

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinion Pieces and Letters to the Editor represent the opinion of the author, not that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper. We are a community-based newspaper that receives diverse opinions on different topics. Letters should be no longer than 450 words, and may be edited for grammar and length. Opinion Pieces should be no longer than 600 words. All Letters and Opinion Pieces must be signed, with a full street address or P.O. Box and phone number. Individual Letters may or may not be published in consecutive issues.

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!

Sandy Shaffer
541-899-9541

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