

# Applegater

Photo by Linda Kappen • applegater.org

WINTER 2019  
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Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine  
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 13,000

Celebrating  
~25~  
Years

## BLM opens new park in the Applegate

BY TOM CARSTENS

You might have heard a rumor that Josephine County is opening a new park near Provolt. Well, that rumor's false.

What's really happening is that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) just opened a new recreation site at the old Provolt Seed Orchard at 14171 Williams Highway. The site lies along the banks of the Applegate River near its confluence with Williams Creek, where Samuel and Mary Provolt settled in 1895.

Technically BLM can't call it a "park"—in the federal system that takes an act of Congress. So BLM is calling it a "recreation area." (Maybe *we* can call it a "park.") Whatever it's called, the site has been a big hit right from the start. Opening the third weekend in October, the park welcomed over 100 visitors, including a ton of bird watchers.

In 1982 BLM bought the 294 acres of farmland to use as a high-quality seed production site to replace Douglas fir and some sugar pine after wildfires and timber harvests. Having fulfilled its purpose, the site was decommissioned after 32 years.

In 2016, BLM came out with a big new recreation plan that included the seed orchard property. To its credit, BLM sought advice from the Applegate Valley

community. The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) took the lead in marshaling the suggestions that came pouring in. BLM then took these ideas and designed a recreation site to accommodate many types of uses. This year and last, they held several public meetings to further refine the details.

In May, after the Grants Pass Field Office signed off on the final plan, BLM employees got to work. Under the direction of Todd Neville, the Grants Pass assistant field manager for recreation, they've made a lot of progress to get the site ready for visitors.

**Trails.** Already BLM has converted most of the site's existing road system to 2.5 miles of beautiful trails for hikers, bikers, and equestrians.

**River access.** Several access points are available for swimmers and anglers, and a nice gravel ramp was built to accommodate paddlers and floaters.

**Day use.** Eight picnic tables have been placed on lovely shaded sites along the river. Portable toilets are strategically located. There are two parking areas.

**Wildlife watching.** The site is rampant with wildlife. Visitors have viewed

See **PROVOLT PARK**, page 15.



Top photo, left: Sean Crandall from Murphy fishes for the big one. Top photo, right: The pond at the park is prime habitat for the western pond turtle. It is also for the enjoyment of anglers. (Rumor has it that there are bass in there.) Photos: Tom Carstens. Bottom photo: A trio of equestrians enjoys the trails available for hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Photo: Christina Beslin.

## A good designer will make your business look good

BY DIANA COOGLE

An essential part of business has always been its "design"—the visuals that present the business to the public. Think about the signs hanging outside English pubs. In days gone by, these street signs were "brand recognition" for places of commerce. Since the emergence of the internet and social media, a business's website has become that street sign. Businesses seek artists who specialize in online design: websites, social media pages, logos that stand out in a digitized world. Today, says Ann Nguyen (pronounced "Win"), of Idyllwild Studio in the Applegate, "websites are the storefront."

Applegate artists who do design—such as Noel Ruiz and Ann Nguyen of Idyllwild Studio; Laurel Briggs, of Creative



Designers Ann Nguyen and Noel Ruiz, of Idyllwild Studio, at the Oregon Country Fair.

Marketing and Design; and Gregg Payne, a designer and sculptor who lives in Ruch—must consider the same kinds of things a

See **APPLEGATE DESIGNERS**, page 22.

## Applegate caterers dish up holiday advice

BY HALEY MAY PETERSON

Holidays are synonymous with food. But between arranging lodging, accommodating restricted diets, and struggling with colds and flus, we sometimes don't feel like cooking. Luckily, when that happens, we can call on some great catering services in our valley.

**Chef James Daw**

The Perfect Bite is run by Chef James Daw, who believes in fresh food that is full of life, inspired by the Chinese term "wok hei," or the "breath of the wok." Working onsite, he services birthdays, work parties, and buffets, from intimate dinners to weddings.

Holidays remind James of his mother's Vietnamese spread with copious amounts



Chef James Daw of The Perfect Bite.

of pho (a rich noodle soup) and banh xeo (rice crepes filled with mung beans, pork, and shrimp).

But for him, holidays are about more than food; they are about reveling in togetherness. Especially as you get older, these times are a precious opportunity to reconnect.

This year, he urges you to remember that the meal is "just food" so be kind to yourself! There's a lot of self-induced pressure, perhaps from television shows that make cooking look effortless. The real challenge is time-management, so don't over-complicate. He is always willing to take a call if you get into a bind. He also

See **HOLIDAY CATERING**, page 4.

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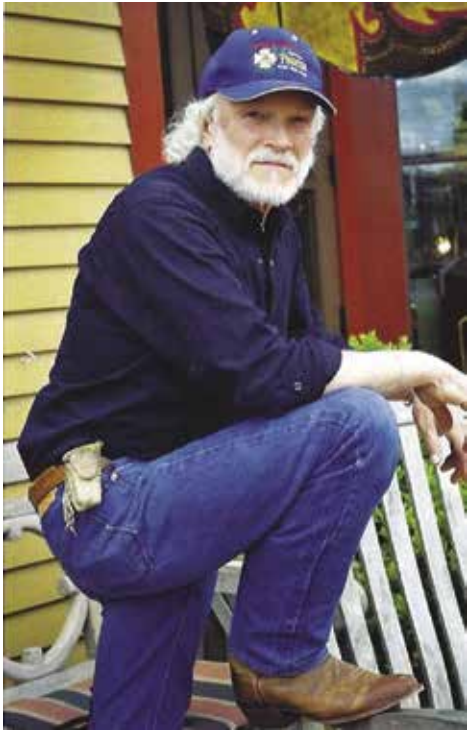
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# HOLIDAY - ARTS

**OBITUARY**

**Thomas Franklin Klinefelter II**

November 25, 1949 - October 25, 2019



A true renaissance man—an engineer, electrician, poet, and writer. Musician, pilot, chef, photographer, actor, athlete, and martial artist. Survivalist, mountaineer. Counselor, teacher, political/environmental activist, healer, and farmer. Tom Klinefelter was an expert on life and could master anything he chose to.

Anyone who knew my father, Tom Klinefelter, will tell you that he was a rare and extraordinary person, but to say he will be missed or remembered is not enough. The reach of his influence knew no limits, and, despite his death, he continues to inspire and guide us. This was a man who passed from this place with tremendous dignity and grace, on his own terms.

There is no greater honor than to be his son, enjoy the memories we made, and embody him. Tom made patience look easy and lived with strict intention. As a result he was a pillar of strength for the people of his global community.

We can only hint at the Joy, Talent and Love he shared. He leaves behind many broken hearts, yet there is no shame in his passing.

Sebastian Klinefelter  
sebastian@excavationoregon.com

*Mitakuye Oyasín*  
by Tom Klinefelter

There was never a time  
When I did not exist  
Nor you...you know it's true

Nor will there be any future  
in which we shall cease  
to be...so let it be

Dear family and friends—  
we are all one family  
Please dance when I die

I want you to smile and dance  
when I die...No sad eye  
I wish for you to sing and party  
Laugh until you cry

Please don't hesitate—  
cause I'm the one that's free  
So let's all celebrate  
my liberation from me.

I love you all!  
—Space Elk

**Farewell  
TO BARBARA HOLIDAY**

When Barbara Holiday announced at the October board meeting that she would be leaving the *Applegater* as its editor and a board member, we were stunned. The *Applegater* without Barbara?! Unimaginable. Inconceivable. But actually, of course, in the end, inevitable. She wasn't going to go on forever, though we in our complacency at having such a good editor hadn't been thinking about an end date.

To say we are going to miss Barbara is only to scratch the surface. She has been the mainstay of this paper for 14 years. She has overseen articles, making sure every sentence in every article is grammatically correct and syntactically graceful. She has been adamant about giving priority to contributions from the community and letting all voices be heard. The *Applegater* is visually attractive because of her layouts. She has supervised our ad reps. She does all the interaction with the printer, and

it was she who suggested we use a higher quality paper and more color pages. She works like a Trojan for our fundraisers. She got us started on our book projects. She has done so much for the *Applegater* it would take half this page to tell it all. And Barbara wouldn't allow that. In her eyes the *Applegater's* first function is for the members of the community.

We have so much to thank her for.

As sorry as we are to see Barbara go (the next issue will be her last), we understand what she meant when she said, "I want a life." She has put her life into the *Applegater*, and the whole community of the Applegate is the better for it. We will all miss her. We on the board send her off with hugs and kisses, a thousand thanks, and best wishes for life after *Applegater*.

*Applegater* Board of Directors  
Diana Coogle, David Dobbs, Paul Fattig  
Jeannette LeTourneux, Cathy Rodgers

**— Employment opportunity —**

**Editor in chief  
Applegater Newsmagazine**

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., seeks a part-time editor in chief to manage production of its quarterly 24-page newsmagazine, the *Applegater*. The editor is paid as an independent contractor; benefits are not included. The editor is required by corporate bylaws to sit on the board of directors as a volunteer and attend monthly board meetings in the Applegate Valley.

See more information, including responsibilities and requirements, on page 19.

**Janis Mohr-Tipton retiring?  
Say it's not true!**

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

Janis Mohr-Tipton. The name is synonymous with "librarian" and "community volunteer extraordinaire," right? The latter still holds true, but Janis retired from the Jackson County Library Services (JCLS) this fall, after spending almost 30 years in an active role managing Ruch Branch Library, providing programming and events for her community, tirelessly campaigning and fundraising to rebuild our libraries, and raising her family in the Applegate. Janis has always been active in local organizations and in building community. She was an active 4-H leader for many years, helped establish the most recent Upper Applegate Grange, and has a green thumb up to her elbow.

Janis volunteered with Ruch Library for several years and became Ruch Branch Supervisor in 1992. At that time there was a committee of dreamers, called the Applegate Valley Community Center-Library, who knew the time had come for a new library. Janis helped keep that group grounded, and the center-library ended up merging with the Friends of the Library in 1994, a move that gave strength to the grassroots push from this community for a new library. Fundraising efforts followed, including Applegate Valley Days, bake sales, miles of pennies, book sales, and more, always with Janis at the helm.



Volunteer extraordinaire Janis Mohr-Tipton, in costume as Madeline, the young storybook character, for Halloween at Ruch Library around 2000.

The official grand opening of the new Ruch Branch Library was January 2, 2003, and the staff rejoiced at the bright new windows and open spaces. Janis worked tirelessly with Ruch School about how to use this valuable new resource—a library next door! She continued working shortened hours at Ruch Library while also managing the Central Point Branch. In the fall of 2008 Janis left Ruch Library to begin doing book talks at Jackson County libraries, sharing enthusiasm with school students about new and interesting books they would enjoy.

Janis continues as a volunteer in the SMART Program at Ruch Outdoor Community School and works with the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council to educate schoolchildren about the life cycle of salmon. She is also on the board of A Greater Applegate and chair of its Cantrall Buckley Park Enhancement Program. She was instrumental in the construction of the new sundial at the park and all the educational signage.

The Friends of Ruch Library are fortunate to count Janis as a board member, but we're going to miss her at the library.

Thalia Truesdell • 541-899-7438  
Ruch Library Branch Manager  
Jackson County Library Services

**Aaron Krikava joins the  
Applegater Team**

Welcome, Aaron Krikava, to the Editorial Committee of the *Applegater*!

Aaron was born in Arkansas and raised in upstate New York and suburban Philadelphia. He attended Fordham University, in New York City, where he earned a BS in chemistry with a minor in psychology.

After a brief stint in the pharmaceutical industry he decided to heed the deep calling he felt to leave the east coast and explore the rugged natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest. In 2004 he arrived in the "gorgeous" Little Applegate River drainage for an agricultural internship on an organic farm and ranch. He was immediately taken with the incredible beauty and natural diversity of the Applegate area, as well as the kindness and warmth of the local community. Working on a forest restoration crew introduced him to the concepts of ecological natural resource management, and he was hooked. He is currently developing a local prescribed burning program to increase the use of controlled burning on both



private and public lands in the Applegate and surrounding areas.

While co-owning an Applegate-based ecological restoration crew, he joined the board of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council as a way to contribute his knowledge and experience to the land management of the greater Applegate area.

Aaron believes deeply that the volunteer efforts of local residents are vital to a healthy rural community. He has found that communicating regionally important information across a diverse social and geographic region like the Applegate Valley is a complex and difficult task and that small local newspapers like the *Applegater* have an unmatched ability to do just that. He is honored to help support those efforts by joining the Editorial Committee.

*Note: The Editorial Committee reviews all submitted articles each issue for appropriateness, clarity, and factualness. Other members are Tom Carstens, Diana Coogle, Barbara Holiday, Sandy Shaffer, and Greeley Wells.*



## Volunteer recruiting and retention

BY CHRIS WOLFORD

I am often asked how we are doing as far as the number of current volunteers. My usual quick response is, "Oh, we could use a little more help."

It's not an easy question to answer because there are many variables to consider. We have seven fire stations. Some are doing well...some not so well. Take, for example, Station 6 on Kubli Road. Right now, we have five volunteers assigned; most are available day and night. This is the best roster for this station in its 20-year history. Station 5, at the top of Jacksonville Hill, on the other hand, is at its lowest number of volunteers ever, with only two volunteers assigned to it. That means that Station 5 is having great difficulty responding to calls in its area. Usually, calls are being covered by our Headquarters Station in Ruch with assistance from the City of Jacksonville Fire Department.

The other two stations with the greatest need right now are Stations 1 (North Applegate Road) and 4 (Water Gap Road). These two are a high priority for us for three reasons:

1. Most volunteers assigned to these stations have full-time jobs that preclude them from responding to emergencies during daylight hours. This also puts a tremendous load on those who are available to respond.

2. These stations are strategically located at intersections of busy roads and relatively densely populated areas within our district.

3. Several of our most senior volunteers have retired from these stations.

So I ask you, the reader of the *Applegater*, to either consider volunteering or talk to someone you know about becoming a volunteer. You may not be cut out for firefighting, but you probably have a family member, friend, or neighbor who is.

One of the first and most common questions we are asked about volunteering is, "How much training is involved in becoming a volunteer firefighter?" Well, we would like to say it's short and easy. However, the reality is that you will need to put in quite a few challenging hours.

### Volunteer academy

The volunteer academy, which usually starts in early January and runs into February, consists of reading, some lectures, videos, and a lot of hands-on training. Classes are held on eight consecutive weekends for convenience. Subject areas cover structural firefighting and hazardous materials. Most students find the high-level teaching ability of our fire instructors surprising and always look forward to the hands-on training.

Again, please consider volunteering with us. We are certain you will learn new skills and make new friends. If that isn't enough in itself, don't forget that as a firefighter, you will be putting yourself in a position to help your neighbors and friends. You may even find yourself in a position to save the life of one of your own family members.

Chris Wolford • 541-899-1050  
Operations Chief  
Applegate Valley Fire District  
cwolford@applegatefd.com

## Some seniors find a new way to support the *Applegater*

BY TOM CARSTENS

Senior Applegaters over 70½ who have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) know they have to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from that account every year. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) mandates this so they can finally get their hands on that tax money that was deferred when the taxpayer was younger. The amount is set annually by the IRS according to a formula based on age and account balance. Since the RMD counts as income, IRA account holders are liable for the extra tax bill.

But hey! Did you know that you can avoid paying this extra tax altogether simply by re-routing your RMD to your favorite 501(c)(3) nonprofit or charity... like the *Applegater*? Since the amount of your contribution reduces your adjusted gross income (by reducing taxable IRA distributions), it might also keep you out of a higher tax bracket. You must get this done by December 31—so there's still time.

The benefit also gives you the flexibility to (1) split the RMD between multiple nonprofits and (2) donate any portion of the RMD as you see fit. But . . . any amount you decide to keep will be counted as income.

**Example.** Let's say you have an RMD of \$3,000 for 2019. You don't need the entire amount, so you decide to have \$1,500 sent to the *Applegater* (excellent choice!) and another \$500 to another

Applegate nonprofit (also good). You keep the remaining \$1,000, which you will list as income on your tax form. You fly to the Bahamas for some well-deserved beach time...or maybe you help with the hurricane cleanup.

The catch is that you can't make the contribution yourself. You must notify your IRA account managers and have them send checks directly to your favorite charities. They know how to do this if you give them the addresses, identification numbers, and proof of 501(c)(3) status.

So...all you have left to do is tell your IRA account manager to mail the RMD check directly to:

*Applegater* Newsmagazine  
PO Box 14  
Jacksonville OR 97530  
Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

**Note 1:** To obtain proof of the Applegater's nonprofit status, check Publication 78 on the IRS website at [irs.gov/charities-nonprofits/tax-exempt-organization-search](http://irs.gov/charities-nonprofits/tax-exempt-organization-search), then search for "Applegate Valley Community Newspaper" or ID "26-2062663."

**Note 2:** Richard Brewster, CPA, PC, of Medford, fact-checked this article and gave it a thumbs-up. Please note, however, that this information is generic only. Please contact a tax professional, certified public accountant, or financial advisor for guidance in regard to your individual tax situation.

## Don't miss the FOTAS Donation Drop-off Party!

BY LAURA AHEARN

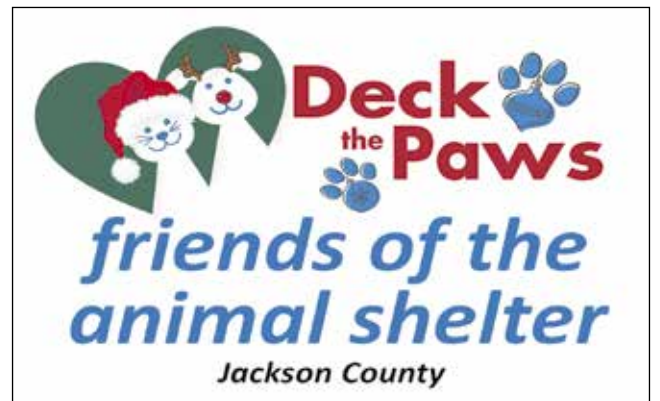
Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS) has had a busy 2019 in the Applegate Valley.

Seventh graders at Ruch Outdoor Community School toured the shelter in February and were among the very first donors of handmade goods for the upcoming Deck the Paws Holiday Fair.

FOTAS collaborated with McKee Bridge Historical Society to stage "Doggy World" in June and participated in the Applegate Valley Neighborhood Festival to provide information on animal welfare, an array of colorful merchandise, and paw-print tattoos. FOTAS donated gift collections for dog and cat lovers for the recent *Applegater* fundraiser and displayed a photo gallery of shelter dogs at Ruch Country Store.

Most importantly, every single day, FOTAS volunteers cared for animals in the shelter that came from Applegate Valley. Yes, there are *always* animals from the Applegate in the Jackson County shelter that have been surrendered, confiscated, trapped, abandoned, or picked up as strays. In fact, at one point this fall, a full 25 percent of the 32 dogs in the intake zone came from Applegate Valley. FOTAS is committed to caring for them in the shelter and finding new homes for all.

Here is an easy, fun way to support FOTAS and our community's animals: Make and donate gifts or décor items or baked goodies for Deck the Paws Holiday Fair. Maybe gingerbread dog houses or kitten-face cupcakes? A favorite recipe that has been handed down in your family? Handcrafted ornaments, birdhouses, pet



sweaters, a painting—whatever your skill or hobby, let it shine!

Bring your contributions to the Donation Drop-off Party at Ruch Library on Wednesday, December 4, from 3 - 5 pm and you'll receive a thank-you "Doggy Dollar" or "Kitten Kash" to spend at the fair. You can also bring fresh evergreens, holly trimmings, or mistletoe and help create wreaths and garlands to sell at the fair. Any pet food, toys, or supplies you can donate will go toward gift bags for pet owners who need some extra support this holiday season.

Deck the Paws Holiday Fair will be held on Saturday, December 7, from noon - 4 pm at the Phoenix Plaza Civic Center, 220 N. Main Street, Phoenix. Admission is free. In addition to thousands of gift items, we'll have family and pet portraits with Santa Paws and the Cat-Elf. You'll get a matted 5" x 7" glossy photo at the fair, plus electronic files of all five photos taken during your sitting. (Please note that pets are allowed inside the Civic Center in the photo area only.) Enjoy an affordable lunch of hot soup, cocoa, and cider, and find the purr-fect gifts for the animal lovers on your list. Visit [fotas.org/deck-the-paws](http://fotas.org/deck-the-paws) for more information.

Laura Ahearn  
[laura.ahearn@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:laura.ahearn@stanfordalumni.org)



Photo, left: Some colorful items donated by Applegate residents.  
Photo, right: FOTAS has gifts for pony fans!

**20<sup>th</sup> annual**  
**Pacifica Winter Fest**  
**Art & Music**  
**Sat. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 10AM-4PM**  
**35 local artists**  
high quality hand-made: wood \* jewelry \* wool  
ceramics \* knitting \* leather \* clothing \* wreaths  
**FREE admission \* LIVE MUSIC**  
**Delicious FOOD & treats**  
**KIDS: make keep-sake photo & ornament**  
**14615 Water Gap, Williams**  
**\* 541-846-1100 \***  
**www.pacificagarden.org \* also on facebook**

## POETRY CORNER

### Applegate Dam

In 1962, the US Congress authorized construction of the Applegate Dam, which would eventually flood the community of Copper (see Diana Coogler's article "Copper Store, in the past" in the fall 2019 *Applegater*). When the dam was completed in 1980, according to local news reports, the engineering contractors had collected over \$2.5 million in gold and gold dust from the Applegate River. The contractors shared the proceeds with the federal government.

Among the people whose lives were irrevocably changed by the dam were so-called "recreational miners," many of whom scraped out a livelihood from their mining claims along the river. Hank and Wilma were a couple with a claim in the area where the dam now stands.

In 1986, Katy Barber was a high school student from Portland, on a camping trip to the Applegate Valley. Her parents had told her many stories about Hank and Wilma, with whom they had spent a summer before she was born. That camping trip inspired her to write this poem.

Today, Katy Barber is a history professor at Portland State University and author of two books about Celilo Falls and its inundation, *Death of Celilo Falls* (2005) and *In Defense of Wyam: Native-White Alliances in the Struggle for Celilo Falls* (2018).

Margaret Perrow della Santina • perrowm@sou.edu

### Applegate Dam

by Katrine Barber (1986)  
barberk@pdx.edu

It had rained for three days straight  
leaving the tent roof like the  
underbelly of a frog,  
full and soft.

We hiked to the Applegate,  
gathered BB-hard huckleberries,  
swam among the pickerelweed  
pregnant with another generation  
of damselflies,  
and prepared ourselves for a hot one  
while old Hank kept cool  
with his home brew.

When the mosquitoes started humming  
Wilma would get out her  
soft-as-leather cards and we'd play poker  
hearts

gin rummy  
and she'd clank her chips together, reminding  
everyone that she had a good deal of the pot.

Now I see why her hands hurt—  
she tried to rinse gold from the river bottom,  
tried to crack the dam open  
with a shovel and a couple of pans.  
And Hank used his hands  
to pick up Styrofoam along the highway,  
to refund beer bottles in Jacksonville.

They held onto their claim and  
waited for damselflies  
while the river swallowed the canyon.

## ■ HOLIDAY CATERING

*Continued from page 1*

loves to eat, so be sure to invite him for a bite in exchange!

### Chef Emily Moore

Chef Emily Moore, of Emily's Kitchen, was educated in Paris and has chuffed and consulted for many restaurants, in addition to teaching at Le Cordon Bleu in Seattle. Emily and her husband, Mark Solomon, moved to the Applegate three years ago to build a creamery for him and a commercial kitchen for her. On their half-acre of vegetables, she hopes to cultivate a particular variety of mini gherkin cucumbers for pickling into cornichons.

Emily's Kitchen offers catering and added-value products (her pickled blueberries are wonderful!) while Mark runs Toucan Tango Creamery. He makes bloomy rind cheeses (think camembert) among others, and they both teach classes through Rogue Community College Extension, at their kitchen, and at clients' homes. They hope to offer classes at the Jacksonville Community Center as well.

Holiday foods are some of Emily's favorites, although in the past she was always working during the holidays. She recalls celebratory meals, with her all-Latino staff, of turkey mole ("moh-lay," an aromatic, dark sauce) or tamales. She has another fond memory, of an all-night Christmas dinner in Paris featuring oyster stew, lobster, champagne, foie gras, tarts, custards, and many bottles of wine, which finished at daybreak with coffee and a croissant, before everyone headed to work.

This holiday season, Emily recommends brining your bird in a salt solution to retain moisture, making a juicier final product.



Chef Emily Moore  
of Emily's Kitchen.

## BOOK REVIEW

### A Tale for the Time Being

Ruth Ozeki

Penguin Random House 2013

How did I miss this novel back in 2013? Maybe it's correct that the right book shows up at the right time. Such an adage helps explain the unread books in my bookcases and why *this* title suddenly lit up there, as if its cover had magically burst into fireworks. I didn't know until I'd finished reading that it had been shortlisted for the Booker Prize as well as the National Book Critics Circle Award. Nor had I read all the praise from around the world. Just the book and me—no expectations, just the fireworks.

Imagine that, like the author, you live on a small island off the coast of British Columbia and every morning take your walk on the beach. One day you see, tangled in the detritus of the sea, something pink. You go to check it out and it is a battered "Hello Kitty" lunchbox. You pick it up, brush off the sand, and take it home to the kitchen table where you open it. Inside are a wristwatch, some letters, and a journal written directly to you by a teenager in Japan. You read:

"Hi! My name is Nao, and I am a time being. Do you know what a time being is? Well, if you give me a moment, I will tell you. A time being is someone who lives in time, and that means you, and me, and every one of us who is, or was, or ever will be. As for me, right now I am sitting in a French maid café in Akiba Electricity Town, listening to a sad chanson that is playing sometime in your past, which is also my present, writing this and wondering about you, somewhere in my future..."

What would you do next? Already, I could not stop reading. By the end of the first two pages I knew this discovery went beyond stories of a note in a bottle. The author was weaving together a tapestry of intersecting time and place in which her character, also named Ruth, enters profoundly into Nao's coming-of-age story, which is funny, sad, gritty, frightening, confusing, suicidal, and compassionate. Quickly the time between the two begins to merge. Can they even exist without each other?

"I'm reaching forward through time to touch you...you're reaching back to touch me."



Canadian Ruth, an author living "now" on an island in the Georgia Strait off mainland British Columbia, reads Nao's journal, written just before the horrific 2011 earthquake and tsunami off the northern coast of Japan. Can her normal sense of time survive the entanglement she begins to feel with this girl, or will their times merge to give Ruth the chance to intervene? This was the question that kept pestering me as I read.

Here's a book that will wring your heart. It will challenge your philosophical, spiritual, scientific, and psychological understandings of time itself. It will ground you in the Bodhisattva wisdom of Old Jiko, a Buddhist nun and Nao's beloved great-grandmother. It will bring you into the quantum realm that renders chaotic many former certainties. You might feel yourself floating around in magical, even mystical psychic waters. You could feel sympathy with the oft-mentioned Marcel Proust and his *In Search of Lost Time*. You'll learn about Tokyo teen culture, a kamikaze pilot's soul-searching, Old Jiko's compelling version of Zen Buddhism in which opposites are "not same...not different either," the latest theories of parallel universes, and possibly a bit of Japanese language as defined by Nao.

But above all, my hope is that you will be taken in, absorbed, and transformed, as I was, by a story with unforgettable characters who come face-to-face with life's most fundamental choices. I hope, too, that you will finish the book feeling larger, more compassionate toward our differences, more hopeful about the future of our world, with a greater sense of adventure into the mystery of our existence and with a deep love for every time being.

Christin Lore Weber  
storyweaver1@gmail.com



Chef Kristen Lyon  
of Jefferson Farm Kitchen.

yourself, she says. Invite a friend to cook with you or have a second dinner with friends only!

### Chef Kristen Lyon

Chef Kristen Lyon, owner of Jefferson Farm Kitchen, in Jacksonville, is passionate about healthy, local, organic, and seasonal foods that provide both comfort and nutrition.

Kristen's meal support sets you up for success. For winter holidays, she provides appetizers, soups, and desserts, all packing

a nutritional punch while remaining rich and decadent. For a stress-free meal, choose from vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, or classic dishes.

Have you tried her weekly menu selections for pickup or delivery? Order bone broth, chicken pot pies, quiche, take-and-bake treats, and more online. Stop by her storefront (next to GoodBean Coffee in Jacksonville) to pick up fresh, quality eats to take home or devour on-site.

A holiday meal while she was growing up consisted of latkes (potato pancakes) with applesauce and sour cream. She also had manicotti, a hand-rolled pasta tube filled with fresh cheese and ladled with tomato sauce. Now she relishes an organic chicken liver pate, locally sourced and homemade.

Her food advice: make ahead. Gravy can be made from bone broth, which you add drippings to later. Prepare your *mise en place* ("everything in place") by cleaning and chopping vegetables ahead. And take advantage of her gluten-free or regular

See HOLIDAY CATERING, page 6.

~ FINE PRINT ~

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

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

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

**Acknowledgements**

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

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All articles submitted to the *Applegater* are subject to edit and publication at the newsmagazine's discretion and as space allows. No more than one article per author per issue. 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 (see page 18 for more information) and articles cannot exceed 700 words. Obituaries are limited to 500 words and one photo. Essays and stories are limited to 500 words and one per issue.

**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](mailto:gater@applegater.org).

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

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

*Applegater* Newsmagazine  
PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530

# The Applegater needs your ongoing help!

In order to keep up with our expenses—printing and postage are the biggest costs—and be able to continue mailing this newsmagazine free to every residence and business in the Applegate Valley, we need and appreciate ongoing donations, large or small—every dollar matters.

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## Thank you, A Greater Applegate!

The *Applegater* was a recipient of an AGA Momentum Grant to cover postage and delivery for this issue. We appreciate any and all contributions toward the high costs of producing this newspaper.

David Dobbs, *Applegater's* treasurer (left), receives the check from AGA executive director, Seth Kaplan.

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**Editorial Calendar**

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

**Cover Photo Credit**

Thanks to **Linda Kappen** for the photo of chubby quails in the snow on her property in the Applegate. (The fence prevents them from scratching in Linda's butterfly space.)

## Advertisers!

We can help you reach your market. The *Applegater* is the **only** newsmagazine covering the entire Applegate Valley. With a circulation of 13,000 and a readership of more than 20,000, we cover Applegate, Jacksonville, Jerome Prairie, Murphy, Ruch, Wilderville, Williams, Wonder, and areas of Grants Pass and Medford.

**For more information, contact**  
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**Next deadline: February 1**

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# Jackson County Library Services

## — Applegate Library —

A recent AARP Bulletin Readers Respond article mentioned, “One of the best places to save money is your public library. You can borrow books, DVDs, e-books, audiobooks, tools, and plant seeds [not yet for Jackson County Library Services (JCLS)]. You can obtain materials from other libraries. You can use a computer to access online databases. You can join a book club, get tax assistance, and attend a variety of programs. (You have already paid for this through your tax dollars. Don’t waste them!)”

Yep, we do all that! And, through JCLS’s Library of Things, there’s more to enrich your lives beyond books! Borrow wireless hotspots, ukuleles, Kindles, Kill-a-Watt monitors, sewing machines, and puzzles.

The second Annual Applegate-Ruch How-to Festival was a smashing success! It might even be called an “international event,” because Pelle, an exchange student from Germany, participated. Thank you to the local experts and enthusiasts who came to enjoy a variety of interests and topics.

JCLS turned 100 years old this year! Thanks to many local community members and businesses for their donations to our “Cheers to 100 years” receptions celebrating this milestone.

For all JCLS winter events, pick up a copy of our Winter Event Guide at the library or visit [jcls.org](http://jcls.org) and click on “Programs and Events.”

### Upcoming events

- **DIY Holiday Decorations.** Make and take home a living holiday decoration using local greenery on Friday, December 6, from 4 - 5:30 pm and Saturday, December 7, from 10 am - noon.
- **Seasonal Origami with Christian Shillito.** Learn how to make a seasonal origami piece on Saturday, December 14, from 10:30 - 11:30 am.
- **Color Happy.** Drop in, enjoy freshly brewed hot drinks and treats, and have fun coloring on Wednesdays, December 13, January 15, and February 19 from 10 - 11 am.
- **Decorative Painting with Local Artist Lois Robinson (18+ years).** Learn the techniques of decorative painting and how to paint on almost anything! Pre-registration required. These progressive classes will be held from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm on Saturdays, January 4, January 11, and January 18.

### Ongoing events

- **Storytime is Saturdays** from 10:30 - 11 am.
- **Digital Services** are available on Thursdays from 2 - 4:30 pm for any and all tech help.

The Applegate Branch Library is located at 18485 North Applegate Road. It is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 2 - 6 pm and Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 - 2 pm. For more information, contact manager Christine Grubb at 541-846-7346 or [cgrubb@jcls.org](mailto:cgrubb@jcls.org).

## — Ruch Library —

We are proud to have the Ruch Outdoor Community School classes visiting the library each week again this year. Congratulations to Shawna Taylor’s third-grade class and Jennifer Brown’s kindergarten for 100 percent of the children having and using a library card! They were rewarded with class parties at the library. Some of the other classes are not far behind! Some students have made butterflies for the program “Butterfly Effect: Migration is Beautiful,” which set out to collect 15,000 crafted butterflies, each to represent one child held in detention while desiring to enter the USA from another country. (They have collected over 25,000!) The fourth and fifth grades are learning some storytelling skills and working on tales to present.

We have had some great programs at the library this fall. Thank you, Applegate Valley, for your response in teaching and attending the eclectic classes in the Second Annual How-To Festival. We always welcome ideas for future programming, so stop by and let us know what might interest you! Programs coming this winter:

- **Cookie Decorating.** Saturday, December 14, 1 - 3 pm. Decorate a gingerbread person (or fish, trees, or frogs!) with icing, sprinkles, and dried fruit. Gluten-free cookies will be available.
- **Basket Making.** Saturday, January 18, 12 - 3 pm. Basketmaker Carolyn Trottmann will show you how to make a reed “Becky” basket, perfect for carrying garden produce, eggs, or to display fruit or balls of yarn. No experience necessary. Pre-registration required for this free class. Ages 10+.
- **Valentine Making.** Saturday, February 8, 1 - 3 pm. Create a beautiful valentine for someone special. We provide the paper, stickers, colorful pictures, yarn, bling, lace—you provide the love!

### Ongoing

- **Digital Services.** Nicole Vukcevic is at the library every Thursday afternoon from 2 - 4:30 pm to help you with any computer or device problems you may be having. New phone? She can get you started. Want to figure out how to access Hoopla for free movies? She can do that too! She is a wealth of information and skills and is anxious to help you out!
- **Babies and Wobblers Storytime.** Every Tuesday from 10:15 - 10:45 am. Geared for 0 - 3 years old, storytime offers children a social time and provides early literacy skills.
- **Preschool Storytime.** 11:30 am - noon, followed by a craft. For children 2+. We would love to have you join us!

### Friends of Ruch Library (FORL)

FORL is a vital part of our library. These hard workers provide you, the community, with quality books, the proceeds of which support great programs, supplies, and special needs for our library. FORL members truly are the heart of the library. Please visit their A-Frame Bookstore. Hours: Tuesday 12 - 4 pm, Thursday 1 - 5 pm, Saturday 12 - 4 pm.

**First Saturday Book Barn \$5 Bag Sale.** The Book Barn is used to sort all incoming donations. Once a month all books are \$1 or \$5 a bag. Hours: 12 - 4 pm.

**Holiday Sale and Silent Auction.** Gift-quality books. December 7, 10, 12, 14 in the Ruch Library Community Room during library hours.

All sales are sponsored by the Friends of Ruch Library. All proceeds benefit the Ruch Branch Library.

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](mailto:ttruesdell@jcls.org).

# Josephine Community Library

### New Williams branch library manager

Welcome, Jamie Menzel! Originally hailing from Seattle, Jamie has lived in southern Oregon for the past six years. She feels as much at home in the serpentine-laden wildlands of the Siskiyou mountains as she does huddled around a wood stove with her cat and a good book.

Being a librarian has always been a dream job for Jamie, and she hopes that her background as a passionate social-justice advocate will complement her role as the new librarian for the Williams community. Stop by to say hello during open hours.

### Weekly storytime

Families are invited to the Williams branch for weekly storytime and craft sessions every Friday from 2:30 - 3:30 pm in a safe and fun environment. Each week children will hear themed stories about topics like dinosaurs, space, holidays, or animals.

### Need tech help?

The library is ready to answer technology questions and assist with downloading e-books, setting up emails, navigating social media accounts, formatting resumés, and more during Friday Tech Time every week from 11 am - 1 pm. Bring passwords and log-in information as needed.

Not available during that time? Make a free, one-on-one appointment with your own personal Tech Coach. Contact Jamie at 541-846-7020 or [jmenzel@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:jmenzel@josephinelibrary.org).

For more information about the library, contact Williams branch manager Jamie Menzel at the contact information above.

The library is located at 20695 Williams Highway and is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 1 - 6 pm and Fridays from 11 am - 4 pm.

### Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

Since the launch of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library last year, almost 2,000 Josephine County children, ages birth to five, are receiving books in the mail each month, at no cost to their families, thanks to our sponsors.

To register your child at no cost: (1) stop by your nearest library branch in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, or Wolf Creek and fill out a paper registration form, or (2) visit [josephinelibrary.org/get-involved/imagination-library/](http://josephinelibrary.org/get-involved/imagination-library/) and fill out the online registration form.

Sponsors for this program include AllCare Health, the four Rotary Clubs in Josephine County, Welch Investment Group, LLC, Josephine County Library Foundation, and Oregon Community Foundation.

For more information, contact partnership manager Rebecca Stoltz at 541-476-0571 ext. 108 or [rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org).

For more information about Josephine community libraries, contact communications coordinator Brandace Rojo at 541-476-0571 or [info@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:info@josephinelibrary.org).

### ■ HOLIDAY CATERING

*Continued from page 4*

pie crusts to reserve time and energy for friends, family, and fun.

Haley May Peterson  
[hmaylmt@gmail.com](mailto:hmaylmt@gmail.com)

### Applegate Caterers Contact Information


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### ONLINE ARTICLE

Don’t miss another excerpt from  
**Stories on the Land: An  
Environmental History of the  
Applegate and Upper Illinois Valleys**  
by George McKinley and Doug Frank  
and the List of Advertisers  
in this issue @ [applegater.org](http://applegater.org).

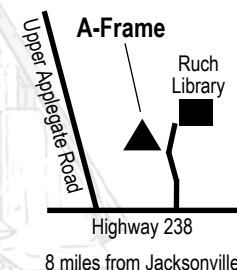
  
**Happy Holidays to  
all  
from the  
Applegater  
Team.  
May 2020 bring  
peace, joy,  
and prosperity!**

### Visit the A-Frame Bookstore @ Ruch Library

Used books from \$1 to \$1.50

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## NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

### — A Greater Applegate —

#### Who are we?

A Greater Applegate (AGA) began an 18-month outreach effort to better understand who Applegaters are and what they care about by hosting two Neighborhood Listening Sessions, one on October 17 in the Little Applegate and the other on November 21 in the Upper Applegate. We are scheduling at least eight other neighborhood sessions in 2020. These listening sessions are being augmented by outreach to AGA's Applegate Valley Business and Nonprofit Networks. We also intend to reach out specifically to local schools, the Latinx community, and other targeted audiences. Collectively, this will inform our 20/20 Community Visioning process in the fall of 2020.

We are excited to learn as much as we can about all of us who inhabit this beautiful watershed and to share it with you. This information will be meaningful to our work at AGA, as well as to many other businesses, organizations, and individuals whose work helps make the Applegate Valley a place we love to live in. Please contact us at [info@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:info@agreaterapplegate.org) or 541-702-2108 if you want to learn more about Neighborhood Listening Sessions.

In preparation for this extensive outreach, we have contracted with Rural Development Initiatives and the data analysis firm Esri to gather the most current demographics about the Applegate Valley. This data is not readily accessible because our watershed features no municipalities and few census-designated places. The Comparative Demographics table below shows a summary of data gathered, comparing the 2010 census, 2019 Esri analysis, and projections for 2024.

Esri has created 20 national profiles of population segments. Almost 95 percent of us in the Applegate fit into one of these three profiles:

**The Great Outdoors (Applegate Valley 47.2 percent, nationally 1.6 percent):** Neighborhoods populated by this segment are found in pastoral settings throughout the United States. People who generally fall into this category are educated empty nesters living an active but modest lifestyle. Their focus is land. They are more likely to invest in real estate or a vacation home than in stocks. They are active gardeners and partial to homegrown

and home-cooked meals. Although retirement beckons, most of these residents still work, with incomes slightly above the national level.

**Rural Resort Dwellers (Applegate Valley 27.7 percent, nationally 1 percent):** Although the Great Recession forced many people to sell a second home, the Rural Resort Dwellers remain an active segment, though a bit smaller than before. These communities are centered in resort areas, many in the Midwest, where the change in seasons supports a variety of outdoor activities. Retirement looms for many of these blue-collar, older householders, but workers are postponing retirement or are returning to work to maintain their current lifestyles. Workers are traveling farther to maintain employment. They are passionate about their hobbies, like freshwater fishing and hunting, but otherwise have simple tastes.

**Senior Escapes (Applegate Valley 20 percent, nationally 0.9 percent):** Senior Escapes neighborhoods are heavily concentrated in the warmer states of Florida, California, and Arizona. These areas are highly seasonal, yet owner-occupied. Many homes began as seasonal getaways and now serve as primary residences. Nearly 40 percent are mobile homes; over half are single-family dwellings. About half are in unincorporated and more rural areas. Nearly one-fifth of the population is between 65 and 74 years old. Most are white and fairly conservative in their political and religious views. Residents enjoy watching TV, going on cruises, playing trivia games, bicycling, boating, and fishing. They are very conscious of their health and are knowledgeable about specialty foods and dietary supplements.

While I hope you find this demographic survey interesting, it obviously doesn't truly capture who we are in the Applegate Valley. Growers, craftspeople, and young families, among others, are not represented in these snapshots. As AGA begins its listening sessions across the watershed, we recognize the importance of hearing from people directly about what most matters to each of us. We look forward to listening to and learning from you!

Seth Kaplan, Executive Director  
A Greater Applegate  
[seth@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:seth@agreaterapplegate.org)

#### Comparative Demographics for the Applegate Valley

Category	2010	2019	2024
Population	18,114	19,141	19,782
Owner/Renter Housing	80% / 20%	80% / 20%	80% / 20%
Caucasian	94%	93%	92%
Two or More Races	2.6%	3.2%	3.5%
Median Age	51	54.2	55.5
American Indian	1.2%	1.3%	1.4%
All Other Races	2.2%	2.5%	3.1%
Hispanic (All Races)	4.6%	5.8%	6.6%
Ages 0-9	8.3%	7.4%	7.2%
Ages 10-19	11.3%	9.2%	8.9%
Ages 20-24	3.9%	4.1%	3.4%
Ages 25-34	7.7%	8.7%	8.5%
Ages 35-44	9.9%	9.2%	9.7%
Ages 45-54	15.9%	12.4%	11.6%
Ages 55-64	19.8%	19.6%	17.3%
Ages 65-74	13.9%	18.4%	20%
Ages 75+	9.2%	11%	13.5%
Median Household Income	---	\$55,600	\$64,546
Percentage < \$15,000	---	13.5%	10.1%
Percentage > \$150,000	---	10.2%	14.3%

Table created by Seth Kaplan from data provided by Esri in August 2019.

### — McKee Bridge Historical Society —

#### Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) on September 28, out on the bridge, gave us a first taste of fall: a temperature of 45 degrees, rain, and even a bit of thunder to end the afternoon. Dolores Lisman and Janeen Sathre gave a dual presentation titled "Gold Miners' Daughters." The first part, told by Dolores, was based on *The Secret Diary of Emily A, Gold Miner's Daughter* by C. Ellen Watts, about a young woman growing up in a family whose patriarch followed the gold throughout the Upper Applegate and even down to Jacksonville. [Read a review of this book in the winter 2018 *Applegater* at [applegater.org](http://applegater.org).]

The second part, told by Janeen, included reminiscences of her family history: great-great-grandparents John and Maryum McKee mining on Forest Creek at Logtown and great-grandfather Amos McKee mining on Palmer Creek.

Unfortunately, attendance was small, likely due to the weather. But Dolores and Janeen saw it as a good rehearsal, and others interested in tales of local history told by these two great storytellers may be able to catch their presentation at a future venue.

Our annual meeting and elections yielded a new president for MBHS, Laura Ahearn, who brings many talents to the organization, not the least of which is her ability and willingness to connect the society to a greater audience through Facebook and other social media, as well as standard media coverage and promotion. She's proven to be a great asset to us already, and we will undoubtedly move strongly into the future under her leadership. (I am moving into the unfilled vice president position on the board, so this article is my "swan song," Laura will bring her writing skills to these pages in the future.)

We're also very grateful to a few volunteers who have stepped up to take on small jobs and duties that make it easier for the board to be involved in local historical events. And many thanks, as always, to our dedicated board members, some of whom have been with the organization for many years. And then there's Evelyn



McKee family antique dolls and toys from the collection of Evelyn Williams will be displayed on the bridge during the Christmas celebration on December 14.

Williams, the original instigator of the McKee Bridge Historical Society and still our honorary board member and constant source of good ideas as we finish up our second decade as an organization!

#### Christmas on a Covered Bridge celebration

Wow, 20 years! We should celebrate! So come help us out with that celebration on Saturday, December 14, from 2 till 6 pm, with Christmas on a Covered Bridge, a social event open to all. The bridge will be decked out in Christmas finery and beautifully decorated trees, which will be given away at the end of the evening. You could be the lucky winner of a decorated Christmas tree! We'll provide cookies for the children to decorate, and we can't have a Christmas event without hot cider and cocoa, so we'll have some warmed up for you. If it's cold out there, you can warm up by the fire in the park's old stone-and-timber gazebo. A display of McKee family antique dolls and toys from the collection of (who else?) Evelyn Williams will be set up on the bridge too. (You can find some background information on how Evelyn came to possess these items by reading the fall 2013 *Applegater* "Back In Time" article on the *Applegater's* website at [applegater.org](http://applegater.org).) And you might want to sing along with the carolers who will be there to help us give a joyful voice to the Christmas season.

So come out and join us for an old-time Christmas social celebrating the community's commitment to keeping McKee Bridge in excellent shape throughout its 102-year history. MBHS has taken up that task for the past 20 years, but the community stepped up many times before then to ensure that the bridge was here for us to enjoy. We hope to continue its preservation for many generations to come. This is not a fundraising event,

but your donations and membership are always greatly appreciated.

For more information, contact Laura Ahearn at [mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:mckeebridge1917@gmail.com) or 458-226-0600 or write to PO Box 854, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

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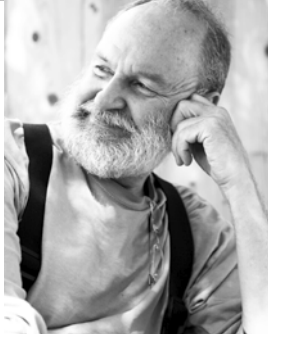
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## THE STARRY SIDE

# Dark matters

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

The pure white of the Milky Way is so beautiful. All summer and into fall the Milky Way swept across our sky from north to south. Now, in winter, it swings nightly toward a more east-west orientation. Next spring it will leave the visible sky completely. It will be all around our horizons, but just out of sight.

At the north end of the Milky Way is Cassiopeia, who seems to be the queen and source of the Milky Way. In fall it flowed out of her due south. Now it flows out of her farther to the west, and in late winter it will flow east-west.

Notice that this expanse of gorgeous white has distinct dark “holes” in it. It turns out that these are not holes or spaces with no stars, but a massive amount

of dust: star dust. This darkness is called the Great Rift or the Dark Rift, and it’s made completely of interstellar dust that comes from areas in our galaxy where new stars are created. This rift starts just above the southern constellation Sagittarius (which the English call the Teapot), near the very center of our galaxy. The rift flows north to the constellation Cygnus, the swan, in the shape of a cross (the Northern Cross). That’s where the rift stops.

We’ve discovered another dark mystery, too, but it’s not matter as we know it. Estimates of the weight and density of the universe tell us that it isn’t interstellar dust, but we don’t know what it is. Since we can see only 15 percent of what’s out

there, 85 percent of the universe is made up of something we can’t even detect!

After scratching their heads about this mystery, scientists decided there must be something huge out there and decided to name it “Dark Matter.” This is a fascinating mystery still to be unraveled. Imagine huge black clouds of sweeping shapes and sizes making up the majority of our universe that we cannot detect in any way we’ve tried!

There’s something else that we have never seen and can only theorize about, another anomaly we think is in our universe: black holes! We don’t know much about this essence of darkness, either, only that black holes are out there.

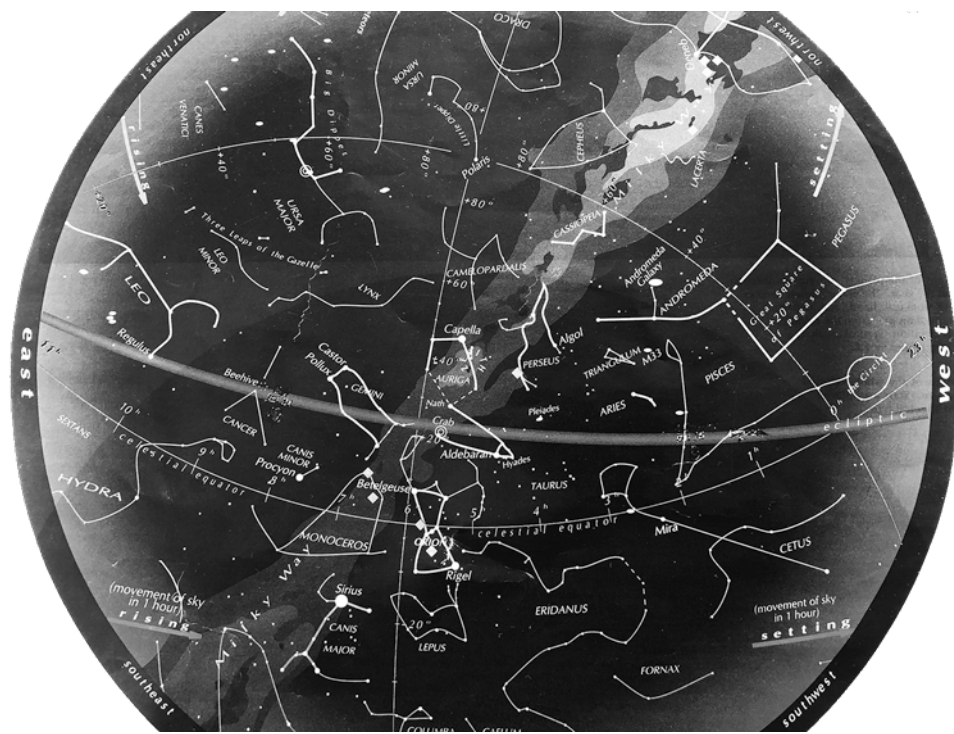
These are three dark mysteries beyond our reach, but we are pretty much

convinced that they are all out there somewhere, somehow! Go figure. We started out describing white and now have turned dark three times over!

The brightest star in the sky, Sirius, the dog star, rises in the east-southeast, faithfully following the hunter Orion. Orion’s belt points back (left) to Sirius and forward (right) to Taurus—that distinctive “V” with its one bright star, Aldebaran—and even farther on a fairly straight line to the Pleiades, which looks like a very small dipper. They all line up to help show each other off!

Happy dark, clear nights with friends.  
Greeley Wells  
greeley@greeley.me

Photo: Guy Ottewell’s *Astronomical Calendar*.



### Of Note

**Venus** will be with us after sunset until June. In December she sets at 7:03 pm. On January 6 Venus is in her highest position and away from the sunset. In February she’ll be up much longer, till about 9 pm, with good evening visibility after sunset.

**Mercury** is hardly visible at all, and Mars is not with us at night this season.

**Jupiter** sets at 5:17 pm with a very brief sighting at sunset in December. In the January dawn, he rises at 5:48 am. He’s visible for an hour before dawn in the February morning sky.

**Saturn** can be seen dimly in the dawn before sunrise in February.

### Meteor showers

- The Geminids peak the night of December 13. Look for the radiant (the point from which meteors originate) in Gemini. There is a just-past-full moon, so viewing conditions are slightly downgraded from perfect.
- The Quadrantid meteor shower reaches its peak late night January 3 until dawn January 4. Look for up to 120 meteors for a few unpredictable hours. And no moon to spoil it either!

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# A land of nonnatives

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Likening nonnative, invasive, noxious, and nuisance plants to humankind is not a fanciful leap. Surely without too much mind stretching, you can think of people you know or have known who fit into at least one of these plant categories. Right? Note that the term “alien” is not in the list. Aliens are from Mars.

Let’s look at “nonnative.” “Native” is defined by geography. A plant species may be native in the Applegate Valley but a foreigner in a southwest desert. Actually, according to the US Department of Agriculture, “Only plants found in this country before European settlement are considered to be native to the United States.” Don’t assume that because a plant is nonnative, it is harmful or invasive. Most nonnative plants have been introduced with the help of a human being.

“Naturalized” and its sub-category “invasive” are not to be confused. “Naturalized” refers to a nonnative plant that will spread and have offspring over time and usually is loved and wanted. Did you know that daffodils, which bloom all over the Applegate Valley in spring, originated in Spain, Portugal, North Africa, and West Asia? Is this nonnative plant loved or what?

Think of “invasive, noxious, and opportunistic” as a single group. Whether “born” here or coming from afar, plants in this category may be a threat to the local ecology, may reproduce too fast for the space, or may displace native species. Basically, the entire category

simply refers to the unwanted, for whatever reason it might be unwanted. Given another time and place, all serve a purpose.

Most of what we grow to eat came from somewhere other than the US. (Go to [nau.edu/lrm22/lessons/plant\\_origins/plant\\_origins.html](http://nau.edu/lrm22/lessons/plant_origins/plant_origins.html) for information about the origins of cultivated fruits and vegetables, or just google “nau plant origins.”) Here are some nonnative plants that have enriched our lives for hundreds of years.

- Carrots probably originated in Persia from a wild species cultivated for its leaves and seeds.
- Tomatoes were first cultivated by the Aztecs and Incas as early as 700 AD.
- Wheat came from what is today southeastern Turkey.
- Corn, or maize, was first grown in Mexico’s Tehuacan Valley according to most historians.

Our Sunday chicken was originally from southeast Asia. Well, of course, it was not cooked; my grandma did that.

Even our honeybees did not grow up here but are native to Eurasia. From there



Nonnative daffodils flourish in the author’s garden and all over the Applegate Valley.

appendicitis, and stomach problems.

Native Americans boil and drink dandelion extract to help treat digestion problems, skin ailments, inflammation, liver injury, kidney disease, and heartburn. Early Europeans used it to remedy diabetes, high fever, and diarrhea.

“Dandelion is a very rich source of beta-carotene, which we convert into vitamin A. This flowering plant is also rich in vitamin C, fiber, potassium, iron, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and phosphorus. It’s a good place to get B complex vitamins, trace minerals, organic sodium, and even some vitamin D too.

“Dandelion also contains protein, more than spinach” ([sunwarrior.com/blogs/health-hub/11-health-benefits-of-dandelion-leaves-and-dandelion-root/](http://sunwarrior.com/blogs/health-hub/11-health-benefits-of-dandelion-leaves-and-dandelion-root/)).

Craig D. Lounsbrough, a certified professional life coach, sees a lesson of acceptance in the dandelion. “If you see a dandelion as a weed,” he says, “you’ll spray it. If you see it as a flower, you’ll draw it close, turn it this way and that, and become lost in the colossal burst of slender golden petals that spew sunshine into the darkest of souls. And so, how many things have we sprayed that could have illuminated our souls if we would have let them be more than what we let them be?”

Dirty Fingernails and all,  
Sioux Rogers

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## Students study in the park

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

The park this fall was buzzing with the joyful sounds of eager students studying the outdoors through the Rogue Basin Salmon Watch Program. Students in the third to fifth grades came from the Medford, Talent-Phoenix, and Central Point school districts, and a class of

eighth graders came from Ruch Outdoor Community School. A total of 248 students and 38 adults participated in the outdoor studies at Cantrall Buckley Park. The program had a total of 1,240 students ranging from third grade through high school participating from Jackson and

Josephine counties at Valley of the Rogue State Park, McGregor Park, Lynn Newbry Park, TouVelle State Park, and Cantrall Buckley Park. Frances Oyong from Rogue Valley Sewer Services and Greg Stabach from Rogue Valley Council of Governments co-ordinated the entire program.

Oregon Trout created the Salmon Watch Program in 1993 with the mission to connect students with



At Cantrall Buckley Park, Dick Barbara, with the Salmon Watch Program, instructs students on the life cycle of the salmon.

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## **BIG** Thank-yous!

Members of A Greater Applegate's Park Enhancement Program are very grateful for the special relationship that it has with the community and Jackson County Parks staff, hosts, and rangers.

- The Park Enhancement Program team thanks everyone who has been involved in supporting and improving our community park. Cantrall Buckley Park would not be the beautiful park it is today without the tremendous, caring donors, many of whom have helped with multiple projects over the years. The latest artistic features in several areas of the park are the proof of this community's commitment to our park.
- Another thank-you goes to the many community members who have volunteered their time to continue the park's restoration by removing invasive species, planting native and drought-tolerant species, and participating in organized cleanups. Students are also helping by providing service days as part of their outdoor school studies. Collectively the Park Enhancement Team and community volunteers contributed 645 hours from January through September this year.
- Thanks, too, to visitors who have stopped to talk about their appreciation of the "new look" of the park and shared great ideas to consider for improvements.

Together we had a productive and successful year, with a beautiful county park for everyone to enjoy, any day or any season.

local streams and rivers through a focus on activities about salmon. The program includes in-class curriculum and service-learning projects and culminates in a field day with hands-on activities that focus on salmon biology, salmon life cycles, water quality, riparian systems, and macro invertebrates.

Instructors were local experts, including fish biologists, hydrologists, botanists, environmental educators, school personnel, and retired community volunteers from related fields who participate in the program to share their knowledge and experience with the students.

Partners in this growing program that provide in-kind support, funding, and other assistance include communities, watershed councils, nongovernmental organizations, Council of Governments, local utilities (water commission and Rogue

Valley Services), educational organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies.

### Art in the park

Changes continue on the Art Sculpture Walk. Interpretive signage is being installed in stages, and, by December, valuable information will accompany all currently installed sculptures. The remaining three sculptures and accompanying signs will be installed by May 2020.

### Restoration

Depending on weather conditions during the rest of fall and into winter, there will be more small work parties to continue restoration and cleanup of landscaped beds along with more transplanting. Call me at 541-846-7501 if you are interested in participating.

I hope to see you at the park!  
Janis Mohr-Tipton • 541-846-7501  
janis.agapark@gmail.com



Janis Mohr-Tipton (center group) with student group discussing macro invertebrates found in the river. Liz Landreth (right group) helps students identify macro invertebrates. Jennifer Payne (back group) works with students doing water quality testing of the river.

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# Applegate public land grazing in need of environmental review: Part One

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Public land grazing is a controversial subject in the American West, including the Applegate Valley. Public-land grazing allotments in the Applegate are collectively referred to as the Applegate Grazing Complex, which includes the following US Forest Service (USFS) allotments: Glade Creek, Wagner, Beaver-Silver, Carberry (inactive), Elliott, and the Upper Big Applegate. The Bureau of Land Management also has the Lower Big Applegate Allotment. Altogether permits allow approximately 1,000 cows to graze on 166,452 acres of public land in the Applegate each year from April through October. In 2019 the paltry fee for this privilege was just \$1.35 per head month (HM) for one cow and her calf.

Most of these grazing allotments have not had updated Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) since the 1960s; in fact, they haven't been updated since before humans first set foot on the moon in 1969. A lot has changed in that time, including our understanding of the ecological impacts of public land grazing. These allotments are in desperate need of environmental analysis using modern science and updated field knowledge gained over the past 50 years.

## Historical context

USFS documents confirm that as early as 1918 Silver Fork Basin, below Dutchman Peak, was overgrazed. Massive, unsightly, and damaging terraces were bulldozed across upper Silver Fork Basin to control the erosion caused by overgrazing. The impacts to native plant communities during the height of grazing on the

Siskiyou Crest were severe, and they continue today.

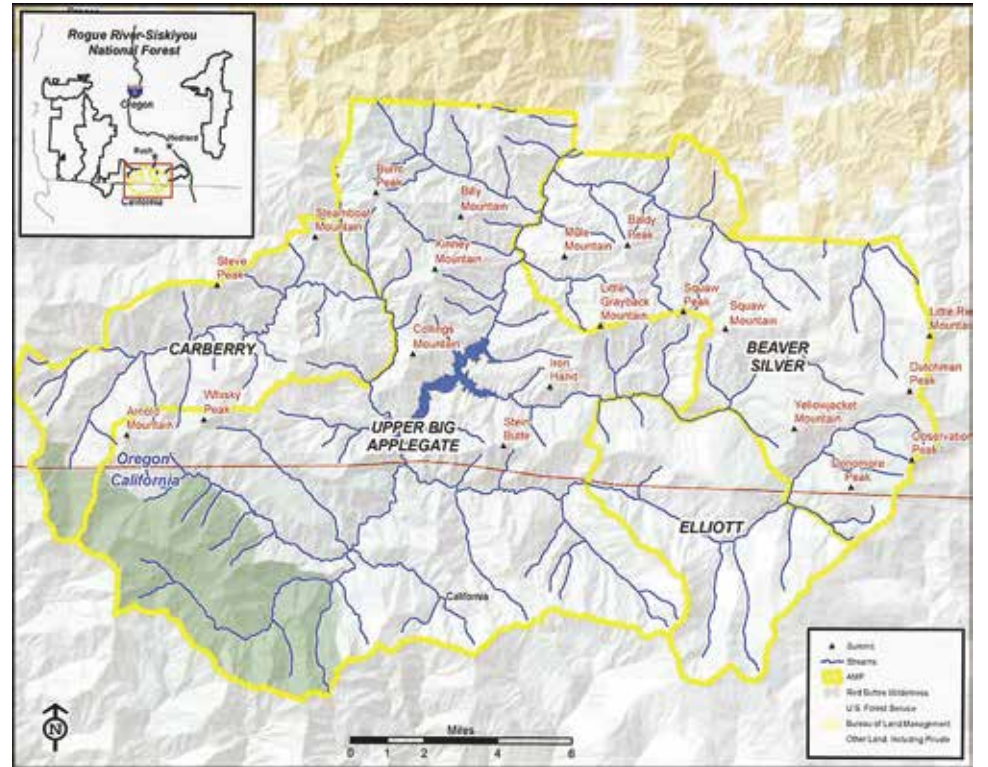
According to *Stories on the Land* (Frank, 1996), in 1903, 103,000 sheep and 7,500 cattle grazed the Siskiyou Crest between Siskiyou Summit and Highway 199. C.E. Brown, in his 1971 USFS document, *History of the Rogue River National Forest, Vol. II*, explained that, in 1918, 12,000 sheep were permitted between Studhorse Creek and Donomore Meadows. "At the end of the season," Brown says, "the whole area was a dust bed."

## Ecological impacts

Public land grazing affects hydrology, water quality, wildlife habitat, botanical resources, wilderness values, fisheries, pollinator habitat, and more. Concentrations of cattle are denuding willow habitat along streams in many meadows on the Siskiyou Crest, in some places completely destroying habitat for the willow flycatcher, a sensitive bird species. Rare aspen groves in the Applegate are unable to reproduce, as cattle eat down every shoot that tries to grow. Public land grazing not only diminishes the ability of native plants to reproduce, since cattle eat flowers and thus prevent pollination and seed development, but also drastically alters the composition of native plant communities on a large scale. When wildflowers are unable to set seed, forage for native birds and other seed-eating species is diminished.

The alteration of native-plant communities also affects important pollinator habitat, including that of at-risk species such as Franklin's bumblebee and the western bumblebee. The Sierra Nevada blue butterfly relies solely on the Sierra shooting star, which grows in moist meadows as a larval host plant. Cattle often eat these sensitive plants before the butterfly larvae can reproduce.

Public land grazing also contributes to the spread of invasive plants into intact native-plant communities. Cattle are contributing to the spread of the nonnative purple



This map depicts four of the Applegate public land grazing allotments on USFS land. It does not show the Wagner, Glade Creek, or Lower Big Applegate Allotments.

houndstongue around Wards Fork on the Siskiyou Crest.

## Native wildlife graze differently from nonnative cattle

Nonnative cattle eat very different plants from native wildlife, as determined in *Diet Overlap and Social Interaction Among Cattle, Horses, Deer and Elk in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, southwest Oregon* (2007, Hosten, Whitridge, Broyles). Fecal analysis studies, performed to further understand the impacts of livestock grazing in the monument, showed that wetland plants comprise 45 percent of cattle fecal matter, whereas deer and elk show very little wetland plants in their fecal matter. Clearly wetland plants are preferred by cattle and should receive special protection, as livestock grazing compacts wetland soils, denudes riparian vegetation, and contributes to sedimentation and bacterial contamination of headwater streams.

## Areas of special concern

Cattle congregate in preferred areas in high concentrations, affecting some areas more than others. Areas that have been overgrazed and are in need of grazing cessation and long-term rest include Silver Fork Basin, Kettle Belly Glade, Yellowjacket Springs, Yellowjacket Ridge, Observation Peak, "cattle barrens" between Wards Fork and Condrey Mountain, Donomore Meadows, Alex Hole, Alex Creek, Studhorse Creek, Mud Spring, Middle Hell, Tamarack Meadows, and Miller Glade.

Suzie Savoie  
Conservation Chair, Siskiyou  
Chapter NPSO  
klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com

**Note:** Part Two will be published in the next Applegater and will focus on the environmental analysis and AMP changes needed to bring public land grazing in the Applegate into the 21st century.

Cows on a public land grazing allotment within the Applegate Grazing Complex.





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# Season change: More than just the color of the leaves

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Fall has always been my favorite season of the year. As a redhead, I've never enjoyed the heat (and sunburn) of hot summers, nor the melanoma diagnosis that hit me as an adult. So I definitely welcome the autumn and its cooling invigoration.

Whether living in Massachusetts, California, or Oregon, I love watching the different species of trees change their colors. (Fortunately, I don't really hate raking leaves each fall, either.) Living here in the Applegate the past 20 years, I've always been glad to see the summer heat finally letting up; then the fire season can taper off, and we don't have to worry about wildfires, our home, and the safety of our firefighters.

However, as an Applegate resident who's actively involved with our fire district, I've found there's more to a season's change than just temperatures and weather! As autumn weather takes over, our Applegate firefighters turn to new tasks—some similar to what we rural residents have to address around our homes.

With seven Applegate fire stations and several other district buildings across the valley, maintenance and repairs of

equipment and buildings keep everyone occupied for a while. No worries, though—the Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD) has recently hired a new equipment/facilities supervisor! As I'm writing this, Chief Brad Barnes is finishing up training his replacement, McKenzie Turnbull, who comes to us after 18 years with Rural Metro Fire District. (I suspect Chief Barnes is headed out for a long hunting vacation soon. We all wish him well.)

Our Fire Chief McLaughlin also told me that the fire district doesn't have much to do as far as winterization; they are always ready for anything. However, they have started turning on block heaters and station bay heaters so that the equipment and apparatus are always ready for any response. (Did you know that our fire district's average response time—from the first "tone" is heard until an engine rolls out of the fire bay at headquarters—is a quick two to three minutes?)

Locally, some good news was announced for the Jacksonville Fire Department last month that will benefit our AVFD in the long run. Jacksonville was the recipient of a generous grant that allows them to



At AVFD, new equipment/facilities supervisor McKenzie Turnbull, left, is replacing outgoing chief Brad Barnes (right).

hire several more firefighters. This will add "more hands on deck" for emergency calls in the Jacksonville hill area of Highway 238. (AVFD's Station No. 5, at the top of that hill, is covered by two volunteers, and both of them have day jobs.)

So, how about you—our AVFD constituents? Any new changes or needs in your own prevention chores around your property and home? We recently had our wood stove cleaned and inspected and in

the process found we needed some repairs to our roof ridges. After 20 years on top of our hill, those top covers were starting to wear thin. Next on our list was to clean out the gutters before the rains start up, and we checked off that task too.

Are you starting some much-needed thinning or removal of Douglas firs that have died this past year, like we are? (Boy, are we going to be set for firewood for a few years!) If you need help assessing your home and property and/or planning the workload around your property, don't despair! You can call either our fire chief or the Oregon Department of Forestry for advice.

The Oregon Department of Forestry is in Central Point. Call them at 541-664-3328. Sometimes they have grant dollars available to help with the cost of the work. And, our Fire Chief McLaughlin will be happy to come out to your property and walk around with you to figure out what needs doing and what doesn't. The phone number at headquarters is 541-899-1050.

My husband and I find these seasonal outdoor chores invigorating and rewarding, but also sometimes wearing as we age. I think it does help keep us "younger" and perhaps healthier than if we hired a crew each fall to get the work done. Working for our winter warmth makes it even more appreciated, so we'll continue to cut/split/stack for as long as we can!

Sandy Shaffer  
sassyoneor@gmail.com

# Pacifica in pictures

BY PEG PRAG

**Restrooms.** After 20 years of trying, Pacifica's restrooms are *finally* finished... whoo-hoo!

**Winter Fest.** Come to the Winter Art & Music Fest on Saturday, December 7, from 10 am - 4 pm to support our local artists and have a good time (and to give the new restrooms a try!). There will be over 35 artisans, live music all day in two venues, and home-cooked chicken and vegan enchiladas, salads, soups, and goodies! Rain or shine, it's always a special day.

**Harvest Faire.** Thanks to Ohana Martin, his fine crew, and the community, Pacifica's first Harvest Faire in October was a great success. There were interesting workshops, vendors, wonderful music all day and into the night, and good times... the perfect start to a wonderful tradition!

**Old Williams Post Office.** A piece of Williams history, the old post office building, was moved to Pacifica in October. This post office, used from the 1940s through the 1970s, is a little 14' x 16' building, hand-built, with rough-cut lumber and blue-and-red doors hand-lettered with "Post Office Williams 97544." Until its recent removal, even people who had never used the old post office loved its being there as a vivid reminder of Williams's past. As such iconic buildings disappear, so does the feeling of heritage and roots, and even the very feeling of community. When asked about it, everyone says something similar to "I love that building!" and invariably smiles.

Our thanks to Claudia Pratt for temporarily saving the building from demolition. Because the old post office



Photo, left: Leaf headdress at Harvest Faire. Photo: Peg Prag.  
Photo above: The historic Williams post office is now on display at the entrance to Pacifica. Photo: Ray Prag.

needed a new permanent home, Pacifica obtained a small grant from the Kinsman Foundation to get it moved to just inside Pacifica's gate. Now it can be enjoyed by everyone passing by and hopefully become a place to preserve some history of this area.

**Fall Outdoor School.** Pacifica held its first fall Outdoor School sessions in October with an exciting new curriculum dealing primarily with trees and fungi (spring's sessions will mainly focus on birds and animals). The fall "tree" program included a multitude of games, hikes, and labs, including tree identification, rotting stumps, mycorrhizal communication, lichen, and bark beetles. It also explored how people grow and change like trees do, as well as how trees and all

things and all people are interconnected. This session's electives were carving wood, sewing a backpack, felting an owl, and making survival tools.

Because this session at Pacifica is the only state pre-pilot program with kids having to go to both fall and spring sessions, we also have an ongoing project to tie the two sessions together. I wish I were in sixth grade!

Peg Prag • peg@pacificagarden.org

### Kudos to Pacifica for the fall Outdoor School session

"I wanted to send you a 'thank-you' for providing our students at Ruch Outdoor Community School an amazing, memorable experience. Mrs. Drane could not say enough positive things about the overnighter, and the kids have expressed that it was one of the best trips they have taken...ever!"

—Julie Barry, Principal,  
Ruch Outdoor Community School

Photo, left: Pacifica's restrooms are finished! Photo: Ray Prag.  
Photo, right: In October, Pacifica held its first Harvest Faire, which was a great success, drawing a wide variety of vendors and sizeable crowds. Photo: Peg Prag.



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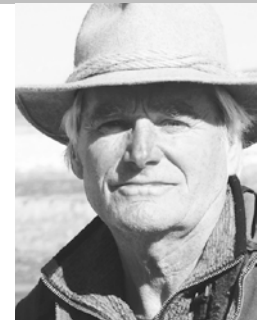
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**The tale of the Lewis's Woodpecker**

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Peter J. Thiemann

In autumn we had a bumper crop of acorns, from both white and black oaks and, higher up, from tan oaks.

Many animals benefit from this bounty, including several species of woodpeckers. There are two that really stand out: the Acorn Woodpecker and the Lewis's Woodpecker.

Acorn Woodpeckers, the "tribal clowns," are often seen near their granary trees, working hard to store acorns for winter. This is a community effort, with family and friends working together to drill holes where acorns are stored whole, with shell and all. Some granary trees have thousands of holes in them and are fiercely protected by the Acorn Woodpeckers.



Colors of iridescent green, pink-red, and white, which are not seen in any other North American bird, adorn the stunning Lewis's Woodpecker. They are highly territorial and will chase Acorn Woodpeckers away from their granary trees and foraging area—the two woodpeckers really don't like each other.

The best places in our area to see this unusual winter guest are Agate Lake, Emigrant Lake, and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

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Photos courtesy of peterjthiemann flickr photo stream.

Acorn Woodpeckers are resident birds in our oak savannah, nesting in tree cavities.

But there is competition from a winter guest, the Lewis's Woodpecker, named after Lewis from the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the early 1800s. This woodpecker displays some unusual colors

and unique habits. It catches insects in mid-air like a flycatcher, then works to store acorns. Unlike the Acorn Woodpecker, the Lewis's will hammer the acorns open and store smaller pieces for ready use in winter. So, different bird species use different techniques to accomplish the same goal.

**Day-flying Wild Forget-me-not Moth**

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The *Gnophaela latipennis* is a diurnal (active in daytime) moth, of the Erebidiae family of moths, that sips nectar from wildflowers alongside the many butterflies of summer. The common name of this day-flying moth is Wild Forget-me-not, but I will call it "latipennis" for most of this article.

The caterpillars are yellow with black patches, blue spots, and clusters of white hairs. The head of the caterpillar is reddish. The caterpillars feed on *Cynoglossum grande*—houndstongue of the Borage family. The adult latipennis has black wings with white markings showing a distinctive pattern.



Wild Forget-me-not Moth

Caterpillars feed on *Cynoglossum grande*—houndstongue of the Borage family.

There is a single small white spot on each side of the head. The forewings have two clusters of four white spots each. Each of the hindwings each has clusters of white spots, one of three spots, the other of two. Adults feed on the nectar of many wildflowers. The latipennis have one flight period near the months of May, June, and July. The caterpillar and the adult moth are very striking.

The habitat of the *Gnophaela latipennis* is a mixed forest of conifers and hardwoods, oak woodlands, or other wooded areas with openings in the canopy where the houndstongue plants grow. The range of this moth is from central California north to western Oregon.

I usually see latipennis flying in mid-elevation areas in the Siskiyou Mountains and western Cascade Mountains. I have observed populations of latipennis remaining in an area from two to three weeks, actively sipping the nectar of wildflowers and mating along our flower-laden mountain trails.

In March 2013, my son Dakota and I went on a hike on the Enchanted Forest Trail in Applegate. After reaching the top

we found a caterpillar of the latipennis. I was able to take it home and rear it with houndstongue from the woods on our property. We kept it in a small protective habitat on our porch with a houndstongue plant, where it formed its cocoon. A couple of months later, it finally appeared as an adult day-flying moth. We let it go to fly among butterflies.

The *Gnophaela latipennis* can be misidentified as *Gnophaela vermiculata*. Although I have never seen the two species fly together, I have witnessed them in two separate meadows that were very close together. During a lepidoptera survey of Crater Lake National Park this past summer, I photographed the vermiculata in one meadow; then, during a hike through the forest, I photographed latipennis in a second meadow. Just like the moths, the hostplants for these two species are also of the same family.

If you are out on the mid-elevation trails this coming spring, look for this beautiful caterpillar feeding on houndstongue. Once



Wild Forget-me-not caterpillar

in flight among the wildflowers, the moths would be hard to miss with their nectaring and mating behavior!

Linda Kappen  
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Photos by Linda Kappen.

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## A LOOK BACK

# James D. Buckley, Applegate pioneer

BY PAUL FATTIG

When James D. Buckley first beheld the Applegate Valley in 1854, the young man was thrilled at the sight of the lush river valley. After all, the native of Ireland knew what it was to feel the gnawing ache of hunger. “In his diary, he noted that his family had come to the United States because of the potato famine in the late 1840s,” said his great-granddaughter Mary Buckley Mikkelsen. “My guess is they had a hungry day or two in their time.”

James and his older brother, John Buckley, lived on the East Coast for two years before heading west on the Oregon Trail and settling in the picturesque southwest corner of what was then the Oregon Territory. They first camped and

mined on Jackass Creek, now known as Forest Creek, which became the dividing line between the two brothers’ properties.

“When they arrived, there were still some old Indian women and children living here who hadn’t been rounded up or exterminated,” Mary said. “James and John Buckley fed them and never participated in the vigilante activities against Native Americans. The brothers were pacifists; they never fought in wars. That was all in James’s diary.”

Sadly, James Buckley’s diary burned in a house fire in later years. Yet his stories still live on in his great-granddaughter, including tales about the 1880s-era Buckley farmhouse, which can still be

seen on the east side of Hamilton Road between Highway 238 and Cantrall Buckley Park.

“Grandpa Buckley started the tradition of keeping a bottle of moonshine just inside the water tower by the door,” she said. “The deal was, you could go in and have a drink, but don’t drink the last drop. Always leave a drink for the next guy. My dad kept a bottle there too.”

James and John Buckley had been educated at a Catholic school in Ireland. Mary said, “It wasn’t like the brothers were poor, uneducated dirt farmers. They could read and write quite well. John, the older brother, was a surveyor.”

The Buckley patriarchs came to know the movers and shakers of the day, including Lindsay Applegate, one of the two brothers who, in 1846, blazed what became known as the Applegate Trail between what is now Idaho and southwestern Oregon.

“My family never threw anything away,” Mary said as she pulled out a stack of receipts James Buckley received from the Nunan-Taylor Co. store in Jacksonville. Located in what is now the Kubli Building on California Street, it billed itself as “Dealers and jobbers in dry goods, boots, shoes, groceries, glass, wood and wire.” In essence, it was the Walmart of its day.

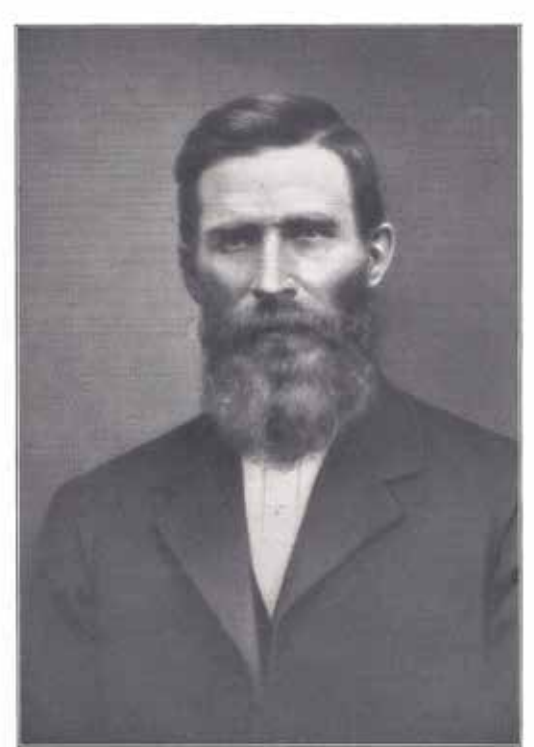
Consider the October 1, 1905, receipt in which James had a balance due of \$8.05. The list includes 50 cents for rice, 25 cents for a handkerchief, 25 cents for onion sets, 30 cents for garden seeds, 40 cents for three yards of duck (fabric), 50 cents for early rose potatoes, and 50 cents for a broom. According to Mary, the BUCKLEYS would also sell things like eggs to the store.

Her great-grandfather married Margaret Rielly, also a native of Ireland. “She was a cousin to the McAndrews, who settled in Medford,” Mary explained. “Her grandmother brought her around

the Horn when she was 19 years old and brought her dowry into the valley from Eureka. She stayed with the McAndrews for a while before marrying James Buckley.” That marriage would produce six children, including James F. Buckley, Mary’s paternal grandfather.

When James D. Buckley died in 1908, the *Irish World and American Industrial Liberator* newspaper in New York City ran his obituary. “The venerable James D. Buckley, one of Oregon’s pioneers, departed this life on October 30,” read the November 28, 1908, article. “He died in the midst of his sorrowing family at his home in Ruch, Oregon. Born in County Cork, Ireland, 72 years ago, he came to America as a lad of 15. More than a half century of earnest devotion he has given to his adopted land while ever keeping precious memory and aid when opportunity offered to the land of his birth.”

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JAMES D. BUCKLEY



The Buckley family at home. Left to right, back row: James Buckley, Margaret (Maggie) Buckley, and George Buckley. Front row: Mary Catherine (Kate) Buckley and Rose Buckley.

## Voices of the Applegate New session in January



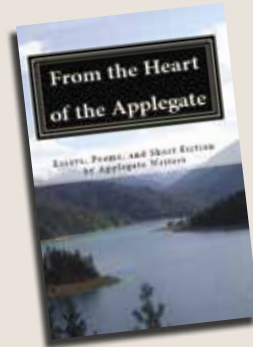
Voices of the Applegate had an exciting and joyful celebration of the fall season with two performances held before Thanksgiving—one concert at the Historic Presbyterian Church on 6th and California Streets and another at the Applegate River Lodge in Applegate. The concerts consisted of three- and four-part harmony melodies such as “Send Down the Rain,” “Homeward Bound,” and Neil Diamond’s “Stargazer.”

Shayne Flock became the director of Voices of the Applegate in the fall of 2018, and the choir continues to grow in size and skill. Regular practice in rehearsals improves our abilities as singers and as performers. Rehearsals are held every Tuesday evening from 7 to 8:30 pm at Ruch Library, 7919 Highway 238. We will begin a new session on January 7, 2020, that will end on March 31. Concerts will follow on April 3 and 5.

We are a community choir of about 25 participants from the Applegate Valley, Williams, and Jacksonville, all devoted to music and singing. We welcome new members—come and join us. No audition is needed.

There is nothing more joyful than raising our voices together.  
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## From the Heart of the Applegate



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from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

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# Updates: Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District - Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

BY DONNA MICKLEY

## 2019 fire season

The northwest was blessed with a much cooler summer and minimal fire activity, giving the communities in southwest Oregon a much-needed reprieve from smoke. In the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, 60 fires burned 364 acres, and the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District had 12 fire starts that burned only two acres. The reduced fire activity can be attributed to higher amounts of precipitation with lightning storms and an abundance of available resources that allowed us to increase staffing ahead of anticipated lightning events.

## Prescribed burning

In October we began implementing prescribed fire, which includes pile burning and under-burning, across the forest. By mid-October, 1,300 acres had been treated, including 230 acres in the Upper Applegate Roads project near Applegate Lake. We planned a 350-acre helicopter aerial ignition unit near the edge of the dam, but conditions were not commensurate with the prescription for burning, so we will attempt this unit later.

These units are unique because the wildland urban interface (WUI) is adjacent to large roadless areas, so treatments are very important both for the protection of the surrounding community and for enhancing forage for wildlife. Prescribed fires provide a buffer if large wildfires were to approach from the roadless areas during the summer. We understand

that smoke from prescribed fires can be problematic for sensitive groups in our area, and we want to thank the community for their support while we work toward reducing fire risk and enhancing habitats throughout the Applegate Valley.

## New firewood policy

Soon Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District will approve a new firewood policy. This policy will provide gathering opportunities along designated roads having dead trees within 50 feet of the road that are under 20 inches in diameter. The district is hoping this greatly improves the availability of firewood for the public. Please check with our front desk staff at 541-899-3800 for more information on how to obtain a permit.

## Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project

On September 25, Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District published a Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impacts for the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project, which is a collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Following an objection and resolution period, the district should release a final decision in January. BLM plans to issue decisions and begin working during a similar time frame. We thank all who participated in this process and continue to encourage public involvement. We are excited to be nearing the end of the planning process and to begin implementation of a variety of projects.

## PROVOLT PARK

Continued from page 1

spawning salmon from the riverbanks and black bears, eagles, ospreys, and herons fishing in the river. River otters and beavers are active. The slough and pond host western pond turtles. Even a herd of migrating elk has been spotted enjoying the meadows.

And the birds! The magnificent tall trees provide a haven for a variety of avian species, including a great blue heron rookery. If you're lucky you'll spot one of three species of owls that inhabit the park. Birders are free to romp all over the site.

APWC has already contributed a lot of science and labor to this project. The group has been active in removing blackberries, planting native trees and shrubs, and restoring the riparian area. They also

plan to remove barriers to fish passage in Williams Creek.

Only about a third of the site is open. Over time, BLM will develop the rest, with help from the community.

## If you come, we will build it!

Todd Neville says that BLM will be monitoring use of the site over the next year. Here are the highlights of what could be in store.

- A much larger equestrian area across the highway
- An interpretive center with the possibility of guided interpretive programs
- Improved parking areas
- Many more miles of walking and biking trails
- 1.5 miles of paved wheelchair-accessible paths
- Six vault toilets

## Ongoing data collection

Throughout the fall and winter, we'll be doing timber inventory and layout work within the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project area. Lomakatsi Restoration Project, a nonprofit ecological restoration organization, is currently collecting stand data for the US Forest Service silviculturist to use in developing prescriptions for both commercial and noncommercial treatments. This data will also serve as a baseline of current conditions and help us monitor treatment effectiveness in the future.

You may start to see some flagging and boundary marking throughout the project area. Once prescriptions have been completed and units identified, we will host a public field visit to share what's being proposed. Portions of this work are being funded through our partnership with Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership (RFRP), which has received grant funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) for dry forest restoration work. [See "Future of fire in the Applegate" on page 16 for more information about RFRP.]

Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District held a meeting on November 6 to involve the community in the development of an Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration monitoring plan. RFRP is also developing monitoring protocols associated with the OWEB grant funding. We see these efforts as complementary and important to the collaborative process and would like to encourage those interested to participate in these ongoing efforts.

For more information on the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project, contact Brett Brown at 541-899-3823.

Donna Mickley

Siskiyou Mountains District Ranger  
[donna.mickley@usda.gov](mailto:donna.mickley@usda.gov)

## Provolt Park Information

- Admission is free.
- The park is open to nonmotorized recreation every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from sunrise to sunset. (Hours will be expanded over time.)
- Picnickers, hikers, bikers, anglers, swimmers, paddlers, wildlife enthusiasts, and equestrians are all welcome.
- Dogs are welcome, too, but must be kept on a leash.
- The park is closed to overnight use, campfires, shooting, off-highway vehicles, motorized boats, mining, and firewood cutting.

Questions? Contact Todd Neville, Grants Pass BLM, at 541-471-6614 or [cneville@blm.gov](mailto:cneville@blm.gov).

## Volunteers Welcome!

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) is forming a committee of volunteers to assist BLM as the agency continues to make improvements to the site. For now we're calling it the Provolt Community Support Committee. Nonprofit groups, hands-on workers, trailblazers, wildlife lovers, creative thinkers, and grant writers are all welcome! If you're interested in helping out from time to time, please contact committee cochairs Jennifer Payne, APWC education and outreach program director, at [outreach@apwc.info](mailto:outreach@apwc.info) or Tom Carstens at [provoltcommittee@apwc.info](mailto:provoltcommittee@apwc.info).



## Meet your Park Hosts

The site boasts two full-time park hosts, Teri and Tim Kervella (pictured above with Todd Neville on the right). Tim is a retired New York City police officer and Teri hails from Glendale, California. They have previously hosted two other BLM recreation sites in Oregon: Sharps Creek, near Dorena, and Shotgun Creek, near Marcola. They both enjoy wildlife and are pleased at the natural look of the site. They're glad that the park is finally open to the public and love interacting with people. Since their May arrival, they've been fascinated with a pair of ospreys that have been raising four fledglings.

# Future of fire in the Applegate

BY TERRY FAIRBANKS

On a forested ridge above Williams, Oregon, the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership (RFRP), for which I serve as coordinator, met last month to review areas needing fuels reduction. We heard the local Bureau of Land Management fire manager, Trevor Wallace, describe how, by linking ridge treatments and maintaining them, managers gain advantages in protecting the community from future wildfire. We talked about nearby treated areas that burned in the 2018 wildfires, where firefighters could directly fight the fire's spread because of low flames, less spotting, and lower hazard even getting to the fire.

Living in the Applegate, many of us worry each summer about the risk of uncontrolled fires in our forests, farmland, and communities. How do we reduce fire risks while also protecting the values we cherish—the forests, trees, rivers, and wildlife? Is it possible that we could learn to live with fire and not feel so threatened? Can we feel confident that wildfires will be controlled safely by our local firefighters? Can we increase the areas that are ready for prescribed fires to further reduce risks?

RFRP is advancing an active restoration approach to forest health and fire-risk reduction, taking a middle road between no-touch conservation and clear-cutting. The partnership promotes fuel reduction, ecologically guided forest thinning, and prescribed burning, all of which

respect the forest values that we all care about while reducing the threat of severe wildfire to wildlife, rivers, and communities. And RFRP wants to engage you in the conversation about how to make it happen.

Of course, it's expensive, but RFRP recently secured a commitment of \$6 million through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to treat 4,090 acres and demonstrate what we mean. Fuel reduction and thinning are being planned for federal and private lands to both restore habitat and reduce fire risk in priority locations around the Rogue

Valley, including in the Applegate. The partnership connects four local nonprofits, two state organizations, and three federal organizations, with each contributing match funding. My job with the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC) is to coordinate partnership efforts—no small undertaking, but I do get a lot of help!

Part of the initiative is to open a conversation with locals about the work: why it is so important for our safety and sense of well-being, how it is done, and, hopefully, what more we could do.

There is currently not nearly enough funding for all the work needed in the Rogue Valley or the Applegate. However, RFRP, with experience gained in the Ashland Forest Resiliency project

near Ashland, believes that an engaged community can organize to attract needed funding. RFRP was able to justify the OWEB investments with the Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy developed by SOFRC. The strategy shows that the Applegate ranks high for risk from wildfire, including the risks to community and wildlife, and for being a place with lasting forest benefits in the face of climate change.

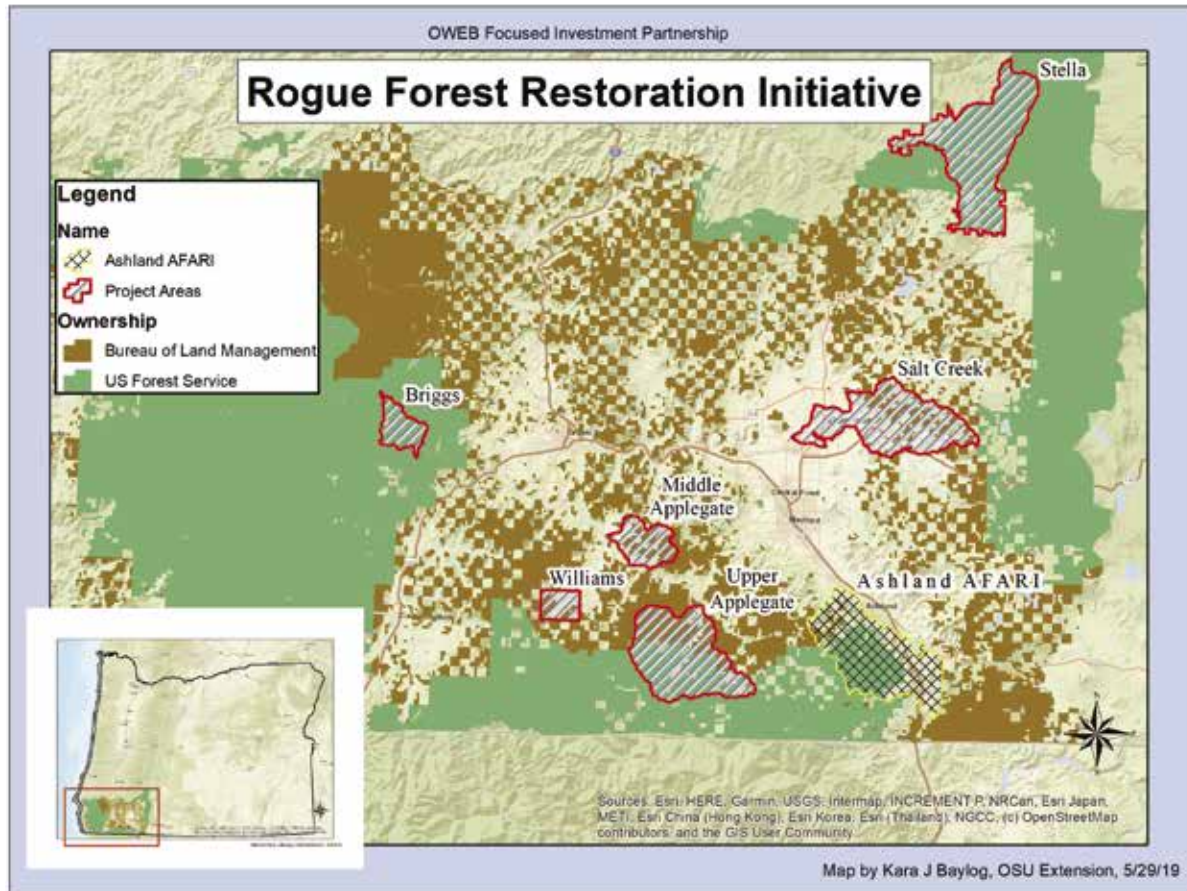
Restoration and fuel-reduction are presently planned on three projects in the Applegate Valley: the US Forest Service Upper Applegate Restoration Project, the Bureau of Land Management Williams Integrated Vegetation Management, and eventually work in the Middle Applegate. The Upper Applegate and Williams projects will start this winter. The Middle Applegate project will start later, after further planning.

Because valley residents care that our forests are healthy, functioning, and able to provide the values we cherish into the future—from large trees that provide habitat, to recreation for our families, to a source of water and products that we can utilize—we stand a great chance of accomplishing what is needed.

## Public meeting

RFRP invites the public to a meeting on December 2 at 6 pm at Applegate River Lodge, 15100 Highway 238, when we will share more information and consider questions from the community. Please join us.

Terry Fairbanks  
Coordinator, Rogue Forest  
Restoration Partnership  
tfairbanks@sofrc.org  
541-292-4498



# The return of good fire

BY TIMOTHY SEXAUER

This fire season in the Rogue Basin was less smoky than those of recent years, and we've had some breathing room to contemplate our relationship with fire. The increase in devastating megafires has led ecologists, federal and state agencies, firefighting professionals, and landowners to question the way we've been managing fire in the last century. While the situation is complex, and in any scenario we will still be dealing with the threat of big wildfires for years to come, there is a growing understanding that an essential part of moving away from bad fire, and the oppressive smoke that comes with it, is returning more good fire to the landscape.

"Good fire" is a phrase many are using to describe prescribed broadcast burns that increase fire safety and restore ecological health. According to Christina Clemons, Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF's) smoke management field coordinator, "Experience has taught ODF that prescribed fire is helpful in reducing hazardous fuels and lessening the impacts of future wildfires and smoke. It is important for the public to understand the benefits of prescribed fire such as reducing dangerous fuel buildup, clearing out harmful pathogens, balancing insect populations, and breaking down forest debris that puts nutrients back into the soil, thus feeding plants and trees and creating better browse material for wildlife."

She also explains that controlled fire is also controlled smoke, and that the smoke from a prescribed burn tends to dissipate within hours, if not right away, rather than

the weeks of thick smoke from an out-of-control, high-intensity wildfire.

Jakob Shockey, restoration program manager for the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, describes human management of fire as a missing keystone in the ecological process. "In restoration, we are attempting to move beyond 'building habitat' that will eventually fall apart, toward restoring natural processes that will create and maintain habitat for the long haul. Flooding and fire are the two natural processes that drive our ecology in the Applegate, and prior to white settlement, two keystone species—beaver and human—worked in tandem, directing these processes for a more abundant ecosystem."

Jakob is working with some neighbors and firefighting friends to plan controlled burns in their neighborhood of the Applegate, hopefully starting this fall on Jakob's property, helping to restore this social and ecological process.

Merv George, forest supervisor for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, points out that "fire is a very simple ecological problem and a wicked, complex social problem."

Merv George is also indigenous to the neighboring Klamath Basin, and his people have been managing fire in their territory for millennia. While he entered the forest service to help restore good relations with fire, his responsibility as forest supervisor is also to protect human lives and infrastructure. He explains that, while some wildfires can be ecologically beneficial, he has to put out fires that



The day after a controlled burn, the land is covered in char, which benefits the hydrology, soil biology, and the fire-dependent vegetation that will soon emerge.



Jakob Shockey (left) walks his land with Rick O'Rourke, an experienced Yurok fire practitioner, to discuss a potential burn.

homes and structures and continuing with management up the surrounding slopes.

This management increase in the Applegate and beyond comes from both more controlled burns by fire professionals and community-managed private burns, like those Jakob and others have already done and plan to do. For a community to manage fire, expertise must spread to more people through experience.

Because of the potential danger of fire, private burns must involve experienced fire-management practitioners. We all need to manage our smoke, so when planning a burn we residents should follow the ODF smoke-management rules and guidelines ([oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/Burn.aspx](http://oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/Burn.aspx)) and get a burn permit, if needed.

If we can all put up with more temporary smoke from good fires in early spring and after the first fall rains, then we can protect our homes in the short term, and, in the long term and at a landscape level, we can better control wildfire again and restore balance to our relationship with fire.

Timothy Sexauer  
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Timothy Sexauer is a wildland firefighter with Oregon Woods, Inc.

naturally ignite in the hottest time of summer so that they don't grow to threaten a town later, when resources are thin. He also affirms that restoring regular cycles of good fire to the landscape is key, starting with safety buffers around our



## An unlikely partnership removes a dam and restores Forest Creek

BY KEVIN SWEENEY

Tom Maddox sometimes can't believe he let staff from the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) stop by to talk about the dam at his mill site. But with the dam removed and the creek restored, he is happy he did.

Maddox, whose family ties in the Rogue Basin go back four generations, runs a one-person sawmill along Forest Creek in Ruch. The mill, on property owned by Dan Hunter, came with a diversion dam to provide water for two log ponds. The mill hadn't used those ponds for decades, so the dam was unnecessary.

But the dam remained in the stream, requiring fish to jump three to five feet to gain access to more miles of prime habitat. Only a small percentage of adult fish made it past; juvenile fish were completely blocked.

The dam also caused problems for Maddox. High flows cascading over it ate into a stream bank abutting a road he uses. If the dam stayed put, the road would begin crumbling. Maddox assumed he would remove the dam, or parts of it, when he had time.

"I gave thought to doing it quietly, on my own," Maddox said with a smile.

Even with a need to remove the dam, Maddox was wary about working with APWC, which wanted to talk with him about alternatives to the dam. APWC is a nonprofit group that evaluates local watershed conditions and works to find solutions to natural resource management issues.

"My family had contact with them a number of years back with less-than-happy results," Maddox said. "I know the staff and board were different back then, but we were still skeptical." His reservations were big enough that he ignored their initial calls, but APWC persisted.

"The more we looked at ways to improve fish passage, we saw that removing Forest Creek Dam would be a huge help," said Janelle Dunlevy, APWC's executive director. "The high dams are gone from the Rogue, but there are still hundreds of obstructions on tributaries—diversions, push-up dams, culverts, all sorts of passage issues. Removing these is now the best opportunity to restore fish populations and bring economic gain to the region. So we kept asking."

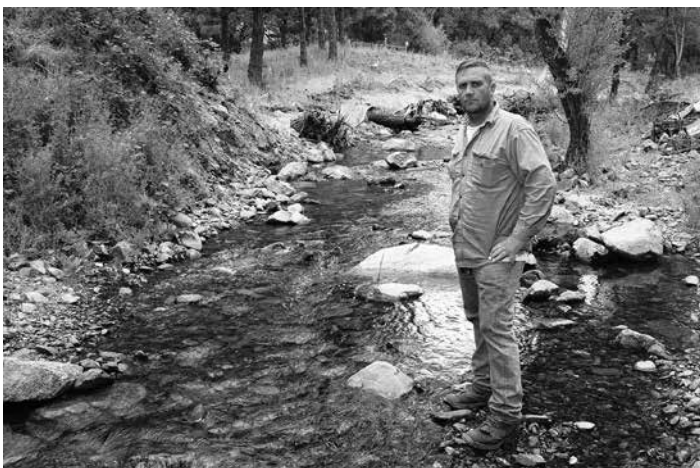
After the first calls, months passed before Maddox and Hunter allowed APWC onto the property. From there, progress was slow but steady.

"It took so long mostly because I was busy," said Maddox. "But it also took time to build trust. Once I could tell they were listening to what I wanted and needed on the property, I figured we could work together."

When discussions began in 2015, the team decided to keep part of the dam



**Before.** Forest Creek dam obstructed fish passage—adult fish had to jump several feet; juveniles couldn't advance. Photo: ODFW 2005.



**After.** Forest Creek's new channel enhances fish passage and restores natural conditions. Photo: Jason Jaacks 2019.

structure intact to stabilize the bank and protect the road. In 2018 parts of the dam were buried, helping to shift the stream channel.

Local logs stabilized the stream banks and provided nutrition for soil microbes. Native shrubs and trees were planted, also for stabilization and to restore habitat. Maddox insisted on saving some of the stream's trees—the original plan called for removing all vegetation during restoration—and the discussions leading to that decision reinforced trust among the team.

The project created riparian and instream habitat, improved water quality, increased stream bank stability, and restored fish passage for both juveniles and adults.

APWC secured project funding from public and private sources. Design, labor, equipment, and materials were all locally sourced.

"They listen, and they're practical," Maddox said of APWC. "They do what they say they're going to do. They're good at finding funding. I'd tell anyone approached by them to consider working with them and at least have that first conversation with them because this is a different APWC from 20 years ago."

"We learned a lot from Tom. We always do with these projects," said Janelle. "He knows that creek as well as anyone, and he studied ways to improve the project. He invested time and effort, took ownership, and is a great partner. Stopping by to talk and look at the creek these days is really a great reward."

APWC assists landowners on projects that include irrigation efficiency, energy and fuels reduction, riparian restoration, and fish passage improvements. To learn more, visit [applegatepartnershipwc.org](http://applegatepartnershipwc.org) or email [contact@apwc.info](mailto:contact@apwc.info).

Kevin Sweeney

Freelance writer for APWC  
[contact@apwc.info](mailto:contact@apwc.info)

*Kevin Sweeney is an environment writer and consultant based in Northern California.*

## Winter nature inspires at Siskiyou Field Institute

BY KATHLEEN PYLE

Winter is a time of peace and learning through quiet observation at Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI). Our beautiful view of the often snow-topped Siskiyou takes center stage, and the two creeks that cross our property raise their voices in a roar. Red-shouldered hawks and other raptors, including an occasional bald eagle, circle our pasture and perch in the Ponderosa pines. Our Deer Creek Lodge remains open to overnight guests, who may enjoy a comforting fire in the great room and a glass of local wine.

**Holiday Open House.** On Sunday, December 8, from 3 - 6 pm, SFI will throw open its doors to the community, for our annual Winter Holiday Open House. Holiday treats and drinks, live music, an educational program, and activities for kids are on tap as we celebrate nature. A special SFI Members' Hour is from 2 - 3 pm.

In December and January, we mold and sculpt the final details of our 2020 field courses and youth education season. Adult Education offerings will include a late April Edible and Medicinal Plants workshop in the Applegate Valley, with Erin McKinsey and Lauren Kemple. At least two art classes: Sketch Your Way to Better Botany on May 1 - 3 and Forest Fragments: Drawing Native Plants in an Ethnobotanical Sketchbook, are also on the calendar. Look for preseason Free Learning programs scheduled for Friday evenings or Saturday afternoons throughout the winter and publicized on our website. Coming up:

- Salmon Saturday in late fall, cosponsored

by the Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

- Friday night movie night in January
- Darwin Day celebration on Saturday, February 8, on a topic to be announced.

We also invite local school kids to discover Mt. Ashland's winter wonderland and explore the source of our local watersheds through SnowSchool conducted by Siskiyou Field Institute. SnowSchool is a nationwide science curriculum that connects elementary through high school students with mountain snowpack and illuminates the importance and characteristics of snow as the source of our watersheds. All SFI and SnowSchool curricula align with Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core standards. Topics explored include watershed science, snow-to-water equivalency, snow pit analysis, animal/plant/human adaptations, snow crystal exploration, avalanche education, belly sliding, and other fun winter games.

Groups meet SFI instructors at the Mt. Ashland Ski Area, strap on snowshoes, and head out for a fun-filled half day of science and exploration. SnowSchool is available in four-hour sessions on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from mid-January through March, and the maximum group size is 40 students. Need-based scholarships will be available. For details, interested teachers and parents should email [Angie Fuhrmann at thesfi.org](mailto:Angie.Fuhrmann@thesfi.org).

Kathleen Pyle

Program Coordinator, SFI  
[programcoord@thesfi.org](mailto:programcoord@thesfi.org)



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## OPINIONS

# Conversations with climate alarmists

BY ALAN VOETSCH

Climate activists are really going overboard to try to frighten us into toeing the line and doing as they say. In the spring *Applegater* they were telling us that we had until 2030 before we reached the “tipping point.” By mid-July, alarmists in the media were saying there were only 18 months before we reached that same tipping point. By July 29, that number was down to 14 months. Shortly afterward I figured out why we were being subjected to these ever-closer catastrophic scenarios. Care to guess? Yep, upcoming climate conferences and the 2020 elections. There was a climate summit at the United Nations in September, and the big Conference of the Parties will be held in Santiago, Chile, in December. The job of climate alarmists is to frighten us and the politicians we elect into bad environmental and tax policies.

In recent email conversations with a local climate activist-alarmist, I was startled by some comments that were made. That conversation prompted me to promise myself to be more active and share information with other residents in the Applegate Valley because I think that these organized alarmists are scary. Let's look deeper. That way we can see what we're all up against.

**Comment No. 1.** “You are confusing this with the real science behind anthropogenic global warming (AGW). To disprove AGW one must disprove the science.”

Answer: That “science” is actually computer modeling, *not science*. Weather forecasting models the weather, and those models are updated hourly because weather cannot be predicted accurately for longer than that. Earth is not a closed system, and weather constantly changes.

These folks apparently do not understand what science really is. Science is a method of inquiry. The method says an assertion is valid and will be universally accepted only if it can be reproduced by others and thereby independently verified. When adhered to, science can transcend politics. However, when politics takes precedence over content, you end up with trash and a political agenda.

By the way, when it is *your* argument that is making the claim of a crisis that demands immediate action, it is not up

to me to disprove anything. It is up to *you* to show us how you'll justify spending trillions of our dollars, destroying our economy in the process while raising the cost of practically every product we use. So alarmists, once and for all prove your claims of a coming doomsday just around the corner. And release the data you use globally so anyone and everyone can verify them.

**Comment No. 2.** “The astounding complexity of the fraud you imply sounds similar to arguments that ‘we didn't land on the moon.’ You truly can't understand the immense quantity of sound science behind AGW and have your current opinion while being a rational, analytical person.”

Answer: Again, it's modeling and guesswork, *not science*. Pay attention, fellow Applegaters, because if you disagree with these people, you cannot be a rational or analytical person. On the contrary, when we are told “the debate is over, the science is settled,” it is our duty to investigate much more closely because science is never settled. Over 50 years ago, when I first became interested in astronomy, the science said that Jupiter had 12 moons and Saturn had five. Current count has Jupiter with 79 moons and Saturn with 62. And the constant idiotic claims of climate catastrophe that made zero sense are the reason I started searching for some sanity in the first place.

**Comment No. 3.** “You clearly have invested so much effort into your belief that it is clouding your perception of the realities of AGW. The really sad and concerning part, to me, is that you will persuade some people to take your erroneous view, further damaging the earth for future generations.”

Answer: Wow, it'll be my fault when we are all doomed because I dared to question the climate consensus. It irritates alarmists when anyone disagrees with them. Even if you're a professional in their field, they'll do anything to marginalize and silence you because you're dangerous. The real danger is accepting that they know anything other than their political ideology.

Book suggestion. *Green Tyranny* by Rupert Darwell.

Alan Voetsch

alan-voetsch@yahoo.com

# Bear Grub Timber Sale: BLM's newest logging proposal in the Applegate

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

In spring 2017 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed the Middle Applegate Timber Sale. The planning area for the timber sale included the entire Wellington Wildlands, a beautiful roadless area between Ruch and Humbug Creek. The Applegate community quickly rallied around the Wellington Wildlands and asked BLM to withdraw the area from potential timber harvest. Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) organized the production of a spectacular film about the area, by Greeley Wells and Ed Keller, called *Saving Wellington*. This film highlights the Wellington Wildlands and the threat to the area posed by the Middle Applegate Timber Sale. We organized public film showings and a petition to Save Wellington Wildlands.

We spoke with our state senators, met with BLM, and organized with supporters across southwest Oregon.

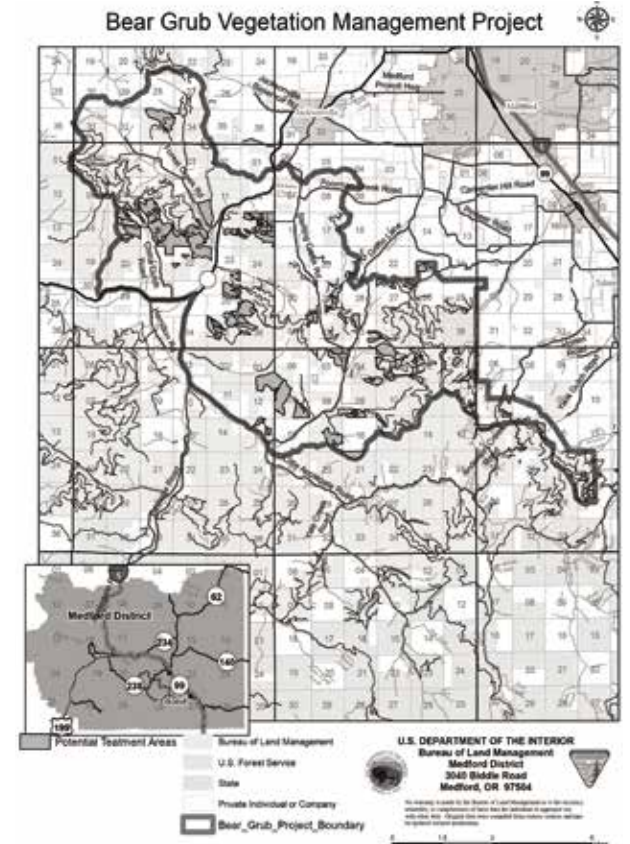
In response to significant public opposition, BLM canceled the Middle Applegate Timber Sale and withdrew large portions of the Wellington Wildlands from their new planning area! Although we consider this a victory, BLM immediately proposed the Bear Grub Timber Sale, incorporating portions of the Middle Applegate Timber Sale and forests to the east in the Little Applegate Watershed. The project's planning area extends from the mountains above Talent, Oregon, in the Bear Creek Valley, to the foothills west of Ruch.

The initial Scoping Map, published by BLM, shows proposed units in the China Gulch portions of the Wellington Wildlands; on the East Applegate Ridge Trail (ART), the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail, and the Jack-Ash Trail; on Woodrat Mountain; up Sterling Creek from Buncom to the headwaters on Griffin Lane; around Anderson Butte; on Bald Mountain; and into the headwaters of Coleman Creek, Anderson Creek, Yank Gulch, and Wagner Creek.

Although BLM has identified commercial timber production as the overriding objective of the project, they have also identified potential “treatment” areas that could be implemented as commercial timber sale units and/or fuel-reduction units. The Scoping Notice also identifies the potential for road renovation and new road construction to occur.

ANN is concerned by the proposal to log sensitive habitats, unroaded areas, and important recreational areas. Trails like the East ART, the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail, and the Jack-Ash Trail are extremely popular and have become important to both local communities and the regional economy. Impacts to the biological, scenic, and recreational value of these trails (and proposed extensions of these trails) are shortsighted and economically counterproductive and will degrade both the quality of life for local residents and the experience of tourists visiting the region.

The watersheds of the Applegate River provide many valuable assets to



surrounding communities and economies without requiring or even benefiting from intensive timber production. The Applegate Valley economy is based on tourism, agriculture, recreation, wineries, real estate values, and quality of life. These provide much bigger economic benefits to our community than commercial timber harvest. They are also often in direct conflict with intensive timber production.

We at ANN believe that the arid forests surrounding Ruch and the Little Applegate Valley cannot sustain the level of harvest envisioned by BLM without removing large, ecologically valuable trees and dramatically reducing canopy cover. The loss of large fire-resistant trees and the reduction in canopy cover in the Applegate Watershed often lead to the development of dense shrubby reproduction, stand desiccation, and an increase in understory fuel loading. Previous logging treatments have also increased overstory mortality by making stands more susceptible to drought stress, bark beetle outbreaks, and windthrow. Fuel loading and fire risks will continue to increase until canopy conditions can recover and again suppress understory growth. These issues are particularly troublesome in the Bear Grub planning area, where residential properties in the Ruch, Forest Creek, Bishop Creek, and Sterling Creek areas adjoin proposed treatment areas.

We are concerned by BLM's proposal to implement commercial logging treatments in both the Wellington Wildlands (along the proposed Applegate Ridge Trail) and in old-growth forests (on Bald Mountain at the headwaters of the Little Applegate River and along the proposed route of the Jack-Ash Trail).

Although we see significant potential for restoration in the Bear Grub planning area, we also have many concerns about the proposed project, its location, and its potential impacts. For more information on the Bear Grub Timber Sale, visit the Applegate Neighborhood Network Blog at [applegateneighborhood.network/blog](http://applegateneighborhood.network/blog).

Luke Ruediger

Applegate Neighborhood Network  
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

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OPINION

# Answering false claims about climate change

BY ALAN JOURNET

We are all entitled to our own opinions. That the current president seems not to care about accuracy, having lied over 13,000 times since taking office (washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/10/14/president-trump-has-made-false-or-misleading-claims-over-days/), doesn't mean we now all have the right to make up our own facts.

An article in the fall edition of the *Applegater* dismissing the field of climate science has compelled me to respond to the misinformation it contained.

When reading someone's opinion, we can judge claims about ideas with which we are unfamiliar on the basis of claims about ideas we know about. Applegate residents deciding whether to dismiss climate science and deny its impact on our valley might do well to assess these claims for themselves.

1. The author of this article seems to claim that there have been many ice ages over the last 10,000 years. If so, this must be pure fabrication, since not even science-denying sources make such claims. While there have been several ice ages over the last two million years, the last 10,000 years has seen a recovery from the most recent ice age. The primary factor driving ice ages (Milankovitch cycle) would be imposing another descent into glacial temperatures if it weren't for our emissions of greenhouse gases.

2. The claim that Mars, Venus, and Pluto have exhibited rising temperatures for several decades is unsupported by evidence. Since Pluto takes 248 years to orbit the sun, any trend we might discern on that planet would be purely seasonal.

3. The claim that, as Earth recovered from previous Ice Ages, warming occurred before carbon dioxide rose was debunked by reanalysis of ice-core data as long ago as 2014 and again by more recent analysis relying on data other than ice cores. It's important to keep up with current scientific literature before offering pronouncements of purported fact.

The article devoted space to nonsensical accusations against the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), concocted without regard to how this body was formed or what it does. The IPCC does not conduct research determining whether warming is happening, and, if so, what is responsible. The IPCC does no research. The research is conducted by

experts in the various relevant disciplines, who then publish their scientific findings in peer-reviewed scientific literature. The role of the IPCC is to review this literature and discern what represents the consensus. Contrary to the oft-repeated and uninformed claims of non-scientists that science doesn't employ consensus, agreement among experts regarding what the evidence means is exactly what leads scientists to reach conclusions. The assertion that politics motivates consensus about research findings is arrant nonsense. Indeed, consensus is exactly what medical professionals do when they decide the best treatment for a given health condition.

Critics can attack individuals such as Al Gore and Maurice Strong as often and relentlessly as they want, but such attacks will not undermine or alter what the basic climate science research indicates.

Gratuitous and irrelevant attacks against the United Nations Agenda 21 demand a response. Agenda 21 is essentially an "apple pie and motherhood" urge from the United Nations for constituent nations to manage their natural resources voluntarily such that they can supply both current and future generations with what they need. This is totally uncontentious; it's exactly what any farmer does who plans to leave the farm to the kids. Arguing that Agenda 21 involves the imposition of global government is absurd and belongs in an evil fairytale, a Disney movie, or the arsenal of flat Earthers.

If folks were to use their time exploring actual scientific literature rather than biased antiscience sources, the Applegate Valley, our children, and our grandchildren would be better off. The reality is that this valley is already suffering the consequences of global warming and the climate chaos it is causing. Rising temperatures and more frequent heat waves, droughts, and wildfires are a few of the impacts.

Oregon may not be able to solve the global warming problem alone, but unless we do our part to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we have no credibility or authority to urge others to do their part to protect our valley.

Alan Journet

Co-Facilitator, Southern Oregon  
Climate Action Now  
alanjournet@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

## Editor in chief Applegater Newsmagazine

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., an established nonprofit corporation, seeks a part-time editor in chief to manage production of its quarterly 24-page newsmagazine, the *Applegater*, which is celebrating its 25th year in publication. The *Applegater* presents constructive, relevant, educational, and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects and acts as a clearinghouse for the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Valley.

The editor is paid on a freelance basis; benefits are not included. The editor is required by corporate bylaws to sit on the board of directors as a volunteer and attend monthly board meetings in the Applegate Valley.

### Responsibilities

- Manage and oversee content for print and online publication, including reviewing all content, photographs/images, and developing strategies and style guidelines
- Meet deadlines and budget requirements
- Follow publication standards and policies
- Create print and online production calendar for each issue
- Suggest article topics per established editorial calendar and assign to volunteer writers
- To assure accuracy and appropriateness, work with editorial committee, copy editors, and proofers to edit, fact-check, proofread, and improve articles
- Supervise layout editor, advertising reps, writers, etc.
- Oversee layout and check content for accuracy and errors
- Comply with nonprofit IRS and US Postal Service content requirements in regard to bulk mailing

### Requirements

- Proven working experience as an editor
- Strong writing/editing/proofreading skills and an excellent portfolio
- Work well with others
- Hands-on experience with Word and Excel, and InDesign, Photoshop or other publishing tools
- Excellent written skills in English
- An eye for detail along with critical thinking
- Prioritizing and multitasking
- Four-year degree in journalism, communications, English, or related field

Submit resume by December 15 to [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org).  
For more information about the organization, visit [applegater.org](http://applegater.org).

OPINION PIECES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

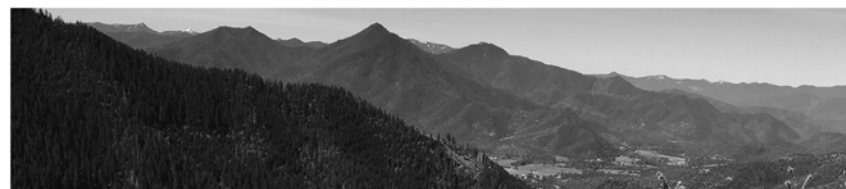
Opinion pieces and letters to the editor represent the opinion of the author, not that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. As a community-based newsmagazine, we receive diverse opinions on different topics. We honor these opinions, but object to personal attacks and reserve the right to edit accordingly. Opinion pieces and letters to the editor **must pertain to and mention the Applegate Watershed. We encourage authors to include verifiable facts to back up their arguments.**

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, reprinted articles, press releases, and political campaign articles will not be published.** Individual letters and opinion pieces may or may not be published.

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

## Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership



### Please join us at two Community Meetings to learn about upcoming restoration projects in the Applegate Valley

The Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership (RFRP) – a collaboration between state and federal agencies, and local non-profits – is launching a multi-year forest restoration initiative at six sites across the Rogue Valley. This work is funded largely through a \$6 million grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, with state lottery dollars.

The Applegate community is invited to join representatives from RFRP to learn about the three project sites in the Applegate Valley. We are excited to share how this initiative will make our forests, watersheds and communities healthier and more resilient. This is a great opportunity to learn more and ask questions.

December 2, 2019

#### Project Overview

Community Meeting

6-8pm at

Applegate Lodge

15100 OR-238, Applegate, OR

At this meeting, RFRP partners will present an overview of the three Applegate Valley projects, and answer questions.

December 11, 2019

#### Multi-Party Monitoring

Community Meeting

4-6pm at

Applegate Valley Fire District #9  
1095 Upper Applegate Rd, Jacksonville, OR

Partners will share the collaborative monitoring framework, invite engagement with the ongoing process, and consider ideas for additional co-investments in monitoring.

No RSVP is necessary and both meetings are open to all community members.  
For questions please contact: Terry Fairbanks, [tfairbanks@sofrc.org](mailto:tfairbanks@sofrc.org).

Learn more about the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership at [www.rogueforestpartners.org](http://www.rogueforestpartners.org)



# Winter hike on Bolt Mountain Trail

BY EVELYN ROETHER

Just because winter is upon us does not mean hiking season is over! Several wonderful low-elevation trails in the Lower Applegate area are open year-round, including the Bolt Mountain Trail at Fish Hatchery Park between Murphy and Wilderville. It's a good little hill climb that can help keep you in shape this winter.

Fish Hatchery Park includes 172 acres on both sides of the Applegate River and is managed by Josephine County. Named for a fish hatchery that operated nearby from 1912-1936, the park offers swimming, fishing, and two hiking opportunities: the Fish Hatchery Park Nature Trail and the Bolt Mountain Trail. Here's the lowdown on the second one.

## Bolt Mountain Trail

- Difficulty: Moderately difficult
- Distance: 6.4 miles round trip
- Elevation gain: 1,230 feet
- Access: Year-round
- Map: Murphy Mountain USGS quad

## Directions

From Murphy, drive 4.0 miles west on Southside Road. Turn right at the stop sign, crossing over the Applegate River onto Fish Hatchery Road. Shortly after the bridge, turn left onto Wetherbee Drive. Continue 0.5 mile to the large gravel parking lot at the entrance to Fish Hatchery Park. Park there and pay the \$5 fee at the kiosk below in Fish Hatchery Park.

## Description

This popular trail was built in 2005 in a joint effort between the Bureau of Land Management and Josephine County. Its namesake mountain was named for an early Swiss settler, John Bolt, who was a prominent businessman in the area during the late 1800s. Rising to 2,241 feet at its summit, the Bolt Mountain Trail is open to hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders. There are great views and interesting terrain the whole way up. Watch for ticks, rattlesnakes, and poison oak.

The out-and-back hike begins to the west of the parking lot, initially following

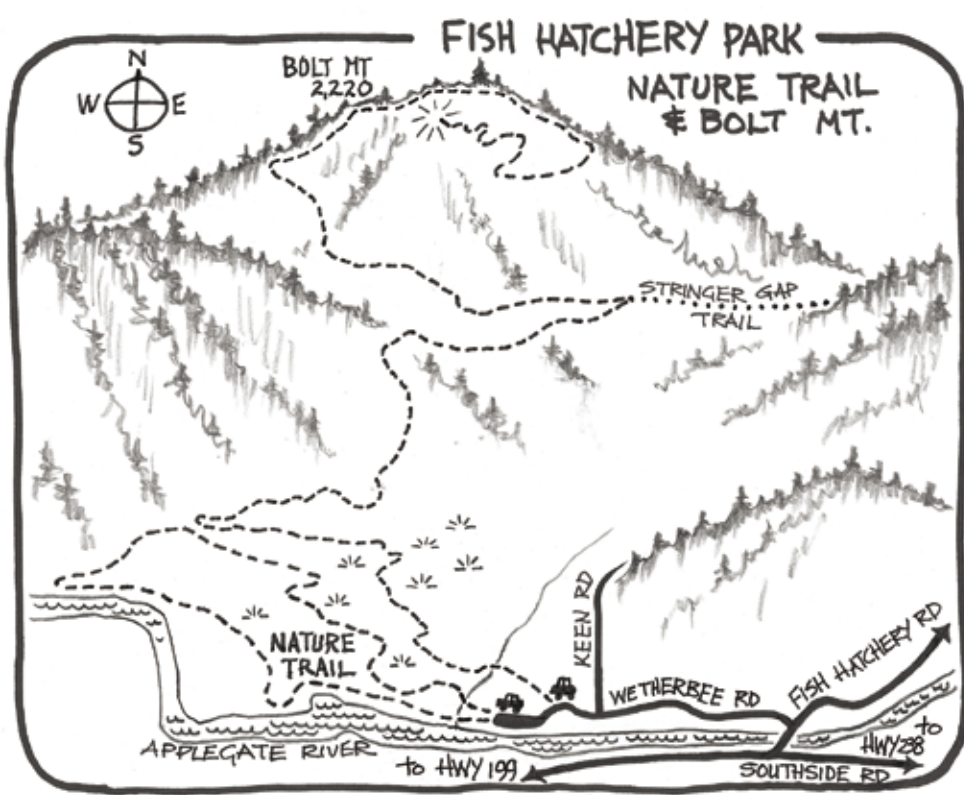
an old road along a terrace above the river. After about half a mile the road narrows to a single-track trail as it crosses a small stream and passes through remnant old-growth ponderosa pine and incense cedar stands. Next is a series of moist meadows that feature, in early spring, a stunning collection of wildflowers: camas, trillium, fawn lily, shooting star, monkey flower, sea blush, spring gold, and larkspur, among others, as well as rare native grass species.

Soon the trail steepens, and the two-mile climb to the top commences. The iron- and heavy mineral-laden serpentine soils on this slope give root to a sparse forest of immense madrone and Jeffrey pine trees. Black oak, buck brush, manzanita, and a fair amount of poison oak also line the trail. On the way up there are many fine views of the Applegate River valley. Looking south across the river, Eagle Mountain and Marble Mountain are also visible.

About 1.5 miles up, the trail takes a dramatic switchback to the west. Here, a spur trail heads off to the right, eventually ending up at Stringer Gap Road. Stay left at this intersection. From this point the trail starts its spiral around Bolt Mountain and levels out a bit. As you come around the north side of the mountain, views and sounds of the Grants Pass area will suddenly accost your senses. After another short climb, the summit awaits you with 360-degree views of the lower Applegate River valley below and the high Siskiyou Crest in the distance. You have arrived!

For a description of 19 other trails in the area, pick up *Hiking Trails of the Lower Applegate* at the Williams General Store and Takubeh Natural Market in Williams, Provolt Store and Whistling Duck Farm Store in Provolt, Rebel Heart Books in Jacksonville, Oregon Books and Games in Grants Pass, and Northwest Nature Shop and Bloomsbury Books in Ashland.

Evelyn Roether  
evelynkr@gmail.com



# ••• BIZBITS •••

## The Carriage House Jacksonville

restaurant opened in September on the historical Nunan estate at 635 North Oregon Street. Owners Brent and Shannon Monning are driven by a strong sense of place and purpose to create a restaurant built around fresh, locally sourced, sustainable ingredients. "We are offering not only great food, but also an amazing experience, serving contemporary American cuisine with a French twist," they said. A full bar serves creative cocktails made with freshly squeezed juices and local ingredients, an array of craft beers from both local and West Coast breweries, and a selection of local wines designed to pair well with their menu. Shannon "Sam" Monning is a sixth-generation descendant of the Lindsay-Applegate families and proudly shares stories of her ancestors. "Everything in this place has a story to tell," Sam said. "And the story of this restaurant is tied to the story of this neighborhood—refreshed, revitalized, and bursting with energy." Open Wednesday through Sunday from 4:30 - 9:30 pm, with Saturday and Sunday brunch from 10 am - 2 pm. Reservations encouraged. 541-899-3190 • carriagehousejacksonville.com.



••• **Wild Grapes Bistro + Juice Bar** opened in May at 1555 Williams Highway, Suite E, Grants Pass. Owners Layna and Emil offer a varied plant-based menu of smoothies, layered smoothie bowls, soups, sandwiches, salads, and wraps—and breakfast items all day! The bistro hopes to be the go-to place for those seeking vibrant health and delicious food with pure, simple ingredients. Layna and Emil's commitment goes beyond providing customers with the purest ingredients possible and making it convenient to pack more healthy options into your day. "We have the set intention of supporting you on your journey to eating better and of encouraging you to put ingredients into your body that will assist it in healing and flourishing. Getting your daily dose of fruits and vegetables is just one of many benefits our nutrient-rich juices, smoothies, and meals provide. We look forward to growing with you, feeding you well, and seeing you thrive." They are open Monday through Thursday from 8 am - 8 pm, Friday from 8 am - 4 pm, and Sunday from 10 am - 4 pm (closed Saturday). 541-600-9471 • wildgrapesbistro.com.

••• **Wooldridge Creek Vinfarm**, located in Grants Pass at 111 SE G Street, recently expanded its hours and menu. Its "Prix Fixe," a three-course dinner for \$27, is offered from 5 - 9 pm, Monday through Saturday, and wine club discounts apply! Regular hours for lunch and dinner are 12 - 9 pm, Monday through Saturday. A Sunday brunch is available from 9 am - 2 pm. The tasting room is open Monday through Saturday from 12 - 9 pm and Sunday from 2 - 5 pm, with boards of cheese and charcuterie from their organic farm available. Happy Hour, from 3 - 6 pm, Monday through Saturday, offers Wooldridge estate wines on tap, with the best price anywhere for a glass of wine at only \$5. And growlers can be filled, which helps with recycling and affordability. Owners Greg Panietz and Kara Olmo focus on sustainability and were the first to sell wine in stainless-steel reusable kegs, eliminating the need to recycle glass bottles, corks, labels, foils, and cardboard boxes. Vinfarm supports, and sources from, local organic farms like Barking Moon and Noble Dairy. The menu is influenced by what is locally available. Sample items are mushroom mezza and Moroccan skewer appetizers, potato and onion chowder and lamb soup, a smoked daikon sandwich, a sausage platter, quinoa cakes, and chocolate pudding brûlée. wcv.farm • 541-226-2664 • info@wcv.farm • wcvinery.com.

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

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## For the fish and people: APWC collaborates for ecosystem resiliency

BY BARBARA SUMMERHAWK

Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) has received over \$1.5 million in grants to partner with local landowners, farmers, timber companies, vineyards, water users, agencies, and other nonprofits to make life easier for fish in the Applegate and Evans Creek watersheds. Various projects across the valley and beyond will involve working with these partners to remove fish-passage barriers, improve stream health, and improve irrigation systems. Let's take a quick look at some of these projects planned for the 2020-2022 cycle.



Upper Powell Creek juvenile salmon.  
Photo: Jason Jaacks 2017.

On Williams Creek, the Lower Bridgepoint Dam blocks juvenile fish access to core cold water upstream during the summer months. The dam is listed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as a statewide fish priority, so the engineered designs for dam removal will eliminate one of the many speed bumps fish encounter while accessing miles of high-quality fish habitat for Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. The project will also improve the irrigation system and stabilize the stream banks. Partners for this project include local irrigators, Blue Fox and Whistling Duck farms, local landowners, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rogue Basin Partnership, and Oregon Water Resource Department.

Downstream, Murphy Dam, on the Applegate River, has received funding to (1) secure survey and engineering services to improve irrigation efficiency throughout the ditch system and (2) provide designs to improve the diversion and fish passage at the dam. In partnership with the Murphy Ditch Association and Two Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District, the project will help 38 water users attain these goals.

Outside the Applegate Watershed, but within the APWC's mission, flows Evans Creek. This stream flows northeast to the town of Rogue River in Jackson County. The APWC has two fish-passage projects and a large instream habitat improvement project in this watershed. Through partnerships with local landowners, timber companies, and agencies, APWC is working to design fish passage improvement on Sykes Creek; implement fish passage improvements at Wimer Siphon, an abandoned concrete siphon on Evans Creek; and improve stream complexity and instream fish habitat on the West Fork of Evans Creek through the placement of large woody debris in the creek. Evans Creek is designated as a "core area" and one of the highest priority restoration areas under the Final Recovery Plan

for the Southern Oregon Northern California Coho (SONCC) Salmon. All of this work will mean the survival of more juvenile fish and aid in the recovery of Endangered Species Act-listed and state-listed species.

Back in the Applegate near Provolt, the lower six miles of Williams Creek struggles with barriers to fish, water quantity, and temperature issues, all problems that reduce water quality and stream complexity. This part of Williams Creek flows from the Williams Creek Preserve, owned by the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, down to the confluence with the Applegate River. Janelle Dunlevy, executive director of APWC, says, "This project gives us an opportunity to partner with the Williams Creek Watershed Council and develop opportunities with the landowners that will benefit both the landowner and the creek. We look forward to implementing this stakeholder grant and working with the landowners in this area."

With a new head gate, ditch piping, and fish screen on the Little Applegate River, the Upper Philips Fish Passage and Irrigation project will improve access to miles of essential cold-water habitat for steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and cutthroat trout, while improving irrigation water delivery to local landowners and improving water quality. The many partners on this project include landowners, water users, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, Middle Rogue Steelheaders, and ODFW.

The APWC continues its mission to restore and maintain the ecological health of the watershed for the fish and for the people of the Applegate. We will continue our lecture series with a winter lecture on January 16 on well and septic health. For more information, please see our ad in this issue of the *Applegater* and our Facebook page. If you have any questions about these or other activities of the APWC, feel free to contact the organization at [contact@apwc.info](mailto:contact@apwc.info) or 541-899-9982.

Barbara Summerhawk  
APWC Board Member  
[contact@apwc.info](mailto:contact@apwc.info)

## Establishing an Education and Outreach Program in the Applegate

BY JENNIFER PAYNE

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) is developing an Education and Outreach Program (EOP) that provides hands-on learning opportunities for youth and the public. The program includes watershed education for students, opportunities for interns, and public outreach at various events. The goals are to build support for and knowledge of the Applegate and Rogue River watersheds and to offer opportunities for people to make a positive difference for local wildlife and the environment.

**Take it outside!** The APWC is ramping up partnerships with local schools to get students outside and to provide them with outdoor education experiences they won't soon forget. Students first learn about their watershed in the classroom and then visit local riverfront parks, Cantrall Buckley Park and Provolt Seed Orchard Recreation Area, for a field trip to learn about river systems, the life cycle of salmon, the health of wildlife habitats, and ways to make a positive impact. Wading knee-deep in the river and hunting for insects and signs of healthy salmon habitat keep students excited about learning. The word "watershed" comes alive when kids experience it first-hand. Students feel connected to their local rivers and forests by helping to plant native plants, remove invasive plants, collect data on the health of the ecosystem, and build and place bird and bat boxes in the Applegate Valley.

**Investing in the community.** For educational opportunities, APWC utilizes local professional expertise and brings in resources through student internships. For example, APWC has been working with local woodworker Tommy Maddox, owner of 4M Timber, to plan the construction of bird- and bat-box kits for student service projects with Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS). Through work with the Southern Oregon University Environmental Education Program (SOU EE Program), APWC is providing internship positions in the field, like habitat restoration and monitoring, as well as positions in outdoor education and public outreach. Currently, SOU EE intern Whitney Anderson is working with the eighth-grade class at ROCS in local plant-identification activities and geocaching for upcoming hikes. She is also helping with public outreach. These are examples of win-win relationships.

**Reach out!** Playing "Match the Scar" games, planting tree shoots, and designing salmon hats are surefire ways to capture the public's attention. Through these kinds of engaging activities, APWC is providing education about how to protect wildlife habitat, as well as promoting the Applegate Valley in general. Recently, APWC had a booth at the Bear Creek Fall Festival in Medford. People left with smiles on their faces, wearing silly salmon hats and carrying their willow tree



Top photo: Salmon enthusiasts Taylor Cooper and Owen Stabach create salmon hats at the Bear Creek Fall Festival in Medford in October.

Bottom photo: Whitney Anderson, Southern Oregon University intern, models a salmon hat at the APWC outreach booth at the festival.

plantings. In addition, APWC provides lectures throughout the year. Don't miss the Well Water Warriors on January 16. Bring your well water sample for testing and find out what's in your water! Visit the APWC website for time and location details, or look for our ad in this *Applegater*.

**More opportunities for collaboration.** Through the EOP, APWC is partnering with ROCS, Well Water Warriors, Salmon Watch Program, SOU EE Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jackson County, Bureau of Land Management, SOLVE, and Rooted in Hope.

Funding for the pilot program this first year is made possible by:

- A small Momentum Grant from A Greater Applegate (AGA)
- Private fundraising efforts of APWC board member Cathy Rodgers
- Volunteer hours contributed by Janis Mohr-Tipton and Jennifer and Gregg Payne
- APWC capacity funds for executive director Janelle Dunlevy's hours

I am excited to develop the Education and Outreach Program because, with full funding, we can provide services for all Applegate Valley schools, bring students from other areas to experience our valley's natural beauty, provide a presence for the Applegate Valley at regional public events, and create a pipeline for more resources for the local environment. I am currently pursuing funding from both private and public sources. Please visit [applegatepartnershipwc.org](http://applegatepartnershipwc.org) for more information and/or to donate to this new program or contact me at [outreach@apwc.info](mailto:outreach@apwc.info).

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APWC Education & Outreach  
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## Student Corner: Holiday giving question

Autumn colors were at their peak on a crisp morning in late October when Madrona Elementary students gathered in the gym for the start of another school day. After greetings and announcements, everyone stood and faced the flag for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the school's Kindness Pledge: "I pledge to myself on this day to try to be kind in every way. To every person, big and small, I will help them if they fall. When I love myself and others, too, that is the best that I can do."

Afterward, several students and Kellie Lovell, principal, talked with the *Applegater* about upcoming holidays and shared their thoughts on this question: **If you could make a wish and give any gift to our community or your neighborhood during the holiday season, what would you choose to give?**

Here are their responses.



First-graders Bently Sharp (left) and Benjamin Watson.

**Bently Sharp, first grade:** "I would give my neighbors money for Halloween candy. There could be a lot of candy!"

**Benjamin Watson, first grade:** "I would give money to people so they can buy what they want."

**Emory Swearingen, second grade:** "I would make it so the flowers bloom all the time and give that as a present."

**Evelyn Voltz, second grade:** "Give food so people aren't hungry."

**Olivia Eells, third grade:** "I think food and money so people can have food and buy what they need."

**Kellie Lovell, principal:** "I hope we give our community a welcoming safe



Third-grader Olivia Eells (left) and second-grader Evelyn Voltz.



Second-grader Emory Swearingen.

school where students are able to feel and be kind as they grow."

Lisa E. Baldwin  
leb.97527@gmail.com  
Photos by Lisa Baldwin

## NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

### Williams School continues to increase enrollment

Williams School has experienced a significant increase in enrollment—from 60 students two years ago to 84 today.

Staff and students have welcomed a new teacher, Megan Hart, who is now teaching kindergarten and first-grade students.

The preschool and Kaleidoscope programs are in full swing at Williams School. Enrollment is full, with over 20 students participating. The preschool schedule is Monday through Thursday from 7:45 - 11:45 am. Kaleidoscope is a pre-K play-to-learn program. Parents accompany their children and learn how to teach their children during play. The program is offered every Friday morning and focuses on (1) supporting kindergarten-readiness skills and smooth transitions to kindergarten and (2) increasing family engagement in children's learning and connecting families and schools.

#### New field

Work on a new track and soccer field is in progress by Moser Paving and district maintenance personnel. This work is



Williams School's new track and soccer field, where a jogathon will take place in April 2020.

part of a larger school district project to install a new irrigation system. Because of the ongoing construction, the school's annual jogathon has been rescheduled for April 17.

The much-valued and appreciated after-school music program began in November and offers both guitar and fiddle lessons.

#### Upcoming events and holidays

- Holiday program, December 18, 7 - 8:30 pm. The public is invited.
- Holiday break, December 23 - January 3. Back-to-school day is January 6.
- School holiday on Martin Luther King Day, January 20.
- School holiday on Presidents' Day, February 17.
- Book Fair, February 24 - February 28.

Jean Hall

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## ■ APPLGATE DESIGNERS

Continued from page 1

business considers for a storefront—how to use space, composition, color, imagery, and text. And it's not just the website. It's the brochure and business card and logo. It's all the visual elements and words that signify the brand and tell the story of that business.

Although a business can hire a designer online and work with that person entirely online, these Applegate designers still enjoy face-to-face meetings with their clients. Ann and Noel especially like to go to a client's place of business, where they can get a good impression of that person's passion for his or her work. They want to know what that person's ideal client is so they can convey that message through the website they are creating for that business.

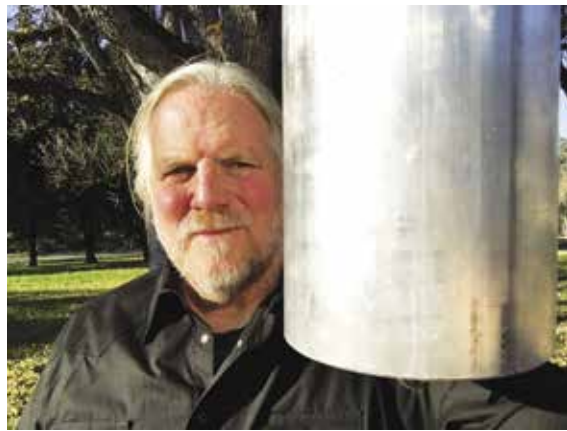
Laurel Briggs also likes to focus on her customer's customers. "Each client has unique marketing needs," she says. When working with a local winery, for example, she'll research who the customers of wineries in the Rogue Valley are—their income level, interests, education, where they come from. Then Laurel will work on a design around that behavior. "The best marketing is targeted marketing," she points out, but she adds that the best design incorporates what is unique about that business too. Is there music every weekend at the winery? Is there a beautiful river in its backyard? How can the design for the website, logo, brochure, etc., take advantage of that uniqueness?



Laurel Briggs focuses on her customer's customers.

To Laurel, the most important thing in considering design for a business is for that business to understand who its customer is and to have design consistency in business cards, brochures, websites, etc., so people will remember that company. Noel, at Idyllwild Studio, says, "We get out of the way of the design and let the story come through in terms of what a client needs."

Gregg Payne likes to emphasize the fine-art aspect of design. He started his career in the seventies, hand-painting custom signs and murals and designing new logos in Prismacolor pencils. Eventually he relearned how to do everything on computers. (But he says he still loves hand-painting graphics and murals.) He taught typography and digital design at Butte College near Chico, California, while specializing professionally in business



Gregg Payne, with a chime prototype of one of 40 chimes for Tower of Voices at the National Park Service's "Flight 93" National Memorial in Pennsylvania, for which he is a design consultant.

identity design for new businesses or for existing businesses that needed a new look. Now his emphasis has shifted toward design for education and environmental programs and for nonprofits that do important work but are often underfunded. A Greater Applegate drew on his talent for some of the new signs in Cantrall Buckley Park.

While Laurel has worked with clients as diverse as Grizzly Peak Winery, Southern Oregon Goodwill, and Rogue Community Health, Idyllwild Studio focuses on the niche market of businesses that emphasize alternative lifestyles and sustainability. Noel says they "design" their own life with "mindfulness toward the way we live" and that they want to encourage that in others. "We want to work with people who are making a positive impact on their community or the world," he

said. Examples of their clients are Siskiyou Seeds, Hardy Seeds, and a Waldorf School.

Gregg Payne has designed logos for businesses as different as rock bands and the highway patrol, pubs, and Montessori schools.

With these three designers (among others in the Applegate), local businesses—nonprofits, alternative-lifestyle, small, or big—can proudly present their images and tell their stories to the larger market of the online world.

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## NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

## Applegate School takes pride in accomplishments

A renewed music program, some very enriching field-trip experiences, and a rising enrollment (now 108, up from 95 last year)—these are just some of the accomplishments that Applegate School is proud of.

The school's annual Jogathon was combined with a color run on October 9.

Wearing white T-shirts with the logo "Applegate School Cougars," students made numerous trips around the track, each time becoming more colorful after being doused in a different colored nontoxic powder by "color throwers" standing on the sidelines. Thanks to the Applegate fire department, whose members came to help with the run and to cheer on the runners. Many thanks also to all the donors whose generosity helped make the Jogathon a big success.

The annual Harvest Fair, sponsored by PTSG (Parent Teacher Student Group), on October 30 provided many fun experiences for students and raised funds that PTSG will use to support Applegate School's needs, such as classroom supplies and playground equipment. Each classroom prepared a basket to be auctioned at the fair, and food and games gave students many opportunities to participate in the event.

Students and staff eagerly welcomed Jennifer Joy to lead the Friday afternoon music program. Filled with boundless enthusiasm and a deep knowledge and appreciation of music, Jennifer teaches each circle of students some basic rhythms and fun songs that involve movement. She will also incorporate some simple instruments into the program. Welcome, Jennifer!

Volleyball, under the leadership of Diana West, provided fifth- through eighth-grade girls with new skills and the thrill of a winning season. The varsity team won all but one game, and the JV team went undefeated. Congratulations!

Fifth- through eighth-grade boys began their basketball season in November with Austin Bristow as their coach.



Applegate students are called upon to answer questions about monarch butterflies, which are reared by the students and Linda Kappen (center), then released to fly south. Photo: Karen Hirschmugl.

Mrs. Halsted's second and third graders and Mr. Scull's fourth and fifth graders visited the North Medford High School Planetarium in October. This unique experience created many lasting memories for the students. Second and third graders went to North Mountain Park in Ashland to learn about Native Americans of the Rogue Valley.

Mrs. Hirschmugl's K-1 class studied the life cycle of the butterfly as they watched 11 caterpillars in their classroom change to the chrysalis stage and then to the butterfly stage. Joined by second and third graders and the art class, the K-1 class released the butterflies into the wild. These students also had the opportunity to visit Fort Vannoy's Pumpkin Patch after studying the life cycle of the pumpkin.

Middle schoolers are enjoying their new robotics elective by assembling cars donated by T. Hall Manufacturing. A \$1,000 grant from Josephine County Youth Foundation provided funds to buy more supplies for the robotics program.

Sixth graders traveled with Lincoln Savage students to Newport, Oregon, for a three-day outdoor school session led by OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science and Industry). Students agreed that the highlight of their coastal experience was dissecting squid!

Applegate School's Book Fair will be held on December 16 - 18 from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm and on December 19 from 7:30 am - 8 pm.

This year's holiday program is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, at 6 pm.

Jean Hall

jhall80@juno.com

## Applegate School JV volleyball team goes undefeated!



During the 2019 season, the junior varsity volleyball team at Applegate School was undefeated with a record of 9 - 0. The varsity team lost only one game, ending the season with a 9 - 1 record. Pictured are varsity and junior varsity team members.

## Kids grow better outside



ROCS seventh graders jump for joy during their overnight trip to Pacifica.

The name says it all: Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS). ROCS strives to create a learning environment where experiences outside of the classroom help bring learning to life inside the classroom. Using its immediate community resources for learning and giving back to its community are critical to the school's mission.

Adventures are tied to the rest of the curriculum. One example is the seventh-grade overnight trip to Pacifica Garden to learn about tree identification, habitats, the mycorrhizal network, forest fires, decomposers such as bark beetles and fungi, predator-prey relationships, and fish identification. Students tied this learning to their experiences at Crater Lake and Mt. Ashland. These outings connect to their yearlong project involving endangered species and native versus nonnative species.

While on the Pacifica overnight trip, students were also able to connect with each other through team-building activities around a campfire and on a challenge course. Some of the campfire activities they enjoyed the most were games like "Name that Tune," "I went to the Market and Bought...", "I can tap the stick just right..." and roasting marshmallows over the campfire for s'mores. The challenge course was enlightening and life changing. "I feel like it changed the way I view my classmates and our connection. It brought us together more," said student Lucie Hatcher.

Another big part of the Pacifica overnight trip were the electives and art. Zoey Ellis enjoyed spoon carving. "It seemed like it was easy, but it was challenging to keep our shavings small and do the detail work," she said.

Other students created felted owls. Isabelle Brown said, "I felt like I connected with my classmates and was confident about my work in the end."

All students created bracelets from madrone berries and tree sculptures out of wire and beads. "My fine motor skills, confidence, and attention to detail improved by participating in these art projects," said Everett Cohen. Fishing on the pond, hiking through the different habitats, going on a solo hike, and playing games such as "Eagle Eye" were the highlights of the trip for some students.

Students at the school recognize that none of this would be possible without adults. The staff at Pacifica interacted well with the students and created a positive place for each of them to learn and grow. ROCS is lucky to have parents who chaperone these trips and work hard to help them be successful. The students are also fortunate to have a wonderful and outstanding teacher, Jennifer Drane, to plan field trips that help them build better connections.

Throughout the year, students in the seventh-grade class will be participating



Students encircle the "R" (for ROCS) that they created during their Pacifica adventure.

in more field experiences as well as planning their end-of-the-year overnight trip. Last year, the class went to Seattle and experienced the art, science, and community of that area. This year, students are planning a trip to San Francisco or Seattle. They know that they have a lot of money to raise and a lot of planning to do. (Donations can be made now toward the San Francisco trip!)

"We have to budget for the cost of food, transportation, tours, and accommodations," said student Lupita Estrada.

"Time management will also be a part of the planning," added student Mariana Figueroa. Students will plan the entire experience using curriculum skills in the process.

This class is also working on other ways to improve their school and community. They want to make their cafeteria more in line with what they learn about and do during their field experiences. For example, when they go to White Oak Farm, Pacifica, and Fall in the Field, they create meals with locally farmed food. They would like to change the cafeteria to reflect this type of eating, which is healthier and more sustainable. This class also gives back once a month by providing community service. They partner with the Humane Society, Sanctuary One, Pioneer Village, Jacksonville Parks, and Ruch YMCA Preschool. Each student "adopts" a service place for the year and works there, during school days, for 1½ - 2 hours a month.

ROCS is a place where all classes take charge of their own learning. The school is led by an amazing principal, Julie Barry, who always tries to encourage the students to help her improve the school with their input.

Seventh-grade Class

Ruch Outdoor Community School  
julie.barry@medford.k12.or.us

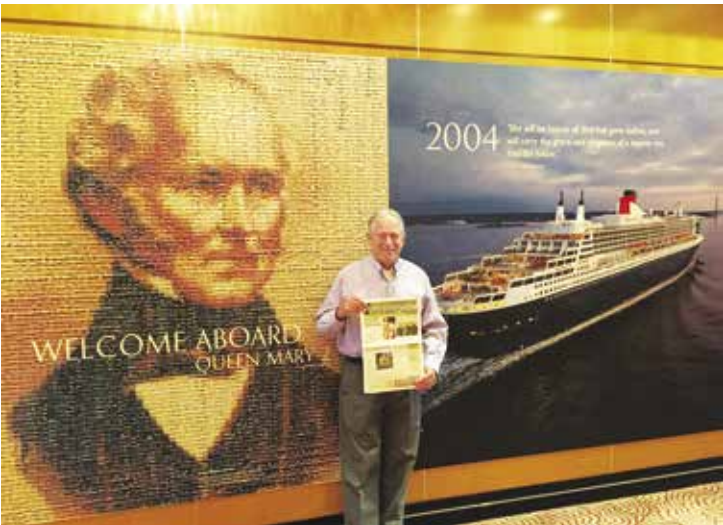
Photos by Jennifer Drane, seventh-grade teacher.

## Look who's reading the Gater!

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



**Photos, clockwise from top left:**  
 —**Connie Ahart and Laura Janus** in Lucerne, Switzerland, where the Applegater acted as their translator when they toured Lake Lucerne.  
 —**Carol Martin** stopped at Gunnison National Park during her professionally guided tour by the Gater of Colorado parks.  
 —**Cassidy Geppert and Mika Smith** enjoyed Ferraria Hot Springs in the Azores, where, according to the Applegater, the Atlantic Ocean meets geothermal waters.  
 —**Yvonne Beer**, from Picton, New Zealand, accompanied the Gater to Victoria Falls, Zambia, to commune with giraffes.  
 —**Robert Hendrix** cruised with the Applegater on Queen Mary 2 from New York to Hamburg, Germany, and on to Stonehenge.



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

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