



Applegater

Photo by Teya Jacobi

applegater.org



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Celebrating
~24~
Years

Wildfire preparedness— all year long? Or not?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Some things just don't seem to go away. Birthdays, arthritis, taxes, an itchy mosquito bite, smoke in the summer. And all those wild turkeys parading around our property, making it impossible to walk the dog (that would be Maggie) while keeping shoes and paws clean!

Fire season, though? Given the cold but fairly dry winter we've had, who knows what to expect this year?

As I wrote this in mid-April the 2018 fire season was already moving forward in the midwest and southwest regions of our country. Our Applegate Valley Fire District Operations Chief Chris Wolfard was called out on a Type 1 team as the "situational unit leader" for a major fire in Arizona. My only question is—who's next? Southern California or southern Oregon?

Take inventory

Since we all have a role in wildfire preparedness, *now* is the time to "inventory" our own properties: What do we need to accomplish to make our homes more fire safe before fire season begins? I know that our Fire Chief Mike McLaughlin is taking stock of fire district equipment, staffing, and volunteers to make sure that we can handle whatever Mother Nature throws at us this summer—whether it's in Applegate, Murphy, or Ruch. And the federal and state fire agencies are hiring

seasonal firefighters and training crews for the summer. Pretty soon I'll be helping the Oregon Department of Forestry put up those fire-season signs!

Over the years I've realized that keeping our homesite and property fire-safe is an all-year task. There is so much to do! Thanks to pine needles, something like cleaning the gutters needs to happen in late fall as preparation for the rainy season, but then *again* in late spring to prepare for fire season.

What about pruning branches close to buildings, mowing fields and trails to provide fuel breaks, burning slash piles, working with the neighbor to get the driveway clearances cleaned up, maintaining a safe bridge on the driveway, and practicing the neighborhood telephone trees? These are all things that should be happening in *your* neighborhood now to prepare as many homes and families as possible.

(Note on that driveway cleanup: Make sure your driveway has been thinned or cleared of fuels so that you aren't jeopardizing the safety of your family when you evacuate or the responding firefighters!)

A single family's personal preparation list can easily cover several pages—

See **WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS**, page 17.

Saturday ■ 7.14.18 ■ 11 - 7

Cantrall Buckley Park
GOLDEN JUBILEE
Presented by A Greater Applegate

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

Free Admission

Cantrall Buckley Park, 154 Cantrall Road, off Hamilton Road in Ruch. Parking: \$5 per car at 1470 Hamilton Road. Free shuttle buses.

Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating.

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For more information, email agreaterapplegate@gmail.com or visit [facebook.com/agreaterapplegate](https://www.facebook.com/agreaterapplegate).

Lavender Festival blooms in June

BY DEREK OWEN

This summer, don't miss the two Lavender Festival weekends: June 22 - 24 and July 13 - 15. Participating lavender farms include Goodwin Creek Gardens in Williams, The English Lavender Farm in Applegate, Lavender Fields Forever in Jacksonville, and Oregon State University Demonstration Garden in Central Point.

The English Lavender Farm is owned by Derek and Sue Owen, who provided the following information about the seemingly endless uses of lavender as a natural remedy.

Miracle healer or sweet-smelling snake oil?

If you are already a lavender lover, chances are you have an anecdote or two about its healing powers. If you're a skeptic, you may take anecdotal evidence with a pinch of salt and look for empirical data.



My wife and I are lavender farmers who distill lavender essential oil. We use it in many of our products, and sell bottles of

See **LAVENDER**, page 22.

Trails of the Applegate Watershed

BY JIM REILAND

When you look up from the Applegate Valley towards the surrounding mountains, there's a pretty good chance you're looking at a landscape that has one or more trails passing through it. We're blessed with a great variety of places to stroll, hike, run, ride, and relax in the great outdoors!

Some high-elevation trails wind along mountain ridges through alpine forests and meadows. The Pacific Crest Trail skirts the southern edge of the Applegate Watershed, while others rim the Red Buttes Wilderness or pass by Grayback Mountain. They afford jaw-dropping views of distant ranges and valleys at nearly every turn. Closer in, other trails offer views that encompass not only mountains and forests, but also farms and ranches nestled in valley bottoms. These trails may start nearer the valley floor and climb up through distinct

plant communities, offering an excellent workout and a lesson about the plant and animal species that thrive at different elevations. Or they may follow a stream, an abandoned water ditch, or a mountainside contour that similarly instructs us about how nature arranges herself.

These local trails are not only close to home, but they also make it possible to see the places where you live, work, and play from a different perspective—as part of a larger whole. You might draw connections that reorient what you know of this place and how you think about it.

Well-designed and maintained trails further our enjoyment of and appreciation for the diverse and beautiful landscape around us. Recreation is also a vital element of our local economy—trails are more

See **APPLEGATE TRAILS**, page 21.

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ISSUE
ENVIRONMENT - FIRE - RECREATION

OBITUARIES

Alice Gelston Migliore

October 7, 1938 - April 3, 2018

Alice Migliore was born in Torrance, Pennsylvania, the youngest of five siblings. As a child, Alice was bright and an instigator at her multi-grade one-room schoolhouse. She graduated from Derry Area High School, where she was a drum major.

Alice started college at Indiana State Teacher's College in Pennsylvania but had to leave after publishing, as editor of the school newspaper, a critical article concerning teacher training. She pursued further education at Temple University and subsequently received a degree from University of Pittsburgh in creative writing. She then served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia. She married her husband, Joseph, in 1966 in St. Louis and moved to Boston to start her family. They had two children. While in Boston, she got an MA in geography from Boston University.

During her life, Alice and her family lived in Houston, Texas; Hershey, Pennsylvania; Williamsport, Pennsylvania; Laguna Beach, California; and Rochester, New Hampshire. She and her husband moved to Ruch, Oregon, in 2010 following the birth of her two grandchildren. The Migliores lived across the road from her daughter.

Alice loved to travel and encouraged that love in all her friends and family. During her life, she made trips to six of the seven continents and climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. She loved cooking, reading, weaving, writing (particularly long letters to friends and family), and taking care of others. She looked forward to trips to the local casinos with her sister, Rita.

"Grandma Alice" loved spending time with children and served as a surrogate grandmother to countless local kids. Until she passed, she was working with children as a nanny and crafts-room instructor



at local libraries and children's museums teaching children to be independent and troublemakers. She loved hosting her grandchildren's parties and sleepovers and was involved in all aspects of their lives. Both grandchildren considered her their best friend and closest confidante.

Recently Alice completed and published a novel, *The*

Legacy of Kathleen Angel.

She was a joy to everyone she met. Her generosity was unmatched. She never judged but welcomed people with open arms into her ever-growing circle of friends and family. She made everyone she loved feel extremely special.

Alice died unexpectedly on April 3, 2018, while recovering from a surgery. She is survived by her husband, Joseph Migliore; two children, Alissa Weaver and Joseph Migliore; grandchildren Ruby and Grayson Weaver; and her siblings, Karl Gelston and Rita Mines, as well as countless nieces, nephews, and extended family with whom she remained in frequent contact.

Friends and family are invited to a celebration of life to be held on June 16. For more information, please contact Alice's granddaughter, Ruby Weaver, at 541-890-0681.

Alice's ashes are buried in Logtown Cemetery in Ruch. Those wishing to make a donation in her memory can donate to the Friends of the Ruch Library in Jacksonville, Oregon.

Ed. note: I worked with Alice Migliore when she submitted her poems for possible inclusion in our book, From the Heart of the Applegate. She was a joy to work with. Three of her poems, A Stylish Folk, Gourmet Coffee, and Remembering Bobby were selected and published and worth the read, if you haven't already enjoyed them.

Rosalind Helene Macy

May 22, 1930 - April 16, 2018

Rosalind (Roz) Macy lived in the Applegate for many years where she enjoyed raising goats, making cheese, baking bread, and gardening organically. She and her husband, Hal, were early and long-time supporters of the *Applegater*.

Roz is survived by Hal; daughters Lynn, Margie, and Mary; stepchildren Marty, Richard, Ray, and Sue, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, June 10, at 2 pm at Cantrall Buckley Park, Pavilion A, in Ruch. Parking is \$4 per vehicle. Please bring a food dish to share. And if you have any stories to share, the family would love to hear them.



Roz and Hal Macy were involved with the *Applegater* from the very beginning, back when the post office directed us to fold thousands of papers in thirds and staple each one.

Hal brought some of Roz's homemade cheese to one of the first folding sessions. While working the stapler and developing carpal tunnel, I sampled some of this cheese and thought, "My god, is this

good!" I asked Hal what kind of cheese it was. "Goat cheese," he said. I told him "no way," that I disliked goat cheese intensely!

But, after eating Roz's cheese, I always hoped that Roz or Hal would bring her immensely delicious cheese—the only goat cheese that I have ever loved—to more *Applegater* mailings. And they did.

J.D. Rogers
541-846-7736

~ In Memoriam ~

Porscha Schiller

October 2, 1950 - March 9, 2018

Franklyn Wise

July 21, 1931 - January 21, 2018

**Welcome to the *Applegater*,
Lisa Baldwin!**

The *Applegater* Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new member of our board, Lisa Baldwin, who is serving as secretary, among other duties she readily took on.

Lisa is a fifth-generation native Oregonian and has lived in the Lower Applegate community of Jerome Prairie since 1966. She was educated in Josephine County schools (Jerome Prairie Elementary, Lincoln Savage Junior High, Hidden Valley High) and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Southern Oregon University. Lisa taught English in Grants Pass for 30 years, serving 14 years at North Middle

School and 16 years at Grants Pass High School, retiring in 2015. Currently, she works as a poet and freelance writer and is an active member of several writing groups—Applegate Poets, Pagan Warrior Poets, Rogue Valley unit of Oregon Poetry Association—and serves as president of the Oregon Poetry Association.

Our thanks to outgoing board members, Don and Debbie Tollefson, who made substantial contributions over their five years of volunteer service, and Shelley Manning, who served two years.

**Thalia Truesdell wins
Oregon library award**

Thalia Truesdell, branch manager of the Ruch Branch of the Jackson County Library District, was honored on April 18, 2018, at the Oregon Library Association (OLA) Annual Conference with the coveted Pearl Award. The Pearl is annually given to an Oregon Library employee who has worked tirelessly from the inside and demonstrated excellence, like a pearl honed into a gem over time.

Thalia, through great energy and kindness, brings consensus and cooperation to the Applegate Valley community served by the Ruch Library. During times of dissent and disagreement, when loggers and environmentalists were at



Thalia Truesdell with her Pearl Award.
Photo: Liz Hampton.

odds, Thalia was one of those who helped to facilitate conversation. Thalia was also instrumental in gaining community support to build the Ruch Library. Known for her openness to new ideas and opportunities, she has been one of the strongest community partners for the

Stories of Southern Oregon project, convening conversations and bringing people together to tell stories and strengthen the town.

Thalia said, "I am so honored to receive the Pearl award. It used to be called the Ole award because it reflected the recipients' efforts to 'take the bull by the horns' and get the job done. That's me!"

Smokejumpers fought fires in the Applegate: 1972 was a bad year

BY MAUREEN FLANAGAN BATTISTELLA

The summer of 1972 was a long, hot, dry summer with temperatures reaching 108 degrees in the "Applegate District" of the Rogue River National Forest. There was no rain for weeks on end, and dry lightning sparked fires in the Siskiyou, Klamath, Six Rivers, Rogue River, Winema, Umpqua, and Shasta-Trinity national forests. All summer long the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base sent crews throughout the Fire District 8 region chasing fires.

Smokejumpers parachute into remote areas as an early and fast response to contain forest fires. The Siskiyou Smokejumper Base, at the Illinois Valley Airport west of Cave Junction, Oregon, was one of the first bases in the country to be established because it was a central location for Pacific Northwest wildfires.

"We launched and just followed the lightning strikes around, looking for smoke," recalls Gary Thornhill, who jumped that year into the Applegate District. That summer there were 22 lightning fires in the Applegate District alone, in timbered areas like China Gulch, Billy Mountain, Dutchman Peak, and Sheep Camp.

By late summer, Siskiyou Smokejumper Base crews were exhausted. Some smokejumpers had returned to college or winter jobs. When lightning strikes began on August 30, Siskiyou requested reinforcements from the North Cascades Smokejumper Base (NCSB) in Winthrop, Washington.

The jump log for August 30, 1972, is telling: "We requested reinforcements and received 16 NCSB Smokejumpers; they were needed for the new lightning storm on the Rogue River Forest. The Applegate had been hit hard. A DC-3 was launched to drop on small fires. Ewing and Kwarta in N344 made the flight with McMinimy and Buck as spotters." Spotters would stay in the plane, scanning for smoke and figuring out the movement of the wind and fire, and identify the best approach for smokejumpers to go into a fire. Spotters were critical to safety and operations.

"Most of them [fires] didn't get very big because we were just on them. We were jumping in to get the fire lines set and then the ground crews would take over. We'd pack out, get back to the base, and get on another airplane," Thornhill says.

Smokejumper Gary Buck remembers that summer, saying "The Applegate has big trees, but it always seemed there was a



Smokejumper.

place to land—a field or on brush."

Lightning strikes continued that season, and on September 3, 4, and 5, Siskiyou jumpers were dispatched to Klamath, Gasquet, Pelican Mountain, Prospect, and the Applegate. The log reports, "September 5 was another busy day with jumpers dropped on 9 fires on the Applegate District. The DC-3 was dispatched with Sthor and Gummer piloting and Swift spotting." That long day was far from over with four more fires starting up in the Applegate before dark.

Between March 16 and October 27, 1972, District 8 smokejumpers made a record 384 jumps on 97 fires and five jumps on three rescues. A small fire could be contained quickly with a fast response with two to four men jumping in teams. That summer, DC-3, Twin Beech, and Twin Otter aircraft dropped smokejumpers into as many as 15 fires a day.

The US Forest Service decommissioned the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base in 1981 and reassigned the crew. In 2006, the base was named to the National Register of Historic Buildings. Volunteers restored its historic buildings and reopened the base as a museum in 2007.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Division of Fire Protection reports that in 1972, southwest Oregon (the area served by the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base) saw 215 fires that burned a total of 2,318 acres, an average burn of 10.78 acres. The ODF reports that in 2017, District 8 saw 350 fires that burned 40,365 acres, of which 1,003 acres were designated by ODF as protected acreage.

Thanks to funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library Services and Technology Act, Southern Oregon University's Hannon Library is digitizing many of the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base Museum's historic photographs and documents. These materials, including a series of images that constitute "The Anatomy of a Jump," are found in the Stories of Southern Oregon Collection at soda.sou.edu.

The Siskiyou Smokejumper Base Museum is located at 30902 Redwood Highway, just west of Cave Junction on Highway 199. The Museum is open from May to November.

For more information, visit facebook.com/siskiyouSmokejumpers.

Maureen Flanagan Battistella
mbattistellaor@gmail.com

Smokejumpers from the Siskiyou Smokejumpers Base in Cave Junction.



Farewell Rat Race, hello Applegate Open!

BY DAN WELLS AND KATE VANGELOFF

For the last 15 years, pilots from around the world have poured into the Applegate Valley to compete in the prestigious Rat Race Paragliding Competition on Woodrat Mountain. This June, pilots will be returning to the valley to compete, but this time they won't be attending the Rat Race—this time, they will be competing in the new Applegate Open. Practice day is June 9, with races from June 10 through June 16.

After a fantastic 14-year run, event organizers Mike and Gail Haley announced early last year that the 2017 Rat Race would be the final competition that they would produce.

Immediately after the announcement, a small group of pilots from the Rogue Valley Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (RVHPA) started meeting to see if it would be possible to continue the tradition of hosting a paragliding competition in the valley. Not only is Woodrat known internationally as one of the premier flying sites in the US, but the annual competition is also a great boon for the local economy. After several planning sessions, the club voted to carry on the tradition and sponsor a new event. The Applegate Open was born!

The next task was to find a venue that could host such a large, ambitious event. Luckily, local winery LongSword Vineyard, a longtime supporter of RVHPA, was also interested in seeing the tradition continue and offered to serve as headquarters. The property at LongSword is a favorite landing zone for pilots and is often used as a goal during the competitions.

With the club's approval and the venue secured, the Applegate Open is beginning to take shape, but putting on a paragliding competition is no small task. It takes a lot of intricate planning and hours of hard work to make a paragliding competition a success. Fortunately, a number of the local club members have been competing or volunteering in the Rat Race for years and were ready for the challenge.

After months of hard work, including launching a website, creating a local rule book, obtaining a Bureau of Land Management special use permit, securing event insurance and approval from local landowners, and untangling millions



Top photo: Pilots on launch on Woodrat Mountain.
Bottom photo: Glider landing at LongSword Vineyard.

of details and logistics, this year's event organizer, Dan Wells, is proud to announce that 130 pilots are currently signed up for the competition with more sign-ups expected in the near future. With such a wonderfully large turnout for the first year of the new competition, the Applegate Open is looking for all the volunteers they can find. For instance, local Applegate residents with their knowledge of the area make great retrieve drivers. They are also looking for help with event registration, photography, headquarters drink and snack monitoring, water and ice delivery to the launch site, and updating social media and event status. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit wingsoverapplegate.org/volunteers for more details.

Community members interested in seeing the competition are invited to visit LongSword Vineyard any day of the competition during business hours to enjoy some wine and watch the paragliders. LongSword will be hosting viewing parties on Saturday, June 9, and Saturday, June 16, to celebrate the competition. Guests will enjoy live music, good food from food trucks, and the excitement of watching the pilots land at LongSword.

For more information about the competition, please visit facebook.com/WingsOverApplegate. For more information about public events, visit facebook.com/LongSwordVineyard.

Dan Wells
Kate Vangeloff
treasurer2014@rvhpa.org

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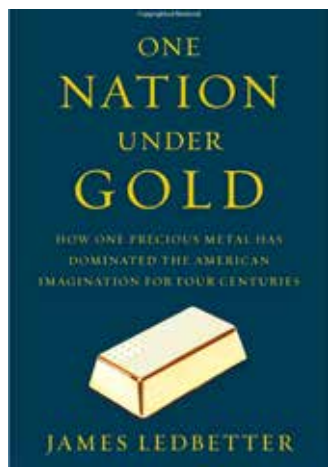
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BOOK REVIEWS

One Nation Under Gold

James Ledbetter (2017)



Back around 1980, an acquaintance of mine received a fortune from a wrongful-death settlement involving the deaths of his parents. That person decided that the best place in which to invest the settlement funds was gold.

The price of gold at that time had risen to more than \$800 an ounce, which would be somewhere around \$2,400 an ounce at today's value.

After his investment, the nightmare began. Gold prices rose like a sizzling Sahara Desert heat wave, then dropped like an arctic blizzard, from which they have never recovered. I don't know whatever happened to this person—like an old prospector, he vanished from town.

I do know that the value of gold plummeted to around \$250 an ounce. Now, 38 years after my friend's investment, an ounce of gold is worth around \$1,350.

On talk radio, one hears a never-ending onslaught of ads to "Buy gold now. The world is ending soon. Maybe the day after tomorrow." Or something like that. So *One Nation Under Gold*, by James Ledbetter, whetted my curiosity because of the above-mentioned B-movie story line.

Ledbetter lays out a great narrative about the history of gold in America. With the exception of slavery, no other issue tormented the country in the nineteenth century more than the question of what form our money should be. Paper money was hated by most people, but gold is a bulky metal and, as Ledbetter says, must be mined, refined, measured, stamped for purity, and heavily guarded against theft. An especially limiting factor is that there is only so much gold.

Even George Washington wished that "states would adopt some vigorous measures for the purpose of giving credit to the paper currency and punishment of speculators, forestallers, and others who are preying upon the vitals of this great country and putting everything to the utmost hazard."

According to Ledbetter, silver coins were issued, but they were worth more melted down than as currency at the start of the Civil War. Between 1837 and 1863, hundreds of banks were launched that printed their own paper money. That didn't fare well because if the bank went bust, paper money from that bank was worthless. But I do love some of its names: "red dogs," "stump tails," and my favorite, "smooth monkeys."

The first gold rush in America happened in 1799 when a 17-pound gold nugget was found in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Gold then fueled great expansion in America with the 1848 California Gold Rush, 1859 Comstock Lode in Nevada, and the 1898 Alaska Klondike Gold Rush.

In 1890, European investors started a run on gold in the US Treasury by cashing in dollar investments for gold. This was followed by a crash in the international commodity prices, leading to the panic of 1893, which would become the worst and longest depression the US had seen. By 1895, the country's gold reserves were well below the \$100 million required by law. Things had gotten so bad that it took the most powerful man on Wall Street, J.P. Morgan, to come up with a plan to save the government from complete meltdown. Morgan couldn't help when the next depression came in 1929.

Ledbetter covers the pros and cons of (1) being on a gold standard (whereby the US government backs paper money with gold), (2) President Franklin Roosevelt's move to outlaw Americans' right to own gold, (3) President Nixon's act of taking the dollar off the gold standard, and (4) the current debate of going back to the gold standard.

Whether you're a "gold bug" (pro gold) or not, this book is worth picking up to learn about the historical watershed events related to America's fascination with gold.

If history books were written even half as interestingly as *One Nation Under Gold*, a lot more people would be fans of history. A superb read.

J.D. Rogers • 541-846-7736

The Bounty Huntress

John Riha (2017)



A spunky girl brings outlaws to justice in this historical novel of Wild West Applegate.

The Bounty Huntress doesn't exactly open with a murder. That doesn't happen till the third page and, it turns out, is not the point of the novel but its background. The person we're interested in is Iris Greenlee, the daughter of the man who died. She was only five when her father was killed but immediately becomes the center of the action and psychology of this wonderful novel of life in the Applegate in the early twentieth century.

If the Applegate wasn't exactly lawless at the time, it also wasn't exactly lawful. There were those (men) who thought they could do as they pleased, whatever the law. Dexter Greenlee had only been fulfilling his responsibilities as game warden when he was shot for doing so. As Iris grows up in the shadow of that murder, she nourishes a passion for shooting on behalf of the law. Schooled in hunting by her stepfather, she eventually becomes a bounty hunter, bringing in wanted criminals for the reward, sorely needed in her family. She becomes, in the language of the day, a bounty huntress.

One of the fine things about this novel is its depiction of attitudes toward women in the West at the time. Iris doesn't want to work a "woman's job." She wants to use her skills as a hunter. She wants to ride (or drive) and shoot and pit herself against dangerous men. She faces ridicule and worse for being an unconventional woman, as in the job she chooses to do, the language she uses, and her unmarried status. We admire her for her spunk, her determination, her smarts, and her love for and responsibility toward her family.

Iris's mother, Emily, remarries after Dexter Greenlee is murdered, but her second husband dies in a mill accident. A flood destroys the pear orchard on which the family had pinned their fortunes, and Emily struggles to raise her two children, the irascible Iris and the younger

boy, Henry, who has what is probably autism. Iris helps the family by bringing in money and by being Henry's fierce defender. When they are children, she rescues him from drowning when an older boy throws him in the river (and then she practically kills the older boy with an axe handle at recess). In their adulthood, she rescues Henry from the mental hospital where he has been inappropriately incarcerated.

Iris has to convince her mother that being a bounty hunter (huntress), in spite of its dangers, is what she, Iris, should be doing. She has to convince the county citizens to vote for her as game warden. She has to convince the sheriff that a girl (she is only 19) can do the job she is seeking. She has to convince the men she is hunting that they should be taken to jail rather than resist her. The first man wasn't convinced, so the first lesson Iris learns is to be more cunning in her approach. It was a hard lesson to learn, paid for with the loss of her arm.

She also has to convince the young man who seems to like her that she wants him to take her virginity. It doesn't take much persuading.

The idea of writing this novel occurred to John Riha when, in December 2014, he read an article in the *Medford Mail Tribune* about the shooting of a game warden in Jackson County in 1914. The murder and the widow with two children are historical facts. Riha created the rest of the story from his imagination underpinned by detailed research about the weapons, cars and trucks, county jails, criminal justice, and language of the era. Riha seems to have gotten everything right, or at least right enough that we fall into the spell of the West at that time.

One of the best parts of the spell, for Applegaters, is reading about places we know—Mule Mountain, the Applegate River, Medford, Grants Pass. Riha, who lives in Ashland, puts us square in our own neighborhood as it was a hundred years ago and peoples our familiar landscape with remarkable characters. Reading *The Bounty Huntress* we are in familiar country in an unfamiliar time.

Diana Coogle • dicoog@gmail.com

— NOT TO MISS: ONLINE ARTICLES —

- Cantrall Buckley Park by Tom Carstens. Complete history, more photos and memories.
- *Stories on the Land*, excerpt 4, by Diana Coogle.
- And the Community Calendar.

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POETRY CORNER

Summer Solstice

by David C. Shiah

Sun rides high, commands the day
Warmth holds the land
Nature in full bloom
Quiet forest streams birth new life
Monarch butterfly floats on the soft zephyr
The timid fawn gazes in wonder
While the red-tailed hawk soars on the warm thermals
Sluggish turtles napping in secluded ponds as
Merry forest gnomes gleefully gather mushrooms
Twilight lingers, the lunar smile fading
Night sky soft, Venus and Neptune dance
Sitting in the forest, I marvel at nature's splendor
Welcome season of joy, hope
Ahh, the living is easy.

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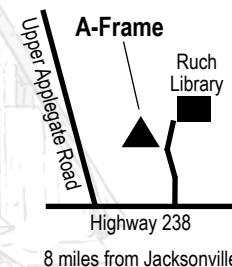
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~ FINE PRINT ~

WHO WE ARE

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

Our Mission

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

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

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

Acknowledgements

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All 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. Obituaries are limited to 500 words and one photo.

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

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

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

All submissions for the next issue must be received at gater@applegater.org by the deadline (see Editorial Calendar).

Applegate Valley
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Thanks to **Teya Jacobi** for the lovely photo of Canadian geese paddling on Squaw Lake.

Editorial Calendar

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

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

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

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

Next deadline: August 1

The benefits of singing with others

BY HARMONY HAYNIE

It has been scientifically proven that singing together in a group reduces stress and anxiety while elevating beneficial hormones in your blood, such as endorphins and oxytocin, which positively affect your mood. It is also really *fun*!

How does this work? First of all, singing together creates a climate of friendship. Many of us can be quite shy about our voices, but when we show up to sing in a community choir, we muster up the courage to share a deeper part of ourselves with others. This open sharing often creates a lasting bond of friendship with other choir members, maybe due, in part, to the release of oxytocin, which stimulates feelings of trust and bonding. The outcome is that singing together can help to dispel the feelings of loneliness and isolation that are an unfortunate part of life. In addition, we gain self-esteem from facing and overcoming uncomfortable feelings and being accepted by the all-inclusive group.

Second, singing in a group involves our minds in a collective goal. This involves deep focus and concentration, firing up parts of our brain that may not be used for other, less creative parts of our lives. Learning new music stimulates both the creative regions of the brain (right hemisphere) and the part used for mathematics (the left). A single activity that engages the whole brain is beneficial for communication between our creative and logical centers: both creative inspiration and memory retention.

Third, regular singing is a type of meditation and has similar benefits: increased memory and concentration,

increased focus, lowered heart rate, and reduction of cortisol (the stress hormone). It requires focus and concentration on the breath and deep, full-bodied breathing, both of which inspire relaxation. In addition, the sounds made while singing vibrate your entire body. When people join up with others involved in the same "frequency" (i.e., song), a collective field is created, which can even cause members' hearts to start beating in sync!

Aside from these amazing benefits to our mental and physical health, singing in groups is trending! According to Chorus America, 42.6 million adults sing in choirs, up by almost 10 million over the previous six years. These choirs number in the hundreds of thousands and cover a wide range of musical styles, from barbershop to pop, church, gospel and world music, among many others. There is literally something for everyone.

Why miss out on a fun, energizing, and stress-reducing opportunity? This summer, you can discover these benefits for yourself by coming to sing in the Williams World Music Summer Singing Series that I am hosting. This series will take place every other Monday night from 7 - 9 pm at the Williams Grange in Williams, starting on June 4 and ending on August 27. There is no commitment and no need to be able to read musical notation. Each week will be independent of the others. For more information, please email me.

Harmony Haynie
Director, Williams World Music
Summer Singing Series
harmonysue23@gmail.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The solution to everything

Dear Editor:

Suppose the National Institutes of Health declared they solved cancer. We'd be delighted! But suppose their solution comprised telling us cancer no longer exists and they were defunding research.

Suppose the Defense and State Departments announced they solved all international conflicts. Again, we'd be delighted, unless their solution was to argue that international conflicts have all disappeared.

Sound ridiculous? Think again!

This is the how the Trump administration and Congressional Republicans address the problem of global warming and its disastrous climate chaos consequences. Exactly as climate scientists across the globe provide irrefutable confirmation, we are seeing conspicuous warming trends in the Rogue Valley and alarming climate consequences.

Meanwhile, Congressional and state Republicans, along with the Trump administration, have solved our problem. While individual Republicans disagree occasionally, collectively the party has solved the problem with a "See No Evil, Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil" philosophy. They have ignorantly decided that the consensus of 97 percent of climate scientists and all professional scientific organizations and academies of science across the world is a conspiracy—so we needn't worry. Despite the Defense Department identifying global warming as a national security threat, Trump is now closing down global warming research at NASA. Problem solved; insanity rules!

The precious environment that is our Applegate Valley is not served by denying science. Our agriculture, our forests, and our water supplies will suffer if this insanity continues.

Alan Journet, Jacksonville, OR

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Jackson County Library Services

— Applegate Library —

Libraries rock—especially the Applegate Library!

A Summer Event Guide, with a schedule of events at all 15 Jackson County branch libraries, will soon be available at the libraries for your summer planning. Until that is published, the following are the happenings at the Applegate Library this summer (most of June, July, and most of August)!

Veterans' Service Office (VSO), first Wednesday of every month from 1 - 2 pm. Veteran Service Officers counsel and assist veterans and their dependents in obtaining benefits provided for them by county, state, and federal laws. VSOs are accredited representatives for the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims before the Department of Veterans' Affairs under the laws relating to veterans' benefits. There is a VSO here for both Jackson County and Josephine County.

Mark Prchal: Geology of Southern Oregon. Wednesday, June 13, 11 am - 12:30 pm. An informal and fun presentation about this fascinating topic.

John Jackson: Rocks, Minerals & Fossils program. Wednesday, June 20, 11 am - 12 pm. John Jackson will show examples of rocks, minerals, and fossils as he talks about them. Those in attendance will get a free rock sample to begin or add to their own rock collections.

Lori Wilson: Rockin' Bath Bombs. Saturday, June 23, 10 am - 12 pm. Jackson County Library Services' very own Lori Wilson instructs on the making of bath bombs made with essential oils, which you can take home in your own decorated box.

Amber Bishop: Henna Art. Friday, June 29, 2 - 5 pm. Participants will receive

a pre-made henna cone and a piece of paper for practice exercises before they are paired up to complete a basic design on each other. (Ages 9 and up, please.)

Amber Bishop: Face Painting. Friday, July 20, 2 - 4 pm. Draw your own design to be painted on your face or choose a "Libraries Rock" themed design.

John Jackson: Operation STEM. Tuesday, July 31, 4 - 5 pm. Hands-on introduction to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). But beware! There's a loud rocket noise if you fail! Ages 11+.

Lisa Nichols: Learn to Play the Recorder. Wednesday, August 8, 12:45 - 2:30 pm. An introduction to reading music and playing the recorder. Participants will be able to take home a recorder. Limited to 20 participants.

Applegate Storytime. Saturdays, 10:30 - 11 am.

Bret Fearrien, Digital Services. Tuesdays, 2 - 4:30 pm. Bret is assigned to our library every week at this time. Drop in for computer help or make an appointment through the JCL website (jcls.org), clicking on "services" and then "requested help."

For these and other reasons, our library rocks! Amber Bishop believes that the "Library Rocks" because we can access information on so many topics and therefore gain understanding and appreciation for so many different perspectives and cultures.

Applegate Library is located at 18485 North Applegate Road in 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 —

Celebrate summer with Ruch Library! Within the theme of "Libraries Rock!" we will offer programs, incentives, and prizes for Summer Reading.

Crater Rock Museum will have an awesome display through June 7 that you won't want to miss. Summer Reading begins June 9. Come weekly to enjoy the I Spy Window and Guessing Jars.

For Babies and Wobblers: The special literary experience for our youngest patrons (0-3) will be Tuesdays at 10:15 am. Preschool Storytime is Tuesdays at 11:30 am, followed by a craft.

LEGOS, books, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines, computers, and more are always available during open hours.

Charlene Brussat: Introduction to Watercolors. Saturday, June 2, 2 - 4 pm. *Adults only.* Award-winning local artist offers this introduction class. Follow-up classes will be offered for those who want to continue.

Amber Bishop: Face Painting. Thursday, June 14, 2 - 4 pm. All ages, all creative designs. Rock painting while you wait.

Malcolm Terence: Author Talk. Saturday, June 16, 2 - 4 pm. Meet Malcolm Terence, renowned storyteller from the Salmon River in Northern California, who will introduce his new book, *Beginner's Luck: Dispatches from the Klamath Mountains*. Hear his stories about life on the Black Bear Ranch commune, located in a remote corner of the Klamath Mountains. Refreshments will be served.

Rhythm Band. Saturday, June 23, 1 - 3 pm. Create instruments with recycled materials and create a band! All ages.

Lisa Nichols: Recorder Lessons. Tuesday, June 26, 2 - 3:30 pm. Lisa Nichols, musician and teacher, will instruct children how to play the recorder. All children will get to take home a recorder. Preregistration required. Ages 7+.

John Jackson: Fish. Tuesday, July 17, 1 - 2 pm. Learn about our underwater friends as we dive into the lives of fish! John will discuss 12 different species of local fish. Coloring pages. All ages.

African Shekere. Saturday, July 21, 1 - 3 pm. Make an African rattle from a gourd and beads or buttons. Materials provided. Ages 10+, though six- to nine-year-olds can attend if accompanied by an adult. Preregistration required.

John Jackson: Electromagnetics. Tuesday, July 31, 1 - 2 pm. Build your own electromagnet using copper wire, electrical tape, a nail, and a battery. All materials included. Preregistration required.

Laura Rich: African Drumming and Folktales. Thursday, August 9, 2 - 3 pm. Learn to play an African drum. Presented by Laura Rich, musician and storyteller.

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.

Josephine Community Library

— Josephine Community Libraries —

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

The four Rotary clubs in Josephine County have teamed up with Josephine Community Library District and Josephine County Library Foundation to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to families in our community.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book-gifting program that mails free books to children every month from birth to age five in participating communities, paid for by local sponsors, including AllCare Health. Through this program, every child under the age of five in Josephine County is qualified to receive a book by mail, at no cost to families, every month until the child's fifth birthday.

You can register your child for free by:

1. Stopping by your nearest library branch in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, or Wolf Creek and filling out a paper registration form, or

2. Visiting josephinelibrary.org.

The first book every child receives is *The Little Engine That Could*, Dolly Parton's favorite book. The message of the book is timeless, encouraging children to never give up, do their best, and stay positive no matter what.

This program is free thanks to the Rotary Clubs of Josephine County—your only obligation is to notify the library in case of an address change.

Sponsors for this program include AllCare Health, Hart Insurance, Josephine County Library Foundation, Oregon Pacific Financial Advisors, Inc., the four Rotary Clubs in Josephine County, and Welch Investment Group, LLC.

For more information or to make a donation in support of this program, contact partnership manager Rebecca Stoltz at the library at 541-476-0571 x 108 or rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org.

Summer Reading Program: Libraries Rock!

Families are invited to join the free Summer Reading Program at any of the four branches of Josephine Community Library District in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek between June 23 and August 4.

• Children age birth through 12 years old can enjoy creative crafts and storytelling

sessions and play reading bingo for special prizes.

- Teens can earn a weekly raffle ticket for each book read and the chance to win a \$50 gift certificate to Oregon Books and Games each week.
- Parents who attend with their children every week have a chance to win a \$100 gift card to Fred Meyer at the end of the program.

Funding for the children's Summer Reading Program is made possible by the Oregon State Library Ready-to-Read Grant.

For more information, please visit josephinelibrary.org, email info@josephinelibrary.org, or call 541-476-0571.

Bugs R Us at the Williams branch

Save the date for Bugs R Us at the library this summer! Bugs R Us will visit the Williams branch of Josephine Community Library District from 1:30 - 2:30 pm on Tuesday, July 3, to offer a free program highlighting local backyard birds. No registration required.

For more information, contact Williams branch manager Ellie Avis at 541-846-7020 or eavis@josephinelibrary.org.

New weekly storytime at the Williams branch

Visit the Williams branch of Josephine Community Library District every Friday afternoon from 1:30 - 2:30 pm for a weekly storytime and craft session.

Every week, children have the opportunity to listen to stories and socialize while doing an accompanying craft in a safe and fun environment!

Registration is not required. For more information about regularly scheduled programs, contact Williams branch manager Ellie Avis at 541-856-7020 or eavis@josephinelibrary.org.

Chess club at the library

The Williams branch of Josephine Community Libraries is hosting chess club every Tuesday from 3 to 5 pm. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Chess boards and pieces are provided.

Williams branch of Josephine Community Library District is located at 20695 Williams Highway in Williams and is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 1 - 6 pm and Fridays from 11 am - 4 pm.

What do you know?

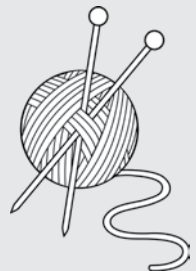
Do you have a special skill to share?

Do you knit?

Sell crafts online?

Sharpen tools?

Know how to make a LEGO sphere?



Applegate and Ruch Libraries are planning a How-To Festival for September 22, 2018. We are seeking local presenters to share their knowledge in an exciting day at both libraries, where participants can learn a variety of skills from volunteers in 30-, 60-, or 90-minute presentations. Some of these would be hands-on, especially the kid-friendly sessions.

There will be up to six sessions running concurrently in both libraries, so we are hoping that many of you will want to be part of this valley-wide extravaganza. The list of potential topics is endless. Maybe you could tell us about bees, vermiculture, using binoculars, or how to access Oregon Health coverage. Let your imagination run wild!

If you are interested in presenting, please call Applegate Library at 541-846-7346 or Ruch Library at 541-899-7438 before July 1.

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— A Greater Applegate —

Successful launch of A Greater Applegate!

It has been four months since our transition from Cantrall Buckley Park operators to A Greater Applegate, and a lot has happened in that time.

First, we were thrilled with the response to our community chili dinner at the Applegate Valley Fire District Training Building on March 15. More than 100 people showed up on a cold, rainy evening; the energy level made it sound like a hundred more. It was great to visit with friends—old and new—and share what we are doing and thinking about.

We want to thank Ruch Country Store for hosting the event and providing the home-cooked chili, and to thank our other sponsors—Applegate Valley Fire District, By George Farm, Charlie's Produce, D&B Land & Livestock, Oshala Farms, Pennington Farms, Rise Up! Artisan Bread, and Whistling Duck Farm and Store—for making it all warm and inviting.

While we love feeding people, this gathering was intended to engage more of us in what we can do to ensure A Greater Applegate's success. We are happy that three dozen people volunteered to participate in building networks for local artists, businesses, nonprofits, and neighborhoods and to help with the park and plan its 50th anniversary (see Cantrall Buckley Park Golden Jubilee information on page 1). If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please email me and I will connect you to the right person. We can definitely use more help for this important work!

We also want to make sure we are putting our energy toward what matters to the people of the Applegate Valley, and we are inviting everyone who lives here to respond to our community survey, which you can find at gacdc.org. So far, we have learned that people are interested in:

- Building a rural caucus to amplify the voice of the Applegate Valley community with local and state governments and other regional decision makers.
- Creating an Applegate Farmers' Market for local produce and products.
- Supporting neighborhood emergency plans and promoting emergency preparedness.

- Addressing other issues, including cannabis policy, Bureau of Land Management policy, traffic, a community garden, a local recycling program, and a commercial kitchen.

We learned that the Applegate Valley Connect website (applegateconnect.org) is a very popular new addition to the community. We already had a good sense of that based on the close to 10,000 views it has received since its launch in February, but we also learned that people like it equally for its calendar of events, projects, stories, and directory of organizations. If you are a local organization, be sure to register and add your information on the directory. It's free and easy!

Cantrall Buckley Park remains as valued as ever, with the Park Enhancement Committee creating an Art Walk, working with the county to install solar panels and an educational exhibit, installing new benches, and completing work on the playground installations, among other projects (see related story on page 10). In the survey, people have asked for more trash and recycling bins, among a range of other amenities.

Most recently we were excited to hear we received a Community Builders grant from The Ford Family Foundation, which will enable us to build the infrastructure for the work ahead. The grant will fund more hours for our consultant and interns to support our community-building work and will help us with rebuilding our organizational website, planning for the future, and more.

So let's keep the momentum going! Help us know what you care about by completing the survey (gacdc.org). Get on the mailing list for one of the upcoming network gatherings for artists, businesses, neighborhoods, or nonprofits. Join us at the Cantrall Buckley 50th Anniversary Jubilee on July 14.

And, yes, tax-deductible donations are always welcome. Mail your check to A Greater Applegate, PO Box 335, Jacksonville, OR 97530 or visit our soon-to-be-updated website at gacdc.org.

Seth Kaplan
Board Chair
A Greater Applegate
SethKaplanConsulting@gmail.com



Around 100 members of the Applegate community attended the chili dinner held by A Greater Applegate in March at the Applegate Valley Fire District Training Building.

Volunteers needed!

Cantrall Buckley Park's Golden Jubilee
Saturday, July 14, 11 am - 7 pm

- Kids' Zone
- Green crew
- Parking crew
- Information tent

To sign up, email agreaterapplegate@gmail.com.

— McKee Bridge Historical Society —

The pie is history, but more fun to come

On Saturday evening, April 14, four score and more folks met on McKee Bridge for a Pie Social and History Talk, with Janeen Sathre narrating a showing of old photos of the Upper Applegate area from the collection of her mother, Evelyn Williams. Prior to the picture show, old-timers born and raised here mingled with those who have arrived more recently, all eagerly consuming the astounding layout of pies, cakes, cookies, and brownies provided by the McKee Bridge Historical Society board members with the help of family



and volunteers. If you weren't there, ask anyone who attended, and you'll find out that you missed a good time, pie, friends, and a history lesson too. We plan to have more history events in the future, so watch for updates by checking the calendar or events on applegateconnect.org.

Raffle

But here's the deal: You *can* get in on the fun *and* have a chance to win \$300. Two generous benefactors have put up the money for a raffle for anyone who becomes a new member or renews an existing membership in the McKee Bridge Historical Society by McKee Bridge Day, our annual celebration that occurs on Saturday, June 9, this year. The drawing will be held after a day of family-friendly activities: Applegate Lions tri-tip BBQ, root beer floats, music by the Old Time Fiddlers once again, old cars and old engines, lots of exhibits and vendors. Come out and celebrate the 101st birthday of the bridge with us from 11 am - 3 pm. We're very proud of our bridge, and we hope you'll come enjoy it with us.

To become a member of the McKee Bridge Historical Society or to renew your membership, call Paul Tipton at 541-846-7501 or email mckeebridge1917@gmail.com. The cost is only \$20 for an individual or family membership. We'll get a form or information to you, as needed, or you can sign up on June 9 during our celebration.

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

— Pacifica —

We miss you, Kay!

Kay Johnson, who created a good deal of Pacifica's seven miles of hiking and riding trails, died on April 16. She used to say that she knew every inch of Pacifica's 420 acres, and we all believed her.

One of the trails she developed will be named after her. We will miss her for her thoughtful, no-nonsense suggestions and comments at board meetings, for all her hard work on horse events and establishing the trail system and map, and for her friendly wave from atop her horse.

Sky-Lodge erected for outdoor school

Pacifica now has a lovely 50-foot-wide Sky-Lodge thanks to Brenda Patton and Jay Cromer. It is an amazing structure and absolutely *perfect* for evening campfires with songs and skits and for essential eating space for our Outdoor School sessions.

We have had a busy spring creating the curriculum, activities, and facilities needed for Pacifica Outdoor School (P.O.D.S.). Groups of up to 60 sixth graders from the Three Rivers School District and other schools will be spending three days and two nights each session at Pacifica. Their programs will include nature-science (animals, birds, rocks, soil, water, etc.), hiking games and activities, and fishing, as well as a close-to-the-ground challenge course, lessons on how to stay found when hiking, and classes in music, art, or theater.

We're really looking forward to this new adventure at Pacifica.

An array of summer day camps

Are any of you interested in leading a four-day summer camp at Pacifica? The



Educational game at Pacifica summer camp.

subject of the camp could be anything you choose! Pacifica offers summer day camps from 9 am - 2 pm, Mondays through Thursdays. You can change that format, though, if you would prefer to offer a one-night overnight or all nights overnight for your camp.

Camps already scheduled for this summer are music, theater, sewing, and yoga, with a creativity camp in the works. Open weeks to lead a camp are June 25, July 9, July 16, August 13, and August 27.

Let us know of your interest

If you are interested in doing a camp, please talk with Vanessa as soon as possible about your ideas!

All camps must have two adults on staff, so perhaps some of you would like to partner up to offer a camp. Camps are super fun and a chance to work with a small group of kids, when you really can connect with them and do fun projects! Thanks for considering the idea!

Please contact Vanessa at 541-621-6278 or vanessa@pacificagarden.org if you'd like to lead or take part in a camp.

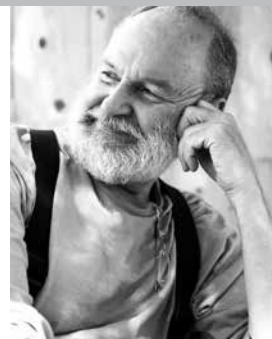
Peg Prag • 541-846-1100
peg@pacificagarden.org

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

THE STARRY SIDE

The North Star, the still star

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

If stargazing is new to you and you want to learn one interesting thing, find Polaris, the North Star. It's the only star in the whole sky that stays in the exact same location. There are several ways to find it:

1. Look in the direction the sun rises (that's east) and turn to your left—that's north. Facing north, look up approximately 45 degrees—about halfway between the horizon and straight overhead—and you'll see a modest star, measured as only the fiftieth brightest star, but first in importance because every other star moves around it while it *stays still!*

At my house, the North Star is always just to the right of a tall cedar tree, about

three quarters of the way up the tree. I recommend you find a landmark like my tree and orient the star in relation to it to create your own personal mark.

2. The most common technique is to use the Big Dipper (officially called Ursa Major, the Big Bear), which is always in the north going around and around that North Star. The two stars at the bottom of the dipper, away from the handle, point directly at the North Star.

3. You can also use Cassiopeia. She's a queen but looks like a W or M depending on her orientation, and she lives on the opposite side of the North Star from the Big Dipper. One side of the W is a wider

V than the other. Imagine two evenly spaced lines within that wider V, dividing the space into three pieces of pie. Follow the outside line (away from the center) of those two lines you just imagined, and it will point right to Polaris.

4. The Little Dipper (Ursa Minor, the Little Bear) is a third constellation in this story. The end star of its handle is the North Star. The handles of the two dippers (or the tails of the two bears) are pointing opposite to each other. With this information you can stay on track walking or navigating at night using the position of the North Star. If it's on your right, you're walking west; if on your left, you are walking east; if behind

you, guess what, you're walking south, etc.

These are important first steps in understanding the movement of the night sky. All other stars and constellations are only in the same place once a year. The North Star (near your personal mark) and these circumpolar constellations rotating counterclockwise around and close to it are almost always completely visible because they stay high in the sky all year long. If you find this group in the north, they will always be there for you in any season.

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

Greeley's Sky Calendar

Venus is the brightest thing in the evening all this summer. She's at her highest and stays up longest in August.

Jupiter works his way down and west into the evening throughout June, July, and August and is almost as bright as Venus.

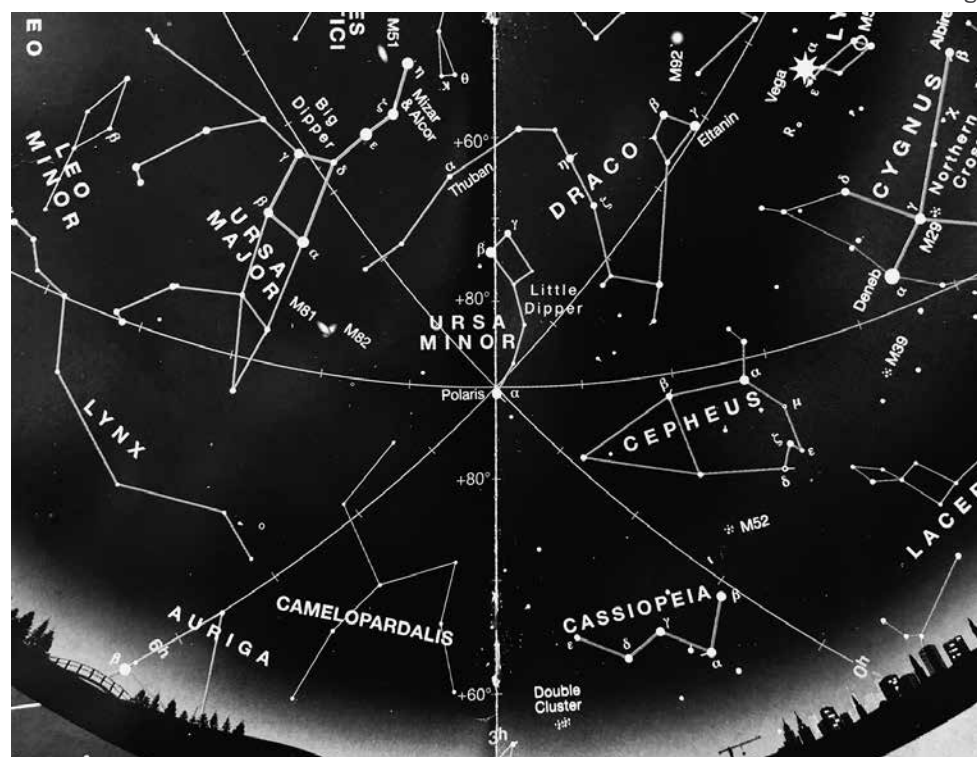
Mars and the earth are at their closest on July 27, when Mars will be at its brightest since 2003. It had been 6,000 years since Mars was that close to us, and this year it will *almost* match that record-breaking brightness.

Mercury, in the sun in June, in the dusk in July, and in the dawn in August, is hard to find, as always.

Saturn is up all night in June and moves into dusk in July and August. It's at its apex in June.

The Perseid meteor shower, the best of the year, peaks on August 12-13. A small crescent moon will set early in the evening. It's always best after midnight, when the earth has turned its dark side into its direction of motion—that's the leading side, facing into the wind, as it were, creating a more vivid show, the way snow is more impressive coming at you through the front window of a car than the back window!

Illustration from stellarium.org.





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Walipini, a place of warmth

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Using the earth's natural underground warmth is not a new concept, but a timeless one. Hmm, do you think plants, such as potatoes, asparagus, and peonies, figured out that going underground in the winter would keep them alive and warm for their spring debut?

Walipini, meaning "place of warmth," is an interchangeable word for underground greenhouse or pit greenhouse. Four to eight feet underground, the earth's temperature is a stable 50 to 70 degrees. The thermal mass of the surrounding earth plus the passive solar energy account for the stability of the soil.

There is documentation of underground structures, called walipinis, being used in South America for a few decades in the early part of the twentieth century. And the use of earth-sheltered greenhouses in the United States was very popular in the late 1800s.

The concept, as I understand it, is multifold. Basically, the pit or underground greenhouse is used to extend the growing season for plants needing warmer weather. This means you can extend the growing season for tomatoes, basil, dill, eggplants, some flowers, cucumbers, melons, squashes, etc. Perhaps even grow dwarf citrus trees year-round. It does not freeze that far underground.

Plants that do fine in cooler weather, such as cabbage, lettuce, broccoli, spinach, carrots, and even potatoes,

can also thrive in an underground greenhouse as they can be kept cool in the summer.

While the underground gardening concept is fascinating, it also makes good economic and ecological sense. I have only read about, but never constructed, a walipini. Thus, this article is exploratory for me and hopefully interesting and wanna-do-too for you.

Building a pit greenhouse sounds daunting, but apparently it is not if one incorporates a few rules and essentials.

Ideally, greenhouses are built four to eight feet underground but need to be at least five feet above the water table or a muddy, sloppy-gloppy mess may ensue.

This project need not be overwhelming nor expensive. Aside from gathering many friends for free labor, nab one friend who



Cover your walipini with plastic or glass panels (i.ytimg.com).

has a backhoe. Consider incorporating recycled material or whatever other materials are available. Keep in mind that materials used must be long-lasting underground. Materials to consider

are native stone and/or cinder blocks. Combine them if necessary. If you're not using stone, cinder blocks, or concrete, check with a local hardware store or online about what else might work for below-grade construction.

Placing a French drain is tantamount to a structurally successful Walipini. A good site to educate yourself about French drains is easydigging.com/Drainage/installation_french_drain.html. Be creative and do not ever think you can't ask questions.

Clearly, as with chicken soup, every builder of a walipini will have a different recipe. Some designs incorporate a natural

hill slope. Others go straight down with stairs or a ramp. Style and methods will vary with site, exposure, experience, size, and material and labor available.

The entire walipini can be completely passive or you can do a few easy but enhancing additions to ensure success. Don't forget the greenhouse needs to "breathe." According to greenhousecatalog.com/greenhouse-ventilation, "Ventilation is perhaps the most important component in a successful greenhouse. This is because ventilation serves four major purposes within the greenhouse. First of all, it helps to regulate temperature. It also ensures that your plants get plenty of fresh air that they can use to photosynthesize. Additionally, good ventilation prevents pest infestations and will encourage important pollination within the greenhouse."

In the winter, you can supplement with grow lights or have several black barrels filled with water. The water in the black barrels will warm up and insulate the area while also providing readily available water for the plants.

The next decision is what material to use to frame the greenhouse. Well, consider aesthetics versus function, available material versus labor, and time versus money. Ideally one would use metal hoops, such as those used in large commercial greenhouses, or wood if it is readily available. Cover with plastic of at least .6 ml and/or glass panels.

Be creative; it may not always be necessary to use the commercial material promoted on some websites. Different "recipes" for different folks.

Sioux Rogers • 541-890-9876
dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm



Photo, left: Consider native stone, cinder blocks or concrete for walipini walls (permies.com).

Photo, right: Framing of a walipini in progress (1.bp.blogspot.com).



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Art is happening in the park

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Educational Art Walk

Jacksonville artist Cheryl D. Garcia will create 11 metal sculptures over the next two and a half years to grace the natural beauty of Cantrall Buckley Park with southern Oregon's first sculpture park. Visitors will experience sculptures of local flora and fauna, including a variety of larger-than-life birds and a gigantic mock orange, shooting star, and wild Oregon iris installed along the Art Walk. Each sculpture will be accompanied by educational information.

In April, many generous community members gathered at Valley View Winery for a fundraiser, which raised over \$23,000 to implement the new Art Walk. The event was sponsored by A Greater Applegate (AGA) and the Cantrall Buckley Park Enhancement Committee (PEC) and was organized by Tom Carstens.

The sculptures will add to the work of Jacksonville mosaic artist Jeremy Criswell's playful, larger-than-life mosaic turtle, "Tuffy," which already resides in the playground for children to play on. There are additional plans for Jeremy to finish and install the community mural on the exterior of the newly renovated restroom. In the future there will also be a solar educational display with a large community-built sundial next to a new solar array and outdoor classroom.

Generous donors

Many thanks to all who donated to the Art Walk (as of May 1, 2018):

Legacy Donors will be permanently recognized with an engraved boulder: Antonio Aquilar and Matt Katzenson, Boaz and Matia Brizman, Mike and Carol Burrill, Tom and Kathy Carstens, Matt and Donna Epstein, Barbara D. Formanek, John and Bonnie Rinaldi, Sean and Sonya Roden, Greg and Debbie Shultz, Greeley Wells, and Applegate Valley Garden Club.

Other generous donors will collectively be recognized on plaques: Larry and Gaye Anderson, Bill and Lyn Boening, Larry and Shannon Buscho, Judy Crowe, Don and Linda DeWald, Pat Gehres, Nancy Goodwin, Ken Gregg, Jerry and Yolanda Haynes, Gail Kuzma, Alice LaMoree, Whit and Jo Parker, Annette Parsons, Ed and Ginny Polish, Michael Riding and Michele Brown-Riding, Paul Tipton and Janis Mohr-Tipton, Magda Vahey, Chris and Maria Wilkey, Ron and Sharon Williams, and Janice Wilt.

Valley View Winery and Jacksonville Inn Event Services. Many thanks to the Wisnovsky family at Valley View Winery for hosting the Art Walk event and for the



Image of the Shooting Star sculpture by artist Cheryl Garcia.

delicious wine. Thanks also to Janet and Platon Mantheakis from Jacksonville Inn for creating the delectable treats.

A shout-out to all the park committee members who helped put this event together and the AGA board members who assisted at the event.

You, too, can help by putting your thumbprint on this groundbreaking project. Join the many other community members to reach the goal of raising \$12,000 for the "Shooting Star" sculpture, which will be installed near the entrance of the park. No donation is too big or too small. You can send a check to AGA, PO Box 335, Jacksonville, OR 97530 (please note on your check "Art in the Park-Shooting Star") or call Janis Mohr-Tipton at 541-846-7501.

Better yet, come meet the artist in person at the Cantrall Buckley Park Golden Jubilee on Saturday, July 14, from 12 - 7 pm.

At the Jubilee, be sure to visit the Park Enhancement Committee's exhibit to see pictures and stories from the park's beginnings in 1968. Find out what's happening now and what plans we have for the future. Get to know us and see if you'd like to join us to do great things for the betterment of the park and the enjoyment of park visitors. We welcome new suggestions too!

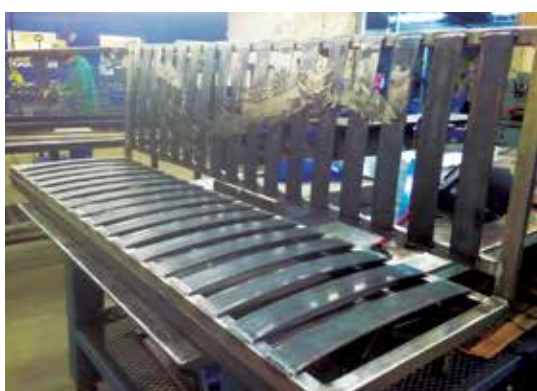
Artistic benches in the park

This art comes as beautifully designed and fabricated steel benches made by students in the metal fabrication program at Grants Pass High School. After visiting the facility and seeing the students in action, we were so impressed with the quality of work being done in their three-year program that we gave them the freedom to design and create three benches under the guidance of their instructor, Jake Leair.

Students chose different designs for each bench that would fit into the natural themes in our park. After being powder coated locally, they will be installed in the park.

Thank you to all the volunteers and donors. Come have some fun in your favorite park! I look forward to seeing you there.

Janis Mohr-Tipton
janismohrtipton48@frontier.com



Grants Pass High School students are making steel benches for installation at Cantrall Buckley Park.

Jewel of the Applegate: 50 years of Cantrall Buckley Park

BY TOM CARSTENS

We will be honoring Cantrall Buckley Park on its 50th anniversary this July. Here is a brief history of how it survived with pride throughout those years.

1961: In the beginning

The year is 1961. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has built a single-lane bridge over the Applegate River to replace an old ford on the Cantrall family cattle ranch. Neil Ledward, the first Jackson County Parks Director, begins to see the possibility of a county park on the other side. In 1965, Harlan Cantrall agrees to sell the county 25 acres on both sides of the river. Neighbor Lewis Buckley joins the fun and sells another eight acres—Cantrall Buckley Park is born. Soon after, the Ossenbrugges and the Dunlaps sell more acreage. With a BLM lease, the park now encompasses 54 acres.

takes a year, but the park finally reopens—this time better than ever.

Ledward continues to use the Jackson County Youth Work Corps. These kids, along with county work crews, turn the park into a showcase for the state. State



Bud Childers, second Park Ranger.



Neil Ledward, first Parks Director.

conventions take place at Cantrall Buckley so that other counties can learn how to build similar parks. Early work crews remember the park as "immaculate" and "pristine." Five hundred cars might show up on any given weekend.

But county timber payments supporting the park are drying up. The good times stop rolling. So, around 1976, Ledward begins the "Parks Enterprise Program"—an attempt to make the county park system function more like a business—more self-sufficient and less dependent on those disappearing timber payments. Gate receipts stay with the parks.

The 80s: Park budget gets the ax

The park flourishes, but with a reduced budget and reduced patronage. With the completion of the Applegate Dam, the floods stop, but the water released from the bottom of the dam is really cold. People cut back on swimming. Fishermen are happy, though. The trout love that cold water, and the salmon enjoy good water flows. More sites are added to the campground. Money continues to tighten in all county departments. County parks are placed under the Division of Public Works. Political infighting ensues.

The 90s: Transition

Neil Ledward retires in 1991 after 30 years as Jackson County Parks Director. Soon after, the county initiates wholesale changes to its park system. In a controversial decision, the parks department is placed under the county roads division. Timber sales continue to slacken. The county decides to preserve only a core of parks. Each county park undergoes a review.

Cantrall Buckley doesn't make the cut. The park is popular but earns little income outside of gate receipts. The park needs a lot of work, but there is no money in the coffers. In 1996, the county decides to shutter the gates. Embittered park employees describe the closure as heart-wrenching. Some of them lose their jobs. Bud Childers retires.

The community has no warning about losing their access to the Applegate River. Residents feel that the county has no idea how popular the park is. Ledward fights the closure from retirement—to no avail.

Jack Shipley, who has just founded the Applegate Partnership, decides to organize a contingent of Applegaters to water and mow the grass, pick up trash, clear downed wood, and basically keep the park in shape until they can figure out what to do.

The 1997 flood doesn't help. The park is hit hard once again, so neighbors come out in droves to help clean up. The Applegate Lions Club repairs all the picnic tables

See *JEWEL OF THE APPLGATE*, page 11.

1965: Construction begins

Ledward spends the next three years transforming the heavily forested land into a park. There's a lot of work—the 1964 flood has devastated the flood plain. The area designated for the park is a big mess. All the earlier preparation work by the county has been obliterated. Downed trees and debris are everywhere.

To help clean it up, Ledward hires a bunch of Jackson County high-school boys, beginning a 30-year association with local kids. He believes that both the teenagers and the county would benefit from this concept of community service. He is right: these boys learn road construction, forestry, fire prevention, map reading, electrical, plumbing, irrigation, and riparian planting. They remove massive amounts of blackberries. Ledward teaches the boys to work around the big beautiful trees. (That's why we have such a cool, shady park today!)

1968: The park opens . . .

Slowly, but steadily, the park takes shape and opens on July 14, 1968, with a grand ceremony. Two years later, Cantrall sells the county another 34 acres. A campground is planned.

According to Ledward, Jackson County Parks "had more money than we knew what to do with." Ledward takes advantage and begins even more construction in the park: trails, an education gazebo, two ponds, a water feature, paved roads, a shelter, an irrigation system, a new restroom, and a playground. Through it all, Ledward constantly admonishes construction crews, "Keep the trees!"

The 70s: A tumultuous time

Bud Childers becomes the second park ranger in 1974. Right after, the Applegate River floods again, this time worse than in '64. Much of the previous work is destroyed. The approaches to the bridge are washed out. The park entrance is under water. Most of the new asphalt is ripped out. Park employees have to be rescued by boat.

On top of all that, the river has shifted! Childers has his work cut out for him. It

■ JEWEL OF THE APPLGATE

Continued from page 10

and helps move dirt. Other people buck downed trees and clean up the wood.

Shipley and others convince Paul Korbolic, the parks program director, to enter into a mutual agreement that would permit the community to run the park. Initially skeptical, Korbolic takes a leap of faith and helps draft a memorandum that the county commissioners sign in a park ceremony in the summer of '97.



Jack Shipley, Applegate Partnership founder.

The Cantrall Buckley Park Committee is formed under the aegis of the Applegate Partnership. Korbolic remembers a feeling of "deep relief" that this beautiful park had been saved.

Cantrall Buckley becomes the only rural park in Oregon (and probably the nation) entirely managed by an unincorporated community without a supporting tax district. The members of the Park Committee have their work cut out for them. They hold several community meetings to figure things out and recruit volunteers. A \$10,000 grant from the Carpenter Foundation helps them get started. They hold fundraising events, and donations from the Applegate community pour in. The Park Committee hires a resident park ranger.

The following year, the Park Committee finds a more suitable home under a new nonprofit with a tongue-twister name—the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC). By this time, Jackson County has pretty much washed its hands of Cantrall Buckley. Being on the Park Committee starts to feel pretty lonely.

2000 - present: Survival and rebirth

In 2001 Rick Barclay, a local logger, replaces Terry Mitchell as park ranger. Rick starts things off with a bang when he innocently applies for a septic permit. That's when he discovers the morass of county and state agencies he'll have to deal with. Rick gets a lot of help from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Laird Funk, a retired wastewater manager in Josephine County.

In 2004, the Park Committee, under the leadership of Dave Laananen, develops a Park Master Plan, funded by BLM and fulfilled during the next ten years with grants totaling over \$600,000. Jackson County lends a hand.

By the end of 2007, the park has a new state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system. A highlight is the "Vegetative Submerged Bed," or VSB, suggested by DEQ. This cattail "swamp" naturally cleans the park's wastewater before it is pumped back to the campground for irrigation. The next year sees the redesign of the park's freshwater system and new campground restrooms.

New educational trail signs are installed throughout the park. Kids from Applegate and Ruch schools clear blackberries, seed pollinator gardens, and bed native riparian habitat, and more. A consortium of neighbors on North Applegate and Kubli roads purchases new barbecue grills. Applegate Trails Association restores all the park trails.

In June 2016, the community celebrates the twentieth anniversary of its salvation of the park. The well-attended event includes the dedication of memorial benches to Shipley and Laananen and the official opening of a new playground and playscape designed by the "Applegate Moms" and their kids, led by Michelle LaFave. The playscape includes the park's first piece of art—Tuffy the Turtle—crafted by local artist Jeremy Criswell and named after Tuffy Decker, who donated his construction labor. Almost \$60,000 has been raised from throughout the community.

The following year, Jackson County offers to take back responsibility for managing the park. A Greater Applegate (AGA), the renamed umbrella nonprofit originally called GACDC, accepts the offer in a unanimous board decision. The new Park Enhancement Committee (PEC) continues the mission of putting the community stamp on the park. In the works are an art walk designed by renowned metal artist Cheryl Garcia, a tile mural on the new playground restroom, a children's interactive sundial display, fresh landscaping by the restrooms, more pollinator gardens designed by local school kids, new park benches designed and built by the Grants Pass High School metal shop students, and a large array of solar panels—all funded and lined up. The PEC is planning a host of future projects, including a science learning center, a water-play area, and more native plant restorations.

For its part, Jackson County Parks just finished renovating the day-use restrooms and repairing the irrigation system. They will soon begin seeking funds for an expensive RV upgrade to the campground. The partnership is in good shape.

Golden Jubilee celebration in July

To celebrate the park's history, the AGA is planning a Cantrall Buckley Park Golden Jubilee. This big event, on Saturday, July 14, exactly 50 years after the park opened, will celebrate the history of the Applegate Valley and the community spirit that has kept Cantrall Buckley Park alive. (See more information on page 1.)

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

The author thanks the following park old-timers for their help in compiling this article: Rick Barclay, Bud Childers, Jack Duggan, Bob Komody, Paul Korbolic, Neil Ledward, Ellen Levine, and Joe Strahl. All photos provided by Tom Carstens.

• • •

Memories of Cantrall Buckley Park

From long-time patrons

"I surely cannot recall the number of times I took my children to that beautiful place to dip in the river, climb the barrels, and explore the magical little walkways near the playground."

"The best part of volunteering in the park was the association with such great people. I've never felt more alive than when I was working to make our park better. What a gem!"

From Bonnie Rinaldi, former GACDC chairperson. "What made the experience a privilege was the opportunity to work with and get to know Dave Laananen, Laird Funk, Tom Carstens, and Rick Barclay. Each of these men gave generously and tirelessly of their time and talents to improve the park and make it a place that the Applegate community could enjoy and be proud of."

• • •

Note: There is more to this history article, which was shortened due to space constraints. Visit applegater.org to read the complete article and many more memories and view more photos.

Moving upstream: APWC assists fish and farmers on the Little Applegate River

BY BARBARA SUMMERHAWK

As an extremely important tributary of the Applegate River, the Little Applegate River provides cold-water refuge for rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and other aquatic species, as well as irrigation for privately owned agricultural farms. In cooperation with private landowners connected with the Upper Phillips Ditch water users, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) is working on

improving irrigation systems and fish passage at the Upper Phillips Dam, which blocks fish and other aquatic species from high-quality cold water crucial to their survival over hot summers.

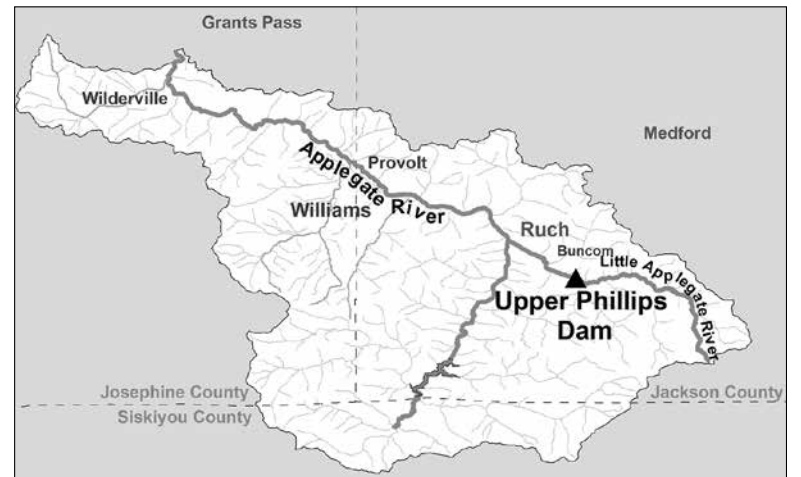
According to Rogue Basin Watershed Management Plans, impeded access to habitat due to barriers has contributed to a decline in fish populations. This project would improve access to habitat and fish screening for endangered species, including coho, Pacific lamprey, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and will provide the water users of the Upper Phillips Ditch with an efficient, improved water-delivery system. A combination of a new head gate and ditch piping will allow water users to increase agricultural production, improve water quality by reducing ditch runoff, and leave conserved water in streams. Peter Salant, local landowner and water user, said, "We are hoping that the work can be started by 2019."

Improved fish passage at Upper Phillips Dam, through work on a secondary channel bypass around the dam, will allow access upstream for cutthroat trout, lamprey, steelhead, and coho. "It's especially important for juvenile fish to be able to escape the heat by going up tributaries to colder water," said Julie Cymore, fish passage program manager for APWC. The bypass was designed with support from a technical assistance grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).

The Upper Phillips concrete dam is approximately five miles upstream from the confluence with the Applegate River. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) fish presence surveys have recorded Chinook to river mile 2, steelhead to river mile 19, and coho to river mile 6. Summer low-flow conditions reduce habitat connections, resulting in mortality. This project is listed on the ODFW 2013 Statewide Fish Passage Priority list as one of the top priorities for the overall Applegate basin and indicates that barriers are limiting for the Little Applegate River.



Upper Phillips Dam during summer flow. 2014 photo: Joey Howard, Cascade Stream Solutions.



Location of Upper Phillips Dam. Map: APWC.

APWC has developed the bypass and ditch piping plans through a partnership with the landowners and water users, OWEB, ODFW, Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Jackson County watermaster, Bureau of Land Management, Middle Rogue Steelheaders, and Trout Unlimited. It has been working together almost 10 years on various projects, including installation of measuring devices as required by the Oregon Water Resource Department's Significant Point of Diversion Program, according to Janelle Dunlevy, executive director of APWC.

The project began with research on what issues irrigators were having and what would improve the irrigation system. The current ditch loses a large quantity of water through evaporation and seepage. It was determined that a new head gate and piping would allow water users near the end of the ditch to receive their water rights. "With improvements to the head gate and with the piping, we can increase efficiency for water delivery. This water supports small family farms in the area," Julie explained. Marion Hadden, an instrumental landowner and water user for the development of this project, said, "This project will improve the habitat for fish and improve the water supply for us. It has been a joy working with APWC's Janelle Dunlevy."

Designs for fish passage began with discussions with the irrigators and fish biologists from different agencies and were drawn up by a local engineering firm. APWC is currently applying for grant funding that will cover the entire cost of the project. The result is a mutually beneficial project, one in which the water users will have an upgraded irrigation system and fish will be able to reach upstream habitat.

Barbara Summerhawk
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Board Member
Applegate Partnership &
Watershed Council

Notes from a Rogue entomologist Introductions and an update

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

The last couple of years have seen tremendous change in the faculty at the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC).

In the fall of 2016, new scientists working in viticulture (Dr. Alexander Levin) and plant pathology (Dr. Achala KC) came on board. Earlier, in the spring of 2016, Dr. Rich Roseburg took over the helm as SOREC director, moving from the Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center.

Rich had worked at SOREC from 1990 to 2003, so he's an Oregon State University (OSU) veteran, though not as much of an old-timer as I am. In fact, it is a bit shocking to be reminded that it was over a quarter of a century ago when I first met Rich, seemingly a kid, with his freshly minted PhD in



Dr. Gordon Jones, new professor of practice in commercial agriculture at OSU's Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center.

agronomy from Ohio State University, the "other OSU," as we call it (we'll just ignore Oklahoma State University for the moment).

The most recent additions to the SOREC faculty are Lena Hoskins, our new 4-H agent, who started at the beginning of 2017, and Dr. Gordon Jones, who started in June 2017.

Gordon is our new professor of practice in charge of extension programs and activities aimed at commercial agriculture in Jackson

and Josephine Counties. This is a position that has gone unfilled for some time. We have had a program that targets small farms since 2006, and that is an important and growing agricultural sector, but large commercial operations still make up the bulk of agricultural production in the

southern Oregon region. So with some of the funding being provided by our relatively new Extension tax district, this gap has now been filled. Dr. Jones is an agronomist with a PhD from Virginia Tech. While Gordon Jones's doctoral research focused on pastures and hayfields, his varied background even includes some experience with orchards and vineyards, so he is well-equipped to tackle the diversity of agriculture found in our area.

In his current position, Dr. Jones will be involved in the ongoing Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) effort. Gordon will be leading OSU's contribution in collaboration with the Rogue Valley Watershed Council and the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District. Last year, I reported on our local PSP project, and, at the time, there had been no detections of any pesticides above established benchmarks for aquatic health or other risks. However, times change and so has the news.

The results of stream sampling in 2017 were similar to those of previous years in that herbicides were detected much more frequently than insecticides and still no fungicides have been found. However, two insecticides not previously detected were found in the spring of 2017. Diazinon was found twice in March at levels above the benchmark for aquatic health, and chlorpyrifos was detected once in April at a concerning level (80 percent of benchmark). Both of these insecticides are older organophosphate materials that

are "restricted-use pesticides" due to their potential effects on aquatic systems.

Two neonicotinoid insecticides were also detected in 2017. These insecticides had been detected previously, but the benchmark level for one of the materials, imidacloprid (a widely used insecticide in both agriculture and backyards), was significantly lowered last December. All detections of imidacloprid now exceed this new benchmark, whereas none had exceeded the previous benchmark.

Finally, an herbicide, oxyfluorfen, was found at a level exceeding the aquatic benchmark in one sample. Oxyfluorfen has the lowest benchmark level of all herbicides that have been found in the course of the Middle Rogue PSP sampling effort to date, so perhaps it is not too surprising that it is the first herbicide to be detected at a level that certainly raises concern.

In light of all these new findings, it is apparent that an expanded effort to educate local pesticide users is needed. As the PSP continues to engage with the community in a variety of ways to increase awareness and directly address the ongoing issue of pesticides in our streams, the addition of Dr. Jones to the PSP team is a welcome and positive development.

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Changes on the river at Provolt Seed Orchard

BY JAKOB SHOCKEY

When I was a kid growing up in this valley, I first noticed Provolt because its red-painted store seemed to have more Christmas lights than any other structure in the valley. Right at the terminus of Williams Highway at Highway 238, the little "town" of Provolt occupies that space between the Williams Valley and the greater Applegate Valley. While Provolt is comprised of spread-out buildings—the community church, the humpback bridge wayside, the store, the old community grange, and the scattered private residences—most of the property between and surrounding these spots is actually public land.

Historically this area was a working ranch for cattle and hay before being converted to

the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Provolt Seed Orchard, which has provided fir and pine seeds all over Oregon for a variety of projects ranging from wildfire restoration to environmental studies. Now the BLM is working with partners and the public to determine the future of the site and hopes to provide a space that will capture the true community value of the area.

On April 20, kids from Ruch Outdoor Community School met with the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) and members of the Medford District BLM at Provolt Seed Orchard to plant trees and take an active role in restoring the Applegate River



Ruch Outdoor Community School students and BLM and APWC representatives planted trees at Provolt Seed Orchard to help restore the Applegate River Watershed.

Watershed. Close to 50 students learned to tell an incense cedar from a ponderosa pine seedling and where and how to plant both species. The APWC has been collaborating with the BLM on a large-scale riparian restoration project at this site for several years, and these young tree planters helped replace some of the plantings that didn't survive last summer's hot blast.

As we transition the Provolt Seed Orchard's riparian area from a thick mat of blackberries into a more functioning riparian forest, this active seed orchard is also transitioning into something new. If you are interested giving input to this process, please contact Sarah Mathews, outdoor recreation planner for the BLM Grants Pass Resource area, at samathews@blm.gov.

Improving the wildlife habitat at this site in Provolt and managing its public land access is a long process that's just begun. We would like to thank the students and

participating parents of Ruch Outdoor Community School who came out to plant trees that they and their communities can revisit for years. We would especially like to thank Ryan King for all that he does in getting kids outside and involved, and Christina Beslin and Sarah Mathews from the BLM for helping with this event. A big shout-out to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for funding this work and to Allen Bollschweiler for his robust support of this and other restoration work in our watershed. Finally, this project is only a success because of the talent and hard work that Applegaters like Tommy Maddox, Tim Sexauer, Cody Jones, and Russell Jenkins contribute.

Jakob Shockey
Restoration Program Manager
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BIRD EXPLORER

Migrating Neotropical birds

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Peter J. Thiemann

As of May, Bird Month, most winter guests left for breeding grounds up north or inland and the Neotropicals arrived with a splash of exotic colors.

As vegetation greens and trees flower, myriads of insects are available for food—bird life is good. Some Neotropicals, such as the Wilson’s and Nashville warblers, will nest in our area. Others will continue

moving north. With all the new greenery, colorful birds are easier to see and enjoy.

Black-headed grosbeaks, with males in stunning colors, are establishing their breeding territories in big-leaf maple and Pacific madrone trees. They came all the way from Central America, where they spend the winter. Then, in willows near water, there are flashes of bright yellow

birds: the Wilson’s and Nashville warblers, the yellow warblers, and the secretive yellow-breasted chat. Yellow-rumped warblers are mostly moving on to places farther north, using our area for refueling.

Don’t expect these birds to sit still for long, except when singing from a treetop. To capture a photographic image of these small birds, patience and skill is needed.

But the rewards are many—it will lift your spirits to see these exotic creatures that have come such a long way to enrich your day. Enjoy!

Peter J. Thiemann
peterjthiemann@yahoo.com
Photos courtesy of Peter J. Thiemann
flickr photo stream.



Wilson's Warbler



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Warbling Vireo

Multiple tails

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio multicaudata*) is in the butterfly family Papilionidae and is Arizona’s official state butterfly. This butterfly ranges throughout the Pacific Northwest and to the south throughout the west. The scientific name, *multicaudata*, means multiple tails.

The Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtail is the second largest butterfly in North America and the largest throughout the Pacific Northwest. It can reach wingspreads of up to five inches. This swallowtail is a brighter, warmer yellow than the similar species, Western Tiger Swallowtail. The wing borders of the two-tailed are black with the tiger stripes noticeably narrower.

The hind wing has two tails rather than one and a very faint third. On the open wing, the butterfly displays metallic blue patches around posterior orange spots on the hind wing.

The Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtail lives and flies in canyons, shrub lands, watercourses, parks, and natural areas. They can be seen on the wing from March to mid-September. Host plants for this swallowtail are mainly western chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana var. demissa*). The larvae overwinter. Adults will nectar on larkspurs, thistles, teasel, knapweed, scarlet gilia, to name just a few.

The *Papilio multicaudata* is an amazing butterfly to see flying above dirt roads next to creeks. Its shadow passes over your head quickly, but you may be lucky to get a glimpse of it before it disappears around a corner.

We created a Swallowtail Butterfly Garden at Applegate School. Years went by, and our chokecherry grew larger. One day after school we found eggs of the two-tailed on the

chokecherry shrub. We took the eggs inside and reared them in the butterfly lab (aka the art room). Being rewarded this way from our butterfly habitat at the school was a pretty good feeling. It shows that planting native shrubs and other native plants for

our butterflies and other pollinators is a great thing to consider when planning your garden.

Linda Kappen
humbugkapps@hotmail.com
Photos by Linda Kappen.



Tiger Swallowtail ventral view



Tiger Swallowtail dorsal view

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Update: Upper Applegate Demonstration Unit

BY DON BOUCHER

The Upper Applegate Demonstration Units were designed to evaluate fuel and restoration treatments on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (USFS) land. These units provide opportunities for public engagement, dialogue, and understanding of alternative fuels and restoration treatments with carefully designed, side-by-side examples.

Four treatment alternatives were replicated eight times on 10-acre units in a blocked experimental design. Merchantable tree removal was completed by helicopter this past winter.

Look for announcements of field trips to visit the units over the summer and fall.

Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project

The purpose of the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project (UAWRP) is to restore structure and processes in the Upper Applegate watershed, providing landscape conditions resilient to disturbances and climate change, in order to protect the following important community-identified values: recreation (motorized and nonmotorized), late-successional forests (northern spotted owl habitat), biodiversity (both plant and animal), important connectivity corridors,

roadless and unmanaged areas, sustainable flow of goods and services, and human life and property.

Last fall both agencies received comments on the Proposed Action for the UAWRP and reviewed all the letters and identified important issues, which will form the basis of the analytical work for the environmental analysis. Some of the more important issues included the protection of late-successional habitat, attention to limiting erosion and sediment from ground-disturbing activities, protection of old and large trees, treatments in areas currently without roads, impacts from recreation, and protection of botanical species and habitats.

Currently, USFS and BLM specialists are continuing surveys and developing a description of the baseline conditions to which the Proposed Action will be compared. An environmental assessment is planned to be available for public review in September. At a public meeting on March 29, the agencies explained the analysis process, which will be iterative and a slightly modified version of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. By iterative, we mean that the Proposed Action may be modified or improved

incrementally as a result of public engagement in various stages of the NEPA process. By implementing iterative NEPA (or iNEPA, as it is termed), we hope to increase public interaction, as well as create efficiencies that reduce costs and timelines.

The iNEPA process for the UAWRP has three phases. The first phase, already under way, describes the current condition and examines the consequences of not implementing the Proposed Action. This phase will culminate with a public workshop scheduled for Thursday, May 31, when the resource specialists will share their findings. The second phase, the analysis of the Proposed Action, will include a public meeting on Wednesday, July 25. Both of these meetings will be held at the Applegate Valley Fire District Training Building in Ruch. The time for these workshops will be announced. The third phase is the preparation of the environmental assessment, which will be published for public review. The two workshops listed above will provide an opportunity for the community to interact with resource specialists to modify or improve the Proposed Action. This process will allow resource specialists, with their limited time, to focus on analyzing alternatives that are important to the community. The goal is a more transparent and inclusive analysis process.

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

Don Boucher
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Upper Applegate
Team Leader
Rogue River-Siskiyou
National Forest
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A Huey helicopter brings logs from the fuels demonstration units to the landing off Palmer Creek Road in February 2017.



The Upper Applegate watershed in February 2017. Note on the right side of the photo, the scorched trees from last summer's Burnt Peak Fire.

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Sebastian Klinefelter and family.

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In this day and age, it's often overlooked that we have more in common than we realize, such as living in this special place.

I have come to understand there's nothing I'm better suited for than working with other people to bring tangible change. I take joy in being part of my community. It's a pleasure to meet new faces. A large part of what I do involves trust and respect as I work within people's spaces.

Being a native, I will continue to honor and preserve the Applegate Valley's many gifts. Thank you all for the opportunity to build these relationships over the years.

Even as this valley changes, I am glad to say: "There's no place I'd rather call home."

Sebastian Klinefelter

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Silver Lining Jewelers, in business in Jacksonville since 1978, has been reconfigured to suit semiretirement for owners Chauncey and Ladena Romero. The brick and mortar storefront, formerly located at 115 California Street in Jacksonville, is closed, but Chauncey continues to design and create custom jewelry, now available by appointment only. Silver Lining's online jewelry outlet, Ruby Lane, is found at rubylane.com/shop/silverliningjewelers. Make an appointment for a custom design by contacting chauncey@silverliningjewelers.com and browse the gallery of beautiful past designs at silverliningjewelers.com. For an appointment, text or call 541-899-8201.

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Q&A with BLM's Allen Bollschweiler, Part 1

Thanks to the *Applegater* for this opportunity to address the changes in management that may result from the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) adoption of the 2016 Resource Management Plan. I asked the editors for some questions to guide a short article. In an effort to be thorough, I'm answering in this article the important question of the future of public involvement and will address more questions in future editions.

What do the planning and public involvement processes look like in the Applegate watershed now that the 2016 Resource Management Plan (RMP) has replaced the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA) Guide? Are

they uniform throughout our watershed for all public lands?

Throughout the planning process for the Western Oregon RMP, the BLM engaged the public as well as a host of sister agencies, tribes, and local governments in a series of meetings throughout western Oregon. These resulted in more than 7,000 comments, 4,500 of which were submitted during the formal comment period in 2015. This public process informed the land-use allocations in the Record of Decision (ROD), the foundation for implementation of the RMP.

The BLM is now at the implementation stage, where public participation is critical for projects such as timber sales, recreation

sites, and restoration activities. For each project proposed, the BLM identifies a strategy for public outreach. Personnel from the BLM work through Resource Advisory Councils, local governments, tribal governments, local watershed councils, and other entities to understand the issues that affect our areas. We encourage public involvement in public outreach activities. You can stay informed of our ongoing efforts at our E-Planning website at blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/eplanning.

The Southern ROD guides planning throughout the Applegate for the Western Oregon RMP. In the RMP, the landscape is divided into different Land Use Allocations (LUAs), including, but not limited to, the Harvest Land Base, Riparian Reserves, Late Successional Reserves, and Eastside Management Areas. Each LUA contains management objectives that provide

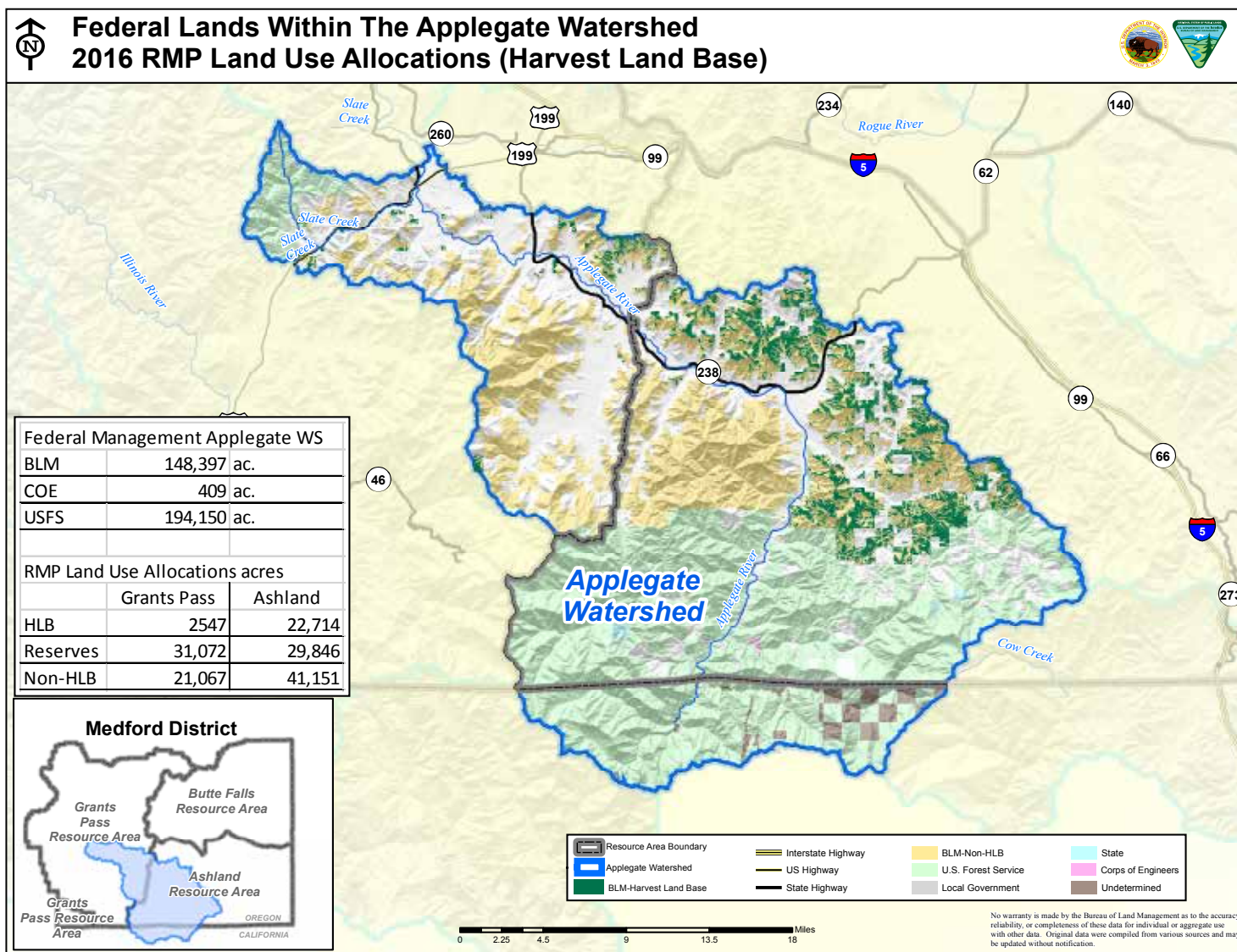
guidance for what can and cannot be done on a particular piece of land. Land-use activities, including for timber-harvest practices and goals, would vary according to the LUA's management objectives. For example, any activity in the Riparian Reserves must contribute to the protection of listed fish and water under the Endangered Species Act. Any harvest in those areas needs to contribute to the relevant management objectives, such as increasing fire resiliency, developing habitat for the northern spotted owl, or protecting listed fish and water. In the Reserves, the BLM would protect stands of older, structurally complex forests, which have the highest value to the northern spotted owl.

One question we have received is how we, the BLM, will collaborate with the US Forest Service (USFS). The short answer is yes, we work with our sister agency, the USFS, in numerous ways. Within a planning framework, USFS, the BLM, and 11 other federal agencies are signatories to the Regional Interagency Executive Framework, which outlines general concepts to help frame revisions and amendments of plans. Within this framework, the BLM, USFS, and other signatories incorporate lessons learned from implementing and monitoring the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan.

Furthermore, we pay attention to new recovery plans, critical habitat determinations, and new scientific information about threats. Other examples of collaboration between agencies include developing a joint Rogue River management program and collaborating on watershed projects such as the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project.

The public may recognize differences in each agency's approach. This difference is because the USFS and the BLM are governed by different laws and policies, manage different land bases, and operate at different scales. Even though the USFS and the BLM may pursue different approaches to meet legal mandates, they share many common goals for land management. We look forward to your involvement.

Allen Bollschweiler
Grants Pass Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
abollsch@blm.gov



Sweet corn improvement—be a corn taster!

BY JONATHAN SPERO

Lupine Knoll Farm in the Applegate Valley is developing open pollinated sweet corn from a cross of an Anasazi parent with a more modern sweet corn. Each year the sweetest (or best in some other quality) is chosen to carry forward.

This year we will be growing the f8 (8th generation) of Tuxana, a white corn

developed from an Anasazi-Tuxedo cross. Because this corn is variable for sweetness, we want to pick the sweetest ones.

The best way to select for sweetness, it turns out, is good old-fashioned tasting. Since we want those sweeter ears to mature for seed, we first taste just the lesser ear on the stalk, called the secondary ear. (Stalks



generally have only two ears.) If it's sweeter than the average

ear in the patch, we'll mark the unneaten ear on that stalk, the primary ear, as a keeper for seed harvest.

For three or four days, we need a crew to taste literally hundreds of ears of raw corn right in the field. This has to be just as the

corn is ripe, which we can't predict exactly, but a guesstimate is August 10.

Corn tasters need a good sense of taste and the ability to come to Lupine Knoll in Provolt and work with a tasting crew for a shift of about two and a half or three hours at a planned time, usually in the morning.

Corn tasters will get all the corn they can eat, more to take home, and the experience of being a corn taster. Let us know if you are interested.

Jonathan Spero
Lupine Knoll Farm
lupineknollfarm@gmail.com



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Single in the Applegate?

BY SANDY BROOKE

The Applegate Valley is a fabulous place to live for nature lovers. We are surrounded by extremely beautiful terrain—mountains, rivers, creeks, meadows, and farmlands. The roads are still relatively small and “friendly.” Population is relatively low. No doubt it is busier than it used to be, but we can mostly still avoid crowds and traffic. When the time rolls around for an excursion into nature (as frequently as possible), we’re already there—or the short drive is as beautiful as the destination.

However, since nothing on this material plane is perfect, living the country lifestyle does have a few downsides. Managing a rural property is time-consuming and often a rather private endeavor. A lot of time and energy is needed to maintain this lifestyle we love, and that’s the rub, especially for some of us single country folk. By the time evening or a weekend comes, we’re tired from handling so much on our own. Yet if we want a bit of day’s end conversation (or cuddle), a weekend hiking partner, a dinner companion, or to potentially change our solo status, livin’ alone in the country ain’t the best! There’s another side to that wonderful independence and privacy.

So suddenly the Applegate Valley Connect website has come onto the scene, a communications and networking tool for those of us who have in common choosing to live a bit hidden away in this gorgeous valley. That’s a lot in common, right there. I’m still not 100 percent clear how to use this new system, but it inspired me to think

about an Applegate Valley Singles network. What if we created an email network of interested singles in the valley and had occasional events like a hike or a lunch or dinner, somewhere where the setup was such that mingling and meeting was made easy? I figure since I have room in my life for a few new local friends, perhaps other single folks might also. Within a quorum of interested folks, it might be possible to find others with some compatibilities, eh?

Nothing ventured, nothing lost. I proposed the idea both to Applegate Valley Connect and to the *Applegater* folks, and both were supportive. So this is a feeler. I will simply collect the addresses of those who respond by email with “Applegate Singles” in the subject line. Then, in a bit of time, I will send out an announcement of an event, probably a hike or a meal in some place where it is easy and acceptable to mingle and say hello to new folks. (Be assured that email addresses will not be used for any other purpose!) You are invited to respond if you are interested in this idea and are single and live in the Applegate Valley—perhaps from Murphy to Jacksonville off Route 238?

This seems like a good enough way to launch this experimental “Applegate Singles Network” and see if it wants to claim a life of its own. (I would not be surprised if this has even been tried before!)

Meanwhile I’d rather be single in the Applegate Valley than anywhere else!

Sandy Brooke
turn-around@indra.com

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Continued from page 1

everyone has some special needs! Example: do you need a larger travel kennel this year for your dog who’s not a puppy anymore? (Yes, I was thinking about Maggie just a few years ago. Nowadays she kennels on command and sleeps in an enclosed soft-sided kennel. Is it huge? Yes. Foldable? Yes. Expensive? Yes. But, also *priceless* knowing that if something happens, she obeys commands and is comfortable in kennels away from home!)

So make sure pets, livestock, and, of course, children are a part of your family’s emergency planning. Keep a list of “must takes” for everyone in the family. Get buy-in from the kids by letting them help define their lists!

And, what about keeping a family emergency pack that can provide necessities for a week or two, including for pets? If you have an emergency pack already put together, keep track of the age of items, replacing older components as

necessary. Finally, practice quick loading for emergency situations.

So, back to this summer. Do you need to update your contact information with out-of-the-area family members? Don’t forget to update your family members’ medical needs and your evacuation plans, such as where to meet, who calls who, etc.

How about having the chimney cleaned annually? Or filling up a storage tank or swimming pool as a water supply? We’ve gone so far as to have fire hose, helmets, and protective clothing in the garage, ready to use!

And finally, a vital tool for *every* season of the year here in the Applegate: if you have *not* been contacted by a neighborhood *telephone-tree* representative, call around to friends or to our fire district’s office (541-899-1050) to learn about, get connected into, and practice this invaluable local process! Being prepared and working with neighbors is part of living in a rural setting. It’s also rewarding and fulfilling.

Sandy Shaffer • sassyoneor@gmail.com

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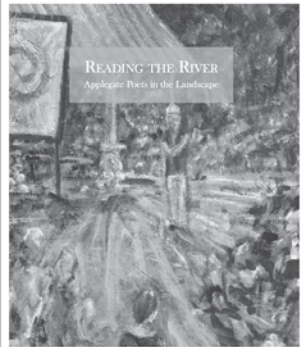
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Reading the River

The APWC, Red Lily and local Applegate Poets have collaborated in August of each year to bring the Applegate Community an evening of enrichment and entertainment through poetry and film.
Our 5th Annual Poetry Reading & Film Festival will be Weds., August 8 (~6:30pm) at Red Lily.
Featuring *Before the Flood*
a Martin Scorsese & Leonardo DiCaprio Documentary on Climate Change


The poetry book *Reading the River: Applegate Poets in the Landscape* features poetry read at our past Festivals. It is available through Amazon, or at our Office 60 Upper Applegate Road.

Jakob Shockey, Restoration Prog. Mng'r jakob@apwc.info 541-890-9989	Janelle Dunlevy, Exec. Director janelle@apwc.info 541-899-9982	Julie Cymore, Fish Passage Prog. Mng'r julie@apwc.info 541-890-9989
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OPINIONS

Thompson Creek neighbors mobilize to deny permit

BY JOAN PETERSON

A recent public hearing went like a textbook example of what a public hearing should be: the people spoke, the commissioners heard them, and a permit was denied. Here is the story.

When Christopher and Kirsten Shockey received notice in the mail that the Apple Jam Music Festival had applied for a permit with Jackson County to hold their May 18 - 20 concert on a property adjacent to the Shockeys' home, they were stirred into action.

Kirsten alerted neighbors by email, and the word began to spread. Eighteen people showed up for a meeting at a neighbor's home, petitions were passed around, and the work began.

The Apple Jam Music Festival has been held for the past nine years, most recently near the Provolt Store, and the attendance has grown every year. When Apple Jam began, it was a small gathering with a few bands and a local audience. By last year, the attendance had grown to 2,300 people, camping out in tents, RVs, pickups, campers, and cars. Along with the numbers came alcohol and substance abuse that disrupted and alarmed the community.

The Thompson Creek neighbors banded together with the idea that this shouldn't be allowed to happen in their neighborhood of farmers, ranchers, livestock, children, and retirees, all connected by a narrow country road. With less than a week before the hearing at the Jackson County Courthouse, over 200 signatures were collected by the Thompson Creek neighbors and dozens of letters were written to the Jackson County Development Department giving reasons why the neighborhood along Thompson Creek Road wasn't an appropriate venue for the Apple Jam Music Festival.

On April 5, the day of the hearing, Thompson Creek neighbors lined up at the door of the courthouse auditorium. The room filled to capacity, and many people signed up to speak. The county administrator read from the application and explained that the Apple Jam promoters had met all of the legal requirements and conditions for the permit to be approved.

One after another, for over 90 minutes, residents spoke of the dangers of holding an event at the edge of Jackson and Josephine counties on a narrow, winding road where there is little or no cell-phone service, extreme fire danger, and difficulty getting emergency vehicles in and out in a timely manner.

After the testimony from residents of Thompson Creek, Blake Norris, one of the event organizers, took the podium. He listed the conditions that he and his partner had met in preparation for the event and explained how this event would benefit the community economically. He told the audience that the event managers had passed all of the county's requirements to hold the Apple Jam Music Festival on Thompson Creek. And then, to everyone's surprise, he asked the Board of Commissioners a remarkable question: If the Apple Jam Music Festival withdrew its application, would his \$2,500 deposit be refunded?

The audience gasped. The county administrator explained that if the county commissioners voted against the event, the deposit would be refunded minus the county's costs for work already done on the permit. Mr. Norris then stated that he didn't want conflicts and that an alternative site was already being considered. The deliberation continued until a vote was taken by the commissioners, who denied the permit by a vote of two to one. (Roberts and Strosser in favor of denial; Dyer opposed.)

The audience cheered and applauded the commissioners' vote, and the meeting was adjourned. Outside the courthouse a few Thompson Creek residents thanked Blake Norris for his generous offer and declared themselves ready to pass the hat among their neighbors to help defray the costs that he and his partners might have lost for having made this application. It seems that the Apple Jam Music Festival will go on, but at another venue—not, to the residents' relief, on Thompson Creek.

Joan Peterson and Larry Francis
541-846-6988

More fake climate change information

BY ALAN VOETSCH

I see that the previous issue of the *Applegater* carried an article that mentioned global warming and climate change several times but offered zero proof that can separate human-caused climate change from naturally occurring climate change. And that, folks, is exactly why my last *Applegater* article was titled "Real climate change versus fake climate change." Thank you, contributor, for proving my point that almost all climate information provided to the general public is useless and meant to accomplish a political agenda. I like what Carl Sagan said: "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." I believe in the scientific method; I just don't believe in unproven alarmism from environmentalists with political agendas.

And it appears that that same contributor has also read some of my past articles here and has found out that the planet has been warming since the last ice age ended. I've already covered this, but nice to see we're all caught up. I'm going to include a temperature graph of the last 10,000 years since that ice age ended for all to see. Look at the patterns that happen every 1,000-plus years. We're currently at the far right—see how warm the last 10,000 years have been? See how the pattern would seem to indicate that another warm period should be happening about now? Strange, isn't it? It's called natural variability, and it is not caused by humans—unless our ancestors had gigantic organized bonfires every 1,000 years since the ice age. These warmings are most likely the result of two different solar cycles—the 87-year Gleissberg cycle and the 210-year DeVries-Suess cycle—that combine every 1,470 years. My guess is that we have more warming coming our way based on past history. (See graph below.)

So the truth is that those of us here in the Applegate Valley are not in any more danger from forest fires simply because we choose to live in a civilized society and enjoy some of the comforts available to us. Most warming occurs naturally, and some people want to take political advantage of Mother Nature. A large increase in CO₂ may raise temperatures slightly, but CO₂ is only a weak greenhouse gas and an essential trace gas for plant life. Methane is 20 to 30 times more potent, and water vapor is far more plentiful and *by far* the most influential greenhouse gas.

Much of the temperature record has been corrupted. Check out this online article on how and why past temperatures are "adjusted" by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association: investors.com/politics/editorials/the-stunning-statistical-fraud-behind-the-global-warming-scare.

And a link so you have insight into the 97 percent "consensus": youtube.com/watch?v=SSrjAXK5pGw.

Now, I'm adding some quotes from some powers that be in the climate industry to show what their real agenda is.

Quote by Christiana Figueres, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: "This is probably the most difficult task we have ever given ourselves, which is to intentionally transform the economic development model, for the first time in human history."

Quote by Chris Folland of the United Kingdom Meteorological Office: "The data don't matter. We're not basing our recommendations [for reductions in carbon dioxide emissions] upon the data. We're basing them upon the climate models."

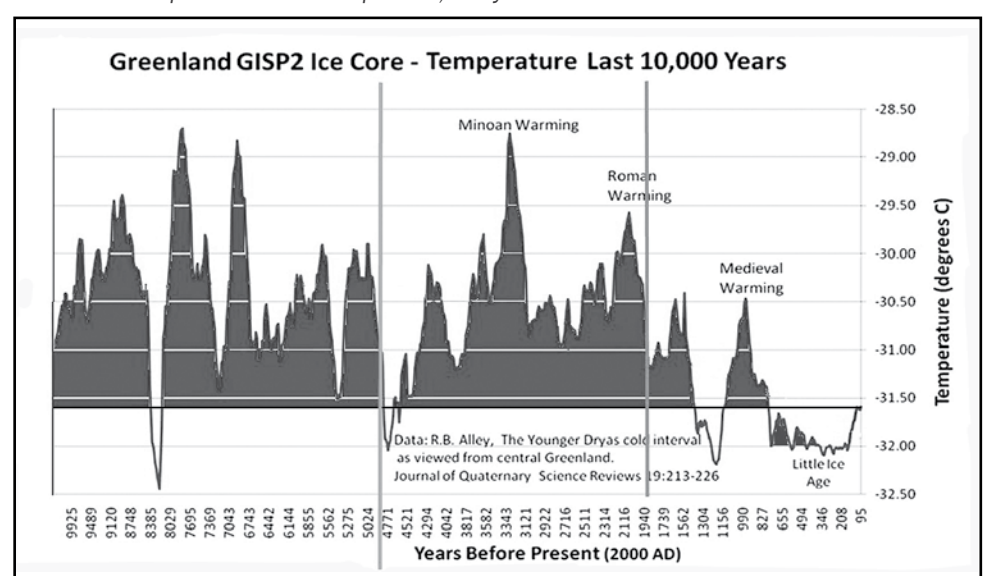
Quote by Christine Stewart, former Canadian environment minister: "No matter if the science is all phony, there are collateral environmental benefits...climate change [provides] the greatest chance to bring about justice and equality in the world."

Quote by Ottmar Edenhofer, high-level official of the United Nations-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: "We redistribute de facto the world's wealth by climate policy...Basically it's a big mistake to discuss climate policy separately from the major themes of globalization...One has to free oneself from the illusion that international climate policy is environmental policy. This has almost nothing to do with environmental policy anymore."

New books to read: *The Deliberate Corruption of Climate Science* by Tim Ball, PhD, *Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1500 Years* by S. Fred Singer and Dennis T. Avery, *Eco-Tyranny* by Brian Sussman, and *The Delinquent Teenager Who Was Mistaken for the World's Top Climate Expert* by Donna Laframboise.

Alan Voetsch
alan_voetsch@yahoo.com

Temperatures over the past 10,000 years recorded in the GISP2 Greenland ice core.



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OPINIONS

Behind the Green Door

Need for accountability



Chris Bratt

BY CHRIS BRATT

For the past 42 years, my family has participated in an ongoing debate over the management of the public forests in the Applegate and throughout southern Oregon. Existing laws require that our public forests be managed on a “sustained yield” basis and use should be limited to the level that can be maintained in perpetuity.

Accumulated data over these past four decades indicate that federal forest land-management agencies have not fulfilled this mandate. Overoptimistic projections of tree growth, overcutting of large trees, failures of reforestation, and improper or no monitoring of projects have led to many problems in our forests: an increased number of endangered species, a fragmented patchwork of forest stands, and others.

It has not been an easy task for some Applegaters and others in our small communities to influence the large bureaucratic government agencies like the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the US Forest Service (USFS). These agencies always come into our communities with tree-cutting plans already conceived and directed from afar. Also, we have had to endure considerable pressure from bodies

like Oregon State University, county commissioners, and a multitude of private timber corporations and their supporters telling us to mind our own business and leave public forest-management decisions to the professionals.

Despite all of the above negative constraints (and more), local citizens have continued to make a big impact in protecting forest sustainability and other resource values. We have made more people in the community aware of the cumulative decline of our forests. Because of this citizen oversight, we also have helped make agency plans better on the ground, and we have won many cases in federal courts.

Often derided for their work, local environmentalists have had to become the environmental watchdogs, the citizen foresters and scientists trying to build a healthier community. They have recognized the importance of local public involvement in guaranteeing better environmental decision-making by federal officials. Because we live here, we are the ones directly affected, who bear the environmental, social, and economic impacts of poor agency decisions. This guarantee of public participation and our

ability to help inform the community about potential health and environmental impacts of proposed agency actions is provided by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This federal law requires each federal agency to make “diligent efforts” to involve the public throughout their decision-making process.

With the passage of NEPA in 1969, Congress recognized the major environmental problems our nation was experiencing. NEPA set policies that were intended to stop resource deterioration and restore environments already damaged by the federal government. The goal of the NEPA process is to reduce adverse environmental effects (or maximize the net beneficial effect), and public involvement is one of NEPA’s fundamental principles for accomplishing that. Despite having good environmental laws like NEPA and environmental groups coordinating to hold federal agencies to account for their management decisions, our efforts to participate are being thwarted.

Presently, there is good cause for concern in our community about the BLM’s rollback of protections for public lands and the deregulation agenda they have adopted. The BLM plans to use

the section of NEPA called “categorical exclusions” for many of their actions in order to avoid environmental assessment, end formal Endangered Species Act consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and limit disclosures under the Freedom of Information Act. I could go on outlining 72 additional bad policy changes that the BLM has made or plans to make soon.

The reality is that NEPA is being gutted and public participation stripped to a bare minimum. The Washington, DC, crowd of newly appointed bureaucrats is reaching new heights of anti-environmentalism through regulatory and administrative changes. So the question becomes “How do we overcome this outrageous detrimental attack on our public lands and citizens?”

My answer is to organize friends and neighbors within our community. The vast majority of Americans want to preserve our public lands and forests, and our community feels the same. Let’s take a tip from the recent Thompson Creek Road residents’ organizing efforts regarding the Apple Jam Music Festival (see page 18 for details) and fight back against these dangers facing our community.

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988

Post-fire logging: Beyond the smokescreen and rhetoric are significant scientific facts

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

After the active fire season of 2017, residents, scientists, and land managers throughout southern Oregon and northern California have been debating the purported benefits and environmental impacts of post-fire logging. Many in the timber industry and land-management agencies claim that post-fire or “salvage” logging and artificial reforestation (i.e., tree planting) will reduce future fire severity and accelerate the regeneration of conifer forests on burned sites.

In reality, our forests are adapted to mixed-severity fire, including some high-severity fire effects. These forests have evolved to regenerate with abundance following high-severity fires, and the post-fire landscape provides particularly high levels of biodiversity. The dead standing, fire-killed trees provide important wildlife habitat and structural complexity. After falling to the forest floor, they build soil, provide microclimates for regenerating forests, and retain significant amounts of water through our dry Mediterranean summers. Research conducted after the 1987 Galice Fire on the Rogue River showed that downed logs stored 25 times more moisture than forest soils, even following high-severity fire and extended droughts. The same research identifies the downed wood created by fire-killed trees as a “requisite for maintaining long-term forest growth.”

Research conducted in the 2002 Biscuit Fire, which burned west of Cave Junction, demonstrates that post-fire logging actually hinders post-fire regeneration and forest development by degrading soils, destroying natural regeneration, and removing standing snags that aid forest establishment.

Across the region, proposals on our public lands are calling for clear-cut, post-fire logging in recent wildfire areas. Although much of the public debate has surrounded the Chetco Bar Fire Salvage Project outside Brookings, Oregon, similar projects have been proposed by the Klamath National Forest (KNF) in our own backyard. KNF has proposed a large, post-fire logging project in last summer’s Abney Fire, part of the Miller Complex Fire that burned in the mountains above Applegate Reservoir. KNF has proposed to clear-cut over 1,200 acres of fire-affected forest on the Siskiyou Crest near our beloved Cook and Green Pass. The logging would include the removal of fire-killed snags and living green trees that timber managers suspect will die within three to five years.

The area surrounding Cook and Green Pass is one of the wildest and most diverse portions of the Siskiyou Crest and Applegate River Watershed. It is also well-loved by many Applegate Valley residents for backcountry recreation, hiking, botanizing, bird watching, and other outdoor activities. Cook and Green Pass is located along the Pacific Crest Trail and in between the Red Buttes Wilderness, Kangaroo Inventoried Roadless Area, and Condrey Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area. The area is extremely important for habitat connectivity and contains a spectacularly rugged beauty important to many in our region.

Research following the 1987 Silver Fire on the Illinois River, the 1987 fires on the Klamath River, the 2002 Biscuit Fire, and the 2013 Douglas Fire outside Merlin demonstrate that tree plantations

and plantation-like stands burn at elevated levels of fire severity. In some cases, plantations supported over twice as much stand-replacing fire as adjacent unmanaged natural stands. It has been proven that the reburn severity in future fires is more closely associated with the structure of post-fire regeneration than residual downed wood from fire-killed snags. In fact, the largest swath of stand-replacing fire in the 2017 Abney Fire burned in plantation stands on the southern slopes of the Siskiyou Crest. Forest managers are now proposing to create the very same conditions, setting the stage for future high-severity fire effects. Renowned forest ecologist David Perry has stated that once a patchwork of plantation stands is embedded within mature and old-growth forest stands, “the potential exists for a self-reinforcing cycle of catastrophic fires.”

Rather than restoring forest ecosystems and reducing the potential for stand-replacing fire, the post-fire logging proposed across our region will degrade important watersheds and hinder forest regeneration. According to preeminent forest ecologist Professor Jerry Franklin, “Conflicts often exist between economic and ecological objectives as timber salvage is generally about recovering economic values rather than enhancing ecological recovery.”

Don’t be fooled by the smokescreen—post-fire logging is simply an excuse to clear-cut public forests. It provides no benefit to our environment and will increase the severity of future fires.

Luke Ruediger
Program Coordinator
Applegate Neighborhood Network
wildapplegate@gmail.com

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



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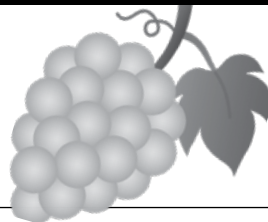
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GRAPE TALK

Summer fun at local wineries!



BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

We are so lucky to live in southern Oregon where the scenery is beautiful and wineries are popping up everywhere.

During the summer months many of the Applegate Valley wineries have wonderful outdoor events that are a fun part of the recreation in our valley. My husband, Don, and I have joined our friends at the Wine Downs at Plaisance Ranch or the Thursday night music by the river at Red Lily. We have listened to music at Schmidt and attended special events at Troon, Cowhorn, and LongSword. Special events are often connected with wine club memberships, which I would encourage all wine lovers to join if the winery has a membership available. Most of the Applegate Valley wineries have tasting rooms, often with expanded summer hours. Besides the normal tasting activities, some of our wineries serve delicious food. Others have different musical guests.

I queried all the local Applegate Valley wineries and received the following scheduled events for this summer:

Plaisance Ranch, 16955 Water Gap, Williams (plaisanceranch.com). Monthly Wine Down events, featuring live music, are on Fridays from 5:30 - 8:30 pm.

June 29: The Blues with Terry Robb (Oregon Music Hall of Famer); July 28: Country rock with the Hurrman Burrman Band; August 17: Rick Millward and Friends; September 28: The Blues with David Pinsky, Phil Newton, and the Over the Moon Band

Red Lily Vineyards, 11777 Highway 238, Jacksonville (redlilyvineyards.com). Their Concerts on the Beach are on Thursdays at 6 pm and feature live music.

June 7: Blue Lightning; June 14: Fret Drifters; June 21: TC and the Reactions;



Concerts on the Beach at Red Lily Vineyards.



Monthly Wine Down at Plaisance Ranch.

June 28: 221 Fly; July 5: Eight Dollar Mountain; July 12: Buckle Rash; July 19: Danielle Kelly Soul Project; July 26: The Brothers Reed; August 2: Jeff K and Overtones; August 9: Robbie Dacosta and Holly Gleason; August 16: Fogline; August 23: Blowin' Smoke; August 20: The Evening Shades; September 6: Pete Herzog and Snake Fat.

Schmidt Family Vineyards, 330 Kubli Road, Grants Pass (sfvineyards.com). Their Friday Night Music series is from 5 - 8 pm. They serve wine, burgers, pizzas, sandwiches, and salads, as well as fruit and cheese platters.

June 1: Kentucky Blend; June 8: Doug Brons; June 15: David Pinsky and Phil Newton; June 22: Lady and the Tramp (Crossing Bridges Fundraiser); June 29: Bryan Teal; July 6: Lee Stewart; July 13: Ellipse; July 20: Doug Brons; July 27: Lady and the Tramp; August 3: David Pinsky and Phil Newton; August 10: Not Too Shabby; August 17: Bryan Teal; August 24: Lee Stewart; August 31: Lady and the Tramp.

On Sunday, June 17, Schmidt is holding a Father's Day barbecue with live music. For more details, call the winery at 541-846-9985.

Troon Vineyard, 1475 Kubli Road, Grants Pass (troonvineyard.com). Their Sips and Songs are held every Sunday from 1:30 - 4:30 pm.

June 3: Rick Millward; June 10: David Modica; June 17: Greg Fredrick & Carla Bauer; June 24: Val Blaha; July 1: Jesse Meade; July 8: Phil King; July 15: Dayton Mason; July 22: Acousta Noir; July 29: The Rogue Rage Duo; August 5: Rick Millward; August 12: Charles Guy & Linda Powers; August 19: Tim Togstad; August 26: Jeff Kloetzl; September 2: Jesse Meade.

Many other wineries in the Applegate Valley have summer events for wine club members only. Check today for membership availability and join the winery fun this summer.

And remember to always drink responsibly!

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avreality@gmail.com

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Voices of the Applegate Fall Rehearsals

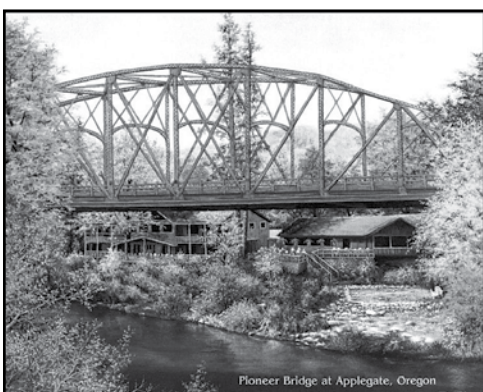
On April 6 and 7, Jenifer Joy directed the Voices of the Applegate in performances of their spring concerts at the Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville and the Applegate River Lodge in Applegate.

Audiences enjoyed an international tour of Japan, Korea, Georgia, Estonia, and South Africa, and several whimsical pieces, a lovely Appalachian ballad, and an English Renaissance madrigal from the sixteenth century.

The choir is looking forward to their fall rehearsals with another new director. Jenifer Joy has accepted a job in Korea for the year and will not be working with us in 2018 and 2019. The Voices of the Applegate Board of Directors is still in the process of finding a new director for the fall, but we are determined to keep the choir singing together this coming year.

All community members are eligible to join the Voices of the Applegate, and there is no audition. Registration is \$60 to cover the payment of the director, the music, and the venues. We meet once a week on Wednesdays at Ruch Library from 7 to 8:30 pm. We plan to begin another season of singing around the first week of September.

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



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ATA takes Ruch School elementary students on the East ART

BY DIANA COOGLE

On Earth Day 2018, as though she knew she was being celebrated, Earth put on her brightest spring demeanor—her face all shining with blue sky, her hillside coats of grass embroidered with wildflowers. So appared, she was a ready welcome to students from Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS), assembled for a hike on the East ART (East Applegate Ridge Trail). Applegate Trails Association (ATA) chair, David Calahan, and I, along with board member Mike Kohn, were there to tell the children something about the landscape they were hiking through, how the trail was built, and other tidbits of ecological interest.

I was there, in particular, to identify wildflowers for the kids and give them fun ways to recognize trees (e.g., to distinguish between Jeffrey pines and Ponderosa pines, squeeze the cone. If it pricks you, it's Prickly Ponderosa. If it doesn't, it's Gentle Jeffrey)—or to remember names of flowers (e.g., a mnemonic for Ceanothus is "See I know this"). However, I was with a group of about 25 second- and third-graders, who were too young to be interested in flower identification. (David, with a similar group of older students, was more successful in actually transmitting knowledge.) A child would point to a flower, ask its name, then keep on walking without noting the answer. My lessons evaporated into the spring air.

No matter. The trail itself was doing the teaching. As we traversed a steep hillside, with views of the snowy Siskiyou Crest beyond and of the Ruch valley below, one little girl marveled at the height: "Look how high we are," she said, and her friend answered, authoritatively, "That drops 300 feet." (She was close. It actually drops 1,800 feet from the trail to the valley floor.)

"How do they make it so beautiful?" one girl asked. The boy behind her said, off-handedly, "It's nature, you know."

The boy in front of me kept saying, "I'm afraid of heights" in a thin voice. I told him to look at the trail, not at the valley. His friend stuck close by and occasionally steadied him with a hand on his shoulder. In spite of his acrophobia, he wouldn't turn back and hiked through to the end.

I pointed out a patch of popcorn flowers as we passed them, naming them for whoever was interested. A boy turned around to say, "I don't know flowers, but I do know rocks," and he proceeded to give me a pretty good geology lesson, naming rocks on the trail. Overhearing our conversation, the girl in front of him said she had a rock shop and was selling rocks. She wanted to raise \$1,000, with which to buy dolls.

The children walked about a mile on the East ART. To some it seemed a long hike. "Can we go back?" "What if we miss the bus?" "How many more kilometers is



Students from ROCS hiking on the East ART on Earth Day. Photo: Mike Kohn.

it?" (What a cosmopolitan kid, I thought.) Children were given the opportunity to turn back, but no one wanted to. The trail held a kind of fascination for them, whether they knew it or not, the best kind of lesson for Earth Day.

Diana Coogle
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— Upcoming ATA hikes —

July 15: Enchanted Forest. Moderate. Three hours, not including an after-hike stop at Wooldridge Winery for wine and charcuterie. Bring lunch or eat at the winery. Meet at Applegate Store at 9 am. Led by Mike Kohn (utttohhh@gmail.com).

August 4: Mt. Elijah. Difficult but beautiful, with great views of the Siskiyou and one of the best wildflower displays in the Applegate. Five hours. Meet at Applegate Store at 9 am. Led by Diana Coogle (dicoog@gmail.com).

For all hikes: Be prepared for the weather, wear appropriate shoes, and bring water and lunch.

You can help keep trails open

■ APPLGATE TRAILS

Continued from page 1

inviting when not crowded by encroaching brush or blocked by fallen trees. With trail-maintenance funding cuts, federal agencies are prioritizing the trails they maintain or close. You can help keep trails open by using them and registering at trailheads where that opportunity is provided.

You can also join any of several organizations that maintain trails in the Applegate. Even as new trails are being proposed and planned—some just beginning a lengthy environmental assessment process—nature is reclaiming others because of decreased use and funding cuts.

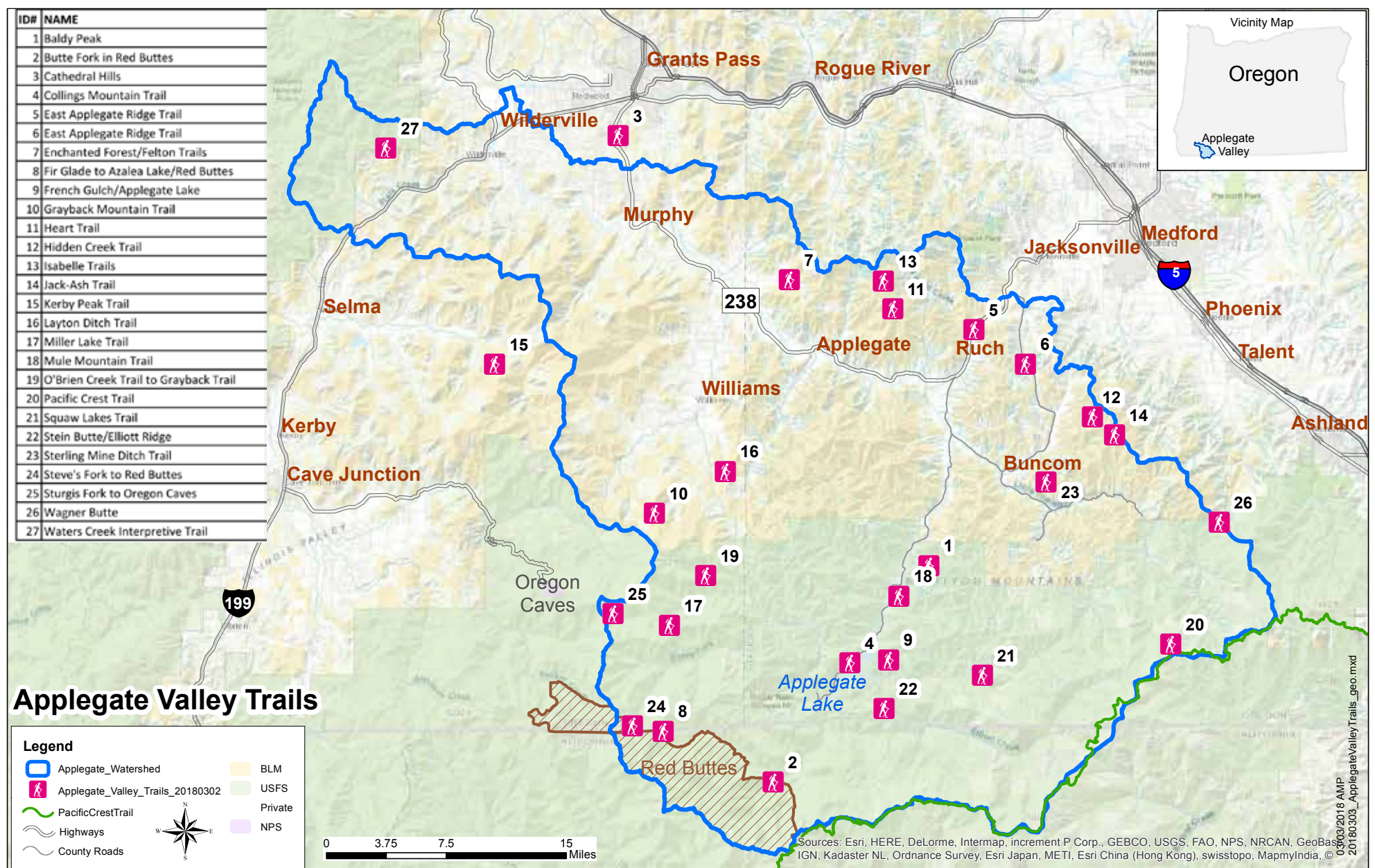
Applegate Valley Connect website

Visit the Projects section of the Applegate Valley Connect website at applegateconnect.org/projects to learn more about trails in the Applegate Watershed and the volunteer organizations that help to maintain them. The accompanying overview map (see below) shows many trail locations in our watershed—you might plan your next adventure on a trail you didn't know was there!

While you're on the Projects page, check out the other projects described there and consider posting a community project that you're passionate about.

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The Applegate Valley Trails map below was created by Annette Parsons.



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Whoa to woad

BY BARBARA MUMBLO

We have another noxious weed of concern in our valley—dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*). In the Yreka area, where it is prolific, this plant is also called Marlahan mustard, reportedly due to the person who received the piano, around which the mustard weed was wrapped, that came to Yreka from Scotland in the 1800s.

Dyer's woad is a native of Europe and Central Asia but has been found in the lower reaches of Williams Creek and down the Applegate River. It's also found on the Rogue River from Shady Cove downstream to west of Grants Pass. It spreads along rivers and roads and can cover dry fields and rocky bars along the river.

Dyer's woad is in the mustard family but differs from our common mustards by having arrow-shaped leaves (with more of a blue-green color) that clasp around the stem. The inflorescence reminds me of a bouquet in shape, and the flowers are a little lighter yellow than the common mustard. Another identification feature is the dark brown to black capsules that hang on the plant when it's in fruit.

This plant has been used as a dye (blue, from leaves), thus the name Dyer's woad. Although it does have a use, the invasive nature of this plant makes it undesirable. It has low palatability for grazing, is allelopathic (suppresses other plants), and is highly competitive. The Oregon Department of Agriculture rates it as a



Dyer's woad in bloom.

list B noxious weed—weed of economic importance that is regionally abundant but may have limited distribution in some counties (which includes Jackson and Josephine counties).

Some of us have been working on controlling this noxious weed, and, to me, it appears to respond well to digging. We're seeing a good decrease in plants following treatments. It will take a few years to get rid of it, but with persistence I think we can get it done. If you have this plant, let me know. We'd like to remove it from southwest Oregon. Thanks.

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■ LAVENDER

Continued from page 1

English lavender essential oil. We have come across several medicinal uses for lavender and recommend it for those applications that we have personally experienced.

Bee's stings

Having kept bees for years, we have been stung by honeybees and bumblebees. There is only one remedy we would ever recommend: lavender essential oil. A drop of oil applied to a bee's sting is like an instant off switch for pain. It doesn't lessen the pain, it doesn't make it more comfortable—it turns the pain off instantly!

Insect bites

Some of us are barely affected by mosquitoes and the like. I get a tiny red dot that itches for a minute or two and then disappears. My wife, though, gets a solid red lump that itches for days. I am reliably informed that a drop of lavender essential oil applied to the bite eases the itch considerably.

Minor burns

A minor burn is that red line on the back of your hand that appears when you reach into a hot oven and touch the wire shelf above. A few drops of lavender essential oil rubbed gently onto a minor burn will not only diminish the pain, but also reduce scarring. If your skin is broken or blistered, I would strongly recommend a medical professional instead.

Sleep aid

If you are someone who finds sleep elusive on occasion, then lavender might be for you. Studies by the universities in Southampton (UK) and Miami, Florida, and many others have proven that the smell of lavender does indeed promote alpha waves in the brain, which can lead to easier and more restful sleep. While I don't use this personally, I have heard a huge amount of anecdotal evidence of this,

and the studies simply back up this very reasonable claim.

Manage stress

Given the number of clinical studies that show changes in brain chemistry when lavender is introduced into the environment, I would have to say that this claim holds water. Aromatherapists use lavender as their go-to scent for stress relief. Of all the claims I have heard about lavender, this one seems to be the most readily accepted.

Keep bugs at bay

A gentleman came to the farm some years ago and asked for two bunches of lavender. As I was wrapping them, he mentioned that they were to hang in his home because he had an issue with flies. He said that he had read that flies were deterred by hanging lavender. I was compelled to explain that there were around two thousand bunches of lavender hanging in the barn at the time and that I, too, suffered with an abundance of flies. Flies, spiders, and all other manner of bugs may indeed dislike the smell of lavender, but in my experience, they don't dislike it enough to stay away from it.

Fix for menopausal hot flashes

To the best of my knowledge there have been two clinical trials where lavender essential oil was used to mitigate hot flashes. Both reported benefits for the test subjects and both recommended inhaling lavender oil placed on a tissue held in front



Lavender essential oil.

Native thistles are good for hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, birds

BY SUZIE SAVOIE



Native thistles in the dakubetede roadless area in the Little Applegate foothills.

never aggressive and won't spread rapidly like their nonnative and invasive relatives. If you currently have native thistles growing on your land, please don't pull them!

True thistles belong to the genus *Cirsium*. California has 19 native species of thistle in the genus *Cirsium*, while Oregon has 14. Some of these species have multiple subspecies as well, making for a lot of diversity in color, leaf shape, size, and spininess. Thistles are in the sunflower family (Asteraceae), with many individual flowers packed within each flower head, protected by a spiny whorl of modified leaves called bracts.

Nutritious thistle seeds are highly prized by birds such as the lesser or American goldfinch. According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, "Their diet is composed almost entirely of seeds, with those of the sunflower family, particularly thistles, strongly preferred." Birds also use the fluffy thistle chaff to line their nests.

The Applegate Valley is home to several species of native thistles. Despite their beauty and value for pollinators and birds, native thistle species have long been undervalued. I often hear people make disparaging comments about thistles when I talk about growing native thistles for the benefit of wildlife. They say, "Thistles are horrible. Why would you want those?" What they don't realize, however, is that native thistles play a critical role in native ecosystems. Native thistles get a bad rap simply because of the association with their weedy, invasive relatives like bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*).

Bull thistle was introduced into Oregon in the late 1800s, and it now occurs in every county in the state. Canada thistle has been around for about the same time, and once established, it is a fierce competitor, exuding allelopathic chemicals that inhibit the growth and survival of neighboring native plants. Just the mere mention of yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)—a knapweed, not a true thistle—makes the blood boil of those who live in an area with a heavy infestation. These are highly invasive plants that are a real threat to native ecosystems as well as to economic interests in agricultural areas.

So why does the justified distaste for nonnative invasive thistles seep into some people's psyche, affecting their perception of native thistles? Is it simply because thistles are spiny? Is it because people only associate thistles with weeds? It's hard to say for certain why this is, but what we can say, with certainty, is that native thistles deserve a spot in your pollinator garden or a site on your land with good drainage, good sun, and little competition. Native thistles are

The list of butterfly species that use native thistles for nectar is too numerous to list here. It is common to see butterflies nectaring on native thistles in the wild. Several butterfly species use native thistles as a larval host plant, including painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*), Mylitta crescent (*Phyciodes mylitta*), and the California crescent (*Phyciodes orseis*).

Hummingbirds are especially fond of thistle nectar, often spending a considerable amount of time around a thistle patch while sipping nectar in between aerial acrobatics. Additionally, native bees and pollinating flies and beetles also forage on and pollinate native thistles.

Native thistles inhabit a variety of habitat types. The showy and beautiful red-flowered Western or cobweb thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*) is found on poor soil with good drainage with harsh sun, in open grassland, and in chaparral or rocky areas with very little surrounding competition from other plants. It is a biennial plant that forms a rosette the first year, flowering the second year before producing seed and dying out. The elegant white-flowered Ashland thistle (*Cirsium ciliolatum*) can be found in full sun to part shade on the edge of oak woodlands or mixed conifer forests. Ashland thistle is a rare and endemic thistle that grows only in southwest Oregon and extreme northwest California.

When hiking around this summer, if you see a thistle in the wild, think twice before assuming it's an invasive, nonnative thistle. And if you see a native thistle, consider yourself lucky and enjoy the pollinator show!

Suzie Savoie

Conservation Chair, Siskiyou Chapter
Native Plant Society of Oregon
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of the nose. Before you reach for your lavender essential oil and a handkerchief, I should point out that all of the test subjects in the trials held the lavender under their nose for two 20-minute sessions each day. It may well be worth it, but it's a serious commitment!

Most people, myself included, find the scent of lavender to be calming, perhaps even comforting. It is the scent of summer and, for many of us, transports us back to the parlor of an aunt or grandmother and recollections of our youth.

Whatever your own applications for this delightful herb, I hope you continue to

use it and enjoy that moment of calm and tranquility that lavender seems to bring.

We hope to see you during the Lavender Festival weekends in June and July. For more information, visit southernoregonlavendertrail.com and englishlavenderfarm.com.

Derek Owen

derek@englishlavenderfarm.com

The English Lavender Farm is located at 8040 Thompson Creek Road in Applegate. In addition to the lavender festival days, their farm and gift shop are open to visitors on Fridays through Mondays in June and July from 10 am - 4 pm.

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 School PTO announces lively annual fundraising event

Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) PTO is excited to announce the Night in the Valley fundraising dinner to be held on Saturday, June 23, 2018, at Valley View Winery, 1000 Upper Applegate Road, in Ruch.

This signature event brings together hundreds of community members to support our one-of-a-kind school nestled in the beautiful Applegate Valley. The evening includes a no-host cocktail hour, catered dinner, and spirited live and silent auctions, plus an enticing dessert auction—all to benefit the school.

Craig and Amber Hamm, owners of Ruch Country Store, have been central supporters of the event for over 10 years. "My wife and I feel it is very important to invest in the community and our young people," says Craig. "It's a great feeling to know we are part of that and giving to the programs inside the school through this event. Plus, it's fun!" Craig has a special place in his heart for the school—in his 20 years as a local business owner he has watched students come into the school, grow up through the school, and then come back to our community as successful adults with careers. "If I had an opportunity to go back to grade school, I'd choose Ruch!" said Craig.

Night in the Valley attendees will be treated to an unforgettable evening under the stars at one of the premier wineries

in the Applegate Valley, while making a tremendous difference in the lives of students at this unique school. The auction features beautiful art made by Ruch School students, certificates for unique experiences like paragliding rides, and wonderful local wine. After dinner, guests will vie in a dessert auction where the highest bidder, quite literally, takes the cake!

ROCS is a K-8 public school that offers outdoor education connecting students with the environment and their community. It's a small-school alternative to the traditional school, featuring smaller class sizes, a four-day school week, personalized learning, and opportunities in the arts, music, and athletics. Attendees and donors of ROCS Night in the Valley auction make this possible.

Night in the Valley events provide funding for music programs, fine arts instruction, athletic equipment, the latest technology in the classroom, and countless field experiences that allow students to learn through doing.

Be a part of making things happen at ROCS, and don't miss this amazing evening.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the school at 541-842-3850. To donate, email ruchpto@gmail.com.

Stacie Grier • ruchpto@gmail.com
PTO President
Ruch Outdoor Community School

Applegate and Williams schools

Applegate School news

May was a busy month for students—they participated in field trips, assemblies, track events, and a canned food drive.

Fourth and fifth graders visited Table Rock during a field trip sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service.

When Hidden Valley High School (HVHS) Future Farmers of America students brought animals to school, Applegate students got to ride horses, pet a rabbit and a miniature pony, and enjoy the antics of goat kids.

All students were treated to a "Japan on the Road" presentation through the Japan-America Society of Oregon. Students are taught about Japan's geography, weather, food, etc.

There was a presentation by Southern Oregon University's drum group for the student body.

HVHS sponsored a track meet for fourth and fifth graders, and Applegate School's annual Track and Field Day took place on May 31.

A canned food drive for the school's Family Advocate Closet that was held in May will culminate in a Water Balloon Challenge for the food drive winners.

Sixth graders and their teachers participated in the outstanding Outdoor School program at Pacifica. While attending school in a beautiful outdoor setting over three days, students experienced hands-on learning with experienced Outdoor School staff. Students were housed in Pacifica's Cedar Center Great Hall.

Eighth graders had several events at HVHS in May: a Freshman Preview on May 15, an Open House on May 22, and a day for each of the eighth graders to shadow a high school student on May 30. Working on graduation speeches and preparing posters for display at their Moving On Ceremony kept the eighth graders busy at the end of May.

Kindergarten Kickoff on May 3 held the promise of a wonderful new group of Applegate students in September.

The school's library will be moving to a new room in June. On May 19, Serve Grants Pass, which has helped Applegate School in the past with painting and general cleanup, painted the room that will serve as the library's new home and helped with other tasks, such as cleaning out blackberries and clearing the cross-country path. A big thanks to these generous folks from Serve Grants Pass!



Applegate School

In June, several events will take the spotlight. On June 5, the middle school drama class will present *Lucky Dollar Private Eye*. Dress rehearsal will start at 1 pm, and the main production is scheduled for 6 pm. A field trip to Pacifica for K-3 students is planned for June 7.

Eighth graders are looking forward to their two-day trip to Great Wolf Lodge in Washington on June 7 and 8, with stops at the Portland Zoo, the University of Oregon, and the state capitol. On June 11, Applegate School will hold the Moving On ceremony for graduating eighth graders. The event will begin at 6 pm.

On the last day of school, June 13, several events will take place. The day will begin with ceremonies for student awards and volunteer recognition. Beginning at 11:30 am, the rest of the day will be devoted to *fun*.

Williams School news

Forty-five community volunteers from Serve Grants Pass came to Williams School on May 19 to paint and clean up the campus. The Williams community is sincerely grateful for this generous help!

HVHS held an all-district track meet for fourth and fifth graders on May 25. The participants had a fun experience meeting and competing with students from other district schools. They are grateful to the high school for sponsoring the event.

On May 23, Williams School held a tea at 12:45 pm to celebrate all the volunteers who help make the school run smoothly.

Williams School Strings concert is scheduled for June 6 from 6 - 8 pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

The Moving On and Awards ceremonies for Williams School students will be held on June 13.

A new custodian is on duty at Williams School. Ron Murphy, from Fort Vannoy, has taken on the duties, and the staff is super excited to have him as part of the Pioneer Family.

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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, clockwise from top left:

- **Diana Potts** studies the Greek language via the Gater's audio class at the site of the original Olympics in Olympia, Greece.
- While visiting the tiny Greek island of Milos in the Aegean Sea, **Karen Giese** brushes up on Greek mythology with the help of the Applegater's international history section.
- **Sandy Bostwick and Steve Frost** check the Gater to see what time the next ballistic missile scare will occur in Old Koloa Town on the island of Kauai.
- **Teri Auker Becker**, armed with the Applegater newsmagazine, participated in the student-organized Washington, DC, March for Our Lives, which demanded action against gun violence.
- **DeAnna Ertel** turns to the professorial Gater to find out why tide pools turn red at the volcanic-sand beach of Wai'anapanapa State Park in Maui.
- At Isabela Island in the Galápagos, **Louise Nicholson** tempts the giant tortoise with recipes from the vegetarian section of the Applegater.
- **Lisa Baldwin** and the Gater traveled all the way to Redding, California, to see Stephen Stills and Judy Collins in person.



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