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Celebrating
~29~
Years

Applegate fire district board approves need for continued local levy and small increase

BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, APPLLEGATE VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

During the recent board meeting of the Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD), the board discussed proposed ideas for the option levy that is soon to expire. Because AVFD has a very low tax base, this levy has been essential to our ability to provide 24-hour emergency coverage since 1998. The levy has been overwhelmingly supported by voters in the past.



The board proposed several options for a continuation of the levy and ultimately decided to focus on priority goals for future fire prevention for the AVFD and reduced response times for the west end of the service area. That area comprises North Applegate Road, Thompson Creek Road, Provolt, Kubli Road, and Humbug Creek areas, as well as a number of other roads. Several years ago, AVFD placed housing at Station 51 on North Applegate Road, but has found it difficult to adequately staff the station with volunteers or students. A continuation of the levy, with a small increase, will provide 24-hour coverage—not only at the headquarters station, but also for the west end of the AVFD at Station 51.

At the meeting, the board considered funding needs, position needs, grants received, and future direction. Our staff has done an amazing job by achieving a substantial number of grants. However, these grants require a “match,” are of limited duration, and come with restrictions on the use of funds. On the other hand, the levy provides a minimal amount of matching funds for an extreme gain. Without this match, we actually go backward and lose 24-hour emergency response staffing, instead of gaining increased service for our patrons.

AVFD also provided information on funding a fire prevention-fire marshal position. In the recent past, the fire chief, operations chief, and office manager have been assigned responsibilities related to fire prevention. With these people already highly tasked with other responsibilities, it

See FIRE LEVY, page 11.

Crooked Barn Vineyards offers straight-up great wine

BY DIANA COOGLE

Atop the bar of Crooked Barn Vineyards’s new wine-tasting room sit four bottles of Crooked Barn wine with medals around their necks: two merlots (2019 and 2020) with silver medals from the Savor Northwest Competition in Washington and a 2019 cabernet franc and a 2019 cabernet sauvignon, silver-medal winners from the 2022 Oregon Wine Competition in Jacksonville. (Just in: Four silver medals for their wines from the 2023 Oregon Wine Experience!)



The crooked barn after which Crooked Barn Vineyards was named. Photo: Diana Coogle.

Heidi and Marcos Martins’s wines are all Bordeaux-style reds because “we love those varietals and want to produce

a good line of wine in that style before adding others,” Heidi says. (Sauvignon blanc is next.)

They harvest their grapes manually and tend the vines themselves. Marcos himself

See CROOKED BARN, page 15.



Overlooking RiverCrest Ranch vineyard from the wine bistro. Photo: Cathy Rodgers.

A rosé by any other name

BY CATHY RODGERS

As we leave the dog days of summer and look ahead to this year’s upcoming fall vineyard harvest, reflections of our abundant spring continue to tickle our sensibilities. With the river still running clear and cool, wildlife frolicking in the sun’s warmth, lavender in a colorful uproar, one might say of this year’s growing season, “Everything’s coming up rosé.”



Red Lily Vineyards Lily Girl rosé was named after the winemaker’s daughter, Lily.

Local vineyards producing a bouquet that has never smelled so sweet and our winemakers creating breathtaking, distinct rosés that reflect the essence of the Applegate (aromas of the valley’s fresh fruit) and celebrate the pink hues of the salmon that run in our river—

pink wine with a distinct expression and a fruit-forward persistence, a wine that is food-friendly and the perfect anytime wine. The “Lily Girl” rosé label features a drawing of their dog by Rachael’s daughter, at age eight. Like time in a bottle, Lily,

it’s the Applegate at its finest, especially when looked at through rosé-colored glasses.

Rachael Martin, owner of Red Lily Vineyards, has been producing rosé wines since 2010, when rosés were just coming to market. Her pursuit of the perfect rosé was not just a solution to a red not yet ready, but a showcase of Red Lily’s tempranillo. Rachael was crafting an alluring, pale

See ROSÉ, page 2.

Ice cream, beer, and gas—too much to ask?

BY JAMES “BUCK” REINDERS



The Applegate Store and Cafe has sold! With so much potential, it seems we’ve all dreamed up possibilities for the site. Some dream big: a community market with fresh produce and flowers, a town square of seasonal abundance, more baked goods! Others simply want the bare essentials.

Well, the new managers of the property, Jeff and Elise Higley, owners of Oshala Farm in the Applegate Valley, have been dreaming too. With funding from long-

time friends, they are excited for the chance to meet the town’s needs, big or small, and to get their family working together in new ways.

In our next issue, we’ll introduce them, their plans, and invite our readers to give them some feedback. They asked for it.

And I’ll make sure they don’t forget the ice cream.

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Announcing an Applegate Town Hall

6-8 pm Monday, September 25

The Applegate Lions Club and the Applegate Valley Fire District will be sponsoring a community town hall for Applegate Valley residents on Monday, September 25. The meeting will be held at the Applegate Community Church, 18960 North Applegate Road, Applegate, from 6-8 pm.

Attendees will get a chance to meet our new fire chief, Chris Wolfard, who will bring everyone up to speed on what's been going on in the district for the past few months, including his assessment of this year's fire season. Chief Wolfard will also lay out the particulars of the proposed fire district tax levy that will appear on the ballot in November.

Also in attendance will be Oregon State Representatives Christine Goodwin and Pam Marsh, who represent residents within the fire district. Applegaters will get a chance to meet them and hear the latest about any fire-related initiatives being considered in Salem.

All speakers will take questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Questions? Contact Tom Carstens at 541-846-1025.

New Co-ed Cub Scout Troop in Williams

Cub Scouts have come to the Applegate Valley and are already making a big impact. Troop leader Rachael Couch decided to start a new pack in Williams so her son could participate in all the great things that scouting has



Members of new Cub Scout troop visit the Williams fire department.

to offer. "We are so happy about the warm welcome and support we've received—from Williams American Legion Post 50 chartering us and housing our meetings, Pacifica for hosting our events, Goodwin Creek Gardens for helping us grow plants, and so many others," says Rachael.

The troop is co-ed and open to kids from K-5th grades, who are currently being mentored/housed under Jacksonville Pack 17 while the troop continues to grow.

"We are working hard for ways to raise funds so that any child in the Applegate Valley interested in joining scouts can do so, regardless of their current financial position," says Rachael.

The new pack has been busy learning to fish, taking a tie-dyeing class, trying some science experiments, and visiting the Williams fire department. Troop members

See **CUB SCOUTS**, page 3.

■ ROSÉ

Continued from page 1

who turned 21 this year, is now serving this rosé. Life, good wine, and memories come full circle. So stop by, say "Hi," and get your blush on.

Rosé wine accounts for less than ten percent of total wine sales, but both still and sparkling rosés are enjoying an unparalleled surge in demand. Today's rosés, particularly southern Oregon's, are versatile, carefree, fanciful, and a bit mischievous. Carefully crafted, uniquely blended, light, refreshing, and fruit-forward, rosés are the new morning mimosa. Today's younger wine enthusiast has cultivated a palate for the very approachable, affordable, modern rosé, enjoying a perfect pairing with a wide variety of foods.

In its early years, rosé was viewed as a sweet feminine beverage, but Applegate winemakers are working a refreshing alchemy as they transform and create a spectrum of rosés destined to delight. This is no longer your mother's rosé. Even the guys are not blushing while enjoying an exquisite glass of "brosé."

According to IWSR (International Wine and Spirits Research), rosé consumption in the United States increased by 188 percent between 2015 and 2020. Sales between 2020 and 2024 are forecast to increase another 70 percent. By 2025, roughly one out of every six bottles of wine sold in the US will be a rosé.

Apricity Vineyard, once a horse pasture, was converted to a vineyard in 2014. Co-owned by Lalon Cook and Noah Lowrey, Apricity is ecologically farmed, with a vineyard grown among native clovers, fescue grasses, and wildflowers. Lalon says rosés are fresh and fun. "They can be your barbecue date and adventure buddy. Rosé will happily accompany you to brunch or an afternoon lunch—anything goes." Apricity offers ecologically inspired

wines, including their unparalleled rosé made from the heart with tempranillo grapes.

Nichole Schulte, an experienced winemaker with Barrel 42, has been making rosé for 14 years. Nichole believes the strong demand for southern Oregon rosé is due in part to the Applegate climate, which favors the same varietals as southern France's climate, where the world's best rosés are currently produced. Nichole shares the growing enthusiasm for the modern version of rosé—much drier and fruitier, with nicely balanced acidity that appeals to a large cross-section of wine lovers.

RiverCrest Ranch has been providing the only sustainably grown, LIVE certified, salmon-safe counoise grapes grown in the state of Oregon. These rare French Rhône grapes have for years gone into Quady North's award-winning rosé. Now, with the help of a USDA grant, RiverCrest Ranch is producing a custom crush that will feature both a still and a sparkling rosé. Get ready to be tickled pink!

At present, half of the Applegate Valley wineries offer a rosé; one quarter also offer a sparkling version. Applegate Valley rosés are being made with syrah, grenache, pinot noir, tempranillo, and local grapes grown intentionally for the production of rosé wines. Our local growers and winemakers all agree: the best rosé in the Applegate Valley is the one shared.

Cathy Rodgers
RiverCrest Ranch Wines
cathyrodgers55@gmail.com



Apricity's rosé is tempranillo-based.

Fourth annual and largest Ruch Holiday Market this November

BY ALLIE PARKIN AND WESTI HAUGHEY

This November, our fourth annual Ruch Holiday Market will be our biggest event yet! Due to the overwhelming vendor and patron interest last year, we have decided to hold our market over two weekends with a different set of vendors for each. November 17-18 (1-6 pm Friday and 11 am-4 pm Saturday) will kick off the first set of vendors, with another amazing batch of makers on November 24-25 (1-6 pm Friday and 11 am-4 pm Saturday).



This year's Ruch Holiday Market will be held over two weekends in November.

The market takes place at our valley's own Applegate Valley Fire Station (AVFS) Community Hall at 1095 Upper Applegate Road. This will be our second year hosting at this amazing venue, which boasts excellent lighting, restrooms, and ample parking. We are so grateful to our local fire department for creating this space and making it available to the community.

Allie Parkin, of Squirrel Medicine Pottery, and Westi Haughey, of Twin Pear Farm, have been hosting this event for three years in a row. "The first couple years we held this event outside," Allie says. "While the weather was kind to us, we didn't want to keep risking getting rained or even snowed out, so I approached AVFS and inquired about renting their community hall. What a great space! It's big, has a full kitchen, bathrooms, and tons of parking for all our patrons. We are so fortunate to have this available to us."

The event just keeps on growing. "We love being able to manage such an event for our local artisans and makers," Westi says. "The holiday season is where most of makers' winter business revenue comes from, and we are so happy to give our community an opportunity to meet, shop, and support their neighbors."

Come join us to shop local wares from some of the Applegate's most talented artisans and makers, including goat-milk soaps and lotions from Westi at Twin Pear Farm, handmade pottery by Allie

from Squirrel Medicine Pottery, goods from McKee Bridge Historical Society, handmade clothing and embellished baskets from Naphtali Threads, jewelry and suncatchers from Beka at Madrone Moon, Nymph and Woodsman Wellness herbal medicinal products, needle-felted art and apparel from Wild and Woolly Feltworks, gemstones from Oregon Rocks, amazing hand-joined wood products from JE Dove Woodworking, yummy treats from Lookout Mountain Freeze Drying, pressed flower ornaments by Barb Wallgren, decorative metal art by Kris at Meltdown Metal Art, handmade cards and gift tags from K&L Creations, delicious gluten- and dairy-free cupcakes from Paulazzo Pasticceria, nut butters and jams from Suncatcher Food Forest, and so much more. There will definitely be something for everyone.

We are absolutely thrilled to bring all these talented folks together for two weekends of shopping in our beautiful Applegate Valley. See you there!

For more information, email Allie at squirrel.medicine.pottery@gmail.com or Westi at westi@twinpearfarm.com. Follow the Ruch Holiday Market on Facebook or Instagram for updates.

Allie Parkin
squirrel.medicine.pottery@gmail.com
Westi Haughey
westi@twinpearfarm.com

Village of Enlightenment promises another exciting event

BY TAMAURA MURPHY

Hello Applegaters!

Over 500 people attended the Village of Enlightenment's Cultural Unity Fest at Merete's Cove (formerly Wayside Park) on June 11. The Village of Enlightenment is a volunteer group dedicated to solving social problems. We want to thank the many fine Applegate businesses, performers, and workshop facilitators who helped make the day such a success. They are too numerous to list here, but we would like to give special recognition to the participation of Ron Smith, former candidate for Josephine County commissioner; Keith Wetlesen, owner of Merete's Cove; and James, the master of ceremonies.

On September 9, the Human Kindness Faire will focus on women's and children's rights. The 45-child dancing troop and adult classes of A-Rae of Light Dance will present "Mona," a fictionalized story of 17-year-old Mona Mahmoudnejad, one of ten Irani women executed for teaching Baha'i children's classes 40 years ago.

A few of the other highlights include entertainers to make you get up and

groove; Wendy Gell, artist and jewelry designer with her pop-up store and workshop; and Vajra Ma, author and motivational speaker. There will also be local crafters with hand-created items and food creations, health practitioners, entrepreneurs, and folks with plants, natural health products, and farmers market items—the kinds of businesses that help build a resource-based economy right here in the Rogue-Siskiyou and Applegate region.

Come for the networking, stay for the fun—swimming in Merete's Cove, where Thompson Creek plunges into the mighty Applegate River.

Join the Village of Enlightenment's Human Kindness Faire from 1 pm-sunset Saturday, September 9. Bring your friends and loved ones! Each patron gets a free raffle ticket to win gifts and services. A two-dollar bartering-fair day pass is available.

See you at the faire!
Tamaura Murphy
Village of Enlightenment
handdesignedcommerce@gmail.com

July's Siskiyou Crest Festival brought attention to the importance of our wild places

BY DIANA COOGLE

More than a hundred people a day came to Pacifica Garden last July for the three-day Siskiyou Crest festival. They came from the Applegate, Ashland, the Illinois Valley, Portland, California, and even Georgia. And, as far as I could tell, they left with an uplift of excitement about the specialness of the Siskiyou Crest and a better understanding of why its public lands deserve protection.

Attendee Linda Pace, for instance, wrote to the Grants Pass *Daily Courier*: "The uniqueness and value of the Siskiyou Crest as a diverse and specialized habitat for plants, animals, and fungi came through in every panel, workshop, and keynote. Art inspired by the power of this region, including a session of original poetry... locally produced films of these mountains' and valleys' remote beauty, and music from native flute to our finest regional singer-songwriters, kept an audience fulfilled."

Such words were balm to the hard-working Siskiyou Crest Coalition (SCC), sponsors of the festival.

The hikes and field trips on the Siskiyou Crest were especially popular. SCC member Suzie Savoie had arranged for nine experts in the ecology of the crest to lead people to these amazing places. *Oregonian* journalist Janet Eastman, who went on the butterfly walk to Bigelow Lakes, led by Dana Ross and Linda Kappen, reported that Dana was "especially excited that they spotted a rare and elusive Johnson's Hairstreak" and noted that the group identified 31 butterfly species "found in this rich lepidopteran habitat." (Read her article, "Siskiyou Festival butterfly field trip," at hereisoregon.com.)

Saturday and Sunday's activities featured five panels of scientists well-known for their knowledge of the Siskiyou Crest. It was Suzie (again) who asked these experts to join the festival, organized their talks, and saw to the technical aspects of their presentations. I personally loved hearing about the teeming wildlife in Oregon Caves (who knew?), but the panelist I heard most often referred to with delight was the lichens guy, Scot Loring.

One person thought the best thing about the festival was that it brought together scientists who specialize in the Siskiyou Crest.

Another person said the best thing was "rallying the community who cares about the Siskiyou! Very nice energy."

Another person said, "The indigenous fire knowledge of [keynote speaker] Joe Scott was particularly impactful for me."

Sunday's keynote speaker, David Rains Wallace, talked about the importance of protections for the Siskiyou Crest—he has long advocated a national park in the Klamath-Siskiyou—but maybe the most delightful part of his talk was the sudden appearance of his hand puppet, Batty the bat, who, through the ventriloquism of his manipulator, countered and commented on points David made.

Those festival attendees who came just to hear the poetry got the point of the beauty and importance of the Siskiyou Crest because that was what the poetry was all about. The people who came just to shake loose with some good dancing to the music of Alice DiMichele or Windsong couldn't have missed that point, either, as they were dancing right in front of paintings inspired by the wild nature of the Siskiyou Crest.

In fact, the art show was doing its job throughout the weekend. There was never a time when I looked across the room that someone wasn't contemplating a picture or walking past the panels with heads turned or reading the displayed poems. The art show was a silent and constant witness to the beauty of the places we were talking about.

As festival organizer I am especially grateful to Peg Prag and Pacifica Garden—the perfect hosts—and for the work of Siskiyou Crest Coalition members Suzie Savoie, Rose Gerstner, Jeanette LeTourneau, Liza Crosse, and Cheryl Bruner. Other hard-working committee members were Marion Hadden, John MacKenzie, and Luke Ruediger.

Two after-the-festival comments were especially gratifying. One was from Matt Dybala, a hike leader who stayed for the whole weekend: "Honestly, the Siskiyou Crest Festival has probably been my most favorite community event since moving to southern Oregon over 20 years ago."

The other comment was from my sister Sharon, who came from Georgia to attend the festival and who said, afterward, "Now I understand why you love this place so much."

Diana Coogle
Chair, Siskiyou Crest Festival
siskiyoufestival@gmail.com

David Rains Wallace, letting Batty address the crowd during his keynote speech.



■ CUB SCOUTS

Continued from page 2

even submitted some of their creative projects at the Josephine County Fair, where they earned a first-place ribbon. Says Rachael, "These are all skills and activities that we wanted to do with our kids while they are growing up and might not have found time for if it wasn't for Cub Scouts."

"I participated in scouting as a kid. If I could wish for anything for my kids, it's to have a pack of friends to grow up with like I had in scouts," adds Rachael.

"There are so many more things that we want our kids to learn, so if you have a skill to share, a volunteer opportunity, or are interested in joining our pack," please reach out to Rachael at 480-540-4486.



Voices of the Applegate

BY DAVID FRANKLIN

You love music. You like to sing. Maybe you've never sung with a performing choir before, or perhaps you have, but not for a while. Either way, we have a great opportunity for you to try your wings—with no audition required.

This fall, beginning Tuesday, September 12, Voices of the Applegate, a community chorus, commences its 20th year. We rehearse for 12 weeks, meeting weekly at Ruch Library from 7-8:30 pm. Our concerts are scheduled for December 8 and 10.

Our repertoire is diverse, having sung 1500s madrigals, Broadway tunes, Disney, '60s to '90s, Bach, spirituals, calypso, African, jazz, pop, and everything in between. The chorus continues to grow in numbers and skills under the direction of Shayne Flock. Because we are self-supporting, we each pay tuition of \$65 per season.

So throw yourself into the ring, be part of something bigger than yourself, and come make beautiful music with us!

Questions? Call David Franklin at 541-821-1129.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE 15-220!

APPLEGATE FIRE DISTRICT LEVY
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MEASURE 15-220 has been endorsed by:

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Senator Jeff Golden
Representative Christine Goodwin
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Jason Fields, Fields Home Center
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Elise Higley, Oshala Farm
Sebastian Kleinfelter, Excavation Oregon
Ron Lehi, Lehi Pump
Rachael Martin, Red Lily Vineyards
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Ted and Mary Warrick, Wooldridge Winery
Denise and Bryan White, Troon Vineyard
Ben Yohai, Kristina Porter, Wandering Fields Farm

Applegate Valley Residents

Laura Ahearn
Gail Battaglia and Roarke Ball
Theresa Auker Becker and Geoffrey Becker
Robin and Nick Borrow
June Byrne
Michael Caldwell
Tom and Kathy Carstens
Carey Chaput
Diana Coogle
Tim and Liza Crosse
Jad and Pam D'Allura
Dan Defenbaugh
David and Lauri Dobbs
Mary and Clint Driver
Rich Fairbanks
Brett Fillis, Retired Fire Chief
Larry and Mrs. Francis
Rose Gerstner and Marty Paule
Karen Giese
Jeri Gleiter
Laurie and James Grigsby
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Crystie and Michael Hawkins
Scott and Rebecca Jager
Vaughn Jones
Seth Kaplan and Lily Myers Kaplan
Aaron Kersey
Artem Koltsov and Sonjue Chung-Koltsov
Grant Konecny
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Brian and Stacey Lehnan
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Thalia Truesdell
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Norm Young
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POETRY CORNER

In the garden

By Anis Mojgani, Oregon Poet Laureate

Sometimes I would lie in the garden and pretend I was a carrot

Sometimes I would curl under the big leaves
and become a head of lettuce

Sometimes in the softest earth I would bury my softer paws
and I was a rabbit

Sometimes
in the garden I was a rock
was wishing I were two rocks
was sometimes becoming three rocks
was sometimes warmed by the sun or held
cool and smooth in a palm
and brought home to be placed
in the window light beside a person's bed

Sometimes in the garden as a rock
I waited hundreds of years
and it was only the wind that touched me
Sometimes I waited thousands of years!
And not even the wind could move me

Sometimes in the garden
night would arrive
holding cupped in its hands the moon soft cheeked and full
glowing like the face of an orange skinned woman in a more orange dress
and the enormous night would use that moon to say to me
you are like how I am
and see how bright my body sometimes becomes

Sometimes in the garden I would wait for spring
Always I wait for spring
And for my love
to appear like it
returning
out of the cold
and with flowers upon her fingertips

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.

Oregon Poet Laureate in the Applegate Valley

Anis Mojgani will be bringing his "fiercely hopeful word arias" to Plaisance Winery

BY CHRISTINA AMMON

Poetry may not be a shovel, a mower, or a hammer. It may not be directly useful in tending to our rural lands. It won't fix a leak, or clean a chimney; won't thin our woodlands, or prevent a wildfire. It won't make Highway 238 more bicycle-friendly.

But—it can pack a lot of punch and make a difference to your day or your life.

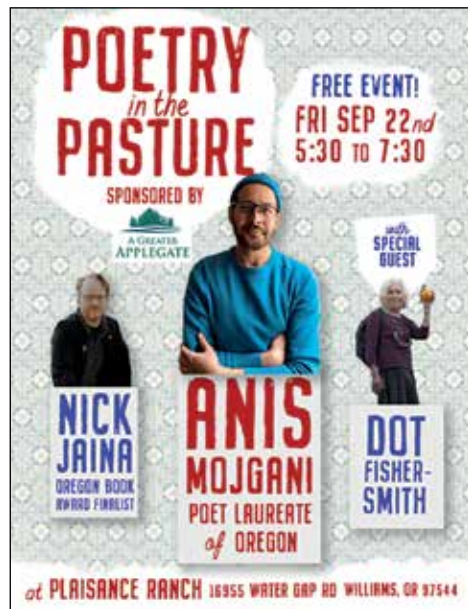
Luckily, because our local community-building organization, A Greater Applegate (AGA), recognizes the cultural value of poetry, they are sponsoring a free-to-the-public poetry performance—"Poetry in the Pasture"—by Oregon Poet Laureate, Anis Mojgani.

This exciting event takes place from 5:30-7:30 pm Friday, September 22, at Plaisance Ranch Winery, 16955 Water Gap Road, Williams.

The author of five books, Mojgani is a two-time National Poetry Slam champion and one-time World Cup winner. He's been called a "geek genius" and his style is lively, heartfelt, thought-provoking, and entertaining.

Anis's performance will be complemented by Nick Jaina, an Oregon Book Award nominee whose spell-binding music-and-prose performance will add texture to the evening and serve as a perfect complement to Anis's lively spoken-word style. The Rogue Valley's own elder and poetry lover, Dot Fisher-Smith, will open the evening with a brief poem.

Bringing Anis's "fiercely hopeful word arias" to the Applegate fulfills one of the goals of AGA's Applegate Valley Vision: to integrate art, music, and theater more



into the community. The Applegate Valley Vision is the result of dozens of listening sessions AGA conducted with residents throughout the Applegate Valley in 2020 and 2021.

UNESCO counts poetry among the world's "intangible treasures." To have this high-profile event in the Applegate Valley—rather than in one of the surrounding cities—is a coup for our valley!

A special thanks to the Applegate Poets for their guidance in planning Poetry in the Pasture. Their book, *Penned Up: Writing out the Pandemic*, will be available for purchase at the event.

For more information, visit plaisanceranch.com/upcoming-events/2023/9/22/poetry-at-plaisance-welcoming-oregons-poet-laureate.

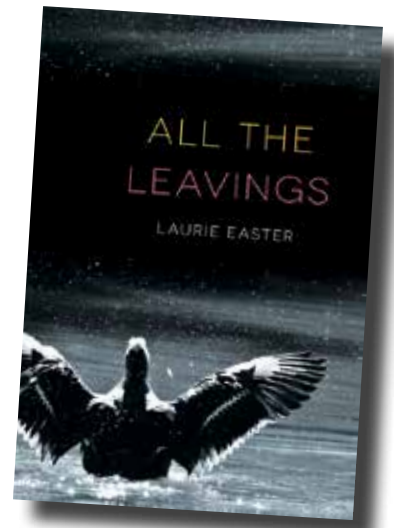
Christina Ammon
christina@footlooseintheapplegate.com

BOOK REVIEW

All the Leavings

Laurie Easter
Oregon State University Press, Corvallis
Finalist, Oregon's Book of the Year

BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER



My husband, John, and I didn't want to miss the Voices of the Applegate in concert this spring and drove to Lindsay Lodge not just to hear the music, but to reconnect with friends. There's always a bit of hubbub as people arrive and greet each other. Three women, one who looked familiar, settled at the opposite end of the row from us. A bit more commotion, a rearrangement of chairs, and suddenly one of them asked if the chair next to me was taken.

"It isn't," said I.

"Maya told me you are a writer, and I should talk with you."

Oh. Maya's must be the face I'd recognized. I smiled and said yes. Then Diana Coog, seated in front of us, turned around and congratulated the woman for being a finalist for an Oregon Book Award. Some delighted laughter, some thanks, and the woman sat down next to me.

"My name is Laurie Easter," she said, and the two of us talked about writing until the music began. I told her of this column in the *Applegater*, and she promised to have her publisher send me a review copy of her book, *All the Leavings*. Once I started reading, I could not put the book down, though I often paused to take it all in. Here is a life lived at its depth, its most raw, with generosity of spirit and the courage of unwavering commitment.

Laurie Easter, of Williams, here in the Applegate Valley, has written a series of essays that becomes a captivating memoir of life off the grid. She delves into the wildness and beauty of nature surrounding her and her family. This is not a romance of idealism, though. Laurie Easter pulls no punches. She tells it like it is, assessing situations hard to imagine and finding herself called upon to make choices that require such bravery and loyalty as to feel impossible for any human person to confront. Unendurable, I often thought while reading. And yet, she endures. She tells the truth without wavering. She does it humbly and with love.

Add to all that Laurie Easter's gift for writing. It isn't easy to put years' worth of essays together into a long work, a book that pulls the reader forward by a living thread of meaning. Each essay (chapter)

connects seamlessly to the next. The thread weaves, not chronologically but obviously—through the children, the neighbors, the land, the wilderness, the distance to hospitals, and also the cardinal rule around Williams: "Live and let live."

Laurie Easter can surprise her readers with creative structures I've not seen anywhere else. For example, the essay titled "Searching for Gwen" involves the reader in a game of "hide and seek." But the content of the chapter is heartrending. So, while reading and at the same time solving a word puzzle one is always searching for Gwen. I felt so tangled in a paradox, so captured by the way I was being led both intellectually and emotionally, I had to bow to her genius as a writer.

Clearly, I admire her skill. I am amazed by her life. I am entranced by her wisdom. She emerges through this book as a woman who endures through vulnerability, succeeds with humility, and finds clarity in difficult times by keeping her own counsel, thinking the problem through, and trusting her heart. She has given us a darn good story.

I'll just open the book and copy a sample. It won't matter from where. It's all so good! There. Page 150. "Of all the leavings, which is worst? Is it the unexpected? The raw, stabbing, and visceral? Is it the inevitable yet sorrowful? The one so unfair as to be damnable of the universe? Or is it the one that requires—no, demands—getting used to? The common, the expected, the prepared for, the repetitive...the worst leaving...steals from your subconscious as you sleep, waking you in an eruption of deep, guttural moaning so loud and animal-like you don't recognize your own voice as human."

Christin Lore Weber
storyweaver1@gmail.com

On motherhood

By Mary Lorelli
marylorelli@gmail.com

The light in your eyes reflects the love I give to you
The strength of your pulse reflects the life I gave to you
But what you've given me is more than can ever be measured
I'm so rich, so full with my Motherhood
Such a gift, sometimes I don't feel large enough to contain it

I watch you grow away from me, so you can be who you want to be
Though I knew it had to happen, my heart is unprepared
It's yet another lesson, from this I won't be spared but I know
I'll find a way of letting you go
It's another way of watching you grow

Mary was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but has lived in the Applegate on Slagle Creek Road for 49 years. She's seen a lot of changes—some good, some bad—but says she'll always call the Applegate home.



~ FINE PRINT ~

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

Our Mission

The 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.

Acknowledgements

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All materials submitted for publication must pertain to the Applegate Valley, be original (no press releases or reprinted articles), and be the intellectual property of the author unless otherwise credited.

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 gater@applegater.org by the deadline (see Editorial Calendar on this page).

Applegater Newsmagazine
PO Box 14
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Keep It Local Inc. Excavation and Land Management

With fire season upon us, it's incumbent on everyone to make sure your house, lawn, and gardens are protected from encroaching fire. Shayne McFadden, who has been working in the excavation and brush-clearing business for over 15 years, wants to make your property secure from fire and help beautify it at the same time.

"I had been working for various companies doing driveway installations, brush and blackberry removal, and other excavation jobs, and decided the time was right to move out on my own," said Shayne, who moved to the Applegate Valley 15 years ago.

"I got financing for a skid-steer loader/mini excavator, which is a class of compact heavy equipment with lift



arms that can attach to a wide variety of buckets and other labor-saving tools or attachments. We can use it to clear brush, dig trenches and post holes, and lots of other jobs."

Shayne realizes a lot of property owners are overwhelmed, and he's there to make their lives easier. "We can clear areas of brush or trees, put down contractor-grade underlayment, and finish it off with gravel, creating the most beautiful driveways," he said. "Blackberry removal, though, is something customers

really appreciate. That is especially important during fire season, because blackberries are extremely combustible. We also do landscaping, weed-whacking, grading, trenching, tree-pruning, tree service, driveway repair, French drains, rock-spreading, irrigation, field-mowing, and much more."

Keep It Local can do just about any job, large or small, even the cleaning out of culverts. The installation of water tanks is also a specialty. During periods of drought, it's extremely helpful to have a water-tank storage system for emergencies.

Take advantage of Keep It Local's seasonal coupon deals. Free estimates are available by calling 541-563-3478 (541-JOE-DIRT) or visit keepitlocalinc.com. Keep It Local Excavation & Land Management is licensed and insured; customer satisfaction is their guarantee.

See *Keep It Local's ad on page 10.*



The Applegater needs your ongoing help!

In order to keep up with our expenses—printing and postage are the biggest costs—and be able to continue mailing this newsmagazine free to every residence and business in the Applegate Valley, please mail your donation to:

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For more information, contact:
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Ron Turpen @ 541-601-1867 or ron.turpen@gmail.com
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Max Unger @ 458-291-9391 or imaxunger@gmail.com

Next deadline: November 1

Cover Photo Credit

Thanks to Linda Kappen for the photo of the Buckeye butterfly at Sampson Creek Preserve in Jackson County.

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

Correction

An article title on page 21 of the summer edition gave an incorrect location. The correct title is "Grains of change...in the Rogue Valley," not "...at Provolt Recreation Site."

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 Barbara Holiday at barbara@applegater.org.

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

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Editorial Calendar

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WINTER (Dec - Feb)....	November 1 <i>Holiday - Arts</i>
SPRING (March - May) ...	February 1 <i>History - Heritage</i>
SUMMER (June - Aug)	May 1 <i>Fire - Water</i>
FALL (Sept - Nov)	August 1 <i>Earth - Air</i>

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- Sought-after Leanira butterfly in southern Oregon.....13*
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— Applegate Library —

First annual Applegate Music Festival



— Ruch Library —

Introducing new branch manager

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

BY MEGAN PINDER

Please join us at the Applegate Branch Library for the first annual family-friendly Applegate Music Festival from noon-4 pm Saturday, September 30. Love piano music? We will have that! Love guitar, ukulele, and cello? We will have that too! Browse the library, pick up your holds, and listen to local musicians sing and play various instruments.

Noon-12:45 pm—Singer-songwriter-keyboardist, Noah

1-1:45 pm—Classical pianist, Debbie Lyons

2-2:45 pm—Cello player, Lisa Truelove

3-3:45 pm—Singer-songwriter-guitarist, Cole Cullen

On the hour in our front entrance we will also have singer-guitarist-ukelelist Scott Carey.

Upcoming events

Nature-inspired Pinch Pots (3+ years). 12:30-2:30 pm Saturday, September 15. Local Applegate resident and ceramicist, Allie Parkin, of Squirrel Medicine Pottery, will teach pinch techniques. All materials will be provided for this class, but if you want to protect your clothes, please bring your own apron or work shirt. Allie has been working in ceramics since 2015.

Death Café (16+ years). 6-8 pm Thursday, September 21. Southern Oregon Living and Dying Alliance is connecting compassionate, dedicated, service-oriented individuals who are promoting positive death literacy in word and action. Death Conversations are discussions without an agenda, other than to provide a safe space for each person's expression. There will be no promotion of personal beliefs or correction of each other's views.

Live Action Oregon Trail (6+ years). 3:30-4:30 pm Thursday, October 5. Travel across the Oregon Trail, collect supplies, and avoid calamity in this live-action version of the famous computer game. Kids will travel through checkpoints by participating in a series of fun challenges. Win the challenge, collect supplies, and move forward. The goal is to make it to Oregon!

Bikes! A Special Storytime (3+ years). 11 am-noon Friday, October 6. Learning to ride a bike is a child's first step to independence and adventure! This special storytime program will introduce children to the joys of riding a bike through a series of books, songs, and rhymes!

Facial Yoga and Gua Sha: A Natural Alternative to Botox and Fillers (18+ years). 2-3 pm Saturday, October 7. Facial yoga and gua sha improve blood

circulation and create muscle tone, thereby avoiding expensive Botox and fillers. Collagen and elastin will be encouraged to flow! This presentation will be taught by Applegate's own Sang Montage, a licensed acupuncturist. She brings over 15 years of experience in traditional Chinese medicine.

Oregon State University (OSU) Master Gardener presents: Fall Vegetable Gardening—Growing winter veggies and preparing soil for summer (18+ years). 12:30-1:30 pm Thursday, October 12. John Kobal, an OSU-certified Master Gardener, will discuss what to grow, when to plant a winter garden, and how to prepare for the following summer growing season.

Teen Comic Con-test (13+ years). 12:30-1:30 pm Saturday, October 14. Teens will be given supplies to draw and write their own graphic novel or comic book and submit it as an entry to win a graphic novel. Prizes will be given for both text and art. The twist? All entries *must* include a second language in addition to English, but the language can be real or fictional!

Coffee and Conversation (18+ years). 12:30-2:30 pm Thursday, October 19. Join us for coffee, tea, and conversation. Other light refreshments will be provided as well as crossword puzzles, coloring, and sudoku sheets.

Halloween Crafts and Party (5+ years). 12:30-2:30 pm Saturday, October 28. Join us for crafts, music, stories, and treats. Come in costume for a special treat!

DIY Autumnal Door Hanger (18+ years). 4-6 pm Thursday, November 2. Make a festive seasonal door hanger with ribbons, pinecones, and foliage.

Reminders

The Applegate Library 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.

Wi-Fi is available in our parking lot 24-7.

A Digital Services representative will be here on Tuesdays from 10 am-12:30 pm on a first come, first served basis. Or you can make an appointment at digitalservices@jcls.org or call 541-734-3990.

Preschool Storytime is 11-11:30 am Fridays.

Christine Grubb • 541-846-7346
Applegate Branch Library Manager
Jackson County Library Services
18485 North Applegate Road
cgrubb@jcls.org

Being the new Ruch branch manager for the past two months has been a lovely homecoming for me as I reconnect with old friends and neighbors and meet many newer community members as well. I was raised in the Applegate Valley, so I treasure my connection to this beautiful land and community.

In the decades since that upbringing, I have had many adventures both here and abroad. I taught Spanish and ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) at Eagle Point High School, then social studies and literature in Indonesia and Mexico. When my family and I returned to the Rogue Valley, we lived in Ashland while our son attended high school and I worked for the Jackson County Library System as the bilingual library specialist for outreach to childcare.

Now, as recent empty nesters, my husband and I have downsized to a smaller house on the outskirts of Jacksonville, allowing me to take advantage of this new opportunity in Ruch. Applegate Valley is a special place and Ruch Library is an important community hub, so each day I feel grateful to be working here. Please stop by to chat, or call or email to let me know your vision for our library. I am eager to connect with those of you who are patrons, as well as those who are not (yet). The library is for everyone!

Our theme this autumn is Fall Into Adventure! At all 15 of our branches, your library card is your ticket to adventure. Please visit jcls.org to explore all our free events, resources, and services.

Fall events

Kaleidoscope Play and Learn (KPL) (0-5 years). 10:30 am-noon Thursdays. Discover how children learn through play and daily activities: singing, telling stories, creating art, and having fun! KPL is open to all young children and their families and caregivers.

Preschool Storytime (3-5 years). 10:30-11 am Tuesdays. Bring your preschoolers to enjoy stories, rhymes, songs, and fun at the library.

Computer and Tech Help (all ages). 2-4:30 pm Thursdays. Meet with a Digital Services Specialist by appointment or drop in.

Tween/Teen Movie Hangout (11-14 years). 3:30-6 pm first and third Thursdays. Stop by the Ruch Library to enjoy a movie (and popcorn) with other tweens and teens! There will be time to discuss a few movie options and vote for a favorite before showtime at 4 pm.

Live Action Oregon Trail (6+ years). 1-2 pm September 9. Travel across the Oregon Trail, collect supplies, and avoid calamity in this live-action version of the famous computer game.

DIY Autumnal Door Hanger (18+ years). 2-3 pm September 23. Make a festive seasonal door hanger with ribbons, pinecones, and foliage.

Fall Into Adventure Saturday Matinee Series (13+ years). 1-3:30 pm September 30. Join us for our first of three Fall Into Adventure movies: *Moonrise Kingdom* (PG-13). Doors open at 1 pm, showtime is at 1:30 pm. Popcorn provided!

Bikes! A Special Storytime (3+ years). 1-2 pm October 14. This special Storytime program will introduce children to the joys of riding a bike through a series of books, songs, and rhymes!

Scary Geology Stories for the Halloween Season (10+ years). 1-2 pm October 21. Geologist Mark Prchal will share short, true stories from Oregon's geologic past, including earthquakes, mega lava flows, and mega floods. Halloween candy included!

Wild Women of the West: Archaeological and Historical Challenges to Myth and Misrepresentation in Popular Culture (16+ years). 5:30-6:30 pm October 26. Using nearby Jacksonville as a case study, this talk, led by historical archaeologist Chelsea Rose, will use more than a decade of research and archaeological investigations to update the ways in which women feature in the history of the American West.

Fall Into Adventure Saturday Matinee Series (all ages). 1-3:30 pm October 28. Join us for our second of three Fall Into Adventure movies: *Coco* (PG). Doors open at 1 pm, showtime is at 1:30 pm. Popcorn provided!

Unearthing the Past (5-15 years). 1-2 pm November 4. Archaeologist Katie Johnson will introduce kids to the science of archaeology and what it can tell us about the past using artifacts and tools of the trade.

Fall Into Adventure Saturday Matinee Series (17+ years). 1-3:30 pm November 11. Join us for our third and final Fall Into Adventure movie: *Everything, Everywhere, All at Once* (R). Doors open at 1 pm, showtime is at 1:30 pm. Popcorn provided!

Megan Pinder • 541-494-3284
Ruch Branch Library Manager
Jackson County Library Services
7919 Highway 238
mpinder@jcls.org



— Williams Library —

Ground broken for new library

BY BRANDACE ROJO

New Williams branch library

Library board members participated in a groundbreaking ceremony on July 10 to commemorate the start of construction on the new library in Williams. The new library, located at 158 Tetherow Road, will replace the existing Williams Library at 20695 Williams Highway, one mile away.

The library foundation purchased the property last year with funds from local donations and a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

via the Oregon State Legislature and Representative Morgan.

Library leaders have been working with ZCS Engineering & Architecture, Inc., for the past year designing the renovation of the 1,000-square-foot building into a public library space.

The existing Williams Library, opened in 1977, is an 864-square foot mobile unit on the property of Williams Elementary School.

Construction on the new library began in July and is expected to

continue through the summer. Community members should stay tuned for information about a grand opening in late September.

Funding for the design and construction of the new Williams library has come from local donors, including the community crowdfund that took place last year, raising \$140,000. Other funders include Four Way Community Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, A Greater Applegate, Roundhouse Foundation, and the Ford Family Foundation. Josephine County also granted ARPA funds toward this project.

In an agreement with the library, the Three Rivers School District will assume ownership of the old library building and has plans to repurpose it. For more information

about the new Williams Library, visit jclfoundation.org/williams.

Upcoming events

Library events and programs are offered at no charge and are open to the public. Registration is not required, and a library card is not necessary to participate in library events and programs unless otherwise noted.

Williams Library listening sessions. Join us the third Thursday of each month from 5-6 pm at the Williams Grange, 20100 Williams Highway, to learn more about the new community library building project 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, 11-11:30 am every Friday. Themed
See *WILLIAMS LIBRARY*, page 17.

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES



Sara Marie Hamilton, Applegate Food and Farm Coordinator, at A Greater Applegate's Community Food Hub at LongSword Vineyard.

Come to the Jacksaphine Count(r)y Fair in September

BY MEGAN FEHRMAN

When my neighbor Christina Ammon told me about meeting Ernest Adam one afternoon at the Applegate River Lodge (as it was called then), something she said stuck with me. Ernest talked about the community of “Jacksaphine,” the fictitious world with no border between our two counties. According to Ernest, “Everyone who lives in Jackson and Josephine counties is in one county, Jacksaphine. Bottom line. And everyone gets along.”

Months later, when A Greater Applegate (AGA) was brainstorming for our first annual community celebration and fundraiser, the idea of Jacksaphine County returned to me. We could host an event, I thought, about the beauty, flavors, and diversity of the Applegate Valley, a unique rural place that is shared by both Jackson and Josephine counties.

And so the idea for the Jacksaphine Count(r)y Fair was born. We are excited to announce that this event will be held from 2-8 pm Saturday, September 16, near downtown Applegate. It will be a family-friendly event, with live music from multiple bands, games, kids’ activities, a dessert competition, local food and drink, a pop-up art gallery, raffles, and an auction highlighting the “Best of the Applegate”!

This fundraiser will sustain AGA’s community-building work, directly supporting our staff, programs, and operational costs. This event will also celebrate the one-year anniversary of the release of the Applegate Valley Vision, and we will showcase the progress being made through our active working groups and networks. To buy tickets, visit agreaterapplegate.org.

If you have any goods, services, workshops, or special talents that you would like to offer as part of our raffle and auction items, please contact AGA board member Kim Zwemer-Margulis at kimzm@kzmcounseling.com.

Here are a few other ways AGA is supporting connections and building community in Jacksaphine County:

We are proud to be supporting the Community Food Hub at the Applegate Evening Market, in partnership with the Rogue Valley Food System Network and Rogue Artisan Foods. This booth ensures that all in our community have reliable and consistent access to locally grown food. At LongSword Vineyard, from 4-7 pm every Wednesday in September, you can find produce, berries, and eggs at the Community Food Hub booth, plus a

wide array of other goods from a variety of farmers, artisans, and makers, including meat, plants, mushrooms, bread, clothes, metalwork, and more! Applegate Evening Market accepts Double Up Food Bucks and SNAP. Anyone receiving SNAP benefits can swipe their EBT card for up to a \$20 voucher and get matching funds to purchase fruits and vegetables.

AGA will be hosting a Nonprofit Fair at the Williams Farmers Market from 4-6:30 pm Monday, September 26, at Sugarloaf Community Association on Tetherow Road. Get to know some of the awesome nonprofits working in the valley, learn about volunteer opportunities, sign up for newsletters, join a board of directors, or make a donation.

If you run a local business or are an entrepreneur working in the Applegate, be on the lookout for the Business Network Resource and Technical Assistance Fair coming again on October 5 at Valley View Winery. This will be a one-stop shop to meet and talk with individuals and organizations that offer business assistance, plus a great place to network and meet other local businesspeople. Marcy and Rob Rustad, owners of Applegate River Lavender, say, “Being a part of the AGA community has brought real value to our farm business and introduced us to many new friends. We were new to the area three years ago and had a lot to learn. AGA provided us with the many stepping-stones needed to engage with the community, meet other business owners, and secure the technical assistance needed to take the farm to a new level.”

Finally, this is the last call for the 2023 Innovation Grant applications, which are due at 5 pm Friday, September 8. Innovation Grants are open to individuals, businesses, and community organizations. All proposed projects must align with one or more of the 90 strategies or 500 Ideas for Action from the Applegate Valley Vision. We look forward to seeing all the great ideas and projects that are being developed right here in the Applegate. Check out Applegate Valley Connect (applegateconnect.org) for reports on past Innovation Grants and progress being made toward our common vision as we work together to make this special place even better.

Megan Fehrman
Co-Executive Director
A Greater Applegate
megan@agreaterapplegate.org

A brief history of Applegate harvests

BY LAURA AHEARN

Autumn. Time to bring in the crops. How different is Applegate harvest time now from past times?

According to Takelma legend, Acorn Woman came down from M’laikini Yaina (Mount McLoughlin) and threw pieces of her flesh on oak trees, sprouting acorns. The Indigenous peoples who lived here for millennia dried and ground the acorns as a dietary staple.

White prospectors and settlers arrived in the 1850s. So did pickles! William Thompson (as in Thompson Creek) planted two and a half acres of potatoes and set up three ten-gallon barrels of pickles. He still had more pickling supplies—soaking pans, kegs of vinegar—when his cabin burned down in September 1853. Eighty years later, Edwin Taylor took Applegate pickle-making to an industrial scale, with 20 acres of cucumbers and 20 employees at his farm that straddled the Applegate River where Hamilton Road makes its sharp bend.

Some prospectors tired of mining and became agrarians, like those who married Native American women and headed to “Big Applegate” in the 1870s. Their community became known as Watkins, and “haying” was a routine chore. Seventy years later, renowned photographer Russell Lee captured Rolland “Sandy” Smith haying on the former Melvin Sturgess homestead adjoining Taylor’s farm.

Many prospectors continued mining, of course, and some, like Amos McKee, used their mineral wealth to buy farmland. What was McKee’s main market crop in the early 1900s? Red Mexican beans. Amos would take the beans from Palmer Creek to Jacksonville in a horse-drawn wagon; on the 18-mile trip his children, Ernest, Floyd, and Pearl, would jump on the beans to remove the husks.

Around this time a New York City mining magnate bought the Blue Ledge mining claims and hired lots of hungry people to blast tunnels and move the copper ore “to the dump.” (It was impractical to transport the raw ore to the smelter in Tacoma until copper prices shot up in World War I.) The Blue Ledge camp was on steep rocky land, far up rugged Joe Creek Canyon. No way to grow food there. Applegate farmers and even Jacksonville elite were happy to sell their bounty. The McKee Bridge Historical Society’s archives contain the company’s vouchers for 1906-16. George Culy at Steamboat sold apples, cattle, and hogs. John Offenbacher, potatoes. “Cap” Ruch, eggs and butter. Emil Britt, honey.

Another big growing craze in this era? Hops! Growers took a heavy hit when Prohibition was enacted but rebounded on sales to the European market. At harvest time the call would go out that so-and-so needed help to harvest 70 acres; the very next day over 100 people might show up to camp out and go to work.

The Applegate’s most glamorous crop? It’s gotta be the gladiolus flower. In the 1930s there were three big West



The McKees and friends take Mexican beans to Jacksonville in 1908. Photo: Evelyn Byrne Williams collection.



“Haying a mountain valley” by Russell Lee, July 1942 (Library of Congress).

Coast flower festivals: roses in Pasadena, roses in Portland, and glads in Grants Pass. “At the time, Grants Pass gladioli were world-famous big business, with a Gladiolus Society created to regulate where the bulbs could be grown... After 20 years the industry came to an end caused by low-cost imported gladiolus and the loss of farmland” (Southern Oregon Public Broadcasting Service, *Southern Oregon Experience*).

In the recent past a couple of odoriferous plant types seemed to proliferate in the Applegate, but their profitability has tanked, so let’s move on to two other crops with staying power that take years of dedicated cultivation, but reward with soothing smells and tantalizing tastes—wine grapes.

In 1972 the Wisnovsky family planted their vineyard at Valley View. Fifty-one years later we can celebrate new labels and bottlings by vintners like Wanderlust and RiverCrest Ranch.

The recent Southern Oregon Lavender Trail Festival drew many people to the Applegate. They were not only interested in this fascinating herb but in our community’s history as well. Thank you, Kingfisher Farm, for inviting McKee Bridge Historical Society to participate! We were able to inform dozens of visitors that Oregon’s oldest surviving covered bridge (tied, according to Oregon Department of Transportation, with Gallon House Bridge in Marion County) was just another mile down the road and so worth a visit.

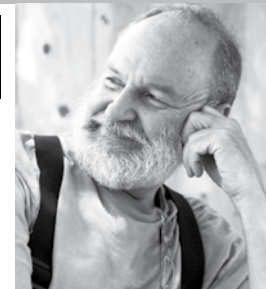
If you would like to help out with the upcoming Christmas on a Covered Bridge or join McKee Bridge Historical Society to share our Applegate heritage, come to the Annual Meeting at McKee Bridge at 11 am September 30.

Laura Ahearn
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com

THE STARRY SIDE

A solar eclipse right here at home!

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

The most important event this fall is the annular solar eclipse around 9 am October 14. Northwest Medford is right on the edge of it! A shadow will go across the land approximately west to east—from Oregon to Texas—and the sun will disappear behind the dark moon as a brilliant thin ring. It will dazzle millions.

A full eclipse completely blackens the sun, but this is an annular eclipse, where the black ring of the moon leaves a tiny ring of sunlight around it. The moon is a little farther away from us and therefore smaller, so it doesn't completely match the size of the sun. The whole experience is very fast—just a few minutes, so plan ahead. I'm going to Crater Lake to be in the middle of it with my cameras and friends! For an animation of its path, visit greeleyandfriends.com/eclipse.

September is my 80th birthday month and the beginning of fall. As usual my head still lifts each night to the starry sky, but now my mind turns to a perspective I would never have

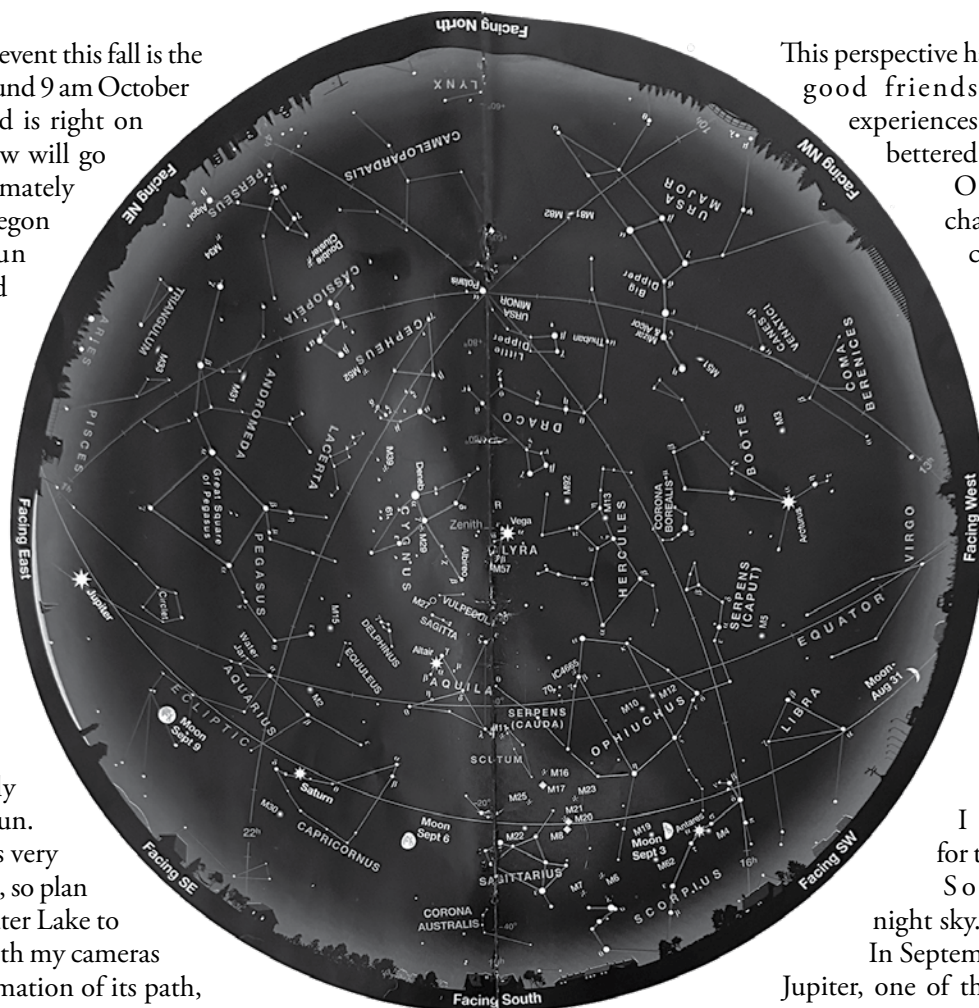


Image: Sky & Telescope (skyandtelescope.org).

This perspective has me remembering good friends and important experiences that changed and bettered my life.

One of the life-changing memories I cherish is of a gift from Grandma Donna when I was a child on an island off Nassau. We were on her beach with a small group of children to whom she was showing the night sky. This moment changed many of our lives and is one of the reasons I write this column for the *Applegater* today. So back to the night sky.

In September, at about 9 pm, Jupiter, one of the brightest planets (outshone only by Venus, who recently went down in the west at sunset), is now up low in the east (and can be seen rising in the early morning). Above him is the clear square of Pegasus, the great horse. Jupiter is a fellow planet and, like us, swings around

the sun. We have a wonderful relationship with him as we each get closer and farther, brighter and fainter.

The summer triangle is farther up and now overhead, continuing her summer ride with our home galaxy inside her. Notice how big our galaxy is, spilling out either side of the triangle, both north and south. To the north I always think of the galaxy as coming out of Cassiopeia, the “W,” though it actually surrounds us completely. This observation brings up an interesting scientific fact: We and the whole galaxy are moving through space in the direction of Vega, the brightest star in the triangle. How do scientists know that? By measuring the stars' movements in the sky, they found the least movement in the direction toward Vega.

All the stars will keep swinging counterclockwise together around the North Star as the season moves on. On the west of the North Star is the Big Dipper, Ursa Major, dropping to swing below the North Star. Bootes, with the very bright star, Arcturus (follow the arch of the Big Dipper's handle to Arcturus), is sinking into the west. It's a beautiful show, whether you're 80 or eight.

Another 80s' perspective: Being born in the middle of World War II allowed me to see peace and the 1950s, when only the husband had a job, most families owned their own house, and retirement funds were enough to live on comfortably. Do you know that the 60s and 70s were still close to that picture despite the hippies coming along? We could get good jobs and have families and houses too! Today the wealthy one percent owns more than half of what all of us other folks own added together, and you know the trouble many of us are in.

Let's change this back to an 80-year-old's earlier life experience—that worked better!

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

gussed before: what I see from being 80! The perspective is amazing.

— Of Note —

Planets

Mercury is in our September dawn, then gone in October. He returns in the dusk for November-December. Mercury is closest to the sun and bright, but fast-moving and never far from the sun.

Venus is up in the morning all season. She's the brightest “star” (planet) we've got, visible even though she is farther from the sun than Mercury! She's also

closer to us and appears larger. I'm in love with Venus when she shows her face.

Mars is up at dusk in September and will disappear till January next year when he's in our dawn.

Jupiter, bright and handsome, will be seen in September and October in the mornings, then disappears till next year.

Saturn graces our evenings all season.

Meteor Showers

Orionids are best on October 21 with a low-in-the-west quarter-moon. There are about 20 meteors an hour, so stay out longer to see more. Some can be seen from October 2-November 7.

Leonids' maximum time is November 18, with no moon problems. There'll be about 10-15 an hour. This show is active between November 6-30.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Going gray

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

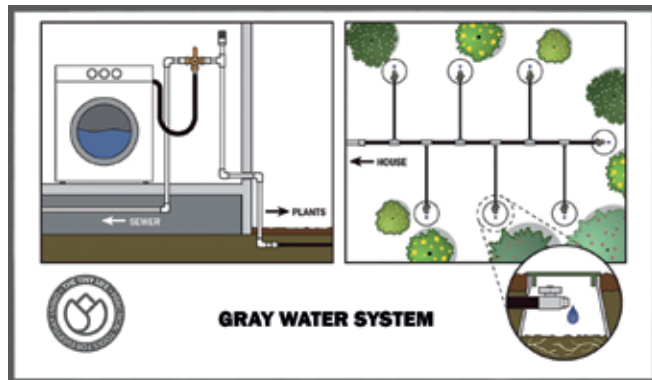
Well, if I were tall and lean, had blue eyes, and were very tan, I might consider going gray. But I am not. Actually, I am shrinking and chunky, not remotely tan, and have brown eyes that are usually bloodshot. But, relevant to a garden column, I *am* considering going gray.

Using gray water is *not* new, and it is not “yuk.” Water from your bath, shower, spa, kitchen sink, or washing machine is all considered gray water. Take note that none of the aforementioned sources have floating “chunks.” So drop the “yuk,” which is called “black water.”

What is so great about gray water? For starts, it’s free, and, besides, most systems do not use electricity. It reduces the sewage load and refills groundwater. It reduces your water bill. As global drought persists, gray water can maintain water-dependent landscapes.

This column is not a how-to about setting up a gray-water system, but rather simple information about gray water.

I first heard about gray water back in time, in April 1977, to be exact. The idea made sense to me, so by the following week I had water from the washing machine hooked up to a regular old garden hose, which watered the lawn, a young plum tree, and a clump of Louisiana iris. I was stunned by the lush green growth. For the last 35 years I had planned on setting up



Example of a home gray-water system (thetinylife.com/greywater-systems).

a gray-water system here in Applegate. It’s still on my bucket list.

I recently read an online article about a ruling from the Minnesota Court of Appeals concerning use of gray water by members of a deeply conservative Amish community in Minnesota. The court ruled, in this long-running religious freedom case, that the Amish don’t need to install septic systems to dispose of their “gray water” (news.yahoo.com/court-sides-amish-families-case-182133875.html).

That article piqued my curiosity. How did gray water suddenly become a legal case linked with religious freedom? By religious belief, the Amish do not use electricity, which is required for a septic system. Perhaps today, without being Amish, living “off the grid” is as close as we

can get to understanding why the Amish wish to use gray water.

Actually, using gray water is already a common practice and is even encouraged in many states. California has legislated household use of gray water for irrigation since 1992, and Santa Clara County, California, offers residents up to \$400 to install a

gray-water system.

According to Greywater Action (greywateraction.org), gray water reuse was legalized in Oregon in 2012. All gray-water systems require a permit from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality “to ensure that gray water is not spilling into waterways or neighboring yards.”

On its website, the Ecology Center in Berkeley, California, lists common household products to use and not to use with a gray-water system. It says you should “seek out cleaning products that are biodegradable or biocompatible and free of (1) salts, and sodium compounds; (2) boron, borate, and borax; and (3) chlorine bleach. Avoid other synthetic compounds that degrade soil quality, like coloring agents, synthetic fragrance, and artificial preservatives.” For more information,

go to ecologycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Greywater-Cleaning-Fact-Sheet.pdf.

The negative side of gray water is that it could contain pathogens. This means that you should not use gray water on crops in your vegetable garden that have direct soil contact—all root crops, and any melons, squashes, beans, and strawberries if the edible product touches the soil. Tomatoes are okay only if grown on a trellis far from the ground. Edible crops on trees are safe to eat when watered with gray water.

Think about water consumption on golf courses and sports fields. Why isn’t gray water used there? Even the US Golf Association promotes using recycled water, stating that “Nationwide, approximately [only] 13 percent of golf courses use recycled water for irrigation.”

We humans are learning that water is actually a finite resource. Whether this is due to weather conditions, wastefulness, or mere shortsightedness, parts of the planet are mighty thirsty. Starting right here at home we can conserve, preserve, restore, and save. Hooray for going gray!

“We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.” —Thomas Fuller

Dirty fingernails and all,
Sioux Rogers
littlemuddyred@gmail.com

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Thank-you celebration to be annual!

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

The Cantrall Buckley Park Enhancement Committee (PEC) is grateful for all the community volunteers and donors supporting our work in the park. Following our successful April Thank-You Celebration, the planning committee unanimously decided to make this an annual event to bring the community together, recognize our supporters, enjoy good music, and see and showcase the exciting changes in the park.

Enhancement projects news

The donor mural is almost finished! Artist and creator Jeremy Criswell is happy to announce that several new panels have been poured and are curing in his new studio. He now has room to complete the rest of the panels. Once they are ready, Jackson County Parks employees will transport them to the park and help Jeremy install them.

New hiker-biker shelter coming to the campground

Thanks to donations to A Greater Applegate's park committee, the last enhancement project, a long-awaited campground improvement, is taking shape. The inspiration for this special shelter—with a roof, open sides, a partial wall with a built-in counter, and storage units—came from similar structures in Oregon state parks on the coast and in the Willamette Valley. The PEC saw an

opportunity to provide a similar structure in our park for those who bicycle or car camp while enjoying an adventure in our region.

This project is supported with generous private donations from local organizations, businesses, and individuals. The pandemic and supply-chain problems brought the project to an abrupt halt, but in 2022, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) stepped in to help. They found a local contractor for locally milled lumber who could also provide a basic kit for assemblage. They offered a technical person to help with design factors if needed and other planning and labor assistance for the project.

We are truly grateful for the initial donors who supported this new campground feature, and for their patience. We would also appreciate any businesses who might be able to provide a discount on materials, including brackets, bolts, cabinet materials, etc. Because of the recent increase in material costs, we could still use donations to finish the design and make this an amazing campsite upgrade. If you wish to join in supporting this project, go to applegatepartnership.org or contact Janis Mohr-Tipton at janis.agapark@gmail.com.

We are also going to be asking for volunteers to help erect this shelter

after the campground closes for the season, and construction can begin. Contact Janis at 541-846-7501 if you are interested in helping.

Coming fall volunteer opportunity

We are planning the Fall Riverside Cleanup with SOLVE, APWC, and AGA from 9 am-noon September 23—depending on good temperatures and air quality. We will notify you if plans change. Please check the APWC news and events website at applegatepartnership.org/upcoming-events, along with the Applegate Connect website at applegateconnect.org.

Join PEC members as we continue removing invasive species at the Dragonfly Place and picking up trash on the riverfront. The event will be posted on the SOLVE website (solveoregon.org), where you can register for the event. You can also check for more information and a registration link on the APWC website or contact Janelle at contact@apwc.info or Janis at janis.agapark@gmail.com or 541-846-7501.

The APWC and AGA volunteer park committees hope to see you at Cantrall Buckley Park, located off Highway 238 in Ruch. We highly value the community



Mosaic artist Jeremy Criswell is happy to finally be in production creating the rest of the panels for the donor mural at Cantrall Buckley in his newly developed studio at his residence in Phoenix. Photo: Jeremy Criswell.



The new hiker-biker site for Cantrall Buckley Campground is modeled after this unit at Champoeg State Park in the Salem, Oregon, area. A partial wall will be added behind the counter for weather protection, as well as a pitched roof for better wind-resistance in our area. Photo: Janis Mohr-Tipton.

members who volunteer to help with our enhancement projects. Thank you again for your service at our Jackson County park.

Janis Mohr-Tipton
Chair, A Greater Applegate Park Enhancement Committee
Cochair, Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council Cultural Committee
janis.agapark@gmail.com

Prepare your family and home for a wildfire emergency

KS Wild's recently published *Forest & Fire Toolkit* is a one-stop shop for all the resources you need to acquaint yourself with the forests in the Siskiyou region and, most importantly, how to prepare your family, your home, and your community for a wildfire emergency, including:

- How-to guide on preparing your property for wildfire
- Funding opportunities for home defense
- Steps to plan and be ready for a wildfire emergency and evacuation
- Resource directory of national forest districts, fire districts, and more!

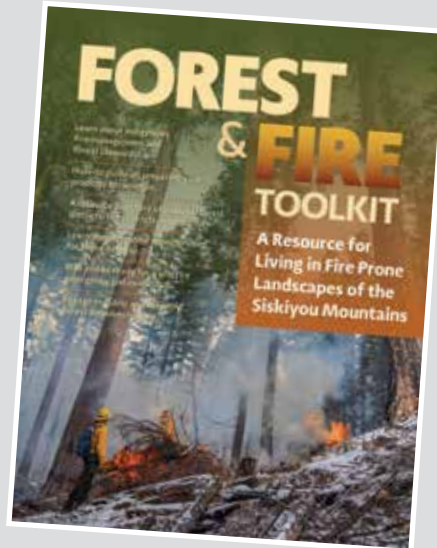
Why is this important?

Rural communities are surrounded by public and private industrial forestland, and the decisions made in these forests affect everyone living in the watershed. Forest practices, like thinning near homes and prescribed fire, can help protect communities. Other forest

practices, like clear-cut logging, can damage watersheds and increase fire hazard. The Siskiyou region is experiencing warmer temperatures, with longer periods of dry weather and drought. Increasing residential development into forestlands places more homes and communities at risk from wildfire. There is no future free from wildfire, but there are actions we can take to help prepare for the next one.

The toolkit is geared toward people who are affected by forest management and who have a desire to become involved in the decision-making process for our forests. This includes, for example, rural residents, forest workers, landowners, recreationists, and nature-based businesses.

The *Forest & Fire Toolkit* is part of KS Wild's ongoing efforts to support community adaptation to wildfires and a changing climate. Many partner organizations contributed to the creation of the toolkit, including Lomakatsi



Restoration Project, Smith River Alliance, Firebrand Resiliency Collective, Illinois Valley Community Development Organization, and A Greater Applegate.

To learn more about the *Forest & Fire Toolkit* and to download a free copy, visit kswild.org and scroll down the home page. If you would like to purchase a hard copy, click Merch or contact alexi@kswild.org.

ROCS hosts EE Summit

BY RYAN KING

In collaboration with Oregon State University (OSU), Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) hosted a free, one-day, professional development and community-building event focused on environmental education (EE). The EE Summit invited local educators and organizations to enrich and enhance outdoor learning experiences for K-12 students in southern Oregon.

The keynote program was delivered by Jeanine Moy from Vesper Meadow (vespermeadow.org). She shared the new fire ecology and human relationship curriculum, aligned to SB13 Tribal History/Shared History, produced by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and written by the Vesper Meadow Education Program.

Breakout sessions included an outdoor school information panel featuring OSU

See ROCS, page 11.

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■ **ROCS**

Continued from page 10

outdoor school staff and southern Oregon outdoor school providers. Attendees learned about various outdoor school options for our region and received assistance to find programs to best fit their needs. Another session focused on nature journaling, exploring ways to engage students of all ages in close observation and science inquiry. The EE Summit also included a session on building successful high school leader programs for outdoor school programming. Attendees learned about various models for recruiting, training, and mentoring high school leaders and steps for getting started with developing a program.

Lunch was provided from Sweets -N-Eats, followed by an EE Resource Fair at ROCS with over ten organizations, and an optional social at Valley View winery.

To learn more about the EE Summit, please reach out to Stacey Perry from Rogue Environmental Education at rogue.enviro.ed@gmail.com.

Ryan King, Principal
Ruch Outdoor Community School
541-842-3850



WELCOME BACK, BIRD EXPLORER!

The spectacular Bullock's Oriole

BY PETER J. THIEMANN

Upon returning to the *Applegater* after a break, the Bird Explorer has a story about a very spectacular Neotropical Oriole, the Bullock's Oriole. Seen all over the West, but never in large numbers, this icterid* is a stunning bird to see right out of the tropics. What makes this Oriole so special, in addition to its coloring, is its nest-building technique—a marvel of avian architecture! The nest is finely woven, using mostly natural fibers, into a hanging pouch attached by the edges and suspended from twigs. I found some Oriole nests in oak trees at the Rogue River in Touvelle Park with fishing lines and pieces of fishing nets woven in. Luckily for us, once a keen observer has located a hanging basket, the Oriole will tolerate his or her presence.

For the first time since watching birds in the Applegate Valley, I have had several Orioles come to my bird feeders this spring, attracted to suet and hummingbird nectar. What a spectacle! Up to four male Orioles and many Black-headed Grosbeaks came to



Bullock's Oriole perched on author's deck feeder in the Applegate.

my deck feeders—and my neighbors' feeders as well. It is not sunflower seeds the Orioles are interested in, as their beak is

not designed to break open seeds.

During a birding trip to southwest Texas, I saw the other Orioles—Altamira, Hooded, and Baltimore—which are also neotropical in the continental United States. It is popular in Texas to put out sliced oranges for Orioles.

Rare Oriole visitors—the Orchard and Hooded—along our West Coast are causing a frenzy among our Oregon-northern California birding community. So, feel yourself lucky to witness the arrival of this spectacular Neotropical bird in spring as the leaves green out. It is a reminder of how connected our natural world is.

Peter Thiemann
peterjthiemann@yahoo.com
**Note: Icterids are "A family of small to medium-sized, often colorful... New World passerine [perching] birds, including New World orioles," per Wikipedia.*

Photo by Peter Thiemann.



Peter J. Thiemann

■ **FIRE LEVY**

Continued from page 1

makes sense to focus on the increased safety of our constituents by hiring someone to act as fire prevention coordinator and fire marshal and to expand and focus on fire safety in our valley. A limited-term grant will partially pay for this position, which is excellent for our constituents. But the ongoing funding from the levy is essential to provide long-term fire-prevention capabilities for our fire district!

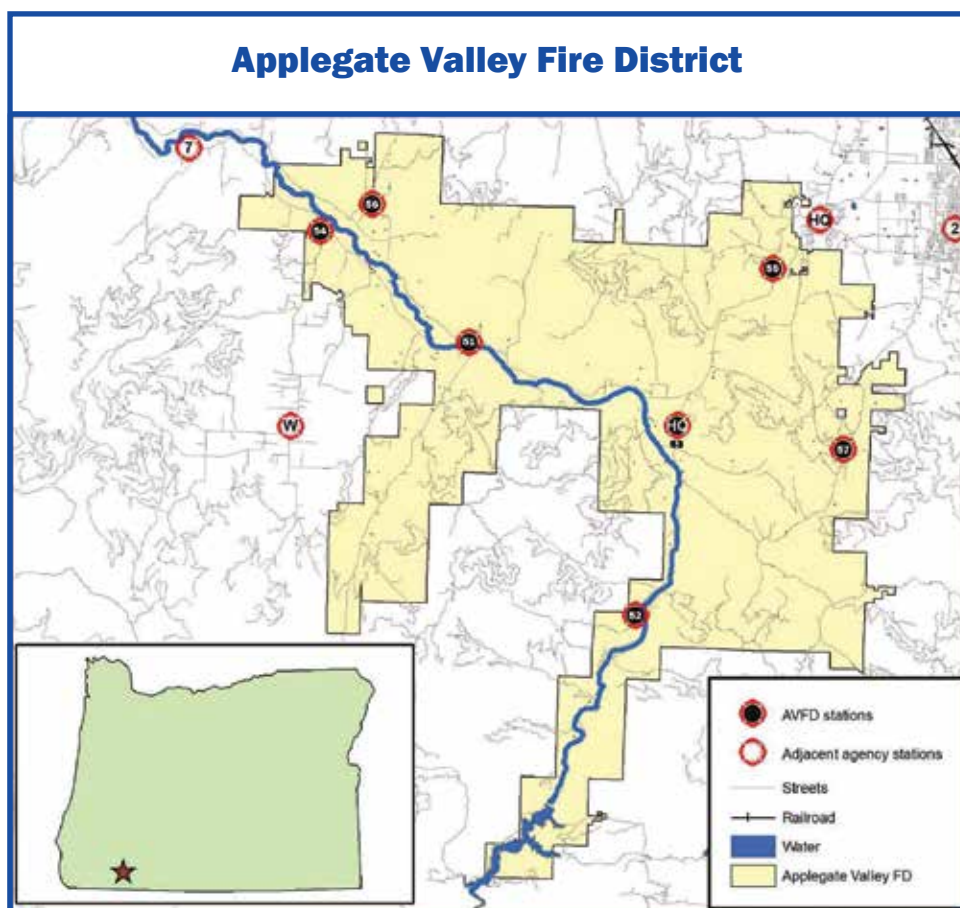
Four of the five board members were present at the July meeting and unanimously voted yes for the continuation of the local option levy. The board also unanimously voted to seek a 20-cent increase to provide better fire prevention and coordination within our fire district for the long-term benefit of our constituents.

The publicly elected volunteers or the Board of Directors of the Applegate Valley Fire District do not take this levy request lightly—we feel great responsibility for the

costs borne by our community members. The need for continued emergency coverage in our fire district is paramount for the safety of our district. We ask for your continued support of the Applegate Valley Fire District and a yes vote on

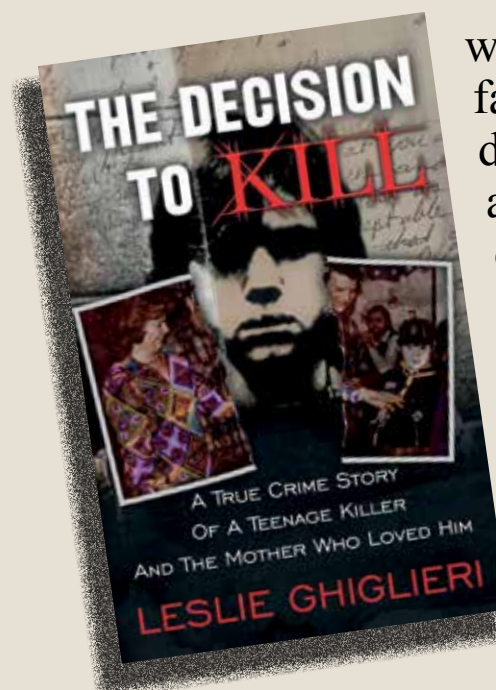
Measure 15-220, to approve the local option levy!

Rob Underwood, Board President
On behalf of the Applegate Valley Fire District Board of Directors
runderwood@applegatefd.com



Above map shows locations of Applegate Valley Fire District stations.

What happened in the APPLEGATE VALLEY...



when a Christian family is faced with drug addiction, a mental health disorder, and violence? An inspiring true story of the mother, Cherie Wier, as she struggles to understand and forgive her son.

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CLASSROOM #1

9:00 AM	Adjusting equipment, proper use of medical devices and where to get it	Amy Fiske, PT - Trinity Home Care
9:30 AM	Empower Yourself: Mental Health & Emotional Wellness	Angela Franklin - Options of Southern Oregon
10:00 AM	The Journey of Grief and Loss	Angela Franklin - Options of Southern Oregon
10:30 - 11:30 AM	How to open a successful Adult Foster Home & MAKE GOOD MONEY!	Jamie Callahan - Team Senior
11:30 AM	Understanding reverse mortgages from an expert!	Matt Allen - American Senior
12:00 PM	Aging with Pride: LGBT+ Connections and Support in Southern Oregon	Angela Franklin - Options of Southern Oregon
12:30 PM	Understanding how to get qualified for Medicaid, for in-home care	Jodi Robertson - Trinity Home Care
1:00 PM	How to secure Medicaid for spouses, when you think you're over income	Terral Blalock - Mitchel and Blalock
1:30 PM	What is Tai Chi and how can it benefit you?	Bob Allen - Tai Chi instructor
2:00 PM	The Last Leaf to Fall: Solo Aging and Preparing for the Last Stages of Life	Angela Franklin - Options of Southern Oregon
2:30 PM	Understanding Alzheimer's: medications, redirecting, resources and more!	Lori Stanton - Alzheimer's Association

CLASSROOM #2

9:00 AM	Options for keeping seniors at home!	Tamara Fielding - Northridge
9:30 AM	Regional Director from the VA, talks about your benefits & how to use them!	Bart Blaylock - Tri-West, Regional Director, VA
10:00 AM	Problem solving issues with your Veteran's Benefits with a true advocate!	Shannon Becker - Community Outreach, VA
10:30 - 12 PM	Advance Directive Workshop - how & why to get yours done!	Susy Wagner - Signature Healthcare Mayple Lynx - Asante Hospice
12:00 PM	PACT ACT - BRAND NEW agent orange BENEFITS available for veterans	The VA - The VA
12:30 PM	Transitioning from Obamacare to Medicare	Melanie Madden - Futurity First
1:00 PM	The benefits of CBD on your health; both body and mind	Karri Gulbransen - Blissful Herb
1:30 PM	The difference between in-home care providers	Michelle McGregor - Advanced Care Life Services
2:00 PM	Brand NEW! Very effective & approved as FREE by the VA, way to alleviate pain!	Michael McCafferty - Regensis Biomedical Inc.
2:30 PM	Navigating Senior Care and Housing	Amy Schmidt - Retirement Connection

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THROUGH THE LEPIDOPTERAN LENS

The lovely Leanira

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The Leanira Checkerspot (*Chlosyne leanira oregonensis*) is a sought-after beauty considered a lifer find for some butterfly enthusiasts in the Pacific Northwest. This species, of the butterfly family Nymphalidae, can be challenging to find in its isolated pockets of colonies throughout southern Oregon.

Ventral view of a male Leanira Checkerspot on a plant in the lotus family. Photo: Linda Kappen.



The Leanira's wingspan can reach up to two inches. On the dorsal view, the male is black with some orange on the outer edges. The female has orange and pale yellow spots with black veining. The ventral view displays a unique and unmistakable row of white dots and markings with black in between.

The host plants are flowers and leaves of *Castilleja* (paintbrushes) of the Orobanchaceae family of plants. The eggs are laid in a mass on the host plant. The caterpillars form a protective web while they feed. They disperse at the third instar (a stage in its life between two successive molts) to hibernate through the following months. As the plant appears in the spring, they feed again to become adult butterflies. Adults feed on nectar of many wildflowers and will come to mud.

The Leanira Checkerspot can be



Dorsal view of a male Leanira Checkerspot. Photo: Linda Kappen.

seen in flight from late April to late July. Habitats for the beautiful Leanira Checkerspot are hillsides and small canyons near mountain streams at low to mid elevations where the host plant grows nearby. In our area, the range of this species is the southernmost area of southern Oregon to eastern Oregon.

My first experience with this butterfly was in 2012 in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest of the greater Applegate Valley. Then I saw it every few years up to this year. I may have missed their flight in some years or perhaps they

were concentrated elsewhere. We have also seen them in the Onion Mountain area and have documented reports in the Kalmiopsis area as well as in our Siskiyou mountains. This lovely butterfly with its striking appearance is a delicate and pretty example of the great diversity of butterfly populations throughout southern Oregon. While taking in minerals from the mud, it can be busy enough to get what is called a "belly shot," meaning laying yourself flat on the ground to get a straight-on view with your camera to record this beauty. If you can catch them on nearby flowering bushes, taking a photo becomes a bit easier. What a pretty butterfly to encounter welcoming the warm spring and early summer months.

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



Linda Kappen

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Get seedy this fall

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

As summer heat moves into cooler, moister fall weather, it's time to start thinking of sowing the native seeds acquired this year. You may have collected and cleaned native seeds from plants on your own land or purchased some native seeds that are in a box in a drawer or sitting on your desk. The next step is to plan what to do with these seeds.

Fall to early winter is the best time to sow native seeds in the Applegate to help restore native plant communities, increase floral biodiversity for pollinators, and reduce invasive species. Native plants are known to support a greater abundance and diversity of bees, butterflies, and other wildlife compared to nonnative plants.

More and more people in the Applegate are wanting to increase the quantity of native species on their land both for higher quality wildlife habitat and for community and cultural benefits such as native plant medicine, traditional foods, basketry materials, or simply a more attractive and colorful landscape. With the right species selection, native plants also require much less watering.

Although it seems counterintuitive, the seeds of many native species germinate in the fall. Seeds respond to fall rain or dew that moistens the soil and triggers fall germination. This strategy enables these species to overwinter as a small rosette of leaves, ready to bolt and flower as soon as the weather warms in the spring. These cool-season species get a jump-start on growth in the fall, putting energy into underground root systems and basal leaves through the winter.

In nature, wildflowers disperse their seeds onto the ground or into the air in the summer, and as fall rains begin, some of these seeds can germinate and grow rapidly during cool, rainy fall and winter conditions. Annual wildflowers are more likely to germinate and grow in the fall, but some perennial wildflowers and native grasses will as well.

In order to help these species achieve fall germination, the seeds must be sown outside just before the first fall rain to mimic the natural cycles of seed drop and germination in the wild. The warm fall soil temperatures and rain trigger seed germination. Sowing the seeds before the first significant fall rain enables them to have enough moisture to germinate before the temperatures turn colder in early winter.

The following are examples of native species whose seeds can germinate in the fall.

Annuals

- Diamond clarkia (*Clarkia rhomboidea*)
- Blue-eyed mary (*Collinsia grandiflora*)
- Bluehead gilia (*Gilia capitata*)
- Bicolor lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*)
- Shortspur seablush (*Plectritis congesta*)

Perennials

- Woodland madia (*Anisocarpus madioides*)
- Western thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*)
- California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)
- Western buttercup (*Ranunculus occidentalis*)

Grasses

- California brome (*Bromus carinatus*)



Moth on shortspur seablush.



Shortspur seablush seedlings.



Above: Bluehead gilia with foraging yellow-faced bumblebee.
Below: Diamond clarkia.



- Tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*)
- Blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*)
- Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*)

To prepare a spot for sowing native seeds, first remove existing weeds or grass without digging or tilling any deeper than a few inches. Deeper digging may unearth dormant weed seeds and encourage them to germinate, thereby increasing weed growth, which you don't want. It is best to leave the deeply buried weed seeds undisturbed in a dormant state beneath the soil. If you have weedy rhizomatous grasses (e.g., crabgrass) or groundcovers (e.g., vinca or ivy), you will need to either solarize or tarp the area for at least one summer before seeding to clear the area of invasive plants.

For optimal results, sow seeds on a cleared area of soil, lightly rake the seeds into the soil, and then gently water. Since seeds need light and air, as well as contact with bare soil to germinate well, they won't succeed if scattered directly over thick mulch or buried too deeply. The rule of thumb is to sow seeds as deeply as

they are thick. You can cover seeds with a very light dusting of sifted potting soil, but keep in mind some seeds need light to germinate.

If there is a dry spell between rains in the fall, be sure to water! Seeds must receive regular moisture for optimal fall germination. Keep the soil consistently moist, but not waterlogged, as that can cause the seeds to rot.

Other native plant seeds that don't germinate in the fall should still be sown outside in fall to early winter to achieve the varying lengths of "cold-moist stratification" required for them to germinate in late winter to early spring.

For more information on native seed germination, including seeding into burn pile areas, check out Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seed's *Seed Germination and Propagation Reference Guide* at klamath-siskiyouseeds.com/seed-germination-and-propagation.

Happy fall planting!
Suzie Savoie

klamath-siskiyou@gmail.com

Blackberries—the good, the bad (and the ugly?)

BY BARBARA MUMBLO

I like to eat blackberries, blackberry jam, and blackberry pie. I don't really like picking them so much—they grab me with their thorns.

Blackberry bushes provide food and habitat for wild critters and us. Our main large bushy non-native blackberry is Armenian/Himalaya blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), which was listed some years ago as "noxious" by the Oregon Department of Agriculture because it's invasive along rivers. Not much grows under these bushes so soil easily erodes into rivers. A large patch of this blackberry can produce a lot of dead woody material underneath, making it quite flammable as we saw in the Alameda Fire along the Bear Creek Greenway.

Another non-native blackberry is the evergreen/cutleaf blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*), which is not as pervasive as the Armenian. We have a few native blackberries: trailing/California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), waxleaf blackberry (*Rubus glaucifolius*), and wild raspberry (*Rubus leucodermis*). These do not cause fire danger as much since they don't produce such large amounts of woody material.

I noticed this spring that people were working to get rid of their blackberries. It's good to get rid of accumulations of woody material at a time that is not so hazardous



for fire, but usually plants will sprout back soon after. One thing I've seen over the years is that if you treat blackberries in late August-September they don't grow back as easily. One summer at Star Ranger Station, Albert Rametes, assistant fire management officer, wanted to cut the hedge of blackberries growing along an abandoned irrigation ditch on

the compound. I didn't really want to get rid of them because they provided habitat for a flock of quail. I did realize they should be cut back so we decided to cut a patch and then let it grow back before cutting another patch. Turns out that by cutting at that time of year in that location, they didn't grow back. Unfortunately, the quail left too.

We've also seen that treating with herbicides works best at this time of year when nutrients are going to the roots. Timing seems to be everything—reduce the woody material in winter-spring and cut sprouts in late summer-early fall. Work smarter—not harder.

Enjoy your blackberries where it's okay to leave them and eradicate them where it's important to do so. It's good to reduce fire danger and reclaim land while providing some wildlife food and habitat.

Barbara Mumblo
bamumblo@gmail.com

Fall activities at Jacksonville Community Center

BY SUE MILER

The Jacksonville Community Center (JCC) has a variety of enrichment and wellness activities that are open to residents of our entire area, including the Applegate Valley, Medford, Ashland, Central Point, Phoenix, Talent, Rogue River, and other communities in the valley. JCC serves both adults and children of all ages.

We are looking for parent volunteers to help create more youth programs at JCC. Contact sarahg@jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org to learn more about this opportunity.

Below is information about upcoming programs. In some cases, the dates



JCC sound healing leader Claudia Ingraham.

and times were still being scheduled at press time. For more details about JCC programs and the most current schedule of activities, visit the JCC website at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org. Online registration for JCC activities is highly recommended and in some instances, required. For those needing help or having technical issues with the registration process, call 541-702-2585 and leave a voicemail.

Upcoming events

September 10: Sound Healing with Claudia Ingraham. This class will allow participants to understand what sound healing is, experience various sound instruments, and learn what sound tools they can use daily to enhance their lives.

September 21: Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia. Increased awareness of these conditions and strategies for caregivers.

September 23: Guided Family Hike—Woodlands Walk and Wonder—Beekman Arboretum. An event for families with kids aged 5-plus; enjoy a fun and educational walk with observation games and activities.

September 28: Robbie Collins—The Man Who Saved Jacksonville's Historic District. Larry Smith will describe and show photographs of how Collins led the effort to get



JCC Tara Laidlaw and campers at Jacksonville Woodlands Exploration Camp.

Jacksonville designated a National Historic Landmark, helping to ensure that over 100 commercial and residential buildings in town were preserved.

October 6: Pre-Writing Your Novel or Memoir. In preparation for NANOWRIMO (National Novel Writing Month), facilitated by Gabrielle Pullen.

October 24: Odyssey to India. Retired doctor Sherry Neuman accompanied a Rotary Club service group to immunize children in India, and then visited some of the important cultural sights there.

October 29: Fall Nature Art Party (for all ages) with Heidi Elliott. Held in a local park, where adults and kids will create beautiful art forms from items gathered from nature during this colorful time of year.

Also in October: Emergency Preparedness, and Medicare ABCs and D.

November 3: Ageism Awareness.

Also in November: Advance Directives, and a Hula performance and class.

Ongoing programs

JCC offers weekly wellness classes intended to promote healthy activity and social connections, including Line Dancing, Tai Chi and Qi Gong, and Yoga.

Aspiring writers can attend a session of Shut Up and Write, which provides quiet time for writing in all genres, including fiction, nonfiction, and memoir.

Check our website to find out more and join us for a wide range of interesting and engaging programs and activities!

Sue Miler
JCC Board President
suem@jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org
301-452-4440

■ CROOKED BARN

Continued from page 1

built all the structures for the winery. The latest addition, after three frustrating years waiting for county permits, is the tasting room, built inside the processing area. "Having it there," Marcos says, "is a motivation for people to ask questions." With characteristic vigor, he points out the stations of winemaking, all visible from the bar: the lab where he does "the chemistry of wine," the corker, the destemmer (where fermentation also takes place), the presser, the tank for blending, and the bottling, labeling, and corking area.

Marcos and Heidi bought their Applegate property, adjacent to Applegate School, eight years ago this month and moved there the following summer. Marcos immediately set to work plowing the fields, fencing in 20 of the 60 acres with 4,000 linear feet of deer fence, planting five acres of grapes, and building the shipping room, the large processing building, and other structures.

Meanwhile, Heidi was taking classes in land stewardship and a Master Gardeners class, which took "a crazy number of volunteer hours," she says. "But for me it was vital because I had moved from the city." Her flourishing garden with its giant asparagus plants is proof of her quick learning.

While Marcos was crazy at work on the land, Heidi was also involving herself in the Applegate community. "It is easy to make friends here," she said. Marcos agreed with a broad smile. Heidi is on the board of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council and a member of Women Helping Other Women (WHOW). [See article in the summer 2023 issue of the *Applegater*.] "I love the crazy women there," she says, adding that WHOW reflects the Applegate sense of community and sharing.

With Marcos throwing his abundant energy into creating the vineyard and Heidi throwing her generous, open personality into community involvement and land stewardship, remodeling the



Heidi and Marcos Martins sample their award-winning wines in Crooked Barn Vineyards new tasting room in Applegate. Photo: Diana Coogle.

house was not a priority. "It's an old house in bad shape," Heidi says with a laugh and a shake of her head. "But what we wanted above all was time to tend the vines."

"It takes the highest quality in the ground to get the highest quality wines," Marcos says.

They became interested in winemaking when they lived in California (where they moved from Brazil, their original home) and were making wine with a group of friends, the Castro Valley Vintners. "That's where I learned the chemistry," Marcos says. His interest piqued, he took courses from University of California, Davis, and from Las Positas College, in Livermore, California. By then he was a goner. He wanted to grow grapes and create a winery. Land was too expensive in California, but southern Oregon was close to California and their friends there; they had vacationed in Ashland years ago and started coming to this area on weekends, enjoying the wineries, the beauty of the mountains, and the microclimates. The land they bought had been for sale for many years. It seems it was waiting for them.

Once they had bought the land, planted the vineyards, and started making

wines, they needed a name. Heidi, Marcos, and their daughter, Petra (now 29 years old), were throwing out ideas when Petra looked across the vineyard at the beautiful old barn, leaning like a matriarch over the property, and said, "What about 'Crooked Barn Vineyards?'" It was Petra, too, who drew the crooked barn image for the label.

Crooked Barn Vineyards is located at 14430 Highway 238 in Applegate. The tasting room is open 11 am-5 pm Friday-Sunday (closed during harvest). Visit crookedbarnvineyards.com, join their wine club, taste their wines, and meet Heidi and Marcos. "Park in the parking lot, then walk on in through the gate," Marcos says. "It's just closed to keep the deer out."

Diana Coogle
diana@applegater.org

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BLM timber sale update: Heading backward as the climate collapses

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

Due to the unending stream of timber projects proposed in our area, my quarterly *Applegater* articles have often focused on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) timber sales in the Applegate Valley. I have been tracking BLM timber sale activity here for over 20 years. Rarely has there been a time when the agency is not proposing a timber sale in the Applegate River watershed. Often BLM is planning the next timber sale before implementing the preceding one and, increasingly, before even vetting the project through local communities or conducting sufficient public involvement.

BLM's current goal is, as it always has been, to get the cut out. To do this, they are increasing the already unsustainable pace, scale, and intensity of timber sale proposals. Many in the community feel that the BLM is using a strategy of minimizing environmental analysis and of either ignoring or eliminating public involvement processes and that those actions and attitudes will lead to both increased environmental damage and increased litigation, as legal challenges become the only means of meaningful public involvement.

For many months, the BLM has been planning the Big Ben Timber Sale in the Tallowbox Mountain/Ben Johnson Mountain area between Thompson Creek and Ruch. Despite numerous requests from the public, they have refused to release basic information on their proposal or to include the public in the planning process. Little is known about this project except that BLM intends to log approximately 700 acres and produce an estimated 3.5 million board feet of timber.

They have also designed and are getting ready to sell the Lickety Split Timber Sale



Whole groves of large old dominant trees are proposed for logging in Unit 13-6 of the Bear Grub Timber Sale along the popular East Applegate Ridge Trail.

in the Little Applegate River watershed, which would log bark beetle-impacted forests in the Lick Gulch watershed. But this project allows for logging more than dead standing trees. Monitoring efforts by Applegate Siskiyou Alliance have demonstrated that many large, healthy trees over 30" diameter are also targeted for removal. This timber sale would be logging off the resilient, genetically adapted trees that have survived the large climate-induced bark beetle outbreaks. It was approved using a categorical exclusion, eliminating many layers of scientific analysis, public transparency, and public involvement in order to expedite the logging operations.

Currently, the BLM has also approved the still pending Late Mungers and Penn

Butte Timber Sales in old-forest habitats surrounding the communities of Williams and Murphy. These projects were approved using the controversial IVM (Integrated Vegetation Management) Project authorizations, which cut out virtually all meaningful public involvement during the project design stage. Through this process BLM is attempting to fully design and tentatively approve large-scale timber sales in old-forest reserves before even notifying the public and without sufficient environmental review.

Additionally, the agency has also revived the controversial Bear Grub Timber Sale. After canceling the project last summer due to citizen protest, the BLM has brought Bear Grub back. The agency simply changed some of the

language in its analysis and repropose the timber sale in all the same inappropriate locations, in all the same mature and old-forest stands, and with the same damaging "group selection" logging proposals. Despite widespread community opposition to the Bear Grub Timber Sale, the BLM has refused to alter the project in any meaningful way and provided no process for public involvement before releasing their environmental assessment (EA) and repropose what they know will be a highly contested project.

The issue is this: while the climate worsens, land managers are repeatedly proposing carbon polluting timber sales and group selection logging that, according to their own analysis, will increase fire risks. No longer focused on "thinning" projects, the BLM is increasingly implementing group selection logging that will clear-cut between 20 and 30 percent of mature stands, often including the removal of whole groves of large, old trees. These old trees are important for carbon storage, fire resilience, and habitat, and they are being logged with less accountability, less public involvement, and less scientific analysis than at any time in the last 30 years.

The forests of the Applegate and southwest Oregon deserve better, and our communities should demand better. In this era of global climate change, we should be managing for solutions that store carbon, support watersheds, protect communities, maintain old-forest habitats, preserve our fragile watersheds, and increase government transparency. But the BLM insists on heading in the opposite direction.

Luke Ruediger
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

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Quality is #1

with Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

According to a national survey, water from their own well is the preferred source of drinking water for 81% of Americans. These results are consistent with other surveys that show Americans are interested in preserving the quality of their rural lifestyles.

This brings up the topic of a “quality” well that will be your lifetime water supply. The original construction of your well is a key factor in acquiring a water supply that will be sufficient for your needs and demands.

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Did death take a vacation?

BY HAYRIYA HEIDI HANSEN

It may be summer now, a season that engenders thoughts of relaxation and enjoyment, but death takes no vacation! As air fans the flames of fire on earth and time marches on, everyone—each of us and those we know and love—will eventually die. There is no guarantee when, where, or how. Some die way too young; some old, infirm, or feeble of mind or body.

Did you know that by 2030 there will be more people over 65 than under 18? It's called the Silver Tsunami! One result of this shift is that, while currently there is an average of seven non-paid caregivers (family and friends) available to help a person during an advanced illness, by 2030 that number is predicted to fall as low as four.

These are just a couple of statistics regarding what's coming. Are you prepared? Are we as a community prepared? Is the medical system prepared? Has the pandemic given us any indication of the state of our healthcare system? How will those of us living rurally fare? What do we need or want in the greater rural Applegate region to cope with this fast-approaching Silver Tsunami?

One group gives me some hope! SOLADA, the Southern Oregon Living and Dying Alliance, is a group of dedicated local healthcare and end-of-life professionals who are working to sustain a community of people to respond to grief, healthcare, and end-of-life questions and concerns. Offering classes and workshops to help prepare us all for the inevitable, SOLADA's aim is to present information and offer support to help us navigate the unknown future as gracefully as possible.

Past classes have included Advanced Care Directive training; How to Navigate the Commercial Funeral Home Experience; Complicated Death: Suicide, Homicide, Missing Persons, and Infant Death; and panels of health professionals offering information and answering questions. Many more subjects have been presented and discussed over the last year and a half.

SOLADA offers an ongoing Death Cafe from 4:30-6:30 pm the last Tuesday of every month at True Juice in Grants Pass. Additionally, Death Cafes have been offered in other locations and will continue to be held. There have been

Death Doula meet-ups and soon there will be a monthly grief group to help us all process and support each other during these challenging times.

The steering committee has a clear intention, purpose, and mission statement to serve our community members before, during, and after death, with classes, resources, and healing connections.

Future classes are planned for the fall and winter months, including When the Last Leaf Falls, Fare-Thee-Well Ceremonies, Death Cafe at the Applegate Library, Honoring Our Ancestors, and more.

While we have taken the months of July and August off to enjoy the earth, air, and water, watch for our updated website late in August. Please feel free to contact us at soladaoregon@gmail.com and visit solada.org.

We look forward to hearing from you and welcome your comments, questions, and class requests. We are grateful to our community members for being so receptive to our alliance, and we look forward to being of more service in the future.

Till we meet, may you and yours be blessed with health and happiness.

Thank you for reading.

Hayriya Heidi Hansen
SOLADA Steering Committee member
soladaoregon@gmail.com

Where did you get that book?

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

The Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) has come up with many effective ways to get books into the hands of eager Applegaters, from multiple Little Libraries around the community to four commercial outlets to online sales. Donated books in great condition can become gift books in a variety of ways.

FORL stocks four Little Libraries in the area for your convenience. You may take a book, leave a book in good condition, or just lean up against the post and read. These gems are located at Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS), Cantrall Buckley Park, McKee Bridge, and on China Gulch Road. Please help yourself!

Now that COVID restrictions have been relaxed, free gently used books for both children and adults are frequently offered at the ACCESS Food Pantry at the back of ROCS on Mondays. FORL also provides funding for younger ROCS students to receive a free book from the Scholastic Book Fair held annually at the school. Free books often find their way into gift and prize baskets for reading program incentives at the library.

Online sales offer FORL an avenue to maximize the value of selected

donated books by listing them on Amazon. Some of these treasures are also offered as silent auction items during some FORL functions.

Ruch Country Store sells gently used paperbacks and selected hardback books for FORL on a rack in the store, and the volunteer who stocks it is kept busy! Ruch Hardware Store stocks FORL's books on gardening and home repair—available for purchase just when you need help or advice.

The A-Frame Bookstore and Book Barn, both adjacent to the Ruch Library, are the real treasures of our valley. The bookstore is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 1-3 pm and is well stocked with previously loved books of every genre, DVDs, audio books, and gift books. The Book Barn opens its doors once a month on the first Saturday (September: noon-2 pm; October and winter hours: 1-3 pm) for folks to peruse the thousands of books available in this well-organized collection. All sales in the Book Barn are by donation.

Need a book? The Friends of Ruch Library has you covered!

Thalia Truesdell
541-899-8741

■ WILLIAMS LIBRARY

Continued from page 6
storytime and craft session in a safe and fun environment

K9 Reading Buddies, 3-4 pm Tuesdays. Trained therapy dogs provide a non-intimidating environment for children to learn to read out loud. Young readers will explore language and books during this special storytime.

Williams Library branch hours are 1-6 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday, and 11 am-4 pm Fridays.

Come to the grand opening of the new library in late September!

Brandace Rojo
Communications and
Partnership Manager
Josephine Community Library
brojo@josephinelibrary.org



Free overdose reversal training in Williams

Rogue Harm Reduction offers free overdose reversal training including free take-home naran/naloxone (to reverse opioid overdose) and fentanyl testing strips. Overdose intervention training typically lasts about 20 minutes. Fentanyl test strips training takes about 10 minutes. Walk-ins are very welcome!

As Rogue Harm Reduction enters our fifth year, we would like to share that multiple local overdoses have been reversed due to our services. We encourage our neighbors in the valley to come meet us, ask questions, and get trained. Thank you for your support!

Fall training and distribution days

Thursday, September 14,
5:30-7:30 pm
Sunday, October 1,
10:30 am-1:30 pm
Sunday, November 5,
10:30 am-1:30 pm

We are at the Sugarloaf Center in Williams at 206 Tetherow Road. Park in the large gravel parking lot, and take a short walk to the Sugarloaf Center, located at the end of the driveway. Or, if needed, drive through to the upper lot next to the Sugarloaf building.

Contact Rogue Harm Reduction at rogueharmreduction@gmail.com. Find us on instagram @rogueharmreduction. Rogue Harm Reduction is a volunteer-run, nonprofit health collective working in partnership with and trained by the HIV Alliance. Learn more at hivalliance.org.

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OPINIONS

Kudos to Krikava

BY ALAN JOURNET

Kudos to Aaron Krikava for an excellent article (*Applegater*, summer 2023) explaining that we need to revisit our attitude toward fire. I'd like to add a couple of points that, due to word limitation, probably prevented Aaron from noting.

1. Folks growing up in southern Oregon probably take our winter wet/summer dry climate for granted and don't realize its rarity and significance. However, across the planet this occurs only in six locations: the Mediterranean (from which it received the designation Mediterranean climate); western South Africa; southeast and southwest Australia; western South America; and here in western North America, where some of us think of it as quite normal. The consequence of this climate existing for eons is that soil and vegetation dry out during summer, and fire risk annually increases. As a result, in these regions, fire risk is an inevitable late-summer and fall reality. The biological consequence is that vegetation in these regions is almost always fire-prone and fire-adapted. Aaron acknowledged this in mentioning species that are fire-resistant or require fire to stimulate release or germination of seeds. Fire, therefore, is essential in maintaining the health of our forests.

2. Studies on factors correlating with or causing a high fire-risk year versus a low

fire-risk year reveal that warmer springs and summers and earlier snowmelt are profoundly implicated. It is probably of little surprise that these two variables are influenced by global warming. If we add to these trends the reduction in summer precipitation that is causing even greater drought, we begin to understand why global warming (which National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data clearly indicate is happening in southern Oregon) and its consequent climate change are increasing our fire risk. Rather than trying simply to suppress or extinguish every fire, to the detriment of the native vegetation, we should be learning to live with and manage fire. Unless we collectively address the root causes of global warming, increasing fire risk here will be inevitable. Aaron's effort to encourage prescribed fire to help adapt to and, we hope, counter this forthcoming increasing fire risk is a commendable step.

The increasing threat of fire that global warming promises the Applegate Valley is one of the reasons that those of us in the climate-conscious arena argue that rural Oregonians are on the front lines of global warming. We should all be clamoring for local, state, federal, and international action to address this threat.

Alan Journet
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Cofacilitator, Southern Oregon
Climate Action Now

Board member, Applegate Partnership
and Watershed Council

Continue local levy to maintain critical emergency services from AVFD

BY ROB UNDERWOOD

To sustain essential firefighting, emergency medical care, rescue, and fire prevention services, the Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District #9 (AVFD) is seeking voters' approval for the continuation of the local levy—with minimal increase—to provide additional needed coverage. This levy (Measure 15-220), when approved by the voters, will replace the current five-year levy that is set to expire in June 2024. A yes vote on the November 7 ballot will ensure the continuation of critical services within AVFD.

AVFD encompasses 181 square miles and includes residences and businesses in the Ruch, Applegate, Provolt, and McKee Bridge areas. It plays an essential role in safeguarding the community against emergencies. This levy is a crucial funding source that enables AVFD to maintain excellent emergency response capabilities.

Without the revenue generated by the proposed levy, AVFD would face a substantial reduction in its staffing and response capability. It would lead to the elimination of three permanent shift captain positions, 12 seasonal firefighter positions, 12 student firefighter positions, and one fire marshal position. Simply put, if this levy is not continued, AVFD would no longer be able to provide 24/7 coverage at any of its seven stations.

This local option levy has been a recurring lifeline for AVFD since 1998, providing necessary funding to carry out critical operations effectively. The community has historically recognized the importance of supporting AVFD's emergency response abilities by voting yes for past levy renewals.

In 2022, AVFD responded to 768 emergency calls for service. The response demands were diverse, with medical emergencies constituting nearly two thirds of the total. Response levels continue to increase each year.

One of the key challenges AVFD faces is the occurrence of simultaneous emergency calls, which happened approximately 24 percent of the time in 2022. The strategic location and staffing of both Stations 51 and 53 (Applegate and Ruch, respectively) has been instrumental in enabling AVFD to respond promptly to concurrent emergency incidents.

Currently, Station 51 in Applegate benefits from funding through two grants, but, unfortunately, these grants are set to expire in 2026 and 2027, and they are not eligible for renewal. Consequently, this local option levy is crucial to ensure prompt emergency response by funding staffing at Station 51, as well as Station 53 in Ruch, through June 2029.

The voters' decision regarding this levy will impact the safety and well-being of the entire community. We encourage residents to understand the consequences of not continuing the current levy with the *minimal* increase. Approval of the levy will not only secure uninterrupted emergency services until July 2029, but it will also provide increased emergency services by staffing at Station 51 in the Applegate area. Denying the levy would end 24/7 coverage for AVFD as a whole.

We urge all eligible voters to vote yes on Measure 15-220.

Rob Underwood
President, Board of Directors
Applegate Valley Fire District
runderwood@applegaterfd.com

Fire risk in the Applegate—Measure 15-220 can help protect our homes

BY LIZA CROSSE

The Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD) Board of Directors and Fire Chief Chris Wolfard have made preparedness and prevention top goals for the AVFD. Why do we need more prevention? How can we be better prepared? How will the levy help? To educate myself, I talked with people who are experts in the community.

My suspicion that the Applegate Valley is an extremely high-risk area was confirmed. Nate Gehres, of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, says, "Having grown up in the Applegate Valley, I have noticed that hotter, drier conditions, combined with decades of fire suppression, have stocked the landscape with fuels that are primed to burn. Recent conifer mortality dramatically increases the risks for fire crews. As someone who lives in a box canyon with one egress route, I am very aware of the dangers of wildfires. A proactive approach is needed, and the local fire district is essential in those efforts."

Unfortunately, with limited capacity and resources, property owners are sometimes overwhelmed by the scale of the problem and can't manage increased fuels around their homes. That increases risk for the whole community.

Brett Fillis, former AVFD fire chief (retired 2016), described past vegetation management and defensible space projects supported by the fire district. He worked with homeowners to create a plan to address fire risk, then with grant agencies to get funding, and hired crews to do the work. These jobs required technical knowledge and experience. By collaborating with multiple property owners, Brett and others created a big enough fire break to

give firefighters the chance of stopping a wildfire at 500 acres, not 5,000.

Wow! That sounds exactly like what we need now! However, with fewer homeowner grants available, a nationwide reduction in volunteer firefighters, and overloaded staff, there is limited capacity to address the challenge. Chief Wolfard has a backlog of requests from property owners for advisory inspections but can't get to them himself because of competing demands.

The proposed levy will fund an experienced fire-prevention coordinator, who will conduct home assessments, help property owners work with neighbors and agencies, and seek grant opportunities. Through engagement with the owners, the coordinator will identify potential hazards and suggest mitigation strategies, reducing risk and safeguarding homes and lives. In partnership with the community and other stakeholders, a network of fire-safe practices can extend beyond individual properties.

We're fortunate that a recent state grant will provide some funding, but it's only for three years. So, without the levy, the fire-prevention coordinator position will be only temporary and part-time. This job is neither temporary nor part-time. It takes a lot of time and effort to build a fire-resilient network. The small levy increase will provide the funds and the long-term capacity we need to achieve this goal.

Can we, as a community, step up to fill the gap to benefit both ourselves and our neighbors? I know we can! Vote *yes* on Measure 115-220.

Liza Crosse • lizacrosse@comcast.net

The wallet rules: Beware of false economies for 911 response

BY TOM CARSTENS

The Applegate Valley Fire District Board recently voted to renew the fire district tax levy. I decided to do a little arithmetic and understand the effect this would have on my wallet.

As a result of Measure 50 (a statewide property tax revision passed by Oregonians in 1998), we pay a baseline tax rate of \$1.6787 per \$1,000 of county-assessed property value for basic fire service. Because Applegaters considered this insufficient to properly fund our fire district, we voted to add a levy to augment this service. This levy enabled 24/7 coverage, improved staffing, provided better firefighting equipment, upgraded medical response, and created more fire stations. Some form of the levy has been approved by Applegaters every five years since. The current levy, approved in 2018, amounts to an additional charge of \$1.05 per \$1,000 for a total of \$2.72. The board is proposing to raise this levy 20 cents for the next five years to \$1.25 per \$1,000, to total \$2.92. In my case, the increase comes to less than 50 bucks per year.

The levy is set to expire soon, hence the fire district board's upcoming vote. In

November, Applegaters get a chance to vote on whether or not to keep the levy. This is not a vote on the 20-cent increase, but only a yes or no vote on the levy proper. If the levy's disapproved, we'll have to accept a degraded 911 response system at the original base rate of 1.6787/\$1000 assessed property value.

I decided to check with my insurance company on whether that would make economic sense. They told me that the risk associated with that level of service reduction (i.e., loss of 24/7 service and much longer response times) would probably mean an annual premium increase of 25-50 percent. That's a whole lot more than I'm going to be paying for the levy. Like hundreds of dollars more! Voting *no* would be a false economic move.

So my wallet tells me to vote *yes* for the levy. I'll get better risk protection at a lower cost. That's not a bad deal.

(Thanks to the Jackson County tax folks for helping with the tax arithmetic.)

Tom Carstens
bumsonwheels@gmail.com

Note: To figure your own tax, consult your property tax statement. Divide your assessed property value (not the real market value) by 1,000, then multiply by the tax rate.

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

OPINION

Reducing response times, and staffing Station 51

BY CAREY CHAPUT AND DAVID DOBBS

This community has known about the decline in fire department volunteers for decades. We have seen the articles in the *Applegater* and fire district newsletters offering exceptional training for anyone available to serve the district. Volunteers are no longer coming forward.

At the same time, call volumes have increased by 25 percent since the last levy. Steps need to be taken to ensure that efficient, reliable emergency services can be provided.

We are in support of the upcoming fire district levy, which, in part, will staff Fire Station 51 on North Applegate Road with trained personnel. This centralized location serves the entire district, and, most importantly, it decreases the emergency response times for the west end—from Applegate to Provolt, especially in the areas of Crystal Drive, North Applegate Road, Thompson Creek Road, Kubli Road, Missouri Flat Road, and Humbug Creek Road. (See chart below.) Having a second manned station and two response teams will benefit everyone in the fire district, especially during overlapping response calls, which happened in 21 percent of calls in 2023 to date.

The levy approved in 2018 provided housing at this centralized station. Renewal of the levy, if approved by voters, will now provide the support to ensure staff is available and ready to respond 24/7 to our medical and fire emergencies. The time has come for paid staff, combined

with volunteers, to be the backbone of our emergency services.

Our community is a network of people helping people. Generations have carried the weight of volunteering services as firefighters, board members, budget committee members, and Friends of Applegate Fire District members. These community volunteers provide generous service, some for decades.

In times of emergencies, there is reassurance that comes from recognizing a neighbor's face. This community needs to support the people who are making decisions and have our best interests in mind. The fire district board has requested \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value to provide the exemplary emergency services we can rely on. The board knows the needs and how to provide them. Let's support their decision and vote for the 20-cent increase to provide these essential services.

According to national standards, fire victims need to be removed in the first six to ten minutes. Survival rates decrease seven to ten percent for every minute a heart attack goes without defibrillation. It is clear why staffing Station 51 is important.

Carey Chaput,
Kubli Road neighborhood
David Dobbs,
Thompson Creek
Road neighborhood
lddbbs@yahoo.com

Driving times to the western portion of Applegate Valley Fire District (determined using Google maps)

To	From Station 53 Ruch	From Station 51 Applegate	Time saved by having staff at Station 51
Crystal Drive and Highway 238	17 miles 21 minutes	8.9 miles 11 minutes	10 minutes
10,000 North Applegate Road	17 miles 24 minutes	8.3 miles 13 minutes	11 minutes
Mile Post 10 Thompson Creek Road	20 miles 30 minutes	12 miles 20 minutes	10 minutes
Provolt/Highway 238	13 miles 17 minutes	4.6 miles 6 minutes	11 minutes
Kubli Road @ Missouri Flat Road	15 miles 21 minutes	6.1 miles 10 minutes	11 minutes
Top of Humbug Creek Road	12 miles 19 minutes	5.5 miles 12 minutes	7 minutes

OPINION PIECES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

Anonymous letters and opinion pieces, reprinted articles, press releases, and political campaign articles will not be published. Individual letters and opinion pieces may or may not be published. All submissions will be edited for grammar and length.

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

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Hello (to a new board member) and farewell (to an editorial committee member)

BY DIANA COOGLE

I am delighted to introduce to you our newest board member, Crystie Hawkins.

Crystie had some interesting answers when we asked her why she wanted to be on the board of the *Applegater*. She said that (1) she is very community-oriented and likes to promote local efforts; (2) the *Applegater* has a special place in her heart; (3) she likes what the *Applegater* does and is and feels she already has an inside view from her father, David Dobbs, our treasurer; and (4) she would like to understand, on a first-hand basis, how a 501(c)(3) organization works. She has been on the board of a 501(c)(7), the Silverton Indoor Park, and has had experience with fundraising for them, but looks forward to learning more about our kind of nonprofit and to helping us with fundraising as well.

On our side, we feel fortunate to have Crystie because she is social-media savvy and will become our social media manager, overseeing Facebook and Instagram, the *Applegater* website, and possibly additional sites. Social media is the focus of her for-profit business (with her husband), so she is astute about Facebook's algorithms and how the *Applegater* can benefit from them. She will head a "social media committee," comprised of Jeanette LeTourneux, Barbara Holiday, and anyone else interested.

It seems like there's a good-bye to go with every hello. We are sorry that Sandy Shaffer has resigned from the *Applegater's* editorial committee. Sandy brought her insightful comments and editing sharpness to that committee for many years. We will miss her sorely. Fortunately, she has promised to continue writing for the paper from time to time. Her articles about fire preparedness and the fire department have been a mainstay for our reporting on issues of that kind.

So now there's an opening on the editorial committee. Maybe you who are reading this would like to fill it. It isn't a big time commitment, and it is a good way to be involved with the *Applegater*. If you're curious, ask me about details. I'll be glad to fill you in.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you that November is the beginning of our NewsMatch fund drive, when your donations are doubled. NewsMatch, thanks to your generous responses, has put us on more solid financial footing, but that is only as good as your donations allow. Be on your toes for November 1, and keep those donations flowing in from then till the end of the year.

But don't worry. We'll remind you again closer to the time.

Happy fall to you all.

Diana Coogle
diana@applegater.org



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Applegate Valley Fire District events

More information about the fire levy will be available at these upcoming events.

Applegate Town Hall. 6-8 pm September 25. Location: Applegate Community Church, 18960 North Applegate Road, Applegate. Sponsored by the Applegate Fire District and the Applegate Lions Club. Chief Wolfard will discuss the proposed fire district tax levy. Also in attendance will be House State Representatives Christine Goodwin and Pam Marsh. (See article on page 2.)

Pancake breakfast. 8-10 am September 30. Cost: \$5. Applegate Valley Fire District Headquarters Training Room, 1095 Upper Applegate Road, Ruch. Sponsored by the Friends of the Applegate Fire District (friendsofapplegatefire.org).

Spaghetti dinner. 5-7 pm October 26. Cost: \$5. Homemade sauce! Location: Applegate Valley Fire District Headquarters Training Room, 1095 Upper Applegate Road, Ruch. Sponsored by the Friends of the Applegate Fire District (friendsofapplegatefire.org).

What's new on Applegate Valley Connect

Applegate Valley Connect (AVC) is our valley's online resource for news, emergency information, business listings, a community events calendar, and jobs and volunteer opportunities.

Read online

Here are some stories you can read in full online at applegateconnect.org. Click on "News & Stories."

The Applegate Paddling Club. This group has a goal to promote water safety and education, enhance Applegate paddling areas, and support an active local paddling community. This article reports on their efforts to map the Applegate River's access points, hazards, and water levels. (Read about the club's upcoming event in this *Applegater*, page 23.)

Nothing new under the rainbow. The Applegate's Pride Festival was progressive, but visible gay communities in the Applegate are nothing new.

A stand-up guy. When Applegater Randy Bogardus hit retirement age, he realized his social security check and

veteran's benefits weren't quite going to cut it. He'd need more income. But if he was going to have to work into his old age, he wanted it to be something fun. So, he started Clearwood Paddleboards. The local business is thriving and keeps him inspired, fit, and flush in "fun money." (See *Applegater*, page 23.)

What's coming up

Dark skies. The Applegate Valley has uniquely dark skies. An interview with Oregon's Dark Sky specialist, Dawn Nilson, offers tips on how to install lighting that both meets our needs and preserves our starry views.

An interview with David Rains Wallace. Wallace is mostly known in our area for his award-winning book, *The Klamath Knot*. In this interview with AVC, Wallace reflects on the Klamath Knot and talks about his current passion: Shakespeare and the wilderness.

Applegate Valley Connect is managed by A Greater Applegate.

••• BIZBITS •••

777 Guest Ranch. Whether guests seek a romantic weekend, a transformative educational experience, or a memorable corporate retreat, this 43-acre resort offers the perfect blend of adventure and relaxation. At the heart of the resort is a commitment to fostering a vibrant community of nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers. Owners Eric Adams and Heather Kelly-Adams take pride in curating an array of outdoor events, from guided hikes and wildlife spotting to stargazing and nature photography workshops. Join in on this journey of exploration, inspiration, and connection with nature while reveling in the splendors of glamping. Embrace the outdoors, expand your knowledge, and leave with cherished memories that last a lifetime. Located "around Sterling Creek-Buncom-Jacksonville." Learn more at t7gr.com.



Glamping at 777 Guest Ranch

Cowhorn Kitchen & Wine, a restaurant from the team behind Cowhorn Vineyard & Garden, is set to open this fall in Jacksonville. (No firm opening date as of press time.) The family-owned restaurant will serve cuisine featuring local ingredients from the vineyard's working biodynamic garden and from neighboring farms, alongside a selection of biodynamic wines from Cowhorn and its sister property, Johan Vineyards, in Willamette Valley. Located in the space formerly housing the Mustard Seed Café and Sunny Side Up, Cowhorn Kitchen & Wine will be open for lunch and dinner Thursday through Monday. 130 North 5th Street, Jacksonville, OR.

McCully House Inn. The McCully House Inn came into new ownership in 2021, when Kathryn Moseley and her husband discovered the historic building for sale on one of their many trips to Jacksonville. What had been a five-year plan to buy a bed-and-breakfast turned into a "right now" plan. The Moseleys leased the adjacent building for a bakery, due to open later this year. Attached to the inn will be a lounge area/meeting space and pub, all open to the public. Phase two includes an atrium-style restaurant just off the inn's kitchen, between the bakery and the inn, which is scheduled for a spring 2024 opening. The Moseleys have also procured the Jacksonville Lumber Company property behind the inn, which was part of the original McCully House property. This will be an open garden space for events like weddings or community movie nights. Plans for the rest of the lumberyard lot are still in the air. Meanwhile the inn is taking reservations during the renovations. The newly upgraded rooms are elegant, spacious, and beautifully decorated, with an artful balance between past and present. All rooms have modern amenities like air purifiers and beautiful, intentional period pieces that don't smother you with history. For more on the history of the McCully family and the inn, visit mccullyhouseinn.com. 240 E. California Street. Jacksonville, OR. Phone 541-899-6806. Email reservations@mccullyhouseinn.com.

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

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Gater Tale

The Elmores of Applegate

BY LISA BALDWIN

With roots in the lower and middle Applegate, the Elmore family has long been foundational in our community. Their history here goes back to the 1880s when the Robinsons, including Winfield Scott Robinson, acquired land on both sides of the Applegate River in Wilderville and Jerome Prairie. Scott Robinson's family home was on the south side of the Applegate, near the mouth of Bull Creek, off what is now known as Fish Hatchery Road. Bessie Robinson was born at home in Wilderville in 1889.

In 1900, Charles Herbert (C.H.) Elmore of Neligh, Nebraska, moved his family (wife Pauline and five children—Joseph, Charles Herbert II, Grace, Elizabeth, and Dorothy) to Jackson County, and in 1903 bought 160 acres on Steamboat Road, now called Thompson Creek Road. Later in 1903, he bought an adjoining 40-acre parcel. C.H. died in February 1908, and in September 1908 his youngest child, daughter Jennie, was born. C. Herbert II was named administrator of his father's 200-acre estate.

In 1910, C. Herbert II married Bessie Berteena Robinson at Bessie's childhood home in Wilderville. How these two met is something of a family mystery since the Elmore dairy in Applegate and the Robinson dairy in Wilderville were about 40 miles apart. Granddaughter Barbara Elmore Niedermeyer recalls stories of the day-long trip to see each other and stories of meeting halfway between; it was a long-distance courtship and a marriage that lasted their lifetimes. They had two children, Charles Herbert Elmore III (C.H. III), in 1911, and Bessie Berteena Elmore, in 1915.

In the early 1920s, Pauline and her five youngest children moved to Douglas County, near Yoncalla. Over the next several years, C. Herbert II bought the shares of the family ranch that belonged to his mother and siblings, and by acquisition of other parcels that bordered the ranch, the Elmore estate totaled 295 acres in 1937. In 1938, C.H. III married Beryl Brockway, and they moved to the Applegate ranch in 1939. In 1941, they bought a five-acre strip of land that expanded the family's holdings to an even 300 acres. In 1957 they bought another 320 acres, an adjacent farm known as the Kubli Place, bringing the Elmore property to 620 acres.

The two generations continued to work the dairy and raise pigs and sheep as the next generation began to arrive. Between 1939 and 1958, C.H. III and Beryl had seven children: Charles Herbert IV, Truman, Russell, Michael, Alicia, Joseph, and Barbara. All grew up on the Thompson Creek ranch and all graduated from Applegate School. For 57 years—from 1945, when C.H. IV started school, until 2002 when the last Elmore descendant living in the area graduated—an Elmore attended Applegate School. In 1988-89, there were nine Elmore grandchildren in attendance. It is no surprise that C.H. III and Beryl were very involved with the school and the children's activities. Beryl started the Applegate PTA. C.H. III started the 4-H club. Beryl also set up a community canning kitchen in the school's basement, and the pears, peaches, and tomatoes they canned were used for school lunches.



Charles Herbert Elmore II and Bessie Berteena Robinson Elmore wedding day, April 1910, at the Robinson home in Wilderville. Photo courtesy of Barbara Elmore Niedermeyer.



Charles Herbert Elmore III and Beryl Brockway Elmore at home in Applegate, around 1965. Photo courtesy of Barbara Elmore Niedermeyer.

The Elmores are a true root-stock family, proud of their heritage and full of good humor. Barbara Elmore Niedermeyer told a story about her father and some fellow Applegate Grangers, who all grew beards to commemorate Oregon's Centennial in 1959. C.H. III liked his so much he kept it. Beryl asked him how long he would stay bearded, and he said "until he got an elk in hunting season." But he never did shave, and Barbara never saw him without a beard. Many years later, looking through some old family photos, Barbara didn't recognize her clean-shaven father. There was a good deal of teasing over that one!

In 2003, the Elmore Ranch was recognized by the Oregon Historical Society as an Oregon Century Ranch, an honor reserved for farms and ranches that have been continually worked and occupied by the same family for 100 years or more.

In Grandma Bessie's later years, Barbara would visit her, and, though Bessie sometimes didn't recognize her granddaughter, she would always ask, "Did you have to travel all day to get here?" perhaps remembering the long journeys she took to see her future husband—from Wilderville to Applegate—and meeting halfway between.

Lisa Baldwin
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ASK THE GATER



Buncom Post Office, built in 1910. Photo: Oregon Secretary of State Archives.

What is the history of Buncom?

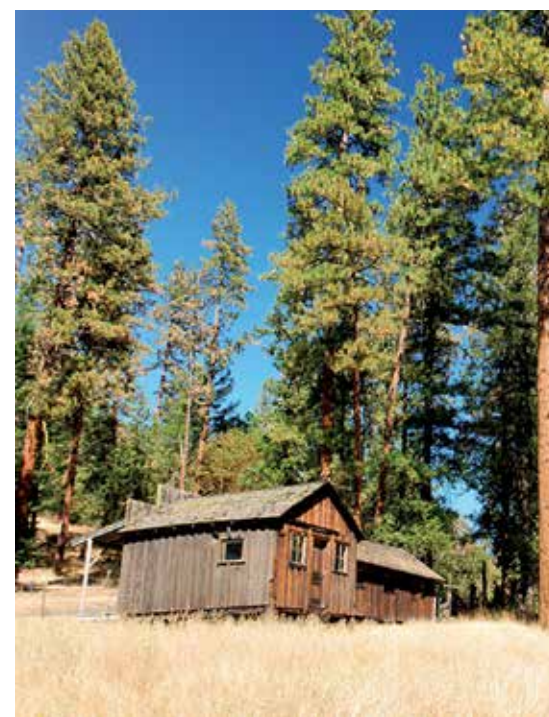
BY LISA BALDWIN

Applegater reader Doranne Long wrote us a note wanting to know "a little more about the history of Buncom." Good question, Doranne, as it's probably a safe bet that most folks know little about the last remaining ghost town in southern Oregon. Only the name may be familiar because a weather spotter reports for local TV forecasters from Buncom (etymology unknown, though perhaps slang for "not worth much"). Here's what we know.

In 1851, Chinese miners found gold on Sterling Creek. It didn't take long for the news to spread and for thousands of miners to find their way to the Little Applegate Valley. As was often the case, the Chinese miners were overwhelmed and pushed out by the rush of miners from California and other parts of Oregon. Most accounts of the origins of Buncom cite the gold strike made in 1854 by two white miners, James Sterling (for whom the creek is named) and Aaron Davis. Their mining claim was more than four miles from Buncom, though. A boom town sprang up there too—Sterlingville, a town with 1,200 residents at its peak—but when the gold petered out, so did Sterlingville. There is nothing left of it but the cemetery.

Buncom thrived for about 60 years, growing from a mining camp to a full-fledged town well-positioned at the crossroads of Little Applegate and Sterling Creek roads. When the gold rush ended, Buncom served as the supply hub for farmers and ranchers in the Little Applegate Valley. The stagecoach route ran right through Buncom, and there was a US Post Office there for 20 years, from 1896-1916. It was a full day's wagon ride from Buncom into Jacksonville, which made Buncom an important community center, providing services and goods to the people living in the Little Applegate.

It was the arrival and popularity of automobiles in the Rogue Valley that led to the demise of Buncom. Once a trip



Back of the post office and bunkhouse (general store) buildings in Buncom. Photo: Oregon Secretary of State Archives.

to Jacksonville was shortened by more modern transportation, Buncom quickly died out. The post office closed. Stage travel was a thing of the past. By 1918, Buncom was abandoned. Soon after, most of the town's buildings were destroyed by a wildfire. The three buildings that survived the fire—the bunkhouse, the cookhouse, and the post office built in 1910—are still standing, having been preserved and maintained by the Buncom Historical Society.

For those who are interested in learning more, check out a book, *Buncom: Crossroads Station*, by local authors Connie Fowler and J.B. Roberts. It was published in 1995 by the Buncom Historical Society. The book, now in its second printing, is available from the Society for \$18, including shipping (the book itself is \$15.95). To order, call 541-899-7656 or write to the Buncom Historical Society, 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

Lisa Baldwin
lisa@applegater.org

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Outdoor education in the Applegate Valley

BY EVA KING

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) has worked hard over the last year to enhance outdoor learning in the Applegate Valley. Local students have had opportunities to participate in a variety of ongoing environmental education programs at Cantrall Buckley Park, while APWC gears up for programs to begin at the Provolt Recreation Site this fall. APWC aims to increase its engagement with surrounding schools to build lasting programs that get more kids learning outside throughout the school year.

One program offered is the Applegate Outdoor School (AOS), which is a multiday program for fifth- or sixth-grade students. 2023 marked the pilot year for this new program. It is designed, developed, and implemented by APWC staff and runs for nine consecutive weeks in April and May. It consists of pre- and post-classroom visits and four consecutive field days at Cantrall Buckley Park. The park's 88 acres, located along the Applegate River, provide a beautiful location for students to experience nature in a hands-on, site-specific approach.

Upon arrival at AOS, each class is introduced to its new outdoor classroom,

gets to know the instructors, and builds camaraderie with fellow classmates. As the week progresses, AOS students participate in six place-based field studies rooted in one of the four daily themes: place, water, forest, and fire. The four field days run from 9:30 am-1:30 pm every day to accommodate the schools' schedules. The week ends with a traditional campfire experience around a gas firepit. Instructors and students sing songs, dance, and perform skits in one final celebration together before saying their farewells. In 2023, APWC served a total of 435 sixth-grade students from seven schools in the Medford School District 549C.

Another program offered by APWC is the Grow Youth program, a service-learning program that provides students with hands-on experience in riparian restoration, invasive species removal, tree planting, monitoring, trail maintenance, introductory wildlife management, interpretive sign design, and numerous other projects. The focus of Grow Youth is for students to gain experience in the field of natural resource management through project-based learning.

This fall, four schools are participating in Grow Youth: Ruch Outdoor Community



An Applegate Outdoor School student collects a sample from the Applegate River for water quality testing.

School (ROCS), Woodland Charter School, the Valley School of Southern Oregon, and Grants Pass High School. APWC is partnering with the Bureau of Land Management (the BLM) to deliver programs at the Provolt Recreation Site (PRS) for 16 weeks starting in September. The frequency of participation ranges from weekly to monthly depending on the school. APWC and the BLM are designing and developing the PRS program together and will teach side-by-side.

Grow Youth initially began as a partnership between APWC and ROCS, who will be returning for a third consecutive year. ROCS's involvement in Grow Youth is the most encompassing of all the schools in attendance; it consists of three days of on-campus instruction and one field day at Cantrall Buckley Park, facilitated by APWC's education specialist, Caleb Galloway. This middle-school advisory class has been named the "Applegate Stewards" and integrates multiple disciplines into the curriculum to enhance student engagement and help foster connections to nature and the surrounding community.

APWC also offers single-day field trips to any school interested in coming to Cantrall Buckley Park or the Provolt Recreation Site. These field trips can be modified to meet the needs of any K-12 class and typically consist of terrestrial and/or aquatic ecology lessons. Across all its offerings, APWC's goal is to provide high-quality place-based field instruction in the Applegate Valley. If you are interested in any of the education programs, please reach out to APWC at outreach@apwc.info or 541-660-3585. For more information, visit applegatepartnership.org.

Eva King
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Outreach Program Director
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Fall classes at Pacifica

BY CLAIR HIGHFIELD

I love spring with the joyful exuberance of new beginnings that can be seen in every cheerful yellow flower and every burst of bright bird song. But I love fall too—the tang in the air, the relief from summer's heat, a feeling of curling into a ball and relaxing by a fire.

Fall is a wonderful time to hike at Pacifica, and there's a lot to see...you just have to look a bit harder than in spring, which flaunts its beauty with the excitement of youth. Watch for mushrooms, spider webs, oak leaves changing to yellow or red. The birds we saw migrating in spring will be coming back through on their long journeys, but they're quieter and less colorful. There are a couple of special birds to look for in fall. One is the goldfinch.

The Goldfinch of Fall

Your sweet song, soft as the
thistledown you seek
splits the air with its silken thread
to herald the coming of fall
Your sun-bright wings
join leaves washed in color
to form a dance...
one last celebration
before winter's gentle rest;
one last joyful fling
to dream on
'til spring

Goldfinches grow their eye- (and mate-) catching bright yellow feathers and nest in mid to late summer when the thistledown they use for their nests is ripe. It's a sure sign that the heat of summer, like all else, will pass. Another bird to

watch for in fall is the turkey vulture in its sometimes-peculiar migration south. Vultures are large creatures and smart enough to utilize the tremendous energy of heat rising from the hot valley to carry them over the mountains.

They congregate, sometimes in large numbers, waiting for circling thermals, and then jump on board! Watch for them as they circle up and up with hardly a flap needed. A large group of circling vultures, appropriately called a "kettle," is amazing to see.

Fall is associated with finishing a garden and getting in firewood. But the feelings from years ago still also bring back the feelings of starting school: the new clothes and anticipation mixed with terror about classes and friends not seen since June. Pacifica has great plans for our fall season of educational programs and classes.

Enrichment Mondays and Fridays. The day will be dedicated to outdoor educational learning, project-based learning, and creating with local craftspeople. There is also a Mindfulness class to start the day. Ages 5-13; 10 am-3 pm, September 11-November 3. Tuition: \$200 (\$25 per day).

Youth Choir. The group will work on improving musicality including



Pacifica's ceramics course will ignite your creativity. Photo: Vanessa Redding.



The PALS (Pacifica adventure in learning) Monday class is open to students ages 5-13. Photo: Vanessa Redding.

pitch, rhythm, and harmony, while preparing a wonderful concert program to present at the Pacifica Winterfest. Ages: 8 and up; 3:45 - 5:15 pm Tuesdays, October 3-November 28. Cost: \$50-\$75. There are scholarships and trade/barter opportunities. Contact Harmony Sue at harmonysue23@gmail.com.

Wilderness Skills. This class focuses on nature awareness and self-reliance. These qualities are brought to life through the vehicle of wilderness survival training, earth skills, and fun games. Ages 7-13; 10 am-3:30 pm Fridays, September throughout the fall.

Sewing. Learn how to utilize fabric, cut patterns, and sew on machines. Ages 7 and up; 3-5 pm Mondays, September 25-October 16. Tuition: \$40.

Jedi Training. Learn to harness your inner power using the force of mindfulness and self-awareness. Climb trees, build a secret Jedi camp, learn Qi Gong, work on Jedi skills using the low ropes course and rock wall, harness the power of clear

communication, learn to walk silently in the woods, and do some live-action role play in Jedi Adventures. Ages 7-12; 11 am-3 pm Sundays, September 17-October 15. Tuition: \$103.

Creative Clay. This ceramics class aims to ignite your creativity, teach you fundamental ceramic techniques, and inspire playful creations that will feed your inner artist. Throughout the course, you will learn a range of techniques such as coil building, pinch pot sculpting, slab construction, and sculpture. Ages 14-18; 4-6 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays, October 3-November 2. Tuition: \$180.

Pacifica is located at 14615 Water Gap Road in Williams.

Learn and register:



Clair Highfield
clair@pacificagarden.org



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Cantrall Buckley Park Provolt Recreation Site

Look for opportunities on our Website, Facebook Page and the Applegate Connect Calendar
www.applegatepartnership.org/upcoming-events
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A stand-up guy

Rather than retire, Applegater Randy Bogardus started a business. Clearwood Paddleboards keeps him inspired, fit, and flush in “fun money.”

BY CHRISTINA AMMON

When Randy Bogardus hit retirement age, he realized he’d need more income. He could have easily become an Applegate handyman, but the idea of unclogging drains and mending fences didn’t inspire him. If he was going to have to work into his old age, he wanted it to be something fun.

So, at age 64, he took a leap and started Clearwood Paddleboards (clearwoodpaddleboards.com). The Applegate-based business sells build-your-own kits for stand-up paddleboards (SUP) and surfboards. The kits include assembly manuals, tech support, and all the parts needed to assemble a hollow paddleboard or surfboard.

I toured Randy’s shop on Bishop Creek Road on a late spring day. He greeted me in cool, beachy flip-flops and a surf shirt. At 76 years old, he moves with the *pura vida* spirit and ease that comes with a life spent in proximity to water.

His shop was full of planers, drill presses, and stacks of paulownia lumber—the lightweight wood he prefers for board construction. Although most boards are made of foam these days, wood boards go back hundreds of years when Hawaiians and Polynesians—“the original surfers”—carved native woods to make their boards.

For Randy, using the material represents a coming together of his passions: carpentry, woodwork, art, and surfing.

“When I started this business in 2010, I launched into a two-year program to set it up,” Randy explained, gesturing toward all the equipment. “I told myself: ‘This will work!’”

By all measures, it has. Clearwood Paddleboards now ships products internationally. During COVID, his business surged; people had spare money and time to build paddleboards. Recent economic uncertainty has slowed the business some. Still, he makes enough to have “walking-around money.”

A lifetime near water

Randy’s passion for the water started early, when he used to sit with his grandmother at a family beach house in Lincoln City, Oregon. Gazing at the sea, he would watch tugboats pulling loads of lumber in the distance. He writes on his website, “There was always something about those images of the far-off ships and tugboats that seemed adventurous, wild, and engaging.”

As a teenager, he built a wooden sailboat with his dad and enjoyed using it for years. With his love of watercraft now fully ignited, his course was set. He’d continue to lead an adventurous lifestyle, building houses and boats, traveling, crewing, and surfing.

Eventually, decades of surfing took a toll on his shoulders. That’s when stand-up paddleboarding piqued Randy’s interest. While surfing requires overhead arm motions, with SUP, he could lock his shoulders in the down position and use his core to power the body and board forward.

Soon he was a regular at Applegate Lake, paddling the length of it every day. He even started to enter races—and win. Randy laughs: “People would say ‘Oh, here comes grandpa on his wood board!’”



Randy Bogardus at his Applegate Valley shop. Photo: Christina Ammon.



Stand-up paddleboarding is “the single best fitness activity I’ve ever done,” says Randy Bogardus. He can often be found paddling the length of Applegate Lake in the mornings. Photo: Tim Daw.

Life in the Applegate

Given his love of the sea, one wonders why Randy doesn’t live full time at the coast. But he’s content in the Applegate Valley. “There is just an ambiance to the Applegate that not too many parts of Jackson County have,” he explains.

We finished our tour by looking at some of the completed boards that he has around the property, each of which takes hundreds of hours to complete. One was made partially out of redwood salvaged from “Tunnel 13”—an old tunnel at the top of the Siskiyou where the last train robbery in North America occurred. The tunnels back then were shored with old-growth redwood from Humboldt County. By the mid-1980s, the government abandoned those railways and took all the old shoring out. Randy got his hands on some.

Looking back on the last decade, Randy credits the internet for some of his success. “Any place FedEx and USPS goes, I can go.”

Of course, his persistence counts for something too. And passion. “It really does change the nature of work when you just can’t wait to get up and get started,” he says.

And, last but not least, a pinch of financial strain. “People say, ‘Necessity is the mother of invention,’” he laughs. “I say ‘Desperation is the mother of invention!’ I just kept telling myself: This *has* to work!”

Christina Ammon
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Paddling down the Applegate River.

Join the Applegate Paddling Club for a fun-filled day on the water at Hart-Tish Park!

BY ANGIE FUHRMANN

The scenic shores of Applegate Lake will be bustling with excitement on September 17 at the Applegate Paddling Club’s family-friendly event that promises to be a nice blend of outdoor adventure and community camaraderie.

The Applegate Paddling Club, known for its passion for all things paddling, invites both seasoned enthusiasts and newcomers alike to their upcoming meeting and public paddle. The event, from 1 pm-sundown at Hart-Tish Park, will offer a fun experience for water sports enthusiasts of all ages.

What’s on the agenda?

Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a meeting from 1-2 pm followed by a flat-water group paddle, ensuring a delightful day on the tranquil waters of Applegate Lake. The meeting will allow members to set priorities for the upcoming year, shaping the direction of the club’s activities and initiatives.

Paddle craft for all

For those eager to take their skills to the water, a collection of paddle craft will be available for people to try out. If you’re a seasoned pro, we encourage you to bring your own gear, and if you’re a newcomer looking to borrow equipment, we will have

some to share. The event caters to all levels of experience!

Building community and awareness

Beyond the thrill of paddling, the event aims to foster a strong sense of community among paddling enthusiasts in the Applegate Valley. It also seeks to raise awareness about the joys and benefits of paddling in this picturesque region.

Join the fun

No registration is required! Simply show up at Hart-Tish Park with your favorite food to share at the post-paddle potluck starting at 2 pm. Be sure to bring your own beverages. If you need them, adult and child personal flotation devices (life jackets) will be available.

Embrace the outdoors

Don’t miss this exceptional opportunity to be part of a community paddling event that promises fun and community building. Mark your calendars for September 17 and get ready for an unforgettable day at Applegate Lake.

Want to know more about the club? Visit applegatepaddlingclub.org or email us at applegatepaddlingclub@gmail.com.

Angie Fuhrmann
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Look who's reading the Gater!

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



Photos, clockwise from left:

- Amber Guient and Amber Thalmayer read the Gater at a fountain in Bern, Switzerland.
- Cathy Rodgers, granddaughter Brooke, and daughter Katie study the Applegater's Spanish-language section while at Lake Atitlán, Guatemala.
- Bryan and Margaret della Santina read the Gater online between prayers at the Suleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey.
- Monica and Jachym Taussig share the Applegater with the guard at Prague Castle, Czech Republic.
- Denise and Bob Scheel take the Gater on their hike on the Hebridean Way in the Outer Hebrides Islands, Scotland.

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

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