm, and at the 2018 McKee Bridge Celebration on Saturday, June 9. Both events are free and open to the public.

The Stories of Southern Oregon is a project that organized community forums about the region's agricultural, timber, and mining heritage. Thanks to funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the project has digitized family photos and artifacts and collected more than 175 video interviews. All this represents a rich historical and contemporary archive available for public use through the Southern Oregon University Hannon Library's digital collections, the Southern Oregon Digital Archives (SODA). The archive increases awareness of heritage work life and enhances the importance of preserving and sharing community values because history is now and history is everywhere.

The Applegate stories

Stories of hardships, connections, and successes abounded. Some pioneers had the foresight to record their experiences and struggles in journals and letters. Poems, quilts, photographs, and headstones in overgrown cemeteries also tell stories, some from over one hundred years ago, some more recent.

"We are creating history now," said poet Paul Tipton, "with this storytelling project and the unique stories, which are part of local history, that people will ponder in the future."

The Stories of Southern Oregon project began to document the history of the people in the Applegate Valley in June 2017 at the McKee Bridge Centennial Celebration. Huddled under a canopy while the rhythm of the rain kept time with the Old-Time Fiddlers, folks began sharing their stories, recording their histories, and scanning precious photographs.

Unsure if they qualified to assume a place in the history of the Applegate, some curious residents approached cautiously and were drawn in and encouraged to relate their relatively recent experiences of the last 40 or 50 years, assured that their contributions are valuable to local history. One resident recited poetry and another sang an old spiritual as the camera rolled. Environmental activist Chris Bratt spoke of his growing interest in preventing logging, mining, and herbicide use and the success that local groups have achieved in that area. Ryan Rabjohn talked about what it was like to live in the 1940s. Diana Coogole told tales about living in the woods and writing about what that life was like.

Two weeks later, the story project continued at Ruch Library. The library's community room is a busy place, and many patrons are there daily to use the computers. It is the perfect place to share



Vern Arnold (above) is videotaped as he tells his story at the McKee Bridge Centennial Celebration in 2017. Ryan Rabjohn (right), in old-time attire, adds his story to the growing Stories of Southern Oregon project.



stories, jokes, and zucchini (!), and the librarians hear it all. They knew whom to talk with, whom to call, and whom to encourage to share their stories.

At the Ruch Story Days, the environmentalists' point of view was balanced with stories of mining for gold in the 1980s and 1990s. Gold miner Glenn Wadstein was pleased with the work he accomplished in leveling the tailings piles at the old Sterling Mine, improving the land, and bolstering the local economy. He brought with him videos showing his crew of men and women operating equipment to retrieve the gold overlooked by earlier miners. He drew satisfaction from his research into mining and working in the community. "Thank you for encouraging me," said Glenn Wadstein. "Now I know my life's work will not be forgotten."

Residents understand the importance of heritage documentation and are eager to participate. "I am grateful we can all be recognized as valuable to future generations," commented Paul, "and that they will have access to our tales and the history of the Applegate Valley in our libraries through the Stories of Southern Oregon project."

See the stories

See the Stories of Southern Oregon on YouTube and in the Southern Oregon Digital Archives at soda.sou.edu, and join the storytellers for a reception at Ruch Library on May 5 and at the McKee Bridge Celebration on June 9. If you contributed a story or photographs, you'll be able to pick up a CD/DVD of your video and images at either event.

For more information, contact Maureen Flanagan Battistella at 541-552-0743 and battistem@sou.edu or Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-7438 and ttruesdell@jcls.org.

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A geranium you don't want

BY BARBARA MUMBLO

Shiny geranium (*Geranium lucidum*), a noxious weed new to the Applegate, was recently found in the vicinity of Forest Creek on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. You may have read Suzie Savoie's article about it in the Fall 2017 *Applegater*. This plant is fairly small, is a non-native annual, and spreads very aggressively. It's on list B ("a weed of economic importance that is regionally abundant") of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA's) noxious weed list. (Visit oregon.gov/oda/programs/weeds/oregonnoxiousweeds/pages/aboutoregonweeds.aspx for more information.) The infestation of shiny geranium is estimated to be about 40 acres.

So far, the shiny geranium is known only at the Forest Creek location, a small site on private land that is being worked on, and a few small sites upstream of Gold Hill along the Rogue River. It is easily transported by soil movement since its seeds are tiny. I heard that a friend of mine accidentally brought it home, probably having picked it up on his boots while fishing.

Two other non-native geraniums commonly found in the Applegate are Dovesfoot or Crane's Bill (*Geranium molle*) and Cut-leaved Crane's Bill (*Geranium dissectum*). However, these two geraniums are not the pests that shiny geranium is since they don't spread as rapidly. One of the features to look for to distinguish shiny geranium from these species is its red stem. Also, the leaf is not hairy and has a waxy appearance, so it seems shiny compared to the other two.

There may be more shiny geraniums out there than we know. We are planning to contact private landowners near this site to see if the plant might have moved onto their property. We would also appreciate your help in keeping an eye out for it as you travel around the valley.

The plan is to start control efforts for this infestation this spring. Participating in this plan are the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, the Medford District BLM (Ashland Area), ODA, Jackson and Josephine Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and Applegaters. This plant can make a monoculture, as has been seen in the Willamette Valley. We hope to keep it from becoming more widespread in southwest Oregon, especially in the Applegate Valley.



Be on the lookout for the shiny geranium, a noxious weed recently found in the Applegate. Photo: Bruce Newhouse.



The Dovesfoot geranium is non-native but is not considered a pest. Photo: Steve Matson.



The Cut-leaved Crane's Bill is another non-native geranium that is not considered a pest. Photo: en.wikipedia.org.

Leave me a message if you think you've found this plant, and I'll come check it out.
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BOOK REVIEWS

Winter Is Coming

Garry Kasparov (2015)

How many people remember “duck and cover” from their childhood school days? I do. I can still picture the underside of my grade school desk from all the duck-and-cover drill rehearsals for the coming nuclear war with the Russians. While I sat under that desk, I studied all the many years’ worth of chewed gum that had been stuck there, as well as a few other things that I could not identify. The underside of my desk was like a petri dish’s nightmare. I never thought it could save me from the coming mushroom cloud.

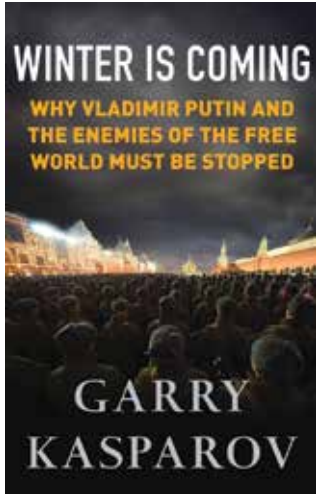
Much later, on November 9, 1989, the communist darkness that had engulfed Russia, along with its menacing threat to us, ended—or did it?

Winter is Coming author, Garry Kasparov, is a Russian who spent 20 years as the world’s number-one ranked chess player until his retirement. With his pen and voice he has been a crusader for democracy in Russia. He now lives in self-imposed exile in New York.

In this book, Kasparov covers the rise to power of the KGB thug and authoritarian Vladimir Putin. In a country where 20 million people can barely make ends meet, Putin’s personal wealth—according to Hermitage Capital Management CEO Bill Browder, who testified before Congress in July 2017—is believed to be around \$200 billion (Fortune.com, July 20, 2017). Doesn’t that make Bill Gates (Microsoft) and Jeff Bezos (Amazon) paupers in comparison?

As Kasparov tells us, as a dictator (all elections are now rigged in Russia), Putin’s wealth has been acquired through thievery, murder, and moral corruption. While reading this book, I realized that Putin makes gangsters such as Al Capone, Frank Lucas, and even Amado Carrillo Fuentes (richest Mexican drug cartel boss) look like Eagle Scouts.

Kasparov lays out a pretty detailed map of events showing that every American president since Putin came to power in



1999 has not really stood up to him. This lack of backbone from American presidents has allowed Putin’s KGB fangs of poison to kill off the anemic start of democracies in Russia.

George W. Bush said of Putin, “I looked the man in the eye. I found him to be very straight forward and trustworthy, and we had a very good dialogue. I was able to get a sense of his soul.” I hadn’t realized myself that Bush

was that blind. Then Barack Obama and his administration decided to do a “reset” with Russia—another “are you kidding me?” moment!

Like all dictators, Putin confiscates all media that does not pledge loyalty to him. Loyalty pledges are a big thing with dictators. According to the book, Vladimir Gusinsky, the Russian media tycoon, spent three days in prison and was forced to give up his media company to Putin and his closest gangster associates.

Putin even went after *Pussy Riot*, a Russian feminist protest punk-rock group, for mentioning Putin by name in the video they made of their performance of a brief “Punk Prayer” inside Moscow’s Cathedral of Christ the Savior. They received a two-year prison sentence for using what we in America call free speech. Russia’s prisons and graveyards are full of people who oppose him. One of Putin’s favorite expressions is “managed democracy,” as long as he is the manager.

The atrocities committed by Putin’s toxic touch have been felt in Georgia, Chechnya, Ukraine, and even in the United States. Kasparov makes it very clear how Putin’s menacing threats to democracy have gone from local to regional and, today, to global. Yet we still haven’t declared or treated Putin’s Russia for what it is: a criminal rogue regime. You don’t negotiate to the advantage of gangsters. You put them out of business.

If you are or are not interested in what’s happening on the world stage, you still need to read this book because Putin’s foul breath touches us all.

J.D. Rogers • 541-846-7736

Sugarbob goes to the Lodge

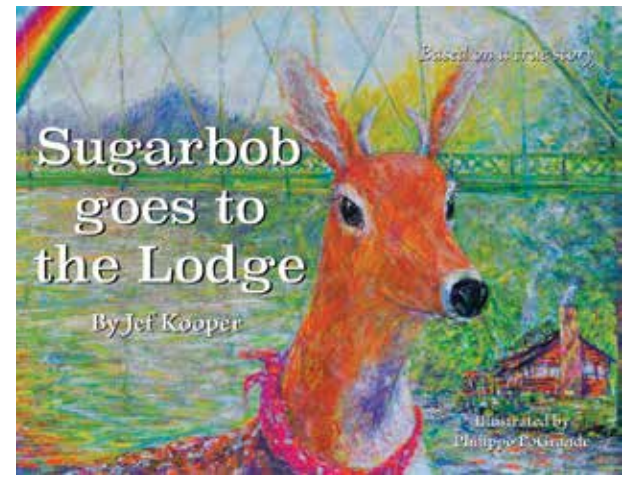
Jef Kooper (2018)

Having grown up in the Applegate Valley, I’ve heard many stories about Sugarbob, the playful deer who was rescued from the Applegate River by the owners of the Applegate River Lodge. If you live near Applegate, you probably have too. I remember hearing how, even as a fawn, Sugarbob would make his way across the busy Highway 238 to say hello to people at the Applegate Store & Cafe. I didn’t have the pleasure of meeting Sugarbob personally, but after reading this book, I’ve come to know his story better than I ever have before.

Sugarbob goes to the Lodge first introduces Richard and Joanna, owners of the Applegate River Lodge. One day while they are working, Joanna sees a baby deer floating down the Applegate River. Richard runs outside, hopping into the chilly whitewater to save the fawn. They bring the baby deer back to the lodge and take care of him, naming him Sugarbob and tying his famous orange bandana around his neck. Growing up around people and animals made Sugarbob an outgoing and playful creature. I heard that he would walk right up to you so you could pet him.

As the story continues, the reader watches as Sugarbob learns to adapt to his new surroundings and learns important things about safety and manners along the way. Then, as Sugarbob returns to his natural habitat, he is able to continue living his life as a normal deer, but still with close ties to his friends and family at the lodge.

The cute tales of Sugarbob the deer really show how a bond can grow between



humans and animals, no matter what kind. It’s amazing how a wild and usually shy animal can come to be an outgoing companion with the love of a few kind people. Rarely does something amazing like this happen, and I feel lucky to have had it happen in the small town of Applegate.

Sugarbob’s story really is a heartwarming one. And thanks to the wonderful writing of Jef Kooper, along with some truly beautiful illustrations by Filippo LoGrande, the story comes to life. *Sugarbob goes to the Lodge* is a sweet story that can be enjoyed by both children and adults. There’s never going to be another story quite like this one, so do yourself a favor and read it.

Carlen Nielsen

Williams resident and eighth-grader at Lincoln-Savage Middle School
info@rebellouisephoto.com

The book’s author, Jef Kooper, provided another review, this one from five-year-old Aliza, daughter of Chris and Meghan, owners of Crossroads Café in Williams: “It’s the best book ever. I love it!” *Sugarbob goes to the Lodge* is available at Applegate Store & Cafe, Provolt Country Store, Pennington Farms in Grants Pass, Takubeh Natural Market in Williams, and Rebel Heart Books in Jacksonville.

POETRY CORNER

Arthur moved

by Barbara Summerhawk

With great, quiet purpose
To the deck shadows
Where peppermint tea (and if lucky, a buttered bagel),
Stoked our casual forays into the sublime-light, and listened
As if whatever babble we believed at the moment was
Worth the wait.
The hallmark comment, a gentle chuckle, lends us hope
The cats may someday sit on our laps, too.
The only point Arthur pushed was an awl that
Laced up many of our Humbug feet and
Encouraged the process to make our roads and
Lives a little less dusty, so we could walk the
Valley with a clean slate.

Somewhere up ahead in the sky
He sits slapping his cosmic knee, a
Galaxy-wide grin on his face, patiently waiting
For all of us who love him: Arthur.

See Arthur Coulton’s obituary on page 2.

— NOTICE —

The Community Calendar seems to have taken up permanent residence on our website at applegater.org.

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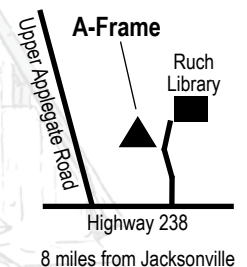
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WHO WE ARE

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

Our Mission

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. (AVCN), provides the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Watershed with a communications vehicle, the *Applegater* newsmagazine, free of charge to all watershed residents. Our quarterly paper presents constructive, relevant, educational, and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects such as:

- natural resources
- ecology and other science information
- historical and current events
- community news and opinions

AVCN encourages and publishes differing viewpoints and, through the *Applegater* newsmagazine, acts as a clearinghouse for this diverse community. We are dedicated to working together with community members to maintain and enhance the quality of life that is unique to the Applegate Watershed.

Acknowledgements

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All 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.

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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.

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Linda Kappen captured this painted lady nectaring on a dandelion in spring. Thank you, Linda!

Editorial Calendar

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

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Next deadline: May 1

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Arctic Refuge

Dear Editor:

The Senate/House tax bill conference endorsed oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This is amazingly short-sighted for many reasons. Many proven alternative energy choices can replace oil and gas, but there is only one Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge includes precious habitat for species ranging from polar bears and caribou to nesting birds and waterfowl. These migrating birds touch all 50 states and nearly every continent of the globe.

The Coastal Plain supports 135 species of migratory birds that fly to six continents and provides critical habitat for the iconic polar bear. In Oregon, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge may seem far away. But the Sandhill Crane and the Brant Goose migrate to and from the Coastal Plain and southern Oregon's Applegate Valley each year.

This Arctic attack ignores the will of the American people. For nearly 40 years, efforts have been under way to protect the immense biodiversity that is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the assault and devastation imposed by fossil fuel exploration and extraction (refugeassociation.org/advocacy/refuge-issues/arctic/). While completely ignoring and, in fact, violating the rights of and treaty obligations to the Gwich'in [Alaskan Native] people of the US and Canada, drilling proponents claim that lease sales will generate as much as \$1 billion in revenue over the next decade. Compared to the \$1 trillion-plus in tax cuts benefitting corporations and the extremely wealthy, such revenue, if realized, would not repay us for the destruction of our Arctic Refuge. Republican abuse of the budget process sacrifices one of the nation's most ecologically and culturally significant places for a paltry federal benefit.

Americans who care about our future should respond to this act of economic greed at the expense of our national heritage when they next enter the polling station.

Yours truly,
Dennis Specht
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
541-282-3456

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Resetting the conversation between BLM and the Applegate community

BY KRISTI MASTROFINI

Southwest Oregon residents and stakeholders place a wide variety of values on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This range of values can lead to conflict among community members and between the community and BLM. That is why BLM's Ashland Field Office has been working with local stakeholders to reset the conversation regarding public land management in the Applegate Valley. Over the past few years, relationships with the community have been challenged as a result of trying to work through collaborative efforts on contentious projects, such as Nedsbar, without the proper skill sets that could help us to be more successful.

With the rollout of BLM's new Resource Management Plan (RMP), public lands in the Applegate Watershed previously designated as the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA) were not carried forward. The Applegate AMA was incorporated in BLM's 1995 RMP as an area to develop and test new approaches to forest management that

integrated ecological, economic, and social objectives reflecting the needs of the land and communities. Applegate residents who valued the AMA designation are now concerned that BLM no longer values a collaborative process that was a hallmark to agency and community interaction under the AMA.

Collaborative action

The Ashland Field Office sought support from BLM's Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) Program to assist us in rebuilding trust with the community and to help move our engagement with the community in a more positive direction. In 2016, we began working with Kevin Preister, of the Center for Social Ecology and Public Policy, as a subcontractor of Kerns and West, Inc. Kevin, along with his staff, conducted listening sessions throughout the community, asking residents four key questions:

1. How do you use public lands?
2. What's important about these lands for you?

3. What's working well and not working well about the management of public lands?
4. What ideas do you have for making things better?

Kevin's work led to a series of neighborhood meetings as BLM began to conduct outreach for the upcoming Middle Applegate Vegetation Management Project. Kevin's work generated good information about the concerns and ideas of those who live and work in the Applegate community and identified opportunities for the BLM to foster more positive community relations and collaboration.

In autumn of 2017, the BLM began working with Diane Groves of Whole System Performance, also a subcontractor of Kerns and West, Inc., to begin preparing for a consensus-based workshop. Diane engaged approximately 55 diverse stakeholders in a series of conversations; most were face-to-face and some by phone. BLM staff were present as listeners for many of the conversations.

Two-day workshop

Information gathered from these conversations was used to customize a two-day consensus-based workshop. The workshop that convened in November 2017 was valuable in beginning to reset the conversation between the Ashland Field Office staff and public land stakeholders. We learned a variety of tools to help

build more cooperative and collaborative relationships. One of the most helpful tools we learned at this workshop was the Grounding Circle, which allows everyone a chance to speak uninterrupted while others listen with respect. The value of learning these tools and processes together with our stakeholders will be to help build capacity in collaborative process both within the agency and within the community. Conflict will likely always be present to some degree; however, through learning and building capacity, we hope to become more self-sufficient and effective in our conflict resolution.

As we continue outreach for the Middle Applegate Project, we hope all participants will utilize lessons learned from this important workshop to improve our relationships in working together more collaboratively throughout all aspects of project development and planning. We welcome anyone interested to join us in learning more about this work.

If you are interested in being on the notification list for upcoming meetings and field trips or would like to receive Ashland update letters, please contact Brian Lawatch at 541-618-2316 or blawatch@blm.gov.

Kristi Mastrofini • 541-618-2438
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NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— McKee Bridge Historical Society —

Save the date

Despite one close call this winter—an elder alder on the ditch bank fell across the corner of the west approach to McKee Bridge, resulting only in damage to the tree—the old bridge is standing strong and getting ready for its 101st birthday. This year, McKee Bridge Day will be held on Saturday, June 9, from 11 am to 3 pm with the usual good music, food, historic displays, vendors, raffles—something for everyone. We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of family fun and a celebration of local history.

At last year's Centennial Celebration, a number of local people were interviewed and video-recorded through a project called Stories of Southern Oregon, coordinated

by Maureen Battistella of Southern Oregon University. This year these stories, which give a variety of perspectives on the history of the past century in the Applegate, will be shown at McKee Bridge Day.

Our centennial t-shirts are still available at Ruch Store, Tiffany's Outpost, and Applegate Store. If you don't find your size, a full range will be available on June 9.

As the date gets closer, more information about this year's celebration will become available. For updates, visit Applegate Valley Connect at applegateconnect.org to read the information in our directory listing and also to check the calendar on June 9. Hope to see you all there.

Paul Tipton • 541-846-7501
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com

— Pacifica —

Spring at Pacifica

We've been enjoying a nice variety of waterfowl on Heron Pond: buffleheads, goldeneyes, mergansers, and more. There is a waterfowl identification sheet on the kiosk by the pond. Come enjoy our visitors.

New and in progress

The 2nd Annual Spring Art & Music Fest is being planned for Mother's Day. Bring Mom and have a great day looking at art, listening to live music, and eating great food. Moms get a complimentary canvas tote bag (\$1 for others) that they (or their kids) can decorate. It will be perfect timing for one of our great wildflower walks and a bird walk...after all, Pacifica is a nature center and it's spring! Sounds like a great day, so don't forget: Sunday, May 13, 10 am - 4 pm.

The Fragrance Garden is almost done (if a garden can ever be really done!). Whoo-hee! Over 100 kinds of fragrant plants have been planted around

the labyrinth and along the road. The Pollinator Garden has been dug and will hopefully be completed this spring. When things start to bloom, be sure to visit!

Pacifica will be working double-time this spring providing the Caterpillar's fascinating hands-on program, "Partners in Pollination," to local schools. Field trips (when the kids come to Pacifica) include a hay ride, art, and lots of fun science. In May we will also be hosting a new Outdoor School program for eight three-day sessions of 60 children each.

As part of plans for PODS (Pacifica Outdoor School), we now have our own little certified mobile kitchen built in a cool blue school bus. It will, we hope, be up and running by the Spring Fest so you can come admire it.

Volunteers are always appreciated for any variety of jobs. Please contact peg@pacificagarden.org.

Peg Prag • 541-660-4295
peg@pacificagarden.org

■ A GREATER APPLGATE

Continued from page 1

your organization on the directory so people know what you do and how to find you. Post your events on the calendar and share stories and details about the projects you are doing. We want Applegate Valley Connect to be the primary source of information for the entire Applegate Valley watershed.

In the near future we will be launching "Community Connections" to support Applegate Valley businesses, nonprofits, and neighborhoods with information, trainings, meetings, advocacy, and other assistance to better sustain and enhance the communal, environmental, and economic vitality of the Applegate Valley. Community Connections is chaired by our newest board member, Megan Fehrman. You will hear more about these efforts in the next issue of the *Applegater*.

In January, Vice Chair Paul Tipton and Barbara Holiday joined me for a meeting with Josephine County Foundation founder, Chris Pendleton, and a remarkable group of Hidden Valley High School students to learn what it's like to be a young person growing up in the Applegate Valley. We were reminded that none of us should assume what our community is like for anyone else until we ask them, and this will be a theme for A Greater Applegate moving forward. We are not here to speak for

others—we are here to create opportunities for all to speak.

We are excited to partner with a sister organization, IV Can, in the Illinois Valley. We are sharing experiences about community building in rural areas and have begun conversations about projects on which we might collaborate to benefit our entire regions.

Community chili feed

You can learn more about these projects, meet our board, let us know how you would like to get involved and what you think about a more vital Applegate Valley at our free community chili feed on Thursday, March 15, from 5 to 7 pm, at Applegate Valley Fire District's meeting facility. The community chili feed is sponsored by Craig and Amber Hamm of the Ruch Country Store. Craig is the new treasurer of A Greater Applegate.

All of this work would not be possible if we hadn't made the decision to hire Brooke Nuckles Gentekos as a very part-time consultant. We are excited to have Brooke supporting our committees, fundraising efforts, and organizational development.

As the saying goes, we are learning to build the plane as we fly it. If that sounds like fun to you, join us—you are very welcome! To make a donation, please visit gacdc.org.

Seth Kaplan
sethkaplanconsulting@gmail.com

••• BIZBITS •••

Applegate Country Club. Applegate Country Club (ACC) has expanded its hours and is now open six days a week (every day except Tuesday) from noon to 9 pm. Stop in, see friends and neighbors, and enjoy delicious pizza. Delivery for ACC members is available! 15090 Highway 238, Applegate • 541-846-1666 • applegatecountryclub.com.

Applegate Valley Connect. Check out this new community website that connects the Applegate Valley. Find events and information about businesses and nonprofits, use the handy links to libraries, schools, government, etc. Try it out—register now and enter your own information. It's free! applegateconnect.org • applegateconnect@gmail.com.

Applegate Valley Realty. The Jacksonville office of Applegate Valley Realty has a new name, Jacksonville Realty, and welcomes a new agent, Tammy French. All agents, including Don Tollefson, Debbie Tollefson, Carol Milazzo, and Tammy French, specialize in rural homes, ranches, farms, and vineyards, as well as historic Jacksonville. Applegate Valley Realty and Jacksonville Realty strive to offer you a smooth and enjoyable experience whether you are buying or selling your home. Jacksonville Realty, 935 North Fifth Street, Jacksonville • 541-218-0947. Applegate Valley Realty, 7380 Highway 238, Ruch • 541-261-0949.

Provolt Country Store. If you haven't been to the Provolt Country Store and Deli lately, check it out. Enjoy delicious baked goods (best croissants this side of Paris!), sandwiches, soups, pizza, and more. When you walk in the door, you will notice a fresh look. Always convenient for food on the go, the store now has an inviting seating area to stay and enjoy your food. You can also have beer or wine with your meal. Open Sunday - Thursday 7 am - 9 pm, Friday and Saturday 7 am - 10 pm. Corner of Highway 238 and Williams Highway, Provolt • 541-846-6286.

Troon Vineyard. Dr. Bryan and Denise White of Arlington, Texas, acquired Troon Vineyard with a vision of expansion. They had previously bought an adjacent vineyard, now known as White Family Vineyard. Their grand plan is to combine the two properties, a total of 95 acres, and convert Troon to exclusively estate-bottled wines. They will follow full biodynamic practices and attain biodynamic certification. Total production under the Troon label will be 7,500 cases. Wine industry veterans Craig Camp, general manager, and Steve Hall, wine maker, continue to lead Troon as it enters a new era. Says Craig, "Everyone at Troon is excited to reach the stars with our new wine." Tasting room is open daily from 11 am - 5 pm. 1475 Kubli Road, Grants Pass • 541-930-2089 • troonvineyard.com.

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THE STARRY SIDE

The real nature of the universe or viva la imperfection!



Greeley Wells

BY GREELEY WELLS

The universe is so beautiful and well-ordered. Planets circle around the sun, our moon circles around us, our solar system circles around the galaxy, and the galaxy around the universe, in ordered, predictable ways.

In the beginnings of our science, our illustrators used beautiful perfect circles around each circular orb, but later, with closer observations, we saw that the orbits weren't perfect circles at all. The moon comes closer to us at one point, then moves farther away, in an orbit expanding away from us at a rate of a quarter inch a year. One day the moon will even leave its orbit around Earth! We are regularly closer to and farther from the sun, a pattern that doesn't correspond to warmer or colder seasons because in winter we are actually closer to the sun than in summer. It is the tilt of the earth that gives us our seasons.

What we had thought were perfect circles are oval, elliptical, off-center, and at angles. Whereas once we thought the planets, including ours, were perfectly round, it turns out that almost all of them bulge at the equator.

Although all this is hardly noticeable, we do notice things like the longest day of the year. But, counterintuitively, the longest day doesn't have the earliest sunrises or latest sunsets. The shortest day of the year isn't the coldest, either, nor is the longest day the warmest.

Many such anomalies exist in the universe. Instead of a simple dance of perfection, the universe performs a much more interesting dance of imperfection, which actually *creates* the beauty we know. And part of the beauty is the surprise. For instance, things like eclipses need to be studied carefully to figure out when and

why and how and where they will appear. This depth of "imperfection" adds a level of exquisite beauty and unknowability to what might have been thought of as the simple, boring, repetitious, predictable, perfect dance of the universe. I am so grateful for the anomalies that make our universe so unpredictably fantastic. Viva la imperfection!

Orion is still setting in the west in April, with the "V" of Taurus setting west-northwest. Sirius is setting west-southwest. Castor and Pollux, in Gemini, are high in the west. Even in May, the Gemini Twins are still there, although all of their other winter cohorts have set. With the Big Dipper going over Polaris (the North Star), Leo the Lion goes almost overhead parallel to it. The zenith (the highest central point in the sky) is between them. These two constellations together make spring's

big and visible constellations. The handle of the Big Dipper has brought into the east one of the brightest stars in the sky: Arcturus (follow Big Dipper's handle arch to Arcturus). Rising in the east is the crown, Corona Borealis, followed by Hercules, the hourglass shape. They are both led by Arcturus up from the east to overhead as this season matures. Vega is rising in the east with Deneb, two of the summer triangle's three stars and harbingers of summer skies. The bright Capella is the five-pointed Auriga, which was overhead last season and now has moved west to soon swing around under the North Star.

Here's to clear, dark night skies and bright stars for us all!

Greeley Wells • greeley@greeley.me
Hey, check out greeleyandfriends.com—I make movies too!

Illustration from stellarium.org.



Of note

Mars is up in the morning and will begin to brighten dramatically, eventually outshining **Jupiter!** He will reign as the fourth brightest object in Earth's sky—after Venus, the moon, and the sun—from about July 7 to September 7, 2018, this summer. Wow!

Venus has been behind the sun, but in March and April, she is going to sneak into our evening dusk.

The Lyrid meteor showers—April's shooting stars—will last from about April 16 to 25 with about 10 to 15 meteors per hour. The showers will peak in the dark hours before dawn on April 22, when the moon is out of the sky. The Lyrids are known for uncommon surges that can sometimes bring the rate up to 100 per hour! The radiant for this shower is near the bright star Vega, now rising in the east-northeast in the constellation Lyra. It wasn't long ago that Vega set in the west with the very end of summer, but now it appears in the east with spring. The best viewing hours are in the dark morning before dawn.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Let's get trendy

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Gardens, like most aspects of life, rotate through trends and changes. Consider trends to be just that: trends. If the “trendy” stuff does not work for you, no problem. There is no right or wrong and all is good. Of all the new trends, gardening in containers is the focus here.

While container gardening certainly is not new, it is now being revisited as the latest and greatest. Personally, I have always loved container gardening, especially when I have had limited space to appease my passion. Here are some of the many valid reasons container gardening is a very popular and viable garden option:

- Some of us are getting older and appreciating the “less-is-more” philosophy. We don't need giant gardens unless we are feeding the entire tribe.
- If you are a small family, you can actually grow most of your edibles in containers.
- You can create a fabulous floral arrangement with living plants in containers.
- Plants in containers can have their water and nutrient needs taken care of much easier than long rows of plants.
- Plants in containers are much easier to protect from critters—deer, gophers, squirrels, slugs, or whatever else is chowing down. Just cover the container or move it to a protected area.
- There is almost nothing that will not grow in a container, although I'm not suggesting planting a giant redwood.

Check out the photos for examples of what you may want to plant. If you are just starting this project and plan to go full speed ahead with numerous containers, think about first placing the empty containers where you think you want them. Rearrange as much as you want while they are empty, because large, full containers are hellacious to move.

Certain plants, such as mint, comfrey, and ivy, should usually be in containers because they are horrific spreaders—via roots, not clumps. If you want a hillside of mint, toss the container and go for the hillside. It will smell marvelous.

Easy and practical suggestions

How about starting with some perennials, which come back every year? Again, there is no right or wrong with whatever you plant, with a few exceptions.

If you are placing more than one type of plant in a container, ideally they should require the same amount of water, fertilizer, and sun exposure. This will make them all very happy. Read the nursery label describing the plant's needs or ask the nursery expert. That's easy, right?

Vines, such as clematis, roses, honeysuckles, and even cucumbers, placed so they can climb are extremely happy in containers. They do not have big roots, but rather love the vertical space. Herbs like parsley, cilantro, dill, thyme, sage, oregano, and cilantro, are fabulous

and very practical in containers, especially when sitting outside your kitchen door or on a sunny window ledge.

Believe it or not, potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, parsnips, turnips, kohlrabi, and root vegetables in general do exceptionally well in containers. And zucchini, pumpkins, and other squashes also thrive when contained.

While old tires, stacked two high, are not exactly aesthetic, I planted squashes in them that produced an abundance of healthy and large vegetables. Lettuce also looks great and grows very easily in containers, although not necessarily in old tires. Strawberries do excellent in most containers. If you do see some bugs and slugs feasting on your delectables, they will not have a chance under your watchful eye.

Vegetables and flowers are so practical and easy to grow in containers. Frankly, flowers planted in containers are my passion—I liken them to a masterful and colorful work of art. Again, no rights or wrongs—containers with mixed colors, different shades of color, tall plants, and short flowers all work. Containers can be planted with a kaleidoscope of colors or designed with a limited color pallet such as blues, purples, pinks and whites.

All is good—it is your garden. If you mix annuals and perennials together next year, you will need only to replace the annuals.

If I can help, clarify, or suggest anything to get you started, email me. It will be my joy and pleasure.

Dirty fingernails and all,
Sioux Rogers • 541-890-9876
dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm



Photo, top left: Ready-made salad in a basket (deborahsilver.com).

Photo, lower left: A variety of herbs thrive in containers (edencondensed.com).

Photo, lower right: Black krim tomatoes planted in old tires (i.ytimg.com).



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Cantrall Buckley Park news

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Cantrall Buckley Park in transition

Now that Jackson County Parks has taken over the management of our “gem of the county” park, Cantrall Buckley, you may see, when you visit, a park host, a park ranger, a community volunteer, or me. I am the organizer of enhancements and new projects in the park. Before the transition, it was Tom Carstens, the former chair of the Park Committee, who worked hard at managing and improving the park. Now the community and the new Park Enhancement Committee (PEC) have the fun task of envisioning new enhancements and making them happen. The committee is looking for more interested and dedicated members.

Volunteers are needed

I hope to see lots of community members, local organizations, and members of PEC as official volunteers at the park. Sign up with me to be part of a group-planned volunteer project or work occasionally as an individual.

We need help with some of our enhancement projects: removing invasive species, planting and maintaining special planted areas, and doing some painting. Once you are signed up, volunteer passes will be available when you contribute some time.

Organizations can do an Adopt-A-Park project (planned group) on a specific date. I can explain how that program works for Cantrall Buckley and let you know what projects have been approved for 2018. Look at the forms on jacksoncountyor.org/parks/Adopt-a-Park-Program.

PEC's first planned project will be with SOLVE, a statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission “to bring Oregonians together to improve our environment and build a legacy of stewardship.” On Saturday, March 17, from 9:30 - 11:30 am, we will be cleaning up invasive plants from some planted beds in the lower area near the playground and restroom and replanting with native plants. Sign up at solveoregon.org/project-oregon or email janismohrtipton48@frontier.org.

The restroom was finally completed in February, and finishing work has started with stains, paint, and sealants on floors, walls, and detailed portions.

Jackson County Parks Program Manager, Steve Lambert, explained that a lot of extra work went into installing doors and making changes to the exterior because the brick used for the building



Newly restored restroom at Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Steve Lambert, Jackson County Parks.

was no longer available. In late January, he said, “I’m glad to have this restroom near completion. It is definitely one of the nicest restrooms in our park system now and something for the community to be proud of.”

Some of the new features are bright LED lighting in the interior, lighting all around the exterior, a wheelchair-accessible drinking fountain and water-bottle fill station, and a wheelchair-accessible path from the parking area through the playground to the restroom.

Benches that were purchased with grant and donor monies are being installed. Then volunteers will be needed to assist with preparing landscaped areas, planting, and finishing with bark mulching in early March. Please contact me if you are interested.

After school is out, local ceramics artist Jeremy Criswell will resume work on the community mural that we’ve so patiently waited for. Now it has a wall to go on and should be completed in fall. This will be a perfect time for family involvement in this project. You can see its progress when you visit the playground and park through this summer.

Good News. The entrance fee will return to \$4 per vehicle, or you can buy a Jackson County Parks seasonal pass for \$30, good through December 31, at Ruch Country Store, Blackbird, and other places listed on the Jackson County website at jacksoncountyor.org/parks.

For more information or to volunteer for any of our projects (see new projects article on this page), contact me. We need community support to accomplish all that we are doing. My philosophy is “help where it feels right for you,” so if you’re passionate about a particular project, that’s where we can use your help.

Janis Mohr-Tipton
Park Enhancement Committee Chair
541-846-7501
janismohrtipton48@frontier.com

New projects at Cantrall Buckley Park

Learning Center. The park residence is being removed in March. In place of the park residence, we are putting a learning center for school and community classes and park-related meetings. At the community meeting in December 2017, there was discussion about the need for further educational opportunities in the park. Jackson County Parks

has approved researching a yurt for the learning center building, and I am researching the size and equipment needs for a successful park classroom. We are beginning to fundraise and hope to complete the project by 2020.

Cheryl Garcia Educational Art Walk. Cheryl, a local metal artist, will create large-scale sculptures of local wildflowers and birds, which we’ll place throughout the park for a walk or car tour. We’ll have educational information about each sculpture and the species represented by it. This will be an ongoing project until the walk is complete. Grant and donations have already provided \$15,710 of the \$33,000 goal for this first “Art in the Park” project. We will be soliciting funds and artists for additional displays in the park. Cheryl’s work can be viewed throughout the Rogue Valley.

Solar array with educational component and a sundial. We just received a grant from Blue Sky for a 72-panel array, with shaded classroom seating for studies, educational kiosks, and an interactive sundial art piece. This project, scheduled for completion this year, is in partnership with Jackson County Parks, A Greater Applegate, Oregon Community Foundation, Carpenter Foundation, and True South Solar.

Contact Janis Mohr-Tipton at 541-846-7501 or janismohrtipton48@frontier.com for more information or to volunteer for any project.



Metal artist Cheryl Garcia (left) and Cantrall Buckley Park Enhancement Committee chair, Janis Mohr-Tipton (right), show off a miniature of Cheryl’s mock orange sculpture that will be installed in Cantrall Buckley Park beginning in August. The 12-foot-high sculpture will inaugurate the Art-in-the-Park project. Photo: Tom Carstens.

— Cantrall Buckley Park donors —

Thank you to all the generous donors to the park!

The Park Enhancement Committee would like to acknowledge the many donors and volunteers who make all the Cantrall Buckley Park enhancements a reality for surrounding communities and visitors to enjoy.

Solar Renewable Energy Award Pacific Power Blue Sky Award: \$89,530

Foundation grants for art, ecological, solar, and education projects

Oregon Community Foundation (OCF): \$20,000
Carpenter Foundation: \$4,000
OCF (Anonymous Donor Fund): \$2,000

Legacy Donors (\$1,000 or more) for campground RV upgrade

Legacy Donors who contribute \$1,000 or more will be permanently recognized in park displays.


Applegate Valley, Medford, and Central Point volunteers (in-kind donations)
Applegate Valley Oregon Vintners Association (AVOVA)
Jacksonville-Applegate Rotary Club
Rogue Valley Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association
Greg and Debbie Schulz, Applegate Valley

Other generous donors

Applegate Trails Association (in-kind park trail maintenance)
Tom Carstens, Applegate Valley
Individual competitors of Rat Race Paragliding Competition
Bonnie Rinaldi, Ashland
Alan Watson, senior, South Medford High School project (in-kind donation)
Steven and Priscilla Weaver, Applegate Valley

To make contributions to any of our park enhancement projects, send a check to A Greater Applegate, PO Box 335, Jacksonville, OR 97530 and note the project: Campground, Solar, Art, Ecological/Educational, Learning Center, or other enhancements.

For more information, contact Janis Mohr-Tipton, Park Enhancement Committee chair, at 541-846-7501 or janismohrtipton48@frontier.com.



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BIRD EXPLORER

Great Gray Owl rescue

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Peter J. Thiemann



Rescued Great Gray Owl

This is a story of a successful owl rescue and rehabilitation at Wildlife Images in Grants Pass.

Earlier this winter a male Great Gray Owl was found on a mountain road, disoriented and injured. X-ray

exams at Wildlife Images showed wing damage consistent with an automobile collision. This is the most common cause of injury for this species because they perch on low fence posts and fly low over rural roads.

The prognosis for full recovery for this owl was guarded. But after wing stabilization to encourage healing, good nutrition, and weeks of flight training, the Great Gray Owl was judged fit to return to the wild. I had been following the owl's progress and was given a release date of early December.

The plan was to release the injured owl near Butte Falls, where he had been found. So on a Sunday after an overnight snowfall, we took the owl to Willow Lake at about 4,000 feet elevation and searched for a suitable release area near water with some meadows and a mature forest. We found open space with some dead trees for perching. It was important to have some easy landing trees nearby so that the owl could land after his initial release to be able to orient himself and choose a flight path into the forest.

This is exactly what happened. By giving the owl some lift upon release, he was able to fly to a nearby tree, land on a branch about 20 feet up, and look around. After allowing all who were there to take some photographs, he flew off into the snow-covered trees and never looked back. What a sight—*free and wild!*

From March through May, we will conduct our yearly Great Gray Owl nest platform surveys and will invite some birders to come along.

Peter J. Thiemann
peterjthiemann@gmail.com



Photo, above left: Recovered Great Gray Owl about to be released at Willow Lake. Photo, above right: Upon release, the owl will land on a nearby tree branch to choose its flight path into the forest. Photos courtesy of Peter J. Thiemann flickr photo stream.

The Gray Hairstreak butterfly streaks by

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*), a very common butterfly of the Lycaenidae family, is found in all of the contiguous US states and throughout southern Canada.

The adult Gray Hairstreak can have up to a one-and-a-half-inch wingspread. The upper wings (dorsal view) are deep slate-blue with a bright orange patch between the two tails on each wing. One tail is very short; the other is a longer, prominent tail. The underside (ventral view) is soft gray with bands of black bars outlined in white. Orange spots have black/blue spots within and are near the tails. The tail, with its hair-like extensions, fools predators into thinking it is the head of the butterfly.

The Gray Hairstreak is just that—a gray streak flashing by with its streak-like pattern and rapid flight, speeding from one spot to another.

Habitat

Their habitat is usually open, non-forested sites. They are common in disturbed, weedy areas; they are not seen in deep forests or very cold climates.

Breeding happens in lower elevations near riparian areas of rivers, streams, and fields. Males will sit on shrubs waiting to eye a female. The female will lay its eggs on a wide variety of host plants in every region, using many host plants within the different families of plants, thus making them the most successful generalists. A few of the most common hostplants for the Gray Hairstreak in the Pacific Northwest are mallows, clovers, buckwheats, docks, oaks, vetches, and many other members of the pea family.

The chrysalides overwinter, and, with an early spring emergence, up to three broods are possible. The flight period is

very long—we can see Gray Hairstreaks from March to October. In a recent year with a very mild winter, I spent New Year's Day at the southern Oregon coast. On grassy hills above the ocean, I saw two Gray Hairstreaks near the top by the coastal woods. On the same day I saw a Common Buckeye. When coastal weather is mild here, a few species can fly about more often.

Nectar sources

Nectar sources are many: flowers of alfalfa, spreading dogbane, rabbitbrush, mint, purple loosestrife, goldenrod, buckwheat, and just about any bloom in the vicinity of their flight. I have seen the Gray Hairstreak on islands of poison oak at the Ashland Imperatrice Hills to the banks of the Rogue River near Galice, where they feast on a variety of riverbank blooms, most often narrowleaf milkweed. One can get a close look as the Gray Hairstreaks nectar in the sun, rubbing their tails back and forth.

Fun fact

The Gray Hairstreak is known to be in the top ten Lycaenid species with a successful symbiotic relationship with ants. The larvae of the Gray Hairstreak secrete a sweet honey-like liquid. Ants will drink this liquid and, in turn, will protect the larvae from predators.

The photo shown here was taken in the Applegate School Butterfly Habitat on swamp milkweed, where I can usually count on seeing a few during the season.

Check your blooming flowers throughout the early spring to late summer for this small beauty, which is fun to watch up close.

Linda Kappen
humbukkapps@hotmail.com



Gray Hairstreak butterfly on swamp milkweed at Applegate School. Photo: Linda Kappen.

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Happy Mother's Day!

ACCESS Food Share Gardens thrive with volunteers

BY KIM BARNES

Growing healthy communities

When I arrived at the ACCESS Food Share Garden in Gold Hill on an August morning, the garden was already abuzz with activity.

Marilee and Ardella were working their way through the 80-foot squash and zucchini rows, carefully checking under the leaves of each plant. They carried five-gallon buckets, which were filling up with pale-green patty-pans, shiny dark green zucchinis, and crookneck yellow squash. Deep in the jungle of tomato vines, I could see Doug and his father, John, reaching for the ripest fruits, a rainbow of red, pink, and orange.

At the wash station, Keiko and Candi were pulling cucumbers out of cold water to dry on draining racks before they sorted, boxed, and weighed them. There was already a collection of buckets on the table beside them, filled to the brim with tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants waiting to be cleaned and boxed. The wash station is where everyone will end up in an hour or so, sitting on buckets under the shade of the madrone trees, wiping and sorting tomatoes, talking and laughing.

As I entered the gate, six-year-old Michael came barreling out from behind a cluster of sunflowers and embraced me at the knee before grabbing my hand and pulling me into the garden to see how the beans we planted last week have begun to germinate. I waved at his mother, Linda, as we passed, laughing at Michael's exuberance. Charlie, the garden manager, was on the other side of the beans, picking cantaloupe. He came to me with a list of questions, observations, and supply needs, but first things first, a hug. And smell the sweetness of this melon! He would cut this one open for everyone to snack on while we worked.

Food Share Gardens volunteers

I have the great privilege of participating in this community as the coordinator of the ACCESS Food Share Gardens, and I am lucky to experience scenes like this, not only here in Gold Hill, but in Medford, Central Point, and Rogue River as well.

Everyone here today volunteers their time. They come to the garden because they love the feeling of community. They come because they enjoy being with the

plants and listening to the birds. They come to learn and share their knowledge about organic gardening.

Garden volunteers have discovered the incomparable joy of preparing and eating food they have grown themselves. And they know how good it feels to be of service. While all garden volunteers will bring home produce for themselves and their families to eat this week, the vast majority of what we pick will go with Sonny, our volunteer driver, to the ACCESS warehouse. From there, it will be distributed through the ACCESS network of 24 emergency food pantries in Jackson County, including one in the Applegate. The fresh organic vegetables we have grown will help provide low-income families and individuals with nutritious food they might otherwise not be able to afford.

Since 2010, Food Share Gardens have produced 400,000 pounds of organic vegetables for the ACCESS network of emergency food pantries. It all began in Gold Hill, where a group of residents started an organic garden to supply their local food pantries. After a successful first season, they brought the model to the ACCESS Nutrition Department. Seeing the value of fresh produce for pantry clients, many of whom suffer from chronic disease, ACCESS developed the model into a countywide program. Community partners generously donate land and water to the project, and each site enjoys the leadership of an experienced local volunteer garden manager.

Volunteers always welcome

New volunteers are always welcome at the Food Share Gardens, whether you have years of gardening experience or none at all. We are in the gardens two to three mornings a week from March until November. We also love to have extra help from community service groups and school groups. Last year, two high school seniors completed their senior projects in the gardens. This year we hope to have more homeschooling families join us.

Food Share Gardens in the Applegate?

ACCESS is committed to supporting the development of new Food Share Gardens in Jackson County, and we would love to see one in the Applegate Valley.



Food Share Gardens volunteers in Rogue River (photo, above) tend to rows of vegetables. Student volunteer Mya Manders from Gold Hill (photo, left) proudly displays the bounty.



Would you like to see a Food Share Garden in your neighborhood? Do you have land to offer or know a few people who might want to help build this kind of community resource? Let us know! You can always start by signing up for Plant-A-Row. ACCESS will supply you with seeds to plant a couple of extra rows in your home garden to donate to ACCESS.

For more information, email freshaccess@accesshelps.org or call 541-779-6691, ext 309.

Kim Barnes • freshaccess@accesshelps.org

Rogue Farm Corps: Passing knowledge to the next generation

BY ASHLEY ROOD

Our working landscapes—our farms, ranches, and forests—distinguish our community and our state. Not only do they keep our farmers' markets and groceries stocked with fresh, healthy, local food, but they stimulate our economy and nurture our ecology by fueling export markets, providing jobs, and harboring wildlife habitat. These lands provided eight billion dollars to Oregon's economy in 2015, and Jackson County's more than 1,700 farms and ranches have an annual market value of over \$64 million.

We are about to see an unprecedented shift in ownership of these working lands. Seventy-two percent of Jackson County farms' owners are over the age of 55. As these farmers retire over the next 20 years, a lot of our farmland will change hands. What will happen with that farmland? How do we continue the Applegate legacy of keeping working lands working? How do we keep our green landscapes from being paved over, from being sliced and diced into smaller plots that are better for homes than food production?

A good place to start is to work with our land stewards: our current and future farmers, ranchers, and foresters. And we need to start with what farmers *think* about but don't talk about enough: financing farmland and succession planning.

On April 23, Rogue Farm Corps is gathering together aspiring and retiring farmers to talk about the nitty-gritty of farmland access and how to pass on the farm to the next generation. It's a continuation of a tradition that started here in the Applegate Valley 15 years ago when Rogue Farm Corps was founded by Applegate farmers interested in passing their knowledge gained through sweat and tears on to the next generation of farmers.

Rogue Farm Corps places interns and apprentices on farms and ranches in four chapters around the state of Oregon, including the Rogue Valley. Host farms like Sun Spirit Farm, located on 30 riverfront acres of certified organic farmland along the Applegate River, give beginning farmers and ranchers hands-on training, while Rogue Farm Corps coordinates classes to teach them the ins and outs of



Rogue Farm Corps interns get hands-on training at Dancing Bear Farms in Williams.

agricultural production. "It's inspiring to see these passionate people learn and thrive on the land," said Megan Fehrman, Rogue Farm Corps education director and farmer at ByGeorge Farm, a dairy in the Applegate Valley. Megan would know—her brothers Johnny and Tyson, who run the dairy, got their start as Rogue Farm Corps interns.

The event on Monday, April 23, is open to the public and designed to help young folks like interns take their next steps, while also helping established farmers learn how to pass on their legacies.

If you are an aspiring farmer, come on out to learn about creative ways to start your farm business with topics on creative leasing, financing options, and agricultural real estate practices. If you are a retiring farmer, come learn from experts about what it takes to pass your farm and your business to the next generation of farmers, ranchers, and foresters. There's also time for us all to gather and connect, building a community to ensure the future of our farms in Applegate Valley.

The event will take place at the Rogue Community College/Southern Oregon University campus, 101 South Bartlett Street, Medford, from 7:30 am - 5 pm. Breakfast and lunch are included. The cost is \$20. Register through ashley@roguevalleyfarmcorps.org.

Ashley Rood
ashley@roguevalleyfarmcorps.org



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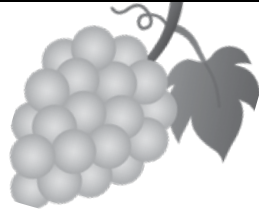
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GRAPE TALK

Applegate Valley vintners experiment with wine varietals



Debbie Tollefson

BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

The list of grape varieties planted in the Applegate Valley has really grown in the last few years. According to Greg Jones, a former professor at Southern Oregon University and now director of wine education at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, our area of southern Oregon is ideal for a very large variety of grapes. He estimates there are over 75 different varieties of grapes growing in and around the Applegate Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA).

There are 18 grape varieties known as “noble” grapes (defined by *Merriam-Webster* as “possessing very high or excellent

qualities or properties”). The red noble grapes are pinot noir, grenache, merlot, sangiovese, nebbiolo, tempranillo, cabernet sauvignon, syrah, and malbec. The white noble grapes are pinot grigio, riesling, sauvignon blanc, chenin blanc, moscato, gewurztraminer, semillon, viognier, and chardonnay. According to my research, nebbiolo (red) and semillon (white) are the only varieties of noble grapes *not* grown in our area. If you know of growers of either grape, let me know.

Both red and white noble grapes have additional varieties, a number of which also grow in the Applegate Valley. Categories

under white noble grapes are roussanne, which is similar to chardonnay, and marsanne, which is similar to viognier.

Vintners throughout the valley are experimenting with new grape stocks and new wine blends. Bill and Barbara Steele at Cowhorn Vineyard make a lovely marsanne-roussanne blend, a personal favorite of mine. Rachel Martin at Red Lily Vineyards recently released a vermentino, a wine similar to sauvignon blanc from southern France, northern Italy, or Sardinia, but now grown in the Applegate Valley.

Albarino, a Spanish white-wine grape similar to pinot grigio or chenin blanc, is being grown in our AVA, along with verdejo (also called verdicchio), which is similar to sauvignon blanc.

Sangiovese, one of the red noble grapes, is Italy’s top wine varietal. It is similar to other Italian grape varietals such as Chianti. Steve Hall, winemaker at Troon Vineyard, has created award-winning wines blending sangiovese with mourvèdre and tannat. Mourvèdre is a very old Spanish varietal brought to Spain by the Phoenicians, and tannat is a grape variety from southwest France and now also the national grape of Uruguay. Both mourvèdre and tannat are grown locally.

Joe Ginat at Plaisance Ranch created a 100 percent mourvèdre—the 2009 vintage is currently available. He is also growing and experimenting with mondeuse and

carmenère, an old varietal from France’s Bordeaux region.

Herb Quady of Quady North is also doing some interesting creations. His Pistoleta blend includes marsanne, rousanne, viognier, and grenache blanc. Herb’s complex Rosé includes counoise (a variety of grape from the Rhône Valley that is often used in blending for Châteauneuf-du-Pape) blended with grenache, syrah, and mourvèdre. He also has created a version of GSM, a well-known Rhône blend that uses grenache, syrah, and mourvèdre to create a red wine with complexity, but without too much tannin.

These accomplished wine makers and many others are realizing that our climate is perfect for experimenting with all kinds of interesting grape varieties. The innovative and award-winning wines being created from these varietals are putting our AVA at the forefront of Oregon’s highly acclaimed wine industry.

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avealty@gmail.com



Cowhorn Vineyard
Marsanne Rousanne blend.



Quady North GSM
(grenache, syrah, and mourvèdre) blend.



Plaisance Ranch 100 percent Mourvèdre.

San Francisco Chronicle 2018 Wine Competition

— Applegate Valley winners —

Best of Class
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Gold: Schmidt Family Vineyards Albarino 2016 and Serra Vineyards Cabernet Franc 2014

For a complete list of winners, visit winejudging.com/medal-winners.

Voices of the Applegate Spring Concerts

Our new director, Jenifer Knipple, has launched our choir into the realm of New World music. Our concerts will be held in Jacksonville on Friday, April 6, at 7 pm at the old Presbyterian Church at 6th and California Streets, and in Applegate on Sunday, April 8, at 3 pm at the Applegate River Lodge, 15100 Highway 238. We will be singing songs from Russia, Iceland, and Korea, as well as American folk songs and modern classical selections.

Jenifer Knipple has an impressive background in music education and a unique worldview, which she demonstrated with nearly 500 Central Point students on a virtual trip around the world in “The Magic Cape Show” in January. She has been bringing music into the schools of southern Oregon with Rogue World Music, whose mission is “building community and cultural awareness through world music performance, education, and participation.”

Our rehearsals are exciting and educational. We look forward to our Wednesday evenings together to sing and learn a variety of songs from many different countries. Our rehearsals take place every Wednesday evening at the Ruch Library meeting room from 7 - 8:30 pm. Our next session will begin in early September. All are invited to attend. There is no audition required.

Registration fee is \$60, and some scholarships are available. Come join us for our next year of singing together. And don’t forget to attend our concerts in April!

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

A partnership for life

BY BARBARA CHASTEEN

As you drive up Thompson Creek Road, you pass a stretch of stream that looks as if it has been invaded by plastic pads and chopsticks lined up along the banks and the floodplain. The plastic pads surround new plants; the sticks protect them from brush cutters that will keep invasive competition like blackberries from returning. It takes some imagination to see a future riparian forest.

When I arrived on this land two years ago, the creek looked battered, sunburned, and used up. Isolated old trees looked down on a stream that had been channelized, mined, and poisoned with herbicides. Blackberry thickets had taken over most of the banks and the floodplain.

To me, the stream is not just a conduit for water or a sweet sound to hear on quiet evenings. It's part of an interactive system, a life cycle. Thompson Creek begins when water rises out of the Pacific Ocean into clouds that drop rain and snow onto Grayback and Steve Peak. It runs off the rocks and percolates down through the forest soils that filter and slowly release it downstream. Some of it sinks into groundwater basins to replenish wells and springs. As it moves downstream, the water supports wildlife and farm animals, irrigates crops, and nurtures trout, salmon, and many species of birds before joining

the Applegate, the Rogue, and the ocean once again.

Another life cycle enriches the land as well as our plates: the salmon that are born in the stream grow large enough to head for the ocean and eventually return to spawn and die, bringing back essential nutrients, especially phosphorus, from the sea.

To me, it was a priority to restore this riparian area to a healthy condition. I imagined tall cottonwoods, pines and cedars, aspens and maples shading the stream, with shrubs and bunch grasses scattered on the banks to shelter and feed a host of animals.

How to make restoration a reality? It requires not only money but knowledge, energy, and extra hands. I was fortunate enough to connect with the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC). Once we found endangered coho salmon clustered in a sheltering pool, there was a strong impetus for finding grant money to add this stretch of the stream to the ongoing restoration projects along Thompson Creek.

An enterprise like this takes a team. As the landowner, I am responsible for providing a "good faith" cash contribution, a source of summer irrigation water, other support such as space and shelter for materials, and long-term access for contractors

and observers. I am also committed to stewardship of the plants that are putting down roots in their new and improved home.

APWC has 25 years of experience in riparian restoration partnerships. The project team has listened to my ideas and questions and been respectful of our privacy. I've been kept in the loop as the stages of the project moved forward. As a citizen scientist, I am pleased that this project includes studies of various planting techniques.

I was (and still am) impatient for quick results, but neither nature nor partnerships work that way. APWC is committed to a number of projects that need to be coordinated with staff, volunteers, and contractors, with the weather and the seasons, and with availability of machines and materials. Considering all these factors, our project is moving forward well, and I know that those thousands of young plants are growing as fast as they can.

We share the stream with our neighbors, not only humans but the birds that continue to float, fly, feed, and nest along



Top photo: Before restoration work looking downstream from Thompson Creek Road, March 16, 2016.

Bottom photo: After restoration work, maintenance, and planting, December 1, 2017.

Photos: Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council.

the banks, the weasel that braves the open to drink, the deer that step carefully between the stakes (and hopefully are discouraged from eating new shoots by deer repellent), the beaver that help engineer a healthier watercourse. We have created a living and ongoing partnership as we work for leafy shade, healthier soil, cooler water, and cleaner air.

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Other kinds of flowering plants in the Applegate

BY STACEY DENTON

It's true, farms in the Applegate really do grow other kinds of flowering plants. In fact, for decades our region has supported thriving farms dedicated to growing flowers to produce seeds. The same hot, dry summers and abundant water that make for good cannabis-growing conditions also make southern Oregon one of the best places to grow seed crops in the country. Our weather helps us avoid disease problems and pestilence that farmers farther north in the Pacific Northwest (and from the Midwest to the East Coast) battle with their greater humidity.

The work of seed growing in the Applegate has a long history. Some folks may not know that the Grants Pass Grange Co-op used to have a two-story seed-cleaning and bagging machine for handling small grain crops, some of which came from the Applegate. And Wilderville

was formerly an important alfalfa-seed production zone. It may be a little hard for gardeners to relate to seed production on that scale, but growing seed from vegetable, flower, culinary, and medicinal herb crops has also been an important focus for Applegate farmers and homesteaders.

Another wave of our region's seed growing began back in the 1970s, when back-to-the-landers who moved into the Applegate focused their efforts on food production and dabbling with seed. Stone Broke Hippie Seeds was born in 1974 in Ruch and later became Sow Organic Seeds in Williams. Sow Organic was the first retail seed packet business in our region, and its pioneering work has since influenced the success of many other purveyors of organic seeds—Seeds of Change, Strictly Medicinal Seeds, Siskiyou Seeds, among others—and inspired many



Harvesting "Double Click" Cosmos seed at Flora Farm in Williams. Photo: Rob Grobman, Heartisan Films.

resilient than a homogenous one! Seed companies across the country have recognized that the seed coming from our valley is an indispensable part of organic farming and gardening throughout the US, and yet this might be a fresh idea to many locals. With so many gardeners in the Applegate, there are ample opportunities to support the success of Applegate farmers by purchasing seed locally. In addition, your crop will have the advantage of being grown with seed adapted to the soil and climatic conditions of our bioregion.

other small-scale farmers to dedicate themselves to growing organic seed.

Presently, I count 12 farms in the Applegate that are growing seed for distribution throughout our bioregion, as well as nationally and internationally. These farms include Bluebird Farm, Siskiyou Seeds/Seven Seeds Farm, Flora Farm, Lupine Knoll Farm, Wandering Fields Farm, White Oak Farm & Education Center, L & R Family Farm, Wolf Gulch Farm, Dancing Bear Farm/Madrona, Ridgeline Meadow Farm, Feral Farm, and Strictly Medicinal Seeds/Horizon Herbs. If we consider garlic seed, the list expands to include Whistling Duck Farm. These farms are either selling directly to gardeners and farmers like Siskiyou Seeds/Seven Seeds Farm, Strictly Medicinals/Horizon Herbs, and Whistling Duck Farm or wholesaling seed to other seed companies with a national presence, like Johnny's and High Mowing.

As we consider the future of the agricultural terrain of the Applegate Valley, both literally and figuratively, it would behoove us to look beyond cannabis and wine grapes. A diversified economy is more

and climatic conditions of our bioregion. If you buy your seeds from a seed company outside the area, make sure to ask where its seed is coming from. Also ask which varieties it sells are coming from southern Oregon farms. Many seed companies advertise their businesses as farm-based, giving the impression that their farms grow the seed, but more often than not just a few of their offerings are coming from US farms and the rest is coming from China and Europe.

As the price of agricultural land rises in the valley, supporting local, organic farm businesses by buying from them will be essential to maintaining the agricultural character (open space, working farms, long-term residency, safety, knowing your neighbors, stewardship ethic) and environmental integrity (clean water, healthy soils, pollinator habitat, safe food) of this valley we love.

Stacey Denton

Owner, Flora Farm

stacey@weddingflora.com

Stacey Denton has farmed and gardened in Williams for 16 years and grows flower seed for Siskiyou Seeds.

Notes from a Rogue entomologist

'An inordinate fondness for beetles'...and invasive pests

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

The title phrase is taken from a quote (attributed to the biologist JBS Haldane) that has become rather famous, especially in entomological circles. As the story goes, Haldane was asked by a theologian what one could conclude as to the nature of the Creator from a study of his creation, and Haldane answered, "An inordinate fondness for beetles." While the quote's precise origin may be in doubt, it is very true that there are more described species of beetles than any other order of insects. Presently, there are nearly one million known species of insects, with beetles accounting for about 40 percent.

The highest levels of insect diversity occur in the tropical rain forest, where beetle species often specialize on specific types of plants. However, even in our temperate zone we have a wide array of beetles and many examples of beetle specialists. In the Spring 2010 *Applegater*, I discussed local cucumber beetles and flea beetles that can plague vegetable gardens.

I have also discussed the problem of exotic insects, new to the area and removed from their native natural enemies. These invasive insects often become serious pests and threaten our crops and forests. In the US, more and more of these invasive pests originate from Asia as trans-Pacific trade has increased in recent decades. Many beetles fall into this group, with the Asian long-horned beetle and the emerald ash borer as prime examples, both of which can kill trees. The US Department of Agriculture has programs to halt the spread of invasive species, but it appears difficult in the case of the emerald ash borer, which has spread to 31 states since first being found in 2002 and has already killed hundreds of millions of ash trees. Neither species has appeared in Oregon yet, but the Oregon Department of Agriculture is on the lookout.

One exotic species that is not a recent arrival to the US is the Japanese beetle. This insect came from Japan and was found in New Jersey in 1916. It slowly spread throughout most of the eastern US and has appeared periodically near the Portland Airport, probably brought in on cargo planes. There was an infestation in Cave Junction, but it was successfully eradicated (Winter 2013 *Applegater*). But in 2016, populations were found in an area between



Cereal leaf beetle
(biolib.cz/en/image/id98458/).

Portland and Hillsboro. The Japanese beetle has a very wide host range and is a pest of many crops, including grapes and fruit trees; however, it is best known as a pest of home landscapes where larval grubs attack the roots of lawn grass and adults are a notorious pest of roses. Eradication efforts are under way, but the City of Roses may have a new pest to contend with.

One invasive pest to look for this spring is the cereal leaf beetle. This beetle came to the US in 1962 and made its way to Oregon in 1999 and to the Rogue Valley in 2009-10. Since then we have been monitoring it and releasing parasitic wasps to provide biological control. The beetle, while small (a quarter inch), is quite distinctive and attractive with metallic blue elytra (i.e., wing covers) and an orange thorax. The original infestation was by the Rogue River near the Table Rocks, but infestations have since been found in the vicinity of Jacksonville.

Larvae feed on small grains (wheat, barley, and oats). If populations get too high, treatment could be necessary. The larvae try to protect themselves by putting their feces on their backs, which is rather fascinating but also disgusting. However, the parasitic wasp can evade this defense and lays its eggs inside the beetle larvae. While the wasp is now established here, it has not provided the high level of control that has been seen in some other areas. Our hope is that this will be the year the parasitic wasp (with its "fondness" for the beetle) will keep the local cereal leaf beetle population in check.

Richard J. Hilton • 541-772-5165 x227

Senior Faculty Research Assistant /
Entomologist

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Jackson County
Library
Services

— Applegate Library —

Christine Grubb is “delighted to serve as the new manager of the Applegate Library.” While she says she is not a “real local,” she has called Jacksonville home for the last 15½ years. Christine grew up in Pennsylvania and met her husband, married, and had their children in Virginia. Her husband was born in Bend (a “real” Oregonian!). She now considers the family to be Oregonians.

Come in to the library, say hello to Christine, and talk about ideas to further Applegate Library’s presence and attraction to the community. Christine has been working for the library in various capacities for ten years and says she learns something new every day. Look for a notice of an upcoming “meet and greet” with the Friends of Applegate Library to learn more.

Susie Beckham continues to provide her kind and generous service as the assistant librarian. She is also the storytime reader, so bring your preschoolers (ages 3 - 5) every Saturday from 10:30 - 11:00 am to enjoy stories, rhymes, songs, and fun at the library. This is a great opportunity to encourage an interest in books and reading.

Applegate Library has its very own “digital dude,” Bret Fearrien, a member of the Library Digital Services team. Bret can answer your technical questions (computers, laptops, smartphones, e-readers, iPads, etc.) every Tuesday from 2 - 4:30 pm at the library. You can also set

up an appointment—call Bret at 541-734-3921 or email bfearrien@jcls.org.

In case you missed the big announcement, there are *no more late fees for overdue books!* Another reason to love your library! Additionally, patrons will soon be able to check out hotspot devices (for wireless internet connection) for two weeks. Visit jcls.org for details on all the new happenings!

Here’s just a brief list of what Applegate Library offers:

- Hotspot devices to check out
- Audiobooks
- Magazines
- Book advice
- DVDs
- Music CDs (all genres)
- Wi-Fi
- Public computers
- Digital Media Services
- Interlibrary loans
- Copying, faxing, scanning, mobile printing
- Meeting room (for classes, etc.)
- Book clubs/Book Club in a Bag
- Telescope to check out

Applegate Library is located at 18485 North Applegate Road, Applegate, and is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 2 - 6 pm and Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am - 2 pm. For more information, contact manager Christine Grubb at 541-846-7346 or cgrubb@jcls.org.

— Ruch Library —

Dog trainer Cary Voorhees is back, just in time for the Chinese Year of the Dog! She will present a program, “Selecting and Training a Rescue Dog,” on Saturday, March 10, from 2 - 3:30 pm at Ruch Library. In her 34-year career, Cary has trained service dogs, pets, and competition dogs for various dog sports. Cary has also worked with rescue dogs and currently has two, whom she adores. Her training tips will benefit any dog owner, so you will not want to miss her presentation!

More little dresses for Africa! On Saturday, March 17, from noon - 3 pm, come to the library to help us create dresses, made from colorful, like-new pillow cases, for girls in Malawi, Africa, who have never had anything new. Bring a sewing machine if you have one, pillow cases (not white), scissors, trim, seam binding, and sturdy fabric ribbon for shoulder straps. We need people willing to sew, iron, pin, draw with fabric paint, thread ribbons into the dresses, etc. Last year we discovered that being part of a busy group creating dresses was so inspirational and rewarding that we all voted to do it again! All ages and skill levels are welcome.

The Stories of Southern Oregon project organized community forums last spring, archiving local stories and photos for Southern Oregon University’s Hannon Library Digital Collection. Join the storytellers for a reception at Ruch Library on Saturday, May 5, from 2 - 4 pm to hear some of the stories and view the videos. For more information about the project, see the article on page 3.



Dresses created out of pillow cases at Ruch Library to send to girls in Malawi, Africa.

Harry Potter comes to Ruch! There’s a Quidditch Tournament going on at Jackson County Libraries through April. You can enter the contest weekly, earning ten points for your favorite house and having a chance to win the monthly drawing for a prize. Ruch will hide a Snitch somewhere in the library from April 3 - 10 and reward the finder with a prize. Come in and try your luck! From April 17 - 24, “Dobby” will be in Ruch, inviting patrons to take a selfie with him and enter it into a countywide contest. Winners’ pictures will be displayed at Harry Potter World during the Medford Comic Con (April 28 - 29).

In addition to our sizzling Hot Off the Press Books, we will now be leasing some additional copies of newly released books, allowing us to put more copies into circulation at the library. Then, when interest wanes, Jackson County Library Services can sell that title back to the company so we can make room for more! Check out the great titles we have now!

We are proud to offer Personalized Tech Services at Ruch Library on Tuesday mornings to help you with your needs regarding Hoopla, Libby Overdrive, etc., on your phone, iPad, or computer. Bret Fearrien is here from 10 am - 12:30 pm making movies, audiobooks, and music readily available to you. You can contact

Josephine
Community
Libraries

**My library
works for me.**

— Josephine Community Libraries —

Chess Club at the library

The Williams branch of Josephine Community Libraries is hosting chess club every Tuesday afternoon from 3 - 5 pm. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Chess boards and pieces are provided. Registration is not required.

Williams branch weekly storytime

Bring the whole family to the weekly children’s storytime and craft at 3:30 pm every Wednesday. Registration is not required.

Farewell note from Evelyn Roether

Please join me in welcoming Ellie Avis, the incoming branch manager at the Williams branch of Josephine Community Library District. What a wonderful little library it is! With our stalwart crew of volunteers, a supportive community, and a stellar staff of colleagues at the newly formed Josephine Community Library District, the Williams branch is poised to continue serving the literary needs of the community.

Now that there is a permanent tax base to fund our libraries, we can begin to envision and implement improvements to library services. More money is available to purchase items for the library collection and all branches are open longer hours and more days.

I look forward to staying connected with the district and the Josephine Community Library Foundation, hopefully working with many of you, to keep our Josephine County library system vibrant and responsive to the community. I will also be focusing my personal efforts on revising the *Williams Area Trail Guide!*

Thank you all for your patronage and please stop by the Williams branch to give a hearty welcome to our new branch manager! —Evelyn Roether

Introductory note from Ellie Avis, new Williams branch manager

Hello Applegate Community! I’d like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Williams branch manager. I’ve lived in Williams for over two years and have been lucky enough to get to know many of you through community events, preschool activities, and my work with the Sugarloaf Community Association.

Before moving to Williams, I lived in the Bay Area for several years, where I attended graduate school at University of California, Berkeley, and worked as a researcher at several university-affiliated institutes and nonprofits. Although I’ve volunteered at libraries in the past, this is my first position as an official employee.

I am so excited to be joining Josephine Community Libraries during this time of transition to a publicly funded library

him directly at bfearrien@jcls.org, call your library to set up an appointment, or just drop in.

The Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) are pleased to have a warm, clean, and expansive space in the “Book Barn” next to the A-Frame Bookstore for sorting books. Please bring donations for FORL to the library during our open hours. Your book donations are tax-deductible.

FORL will be holding a \$5-A-Bag Sale on the first Saturday of each month.

Join us for Babies and Wobblers Storytime for children 0 - 3 years on



New Williams Branch Library manager, Ellie Avis.

district. We have plans to expand hours, add new programming, and recruit new volunteers in the coming months. Most importantly, I hope to continue serving you with the best rural library services around! —Ellie Avis

Williams Branch Library is located at 20695 Williams Highway in Williams. For more information, contact branch manager Ellie Avis at 541-846-7020 or eavis@josephinelibrary.org.

When will the community start seeing changes to the library district?

Some changes will be ongoing, such as the addition of a more robust collection of materials and more programs for all ages. The following changes are happening over the first quarter of 2018:

- January 1—Josephine Community Library District takes over operations of all four library branches and all district employees are hired.
- Mid-February—Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek branches open more hours.
- Mid-March—Grants Pass branch library open more hours.
- April 1—Out-of-district patrons will start paying for library cards.

New hours for each rural branch

- Illinois Valley. Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 11 am - 5 pm. Wednesday: 11 am - 6 pm.
- Williams. Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday: 1 - 6 pm. Friday: 11 am - 4 pm.
- Wolf Creek. Wednesday, Saturday: 1 - 6 pm. Friday: 11 am - 4 pm.

As each branch opens for more hours, more volunteers will be needed in order to operate.

If you would like to get involved or need more information about Josephine County Libraries, contact Brandace Rojo at 541-476-0571 or email info@josephinelibrary.org.

Tuesdays from 10:15 - 10:45 am. This is not only a great early literacy program, but it is also a great way for families to connect. Preschool Storytime is from 11:30 am - 12:15 pm and includes a simple craft. And Legos are available for all ages, any time.

Ruch Library is located at 7919 Highway 238 in Jacksonville (Ruch) and is open Tuesdays from 10 am - 5 pm, Thursdays from 1 - 7 pm, and Saturdays from 11 am - 4 pm.

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

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!

'Future of Soil' learning series offered

BY MAUD POWELL AND JENNIFER ZEITLER

Farmers, ranchers, and gardeners in the Applegate, and everywhere for that matter, rely on soil to grow crops and provide the forage and pasture to raise animals. The health of our soil, therefore, is paramount to food and fiber production. Between February and June this year, Our Family Farms, a local nonprofit, is bringing together national



Attendees at a February session of "The Future of Soil: Ensuring Resilient Food and Agricultural Systems," sponsored by Our Family Farms, a local nonprofit organization. Photo provided by Chris Hardy.

experts, local farmers, and scientists for a six-part series on the future of soil. Our Family Farms is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit that protects our farms, families, and future by educating, advocating, and inspiring farmers, policy makers, and the community at large to support regenerative agricultural practices. We envision a thriving food and agricultural system with seed diversity and farmable land for generations to come.

"The Future of Soil: Ensuring Resilient Food and Agricultural Systems" will explore the impacts that our everyday decisions have on soil health, from what seeds we buy to how we grow plants to what foods we choose to put on our table. The workshops will address both the producer and the greater community. The final session will be a celebration of our local food system featuring food and drink produced in southern Oregon.

Sessions three, four, and five feature two tracks: one for people working in agriculture and the other for interested community members. Participants can register for single sessions. Join us for one or more of the workshop sessions and learn more about soil health and how to preserve it for future generations.

Thanks to generous sponsors, we can offer this educational series at a discounted rate. Community members and agriculture industry professionals can attend individual sessions for \$15 each with preregistration

or \$20 at the door (based on availability). Scholarships are available.

Workshop series schedule

Two sessions were held in February: (1) History of seed, food, and farming practices in southern Oregon, our state, and nation, with presentations by Red Earth Descendants, Larry Mullaly (Southern Oregon Historical Society), Don Tipping (Siskiyou Seeds), and Our Family Farms, and (2) Soil is Alive to Nurture the Next Crop Without Added Toxic Chemicals, with Dr. Elaine Ingham (Soil Foodweb).

Session three, March 20, Medford Library. Pest Management beyond Neonicotinoids: Predatory Insects and Regenerative Agriculture with Dr. Jonathan Lundgren (Blue Dasher Farm). Agricultural industry from 1 - 5 pm; community from 6 - 8 pm.

Session four, April 17, Medford Library. Pesticide Impacts on Farm Workers, Consumers, and the Environment, featuring Lisa Arkin (Beyond Toxics), Dr. Ray Seidler (retired EPA scientist), Dr. Richard Fenske (Acting Chair, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington), and a local resident and farm worker. Agricultural industry from 3 - 5 pm; community from 6 - 8 pm.

Session five, May 15, Medford Library. Oregon Businesses and Regenerative Organic Agriculture. Local farmers,

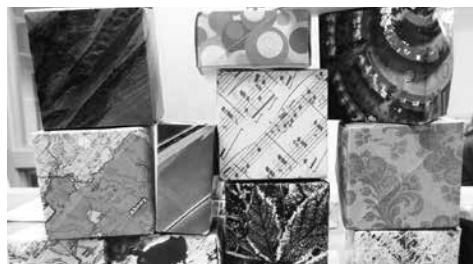
Soul Boxes: Art revealing the gun violence epidemic

The purpose of the Soul Box Project is to visually reveal the growing number of gun-related deaths and injuries in the US. That number is now so large it is incomprehensible—

nearly 170,000 since 2014, not including 22,000 yearly gun-related suicides.

Dennis Meiners and Leslie Lee, former Applegaters now living in Portland, are making and collecting simple origami boxes measuring 3"x 3" x 1.5" to use in a variety of public art displays. Each box represents one victim. Their goal is to accumulate over 200,000 boxes, but as the number of boxes grows, they will represent different sets of statistics along the way.

How can a bunch of paper boxes change gun violence? Maybe in the same way that past projects have raised worldwide awareness by counting victims. One example, the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, originally created in 1988 to commemorate AIDS victims, grew to hundreds of panels covering the National Mall in Washington, DC, in 1996, bringing awareness of the AIDS



epidemic to the entire world.

A similar project was started by middle-school children in Tennessee studying the Holocaust who wanted to know what the number "six million" looked like. They asked survivors to send their stories and a paper clip for each victim lost. Several years later they had 30 million paper clips and had built a museum out of a German World War II railcar. This project is the subject of the video, *One Clip at a Time*.

Make a box. It counts.

Ruch Library has shipped over 500 Soul Boxes, created by staff, patrons, friends, and Ruch middle-school students, to Dennis and Leslie. The project needs tens of thousands more boxes. If you want to help create this visual comment on a national tragedy, we have instructions and some paper, which we have cut to size from old calendars, maps, and magazines for making boxes. Stop by Ruch Library and let us get you started!

Thalia Truesdell • 541-899-7438
Ruch Library Branch Manager

Our community website is live!

The Applegate Valley Connect website (applegateconnect.org) is live and expanding every day with more registrants, viewers, and directory and calendar posts! Let's keep this site growing to become the number one website for residents and visitors to find information about the Applegate Valley.



Here's how to use this invaluable website:

- **Events and directory.** Find events on the calendar and local organizations in the directory or register (free) to post your own community event or to add your organization to the directory.
- **Community projects.** Learn about projects of interest to the public and submit your own community projects.
- **News and stories.** Read about local organizations and submit your organization's news and stories.

The intent of this new community website is to become the primary connection and source of information about what's going on, where you can find services, and who's doing what throughout the Applegate Valley.

Thank you to The Ford Family Foundation and Community Systems, LLC, for their ongoing support of this community project. For more information, email applegateconnect@gmail.com.

vintners, orchardists, restauranteurs, and consumers will discuss why they have chosen an organic-based business model. Agricultural industry from 1 - 5 pm; community from 6 - 8 pm.

Session six, June. The date and location will be announced later for Celebrate Our Local Bounty! At this final event, the agricultural industry and the community will come together to celebrate the bounty of our local food system. Tantalize your taste buds with the foods and libations of southern Oregon.

Sponsors of the series include Our Family Farms, Lush Cosmetics, Mountain Rose Herbs, Ashland Food Co-op, Dr. Bronner, Pacific Botanicals, Beyond Toxics, Wild Wines, and Willow Witt Ranch.

For more details about "The Future of Soil," call 541-690-8053 or email contact@ourfamilyfarms.org.

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Our Family Farms Board Member
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OPINIONS

The forest for the trees: Global warming is here now

BY ALAN JOURNET

In the Winter 2017 *Applegater*, Alan Voetsch wrote a lengthy condemnation of climate science, climate scientists, and concerned individuals who understand and accept that science. Rather than respond to his criticisms of climate science, I will focus on one issue that is highly germane to the Applegate: wildfire.

Forest ecology reveals a connection between forest fire and global warming that is clear, convincing, and well understood. While many individuals blame regional fires either on environmental regulations or overly dense forests, the best predictors for forecasting a “severe” versus “normal” fire year—reported as long ago as 2006 in the journal *Science*—are the timing of spring snowmelt and temperature during the growing season. Trends in these factors are induced by global warming. According to Westerling et al. (2006, *Science*: 313 pp 940-943), the fire season in our western forests is now two and half months longer than in the 1970s.

A 2012 study reported in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* correlated biomass burning with climate trends over 3,000 years. This revealed that current climatic trends, combined with the twentieth-century imposition of fire suppression, have induced a vast fire deficit in our western forests.

Meanwhile, assessments by the US Forest Service of the impact of global warming on individual forest species have demonstrated that many of our ecologically and commercially important species are being compromised by global warming and the climate change it is causing. Specifically, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, incense cedar, sugar pine, white fir, and Pacific madrone are likely to be compromised through the century. It appears that even oaks, though possibly able to exist over a broader geographic range, may not remain as healthy as they are today.

The smoke last summer during the fire season was certainly a problem for many area residents. However, while the trend over the final three decades of the last century and beyond indicates increasing large wildfire frequency, when we look even further back, we find fire frequency much higher than it has been recently.

Fire return interval (FRI) identifies how often fires occur in a given location. Studies for the dry forests of southern Oregon show that prior to fire suppression the median or average frequency varied between 5 to 14

or 8 to 20 years. Importantly, an FRI of 8 means that about 12.5 percent of the forest burns every year. Since the imposition of fire suppression, the FRI has shifted substantially—now any given location burns only once every century or more.

Although fire suppression has been successful, forest drying and warming from global warming is defeating that effort as risk rises again. Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest supervisor, Rob MacWhorter, recently reported that, in 2017, some 14.5 percent of the forest area burned, a value not much different from the 12.5 percent historic value at an eight-year FRI. Apparently the area burned in 2017 was consistent with the region’s pre-suppression history. Unless we collectively acknowledge global warming as the root cause of the increasing fire risk, it is difficult to imagine how we will ever curtail the fires.

But, as most Applegaters know, our dry forests are both fire-prone and fire-adapted. This means fire is essential for maintaining healthy forests. We also need to accept this reality and manage our forests in recognition of its importance.

Also noteworthy is the fact that Oregon’s forests are very effective at capturing and storing carbon. Our forests annually capture 50 percent of the greenhouse gases emitted statewide. Maintaining healthy forests provides huge benefits.

However, counterintuitively for many observers, forest fires don’t cause much carbon loss. This is not only because, for most of our forests, 50 percent or more of the carbon is underground and barely touched by fires, but also because fires are very patchy. High severity burns in 2017 affected only seven percent of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. On the other hand, carbon losses resulting from tree harvest—burning slash and mill waste and combustion of fuel used in harvesting and processing—are substantial.

The reality is that unless forest managers in the Applegate Valley and across the nation acknowledge that global warming is the primary factor influencing not just wildfires and smoke production in our forests, but also the general health and resilience of these forests, sound forest management will elude us.

Alan Journet, PhD
Co-facilitator, Southern Oregon
Climate Action Now
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The future depends on us

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

Do you love the Applegate Valley for its natural beauty? Do you value the wildlands, old-growth forests, clear-running streams, and scenic vistas of the Applegate Valley? Although we all benefit from these important natural amenities, many of these values still exist in our watershed due to the hard work of local residents who have passionately advocated for their backyard forests, wildlands, and streams. The Applegate Valley has a long history of community-based collaboration, environmental activism, and advocacy for public lands.

Many of the places we know and love today have been protected by the efforts of local residents. For instance, a dam was once proposed at the confluence of Yale Creek and the Little Applegate River, major housing developments have been proposed in Ruch and Williams, timber sales and new roads were proposed across the face of Wagner Butte into the heart of what is now the Red Buttes Wilderness, and over the years, nearly every currently standing old forest on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land has been proposed for logging at least once. Due to the effort and determination of residents in this valley, we have much to appreciate and much to defend.

Given the political climate surrounding public lands and the policies of our current administration, the places we love and the places that define this beautiful valley will become increasingly threatened.

For example, the BLM has proposed large timber sales extending from Wilderville to Ruch across the Applegate Valley. The Grants Pass Resource Area has proposed the Savage Murphy Timber Sale, which would log hundreds of acres outside Wilderville, Murphy, and above North Applegate Road. The BLM has proposed to log a fire-adapted forest dominated by large, old trees directly adjacent to the proposed Applegate Ridge Trail (ART). The BLM is also proposing to construct two new roads directly on top of the proposed ART corridor, significantly impacting the trail’s scenic character. The ART is being developed by Applegate Trails Association and would connect Jacksonville to Grants Pass through BLM land. The trail could be a significant asset to our community and our economy, but the corridor must be protected from road-building and inappropriate logging.

The Ashland Resource Area has also recently proposed the Middle Applegate Timber Sale. The BLM has identified a large planning area sprawling across the Middle Applegate Valley from the mountains around Ruch to Thompson Creek, Humbug Creek, Slagle Creek, and portions of North Applegate. Although it



A view across Long Gulch from Wellington Butte in the Wellington Wildlands and the planning area for the Middle Applegate Timber Sale.

is unknown at this time what logging will be proposed, the planning area includes the beautiful Wellington Butte Roadless Area, the Enchanted Forest Trail, Billy Mountain, Old Blue, large sections of the proposed ART, and portions of the newly created East ART. We hope that BLM will focus on restoring previously impacted lands rather than damaging currently intact, old forests and roadless areas.

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and BLM have been collaborating with local community members on a widely supported project in the Upper Applegate Valley. Although a final proposal and environmental assessment have not been developed, many in the community feel the forest thinning, prescribed fire, and restoration focus of the project is commendable. Many are also concerned by the controversial proposal to build new off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails in the Boaz Mountain Roadless Area above McKee Bridge and Eastside Road. The OHV development will impact important winter range habitat for a large population of black-tailed deer, degrade important native habitats, and impact nearby communities on Upper Applegate Road.

Meanwhile, on the Siskiyou Crest, near Cook and Green Pass, the Klamath National Forest has proposed to clear-cut 1,700 acres following the Miller Complex Fire. The project will log a previously uncut forest located within one-eighth of a mile of the Siskiyou Crest and the Pacific Crest Trail. The project is located adjacent to the Condrey Mountain Roadless Area and the Kangaroo Roadless Area surrounding the Red Buttes Wilderness.

You can guarantee that Applegate Neighborhood Network will continue the Applegate Valley tradition of defending the wild places we love and the landscapes that define this beautiful valley. We hope that others in the community will join us and support our work. The future of this valley depends on the efforts we make today.

Luke Ruediger • 541-890-8974
Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN)
Update: Just before publication, BLM notified ANN that all units in the Savage Murphy Timber Sale west of Murphy have been canceled along with road construction and timber sale units on the ART. This is an example of our community successfully defending wild places in the Applegate.

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OPINIONS

Behind the Green Door

Worlds apart in protecting the environment

BY CHRIS BRATT



Chris Bratt

For me, 2017 was filled with heartache because of the rollbacks of many environmental programs and safeguards throughout our community and our country. The ongoing debate over how we continue to use the environment has become very polarized. Some people favor increasing environmental protections while others favor rampant development of our natural resources. Many groundless executive orders and policies (some unprecedented) are now being implemented by Trump administration appointees. These new rules block, delay, or weaken many federal laws and agency responsibilities that have been in place for years to protect America's priceless and irreplaceable resources.

Our present Congress and administration are refusing to acknowledge and deal with a whole host of local and worldwide environmental concerns. Instead, federal agency heads are determined to lease and develop every public acre of land they can. Here are some examples of high-handed positions and attacks being made on our environment by Trump administrators Scott Pruitt, from the Environmental Protection Agency, and Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior.

Pruitt has proposed eliminating 50 programs to protect watersheds like the Applegate, pushed to repeal America's Clean Power Plan, proposed steep budget cuts to programs that promote clean air and water and fund toxic waste cleanup, and encouraged the withdrawal of the US from the Paris climate accords (the only country to reject this global agreement). He has shown no interest in protecting the environment while pushing along a series of actions that side with industry over public health.

Zinke has eagerly stated, "For too long America has been held back by burdensome regulations on our energy industry." He has overturned a moratorium on new leases for coal mines on public land and signed a land-trade agreement that could lead to construction of a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. He has called for shrinking our local Cascade Siskiyou National Monument while proposing more grazing, motorized vehicle use, and timber cutting in the monument.

Zinke also stated that 30 percent of the 70,000 Department of the Interior employees were not "loyal to the flag." Zinke's contempt for public employees

has left local Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials in a position where they can't commit to collaboration with Applegate community members or groups as they have done in the past.

Personally, I find all of the above actions extremely shortsighted and offensive. They represent a total disregard for the health and welfare of our local and global communities, future generations of mankind and other species, and the planet's ecological and environmental functions. It seems that the top guns in the present administration are focused on exploiting our natural resources strictly for their dollar value for the purpose of further enriching wealthy individuals and corporations.

It's pretty obvious where I stand on the issue of continuing unsustainable logging and its threat to our Applegate community, ecosystem, and natural heritage. But I'm not alone. There are millions of people in our country who disagree with stripping away our environmental protections. Like me, they want our politicians and federal agencies to do the right thing by stopping the damage to our last untarnished regions. They want our public resources managed in the public interest rather than in the private interest.

It's heartwarming to see large numbers of scientists showing some leadership on these local and global environmental issues. In November 2017, 15,364 scientists from 184 countries endorsed a document that concluded that urgent measures are required to avert worldwide environmental disaster. They called on the scientific community, media, and ordinary citizens (that's us) to pressure their government to "take immediate action as a moral imperative to current and future generations of human and other life."

Lead author, William J. Ripple, a distinguished professor of ecology at Oregon State University, and seven co-authors wrote the manuscript titled, "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice," which declared that "A great change in our stewardship of the earth and the life on it is required." Given that 66 percent of our Applegate watershed is public land (323,677 acres), it goes without saying that our community needs to take a big part in that required "great change in our stewardship."

If you want to join forces to take immediate action to protect our local environment, let me know.

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988

When government talks

BY TOM CARSTENS

They say you can't go back.

My wife and I tried to do this in January when we revisited Panama, a country we lived in in the early 1990s. Of course, some things have changed: Noriega is long gone, Panama City is taller (even boasting a Trump Tower!), the middle class has expanded (traffic jams), many of our old jungle hikes have turned into tourist meccas, the military bases in the canal zone have been repurposed for commerce, and the canal itself has been straightened, widened, deepened, and expanded to permit larger ships (crossings now cost between \$400,000 and \$800,000!).

But these are superficial changes, really. The Panamanians are still the friendly, lovely people we remembered, the "pana-second" is still a useful measure of time (that's the time between when a light changes to green and when the honking

begins), the wildlife is still amazing, and sea bass ("corvina") is still prepared in a delectable Panamanian way.

One thing *has* changed fundamentally, and it shocked us. Driving through the central highlands, we noticed that many of the upper reaches of the mountains were absolutely barren. In a country that receives as much rainfall as Panama, this is just not natural. Cloud forests are the lifeblood of Central America: they check water runoff, freshen the air, are home to some of the most spectacular birds on earth, and serve economies through ecotourism. What had happened?

It turns out that the government had sold off much of these forestlands to ranchers and farmers. They did it without consulting the locals—who are miffed. There's no recourse, and they are still ignored by their government. Fortunately,



Photo, above: Panamanian mountaintop that's been cleared for ranching. Note the erosion.

Photo, right: A Panamanian cloud forest as it is supposed to look. Photos: Tom Carstens.



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.

• • •

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after seeing the disaster unfold, the government has finally stopped the sales.

It's an old tale: governments never have enough money and the sale of public lands offers a quick and easy revenue source, however fleeting. Here in Oregon, we had our own close call with Elliot State Forest. And some in the federal government are now clamoring to sell off Applegate Valley tracts managed by the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

But we do have a distinction—our government *does* attempt to have a conversation with us. At all levels, officials meet with us to learn our concerns. All major actions must first be reviewed through a public comment process. We might not agree on the outcomes, but we

are given the chance to be heard. That's why I was heartened by the visit of the secretary of the interior to talk with us about the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. And it was especially encouraging to see the recent efforts by our local BLM field office to understand Applegaters' perspectives, as divergent as they seem to be. (See BLM manager Kristi Mastrofini's article on page 6.)

So, it ain't perfect, but our public officials do us all a favor by continuing to dialogue with the lowly citizenry. It shows in our public lands, believe it or not.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025



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How to 'Leave it to Beaver' without losing the farm

BY TIMOTHY SEXAUER

For many millions of years, in what we now call the Applegate watershed, beavers have been the senior landscape engineers. Since at least 12,000 years ago, humans have been living alongside the beaver. In the language of the Takelma, the Applegate is called "sbink," meaning Beaver Place.

By the time the Takelma were violently displaced by the gold-rush settlers, fur trappers had already nearly exterminated the beaver. As a result, rivers and creeks flowed faster and wetlands had become meadows, drastically changing the landscape and ecosystems.

Settlers brought cattle and grain seed, turning this ancient fertility into pastures and hayfields and introducing a different hydrological regime. Ancient wetlands are now a mosaic of ranches, farms, and homesteads with culverts, concrete dams, and ditches designed to move water quickly to where it is wanted and then to the sea.

Today, as creeks are drying up, the beaver population is steadily on the rise, and beavers are still working with the ancient plan to slow water and create drought-proof wetlands. Using their time-

honored methods, they seek to fix any "leak" they discover in our fast-flowing hydrological system. Beavers' efforts to reengineer human creations often lead to blocked culverts, flooded basements, or dead fruit trees. The most common outcome of these human-beaver conflicts is that the human kills the beaver, a detriment to reestablishing healthy beaver populations that would help replenish our withering waterways.

When I lived on a property with people who were concerned about the resident beaver, a friend introduced me to Jakob Shockey, restoration director for the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council and owner of Beaver State Wildlife Solutions. He taught me some tricks to deal with potential conflicts if we are willing to commit to a journey of observation and interaction. Here's a few of the more common useful techniques:

1. A pond leveler prevents things like flooded basements. It keeps the water passing through the dam at the desired height for pond level, secretly drawing water from the center of the beaver pond

through a caged inlet. If you disguise the pipe with mud and sticks, the beavers should build their dam back up around it.

2. A trapezoidal fence protects culverts by keeping beavers away from the sound and feel of fast-moving water, which is their cue to build a dam (see Diagram 1). Debris buildup should occasionally be removed from along the fence to avoid prompting the beavers to build a dam on top of it.

3. The pipe and fence technique combines the benefits of both methods (see Diagram 2). Also, debris buildup on the trapezoidal fence is no longer an issue with a pipe feeding through it.

4. Most beaver kills happen when a beaver takes down the wrong tree. To protect our favorite trees, Jakob recommends painting the bottom few feet of the tree with a mixture of half natural latex paint and half sand. The beaver's teeth are its most important tool, and it will stop gnawing immediately upon feeling the grit of the sand. For protecting larger areas, an electric wire four inches off the ground will keep beaver out.

Jakob says the key is mitigating human-beaver conflicts so we can retain beavers where they choose to reside. When they are secure in their chosen spot, they will naturally disperse their children farther up tributaries where we most need to restore water retention. It is up to us to educate ourselves and others about the many benefits of beaver to the land and, importantly, the ways that we can non-lethally deal with human-beaver conflicts.

To that end, Mike Callahan, Jakob's beaver mitigation mentor, recently launched The Beaver Institute™. Beaverinstitute.org hosts a great deal of information about the ecology of beaver and how we benefit from it. There is also a free extensive online database of documents and instructional videos about various conflict mitigation techniques and flow device construction.

We have the tools needed to help our toothy, furry friends resume their important role in the hydrology and ecology of the Applegate watershed, without disrupting our human systems.

Timothy Sexauer
singingdirt27@gmail.com

Diagrams: Mike Callahan, Beaver Institute.



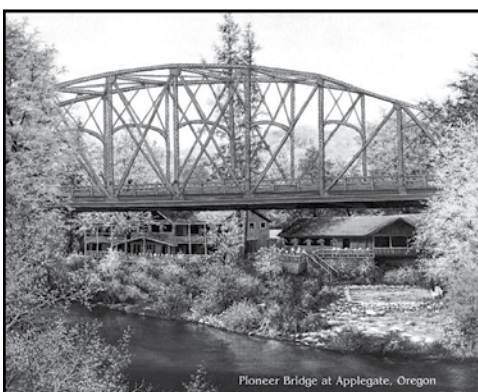
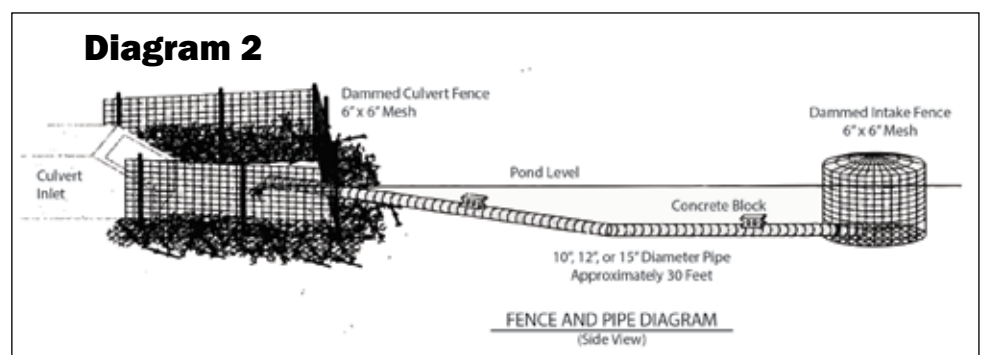
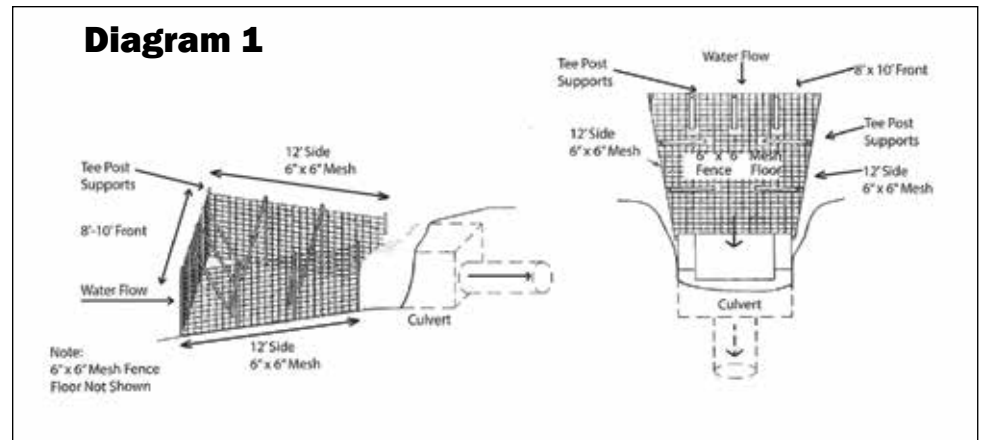
Jakob Shockey situates the cage before untying the float tube during a pond leveler installation. Photo: Timothy Sexauer.

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Wellington Wildlands or wilderness?

BY DAVID CALAHAN

The 1964 Wilderness Act defines wilderness as a place of 5,000 acres minimum, with “outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.”

Under that definition, the 5,711-acre Wellington Wildlands (WWL) more than qualifies for the protections afforded to a “land with wilderness characteristics.” This area, now in jeopardy, is worth fighting for.

WWL is visible from Ruch, Applegate, and Thompson Creek. Many Applegaters drive by it regularly. At 3,705 feet, Wellington Butte stands sentry at the center of this nine-square-mile intact block of undisturbed naturalness and diversity. Comprised of the public lands north of Highway 238 between China Gulch and Humbug Creek, with the Forest Creek ridgeline as its northeastern boundary, it is largely made up of dry, steep south-facing slopes covered in manzanita, buckbrush, madrone, and oaks. At the mountain's feet lie two shaded seasonal creeks, Long Gulch and Balls Branch, with year-round springs to sustain its hidden diverse flora and fauna. Each drainage contains approximately 300 acres of giant Douglas firs and ponderosa pines, the largest remaining intact stands of low-elevation old-growth forests in the Applegate Valley.

Maybe it was economics that kept old-timers from punching roads into both canyons to log the scattered patches of timber. It was a long way to build roads, and there were much easier pickings elsewhere. In 1931 a fierce wind-driven fire raced out of Humbug Creek, across the wildlands, and headed to Jacksonville. Fire

is a cleanser and rejuvenator, a good thing overall, and this one served to keep roads and loggers at bay for another 70 years.

In 2001, despite strong public resistance, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) included half of the wildlands in the Ferris Bugman Timber Sale. But ten miles of new roads, helicopter logging, marginal scattered sites, potentially poor return, a pending lawsuit, and a determined public are off-putting to timber companies. BLM tried to sell Ferris Bugman three times to no avail.

In 2011, BLM identified 5,711 acres as the Wellington Butte Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC). In 2013, WWL was proposed as a Primitive Backcountry Area in the Wyden/Merkley O&C Act. However, BLM's recent (August 2016) Final Resource Management Plan *denied* the best two of four southern Oregon LWC candidates, WWL and Dakubutede (in the Little Applegate). In both cases BLM argued that there is too much timber. Once they complete constructing roads and logging, neither area will qualify for future protection. Therefore, less than one percent of the 148,000 acres that BLM manages in the Applegate received LWC status.

What makes the WWL unique today, besides its size, is the intact nature and close proximity to private lands and major urban populations. Medford, Jacksonville, and Grants Pass are all less than 30 minutes away. Designated wilderness areas usually entail a long drive to high elevations and extremely rugged terrain. Additionally, this incredibly scenic area is the centerpiece



Wellington Butte is prominent in this aerial photo of the southern side of the Wellington Wildlands area. Photo: Scott Harding.

for the next phase of the Applegate Ridge Trail (ART), the Center ART, which will meander through the wildlands to link the recently completed East ART to Humbug Creek. Continuing on, the West ART will traverse high Applegate slopes all the way to the Cathedral Hills Trail System south of Grants Pass.

BLM is now working to produce the Middle Applegate Timber Sale, which likely will include logging the WWL. Currently, management is the biggest threat to the wildlands and, if allowed, will alter the natural characteristics so that the WWL would never again be considered a wilderness. BLM's history is burdened with examples of misguided management, the results of decisions coming from Washington, DC, and timber-company interests.

On a local level, our objective will be to convince BLM that this area is far more valuable left intact for recreation, for

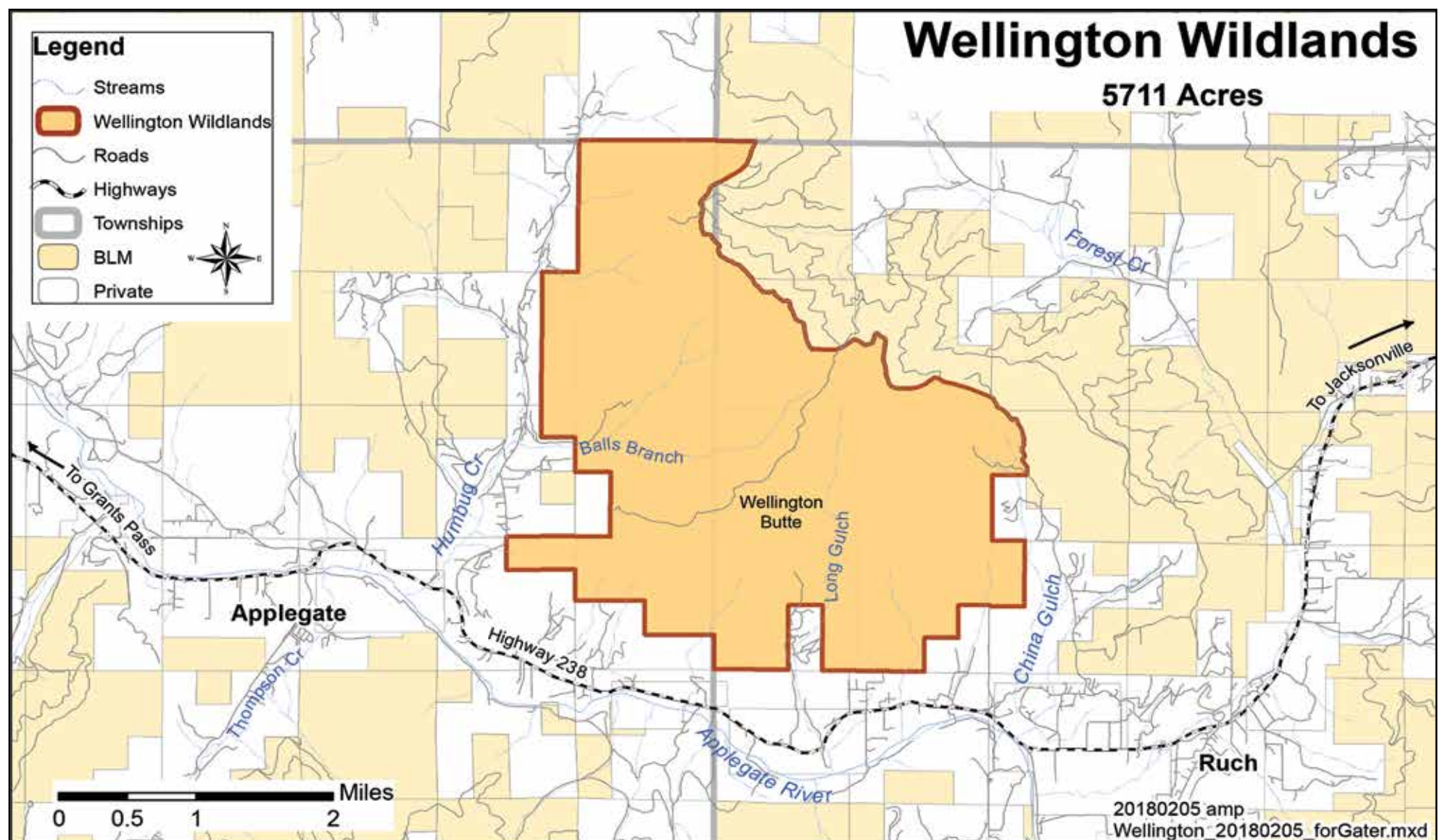
the use and enjoyment of the American people, and as a legacy to pass to our children. Economics will again play a role. If necessary, we may need to convince BLM or the timber companies that there will be too much resistance to log it.

In reality, WWL is a wildland, a roadless area, and a wilderness. But only Congress can designate a “Wilderness.” Whatever the name, this Applegate gem needs our protection!

David Calahan • 541-899-1226
Chair, Applegate Trails Association
david@applegatetrails.org

ATA is a nonprofit organization with the primary mission of building a hiking, biking, and equestrian trail from Jacksonville to Grants Pass. It is unanimous: we would rather bike through a wilderness than in a logged landscape. “Thank God, they cannot cut down the clouds!” —Henry David Thoreau.

Map by Annette Parsons.



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Rare Baker's cypress trees in the Applegate

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

The Applegate is home to one of Oregon's rarest trees, an enigmatic conifer called Baker's cypress. Found in only 11 widely scattered locations in northern California and southwest Oregon, Baker's cypress has a very restricted range. The only two populations in Oregon consist of four groves along Steve Peak ridge (on Rogue-River Siskiyou National Forest land in the vicinity of Miller Lake in the Applegate watershed in Josephine County) and the most northern Baker's cypress grove at Flounce Rock (northeast of Medford in Jackson County on Medford District Bureau of Land Management land).

Cypress trees generally don't grow in cold or wet climates; however, Baker's cypress is tolerant of cold and snow and grows farther north than any other cypress in North America. Near Miller Lake, Baker's cypress trees grow at 5,000- to 6,000-foot elevations in a mountainous cirque where persistent winter snow is the norm.

Botanist-explorer Milo Baker, who found the species in northern California in 1898, first described Baker's cypress within the home range of the Modoc Indians. This is the reason Baker's cypress is also referred to as Modoc cypress. It is also sometimes called Siskiyou cypress.

The botanical name for Baker's cypress is *Hesperocyparis bakeri*. The genus, "Hesperocyparis," translates to "western cypress," and the species name, *bakeri*, honors Milo Baker.

In the Applegate watershed, Baker's cypress trees grow in four distinct groves along Steve Peak ridge: (1) just northwest of Fish Lake, (2) on the northeast slope of Miller Peak at an off-trail location east of Miller Lake, (3) at a saddle between Steve Peak and Miller Lake, and (4) on Iron Mountain. In 1914 US Forest Service ranger Bill Fruit discovered Baker's cypress in Oregon near Steve Peak while clearing a path for a phone line to the old lookout.

The Miller Peak grove has the largest Baker's cypress trees in the world. Growing to heights up to 130 feet, with a trunk diameter from 20 to 40 inches, these cypresses are located within the Oliver Matthews Research Natural Area. Oliver Matthews (1892 - 1979), a self-described "botanical tramp," drove around Oregon in his Model A Ford studying the state's rare and large conifers. Although he lived in Salem, Matthews became enthralled with the Siskiyou Mountains and campaigned hard for the designation of a US Forest Service botanical area near Miller Lake within an area he called the "Miller Lake Magic Circle." Within his magic circle, Matthews had found at least half of the 35 conifer species native to Oregon, including Baker's cypress.

Miller Lake can be accessed from the Miller Lake Trail off Sturgis Creek, a tributary of Carberry Creek; however, a creek crossing requires high-clearance vehicles to access the trailhead.

Getting to Baker's cypress trees in the Applegate is rugged and difficult. If you are not an off-trail hiker but would like to see Baker's cypress from a well-maintained trail, the best option is to check out the



A Baker's cypress tree (top photo) near Miller Lake in the Applegate, and a close-up of Baker's cypress foliage (bottom photo).

nearby population growing on serpentine soil below the Red Buttes along West Fork Seiad Creek, a tributary of the Klamath River. A drive up and over Cook and Green Pass above Applegate Reservoir will take you to the West Fork Seiad Creek Trail and the Seiad Baker's Cypress Botanical Area. The trail is currently not signed, but it is shown on maps.

The West Fork Seiad Creek Trail used to extend all the way up to Lily Pad Lake, just below the summit of Red Butte and the Red Buttes Wilderness, but the upper portion of the trail is currently impassable. The lower portion of the trail, recently maintained by the Siskiyou Mountain Club, provides great access into the heart of the Seiad Baker's Cypress Botanical Area.

Seiad Creek has seen numerous recent wildfires, including this summer's Abney Fire. Baker's cypress is highly adapted to wildfire, especially high-severity fire. Like knobcone pine, Baker's cypress cones can grow on the trunk and limbs of the tree; with the heat of wildfire, the seeds are released from the cone, aiding in reproduction. Baker's cypress is doing really well in Seiad Creek because of the occurrence of recent wildfires that have created bare soil and direct sunlight, which are ideal post-fire conditions for Baker's cypress seedlings to germinate. Because of the recent wildfires, Baker's cypress actually appears to be expanding its range in Seiad Creek.

The Applegate is lucky to have enchanting Baker's cypress trees inhabiting our Siskiyou Mountains!

Suzie Savoie

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PHILANTHROPISTS

Continued from page 1

and the room overflowing with boxes, JCF is overflowing with energy for such projects.

For instance, one program awards grants (generally \$1,000 to \$1,500) to K-12 teachers in Josephine County for student enrichment programs. These grants have funded art projects, provided Chromebooks and calculators, sponsored a problem-solving team in national competition, and helped start a self-defense class. With \$70,000 in grants already awarded, JCF is hoping this program will help raise Josephine County's graduation rates, which are currently among the state's lowest.

Senior and JCF president, Devin Pine, measures the success of the program by what he witnesses in the classroom. "You can see the excitement on the children's faces," he says.

Good clothes, incongruously enough, might also help raise graduation rates.

"The Campus Closet allows students to wear clothes that make them feel like they belong with others," says Aria Back, a junior and JCF co-treasurer and volunteer coordinator.

The Campus Closet contains clothes donated by the community, with unsuitable clothes culled out by JCF student volunteers. Students identified as at-risk are invited by the appropriate adults into the Campus Closet, anonymously and at times when other students aren't around. The room looks like a boutique, with prom dresses hanging from one rack, jackets on another, blue jeans on shelves. Students walk out with clothes they feel good about wearing. When they feel like they "fit in," they are less likely to drop out of school.

If these two programs answer to JCF's "education" goal, others aim towards community health. The annual vision clinic provides community members full eye exams, eyeglasses (if needed), and screening for preexisting conditions and diseases, while Project Float establishes life-jacket loaner stations on the rivers. Program leader Milo Dolantree, a senior and JCF's executive vice president of fundraising, says, "It answers to our goals of health and vibrancy."

For a student organization, JCF spends large figures: \$182,515 for scholarships, \$77,370 for grants to county fire departments and search-and-rescue operations, \$12,551 to help high school juniors attend a leadership academy in New York. To meet such figures, students write grants and hold fundraisers. JCF



Dale Fisher (left), HVHS graduation coach, receives a student enrichment grant from 2017 JCF project coordinator, Jasmine Pinkerton.

member Kippy Easley, also a senior, was in charge of Pink Week (sales of pink shirts, backpacks, etc.), dedicated to patients and survivors of breast cancer. She also helped run the golf tournament, which last year raised \$5,000.

Milo, who is "looking towards a people-oriented career," says, "JCF taught me grant-writing and other skills and has given me contacts that will help me through college and career paths."

Aria says that JCF has given her a passion for working with nonprofits. Kippy says that JCF helped her overcome shyness and to "get out of her shell." JCF helped Devin choose a teaching career so he can "have an impact on the world." He says that JCF "teaches the next generation of philanthropists."

The enthusiasm of the JCF members for the work they are doing is a good mark of the success of this unusual nonprofit organization. You can see the excitement in their faces as they feel their impact on the health, vibrancy, education, and social life of their community.

Alison Cavaner, program manager, is one of the best indicators of JCF's success. While a student at Hidden Valley she was active in service-oriented clubs, with Chris Pendleton as advisor. She graduated from Southern Oregon University in 2013 with a business degree and headed straight for the Josephine County Foundation at her old high school.

"I was eager to get back to community involvement," she says. "JCF gave me a heart for service."

Diana Coogle
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AVFD AWARDS

Continued from page 1

Here are more awards presented by AVFD.

EMS of the Year: William Schmidt
Officer of the Year: Daniel Boyajian
Activity Awards

Alarms "Century Club" (100+):

Dick Rogers (195 alarms)
George Butcher (151 alarms)
Jeff Hoxsey (109 alarms)

Drills:

High Drill Award: Jack Lynch (89%)

Mary Ziegler Spouse of the Year:

Summer Underwood

Safety Award: Noa Widoff

Spirit Award: Jasmine Serabia

Rookie of the Year: Darin Kamealoha

Length of Service Awards

5 Years: Noah Widoff,

Austin Locklear, and

Brian Baird

10 Years: Dick Rodgers, Mike Kuntz (not recognized last year)



Rookie of the Year Darin Kamealoha (center) with Operations Chief Chris Wolfard (left) and Captain Greg Gilbert (right).

15 Years: Jeff Hoxsey

20 Years: Tailese Roeloffs,

Tim VanLeeuwen

25 Years: Rob Underwood,

Gary Sciocchetti

30 Years: Brad Barnes

Chief's Award: Chris Wolfard

Hall of Flame: Tim VanLeeuwen,
Chris Wolfard

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Next deadline:
May 1

NEXT GENERATION

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

Ruch Outdoor Community School



Eighth graders at Ruch Outdoor Community School prepare for a field trip to Yosemite National Park this summer. Photo: Ryan King.

Ruch Outdoor Community School is preparing for its end-of-the-year field trip to Yosemite National Park. Eighth-grade students will be visiting lakes Almanor and Tahoe on June 5, then Hodgdon Meadow in Yosemite on July 6 -7, and the Trinity Alps near Mt. Shasta for the last two nights. This trip underscores the school's sustainability curriculum and supports the pedagogy of place-based education.

The Yosemite and Northern California Field Study will expose students to a new and fascinating region of the Pacific Northwest, introduce them to patterns of life-long learning through deliberate inquiry, present them with an experiential and engaging educational process, and reinforce science concepts taught in the classroom. We hope that, in ten years, they will look back on this trip and remember what they have learned.

With guidance from staff, students will make the bulk of preparations for the trip. In addition to learning about basic ecology, natural history, and current land-use issues in class, students will plan and shop for the menu, research driving and hiking routes, set a rough itinerary for the trip, and conduct fundraising activities to cover over half of the trip's expenses. This will promote a natural buy-in and ownership by the students. Staff will implement student activities and lessons in the field several times a day, and students will record their observations, activities, and lessons in a field journal.

Every other Friday, eighth-grade students venture into the great outdoors on hikes to learn about the local bioregion as well as attain the peak fitness level for the Yosemite field trip. Hikes will take place at Applegate Lake, Jacksonville Woodlands, East Applegate Ridge Trail, Sterling Mine Ditch, Forest Park, and Grizzly Peak Trail.

Life becomes exponentially richer when we step out of our daily routine to experience something novel. For many of the students at Ruch, travel to different parts of the world remains a dream of the future. While we do not have the funds to take students abroad, they may learn many of the same lessons and garner many of the same experiences by traveling to different biomes in the United States. Northern California is unique because it offers three distinct biomes: subalpine, temperate forests, and taiga.

Prior to and throughout the trip, students will be engaged in a natural science and social science-based curriculum, developed by the science teacher at Ruch School. Students will become familiar with the history of land-use practices (from the Native American era forward) as well as the conservation movements that developed in the twentieth century. This curriculum will be applied to studies in the field as students explore and learn about biodiversity, ecological balances, biotic and abiotic factors, and the contemporary complexity of natural resource management and wilderness protection (with guest speakers from the National Park Service and local rock climbers).

From this experience, students will gain a greater appreciation for public wild areas and the recreation activities made available by them. Students will be able to apply the concepts they learn about on this trip to forestry issues and the effects of a changing climate in the state of Oregon and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The eighth graders are excited to be able to experience a very special opportunity!

Ryan King, Eighth-grade Teacher
Lori Yates, Eighth-grade Student
Ruch Outdoor Community School
ryan.king@medford.k12.or.us

Activities and community support at Applegate and Williams schools

Applegate and Williams schools both started the new year with resolution, donations, and other financial support. Provolt Store donated \$500 to each school in their resolve to do something to benefit the community.

Applegate School news

Applegate School has a 24 x 32 foot greenhouse in progress because of the generosity of John and Carrie DiBiasi, who donated all the materials and labor for the project. Beginning this spring the greenhouse will be used to grow native milkweeds to support the monarch butterfly population.

For Applegate School's Book Fair, the Applegate Fire Department, Southern Oregon Crane, and Jeff Vinyard donated funds to provide needy children with free books.

Applegate School's girls basketball program began in January. Both the varsity and junior varsity teams play games on Mondays and Thursdays each week.

A Level One team from Applegate School is preparing to participate in the Oregon Battle of the Books competition in March.

A group of middle schoolers at Applegate School has been participating in Book Club since September. For Open House in the spring, they will present a display of various projects that arose from the Book Club discussions. Book Club members include Aerawyn Willson, Coral Lowry, Hunter Krouse, Lexi Hill, Lily Emmons, Maria Cross, Sierra Fimbres, and Tyler DeMaster.

In January the Applegate School staff announced the Rotary Students of the Year. Recipients of this year's awards are Maria Cross, grade eight, and Max Vidlak, grade five. Maria and Max spoke at the Rotary Club luncheon on February 14, when they were presented with their awards.

Mrs. Halstead's second- and third-grade class at Applegate School had the most participation in the Applegate Fire District's fire-safety activity and were rewarded with a visit to the district's headquarters on January 24. Students enjoyed lunch with some of the firefighters, got "rescued" by firefighters in full gear, checked out all the vehicles, and even participated in a medical response call.

Fifth grader Hailey West was selected to represent Applegate School at the March 26 Future Chef's cook-off event at Hidden Valley High School. There she will be competing at the district level with her Asian fusion food recipe.

Applegate School's eighth graders have begun to hold fundraising events for their class trip to Great Wolf Lodge Resort in Grand Mound, Washington, in June. The first fundraiser, a taco feed, was held on



Some past, present, and future Art & Nature After School students stand in the entrance of Applegate School's new greenhouse, which will soon be ready to grow milkweed for monarchs and other plants for pollinators. Front row, from left to right: Corbin Sharp-Thompson, Zeyna DiBiasi, Claire Emmons, and Hamza DiBiasi. Back row, from left to right: Sierra Fimbres, Lily Emmons, and Aiden Fimbres.



Applegate School basketball team, from left to right. Front row: Claire Emmons, Hailey Traister, and Christina Geary. Middle row: Maria Cross, Zeyna DiBiasi, Freyja Moeves, Rachel Peterson, and Izabella Haning. Back row: Coach Diana Traister, Natalia Sahr, Lily Emmons, Sierra Fimbres, Kali Linn, and assistant coach Lexi Hill. (Not pictured: Abigale Sutton and Autumn Koch.)



Rotary Student of the Year was awarded to Max Vidlak, fifth grade, and Maria Cross, eighth grade.

January 29. Hidden Valley Market in Murphy donated most of the ingredients for this event.

Williams School news

Williams School received a \$35,000 grant from Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub to start a preschool. On February 5, two teachers and 20 children began a half-day preschool program. The goal is to better prepare students, both socially and academically, for kindergarten.

Cow Creek funded an after-school arts program that started in December for Williams School. A spring performance is scheduled for May.

The second after-school six-week enrichment program at Williams School began February 5. Last fall 25 students participated in the program, which included artistic and athletic activities as well as snacks and homework assistance.

Jean Hall • jhall80@juno.com
Photos by Linda Kappen.

Applegate resident on Dean's List



Central Oregon Community College announced that Applegate resident Samantha Bango has qualified for the Dean's List. Samantha is enrolled in 12 or more graded credits and received a term grade point average of 3.6 or better.

Congratulations, Samantha!

Look who's reading the Gater!

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



Photos, top row from left to right:

—While at the Papeete Airport in Tahiti, **Linda Yates** studies Olympic-level outrigger maneuvers in the *Applegater* and ponders whether to join this year's team from Tahiti or catch her flight.

— **Tom and Kathy Carstens**, former residents of Panama, personally treated the *Gater* to a cruise on the Panama Canal, for which the *Applegater* honored them with this photo in the paper.

Photos, bottom row from left to right:

—**Shelley Manning** toured the Alhambra fortress and palace complex in Granada, Spain, guided

by the *Applegater's* expert narration on the most significant Islamic architecture in that country.

—**Dahna Dow** leans against the controversial astronomical clock, made from polished black granite, in Brno, Czech Republic, and leans on the *Gater* to help her discover the true meaning of this "bullet" shape.

—**Dan the Backhoe Man and Danny Black**, at the iconic Gullfoss in Iceland, hope to devise a way to harness electricity from the falls—in spite of unsuccessful attempts by others—with the full backing of the *Applegater* and its step-by-step power-by-waterfall reference section.



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