

# Applegater

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Photo by Barbara Holiday

SUMMER 2010  
Volume 3, No. 3

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

Postal Patron

## Marvelous Marvin 1927-2010

BY JANEEN SATHRE

It seems like it was just yesterday that Marvelous Marvin, aka Marvin Rosenberg, came into my life, and yet as I sit down to write this I realize that it was really many years ago. Marvin and his wife Lilli Ann became "Applegaters" 21 years ago, bringing their expertise in clay and mosaic art to brighten many places in and outside our valley. The Ruch Library, the walkway between the library and Ruch School, three La Clinica's clinics, the Eugene Library, sidewalks, playgrounds, the list goes on of beautiful art work, but the real beauty was Marvin himself.

Making a community was Marvin's genius. He had a way of bringing people together, of making them laugh, making them energized, making them involved, or as one friend told me, to buy her own cookies that she had donated for a fund raiser. When you were around Marvin

anything was possible: free movie nights at Cantrall Buckley Park, movie nights at the Ruch Library. But first the library needed a digital projector, so there was Marvin helping with the fundraising. I think he also bought many of those cookies.

Marvin loved music and what began as a sing-a-long with friends in his home became the Voices of the Applegate Choir. He introduced his singing friends to Dave Marston, a professional choir director, and the Voices grew from a few to 30 blended to perfection. I think Marvin asked everyone in the Applegate Valley if they would like to join the choir, and no matter how many times I told him I couldn't carry a tune in a bucket, he'd give me a big grin and say "Sure you can." Though I don't sing in public I can certainly enjoy what Marvin helped create and I hope the Voices

See MARVIN, page 3



## Applegater fundraiser was fun for all



The Fundraiser held April 25 at the Applegate Lodge was a great day for all concerned. The weather cooperated and people were able to mingle both inside and outside the Lodge, enjoying the wonderful BBQ meal provided by Joanna Davis and the Applegate Lodge staff. Local wineries, Wooldridge, Rosella's and Schmidt, provided the wine. Sterling Bank donated the glasses that commemorated the event. Duke Davis and friends provided music for our listening pleasure, while we browsed the fabulous items that Sioux Rogers and her team had procured for the silent auction.

There was something for everyone and a festive spirit enhanced the afternoon. The items were all sold and the event raised over \$8,000 for the *Applegater*. We would like to thank all the volunteers listed on page 14 and a special thank you to the Applegate Lodge for supporting the *Applegater* by hosting this event and providing the food.

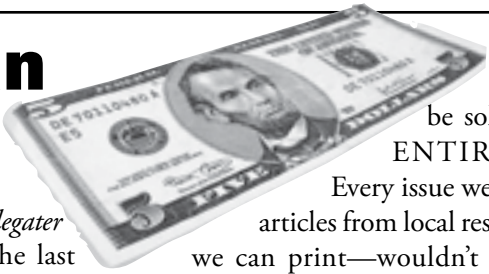
See FUNDRAISER, page 14



## What can this do?

After numerous *Applegater* budget meetings over the last few months, we have come to the realization that if each family that received the Gater in their mailbox would send us five dollars our financial worries would be solved for an entire year.

That's right—**ONLY FIVE DOLLARS** per household per year is all it would take! Seems reasonable, don't you think? You could continue to get the only local newspaper featuring articles pertaining to the Applegate. For five dollars per year you can keep this local news coming your way. Five dollars could be a challenge for some families right now but if 170 people sent in \$100 per year or 340 people sent in \$50 per year or 680 people sent in \$25 per year our financial woes would



be solved for an ENTIRE YEAR.

Every issue we have more articles from local residents than we can print—wouldn't you rather be reading what your friends and neighbors have to say?

The *Applegater* Newspaper is run by a group of dedicated volunteers who spend hundreds of hours each year making this the great publication that it is!

Each issue until our goal is reached, we will report on our progress. We will also continually feature our fundraising efforts on our website [www.applegater.org](http://www.applegater.org).

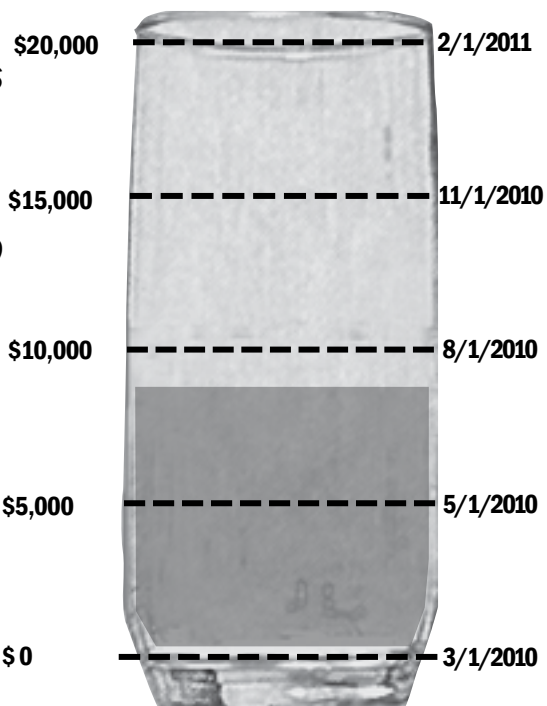
HELP us reach the goal by sending in your tax deductible contribution by August 1! Our address is 7386 Hwy 238, PMB 308, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

If you need more info call Paula Rissler at 541-846-7673.

### Our cup does NOT runneth over— YOU can help fill it!

With the fundraiser and donations, we were able to fill the cup to about \$8,400. We still have a ways to go so keep those donations coming.

Thank you,  
Applegater Board of Directors



## The Gater is gratified by the support of these recent donors

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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  
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All donations are tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated.

Please make your checks payable to *Applegater* Newspaper and mail to:

*Applegater*, 7386 Highway 238 • PMB 308  
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## 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** on which nonprofit organizations and Gater advertisers can post special events on (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!

Joe Lavine, Webmaster  
[joelavine@hotmail.com](mailto:joelavine@hotmail.com)

### Summer masthead photo credit

This issue's photo of sunflowers in a Williams field by Barbara Holiday.

## Applegater

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

## ADVERTISERS!

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

## WANTED: Sales People

The *Applegater* is looking for a person(s) to sell ads in Grants Pass and/or Medford areas. Commissions are a high 25% to 30% per sale.  
Contact JD Rogers  
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; Margaret Della Sanitina, Jodie Feighner, Sue Maesen, Joan Peterson and Paul Tipton for editing; P. R. Kellogg and Kaye Clayton for proofing; Susan Bondesen and Patsy King for transcription and Lisa Crean for bookkeeping.

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All articles, stories, opinions and letters that appear in the *Applegater* are the opinion and property of the author, and not necessarily that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.

### 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)



## 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 Meeting** 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. 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.....1:30 pm - 4 pm  
Wednesday.....1:30 pm - 4 pm  
Thursday.....closed  
Friday.....closed  
Saturday.....12 pm - 4 pm

**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 Cub Scout Pack Troop #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.

**Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council** meets the 4th Thursday of the month at the Applegate Library. For more information call 541-899-9982.

**The Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association** meet the first Monday of each month, 7:30 pm, at the OSU extension. For more information, please contact sobeekeepers@gmail.com

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

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## MARVIN

FROM PAGE 1

continue to keep the music going.

Marvin the social worker cared about the people in his life, about the community he lived in, about the country we call America. He talked politics with passion and compassion. I learned a lot from Marvin about politics; number one being that you eat first (cookies are the best), and then you educate yourself about the issues and the politicians. Vote!!

The "Rosen-web," a term I have stolen from a dear friend, included so many people from every corner of the Applegate. Marvin and Lilli Ann's home was a gathering place where you would meet someone for the first time and find

a friend for life. You would go there and find your neighbor and you were surprised to find out you both knew the Rosenbergs.

I know the list could go on and on, from contributions to the *Applegater* to fundraising for GACDC, and Ruch School. I know that everyone who knew Marvin has a story they could tell, from his poker night buddies to his grandchildren. I am pretty sure those stories would reflect what I saw in Marvelous Marvin, humor, song accompanied by accordion, poet, sage, crochet hat, passion, and oh yes, mischievousness. And Marvin, I really liked your oatmeal.

Janeen Sathre • 541-899-1443

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*"I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of just so they can see that it's not the answer."*

*Jim Carrey*



## THE STARRY SIDE

## Summer skies

BY GREELEY WELLS

Ah, the third quarter of the year: summer. Will the rain and snow have stopped and the sun come out to warm us up by the time you read this? I sure hope so! It's been quite a winter and a hesitant spring, making me wonder: will we HAVE spring or just move directly into summer?

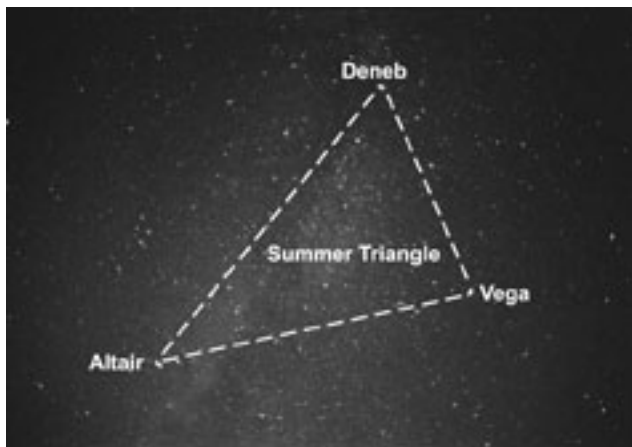
Let's start with the Milky Way, our galaxy: it has risen along the whole eastern horizon with a north-south orientation, and will now be swinging and sliding toward a northeast-to-southwest orientation until it is fully overhead in September. Within this beautiful arc of stars is the "summer triangle" (something I've talked about a lot in past columns).

Now let's shift to another favorite of mine: Hercules, the Greek hero. In July he's directly overhead, at the zenith of the sky. He's kneeling and shooting an arrow from a bow, but that's pretty hard to figure out. So suffice it to look for a thick hour-glass shape. This is my version of Hercules, not what's in the science books: two trapezoids each sharing the small side. The larger trapezoid is below his waist; the smaller one, above, forms his shoulders. Hercules is upside down, his head toward the north. Directly above him is Draco, the dragon that he's fighting. Above the trapezoid forming his shoulders are stars you can make out as arms and a club, which he's using on Draco. Remember Hercules is upside-down; to see him upright, sit or lie facing south, lean back, and he'll be over your head. Now find Draco: he will be even further back, to the north. Find the four stars close by and just to the north. They form Draco's head. Now continue in the same direction, following the stars coming off Draco's head: he's a really long constellation! He goes further north-east, then turns back and heads around between both dippers! If you follow the line of stars, you can smooth them out into a snaky form going all that distance.

To Hercules' left is the bright Vega in Lyra (part of the summer triangle). Now go a little farther to the right to find Arcturus, whom you may know from my old saying, "Follow the arc (of the big dipper handle) to Arcturus." Arcturus is the prominent star in Bootes, the herdsman. I see Bootes as a large kite-like figure with Arcturus at the bottom (where you'd tie the kite string). Instead of a kite string, there are two "feet" — groups of stars to each side of Arcturus. He's a little bit diagonal to Hercules, and between

them is another of my favorites: Corona Borealis, the northern crown. It's a quite clear, if a bit dim, backwards "C".

So those four make another nice set to learn together: to the left Vega (in the summer triangle you already know), then Hercules, next Corona, and finally



Bootes. They are all lined up in a row, bracketed by the two bright stars Vega and Arcturus. Cool, heh? They'll be working their way west and a little north in the sky all during this quarter. In August, Bootes and Arcturus will be setting while standing upright on the horizon. And at that point the summer triangle will be right overhead.

## THE PLANETS

Venus is definitely the dominant Planet of the quarter because of her brightness and her place in the sunset and twilight. On July 1 (and other nights around that date), Venus is on the right end of an amazing straight line consisting of three planets and one star. Going left from Venus is Regulus, then Mars, and finally Saturn. On July 9 she is right above Regulus in Leo, showing how bright the planets are compared to even the brightest stars like Regulus. They are separated by only about 1° on July 10 and 11, so here's another chance to measure that distance between them (holding a finger at arm's length) and confirm what a degree really looks like.

In early August appears the trio of Venus-Mars-Saturn. They play around all month; I'll describe some of their dance here. By August 31, Venus is just 1° below the star Spica, with Mars to her upper right; together they make a little triangle. Saturn is away in the lower right at dusk (half an hour after sunset). In September Venus is spectacularly bright but also low in the dusk, setting less than an hour after the sun. But wait, there's more! On September 1 there is a line consisting of Venus, Spica (1° to the right), and Mars (3.3° to the right). Saturn is again off to the right below. Then on the September 10 and 11, as noted below, they perform

another show with the crescent moon. What a planet-and-star-and-moon dance! Each night you'll see the changes, until September's end finds Venus disappearing into the sunset.

Mars has had its highlights described above and below, but something else to notice is the dim orange quality of Mars compared to bright cool Saturn, incredibly bright Venus, and Regulus—the bright star of the group who sparkles and blinks with distance. All throughout August and September, Mars hangs with Venus but is slowly fading, so as time goes on you will need binoculars until you finally lose sight of them when they all drop into the sunlight. The star Spica (of Virgo) appears to slide through this planetary dance during these two months as well. She comes in from the left, then moves through the sky and out the right side.

Jupiter rises in July in the middle of the night and is high, bright and southeast by dawn. In August Jupiter rises shortly after sunset and in September he is shining high in the southeast by 11 pm, below the great square that is Pegasus.

Saturn closes in on Mars in the sunset and western twilight of July. In August, Saturn also shadows Venus, getting low and hard to see by month's end. By September Saturn is lost in the sunset light.

Mercury spends July deep in the glow of sunset, but with binoculars you might find him late in the month with Regulus, who will sparkle 1/2° above Mercury low in the west during twilight. In September Mercury slips into the dawn, so look low; the brighter Regulus glows above it. If you're an early-morning person this is a good chance to see the mercurial Mercury.

## OF SPECIAL NOTE

The July moon is full on the 25 (or the morning of the 26); it's called the Hay Moon or Thunder Moon. In August the full moon is known as the Grain Moon or Green Corn Moon, and it's on the 24. September's full moon occurs on the 23, and is the Harvest Moon this year. The Harvest Moon is defined as the moon closest to the Equinox, and this year it's only six hours off hitting it exactly! September 10 and 11 bring a special crescent moon right near Venus in the sunset. On the 10th it's below and to the right; on the 11 it's above and to the left. Above Venus is Spica and still further up is Mars; that's Saturn way off to the right. They are all bathing in the dusk light together a half-hour after sunset; for this sweet show, look west-southwest.

The autumn equinox is on



Greeley Wells

September 23 and is the moment when the sun shifts from the north into the southern section of the ecliptic, that invisible road the planets, sun and moon drive on through in our sky.

August has the only Friday the 13th of 2010!

A photograph of nothing turned out to change the universe as we knew it. The folks in control of our Hubble Telescope in space were asked to find a blank piece of space with nothing in it and take the best photograph they could. When the photograph was finally taken it turned out to be the picture we all know, containing all those galaxies, hundreds of them. All this from a tiny deserted part of the sky! It changed the whole conception of our universe.

OK, a little more down-to-earth: the best meteors of the year—the Perseid Meteor Shower!—have no moon to spoil them. Every year like clockwork on the night of August 12, we get our best-predictable show. Perseus is near Cassiopeia; these are both circumpolar constellations, so the radiant of the shower is there, i.e. the shooting stars seem to radiate from that spot in the sky east of the north star. The best viewing is early morning on the August 13, near dawn with a deck chair and blanket. But any time all night (and actually over a few days) there will be more meteors than usual. If the shooting star radiates from some other part of the sky it's just a normal background falling star and not a Perseid. Shooting or falling stars or meteors are all names given to the same beautiful phenomena. Whatever the name, it's always a special moment for me, a rareness I sometimes feel only I may have witnessed.

While out watching for the Perseids you might try to see the zodiacal light about one to two hours before sunrise. Often mistaken for the glow of dawn, it is actually a "false dawn"—similar in appearance, but different in its timing. The other difference is that the zodiacal light is triangular, stretching up from the horizon line. It's in the ecliptic where the sun is, below the horizon, and has a whitish, rather than warmish, quality. What is it? It's the glowing of tiny dust way up high in the sky where the sun can still strike it. It's a very rare and subtle spring effect—good luck trying for it!

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## DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

**Too much of a good thing**

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Years ago, when my “partner in crime,” i.e., hubby and I bought 40 acres of land, previously owned by a shepherd, we both realized we had actually bought what appeared to be a large “golf course,” with too much grass. We started renovating, landscaping, reformulating or whatever you want to call it, moving and amending acres of dirt, grass and boulders. We then realized we could plant more than we ever dreamed about. We would be in “plant heaven.” But who would have thought that all those beautiful little darlings would take over our garden, invade every crack and cranny, jump from one end of the yard to the other and make us curse at their audacious invasiveness. At night we “hear” the pitter-patter of little seeds and roots, creeping from one bed to the other and even attempting to sneak into the house. Maybe all these little ladies (remember, flowers are “ladies” and trees and thorny bushes are “men”) intuitively know hubby and I are softies for flowers.

When one orders from the seed catalogues or buys a plant with a small tag for instructions, remember that plants cannot read nor do they rarely live up to their description, if they could or would read. I have NEVER seen a plant tag say, “Warning, very invasive. Only plant in a bomb shelter.”

The following is a short list of my former “new best friends.”

Alstroemeria, commonly called the Peruvian lily or Lily of the Incas, is a long-lived perennial originating in South America. Since the Peruvian lily is native to a warmer climate, one would expect its growing range to reflect its origins. In fact, most Southern California gardeners would never believe that my lovely ladies return in profusion spring after spring—never mind the recent snow, frost, freezing weather, too much water or not enough water. The beginning of my Peruvian lily adventure is unique. Twenty-five years ago, I could not buy, borrow or beg the plant or roots anywhere. I decided to contact the University of California’s Davis campus. I described my plight to the horticultural department. Whomever I spoke to either was amused by my perseverance or just wanted me to go away. He said he would send me “some” plants. Never was I told nor did I hear, “Careful, these are invasive spreaders.” Wow, excitement and joy coming via the US Postal Service!

Some weeks later a very small package arrived. I carefully opened the package. I was not sure if I were looking at an animal, mineral or vegetable. Alstroemeria roots look like very fleshy white fingers that have been residing under water for days. Most significantly, they are very fragile.

I had received just five of those fleshy, fragile, white “things,” so I planted all of them. By the end of summer, I had completely forgotten that I had planted anything, and nothing sprouted to refresh my memory. Next summer, short slender green leaves appeared, sparsely, near the original planting site. Cutting to the chase, by year four, “Alstroemeria Hill” was given a place of honor in the garden.

As I write, the beautiful yellow,

orange, white, peach or pink Alstroemerias, have smothered their own hill, are moving to the far side of another garden and also plotting to smother it, creeping through every crevice imaginable and remaining undaunted.

Are you familiar with the Lily of the Valley, *Convallaria majalis*? My first

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mistake with these gals was planting them. My second mistake was not realizing they are sometimes called an “invasive weed.” The third mistake was forgetting I had planted them. Originally, all I thought about was the small beauty of these small fragrant woodland flowers. After I planted them, I did not see them for several years. I am now sure that many of these roots, pips, bulbs, etc., that hide for years are related to Darth Vader, hiding and gathering strength.

My first and last planting of Lily of the Valley, about fifty little pips, was more than eighteen years ago. I have no idea what they were doing all that time but, about two years ago, far from the original planting site, up came a compact matt, choking every hosta, columbine, fern or hardy clematis in its path. I was clueless as to what I was looking at and furious that my beautiful garden had suddenly changed, without my permission. Then I spotted the small, fragrant, white bell-shaped flowers on top of thin stems.

How could this possibly happen? Well it did; so out came the shovel, a few friends and much elbow grease. I read that, with an abundance of water, Lily of the Valley spreads fast in the shade. Of course, I read this way after the fact, originally thinking about a sweet and romantic woodland addition. Ha!

So why did they debut eighteen years later? I am clueless and still on the hunt for rogue plants. Some plant guides suggest that you dig up the Lily of the Valley in the fall and separate and replant them in spring so you will have more plants. Another book suggests how charming these little dainties are planted in rock gardens. Ha, ha, ha to these suggestions. Don’t read

those books, they obviously have no ideas; better yet, plant lilies-of-the-valley in a large container and love them in privacy. Last suggestion, do you know some people you don’t particularly care for? Sneak over to their garden at night and help them with their landscaping.

The Anemone comes from the Greek word for “wind,” as some varieties of anemones are often called referred to as windflowers, not hideously and destructively invasive. Here, I am specifically referring to the beautiful Japanese Anemone, an invasive and pervasive beautiful graceful lady, (remember I said flowers are female) Her roaming is of a very occult nature, via long underground running and smothering roots, creeping through wherever she decide to roam. The only way I have been able to “have my cake and eat it, too” is to plant this exquisite, charming and stately fall flower in a large oak barrel. I have barrels of pink, white (my favorite), and deep carmine. Since these anemones are perennials and their foliage dies down in the winter, I have all



Photos clockwise from top left:  
Alstroemeria  
Anemone,  
Forget-Me-Not  
Columbine,  
Lilly Of The Valley



Sioux Rogers—And the beet goes on.

can be removed by gently pulling up their shallow clumps. The bad news is there are millions of clumps. They are always on the move as they spread very easily by seeds. They are often referred to as biennials, flowers that live for only a couple of years or as perennials, flowers that live for several years. I cannot actually tell the difference since in twenty-two years, I have never had a spring ungraced by the delicate ethereal light blue, white or pale pink flowers.

Lastly, the beloved Columbine comes and goes as she pleases. Not only that, but she also “mates” with her first cousins, sisters, aunts and lordy, lordy, who knows what other relatives. The correct word for all this risqué behavior is called “cross-pollination.” Columbines, even the smallest, crawl into any crevices they can find, such as side walks, the side of a tall tree, or maybe even under my bed, but I am afraid to look there. They have very deep and hefty unpullable roots, making them impossible to simply remove, without disrupting your sidewalk, injuring the tree bark or seeing more dust balls than I want.

Although I have not mentioned all the flowers in my garden whom have expanded their welcome, I adore, even worship and could not do without, all of the “girls,” despite my gossiping and bemoaning. My flowers and my garden are my Zen. Like dear friends, who may sometimes irritate you and you wish they would go away, you miss them and pain when they are gone.

Sioux Rogers  
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my barrels over-planted with early spring tulips, pansies, or any loose, ground cover.

If you decide to plant *Myosotis*, better known as “forget-me-nots,” and you will never forget, however hard you try, these early-to-late light blue charmers. Their ethereal daintiness and early spring color never fails to bring smiles of sheer “thank goodness spring is finally here.” They are like the robin redbreasts of the garden, harbingers of spring. Difference is, the robins go somewhere at some time and don’t bring every relative and friend they ever knew to stay in your garden forever and ever and ever . . .

The good news is the plants easily

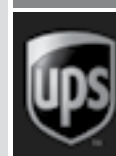
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## TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

**Weather—  
In case you want to worry**

BY RAUNO PERTTU

As a geologist, I have long been fascinated by the repeated wild climate changes that have marked our planet's long history. I don't want to harangue you with yet another argument either supporting or dismissing man's potential to change our future climate. Instead, I want to remind you that earth's climate has always been marked by dramatic temperature swings. Ongoing studies of earth's past climates are giving us an increasingly better understanding of just how extreme and sudden those climate shifts have been.

We tend to think of climate periods as being long and steady. I, for one, think of "ice ages" as long, relentlessly frozen periods and picture mammoths trudging across a frozen plain. However, I need to rethink that image. An article, printed in *Science*, Volume 327, Issue 5967, February 12, 2010, by Jeffrey A. Dorale et al, discusses evidence from the Spanish island of Majorca that sea levels fluctuated dramatically during a time period studied by Professor Dorale and a group of coworkers. Their observations indicate that 85,000 years ago sea levels were about 65 feet lower than today, as would be expected because this was in the middle of the last ice age, when large amounts of water were locked up in continental ice sheets. What the researchers didn't expect was that the Majorca records also indicate sea level jumped to about three feet higher than today by 81,000 years ago, then dramatically dropped back down to 50 feet lower than today 79,000 years ago.

The researchers interpret these puzzling sea level gyrations to mean that the world's ice sheets, complete with mammoths, were in full display 85,000 years ago, then rapidly melted over the next four thousand years to less ice than today, then even more rapidly reestablished over the next two thousand years. While these events seem implausible, data from certain other sites support these dramatic climate

and sea level swings. Furthermore, well-established events like the Younger Dryas, (explanation follows), show that similar major abrupt climate changes and associated sea level swings have occurred in our even more recent past. Prior to the Younger Dryas, which occurred from 12,900 to 11,500 years ago, our planet had just come out of our last ice age into very warm conditions. During the Younger Dryas, bitter ice age conditions returned in a temperature drop that apparently occurred in less than 10 years. After 1,300 icy years, the Younger Dryas deep freeze event ended as quickly as it began.

A paper discussing other rapid climate changes was presented last month by Dr. Don Easterbrook, an Emeritus Professor at Western Washington

**We have been conditioned to assume that global temperature changes are largely the result of changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide, and if we can only keep carbon dioxide levels from climbing, the climate will remain steady. This is clearly a false assumption.**

University. In it, Dr. Easterbrook charts at least ten major abrupt temperature changes within the past 15,000 years that were up to twenty times greater than the temperature changes of the past 100 years. Four of these abrupt temperature swings were temperature increases and six were temperature drops. Dr. Easterbrook points out that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels were not involved in these temperature swings. As a geologist, he reiterates that these types of abrupt temperature swings have occurred continuously in our geological past, and appear to be associated with a series of regular climate cycles.

The major temperature swings discussed by Professors Dorale and Easterbrook marked the boundaries of strongly differing climate cycles. These cycles mostly occurred before any influence from human activities, and do not appear to have been caused by

changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases. These abrupt major climate shifts, were they to happen today, would cause world-wide social chaos. We have been conditioned to assume that global temperature changes are largely the result of changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide, and if we can only keep carbon dioxide levels from climbing, the climate will remain steady. This is clearly a false assumption. Mostly lost in these greater climate cycles are much shorter-lived events, which haven't been fully recognized in our history books, and the impacts of which also haven't been fully appreciated. In historical times, the majority of these events have been brief cold events that, if recognized, are remembered because they created human catastrophes.

The years 536 and 540 AD highlight a decade of abrupt bitter cold and famine across the Northern Hemisphere, possibly the coldest period in the past 2,000 years. In 535, a dark cloud was reported across Europe and Asia Minor, as well as obscured skies and famine in China. These events have been attributed to a major volcanic eruption, likely in the tropics, based on volcanic sulfate in Greenland's ice records. A less likely interpretation of a comet or asteroid impact has not been definitively ruled out.

The years 1783 and 1784 again marked weather extremes across the Northern Hemisphere. In Europe, the summer of 1783 was extremely hot, with a thick reddish haze that was blamed for the deaths of thousands. This record-hot summer was followed by a long bitterly cold winter across Europe and North America. Famines impacted Europe and Asia as far away as China and Japan, and

have been blamed for two million deaths.

All these seemingly disparate events appear to have been caused by the eruption of Iceland's Laki volcanic fissure zone and of a nearby associated volcano. The fissure zone released very large volumes of sulfur dioxide that spread across Europe in a poisonous haze. This sulfur dioxide cloud has been blamed for the deaths and freakish weather.

Thirty-three years later, across Europe and North America, 1816 was called the "year without a summer". Snow fell and crops froze repeatedly during the summer months, causing major food shortages. In China, the year was marked by extreme cold spells that killed crops and even trees, and by major flooding. These disasters have been linked to the major eruption of the Indonesian volcano Tambora in 1815.

Except for their record of human misery, these short, devastating events would be unknown by us today, yet they have occurred throughout history, and will continue to occur indefinitely into the future. We have been fortunate during the past two centuries to have largely avoided similar events.

A potentially important footnote is that the Iceland volcano that recently caused the air travel problems in Europe has been linked to the volcanic system and fissure zone, the eruption of which caused the 1783 climate disasters across Eurasia and North America. Some geologists are predicting that we could have a repeat of historic events. The Icelandic volcanoes apparently have cyclic periods of activity and quiet, and may now be finishing their quiet mode. As bad as our recent spring weather was, it could have been much worse. One of those memorable years is inevitably in our future.

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2010-SU04



# Be ember aware!

BY SANDY SHAFFER

If you live in the Applegate, you and your family are at risk from wildfire, even if you don't live on a forested site! Over 90% of homes that burn in wildfires in our country do so because of flying embers, not from a forest fire raging through the tree tops. And embers can fly *up to a mile* ahead of a wildfire, reaching out to threaten homes in towns, on farms or along rivers. So please, read on to learn how to make your home *and your family* fire-safe.

The *most important* thing you can do to help make your home fire safe is an *early summer cleanup*. These are tasks such as cleaning leaves and pine needles from your gutters and roof, raking debris within 30 feet of all structures and mowing grass and weeds down to less than six inches in height. Why? Because these are the "fine fuels" that collect over the fall and winter that could very easily ignite during a summer wildfire. A pile of dry leaves underneath a redwood deck could easily ignite and cause the deck material to catch fire, ultimately engulfing your home. Same thing with firewood or anything flammable stored under the deck! So, move all firewood to at least 30 feet away from structures in late spring. The risk is too great.

Walk around your property

looking for fine fuels that could ignite from embers and spread to things that you *really don't* want catching on fire – your home, your car, an RV, out-buildings, or power poles. Rake leaves and pine needles out from under vehicles, large propane tanks and power lines. Did you know that large propane tanks are less likely to explode during a wildfire than smaller ones? I'm not a scientist, but it's something to do with the volume of cold gas inside, so the large tanks tend to stay cooler longer than the small ones.

When a wildfire is nearby, some items should be removed from around the home and put inside. Dry vegetation near the house is a no-brainer; *what's harder to think about* are those flammable items that we live with day to day; things like patio furniture, fiber door mats, vehicles, BBQ propane tanks and such. They can ignite and start a fire, or they can get too hot due to burning weeds or leaves underneath, and really intensify a fire situation on your homesite. Put these things inside.

An example: take a look at this photo at right of a brick house in Texas that had a tile roof and a defensible space. It burned because a fiber doormat caught fire and burned through the wooden door! Who would have thought? So do a walk-around to make a (short) list of those items that would need to be moved inside if a fire broke out in your neighborhood,

and review this list with everyone in the family.

Finally, also look at your home's building materials to see if there are vents and openings not screened off (use metal screening or hardware cloth at least ¼" mesh or smaller). Make sure your roof, siding and windows are in good shape, no openings or missing tiles, preferably fire-resistant and clean. Home construction is *very important* to surviving a wildfire; for more information on building materials and wildfire risks, go to either <http://firewise.org> or <http://rvfpc.com> and search for the Home Ignition Zone. It's time well spent.

One last thing as we get into

this summer's fire season: know your vegetation and keep the rake at hand if necessary! Did you know that madrone trees drop dead leaves in late July, right in the middle of the summer? And, pine trees drop old needles in August! Don't let them sit around – we get most of our local fires during August and September. Finally, always be prepared for whatever Mother Nature might throw at us – in my neighborhood it was a wind/hail event last August 1 that left about two inches of vegetation debris covering the ground, the house and the roof! Our rakes came out the next morning...

Sandy Shaffer  
541-899-9541



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## An Applegate Valley Marketplace at Eve's Cafe

15090 Highway #238 A, Applegate, OR 97530

Watch for the sign—EVE'S CAFE—and head on down to Eve's Cafe and the MARKETPLACE with family, friends, or summer guests. At the MARKETPLACE, you can find delicious foods, fresh produce and a local real estate office all located between the Applegate Bridge and North Applegate Road—opposite the Applegate Store. A local place with many choices!

### EVE'S CAFE

A visit to Eve's will have the flavor of many summers past. When you step into the cafe, a relaxed atmosphere surrounds you with lace curtains at the window, and old-fashioned, country decorations. There is a choice of tables inside, or outside in a colorful garden developed over many years by Cathy and Bill Dunlap. But - it is the food that brings people back again and again!

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Bring your canvas bags or basket to the APPLEGATE FARMERS MARKET after a delicious breakfast or lunch at Eve's - for a Sunday market experience. Choose from wholesome, fresh grown salad, and vegetable produce. Many local, organic growers and craft persons have been invited to join Rob and Pam Key in this community market.

Rob says he has been growing organic vegetables in the valley for seven years.

Rob and Pam Key 541-659-5311

### APPLEGATE VALLEY REAL ESTATE

A custom, personalized real estate service is available to locals in the Applegate at APPLEGATE VALLEY MARKETPLACE. Don and Debbie Tollefson, after selling real estate several years in the Applegate, have opened their own real estate office in the front of EVE'S. If you have guests this summer, after stopping at EVE'S and the Farmers Market, you can visit on the porch in front of EVE'S at the home of APPLEGATE VALLEY REAL ESTATE. Here, you can have a cup of coffee or tea with Don and Debbie, and learn of properties listed locally and in the surrounding area. Team Tollefson also offer notary service.

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## Country Dance benefits Ruch Library

Food, music and friends, was the recipe for the Country Dance held to benefit Saturday hours at Ruch Library. About a hundred people attended the May 22 event, which was sponsored by the Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) and held at the Upper Applegate Grange. The dance floor filled up to irresistible music from The Oregon Old Time Fiddlers, and dance caller Chuck Simpkins taught the Virginia Reel to young and old. Rachael Martin (President of the Ruch School PTO) had sheriff's badges, bandanas, and cowboy hats for all the kids, as well as sit-down activities for them.

Everybody enjoyed the dinner of pasta (vegetarian or sausage), salad and bread, and tried to save room for Fran Hopkins's Strawberry Cream Cake. A series of raffles, under the direction of raffle impresario Dan Barker, gave away prizes including local honey and wine, free meals and massages, and a genuine gilded Japanese weeder (hand tool). Each of the children who attended got to choose a free kids' book to take home. Later in the evening the second band, David Pinsky and the Rhythm Kings, brought "jump-up and dance blues" to an enthusiastic audience.

The dance was another event in this year's continuing fundraising to pay for Saturday hours at Ruch Library. FORL has raised about \$8000 of the \$12,300 needed. Check FORL's website [www.forl.org](http://www.forl.org), or look at the library for our brochure for more information about contributing, including an easy way to make a monthly pledge.

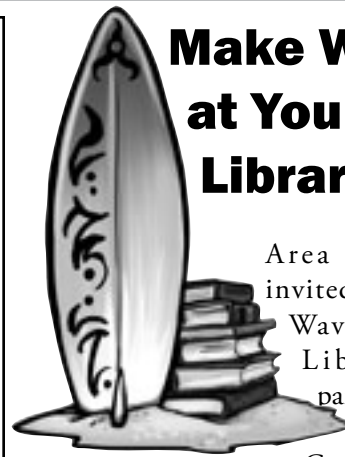
FORL wants to thank all our terrific volunteers who worked so hard to bring this off, and local

merchants—including the Outpost, Ruch Country Store, Ruch Services, and Magnolia Grill—for help and donations.

"There hasn't been a dance like this out here in I can't remember how long," said one person returning from the dance floor. Maybe this should be the "First Annual Country Dance for the Library"... if you'd like to be part of the group to make the second one happen, please call Cynthia Cheney at 541-899-1114.



## Make Waves at Your Library



Area teens are invited to "Make Waves at Your Library" by participating in the Jackson County Library's teen summer reading program. The program starts as soon as school is out and continues through August 14.

To earn the chance to win one of fifteen 8G iPod Nanos and other prizes Teens will be asked to write a review of a book, CD, audiobook, DVD, or library program. Special events include free movies, art activities, and gaming days. Contact your local library branch for details.

This year's teen reading program is sponsored by The Million Dollar Club of Jackson County and the Friends of the Jackson County Libraries. For more information, please call Marian Barker at 541-774-6423.

## Christopher Leebrick storytelling schedule

Award-winning storyteller, Christopher Leebrick, brings his remarkable storytelling ability to Jackson County libraries as part of the Jackson County Library Services Summer Reading Program. Mr. Leebrick has dazzled audiences since the age of 13 with tales ranging from the hills of Appalachia to the cowboy country of the Oregon high desert. Join in the fun at one of the following branches.

### MONDAY JULY 26

11:30 am– 12:30 pm,  
**Central Point Branch**  
116 South Third Street, 541-664-3228

2:30 – 3:30 pm,  
**Jacksonville Branch**,  
340 West "C" Street, 541-899-1665

### TUESDAY JULY 27

10:30 – 11:30 am,  
**Ashland Branch**,  
410 Siskiyou Boulevard, 541-774-6980

1:00 – 2:00 pm,  
**Phoenix Branch**, 510 West 1st Street,  
541-535-7090

### WEDNESDAY JULY 28

10:00 – 11:00 am,  
**Prospect Branch**,  
150 Mill Creek Drive, 541-560-3668

1:00 – 2:00 pm,  
**Shady Cove Branch**,  
22477 Highway 62, 541-878-2270

3:00 – 4:00 pm,  
**Eagle Point Branch**,  
239 West Main Street, 541-826-3313

### THURSDAY JULY 29

1:00 – 2:00 pm,  
**White City Branch**,  
3143 Avenue C, 541-864-8880

4:00 – 5:00 pm,  
**Ruch Branch**,  
7919 Hwy 238, 541-899-7438

### FRIDAY JULY 30

10:30 – 11:30 am,  
**Talent Branch**,  
101 Home Street, 541-535-4163

For more information, please contact Marian Barker, Jackson County Library Youth Services Manager at 541-774-6423 or [mbarker@jcls.org](mailto:mbarker@jcls.org).



## Applegate Library

Summer is finally here at the Applegate Library and the summer reading program has already begun. We have water themes this year: "Make a Splash," and "Make Waves at Your Library."

We will have crafts and activities throughout the summer, so come in early and check out the schedule. You won't want to miss your favorite activities.

Artist, Cathy Egelston, will be at the library on Friday, July 23 at 2:30 pm, to put on a water color class for children. She is the artist that did our wonderful animal murals on the walls in the library.

Storytime for young children continues to be at 4:00 pm each Friday afternoon. Come and listen to some wonderful stories!

A series of free beginning computer classes for adults are tentatively scheduled to start in July here at the Applegate Library. The classes will be funded by a bequest from the Kenneth A. and Lucille D. Family Trust. The classes are by reservation only and are limited in size. Watch for the schedule to be posted so you can sign up.

Our Friends of the Applegate Library President, Christopher Shockey, reports from the President's Forum that there is a Library Advocacy Committee that has formed to develop a strategy and talking points to increase library hours, starting with the Medford City Council. The idea is once the city of Medford begins funding the Medford branch, that will free up dollars for extending the hours at the other branches like Applegate and Ruch. The key is to help the city council members understand that they should be sharing in the cost of their library instead of relying on the county to pay for it. Hooray for our President Christopher to be keeping abreast of what's happening on the City and County levels. Wouldn't it be great if the Applegate Library was granted more hours without having to do it with book and bake sales!

The next meeting of the Friends of the Applegate Library will be on July 13 at 5:00 pm at the Applegate Branch Library!

Joan Peterson  
541-846-6988

## Make a Splash—READ!

"Make a Splash – READ!" is the Summer Reading Program theme this summer at Jackson County Library Services. Children will explore the world of water through stories, songs, games, and other activities about oceans, rivers, lakes, pools, and the creatures that live there.

Registration for the program begins as soon as school is out in June. Children age 3-12 are invited to sign up at their local branch library. All children who read or listen to ten books will receive a special bookmark, a reading certificate, a coupon for a free kid's meal from HomeTown Buffet and a pass to the Kid Time! Discovery Experience. Kids who complete the program will also be eligible to enter local branch library drawings for additional prizes.

Parents of infants and toddlers 0-36 months can read to their children and receive a gift book, a signed certificate, and a bookmark. Everyone is invited to attend special summer reading activities and performances at branch libraries around Jackson County. For more information, contact your local branch library or visit our Web site at [www.jcls.org](http://www.jcls.org).

The "Make a Splash – READ!" program is sponsored by HomeTown Buffet, Kid Time! Discovery Experience, and Friends of the Library groups throughout Jackson County. For more information, please contact the Medford Branch Library at 541-774-6423.



## "Hang loose" with Surf'n Tales



### Storytelling Guild presents Children's Festival

"Hang loose" with Surf'n Tales during the 44th Annual Children's Festival July 11-13 at the Britt Festival Grounds in Jacksonville.

This "just for kids" event has served the Rogue Valley as an affordable, summertime experience for generations, with admission remaining low at \$2.00 per person. Children can enjoy hours of entertainment with over 35 hands-on art, craft, and science projects, and of course, the daily feeding of the litter-eating dragons, Rosabelle and Pebbles! Older children can choose candle making, pottery, and wood working, while younger children can make their own puppets, create sand and easel art, and have their faces painted. Child-focused stage performances and yummy food from the Dragon Deli will be available for the whole family.

The festival runs four sessions over a three-day period:

Sunday, July 11, Evening Session, 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Monday, July 12, Morning Session, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon  
Evening Session, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Tuesday, July 13, Morning Session, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

This event is presented by the Storytelling Guild and supported by Jackson County Library Services. To find out more about the festival, including the many available volunteer opportunities, please visit [www.storytellingguild.org](http://www.storytellingguild.org).

## Applegate Valley Garden Club awards scholarship

On May 12, 2010, at the Hidden Valley High School Awards Ceremony, Amanda Denbeck found herself to be the recipient of a \$500.00 Scholarship Fund started this year by the Applegate Valley Garden Club. The fund was established to benefit and recognize a significantly deserving student from our valley.

A few members of the Applegate Valley Garden Club spent many hours reading and re-reading each applicant's entry statements of their accomplishments, activities and goals. Although evaluating all the entries was a daunting task, it was also extremely rewarding to become aware of the abilities, achievements and ambitions of our next generation. After the judges had finished a rigorous day of evaluating the 13 applicants from Hidden Valley High and South Medford High School, the scores were tabulated. The decision was difficult but it was finally concurred that Amanda Denbeck had demonstrated her academic excellence by achieving a G.P.A. of 3.96. Her quest for learning has also been manifested through many extra-curricular activities including Future Business Leaders of America,

Art Club, Art Council, Honor Society, and Link Crew. Amanda also volunteered her time throughout her high school years to

community activities, receiving recognition and awards along the way.

Amanda has applied to Southern Oregon College, Rogue Community College, and Oregon State University to pursue her studies in Business and Art. She is a very confident, hard-working, and goal-oriented young woman. The Club is honored to help her pursue her dreams. Congratulations Amanda!

Shannon Buscho, Member  
Applegate Valley Club

For more information on Applegate Valley Garden Club call Julie Kenney, AVGC President, 541-846-0906



Amanda Denbeck



## Jackson County Master Gardener Program Special Classes and Activities

Thursday, July 8, 7-9 pm  
LOW-MAINTENANCE LAWNS

Pam Rouhier, Grange Co-op

The characteristics and care of a low-maintenance lawn will be discussed along with the reasonable expectations for one. This class qualifies for Master Gardener Recertification.

Tuesday, July 20, 7-9 pm  
HONEY BEE COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER (CCD)  
Bernard Hartman, Ph.D.

Imidacloprid and clothianidin are insecticides toxic to bees, earthworms, birds and aquatic life. Recognizing them as the major cause of CCD, Germany, France, Italy and Slovenia have banned most applications. In spite of overwhelming evidence that they are dangerous, they remain on the USA market, and the EPA will not begin to review their use in this country until 2012.

Thursday, August 5, 7-9 pm  
CLEMATIS

Myrl Bishop, Master Gardener

Learn about different varieties of clematis and the conditions that make them thrive in the Rogue Valley. This class qualifies for Jackson County Master Gardener Recertification.

Tues. August 24, 7-9 pm  
TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE-PROPAGATION  
Peggy Corum, Master Gardener

Learn how to choose a proper cutting to reproduce, how to prep the cutting, conditions to provide for rooting, time to provide. This class qualifies for Master Gardener Recertification.

*There is a fee of \$10.00 per Saturday class and a \$5.00 per Weekday class (unless indicated otherwise). Master Gardeners wearing their badges are admitted free (materials fees still apply). The classes are held at the OSU Extension Center located at 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, Oregon. For questions and/or registration please call 541-776-7371.*

*To learn more about Jackson county Master Gardener Association go to: <http://extension.orst.edu/soec/mg>.*

*The Master Gardener Program 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.*



## Josephine County Master Gardener Program Plant Clinic Summer Hours

The Oregon State University Extension of Josephine Master Gardener plant clinic is now open for its summer hours, from 9am to 3pm Monday through Thursday. The Master Gardeners invite the public to stop in for free assistance with all garden questions or problems, at the OSU Extension Office at 215 Ringuette St. Grants Pass. Services also include insect identification. If you can't make it in directly you can call 541-476-6613 or email [josephinemg@oregonstate.edu](mailto:josephinemg@oregonstate.edu). The Master Gardeners also invite any gardener or hobbyist to participate in the Plant-A-Row project for the needy families in our community. Additional information is available on our web site at: <http://www.jocomastergardeners.com/>.

## Voices of the Applegate keep on singing

Voices of the Applegate will begin its third session of rehearsals on September 8, with Blake Weller as the director. The choir of about 30 community members has been working under three different directors this year, including Tami Marston and Cyrise Beatty, before Blake Weller begins this fall. The three directors were chosen as candidates for a final decision as to who will lead the Voices of the Applegate since director Dave Marston passed away in June of 2009.

Blake Weller is a graduate of the University of Oregon and earned his Bachelor of Music in Music Education. He sings in several choirs in the Rogue Valley and has been the music specialist at Central Point Elementary School for fourteen years. He was also the Assistant Conductor at Oregon State University Woman's Chorus in Corvallis from 2002-2003.

The fall rehearsal schedule begins on September 8 and will last until November 17, with a concert on November 21. The venue for the concert will be announced sometime this summer.

The choir is open to anyone who loves to sing. There are no auditions and the main requirement for joining the choir is to be consistent in attending the rehearsals every week at the Applegate Library on Wednesday evenings. The cost of joining the choir is \$50 for the twelve week session.

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988





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## APPLEGATE OUTBACK: MY OPINION

# Class act

BY BOB FISCHER



Bob Fischer

I have got to tell you, I do not exactly know everything there is to know about duck hunting. I have done some duck shooting, heard a few of the experts call ducks and watched some good dogs at work. But the fine art that goes with the sport I have missed. So when Mack Trucko, a well-to-do auto dealer in Medford that I have known for several years, said that I should come shoot with him at his blind at a local Medford Club, I jumped at it.

I had never hunted on a club lease before, or even seen one for that matter. I would be a raw kid in a country club setting. It was still dark at 4 am when I arrived for, "a cup of coffee," as Mack put it. I had no idea there would be silver table settings and trays of sausage, bacon and hotcakes, toast and gallons of coffee. All of which was catered by two women in white uniforms.

They looked at me like I was crazy, standing there in my hip boots and shell vest. The "gentlemen" had on flannel morning jackets and mole-skin pants, their feet in sheerling slippers. My dog "Barf" whined at the door of the club, a remodeled farm house with bedrooms for members who stayed overnight. Mack said to let my dog in, and Barf promptly got into a fight with two Chesapeakes who thought he was intruding. The bedlam did not exactly endear me to the membership. Barf went back outside. The tray of sausage he knocked over went also.

We rode to the blinds in a horse-drawn wagon and when I asked if they had forgot the decoys, Mack laughed and said, "they never leave the water unless it freezes." When I mentioned to Mack that he should have worn a heavier coat, he laughed again. The blinds were heated, he explained. Once there, the mounds of clothing I had on were merely stacked in a corner.

It was daylight, I was anxious to burn some powder and nailed

a fat shoveller that skimmed over our decoys.

"A little too soon," Mack said and pointed to a half dozen mallards over the trees that fringed the water. "We don't shoot little ducks!"

"Sorry," I said and wished that I was back on the river where I usually hunted with J.D. Three-Toes and felt a lot more comfortable. And, when I whispered for Barf to go get my bird, Mack put his hand on my shoulder telling me that I should wait until the shooting was done. Then, the Chesapeakes would scour the water for cripples and kills alike.

By then it was almost nine in the morning, and I swallowed my fifteenth cup of coffee. "No point in sitting out here all morning when they're not moving," Mack said. "Lets go in, I can get some things done at the office and we can do this when the weather's better."

I looked around. It was clear as a bell and it was a good three miles through the mud to the clubhouse.

Mack reached under a cover at the back of the blind and drew forth a telephone. "Brigsby," Mack said, "will you bring the lorry down to the Trucko Blind please?" There was a pause. Mack continued, "and bring a decanter of brandy, right!" Mack looked at me and winked.

A few days later I was sitting in my own river blind with my feet in freezing slush and old J.D. Three-Toes next to me, glowering into the sleet.

"How was your day at the club?" he asked.

I shrugged. The temperature was dropping and a small flight of birds were angling across the river to our decoys. "Coffee was hot!" was my reply. . .

Bob Fischer • 541-846.6218

## Maintaining your defensible space

BY SANDY SHAFFER

I'm going to take a chance that the wet spring will continue for a few more weeks, so that those who haven't finished spiffing up their defensible space can still safely do so before fire season. Many of us created a defensible homesite quite a few years ago when the county fire plans were being written and grant dollars first became available. If you haven't done much since then, *surprise!* The trees and shrubs have grown a lot, and maybe your homesite has as well. Adding a tool shed or a new fence around the yard, or even taking a gardening course can all affect your "defensible space."

Following are some ideas of where to begin refreshing your 100-foot defensible space. Once you get things back into shape, try to maintain this area *annually*, because it's *much* easier than having to start over every four or five years! One word of caution: don't wait too long to get started. Be alert this month to when burning and equipment use restrictions might go into effect, and call your local Fire District or ODF (541-664-3328) with questions.

First off, are there any new buildings or structures (like a flammable wood fence) that tie to the house, so that your "defensible space" zone needs to be extended? If an out-building has been added to your homesite, thin at least 30 feet all around the new building, and more if it's close to the home! Any new roads that need thinning along the edges? Treat them just as you would your main driveway.

*Maintaining* a defensible space over time comes down to looking at a few things: ladder fuels, vegetation growth, spacing and sprouting. What has grown enough so that you have *continuous ladder fuels* from the

ground up to the tree crowns? Are shrubs too close to the house or a window? Are branches of a tree hanging over the roof or getting too close (within 10 feet) to your chimney? If so, get out the ladder and pole saw! Did those small saplings that you left five years ago take off growing and become "real" trees and are now too close to each other? Take one or two out to give them more room to grow; and while you're at it, prune up the lower branches a tad (but don't prune up more than 1/3 the total height of the tree). It's not usually necessary to limb up trees more than 10 feet off the ground.

Some trees (oaks and madrone, mainly) sprout new shoots after they've been cut, and I know from experience that this provides *a lot* of ladder fuel. They re-sprout for years! If you can lop them back each year, it's a lot less work than waiting until they get so large that you need a saw to do the job. If you pick the straightest, strongest shoot and let it grow, the others eventually stop coming back, plus, you've got a nice new healthy tree. This can come in handy if you have a tree die and need to take it out. (Remember, *no dead vegetation* within that 100-foot zone.)

And talking about replacing vegetation in your defensible space: *use fire-resistant plants!* This is where the aforementioned gardening course can come into play: I know (from experience) that new gardeners are forever bringing home new stuff to plant, especially in the spring.

Make sure the plants around your homesite are supple and green rather than with lots of dead leaves or needles, and irrigate them regularly. For more information, go to: <http://rvfpc.com> or to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/>.

Make sure *your* home is defensible this summer!

Sandy Shaffer • 541-899-9541

*Prune tree limbs that overhang the roofline of your home.*





**BIRDMAN**

**Spectacular migration**

BY TED A. GLOVER

The spring migration this year was really spectacular. The strange weather pattern probably contributed to the behavior of some species. But overall, most birds arrived on schedule. The Rufous Hummingbirds are usually the first to arrive in the spring and we saw our first in early March, though we did have a visit from a Band-tailed Pigeon in late January.

Although the Band-tailed Pigeon is a year-round resident in our area, they do head for the milder coastal regions during the winter. You can distinguish the Band-tailed from an ordinary pigeon (now called Rock Dove) by the darker rump and the wide light gray band at the base of the tail. Not long ago these birds were nearly extinct in the United States due to excessive hunting. But they have now recovered and the current population is healthy.

By late April the migration through our area was in full swing. The Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, American Gold Finch, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows, and the colorful Western Tanager all arrived at the end of April. A fine assortment of warblers came through about the same time, including the Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Townsends, Yellow-rumped and Wilson's.

We had a larger number of Purple Finch this year and a lack of Pine Siskin. This behavior is referred to as 'irruption' by birding experts. During certain years birds seem to travel to different areas than normal, only to return to their regular areas the following year. Although no one knows for sure why this happens, it probably has to do with the availability of food.

Now that summer is here, some of our regulars, including the Red-breasted Nuthatch and many chickadees, move into higher, cooler areas. The warblers have mostly headed farther north to their natural breeding grounds.

This spring we were fortunate to see a pair of Bar-headed geese in the Williams Valley. Thanks to a tip from one of our readers, we saw the pair grazing in an open field off Panther Gulch Road. This species of goose and the Black Swan are usually seen at Lake Selmac, along with so-called exotic waterfowl that frequently escape from private collections or zoos.

Ted A. Glover • 541-846-0681



Ted A. Glover



Photos clockwise from above left:

**Wilson's Warbler**, *Wilsonia pusilla*. A common warbler of willow thickets in the West and across Canada, the Wilson's Warbler is easily identified by its yellow underparts and black cap. Photo by Donna Dewhurst, USFWS.

**Townsend's Warbler**, *Dendroica townsendi*. This Pacific Northwest bird nests in coniferous forests from Alaska to Oregon. Identified by by yellow head and chest, stripes along the chest. Photo by Donna Dewhurst, USFWS.

**Nashville Warbler**, *Vermivora ruficapilla*. A small, sprightly songbird of second-growth forests, the Nashville Warbler nests on the ground and feeds almost exclusively on insects. Distinctive features include grey head and white eye ring. Photo by Dave Menke, USFWS.

**Kaye Clayton, the Squirrel Charmer**

Kaye Clayton recently proved that she is at one with the critters of the woods. Check out this baby squirrel who took a real liking to Kaye.

No one is really sure why this squirrel decided to get up close and personal. Kaye thinks the juvenile squirrel may have been frightened by a small dog and mistook her for a tree—but whatever the reason—it was a HOOT!



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# Thank you!

*Thanks for auction items and in-kind donations:*

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Adams, Nancy                | Holiday, Barbara                                   |
| Albee, Tressi               | LaMoore, Alice                                     |
| Applegate Lodge             | Larson's Home Furnishings                          |
| Applegate Store             | Loney, Paul & Rowshan Reordan,<br>Attorneys at Law |
| Becker, Teri                | Mikellouise Photography                            |
| Beausoleil, Claudia         | MacLevine's Deli                                   |
| BlueDoor Garden Store       | McCormick, Naomi                                   |
| Bratt, Chris                | Heenan, Virginia                                   |
| Bridgeview Vineyards Winery | Macy, Hal & Roz                                    |
| Brown, Sandi                | Myran, Rachel                                      |
| Butler, Louise              | Out of the Way Café                                |
| Cellers, Ellee              | Owen, Wayne Fighting Art School                    |
| Cody, Jan & Jim             | Parsons, Annette                                   |
| Coogle, Diana               | Purvis, Maggie                                     |
| Coulton, Arthur             | Pennington Farms                                   |
| CowHorn Vineyard            | Plaisance Ranch                                    |
| Cowles, Kristi              | Quinlan, Megan                                     |
| Daisy Creek Pedicure        | Rogers, JD   |
| Daisy Creek Reflexology     | Ritter, Debbie                                     |
| Dubin, Eric                 | Rosella Vineyard & Winery                          |
| Dubin, Myrna                | Sathre, Janeen                                     |
| Driver, Mary                | Seereiter, Patty                                   |
| Devitt Winery               | Showerman, Lee                                     |
| Erickson, Dr. Ian           | Spit n' Polish                                     |
| Ertel, DeAnna               | Taylor, Carol                                      |
| Eve's Garden and Cafe       | Thompson Creek Organics                            |
| FireEagle, Michael          | Tougher, Daena                                     |
| Forest Farm                 | Troon Vineyard                                     |
| Fletcher, Jeanne            | Truesdell, Thalia                                  |
| Flynn, Martha               | Valley View Winery                                 |
| Fontane, David              | Village Acupuncture                                |
| Herb Pharm                  | Watson, Alyssa                                     |
| Jaeger, Hans                | Wells, Greeley                                     |
| Jacksonville Vineyards      | Wilt, Jan & Lou                                    |
| Jones, Kathleen             | Wooldridge Creek Winery                            |
| Key, Robert                 | Young, Lon & Connie                                |
| Kondor, Irene               | Zwiefel, Anny & Craig                              |
| Knowlton, Brett             |  |

*A special thank you to Sterling Bank for supplying us with glasses and fabulous helpers*  
 Ben-Dayon, Jennie  
 Michael, Kasie  
 Petee, Sabrina  
 Ryan, Bea  
 Weathers, Lois

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 Dubin, Myrna  
 Fischer, Linda  
 Myran, Rachel  
 Ritter, Debbie  
 Rogers, Sioux

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 Crean, Lisa  
 Lavine, Joe  
 Macy, Hal  
 Riding, Michael  
 Rissler, Paula

*A special thanks to Barbara Holiday for money collecting.*  
 Photo credits: Yvonne Garrett and Linda Fischer.

Paula Rissler • 541-899-7673



Photos:

- 1 Hal Macey dishing up barbeque chicken.
- 2 Enjoying wine on the deck of the Applegate Lodge.
- 3 Some of the jewelry for the Silent Auction.
- 4 Left to right: Dan Buren, Don Tollefson, Kaye Clayton, Debbie Tollefson and Patty Buren
- 5 Left to right: Sheila Malloy, local realtor, Jolene Wallace, Ellee Celler and Gayle Ellison.
- 6 Left to right: Roz Macey, Jannette Stobie and the unknown rock star.
- 7 Left to right: Rob Hayden, Jono and Duke Davis.
- 8 Cal Schmidt, owner and pourer of Schmidt Winery.
- 9 Shirley Belanger.
- 10 Bob (The Blue Knight) Fischer.
- 11 Jeff Norton.
- 12 Sioux Rogers.



## Advertiser Highlight



## A confluence of art and ambition

Upper Applegaters Leslie Lee and Dennis Meiners are looking for enthusiastic new owners for their HUMMINGBIRD property. The couple says they are ready to downsize after 20 years of creative expansion. "I think the correct term is right-size", Leslie commented. "We've put two decades of our life into this place but now we'd like to be back in a smaller space in an urban, art conscious environment... and we have a grandchild in Portland who is exerting a tremendous pull on us." Leslie and Dennis also say they look forward to passing the property on to someone who can "see the potential here and run with it."

In 1990 Dennis and Leslie, professional ceramic artists, who then lived in Portland, purchased an undeveloped four-acre view parcel above the Upper Applegate River and embarked on an "Applegate Adventure" unaware of where the road would lead them. Their intention was to build a studio and home out of adobe, since mud was a material they knew and loved, and to use the studio to support ceramics classes and workshops in addition to their own work. They wanted to create a place that would thrill the eye and hand and honor the ageless traditions of building with the earth, while also embracing energy-saving technologies. Between 1992 and 1997 they were helped by crew after crew of weekend volunteers who made adobe bricks and laid up the walls of what eventually became a 2300 square foot building with three separate work-spaces, two lofts and a small gallery.

Dennis and Leslie lived in the studio for six years and practiced their profession of art-making while they gathered their energy and resources to build a 2500 square foot passive-solar straw-bale home, finished

with earthen plasters. The house is designed for passive solar efficiency, with straw bale walls providing super insulation, south-facing windows and thermal mass in the floors. A large kochelofen masonry stove heats the home with minimal wood when the sun is hiding. The sun also heats the domestic water, backed up in winter by an on-demand water heater. Dennis says "The house will accommodate a photovoltaic array on the south-facing roof, and we think a wind generator would work well here, but those are options for the next owners."

As artist-owner-builders, Dennis and Leslie are always ready to share what they have learned about the beauty of passive solar building. They will advertise Solar Home Tours on July 17 and 18, but are willing give a tour most any time to anyone who is interested, as long as visitors call ahead.

In 2004 the couple named their property HUMMINGBIRD, turned their extra rooms into a B&B and began offering several ceramic and painting workshops every summer, attracting instructors and participants from all over the U.S. Most summers both Dennis and Leslie also taught workshops. By 2009 they had employed 19 nationally known artists to lead workshops and had hosted 168 students, both local and from as far away as Florida and Alaska, 30 of whom returned as many as three or four times. Speaking of her time at HUMMINGBIRD, Roxanne Hunnicutt of Grants Pass remarked, "I stayed in the B&B during several ceramics workshops I attended at Hummingbird and found the entire experience a respite, a sanctuary and a renewal...I don't think there is any place in the Rogue Valley that

is more at the heart of the creative community or as well planned for expansive possibilities."

One area of possible expansion for HUMMINGBIRD is the Bed and Breakfast business which at present might be one of the Applegate's best kept secrets. Since the couple's main business is the making and selling of their art, they view the B&B as a sideline and have done minimal marketing. "We are professional artists and value our studio time, but we enjoy our B&B guests and the time-spent/dollar-earned ratio makes it well worth our while to host those who

find us." In addition to tourists exploring Southern Oregon, local residents have discovered the B&B as a great place for a short retreat which could include art-making in the HUMMINGBIRD studio. "When my best friend came for a visit last fall, my very first thought was a stay at Hummingbird B&B," said Kristi Cowles of Humbug Creek. "Dennis and Leslie have built a profoundly beautiful straw-bale home and the breakfast they served, as well as their company, was unusually fine. Plus, the studio gallery is full of their exquisite art and they shipped pieces for my friend.

I owned a B&B for 17 years, and to my mind, these folks are doing everything right."

There are no Summer Art Workshops scheduled for 2010, but Leslie says, "The fact that the property is for sale has not changed what we do here. The B&B is more inviting than ever and Dennis just finished a new soda-fire kiln that should bring some exciting new work to sell this summer and fall. I continue painting and our gallery is open any time we are here." In conjunction with their July Solar Home Tours the artists will also have a Studio Sale. "People love Studio Sales because they get to see the new work that has not yet been exhibited, as well as all the work that never makes it to the gallery shows." Dennis says that means "some really great bargains on a few seconds, really reduced prices on oldies-but-goodies and new work that is really full price."

We all know the benefits associated with supporting local businesses, so when it comes to shopping for those wedding presents, surprising your spouse with a "stay-cation" or finding an extra guest room for your visiting aunt, it could be as easy as a ten-minute drive from Ruch to HUMMINGBIRD. Who knew???

You can contact Dennis Meiners and Leslie Lee at 541-899-7045, Leslie@LeslieLeeArt.com

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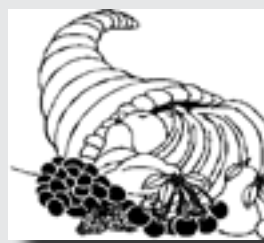
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The Applegate Farmers Market is coming soon to the new Applegate Valley Marketplace at Eve's Cafe. We'll have fresh grown organic produce all summer long.

We're looking for local vendors for a Sunday Market, so if you want to set up a booth over the summer contact us at 541-659-5311.

We also want to invite all the small gardeners and farmers in the area who have home grown veggies and other goods to come and sell at the farm stand.

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## Tall Tales from the Editor

# A grave situation or Perfecting our craft

The second summer that I had been employed by the U.S. Forest Service to run their soils lab on the La Sal Mountains in southeast Utah had come to an end. I had spent those days baking soil in an old pizza oven or running aggregate through a shaker machine. I was then required to write up reports on these materials that were used to build yet another government road to nowhere. Of course it was at the taxpayers' expense.

When work was slow in the soils lab (a small single-wide trailer) I'd fill in on the all-girl survey crew. Oh yes, that was a crew from heaven...but that's another story! I most definitely planned to return to this job the following summer. I preferred seasonal work, which left me most of the fall, all of the winter, and part of the spring to hike around in Utah's red rock canyon country, or to start yet another rock and roll band.

I figured if one had to work, what better job could there be than seasonal work with the U.S. Forest Service. I loved getting paid to gaze upon the La Sal Mountains and in particular, Mount Tukuhiuats, a very steep volcano-looking cone that I had climbed a half dozen times. Tukuhiuats is a Ute Indian word meaning "Where the sun lingers." How do we know that's really what it means? If I had been a Ute running around in that magical mind-altering country—land of red rock canyons, arches, balanced rocks, the Colorado, Green, and Dolores Rivers, Dark Canyon Lake, the Book Cliffs, Fisher Valley, Castle Valley, Sinbad Valley, Paradox Valley, and the Moab Valley, I would not have told the people who forcibly moved me to a teeny tiny reservation the true meaning of any of my native language! Maybe Tukuhiuats really means "Translucent whites with butt breath" or "White-man, may you lose control of your sphincter muscle." Had I been giving the name to my conquerors that's what the word for the mountain peak would have meant, but then I'm not a Ute.

I had been unemployed for a couple of months (something that never struck me as a horrible stroke of bad luck), when my good friend and old band-mate, from the band Shalako, Steve Olschewski called me. He said he had the maintenance job for the Grand County Cemetery district. Steve then offered me a part-time job for a month or so, to help him get the cemetery pruned and cleaned up. I asked, "Will we be digging any graves?" Steve said we would, so I signed on. I thought "gravedigger" would be an outstanding addition to my long work resume, which included such jobs as long-hole prober, make-believe patient for medical student proctologist, unknown rock star, etc. I had access to free flowers for my weekend dates. I did have to

remember, though, to remove "We'll miss you grandma" from the flower arrangement before presenting it to my date.

While Steve and I worked on getting Moab's old cemetery in order, my pooch, Doo Doo, the wonder dog, entertained himself by marking hundreds of headstones, digging into new grave sites – is that an old deer rib bone that Doo Doo was chewing

**I had access to free flowers for my weekend dates. I did have to remember, though, to remove "We'll miss you grandma" from the flower arrangement before presenting it to my date.**

on? Steve was pretty sure it was. Doo Doo developed a disgusting taste for stagnant water in old flower vases during our round of employment at the cemetery. That taste stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Steve was working the backhoe getting the ground ready for a late Friday afternoon funeral. Doo Doo and I were sitting in the cab of the cemetery's old faded green dump truck. The rings in the engine were long gone, and when you fired it up, you were quickly engulfed in a putrid black cloud of carbon. The exhaust system had rusted out a decade ago, so the dump truck sounded like an old Sherman tank on maneuvers. The vinyl seats had sun rotted away years ago, so you sat on some thin seat stuffing with springs poking you in the butt. The tread on the tires looked like a receding hairline that had chromed out, and the brakes were very questionable. The dump truck did sport a new valid safety inspection sticker on its multiple-cracked windshield. Who says it doesn't pay to know somebody?

I hopped out of the idling truck for a much-needed breath of oxygenated air, asking Steve, "Do you think the hole is deep enough?" The arm on the backhoe couldn't extend any deeper into the mini-Grand Canyon that we'd created. I pointed out to Steve that you could not get another boulder into the dump truck, and boulders are what made up the ground that the cemetery sat on. Steve said, "We're just perfecting our craft." We set up the 2 x 8 boards over the grave that would hold the lowering device. I was nervous, as these boards were barley long enough for the width of the grave, allowing only a few inches of over-hang on either side.

When we had the lowering device set up, we then covered everything with bright green artificial turf. No one would be able to see the size of the hole. We hoped, prayed, and placed bets on whether the whole thing would collapse in on itself during the service. "Father, we are gathered here this afternoon to pay our respects"—

KA-BOOM!—followed by screams as everything fell into the hole. Doo Doo, Steve and I would be unemployed, not to mention trauma caused to the family, followed by lawsuits, jail time, and having to drop "gravedigger" from my resume.

We moved the equipment up the hill to the back of the cemetery. From there, we watched as the funeral procession arrived, followed by the service. An hour later, the springs from the dump truck seat were permanently imbedded in our backsides. It was getting late, and it seemed as though the last ten or so folks might be getting ready to camp out. Steve fired up the faded green menacing dump truck with a roar that shook the ground under us. The folks down at the gravesite looked up the hill, noticing for the first time a dump truck loaded with boulders that were rapidly disappearing into a choking black fog. They quickly dispersed to their cars and left the cemetery as we idled down to the gravesite.

I was operating the hand crank of the lowering device, which was dropping the casket further and further into the grave, when suddenly there was no more strap left to lower the coffin. We were still a foot or two from the bottom of the grave. The weight of the coffin was more than the hand crank could lift, so there was no moving it. With excited voices, our conversation was: "I can't believe this!" "What are the odds?"

"Jumpin' Mormon crickets!" "I wish I was at the 66 Club!" "Is there an 800 number on that lowering device that we can call in case of an emergency?" We finally decided that if we could get the coffin to swing end to end in the hole, we might be able to pull one of the straps free. We had her swinging, we managed to free the strap, and with a god-awful crash, the coffin fell free at the head end.

On immediate inspection, the corner was seriously crunched on the coffin. I asked Steve, "Do you think Bob's body shop can fix that?" Steve looked at me and said, "Someone's going to have to get down in the hole and free up the other strap from down there." I quickly added, "And that would be the guy who dug this mini-Grand Canyon!" Into the grave Steve jumped, landing on the coffin lid that once had had a rounded shape to it. His work boots caved in the lid to where I was freaking out that it would open up. From the hole came mutters of "I just can't believe this." Steve hollered up, "When I lift up on the side handle, you pull the strap free!" When he lifted, the handle tore free from the coffin. With Steve holding the handle, I looked down at him and said, "Holy Crap, Steve, the family's coming back!" Steve said, "Help me get out of here!" "No time, Steve! Hide!" I ran off with Doo Doo at my heels. After a few

See GRAVE, page 17

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Address Opinion Pieces and Letters to the Editor to:

*The Applegater* c/o Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.  
7386 Highway 238 • PMB 308  
Jacksonville, OR 97530  
Email: gater@Applegater.org

**Kudos to Kirk**

Dear Editor:

I read Kirk Perttu's excellent essay on the climate debate in your Spring issue. I think it's the best, most rational thing I've read about climate perhaps ever, and I hope he will find other outlets for it that will reach additional audiences.

Gregory H. Aplet, Ph.D.

Senior Forest Scientist, The Wilderness Society  
Denver, CO

**Did you know?**

Dear Editor:

As residents of the Applegate Valley you probably use Highway 238 to get either to Jacksonville or Medford. Did you know the historical significance of the little wooden miner's cabin just a few hundred yards east of the 30-mile road marker? I didn't think so!

This cabin is the oldest existing complete cabin in the Applegate region and maybe the oldest in the country. Its was built in the 1880s by Pryor Eaton. He was a bachelor gold miner and this cabin was built on his patented gold mining claim. Planted next to the west wall is a "Log-Town Rose" given to him by the McKee Family as a gift for his new cabin.

This cabin is in dire need of protection by way of historical preservation by the Southern Oregon Historical Society (S.O.H.S.) and Jackson County. Remember one thing: this historically significant cabin sits on privately owned property!

My wife and I would like to see this cabin preserved and protected. We live on the property directly to the west. Our driveway is approximately 60 feet west of this cabin and we see it coming and going on our trips to and from town. By the way, my wife's maiden name is Eaton. Pryor Eaton may be a distant uncle or cousin. Our 5.6-acre ranch was originally part of his patented claim. Early maps show this area as Eaton Canyon and there was an Eaton Road on this property. We named our place Eaton Canyon Ranch.

This cabin is pictured and mentioned in John and Marguerite Black's book: *Ruch and The Upper Applegate* (An Oregon Documentary) Publishers: Webb Research Group-Medford, OR 97501.

Please help us by contacting the S.O.H.S. and our county officials about preserving and protecting his piece of history.

Thank you,

Allen and Lillian Stewart  
Jacksonville, OR

**GRAVE****FROM PAGE 16**

minutes, I started walking back to the grave site wailing, "No, no, no!" blowing my nose, wailing louder until I was looking over the edge at Steve trying to hide under the coffin. Steve looked up, and I said, "Just kidding." What Steve said next was quite colorful and maybe even poetic, but unprintable here.

With Steve lifting, I managed to finally free up the last strap, and the coffin fell, of course, the last couple of feet to the bottom of the grave, knocking off a nice piece of molding on the corner. I helped Steve out of the grave, and then we tore down and packed up the lowering device and artificial turf.

I guided Steve as he backed the dump truck up over the grave. He revved up the smoking beast and pulled the handle on the dump release. As the truck bed rose to the heavens and sand, rock, and boulders fell into the grave, Steve said, "I feel really bad about how banged up the coffin wound up." I said, "Hear that?" as the boulders filled the hole. "What do you think it looks like now?"

Broken rules and oversight from a couple of gravediggers, while not good, at least doesn't bring the world grief like the investment firms/banks on Wall Street

do. Did you know that some of the new banks that emerged from our most recent deregulated Wall Street meltdown-taxpayer bailout can now borrow money from the Fed, that's our tax dollars, for around half of a percent? Then these new robber barons can buy treasury bonds that pay four to five percent interest. Oh ya, that would be our tax dollars again. They make billions in profits, from what? You guessed it, our tax dollars. Then they pay themselves hundreds of millions of dollars in bonuses and perks from those same tax dollars.

Just like mountaintop removal (strip mining) for coal in West Virginia is government sanctioned, good old Uncle Sam has likewise sanctioned Wall Street to strip mine our wallets without a reclamation plan required! As Americans are buried deeper and deeper in government debt, a hole that dwarfs the grave that Steve and I dug, what do you think the inscription on we, the taxpayer's, headstone should read?



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

**"Corporation—An ingenious device for obtaining individual profit without individual responsibility."**

*Ambrose Bierce*

**Safe access and egress are vital**

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Did you know that having a safe, accessible driveway could be vital to surviving a wildfire? If your driveway is overgrown and a wildfire is nearby, firefighters may choose to not risk their lives by coming up your road. And, you and your family may not be able to safely evacuate from your property, either! So, it's important to maintain your driveway as part of your defensible space each year.

I didn't realize how much our trees had begun to infringe on the roadway until I had to drive my husband's truck for a week. The extra height and size had me hearing scraping and scratching so much that I got out the pruning saw and started cutting! In both Jackson and Josephine counties the required 13'6" height clearance and cleared minimum width of 12 feet are to make your driveway safe for emergency vehicles. Don't skimp on these measurements. "The life you save may be your own."

It's also important to thin trees out from the edges of the driveway, so that a wildfire can drop to the ground (and lose intensity and creep around) instead of swiftly and dangerously ripping through the canopy tree tops. Strive to thin enough so that tree

canopies do not touch; getting them to 30 feet apart is ideal.

And last but definitely not least, can emergency vehicles find you in time? I don't know about your neighborhood, but in my area house addresses are not always in order as you travel down a road, or up a long, shared driveway. One stop at the wrong house could mean five minutes of lost time for paramedics and what would that mean if your child were choking or your father had a heart attack? It's not just about wildfires: our local fire districts are our first response for medical emergencies and structure fires, as well as for wildfires.

Address signs like those shown in the above photo are metallic and reflective, so unlike some of those designer signs, they can be seen in the dark! And, the first signs are free from your fire district! You can get them with or without directional arrows. So, talk to your neighbors, walk your driveway, and figure out what you need where. Then call your local fire district and order up your new signs, so that your great local firefighters can find you in time!

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**OPINION**

**Siskiyou Crest National Monument—the high Siskiyou should be protected**

BY JONATHAN SPERO

This is in response to a letter (Applegater Spring, 2010) from Kathy Bishop, who asked supporters of a Siskiyou Crest National Monument to consider the added regulation and the loss of cattle grazing that monument creation would cause. As an Applegate resident and a proponent of the Siskiyou Crest National Monument, I feel she deserves a response.

It is always difficult when change causes the loss of someone's livelihood. While I do not believe that monument status for the Siskiyou Crest will cause a net loss of employment in the area, I understand that those 75 pair of grazing cattle are someone's livelihood. When any active grazing leases are retired, the lease holders should be compensated for their loss; but when the lease of public land for cattle grazing is no longer in the public interest, those leases should be terminated.

Species are going extinct at the fastest rate since dinosaurs roamed the earth. As human population grows or climates change, habitats for other beings are lost. As habitats are lost, animals, plants and microbes must move to new places or die out. The Siskiyou is an important migration corridor, one of the only pathways between the Cascades and the coast. How we manage the Siskiyou mountains will impact the survival or

extinction of many.

I cannot agree that those 75 pair of cattle have "hardly an impact on the land". Their impact is large. From the point of view of a small population of herbs or forbs, the impacts are game-changing. Cattle turn diverse forest edges into meadows. Grasses, able to recover from being grazed, replace the many other species that might survive there if not for the cows. Cattle compact and fertilize the springs and wet spots that are the headwaters of our streams. This impacts the life forms down through the stream system. Cattle

**The Siskiyou is an important migration corridor, one of the only pathways between the Cascades and the coast. How we manage the Siskiyou mountains will impact the survival or extinction of many.**

simplify eco-systems, when maximum complexity is what is needed to provide habitat for the thousands of species here. The single most effective thing we can do to minimize extinctions in the high Siskiyou is to remove the cattle.

None of us likes regulations, but without some rules, society could not function. If the regulations didn't mandate which side of the road we drive on, travel would be far more hazardous than it is. If tighter rules on our activity on these public lands can keep more species alive and provide migration corridors for species whose habitat has been lost elsewhere, I am willing to live with those added rules.

Jonathan Spero • 541-846-6845

**OPINION**

**Response to proposed Siskiyou Crest National Monument**

BY TONY BISHOP

*This opinion piece was in response to a Siskiyou Daily News letter to the editor, from Laurel Sutherlin, regarding the proposed Siskiyou Crest National Monument.*

In response to Laurel Sutherlin's letter to the editor regarding the proposed Siskiyou Crest Monument, I would like to address the points he made in the letter.

First, his group, which is based in Ashland, has not included the people who live and work and raise their families in the proposed area and surrounding areas on the California side of the border. We definitely have an important interest in this matter as it will affect us greatly.

Second, he claims the area is unique as an exceptional biological, recreational, and economically valuable area. Why is this area any more exceptional than any other are? His statement is just hype to further his agenda.

Third, can he tell us how this area has been globally recognized and a hotspot for biodiversity any more than Lithia park may be? Their website does not answer this question with any facts. It is all biased opinion.

Fourth, he mentions there are already many protected areas of different types within the proposal so the area is already well protected and already managed by the federal government. By his own statements, no public lands in the area remain unprotected. In fact a monument designation would only frustrate the efforts and projects for restoration, fuel reduction etc. that are already in place and are being worked on by local federal agencies. These projects also provide some local private employment. He says that unlike a wilderness area, a monument can be actively managed. If a person was genuine about this he would conclude that the area can be actively managed now as it is. Currently any restoration projects are held up and harassed by Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands and other similar groups. In a monument scenario it would only be worse. Sutherlin also says management of the land is divided by overlapping jurisdictions. This is untrue. All of the proposed area is managed by the federal government, and 95% of that management is done by the USDA Forest Service.

Fifth, he says all major roads will stay open. Who will decide what is a major road? And he doesn't address other roads, but I think we know how that would go.

Sixth, as for the willing sellers of grazing permits, what has happened in other areas is the draconian regulations that are imposed on permit holders forces them to be willing sellers. Grazing currently greatly benefits the area, by keeping brush down and meadows open and some fuel

load control. I don't know why these people are always against grazing.

Seventh, Siskiyou County already has large federally protected areas. Our experience here is the more federal land that is protected the worse the economy gets. I don't believe the economic study he mentioned and I would like to see it. Since this environmental radicalism started in the 1980's our economy has continued to get worse, our schools have continued to decline and our youth have had to leave. Most of our living wage private sector jobs no longer exist. The myth of a diversified economy doesn't exist in the absence of base industry. The myth of agriculture and timber being boom or bust industries is untrue, the agriculture industry has been viable and sustainable in our area for over a 150 years and so has the timber industry. Just because an industry goes through business cycles does not make it "boom or bust."

Eighth, county governments are right to ask for coordination in any land use decisions that affect their constituents. These groups always bring up some other place like Crater Lake to justify their actions. We all like Crater Lake, but is that really relevant to the people that live here voicing their concerns? Sutherlin says these other designations have benefited their regional economies, but is that really true? I doubt it, especially on the smaller local level.

**I think Mr. Sutherlin and his group should start by making the city of Ashland a national monument first and then let us know how that turns out for the people who live there.**

Finally he talks about cleaner water and climate. We all know what a ruse that is. Our experience has been the more the environmentalists do the worse things get. Before all the radical environmental stuff started we had more fish, more game, more water, more firewood, more jobs, more young people, our schools were more viable and had more programs. I think Mr. Sutherlin and his group should start by making the city of Ashland a national monument first and then let us know how that turns out for the people who live there.

And then we could make a better informed decision.

Tony Bishop  
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**BACK IN TIME**

# Going, going, gone . . .

## Some old buildings of the past are in that category

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

I was so very fortunate to have been associated with two wonderful teachers who after retiring wrote fabulous books about our local history. One was Marguerite Black's "Ruch and the Upper Applegate Valley" (1990) and the other was Margaret Nesheim's "One Hundred Twenty-Three Years Search for Community" (1979). This last book is about the schools in Jackson County.

I was also doing my own search for photographs of old buildings and pioneers in the Applegate Valley as inspiration for oil paintings I was working on. (Evelyn, a well known local artist, owned the Lamplight Gallery in Jacksonville for many years.) Marquerite Black and I happily shared our collections as we canvassed the Applegate Valley. All this goes to the realization that there are very few old Applegate buildings left, some dating back as far as the late 1800's and early 1900's. Each of them has a story from the past to tell and hopefully a future, as Margaret Nesheim stated in her book, "Too many of the precious structures of the past have been destroyed, perhaps somehow, this one may survive."

As far as I know, the only old school building left from the 1800's, in the Applegate Valley, is the Forest Creek School. My dad started his first grade there. Fortunately it has been saved by becoming a private residence of the Meeds family. The school was organized in 1878, before that there was one at Logtown built in 1854. Margaret Nesheim had this to say about a famous student who went there. "Benjamin Franklin Irvine, the blind editor of the Oregon Journal, attended school at Logtown." His father was a miner on

Jackass Creek, now known as Forest Creek. (Photo 1.)

Not far from Forest Creek, on the way to Jacksonville, there is a little old cabin that at least five generations of my family have passed by these many years. It has been said that this 1800's building was the home of Mr. Pryor Eaton. My mother, who was born in 1894, said her father often stopped there to rest the horses pulling a loaded wagon of dried Mexican beans to sell in Jacksonville. It is amazing that this old building is still there and looking the same today as it did then. "Perhaps this one may survive."

The house built by Cap Ruch in 1912 is the only survivor of old buildings in Ruch. At one time, next to this house, there was a Ruch store with a post office and a dance hall which also served as a polling place. My parents attended a dance in that hall on their way home from their marriage in 1914.

Just past Hamilton Road, on Highway 238, there is an old house built in 1916 by William and Emma (Law) Smith. In later years, Emma built a second story on the house. Thankfully, the new owners built behind the old house leaving a piece of Applegate history standing.

On down Highway 238, about half way to Applegate from Ruch, another early 1900's house was built by Fred and Carrie (Cameron) Offenbacher. It was larger than most of the other homes being built in the Applegate. It is a two-story white house close to the road across from Long Gulch. The Offenbacher's were well-known, productive farmers and the house is still owned by some of their descendants.

(Photo 2.)

Then on Hamilton Road is the James and "Maggie" (Riley) Buckley house, built in the 1880's. The first house they built there was destroyed by fire. The wood framed antique water tower, nearby, is a classic that gives the house so much character. The couple had seven children, but few descendants followed to keep the land. They did, however, generously donate land for the Cantrall Buckley Park. Interestingly, an 1880's photograph taken near this house of baseball players and picnickers, was used as a clothing guide for the 1973 Universal Studios movie "The Great Minnesota Raid." A scene in the movie, of a baseball game and picnic, was even filmed on this ranch. (Photo 3.)

The only old Uniontown structure left is a house built by "Zack" Cameron in the 1870's. It is located on Upper Applegate Road fairly close to the entrance of Little Applegate Road. This house is close to the road but cannot be seen because of a high pole fence erected several years ago. Mr. Cameron's wife was Rena (Verena) Kubli of Missouri Flat. He did some farming and helped in the Uniontown store which was owned by a brother. Their one daughter had no children and so the house passed out of the Cameron's possession. (Photo 4.)

I'm sure there are some other old structures in our Applegate that I have missed, but I would hope those mentioned here will continued to be saved for future generations to see.

Evelyn Byrne Williams  
with Janeen Sathre  
541-899-1443



### Tips on Summertime Sprinkling

with Bob Quinn

Dear Bob Quinn,

We have never had any problems with our well—plenty of water for our needs and more than enough to run a sprinkler for lawn and garden. A neighbor tells me that during warm weather we should run enough sprinklers to keep the pump running continuously. Why should that be?

The first reason is that if your pump is going on and off during sprinkling, the power demand is significantly greater. This increased demand to phase the pump in and out can be as much as 30-40%, according to the experts.

That translates into a real dollar cost and wasted power resources. Just as important is the fact that such on-off, on-off cycling also takes its toll on your pump, and over a period of time will shorten its life expectancy.

Both of these costly conditions can be avoided simply by turning on enough sprinkler heads to keep the pump in operation continually, or install cycle stop valve. Look for future article on cycle stop valves.



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*William Morris. 1889*



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# Dog trainer extraordinaire

BY TASHA KNOWLTON



Potter and Cary Voorhees.

Originally from Buffalo, New York, Cary Voorhees, dog trainer extraordinaire always dreamed of moving to Oregon. In 1984 she did just that making her home in Ruch. How very fortunate we all are.

Cary has been training dogs in obedience and behavior for about 25 years. Additionally for the last 12 years she has been training dogs in agility, (running through tunnels, jumping over ramps, etc.). She also teaches classes in agility and obedience and offers private in-home training.

Cary's interest in animals began when she was just a child. She was raised with animals and learned to love them at a very young age. Her first commitment toward her goals was to receive degrees in zoology and animal behavior. Cary didn't always know that she was going to be a dog trainer; she thought that she would eventually live somewhere in Africa studying monkeys and other interesting animals.

As it happened, Cary's first job here in Oregon was working with Dogs for the Deaf. This is when her real interest in dog training began. She was employed with Dogs for the Deaf for seven or eight years, beginning as a Certified Audio Canine Trainer and then became a behavior consultant. After Dogs for the Deaf, Cary worked at the Jackson County Animal Shelter and at the Humane Society, placing dogs with people whose personalities were compatible.

For a while, Cary volunteered for the American Humane Society to make sure that animals on movie sets and commercials were treated humanely, she made sure that there was sufficient food and water and the animals were not over-worked. Cary worked with a yellow lab used in the movie River Wild, filmed here in southern Oregon. In a National Geographic documentary she was able to work with tigers. Both of these she says were fantastic experiences. She also has trained dogs for use in international movies and commercials.

Currently the Voorhees household has five dogs, three horses, two cats, and a parrot. One of her dogs,

a border collie named Potter, she has trained in agility trails. He also does "nosework" which is similar to searching for items used in search and rescue. Cary is also in the process of training a small Papillon rescue dog named Timmy.

Cary enjoys training canines so much because every dog, every owner and every situation is unique. Each dog has a special personality. Cary has the uncanny ability to figure who is who, and who needs what. When working with the unique behaviors of a dog, she prefers being at the owner's house, where the dog is familiar and comfortable. She is also able to see how the animal acts in its own environment, thereby teaching to individual needs.

The seminars and classes she hosts, taught by visiting trainers, are usually fully booked months in advance. The most popular class is by the world-renowned trainer from England, John Rogerson. Rogerson teaches tracking and searching in a four-day seminar called "Crime Scene CSI." To add excitement and interest to the training class for the canines and handlers alike, the class has a murder theme. After two days of training, suddenly there is a "murder" and the dogs and handlers need to look for clues to solve the murder. To cover the crime scene the dogs and handlers roam over acres of land, looking for many clues. "It is so much fun and very motivating," Cary says.

Having expanded her horizons into the wilds of nature, Cary's interests always reflect back to her animals. Two years ago she completed a nine-month study in herbology. Her new passion is wildcrafting, medicinal gardening and making medicine, which often benefits her animals. Because of her committed interest in an



Looking for crime-scene clues.

animal's well being, Cary has been learning about better animal nutrition and has witnessed incredible positive results due to dietary changes. Cary looks at animals holistically, with an eye to their physical, emotional and nutritional balance. Kinesiology, a method of muscle testing which gives feedback about the status of the functional state of the body, has also been integrated into Cary's realm of knowledge and practice. Through the use of muscle testing she has helped an animal's owner determine the benefits of particular foods and herbs. This testing sometimes works when dealing with behavior modification as well.

Cary says all this training keeps her young because she gets to spend each day playing with dogs, while training them at the same time. For her this isn't just a job, it is also a hobby of love.

Tasha Knowlton • 541-846-9197

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# Apples

## Not nearly as American as you think

BY KATE MORSE

In our minds, “America” and “apples” go together, as in Johnny Applesseed, apple pie, “The Big Apple,” and even the Applegate.

According to allaboutapples.com, edible apples originated in western China, and there is no known American native. Edible apples didn’t even arrive in Oregon until 1847, when a migrant Iowan brought them here, notes Heirloom Orchards, of the Hood River Valley, in their website.

Now, whatever American-ism apples ever had is under threat from an increase in Chinese apple production. In 2007, *The Dallas Morning News* reported that China produces approximately 65% of the apples grown in the world.

China is also the top supplier of the concentrate used in making the apple juice consumed in the United States, accounting for 40% of the apple juice quaffed here. China sent us 4.5 million gallons of apple juice concentrate in 1996. By 2005, that number was 249.54 million gallons. The brands that use the Chinese concentrate—and might or might not state that clearly on the label—are store brands, Mott’s, TreeTop, Welch’s and Tropicana.

*The Dallas Morning News* said that America is still holding on to her apples in the fresh fruit market. They quoted a U.S. Apple Association spokesman in saying that when China began her push to be a major exporter of fruits and vegetables, about a decade earlier, our growers concentrated more on fresh fruit. *USA Today* noted in a 2007 article that the American focus on fresh fruits was in response to USDA concerns that imported fruits from China might carry pests that would infect our crops.

Although China is focusing on apple juice concentrate, it has affected apple growing in the U.S. by taking a nasty bite out of mid-sized orchards. The most recently available statistics from the USDA on orchards producing 1-2.49 million dollars in annual revenue

illustrate this decline: in 2003, Oregon had 3,700 acres of apples in this economic class, while the U.S. had 195,436; in 2008, Oregon had 3,100 acres of apples in this economic class, while the U.S. had 151,300.

Interestingly, USDA data shows that Oregon actually gained apple acreage on small operations—orchards producing 1-10 million dollars—going from 1,600 acres in 2003 to 1,700 acres in 2008. At the top end, measuring orchards producing 5 million dollars per year and more, both Oregon and the U.S. had substantial acreage gains.

Not to get into trade-balance arguments here, China is the fourth-leading recipient of American agricultural products, behind Canada, Mexico and Japan. The USDA says China took 10.5% of our agricultural exports in 2008.

Agriculturally speaking, grass seeds (bentgrass, rye, fescue) are Oregon’s top products, and mint—spearmint and peppermint—of all things, is our number two. For Oregon, the humble apple ranks number 28 in our list of commodities.

But that’s no reason for us not to be annoyed with the Chinese: the USDA received its apple data from Oregon State University estimates indicating we produced 29.7 million dollars in apples in 2006; in 2008, that number dropped to 27.8 million dollars. And this was not part of an over-all decline. In fact, Oregon’s contribution to the U.S. agricultural economy grew by more than 100 million dollar between 2004 and 2008, according to USDA statistics.

Perhaps we should start looking beyond toothpaste for uses of mint.

Kate Morse is a Certified Classical Homeopath who is happy to debunk the myth that you shouldn’t use mint toothpaste if you’re taking a homeopathic remedy.

Kate Morse  
541-846-1252

## Lightning, smoke and 9-1-1

BY SANDY SHAFFER

By the time you read this it will be summer, and the possibility for lightning storms coming through the Rogue Valley will be high. Would you know what to do if you saw a lightning strike in the forest, and then a column of smoke? Accurately observing and reporting what you see is vital to a quick response by firefighters.

After interviewing local 9-1-1, fire and state forestry folks, I collected some tips for effectively reporting smoke, from whatever the source. Number one: Stay calm and be able to articulate your message. Most important: be able to tell the 9-1-1 operator where you are. (Hint: Keep your legal property description next to the telephone. This can help save valuable response time.) The 9-1-1 computer system instantly shows your address on the computer screen when you call from your home, but operators *will always* verify the address that you’re calling from in case you’ve recently moved. If you’re calling from a cell phone, you’ll need to identify where you are: an address, mileage marker, road name, etc. And, *stay available* for a call-back if you’re on a cell phone.

It’s also important to report which direction you are looking. I live on top of a hill, so I do what the lookouts do—I use a compass to tell which direction I’m looking! If a compass is a bit intimidating, learn where north, south, east and west are from your home, and write it down.

So now the important details to report “smokes”: Did you see lightning in the area? How long ago? Can you see flames? If so, can you see anyone manning the

fire? How far away from you is the smoke or fire? (A tough, but important question to answer.) Can you see the base of the flames or smoke column?

If so, which hillside would it be on? Or, is it over a ridge, down a gulch, etc? This is important, because crews need to figure out how to reach a smoke report—which roads to take. Direction and physical landmarks like ridges and gulches are best. Saying it’s “just above the old Johnson place” doesn’t help at all!

And, very important—what color is the smoke? White (an initial strike or the flames are out), black (a structure, vehicle or very heavy fuels), brown (heavy or green fuels), pink (grass) or blue (grass or light brush)? Is it a vertical column or is it drifting?

And the tricky question—how do you tell a column of smoke from a “water dog” or drift of heavy mist that often follows a storm? Experts suggest watching the smoke for a few minutes to see if it remains white or if it is bluish. Is it a straight column rising up or is it beginning to drift and dissipate? If after 5-10 minutes you still think it’s looking like a column of smoke, *call it in!* Don’t wait any longer.

Our local fire agencies gear up and work together whenever a lightning storm comes through. Knowing how to accurately spot and report “smokes” really helps their efforts!

Sandy Shaffer • 541-899-9541



***“Your own property is concerned when your neighbor's house is on fire.”***

***Horace***

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**APPLEGATE  
FIRE PLAN UPDATE**

We're still working on the update of the Fire Plan. Once the potential projects are mapped, we'll be able to hold localized meetings to discuss our ideas with residents and get feedback. Having priority fuel reduction projects listed in a recognized CWPP (or Community Wildfire Protection Plan) opens opportunities for federal funding and support.

I have a running list of those of you who are interested in attending the meetings, and I welcome anyone else to send me an email if you'd like to be notified. Watch for notices this summer for the meetings!

Sandy Shaffer 541-899-9541  
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**MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR**

**Help wanted**

BY CHRIS BRATT

When I was a school boy in San Francisco back in the dark ages during World War II, I always had a job. In my preteens I delivered newspapers before school and groceries after school. Near the end of the war, I worked in a wooden boatyard after school and on Saturdays helping build seagoing tug boats as part of the war effort. The last two years of high school were spent picking up and delivering tailor-made suits on foot every afternoon in the city's downtown area. I worked my way through college by starting a carpenter apprenticeship during the summers and was a part-time, swing-shift employee sorting mail at the U.S. Post Office during the regular school year.

I was a busy boy at a time when it was relatively easy to find a job. It was a time in history when most working class family members had to contribute in some financial way just to make ends meet. It was also a time of active industrial manufacturing, lower consumption of goods, self sufficiency and simpler living. Although people generally had no promise of a job, various occupations were available and there was an assumed prosperity in the country's future economy. Most of us never thought there was a risk of our economic system collapsing or of not being able to find a job. In fact, many working people had an economic safety net like social security and unemployment insurance. Still others had health care benefits, pension and vacation plans, and strong union bargaining agreements with employers.

Well, as you may have noticed, times have changed. Our free enterprise market economy is in free fall. You don't need an economics degree to know our nation's prosperity has shrunk abruptly. Our economic system is in the hands of and being run by an elite group of corporations and wealthy individuals whose power is based on usury, purchased politicians, endless economic growth (unrestrained consumption of stuff) and unconstrained accumulation of wealth (piles of money). These folks have a corporate economic plan that Adam Smith (the father of modern capitalism) identified as "the vile maxim of the masters of mankind...all for ourselves, and nothing for the other people."

At this time, we all know most

people in America are unhappy about our collapsed financial system. They are fearful for their family's future, distrustful of the government and worried about losing what they already have. This situation is the result of unregulated corporate investment bank rip-offs with unparalleled profits for brokers, while their clients and the federal government are left holding the bag. Presently, we have an estimated 15.7 million Americans out of work (7.6 million of these people are newly unemployed), record high home foreclosures and business bankruptcies, trillions of dollars of lost savings and approximately two trillion dollars in bailout money that the government is giving to failing banks and businesses and for job creation. These are the lingering and ongoing effects of runaway corporate abuse of the financial

**This situation is the result of unregulated corporate investment bank rip-offs with unparalleled profits for brokers, while their clients and the federal government are left holding the bag.**

system and the immoral actions of reckless overconfident brokers.

I know the economic pickle we're in looks pretty grim to most of us. It was predictable, though, since recessions and bank failures have happened here many times before, just in my lifetime alone (capitalism is definitely a boom or bust system). That fact brings us to a lingering question for our democracy to ponder. Are we capable of constructing a society with a financial system that has more equal and humane objectives for every citizen than the one we now have? For example, can we maintain full employment with meaningful work for anyone who wants or needs it? Can we continue to provide public goods and services like fire and police protection, transportation networks, public schools and help for the indigent to the expected degree required in a modern democracy? Or will these basic benefits be accessible to middle- and upper-income Americans and dropped completely for the less fortunate?

I can tell you what I'd like to see. In this great age of ever-increasing knowledge, abundance, communication, science and education, there is no plausible reason why

we can't figure out a more stable economy for our nation and the world. The answers to solving these social/economic problems can be worked out, but they have more to do with the determination of aware people to make the effort to change the status-quo. Presently, our nation is fragmented, especially over recommending ideas and solutions to this crisis. So we must become more unified in our requests for action before we can make any significant changes in the structure of our society.

I do have a few modest ideas for a future economy that's conducive to sustaining our planet. I'll mention the easiest ones I think can be achieved first:

- Ban commercial banks from speculative investment. Write, tighten and enforce new regulations for Wall Street. Pass tougher disclosure rules for financial services.
- Use public funds to finance needed work projects across the country (as Paul Hawken says, "Think about this: we are the only species on this planet without full employment").
- Ultra-rich corporations and individuals have the ability to pay plenty more in taxes, so why not? (I read that Ross Perot is worth 3.5 billion dollars and he is only the 85th richest American.)
- Support industries based on ecologically sound use of resources.
- Get out of the war business.
- Assert the need for corporate responsibility in maintaining healthy ecosystems and communities.
- Restrict the mobility and globalization of capital.
- Seek alternatives to growth. Discourage population growth, excessive consumption and the idea of letting market forces determine the needs and costs of products. Stop subsidizing growth.
- Consider a balance between free-market capitalism and state-run capitalism.

Develop your own bailout plan and let elected representatives and me know your opinions.

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## Panic during wildfire?

# The importance of neighborhood planning

BY CAREY CHAPUT AND LIN BERNHARDT

Above normal fire potential is forecast for southern Oregon in August and September according to the National Interagency Fire Center. The climate outlooks suggest cooler and wetter than normal conditions, which will promote above average grass growth. Once the region warms up, the afternoon winds will dry out the new vegetation. Because of this, combined with a drier than normal pattern setting up for the July through September period, local firefighters are preparing for an active fire season.

By now, no doubt most Applegate residents have taken steps to protect their property and families from wildfire. Does your emergency plan include your pets and livestock? Have you designated a neighbor to help if you're away during a disaster? Do you know where you will go if you have to evacuate, and where you will take your animals? Do you know what you will take with you?

Panic is not what you want during a wildfire. Preventing panic through strategic preparation and emergency planning of a community for early and safe evacuation is a great challenge. That is why we are pleased to inform you of the efforts taking place to help prepare your neighborhood.

One of the most important things you can do after putting together an evacuation plan for your family and pets is to meet with your neighbors. Although there are many resources available throughout our region, emergency response resources could be extremely thin during a disaster, especially early on. It will be extremely important to be self-reliant, and neighbors can band together to share knowledge, skills, equipment, and information. An effective way to relay information during an emergency is via neighborhood phone

### One of the most important things you can do after putting together an evacuation plan for your family and pets is to meet with your neighbors.

trees: a proven way to get important information to those that need it. (See insert at right for more information on phone trees.)

The Applegate Animal Disaster Preparedness Committee, a group of Applegate residents concerned about protecting their neighborhoods and focusing on the evacuation and sheltering of pets and livestock, know that one of the biggest impediments to an effective response can be a lack of planning and preparation for our animals. This lack of planning ultimately becomes a public safety issue. Members of this organization are planning on hosting neighborhood meetings in the Missouri Flat and Thompson Creek areas this summer, and they are encouraging residents of other areas to organize meetings in their respective drainages. If you would like to attend or would like help with organizing a neighborhood meeting, please see the contact information at the end of this article.

Planning ahead is a great opportunity to become informed about actions you can take to improve your survivability, such as removing flammable items next to the home, having a 72 hour emergency kit, having an emergency escape plan and conducting a property assessment for future fuel reduction. Through strategic planning and collaboration with your neighbors and local fire department, you can begin to take the necessary action required to protect yourselves, your animals, and your property.

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Lin Bernhardt,  
Consultant for the Applegate  
Animal Disaster Preparedness Committee  
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## Why phone trees are important

When increasing public safety is the goal, a plan to open lines of communication between emergency service providers and those affected becomes a necessity. Relaying emergency information in a timely manner can be crucial to public safety.

Phone trees allow the latest information on an emergency to get out to the affected neighborhood. The leader of each pre-established neighborhood phone system is able to effectively deliver necessary information. Using the phone tree, email and other communications provides a way to help residents prioritize their planning. Do they have pets? Have they arranged how to transport them and where to take them? What other important items do they need when evacuating?

Perhaps you would like to be the lead in your neighborhood to establish a phone tree system. Sample phone trees can be found in the Applegate Fire Plan along with information to assist you to organize and gather the necessary information.

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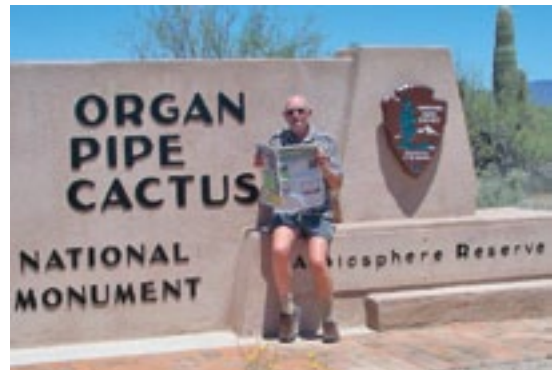


## Look who's reading the Gater!



Photos, clockwise from top left:

- Allen and Lillian Stewart reading the Gater in front of the Mama Mia Restaurante & Bar at Worldmark's Coral Baja Resort in San Jose del Cabo, Mexico
- Maggie Purvis, Maj. Britt Comstedt and Peggy Smith reading the Gater in Gottenburg, Sweden in front of the Arena for the World Championships of Figure Skating, in 2008
- Laurel Applegate with the Gater during her recent trip to Disneyland.
- Ted Glover at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in the Sonora Desert in Arizona.
- The WHOW girls at their last big pajama party.
- Irene Kondor, Rachel and Aaron Withem from Williams, OR in Puerto Penasco, Mexico at the whale research center on the Sea of Cortez



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**Keep those articles, letters, opinions and "Reading the Gater" photos coming in.**

**You are the Gater! All of you – donors, writers and our good readers – please accept our most sincere and grateful thanks.**

**The Applegater Staff and Board**



Take us with you on your next trip. Then send us your favorite "Reading the Gater" photo to: [gater@Applegater.org](mailto:gater@Applegater.org) or mail to:

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