

Applegater

Photo by Linda Kappen • applegater.org

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~28~
Years

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However you choose to give, the *Applegater* is grateful for your support. We do what we do for you, and only continue to appear in your mailbox because of you. Thank you!

Agreement reached to sell Applegate Lodge

BY DIANA COOGLE

When Joanna Davis decided to sell the Applegate Lodge, she promised to sell it to someone who would continue its legacy: the lodge as "a sanctuary for the community." So she didn't sell it to the first person with the \$2,900,000 asking price. She interviewed potential buyers. When Anna and Mike Eastman showed up, she sold it.

"We hit it off from the start," she says. "They had the right energy and customer-service attitude. That they were a part of the community was important to me."

Mike and Anna grew up in the Rogue Valley. Though they have traveled extensively in connection with Mike's job in tech, including a three-year stay in Santiago, Chile, they live in Medford now, where they are raising their two children, four-year-old Addy and one-year-old Avery. They know the Applegate, the *Applegater*, the wineries. Mike's sister got married at the Applegate Lodge.

The real estate deal is due to close on December 1, but Anna and Mike are already excited about becoming the new owners. They see this purchase as a new journey for them. They admire what Joanna has created and want to follow



Mike Eastman, holding Avery, and Anna Eastman, holding Addy.

in her footsteps by keeping the lodge a community center. "We have no intention of changing that," Anna says, immediately killing the rumor that they are firing everybody and starting over. They want to employ local residents and source food from local farmers. They will continue to have local musicians play at dinner. They will still host nonprofit events, such as Voices of the Applegate concerts and *Applegater* thank-you-volunteers parties.

See **APPLEGATE LODGE**, page 20.

Explore backcountry shelters on the Siskiyou Crest

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

You can travel back in time by visiting, or staying in, one of the historic shelters still standing in the high country on National Forest lands on the Siskiyou Crest. Some historic shelters can be accessed by vehicle via backcountry dirt roads, while others are more remote and only accessible on foot. For some, you can even hike from shelter to shelter along the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). If you visit even a few of these backcountry shelters, you will not only experience a piece of local history, but will also get to know off-the-beaten-path areas, a diversity of habitats, and sweeping views of the region along the way. Some great backcountry shelters are featured below, from east to west.

The Grouse Gap Shelter, built around 1970, is one of the more modern

backcountry shelters on the Siskiyou Crest. It was and is used as a picnic and camping area in the summer, as a stopping point for PCT thru-hikers, and as a snow shelter for cross-country skiers and snowshoers in winter. The rustic covered pavilion is enclosed on two sides and has a central wood-burning fireplace. The Grouse Gap shelter is easily accessed via a short spur road off Forest Service Road 20 and has great views of Mount Ashland above and Mount Shasta in the distance. There is one picnic table, a vault toilet, and good parking.

West of Grouse Gap Shelter is Wrangle Camp, just off of Road 20. Wrangle Camp includes a shelter built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936, several picnic tables, a rustic kitchen area, and



Donomore Cabin west of Dutchman Peak was built in 1935.
Photo: Suzie Savoie.

a cabin built by the Soil Conservation Service in the 1930s. Tent sites, fire pits, and a vault toilet are also available, but no drinking water. The camp is located next to a flower-filled meadow with access to the PCT and Big Red Mountain close by.

The Dutchman Peak Lookout is not open for public use, since it is still an active fire lookout, but you can park at the gate on the access road and walk to the lookout to see the historic structure and take in the astounding views. Built in

See **BACKCOUNTRY SHELTERS**, page 5

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HOLIDAY - ARTS

A dream of showing off the wild Siskiyou through the arts

BY DIANA COOGLE

Like a coyote lifting its muzzle to sing to the stars, the Siskiyou Crest Coalition is calling to Applegate artists: Hallo-o-o, out there! Do you cherish the valleys and mountains, wildflowers and forests, rivers and streams along the Siskiyou Crest? Do you take spiritual and artistic inspiration from this wild nature?

The Siskiyou Crest Coalition, an organization in the Applegate dedicated to the protection of this area, is dreaming big these days. One of our dreams is to create a show of visual arts, along with a reading of poetry and creative nonfiction, enhanced by original music—works by local artists that showcase the Siskiyou Mountains area.

Let's show the world how special and beautiful the Siskiyou are!

This will be a juried show. The subject of the art must be the wild nature of the Siskiyou—its flora and fauna, its amazing bio- and geological diversity, its climate and beauty, or even the threats to these things from logging, road-building, climate change, and so forth.

Subject matter must be specific to the wilds of the Siskiyou. A beautiful photograph of an Applegate vineyard? No, but a striking photograph of a field of mule's ears at Donomore Meadows—yes. A painting of that gorgeous rich-red maple tree in your back yard? No (it's not native), but a painting of the yellow light under an autumn-gold bigleaf maple—yes. A poem about the sound of the rain on the roof—no, but a poem about the Ponderosa pines drinking the first rain of fall in long, thirsty quaffs—yes. No sculptures of grizzly bears, but a cougar, a black bear, a fisher—all good. Any place along the Siskiyou Crest is fair-game subject matter; it doesn't have to be in the Applegate.



A tapestry weaving by Louann Faist depicts Wilderness Falls in the Siskiyou Wilderness Area.

All arts are eligible—visual arts, including painting, drawing, and photography (and video, if we have the space); plastic arts, including sculpture, mosaic, ceramic, and paper; literary arts, including poetry and literary non-fiction (350 words or fewer); textile arts, such as weavings, small quilts, and soft sculptures; and musical compositions.

Deadline for submissions is May 1.

We'll give details about where to obtain entry forms and how to submit them in the spring *Applegater*. In the meantime, you can contact me with questions.

We are in the early planning stages, looking at creating this celebration of the Siskiyou probably at summer's end, maybe at a winery. If you would like to offer your space, let me know. If you want to get in on the excitement of planning, let me know, and if you think you would like to submit a piece or are just excited by the idea, let me know that, too. Encouragement is good for organizers.

Diana Coogle • dicoog@gmail.com



The Cougar Publishers coloring book team: From left, Grace Haughey, Sonia Ginet, advisor Thalia Truesdell, Sarah Dehaas, Lola Hemming, and Angela Redfield. Photo: Brandee Tolner.

Students to publish a Cantrall Buckley Park coloring book

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

The Middle School students in sixth through eighth grades at Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) get to choose one focus from a variety of projects to work on throughout the school year. We are very excited about one such project—the Cougar Publishers. The students working on this project are Angie, Lola, Ollie, Sarah, and Sonia. I, Thalia Truesdell, am advisor.

Our project is to create a coloring book and reference guide in an alphabetical format based on the local flora, fauna, and other features found in Cantrall Buckley Park. Each page of this educational and entertaining book will be filled with art created by all kindergarten through fifth-grade students and our advisory group.

Our book is directed toward all ages and people, from locals to visitors. The book's reference guide will present colored photos of the flora and fauna shown

on the alphabetical coloring pages, and information about each. We are making this book for our community here in the Applegate Valley and hope it will be enjoyed by many.

The printing cost per book will be \$5. Unfortunately, we can only print as many copies as we know in advance have been sold. We are hoping to raise enough money through donations and grants to provide a coloring book for each ROCS student. Because we want to make this park treasure readily available to the whole community, businesses are encouraged to purchase multiple copies to resell or to make available for their customers to color.

They will also make a great gift! To order copies or make a donation, please call ROCS at 541-842-3850. Thank you!

Thalia Truesdell
thaliatruesdell@gmail.com

The *Applegater* board welcomes Barbara Holiday, our newest member

BY DIANA COOGLE

If anyone is more dedicated to the *Applegater* than Barbara Holiday, I can't imagine who it would be. Barbara was editor in chief for umpteen years, and, of course, also a member of the board. When she resigned, she continued association with the newsmagazine as its layout editor.

But that just wasn't enough.

"I never let it go in my mind," Barbara said. "I always felt it a part of me." She is glad to be back "on the inside," where she can help make decisions, act as historian, and take over much of what Mike Schneider, who will leave the board in January, has been doing with ad sales. In addition, she said, she would "help anyone do anything," words any board chair loves to hear.

About his interview with Barbara, Bert Erling, our editor, said, "Barbara showed deep awareness of how the

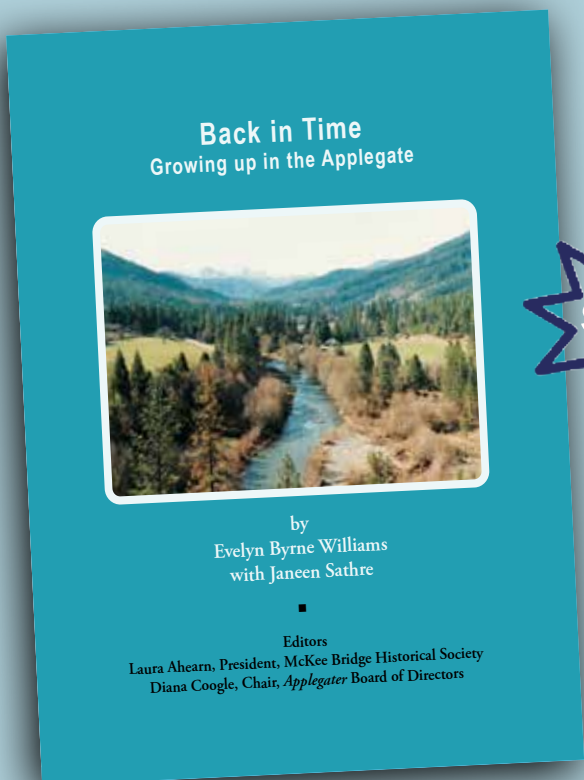
Applegater operates and the value of its presence in the community. She has ideas that can help it continue to thrive and improve its presence in the community."

As the newest and yet also longest-serving member of the board (a wonderful oxymoron), Barbara brings with her an invaluable institutional memory. Equally invaluable are her creative ideas, her artist's eye, her connections with the community, and her love of that community and of the *Applegater*.

Speaking personally, I'm delighted to be working with Barbara on the board again. Speaking for the board, who voted on her membership with enthusiastic "ayes," I extend to her a warm handshake, a warm welcome, an *Applegater* email address, and, now, about those ads....

Diana Coogle • diana@applegater.org

JUST PUBLISHED!



A compilation of 50 "Back in Time" articles, by Evelyn Byrne Williams with Janeen Sathre, previously published in the *Applegater* newsmagazine.

Available at Rebel Heart Books, applegater.org, or contact Lisa Baldwin at leb.97527@gmail.com. When shipped, add \$5. All proceeds benefit the *Applegater*.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Applegate artist opens her ceramics studio for the holidays

BY HALEY MAY PETERSON

Do you appreciate quality, original art as well as the well-made object—both beautiful and functional—in the classic Applegate setting? A smorgasbord of such objects—sculptural art meets thrown vessel (pottery!)—is on display for purchase and pleasure at Nancy Yturriaga-Adams’s “Holiday Open Studio,” held annually December 2 and 3 (or by appointment; the show stays up throughout the holidays). Come by the studio at 6909 Thompson Creek Road for a chance to meet the artist and browse for gifts.

Searching for an old homestead ranch over 20 years ago, Nancy was smitten when her wanderings led her to the Applegate. Blessed with a panoramic view of Grayback, the ranch she bought is the perfect setting for her horses and her studio.

Her work has always been inspired by nature, totem animals, plants, and flowers, so living and working in the Applegate has been a “natural” fit. Her style—featuring vases, teapots, perfume bottles, and bowls adorned with water lilies, herons, frogs, hares, fruits, and even dragons—suits a range of tastes. Friendly to the curious, be they young or mature, she explains her technique of using simple tools and animal totems, inspired by Native American and Western mythologies and fairy tales, that characterize her work. Recently she has been using Bluebird and Morning Glory as well as the Raven and Oak and Acorn symbols.



This piece is called Bluebird Morning Glory Tea. Photo: Nancy Yturriaga-Adams.

An accomplished artist, Nancy has participated in national juried shows such as the Smithsonian Craft Show in Washington, DC, the Philadelphia Craft Show at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and American Craft Council shows in San Francisco and Baltimore. This year, her work was chosen for exhibit in national juried museum shows such as the 24th San Angelo National Ceramic Exhibition at the San Angelo (Texas) Museum of Fine Art and at Racine Art Museum’s “Precedent: Past Meets Present in Contemporary Clay and Glass” in Racine, Wisconsin. She also exhibits with the Oregon Potters Association, the



Voices of the Applegate in 2020. Photo: Shayne Flock.

COME JOIN THE CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG AT APPLLEGATE RIVER LODGE

BY DAVID FRANKLIN

One and all are invited and encouraged to attend a Christmas-carol and holiday sing-along at the Applegate River Lodge, 15100 Hwy 238, Applegate, at 3 pm Sunday, December 11.

Voices of the Applegate, a community choir led by director Shayne Flock, wants to thank Applegate area towns and Jacksonville for years of support. Voices of the Applegate will lead this event. Words and music are provided to allow your full participation in this family friendly event. We hope that you will love singing again, and perhaps rediscover a latent skill that you would consider using by joining our chorus when it begins rehearsal for winter term in January.

We are eclectic in nature, singing Bach to the Beatles and beyond. We require no audition, and we rehearse 12 weeks for two concerts, one in Applegate at this location, and one in Jacksonville. Come and join us for this hour-long sing, rekindle your love of music, and enjoy some light refreshments afterwards.

If you are interested in singing along with us, we will have a rehearsal on December 6. Singers will meet in the Ruch Library at 7 pm for the rehearsal. It is not necessary to attend the rehearsal in order to participate in the December 11 sing-along.

David Franklin • dmfrank29@gmail.com

Free gift wrapping available on three December Saturdays in Jacksonville

BY SUE HARRISON

The Friends of the Jacksonville Library will provide gift wrapping for local holiday shoppers on three Saturdays in December: December 3, 10, and 17. People who wish to have their gifts wrapped may bring them to the Naversen Community Room in the Jacksonville Library at 340 West C Street in Jacksonville.



will provide music from approximately 1-2 pm on December 3 and December 10. Student volunteers will assist with the wrapping.

The service is offered for no charge, but any donations will be greatly appreciated. Refreshments will be provided for shoppers while they wait for their gifts to be wrapped. The South Medford High string orchestra, under the direction of Zoryn Thompson,

The Friends of the Library organization promotes public awareness in the community, supports activities and programs at the library, and purchases equipment and supplies not covered in the library’s budget. Community members wishing to join the Friends of the Jacksonville Library may pick up membership enrollment forms at the library or call club president Lana Breazeale at 541-500-9800 and request that a form be mailed to them.

Sue Harrison • imsharrison2@gmail.com

Association of Clay and Glass Artists, and our local Clayfolk.

Represented online by Artful Home and Etsy and on her personal website, nancyadams.net, she also regularly posts her work on Instagram (@nancy_y_adams). Shipping is available in the US. Lucky for us locals, her Holiday Open Studio is the best place of all to access her unique offerings for others and yourself. Vintage and one-of-a-kind pieces, limited series, as well as seconds are available at neighborly prices. Come by, bring a friend, and see what speaks to you this season.

For more information, call Nancy Yturriaga-Adams at 541-846-1777 or email nancyyturriaga@gmail.com.

Haley May Peterson
maylmt@gmail.com



Bluebird Morning Glory Vessel. Photo: Nancy Yturriaga-Adams.



A Greater Applegate is excited to announce the release of the Applegate Valley Vision-- an initiative created for the community by the community that provides a catalog of possibilities to enhance our beautiful valley for years to come.



Scan the QR code or visit our website to read the Applegate Valley Vision plan, learn how to get involved, and to support the work.

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Visit our office at Sunshine Plaza in Ruch Monday-Wednesday 10am-4pm or by appointment

POETRY CORNER

Fending Winter: An Ode

By John Sack
cyberscribe2@gmail.com

What better bespeaks
The leap of human evolution
Than heaps of blueberry flapjacks
Stacked buttery warm
And glazed with maple syrup,
Their beauty not blemished
By wedges
Melting in mouth to pleasure
Gullet and gut,
To become one
With the One who masticates,
While outdoors winter wails
To no avail?

John and his wife (*Applegater*
book reviewer Christin Lore
Weber) hermit and write near
Buncom on Sterling Creek Road.

Have a submission for Poetry Corner, either by an Applegate resident or about the Applegate? Email it to *Applegater* poetry editor Paul Tipton at ptipton4u2c@gmail.com.

Applegate Poets sponsor a holiday reading in the Applegate Library

BY JOAN PETERSON

The Applegate Poets invite you to join us and special guests Evelyn Byrne Williams and Janeen Sathre at 1 pm Sunday, December 4, for an afternoon of poems by the poets and, from Evelyn, stories of growing up in the Applegate back in the days when the Applegate River froze solid in the winter, women did laundry with a wringer washing machine, and children had to cross the river on swinging bridges to get to school.

Many of the poems read by the Applegate Poets that afternoon will be from their book, *Penned Up: Writing Out the Pandemic* (by Lisa Baldwin, Diana Coogle, Beate Foit, Seth Kaplan, Ní Aódagáin, Joan Peterson, and Christin

Lore Weber), and from more recent writing as well. Janeen Sathre will read from *Back in Time*, the newly published book by her mother, Evelyn, that is a collection of pieces from her column in the *Applegater*.

We'll have cookies and coffee and other yummy refreshments, and you will be able to buy books (and get autographs from the authors!) for yourselves and others on your Christmas lists.

Join us for this special occasion to chat with the authors, enjoy some holiday food, and hear some entertaining poems and stories.

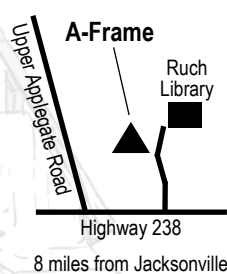
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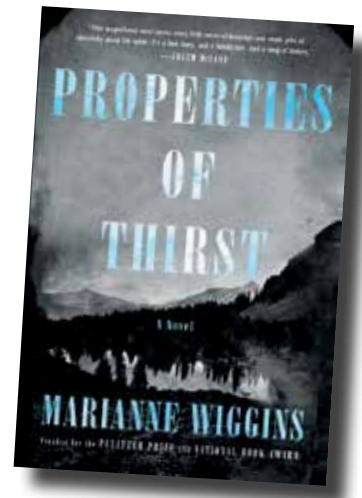


BOOK REVIEW

Properties of Thirst

Marianne Wiggins
Simon & Schuster 2022
New York, New York

BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER



Possibly my favorite novel of the 21st century was *Evidence of Things Unseen* by Marianne Wiggins, a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award author. So, when I saw that a new book of hers had just been released by Simon & Schuster, I grabbed it up, knowing nothing about it except that Wiggins was the author. It is a masterpiece. Her writing moves in waves, each capping the one before, that power of surf, the flow over the ebb, building in scene after scene, page following page.

Another comparison might be to a Wagnerian opera, *Tristan and Isolde*, for those who feel music in flows of blood and breath. The crescendo of this book! You might be thinking that I'm exaggerating, and I have been known to do that, but this time I am not. She did it. Marianne Wiggins did it. She tucks her own responsibility towards language right into the narrative, into the thoughts of one of her major characters:

He had learned in law school that one day you are going to be called upon to make a speech. One day, too, at the death of a friend or of a parent, at the birth of your child, on first falling in love or defending your life—you are going to need to find the words to describe what you are feeling, to communicate the fullness of what feels like the Indescribable inside of you, a vortex or a fire or a fog, or, quite simply, the shape of your own soul. Stand and deliver. And at these moments, you don't want to get it wrong. You don't want to reach inside yourself and come up: wordless. You want, because you owe it to yourself, to shape something from nothing, to be able to drag meaning from the silence, being from non-being (p. 489).

She did it with a story that is absolutely character-driven. "You can't save what you don't love," she tells us. Right up front. First sentence. It is almost as if she is talking to herself about the story she's creating. She loves everything and everyone in her fictional world, though, to tell the truth, her world doesn't seem fictional at all. This world seems like America of the 20th Century—the exploration, the land, the dam diverting water to Los Angeles, the depression, the families, the peoples,

the war, the camps of Japanese-American citizens, the individuals in the novel who reflect it all, and their thirsts that make the story come about. As a reader I loved them all. I couldn't find a villain. Villains are for plot-driven stories. In a character-driven story, the conflict as well as the growing amazement that results takes place within the individuals you come to love as you understand their perspective, how each character is trying to save what they love. And in this common thirst for love the characters by their lives and choices create a thunderous and stunning drama that transcends its own place and time.

Wiggins presents the basic human properties of thirst right up front, in the Table of Contents: The Element of Surprise. Recognition. Memory. Desire. The Thwarting of Desire. Truth. Spontaneous Combustion. Re-invention. Submersion. The Taste of the Inevitable. Evaporation.

This is the thirst of humankind, of a land, of a nation, of an era and of every era, of every person. In America this thirst is rooted in Thoreau and Emerson, and in Wiggins's book it is played out primarily in the California desert after mountain snows were diverted to Los Angeles—land and people, thirsting for water, for survival of the soul.

This was where they used to come, filling their lungs with the lake vapors, as if the lake were breathing, as if they and it were sharing a single breath. So much history on this water: a liquid page on which their story had been written. You can't save what you don't love, but lakes are born to disappear. You can't save what you don't love, but sometimes—most times—you can't save what you love, regardless (p.511).

Christin Lore Weber
storyweaver1@gmail.com

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Our Mission

The goal of the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., is to provide the Applegate watershed with a communication vehicle, the *Applegater*, that will provide educational information, increase community networking, and represent all the area's diverse communities. Through honest, constructive, relevant, and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects and viewpoints, including our natural resources, historical and current events, and community news, we can work together to enhance the quality of life we have in the Applegate, and continue to make a difference in our valley.

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All articles submitted to the *Applegater* are subject to edit and publication at the newsmagazine's discretion and as space allows. No more than one article per author per issue. When too many articles are submitted to include in any one issue, some articles may be placed on our website or held until the following issue.

Letters to the editor must be 200 words or less. Opinion pieces cannot exceed 500 words (no images). Articles cannot exceed 700 words. Obituaries are limited to 500 words and one photo. Essays are limited to 500 words and one per issue.

Photo Requirements

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

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

Submissions for the next issue must be received at bert@applegater.org by the deadline (see Editorial Calendar).

Applegater Newsmagazine
PO Box 14
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BACKCOUNTRY SHELTERS

Continued from page 1

1927, the Dutchman Peak Lookout is one of the last cupola-style (called D-6) Forest Service fire lookouts remaining in the west and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Donomore Cabin is in Donomore Meadows, west of Dutchman Peak. It was built in 1935 and is lovingly maintained by local families and residents with long-standing ties to the historic cabin. The PCT traverses the gorgeous Donomore Meadows, so PCT and local backpackers walk to the cabin on foot, but because you can drive backcountry dirt roads to the area, hunters and campers also use the cabin.

The Perks Pasture Guard House was built in 1936 on Elliott Ridge back when numerous US Forest Service (USFS) guard stations were scattered throughout the region in backcountry locations. The structure is not currently open to the public for use, but you can visit the site to check it out. Perks Pasture is named for John Perkins, a packtrain operator in the 1850s who went by the nickname "Old Perks."

The Squaw Peak Lookout has not yet had a formal name change to Acorn Woman Lookout, to match the name changes of nearby geographic

places, like Acorn Woman Lakes. Hopefully the USFS will update the name soon. This historic fire lookout was constructed in 1942 as an L-4 style cabin, called the Alladin style, and is on the National Historic Site Registry. The lookout is available to rent on recreation.gov from May through September, but reservations sell out quickly! With amazing views of the surrounding Siskiyou Mountains, the lookout makes a great rustic retreat.

The Sucker Gap Shelter, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, is located in the Sucker Creek watershed in the Red Buttes Wilderness. This three-sided trail shelter is in a very picturesque meadow, but it takes a good climb to access it via wilderness trails.

The Grayback Snow Survey Shelter is located at 5,600 feet, below Grayback Mountain. It was constructed for annual snow surveys but is open for public use. It is a funky 10- by 14-foot cabin with a wood floor, rustic table, woodstove, and windows. Although it takes a hike to get there, this cabin, full of rustic charm, gets a lot of use.

Grouse Gap, Wrangle Camp, Donomore Cabin, Sucker Gap, and the Grayback shelters are all in the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District and are all first-come, first-served camping sites open to the public.



The Grayback Snow Survey Shelter is located at 5,600 feet below Grayback Mountain. It was constructed for annual snow surveys but is open for public use. Photo: Suzie Savoie.



The Grouse Gap Shelter, built around 1970, is one of the more modern backcountry shelters on the Siskiyou Crest. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

Help protect and preserve these historic backcountry shelters for contemporary use. If you stay in one, please clean up when you leave, pack out your trash, and take only photos and memories.

Suzie Savoie
klamathsiskiyu@gmail.com

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

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Next deadline: February 1

Cover Photo Credit

Thanks to Linda Kappen for the photo of snow-covered apple trees on her property in the Applegate.

Have a photo for the Spring 2023 *Applegater*? Email it to barbara@applegater.org.

Corrections

The *Applegater* is committed to publishing accurate information in its news articles, correcting errors of fact, and clarifying misleading statements. Send suggested corrections to Editor in Chief Bert Etling at bert@applegater.org or call 541-631-1313.

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Editorial Calendar

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

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— Ruch Library —

Music, children's, teen programs coming to Ruch Library in December



BY DAVID HAYWOOD

As I write this, fall has arrived in earnest at last, and by the time this article reaches you, we will hopefully have had several inches of rain to quench the Applegate Valley.

On October 15, the Ruch library had Annice Black give her Oregon Wagon Trail Quilt presentation, which included the quilt that has been in her family for over 150 years! Her program was well attended and liked, and we look forward to having her back in the future.

In November, we are hosting Mark Prchal and his presentation, *Some Geology of Southern Oregon*, on November 12 from 1-3 pm. A partial list of these features includes Crater Lake, volcanoes, the Siskiyou and Cascade Ranges, the Coming Big Earthquake, and more. Those who have attended Mark's presentations before will enjoy new and exciting geologic stories.

Winter will bring a whopping three programs to the Ruch library in December and one in February. On December 3, from 2-3 pm, we will have Larry Smith, a bass player and music professor at RCC, playing his bass along with loop pedals for Live Looping with Larry Smith, followed by a children's program on December 27, from 10:30-11:30 am, entitled *Movement & Me: A Musical Sensory Experience*, and Teen Music Jeopardy from 3-4 pm on December 29. All of the above are part of Rogue Reads, which encourages everyone in Jackson County to read and discuss the same books. This three-month program takes place December through February and features discussions and programs on the 2022-23 theme: Music and Community.

Our final Winter program, a joint effort between Applegate and Ruch libraries and their Friends groups, fits

neatly into the theme of Music and Community: Applegate Valley Musicians and Troubadours. Local musicians from the Applegate Valley will be playing at both libraries on February 11, with performances at the Applegate library from 11:30 am-3:30 pm and at the Ruch library at the same times. A schedule of performances will be posted in January.

You can find out more about Rogue Reads and our upcoming events in our Event Guides that have been distributed to each branch or on our website, jcls.org.

Lastly, here are some updates from the Friends of the Ruch Library:

The Ruch Library's A-Frame Book Store is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 1-3 pm. It features the newest and best gently used books and DVDs for \$1-\$3. The Book Store is supported by FORL and run by volunteers. All proceeds benefit the Ruch Branch Library. The A-Frame Book Store will be closed December 25 - January 1 for our volunteers, reopening January 3, 2023.

The First Saturday Book Barn Sale is held every month from noon-4 pm. The Book Barn is filled with more than 4,000 books, audio books, and CDs. It contains fiction and nonfiction items for children, juniors, teens, and adults. Whether you are shopping for gifts, a specific author, particular genre, or winter-weather special. This sale is by cash donation only. Bring a bag to carry your selections home. Book donations are welcome.

See you at the library!

David Haywood

Ruch Library Branch Manager

Jackson County Library Services

dhaywood@jcls.org

541-494-3284 • 7919 Highway 238

— Applegate Library —

Rogue Reads program continues at Applegate Library

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

A great big shout out of thanks to the generous patrons and businesses that donated to the Applegate Library's Summer Reading Program raffle baskets.

Thanks go to:

- The Beckham Family for the donation baskets, two bottles of local wine, and various craft kits.

- A Greater Applegate (AGA) for the Applegate Valley sweatshirt donation.

- Terri Gubi for handmade greeting cards of local attractions and a local author's signed book, *Jacksonville's Lost Treasure*.

- Amy's Beehives for their Applegate Valley natural raw honey.

- Pennington Farms for their delicious jam donation.

- Jackson County Library Services (JCLS) for a water bottle donation.

- Fledgling artist, Christine Grubb, for a lighted, hand-painted wine bottle.

Other items included in the raffle baskets were an Applegate Country Club \$50 gift certificate and *Homebrewed Vinegar* by local author Kirsten Shockey.

December through February JCLS will sponsor Rogue Reads at all library branches. This program builds community through conversation by encouraging everyone in Jackson County to read and discuss the same books. Participants can engage in discussions and attend programs (including live, virtual author talks) on titles related to the themes of indigeneity, reciprocity, culture, and community. Be sure to sign up to be a part of this "whole county reads" program. The 2022-23 theme is "Music & Community."

Upcoming events

Rogue Reads: Musical Mobiles (7+ years) Create a music-themed mobile that represents you and all that makes up who you are, based on the book *Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan. Noon-1 pm Saturday, December 3.

Rogue Reads: CD Scratch Art (13+ years) Create a glittering piece of upcycled art décor during this relaxing crafternoon. Paint an old CD, then scratch in an intricate design when the paint is dry to reveal a dazzling holographic look. Noon -1 pm Saturday, January 7.

Rogue Reads: What it Was: Growing Up When the Music Mattered (18+ years) The classic era of rock and roll music was a time of incredible creativity in the arts and

in artful ways of living. It was a tumultuous time too. Music helped us get through it. Revisit those times with James Pagliasotti, the first rock and roll columnist for the *Denver Post* where he covered music and counterculture from 1968-1974. 11 am-12:30 pm Saturday, January 14.

Worm Composting of Kitchen Scraps (18+ years) Turn your kitchen scraps into valuable garden compost. Learn how to set up and maintain a worm bin using red wiggler worms. Learn about worm ecology and tricks to speed up composting. 11:30 am-1 pm Saturday, January 28.

Rogue Reads Take & Make: Mini Macramé Wind Chime (18+ years) Make your space more musical with this beginner-friendly macramé project. Available for pickup starting at 2 pm Tuesday, February 7.

Applegate Valley Musicians and Troubadours, 3+ years. Listen to local musicians or other performers from the Applegate Valley. Sponsored by Friends of the Applegate Library and Friends of the Ruch Library. 11 am-noon Saturday, February 11.

Rogue Reads: Songs That Tell Stories, 5+ years. West African drum rhythms are played for culturally significant events and purposes and generally have an accompanying story. Hear stories and participate in making music with local storyteller and musician Laura Rich, percussionist with the Arts Council of Southern Oregon. 11:30 am-12:30 pm Saturday, February 18.

Reminders

Every Wednesday from 10 am-12:30 pm a digital services representative can help with all your tech questions. Come in or make an appointment at techsupport@jcls.org.

Preschool Storytime is on Wednesdays from 11-11:45 am.

Our meeting room can be booked for your meeting, program, or event (even when the library is closed) by going to jcls.libcal.com/reserve/ap-meeting.

Christine Grubb

Applegate Branch Library Manager

Jackson County Library Services

cgrubb@jcls.org

18485 North Applegate Road

541-846-7346

Josephine
Community Library

— Williams Library —

Looking ahead to the new library

BY AMBER GUIENT

Josephine Community Library District and Josephine Community Library Foundation are improving library services in the Williams area by relocating and renovating a new Williams branch facility at 20140 Williams Highway in Williams by summer 2023.

The renovation will include 1,000 square feet of library use, a designated children's area, updated technology including broadband Internet, expanded books and other materials, running water, and an ADA restroom.

For more information about Josephine Community Library Foundation and to follow the project, visit jclfoundation.org/williams or contact Josephine Community Library Foundation Executive Director Rebecca Stoltz at rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org or 541-476-0571, ext. 200.

Construction request for proposals coming soon

A request for proposal (RFP) for the new Williams library construction will be issued soon. Watch jclfoundation.org for information. To be notified when the RFP is issued, send your email address to Josephine Community Library Foundation Executive Director Rebecca Stoltz at rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org.

Williams library listening sessions

Join us the third Thursday of each month from 5-6 pm at the Williams Grange to learn more about the plan to build a new community library in Williams. Share concerns, ideas, or compliments with library folks, both staff and board members. Timeliness is a high priority for participation at these events.

Williams Weekly Storytime

Families are invited to visit the Williams branch of Josephine Community Library District from 11-11:30 am every Friday for a themed storytime and craft session in a safe and fun environment.

K9 Reading Buddies

Visit the Williams branch from 3 to 4 pm on Tuesdays for K9 Reading Buddies. During this program, trained therapy dogs provide a nonintimidating environment for children to learn to read out loud. Young readers have the opportunity to explore language and books during this special storytime.

Family resources from your public library

From homework help to skill building, and from leadership opportunities to trusted research resources, the library offers



Williams Branch Library Manager
Amber Guient helps a client.

fun and productive activities for children, teens, and adults. Explore what the library has to offer at josephinelibrary.org.

JosephineLINK

JosephineLINK is an online community resource directory where community members can access current information for hundreds of community service organizations. You can browse by category or search by keyword. Categories include rent assistance, volunteer opportunities, food assistance, family services, recovery support, veteran's services, and much more. JosephineLINK can be found on the library website at josephinelink.org.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Register your children under the age of five for free online or stop by your nearest library branch in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, or Wolf Creek during open hours and fill out a paper form.

In eight to 10 weeks, you'll receive the first book. After that, age-appropriate books will arrive monthly. The first book every child receives is *The Little Engine That Could*, which is Dolly Parton's favorite book. The message of the book is timeless, encouraging children to never give up, do their best, and stay positive no matter what.

To sign up, visit josephinelibrary.org and find Dolly Parton's Imagination Library on the "Children" page under the "Youth/Family" menu. Registration is not required, and a library card is not necessary to participate in library events and programs unless otherwise noted.

Amber Guient • 541-846-7020
Manager, Williams branch, Josephine Community Library District
20695 Williams Highway, Williams
aguient@josephinelibrary.org

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

Exciting developments with the Applegate Valley Vision

BY SETH KAPLAN

The release of the Applegate Valley Vision (agreaterapplegate.org/20-20-community-vision/) is all we hoped it would be and more. Thanks to the creativity of hundreds of community residents, business owners, organizations, and regional allies, the 90 strategies and over 500 ideas for action have sparked a burst of energy.

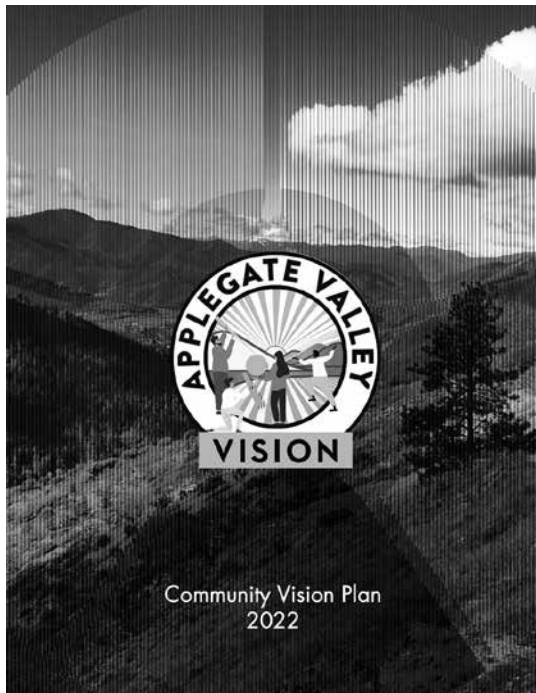
To bring some of these ideas to fruition, AGA offered community members an opportunity to apply for grants to support projects in alignment with the values expressed in the Vision. We received 35 Innovation Grant applications asking for over \$60,000. This is more than double the number of applications we have received in any prior year and more than three times the level of funding requests. Even after we doubled our granting amount to \$14,000 this year, the review panel has a huge challenge sifting through so many innovative ideas. The task is difficult, but we are thrilled with the creativity displayed once again in the Applegate Valley. We hope we can help most of these projects along, one way or another.

Another example of action birthed by the Vision is the number of working groups forming to address its different pieces. These community and professional volunteers are taking on projects from the Vision that are of greatest interest to them. As of this writing, working groups are focused on art, Destination Applegate, education, food and farm, forest and fire management, local history, and outdoor recreation.

Some of these groups are already engaged in projects with funding, some are still determining which projects to undertake, and some new groups may be forming between the time this article is written and published. It is a dynamic time for the Applegate Valley!

A Greater Applegate is facilitating the emerging working groups, but these are truly community efforts, and we welcome other organizations and community leaders to facilitate or co-host working groups aligned with the Vision. If you see something in the Applegate Valley Vision that tickles your fancy, let us know. We will do what we can to support your effort.

There are other ways you can support the Applegate Valley Vision and A Greater Applegate. The number of projects we can complete will be determined in no small part by the speed and success of



The cover of A Greater Applegate's Community Vision Plan.

fundraising. Projects generated out of this visioning project rely on funds and volunteers to come to life. You can help by donating to AGA through our website (agreaterapplegate.org/support-our-work) or mail a check to A Greater Applegate at PO Box 335, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

A Greater Applegate is not only looking for working group members. We are eager to recruit new board members interested in helping us implement the Applegate Valley Vision and steer the organization into an exciting future. If you want to know more about becoming a board member with A Greater Applegate, let me know.

Finally, this seems like a good time to share that I will be retiring from A Greater Applegate in the spring of 2023. Megan Fehrman will continue doing what she does so well as one co-executive director. We are hiring for a second co-executive director to support a collaborative leadership process. Go to agreaterapplegate.org to learn more about this fantastic opportunity. I can honestly say this has been the best job I've ever held, and I look forward to contributing to A Greater Applegate and the Applegate Valley in a new capacity.

All this enthusiasm and energy percolating in the Applegate Valley now is exactly what community building is about. And we can never get enough of it! Join us!

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



McKee Bridge bedecked with Christmas finery. Photo: Ricardo Berrera.

Fourth annual 'Christmas on a Covered Bridge'

BY LAURA AHEARN

How, you ask, could McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) beat last year's holiday event at magical, historical McKee Bridge? How about a special appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus to hand out gifts to children ages 0-18? Follow that with community caroling led by members of Voices of the Applegate, a bigger, yummiest bake sale than last year, and shopping for wonderful gifts and décor.

MBHS will decorate and illuminate Star Ranger Station, the rustic Depression-era picnic shelter, and McKee Bridge from December 10 into the New Year. Saturday, December 17, will be a fun day of activities at the bridge from noon-6 pm. Free hot beverages! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be giving presents between 3 and 3:30 pm. And then singing. Come share the wonder of the holidays at our 105-year-old bridge!

We have some other news to share: MBHS is offering two scholarships of \$2,500 each to students who plan to graduate from a high school in Jackson County or Josephine County, Oregon, or

from a homeschool equivalent, and who enroll in an accredited four-year college in summer or fall, 2023. Other eligibility criteria are:

- Significant tie to Applegate Valley—Have lived or attended school in the Applegate Valley (the entire watershed), or be a lineal descendant of an Applegate Valley resident.
- A minimum, cumulative, unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Intent to major or minor in history, archaeology, nonprofit management, or a field of engineering or technology relevant to the MBHS mission.

The goal of this scholarship is to build interest, engagement, and skills to support the continued survival of McKee Bridge and development of Applegate Valley historical resources. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2023. Email mckeebridge1917@gmail.com for the application packet.

Happy holidays, everyone!
Laura Ahearn
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com

Free anti-overdose drugs available

Rogue Harm Reduction offers free lifesaving overdose medication and HIV tests from 10:30 am-1:30 pm the first Sunday of each month at the Sugarloaf Center, 206 Tetherow Road, Williams. Park in the large gravel parking lot and take a short walk to the center at the end of the gated driveway.

Volunteers offer free doses of Narcan (which delivers naloxone) to take home to reverse opioid overdose, along with instructions for use (allow 20 minutes), as well as free fentanyl test strips, take-home HIV tests, and condoms and lube. Walk-ins are welcome.

For more information, email rogueharmreduction@gmail.com.

Rogue Harm Reduction is a volunteer-run, nonprofit health collective interested in promoting community wellness and harm reduction strategies in response to substance use and other community health concerns. Volunteers work in partnership with and are trained by the HIV Alliance. For more, go to hivalliance.org.

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



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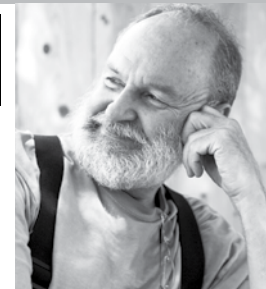


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THE STARRY SIDE

Winter's season changes

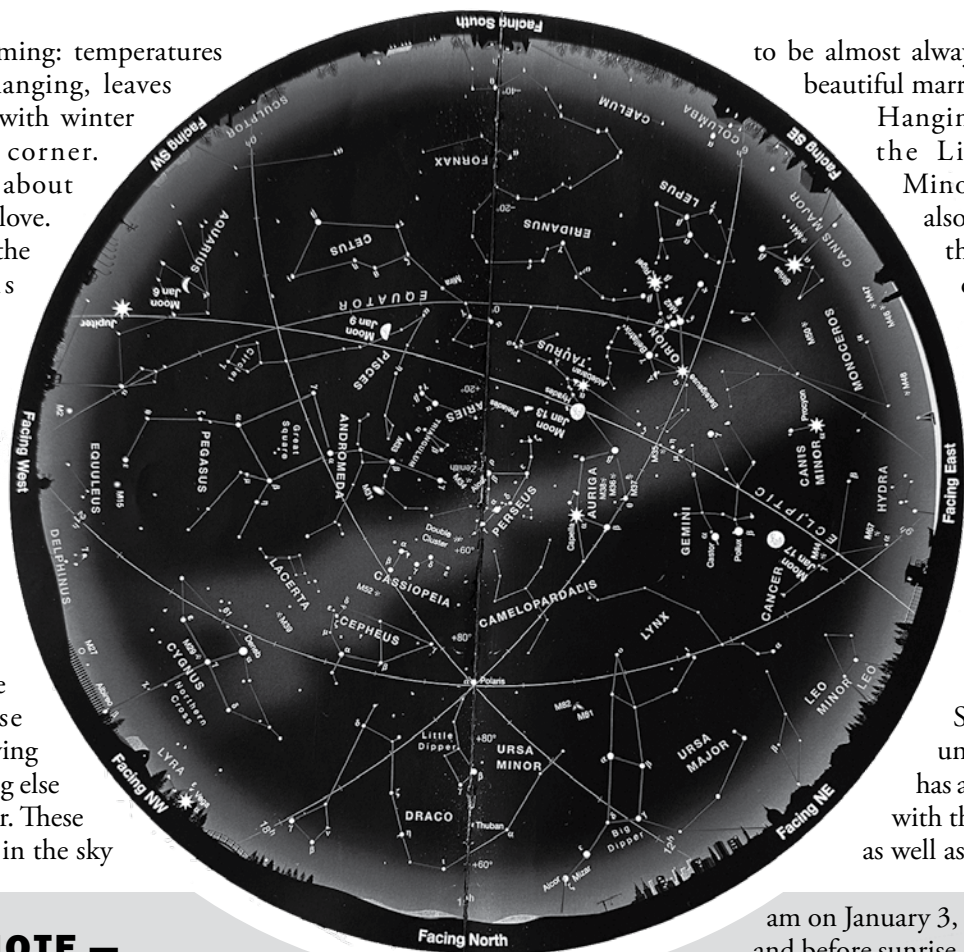
BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

Well, I feel it coming: temperatures dropping, colors changing, leaves falling...Ahhh, fall, with winter right around the corner. There's something about these changes I just love. And I love the way the sky changes this season too.

In the north the Big Dipper, Ursa Major, is swinging under the North Star, Polaris. Meanwhile, Cassiopeia swings over the top of Polaris near her husband, King Cepheus, a large upside-down house shape to her left, curving around like everything else close to the North Star. These two are high enough in the sky



to be almost always visible, locked in a beautiful marriage.

Hanging low to the left is the Little Dipper, Ursa Minor, whose tail end is also the North Star. And then there's Draco the dragon, the line of stars twisting around the Little Dipper and bending back to the left to form a four-star head. Maybe he's a sort of alert or warning, or maybe he's just protecting Ursa Minor.

Constellations in the family of stars surrounding the North Star have their own unique beauty. Each also has a particular relationship with the other constellations, as well as to Polaris.

You'll be seeing Orion climb up in the east into his primary position for most of the winter. He's followed by the sky's brightest star, Sirius the dog, who's pretty much lined up with Orion's belt. That other bright "star" is actually a planet: Jupiter. He's rising up from the east at sunset and slowly fading back to normal brightness—but still fantastically bright—as winter goes on.

One more treat: Mars! He's up all night and bright, next to Taurus's obvious triangle and his two horns sticking out from it. Why so bright? Because our paths around the sun are not regular circles but ellipses, and right now we are on Mars's side of the sun, and Mars is at its closest to the sun. The same thing is happening with Jupiter. They are both changing the night sky right now.

Enjoy these delights and try to keep a safe, livable planet for us all.

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

— OF NOTE —

December 14: Geminid meteor shower. Look east before the moon rises (10:50 pm) for up to 120 meteors per hour!

December 21: Winter solstice. Earth's North Pole will be tilted away from the sun to the max, for the fewest hours of daylight. It's the first official day of winter in the northern hemisphere, although it's been winterish for a while. From here on there's a shift to longer days. But warmer days don't come right away, just as the longest day on Earth is not necessarily

the hottest. There's always a slow build-up—or -down—with big things like sky, sun, and planets.

December 22: Ursids meteor shower. The radiant is near Polaris and the Little Dipper. Before dawn, 5-10 meteors per hour if there's a good dark sky.

January 3-4: Quadrantids meteors shower. Up to 40 an hour at its peak, but a full moon will try to steal the show! So look moments after the moon sets (5:21

am on January 3, 6:28 am on January 4) and before sunrise (7:40 am). The radiant is just below the Big Dipper.

The planets

Mercury is visible at dusk in December, moving to dawn in February and March.

Venus has disappeared behind the sun until January and February, when he's visible at dusk. He shows up all evening in March, regaining the title of brightest planet.

Mars is up all night in December and then visible in evenings for the rest of the season. He's also at his brightest

and appears stuck on the end of one of the horns of Taurus the bull! I've been watching him hesitate there for months.

Jupiter is in our evening sky in January and February, shifting to dusk in March. He's still the brightest planet until March when Venus, back from a trip around the sun, regains that status. Jupiter's now in a slow fade that will eventually make him shine at "normal" brightness for the next 100 years!

Saturn is in the evening in January, moving into dusk near sunset. In February he gets too close to the sun to be seen; he'll be visible at dawn in March.

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 write-up and photos to gater@applegater.org. Thanks! See you in the *Applegater*....

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

A nation of immigrants

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

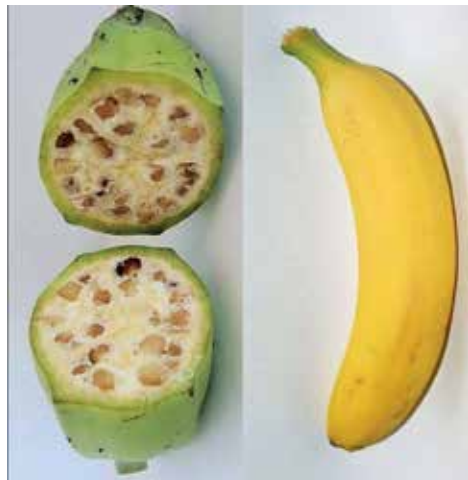
We have been invaded by foreigners. Yikes, how did those foreigners—bananas, oranges, apples, spinach, peaches, watermelon, peppers, radishes, peanuts, coconuts, carrots, lettuce, apricots, mangoes, pears, and etc., plus many more—get here? Where did they come from? These are the immigrants we love and depend upon.

Peaches are not from Georgia

Peaches from the “peach state of Georgia” are not really from Georgia. Of course not. They are from China. Peaches are 4,000 years old, one of the oldest known domesticated fruits. Then how did they get over to Georgia or in Grandma’s refrigerator? Well, in the 1500s some Spanish monks were hankering for peach cobbler. They brought peaches to today’s Florida. Sometime in the 1800s, some folks in Georgia figured peach pie was in their future and solicited the horticulturist to give peach-growing a try. (Source: modernfarmer.com/2020/11/6-crops-you-might-be-surprised-arent-native-to-the-us.)

Lettuce be grateful to the Egyptians

Lettuce is really old, meaning apparently it was cultivated at least in 2700 BCE. It was the Egyptians who originally harvested the seeds of wild lettuce for cooking oil, medicines, and mummification. This lettuce was rather similar to our modern romaine lettuce but without “heads.” Rumor has it that in 1492, Christopher Columbus most likely brought some favorite varieties of lettuce over this way. No matter, as for the next couple hundred years, North and South America were inundated with all varieties of lettuce



The inside of an unripe wild banana, at left, shows numerous large, hard seeds. Photo: Warut Roonguthai/Wikimedia Commons.

cultivars. (Source: motherearthgardener.com/plant-profiles/the-history-of-lettuce-zm0z18szphe.)

The traveling tomato

Tomatoes were first “noticed” as small cherry-size tomatoes. Today via genetics testing, it has been established that at least



A detail from a 17th century painting by Giovanni Stanchi shows how much watermelon has changed.

80,000 years ago a cherry-sized tomato originated in Ecuador.

Then around 7,000 years ago, folks in Mesoamerica cultivated this smaller fruit into the tomato as we know it today. “In the 16th and 17th centuries, early seafaring explorers brought the domesticated tomato back to European populations, where it was received with mixed emotions. Many potential plant propagators that had previous knowledge of the nightshade family were familiar with their toxicity, making tomatoes slow to catch on.” (Source: “The History of Tomatoes,” extension.illinois.edu.)

Ancient apples go back millions of years

According to Professor Karen Carr on Quatr.us,

“Apple trees grew wild in Central Asia and western China beginning, as new DNA studies show, about 10 to 20 million years ago.” This wild apple, *Malus Sieversii* is the long-ago ancestor of our apples today. The apple in all its wisdom developed “teardrop shaped seeds that would pass right through an animal’s digestion.” Very clever. So around seven million years ago mammals and birds helped spread the seed via feces. (Source: quatr.us/central-asia/where-do-apples-come-from.htm.)

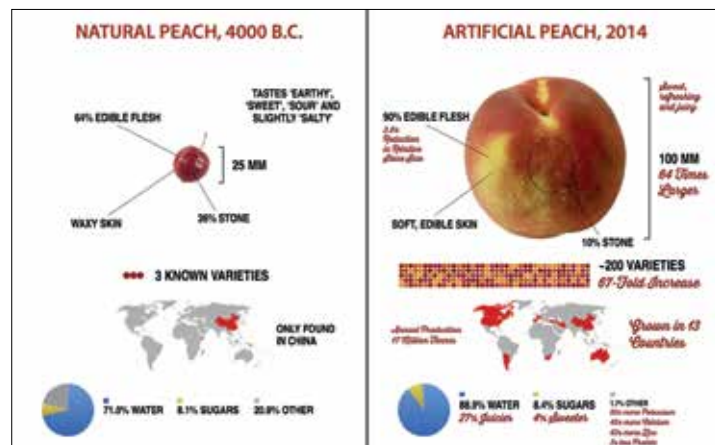
Strong suspicions about spinach’s origins

Spinach’s place of origin is ancient Persia, today’s Iran. From there it crossed into India, but it is not known who brought it there. Ancient Chinese got it from India. There we find the first written mention of spinach, which says that it came to China via Nepal somewhere around the year 647. Saracens (which was what Europeans called Muslims during the later medieval era) brought spinach to Sicily in the year 827.

Then it was introduced, by an unknown, in 600 to China and then in the 1100s to Spain. And, by the 1200s, Germany had spinach seeds. Finally, in the 1400s, settlers from Europe brought lettuce to North America. (Source: vegetablefacts.net/vegetable-history/spinach-history.)

“A fruit is a vegetable with looks and money. Plus, if you let fruit rot, it turns into wine, something brussels sprouts never do.” (P.J. O’Rourke)

Sioux Rogers
littlemuddyred@gmail.com



Peaches, originally from China, are one of the oldest known domesticated fruits.



Plan now for spring celebration

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

This spring, 2023, we will be celebrating and honoring our very patient donors and volunteers who have supported Cantrall Buckley Park for the past year!

We offer our sincere apologies for the postponement of the planned October gathering. Our concerns of air quality, health issues, and availability of people to help plan the event became real, and we had to make the tough decision to postpone the event. We tried our best to get the notice out but apologize again for not getting the information to enough media outlets.

The good news is you can mark your 2023 calendars for Saturday, April 29. The park is already reserved, plans are moving forward, more nature-scaping improvements and projects will be finished, and the park will be in bloom for a great gathering of the community.

Throughout 2022 the park has welcomed community help in clearing areas of the park from invasive blackberries, vinca, and English ivy. Our helpers have included SOLVE volunteers and several youth outdoor education programs. ("SOLVE" was originally an acronym for Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism; it is now the official name of a Portland-based nonprofit.)

Youth programs in 2022

The Applegate Partnership's Grow Youth program took root in the 2021-2022 school year with middle school students participating in outdoor education with classroom and field work outdoors in the park each week. They study plant identification, conduct soil studies, plant desired species, and learn to collect monitoring data. This year, students are returning to the park each week to continue collecting data, monitor changes from last year, and assess the work they can do that fits their curriculum needs.

We plan to continue the successful trail maintenance training this spring and encourage anyone interested in assisting to contact us.

We also expanded the Grow Youth program in October by partnering with Central Medford High School students. The course centered on ecological restoration, and 15 students participated three days a week. Course topics included invasive species, plant identification, riparian areas, cycling matter, soil health, and forestry tools. The course provides instruction, skill building, and hands-on training at the park's Dragonfly Place and the riparian area. The students are very engaged and have been a tremendous help in prepping the Dragonfly Place for the upcoming installation of our memorial boulder and planting of native species.

Finally, we have partnered with Southern Oregon University (SOU) graduate students for fall in the field with fifth- and sixth-grade students. This outdoor education program is providing practical experience for the SOU graduate students while providing curriculum and service work for them in the park. Some students are choosing to help with removing invasive species and some have helped with priming and painting the new garbage-collection boxes with park scenes.

Community volunteers

Thank you to each of our volunteers for all the hours you have given the park. We are currently working in the upper lawn area near the entrance and have cleared blackberries to make space for planting low-profile native shrubs and to create a more successful environment for our pollinator garden. We welcome more help, and I will be posting upcoming opportunities on the local media outlets.



Two Central Medford High School students paint a tree with a mix of latex paint and masonry sand down by the river to help deter a beaver from chewing on the tree. Photo: Benjamin Ho.



Central Medford High School students participating in APWC's Grow Youth Program at Cantrall Buckley Park behind (and in) a giant pile of English ivy they removed from Dragonfly Place (the Grandma Aggie Memorial site). Photo: Benjamin Ho.

Maintenance

Maintenance is really important for the park and other community settings. Maintenance of our project sites in Cantrall Buckley and around our community is critical for creating a healthy, useful, and aesthetically pleasing community space. The park needs your help; if we can develop a pool of volunteers, the required maintenance will feel more like a gathering and social time than work. Please consider including your youth with family participation.

Also needing maintenance assistance, the Ruch Outdoor Community School has a community garden area that needs support over the summer months. We

are working together to develop a pool of volunteers for both areas, and we ask that you please consider this as an opportunity.

Thank you again to all the people who support our community by donating time, labor, and funding for projects. Together we are a strong community with a vision for future generations.

Janis Mohr-Tipton
cantrallbuckleypec@apwc.info
Park Enhancement and
Restoration Teams:

A Greater Applegate: 541-702-2108
Applegate Partnership and Watershed
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Pacifica has a long history

BY PEG PRAG

Pacifica's recent articles have been "Horses at Pacifica" and "Art at Pacifica." This article is about Pacifica's fascinating history. But first, some current notes.

Pacifica is happy to be working on a revamped disc golf course. If you are interested in being part of helping create this, e-mail vanessa@pacificagarden.org.

There are some *great* winter workshops planned during December: felting, ceramics, pine needle baskets, sewing, carving, and weaving. Check the website, pacificagarden.org, for dates and times. Join in, have fun, and create some cool handmade presents.

Some Pacifica history

People who come to Pacifica say that it immediately feels like home, and, in fact, it has been home to a succession of peoples.

Although Native Americans inhabited parts of Oregon more than 15,000 years ago, it appears that there was a more recent (perhaps 1,000 years ago) migration including, in the Rogue Valley, the Dakubetede (dah-koo-bee-te-deh) tribe, closely allied to the Takelma, and the Latagawa ("those living in the uplands") tribes.

These tribes built round semi-submerged houses and subsisted primarily on acorns, camas and other bulbs, berries, game, and salmon. We have been told that the Williams Valley (including the small valley of Pacifica at the junction of Powell Creek, Camp Meeting Creek, and Williams Creek), surrounded by Grayback Mountain, Sugarloaf, and Medicine Mountain, was considered a sacred place.

Gold mining, logging, homesteading: Pacifica is a large part of one of few homesteads left in the area. (There were no discoveries of gold on Williams Creek until 1858.)

Williamsburg (within sight from high points in Pacifica) was on a bench above Williams Creek just northeast of where the current bridge crosses. The business section of Williamsburg included several stores for miners' supplies and clothes, two hotels, three saloons, a public hall, and a blacksmith shop.

Simon "Si" Messinger, a Pennsylvanian of German descent, came to Oregon by sea, around the Horn, in the 1850s. Si built the first lumber mill on the lower Applegate. He married Martha Lindsay, then age 16, whose father (David Lindsay) was a cousin of the Applegate brothers. She came west by wagon. Their great-great-granddaughter still lives next door and their great-great-great-granddaughter is on Pacifica's board of directors.

Camp meetings were held at Williams, and, according to one account, people flocked there from "all parts, these being the big events of the year." Because "Camp Meeting Creek" flows into this property, it might be assumed that Pacifica's meadows were used for these events.

In the late 1940s the Lippincotts, artists and art collectors from "Hopi country," bought the property that is now Pacifica. They used logs and wood from the property to build a unique, beautiful home: Pacifica's Pond House. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Pacifica was part of Williams when it was a small, closely knit farming and logging community. Many of the roads were still dirt, and telephones were still party lines directed by an operator.

In 1964, the 680-acre homestead was sold to the P.L. McNutt Development Company, based in El Monte, California, which divided much of it into smaller lots (on the west side of Water Gap Road, the Dreamhill Drive area), leaving the 420 acres where Pacifica now sits.

Between 1977 and 1985, Steve Miller, the rock musician, owned the property. During that period, he built an oak- and cedar-lined "barn" with a lovely "great room" and a recording studio—little realizing what a wonderful community center it would make!

At that time the small "town" of Williams formed a town council (the first in the county) and a volunteer biweekly newspaper, the *Williams News*, which was published for 25 years. These two things helped to bring together the culturally diverse community of Williams, comprised of 2,000 people

spread out through the valleys and hills, a community with a heart and an identity of being outspoken.

In 1999 the nonprofit Pacifica Garden was formed by Ray Prag and myself, Peg Prag, with the miraculous and crucial help of Lee Price, as a unique natural reserve dedicated to education and the celebration of the environment, plants, the arts, and community—past, present and future—providing programs and enriching visitor experiences for people of all ages, abilities, races, and creeds.

As a nonprofit, Pacifica is run by a board of directors. Our activities include

environmental education, an outdoor school, arts education, and community classes and events.

We primarily serve the five wonderful rural communities of the mid-Applegate.

Peg Prag
peg@pacificagarden.org



This house, once owned by Steve Miller of the Steve Miller Band and now part of Pacifica Garden, was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Photo: Janet Eastman/The Oregon via AP.

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

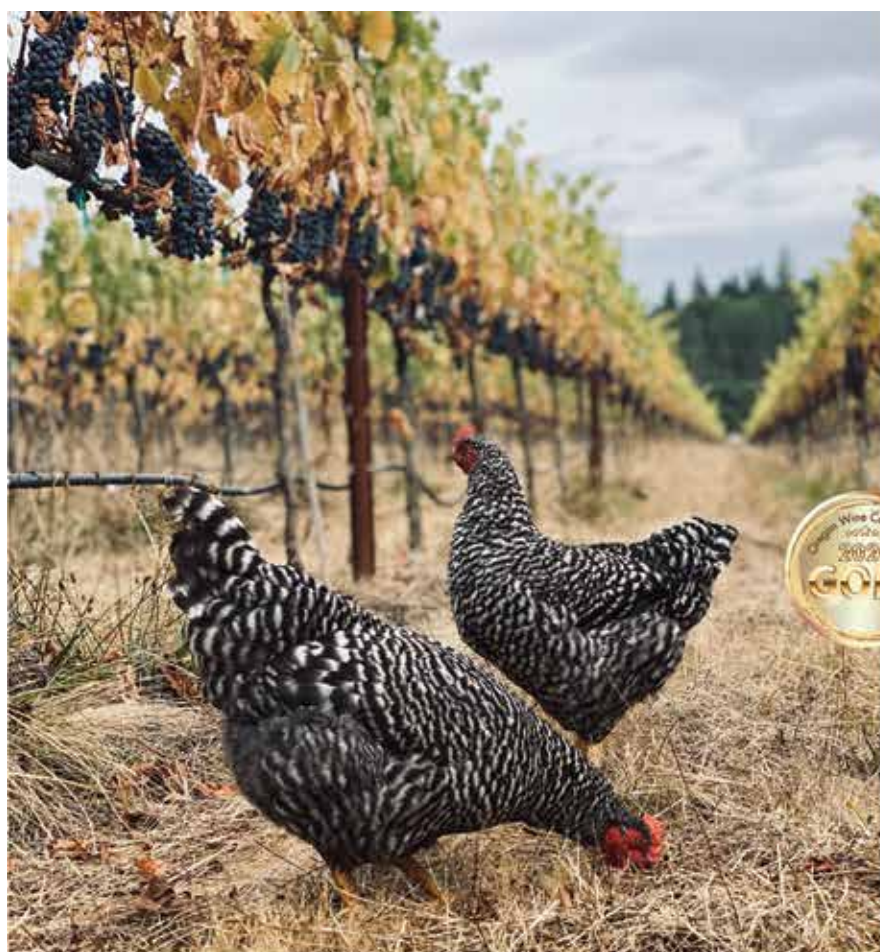
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What a year for starthistle!

BY BARBARA MUMBLO

This past year provided great conditions for yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). The late spring rains and hot, dry summer helped to create lots of plants, many that were tall.

For those of you who may be new to this plant, starthistle is an aggressive noxious and invasive weed that does especially well in the Applegate Valley. It seems to love bare soil, dry conditions, and sun. Originally from the Mediterranean area, this plant moved into southern Oregon in the early 1900s but really began to spread in the past 30 years. It often gets moved along roadsides and then spreads off roads. It's primarily an annual whose seed is thought to remain viable for 10 years. So if you can keep it from seeding for 10 years or so you should be able to get rid of it. I've seen this on several sites I've worked on.

Prevention: The best thing (and cheapest) is to try and keep it from coming to your property in the first place. It's been known to show up in the seed, soil, or rock brought to a site. It comes attached to heavy equipment as plants or seed in soil. Driving over plants can cause them to get attached under a car. One time I parked by some plants and unknowingly closed a plant in my door which dropped out when I got home.

Control and eradication: It can be hard work to get rid of large areas of starthistle, but if you have a small patch you can

hand-pull it and keep it from spreading. Irrigating, as long as you have other plants growing, will help crowd out starthistle. Sheep (and maybe goat) grazing seems to help (cows don't appear to eat it down enough). It is dangerous for horses to feed on. They can get "chewing disease," which causes an inability to swallow. This can accumulate in them over time. If horses have something else to eat it is not as bad as if it is the main thing in the field and they get a taste for it (it really tastes bad).

If you are okay with herbicides, you can spot-spray individual starthistle plants, trying to keep other species remaining for competition. If you cut below the bottom leaves, it won't come back. If you mow above the bottom leaves, it will still flower and seed and become a carpet of starthistle. If you bring soil or rock to your property, ask if it is free of starthistle (and noxious weed). If you are going to have work done with heavy equipment, ask the operator to clean the soil off the equipment before coming to your property. (Federal agencies ask this of contractors so it should not be a surprise request.)

Some folks in the valley have been working on the starthistle problem for years with success. Unfortunately, there are quite a few who are not working on it. Be aware, your lack of effort could cause your neighbor's land to become infested.



A yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*).
Photo: Franco Folini/Wikimedia Commons.

I worked for many years on invasive species on the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District. After I retired, my friend Evelyn Williams continued on her daily walk to pull starthistle plants along Palmer Creek Road. Because she is well into her 90s, I can really appreciate her dedication. She has helped recruit other neighbors in her efforts too. Hopefully her inspiration will help

you to work on your property. If we all "pull together" we can get amazing things done.

For more information about noxious weeds, check out Oregon Department of Agriculture's noxious weed site. Feel free to email me if you have questions or ideas that have worked for eradication.

Barbara Mumblo
bamumblo@gmail.com

Put your old homestead apple tree on some new roots

BY BRAD SMITH

If an old apple tree gives not-so-good apples, one might not think the tree is worth any attention, and so the tree is ignored.

Many of these old apple trees would give better quality apples if we actually cared for them, showing them love with watering in summer, pruning seasonally, feeding, applying tonic sprays like compost tea, thinning fruits early, and breaking pest cycles by removing the old fruits from the ground.

If your old tree looks like a pile of half-rotten wood and you are wondering how it is still alive, it might be worth putting it on some fresh roots and giving it another chance somewhere else.

To do this, start by taking six-to-eight-inch cuttings of the tree's newest growth (called "scion") after the trees have dropped their leaves and gone into dormancy. Bundle, label, and store the sticks in a plastic bag in a fridge. Keep them moist but not sitting in water.

Waiting until January or so to collect your scion will avoid extra time in the fridge, leaving you with fresher scion and some room in the fridge for actual food.

When the trees wake up in spring, it is time to do the grafting. Either study up and graft your scion onto an existing apple tree yourself, or bring it to the 2023 Propagation Fair on March 12 at SCA (Sugarloaf Community Association) Park



in Williams from noon-4 pm. There you can buy rootstock (baby bare-root trees) for \$3 each, and the on-site grafting team can graft it with your scion while you watch and ask questions—unless you wish to take it home and graft it yourself.

By now the Agrarian Sharing Network (ASN) is good at using these events to distribute a diverse array of food-producing plant genetics for free to the public, while also making a perennial space for townfolk to talk to each other in real life about seeds and plants that produce food and medicine. ASN events cater to home orchardists and the community, rather than commercial orchards.

We are not political, and we don't make money doing this. We sell rootstock at the events to cover costs and to demonstrate fruit tree grafting. This is a good opportunity to bring your cuttings of any food-producing or medicinal plants to share with your community, as well as your scion varieties.

Of course, you don't need to bring anything. It is free to enter. For more information, email scion@fastmail.com. Consider giving your old heirloom fruit tree some good attention.

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THROUGH THE LEPIDOPTERAN LENS

The American Lady: An uncommon migrant

BY LINDA KAPPEN



Linda Kappen

The American Lady, *Vanessa virginiensis*, is a butterfly of the Nymphalidae family, also known as Brushfoots.

The wingspan of the American Lady can reach to 2.25 inches. The dorsal view (upperside) is colored mostly orange. The apex of the forewing has a black patch with white spots and a white or light orange bar. Below this patch is an orange section with a single white dot inside the orange. Both sets of wings have lavender-colored edges. On the ventral view (underside) there are two large eyespots. A leaflike pattern covers the area in a soft light brown, with cream-colored lines and webbing.

Males perch to find females. Females will lay a single egg on host plants. The larvae live singly in their own nests of silk.



An American Lady butterfly chrysalis.



A dorsal (upperside) view of an adult American Lady butterfly.



A pair of caterpillars that will become American Ladies.



A ventral (underside) view of an adult American Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*).

The main host plants for this species are pearly everlasting, pussytoe, cudweed, Artemisia, Oregon sunshine, and many others. Adults use nectar of garden flowers, milkweed, aster, dogbane, and many other wildflowers.

sunny habitats with fields of flowers in parks, gardens, and mountains.

As a migrant, the American Lady sometimes will have the right conditions for migrating north from warmer southern

climates, but not like the mass migrations of the Painted Lady. They are not known to overwinter in colder climates. They can have a few broods throughout the summer and can be seen in flight from early summer to late fall. They were plentiful this summer in the Applegate and surrounding areas.

I observed a possible three broods between summer and fall of 2022 in Applegate, Oregon, starting at the Applegate School. During late summer, Kristina Lefever of Pollinator Project of the Rogue Valley had a flat of pearly everlasting getting ready for sale when they found 50 or more American Lady larvae living on the plants. She kindly gave me eight larvae to rear. We were both challenged at finding larval food plants for them, and we were both successful.

There were many sightings of the American Lady throughout Oregon and Washington this past summer. It was a welcome sight and a pleasure to see so many arrive and hang around from early summer through the warm and sunny days of fall.

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

All photos by Linda Kappen.

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Help save an Applegate Valley Historical Society building

BY BARBARA NIEDERMEYER

The Applegate Valley Historical Society (AVHS) was started in 1989 by Myrtle Krouse to move and save the old Grange Store, an 18- by 18-foot building that used to be about two miles out North Applegate Road from Williams Highway.

The Southern Oregon Historical Society acquired the building when the Pioneer Village was disbanded. Myrtle got a few people involved to form a local historical society. They started the process to get the building moved from Jacksonville. Now, where to put it? Roar and Mary Kjar had property in downtown Applegate and were generous enough to deed a small piece to the AVHS. An adjoining landowner, John Pernoll, also gave a piece of land to allow parking on the corner of Highway 238 and North Applegate Road.

The Applegate Lions were a big part in helping to get the property ready as well as moving and placing the building. Many people donated their professional services to get it accomplished. We are forever grateful to them.

Granted, for a few years the museum was closed, due to the lack of funding and volunteers. During that time members discussed what should be done. How are we going to do it? When can we do it?

It was brought to our attention, from the adjoining landowner, that the deed from Kjar, dated June 3, 1992, says, that should AVHS property “no longer be used as a historical site, as concerns the William Pernoll Store, or should AVHS cease to exist, then this grant shall revert and re-vest in the then owner of record of Parcel 3.”

Well, we are still in existence and have been trying to move forward.

If we were to “cease to exist,” then the building and anything we own would



The “Grange Store” was on North Applegate Road. When it was moved into Pioneer Village it was known as the “Applegate Store,” pictured above in Jacksonville in the 1980s.

revert back to the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

Over the years, AVHS has been a member of the Southern Oregon Historical Society/Jackson County Historical County. We have always paid our state and local fees to retain the historical status and remain involved.

Now, our goal is to move the building again to a more visible and community friendly location across the street. The property has been approved by the county already. We are in the process of following the county regulations. All of this takes time and money.

We have been in contact with A Greater Applegate, and they will help where they can.

We are asking for donations at this time to help make our move. We would welcome anyone that is willing to help us out, be it with ideas, money, or equipment. At this time our goal is \$30,000-plus.

Donations can be sent to AVHS, 3120 Thompson Creek Road, Applegate, OR 97530.

Let me know if you need a tax-deductible receipt.

We feel this is a good cause. Help us keep Myrtle Krouse’s dream alive and preserve the history of our area, such as who settled here, the mining that went on, and how things got their names, just to name a few.

You can become a member. The

cost of a single membership is \$25. The cost for a couple is \$40, and for a family, \$50. Membership is good for one year. Send to the address above. Include your name(s), address, phone number, and email address. Please print.

Barbara Niedermeier
bnkoalaskool@gmail.com



The old Applegate Store in the early 2000s after it was moved out of Jacksonville.



APWC crews placed logs on the floodplain in an effort to reconnect it to Cheney Creek.

Improving life for fish on Cheney Creek

BY NATHAN GEHRES

As we face a drier future, how do we keep the water in our streams and protect the fish we love, such as salmon, steelhead, and lamprey, that are so important to our region? One way to preserve the water on the landscape longer is to mimic natural processes like adding large woody debris (LWD) to the upper reaches of our creeks and rivers. The addition of LWD or



These Douglas fir logs were transported from the Provolt Recreation Site to Cheney Creek and “keyed” into trees on the stream bank to hold them in place.

logs improves the stream habitat in a variety of ways: by forming pools, slowing the water down during times of high flows, reducing erosion, increasing food sources for fish (aquatic bugs), retaining more of the gravel needed for spawning, and allowing the groundwater to recharge.

Historically, beavers and vegetation mortality in dense riparian (streamside) forests created stream complexity by introducing logs and woody debris into the stream. Beavers have largely been removed from our area, and past logging practices in the riparian forests have proven to be detrimental by eliminating the big conifer trees that are the most resistant to rot. Red alders, cottonwoods, and bigleaf maples, although important components in streams, tend to break down more quickly and are generally smaller than conifers when recruited as LWD. Complexity also creates opportunities for riparian forests to act as sponges, retaining groundwater and increasing water availability from the pools that form after the logs are placed in the stream.

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) partnered with the local hydrologist of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and a BLM fisheries biologist to enhance the instream habitat on the federally managed section of Cheney Creek. Due to limited floodplain connectivity, this creek has experienced significant habitat degradation caused by drought conditions and decreased water storage. This project builds on the BLM’s 2012 successful large-wood placements. Fish surveys in Cheney Creek have identified populations of coho, Chinook salmon, and steelhead, and recent onsite planning allowed BLM fish biologists to observe adult coho carcasses, along with some successful spawning redds (fish nests).

This joint effort to improve Cheney Creek’s instream habitat through a Large Wood Project began in the spring of 2022. Mitt Dietrich Construction harvested over

100 Douglas fir trees from the Provolt Recreation Site. The trees are harvested by “tree tipping.” The contractor uses a large excavator to “tip” the trees in such a way that the roots are retained, allowing the trees from the retired seed production site to benefit the watershed. In mid-July Tom Maddox, from 4M Timber in Ruch, placed 96 logs at 10 different stream sites. The logs were “keyed” into trees on the streambank and laced together to secure them in place. Ballast logs were used to anchor the structures. Large woody debris was also placed in the floodplain to connect streamflow with the surrounding groundwater. The recharged groundwater should provide cooler water temperatures into the summer season. The log placement went quickly, and all work was completed by early August.

The log jam locations were selected to address sections of channel that showed significant streambank erosion due to high-water velocities, large substrate, and limited habitat complexity, as well as for high likelihood of groundwater recharge through improved floodplain connectivity. Constructing log jams in these select locations will enable the stream to retain more water into the surrounding floodplain soil, while also reducing the amount of erosion. By creating pools and alcoves, the log jams also promoted higher-quality habitat for juvenile and adult coho.

Later this fall, APWC and BLM staff will return to the site to cover any disturbed areas with straw and native grass seed (provided by the BLM) and plant some native riparian plant species in areas that have been heavily impacted. This project was made possible through Federal Title II Secure Rural Schools funding.

With this work, we hope to restore the stream to a more natural flow, providing habitat for the fish we all value.

Nathan Gehres • 541-890-9989
APWC Habitat Restoration
Program Manager
nathan.apwc.info



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**Cantrall Buckley Park
Provolt Recreation Site
ROCS Community Garden**

Look for opportunities on our Website, Facebook Page and the Applegate Connect Calendar
www.applegatepartnership.org/upcoming-events
apparks@apwc.info or 541-899-9982
a 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Organization



Winterization Without Pests!

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

Rodents love to be warm and cozy in the winter just like we do. They make themselves comfortable in the fiberglass insulation we often see used around the top of well casings.

Fiberglass insulation tends to hold moisture, which can cause mold (you don't want any of this in your drinking water). If you have ever run across a rat's nest I am sure you've noticed they don't keep their nest clean and free of urine and feces. I don't think it is necessary for me to continue to paint this picture. YUCK!

Now is time to make sure your well and water pipes are insulated to prevent freezing. As professionals we recommend that you use foam insulation and keep your pump house above freezing temperatures.

Another solution would be put your pump on a pitless adapter. A pitless adapter is a two-piece pipe fitting that allows well pipe to exit a well casing below the frost line. If you have questions about insulating or just want it taken care of for you, give us a call.

Water is a geological cocktail, so DRINK MORE WATER!



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From fire response to community resilience: An update from Rogue Forest Partners

BY TOM GRECO

For those charged with acting as stewards for the fire-adapted forests of southwest Oregon, the end of the summer wildfire season transitions into a proactive restoration of the landscape and attention to building community resilience. This fall and winter, Rogue Forest Partners will do some ecological thinning and controlled burning in the Applegate Valley and near the towns of Talent, Phoenix, southwest Medford, and Jacksonville. Lead implementation partner Lomakatsi Restoration Project, whose restoration ecologist and technical forestry team have been busy coordinating with landowners and writing and laying out site prescriptions, will oversee operations. Members of their in-house workforce and several contracted local forestry services providers will be putting their hands on the land to make the ecosystem healthier and adjacent communities safer. We're grateful to all these crew members for their skill and dedication, especially after many of them served on wildfire response during a long fire season.

In the Upper Applegate Watershed (UAW) project area, partners anticipate accomplishing about 1,000 acres of ecological thinning on Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest lands this winter.

The removal of overly-dense small-diameter trees and understory brush can help reduce fire severity and promote forest health by reducing issues with insects and disease associated with overcrowding. Partners are also planning to begin 1,300 acres of commercial thinning in UAW. As a Stewardship-based project, any trees with commercial value removed during ecologically-focused treatments will be sold to local mills. Revenue generated from these byproducts of restoration will help offset the cost of the project. In addition to the ecological benefits and the reduction of wildfire risk, this work also supports the local economy by creating and sustaining jobs. Lomakatsi recently led a tour of the commercial project area for interested contractors, with an award anticipated by the new year.

Partners are also accomplishing restoration on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management within the UAW project, including approximately 300 acres of ecological thinning with Lomakatsi in the Star Gulch area and about 407 acres of ecological thinning and prescribed pile burning with Grayback Forestry. The BLM is also working with



Lomakatsi Restoration Project crew members at an ecological thinning project site near Jacksonville.

Photo: Lomakatsi.



Braulio Maya Cortes, Lomakatsi's lead restoration crew manager, thins smaller trees along a roadside near Jacksonville to help reduce community wildfire risk.

the next couple of years. This effort is part of the larger West Bear All-Lands Restoration Project, which spans 27,000 acres of the wildland-urban interface west of Bear Creek and the I-5 corridor from Talent to Jacksonville. Additional ecological fuels reduction and controlled pile burning treatments will be occurring in this footprint through the winter and spring, so residents can expect to see occasional smoke.

Fire professionals follow strict guidelines to conduct prescribed fire operations only on days when the smoke is expected to have minimal impact on communities. We recognize that smoke effects may occasionally happen and thank you for your understanding as we work to reduce the risk of wildfire within our communities.

Tom Greco • tom@lomakatsi.org
Communications Director

Lomakatsi Restoration Project
The Rogue Forest Partners (RFP) is a group of four nonprofits and six public agencies working as one for the communities and forests of the Rogue Basin to reduce wildfire risks, enhance wildlife habitat, and create equitable, sustainable jobs. For more information, visit rogueforestpartners.org.

Sign up for updates

Rogue Forest Partners will provide occasional updates to the community around operations, especially when controlled burning is planned in more visible locations. To stay in the loop, please text "RFPupdate" to 855-594-2793 (or scan the QR code), or follow Rogue Forest Partners at rogueforestpartners.org or on Facebook (@rogueforestpartners).



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For more information, contact:

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Next deadline: February 1

THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE

The BLM's secret logging plans in the Applegate Valley

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

In recent years, the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has become increasingly secretive and nontransparent. Rather than address public concerns or opposition to old-forest logging proposals, the agency has insulated itself from critique by expediting the planning process, eliminating all avenues for meaningful public input, and refusing to implement site-specific scientific analysis or a creditable environmental review process. This means that the BLM no longer notifies the public of its logging plans until they are “finalized” and does not incorporate public concerns into the planning process.

For many years the BLM has worked to circumvent its obligation to the public and the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process while pushing for increased timber production throughout western Oregon. In our region, this began to intensify in 2016 when the agency eliminated the Applegate Adaptive Management Area, a designation specifically meant to encourage open, transparent planning processes and public collaboration. Unfortunately, this has now culminated with the IVM (Integrated Vegetation Management) Project, and public involvement is now fully discretionary on over 630,000 acres of BLM land in southwestern Oregon.

The Medford District BLM recently published its 2023 Timber Sale Plan identifying commercial logging projects the agency intends to implement during the next year. On this list are four major timber sales in the Applegate River watershed, totaling 1,674 acres and

an estimated 13.7 million board feet of timber. These projects are proposed throughout the watershed—on Sterling Creek, in the Middle Applegate, and on Williams Creek, where two large timber sales are currently proposed. Although these timber sales contain a wide variety of habitat types and forest conditions, they share one thing in common: a distinct lack of meaningful public involvement and a total lack of credible scientific analysis or environmental review.

My recent articles have discussed both the Late Mungers and Penn Butte Timber Sales between Williams and Murphy in the western portion of the Applegate Valley. Now the BLM has proposed two more timber sales in our valley, both of which will include little to no public involvement.

The Late Mungers, Penn Butte, and Big Ben LSR (Late Successional Reserve) timber sales are proposed for implementation under the provisions of the IVM Project. In these areas, the BLM has authorized a “program of work” which would log up to 20,000 acres and build up to 90 miles of new road in the next ten years, and the agency has begun implementing the IVM Project exclusively in the Applegate River watershed.

Currently very little is known about the Big Ben LSR Timber Sale, and the BLM is refusing to provide information on this sale to either the public or elected officials. Working totally in the dark, the agency has refused to provide basic information on the location of timber sale units and is designing yet another Applegate Valley timber sale in secret, with no public accountability or input.



Hikers stand in a grove of trees proposed for logging in the Penn Butte Timber Sale above Williams, Oregon. Every large tree in this photograph is proposed for removal in a “group selection” harvest. Like other timber sales currently proposed by the BLM in the Applegate Valley, the Penn Butte Timber Sale was developed without the benefit of meaningful public involvement. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

Despite repeated requests for information, the BLM is claiming that no information can be made available, yet a September 2023 auction date has been proposed for 700 acres of logging units and 3.5 million board feet of timber. With an auction date in less than a year, clearly more is known than the BLM will share. To date, all we have been told is that “the project will be roughly located south of Applegate and Ruch, bounded by the Applegate River and Thompson Creek.”

Although not proposed for implementation under the IVM Project, the Lower Sterling Mortality Salvage Timber Sale, including units along the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail, has been proposed for auction by the BLM without any public comment or involvement. The newly released Categorical Exclusion and Decision Record identifies 182 acres

proposed for logging, up to 1.1 million board feet proposed for removal, and no public comment period.

In the Applegate Valley, we hear a lot from our public land managers and elected officials about collaborative forest management, while at the same time we watch the BLM erode the process, eliminate all avenues for meaningful public collaboration, and operate in secrecy. Open access to information is the foundation of collaboration, and the BLM is consistently refusing to provide basic information on timber projects affecting the communities and watersheds of the Applegate Valley. While we work towards meaningful dialogue and sound environmental stewardship, the BLM continues in the opposite direction.

Luke Ruediger
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

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Motorcycle riders keep trails open

BY CHUCK STEAHLY

The Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA) has been helping the US Forest Service maintain trails in the Applegate for more than 40 years. Motorcycles are a great way to access trails while carrying tools, such as chain saws, McLeods (a large rake-hoe combination), handsaws, and pruners. Because we can quickly get to trouble spots, maintenance is much more efficient than on foot. MRA volunteers donate hundreds of hours of work per year to the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

A number of trails in the mountains around Applegate Lake are multiuse, are open to motorcycles, and have been happily shared with nonmotorized users since they were built decades ago. Many are old mining and fire lookout supply trails that are now used for recreation. MRA does the majority of fallen tree removal, brush clearing, and drainage



The Motorcycle Riders Association uses a backhoe to help maintain trails in the Applegate.



Motorcycle Riders Association volunteers help maintain trails like this one in the Applegate.



Volunteers from MRA work to maintain trails in the Applegate.

repair on all of these shared trails. Some of these trails are popular with hikers and mountain bikers as well as motorcyclists, such as the Stein Butte, Boundary, Little Grayback, Summit Lake, and Cook and Green trails. Other more remote or difficult trails, such as New London, Carlton Pasture, and Charlie Buck have light hiker use, but offer the challenge that motorcycle riders with advanced skills enjoy.

This year the MRA, working with Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District,

as part of the Applegate Watershed Restoration Project, has rebuilt two sections of abandoned trails. The lower section of the Charlie Buck Trail and the Cinnabar Mountain Trail, both accessed off of Beaver Creek Road, are now open to single track users. This rebuilding required a lot of tread work, some of it done by hiring a work crew, some by MRA volunteers, and some by MRA members using a single-track trail-building machine. Funding for this project was provided by a Yamaha Outdoor Access Grant. MRA volunteers contributed more than

200 hours of unpaid work to complete this project.

The MRA was created in 1965 to promote the responsible use of off-road motorcycles and ATVs. We are a nonprofit, family-oriented club centered in Jacksonville and serving all of southwest Oregon. We own about 1,300 acres next to the Jacksonville Woodlands and work with the City of Jacksonville to offer a wide range of recreation opportunities, motorized and nonmotorized, to the public.

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OPINIONS

Not only trees die

BY JACK DUGGAN

From the skies over southern Oregon you see a polka-dot landscape of clear-cuts. Hillsides scraped to bare soil dominate industry land in this part of the state. Oregon law allows clear-cuts up to 160 acres on private land. In some cases timber companies cut 160 acres, leave a bit of vegetation, then cut the adjoining 160 acres.

Whether they call it a regeneration harvest or stand replacement, the results are the same. The forests in one of the most biologically diverse regions of the world are being replaced by a homogenous stand of even-aged, single species of trees. But it is not just the trees that suffer and die.

Whole ecosystems will die. Researchers into forest soils report, in the September 2022 *National Geographic*, that “a single gram of forest soil can contain as many as a billion bacteria, up to a million fungi, hundreds of thousands of protozoans, and nearly a thousand roundworms.” One single gram is infinitesimal in four acres, the small “clear-cuts” proposed by Medford District Bureau of Land Management. The supporting soil network, stripped of vegetation, will die off and take decades to recover.

Even more damaging is the exacerbating impact on mycelium, fungus, and all the potential applications related to these resources, as documented by emerging scientific studies. As this science is more recent, continuing to clear-cut without understanding the value of these deep soil resources means we are eliminating the potential for beneficial uses, such as the next potential cancer

cure. Stripping our landscapes with clear-cutting, sadly, leaves so little left to study after a clear-cut. In the clay and granite soils of southern Oregon, the shaved hillsides will bleed soil for three to five years, further thinning the possibility of recovery.

Even as the soil dies, dries, and erodes down the landscape, other creatures lose out as well. Their homes and forage are destroyed. Increasingly, birds, squirrels, raccoons, turkeys, foxes, and a host of other wildlife have no place to call home. Larger mammals like deer, bear, cougars, and bobcats have lost room to roam, places to rest, and a continuity of landscape that allows them sufficient home territory. Displaced, these large mammals move into new territory, sometimes coming down into urban areas. Rural landowners have had to contend with increasing bear and cougar problems.

It is simple to say that clear-cutting is the most economical and efficient way to harvest timber. That statement, however, lacks any consideration for the additional ecological costs of the practice. Nor, in most cases, is it a sustainable practice on fragile southern Oregon soils. Moreover, the lands being clear-cut are not owned by the people who live here. The “management” direction and the profits often go to investors back East who see only dollar signs.

From the skies over southern Oregon we see our state’s legacy of forests being mowed down and multiple lives destroyed. Maybe we should change strategies before we lose it all.

Jack Duggan
shanachie@hughes.net

Public should have been given more information on fire chief’s removal

BY DANIEL PELISSIER

On October 19, 2022, approximately 50 people gathered in the Applegate Valley Fire District #9 training center for what had been promised, at the previous board meeting, to be a discussion about the performance of Chief Mike McLaughlin. Only one person was missing: Chief McLaughlin. The crowd was confused; there was not an agenda item for the chief’s review and the AGA (A Greater Applegate) website had taken down its statement that Chief McLaughlin would be a topic of discussion. What’s going on?

The board of directors came out from their closed-door meeting and let us all in on their secret. Board President Rob Underwood opened the meeting by verbally moving that the board add the missing agenda item, then followed immediately with a vote to accept a termination agreement with the chief. The public asked to see the agreement before the vote, but Underwood denied the request.

The agenda for the September board meeting contained an item for the performance review of the chief. It appeared he was going to get to tell his side of whatever the board’s issues were. But when it came to the agenda item, the president postponed the discussion until the October meeting. Immediately after the September

meeting, the board president and Vice President Doug Stewart put the chief on indefinite nondisciplinary administrative leave with arguably only limited authority given by the board to “manage initial employment activities.”

In hindsight, it is now clear that the board had met four times behind closed doors to orchestrate the termination of Chief McLaughlin. The true intent of these meetings was unclear to the public because they listed their authorization as “considering information and records exempt from public inspection.” They then deleted the agenda item for the October meeting found in the previous meeting agenda, causing further public confusion.

Oregon public meeting law states, “The Oregon form of government requires an informed public aware of the deliberations and decisions of governing bodies and the information upon which such decisions were made.” Whether you agree or disagree with the board’s actions, the process was flawed.

And where was the chief after he had requested to exercise his right to a public hearing? He reportedly was told he could not attend.

Daniel Pelissier
pelissierdr@gmail.com

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Extra glad about response to 'Extra Edition'

BY BERT ETLING

We have received a heartening response to the *Applegater* "Extra Edition" mailed November 1, the beginning of the NewsMatch fundraising campaign. We wanted to get the word out early to allow you more time to respond, and so there'd be more time to raise—and hopefully exceed—the \$15,000 match cap. That's up a bit from last year's \$14,000 cap, so it doesn't hurt to have a little more time to get a little farther.

We've also received a few of the surveys included with the edition and appreciate the feedback. If you haven't yet mailed yours in, please do so—we love to hear from you (with or without a donation, really!).

There's more about this year's campaign on page 1. Here's some fine print:

- The deadline for online donations is midnight, December 31. Checks can be received after January 1, but must be dated by December 31, 2022. (Don't wait too long to mail, though: We need to assemble our reports to the NewsMatch folks by mid-January, so need to receive any mailed donations no later than January 10.)

- Besides the overall NewsMatch match cap of a total of \$15,000 per member nonprofit news organization, there's also a match cap of \$1,000 per individual.

Support through AmazonSmile

Besides NewsMatch, we also want to remind everyone of a way you can direct financial support to the *Applegater's* coffers without putting up any of your own: Just do some of your online shopping through the AmazonSmile portal at smile.amazon.com.

Here's how the AmazonSmile folks explain it: "When you shop, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5 percent of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice."

There's a search function on the AmazonSmile site that will get you to the *Applegater* (we're there under the name of our nonprofit corporation: Applegate Valley Community Newspaper).

What will we do with all that extra revenue after you've done your Christmas shopping at AmazonSmile? We'll devote it to bringing you more useful local information about ensuring we're as prepared as we can be to foster a better, more resilient Applegate Valley.

Whatever your take on the political implications of the term "climate change," we can all agree it's a great idea to minimize fire risk, be prepared for droughts (or floods!), work to create more energy-efficient processes that use generation sources with the least harmful impacts, and to be sensitive to what kind of cultivation of which crops in what ways works best with our environment now and what it could become down the road.

Learning how to maximize positive outcomes is something we can all embrace. The *Applegater* is here to help make that happen in whatever ways it can.

Thinking of writing about any of that for the *Applegater*? Here's a chance to sharpen your skills: I'll be co-teaching a course in Community Journalism at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Southern Oregon University in the winter quarter. The class meets eight times on Tuesdays, January 10 through February 28. Open enrollment begins December 12 at olli.sou.edu.

First lesson: Community journalism starts with "community"—what we do is all about serving the community's interests. Thank you all for making that possible through your generous contributions—not only monetary, but also of your articles and time, all of which make the *Applegater* possible. You are the Gater!

Bert Etling, Editor in Chief
bert@applegater.org

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Good times, good news, and good opportunity

BY DIANA COOGLE

It's so exciting to see the rain again, isn't it?

If you came to the *Applegater's* Gater-est Show on Earth, you know what a good time it was. We would love to do it again next year—a free event for the community, fun for children, good food (thanks Beyond Pizza, and we hope you'll come back next year), great venue (thanks, Valley View Winery, and we hope we can come back next year). We hope you will *all* be able to come next year.

While the board dwindled this fall by the loss of three members (see my article in the fall 2022 issue of the *Applegater*), others in the community have stepped up as candidates for those positions. We are grateful to them for their willingness to serve on the board, and we look forward to introducing new board members to you in the next *Applegater*.

My most important message in this column today is to urge you to make a donation to the *Applegater* before the end of the year. All donations between November 1 (thanks to all our readers who have been sending donations since then) and December 31 will be doubled by NewsMatch, a program of the Institute for Nonprofit News. This is a great opportunity for you to help keep the newsmagazine coming to your mailbox. See the front-page article for more details. We love our readers, and we love our donors!

Enjoy the holidays and the rain and, I hope, the snow.

Diana Coogle
Chair
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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.**

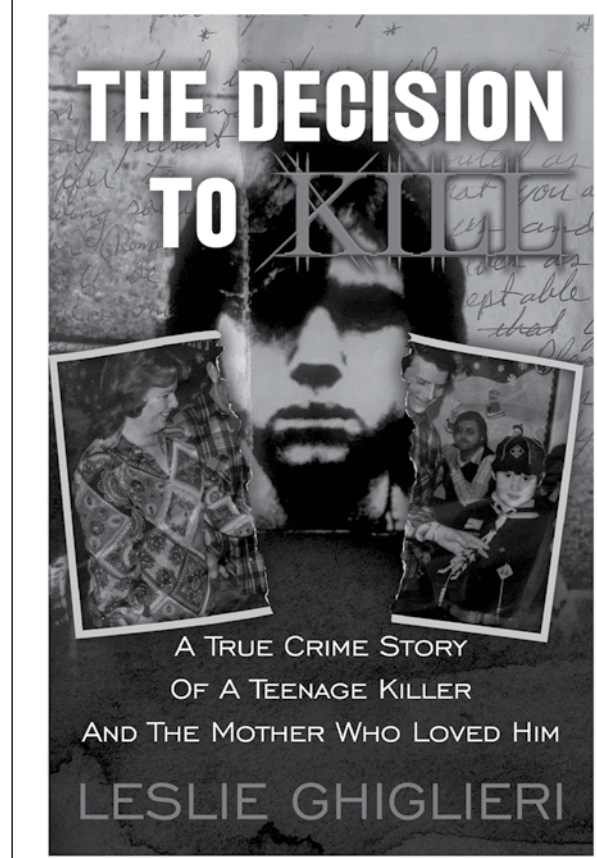
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Letters. Limited to 200 words; must be signed, with a full street address or PO Box and phone number. Only the writer's name and hometown will be published.

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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ASK THE GATER



A photo of Williams Creek taken by Jeremy Hager in November 2021.

Are there any good stories behind the names of Applegate tributaries?

BY LISA E BALDWIN

A person cannot travel very far in the Applegate without encountering a road named after a creek—Thompson Creek, Nine Mile Creek, Butcherknife Creek—and the stories behind the names are sometimes surprising, sometimes exactly what one might expect, and nearly always rooted in pioneer history.

From the uppermost reaches of the watershed to the bottomland just above the Applegate's confluence with the Rogue, two creeks, Sterling and Slate, are seemingly named for the mining resources extracted from them. While that is true for Slate Creek, Sterling Creek is actually named after a man, James Sterling, who mined for gold (not silver) on the creek in the 1850s. Many of our creeks are named after the men who came to the Applegate area in the mid-1800s to mine, such as Jim Carberry who established a placer mine in 1854 on the stream now known as Carberry Creek, or to farm, such as Conrad Slagle who took a land grant claim in 1858 on the creek that now bears his name. Conrad Slagle is buried in the Sparlin Cemetery on Williams Creek.

Williams Creek is one Applegate tributary that is not named after a miner or a farmer. It was named for Captain Robert Williams, a well-known fighter in the Rogue River Indian War. Capt. Williams gained fame after fighting Dagelema people ("River Takelma") and Dakubetede people (Applegate Athapascan) on the creek in 1853. The towns and post offices—Williams, Williams Creek, and Williamsburg—were named after

the creek. Very few geographic names now in common use in the Applegate watershed are the names used by the indigenous people.

A couple of our creeks have names that hint at more colorful stories, like Bull Creek and Humbug Creek. The story behind Humbug Creek tells of a quarrel over a mining claim. Humbug is an old-fashioned term for deceptive or dishonest behavior or a person who behaves as a fraud or imposter. The names of the miners involved in this particular humbug are lost, but the humbug itself is memorialized. It is impossible to know the true story of how our Bull Creek was named. One account tells of a large bull elk that frequented the drainage and successfully evaded hunters year after year. Another version attributes the name to the large population of noisy bull frogs in the area. Yet another points to an unnamed miner, who having exhausted his patience, said the idea of pulling gold from the creek was a "load of bull."

The Applegate River is 51 miles long, fed by numerous streams and creeks whose names carry pieces of our history; some others are so small and seasonal they remain unmapped and unnamed, but every trickle contributes to making the Applegate the largest tributary of the world-famous Rogue River, and the best place to call home.

Lisa E Baldwin
leb.97527@gmail.com

Have a question about the Applegate Valley? Ask the Gater! Send your query to leb.97527@gmail.com.

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••• BIZBITS •••

Pennington Farms' Country Bakery

has long been a favorite of locals and in-the-know regular visitors. This is especially true around the winter holidays. When you stop by to pick up pies for your holiday gatherings, check out the new pavilion with plentiful outdoor seating for warmer days. Cathy Pennington also wants folks to know about their prepackaged gifts available in the store for "grab-and-go giving" and through their online store "for shipping Oregon



Cathy Pennington. Photo: Lisa Baldwin.

love across the country." The Penningtons grow all their own fruit and use it in their baked goods and jams. "We grow it, we pick it, we bake it, we make it," Cathy says. "The farm...that's what makes our products extra special and unique to our valley."

Shop the Pennington Farm website (pennington.farm) where you will find gift boxes of jams, pastries, cookies, honeys, syrups, and more. The hardest part of your holiday gift shopping will be deciding which of the mouthwatering made-from-scratch treats you will choose to share with loved ones, near and far. A visit to Pennington Farms should definitely be near the top of your to-do list in the busy months of December and January. The Country Bakery is on Williams Highway (Highway 238) between Murphy and Provolt.

Open 9 am-5 pm Monday through Friday; 10 am-4 pm Saturday; closed Sundays. 11341 Williams Highway, Murphy. 541-846-0550

Lisa E Baldwin • leb.97527@gmail.com

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■ APPLGATE LODGE

Continued from page 1

and they will still support Applegate nonprofit fundraising efforts.

"Joanna has built an incredible community," Mike says. He and Anna want to continue that legacy.

"Joanna has been a gem in the transition to new ownership," Anna says. She and Mike are grateful to be leaning on her experience, knowledge, and wisdom, especially with weddings.

Of course, though, things won't just trundle along as before. Mike and Anna are also enthusiastic about changes they might make, from tearing out carpeting to having cooperative relationships with Applegate wineries. "The theme at the lodge will be wine-centric," Anna says, envisioning a shuttle from the lodge to the wineries, weekend brunches for wine-tasting parties, wine-focused dinners to show off specific wines, and rooms of the inn named after varietals of grapes grown in the Applegate.

Anna and Mike also want to make the lodge family-friendly with swings for the kids and lawn games. Mike imagines other scenes: guests reading a book by the fire, a group of women at the lodge for a "girls' wine-tasting weekend."

"We want to make coming to the lodge an experience," Anna says. For instance, she sees the lodge offering something similar to the farm-to-table meal she and Mike experienced in Greece. She envisions their own large garden providing the produce.

Anna and Mike want to bring the lodge up to date and give it new energy and a fresh image. To that end, they will no longer call it the Applegate Lodge but will give it a new, as yet undetermined, name. They will revitalize the restaurant, hiring a chef (they hope to find someone local) and changing the menu, keeping it similar to the past menu but with their own flavors and touches, perhaps using dishes from wine regions around the world.

"We plan to bring back the quality of the food," Mike says, remembering meals he has had at the lodge in the past.

Mike, who, like Anna, loves to entertain, will run the restaurant with Anna's brother, Kelley Beck, a third owner. Anna will run the lodge. "There will be a focus on weddings," she says, "and we've already booked two big Christmas parties."

For the time being, Mike and Anna (and the children) will commute to the Applegate from Medford. Mike's father will live at the lodge. Mike will continue with his current job, but Anna is giving up her job as a bookkeeper so she can work full-time running the lodge. Opening date under new management is February 2, 2023.

"We would love to invite everyone out," Mike says.

And "everyone," no doubt, would love to come out—to meet the new owners and experience the new Applegate River Lodge and Restaurant, whatever its new name.


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Happy holidays to one and all from the Applegater!

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Presentation to offer information on shared solar for those who can't do their own installation

BY ALAN JOURNET

Think you can't go solar? Think again! Join us on January 19 in Jacksonville to find out how you can score huge savings from solar energy even if you cannot install panels on your own home.

Renewable energy is becoming ever cheaper and is paying back the investment in its installation more quickly as prices come down and state and federal rebates and credits encourage it. The average payback time in the US is some 10 years with an annual savings of around \$2,000. Since solar panels have a life expectancy of more than 25 years and generally require minimal maintenance, the average homeowner could get many years of pure gravy in terms of financial savings.

The catch is that not everyone can install solar panels on their roof. Some roofs are shaded or have the wrong orientation, some roofs are old and in need of repair so cannot support the panels. Some families live in apartment buildings or rent their homes and cannot install panels, even if they are interested. But there is a solution!

Thanks to legislation passed by the Oregon legislature several years ago, it is now possible for those of us who cannot install solar panels to invest in a community solar project and achieve the same goals. The strategy involves some generous individual(s) or entrepreneur(s) acquiring real estate that is amenable to solar generation and is near electricity grid access to install a field of solar panels and inviting others to invest in them. The result is that the solar farm, including our solar panels, is cheaper to build because of economies of scale, leading to additional savings for residents. It pumps electricity into the grid that replaces electricity we extract from the grid. So long as the community solar farm is pumping electricity into the same grid from which we take our electricity (for most of us in Jackson County, this means the PacificCorp grid), we have an opportunity to invest in enough solar panels to offset the electricity we use. This opportunity also works for renters who move, since they can continue to reap rewards in their



Energy from solar panels installed on the Oregon Shakespeare Festival workshop building in Talent is distributed to nearby neighbors as part of a community solar project.

new home so long as they remain within the Pacific Power service area.

Solarize Rogue is a local nonprofit that has already perfected this approach. With its partner, the Oregon Clean Power Coop, Solarize Rogue has completed a community solar project featuring panels installed on the roof of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Production Building in Talent. They have pioneered this approach and ironed the wrinkles out. Their first project generates 141 kW and powers the homes of 16 Rogue Valley residents. The project also includes providing service to two low-income valley residents.

Solarize Rogue is now scaling up. Their next project will be in Chiloquin and will again serve the Pacific Power Utility area. Thus, anyone who is served by Pacific Power will be eligible to invest in the new project and reap the benefits.

The Jacksonville Climate Action Team of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now is partnering with Solarize Rogue to bring information about this opportunity to Jacksonville and the Applegate Valley. Ray Sanchez-Pescador, President of Solarize Rogue and a major driving force behind the first certified project in Pacific Power territory and the first "participant-owned" project in the state, will lead a discussion of how Jacksonville and Applegate Valley residents can benefit from this project. The public meeting will be held from 5:30-7 pm Thursday, January 19, at the Jacksonville Public Library. (This event is neither sponsored by nor endorsed by Jackson County Library Services.)

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New book deals with old murder in the Applegate

BY LESLIE GHIGLIERI

I am excited to introduce my book *The Decision to Kill: A True Crime Story of a Teenage Killer and the Mother Who Loved Him*, released in June, that tells the story of a murder that took place in the Applegate Valley in October 1986.

I wrote this book to fulfill a promise I made to my friend Cherie Wier, whose story fills the pages. In 2016, Cherie asked me to document the story of her husband's murder by their teenage son. The book tells of the crime, but the story is about more than a murder.

For years, Cherie struggled to overcome the consuming grief she suffers from the loss of her husband and the difficulty she faces as she attempts to forgive her son, Dwayne. The courtroom accounts of gruesome details and the shocking testimonies from experts add to Cherie's desire to make sense of the crime. Tormented by wanting to know *why* this tragedy happened, she wonders if she could have prevented it.

This book gives the reader an unusual look into the personal circumstances leading up to and after the crime. Cherie shares intimate details of her family's struggles with substance abuse and a mental health disorder—the mistakes, disappointments, and tensions that led to the crime. Included are excerpts from letters written by the convicted teen revealing his battle with addiction, sexual identity, and his search for faith.

Readers are challenged to conclude for themselves whether positive change is possible for violent sociopaths.

The Decision to Kill is an unusually personal true crime story because it

is told to the author by the mother herself and contains excerpts from letters written to her by her killer son while he is in prison. The crime reader will appreciate the rare insight this book provides into what the murderer himself describes as his "twisted mind." The killer hints at the formation of "the decision" he made and how that one decision forever altered the course of many lives.

Dwayne's ever-changing views will challenge readers to decide if there is hope for true, positive change in violent sociopaths.

My writing of the book was informed by my career in law enforcement, which began at a 911 Center in Santa Cruz County, California. Relocating to Oregon, I joined the Josephine County Sheriff's Department and later provided computer services to local criminal justice agencies.

The Decision to Kill is available locally at Devitt Winery (on Highway 238 between Ruch and Applegate), Rebel Heart Books in Jacksonville, and Bloomsbury Books in Ashland.

A portion of all sales goes to the Restoring Our Community (ROC) Recovery Center, a faith-based organization in Medford serving Jackson and Josephine counties that provides help to those dealing with substance addiction and their families. This center provides the kind of help that Cherie looked for but couldn't find when she was dealing with her own addicted son.

Leslie Ghiglieri
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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Woodland Charter School's 180 students had a busy fall

BY CHRIS CARMIENCKE

Woodland Charter School in Murphy has had a bright, active, and positive start to the school year! We have more than 180 students in first through eighth grades, as well as 24 staff members and many parent volunteers who have created an exciting learning community that takes part in a Waldorf-inspired curriculum.

We are nearly at full capacity but do have a few openings in first, second, third, sixth, and eighth grades. We continue to provide an in-person, full-time charter school experience that is different from a traditional school experience through an integration of art, music, and developmentally appropriate thematic learning in a lovely outdoor and indoor environment. We are proud of the care and kindness we have in meeting the

needs of families in Josephine and Jackson counties who are looking for something different. We appreciate the continued support of Three Rivers School District for sponsoring us.

The first major event this fall was the lovely Sunflower Festival on the first day of school. This was when we introduced the students in our first-grade class, each of whom was greeted by an eighth-grade student, on one knee, presenting that new student with a colorful sunflower. The faculty sang for the students, and, in Woodland tradition, the story of the new class was shared and the first-grade teacher "named" the class. This year Tanyia Hall, our first-grade teacher, shared a tale and named the first-grade class the Evergreen Class!

At the end of September, Woodland hosted the annual Festival of Courage. We transformed the school into festival grounds by staking colorful flags into the earth, hanging banners from the classrooms, and setting up the field and campus for various activities to test the courage of our students. We began the day with an assembly where students

performed for the school. We heard songs, poems, and music, and we received baskets of iris bulbs from the first grade! There were many jovial "buddy class" activities where students in first and fifth grades, second and sixth, third and seventh, and fourth and eighth teamed up to provide a service to the school.

In early October, our parent volunteers put on the Harvest Faire after a several-year hiatus. The Harvest Faire is an after-school event for the entire school community, a fair of arts and crafts, food, desserts, and drinks prepared and sold by the middle school students, and the creation of a harvest mandala. This year the community shared a bountiful harvest of flowers, veggies, fruits, herbs, and mushrooms in a large mandala.

We have also taken several exciting field trips with our students, including day trips to Sanctuary One, Raptor Creek Farm, Pheasant Fields Farm, Rogue Rock Gym, and Provolt Recreation Site. In addition, our fifth-grade Oak Class went on a three-day, two-night trip to Redwood National Park just south of Crescent City. Students explored the habitats and biodiversity of the national park and enjoyed the hands-on activities and the amazing education provided by park rangers.

Woodland took part in three other great events this fall. First was an in-school celebration of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) where the seventh-grade Dragonfly Class created an *ofrenda* (non-religious altar) to honor those who have passed away. Students in all the grades were able to add to this altar with pictures of loved ones, poems, stories, and other student-created mementos.

Second, we had our second annual jog-a-thon fundraiser, where students were able to go to the Hidden Valley High School track to run as many laps as they could in the predetermined amount of time.

Last, we had a Lantern Walk, where students in the younger grades created lanterns and used them to take part in a short walk just after dusk. The purpose of this event was to remind us that we all hold a light within ourselves and that we need to give this light to humanity through acts of service.

If you are interested in knowing more about Woodland Charter School, or are interested in enrolling, visit our website at woodlandcharterschool.org, or send us an email at office@woodlandcharterschool.org.

Chris Carmiencke, Education Director for Woodland Charter School
chris.carmiencke@woodlandcharterschool.org



A view of the Woodland School garden. Photo: Chris Carmiencke.



The Blue Heron Class created a sukkah (a temporary structure with a roof of leafy boughs, bamboo sticks, etc., built by Jews for Sukkot to commemorate the tabernacles of the Exodus) as part of the third-grade curriculum. Photo: Chris Carmiencke.



Krishna Kol Aam and Robert Hall share some "buddy class" time planting iris bulbs. Photo: Chris Carmiencke.

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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS



Middle school art elective students created a Dia de los Muertos display. Photo: Linda Kappen.

Applegate School's youngest students learn about the butterfly's life cycle

BY JEAN HALL

Applegate School staff members speak of this year's "amazing group of students, exemplifying kindness and eagerness to learn." The Applegate School community has shown proud support for the students through monetary and physical help with the jog-a-thon, Harvest Festival, and class Halloween parties.

Looking at class activities, beginning with Mrs. Hirschmugl's kindergarten-first-grade class, students found great enjoyment in learning the life cycle of the butterfly. They experienced the excitement of finding monarch caterpillars, placing them in a safe enclosure, watching them form chrysalises, and then seeing them emerge as beautiful butterflies. Their most exciting moment, said Mrs. Hirschmugl, was releasing the butterflies into the wild to complete the life cycle.

Recognizing the four seasons by watching changes in one of the trees by the school pond is another learning activity for these students. They sketched the tree in the early fall and will sketch it again in the late fall, winter, and spring. The class visited White Oak Farms in October. They fed and held chickens and goats and learned about harvesting different plants. Joining the second-third-grade class, they visited Fort Vannoy pumpkin patch, where they enjoyed the cow train and the corn maze and took home a pumpkin.

Mrs. Halsted's second-third-grade class has also been learning about life cycles, that of plants. They studied trait variation and selection to increase desired traits. They have also been working hard on place value and multiplication concepts in math. The class had a very exciting time with the school jog-a-thon when they completed 369 laps, which is more than 61 miles, for an average of three miles per student. One student ran six miles in one hour! Mrs. Halsted reported that her class raised more than \$2,000, which can be used for class field trips and special projects. She also spoke of the students' enjoyment of the annual dress-up for Halloween, the traditional Ghost Walk, and the class Halloween party.

Mr. Scull praises his fourth- and fifth-graders for their kindness and "their leaps in understanding." Students had the opportunity to vote for the recipient of the "Kindness Award," and at least two-thirds of the class received at least one

vote. The next award in the class will be for displaying skills for "Organization." These skills, Mr. Scull, explained, are essential for building strong relationships and showing self-management skills. Election for class president saw four fifth graders campaigning for the office, a positive experience and an opportunity for the students to make a case for themselves. Battle of the Books is claiming the attention of some of the students who are reading 16 novels to prepare for competition on their knowledge of the books in the spring.

Middle school teacher Mr. Fall added to the praise of the students. He explained that fourth-through-eighth graders who met behavioral standards, as well as reading and academic goals with no missing assignments, were rewarded in October with a movie at Tinseltown and a pizza lunch. "Just our way of patting them on the back and encouraging positive choices," he said, adding that "students are staying healthy, and laughter abounds."

Mrs. Gourley echoed Mr. Fall's praise of the students and described how the middle school student leadership has been busy with many activities such as holding a Halloween-themed school dance, making and selling popcorn each week, organizing the concession stand for volleyball games, and planning a concession stand for the boys' basketball season. All these activities give student leaders a great opportunity to learn responsibility, planning, keeping inventory, and accounting.

Middle school art elective students, led by Mrs. Kappen, did a Dia de los Muertos display. They watched a short film, learning some history of the celebration dating back to the Aztecs. Students created "sugar skulls," painted with watercolors and decorated with markers on skull-shaped diffusing paper. Monarchs were also inserted into the display. Marigolds donated by Michele Grady Scherer from Hi Hoe Produce and K-1 teacher Karen Hirschmugl were threaded by the students, using needles and fish line.

With all these positive experiences led by staff and helped by community members, readers can see that Applegate School students are on a winning team.

Jean Hall

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Finding our place at Ruch Outdoor Community School

BY KIM NEISWANGER

With a commitment to help students find a sense of purpose and belonging through a deeper connection with the community, Ruch Outdoor Community School has been following a place-based education model. For professional development and support, we have partnered with Teton Science Schools' Place Network. The Teton network partners with rural schools to provide the kind of education that will increase student engagement, build character, have an impact on the community, and improve learning outcomes while celebrating the unique differences of every community.

Many of our classrooms have already started projects rooted in the principles of place-based education.

Ms. N's first-grade students' project is to set up a lemonade stand. The inspiration for this project came from the middle-school students' Wednesday pizza sales, which earn money for their end-of-year overnight trip. Besides wanting to fill a need in the community, Ms. N's students are hoping to make enough money to give to a charity in our community that supports people who are experiencing poverty. The money will also be used for something fun, such as going to a bowling alley. The students are hoping to expand their business to sell lemonade at local events. For this project, the students have set up companies to explore the areas of design, sales, marketing, and production.

Mrs. Brown's first-grade students are doing a yearlong project of hiking the trails at Forest Park, in Jackson, several times throughout the year to observe the seasonal changes. They will document the changes and produce a display for the community during our Art and Science Fair at the end of the year.

Ms. Kriz and Mrs. Monk's second- and third-grade students visited White Oak Farm to learn about sustainable straw-bale-and-cob building practices. They toured a straw-and-cob house built with beams from timber harvested off the land where the building stood. Students then helped build an eye-catching cob wall near our school garden.

Ms. Major and Ms. Barretto's fourth- and fifth-grade students went to Quady North, where they explored the ecology of our vineyards here in the Applegate Valley. Students learned about the soil and the weather conditions that produce perfect grapes and had the opportunity to harvest some cab franc grapes at their peak. They even engaged in the process of stomping grapes and testing the juice for sugar content. They met the many people it takes to create a bottle of wine.

In partnership with the Southern Oregon University Masters of Science in Environmental Education program, sixth-graders from Mr. Pierson's homeroom class participated in a three-day outdoor learning experience at Cantrall Buckley Park. Graduate students designed and delivered lessons around a variety of topics such as macroinvertebrates, soil sampling, and vegetation monitoring. On the final day, Ruch students planned and then



Ms. N's first-grade students Atlas Simpson, Tucker Wood, Aiden Seaman, Liam Kelleher, and Andy Sochia discuss the name of their lemonade stand. Photo: Kim Neiswanger.



Mr. Pierson's sixth-grade class painted animal-proof trash cans at Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Ryan King.

implemented service-learning projects at the park—painting animal-proof trash cans, pulling invasive plants, and planting trees in the riparian zone along the Applegate River.

Mrs. Drane's and Mr. Fox's seventh- and eighth-grade students learned about our local habitats and camped overnight in the large tent structures at Pacifica Gardens. They made baskets out of pine needles, created ceramic art, went fishing, did needle felting, went stargazing, met team and individual challenges, hiked through a small part of the trail on their own, and hiked through four different habitat zones. They learned about the history of the land at Pacifica and gained insight to the culture and value of our community.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students also participated in the Salmon Watch program at McGregor Park. They came away from this experience with knowledge of our local salmon and trout species, the history of salmon in the area and their importance to indigenous peoples, riparian zone health, and sustainable practices with salmon.

We are thankful to our community for welcoming our students as we continue to implement our place-based education model of teaching and learning. If you see us around, be sure to ask us what connections we are making and what impact our learning has on our community and, ultimately, on the world around us. In the words of Alexandra Stoddard, "When you leave a beautiful place, you carry it with you wherever you go."

If you are interested in more information about the Teton Science School and our partnership with it, please visit their website at tetonscience.org/what-we-do/school-network.

Kim Neiswanger

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Photos, first row, left to right:

- **William Della Santina, Diana Coogle, and Margaret Della Santina** search the Applegater for a route through the Dolomite Mountains of northern Italy.
- **Cathy Rodgers** enjoys the Applegater and a nice bottle of Greek wine while cruising the Mediterranean.
- **Jack and Cindy Luce and Chris and Tracy Baker** read the Applegater while taking a mud bath on the island of Viti Levu in Fiji.

Second row, left to right:

- **Annette Parsons (left)** of middle Applegate Valley and **Christine Chumbler** of Jacksonville check the Gater to see if it has eruption times for Yellowstone geysers.
- **Christine and Steven Grubb** catch up on Applegate news while visiting old town Winchester, Virginia.

Third row:

- On the Rialto Bridge in Venice, **William and Margaret della Santina, Diana Coogle, and Bryan della Santina** search the Applegater for information about their next destination.

Safe travels and happy new year, everyone!



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