

Applegater

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Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
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Celebrating
~26~
Years

Long-lost story of pioneer blacksmith re-emerges

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Benjamin Johnson lived for at least two years near Ruch in 1868 and 1869, just long enough to leave a lasting legacy in the Applegate Valley.

Ben was born into slavery in Alabama in 1834 and eventually made his way to Uniontown, Oregon, as a freed slave. Uniontown was at the mouth of the Little Applegate River during the mining era. Ben worked for Theodor Cameron, the founder of Uniontown, built a blacksmith shop, and prospected at the base of the mountain that would become known as “(racial epithet) Ben Mountain.” By all accounts he was respected in the community and was known as a skilled blacksmith.

Ben eventually moved north to Albany, and on New Year’s Eve in 1870 he married Amanda Gardner Johnson, a former slave who had come west with the Deckard family in 1853 when she was 16. Although



Ben and Amanda Gardner Johnson, Oregon pioneers and among Oregon’s first Black citizens. Photo: Courtesy of the Lane County History Museum.

the Deckards had freed their slaves, according to the Lane County History Museum Digital Collections, “Amanda postponed her marriage to Johnson for five years while she cared for her former mistress, Elizabeth Deckard Snodgrass, See **BLACKSMITH**, page 13

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The *Applegater*
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Crafts, music, and theater during the pandemic

BY DIANA COOGLE

In spite of the pandemic, Peg Pragg, co-founder of Pacifica Garden in Williams, was reluctant to cancel Pacifica’s annual Winter Arts Fest. “I think right now people need a big fix of ‘community,’” she said, so she and others figured out how to make it work: only 15 vendors, masks required, numbers limited, and no food or live music, and for just seven hours on one day, November 29.

An abbreviated Winter Fest. No Jacksonville Market last summer. Closed or coronavirus-adjusted local markets, stores, crafts fairs, and festivals. These changes have not been easy for Applegate artists and musicians.

“The hit has been substantial,” admits Williams musician Barbara Mendelsohn, who plays music with Kevin Carr at dances, festivals, music camps, and

pubs—venues now mostly unavailable. Kevin estimates he has lost a third to half of his income. The loss for the English Lavender Farm, on Thompson Creek Road, is around 40 percent. Shanna Rose, also in Williams, who makes “wear the forest” clothes, estimates a \$10,000 loss. Clothing vendors were hit especially hard because, Shanna says, “COVID restrictions excluded textiles.”

Food vendors were luckier: theirs is an essential service. Sales at By George Farm, on Yale Creek, were down about 10-20 percent.

Into the gap have stepped good-hearted people. More customers than usual have been buying directly from Williams artist Serene Dussell, who makes hemp clothing, since the pandemic forced the closure of the store that carried her wares. Grocers

wanting to support Oregon food during the pandemic have patronized By George Farm.

While most theaters have had to close, Wanderlust Theater, at LongSword Winery, was doubly lucky because (1) their shows are moving, outdoor spectacles, so audience members can be safely distanced on the twenty-two acres of LongSword Vineyard, and (2) their next show, *Dracula*, was already scheduled for spring 2021. Auditions were socially distanced, with masks.

Many crafts-fair vendors have begun looking for outside jobs.

Some, like musician Kevin Carr, who is also a licensed counselor working online, have put more energy into already existing

side jobs. Barbara Mendelsohn, an artist as well as a musician, is “trying harder to

See **CRAFTS**, page 8



Serene Dussell at work.

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HOLIDAY - ARTS

OBITUARIES

David Calahan

October 23, 1948 – September 8, 2020

David Calahan, 71, died of cancer on September 8 in the home that he built in the Applegate.

Born October 23, 1948, in Lebanon, Oregon, David loved Barbara, his wife of 24 years, and their family they joined together. He loved the outdoors and working on his property.

David was a retired Medford Fire Fighter, an Army veteran, and the founding chairman of the Applegate Trails Association. He enjoyed adventure, travel, deep-sea diving, white-water rafting, and ultralight aircraft.

David believed that living in the Applegate was paradise. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to Applegate Trails Association (applegatetrails.org) and Save Wellington Wildlands (savewildlands.org).



David Calahan showing a piece of moss.

~ In Memoriam ~

The Applegate Valley has lost a leader

The Applegate Valley has lost a community leader. David Calahan was known for his creation of the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) and his decades-long fight to save the Wellington Wildlands. He was known for his balanced, reasonable approach to the issues and his ability to organize people.

But I write this not in awe of David's leadership, true though that may be. I write in praise of my friend of fifty years, Dave Calahan. We met in the early '70s, shortly after I took up residence on my family land after serving in Vietnam. As fellow veterans of a similar age, we soon became fast friends. Our friendship survived my years-long sojourn in Seattle for a career. Right after I came home, he showed up and gifted me with a brand-new pair of high-quality gloves.

Together we both lent shovels and muscles to the fire at Logtown and the one on Old Blue. Together we explored the Applegate valley, from the lake to Grants Pass. We stood together at Jackson County hearings to implement land-use planning as passed in Senate Bill 100. Many of the meetings in the Applegate, at both Ruch and Applegate schools, pitted the "old-timers" against the "newcomers." While many people new to the Applegate were from far away, Dave was a native Oregonian. He had better luck talking to the old-timers than most of the rest of us.

At one point in the '70s a miner on Forest Creek Road sought a Conditional Use Permit to operate a gravel operation that would have resulted in 20 double-dump belly trucks coming up and down the narrow, windy road. The County issued the permit, and residents appealed. We mainly argued against the traffic and impacts to Forest Creek, many of us aware that the true goal was to excavate gravel down to bedrock, hoping to find gold. Dave, living on Bishop Creek at the time, was working for Ramsay Realty. Old man Ramsay testified at the hearing that the gravel was critically needed for

building in the Applegate. Dave testified next, citing facts and figures about how many gravel pits with how many yards of rock were already in operation and sufficient to serve the Applegate's needs. He stood up against his employer for people not of his neighborhood. He was a brave man. The issue eventually went to court and the Forest Creek residents prevailed.

One of the things we shared was our great love of the beautiful Applegate Valley. The first time I accompanied Dave to the ridge behind Mount Isabelle and looked down on the Wellington Wildlands, I understood his desire to keep this rare jewel from disappearing under the saws that had already decimated all the legacy lands in the Middle Applegate. The son of a logger, Dave was never opposed to logging and logged his own land on Long Gulch more than once. He was, however, a native who opposed the plans of federal government to treat public lands as only a source of timber, not as the forest environments we all appreciate.

Dave liked to travel and often returned with a gift for me. I now have three heavy-duty long brush knives that would have served me well in the jungles of Vietnam. Dave understood what I'd been through in 'Nam and gave me shelter more than once when things got bad. His care as a friend continued when I returned from Seattle, more than once being a good listener when I explored my own emotional state(s).

One time, after being in town for a few hours, I came home to a note on the door telling me Dave had helped himself to one of my five-gallon gas cans. I can no longer recall the circumstances, but the trust we shared was unique and everlasting.

His body may have left us, but I believe his Spirit still lingers in the Wellington Wildlands and will come visit you every time you think of him. Rest well, my friend.

Jack Duggan
shanachie@hughes.net



A tribute to David Calahan, an Applegate idealist and visionary

Karen Giese and Audrey Eldridge had their first contact with David Calahan in 2014, answering one of the many calls to action that come across one's inbox. This one was a request to plan and implement a fundraiser for Applegate Trails Association (ATA). This appeal was so beautifully written, explaining the mission of ATA and why this event was needed, that it compelled them to volunteer to help. Little did they know the work they were in for! However, the fundraiser ended well, bringing in needed funds and raising awareness of ATA's work.

This is just one example of how David Calahan was able to share his vision and find willing partners to help with the missions he organized.

David's enthusiastic willingness to share his love and knowledge of Applegate Valley's wilderness, his passion for the incredible trail systems both in place and planned for the community, and especially his zeal for the work of protecting Wellington Wildlands was infectious. He connected hundreds of people to these lands and trails with education and fervor. He helped them understand the complicated dance between federal land management and the need to protect the valuable recreational resources of our valley and mountains. And he walked his talk, leading many guided hikes through the Applegate, including his last one, during late fall 2019, when he took a few brave souls racing through an unmarked trail originating at Wellington Butte and ending at his house.

David's vision, combined with that of the board members of the Applegate Trails Association, made possible the plans, installation, and maintenance of a trail

system that is a true Applegate gem. In his last few years, he extended his vision to preserve the Wellington Wildlands. Many of you readers are likely among the more than 1000 area residents who saw the movie *Saving Wellington* (filmed by residents Greeley Wells and Ed Keller), perhaps at a community meeting hosted by David as chair of the Wellington Wildlands Council. He would talk about the challenges for Wellington at length during those meetings, to the total engagement of the audience. At the end of the event David would still be in deep



David Calahan on the trail.

Photo: Jes Burns/Oregon Public Broadcasting.

conversation with those who were not ready to stop learning about Wellington Wildlands, even as the venues were closing. His commitment for preserving this area was shared by many, as can be evidenced by the *Save Wellington Wildlands* lawn signs throughout the valley.

David, we are thankful for all you gave, for your passion to preserve the wildlands of our area, and for being such a charismatic and synergistic force of nature. You have blazed many trails, both physical and metaphorical, that will be used for generations. We are profoundly grateful for all you have done for us, for the environment, for the earth.

Jeanette LeTourneux, Audrey Eldridge, Stuart Heaslet, Karen Giese, Barbara Chasteen and the rest of the Wellington Wildlands Council
savewildlands.org

Tribute to David Calahan

Editor's note: David Calahan and Tom Carstens met as firefighters, when David was retired and Tom a volunteer. Years later, Tom helped David found the Applegate Trails Association. David died Sept. 8, the day of the Alameda Fire. Tom remembers his friend with this poem (his first, he says).



David Calahan on the East Applegate Ridge Trail.

My Firebrand Friend

A fire in your forest . . .

We doused it.

A friendship struck.

Boy, could we talk!

Yak . . . yak . . . yak.

We learned a lot.

(Or did we?)

We bushwhacked and sweated and cursed and laughed.

And then there were trails.

I helped you calm.

(Or did I?)

You helped us all, frenzied idea man.

Big heart! Big ideas!

Patience? There isn't any.

Another fire . . .

It couldn't be doused.

Then you left us.

Rest in peace, David Calahan.

Forest leaves fall on your grave

Like tears.

—Tom Carstens

Volunteer opportunities abound at Provolt Recreation Site

BY PROVOLT VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS AND APWC STAFF

Are you ready to volunteer? The Provolt Volunteer Team has been organized through the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC). This group of volunteers and staff members is working together to give the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grants Pass Field Office, their new Recreation Planner, and their Outdoor Education Specialist a jumpstart at developing the Provolt Recreation Site.

The volunteer team is an eclectic group of fifteen people from all walks of life. Our commonality is our love for the outdoors and our dedication to making this special site on the banks of the Applegate River a destination for everyone in our community. Despite COVID-19, smoke, and the heat, the team and its partners from the BLM have made a good start and hope to get some on-the-ground projects started soon in two of the four recreation management zones (RMZ). (See map.)

BLM re-opened RMZ A this summer. This 86-acre area fronts the Applegate River across from the

Provolt Store. Visitors to RMZ A can enjoy hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, picnicking, kayaking, wildlife viewing, or just plain ol' hangin' out. This area is open Thursday through Sunday, year-round, from sunrise to sunset (we're hoping for expanded days in the future).

Improvements so far include a paddlers' launch ramp and a short trail, recently installed through an Eagle Scout Project by Graeme Wiltrot (see story in this edition of the *Applegater*). The Education Trail will be the focal point for outdoor education in partnership with BLM and the Applegate Partnership's Youth Environmental Stewardship "YES" program. BLM is funding an entry kiosk, which the volunteers will help install, to welcome visitors and educate them about the site.

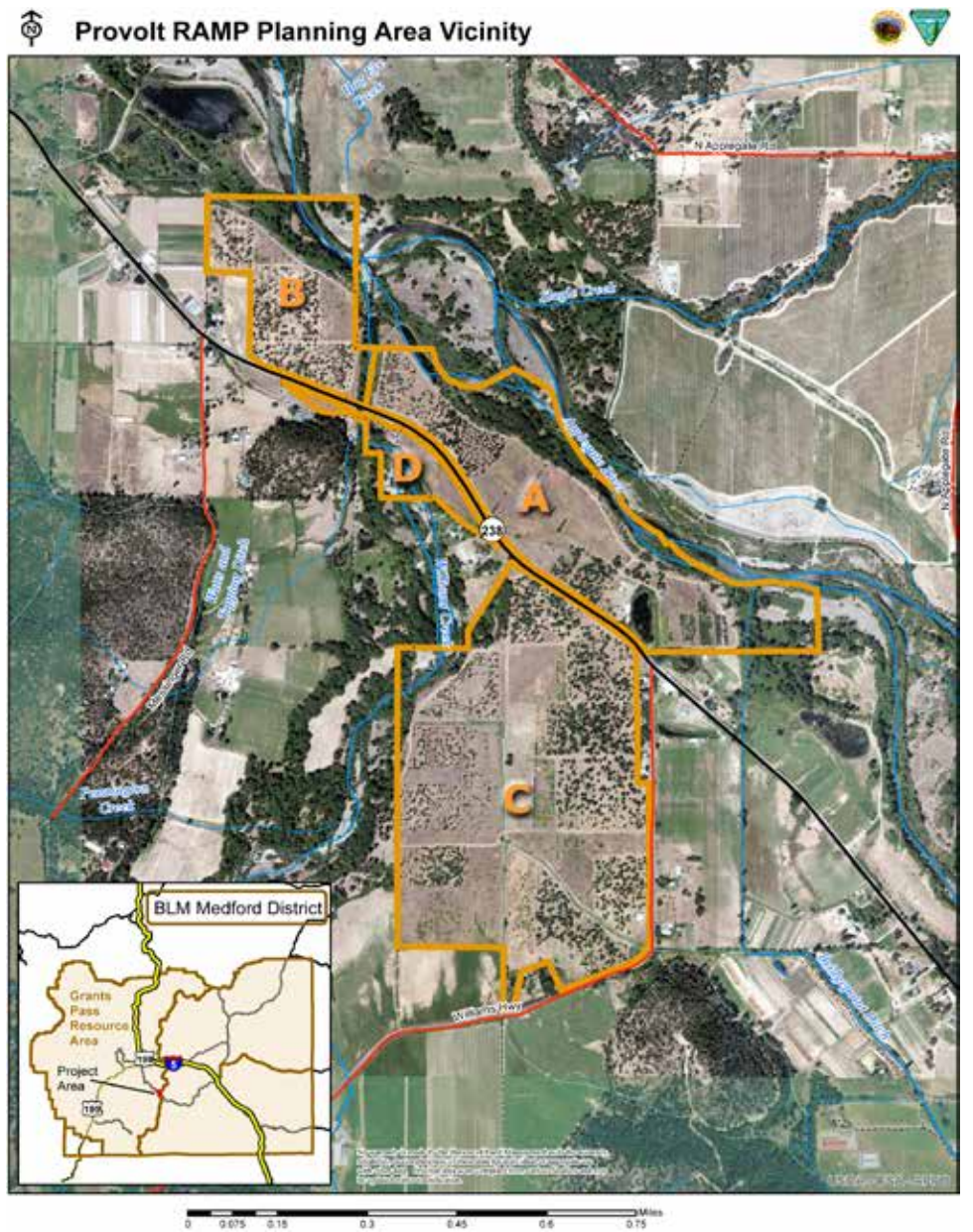
Earlier this summer a group of volunteers gathered and pulled star thistle near the parking area, an effort that had an amazing impact on the small treated area. We hope to have more events to help eradicate the



Applegate Partnership board member Janis Mohr-Tipton, second from left, hands a \$1,000 Momentum Grant check to Liz Shen, co-chair of the Provolt Volunteer Team. Also present are, at left, Cathy Rodgers of A Greater Applegate, Tom Carstens, Barbara Chasteen, and Caleb Galloway. Photo: Joelle Jorissen.



Birders enjoy an outing at the Provolt Rec Site. Photo: Tom Carstens.



Map: Bureau of Land Management (slightly altered by Annette Parsons).

invasive weeds around this site. Finally, we're planning and fundraising for a one-mile river-walk trail in the riparian area of the Applegate River where invasive blackberries have been treated and native plants reestablished by the APWC restoration program.

RMZ B, located on the west side of Williams Creek is designated as the disc golf area in BLM planning. The only thing this zone is limited in is funding, because the possibilities are great.

Calling all equestrians!

BLM has designated RMZ C as a 155-acre equestrian riding area with almost five miles of gravel or dirt roads networking throughout for great horse trails. BLM has plans to open this area for equestrian use as soon as funding for a few required critical elements, such as a safe point of entry, turnaround, and parking area on Williams Highway, can be obtained and installed.

Recently, the volunteer team helped prepare an application for a Momentum Grant from A Greater Applegate. The APWC received a \$1,000 grant to duplicate and install the Applegate Watershed Map, designed by the APWC for Cantrall Buckley. We are very excited to have this map in two public parks in the Applegate. (See photo.) The volunteer team experts and the APWC have been instrumental

in preparing and submitting federal grants for infrastructure and recreation needs at this site, reaching a total of \$286,000 to help fund infrastructure, recreation development, interpretive signage, and future upland restoration projects at the site. Some of these planned improvements include improved parking areas, vault toilets, information kiosks with maps and interpretive information, picnic tables, and barbecue grills.

The APWC and the Provolt Volunteer Team are working with the BLM Grants Pass Field Office to fund and implement these improvements at this community gem. Please join us and help facilitate the transition from the seed orchard into a quality recreation site for everyone.

We're especially in need of grant writers at the moment. Feel free to contact the APWC Provolt Project Manager, Caleb Galloway (caleb@apwc.info), or Provolt Volunteer Team Chair, Elizabeth Shen (provolt@apwc.info).

If you need more information about equestrian trail planning, we will gladly forward your information to the team's equestrian experts.

Janelle Dunlevy, Executive Director
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Watershed Council
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On two weekends in October, volunteers helped Graeme Wiltrout, at left, complete his Eagle Scout Service Project, a quarter-mile Education Trail at Provolt Recreation Site.

Photo: Graeme Wiltrout.

Eagle Scout project creates education trail at rec site

BY JANELLE DUNLEVY

On October 18, Graeme Wiltrout, a senior at North Medford High School, completed his Eagle Scout project at Provolt Recreation Site. Graeme came to the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) wanting to plan a project that would positively impact an outdoor recreation area and opportunity. The APWC knew exactly where he could help.

The fledgling Provolt Recreation Site (see related article) is a local diamond in the rough with a wealth of community ideas and dreams just needing the right “nudge” to come to fruition. Graeme, with leadership skills honed through his involvement with Troop 5, Wild River District, Crater Lake Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), was just the nudge needed to launch what is hoped can be an era of youth volunteerism at Provolt through construction of the planned “Education Trail” at the site.

With guidance from the APWC, Graeme prepared a proposal for a trail development plan and presented it to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grants Pass Field Office for approval. Graeme worked in conjunction with the APWC Provolt Project Manager, Caleb Galloway, and the BLM Recreation Planner, Shawn Stapleton, to complete plans and make preparations for a concerted field-installation effort.

Over two weekends in October, Graeme, with the support of his family, organized work days at the recreation site. Each day an average of nine volunteers helped build the quarter-mile trail. Volunteers also placed bark mulch on the trail, cleared brush, limbed branches, removed trash such as old, deteriorated irrigation pipe, and cleaned and painted wood preservative on the picnic tables. More than 160 hours were invested by Graeme, local BSA scouts, the Applegate community, APWC, BLM, and family volunteers.

“The new trail is a focal point that draws people as they begin their adventure at the recreation site. It is really nice to have a visible project completed by volunteers to kick off the planning and project implementation here,” said Janis Mohr-Tipton, an APWC board

member, long-time Applegate resident, and chair of the Cantrall Buckley Park Enhancement Team.

This project is the first of many projects being planned. “There are some additional low-cost projects we hope to rally the community volunteers to help us on in the near future, including expanding the walking trails, exerting more elbow grease to pull invasive weeds (i.e., starthistle), planting willow and cottonwood to improve the beaver food banks along the river, and maybe even planting some pollinator gardens,” said Liz Shen, co-chair of the Provolt Volunteer Team, a group of volunteers working with the APWC and BLM to help jumpstart projects and funding efforts at the Provolt Recreation Site.

Graeme’s project is an example of how we can all work together to accomplish a great project, with minimal funding and lots of enthusiasm. There are plenty of opportunities at Provolt for more Eagle Scout Projects, and we can guarantee that such projects will benefit the community, a requirement for successful Eagle Scout service projects.

Janelle Dunlevy, Executive Director
Applegate Partnership &
Watershed Council
janelle@apwc.info, 541-899-9982

Soar like an Eagle Scout

Eagle Scout service projects must be evaluated primarily on impact—the extent of benefit to the religious institution, school, or community, and on the leadership provided by the candidate. There must also be evidence of planning and development.

In 2019, 61,366 Scouts earned the Eagle Scout rank. From 1912 to 2019, 2,598,999 Scouts have earned the Eagle Scout rank. In 2019, eight percent of all Scouts BSA earned the Eagle Scout rank. In 2019, the average age of youth earning the Eagle Scout rank was 17.3 years of age.

An Eagle Scout Service Project challenges a scout to plan, coordinate, and lead a significant project that benefits his or her community.

—Information from scouting.org

BOOK REVIEW

Lost Children Archive

Valeria Luiselli

Alfred Knoff Doubleday, New York, 2019

“Whenever the boy and girl talk about child refugees, I realize now, they call them ‘the lost children.’ And in a way, I guess, they are lost children. They are children who have lost the right to a childhood.”

—Valeria Luiselli

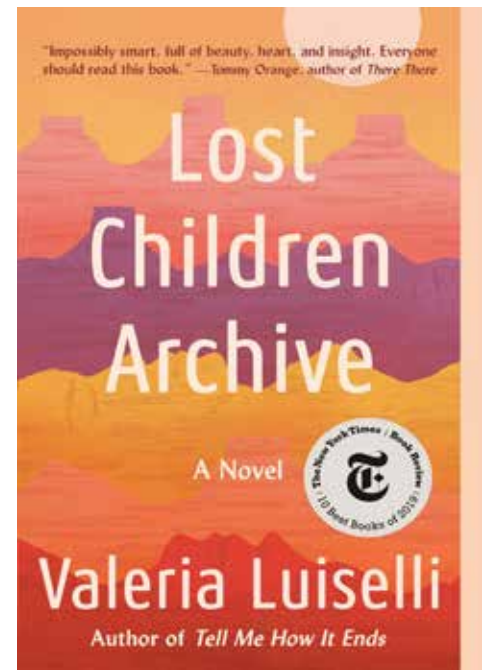
BY CHRISTINE LORE WEBER

It is several months since I read this book, and it continues to haunt me. Luiselli calls it a novel, but was it really fiction? Often it read like a series of essays disguised as a novel. Maybe it asks the reader to consider the very nature of reality: What is true and what is not? How do realities get lost, especially innocent realities, pure realities? Can what we think to be true simply disappear like the author’s anachronistic Polaroid photos that almost develop, but then white out in the sunlight?

Almost nothing is so horrifying as the thought of losing a child. Children can be lost in so many ways, ways that seem to multiply in today’s world. Valeria Luiselli’s book acts as a hall of mirrors in which many of these ways reflect off one another. Perhaps she meant it to be a meta-novel in which genres overlap, a kind of pentimento of reality’s reflections that we see as story, as essay, as history, as bibliographical references, even as Polaroid images that all together attempt, if possible, to tell the truth.

The story begins with a present-day combined family. Divorce provides the dark background on which the mirrors of loss will be hung. It is a happy family, though, as reflected in the first mirror. The parents have jobs they love, recording and archiving voices and sounds of the city of New York. In that city alone hundreds of different languages are spoken as mother-tongues. This must be archived, must not be lost. “Must Not Be Lost” is the core theme and wistful fantasy of this ultimately gut-wrenching story. What have we retained of all that ever was on earth? Is it not simply an archive?

The family of four sets off across America to document and possibly to find what is lost. He will document the stories and what remains of the voices of the lost Apache nation. She will document the voices of refugee



children held at the border and will attempt to find two specific children who disappeared while trying to join their mother, already established in the United States. The archivists’ boy and girl in the car’s back seat take polaroid pictures and become the mirrors reflecting the journey, the stories, and ultimately, the lost children themselves.

“The story I need to tell is the one of the children who are missing, those whose voices can no longer be heard because they are, possibly forever, lost. Perhaps, like my husband, I’m also chasing ghosts and echoes. Where are they—the lost children? And where are Manuela’s two girls? I don’t know, but this I do know: if I’m going to find anything, anyone, if I’m going to tell their story, I need to start looking somewhere else” (p. 146).

As the journey progresses, the mother/narrator reads to the boy and girl from a red book of stories of immigrant children. The stories act as a trope, an extended figure of speech, a book within a book, another mirror that reflects the entire journey of being lost. “Lost” becomes, in the reflections back and forth of all the ways one might enter the lost lands, a truly universal experience. What will be lost next? Family? Country? Home? Identity? Culture? Life itself? Once childhood is lost—the childhood of a person, a nation, a culture, life, earth itself—how shall it then survive except as an archive? And who will read that document?

“Sometimes a little light can make you aware of the dark, unknown space that surrounds it, of the enormous ignorance that envelops everything we think we know. And that recognition and coming to terms with darkness is more valuable than all the factual knowledge we may ever accumulate” (p. 60).

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— Ruch Library —

Beethoven live at the Ruch Library



BY THALIA TRUESDELL

Beethoven *live* at Ruch Library! On December 12 Ruch Library will become a concert hall for live Beethoven music, celebrating Ludwig's 250th birthday! Talented members of the Applegate Valley community perform between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm, in 15- or 20-minute blocks. Each performer will be in the Community Room, and the audience will be appreciating the music in the library and foyer, through open doors.

We will have a program available at the library after December 1, listing each performer and the piece she or he will be playing. We are expecting 15 or more musicians, all ages, and from all walks of life. The instruments they will be playing include cellos, violins, piano, voice, saxophones, accordion (!), and zither, to name a few. We hope you will join us for part of this community concert.

December 1 there will be a limited number of kits available for making a Take & Make Photo Ball Ornament. This is a paper sphere made from eight two-inch circles (included). You can glue your cropped photos into each of the eight circles. There are also directions for making a 3-D, diamond-shaped ornament using only photographs. This is a great way to make an heirloom ornament.

Every day should be a holiday! Help us celebrate some zany occasions every (open) day in December, January, and February. The calendar is full of goofy-to-serious potential celebrations, and we will have a fun way to honor each one. You will not want to miss National Feed the Birds Day, Squirrel Appreciation Day, a Seed Swap, and much, much more. Get your holiday calendar at Ruch Library after December 1 and plan each of your library visits to coincide with a different fun and educational festivity.

This year Jackson County Library Services is doing Rogue Reads, a community

reading program from December 1 to February 28. We have selected books by author Jacqueline Woodson, who will do a virtual author talk on February 21 at 4:00 pm. The titles include *Red at the Bone* for adults, *If You Come Softly* for teens, *Brown Girl Dreaming* for middle-graders, and *The Day You Begin* for our youngest readers.

We've ordered more copies of each book for the collection in an effort to get as many people reading the same books in Jackson County as possible. There will be programs for all ages that focus on these titles and their themes throughout the winter months. Patrons will also be able to earn points towards prizes through Beanstack, a reading challenge app, by reading these and other books and participating in programs. Our goals are (1) to promote literacy and intergenerational book-centered discussion, (2) to foster a sense of community by bringing people together through literature, and (3) to engage Jackson County residents in dialogue and bring the community together by promoting tolerance and understanding about differing points of view.

The Friends of Ruch Library are getting books into the community via Little Free Libraries (now at McKee Bridge, China Gulch, and Ruch School, with three more in the making). There is also a new bookcase at the Ruch Country Store with many titles in both paperback and hardcover. The Friends hope to open the Book Barn for First Saturday sales. Watch the reader-board by Ramsey Realty for updated information. Until further notice, we are not accepting donations at the library or the Book Barn.

We hope to see you soon at the library!

Thalia Truesdell, Ruch Library

Branch Manager

Jackson County Library

services, jcls.org

541-899-7438, ttruesdell@jcls.org

— Applegate Library —

Leinfelder joins library board

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

Congratulations to Applegater Gerrie Leinfelder, the newest member of the Jackson County Library Foundation (JCLF) board.

Gerrie started volunteering in her high school library and then worked in a public library in NYC. She has been a volunteer in Ruch and Medford libraries for more than 20 years.

"It's no surprise that I continue to find joy in bookstacks," she said. "I am so pleased to serve with JCLF in joint efforts to support libraries in our diverse district. Our county encompasses quite a variety of lifestyles and economics with a wide spectrum of interests and skills. I believe tapping into those talented individual resources helps form community and, through community, helps build empathy and open-mindedness."

JCLF manages contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations to build community support for Jackson



Gerrie Leinfelder

County Library Services in its efforts to learn, grow, and connect with the community.

Thalia Truesdell, Ruch Library

Branch Manager

Jackson County Library Services, jcls.org

541 899-7438, ttruesdell@jcls.org

The Applegate Branch Library

will offer the following Take & Make Kits, containing hands-on crafts and activities to make at home. Kits are available, beginning on the dates listed, while supplies last:

- Holiday Craft, starting December 11.
- Winter Craft, starting January 8.
- Valentine's Day Craft, starting February 2.

Please check out our winter event calendar at jcls.org.

For additional information, please contact Christine Grubb, Applegate Branch Library Manager, at 541-846-7346 or cgrubb@jcls.org. The Applegate Branch Library is at 18485 North Applegate Road, Applegate.

Christine Grubb

Applegate Branch Library Manager

Jackson County Library Services



A new sign marks the Applegate library.

— Williams Library —

Services during COVID

All four library branches in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek are offering multiple services while buildings are restricted due to health concerns.

Library staff finalized renovations to support physical distancing and increased foot traffic and to ensure the safety of patrons, volunteers, and staff during the pandemic. The following services are available at all four library branches:

Tuesday through Saturday: phone support from 11 am-4 pm.

Wednesdays: 30-minute computer appointments between 1-4 pm. Registration is required. To register, patrons can contact their preferred branch or email info@josephinelibrary.org.

Thursdays and Fridays: Book drops are open all day.

Fridays and Saturdays: Curbside pick-up between noon-4 pm.

Fridays and Saturdays: Facilities open to the public between 1-4 pm during Grab & Go hours. Patrons will have the opportunity to browse the library and check out items in person for 30-minute periods. Registration is not required.

On Thursdays at the Grants Pass and Illinois Valley branches, senior Grab & Go hours are offered between

1-4 pm in-person for 30-minute periods. Registration is not required.

During Grab & Go hours restrooms and seating are unavailable. Restrooms are unavailable during computer appointment hours.

LearningExpress

You can access educational resources for children, teens, and adults through LearningExpress Library, available in the library's online reference library. Students in grades 4-12 can practice math, English language arts, and social studies; prospective college students can access ACT, SAT, and AP practice tests; job seekers can get step-by-step help creating a resume or preparing for an occupational exam; and everyone can benefit from video tutorials and e-books on a variety of topics.

This resource can be found from the library homepage under the catalog heading, in the online reference library, or from this direct link: josephinelibrary.org/catalog/online-reference-library.

JosephineLINK

Through JosephineLINK, community members can access up-to-date information for hundreds of community organizations. This easy-to-use online community resource directory

is curated by local librarians and updated regularly with the most current contact information as well as hours, locations, and website address. Browse by category or search by keyword. This resource can be found on our library homepage or at josephinelibrary.org/josephine-link.

Online Learning Resources

The library offers many online learning resources for kids, families, teens, and tweens. These tools offer homework help, useful skill-building, and other fun and productive activities for children and teens. In addition, early literacy activities, including virtual storytime, parent resources, and recommended reading, are also available.

These resources can be found from the library's homepage under the Teens/Tweens (josephinelibrary.org/teens-and-tweens) and Kids/Family (josephinelibrary.org/kids-and-family) headings.

Need more information?

Drop by the Williams branch of Josephine Community Library District (info@josephinelibrary.org, www.josephinelibrary.org) at 20695 Williams Highway, Williams. Email branch manager Jamie Menzel at jmenzel@josephinelibrary.org or call her at 541-846-7020.

*Voices of the Applegate***Pause continues for Voices of the Applegate**

We are sorry to say that, due to the pandemic, Voices of the Applegate is still on hold. You can keep in touch with us on Facebook (Voices of the Applegate). If things change during the next few months, we will certainly let you know. We hope you will all stay healthy and hopefully we'll see you after the new year.

Joan Peterson

541-846-6988

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

Placemaking is a welcome sign

BY SETH KAPLAN

Placemaking—any strategy or action that strengthens the connection between people and the places they share—is an important lens for our work at A Greater Applegate (AGA). It is a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm by paying attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place—now and for the future.

The questions we ask at our neighborhood, business, and nonprofit listening sessions are designed to help us all gain a better understanding of what we want to retain and change about the place we call the Applegate. The answers to these questions have led AGA to create the Applegate Valley logo, build and improve public bulletin boards, and work with local artists to enhance public spaces. All of this and more is how we collectively and collaboratively create a shared sense of place called the Applegate Valley.

In placemaking conversations, we often hear from people who are excited about creating Applegate Valley Welcome Signs. AGA created a Welcome Sign Working Group of community members Caroline Brandes, Jeff Martin, Celia Chavez, Josias Escobedo, Sang Montage, Sue Owen, Tiffany Ryan, Monica Schuster, Diana Slater, Terri Stewart, AGA staff member Ryan Pernell, and artist Jonathan Ash (Oshala Farm sign) to create the welcome sign image depicted on this page. The final version of the welcome sign will be carved in wood and colorfully painted. We want to place one on the east and one on the west side of the Applegate Valley along Highway 238.

The community work group was unanimous in its belief that the sign should be unique, attractive, and representative of the Applegate. A draft of the image is being disseminated through Facebook, Jo's List, and the AGA Bulletin to ensure we get feedback from as many Applegaters as possible.

We are happy with the image but want to hear from you. What do you think of the image? What thoughts do you have about colors, size, the signs' construction, where to place them, or anything else? Please send any thoughts you have to info@agreaterapplegate.org, call 541-702-2108, or send a note to PO Box 335, Jacksonville 97530.

Once we hear from the community, we will make appropriate changes and begin the approval process to get the signs



An Applegate Valley welcome sign will be placed along Highway 238 on the east and west sides of the valley.

installed. This includes contacting appropriate property owners to seek permission and submitting an application to both counties for approval.

Placemaking is important in building community connections, capacity, and culture and in taking actions that are most meaningful to Applegaters. If you would like to be involved in this project or any of the other AGA projects, please contact AGA via Facebook or by email at seth@agreaterapplegate.org.

Building Momentum in the Applegate Valley

Momentum Grants are AGA's way to recognize efforts community organizations are taking to sustain and build the social, environmental, and economic vitality of the Applegate Valley. AGA recently awarded Momentum Grants to the following community projects:

- Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council—\$1,000 to install a watershed map at the Provolt Special Recreation Management Area
- *Applegater* newsmagazine—\$1,300 to cover the cost to mail and distribute this issue
- Community Wellness & Healing Arts Network—\$1,000 to produce *Coping with Crisis*, a community healing event
- McKee Bridge Historical Society—\$500 to clean historic grave markers at the Logtown Cemetery
- Pacifica—\$500 to conduct community outreach in support of a Conditional Use Permit to hold more events
- Wanderlust Theatre—\$500 to support the 2021 production of *Dracula* in the Applegate Valley
- Well Water Wellness—\$1,000 to help purchase a 3-D simulated groundwater model to support a groundwater education curriculum at Applegate Valley schools
- Williams Community Forest Project—\$1,000 to support efforts to preserve Pipe Fork Creek

In addition, AGA awarded \$500 each to Applegate Elementary, Ruch Outdoor Community School, Williams Elementary, and Woodland Charter to support efforts at the schools to adjust to COVID.

Congratulations to all the grantees and to all of you who do so much to make the Applegate Valley the best place to live!

Seth Kaplan, Executive Director
A Greater Applegate
seth@agreaterapplegate.org

Applegaters step up to help foster animals

BY LAURA AHEARN

In August, Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS) decided to cancel all indoor fundraising events because of the pandemic, including the popular Deck the Paws Holiday Fair. But many artists and crafters had been making and donating special gift and pet items throughout the year, so FOTAS decided to try an outdoor crafts fair at the Historic County Courthouse in Jacksonville. Early on the morning of September 8, a report went out that almost everything needed for the crafts fair was in place: permits, insurance, tables, canopies, inventory. Everything but the roster of volunteers.

Three hours later all animals at the Jackson County Animal Shelter (JCAS) were evacuated to the Expo as the Almeda Fire blasted through Talent and Phoenix.

FOTAS and JCAS went to work to find foster homes for the shelter animals, while strays and pets relinquished temporarily by newly homeless families poured in. The main shelter buildings escaped serious damage, but improvements paid for and maintained by FOTAS were lost—exercise yards, storage sheds, landscaping. Lacking power and water, the shelter complex remained closed for three weeks. Ownerless animals continued arriving at the Expo.

The need for a successful fundraiser was now more vital than ever, but the ranks of FOTAS volunteers were disproportionately impacted by the Almeda Fire. Many volunteers live(d) in Talent and Phoenix; some lost their homes or were unable to return home while utilities were being restored.

Applegaters immediately responded to a call for help. Several were already at the Expo by the afternoon of September 8 to help care for evacuated animals and take a few home to foster. They transported six large-breed dogs and three cats to Sanctuary One in Upper Applegate; Sanctuary One assumed responsibility for rehoming these pets.



One of many canine visitors at the FOTAS Crafts Fair. Photo: Sunny LeGrand.

A caring couple in Little Applegate gave one of those dogs, lovely Squirt, a home.

The crafts fair went forward as planned on October 3-4. Applegaters filled over half the volunteer spots besides making items to donate. Several worked at the event on both days. The smoke cleared, Mother Nature arranged glorious weather, and pet-loving shoppers turned out. The event was a success, far exceeding fundraising goals.

Applegaters continue their efforts to help FOTAS and JCAS recover from the fire. Two local businesses are marketing handcrafted items on behalf of FOTAS. Sweets-n-Eats in Ruch is selling jewelry and figurines, and Little Applegate resident Dr. Jeffrey Judkins has deluxe dog-walking pouches at AnimalKind Holistic Veterinary Clinic. 100% of proceeds go to FOTAS to help shelter and foster animals. Stop by and pick up a gift for an animal-lover ... or for yourself!

Laura Ahearn
Laura.ahearn@stanfordalumni.org

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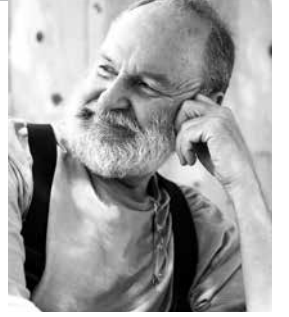
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THE STARRY SIDE

An endless season of Corona

BY GREELEY WELLS



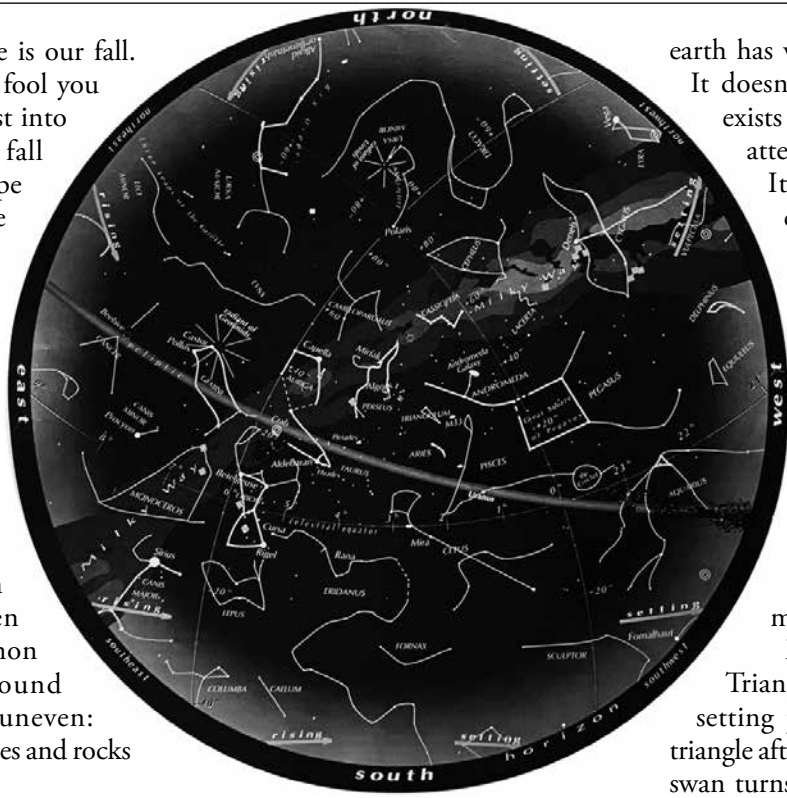
Greeley Wells

From Equinox to Solstice is our fall. Early on, we have days that fool you with their heat, then fade fast into a chill. By Solstice all the fall colors that light the landscape have fallen to earth. It's a wide range of change; we have our backs to hot summer and our feet soon in snow.

Our fire season has ended—a horrible one this year, and way too close to home. Our rainy season should have commenced by the end of this period, but nothing is quite so easily predicted anymore. We seem to be in a new time when surprises outnumber common predictions, when the ground under us is a little more uneven: bumpy . . . mixed with potholes and rocks . . . even dangerous!???

On top of that, look what else has happened this year to have a great influence on us all: that virus, which has taken so many lives and countless jobs and incomes, has kept most of us in our homes, put a mask on almost every face, and changed our economic outlook, schools, work, and gatherings we have counted on forever. It has shown us many other new and sometimes terrifying realities and possibilities.

As if all that's not enough, there was the election, which made all of us tense. Now with a new president coming in, will we be going down the same track as today or another path to what I hope is a better one? We are in another season the



Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar

earth has very rarely experienced before. It doesn't have a name as yet. But it exists for sure. It doesn't pay much attention to the norms we know.

It's not from left or right or center; maybe it's from no field at all. Maybe it's the universe giving us a wakeup call. Or perhaps a message from God or the devil? Whatever your definition, I'll bet you feel it. I think we all sense something really big, really strong, really noticeable has shown up and must be obeyed. I can only assume ultimately for the better. Please may that be so.

Meanwhile the Summer Triangle has headed to its western setting positions. One corner of the triangle after another sets until the graceful swan turns and stands upside down as a

cross, then sets while sliding north along the western horizon line.

The great square of Pegasus has attained the zenith of the sky and moves west, too. Then rising in the east the row of, first, the Pleiades (a sweet clump of stars); and the "V" of Taurus the Bull, with the bright Aldebaran; and then Orion's three-in-a-row belt. Eventually rising in the east like the rest is our brightest star, Sirius, the dog star, finishing the row. Then we'll know it's winter, that season drawn between the winter solstice and spring equinox.

Ah . . . something "normal" and predictable, something we can count on and recognize.

Wrap up and enjoy the night's bright, interesting stars,

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

Of Note

December 21 is the winter solstice and beginning of winter, the longest-seeming night of the year, with the shortest day. That day also brings a rare conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. They will be so close together they will almost make a bright double planet! Look west just after sunset. The last time this happened was in the year 2000!

The vernal Equinox is on March 20 with equal amounts of day and night throughout the world.

The Planets

Mercury is up in December during dusk. In January he's up at 8:33 am, making it a tough or impossible find. February he's also up in the dawn.

Venus rises at 6:43 am in December and is up at dawn in January but not in February.

Mars has been so bright and up all night for months. In December he's setting in the west at 7:36 pm, so play with him after or during sunset. January and February find Mars an evening star setting with the sunset.

Saturn is in the evening sky near sunset in December. No appearance in January but in the dawn in February.

Jupiter is up in the sunset during December, but not visible in January or February.

Meteors

The Quadrantids will peak on January 4. The moon will set early, leaving a dark early morning sky with some 40 meteors per hour!

The Lyrids will peak on morning of March 22. With no moon they will show some 20 meteors an hour.

■ CRAFTS

Continued from page 1

sell my paintings," since, she says wryly, art sales usually just cover the costs of art supplies. Apple Outlaw Hard Cider, on Thompson Creek Road, is doing more packaged products—bottles and cans instead of draft. Serene Dussell is looking for a side job to fill in the gaps—and trying not to deplete her savings.

There is some government help. Barbara and Kevin's alternative sources of income include Social Security as well as a small monthly inheritance. Kevin has taken out a small-business loan to cover emergencies. Williams musicians Conny and Walter Lindley are retired so are not dependent on what they once made by performing monthly, with their trio, Stolen Moments, at Belle Fiore Winery.

While the "starving artist" is not an image to perpetuate, Barbara points out

that eating out less has helped and that gas and travel expenses are "virtually nonexistent."

And so artists, who are by stereotype non-technological, have been turning to the internet. "I am working on an Etsy shop and a web site," Shanna says, "but I'm not there yet!" Zoom exists, but Barbara, like many musicians, doesn't enjoy playing on Zoom. Kevin's online gigs have garnered, altogether, less than \$1,000, but he does play outdoor funerals, "with kilt and highland pipes."

The English Lavender farm is encouraging online sales, offering free shipping in some circumstances and adding products like lavender-print face masks and lavender hand sanitizer. By George Farm uses a new app that allows customers to preorder and pick up later.

The loss of a sense of community is as significant to artists and musicians as

the financial loss. Barbara Mendelsohn and Kevin Carr used to host west coast and international folk musicians. "The hosting didn't bring in income," Barbara said, "but it brought much joy to us, the audiences, and the visitors—and now that's gone, at least for the foreseeable future."

Instead, as long as the weather was good they were having informal outdoor jams with friends, wearing masks and keeping distance. Conny and Walter are focusing on recording their music this winter. There is a general feeling of inwardness. Barbara speaks for all the arts community, in the absence of fairs, markets, and events, when she says, "I—we all—miss the sociability of our warm, casual, supportive musical (and arts!) community!"

Diana Coogle
diana@applegater.org

Food bank perseveres, still here to help

What a year! We at the Applegate Food Pantry have had so many friends and families that have lost so much, and we are grateful for all the support that we have received in efforts to help. We have had one disaster after another, but we are holding strong.

We appreciate all of our donors and the wonderful folks in the community who have brought fresh produce and have kept our food pantry open. Thank you to all of our volunteers and clients. We have made friends and are truly appreciative and happy to help.

Our hours are 11:30 am to 1 pm on the backside of Ruch Elementary School on Mondays. Come check us out!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Deborah Price, Manager
541-899-6980
Michelle Bollinger, Assistant Manager
541-218-6471

Got News?

The *Applegater* welcomes submissions! We're your newspaper and want to share your news with readers throughout the Applegate Valley watershed's many neighborhoods. What's going on around you? Let us know! Send your writeup and photos to gater@applegater.org. Thanks! See you in the *Applegater*....

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Smoke got in my eyes, but did it get in my plants?

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

How'd we fare over a smoky summer? Here's a recap of some of the impacts.

Grapes

When wood burns, like in a forest, the smoke contains phenol, a volatile organic compound. These creepy phenols then become even creepier and creep directly into grapes through smoke. Not sure how they, the phenols, cause this, but the normal sugars of the grapes—the glucosides—then give the grapes a smoky taste. This seems rather unjust, but apparently the glucosides can fall apart, reducing the sugar content and creating a slightly barbecued taste (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phenol).

When grapes have been exposed to smoke, the taste can be rather smoky, ashy, medicinal, burnt, or just plain yucky.

Turns out that all grapevine varieties can be smoke-impacted, but the smoky flavor may be less noticeable in a full-bodied syrah than in a lighter-bodied pinot noir. Also, the stage of grape growth, smoke density, and length of smoke exposure are significant factors in the taste impact of smoke to the grapes. According to Con Simos and Mark Krstic of the Australian Wine Research Institute, "Processing techniques and style of vinification also have a big impact on the sensory impact of smoke compounds." (For more information, read the article, "I can smell smoke—now what?" awri.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/s2131.pdf.)

Chickens

Seems as though the ash from fires contains heavy metals. When poultry scratch and peck this ash, which sometimes contains elevated amounts of lead, their eggs can become contaminated. This is a significant concern, as "backyard poultry"



Smoke from the Slater and Devil's fires rises over the Applegate.

Photo: The Kerulos Center for Nonviolence.

is growing in popularity.

Out of this concern, the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine used "backyard scientists" to collect eggs, which were evaluated via a mass spectrometer. They found that "17.6 percent of the eggs submitted (40 percent of premises with heavy metal results available) surpassed the California Proposition 65 Maximum

Allowable Dose Level of lead consumption associated with reproductive harm (0.5 microgram/day). Concentrations of other metals, such as cadmium, arsenic, copper, nickel, and mercury, were well below toxic levels" (ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/files/294539.pdf).

Cannabis

And, lastly, could our treasured cannabis and hemp be harmed by nasty smoke?

Surprise answer: It depends on the weather and which way the wind is blowing, according to Jon Vaught, CEO of the Colorado biotech company, Front Range Biosciences, in an article in *Cannabis Business Times* (cannabisbusinesstimes.com/article/can-wildfires-impact-

cannabis-quality-test-results).

If a cannabis grow is heavily stressed from smoke, it can kill the plant, lessen its bud production, or just give it a nasty smoke flavor. Yuk.

Pressure-treated wood, for example, contains chemicals like chromium and arsenic, which can settle on cannabis crops from soot and ash.

Fire retardant can also pose threats to cannabis crops and their water sources. Per Lydia Abernethy, director of cultivation science for Steep Hill Labs, in a 2019 article in *Leafly*, "If your product has been exposed to (a fire retardant), you should not consume it or release it into the cannabis market" (leafly.com/news/growing/wildfire-season-cannabis-crop).

Nearby water sources may also have contaminated water, which needs to be tested. Testing in itself is a bag of worms. Labs have different ways of testing for contaminants and toxic levels. If they are not looking for specific contaminants—arsenic, for example—that presence will not be monitored or reported if it is not in the water.

Abernethy also said, "Typically, heavy smoke or particulate exposure degrades the product quality to such a degree that most people won't knowingly purchase it."

"I survived because the fire inside me burned brighter than the fire around me."

—Joshua Graham

Dirty Fingernails and all,
Sioux Rogers

dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm

Applegate emergency plans continue to evolve

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Some people love to make plans, while others shudder at the thought. Right now hubby and I are preparing for a vacation over on the coast. We both love to cook, so I'm having fun planning some of our favorite dishes to make while we're there, while watching the waves crash and the rain fall.

As a teenager, almost everyone plans where they will be going to college and how much money they will make. But there are lots of "plans" in life: family planning, career and retirement plans, surprise party plans. And of course, planning for the unexpected.

Out here in the Applegate Valley, we all learn how and why to plan and prepare for wildfires, sometimes the easy way—by talking to neighbors and our Fire District folks. Other times folks learn the hard way, with a wildfire threatening their home and lives.

My husband and I learned about "defensible space" the year we finally moved to the Applegate. Fortunately, the county had required us to create a defensible space by thinning and

removing fine and dead fuels around our homesite, as well as along our long driveway, all before we could even start building.

This practice of removing fuels can literally save your home in a wildfire. It's a necessary part of living safely in a forested area that allows residents to safely evacuate and firefighters to safely arrive and defend your home. (Most of you have read in many of my past articles over the years that firefighters will choose to go up clear, open roads to save homes, rather than to head down an over-grown, narrow road where they can't even see around a corner.)

In 1999 there were wildfires in the Applegate, and the community had their eyes opened wide! Fortunately, there was also some grant funding available in 2000 for rural communities like the Applegate. To further promote wildfire safety, we Applegaters obtained some of that grant money and wrote a comprehensive "fire plan" for our community, for our state and federal land managers, and also for our forests. It was the first community

wildfire plan in the nation, and we were celebrities, with some members of the team traveling across the country to share the experience!

I'm sure there are hundreds of community fire plans across our nation today.

And now two decades later, the *Applegate Fire Plan* is still valid and utilized annually to help keep our valley green. Did you know that many Applegaters who move out of the valley leave their red-binder *Applegate Fire Plan* behind with a note to the new residents? It's true!

Also of note: As of last month we have a new "plan" residing here in the Applegate! Our Applegate Valley Fire District #9 now has its own "Emergency



The Applegate Valley Fire District patch.

Services Long Range Master Plan"! It's "hot off the press," and I'll be taking it on vacation to peruse while I watch the waves crash.

Some of the items covered in this plan are a community risk assessment, community demographics (yes, we are a graying group out here), and current services, as well as community expectations of the Fire District, strengths and weaknesses of the district, and the potential need for growth with more paid first responders and firefighters.

The plan closes with stakeholder input, conclusions, and both short- and long-term recommendations for future strategies. A planning committee has already been formed and will begin meeting soon to move forward with implementation. I'll be following their progress.

Back to planning yummy meals for our upcoming vacation, including how many towels to bring to dry off our five-year old Akita, Maggie, after every walk on the beach! She's rarin' to get in the car!

Sandy Shaffer

sassyoneor@gmail.com

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Memories of a fall adventure in the 1950s Applegate Valley

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

The following story was told to me by Dianne Cid, an Applegate resident. She recalls:

I remember the wonderful simmering, sweet smell of blackberries as all us kids helped Mom can them into jam, jelly, and whole berries for pies and cobblers. Ahh, I better tell you the story about those big juicy blackberries.

This story begins with me, almost seven years old, when I helped load our car with containers and picking buckets. We started out early from the Klamath Falls area for our journey to the Applegate River. Our family was Mom, Dad, us four kids, and all our aunts, uncles, and cousins. Off we went like a caravan.

It was a long ride with lots of winding roads. I remember coming down off the Green Springs into a big valley, then heading west to find the Applegate River. We went through an old-fashioned town called Jacksonville, then over a small mountain down into another valley.

Soon we came to Hamilton Road, where the best blackberries were growing on very big bushes that seemed from my view to be almost as tall as the trees. The berries were huge, as big as my dad's thumbs, and oh, so sweet. We parked near a farm with a big white house near the road that had beautiful working horses in the corrals. Then we unloaded the ladders and pails and went to picking blackberries. The men put the ladders up against the bushes, then climbed up and spread ladders, carefully, across the tops of the bushes so as not to crush the fruit. We kids picked from the ground, chanting, "Two in the bucket and one in the mouth," as long as we didn't get caught.

We had spread out along a very long section and couldn't even see each other. But we could talk and laugh while we picked. We were a bit of a distance from the adults, so we could share our funny jokes and kid talk without being corrected for our silly words.

My cousin Billy liked to make funny noises, so when we heard this funny grrrring and grunting noise we all thought Billy was playing a joke on us. He did it again, and we yelled at him to quit trying to scare us.

Suddenly, he came out of the bushes in a different place than the sound had come from. Then my other cousin, Skippy, started screaming and ran out from his



Looking east across the Applegate River toward Hamilton road which runs behind the blackberry bush area. Photo: Janelle Dunlevy.

area scattering blackberries through the air like rain. Adults came running. Suddenly there was loud crashing of bushes and lots of growling!

A huge bear went running away from our screaming, Skippy came screeching and screaming towards us. Then we all started laughing, howling and screaming, which caused more crashing noise as the bear ran further away. I laughed so hard that my side hurt so bad I had to sit down. It was the funniest thing I had seen so far in my lifetime.

After everyone calmed down, we assessed the situation. No one was hurt badly. There were some scratches and scrapes from exiting the bushes so fast, but the worst damage was all the smashed blackberries.

We did have a wonderful picnic on the blankets, and we found a place to put our feet in the river; but we also kept watch for any more bears.

•••

Thanks for sharing, Dianne! We still have a beautiful place to go to the river, where the Buckley family used to let folks come and pick blackberries there by the river on their property. Then later, in the 1960s the Buckleys and several other property owners sold parcels to Jackson County for a park and campground, so lots of folks could enjoy it for years to come.

BLM built the bridge so there could be access to the park on both sides of the river. Let's hope we can keep taking care of this beautiful portion of the river and the park for many more generations to enjoy. Contact me at the email below if you have a good park or local story to share about "days gone by"!

Janis Mohr-Tipton
Chair of the Park Enhancement Program
for A Greater Applegate
janis.agapark@gmail.com,
541-846-7501

Propagation Fair set for March in Williams

BY BRAD SMITH

Growing food is still a good idea today. Television will likely fail to inform you about this.

One promising way to produce food is to plant fruit trees and nut trees. Older trees are amazing. Some, like walnut trees, can produce enormous crops of high-energy food nine out of every ten years, without assistance from humans. It takes attention and care in the first years to establish a non-native tree. Like humans, they enjoy being in a good place and being loved, and they benefit from occasional herbal and microbial supplements, like (compost) tea.

Noted apple grower Nick Botner started his Yoncalla orchard in his 50s and enjoyed it for decades, until his passing in his 90s. It is said that at one point his tree collection had 4,500 apple varieties. Now

you can schedule me to gather them around your existing winter pruning schedule.

I store the cuttings (labeled), with some moisture, sealed in plastic bags in the fridge until spring when the annual Plant Propagation Fairs happen. These free events, also known as "scion-exchanges," traditionally focus on the fruit-tree varieties being shared. Rootstock is sold at these events so you can have a custom tree grafted for you while you watch and ask questions. Apple, pear, plum, grape, and fig are commonly shared here, and there are sometimes plant swaps and workshops and always a seed swap, which may be more of the focus in 2021.

Ecologically social phenomena like this could only be participant-driven. I am looking for new local sources for scion



A typical display at a scion exchange. Each cup contains scion wood of a different fruit tree variety available to take for free. Photo: Brad Smith

it is three thousand something, according to the Temperate Orchard Society, which has been trying to copy the collection for preservation. Many apples and pears make a divine eating experience, yet they don't ship or travel well in big trucks, so we never hear of or see them in the big stores.

This winter, I am collecting cuttings (known as "scion") from anyone willing to share a handful of twigs from healthy, identified trees. If you have good fruit trees or nut trees and are willing to share some cuttings with others, I can help by instructing you, or

and collaborators to help shape this into an awesome tradition. Thank you to everyone who ever has, who ever will, and who does participate in any way. You are all part of the Agrarian Sharing Network.

The local Plant Propagation Fair will be held in Williams, Oregon, on March 14, 2021, at the SCA Pavilion, 206 Tetherow, 11 am-4 pm, rain or shine. Contact me by email (below) and learn more at scionexchange.wordpress.com.

Brad Smith
scion@fastmail.com



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Changing times change perspectives on an unfinished house

BY CHRISTINA AMMON

Halfway through painting this image of my house in Ruch, Oregon, I found myself reluctant to finish it. Not out of laziness or lack of inspiration, but simply because I like the way it looked half-done: the unexpected patches of color, the black-and-white swaths of suspense for what will come next.

I once heard a building proverb: Man finishes house; man dies. It felt cryptic at first, but the meaning has now ripened in my mind. Although the goal of home projects is to eventually relax and enjoy the finished product, there is something to the day-to-day process of working on one's house that is enlivening. And there is a certain death in finishing.

This was on my mind this summer as I pursued the classic-pandemic project of renovating my house. I've added French doors, repainted walls, and installed a new tin roof. I've moved ahead on firming up the garden fence, covering the side deck, and planting more bulbs in the yard. I've done all of this despite several misgivings about sinking money into this place—after all, it's a 45-year-old mobile home whose value will always depreciate. Money put into it is money lost, at least from an investment standpoint.

My reluctance has recently been layered by a second concern: What if it all burns down? With nearly 3,000

structures in the nearby towns of Phoenix and Talent in ashes, it's hard not to wonder if it will eventually happen to my house, too, nestled as it is in flammable oak savannah habitat.

And lastly, I often look around and wonder: Are the real estate values in the valley going to go up, or down? Will the hemp boom help, or harm? What about the August smoke? The flourishing wineries? The California migration? The pandemic? I continually calculate my financial prospects. Will it all lead to my prosperity—or my ruin?

And yet lately I'm arriving at a new perspective on my house. I used to think I loved it because I was a paraglider pilot and the nearby mountain—Woodrat—is a world-class flying destination. Then, I thought I loved it because of all the friends who came to visit. Finally, during lockdown, when there were no gliders in the sky or friends dropping by, I realized I loved this place for itself—for the roses that grow wild over its rails, for the old granddaddy oak, for the crooked porch and breezy rooms.

Even in the loneliness of the pandemic, I felt connected to the friends who have left their mark: Dave, who laid the kitchen tiles; Jane, who made the counter-tops; Wendy, who hammered the porch together; Richard, who set the light posts; and Tim, who spent a whole



A work in progress. Illustration: Christina Ammon.

afternoon with me adjusting the screen door to achieve the perfect summertime slam. And then there are the artworks of many friends that cover the walls.

Maybe when you finally fall in love with a place, you begin to try to guess what is going to happen next or calculate whether your investment is going to pay off or not. At some point, the love is about something that is not connected to real estate gyrations or even the materiality of the place. It's knit into the fabric of memories and friendships—things that cannot burn down in a fire or plummet when the real estate market falls.

As fires burn all around me, I'm reminded that it is all precarious. While I invest in making the house better,

I also tell myself to love this place more lightly. I've meditated at length on the possibilities—seen in my mind the timber frame alight and purlins collapsing. I've seen the wild roses wither to ash and rehearsed what I'd take with me (the dog, the guitar, and the Impressionist painting) and mourned what I'd leave (everything else). It's a possibility worth preparing for. But until that happens, I've settled on this: to quit seeing my land as a piece of real estate and commit to seeing it as home. I plan to stay and to keep on "finishing" it, even though someday it all may just burn to the ground.

Christina Ammon

info@deeptravelworkshops.com

Williams Creek Restoration Project completed

BY KEVIN SWEENEY

The Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) has completed instream construction work to restore Williams Creek, a key tributary to the Applegate River.

The project removed a push-up dam on the creek, replaced it with a new irrigation water intake system, and rebuilt the rough channel of a more natural stream.

This new system benefits irrigators, who no longer must rebuild a push-up dam every spring—they'll simply turn a wheel to open the headgate next spring, when irrigation water is needed—and replaces an open ditch channel with a pipeline, reducing water loss to evaporation and seepage.

The new system also benefits fish and wildlife. The restored flow allows easier access to upstream spawning and rearing habitat for Coho, Chinook, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey.

"This is another project with multiple winners," said Janelle Dunlevy, APWC's

Executive Director. "This happens more often than you think. A project intended to help irrigators can often also help salmon. And something that helps fish populations can often be made to help irrigators. We find out what's possible when we start talking.

"We used local labor and, where feasible, local materials," said Dunlevy. "We like spending as much of our grant money as possible here in the Applegate. That was particularly important to us this year with the economic hardship."

Williams Creek now follows a more natural path. The site still has a wide

area of exposed gravel, a remnant of the annual pursuit of material for the push-up dam. APWC is projecting that this area will revegetate naturally over the course of the next several years, but the group will also plant seedlings along the creek this winter and spring.

were open. Approvals took much longer than usual. They found remote ways to help vendors and funders visualize the project when in-person meetings were infeasible. They lost essential equipment to theft.

"Given how strange and difficult 2020 has been, we feel good bringing a bit of restoration to the Applegate," said Dunlevy. "The country may be divided politically, but right here we're finding ways to meet, talk, and get things done."

There are hundreds of small dams and other diversions on creeks and streams throughout the Rogue River basin. Last winter,

APWC helped facilitate an online survey of residents along local creeks and found that these impacts were not well understood.

"Success stories like the one here on Williams Creek help us tell this story in a positive way. These local creeks really are key to more robust fish runs," said Julie Cymore, APWC Fish Passage Program Manager. "Those runs are a big part of our culture, and they can also play a role in boosting our economy. That's why getting these creeks in better shape means so much."

Kevin Sweeney

Freelance writer for APWC

contact@apwc.info

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



This view shows the push-up dam in place. Gravel would be piled into the creek each spring, raising the water level to reach the height of the irrigation ditch. Photo: APWC.



This shows the project site during construction. The dam has been removed and the irrigation headgate has been installed. The bare area on the right shows where gravel has been dug each year to build the pushup dam. This area will revegetate slowly over time. Photo: APWC.

Biologists typically remove fish from the stretch of river where they are working by shocking the water, stunning the fish so they can easily be netted and moved upstream. With lamprey, pulses of lower levels of electricity essentially tickle the ammocetes out of the mud. In a stretch of creek that was roughly 100 feet, the team was surprised to find more than 500 Pacific lamprey ammocetes. (At the ammocete stage of its life cycle, lamprey live for several years as filter feeding larva in the mud of freshwater streams.)

APWC showed persistence in finishing the restoration on time. They completed the permitting process during shelter-in-place, collecting forms and signatures when few offices

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The Applegate String Band strumming it up at the Almeda Fund Raiser. Photo: Cathy Rodgers.

Applegaters raise \$7,000 for Almeda Fire victims

BY CATHY RODGERS

On September 8, we felt the wind howl and saw the power go out as the devastating Almeda Fire roared north from Ashland through Talent, Phoenix, and to south Medford. In a matter of hours, areas along Interstate 5, Route 99, and the Bear Creek corridor were ablaze as the fire wreaked havoc and destruction to homes and businesses. Lives and livelihoods have been transformed forever.

In such times it helps to turn our attention to ways to help. In following days, as the board of the *Applegater* considered the challenges facing so many individuals and families in our neighboring towns, board member Jeanette LeTourneux suggested holding a fundraiser to raise money to help with relief efforts for people affected by the fire.

Never was a fundraiser more quickly organized. Seth Kaplan, Ryan Pernell, and Rhianna Simes of A Greater Applegate immediately joined the effort, whirling into action along with *Gater* editor Bert Etling and board Chair Diana Coogle.

Joanna Davis at the Applegate River Lodge & Restaurant joined the excitement by generously donating the venue and, with the assistance of her son, Duke Davis, procuring the musicians (Sonny K, Nick Garrett Powell, and Duke and the Applegate River String Band), who all donated their time.

A raffle quickly came together, with items generously and immediately donated by Wooldridge Creek Vineyard, Red Lily Vineyard, the River Lodge, and Brim Aviation for a 30-minute helicopter ride for three over the area devastated by the fires.

Proceeds would go to Rogue Valley Relief Fund, which provides essentials like food, gas, clothing, and emergency shelter to Almeda fire victims, and to UNETE, an organization supporting our farm workers and immigrant families, many of whom lost their homes and transportation in the fire.

The event took place on October 8, one month after the Almeda fire. Community members who bought tickets to the two-hour dinner and bought raffle tickets and made donations collectively raised over \$7,000 for the fire relief effort, far exceeding its \$5,000 goal.

To increase participation beyond the fifty-person limit allowed by COVID-19 for dinner on the patio at the lodge, the event was live-streamed on Rogue Valley TV and A Greater Applegate's YouTube channel. This allowed local attendees and remote participants to listen to the up-beat live music and to make donations and buy raffle tickets. Virtual participation included donors from Oregon, California, and Nevada.

As AGA board chair, I served as master of ceremonies. Words of support were offered by special guests Pam Marsh, District 5 Representative, and Jeff Golden, District 3 State Senator.

As always, Joanna was a most gracious and generous host, opening the lodge and patio for a wonderful evening on the river under the stars with great food, excellent service, and views that remind us why we all love this area.

The outpouring of support that evening was representative of what this community does, even when many of us are struggling. We come together to help. We support each other, even though we may not know each other. We are community and we do what we can. It is what we do. It is what defines the character and values of the Applegate Valley. Neighbors helping neighbors—not only our immediate neighbors, but people in our neighboring towns—that's what we are all about. It defines us and sustains us in a world where community, civility, and compassion matter more now than ever.

Thank you, Applegaters, for being who you are.

Cathy Rodgers
cathyrodgers55@gmail.com

APPLEGATE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

A European vacation in our own backyard?

BY GEOFF WEAVER AND NORM YOUNG

Europeans enjoy a strong hiking and mountain biking culture based on local trails with easy access that run substantial distances. It's possible that we will eventually end up with similar hiking opportunities right here in the Applegate—with your help. The nine-year-old, fifty-mile trail that David Calahan envisioned and that he started planning around his kitchen table with a group of like-minded people is off to a great start with the East Applegate Ridge Trail (ART). The East ART is enthusiastically enjoyed by thousands today.

Unfortunately, David passed away this year, but he was instrumental during the last few months of his life in recruiting several new board members to the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) who are passionate about seeing David's dream come to fruition.

The current ATA board is energized (although we need more of us!) and working to maintain and improve the amenities for the East ART. We are working with the BLM to move the second major section of the ART forward. The 13-mile Center ART will start from Highway 238, at the East ART trailhead



One of many striking views from the East Applegate Ridge Trail. The full ART is envisioned to run from south of Jacksonville all the way to Grants Pass. Photo: Norm Young.

and traverse the slopes north and west of Ruch from Poorman and Forest creeks to Humbug Creek. Like the East ART, it will provide spectacular views of the Applegate Valley.

We need board members and volunteers for public relations and outreach, social media, website development, fund raising, and trail work. We invite enthusiasts of all stripes! Please come join us as we create a legacy that we expect will be enjoyed for generations to come. Visit the volunteer section of our website, applegatetrails.org, or email our energetic chairman, Mark Hamlin, at chairman@applegatetrails.org.

Geoff Weaver and Norm Young
norm@applegatetrails.org



A working draft of the Applegate Ridge Trail route. Map: Applegate Trails Association.



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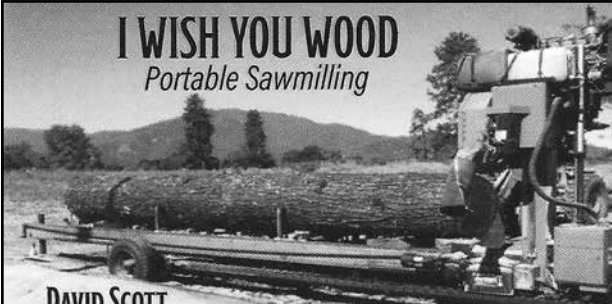
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Make the acquaintance of the West Coast Lady

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The West Coast Lady (*Vanessa Annabella*) is a butterfly of the Nymphalidae family of butterflies.

The wingspan of this butterfly can be up to two inches. The dorsal view is orange with black markings with an orange bar near the tip of the forewing. The forewing tips are "truncate," meaning the wingtip is angled with a clipped look rather than rounded. The hindwings have four blue spots outlined in black near the margin area, which is orange and open with very few black markings.



A dorsal view of a West Coast Lady.

The ventral view shows the reverse side of the blue spots in the marginal area of the wing. Soft-colored cream, light brown, dark brown and leaf-like

patterns are displayed in the discal area, which is the middle of the wing.

This species of *Vanessa* uses mallows as the main hostplant, but they will also use hollyhocks, cheeseweed, and

nettles. The eggs are laid singly on hostplant leaves, and the caterpillar makes a silken nest. Individuals of this species overwinter as adult butterflies.

Nectar for the West Coast Lady comes from flowers, such as Douglas aster, goldenrod, marigold, toothwort, spreading dogbane and many others.



A ventral view of a West Coast Lady. Photos: Linda Kappen.

be up to three generations produced during this period.

This beautiful butterfly lives in habitats in mountains, foothills, gardens, and meadows, and it can become a resident in coastal areas. It ranges in all of the Pacific Northwest, east to Colorado and New Mexico and south to California and Mexico.

Locally I have enjoyed the presence of this butterfly from the Ashland foothills to Oregon Caves National Monument and the coastal areas and in all areas in between and beyond. Try spending some time observing this beauty if you can keep up with it or find it busy sipping nectar from flowers.

Linda Kappen is a southern Oregon naturalist specializing in lepidoptera. Humbukkapps@hotmail.com

The West Coast Lady can be seen in flight in from Washington to California, from early March through mid-November. There can

■ BLACKSMITH

Continued from page 1

and her children during the 'fever of 1867 to 1869.'" It may have been while he was waiting to get married that Ben lived and worked in Uniontown.



Ben Johnson, who established a blacksmith shop near Ruch in 1868 and 1869. Photo: Courtesy of the Lane County History Museum.

The 1900 Albany census recorded that Ben Johnson could read and write and owned his own home. He died in Albany in 1901 at age 66. Amanda died in 1927 at age 94. They are buried next to each other in the Masonic Cemetery in Albany.

A recent story by Albany historian Hasso Hering states, "His obituary in 1901 said Johnson crossed the plains to southern Oregon with an ox team in 1853, moved to Albany in 1868, married Amanda in 1870 at the home of an Albany family, [and] followed his trade as a blacksmith as long as he was able to work."

After Ben Johnson left the Applegate Valley the namesake of the mountain became a mystery and for a long time no one knew his last name. The US Geological Survey's Board on Geographic Names changed the official name of the mountain to Negro Ben Mountain in 1964.

Much of what has been pieced together about Ben's short time in the Applegate comes from the historical sleuthing of local historian (and my mother-in-law) Jan Wright, who in 2003 figured out Ben's last name.

"I was researching minority people in Jackson County. I found him on the tax rolls for Uniontown in Jackson County at the University Special collections in Eugene. Because he disappeared from those records, I continued the search in Oregon and noted that ... a blacksmith named Ben Johnson showed up in Albany and that he may have been the one who married a woman named Amanda."

On October 24, the Oregon Geographic Names Board unanimously voted in favor of changing the mountain's name to Ben Johnson Mountain, and on November 12, the US Board on Geographic Names officially changed the name.

Zachary Stocks, Executive Director of Oregon Black Pioneers, whose mission is to research, recognize, and commemorate the culture and heritage of African Americans in Oregon, said, "We believe the memory of Ben Johnson is best preserved by having his full name featured in the official place name, without any sort of racial qualification ... Oregonians should acknowledge the dignity of his life and the value of his contributions to the Uniontown community by referring to the mountain



A view of what is now officially known as Ben Johnson Mountain, as seen from Tallowbox Mountain above Ruch.

Photo: Suzie Savoie.

by his full, actual name, not by a pejorative term ascribed to him by others or with outdated racial terminology."

Many people in the Applegate have wanted to see this name change for a long time. Now that we know the story of Ben Johnson, this name change is long overdue. And now that photos of Ben Johnson have emerged from historical archives, we can finally see the face behind Ben Johnson Mountain.

At 4,500 feet, Ben Johnson Mountain towers above Cantrall Buckley Park, in Ruch. It is a highly visible peak that helps highlight the diverse cultural heritage of the Applegate Valley and Oregon as a whole.

Suzie Savoie
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Applegate residents protest timber sale



Applegate residents join in a protest at the Bureau of Land Management office in Medford on October 29. Photo: Marty Paule.



While the Bear Grub Timber Sale auction went through, logging cannot begin until BLM processes administrative protests. Photo: Marty Paule.

BY MARTY PAULE

On October 29, Applegate residents and other concerned citizens gathered at the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office in Medford to protest the federal auction of the Bear Grub Timber Sale. This project proposes logging whole groves of large, old trees on 700 acres of public land in the Wellington Wildlands, along the East Applegate Ridge Trail, in the mountains between Ruch and Talent, and

directly adjacent to many of our homes and properties in the Applegate Valley.

Unfortunately, despite widespread backlash and community opposition, Timber Products Company of Springfield, Oregon, purchased the timber sale at the auction for \$1,085,000; however, they cannot start logging until the BLM processes the numerous administrative protests filed by local residents, conservation

organizations, and others impacted by the timber sale. It's not over yet!

The BLM has blithely dismissed the many science-based and technical concerns raised during Bear Grub's original comment period. In particular, issues over climate-change impacts such as carbon sequestration have been brushed aside by the agency, which offers bland assurances of forest restoration in a hazy future time frame.

These assurances are belied by past BLM projects in which post-logging treatments have been notable failures.

View a video from the rally by searching YouTube for Bear Grub Timber Sale and visit applegateneighborhood.network online for the latest updates as well as photos from the auction protest.

Marty Paule
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A way to celebrate safely in a time of COVID-19

BY LISA BALDWIN

The winter holiday season has arrived! Though the virus outside may be frightful, your celebrations can still be delightful with some thoughtful pre-planning and willingness to bend (not break) traditions. So much of what we love about the holidays is centered around spending time with family and friends. The challenge this year is finding ways to celebrate together safely, without exposing yourself or your loved ones to the coronavirus.

Start by reconsidering what it means to be "together." Traveling long distances is not advised. Oregon Health Authority recommends staying home or staying within a two-hour drive from home so you can reach your destination without having to stop along the way. But family and friends, whether near or far, can still celebrate together by making good use of technology.

Think about what traditions are most important. In my family, we tell stories, mostly about loved ones who have passed, so the youngest among us know who we are and can carry the family history forward. Every year we tell favorite family stories, and with each telling they become more treasured. This year, the youngest ones in our family live in Baker County, clear across the state, but the stories can

easily be shared using FaceTime or Zoom. Or I might write up the best family story, one that has been told dozens of times, and send it via "snail mail" along with a photo.

Email and text messages are fast and easy. Why not send a message to a young family member or far-away friend every day of Advent or Hanukkah? A daily phone call would also be fun and appreciated. With the huge catalog of music on YouTube, you can select a song to share every day, or make and share a holiday play list.

FaceTime, Zoom and other digital sharing platforms can help us close the distance between us and our loved ones and allow us to enjoy each other's company safely. Even though the CDC has group singing on the list of high-risk activities, how about trying a family sing-along on Zoom? You can have all of the music and laughter and joy but none of the risk. The same could be true of a FaceTime-shared family dinner from several homes, or Christmas morning rituals. I think there might be a solemn beauty in live-streaming the nightly lighting of the menorah candles.

Maybe a cookie exchange party is your favorite holiday fun. Organize a Zoom call for your cookie baking friends and



A loaf of "Vassilopita" (Saint Basil's bread) has, in the Greek tradition, a foil-wrapped coin baked inside.

have the "meeting" from your kitchens while making the cookies. Afterwards, box up the treats and let the postal service deliver the goodies.

Don't forget to use the video camera on your cell phone. I plan to make a little movie of my walk in the winter woods on the Solstice.

For New Year's Eve, we celebrate with a special loaf of bread, Vassilopita, Saint Basil's bread. In the Greek tradition, a foil-wrapped coin is baked inside, and whoever finds the coin in their piece of bread has good luck for the new year. When I am the lucky one, I like to hold the coin while I make a wish for each person at the table. Another fun New Year's tradition is to make a "wish tree." Solicit wishes for 2021 from far-flung family and friends and hang them like ornaments on your wish tree. You can



Whoever gets the lucky dime (here, Davis Rhea, 2) gets good luck!

make a virtual wish tree to share online or a "real" wish tree with a good-sized branch and use colorful fall leaves for the wish ornaments.

You might want to make a list of the traditions and treats you missed the most this year, or those for which you couldn't find a substitute. Use that list to plan a face-to-face celebration next summer and do it up big!

There's no reason that the winter holidays should be hum-drum this year. Use your imagination and you might just start some new favorite traditions you will look forward to every year, long after coronavirus restrictions are lifted. Happy holidays, everyone!

Lisa Baldwin
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Freezing Temps

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

It seems like it was just 80° outside - but the weather man predicts freezing temps!

We want you to be prepared for this freezing cold weather. It is time to make sure your pipes are insulated, and that your pump house is clean and warm. If the temp is below freezing for a couple of days we suggest leaving a faucet running at a trickle. There is nothing more frustrating than waking up to no water to make coffee or brush your teeth.

Our qualified staff is ready to help you prepare for winter. If you want some help just give us a call. Most of the time we can be at your doorstep the same day you call. We can check the overall health of your pump system at the same time we get it all ready for the winter. Preventative maintenance prevents disaster.

Don't forget, even though it is light outside the temperatures can be below freezing, so keep that faucet running!!

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Protecting a natural gem: Keeping Pipe Fork intact

BY CHERYL BRUNER

Last summer, after the Josephine County Commissioners received more than 500 letters objecting to their plans to clear-cut in Williams's Pipe Fork watershed, they agreed to delay the timber sale till next spring to give the Williams Community Forest Project (WCFP) time to find an alternative solution.

The best solution we've found is for BLM to buy the land. The agency wants to incorporate it into the existing Research Natural Area adjoining the property, purchasing it with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF, funded by Congress). WCFP is looking for a conservancy organization to buy the property in the meantime and hold it till BLM acquires the money.

Pipe Fork is a gem worthy of this protection:

(1) It feeds East Fork Williams Creek, contributing to domestic and agricultural water for residents and businesses.

(2) Logging its steep, highly erodible soils (see BLM's "Williams Watershed Analysis"), would increase silt and temperatures in the creek and have a detrimental effect on the fish in the tributaries to Williams Creek.

(3) Clear-cuts, by exposing the forest floor, limit the land's ability



Pipe Fork is the name of a creek that flows into East Fork Williams Creek south of Williams.
Photo: Kevin Peer.

to hold water, contributing to a drying climate and a drier region.

(4) Pipe Fork is a beautiful creek. It tumbles down the steep mountainside with a series of gorgeous waterfalls and is home to the easternmost range of the Port Orford cedar and to giant Douglas firs and incense cedars.

Pipe Fork has been nominated as a Wild and Scenic River. That designation would help LWCF look favorably on a purchase by BLM.

If you would like to contribute to the effort to save Pipe Fork, you can:

(1) write Senator Wyden in support of the Wild and Scenic nomination,

(2) write a letter to the county commissioners at Josephine County Commissioners, 500 NW 6th Street, Dept 6, Grants Pass, OR 97526,

(3) put up a yard sign, or
(4) take a hike in the area.

Cheryl Bruner

Williams Community Forest Project
info@williamscommunityforestproject.org

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Free anti-overdose drugs distributed

Free distribution of life-saving overdose medication and HIV tests is set for 10:30 am to 1:30 pm Sunday, December 6, at the Sugarloaf Center, 206 Tetherow Road, in Williams.

Volunteers from the nonprofit group Rogue Harm Reduction will offer free doses of naloxone to take home, along with instructions for use. They'll also have fentanyl test strips, take-home HIV tests, and overdose response training.

Safety protocols include masks, gloves, and social distancing.

Rogue Harm Reduction, a volunteer-run, nonprofit health collective, promotes community wellness and harm reduction strategies in response to substance use disorders and other community health concerns. We host these events the first Sunday of each month.

For more information, email rogueharmreduction@gmail.com.

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THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE

More focus on homes and communities is needed for fire safety

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

On September 8, climate- and wind-driven fires burned throughout Oregon. Extremely strong, dry, easterly winds created infernos out of previously slow-moving wildfires and new human ignitions. Vast swaths of Oregon's Cascade Mountains burned, along with small mountain towns.

In our region, numerous fires burned homes and threatened communities, including the Almeda Fire, which started in an Ashland neighborhood and quickly burned up the Bear Creek Greenway, before burning house-to-house in urban fuels throughout Talent and Phoenix. Nearly 2,400 homes, including my mom's home in Talent, were tragically lost in the Almeda Fire. Whole business districts burned to the ground.

Much of the Almeda Fire burned through extremely flammable urban environments that were officially deemed "unburnable" in both the Rogue Valley Integrated Community Fire Protection Plan, promoted by Jackson and Josephine counties, and the Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy, promoted by federal land managers. Continually underestimating fire risks within communities themselves, public officials have focused their efforts on logging and managing wildland fuels, thereby diverting funding and resources away from our communities, where they are needed most.

For more than twenty years, regional politicians, land managers, and county commissioners, working at the behest of the timber industry, have touted logging and manual fuel reduction, often on remote public lands far from homes and communities, as their sole solution to reduce wildfire risk. Many millions of public dollars have been spent and tens of thousands of acres have been "treated," yet



Luke Ruediger and his family sort through the ashes of his mother's home in Talent. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

home losses and impacts to communities continue to rise.

Not enough has been done to address public safety or home ignition problems during wildfire events. Local communities remain highly vulnerable, as logging on federal and private industrial land is increasing fire risks by creating flammable tree plantations, removing forest canopy and large trees, and developing young, dense woody vegetation in the understory.

I greatly appreciate the efforts of every first responder working on that tragic, windy, September day. I also recognize that the Almeda Fire demonstrates both the flaws in our current approach to wildfire and a severe lack of community preparedness. First responders were understaffed, and county officials failed to evacuate threatened communities, to identify evacuation routes for fleeing citizens, to secure adequate water for

targeted for fuel treatment on the same scale as public land. Additionally, little to no funding is provided to assist homeowners in making their homes less flammable and more resilient to wildfire impacts.

A new approach that works from homes and communities outward would be far more effective at reducing home losses, protecting local residents, and stimulating the local economy. Concentrating fire prevention work near homes and communities would produce jobs within communities while making them more fire resilient. It would support local businesses involved in construction, landscaping, irrigation, defensible space, fuel reduction, ingress/egress maintenance, and emergency planning, and would provide more staff to local fire departments, clearly a need for protecting homes and communities in future wind-driven fires. According to research by Natural Resource Economics, this approach will produce over twice as many jobs and significantly higher wages than the current widespread fuel-reduction approach in wildlands.

The Almeda Fire, the most destructive fire in southern Oregon history, had absolutely nothing to do with public land management. In the Applegate and throughout the West, if we are really interested in adapting to the changing climate, a concerted effort to build, maintain, and retrofit homes and their immediate landscapes to be more fire resilient should be the number-one priority.

Luke Ruediger
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

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Christmas on a covered bridge, 2020 edition

BY LAURA AHEARN

McKee Bridge will once again be dressed up this holiday season with fir boughs, twinkling lights, fancy wreaths, and glittering decorations. McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) is working with A Greater Applegate (AGA), Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS), and other groups to organize a community-wide Holiday Festival of Lights in the Applegate.

MBHS plans to have decorations up no later than December 17 and will set up generators to illuminate everything on December 19, 20, and 24, and maybe at other times (weather permitting). If we have enough supplies and volunteer help, we'll also deck out Star Ranger Station and the kitchen shelter at the picnic grounds. With these treats added to the perennial dazzling display at Cameron Bridge (northern junction of Eastside and Upper Applegate Roads), taking an evening drive through the Upper Applegate will be a sure way to brighten up the end of 2020.

Do you have spare lights or artificial trees to donate? Would you like to help put up or take down the decorations? Please let us know at mckeebridge1917@gmail.com.

While MBHS can't host "close-up" activities like last year's—we won't be decorating cookies, caroling, or enjoying the third-grade orchestra from ROCS—we will open the museum trailer with many new items on display and sell a new line of MBHS T-shirts sporting classy logos by local artist Whit Whitney and other nice merchandise to complete your holiday shopping. Unisex and women's style tees are just \$12 (\$15 for XXL), youth sizes \$10. Plus we'll have special illuminated



A gentle lamb watches over Wilda, daughter of Deb and Leila McKee, in the Logtown Cemetery, where volunteers have cleaned markers. Photo: Alan Caddell.

Holiday Gnomes for sale, \$20 each while supplies last. You can reserve yours by purchasing through Paypal or contacting the email address above.

These are just a few of the initiatives discussed at the MBHS annual meeting on Saturday, October 17, at the Applegate Valley Fire District Training Center. Members also reviewed a series of business matters—the condition of MBHS's finances (solid), challenges to planning events in 2021 (insurance and permits in addition to pandemic restrictions), the timeline for the mandatory engineering inspection of McKee Bridge—and unanimously approved this slate of directors and officers:

Director, Office in 2021	Term
Laura Ahearn, President	Sept 2019-2022
Paul Tipton, Vice President	Sept 2020-2023
Barbara Mumblo, Secretary	Sept 2018-2021
Dale Petrasek, Treasurer	Sept 2020-2023
Bob Van Heuit	Sept 2018-2021
Pamela Sewell	Sept 2020-2023
Steve Ahearn	Sept 2020-2023

The meeting then turned to ongoing and planned projects to preserve and promote the fascinating stories of Applegate Valley's past. A slide show offered a sneak preview of the Logtown-McKee Bridge History Trail, which will take its initial form as a nine-by-sixteen-inch tri-fold brochure if pending grant applications are successful. Work on the

ground to prepare the trail is already under way, thanks to a \$500 grant from AGA. Volunteers have inspected and cleaned dozens of monuments and plaques marking the graves of early pioneers at Logtown Cemetery. Exquisite carvings often emerge as the layers of moss, lichen, and grime are gently removed. (If you would like to help with this ongoing work, send a note to mckeebridge1917@gmail.com.)

MBHS is extremely grateful for the generous financial support received from the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon, which is folding due to dwindling membership and lack of community involvement. We trust this will not be the case here in the Applegate, where we have the most beautiful, second-oldest, authentic covered bridge left in Oregon!

Please consider becoming a MBHS member for 2021. Renew a past membership, or give a membership as a holiday gift (a certificate of membership will be mailed per your instructions). It's still only \$20 per household for the entire calendar year.

Laura Ahearn
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com



Applegate Fire District provided a safe location for the socially distanced MBHS annual meeting. Photo: Pam Sewell.



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- China Gulch Road
- McKee Bridge



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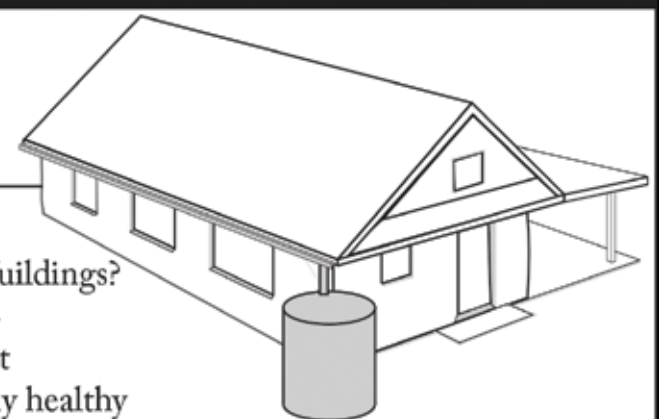
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Creativity during the pandemic

Prompted by a 2014 workshop and suggestion by former Poet Laureate of Oregon Lawson Inada, a group of local poets came together to share and support each other's work. So began the Applegate Poets. Meeting once a month, poets brought new work, revised old work, and encouraged each other's creativity.

In April, due to the pandemic, we were forced to meet virtually. Thus began a six-month practice of weekly prompts offered by different members of the group. Sometimes the prompts were theme-oriented; at other times, we worked on a certain poetic form, all shared online. Each of the Applegate Poets has chosen one poem birthed during this period to submit for this issue of the *Applegater*.

—H. Ní Aódagáin

1645

You were built
to house families,
blacksmiths,
and coaches.

Your front house
faced the street;
the arched coach's gate
led to the courtyard and back house.

You were three stories high
with an attic under the steep roof
you withstood many wars
and the bombs that fell on the city.

You've seen much history.
You housed my family
on the second floor;
my brother was born here.

You were part of our family
my grandmother's property
when it was unusual
that women should own it.

You were home
to children's play
your three-story-deep basement
gave shelter during the wars.

You protected tenants and neighbors
from encroaching soldiers.
Enemies looted the floors above
but did not bother to search below.

Now you are a hotel.
A cousin renovated, modernized,
and converted the first floor
into a restaurant for guests.

The only thing familiar
is the historical façade
that was not allowed
to be changed.

Unchanged are my memories of you,
of children playing carefree,
of summer heat and zinc tubs,
and splashing each other with water.

Only happy memories as a child
to whom post-war politics did not matter.
Grandparents lived in the back house
always present for comfort and love.

—Beate Foit

Beate is currently working on a memoir: a reflection on her life that encompasses immigration to America, loss, infertility, work, and family stories from past generations.

In this poem, she remembers her grandmother's house, where she lived for the first seven years of her life. Her email address is beatefoit@gmail.com.

EliSheva

My dear beloved,
Your times have become a tumult
Your house near collapse
Your habitation without air or water.
You are broken in the fissure of Elisheva.

I know you.
I am at the meeting place.
You know me.
You have been told of these times.
You have heard the whispers and felt the wings of that which comes.

I am the Oak
On my branches perch the hawks
I am the Terebinth
See my red berries
See my coral colored burls
I tower above the People.

I am beauty and I am bitterness.
Break me open
Taste.
I am the fissure.
Ravaged.

Do This:
Cry out for those who cannot speak
Weep for those who have no eyes
Dig in earth for those who hunger
Plant the seed.

Feel This:
Agony of the fawn who has eaten poison,
Silence of the bee from the abandoned hive,
Ache of the child left on the rocks,
Fear in the belly,
Dark in the mind.
Hold out your being like open hands.
Release it all.

—Christin Lore Weber

Sheva in Hebrew means "a fissure or wound—a house broken." El means Divine Oneness, so EliSheva implies the coming together or paradox of opposites—a divine fissure or wound.

*Christin is a multi-genre writer whose books are available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/author/christinweber) ([amazon.com/author/christinweber](https://www.amazon.com/author/christinweber)). Newly published are *A Dance in the Sky: A Memoir* and *No This But This, a novel*. You can contact Christin at storyweaver1@gmail.com.*

Useless Knowledge

The news is full of numbers:
Body counts, virus tallies
Number of acres burned
Number of houses destroyed.

I can't hold these numbers
In my head. Instead I see
The forest full of trees, the endless
Sky, the ocean's horizon.

I want to erase useless numbers
And count only what I see:
A forest so green it beckons me
A sky so wide it fills my heart

An ocean that takes me
To a new world in time
When love wins the battle
Over lies and deceit.

—Joan Peterson

*Joan has created a chapbook of poems, *Brilliant by the Door*, and a published book of poetry, *Looking for a Place to Write*. To contact Joan, write to joanpete5317@gmail.com*

Walking the Talk

Sometimes I want to do less and be more.
I worry too much, too often
I fail to practice what I know
the answer to all dilemma

Breath in, breath out

A pandemic has struck, global in scope
the worst feared has become true, nothing
will be as before,
but what hasn't changed:
I am still here with these thoughts
that only I can silence

Breath in, breath out

**** **** ****

If there were no tomorrow,
I'd start the day with a crystal flute
of ice-cold champagne, sip it slowly
and watch the first light of morning
wake from its dreaming

I'd turn on Verdi to full volume
and aim it at the mountain tops
so the valley would be filled with song

I'd sit in the garden long enough
to witness the sprouting of seeds I've sowed
the unfurling of a spinach leaf,
the reaching of a pea tendril toward its trellis

**** **** ****

My wild, wry, wicked friend
Liza died last week
I sat at her feet, anticipating

her last breath

Time ticked by on the bedside clock
but in that room,
as she labored to be released,
there was only

breath in, breath out

until there wasn't.

**** **** ****

Can I permit myself
to just sit
for as long as necessary
till I become only

breath in, breath out

and the illusion of a finite life merges
with the reality of the infinite?

—H. Ní Aódagáin

H. Ní Aódagáin is seeking publication of her novel, "If Not for the Silence," which explores the silences we live with, silences that frame our choices and our destiny. To see more of her writings, go to hnauthor.com.

In Praise of the Emerald Pool on the Middle Fork of the Applegate River

For I will sing in praise of the
Emerald Pool.

For it is aptly named, a sparkling jewel.
For its waters are deep and green.

For it is round and large.

For it is embraced by steep banks
of greenery, studded with stalwart
dark trunks.

For its shoulders are rock.

For it is fed by white-tumbling rapids.
For the sun dapples its surface with
brilliance, and the shade of the
woods is dark and cool.

For it is the embodiment of all
forest song.

For legato is its rhythm, pianissimo
its melody.

For serenity is its name.

For it is snowmelt cold.

For it demands strength to enter and
endurance to swim.

For it cleanses the body and
bathes the soul.

For it washes away the sweat of the trail.

For it washes away the tears of grief.

For it washes away the ashes of the dead.

For it takes them to the sea.

For it is beautiful of color.

For it is life-giving water.

For it is eternal.

—Diana Coogle

From Diana Coogle's new book of poems, "From Friend to Wife to Widow: Six Brief Years." Contact: dianacoogle@gmail.com. She blogs at: dianacoogle.blogspot.com.

Below is a Corona Haiku, or a Crown of Haiku, a poetic form I invented in August. The structure I impose with this form is a sequence of five stanzas in haiku form plus an ending couplet, totaling seventeen lines overall (to echo the seventeen syllables in a haiku).

A recurring image links the sections of the poem, a nod to the origins of haiku in the *renga*, another Japanese form.

The two lines in the couplet must rhyme and must be seven syllables each in length to create coherence with the haiku's middle line. Also, the fourteen-syllable count in the couplet echoes the fourteen-line structure of sonnets, the most recognized form to employ an ending couplet.

Late Summer Field Guide

Now August arrives—
Canada geese flock in fields
before the Fall flight

From the field's far edge
the sound of water running—
wind in cottonwoods

A richness of blue
above these vast fields of green—
Red-tail has domain

Second cut of hay—
timothy, rye and clover—
horses' winter feed

Shadow of an owl
cast in waxing half-moon light
stirs a young field mouse

Summer to Autumn must yield—
flock, wind, hawk, hay, mouse and field

—Lisa E Baldwin

Lisa is currently planning new workshops for her "Something About Poetry" series, which is set to resume in 2021 through the Josephine Community Library. For more information, send her a note: LEB.97527@gmail.com.

YOUR HAIKU HERE

The *Applegater*
welcomes your haikus to fill
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Send yours to bert@applegater.org.



We want your letters! Email to gater@applegater.org.



NEWS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Farewells and welcomes
at *Applegater* newsmagazine

BY DIANA COOGLE

It is with regret that the editorial committee of the *Applegater* bids farewell to Tom Carstens, who has resigned in an effort to reduce his commitments due to health concerns.

If we had not been hit with coronavirus restrictions and the Editorial Committee could have met in person, we would have given Tom Carstens an appreciative round of applause as he bowed out.

Was there ever a more passionate supporter of the *Applegater* than Tom Carstens? As a member of the Editorial Committee for six years, Tom was never reticent to voice his opinion about how to make the *Applegater* the best possible newsmagazine for its readers, whether that meant sparring with Chris Bratt over his column, "Behind the Green Door," or asking for clarification on a sentence that didn't make sense to him. We on the Applegater Board wish him well, shower him with thanks, and assure him that we would like to see his critiques and contributions as he can, when he can. I'm hoping he'll find time for a roving reporter's article in the *Applegater* every once in a while.

It is now with pleasure that I welcome two new board members to the long and important list of *Applegater* volunteers.

Jessica Bullard, who lives in Williams, read my plea for board members in the last

issue of the *Applegater* and thought, "That's something I can do to help my community," so she applied for a position on the board and was enthusiastically voted in. Jessica brings fundraising skills (whew! Thanks, Jessica!), writing skills from a background in film and TV, and a widespread knowledge of the area from having worked most recently here as a hospice nurse. She has an impressive background. Go to the Board of Directors page on our website (applegater.org) and read her bio.

Lisa Baldwin, a former board member, has returned. We are so glad to have her back! Not only does she take great minutes at our meetings; she brings good insight and a broadening of perspectives to the board. Because she lives in the lower Applegate, she helps bring in news from that part of our readership, especially from the schools. Welcome back, Lisa!

In fact, you, reader, might want to go to the Board of Directors page on our website and reread all the bios. You'll see that you have a pretty impressive bunch of people working for your Applegater Board. You might wish you were on the board, too. Give us a ring. We'll look into the possibility.

Diana Coogle, Chair
Applegater newsmagazine
541-846-7447
diana@applegater.org

EDITORIAL

Say his name

We don't often write about people of color in the *Applegater*. That's not surprising. A community newspaper is a reflection of, well, its community, and the Applegate Valley is ninety-plus percent white.

But that doesn't mean, of course, we shouldn't, wouldn't, or couldn't.

There's a national conversation going on about race. We could ignore it, but don't think we should.

Some things need to be said. Silence is complicity. When others are making progress, if you're standing still, you may as well be moving backwards. We don't want to go backward.

The first step to solving a problem is admitting you have one. Admitting it is a sign of strength, not weakness. Weakness would be going on as we have.

Systemic racism exists. In the world. In our nation. In our community. In us.

Implicit bias takes work, it takes attention, to overcome.

The horror of the George Floyd strangling video in May forced a racial reckoning across the nation, but it was just the latest in a string of encounters where Blacks doing such things as jogging, sleeping, sitting in a car, watching TV, selling DVDs, and changing lanes ended up dead.

Say their names: George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Arbery. Philando Castile. Alton Sterling. Sandra Bland. Rayshard Brooks. Botham Jean. Trayvon Martin.

What are we going to do about it? State the obvious: Racism is wrong. We renounce bias. We welcome diversity. We want to do

whatever we can to bring people of color into the *Applegater*, whether in stories we run, from people who write them, or in any of the many roles that keep the *Applegater* going.

Think race is not relevant here? Wrong.

We live in an area that was home to untold numbers of native peoples, including the Dakubetede, Takelma, and Latgawa. They had no choice about diversification of their neighborhood and their relocation out of it.

Early on in the European history of the Applegate, a blacksmith came to town, serving the community and doing a little prospecting on the side. He contributed enough to have a mountain named after him—kind of. Except it wasn't really named after him. It was named after his color, his race, in the form of a ugly racial epithet. The man himself disappeared, became invisible, for nearly a century.

Only relatively recently, as explained in a front-page story, have we come to know a name we can say: Ben Johnson, a human being with his own story to tell. He lived a long life, seems like a good life.

It has been our loss to live so many years knowing him only as an unknown somebody after whom a mountain was named.

We've lived in the shadow of that mountain and that history—or lack of it—for a long time. It's good to come out of that shadow.

We know better. We can do better. And we will.

Applegater newsmagazine
gater@applegater.org, 541-631-1313

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. Limited to 500 words; no images. Opinion pieces submitted by the same person will not be run consecutively. Responses to previously published opinion pieces will not be published. Must include publishable contact information (phone number and/or email address).

Letters. Limited to 200 words; must be signed, with a full street address or PO Box and phone number. Only the writer's name and hometown will be published.

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. All submissions will be edited for grammar and length.

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

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Next deadline: February 1

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Memories of David Calahan

BY SHELLY MCMILLIN

As I write this, in late October, fall is here again in our beautiful Applegate Valley. Just when you cannot imagine more beauty, the colors emerge, and the sun is so golden. We are so blessed to live in this beautiful place.

I moved to the Applegate in 1982. So much has changed since then, and so much has not. It is still beautiful and magical.

I did lose some magic, though, on September 8. As the reports of the Ashland fires began, my dear and beloved passed away.

This was David Patrick Calahan, a man I had the good fortune to call my friend. We spent 37 years building a relationship that will never be forgotten.

If you knew David, you know he was the most organized person on the planet. I would mess with him by re-organizing his silverware. I put the knives where the spoons were and the forks where the knives were.

My favorite trick was at his wedding: I scattered pennies, nickels, dimes, and a few quarters throughout the parking area at his house, knowing that he would spend a half a day picking up \$3.37. He just could not help himself. People who

knew David know how funny this is, and we will always laugh about it.

David taught me more than any other person in this lifetime, and at my age I am certain about that. He had many attributes; some were super admirable, and some were not (true for all of us). But David was absolutely a man of his word. If he said he'd be there at 10 am, he was. Always.

I miss David every day, and I reckon I always will. He is everywhere I look. He helped me put the chimney right because it was not right, according to David. He helped move me in the pouring rain because he said he would. He installed solar in the barn because he said I had great sun exposure. We went on great "scores" from the Nickel long before Craig's List and Jo's List were even around. He rebuilt our spring when I was recovering from knee surgery, when working in wet and muddy conditions was not an option for me.

The list goes on and on and on....

So, yes, I will miss him every single day, and I thank him for teaching me about respect. I respect you, my brother, forever.

—Shelly McMillin

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ASK THE GATER

What was the first high school in the Applegate watershed?

BY LISA BALDWIN

Editor's note: Curious about anything Applegate? Ask us! Send your inquiry to intrepid Gater reporter Lisa Baldwin at the email below.

The Three Rivers School District has three high schools, one in each of the river drainages in Josephine County—the Illinois, the Rogue, and the Applegate. Illinois Valley High School in Cave Junction serves the entire Illinois Valley, from Hayes Hill to the state line. North Valley High School in Merlin covers Northern Josephine County, and Hidden Valley High School in Murphy serves the communities in our Applegate watershed.

Hidden Valley and North Valley opened as brand new schools in September 1977, and some Applegaters still refer to them as the “new” high schools. But few folks might know that the first high school in Josephine County opened in 1886 in the lower Applegate, near the present site of Jerome Prairie School and the intersection of Redwood Avenue and Robinson Road.

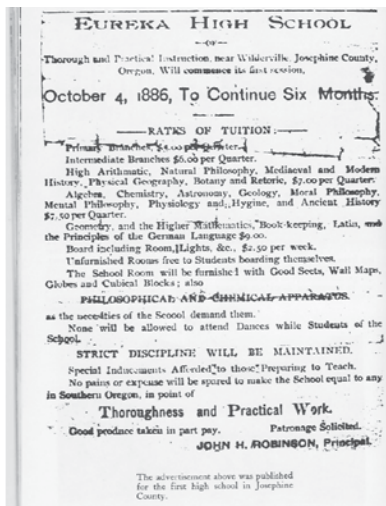
In 1883, farmer and educator John H. Robinson brought his family from Texas and homesteaded near Wilderville.

The Robinsons acquired land on both sides of the Applegate River, starting with 160 acres and soon purchasing more. By 1888, Robinsons owned 900 acres in Jerome Prairie.

The well-educated John Robinson saw a need for a high school in the prosperous community. Jerome Prairie School had been open since 1871, but like most schools of the time, it offered only the basics, “the Three R’s,” through eight grades. So, in October of 1886, Robinson opened Eureka High School in the second story of his home. He and his wife refurbished outbuildings and provided room and board for students needing accommodations. Tuition for the six-month term was reasonable, and Robinson accepted “good produce” as partial payment.

Eureka High School closed in 1888 when the Grants Pass Academy started offering a high school curriculum. Ironically, the GP Academy was housed in the two-story community center from Jerome Prairie, that was bought, dismantled and rebuilt on N.W. B Street in Grants Pass.

Lisa Baldwin
le.b.97527@gmail.com



The board rate of \$2.50 per week at the new Eureka High School in Jerome Prairie in the lower Applegate in 1886 included a room, “lights &c.” Prospective students were admonished that “None will be allowed to attend Dances while Students of the School.”

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••• BIZBITS •••

Applegate Sign Company. Lyle and Charlene Trimmer, owners of the newly named Applegate Sign Company, have been creating signs, logos, and designs in the Rogue Valley since the 1970s.



“We work closely with our customers to capture the essence of their unique business identity,” Charlene says. “Our approach to logo and sign design encompasses everything from concept to installation.”

To see their most recent work and to get ordering information, visit their Facebook pages: facebook.com/ApplegateCustoms for horse related signs, stall guards, etc., and facebook.com/ApplegateSignCompany for commercial signs, banners, etc.

Standish Cottage, Calvary Chapel, Wild River Restaurant, the Ruch Bungalow, Solid Rock Coffee House, and many horse farms and vineyards are among their numerous clients.

They also offer graphic design, photography, copywriting, and project management services. You can see more of their work on the site, Trimmer Agency.com.

Applegate Sign Company, PO Box 1000, Jacksonville 97530
Lyle & Charleen Trimmer, 541-840-6846, charleen@applegatesigncompany.com



The Hier Holistic Crop & Critter Shop, a new feed store in Jacksonville, opened in late March.

Owner Luis Peña, a Southern Oregon native, says, “Let us supply your farm, garden, and/or home with all your holistic crop and critter feed needs! Come by or let us know what you need.”

Hier Holistic serves the community by providing quality, organic, and ethically sourced agricultural, pet, and garden supplies. They understand that even though we are all doing our best to social distance, customers still need products. Necessary accommodations can be made, and the folks at Hier

Holistic are just a phone call, email, or social media contact away.

Hier Holistic Feed Store 660 North 5th Street, Jacksonville 97530
541-690-0734, all@hierholistic.com
Facebook: facebook.com/hierholistic

The Pot Rack in Jacksonville has a new owner, Erika Bishop and family (Grace, James, and Lucas are her kids). The store carries unique and beautiful selections of linens, serving ware, bric-a-brac, and kitchen odds and ends.

Erica’s first official day as owner was September 17. “I’m thrilled to be operating this gem of a store and will continue to run it as before, while adding new lines and a website with online shopping in 2021,” she says.

Erica and her family moved to Jacksonville in 2002 from New York City following the devastation of 9/11. All the kids attended Jacksonville elementary, and Erica worked as a freelance marketing consultant for many food and wine companies throughout the valley.

Fun fact: Erica was the first executive producer of the Food Network and created many famous chef brands that you’re probably familiar with.

The Pot Rack is open daily from 10:00 am-5:00 pm.
140 W California Street, PO Box 764, Jacksonville 97530
541-899-5736, erika@thepotrack.com



Wicked Sharp Salon. Sandy Reynolds sold Salon 238 in Ruch on July 1, after owning the hair and nails salon for six years and working there for a total of ten years. New owner, Beth Henderson, started working as a nail technician with Sandy at the salon a year ago in July and jumped at the chance to buy the landmark salon, which has been in operation at the same location for forty years. She has beautifully redecorated the inside and renamed the salon Wicked Sharp.



Sandy is still working three days a week, varying her schedule to accommodate her current clients’ needs. She says she is planning on spending the extra time she now has enjoying herself on the river, which her property borders, and keeping her two very active kitties company.

Beth has hired two additional staff and is planning a Grand Reopening Celebration. With acrylics, manicures, hair styling, and beautification in general, they will have you looking wicked sharp!

Wicked Sharp Salon, 7390 Hwy. 238, Ruch 97530. Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. 541-200-9725

Jeanette LeTourneau
jeanette@applegater.org

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.

Mungers Butte trail

BY EVELYN ROETHER

Greetings fellow hikers! Here's a new one for you. This trail is a mid-elevation beauty that's generally accessible into the winter months, as long as you don't see snow on the ridge up there.

Now is the time to familiarize yourself with this semi-roadless area that straddles the watersheds of the Applegate and Illinois valleys. It is one of many unprotected wild lands that are under threat by the BLM's 800,000-acre Integrated Vegetation Management Project that proposes, among other things, to cut large holes in our remaining fire resistant old growth forests. This project is currently in the planning phase, and the "Late Mungers" old-growth forest is on the cutting block. We need to defend these places where we recreate and find solace in nature. So please, go up there, fall in love, and work to protect Mungers Butte.

Mungers Butte

Difficulty: Moderate

Distance: Option 1 - 1.2 miles round-trip

Option 2 - 2.3 miles round-trip

Elevation gain: 660 feet

Open: Almost year-round unless there's snow on the ridge

Map: Murphy Mountain USGS quad

Directions: From Water Gap Road in Williams, turn onto Upper Powell Creek Road and continue nine miles up the Powell Creek drainage, the last 1.3 of which are on a gravelled road. Go right at the 'T' (Road 38-5-15) and park at the wide spot in the road a few hundred yards from the intersection. Just past the parking spot look for an old roadbed steeply ascending on the left. This is the unmarked trailhead.

Mungers Butte, named after Josephine County's first government land surveyor, is an out-and-back trail along old skid roads, with some exploratory off-trail options for more adventurous hikers. Intriguing boulder outcrops dot the ridgeline, some with perches that open up to fabulous views. Witness the grandeur of the sugar pines, ponderosa pines, knobcone pines, incense cedars, and tanoaks along the way. Oregon grape, evergreen huckleberries, bear grass, and huckleberry oak carpet the ground.

Begin the hike with a steep ascent up the rocky skid road just past the first wide spot on the road. Note the red peridotite and green serpentine rock underfoot. After 0.3 mile there is a spur road off to the left.

Option 1: Turn left and head southwest, climbing to the ridge among the knobcone pine, then through a bear grass-carpeted, old-growth Douglas fir forest. After 0.3 mile you'll hit the ridge

and see an old camp and many boulder outcrops. If you follow the track to the northeast (right) and scamper along until you get to the end of the ridgeline, you'll arrive at a rocky outcrop that overlooks Grants Pass. That is the terminus of this trek. There are great views and beautiful rock gardens all over the place up there.

For adventurous souls: Back at the old camp, you can hike cross-country along the fairly open ridgeline to the southwest and reach another knob of Mungers Butte after another mile or so. There are more great views over there. Or, at the Grants Pass overlook at the north terminus of the ridge, you can hike cross-country down the ridge and hook up with the Option 2 track.

Option 2: Go straight and continue 0.2 of a mile to a 'T' skid-road intersection on the ridge. Turn right here. You will soon get views of Murphy Creek and the mouth of the Applegate River on the left and Mt. McLoughlin and the tip of Mt. Shasta on the right. Continue along the ridgeline as the track heads northeast and downhill a bit. After about a half mile, the



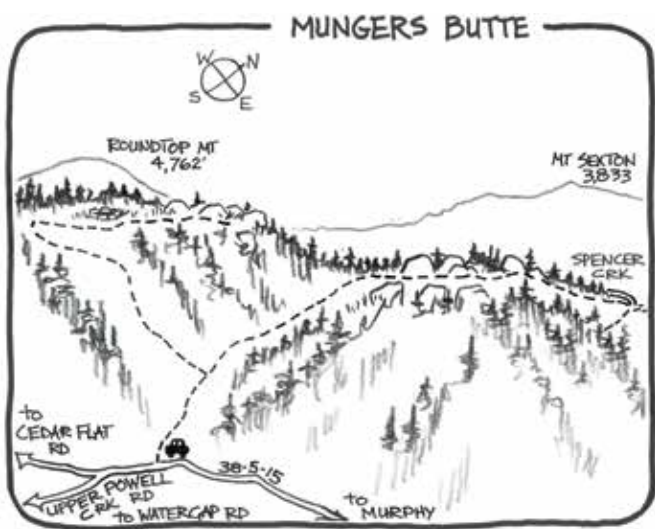
A steep ascent leads to fabulous views from the Mungers Butte ridgeline.

Photo: Evelyn Roether.

ridge narrows. On the left, you can follow a faint trail to a hanging rock overlook with a view of Murphy Mountain, Round Top Mountain, the New Hope Road area, and Mt. Sexton in the distance. Just beyond that you'll reach a four-way intersection with a gravelled road on the left (Spencer Creek Road, which goes down to Murphy) and two other old tracks to the right and straight. This is the terminus of this hike. Explore on your own from here or return the way you came.

Hiking Trails of the Lower Applegate, a trail guide describing 20 trails in the Lower Applegate area, is available at the Williams General Store and Takubeh Natural Market in Williams, Provolt Store and Whistling Duck Farm and Store in Provolt, Rebel Heart Books in Jacksonville, Oregon Books and Games in Grants Pass, and Northwest Nature Shop and Bloomsbury Books in Ashland. Trail guides can also be purchased directly from the author at lowerapplegatetrails@gmail.com.

Evelyn Roether
evelynkr@gmail.com



Map by Ann Gunter.

The future of our forests

BY ALAN JOURNET

The two primary factors determining the distribution of our natural terrestrial ecosystems (forests, woodlands, grasslands, deserts, etc.) are average annual temperature and climate (ib.bioninja.com.au/options/option-c-ecology-and-conser/c2-communities-and-ecosyste/ecosystem-analysis.html). If temperature shifts just a few degrees, or precipitation a few inches, current climate conditions across the globe will shift such that the viability of natural ecosystems currently supported will be seriously threatened or totally compromised. Not surprisingly, the individual tree species comprising forested ecosystems are controlled by the same two variables and will be compromised under similar small shifts in conditions.

Gerald Rehfeldt and Nicholas Crookston, formerly with the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in Idaho, developed models depicting how western tree species are likely to handle forthcoming climatic conditions. The principle of their analysis is elegantly simple. First, they input data on the locations where each tree species currently is found. Then they considered the range of models projecting future climatic conditions throughout the western United States through this century. Finally, they identified where in the region climate conditions appropriate for each species are likely to occur in 2030, 2060, and 2090 (charcoal.cnre.vt.edu/climate/species/).

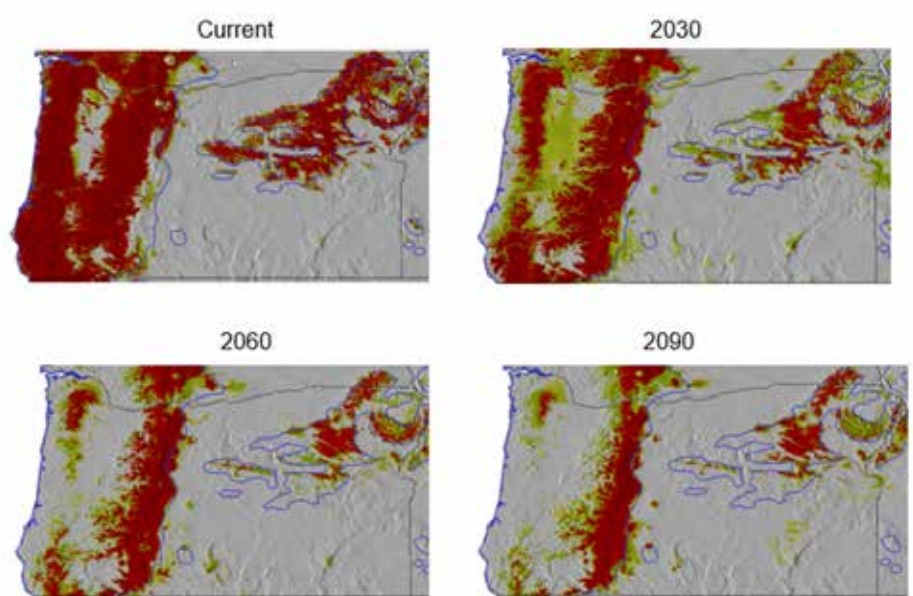
The projections they produced covered a wide array of scenarios, but the most interesting are the projections employing what is generally termed the 'business as usual' future. This scenario assumes we continue our current pattern of accelerating

fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions and our climate adjusts accordingly.

If we look at the species found in the Applegate Valley and SW Oregon generally, we find that the range of climate appropriate for Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, white fir, and Pacific madrone will likely be substantially reduced. Meanwhile climatic conditions supporting the California black oak and Oregon white oak will probably adjust substantially, those supporting incense cedar and sugar pine will be reduced, and those supporting Jeffrey pine will be non-existent. Climatic conditions supporting the more coastally common tanoak and the California laurel will also likely be substantially reduced.

If we consider species found elsewhere in Oregon, these analyses suggest conditions appropriate for the following species will be reduced: western hemlock, western larch, and western red cedar. Even more troubling are the projections suggesting Oregon's climate will be outside the range for Sitka spruce, Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Western juniper.

One weakness in this analysis is that the locations where tree species are currently found are merely an indication of their physiological tolerance for climatic conditions and the range under which they have the ability to survive. Possibly some species are able to tolerate a wider range of conditions but are out-competed elsewhere by other species. In ecological terms this is the difference between the realized niche (where they currently occur) and their fundamental niche (where they could occur absent competition). It is worth noting also that an increase in atmospheric carbon



Distribution of climatic conditions appropriate for Douglas fir through the century assuming a business-as-usual trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions and consequent climate shifts (charcoal.cnre.vt.edu/climate/species/). Burgundy signifies optimal conditions, while green and yellow signify sub-optimal conditions, and grey signifies inappropriate climatic conditions.

Map data from USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.

dioxide allows vegetation to become more efficient at water use and thus tolerate slightly dryer soils. However, these shortcomings notwithstanding, the analysis provides a valuable guide for potential problems our forests will face in the future absent our concerted efforts to solve the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering carbon dioxide in our forests and farms.

While our dry forests are certainly fire adapted and fire dependent, these projections provide a warning that we cannot assume that future climatic conditions will be appropriate for the current combination of forest species. This suggests that as we pass through the century, recovery from fire or logging may not result in the same mix of species. Additionally, these

projections suggest that forest management and reforestation plans should acknowledge that current species may not be appropriate for our region in the future.

All Oregonians, whether rural or urban, should be alarmed at the impact our current pattern of greenhouse gas emissions will impose on our forests, whether we value them for wildlife, recreation, or timber. Meanwhile, those of us in the Applegate owning woodlot or forest land will need to incorporate these concerns into our planning for the future.

Alan Journet Ph.D.
Co-facilitator, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
Board member, Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council
alanjournet@gmail.com

NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

High school makes in-person teaching plans

BY LISA BALDWIN

“We miss the kids.” For Hidden Valley High School Principal Damian Crowson, that sentiment drove him and his staff as they worked every day to bring students back into the classrooms and keep them connected to the school while they learned from home.

Through the fall, the HVHS team met weekly to assess what was working, what was not, and how they could better serve students’ needs. Hidden Valley began transitioning all students to the “hybrid” learning model with orientation sessions on November 18 and 19. If all went as hoped, the high school would have had everyone “back in school” and moving forward on Monday, November 30, just prior to this paper’s publication.

To minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission, students are divided into two cohorts based on their home address. Those with odd numbered home addresses are in the “A” group and attend classes on campus on Mondays and Wednesdays. “B” group students with even-numbered addresses attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

During these on-campus days, from 8:40 am to 12:30 pm students have

in-person instruction in four classes. This A/B schedule facilitates the social distancing required by state guidelines by reducing the number of students on campus by half (300 at a time rather than 600) and reducing class sizes (15 at a time rather than 30). Directional signage in the hallways will help keep students safe as they pass from one classroom to the next.

Mr. Crowson made a point of complimenting the Hidden Valley staff, who have really stepped up to meet the great challenges this school year continues to present. He singled out head cook Amy Berg and her kitchen staff as “rock stars.” They prepared 600 meals every day, four days a week, all delivered by bus to Hidden Valley students and families throughout the school closure in October and November. Now that students are back on campus on a regular basis, they will pick up their meals at school, two lunches and two breakfasts, ready to “grab and go” each time.

Music teacher Joe Green has found ways to keep the bands and choirs making music, and there is some hope

they may be able to put together a “virtual” winter concert. School sports have been reworked into eight-week seasons, starting with the traditional winter team sports (basketball and wrestling) in January and February, fall sports (football and volleyball) in March and April, and spring sports (baseball, softball, and track and field) in May and June. All student athletes can schedule workout time at school in groups of 10 or less.

There are two new faces in the front office this year: Assistant Principal Jessica Falkenhagen and Assistant Principal-Athletic Director Dale Fisher.

Five teachers joined the Mustang family this fall, as well: John Johall (Social Studies), Dave Delgado (English), Jessica Beck (Science), and Heidi Marks Morris and Elizabeth Venzon (Math).

“I want to thank the students and families for their strength, support and resiliency,” Principal Crowson said, “[as we worked together to] get them back as soon as possible.”

Lisa Baldwin
leeb.97527@gmail.com



Principal Damian Crowson stands proudly in the recently upgraded gymnasium with its new paint, new bleachers, new LED lighting, refinished floors, and seismic reinforcements. Photo: Lisa Baldwin.

A child’s view of life in the Applegate

Name Brighton Lee Gradisar
Date 10/11/20

WHY I LOVE THE APPLGATE VALLEY

Hello I am Brighton. I have lived in the beautiful Applegate Valley since birth. I think the Applegate is a great place to go if you need a muse or just a great place to have some fun. The Applegate is always waiting for you. With its river so fast, and its lake so glassy. I hope you would think it was the most beautiful thing on earth. I hope to see you in the Applegate sometime too. I know I will be there.

The best thing about living in the applegate is the people. The people are so friendly I can not go into a store without seeing someone I know. They are so kind hearted and sweet. I do not know how you can not live if you do not live here. In the Applegate valley, there is a snug little farming community called Ruch that is where I live.

The next thing is that the Applegate is a beautiful place to walk, ride, skip, run or quad. I always love the nature and this beautiful place that they call the Applegate valley. I think in the dictionary when you look at beautiful it should say the Applegate Valley I love the flowers in the spring and the snow in the winter.

I think one of the best things in the Applegate valley is the history. The Applegate valley goes from Applegate to Ruch and Grants pass and more. The first Applegate settlers were Levi Scott, David Goff and the Applegate brothers Jessie and Lindsay.

The Applegate is a fun place to camp or visit friends. There is an old town called Buncom. It is said to have ghosts. But I don't believe in this silly ghost thing but there may be ghosts. I hope to see you sometime in the applegate.

Ellie

I like Living in the Applegate Valley.

It is close to the female place. my family eats there. I get them at hte saturday market.

It is close to the river. I like to collect rocks, and I like to swim.

It is close to the school. I like to ride my bike at school and to play on the yellow bar at school. I like living here because the views are budfl.

Sonia

Apple gate 9/24/20

The APPLE gate valley is an amazing place. There are beautiful forests, flowing rivers, and the cool, deep, glassy Applegate Lake. The people that live here and work there are so kind, and the food grown there tastes so good. (Juice/ tomatoes, sweet corn, and cream/ carrots taste better if they're home grown in the apple gate valley.) The wildlife is so pretty. seeing a strong bear, clever coyote, cute rabbit or majestic deer is an inspiring experience that will not be forgotten easily. And last (one of my favorite things about the apple gate valley) its just so peaceful, no busy cities or loud highways.

Applegate is a Great Place. I Love Living in the apple gate valley!

Students at the Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) have written essays about living in the Applegate Valley as part of their participation in A Greater Applegate’s community visioning process (see column, Page 7). Applegate, Madrona, and Williams Elementary Schools are also participating and will submit essays in the coming months. These essays will be featured in the Applegate Valley strategic plan and used to identify community priorities. Here are three of the essays, authored by Ellie, second grade; Sonia, fourth grade; and Brighton, seventh grade.

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The *Applegater* wishes you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Applegate School goes the distance for learning

BY STEVEN FULLER



Mask-wearing Applegate School students have fun doing pumpkin math and Kandy Korn math.

New school year, new challenges. Each new school year has challenges, but this one stands in a class by itself.

Applegate School is in the unique position of serving students in both Jackson and Josephine counties. Although we had planned to have onsite, in-person instruction for K-3 students, Jackson County COVID-19 metrics mandated distance learning from home. Receiving this news a few days before school started, Mrs. Hirschmugl, K-1 teacher, and Mrs. Halsted, 2-3 teacher, had to do some fast re-programming. They put in many hours and said they “built some new brain pathways for themselves” to create their online “classrooms” through the Canvas Learning Management system in order to get their students and parents engaged while learning from home.

After two weeks of online learning, Applegate School was allowed to offer two hours of limited in-person instruction for K-3 students. The school offers bussing to any K-3 enrolled student for on-site instruction from 8:30-10:30 Monday through Thursday. While at school, students get core reading instruction, small-group reading instruction, recess, and math. The staff is doing its best to make the two hours as productive as possible, while also focusing on the social and emotional support that students need.

The annual Fort Vannoy Farms field trip was cancelled this year, so pumpkins were delivered to the school. The students had fun doing pumpkin math and Kandy Korn math.

All school staff members follow Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Education guidelines for safety: small-group learning, cohorts that do not intermingle, health screening checks, hand-washing, face coverings, social distancing, and thorough cleanings throughout the day. The in-person instruction is optional for students, so Applegate School simultaneously offers distance learning opportunities for all K-3 learners. This requires teachers to plan for both online and in-person instruction.

Mr. Scull is working hard to make sure all curriculum objectives are being met in the online instruction for his fourth- and fifth-grade students. He notes that it is not unusual for a cat or dog to make its way into the camera and give our students an opportunity to share a

bit about their lives at home during this time. Mr. Scull acknowledges that his own skills in technology have grown by leaps and bounds, and the lessons are getting better and better as he continues to learn the media platforms that are available. However, he says he would never exchange online learning for the real deal with students present in person.

At the middle school level, Mrs. Daw says her students and their families “are doing such an amazing job in the midst of a less than ideal situation. They are showing true persistence and resilience.” In preparation for Halloween, students wrote their own short stories to share with the class. Mrs. Daw and fellow teacher Mr. Fall worked together on an online scavenger hunt to help with team-building and as an alternative to the usual Halloween party.

Other middle school activities show the creativity of the teachers. Seventh graders wrote opinion essays on “Columbus Day vs. Indigenous People’s Day.” Sixth graders made a salt-dough topographical map of the United States, a hands-on activity to counteract so much time spent in front of a screen. Edgar Allan Poe’s writing elicited a lot of lively chatter for eighth graders.

The entire Applegate staff is excited to see the students’ faces and hear their laughter, whether online or in person. The hope in Three Rivers School District was for schools to be open for all grades in the second semester. Unfortunately, the Josephine and Jackson County metrics do not allow Applegate to fully open at this time. Three Rivers School District is closely monitoring the situation, and we are committed to getting students in school as soon as possible.

We are deeply impressed by and appreciative of the support from students’ parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and everyone else who have been helping them get logged into online learning sites. We all look forward to the day when all the students can be back in school full-time. Meanwhile, teachers are on campus from 7 am – 4 pm, Monday through Thursday, with open office hours throughout the day for students or parents with questions or a need for help.

Steve Fuller, Principal
Applegate K-8, 541-846-6280
Williams Elementary, 541-846-7224
steven.fuller@threerivers.k12.or.us

Madrona Elementary School copes with COVID-19 precautions

BY KELLIE LOVELL

This has not been a typical first quarter to the school year, but the staff at Madrona Elementary School are determined to provide the best learning experience possible for their students. Since September, the Madrona Elementary School K-3 teachers and staff have worked diligently to provide their students with engaging learning opportunities onsite.

The school year began with a staggered start schedule the first week, with a third of the K-3 students attending one day that week. The following week students attended two days. This staggered schedule helped students understand and practice the new guidelines that align with ODE safety protocols.

The past eight weeks have highlighted the creativity and dedication of Madrona’s teaching staff. Unable to teach in the usual classroom manner, the fourth- and fifth-grade teachers have used online resources such as Canvas, Google Classroom, and Google Meets. Chromebooks have been provided to students who needed them, and online resources have been posted for parents.

Madrona Elementary School kindergarten through third-grade students have had the opportunity to enjoy the school’s new swing set and sensory walk. In addition, Fort Vannoy farms assisted in bringing the pumpkin patch to the school. Each K-3 student took a pumpkin home for the Halloween weekend. During spirit week on October 29, all Madrona students were able to show their spirit. Also, the first week of November, the kindergarten through fifth-grade students enjoyed virtual performances from the Traveling Lantern Theatre Company.

Guidelines and requirements from the governor and the Oregon Department of Education continue to arrive regularly. To



(Left) First-grader Kyra Laker. Photo: Amy Fogg. (Right) Second-grader Kaspen Yates. Photo: Julee Anderson.



Madrona students have fun on pumpkin-picking day. Photo: Kellie Lovell.

meet the occupancy standards set by the Oregon Department of Education and to reduce the number of students in each classroom, some changes in class settings will occur.

The next quarter will see continued perseverance from students, families, and staff. The creativity and dedication of the staff at Madrona Elementary School and the cooperation of parents and the wider community will continue to provide a safe school year and a successful learning experience for all our students.

Kellie Lovell, Principal
Madrona Elementary School
541-476-6624

A butterfly story from Applegate School

BY JANIE BURSTEIN

The bus rolled in one day as usual at 8:30 in the morning. Now, at this time the sun is just peeking over the mountain, so it is still quite chilly.

Araya, one of our little second-grade girls, got off the bus and sat on the bench in front of the gym waiting patiently for the rest of the children to arrive so we all could head to class. She happened to glance down and saw one of Miss Linda’s beautiful, newly hatched, tagged butterflies sitting on the ground in the cold.

This little girl’s face lit up, and, because she is a gentle and kind person, she gently walked over and put her finger out for the little butterfly to climb aboard.

She was very excited and shared her new-found friend with her other schoolmates and with our kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Hirschmugl.

The little butterfly was quite attached to its new friend, as I could plainly see when I walked up to check on the excitement. There was no need to intervene.

We quickly decided it would be best to take a walk to Miss Linda’s butterfly garden and find a suitable flower on which to place this exquisite butterfly for safekeeping and nourishment until it was warm enough



A butterfly’s rescue prompted a thank-you from Miss Linda.

to take flight. We found a suitable Queen Anne’s lace flower, and the little girl gently put her finger next to the flower, helping the butterfly to climb safely aboard. We said our goodbyes and wished it happy travels.

Walking back to class, we took time to marvel at the fact that this butterfly would remember the little girl forever.

I told Miss Linda about the event later that day. Since she is a devoted butterfly lady and artist, she created a special butterfly card for this little girl, who greatly appreciated it.

Butterflies do spread joy and happiness to those who can take the time to stop and look!

Janie Burstein
Applegate School librarian

Look who's reading the Gater!

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



Photos, clockwise from top left:
—Jenny and Ronin Guterrez take in the latest issue of the *Applegater* while Seth soars overhead at RiverCrest Ranch's new dirt bike course. Photo: Cathy Rodgers.
—Barbara Holiday and Diana Coogle "ran" San Francisco's Bay to Breakers seven-and-one-half-mile (virtual) race on the Upper Rogue River Trail in September. Here they are at the finish, 2 hours, 55 minutes from the start.
—Look who's reading the Applegater at Ruch Library, the "Gateway to Everywhere"! Photo: Cynthia Cheney.



Keep those articles, letters, opinions, and "Reading the Gater" photos coming in. You are the Gater! The *Applegater* Board of Directors

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