

Applegater

Photo by Barbara Holiday

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WINTER 2011
Volume 4, No. 1

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

Postal Patron

Growing grains on small farms

BY SHELLEY ELKOVICH

Amber waves of grain are rippling across a handful of small farms in Southern Oregon in what could be a resurgence in regional production. Last January, a group of bakers, brewers, chefs, millers and farmers met at OSU Extension in Central Point to collaborate on ways to meet consumer demand for locally-produced grain products.

Eighty years ago, 41 varieties of wheat were grown on a million acres in Oregon. Small farms grew wheat. Today, there is much less wheat, and what is grown is mostly produced on the large commodity scale, such as the bigger farms in the Klamath basin. Wheat is still Oregon's fifth largest commodity crop, but 85% of it is exported, mostly to Pacific Rim countries.

Since Southwestern Oregon no longer produces much locally consumed grain, almost a generation of knowledge and infrastructure has been lost. Most farms in the region are small holdings, and part of looking toward a future that includes grain in the local economy involves looking back at cultivation methods of the past, when equipment and practices were scaled for smaller farms. In order to teach producers about grains, Small Farms staff Maud Powell and Shelley Elkovich planned a series of seven classes entitled, "Growing Grains on a Small Farm." The series, funded by a USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant, covers all aspects of grain production throughout the growing season. Each class

See GRAINS, page 3



Firefighters gain control of a house fire near Williams in 2008.

Fire Chief to you: We're at a critical point

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Have you ever called 9-1-1? No? Lucky you! Because, whether it's a personal injury, kitchen fire, heart attack, automobile accident, baby coming prematurely or a lightning strike out here in rural Oregon, calling 9-1-1 is how we get the quickest emergency help. You might be surprised at who shows up to respond to your emergency situation and, where they respond from.

Our Applegate Valley Rural Fire District (AVFD) covers most residents on the Jackson County side of our Applegate watershed and a bit of the Josephine County side, almost to Murphy. Located in Ruch, District Headquarters (or HQ) is where

the staff and shift supervisors respond from (all paid employees); a team is on call 24-7. However, like most rural fire districts, the majority of our District's firefighters are volunteers. So many times your firefighter or EMT (emergency medical technician) will be a neighbor, friend or co-worker. The District has seven different fire stations spread across the 181 square miles of their jurisdiction (including HQ), and volunteer firefighters are vital in responding to calls from each one of these stations. For most alarms the District sends a response from the HQ station and one or more outlying

See CRITICAL, page 10

Waldorf School forming in Williams Area

BY SHAUNA KENEALEY

On a brisk fall morning, children rush into school enthusiastic to begin the day. At the door the teacher is there to welcome the children with a handshake and a smile. The smell of baking bread drifts from the Kindergarten as parents greet each other in the hall. This is the typical morning scene at a Waldorf-methods school.

Waldorf education is the fastest growing independent educational movement in the world, with over a thousand schools worldwide and an increasing number of charter schools in the United States. Right here in the Applegate Valley, community members, parents and educators are working to develop a Waldorf-methods public charter school in the Three Rivers School District and plan to open the Woodland Charter School in September of 2011.

What is Waldorf? Waldorf education is grounded in a deep understanding of child development and works to recognize and value each child as an individual with unique talents and needs. Social and emotional intelligence are developed along with a growing cognitive ability to best prepare them for the challenges and opportunities of life. Traditional academics are infused with artistic and practical

activities. Foreign language, handwork, gardening, cooking, woodworking, music, games, and movement enrich the academic main lessons.

The environment of a Waldorf-methods school is filled with elements that are both functional and beautiful, found in nature and created by human craftsmanship. Healthy senses are stimulated

See SCHOOL, page 17



Photo by Teena Jo.—www.teenajo.com



Contribution Mailing SNAFU

We understand that the Post Office may have returned your contribution envelope as undeliverable. If that is the case, please re-mail the contribution—the issue is resolved. Thank you, The Applegater

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We got your goat!—see page 16
Applegate Dam Hydroelectric Project Update—see page 20
Siskiyou Crest Monument Opinions—see pages 16-17

ALERT

Several readers of the *APPLEGATER* have contacted the Gater staff stating their donation envelopes, from the last issue, had been returned to them by the post office. The address on the envelope is correct and the post office cannot give any explanation for this bleep. If you can be ever so kind and please re-mail your donation to **The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. 7386 Highway 238, PMB 308, Jacksonville, Or. 97530**

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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** 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.

Be sure to add the Gater web site to your favorites!

Joe Lavine, Webmaster
joelavine@hotmail.com

Winter masthead photo credit

This issue's photo, by Barbara Holiday.
Winter in Williams, Oregon

Applegater

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Spring	March 1
Summer	July 1
Fall	October 1
Winter	January 1

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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, Sue Maesen, Joan Peterson, Chris Allen and Paul Tipton for editing; P. R. Kellogg and Kaye Clayton for proofing; Susan Bondesen and Patsy King for transcript and Lisa Crean for book-keeping.

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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 brief. All submissions must be received either at the address or email below by March 1 for our next issue.

The Applegater
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Community Newspaper, Inc.
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Email: gater@Applegater.org
Website: 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 Branch meets monthly from September through June. Days, times, and locations vary. All those who hold an associate of arts, a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university are welcome to join. Contact Sylvia Rose at srjrose2@charter.net or 541-479-0277 or Georgia Applegate at gkapple@apbb.net or 541-787-7175.

AA Meeting There is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous every Wednesday at 7:00 AM at the Williams Community Church Fellowship Hall on East Fork Road in Williams. This meeting is open to those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking, and also to anyone interested in the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from drinking.

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.

Applegate Food Pantry



Hello neighbors!

We wanted to send a reminder to those of you who most generously help the Applegate Food Pantry stay afloat and allow us to continue to serve our community. We have closed our P.O. Box and now ask that your donations instead be sent directly to our home address:

Arlene & Claude Aron
 1684 Humbug Creek Road
 Jacksonville, OR 97530

(Please make your checks out to Applegate Access)

This has been quite a busy and challenging year. Due to our struggling economy, we have more clients in need, but about the same amount of food to distribute.

We appreciate any help you can give us. Canned food can be dropped behind the Ruch school on Thursdays at 2:30, clean clothing can be dropped off at the Ruch library, and checks mailed to the above address. If you have perishable food to donate or any questions, please feel free to contact us at 541 846-0380.

Thank you and Happy New Year.

Arlene and Claude Aron • 541-846-0380

GRAINS

FROM PAGE 1

took place on a farm in Southern Oregon and includes a tour of the grain operation, as well as presentations by producers and university specialists.

The first class focused on networking between producers and users (such as local microbrewers and artisan bakers). The session also addressed the economics of small grain production, including material on enterprise budgets developed by OSU agricultural economic specialist Willie Riggs. Participants identified potential pitfalls to a local grain market; the biggest obstacles seem to be scale of operations in Southern Oregon and the prices that small producers need to charge for grain. Bakers and farmers brainstormed ideas for developing mutually beneficial relationships, such as including more expensive local grains in recipes blending several flour sources.

The second class covered field preparation, varietal selection, and integrating grains into a whole farm system. Farm tours included the restaurant/farm Summer Jo's, and Pacific Botanicals, both located in Grants Pass. Mark Wheeler of Pacific Botanicals illustrated how he incorporates grain into a double-cropping scheme, and also into a long-term location. Washington State University wheat specialist Stephen Jones combined the best of old knowledge and new advances, discussing varietal selection for disease resistance and for protein levels. Jones urged producers to use old resources, such as the USDA Bulletin Number 1074, *Classification of American Wheat*. This bulletin, now available online, lists the forty one varieties that were in production on about one million acres in Oregon at that time. Producers took home organic "Glenn" hard spring wheat seed to experiment with a small planting.

In April the course series included planting spring grains and integrating animals to boost soil fertility and protein levels in wheat. Farm tours in Williams included L&R Family Farm and Seven Seeds Farm. Don Tipping of Seven Seeds explained how he uses rotational grazing of poultry and sheep to clean his fields of spent grain and

to boost nutrients with animal manure.

The fourth class was held June 26th in Medford. The wet, cold spring delayed the grain harvest, but participants still got to take a look at a refurbished All-Crop combine at Dunbar Farms. David Mostue from Dunbar addressed economies of scale and details of his wheat trialing project. Bob Niedermeyer from Niedermeyer Farms covered considerations for harvest and storage.

The class in August focused on alternative poultry rations, as well as homesteading grain production. Producers toured the homesteading operation and tried out an old-fashioned scythe at Mellonia Farm in Applegate, as well as touring the poultry feed experiments at Barking Moon Farm, also in Applegate. Josh Cohen at Barking Moon performed informal wheat trials of five varieties, and the class inspected those plots.

The last class highlighted equipment used in small-scale grain production and explored producers' equipment-sharing cooperatives. A group of producers formed an ongoing working group to address possibilities such as an equipment-sharing LLC, and the option of David Mostue at Dunbar Farms providing custom combine work, as well as a central grain processing facility.

Small Farms team members Maud Powell and Shelley Elkovich plan to write more grants encouraging grain production, such as a DVD project which will incorporate information on small-scale grain production with case studies of different farms producing grains in Oregon, and an initiative to develop appropriately scaled equipment that would be produced in the U.S. They also plan to collaborate with Washington State University on a multi-state wheat trialing project. For producers who missed this series, look for a one-day "Wheat 101" class to be held at the Extension in late winter.

Shelley Elkovich
 Program Assistant
 OSU Small Farms
 541-821-0935

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THE STARRY SIDE

Winter constellations

BY GREELEY WELLS

Although it's been cold for months now, the summer triangle's last star Deneb (the top of the Northern Cross) is just setting in the NNW. It starts rising late in the summer, so it is still here for us to admire into fall and winter; it's such a beauty! Our old friend Orion is rising in the east with his accompanying constellations I've talked about each winter for years now. Look at my illustration, and you'll see Orion with his dog, Canis Major, coming up in the east. (When you look for Canis Major in the sky, you'll see his brightest star Sirius first, and then you will be able to piece together the dog's front legs; if it's really low you'll have to wait for the back leg and tail to rise.) Out ahead of Orion, you'll first find Taurus—that little "V"—and then that beautiful clump of stars

Procyon; you'll find Canis Minor above the big dog, almost aligned with Orion's two shoulder stars. Just to Procyon's right and (above Orion) are Polux and Castor, the two stars that form the Gemini Twins' heads. A few stars run down below them to suggest their bodies, and each (sort of) have feet very close to Orion. Further to the right is another bright star, Capella, which is part of Auriga the Charioteer. To my eye, Auriga is really a five-pointed kite shape (technically, he shares a star with Taurus). And if you've got a good dark sky, you'll notice that there are two small triangles in this 'kite's' edges, one at the upper right and one at the lower left, facing in opposite directions. No one ever seems to mention the smaller, dimmer triangle on the lower-left edge. However,



called the Pleiades, or the seven sisters. During January, February and March, these constellations move from easterly, to directly overhead, to westerly in the sky like clockwork. Having refreshed your memory with these cold visions, let's look at some "lesser" constellations close by and above this group.

Several interesting constellations are found in a row, above the row of Orion and his friends, and approximately parallel to his signature three-in-a-row belt. Canis Major, Orion's large dog whose heart is Sirius (the brightest star in the heavens), has a younger dog above him called, not surprisingly, the little dog or Canis Minor. He really has only one bright star,

the upper-right triangle just below Capella is supposed to be "the kids"—that is, baby goats! So really the Charioteer is a herdsman? A bit confusing... (In any case, to me these triangles are cool—I guess that's because I'm an artist and I like that design element.) The next constellation in this line, moving from left to right, is our old friend and hero Perseus, whose adventures we talked about in the autumn.

So this winter, you don't have to look far to add a new list of constellations to the ones you already know!

THE PLANETS

Jupiter has been rising higher and higher, and has now come over the top due



Greeley Wells

south and is working his way down farther and farther into the west until he disappears completely by the end of March. We have had a wonderful view of his closest pass to us, which he does every 12 years. There's a great opportunity to watch Jupiter dance with Mercury (you'll need binoculars) on March 13-16, as Mercury starts lower/right and moves up and above Jupiter. How far the planets can move in a day!

Venus is January's spectacular, high-and-bright, early-morning "star." During February and March she sinks lower in the east-southeast. The blinking star directly below Venus is Antaries.

Mercury starts January in the morning below and to the left of Venus, then drops into the morning sun during all of February. He comes up in the sunset low, so he's hard to see until March 15, when he's just to the right of bright Jupiter (as described above).

Mars is deep in the sunset and invisible all winter.

Saturn starts rising in the middle of the night, and is high in the dawn near Spica. (In February Spica is below Saturn.) March finds Saturn rising during twilight and quite high up by midnight, with Spica still below it.

OF SPECIAL NOTE

The equinox marks the start of spring, on March 20.

A special treat for you sunrise folks occurs on February 27-March 1, as a beautiful waxing crescent moon passes by Venus. This is a good opportunity to watch the motion of the moon for three nights in a row, with a reference point to help you track its movement.

Upcoming full moons occur on January 19 (called the Moon After Yule or the Old Moon); February 17 (the Wolf, Snow or Hunger Moon); and March 19 (the Lenten, Sap, Crow or Worm Moon).

greeley wells
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 greeley@greeley.me

Note: For a personal story by greeley log on to our website at www.applegater.org, see Polio, an awakening: A personal story

Voices of the Applegate

SPRING CONCERT

March 20, 2011 at 3 pm

Voices of the Applegate, our community choir of about 30 singers, will resume rehearsals on January 5 at 7:00 pm in the Applegate Library Meeting Room. Everyone is invited to participate in the choir, and no auditions are required. A charge of \$50 covers the entire session of rehearsals plus the music scores. Some scholarships are available. Rehearsals will take place every Wednesday evening from January 5 until March 16 and the Spring Concert will be held on March 20 at the Applegate River Ranch House unless otherwise posted.

Our new director, Blake Weller, promises a fun-filled, inspiring concert to welcome in our spring for the year 2011. All are invited to attend. No admission is required, and refreshments will be available.

For more information call Joan Peterson, 541-846-6988

Webinar:

Diversifying Income Opportunities with Nontimber Forest Products

January 18, 2011 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am (PST)
<http://www.elearning.nnfp.org/>

Presented by Neil Schroeder and Tom Nygren, the Oregon Woodland Co-op, and Lita Buttolph, Institute for Culture and Ecology

This webinar will introduce participants to the Oregon Woodland Cooperative, and the co-op's efforts to help small woodland owners stay economically viable by collectively marketing high-quality, sustainably harvested local forest products. Neil Schroeder and Tom Nygren, current and past co-op presidents, will describe the co-op's current goals, development efforts, and projects to market nontimber forest products. Lita Buttolph of the Institute for Culture and Ecology will describe the support services, tools and resources currently being developed for small woodland owners interested in marketing nontimber forest products. Time will be allotted for questions and discussion.

To register, go to <http://www.elearning.nnfp.org/>. For more information, contact Lita Buttolph with the Institute for Culture and Ecology at lbuttolph@ifcae.org or 503-331-6681. For technical assistance with logging on and registering, contact Scott Bagley at the National Network of Forest Practitioners at scott@nnfp.org.

DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

The point being

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Gardening is a life long experiment or is it the other way around: life is a long garden. Well, who really cares? I just garden...because.

This last season was yet another experiment. Between my house and a small landscaped piece of grass is a very large historical water tower. Since the landscaping in that area was basically not edible, I made a unilateral decision to disassemble what I could not literally digest. While my new edible landscaping was not as fastidiously coiffed as it was previously, it was functionally very delicious.

I was experimenting with tomatoes. Some of them I planted in medium size sewer pipes (standing on end) directly on the concrete, some next to the large water tower and then some were planted, well like "normal," whatever that means.

Planting in sewer pipes was the easiest of all. Any sewer pipe, approximately 18" tall and with at least an 8" diameter will hold any size or type tomato. The importance of excellent soil in the pipe and a sunny location, even in the middle of your driveway is the essence of success.

FYI, it was one of these "sewer tomatoes" which would not stop growing. If I had been a little more permissive, one of the plants might have crawled in through the window and jumped into my salad. Think it was happy?

Despite the grandiose success of this small edible yard, my esthetic sense was quelled. Next year, the very t-a-l-l tomatoes will be grown espalier style. This means they will be trained to grow horizontally instead of vertically. Moral or bottom line is, rethink your "standard" garden. There are no rules for design. If it works and feels good to you, then it is good and right.

So what else did I do this fall? Well I had lots of "poopy" times (not supposed to say the "s" word). The events you are about to read are true as I speak and all happened while "lower management was gone."

One day I went either to let our chickens out or put them away, doesn't really matter. They were ALL out of their coop, meandering in the vegetable yard. Fortunately, at this time of year, little damage could be done. Better yet, they are "corn" trained to, "Here chick,

chick, chick." Well, if you call a successful roundup an hour later "trained," (I am not sure if that applies to the chicks or the chick), they were all successfully corralled back in the coop.

To round out that lovely day of exercise, I went out to my very large worm bin, AKA a double industrial sink with drain holes under each sink. This set up is perfect: household garbage in, chicken litter in, buckets fill with some kind of dark murky liquid (fertilizer) out and the big wonderful worms magically appear. I know you are all jealous with envy of this clever set up. However, you must make sure the bottom opening is open, or the sink does not drain and the brown "fertilizer" is on the inside sloshing around instead of draining into the buckets. So there I was, peering into the mucky SLUSH. Then, without any

The point of this story being—sometimes it takes a little maneuvering to get through the "s" word and know that all that smells and looks icky may not be.

glove long enough to reach my shoulder, I plunged my arm in up to my elbow and down to unplug the drain hole and swoosh, the buckets filled. This brown stuff, a.k.a. worm tea, is really fantastic fertilizer.

The point of this story being—sometimes it takes a little maneuvering to get through the "s" word and know that all that smells and looks icky may not be.

Two more "s" stories highlighting the exceptionally good nature of our little four-legged family members.

First story: my niece, Chloe the cat, was close enough to my delicate nose when I smelled a serious "mistake" emanating from her hind quarters. I tried to rectify this error with a damp paper towel, but to no avail. Poor dear Chloe; I had to take drastic measures. I grabbed her very tightly by the scruff of her neck in my left hand while at the same time, with the same left hand, I had her tail pulled over her head up to her mouth. She could not even meow, let alone bite me. Then the "mistake" area was scrubbed down with rose petal soap. All this time, my niece, Chloe the cat, was

necessary, not everyone will be able to do so.

It makes sense for small pets such as dogs, cats and birds to be sheltered with their owners as it is less stressful for all involved. Therefore, we are working to establish evacuation centers that will accept people along with their pets. Local area schools and churches are being identified and agreements are being developed. Once these agreements are in place these shelters will become part of the plan.

For large animals, the challenges are obviously different. It has been recognized that planning has to be done on two levels – both the neighborhood and the valley as a whole. For large animals it is necessary to identify owners, types of animals, and means of transport. The committee feels this process should be initially done at the local neighborhood level. Once that is done the identification of destinations for evacuated animals can take place at the area level. We need to identify fields and barns that would be available and not threatened or affected by the disaster. The largest current locations for evacuation of large animals in Jackson and Josephine Counties are the Jackson and



Sioux Rogers—And the beet goes on.

either trying to eat me, scream at me or just trying to go with the flow and hum a cat tune. I am suspicious of the first option. When this fiasco was finished, she not only smelled like a springtime rose blossom, she actually came up to me, licked my face and started purring. How is that for forgiveness?

Story number two. Our dear two-and-a-half-year-old Border Collie, Barney McGee, was running around the driveway with a long stick stuck to his hindquarters. It was obviously bothering him and he could not seem to get it loose. "Upper Management" here, went over to help. O.M.G. I thought he was impaled and with a very mushy dingle berry attached. I could not remove the stick, lift him in to the bathtub or even get him into the house. This was serious and he thought he was naughty so would not stand up. It was burrrr, freezing cold outside. I ran inside and, right, got the bar of rose petal soap, I had to drag puppy and icy cold hose to approximately the same location. We were freezing. Fortunately, the large stick was not stuck up his you-know-what and I had my pruning shears in my pocket for a quick release of the stick. After several scrubs with rose petal soap and a vigorous dog shake-down, I had one more forgiving household member smelling like springtime.

Autumn was fantastic and most beautiful. Say "good night" to your garden, until next spring, hunker down with a good book, your four legged friends and give thanks to all the wonders we really do have.

The longer I live the greater is my respect for manure in all its forms.

Elizabeth von Arnim

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

Josephine County Fairgrounds. We also have a possible site at Pacifica in Williams.

Our next step will be to organize workshops in about a half dozen locations around the Applegate Valley to discuss issues and gather information. These workshops will be held in conjunction with other organizations and will also address general wildfire safety issues. The workshops are being planned for early 2011.

The committee hopes more volunteers will come forward, whether they have facilities appropriate for a sheltering site, whether they are able to help evacuate animals, or would like to participate in developing the plan. Our goal is to complete an animal evacuation and sheltering plan for the Applegate Valley within the next six months – coincidentally, just in time for the next fire season!

For more information please contact

Michele Brown-Riding • 541-846-1460
Michele@apbb.net or

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**The Applegate Valley Animal
Disaster Preparedness
Committee****What's next?**

The 2002 Bisquit Fire by now is a distant memory for those who lived in the Applegate Valley at the time, and only a name for the many who have moved here since.

While memories fade and new folks come to live in our beautiful valley, the threats of wildfire are unceasing. We know it's a matter of time before we're faced with wildfire again (or other disaster such as an earthquake or flood). By working together, we can better prepare ourselves and our community.

The Applegate Valley Animal Disaster Preparedness Committee has been meeting for the past year developing a plan for the evacuation and sheltering of animals both small and large during a disaster. While it is the responsibility of owners to make arrangements in advance for their animals as well as themselves in the event evacuation is

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APPLEGATE OUTBACK: MY OPINION

Looking back

BY BOB FISCHER



When looking back, it's hard to believe that we have lived as long as we have.....My mom used to cut chicken, chop eggs and spread mayo on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning.

My mom used to defrost hamburger on the counter and I used to eat it raw sometimes too. But I can't remember getting E-coli. As children we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

Our baby cribs, toys and rooms were painted with bright colored lead based paint. We often chewed on the crib, ingesting the paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes we had no helmets.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the street lights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. We played dodge ball and sometimes the ball would really hurt.

We played with toy guns, cowboys and indians, army, cops and robbers, and used our fingers to simulate guns when the toy ones or my BB-gun was not available. We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank sugar soda, but we were never overweight, we were always outside playing.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't, had to learn to deal with disappointment. Some students weren't as smart as others or didn't work hard so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. That generation produced some of the greatest risk-takers and problem solvers. We had the freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

Almost all us would have rather gone swimming in the lake instead of a pristine pool (talk about boring). The term cell phone would have conjured up a phone in a jail cell, and a pager was the school PA system. We all took gym, not PE...and risked permanent injury with a pair of high top Ked's (only worn in gym) instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors. I can't recall any injuries, but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now. Flunking gym was not an option...even for stupid kids! I guess PE must be much harder than gym.

Every year, someone taught the whole school a lesson by running the halls with leather soles on linoleum tile and hitting the wet spot. How much better off would we be today if we only knew we could have sued the school system. Speaking of school, we all said prayers and the pledge and stayed in detention after school and caught all sorts of negative attention for the next two weeks. We must have had horribly damaged psyches.

I don't understand it. Schools didn't offer 14 year olds an abortion or condoms (we wouldn't have known what either was anyway) but they did give us a couple of baby aspirin and cough syrup if we started getting the sniffles. What an archaic health system we had then! Remember school nurses? Ours wore a hat and everything.

I thought that I was supposed to accomplish something before I was allowed to be proud of myself. I just can't recall how bored we were without computers, Play Station, Nintendo, X-box or 270 digital cable stations. I must be repressing that memory as I try to rationalize through the denial of the dangers that could have befallen us as we trekked off each day about a mile down the road to some guy's vacant lot, built forts, out of branches and pieces of plywood, made trails, and fought over who got to be the Lone Ranger. What was that property owner thinking, letting us play on that lot. He should have been locked up for not putting up a fence around the property, complete with a self-closing gate and an infrared intruder alarm.

Oh yeah...and where was the Benadryl and sterilization kit when I got that bee sting? I could have been killed! We played king of the hill on piles of gravel left on vacant construction sites and when we got hurt, mom pulled out the 48 cent bottle of Mercurochrome and then we got our butt spanked. Now it is a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10-day dose of a \$49 bottle of antibiotics and then mom calls the attorney to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

We didn't act up at the neighbor's house either because if we did, we got our butt spanked...and then we got our butt spanked again when we got home. Mom invited the door to door salesman inside for coffee, kids choked down the dust from the gravel driveway while playing with Tonka trucks (remember why Tonka trucks were made tough...it wasn't so that they could take the rough playing in the family room), and dad drove a car with leaded gas.

Our music had to be left inside when we went out to play and I am sure that I nearly exhausted my imagination a couple of times when we went on two week vacations. I should probably sue the folks now for the danger they put us in when we all slept in campgrounds in the family tent.

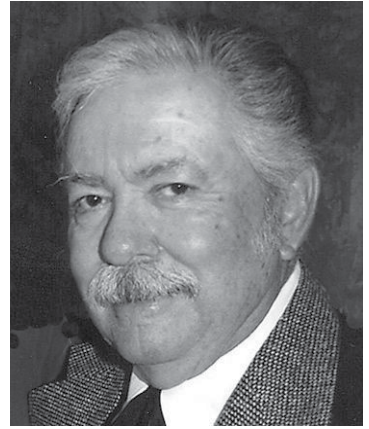
Of course my parents weren't the only psychos. I recall Danny Reynolds from next door coming over and doing his tricks on the front stoop just before he fell off. Little did his mom know that she could have owned our house. Instead she picked him up and swatted him for being such a goof. It was a neighborhood run amok.

Summers were spent behind the push lawn mower and I didn't even know that mowers came with motors until I was 13 and we got one without an automatic blade-stop or an auto-drive. How sick were my parents?

To top it off, not a single person I knew had ever been told that they were from a dysfunctional family. How could we possibly have known that we needed to get into group therapy and anger management classes? We were obviously so duped by so many societal ills, that we didn't even notice that the entire country wasn't taking Prozac! How did we survive?

Reprinted with permission from, The Firing Line, March 2003. Bob Fischer, Life Member

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Advertiser highlight

Bob Thomas Automotive



Would you believe an article that describes an automotive service and repairs company as having professionalism, integrity, affordability, fairness, and reliability? Since these characteristics are rarely ascribed to companies in an industry with deservedly poor levels of respect, I am pleased to emphasize that these are the very attributes that I can personally suggest as my own experience over the last several years, as well as the experience of a relative that referred me to Thomas Automotive and had been pleased with their performance since soon after the company's founding.

Bob Thomas, who now resides in the Jacksonville area, moved as a youngster to Medford, with his family, from Eureka, and graduated from North Medford High. After some time spent with a dealer's service facility, he founded the company in 1997, and has seen it grow to a total of 21 service bays since that date.

The most recent addition of a larger building in the back of his location, geared to the strong well-deserved fleet service business the company has developed, will not only allow work of vehicles up to the size of Class A motor homes and larger RV's and work trucks, but also free up the usage of the front building bays to more efficiently handle the businesses' passenger car volume. Thomas can now handle Ford 6.3 and 7.0 Diesels with the addition of a factory trained technician. While I do not exactly know what the 6.3 and 7.0 series defines, I am sure that patrons that have that need will recognize the capacity as rare and take advantage of this ability. Pictures on the waiting room wall, and certificates, highlight the extra training and service designations of the various repair personnel, with many specialties.

Thomas advised that the business, family-owned and managed, will be adding at least two additional staff members. His philosophy filters down through service writers Tom and Roger, emphasizing the prioritization of needed repairs with no pressures to "do them right now if you value the life of your loved ones." No scare tactics here; just honest explanation of diagnostic results and their implication. In these tough economic times, with the option of keeping older cars longer, routine

maintenance is a good policy, keeping required warranty provisions where necessary, and generally costing less in the long run. Thomas Automotive also can provide an assessment service if you are considering the purchase of a used vehicle. I feel this is good "insurance", since the modest costs will often save a bad experience when the seller does not disclose all the defects.

The business is Better Business Bureau accredited, since the BBB has granted to eligible firms this designation of meeting their standards, and noting that this company has demonstrated a good track record, maintaining proper licensing and committed to exemplify the BBB's Code of Business Practices. Of significant note is the vote of its customers, who have consistently named Bob Thomas Automotive winner in polls of their favorite business in its category.

Conveniently located at 535 Rossanley, just west of Sage, in Medford, Bob Thomas Automotive can be reached at 541-734-3743. Of added value to existing and new customers alike, the firm's website at www.bobthomasautomotive.com offers monthly special pricing on specific services, and you can also print out a \$10 coupon called the Bob Thomas Bailout Bucks, usable on whatever service or repair you may need.

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Above photos: Bob and Lori Thomas celebrate the grand opening of their new fleet service facility.

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Wise Words from Forrest Gump's Mama #33

with Bob Quinn

Was it Forrest Gump's mother who used to say that during the dreary winter doldrums you have to work hard to use your brain. Otherwise it can clog up and might not be there when you need it...

If so, she might just as well have been talking about a ground water source well. Wintertime is usually a time of year when water demand drops to a level that is only what's needed for normal domestic consumption. Such reduced demand is likely to only drop the static water level by just a few feet. This can cause the water in your well to stagnate—an ideal condition to encourage the growth of iron. Over a period of time this buildup of iron can clog the walls of the well and may eventually seal your well off. The best advice is to run your well pump hard at least twice during the winter season. This practice will help flush out the iron and is good preventive care for your investment. Personally, I think Forrest Gump's mom was a lot smarter than some of the politicians in Washington, but that's a whole other story...

Bob Quinn is a member of the Oregon Ground Water Association and owner of Quinn's Well Drilling and Pump Service at 6811 Williams Hwy., Grants Pass. As part of a tradition of information and service that began more than 50 years ago, these columns are provided by the firm to help take the mystery out of well drilling and ground water. If you have a question about your well or one you are planning, please call Bob or his helpful staff for advice, estimates, or helpful information at no obligation or cost.

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TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

Floating freezers

BY RAUNO PERTTU

In my first geology class, I discovered that the physical earth and its past can be understood through study of the rocks, landforms and the geological processes that created them. It's satisfying to stand on a mountainside and to understand how the rocks under your feet, which were once mud on an ocean floor, came to form the mountain above you. However, I also have to admit that a major attraction of geology for me from the beginning was that events like volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are truly exciting. I include floods in the exciting Mother Nature events that give geologists an adrenalin-rush. Over the years, I've had the chance to see active volcanoes, floods, and even an earthquake or two. Standing close to Mount St. Helens inside the closure zone and watching an early stage eruption cloud rising into the crystal clear morning sky above us was awe-inspiring. Violent geological events are still exciting. I understand these events can cause human suffering, and feel very badly about that, but these earth processes were happening long before we occupied the planet, and will continue, uncaring of our presence.

As geologists, my wife and I moved often. It was part of the profession. When the kids were about to enter school, we decided it was time to put down roots, and, after a thorough search, chose the Applegate. We were delighted to find a riverfront property. The family liked fishing and looked forward to playing in the water. The river also offered a fun variety of viewing entertainment. We became acquainted with geese, mergansers, ospreys and a whole variety of birds. We were delighted with the occasional otters. We were less delighted with all the beaver. We learned that those beautiful deer on the river bank are actually ravenous rodents in disguise. Over the years, we spent countless tranquil afternoons and evenings watching the many moods and abundant wildlife of the river. And then there was the time we watched an

upstream neighbor's freezer hurrying for the Pacific, carried along in a brown, churning torrent.

Over the past weeks, I've watched the cold storms sweeping in from the northern Pacific and the snow building up in lower elevations and wondered if another exciting event is in store. This is the first ingredient of the pattern that in our valley has created five memorable large floods, along with several smaller floods. These floods have started with the accumulation of lower elevation snow from the kinds of storms we are now having. However, to create a memorable flood, we would also need enough rainfall over a period of days to weeks to saturate our soils, followed by a warm and very wet rainstorm from the southern Pacific. (Our historic floods have included these cumulative ingredients, where warm

The necessary ingredients for these floods don't come together often, so, despite the early low elevation snows, the possibility of a serious flood this year, as in any given year, is low.

rain quickly melts a large lower elevation snowpack and those who built close to the river learn the dangers thereof.)

Many of us have vivid memories of the New Year's flood of 1997. One of my vivid memories is of that neighbor's freezer bobbing through the four-foot standing waves. Low water bridges, such as that of my mother-in-law, were damaged or destroyed. Fields and roads were flooded, and the water shooting outward from the Applegate dam's wide-open spillways was impressive. Although memorable, it wasn't one of the really large historic flood events in the larger Rogue Basin. Those of us who are older remember

the much larger Christmas flood of 1964. This was the most recent of the five really big Rogue Basin floods. Because I was young and living in Astoria, I don't remember the great Christmas flood of 1955. There's likely someone still living in our Applegate Valley who remembers back to the great February flood of 1927. Even earlier were the great flood of February, 1890, and the granddaddy of them all, the Christmas flood of 1861.

The necessary ingredients for these floods don't come together often, so, despite the early low elevation snows, the possibility of a serious flood this year, as in any given year, is low. We tend to forget about floods during periods such as the past few years, when we haven't even seen high water. On our property, the gravel bar that was created by the 1997 flood has had time to become overgrown with alders and it looks like it has been that way forever. Before 1997, the main channel of the river ran where the alders now grow. I can understand how someone new to the area could assume the current scenery is a permanent situation.

Applegate residents don't have to be geologists to observe that our infrequent flood events move more material and make more river channel changes than all of the cumulative river activities in all the years between the floods. Before 1997, our own stretch of river had rapids and deep pools that were replaced by the flood with the now overgrown gravel bar and shallow riffles. Maybe the next flood will be kind enough to give us back the rapids and pools that we and the kids loved. There could actually be some good in that next exciting event. However, I don't need to see any more floating freezers.

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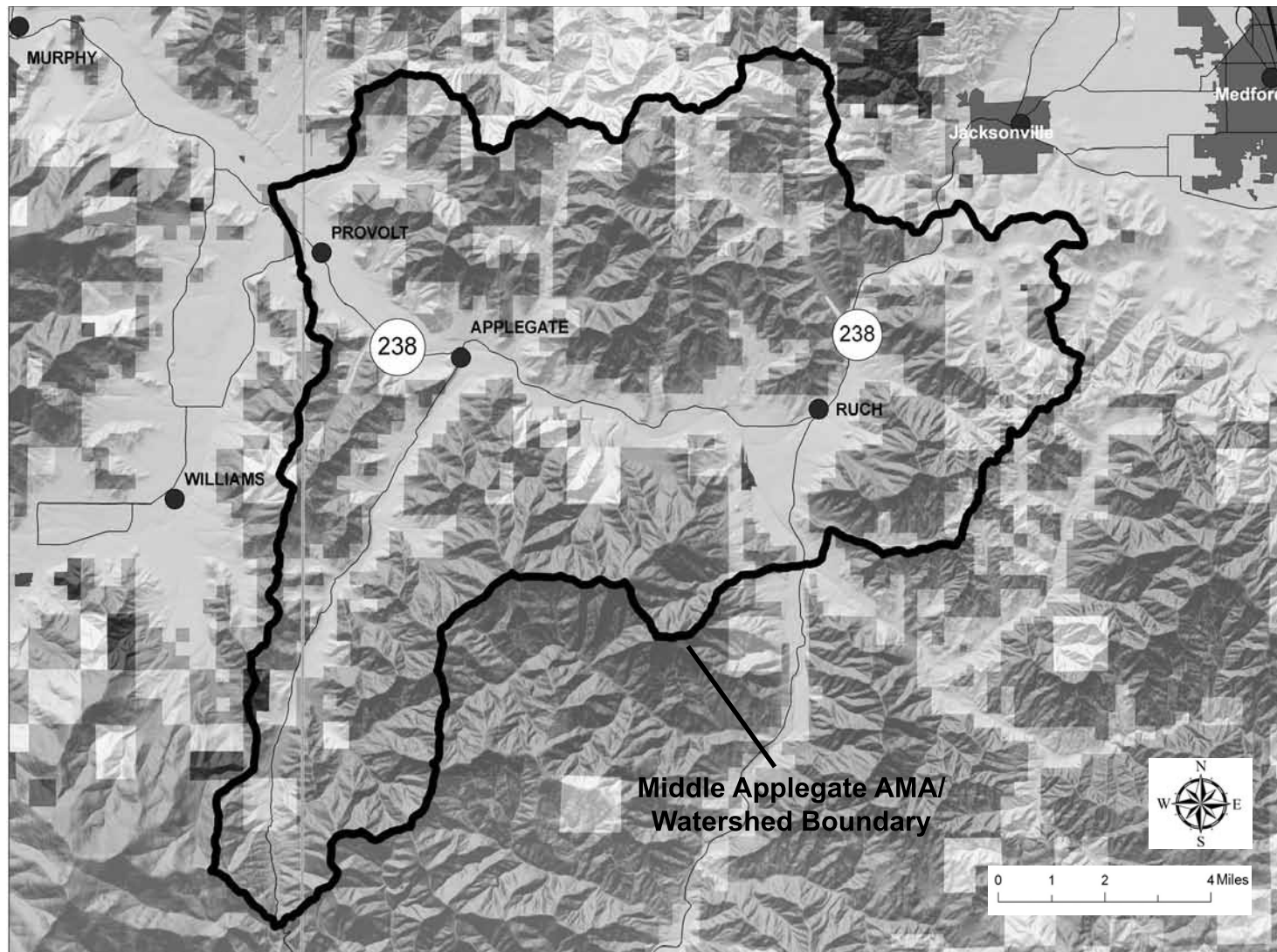
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Applegate Dry Forest Restoration Pilot



The Middle Applegate Watershed Landscape Restoration Pilot Project: An opportunity for forest restoration, spotted owls and collaborative planning

The Middle Applegate Landscape Restoration Pilot Project will be an adventure in collaboratively-designed and adaptively-managed forest restoration. The project will emphasize the use of active management to restore forest resilience. Proposed forest treatments will be guided by existing regional knowledge and experience linked to the restoration principles of noted forest ecologists Jerry Franklin (UW) and Norm Johnson (OSU). A strategic focus will be close consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife to integrate northern spotted owl recovery and habitat needs into ecological forestry restoration practice. The pilot project will also provide a transparent and inclusive planning and implementation process to promote community dialogue.

In February 2010, the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative and Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council submitted a request to the Secretary of Interior to develop a community-initiated pilot project. Recently, the Collaborative and Partnership worked with the Medford BLM, Rogue-Siskiyou Forest, US Fish and Wildlife, Southern Oregon University, and community partners to host the October conference, *Solutions for Forests: Active Management Perspectives for Southwest Oregon*. Through presentations, field tour and group discussions, the conference informed and advanced shared understanding on the role of active management in forest restoration, and engaged participants in outlining steps for potential landscape restoration projects, including the Middle Applegate Pilot.

Now is a Good Time

Many southwest Oregon forests, as well as the resources they host and the values they reflect, are at significant risk. This is particularly the case for dry, fire-adapted forest types common to the Applegate Valley. Past land-use decisions,

fire suppression, stand development trajectories; and expected climatic impacts paint a scenario in need of attention and action. Many forest managers and community members share recognition of these factors and the pilot project will provide an opportunity to translate recognition into action. In addition, Secretary of Interior Salazar supports a Medford BLM collaborative pilot that provides timber resources in the near term and informs long-term sustainable forest management that is socially acceptable, ecologically sound, and economically viable.

An Opportunity for the Middle Applegate

The projected Applegate pilot is in the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA) created by the Northwest Forest Plan (See map above). AMAs were created to demonstrate, test and monitor collaborative approaches to forest management, similar to that of the proposed pilot. AMAs provide the context for transparent innovation. The middle Applegate also includes significant contiguous BLM forest and substantial dry forest acreage. The pilot will share assessment findings and coordinate management activity with adjacent public and private land managers.

What's next?

An existing collaborative framework will advance the emerging pilot. The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council is a community-based organization of long-term commitment and wide-ranging action, and the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative (aka, the Knitting Circle) is a regional collaborative with broad perspectives working to advance restoration for forest and community benefit. These related efforts have developed principles for active forest management and will provide community outreach and education to inform and build support for the project, as well as cultivate regional and national interest group commitment.

The Medford BLM's success with small diameter, stewardship and biomass utilization will be incorporated into pilot planning, and industry representatives, restoration practitioners and local foresters will be consulted to maximize economic efficiency. The Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest and US Fish and Wildlife will be key partners, working to model agency coordination and cooperation.

Existing agency data, current landscape assessments (e.g., The Nature Conservancy Applegate Fire Learning Network, Applegate Fire Plan, Small Diameter Collaborative) and the Franklin and Johnson restoration principles (See Sidebar right) will be used to create a rapid landscape assessment within six months. This assessment will be a key early step to inform where restoration treatments are most appropriate and which treatments should be prioritized for implementation. The pilot does not intend to treat the whole middle Applegate, but to provide a strategic blueprint that clearly identifies where the need and opportunity for restoration exists. The project will generate a series of timber sales, stewardship projects, and service contracts beginning in fiscal year 2012.

For more information please contact:

Jack Shipley • 541-846-6917
Applegate Partnership and
Watershed Council
rockycreekfarms@apbb.net

George McKinley • 541-482-6220
Southern Oregon
Small Diameter Collaborative:
collaborative@jeffnet.org

Information on the Solutions for Forests Conference, Franklin and Johnson Principles, and other reading:
www.solutionsforforests.org

Notes for Applegate Field Trip on Dry Forest Restoration

Dry Forests include sites that are characterized by the Ponderosa Pine, Douglas-Fir, Oregon White Oak, and Jeffrey Pine Series as well as the dry plant associations belonging to the Grand Fir and White Fir Series.

Dry Forests were characteristically:

- Subject to frequent, low severity, and mixed severity fires;
- Open forests or savannas (also, stands that are apparently first-generation forests occur frequently in southwestern Oregon);
- Dominated by small population of old and large trees of drought-and fire tolerant species;
- Spatially heterogeneous (structural mosaics, often including openings); and
- Spatially and temporally continuous (didn't usually experience stand replacement events so multi-aged forests typical and stands poorly defined).

Elements of silvicultural prescriptions to restore dry forests:

- Retain older trees (conifer and hardwood) and improve their survival potential by eliminating nearby competing vegetation and ground and ladder fuels.
- Retain other key structural/compositional elements in the stand.
- Leave areas in the stand untreated ("skips") to provide:
 - Diversity in structural conditions (e.g., heavily shaded areas);
 - Retain desirable snag and down wood features;
 - Provide hiding cover and break up visuals (e.g., for wildlife); and
 - Protect sensitive areas (e.g., seeps, rock outcrops).
- Thin remainder of stand (after old tree protection and skips) to:
 - Favor more drought-and fire-tolerant tree species;
 - Protect hardwood species with high wildlife value (may require removal of some dominant/co-dominant [but never old] conifers);
 - Increase the average diameter of the residual stand; and
 - Reduce overall stocking levels to a target basal area or density.
- Option: Create some small openings for intolerant tree regeneration (e.g., pines) and plant if seed sources are limited or absent;
- Treat activity fuels, such as by broadcast burning or pile-and-burn; and
- Enhance heterogeneity and avoid creating homogeneity within stand.

Portions of Dry Forest landscapes need to be retained in denser forest states to provide for a diversity of forest structural conditions, including habitat required by specific species, such as the Northern Spotted Owl and its prey species.

There is no single "correct" silvicultural prescription, especially regarding the thinning component! There are many variations that can achieve the ecological restoration goals, such as tradeoffs between basal area, species, and DBH targets.

Reprinted by permission of Dr. Jerry Franklin and Dr. Norm Johnson



JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

Applegate Library

Come one, come all to our Friends of the Applegate Meeting in the Applegate Library Meeting Room on January 11, 2011, at 5:00 pm. We have a lot of planning to do for the new year. If you have suggestions for programs, we will welcome them and put them on our schedule. If you have any other suggestions for the library, this is the time and place to bring them to the table. We are a friendly group and welcome new faces, and may even have some cookies to share at the meeting.

On November 14, Thalia Truesdell presented a spectacular program on recycling. If you missed it, we may have to ask her to bring it to us again this coming year as a reminder of how essential it is for all of us to be recycling our plastics, glass, paper, metal, etc. It is not only economi-

cally important, but also, important to our health and welfare. Thalia also has skills in raising worms for compost. Just ask her!

We would like to thank the Applegate community 4H club for their hard work in setting up the book sale that began on November 30 and lasted until December 4. They did such an excellent job of selling the books on a donation basis and collected almost \$500 for the Friends of the Applegate Library. What a great bunch of young people! We are so fortunate in the Applegate to have such a dedicated tribe of young folks. Thanks to all you 4Hers!

Storytime continues to be at 4 pm on Tuesdays. Come in and enjoy the stories, puppets, and flannel boards.

Our display case becomes more and more interesting every month. Even if you're not looking for books, it's worth a trip to the library just to see what's new in the display case. Don't miss it!

Joan Peterson 541-846-6988

Pass the Book

In Spring 2010 the Storytelling Guild distributed 4,974 new and gently used children's books to 19 agencies in Jackson County. Every child in Head Start in two counties received a book to own. Every child who visits the Children's Advocacy Center, La Clinica del Valle's three health clinics, and the three Community Health Centers is invited to take a book. Books are distributed to children at the Dunn House, Kids Unlimited, the Magdalene Home, On Track, the Boys and Girls Clubs in Phoenix, Talent, and White City, and the North Medford High School Child Development Center. Children in foster care receive books through DHS. Books are delivered to the Family Nurturing Center, the Juvenile Detention Shelter, the Juvenile Detention Hall, Access, Inc. and Healthy Start. The Butte Falls Community School Partnership received books for their preschool program and for their weekly "Nature Friday" program.

Where did these books come from? They were donated by generous Jackson County citizens to the annual "Pass the Book" drive held in January. Collection bins were located at all 15 Jackson County Libraries and 8 branches of the Umpqua Bank in Jackson County (631 books). The free performance of "Rumpelstiltskin" was held on January 17, 2010 by the Tears of Joy Theatre at the Craterian and collected 787 books. Other donors and purchases at yard sales contributed an additional 234 books.

For the month of January 2011

collection bins will once again be in all 15 Jackson County Libraries and all 9 branches of Umpqua Bank in Jackson County. Books are needed for all age groups, from babies (board books are very welcome) to teens and all ages in between. Teen books are especially needed. Share your love of books and reading: donate children's books to the Storytelling Guild's "Pass the Book" program.

The Storytelling Guild is a group of volunteers dedicated to serving the community by providing opportunities for children to be exposed to the magic of books and the joy of reading. "Pass the Book" is just one of their programs. They also present an annual "Book Walk" fashion show of books to third graders, present a weekly preschool storytime at the Medford Library Wednesdays at 11:30 am. Additionally, they sponsor a free show at the Craterian each January, provide 24 hour access to Dial-a-Story at 541-774-6439 in both English and Spanish, and provide a scholarship to an RCC (Rogue Community College) student passionate about early literacy and/or early childhood education. The Storytelling Guild is best known for the annual Children's Festival. Planning has begun for the 45th Children's Festival at the Britt Grounds in Jacksonville in July 2011. Exact dates of the three-day festival will be announced in January. More information about the Storytelling Guild is available at www.storytellingguild.org.

Anne Billeter • 541-944-2802
billeter@entwood.com

Become a Master Recycler Applications due Friday February 4

Jackson County Recycling Partnership and OSU Extension Service invite residents and business representatives to become Master Recyclers, gaining a broad understanding of waste prevention, recycling, the local solid waste infrastructure, hazardous waste avoidance, and composting.

Join a 11-week training course that offers an extensive training manual, discussion-based classes, presentations from local and regional experts and field trips to relevant sites, including the regional landfill, waste-to-energy plant, composting facility and waste

water treatment plant. Master Recyclers are required to give 40 service hours to support and expand local waste diversion programs and projects.

Weekly classes will take place on Thursday evenings, March 3–May 12, 5:30–8:30 pm at the OSU Extension auditorium, 569 Hanley Road. Applications are due Friday, February 4, 2011 and are available online at www.jrcycle.org.

For more information,
contact OSU Extension Service at
541-776-7371

CRITICAL

stations, in order to ensure an adequate response.

Our volunteer firefighters are trained to put out house fires and wildfires, perform water and rope rescues, and provide emergency medical care until an ambulance arrives. (One even delivered his own son in a car on the way to the hospital several years ago!) When thunderstorms hit parts of our valley on hot summer days they are found working elbow-to-elbow with state and federal firefighters to keep our homes safe.

These volunteer firefighters are folks who have gone through various degrees of professional training, and now volunteer their time and expertise to take care of their community when the 9-1-1 tone sounds. Their training is top-notch and provided free; their equipment is up-to-date safe, and their hearts are in their work 110%. But their numbers are starting to seriously decline.

The AVFD started up thirty years ago in 1980, and there are 5 volunteers that have been with the District for at least 25 years. Historically, AVFD has always had an extremely high average tenure for its volunteers; right now it's over 9-1/2 years! Wow, you say?! That sounds good, right? What's the worry?

Today AVFD has about 37 volunteers, down 10 or so from a couple of years ago. This number varies as folks join up, retire, or move out of the area; many are now retiring or simply due to age are no longer able to perform at the required level. (Nationally, the number of volunteer firefighters has been declining and the average age is climbing, which is no surprise to those of us in the Applegate.) So while the need for new volunteer firefighters has always been constant, I'm writing this article because it's now "critical" per our Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Fillis feels that adequate response times for the Applegate and Provolt areas are reaching critical conditions due to low volunteer numbers. Other regions within the District are following close behind. Even though the total number of volunteers may pencil out, the number of volunteers at each station and time availabilities of each do not.

Observe: this is *not* the usual "January Firefighter School – Come Join Us" article. *This is for real.* We desperately need more volunteers to sign up for training to become firefighters, because given the size of our District, hiring more paid employees is not a viable solution. Bottom line? Without these invaluable volunteer firefighters responding to the emergency needs in all areas of our District, our response times will lengthen significantly, and eventually someone is going to lose.

FROM PAGE 1

So, can you be a volunteer firefighter? Do you have good people skills? Do you enjoy problem-solving? And wouldn't it be great to know and work with dedicated, caring people who honestly give a darn? In the past, some residents have thought that if they were over fifty, they might not be able to be volunteers. Chief Fillis told me that some of the best volunteers he has are in their fifties and sixties! (This undoubtedly depends on an individual's physical condition.)

Why do they do it – make such a volunteer commitment? Is it the challenge of problem-solving their way through such a wide variety of calls? Is it the quality of training received? Or, is it that people just love their community and want to give of themselves in some way? Yes, yes and yes. From my past interviews with our AVFD folks, I found that the single most common reason they sign up and volunteer their time is "to give back to their community." Isn't that what rural living is all about, to take care of your own?

While this might sound like a lot of work, perhaps even daunting, every volunteer that I've ever spoken with has said that the real meaning behind working with this Fire District is being a part of the "family." Creating bonds with the other volunteers and staff, receiving top-notch training, sweating and solving problems together, that's what it's all about.

AVFD is holding its next training for new recruits this coming February, and we need to have a full class that will help fill in those weak areas. Classes will be held on the weekends. Once you're accepted into the program, the initial 5-week (free, in-house) training course familiarizes you to the organization, its protocols and safety practices; you become a basic firefighter upon completion. There are many options available beyond this, such as moving into the First Responder medical level or EMT, learning to operate the heavier vehicles such as a water tender, search and rescue, wildland fire training, and also command and control positions. Something to pique just about anyone's interest!

Have we piqued yours? I sincerely hope so, because we're at a critical point right now. Our rural fire district is vital to our well-being and that of our loved ones, but they can't operate without dedicated volunteers. Give either Brett Fillis or Chris Wolfard a call at 541-899-1050 and see if this is a fit for you. It might change your life, and could save the life of someone you know.

Sandy Shaffer
541-899-9541
AVFD Budget Committee
sassyone@starband.net

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Annual Fire District Yard Sale and Future Fund-Raising

Collectively, those of us at the Applegate Fire District – Friends of the Fire District, volunteers and staff would like to thank those who donated items not only for this last year's yard sale, but for all of the yard sales in the past. Donations and proceeds from yard sales have helped purchase equipment for the fire district that couldn't be purchased within the normal budget. Hosting three annual social events for the fire district members and families (a Christmas Party, an Awards Banquet and the Summer Picnic) as well as assisting those seeking Emergency Medical Technician training with tuition scholarships are the other vital ways that the Friends support our Fire District.

The yard sale has been the primary fund-raising effort of the Friends of the Applegate Fire District for many years. The amount of donated items has increased while the amount of funds raised has decreased. At the same time the quantity of items that must be hauled off to the landfill has skyrocketed. (Items that cannot be given to other organizations for use, include clothes etc...) In addition, the amount of time that goes into sorting and handling the donated items has become unmanageable. So it is with deep regret that we will no longer be putting on the annual yard sale. We realize that the yard sale will be missed for many reasons, but the effort that goes into the yard sale is simply no longer beneficial.

Of course the financial reasons for raising funds continue to exist, so we hope to replace the yard sale with another function that might prove to be popular with district patrons: an annual firefighters ball. This event would be held each year in the valley, with pre-sold tickets for dinner. Attendees would listen to music provided by local musicians while dining with friends and neighbors. The evening would culminate with a silent auction.

Again, we want to thank everyone who has helped us throughout the years and we hope you will continue to support our cause as we change how we support the men and women of the Applegate Fire District, who help all of us in our time of need.

Brett Fillis 541-899-1050
Fire Chief,
Applegate Valley Fire District



OSU Master Gardeners Association Classes and Events

Jackson County

Now to April 28 THE SPRING FAIR BOOK SHACK NEEDS DONATED BOOKS

The Master Gardener Spring Fair Book Shack is looking for used books to help benefit The J.C.M.G.A. Scholarship Fund. We are looking for books on the following topics: gardening and landscape (all aspects), bees, birds, insects, butterflies, rocks, varmints, wildlife, worms, "how to" books, arts and crafts, cookbooks, canning and preserving, wine and wine-making, health and all children's books, videos and video games. Please, NO magazines.

Please drop your books off at the O.S.U. Extension Office on Hanley Road

Saturday, February 12,

9:00 am-12:00 pm GRAPE PRUNING

Chris Hubert, Quail Run Vineyard

The emphasis of this class will be growing grapes in the home garden, especially how, when, and where to prune. Participants will learn terminology that applies to growing grapes, care of grapes, and solutions for common grape problems in the home garden. The class will conclude with an outdoor demonstration on pruning grapes, so dress for the weather. *Qualifies for M.G. re-certification.*

Saturday, February 19,

9:00 am -12:00 pm FRUIT TREE PRUNING

Terry Helfrich, Professional Orchardist

The emphasis of this class will be growing fruit trees in the home garden, especially how, when, and where to prune. Selection of trees and planting site, tree structure, planting requirements, spacing and tree training will also be discussed. The class will conclude with an outdoor demonstration in pruning fruit trees, so dress for the weather. *Qualifies for M. G. recertification.*

Saturday, March 5. 9:00 am-12:00 pm ROSE PRUNING

Len Tiernan, Master Gardener

Rose anatomy, rose care, pruning tools, and 10 principles for pruning roses will be discussed. The class will conclude with outdoor practice in pruning roses, so dress for the weather and bring gloves, clippers, and loppers.

Tuesday March 8, 7:00-9:00 pm

FRUIT TREE GRAFTING

George Tiger, ret. OSU Extension Agent

Learn how to create your own apple tree or save grandpa's favorite apple tree. The techniques and tools for grafting fruit trees will be taught. Class members will choose apple tree varieties to make a minimum of three grafted starts to take home. Class qualifies for Master Gardener recertification. NOTE: Class limited to 25. Prepayment of materials fee of \$25 and class fee of \$5 required. See Paula in the Extension Office.

Saturday, March 19 READY-SET-GROW, A DAY FOR BEGINNERS

8:30 am-10:00 am SEED STARTING

Don Shaffer, Master Gardener

10:15 am-11:45 am VEGETABLE GARDENING

Carol Oneal, Master Gardener

11:45 am - 1:00 pm Lunch (on your own)

1:00 pm- 2:30 pm ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

Stan Mapolski, Landscaper

2:45 pm- 4:15 pm SOIL AND WATER

Bob Reynolds, M. Gardener Coordinator

NOTE: \$5 per class or 4 classes for \$15/ MG free

Thursday, March 24, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm ANCIENT GRAINS

Rebecca Wood, author of Splendid Grains

Rebecca Wood, author of the Splendid Grains cookbook will be the keynote speaker, followed by a panel of local farmers and other local grain experts—and lots of whole-grain tastings throughout. *Cost: \$10 (Master Gardeners included)*

Tuesday, April 5, 7:00-9:00 pm DANDY DAHLIAS

Christy Hope, Master Gardener

Dahlias are easy and one little tuber can give an abundance of color and happiness. A yearly look at dahlias: varieties/classifications, purchasing, when/where to plant, pests/problems, digging/winter storage will be covered. *Class qualifies for M. G. recertification.*

Tuesday, April 19, 7:00-9:00 pm Made in the Shade

Cliff Bennett, Chet's Garden Center

This class will cover annuals, perennials, evergreens, and unusual conifers that will thrive in a shade garden. Soils, fertilizers, and insects will also be discussed. *Cost: \$5/MG free. 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 J.C.M.G.A. go to: <http://extension.orst.edu/sorec/gardening>

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

22nd Annual Home Garden Seminar February 19

The 22nd ANNUAL HOME GARDEN SEMINAR will be held Saturday, February 19, 2011 from 8:30 am to 4:15 pm at: ROGUE COMMUNITY COLLEGE 3345 Redwood Highway, Grants Pass. The seminar is sponsored by Josephine County Master Gardeners and RCC. Participants may attend four 90 minute classes for \$20.00 dollars, choosing from a selection of 30+ garden-related topics. Registration will begin January 10 and close February 11. Walk-in registration is welcome at 8:00 am on the day of the seminar, depending on class availability. Early registration advised. Information, forms and class details are available at Josephine County OSU Extension Office, 215 Ringuette St, Grants Pass 541-476-6613, or after January 10, 2011 go to: <http://www.jocomastergardeners.com> or <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/josephine/horticulture/master-gardeners/>

Become an OSU Master Gardener Classes start January 13

Have you ever wondered why some people can maintain a beautiful landscape with few pesticides while others are constantly spraying but are never really satisfied with the results? Do you know the real impact of all those garden inputs on the environment and you? Do you just want to learn more about growing plants to give you more confidence around your yard?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions you may want to attend the Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener™ winter training program. The Master Gardener program combines in-depth classes with hands-on volunteer experience learning in plant clinics, gardens, and greenhouses. The purpose of the training is to teach sustainable gardening methods and to prepare you to be a Master Gardener volunteer. As a Master Gardener, you will provide accurate gardening information to Josephine County citizens through our clinic at the OSU Extension office or at organized events throughout the county.

Classes are offered just once a year on Thursday, from January 13 to March 30 from 9am to 4pm with an hour off for lunch. Classes are held at the OSU Extension Auditorium, 215 Ringuette St., Grants Pass. Registration is open now and has limited space. The course costs \$100.

All Master Gardener students agree to complete 70 hours of volunteer service with the program. Volunteer activities include plant clinic, greenhouse, demonstration gardens, school programs, spring garden fair and other activities. Your volunteer hours and activities can be flexible to fit your schedule.

If this program is what you are looking for, then join us. Come down to the OSU Extension Office at 215 Ringuette St. to register and set up an orientation time. Space is limited so register early. If you have any questions about the program, call 541-476-6613

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Community Fire Plan Update—New Priorities

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Earlier in 2010 we set about updating the priority fuels reduction projects across the Applegate Watershed. The original list came out of the 2002 *Applegate Fire Plan*, and quite a bit had been accomplished across all lands in our great Applegate Valley (almost 40,000 acres treated). So, a group of 15-20 stakeholders from various neighborhoods, agencies, NGOs and such met to work through what we saw had been completed and what was still a priority. These folks were from our local Fire District, the Applegate Partnership Watershed Council, the BLM and USFS, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and also from neighborhoods across the valley. All work, or have worked within our watershed, so they know the lands, the roads, the people.

As in the original Fire Plan, we used the 19 Strategic Planning Areas or SPAs (see map below) that we'd designated to break our nearly 500,000 acre watershed into manageable sub-basin-sized areas for planning (e.g. Thompson Creek or Slate Creek). We've always tried to find priority tasks in *all* 19 SPAs so that we don't identify one neighborhood as a higher priority over others.

As a result of these meetings, we now have a list of 38 proposed priority fuels "projects". They are listed below for your review and comment, and you'll find that some are natural resource concerns, some are desired future conditions, some are fire safety concerns to implement, and some are actual neighborhoods where we felt fuel reduction work is needed. As you read through the list you'll notice one theme coming out across the watershed, and that is to *maintain* all of the hazardous fuels work that has already been done on both private and public lands. A lot of good, effective work has happened since 2001 when we started writing our Community Fire Plan, and the efforts and investments need to be preserved.

None of these proposed priorities are actually "mapped" yet; most need more development and detail, even though they might seem fairly explicit. Right now we are looking for comments, additions or concerns from you, our community. Then we'll polish up the list and present it to our local and state governments for their "blessing." (That's protocol for community fire plans, so that federal funds are accessible for implementation.)

So, please read through the list here, and let me know if you have comments, ideas or concerns. (*Clarification in the list: in order to save space, I abbreviated the wildland urban interface as WUI and SDM is small diameter materials.*) Please do so by January 31, 2011, and reference the SPA item number (e.g. 3C) in your comments, so that we can continue to move forward expediently with our process. Thank you!

Sandy Shaffer
541-899-9541

Applegate Fire Plan Coordinator
sassyone@starband.net

Proposed 2011 Applegate SPA Projects

#1: Middle/Butte

1A: Find a way to reduce risks to wilderness and late seral reserves on Forest Service lands, within the limited USFS planning allowed.

#2: Carberry (Steve's/Sturgis/O'Brien)

2A: Make Road 777 a safe and viable escape route for both Carberry and Thompson Creek residents.

2B: Make residences/residents more fire safe; reduce risks of fire spreading from private lands to federal wilderness/late seral reserves.

2C: Increase chances for large legacy trees in Steve's Fork area to withstand a wildfire, insects, disease, etc. by reducing the understory.

#3: Squaw/Elliott/Applegate Lake

3A: Reduce hazardous fuels on Forest Service lands around Applegate and Squaw Lakes.

3B: Reduce hazardous fuels along ridges and other areas to protect species diversity. Possibly preserve area as a baseline for Research Natural Areas?

3C: Yellow Jacket Ridge to Dutchman: Increase health and reproduction rates of pines in the area.

#4: Beaver/Palmer

4A: Build on previous fuel reduction work so hazard doesn't increase, especially in Beaver Creek to Texture Gulch areas.

4B: USFS and private lands: China Gulch area off Flumet Road: Build upon work already completed by thinning some strategically located parcels, to protect the WUI in the area.

#5: Star

5A: Off Star Gulch Rd., Dead Stew(ardship) project area: Reduce risks to WUI by continuing to do thinning/treatments in the watershed, utilizing small diameter materials.

5B: Protect WUI and resources by maintaining previous treatments on all lands.

#6: Upper Little Applegate

6A: Dog Fork/Crepsey Gulch area: Decrease the risk to private homes and lives in the area by reducing fuel loads and utilizing SDM.

6B: Old Bald Lick area eastward, near Wagner Butte: Help prevent a fire start in the Applegate from spreading into the Ashland

watershed by strategic placing of fuel reduction projects.

6C: Sterling Mine Ditch area: Protect the area and resources by doing fuel reduction treatments to complement previous trail thinning work.

#7: Lower Little Applegate

7A: Old Bobar area: Reduce density of stands and increase stand health by removing and utilizing SDM.

7B: Protect WUI and resources by maintaining previous treatments on all lands.

#8: Spencer/Forest

8A: Poorman Creek Ridge area to west Medford, Knowles Road: Protect/enhance oak savannahs and large pine in the area by promoting fuel reduction on private lands to reduce hazards.

8B: Protect WUI and resources by maintaining previous treatments on all lands.

#9: Humbug Creek

9A: Upper and West Fork of Humbug Creek, over to Slagle area: Do strategic thinning on all lands to help better protect homes and lives.

9B: Area from China Gulch over to Humbug Creek: Protect/maintain work completed on private and BLM lands in China Gulch and Humbug Creek areas.

#10: Thompson Creek

10A: West of 6000 block – "Hoot Owl" area: Expand defensible space work to provide safer access/egress and to better protect private and federal lands.

10B: BLM lands in upper drainage: Treat O and C lands while managing for species in this heavy fuel load area.

10C: All lands in drainage: Protect WUI and resources by maintaining previous treatments on all lands and utilizing SDM.

#11: East Williams

11A: All lands in "Pipe Fork Area" in SE corner of watershed: Protect Port-Orford cedar (POC) in area from root disease spread and also protect, enhance and utilize existing USFS POC data here.

11B: Use past history of collaborative work with locals to design a small diameter utilization project on BLM lands.

11C: "Clapboard Gulch" area: Increase private landowner and firefighter access/egress in area by thinning along roads and around homes.

#12: West Williams

12A: Cedar Flat Rd and Hartley Lane areas: Create defensible space for homes in area; do roadside thinning for safer egress by residents and firefighters.

12B: "Deer Willy" area; Cedar Flat and Mungers: Do private roadside thinning and defensible space to reduce risk to homes and firefighters and to protect BLM's Deer Willy project work.

#13: Lower Williams

13A: Raise resident awareness of late seral reserves, forest health and Deer Willy work, with goal of reducing fuels/increasing stand health on private properties to help protect these values.

#14: Slagle Creek

14A: Raise awareness of the value of legacy oaks and pines; work to thin all lands for stand health and protection from stand-replacing fire.

14B: Protect WUI and resources by maintaining previous treatments on all lands.

#15: Murphy

15A: Milepost 10 from Hyde Park Road to Grays Creek Road: Increase homeowner safety by promoting more defensible space and roadside thinning on private lands, with SDM utilization.

15B: Board Shanty area: Scott Road east and west: Increase homeowner safety by promoting more defensible space and roadside thinning on private lands.

#16: Murphy Creek

16A: Protect WUI and natural resources by maintaining previous treatments on all lands.

#17: Cheney Creek

17A: Initiate a public education campaign to thin to protect late seral reserves, oaks and general forest health, while making homes more fire safe.

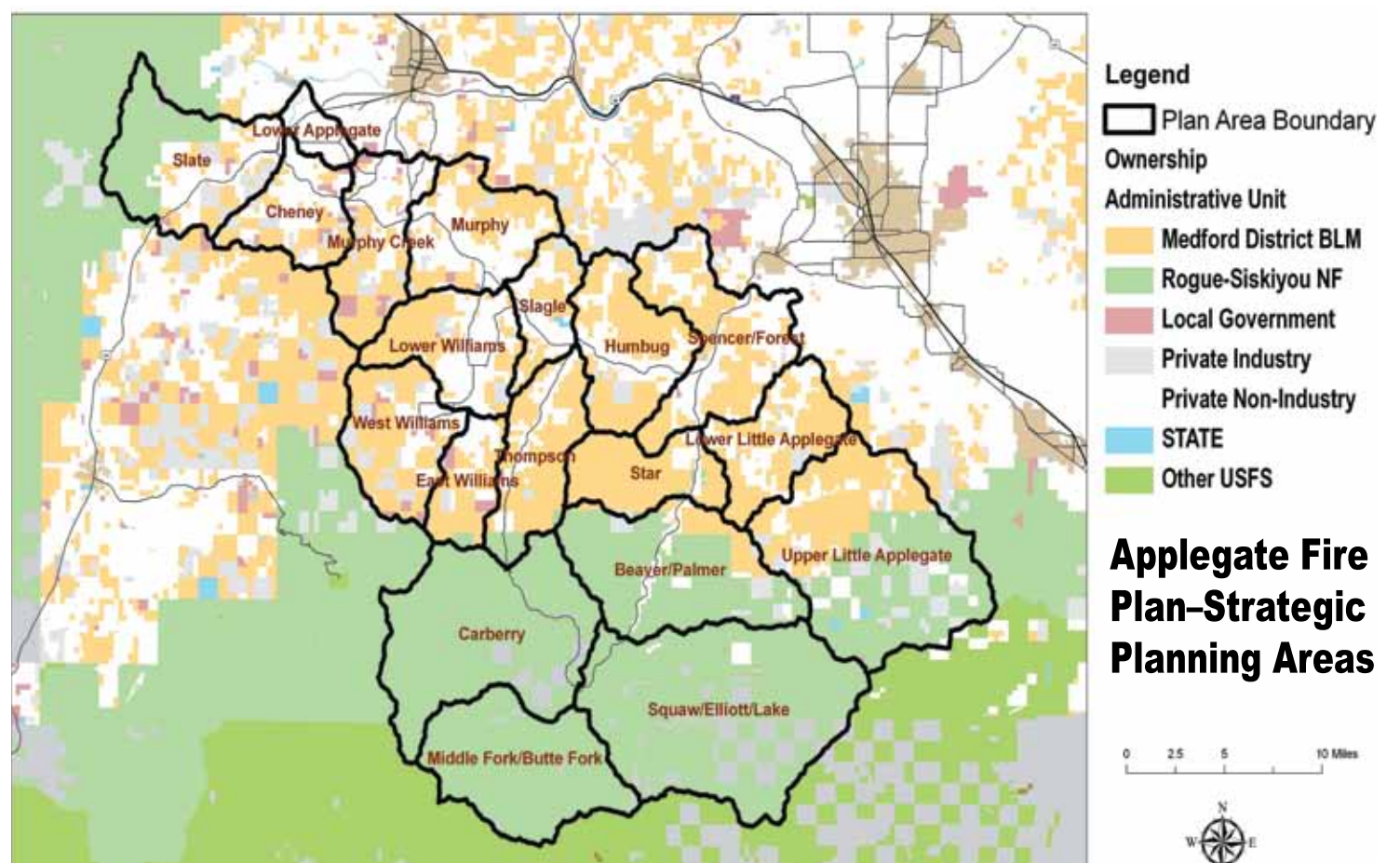
#18: Lower Applegate

18A: Protect WUI and resources by maintaining previous treatments on all lands.

#19: Slate Creek

19A: BLM's Cheney-Slate project area: Protect private WUI residents by treating high fuels on BLM lands.

19B: Reduce risk to residents and firefighters by promoting the creation of defensible space and safe access routes in watershed.





Advertiser Highlight: The opening of My Way Cafe in Ruch

BY JONATHAN SHULKIN

I first moved to the Applegate valley with a dream to settle my family and open another restaurant. Here we are five years later, and the dream is coming true. Although this has been both adventurous and challenging, I am very proud of my wife Tina and daughter Cierra for their unconditional support.

During the summer of 2010, I set my sights on the Magnolia Grill in Ruch, and was able to purchase the restaurant in October. While undergoing a massive makeover, a plan was made to reopen as My Way Cafe in February 2011. We are remodeling the entire restaurant, and are very excited to show the valley our vision through all the hard work and passion involved.

I opened my first restaurant at the age of nineteen in the Midwest (I am from Chicago and Tina is from St. Louis). One day at work a businesswoman came in with a checkbook eager to buy me out. It was my dream as a child to own a restaurant, and selling it was a tough decision for me. After finally accepting a later counteroffer, I immediately focused my attention on the next restaurant I wanted to open. I had no idea it would take over a decade to achieve this goal, and I am so happy to have this opportunity once again.

Shortly after the sale of my restaurant, I moved to the Napa Valley in search of the culinary knowledge that would help make me successful in the future. The move was supposed to be temporary, but I became enthralled in the industry and stayed over five years. While traveling back in the Midwest, I met my wife and I had to decide whether to stay west or follow my heart back home. I reinvested my restaurant earnings in rental properties which I was able to sell, allowing us to look for property for our family out west. We stumbled upon Applegate Valley and knew right away we were not going back to the Midwest. A beautiful 40-acre property in the mountains near the wine country was a dream that came true for both of us. The only problem for me was that I still wanted a business of my own which I found out would take some time.

Living in the Applegate Valley, I held a catering job in Napa while work-

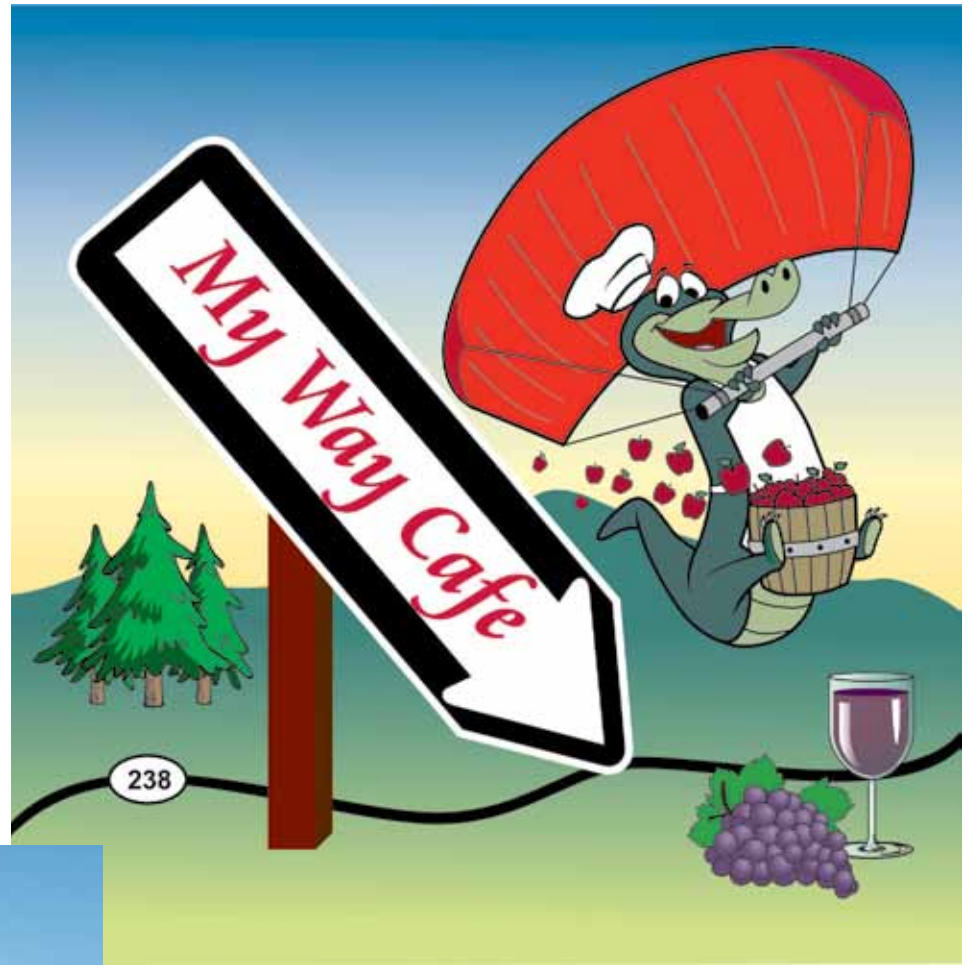


Above: Jon's Family, daughter Cierra and wife Tina, waiting in St. Louis for My Way Cafe to be ready.

ing full-time at two jobs in Ashland after our move to Oregon. This nonstop work schedule was hard on our family so Tina went back home to complete beauty school, and gave me the chance to work like crazy and save the finances needed to open a restaurant. Without the love and understanding of my wife and daughter, I would never have reached this goal. I promised Tina that after we opened a restaurant I would support her in opening a hair salon, which is still in our plans together and another great goal to work toward.

The concept for My Way Cafe was created after leaving the family style restaurant I opened as a young man, while growing up in the intense, high-end service industry that is the Napa Valley wine country. While managing a bar there, the chef and I would joke about opening a place together which would cater to everyone's needs, not just those with disposable incomes. Both the chef and I were from modest backgrounds, but now had the experience of working in some of the highest-rated restaurants in Napa Valley. As passionate restaurant people we loved the standard of service and culinary excellence there, but shared the same frustrations that came with such expectations. The first being that great cooking does not need to be so expensive; the second being that every patron deserved such service, not just the wealthy. Providing people with what they want at an affordable price was the basis of the service industry we both loved so much, but was often lost in the high-end Napa Valley environment.

The chef and I would joke about how we needed a place called "My Way Cafe". There people would be able to get both amazing and affordable food and service, plus whatever they wanted if their requests were possible. Our intentions were to use lots of fresh and local products while offering friendly, top-notch service at a price everyone could afford. My family and I are very appreciative that the chef is moving here to execute this concept with us. The eight



year joke between friends is now a dream come true. My family will be moving back as the restaurant is opening. Although it has been a struggle, it seems to have all worked out for the best. I feel very lucky.

I want to take a moment to thank two local people as well. First, my landlord made it possible for us to reinvest our life savings by offering a fair and long-term lease. Secondly, the previous owner to whom I would like to send my best wishes;

we have become close during this experience. I would also like to thank all of our wonderful family members for their love and support.

The goal is to be opened by Valentine's Day February 14, 2011. Rebuilding a restaurant has many challenges, but we should be on time. My family and friends look forward to serving the Applegate Valley for many years to come with great pride and excitement knowing the path it took to get here. Thank you for your current and future support in our adventure. We hope to "Thank you for coming My Way!" as soon as possible.

Jonathan Shulkin • 541-899-8700

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Tall Tales from the Editor

Innocent eyes or Headache induced

My bride Sioux, aka "Upper Management," had gone to town to do our weekly grocery shopping. I was going to spend the day getting our vegetable garden and orchard in some sort of order. That means pulling and killing any nasty weeds I might encounter.

Our two-and-a-half-year-old border collie Barney McGee, aka "Monster Boy," was out in the yard with me. He was herding birds and squirrels from tree to tree.

Utah, our senior border collie, lay on the gravel in our driveway. He was bathing in the hot sun as he chased squirrels and/or girls in his body-twitching dream. I'm not sure why Utah prefers a bed of gravel to, say, a softer grassy lawn. Maybe the heat from the sun-warmed gravel makes his arthritic back legs feel better. Hmm.

I decided to lie down on the gravel in our driveway, too. No, it wasn't because I had been on a hard party and found myself sprawled out like a smashed pumpkin in the drive with gravel imbedded in my teeth. Not this time. No, this time I wanted to see if maybe it was more comfortable than it looked. It was a scientific experiment about which I might be able to write a paper and post it on a website alongside all the other useless drivel found on one's computer.

After a minute of sharp, jagged-edged gravel cutting into my back and rear, I gave the bed of gravel a comfort rating of zero.

"How do you lay on this gravel for hours on end?" I asked Utah as I pushed myself up off our meat-cleaver-hacking driveway. I had just about made it on my knees when I was hit in the back with the force of a flying karate kick that knocked me flat on my stomach gasping for breath. I felt as if a lineman for the Indianapolis Colts had just hit me in the backside—a hit that would be watched over and over in instant replay while I was airborne catching the game-winning pass in the end zone. (The same replay also would show me dropping the ball, over and over.)

Once I was able to breathe again, I slowly stood up and brushed off the debris—fir needles, broken fir cones, twigs, sap with bits of gravel in it, dirt, you name it. McGee was staring up the

big fir tree to my left, frantically barking at unseen ghosts.

"How many times do I have to tell you, McGee?" He looked at me as I admonished him. "I'm not a circus springboard for your acrobatic tricks when you try to catch real or imaginary birds in our treetops. Geez, that tree is ninety feet tall and, believe it or not, you can't jump that high."

I decided that it was time for a break. A cup or two of coffee and some aspirin for my back seemed in order.

As the coffee was brewing, McGee convinced me to wrestle around with him on the living room floor. The next thing I knew I was sprawled out again, semiconscious with the most excruciating pain in my head—pain worse than any migraine that I have ever been blessed with.

Like a hammer driving a tenpenny nail to its head with one swing, our two heads collided during our wrestling match. McGee was licking my hand, the one that was trying to excavate my

McGee was licking my hand, the one that was trying to excavate my hearing aid that had been driven from one side of my head to the other.

hearing aid that had been driven from one side of my head to the other.

I staggered into the kitchen, poured my cup of coffee and promptly burned my lip. I wondered if it was time for something stronger than coffee but noooooo, it wasn't even 11 am yet. As if I cared.

When Sioux got home, she asked, "Why are you in bed, honey? Are you sick?"

"No, I just have multiple injuries." "From gardening?" she asked.

"I wish. No, from our youngest boy," I answered as McGee looked at us from the foot of the bed with his most innocent eyes. "Refresh my memory, honey. Didn't I get a vasectomy decades ago so I wouldn't have to deal with wild, out-of-control children other than myself?"

"That's right, sweet love. That's why we have dogs."

I then told Sioux my story of the day. When she was leaving the room, I asked, "Could you please turn out the light? I have a headache that feels like a herd of buffalo stampeding through my brain."

Headaches, headaches, headaches. One can get them listening to national or

world events on the news, talk radio, daily conversations with friends or strangers. Then there are the headaches provided for the few people left who still read the news in any depth or check sources to actually verify information—especially when it's sent to you via e-mail. I can't believe the endless numbers of conspiracies, propaganda and outright lies that continually circulate on the Internet. Those can really get your head throbbing.

An ongoing super migraine was caused when the mortgage market imploded on itself. How is it that it's all the fault of the homeowner? The lending institutions okayed people who didn't make enough money to make payments and/or never bothered to check facts on loan applications. Why would they? They made their money by selling bad paper (loans) to unsuspecting investors. In the end, after the stock market crashed, Wall Street bankers still got their money (remember the "Bailout"?), while the rest of the country went broke, causing more people (through cutbacks in hours and pay and job loss) to lose their homes.

What a headache I had recently after reading a Forbes magazine article

in a doctor's waiting room. The article was titled "68 Most Powerful People on Earth." President Obama finished in second place. What? An American president who is not Number One? Do you know who was Number One? Hu Jintao. Who's he, you might ask. He's the president of Communist Red China. Oh yeah, did you know that China owns around one trillion dollars in Wall Street securities? Makes you wonder who really owns Wall Street.

If you are one of the millions of unemployed or terminally underemployed, you might want to learn Chinese—Mandarin dialect to be exact—for it is China (among other countries) to which we've outsourced our manufacturing and middle-management jobs. I personally have a hard enough time with the English language, so I'm staying here to suffer through another headache.

How does your headache meter read these days?



The Editor, J.D. Rogers
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A mature cat with a reduced adoption fee



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Sid - #K2811
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Shadrach - #1614
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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

Dear Editor:

Many thanks for a superbly entertaining and informative newspaper. My husband and I thoroughly enjoy each issue, reading it from cover to cover. I can't say that is our experience with other local newspapers we receive.

Your paper has been arriving at this address for many years, long before we moved in. But my parents, before our residency, would have enjoyed it as well. So, thank you for continuing to send the *Applegater* to this address probably without anyone contributing support over the years. We are more than happy to be "sponsors" at this time, and possibly next year we can work our way up to "supporters."

Thank you again and please keep up the good work . . .
 Sandra and Rudy

Dear Editor:

I wish it [my contribution] could be more! My husband was the son of Harry Brown, one of the Brown Brothers saw mill in Williams.

Virginia Brown, Grants Pass

Dear Editor:

Though I enjoy most of the *Applegater*, Greeley Wells' "Starry Side" is far and away my favorite part—to the point where I cut it out and save it until the next season's issue comes out. I refer to it frequently. Thanks for your efforts in keeping this valuable local treasure alive. I hope my donation is one of many!

Sue Hall, Grants Pass

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed your piece on embarrassing moments. And I agree with you there is much we should be embarrassed about as a nation. Sometimes I despair—then I go for a walk with the dogs. Or do something constructive with tangible results, like wire an outlet.

And aren't we clever to ignore climate change? A piece from Thomas L. Friedman: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/19/opinion/19friedman.html?ref=columnists>

Neal Anderson, Applegate

Does your lawn mower look this happy?

Goats are the most eco-friendly lawn mower and brush hog ever invented. Every Applegater who can provide a safe, loving home should consider adopting a pair of these fire-prevention and fertilization experts. Nasty weeds like star thistle, poison oak, and blackberries are easy pickings for a goat. Goat pellets are nearly odorless, easy to collect, and can be put directly into your garden to feed your flowers and vegetables. Contact us to schedule a tour of our care farm and meet some of our rescued goats and other assorted farm animals. They'll greet you with a smile!



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People, animals, and the earth: better together.

OPINION

Climate change is coming

BY CHRIS CRAWFORD

It now appears that humanity lacks the political perspicience to cope with the problem of carbon emissions, which means that climate change will likely continue its accelerating trend. Although we can hope for the best, we should plan for the worst, and the prudent landowner should already be taking future climate change into consideration. In this article, I shall describe how future climate change should factor into your current decisions.

First, a quick summary of climate change as it is likely to affect the Applegate Valley. Over the next ten years, the changes will be tiny, but after twenty years, they will become significant and after fifty years, they will be serious. There's also plenty of uncertainty as to the likely magnitude of these changes. They could be fairly small—but they could also be much larger. I'll present what I believe to be a reasonable compromise between the worst and the best cases.

The first effect, obviously, will be increases in temperatures. Over the next ten years, these will be only a degree or two (Fahrenheit), but after that the increases will come faster. In twenty years, we might well be looking at temperature increases of three degrees, and between five and ten degrees within fifty years. Summer temperature increases will be slightly higher than winter increases, and nighttime increases will be slightly greater than daytime increases.

Precipitation will probably increase—but in all the wrong ways. We'll get more rainfall in the winter and early spring, but less snowfall, and less rain at other times. Thus, we'll be facing greater prospects for flooding in the winter but less available water in the summer (because the snowpack will melt sooner). Factor in the higher summer temperatures and we get parched times in the summer.

What does this mean for you? Here are some recommendations:

First, if you don't have air conditioning for the summer, you'll probably have to get it someday. I doubt that you'll need to retrofit an existing house anytime soon, but if you're building a new house you should certainly install a cooling system. On the plus side, we won't be needing as much heating capacity as in times past; winters will probably be warmer.

If you're planting seedlings, NOW is the time to start changing your species mix. Douglas firs are facing a grim future—they don't fare well in higher temperatures and dryer environments. Scale back planting Douglas Firs. Instead, you should lean towards ponderosa pines and other drought-tolerant species.

Studies show that tree mortality rates in forests in the West have already doubled in the last few decades—figure on this trend accelerating. The picture is complicated because there are several factors at work. Increased amounts of carbon dioxide in the air will encourage faster growth, and the greater net precipitation will increase growth in trees with deep roots. However, shallow-rooted trees will suffer from the increased temperatures. The best guess is that the increasing temperatures will cause an overall increase in the growth of woody species for a few decades, followed by overall decreases. However, warmer winters will mean larger numbers of pine bark beetles, which bodes ill for survival rates of pine trees.

This suggests that we are moving towards forests with smaller trees and more brush. The combination of more deadwood and brush, higher temperatures, and less

water in the summer will yield bigger and more destructive forest fires. Whatever fire protection measures you have already implemented, you'll need to be expanding them over the years. Whatever forest you now have, if you don't thin it, the fires will do so for you—and a lot less selectively.

Figure on less available water for whatever you grow. If you irrigate using water from the Applegate River, you'd better start preparing for reductions in the amount of water you can draw, as river flows in the summer will be much reduced. If you use well water, figure on having to drill deeper and pay higher pumping costs, because everybody else will be pulling more water out of the aquifers to compensate for the higher temperatures. A lot of wells will go dry. Sooner or later (probably later), you'll have to shift to less thirsty vegetation.

There might well be greater flood threats in the winter. It would not be prudent to build anything close to a watercourse—eventually it could be destroyed in a winter flood. Even small creeks will be subject to flooding. The freakish floods that hit this area in 1997 are likely to become more common.

Indeed, weather in general will show more freakishness as the atmosphere adjusts to rapidly changing conditions. This spring, for example, we experienced abnormally cool temperatures alternating with abnormally high temperatures, along with greater precipitation. This kind of meteorological craziness is likely to increase. It's impossible to predict just what kind of effects this might have.

Lastly, you should figure on some sort of political response to climate change; once the realities start to sink in, people will demand that politicians do something—by which time, of course, it will be too late. Still, there will be some responses, which are most likely to include higher prices for all forms of energy. Whatever your energy use is now, you need to think about reducing it over the long term. I'm sorry to tell you that there will eventually be strong political pressure to reduce wood-burning as a source of heat, because it is a particularly egregious emitter of CO₂. Those of us who burn wood in the winter (myself included) are too small a political group to resist the likely pressures, and so we'll likely face regulations eliminating low-efficiency uses of firewood, such as open fireplaces. If you're building a new house, DO NOT install an open fireplace. Put in something more efficient, such as a closed system with forced air.

Climate change is coming. We can't stop it, and it seems unlikely that we'll do much to slow it down. You should start preparing for it. If you'd like to delve more deeply into this subject, you can find information at the following places on the Internet:

United States Global Change Research Program, Impacts In the United States:

<http://www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts>

US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station Report on Western Forests and Climate Change:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/science-update-6.pdf>

Chris Crawford • 541-944-0141

Chris has a Master of Science in Physics and has participated in several NASA airborne missions.

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"Please send in a few dollars to support the APPLGATER NEWSPAPER, I love to read it, chew it and it was my favorite paper for potty training."
Barney McGee

We got your goat!

BY ROBERT CASSERLY

Is your property value going to "hell in a hand basket" because star thistle and poison oak are ignoring your no trespassing signs? Has the fire department warned you about clearing out the dense vegetation on your farm before a little grass fire becomes a big brush fire and then a full-blown forest fire? Do you waste time and effort mowing hillsides, ditches, and fence lines that could be easily kept nice and tidy by a pair of nimble herbivores?

If you answered yes to any of the above, before you go out and buy a gas-powered weed whacker that disturbs the peace and pollutes the air, consider adopting a grass-powered engine that works quietly and gently fertilizes the soil. Goats are one of the oldest species of domesticated animals, and rightly so, because they are one of the most useful and wonderful animals you'll ever get to know.

At any given time, visitors to Sanctuary One are likely to meet over a dozen goats representing several breeds. All our goats were transferred to us by animal-welfare agencies from up and down the West Coast. The more goats we adopt to homes where they will be treated with kindness as payment for working on landscaping projects 365 days a year, the more goats we can intake from overcrowded sanctuaries that desperately need us to take a few nannies and wethers off their hands.

Our care farm's current cast of goats includes Freddy and Friday, two super-smart dwarf mixes who put the "capra" in "capricious." Then there's Orville and Wilbur, two giant Nubians who specialize in standing up on their back legs to take care of those low-hanging tree branches the fire department doesn't like. Sweet Red and Mahogany are two Swiss Alpine nannies with beautiful reddish-brown fur accented with a black dorsal stripe. Winkin' and Blinkin' are petite Boer goats with natural disease resistance and an affinity for hot, dry environments like Applegate Valley farms with lots of southern exposure. Helga and Bambi are all-white Saanen goats who are so calm and mild mannered that some goat rescuers refer to them as living marshmallows.

Note how all our goats are listed in pairs. We've observed that goats like to use the buddy system. Thus we encourage adopters to keep bonded pairs together so that they don't become distressed at losing their chosen companion. Goats are highly social and intelligent animals and as such deserve our consideration for their emotional well-being, not just their physical health.



Folks who want a couple of farm animals that are safe for kids and grandkids to become friends with should definitely consider goats. School groups of all ages visit our care farm to learn about the humane treatment of animals, and the goats are always a big hit. You can throw a dozen goats and a dozen fifth graders in the same pen together and they'll all be friends in no time.



Caring for goats is pretty simple compared to raising big farm animals like horses or cows, but it's still a considerable amount of work and expense. They need a veterinarian to examine them at least once a year; they need vaccinations, deworming, a salt lick, and regular hoof trimming; a warm and dry place to sleep at night, something that's coyote- and cougar-proof; access to fresh, clean water, pollution-free vegetation to browse and, in the winter, an occasional flake of hay. And most important of all, they need a caretaker who will give them lots of TLC. Goats thrive on human attention—the more you give them, the happier and tamer they'll be. All of our goats have been rescued from terrible situations of abuse or neglect, so kindness is especially critical to their health and well being.

A couple of things NOT to do when adopting goats are to breed or milk them. If you want some fresh goat milk, save yourself the time and trouble and buy it from Siskiyou Crest Goat Dairy up on Sterling Creek Road. And a word of caution to any wannabe goat breeders—billy goats smell terrible, act randy all the time, and are more aggressive around other animals and people. On the other hand, wethers (neutered male goats) have no smell and mind their manners. No reputable animal-welfare group will adopt out a dog, cat, horse, goat, etc. to a home where they'll be bred, and Sanctuary One is no exception.

For more information on how to adopt a pair of the Sanctuary's weed and brush removal experts, visit us on the Web at www.SanctuaryOne.org or call 541-899-8627.

Robert Casserly • 541-899-8627

OPINION

Siskiyou Crest Monument

BY DIANN CODY

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands (KS Wilds) has proposed to President Obama that large parts of Southern Oregon and Northern California be included in the Siskiyou Crest Monument. This proposal has approximately 1400 homes and private properties inside its boundaries. It has apparently already been sent to Washington and is waiting approval. As property owners, we are concerned. We did not purchase our property to end up living inside a monument. Did you?

If you live in Josephine or Jackson Counties, do you realize that your home and property may be inside its boundaries? Do you realize what the implications of this proposal mean to you? What will it do to your property value, and where is your resale market going to be when restrictions will be placed on the type of permissible activities? Will future restrictions stop the use of your wood stove because of the smoke? What will

this do to hunting, fishing, farming, ranching, logging, mining etc? What happens to our ditch system in the Applegate, much of which even pre-dates the establishment of the Forest Service? These are just some of the questions that you should be asking yourself.

National Monument designations have been declared by executive power elsewhere and history shows local communities are severely impacted while proposed benefits usually fail to fully materialize. Contact your elected officials and let them know how you feel. Call and email Peter DeFazio, Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley. According to Ron Wyden there will be public hearings on this matter. Don't count on it. A group of local property owners is being formed. If you want to be kept informed, or if you can help us, please contact me at dcody194@hotmail.com

Diann Cody • 541-846-0901

OPINION

Time to tone down the rhetoric

BY LAUREL SUTHERLIN

To hear some tell it, environmentalists want to steal your property, close every road in the forest, and turn the Siskiyou Crest into an eco-preserve where people aren't allowed. Such hogwash may help sell bumper stickers and newspapers, but it's not remotely true.

Nearly everyone can agree that the Siskiyou Crest is a special landscape that we are fortunate to have in our collective backyard. But passions run high when discussion turns to the future management of federal lands surrounding the Crest. Recently, this important dialog has been stymied by a small but vocal opposition who are using fear and violent rhetoric to advance wild conspiracy theories and anti-government militancy.

It is time for everyone to take a deep breath and take an honest look at what is on the table. KS Wild has sought meaningful protections for the amazing wildlands of the Siskiyou Crest for over a decade. A little over a year ago a national monument designation was proposed as one possible vehicle to improve fire management, recreational opportunities and road maintenance on this often overlooked landscape. We welcome suggestions on how to achieve these goals.

Our current proposal puts forward a management vision that strengthens protections for the most pristine and ecologically important parts of the landscape, creates a robust restoration plan that would involve small diameter thinning and calls for a comprehensive fire management strategy that protects communities and restores forest resiliency. This plan also calls for the continuation of hunting, firewood gathering, motorized recreation and access to all main destinations and private in-holdings. Nothing in the proposal involves the acquisition of any private property or any changes in what a landowner is allowed to do with their property.

It is worth noting that there is, in fact, a major proposal very much alive in Southern Oregon that does propose the use of eminent domain to seize private property against the will of its owners: the Jordan Cove

Liquified Natural Gas Pipeline project. KS Wild and our friends have been working closely with landowners to protect homes and farms from seizure by the pipeline company since this project was announced. Ironically, the 'property rights' activists in such an uproar about our proposal for the public lands on the Siskiyou Crest are nowhere to be found.

There are important discussions and legitimate concerns about the future of the Crest that are being voiced by people with widely varying political perspectives. KS Wild welcomes those conversations and indeed, our proposal is meant to provoke them. But the aggression, threatening language and intentionally misleading claims coming from the loudest voices are not helping anyone. At a meeting recently in the Applegate, organized by anti-conservation activists, the final speaker ended the event by yelling at the audience "I want you all to leave here mad! If you don't get up and fight right now your children will end up slaves or they will be dead!" This kind of bombastic overstatement would be humorous if there were not a long history of violent threats from these same elements of our community.

We believe that current management of the Siskiyou Crest lacks a coordinated fire management, restoration or recreational vision. The three National Forests that manage the Crest across two states are often working at odds with one another. KS Wild's goal is to see the natural beauty, biological diversity and ecological health of this little known natural treasure receive the protections it deserves. This is a long-term conversation, and we encourage those who share our love for this place to take part.

Our proposal for future management of the Siskiyou Crest may be viewed at: www.siskiyoucrest.org.

Laurel Sutherlin

Grassroots Organizer for the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild)
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SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 1

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Why a Charter School? The Woodland Charter School will fill a long-standing need in our community for an alternative to traditional public school. Many local families have home-schooled, cooperatively educated, hired a private teacher, driven to schools of their choice in town, or opted for some blend of these approaches for years.

Our goal is to open the Woodland Charter School in the Fall 2011, beginning with grades K-6 and eventually growing to a K-8 school. Charter schools are tuition-free and run independently within the sponsoring school district while receiving federal funding. The Woodland Charter School will be sited within the Williams-Applegate Valley and any child in Oregon will be able to attend without an inter-district transfer.

Currently, we have incorporated in the state of Oregon as a non-profit organization and have formed a Charter Council. We anticipate gaining tax-exempt status as a federally recognized non-profit organization by the winter. Simultaneous to the process of organizing as a non-profit, we have met with folks at the Three Rivers



School District to discuss our project, and have applied for and received the Oregon Charter School Incentive Grant from the Oregon Department of Education for \$56,000. An additional \$225,000 will be awarded to the Woodland Charter School once the school is sponsored.

In November we submitted our charter school proposal to the Three Rivers School District and they have deemed it complete. The next step is a public hearing, where a great show of community support will assist in the approval of the Woodland Charter School as an educational choice for families in our community. The Public Hearing is scheduled for January 5 2011 at 6:30 pm in the Three Rivers School District Offices in Murphy.

Please show support by attending the public hearing and visiting woodlandcharterschool.org to print and sign a Letter of Support. If you are interested in pre-enrolling your child at the Woodland Charter School for the 2011-2012 or 2012-2013 school year, please fill out a Pre-Enrollment Form. Class sizes will be limited. For more information please visit our website, call 846-4246, or write P.O. Box 185, Williams, OR 97544.

For more information about Waldorf education explore whywaldorfworks.org.

Shauna Kenealey • 541-846-6158



Photos top and bottom by Teena Jo—www.teenajo.com

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SOMETHING TO CEREBRATE

High fructose corn syrup: The Corn Refiners Association vs. The Scientists

BY KATE MORSE, CCH

According to their website SweetSurprise.com, the Corn Refiners Association of America says these are the facts about high fructose corn syrup—HFCS—a sweetener processed from corn:

- The American Medical Association stated in June 2008 that "...HFCS does not appear to contribute to obesity more than other caloric sweeteners..." The American Dietetic Association concluded in December 2008 that "No persuasive evidence supports the claim that HFCS is a unique contributor to obesity."
- In 1983, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) formally listed HFCS as safe for use in food and reaffirmed that decision in 1996.
- HFCS, sugar and honey all contain the same number of calories (four calories per gram).
- HFCS and sugar are handled similarly by the body.

Other people say HFCS is metabolized differently, raises triglycerides, makes you fatter than sugar, and contains mercury. Research-wise, they've been busy proving it, even though they haven't funded television commercials touting it.

In results published online Feb. 26, 2010, by the journal *Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior*, Princeton University researchers reported on two experiments investigating the link between the consumption of high-fructose corn syrup and obesity. According to Princeton.com:

"The first study showed that male rats given HFCS in addition to a standard diet gained much more weight than male rats given sucrose (table sugar) in conjunction with the standard diet. The concentration of sugar in the sucrose solution was the same as is found in some commercial soft drinks, while the HFCS solution was half as concentrated as most sodas," even though the total caloric intake was the same.

"The second experiment—the first long-term study of the effects of HFCS consumption on obesity in lab animals—monitored weight gain, body fat and

triglyceride levels in rats with access to HFCS over a period of six months. Compared to animals eating only rat chow, rats on a diet rich in HFCS showed signs of a dangerous condition known in humans as the metabolic syndrome, including abnormal weight gain, significant increases in circulating triglycerides and augmented fat deposition, especially visceral fat around the belly. Male rats in particular ballooned in size. Animals with access to HFCS gained 48 percent more weight than those eating a normal diet."



Photo: Denise Applewhite

All sugars aren't equal

Princeton professor Bart Hebbel says it isn't true that all sugars are equal. "When rats are drinking high-fructose corn syrup at levels well below those in soda pop, they're becoming obese—every single one, across the board. Even when rats are fed a high-fat diet, you don't see this; they don't all gain extra weight."

According to the Princeton researchers, HFCS and sugar both contain fructose and glucose—sugar contains them 50/50; HFCS has 55% fructose, 42% glucose, and the rest in large saccharides. "As a result of the manufacturing process

for high-fructose corn syrup, the fructose molecules are unbound, ready for absorption and utilization. In contrast, every fructose molecule in sucrose that comes from cane sugar or beet sugar is bound to a corresponding glucose molecule and must go through an extra metabolic step before it can be utilized. This might explain why excess fructose is metabolized to produce fat, while glucose is largely being processed for energy or stored as a carbohydrate, called glycogen, in the liver and muscles."

Mercury, too.

Reuters.com, the online news source, reported in January, 2009, that researchers discovered that more than 40% of HFCS samples, as well as one third of HFCS-containing grocery store products tested contain detectable levels of the toxic metal mercury. One researcher is a former FDA scientist who reported her findings in the journal *Environment*. She also said that the FDA declined to act on her report. The researcher who found mercury in yogurt, barbecue sauce, jam, chocolate syrup and other products was from the nonprofit Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

HFCS was introduced in the 1960s, and is found in numerous foods and beverages, including fruit juice, soda, cereal, bread, yogurt, ketchup, and mayonnaise. The Centers for Disease Control, which is concerned with America's skyrocketing obesity, says the average person consumes 60 pounds of HFCS annually. According to Healthmad.com, HFCS is unlike other sugars in that it "doesn't cause the pancreas to produce insulin, which acts as a hunger quenching signal to the brain." Earlier research on HFCS at Princeton showed HFCS is, for want of a better word, addictive. The U.S. Dept. of Public Health helped fund Princeton's recent research.

Restaurants—especially fast-food chains—rely heavily on processed foods, which in turn utilize HFCS not just for sweetening, but for stabilizing the food, increasing shelf-life, and enhancing other flavors. Many low-fat processed foods use HFCS as flavor and texture compensators. SweetSurprise.com says HFCS offers "unique functional benefits that help

companies offer more choices in food products." Notice they said "food products," not "food."

Princeton is far from the only source of elucidation on the trouble with HFCS. Take a look at the website of Dr. Joseph Mercola, at mercola.com. Put HFCS in the search box to see his coverage of this topic, and the miles of scientific journals he cites in his footnotes.

Kate Morse, CCH
541-846-1252

Kate Morse is a Certified Classical Homeopath in the Applegate and former contributing editor at *PREPARED FOODS MAGAZINE*.

Why would they say that?

Do the American Medical Association and American Diabetic Association really say that high fructose corn syrup is as innocuous as the SweetSurprise.com quotations indicate?

SweetSurprise.com quotes just a smidgen of the AMA point of view. In entirety, the AMA website hedges a bit, saying that we should decrease our in-take of all sweeteners, and that more research needs to be done.

As for the American Diabetic Association, a search of articles on their website shows some anti-HFCS leaning, including this statement: "Studies show that the rise in average bodyweight can be linked to the consumption of high fructose corn syrup."

The FDA's policy and lack of activity related to HFCS can be explained according to your personal opinion on the function of government.

Keep in mind that doctors, on the whole, don't get a ton of education about the links between diet and disease. As recently as the late 90's, for example, the American Cancer Association said food had no role in cancer prevention.



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BACK IN TIME

Farming in the 40s, Part 2

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE



Note: This is a continuation of "Farming in the Forties" which appeared in the last issue of the Applegater.

The Culy Ranch in the Upper Applegate:

We left off with Verna Culy coming home after spending a few days in the hospital. And just like last time we are still in the dark as to why she needed to go. Cary Culy's diary continues with the more important business of ranching and a very busy Verna.

Oct 1, 1946—temp a.m. 46°—cloudy

Omar and I hauled 38 posts from up on the hill above Witters place. Verna canned meat 19 qts. And cooked some berries for jelly. It rained a good shower last night enough to settle the dust. Edd went upon the hill this morning. Verna hung some meat to dry.

Nov 14, 1946—clear

Verna, Omar, Viola and I went to Medford. We paid our taxes \$44.52. Verna let Omar have \$10.00 I bought a bottle for \$3.00.

Dec 21, 1946—temp 28°

Omar and I did chores and worked 2hrs. on the road down on the big turn across from Morris Byrne's a.m. and we worked about 2 hours on the road this after noon.

(At this time the Culy's were still building, by hand, a road to connect them to the end of Palmer Creek Road. Once this was done they no longer needed to transport everything across the river on a swinging bridge and walk a quarter mile to the house)

Dec 25, 1946—temp 35°

Omar, Verna and I went over to Edd's and Leora's (son-in-law and daugh-

ter) for dinner those that was there Ernie, Helen (son-in-law and daughter), Roney, Russell (grandsons) Lewis, Rosley (son and daughter-in-law), Mary, Charles (grandchildren), and Orval White and family and Bob Rooker. Ernie and Helen got me a wool jacket, Roney and Russell got me a pipe I got a box of candy from Lewis and Rosely and Edd and Leora got me a 12 in crescent rinch. Bob Rooker got me 2 pair of socks. Omar got me a tie and a diary book.

Jan 3, 1947— temp 16

Omar and I boarded up around under the sills of the house and I pulled the hay out of the way where we are feeding out of. Omar put a shelf up in his bedroom a.m. P.m. Omar, Charles and I worked on the road. I put in about 1 hr. Charles and Omar worked 2 hrs and 45 min. Daily and his father and 2 women came to look at the place. (The Culy's were thinking about selling and moving to Jacksonville)

Jan 29, 1947— temp 32°

Omar helped feed and went up Kinney Creek Divide. He rode Twister up to the top and turned him loose and he come home. Omar went down Strait Gulch to where we killed the cougar and up to Chimey Gulch gap and around and down Canacker. I finished the chores and worked 2 ½ hrs. on the road a.m. p.m. I went over and got the mail

March 9, 1947— temp 43°—rain

Started raining about 5 and has been raining steady until 7:30 and is still raining hard. Omar and I started the cattle up in the oaks this morning got back 11 a.m. And finished the chores and that about all we done except chores. Omar went over to scovills (Mr. Scovill worked for the local power company, COPCO). this after noon. After Grange we danced until about

1:30 a.m. there was some folks come from Ruch 2 from Eagle Point and one from Ruch. They played acorden, a electric steel guytar and a drum. There were 54 there for lunch. Verna, Omar, Fred Dorn and I was on the serving comitty.

Apr. 27, 1947—temp 37°—clear a.m./cloudy p.m.

Rained a good shower this evening. Omar and I drove the milk cow up to where Harthen has his tent and we hauled manure and cleaned the weeds and rocks off the corn ground and we butchered Hats calf this evening. Hard's (Lyle Hard) little boy (Billy ?) got his hand blew off with a giant powder cap. (The Hard family lived near McKee Bridge behind the store) The telephone out fit went on strike in Medford.

May 28, 1947—cloudy

I irrigated and mowed hay for the stock and pulled the runners of the strawberries. Omar, Verna and I went to the grange hall to a meeting for electricy the Copco man was there and gave us the figures on what it would cost us.

June 22, 1947—temp 46°— clear

36 loads of alfaly first crop. Omar, Edd, Charles and I hauled 3 loads of hay this morning. Lewis and Polky helped with 2 loads. Polky and Lucile (Lewis's daughter) come about 9 a.m. I went up to first gulch and turned what water there was down but that wasn't much. I put it on the pasture. Leora, Soney, and Eddie come out 9:30 a.m. Albert Culy come about 12 noon and went back 3 p.m. and the rest of them left shortly after Albert did and Omar, Verna and I went up and cleaned the rack and there wasn't much water and we went on up to the waist gate at Jolly's and found the pipe across from Bert Harr's was blocked and it took us about 2 hrs to

clean it out. We got home about 7 p.m. and I fixed to run the water by the foot bridge.

July 24, 1947—temp 44°—clear/cloudy

I put the kind shoes on twister this morning and mowed sweet clover the rest of the four noon and I mowed sweet clover p.m. Omar cut 2 poles for the electric line and 3 poles and done some weeding.

(From this time on Omar has cut about a dozen poles for the future electricity. Each family wanting electricity had to furnish so many poles and dig the holes for them. By October 23 the Culy's were getting fixtures for the future electricity and on November 16 they were installing a hot water heater.)

Aug 20, 1947

I irrigated and I took Omar up to help Albert Collings with his hay and I took Charles home. We left for Medford about 9 a.m. and I got back home 11:45. I brought back 75# of ice and 3 sacks of barley, 2 sacks for Omar. Martin Pierce shot him self accidentally and died instantly. (Unfortunately, I have no other information about Martin. (He may have lived near Forest Creek on Hwy 238 were a family by the name of Pierce lived)

The last part of Cary's diary had many pages of the names of people working on cutting poles, slashing, digging holes and measuring for wire. Electricity was finally coming to the Culy farm and to all of their neighbors in 1947.

Thanks to Russell and Melba McIntyre for the loan of this diary

The picture (above left) of the Upper Applegate Grange Hall, located next to McKee Bridge, shows where the Culy's and many Applegaters came for community events like dancing, and for information about local or national issues important to their area. Picture taken November 17, 1940.

I have pointed out a few people mentioned in the snippets of dairy from this and the last Applegater.

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre
541-899-1443

Grange Photo above:

Note each asterisk denotes next person in the photo.

Back row, L to R (Burt Harr, ***, Louis Culy, Morris Byrne, **)

Middle row, L to R
Cary Culy, Verna Culy, ***, Albert Collings, *****, Evelyn Byrne (author), ***

Front row, L to R
*****, Edward Finley (Edd), ****
**, Omar Culy, *, Rosalie Culy

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Update on the Applegate Dam Hydroelectric Project

BY MARGARET DELLA SANTINA

As the proposed Applegate Dam Hydroelectric Project appears close to final approval, we are thrilled that Symbiotics, Inc. has decided to bury the entire fifteen miles of high-voltage transmission lines, from Applegate Dam to the substation in Ruch. While residents support the idea of using the existing dam to generate electricity, we have long been worried about the impact of high-voltage power lines running along the easements on our properties, on poles that would have extended significantly higher than they presently do. Installing environmentally-intrusive power poles and lines to carry environmentally-friendly energy seemed counter-productive, and we hoped to find a way to convince Symbiotics, LLC to become our partners in this beautiful area, rather than marring the landscape with tall high-voltage transmission lines. This is why we view Symbiotics' decision to bury the transmission lines as a rare example of corporate interests actually listening and responding to community concerns.

So, a big THANK YOU to all who attended the September 21 "contested case hearing" regarding the Applegate Dam Hydroelectric Project. Despite the hearing being held on a weekday morning, the meeting room at the Ruch Public Library was overflowing (to the evident surprise of the judge, and the obvious distress of the attorney representing Symbiotics, Inc., the company proposing the project). The size of the crowd—and residents' articulate comments—conveyed clearly to the presiding Oregon Administrative Law Judge that the community had not received sufficient information from Symbiotics, Inc., nor sufficient opportunity to participate in decisions that would affect both private properties and public recreation areas along the Applegate River. Judge Han listened respectfully to residents' concerns, and repeatedly overruled the objections of Symbiotics' attorney to our comments being heard. Finally, deviating from convention, Judge Han took the hearing 'off the record' and turned it into a 'town hall meeting.' By that time, however, many residents had spoken, and these recorded comments were admitted to the public record of the case. So again, thanks to all who came; whether or not you spoke at the hearing, your presence helped shape this critical stage of the process.

On November 17, Judge Han informed the Oregon Water Resources Department that he had "affirmed" the Proposed Order for the hydroelectric project; this tentative ruling did not require Symbiotics to bury the line, nor did it include any other conditions related to transmission towers. However, the judge did allow comments made by residents at the Ruch hearing to remain as part of the public record of the case. The judge's tentative approval also outlined a (somewhat lengthy and complex) process for appealing the decision and by late November we were preparing to file an exemption to the ruling.

Then on December 3, Symbiotics issued a press release stating their intent to bury the lines. According to Erik Steimle of Symbiotics, the developer has amended their license application to include buried lines, and Jackson County Public Works is prepared "to green-light" the amended proposal. (Symbiotics is not going to pursue the idea of creating a bike path along Upper Applegate Road; however, I think they have met us more than halfway, at an additional cost of 14% to their project, so we may want to think about ways to do this as a grant-funded community project.) Asked what had influenced their decision, Steimle emphasized Symbiotics' desire to obtain community support for the project, which they hope to operate for 50 years. Having our statements on record as part of the recent Ruch hearing was certainly part of that decision! So again, thanks to all who signed the statement, wrote letters, attended the hearing, or made a comment. And thanks, too, to Erik Steimle at Symbiotics, who really became our ally on this issue!

In case you were unable to attend the hearing, below is the text of a statement submitted to Judge Han (which I read at the hearing) on behalf of over 100 residents who had signed it. The gist of the statement is that as residents who would receive no direct benefit from the hydroelectric project, we wanted some input into how that energy would be transmitted along our properties and down this beautiful river corridor. While the implementation of this project is still far from cer-

tain, it is gratifying to know that we have had significant input on its design.

Residents' Statement

Regarding the Applegate Dam Hydroelectric Project:

As residents of Upper Applegate Road and the surrounding area, we respectfully ask that our comments be included as a part of the record of this contested case hearing. The Notice announcing this hearing states, "no protests were received by the [Water Resources] Department." In fact, Applegate Valley residents wrote multiple letters to Mary Grainey at the WRD in advance of the June 10, 2010 deadline. These letters expressed concerns ranging from diminishing views and property values, to increased risk of wildfire. In these letters, residents have repeatedly requested that consideration be given to burying the high-voltage power lines; these letters, which never received a formal response, are appended to the official Proposed Order. Apparently our letters do not count as protests because we did not pay a \$600 fee requested by the WRD. We did not pay this fee because we found it to be—and still view it as—an outrageous condition for citizens' concerns to be heard. So we appreciate your hearing our concerns at this hearing. And, we look forward to hearing from you.

First, it is important to note that as residents of the Applegate Lake area, many of whom live within a mile or two of the Applegate dam, we are not opposed to using the dam to generate clean, hydroelectric power to contribute to our country's energy resources. We support hydroelectric power for its potential to produce energy with less negative environmental impact than fossil fuels. So we simply see it as counter-productive to install hydroelectric transmission lines that will result in greater negative impact on the environment and on residents than currently exists.

It may be worth noting that Upper Applegate Road is not "undeveloped" with "a few residences," as the FERC stated in approving the project; in fact, there are approximately 400 residences along the 15-mile stretch of Upper Applegate Road leading to the dam, and many hundreds more along the streets that connect to Upper Applegate. From the wording in the FERC EA, it appears that the project may have been approved at the Federal level in part on the mistaken idea that this is a sparsely populated remote rural area where the impact on residents would be small. This is not true: many people—residents and the many visitors who come to our beautiful valley alike—will be affected by this project.

So while we support the conversion of the dam to produce hydroelectric power, we are very concerned about *how* that conversion takes place, and the impact—on a large number of residents and on the environment—of the significantly taller high-voltage poles and lines that will be installed. If, as the proposal suggests, the new lines will be installed following the existing easement right-of-way, the result will be a significant negative impact on many residents' views, safety, property values, and quality of life.

County records show that the utilities easements on our properties, which currently grant Pacific Power (and its "successors and assigns") right-of-way to install and maintain power lines, were created as far back as 1948 and 1952. The easements give the power company broad discretionary power to clear the land and install supports for the power lines *both inside and outside of the easement boundaries*. This is a matter of great concern to us.

At the time they were initially recorded, the easements certainly did not anticipate the kind of high-voltage transmission that Symbiotics is proposing today. The purpose of the original easement was ostensibly to provide power that would benefit local residents. The proposed project vastly increases the amount of electricity being transmitted along a residential corridor. If, as the proposal states, the new power line simply follows the existing ones, it provides no benefit to local residents in return for far more intrusive power installations on our properties. The power lines will be much more visible than they currently are; in some cases this line passes directly

BIRDMAN

Duck fans rally 'round

BY TED A. GLOVER

It's winter time and what better time to watch water fowl. As you travel the Applegate you may see birders gathered around lakes, ponds and marshes with their spotting scopes and binoculars pointed at groups of ducks.

Ducks are usually divided into "dabblers" and "divers." The dabblers feed on vegetation on the bottoms and along the edges of shallow ponds and marshes. The divers usually prefer deeper waters and feed by diving underwater often 100 feet or more. In lifting off for flight, the divers do not spring directly upward, but patter along the water's surface while getting underway.

Of course, like most avian behavior the dabblers will occasionally dive and the divers will often dabble. So it's best to familiarize yourself with other identifying marks to distinguish the many species visible here in our area.

Of the diving ducks, the most common in our area is the Ring-necked Duck, which interestingly enough, leaps into flight like the dabblers. The male is identified by the white "spur" on its side and by the peaked crown and a white ring and black tip on its bill. Other diving ducks to watch for include the small Ruddy Duck and the Canvasback.

Among the dabbling ducks, the most often seen is the mallard, usually in small groups or pairs.

The male sports a yellow bill, white collar around the neck and a flashy green head. Also seen in abundance is the unique Northern Shoveler, nicknamed "The Spoonie" because of the very long and broad bill that is distinctive on both males and females. The shovelers can often be observed swirling around in circles while feeding. This is a common feeding method known as "pinwheeling." Despite the odd-shaped bill, the male shovelers are quite attractive with their dark green head and snow-white chest.

Other dabbling ducks seen in the Applegate include Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal and the American Wigeon. Last year, a Eurasian Wigeon visited the Provolt area.

Along the Applegate River, keep watch for the mergansers, a duck that dives underwater and eats mostly fish. The merganser's bill is serrated and this aids the duck in holding its slippery fish prey. The Common Merganser, a large duck, has a dark green head, white breast and sides and a red bill. The Hooded Merganser is somewhat smaller than the Common Merganser and has a shorter, thinner bill. The Hooded Merganser also has a distinctive white fan-shaped patch within its crest—a truly magnificent duck.



Be sure to watch any ponds near you as well as Applegate Lake and River. This time of year is great for ducks!

Ted A. Glover
541-846-0681

Photos clockwise from top left:

Ring-necked duck (*Aythya collaris*) by Stephen Tuttle, USFWS

Hooded merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) by Lee Karney, USFWS

Canvasback duck (*Aythya valisineria*) William Vinge, USFWS

Northern shoveler female (*Anas clypeata*) Steve Hillebrand, USFWS

DAM

FROM PAGE 20

overhead of people's homes; in addition, we expect that the extra height and capacity of the poles and wires will necessitate clearing and cutting outside the bounds of the right-of-way on private properties.

Finally, survey maps indicating the location of the easement show that the present physical location of Pacific Power's poles does not conform to the described location of the easement. In some cases, the easement falls in the center of the road, in the river, or on the opposite side of the road from the actual pole's location. This means that the right-of-way easements that currently exist on our properties are non-conforming, and according to Jackson County regulations, it is illegal to make a non-conforming situation more non-conforming. In other words, the proposed routing of high-voltage power poles is both physically and legally problematic.

For these reasons as residents of Upper Applegate Road and surroundings, we have repeatedly requested that consideration be given to burying the power lines. In response, the FERC report simply noted that the "considerable expense" of burying the lines did not warrant further consideration of this option. It is not acceptable to us that in dismissing this option, FERC did not engage our underlying concerns about safety, property values, and aesthetics. Surely it is expensive to bury lines, but surely too there are other options that might be considered, to address these concerns. What about the possibility of strategically burying the lines at points where the view

and residents' homes would be most affected? What about the possibility of restricting the height of the towers to their current level (with the limitations on voltage this would entail)? What about the possibility of re-routing the easements in places?

In sum, given the uncertainties surrounding the project's implementation over the 15 miles between the dam and the power sub-station, how can you feel that you have sufficient information to make an informed decision on the viability of this project?

The following statement was signed by over 100 Applegate Valley residents.

If—despite the uncertainties and lack of information—you do approve the project, we would like to be assured that concerned residents will have access to the Pacific Power and/or Symbiotics engineers who will make decisions about how the lines will be routed, so that these decisions can be made in collaboration with the residents who will be most affected.

On the morning of the hearing on September 21, Symbiotics representative Erik Steimle (together with Symbiotics' attorney Kirk Burkholder) met with Judge Han and community members at Swayne Viewpoint overlooking the Applegate Dam. They explained aspects of the proposed hydroelectric project, and answered questions. A video of a portion of this presentation is available on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cnQd6itlBE>

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The *Applegater* is looking for a few volunteers for proof reading.

If interested, Call J.D. Rogers at 541-946-7736

MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Looking for work

BY CHRIS BRATT

One of my sons is a laser optics engineer designing computerized parts for a variety of new machines. He says large corporations are concentrating their research and development money these days on fabricating machines that make more machines, that make other machines to yield products that will never require any manual skill in their manufacturing. Soon, he says, these final machines (robots) will make a dramatic shift in our economic landscape. They will change forever the way goods are mass produced and eliminate the need for millions of jobs in all our manufacturing industries.

If my son's predictions are correct, what kind of employment is in the future for our nation's skilled workforce who now create useful or desired products? America's population has already passed the 300 million mark and is moving on to 400 million. Also, the world's poorest and already over-populated countries are projected to double their populations by 2050. All of these folks are, or will be, looking for some kind of useful work to pay the bills and survive. Will they be able to become college graduates, an elite and superior class who is able to secure the choice jobs, designing the machines that do the work? I don't think so.

The future tasks for most people who will be looking for work seem to be already set in place. Much work today consists of menial or tedious jobs and jobs that provide services to others. There are also large numbers of part-time or unemployed persons. It's like another

Industrial Revolution with more and more people put out of work from changes in the economy and by how and where goods are produced. (Where are the Luddites when we need them?)

These new conditions are forcing us to reconsider our present beliefs in work as a moral good (work-ethic) and what we considered or assumed was a fulfilling work life. The present entrenched idea that we must work hard and working hard will eventually make you a better person and a success has gone out the window. We are now facing the widespread economic rami-

These new conditions are forcing us to reconsider our present beliefs in work as a moral good (work-ethic) and what we considered or assumed was a fulfilling work life. The present entrenched idea that we must work hard and working hard will eventually make you a better person and a success has gone out the window.

fications of fewer high paying jobs, shorter hours of work, lower wages, impoverished living conditions and an overall lower standard of living for most people.

Because these are ongoing changes for people who work for wages, it's obvious to me that we have to start rethinking our ideas of what constitutes a healthy, meaningful, and productive work life

for the people of our nation and the world. Perhaps we need to consider a new Renaissance with a cultural revival in the arts, science, and intellectual activity.

We also need to realize that work is more than an activity that we engage in only as a means of making a livelihood. Investment in these cultural, scientific and social activities also needs to be remunerated as any other occupation or profession. Everyone who does something that is useful, durable and dependable needs a paycheck to cover the bills.

I admit that I don't have all the answers to the worldwide economic and related problems. But one doesn't have to be an expert to know our economic system in its present form is headed for disaster. What would be the matter with a sustainable growth policy for our nation that didn't exploit our workers or our resources; a policy that plans for full employment and a livable wage for everyone who wants or needs work; a policy that gives people hope for their future and doesn't reject the neediest and poorest of our people. We can no longer let the ultra-rich folks and their robots set the rules and call the tune to which we are all presently dancing in order to survive.

Let me know if you want to dance to another tune.

Chris Bratt
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Chris Bratt

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THE POSTMAN

Can you go grid-less for 30 days?

BY RICHARD ALAN MILLER AND YVONNE-MARIE ZANCANARO

The report mentioned in the following article may be read in its entirety or downloaded at:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12507

The Problem

To add fuel to the 2012 controversy, the official NASA website is now stating a new potential for disaster: a large set of solar flares within the next two years. While the normal solar storm cycle is every eleven years, this new set begins early next year. And, they(it) are predicted to be some of the largest solar flares in recorded history.

Mainstream scientific concern has grown since the release of a recent National Research Council report (funded by NASA), "Severe Space Weather Events: Understanding Economic and Societal Impact," issued by the National Academy of Sciences. The report details the potential devastation of the 2012 solar storms on our current planetary energy grid. An assortment of videos on this subject may be found at:

<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=nasa+solar+flares+2012&qpv=nasa+solar+flares+2012&FORM=VDRE>

Because of the inter-linkages of our current cybernetic society, human civilization is at serious risk. The concern is a repetition of the 8-day 1859 "Carrington event," when a large solar flare accompanied by a coronal mass ejection (CME), flung billions of tons of solar plasma onto the earth's magnetosphere. This disrupted Victorian-era magnetometers and the worldwide telegraph system.

The report outlines the worst case scenario for the US. The "perfect storm" is most likely on a spring or autumn night in a year of heightened solar activity - something like 2012. Around the equinoxes, the orientation of the Earth's field to the sun makes us particularly vulnerable to a plasma strike. Sunspots are tangled knots of magnetism generated by the sun's inner dynamo.

A typical sunspot exists for just a few weeks. Then it decays, leaving behind a "corpse" of weak magnetic fields. The "conveyor belt" is a current phenomenon on the sun. It skims the surface of the sun, sweeping up the magnetic fields of old, dead sunspots. These magnetic knots (corpses) are dragged down at the poles to a depth of 200,000 km, where the sun's magnetic dynamo can amplify them. Once the corpses are amplified, they become buoyant and float back to the surface, as new sunspots.

When (not if) this problem occurs, these flares will be like an ELF spike, where most devices using computer chips will cease to function - and, mostly need to be replaced. This would include telephones, your banking service, some automobiles, and certainly delivery systems (like food to local supermarkets). This disruption in our power grid will even extend to hospitals, and basics (like those people with pacemakers).

The primary scientific concern is that the public is not prepared for these major inconveniences. For example, water from a well might need to be hand-pumped until power can be replaced. The report states to "expect delays in delivery systems" for up to two consecutive weeks.

So, the BIG QUESTION is, "can you live off the energy grid for 30 days?"

The Solution

When Angie was five, we moved to a small cabin in a 240-acre woodlot. For the next five years we lived without electricity, phones, television or computers. Our water came from an above-ground stream running into black plastic hosing. We chose to make this move so we would learn how to live well, if and when all other services failed.

The experience was very educational. I recall driving into town one day and calling my Grandma, who was very upset because the electricity had gone out and she was unable to have breakfast. I remember my daughter laughing out loud.

Will you be laughing and having a good time when all services stop? Or are you going to join the

masses in panic and fear? You have more resources than you may know. And, surviving a crisis safely requires an assessment of your means of survival now, when things appear fine.

The categories for critical requirements include:

Water

<http://www.survival-center.com/guide/water.htm>

Food

<http://www.survival-center.com/guide/food.htm>

Medicine

<http://www.survival-homestead.com/survival-medicine-2.html>

Fuel

http://www.survivalblog.com/2007/05/fuel_storage_for_survival_retr.html

Heat

<http://www.survivaltopics.com/survival/heat/>

Entertainment/distraction

<http://survivalpreparedness911.com/Entertainment1.html>

With solar storms, the power grid alone may be down for up to two weeks, and may even require new parts (computer chips) before being functional again.

Water Facts: A person can live one month without food, but only three days without water. For optimum health, the amount of drinking water a person should consume is found by taking the weight of the person, dividing that by two, and drinking that number in ounces each day. For example, someone who weighed 150 pounds would need 75 ounces per day. There are 128 ounces in a gallon, so someone who weighs 150 pounds needs to drink 1/2 gallon a day. According to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), for emergencies, you should store at least one gallon of water per person per day.

First the open water sources will most likely become polluted very quickly. For flushing a toilet this is not a problem. But if you want to wash clothes or do dishes, contaminants in the water can still cause diseases and skin rashes. The Center for Disease Control records over 4,000 cases each year of illness due to drinking contaminated water (dysentery, typhoid, and hepatitis).

Every family should have water purification tablets in stock. Fifty (50) tablets cost about \$4.99 and can be found on dozens of internet sites, or Wal-Mart and most sporting good stores. Although this may make water safe to drink, it is very advisable to have a ceramic hand-operated water filter. Ceramic filters take 99.9% of all contaminants out of any water.

Hand-pump type filters cost anywhere from \$30 (upward). Keep in mind that larger filters are more efficient, processing larger amounts of water. Boiling water for the recommended ten minutes to kill organisms may not be an option, especially if fuel is not abundant. And, boiling water will not remove chemical contaminants.

It's time to begin a survival plan, particularly if you need to "go off the grid" for 30 days. At the very least you should have distilled water for your family in containers for seven days usage. For basic survival equipment for water, begin at <http://www.equipped.com/toc.htm>

Richard Alan Miller, Physicist
www.richardalanmiller.com/ram/
and

Yvonne-Marie Zancanaro, Herbalist
<http://heritagemeadowsfarm.blogspot.com/>
Contact for both: 541-476-5588

Do you have a question for the "Postman" regarding crops for profit on the homestead? If so, send them to rick@nwbotanicals.org. Richard will answer all of them. We will print some of the questions and answers in the next APPLGATER.



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Our sincere apologies to all of you whose Look-Who's-Reading-The-Gater photos didn't make it into this issue because of space limitations. We will definitely run them in our Spring Issue.

Look who's reading the Gater!

- Photos, from top *
- Peteanque Tournament Players read Gater in Hyampom, CA—Left to right: Larry Murray, Tony Kendrew, Don Flasher & Jean-Pierre Brandt
 - Maggie Purvis and Janeen Sathre at Chaco Canyon, Arizona.
 - Mike Walsh visits Harley Bear in Las Vegas
 - Mark and Joan Zumwalt in Milan, Italy.

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