

Applegater

Photo by Jerry Rainforth

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WINTER 2012
Volume 5, No. 1

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 9,300

Postal Patron

Fire destroys Webco mill

The Webco sawmill in Williams, Oregon, was destroyed by fire on January 3, 2012. Responders to the three-alarm blaze came from as far away as Rogue River, and included dozens of firefighters from Williams, Applegate, Rural Metro, and Grants Pass.

The mill operated for over 50 years, closing permanently in the late 1980s. An earlier mill, Brown Brothers Sawmill, that operated on the same site was destroyed by fire in the 1970s. When it was rebuilt—as a more modern sawmill able to cut a log up to 36 feet long—the name was changed to Webco.

The fire may have been caused by a pickup truck exhaust pipe. Alan Wall, a long-time Williams resident, stored straw, alfalfa, two columbines and a grain trailer—all lost in the fire along with the old mill building.

Professional photographer Mikell Nielsen, who lives down the street from the mill, had recently used the site for several photo shoots and, sadly, has shot it for the last time.

See more fire photos on our website.

Photos by Mikell Nielsen



Pilots give back to the Applegate Valley

BY ANDY PALLOTTA

When you are a part of an organization that has major events taking place year after year, it's important to be aware of the needs of the community and the value of "giving something back." I've realized this is a philosophy that many in the hang gliding and paragliding world are putting into action more and more. Everyone knows about the thrill-seeking, action-packed mentality of hang gliding and paragliding pilots. But not everyone realizes the many ways they are helping people in the communities and countries where they enjoy their sport.

Every year, the Rat Race Paragliding Competition draws over 100 pilots, making more than 1,000 flights from the Woodrat Mountain launch as they fly over the beautiful Rogue Valley in southern Oregon. Mike and Gail Haley, who host the competition, had an idea a few years ago to start reaching out to the Ruch, Applegate and surrounding areas in whatever ways they could. A few of those ways include donating money to the local elementary school and founding a fundraiser that utilizes the goodwill of the Rat Race competition pilots. The generated funds have been donated in the name of a local landowner to a Medford hospital for

a premature infant car seat program, and as a scholarship for local students.

That's where I come in. My name is Andy. Every year, during the Rat Race competition, the Haleys host a dinner at their home where the pilots contribute to the scholarship program that helps one or more students in our area get through school. I have gratefully been the recipient of the scholarship for the last three years.



From left to right, organizer Mike Haley, scholarship recipient Andy Pallotta, and Dave Palmer, a supporter of the Rat Race competition.

In 2008, I decided to pursue a nursing career so I started taking classes. Putting myself through a year and a half of prerequisites and now finding a way to pay for a three-year registered nursing program has been financially challenging to say the least.

The pilots always give generously. They show a real sense of goodwill and appreciation for the surrounding

community, which has an encouraging impact on people like me. As a result of their generosity over the last three years, I started a nursing program in the fall of 2011 and amazingly I am virtually debt free.

After nursing school, I plan to continue my education and become a nurse practitioner. Eventually, my goal is to travel and do international medical work in lesser developed countries, "giving back" in the same way shown to me. That's an important thing as far as I'm concerned, and I hope all the pilots will be proud of what is accomplished by their giving.

I am so appreciative of the local flying community and especially the pilots of the Rat Race for helping me get through my college education without all the weight and worry of the financial burden. I hope others will follow the pilots' examples and continue to give back to their communities. Your generosity really is making a difference in the lives of the people in southern Oregon and is making *all* the difference for me.

As an added bonus, I even talked Mike into taking me up for my first paragliding flight, and hopefully not my

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INSIDE THE GATER

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Doomsday 2012.....page 8

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Are you ember aware yet?.....page 11

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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.

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 resources
- 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.

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PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

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

Letters to the Editor cannot be more than 450 words. Opinion pieces and unsolicited articles cannot exceed 600 words. Community calendar submissions must be brief.

All photos submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi) or "large format" (e.g., 8" x 10"). Any questions, email gater@applegater.org.

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

The Applegater
c/o Applegate Valley
Community Newspaper, Inc.
7386 Highway 238, PMB 308
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Email: gater@applegater.org
Website: www.applegater.org

Some Applegaters are missing!

Were they abducted by aliens and taken away in a spaceship? Where have these Applegaters gone?

Why do we think these people are missing? Because, after our recent fundraising drive, we are still approximately \$6,000 short of our goal to finance the *Applegater* for 2012. With the rising cost of printing and postage we need YOU—the rest of the Applegate readers—to please send in your donations. \$5 is all we need from each household to enable the *Applegater* to be published for another year. Some readers sent in more than \$5—this is appreciated by us and those who can't afford to donate at the present time.

Is the paper not valuable to residents to find out what is happening in the Applegate Watershed? Do people use the informative maps and other information that you find only in the *Applegater*? Are they using the paper for fire starters? Puppy training?

Take a minute and send in your \$5 donation today. All donations to the *Applegater* are tax-deductible.

Don't make us send Guido after you... Thank you!

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

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

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Donors: We strive to ensure our donor list is accurate. Please contact us if there are errors or omissions.

Community Calendar

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.

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 snrjrose2@charter.net or 541-479-0277 or Georgia Applegate at gkapple@apbb.net or 541-787-7175.

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

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 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 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.

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 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.)

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.

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

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.

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.

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

Grants Pass Nordic Ski Club meets on the first Thursday of the month, November through April, at the Newman Methodist Church at 7th and B Streets in Grants Pass at 7 pm. Ski outings are on Saturdays. Listings are on the snow phone at 541-592-4977.

Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at Applegate Fire District Station 1 on North Applegate Road. For more information, call 541-245-4741 or go to www.gacdc.org.

Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) meets Thursdays at 6 pm. For meeting information, call 541-474-6840.

Ruch 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.)

Sanctuary One is open to the public for farm tours every Wednesday and Saturday at 10 am. Recommended donation is \$5. Please check out our website for details: www.SanctuaryOne.org and call to reserve a spot. 541-899-8627.

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

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!

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 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 to 11:00, followed by the Bluegrass Jam, 11:00 to 1:00. Closed July and August. 20100 Williams Hwy, near Tetherow Rd. Information 541-846-6844.

Williams Grange #399 Business Meeting, second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm. 20100 Williams Hwy, near Tetherow Rd. Information 541-846-6844.

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

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

Women Helping Other Women (WHOW) meets the second Tuesday 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.

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

Send your calendar information to gater@applegater.org. Be sure to keep the Gater updated with any changes to these Community Calendar listings.

Applegater now online!

The *Applegater* is now publishing a website that is a companion and expansion of the content and services provided by the printed *Applegater* newspaper.

Highlights of this website will include:

- **Index and viewable/downloadable issues** of the *Applegater* starting from March 2008.
- **Expansion of content and pictures** of selected articles that appear in the printed paper.
- **Community calendar** on which nonprofit organizations and Gater advertisers can post special events (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 websites** 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 website to your favorites!

Joe Lavine, Webmaster
joelavine@hotmail.com

Check these out—only on our website

- “House of Blue Lights,” another adventure with J.D. Rogers and his gang.
- More photos of Webco Mill fire.
- Melissa Matthewson’s essay about Yale Creek Ranch and Tim and Beth Franklin.
- Greeley Wells’ photo of Applegate Lake in early winter.

Winter masthead photo credit

Jerry Rainforth took this issue’s masthead photo of snow-laden pyracantha berries on Georgia Applegate’s property in Williams.

Applegater

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

Photo Specs

To be printable, all photos submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi) or “large format” (e.g., 8” x 10”). Any questions, email gater@applegater.org.


Advertisers!

We can help you reach your market. The *Applegater* is the only newspaper covering the entire Applegate Valley.


With a circulation of 9,300 and a readership of over 20,000, we cover Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate, Williams, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, Jerome Prairie and areas of Medford and Grants Pass.

For more information, contact:
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“Please send in a few dollars to support the GATER. I love to read it and chew it, and it was my favorite paper for potty training.”
 Barney McGee

Remembering Karen Salant

BY PRISCILLA WEAVER, MATT EPSTEIN, ALISON BAKER-RILLING, MARY FERRELL, PHIL LONG, DENISE MCCOLLUM, BRUCE ROBERTS, JANIS SHADE, THALIA TRUESDELL, MARK WISNOVSKY AND MANY OTHERS

Ruch, the Applegate Valley, and all of Jackson County have lost a no-nonsense, fierce advocate for kids and schools with the passing of our friend Karen Salant in late December. Her keen insights, dogged commitment, gravelly laugh and willingness to work tirelessly for children are the embodiment of community.

Karen and her husband Peter chose to move to the Applegate Valley in part because they believed it a good place to raise their daughter Carly. From the moment she arrived, Karen devoted herself to two key components of that belief: libraries and schools. A woman of few words, Karen's unique style was strikingly effective: "Through all of these endeavors, Karen exuded hope and enthusiasm for the possibilities that success could bring, thoughtfully looking out for the best interests of our community. I will fondly remember her persistently positive advocacy for doing things better together."

In 2000 Karen joined forces with many others to gain voter approval for new community-centered libraries capable of providing essential educational, economic development, and cultural services to every city and hamlet in Jackson County, including Ruch. "During strategy meetings on the library levy issue, Karen always looked vaguely amused at the antics and machinations and personalities in the room. At points of high tension, her quiet voice and extremely sensible solutions moved us forward."

Karen's special talent for finding creative ways to maximize educational

resources is literally set in stone—the handmade tile path she dreamed up to link Ruch School with the new Ruch Library. Once she got Lilli Ann and Marvin Rosenberg involved, the project became the artistic and functional glue joining Ruch's two singular educational institutions. Dozens of tile steps created by Ruch students, teachers, and staff, as well as Karen's own tile, are silent but powerful testimony to her "footprint" on the community.

When the issue of safe school structures came to the fore several years later, Karen once again jumped into the fray. "Her willingness to voice support for safer school buildings all across the Medford School District encouraged many others to step up and pass the bond measure." "She always moved the discussion in a thoughtful, progressive way. Karen taught me that the quality of the group is more important than the quantity."

Karen's influence on our schools extended well beyond bricks and mortar. She chaired the Ruch PTO and the school site council, and spearheaded the Artist in Residence program in Ruch. She beat her own well-worn path to South Medford High to participate in its Aspire Program, working closely with students whose parents did not go to college, serving as their mentor in traversing the college admissions process.

The story of the entire Ruch

community banding together in 2004 to keep the Ruch School open is the stuff of legend. Karen often expressed her conviction that saving the school, and taking it to new levels in the process, was



Karen Salant, 1941 - 2011

a defining community moment. "She was a tireless, boots-on-the-ground, behind-the-scenes researcher and campaigner," working ferociously to make it happen, cajoling her neighbors for financial analyses, looking for any data she could identify as concrete evidence to bolster the moral arguments. "Without hard data, it was all going to be adjectives on both sides. When you have strong facts,

as we did, use them!" As another observer noted, "Throughout the potentially divisive and traumatic experience, Karen played a key role in keeping the focus on building a stronger community."

Most recently Karen became deeply involved with the Maslow Project, the capstone of her lifelong civic engagement. She guided the Maslow leadership in becoming an independent nonprofit organization and then served as its founding board president. "Karen recognized the critical need to expand offerings to homeless children in our area. She had absolute resolve and faith in Maslow and our mission. She believed all children should have the possibility for a better life. When she saw a young person overcome adversity and go on to be successful, she was the first to exclaim with a passion, 'Go get 'em!' She was Maslow's champion, cheerleader and friend."

Vibrant libraries, artistic pathways, safe schools, mentoring aspiring collegians, practical help for homeless children—Karen did it all. She had an uncanny ability to cut through the unnecessary drama and politics of teenagers and adults alike. Her motto was, "People are people and you can't do anything about that. But here's what we can do."

Karen touched so many lives in such a special way. She helped advance the livability of the Applegate Valley and southern Oregon and has changed our lives forever.

For more information, please contact Priscilla Weaver at 541-899-1672 or priscilla@saltmarshranch.com.

Acupuncture for recovery from trauma

BY ELLEN LEONARD

Have you recently been through the experience of caring for an ailing loved one or the death of a family member or friend? Have you had a car accident or house fire or the loss of your job? Are you fighting depression due to early retirement or foreclosure on your home? Are your children coming home with signs of stress and anxiety due to difficulties at school? Have you recently returned from a military tour and are having trouble adjusting back into your life and family or struggling with an addiction of one kind or another? Surprisingly, acupuncture can help.

Acupuncture is well-known as a treatment for aches and pains, but did you know that it is also extremely effective for anxiety, depression, panic attacks, and post-traumatic stress, among many other conditions? It is currently being used all over our country, as well as the rest of the world, to treat both victims and first responders in areas of natural disasters. It's gaining popularity and momentum because it works, and the only "side effects" are better overall health and emotional well-being.

Every Friday morning for the last three and a half years, I've held a Military Stress Recovery Clinic for veterans who are struggling with post-traumatic stress difficulties such as flashbacks, anger issues, insomnia, and nightmares.

Most are veterans of the Vietnam War, which means they've been struggling with their pain for over 40 years. These vets have continued to show up every week for the entire three and a half years because they

have seen marked improvements in their emotional well-being and quality of life. One vet says, "It has taken me to another level of consciousness," and another says, "Acupuncture has demystified my own mysteries and brought them into focus. It's remarkably comforting."

I have several teenage patients who are struggling with emotional issues. These young people respond quickly and very well. I have also seen several

Without intervention it can be a dangerous and unhealthy downward spiral.

patients who were so depressed they couldn't get out of bed and were on one or more antidepressants. After a series of treatments, many have been able to get off their meds and return to their normal lives.

And what about the strain of caring for an elderly parent? The relentlessness of the constant care of a healthy parent, let alone one with Alzheimer's disease or some other form of dementia or physical ailment, is grinding, to say the least. Without some form of support, the caregivers soon become ill themselves.

And then there are the effects of the recession. How many of us have had to take things out of our shopping cart and put them back on the shelf because we didn't have enough money in our wallets to buy them? How many have lost jobs, homes and cars and, as a result, the sense of ourselves, our dignity, and our place

in the world? These are all on the hit list of top stressors in life, and many in our community are experiencing all of them at the same time. As a result, we experience trauma and post-traumatic symptoms—insomnia, loss of appetite, weight gain, fits of rage, excessive reliance on tobacco, alcohol, prescribed and recreational drugs, food—all in an effort to "self-medicate" in order to make it through. Without intervention it can be a dangerous and unhealthy downward spiral. Acupuncture can break the cycle and put you back on your feet so you can cope with whatever hand life is dealing you in a healthy and productive way.

Acupuncture not only treats physical and emotional pain and disease, but also prevents it. One of its greatest strengths may well be its ability to keep us healthy. Most insurance policies cover at least part of the cost of a visit because they are realizing it's a much less expensive way to get and keep their clients healthy. But as my vets are fond of saying, it's hard to explain the depths of the benefits if you haven't experienced them yourself.

So go ahead. Call an acupuncturist near you and let them help you through these hard times. Remember, you can't help the people who depend on you if you're not healthy yourself.

Ellen Leonard, L.Ac.
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Ellen Leonard is a nationally and state-licensed acupuncturist in Grants Pass, Oregon. She has a masters in acupuncture and has been practicing for over ten years.



Tim Franklin
1964 - 2011

Tim Franklin died in an automobile accident on Upper Applegate Road on October 30, 2011.

Manager of Yale Creek Ranch, Tim was part of the Applegate Watershed Council, was active in the organic farming community, and was a long-time contributing writer to the *Applegater* newspaper.

Melissa Matthewson wrote an essay in 2005 about Yale Creek Ranch and Tim and Beth Franklin. You can find it on our website at www.applegater.org.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Discovering cup gardening

BY SIOUX ROGERS

"Not again," I whimpered as I glared in horror at the remains of the third replanting of my spring plants. I thought I had planted broccoli, cabbage, brussels sprout, kale, and...

Them dang small, slimy brown slugs knew I did and munched them down to remnants of old lace. "Dang" is a political garden statement for full-out slug warfare. I mean as in *no fooling around*. I had heard I could or should put copper wire around all my raised beds to keep slugs out. *Wrong!*

Wonder if I ate slugs, would I be long and slim like a snake?

First, I cannot afford to do that and second, they drop out of the sky at night and bypass the copper barrier. So obviously that will not work.

Next plan: beer! I heard that one before. It is supposed to work. Problem with that was I did not have enough beer to share with the slugs and for me to enjoy while planting. I won. Well, maybe I didn't win because the slugs did not seem very interested in the strategically placed wee lids full of lager. Wait, I know, broccoli and beer, yum.

Moving along to the next plan. Place small planks of wood between vegetable rows, and in the morning I catch the sleeping slugs. Perfect plan, but only a few sleeping slugs are found in the AM and the vegetables are looking more and more like antique green lace.

Seems as though everyone has their own personal formula for "slug sleuthing." I'm sure you have all heard the nocturnal regime of using the flashlight as a spyglass: handpick the little buggers off and drop them into soapy water. That does *not* work for me because when I go to grab them, they whoosh out between my fingers and never make it to the soapy water.

Oh, here is a great one for all you reptilian lovers. Snakes love slugs, their favorite. So don't kill the snakes. Wonder if I ate slugs, would I be long and slim like a snake?

Don't forget that "wonderful" fine powder, diatomaceous earth. How stupid is that? It becomes useless when it dissolves into the dirt every time you water.

Here are a few other suggestions:

Coffee. "New research has found caffeine to be very effective at dispatching slugs." (<http://www.gardensalive.com/>

[article.asp?ai=627](http://www.gardensalive.com/article.asp?ai=627)) I am always suspicious of the phrase "new research." Anyhow, this suggestion did not say if the slugs like cream and sugar with their coffee. Actually, putting your spent coffee grounds around the base of each plant annoys those buggers so much that they drop dead of frustration. However, this "solution" means you can't touch the soil or the coffee grounds will become one with the earth.

Oh, here is a really good idea. "Surround your plants with a protective barrier of hair. The slugs will get all tangled up in it and strangle, and the hair will eventually add plant-feeding nitrogen to the soil." (<http://www.gardensalive.com/article.asp?ai=627>)

I just knew my super tiny slugs would be escape artists. From the same website were a few other suggestions, some of which I have tried, such as citrus peels as slug traps (some larger creature ate the peels), white vinegar spray (I burned the plants and they hated me), lightning bugs (hellooooo, not everyone lives in the Midwest), ducks (that is a hoot—my ducks would eat more baby vegetables than a truckload of slugs. So I think not on ducks.). Toads—good idea but I haven't seen toads being sold at the supermarket. Humph. Lastly, there was a suggestion for

Problem with that was I did not have enough beer to share...

"rove beetles." All is not so perfect here, either. Doing a little detective work, I found out that while these rove beetles are great on the cleanup crew, they have chosen earthworms as their favorite food. So, *not!*

Back at the drawing table I re-examined all the options, short of cementing the raised garden beds and planting gnomes. Those tiny garden slugs dine on new baby vegetable leaves, they hide in the soil, usually sleep during the day, party at night and are excellent climbers. With all of this knowledge I smartly banded each and every new little stalk with tinfoil. Nope, did not work!

So now where are we? The aha moment arrived: my "Cup Garden." After trying all of the above unsuccessfully, it was a clear decision that a new plan of attack was needed. Finally, a brain explosion of smarts. I had Honey get several dozen ten-ounce clear or semi-opaque plastic cups. (Well, of course I bought them from the

Dollar store.) I looked at all the surviving plants, even the semi-munched ones, and calculated what I had growing and what was gone. Next step was to keep the cups stacked together in order to keep them sturdy for upcoming cup surgery: razor-cutting the bottom off every cup. Okay, Honey did the surgery for me.

Then I took one cup at a time and slipped the cutoff end over the top of the small plants and "screwed" it into the soft ground. I think I tried it the other way, putting the original mouth opening in first, but somehow that did not work as well. I believe the razored-off edge cut through the soil easier. That being done, I did put out some more lids with beer and a few boards here and there, but did not really catch too many of the brown/black slippery things in the morning. Mind you, the slugs were still in attack mode, but with the cups I could see and catch them before their midnight snacking. So for three nights in a row, I went out to the garden with a flashlight and small clippers. I could see and *snip* those little buggers crawling up and down the cups. Get the idea of the clear cup?

That is it. The plants grew better than I have ever had them grow, probably because they did not have so many setbacks. My brussels sprouts grew over five feet tall. While the plants were still young I could easily feed them a cup full of whatever was the soup du jour and it would go right down to their little roots, no spreading into the outer soil.

The plants grew so large that I removed the cups when they started to



Sioux Rogers—And the beet goes on.

bind the stalks—and before the sun started to disintegrate the plastic.

After harvest, I went back through the garden in search of any missed disintegrating plastic. You do not want that mulching in your garden—at least I don't. Any questions?

Dirty Fingernails and All
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"Unemployment is capitalism's way of getting you to plant a garden."
—Orson Scott Card



Top photo: Red cabbage plants when clear plastic cups were first placed over them for slug control. Bottom photo: The same red cabbage after several weeks of successful cup gardening.

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BACK IN TIME

Story of an old tintype

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

It doesn't take much to get sidetracked with my collection of old photos and the lack of more information about them. There is one old tintype of the Eagle Hotel built in Eagle Point by Arthur Poole (or Pool) in the mid 1870s. A dear friend, Vieva Saltmarsh, who lived up Little Applegate years ago, had a tintype and other old photos for me to make copies of. I asked Vieva why it was among her family photos and she said her husband, Glen, was related to the Pooles.

At that time I didn't continue with the research, but much later I found more information in Gaynell Krambeal's 1979 book about Eagle Point. He stated the hotel was built by Arthur Poole, who was born on January, 8, 1834, in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. Arthur was a blacksmith by trade, but soon after his arrival in southern Oregon he opened the Eagle Hotel, which became a regular stop on the railroad between Portland and San Francisco.

A book by Barbara Hegne, *Unforgettable Pioneers*, tells about Arthur and a neighbor. "At an earlier time in 1875, Arthur Poole and William Sutherland engaged in what the newspaper termed 'an amazing bloodless

encounter.' These two families resided on Butte Creek and their children had the usual, your kids are beating up my kids, syndrome. The two fathers became involved in a typical over-the-fence argument, carried over from the children. The two fathers began shouting at each other and when that didn't work they started pitching stones back and forth. Arthur Poole had the best advantage being on the outside of Sutherland's yard. He used stones Sutherland had earlier thrown out of his yard to keep it clean. After several minutes of dodging rocks Sutherland saw he was definitely at a disadvantage. He rushed to his house, grabbed his pistol and began shooting wildly at Poole. Arthur's blood ran cold when he saw how serious this was getting. He quickly hightailed it to notify the law. Sutherland was arrested and exanimated before Justice Tinkham. He was bound over in the sum of \$200, which he furnished."

Getting back to the Eagle Hotel tintype photo, it may be the only one now in existence showing the unfinished building. There are children standing in the upper story opening and some boys sitting on the top of a lumber

stack. Also, I find the slightly visible horse by the fence interesting. I think there must have been a double exposure of the tintype.

I find it so engaging how one photograph can lead to another photograph or story about our local history. And so I can bring us back to the Applegate, Little Applegate to be exact, with the Saltmarshes.

Arthur Poole had a daughter named Ella. It appears that she married a Cameron (well-known family in the Applegate); the research on why she has a second marriage (on November 24, 1881) to Joseph B. Saltmarsh will have to be saved for another day. Now Joseph already had several children by his first wife, who died in 1878 and is buried in the Sterling Cemetery. One of these, a son named Arthur Bird Saltmarsh, marries Ella's (the stepmother) sister, Dora May Poole on April 10, 1886. They had four children: Lee, Dean, Ossie, and Glen. Arthur B. takes up a homestead on the Little Applegate River

near the mouth of Yale Creek. Glen later farms this land where he and his wife Vieva live for many years. (Information on who married who is from John and Marguerite Black's book, *Ruch and the Upper Applegate Valley*.)

The photo of the Saltmarsh log house is one of my favorites. The workmanship with those logs is unbelievable. It is so sad that it was lost to fire in 1929. Of interest is Jason Hartman, who built the house in 1891 or 1892 and the barn in 1895, this being the same Jason Hartman who built the McKee Bridge in 1917.

By the way, McKee Bridge is now in desperate need of funding to cover necessary repairs or we may lose this important part of our local history, too.

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre • 541-899-1443

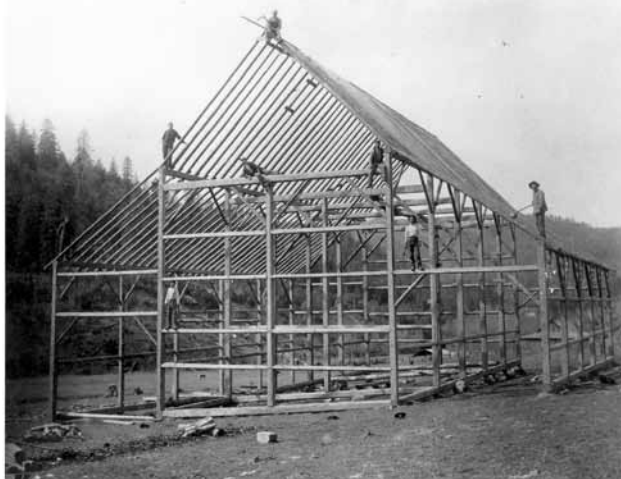
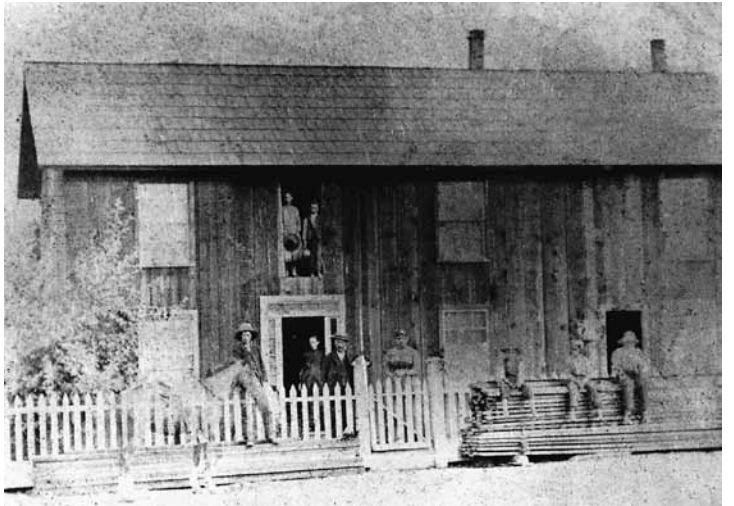


Photo above: Eagle Hotel. Photos below, left to right: Eagle Hotel, barn, Saltmarsh log house

Moving forward on the Middle Applegate Pilot

BY JOHN GERRITSMAN

Implementation is ongoing at Pilot Joe, the first project of the Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot, while evaluation of restoration needs has begun for the next Pilot project, Pilot Thompson. Thus, there is a seamless expansion into the next phase of the demonstration of Norm Johnson's and Jerry Franklin's restoration principles upon which the Pilot was created. A multiparty monitoring group is tracking the implementation effort for consistency with the principles and guidelines for the project, while a collaborative planning effort will help to frame the next project.

During the field preparation phase of Pilot Joe, a lot of effort was spent on locating and delineating the skips and gaps that are central to the restoration formula. The logging contractor and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sale administrator have been working together to take the logging design into the operation phase and have had to overcome some obstacles in how the logging operation was first envisioned. This process is typical and very much akin to contractors working with their clients

to make ongoing adjustments during construction. A field trip is being planned in late winter or early spring for interested community members to see the results and operations.

The collaborative transportation team is evaluating the road system for Pilot Thompson. BLM's silviculturist and wildlife biologists will have completed their evaluation of restoration needs for this next phase and the strategic placement of late successional emphasis areas by the end of January. It is expected that shortly thereafter the collaborative team will present this information to the community. At that point, with feedback from the community and input from the transportation team, BLM's interdisciplinary team will begin the process of formulating a project proposal (likely March-April, 2012). In addition, there are community members on this team to help provide a social perspective on formulating project proposals and alternatives. There will be a public field trip during the spring (date to be determined) to the proposed restoration sites. Any projects that arise from this

current round of planning will not be implemented until the 2013 fiscal year (beginning October 1, 2012).

As with any new approach or process, there are usually more questions than answers. Not enough time has elapsed to address the many ecological questions that were raised. Nor can much be said about the efficacy of this approach in managing the Oregon and California forests for sustained yield and revenues. Several suggestions have been made, including providing more pertinent and up-to-date information on the website about the Pilot projects, and better integration/communication with the Applegate Fire Plan effort. Incorporating these suggestions is just part of the adaptive process of the Pilot.

The Pilot is very much aligned with the western states governors' efforts to see that fire resiliency and restoration treatments occur more rapidly and over an effective-sized landscape (generally in the realm of 10 to 20 thousand acres). Oregon's governor is also very supportive of high levels of collaboration. County officials and the governor are very

concerned about generating revenues for county governments and functions. Thus, the Pilot has the ability to address these social concerns.

Indeed, we can claim credit for a more robust and transparent process that resulted in widespread community participation, understanding and support for this project. In the current climate of administrative protests, appeals and litigation over timber management on public lands, we have made apparent progress in the social arena. Perhaps we are building a new way to manage public lands, together. Only time will tell.

For more information on the Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot, please go to www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/forestrypilot/. You will access a plethora of information, including upcoming public events.

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THE STARRY SIDE

Swinging around the pole star



Greeley Wells

BY GREELEY WELLS

As I look out at the Winter Hexagon from the roof deck I have just built on my Ashland home, I realize that this new view of the sky has pushed me toward new understandings of celestial mechanics, which in turn put me in awe and joy. This roof deck has become a wonderful platform for seeing even more sky than I am used to. Although the Ashland horizon is much lower than my deep-valley view at Carberry (and although Carberry has a much darker and crisper sky, which I love and get much more detail from), the wide open Ashland experience has literally widened my northern views immensely, showing me how everything really is connected to the pole star and swings around it in a most peculiar and marvelous way. Looking out at this celestial dance, I am grateful to J.D. for asking me to write this column years ago, and grateful to all of you who read it and occasionally make comments and ask questions, which trigger me to get out at night more often and learn new things.

The Winter Hexagon (see illustration) is our companion this season: at first prominently overhead and then in the west, it slowly falls into the horizon line as spring approaches, when it sets early in the evening. So we all have another opportunity to figure out the hexagon and enjoy this winter gem. From my new Ashland vantage point, I'm learning more, too. (The Winter Hexagon is an *asterism*, or a pattern formed out of several stars that may be from multiple constellations; the Winter Hexagon is formed of prominent stars from six different constellations. To learn more about the other constellations in the Winter Hexagon, see last season's "The Starry Side" column at our website, where all past issues are available.)

As I write this in December, Vega is rising in the north-northeast under Hercules and Draco early in the winter mornings. That's one of the three stars of the Summer Triangle. Even though Vega is starting to rise now, it won't be until springtime—April—when the Summer Triangle begins to show up. So if you get up early in the morning this winter and look east, you can see the future!

Although some things (such as Vega) are best viewed in early morning hours, the standard viewing time is around 10 pm when most of us are on our way to bed, so that's the time I generally have in mind when I'm talking about what you can see. Remember that before that hour, constellations may not have risen in the east and will have gotten higher in the west. After that hour, the opposite is true: some constellations have risen further in the east and gotten higher, and some have gotten lower and may even have set in the west. Also, as the season progresses, the constellations rise earlier each day, so they are all actually creeping westward each night.

With that in mind, here's what to look for in this new season (February-April). At 10 pm the Big Dipper is rising in the northeast; parallel to it, Leo the lion is also rising. Cancer (the beehive) is dim and hard to see, but it is the next constellation as you look westward (toward overhead). The Gemini twins are high just south of the zenith, the absolute high point of the sky. Southwest of them is Orion. Sirius (the Dog Star) is the brightest star in the sky and is at Orion's heels farther south, forming

the bottom of the Winter Hexagon. Even higher over Orion's head (close to the "top" of the sky) is the bright star Capella in the five-sided Auriga, forming the top of the Winter Hexagon.

As March comes on, this whole scene shifts westward. Arcturus (follow the arch of the Big Dipper to find it) brightly shines in the east in Bootes. Finally, in April Orion begins to stand up straight on the northwestern horizon line, and everyone continues to shift westward in a large arch that dips in the south and ends in the northwest. To the north comes Vega of Lyra fame, reminding us that the Summer Triangle will soon be visible. In April, the Dipper is just north of right overhead; parallel to it is Leo the lion (with Mars below near Regulus, the bright bottom

lower left of the moon on the 24th.

These three monthly "moon moments" are a chance to notice the change in the moon's position each night. You have two relatively fixed points of reference (the planets). Now hold out your fist at arm's length, and you can watch the moon parade by at about a fist's distance each night.

MARS continues to play below Leo during this whole season. In February it moves from west to east, then stops and moves 'backwards' (still under Leo) from east to west. (In Greek the word *planets* means wanderers, and that is what they do. The starry background is quite consistent compared to them.) Mars is heading west toward Regulus in March, and by April is about four degrees from Regulus when

of-February show, but very low on the horizon.

(Uranus is there, too, between Mercury and Venus, but it's even dimmer and you'll need a telescope to see it.) By March's end, Mercury has fallen and disappeared into the sunset glow.

OF SPECIAL NOTE

Moons of this season include the Wolf, Snow or Hunger Moon (February 7), the Lenten, Sap, Crow or Worm Moon (March 8), and the Egg, Grass, Easter or Paschal Moon (April 6, which is also Good Friday). All occur around the same day of the month because there is approximately one full moon per month. (However, since this is not exact, we get a parade of full-moon dates over the long term. And this year, in August, we'll have a Blue Moon, an extra full moon in a single month, just to shake things up!)

Late February is a prime time to look for a very subtle effect in the night sky. From one to two hours after sunset on a moonless night in the western sky, look for Zodiacal Light in the ecliptic—the band the planets, sun and moon move in. It's a pearly white, subtle, almost-triangular light that widens at the horizon. Its meteoric dust lit high in our atmosphere by sunlight coming from well below the horizon high in our atmosphere, which makes it different from "afterglow," which is actual sunlight (not reflected sunlight). So you have to wait till *after* afterglow to see Zodiacal light! Good luck—it's very subtle.

The Lyrid meteors are very favorable on April 21-22, with no moon at all to hide them from view. They can be a strong shower, radiating from between Lyra and Hercules on the northeastern horizon.

Here are some dates to keep in mind this season:

2012 is a leap year, so a leap day, February 29, has been added. Only 97 leap days are added every 400 years. So it's rare!

March 11, early Sunday morning, remember to change the clock forward one hour for daylight savings time. (Although it's been noted that nothing is "saved" so it's really "daylight shifting day"! Then the sun will no longer be highest at noon, but at 1 pm. Personally, I think this whole concept is bogus.)

March 20 is the vernal or spring equinox. March 20 will continue to mark the equinox until 2044, after which it will sometimes shift to the 19th. How this kind of thing works and who figures it all out has always fascinated and confused me.

There's a "dreaded" Friday the 13th in April, so gird up and be brave! There was one in January too and will be another in July. There are usually only one or two a year, so this must be a particularly bad luck year. Actually (I reveal myself again), I think this bad luck stuff is bogus, too!

Finally, April 28 is Astronomy Day, which started in 1973. You may want to explore www.astroleague.org. Another good source of information is Astronomers without Borders, who created Global Astronomy Month in 2010: www.gam-awb.org.

I wish you fascinating nights filled with stars, planets and meteors.

Greeley Wells • 541-840-5700

greeley@greeley.me



star in Leo) just south of overhead. Look directly overhead—the zenith—to find four dim stars in a gentle, wavy line from east to west (see illustration) that form Leo Minor. Can you make them out? Are you starting to see why I say that everything around us is swinging in a most peculiar and marvelous way?

THE PLANETS

JUPITER is that incredibly bright star (planet, actually!) that has been up almost all night for months and is now high in the southwest at sunset, heading farther down each evening toward the horizon and toward Venus, who is rising to meet it. In all three of our months this season, Jupiter and the crescent moon provide a magnificent late-month show just after sunset.

From February 23-27, there's a dance: Jupiter drops each night from above, Venus rises each night from below, and a tiny crescent moon way below (see if you can see it on the 23rd) moves up each night until it is above both planets and growing wider by the 27th. So bide your time and watch the weather if you want to see this trio after five late-February sunsets in a row. (To the right of them is the great square of Pegasus, on its side like a diamond.)

From March 24-27, there's another crescent moon dancing, this time with the Pleiades above it adding to the fun. On March 25, the crescent moon is even closer to Jupiter, and Jupiter has moved below Venus, which is close to the Pleiades.

From April 23-25, Jupiter is setting in the sunset, with the Pleiades not far behind, Venus above, and another crescent moon moves through each night. On the 23rd, the moon is above Jupiter and left of the Pleiades. Orion is off to the left of it all, standing upright on the horizon line. Aldebaran is the star immediately to the

it stops again and begins to move east away from Regulus once more. Go figure! Mars then begins a fast fade, becoming dimmer than Arcturus by May 1. This gives us an opportunity to compare a star, Regulus, with a planet, Mars, almost side by side; you'll notice that the planet is steady whereas the star flickers. That is the difference between the "mere" millions of miles between us and our fellow solar system planets, and the light years between us and the stars. Check out Saturn and Spica for the same effect if you're up later in the evening or look later in the season.

SATURN rises each night in the east in the late evening, and on February 8 stops its slow eastward movement and begins slowly moving westward (called "retrograde") toward the dimmer star Spica. In April Saturn is visible all night next to Spica—another star/planet comparison opportunity.

VENUS is bright in the evening sky right after sunset, getting brighter and higher each night, eventually passing Jupiter who's descending (see above). On February 25, the crescent moon is a few degrees right of Venus. A similar dance happens at March's end: on March 26, the crescent moon is near the left of Venus, and the Pleiades are above them both. That's Aldebaran (in Taurus, that "V" shape) to the upper left. The continuing sunset dance with the moon puts Venus at the upper right of the crescent moon on April 24. Early in April Venus runs into the sisters, the Pleiades, and is at its farthest upwards and away from the sun. After this, Venus begins descending. Because Venus and Mercury both orbit very close to the sun, they appear either in our sunsets or sunrises when the skies are dark enough for us to see them.

MERCURY is also in the end-

TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

Doomsday 2012

BY RAUNO PERTTU



Rauno Perttu

According to some, this year, 2012, is the year the world ends—in December, to be more precise. Of course, we've always been in somebody's end-of-the-world days. Would-be oracles often use recent natural disasters to "prove" these are the real end times. I'll be very impressed if, after 4.6 billion years of spinning, the earth actually decides to end it all this December. I'll bet on another billion years.

It being the start of earth's "final" year, I thought it would be appropriate to join the oracles and make some predictions on events that will make our coming news during the year. I hereby predict we will have a volcanic eruption. I also predict we will have a devastating earthquake. In fact, I predict we will have multiple earthquakes, eruptions, and freakish weather events during the coming year. I will make the same prediction every year. The physical world is an active place, but because geological time pokes along much more slowly than our version of time, we forget until the earth decides to remind us. After we watch the disaster unfold on our television or computer screen, we quickly forget about it until the next disaster—unless we're directly impacted.

Our last impressive reminder of an active earth was the massive earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011 in northern Japan. The earthquake and numerous aftershocks happened on a complex fault zone, called a subduction zone, along which the Pacific plate is sliding under Japan. This earthquake did not happen along the part of the zone that has worried scientists for years. The fault segment to the south, near Tokyo, last had a devastating earthquake and tsunami in 1923, and could have another one at any time. This is the disaster that has worried scientists. Because of its proximity to a much larger population center, this quake and tsunami could be significantly more damaging than the one last March.

Very large earthquakes along subduction zones happen somewhere in the world every few years, and are the kind of earthquakes almost always associated with tsunamis. The great Alaska earthquake of 1964 was such a quake, as was the December 2004 earthquake in the Indian Ocean, which triggered tsunamis that drowned more than 230,000 people. The great earthquake in Chile in February 2010 was the most recent such earthquake before the Japanese earthquake last year. Parts of the west coast of North America are also

subject to these earthquakes, although we in the Applegate are very unlikely to be directly impacted. It appears that the risk of a subduction zone earthquake off the northwest coast is mostly limited to a stretch from the central Oregon coast northward to Vancouver Island. Even in that region, it further appears that, because of the unusually warm and thin crustal rocks involved, most of the shaking would be limited to offshore.

Earthquakes on land impact us far more frequently. These non-subduction earthquakes can also be devastating, as demonstrated by the May 2008 earthquake in China, which killed 68,000 people and

I also predict we will have a devastating earthquake.

left as many as ten-million homeless. There are places, some of them here in the west, that will have major damaging earthquakes in the coming years—maybe even this year. The only question is when they will occur.

Earthquake records have been kept for centuries in parts of the world with long-term written histories. In Turkey, these records show repeating patterns of earthquakes along certain fault lines. The patterns suggest that Istanbul has a major earthquake scheduled for its vicinity in the next several years, with potentially devastating consequences for this city of more than 13-million people. Although we lack the long-term written history, trenching and scientific detective work have demonstrated that faults in our American West have similar repeating patterns.

I'll use as examples two faults in California that will have damaging earthquakes, possibly within my lifetime as an old geezer, and most probably in your lifetime, if you're young. One of these, the Hayward Fault that passes southward along the eastern margin of the San Francisco Bay Area, has had at least five large earthquakes with approximate intervals of 140 years. The last one was in 1868 (yes, 144 years ago). Because the fault bisects the University of California, Berkeley football stadium, the stadium's ongoing major renovation is designed to protect the players and fans if the next "big one" hits at game time. Perhaps the yardage markers can be used to measure the displacement.

A large earthquake is also scheduled for the segment of the famed San Andreas Fault about 100 miles north of Los Angeles. Studies have shown that very large

earthquakes occur along the segment about every 90 years, and the last large earthquake was in 1857. Fortunately, this segment is far enough from the Los Angeles population centers that the famed "big one" could disappoint true disaster fans. The problem with predicting these large earthquakes is that the average time between earthquakes is only an average, and earthquakes don't run on a reliable timetable.

In and beyond California, numerous active faults, many of them poorly studied or understood, are waiting to surprise us. One that caught my attention years ago, when I was transferred to Salt Lake City, is the Wasatch Fault. This fault is lifting

In fact, I predict we will have multiple earthquakes, eruptions, and freakish weather events...

the mountains east of Salt Lake Valley, while dropping the valley. Portions of this fault have ruptured and produced large earthquakes approximately every 350 years. One of the segments that is due for a large earthquake runs along the eastern boundary of urban Salt Lake City. Our brick house, which would be very vulnerable to earthquakes, was almost on the fault. Projections of the damage from shaking of the soft sediments that underlie the town were enough to make me think about the family trapped in rubble on a cold winter's night. The Wasatch Fault is a very dangerous fault that was recognized by scientists, but was largely ignored by the public until recently. Similar time-bomb faults are scattered across the west, and along geological zones in the seemingly stable continental interior to the east. Many are unstudied by scientists, and will be recognized and appreciated only when they act up. Very large earthquakes occurred historically along some of the zones in the continental interior, but at a time when the population was isolated and few accurate records were kept. Future large earthquakes will continue to happen along these less-recognized zones but, because of lack of knowledge, they are likely to surprise us, and to be very damaging.

Enough about earthquakes. Volcanoes also work on repeating patterns. Each of the Cascades volcanoes has its own pattern of eruptions with some, like Mount St. Helens and Mount Shasta, erupting frequently. Others, like Mount Hood, erupt less frequently, and still others, like Mount Adams, rarely erupt. Most

volcanoes are also irregular in their eruption patterns, with periods of frequent eruptions followed by long periods of sleep and, like we humans, volcanoes change with time, grow old and die. We older humans had the chance to see Mount St. Helens, a vigorous younger volcano, put on a show, but are unlikely to see another. The young, however, have a very good chance of seeing another Cascades eruption in their lifetime. Our own nearby Mount McLoughlin appears to offer little threat. It has apparently been quiet for 25,000 years, and geologist friends who have studied it believe it will stay quiet.

Other volcanoes can be more dependably active. One example that I expect to cause problems for Europeans, perhaps within this next year, is Katla volcano in southern Iceland. This volcano has a history of significantly larger eruptions than the one that snarled air traffic over Europe last year, and is overdue for an eruption. When it does, air-traffic problems and air quality in Europe could make tourists wish they had chosen a different itinerary.

Again, like those unstudied faults, we will be surprised by an eruption of a volcano that has been quietly sleeping and ignored, if not this year, almost certainly within the next several years.

While we take note of, and quickly forget, the numerous strong earthquakes and run-of-the-mill volcanic eruptions like Mount St. Helens in 1980, we always have the chance for a truly remarkable event, which nature throws at us every few centuries or millennia. I don't hope to be fortunate enough to see one of these events. Examples of these are the eruption of a super volcano like Yellowstone, a major impact of an asteroid or comet, a giant solar flare, a major climate shift, or even a pandemic. These types of natural events have repeatedly happened, and will continue to happen. Our civilization, with its burgeoning population and increasing dependence on technology, isn't designed to easily handle such an event. However, I'm betting such an event doesn't happen in 2012 and, if it does, it won't be the end of the world. Let's have a great new year's party in 2013, knowing another doomsday was averted.

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Notes from a Rogue entomologist:

Night of the living bedbug

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

If you read the paper or listen to any of the mass media, you are well aware that bedbugs are back with a vengeance. Indeed, the bedbug population seems to have exploded over the last few years. Much like zombies, another group that has seen resurgence in media attention, they are relentless, mindless, and their only desire is to feed on us.

Bedbugs belong to a group of insects referred to as "true" bugs whose mouthparts are modified to suck plant or animal fluids. These true bugs include plant feeders such as stinkbugs, squash bugs, box elder (or maple) bugs, and predators like the assassin bug. (It is worth noting that this group does not include ladybugs and lightning bugs, both of which are actually beetles and not true bugs.)

The closest relatives of the common bedbug, which prefers humans, are species that are usually found feeding on swallows and bats, with the bat bug being the most similar. It would appear that when humans began living in caves or fixed structures of the sort that bats might also inhabit, a "host-switch" took place and our species acquired a new partner, a blood brother, so to speak. On the positive side, the bedbug has, so far, not been connected to any transmission of human disease. Nevertheless, there's no denying that bedbugs are very creepy and no one likes to donate blood without being asked. So we are going to have to devise some new tactics for controlling them.

Speaking of new tactics, I got an email a few months ago from someone checking to see if any of the Oregon State University (OSU) entomologists had a colony of bedbugs that they could use to train dogs for sniffing them out. It is well-known that bedbugs emit a characteristic musky odor and, with large bedbug infestations, the smell can be very distinctive. However, dogs can smell and locate bedbugs when the population is still low, and they have

proven quite useful for this purpose. Unfortunately, it is an expensive service, mostly because the current demand for canine supersniffers far exceeds the supply.

With the return of the bedbug, research is booming. I attended the most recent national entomology meeting in Reno last November, and there were more presentations on the bedbug than any other insect species except the honeybee. I ran into a Southern Oregon University (SOU) graduate with whom I had worked



Bedbugs are parasitic insects that prefer to feed on human blood.

on a project concerning insect attraction to pears. He is now pursuing a higher degree in entomology and is working on bedbugs. Although bedbugs were not his first choice, that is where the research dollars are and he was happy to oblige. He is looking for the chemical signal that attracts bedbugs to humans. Bedbugs are definitely attracted by body heat, but as they are fairly specific to humans, there is probably a chemical that humans give off that acts as a chemical cue. His initial studies, using sweaty socks among other things, indicated the existence of such

an attractant, which chemical ecologists refer to as a kairomone. In the next phase of his research he will try to isolate the kairomone so it can then be used to monitor or aid in control of bedbugs.

As to my own encounters with bedbugs, I have had bedbugs brought into the office on a few occasions, but not really that many. When I get bedbugs they are usually in pretty bad shape, victims of insecticide spray or floating in rubbing alcohol, but I did once receive

a live virgin female bedbug. If you are wondering how I knew it was a virgin female, well, the sex life of the bedbug is rather odd, to say the least. The male bedbug does not mate in the normal manner but pierces the female's abdomen to deposit his sperm. This traumatic insemination leaves a scar and my female did not have that telltale scar. Also, despite feeding her twice, she never laid any eggs.

I dubbed her "Betsy." When I fed her, I discovered that her bite was absolutely painless and I had no adverse reaction whatsoever. However, some people do



Hungry bedbug finds a victim.

react—out of 900 volunteers who were subjected to bedbug feeding during a study at Orkin's Training Center, less than five percent had a reaction, but there is also evidence that the more often you are subjected to bedbug feeding, the more likely that a reaction will occur. The bedbug needs a blood meal before each molt and then prior to laying eggs. Therefore, an individual bedbug needs to feed on a person multiple times throughout its life. The first time I fed Betsy, I had a little cage on my wrist and watched intently for quite awhile, but nothing happened. I finally started doing something else, and by the time I checked on her again she was half engorged. She lived close to a year and I do have some lingering regret about her death from starvation. In retrospect, I should have fed her more often and I definitely should not have named her.

I am surprised at the number of people I encounter who seem truly fearful that their homes could be infested by bedbugs. Admittedly, it is an alarming prospect not just because bedbugs are difficult to get rid of, but also because they have traditionally been associated with "unclean" environments. That stigma has diminished somewhat now that bedbugs have been discovered in penthouses as well as flophouses. However, as long as the bedbug population is on the rise, research to understand our parasitic bedmate will continue as we try to return to a time when "don't let the bedbugs bite" was said only in jest.

Richard J. Hilton

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BIRDMAN

Friends on feeders

BY TED A. GLOVER

With winter season in full swing it seems as though it's even more fun to sit in our warm house and look out our big picture window and watch all the activity at our bird feeders. Food is getting scarcer

now for our little feathered friends, so more and more of them rely on bird feeders for extra nourishment.

There is a regular assortment of birds that visit every day. These include large

groups of dark-eyed juncos, often called "Oregon" juncos, plus mourning doves, Steller's jays, red-breasted and white-breasted nuthatches, and a small flock of wild turkeys, whose voracious appetite and constant scratching in the ground make for quite a spectacle.

Although juncos are year-round visitors to our yard, we see lots more in the winter months as they migrate down from their boreal breeding grounds. Studies of these little dark-headed guys show that the ones you see in your yard this year are likely the same ones you saw last year, as they tend to return to the same place each year. You may see as many as 30 or 40 together foraging on the ground from early morning and through the day until just before sunset when they disperse to roost in trees and shrubs nearby. They are fun to watch as they raise their tails and flash their white outer feathers when alarmed, heading for the nearest safe place.

Other visitors we are watching this winter include the spotted towhee, larger than the juncos, with a dark hood and rufous sides and lots of white spots on its wings and sides. We like to watch our sunflower seed feeders to pick out the three species of chickadees that visit this time of year. The regular black-capped chickadee comes through the yard several times a day, but every once in a while we see a chestnut-backed and even a mountain chickadee traveling with them.

And even in winter we don't forget to keep our hummingbird feeders clean and full. The Anna's hummingbirds are regular visitors all winter long.

Ted A. Glover
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Ted A. Glover



Photos, left to right: **Red-breasted nuthatch**, which has a call like a tin trumpet. Photo by Dave Menke, USFWS. **White-breasted nuthatch**. Has more young, but is shorter-lived than the red-breasted nuthatch. Photo by David Brenzinski, USFWS. Source: wikipedia.com.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Sanctuary One

BY DELLA MERRILL

At Sanctuary One volunteers are the heartbeat of the farm. Folks come from the far reaches of Jackson and Josephine Counties, from the other side of the country, from points in California and beyond. They come as groups, families, or individuals. Most are motivated by the animals in our care and are willing to participate in any way that's needed. They are folks of all ages (including Gabe, who informed me he is six and three-quarters), who come from all walks of life and all political perspectives.

They come to muck pastures, clean dog pens and empty cat boxes, and to walk old Jack Russell terriers and puppy pit bulls. They wash windows, do laundry, groom horses, hang with the cats, scratch the pigs, sheet mulch the garden, build rock walls, pull weeds, lead public tours and school groups, walk the labyrinth, and much, much more.

Why do they come? Why do they choose to drive 45 miles one way to give

freely of their time and energy? Why do they choose to spend their Saturday mornings or afternoons cleaning up poop left by a young dog not yet housebroken, or breaking ice on the water troughs for the horses and other farm animals, or showing up at 7:30 in the morning when temperatures are below 20 degrees, or spending their one-week vacation to work every day helping us?

I decided to ask a few of them so I could understand.

Brian, a resident of Ruch, volunteers every Thursday. He's self-employed. Work is slow and, with time on his hands, he wanted to do something productive. "I started volunteering because of a desire to be of service, to give something back."

Niti is from San Jose and arrived the day after Christmas to volunteer during her one week of vacation. "I decided from now on I want to spend my vacations doing something meaningful."

Chad, a Medford small-business owner, allows his employees one paid day a week to volunteer at a nonprofit of their choice. They have chosen Sanctuary One. "It's a kind of pay-it-forward idea. The happier employees

are, the more productive they'll be, and everyone wins," says Chad. "And actually, I'm not sure who's helping who more."

Meghan, one of Chad's employees, is a contact manager and spends the majority of her work hours at the computer. She says of volunteering: "It's the perfect complement to my job."

Several families make a point of coming out on a regular basis. "We started coming out because our daughter needed community service time for high school," says Rich, who volunteers with his wife and daughter every Saturday. "It's a great reason to unplug from the home and come out and commune with nature. The animals are kind of like the toys on Misfit Island; one missing a leg, most of them unwanted. This is their second chance, and I bet everyone who volunteers here gets back way more than they give. It has been such a blessing for our family."

There's a lot of talk, articles and research about the therapeutic benefits of care farming: working, loving and playing with animals, digging in the dirt and moving 75-pound bales of hay. But I've always wondered how something could be therapeutic when there was no therapist

around to facilitate the experience. Well, what I'm learning is that there is a therapist at the farm. In fact, there are many, and they come in many forms.

Take Lilly the cat, for example. Lilly arrived with barely any hair, skinny and timid. But with time, gentle handling and good food, she has emerged as a robust, beautiful, trusting cat.

Another example is the 500-pound bag of peanut skins donated by a local peanut company. Four Lithia Springs teens, working as a team, managed to tip the bag over in order to spill the skins so we could spread them on the garden.

We live in uncertain times and it's often difficult to find reasons for hope. But after a day at the farm, working alongside volunteers, seeing their smiles, listening to their stories of a tender, delightful, loving moment, I can't help but have hope.

As Rich said, "We get a great connection from the land and the animals. It's nice, really, really, nice."

Della Merrill
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General Manager
Sanctuary One



Photos, left to right: Volunteers Gabe, six and a half years old; Chad, a Medford business owner; and Meghan, with Lisa and Lulu.

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Are you ember aware yet?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

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They may be small, but they are lethal! Embers such as these (*top photo*) during a wildfire are overwhelmingly the main reason that homes burn. Your home, my home, any home can be vulnerable to embers, but some simple tips and safe building materials can help save your home.

You've heard this before, but take a look at the pictures on the right. Here's a brick house in Texas (*center photo*) that had a metal roof and a very clean (and recently inspected) defensible space. But it burned in 2005. Why? Embers collected in and ignited a fiber doormat, which then burned through the wooden door at the back of the house. A metal or other nonflammable mat might have saved this house.

And what about this neighborhood in southern California? Why did only one home (*bottom photo, in upper right*) survive this wildfire in 2000? Correct—embers couldn't get inside to ignite it...

So, get your free copy of **BE EMBER AWARE** today and start preparing your home for next summer's fire season. Stop by any Applegate Valley Fire District neighborhood kiosk to pick one up, or drop in to Headquarters on Upper Applegate Road in Ruch for your free copy.

Sandy Shaffer
for Applegate Valley
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5. The work must be completed no later than November 30, 2012.

Suggestions:

6. It is preferred that several adjacent neighbors plan together to thin their properties at the same time, so that a larger contiguous fuel break area is realized.
7. Thinning your property that is adjacent to federal lands also helps create larger fuel breaks.
8. Thinning along a long shared driveway is a good way to meet these requirements and also provide safe egress/access for all.
9. The Fire District can assist landowners in having the thinning completed by utilizing County Justice crews, or the landowner can do the work themselves and be reimbursed, or contract the work out to be done by others.

For more information:

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JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

Applegate Library

What could be better than an afternoon (or morning) at your local library, browsing through books, working on the computer, or just curling up in a chair and reading in the quiet, peaceful atmosphere of learning? Well, you have that opportunity right here in Applegate at our library, which is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 2 to 6 pm, and on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm. We also have a meeting room that serves the community as a place to gather for programs, or for special uses such as yoga classes, choir rehearsals, irrigation meetings and many other important causes.

It's time to renew your Friends of the Applegate Library (FOAL) membership. For only \$15 you can support FOAL, which organizes events and raises money for the added features our library provides. We recently held a book sale and raised \$242.25, which will be used to purchase a laptop projector that will be available for programs in the future.

And speaking of programs, The Accidental Ensemble, a group of local Applegate singers, will be performing at 3 pm on Sunday, March 4. This will be a post-Valentine's Day program including some old and new love songs. The program is free to the public, so bring your sweetie and enjoy the music and the social gathering. Refreshments will be provided at no cost. Donations, of course, are always appreciated.

Ruch Library

Raising Ruch Readers Preschool Birthday Club: We are beginning a new program to help promote early literacy and to spark children's interest in reading and books. The Friends of Ruch Library is sponsoring this Birthday Club, which is designed for children aged two through five. You and your child do not need a library card to participate in this program. On or about your child's birthday, bring him or her to the library during open hours and s/he can choose a book from our Birthday Club shelves. They receive a book on each one of their birthdays, the last on their fifth birthday. Any child between one and four may begin the program. We are actively seeking donations from community members to help support this effort. We need gently used books appropriate for two to five-year-olds. Your donation will be greatly appreciated.

Winter Reads: This is an adult winter reading program beginning January 9. Adults over 18 may read (or listen to) at least four books between January 9 and February 21, and then fill in a log sheet available at the library. Each log sheet

The Adult Winter Reading Program is still in effect, and it is not too late to participate with a chance to win a prize for reading four books by February 21. For details, visit the library website at www.jcls.org.

For those adults who want to improve their computer skills, free computer classes will begin in June throughout the Jackson County library system. The Applegate Library will be offering the Basic 3 program (Basic 1 and 2 programs have already been held in Applegate). Check in with the library for the exact dates.

For those homeschoolers in Applegate and surrounding valleys, play days will be offered to children within the ages of four to seven (give or take a few months). The play days will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 to 3 pm. Play days this past year have included building with wood and blocks, dress up and dance, yoga, wool projects, making wreaths and candle lanterns. For more information, email Michele at humbughealers@yahoo.com or call Hadley at 541-899-3133.

So now you see how hard our library is working to keep the community informed and involved. You, too, can be involved if you stop by the Applegate Library and renew your membership with a check to Friends of the Applegate Library for \$15. If you are not yet a member, this is the time to join.

See you at the library!

Joan Peterson
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enters you into the weekly drawing for prizes and for the grand prize at the end of the program. Enter as many times as you wish!

Pass the Book: The Storytime Guild of Jackson County welcomes donations of gently used children's and young adult books to be passed on to social service agencies in the county. There is a box for the collection of your books at each branch of the Jackson County libraries.

Community Display Cases: We welcome your contribution to our community displays. February will focus on hearts, so look around your place and see if you have any interesting hearts to add. Then begin thinking about bringing in your favorite teacup for the month of March.

Chilton's Auto Repair Manuals: Ruch Library now has a huge collection of Chilton's Auto Repair Manuals on hand for those of you interested in doing your own repair work.

See you at the library!

Thalia Truesdell • 541-899-7438
Branch Manager

Sponsor-a-Saturday at Ruch Library

The Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) want to express our deep appreciation for all the contributions from this community during our annual book sale and Saturday Hours @ Ruch Library campaign. Our book sale in October generated the highest sales to date for this event.

Then we focused our efforts into our annual campaign to keep Saturday Hours @ Ruch Library in 2012. Our lofty goal of \$18,000 seemed impossible, but FORL was motivated and is optimistic this goal can be achieved since we continue to receive donations.

During our campaign we discovered that our outreach to local businesses and individuals to Sponsor-A-Saturday (SAS) might be more effective as an ongoing effort rather than end with the campaign. The idea to perpetuate the SAS effort throughout the year will make it easier to appeal to a wider range of local businesses and individuals; we all felt constricted by the end date.

We purchased a display sign that we can easily update every week with sponsor information. The message will acknowledge that this particular Saturday is "brought to you by (your name here)."

The cost to FORL for Saturday Hours @ Ruch Library is approximately \$250 a week. For those with budget concerns, we can accommodate your gift with a payment plan of your choice.

I have a personal goal of finding local businesses and individuals to sponsor every Saturday in 2012, and our business, Mike Drake's Alignment & Brakes, has already selected a Saturday in February. Mike and I invite you to join our effort to maximize Saturday Hours @ Ruch Library.

Feel free to email me at smartina@charter.net or phone me at 541-621-5235.

Tina Drake
FORL Board Member
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Applegate Food Pantry thanks you

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Our pantry has been very busy this past year and fortunately, we received a lot of help from the local community. We are very grateful to Craig and Amber Hamm of the Ruch Country Store for their continued support and generous donations of food every week. The Applegate Garden Club and Ruch School are also big food pantry supporters as well as too many individuals to name. And, of course, we have about a dozen dedicated volunteers who actually do all the work required to make the pantry operate.

We used to have weeks when only 8 to 12 families would show up, but now it is a rare week that we serve fewer than 30

families. In the last two years, we have seen a huge increase in need, so we continue to ask the community to help us provide food for the hungry in our community. You can write a check made payable to "Applegate Access" and send it to:

Arlene Aron
1684 Humbug Creek Road
Jacksonville, OR 97530

You also can donate food directly to our pantry. We are located behind Ruch School and are there on Thursdays at 2:15 pm.

Thank you in advance—we all appreciate your generosity!

Arlene and Claude Aron
541-846-0380
www.eyelandgallery.com

Accidental Ensemble to perform in Jacksonville and Applegate

To celebrate Valentine's Day and the coming of spring, The Accidental Ensemble will perform at the Jacksonville Library on February 10 at 7 pm, and at the Applegate Library on March 4 at 3 pm. Our repertoire will include a few love songs, old and new, that will rekindle the spark in our hearts.

We are all local Applegate singers: strong of voice, a cappella in style and small in number. Our selection of music

is eclectic, with four-part harmony and essentially madrigal in nature. Above all, we simply love singing together.

Our performances will begin on time and will last about an hour. They are free of charge, and refreshments will be provided following each performance.

Please join us in support of either or both of our local libraries.

Joan Peterson
541-846-6988

Update on Applegate Dam Hydroelectric Project

Construction of the Applegate Dam hydroelectric plant was scheduled to begin in January this year. However, according to a Symbiotics representative, the project has been delayed by at least six months while Symbiotics reworks the design of the intake structures at the base of the dam to accommodate the Army Corps of Engineers' requirements. Stay tuned...

Margaret della Santina
541-899-9950
mperrow@sonic.net

APPLEGATE OUTBACK: MY OPINION

Cowboy coffee

BY BOB FISCHER



Camp cooks who can pull off authentic morning mud are getting scarce as Oregon Trail ruts. Cowboy coffee is pure chuck wagon art and an exact science. The *Dictionary of the American West* defines

cowboy coffee as "the brew you make on the range strong enough to float a horseshoe."

If you want to brew coffee like a real cowboy, here is the way all my hunting and fishing buddies build a brew. You want to use a pot that's been making coffee for months or years, and has never been washed. Between brews, you keep part of the old grounds and, for a new brew, add some new grounds and then some water. Boil it, add some cold water to settle the grounds down, then pour.

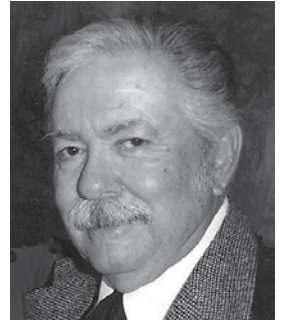
The obvious appeal to cowboy coffee is

that the creation of it is "any way you want to make it." I have watched other methods:

breaking a raw egg into the pot, or dropping in several marble-size rocks, or using the centrifugal force of several full-circle arm swings. Anything to get those coffee grounds to sink.

My recipe has been tested over years of fireside mornings, and it goes like this: fill the pot with cold water and toss in five or six handfuls of grounds. Bring the water to a brisk boil, then take the pot off the fire. If you have time, let the grounds settle on their own for a few minutes. Tap on the pot with a spoon and the last few grounds will drop. If your camp companions are restless and waiting, then throw in a horseshoe. If it doesn't sink, "drink" it!

Bob Fischer
541-846-6218



Bob Fischer

"Men, chocolate and coffee are all better rich." —Unknown

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Tall Tales from the Editor

High point or hand-me-downs

Has anybody out there ever heard of Bean Blossom, Indiana? If so, you know it's a little bigger than Gnaw Bone, Indiana, but smaller than, say, French Lick, Indiana. At least that's the way they were years ago—like way back in the last century.

The first band I was ever in was the fabled Hand-me-Downs. The original lineup consisted of my older cousin Steve "The Cool One" Porter. Steve was our lead singer with moves that would be the envy of Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones.

Then there was Marty "Chickslayer" Wilson on drums. His nickname says it all. "Mothers, lock your daughters up" was the cry when he came to town. I need to add that when this band was first being put together, we couldn't find a drummer. Marty had been telling me for over a year that he was a drummer; he was always drumming with his hands, pencils, whatever, while we were in school or just hanging out. Problem was he didn't have a drum kit. He said when he moved from California to Indiana he had to sell them. What to do? Marty said if his father heard the band he was sure he'd spring for a drum kit. I said we don't have a drum set that you can use to play the six or seven songs that the band knew at that time. So a brilliant plan was hatched. We would record on his reel-to-reel a few songs by the instrumental band The Challengers, who did surfer-type music. Then we'd play it for his dad and tell him it was our band. We just hoped he didn't want to hear us live.

Although Marty's copy of The Challengers record was quite scratchy, we went ahead with our plan. Marty's dad wrote him a check to cover the cost of a blue sparkle set of Norma drums. Years later his dad said he knew we were full of it, but thought the scam was funny and obviously Marty wanted to be a drummer.

That's when Carl Allen and I found out that Marty had scammed us. On our first rehearsal, Marty was trying to fit his riding tom into his snare drum stand. We'd been had. Marty was still our drummer—no one else around had a set. He went from not really knowing how to set his drums up to placing third at the Indiana State Fair drum-off in less than a year.

Carl Allen and I met in study hall. He was two years older than me and we both wanted to be rock stars. That's how the band started. He was our shy lead guitarist, who would turn red when girls talked to him.

Rick Leeds was the wild one and

undependable. There's always one who is a no-show at band rehearsals. He was also our bass player. Rick and I held down backing vocals and I played rhythm guitar even though I had or have no natural rhythm.

We ventured south from Avon, Indiana, to Bean Blossom for a talent contest we'd entered. This was one of our early gigs. We had played maybe six or eight dances up to this point. This talent contest was held in a very large barn that had been converted to an entertainment center for everything from auctions to dances. It could seat several hundred people, plus the old hayloft had been converted to seating. The stage was mammoth, with stage and overhead lighting.

We were all a bit nervous when we saw that all of our competition were Porter Wagner, Hank Williams and Loretta Lynn look-alikes. You get the picture—hard-core country 1967, and we were a rockin' rock 'n' roll band that was way out of our element. No cowboy hats or yodeling here.

All day long different acts would play a three-song set, then be judged by a very scientific and quite large applause meter. The louder people hooted, hollered and clapped, the farther the needle moved on the applause meter.

There was an emcee who announced each act and, after you left the stage, told you where you placed on the old meter. The top five acts would play that night to decide the winner.

I don't remember, nor do any of my old (and they *are* old now) mates, where we were in the lineup.

When we walked out on the stage, my knees were knocking and I was sure I needed to run to the restroom and throw up or worse. "Oh, my god," I thought, "what are we doing here?" as I stood up there in my fluorescent sun-glowing yellow pants that I had talked my mother into dyeing for me. She said, "Honey, don't you think somebody might beat you up for wearing something like that?" The shirts we all wore would have been the envy of any church stained-glass window—only our shirts were bright, bright, brighter. With the stage lights shining on me, attendees needed shades not to be blinded. I was the perfect target for any bottle, rock, ball-peen hammer, or someone just wanting to sight in their varmint rifle.

I looked out at the quarter or so filled house only once. Steve's parents, my parents and our grandparents were the only familiar faces I saw. I never looked at the audience again.

We played "Money" by the Kingsmen, "Gloria," the Shadows of Night version, and "Little Latin Lupe Lu," another Kingsmen version.

When we finished our set, I couldn't believe there were no boos or "get a haircut" or obscene hollers—only a pleasant round of applause. That applause was good enough to place us fifth. We now had several hours to kill before the big battle that started at seven pm. Because the bands went on stage in order of where they placed, we would be last.

Marty was pacing around muttering nervously about how the drummer in the first-place Smitty and the Checks had two riding toms on his set, and he had only one. Marty just knew we would lose because Smitty's drummer would play better than him. "Why, oh why, didn't I get a set with two toms?" he'd moan.

In the meantime, Rick called me over

to meet one of the two local Bean Blossom girls he had met. Normally, this was Marty's role, but he was consumed with his drum dilemma.

Rick told the very blossomed girls that we had written "Little Latin Lupe Lu." What could I say? They thought we were stars as they led us up to the darkened seating area that was once a hayloft.

The one thing I remember the girl I was with saying was "Aren't you afraid you might get beat up wearing pants like that?" "Do you like them?" I asked. "Yeah, they're cool," she said. "Well then, that's all that matters."

Boy, oh, boy, I thought rock 'n' roll was turning out to be everything this six-foot four-inch, 130-pound beanpole had dreamt it would be. Oh, yeah.

A couple of hours later, we returned to our bandmates who were sitting down by the stage. They asked, "Where in heck did you guys go? We need to figure out what songs we're doing tonight."

That's when Rick showed off all the hickeys on his neck. We told them the girls we had met loved us and had used the pay phone out front to call all of their friends and told them to call more friends. The girls said we were the first rock-and-roll band to play there and they wanted everyone to come hear us.

When Smitty and the Checks hit the stage, the place was packed; even the love nest up in the hayloft was filling up.

When Smitty finished their set, Carl pointed out to Marty that their drummer didn't use any of his riding toms. "I know," he said, "that was his big mistake." Now Marty was relaxing a bit; I could tell that Chickslayer was back. In contrast, my stomach was getting very jumpy. "Just relax," I kept telling myself. "Don't throw up now."

After the third act had finished their set, the emcee announced, "Folks, we're all out of Pepsi and the 7-Up is going fast. My goodness, this may be our biggest crowd ever. Thank you."

When we were announced, the emcee said, "Folks, our final act of the night doesn't play country, but they sure can rock and roll. Let's hear it for the Hand-me-Downs."

As the crowd erupted with screams and hollers, Steve took his black suede boots with their two-inch heels and stomped out our four-count intro that sounded like it echoed through the barn louder than the screams. Steve sang, "The best things in life are free, but you can keep them for the birds and bees. Now give me money..." At that point the screams went through the stratosphere. Holy moly. Every hair on my body was standing on end and the goose bumps, oh, man.

Halfway through our last song Rick danced over to me and shouted. I said, "I can't hear you."

"We're going to be the Beatles."

At that moment, it felt like that—there were girls jumping and dancing at the edge of the stage.

"Time to announce the winner," said the emcee. "Not only are they the winners, but the applause meter is pegged all the way into the red and broken by the screams from all their fans." With that, he said that the winners are the Countdowns.

As quiet ensued, we all looked at each other and said, "Who are they?"

"I mean the Hand-me-Downs," the emcee said.

The place went nuts. We even had the adults standing and hollering.

We went back up on stage to receive the "grand prize," a seven-inch tarnished swimming trophy. I am not kidding. It had a person in a diving position on it with a shiny new brass plate for our name to be engraved on. Next we got to record the song "Money" live right there, which would be aired on the radio at a later time.

When Steve started singing for the

recording, we could not hear him because his microphone went straight into the reel-to-reel tape. Rick and I had to sing our parts into the same mic.

Marty couldn't hear anything and about three-quarters of the way through the song, he thought we'd come to the end and stopped. The four of us all looked at him at the same time as we kept playing and he came right back in with some fancy action on his single tom—he didn't need two of them.

That was the high point for that particular lineup of the Hand-me-Downs. There were many other great adventures for the band, but none like Bean Blossom, Indiana.

These days when I think of high points and hand-me-downs, it's in a different light.

I wonder if we as a great nation will ever get back to our highest points of glory or are we on the road to a nation of hand-me-downs. Month after month, year after year, the spin doctors tell us all indicators are pointing to a slight economic recovery, only to tell us the next month that they were baffled by yet another _____ (you fill in the blank).

Then there is the national debt. The other day I heard an interesting way to understand what a trillion dollars is: One million dollars a day for 3,000 years. And we're how many trillions of dollars in debt?

At all levels of government we are without leadership, and I see none on the horizon. How will we ever recapture those high points?

I believe we have to start at the local level, and buying local has never meant more than it does right now. If you haven't already, a good thing to do is move your money to a local credit union or local bank. Keep our money local with loans for local businesses as opposed to banking with Chase, Bank of America, Citigroup or any of those other Wall Street bandits that laugh at us with impunity. The same with credit cards—if you still use them: Get local credit cards.

You have to create something to make wealth like in our manufacturing heyday. That was a high point. Now 90 percent of our jobs are service-related, and minimum wage for most. Come get your hand-me-downs.

Here in the Applegate and Rogue valleys, we do have more choices than most to keep the few dollars we do have local. I encourage you to seek out local businesses and use them. That would be a high point.

As for the Occupy Wall Street folks, I think they've got it wrong. It should be "Occupy Washington, DC," where both political parties signed on to NAFTA and GATT treaties, and passed all the laws that let Wall Street rob the country blind.

We don't need a new system; we just need to do some very serious repairs. I think one million people—better yet ten million—occupying Washington, DC, would start those repairs pronto.



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

NOTE: NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) and GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) are the catalysts of the trend to move US manufacturing overseas, which eliminates American jobs, and also eliminates import duties on overseas manufacturing shipped to the United States.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE!

For another adventure with "The Cool One" and "Chickslayer" by J.D. Rogers, go to www.applegater.org and click on "additional articles" under "Latest Issue of the Applegater," then select "House of Blue Lights."



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OPINION

High mountain country

BY GAGE JOHNSON

This is my story of my first off-road motorcycle race in the pro class at a National Hare Scramble in Montana.

Besides going to school and working at a motorcycle shop, I am a racer. Racing anything from off-road desert races to motocross, dirt bikes are my greatest passion. I was born into the sport, and take advantage of every opportunity to race at new venues and ride different areas. This last summer an opportunity of a lifetime came up: a bucket list race at a ski resort in Big Sky Montana. It would have been senseless if I had not gone.

From Medford, Oregon, to Big Sky, Montana, is one big, long haul. Estimating a 1,700-mile round-trip, two of my friends and I took to the pavement Friday around six in the evening. Four dirt bikes in the back of an F-150 Ford truck was definitely one tight squeeze; the weight of the four bikes compressed the suspension of the truck so much that we looked more like a moving truck from Mexico than three friends heading to the races. The drive through eastern Oregon and southern Idaho is bland: bland like oatmeal without brown sugar and raisins. At one point in the drive I didn't see one tree or a different shade of brown for at least one hundred miles. We drove all night, and even late into the morning. Exhausted was an understatement about what I felt like when we finally reached Big Sky, but that was just the beginning of our exuberant trip.

Picture tall green trees, blue skies, and a 25-million-dollar beach resort at the Bahamas at the base of a colossal mountain; that is what Big Sky Ski Resort looked like. My exhaustion was lifted from me at the moment the doors of the F-150 were flung open and I took a gasp of the cool high mountain air. Exploring the resort was first on my to-do list, and the first stop was the bathroom. The bathroom was a little too extravagant for a motorcycle racer like me. It had at least eight dispensers for soap, different scents of soap, lotions, and even a mouthwash dispenser with disposable cups. I knew I was in a "rolling-in-green" environment.

After venturing around the resort a while, I decided to call it a day and get ready for the race. The event would take place Sunday at noon. For a three-hour race of the most grueling, high-elevation terrain, preparing the motorcycle was very necessary and so was preparing your own mind. Race conditions were not the most favorable: Big Sky had not gotten any rain for a few days, leaving the soil dry and dusty. I was a little nervous on the day of

the event: the race would be my first at a national caliber in the pro class. It seemed like a pretty big deal to me at the time, which caused more anxiety than it should have.

The start of the race was a long, rocky ski run up the mountain. It would be a dead-engine start, which is probably one of the most common starts in off-road competition, and also the most nerve-racking. There were 30 or so pros on my start line, so the first turn would be a little crowded, similar to the stores on the morning of the Black Friday sale. Ready to rumble, I practiced starting my bike and pictured myself getting a good start. The starting official *finally* raised the flag and we were off and racing. Well, all the racers except me.

A 2012 KTM 350 SX-F was the motorcycle I raced that weekend. The bike was new and fuel-injected, but the bike was not alive and running when the flag rose at the start. I ran my battery dead while practicing starting my bike before the race. Panicking, I pushed my bike through the race classes behind me and finally got it started by bump-starting it. I raced through the crowd of spectators and was off to catch up to the racers in my class.

The rest of the race was nothing very interesting. Thick dust and a feeling of disappointment was all I experienced. The scenery was excellent, the atmosphere fantastic, but my result in the end was 14th place. A finish in my mind that is mediocre compared to what I know I can accomplish. A bucket-list event is definitely what this race was to me: A race that I can't check off my bucket list until I finish promisingly.

Gage Johnson
541-890-4219

AUTHOR'S NOTE: I was raised in the Applegate Valley for 15 of my 19 years, and have been racing and riding for all those 15 years. It all started for me out here in the Applegate, and I know that the valley is better known for its beautiful scenery and vineyards, but it also has some great riding areas. The fight for the riding areas has been going on for some time now and both sides are working very hard to come up with an agreement. My story about the race in Montana is like a thank-you letter and proof that the riding areas help fulfill dreams for young adventure-seekers like me, and I know that without all the hard-working people behind the scenes keeping the riding areas open, I would not be where I am today.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Vagos Motorcycle Club outraged at court decisions

BY MARK "BADGER" SCHILLER

Recently my friend was on trial for an alleged assault. It ended up he was prosecuted for being a motorcycle club member instead of what he was formally charged with. They criticized him for the color of the walls of his house, his green shoelaces and slandered his friends, his family and anyone connected to the club he belongs to. This was done with a malicious intent and open hatred of the Vagos Motorcycle Club, green being the main color of the club.

I'm a member of the same motorcycle club. Law enforcement doesn't have to take photos from our Facebook pages, drag our patch (vest) into court, or take pictures of us when we're not looking, just ask us!

Being a member of a motorcycle club is not illegal! We teach our kids that law enforcement is there to help all people in trouble. We come from broken families and good families so we understand the hardships and struggles of parenting, and what it's like not to have parents ourselves. We're doctors, carpenters, lawyers, teachers, and blue-collar workers, and our kids all go to the same schools. We have the same rights as every American in this great country of ours. The right to associate with people we want to, to wear the color of our choice, freedom of religion and to speak about how we feel and what we believe in. The rule we all are taught is "innocent until proven guilty," which isn't being applied in these circumstances. "Guilty by association" isn't supposed to be the rule.

Grants Pass, Oregon, is more interested in prosecuting a man for being in a motorcycle club than the crime he's actually accused of. Their actions are a form of discrimination known as xenophobia. Now to have a court system that's allowing prejudice and hatred to be the mainstay of a prosecution is a miscarriage of justice and abuse of police powers of the state. This is wrong. Motorcycle clubs are not gangs or criminal organizations and we're not signing any paper saying we are a gang in order to get out of trouble. That would be a boldface lie! We support several fundraisers, we help when we can. Whether it be money, toys, or just time and fellowship. We pay taxes and vote, we have families, and we struggle with all the things in day-to-day living just

like everyone else. As a club we have zero tolerance for substance abuse, criminal activity and anything else that affects this club in a negative way. We constantly defend ourselves in court for the civil rights that our children are taught to appreciate.

This court allowed the media to be present in the courtroom and to make reports on court activities while telling everyone else not to talk about the case! This tainted this jury and any future jurors. When the jury was polled, it was eight "not guilty" and four "guilty." The district attorney's office is allowing the open prejudice of the assistant district attorney (ADA) to rule the court's time, money and efforts. Whether it's the ADA or false information she's receiving, it shouldn't be fast-tracked or thrown at anyone for publicity/propaganda to sway a jury's opinion. To date my friend has not been recharged nor has the case been dropped.

Not long ago discrimination and segregation were ruled unjust and wrong! Today these prejudices and hatred are being redirected to different types of people. The biker community is taking the brunt of these actions.

We are not sure of the cost for SWAT raiding a home. However, it would be less expensive to pull an individual over for a search warrant on their way to work. Then they could take a couple squad cars back to the residence to search instead of the high cost of a tactical raid in the early morning that affects the children in the households. Had my friend not been a member of the Vagos Motorcycle Club, this case would have never gone this far and cost him and the taxpayers so much in wasted money and time; actions like this have not been tolerated since segregation. Motorcycle clubs are the least of their problems! It's been a long time since I was a Boy Scout, but last time I checked, there's no merit badge for taking parents from kids or kids from parents for a career advance.

Thank you.

Mark "Badger" Schiller
Vagos Motorcycle Club
badger609@msn.com

NOTE: For more information, see <http://salem-news.com/articles/december162011/vagos-release.php>.

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#34
with Bob Quinn**

"Pumping iron" may be good for your general health and well-being, but not if you're pumping iron from your water source or from your well's piping system.

Iron in your water supply will cause problems in the appearance of laundered items, with rust spots or a yellow or pink cast to clothing. Nylon items are more susceptible to discoloration. The use of a chlorine bleach only makes the problem more acute. But iron also causes discoloration of sinks, tubs, fixtures and appliances. Bad enough, but iron can also give an unpleasant metallic taste to drinking water, or an off taste to coffee and tea. Finally, as we saw in an earlier column, it can clog your well system. Before you can arrive at an effective solution, you'll need to determine whether the source of the iron is dissolved iron from your well, iron from your pipes, or iron bacteria (This is an increasing problem in Josephine County). The right solution will also depend on the pH level of your water. If you're pumping iron and don't want to, give us a call for some helpful tips that might lift the weight from your shoulders...

Bob Quinn is a member of the Oregon Ground Water Association and owner of Quinn's Well 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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Ruch School: A true community school

BY MARGARET PERROW DELLA SANTINA

These are uncertain and challenging times for public education. Like school districts across the state, the Medford School District is feeling the effects of funding cuts and budget shortfalls. This year Ruch School has experienced larger class sizes, the elimination of parent-teacher conferences, and fewer school days in the calendar year among other things. In many cases, our teachers are required to implement brand new math and reading curricula while teaching larger (or split grade-level) classes, with less professional development and support.

On the other hand, it's important to remember and appreciate what we do have, what makes Ruch School unique and resilient, what makes it a good place for kids to grow. Recent educational research points to the effectiveness of K-8 schools for students in the middle grades (over their middle-school counterparts), and the potential of small schools to foster a supportive, mutually accountable learning environment where every student is known personally. We are fortunate to have these two elements—a school that accommodates grades K-8, and is small enough for every student to feel personally known. But there is a third critical factor that we also have, and must continue to recognize and encourage: community support and involvement.

Ruch School has a history of community involvement dating back to 1914. The placard hanging under the original school bell, at the entrance, commemorates its origins grounded solidly in community: "The Ruch School was built in 1914 as a cooperative project by the members of the community who poured each block, with all materials and labor donated."

More than 100 years later, in 2004 the community carried on the tradition of supporting the school, in response to a district proposal to close it altogether: declining enrollment meant that the school was no longer cost-effective to the district. A school board hearing held in the school gym drew an overflow crowd of community members, many of whom testified to the importance of keeping the school operating. Perhaps you were there, and perhaps you remember that some of these testimonials were from people who reminisced fondly about their own days as children at the school; many, many people passionately told the board how important the school is, and why they considered it to be a "hub" of the community. As a teacher-educator, an educational researcher and a new mother in 2004, I was relieved and inspired. The school's continued existence today is a tribute in part to the strength of this outpouring of community support.

Community and staff worked

hard together for many months to find solutions, resulting in a substantial restructuring: The schedule was changed to a more cost-effective four-day school week (Monday is not a school day), with more instructional minutes built into those four days (an earlier starting bell, and a later end to the school day), and no early release days. The addition of seventh and eighth grades was another significant change.

Perhaps the most exciting and innovative development in the years immediately following 2004 was the intensification of the school's long tradition of community involvement. Community members were invited to volunteer to instruct elective classes for the seventh- and eighth-graders and participate in the after-school enrichment program for all grades, sharing their areas of expertise. And the community responded: in 2005-06, volunteer-led elective and enrichment classes included chess, first aid, drama, cooking, creative writing, babysitter training, and a variety of music, art and science classes. As the program took hold and the community took interest, new electives and after-school enrichment classes were offered in subsequent years: watercolors, robotics, mime, yoga, money-management, stage combat,



Electives and after-school enrichment activities have included flower-arranging, dissecting a squid, and papier-mâché.

to heavily "tested" subject areas... clearly, this community has a wealth of talents and skills that can play an important role in sustaining after-school enrichment programs.

Ruch School principal Julie Hill talks with pride about the "extraordinary level" of parent and community involvement at the school. She's right: the rack of volunteer name tags is crammed full; the logbook reflects numerous daily parent volunteers on campus. And any school would envy the past roster of community-led enrichment and elective classes. Like all public schools, Ruch School faces uncertainties and challenges in years ahead; however, what sets it apart is its long tradition of community involvement. We are fortunate to have so many neighbors with extraordinary, diverse talents and skills—people who recognize that community is something we make happen, and that our school is one of the best places to do that. In the best of all possible worlds, education is a community concern.

And so, as we move into 2012, Ruch School is looking for volunteers for the spring lineup of after-school enrichment. Future offerings are limited only to the interests, imagination and expertise of our friends and neighbors. If you would like to be a part of Ruch School's volunteer-led enrichment program, or have an idea to share, please call or email Margaret della Santina, and help keep Ruch School a true community school.

Margaret Perrow della Santina
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MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Some perspectives on 2011 and beyond

BY CHRIS BRATT



Chris Bratt

Opportunities to support local agriculture

Last year Joan and I decided to become members of a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program that began this past December. The CSA winter program we joined is run by Barking Moon Farm. It's a small-scale organic home farm a half mile beyond us on Thompson Creek Road. They also use two other leased parcels close by on Highway 238 and North Applegate Road. The farm family consists of two adults, their two small children, and one farmhand. (During the main season the crew expands to about seven people.) The Barking Moon folks are happy and excited to have our support, but they can't be more excited or happier than we are by receiving their local fresh vegetables through these colder and darker months.

By joining the Barking Moon CSA, we are receiving fresh organic vegetables—broccoli, beets, cabbage, carrots, chard, various lesser-known greens, kale, spinach, turnips, onions, shallots, leeks, rutabagas, parsnips, potatoes, winter squash, radishes, salad mix, cauliflower and a couple of other surprises—every two weeks into February. The boxes of produce we have received so far are remarkable in size (we could feed a family of four), freshness and taste. They even provide recipes to cook common and uncommon vegetables. This is such a great way to get our fresh food and support our local farmers at the same time. They are also our neighbors, who are committed to growing wholesome organic food. Community Supported Agriculture is such a good idea to patronize wherever you live.

Whether urban or rural, all CSAs are helping to make a healthier food system and more sustainable communities and agriculture. You might think about signing up for a CSA program in your area this coming year. You'll be supporting your local farmer, eating well, and saving money. For more information about the above CSA, call 541-973-6914 or email

barkingmoonfarm@gmail.com.

BLM indulges in collaboration (again)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), also our neighbor, manages most of the public forestland near residents in the entire 500,000-acre Applegate drainage. Once again, they are experimenting with collaborative efforts between various interest groups when planning timber sales and other projects in our community. They are also inviting community members and yours truly to participate. So, you may receive a letter asking for your comments when they begin planning projects in your area. Hopefully these efforts will continue to improve relations.

Community folks should be aware

that Thompson, Slagle, Humbug, Forest and Bishop Creeks are all currently designated for timber sale activity as part of a

larger Middle Applegate Planning Area. BLM is calling each of these subdrainage timber sales, "Pilot" projects. Pilot Joe Timber Sale (thinning and fuels reduction) in the Chapman/Keeler drainage area was planned and sold without any protests to the Boise Forest Products last year. The participation and cooperation between all the interested parties paid off. Pilot Thompson, now being planned for sale in 2012, will be more of a cooperative telltale since it is three times larger than Pilot Joe.

These Pilot projects were proposed by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, who is BLM's appointed boss. The idea is to demonstrate the forest restoration principles of well-known forest scientists Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson. Their Pilot restoration principles are designed and being put forward as a model for all future BLM forest management in this and other areas. Monitoring and evaluating the "on the ground" results of instituting these principles will be key to see if they work

for the forest and the community.

Given that the Pilot Thompson area contains important salmon habitat, several pairs of northern spotted owls, old-growth trees and me, BLM must put forest restoration activities first and timber sale volume as the secondary consideration. All concerned Thompson Creek and other interested folks should be taking BLM up on their offer of inviting participation in these Pilot projects that are testing these latest theories of restoration forest management.

BLM's Medford District is also showing additional good faith and cooperation with these Pilot projects by allowing a community person to participate on their

Given that the Pilot Thompson area contains important salmon habitat, several pairs of northern spotted owls, old-growth trees and me...

Pilot Thompson Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team). This ID Team includes agency staff and biologists who take the

lead in planning projects and making recommendations to the eventual decision makers.

The Applegate community is lucky to have someone as competent and knowledgeable as Applegate's volunteer citizen forester, Luke Ruediger, working with BLM on these ID Teams. Luke has already attended an ID Team meeting and has raised issues within the group that are of concern to many residents. Luke will be making email reports (one is already available from the first meeting) as the ID Team meetings progress. If anyone has any ideas, comments or suggestions for Luke to bring forward, or if you would like to see his reports, he can be contacted at elliottcreek@yahoo.com.

The recovery of a species

I'm not reporting here on the dramatic comeback of some rare, vulnerable or endangered wildlife or fish species. Rather, evidence is showing that the real endangered species is our own human

race and we are in dire need of rehabilitation. I believe we, the human species with our perceived dominance over the earth, have put ourselves and all other species on the planet at risk. We can no longer ignore the unpleasant realities we have created in every area of our human activities.

Like the BLM and local farmers above, we have to try some new theories of living in harmony with the earth and each other. We must overcome our predisposition of self-interest, over-consumption and greed, and make new, enlightened choices of how we can live together. There are many small local opportunities and actions we all could take as first steps to a more certain and safe future for all creatures.

Let me know if you are willing to try.

Chris Bratt
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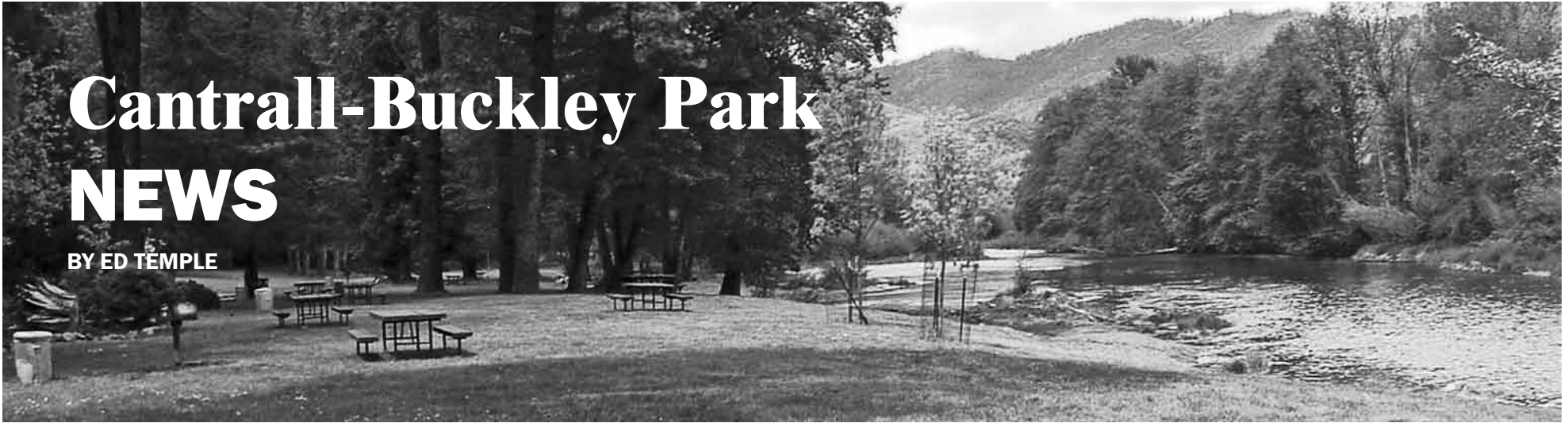
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Cantrall-Buckley Park NEWS

BY ED TEMPLE

Applegate Valley Days June 22 – 24, 2012

The Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) in partnership with the Applegate Valley Oregon Vintners Association (AVOVA) is planning a family-oriented three-day event to bring community groups together to celebrate the history, the present and the future of the Applegate Valley.

The plan is to include as many community partners as possible having events throughout the valley at different locations, all connected and coordinated to the main event at Cantrall-Buckley Park.

Areas we plan to showcase are: pioneers, the Gold Rush, timber, farming, recreation, the wine industry, organic farming and livability.

Events that are in the planning stages at this time are:

- Cantrall-Buckley Park: logging equipment display, gold mining display and instruction, quilting display and sales, antique cars, antique farm equipment, winery pavilion,

arts and crafts, music, food, farmer's market, dog agility event, Saturday night concert.

- A community yard sale at Ruch Elementary School sponsored by the "Friends of the Fire District." Spaces will be rented; contact Carey at the fire district for further information at 541-899-1050.
- Hang gliding and paragliding events at Woodrat Mountain recreation area. A national event is being held that week. (<http://rvhpa.org>)
- Hot air balloon display.
- Car clubs and motorcycle clubs having poker runs to historical and recreational areas in Applegate Valley, ending at Cantrall-Buckley Park.
- Geocache event throughout the valley.

We would also like to see a bicycle event, a run on the North Applegate loop and a triathlon at Applegate Lake if the local existing groups would like to participate.

There will be tastings, pairings, and special events at the 19 AVOVA member wineries that have partnered with GACDC

for Applegate Valley Days. For more information about AVOVA, see <http://applegatwinetrail.com>.

The goal of this very ambitious event is to:

- Bring our community together.
- Showcase our livability, natural resources, recreation opportunities and local products.
- Promote local businesses.
- Increase tourism exposure.
- Raise funds for improvements at Cantrall-Buckley Park.
- Make this an annual event to fund community projects in the Applegate Valley.

As you can imagine, this project will take a tremendous amount of teamwork, coordination and cooperation within our community. Our hope is for individual groups and businesses to plan and design events that work best for them and hold them during this three-day time period, so we all will get as much exposure as possible and provide a variety of things to see and do that will appeal to a large cross section of people.

GACDC is prepared to do the organizing, marketing, media promotions and coordination of the event; however, the success will depend on community support and participation.

If you, your club, business or organization would like to be part of the very first Applegate Valley Days, please contact Ed Temple, project director (see below).

Also, as with any event, there are costs. Below are some of the projected costs that we will be looking for sponsorship assistance. If you or your organization would like to be part of this very worthwhile endeavor, it would be greatly appreciated.

Associated costs:

- Banners
- Posters
- Event schedules
- Advertising
- Website creation
- Volunteer costs (t-shirts, hats, meals, etc.)

Ed Temple • 541-846-7769
Project Director
eltemple@dishmail.net

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Karate continues to rock Ruch School

BY MARGARET PERROW DELLA SANTINA

Tables and trash cans pushed back against the walls, the Ruch School cafeteria is transformed twice a week into a karate studio where students practice kicking combinations, self-defense maneuvers, and "forms" under the watchful eyes of their instructors. Loud "Aai-ya's" reverberate off the walls, as the students execute increasingly complex spin kicks, reverse punches, and other elements of Tae Kwan Do, a Korean martial art whose name means "the way of the hand and the foot."



Since September 2010, about 20 Ruch students have been participating in this after-school karate program taught by two black-belt instructors from America's Best Karate (ABK) in south Medford. The instructors regularly remind the students of their three basic "rules": "be safe, have fun, and learn something." And learn they do! The growth in their physical skills, self-confidence, respect, and focus has been very exciting to their instructors, to their parents and teachers, and to the students themselves. From the outset, each "belt test" has brought opportunities for students to demonstrate their accomplishments: as early as the yellow-belt test in December 2010, each student was able to break a board with a powerful side kick. A year later at the December 2011 belt test, it was exciting to see how far the students have come, as they executed complicated 24-move palge forms (palge means "power" in Korean) and spin-kick combinations with focus and confidence.

The program was initiated by parents who wanted a karate opportunity for their elementary-age children, but did not want to drive to Medford on school days. By negotiating directly with Jeff Rumelhart at ABK, we were able to work out a class at a reasonable cost to parents. We are grateful to Mr. Rumelhart and his staff, who have been amazing in their willingness to bring such a high-quality program to our community. Thanks are also due to Ruch School's 2010-11 principal, Louis Dix, who supported the idea from the outset, made the facilities available, and welcomed the ABK instructors to our school. Our current principal, Julie Hill, and the school staff have continued to enthusiastically support karate at Ruch School. This exciting and successful class represents the kind of innovative programs that a small rural school can implement when parents, community, and administrators work together and think creatively about ways to support our children's learning and development.

Margaret Perrow della Santina
541-899-9950 • mperrow@sonic.net

VOICES of the

APPLEGATE



What a wonderful year we had in 2011 singing with our director Blake Weller for three different sessions. We had concerts at the Applegate Ranch House, the Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, and the Pacific Winter Festival in Williams.

We will be starting again this year with Wednesday rehearsals at the Applegate Library beginning January 25 and rehearsing until April 11. We will end this first session with two concerts: the first one on Friday, April 13, at 7:30 pm at the Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, and the second one at the Applegate Ranch House on Sunday, April 15, at 3 pm.

Voices of the Applegate is a community choir consisting of about 25 members. Everyone is invited to join; no auditions are required. Voices of the Applegate sings music in four-part harmony: soprano, alto, tenor and bass.

Even if you can't join us for rehearsals, please attend one of our free concerts and share our joy in singing. We will also supply refreshments at no charge, but donations are welcome.

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

Applegate Valley Days

Weekend of June 22-24 • Cantrall-Buckley Park

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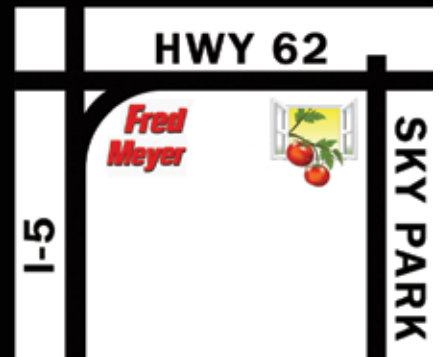
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PILOTS

last. Before launch, Dave Palmer gave me a crash course (no pun intended) on the evolution of hang gliding from his first standard Rogallo, developed in the early 1970s, to the topless he flies today. Wow, what a difference. Preparing for launch with two pioneers of free flight was very exciting, but even more exciting was thermalling 2,000 feet over launch with a hang glider in such close proximity. My valley never looked so small and peaceful

Andy Pallotta and Mike Haley soaring over Applegate Valley.



than it did in that hour of soaring above the beautiful landscape.

Thank you all sincerely.
 Andy Pallotta
 541-227-4426
noteaparties2@hotmail.com

NOTE: In addition to being a supporter of the international Rat Race Paragliding Competition, Dave Palmer (see photo, page 1) and his wife Pam own Jacksonville Vineyards and Fiasco Winery.

Here is some information from their website about them:

Natives of Grants Pass, Oregon, Dave and Pamela Palmer are the owners of Jacksonville Vineyards and Fiasco Winery. Before this wonderful life of farming and wine-making, they lived completely different lives as most winery owners did. Dave's early passion for flying hang gliders (1976) led him to a career as an US Air Force fighter pilot training others to fly jets. At retirement he moved on to cargo planes as an international airline pilot, which sent him around the globe for two weeks of each month.

The Palmer's travels led them around the world and opened many doors (not to mention

their eyes) to some awesome sights, smells they'll never forget, and an appreciation for their own country. Pamela received a degree in dental hygiene while living in Lubbock, Texas. While in the Philippines she volunteered to spend many hours in the jungles, with the monkeys swinging from the trees as she would line up eager patients and assist in extracting teeth of natives in pain. The SMART reading program, Craterian Theatre, Susan G. Komen for the Cure and other foundations are among her other passions.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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