

■ **ROCS**

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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](mailto: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  
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*\*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**

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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!

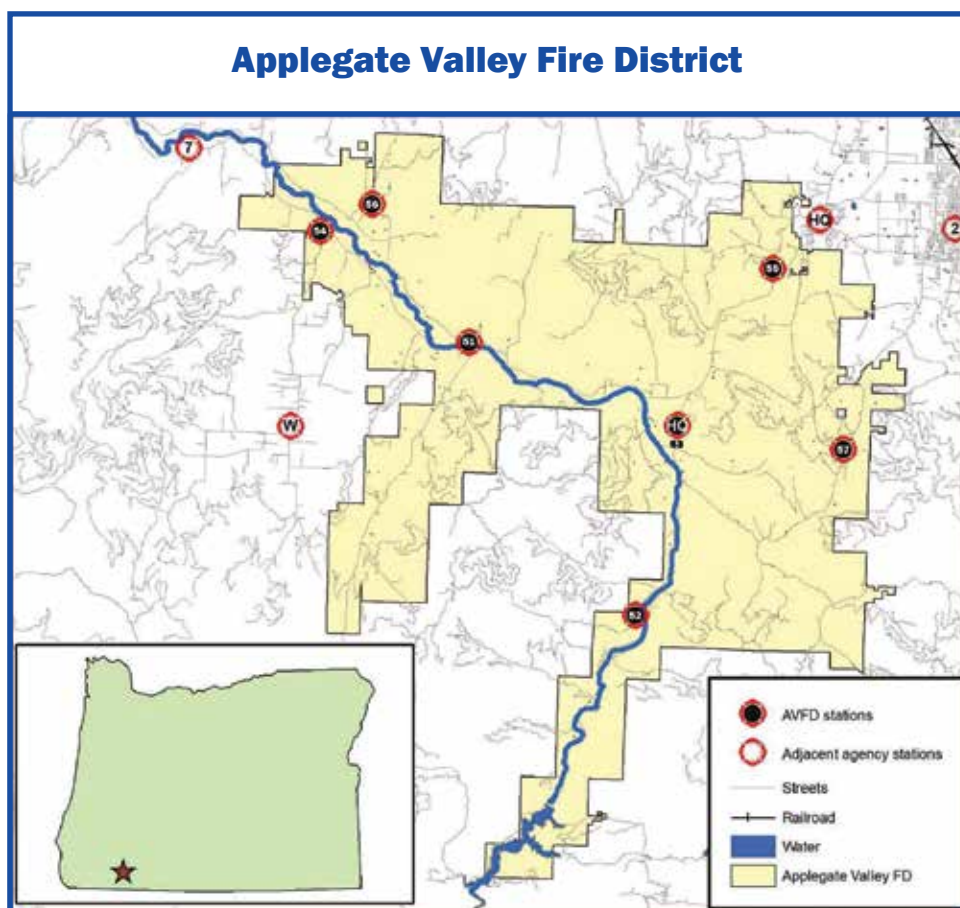
Four of the five board members were present at the July meeting and unanimously voted yes for the continuation of the local option levy. The board also unanimously voted to seek a 20-cent increase to provide better fire prevention and coordination within our fire district for the long-term benefit of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

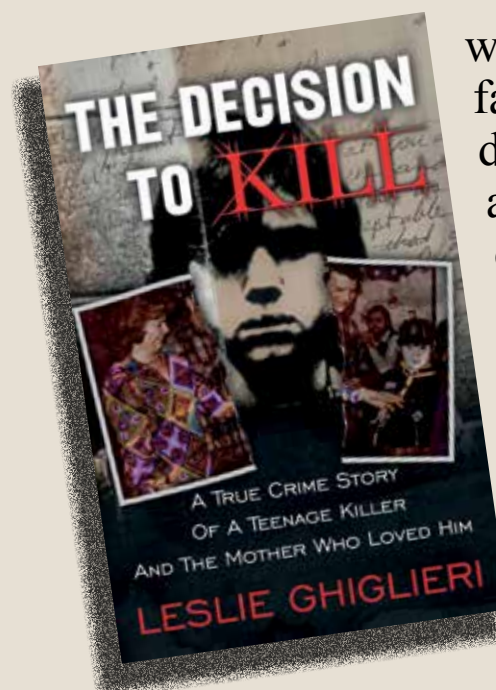
Measure 15-220, to approve the local option levy!

Rob Underwood, Board President  
On behalf of the Applegate Valley Fire District Board of Directors  
[runderwood@applegatefd.com](mailto: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.

Retired psychiatrist Dr. Sasser called *The Decision to Kill...* "A thought-provoking read."

Readers say...

"There are no words. Amazing true story. I cried. Hard time putting it down."

"Filled with love, addiction struggles, family, faith and forgiveness, this story is beautifully told."

Food 4 Less, Rebel Heart Books, Oregon Books, Barnes and Noble, and Amazon. A portion of each sale supports addiction recovery.

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