

# Applegater

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Photo by Barbara Holiday

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## McKee Bridge Day Saturday, June 12 10 am - 4 pm

Take a hike with Janeen Sathre to the Blue Ledge Mine in the morning and be back to the Bridge in time for lunch in the park.

There will be a bake sale, craft and plant vendors, kiddie rides, games, raffles and the Lions Club tri-tip lunch.

Proceeds are used for inspections and maintenance of the Bridge.

For more information call Bob Van Heuit at 541-899-2927

## Sarge and the Tallowbox Mountain lookout

BY TASHA KNOWLTON

I had the pleasure of interviewing Galen, a local man that we all know as "Sarge," who informed me of the use of the Tallowbox Mountain Lookout and his experiences of being a fire lookout there.

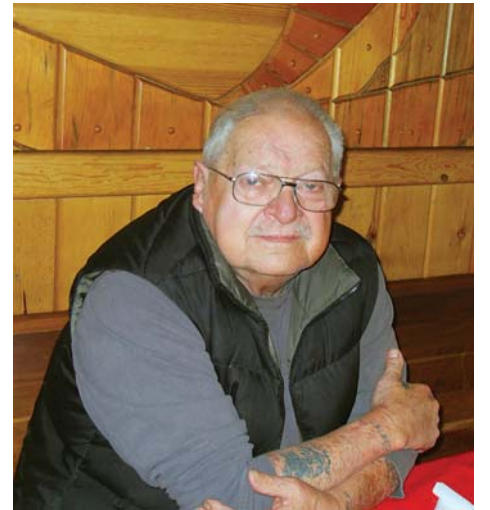
The Tallowbox Mountain Lookout's name is derived from the use of "tallowboxes." Before our use of petroleum products, beef tallow was our primary lubricant (or oil). The tallow would be taken from the animal (often directly after the kill) and put into little boxes called tallowboxes. This tallow had many uses. It could be used for cooking, lubricating rifles and even making soaps or candles. The tallow was also used as flux for soldering and people put it in their animals' food. McDonalds even used to cook their French fries in tallow,

before switching to pure vegetable oil.

In 1918 the government built the Tallowbox Mountain Lookout as a way to watch for fires and signal to people as to the fire's location. The lookout was located at a 5,230 foot elevation and had a cabin that was built 30 feet off of the rocks so the lookout people would have a 360 degree of clear viewing. Back then, dynamite was used to signal the fire's direction. Fires could often be seen all the way to California from this lookout.

Sarge retired from the army in 1988 and then became a campground host at Camp Jackson on Upper Applegate Road. After this, he took up his position as the fire lookout at Tallowbox.

Sarge would go up to the Tallowbox lookout five to six days at a



Sarge

time, with the option of returning home each night. A local man, Robinson, was Sarge's relief. He would come up and take Sarge's spot so that Sarge could go home for a few days, which he did occasionally to spend some time with his wife. Up at the lookout cabin there was a refrigerator and a stove that ran on propane so that they could have a way to cook and store their food. Sarge enjoyed having bacon, eggs and coffee while he was at the lookout. Gallons

See SARGE, page 2

## An Applegate County Commissioner?

BY SANDY SHAFFER



Mark Wisnovsky

Because this could very well be our last issue of the *Applegater*, and because I was excited about a potential Jackson County Commissioner from the Applegate, I jumped at the chance to interview Mark Wisnovsky when he announced his candidacy for Dave Gilmour's seat a few weeks ago. Mark's comments on land use law during the announcement intrigued me and he does make some great wines, but I wanted to know how he felt about the issues that are important to me, as a rural landowner.

The Wisnovskys moved to the Applegate in 1971, starting up Valley View Winery the following year when Mark was just eight years old. Today he's the president of the company, and after talking to him for well over an hour, I got the feeling that he learned a lot from the hard work of establishing the vineyards and the winery that we see in Ruch today.

Mark has a degree in business from OSU, and told me that he enjoys strategy and logic. I think he also likes and respects people, because he mentioned several times during our conversation how important it is to sit down with everyone involved when there's an issue on the table. Listen to people's varied opinions, ideas and knowledge and learn from them. Mark doesn't feel that bringing everyone to the table makes you a weak person (as some might argue); rather, he feels that respectfully agreeing to disagree can help allow discussions move a step closer to resolution.

Mark and I talked about land use laws (he feels there is definitely a third option beyond locking everything up and full, unrestricted development), personal property rights (we're all in this together, so we always need to look at

See COMMISSIONER, page 2

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