

Applegater

Photo by Linda Kappen | applegater.org

WINTER 2023
Volume 16, No. 4

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

Celebrating
~29~
Years

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



Let it snow! There is nothing so beautiful as McKee Bridge flocked in white.
Photo: Barb Mumblo.

Happy 2024 — McKee Bridge Historical Society's 25th year!

BY LAURA AHEARN

McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) is ready for a festive holiday season. We will decorate McKee Bridge, the rustic community kitchen in the adjoining picnic grounds, and Star Ranger Station in the first week of December. These sites will be illuminated 24/7 into the New Year.

We have spent all of 2023 planning the fifth annual Christmas on a Covered Bridge from noon-5 pm Saturday, December 16. Turnout for this fun event has increased by 50 percent year over year, and we've worked hard to be prepared to welcome all visitors with free hot cocoa, cider, and coffee, a mega bake sale with a bigger selection of fancy decorated cookies and holiday delicacies, and handcrafted gifts to satisfy your shopping list. And Santa and Mrs. Claus, of course!

Proceeds help fund the MBHS Scholarship. We are offering a \$5,000 scholarship pool for the 2024-25 school year. Awards may range from \$1,000 to \$2,500 each, depending on the number of qualifying applicants among graduating seniors from Jackson and Josephine county high schools and equivalent homeschoolers. February 1, 2024, is the deadline to apply. For more

information contact mckeebridge1917@gmail.com.

In 1985 Jackson County decided it would no longer budget to maintain McKee Bridge. The community rallied and formed the Save McKee Bridge Committee, but the committee operated under the auspices of the county, with its funds under county control. In January 1999, committee members decided to incorporate as an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, and McKee Bridge Historical Society was born!

Become a member

Please consider becoming a member of MBHS, helping to maintain the bridge, preserving and sharing Applegate heritage, and participating in our educational and entertaining events. Membership is still only \$20 per year for your entire household. You can sign up at mckeebridge.org or mail a check with your contact information to 8595 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Follow MBHS on Facebook or our website at mckeebridge.org to keep informed of many special programs in 2024, our 25th anniversary year.

Laura Ahearn
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Here are only a few events you might want to enjoy over the holiday season. See more on page 2.

Grants Pass and Josephine County Chamber of Commerce events calendar: business.grantspasschamber.org/events/calendar.

Grants Pass High School Performing Arts Center, 830 NE 9th Street, Grants Pass:
—Holiday concert: 7 pm December 18 and 19. \$10 general admission.
—Nutcracker, performed by Stillpoint Ballet Studio. Tickets start at \$10. 7 pm, Saturday December 9; 2 pm, Sunday December 10; 2 and 7 pm Saturday, December 16; 2 pm Sunday December 17.

Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce events calendar: jacksonvilleoregon.org/discover/events-festivals.

River Valley Church, 405 NE 6th Street, Grant Pass. Messiah sing-along from 3-5 pm Sunday, December 3. Free to the public. rivervalleycc.org.

Rogue Community Chorus, Rogue Community College, 3345 Redwood Highway, Grants Pass. Christmas concert at 7 pm Monday, December 4. Admission by donation only.

Voices of the Applegate. Holiday concerts at 7 pm Friday, December 8, at the historic Presbyterian Church at the corner of 6th and California Streets in Jacksonville, and 3 pm Sunday, December 10, at The Lindsay Lodge, 15100 Highway 238 in Applegate. (See article on page 2.)

Margaret Patterson • margaret@applegater.org

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HOLIDAY - ARTS



Quartet ES, an internationally known string quartet, will play at Jacksonville City Hall in January.

World-class chamber music at Jacksonville City Hall

BY MARSHALL THOMPSON

Classical music lovers are looking forward with excitement to Sunday, January 14, when the Assembly Room at Jacksonville City Hall will become a concert hall. At 3 pm Quartet ES, an internationally known string quartet, takes the stage, launching a three-concert series presented by Jacksonville OR Friends of Classical Music (JOFPCM). This nonprofit organization formed this year to bring chamber music to Jacksonville.

Seating is limited. Demand for wintertime classical music in Jacksonville appears to be strong. Tickets became available on October 1 and have been selling steadily. On November 1, more than two months prior to the January concert, 50 percent of the 100 seats available had been sold. The Assembly Room at City Hall is ideal for chamber music but offers limited seating. The first concert may sell out early, so we encourage music lovers to reserve their seats right away.

The ensembles scheduled to perform in January, February, and March, consist of truly gifted artists, many of whom graduated from Julliard and/or graced the stage at venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. It is a thrill to hear them perform. When classical music is played with such artistry, there is hope for humanity.

Tickets

Please join us at the concert. All tickets are just \$25 for general seating. City Hall is wheelchair accessible. During their visit to Jacksonville, artists will stay at the newly remodeled Magnolia Hotel, directly across the street from City Hall. Donors and volunteers are invited to a private reception with the musicians.

Visit our website at jorpcm.org to purchase tickets and learn more about the concerts and artists. Donations are welcome too.

Marshall Thompson
marshallt7007@gmail.com

Voices of the Applegate concerts

BY JOAN PETERSON

We're dreaming of a white Christmas, and you will hear us sing it at two concerts in December:

- 7 pm Friday, December 8, at the historic Presbyterian Church at the corner of 6th and California Streets in Jacksonville
- 3 pm Sunday, December 10, at The Lindsay Lodge, 15100 Highway 238 in Applegate

We have a joyful seasonal selection of music for the holidays: Broadway tunes from *The Lion King*, *Les Misérables*, *Cabaret*, and *All That Jazz*, as well as music from *The Fantasticks* and *Corner of the Sky*.

You won't want to miss it, and you'll even be invited to sing along with us!

Refreshments will be available. There is no admission fee, but donations are always

appreciated. Call me for more information at 541-846-6988.



New Ruch Library manager

Welcome home, Megan Pinder!

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

Ruch Library welcomes Megan Pinder as the new branch manager just as the library received new, expanded hours and in time for a busy school year. Megan has been the bilingual library specialist with Jackson County Library Services for several years in the outreach department, but now is back working in her childhood stomping grounds in the Applegate Valley.

Megan grew up in the Applegate, splitting time between her dad, who was living off-grid on 20 acres on Humbug Creek, and her mom, who was in Ashland. She attended Light Valley Waldorf School in Jacksonville, then Ashland High School. She took a Spanish class in college and fell in love with the language. Following her dream of being a farmworker, she headed off to Mexico, where she met and briefly married the father of her son, Indigo.

After Megan returned to the United States, she finished college and began teaching Spanish and ESL (English as a second language) classes at Eagle Point High School. It was there she met her current husband, Matt Pinder. They began an adventure that included two years in Indonesia and two years in Mexico, teaching in international schools, which Indigo attended. They had agreed they would return to the States in time for Indigo to attend high school so, when that time came, they settled in Ashland and later Talent. Their Talent home was lost in the Alameda Fire, and now they have their eyes open for somewhere in the Applegate for their next home.

Megan has big plans for Ruch Branch Library. She has had a steady calendar of programs for the community, has welcomed the weekly classroom visits and Kaleidoscope preschool program, and is hopeful that she can find the connections and programs to identify and engage the Latinx community in the Applegate. She is also forging relationships with the homeschool families and network, so they can be better served. Another dream she has is to start a seed library on a small, local level.

Cooking, reading, and knitting are among Megan's hobbies. She particularly loves modern fiction, magical realism, and connections with her current interests. She looks forward to traveling to Mexico again, where the food and people have stolen her



Megan Pinder returns to the Applegate as the new manager of Ruch Library.



Megan Pinder with her father, Timothy Williamson, at the Ruch Barter Fair.

heart. Someday she would like to go to Germany, where she has family.

Megan would love to hear from you! What programs would you like to see at Ruch Library? What day and time work best for you?

Now that the library is open four days a week, they are hoping to reach more people and would love to see you there. C'mon in and introduce yourself, get a library card, attend a program, and check out all the library has to offer you!

Thalia Truesdell
Friends of Ruch Library
thaliatruesdell@gmail.com

Free overdose reversal training in Williams

Rogue Harm Reduction offers free overdose reversal training, including free take-home Narcan/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! We encourage our neighbors in the valley to come meet us, ask questions, and get trained.

Winter schedule

Training and distribution days are from 5:30-7:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month, as follows: Thursday, December 7; Thursday, January 4; Thursday, February 1.

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

We hope to see you at the Sugarloaf Center in Williams!

More harm reduction in the Applegate/Rogue Valley

HIV Alliance, 132 NE B Street. Grants Pass: Every Thursday 11 am-4 pm (naloxone and harm reduction)

Max's Mission: maxsmmission.org (Free naloxone by mail!)

Contact Rogue Harm Reduction at rogueharmreduction@gmail.com.

Find us on Instagram @rogueharmreduction.

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

Cozy up and craft

Wild and Woolly winter felting coming to the Applegate

BY CORBIN BRASHEAR

Our dark, rainy Applegate winters are a fabulous season to cozy up in front of a warm fire with a craft project like needle felting. Needle felting uses a special type of needle to sculpt wool into a three-dimensional form. It can also be used to create two-dimensional paintings with wool. It is an incredibly forgiving and creatively rewarding art form that requires few supplies. You can create your own adorable sculptures in a few short hours. It's a great craft for makers-at-heart with "artist's block," who wish to be creative but don't know where to start.

If you are looking for a new creative outlet or have always wanted to try needle felting and want some in-person instruction, you are in luck this winter! As a local fiber artist (from Williams) with Wild and Woolly Feltworks, I am excited to offer several needle-felting workshops this winter, including January workshops at Dorothy Gales Event Centre in Williams and The Miners' Bazaar in Jacksonville, and some Felt and Sips at local wineries. These workshops will provide the felting fundamentals and confidence you need to strike out on your own felting adventures in front of your own cozy woodstove.



Needle-felted Santa and friends
by Corbin Brashear.

I have been creating mixed-media needle-felted sculptures, tapestries, and needle-felted designed clothing since 2003. I exhibit my work at the Oregon Country Fair and many other regional art shows and galleries and have been leading felting workshops and retreats for over 15 years as an artist in the schools and at the Grants Pass Museum of Art, Southern Oregon Guild of Artists, Ashland Art Center, and Ashland's current Fiber Art Collective, Mendocino Art Center, and many other galleries all over northern California and Oregon. You can see my work at wildandwoolyfelt.com.

If you would like more information about upcoming workshops or to be on the mailing list, please email me at wildandwoolyfeltworks@gmail.com.

You can see Wild and Woolly Feltworks creations and the work of other wonderful local artists at Pacifica Winter Arts Festival on December 2-3, Lithia Artisans Holiday Market at the Medford Armory on December 16-17, and at Dorothy Gales Holiday Artisan Market on December 23.

Corbin Brashear
wildandwoolyfeltworks@gmail.com

Welcome to the Applegater's newest board member, Laura Duey

BY DIANA COOGLE

It is an understatement to say I was pleased when Laura Duey approached me last month, cautiously, with a suggestion that she might be able to ease the treasurer's duties by taking over some of the tasks until we find a replacement.

And it is no overstatement to say I was overjoyed when, meeting with me and Barbara Holiday at the GoodBean the other day, she said, well, maybe she could join the board in the position of secretary.

One, two, three, done! I am pleased to welcome our newest board member and current secretary, Laura Duey.

Laura gave three reasons for wanting to join the board: (1) When she and her husband, Al, moved here seven years ago from a small town in Vermont, they fell in love with the Applegate, with its "beautiful scenery and eclectic population." (2) She loves the *Applegater*, which she thinks is an "amazing, wonderful newspaper." (3) Serving on the board of the *Applegater* gives her a chance to be involved in community activities.

Laura is no stranger to community involvement. In Vermont she served on several volunteer boards, including those of a tiny 100-year-old library, the local chamber of commerce, and a children's theater. Like the *Applegater* board, these were all very hands-on groups, necessitating all the normal activities of small nonprofit boards: fundraising, writing grants, organizing events, dealing with problems and issues, etc. She was especially closely involved with the



Laura Duey, on the deck
of her home in Ruch.

children's theater, helping publish the programs, among other tasks.

As a "detail-oriented person," Laura brings a valuable perspective to our board. She wants things to be exact. "I am a stickler for details," she cautions, calling this characteristic a "downside." "I am likely to irritate other board members with sentences that begin with 'the rule is...,' or 'the deadline is...,' or 'we said we would...'"

Wonderful, from my perspective. Thank goodness. I welcome that kind of backup to my duties as chair.

Welcome to the board, Laura. We are lucky you chose the *Applegater* for your volunteer energy, as board member, as secretary, and as help with treasurer's duties.

Diana Coogle, Chair
Applegater Board of Directors
diana@applegater.org



Low-flow sprinklers in Ashland Creek Park help conserve water.

Attend the water security education event in February 2024

Learn how to stretch your water

BY JIM REILAND

Historically, the Applegate Valley will have received about half of its annual seasonal precipitation by January 1. The total amount varies widely across the valleys and hillsides that comprise our community—some of us might record as little as 15 inches of precipitation, while others get well over 30 inches when our rainy season ends in late spring. By mid-winter we're either anxious or hopeful—anxious to catch up or hoping to stay above average. Either way, the total amount of rain and snow we receive has implications for the dry season that is still many months away.

With good information and planning we can stretch our water farther and, perhaps, tap new sources. We can find ways to become more resilient.

All-day education event

A Greater Applegate (AGA) and the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) are hosting an all-day Water Security Education event from 10 am-4 pm Saturday, February 3, 2024, at the Applegate Valley Fire District training hall, 1095 Upper Applegate Road, Ruch. (This event was rescheduled from June 2023.)

Arrive by 9:30 am for coffee and mingling! We'll start with a big-picture view by a speaker from the Oregon Water Resources Department (aka "watermaster's office"), who will describe water use in rural southern Oregon and help frame the conversation about how we can achieve water security in the face of today's challenges.

Just about everyone who lives in the Applegate has a well, a yard, and a house with kitchens, baths, showers, and toilets. Kora Mousseaux, community water resource conservationist at Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD), will talk about water conservation measures for household and residential landscape use—things you can do to reduce the amount of water you use.

Many of us have gardens and orchards, and quite a few of us are farming and ranching on a larger scale. Paul DeMaggio is the soil and water conservation engineer at JSWCD. His presentation will focus on water resource management, farm irrigation system improvements, and best practices for managing agricultural water quality.

After lunch, Karen Taylor of Siskiyou Permaculture will discuss gray-water site assessment, permits, and codes for Oregon, then review laundry-to-landscape and branched-drain gray-water systems.

Roarke Ball of Roarke's Earthworks, an Applegate-based contractor, will describe the how-tos of building a pond to retain water.

Did you know that if you have a roof on your property, you can collect rainwater? Retired contractor Jim Reiland will offer an overview of design and installation of rainwater catchment systems, illustrated by a variety of Applegate and Rogue Valley projects.

AGA's Megan Fehrman and APWC's Janelle Dunlevy will wrap up the day with a conversation about local irrigation—from the tributaries to the main stem Applegate River.

As we move forward while living in drought conditions, can water-rights holders work more closely, communicate more frequently, and improve antiquated delivery systems to help make water go farther for its patrons and the environment? This conversation will provide the groundwork for a larger workshop for local irrigators in 2024.

Please join us to learn more about water use in the Applegate and what you can do to conserve. This event includes lunch and costs only \$15. Register at A Greater Applegate at agreaterapplegate.org.

Contact me at 541-899-1166 or jim@manyhandsbuilders.com if you have any questions.

Jim Reiland
jim@manyhandsbuilders.com

A 10,000-gallon rainwater collection system.



POETRY CORNER

The Museum of Happiness

By Lisa E Baldwin
leb.97527@gmail.com

To preserve those delights we all have known, and acknowledging they may not be available nor accessible in the future, The Museum of Happiness gladly presents:

The Oregon Collection

A chorus of birdsong from
an October dawn on Upper Klamath Lake;
the crunch of dry high-elevation snow underfoot
on the annual hunt for a perfect Noble Fir;
the scent of cedar and fir trees
after the first warm rain in March;
the taste of a homegrown strawberry in June,
freshly picked, sun-warmed and sweet;
the rhythmic be-thudding clops of pastured horses
running, frisky in a building thunderstorm;
the warmth of the hand you love
holding your own as you walk the road home;
a big table crowded with family
sharing a meal, old stories, and laughter;
the glassy green of a Pacific wave
just before it breaks;
the joy of a child who has just landed
a rainbow trout for the first time;
the smell of dust and history
in an old library full of old books;
sharing the harvest with friends around a fire,
perfectly high, glad to be alive.
The Beatles' Abbey Road.
Chocolate-chip cookies.

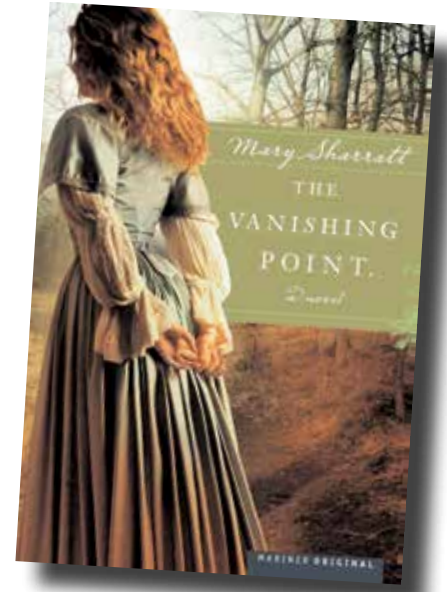
Lisa E Baldwin, a fifth-generation Oregonian, has lived in the Lower Applegate Valley since 1966. Lisa taught English in Grants Pass for 30 years, retiring in 2015. Currently, as owner of N8tive Run Enterprises, she works as a poetry evangelist—writing and publishing poetry, organizing and teaching poetry workshops, spreading the good news of the poetry world, and encouraging others to write as an act of art.

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.

BOOK REVIEW

Books by Mary Sharratt

BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER



When author Mary Sharratt was a student at the University of Minnesota, she participated in a seminar, “The Making of the Female Character (1450–1650),” with Dr. Annette Kuhn, which focused on the lives of women in a rapidly changing world. By the time I discovered this information, I had already read four of Sharratt’s novels, all of them historical fiction, all of them featuring women who offered their own vision and genius as a gift to the culture of their times. Such an offering was never easy, whether in medieval Europe or in the Renaissance or in pioneer America. Great women stood forth as their true selves rather than standing back in the shadows, adopting a false but acceptable image, a mask to deface the true self.

Reading Sharratt, my thoughts went not only to the political and religious powers that have determined women’s role through the centuries but also to the books I’ve read through my life in which women’s characters were written according to pattern, often designed by men. This trend began to change in the early 1970s with books like Mary Gordon’s *Final Payments* and Margaret Atwood’s *Surfacing*. Words about myself, my mother, aunts, grandmother hadn’t seemed to exist before, and yet I recognized the stories they told as being intimately my own. I was also a woman willing to delve deeply into my true experiences and stop trying to simply adjust to a pattern I’d been urged to imitate.

In 2012 Mary Sharratt first entered my life with her book *Illuminations: A Novel of Hildegard von Bingen*. She had decided to extend the making of a female character to historical women who had not been recognized outside their small circle of accomplishments. Possibly the most brilliant woman of the 12th century, Hildegard had been imprisoned as a small child in the rock wall of a monastery. An anchorite, she became a woman anchored to the church. Despite this she also became an artist, a visionary, a composer of the most intricate liturgical chants, an herbalist, and a healer. She called church bishops to task and finally left the male monastic enclosure, taking the women who had joined her to establish the first monastery exclusively for women. I was entranced by this book and read it at least four times.

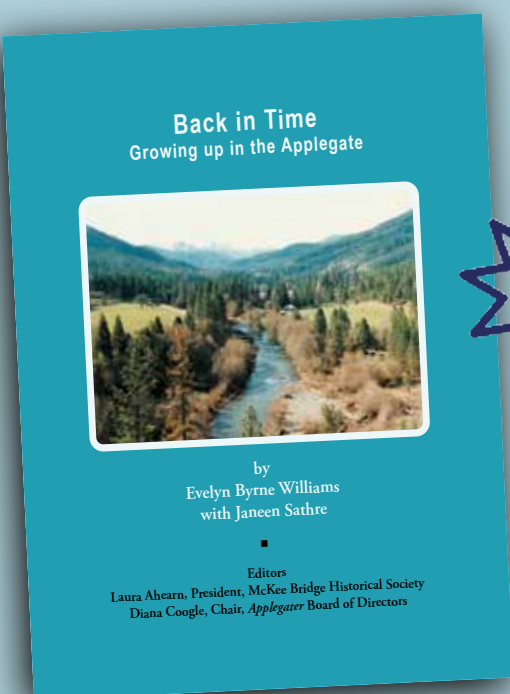
Sharratt’s most recent historical novel is *Revelations*, the story of Margery Kempe, the first woman in England to write the story of her life in the vernacular. It’s a bawdy 14th-century tale of a wife and mother who had the grit, the wildness, the stamina, and the intent to make an impact not only on England, but on most of the European continent and some of the Middle East!

The Vanishing Point, the novel that brought me to the decision to write a review of Sharratt, turned out to be from earlier in her writing career (2006). It takes place in Colonial Maryland and the wilderness of 1600 to 1775. Two sisters, first May and later Hannah Powers, sail from England to the new colony in America where May would marry the son of a tobacco planter. It becomes a story in which women encounter the challenges of nature, the betrayals inherent in lies and promises broken, the hardships and losses of pioneer life. The characters must make life or death choices in which fear, lack of knowledge and experience, keen instinct, broken minds and hearts, lack of trust, lack of skill, and self-reliance feature prominently. The sisters are even lost to one another and spend a lifetime searching for each other. I couldn’t help but wonder while reading this book how much the Applegate Valley must have resembled this story in the days of our own pioneers.

So it has been for me with Sharratt’s other historical novels and the path she clears for the reader into the worlds of men like Shakespeare and Mahler as seen through the eyes of women we might never have discovered except for the research and storytelling genius of Mary Sharratt.

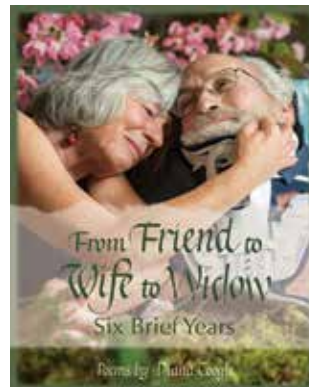
Christin Lore Weber
storyweaver1@gmail.com

JUST PUBLISHED!



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

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



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very highly recommended.”

~ Midwest Book Review

A collection of poems by Diana Coogle
about the growth of her and her husband’s love
over a brief but beautiful six years.

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Our Mission

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

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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).

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 PO Box 14
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The Applegater turns 30!

Come celebrate this momentous milestone with us at Vista 222 on Missouri Flat Road!

Sit-down catered dinner

Live music

Silent auction

Watch for ticket information and

more details in the spring 2024 *Applegater*.



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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Donations are also accepted online through PayPal at applegater.org.

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Thank you for your generosity. —The *Applegater* Board of Directors



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The *Applegater* is the only newsmagazine covering the entire Applegate Valley. With a circulation of 13,000 and a readership of more than 20,000, the *Applegater* covers Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate, Williams, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, Jerome Prairie, and areas of Medford and Grants Pass.

For more information, contact:

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Next deadline: February 1

Cover Photo Credit

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

Have a photo for the Spring 2024 *Applegater*? Email it to gater@applegater.org.

Clarification

Article on "Going gray" [fall 2023 Dirty Fingernails and All] noted that you need electricity to have a septic system. Not correct. As long as your septic tank is below the building sewer line, which is outside the structure, and the leach field is below the top of the septic tank, then the black water will drain into the leach field [also known as a septic tank drain field] without a pump. Gray water systems should be required everywhere so that additional water can help the growth of all plants, trees, and shrubs. Thank you.

—Rick Friedman, ICC plans examiner

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Editorial Calendar

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

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— Applegate Library —

Holiday sing-along and Santa



— Ruch Library —

Rogue Reads returns!

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

BY MEGAN PINDER

Join us at Applegate Library for these upcoming events through February 2024.

Holiday Sing-along, Santa Visit, and Tree Lighting, all ages. 2-4 pm Friday, December 1. Join the staff and the Applegate community for holiday singing, a welcome to Santa, and our tree lighting. This event will be held outside, so dress warmly. Light refreshments will be served.

Rogue Reads: Mindful Movement, 6+ years. 3-4 pm Tuesday, December 5. Join yoga and meditation teacher Sadie Barr for practices to help quiet your mind and develop a stronger connection to your body through guided movement. Wear comfortable clothes; yoga mat not required.

Rogue Reads: Make Your Own Meditation Strand, 18+ years. 3-4 pm Thursday, December 7. The creation of a meditation strand is rooted in many ancient traditions. The repetitive action of stroking beads has been shown to activate the parasympathetic nervous system, creating a sense of relaxation. In the context of grief (a theme present in *Afterlife*—see below), patrons can choose beads that represent the person or thing they are grieving.

Rogue Reads: Positive Affirmation Cards, all ages. All day Tuesday, January 2. The way we speak to and about ourselves affects how we feel. Affirmations can help. Join the Rogue Reads Challenge on Beanstack, then read and discuss this year's titles: *Afterlife* (adults), *Finding Miracles* (teens), *Return to Sender* (twens), and *Already a Butterfly* (children and families). Beanstack participants track their reading to earn badges and chances to win fun prizes.

Rogue Reads: Make Your Own "All About Me" Box, 13+ years. 3-4 pm Tuesday, January 2. In *Finding Miracles*, Milagros's family has a box of keepsakes (photos, locks of hair, paperwork, etc.) from her life back in Latin America. In this program, you will decorate a box for your own keepsakes.

Liq Chuan Tai Chi, 18+ years. 11 am - noon Fridays in January and February. Learn how to move mindfully bringing the mind and body together in balance of yin and yang. Slowly moving your body with awareness is a form of moving meditation that will help you calm the mind and train the body to flow effortlessly in a relaxed manner. For beginners as well as for those with prior experience.

Rogue Reads Discussion, *Afterlife*, 18+ years. 4-5 pm Thursday, January 11.

Join others from your community in a guided discussion of Rogue Reads selection of *Afterlife* by Julia Alvarez.

Explore Reptiles and Amphibians with Bugs R Us, 3+ years. 11:30 am-12:30 pm Friday, January 26. This program showcases live animals, including a box turtle, bearded dragon lizard, various frogs, and a few models. *No live snakes!*

Beginning Genealogy, 18+ years. Noon-1 pm Saturday, February 3. In partnership with the Southern Oregon Genealogy Library and Southern Oregon Historical Society, you will learn basic tips and strategies for starting your genealogy research project. From goal setting to digging into documents, this program will not only meet you where you are, but also give you tools for growth.

Rogue Reads: Take & Make: Beans and Rice, 6+ years. All day Tuesday, February 6. Food is one defining characteristic of a culture. It represents how people come together. In almost every country you can find a dish that features those two ingredients. This Take & Make will give you the nonperishables to make one type of rice and bean dish, but will contain other recipes to make more.

Make Your Own No-sew Cat & Dog Toy, 13+ years. 4-5 pm Thursday, February 8. Adoption and identity are a main thread in Julia Alvarez's book *Finding Miracles*. In this program you will be given the supplies to create a no-sewing-required cat or dog toy. Keep the toy for your furry family member or leave it at the library to be donated to a local shelter.

Love You to Pieces, 3+ years. Noon-4 pm Saturday, February 10. Make valentine hearts, frames, cards, and many other creative uses with valentine-colored puzzle pieces to keep or gift. Self-guided activity with all materials available.

Reminders

The 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 from 10 am-12:30 pm Tuesdays 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
cgrubb@jcls.org
18485 North Applegate Road

A community that reads together grows together. That's the philosophy behind our annual community reading program, Rogue Reads. This year, we are focusing on intergenerational immigrant experiences, and all four of our selected titles are by award-winning Dominican-American author, Julia Alvarez. Rogue Reads, which begins in December and runs through February, is an all-ages program. To learn more, and to participate in this community reading challenge, please register online at jcls.org or visit your nearest branch to sign up as an off-line reader. All Rogue Readers will have a chance to win some fun prizes!

Winter events

Kaleidoscope Play and Learn. 0-5 years; 10:30 am-12 pm Thursdays. Discover how children learn through play and daily activities: singing, telling stories, creating art, and having fun! KPL is open to everyone—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 (except December 21). 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.

The Human Cost of the Cannabis Industry. 18+ years; 1-2 pm Saturday, December 9. Unete Program Coordinator Kathy Keese will provide an in-depth presentation about the local impact of cannabis in our valley, worker experiences, and the human cost of it all, focusing on migrant workers.

Rogue Reads: Make Your Own Meditation Strand. 18+ years; 4-5 pm Thursday, December 14. In the context of grief (a central theme in *Afterlife*, our Rogue Reads selection for adults), patrons can choose beads that represent the person or thing they are grieving. All supplies are provided, and you may also choose to bring your own additional beads.

Make Your Own No-Sew Cat & Dog Toy. 13+ years; 1-2 pm Saturday, December 16. In this program you will be given the supplies to create a no-sew cat or

dog toy. Keep it for your pet or leave it at the library to be donated to a local shelter.

Ballet Folklorico de Hector Zaragoza. All ages; 1-2 pm Saturday, January 6. Learn Mexican folk dances in a fun and supportive atmosphere. No experience required. Please wear comfortable clothing that allows you to move. If you have a practice skirt, bandanas, and/or dance shoes, have them ready.

Solving Crosswords: Tips and Tricks. 18+ years; 1-3 pm Saturday, January 13. Instructor Steve Weyer will teach various tips and tricks. No experience required. Toward the end of the presentation, we will solve a crossword together! Refreshments provided.

Beginning Genealogy. 18+ years; 1-2 pm Saturday, January 27. Learn basic tips and strategies for starting your genealogy research project. From goal setting to digging into documents, this program will meet you where you are and give you tools for growth. This program is in partnership with the Southern Oregon Genealogy Library and the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

Draw Your Way to Creativity, Focus, and Well-Being. 13+ years; 1-3 pm Saturday, February 3. Try a new way of drawing with Janis Mohr-Tipton, putting interesting structural patterns of lines, shapes, and dots into a design uniquely created by you. All skill levels welcome, no artistic talent required. All materials provided.

Make Your Own "All About Me" Box. 13+ years; 1-2 pm Saturday, February 17. In *Finding Miracles*, our Rogue Reads teen selection, Milagros' family has a box of keepsakes from her life back in Latin America. In this program, you will decorate a box for your own keepsakes.

Author Talk: *The Station Master's Wife* by Sue DeMarinis. 15+ years; 1-2:30 pm Saturday, February 24. Join local author Sue DeMarinis for a presentation and discussion of her second novel, *The Station Master's Wife*. Refreshments provided.

Rogue Reads Discussion: *Afterlife*. 18+ years; 4:30-5:30 pm Thursday, February 29. Join others from your community in a guided discussion of the Rogue Reads adult selection, *Afterlife*, by Julia Alvarez.

Megan Pinder
Ruch Branch Library Manager
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mpinder@jcls.org
7919 Highway 238

Josephine
Community Library

— Williams Library —

Williams has a new library

BY BRANDACE ROJO

The new library, located at 158 Tetherow Road, includes running water, a restroom, expanded books and other materials, a designated children's area, 1,000 square feet of library use, ADA parking, and updated technology, including broadband internet.

The Williams library was designed by the skilled team at ZCS Engineering & Architecture, Inc. Corey and Landon of Vitus Construction thoughtfully managed labor and materials during renovation, including drywall donated by Farmer's

Building and Feed Supply and exterior sealant given by Fields Home Center.

Funding for the design and construction of the new library came from local donors, including a community crowdfund that raised \$140,000 last year.

Other funders include Four Way Community Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, A Greater Applegate, Roundhouse Foundation, Ford Family Foundation, Carpenter Foundation, and grants from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) via Representative



Library manager Amber Guient welcomes visitors to the new Williams Library.

Morgan and the Oregon State Legislature, and Josephine County.

The old library building, at 20695 Williams Highway, was gifted to Three Rivers School District and is being renovated to serve as an Early Head Start facility.

Many thanks to everyone who helped bring this library to life. We truly appreciate the hours and dollars spent by our community and local businesses in support of our libraries!

Meet the librarian. Amber Guient has lived and raised a family in Williams for 21 years. She considers it an honor to serve the place and people she loves as their branch librarian since 2020.

Virtual communication booth. Community members can reserve the new communication booth for virtual meetings at the Williams branch library at no cost. The virtual meeting booth features a space large enough for up to
See NEW WILLIAMS LIBRARY, page 20.

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

Supporting the arts in the Applegate

BY MEGAN FEHRMAN

This fall, staff members of A Greater Applegate (AGA) had the pleasure and privilege of visiting Washington, DC, to participate in a meeting for the Citizens Institute for Rural Design. The Applegate Valley is one of 17 communities selected for the Design Learning Cohort, in which leaders receive assistance navigating funding opportunities, help with facilitation techniques, one-on-one technical assistance for community design projects, and training in rural design and creative placemaking.

Placemaking? It's the process of creating quality places where people want to live, work, play, and learn. Quality places are active and unique. They are places within a community that enhance the specialness of that community.

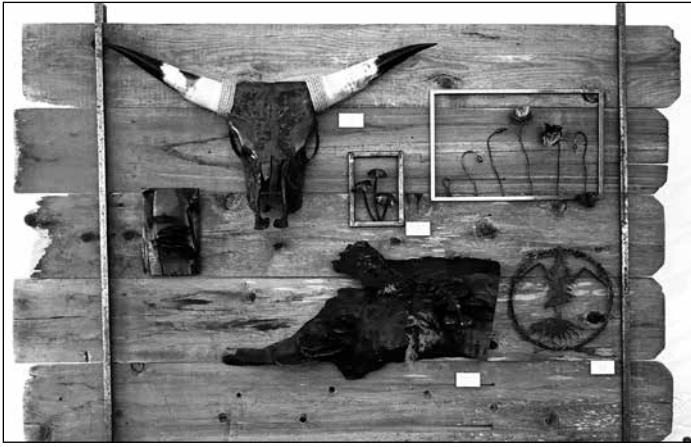
They strive to be visually attractive while showcasing the culture of the area—often weaving together public art, history, and recreation or green spaces. Placemaking projects help communities find ways to advance the quality of life, economic vitality, arts, and social infrastructure of that community.

A Greater Applegate has spent much of 2023 on placemaking projects, many involving the arts. Some projects showcased the best of our place to the outside world, and others brought the outside world to the Applegate. For example, in March we partnered with Art Presence in Jacksonville for a monthlong "Applegate Artists" exhibition featuring metal arts, feltwork, jewelry, and painting. On opening night, artists had the opportunity to share their work as guests sipped on Schmidt Family Vineyards wine.

Through our Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge grant and the Artist Working Group, AGA supported an Art Walk at Pacifica, brought Oregon's poet laureate to Plaisance Ranch, and set up a Pop-Up Art Gallery at the Jacksaphine Count(ry) Fair in September. The Pop-Up Art Gallery featured the work of nine Applegate artists. Everything from originating the concept to building the temporary walls and hanging lighting was executed by members of the Artist Working Group. These collaborative processes and events integrate the arts into our community and tell the story of the people who live, work, and play here.

The Artist Working Group is developing projects for 2024, including more exhibition opportunities for Applegate artists, an artwalk along the Applegate Wine Trail, and public murals. The group meets monthly to discuss upcoming projects. If you are interested in collaborating and being a part of this working group, email jb@agreaterapplegate.org.

AGA is a community-based organization dedicated to the economic,



Wooden sculptures by Kris Albro were displayed in the Pop-up Art Gallery at the Jacksaphine Count(ry) Fair in September.



The above wall of art in the Pop-up Art Gallery includes pieces by Evelyn Byrne Williams, Janis Mohr-Tipton, Tina Schiefer, jb Palasini, Denise Lambert, Curtis Keeler, and Cecile Evans.

environmental, and social vitality of the Applegate Valley. We remain committed to making connections within our community, supporting community-led actions, increasing our collective capacity for placemaking projects, and celebrating our rural culture.

Our small but mighty team is made up of residents of this valley. What we love most about our jobs is the opportunity to work with all of you to build deeper relationships and trust between community members so that we may collectively design appropriate solutions and give the community the ability to sustain the projects that connect people to this place we call home. We are able to achieve more because of the power and promise of our rural community. If you, too, love what we are doing and are called to participate, bring your neighborhood together to work on a project or join one of our many working groups. Reach out to us at info@agreaterapplegate.org.

If you have dollars to spare this holiday season, please consider A Greater Applegate. If you have the ability to become a major donor, let's talk! If you prefer to give monthly, we are grateful for any amount you can contribute. You can donate on our website at agreaterapplegate.org or mail a check to PO Box 335, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

Join us. Support us. Let's do more of this together in 2024.

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 and Destination Consultant

Applegate innovators

A Greater Applegate awards grants to projects that enhance life in the valley

A sports court in Williams, a Cantrall Buckley Park coloring book, an art studio, a food garden at Ruch School, a tribute to the Applegate's Indigenous people—these are just a few of the projects that A Greater Applegate was able to support through its 2023 Innovation Grants program.

The program awarded up to \$2,500 to local projects that advance the goals of the Applegate Valley Vision, an 89-page document that details ideas and aspirations for the future of the Applegate Valley. It is based on input gathered from listening sessions conducted throughout the valley in 2019-2020.

The hundreds of residents who attended the open sessions expressed a variety of wishes, including a desire for the valley to be "vibrant and livable," "inclusive and engaged," and "prosperous and vital." They also suggested specific strategies for realizing these aspirations, such as putting on more cultural events and providing more educational opportunities.

For instance, one of the grants provided funds to bring in more diverse DJs to the popular Ecstatic Dance events in Williams. Ecstatic Dance is a monthly event where community members create free-form movement to ambient live DJ music. The event enhances community health and connectedness.

"The dance community in Williams was super grateful for the grant," says event coordinator Mika Smith. "Our dances clearly reflect a greater diversity of attendees with DJs of diverse backgrounds."

Also furthering local arts was a grant for Open Studios to set up a space with canvasses, easels, paints, and brushes for people of all ages to create art. "We are all artists," organizer Kimberly Schneeman says. "It's a matter of opening up the creative process." Open Studios is held at Dorothy Gales Event Centre in Williams.

Other grants funded economic studies of the area, the design of maps and brochures for our local trails and river runs, and the work of a local theater group, the Apple Players.

The 2024 grants were just issued and include money for the Rogue Valley Paragliding and Hang Gliding Association to purchase windsocks to indicate which fields are okay for pilots to land in. These windsocks should increase safety and reduce trespassing disputes. Stay tuned for more grant announcements on A Greater Applegate's website. Read about the 2023 grants by clicking on the "Projects" page on Applegate Valley Connect (applegateconnect.org).

A Greater Applegate's Co-Executive Director Angelique Stewart says, "The AGA staff and board are so excited to fund these community projects, and we can't wait to see them finished!"

Christina Ammon • christina@footlooseintheapplegate.com



An Innovation Grant funded opening hours for Open Studios.



AGA contributed to the creation of this sports court in Williams, which meets the Applegate Valley Vision of making more shared spaces "to enhance community connections."






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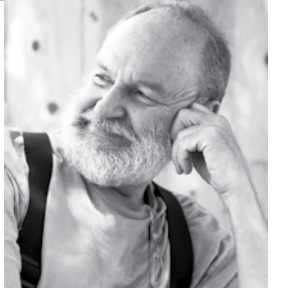
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THE STARRY SIDE

Orion's fight

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

With fire season over and cool weather gracing our days and nights, we're heading toward the winter solstice on December 21, the longest night and shortest day of the year and the official beginning of winter.

In December, low in the west of our night sky, look for Altair, the brightest star in Aquila the eagle. There's a star on each side of Altair, making a nice threesome. Just above Altair is Delphinus the dolphin, sideways to us and jumping out of the sea in a curve that's well expressed by five medium-bright stars.

The great square of Pegasus, the winged horse, is way up in the sky, close to center and slowly heading down to the west. Also in December, my favorite constellation of all, Orion, has risen from the southeast. He was lying down but now is literally rising. Look for his three-in-a-row belt, scabbard, one arm raised holding his sword ready to strike Taurus the bull, a triangle just to the upper right. Orion's other arm is raising a shield. Exciting and obvious, with a head and shoulders and two legs—he's an amazing

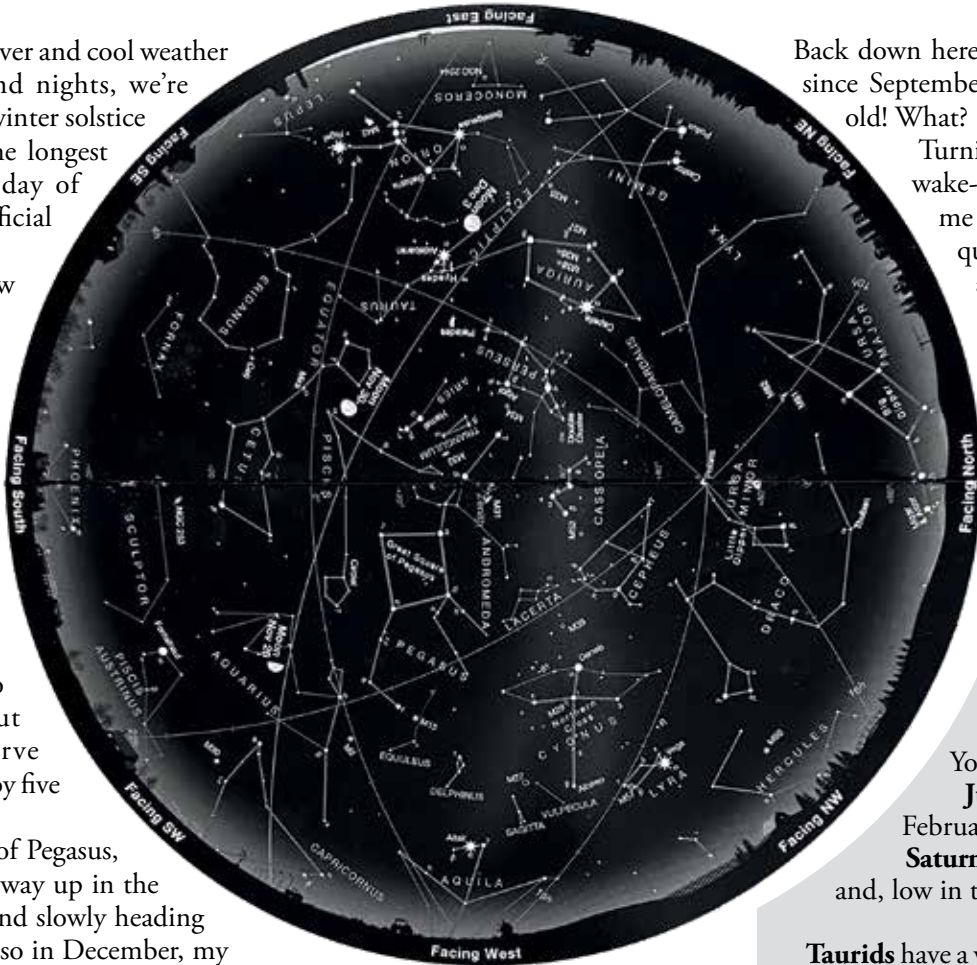


Image: Sky & Telescope (skyandtelescope.org).

sight. To add to the excitement, his three-in-a-row belt points left to the brightest star in the whole night sky: Sirius, his dog, who rises behind Orion, following him to help in the fight! Whew!

Back down here on earth, I am now, since September 12, 2023, 80 years old! What?

Turning 80 has been a real wake-up call for me and has me asking an important question: what do I do at this stage in my life? The conclusion I've come to is to

give back what life has taught me, what I've learned that seems useful and meaningful to me and might be so for a few other people too. So I'm inviting you to a sneak preview of my website at peoples.solutions/applegater.

Enjoy!
Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

**— Of Note —
Planets**

Mercury is seen in the dusk of December and then disappears into the earth's sunset. It's the closest planet to the sun. In January and February it's visible just before sunrise.

Venus is an early-morning eastern star in December. In January and February, it's beautifully visible in the morning sky, getting higher and brighter as it continues westward ahead of the sun. You can see it even when all the other stars are gone from the sky.

Mars also shows up in dawn in both January and February. You'll notice its redness.

Jupiter shows up in the evenings in December, January, and February. Except for Venus, it's the brightest planet out there.

Saturn, a modest planet, shines in the evenings in December and January, and, low in the sky, at dusk in February.

Meteors

Taurids have a vague showing in early December, approximately 10 an hour. They originate near the Pleiades, a wonderful little clump of stars in Taurus.

Geminids are the shower of all showers to watch! They occur all night on December 13-14, but are best seen in early morning when they are higher. An astonishing rate of 120 per hour is possible! They come out of the Gemini Twins, especially Caster, the higher of the two.

Quadrantids is the final display this season, another of the best. We could see 100 an hour! January 3-4 is the peak, but there'll surely be some through mid-January.

Note that even though meteors seem to emanate from a specific spot, known as the radiating point, they can be seen all over the sky.

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

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Garden-hood sauces

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Ever since my young “garden-hood,” I have been a nontoxic type of gal—well, farmer, gardener, grower, landscaper, seed saver, and whatever else I am.

My mother was feeding her family organic food when most folks had no idea what that meant. For my mother, that meant no toxic spray on whatever we were ingesting, bubble gum and marbles excluded. Mother was not a farmer or a gardener or a weed plucker. She just knew, from much investigative reading, that toxic sprays on food were bad for the earth and bad for her children.

The gardeners in my family, primarily me but also my hubby, share the same organic, no-toxin code.

So what do we do about the bugs? As with most Applegate Valley gardeners, we encounter aphids, thrips, mites, snails, slugs, leafhoppers, mealybugs, scale bugs, spider mites, stinkbugs, white flies, caterpillars. Right? Many of us grow the same stuff (just guessing), so we have the same bugs.

Depart, creepy crawlers!

To make the creepy crawlers go away, start with the most basic of pest control: healthy soil. “Healthy soil is living soil, filled with billions of microbes and beneficial, microscopic fungi; nematodes, earthworms and other beneficial organisms,” says Eric Vinje, in an essay about soil health for the Planet Natural Resource Center. “It’s alive.”

You can also take advantage of a plant’s “friends,” or, in garden lingo, companion gardening. Smartpot.com explains how this works: “Companion planting is the practice of planting certain plants together to deter pests or attract beneficial insects. For example, marigolds are a great companion plant for tomatoes, as



Aphids don't like garlic or being squished. Photo: ecoguardpestmanagement.com.

they help to repel nematodes, which can damage tomato roots. Garlic and chives can also help to deter pests, while mint attracts beneficial insects like ladybugs, which eat aphids.”

In your kitchen and refrigerator you will find a number of nontoxic substances for helping control garden pests. Garlic, vinegar, beer, baking soda, borax, hot peppers, vegetable oil, and dish soap are among the most useful.

Maybe not in your kitchen but also useful are neem oil, diatomaceous earth, and pyrethrins. Neem oil comes from the seeds of the neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*), which contains azadirachtin, an active ingredient that repels and kills pests.

Diatomaceous earth is made from the fossilized remains of tiny, aquatic organisms called diatoms. It is not poisonous but works by absorbing the oils and fats from the insect’s exoskeleton so that the insect dries out and dies. “Pyrethrins are pesticides found naturally in some chrysanthemum flowers. They are a mixture of six chemicals that are



White flies don't like garlic either. Photo: gardenerbasics.com.

toxic to insects” (npic.orst.edu/factsheets/pyrethrins.html).

So, who doesn’t like what? What should you use on whom?

Aphids do not love or even like garlic, hot pepper spray, vegetable oil, dish soap, neem oil, pyrethrins, or me. I squish aphids.

White flies gravely dislike garlic, dish soap, neem oil, and pyrethrins. Slugs and snails don’t like garlic or vinegar. They actually love beer but get drunk and drown in a bowl of beer left out for them. Just kidding about drunk snails, but beer in a bowl does work.

Beetles. Okay, I’m not sure what kind of beetle I mean, and I know there are

hundreds of types, but if there are beetles on your plants, try getting rid of them with garlic, vegetable oil, or dish soap.

Go after ants with garlic, vinegar, baking soda, borax, or diatomaceous earth. Mealy bugs, mites, thrip, scale, leaf hoppers, and some nasty caterpillars—all or some of these hate all or some of these: pyrethrin, neem oil, dish soap, vegetable oil, and hot pepper spray.

If I had to use only one spray in my garden, garlic wins hands down. It is time-consuming to make but usually works. I blend, say, 24 cloves of garlic with a cup

of water. Then I filter the mash through a paper towel or paper coffee filter or something else that leaves the pulp behind. I put the liquid in a clean spray bottle and have a go at the creepies. Never mind that my garden may smell like a spaghetti sauce factory.

Words to you gardeners: (1) Do not spray in sunlight. (2) Experiment around, like adding liquid kitchen soap or cooking oil to garlic spray. (3) Try a very small area at a time. (4) Water your plants thoroughly, if needed, before you spray.

Dirty fingernails and all,
Sioux Rogers
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Changing seasons and other changes in the park

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Fall showers have brought the park welcome moisture for recovery from the hot, dry climate of summer. You may have noticed just before we got our first good rain that areas of lawn were brown and dry. The aging irrigation system had developed major leaks and gave out.

The good news from Brien Dallas, Jackson County Parks operations supervisor, is that early next year the county will begin installing an upgraded variable-pressure irrigation pump, with up-to-code electrical power to it. "We will also be running all new main lines throughout the park to help mitigate the

constant irrigation leaks and breaks we've had from the aging lines," Brien says.

Comfort stations have been placed near the playground for park users' convenience while the water system is undergoing improvement.

Meanwhile, the park manager has approved the location for the new hiker/biker site at the campground. The Park Enhancement Committee and the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) are designing a structure for the site and are sharing the costs of timber and other materials and doing any needed restoration around the site.

The Monarch Waystation (aka pollinator garden) is getting a new garden bed near the park entrance and monarch sculpture. Thanks to a grant from the Endangered Species Coalition, we will be able to replace the plants we lost and again encourage monarchs to stop in before the next part of their journey south to lower California.

If you would like to help with assembling the hiker/biker structure or with developing the monarch and pollinator garden area, contact me or APWC. (See contact information below.)

With the new year approaching, it's time to think about buying an Annual Season Pass (ASP), good for all Jackson County parks and registered to the purchaser, so it can be used in any vehicle. Purchases of seasonal passes help maintain the parks and keep them open.

Caution. The parks department cannot replace lost passes, so be sure to reclaim yours if you lend it to a friend.

Revenue from the \$4 day fee helps maintain the specific park



The Monarch Waystation sign will be moved to the new location.



Volunteers work on the Cantrall Buckley pollinator garden during the SOLVE event in September. All photos by Janis Mohr-Tipton.



The new location for the monarch. The red flags in the background mark the boundary of the planned long oval pollinator garden.

where you purchase the day pass, and Cantrall Buckley Park certainly needs your support.

ASPs purchased any time after January 1, 2024, will cost \$45. The Jackson County Parks website promises a discount (of an unspecified amount) for passes bought in December 2023.

Here are several ways to purchase a seasonal pass:

- Pay cash to the Cantrall Buckley Park hosts.
- Call Jill at the Jackson County Parks department office at 541-774-8183 to pay by credit card. You will be mailed your pass in one to two days after the transaction has cleared.
- Buy your pass at Ruch Hardware, Blackbird, REI, Sportsman's Warehouse, or the Southern Oregon RV Park office (just north of the fairgrounds).

AGA's park committee is looking forward to next year and continuing

good relationships with our partners at Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council and Jackson County Parks. As the current projects wind to an end, we will be shifting our focus to the many restoration and regeneration needs of the park and working together to keep this "gem of a park" a place of beauty for all of us.

Keep an eye on the donor mural as it changes with the addition of new panels over the next few months. We don't have a final date, but the artist is looking at adding a panel or two with each visit. He's excited to see completion coming.

If you have any questions regarding Cantrall Buckley Park, please contact me.

Janis Mohr-Tipton
Chair, A Greater Applegate Park Enhancement Committee
Cochair, APWC Cultural Committee
janis.agapark@gmail.com
contact@apwc.info



Thank you for a great year in the Applegate!

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www.agreaterapplegate.org

Another tribute to Sandy Shaffer

Sandy Shaffer is a gem. We both arrived in this wonderful place in the early '90s and have made our lives and our joys here, in our different ways, of course, but we overlapped in several. The Applegate Partnership was an early connection. When the Gater was born, also in the early '90s, we both jumped on board and have been a part of it ever since. Her wonderful relationship with our local fire department has been amazing and important. Her commitment and attention have been an inspiration all these years. It's time for Sandy to back off a bit, but, hopefully, she'll still be writing her important fire-related articles. She's a true citizen of our valley and will be missed at the *Applegater*, especially on the deck of the editorial committee. —Greeley Wells, editorial committee member, Starry Side author

Sandy Shaffer retired from the Applegater editorial committee. See more tributes in the Extra Edition published in October.

BIRD EXPLORER

Chestnut-backed Chickadee

BY PETER J. THIEMANN

Chickadees are small Woodland Songbirds that are often seen in small flocks in winter and come readily to bird feeders. The various species of Chickadees present somewhat of a challenge to identify, and most novice birders and backyard bird watchers just call them all Chickadees.

By far the most numerous in our area are the Blackcaps, with their black cap and bib with white cheeks. Then there are the Mountain Chickadees, with white eyebrows. As their name suggests, they are mountain dwellers coming down to lower elevations in autumn and winter. They are far fewer in numbers down here in our Applegate valleys, so they are a special treat to observe. Mountain Chickadees are coming down to my bird feeders but are a



Chestnut-backed Chickadees arrived at the author's bird feeders just last year.

bit shyer than the Blackcaps and Chestnuts.

The third species here in the Applegate are the Chestnut-backed. For the first 20 years that I birded here, I either did not see them or was not able to photograph them. That all changed last year when they started to come to my bird feeders, allowing very close observation and photography. Distinctive chestnut-colored backs and rumps identify this species with its closest relative of the Chickadee family, the Boreal Chickadee of the far north in Canada and Alaska.

Peter J. Thiemann
peterjthiemann@yahoo.com



Peter J. Thiemann

Photo by Peter J. Thiemann.

Yurts to go in at Cantrall Buckley Park

BY EVA KING

Who doesn't love a memorable overnight stay in a unique, unforgettable place? Imagine waking up inside a yurt in the beautiful Applegate Valley after a great night's sleep, and then stepping outside to be immediately immersed in nature. For many Applegate residents, this is comparable to everyday life. And it is exactly what the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) wants for its Applegate Outdoor School (AOS) participants.

APWC is partnering with Jackson County Parks to install three yurts in the campground at Cantrall Buckley Park that will serve a variety of users. The main priority is two 30-foot yurts in the group campsite that can host students overnight during the outdoor school season (October and April-May) and an additional 20-foot yurt to provide sleeping arrangements for AOS staff. During the months when AOS is not in session, the yurts will be available to the public on a reservation basis. Jackson County Parks manages yurts at its Willow Lake Campground and is looking forward to bringing the yurt experience to Cantrall Buckley Park.

Two 30-foot yurts provide comfortable sleeping arrangements for 15-21 students per yurt, depending on bed type. With separate yurt designations for male and female students and parent chaperones, this setup would allow AOS

to accommodate a total of 30-42 students per night. One 20-foot yurt placed at Site 16 is far enough away from the student yurts, but still allows AOS staff to be aware of any issues during the night that may occur while students travel to and from the bathrooms.

APWC and Jackson County Parks plan to order the yurts from Pacific Yurts, the world's leading manufacturer of contemporary yurts, in Cottage Grove, Oregon. The 30-foot yurts cost \$27,080 each, while the 20-foot yurt costs \$18,440. These prices do not include the cost of the required platform or construction. Crating and shipping costs for all three are estimated at \$3,400. Additional amenities will need to be considered for the safety and comfort of all guests, such as ADA accessibility, covered front patios, electrical wiring, heating units, smoke detectors, and more.

APWC is actively working to secure funding for this project through grants, foundational support, and donations. In an ideal world, the cost of the yurts would be approved in Jackson County's next fiscal year, which begins July 2024. That would allow for installation during the 2024-2025 school year. However, APWC would like to ensure the yurts and amenities are funded for the 2024-2025 school year and need community support to reach their goal.

If you would like to support this project, donations of any amount are welcomed and appreciated. APWC accepts donations on its website at applegatepartnership.org/donate. If you would like more information about the project or have a larger donation to make, please reach out to APWC at outreach@apwc.info or 541-660-3585.

Eva King
Education & Outreach
Program Director
Applegate Partnership and
Watershed Council
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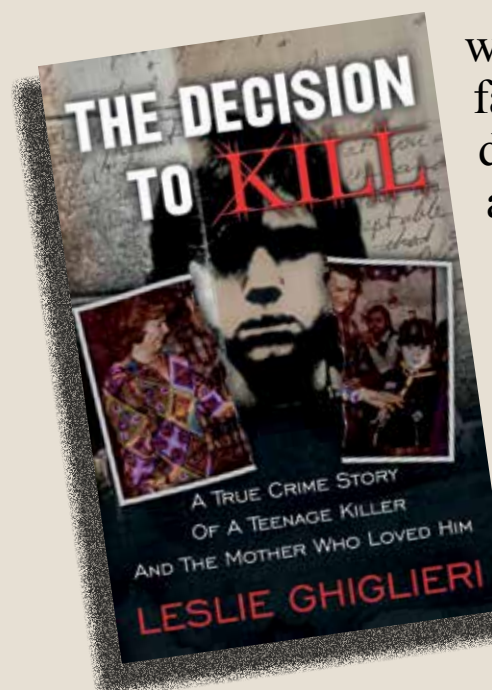
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A new 16-foot Pacific Yurt installed at the Valley of the Rogue State Park. These yurts are available for the public to rent year-round on a reservation basis.

Provolt Volunteer Team on the job at the recreation site

BY TOM CARSTENS

When the Grants Pass office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) opened the Provolt Recreation Site four years ago, the Applegate community embraced this new opportunity for access to the Applegate River. The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) was already doing riparian restoration there and offered to help.

Right away, a group of community members formed the Provolt Volunteer Team to work with BLM under the APWC to expand the recreational opportunities at the site.

Elizabeth (Liz) Shen and her husband had recently moved to the Provolt area from Anchorage, Alaska, and Liz was eager to contribute to the effort. An environmental consultant in her previous life, Liz saw this as a wonderful opportunity to use her skills in her new neighborhood. An added benefit was the ready-made circle of like-minded friends who had also recently joined the team. Liz and the rest of the volunteers rolled up their sleeves and went right to work to help BLM develop the site, formerly a federal timber seed orchard.

Soon after opening, things got busy. Fresh signage and fencing went in; nest boxes for songbirds houses were built. The Volunteer Team cut a riverwalk trail along the river. Anglers discovered new fishing sites on the river. Wildlife enthusiasts and bird watchers started to explore their new nature preserve. Hikers, bikers, and equestrians began to investigate the existing trails. Swimmers and kayakers literally jumped right in at the new small boat ramp where the river flow is inviting and gentle. Picnic tables were procured for the many families who wanted to enjoy a lunch and an afternoon beneath the leafy cottonwoods lining the riverbank.



Elizabeth Shen tries out the latest batch of park benches ready for installation. Photo: Tom Carstens.

Three years ago, Liz took over as leader of the Provolt Volunteer Team. She loves being involved in such an active community and connecting with a dedicated group of folks with such varied backgrounds and interests. Since Liz has been in charge, the team has made improvements to the well-used riverwalk trail, aided in the development of new interpretive signs, and helped to eradicate invasive weeds. The team has cleared blackberries, mowed vegetation, and installed benches—all to create peaceful rest sites on the banks of the river.

Lots of different groups have joined in the fun. A troop of Medford Boy Scouts built a walking trail. The Oregon Hunters Association installed boxes for wood ducks. The Sourdough Chapter of Back Country Horsemen developed horse trails. Osprey platforms overlooking the river



From left to right: Joy Rogalla, Kelly Peduzzi, and Beate Foit apply sealant to a new picnic table. Photo: Elizabeth Shen.



The Provolt Volunteer Team builds the riverwalk trail. Photo: Elizabeth Shen.

Led by Cate Bendock (left) and Annette Parsons, Whiskey and Cosmos pack cement for the riverwalk bench pads. Photo: Elizabeth Shen.



were built by Pacific Power. A life jacket donor station was set up by the Applegate Volunteer Firefighters Association.

Hard work is beginning to pay off

The site now boasts many more picnic tables, rest benches, expanded parking, and a new vault toilet. It's a great opportunity to get the kids out of the house and into the wild.

Speaking of kids, both the BLM and APWC sponsor distinct programs to support children's education at the site. They draw schoolchildren from all over the Rogue Valley to learn how to apply science, restore wildlife habitat, and design service projects at the site. New pollinator gardens, bird houses, bat boxes, and more are all in the works!

A new batch of benches were just delivered, and Liz's team will soon be installing these along the riverwalk trail.

Liz is proud that the site is now open to the public seven days a week, sunrise to sunset. This recent development was made possible only because her team volunteered to assist BLM caretakers in opening and closing the gates.

What's coming in the future? Liz would like to see more opportunities for wildlife viewing, expanded equestrian facilities, and a shelter to accommodate outdoor education. BLM intends to eventually open more of the 300-acre site to the public.

Long-range planning documents include the possibilities of a disc golf course, an interpretive center, and a pedestrian bridge across Williams Creek. This bridge would lengthen the riverwalk and expand access to the Applegate River downstream of the present site.

There's a lot going on!

Tom Carstens

541-846-1025

bumsonwheels@gmail.com

Interested in becoming a Provolt volunteer?

The team welcomes new members, and it's a lot of fun!

Feel free to email Liz at liz_shen@hotmail.com or the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council at provoltvolunteerteam@apwc.info.

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THROUGH THE LEPIDOPTERAN LENS

Lindsey's Skipper of the Pacific Northwest

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Lindsey's Skipper (*Hesperia lindseyi*), a skipper of the butterfly family of Hesperidae, has a wingspan of up to 1.25 inches. On the dorsal wing are colors of a brighter orange with a narrow dark border. The ventral view of the hindwing is yellow to light brown in the background, with yellow to white bands of spots with very little veining.

Males will patrol over the grasslands in search of females. Females will oviposit eggs on *Usnea florida*, an arboreal frondose lichen that grows on trees and old wooden fence posts. Some females will choose lupines or sheltered fallen oak leaves to oviposit their eggs. The caterpillars search the grasses for their host plants of Idaho fescue and *Danthonia californica*. The grown caterpillar will diapause (hibernate) through most of the summer and winter in nests of silken blades of grass on top of or just under the soil. When weather conditions are right, they will emerge and feed until pupation. There is only one brood. The flight period is from very early June to the middle of July. Adults will



A Lindsey's Skipper photographed by the author at Lower Jenny Creek in the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument.

drink nectar from spreading dogbane, wild onion, and other early summer blooms.

The Lindsey's Skipper habitats are drier mountain meadows, grassy chaparral

habitats, and oak woodlands. It occurs in Jackson,

Josephine, and Klamath counties to the south, and Curry and Douglas counties to the north. In California, the range for the Lindsey's Skipper is from northern California in Marin County, north on the coast range and the Sierra foothills.

This photo was taken during a butterfly bio-blitz in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. We have documented Lindsey's Skippers at the Sampson Creek Preserve near Ashland as well as throughout the Siskiyou and its foothills. They can be found in the Applegate watershed areas.

We should pay attention to the butterflies and other insects in our Applegate watershed to ensure we have good wildland habitats preserved for them and their host plants.

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



Linda Kappen

To poison rodents is to poison raptors

BY DIANA COOGLE

When we see an osprey settling into her nest atop a tall fir by the Applegate Lake, or when we watch a hawk soaring over the valley, red tail glinting in the sun, we might feel as Gerard Manley Hopkins did in his poem, "The Windhover": "My heart in hiding / Stirred for a bird,—the achieve of, the mastery of the thing!"

Eagles, owls, hawks, and other majestic and graceful raptors (flesh-eating birds) of the Applegate are, like the Applegate's human inhabitants, at the top of the food chain. Like us, they should, barring accidents, die natural deaths.

Inadvertently, however, in our effort to control rodent pests, we sometimes bring about the untimely death of these birds.

Last March, Applegate residents Patty and Dan Buren found an inert great horned owl along the Applegate River. They called Wildlife Images, in Merlin, a rehabilitation center for injured wildlife, and learned how to box it up so they could bring it in. "Good Samaritans," Lindsay Magill, animal services assistant manager at Wildlife Images, called them.

"The owl was not responsive upon arrival," says Lindsay. "Its eyes were closed, but it was still alive. It had pale mucous membranes and very pale feet, indicating inadequate blood flow. We did initial blood work. All signs led to ingestion of a poisoned rodent."

Pellets used to kill rodents (rodenticides) act by blocking the coagulation of blood. Mice and rats eat the pellets, then wander away to die of internal bleeding. Before dying, the rodent moves slowly and erratically, becoming easy prey for raptors, which are especially susceptible to rodent poisoning because they swallow their prey whole, whereas other predators avoid eating the guts.

Steve Godwin, wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Land Management, in the Ashland Field Office, points out that the newer rodenticides are more potent



The great horned owl is one of the most common owls in Oregon. Photo: Brian E. Kushner, courtesy of Cornell Lab of Ornithology (hereisoregon.com/experiences/2023/01/owls-of-oregon-get-to-know-the-14-species-found-here-from-pygmy-to-great-horned-owls.html).

than the first generation, more lethal at smaller dosages and slower to break down, providing more opportunity for predators to scavenge this prey as it's dying.

"Usually, there is no cure for a raptor poisoned by rodenticide—no cure or treatment or way to reverse the damage," says Lindsay. "The bird is bleeding internally. We give it fluids and supplemental treatments, such as vitamin K, to help coagulation. That's all we can do." In the last couple of years, she said, of six birds that came in with rodent poisoning only one, a scrub jay, responded to treatments enough to recover.

Steve, however, tells of picking up an eagle suffering from rodenticide poisoning years ago at a house in the Colestin valley. "It was just a lump on the floor," he says. "It barely responded when I nudged it with my foot." After a night of hourly treatments of vitamin K, "the next morning," Steve says, "it was feisty and upright." When it had regained full health, he helped release the bird, an immature bald eagle, at Emigrant Lake.

Wildlife Images receives between 800 and 1,200 patients a year, according to Lindsay Magill, including raptors with rodent poisoning.

These are preventable deaths. Poison is not the only way to solve a rodent problem.

"Exclusion is the best solution," Lindsay says. "Close the spots where pests are getting in." She also recommends snap traps and electrical traps that kill rodents quickly. A mouse dying of poison suffers in death. If a raptor eats the poisoned mouse, that bird suffers likewise. If a scavenger animal eats that carrion, then the poison continues its work a third time around.

Since the best rodent-killers are the raptors themselves, it is doubly unwise to use rodenticides. Instead of placing those predators in jeopardy, it is better to entice them to your property by putting up nesting sites.

More than 20 kinds of raptors can be found in the Applegate. (See sidebar.) We owe it to these important and beautiful birds to protect them from unnecessary deaths. Here are some things you can do:

- Don't use rodenticides.
- Use lead-free sinkers for fishing and lead-free ammunition for hunting.
- Don't litter. Roadside garbage attracts rodents, which, in turn, attract raptors, who are then susceptible to death by car.
- Secure Christmas lights tightly to

Raptors found in the Applegate region

Most of these birds can be found year-round except the vulture, which migrates in the winter, and the northern harrier, which is less common May through August. This list was compiled by Applegate birder Marion Hadden.

Very common

Red-tailed hawk
Turkey vulture

Common

Red-shouldered hawk
Osprey
American kestrel
Sharp-shinned hawk
Cooper's hawk
Great horned owl
Barn owl

Less common

Bald eagle
Merlin falcon
Golden eagle
Northern harrier hawk

Uncommon

(Marion has never seen these in the Applegate)
Peregrine falcon
White-tailed kite
Rough-legged hawk
Short-eared owl
Northern saw-whet owl
Flammulated owl
Uncommon (hard to find)
Barred owl
Northern spotted owl
Northern pygmy owl
Western screech owl
Great gray owl

structures, eliminating loops that could entangle birds.

- Educate yourself. Raptorsarethesolution.org, by the Earth Island Institute, is a good place to start.

Diana Coogle
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Winter opportunities at Jacksonville Community Center

BY JULIE RAEFIELD

As we all seek to rebuild our connections with friends, neighbors, and others in our communities after the COVID shutdown, we have a chance to rediscover the beauty of gathering in person. But where do we go and how do we reignite old friendships and build new ones?

The great news is that right close by in Jacksonville, there is a place designed to do exactly that. Jacksonville Community Center (JCC), at 160 East Main Street, was created as a place where community is nourished and built and where people can find a safe, fun place to connect, create, and celebrate.

JCC has a variety of enrichment and wellness activities open to residents of our entire area, including Applegate Valley, Medford, Ashland, Central Point, Phoenix, Talent, Rogue River, Gold Hill, and other communities in the valley. The center serves adults and children of all ages.

Winter ongoing programs. JCC offers weekly wellness classes, intended to promote healthy activity and social connections. Each class is just \$7. Weekly classes currently include:

- Line Dancing, 1-2 pm Mondays
- Tai Chi and Qi Gong, 9-10 am (8:45 for first timers) Thursdays
- Yoga, 10:30-11:30 am Fridays

Monthly program opportunities. JCC offers a variety of one-time or series classes for adults in arts, crafting, regional history, health education, safety, elder issues, and other topics, as well as youth- and family-focused classes in art, music-making, crafts, and nature engagement. The monthly calendar on our website and weekly e-newsletters provide ongoing information. Sign up at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org/contact-us.

Music and holiday events. JCC plans to offer "house concerts" featuring local musicians throughout the new year. Funded through grants, house concerts will occur on nights that do not compete with local winery/eatery music nights to expand listening opportunities and provide an alcohol-free environment for music appreciation.

Winter Holiday Craft Day, December 16, 11 am-2 pm. Families and individuals of all ages are invited to drop in to JCC



A recent wreath-making workshop brought intense focus and smiles to a full class of holiday enthusiasts, including, from left to right at front table, Janet Kobayashi, Val Pendzick, and Cathy Bolcerek.

to make their own holiday craft and enjoy some hot cider!

Facility rentals. JCC supports our communities by offering advance reservation rentals of our great room, catering kitchen, and cottage at affordable rates for anyone in our region. For more information, check the rental section of our website at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org/rent-a-space-2.

A community of givers. JCC receives no dedicated support from city, county, or state funds. Our generous community members keep us operating by means of their financial donations, volunteer hours, facility rentals, and class fees. We are always seeking additional philanthropic support from those who wish to see our

communities and region reach their best potential. Donations are gratefully accepted online at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org/donate.

For more details about JCC programs and the current schedule of activities, visit the JCC website at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org. Online registration for JCC activities is highly recommended and sometimes required. If you need help, call us at 541-702-2585 and leave a voicemail to receive personal assistance.

Julie Raefield
Executive Director
Jacksonville Community Center
jraefield@jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org



Cora Greco, JCC youth program participant, shows off pumpkin muffins she made at a recent workshop. (The Applegater editors wonder what happened to that missing muffin!)



At a recent JCC youth program, John Jackson of Bugs-R-Us shares fascinating facts about bats with families.




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The majestic Oregon white oak: Doing our share

BY CATHY RODGERS

Covering almost half the state of Oregon, forests are a key feature of our state's natural beauty and ruggedness. From the towering ponderosa pines to the iconic Douglas firs, trees have long played a crucial role in our state. Today they play an even more important role in helping combat climate change and protecting our planet for generations to come. Trees, beyond just their natural beauty, play a vital role in our community—from providing shade and wildlife habitats to cleansing our air, filtering our water, and mitigating storm runoff. Our rural countryside, upland hiking trails, rivers, and streams are even more beautiful and healthy because of our trees.

The Oregon white oak, a majestic tree native to the Pacific Northwest, is too slow-growing to be a choice for landscape

Gilli Pineda, RiverCrest Ranch farmer, collects acorns for the Grow Oregon tree planting project.



projects or targeted replanting, but a statewide effort is now under way to change that. The Growing Oaks' project, funded through the Community Action Fund for Equity and Sustainability, is a student-led collaborative effort through Willamette University with a goal to plant 100,000 of these trees. The project is partnering with communities throughout the state, including the Applegate Valley, to collect acorns, nurture them, and replant them. Rooted in Hope, a nonprofit organization that is committed to combating climate change through forest restoration and water conservation and that has been supporting ecocentric sustainable student engagement projects in the Applegate Valley for the past eight years, is participating in the Growing Oaks program.

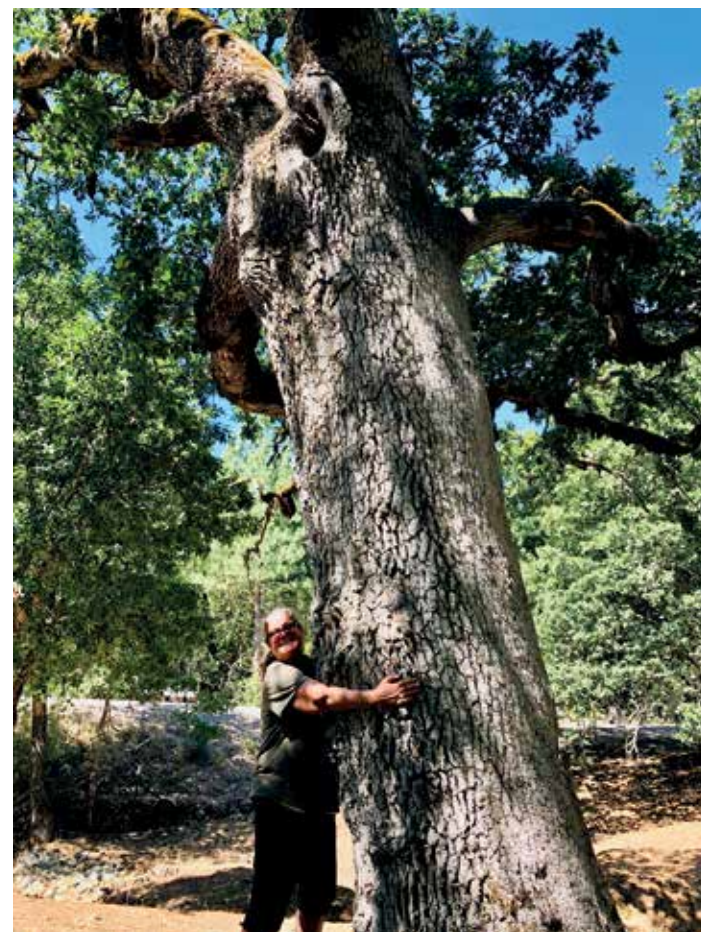
Participants in the project, which started in 2022, work toward the goal of restoring this spectacular native species within Oregon by collecting viable Oregon white oak acorns, nurturing the acorns into tree starts, and planting those seedlings. The Oregon white oak is a massive tree that, over its life, can grow to be 100 feet tall. Found primarily at lower, drier elevations, it can live up to 500 years. These spectacular oaks have long dotted our valleys, providing critical habitat for many types of wildlife and enjoyment for all those who live among them.

Rooted in Hope, working with RiverCrest Ranch, an ecofriendly, sustainable vineyard along the banks of the Applegate River, is thrilled to be a part of this important effort. Gilli Pineda and I began collecting acorns this fall, following the Honorable Harvest guidelines as developed and practiced by indigenous communities for generations. The

Honorable Harvest is based on a philosophy of respecting nature and approaching each harvest in a responsible, sustainable way. Seven basic principles define the Honorable Harvest:

1. Know the ways of the ones who take care of you, so you can take care of them.
2. I n t r o d u c e yourself. Ask permission before taking and abide by the answer.
3. Never take the first. Never take the last. Take only what you need.
4. Take only that which is given.
5. Never take more than half. Leave some for others. Harvest in a way to minimize harm.
6. Use it respectfully. Never waste what you have taken. Share!
7. Give thanks for what you have been given. Gift a gift, in reciprocity, for what you've taken.

Gilli and I collected acorns this October from the Mother Oak that has occupied a beautiful knoll at RiverCrest Ranch in the upper Applegate for more than 450 years. (It was studied and dated by Jeff LaLande, local historian and archeologist.) That's 450 years of watching indigenous people come to fish, pioneers make their way to a new life, miners scour the soils for gold, and now the current generation of farmers who have come to the Applegate to grow crops.



Cathy Rodgers, founder of Rooted in Hope, gives the Mother Oak a hug in gratitude for the bountiful acorn harvest.

This special Mother Oak has given rise to the next generation in the small oak grove she has nurtured beneath her branches. Owls have made homes in her hollows. Pileated woodpeckers peck away. Fawns have rested at her trunk, and squirrels have run wildly around gathering acorns. There is an abundance of natural joy as this treasured tree brings out the best in all and now will give rise to the next generation of Oregon oaks.

For more information, email growing-oaks@willamette.edu or visit rootedinhope.org.

Cathy Rodgers
cathyrodgers55@gmail.com

The wonderful oaks at Pacifica

BY PEG PRAG

Pacifica is especially fond of this time of year for several reasons.

One is that we are preparing for our much-loved annual Winter Art and Music Festival from 10 am-3 pm December 2-3. Come listen to amazing music while you choose that perfect Christmas present from among 40 talented local crafters.

Another is the enjoyment of watching incredible mushrooms pop up like brilliant eggs in their pine needle and oak-leaf nests.

Then there is acorn collecting and planting. We join the acorn woodpeckers in this. It's fun to watch their red heads bobbing and listen to their joyful chattering as they collect. We're not nearly so much fun to watch but we are enthusiastic! You might plant one (or more!) acorns yourself. Save an acorn from a road, dig a small hole within 100+/- feet of an oak tree (the acorns need the mycorrhizae the tree can provide) but not right underneath (too much shade). Plant the acorn sideways and cover with leaves. Plant as many as you can! Not all—maybe half—will grow and will be enjoyed and appreciated by all for many years to come.

Much of Pacifica is oak savannah. We love it! And it may become ever more important. With rising heat and the resulting drought, pines and firs no longer have enough water to make sap to defend themselves against ever-present insect predators. We're starting to lose those trees. Oaks may become the predominant tree

in the area...and a great tree it is to hold that title.

An oak tree is a keystone species, which is a plant or animal that is critical to the survival of a whole ecosystem or habitat. A keystone species could be a predator, like a wolf, which is responsible for keeping the natural balance, or a plant whose existence is essential for the survival of other species within the ecosystem—like the oak.

Providing essential food for humans and beasts through much of history, the oak tree has always been considered the king of trees. The Greeks dedicated it to Zeus, the king of gods. The Celts worshipped the oak as the symbol of hospitality, their most prized virtue.

Oak trees harbor one of the richest faunas of any tree. Providing food and habitat for a diverse and abundant group of creatures, oak trees are the basis for an elaborate food web—5,000 kinds of insects, 80 kinds of reptiles, 100+ species of birds, and 25+ of mammals. Because acorns are high in protein, fats, carbohydrates, and vitamins, bears and deer depend on them. They can make up to 40 percent of a mule deer's diet in fall when deer need to build up fat for winter.

Native American use. In southern Oregon (and across much of the country), one of the most important plants to Native Americans was the oak tree with its acorns. Very nutritious, acorns can contain up to 18 percent fat, 6 percent protein, and 68 percent carbohydrates. Black oak acorns were considered the best tasting. A family had to collect 500 pounds a year to survive.



Oregon oak leaf.

There are about 90 acorns per pound. (How many acorns had to be found and collected each year?) The acorns were dried and pounded into flour in a shallow hole in a rock. This flour was bitter with oak tannin, so water was poured through it many times. It could take all day to make enough cereal for just two days. If you'd like a simpler recipe for acorn flour, email peg@pacificagarden.org.

There are three main kinds of oak trees in this area. Can you identify their leaves?

Oregon oak (*Quercus garryana*). This oak has leaves with rounded lobes. Its acorns have a small cap. Adaptable, but it prefers lowlands (even hardpan) and sun.

California oak (*Quercus kelloggii*). This oak has leaves with pointed lobes. Its acorns have longer (almost half the acorn) shaggier caps. Adaptable, it prefers hillsides with good drainage and sun.

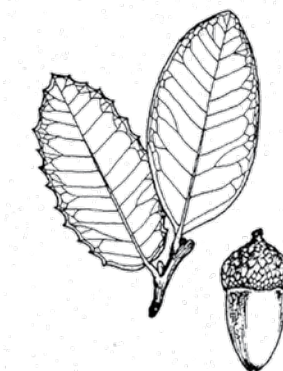
Canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*). This evergreen oak has smaller leaves with either smooth or pointy edges. Its acorns have larger, wider caps. It will tolerate dry, rocky soils and can live in hot canyons.

We look forward to seeing you at Pacifica walking one of the trails and enjoying the beautiful fall-golden oaks. Happy holidays to everyone.

Peg Prag
peg@pacificagarden.org



California oak leaf.



Canyon live oak leaf.

The Legend of the Acorn Maidens

Once, acorns were spirit people. They were told, "You will soon have to leave the Spirit World and must make nice hats to wear when you go. So the acorn maidens started weaving their hats. Then all at once they were told, "You will have to go now! Human is being raised and will need you. Quickly!" The acorn maidens didn't have their hats finished, however, so they were all different, just as their caps still are today. (From the Bureau of American Ethnography, 1932.)

THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE

The Siskiyou Crest White Paper Series

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

Although the biodiversity of the Siskiyou Crest region is globally significant and widely acknowledged in the scientific community, it is also poorly documented in the academic literature. Known for its exceptional botanical richness, habitat connectivity, and biological complexity, the region is among the most varied, unique, and diverse portions of North America.

Located at the convergence of many spectacular ecosystems, the region contains many endemic species found nowhere else on the face of the earth, range extensions where plant and animal species from the north, south, east, and west reach their geographic limits, and disjunct populations isolated outside their prevailing range. Yet, the obscurity of the region, the rugged, often inaccessible terrain, and the general distance from both population centers and large academic institutions have left portions of the region's biodiversity either undocumented, poorly documented, or underappreciated.

Both to bring attention to the region's spectacular biodiversity and to document rare species found in our area, Applegate Siskiyou Alliance (ASA) and the Siskiyou Crest Coalition have started the Siskiyou Ecological Research Project dedicated to documenting the unique biological diversity of the Siskiyou Mountains through the use of citizen science. We work to fill in the gaps in the academic literature and build a stronger sense of place and appreciation for the West Coast's most important biodiversity hot spot and connectivity corridor, the Siskiyou Crest.

Current project

Our current project is the Siskiyou Crest White Paper Series, which explores the biodiversity of the Siskiyou Crest region, from its convergence with the Cascade Mountains and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument to its collision with the Coast Range in the remote western portion of the range.

Our first white paper explored the ecology of the endemic Applegate stonecrop (*Sedum oblancoelatum*), a small succulent, rock-loving plant found mainly

in the Applegate River watershed, with only a few plants on the Klamath River side of the Siskiyou Crest. We mapped this rare population's limited range in the Applegate Valley, reviewed the literature, and published a synthesis of the species' habitat, ecology, and distribution.

Second white paper published

By the time you read this article, we will also have published our second white paper examining Western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) in the Applegate River watershed and Siskiyou Crest region. Not a rare tree, the Western juniper is found across an estimated nine million acres in the interior West—predominantly in eastern Oregon, northeastern California, southwestern Idaho, and northwestern Nevada. The species can also be found in a few disjunct stands in southeastern Washington and in a handful of locations in the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains in northwestern California along the Klamath River and in the Yolla Bolly Wilderness.

Based on our research and mapping, it appears that the westernmost populations of Western juniper are in the foothills of the Applegate Valley. Most range maps for this species do not identify these westernmost populations, and the scientific literature largely fails to mention them. Yet, we mapped over 850 acres of Western juniper habitat on the southern face of Anderson Butte in the Little Applegate River watershed. The population extends from Wagner Butte to Humbug Creek, where one small tree on Left Fork Humbug Creek and a few trees on Kane Creek make up what we believe are the westernmost population of this species. Found in only a handful of populations, Western juniper is not a major component of the Applegate River watershed's flora, but it is an underappreciated and poorly documented piece of its astounding biodiversity.

Citizen-science program

The Siskiyou Crest White Paper Series is a volunteer-based, citizen-science program. Our goal is to make reports that are both academically meaningful and accessible to the public. We aim to build appreciation for the region by



A massive old-growth Western juniper on the face of Anderson Butte. Photo: Luke Ruediger.



A Western juniper below the Jack-Ash Trail on the face of Anderson Butte. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

documenting little-known portions of the area's unique biodiversity.

We are also interested in working with residents, students, naturalists, botanists, and biologists of all sorts to highlight the biodiversity of this beautiful region. If you would like to participate, please contact us at luke@applegatesiskiyou.org.

To read our first two white papers and to learn more about the Siskiyou Crest White Paper Series, visit applegatesiskiyoualliance.org/siskiyou-ecological-research-project.

Luke Ruediger
luke@applegatesiskiyou.org

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from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

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ASK THE GATER

Which Applegate vineyard and winery is the oldest?

BY LISA E BALDWIN

The simple answer to the question is Valley View Winery. The full answer requires a look back into Applegate Valley history in both the 19th and 20th centuries.

Peter Britt came to the Jacksonville area in 1852, in search of gold like so many others, but he very quickly turned his time and attention to other interests, including viticulture. He planted a few table grapes in the garden near his home, likely on top of the hill where the Britt concert bowl is today. He also acquired about 15 acres north of Jacksonville, which he planted in wine grapes, and produced his first wines in 1858. It was reported that Britt sold around 3,000 gallons of wine annually, enough to catch the attention of the federal revenue commission (precursor to the IRS), who billed him for back taxes in 1873. Britt paid the taxes, secured a business license, and began selling his wine under the Valley View name, establishing Valley View Vineyard as the first commercial winery in the state of Oregon.

By 1905, the year of Peter Britt's death, there were more than a dozen wineries in southern Oregon. Valley View Vineyard ceased production in 1905, and in 1914 the Oregon Enforcement Act closed all the wineries in the state, four years before Prohibition banned the sale of alcohol nationwide. The 18th amendment to the U.S. Constitution (Prohibition) was ratified in 1919 and remained in effect until it was repealed in 1933 by the ratification of the 21st Amendment.

The wine industry in southern Oregon did not start to make a comeback until the 1960s, when interest in viticulture resurged locally and a new generation of winemakers began planting new vineyards. The first of these modern Applegate Valley vintners was Frank Wisnovsky, who planted vines on his property on Upper Applegate Road

Photo, right: Gathering grapes in Britt Vineyard. Courtesy of Southern Oregon Historical Society.

Photo, below: Valley View Vineyards and Winery. Photo: Courtesy of Mark Wisnovsky.

Man, wagon, horses in Britt Vineyard gathering grapes. Southern Oregon Historical Society #04534



and, in 1972, opened a winery he named Valley View Winery, in tribute to Peter Britt. Today Frank and Ann Wisnovsky's sons, Mike and Mark, manage Valley View at 1000 Upper Applegate Road in Ruch.

There are currently 19 wineries in the Applegate Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA). Valley View was the first in 1972; two others that started in the 1970s are still in operation too: Wooldridge

Creek on Slagle Creek Road and Troon Vineyards on Kubli Road. The two newest wineries to join the Applegate Valley AVA are Cascadia Vineyards and Winery in Wilderville in 2018 and Dwell Wines in Murphy in 2019.

Winemaking in the Applegate Valley has history in three centuries and has become a cornerstone of our economy and our culture. Cheers!

Lisa E Baldwin • leb.97527@gmail.com

How do we cope in challenging times?

BY HAYRIYA HEIDI HANSEN

Greetings neighbors, and welcome to the cold, damp, dark days of winter!

Solada, the Southern Oregon Living and Dying Alliance, views this time as a "little death," the time leaves turn brown, fall, and die. Collectively, we're all experiencing this little death! Additionally, many of us are grieving the newest war that is escalating in Israel and the Gaza Strip; the fires in Lahaina, Hawaii; the hurricane in Acapulco, Mexico; and any of the other countless environmental, political, or personal challenges that plague us daily.

How does each of us not only cope, but grow and flourish during these challenging times? Solada offers grief and death workshops, rituals, circles, cafés, and classes. And soon, thanks to a grant from A Greater Applegate (AGA), Solada will be offering films with a theme toward increasing grief and death literacy. Our mission and purpose are to help rural folks

be more educated and resourced about grief and death.

Our website, solada.org, gives information about classes, has a place for you to sign up for our monthly emails, and offers a resource page. Our service page is currently "under construction." We are seeking folks who offer services to those who are in need during times of illness, death, and grieving. If you offer a service that you would like to share, please click on "Contact" on the website, provide your contact information, and use the "Comments" space to add details of the service you offer, areas you serve, donations or charges requested, and any other relevant information. Our intention is to create a directory where people can find the services they need from pet walkers, chefs, death doulas, and burial consultants to therapists, caregivers, lawyers, and so much more.

Again, we'd like to thank AGA for their fiscal sponsorship, which will further the mission and purpose of both organizations. Additionally, some of our members will join others from our rural community to form an AGA working group with the aim of supporting locals who want to age in place. Solada will co-host a listening session with AGA in January 2024 to learn more from local community members. Watch for more information and then plan on coming to let your voice be heard.

The members of Solada, the Southern Oregon Living and Dying Alliance, are pleased to serve our rural communities and aim to increase grief and death literacy. We hope to hear from you online or see you at one of our classes. Until then, enjoy these dark, damp days of winter!

Yours in service,
Hayriya Heidi Hansen
Solada steering committee member
hayriya1@gmail.com

Got News?

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



Lauri and David Dobbs celebrated burning their house down a few years ago. (Not to worry, they built a new one.)

The *Applegater* bids farewell to long-serving treasurer, David Dobbs

BY DIANA COOGLE

In July 2016, Dave Dobbs was voted onto the board of the *Applegater*. The minutes say, laconically, “Possible new board member Dave Dobbs was interviewed. He is retired and good with computer technology and is willing to help with deliveries...” He was unanimously approved as our newest board member.

For a year Dave helped by finding grants we could apply for, suggesting changes to the bylaws, and filling in with other important board matters. In January 2017, he was elected assistant treasurer to our long-serving treasurer, the late Chris Bratt.

At the January 2018 meeting Dave added graphs and charts to the treasurer’s report, revealing at a glance the trends in our donations, expenditures, and so on. From that time on, those charts have been a part of the treasurer’s report.

By that time Dave was also taking over tax preparation, a job he continued until we hired a CPA in 2023. He was signing checks for payments due, picking up the mail in Jacksonville, handling donations, going after receipts payable, and doing a hundred other essential jobs. For a short time, he also took on the job of “acting secretary” until we could fill the secretary position. He became our official vice-chair. After the publication of our first book, *From the Heart of the Applegate*, he oversaw book sales until Lisa Baldwin added that job to her position as secretary.

I’m losing track, and I have only begun to itemize all the work Dave has done for the *Applegater*. The list is long and covers financial matters, tax forms, compliance issues, bookkeeping, record-keeping, and much more.

Dave was also important to the *Applegater* because he always had the *Applegater* in mind. If he met someone in a business capacity, he suggested an ad in the paper. If he met someone with skills we needed, he suggested that person work with us. He was always bringing up the *Applegater* with newcomers. He had good ideas about how the *Applegater* could best serve the community. I don’t know that he ever missed a meeting, and he was an important figure in helping produce our events.

I am sorry about the past tense, but in October 2023, Dave Dobbs resigned from the board.

As you can see from my attempt to recognize his contribution to the *Applegater* during those seven years, we will miss him sorely.

Dave Dobbs is a valuable community member, and the *Applegater* was lucky to have him on our board for those seven years. We are a better organization for his contributions.

Diana Coogle
Chair
Applegater Board of Directors
diana@applegater.org

CHRISTMAS TREE PERMITS AVAILABLE

For many families, venturing out onto public lands to cut a Christmas tree is an annual holiday tradition! The process of obtaining permits differs a bit by agency, but families can cut Christmas trees on US Forest Service (USFS) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands using a permit from either agency.

Options to obtain permits

- In person at USFS and BLM offices.
- BLM-issued holiday tree permits are available for purchase online at forestproducts.blm.gov.
- Many local businesses across southwest Oregon are selling Christmas tree permits. See the current vendor list on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) website at bit.ly/RRSNFXmasTrees. Please call the vendor to ensure passes are available.

Per the Every Kid Outdoors initiative, fourth graders are entitled to one *free* Christmas tree permit with a valid Every Kid Outdoors pass. Visit everykidoutdoors.gov.

USFS-issued Christmas tree permits are available for purchase online through recreation.gov—search for RRSNF Christmas Tree Permits. Carefully read the overview and need-to-know information prior to purchasing the permit. Visitors will also need to set up or log in to a recreation.gov account to complete the transaction.

Each permit allows the cutting of one personal-use Christmas tree, and a permit is required for each individual tree that visitors wish to take home.

Permits are \$5 per tree and are nonrefundable. There is a limit of five tree permits per household, and the permits may be used only on those lands open to Christmas tree harvesting that are administered by the RRSNF and the BLM Medford District. Free printable maps that identify these areas are provided at the time of permit purchase on recreation.gov, as well as for home printing on the RRSNF website. Those wishing to use digital maps and navigation systems can download free maps to use on the mapping app, Avenza Maps, which will also be available on a limited basis in front offices.

For more information, including tree-hunting tips, guidelines for where people may cut their trees, and safety tips, visit fs.usda.gov/detail/rogue-siskiyou/passes-permits/forestproducts/?cid=stelpdb5327574.

Happy tree hunting from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management Medford District!

Farewell to Crystie Hawkins

The *Applegater* board is sorry to announce the resignation of Crystie Hawkins. Crystie had only been on the board since August, during which time she was working to enhance our social media presence. We appreciate her work and hope to see her at the 30th anniversary celebration and other events. We thank her for her willingness to serve the Applegate community through her work with the *Applegater*.

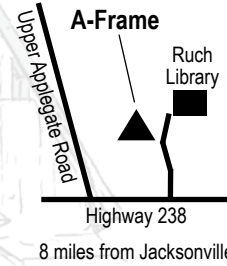


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hooray! Applegate Fire Levy wins! Thank you, voters!

Back in July, 125 Applegate Valley residents endorsed a letter urging the Applegate Fire District Board of Directors to call for a ballot measure for a levy to fund the district. This group of concerned community members emphasized the importance of continuing the levy, which is renewed by voters every five years. The group especially cited the need to increase revenues to support ongoing operations, equipment, facilities, new staffing at Station 51/Applegate, and improved fire prevention services. The result was Measure 15-220, which raised the current levy by 20 cents, from \$1.05 to \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The Friends of the Applegate Fire District are happy to report that November 7 preliminary election results show a strong endorsement of Measure 15-220, with an average of 73 percent of voters endorsing the measure!

Jackson County votes—Yes: 1091 or 74.67%; No: 370 or 25.33%

Josephine County votes—Yes: 114 or 57%; No: 86 or 43%

The Friends of the Applegate Fire District would like to send a warm thank you to the many people and businesses who helped get the word out about Measure 15-220 by supporting community outreach and information, especially Provolt Country Store and Deli, Sunshine Plaza, Ruch Country Market, Wooldridge Winery, Whit Whitney, Dan Defenbaugh, Carey Chaput, David and Lauri Dobbs, Dave Lancaster, Laura Ahearn, Jason Schonhoff, Jeanette LeTourneux, Tallie Barrett, Tom Carstens, Marty Paule, Priscilla Weaver, Gail Battaglia, Tim Crosse, Thomas Crosse (president of the Applegate FD Volunteers Association), and the Jackson County International Association of Fire Fighters.

Thank you to the board of directors of the Applegate Valley Fire District and to Chief Chris Wolfard for establishing a strong vision for the district and the levy to provide excellent services for our community. Special thanks to Rob Underwood, board president, for his work on the levy campaign.

Going forward, the Friends will provide occasional updates about our work and that of the district, and the benefits the levy will provide to our community. Please look at our Facebook page, web page, or sign up for the occasional email update by contacting Liza Crosse at lizacrosse@comcast.net.

Babette Rapp, president of Friends of the Applegate Fire District, and Liza Crosse, secretary of the Friends (friendsofapplegatefire.org)

•••••

Elmore kindness

I read with interest the story in the fall edition regarding the Elmore family, and I wanted to contribute an Elmore story of my own. I moved to the Applegate in 1971, along with a number of other California refugees. By the spring of 1972, I had already met the senior Mr. Elmore, who chaired the polling place at Applegate School. Looking like an Old Testament prophet with his white beard and steely gaze, he was the final person at the table who told you to state your name and then announced that you had voted. Only when that happened did he smile and you realized that he was just having fun with one of the newbies.

But my most formative contact with the Elmore family, immediate and extended, was over Labor Day in 1972. I had spent the day with friends swimming at Miller Lake. On the way home, as we got to the Thompson Creek divide, we noticed a column of smoke to the north. I realized that the fire had to be close to my home at the end of the Left Fork of Humbug. As we came up the Left Fork, two things caught my eye: flames that dwarfed the trees coming over the ridge on Billy Mountain, and two trucks and a number of people clearing out my mobile home. I can't imagine many places where the first thoughts wouldn't have been "Looters!" I could see, however, several Elmores, spouses, and friends, and knew immediately what was happening. My freezer full of meat was already in the truck, along with the other items of value that I had. When I got to the trailer, they said that they would plug in the freezer when they got home and would bring back everything in the morning, if the danger was over.

They were as good as their word. Everything was put back, and they refused an offer of money to compensate for their time.

Fifty years later, at another celebration, I saw the Hogans and asked if they knew what had occurred 50 years before. They knew immediately. I told them that it was still hard to believe what they had done. Alicia Hogan said, "Well, that's what neighbors do!" Of course, those "neighbors" had traveled at least nine miles from their home to help someone they had never met and who wasn't even home to help. That is the kind of family the Elmores and their related families are—the kind that make this a wonderful place to live.

Ken Chapman, Applegate

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 BOARDJoin us on
the *Applegater* board!

BY DIANA COOGLE

When I returned full-time to the Applegate in 2013, after seven years of a weekly commute for graduate school at the University of Oregon, I considered what to do with my volunteer time. According to my talents and abilities, I thought the best fit would be on the board of the *Applegater*. I offered, was accepted, and have served as chair of the board ever since. It's a job I love.

What about you? Where would you like to put your talents and abilities to work for the betterment of our community? I hope you will think about joining the *Applegater* board. We need your help if we are to continue as an active board and keep the *Applegater* a vital part of our community.

We need a treasurer. I sincerely hope this might be you. Since David Dobbs's retirement from the board (see page 18), we have eased the job by hiring a bookkeeper. Barbara Holiday and I have been filling in with treasurer's duties, but our bylaws dictate that we have a treasurer on the board. We cannot continue unless this position is filled. Please step up! We need you.

We need an ad manager. This position oversees our two advertising representatives and tracks advertisers and commissions through a detailed Excel spreadsheet.

We need good writers to write articles as needed for the paper.

Board members commit to a two-hour meeting once a month and a one-day annual retreat and, in addition, to whatever time it takes to do the job at hand—helping with events, for instance, as for our 30th anniversary celebration next June, or tabling at farmers markets and fairs, organizing volunteers, and doing other tasks. We need people to help make decisions at board meetings, to brainstorm ideas, and to keep the energy high.

The board meets at either a branch library (Ruch or Applegate) or an Applegate winery. As chair I strive to instill a cheerful atmosphere and to keep the meeting to a two-hour limit. We have a good time, and we get the work done. Most of all, *Applegater* board members have a dedication to the paper and to the wide-ranging Applegate Valley community it serves.

Contact us

The first step in joining the board is to express interest, which you can do by contacting me, or another board member, right away. I would love to talk to you about how you can serve your community by serving on our board.

Diana Coogle

Chair, *Applegater* Board of Directors

diana@applegater.org

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NEW WILLIAMS LIBRARY

Continued from page 6

two people to conduct a virtual interview, take an important call, or FaceTime with a loved one in a private space. The Zenbooth Solo is equipped with lighting, acoustic insulation, and motion-activated ventilation. It also has a height-adjustable desk, outlets, and the ability to hard wire a device to the library's high-speed internet for seamless connection. Patrons can bring their own device or borrow a library laptop, if needed. Funding for the virtual communication booth was provided by A Greater Applegate.

Get a library card. Take advantage of thousands of print books, e-books, and audiobooks with a library card. Find recommended reading, attend library programs for all ages, use public computers, and check out useful items like laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots. Josephine County residents who live within the library district boundary get an annual library card at no cost. Community members living in Josephine County who do not live in the library district qualify for an annual library card at no cost sponsored by Josephine Community Library Foundation. Stop by your preferred branch for more information and to sign up.

Williams Weekly Storytime. 11-11:30 am every Friday. Themed storytime and craft session in a safe and fun environment.

K9 Reading Buddies. 3-4 pm on Tuesdays. Trained therapy dogs

provide a nonintimidating environment for children to learn to read out loud. Young readers have the opportunity to explore language and books during this special storytime.

End-of-year fundraising drive. Josephine Community Library Foundation raises funds to support special programs beyond the reach of the library's tax-funded operating budget, including technology upgrades and building improvements. To contribute during the end-of-year fundraising drive, visit jclfoundation.org and make your donation to support the critical work of the library in our community by December 31.

For more information about Josephine Community Library Foundation or library building projects, visit jclfoundation.org or contact Executive Director Rebecca Stoltz at rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org or 541-476-0571 ext. 200. Sponsors for this drive are Edward Jones, Hart Insurance, and Oregon Pacific Financial Advisors, Inc.

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.

New hours of Williams Library are 1-6 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday, and 11 am-6 pm Friday.

Brandace Rojo

Josephine Community Library
brojo@josephinelibrary.org

••• **BIZBITS** •••

Cowhorn Kitchen & Wine restaurant, serving artfully crafted, seasonal menus from the team behind the Applegate's Cowhorn Vineyard & Garden, opened Friday, November 17, in the space formerly housing the Mustard Seed Café and more recently Sunny Side Up in Jacksonville. Open for lunch noon-2:30 pm Friday-Sunday, and for dinner 5-8 pm Thursday-Monday. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. Find more information at cowhornkitchen.com. 130 North 5th Street, Jacksonville; 541-702-2500.

Everlong Candle Co., owned by Mikell Nielsen of Williams, is a new environmentally aware business whose motto, "Cool candles with a conscience," reflects its vegan, cruelty-free, eco-loving, and sustainable products, as well as its commitment to a cleaner future. Everlong candles offer exceptional fragrances, coconut soy wax, and crackling wood wicks, while staying true to the company's core values of social responsibility and environmental awareness. Purchase candles online at everlongcandleco.com and soon at local markets and retail shops. hello@everlongcandleco.com.



Pacific Wonderland Herbs, which opened earlier this year, is owned by Christian Marks, who creates products from herbs farmed in the Applegate Valley and nearby in Oregon and California. One of the most popular products is a pain salve—for arthritis, muscle pain, and headaches—that she has been making for almost ten years from plants that grow here in the valley. Christian's mission is to nourish the human body and share knowledge through collaboration with herb farmers and community members. She offers planned herb chats with interested visitors through Facebook, Instagram, or in person. The herb shop is located at 7390 Highway 238 and is open 11 am-4 pm Tuesday-Friday. Her mother owns Born Again Antique Store and Thrift Shop right next door.

The Restaurant at Jacksonville Inn is now open for your next fine-dining experience! Find out more and make reservations at eatjvilleinn.com. Open 5-9 pm Thursday-Monday; 11 am-1:30 pm for Sunday brunch. 175 East California Street, Jacksonville; 541-899-1900. (Apparently, Jacksonville Inn is for sale—again.)

Whistling Duck Farm Store in Provolt is proud and excited to be part of the Double-Up Bucks Farm Stand Pilot Program. This is part of the Double-Up Bucks hosted by local farmers markets and grocery stores through the Medford Co-op. As a pilot program, Whistling Duck is the largest farm stand in the state participating on a development basis. Here's how it works: anyone who shops with EBT (electronic benefits transfer) can double their buying power. At checkout, the double savings are passed on to the customer and the Double-Up program reimburses Whistling Duck. The best part of this program: no dollar cap on purchases! As fall turns to winter and some markets are closed, Whistling Duck plans to stock as much local produce as possible. More information can be found at whistlingduckfarm.com. 12800 Williams Highway, Grants Pass; 11 am-6 pm Tuesday-Friday; 11 am-5 pm Saturday; 541-761-6772.

Margaret Patterson

margaret@applegater.org

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

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WE SHARPEN KNIVES!

Peach pie perfection

Raven Brault shares the secrets to her award-winning pie

BY CHRISTINA AMMON

Entering a pie contest isn't something Applegate resident Raven Brault normally would do. But at the urging of a friend (me!), she decided to enter the Jacksaphine Count(ry) Fair contest.

In case you missed it, the count(ry) fair was a fundraiser for A Greater Applegate. Local musicians, food vendors, and community groups gathered to celebrate all things Applegate—including pie.

Raven's peach trees were overloaded with ripe fruit, so a peach pie seemed like a good bet! The choice also fit her own preferences for desserts that are humble, beautiful, and showcase the best fresh fruit available.

Aside from sourcing great peaches, she employed other tricks as well—such as keeping the dough cold, not handling it too much, and even using vodka in the crust, which keeps the glutens from over forming. These are all strategies she picked up in her long experience working at restaurants around the country.

"I love the science of baking," she says, opening an illustrated recipe booklet she used in a kindergarten class. She has been experimenting with making cookies, cakes, and pies her whole life. "I love the art of it too."

Raven's baking efforts paid off—she walked away with the blue ribbon at the fair. The judges—food writer Sarah Lemon, Jackson County Commissioner



Raven Brault won the pie contest at AGA's Jacksaphine Count(ry) Fair with her peach pie. See recipe below. Photo: Tim Daw.

Dave Dotterer, author Paul Fattig, and the *Applegater* Editor in Chief Barbara Holiday—described it as "old-school peach perfection." One said he'd never had a pie like it before.

Friends sometimes urge Raven to open a bakery in the Applegate, but she hesitates. "I like to stay flexible to travel," she says. "Having a pastry shop really takes up your life. You have to get up at 2 or 3 am in order to open by 7 am. Then you're closed by 2 pm, but have to start planning for the next day, accounting, managing staff..."

So, for now, she'll stick with the joy of baking for family and friends. If she needs to feel the rush of baking professionally, she contents herself with watching *The Great British Bake Off*.

Her main advice to aspiring bakers? Have patience, drop the stress, and keep perspective. "If you screw up, don't worry about it. Try again...it's just pie!"

Christina Ammon
christina@footlooseintheapplegate.com

Raven's First-place Peach Pie Recipe

Makes one 9-inch pie
Preheat oven to 400 degrees

Combine in a large bowl:

1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup brown sugar
4-1/2 cups sliced peaches (you can peel if you want)
Cover and leave alone for 1 hour.



Roll out pie dough of your choice and place bottom in pie plate and top on a cookie sheet and put in refrigerator to keep cold. If you are doing lattice strips, cut and place on cookie sheet and put in refrigerator.

After an hour, drain peaches and *save the juice*. Put peaches in large bowl. You should have about one cup of juice.

Combine in a small saucepan:

1/4 cup of cornstarch
1/4 tsp cinnamon (no more!)
1/8 tsp salt
Juice from peaches
Whisk to combine. Bring to a boil and simmer for two minutes, constantly stirring (mixture will be very thick).
Add 2 tsp lemon juice and 1 tbs butter.

Fold this mixture into the peaches, pour into bottom crust, put top dough on and crimp sides (or create a lattice top), then cut 4-6 vent slits into top. Sprinkle top with granulated or very coarse sugar (Sparkle sugar).

Bake for 40-50 minutes or until internal temperature is about 200 degrees. Cover edges with foil or pie-baking shield to prevent burning. Best baked in a glass pie dish for even cooking. Enjoy!

• • •

Visit the "News & Stories" section of Applegate Valley Connect (applegateconnect.org) for recipes of the other pies in the contest: Kevin Adamson's apple-peach-pecan pie with pear-jam glaze, Michael Golden's Reese banana cream pie, and Janeen Sathre's plum pie.

A pie flop

BY DIANA COOGLE

I perked up at news of A Greater Applegate's pie contest for the Jacksaphine Count(ry) Fair last September. I have entered baking contests before, and I'm pretty good at pies, I thought, so off I went, determined to win or at least to make a good showing.

Pies had to be fruit pies, and each contestant had to bake two of the same kind, one for the judges and one to be auctioned off. Besides taste and appearance, pies would be judged on use of local products.

I decided to make a razzle dazzle raspberry pie, which I had made before, to great success. Ingredients included six cups of raspberries and a half-cup of amaretto besides the obligatory sugar, flour, and butter. Cheryl Bruner, in Williams, sold me raspberries from her bushes. I didn't know where I could get local butter, and I didn't know anyone who made amaretto, but I figured I would get a lot of points if I used a locally made flour. Unfortunately, my first choice was no longer making flour, so I went to another source, just outside the Applegate. Even though the flour wasn't *Applegate* local, it was a whole lot more local than wherever Gold Medal or Pillsbury flour comes from.

This source, however, didn't make a nice, light white flour, so I bought their whole wheat pastry flour instead.

The day before the fair, I began making my pies. I made the raspberry-amaretto filling, then turned to the crusts.

To my dismay, the whole wheat pastry flour wasn't working, even combined with white flour. I just could not make the first pie dough roll out in a nice, stretchy circle, and it fell apart when I tried to lift it into the pie pan. In despair, I pushed it into the pan, filled it with the raspberry-amaretto mixture, and baked it, anyway.

It was a flamboyant kitchen failure. The whole-wheat-heavy crust didn't



I tossed a similar-looking failure of a pie crust in the trash.

hold together and was doughy besides. I salvaged the raspberries and threw the crust into the garbage. There would be no Diana Coogle razzle-dazzle raspberry pie at the Jacksaphine Count(ry) Fair.

The second pie turned out better. The crust rolled into the pie pan in one

piece, and the pie looked good when it came out of the oven, except that it was too dark, not because it was overdone but because the cinnamon sprinkled on top blended into the darker flour. It wasn't pretty, and, anyway, I had already blown my chances at the pie contest with the kitchen failure of the first pie.

I had raspberry-amaretto topping on yogurt for breakfast the next three days. I froze the second pie.

Two months later, I thawed the pie to share with friends when we went wine tasting at Guzzo's. Too nervous to trust my culinary talents anymore, I ate a slice before I left. It was delicious. And when I served it to Barbara and Jeanette, they declared it a great pie.

It wouldn't have won, though, even if I had had two pies for the contest. The crust was too heavy for the filling, and though the raspberries were razzle-dazzle brilliant, the uncut pie was not pretty. I was reminded of losing a pie contest years ago because I had made my pecan pie with honey instead of sugar to be healthier. Now I had lost even the possibility of entering a pie contest by using local flour, to gain favor with the judges, even though it was whole wheat pastry flour instead of pie-crust-reliable, though not local, supermarket white flour.

The winning pie of the Jacksaphine Fair, that great peach pie, sold for \$200 at the auction. Next year we'll see how much a razzle-dazzle raspberry pie, with Gold Medal flour for the crust, will bring in.

Diana Coogle • dicoog@gmail.com



Free journalism writing class

Sponsored by the *Applegater* Newsmagazine

Do you struggle with the articles you send to the *Applegater*? Do you often want to send something to the *Applegater* but are intimidated about the writing part? Do you wonder how to make your writing fit a newspaper style? Do you just simply want to improve your writing for the *Applegater* and other publications?

Diana Coogle, former journalism instructor at Rogue Community College, JPR commentator for 20 years, and current head copy editor for the *Applegater*, will teach a workshop in journalism writing at Ruch Library from 1-5 pm Saturday, February 10.

The emphasis will be on journalistic form—how to find a lead, how to organize the material, how to interest the reader, how to incorporate pertinent information, and how to write concisely, correctly, and engagingly. The format will be lecture-practice-discussion, in workshop style, with breaks and refreshments.

This free class is open to all interested participants. Contact Diana Coogle at diana@applegater.org for more information or to sign up for the class.



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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Pumpkins and murals at ROCS

BY KIM NEISWANGER

Community connection is an integral part of Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS).

In October, our kindergarten through fifth-grade students connected with our community in an exciting way with a hands-on visit to Hyde Farm. As ROCS's second-grade teacher, I have dreamed about creating a pumpkin patch at the school for the students to tend. Then, at harvest time, they could enjoy the fruits of their labor. We already have a robust school garden thanks to White Oak Farm, so one would think we could add to that and have our own pumpkin patch. However, as we quickly realized, a lot goes into creating a pumpkin patch. It's not very feasible, at this time, to have an entire pumpkin patch at our school.

If we couldn't have our own patch, we could look to our community for help. We didn't have to look far because our school librarian, Susie Hyde, and her family operate nearby Hyde Farm, where they sell corn and pumpkins. It was a perfect fit! Joe and Susie Hyde generously offered their pumpkin patch to facilitate student learning. To prepare the farm for visitors, popcorn balls had to be made, tables had to be set up, and, of course, 136 pumpkins had to be picked. Joe led the students on a hayride to pick pumpkins, and Susie offered gourds and other fall nature items for printmaking. Kids had a snack of cider and popcorn balls and played games with pumpkins. It was an experience they will never forget!

At the end of the season in October, the second-grade class helped Hyde Farm harvest pumpkin seeds to be planted for next year's harvest and pumpkin-patch experience. It will be fun for the students to pick a pumpkin grown from the seeds they harvested, and it will help the farm generate more revenue by selling the pumpkins to the community.

Another great experience in October involved our connection with Britt Education & Engagement. Retired principal Julie Barry, who had a passion for providing music and arts in our school, had long wanted a project for students to create a mural on our campus under the



The finished mural at ROCS, which all students could help paint, "honors the tribal land we are on," says artist Ursula Barton, who oversaw the project.



ROCS students enjoy a hayride at the pumpkin patch at Hyde Farm, where they snacked on popcorn balls and played games with pumpkins.

direction of an artist. A few years ago, she connected with Kay Hilton, Britt's director of education and engagement, who oversees a free education program that connects students with artists or musicians. It was another perfect match.

The program was delayed a few years due to the pandemic, but Mr. King, our current principal, scheduled an artist's visit to ROCS. It was worth the wait because our school was paired with the amazing artist Ursula Barton, a graduate of Pacific Northwest College of Art and a freelance visual artist and muralist who focuses on painting urban landscapes and ink life drawings and portraits. Her work is inspired by her many bike rides across the bridges of Portland, Oregon. When one of the students asked Ursula how she came up with the idea for our mural, she said, "I wanted to honor the tribal land we are on. The salmon and oak trees depict food that was a big part of the Native Americans' life."

All students could participate in painting the mural. Kindergarten through second-grade students had fun throwing paint-filled balloons at the wall to create the vibrant background. After that, third-through eighth-grade students painted the creatures and plants you would find in the river. Ursula finished the masterpiece by adding salmon under a canopy of oak trees. When the completed mural was unveiled there were many oohs and ahhs as the salmon seemed to come to life!

Mr. King pointed out that our campus has many murals on it. "I like to say we color our campus with art from local artists," he says. It is an inspiration for our students to walk about campus and see all the different interpretations of the land around us. It is amazing how many local artists we have who are willing to donate their time and talents to making our campus a beautiful place to be. This mural with Ursula is no exception. Students will return to the school long after they have graduated and be able to say, "I helped paint that."

Pumpkin seeds and paint—what incredible October fun we had at ROCS.

This year's holiday program, "Twas the Night Before Break, is at 6 pm December 15. The community is invited to attend.

Kim Neiswanger
Second Grade Teacher
Ruch Outdoor Community School
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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

A great start to the school year

BY STEVEN FULLER

The school year is off to a great start with many wonderful things happening already! The students started the school year off eagerly with smiles and excitement. Many of the classrooms saw an increase in the number of students, and teachers were excited to have students back in school and ready to learn.

The amazing Linda Kappen gave kindergartners and first-, second-, and third-grade students baby caterpillars to observe as they learned about the life cycle of butterflies. They eagerly watched the caterpillars eat, grow, and turn into chrysalises. At the end of the process students watched them emerge into beautiful monarch butterflies. Ultimately, students released over a dozen butterflies!

Several classrooms have benefited from having farmers from White Oak Farms come regularly to work in the school garden and show students how to plant and weed. The farmers also share produce and teach students about healthy eating and nutrition. On special occasions the White Oak farmers show the kids how to cook delicious foods and treats.

Second- through fifth-grade students practiced being scientists during the first quarter with trips to ScienceWorks Museum in Ashland and to the North Medford High School planetarium. The students had a blast going through all the different rooms at ScienceWorks and

got to do some hands-on learning. At the planetarium they were able to observe a realistic view of the night sky and learn about our universe. For those interested, the new and improved planetarium at the high school is open to the public for the first time! To see the planetarium calendar, visit medford.k12.or.us/domain/1296.

In October the whole school participated in the annual jog-a-thon. Students ran and walked laps around the track. Each classroom was able to raise a good amount of money and students were rewarded with special treats, including a lunch trip with Mr. Fuller.

Coach Diana West and the volleyball team wrapped up a successful season with their game on October 18. Thirteen girls played on the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams. For several of the girls this was their first time playing, and they all grew so much. Boys basketball season started on November 13 with games on Mondays and Wednesdays.

All in all, the school year is off to a flying start. Students come to school with smiles every day. So many exciting events have happened during the first quarter of the school year, and staff continue to plan fun and exciting events and activities to help the students learn.

Steven Fuller
Principal, Applegate School
steven.fuller@threerivers.k12.or.us



Applegate School's girls volleyball team finished a successful season, coached by Diana West.

Three Rivers School District celebrates spelling bee champions!

Three Rivers School District announced the winners of the District Spelling Bee held on November 14. Over 50 parents and students attended.

Students tackled a challenging list of 35 age-appropriate words. Middle school contenders faced off with words like "meritorious," "frenzied," "cornucopia," and "inconsequential," while high school wordsmiths grappled with the likes of "pharmaceutical," "kohlrabi," "segue," and "lackadaisical."

Spelling Bee Results

Primary Division (Grades 1-3)

Zoe Myles, Manzanita Elementary School—First Place
Orion Smith, Fort Vannoy Elementary School—Second Place
Adaline Cowger, Fruitdale Elementary School—Third Place

Division One (Grades 2-5)

Noah Gourley, Applegate School—First Place
Timothy Cornia, Williams Elementary School—Second Place
Jasmine Pinien, Fort Vannoy Elementary School—Third Place

Division Two (Grades 6-8)

Levi Gegner, Fleming Middle School—First Place
Tobias Udink, Fleming Middle School—Second Place
Katherine Ackley-Medina, Lincoln Savage Middle School—Third Place

Division Three (Grades 9-12)

Whitman Franklin, Kalmiopsis Community Arts High School—First Place
Grant Johnson, Hidden Valley High School—Second Place
Jonathan Tuohy, Hidden Valley High School—Third Place
Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and dedication!



Linda Kappen started the butterfly garden at Applegate School, where students raised and released monarch butterflies.

Linda Kappen retires from Applegate School

BY STEVEN FULLER

On October 23, 2023, Applegate School bid farewell to Linda Kappen, a dedicated employee who served the institution for an impressive 23 years and displayed unwavering commitment throughout her tenure. Today, we celebrate Linda's retirement and reflect on her impactful contributions to the school community.

A tale of dedication and growth

Linda Kappen's career at Applegate School is a testament to hard work and perseverance. Starting as a custodian, Linda swiftly became an integral part of the school's operations. Her attention to detail and relentless work ethic were evident in the immaculate condition of the school premises under her care.

Linda's ambition led her to explore other areas within the school. Taking on additional responsibilities, she embraced the challenge of working in the kitchen. Her dedication to ensuring students enjoyed nutritious meals made her an invaluable asset.

The impact of Linda's work

Linda Kappen left an indelible mark on both staff and students alike. Her infectious enthusiasm and warm personality created a positive and welcoming environment. Linda's commitment to her work made everyone's experience at the school more enjoyable.

Linda's attention to detail and strong work ethic extended beyond her immediate responsibilities. She was always available to lend a helping hand, going the extra mile to ensure the school's success.

Linda started and maintained the butterfly garden at Applegate School, where she raised milkweed and butterflies. She worked with lepidopterists from Oregon State University to tag and release butterflies. Applegate students participated in raising and releasing the butterflies, which were found as far away as southern California!

Linda is also an accomplished artist. She passed her artistic knowledge and skill on to generations of Applegate students through her art lessons as an education assistant.

A legacy of excellence

As Linda Kappen bids farewell to Applegate School, her legacy of excellence will continue to resonate within the institution. Her dedication and



Linda Kappen disguised as "Big Boy the caterpillar" when members of the Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates gave a presentation for kindergartners and first- and second-graders at Applegate School.

commitment have set a high standard for future generations to follow. The impact she made on the school community will not be forgotten.

Through her tireless efforts, Linda has exemplified the values that Applegate School holds dear. Her work ethic, attention to detail, and willingness to go above and beyond in serving others have left an enduring imprint on the school's culture.

Celebrating a remarkable career

As Linda embarks on this new chapter of her life, Applegate School takes the opportunity to celebrate her remarkable career. Colleagues, students, and parents alike will remember her as a dedicated professional who made a difference every day.

The retirement of Linda Kappen marks the end of an era at Applegate School. Her contributions have been invaluable, and her absence will be deeply felt. However, her legacy will continue to inspire future generations to strive for excellence and make a positive impact in their own lives and communities.

Linda Kappen's retirement from Applegate School marks the end of a chapter in her life and the school's history. Her journey is a shining example of dedication and growth. Through her exceptional work ethic and commitment, Linda has left an indelible mark on the Applegate School community. Her legacy of excellence and caring nature will be remembered for years to come. As Linda embarks on her well-deserved retirement, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for her invaluable contributions and wish her all the best in this new chapter of her life.

Steven Fuller
Principal
Applegate School
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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:

- Greg and Kate Stanko** of Williams catch up on Dalvik, Iceland, whale-watching sightings listed in the *Applegater* before heading off for "more fun" with Arctic Adventures.
- Bobby and Bronwyn Croll** introduced the *Gater* to their buddy, the iguana, in Willemstad, Curacao. Photo by camera-shy Bernie Adams, another *Applegater*.
- Toree and Kurt Wilkening** and the *Gater* white-knuckled their way along Romania's Transfagarasan Highway, considered to be the curviest in the world.
- Lillian Stewart** (with concierge Moise Garciti) treated the *Gater* to a stay at Hacienda Encantada, outside Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.
- Bob Hendrix and Bonnie Farley** fail at their attempt to teach some US history to the *Applegater* while visiting Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia.

Safe travels and happy new year, everyone!

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

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