

Applegater

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Photo by Mikell Nielsen

SUMMER 2013
Volume 6, No. 2

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 9,200

Postal Patron

Is there a future for the *Applegater*?



For over 19 years we have published the *Applegater*, a small community newspaper that has helped us learn the history of the area, explore the beauty of our surroundings from hiking trails to the stars above, offer readers' opinions, celebrate the winner of the spelling bee, and so much more. This paper has put many people in touch with the who, what, when, where, and why in our Applegate watershed area—all at no charge to residents. Volunteers have made this happen—whether they are writers, copy editors, proofers, or members of the dedicated mailing crew or the intrepid Board of Directors.

But "The times they are a-changin'." **Here's the big news!**

Three of our board members are retiring soon, and we must find replacements in order to continue running the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., and publishing the *Applegater*.

So...we invite each and every one of you to join us at a public forum to decide the future of the paper on:

Tuesday, June 11
6:30 pm
Ruch Library
Highway 238

We are looking to revitalize our Board of Directors with younger talent who have

new ideas and enough energy to keep this newspaper, a mainstay of the community, in print.

At this public meeting, we would like you—our readers—to tell us what you want.

- Are there some energetic folks willing to step up and join the board with their fresh new ideas, especially for fund-raising?
- Are you willing to continue to donate to the paper to keep it financially afloat?

If the answers are "no," then we reluctantly may have to say our final good-byes and thank the readers, the writers and

the 50-plus volunteers who have supported us over the years. It's been a great ride, indeed!

But if the answers are "yes," then the *Applegater* newspaper has a fighting chance to make it to 20 years and beyond.

Here's to high hopes and a great turnout on June 11. Thank you for your support!

Board of Directors
Applegate Valley Community
Newspaper, Inc.
gater@applegater.org

Note: If you are unable to attend this meeting, please feel free to email your comments to us at gater@applegater.org.



**Kudos and heartfelt gratitude
to all our volunteers over the years!
Enjoy this photo gallery of
a few of our loyal supporters.**



INSIDE THE GATER

Grammy-winning recording engineer runs studio....page 9 Dragonflies: Lords of the air.....page 16
NEW! Gen Y Worldview: Degree worthwhile?.....page 15 Celebrate Applegate Valley Day on June 22.....page 22

A huge THANKS to the generous donors who contributed to the *Applegater*.

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

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Supporter \$51 - \$200
Sponsor \$5 - \$50

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

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

Like us on Facebook!

Just go to our website at www.applegater.org and click on "Find us on Facebook" ... or search "*Applegater* Newspaper on Facebook."

Seventh and eighth graders help make our community a safer place to live!

BY CAREY CHAPUT

The Applegate Valley Fire District responds to approximately 600 emergencies every year. Medical emergencies make up over 80% of the fire district's service calls. Timing is everything when it comes to emergency services. Having the confidence to act in emergency situations comes from either intuitiveness or experience. You can play a big part by knowing how and when to call 9-1-1.

Applegate and Ruch Elementary Schools have both joined in our efforts to deliver the most effective emergency services by electing to learn the latest in Hands-Only CPR training. This program is part of a southern Oregon initiative developed by the American Heart Association to increase the knowledge and skills for Hands-Only CPR in our region. There were 180 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests recorded in Jackson County last year and 270,000 in the United States. Increasing a bystander's ability, skills and confidence can greatly increase survival rates.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students are learning the skills that will empower them to act with confidence in the case of a sudden cardiac arrest. Through this initiative, they are learning first-aid skills, CPR skills and how to help someone who is choking. This program has been developed to provide students with the ability to recognize an emergency and act in a safe and confident manner.

As part of their homework assignment, students are required to teach others in the community as they have learned. Be on the lookout for these students who have now acquired the skills and the kits to continue their education for years to come.

Planning ahead

A big part of serving the community comes in preventing emergency situations through outreach and education. We feel communication is a key component to serving our constituents by sharing the latest information from managing wildfire to seasonal safety tips to the latest method in providing first aid and CPR.

Here are some planning strategies

DEADLINES

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

that may assist you in the event of an emergency.

- Situational awareness is paramount to your safety. Take a moment to know where you are and the conditions of the emergency before you place the 9-1-1 call.
- Have information available when needed. Did you know that emergency responders always look on the refrigerator for Medical History Forms when responding to an unconscious person? Having a list of important phone numbers and current medications and allergies in a Medical History Form can help us save your life. You can find a fillable form on the fire district's website at <http://www.applegatefd.com>. Take the time to review and plan for your family needs.

- Would you need special help in an emergency? Disaster Registry provides the names and locations of people who need special assistance to fire, police and rescue workers. Please contact the Rogue Valley Council of Governments to find out more information at 541-664-6676 or 541-474-5947.

- This is definitely the season to start working in the yard, mowing grass and moving firewood away from the home. It is also the best time to think about what you would take if you had to evacuate. Have you thought about having supplies that could last 72 hours for you and your family?

- Don't forget your animals. Make prior arrangements with someone who could handle your animals if needed.

As you plan ahead, think about what you would do in the case of an emergency and please also consider your medical needs. Be prepared so that we can serve you in the best way possible. It is our mission to respond to the needs of our citizens and to be recognized as professionals dedicated to making the Applegate Valley a better place to live. We are honored to serve you.

Please contact fire district office manager Carey Chaput at 541-899-1050 if you would like more information on any of these planning strategies.

Carey Chaput • 541-899-1050

Summer masthead photo credit

Mikell Nielsen of Williams captured this shot of the Applegate Valley Lavender Farm in Grants Pass.

Photo Specs

To be printable, all photos submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi) or "large format" (e.g., 30" x 40").

Advertisers!

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

With a circulation of 9,200 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:

Jackson County—Sally Buttshaw
541-646-8418
sallybuttshaw@gmail.com

Josephine County—Shawn Zimmerman
541-414-7301
theszfamily@gmail.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* Newspaper is published quarterly by the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., and is funded by donations from our loyal readers and advertisements for local businesses.

Special thanks to Barbara Holiday for layout; Chris Allen, Sue Maesen, Margaret della Santina and Paul Tipton for editing; Kaye Clayton, P. R. Kellogg and Paul Tipton for proofing; and Rona Jones for bookkeeping.

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PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

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

All articles submitted to the *Applegater* are subject to edit at the newspaper's discretion.

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., 30" x 40"). 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.

Applegater
c/o Applegate Valley
Community Newspaper, Inc.
P.O. Box 14
Jacksonville, OR 97530
Email: gater@applegater.org
Website: www.applegater.org

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Community Calendar

AA Meeting There is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous every Wednesday at 7 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 Connie Johnson at budcon@charter.net or 541-476-2567, or Angie Bifano-Sokol at angiebifano@hotmail.com or 541-862-8228. Visit our website at <http://aauwgrantspass.org>, and see us on Facebook.

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 Road at 7:30 pm, except for the months of March, April and May, which are held at Headquarters, 1095 Upper Applegate Road. For more information, call 541-899-1050.

Applegate 4-H Swine Club meets on Tuesdays 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 at 1095 Upper Applegate Road at 6 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 Community Grange meets the second Sunday of each month at 6 pm for a potluck and at 7 pm for a business meeting. Call 541-846-7501.

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 on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at Ruch Library. All are welcome. 541-899-7438.

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

Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation meets the second Wednesday of January, April, July and October at 6 pm at Applegate Fire District Station 1, 18489 North Applegate Road. For more information, 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, 10:30 am - noon. Recommended donation is \$5. Reservations are required. Call 541-899-8627 or email info@sanctuaryone.org.

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association meets the first Monday of each month at 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 am, followed by the Bluegrass Jam, 11 am to 1 pm. Closed July and August. 20100 Williams Hwy. near Tetherow Rd. For more information, call 541-846-6844.

Williams Grange #399 Business Meeting, second Tuesday of each month, 7 pm. 20100 Williams Hwy. near Tetherow Rd. For more information, call 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.

NEW! MOVIE & BOOK REVIEWS

— Movie —

Title: *42*

Reviewer rating: **5 Apples**



(1 Apple—Don't bother, 5 Apples—Don't miss)

PG-13; Biographical sports drama; 2 hours, 8 minutes

Opened: April 2013

Cast: Chadwick Boseman, Harrison Ford, Christopher Meloni, John C. McGinley, T.R. Knight, Lucas Black and Nicole Beharie.

Writer-Director: Brian Helgeland

A big HIT for opening weekend, *42* is a home run! This movie includes an excellent cast and tells not only of the first two years of Jackie Robinson's career (Robinson is played by Chadwick Boseman), but also that of Brooklyn Dodgers' General Manager Branch Rickey (played by Harrison Ford).

The movie depicts the story of a real hero, Jackie Robinson, an African-American who broke through Major League Baseball's race barrier in 1947 when he signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson did not just play baseball; he was actually better at football and basketball. He also excelled at track and field, particularly triple jump and long jump. And not only was he a phenomenal athlete, he was an integral part of the civil rights movement.

I am rooting for this movie—it's very emotional, uplifting and beautifully done! A must-see—take me out to the ball game!

Sharon Thompson • thompsonsharon99@yahoo.com

Ed. Note: *The reviewer is an ardent moviegoer—often watching the same movie in the theater multiple times.*

— Books —

The Hemingway Book Club of Kosovo

by Paula Huntley

I got a new (used) book in the mail on Monday, and I finished reading it Tuesday morning. If you are someone who reads for pleasure, you probably sometimes find yourself with a stack of partially read books, none of which gives you that desired Wow! feeling. I've been waiting for a book that really grabbed me, and this was it: *The Hemingway Book Club of Kosovo* by Paula Huntley (2003). Although I had never heard of her or it, and I have a half-dozen other books going, none have carried me away as this book did.

In past years I've read Rebecca West's eleven-hundred-plus-page supposedly definitive history of the Balkans, *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon*, and I have loved the recent dreamlike *Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obrecht, and a number of Josip Novakovich's books. But nothing has made me feel as though I was happily holding hands with living Kosovars the way *The Hemingway Book Club* did. The book is available on Amazon for pennies.

The author's husband was doing volunteer work helping Kosovo set up a legal system, but Paula Huntley was one of the only accompanying spouses. She very quickly saw the need, overcame her fears, and plunged into teaching English and holding book club meetings in her home. She kept a journal and—when the sporadic electricity and Internet access was working—sent her writings to friends and family. Her missives were passed around, and she was approached by a publisher.

Cry the beloved country! I want to go there (or somewhere) and teach English, have a book group! We were in Albania in 2008, briefly, and our group was carefully shuffled around. However, we saw much of what Huntley describes. I vividly remember their black and red flag (which she describes as the most militant flag she's ever seen). I can't say we interacted with many Albanians (we were there to see an ancient Roman ruin), but Huntley's descriptions brought back memories: there was rebar everywhere sticking up from roofs of occupied homes and buildings, awaiting the next floor to be built—or not—some time in the future. Apparently, taxes are not levied until the home or building is completed, with obvious ramifications.

This relatively short book, about 250 pages, will surely appeal to a wide range of readers. Educators will learn that the author had been a teacher in years past, but she states unequivocally that her "...background as a teacher didn't help at all." (I am not so sure I agree with that.) People who care about international law and politics and the work of nongovernmental organizations will recognize the frustrating complexity and occasional glimmers of hope in such work.

Throughout the book is evidence of the author's deep love for her students, and her admiration for their determination to move past—at least on the surface—the horror of their young lives, past a time when villages were razed, the women and girls were raped, and the men and boys were tortured and killed. She feels a humble inadequacy in the face of the Kosovar students' profound gratitude, their astonishment that an American would be pleased to teach and assist them with no thought of reward. It's rather nice to read of a people who don't hate Americans, who really love Americans and who say so at every opportunity. Not to take away from these students' genuine love of their teacher, but we readers realize that much of that gratitude is because of the US-led NATO precision bombing of Serbia.

A marvelous story, a delight to those who love stories. A history lesson. A geography lesson. A thoughtful reflection for those who cogitate over why we humans hate and torture and kill and make war on each other. Maybe some remember that the whole mess of the '90s in the Balkans was because Milosevic and his ilk stirred up Serbian emotion over their defeat by the Muslim Turks in the 1400s! Good grief!

Author Paula Huntley is a southern gal who looks back on her college years and later California life with a wry eye on that earlier obliviousness, bigotry, and narrowness.

And now to end with a quote from the book: "Like Jews and Palestinians in Israel/Palestine, both Serbs and Albanians have historical claims to Kosovo. The issue is not who has the strongest or oldest claim, but how everyone can live together peacefully now. I don't argue with the students, though, or say anything about Kosovo, the Illyrians, the Albanians, or the Serbs. But I do mention Native Americans and European immigrants in the US. There are some puzzled faces as they think about that one."

Julia Helm Hoskins • 541-899-8470
julmudgeon@aol.com

BORED?

Check out our online calendar

jam-packed with events all over southwest Oregon.

www.applegater.org

Sanctuary One comes clean... one cup of vinegar at a time

BY BECKY OWSTON

To say that the folks at Sanctuary One are committed to caring for the earth is a bit of an understatement. On any given afternoon, a stroll around the property reveals stewardship at every level: a corps of sun-hatted volunteers lovingly tending to permaculture-inspired gardens; interns diligently adding vegetable scraps, manure and other organics to compost piles, working to create healthy usable soil from materials that would otherwise be turned into waste; groups of visiting schoolkids enjoying up-close encounters with rescued pets and farm animals. A cistern catches rainwater for use in the garden, while a drip irrigation system throughout the property conserves as much water as possible. The street-side commingle recycling bin is filled with cans, glass jars and empty cereal boxes, while two newly installed 30-gallon tubs harbor items from baling twine to plastic feed bags slated for fall's plastic roundup.

And starting this month, volunteers are taking Sanctuary One's sustainability efforts to the next level by creating homemade cleaning products for use at the farm. From herbal disinfectant to laundry powder to sink and tile cleanser, the possibilities for producing do-it-yourself (DIY) safe, highly effective cleaners are practically endless. And the benefits

are myriad: it's yet another hands-on opportunity at Sanctuary One, and a great way for staff, interns and volunteers to take ownership of one more important aspect of farm duties. (You'd be amazed at the amount of cat and dog towels, beds and blankets that need to be laundered on a regular basis!) Because all of the ingredients can be purchased in bulk, fewer trips to the store are required. And the cost? A fraction of what you'd pay for a comparable product at the supermarket.

Of course, special consideration is required when using certain natural ingredients in proximity to animals. "Tea tree and some cedar essential oils, for example," says Dr. Jeff Judkins of Animalkind Veterinary Clinic, "are toxic to cats and should always be avoided." As for the efficacy of natural cleaning products in an animal boarding facility? "The goal is not to sterilize (it can't be done), but to sanitize," says Judkins. "Lemon balm and lavender oil have antiviral and antibacterial properties and can be used just as effectively as conventional disinfectants."

The concept of homemade cleaning products is nothing new. Folks have been making their own cleaning supplies since, well, the beginning of dirt. Long before commercial household products were



developed, cleaning was carried out using natural products like vinegar, lemons, salt and bicarbonate of soda. But around the start of the 20th century, things began to change. Commercial household products started showing up on shelves, convincing us of the need for harsh toxic degreasers, defoamers, solvents, descalers, additives and inhibitors to make our countertops shine and our bathtubs sparkle.

But ironically, while keeping our floors glossy and our socks perfumy with these industrial-strength products, we're also exposing ourselves to some pretty serious endocrine disruptors, carcinogens and neurotoxins, which are especially worrisome for people with allergies, asthma and compromised immune systems. Not to mention all the packaging we're adding to the garbage stream.

As we become increasingly conscious

of what goes into our bodies, as well as the impact we have on the planet, it's good to know we've got options. Of course, the market is currently saturated with all sorts of "eco-cleaning" alternatives for those who strive for a chemical-free household, but aren't quite ready to take the DIY plunge. But the high price of these products can be prohibitive. And just because a product has the word "green" on its label or in its marketing verbiage, don't automatically assume it's eco-friendly!

Think you might like to give homemade cleaners a try yourself? An ideal "gateway product" is a simple all-purpose cleaner, one of the easiest sprays to make, requiring ingredients you probably already have in your kitchen. Simply create a 50/50 mix of water and distilled white vinegar. If you like, add a couple drops of lavender, lemon or other essential oil. Pour it into a spray bottle et voilà—it's that easy.

You can find lots of nontoxic household recipes on the Internet. Just search around, read other peoples' comments and don't be afraid to experiment to determine what works best for you. A good resource is http://library.oregonmetro.gov/files/green_cleaners_brochure_2012.pdf.

Another excellent resource is *The Naturally Clean Home: 150 Super-Easy Herbal Formulas for Green Cleaning* by Karyn Siegal-Maier.

Becky Owston

chickmunk@gmail.com

Note: *Becky Owston is a volunteer at Sanctuary One and a 2012 graduate of the Jackson County Master Recyclers program.*

Applegate has a lot to pull for

BY BARBARA SUMMERHAWK

It's not the zombie apocalypse that's going to get us, it's those creepy invasive aliens like star thistle, blackberries, garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, poison hemlock and puncture vine settling into our fields and roadways that will wreak quiet havoc with our local flora (and consequently fauna) that we should worry about.

In order to educate local citizens about noxious weed control, the Cooperative Weed Management Association (CWMA) is planning a "Let's Pull Together" event scheduled for June 15 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Coyote Trails Nature Center in Medford. Two hours of pulling followed by a barbecue and raffle will be informative as well as fun.

"Mainly, we will be pulling ivy, puncture vine and yellow star thistle," explains Sam Whitridge of the CWMA. The CWMA, funded by the Bureau of Land Management, holds monthly meetings of its volunteers to coordinate weed control, and an annual weed pull that Whitridge hopes will "gather as many volunteers as possible" in this outreach on managing the noxious invasive.

Star thistle is no stranger to valley residents. It is a native of Eurasia that made its way via South America into California about the time of the Gold Rush. As most residents surely know, star

thistle infests roadsides and open areas, rapidly depleting soil moisture. Lovers of strong light, star thistle can have a seed output as high as 30,000 seeds per square yard. Control cannot be completed in one season and has to be ongoing, according to weed management authorities. Mowing and cultivation types of control have to be accurately timed. Burning, grazing goats, sheep or cattle on star thistle can also be effective. (Star thistle is, however, poisonous to horses.) There are also a variety of biological management possibilities using certain insects.

The Himalayan blackberry, which attracts pickers along Oregon roadsides later in the summer, is a European shrub that was introduced to the U.S. as a crop in the late 19th century, but escaped cultivation and invaded low-level stream areas. Blackberries can provide some erosion control and stream cover, but native plants are superior for these purposes. Management involves mowing or hand slashing, then removing or killing the roots and seeding native vegetation.

A summer annual broadleaf weed native to southern Europe is the puncture vine. It has a deep taproot system that competes aggressively for soil water and nutrients. Management can be achieved through reducing the amount of seeds in the soil by removing the plants before they

produce seeds, at or before flowering. This is usually accomplished by hand removal, hoeing and raking.

Introduced from Europe as a food plant, the garlic mustard is rapidly becoming a serious concern in forests across the land. Like the other weeds mentioned here, garlic mustard has a very high seed production rate and needs to be controlled by hand-pulling entire individual plants or by herbicides. Plants can grow three feet tall and have small, white, four-petaled flowers. The leaves often smell like garlic when they are crushed. Although mechanical control (hand-pulling, hoeing, etc.) would be ideal when thinking of environmental impact, it may not be sufficient, making herbicides an alternative for large, dense infestations of not only garlic mustard, but also all of these noxious invaders. Contact the CWMA or the local county extension office for recommendations on herbicides and how to use them.

Poison hemlock is the beautifully green, tall, white flowering perennial commonly found near wetter disturbed areas. This invasive plant looks like Queen Anne's lace, but don't be fooled: this species is toxic to humans and animals. Poison hemlock can be eradicated by mechanical means or hand-pulling, but be sure to wear protective gloves and clothing.

Last to be listed, but not the final invasive species found in the Rogue basin, is the Japanese knotweed, which has recently made its debut in the Applegate Valley near the Williams Creek area. This



Japanese knotweed, the latest noxious weed to hit the Applegate area.

species will overrun native riparian buffer plantings. The stems emerge in late March to mid April and can be over six feet tall before May. It is a spreading noxious weed that has to be controlled through the rhizomes.

Residents who want to read in depth about these noxious flora can check out the link on the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) website at <http://www.apwc.info/news-events/invasive-species-information/>. We are one of this year's sponsors of the "Let's Pull Together" event in June and hope to continue providing the Applegate Valley with important information about invasive weeds. The first level of management is education, and by "pulling together" with neighbors and friends we can learn how to rid the valley of these noxious invaders. The CWMA along with the APWC and other sponsoring groups hope to see you out there on June 15.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Mulching out loud

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Mulching comes in basically two flavors: “vanilla” (organic) and “chocolate” (inorganic). Since my preference is vanilla, this is what I will basically be discussing. One quick comment on chocolate mulch: I was recently reprimanded by “lower management” (hubby) because I wanted to use old tarps, shower curtains, large plastic sheets or synthetic rugs to mulch away weeds (i.e., death by asphyxiation).

As for the above “fake” mulches, “lower management” disallowed (i.e., nixed) my using them anywhere on the property for weed control or otherwise—whatever “otherwise” includes—because they break down, leaving a trail of toxins to permeate the soil.

Although organic in itself is good, arm yourself with knowledge as to the various types of organic mulches. This is not a “one-size-fits-all” deal. All mulches are not the same and not all mulches are good for all plants. Also be mindful of *how* you mulch. When mulching around the trunk or base of plants, mulch of any type should *not* touch or pile up next to the plant base. Mulch usually holds moisture. If it is covering the stalk or tree trunk, eventually rot will happen. One exception would be mulching for winter protection of a tender plant. (Of course you would remember to remove it with the first warm days. *You* wouldn't want to be wrapped in a blanket all summer, would you?)

Before I roam off into the twilight, how about I just mention what mulch is all about. The following few paragraphs are from Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mulch>):

“A mulch is a layer of material applied

to the surface of an area of soil. Its purpose is any or all of the following: to conserve moisture, to improve the fertility and health of the soil, to reduce weed growth, to enhance the visual appeal of the area.”

Organic mulches

“Organic mulches decay over time and are temporary. The way a particular organic mulch decomposes and reacts to wetting by rain and dew affects its usefulness.”

“A variety of materials are used as mulch. Organic residues: grass clippings, leaves, hay straw, kitchen scraps, comfrey, shredded bark, whole bark nuggets, sawdust, shells, wood chips, shredded newspaper, cardboard, wood and animal

manure, etc. Many of these materials also act as a direct composting system, such as the mulched clippings of a mulching lawn mower or other organics applied as sheet composting.”

Okay, now for my own thoughts and opinions. Some gardeners absolutely feel that rotten leaves are the only and the best mulch. Others lay down their hoe and rake for straw. In my lifetime of gardening, I have used everything including old ratty wool rugs. I cannot imagine rows of slippery straw between our raised vegetable beds any more than I can imagine concrete in our poultry scratching area.

With all my reading and attempting to pull together the importance and types of mulch, I never once (probably just missed it) saw mention of one of my best friends, rice hulls! See if you can follow this. We have chickens, geese and ducks. Inside their king-size sleeping suite is a concrete floor (not their scratching area), covered with rice hulls. This keeps the floor dry from you-know-what-birds-do. When the rice hulls are icky enough with chicken, duck and geese droppings, I shovel it all into a wheelbarrow and mix it into the soil in the raised beds. I have been doing this for years, and the soil is very happy. You might be about to ask, “Isn't the chicken poop too hot?” First off, there is not that much poop since it is mixed with rice hulls and soil. Second, I do not plant in the poopy rice hulls and soil immediately (usually it takes around two to three months for it to “cool” down enough).

This spring when I began planting my cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, kale, etc.), I was too lazy



Sioux Rogers—And the beet goes on.

or tired to dig the rice hulls into the soil. So, there the hulls sat, butt-naked on top of the soil. As usual, I placed each small new plant inside the now-famous clear three-inch bottom cut out of plastic cups. A few years ago when I first started using the clear plastic cups it was for slug control, but I still needed to go outside for several nights with a flashlight and clippers to do away with those wee slimy leaf-n-plant eaters. This season, I did my nightly ritual but saw no slugs. The seedlings did fine, now growing over the top of the cups.

Several weeks ago I found a few more cole crops I wanted to plant. So back to the raised garden beds with the rice hulls sitting on top. Dang! Ran out of clear cups and not about to run back to the store! A light went on in my head. Maybe the wee slimy leaf-eating slugs did not like their bellies scratched by the rice hulls—aha! I decided to experiment and planted the last cool-weather crops without the plastic cup barrier. So far there has been no difference between hulls on top of the soil or dug into the soil. This could be worth a closer look as a time-and-money saver.

This article was written for “lower management” about how rice hulls keep away the little slugs and are a great “vanilla” mulch.

Dirty fingernails and all
Sioux Rogers
541-846-7736
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Apparently rice hulls deterred the wee slugs' appetite for leaves, even though plastic cup barriers were not used.

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BACK IN TIME

Growing up on a squirrel ranch

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

I knew quite a few “squirrel ranchers” when growing up in the Applegate. My family was one of them, so I am quite qualified to clarify our status from the other kinds of ranchers and farmers here. Of course, the squirrel ranch name started because the disliked digger squirrels were already on the premises. There was no disgrace in living on such a place, but there was no income to be made from the squirrel. One could have some chickens, raise a garden and grow some hay for a milk cow, as we did, but rich you would never be on the squirrel ranch.

In 1930, my dad started working for the forest service at Star Ranger Station, just during the summer months or fire season. For about ten years, he was either at a guard station or up on Tallowbox lookout, so mother was left to run our ranch with the help of us children. I loved our squirrel ranch, but hated the work. Everyone had to do his or her part. My brother, Morris, ten years older than me, and my sister, Gladys, eight years older, had learned to milk the cow. I decided I didn't want to learn to milk, and I didn't! At a very young age, I made up my mind that I wanted to live in the country, but not do farming or ranch work.

One of my favorite activities was fishing. Since we lived so close to the river, we had many fish dinners. Morris taught me all the fishing techniques and we would have contests to see who caught the first, largest, or the most. Rainbow trout was our favorite.

Our dog, a shepherd we called Pat, also liked to fish. When he heard me getting my fishing pole from our back porch, he would go crazy with excitement. I had taught him to stay close beside me when fishing, and when I caught one I would throw the line so the fish would land quite a ways behind us. He would run and jump on the fish, paws firmly keeping it there for me to remove the hook. He and I had many happy times together.

Horses and cows were not for me. One time when I was about seven, my grandpa, whose farm was on both sides of the Applegate River, was going to cross the river with his mower and team of horses



Photo above: John Byrne milking a cow, a chore that daughter Evelyn chose not to learn at an early age. **Photo right:** Evelyn Byrne fishing on the Applegate River, one of her favorite “chores,” with Pat the dog.



on his way home from cutting hay all day. He had his derrick horse following in the back and wanted me to ride her across the river ahead of him. I told him I had never ridden a horse and he said it was about time I did. He put me up on her bare back and handed me the reins. I grabbed her mane and we started across. The moss-covered river rocks were my undoing when she slipped and slid in midstream. Off I plunged into the water, madder than a wet hen. Grandpa was laughing at me as my horse went on across. I ran home and told mother what grandpa had done and she only seemed to be relieved that I had not drowned.

I did like chickens. When dad built our chicken house and mother brought some baby chicks home, I was so excited. I helped with the feeding and watched them grow up and start laying eggs. I never complained about helping with the monthly cleaning of the roosts and floors. Black Leaf 40 (nicotine) was brushed on the pole roosts to kill chicken lice, and fresh straw or hay was put on the floors. It was interesting to see how the chickens reacted to the cleanliness. They actually talked all about it while scratching the straw or hay and preening.

I liked gathering the eggs each evening from the nests at the far end of the building. Sometimes, a hen wanted to become a mother and was found refusing to move from her nest of several eggs. I was happy if I was given permission by my mother to stay there while I watched over

the hen until the little chickens hatched.

In the mornings, mother had clabbered milk to pour over the store-bought “chicken mash” that had been put in the feed boxes. Those chickens were as happy as kids at an ice-cream social. They hurriedly gulped it all down before spending the rest of the day outside, nibbling green grass, hunting bugs, and eating the crushed oyster shells needed for their digestive systems. However, outside there were hawks to fear—they could quickly swoop down and effortlessly grab a chicken, especially a small one, and sail off with it for a meal.

I never wanted to witness when it was time for a chicken to become a chicken dinner or when all were past their prime. I usually made an excuse to go visit my grandma across the river. Later I would see some canning jars filled with those many chicken parts. I must admit, after some time, to liking the many meals of chicken noodles, dumplings, and soups from those dear chickens.

This story ends with the “old chicken-house” episode. I had come home from school with some leftover powdered poster paints that you could mix with water. I could hardly wait to get home to show my treasures to mother. But she wasn't there, so I decided to go ahead and surprise her by painting the back of our chicken house with a mural in all those wonderful

primary colors with some black and white mixed in. I climbed a ladder to start my masterpiece. I don't remember what I painted, but know it was very bright and colorful. It was finished by the time I heard mother coming in our car and I could hardly wait for her happy reaction.

I think she almost had a heart attack when she saw my mural from Palmer Creek Road before driving down our driveway. As she got out of the car, there was a frown on her face and I knew she was upset. She came to me and said my artwork could not stay there, so I had to get a bucket of soapy water and a broom to scrub it all off. She did lose her frown and, putting her arm around me, said it was a beautiful painting but it was not for the chicken house that could be seen by everyone driving on our road. I still don't understand why it was so bad, but I am happy to say my artwork was never forgotten—a faint and spotty coloring remained on the old chicken house for many years.

Seems I have strayed from the squirrels, but I truly enjoyed the chickens on our squirrel ranch.

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre
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THE STARRY SIDE

Miracles of a balanced universe

BY GREELEY WELLS

ASTRONOMICAL DETAIL

What is the sun, this machine of heat and light?

It's a balance of two unbelievably powerful forces. One, an inward force, is gravity—way stronger than our gravity because the sun is a million times bigger than earth is. Bigger objects exert a more powerful gravitational pull; smaller objects, like our moon, exert less. That's why astronauts can dance and jump on our small moon almost weightlessly. The second is an outward force: the sun is literally a hydrogen bomb! A huge and continuous explosion is taking place all over the star. Gigantic sprays and waves of energy, flames and other things are blasting out from the sun's surface. All this is going on 93 million mile—safely away from us. We are at the perfect distance: not too far, not too close. This is yet another miracle of a balance in our universe that benefits us.

THE NIGHT SKY

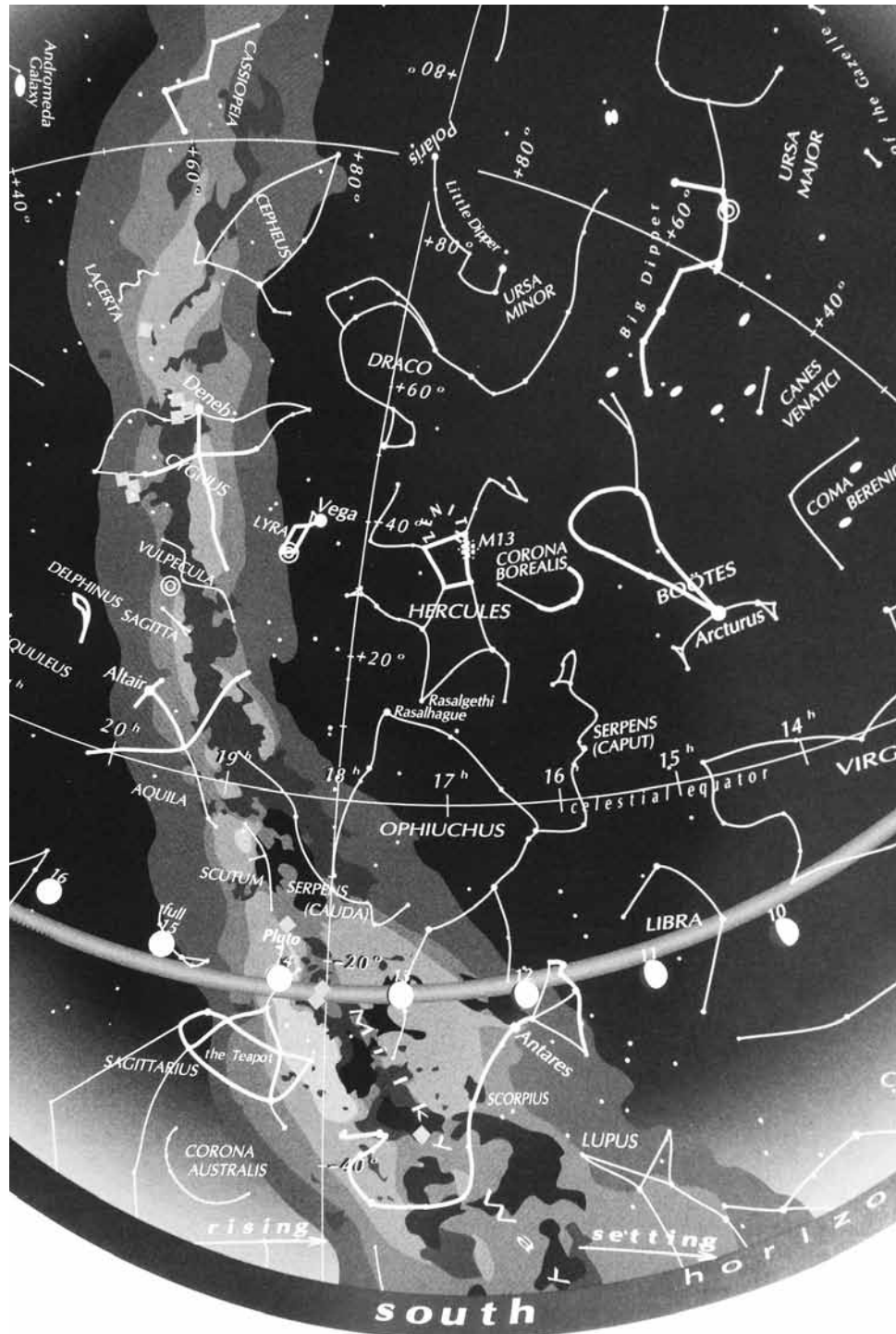
Writing this, I'm out at 4 am in April, but I'm seeing the summer sky. I often describe how early mornings give you a sneak preview of the next season. So spring mornings reveal summer nights, and I feel a kind of nostalgia for the next season's delights...in this case its warmth!

The beloved Summer Triangle is up fully in the east, made up of the three bright stars: Vega, Altair and Deneb. The bright Vega is overhead in Lyra. Altair is the brightest middle star in Aquila, to the south. (The three-in-a-row stars in the constellation of Aquila are like the Orion's belt of summer.) Deneb is at the northern end (top) of the Northern Cross.

The Northern Cross, with Deneb at the top, is really Cygnus the swan with her beautiful long neck, outstretched wings, and short tail. She glides gracefully south toward the center of our galaxy right next to the archer Sagittarius. If you've got a clear view of the southern sky, you will be able to see this constellation known by the English as the "teapot," of course. (They also call the big dipper "the plow.")

In the middle of all this is the beautiful Milky Way stretching across the sky from Cassiopeia (just behind my northern mountains to overhead) and on to Sagittarius in the south. The Milky Way makes an interesting split right overhead, in the middle of the Northern Cross, and then keeps going.

Sagittarius' small triangular spout on the right seems to spurt out the milky way, the milk for English tea. Our galactic center is close to the upper right of that triangular spout. For many years now, physicists and astronomers have been searching with strong telescopes and other sensing devices to see what is happening at our galactic center. Scientists are now sure there's a powerful black hole there;



Starting from the south, there's the Teapot and Scorpius. Hercules and Lyra are overhead and outside the Milky Way. Altair, Vega and Deneb make the Summer Triangle. What other fascinating stuff catches your eyes? Illustration: Guy Ottewill's Astronomical Calendar 2012.

the stars they can track spin extremely fast as they approach that center and spin back out. Those star motions help us imagine what we cannot see, since black holes themselves, logically, cannot be seen. Scientists have determined that this particular black hole is so far away that we have absolutely nothing to fear from it. In fact, it is doing us a great service as its strong gravitation keeps the galaxy moving on its path through the universe.

Look a little south and farther to the right of Sagittarius, and you'll see another three-in-a-row set. This one is vertically placed; it's the head and shoulders of a scorpion. Look to their left and another three-in-a-row appear: the scorpion's back (the bright one in the middle is Antares, the rival of Mars). Red, isn't it? Farther left or east are two small stars side by side; they are Scorpio's stinger, connected to the body by a long line of stars going down below, swinging up to the right, and connecting with the diagonal three-in-a-row. It's a good picture of a scorpion.

THE PLANETS

Venus in June is low in the sunset dusk, playing with Mercury and Jupiter. Venus and Mercury are two degrees apart at dusk on June 20. (A degree is about one finger's width held at arm's length.) At dusk on the night of June 9, a slim crescent moon is visible just below Venus. The next day it's to the left of Venus and Mercury. On July 22 the blue/white Regulus, in Leo, joins the sunset play just one degree below the brighter yellow/white Venus. This is a good time to compare planet and star colors and actions; they'll be in one view using binoculars and telescopes. Note the blinking quality of stars and the relative steadiness of planets. That's distance for you. On August 9, dusk finds a crescent moon close to Venus, after being close to Regulus the day before.

Jupiter is falling in June, from below Venus to fading in the sun's glare by mid-month. July finds Jupiter in the dawn along with Mars. On August 31 a crescent moon visits Jupiter in the dawn.

Mars is not visible in June at all, as it's mainly in the sun's glare.

But in July Mars rises in the dawn with Jupiter. Near the end of July, Mars begins to rise bright and golden orange in the dawn to the upper left of the brighter yellow/white Jupiter. You should be able to get both of them together in a single binocular or moderate telescope view.

Saturn is high up in the sky at dusk close to Spica by month's end. The planet sinks from there all night to the west during June. On July 16 a half moon is right next to Saturn—a good way to find him. Saturn is setting around midnight at the beginning of August, and around 10 pm by month's end.

Mercury starts out in June above Venus, sinking to parallel with her by mid-month at dusk. By July's end he appears in the dawn with Jupiter.

OF NOTE

Meteors of the Gamma Delphinids are "very favorable" this year on Tuesday, June 11. Near dawn is the best time to catch them, but any time gives you some meteors. Your patience and attention span are the two main ingredients to successful meteor gazing.

The summer solstice is June 21. The days are the longest and the nights the shortest—but most fun for stargazing.

The moon appears biggest on Sunday, June 23. This is because it is at its closest point to the earth, and simultaneously in its fullness. This June full moon is called the Flower, Rose or Strawberry Moon. July's full moon on the 22nd, is known as the Hay or Thunder Moon. The full moon on August 21 is known as the Grain or Green Corn Moon.

A late-July dawn gem: Pollux and Caster, the Gemini twins, are to the left of Mercury, Mars and Jupiter (with the rising Orion to the right) in the dawn sky as the month of July ends.

The Delta Aquarids are active in the last week of July. The best nights will be July 30 and 31. At the same time, a minor shower of Alpha Capricornids are "very favorable."

The grand finale of meteors is the Perseids! Always on August 12-13, these are the year's best, a must-see. No excuses this summer; it's warm, they are overhead, and the moon sets before predawn when the best viewing is possible (although any time will be rewarding). While you watch for them, you can gaze on Orion rising in the east as an early sign of the approaching winter.

Of special note is the first sighting of Comet ISON at the end of August in the dawn.

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TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

A new sunrise

BY RAUNO PERTTU

A year ago, after dementia had slowly destroyed my beloved wife, Jan, she passed away. At the end, her dementia had even stolen her ability to swallow food or water, but the Jan I knew had been stolen away by this terrible disease long before that.

My son Kirk and daughter Emily, concerned about me being alone, said I should start dating. The thought of dating was strange and somewhat frightening after so many years of marriage. At their urging, and with the additional urging of more family and friends, I began to date—an unfamiliar ritual after 40 years.

I took a few very nice ladies to dinner, and confirmed that I much prefer the companionship of a lady to being alone. I also recognized that, after decades of a happy marriage, I was actually looking for a serious relationship. The ladies I met were mostly divorced and looking for someone to take them to dinner, a show, or a social event, but nothing serious.

I commented to Kirk and Emily that there aren't many single ladies in our rural Applegate Valley. They said I should check out the online dating sites. I said I couldn't do that, but they replied, "Everyone does it these days," and added that's how some of their friends had met. Kirk recommended one that he said is probably the most-used site with the most people.

With their urging, I decided to take the plunge. I answered the online questions and reviewed the profiles of the local ladies on the site. It soon became almost a morning ritual to check out who had looked at my profile and whom the site had flagged for me to review. One day, I noticed that I could also see who had looked at my site but moved on, presumably with no interest. I promptly checked out who had checked me out and

moved on to better candidates.

Among this list of uninterested ladies was a pretty face with a big smile that immediately caught my attention. Her write-up was sincere and unpretentious. She was a widow after almost 40 years of a happy marriage. When she wrote that her idea of a fun date was taking a walk along the shore, then topping it off with fish tacos, I became intrigued. When she wrote that she was a "smile machine," I was interested. I could get accustomed to that smile.

However, there were two immediate problems—she had rejected me, and she lived in La Paz on the Baja Peninsula in Mexico. La Paz is not just right next door, and I wondered why she was living there. I decided on a cautious approach. I emailed her to ask for her advice. I told her I had also lost a spouse after 40 years, was out of practice with meeting ladies, and did she have any advice?

To my delight, she sent me a nice reply. We quickly exchanged a long flurry of emails. She had rejected me because I had mentioned that, as an Oregon university graduate, I enjoy Ducks football. Her image was of me sprawled on the sofa watching football in my t-shirt while smashing empty beer cans against my forehead. I was able to convince her it's not that bad. My forehead isn't tough enough for beer cans, and my t-shirt is usually clean. It turned out she and her

Her image was of me sprawled on the sofa watching football in my t-shirt while smashing empty beer cans against my forehead.

husband had come to La Paz on their sailboat after sailing in the South Pacific and had fallen in love with the town. They bought a house, sold their boat, met many wonderful people and settled in. After her husband died, also at a too-early age, she, like me, realized she would rather share her life than live alone.

During our emailing, I got her real name, Ana Hall, and her Skype number. We were soon able to see and hear each other, which was much better than just emails. Somewhere in the midst of all our conversations, I thought, "What are we doing? She's almost two thousand miles from here." Her reply to my concern was "So what? We've both done a lot of traveling."

I thought she was right and booked a flight to La Paz. Because of all the time we had spent online and on Skype, when we met for the first time it seemed that we already knew each other. To me, she was even better in person. My week in La Paz passed quickly and happily. That trip was soon followed by two weeks spent together mostly in San Francisco (medical follow-ups—she's a cancer survivor), with a quick trip to the Applegate.

I soon made a second trip to La Paz. While there, I noticed that La Paz's warm sunshine felt better on my old face than our cold winter wind and rain. We were soon discussing spending future winters in La Paz.

For 26 years, I have enjoyed this special

property on the river. However, as beautiful, comfortable and private as it is, with Jan and the children gone, I was unsuccessfully struggling with maintaining the acreage, house and outbuildings. Although I was trying to resist becoming just another old snowbird, I had also been considering winters in a warmer spot. When Ana told me she hates the winter cold, we had the obvious answer: winters in La Paz.

Although I don't yet speak Spanish, she is fluent, I want to learn, and there is a flourishing community of other snowbirds in La Paz. Ana soon volunteered to join me in the Applegate to get my house ready for sale. I don't think she knew what she had volunteered for, because she had no idea how much I had accumulated over the years. She has become an expert seller on eBay, and knows how to separate the worthwhile from the junk. We are planning an estate sale and yard sale(s) so we can sell the house. I hadn't appreciated how much I had let the house, outbuildings and property deteriorate during the years when Jan was declining. All this means that we will both be busy getting the house emptied and repaired for sale, while squeezing in ample goof-off time.

I love the Applegate Valley, which has been my year-round home for the past 26 years. However, starting this coming winter, I plan to sadly miss those cold winter days in the Applegate, while having to tolerate warm sunshine in La Paz. A new sunrise has dawned for Ana and me. Our spouses would be happy for us.

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Rauno Perttu

Sap tap wrap 2

BY LAIRD FUNK

February! What a sweet month for our local bigleaf maple tappers! After our January maple flows, things seemed to slow down a bit entering into February. We wondered if we were done and should start cleaning up and putting our equipment away for the season. We had finished off the month with three quarts of syrup put away and were hoping for more in February, but it looked like we were going to be out of luck.

But a week into the month the weather took a cold turn and we woke up to a good freeze with a sunny afternoon forecast to follow and we hit the woods again. Due to the low period, many of our tap holes had started to seal up and were not giving what they could. So we spent a couple hours drilling new holes in our trees and moving the taps. I ended up with 30 spiles in 28 trees, and the collection jugs started filling rapidly. We were back in the syrup business!

Tapping bigleaf maples differs in a couple ways from the traditional sugar maple tapping back east. On the east coast, the sugar maples usually do not flow until the end of February or the beginning of March when the freeze relents enough for the sap to start moving in the trees. There it freezes hard enough to actually freeze the trees and they must thaw before collection can begin.

In Oregon, because we do not experience the same hard-freezing weather, the flow pattern is quite different. As noted in a landmark 1971 study on bigleaf tapping done by the U.S. Forest Service, in the coast range bigleaf maples can flow all the way from early October right after leaf drop to late February when the buds start to swell, depending on the weather. Records kept for the study showed that the sugar content of the sap increased as the season progressed, with levels starting out below 1 percent in early months but often reaching the standard 2 percent Brix (sugar) in late January and early February.

Our experience locally last February was similar. While our first flow in January gave sap with a Brix level of just 1 percent, it had increased to about 1.25 percent by end of month. When the sap flow started in February, the levels continued to increase with the flows from the second week averaging 1.5 percent. By the last week of collecting, the Brix level was right at 2 percent!

I collected almost exactly the same amount of sap in January as I did in February in the same amount of time. But the increased Brix levels made a big difference. While our finished syrup in January totaled about three quarts, February's return from the same amount of sap was over five quarts, and we used about

25 percent less propane for that increase than we used in January! Between the two months, two gallons of sweet maple syrup was stashed in the pantry for use over the next year. While we do use a lot of it here at home, a bunch of it gets given away for birthday and Christmas gifts to lucky folks.

The main bigleaf maple event is the Bigleaf Maple Syrup Festival held in February each year on Vancouver Island. The public gets to see tree-tapping and syrup-making, and there is a tasting contest for island producers. This year I became the first international entry—or at least I tried hard to be.

Encouraged by friends in British Columbia, I packaged up my sample a couple weeks ahead of time and sent it off. But two weeks later it had not shown up and I missed the judging! A week later it arrived totally covered in Canada customs sealing tape. There was no explanation of the delay or the tape, but clearly it must have really interested customs officers. Maybe the concept of sending maple syrup to Canada just seemed too suspicious. Anyway, my Canadian mentor stashed it in the freezer for next year's contest.

A fun ending to the season came by email from a gentleman named Mike Farrell at Cornell University. Mike runs the maple syrup research program at Cornell and is the director of Cornell's Uihlein Field Station endowed by Henry Uihlein II and Mildred A. Uihlein. He directs research in sugar maple improvement and collection advances. With 5,000 trees all



The Applegater staff recommends trying a maple pudding cake with a large scoop of gourmet French vanilla ice cream.

connected by vacuum lines to a central sugaring building, he is able to collect up to 15 gallons per minute with a push of a button!

Mike is writing a book on tree syrups in North America and was sent the last *Applegater* article by my friend Gary in Ladysmith, British Columbia. I sent Mike a sample of my syrup and he replied that I should be proud of such a great product! He will include a bigleaf section in his book along with sections on sugar maples, box elders, birches and black walnuts. Black walnuts? Yes! Black walnuts! Mike says the syrup is delicious and preferred by some over maple! If you have any black walnuts you would like to experiment with, give me a call!

Laird Funk • 541-846-6759
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THEY LIVE AMONG US

Grammy-winning recording engineer runs studio at Pacifica

BY J.D. ROGERS

Dennis Dragon operates The Studio @ Pacifica. He is also the Grammy-winning recording engineer for "Love Will Keep Us Together" by The Captain & Tennille. The following interview with J.D. Rogers took place at Dennis' recording studio at Pacifica in Williams, Oregon.

J.D.: Dennis, how long have you lived in Williams?

Dennis: I moved here five years ago from Santa Barbara, California.

J.D.: Why did you leave Santa Barbara for Williams?

Dennis: I got really tired of the "Southern California dream," the lack of genuineness of the people, putting on personas, etc. I hate to generalize, but that's how it was. I felt like there were very few genuine humans left down there. Too many "rats in the cage."

J.D.: How is it that Williams is where you wound up?

Dennis: A long-time friend who had been living in Ojai, California, had moved to Williams. I had never even been to Oregon. Always wanted to, but hadn't made the time. I came up to check it out and thought it was really cool. There was actually some air up here and no smog. Having lived in pollution, I appreciated that. The trees looked nice, the sky was blue. This would be a good place to hang, I thought.

Then my friend asked me if I'd like to see Steve Miller's old recording studio. What? Steve Miller had a studio here? I've got to see it. When I did, I knew I had to get in there because, if I had the money, this is exactly how I would have built it. This was designed as a world-class recording studio in a barn!

J.D.: Give us a little background on yourself. Are you a musician and a recording engineer?

Dennis: I've played drums and percussion since the age of five, if that's considered music. A lot of people question that. I played percussion on the road or in the studio with the Beach Boys, Neil Young, the Byrds, Rick Springfield, and the Surf Punks, a band I formed in 1976. I also play a little piano.

From the technical end of it, at a young age I was fascinated with early tape recorders in the mid 1950s that were manufactured by Ampex Corporation that my father would have in his studio. My dad was Carmen Dragon, a symphony conductor, composer and arranger; my mother Eloise was a soprano singer. So music is basically in my blood.

J.D.: Tell me about all those gold and platinum records I was looking at hanging on the wall when I walked into the studio.

Dennis: Ah, the "wall of shame."

J.D.: How were you involved in those recordings?

Dennis: Those recordings were my bread and butter in the mid to late 1970s. My brother Daryl is the Captain of Captain & Tennille. I worked on most of their hits as an engineer in Hollywood. I also worked with Johnny Rivers on some of his hits, and Lou Adler for many years. He's a big producer with a lot of big groups and hits under his belt. So I've done it, but when it turned into being no

there, but that's also human interaction!

That's what I love and that's what I miss in this "perfected technique via computer era" to fix everything—pitch, time, everything is just right. I didn't grow up with that; it's not natural and I don't appreciate it. I'm pretty computer savvy, I can do all that. I just shy away from it.

J.D.: With your engineering and producer background, you are a valuable



Photo, top: Dennis explained to J.D. Rogers about "Recording 101": Volume does not need to be set on 27; most knobs go only to 10. Photo: J.D. Rogers

Photo, bottom: Dennis adjusts vocal recording microphone for Alice DiMichele, who recorded a children's CD at the studio. Photo: Mikey.

fun anymore—too much stress, then it was time to leave. So I left.

J.D.: What's your goal with this studio?

Dennis: Keeping live music alive. I came up here to perpetuate live music recording. Everybody out there in the studio playing at the same time—I think that's how some of the greatest recordings were made. That's what this studio was built for. So there's a little mistake here or

resource for anyone wanting to make a recording.

Dennis: Yeah, I am kind of a great resource because I'm still relatively coherent, too! I remember all the recording techniques going back to the 1950s through today. I have equipment dating back through the years that still sounds fantastic. My computer system over there keeps me up-to-date on all the latest and greatest programs. So all the while I'm

alive and well, I think I consider myself a pretty good resource.

J.D.: Did Steve Miller record any of his hits in here?

Dennis: I've received mixed information on that topic from nothing to a lot. So I don't know. Not that it matters but it would be cool to know he recorded "Fly Like an Eagle" in here. There's a picture of Steve on the wall above your head—he's overseeing us right now.

J.D.: Do you use or record local musicians?

Dennis: Oh, yeah. Jeff Cooper's working in here now on his new song, The Family Carr did their CD here. Windsong [a singer/songwriter in Williams, Oregon] recorded her CD, *Ode to Water*; Alice DiMichele just finished a great children's CD here; Christina Duane; and the rock band 100 Watt Mind has recorded here, too, and so forth. Most all of the locals know about me and the studio at this point.

J.D.: Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the studio?

Dennis: One of the main reasons I'm here—my vision is to create a totally interactive recording studio, cameras everywhere; hopefully that will happen this year. So, say a group comes in here to record and their fans want to watch the session. Folks will be able to eavesdrop via the Internet to see just how a "classic" recording studio session works. Of course, if you're doing stuff you don't want people to see, we can also turn off certain cameras!

J.D.: Dennis, it's been great to learn that we have such a talent as you with a world-class recording studio right here in the Applegate. Thanks for your time.

Dennis: Thanks for coming by. Rock ON!

You can learn more about Dennis' recording operation at dragonfamilyfoundation.org, or email Dennis at dragonfoundation@aol.com or call 541-234-4203.

J.D. Rogers • 541-846-7736

Dennis Dragon's TOP TEN Albums of All Time

1. *Sgt. Pepper* by The Beatles
2. *Axis: Bold as Love* by Jimi Hendrix
3. *Led Zeppelin* (first album)
4. *My Beach* by Surf Punks
5. *Kind of Blue* by Miles Davis
6. *Computer World* by Kraftwerk
7. *Ramones* (first album)
8. *Calypsos* by Edmundo Ros
9. *Bringing It All Back Home* by Bob Dylan
10. *The Nightfly* by Donald Fagen

"They live among us" is an ongoing feature highlighting people of interest who live in the Applegate Watershed.

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Local musician hangs up teaching hat for exciting new adventure

BY MIKELL NIELSEN

Passionately and enthusiastically beginning an exciting and unexpected new adventure, longtime bluegrass musician and teacher Warren Whistler, 62, closes a chapter of his life as he retires from teaching at Applegate-area schools.

A Grants Pass resident, Warren's romance with music began in southern California. As a little boy, he had dreams of becoming a baseball player or surfer. But his father, a classical pianist and aerospace engineer, introduced him to "good music," and ignited Warren's desire to be a musician by going to clubs and being involved in the music scene. Warren's fondest memories of his father are listening to classical music together, which "... was the connection between us."

In high school Warren had "...a lot of high-quality blues musician friends. We'd go to Hollywood to see The Birds and Creedence Clearwater." Warren noticed that his harmonica-playing friend was getting a lot of dates with girls. Thinking this might work for him, he picked up the same instrument. However, it was in college that another friend of Warren's changed his life by teaching him to play his very first song, "Soldier's Joy," on the guitar. Officially, Warren studied guitar at the side of John Knowles, who was the right-hand man of Chet Atkins, and violin with Maurice Borch, a seasoned New York violinist. That was when the violin became Warren's lifelong passion and led him to teaching and playing in the Grants Pass-

area bluegrass bands Sequoia and Willy and the Poor Boys.

Warren was heavily influenced by all the masters of traditional blues like Doc Watson, David Grisman, and Vassar Clements. He also loves musicians such as James Taylor, Marc Cohn, and Bruce Hornsby because they "turn on an emotional switch." But his favorite musicians of all time are his friends.

A music teacher for the past 35 years, Warren has instructed students at Rogue Community College and local middle and high schools. For the past 12 years he has taught strings at Williams Elementary and Applegate schools. What he loves most about teaching is the "...widespread appreciation of variety. I like the wise guys, the quiet ones, the underachievers, the overachievers. Teaching them is hard. Loving them is easy."

Some of Warren's former students have gone on to play professionally in southern Oregon, including Joe Ginot and Ryan Redding of the Grants Pass-area band "State of Jefferson," and Chris Greys of the band "Colonel Mustard."

During Warren's first year of teaching at Williams Elementary School he instructed then nine-year-old twins Justen and Jorden Nielsen. Their experience with Warren was life-changing as he instilled in the brothers a lifelong passion for music. Justen, who also plays the guitar, is currently drumming for the Los Angeles band, "The Dark," which just released

its first music video. Warren cultivated a love for the guitar in Jorden, who continued with lessons and played in high school and college bands, and who still plays today. Jorden says, "Playing the guitar helped me catch the eye (and ears) of my wife."

Recently, Warren announced his decision to retire from teaching and says retirement affords him the "freedom to follow my own motivation as opposed to motivating others." And that's exactly what he is doing.

Like some kind of perfect serendipity, Warren has found himself part of a musical group of "amazing bluegrass artists" who share the same "Three Musketeers" mentality, "All for one and one for all." This new group is called "The Antonucci Collective."

Longtime friend and musician Gary Antonucci introduced Warren to a demo of original songs by Gary and his son, Coleman, and asked Warren to play along. When Warren picked up his violin he felt "an instant emotional connection" to the music. Singer-songwriter Coleman Antonucci, a 25-year-old man who has suffered from health issues and emotional struggles, was writing "everyman songs [about] yearning, searching for love, doing the best one can...very uplifting," said Warren.

The "heartfelt singing and beautiful harmonies" touched every musician who heard the father-and-son duo, and "...a band came together quickly" and started recording songs. Warren shared that the process has been organic and magical. He has listened to these songs hundreds of times and still gets a tear in his eye. The songs "get beyond analytical and more into the heart."

Warren said this experience is "the highlight of my career." He explained that it takes a long time to know how you feel about things and to be true to one's self because there are influences and paths that lead to nowhere, but "Lucidity and clarity and continuity are signs of truth. If you need a dictionary to figure out what you're saying, or ask directions where to go, it



After teaching strings at Williams and Applegate Schools for 12 years, Warren Whistler will retire at the end of the school year and focus on his new band, The Antonucci Collective. Their first CD is due out this summer. Photo: Mikell Nielsen

just doesn't ring true." Warren has found his truth with The Antonucci Collective.

He described this recording project as "a return to the joyousness of making music on a real and pure level. It's just magic." Warren added, "It's a gift. A kind of validation. Your insides just get a big sigh. You start sleeping like a baby and feeling like life is good. You don't think about the struggles of life. You lose ego. To me, that is the road to happiness."

It appears that the future holds even more magic for Warren as he will be involved in more recording projects and intends to "play a lot of happy music." Music gives Warren a sense of identity. He enjoys the process of being part of a team and said, "It's kind of a spiritual deal."

As Warren leaves the world of teaching behind, he is deeply appreciative of his friend and assistant of 10 years, Alison Huber, who is taking the lead as music teacher at Williams Elementary and Applegate schools. "She is very cooperative and fun-loving."

Warren's advice to young musicians: "Enjoy it on whatever level you find it. In other words, accept your gifts, accept your limitations. Find joy in it."

Currently Warren and The Antonucci Collective are in the final production stages of their CD with Bob Pagano of Mountain View Studios in Wilderville; the CD is scheduled for release this summer. For more information and to find out when and where you can obtain the CD, contact Warren at 541-479-3785.

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Open letter to Warren from Stephanie

Warren,

Thank you for giving the gift of music to the students of Williams and Applegate Schools over the past 12 years. You have touched the lives of hundreds of kids, inspired many to try new things, encouraged them to take risks, and always made sure each had their moment to shine. Not only did you enrich the lives of so many children, your concerts warmed the hearts of countless parents and community members year after year. Your positive spirit will be missed by all. Thank you for reminding us what



is possible and for always believing in our kids.

Stephanie Allen-Hart
Former Principal
Williams and Applegate Schools

High-tech wildfire detection in southwest Oregon

BY BRIAN BALLOU

A forest fire lookout station was first established on Tallowbox Mountain in 1918. Located in the Siskiyou seven miles south of the community of Applegate, the top of the 5,023-foot mountain provides a wonderful view of the Applegate River drainage and a few hundred square miles of rugged forest.

No one knows how many fires were spotted by Tallowbox's fire watchers over the past 95 years, but today it's not a man or woman with binoculars scanning the horizon for threads of smoke. The woods are now watched over by cameras that were installed on Tallowbox Mountain in 2009.

The one-room Tallowbox lookout cabin and its 30-foot tower were badly damaged by vandals in 2007. Replacing the structure would have cost several hundred thousand dollars, as was learned a couple of years earlier when the fire lookout on Sexton Mountain north of Grants Pass had to be replaced following a similar act of vandalism.

The cost of a mast-and-cameras setup is less than half the amount of replacing a traditional lookout tower, and the annual maintenance costs are lower. Plus, the cameras can keep their eyes open, without coffee, 24 hours a day. Each camera makes a 360-degree rotation every six minutes. The software that interprets the video signals from the cameras can tell

the difference between smoke and clouds or dust, and it quickly plots the exact location of any smoke it sees. When the camera detects a column of smoke, it sets off an alarm in the Oregon Department of Forestry's dispatch office in Central Point, drawing immediate attention to the video monitors that display whatever the cameras are seeing.

During a thunderstorm, dispatchers also monitor lightning strike locations on their computers. Lightning detectors are scattered all over the region, and each lightning strike's exact location is determined by triangulation. These strikes appear as little lightning bolts on maps displayed on a dispatcher's computer screen. (Sorry, the lightning detection imagery currently used by dispatchers isn't available to the public. The images are copyrighted by the company that wrote the software.)

A strike that is likely to cause a fire, called a positive strike, is noted on the map with a "plus" symbol. A dispatcher can then instruct the camera on a lookout to zoom into the area where the positive strike was located.

At the first sign of smoke, dispatchers send firefighters to the scene to extinguish the fire.

Early, accurate fire detection coupled with swift fire-suppression response has kept most (97 percent) of all wildfires under ten acres in size. However, the remaining three percent of fires cost the greatest amount of money to suppress and cause the greatest amount of damage. For this reason, more effort is being made to increase fire-detection speed and accuracy, and couple it with even faster fire-suppression response.

Today, two southwest Oregon mountaintops, Tallowbox and Manzanita, have towers with cameras, and other sites will soon be added to the lookout camera network.

When a thunderstorm is causing fires in the district, small airplanes are put into the air to help with the fire-spotting chores and to guide firefighters quickly to the scene of a blaze. Each plane has a pilot, of course, and a spotter. The spotter uses a map, binoculars and a GPS hand-held

device to accurately plot every smoke. The pilot takes direction from the spotter and puts the plane over the ridges and drainages so the spotter can get the best possible view of the territory. This can result in a pretty wild ride, and spotters need to not only have intimate knowledge of the country below and wildland fire suppression, but a strong stomach.

One day in the near future, it is hoped that firefighters will be aided by small drone aircraft that can fly around a fire and scout where firefighters may safely construct a fire line. But the development of that technology is still in its infancy.

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Photo above: Tallowbox fire lookout before being vandalized, torn down and replaced with a tower and cameras. Photo right: ODF's Bill Ostrander (at top) maintains the cameras mounted on the top of these towers. Photos: Oregon Department of Forestry.



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Rainwater catchment systems

BY JIM REILAND

Have you ever wished that it rained more during the summer, instead of in the winter and spring when gardens and orchards are mostly dormant? We can make the best use of seasonal rainfall through relatively simple and inexpensive methods like planted ground covers, rain gardens, porous pavement, and swales. These practices effectively reduce erosion, slow runoff that might otherwise overwhelm storm water systems, increase soil moisture, and recharge the aquifer. Rainwater catchment systems are another tool that allows us to use this resource wisely by having water on hand during the hot, dry summer. They collect water from suitable roof surfaces and store it for later use. Rainwater catchment systems

were used in ancient times where clean water was scarce. Today, people use stored rainwater to reduce the volume of potable water used for non-potable activities like irrigating gardens and orchards, watering livestock, flushing toilets, and protecting structures from wildfire.

Most of us are surprised to learn how much water we use, and how much we could collect from a roof. Depending on what's growing and how it's irrigated, a half-acre garden and orchard needs between fifteen and thirty thousand gallons to get through a southern Oregon summer! That seems like a lot of water, though most of our home, garage, and barn roofs shed more water than we can easily store. A square foot of roof

surface captures .623 gallons for each inch of rainfall, so a 1,000 square-foot roof receiving 20 inches of rain each year collects almost 12,500 gallons, and most roofs are bigger!

In today's catchment systems, rainwater flows through gutters, past a simple filter to keep out leaves and dirt, and into a tank. Tanks come in many sizes, shapes, and materials—plastic, vinyl-lined steel, fiberglass, and ferrocement—and can be plumbed in series to expand system capacity as needs and budget allow. Tanks can be placed under a deck or alongside a barn, buried underground, located in an outbuilding, or set into a hillside close to where water is needed. Pumps usually move the water, but tanks elevated above the use area might rely on gravity alone. Water used for livestock, irrigation, or fire-fighting requires minimal filtration—just a screen at the gutter downspouts or tank to keep debris

and critters out. Safe drinking water needs a particulate and UV filter, too.

In addition to offering a measure of independence and resilience, rainwater catchment systems also save money in the long run. Your return on investment depends on what you include in the calculation. If you're trucking water to your home or farm because the well is dry or contaminated, a rainwater catchment system could pay for itself relatively quickly. Where water is cheap and plentiful, and electric power to operate a well pump is relatively inexpensive, the rainwater harvesting payback is much longer. The investment return for most systems lies between these examples. They supplement a well or municipal water supply, which both reduces energy costs and provides some peace of mind if the power goes out.

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Owl-watching is a hoot

BY TED A. GLOVER

We hardly ever see owls unless we go out at night with the proper equipment and actually seek them out. Owls, for the most part, are mainly nocturnal, roosting in the dense forests during the daylight hours. But when the eagles and hawks that patrol the skies during the day wander off to their roosts at evening time, the owls emerge for their turn at hunting.

Owls, who seem to have no neck at all, have the same strong talons and the same large hooked beaks as their daytime hunting companions, but the owl's eyes are very large and are able to gather light better than our human eyes can. Their hearing is also very sharp. So with extra sharp hearing and extremely sensitive eyesight they hunt small birds, mice and other small rodents, bats, reptiles and even insects.

Over 200 species of owls have been

identified worldwide and new ones are still being discovered. Some of the wonderful names for these owls include Laughing Owl, Ochre-bellied Hawk Owl, Barking Owl, White-chinned Owl, and Vermiculated Fishing Owl. In the United States, according to *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds*, there are 19 species of owls, including such eloquently named ones as Flammulated Owl, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl.

According to the Oregon Bird Records Committee and their "Official Checklist of Oregon Birds," there are 15 species of owls that live here or visit Oregon. Some visit in the winter months, such as the Snowy Owl (a far northern owl) and others visit in the summer months, such as the Burrowing Owl (a species of the agricultural areas of the southwestern

US and Mexico).

Here in the Applegate Valley and in the surrounding foothills and mountains, you may be able to see up to 11 types of owls:

- Barn Owl
- Barred Owl
- Flammulated Owl
- Great Gray Owl
- Great Horned Owl
- Long-eared Owl
- Northern Pygmy-Owl
- Northern Saw-whet Owl
- Northern Spotted Owl
- Short-eared Owl
- Western Screech-Owl

All of these are permanent residents except the Flammulated, a rare summer visitor, and the Short-eared, a winter transient.

Among the commonly seen owls in our area is the Barn Owl, typically flying low over marshes and meadows early in the morning or late in the afternoon as it

hunts. It is known to nest in barns and other old structures, even old burrows, holes in cliff sides, and human-made nest boxes.

The Great Horned Owl is another commonly seen owl, mainly because of its large size. It stands about 22 inches, with very large and wide-spaced ear tufts, giving a horned-like look. It roosts during the day in trees or on cliff ledges. The Great Horned Owl is often pestered by swarms of crows and the crow's loud cawing can be a clue to the presence of the owl.

Owl-watching is mainly a nighttime task, but being alert and knowledgeable about their habits can help us find them here in our beautiful Applegate Valley area.

Ted A. Glover • 541-846-0681
tedglover9@gmail.com



Ted A. Glover



The **Northern Spotted Owl**, a medium-sized dark brown owl, is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Photo: Peter J. Thiemann, Flickr photo stream.




Long-eared Owllets have a characteristic call, likened to a rusty hinge. Their ear-tufts make them appear larger to other owls. Photo: Peter J. Thiemann, Flickr photo stream.



The **Snowy Owl** is one of the largest owls in North America, reaching 28 inches long and weighing up to 6.6 pounds. Photo: Peter J. Thiemann, Flickr photo stream.



The **Burrowing Owl** is a tiny but long-legged owl with prominent white eyebrows and a white chin patch it displays when agitated. Photo: Peter J. Thiemann, Flickr photo stream.




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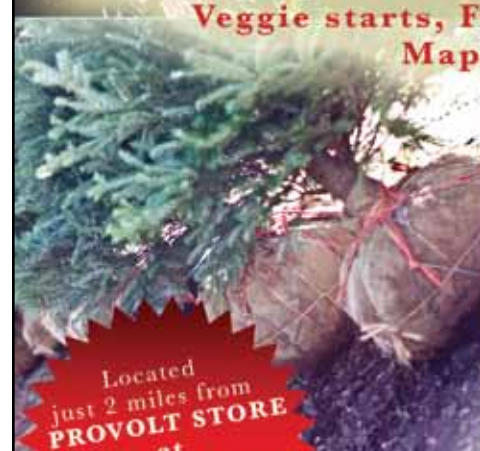

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JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

Applegate Library

Some of you may have noticed that the construction of the new library storage shed has begun. It will be much smaller than our house that used to belong to Laura and Ben Ellis, but it will be sufficient to store the books that we need for our annual book sales. The dimensions are 10 feet by 12 feet, and it will include a sidewalk and a door that is big enough to accommodate a wheelchair. Our Friends of the Applegate Library have raised about one-quarter of the cost of the building, and the rest of the money is being provided by the county. We are still seeking donations for the insulation, drywall, shelves, a dolly, a sandwich board and a cash box. If you would like to donate materials or cash, send your check or your notification to Carol Hoon, P.O. Box 3257, Applegate, Oregon 97530.

Diana Coogle and Janeen Sathre presented a program in the meeting room of the library on May 3, reading from their new book, *Favorite Hikes of the Applegate*, and giving a PowerPoint program with photos from the hikes. They personally

signed the books they had for sale. If you haven't bought yours by now, you might check with the library to see how you can get in touch with Diana or Janeen to purchase one.

We are planning a summer celebration for the opening of our new storage shed. Check with the library for the date and time and various events. We are hoping it will include an ice cream social!

Our summer reading program is coming up as soon as school lets out. Phyllis Zerr has a fun schedule for the kids at the library under the themes of "Under the Surface" and "Dig into Reading." John Jackson will do a program on worms and how to use them in your gardens. There will also be a storytelling person who will hold a fairytale puppet show for the kids. Also, prizes will be given to children for various accomplishments, and even a prize from Barnes and Noble.

Our next Friends of the Library meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 9, from 5 - 6 pm.

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

Ruch Library

Join us at Ruch Library for an exciting adventure with our "Dig Into Reading" Summer Reading Program beginning June 8. We will have ongoing projects happening, like digging up dinosaur bones and reconstructing a skeleton (wooden); growing a crystal garden; activities with Roger Thesaurus, Ruch's pet dinosaur; our popular I Spy Window; guessing jars; and various worksheets and games. We are pleased to offer these six special programs throughout the summer:

June 13. We are thrilled to have Crater Rock Museum present their Fossils Program. Learn about the ancient creatures that became fossils, make a plaster cast of an actual fossil, and dig some up, too. 1 - 2 pm for ages 3 - 7, and 2 - 3 pm for ages 8 and up. Sign-ups are encouraged.

June 29. Leah Mebane will grind stones and clay with children to create earth paint, and then paint eco-stationery, paint rocks, and make natural paintbrushes. 1 - 3 pm, all ages. Sign-ups are encouraged.

July 20. Repurposed T-shirts and

Charms with Janis Mohr-Tipton. 1 - 3 pm, ages 10 and up. This creative idea uses t-shirt loops, charms and trinkets to make a necklace or wristband, accompanied by a book talk aimed at 10 - 16-year-olds.

July 25. Worms and Composting with John Jackson. Fun for the whole family. Study live worms, their purposes and importance. Learn to make and maintain a worm bin. 2:30 - 3:30 pm.

August 1. Make a Fairy House to take home and put in a special place in the woods as a treat for fairies or other critters. 2 - 4 pm, all ages.

August 10. Rock Painting with Kristi Kowalski, third-generation Applegate rock painter. 1 - 3 pm, ages 5 and up.

We welcome you into our beautiful air-conditioned library with its ever-changing collections of books, audio books, MP3s, videos and magazines. Bring your computer and tap into our free Wi-Fi. See you at the library!

Thalia Truesdell • 541-899-7438
Ruch Library Branch Manager

Friends of Ruch Library Update

We hope you enjoyed our recent speaker on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), Pinterest class, and Buncom Day festivities.

In October, the Friends will be back with their circus-sized big tent Book Sale at the corner of Highway 238 and Upper Applegate Road. Be sure to visit to see what treasures you may find. For treasure-hunting the rest of the year, visit the A-Frame bookstore across the Ruch Library parking lot, open during all Ruch Library open hours. Under its sloped ceilings, you'll surely find a book you need.

Remember to renew your Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) membership to take advantage of member benefits at these events. Friends don't let Friends pay full

price; your membership entitles you to a 10 percent discount at the A-Frame bookstore and at the big October Book Sale! In addition to a 10 percent discount, Friends members get first peek at the October Book Sale—membership has its privileges!

If you've never been a Friend of Ruch Library, now is the time to join. Friends membership is \$10 per year for an individual and \$18 per year for a family. Pay in person at the library or the A-Frame, or mail your check to Ruch Branch Library, 7919 Highway 238, Jacksonville, Oregon 97530.

See you at the sale!
S. Siler
FORL Secretary
friendsofruchlibrary@yahoo.com

FEATURED ADVERTISER

Each issue, the Applegater features one of our valued advertisers. Here is the story of Quinn's in Murphy, Oregon, one of our long-time advertisers.

Quinn's Well, Pump & Filtration Service

Grants Pass seemed like the perfect place to establish a "happily ever after" family life. It was the early 70s, and Bob Quinn had just finished a tour with the military. He and his wife Kitty were full of hope and excitement as they thought about their future together, but little did they know that hard times were far from over.

In those days local unemployment was 18 percent, and finding work felt like a doomed task. "No, but thanks for asking" was the common answer Bill received from potential employers, and a local well-drilling company called Paquin was no exception. Nevertheless, as Bob watched the giant drilling rig raise its tower, he knew this was his dream job. Whatever it took, someday he would be the one behind the machine.

Day after day Bob showed up at Paquin to ask if they needed any help. Day after day he was told, "No." But Bob was determined, so without pay or compensation he set to work finding tasks to do around Paquin: straightening up the office, cleaning the storage yard, or cutting the grass. Through it all, Bob and Kitty held fast to the hope that everything would work out for the best. There would be no giving up.

Eventually Bob was recognized as the driller's helper and over time gained enough experience to qualify for the position of full-time well driller when the



former driller quit unexpectedly. All he needed to do was to meet apprenticeship requirements and pass the state well-driller test, which he did with Kitty's help!

Later, when Paquin's owner put the business up for sale, Bob and Kitty put up everything they owned to purchase it. To see "Quinn's Well Drilling, Inc." on the side of the drilling rig was a dream come true. This was even beyond what they had hoped!

Today Quinn's Well Drilling has evolved into Quinn's Well, Pump & Filtration Service. They no longer drill wells, but focus on water well pump service and water filtration. Quinn's is well-known for its professional service and customer satisfaction, and their large staff enables them to respond quickly to your water needs.

Bob and Kitty know firsthand that dreams come true in southern Oregon, and properly functioning wells and clean water are crucial for anyone who is growing roots here.

Quinn's is located at 6811 Williams Highway, Murphy, Oregon. Their phone is 541.862-9355. Give them a call!

McKee Bridge Day is June 8

This year, come and hear music by Christina Duane, have a great tri-tip sandwich by the Applegate Lions, observe an expert weaver, see pictures of the bridge by a talented photographer, participate in the raffle, buy fresh-baked goods, ice cream, and much more. The celebration will be held in the picnic area adjacent to the bridge from 10 am to 3 pm. The McKee Bridge museum trailer will be there with the famous McKee Bridge quilt. Evelyn Williams, our resident historian, will have many pictures and stories of the bridge and the upper Applegate.

Oregon Bridge Engineering Company (OBEC) was selected by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to design the bridge repairs. The engineering work is expected to be completed by the end of this year; work to repair the bridge will begin in 2014 if the McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) can raise the remaining \$43,000 in matching funds needed for the \$547,000 federal restoration grant. MBHS raised \$13,000 in matching funds in 2012. \$12,000 was placed with Jackson County in January 2013. This allowed the county and ODOT to proceed with the first (engineering) phase. Contributions to the restoration fund can be made to MBHS, P.O. Box 854, Jacksonville, Oregon 97530 or by PayPal on the website.

Robert E. Van Heuit • 541-899-2927
President, MBHS
rvanh2000@yahoo.com
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Voices of the Applegate spring concerts

Voices of the Applegate, our community choir consisting of about 25 people, will be meeting every Wednesday evening beginning on September 4 until November 20 in the meeting room of the Applegate Library, 18485 North Applegate Road, from 7 to 8:30 pm. We will be rehearsing for our fall concerts, which will be sung in the Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville on November 22 at 7:30 pm, and at the Applegate River Ranch Lodge in Applegate on November 24 at 3 pm.

Our choir director, Blake Weller, has a selection of wonderful music for us to practice and learn this season, and we welcome new members to join us at any time. No audition is required. Just come and join us in September and be prepared for a lot of fun.

A \$50 registration fee covers the 12 rehearsals and two concerts in which we will be participating. We use the registration money to pay for our director, our accompanist, and the use of the facilities where we perform our concerts. We also try to help out with scholarships for choir members when needed.

All are invited to attend our concerts, and the admission is free. For more information, call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988.

GEN Y WORLDVIEW

A college degree: worthwhile?

BY JESSE HART

College enrollment numbers are up, but success stories remain roughly the same as decades past. In my experience and in most others in my generation with whom I have talked to about this subject, only a small handful of college graduates actually go into and stay in the area in which they majored. Most substantial financial and/or creative successes come from people who either dropped out or never went to college in the first place. For example, take Bill Gates or Steve Jobs—the artists of the computer-creating world. When Gates and Jobs realized that they felt even more passionately about their art than their professors did, they dropped out of college and followed a dream. They never listened to the naysayers who told them they were going down the wrong path. Look what resulted—without a college degree.

What do we tend to tell the “responsible” youth to do after high school? “Go to college or get a job/career.” All but a few of us fall into doing one category or the other, with a few brave souls who throw the system away all together and become nomads. I was one who went straight to the University of Oregon and, from age 18 to 21, I worked toward a Bachelors of Science in digital art (or a BS in graphic design for short—pun intended), graduating right into the economic decline in 2008.

Then I did the other responsible thing and used my degree to get a job. You would think that my degree was the key to success; the key to happiness. Sadly incorrect. Turning my art into a job turned

my home and creative drive into work. With my toy now a tool, I had to work with business clients who changed their minds whenever the wind picked up and would not listen to someone who knew art but not business. This quickly depleted the beauty and creativity from what I loved.

Like many of my generation, I tried the nomad thing and enjoyed that much more—and learned a lot more about myself, others and the world in general. Eventually, though, I felt I had to “get serious” and, well, go back to school. But it took less than one year back into college, for a second degree or a masters, for me to see the writing on the wall. And the “writing” stated that I was a customer buying from a business—one that gives little to no guarantee of the quality of their product or the results you will get from it. To add insult to injury, the majority of students leave college with heavy debt, no degree and no motivation. You will get out of what you put into life, at a university or elsewhere.

Here are some statistics that back up my own experience:

- “... [in 2011] for 100 students who enrolled in a public college, 71 chose a community college, 45 enrolling full time and 26 part time; after four years, only 14 of the full-time students and one part-time students graduated.” (www.nytimes.com)
- Southern Oregon University graduation rates (www.collegeresults.org):
 Four-year graduation rate: 13.4%
 Five-year graduation rate: 26.9%

Six-year graduation rate: 30.9%
 I have concluded that I can base my entire reputation on these two truths:
 1. Is a college degree necessary for a good and happy life? No, hell no.
 2. Is an education necessary for a good and happy life? Yes, heavens yes.

Unless you have a specific passion and drive for a profession that absolutely requires you to have a specific degree, you may choose to stay out of the downward spiraling debt and do what you desire to do or learn about another possibility and where to start. Believe in yourself and you will find a way; it works every time (that is, if you never give up). Social networks on the World Wide Web connect us vastly better than a university, and they are considerably cheaper. You do need some discipline, but that comes quite easily if you have interest in what you are learning.

Through both my collegiate and personal studies in psychology, philosophy and even mysticism, I can plainly see that human beings learn and adapt to a new environment best when they are having fun; when life is a game rather than a job.

Next time you are stressing about yourself or a loved one getting an education, remember that life itself is an education and somehow things always tend to work out with or without a degree. And



BEFORE



AFTER

Turns out that the author's University of Oregon diploma wasn't flame-retardant. Just like all “businesses” of higher education, there's no guarantee of a job, just debt.

things tend to work out best when we are passionate and loving about a subject.

What about you other Gen Yers out there? Send me your thoughts and experiences.

Jesse Hart
 Member, Generation Y
 rouge_armee@yahoo.com

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Notes from a Rogue entomologist**Dragonflies: Lords of the air**

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

A common tactic in nature conservation is to focus on the “charismatic megafauna” such as lions and tigers and bears (polar, panda, etc.) since those truly magnificent animals make such a striking impression on us. Similarly with insects, we frequently focus on the spectacular species: colorful and showy butterflies; big beetles, the more bizarre the better; and the dragonflies. Instantly recognizable, the dragonflies and their daintier cousins, the damselflies, are beautiful to watch. They are large, brightly colored and exceptional fliers. They can hover, dart off in a flash, and fly backwards; one report stated that they can fly upside down, which I have never seen, but it doesn't surprise me. With their huge holoptic eyes, these insects are deadly predators, able to catch other flying insects and feed on the wing.

The larvae of the dragonflies and damselflies are aquatic and often referred to as naiads. Like the adults, the larvae are predacious, armed with a hinged jaw that shoots forward faster than the eye can see to grab their prey. The larvae will molt many times, and the full cycle can take multiple years depending on the species.

When the larvae are fully grown they crawl out of the water to make a final molt to the adult stage. It takes time for the wings to expand and harden, and these teneral adults are often caught as they are not yet ready to fly. However, these specimens are poor as the colors are not fully developed. Due to their aquatic roots, they are most often found around bodies of water. Of course, once they can fly, catching them can be a difficult task, requiring experience along with a healthy dose of patience (and I admittedly lack both).

Of course, collecting can be done with a camera, but that still requires a good deal of stealth and skill.

Dragonflies and damselflies are in the group known as the Paleoptera, meaning “ancient wing.” Dragonflies cannot fold their wings, so even at rest the wings are always sticking out to the side. Damselflies, whose bodies are more delicate than dragonflies, do have the ability to fold their wings together over their body, and when at rest they are easily identified by that trait. Dragonflies are descended from similar-looking species dating back 300 million years. I can recall as a child looking through my “Golden Book of Dinosaurs”

at the image of dragonflies with a three-foot wingspan. While that claim can still be found on the Internet, the largest fossil wingspan actually measures less than two and a half feet. (I guess after 300 million years some exaggeration is to be expected.)

One trait that dragonflies and damselflies share is an interesting sex life. Even for an insect, the mating behavior of dragonflies is a tad unusual. Before copulating, the male grabs the female behind her head with the tail end of his body. You will often see pairs of dragonflies flying in tandem this way. However, since the tail end is where the insect genitalia are located, this approach by the male would seemingly make mating rather difficult if not altogether impossible. To get around this difficulty, prior to grabbing a female, the male puts his sperm packet in a secondary set of genitalia underneath his body towards his legs. The female, after being clasped by the male, can now bend her abdomen forward to obtain the sperm packet, forming what is known as the wheel position, which can sometimes be observed. The male's secondary genitalia are not only designed to deliver the sperm packet, but can also remove a sperm packet from a previous mating. If there is one rule that insects live by, it is that all's fair in love and war. After dragonflies mate you may see the female of some species dipping her abdomen in the water as she lays her eggs.

There are some 5,700 species of dragonflies and damselflies worldwide. While that sounds like a lot, it is a fairly moderate number by insect standards. As with many insect groups the vast majority of species are tropical; less than 10 percent of all species are found in North America. Luckily, for those interested in our local dragonflies, a field guide was published in 2011 (*Dragonflies and Damselflies of Oregon* by Kerst and Gordon) that describes in detail the 91 species present in Oregon, including when and where they can be found. A species checklist is even provided.

Photo, top right: Common green darners in the wheel position during mating.
Photo: Mark Chappell.

Photo, bottom right: Widow skimmer.
Photo: www.giffbeaton/Dragonflies/Widow.

Southwestern Oregon is ideal for dragonfly watching as we sit at the confluence of three ecoregions: Klamath Mountains (includes Applegate, Rogue and Illinois Valleys), Cascades and Coast Range. The summer months of June, July and August have the greatest diversity of species so prepare for a myriad of colors—greens, reds, and blues. If so inclined, learn the common names that conjure up poetic images: darners (think flying knitting needle), skimmers, and meadowhawks; and for the damselflies, there are bluets and dancers. But no matter how deep into the subject you want to go, just get out into nature and enjoy the show.

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and Extension Center
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Check these out — only on our website

www.applegater.org

- “A rogue climate for the Applegate” by Alan Journet—with images
- “My Volt—more than a year later” by Greeley Wells
- “Western aralia” by Suzie Savoie
- Master Gardeners announce Free Plant Clinic, Summer Classes and Demonstration Gardens
- *Favorite Hikes in the Applegate: A Trail Guide with Stories and Histories* by Diana Coogle and Janeen Sathre
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More lavender farms in the Applegate Valley

BY BONNIE RINALDI

Thirty years after Jim and Dotti Becker began Goodwin Creek Gardens' lavender nursery, others in the area are finally catching on. Lavender originated in the Mediterranean and loves the same rocky, well-drained soil and hot summer days that southern Oregon grapes enjoy.

In 2012 six southern Oregon families, who were inspired by the beauty of lavender and who had planted hundreds of lavender plants on their properties, discovered each other and the "Southern Oregon Lavender Loop" was formed. Combining the experience of 30-year veterans with the enthusiasm of complete novices, they are working together to create a unique lavender experience and lavender destination in southern Oregon.

In addition to Goodwin Creek Gardens' lavender nursery, there are five more lavender farms in the "loop." Applegate Valley Lavender Farm opened in 2010. Two more lavender farms, Two Sisters Lavender Farm and Lavender Fields Forever, are opening this year. In 2014, Luna Blue Farm and The English Lavender Farm will open.

The Lavender Collection & Demonstration Garden at Oregon State University's (OSU) Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (located in Central Point) was also recently added to the loop. There lavender lovers can see

over 80 varieties of lavender growing in one place.

You can visit Goodwin Creek Gardens, Two Sisters Lavender Farm, Applegate Valley Lavender Farm and Lavender Fields Forever on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, during July and August. The Lavender Collection & Demonstration Garden at OSU is open daily for self-guided tours.

While visiting the farms, you can pick your own lavender, distill lavender essential oil, purchase lavender bouquets and plants, and shop the farm stores for lovely lavender items. Lavender can be used for culinary purposes, to decorate and scent your home, to fragrance your bath and body, or as a focal point in your garden.

Each farm has its own unique personality.

• **Goodwin Creek Gardens**, owned and operated by Jim and Dotti Becker, is located in Williams. This nursery specializes in aromatic plants such as lavenders and scented geraniums. They have three greenhouses on seven acres and recently were certified organic by the US Department of Agriculture.

• **Applegate Valley Lavender Farm** opened in 2010. Deborah and Jeff Thompson were seeking a cash crop for the farm they had purchased from Deborah's parents to complement the vineyards planted in the

Applegate Valley. After traveling to the Sequim Lavender Festival in Washington, they knew they had found the right thing in lavender. They have over five varieties of lavender on six and a half acres on Highway 238 between the Provolt and Applegate stores. You will also find cute little lambs and colorful chickens at the Applegate Valley Lavender Farm.

• **Two Sisters Lavender Farm** is a laid-back kind of place opening in July 2013. Dan and MaryAnne Loughran and the two sisters, Kylie and Rachel, run this farm of 2,000 lavender plants, alpacas, llamas, chickens and more. They offer more than 14 varieties of culinary and aromatic lavender. They are located in Williams.

• **Lavender Fields Forever** also opens in July 2013. John and Bonnie Rinaldi planted 1,000 lavender plants in seven varieties for their aromatic, crafting and essential oil qualities. They distill lavender essential oil on their farm and offer the opportunity to distill your own blend of lavender essential oil. You can find their farm just outside Ruch on Hamilton Road.

• **Luna Blue Farm** (opening in 2014) is located in Williams. After moving to Oregon, Crystal and Brett Pyren started a farm growing their own food. They were inspired by the lavender ice cream in Sequim, Washington, and the tranquility of visiting lavender farms and rose gardens. They began planting their lavender farm and rose garden in 2012.

• **The English Lavender Farm** (opening in 2014) is located on Thompson Creek Road in the Applegate. Derek and Sue Owen currently have over 2,000 English lavender plants and plan eventually to plant over ten acres of lavender fields; they



"Lovely Ladybug" photo was taken by Deborah Thompson at Applegate Valley Lavender Farm, and won third place at the Oregon Lavender Association photo contest in 2012.

hope to host weddings and other events during the lavender season.

The Oregon Lavender Festival will be held at lavender farms all over the state of Oregon from July 12 – 14. Farms in southern Oregon will be open extra hours and plan special craft and distillation demonstrations along with specialty lavender food items, artisan booths and more to celebrate the weekend festival. Please join them! Find more information at <http://www.oregonlavenderdestinations.com/festival.php>.

For more information about the Southern Oregon Lavender Loop, go to <https://www.facebook.com/SouthernOregonLavenderLoop>.

Bonnie Rinaldi

541-702-2250

bonnie@lavenderfieldsforever-oregon.com

Heavenly hounds and cosmic kitties

BY JEFFREY JUDKINS, DVM

"We are stardust," sang Joni Mitchell in her 1970 song "Woodstock." As it turns out, she was more right than she could have known. Many of the elements that make up our human bodies, and the bodies of every living thing on earth, have origins in the formation of the universe. "These elements were ejected into space by the force of the massive explosion, where they mixed with other matter and formed new stars, some with planets such as Earth... The iron in our blood and the calcium in our bones were all forged in such stars. We

are made of stardust," says Louisiana State University physicist Edward Zganjar.

It's a profound concept to realize that everything on earth—from our backyard oak tree to our cat's hair ball—all share common elements that were formed in the stars billions of years ago. Indeed, we, our beloved pets, and everything in the ground below and heavens above are made of recycled materials. To quote another line from another classic 70s-era tune, "we have all been here before."

Okay, cool. We are all one. But what,

you might ask, does this have to do with holistic veterinary medicine? Quite a lot, actually. This concept supports one of the most basic premises in natural medical modalities, such as herbology and homeopathy: from the plants, animals, rocks and waters of our world come the medicines that can help heal us and our animal companions. Since we all are made of basically the same "stuff," our bodies resonate similarly with the substances of our natural world. The very same homeopathic arnica that you might take for your bruised arm will work just as well for your feline's bruised knee. The same Chinese herb formula that slows mast-cell tumor growth in humans does the same for your beagle's mast-cell tumor.

A colleague in Canada practices

holistic veterinary medicine two days a week, and naturopathic medicine for humans two days a week—in the same clinic with the same pharmacy of natural medicines. Now this is not to say that *all* herbs and supplements used with humans are appropriate for animals or vice versa. Nor does this diminish the amazing, often lifesaving power of pharmaceutical drugs. And no doubt there are things in the natural world with which you or your pet might "resonate," but not in a good way—the same world that gives us aloe vera and echinacea gives us scorpions and arsenic. Overall though, modern science validates the concept that we have more in common with the beings that live with and around us than one might think.

Jeffrey Judkins, DVM • 541-702-2288



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The Battle of the Water-Logged Tank

with Bob Quinn, the Water Doctor

If you think a water-logged tank is something that fell off a supply ship and had to be abandoned before it reached the beaches of Normandy in World War II, this column is for you!

In a properly functioning well water system your pump works in partnership with the pressure tank. As water is drawn off from your system, the pressure in your tank drops below a preset level and signals the pressure switch to activate the pump.

In fact, the pressure tank allows for the use of small quantities of water without starting up the pump every time you turn on a faucet. A normal pump comes on at 40 lbs. and shuts off when the pressure reaches 60 lbs. with a cycle time of a minimum of one full minute.

If your pump cycles faster than this, the well doctor's diagnosis is likely to be a "water-logged tank." Not only is the constant cycling wearing out your pump, but the extra power cost can add substantially to your energy bills. Best advice: have your system examined by a qualified technician.

Water is a geological cocktail so DRINK MORE WATER!



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TALL TALES FROM THE EDITOR

Family tales or Biting ankles

This past spring I flew out to Arkansas to visit some family who live around the little burg of Shirley.

My trip there took a day longer than planned as my flight from San Francisco was delayed by five hours. I bet you can't guess why we suffered through this long delay. Actually, you couldn't guess in a million years. Really. Well, the reason was that the flight attendant had discovered a broken megaphone. FAA rules state that a plane can't fly without a working megaphone. How else could the flight attendant announce "Cover your heads" to all passengers as their lips are pulled over their foreheads while the plane drops from 30,000 feet to 1,000 feet in a few seconds as it nosedives into the ground. Or she might announce "No pushing from the back of the line. You'll all get your chance to jump before ..." or "Drop those box cutters now." Anyway, it took five hours to locate a working megaphone, so I missed connecting flights. Thus continued another adventure in flying and communing with the ever so diligent, orifice-probing Transportation Security Administration (TSA) folks. (Did you know that the TSA is the largest government bureaucracy since the creation of the defense department?)

A couple of days after my arrival in Arkansas, my sister Paula drove me and my parents, who are approaching their mid-80s, to Crossville, Tennessee. We traveled there to see my dad's sister, Aunt Joan, and two of my cousins, Steve and Rick Porter. I hadn't seen any of them in a few decades.

We had a wonderful two-day visit filled with family stories. Steve and I reminisced about our glory days in the Hand-Me-Downs rock band. This was my first rock band and Steve had been the original lead singer. Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones had to have copied Steve's stage moves.

There were many other family tales from way before my time—about speakeasies; whiskey-running; all-night

partying in 1920s Chicago (incidentally, the mayor of Chicago attended a cousin's wedding in 1949). Whiskey, Chicago and politics—this was some interesting stuff.

Then there was great-grandma Hendricks, a Nazarene preacher, riding around on a mule and proselytizing in the back hills of Kentucky. Maybe she was trying to make up for all the above-mentioned Chicago shenanigans.

The tales continued into the 1930s and the Great Depression, when the family ate lots of navy beans. I was also told about killer blizzards that blew snow through the cracks in the house, followed by mummifying summer droughts in Nelson, Nebraska, where my father's family lived.

In the 1940s, my Aunt Joan was a dance instructor for the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Indianapolis, Indiana. Apparently my father didn't have the dancing gene (it skipped me, too), because my mother had to ask him out twice to high school dances before he accepted. Lucky me!

While we were reminiscing, my father confessed that he'd always wanted to be a train engineer, especially on the old steamers.

Our talks about trains and politics brought us to the current depression that we're in. All were in agreement that it really is a depression, no matter what the talking heads dribble on about.

Of course, not everyone has suffered in this latest depression. I recently read that for every 90 cents us bottom-feeders on the money train earn, the top .01 percent pocket a cool \$18,000.

From 1950 to 1970, that top .01 percent only pocketed a measly \$162 to every 90 cents us bottom-feeders made.

Are the Robber Baron days back or what? Oh, Jay Gould (1836 to 1892) would be as proud today as when he put the screws to everyone with his Union Pacific Railroad in the last half of the 1800s, along with his other railroad cronies. Jay Gould is the man who set the high bar for predatory industrial capitalism. Railroad, coal companies and steel companies ran the country. They handpicked who was going to be president—they couldn't lose with either side of our one-party system. They even controlled the Supreme Court—the court never ruled against them for many decades.

One of their chosen ones, President Rutherford B. Hayes, wrote in his post-presidential diary about America, "It is a government by the corporation, of the corporation and for the corporation." I think we're on the same road today. Why? We have a supreme court that says you can't curb the amount of money that's donated for political races—it's a First Amendment right. Mega corporations and unions love this ruling.

The court also has ruled that corporations are the same as people. You bet. When's the last time you read about a court sending a corporation to death row? Or sentencing a corporation to life in prison?

So while we clamor up and down the right or left leg of the one-party system—for abortion, against abortion; for prayer in school, against prayer in school; cut capital gains tax, leave capital gains tax—these types of issues don't create jobs, don't put money in your pocket and do not have any bearing on your financial future. But they do keep us from issues such as the "parting out" of America, downsizing the American dream, and a tax on most everything you do, need or pursue.

So while we've been biting each other on the ankles over these social/moral issues, Wall Street and the likes have cleaned out our bank vaults.

When's the last time you read about a court sending a corporation to death row?



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OPINION

A rogue climate for the Applegate

BY ALAN JOURNET

Water, water everywhere?

However we measure quality of life, water is essential; whether considering daily lives, commercial ventures, or agricultural activities, without a timely supply of water, our future is compromised.

Because of the historic pattern of snow accumulation and melt, Oregonians have counted on snow accumulation at high elevations serving as reservoirs releasing their bounty through summer and fall to nurture the rich rural lifestyle.

Unfortunately, this pattern is changing. Crater Lake snowpack has declined 25 percent since the 1930s. Meanwhile, the Columbia Plateau Aquifer—supplying 1.3 million westerners with drinking and irrigation water and supporting an agricultural economy worth \$6 billion annually—is dropping at 2 feet per year. The source of much Applegate Valley water is the Northern California Siskiyou below 7,500 ft. These regions similarly have exhibited declining snowpack (13% from 1950 to 2000). Projections through the century suggest that accumulation might drop to 10% of its 20th Century level. With warming, the problem of reduced snowpack will be magnified by earlier snowmelt, causing substantially lower stream flows during late summer and fall—exactly when agriculture most needs water.

While water availability is probably

the most immediate concern to the region, the reported trends are driven by the larger problem of global climate change caused by our release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The same climate pattern that enhanced the ferocity of Hurricane Sandy and the severity of heat waves, droughts, and wildfires devastating much of the nation over the last two years (causing 50% of counties to be declared disaster areas), also affects the Northwest. Although the immediate future for the region is not as bleak as that for the central and southern states, where heat waves and droughts are projected to increase substantially and soon, our region is assuredly destined to experience negative impacts.

Regional climate trends

Fortunately, we have projections identifying probable future conditions for our region if humanity collectively continues to behave as historically—the “business as usual” scenario. These come from analyses performed by the USFS Mapped Atmospheric-Plant-Soil System team and reported in a 2008 publication: *Preparing for Climate Change in the Rogue River Basin of Southwest Oregon* is available at <http://geosinstitute.org>.

The historic 1961-1990 pattern depicts an annual average of 50 degrees F, with summers 63.5 and winters 38. The analysis indicates that on top of the 1.3 degrees F warming already experienced, by

2035-2045, just over 20 years from now, average annual temperatures here will run nearly 2 to 3.5 degrees F warmer, with winters increasing 1.5 to over 3 degrees F and summers increasing 2 to 4.5 degrees F. By 2075-2085, meanwhile, another 40 years onwards, temperatures will increase such that the average will likely be between 4 and 8 degrees F hotter than historic, with winters 3.5 to 6 degrees F and summers 5.5 to nearly 12 degrees F hotter. August alone could reach 15 degrees F hotter.

Precipitation projections are less clear, with summers trending drier and winters somewhat a little wetter. With hotter summers, the potential for increased drought and wildfire risk is clear. Meanwhile, the precipitation that falls will likely be focused on more heavy downpours, increasing floods and erosion problems rather than replenishing groundwater.

The warmer growing seasons are likely to compromise conditions for many critical crops grown locally where heat depresses yield. While many wine varietals currently grown in the valley can withstand increased growing season temperatures, some will not, and if the upper extreme is realized, most grape varietals will suffer. Warmer winters, meanwhile, may challenge the winter chilling required by fruits such as pears.

Addressing the problem

There are two ways to address the problems posed by climate change. One involves preparing for the change that is inevitable, the other is joining the global movement to stem greenhouse gas emissions, thereby avoiding the worst case scenario.

Preparation would involve conserving

water wherever possible, including reducing evaporation from irrigation streams, canals, and ditches. Additionally, consideration should be given to cultivating species that are adapted to hotter, drier conditions—employing native species wherever possible.

Reducing emissions involves reducing our use of energy generated by burning fossil fuels. While some people have argued that addressing climate change will cost more than we can afford, the real question is whether we can afford not to address it. A study by the McKinsey Company revealed that there are many ways of reducing carbon emissions that actually save money; even though some require an initial investment, savings accrue in the long run. We should look for these in our daily lives.

For many years, carbon intensive fuels have been encouraged. It is time to reverse the trend. Currently, those experiencing severe weather are paying the economic price; we might call it a carbon tax of suffering. The economic system should be adjusted so those emitting the greenhouse gases pay.

We are in danger of handing to future generations an unlivable Applegate Valley and planet. This is a question of inter-generational justice. Area residents interested in addressing the problem are invited to join the efforts of the Southern Oregon Climate Action.

Alan Journet

Applegate Valley resident and Co-facilitator, Southern Oregon Climate Action Network (SOCAN)

<http://soclimate.org>

Note: Images that accompany this article appear online at www.applegater.org.

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Hot, dry summer predicted: Will you be ready?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

The weather forecasters and wildfire experts are predicting a hot dry summer for southwestern Oregon; their only question is how much lightning we might get. So how does a private landowner go about getting as ready as possible for fire season? By taking it in steps, that's how.

My hubby and I did our initial "defensible space" thinning and pruning over a decade ago, so we're now in the "maintenance" mode. Still, we've found that there's so much to do to maintain our rural property/home that it's crazy to try and do it all in the spring. We break our fire season prep into three categories: "big fuels," "fine fuels," and "homesite habitat." *Each is very important to address* so that your home is safer during a fire, and each has a different time line that keeps us busy almost all year long.

Big fuels. This is thinning and pruning up trees in our defensible space and along our driveway. Because we're on a hill, we also evaluate the trees on our 20 acres annually to maintain an open canopy that might help slow a fire's progression. *This work is done in the fall and winter months.* This also includes cutting, splitting and stacking firewood for the following winter, as well as moving unused firewood to at least 30 feet away from the house each spring. Don't wait til summer – it's too much work then!

Fine fuels. Perhaps *the* most important to mitigate before fire season! By fine fuels I'm talking grass, weeds, leaves, pine needles and any (fire-resistant) shrubs or flowers that we've planted; *this work is done during the spring to early summer.* This takes the most time for us because our defensible space is big (200-plus feet out from the house) and our driveway is long. Also, we have a lot of oak, pine and madrone trees.

Landscape plantings are cleaned out,

pruned and thinned in the springtime. We also clean the gutters and roof in the spring.

We don't start raking and burning leaves/needles until spring because I like to keep some ground cover on our hillside during the rainy season. We rake around the house, garage and out-buildings, under the deck, around a greenhouse, a travel trailer, the large propane tank and the power transformer, and all around our above-ground pool. We also rake along the circular driveway.

However, we also have to rake during fire season! We have two madrone trees and a large pine near the house: the madrone drop their leaves in July, while the pine drops its needles in August. Both produce too much litter to ignore through the summer.

Trying to time your mowing and/or weed-whacking to just once each spring is a roll of the dice; we put these tasks off until May, to see how conditions are progressing. We mow or weed-whack around the house, outbuildings and along the driveway, and also mow to maintain some fuel breaks/roads on the property, which could help slow a ground fire.

This brings me to something I learned at a fire conference in Reno this March. In the past I've written about observing where leaves and pine needles collect due to wind patterns around your house, because these are the same spots where embers would collect during a fire. This includes places like along the foundation where the siding is a bit irregular, interior corners, porches, valleys on the roof.

In Reno the buzz was about Colorado's 2012 Waldo Canyon fire (346 homes lost), where a home built with a stucco exterior insulation-finishing system (*see photo, top right*) was almost destroyed. Notice the gap from the edge of the stucco to the driveway (*see photo, middle right*); it allows

for drainage of the system. During the fire, embers collected in the gap, allowing ignition of the insulation layer and then the wood framing (*see photo, bottom right*). Fortunately, firefighters caught this in time. My point here is that every house has its weak points, so identify yours and know how to mitigate them during a fire.

Homesite habitat. Here I'm talking about our home's ignition zone (HIZ): the house and everything connected to it by a *continuous line of fuel* (for more info on the HIZ go to www.RVFP.com). It includes your home's construction features, vegetation, and personal things around the home that are flammable. Remember: *over 90% of homes that burn in wildfires burn due to embers landing on or near the home.* By removing flammable items from around the home if a fire is approaching, we greatly increase the chance that our home will survive.

The timing for addressing this varies: moving outdoor furniture pads into the garage would be when a wildfire is approaching, while construction such as replacing a shake roof or installing double-paned windows can be done any time.

I've heard of homes burning due to a fiber door mat outside a wooden door, plants underneath a window, a wooden fence, wood mulch, a rag mop leaning up against the house, patio furniture, and firewood under the deck.

So ask yourself: what types of flammable things that I keep/use near the house could catch embers and end up igniting the home? What about cans of paint or small propane tanks? They're more flammable than the large ones. Learn how to safely disengage the barbecue's propane to quickly store it in the garage.

Regarding this burning ember issue – think it through *beforehand*. Inventory your home and your homesite for weak



A nice, neat, safe, stucco house.



The insulation system needs an allowance for drainage.



Interior ignition as shown here can be difficult for firefighters to spot during a wildfire. Above photos provided by Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety.

points and last minute cleanup items. Have a checklist of to-dos. With a fire approaching, what would you need to put into the house or garage? All of this should be an integral part of your family's emergency evacuation plan—which you review each year, right? So that *your* family will be ready for fire season!

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneOR@q.com

Change is coming for the Applegate Fire Plan

The collaboratively developed Applegate Fire Plan (AFP) is a community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) that was written in 2001-2002 with 28 partners involved. The Applegate Fire Plan is watershed-based, covering all lands within parts of three counties and two states. Much has been accomplished in the Applegate over the past 11 years, but given that both Jackson and Josephine Counties (which represent 88% of the total Applegate watershed) now have active CWPPs, the need for a separate community wildfire protection plan seems redundant.

Therefore, with the 2012 updates of both the Josephine and the Jackson County CWPPs (which will be completed early this summer), the Applegate Fire Plan will become incorporated into these two countywide CWPPs, in order to more effectively combine resources and also to adopt the County Risk/Hazard assessments.

As the AFP coordinator for the past decade, I participated in the development of both county CWPPs in 2004-2006. I have participated in both the Fuels and Risk and the Outreach and Education committees for these CWPPs over the years,

providing timely and continuous input, as well as reporting on the Applegate's status to the county CWPPs. I have consulted with and reported back to the Applegate community and our Applegate Valley Rural Fire District via several media, constantly keeping everyone updated and informed. I've also helped the fire district obtain numerous grants for fuel reduction work. This has been a huge time commitment for me over the years.

I will continue to participate in the county CWPP committees as a private landowner, and encourage any interested Applegaters to do the same.

The original 2002 Applegate Communities Collaborative Fire Protection

Strategy (*Balancing Act: Living with Fire in the Applegate*) is a good reference resource on the watershed, and it will continue to be available to interested parties and new residents in notebook form (see my contact information below—we have plenty available!).

The full original AFP document and maps can be found electronically at <https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/handle/1794/2691>. The fire plans and updates on the county CWPPs can be found at www.co.jackson.or.us/fireplan or www.jocosherriff.us/your-sheriffs-office/emergency-management/fire-plan.

Sandy Shaffer
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MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Money doesn't grow on trees

BY CHRIS BRATT



Chris Bratt

It's always a pleasant thing to receive a promise of money. But, many times promises of money don't materialize—as in the case of not cutting enough trees off public forestlands to help pay the bills for 18 of Oregon's counties. As most of us know, these 18 counties (including Jackson and Josephine) are suffering an ongoing budget shortfall in these difficult economic times nationwide.

These particular counties historically have received a large portion of their general operating revenues by sharing receipts from the sale of trees cut from public forestlands. The U.S. Forest Service contributes 25 percent of all monies generated from timber sales to these counties. These shared federal funds are dedicated to be used specifically for the benefit of public schools and roads in the counties where the national forests are located. In addition, by using a funding formula established in 1937, the counties have always received half the revenues from the sale of trees cut from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands as well.

Due to unsustainable overcutting practices and other arguable reasons over the past four decades, timber volumes on public lands have declined dramatically. With fewer trees being sold and cut, counties are receiving less money from federal timber sales. This situation

caused Congress to intervene in 1994 and the government began funding guarantees to make up for the lost money needed to pay the counties' bills. This level of federal funding made it possible to continue county services, including libraries, sheriff's office and human services.

This year a very serious funding problem has emerged. A fiscally conservative congress is no longer willing to appropriate funds to fill the gap in these counties' budgets. The lack of federal-guaranteed financial support has put the fate of both our counties and public forests at risk. Many of these folks in Congress think of this kind of guaranteed funding as just another "subsidy," an unnecessary item to drop from the federal budget.

These politicians—along with the state, affected counties, and private timber interests—continue to believe that the only long-term solution to our counties' financing problems is to cut a lot more trees. They are recommending a radical

Their plan is to legislate the privatization of our public forests, bringing back clear-cutting and other unsustainable practices of the past.

change in federal forest-management policies. Their plan is to legislate the privatization of our public forests, bringing back clear-cutting and other unsustainable practices of the past.

In fact, there is a congressional committee considering a bill that would divide the BLM forestlands in western Oregon into a trust: half for logging (tree farms and clear-cutting), and half for preservation (with logging as well).

This breakup (the BLM will be out of business) and division of our public forestlands will lead right back to the boom-and-bust economy Oregon experienced prior to funding guarantees. There is no assurance under this scenario that the counties can survive simply by cutting more trees. Neither is there any assurance that our public forests won't be severely degraded by the industry tree farm mentality. Cutting too many trees got us into this financial hole in the first place. Trying to cut, cut, cut again is the perfect definition of insanity.

My proposal for solving this problem:

continue funding counties with a fair long-term (20 to 30 years) guaranteed funding formula, detached from cutting trees.

Here are a few good reasons for taking this approach:

- An often depressed and forever changing lumber market that relies on cutting trees is not stable or reliable enough to provide counties with a steady income source for financial planning and dependability.
- No property taxes are being paid to counties for the millions of acres of public forestland under federal management. Timber revenue sharing with the federal government was supposed to provide enough money to offset the loss of those taxes. It hasn't, and that promise has definitely been broken.

We have come too far in protecting our public forest environment to turn back the clock and give up the safeguards needed for clean air, pure water, healthy forests, vital public recreation, endangered species and a stable climate.

The future of our public forestlands is uncertain, but most people know money doesn't grow on trees. Let your elected representatives know in case they don't.

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988

Applegate Valley Community Grange is almost a year old

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

In June 2012, our first meeting produced a wonderfully diverse group of 37 community members committed to reopening the doors of the Upper Applegate Grange #839 and re-establishing it as a community organization. Now, in

June 2013, at 41 members strong and growing, the group's accomplishments include electing officers, changing the name to Applegate Valley Community Grange (AVCG), getting involved in several community service projects, and

hosting a very successful first Harvest Community Brunch and fund-raiser.

After looking at the repairs needed to make this 1950s-built Grange a vibrant hub for educating, serving, and supporting the community, we began focusing first on a major repair of the roof. It has provided shelter since it was built and been repaired by lots of volunteer Grange members in the past, but now needs reroofing to last for another few generations of community members.

To kick off our fund-raising efforts, members of the Grange are offering to the community a street fair in the country: "Raising the Roof...Almost Summer Faire" will be held from 11 am to 5 pm on Sunday, June 2, at 3901 Upper Applegate Road, almost four miles from Ruch. Parking will be provided across the road from the Grange building.

Come for great outdoor fun... meeting community friends...great local organic food...wonderful artisan wares... organic garden vegetable transplants, ready to plant...perennials, ready to plant...chair massage...face painting and children's activities...meeting local farmers, vintners, artisans, and local organizations...meeting AVCG members....and MORE!

Consider joining us at a Grange meeting and see the Grange at work. We meet the second Sunday of each month at 6 pm for potluck and lively conversation, followed by a business meeting at 7 pm. For more information, contact Paul Tipton or Janis Mohr-Tipton at 541-846-7501.

Janis Mohr-Tipton • 541-846-7501
Secretary
Applegate Valley Community
Grange #839
janismohrtipton48@frontier.com

WILLIAMS GRANGE

Pancake Breakfast

Second Sunday 8:30 to 11:00

January 13, 2013

February 10

March 10, Seed Swap

April 14

May 12, Mother's Day

June 9

July & August, Closed

September 8

October 13

November 10

December 8

Bluegrass Jam 11:00 to 1:00

Bluegrass Jam in cooperation with Chinquapin Center for the Arts

20100 Williams Highway, Info: 541-846-6844 kathybob@oigp.net

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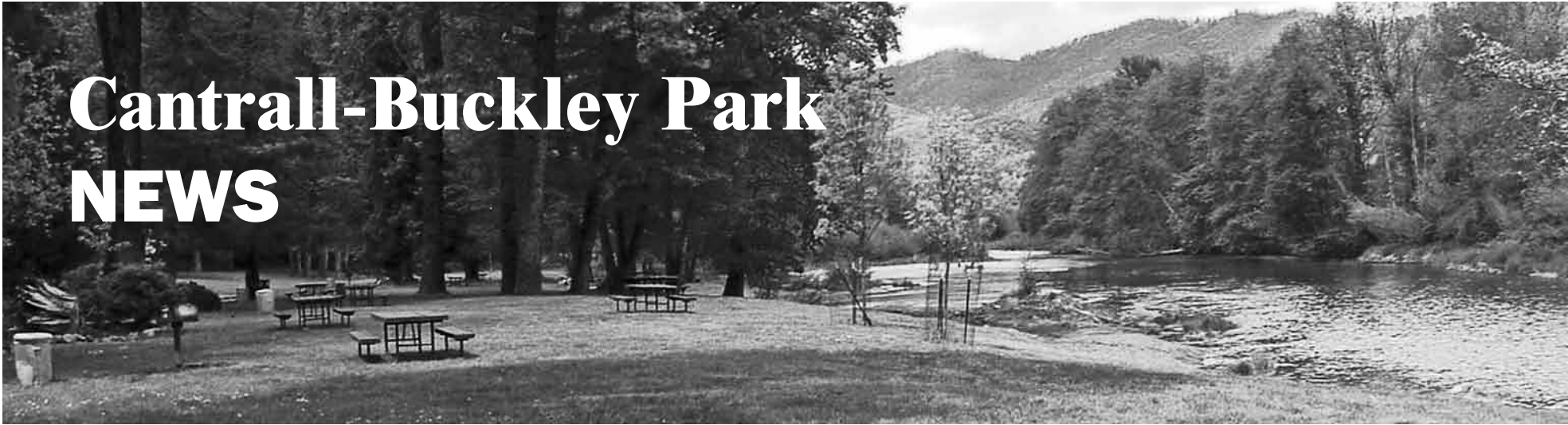
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Cantrall-Buckley Park NEWS

The Cantrall-Buckley Park Committee continues to work on plans for an updated playground. Our goals are to create an attractive playground that meets today's safety standards, includes apparatus that appeal to children of all ages, and is durable. We plan to include an area of the playground accessible to children with disabilities.

We are close to finalizing a list of apparatus and are obtaining purchase, delivery, and installation prices from several manufacturers. The total project cost will include a protective surface material, such as pea gravel, and a barrier to surround the playground and contain the surface material.

Committee members have met with representatives of several organizations about possible funding. These organizations

have indicated a need to demonstrate community support for the project. One major foundation stressed the importance of several forms of community support, including letters of support from park users and a commitment of in-kind contributions, such as in materials and construction. This foundation also said that a successful fund-raising event would add to the strength of our proposal.

Don't miss a fun and entertaining time at the second annual Applegate Valley Day on Saturday, June 22, at Cantrall-Buckley Park—and tell your friends about it, too. There will be no charge for either admission to the park or for parking on Hamilton Road.

David Laananen
541-846-0500
david.laananen@asu.edu

Celebrate Applegate Valley Day on June 22

The Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC), in partnership with the Applegate Valley Oregon Vintners Association (AVOVA) and the Applegate Lions Club, is sponsoring the second annual Applegate Valley Day at Cantrall-Buckley Park on June 22.

We would like to include as many community partners as possible to showcase pioneers, the gold rush, timber, farming, recreation, the wine industry, organic farming and livability. We have made this a one-day event this year at the request of our volunteers and vendors. Due to the number of folks we anticipate attending this year, we have arranged for off-site parking on Hamilton Road, and a shuttle will be provided. **Parking, shuttle and park admission will be free this year!**

- Events planned at this time are:
- **Cantrall-Buckley Park.** Logging equipment display, gold-mining display and instruction, quilting display and raffles, antique cars, antique farm equipment, a wine and beer pavilion, arts and crafts, food (Applegate Lions Club famous barbecue tri-tip and chicken), dog agility event, and music along the river.
 - **Geocache event** sponsored by Outpost Farm & Garden. For more information, contact Tiffany Ryan at 541-899-1113.

The goals of this very ambitious event are to:

- Bring our community together.
- Showcase our livability, natural resources, recreation opportunities and local products.
- Promote local businesses.
- Increase tourism exposure.
- Fund improvements at Cantrall-Buckley Park.
- Continue this as an annual event, funding community projects within the Applegate Valley.

As with any event, there are costs. We are looking for sponsorship assistance with banners, posters, event schedules, advertising and volunteer expenses.

If you, your club, business, or organization would like to be part of Applegate Valley Day, please contact me. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Ed Temple • 541-846-7769
Project Director
Applegate Valley Day
www.applegatevalleydays.org

Join ATA for a hike on Applegate Valley Day in Cantrall-Buckley Park

BY MICHELLE LAFAVE

As we move rapidly into springtime weather, the urge to both labor and laze among the flowers becomes unbearable for most of us country folk. Long days, with so much to do, can lead to back pain, the revenge of the 50-year-old shoulder, and a certain sense that the work of the Applegate homesteader will never be done.

On June 22, take a well-deserved break from the toil to celebrate Applegate Valley Day and experience the refreshing energy of the river at our local treasure, Cantrall-Buckley Park. During the festivities, Applegate Trails Association (ATA) presents a relatively easy and altogether lovely hike through the woods along the Applegate River. Visit the ATA booth for group hike times or directions for a self-guided tour.

Earlier in May, ATA worked hard at our first volunteer trail maintenance day to prepare the three-quarter-mile trail at Cantrall-Buckley Park for your venturing pleasure, clearing away brush and branches and embarking on the first level of tread work. We hope that you will join us in appreciating our first go at on-the-ground trail upkeep. The tread work is not complete on this trail, so be sure to bring sturdy hiking footwear for the uphill section of the trek. For those not prepared for the hillside climb, the level jaunt along

the river offers a scenic look at the park without the need to break a sweat.

Red Lily Vineyard Hike, Wine and Dine

Later in the summer, ATA will offer a special chance to literally explore the Applegate Valley wine trail. On Sunday, August 18, at Red Lily Vineyards, ATA will lead two separate morning hikes followed by a scrumptious Wine and Dine lunch event catered by Fulcrum Dining.

September Campout at Jackson Campground features Diana Coogle

As summer turns to fall, the ATA will host its second annual weekend event on the banks of the Applegate River. Mark your calendars now for September 21 and 22. The September event at Jackson Campground includes dinner, an evening of entertainment, rustic camping accommodations (optional), breakfast, and a hike the next morning on a local trail. Last year's guest speaker, long-time local author Diana Coogle, drew the comfortable crowd in close around the campfire with her entertaining tales and vast knowledge of our bioregion. Luckily, ATA will again feature Coogle at the 2013 campout.

Building and maintaining trails may be a slow and arduous process, but we are patient, forward-looking people and know that a significant nonmotorized trail system will be a tremendous asset to the Applegate Valley. ATA has successfully secured grant money for six trailheads along the Applegate Ridge Trail. The view of sweet success is on the horizon; join us for the adventure.

Michelle LaFave
Board Member
Applegate Trails
Association
michelle@
applegatetrails.org



Border collie runs the agility course at Applegate Valley Days.



Strike it rich—pan for gold at Applegate Valley Day.

Applegate Trails Association guided hikes and event schedule

Let's go for a hike! More details about the hikes or events listed below and any changes or cancellations may be found on the calendar page at www.applegatetrails.org. Check out the website "Hike" page for the growing list of self-guided day hikes.

The distances are estimates and ratings of "Easy" (E), "Moderate" (M) and "Difficult" (D) are merely guides. One person's "Moderate" may be "Difficult" for another. All of the hikes have elevation changes.

Remember to wear appropriate footwear and bring plenty of water. Please leave your pets at home. You may reach any of the ATA board members for additional information about our organization via the website or contact David Calahan, chairman and frequent hike leader at 541-899-1226 or david@applegatetrails.org. A nonprofit organization depends on the generosity of the community. Please consider donating locally.

DATE	HIKE / EVENT	MEET	LENGTH	RATE
June 22	Cantrall-Buckley Park Trail in conjunction with Applegate Valley Day	Cantrall-Buckley Park, all day	1 mile (-)	E to M
July 19	Hinkle Lake Trail: A high-mountain meadow. Optional longer hike may be offered.	Ruch Plaza, lower parking lot, 9 am	3 or 5 miles	M to D
Aug 18	Red Lily Vineyard: Wine & Dine lunch at the vineyard after the hike. Catered by Fulcrum Dining. Optional longer hike.	Red Lily Vineyard 11777 Highway 238 Applegate 9 am	2 or 4 miles	M to D
Sept 21	Dinner, entertainment and (optional) campout at Jackson Campground.	Jackson Campground, Upper Applegate Road past McKee Bridge. Dinner around 6 pm.		
Sept 22	Gin Lin Trail	Jackson Campground around 10 am.	1 mile	E to M
Sept 22	Mule Mountain Trail	Jackson Campground around 10 am.	3 or 6 miles	M to D

NEXT GENERATION

"Next Generation" features the talents of our local students and school news and updates. All schools in the Applegate Valley are encouraged to submit art, writing, photography and any other creative pieces to gater@applegater.org.

APPLEGATE SCHOOL

SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) is a reading mentorship program that pairs adult volunteers with students in kindergarten through third grade in public schools across Oregon. Applegate School is seeking volunteers to read one hour per week starting in the fall of 2013. If interested, please call Seana Hodge at 541-846-6280 for more information about SMART or visit their website at www.getsmartoregon.org.

Calligraphy. During the third trimester in 2013, Colleen Davidson has been teaching the art of calligraphy as a middle school elective. Colleen is very talented with her calligraphy and is sharing this beautiful art of lettering with students, whose work shows that they are catching on very quickly.

Visual Arts. In the art class elective,

we are continuing our visual arts with recycled products. The students are using reclaimed wood leftovers from shelves that were built in the "new" old brick school building. The leftover pieces were cut into a fish shape that looks a lot like a salmon or a trout. On these fish cutouts, students paint their own designs using acrylic paints.

Spanish. Second and third graders have been learning the Spanish language. Volunteer Fred Hall has teamed with his daughter Rebecca Cross and they are in their second year of teaching introductory Spanish to the 2/3 class. Students have learned to speak greetings, identify objects in their classroom, count, and some things about the Spanish culture.

We appreciate all of our volunteers and learning opportunities at Applegate School. If you have a special talent you would like to teach and share with our students, please call us at 541-846-6280.

Linda Kappen • 541-846-6280
Schoolwide Education Assistant
Applegate School

RUCH SCHOOL

Margaret della Santina and I brainstormed a writing project that would teach the writing process to first- and second-grade students while making the learning meaningful, which is a challenge in the elementary grades. We also wanted to give the students an opportunity to use their imagination and write creatively.

So we researched companies that publish books for young students, and have the students go through the process of brainstorming, writing, editing, illustrating, and then publishing. At the end we celebrate with an author's reception.

The following stories are products of this year's creative writing unit, and are in the process of being published.

All first- and second-grade students will be sharing their stories at the author's reception on Thursday, June 6, at 1:30 pm. The community is invited to attend.

Kim Neiswanger
1/2 Grade Teacher



"The Happy Happy Princess" by Isabelle Brown, First Grade

Once upon a time, a princess named Ellie was ruled by a kingdom. One night the Queen turned evil and kicked the princess out. The princess jumped from her window and landed on a trampoline but the evil guards did not know it was there. She was all alone and scared. She went to the woods to find help, but bad guys from the Land of Goliath chased her. She did not know how to kill them. Suddenly by suddenly, she ran into a prince whose name was Garrett. The evil men from the Land of Goliath had guns and they were shooting at Princess Ellie, but Prince Garrett had a sword and one by one, he stuck it in the bad guys' bellies and they all died. Then Prince Garrett took Princess Ellie to a secret hide out in the Land of

Israel, and left her with his guards and they were good to her. They took care of her while Garrett was gone. Prince Garrett went back to the kingdom and when it was dark he sneaked into the castle and chopped off the evil Queen's head. When Prince Garrett got back to his hide out he asked Princess Ellie to marry and she said yes. They had a baby girl named Isabelle and a baby boy named Wyatt. They really loved their children, and Isabelle and Wyatt never had to run away because Queen Ellie and King Garrett were good. They live happily ever after in their new kingdom.



The Bee, The Rainbow, and The Blackberry by Ellie Hillen, Second Grade

One day a colorless bee found a rainbow. The bee wanted to be colorful, so the bee went into the color red. The bee became red! A hummingbird came along and pestered the bee. Finally the bee had to sting the hummingbird. The bee didn't want to, but it was the only way. After that the bee decided to go into another color. The bee went into the color blue. But kids chased him! Quickly the bee flew toward the rainbow. But Oh No!!! One of the kids had a jar!! The bee flew fast but the kid with the jar ran faster! Buzz, buzz, buzz, thomp, thomp, thomp! Buzz! Buzz! Jump! Buzz! Whack! The jar trapped the bee! The bee broke free with his stinger. The bee flew into the rainbow. This time the bee went into the color yellow. The bee was happy! But the bee realized he didn't have any black stripes! The bee looked and looked. Finally, the bee found a juicy blackberry. The bee grabbed a pine needle and poked it into the blackberry. The bee stuck the pine needle in a tree. The bee put his beehind on the needle and spun around. It worked! The bee had stripes!! Finally, the bee had the right color, and stripes, and a juicy blackberry for dinner.

Submitted by
Julie Hill, Principal, Ruch School
541-842-3850
julie.hill@medford.k12.or.us

**Enjoy more stories
by Ruch School students online!
www.applegater.org**

Battle of the Books: Jerome Prairie and Applegate Schools place first and second

Jerome Prairie Elementary School swept the Battle of the Books held at Fruitdale Elementary School in Grants Pass on April 27. Both of their teams (Level 1 and Level 2) placed first in the district-wide competition.

Pictured, left to right, are: **(top row)** Kimberly Flow; Level 2 team: Annika Sellke, Daniel Beachy, Weston Flow and Aileen Poynter; Alicia Beachy; **(bottom row)** Level 1 team: Drew Sellke, Lea Beachy and Maxwell Sloan.



Applegate School was also a double winner. The competing teams not only received the Sportmanship Award at the Battle of the Books, but the school's Level 1 team, comprised of third graders, also placed second in the district competition.

Pictured, left to right: **(top row)** coach Jean Hall and teacher Debra Yerby; **(bottom row)** Maria Cross, Carlen Nielsen and Coral Lowry.

Applegate School students receive awards at Three Rivers School District Science Fair

Every two years, Mr. Scull's Applegate School 4/5 class participates in the school district science fair.

Pictured are the students who received awards this year. Left to right **(top row)**: Lucas—Silver Ribbon (second place certificate); Caitlyn—Gold Ribbon (honorable mention certificate); Riley—Bronze Ribbon; Kaiah—Gold Ribbon (first place certificate); Alia—Bronze Ribbon; **(bottom row)** Joshua—Silver Ribbon (second place certificate); Laney—Gold Ribbon (first place certificate); Macy—Gold Ribbon (third place certificate), Liam—Gold Ribbon (third place certificate); Gabe—Silver Ribbon. The school is proud of all of you!



Annual Children's Festival at Britt Gardens, Jacksonville



The 47th annual Children's Festival, a magical three-day event from July 13 - 15 at Britt Gardens in Jacksonville, promises to be an amazing day for the entire family. This year's theme, "Dig Deep—Adventures Await!" was inspired by the Jackson County Library's Summer Reading Program, "Dig into Reading."

Presented by the Storytelling Guild, the festival includes over 30 booths of hands-on arts and crafts and daily feeding of the beloved litter-eating dragons, Rosabelle and Pebbles. Older children will enjoy crafts such as candle making, pottery and woodworking, while younger children can make their own puppets, create sand and easel art, and have their faces painted. The whole family can look forward to child-focused stage performances, yummy food from our Dragon Deli and activities like Storytelling on the Hill. We always enjoy having local celebrities read to the

children, including a few well-known news anchors!

The festival runs for a total of three sessions over a three-day period:

Saturday, July 13, 4:30 - 8:30 pm

Sunday, July 14, 4:30 - 8:30 pm

Monday, July 15, 10 am - 1:30 pm

Admission for all the adventure you can handle is \$3 per day for adults and children. Our goal has always been to offer a wonderful day of entertainment and education while keeping the cost to families as low as possible.

This year's festival promises to inspire children of all ages and will help us continue our mission of instilling a love of reading in children, a gift that if given in childhood can last a lifetime.

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, visit the guild website: www.storytellingguild.org or our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/storytellingguild.

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Photos, from left to right:

—Applegate School students **Kailas Lowry**, 6, and **Coral Lowry**, 9, search the Applegater for ninja turtle sitings while vacationing on Grand Turk Island.

—**Claudia and Dan Beausoleil** of Williams hiked up 2,000 feet to The Tiger's Nest monastery (elevation: 9,300 feet) in Bhutan, where they clung to the Applegater for spiritual guidance.

—Just below Huddleston Glacier while hiking the Southern Alps in New Zealand, **Tom and Kathy Carstens** check the Gater's avalanche forecasts.



Ruch Family Medicine
7208 Hwy. 238, Jacksonville, OR 97530
Ph: (541) 899-6976
Fax: (541) 899-6981

**Introducing
Natalia Nazartchouk, PhD, FNP-BC**

Natalia Nazartchouk has joined Dr. Andrew Watson at Ruch Family Medicine and is **currently accepting new patients**. She is a Board Certified Family Nurse Practitioner and, additionally, has been certified as an

Advanced Diabetes Management Practitioner by the American Diabetes Association. Natalia received her Master of Science degree from University of Massachusetts in 2002 and, for the last 11 years, has engaged in advanced medical practice, both in ambulatory and hospital care environments.

Key specialties of her medical experience include family primary care, cardiology, advanced diabetes management, geriatrics, and women's health. As a Family Nurse Practitioner, Natalia places strong emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention.

Natalia's Philosophy of Care: "Compassion and understanding need to be integrated with clinical aspects of healthcare. I want to build long-term professional relationships with my patients based on trust, comfort, and understanding, and I enjoy taking care of multiple generations within a family. I am a strong advocate for preventative medicine and strive to equip my patients with knowledge and tools, which will help to promote their personal wellbeing."

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