

Applegater

Photo by Liz Butler

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

Postal Patron

Applegate Valley Days to be celebrated in June

BY DAVID LAANANEN

Be sure to circle June 22 - 24 on your calendar so you don't miss the biggest event held in the Applegate Valley in recent times! Applegate Valley Days will offer a weekend of fun for everyone, whether you're four or one hundred and four. The weekend will be filled with events that you won't want to miss. With such a wide variety of activities, everyone who comes will find something special to enjoy.

Many of the events will be held at Cantrall-Buckley Park:

- Educational activities showcasing the history of the area will include displays of old logging equipment, antique farm machinery, and antique cars, as well as demonstrations of gold mining.
- A vendors' area for local products,

including arts and crafts, quilting, genealogy, period dressers, and a variety of outstanding local produce and food.

• A winery pavilion will offer a variety of Applegate wines as well as the opportunity to purchase wine and beer to accompany the delicious food that will also be for sale. Of course, nonalcoholic beverages will be available as well.

• A special children's area will be devoted to play and learning. An animal exhibit is being planned, as well as a dog agility event.

• The entire family will enjoy spending time outdoors in this beautiful setting, walking around the park, strolling along the river, and picnicking. It will be difficult to resist the mouthwatering aroma

of barbecue and other treats.

- Local musicians will provide entertainment throughout the day.
- Our local emergency service providers will be on hand to show what they do and how they do it.
- Car clubs will hold poker runs to wineries, historic sites, and other Applegate Valley areas

of interest. The Medford Porsche Club was the first to sign up.

Outside Cantrall-Buckley Park, additional events will be held throughout the valley. The Rat Race Paragliding Competition will bring around 175 pilots from all over the world. Pilots will launch their parachute-like crafts from Woodrat Mountain above Ruch in a weeklong series of competitions from June 17 - 23.

Have you ever tried geocaching? Geocaching is a high-tech treasure-hunting game. Players try to find hidden containers, called "geocaches," using GPS-enabled devices. As part of Applegate Valley Days, the Amazing Geocache event will combine "Amazing Race"-type activities with the treasure hunt of

geocaching. Everyone who completes the course will receive a participation prize and be entered to win a handheld GPS device. Go to www.geocaching.com to learn more about this sport.

A new event under development for Applegate Valley Days is a biathlon, usually associated with the Winter Olympics. Unlike the winter biathlon (a part of Norwegian Army training), no skis are required to compete in the summer version of the event. Originally conceived as a training mechanism for winter Olympians, the summer biathlon typically consists of a three- to six-mile run with two shooting stops. The course is divided into three legs with prone shooting following the first leg and standing shooting following the second leg. For both shoots, competitors have five rounds to hit five targets. Also unlike the winter biathlon, rifles remain in the shooting range. As this will be the first such event in the area, this novice (sport class) competition will be shot from 25 meters. Instead of penalizing for shots missed, this competition will reward racers

See VALLEY DAYS, page 22

Rat Race organizers and pilots generous to local community

Largest paragliding event in U.S. flies into the Applegate in June

BY BARBARA HOLIDAY

It all began as a "gaggle" (a group of paragliders hovering high in the sky) more than ten years ago at a fun fly-in near Bend, Oregon, when paraglider pilot Mike Haley decided to break from the gaggle to start a friendly race and led the way for 15 other paraglider pilots to follow in pursuit. His wife Gail and a friend picked up the pilots along the way, which wound up being a 21-mile course. At the time, Mike said, "Someone should plan a real race, but they need to be trained." That "someone" turned out to be Mike and Gail.

Today the USA 2012 National Rat Race Paragliding Competition, still organized by the Haleys, is the largest of its kind in the United States, drawing its maximum of 175 pilots from around the globe, and is considered to be among the best five events in the world.

Because the Rat Race is also a training event, the competition attracts more *new* pilots than anywhere in the country. Those new pilots are matched with experienced mentors, including top Rat Race pilots

who compete internationally. "Top pilots like to give back. They used to keep their secrets to winning to themselves, but now they're mentoring others," Mike explained. Rat Race mentors have an average of three mentees each.

The Rat Race will be held June 17-23, coinciding with the three-day Applegate Valley Days event on June 22-24. Launching from Woodrat Mountain as usual, this year the Rat Race is adding some impressive "firsts":

• The National Champion—both men's and women's—will be crowned. For the first time, Mike applied for and was awarded the "National" moniker for the Rat Race from the US Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (USHPA).



- Some of the US World Team will be chosen from this year's participants.
- The annual fundraising dinner will be held at Fiasco Winery and will be open to the public and *free of charge*.
- Video feeds at Jacksonville wineries—Fiasco, Fly High/Longsword, Valley View and Red Lily—and other locations such as GoodBean Coffee in Jacksonville, will allow the public to view the competition live.



Photos, from left to right: paraglider pilots suited up for take off from Woodrat Mountain (photo by Gail Haley), and solitary pilot with paraglider billowing and ready to fly (photo by Andrew Zochbauer).

• The local club, Rogue Valley Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (RVHPA), is involved this year and will be providing breakfast for the pilots one morning.

Among the Haley's ongoing goals is to "constantly get better." This year's goals include improving the results of the World Team, and continuing to raise funds for charitable donations.

See PARAGLIDING, page 17

INSIDE THE GATER

Some old gas stations.....page 6
Snakes in the 'Gate.....page 13

Wonderful person behind Jo's List....page 16
Burning answers.....page 20

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

Applegate School Retrofit Project—Update

As many of you may already be aware, in 2010 Applegate School was awarded a grant to perform a seismic retrofit on the historic old brick schoolhouse, making it once again habitable for school children! Ausland Builders has completed its grant work, which encompassed all of the major construction only. Ausland has done much to return the building to its original



Ausland Builders brings the school bell out of the belltower and gives each child an orange t-shirt. Photo by Linda Kappen.

glory! We have a new roof, new heating and air systems, reinforced walls, all broken windows have been replaced, new carpeting, new lighting and ceilings, a new front landing and railings. The bell tower has also been reinforced and the bell is set to ring out across the valley again!

However, the grant did not cover everything. The final stages of finish work still need to be completed for this project. We have taken up the challenge of raising funds to bring to a close the renovation of our “new” old school building. Our to-do list is short: finishing the two student restrooms, adding current technology into the old building, upgrading existing doors, some painting and window work.

Throughout the school’s history, strength has come from the community and it is very clear that this spirit continues today. We are asking you to please visit our website at www.friendsofapplegateschool.com to learn more about how you can help. You will also see what has been accomplished, what is still needed, and you will find many photos of this amazing project. Please take this opportunity to be

part of this historic project by donating either in kind, sponsoring a particular item or giving a traditional monetary donation. Please help us finish this significant historical work for our kids and our community.

Save the date! As a thank you for your invaluable support, we would like to invite all community members to: Applegate School Open House and Lion’s BBQ Dinner
 June 7 at 5 pm

Please RSVP to Shawn at 541-846-6280 if you would like to attend this event, volunteer for our upcoming Spring Work Day, or would like more information about how you can help.

It is our sincere hope that in this spirit of community, you will consider making a donation of money, goods or services to this very worthy project. I have confidence that together we can bring this project to a close and have yet another generation of Applegate kids ringing the school bell each morning for all to hear.
 Stephanie Allen • 541-846-6280
 Principal, Applegate School

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 Just search “Applegater Newspaper on Facebook.”

CORRECTION

“Pilots give back to the Applegate Valley”

Mike and Gail Haley are the organizers, scholarship fundraisers, and driving force behind the annual Rat Race Paragliding Competition. Dave Palmer is a supporter of the Rat Race competition, but not the founder as stated in the Winter 2012 issue of the *Applegater*. The *Applegater* apologizes for this error.

Spring masthead photo credit

Liz Butler, webmaster at Herb Pharm, took this photo of spring flowers off Williams Highway between Lofland and Findley.

DEADLINES

ISSUE	DATE
Fall	August 1
Winter	November 1
Spring	February 1
Summer	May 1

Photo Specs

To be printable, all photos submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi) or “large format” (e.g., 8” x 10”).

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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:
 Sally Buttshaw
 541-646-8418
sallybuttshaw@ymail.com

Next deadline: August 1

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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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 the deadline.

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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 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.

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

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!

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.

Check these out — only on our website

www.applegater.org

- “Black and white or PVC pipe wrapped in razor wire,” by J.D. Rogers
- Applegate Outback, “Those cattle gates from Hell” by Bob Fischer
- “The House of Cords” by Paula Rissler
- Dirty fingernails and all, “Recycling in your garden” by Sioux Rogers
- “New forest supervisor selected”
- “Leading the charge: Chevy Volt” car review by Greeley Wells
- “Green light for the Woodland Charter School”
- “Federal forecast predicts fewer wildfires in West this year”
- “‘Working’ to be kickoff production in RCC’s new theater”
- “46th Annual Children’s Festival at Britt Festival Grounds”
- Current list of advertisers
- More paragliding photos
- More Negro Ben cabin photos

Sandy Shaffer receives Bill MacKenzie Community Service Award



Max Bennett presents the annual Community Service Award to Sandy Shaffer.

The Bill MacKenzie Community Service Award recognizes woodland owners, natural resource professionals, and other community members who have provided outstanding service to the woodland owner and/or natural resources communities and the public at large in southern Oregon. The award is named after the late Bill MacKenzie, onetime president of the Jackson Small Woodlands Association who went on to be president of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association. The award jury includes Marty Main, Small Woodland Services; Lee Winslow, Oregon Department of Forestry; Bill Collins, Oregon Small Woodlands Association; and Max Bennett, Oregon State University Extension Service.

This year’s award was given to Applegate Valley resident Sandy Shaffer during the Jackson-Josephine Small Woodlands Association’s annual meeting on January 19. Sandy moved to southern Oregon with her husband Don from the San Francisco Bay Area in 1999. Since then, she has been remarkably active in the community wildfire protection arena.

Sandy co-lead the development of the Applegate Fire Plan—the nation’s first Community Wildfire Protection Plan, covering all lands in the 500,000-acre Applegate Watershed. The fire plan addresses fire suppression and protection, fuels reduction, and emergency communications. Fueled by a commitment to extensive public outreach and education, Sandy and other volunteers on the fire plan team convened 40 public meetings in ten months. Ultimately, the development of the plan involved 28 different partners, ranging from government agencies to

community groups. The team was awarded a National Fire Plan grant in October 2001, and the plan was printed ten months later—an impressive accomplishment. Some of the results of the fire plan: Over 18,000 federal acres were treated, 600-plus homes now have defensible space, and 50 neighborhood telephone trees were set up for emergency communications. The ultimate result is a community that is aware of, and is adapting to, wildfire.

Sandy broadened her efforts to become active in the development of the Jackson County Fire Plan, including the Jackson-Josephine local coordinating group, the outreach and education committee, and fuels committees. A recent notable effort, one among many, is her leadership of a survey of Wildland Urban Interface residents in portions of Jackson County that produced some very valuable insights into resident attitudes and activities around wildlife.

Sandy’s skills and experience are recognized regionally: she has served on the Western Governor’s forest health advisory committee and several subcommittees since 2003, helped with the National Fire Plan’s ten-year implementation plan, and is currently working with a team that is devising a cohesive national wildfire strategy.

Sandy is a can-do person, a passionate advocate of collaboration, and a tireless volunteer. She exemplifies the spirit of service that the Bill MacKenzie award honors.

Max Bennett • 541-776-7371 ext. 221
 Forestry/Natural Resources Agent
 OSU Extension Service
 Jackson-Josephine Counties

“The things that will destroy America are prosperity-at-any-price, peace-at-any-price, safety-first instead of duty-first, the love of soft living, and the get-rich-quick theory of life.” —Theodore Roosevelt

A tribute to Jeff Rumelhart

'He taught me how strong I really am'

BY MARGARET DELLA SANTINA

On Saturday, March 24, Ruch families and friends gathered at America's Best Karate in south Medford to celebrate the accomplishments of Ruch students earning a green or purple belt in Tae-Kwon-Do. Since fall 2011, these students worked under the masterful direction of Jeff Rumelhart in after-school classes at Ruch School, progressing from belt-level to belt-level with increasing skill and determination. At the end of the March 24 test, which included a complex 36-move *palge* form that the students executed smoothly and confidently, we watched proudly as Mr. Rumelhart and his assistants tied a new belt on each student.

Just a few days later, on Wednesday, March 28, we were stunned and saddened to learn of the death of Jeff Rumelhart, an honorary member of the Ruch School community. Mr. Rumelhart, who had been undergoing treatments for leukemia for some time, died from cardiac arrest after complications with his blood levels.

Mr. Rumelhart took obvious pride in his "Ruch satellite program." He and an assistant (often his daughter, who has a black belt in Tae-Kwon-Do) drove out to Ruch School two days a week to offer a karate program for about 20 kids. They

practiced in the cafeteria, tables pushed back against the walls; Mr. Rumelhart made the karate and the kids feel important even in this make-do studio—there were no mats and no mirrors, but there was always a tremendous amount of respect and learning.

A consummate teacher, Mr. Rumelhart often reminded his students to "be safe, have fun, and learn something." He challenged them physically and mentally while providing just the right amount of support for them to succeed; he understood the importance of creating the optimal "learning zone" where students would feel a legitimate sense of accomplishment. He held students accountable for their behavior, yet always made it clear that he respected and enjoyed them. He was patient even when disciplining students or asking them to work harder; he clearly had a vision for where they were headed and he held that vision for his students. And at each step of the journey, he made sure the students thought about *why* they were doing what they were doing and were aware of their own progress.

By offering Tae-Kwon-Do at Ruch School, Mr. Rumelhart exemplified the role of a "community partner." He

responded enthusiastically to the idea of bringing karate to Ruch, offered a reduced group rate for us, and drove from Medford to Ruch twice a week so that our students wouldn't have to commute in the other direction. He contributed to our school community through the respectful, caring relationships he developed with our students. "Take the karate outside that door," he told them. "We're not talking about the kicking and punching. We're talking about your *character*."

Mr. Rumelhart's students took their karate *inside* themselves, as much as they took it *outside* the cafeteria doors.

Our son William remembers that Mr. Rumelhart "taught me to be patient." Not to get frustrated when you can't do something right away, or don't have immediate success, but to practice and feel the excitement of accomplishment that comes from training over time. Also, William says, "He taught me how strong I really am."

What better tribute to a teacher? This



The late Jeff Rumelhart, former Tae-Kwon-Do instructor at Ruch School

is what education is really about. Education is not just about *what* you learn, it's about *who* you are becoming in the process. We are among the many students and families who will miss Mr. Rumelhart deeply, but we feel fortunate that our son's life has been touched by such a gifted teacher.

Margaret della Santina
541-899-9950

Death Notice

Ken Holyome, 69 of Jacksonville, Oregon, passed away on Friday, March 9, 2012, at his home (www.memorygardensmortuary.com).

Be sure to go to www.applegater.org to see a complete list of advertisers and numerous exclusive articles that appear *only* online.

Please support our advertisers!
They help make this paper possible.
The Gater thanks you.

Poetry Corner

Starcrossed Lovers

by John Taylor, Grants Pass, OR

You and I have met before,
And then, as now,
Our stars have softly exploded
Into one another.

We are changed for all time,
The path of our lives altered forever.
Such is the power of love between us,
Between you and me.

The voices of all lovers past
Will go singing through the halls of time...
And you and I have become part of that song.



Lupines

by John Taylor, Grants Pass, OR

Through fields of flowers, hand in hand
In sun so warm and sweet,
Pretty bowers...skin that's tanned,
On bare and wand'ring feet.

Forgetting time and feeling free,
We laugh into the wind,
In loving rhyme like you and me,
Those lovely lupines bend.

Happy Father's Day!

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Crater Chain Saw

Update on Williams Community Forest Project

BY CHERYL BRUNER

It has been a year since the Williams community learned that 320 acres located just below Grayback Mountain was scheduled to be clear-cut. The land, of great value to the Williams community because of its many streams, recreation opportunities, animal habitat and healthy forest, was identified by the community to be important enough to be purchased for a community forest.

The Williams Community Forest Project (WCFP), a nonprofit organization, began the movement to acquire the 320 acres of forest through a fundraising campaign. Significant funds have been raised, but not yet a sufficient amount to purchase the property from the private landowner who is from Idaho. Although in February the owner began clear-cutting, the community still is continuing to fundraise to purchase the property, with the intent of creating a community forest.

WCFP's interest in community forests was born from the concern that clear-cutting and herbicide use in forests are creating a decline in coho salmon populations, heavy spring runoff and degradation in forest and stream health. This is evidenced by increased fire danger and insect infestation, rising stream temperatures and dying trees. In addition, local organic farms are at risk from herbicide use on upstream forestlands.

Forests managed ecologically can contribute to clean air and water, can mitigate fire danger, and protect endangered and threatened species and habitat. Community forests also offer an economic and social advantage to the local community. An example on the west coast is the Arcata Community Forest in northern California, which has been in existence since 1955. Mark Andre, Arcata City forester, in his book, *Human Dimensions of Ecological Restoration: Integrating Science, Nature and Culture*, wrote the following: "Management for the community forest is guided by the city of Arcata (population 16,900) government leaders, the city technical advisory committee, and local citizens...have expressed commitments to a sustainable management program that serves as a model of a managed forest for demonstration and educational purposes. Through volunteer activities, the citizenry is involved in an adaptive management approach to increase biodiversity, accelerate old forest conditions, provide

late-successional forest habitat, and sequester carbon while providing revenue. Community forestry in Arcata is designed to provide local residents the opportunity and responsibility to manage their natural resources."

Another great source of information on community forests is the publication from the Communities Committee in 2008 titled "Acquiring and Managing a Community-Owned Forest, a Manual for Communities." The publication lists the following as benefits of a community forest: "...protecting water sources, providing wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, educational opportunities, demonstration of sustainable forest management practices, income from forestry activities or forest products for community use, and heat and/or energy for local schools and other public buildings."

WCFP objectives include establishing an ecological model for timber management that will be an educational venue for southern Oregon K-12 grades, trade schools, colleges and universities. Because of the challenges of climate change, new ways of managing our forests are required. A community forest will provide a training ground for research and learning that will benefit people of all ages and communities. Adults and children can learn how well-managed forests provide clean water, protect wildlife and its habitat, promote biodiversity and create sustainability. There is also the potential for creating a sustainable rural economy by developing markets, processes and businesses that utilize the forest and its products. Local residents would have the opportunity to utilize ecologically harvested forest by-products for building, crafting, firewood, energy and food production. Increasing recreational opportunities in the forest, such as hiking, biking, horse trails and environmental education will also bring economic opportunities to the valley.

The southern Oregon community has a wonderful opportunity to create an ecologically managed community forest and a sustainable local economy.

Donations are critical to securing the W320 property. To donate or to learn more about the Williams Community Forest Project, visit www.williamscommunityforestproject.org.

Cheryl Bruner, President, WCFP
info@williamscommunityforestproject.org

White Oak Farm & Education Center Food and fun down on the farm

BY TAYLOR STARR

Nestled in a quiet corner of the Williams Valley, White Oak Farm & Education Center is a working organic farm and a sustainable-living education center. The farm was established as a nonprofit educational organization in 2002 with the help of the Equity Trust, a national land trust group.

Here on the land, staff and volunteers spend time managing the gardens, fields and forests, hosting local school groups and summer camps for children, and teaching adult workshops in subjects ranging from natural building to ecological forestry. We are blessed with a great teaching farm with ponds for irrigation, swimming and wildlife habitat; three acres of organic gardens, pastures and an orchard with over 40 fruit tree varieties; diverse woods for hiking; and a straw-bale farmhouse. The farm is also home to flocks of chickens and turkeys, a small herd of goats and sheep, and many thousands of honeybees.

Over the last decade we have had the opportunity to welcome many busloads of children to the Farm from schools throughout the Rogue Valley. We have been extremely fortunate to work with Tim Franklin and the Applegate River Watershed Council for the last five years to bring classes from Williams Elementary to the farm for field trips focused on watershed health and salmon-friendly farming.

Some may wonder how farming and fish are connected, but as hundreds of students could tell you, how we treat the land impacts our rivers and streams in so many ways. During field trips, children learn about water cycles, native plants and soil science, while also having time to

meet our farm animals and play the class favorite, high-energy "Salmon Game." Since Tim Franklin's tragic passing this winter, we have redoubled our efforts to continue this great program in his honor by reaching out to include a broader range of schools. In 2012 we will even be hosting our first three-day residential school field trip as a part of the Healthy Watersheds Program.

This summer we are also looking forward to an exciting schedule of Farm Camps. We will be welcoming children from 5 - 12 years of age to White Oak for a week of farming, food, fun and friends. Farm Camps are an opportunity for children to experience the wild and domestic life of a small farm, from milking goats and tending to chickens, to making garlic braids, fishing poles, and other nature-based crafts. We also find time to hunt for lizards, catch fish, play games, tell stories and sing songs. Since farms are all about fresh food, campers also get to harvest, cook and eat straight from the garden. Kitchen adventures range from corn bread and pizza to homemade ice cream. Maybe this spring or summer we'll see your child at the Farm for a school visit or camp. We certainly hope so!

Check out our website at www.whiteoakfarmcsa.org for more information on the Farm and all our programs, or email us at info@whiteoakfarmcsa.org. Come and visit us at the Williams Farmers Market, Mondays at the Grange from 4 - 6:30 pm starting in June.

Taylor Starr
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www.whiteoakfarmcsa.org/2012-programs/

BACK IN TIME

Some old gas stations

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

A few years ago I was asked if I remembered the old gas service station on top of Jacksonville Hill. For some reason, I do not. Lorna Erskin, a Forest Creek friend, told me about one being there in the 1930s and that Mr. Ed Demer had a photo of it. Well, it did not take me long to contact him and he kindly let me have a copy (top photo). He remembered it quite well because his grandparents lived across the road from it.

I also found that Maud Pool, at the time the Applegate news correspondent for the *Medford Mail Tribune*, wrote in a March 12, 1930, article: "New Station Going in near Applegate. Seeing an opportunity to serve the tourist and vacationists who flock to the Applegate in the summertime, T. S. Cady is preparing to open a service station, with free picnic grounds near his home at the summit of Jacksonville hill. Construction of the station which will be operated in connection with the Union Oil Company is well underway, and Mr. Cady expects to be ready for business in a short time. The new concern, which will be named The Summit Station, will include a line of lunch goods, and the inviting picnic grounds among the pines at the rear of the building will make it a favorite with the autoists. Mr. Cady is assisted with the carpenter work by I.E. Clapp. Mr. Cady, who has lived here since coming from Idaho a year ago, says he thinks Southern Oregon a fine place, and he is interested in the future progress and development of this country."

Now my research began for some other old gas stations in our area. In looking through John and Marguerite Black's book, *Ruch and the Upper Applegate*

Valley, I found that the Ruch store had a gas pump. In 1896 Cap Ruch built a cabin/store/post office on ten acres of land between Applegate and Uniontown Roads, now Applegate and Upper Applegate Roads. About 1915 he expanded the store building and a gas pump was installed in the front.

Then competition started in 1928 when his nearby neighbors, Chester and Martin McDonough, built the Sunnyside Gas Station with a lube and oil change pit. They sold tires, tubes and other automobile supplies, and customers had convenient restrooms on the lower level. They added a stock of groceries some years later.

There were gas pumps at the Copper Store, which was built in 1934 by Mr. and Mrs. Crow. Many people wondered how this business could survive in such a remote area. But it did. Many people just took a Sunday drive up the Applegate to stop and visit with the locals there and have a soda pop or a beer and buy things for a picnic. It would probably still be there if the Applegate Dam had not been built, but now that store location is at the bottom of the lake.

I was told there were gas pumps sometime in the early 1940s at the small building by the McKee Bridge. The station didn't last long and the building was later used by the Upper Applegate Lions Club for their meetings. The Upper Applegate Store (now McKee Bridge Store) had some gas pumps later but they were discontinued when store owner Willard Wilson stopped using them.

Also, there was a gas station built in 1947 at Applegate across the road from the Pernoll's store (now the Applegate Store and Gas Station). Owners were Edward

Kubli and his son, Norman.

I have no idea how many more early day gas pumps sprang up here and there in our area, but I did

find an interesting photo of some in Jacksonville. There were two pumps on the sidewalk in front of the Masonic Lodge building on California Street (middle photo by Margaret LaPlante), and a 1925 photo shows a gas station at the end of California and 5th Street built by Mr. W.A. Childers and his son-in-law Mr. Leonard McKee (bottom photo).

Old gas pumps are now considered antiques and are interesting to see in collections. They bring back nostalgia of those bygone days when you could fill your tank for a few cents and get away from the farm for a day of relaxation.

Evelyn Williams with Janeen Sathre
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Tap wrap-up

BY LAIRD FUNK

Greetings from the sugar shack! Things are pretty quiet around the shack right now, but in December and January it was a busy place. We collected about 125 gallons of bigleaf maple sap and had a good time turning it into about seven quarts of delicious syrup.

The weather was not the best for a tapping season, but we did okay anyway. Most of December had the right temperature range of freezing at night with warmer days, but because of the lack of rain there was no flow until that first rainstorm at the end of December. Then things got more normal. Whether due to weather or something else, the sugar level this year was lower than the normal 2% and never rose above 1.75%. January was fairly productive compared to December and tapping went okay.

Apparently our colleagues on Vancouver Island, B.C., had unusual weather and flows also. Many reported that reliable trees did nothing and traditionally unproductive trees did well.

I sold out my supply of spiles and such very quickly and could have sold twice as many to the eager Applegaters who read my last article (Fall 2011). I met a bunch of nice folks, including one gentleman from Murphy who had been tapping bigleaf's since high school, a

couple decades at least, but who had never had real tapping gear.

One problem I encountered was that my source of milk jugs decided to tap his own maples, leaving me way short. But I found you can buy 48 new, sterile ones for just over \$17, so I shelled out a bit of cash and got a lifetime supply of jugs. I ended up tapping about 20 trees of various sizes, though it took a few days to find the ones with good flows. Some gave nothing but some were outstanding. I averaged one-third to one-half gallon per tree per day, but my best trees sometimes produced a whole gallon a day.

This year did show that the different microclimates in our valley greatly influence the flow. One tapper discovered that his trees never got enough sun to warm up in the afternoon till the season was almost over. Those trees with plenty of moisture in the soil flowed much better than those on higher ground. Tappers "JR" and "KR" up on the East Fork of Williams Creek tapped about ten trees and got good flows from all but one or two. Their best trees were in or near water. They reported that their return was 48 ounces of great syrup.

The evaporating went much better this year because I bought two full-size steam-table pans that provided a great deal more surface area than the turkey roaster



Two bigleaf-maple trunks tapped into one jug.

from last season. Each holding almost five gallons, they sped up the evaporation by about a third compared to last year. This saved a lot of propane because previously a portion of the flames was not hitting the oblong pan, which ultimately resulted in a slightly lighter-colored syrup due to less time spent boiling with less caramelization of the sugars. A welcome serendipitous event occurred when very cold morning temperatures froze part of the liquid in the jugs, leaving a higher percentage of sugar in fluid portion and no sugar in the resulting ice, which also helped fuel use and made collecting a bit easier.

I tried using two pans on four burners on my outdoor kitchen range, but discovered I could not get full propane flow after a couple of hours because the freezing weather did not provide enough heat to vaporize the gas in the five-gallon tank. Next year I am going to use a bigger tank

and hope to use all four burners, allowing me to increase production. There is a balancing act to matching your evaporative capacity to the collection capacity. It helps to be able to evaporate a day's collection in one day. I would evaporate about ten gallons a day down to the amount the pan would hold, and then the next day add that day's sap to the pan and boil on.

All in all, it turned out to be a fun and profitable hobby and gave us all something to do outside when it was too cold for other activities. I recommend that those folks with bigleaf maples tap their trees next year. I will order a supply of spiles and tubing again and share them at my cost. If you would like to try tapping, give me a call next autumn and get set up.

P.S. You can tap most *Acer* species for usable sap. My box elder gave 2% sugar with a good flow.

Laird Funk • 541-846-6759

THE STARRY SIDE

Wandering stars

BY GREELEY WELLS

Well, ah...where are we? Has this been winter? Did it start? Is it over? Then maybe this is spring coming up. I guess even if the weather is funny, the stars still do their thing—and for them it's definitely spring.

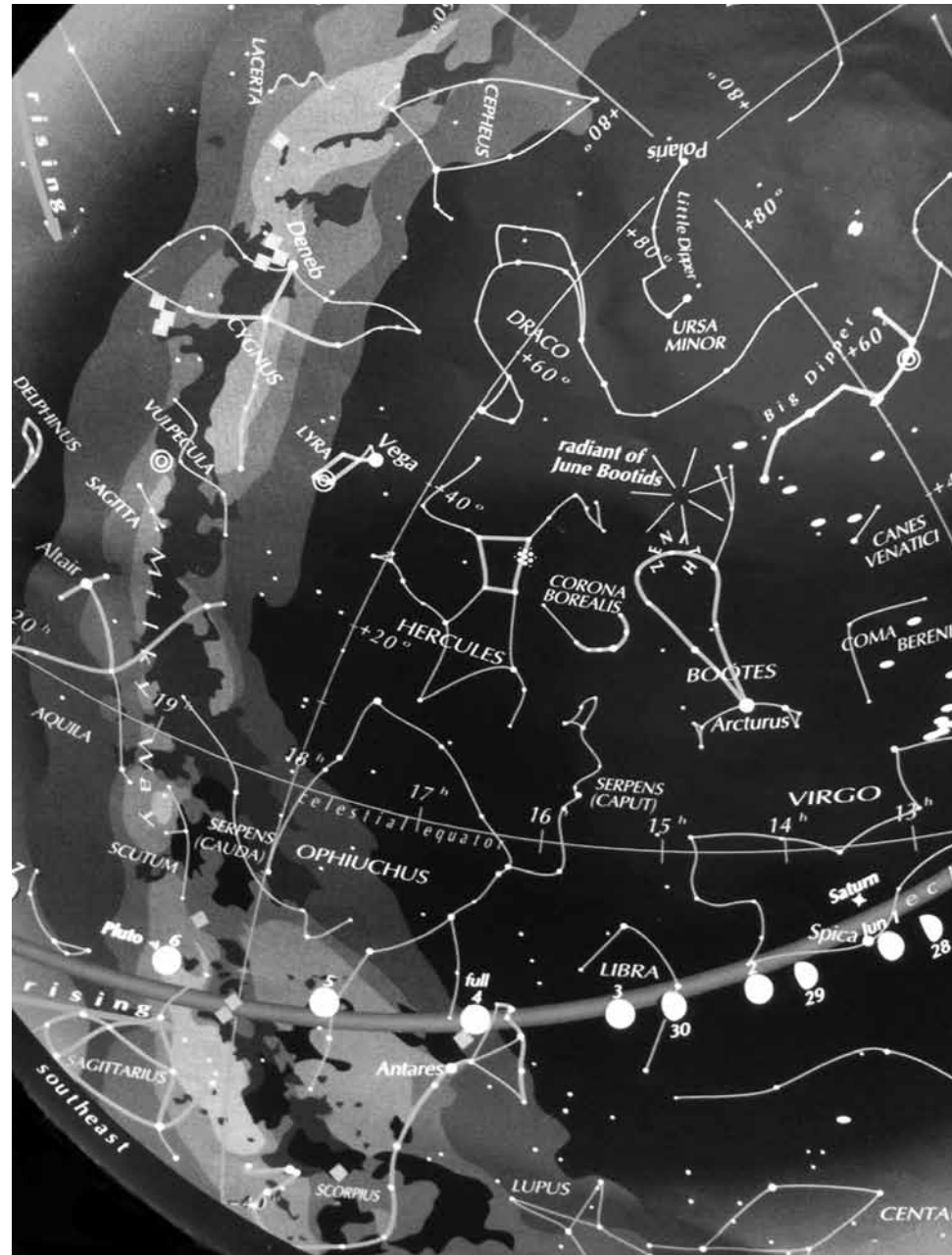
So what's up there, overhead? The summer triangle is seen as I write this only around dawn, but when you read this it's beginning to rise late in the evening. The Summer Triangle is formed from three bright stars: Vega, Deneb and Altair. Here's how to find them. By May, Vega is pretty far up the northeastern horizon. Vega is a bright star in Lyra, those odd sets of two-by-two stars about equal distance to each other. (By the way, does anyone see a lyre, an ancient stringed instrument, in Lyra? I sure don't.) Below Lyra is Deneb, the top of the Northern Cross. (The Northern Cross is officially Cygnus the swan; in May the swan is flying flat on the eastern horizon, with Deneb as its tail.) By June we should also be seeing Altair in Aquila the eagle. Aquila is a three-in-a-row set similar to Orion's belt but the middle star, Altair, is brightest. That's the full summer triangle.

But look—there's more! Parallel with the big dipper high over our heads and heading west is the big lion, Leo, with the planet Mars still below it continuing its dance back and forth. Mars has gone toward Regulus, then paused, moved away, and now is coming back. What's with all this weird movement? Can you visualize what it might look like to follow a particular planet from our viewpoint going around the sun? It's really hard to visualize, so here's a way to think about it. If you were to watch from the side a horse on a rope being walked around a center post (the sun) it would go left for a while, seem to slow down and then go right, only to do the reverse on the other side of the circle. Of course, there are many horses (planets) all on various lengths of rope from the pole. Now imagine you, yourself have a rope attached to the same pole, and you're also going around the pole. Your rope is shorter than some and longer than others, but you're going around the same post. See how complicated that would be? Now imagine it's night and each of you carries a differently powered and slightly differently colored lamp: now all you see are the lamps. Sometimes the lights are close to you, sometimes far; some are fast, some are slow; and some are really, really far away. It's totally confusing. This is the kind of thing scientists and great thinkers work on for years and build complicated charts, models and theories for. So it's no wonder the Greeks just called these wandering stars, and today we call them planets.

Leo is not the only constellation harboring a planet. Virgo has Saturn playing with her brightest star, Spica, in the same confusing way. Follow the arch of the big dipper handle to Arcturus [the bright one] and the same arch further on to Spica [pretty bright] and the similarly bright but not blinking "star" nearby is the planet Saturn. It was going away from Spica last year and is still playing around it because it slowed, stopped, and came back—and is about to do it again.

In the south, close to the horizon, is Scorpio up in the southeast in June. Scorpio is characterized by another set of three stars twice! The "shoulders" of the

scorpion are a vertical three in a row. The other three-in-a-row set is to the left and is curved slightly downward to form the back of the scorpion. In this row of three is the famous red rival of Mars: Antares. The rest of the constellation sweeps left and down to the horizon and comes up farther left with the stinger: two stars tightly together in just the right spot and with the right look for an end-of-tail stinger. Scorpio is followed closely on the left by the teapot, or Sagittarius the archer, which marks almost



exactly the center of our Milky Way galaxy. Scorpio and Sagittarius bracket the Milky Way in the south as it curves gently all the way across the sky through the summer triangle overhead and north to Cassiopeia.

THE PLANETS

VENUS starts May as the ornament of the sunset, bright and alone. Castor and Pollux are above it as it slowly sinks into the sunset. That's bright Capella to the upper right. Watch for a tiny and growing crescent moon May 22 - 25, passing Venus. Venus begins strong in May but is falling to the horizon and fading in intensity all month.

On the first of June, both Venus and Mercury slip into the sun and disappear for a while. This is the setup for the transit of Venus across the sun; you can't see Venus in our sky when it's "in" the sun.

The big deal is the transit of Venus across the Sun on June 5. It's the second and last such transit of the 21st century. A transit occurs when a planet comes between us and the sun, making a circular black shadow across the sun's surface. It's very hard to see and dangerous to look at directly. The best way is this: get a white board or thick card material, make a pinhole in another card for sunlight to come through, hold it over the board, and then adjust distance to focus. It will act like

a camera with the pinhole as the lens, and it will give you an upside-down image of what's happening, completely and safely, as you look only at the board below it. Never look at the sun. Only a few very expensive, specific and hard-to-find filters can be used safely. Here are the details: the event starts with Venus touching the sun at 2 pm on the June 5. The midpoint is 7:30 pm, and then the sun sets for us before the end point. If you do this, please be careful and have fun. On one level there's not much

after sunset at the beginning of May. On May 20, Saturn has dimmed and

passes above about five degrees above Spica. She'll swing by again a little closer in August. On May 31, see the moon join them for a threesome lineup. Saturn comes to a halt only five degrees from Spica on June 26, and then begins another easterly movement. Go figure. Remember those horses?

MARS is high in the May sky as the month starts, but by the time it ends, Mars is way lower in the west. It's also getting dimmer and moving away from Regulus. In June, Mars is moving east against the background stars. So this is the third planet/star dance going on these days!

MERCURY reappears in the evening sky the second week of June, very low, of course.

OF SPECIAL NOTE

In May, the full moon appears on the 6th and is called the Milk Moon or Planting Moon. On May 26, the moon is close to the beehive cluster in the evening sky and worth a gander.

June's full moon comes on the 4th and is called the Flower, Rose or Strawberry Moon, and will have a partial eclipse. It's a predawn event during which about two-fifths of the moon will enter the earth's dark central umbra shadow. It will start about 2 am; the middle of the eclipse will occur at 3 am; and it ends about 4 am. So if you manage any of those times, especially the middle, you'll have a good show. Ever seen an eclipse of the moon? I saw the last one a few months ago and got some film of it, too.

Also on June 28, the moon's right next to Spica in the evening sky, and Saturn will be around, too.

Go to www.shadowandsubstance.com for a nice daily show of the night sky events; the eclipse is illustrated beautifully here as well as the Venus transit—maybe better than the real thing.

In spring, the Milky Way is under—or rather all around below us—but not yet up in our sky. It's beginning to show on the eastern horizon, and as Cygnus the swan rises, she brings the Milky Way with her up into our sky. By summer, the Milky Way will be overhead.

June 20 is the summer solstice: the longest day with the earliest sunrise. (Because the latest sunset falls on June 27, it seems like this is the longest day; this is because we tend to pay more attention to evening time than to dawn.) This is also the first of many June 20 solstices to come in the years ahead.

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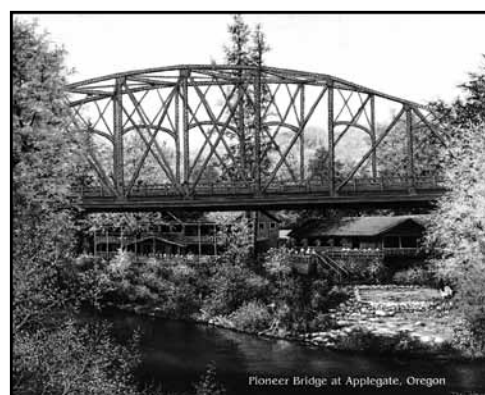
Greeley Wells

to see: a black spot on the face of the sun very slowly moving across it. However, this very rare event is pretty amazing when you imagine just what's happening and you are the witness. I plan to give it a go somewhere near the middle of the event, and watch for a while.

By mid-June, Venus has risen in the morning below Jupiter and they join the crescent moon on the morning of the June 16 for a nice show. By June 30, Venus is catching up with Jupiter. Aldebaran is bright nearby, too, just below Venus.

JUPITER is out of sight behind the sun in May. Jupiter is first into the morning sky as June begins, however. On June 17, the crescent moon is very close to Jupiter at dawn, with Venus below and the Pleiades above.

SATURN is high in the south well

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TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

Painting with pixels

BY RAUNO PERTTU



Rauno Perttu

Our accelerating technological revolution is continually changing our lives. We all see it happening, but we rarely stop to recognize and appreciate the fundamental nature of many of these changes. I want to comment on a couple of obvious areas of technological advancement that have changed our world and our daily routines, and to touch on a change that may not be as obvious.

We all recognize the changes that have occurred over the past century, not just in music, but also in how we listen to music. A hundred years ago, if you wanted to hear music, your only practical options were to find a live performance or learn to play an instrument or to sing yourself. By the time we "graysters" were growing up, we had other options. We heard our music on phonograph records, radio and television. By the mid-1960s, technology started replacing our records with tape cassettes, which were replaced by CD players 25 years later.

Compact discs have now gone the same way as the cassette and vinyl records. On my last birthday, my daughter Emily told me I should join the modern age and gifted me an iPod digital music player, which is just a bit smaller and much thinner than a deck of cards. Most of my previous CD library is already uploaded to this tiny device, and with more time and effort digitizing, all of our old vinyl records will fit on it as well. As novel and impressive as this still is to me, I expect our methods of storing and playing music to continue to evolve and improve.

Another, perhaps more fundamental way technology has changed and continues to change our lives is in our use of computers. When I was young, computers were strange wall-sized machines with blinking lights, used mostly by IBM for mysterious calculations and by science fiction writers and moviemakers as wondrous aids to launching and operating

space ships or as evil entities seeking to rule or destroy our world. With the creation of personal desktop computers with automated programming, PCs quickly became a necessary tool and toy for many people. Soon, computer games and online communication moved many kids from outdoor activities to the depths of their bedrooms, and many relationships evolved from face-to-face to screen-to-screen. PCs also changed the way we receive and seek out information, replacing many traditional roles of libraries while creating new ones for them and opening up the world to all of us in ways not possible before. We can judge for ourselves which parts of this are for the better or for the worse.

Researchers are already working to replace the laptop, which I thought was just invented yesterday, with one small lightweight device that will replace everything we used to carry or even even thought about carrying.

One early victim of this technical change is the wristwatch. While I, as a "semigeezer," would feel slightly naked without my wristwatch, a large and growing number of younger people don't even own a watch. They use their phones to tell time, and also to check the weather, send and receive e-mails, check the stock market, catch the news, etc. Small wonder printed newspapers are disappearing.

While not as obvious as these other changes, I see another change in full bloom.

I've recently rediscovered my long-neglected passion for oil painting. When I was young, I almost chose to major in art, but fell in love with geology, and decided geology would provide more certainty of eating. Being a starving artist didn't really appeal to me. After years of not making the time, I've recently started setting up my easel again.

I've always felt strongly that the

development of the camera profoundly impacted art, and painting in particular. Before the development of the camera, paintings were the primary visual way to preserve people, places, events and memories. I don't think it was an accident that Impressionism and all of the non-representational art movements that followed coincided with the development of photography and film. Photography provided a more efficient and visually accurate way of preserving faces and events. Artists conceded much of their former role as recorders of visual history to photographers, and expanded into the new realms of modern art. They went through a crisis of trying to redefine their relevance to the modern world. I think we are culturally richer for that artistic crisis and what it triggered.

As a result of new technological advances, the art world may be going through another crisis. The new challenge is coming from the impressive advances in computer graphics. Hopefully, when the pixels settle, we will again be culturally enriched.

When I look at the spectacular effects achievable using computer graphics,

whether in modern films, in visual art, or even in the new video games my son shares with me from

time to time, I recognize that traditional artists are being challenged. I personally think we old weekend painters—and even professional painters—could become novelties. At some near-future time, paintings may be replaced by digital artwork, some of which is very good. It may not be very long before we replace paintings on our walls with flat screens, or their next technological descendent. These screens could change their images as often as desired, and could incorporate motion, sound, and much more.

It's clear to me that digital art has become a new mainstream of art. Just as

new devices for music that are easier to use and more flexible have replaced earlier devices on a continuing basis, I believe similar changes are happening to art. Digital art allows people to create their visions on a computer screen without the need of a brush or paint. Although different skills and tools are used, the results can be more precise, varied and striking than can ever be accomplished with a brush.

Technology is changing the art world, but I think even more profound changes are yet to come. I am impressed with the art coming from the growing community of digital artists. They have the ability to incorporate movement and sound into their visual images, expanding their options further. It's clear that continuing technological advances will allow artists to blur the boundaries between art and other media, and eventually even between art and what we consider reality.

If you are unfamiliar with digital art, you can get a feel for the variety of this art on your computer by googling "digital art" or "CG art" and exploring from there. Alternatively (and don't be scared off by the site's

name), www.deviantart.com is perhaps at the core of this new art culture and a great place to start looking. The cliché "It's a changing world" is an understatement.

Meanwhile, I will continue to use my oils and brushes. It's what I learned when I was young, and recently rediscovered. There are moments, however, when I look at the dramatic effects those digital artists can create and wish, "If only I could do that with a brush."

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We can save McKee Bridge

BY ROBERT E. VAN HEUIT

The McKee Bridge was built in 1917. The purpose of the structure was to convey two stages per day into the Applegate Valley, as well as carry copper ore from nearby mines. In 1956, due to increases in vehicle weights, a bypass road was built with a concrete bridge. The covered bridge was closed to vehicles but remained open to pedestrians until now. This covered bridge is the fourth oldest in the state of Oregon and considered to be the highest at 45 feet above the water. The bridge is a significant attraction for tourists and residents of Jackson County. The bridge is an economic benefit to the area, as over 6,000 people visit the bridge annually from the United States and foreign countries.

Our historic bridge has been closed due to a critical defect discovered during an

The total cost of the project was estimated to be about \$550,000.

inspection in October 2011. The following describes what has happened and what is happening as a result of this inspection.

Inspection

Early in 2011, Oregon Bridge Engineering Company (OBEC) submitted a proposal to inspect the bridge. The cost of the inspection, including design of a cable-and-plank system to be installed under the bridge, was \$5,000. The cable-and-plank system was to be utilized for a close inspection of the underside of the bridge. The proposal was accepted by Jackson County and the McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) gave the county \$5,000 for that work. OBEC provided the design of the cable-and-plank system. MBHS also paid about \$8,000 for the materials, scaffolding, and core drilling that was necessary to install the cable-and-plank system. The county completed the installation of the cable-and-plank system in September. Early in October 2011, OBEC inspected the bridge and the approaches. On October 25, OBEC reported by letter to the county and to MBHS the results of the inspection. During the inspection OBEC inspectors found a number of deficiencies, including a critical one in the bottom chord of the north truss. Because of that deficiency, OBEC strongly recommended that the county close the bridge immediately to all users. The county complied.

Remedial actions

MBHS, Jackson County, the State of Oregon, and OBEC jointly searched for any possible funding that might assist in

financing a program for repairs. A federal grant program for restoration of covered bridges was found. It was decided that the county would submit a proposal to the grant program to completely restore the bridge. The total cost of the project was estimated to be about \$550,000. The grant program requires that 10.27% of the budget be provided as matching funds to supplement the grant. This means that MBHS will need to raise about \$56,000 (matching funds). Jackson County owns the bridge, but has not budgeted money to maintain the bridge since 1956. Since then local residents and MBHS have raised funds to maintain the bridge. The grant application was submitted in December

and we expect to receive a response sometime in the spring of 2012. If and when we get approval and funding, it will take about 18 months to complete the work. If we do not get the grant, we will still need to raise at least \$50,000 just to correct the critical problem with the north truss so it can be reopened to pedestrian traffic.

Fundraising needed

Assuming we get the grant, MBHS is taking steps to start raising funds now. Members of the board of directors are investigating a number of charitable organizations that may be willing to assist us. Two members of our board planned to attend the recent Oregon Nonprofit Leaders Conference in Medford in hopes of making contact with charitable foundations that may be willing to help us.

As a fundraiser for McKee Bridge, Phil Dollison will present a program about Alcatraz Island (the former prison in San Francisco Bay) on May 8 at 7 pm in the Ruch Library community room. Phil grew up on the island and has some interesting pictures and stories to share with us. There is no charge for attending, but any donations will go toward restoration of the bridge.

McKee Bridge Day will be on Saturday, June 23, this year, to participate in the Applegate Valley Days celebration. On that day, Janeen Sathre will lead three interpretative walking tours of the Gin Lin mining area. The first hike will be 3-1/2 miles, moderately difficult, following the hand-dug ditch. The remaining walks will be easy to moderate one-mile tours of hydraulic mining landscape. Meet at McKee Bridge and travel by car to the

trailhead. The first hike will start at 9:30 am, second hike at 1 pm, and third hike at 3 pm. A donation is required to participate. *All hike donations will be matched by the Microsoft Foundation.* For information, go to www.applegatevalleydays.org and click on "EVENTS."

In addition to these activities, we hope you will also assist us as you are able. If you have any ideas or contacts with any charitable organizations that would like to join us, please contact Paul Tipton at 541-846-7501 or Bob Van Heuit at 541-899-2927. Should you wish to make a contribution to be used for the matching

funds requirement, please mail it to McKee Bridge Historical Society, P.O. Box 854, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Contributions are 501(c)3 tax-deductible.

The MBHS Board of Directors appreciates your continued support.

Robert E. Van Heuit

President

McKee Bridge Historical Society
541-899-2927



BUNCOM DAY 2012

Hitch up the team, saddle that mule, grab the kids and head out to historic Buncom for Buncom Day 2012. If you've attended this friendly event before, you probably already have Saturday, May 26, on your phone or calendar. Old-time fun for all includes the internationally famous parade, food, music, booths, tadpoles, petting zoo and, of course, the infamous chicken splat. The Applegate Lion's club promises plenty of great food this year, and bring your musical instrument for an old-fashioned country jam.

Festivities start at 10 am and end at 3 pm with the fabulous parade around 1 pm Buncom time.

For information, check out our at website www.buncom.org or call Connie Fowler at 541-899-7805.

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Applegate Valley
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Applegate Trails Association is a year old

BY KEN CHAPMAN AND DAVID CALAHAN

One of the joys of living in the Applegate is how quickly we can be enjoying a variety of outdoor activities. One year ago, four Applegaters—David Calahan, Michelle LaFave, Tom Carstens and Judi Stratton—decided that there was a need for more hiking trails in our valley. They were motivated by the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association when they reopened the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail and proposed the Jack-Ash Trail from Ashland to Jacksonville. The group decided to explore the possibility of creating the Applegate Ridge Trail (ART). The ART would run primarily on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands along the northern rim of the Applegate Valley from Jacksonville and the Jack-Ash Trail to Grants Pass.

The proposed route has spectacular views of the Applegate Valley, the Rogue Valley and all of the big, beautiful mountains that surround us. While much of the route is on existing roads and trails that have been open to multiple use for years, the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) is particularly excited about two portions of the trail that are appropriate

for a nonmotorized designation. The first section starts near Sterling Creek Road and goes west across the bald face of the ridge on the north side of Bishop Creek and Woodrat Mountain. From there, a hiker can see Mount Ashland, the Red Buttes and get a bird's-eye view of Ruch. The other potentially nonmotorized section is on the boundary of the proposed Wellington Wild Lands, a 6,000-acre area encompassing Wellington Butte that has never been logged or disturbed by significant human activity. Hiking the ART above the Wild Lands has incredible views of Forest Creek, Humbug Creek, Thompson Creek, Grayback Mountain and Mount Isabelle.

A lot has happened since our founding group met for the first time. All of the necessary organizational work for the formation of the ATA has been completed, including filing for nonprofit status. Reviewing the detailed ART proposal was the main topic of our last meeting with the Medford BLM. Adoption of other potential hiking, biking and equestrian trails was also discussed. The groundwork has been laid for a long-lasting, mutually

beneficial partnership between ATA and both the Medford and Grants Pass BLM offices.

Board members and our growing group of volunteers have taken numerous hikes to determine the route of the ART and potential connector trails. Additionally, other trails in our valley have been scouted to see whether they might be considered to be part of the trail network supported by the ATA. The trails identified to date include the Mule Mountain Trail and the Hinkle Lake Trail. Both of these trails are most appropriate for hiking, biking and equestrian use and deserve our support and protection.

Visit our website

The best way to stay updated about ATA activities is by visiting our website: www.applegatetrails.org. It has a wealth of information about our organization and maps showing the approximate route of the ART. Check out the regularly scheduled hikes on the calendar and the growing list of day-hikes on the hike page. The detailed day hike descriptions allow one to discover



Hike with the ATA to Hinkle Lake on June 30, 2012.

some of our valley's trails on your own.

What can you do? The first step is easy. Just getting outdoors can do wonders for your overall health. We also invite you to join us on a hike or take a hike on your own. Volunteering or financially supporting the ATA is also great for your mental well-being. The one-year-old is already walking and we invite you to walk with us.

Ken Chapman • 541-846-6791
Board Member, ATA
ken@applegatetrails.org

David Calahan • 541-899-1226
Board Chairman, ATA
david@applegatetrails.org

Are you missing the regular "Applegate Outback" by Bob Fischer and "Dirty fingernails and all" by Sioux Rogers? See them online at www.applegater.org!



"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

APPLEGATE TRAILS ASSOCIATION—GUIDED HIKE SCHEDULE FOR 2012

Spring is in the air—let's go for a hike! Additional details about each hike can be found on our website calendar. Any changes or cancellations will also be posted here: www.applegatetrails.org. The distances below are estimates, and the ratings of E (Easy), M (Moderate) and D (Difficult) are merely guides—one person's "moderate" may be "difficult" for another. All hikes have elevation changes. Remember to wear appropriate footwear and bring plenty of water. Please leave your pets at home unless otherwise stated. Check out the website "hike" page for the growing list of personal day hikes.

For more information, contact any of the Applegate Trails Association board members via the website or call David Calahan, chairman and frequent hike leader, at 541-899-1226.

DATE	HIKE	MEET AT 9 AM	DISTANCE	RATING
May 6	Applegate Ridge Trail above Balls Branch (Humbug Creek tributary)	Bunny Meadows staging area	3 miles	E to M
June 2	Mule Mountain Trail	Ruch Plaza	5 miles	M to D
June 30	Hinkle Lake	Ruch Plaza	4 to 6 miles	M to D
July 15	Steve Fork to Sucker Creek Gap in the Red Buttes Wilderness	Applegate Store (gravel lot)	6 miles	D
Aug 19	Clover and Enchanted Forests Trails, Wine and Dine at Schmidt Family Vineyards after the hike	Applegate Store (gravel lot)	4 miles	M
Sept 7	Isabelle Spring Trail	Bunny Meadows staging area	2 or 4 miles	E
Oct 21	Car Tour on Applegate Ridge Trail via Savage Creek (off Rogue River Highway, Grants Pass)	Applegate Store (gravel lot)	60 miles	E
Nov 2	Wellington Wild Lands shuttle-thru hike, off trail	Bunny Meadows staging area	3 miles	D

Bob Thomas Automotive celebrates 15 years

BY SALLY BUTTSHAW

Bob Thomas Automotive, Inc. is a full-service automotive repair facility serving the Rogue and Applegate Valleys. They are celebrating 15 years in business on May 12, and will be offering free lunch and giveaways.

Their friendly and knowledgeable staff will help you get your vehicle running perfectly. With all of the technicians being ASE-certified, some as master technicians, you can rest assured your vehicle is in good hands. They are proud of their reputation of professionalism and honesty. Stop in and experience the advantages that their independently owned service center can offer you.

Bob and his wife Lori opened their business in 1997. Bob had prior experience working for a local automotive dealership, and Lori had a background in banking and business employment. Now she takes care

of all back-office operations.

They have fleet business capabilities and a recently added 6,000-square-foot fleet shop. With twelve bays and seven technicians, they will keep your fleet of vehicles in stellar condition. Special pricing is available for companies with more than five vehicles.

For more information, be sure to check out their website at www.bobthomasautomotive.com. Bob Thomas Automotive is located at 535 Rossanley Drive in Medford near the intersection of Sage Road. The phone number is 541-734-3743.

Call them for any questions regarding your vehicle's maintenance and operation. They will be happy to help. And they offer shuttle service and a senior discount.

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Notes from a Rogue entomologist

Ladybugs: Lost and found

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

The other day my wife called out to me from the kitchen, "There's a lady beetle in here." Generally speaking, a lady beetle in the house is not that interesting—I was 99% sure that it would be a *Harmonia axyridis*, the multicolored Asian lady beetle, and indeed it was. As the common name implies, *Harmonia* has many different color forms, more than any other lady beetle, and the number of spots range from zero to more than 20. The color of the beetle's elytra, the hardened forewings that act as a sort of shell, can be bright orange or black. But the interesting thing is that, when we moved here 25 years ago, there were no *Harmonia* to be found in southern Oregon or really anywhere else in the United States for that matter.

What happened to change that state of affairs is a story of good intentions gone awry. As it turns out, two of the three most common lady beetles in the country are not native species. Besides *Harmonia*, another introduced lady beetle found in southern Oregon is the seven-spotted lady beetle, also known as C-7 (an abbreviation derived from its Latin name, *Coccinella septempunctata*). Even though C-7 is rarely seen indoors, they are very easy to find outdoors and quite possibly even more common than *Harmonia*. Both *Harmonia* and C-7 were brought to the states to combat pests, such as aphids and scale

insects, and they have done quite well for themselves in North America.

Many of the crop pests that we have in North America came here from other parts of the world. When these plant-feeding insects are transplanted to a new region that does not have the naturally occurring predators and parasites, the populations can often reach very high and very damaging levels. One way of controlling these invasive pests is to bring in predators and parasites from a pest's country of origin and release them. This is known as classical biocontrol. When this tactic is successful, it can be incredibly cost-effective and can result in major reductions in pesticide use. However, the problem with this method of pest control is that once the biological control agents are released and established, there is no way to put that genie back into the bottle. Now it is the flourishing population of imported ladybugs that pose a problem.

While these introduced lady beetles do help to reduce pest populations, there are downsides to this success. The *Harmonia* population can become a nuisance in the fall when they form large congregations that seek out concealed places to spend the winter. Nowadays, the most readily available concealed places are not caves or crevices, but garages and attics. These masses of beetles can get active

if they get warmed up to a sufficient degree. It is not well-known that ladybugs have defensive chemicals, which they use to repel attackers. A single ladybug might not have a noticeable odor, but when you get dozens or hundreds together, they can smell very pungent and unpleasant. *Harmonia*, sometimes called "Halloween beetles" because they show up in houses in the fall, are also quite voracious and are known to bite people who handle them. Once again, a single ladybug bite is no big deal, but if you are so unwise as to handle a mass of these beetles, then the number of bites can cause a certain amount of pain and discomfort.

Another problem associated with *Harmonia* occurs when they are inadvertently harvested with wine grapes. When the grapes are crushed, the pungent defense chemicals that the *Harmonia* release can affect the flavor of the wine. While one is tempted to joke about such things, it is no laughing matter to either the winemaker or the wine taster.

So, it began with the introduction of aphids and other pests, which was then followed by the introduction of nonnative lady beetles, such as C-7 and *Harmonia*, in order to control the pests. Ultimately, these two species have become the dominant lady beetles in many places throughout the country, including southern Oregon. You might think that there would be enough aphids to go around, but when species compete for the same niche, you will often get a winner and a loser. Right now, the invasive lady beetles, free of their own parasites, have the upper hand, and our natives, such as the convergent lady beetle and the ashy gray lady beetle, have become much less common.

If you want to help document the population of our current ladybug species, there is a website devoted to that task: the Lost Ladybug Project (www.lostladybug.org). You can send in pictures of ladybugs



Nonnative species *Harmonia axyridis*, top photo (www.lternet.edu/gallery/), and C-7, bottom photo (www.dpughphoto.com/).



Native species convergent lady beetle, left photo (www.dpughphoto.com/images/), and ashy grey lady beetle, right photo (www.whatsthatbug.com/).

that you find along with information about the location where you found them, and assistance is provided to identify the species. This is a good example of "citizen science" with the public contributing information that a single researcher cannot readily obtain, such as how ladybug populations are changing across the continent.

So feel free to start hunting for lady beetles, but don't be surprised when our native species prove hard to find.

Richard Hilton
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Senior Research Assistant/
Entomologist
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BIRDMAN

Vacation for the birds

BY TED A. GLOVER

I have written before about how fun it is to travel and search for new birds you have never seen before or to see birds you haven't seen in a long time. A big advantage of being retired is being able to travel and to travel to new and exciting places. This past February, my wife and I were able to take a cruise down through Mexico, Central America and into Ecuador and Peru. The cruise began and ended in San Diego and, since we have relatives there, we decided to drive there and actually begin our "birding expedition" right from our



Photo above: Rufous-capped warbler (<http://ibc.lynxeds.com>). Photo at right: Humboldt penguin (<http://en.wikipedia.org>).

home in Oregon, making note of every species of birds we saw along the way.

Our first stops were our favorite national wildlife refuges in northern California—Sacramento and Colusa. Both of these areas had an unusually large number of waterbirds this season due, I think, to the unusually cold and dry weather in the Northwest during November, December and January when so many northern birds are heading south. There were exceptionally large flocks of snow geese and white-fronted geese, as well



as northern pintail ducks and northern shoveler ducks.

The birdlife around the San Diego area is always plentiful and this year was no exception. Along the flood control channel at Ocean Beach, we saw plenty of brown pelicans, willets, marbled godwits, whimbrels, and even a little blue heron. By the time we left San Diego for our cruise, our bird count was already at 136.

We had arranged via the Internet to have a local English-speaking guide at several of our ports of call beginning in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Local guides know the best places close to the port where you can find a good variety of local birdlife—the cost is just about equal to the cost of the shore excursions offered by the cruise line, and you avoid the busloads of people! Our favorite new bird in this area was the beautiful Rufous-capped warbler.

Along the Pacific coast of Central America, we stopped in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The birdlife, as you can imagine, is prolific in this part of the world. We particularly enjoyed seeing so many warblers here for the winter that make their way north to our area in the spring, including the Wilson's, yellow, Thompson's, black-throated gray, and Nashville. By the time we left Central

America, our bird count had reached 244, including 19 birds we had never seen before.

Our trip to Peru included a stopover of three days, so we arranged for a guide to take us out for two full days around the Lima area. This was the highlight of our trip since we had never been to Peru. As our ship pulled into the harbor, we were greeted by hundreds of Inca terns, a bird endemic to Peru with a sooty plumage, long dark tail, vibrant red bill and legs, and spectacular white tufts. We saw 36 new birds while visiting the area around Lima, including the giant Peruvian pelican, the croaking ground dove, the colorful white-cheeked pintail duck and even the Humboldt penguin.

By the time we left South America and headed back to San Diego, our count had reached 300. We made a few stops in Mexico on our way back picking up a few more species and bringing our total count to 317. What a great adventure!

Ted A. Glover
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tedglover9@gmail.com



Ted A. Glover

Folks, this is normal!

BY DELLA MERRILL

(Author's note: This article was inspired by Joel Salatin's new book, *Folks, This Ain't Normal: A Farmer's Advice for Happier Hens, Healthier People, and a Better World*. Salatin is a third-generation alternative farmer from Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.)

There's nothing like getting your kids outside in the dirt, among the flowers, nose to nose with farm animals, walking energetic dogs, sowing vegetable seeds, all the while learning how to collaborate, work as a team and experience the joy of meaningful work.

Children today spend way too many hours in front of video games and television; most studies report 25 hours a week or more. Home chores are great, but having youth volunteer in the greater community builds their self-esteem and helps them understand the world from other points of view. Why not give them the opportunity to turn some of their unproductive video hours into something real, where they connect and work alongside other people doing work that is meaningful, gratifying and truly important.

Sanctuary One offers just this kind of opportunity. There is much to be done on the farm: working with animals, cleaning the barn, helping in the garden, moving hay and a whole array of other jobs. Participating in life on the farm builds camaraderie as it creates a sense of personal satisfaction and accomplishment.

Last fall, for example, a whole class of second graders, working together, picked up all the irrigation pipes in our main pasture. It took four kids to pick up one pipe, but they were steady and determined and would not stop until the job was done. All the while their laughter and enthusiasm was contagious.

Another big job we ask of our visitors is to show our many rescued and abused animals that humans can be kind, loving and respectful. By and large, the animals in our care have not experienced humans in this way. So it's a big responsibility of our visitors to participate in the healing of our animals, building our animals' sense of trust and confidence in humans. This is meaningful work that benefits both the animals in our care and the humans who are given this opportunity to interact with them.

Working in the garden is another important and never-ending source of joy, discovery and work to be done. Gardening teaches balance, it teaches us about where our food comes from and what it takes to produce it. It teaches us the importance of healthy soil and what it takes to create it. It teaches us about our profound dependency on a healthy environment.

Participating in life on the farm helps us to understand—and more importantly feel—the interconnectedness of all things. Our culture increasingly divides humans and nature. The bigger the divide, the less



we care what happens outside our picture window. And yet we all know that we cannot exist long in an unhealthy world. Let's give our youth a chance to feel that connection, to learn to value it, and hope that in the end they will be motivated to protect it.

If you want a hands-on experience while touring Sanctuary One, the last Saturdays of June, July and August have been set aside for just this reason. Join us for a hands-on day at the farm. Participants seven years and older are invited; children under 18 must be accompanied by an

adult. The work will vary depending on what is needed. We ask that you bring with you a sense of awe, a willingness to be flexible, and a commitment to work hard.

Hands-on tours are offered June 30, July 28 and August 25. Regular farm tours are offered most Wednesdays and Saturdays. For reservations, please call 541-899-8627.

See you at the farm!

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Snakes in the 'Gate

BY JASON REILLY

As you may have heard, southwestern Oregon is recognized for its high levels of biological diversity. Along with conifers, butterflies, and amphibians, snakes are one group of species that exhibit considerable diversity within southwestern Oregon. In fact, the warm climate and broad array of habitat types found in Jackson and Josephine Counties result in the highest snake diversity across all of Oregon. Of the 15 snake species native to Oregon, 13 can be found right here in our own backyard! The Applegate Valley ('Gate) in particular is a hot spot for the more uncommon and rare species. Let's talk about a few of the more unusual or noteworthy.

Garter Snakes

The garter snake (*Thamnophis* sp.) is one of the more common types of snake that most people encounter, although there are actually four distinct species in our region. Members of this genus get their common name, garter snake, because most garter snakes have three distinct stripes down their backs (one down the center and one on either side) that give them an appearance similar to an old-fashioned garter. The common garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) is frequently encountered in our valley habitats and is in fact the widest ranging reptile in North America. The less common northwestern garter snake (*T. ordinoides*) has adapted to life in the Pacific Northwest (found from extreme northern California to British Columbia) and inhabits densely forested areas where it feeds on slugs, earthworms, snails and even the occasional salamander. The Pacific Coast aquatic garter snake (*T. atratus*) is more closely associated with water than any other northwestern snake, and can be found along the main stem

of the Applegate River and probably a few of its larger tributaries. The western terrestrial garter snake (*T. elegans*) inhabits a variety of habitat types from forested stands to oak and chaparral. There is considerable variation in the appearance of these snakes both within and between species, and distinguishing each species from one another is not always an easy task, even for the experienced "herper" (short for herpetologist, those of us who study snakes).

Rubber Boa

What, you didn't know we had boas in the 'Gate? Don't worry, the rubber boa (*Charina bottae*) rarely exceeds two feet in length and is a very docile species. A fairly drab snake, its smooth scales and loose skin gives this uniformly light tan to dark brown to olive green snake a rubbery appearance. When observed up close, the small eye of the rubber boa reveals a vertical pupil like a cat's eye. The tail of the rubber boa is remarkably similar in shape and size to the head, and in fact this is by design. This snake uses its tail as a decoy while it consumes its favorite food, young mice and shrews. Often one can observe scars on the tail of adult rubber boas, left from the attacks of mother mice while defending their young, mistakenly distracted by the tail while the head eats the young. Hey, I didn't say this was going to be pretty.

King snakes

King snakes (*Lampropeltis* sp.) share a distinct color pattern that is easily recognizable. Almost all of them have a pattern of alternating bands or rings of various colors across the length of the body. Each species has a different color pattern of bands. The Applegate is home to two species, the common king

snake (*L. getula*) and the California mountain king snake (*L. zonata*). The common king snake has a pattern of black, sometimes chocolate brown and white bands, whereas the California mountain king snake has a pattern of black and white bands, with the black bands being more or less divided by a vibrant red band.

The common king snake, so named because it is distributed across much of the southern United States, reaches the northernmost extent of its range in the Rogue and Umpqua drainages. For this reason, the common king snake is rare in Oregon. However, this species can be found right here, as it is known to occur in the lower-elevation valley bottoms and river corridors of the Rogue and Applegate Rivers.

In comparison to the common king snake, the California mountain king snake can be found in a greater variety of locations across southwestern Oregon, but is by no means a common species. Sightings of this species are fairly widespread in our region, but are concentrated around the rocky canyon stretches of the Rogue, Applegate and Illinois Rivers. These areas offer premium habitat for this species, where their preferred prey, the western fence lizard (you may know it as the "blue-belly"), is found in abundance. This animal's vibrant coloration is truly remarkable, and most people who encounter this species are struck by its beauty, even if they tend to hate or fear snakes.

Striped Whipsnake

Although this snake has a fairly large distribution that covers much of eastern Oregon, the striped whipsnake (*Masticophis lateralis*) is perhaps the rarest snake of our region. It is known only from a handful of locations along the Applegate River and around the Table Rocks. As a resident of the 'Gate, you should consider yourself lucky if you get the chance to observe one.

Adults of this species are often large (four feet in length) and have a relatively large eyeball in relation to the size of the head. The back is dark and they have two yellow or cream stripes running



Top photo: Garter snake (photo by Adam Simpson, www.naturalist.tryonfriends.org).
Middle photo: A rubber boa in defensive posture. Note the tail is being presented as a decoy, while the head is safely hidden in the middle of the coils.
Bottom photo: A California mountain king snake. This smaller individual was found basking along the Illinois River.

lengthwise along each side of the back. Superficially similar to garter snakes, you can distinguish this species from garter snakes by the lack of a third stripe down the middle of the back. The underside of this snake is a light cream or yellow towards the head, but as you move closer to the tip of the tail it becomes progressively more and more of a salmon pink. A very fast and alert snake, this species is active throughout the day even on the hottest days of summer when most other snakes shift to mornings and evenings.


Jason Reilly • 541-618-2200
Wildlife Biologist
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
jreilly@blm.gov



The striped whipsnake.

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JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

Applegate Library

We are continuing to have exciting programs at the Applegate Branch Library, so keep in touch with our schedule because sometimes programs are planned after the *Applegater* is able to publish them.

In March, we enjoyed a concert by the Accidental Ensemble, a group of musically dedicated community members who love to sing. We filled the meeting room and everyone appreciated the opportunity to socialize together as well as hear the four-part harmonies of the ensemble.

In April we had back-to-back programs on beavers and safety in the meeting room. Also, Ed Reilly presented a program on rock gardens.

What was once Oregon Chautauqua has been transformed into the Conservation Project, a new Chautauqua that connects Oregonians with public scholars and provocative ideas through idea-driven dialogue. On May 13 at 3 pm, Mark Cunningham will present his talk, "From Print to Pixels." For those of you who are wondering if all of our books will disappear along with the libraries in this age of computers and digital communication, this program is what you've been waiting

for. Mr. Cunningham's talk is sponsored by the Oregon Counsel for the Humanities (OCH) and is one of a series of programs offered by OCH. Mark your calendars for this event. You won't want to miss it.

On May 18, Barbara Mumblo will present a program on invasive plants at 5 pm.

If you're wondering what those maps hanging on the wall next to the door between the library room and the lobby are all about, they are the Pilot Thompson Project Maps, given to the library by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) so that those interested may study the locations of timber harvest planning, as well as wildlife protection and hiking trails in the Thompson Creek watershed. The planning for this project is now under way, and BLM will be taking comments on the project. Now is the time to get involved.

If you haven't renewed your membership in Friends of the Applegate Library, this is a good time to do so. Our meetings are only four times a year, and we would welcome your participation in library activities. Don't forget: if you don't use it, you lose it. We wouldn't want to lose our libraries.

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

Ruch Library

May 19, 1-2 pm

Learn about rabies awareness and prevention presented by Jackson Baures of the Jackson County Environmental Public Health Services. His program will cover information about rabies virus, rabies prevalence worldwide and locally, Oregon laws regarding rabies, and what we can do to help prevent rabies.

Starts June 12

Join us at Ruch Library for an exciting Summer Reading Program for all ages. The program for children through age 12 is titled "Dream Big . . . READ!" The teen program is "Own the Night," and the adult reading program is "Between the Sheets." Details of the requirements to participate in each program will be available in the library in early June. Please join us and become a bright star in our sky. All of these programs are free.

June 16, 1 - 2 pm

We will be kicking off the season with a presentation by Mark Prchal, retired US Forest Service (USFS) geologist, on "The Geology of Southern Oregon," focusing on Crater Lake and the Table Rocks in Rogue Valley. This will be of interest to older children and all adults. The presentation will be in the Ruch Library Community Room and lasting about an hour.

June 21, 3 - 3:30 pm and 4 - 4:30 pm

Science Works Museum in Ashland is bringing their inflatable planetarium to our library for a view of the night sky. Participants will crawl inside, make themselves comfortable, and watch the "sky" come alive. The program lasts about a half hour, with two sessions: 3 - 3:30 pm, and 4 - 4:30 pm. Pre sign-ups will be required (20 people per session). Call or visit Ruch Library soon to make certain you can be part of this exciting event.

June 22 - 24

Ruch Library will participate in Applegate Valley Days by displaying available

books on local history, artifacts and pictures. We hope you can stop by and browse.

June 30, 1 - 3 pm

Janis Mohr-Tipton will lead a workshop in Steampunk Jewelry for children 10-18 years old, and there will be jewelry-making activities for younger children as well. Pre sign-ups are encouraged so Janis will know how many supplies to bring.

July 7, 1 - 2 pm

Barb Mumblo, botanist with the USFS, will offer children directions in flower pressing. Children will learn how to press wildflowers, and what they can do with them after they are dry.

July 21

Children will have the opportunity to participate in some raucous storytelling with Patricia Aulik by punctuating the story with a variety of percussion instruments she provides. She will conduct two sessions: ages 3 - 6 from 2 - 2:45 pm, and ages 7 and over from 3 - 3:45 pm. Kids love this!

July 26, 2:30 pm

Owls will be the theme of John Jackson's presentation. John has a wonderful program guaranteed to delight children, and will have owl pellets for the children to dissect and discover whom the owl ate for dinner the night before. (Fascinating, and good clean fun!)

August 11

Greeley Wells will lead a discovery of the night sky, location to be announced. Bring a blanket and the whole family for an evening of stargazing with Greeley, who is a wealth of knowledge on the subject.

August 11, 2 pm

We will conclude the Summer Reading Program with a party and awards ceremony at Ruch Library. We will have games, refreshments and prizes for everyone who participated in this great program. Thanks for your interest in our library and in Raising Ruch Readers!

Thalia Truesdell • 541-899-7438

Branch Manager, Ruch Library
ttruesdell@jcls.org

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Ruch Library Community Room

Tuesday ~ May ~ 8, 2012 ~ 7 pm

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A FEAST in the Applegate

On Sunday, March 11, over 60 people gathered at the Applegate River Lodge for the FEAST workshop. The FEAST brought together a variety of community members from the Applegate Valley, from farmers and ranchers to food pantry volunteers.

Participants worked in groups that were formed based on their common visions for the local food system. These groups worked on plans to achieve their visions by involving community partners. The visions addressed included providing sustainable food assistance, acquiring the infrastructure needed for a self-sufficient local food system, educating the community about growing and eating local foods, increasing networking among different sectors of the food system, and expanding viable markets for local food producers.

These topics and more are being discussed throughout the Rogue Valley as a part of the Rogue Valley Community

Food System Planning Process that is currently being coordinated by ACCESS, Thrive, and the Josephine County Food Bank. There are several more FEASTs and Community Foods Conversations taking place in other locations that include Jacksonville, Phoenix/Talent, Rogue River, Upper Rogue Valley, Grants Pass, Cave Junction, Ashland and Medford. The goal of these gatherings and conversations is to find ways in which our food system can be strengthened and to connect community members with common interests.

We want to thank all of the community members who came to the FEAST and contributed their time and vision for the food system. We hope that the great ideas that were formed at the FEAST continue to develop.

For more information about the outcomes of the Applegate FEAST and how you can get involved, please contact Hannah Ancel, ACCESS, 541-618-4019, hancel@accesshelps.org.

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OSU County Master Gardener Extension Classes

Feeling impatient? Need to scratch your gardening itch? Relax. Help is on the way! Just when you feel like you can't possibly wait another day, along comes the annual ...

Jackson County Master Gardener Spring Fair
Saturday, May 5, 9 am to 5 pm
Sunday, May 6, 10 am to 4 pm
Jackson County Expo Center

Now in its 33rd year, the Spring Fair is the largest event of its kind between San Francisco and Portland. You'll discover an astonishing array of healthy plants, quality products and priceless expertise. You'll also feel the buzz as thousands of like-minded gardeners, families and friends converge for two full days of education, information and celebration.

Hosted by the Jackson County Master Gardener Association, the Annual Spring Fair is the only place in southern Oregon where you can experience hundreds of growers, vendors and garden experts—all under one roof. Food is available, admission is \$3.00 and parking is free.

For information, call 541-776-7371 or visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/>.

Also this spring, the Jackson County Master Gardener Association will host a series of informative Saturday and evening classes at the OSU Extension Auditorium, 569 Hanley Road (between Jacksonville and Central Point). This season's topics include:

Summer Care of Grape Vines
Saturday, May 12, 9 am – noon

This class will teach you how to manage your backyard vines after pruning. Topics include shoot thinning, controlling head suckering, training for growth and controlling crop load. Dress appropriately for outdoor demonstrations.

Choose and Grow Rock Garden Plants
Tuesday, May 15, 7 – 9 pm

Learn how to make the most of a rocky growing site...or how to create one. This inspirational class introduces the basics of rock gardening, including suitable plants, soils, containers—and the

best rocks to use. Features a photographic tour of several local rock gardens.

Growing Vegetables and Herbs in Containers
Wednesday, May 30, 7 – 9 pm

Find out how to grow fresh, delicious treats—even when your time and space are limited. This helpful class teaches about containers and soils—and explains which herbs and vegetables grow well together. Ideal for renters, or anyone who'd like to make their vegetable garden more carefree and accessible.

Don't Be Afraid of Perennials
Thursday, June 14, 7 – 9 pm

Tailored to southern Oregon's weather and growing seasons, this class takes you beyond the ordinary perennial choices and teaches how—with a little planning—you can enjoy great-looking, long-lasting blooms in your garden every month of the year.

Introduction to Permaculture: The Self-Sustaining Garden
Thursday, June 28, 7 – 9 pm

Join the movement of concerned

home gardeners who successfully reduce their "carbon footprint" through permaculture. You'll learn principles and techniques that can increase your garden's vitality, while managing weeds and pests in an environmentally sustainable way.

Growing Ferns in the Rogue Valley
Monday, July 9, 7 – 9 pm

The botany of ferns, including their differences from other plants, will be explained. Ferns native to the Rogue Valley will be explored. Also included: How to choose an appropriate fern for your location and how to prepare the soil.

Winter Veggie Gardens
Thursday, July 26, 7 – 9 pm

What can grow outdoors in winter months? Garden maintenance, seed starting, frost protection, varieties of vegetables and herbs that will grow all winter in our region will be covered. Ornamentals will also be addressed.

Admission to these classes is \$5; free to Master Gardeners. For information, call 541-776-7371.

Elegant tarweed

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Long before fields in the Applegate were covered in nonnative and invasive star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), they were covered with the dainty, yellow, daisy-like flowers of the native elegant tarweed (*Madia elegans*).

Tarweed (see photo at right) is an annual wildflower in the sunflower family. It occurs in grasslands and open forest below 11,000 feet in elevation. It flowers in summer and early autumn, and grows from northern Oregon through California and the Great Basin, south to Baja, California. The flowers curl up during the daytime and open only in the late afternoon and early morning. The foliage exudes fragrant oil, and the plants are sticky, hence the

common name tarweed. It is an often-overlooked native plant that deserves more respect.

The seeds of tarweed are eaten by many birds and small mammals, such as mourning doves, quail, blackbirds, finches, Oregon juncos, California horned larks, western meadowlarks, American pipits, sparrows, towhees, mice, ground squirrels and chipmunks.

Tarweed seeds were historically used as food by tribes such as the Dakubetede, Takelma, Latgawa, Dagelma and Shasta that inhabited the Applegate and Rogue Valleys before European settlement. The use of tarweed seeds by Applegate tribes was recorded by early ethnographer John

Harrington. Examples of how tarweed seeds were historically used include:

- Seeds parched and pounded into flour.
- Seeds roasted with hot coals, pounded or rolled into flour.
- Pulverized seeds eaten as a dry meal.
- Seeds used to make pinole. Seeds roasted and eaten alone or mixed with manzanita berries, acorns and pine nuts.
- Ground tarweed mixed with ground hazelnuts and camas.

Many people are familiar with the use of camas and acorns for food; however, small seed crops, such as wild grass and tarweed, were also vitally important to the indigenous

See TARWEED, page 23



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The wonderful person behind Jo's List

BY PATSY KING



Jo Larsen of Jo's List

The town of Williams is known to be a very special community: helpful, friendly, concerned with each other and with things that affect us all. One of the great aspects of Williams is its electronic community bulletin board known as Jo's List.

Jo's List isn't just a perk of living there; rather, it's one reason for our strong community. Using Jo's List, people can ask for help and advice, e.g., on how to keep compost secure from bears; let others know that they spotted a cougar on a certain road; spread the word that they are available to work; ask for recommended dentists; let people know that they've seen a loose cow, pig, goat, wandering dog, etc. What a wonderful resource. But what's the story behind Jo's List? How does it work and who's behind it? I found out a couple of days ago when I met with Jo Larsen, the generous and caring person who started it all.

I was curious about how the service started and asked Jo what gave her the idea. She explained that it actually started because of three different Williams-area people who were forwarding information about musical events to their friends. They realized that they were sort of duplicating things, and when they combined lists of people, Jo just naturally ended up doing the information forwarding. It started with just 50 people receiving the information and has grown to 950 subscribers. Wow.

When I asked how much time Jo spends each day, she said that she had been spending as much as three hours daily until recently, when her Internet provider, Outreach Internet, helped set up a system that could handle that many messages and do it more efficiently for Jo. Now when people receiving an email want to reply, they can hit the reply button, and their message will go to the person who wrote the original notice. Before the recent change, if a person hit the reply button, Jo herself would get the message and then have to forward the answer to the right person manually. Even with the improvements, Jo is often online four times a day forwarding information. She's been doing this service for so long that she's not even sure just how long, but somewhere between six and ten years.

I was curious how it actually worked and what Jo did each time she set out to pass along the information. First she checks to see who has requested to be added or deleted to the list or who has email address

changes or has gone on vacation, and she updates all of that. Then she deals with all the incoming messages that people would like posted. Jo reads every single one to be sure it is not derogatory or political, and also to be sure it's not over one megabyte, which would be unworkable for all the subscribers on dial-up Internet service. The few messages that still come to her on the old system must be forwarded to the new system. Then out they go to the email accounts of the subscribers.

All sorts of diverse information has been shared over the years, but what Jo loves the most is being able to reunite lost pets with their owners and helping find homes for animals. Also quite rewarding is connecting people with the services they need. It certainly helps create a sense of closeness and helpfulness in the community. Jo says, "One aspect I particularly like is that it unites such a broad spectrum of the community. All have a common love of rural life, and it's people helping other people. It's a bit like standing and chatting over the back fence." I could certainly feel Jo's enthusiasm and generosity even after all these years of her spending hours at the computer!

Of course, this is Jo's community and has been for the last 25 years. She and her husband bought their south-facing hillside property 25 years ago around the spring equinox. While living in the somewhat rainier Willamette Valley and visiting a friend who had moved here, they blundered upon a notice for a house for rent in Williams. They rented it, then sold their old place and eventually bought acreage here. Gardening, and roses in particular, are Jo's passions, and as time passes, massive gardens have grown in raised beds all over their hillside. Most of the plants have stories and meaning behind them because they came from friends and relatives over the years; some tiny cuttings are now full-grown thriving plants. So even Jo's garden is about people.

People matter, community matters and animals matter—I think that's why she has kept up the marvelous Jo's List all these years. We in the community are so lucky to be connected in this way. Jo doesn't charge for her time or service, but contributions are always welcome and can be mailed to Jo Larsen, PO Box 286, Williams, Oregon 97544.

Patsy King
pking888@gmail.com

A few words from Applegate Valley Fire District #9

BY BRETT FILLIS

I always appreciate the opportunity to communicate with the public regarding various topics that are important during the course of the year. The following are several topics that are important.

Recruiting new volunteers

If it seems like we are always recruiting new volunteers, we are. In the last several years we have put forward more effort in recruiting volunteers because our numbers have been declining, and in some areas declining to the point where it was beginning to affect operations. I am proud to say that this last recruiting drive near the end of the year was very successful—perhaps the most successful campaign ever. Volunteer numbers in the west end of the district, particularly Provolt and Applegate, were reaching critical levels.

We just concluded this year's basic firefighter academy. We began with 13 recruits and ended the academy with 11 new firefighters. Historically we end up graduating around half of the applicants. This was an excellent effort and we appreciate those individuals who came forward and have taken this important first step in helping their community.

So with all of that, are we done recruiting? Recruiting is never really over. We will always be looking for new volunteers every year to compensate for normal turnover as it occurs. We also have a few stations that can use more help. Our newest station, Station #7 on Griffin Lane, and several of the eastern stations are in need of additional volunteers as well.

2011 Awards Banquet

Our awards banquet was held on February 3 to honor those who made above-average contributions to the district in 2011. It was held at the Applegate Community Church and the awards ceremony followed a nice meal that was provided by our auxiliary organization, the Friends of the Applegate Fire District. The following awards were presented:

Hall of Flame Inductee: Fred Secco

Spirit Award: Rob Underwood

Rookie of the Year: Dick Rodgers

Medical First Responder of the Year:

Cris Usher

EMT of the Year: Tailse Goodnough

Activity Awards:

- Over 100 Alarm Responses: Bob Ettner, Dick Rodgers, Rick Koppen

- 85% or better drill attendance:

Bill Dunlap, Jack Lynch

Spouse of the Year: Debbie Ziegler

District Employee of the Year:

Carey Chaput

Officer of the Year: Jeff Hoxsey

Firefighter of the Year—Joint Winners:

Lindsey Evertt and Anthony Ryan

Chief's Award: Greg Gilbert

Years of Service:

- 5 Years: Daniel Boyajian and Greg Paneitz

- 10 Years: Greg Gilbert, Bill Dunlap, Jeff Vinyard, Rick Koppen

- 15 Years: Fred Secco

- 20 Years: Cody Goodnough

Friends of the Applegate Fire District

This is our version of the Fire Department Auxiliary. This group was started in the mid-1980s and has been primarily responsible for organizing and preparing the fine food we have had at our annual awards banquet, summer picnic

and Christmas party. The Friends also provide support in the way of food during larger-scale emergencies of

Recruiting is never really over. We will always be looking for new volunteers every year to compensate...

longer-than-normal duration. This group has also raised a tremendous amount of money over the years to buy certain equipment that the district couldn't afford from its normal budget. By my estimation, this group has purchased in excess of \$85,000 worth of fire and rescue equipment since their inception, raising most of the money through the annual yard sale in September, and in the early days running Bingo both at the Grange and at the Josephine County Fair. Although the group has curtailed a lot of the old fundraising methods, they continue to work on ways to raise funds and provide support to the firefighters throughout the year.

The Friends are like most organizations—they need new members to keep them strong and viable. The majority of the group has been involved for over 25 years and newer members are a minority. The group currently meets once a month and is looking to change to an every-other-month format. If you have an interest in becoming a member, don't hesitate to contact the district office at 541-899-1050 and find out more information.

Brett Fillis • 541-899-1050

Fire Chief

Applegate Valley Fire District #9



Award winners at Applegate Valley Fire District #9 annual banquet.

PARAGLIDING

FROM PAGE 1

US World Team. The next world competition will be held July 13-26, 2013, in Sopot, Bulgaria. There were four men and one woman on the previous US world team. At the upcoming Rat Race, cumulative points from last year and this year's competitions will determine the new US team. In 2007, Seattle resident Tom McCune, whose first competition was the Rat Race, earned a bronze medal at the Paragliding World Championships in Australia, becoming the first American to medal since the competition began in 1989.

Giving back. Mike and Gail are proud of what they and their pilots give back to the local community—in a multitude of ways. Here are some examples:

- Fundraising dinner. Here is your chance to meet the world's top paragliding pilots. This year's fundraising dinner will be held at Fiasco Winery on Sunday, June 17, from 6 – 9 pm. For the first time, RVHPA is hosting the dinner and it is open to the public. Local club members will be cooking and donating food, and there is *no charge to the public*. Mike and Gail expect upwards of 300 attendees. Donations are appreciated.

- A scholarship in the name of the Hunter Family Charitable Fund has been awarded to a deserving student in past years. Andy Pallotta was chosen by the Hunter family last year. (See Andy's article in the Winter 2012 *Applegater* or online at www.applegater.org.)

- This year's donation by the Hunter Family Charitable Fund will be directed to the Magdalene Home for homeless pregnant and parenting teen girls in Medford, and also will be used to purchase premie car seats for parents in need through the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Rogue Valley Medical Center.

- Charitable contributions by paraglider pilots are used to make significant improvements in the Ruch area. For example: a new roof for the Applegate/Ruch RAT (Rural Action Team) Sheriff's office, and computer equipment, band equipment and playground equipment for Ruch School. The club also has held aviation assemblies at Ruch School.

Boon to the local economy. Not only do pilots stay in the area throughout the competition, but some of their families come, too. "Pilots love that there's so much to do in the valley for their families," said Gail. Some pilots rent homes, some stay in local hotels. Other pilots and their families camp out at Cantrall-Buckley Park (usually 75-plus pilots and families totaling around 125 people) and frequent local establishments. And because it's

"Nationals" this year, even more pilots are expected at the event.

In addition to the pilots, there are also 35 volunteers from all over the country during the week who help make the Rat Race what it is and contribute to the local economy, too.

Race Day. With one race each day, here is what goes on during a typical day of competition:

- 9 am—Pilots meet in the Haley's 2,100-square-foot classroom where, among other things, Mike goes over weather conditions. Last year Mike canceled one day of the competition because the lift was too big (strong) even though conditions were good (not windy). (For those who know the lingo, this means that the turbulated area between up and down was too strong.)

- 10:30 – 11 am—All gather at the top of Woodrat Mountain. It takes two 57-passenger school buses, a 20-passenger bus, and volunteers' vans to shuttle all the pilots to the top. A truck follows with all the gear.

- Noon—Start of the race. Pilots are required to sign in at launch and sign out when they land.

- Pilots hover in the air up to over an hour as high as they can get in one spot.

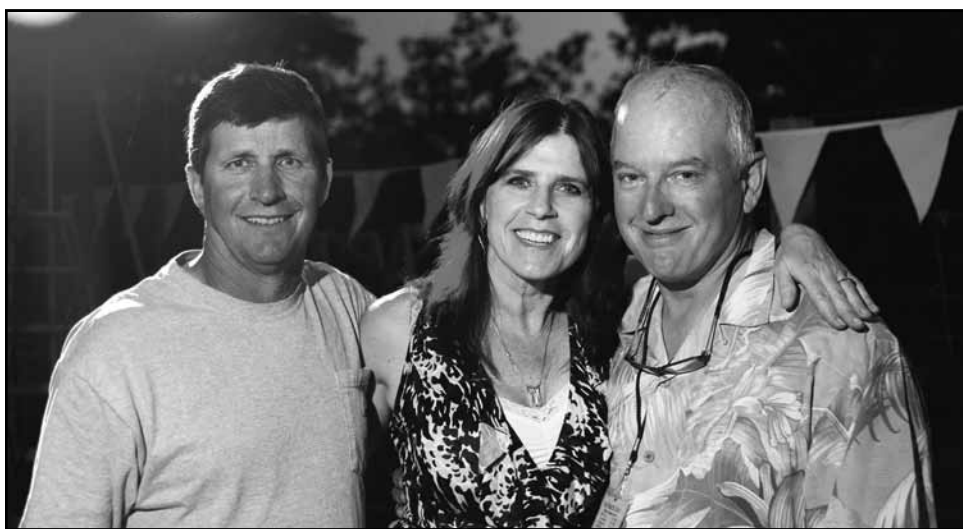
- 1:15 pm—The pilots take off to tackle an average 30- to 40-mile course. Last year there were 1,300 launches over seven days. The Task Selection Committee picks a different course every day, and pilots use GPS with "turn points" (longitude and latitude) to navigate along the racecourse. As an example, a race route might be from Woodrat to Grants Pass, Grants Pass to Gold Hill, Gold Hill to Jacksonville, and Jacksonville to the Fly High/Longsword Vineyards landing zone.

- "Retrieve and Safety Coordinators" stay at the top of the mountain until the end of the race. Pilots call them when they land.

- When a race is over for the day, free-flyers and tandem flyers go up until dark.

- One race lasts three to five hours and is mentally exhausting. As an example of how grueling the race really is, only 30% of the pilots complete it. This means that the 70% who don't complete the race are picked up along the race route each day. "We litter the countryside with pilots," Mike admits.

Join in on the adventure. In addition to the fundraising dinner and watching live feeds at Fiasco and other locations, the public can, for a fee, view the competition from atop Woodrat Mountain and reserve a tandem paragliding flight with a tandem-certified pilot before or after the race each day. Tandem flights can last from 20 to 45



From left to right, Rat Race volunteer Roger Brock with organizers Gail and Mike Haley.

Mike and Gail Haley— Rat Race organizers extraordinaire

Mike Haley is one of the pioneers of the hang-gliding sport. "I always knew I wanted to fly, but didn't have any money when I was young. I built my first two hang gliders back in the 70s," said Mike. Since taking up paragliding he has soared up to 18-19,000 feet above sea level without oxygen. The record altitude at Woodrat Mountain is 13,000 feet (accomplished by a pilot after the Rat Race was over). "I'd still like to learn to fly helicopters," Mike admits.

Gail, too, has her paragliding license, but says she's "not as passionate as Mike." She is, however, passionate about the pilots and about organizing the Rat Race to perfection.

Mike is on the Board of Directors of the national association (USHPA) and chairs the competition committee. (The Federal Aviation Administration allows USHPA to govern in the United States and be self-regulating—unlike other aviation entities—because of the stellar job that USHPA has done for over 35 years.)

minutes depending on weather conditions, and they can go as high as 4,000 to 5,000 feet above Woodrat Mountain, which is at 3,700 feet above sea level. Annually, 100 to 150 adventuresome folks fly off the mountain with an instructor in a tandem glider designed for two people. For those so inclined, you can make your reservations at Fiasco Winery, the public Rat Race headquarters this year.

The public is invited to pick up the competing pilots when they land—they're the ones with the large backpacks—and give them a ride to Fiasco Winery.

For more information on this year's Rat Race, visit the Fiasco Winery race headquarters on Highway 238 in Jacksonville or go online to www.mphsports.com.

Also, watch this excellent nine-minute video by Oregon Public Broadcasting filmed by a cameraman who flew tandem during the 2011 Rat Race (<http://www.opb.org/programs/ofg/segments/view/1789>).

Here's what a Rat Race pilot had to say about the race a few years ago: "This is the best run, best organized, best orchestrated event there is in the Northwest. Whether you finish in the top ten or dead last, you'll have a great time and you'll become a better pilot, too."

Barbara Holiday
sfholiday@aol.com

NOTE: More Rat Race photos can be seen online at www.applegater.org.

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Tall Tales from the Editor

Evil violators or honesty

My first road trip for 2012 was a senior road trip. No, it wasn't a senior high school road trip, but one with my parents, who are in their 80s, and me, older than I ever dreamed. Older than anything an oddsmaker would have bet on: 30-plus years past 30.

Honestly, I never saw any reason to rack up numbers past 30 years of age. If I thought I would have lasted this long I would have partied harder—fast-lane living 24/7.

Of course, everything looks different now. Such as 40 wasn't a bad age. I sure miss 50, and how I long for 55. My prostate, which has since fallen victim to cancer, was still my sidekick then.

When my parents asked me if I would drive them from their place (Fairview Bay, Arkansas) to see family in Texas, I jumped at the chance. You see, I have a rather large, actually more like humongous, amount of karma to work off with my parents from my youth. A 1,500-mile senior road trip would go a long way toward working off some of that debt load. Well, maybe only a little way.

My mother said I couldn't use her name in this story so I'll just refer to her as "mother" or "mom." I don't remember if the "King" (my father) made the same request or not (I've got that aging memory thing going on). I'll just refer to him as "father" or "dad." Even though I have my own car keys now, why take the chance.

Driving the scenic back roads, we weren't making very good time, but it was worth it to see the countryside. We were 20 - 25 miles past Hot Springs, Arkansas, when I thought, *am I having some sort of flashback?* But no, those were real flashing red lights in my rearview mirror and they were attached to a deputy sheriff's car.

The police car had been behind us for a while and we had three cars in front of us. I assumed he was responding to a call, so like any good citizen would do, I pulled off the roadway to let him pass. He followed me right into a gravel parking lot of a business long consigned to the dustbin of history.

My parents were asking me what was up. We hadn't been speeding or anything obviously illegal. "I don't know," I told them, then asked my mom, who was riding shotgun, to get the car registration out for me. When the deputy reached my lowered window, I had my driver's license in hand. As he took my official "Oregon tax permit to be behind the wheel legally," he asked, "Do you know why I stopped you?"

"I don't have the foggiest clue," I said. "Your tags are registered to a Ford and you're driving a Jeep. And those tags expired last October. It's now February."

I looked over at my mother who had all the contents from the glove box

Once the police cars disappeared from sight, I could hear my mother whisper, "Thank you, Jesus."

strung out across her lap and the car's dash looking for the registration. She told the deputy that they had indeed owned a Ford Explorer and had traded it in on this Jeep Patriot this past summer.

"Madam, you have to pay an assessment [another word for tax] and register your car at the DMV after a purchase."

"I'm sure the dealer took care of all that," my mother said. "Not necessarily so, madam."

As my mother continued her nonproductive search for a registration, she was telling the deputy that everywhere they've ever lived the dealership always took care of the paperwork.

My father hadn't said much from the back seat, but I couldn't have heard him if he had. I'm hard of hearing even with aids and my father has a soft voice.

Then my mother leaned forward in her seat so she could make eye contact with the deputy (who *may* have been old enough to shave) and said, "I heard on TV that you should put the registration in a lockbox to keep it safe. That's probably where ours is at." I told her "It's the car

title that you'd put in a lock box, Mom."

The deputy had a nice smirk on his face after that response.

"Here it is," said my mom and handed me a paper that was from the dealership all right, but it was for an oil change. I knew the deputy wanted to laugh. I could see it in his face when I smiled at him.

"I don't know where it is. The dealership always takes care of the paperwork. I'm going to give them a piece of my mind when we get home," repeated my mom.

My mom gave me an insurance ID card that I handed to the officer, who really started smiling now. (I later learned that it was the old expired card—they did have a valid one, though.)

While the deputy talked to dispatch, I started to daydream about the three of us making a run for it. Yep, we all jumped out of the car and headed for the hills. The deputy's camcorder would show my father, who has Parkinson's, shuffling away; my mother, who has asthma and a battery in her pacemaker in need of replacement, would run about ten steps, then stop to catch her breath. Me, I had a numb right butt cheek—the numbness ran all the way down past my knee. That meant that I could run as fast as a handicapped escargot. Our combined speed would be that of the Rocky Mountains eroding to sand pebbles or of the Applegate River cutting a gorge like the Grand Canyon. In other words, time standing still.

The deputy derailed my daydream when he said, "I'm not going to issue you a citation, but you need to get the car registered and licensed." All three of us thanked him, then my mother said, "We're going on vacation. Do you think we could register the car when we return?"

"Madam, I'm not giving you a citation; that's at *my* discretion. I can't say what the next officer will do. Drive safely now."

With that, he left us to discuss which options we might pursue. The elders decided that we would charge ahead into the world of evil violators.

This is very cool because, unlike my Moab, Utah, outlaw buddies, my parents have never ever knowingly broken any laws. You can bet that gene was not passed along to me.

We decided to run the Interstate because we were less likely to have police trailing us. I tried to get my parents to sing along with me to the Judas Priest song, "Breaking the Law," but my mother was too busy looking in her side mirror for law enforcement vehicles, of which we passed many looking for speeders. Once the police cars disappeared from sight, I could hear my mother whisper, "Thank you, Jesus."

At my niece's home in Austin, Texas, my mother asked my niece's husband, who is on the Austin City police force and in training for the SWAT team, if he or any of his police buddies might give us a warning ticket that could work for a pass on our drive home.

"Granny, I don't think that's a good idea. You'll probably be okay," he told her. And we were.

Once home, the dealership did indeed have some paperwork that my folks had never been contacted about. They paid the tax on the car at the assessor's office and when the lady at the DMV offered my mother a way out of paying a penalty for driving an illegal vehicle, my mother said, "No, my conscience wouldn't let me do that."

Oh, yes, the days of my parents being evil violators vanished. Honesty has been the code that my parents have lived by their whole lives, excluding our ten days in Texas.

My parents are again traveling the road of honesty. Can you imagine what our country would be like if lobbyists, lawyers, bankers and politicians traveled that same road?

That's another daydream, right?



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

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE!

For another story by J.D. Rogers, go to www.applegater.org and click on "additional articles" under "Latest Issue of the Applegater," then select "Black and white or PVC pipe wrapped in razor wire."

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OPINIONS

Is it our backyard — or isn't it?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Our national forests, our federal recreation areas, monuments and parks... are they really ours? Are they any more "ours" if we live next to them? And, does being good neighbors with said federal neighbor count for anything?

I've only been involved in natural resource and wildfire issues for a little over ten years, but it seems like I've seen a lot of change in that time. Or maybe it's just that there's always "something new" coming down the pike.

In 2000 we were presented with the National Fire Plan, which provided direction on how to address the serious wildfires our nation was having. The Applegate embraced this, grabbed grant funding, and with the help of our fire and natural resource agency partners, wrote our own Applegate Fire Plan. Some questioned the validity of a "plan" written by a community, but we got right to work thinning vegetation to create our defensible spaces, doing our part in the wildfire picture. We also prioritized places for our federal land managers to reduce hazardous fuels around our Applegate communities, and lo and behold, they did what our Fire Plan suggested.

We had wildfires in the summer of 2002, and our fuels work helped firefighting efforts in the Squires Peak Fire. So much so that the President came to town, bringing the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) with him. More direction, for federal land managers and for communities in the Wildland Urban Interface or WUI that faced the threat of wildfire. The Applegate snatched some of that HFRA funding and kept doing more hazardous fuels work.

By this time nearly 90% of the homeowners in the Applegate had created defensible space around their homes, and many were getting help to thin even more of their property for better forest health and resiliency. The federal land managers—both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service—in turn got more funding to do more thinning on their lands in the Applegate, and we seemed to collectively be making a difference. However, no timber was being cut, so mills were closing.

Then came the BLM's new Western Oregon (Resource Management) Plan Revision, or WOPR. It was all about timber, and so Applegate folks fought to include responsible management that met the needs of our SW Oregon "Mediterranean" climate written into this WOPR. The WOPR eventually replaced the Northwest Forest Plan and then was rescinded, but the fight drained a lot of energy from folks.

Land management seemed to languish for a while and we were lucky to not have any big wildfires, but many other states did. Federal fiscal issues brought a call from Congress for a new Cohesive Strategy for wildfire management in an effort to reduce national fire suppression costs. (I've written about this strategy before in the *Applegater*.) The underlying premise of the Strategy is to shift more responsibility for wildfires to state and local entities, even as many counties in western states are struggling with their own budget

shortfalls due to the loss of federal timber receipts. The Strategy wants communities to become "fire-adapted."

Several years later, the planning of this new national wildfire Strategy is still ongoing, and yes, I'm still hanging in there, attending conferences, meetings and calls on it. Someone's got to help them figure out what a "fire-adapted community" means!

Meanwhile, vegetation in our forests keeps growing, mills are still closed, and new folks continue to move into the WUI at steady rates. Every once in a while someone tries to lock up our lands in wilderness areas or monuments, but those who truly care about our watershed know this isn't what the land needs. It needs management. During the 2001 Quartz Fire we saw firsthand what happens if we don't thin our old growth stands: they burn to black sticks and ash, and critical owl habitat is destroyed.

Applegaters inherently seem to recognize and cherish the specialness of our watershed, and so many dedicated folks here haven't given up. Our new (Secretary of the Interior) Pilot Projects here in the Applegate are the result of *thousands* of hours of collaboration, communication and hard work by many partners towards finding a solution to forest management in our region.

I like the concepts of the prescriptions and methodology that were proposed for our Pilot Projects. I do have some reservations around the implementation of these prescriptions, because it's not the same old way of doing things, and some folks still are adamant that the "old way" is what we need to get back to.

As I write this, I have not yet seen the work on the ground in Pilot country (too much snow), but I've heard comments both favorable and not. However, if the BLM can make the Pilots work environmentally, financially *and* wildfire-safety wise, I feel that this might very well be the answer to our local forest health and timber receipt problems. To say nothing about helping to make the neighborhoods of the Applegate more fire safe.

With the new Cohesive Strategy calling for more responsibility by locals to prepare their communities for wildfire, with more people moving into Oregon's WUI, with our Counties facing financial collapse, and with more and more of our forests overstocked to the point of falling prey to insects and disease, I can *almost* understand why our desperate lawmakers are concocting preposterous new laws to try and get back to the old way of logging. Laws that are written in the offices of politicians with the help of the timber industry or national environmental organizations, but *without input* from local folks who are neighbors to the federal lands in question? I think not!

In my opinion, federal land management isn't working the way it is right now, and things *do* need to change. I feel that land management needs to be balanced, and that those who live next to federal lands and care about said land management issues should have a more powerful voice than folks from say, New York or Los Angeles.

But laws that propose to throw out a century of building a national system of environmental management and protection can't be legal, and they can't be good. I don't feel these proposed laws are good for the land, the forests, our waterways, or our wild critters. They aren't good for sustainable timber production or for wildfire hazard reduction, and they certainly aren't good for people who live next to federal land (roughly one in three landowners in the Applegate).

And, they *won't* help make our

Applegate communities more able to withstand a catastrophic wildfire.

So if you feel as I do, get involved, learn about the issues and speak up constructively to our elected officials, so that we Applegaters can and will have a voice in the management of "our backyard." We can't go back to the old ways of cutting timber and we also *can't do nothing*, because if we do, Mother Nature (or our elected representatives) will step in and do something for us.

Sandy Shaffer, sassysoneOR@q.com

Genesis of Applegate Valley Days

BY ED TEMPLE

Applegate Valley Days came about originally as a fundraiser for Cantrall-Buckley Park. Cantrall-Buckley Park, although county-owned, is managed by the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit 501(c)3 community-based group that has taken on the responsibility to fund and maintain the park, rather than have Jackson County close it.

When I was approached to organize the fundraiser, I agreed with the stipulation that we make the event broader and more encompassing in order to celebrate the totality of the Applegate Valley.

Having lived in the Applegate Valley for over 22 years, I feel it is my true home. My wife and I have made wonderful friends, we live on one of the prettiest pieces of land God created and are eternally grateful to be able to live the life we have. For me it is an opportunity to give back, to share and to show what true treasures we have here.

There are many events in the Applegate throughout the year, mostly small with targeted audiences. I had this vision: what if we have a major three-day event in early summer that would appeal to almost everybody. I wanted to have something that, whether you were four years old or one hundred and four, would be of interest to you. We really have it all here in our wonderful area. I guess I should preface the above with this disclaimer:

I'm talking about history, natural beauty, recreation, good food, excellent wine and good old-fashioned fun.

Applegate Valley Days is a lot of work, with a lot of folks working hard to make it a success. We want to make Applegate Valley Days an annual event with the proceeds going back into community projects. This year the proceeds will go to improvements in Cantrall-Buckley Park. We also want to showcase all of the Applegate Valley. We have some of the finest wines in the world produced here (not just my opinion, they are worldwide award winners), organic produce at its finest, and unsurpassed recreational opportunities.

As you look at the events that are planned, I hope you find something appealing. You might wonder, why is this guy so willing to share his part of paradise? The fact is that there is enough beauty and serenity to go around. The area is large enough that we welcome visitors, and land use is so strictly regulated in the rural areas of Oregon that we don't have to worry about it being overbuilt.

One last point: this event is about all we have around us. I don't care what your personal beliefs are, whether you're right or left, pro or con, green or brown, brand new or lived here all your life. Leave it at home, come join us and have fun!

Ed Temple • 541-846-7769

Project Director
Applegate Valley Days

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Address Opinion Pieces and Letters to the Editor to:
The *Applegater* c/o Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.
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Dear Editor,

We want to thank you for your in-depth, informative "The Starry Side" by Greeley Wells. We can't always figure out all the details from the instructions, but we have gained a great amount of information that adds to our knowledge of the night sky. We continue to gaze up at this unique corner of the universe we call home. Thank you for the research, insight and personal comments. We look forward to reading what Greeley has to say in EVERY issue. In appreciation,
Sherry Peterson and Peter Miller
Williams



Bottled Water

with Bob Quinn

Are you as amazed as I am about the world we live in today? Cell phones with cameras, computers the size of an old phone, gas at \$4.00 a gallon and people actually paying about \$3 a gallon for bottled water. **WOW!** What would you think if I told you that here at Quinn's we can provide you with bottled water right at your tap for mere pennies per gallon?

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Have you seen the Gater's online calendar? www.applegater.org

Burning answers

BY ROB BUDGE

This time of year, I get lots of questions about prescribed burning from members of the public. Three of the most frequent are: "Why is the weather forecast that the Forest Service (FS)/Bureau of Land Management (BLM) use sometimes different from the one posted on the National Weather Service's website?"; "How does the FS/BLM get clearance to burn?"; and "How come the FS/BLM are allowed to burn when there is an air stagnation advisory?" Hopefully, the following explanations of the smoke management process will help answer these questions.

Weather forecast

When the FS/BLM wants to conduct a prescribed burn (whether it be the burning of slash piles or a low underburn on the forest floor), the first thing we do is consult the weather forecast that is produced by the National Weather Service (NWS). The state of Oregon is divided into 32 distinct fire weather forecast zones. Every morning at about 6 am a weather forecast is issued for each zone for that day and several days into the future.

After consulting the forecast, the Burn Boss (the person in charge of the prescribed burn) determines if the predicted weather matches what is required in the Prescribed Fire Burn Plan (a document that describes the project in detail, including goals, objectives, required weather parameters, volume and type of vegetation to be burned, maps, required personnel and equipment, etc.). The goal is a safe, clean burn with minimal smoke impacts, so particulars such as the altitude and aspect of the burn site and the dryness and makeup of the fuels are all compared with the weather forecast.

If the predicted weather is favorable, the process of notifying cooperators and members of the public that a prescribed burn will take place begins.

On the day of the burn, the Burn Boss will often request a "Spot" weather forecast from the NWS for the specific burn site to make sure that conditions are still good to go. The Spot forecast is explicit to the specific burn unit at that time, rather than for the larger fire weather zone. Because it uses current, site-specific weather observations and takes into account local terrain features and microclimates, the Spot forecast can be significantly different from the forecast for the fire weather zone that was issued the previous day. Usually, the Burn Boss receives the finished Spot weather forecast from the NWS about an hour after it is requested.

Clearance to burn

The State of Oregon requires that Smoke Management Rules be followed for the "prescribed burning of forest fuels for forest management purposes." This is the law, and federal land management agencies must follow it like anyone else. The state also has a Smoke Management Plan, which is designed to protect air quality. In support of this effort, the Oregon Department of Forestry operates a Smoke Forecast Office, which is located in Salem.

Just like the NWS, the state uses fire weather zones for its smoke forecasts and instructions. Every day between 2-3 pm during the spring and fall prescribed burning seasons, a smoke management forecast is issued for the following day. The forecast contains instructions specific to each fire weather zone. Based on the predicted "mixing height" (the height the smoke needs to rise above the ground before it disperses into the atmosphere) and the "transport wind flow" (the wind that blows the smoke out of the area), prescribed burning within a zone may have varying restrictions applied in order for the prescribed burn to meet air-quality standards. Restrictions might be placed on tonnage (the amount of material to be burned), spacing (distance between burn units), time, and distance to smoke-sensitive areas.

If the forecast calls for no burning, or if it limits the amount of tonnage that can be burned, the FS/BLM can request an exception. Often an exception is requested because, from experience and local knowledge, the Burn Boss suspects that the smoke forecast may not accurately reflect actual conditions at the burn site. (After all, Salem isn't exactly right around the corner.) Depending on the location of the unit, e.g., high elevation, distance to homes or recreation areas, etc., as well as the type and amount of vegetation being burned, it is sometimes possible to conduct a successful prescribed burn with no appreciable impact to air quality from smoke, even if the initial zone forecast did restrict burning.

To request an exception, the FS/BLM Burn Boss calls the Smoke Forecaster by phone, provides a legal description of the project area, and describes the amount and type of vegetation to be burned. The Forecaster then focuses on the specific area and can grant permission to burn based on the current conditions at that site.

Sometimes the Forecaster grants permission to proceed with a prescribed burn because the smoke forecast (which was produced the previous day) doesn't

match the actual conditions on the ground. The Burn Boss can also negotiate with the Forecaster to get permission to burn a portion of the unit or a lesser amount of material (fewer tons) while still meeting air-quality requirements. And sometimes, after talking with the Burn Boss, the Forecaster sticks with his initial determination and will not grant permission to burn based on air-quality concerns. The Smoke Forecasters are fully aware of the importance of prescribed burning as a land management tool and make every effort to not restrict prescribed burning unless it is necessary to maintain air quality.

Air Stagnation Advisories (ASAs)

During the winter months, ASAs may be issued by the NWS for the Rogue Valley. These advisories warn of weather conditions in which air pollutants get trapped in the valley and do not clear out as they typically would. This can result in serious air-quality issues in the valley.

When an ASA is issued, residents are asked to limit their driving and the use of wood-burning stoves. However, most federal prescribed burning takes place outside of the Rogue Valley proper, and is usually at higher elevations. Therefore, an ASA does not necessarily constitute a ban for prescribed burning in or near the advisory area.

While members of the public might express concern that the FS/BLM is burning during an ASA, it's important for people to understand that an ASA is usually issued for the general public in the populated areas (typically in the valleys).

During an ASA, our rules mandate that prescribed burning be closely controlled in such a manner that smoke from the burn will not further degrade air quality in the ASA area. Prescribed burning may be allowed if the smoke will vent away from or above the ASA area, so in these cases we rigorously check wind conditions to get it right. After all, we are residents of the Rogue Valley, too.

Rob Budge • 541-618-2102

Deputy Fire Staff, Fuels

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

NOTE: See online article, "Federal forecast predicts fewer wildfires in West this year."



Spot weather reports and burning early in the day can help keep smoke from moving down into valleys or residential areas. Photo by Sandy Shaffer.

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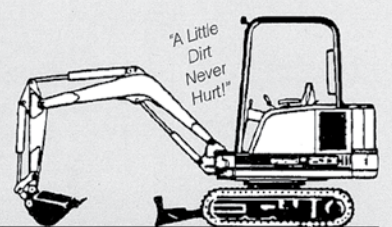
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MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Safekeeping the lands we share in common

BY CHRIS BRATT



Chris Bratt

First, do no harm

I'm lucky to be a recipient of Medicare (it's even better than Obamacare) and social security. I earned these great benefits through a lifetime of hard work and paying in to these marvelous programs. I'm also thankful for all the people and policy makers in the past who worked so hard to give older Americans the health and financial security we share today. I hope it remains a safe bet for everyone.

I feel like I have an added benefit when I go to see my doctors, knowing they have taken a pledge with their Hippocratic Oath that promises "First, do no harm." It's an admirable basic goal that has saved many lives for centuries and led to better results for patients and for improved health care in general. The idea of first doing no harm cannot only improve our bodies and spirits, it can also open new doors to the way we address our total environment. It can create new habits and ways of thinking about how we interact with nature.

I've been thinking for awhile about this pledge the doctors take and have concluded that all of us, whatever work we do, should be taking the same oath. There is so much fear and uncertainty about the ecological and financial health of our planet that everyone needs to be helping to lower the risk of ongoing unacceptable damage to our surroundings. Most importantly, a promise of "First, do no harm" is especially necessary for people who manage or use natural resources on our public lands, oceans and forests. These decision makers and users of the public domain can't continue the risky, contentious and damaging management practices of the past. There is popular support and scientific evidence for less destructive treatment of our environment.

There is also a universal calling for assurance that the planet's resources will be protected and maintained into the future. Isn't it time we end the decline

and corruption of our natural world by following the doctors' advice?

The third time is the charm

It's always seemed to me (at least for 35 years) that the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) public forest management actions are in a continuous state of change and wavering in the shifting political winds. Every time a new president (some with old ideas) is elected to office, they embark on a new BLM Forest Management Plan for Oregon. So, a new BLM plan revision was just announced by the Obama administration in March, and will be number three, one for each of the last three presidents. The last one, a George Bush plan to cut a lot more trees, had a very long planning period and a very short life.

In promoting this new Plan Revision, BLM spokespeople are saying, "There is a bunch of new information out now." And, "It seems like a good time to get the planning started." I think the new information they're speaking about was already available, they just didn't use it. Hopefully, the new revision plans will be more environmentally friendly than the last Bush plan, which the March 3, 2012, Medford *Mail Tribune* reported to "have been through more court cases than a habitual criminal."

For me, the stated reason ("new information") for starting another new Forest Plan Revision is a smoke screen. Legal action disqualified the Bush administration's Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) that illegally ignored the federal Endangered Species Act requirements. If the BLM (in the Bush WOPR) had looked forward to returning to a new balanced approach in managing public lands to protect fish and wildlife, they could have saved lots of time, money

and unnecessary legal problems.

I believe the main problems in public forest management stem from law and policy makers always looking at BLM's Oregon forests as geese that are continually laying golden eggs. Their decisions have always rested on the mistaken theory that cutting more trees will somehow solve all of Oregon's economic and social problems.

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Their theory doesn't recognize that there are many more essential resource values to be considered. These values reach far beyond just timber production and resource extraction for industry well-being.

Change of tune

As a consequence of having to start another BLM Forest Plan Revision, coupled with an uncertain future of federal payments to many struggling rural counties, additional proposals for managing these public lands are now being circulated. Some of these recommendations will attempt to solve the timber counties financial problems as well.

A new forest management submission by the much-respected forestry professors Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson is already being tested on BLM lands in the Middle Applegate drainage "Pilot" projects. Their plan uses a restoration forestry approach emphasizing thinning. They designate certain areas as critical habitat for wildlife species and protect old-growth trees 150 years and older. My considerable involvement with these "Pilot" projects so far shows them to be a very positive management program with some real community participation in the planning. The "Pilot" model could end up as a preferred alternative in

the new Forest Plan Revision.

Another more radical proposal is being put forward by Congressman Peter DeFazio called the O & C (Oregon and California) Trust, Conservation and Jobs Act. If this proposed law is enacted, it would place 1.5-million acres of BLM lands in Oregon into a logging trust to be managed by an appointed board solely to generate revenue for the counties. This logging trust would be managed much like private industry lands (okay to clear-cut and spray herbicides). It would operate under the laws and guidelines of the Oregon Department of Forestry. The remaining BLM lands (approximately one million acres) are slated to be transferred and managed by the U.S. Forest Service under their laws and guidelines. To me, this is a scary, bad bill that is advocating more intense management and a giveaway of our public lands. More information next time when more of the potential impacts and details are known.

In the meantime, let's recognize the wonders of Oregon's land, forests and communities and our obligation as citizens to preserve and revitalize them for future generations. "First, do no harm" is a great doctrine to live by. Can I sign you up? Let me know.

Chris Bratt
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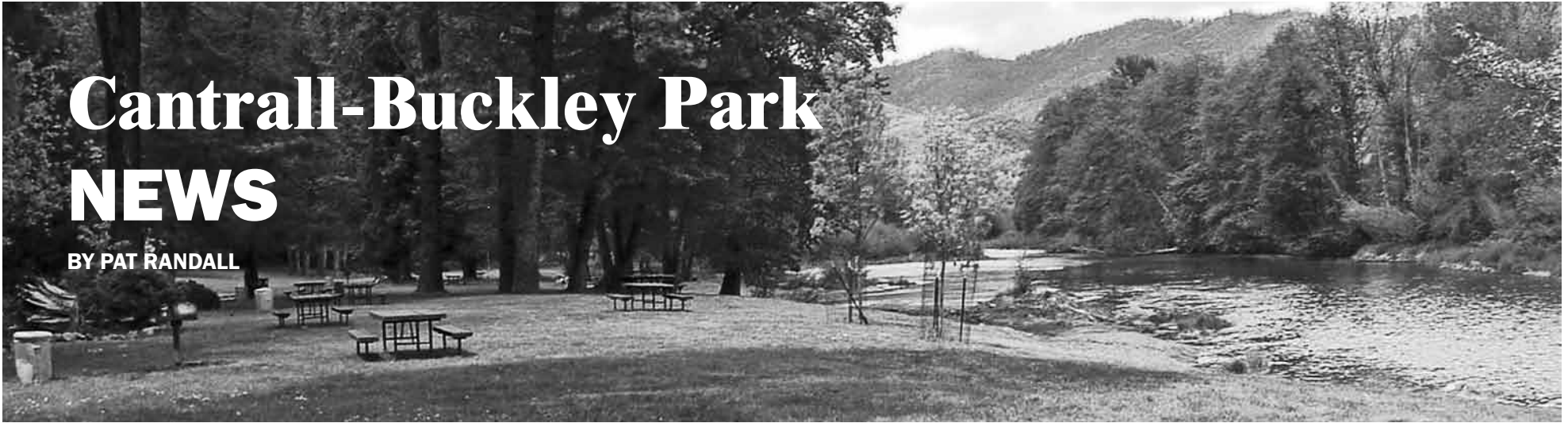
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Cantrall-Buckley Park NEWS

BY PAT RANDALL

When I moved to Ruch about five years ago, I went on short car trips to explore the area. That is how I found Cantrall-Buckley Park. Prior to moving here, I had worked for several city park departments in Washington for over 20 years. When I drove into Cantrall-Buckley Park, it was like stepping back in time, remembering my childhood adventures in parks all over the country. Charmed immediately, I wanted to learn more about our little diamond in the rough. Not long after that trip, the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) held its annual fundraiser at Cantrall-Buckley Park, and there I met Dave Laananen. In a conversation about trapping gophers and moles, we took

a verbal detour into Cantrall-Buckley Park, and I found myself at the next park committee meeting.

The park, 88.64 acres, and one of the most popular in Jackson County for general family day use, was named for the Cantrall and Buckley families from whom most of it was purchased on April 9, 1965. The park includes 1.75 miles of Applegate River frontage.

Jackson County closed Cantrall-Buckley Park in August, 1996, due to lack of funds. It remained that way until a group of citizens got together and reached an agreement with the county to reopen it. An ad hoc committee of groups in the Applegate area began operating the park in April, 1997. Within a year, the newly

formed GACDC took over management of the park. Cantrall-Buckley is still a Jackson County park, operated by the GACDC through an agreement with Jackson County, and the county continues to handle reservations for the group areas at the park.

The GACDC currently has a park committee, which meets once a month to discuss projects, finances, events, maintenance, and to make short- and long-term plans for best park management. It's a lively hour of conversation about how to encourage current and future park users to come and enjoy what we have, figure out what we need to do to continue park improvement, and how to increase revenue to keep the park healthy, safe, and open.

Many people, contractors, and groups have donated time, materials, and sweat equity to keep our park open and, without them, the park would likely be closed. Sincere thanks go to all of you. These meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 5 pm, usually at Applegate Fire District Station 1 on North Applegate Road. Please come and share your ideas. If you have any questions regarding the park, you may call Jackson County Parks at 541-774-8183.

Park committee members include Rick Barclay, Tom Carstens, Laird Funk, Lynn Funk, David Laananen, Pat Randall, and Jack Shipley.

Pat Randall • 541-646-8022
patspond@gmail.com

VALLEY DAYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for hitting targets by subtracting 15 seconds for every prone hit and 30 seconds for every standing hit from their race time. It is intended that rifles be provided in addition to shooting instruction, ammunition, and targets. There will be an entry fee, and all proceeds will go toward the improvement of the park. We look forward to seeing all ages and abilities competing for fun and for glory! Those interested in participating or assisting in course and range management should call Jonathan at 707-696-1575.

The Friends of the Applegate Fire District will hold a community yard sale on the athletic field at Ruch Elementary School. Vendors wishing to sell at the yard sale should visit Fire District Headquarters at 1095 Upper Applegate Road or call 541-899-1050 to reserve a place. Spaces

will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. The best spaces will go quickly, so don't wait too long to sign up.

If there's something you think we may have missed, such as another type of activity that might fit in with the plans discussed, or if you want to volunteer or have a vendor's booth, please contact us at our website: www.applegatevalleydays.org.

Whether you want to learn more about the beautiful place where we live, or just have a good time with family and friends, you'll want to come to Applegate Valley Days. If you have family and friends who live outside the area, invite them to join you in celebrating the wonderful Applegate Valley!

David Laananen • 541-846-0500
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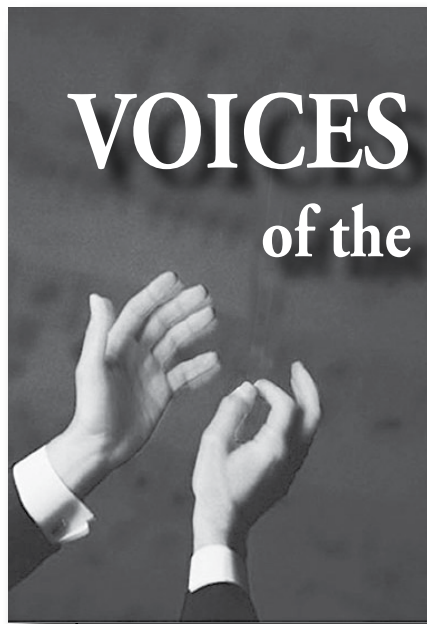
Negro Ben's Cabin



The top photo shows all that remains of the cabin—on Bureau of Land Management lands—of Benjamin Johnson (thought to be his last name), known today as “Negro Ben.” In the late 1860s, he worked as a skilled blacksmith for Theodoric Cameron at Uniontown (at the mouth of the Little Applegate River).

Ben prospected for gold at the base of the mountain that bears his name today. The bottom photo of Negro Ben Mountain was taken from Cantrall Road.

For more photos, go to www.applegater.org. Photos by Barbara Holiday.



APPLEGATE

Our community choir, Voices of the Applegate, led by director Blake Weller, ended its second session this year with two concerts in April. The first concert was held at the Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville on the evening of April 13, and the second concert was at the Applegate River Ranch Lodge on the afternoon of April 15.

Both programs consisted of a variety of four-part harmony pieces ranging from 15th- and 16th-century madrigals to Paul Simon’s “Bridge Over Troubled Water.” Two pieces from Walt Disney’s “Little Mermaid” brightened up the performance as well.

Voices of the Applegate is made up of about 25 men and women from the Applegate, Williams and Jacksonville communities. We always welcome new members. We meet for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings in the Applegate Library meeting room. No auditions are necessary and the only requirement for joining the choir is that you love to sing. A new session will start in early September.

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

TARWEED

FROM PAGE 15

diet. The Applegate Valley tribes developed extensive land management practices to enhance all wild crops they relied upon. Techniques such as burning, pruning, tilling, weeding, and selective harvesting were most likely used. Additionally, the act of harvesting itself helped spread seeds for subsequent crops.

In 1841, Titian Ramsay Peale of the Wilkes Expedition, traveling through what is now Ashland, wrote in his journal, “Indian signs were numerous, though we saw but one, a squaw who was so busy setting fire to the prairie and mountain ravines that she seemed to disregard us... She had a large funnel shaped basket which they all [women] carry to collect roots and seeds in.” It is assumed that this woman probably was burning to obtain tarweed or grass seeds, or at least to enhance their future growing conditions.

George Riddle, who settled in southern Oregon in 1851, described in his book, *History of early days in Oregon*, tarweed gathering among the Takelma-

speaking Cow Creek Indians along the South Umpqua River: “During the summer months the squaws gather various kinds of seeds of which the tar weed was the most prized.... When the seeds were ripe the country was burned off. This left the plant standing with the tar burned off and the seeds left in the pods. Immediately after the fire there would be an army of squaws armed with an implement made of twigs shaped like a tennis racket with their basket swung in front they would beat the seeds from the pods into the basket. This seed gathering would only last a few days and every squaw in the tribe seemed to be doing her level best to make all the noise she could, beating her racket against the top of her basket. All seeds were ground into meal with a mortar and pestle.”

Consider encouraging this wildflower, whose historical and ecological value could enhance your own land.

Suzie Savoie

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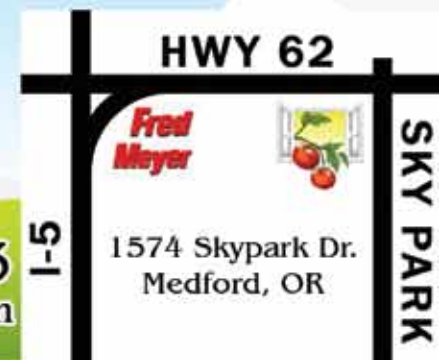


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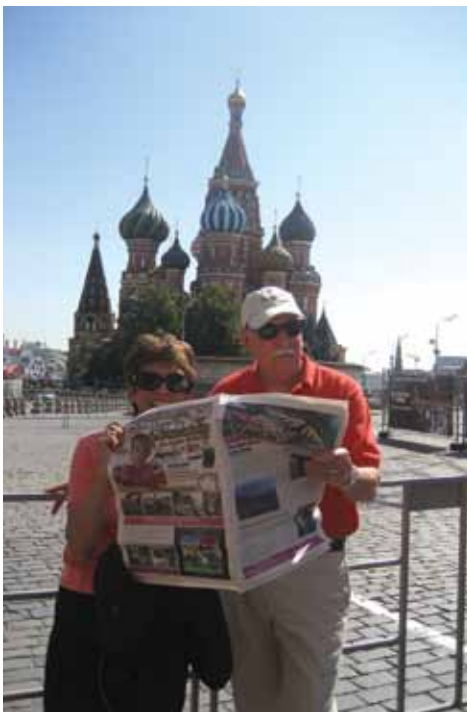
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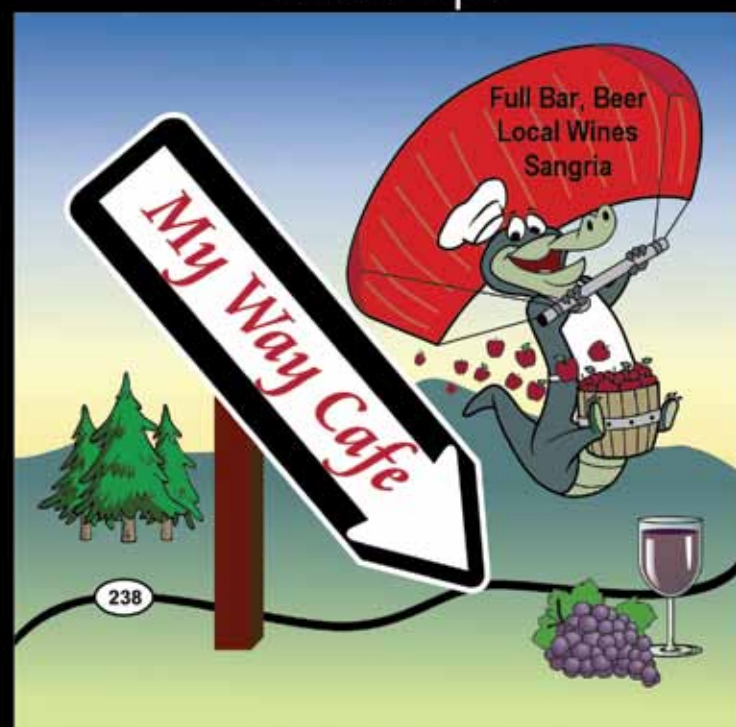


Photos, clockwise from top left:
 —Frank and Pat Peterson introduced the Applegater to Moscow, Russia, in Red Square in front of St. Basil Church.
 —Lt. Col. Dave Campassi, Prattville, Alabama; Lt. Col. Rich Halsted (husband of Kellie Crowe Halsted, Applegater); and Lt. Col. Mark Leonard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, travel with the Gater on a mission in Kabul, Afghanistan.
 —Jeff Stob in Les Houches, France, relaxes with the Applegater before hiking the Mt. Blanc Trail.
 —Wilderville residents Bob and Denise Scheel hike with the Gater through the French, Swiss and Italian Alps.
 —John Taylor, a former Oregonian, shares the Applegater with a bronze policeman sculpted by Andras Illyes in Budapest.
 —Linda Yates, originally from Texas and now a New Zealand Gaterhead, shows off the Applegater at the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey.



Keep those articles, letters, opinions and "Reading the Gater" photos coming in. You are the Gater! The Applegater Staff and Board

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