

# Applegater

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Photo: Jim Hughes

SUMMER 2009  
Volume 2, No. 3

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper  
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 9,000

Postal Patron



Tana from Wooldridge Creek Winery was kept busy pouring wines, as were other Applegate Valley vintners Applegate Red, Devitt, Quady North, Schmidt, and Troon.

## Thank you for your generous support!

On Sunday, April 26, the Applegate River Lodge & Restaurant hosted a fundraiser to support our very own *Applegater* newspaper. And what a day it was!

Mother Nature cooperated with a sunny day, we enjoyed delicious food, and local wineries poured lots of wine. Excellent live music was provided by Duke Davis & Friends. A successful silent auction generated funds to help support the *Applegater*.

We appreciate everyone who attended and helped make this event a success. Enough funds were raised to cover the publication of two issues of the *Applegater*.

The *Applegater* newspaper Board of Directors would like to express our gratitude to the Applegate River Lodge & Restaurant and the Davis family for their generosity in donating this event to support our community newspaper. We also want to acknowledge the following wineries for their generous donations of wine: Applegate Red, Devitt, Quady North, Schmidt, Troon and Wooldridge Creek. A special thank you to Blue Fox Farms for their donation of salad greens—they were yummy! Thanks also to everyone in the community who donated unique and wonderful items for our silent auction.

The response to this event was tremendous and the *Applegater* would like to acknowledge all of you!

See FUNDRAISER, page 17

## White buffalo move to Applegate Farm

BY A. PARADISO

There are far too many grapevines in the Applegate. One of them has been carrying tails...er, tales about some of the newest Applegate residents. You wouldn't think it would be that difficult to hide 11 white buffalo in a valley this large—one family has successfully hidden a whole castle complete with moat and drawbridge—but that's another story.

Yes, as you may have already heard,

there is a herd of rare white buffaloes now living in the Applegate. They arrived in April, three generations descended from Miracle Moon, born in 1997. White buffaloes are so rare that there were only two born in the early 20th century, the last in 1939, prior to the 1990s. These buffaloes are not albinos, but carry a rare white gene. Miracle Moon was genetically tested as having 100% American Bison DNA.



The dark brown buffalo is Big Mama, mother of the first of three generations of white buffaloes. (They appear more tan, but a buffalo's idea of a bath is rolling in dirt. And the winter coat is usually more white.)

### A call for help

## Food Pantry seeks coordinator as Donna Epstein retires

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Fourteen years ago Donna Epstein accepted an invitation to attend a Community Forum meeting. We in the Applegate should be forever grateful that she did.

That night so many years ago Donna listened to Ben Benjamin from ACCESS Inc. talk about the growing need for a food pantry in the Applegate. Once-a-week van service to Ruch was not doing the job, Benjamin said. Even though Donna and her husband Matt had retired to the Applegate less than a year earlier, by the end of that meeting Donna had volunteered to undertake starting up a food pantry in Ruch to serve those in need. She and Matt have been working the pantry every Monday ever since, but it is now time for them to *really* retire.

Donna said she has always volunteered, beginning at age 20 with the YWCA. Always ready to solve a puzzle or a challenge, Donna has an "innate sense

of understanding people and their needs," said Matt. There was definitely a need for an Applegate food pantry, and the project challenged Donna's organizational skills to the max!

In 1995 there were only 3-5 families being served in the Applegate Valley, but today our Food Pantry serves between 11-25 families each week, depending upon the season. There are over 300 heads-of-households currently served annually! Matt told me that over the years they have served clients living on every main road on the Jackson County side of the Applegate Valley, the Applegate Food Pantry's jurisdiction. Think about it: every road from Wagon Trail and Cady Road all the way out to Thompson Creek and North Applegate Road has someone who is eligible for and receiving state or federal assistance. Folks, these are *our* neighbors.

Donna told me that the Food Pantry struggled financially and organizationally



"We want to welcome the community to share in the white buffalo," says Dena Riley, guardian of the white buffalo since Miracle Moon was born to a brown buffalo on the ranch she owned with her late husband Jim. After Jim's death last year in Arizona, Dena decided to move to Oregon where she has family.

"At this time the buffalo are getting adjusted to a new area and some of the buffalo are expecting," Dena said, in explaining why this move was so low key. Intent on settling the buffalo first, Dena still has not finished moving her personal belongings, let alone had time to unpack.

Dena intends to make White Buffalo Sanctuary a center for education about the white buffaloes. She has already made some contacts with the local educational community to discuss possible programs.

Native American tribes have several legends about the white buffalo, but Dena

See BUFFALO, page 22



Donna Epstein distributes "essentials" to clients at the Applegate Food Pantry.

for several years. Early on, she and Matt hauled food from the Medford ACCESS to Ruch in their SUV. The Ruch School principal allowed them to distribute food to clients on the back dock of the school's cafeteria. She and Matt did everything from gathering the food, putting together boxes for each family, screening clients for eligibility, keeping the records, and raising donations for more food to meet their increasing clientele.

Today they are still working out of the back dock of the Ruch School's

See PANTRY, page 10

**Applegate Fire District Number 9  
invites you to our 4th of July**

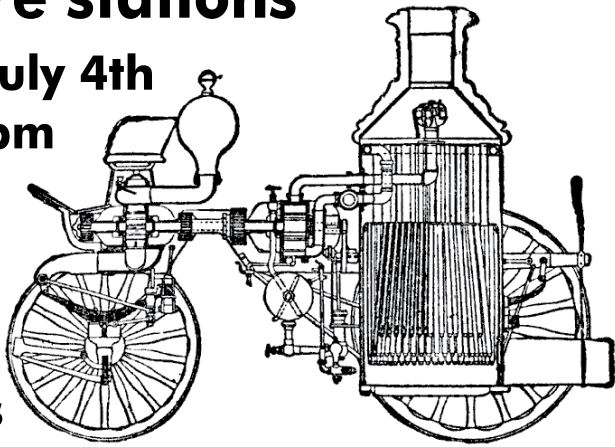
# Open Houses

**at five fire stations\***

**Saturday, July 4th  
11 am - 2 pm**

**FREE**

- hot dogs
- chips
- soft drinks



- \* Station #2 — 7774 Upper Applegate Road
- \* Station #3 (Headquarters) — 1095 Upper Applegate Road
- \* Station #5 — 2170 Highway 238
- \* Station #6 — 1076 Kubli Road
- \* Station #7 — 7990 Griffin Lane

The public will have the opportunity to **ride the fire engines; hold a charged fire hose** (with Department assistance); **put on turn-out gear including air packs; and tour the stations.**

This will be a great **opportunity for photos** so remember your cameras. We will also be providing **address signs for our district residents** to assist in emergency responses. The **first address sign is free**, with a minimal fee for additional signs.

Questions? Call Jeff Vinyard, Firefighter/EMT, 541-944-4363.

*Above drawing of an early steam fire engine courtesy of FCIT.  
<http://etc.usf.edu/clipart>*

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Help us ensure that we have the ongoing support needed to publish the *Applegater*. All contributors will receive recognition in the *Applegater* each issue.

- Sponsor \$5 - \$50
- Supporter \$51 - \$200
- Contributor \$201 - \$500
- Sustainer \$501 - \$1000
- Patron - over \$1000

All donations are tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated. Please make your checks payable to *Applegater* Newspaper and mail to:

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**We can help you reach your market —Grants Pass, Medford and the Applegate Valley. Call Ruth Austin 541-899-7476**

### *Applegater*

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Fall	September 1
Winter	December 1
Spring	March 1
Summer	June 1

### Summer cover photo credit

This issue's photo of the crest of the Siskiyou Mountains is by Jim Hughes.

### Volunteer webmaster needed for the *Applegater*

Contact J. D. Rogers, Editor,  
541-846-7736.

### WHO WE ARE

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

### Our Mission

The nonprofit Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., (AVCN) provides the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Watershed with a communications vehicle, the *Applegater* newspaper, free of charge to all watershed residents. Our quarterly paper presents constructive, relevant, educational and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects such as:

- natural resource issues
- ecology and other science information
- historical and current events
- community news and opinions

AVCN encourages and publishes differing viewpoints and, through the *Applegater* newspaper, acts as a clearinghouse for this diverse community. We are dedicated to working together with community members to maintain and enhance the quality of life that is unique to the Applegate Watershed.

### Acknowledgements

The *Applegater* is published quarterly by the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. and is funded by donations from our loyal readers and advertisements for local businesses.

Special thanks to Carole Moskovita for layout; Barbara Holiday, Joan Peterson, Sue Maesen and Paul Tipton for editing; Barbara Holiday, P. R. Kellogg and homeschoolers Kelton and Jakob Shockey for proofreading; and Lisa Crean for bookkeeping.

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### PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

The *Applegater* requires that any and all materials submitted for publication be the intellectual property of the author unless otherwise credited.

Letters to the Editor cannot be more than 450 words. Opinion pieces and unsolicited articles cannot exceed 600 words. Community calendar submissions must be to the point. All submissions must be received either at the address or email below by September 1 for our next issue.

*The Applegater*  
c/o Applegate Valley  
Community Newspaper, Inc.  
7386 Highway 238, PMB 308  
Jacksonville, OR 97530  
Email: [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org)  
Website: [www.applegater.org](http://www.applegater.org)

## Applegater now online!

The *Applegater* is now publishing a web site that is a companion and expansion of the content and services that the printed *Applegater* newspaper provides.

Highlights of what this website will offer include:

- **Index and viewable/downloadable issues** of the *Applegater* starting from March 2008.
- **Expansion of content and pictures** of selected articles that appear in the printed paper.
- **Community calendar** that nonprofit organizations and Gater advertisers can post special events (sorry, no classes) by contacting our webmaster via email.
- **Community services directory** with contacts, current activities and bulletins for all our major community services such as police, fire, library, BLM, etc.
- **Directory of local businesses.**
- **Listing of web sites** that pertain to the Applegate Valley.
- **Changing collection of images** of scenery and activities within our beautiful valley.

We encourage you to log on to [www.applegater.org](http://www.applegater.org). Be sure to add the Gater web site to your favorites!

Gary Brauer, Webmaster  
[AVCNGaryBrauer@gmail.com](mailto:AVCNGaryBrauer@gmail.com)

## Community Calendar

**Applegate Valley Garden Club** meets at 1:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month from September through May. For meeting locations and programs call Sandra King at 541-899-9027 or Betty Lou Smith at 541-846-6817.

**Applegate 4-H Swine Club** meets on Tuesday following the third Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. For more information contact Charles Elmore at 541-846-6528 or Barbara Niedermeyer at 541-846-7635.

**Applegate Christian Fellowship.** For service times, call 541-899-8732, 24 hours/day.

**Applegate Friends of Fire District #9** meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Fire Station—1095 Upper Applegate Road—at 6:00 pm. New members are welcome. For more information, call Bob Fischer 541-846-6218.

**T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** meets every Monday morning at Applegate Church, 18960 North Applegate Road (at the corner of Hwy. 238 and N. Applegate Road). Weigh-in starts at 8:30 am; the meeting starts at 9:00 am. Come join us!

**Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).** Meets Thursdays at 6 pm. For meeting information, call Connie Young at 541-846-6051.

**Applegate Valley Community Forum (AVCF)** meets the third Thursday of each month, location alternating between Applegate and Ruch. For more information, call Pat Gordon at 541-899-7655.

**Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation** meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Applegate Library on North Applegate Road in downtown Applegate. For more information, call toll-free at 866-289-1638.

**American Association of University Women (AAUW)** Grants Pass area meets monthly from September to June. College degree required for membership. Days and locations vary. Contact Ann Kistler 541-471-1963 or Kathy Kirchen 541-846-9039.

**AA Meetings** Tuesday nights at 7 pm in Williams. Upstairs at the American Legion Hall. Contact Stan at 541-846-0734.

**Applegate Library Hours**  
 Sunday ..... closed  
 Monday ..... closed  
 Tuesday ..... 2 pm - 6 pm  
 Wednesday ..... closed  
 Thursday ..... closed  
 Friday ..... 2 pm - 6 pm  
 Saturday ..... 10 am - 2 pm  
 (Storytime will be held Tuesdays at 2:30 pm.)

**Ruch Branch Library Hours**  
 Sunday ..... closed  
 Monday ..... closed  
 Tuesday ..... 11 am - 5 pm  
 Wednesday ..... closed  
 Thursday ..... 1 pm - 7 pm  
 Friday ..... closed  
 Saturday ..... 12 pm - 4 pm  
 (Storytime will be held Tuesdays at 11 am.)

**Friends of Ruch Library Board of Directors** meets monthly. Check with the Ruch Library for schedule. 541-899-7438.

**Food & Friends.** Senior Nutrition Program invites local 60+ seniors to enjoy a nutritious, hot meal served at 11:30 am Monday through Friday at the Jacksonville IOOF Hall located at the corner of Main and Oregon Streets.

Email calendar information to [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org).

A donation is suggested and appreciated. Volunteers help serve meals or deliver meals to homebound seniors. For information about volunteering (it takes 40 volunteers to keep the Jacksonville program going) or receiving meals, call Food & Friends at 541-664-6674, x246 or x208.

**Williams Library Hours**  
 Sunday ..... closed  
 Monday ..... closed  
 Tuesday ..... closed  
 Wednesday ..... closed  
 Thursday ..... closed  
 Friday ..... closed  
 Saturday ..... closed

**Josephine County Farm Bureau** For meeting information, call Connie Young at 541-846-6051.

**Upper Applegate Grange #239** Business meetings: second Thursday at 7:30 pm. Potluck/Social meetings: fourth Friday at 7:30 pm, open to the public. Join us for informative meetings, fun and involvement in community service. Sponsors of Boy Scout Pack #18. Call 541-899-6987.

**Williams Rural Fire Protection District Meetings:** fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Williams Fire Department.

**Williams Creek Watershed Council Meetings:** fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Williams Creek Fire Station. The Public is welcome. For more information, call 541-846-9175.

**Williams Grange Pancake Breakfast,** second Sunday of each month, 8:30 am to 11:00 am. Closed July and August. Bring the whole family! 20100 Williams Hwy, corner of Tetherow Road near the Williams General Store. For more information, call 541-846-6844.

**Wonder Neighborhood Watch Meetings,** second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm, Wonder Bible Chapel.

**Applegate Fire District Board of Directors** meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Station 1 – 18489 N. Applegate Rd. at 7:30 pm. Except for the months of March, April and May, which are held at Headquarters – 1095 Upper Applegate Rd. For more information, call 541-899-1050.

**Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN)** meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the Ruch Library. All interested persons are welcome to attend. ANN is a community organization dedicated to protecting, preserving, and restoring the Applegate watershed. For more information about ANN, call Duane Bowman, 541-899-7264.

**Women Helping Other Women (WHOW)** meets the second Thursday of the month at 10036 Hwy 238 (Gyda Lane) at 6:30 pm for a potluck meeting to plan work parties at each other's homes. New members are welcome. For more information, call Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-8741 or Sioux Rogers at 541-846-7736.

**Applegate Lake Cub Scouts Pack #18** (Ruch Region) Outdoor activity (fishing, rafting, hikes, etc.) the first Friday of each month; regular meeting the third Friday of each month. Upper Applegate Grange from 10 am to 1 pm. All boys in grades first through fifth including homeschoolers, Ruch students, and non-Ruch students are welcome. For more information, contact Cub Leader Vic Agnifili at 541-899-1717.



**Jackson County Master Gardener Association and Oregon State University Extension Service**

### Special Classes and Activities

**Tuesday, July 14, 7 pm—9 pm**

#### DRIP IRRIGATION

**Colby Troxel, Grange Co-op**

The purpose of this class is to help the beginner decide if a drip system is right for them and how to choose the right system. The basic components of a drip system, how it works, how to install a system, and how it can save money on the water bill, and greatly benefit the plants in the landscape will be covered.

**Thursday, August 6, 7 pm—9 pm**

#### WILDFLOWERS IN THE HOME GARDEN

**Lillian Maksymowicz, Master Gardener**

Bring native flowers into your gardens. Select plants for optimum bloom in the many types of soil and weather conditions of Southern Oregon. Practice conservation and learn the many benefits and aesthetics of wildflowers in the home garden. Class qualifies for Master Gardener Recertification hours.

**Thursday, September 10, 7 pm—9 pm**

#### FENG SHUI IN THE HOME GARDEN

**Cheryl Magellan, Master Gardener, Feng Shui Practitioner**

Find out how the placement of a water feature can increase your prosperity! Tune into the natural rhythms of your garden to discover how small adjustments can make big changes in your life.

There is a fee of \$5.00 per class unless indicated otherwise. The classes are held at the OSU Extension Center located at 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, Oregon. 541-776-7371.

The Jackson County Master Gardener Program, a program of Oregon State University Extension Service, educates local gardeners on the art and science of growing and caring for plants. Trained Master Gardener volunteers extend sustainable gardening information to their communities through educational outreach programs.

To learn more about Jackson county Master Gardener Association go to: <http://extension.orst.edu/sorec/mg> or call 541-776-7371.

The 3rd Annual

# Applegate River Wine Fest

September 11, 2009  
Friday, 4 to 8 pm

A little driving, a lot of fun at

## Cantrall-Buckley Park

Along the beautiful Applegate River

Bring the family to play in the river, hike the trails and stay in our improved campground!

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Tickets and information: 541-245-4741  
154 CANTRALL RD, JUST OFF HWY 238 WEST OF RUCH  
[www.applegatewinetrail.com](http://www.applegatewinetrail.com)

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**Advertiser Highlight:**

## Takubeh Organic Farm & Garden Warehouse opens in Williams

Takubeh Organic Farm & Garden Warehouse believes in "Keepin' it Local." The owners, Todd and Duane Rumery, started offering garden supplies in 2005 as a "community service and hobby, on pallets in the driveway shed" of their property. Since then Takubeh has expanded and, after opening earlier this year, is now thriving at 20690 Williams Highway in the heart of Williams next to Kenny's Auto and across from the Williams Country Store.

The Rumerys have a strong family background in farming and gardening. Duane tells us Todd is a "fourth generation resident of the Applegate watershed and proud of it!" Some folks may remember his great grandparents, Clarence and Irene Trumbly, who settled here from Oklahoma at the location of the old Dutch Barn on Highway 238 on your way to Grants Pass. The Rumerys are uniquely qualified for their farm and garden business. Todd's experience includes organic farming and greenhouse management at Pacific Northwest farms and at his parent's greenhouse in New Castle, Colorado. Duane's "passion is healing through nutrition and herbs" and "has taken this love and directed it toward the study and application of soil and plant health." At Takubeh, they can give advice on your garden needs.

With the same awareness as many Applegate businesses, they strongly believe in "Keepin' it Local," saving on fuel, and using local area suppliers as much as possible. Duane says, "We've got what you need or we'll get it!"

Stop in to see the variety of farm and garden supplies and talk with Todd and Duane.

**They are open:**

Monday - Friday 9 am to 1 pm, and 3pm to 6pm.

Saturday - 9am to 1pm

Closed Sunday

**Phone: 541-846-0420.**

Curious about the business name? Takubeh means "the beautiful place" in the native language of the Takilma people who once inhabited this fertile valley in Williams.

Ruth Austin • 541-899-7476

*To highlight your business in the Applegater,  
call Ruth Austin at 541-899-7476*

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Photo: Lee Webb

## Take a walk with me

BY ALIANOR TRUE

Take a walk with me up Forest Creek, up Thompson Creek, or the hills around Sterling Creek. Take a walk with me and I'll show you what I see: a black-tailed deer grazing on fresh shoots, a grouse roaming the clearings in search of a mate, a clump of fawn lily and Indian paintbrush emerging from the soil. I see black scales of char on the trunks of pine and fir, and round pockets of ash where piles of debris have burned. I may smell smoke if I'm walking soon after a prescribed burn, or see low flames creeping through the ground litter of needles, leaves and smaller sticks and twigs. Perhaps in a few weeks I'll see some red needles on a pine, or the curled branches of a Douglas fir scorched in a hot spot. Putting all these things together, I see a landscape moving towards balance, a landscape made healthier by the reintroduction of fire.

It seems a little odd to me to write of the "reintroduction" of fire, a natural force that has always been a part of the West, and always will be. But of natural disturbances that have contributed to the local area's uniqueness: fire, floods, wind events, regular climate events, and volcanic activity, wildfire is the force most under the human thumb. The event most contained in the last hundred years, the most corralled, the most threatened. Perhaps wildfire is also the most important, the most vital to restore. It may be the only one we have the chance to reestablish, this time in a controlled manner, renewing our forests and rangelands to a prior health, one known before human settlement and fire suppression.

The recent history of the area is defined by human use: ranching, homebuilding, recreation and harvest. Our forested areas have come to be seen as 'natural' and pristine, even without the regular beneficial role of fire. The human uses of the land have displaced wildfire as a regular player in Southern Oregon's ecosystems. Wildfire has grown to be a misunderstood creature, seeking its way back into its native homeland, unable to regard the changes that have taken place in its 100-year absence. Summer wildfires that race unpredictably through developed areas are understandably too dangerous to let run their course through homes and ranchlands. In the spring, fall and winter, however, prescribed fire is taking its place, slowly and surely creeping its way back to the hillsides and meadows of Southern Oregon. Prescribed fire is shaping the environment in a way similar to the way wildfire did for thousands of years, before the Applegate was a river, a valley, a reservoir, or a way of life.

The argument most often given to support prescribed fire is the "pay me now or pay me later" approach. The idea that fire is inevitable in the western landscape we now populate, and that the controlled burn effects we cope with in the spring and fall are insignificant compared to the billowing white towers of smoke that appear like omens over western forests every July and August. But the truth is,

fires in the forests of the west are a fact, and prescribed fire is a gift. Those who promote 'natural forests' or preservation of nature in America's wildlands should love the smell of smoke, the charred catface in a huge ponderosa pine, the temporary blackened ground and the future wildflowers. They should love the signs and effects of fire as they do the floods that carve the dramatic gorges of the Grand Canyon, the powerful winds that shape sand dunes and the churning waters crashing into Oregon's coastlines.

Introducing fire into the woods in the wetter spring, fall, and winter months, best preserves the state of the forests as we know them. Thus lowering the potential for stand-replacing fire events, that turn the pine-fir forests we know to a moonscape of lifeless poles and ash craters. Introducing controlled fire allows the summer wildfires that do occur to burn with less dramatic effects. It allows summer wildfires to claim their previous place in the forest. The past history of southern Oregon wildfires may not indicate pile burns in January, but doing so allows spring underburning to occur without torching the overstory. And spring underburning prevents wildfires from completely changing the landscape in August, when a lightning strike may forever change the hillsides of the Applegate Valley as we know them. Prescribed fire is an incremental approach, a gentle loosening of the dam, restoring the flow of flames in a way the forests, the native flora and fauna, and humans, can gradually cope with, one season at a time.

So, let me ask you again. Take a walk with me through the hills surrounding the Applegate Valley. Let me show you what I see, and let's imagine what we could see, if this was a different valley. One that hasn't been treated with prescribed fire, one that perhaps has seen instead the effects of catastrophic wildfire (the kind that nature never intended) that was fueled by thick tangled woods and underbrush and the heat and drought of August. Back in the hills overlooking Forest Creek and Thompson Creek, maybe you'll see the beauty in the blackened trunks of the mature trees, the wildflowers pushing through the ash, and open gaps in the mosaic that is a vibrant forest. Maybe you'll rush to get through the lingering smoke, but perhaps you'll appreciate and support the role of prescribed fire in preserving this Applegate valley, these hills, this river, and this way of life.

Alianor True • 541-472-5203

• Editor, *Wildfire: A Reader*, Island Press, 2001.

• Contributor to *American Nature Writing 2002* (Fulcrum Press), *American Nature Writing 2000* (Oregon State University Press), *American Nature Writing 1998* (Sierra Club Books), all edited by John Murray.

*Editor's Note: Alianor True is a writer, local resident, former wildland firefighter/fuels technician.*

## DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

# How dry I am: Consciously practicing dry farming

BY SIOUX ROGERS

"Dry farming" is actually not a new concept or practice. But as I normally garden and farm, the idea is as strange as growing a tropical forest in the middle of the Sahara Desert. I love to water. I love mud; if you ask most of my friends, they would clearly agree. For me, just to walk into my own house, I need to be hosed off.

Typically, dry farmland is on the edges of a valley or at higher elevations, where crops can take advantage of the higher precipitation and milder summers. In dryer years, farmers in arid and semi-arid regions have been farming without irrigation for years by planting drought-resistant crops such as wheat, alfalfa and corn.

"The term 'dry farming' is now applied to the growing of crops in all areas where the precipitation is so light that special methods of tillage have to be resorted to in order to grow crops with a reasonable measure of success. In a sense, it is a misnomer. The effort has been made to change the name, but without success, and it has failed for the following reasons:

1. The term is in itself essentially correct, as it refers to farming under dry conditions. Everyone knows, or ought to know, that farming cannot be conducted in the absence of moisture.
2. It carries with it the idea that the precipitation is less than that which ordinarily falls in humid and sub-humid climates.
3. It would seem to be almost impossible to substitute a name that will so well

characterize the class of the farming that is to be pursued in these areas.

Of course, dry farming does not mean the growing of crops without moisture. That would be an absurdity. But it does mean growing them with less moisture than would be successful in producing them without resorting to special methods of cultivation. It does not mean the growing of crops in all areas where precipitation falls! It does not mean the growing of tilled crops every year on the same land. The food that is grown via dry-farming may be, and is in many instances, used in feeding livestock grazing on an arable farm or on the rugged lands adjacent thereto. In some areas the keeping of livestock may with propriety become a feature of dry land farming from the very outset.

"What dry-farming does mean is:

1. Growing crops under semi-arid conditions.
2. Growing crops where the moisture is normally deficient.
3. Growing them where moisture is temporarily deficient.
4. Growing special crops by special methods."

"Shortage in the moisture supply is the dominant thought that underlies any definition that may be framed regarding dry-farming." (Excerpted from *Dry Land Farming* by Thomas Shaw.)

In southern Oregon, the annual precipitation level is anywhere from 18

to 30 inches, depending on the site reference or precise location. "Nearly six-tenths of the earth's land surface receives an annual rainfall of less than twenty inches, and can be reclaimed for agricultural purposes only by irrigation and dry-farming." (Excerpted from *Dry-Farming: A System of Agriculture for countries under a Low Rainfall* by John Andreas Widtsoe.)

Although dry farming may sound like an oxymoron, there are actually some basic principles and rules that make it reasonable and not moronic or contrary in the very least. Most rules have an inherent amount of flexibility, so use the presented ideas only as a guide, not absolute facts.

According to the Wikipedia's discussion of dry farming, there are about four categories to be mindful of and utilize. First and most obvious is to capture and then save any available water. The most obvious way to do this is mulch, mulch, and mulch and do it one more time. Mulch can be defined as dead and gone plants, pulled up and then left on top of the soil. Mulch can also be old straw, hay, cut grass, certain leaves, newspaper, cardboard, wood chips, and other numerous organic materials. Just as important is a friable, organically rich soil, which delivers water deep down, making the roots reach the water basin.

"Terracing" also is practiced by farmers on a smaller scale by laying out the direction of furrows to slow water runoff downhill, a practice known as contour plowing. Moisture can be conserved by eliminating weeds. Since healthy topsoil is absolutely critical to sustainable dry-land agriculture, its preservation is generally considered the most important long-term goal of a dry-land farming operation, and conservation wins over moisture retention in those cases. Erosion control techniques such as windbreaks, reduced or no tillage, and spreading straw on particularly susceptible ground are used to minimize topsoil losses. (Excerpted from *Wikipedia*. Read that part again if you didn't get it the first time. Makes sense to me.)

Yolo County (California) farmer Casey Hoppin has a thriving melon crop. He finds that dry farming not only saves water but also controls weeds. The high water table in that area allows him to utilize dry farming. Hoppin must pre-irrigate in the spring by flooding the ground before planting to ensure enough moisture throughout the growing season. "Once we get the moisture in the ground, the idea is to keep it there," said Hoppin. The key is to keep the top of the ground well cultivated and loose, which protects the natural moisture of the soil from evaporation. The top layer of soil is dry enough that no weeds will grow, so no herbicides are needed. The root system of the melons then does all the work by "chasing the moisture," Hoppin said. The result is higher sugar content and better quality melons. "On heavy ground like



Heirloom tomatoes.

this, by not irrigating, it almost grows a better crop," he said. "When we grow the cantaloupes, if we irrigated them, they wouldn't have the same flavor. They'd make a lot of melons, but they'd be a lot less flavorful." Hoppin said his family has been dry farming melons in northern California for more than 15 years. (Note: Hoppin makes no reference to heavy mulching as I did. This may be due to a different technique or his particular location and high water table.) "Down south, they may irrigate two to three times. Even up here on the wrong kind of ground, you have to irrigate. But if you can do a good job without irrigating, it makes a lot more sense."

The above information is reprinted in part with full permission from the California Farm Bureau Federation. Original article written by Ching Lee, September 20, 2006.

In our own personal gardens, our ability to grow melons, tomatoes, corn and other sun-loving crops has been a challenge. We do have sun, but it retires very early, even in the summer. Regarding watering I have sinned on all accounts according to this latest dry-farming information. Good that I am writing this early in the season, as all plants are now on water rations. So far they actually appear stronger, healthier and are actually growing much faster than they usually do. This is not all due to water deprivation, but the soil is very well mulched and filled with organic compost. I also saturated the ground prior to planting, getting them off to a good start.

The "duh" factor finally hit! Less sun means less water. I also am experimenting by planting vegetables in the middle of a flower landscaped area, which does get a lot of sun. So the former petunia bed entrance to our cottage is now a Japanese eggplant sanctuary.

In doing this literature search, I noted that there is an entirely new practice of dry farming for wine grapes, roses and fruit trees. Sorry, end of that discussion due to a space restraint, but a very interesting subject.

So if global warming is truly happening, at least we can have wine and a loaf of wheat bread, decorate the table with roses and have an apple for dessert.

I welcome all questions, criticisms and comments. Happy gardening!

Sioux Rogers • 541-845-7736  
Dirty Fingernails and All  
mumearth@apbb.net

## For the love of dirt ...

### Can you answer this?

**Q:** I planted some spinach in late January and it was coming up fine under a cloche (cover) when all the seedlings disappeared within a few days. Earwigs or slugs I suspect. Any ideas how to control? G.B. (Applegate)

A. Well, too bad they aren't snails because they are delicious with garlic, butter, French bread and a nice glass of wine. Boooo, think you have slugs, the little nasty type. Sometimes if you put out a low bowl filled with beer (not cheating though), the little slimy things drown when they get drunk. Actually what I use, since I would rather drink the beer, is smother each plant in *diatomaceous earth*.

Wikipedia says, "**Diatomaceous earth**—also known as **DE**, **TSS**, **diatomite**, **diahdro**, **kieselguhr**, **kieselgur** or **celite** — is a naturally occurring, soft, chalk-like sedimentary rock that is easily crumbled into a fine white to off-white powder. This powder has an abrasive feel, similar to pumice powder, and is very light, due to its high porosity. The typical chemical composition of diatomaceous earth is 86% silica, 5% sodium, 3% magnesium and 2% iron. Diatomaceous earth consists of fossilized remains of diatoms, a type of hard-shelled algae. It is used as a filtration aid, as a mild abrasive, as a mechanical insecticide, as an absorbent for liquids, as cat litter, as an activator in blood clotting studies, and as a component of dynamite. As it is also heat-resistant, it can be used as a thermal insulator."

I usually smother my new little plants with the white powder when first planted. The down side is it washes off and needs to be re-applied, but it works.

**Q:** My lawn is filled with dandelions. What on earth should I do to get rid of them? T.R. (Wilderville)

A. If you do not spray your lawn and your dogs or anything else has not peed on the lawn, EAT THEM! They are exceptionally good for you. A great liver tonic, a good source of vitamins C and A. They also are rich in calcium and potassium. Mow your own lawn with your teeth.

Sioux Rogers • 541-846-7736  
mumearth@apbb.net

## MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

**Honoring community voices**

BY CHRIS BRATT

Some people scornfully call us "Greenies," activists intent on "Wilderness Creep" (more wilderness) and more protection for the "fishies." Others refer to us as extremist, rabid, radical zealots and of course overly litigious preservationists wanting to "lock up our public lands." Actually we will take vigorous action when agencies or opponents try to remove environmental protections from our public lands. But, calling us names meant as a put-down because we are exercising our rights to be active public participants in federal agency actions will only strengthen our resolve and attract more organized support.

Who are these environmental activists and do they deserve to be demonized for their work helping to protect our public lands and planet? Although some people deprecate what we do, we are your neighbors supporting community well-being (local jobs in the woods and on the farms) and sustainable land management practices that don't degrade the environment. We are people of goodwill and volunteers who won't give up without a fight to protect public lands when they are being seriously damaged. We are diligent people trying to change agency manager's and politician's minds when they propose projects that fail to safeguard our natural resources or forest health.

Some of us are trained scientists, lawyers and professionals who believe these public lands belong to everybody and must be protected from exploitation by individuals or corporations (with agency assistance in many cases) for strictly economic reasons. We are citizens that take seriously our rights and responsibility to help federal agencies look for solutions to

environmental problems.

We take the opportunity for citizens to directly participate in federal decision making and direct an agency's attention to community concerns. I believe our actions are key to guaranteeing better environmental decision-making in our community by federal officials.

This environmental work we try to do in and for our collective Southern Oregon backyard (mostly for free or little money) is difficult and time consuming. You have to learn to read, study and understand complex government processes and documents. You have to write, speak and attend endless meetings. You spend long hours at your desk, computer or in

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**BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision received approximately 30,000 comments statewide. Most of the comments BLM received were from individuals and groups who cited many flaws or problems throughout the document. Yet, the BLM quickly proceeded to make a decision and approved the Plan Revision with only a few insignificant changes.**

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the field, totally focused on a particular issue or proposed project that has potential negative impacts. At those times, you will need an infinite supply of energy.

But the real frustration comes after you have submitted comments on a questionable federal agency project. Although you believe your comments are substantive, well written and supported by relevant data or law, they are routinely dismissed by the agency as having no merit. A recent example of this kind of agency behavior can be seen in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) decision in Dec. 2008.

BLM's Western Oregon Plan

Revision received approximately 30,000 comments statewide. Most of the comments BLM received were from individuals and groups who cited many flaws or problems throughout the document. Yet, the BLM quickly proceeded to make a decision and approved the Plan Revision with only a few insignificant changes. Subsequently seventeen environmental groups and the timber industry have filed lawsuits in Federal court challenging the validity of Plan Revision. Now there is a strong possibility that BLM's Plan Revision is so defective that it will soon be considered inadequate by the courts. It's disheartening for all parties concerned that the only thing that seems to stop the BLM from damaging

the landscapes they manage is legal action.

Some of you may believe this kind of federal agency dismissive behavior toward community concerns is a rare occurrence. Let me assure you that it is part of agency culture and happens frequently. Presently, in BLM's Timber Mountain Off-Road Vehicle Plan, BLM has refused to consider a plan alternative that would close the area to off-road vehicles. A petition submitted by 1600 residents and BLM's acknowledged extensive environmental damage throughout the area still could not move BLM to analyze a closure option in their plan.

This self-righteous behavior by BLM has historical roots. In 1984, Little

Applegate residents, Richard and Leslie Bach (Richard was the famous author of the book, Jonathan Livingston Seagull), and the local environmental group called TELAV appealed BLM's Grouse Creek Timber Sale. The following transcript recorded on tape between the then BLM District Manager and Richard Bach is a true and classic example of agency disregard for the concerned public regarding this timber sale:

RICHARD: Is what you're telling us that you need to have a lot of people make an outcry about this, against the logging, or that it would make no difference what people say?

DIRECTOR: If you are asking me a personal question, very likely it would not.

RICHARD: Whether you get four hundred signatures or four thousand....

DIRECTOR: We get petitions like that. No, it wouldn't make a difference.

RICHARD: If there were forty thousand signatures, if the entire population of Medford, Oregon, protested the sale, would that make a difference?

DIRECTOR: Not to me.

RICHARD: If there were professional foresters who were objecting, would you listen to that?

DIRECTOR: No, I am not concerned about public outcry.

RICHARD: We would like to see what has made you so certain that this is worth going ahead in spite of so much public outcry.

DIRECTOR: Well, we are doing it.

RICHARD: Have you ever changed a timber sale because of a protest by the people?

DIRECTOR: No. Never.

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988

**Renewed interest in Dutch-oven cooking**

BY WILL MCLAUGHLIN

Through the years, many hunters, fishermen, ranchers, trappers, scouts and campers of all styles have found the Dutch oven a most useful utensil. It is probably your most versatile cooking tool--it can be used for frying, browning, steaming, stewing and baking. Most anything that can be cooked in or on your kitchen stove can be cooked in the Dutch oven.

For centuries, heavy cast-iron cookware has survived from generation to generation, from the open hearth to the open trail. We are seeing renewed interest in the tradition, pleasure, flavor and mystique of "the old black pot magic."

Dutch-oven cooking is a part of history that we can all preserve and enjoy some great meals while doing so. The Dutch oven was essential to the explorers and settlers who traveled across the trails leading to the Great Northwest. When needing to lighten their load they discarded many supplies, with the exception of guns and Dutch ovens. These were vital to their survival.

Today, the Dutch oven is used as the main cooking pot by those who enjoy hiking, camping and rafting. It also is a valuable pot to have if living in rural areas of Oregon when the power goes out from time to time (as I have experienced).

Cooking meals over an open fire always gives an added flavor to the meal. When an open fire is not be practical in some locations, using charcoal to cook with is a safe alternative that will still create some great dishes. Here are a couple of recipes for you to enjoy:

**APPLE-MUSTARD PORK CHOPS**

4 Bone-in pork loin chops ¾-inch thick  
Salt & pepper to taste  
2 Tablespoons butter  
1 Cup apple juice  
1 Tablespoons dried minced onion  
1 Tablespoon Dijon mustard

Season pork chops with salt and pepper. In a hot skillet/Dutch oven, brown chops on each side over medium-high heat in butter. Stir in apple juice; reduce heat to medium. Cover and cook 5-6 minutes on each side or until juices run clear.

Remove and keep warm. Add onion and mustard to skillet. Cook uncovered on low for 4-5 minutes or until heated through. Spoon mixture over chops. Serve with rice and garnish with sliced apples.

**HONEY GARLIC CHICKEN**

4 Boneless/skinless chicken breasts  
2 Tablespoons honey  
2 Tablespoons lemon juice  
2 Tablespoons oil  
Salt & pepper to taste  
4 Garlic cloves, minced

Arrange chicken in Dutch oven. Combine the remaining ingredients; pour over chicken. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-45 minutes until juices run clear. Brush chicken occasionally with sauce.

**BAKING TEMPERATURE CHART**

The figures below are the number of briquettes top/bottom

Dutch Oven Size	Temperature					
	325	350	375	400	425	450
8"	10/5	11/5	16/6	12/6	13/6	14/6
10"	13/6	14/7	16/7	17/8	18/9	19/10
12"	16/7	17/8	18/9	19/10	21/10	22/11
14"	20/10	21/11	22/12	24/12	25/13	26/14

Will McLaughlin  
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## TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

# No resources bubble

BY RAUNO PERTTU

I was recently told that someone who reads my column wanted to know if we are in a resources price bubble. I froze at, "Someone who reads my column?" After the shock wore off, I considered the question. It's a complex issue, but the short answer is "No." If anything, we're likely in a resources dip before another rise, at least in U.S. dollars, if not in some other currencies. This may not sound like an interesting topic, but the resources question is tied into bigger issues that will affect even us Applegaters, so I'll try to summarize some of the key elements at play. Much of the following is probably old information to you, but the summary is important to explain my answer.

For many years, metals, industrial minerals and, to some extent, energy were in a price slump. This slump was partly the result of third world countries, particularly China, selling their mineral resources at any price to North America and Europe to obtain money to fund their internal industrial development. Another contributor to the minerals glut was the collapse of communism and the opening of vast new areas for exploration and development. The former state-run minerals companies had been very ineffective and inefficient at minerals discovery and development. With the collapse, western companies swarmed into newly open countries with exotic names and made new discoveries that were fast-tracked to production.

By 2002, the resources market was beginning to change. China's internal industrialization was consuming more and more of its own raw resources that it had been selling to other nations. It replaced exporting of raw minerals and metals with a growing flood of exported manufactured products. To feed its new factories, China was soon a major importer of raw resources from other countries. Industrialization in India and smaller Asian countries followed China's. Asia soon became a major resource consumer for the new factories that produced all the Costco and Wal-Mart goods they started selling to us at bargain prices.

China and its neighbors were soon awash in our money because, while they were replacing U.S. jobs with Asian jobs and selling us an exploding share of our

**When the worldwide economic nosedive happened last year and foreign sales of its goods slowed, China began to create its own internal markets, in a move to hasten its economic expansion that will eventually surpass our economy.**

purchased goods, we had much less to sell them in return. To put all those dollars to use, China surpassed Japan's earlier example and bought large quantities of our government securities, effectively buying our debt. Today, China is the largest foreign holder of U.S. securities.

When the worldwide economic nosedive happened last year and foreign sales of its goods slowed, China began to create its own internal markets, in a move to hasten its economic expansion that will eventually surpass our economy. China worries about the value of all those US securities it still holds. Several Chinese officials have expressed concern that our announced major new spending for job creation and for new social programs could lead to devaluation of the dollar. Many analysts worldwide share that concern.

Outside of printing far more money or dramatically raising taxes, our ability to finance all of the newly announced programs is dependent on our ability to convince others to buy all the securities that will cover the cost of those programs. These are effectively IOU's on a grand scale. If people and countries are reluctant to buy the IOU's, the interest on the newly offered securities will have to be raised until willing buyers are found—resulting in inflation and devaluation of the dollar. In turn, the devaluing dollar becomes a less attractive investment, and even more incentives are needed to attract securities buyers, creating a potential devaluation spiral.

We are looking at China to buy many of these new IOU's. However, rather than expanding new purchases of our securities, China appears to be looking for safer ways to maintain the value represented in the securities it already owns.

One way it appears to be hedging its bets is by using those securities to buy mineral and energy resources, including both unmined deposits and refined metal, which China appears to believe will maintain higher value than the dollar. These resource inventories will serve the additional benefit of guaranteeing continuing supplies for China's factories. India is pursuing a similar strategy. China continues on an international resource buying spree that has helped to support and even to increase the prices of various commodities in the middle of the worldwide economic downturn.

Other intertwined factors that will also continue to strengthen resource prices are the depletion of higher profit margin ore deposits and increasing demand from growing populations and economies.

To be clear, we are in no near-term danger of "running out" of resources. The concerns that we will soon run out of this or that commodity are based on misconceptions. Most minerals are currently produced from ore bodies. An ore body is a concentration of metals or minerals at a high enough recoverable grade and volume to be economically

**Remember that the earth is mostly a closed system, and mined materials are generally not destroyed, only redistributed into products. Because our garbage dumps re-concentrate those resources, today's dumps will become ore bodies tomorrow.**

extractable. Advancing technology keeps allowing new methods of economic extraction, and increasing commodity demand and prices redefine new ore bodies. As the currently richest ore

bodies are mined, mineral concentrations that were previously too small or low grade become economically minable.

Remember that the earth is mostly a closed system, and mined materials are generally not destroyed, only redistributed into products. Because our garbage dumps re-concentrate those resources, today's dumps will become ore bodies tomorrow.

The rate at which resources can be produced to meet demand is critical to price. As the world economy begins to recover, and demand again accelerates, resource prices will again begin to rise.

I'll mention one additional factor in resource prices—government regulation. Part of the cost of mining must be the cost of reclamation and environmental protection. As mines become bigger and lower grade, and as regulations get more stringent, mining mitigation costs are rapidly increasing. These costs have to be passed on to the cost of the sold minerals. Additionally, the number and size of areas that are closed to mining are increasing, limiting new development. Further, in the past few years, a number of countries in search of additional revenue have passed new tax structures and regulations that would make mining economically difficult, resulting in an unintentional mining freeze in those countries, further limiting new areas for production and development.

The factors I discussed above are some of the reasons why I believe that resource prices are actually in a dip on an overall up-slope, rather than in a bubble. As the world economy recovers, probably in conjunction with a devaluing dollar, we can expect price inflation that will in turn slow the economic recovery. In a worst case scenario (to which I don't subscribe), we could revisit the high interest rates and high unemployment that we older coots saw in the late 1970's and early 1980's—or worse. As for my reader who asked the question—Thank you! Reading these may be a lonely job, but I'm glad you're willing to tackle it.

Rauno Perttu • 541-899-8036  
jrperthu@charter.net



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## Applegate River Wine Fest September 11 at Cantrall-Buckley Park

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) and the Applegate Valley Vintners Association are co-sponsoring this fun event, to be held on Friday, September 11, 2009, beginning at 4:00 pm, on the banks of the Applegate River at Cantrall-Buckley Park. Wine tasting, gourmet food sampling, local music and a silent auction will all take place as the sun sets on the Applegate River. This year's event will bring together 200 attendees, 10 Applegate Valley wineries, gourmet food sampling, and live music.

The Applegate River Wine Fest will feature an exciting silent auction filled with unique wines, donations from local business, original artwork, and much more. Proceeds from the silent auction will support programs at the Applegate and Williams Schools.

Tickets (\$25 per person) can be purchased at [www.applegatewinetrail.com](http://www.applegatewinetrail.com) or by phone at 541-245-4741. If you are unable to attend the Applegate River Wine Fest, tax deductible donations for this project are always welcome at: GACDC, PO Box 3107, Applegate, OR 97530

David Laananen  
541-846-0500



**JACKSON COUNTY**  
Library Services

## Friends of the Applegate Library will elect new officers

Here's your chance to get involved with our library! Our next meeting of the Friends of the Applegate Library (FOAL) will be at 7:00 pm on July 14. We will be electing new officers so if you feel like you want to contribute to your community, now's the time. Our meetings last about one hour and they are only held four times a year.

Be sure to see the four new hybrid pine trees planted along the north-west side of the library. You can see them from North Applegate Road. The money for these trees was donated during the years 2005-2006, and there is now a plaque hanging in the library honoring the names of the donors.

Summer Reading Program has already begun, but it's not too late to get in on the fun.

Teens who complete the summer reading program, "Express Yourself @ Your Library," will have their names entered into a local drawing for a Nikon

COOLPIX digital camera.

This year's summer reading program focuses on being creative. We will have several craft activities and programs throughout the summer:

July 17 from 2-4 pm Steve Gehres is bringing wood pieces that children can use to create their own wooden work of art.

July 28 at 3 pm we have Rich Glauber coming with his music activity program for children. He was very popular at other branches last year and was asked to come back for another performance.

August 7 at 3 pm some local music students will be bringing their instruments for children to get acquainted with. Afterwards, there will be an opportunity to make their own instruments from recycled items.

Come and have some summer fun at the library!

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

## Grand Opening: LOCAL Bakery! *RISE UP! Artisan Bread*

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## Summer fun is happening at Ruch Library

Children from 3 to 18 are invited to sign up for Summer Reading at Ruch Library until July 31. Explore the world of music, dance, art, science and books.

Family and friends can read aloud to the youngest toddler participants to help them earn certificates and free books. All children who read or listen to ten books will receive a book, a special bookmark, a reading certificate, and a coupon for a free kid's meal from HomeTown Buffet. They will also qualify for special drawings each time they read ten books. Prizes range from book bags to a Barnes and Noble gift certificate.

Teens can "Express Yourself @ the Library" by painting on our "Buddha Board" or crafting poems on our magnetic storyboard. By a combination of reading and writing, listening and viewing, teens can enter prize drawings. The grand prize is a Nikon Coolpix S10 digital camera.

Creative activities are being offered nearly every week throughout the summer. The schedule is available here in the *Applegater* or at the library.

Summer Reading Program takes place at all Jackson County libraries and is sponsored by Wal-Mart, HomeTown Buffet, the Jackson County Library Foundation, and here at the Ruch Branch, by the Friends of Ruch Library.

This year there is special summer fun for "Babies in the Library," too. This is a new story time and literacy program just for prewalking babies (up to about 12 months old) and a caring adult. Join us on Thursday afternoons at 2:00 pm June 4 through July 23 at the Ruch Branch Library for reading, rhymes, songs and fun! "Babies in the Library" is funded by a grant from the John and Betty Gray Early Childhood Project and the Jackson County Library Foundation.

### Ruch Library Summer Reading Dates and Events

Thursday June 25

The Strength of Structures

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Create your own "building." Take the engineering challenge.

Tuesday June 30

Sound and Music

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Make musical instruments

Music demonstrations provided by members of the Rogue Valley Youth Symphony

Tuesday July 14

Weaving with Warp and Weft

Ages 4-8, 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Make a simple loom and weave your own project with local fiber

Ages 9+, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Artist Saul Harper. Assistance and demonstrations provided by members of the Rogue Valley Handweavers Guild.

Tuesday July 28

Rich Glauber "Music in Action"

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Tuesday August 4

"The Pink Refrigerator"

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Art and craft projects for all ages

Tuesday August 11

Summer Reading Program closes

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Prize drawing and presentations

NOTE: There will be no Tuesday morning storytime on days with other activities. There will be storytime at 11:00 am on Tuesdays June 2, June 9, June 16, June 23, July 7, and July 21. Storytime will not meet during August but will resume again on September 8.

Betsy Brauer • 541-899-7438



# Cantrall-Buckley update

BY LAIRD FUNK

There must be something about hang-gliding that gets the fliers dirty. That was the logical conclusion when hundreds of hang-gliding enthusiasts landed on the Cantrall-Buckley Park Campground over Memorial Day weekend for the annual fly-in which christens the camping season. Park Manager Rick Barclay momentarily thought he'd gone to Seven Feathers when \$140 in quarters rolled out of the shower coin boxes at the new bathroom/shower building at the campground after the first day!

Memorial Day weekend not only marked the public opening of the new restroom, but also the first days of operation of the new wetland waste water treatment system at the park and the first use of the drip disposal system in the campground meadow. A lot of time was spent over the previous 90 days bringing the new system up to operating condition, getting the several control panels programed to work in unison and encouraging the several thousand wetland plants to grow, and it all paid off. The weekend went flawlessly and the capacity crowd was pleasantly amazed at the new facilities. Most of them even returned the next weekend!

The native grass seed provided by the BLM has made itself at home in the campground meadow and will be fully established by the end of summer. Currently the meadow is closed to allow it to grow to maturity and to protect it from traffic. One errant early camper decided to set up a tent in the meadow and managed to pound a tent stake right through one of the drip lines making up the 5000' system, but we got that repaired quickly to prevent gullying of the meadow. Native wildflowers also colonized the area to add to the normal mix of grasses and other plants found in a natural meadow.

In May the park was awarded an approximately \$30,000 grant from the BLM so that we could install a new 4" water main from the storage tank in the day use area to the campground. The water system had been engineered by David Evans and Associates of Bend, who also designed the waste water system, so it was "shovel ready". For safety reasons and camping convenience the actual

installation will have to wait until the campground closes next fall, but the under road bore to carry the line across the road and the saw cutting of the pipe route have already been done as part of the sewer line work. The balance of the potable water infrastructure, the new 10,000 gallon storage tank, pumps and the control building await funding as the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) searches for more grant opportunities.

The GACDC is also searching for grants to assist Jackson County Parks in funding improvement projects in other Jackson County parks. The parks department, under the leadership of new Director John Vial, saved the day for the Cantrall-Buckley project when the costs of the waste water system began to outstrip the grant amount due to skyrocketing costs and having to pay for work which had been counted as being free. Without that help, the project would not have been completed and the \$250,000 grant amount would have had to be paid back! Unfortunately, that help significantly depleted their capital projects budget so the GACDC volunteered to expand the partnership with the County by seeking grants for some of their needs. So while we seek to pay off the moral if not fiscal debt to our partners we may need to forgo some grant opportunities which we would normally apply to Cantrall-Buckley Park so that we can apply in behalf of Jackson County. One of the results of all this is a strengthening of the relationship between the two organizations and a new sense of camaraderie growing between all the people involved.

Speaking of which, besides John Vial, one new face has joined the group and two have left. Vivian McAleavey, one of the mainstays of the GACDC "retired" from her twelve years of volunteering for our benefit and is off with Joe doing fun things like paddling their newly built kayaks! We will get on without her but it won't be easy. Paddle on, Vivian!

At the parks department, Operations Manager Randy Hutton was discharged and has been replaced by a gentleman from Linn County, Steve Lambert. Steve



joined us in early May for an Advisory Board meeting and park tour and was impressed by what he saw. He fits right in with the renewed partnership between GACDC and Jackson County and we all look forward to working with him.

OK, that's it till next time! Meanwhile, tell your out-of-town friends

to try camping at Cantrall-Buckley Park this year. They'll love the showers!

Laird Funk 541-846-6759

Photos from top:

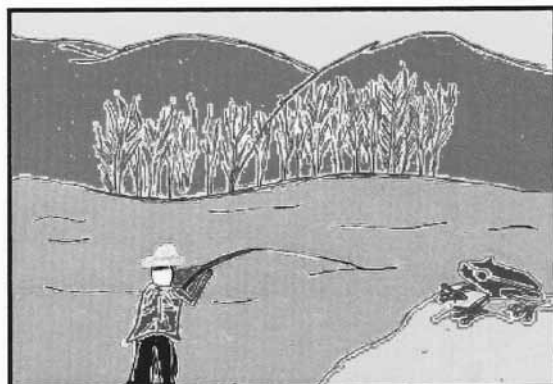
—The new restroom/shower building in campground.

—Wetland showing the growth of the plants.

—Meadow drip disposal field in the campground.

## Cantrall-Buckley Season Passes available

### Cantrall Buckley Park




Drawing by Morgan • Applegate School

Season Pass 2009

Season passes are now available to buy at the office of Cantrall-Buckley Park or at the Ruch Country Store. Prices are \$20 regular, \$10 for seniors over 65; for people who cannot afford a pass, work trade will be accepted (Check with the park manager Rick). The winner of the art contest is Morgan from Applegate School.

Park Manager Rick Barclay  
541-899-7155



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**PANTRY**

**FROM PAGE 1**

cafeteria (all five of the past principals have fully supported this effort--thank you Ruch School!), but they have their own space with several storage shelving units, a donated freezer (thank you Peter and Karen!), an ACCESS refrigerator, and a work area. They also have six to eight regular will-be-there-every-Monday helpers (thank you Lyn, Pam, Arlene, Claude, Kristi and Arthur!). They now need a half-ton pickup to haul the food each week, and often times pick up donations on Sundays in preparation for Monday. And, they have been financially solvent for about ten years due to Donna's fundraising skills and a very giving community (private donations to the Food Pantry show up in their mailbox on a regular basis--thank you, Applegaters!).

The Applegate Food Pantry today is able to offer



Shelves of USDA foods stored at the Applegate Food Pantry

clients many services beyond emergency food supplies. They provide counseling and contact information for all federal and state low-income programs, especially the Low-Income Energy Assistance program (much needed here in the Applegate!). A bookmobile is on site every Monday for the clients' use (thank you Cynthia!), and sometimes used clothing is available as well. Due to the Applegate community's support, on any given Monday clients can receive much-needed items such as fresh vegetables (the local CSAs or community supported agriculture folks donate food during the summer months--thank you!), meats, eggs, dog food and cat litter, and sometimes even fresh bagels (thanks to The Beanery!) or biscotti (thanks to Harry & David's). And Donna and Matt receive an average of 100 pounds of fresh food every week from the Ruch Country Store (thank you, Craig and Amber!), which really helps them to provide healthy, balanced foods to the clients.

Are you getting the idea that this "food pantry" is a vital part of our local community? I hope so. It fulfills the local needs, but it also brings so many opportunities as well; all because of caring and giving community members who donate willingly. Can you be one of them and help manage the Applegate Food Pantry in the future?

Donna has built the Applegate Food Pantry into one of the state's model pantries. Working as part of ACCESS, the Applegate Food Pantry's organization is solid, the funding and record-keeping documented. As Donna told me, the "book is written," the operating manual ready to use. The only question now is: Who is going to step up to the plate and take over come July? Because if no one does, our food pantry will be forced to shut its doors as of July 31. Donna and Matt feel

that the weekly duties can easily be divided among several people, so please read the job description provided below, and contact Donna at 541-899-8644 or dowritede@aol.com today to discuss how you can help. Our community will thank you!

Sandy Shaffer  
541-899-9541

For more information on receiving emergency food assistance in Jackson County, call ACCESS Inc. at 541-779-6691. Se Habla Espanol.

In Josephine County, call the Josephine County Food Bank at 541-479-5556.

**JOB DESCRIPTION:  
Volunteer Food Pantry  
Manager**

**Applegate Food Pantry.**

The Applegate Food Pantry is part of ACCESS Inc.'s "Food Share" program. ACCESS Inc. is a nonprofit organization that acts as the Community Action Agency for Oregon Food Bank in Jackson County.

The mission of the pantry is to distribute (emergency) food items to local citizens in need according to USDA guidelines. The Applegate Food Pantry is open every Monday, except major holidays, and operates out of the back of Ruch School's cafeteria.

**Volunteer Food Pantry Managerial Duties.**

This position has overall responsibility for the management of the Applegate Food Pantry, including submitting reports to ACCESS Inc. Currently, the following duties are performed by one person, but they can easily be broken out to several people.

**Key responsibilities include:**

- Ordering: Tuesdays, approximately 1½ hours a week. Requires fax and copy machine.
- Pick-up: Mondays, approximately 2½ hours a week, plus another 2½ hrs per month. Requires a vehicle that can transport 1,200+ pounds.
- Distribution: Mondays, approximately 2½ hours a week.
- Administration reporting and staffing: Approximately 1½ hours a week. Requires email access.
- Fund-raising: Approximately three hours monthly.

**Skills and attributes needed to manage Food Pantry:**

- Strong people and communication skills.
- Patience and ability to interact with clients on the economic margins.
- Follow government requirements and income guidelines, local policies and practices, and portion control.
- Supervise volunteer staff and their activities.
- Recordkeeping and reporting skills.

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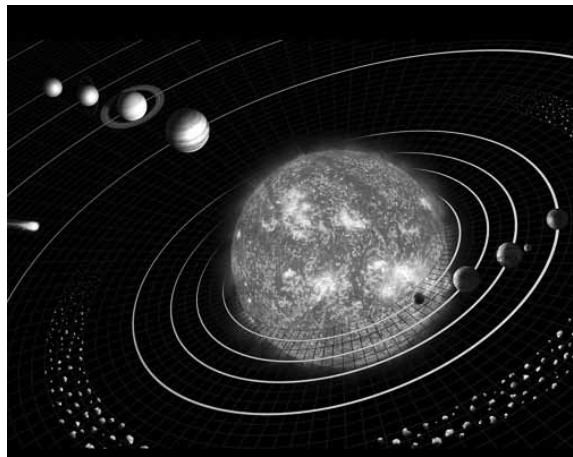
## THE STARRY SIDE

# Summer

BY GREELEY WELLS

Got a question for you: When do you wander out under the stars and look up? Just after sunset when there may be a bright "star" or planet, perhaps a sliver of a moon? Later on when you're about to go to bed? This is one of my steady times of night skying, when I usually answer nature's call before bed! Do you rise early to get to work or meditation and see the sky lightening up and beautiful bright things happening? Maybe you look when you hear about some event like meteorites or groupings of stars or planets. Perhaps you just concern yourself with books or planetariums. Whenever and no matter how often, you must be reading this because you get out there sometimes, you somehow enjoy the night sky. You've noticed different times and different seasons produce different skies. It's repeating and changing all at once and never really exactly the same. You must have caught the same bug I caught as a child. I'm glad you enjoy it and are reading my words and my enjoyment. Thank you.

In July the Big Dipper is on it's pan with the handle almost straight up in the north west. It's companion, Leo the Lion, with Saturn glued to it for months is setting in the sunset, plunging head first. Behind him the subtle, fuzzy, dim splash of stars and galaxies called Coma Berenices follows. It used to be the end of the lion's fuzzy tail. Following



Our solar system. Courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech

that, high in the sky is Arcturus the bright beacon of Bootes. Remember the saying using the handle of the Big Dipper: "Follow the arch (curve) to Arcturus" and on to Spica in the southwest in the dim Virgo. Rising in the east is a partial Pegasus, the great square. And farther up is our lovely summer triangle: the bright Vega, Altar and Deneb in Cygnus the Swan and also looking like a cross, the Northern Cross. This triangle and the Northern Cross fit perfectly into the north/south running Milky Way, our very own galaxy which contains almost every star we see, some billions and billions of them. Across the North Star from the upended Dipper is the "W" of Cassiopeia rising in the northeast on it's side as well, neither a "W" or an "M."

By the end of this quarter, the September sky will have rotated west towards the sunset and new wonders will be appearing. The Big Dipper is to the lower right of the north star in the northwest and Cassiopeia is almost an "M" in the upper east almost over the north star. Notice the Milky Way has shifted from north/ south northeast to southwest and so has the summer triangle which is now overhead. Where the Milky Way hits the southern horizon line is Sagittarius a rough rectangle which is approximately the center of our Galaxy. Pegasus (that great square) is overhead too still a bit easterly and a smaller trapezoid opposite it from the zenith (exact overhead) is Hercules right west of Vega.

If you've a mind, take a moment to compare these skies where our descriptions start and end to notice how the sky swings overhead. It's fascinating and hard to fathom. It all centers around the North Star, rising in the east, swinging over head and setting in the west. The circumpolar stars, depending on your mountains above the horizon line simply move around the North Star and don't set at all.

### THE PLANETS

Mercury is near the sun and still pretty much out of sight. On August 2 a half hour after sunset it can be seen right on the horizon line above Regulus, the bright star of Leo. Saturn is off a way to the upper left.

Saturn, in August, loses its rings, by turning on its edge. However we northerners will not get to see this. It'll be too close to the sun as Leo and Saturn both set in the west. This sequence from flat-on and visible, to edge on and invisible is approximately a 7 1/2 year cycle. Interesting that this year, the International Year of Astronomy, commemorates Galileo's discovery (400 years ago) of those rings which this year will disappear!

September 17 Saturn is "in" the sun.

Jupiter rises as Saturn sets. It gets about 1/3 of the way up in the southern sky by dawn. By August Jupiter is bright and up all night, same in September. Look to the south.

Venus is the very dominant "star" of dawn. In mid-July she passes between the Pleiades and Hyades clusters in Taurus. On August 25 Caster and Pollux form a line with Venus. On September 16 Venus is just left of a nice crescent moon and just above Regulus in the sickle (or mane) of Leo the Lion, who left the sunset sky in August to show up in the September dawn! On the 20 of August Venus will almost run into Regulus, 1/2° apart about an hour before sunrise!

Mars, dim as usual now, rises 30 minutes ahead of Venus and follows her between the Pleiades and Hyades. This will help you pick it out in the gathering light of dawn. On the 17 through 19 of July look for a crescent moon to enhance the show.

### OF SPECIAL NOTE

The moon is full July 7 and is called the Hay or Thunder Moon. The next full moon is August 6 and is called the Grain or Green Corn moon. September 4 is the full moon called the Fruit Moon.

On July 29 is the possible peak night for the Delta Aquarid meteor shower, though it's visible for many days. Look after midnight when the moon's gone. The traditionally fabulous Perseid meteors are considered unfavorable this year due to the brightness of the moon. But don't let that stop you from watching for them for many days around August 12. August is one of the greatest months for meteor action. Lie down, feet east and look at Deneb overhead. That's the direction our solar system is headed, it's like the windshield of the solar system. Look for the "snow" of meteors coming at you!

On September 22 is the Autumnal Equinox, approximately even length of day and night.

Warm nights, big stars and meteors galore!

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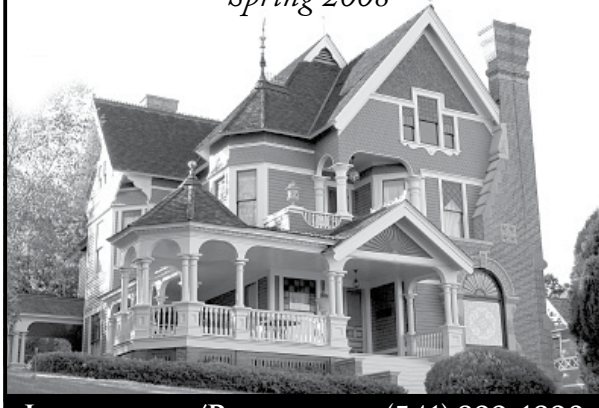
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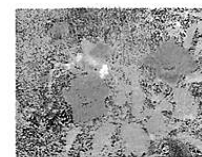
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Have you seen the big, green science machine traveling around the Rogue Valley?

## Pacifica's "Caterpillar"— A mobile science and nature center

BY LINDA MULLENS

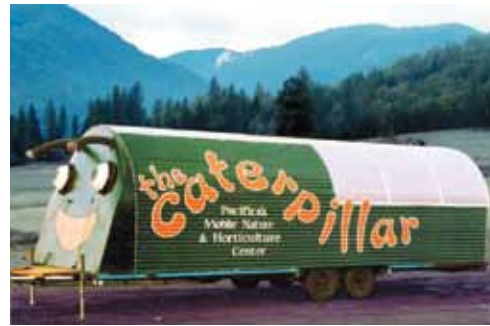
The "Caterpillar" is a unique mobile science and nature center within a 32' RV. We have been taking environmental science to local elementary schools and events for eight years now, involving up to 7,000 kids a year. Our programs provide students with hands-on activities and supporting displays linked to our curriculum. Through science-based inquiry, these programs foster the joy of learning about science and nature. Our new trailer in 2007 has brought much needed additional room and climate control (heating and air!). The Caterpillar is Pacifica's educational outreach program. Pacifica, A Garden in the Siskiyou, is a nonprofit with 420 acres off Watergap Road near Williams.

**School Programs:** The science trailer visits schools each year with a new theme. The state-benchmarked curriculum has been developed to provide programs of slightly different content and length (from 45 to 75 minutes) for different age children. After an introduction (often involving a story, puppet or game), students rotate among stations, each with a hands-on activity related to the current theme. Students in second through



Photos clockwise from above:

- Facilitator Vanessa Martinez helps students use circuit boards to learn about reduce-reuse-recycle.
- The Caterpillar's recent visit to Ft. Vannoy Elementary
- Fondly remembered, Caterpillar I was used the first six years.
- Hayward Webster shares a game using "carbon molecules."



**S**chools contribute \$135 (Josephine County) and \$160 (Jackson County) per day for a school visit (our total cost is approximately \$375 per day). We can visit four to five classes a day—that's only \$35-40 per class! School contributions are approximately 1/3 of our operating costs; grants and donations are instrumental in funding our programs. Unfortunately this year, reduced grant funding only provided programs for half of the school days we usually present.

Interested in donating?  
Call Pacifica at 541-846-1100

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fifth grades each receive a journal with activity sheets to reinforce learning. Past themes have included "Cycles," "Rock 'n' Roots," "Night and Day," "Adaptations," "Riddles in Biodiversity," "The Wonders of Water," "Invisible Waves" and "Land of Y" (Scientific Experimentation).

**"I Can, Toucan, We All Can: Help Our Changing World!"** is this year's science theme. Our timely program emphasizes a child's role in helping our world change in a positive way. Children learn about alternatives to fossil fuels through solar models and experiments with wind turbines. Using circuit boards and a recycling game, children gain insight into reducing, recycling and reusing. Through role-playing children come to understand the concept of carbon cycle and global warming and the value of planting your own food. Older students prepare a short narrative about an endangered animal including its global location, habitat, and reason for being endangered. Students learn what they can do to help these species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have provided samples of animal pelts, tusks, and products from poached endangered animals.

In addition to our school presentations, the Caterpillar has been involved in local events this spring: Earth Day in Ashland and Master Gardeners at the Josephine County Fair Grounds. The Caterpillar recently held a field trip for 72 second graders at Pacifica for a day of fish printing, life cycle stories, the

Forest Service Salmon Tent, and a Talk About Trees program. On May 28 the Caterpillar was at the Watershed Education Symposium held in Medford. June 13 was Frog O' Faire at Riverside Park in Grants Pass. We are currently planning for our summer day camp session.

Last year the Caterpillar visited 15 Josephine County schools and 13 Jackson County schools. The Caterpillar routinely receives exceptional teacher evaluations:

*"The Caterpillar is an outstanding program with lots of appropriate hands-on activities. My children love it and talk about it all day. They really remember what they saw, heard, and did."* -Suzie Streckler, Madrona Elementary grade K

*"This was awesome and fit in perfectly to what we've been learning."* - Debbie Yerby, Applegate Elementary grades three and four

We provide schools with changing displays and equipment that might not otherwise be available. We hope we are inspiring excitement about science and helping children to learn about our natural world. But most important are the smiles on the kids' faces when they "get-it!" Smiles and waves as the "Caterpillar" travels through the area attest to its popularity. We are becoming a highly-visible, mobile "billboard" saying loud and clear "science and nature are fun AND important."

See CATERPILLAR, page 13

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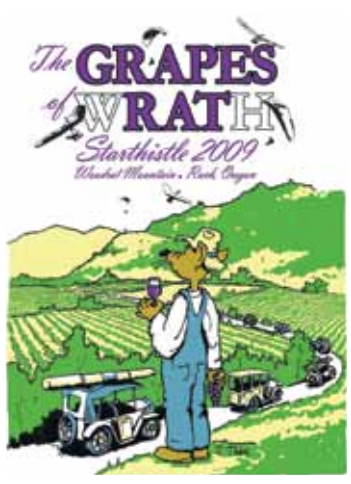
# 33rd Annual Starthistle fly-in

BY RUTH AUSTIN

This was the 33rd year for the local paragliding and hangliding event, the Starthistle Fly-in. It was a colorful, fun event with perfect weather at the end of May, the 23rd through 25th, and attracted approximately 120 pilots from several states and British Columbia. The theme this year was "The Grapes of wRATH," with many pilots dressing in author John Steinbeck's era clothing, as they made their landings near viewers at the local winery patios of LongSword and Fiasco.

The launch site at Woodrat Mountain (the name of WoodRAT being used by the event planners for the theme) was a busy location - two thousand feet above the Hunter pastures, and overlooking Highway 238. From this flying off-spot, paragliders and hanggliders took off to enjoy flights as the thermal winds kicked up along the cliffs in the afternoon hours. Woodrat is known as one of the premier launching areas in the states.

Weekend events included cross-country flights to Ashland, a kiting contest, and a bag drop for accuracy. The kiting competition, refereed by Bill Kaelin of the Applegate, was a challenging contest, with winners being the last three remaining pilots in the air above a landing zone. Although their wings could touch, they could not physically come in contact. At the kiting event, no local area pilots were in the top three winners. It was a game of skill



Photos clockwise from top left:

- Tandem launch, Woodrat Mountain during Starthistle 2009
- Grapes of wRATH, Starthistle 2009 art theme.
- The final three wings in the air as the Paraglider Kiting Competition at LongSword Vineyards nears its end.
- Summer Barham, Ashland paraglider pilot, aggressively departs Woodrat Mountain west launch. Summer's parents, Larry and Blythe Barham, have also taken up paragliding and flew in Starthistle 2009.

Photos by Don Fitch. Artwork by Jim Tibbs.

with luck playing a part. An awards ceremony and barbeque was held at Cantrall-Buckley Park where many pilots camped.

Local paragliders included Randy Bogardus, Paul Murdoch, president of the local Paragliding chapter, and Norm Young, among others.

When visiting Woodrat several years ago, it could be seen that paragliding attracts a wide range of folks, young and old, from all professions and backgrounds. It includes some women pilots. A local pilot tells me that the thrill of soaring can be "an addiction"—it gets in your system.

As an added bonus, most of the landings were free of starthistle!

Ruth Austin  
541-899-7476

## CATERPILLAR

FROM PAGE 12



Consider our July Exploring Nature Camp this summer for ages 5-11 years old.

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## Peaceful Mountains Dairy

BY TASHA KNOWLTON

Brenda Miedema runs a local goat dairy called Peaceful Mountains, located on Thompson Creek Road, in the heart of the Applegate Valley. Brenda grew up on a cow dairy, and has been around the milk business her entire life, so running her own dairy comes naturally to her. Raising goats began as a hobby; she found goats to be sweet and friendly animals that were easy to handle. Brenda's children also raised goats for 4-H projects and eventually it grew into a dairy business that she has maintained for 15 years. She is now known as a bulk milk producer.

Sciencedaily.com, on July 31, 2007, cited studies that have shown that goat's milk may prevent anemia (iron deficiency) and bone demineralization (when the bones soften). However, this hypothesis has yet to be tested on humans. Associated content.com, on February 6, 2007, stated that goat's milk can help arthritis, allergies, and tuberculosis. Goat's milk contains more calcium, vitamin B-6, vitamin A, and potassium than cow's milk. Goat's milk is easier to digest because the fat globules do not cluster together and people who are lactose intolerant can often drink goat's milk without ill effect. Goat's milk is also a complete protein and contains more of the essential amino acids than cow's milk. Drinking cow's milk often causes our body to produce mucus, while goat's milk causes us to produce less, if any, mucus.

With all this scientific information, goat's milk seems like a healthier choice than cow's milk. Now, thanks to Brenda and Rogue Creamery, we are able to have good and fresh goat's milk available for Applegaters as well as in surrounding areas. But this is no easy task and we would like to recognize the work that Brenda does, with the help of her family, on her dairy.

There are about 120 goats on her farm and there are about 40 that have to be milked twice a day in order to get better milk production. Her ideal goal is to get one gallon of milk a day per goat. The goats start to get milked at the age of two years and can usually produce until about nine or ten years of age.

The local creamery comes and picks up her milk every other day and hand makes it into cheese. Their cheese is called a raw product because it isn't pasteurized (they never let the milk reach a higher temperature than the body temp of the goat). By not heating the cheese, the

vitamins and enzymes that aid in digestion are kept intact.

Because these goats produce such large quantities of milk, they also require large daily amounts of food intake. They are fed alfalfa twice a day and are fed grain while they are being milked. Brenda also likes to pasture them on grass.

When goats are born Brenda keeps most of the females because they are potential milkers, but most of the male goats are sold unless they have the potential as good breeders. The main breeds of goats that are on her dairy farm are Nubian, Saanen, and LaMancha. Her favorite mix of goats to breed is the Nubians and Saanens. She keeps the bucks and the does separated from each other so that she knows when they are breeding and doesn't have any unexpected babies. The male goats also have a musky odor that could affect the milk, which is another reason for their separation.

One of the hardest things to deal with on the dairy is predators. A cougar came to Peaceful Mountain Dairy three different times. In the worst attack, eight goats were killed in one night. Other predators that she has to deal with are coyotes and stray dogs. To protect the goats, Brenda got a dog that guards them. This breed of dog is a Maremma. This breed is 2000 years old and originated in Italy as a sheep guard dog. Her dog's name is Jasper and he has done well to protect the goats of Peaceful Mountain. He uses different barks for different warnings. The goats have gotten used to these warnings and when they hear a high pitched bark, they run for the barn. Since Jasper has been there, there haven't been any attacks.

Raising goats and running Peaceful Mountains seems like an arduous task but Brenda enjoys it. She does a fantastic job keeping up with the chores and maintaining good health in her goats and she shows a great passion for her work. I respect her for all the laborious tasks that she does. The Applegate is lucky to have a hardworking woman like Brenda running this goat dairy operation to provide us with a healthier choice in milk and cheese.

Tasha Knowlton  
541-951-1021

Hidden Valley High School Student  
[pinkapple@peoplepc.com](mailto:pinkapple@peoplepc.com)

## Valley Solar Tour looking for homes

EarthAdvantage and the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation is teaming up again to sponsor an Applegate Valley Green + Solar Tour this year.

If you own a home or business in the Applegate/Williams Valleys that takes advantage of energy-saving construction techniques or uses solar power, you could help educate the public and homebuilders on the advantages of these technologies. Let me know if you'd like to put your home or business on display for a couple of hours for one Saturday this coming October.

Last year's tour sold out quickly and was a big success. We'll help you prepare and conduct this tightly organized event.

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# Riparian ecosystems: At your service

BY TIM FRANKLIN

Although you might not know what a riparian ecosystem is, you have seen them, walked through them, and you might even live in one. Most of us, though we may not know the term, recognize the unique assemblage of plants along a stream, including willows, alders, ash, cottonwoods, and conifers as well as a diverse array of shrubs, forbs, and grasses. The word riparian is derived from the Latin *ripa*, which means riverbank. Simply put, riparian systems are the lands adjacent to a stream supporting vegetation that are largely dependant on the stream. Because of their location on the landscape, riparian systems provide a number of very important ecological functions.

## Streambank and Stream Channel Stability

The roots of riparian vegetation exert strong influences on streambank characteristics and the shape of the stream channel (channel morphology). Roots hold soil in place and provide protection against the erosive action of flowing water. Riparian vegetation thus helps prevent the loss of lands near streams during flooding.

Large trees that fall into the stream channel create pools where otherwise none would exist. Increasing pool habitat in Applegate streams, which contain very little due to the historic removal of trees and snags from streams throughout the watershed, makes the stream much more biologically productive. Stream habitat improvement projects that place logs or rootwads in streams as habitat elements have produced quick responses in local fish populations - salmon and trout begin using the habitat immediately.

## Hydrology

Riparian systems influence the hydrology of the watershed in a number of ways. Riparian vegetation increases the hydraulic roughness of the streambanks, which helps slow down and dissipate the energy of flood flows. Large trees that have fallen in to the stream can act as small check dams, also slowing and dissipating the energy of increasing the hydraulic roughness of the stream channel. During flood events, a well-vegetated riparian area will slow flood waters and capture sediment, dispersing stream energy and protecting adjacent lands from scouring and the deposition of rock and debris. Side channels and other wetlands within the riparian zone

will store water when flows are high and release it when flows subside, improving summer low flows.

## Nutrient Cycling and Water Quality

Riparian vegetation takes up and sequesters many of the nutrients transported into the riparian ecosystem via groundwater or surface flows. Organic debris from the trees, in the form of leaves, fruits, twigs, and insect bodies falls into the stream, providing much of the carbon and nutrients that drive the biological communities of the stream. Through these processes, riparian vegetation can absorb or attenuate nutrient or chemical pulses from land uses on adjacent lands. For example, healthy riparian vegetation can provide an important buffer between pastured livestock and the adjacent stream, preventing feces-derived nitrogen, phosphorous, and bacteria from entering the water.

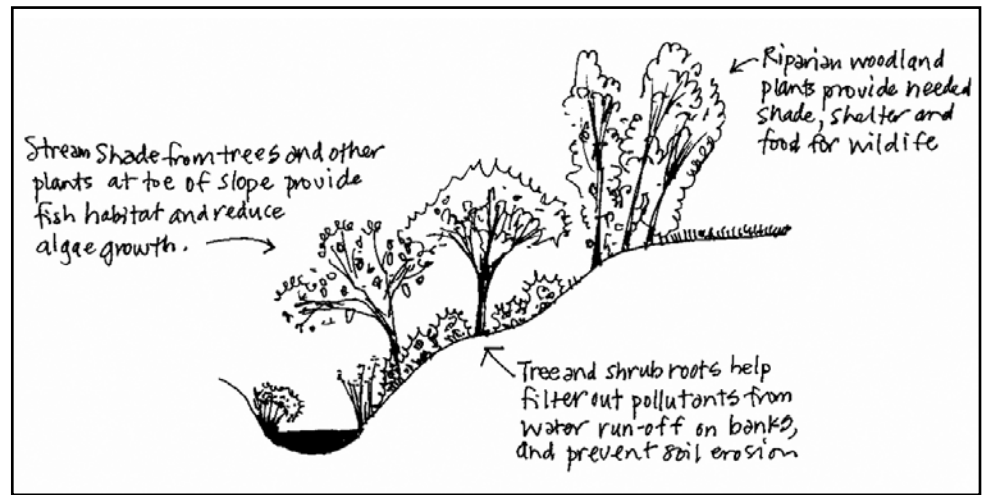
Shade provided by riparian canopies helps maintain cool temperatures required by trout, salmon, and many of their food sources in the stream. Stream temperatures are a particular water quality concern for the Applegate River and the lower reaches of many of its tributaries. Shading also decreases the amount of light available for photosynthesis, thereby limiting the growth of algae.

## Wildlife Habitat

Riparian ecosystems provide habitats for a disproportionately large number of birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. In general, average bird densities are approximately twice as high in riparian areas as they are in upland habitats. In fact, more wildlife species use riparian areas than all other habitats combined. Healthy riparian ecosystems produce abundant food, water, and shelter, and provide forested corridors through which animals migrate and disperse. In addition, riparian vegetation communities typically have greater structural diversity, providing for a large biotic diversity. Streams that have healthy riparian ecosystems also tend to have cleaner water and more productive and diverse fisheries.

## Riparian Restoration Services

In recognition of the important functions healthy riparian areas provide, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council provides a service as well. APWC works with landowners in the Applegate to restore native riparian



vegetation communities. During the 2008-2009 planting season, the APWC worked with just under 30 landowners to control invasive, non-native vegetation and re-establish native groundcovers,

shrubs and trees. If you are interested in participating in such a project, call Tim Franklin at 541-899-1974.

Tim Franklin  
541-899-1974

## Wilderville Church



Above: Originally built in Wilderville in 1890, the T.L. Jones Memorial Church was named after Reverend T.L. Jones, a circuit rider. (Source: Josephine County Historical Society)

Below: In 1931, these ladies of the Wilderville Church presented a play, "Packing the Missionary Barrel." From l to r, Magdalen Loughridge, Ollie Robinson, Ms. McCollum, Mahala Robinson, Loa Robinson, Ms. Stevenson, Effie McCollum, Alma Loughridge, Clara Robinson, and Lora Robinson. Kids in the background are Kathleen McCollum and Becky Lindsay. (Source: Josephine County Historical Society)



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## Tall Tales from the Editor

# Monster Boy or The truth about puppy love

Our almost one-year-old border collie/McNab puppy, Barney McGee, has more energy than a nuclear power plant, a thermonuclear bomb and a nuke dump/storage site 10,000 years after its burial.

Yep, he's amped up like all those energy drinks wish they could do for you. McGee is our "Wild Child." Didn't the Doors have a song by that name? Some might call him a "Problem Child." AC/DC had a great song with that title. I refer to him as "Monster Boy"!

Where do I begin? Well, let's start with the cow herd of leather shoe inserts he's destroyed. Lucky for us, he leaves the actual shoes alone. Then there's the overturned kitchen chairs from Monster Boy's game of chase with Chloe, our long-haired Calico "attack" kitty. Or the way McGee drives our elderly border collie/McNab "Utah" completely nuts with his endless herding and biting at his heels. Old Utah is just no match for the high octane speed of his tormenter Monster Boy!

Did I mention how McGee likes to wake me in the morning? Not with a little woof or whimper or a scratch at the door. Nooooo. Monster Boy loves to pounce on my head. I awake from a dream state that might have featured a large number of centerfold girls with an "Ahhhh, what the \_\_\_\_\_?" I wonder if my bride Sioux actually trained him to do this pouncing trick. You know, her way of a payback for something I might do in the future. Like maybe mulling a wedding anniversary or \_\_\_\_\_, you fill in the blank. I notice that Sioux always has a smile on her face after my morning awakening.

There was a morning in early May when Sioux and I looked out our living room window and I said "Holy moly, it snowed last night!" Not exactly. The "snow" was several rather large, no, make that super-sized, trash bags that had been filled with shredded paper (gardening material). Monster Boy had torn the trash bags to microscopic images of themselves and scattered the shredded paper contents across our front yard, complete with fake snowdrifts.

McGee loves to play with one-gallon plastic plant containers. His game is to take the containers in his mouth and toss them up into the air, maybe catch them, maybe not. He will pick up the container in his mouth, shake the container hard enough that I don't know why he doesn't dislocate his neck, and then proceed to run around the house biting away on his prey. Oh, did I tell you that Monster Boy prefers these containers to have plants in them? His preference is blooming tulips or lilies.

It's not like McGee doesn't have toys. He keeps his toys strung out from one end of our house to the other. He has so many toys thrown around that when new folks come by to visit us they comment, "We didn't know you had children." We'll say, "Well, not the two-legged kind anyway. These are chew toys for our puppy, McGee."

But Monster Boy would prefer to chew up our plastic or metal flashlights, our DVD controller or old Utah's sheepskin blanket. Then there were the covers from Sioux's library books on CDs that he ate. Apparently Monster Boy doesn't care for the taste of CDs though. That saved us some money.

To help us with puppy training Sioux enrolled McGee and me in doggie school. Due to attention deficit, McGee and I both wound up in detention after each of our first three classes. Our fabulous instructor, Cary Voorhees would say, "Here, J.D., let me show you how to do this again." Boy, was I glad she had patience. McGee and I did graduate and received a pink scarf for our diploma that McGee proudly wears to parties. I can now give McGee four commands with hand signals. That is, if I can get his attention. Too many deer, too many ants, too many birds, etc., to distract him.

There are two other commands that McGee does almost 100% of the time. He'll sit by his full food dish and wait till I release him to eat. He also goes to his kennel for a nap on command, just like I do at Sioux's command. McGee doesn't much like gas-station attendants, even when they offer him a cookie. Monster Boy has a bad habit of lunging at them. So now they offer the cookies to me and I give them to Monster Boy and, no, we don't share them. McGee does seem to love all other people though. Just ask anyone who comes to our house or has gone on hikes with him. I can't get him to stop jumping up on people, it's not because we haven't tried to break this habit. He just

**Just yesterday Monster Boy ate eight hard-boiled eggs, shell and all, right off the counter. The upside is that there was no mess, not a trace of egg to be found in the kitchen.**

thinks everyone is a new toy for him to play with. I know, I know, you say, "JD, use an electric cattle prod to train him with." But heck, what if he turns out like me? I can't wait to do something that causes "Upper Management" (my bride) to use the prod on me.

Just yesterday Monster Boy ate eight hard-boiled eggs, shell and all, right off the counter. The upside is that there was no mess, not a trace of egg to be found in the kitchen. As you can see, I could start a reality TV show or a soap opera. We could call it "So, there is Karma" or "The Truth about Puppy Love!" or maybe something way out there like "Why the Snow is Yellow" by Bite Me Productions. My therapist advised me not to go there.

Don't get me wrong. I dearly love our Mr. Barney McGee. The majority of the time he's a very, very good boy, just like me—an angel. I wouldn't trade him for a billion dollars, although I might apply for some of the government's stimulus package money. I'm sure I would qualify under some sort of welfare heading such as dog-sled training for southern Oregon, or gas-station attendant terrorist alert, or how to remove paw prints from your forehead. My Barney McGee is just a little different from any other dog I've ever had, and each of those dogs were different from each other. That's what makes my life with dogs interesting.

Just like my human friends, my dogs have different personalities. But unlike my human friends, I've never had my dogs betray me.



The Editor, J.D. Rogers  
541-846-7736

## 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. We are a community-based newspaper that receives diverse opinions on different topics. Letters should be no longer than 450 words, and may be edited for grammar and length. Opinion Pieces should be no longer than 600 words. All Letters and Opinion Pieces must be signed, with a full street address or P.O. Box and phone number. Individual Letters may or may not be published in consecutive issues.

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7386 Highway 238 • PMB 308  
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Dear Editor:

Yesterday I filled up at a local gas station that has changed its policy to limit gas purchases to fifty dollars on credit cards used at the pump. I figured that my purchase would be less, so I used my card at the pump. I was wrong. As the purchase rolled past \$48.50, I heard the pump stop, and, because I was outside by the tank, I also heard the gurgling into the car's gas tank stop. The charges nevertheless continued to roll up to the fifty dollar limit.

Because I had run into this before, I knew the answer I would get: "The gas is still (silently—no splashing) flowing from the hose." About a year ago, in Nevada, I tested this premise by pulling out the nozzle carefully, without turning it off, after I heard the pump shut off, but while the purchase price was still advancing. Yep! No gas was coming out but I was charged more than another dollar.

Maybe I'm missing something, but this little gimmick of having the pump run to a set price cutoff seems to allow these stations to make a little extra without actually giving you the gas. Today, I try to avoid these stations. Next time you are at a station where there is a fixed cutoff amount, check for yourself.

Rauno Perttu, Ruch, OR

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Finally, thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers. The *Applegater* could not survive without the countless efforts that all of you provide. A special thank you to Daena Tougher for designing our tickets and posters!

The Applegate River Lodge & Restaurant has graciously offered to make this an annual event, so we hope to see you all again next year. A good time for a great cause!

Paula Rissler • 541-846-7673



Photos clockwise from top left:

—Janeen Sathre enjoys the scrumptious BBQ offered by the Applegate River Lodge.

—Official greeter, editor JD Rogers, chats it up with long-time *Applegater* contributor, Chris Bratt.

—Duke Davis & Friends band, including father Richard Davis, entertained the crowd all afternoon.

—The fundraiser crowd enjoyed a day of sunshine in the Applegate.

—There was an abundance of unusual auction items.

Photos: Barbara Holiday



## OPINION

### Ethanol fuel

BY JOHN CRABTREE

Tasha Knowlton brought up a bunch of very good points about the use of ethanol in gasoline (*Applegater*, Spring, 2009, p. 15) and I feel we need to address these points in more detail. As an engineer, I had to stand by as elected leaders around the country jumped on the ethanol bandwagon as they were told to do so by the ethanol industry. On the engineering side, there are some problems. They are not insurmountable, but there are some problems to consider.

Ethanol absorbs water. Like adding water to a glass of Scotch, the ethanol accepts the water readily. In a storage or fuel tank, the ethanol component of gasoline literally draws moisture out of the air. In a desert climate this is not much of a concern but in a cool, wet climate where moisture condenses into fog, this is the same as squeezing out a sponge into the fuel tank. Because the water becomes part of the fuel thanks to the way ethanol bonds to it, it is rare to get stratification and separation in a tank but a cold engine on a cold day getting fuel containing water can be difficult to start. Once running and with a low enough concentration of water in the fuel, this can actually help combustion as any WWII Pacific flyer whose plane used water injection can confirm. Yet, water entrained in fuel is never the best solution or a great idea.

In hot weather, ethanol vaporizes, causing "vapor lock" even in cars with electric fuel pumps. If you have a 1975 BMW with a mechanical fuel pump as I do, you are in for some interesting times when the temperature reaches 100F.

There are ways around these and other technical problems, but let us

also consider a few others. The State of California considers some emissions from the burning of ethanol to be carcinogenic. The EPA does not monitor for these compounds, so officially they do not exist. Also, ethanol contains far less energy per unit of volume than gasoline. This is why mileage decreases with the use of ethanol fuels. The whole idea behind ethanol and other "oxygenating" additives is to slip in some oxygen to fool the car's oxygen sensor into leaning out the mixture. This idea has largely been discredited because as this additive and MTBE cut emissions, we have to burn more fuel to do the same amount of work and thus, we negate the benefit.

About a year ago the British newspaper *The Economist* published a story about ethanol and how Brazil got it right and how we in the US got it wrong. Brazil runs virtually all of its vehicles on pure ethanol which is sourced from a surplus crop of sugar cane. The sugar cane grows without major depletion of the soil and can be harvested, squeezed of the sugar-bearing juice and the remaining stalks are then dried, ground and used as fuel to fire the stills which distill the alcohol after fermentation. Nothing is wasted and this means the final product has been produced in as much of an environmentally-friendly manner as possible. In the US, ethanol is not produced based on a government plan but rather, by the large agribusiness firms like Cargill, ADM and Con-Agra. As part of then VP Dick Cheney's top secret energy policy, these companies receive taxpayer subsidies to plant corn which depletes the soil and to turn that corn into ethanol. They get paid before we buy it at the pump and then they get paid the

second time. Thanks to environmental laws, refiners are required to blend in ethanol, so the agribusiness companies have a ready market for the product.

As anyone who has grown anything knows, corn (maize) depletes the soil at a fast rate, requiring either massive amounts of fertilizer or long fallow cycles. To keep the stills going, many of these companies, which have run family farms out of business, use chemical fertilizers and waste from massive pig barns to keep corn growing without fallow cycles. The jury is still out on what this will do to wide swaths of the Midwest over long periods of time but many environmentalists are cautioning against environmental disaster and another "dust bowl" period if we keep this up. Further, in the US, ethanol is distilled by burning natural gas to run the stills. So we burn one fuel to create another. Anyone who passed high school physics knows that since our universe cannot be 100% efficient, there is a significant loss in this process. We would be far ahead to run vehicles directly off of that natural gas than to use it to distill alcohol at a loss. If the federal subsidy were not in place, these plants would probably shut overnight because of the losses they would run up.

So we have technical and political problems in the way of using ethanol. I am in no way suggesting we should throw up our hands and give up and go back to gasoline. Quite the opposite. We need to be looking for true green energy in the forms of wind and solar power. Once we have true green energy, then pure electric cars will make a lot of sense. Charging them with power generated by burning coal, oil or gas only transfers pollution with a horrible loss in efficiency. Going directly from sun or wind to the grid will give us clean power, produced efficiently and will eliminate many of the losses along the

line. Then, pure electrics will be practical for some uses and will help cut carbon emissions. We will always have a need for liquid-fueled vehicles on land and in the air and we need to keep looking for ways to make them operate as cleanly and efficiently as possible.

It is a little known fact that the petroleum refining industry used to blend some of its waste back into finished gasoline in order to get rid of it. That is why in 1977 when unleaded gasoline first appeared in wide use, it was brown and still looked a lot like the old leaded "regular". In recent years, that crud has been taken out and we can all breathe better because of it. Look at a container of gasoline today and it is virtually clear. That's a big help and this set of problems must be approached through many different small solutions.

We will hear a lot about carbon tax legislation in the next few months. The EPA just last week classed greenhouse gasses as health hazards. We are moving toward carbon taxes which will offset the gap between conventional carbon-based energy and green energy. If our various government entities don't go nuts and try to tax us into a solution but rather use these taxes as incentives to build new, green energy infrastructure, the USA can become not only energy self-sufficient but an exporter of energy, trading electricity to our NAFTA partners for what carbon fuels we still require. The solutions are here, right now. This isn't a dream to be achieved through some miracle of technology. We have the means to begin weaning ourselves off imported oil and the political problems this outbound flood of our money create for us here at home. Ethanol is one small part of a bigger picture but to make sense it will have to be produced efficiently and responsibly. Currently, it is neither.

John Crabtree • johncrab@concentric.net

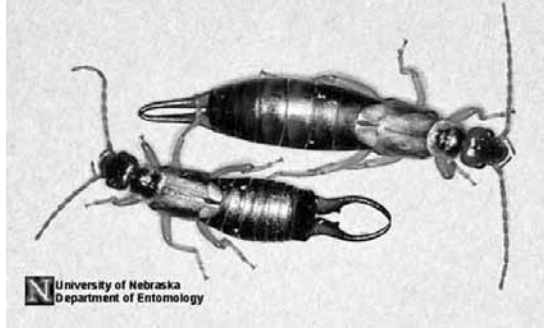
*Notes from a Rogue entomologist:*

## The much maligned and mostly misunderstood European earwig (Part 1)

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

Since first arriving in North America during the first decade of the 20th century, this European immigrant has met with a considerable amount of fear and loathing. The European earwig is primarily known for three things: first, it is a pest of home and garden; second, it is considered to be a prime example of maternal care in the insect world; and third, there is that crawling in the ear fear that can cause disquiet among some members of the public. Let's start with the third point. Earwigs are highly thigmotropic, which means that they like to be in tight places, they fit into little crevices which are about the size of one's ear canal and they are most active at night; so it does seem plausible that they might crawl in your ear while you were sleeping. Now, as it turns out, the medical profession does keep track of things which find their way into one's ear. Personally, I have had two such experiences. In kindergarten during nap time I found a small pebble and put it in my ear and was not able to retrieve it. I spent the rest of the day worrying that someone would notice the rock in my ear which would surely lead to mortification. Luckily I made it home and with a little irrigation the pebble was safely removed. Then in college, a friend barged into my room in the middle of the night and demanded that I look in his ear because he was experiencing a bizarre

intermittent whooshing noise in one ear. I couldn't see anything and told him to go back to sleep. He visited the infirmary the next day and when nothing was seen he asked that his ear be cleaned out, after his ear was irrigated he inspected the debris and in amongst the earwax he found a very small moth that he was convinced had been the culprit. Certainly, insects do, on occasion, find their way into people's ears. An article published in 2007 by May Berenbaum, a well-respected Entomology Professor at the University of Illinois and author of numerous (and often humorous) insect-related essays, reviewed the published data on ear-invading insects; cockroaches were by far the most common offender while beetles and, surprisingly, honey bees were not uncommon and one tick (not an insect but a close relative) was also retrieved but nary a single solitary earwig. There appears to be no documented evidence of earwigs inhabiting human ears.



Adult male (bottom) and female (top) European earwigs, *Foricula auricularia* Linnaeus. Photo: Jim Kalisch, UNL Entomology.

Now that earwigs have been absolved of that particular sin, let's move on to the virtuous fact that earwig mothers are known for nurturing their young. In the life cycle of the European earwig, the male and female live in a small cell or cavity in the soil during the winter. After mating, the female drives the male from the cell and lays her clutch of 30 to 60 eggs.

She monitors the eggs closely and moves the eggs around and removes any mold that may grow in the chamber. When I have reared earwigs in the laboratory I found that when the eggs did become overcome by fungus the mother consumed the batch of eggs and laid another clutch, which is an interesting survival mechanism to say the least. The eggs hatch in the spring and the little hatchlings or nymphs remain in the chamber for at least one molt before leaving. The mother earwig nurses or feeds them by regurgitating food. If a nymph does not eventually leave the chamber then

the mother will consume it, apparently maternal care will only go so far when you are an earwig. In fact a colleague, knowing my inordinate fondness for earwigs, alerted me to some new research on earwig mothering which showed that the earwig mothers spend more time with healthy nymphs and less with unhealthy ones, the mother responds to the quality of the offspring not its need. This is a case where the parent definitely has favorites.

So the ear-invading earwig appears to be fiction (but why let facts get in the way of a good story) and reports of the maternal care provided by earwig mothers is a mixed bag bearing little relation to maternal care as we conceive it. As it turns out, there are also some common misconceptions concerning the role of the European earwig as a nuisance and garden pest. The story of the European earwig's arrival and subsequent rise in North America over the last one hundred years and the role it plays in the orchard and garden ecosystem will be discussed next time.

Richard J. Hilton  
541-772-5165 ext. 227

*Note: Richard Hilton is Senior Research Assistant / Entomologist at OSU—Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center*

Applegate Fire District Number 9  
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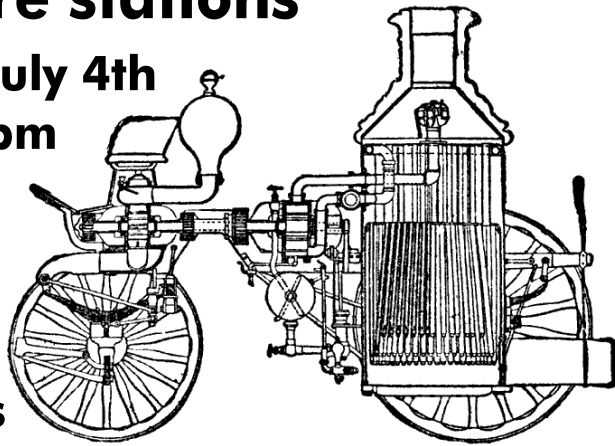
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Questions? Call Jeff Vinyard, Firefighter/EMT, 541-944-4363.

Above drawing of an early steam fire engine courtesy of FCIT.  
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# Rafting the big water in Grand Canyon

Jerry Trottmann of Ruch (in front) with Ashland friend. Photo: Marjan Barnes

**BY TOM CARSTENS**

Let's see...lazy days basking under sunny Arizona skies...floating idly...lightly dipping a big toe in the refreshing waters of the Colorado River...sharing the occasional paddling chores...anticipating yet another boring freeze-dried dinner. Yes, those were the images I conjured up when my Applegate friend, Jerry Trottmann, notified me of a space that had just opened up in a 300-mile Grand Canyon rafting trip in April that he was organizing. I was quickly jolted into reality when he gave me a list of required items to pack. Wet suit and booties? Long underwear? Wool socks? Heavy fleece jacket? Dry top and pants? Three hats? Two cases of beer? Wait a minute! While I understood that last item, I was definitely not too sure about the rest! I was about to find out.

Jerry is an experienced white-water rafter with many Grand Canyon trips under his belt. He had waited 15 years for this particular trip to clear the National Park Service waiting list. He assembled a group of nine experienced rowers and seven others who would help with loading, camp duties, and raft stabilization. I was the only newbie in Jerry's mixed gender entourage. There were 16 of us in eight 16-foot inflatable rafts; we represented every age group from the 20s through the 60s.

Our 22-day trip began at Lee's Ferry, Arizona on the National Park ramp beneath the gorgeous Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. We spent all day carefully loading all the gear that we would need for the trip: aluminum raft frames, food, coolers (really big ones!), safety equipment, kitchen equipment, camping gear, tables, chairs, 'dry bags' with clothes and personal items and, of course that most essential element: beer. Each raft weighed about a ton when loaded. Each raft was so full of stuff that two people could barely fit! (See photo.)

On the river, I discovered that 90% of the trip is on fairly smooth-running water. What surprised me was how hard it is rowing all that weight on those placid stretches. Why is that so? You would think that the current in a river moving as fast as the Colorado would be sufficient to carry the raft with minimal effort. The trouble is that, because of the depth of the river, the surface flow can be much different from the undercurrent. The surface moves in funny ways: sometimes in roiling pillows of water that are difficult to row over, sometimes it doesn't move at all, and sometimes it even moves the wrong way! And the eddies can be powerful—some are almost impossible to escape. There was one time when six of our rafts got caught for 30 minutes or so in a large revolving eddy in the middle of the river; the rowers were helpless to overcome the surging surface water. We were giggling like kids in this "mad-hatter teacup" ride.

And then there's the wind! Who knew that the Grand Canyon winds blow mostly upstream? This means that the rowers are frequently (especially in the afternoons) trying to overcome the tremendous force of cold 20 mph winds racing through the canyon. There were several occasions when the rowers could barely make any progress at all. On these days we often traded rowing duties and even "double-rowed," which meant

that both rafters faced each other and worked the oars together. (Those were the days when you found out who was skipping their daily bath!)

Call me crazy, but I don't think river rafters live for those placid waters. I think they savor the rush of the big, fast, white-water rapids. There are close to 90 named big-water rapids and an equal number of lesser, but nevertheless challenging drops and riffles. These rapids are thrilling...especially if you are out in front trying to prevent flipping by leaning into the huge front and side waves that batter and drench the boat. Big rocks and sucking "holes" can pose deadly obstacles and challenge the skills of the best rowers. The most dangerous rapids require "scouting." That's when each two-person raft team puts ashore above the rapid and takes a look to chart a route through. However, when all is said and done, the river usually takes charge and often takes you on a completely different path than the one planned. (One of our best rowers told me that he just gives "suggestions" to the river.) Fortunately, all our rowers were excellent—we had only one flip and no injuries. As you can imagine, all the gear is tightly rigged. This is also where all that cold-weather clothing came in handy—there's no staying dry when going through the big waves formed by the rapids. And that water is *really* cold—about 50 degrees!

But it's not just about the river. We all enjoyed many side-canyon hikes, some which led to beautiful intermediate plateaus with gorgeous canyon and waterfall vistas, some that ended in Anasazi archaeological sites, some "slot" canyons that gave our rock climbers a workout, and some that were just fun for swimming and rock-sliding. And the views of the canyon were nothing short of spectacular as we descended through one colorful geologic layer after another. Every bend in the Colorado exposed yet another wonderful view or place to explore.

We camped on sand bars and usually slept under the stars. Jerry had us organized into scheduled shifts to prepare meals and other duties. Because every cook tried to outdo the others, our meals were scrumptious—cooked on eight big burners and, for all intents, gourmet. We were always able to squeeze in a well-lubricated happy hour before dinner. Sometimes we had a camp fire, stories and "singing." Everyone tended to hit the sack early. Every day was a full one and we were tired.

Because the bottom of the canyon receives 32,000 visitors a year, the Park Service requires all users to pack out *everything*. This includes trash, fire ashes, and human waste; no trace is to be left. So, when we finished up at South Cove, Nevada, our boats were almost as full as when we started three weeks earlier!

I think all of us cherished the trip in different ways. For me, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience in one of the earth's truly beautiful spots. It was backed up by the camaraderie of a wonderful group of river pros who took me in as one of their own. I still dream of that trip every night.

Tom Carstens  
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## Williams School Music Program

BY CONNIE LINDLEY

Since 1998, Williams Elementary School has had the great fortune of providing students with stringed music instruction under the excellent tutelage of Warren Whistler, a professional musician gifted with the endless patience, encouragement and enthusiasm needed to teach violin and guitar to classrooms full of third-, fourth- and fifth-graders. Bringing music into the lives of children is a wonderful gift and, over the years, the children in the Williams School program have developed their playing skills, learned a deep appreciation for music, and gained tremendous self-confidence as they experience performing in front of others. As Warren is fond of saying, "Music self-played is happiness self-made." Sue Morgan, Title 1 teacher and coordinator at Williams School, and avid supporter of the program, told me, "The atmosphere of the school changes when Warren is in the building. Students look forward to the days that are 'music days' and there

appears to be lightheartedness among all. Music makes a huge difference in the lives of kids. We see the impact it has in their ability to focus, their attitude about school, and their self-confidence." On a personal note, I love that these kids are playing and singing and loving bluegrass music!

Since inception, this program has been funded exclusively through grants and donations, and a small tuition paid by the students. An early grant, obtained from Seven Feathers through Communiversities of Williams, funded the purchase of instruments. At this time, however, there is no grant money for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. Various fund-raising events are being planned. The first one, held May 9 at Out of the Way Café in Williams, was an evening of music donated by Williams musicians, which brought in over \$1,200.

The program needs to raise another \$8,000. Tax-deductible donations for the program are being gladly accepted by the



Williams School, and 100% of the money will fund the program. Donations can be sent to Williams Elementary School, 20691 Williams Highway, Williams, OR 97544. We invite you to become a part of this marvelous musical movement in our community and keep the music playing!

Connie Lindley • 541-846-6160

*Students in the Williams School's Stringed Instrument Program, accompanied by teacher Warren Whistler and assistant Alison Huber, playing at Pacifica's Open House, Art Fair and Wine Tasting, on May 2, in Williams."*

*Students from left: Brendan Thompson, Rowdy Garoutte, Lindan Burns, Jasmine Sherman, Sofi Hart, Lindsay Northrup, Azrael Maujean, Alice Holcombe*



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*Penguins can convert salt water into fresh water.*

Bob Quinn is the owner of **Quinn's Well Drilling and Pump Service** located at 6811 Williams Hwy. He is a former board member of the *Oregon Ground Water Association*. As part of a tradition of information that began more than 50 years ago, these columns are provided to help take the mystery out of well drilling and ground water.

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## APPLEGATE OUTBACK: MY OPINION

# South of the Border

BY BOB FISCHER

When I talk about "South of the Border," I am talking about Oregon's south border. For all you thrill seekers out there, instead of bungee jumping, running speed boats, sky diving or talking to liberals, I would suggest you take a leisurely drive down to southern California. I would put this trip in the same boat as scuba diving in a shark tank with a Big Mac strapped on your belt.

The wife and I went south a while ago to visit family and attend a funeral. We went all the way down to the Mexican border and then back up to Long Beach, which is 30 miles south of Los Angeles.

Coming into California we stopped at the agricultural checkpoint where an officer greeted us with a smile and a "Welcome to California!" After receiving a bunch of brochures on what to see there, we pulled away. That's when I noticed the outline of a bulletproof vest under his uniform shirt. Interesting, the biggest crime out here must be a flat tire with no spare!

We began traveling along at the posted speed limit of 70 mph, and cars and trucks were passing us like we were standing still. I felt like I should get out and check to see if we were still moving. We pulled into a motel off of I-5 near Santa Nella. My wife had to pry my hands from their death grip on steering wheel and then I staggered in to the office to sign up for a room. The 19-year-old young lady who was checking us in said fewer than four words to us, even when I attempted to make small talk as the whooshing in my ears died down. This young person had as much conversation skills as a box of Fab. But we were too tired after our speed run down I-5 to worry about her conversation skills.

The next morning we were refreshed and ready to go, ready to jump back onto this two-lane speed funnel. I was starting to get the hang of it and was running right up there with the big boys. Yes, sir, ran it up to 80 mph. But the average speed that morning was over 90 mph. And I noticed

how friendly a lot of those passing us were as they sailed by giving us one-half of a peace sign. Must have been my Oregon license plates.

As we approached Los Angeles, our speed suddenly dropped from 80 mph to a rip-roaring 5 mph. We were surrounded by a sea of cars going nowhere. Some drivers were reading the morning newspaper, shaving, putting on make-up or watching TV. We inched along for several hours and got to make some new friends. The people in the car next to us were from Montana and we watched a morning show together. Then about 30 miles later we broke into second gear and went the last 40 miles at 25 mph. Yes, sir, we were flying now. We arrived in LA at lunchtime and exited LA at dinnertime!

When we left the Los Angeles area more than 17 years ago, there were multiple freeways in every direction. If one was full, you took another. Now there are three times the freeways and they are all full of cars and trucks 24/7 going 100 mph or 5 mph with no in-between.

The air down there is so polluted that when the sun goes down, you can watch this beautiful orange ball drop out of sight without wearing sun glasses.

The farther south we went, the drivers were still just as friendly—giving us that one-half of a peace sign. It's gotta be the plates. We inched along for three hours and finally made it to Long Beach. We were so ready to get away from our big black Dodge pickup. Did I mention the freeways down there are made mostly of cement slabs? They have these nice little strips that separate the slabs. When our tires hit them we bounced like a beach ball. It took me four hours to get my eyeballs to stop bouncing.

The traffic in California is amazing. Honking horns, yelling, roaring of car engines and burning rubber just so someone can get to the next traffic signal. Stop-go, stop-go, no wonder it takes you 30 minutes to go one mile. Oops, almost forgot the BOOM BOXES. The wonderful

people who want to make sure you have something to listen to while you wait your turn to move. God bless!

The only time we did the speed limit and everyone got out of our way was in the funeral procession.

After visiting relatives it was time to hit the road back to Oregon. We ate breakfast in the truck and joined the going-to-work crowd. This time it was amazing to watch people in their cars changing clothes and combing their hair—and they were the drivers! Then there was a passenger holding the steering wheel while the driver adjusted the paper around his Breakfast Jack and sipped his coffee.

We finally got out of Los Angeles a little after lunchtime. It was a little strange to be going 65 mph. I was getting used to 5 mph, kind of like riding my tractor.

Staying in the right lane going north was interesting. Oregon license plates were going over the speed limit only a couple miles per hour and waved at us using all of their fingers. California and Washington plates would zip by at or near 90 mph.

But California was not giving us the one-half of a peace sign anymore. Must be because we were heading north.

We stopped at the same motel and found a friendly gal behind the counter who said, "Oregon! I'm going to move up there!" I let her know that southern Oregon is full up, but north of Salem has a lot of land for sale. I am the official "Oregon Border Control" and have the hat to prove it.

After doing this speed run all over again to get home, we finally made it to our beloved Applegate Valley where we only have to watch out for an occasional deer and people on the wrong side of the road around a curve. But they use all five fingers to wave.

Bob Fischer  
541-846-6218



BACK IN TIME

# McKee Bridge Park

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

An early-day settler, James McLaren, sold two mining claims to "Deb" and Leila McKee in 1902 and the McKees built a two-story house on the east side of the Applegate River. They later ran a stage stop there for travelers going to and from the Blue Ledge Copper Mine. The McKee Bridge gets its name because Deb McKee donated the land it sits on. The bridge crosses the river just above a well-used camping area and swimming hole. Many a miner would camp there on their way to or from Jacksonville when doing a supply run. The bridge building crew also camped there and many times arranged to have their meals at the McKee stage stop.

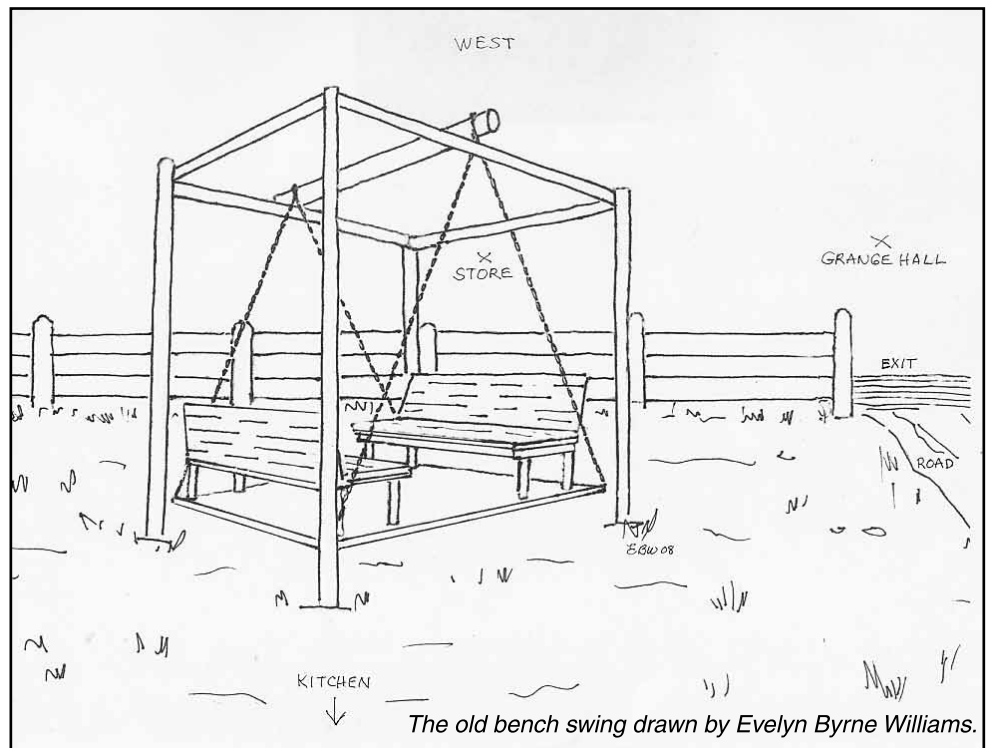
At that time the road from Ruch to the Upper Applegate forded the river a couple of times making spring travel difficult or impossible. Sometime in 1903 or 1904, Jackson County made a new road that stayed on the east side of the Applegate River, doing away with the river crossings. However, the East Side Road at Dead Horse Hill was very dangerous and with the increase of traffic, especially from the Blue Ledge Copper Mine, the county planned to build two covered bridges. In 1917 the Cameron and McKee bridges were finished and, even though the road was not paved, travel to the Upper Applegate became much easier.

By the 1930s the spot was a well-established campground according to the following by Maud Pool published in the *Medford Mail Tribune*: "Big Applegate, July 24, 1936. Camps Improved in Forest Areas: At the campground at McKee

Bridge, already equipped with a pump, stone stoves and tables, the hydraulic rams will be installed in the Applegate for irrigation of shrubbery and a diving board will be erected. Dee Mills is in charge of this work. Both camps will be enclosed with a rustic pole fence, with cattle guards."

I remember some of my teenage friends came out one day to swim and spend the night. We were the only ones in the campground that night and we felt as safe as if we were in our own homes. We had blankets and quilts on which to lie on the hard ground. By morning the ground seemed much harder, but that's the way it was—no luxuries.

Again from the *Tribune* on August, 4, 1939, Maude Pool wrote, "McKee Park Pool Will Be Lighted: McKee Bridge forest park, one of southern Oregon's most popular free resorts, will have its swimming pool in the Applegate River equipped with electric lights within a short time, according to local forest service officials. CCC workmen at Camp Applegate are constructing a water wheel which will be installed in a farmers' ditch running through the park. The wheel will operate a generator, and it is expected that the system will supply sufficient electricity for six lights at the pool. The work is under the supervision of H. Barnhart, project superintendent at Camp Applegate. An added improvement planned for the immediate future in the park is a sprinkling system to dampen the grounds. Three thousand feet of pipe



The old bench swing drawn by Evelyn Byrne Williams.

have been purchased, and the water will be piped in, although its exact source has not been determined. It is thought probably that the forest service will enlarge the capacity of the park with the purchase in the near future of an adjoining acre half of ground."

I don't recall the swimming hole ever being lighted at night as stated in the 1936 news clipping. However, the forest service did build a nice bathhouse where swimsuits could be changed—one end of the building for women and the other for men. It was located on the bank near the ditch above the swimming hole. And at one time there was a children's playground with swings much larger than the usual size for school playgrounds. One could really fly high. Perhaps my fear of heights is why I don't remember there being a slide, but a cousin of mine says there was a fun one. The slide was made even more fun after he and the other boys used wax paper to make it really slick.

There also was a large teeter-totter that I rarely got on because I usually ended up being on the upper end of it. The thing I remember enjoying the most was the two "swinging benches" that held three people on each side. When the Grange had their dances, it was a place for teenagers to gather and chat during the night.

I also don't remember when the park became a day-use only park, but I do remember Sunday afternoon trips to McKee Bridge Picnic Grounds as a favorite pastime for my family, who had little other entertainment in this neck of the woods.

Even our dog took advantage of the outing, although he was never really invited to go with us. That dog just happened to be there when we arrived and acted as though we were strangers to him. He would run away each time we tried to catch him. Other people must have thought we were trying to mistreat him, but the next morning he would show up for breakfast and was very happy to let us see all of the garbage he had dragged

home from the park. We think he must have known when the weekends came as he rarely strayed from our farm during the week.

Through the years the park has seen many people enjoying the shade of the tall pines and the cool water of the deep swimming hole. Even though the park is closed now for some needed renovation, I am sure that it will continue to be a wonderful place to enjoy the Applegate River.

Evelyn Byrne Williams  
with Janeen Sathre  
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**BUFFALO FROM PAGE 1**

feels it is not her place to discuss Native American beliefs.

"It has been told to me," Dena says, "that there was a prophecy about the birth of a white buffalo calf. That the white buffalo is very significant in the world—that they would appear during a time of chaos and disaster. They are a symbol of the coming of a new era, bringing peace, balance and harmony to the world."

"My husband and I were very blessed," Dena says. "Theirs is the only herd of white buffalo in the world. "If the buffalo represent world peace, we need a lot of them. Once everything is settled and the buffalo are available for viewing we will have more information to share. Those with questions may call White Buffalo Sanctuary at 541-846-0242."

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**EARL'S PEARLS****Helmets restricted to those who have something to save**

BY EARL SHOWERMAN, M.D.

During my years working as an ER doc, I had occasion to see many patients with all manner of head injuries. Most commonly, folks had minor bumps on their head or concussions, which were characterized by a short-term loss of consciousness and rapid return to awareness. Sometimes people experienced a brief period of amnesia after a concussion. Most patients recover from minor head injuries within one week with rest, over-the-counter pain medicine like Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ice packs applied to bruised areas of the scalp or face to help to reduce swelling and pain. Patients who have had concussions are usually advised to avoid activities that could lead to a jolt or blow to the head. Aspirin, because it increases the risk for bleeding, and alcohol should also be avoided after a head injury.

Worrisome symptoms that should prompt you to go to the emergency room right away after a concussion include a worsening or severe headache not relieved by pain medicine, vomiting more than once, mental confusion, personality changes, loss of balance, increasing weakness, sleepiness, blackouts, or seizures. A clear or bloody drainage from the nose or ear is also cause for great concern. Medical evaluation including a CT scan may be needed to evaluate the possibility of a skull fracture or internal bleeding. It is extremely rare that a concussion-type head injury requires hospital care or surgery.

Even minor concussions, however, may cause people to have persistent headaches and feel weak, dizzy, and depressed for a week or more after the injury. Fortunately, this condition is self-limited and does not mean there is any problem with the brain. No special treatment is usually required because post-concussion syndrome gets better with rest and mild pain medicine. After a concussion, you should not drive a car, ride a bike, or operate dangerous equipment until you are fully recovered. Your ability to react normally may be impaired for days after a concussion. If any head injury symptoms last for more than a week, however, medical evaluation is usually recommended.

People who have repeated head injuries are at greater risk for serious neurological complications in later years. Mohammed Ali's Parkinson's Disease and the post-traumatic dementia that has been reported among retired professional football players is clear evidence that repeated trauma can have far reaching consequences. Prevention and protection are the keys to avoiding any of these problems. I can still remember the horror I felt after being concussed during a pick-up football game in college when I took a knee to the back of my head. For several hours I could not remember what courses I was taking, even though finals were only weeks away.

Although Oregon has had a universal helmet law for motorcyclists for decades, there are many other high risk sports and activities for which widespread helmet use has been rather late in arriving. Biking, boarding, skiing and skating have all become quite popular in recent decades, but helmet use has lagged behind the other technological improvements in these sports. There is at least a 50% chance you will hit your head if you are involved in a bicycle or motorcycle accident. The chances of having a bad head injury are reduced by at least 75% if you are wearing a proper helmet at the time of the accident. I have had at least four occasions over the past 30 years when my bike helmet made a big difference in my recovery from a fall.

When you buy a helmet, be sure to get one designed for the activity you will be doing. For biking, look for a helmet that has ANSI or DOT approval and be sure it fits properly, snug enough to stay on and secured by a chinstrap. The helmet should have a hard outer shell and a hard, styrofoam-like inner lining because soft foam inside a hard shell is less effective in preventing

brain injury. Remember to wear your helmet all the time when you ride. One of my standard lines in counseling concussed patients in the ER was that the only people who wear helmets are those with something to preserve. I also used to suggest that the brain was the only major organ that could not be transplanted.

Compliance with helmet use can be an issue among experienced athletes as well as novices. I knew a very bright and physically fit nurse some years ago who sported a biker's cap on her long rides, until one day she fell off her bike on a fast downhill when she lost her balance trying to keep her cap from blowing off with the wind. She separated her shoulder in the fall and had to wear an immobilizer for six weeks, but the next time I saw her riding, she was sporting the proper headgear. Even a family member with a PhD in history refused to wear a helmet on his rides to Jacksonville and back, only adopting the added safety of a bike helmet when he became a father and realized more was at stake here than a great workout and the sensation of wind blowing through his hair.

Helmet use among skiers and snowboarders has dramatically increased in recent years. I was myself slow to adopt the habit until one day several years ago when I fell backwards on an icy patch striking the back of my head. I was stunned, there was a brief darkening of the light and I felt dizzy for about a minute. My next run was to the ski lodge to purchase protection. Ironically, I was skiing with an ER doc friend who was wearing a helmet, and who, for at least that day, evidently had more to protect than I did. Since then several close friends I was skiing with had the identical experience of having to be concussed to wake up to the importance of head protection when one hurdles down a mountain. Why is it that intelligent people literally have to have their senses knocked into them? I have no doubt that the actress Natasha Richardson's

untimely death from a ski accident head injury would have been entirely preventable with a proper ski helmet.

Pruning large branches and felling trees is another high-risk activity that should warrant both eye and head protection. I have so much respect for my chainsaw and for the forces it releases when a tree falls, that I always wear my heaviest boots and my Stihl chaps and trusty helmet whenever it's time to clear dead trees or collect firewood.

Whether you are a biker, boarder, skier, or feller, proper head protection is highly beneficial. Ultimately, wearing a helmet is not a scientific or medical issue. The facts are in: Helmets work to prevent death and disability. Except for motorcyclists and young bicyclists who are required by law to wear proper protection, adults are free to choose whether they use a helmet or not. Too often, in these activities, the unexpected occurs and we crash land. By wearing a helmet, you increase your chances of actually remembering the event and of feeling grateful that you were smart enough to get the message before the earth pounded some reality into you.

I grew up in 'Hockeytown' and this year's Stanley Cup Finals between the Red Wings and Penguins is absorbing my interest. I have been very impressed by the play of Wings' rookie, Justin Abdelkader, who scored his first two NHL goals in the third period of the first games and sealed the deal on Detroit's twin 3-1 victories. Abdelkader is a Michigan kid and was just recently brought up to the NHL because of serious injuries to a number of Detroit's All Stars. Then a nurse friend sent me this factoid by email, one that I refuse to confirm: "The first testicular guard 'cup' was used in Hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. It took 100 years for men to realize that the brain is also important."

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**BIRDMAN**

# Summer delights

BY TED A. GLOVER



It may look like there are four different species of birds in these photos but there are really only two—the spotted towhee and the black-headed grosbeak. Can you tell who's related to who? Clockwise from top left: Adult male spotted towhee; adult male black-headed grosbeak; juvenile spotted towhee; and adult female black-headed grosbeak. All photos © Joseph V. Higbee.

With summer upon us, the birds in our area are busy raising their young. The bird boxes have been used by tree swallows, western bluebirds, chickadees and nuthatches. Now the youngsters (or fledglings as they are called) are putting in an appearance and can be quite confusing, and they often look very different from the adult birds.

The juvenile spotted towhee, for example, is very different from his adult parent. He is streaked brown and has a brown iris while the adult has the distinctive black hood, rufous sides and a red iris. Also, the young western bluebird has lots of spots on his chest and not much blue yet in his wings. The black-headed grosbeak can be a challenge too as the fledglings of both sexes look alike and resemble the female with clear, buffy breasts and a striped head.

The young hummingbirds are prevalent all around, especially at the feeders. It's not easy to tell the youngsters apart here either, but the adult male Rufous and Anna's are a pleasure to see and easy to identify.

When the days are long and hot and the price of gasoline makes you feel even hotter, it's time to think about day-tripping. Around this neck of the woods, planning a short one-day trip is easy and can cover some beautiful countryside.

A trip to Squaw Lakes is one such trip. Go up to Applegate Lake, cross over the dam and follow the road about eight miles to the lakes. What I really like about this area is that all camping and boating must be done by walking in. This keeps the number of people to a minimum and increases the pleasure of a nice walk between Squaw Lake and Little Squaw Lake. All the usual mountain birds are present, including jays, juncos, chickadees, robins and flickers. The big pileated woodpecker nests here and ospreys are present at Applegate Lake. The highlight of our walk was finding the elusive MacGillivray's warbler. This little guy hops instead of walking and prefers dense thickets, usually near water. We saw the male with his beautiful gray hood and broken white eye-ring.

Another great day trip is over to Oregon Caves National Monument. We made this a round trip taking Highway 199 to Cave Junction, Highway 46 to the caves and then returning to Williams via Grayback Creek. The caves are spectacular and worth the trip and the bird life is abundant. While having lunch at a picnic table we were bombarded by Steller's jays trying to help themselves to our lunch.

Ted A. Glover • 541-846-0681

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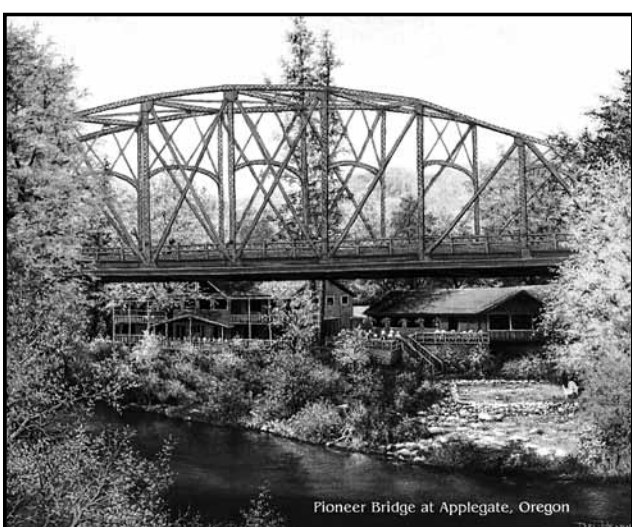
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# Look who's reading the Gater!

Photos, clockwise from top left:

— Gail Blackburn, owner of La Rosa de Las Barras and her main helper, Carmen. They are reading the Gater in front of the Casa Palo, one of the casitas constructed of the palo wood sticks that is a common, beautiful, and very practical construction method in that part of Mexico.

— Sara Austin relaxes after giving valedictorian speech at Illinois Valley High School. Sara was awarded a Presidential Scholarship to Clarkson College, the honors school at University of Oregon, Eugene.

— Reading the Gater in front of Cosi Cosi, in Frankfurt, Germany. From left: Cosi Cosi friend, Richard Halsted, Brent Crowe, Cosi Cosi friend, Kellie (Crowe) Halsted and, seated, Judy Crowe of Grants Pass.

— Lynn VanCouvering and her daughter Maya Uribe check out the Gater in Washington, D.C.

— Richard Fairless and Lynn VanCouvering enjoy the Gater in Washington, D.C.

— Kathy and Tom Carstens read the Gater with friends on Easter Island.

— “Future Applegater Reader,” Adam Taussig, age 16 months.




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