

Applegater

Photo by Virginia James

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WINTER 2013
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Applegate Valley Community Newspaper
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Postal Patron

Almost there! McKee Bridge Historical Society receives two grants

BY ROBERT VAN HEUIT

The McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) received two grants in October 2013: \$10,000 from the Kinsman Foundation and \$20,000 for a Preserving Oregon grant from the State Historic Preservation Office.

To restore McKee Bridge, the MBHS still needed to raise \$56,200 in matching funds for a restoration federal grant that was awarded to Jackson County in August 2012. Jackson County accepted the grant

with the commitment of MBHS to raise the matching funds. With the two grants noted recently received and generous contributions by supporters of McKee Bridge, we have raised almost \$50,000. We have also applied for a grant from ESCO Foundation for \$10,000.

In addition to the matching funds, we need an estimated \$10,000 to repair the western approach to the bridge so it will safely support a large crane needed during

the repair operations.

The McKee Bridge Board of Directors recognized the need for an intensive fund-raising effort to raise the matching funds for the restoration grant. In 2012 and 2013, board members Paul Tipton and Dale Petrsek attended the Oregon Nonprofit Leadership Conference in Medford, Oregon. They made contact with many charitable foundations. Paul was able to assemble the grant applications we sent to Kinsman, Preserve Oregon and ESCO. Obviously, he did a terrific job writing the grant applications since two are already approved and a third is pending. We all thank Paul for his hard work and successful effort.

In January of this year, \$12,000 was sent to the county to be used as matching funds for the engineering phase of the work. Oregon Bridge Engineering Company (OBEC) was selected to design

the repair and commenced work in the spring of this year. They expect to complete that design work in the next few months and after state review, the project is expected to go out for bids in March or April 2014 with construction to be done between June and October.

We're almost there! We still need about \$10,000 for the approach repair, which is not part of the grants.

If you feel moved to help get us over this last hurdle, please send your contributions to McKee Bridge Historical Society, P. O. Box 854, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

Thank you for your support. Applegaters are the greatest!

Robert Van Heuit
President

McKee Bridge Historical Society
541-899-2927
rvanh2000@yahoo.com

Election results

Thank you from the Applegate Valley Fire District

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Applegate Valley Fire District #9, I would like to thank the volunteers, the staff and, most importantly, the voters, for the successful passing of our recent operating levy.

The passing of the levy indicates that you, the public, understand the need and are willing to support your fire district, not only with your time but with your tax dollars. Your fire district board takes the responsibility of overseeing the district very seriously and strives to make sure your tax dollars are well spent.

Our job is made easier by the caliber of the fire chief, staff and volunteers. As a team, they provide the expertise, dedication and time to make this the finest fire district any community could ask for!

Thank you for supporting your district with your vote. We will continue to provide the best service possible and spend your tax dollars wisely.

Ed Temple
President
Board of Directors
Applegate Valley Fire District #9
541-899-1050



Applegate Valley Fire District Board of Directors and committee members celebrate the passing of the fire district's levy on election night. Photo: Brad Barnes.

Notes from a Rogue entomologist

There's a new stink bug in town

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

Discovering a new insect species in a region can be exciting, but when the insect is an exotic pest species, the knowledge of the damage that can follow quickly turns excitement into action. In some select cases, an exotic pest can be eradicated. This happened just recently in Cave Junction, where Japanese beetles were discovered. Japanese beetles are serious pests of turf, ornamentals, and many crops throughout the East and Midwest. In this instance the introduction was traced to a location where new arrivals from an infested area had brought in potted plants with larval beetle grubs in the soil. Luckily the infestation was caught at an early stage and good trapping and control methods were available allowing the eradication to be successful. After two years of multiple treatments, the beetle population appears to have been eliminated entirely.

Another insect-eradication effort of local interest is underway in Northern California. The European grapevine moth, a major pest of grapes in Europe, was



The brown marmorated stink bug, an exotic pest recently found in our region. Photo: purdue.edu/newsroom (John Obermeyer).

discovered in the Napa Valley in 2009. Unfortunately, by the time the California infestation was discovered the affected area was already large. Due to the importance of grapes and the potential negative impact of this pest, a massive trapping and control effort was initiated. Over 100,000 moths were trapped in the Napa Valley in 2010, and moths were found in 11 counties in California. However, in 2012, following a concerted program of quarantine, control, and trapping, only 77 moths were trapped, and only in Napa County. This year, there are over 11,000 traps deployed in Napa County; as of mid-summer, just 36 moths had been caught.

It would be quite remarkable if this

See STINK BUG, page 10

INSIDE THE GATER

Local art from the soul—Gypsy Soul.....page 12
Three artists take their art in new directions.....page 13

Fuel-reduction assistance grants available.....page 14
Poisoned marijuana grows silencing forests.....page 20

The making of my moth doll

BY RACHEL MYREN

It was in mid December on a dull gray day when the question came to me, "What do I really want?" This idea of *what I wanted* was new territory for me. What stirred in me was that I wanted to make a doll!

So, I set aside my irrational fears and garnered up the courage to just start this doll having no idea what was to come of it. I started with the head. Once it was stuffed, I needle-sculpted the facial features. I then held this little muslin doll head in the palm of my hand. In that very sweet moment, "she" told me she "wanted to be a moth!" I thought to myself, "a moth... really? What kind of moth? And, *why a moth?*" Clearly, this doll knew what she needed to become and I had been *chosen* to create her. It felt like such an honor! I realized my role in this project was to listen and to trust. In a vague way this felt exciting to me in the dull of winter.

For months she sat on my worktable in varying stages of development and frequently my sewing clients would ask, "What is she going to look like when she is done?" I had no idea! It was as if she was unfolding in my hands, little by little as I worked on her. I had lots of resistance when it came to making the wings. This,



Harken's transformation took seamstress Rachel Myren around 200 hours to complete.

I knew, was an inner personal resistance. These wings represented a profoundly transformed state. Something was also going on inside myself. I, too, was being transformed by this process.

Insects have an exoskeleton made of chitin so I represented these tiny scales on the limbs with the applied dull lace over the sheen of the iridescent silk dupioni fabric. Her forearms have skin showing



through the lace indicating that she is still changing. Moths also often have dull-colored, furry bodies. I "just happened" to find the perfectly colored taupe fur for her thighs, bottom and back on either side of her newly emerging wings. Her "petticoat" is made of white fluffy feathers, which implies lightness and coming flight. For her hair I found the perfect combination of taupe and teal twisted together, which I fashioned into pigtailed of youthful-looking looped braids. Somehow they reflect the newness of her emerging condition. Due to the imbalance created by the heavy glass beading on the backs of her wings, I had to add three fishing weights inside her bottom. A little grounding is not a bad idea!

The question that most often came up was, "Why a moth and not a beautiful butterfly?" My answer was that moths are comparatively unnoticed. We marvel over butterflies and their graceful beauty. Moths are not thought of as beautiful, but they are if you really look closely. Both moths and butterflies go through a significant metamorphosis entering into a still, chrysalis-like state, *alone*, to later

emerge completely transformed with wings. Moths also seek out the light, which is what this doll is all about!

One day, about five months into her making, it came to me that her name was to be Harken, which in Old English means to actively listen. As it turns out, Harken is a woman who is *in the process of morphing* into a moth. She is aware of something changing within her. She can sense the emerging wings, the antennae and even the thorax, but she is not able to see any of these changes because they are happening behind and above her. From the front, Harken is dull in color, much like a moth's body, but from the back there are bright colors emerging on her wings. Harken's upward expression is listening attentively to gain an understanding of what she is to

do with these emerging, brightly colored "gifts," her newly changing life form.

To finish, I gave her a single teardrop on her necklace, which represents the bitter-sweetness of sloughing off the old and the taking on of the new. Change is rarely easy.

Doll-making can be a powerful and personally transformative journey. The fact is that the doll is me. Like a moth that is so often not noticed, my life has been largely consumed by invisible work that is noticed only when it is not yet done. Harken represents the transformation I am experiencing at what I call my mid-life upheaval. I'm glad that I *accepted the inner challenge* to listen and create Harken for she seemed to know what she needed to become.

Now, after nine months, Harken is finally complete. She continues her harkening—gently reminding me to sit still, quiet my thoughts, actively listen and to trust in this sometimes daunting inner process of mid-life upheaval.

Rachel Myren
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Docile moth provides photo ops

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The second largest and one of the most recognizable insect orders in the world is Lepidoptera, which includes butterflies and moths. Moths make up the largest number in this order. There are 150,000 to 250,000 species of moths with more still to be described by scientists. The United States has around 11,000 moth species, and in southwestern Oregon alone there are 1,000 known species.



Pacific Green Sphinx Moth found at Applegate School. Photo: Linda Kappen.

The Pacific Green Sphinx Moth (*Proserpinus lucidus*, formerly known as *Arctonotus lucidus*) is of the Sphingidae family that includes a majority of the moth species. Its range is in the Pacific Northwest.

This moth is on the wing very early in the season from mid January to April. In southwestern Oregon the habitats for this species are oak woodlands or chaparral and mixed grasslands.

In the caterpillar stage, food plants are evening primrose (*Oenothera dentata* var. *campestris*) and clarkias. Some sources say this moth does not feed as an adult; others say it feeds on flower nectar.

At night you may see males of this species attracted to light. This beautiful Pacific Green Sphinx Moth (*see photo*) was found at Applegate School one evening during February 2010. Last winter several

moths were observed under porch lights at the school. There are many similar habitats in our area and it is worth a search on your porch to see the heart-shaped designs, bright olive-green color with rosy-pink and light-brown lined markings.

This moth with its docile nature will let you photograph and observe it for a long period of time. Observing moths can be fun with their diversity of shapes, sizes, colors, and fascinating patterns.

More information about moths can be found at the PNW Moths website (pnwmoths.biol.wvu.edu) and Butterflies and Moths of North America website (butterfliesandmoths.org).

Linda Kappen

humbugkapps@hotmail.com

Ed. Note: Linda Kappen earned a naturalist certification from Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) and has hosted a two-day butterfly/moth course there.

Diana Coogle joins the Applegater Board of Directors

Diana Coogle, long-time Applegate denizen and writer, has joined the *Applegater* Board of Directors. Jumping in with both feet, she also wrote a story for this issue about some talented local artisans.

After growing up in Georgia and studying at Cambridge University as a Marshall Scholar, Diana moved to an Applegate mountainside where she lived without electricity, closer to neighbors in nature than to human neighbors, teaching part-time at Rogue Community College (RCC) and writing commentaries for Jefferson Public Radio (JPR), happily half a hermit, for more than 35 years. In 2006 she began a weekly commute to Eugene to pursue a PhD in English and to teach at the University of Oregon.

During graduate-school years she acquired a wonderful granddaughter and a new house (on her same land) designed by her son, where she now lives, still happily, with common electrical conveniences. After graduating in 2012, she is home full-time, continuing teaching at RCC and writing. Diana has published three books of selected JPR commentaries: *Fire*



The Applegater board is that much stronger with the addition of Diana Coogle.

from the *Dragon's Tongue* (an Oregon Book Award finalist), *Living with All My Senses: 25 Years of Life on the Mountain*, and *An Explosion of Stars*. In addition, with Janeen Sathre, she has published *Favorite Hikes of the Applegate: A Trail Guide with Stories and Histories*.

Besides her many years as an Applegater, Diana brings to the *Applegater* board her past experience on other boards along with journalism and writing expertise.

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

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

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

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Editorial Calendar

ISSUE	DEADLINE
SPRING (March-May).....	February 1 <i>Commerce/Community</i>
SUMMER (June-Aug).....	May 1 <i>Environment/Fire/ Recreation</i>
FALL (Sept-Nov).....	August 1 <i>Agriculture/Wine</i>
WINTER (Dec-Feb).....	November 1 <i>Holiday/Arts</i>

Personal mailing label!

One year: \$14.99

Two years: \$24.99

Mail us a check or pay online at www.applegater.org.

Winter masthead photo credit

Virginia James of Williams captured her beloved quarter horses, Schuyler and Scout, when they ventured out on a decidedly winter day.

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 9,400 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—Valorie Tintinger
541-450-2983

livingwelltoday526@gmail.com
Josephine County—Aimee Mortensen
541-660-0900

watership@rocketmail.com

Next deadline: February 1

FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to our winter holiday edition!

In the holiday spirit, we've packed this issue full of gift ideas for your special friends and loved ones—from unusual jewelry to hearty winter plants. And we've highlighted just a few of the amazingly talented folks who live among us, along with their unique creations.

We also welcome new board member Diana Coogle, who many of you know not only from the many years she was an *Applegater* copy editor, but also through her books and teachings. Diana will take on the copy-editor task once again, as well as contribute articles (see page 13).

We are always looking for ways to improve the newspaper, so we're reaching out to all our readers to complete a brief survey (see page 22). We want *your* opinions—this is, after all, *your* newspaper. (The survey also can be filled out online at applegater.org.)

Thanks to all of you who sent in your donation envelope or donated online! We may have a strong and capable Board of Directors in place, but our financial woes haven't changed. We appreciate every donation, large and small.

Save the Date: A fun and different (for us) fund-raising event is in the initial planning stages for February 23, 2014. More information is on page 6; updates will be posted on Facebook and Jo's List. Stay tuned!

A heartfelt thanks goes out to our readers, writers, donors, copy editors, proofers, mailing crew, webmaster, advertising representatives and all the volunteers who keep the *Applegater* afloat.

Happy Holidays to all from the *Applegater* Board of Directors!

Barbara Holiday
gater@applegater.org

P.S. Don't forget to check our online calendar (applegater.org) for events all over southern Oregon. We also post events on our Facebook page. If you'd like your event posted, email your information to us (gater@applegater.org).

What's Inside the Gater

- A journey of love for the Navajo Nation* p. 5
- Back in Time: My great-great Uncle Si McKee*..... p. 6
- Behind the Green Door: State of denial*..... p. 21
- Birdman: Bird cousins return in winter*..... p. 11
- Dirty Fingernails and All: It's about thyme*..... p. 8
- Divide Camp update*..... p. 5
- Grape Talk: Major influences in vineyard development*..... p. 17
- Opinion—River Right: Pinball rapids* p. 19
- Opinion—Wake up, southern Oregon! The wolf is among us*..... p. 19
- Redefining 'community' in the Applegate* p. 14
- The Starry Side: Never touch each other* p. 7

Community Calendar

Alcoholics Anonymous. Open meeting 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 May. Days, times, and locations vary. All those who hold an associate of arts, baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university are welcome to join. Contact Velma Woods at woods@grantspass.com or 541-956-5287, or Marianne Dwyer at readandshop@yahoo.com or 541-479-4041. 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 North 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 is open Tuesday and Friday from 2 to 6 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. Storytime is Tuesday at 2:30 pm. 18485 North Applegate Road.

Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) meets 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 fourth 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 for a potluck and a business meeting. Call 541-846-7501 for times. 3901 Upper Applegate Road.

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 seniors (60-plus) to enjoy a nutritious, hot meal served at 11:30 am Monday through Friday at the Jacksonville IOOF Hall 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 is open Tuesday from 11 am to 5 pm, Thursday from 1 to 7 pm, and Saturday from 12 to 4 pm. Storytime is Tuesday at 11 am. 7919 Highway 238.

Sanctuary One is open to the public for farm tours every Wednesday and Saturday, 10:30 am to noon. Minimum donation is \$10. 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 Highway 238). 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 Highway near Tetherow Road. For more information, call 541-846-6844.

Williams Grange #399 Business Meeting, second Tuesday of each month, 7 pm. 20100 Williams Highway near Tetherow Road. For more information, call 541-846-6844.

Williams Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 1 to 5 pm. Stories, crafts and skill-sharing every Tuesday at 3:45 pm and Saturday at 2 pm. All ages welcome at free programs by local volunteers. Free Wi-Fi 24/7. 20100 Williams Highway near Tetherow Road. For more information, call Danielle Schreck at 541-846-7020.

Williams Rural Fire Protection District meets the 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 Highway 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 meets the second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm, Wonder Bible Chapel, 11911 Redwood Highway, Wilderville.

Send your calendar information to gater@applegater.org.

Be sure to keep the Gater updated with any changes to your listing.

MOVIE & BOOK REVIEWS

— Movie —

Blue Jasmine

Reviewer rating: **3 Apples**



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

PG-13 (mature thematic material, language, sexual content); Comedy; 98 minutes

Opened: July 2013

Cast: Cate Blanchett, Sally Hawkins, Alec Baldwin, Bobby Cannavale,

Peter Sarsgaard, Andrew Dice Clay

Director/Writer: Woody Allen

There are only so many traumatic experiences a person can handle. For this reason, I would not recommend this movie. At best, the film is a dreary depiction of a very sad, depressing, tragic and cruel (but true-to-life) story, yet it contains elements that make it very real and honest. Contrary to my opinion, this movie is noted for Oscar-worthy components, including an outstanding performance by Cate Blanchett (a clear frontrunner for best actress), not to mention the exceptional portrayals by the other actors as well. On the upside, you can't go wrong with the story being set in San Francisco. This movie centers around the trials and tribulations of Blanchett's character as it relates to the aftermath of the arrest of Bernie Madoff. Overall, this was a bit too much for me to regard as a likable film, but may be worth seeing for the performances alone.

Sharon Thompson

thompsonsharon99@gmail.com

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

— Books —

Mink River

Brian Doyle



It's way past time for me to write a review of a book about Oregon, by an Oregonian. Brian Doyle's novel *Mink River* (Oregon State University Press, 2010) is a rollicking gritty story of a fictional town on the north Oregon coast. *Library Journal* compares it to Faulkner. I cannot compare it to any book I have ever read. I, an English literature major, and my husband, an engineer, both say it's the best novel we have read in well over a decade. For the literary types, Blake, and many other greats, are subtly quoted (or channeled?) throughout. There is a bit of compelling magical realism in the person—yes, person—of Moses, a talking, philosophizing crow. And there is a lifesaving bear. Rare literacy, but contained in the solid backbone story of a wild, wet—so normal!—small Oregon coastal town with its dancingly naughty Irish humor, primal force Indians, wise old men, a good marriage with an artist wife going through a rough patch, a compassionate nun, drunks, cops, loggers, fishermen and a sassy sister. This book has standing-room-only hilarity and wisdom.

Speaking of standing room only, we have been twice to the Eugene library to hear Doyle speak, most recently in September, and the crowd was spilling out the door. He tells hilarious stories of growing up in Brooklyn, in an Irish-Catholic family of six boys and one girl. That one sister became a Buddhist nun. His mom said she was happy to have a nun in the family; it didn't matter what brand. He also tells how he once got into an argument with the Dalai Lama over whether basketball or soccer is the greatest sport on earth. Doyle argued for basketball, the Dalai Lama for soccer. The argument was interrupted before it could be resolved; however, the Dalai Lama promised they would pick up where they left off, in this lifetime or the next. The kicker is that Doyle did not know it was the Dalai Lama he was arguing with. He told of sassing the world's great spiritual leader with tough, brash New Yorkerisms such as, "Look, Pal, didn't you hear what I just said?"

I have heard some people grouse about the lengthy lists in *Mink River*. And in Eugene, Doyle commented about similar complaints. He read parts of those lists, and in his fine voice the words—diverse bits of Oregon flora and fauna, sea and forest, roads and highways, mothers and lovers, sinners and sicknesses—are pure poetry. Shards and shreds. Words dance and sing in *Mink River*: "Rumor of cougar."

Brian Doyle seems to take delight in the emailed criticism he receives. He read some of these, including the errors in spelling and grammar they contained, to the chortling delight of the Eugene audience. I should note that Brian Doyle is the editor of the award-winning *Portland Magazine* at the University of Portland. For a small taste of Doyle's wonderful combination of hilarity and humanity, go to *The Oregonian* archives online and look for his essay, "On noticing a man reading my sprawling novel on a train" (September 20, 2012). Two quotes from that: "I have been informed that my book is brooding with death, that it is obsessed with breasts, that it is filled with wheelchairs, that it is an elegy to James Joyce, and that it is a metaphor for the United States of America, none of which had occurred to me as I wrote it, or afterwards, for that matter..." and "I have had a young man tell me mine was not only the best book he ever read but a book that made him want to go to college to find out what other sorts of shimmering books there might be for him to discover. 'Your book was a door, sir,' he said to me, which is not a sentence I ever heard before, and will be one of the sentences I remember all the rest of my days."

As for me, I agree with the young man who wanted to discover more shimmering books. Doyle has a new novel coming out in the spring. I wonder how it can possibly equal *Mink*. After reading *Mink River*, I have never looked at a crow or a raven the same way since. I've seen Moses lurking behind those twinkling sharp eyes.

Julia (Helm) Hoskins

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Ed. Note: *The reviewer is the author of She Caves to Conquer, a book about a young woman who escapes the Midwest, moves halfway around the globe and finds caves that have been occupied for nearly 4,000 years.*



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Divide Camp update

BY JULIE WHEELER

The vision to turn the old family hunting camp into a refuge for men and women wounded and scarred by their time in battle, came in an instant picture.

The work began 16 months ago. Trenches were dug, water and power lines installed, logs on old cabins renewed with a power buffer, and chinking placed between the logs. The spring was developed and solar panels installed to power the pump.

We formed a corporation in August 2012. In November we submitted to the IRS the application and fee to obtain nonprofit status. We expected the IRS to follow their guidelines and process within 90 days—that was 12 months ago! We recently engaged the help of an Oregon congressman to move the process forward. We have no funding stream, only private savings and donations from people and organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars who understand the need and have a desire to help.

Last winter contributors donated building materials and supplies, enough to fill a horse trailer and a flatbed trailer. The convoy made it to Divide Camp in late May, and the work began again. Volunteers worked throughout the summer. Eventually four cabins were habitable. Two are fully furnished and decorated. Many handcrafted items have been donated including curtains, wooden signs, stepping-stones and gorgeous quilts.

On September 11, 2013, I received an email from a young man who had served in



Tyler Andreatta, USMC retired, with Gracie at Divide Camp.

Afghanistan. He had found our website and read it “from top to bottom a few times.” He said it kept calling him back. Though he had learned to manage the results of his physical injuries, the mental part was taking over his life in a negative way. The counseling and medications he was getting from the Veterans Administration were no longer useful.

My first reaction to Tyler’s email was to let him know we were not quite ready for guests, that we still didn’t have power and water to the cabins. Immediately I sensed a small voice say, “Really?” I re-read his note and realized he needed to be here and it wasn’t going to matter how ready we were. He would be our first guest.

Meet Tyler, a US Marine with nearly six years of service who was shot inside a helicopter in an attempt to rescue two wounded soldiers. His injuries were significant. The first bullet grazed his nose, a second entered his chest on the side and exited his back on the opposite side,

taking out part of a lung and destroying much of his shoulder function. He was awarded a Purple Heart. Then he was told he would not be able to continue to serve in the Marine Corps, a devastating emotional blow to a young man planning to make a career of serving his country. After undergoing many months of physical therapy and counseling and being put on 12 different medications, Tyler knew he needed to stop taking the drugs and find a different kind of treatment. He searched the Internet for an option and found Divide Camp. After reading and re-reading the website, he knew this was it.

Tyler came to camp near the end of September. Though he was only able to stay for several days, his experience was “just what he needed.” He got his first good night’s sleep in two years. He found he was able to write again, something he enjoyed doing before going to war but hadn’t been able to do since. He left us this poem (see box), which says it all!

We know there are thousands of “Tylers” trying to create a “new normal” after being wounded in war. We know nature is an effective healing force. We want to help as many as we can. We’ve chosen to keep moving forward without the IRS, believing there are truly generous individuals and businesses who will contribute because they believe and not because they can use a tax deduction. If you’d like to help this effort, please visit our website at dividecamp.org or call us at 541-531-9939. There is no donation too large or too small!

Julie Wheeler
jwheeler@jci.net

Divide Camp

By Sgt. Tyler Andreatta
USMC retired

There is a Heavenly place
Where healing is done.
Hospitality is off the charts,
on a scale from ten to one.

A place with no doctors
or forms to do.
No white coat & pills,
or waiting rooms.

A place where wind whistles,
and birds sing,
And your breath is taken
by the beautiful scenes.

A place where wildlife flourish
and memories are made,
I can’t think of better medication
made to this date!

A place that clears your mind
and refreshes the heart.
A place to let go,
and let your soul restart.

A place where angels
wait with open arms.
You don’t have to die to go
and it’s not too far.

Just up a dirt road
and through a wooden gate.
Sits this amazing
and wonderful place.

Look for the flag
flying high with pride.
That is how you’ll know...
you’ve found the camp on the Divide.

A journey of love for the Navajo Nation

BY BRENDA MIEDEMA

In November 2012 Williams residents Brian Hannagan, Michelle Bienick and their son Jaia were part of the annual Thanksgiving Food and Supply Run to benefit the Navajo Nation of Arizona. This event started years ago because of the Clan Dyken band. Many of you may be familiar with them and their music, with which they are trying to improve the world one song at a time.

While on this trip and experiencing the Navajo way of life, Brian and Michelle began to form another plan to help improve the tribal way of living: they decided to bring baby goats to increase the size of their goat herds. They wanted to introduce new milk and meat-producing livestock to improve the genetics of the animals the Navajos already have.

Navajos raise sheep and goats for food

and fiber. They have dogs for protection. The mothers, matriarchs of the tribe, earn their money with beadwork and weaving. Unemployment is very high and many of the younger generation seek an easier lifestyle. There are no casinos in Arizona to provide financial assistance to the Navajos and the lifestyle is a hard one.

The Navajo Indian Reservation is the largest in the United States. Navajo peoples generally do not live in villages, but band together in small groups. This lifestyle was born out of necessity due to the limited amount of grazing land and access to water. They live in circular huts made from wood or stone. The openings face east so they can “be blessed by the morning sun.”

The winters are cold; wood and forage scarce. The purpose of the Thanksgiving Food and Supply Run is to bring families

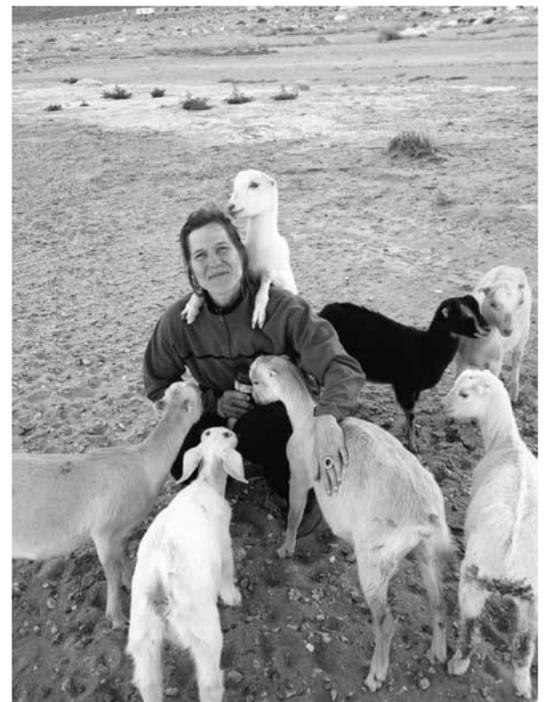
warm coats and boots, and food such as winter squash, apples, onions, potatoes and dry goods, which can be stored without refrigeration. Cash donations are collected for wood, hay and dog food.

With their plan in place, Brian, Michelle and Jaia made a second trip in May 2013. On a beautiful sunny morning they headed to the Arizona reservation hauling a trailer with 12 baby goats, a buck and a doe for six different families. The baby goats, three months old and weaned, were raised and donated by Peaceful Mountain Dairy in Applegate. Brian and Michelle wanted to get them to Arizona while grazing conditions are best to help them adjust to their new homes. The goats were given as gifts to the Navajo grandmothers and mothers.

Gifts of these 12 baby goats is just the start of what is hoped will become an annual community effort to raise a few goats to send to the Navajos each year. Peaceful Mountain Dairy will donate more baby goats in 2014.

If you would like to help raise these baby goats from birth to three months, the dairy will give you extra goats if you want to keep some for your family. They are amazing animals. They are very cute, easy to care for and love. They can eat your poison oak and blackberries with little effort. They can be a source of milk or meat.

You can also help with a donation of food, clothing or money to purchase



Baby goats on their way from Oregon as a gift to the Navajos in Arizona, thanks in part to Michelle Bienick (above) and Brian Hannagan.



Brian Hannagan and Grandma Louise with one of the baby goats in Arizona.

supplies. Maybe you raise sheep and would like to donate a lamb or two. Whatever you do, your participation is welcomed. (Thanks to Dr. Dan Cochran for donating his services for obtaining health certificates for the baby goats that were sent in May.)

If you would like to help by raising baby goats, contact Kayleigh McKey at peacefulmtn@apbb.net or call 541-846-6455. (Kayleigh’s involvement will also help her with the community service part of her senior project at South Medford High School, focused on becoming a dairy goat farmer.)

If you would like to help in any other way, please contact Brian Hannagan at 541-846-0656 or bhere@inorbit.com.

Brenda Miedema
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peacefulmtn@apbb.net

BACK IN TIME

My great-great Uncle Si McKee

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

Everybody has relatives who highlight most of their genealogical history in some way, with pride or sometimes with prejudice. There is one in my family who could be both; he was Silas Simon (Si) McKee. Born in Sullivan County, Missouri, in 1844 to Joseph and Almira McKee, nearly the youngest of eight children, he would hardly know his oldest brother John M. McKee, born in 1827.

John M. (my great-grandfather) and other relatives came west by wagon train, arriving in the Rogue Valley in 1853. Sometime in the mid 1860s John returned to Missouri to bring his parents and siblings west to Oregon. Along the way they met a family with a couple of wagons going to eastern Oregon where they would need help floating down the Columbia

River by barge to their final destination, the Willamette Valley. John's wagon train would be taking the Applegate Trail, which came farther south and avoided the Columbia River crossing. Parting ways with his family, Si, near the age of 20, hired on to help the other family complete their journey, knowing there was a possibility he would never see his family again.

He must have done all right because a few years later he turned up in the Illinois Valley driving a stage from Crescent City, California, to Grants Pass, Oregon. Sometimes when Uncle Si was in Grants Pass after a stage run, he would come by to visit his McKee relatives. My mother remembered him quite well and said everyone was so glad to see him. They never knew when he would show up on his

horse named Nervy. He always seemed to be wearing a red kerchief around his neck and he always had time to enjoy a game of checkers, cribbage, or pedro with the kids. When he sometimes took a nap on the couch, the kids said he snored louder than anyone they had ever heard. They would shake him awake and he would tell them he was not asleep and had only closed his eyes to rest, making the kids laugh.

When the Gasquet Toll Road was completed in 1887, the Rockland Stage Stop (on the north side of the Smith River) and other stage stops went out of business, so Si lost his job. However, he was able to live in a cabin at the abandoned Rockland stop where he purchased some mining claims to mine for gold. That place soon became somewhat of a permanent residence where he was able to exist quite well with salmon in the North Fork of the Smith River and some trout in other streams. Also the deer and bear, along with pigeons and grouse, gave him all the protein he needed. Some edible plants and berries along with beans (I am sure) filled out his menu nicely.

Si had fallen in love with the area and refused to move

closer to his many relatives in the Rogue Valley. He never married but the family believed there was a girl, named Kathleen, sometime in his past, because when he was visiting relatives one time, they played a phonograph record of "I'll take you home again, Kathleen," and he broke down crying. He would not tell them why.

Eventually he moved away from Rockland, probably because it had been sold, and he went to Sourdough where he continued his mining occupation at Diamond Creek and Bald Face Creek, all still in the Smith River drainage. This large area is mostly government land where cattlemen free-ranged their cattle. Heavy forest is not good forage but open space created by fire is. Thus Si's life was about to change.

For several years increasing fires in this area began to worry the government and an investigation was launched. It was decided that Si was hired by the cattlemen to start fires to make more grazing spaces, a common practice in those days. Si was arrested for arson and sent to jail. He never revealed his association with the cattlemen to the authorities. While in jail, his relatives laughed about him being able to have a better bed, meals, reading material and a good long rest.

He eventually returned to his mining operations and the forest recovered from the fires. The authorities and the relatives were relieved that Si had reformed. Unfortunately, Si does not ride pleasantly off into the sunset.

To be continued...

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre
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Great-great Uncle Si, stage driver turned miner, among other things.



AUG 1913 (Photo from Ashland Standard) Si's cabin on North Fork of Smith River - Old Rockland Stage Stop

Uncle Si lived in this cabin at the abandoned Rockland Stage Stop where he mined for gold.

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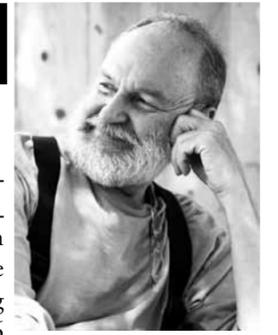
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THE STARRY SIDE

Never touch each other

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

I'm on my roof deck again, looking at the night sky. From our position in the Milky Way Galaxy, the only other galaxy we can see with our naked eye is the Andromeda Galaxy. It's the closest galaxy to us, yet it's the most distant thing we can see.

Astronomers predict that in billions of years, various forces of gravity will draw our two galaxies together in a spectacular collision. Computer simulations of this event show our two fairly similar galaxies swinging with their own gravity centers closer together, then making a near miss only to swing in a tighter circle until they "crash" and combine, mixing into one huge galaxy! From this simulated computer-eye view, these great forces merge into what must be catastrophic death and destruction.

But here's the amazing thing: nothing will touch when the galaxies collide, and there will not be the crashing and physical destruction that we might imagine. The inevitable damage will be due to the forces of gravity mingling and changing and destroying the careful balances that have kept us all—including our neighboring planets—revolving around our sun, and our moon revolving around us.

Now, I'm not a gloom-and-doom guy, but I am a realist. Our solar system will lose that beautiful, delicate balance that literally gives us life—that rare balance of position and heat, size and age that makes this planet perfect for life as we know it. We will indeed perish.

Something happening billions of years from now could be just an interesting 'comfort' to us in its complete remoteness. But let's not get too comfortable; let's not take our eyes off the issues that are happening right here and now. What with a large asteroid possibly hitting us,

economic and environmental breakdown, and rising seas, we have plenty to do.

And we *can* do something about these things. So let's do it!

THE NIGHT SKY

Let's focus on just one constellation: Orion the hunter is probably the one most people know, if they know any. He's huge and high in the winter, in January slightly south from directly overhead.

Orion is clearly a person, with a three-in-a-row star belt, his shield out to our right and club raised high to our upper left. The sword and scabbard hang from his belt and look oddly smudgy without

binoculars or a telescope.

Orion's two shoulders are obvious; the bright star to our left is Betelgeuse. Diagonally, to the bottom-right, is the slightly brighter Rigel, making up Orion's knee (or foot, if his leg is bent).

This constellation spans all known history. For the Babylonians Orion was The Heavenly Shepherd; he was Osiris for the Egyptians; the Greeks called him Orion, the strong hunter we know.

There's always wiggle room in observing, which is one of the reasons I love the night sky so much: it's up to you to see what you want to and the way you

want to. And we've been "wiggling" constellations into view probably since the beginning of our time here on this planet.

crepuscular moon and stays there as the morning star. March 26 to 28 has Venus and a sweet crescent moon dancing in the dawn joined below by Mercury.

Mars rises and brightens a little before midnight near Spica. The two of them rise earlier each month as the sky shifts. Mercury shows up in the sunset on January 31 with a crescent moon low in the southwest.

Morning risers: go out on February 23 to 26 to catch the moon with Antares below. Further right (above), you'll see Saturn, then Mars, with Spica below. Together they make a shifting dawn display.

OF NOTE

We might have some Geminid meteorites on December 13, but they will be unfavorable for viewing and probably few. The moon is the problem. Try for a time with a low moon or none. If you're patient, you'll see some meteorites.

December 14 brings the Ursids, a lesser meteor outbreak in the north around the Little Dipper. Look for both meteor showers together. Dawn should be the best time, as usual, because the bright moon will have set.

Quadrantid meteors should be visible in a moon-free sky for several days in early January, peaking January 2. Look all night—the later the better. Look to the north for the radiant.

Solstice is on December 21. March 20 is the Equinox, with even nights and days as the sun rises and sets due east and west.

There are full moons on December 17, January 15, February 13 (Friday!), and March 17.

Greeley Wells
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Illustration: Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar 2012.



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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

It's about thyme

BY SIOUX ROGERS

How many times have I likened my garden to real life, either allegorically or literally? We are now going into winter and I am wondering what to do with the mess I basically ignored all fall because I was on a "mission" to clean up and re-do the cluttered barn. This somehow reminds me of friends and how easy it is to ignore them because we have other "missions," which may be okay sometimes, but not all the time.

Some of the plants in my garden are like my friends—they take me as I am and wait until I have time to weed out the "dead leaves" to catch up and go on from

there. Other plants demand a great deal of attention, needing to be dug up and tucked away safe and cozy for the winter. Guess what? I don't have those plants in my garden, requiring survival of the fittest. Sadly I cannot say that about some friendships in my life. I want to save most of them, keep them safe, protect and cover them nice and cozy. So with that part of my soul revealed, my real life is not exactly like my garden.

I have never really pined when a plant has died peacefully, but I have certainly felt very sad when a large tree or large vine has a sudden demise. And, if that tree or large vine crashes or falls down on some innocent young plant nearby, I take even more notice. You know, I sort of thought of them (the trees and vines) as old friends and was used to seeing them around. I guess that it's the same way with friendships. When the breaking of a friendship crashes and takes with it bits and pieces of my heart, I do grieve deeply.



Sioux Rogers and her then six-year-old son Weston, who is now 43 and still one of Sioux's best friends.



Sioux Rogers

the hotsy-totsy bright pink of a few months ago, but are wonderful for cutting as a soft, quiet winter arrangement. And the day lilies with last season's long, trailing strappy leaves have new growth at the bottom.

If you still have tulip or daffodil bulbs in your refrigerator (the ones you meant to plant in the fall), plant them now. Believe it or not, it is not too late—they will re-set their clock and bloom when their alarm goes off.

Here are some other seasonal ideas: Cut a few green conifer branches growing everywhere, put them in a vase and hang grapes, tomatoes, mandarin oranges or whatever else is bright and cheery. Not to be overlooked in a fabulous holiday decoration is our own native state flower, the Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*). And add native fern fronds to store-bought flowers for a warm homey feeling.

Oh, and what about thyme? Great ground cover, grows almost anywhere and, since it grows in the winter, it is a wonderful aromatic herb for seasoning all those wonderful holiday savories.

For me, I believe life and friendship are like a garden. One needs to be creative whether it be with your garden or your friends. Take the time to enjoy the bareness and quiet of your winter garden and always have time for your friends.

Dirty fingernails and all
Sioux Rogers • 541-846-7736
mumearth2@yahoo.com

Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley—
a great holiday gift for gardeners

BY MARCUS SMITH

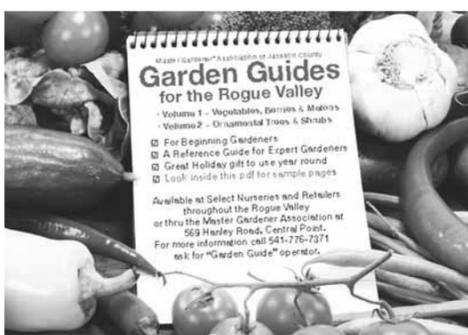
The two-volume *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley*, written by local Master Gardeners and other gardening experts, is a gift guaranteed to delight all your gardening friends. In addition to factual, science-based information, the books offer helpful advice about local growing conditions, savvy insiders' tips, and priceless personal experience from people who have gardened here for years.

While most gardening books and websites appeal to national or regional audiences, these guides deal exclusively with the unique microclimates and growing conditions of southern Oregon. That's what makes these garden guides so unique and so valuable. Plus, all proceeds from the sale of these garden guides go to its publisher, the nonprofit Jackson County Master Gardeners Association.

Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley is available in two companion volumes:

- Volume 1, *Vegetables, Berries & Melons*, covers everything a southern Oregon gardener needs to know about these plants, including the best plant varieties and how to deal with our local weather, soil and water. A 12-month calendar shows the best time to take care of specific garden chores throughout the year. 250 pages. \$20.

- Volume 2, *Ornamental Trees & Shrubs*, offers useful information about planning, planting and maintaining beautiful, sustainable landscapes in Jackson



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and Josephine Counties. It also includes specific plant varieties that thrive in our area. 250 pages. \$25.

These garden guides make great gifts for gardeners at any level—beginner to expert. (Don't forget to get one of each for yourself, too.) They're a resource that will be useful for many years.

Jackson County Master Gardeners Association is a nonprofit, educational organization that supports local gardeners through its plant clinic, spring fair, Winter Dreams symposium, demonstration gardens, and more. The books are available at many local garden centers and at the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center, 569 Hanley Road, between Jacksonville and Central Point.

For details, call 541-776-7371. See sample pages at extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/gardening/publications.

Marcus Smith • 541-776-7371
OSU Extension Service Office

Applegate Food Pantry benefits
from Medford Food Project

BY ARLENE AND CLAUDE ARON

The Applegate Food Pantry benefits from our participation in the Medford Food Project, an amazing community venture that collects food to feed the hungry in Jackson County, then shares this food with participating food pantries for distribution. To find out more about it, visit medfordfoodproject.com.

We would like the Applegate Valley to participate more fully in this venture. The idea is that each time you shop, we would like you to think of those who go hungry in our own community and buy one can to donate to the Medford Food Project.

Because it's not practical to collect food bags door-to-door from our neighbors in rural areas like ours, the Applegate Food Pantry plans to work with community members to designate two or three places where you can drop your canvas bag of canned goods. Every two months, you will be able to drop your bag of food at one of the designated locations and pick up a new bag to start the process again.

Every two months, the Medford Food Project collects thousands of pounds of food that is distributed to the participating

Jackson County food pantries. Currently, over 100,000 pounds of food is being collected and distributed through this project every year.

The Applegate Food Pantry may be one of the smaller pantries in Jackson County, but our little pantry is growing—lately we have been signing up about 20 new people each month. These are your neighbors who, for one reason or another, are going through tough economic times. We hope you will consider helping out if you can afford to do so.

We are still working out the details for our participation in the Medford Food Project and will update you as we progress via flyers at the usual local hubs: Ruch Library, Applegate Library, Ruch Country Store, Applegate Store; and the *Applegater* Facebook page.

Finally, we'd like to send a big thank-you to all the generous folks who have donated money and food to keep the Applegate Pantry going and to our many volunteers who generously donate their time and energy.

Arlene and Claude Aron • 541-951-6707



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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE GATER!

Recipe for 'spaghetti with community sauce'

BY MARGARET DELLA SANTINA

Ruch Community K-8 School celebrated its annual Fall Festival on October 26 in many of the usual ways. School-made scarecrows hung from trees and lounged in lawn chairs in the warm autumn sunshine. Princesses, elves, and bats roamed the halls. The book fair drew a steady stream of excited young customers snapping up *Legends of Chima* or *Origami Yoda*. Middle school students helped younger ones toss frogs onto lily pads and aim footballs at holes in a board. And spaghetti was served in the cafeteria.

At first glance, it looked like ordinary spaghetti with tomato sauce. But the long list of "ingredients" that actually went into that sauce might surprise you—and demonstrates that Ruch School is, indeed, Ruch *Community* School.

Here is how Ruch Community School made "spaghetti with community sauce": In spring 2013, the Fleming family cleared a site for the new Ruch School garden and laid down gravel. Jeff Vinyard led construction of the garden fence and beds; with the help of Mark Prchal and some discounted local lumber from Tommy Maddox, the garden was finished in time for a late spring planting.

Next, Roarke Ball of Roarke's



Dawn Mena serving "spaghetti with community sauce."



Community member Jeff Vinyard helped students with garden construction.

Earthworks donated ten yards of homemade Applegate Valley soil mix, into which were planted tomato, pepper and eggplant starts donated by Barb Wallgren of Cowboy Flowers, and basil and thyme donated by Matt and Donna Epstein. Rob Underwood donated harvest-shipment crates, which were used for additional planting beds, and Crater Sand and Gravel provided more soil at a discounted rate. The garden received a 100-foot hose from Tiffany Ryan of Ryan's Outpost and lots of homemade compost from Gary Fowler.

The garden became a place where Ruch students connected their academic learning to the local environment, putting "place-based learning" into action. Using

math skills and art concepts, students helped design the garden. Math and engineering skills also came into play as students helped with the construction project. Environmental science entered the picture as students conducted soil and water testing, and set up a composting system. Planting the garden, students learned about horticulture and plant identification. As spring turned to summer, students watered, weeded and mulched the garden.

During the summer, Erin Volheim, of Wilding Rural Education Center and the local Grange, guided the garden project from its inception to first harvest. She tended and harvested tomatoes, peppers,

and basil; she cooked and froze marinara sauce along the way. When students returned to school in fall, they continued to harvest tomatoes, basil, and peppers.

As Fall Festival approached, Dawn Mena jumped into action, planning the menu and cooking up an additional batch of sauce with beef donated by Peter Salant.

"Spaghetti's ready!" came the announcement at about 5 pm during the Fall Festival. Robots, Crayola crayons, and "plainclothes" community members who lined up for spaghetti in the school cafeteria were greeted by a smiling ladybug (aka Jill Vargas) and served by friendly Dawn and Hector Mena. Bread donated by Rise Up! Bakery rounded out the menu.

This was no ordinary spaghetti with sauce; this was spaghetti with *community* sauce. Families, friends, pirates and princes were smiling as they left the school that evening.

Principal Julie Hill and community coordinator Michelle Hensman were smiling, too, as they drove out of the parking lot: this community sauce represented their hard work and commitment to the vision of Ruch Community K-8 School as a place where learning is linked to the local environment, and the community is part of the school.

Yum. Spaghetti never tasted so good!

Margaret della Santina
541-899-9950

Local bread puddings elicit oohs and ahs

BY J.D. ROGERS, MIKELL NIELSEN AND BARBARA HOLIDAY

Ah, what to do on a beautiful fall afternoon we asked ourselves. When sampling warm bread pudding was suggested, *yesses* burst from our lips like volcanoes of whipped cream. It doesn't take much to entertain this trio of tasters, so off we went. The "we" being J.D. Rogers, Mikell Nielsen and Barbara Holiday—all serious bread pudding aficionados.

The *Oxford Dictionary* defines bread pudding as "a dessert consisting of slices of bread baked together with dried fruit, sugar, spices, eggs and milk." Once known as a "poor man's pudding," bread pudding originated in Rome in the early 11th century when cooks concocted a way to use leftover bread. Today, bread pudding has become an "everyman's pudding" with variations of ingredients and creativity and can be found on the menus of pubs, taverns and fine dining restaurants around the world (www.dailygazette.com).

Rogue River Lodge. Our first stop was just past Shady Cove on Highway 62 in Trail. J.D. said he hasn't been to this lodge since the days of Clarke Gable, whose most famous movie line was "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn." (Later that day, J.D. claimed that he's not really old enough to have been at the lodge when Gable actually had graced the premises, but we're not sure.)

When our Lodge Bread Pudding arrived, our taste buds were already salivating. "Hurry, Mikell, get a picture of this lovely presentation!" J.D. urged. What a pleasure that first bite was—white chocolate and dried cherries in rich,

buttery, fluffy bread pudding covered with a fantastic whiskey-caramel sauce and accompanied by tasty vanilla ice cream. (Not incidentally, croissants are used in place of bread.)

While sipping excellent coffee, J.D. used the Indiana-style of counting—"one, three"—between bites, "each better than the last one," he drooled. Too soon the bread pudding and the accompanying vanilla bean ice cream were sweet memories.

4 Daughters Irish Pub. Not to worry, though, we were on our way to 4 Daughters at 126 West Main Street in Medford. J.D. remembered when this place was the Union, a rock-and-roll club from the last days of great rock music.

But the arrival of our Pear Bread Pudding brought us back to the present with a strong scent of cinnamon. Caramelized pears were mixed in with this Heartland white bread pudding, which was drizzled with marionberry and whiskey-caramel sauces that we wolfed down.

The Black Sheep Pub & Restaurant. Our third stop was The Black Sheep at 51 North Main Street in Ashland, where we immediately placed our order for their Mum's Vanilla Bread Pudding topped with a rich bourbon sauce.

The presentation was lovely and simple. A crisp white plate and a fresh sprig of mint let the pudding take the show as it floated in a puddle of decadent sauce. The bread pudding was smooth and creamy and warm and gooey and rich. The subtle flavors melded together to create a more than satisfying dessert.

There is something so "feel good" about sitting in a pub with friends sharing a cup of aromatic coffee and bread pudding. It was almost as if we were in a small town in a foreign country. If we hadn't had to return to our "normal" lives, it would have been lovely to wrap our hands around another warm cup of coffee, curl up on cozy sofas and fall into a sweet, sugary coma.

After that, our stomachs advised us to call it quits. Three bread puddings were enough for these intrepid tasters in one day.

Porter's Restaurant and Bar. Porter's, at 147 North Front Street in Medford, opens at five in the evening. A couple of days later, we made sure to be among the first arrivals at our fourth and final destination.

Enjoying one of the last warm fall evenings out on the patio, we savored their Jack Daniels Bread Pudding with bourbon crème anglais and rich caramel sauce, to which they add walnuts and a hint of mint. The resulting texture is both creamy and crunchy. Adding to the pleasure is the homemade French bread used for this special dessert. And, as a bonus, we found that the bread pudding paired nicely with red wine.



The tasters enjoyed the outdoor seating at the shore of the Rogue River while feasting on the warm, creative bread pudding served at Rogue River Lodge in Trail.

Photo: Mikell Nielsen.

Our preference

It was unanimous! Our most favorite bread pudding was served at Rogue River Lodge, which puts a new take on an old recipe by adding white chocolate and cherries. But bread pudding lovers will appreciate *all* the other luscious bread puddings we sampled.

Our nine-year-old tasting helper, Carlen Nielsen, wasn't much for bread pudding, but the chocolate cakes at these restaurants earned "delish" and "yummy" ratings from her. Carlen also gave high marks to her new friend Scooter, the "so cute" adopted stray cat at Rogue River Lodge. Fortunately, Scooter kept Carlen thoroughly entertained while odd and profuse oohing sounds arose from the "adult" tasters.

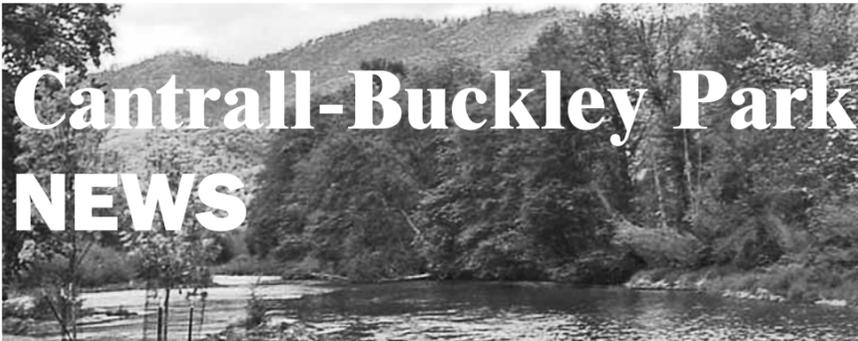
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Cantrall-Buckley Park NEWS

Sizeable grant received from BLM

BY DAVID LAANANEN

This fall Cantrall-Buckley Park received an \$8,700 grant from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for design of the electrical component of the RV sites. With this money we are closing in on the final phase of the Campground Improvement Project.

There have been so many small steps since the completion of Phase 2 that it's worth reviewing the progress.

Project in review

The project began early in 2004 with

a public meeting held at the Ruch Library to discuss the future of Cantrall-Buckley Park. The conclusion was that the park's cash flow could best be improved in the long term by upgrading the campground for current RVs.

With the support of grants from BLM and the US Forest Service, a master plan for park improvements was completed and subsequently approved by Jackson County.

The Campground Improvement Plan was conceived in three phases:

1. Wastewater treatment system
2. Shower/restroom building (replacing the pit toilets)
3. Reconfiguration for longer RVs, including RV hook-ups

With two grants totaling \$253,225 from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and matching funds from Jackson County and other agencies, as well as significant in-kind support, a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system and a shower/restroom building were completed in 2008.

The wastewater treatment system includes a vegetated submerged bed (VSB)—a lined, shallow pool of native water plants. The five septic tanks in the park, including the new one in the campground, all pump to the VSB. The plants cleanse the effluent to make it suitable for irrigation in the previously dry campground.

Phase 3

Phase 3 will include some modifications to the campground road and campsite pull-ins for longer RVs and the addition of seven new tent campsites.

Utility developments will include a dump station and installation of hookups at the RV sites.

The nonprofit Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) will work with Jackson County to secure funding for the project, which will cost more than \$300,000. Meanwhile, several smaller projects are being completed to prepare for it. In 2010-11, using BLM Title II funds, a new, higher-capacity water supply line to the campground was installed, and in 2012 the entry road was repaved.

Design for water and sewer connections was done as part of the wastewater treatment system installation. However, the electrical design remains to be done prior to determining a viable estimate of cost. The current project will complete the electrical design for the RV hookups, including construction specifications, a preservation plan for existing vegetation, and an estimate of cost for the installation.

Dave Laananen

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STINK BUG

FROM PAGE 1

pest, having become so widespread, could be completely eradicated. Some of the factors that make eradication a real possibility are the limited host range of the pest (mainly grapes), the availability of very effective control measures (such as insecticides and mating disruption), and a good method for monitoring the population spread.

Eradication not possible

Closer to home, our newest exotic pest of concern is the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB). Eradication is not a possibility in this case. This insect has an extremely wide host range. It can attack hundreds of different kinds of plants. There are very few methods for controlling this insect other than broad-spectrum insecticides, which are often not entirely effective, and there is currently no good trapping method for monitoring the population spread. Unfortunately, this new stink bug is here to stay.

Back story

The back story to this pest is that it was first found in the United States sometime in the mid to late 1990s in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where it was noticed as a nuisance pest, occasionally getting into garages and houses to overwinter, similar to the way box elder (aka maple) bugs behave locally. The first specimen to be positively identified was collected in 1998, but the correct identification did not occur until a specialist at Cornell University made the determination in 2001. By then, the population was growing and spreading and the nuisance level was increasing as well. Because these stink bugs were occurring in urban and residential areas, they were not yet infesting agricultural crops. However, this stink bug is native to China, Korea and Japan, and it is considered one of a number of stink bug species that can cause damage to crops, primarily by attacking fruits.

In 2010 a major stink-bug infestation occurred in tree fruit. In particular, peach and apple orchards in the Mid-Atlantic states sustained significant fruit damage; crop loss in the millions of dollars was recorded. Suddenly the urban nuisance

had become a serious agricultural pest, and Congress allocated research dollars to begin studying the insect in earnest.

In 2004 Jim LaBonte, an entomologist at the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), found a brown marmorated stink bug in one of the traps he used to monitor invasive bark beetles in Portland. An astute entomologist, he was aware of the reports from back east concerning the stink bug and recognized it quickly.

It is vital to recognize an exotic pest as early as possible. In the case of the European grapevine moth in Napa mentioned above, earlier detection would have made the eradication effort much easier and less costly. After the stink bug was found in Portland, surveys were conducted by the ODA and breeding populations were found. However, due to the factors listed above, eradication was not considered to be possible; besides, at that time, the stink bug was just a nuisance pest and had not yet become a significant agricultural pest.

With the 2010 outbreak of BMSB back east, more intensive surveys were launched, particularly here in Oregon where BMSB had become well-established in Portland. The first BMSB found in Jackson County was discovered in Phoenix in June 2012 by an Oregon State University (OSU) researcher; about 10 more BMSB were subsequently found in the county. In 2013 the numbers have exploded: a large breeding population is located in downtown Ashland, and individual insects are found in Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Central Point and Jacksonville. The threat to agriculture is very real, but research dollars are tight. The OSU Research and Extension office is working with growers to protect their crops; this continuing effort will be the subject of another article.

A new stink bug pest has arrived in southern Oregon and this story is only beginning.

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OSU Research and Extension Center
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Photos, left to right: A population of Japanese beetles was recently discovered in Cave Junction and successfully eradicated. Photo: vittracker.com. European grapevine moths are the subject of an ongoing eradication effort in Northern California. Photo: entomology.wisc.edu.

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BIRDMAN

Bird cousins return in winter

BY TED A. GLOVER

As the winter months approach and we've said goodbye to our summer visitors, we can look forward to many more of our local birds as their cousins return to the milder climate of the Applegate. Although many of the birds we see daily are local, we see a lot more of them this time of year. Many have returned from the northern reaches of Canada and Alaska, and others have simply come down from the higher elevations that surround our valleys.

As you drive the Applegate Valley and observe the visitors to your yards, you may notice an increase in the numbers of smaller birds such as the Dark-eyed Junco, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Black-capped Chickadee. Many of these birds are

returning to the lower elevations of the valleys in search of food. Food, of course, is one of the primary motivators for the wandering habits of the birds.

A couple of species of sparrows increase in numbers during our wintertime. The White-crowned Sparrow and its close cousin the Golden-crowned Sparrow are very abundant this time of year. Look for both of them along roadside brush and also in your gardens and in public parks. Both species are very common now and are seen in large groups of 10 to 20 birds often staying in one area for several weeks. The White-crowned adult is noticeable for its distinctive white markings on its head and a whitish throat patch. The Golden-

crowned has a central golden-colored crown stripe over a black top. But be aware of the first-year juveniles that have returned with their parents. The young of both species are similar and lack the bold markings of the adult birds.

Because of the abundance of small birds, keep your eyes out for the wild-eyed and swift "bird-killer" of the forests and fields. This crow-sized hunter, the Cooper's Hawk, has a very long rounded tail and short rounded wings and likes to frequent bird feeders in search of prey, which can include everything from sparrows to the large Ruffed Grouse.

Another bird that seems to be more visible now is the California Quail. This plump bird is slightly smaller than the plentiful Mourning Dove and is distinguished by its overall darker color, strongly scaled belly, and a prominent

plume on its forehead, just above a dark, black face. The female is similar in appearance to the male, but has a grayer face and smaller plume. You can spot these birds usually in large coveys of 20 to 40, scratching on the ground for grasses, grain and insects. The California Quail rarely flies—it prefers to run away.

So have fun for the next few months observing our wintertime friends and see just how many species you can spot. If you have bird feeders, don't forget to include suet, a popular winter treat for many birds including woodpeckers.

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



Ted A. Glover



Black-capped Chickadees, tame and inquisitive, spend the winter making the rounds of feeders in the neighborhood.



White-crowned Sparrows, one of the most common winter sparrows, raise their crown feathers when agitated.



Gold-rush miners took comfort in the melancholy song of the **Golden-crowned Sparrow**.



The overall population of the highly sedentary **California Quail** has been declining since 1960.

**Stunning beautyberries:
An elegant and useful shrub**

BY JEN TIETJEN

Striking and unusual, beautyberry bushes are adorned all fall and into winter with violet berry clusters. The botanical name of this wonderful plant is *Callicarpa*. There are many species from around the world ranging from the American South to China and Japan. Although most of us are only familiar with the purple-fruited varieties, there are also white and shell pink cultivars.

Beautyberry was long used as a folk medicine for the prevention of mosquito bites, modern research shows this practice had much wisdom to it. Researchers for the US Department of Agriculture have found chemical components in the leaves that may well turn out to be as effective in deterring ticks and fire ants as DEET, the most common active ingredient in insect repellents. One of the most important pest-repellent chemicals that researchers have isolated is callicarpinal. Besides repelling pests, *Callicarpa* has also been used in the treatment of colic, malaria, dysentery rheumatism, fever and cancer.

The berries are a choice food source for birds in fall. Mostly overlooked by humans, beautyberry has been used in winemaking and makes a fine jelly. If you are up for trying the jelly, here is a recipe:

Cover 1-½ quarts of berries (make sure they are free of leaves and branches) with two quarts of water and boil for 20 minutes. Strain the infusion.

Take three cups of the infusion and mix with one envelope of Sure-jell (pectin) and four cups of sugar. Boil and skim off any foam.

Pour into jelly jars with two-part caps and boil in water bath for ten minutes.

Beautyberry jelly would make a great



Make beautyberry jelly for holiday gifts.
Top photo: *Callicarpa Americana*.
Bottom photo: *Callicarpa Welsh's Pink*.

and unique holiday gift!

If you are looking for the perfect shrub to fill out your garden, look no further than beautybush. With its pink flowers in spring, yellow fall color, vibrant fall berries, and many uses, *Callicarpa* truly deserves a spot in every yard.

Jen Tietjen • 541-846-7269
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PHOTO CREDIT

All bird photos courtesy of Peter J. Thiemann, Flickr photo stream.



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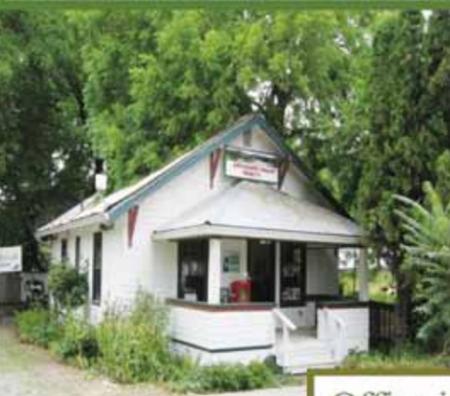
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Local art from the soul—Gypsy Soul

BY HALEY MAY

Cilette Swann may not be a “trumpeter,” but she is an accomplished singer. Ever since her first-grade teacher told her she could be a professional singer, she was inspired (though unsure of what “professional” meant). Now she marches to the beat of her own drum: her heart.

“I feel like you have to follow your heart and your passion, and the money will come,” she says, “even if it means having a part-time or a full-time job. It is challenging and there are peaks and valleys.” But if you have a passion for art, she says, you have a life un-lived if you don’t follow that passion.

She was exposed to music from an early age growing up in Vancouver, Canada. Her South African parents were semiprofessional singers and there was always music in the house, from big band to jazz standards. She remembers the voices of Judy Garland, Billie Holiday and Nat King Cole, and songs like “Love Me Tender.”

Several artists strike a chord with her today: Aretha Franklin (the “Queen of Soul”), Otis Redding, U2, Bonnie Raitt, Janice Joplin, Heart and Ray Charles. She describes her and her husband’s band, Gypsy Soul, as Americana with roots of rock ‘n’ roll, soul, jazz, blues and country. While she sings, her husband Roman Morykit plays acoustic guitar, fretless bass and Dobro guitar, among other instruments. “There is no etched path,” she says. “You must be a pioneer and cultivate your talent. Find the right audience.”

Cilette met Roman in Scotland while in a band with his brother. They lived in France for three or four years before moving to Los Angeles. Now they make a living touring as a couple half the year. On one journey, they traveled through the Rogue

Valley and fell in love with the people and the pure beauty of the seasons. They have lived in Jacksonville since 2000.

In 2010 they headlined a t B r i t t Festivals, and last summer they opened for the Doobie Brothers. In the summer they might play at a winery such as Red Lily, a favorite. Their biggest event of the year is a benefit concert for WinterSpring, a local bereavement center that helped Cilette cope at the time of her father’s passing. The concert will be in Ashland at the Unitarian Church on December 20 and 21. On the first night, the duo will play Christmas music and some originals. The second night will include the full band. Both shows start at 7:30 pm.

They have produced 10 albums, the latest of which is *The World is My Country*. Cilette believes that it speaks to the “gypsy soul” way of being in the world: your heart is everywhere. Recently, they won Best Cover in the Independent Music Awards for “Angel from Montgomery,” written by John Prine.

A ticket to the benefit concert or a CD would make a heartfelt, local Christmas gift. Visit their website to purchase music at gypsosoul.com. Gypsy



Top photo: Cilette Swann and Roman Morykit of Gypsy Soul. Bottom photo: Custom-designed by Cilette, this antiqued lock pendant with CD cover art and poem on the reverse side is made with fine silver with resin and a Czech crystal bird.

She describes her work as “professional, heirloom-quality, recycled and ecostyle.”

Her interest began when she wanted to incorporate lyrics into jewelry using fine silver. Two to three years ago, a master in precious metal clay gave a certification course in Arizona, and she pounced on the opportunity. She uses a precious metal clay (99% silver, 1% binder) made from recycled computer components from Mitsubishi in Japan. The metal pieces are extracted and ground into a fine powder.

Making a piece is a two-part process, taking place before and after firing. First, the clay is rolled out and cut into shapes. While it is wet, she works with ceramics tools. Then the binder is burned off, turning the piece white. Cilette then sands the dried, fired piece into a solid piece of silver and switches to silversmithing tools.

She makes the silver pieces and takes them with her on the road. At her leisure, she puts the components together. “It’s a great time for quiet. Solitude. My art is a personal experience,” she says, “a beautiful experiment.” She might bring along a pendant leaf, some chains, a pearl or piece of amethyst to work with. Each piece is unique and would make an excellent gift while supporting a local artist. Her necklaces range from \$150 to \$280. She also does beautiful custom work for around \$300 (she can incorporate a piece of wedding lace, a picture or a tuft of hair into the piece, or a simple word or phrase). Earrings are typically \$45 to \$65. She also makes some necklaces for men. Her finished work can be seen on pinterest.com by entering “Espiritu Fine Silver” in the search bar.

From heartfelt music to refined, unique jewelry, Cilette Swann is truly a local treasure and an inspiration for artists old and young.

If you have questions, email Cilette at cilette@gypsosoul.com.

Haley May
hmaylmt@gmail.com

Soul’s CDs are also available at the Music Coop in Ashland for \$15 to \$18.

Jewelry maker

In addition to singing, Cilette has always made jewelry for pleasure and lately has intertwined this hobby with her career.

Happy Holidays!

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Three Applegate artists take their art in new directions

BY DIANA COOGLE

When Applegate artist Barbara Kostal retired from commercial and commissioned work, she didn't pack up her easel and put up her feet. Instead, inspired by Dhyani Ywahoo's book *Voices of Our Ancestors*, she took her art in a new direction, delving deep inside her spiritual self to see what emerged in a new series of paintings called *Wisdom of the Heart*. But it doesn't take retirement for an artist to turn in a new direction. Rick Faist, from Williams, was once a painter, until a home-school project with his son caused him to put his brushes aside for the craftsman's art of making kalimbas. Likewise, Greeley Wells, who lives on Carberry Creek, put away his paintbrushes when he discovered the joy of making movies. Now dust glints in the sunlight in his studio, as Greeley roams the outdoor world with his camera.

Barbara Kostal

Barbara Kostal's studio, a wedding gift from her husband, David Calahan, has French doors that open onto a balcony overlooking undulating fields, canopying oaks, and layers of Applegate mountains. Barbara often paints there, letting snow



Artist Barbara Kostal at work out on her studio balcony at her residence, which she calls a "woody paradise."

fall on the painting called "Winter" and the sun's heat saturate "Summer."

"I have freedom in this woody paradise," she says, "to express myself, to be aware of my surroundings, to walk barefoot in the hills."

Nature is one of three threads in Barbara's long career of murals, commercial ads, logos, fabric painting, artistic lamps, and acrylic paintings. Just as nature is layered (weather, the leaves and flowers of the seasons), so are her paintings: paint over paint, paint over words, paint over snow.

Another thread is her sense of belonging to "the ancient family of artists." She uses their symbols in her paintings

and invites the artists of old to be with her when she paints.

A third thread is the twining of her two loves: caring for people and doing art. Art is her "passion and bliss," but also a medium for healing. When a client commissioned a painting representing "restlessness," for instance, Barbara painted a horizontal line at the bottom of the painting "to give restlessness a base."

Barbara is retired from commercial work and commissions (though she "might play another season if for the right team"), but you can see her art at 6th and F Streets in Grants Pass. This mural, "The Road of a Thousand Wonders," was commissioned in 1995 by the City of Grants Pass. They paid for the design, but Barbara and her co-painter, Ray Colton, donated their labor as a gift to the city. They painted, in wool hats and layers of long johns, throughout the winter. Barbara will be refurbishing the mural this spring.

Barbara's current project is a series of more than 60 paintings called "Wisdom of the Heart," which she calls "the great spiritual journey of my life." These paintings often come so fast that as one layer dries Barbara starts another sketch. "I am the energy. The energy is me," she says. She recognizes and wants to convey that everything is in relationship: life, death, heart-soul. The series will culminate in a book of paintings and accompanying essays. (It is one of the great honors of my life that she invited me to write those essays.)

Rick Faist

Nineteen years ago Applegate artist Rick Faist, a painter, helped his son make an African musical instrument called a kalimba (thumb piano) from homegrown gourds. With leftover tines he made more kalimbas, which he sold to buy a drum set (he is also a musician). Soon, making kalimbas became a sideline to painting and gradually took over the business. Now, under the name of Thumb Fun Kalimbas, Rick makes approximately 900 a year. Fifteen thousand or so are in the hands of customers worldwide.

Rick can make about three dozen kalimbas in a week, although, he says, it takes all his time all the time. That's not surprising, since making a kalimba the Rick Faist way involves more than 70 steps, from growing the gourds to grinding the keys to tuning the instrument. A true craftsman, he does all the work on every kalimba himself, though his wife, Louann, a weaver and landscape artist, helps with things like making keys, weeding the gourd patch, and selling at crafts fairs. He enjoys

the varied work, he says: it makes painting seem like such sedentary concentration!

Rick cuts sound holes in the hardwood tops of his kalimbas in a variety of shapes: falcon, elephant, salamander, dolphin, or anything else the buyer wants. Though it is not true that the animal shape influences the sound, one boy thought the kalimba with the rabbit-shaped hole played fast and the one with the turtle-shaped hole played slow.

The thumb piano is a quiet instrument, softly played and pleasingly melodic, like sunshine spilling through trees. One woman bought one to play for her father while he was dying. Another customer bought one for a friend in traction. "When we set up a booth at a crafts show," Rick says, "our booth neighbors usually think with dismay, 'Oh, no! Musical instruments!' but then they realize that the music isn't

invasive and adds a pleasant atmosphere." Since the kalimba is played by the thumbs striking tines, it is a good instrument for today's generations, who have grown up texting. They feel right at home with a kalimba.

Thumb Fun kalimbas are unique for the wide range of tuning available: any major or minor scale, pentatonic scales, East Indian tunings—anything requested.

Rick and Louann Faist sell kalimbas at crafts shows throughout the Pacific Northwest, locally at Cripple Creek in Ashland and Great Northwest Music in Grants Pass, and online at www.thumbfunkalimbas.com.

Greeley Wells

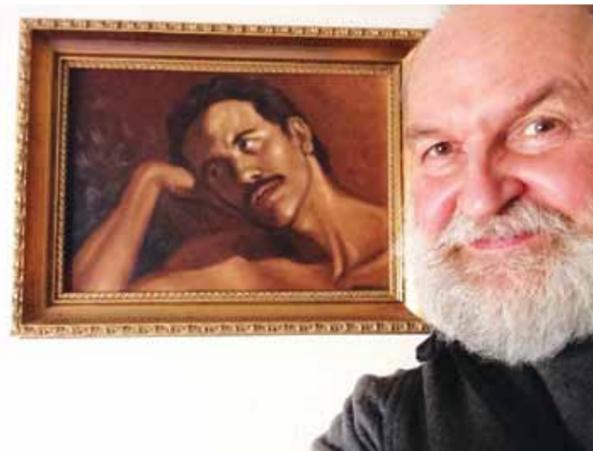
When Greeley Wells was in high school contemplating possible careers, he considered what he had been doing all his life (art), what he liked to do (art), and what he was good at (art).

So Greeley (his signature name) became what he was: an artist.

Greeley mostly painted the human figure because, he says, "it is the prototype of exquisite form." He explains that he wanted his paintings to follow the flow of lines. (As he talked, his hand flowed like a shadow across the form of his own body.)

He likes the play of light and dark, the way shadows give a sense of undulating three-dimensional forms in his two-dimensional medium. Greeley frequently painted in shades of gray, which allowed more opportunity for the line to express form without the complication of color.

The past tense of "painted" is accurate because, one day three years ago when



Top photo: Rick Faist at a crafts show with his kalimbas or thumb pianos. Bottom photo: A painter of note, Greeley Wells is now making artistic movies of nature.

Greeley was walking through his woods on Carberry Creek taking pictures with a new iPhone, he thought, "Doesn't this thing also make movies?" With that discovery, his career changed paths. He is no longer a painter but a moviemaker.

Unhampered now by the limitations of two-dimensional art, Greeley plays with time, sound, motion, and realism in the outdoor world.

The art, he says, is in allowing the creek and the tree to catch his attention. Then he tries to capture the layering of experience: the yellow leaves that (next layer) are moving and behind it the creek (next layer) also moving (another layer) and the sun making it sparkle (another layer) and through the leaves in the distance darker forms (another layer) and if he is lucky, a red tree (another layer).

Greeley's movies are quiet. They are slow. The sun spreads over a hillside, leaves twinkle lazily to the ground, the wind blows sparkles on the creek. Greeley wants us to see beyond the "first seeing," which, he says, is mere identification: "This is a maple." He wants us to learn "real seeing," a deeper way of looking. "My movies calm you down, make you pay attention, watch a little bit longer—and see," he says.

Greeley does not miss painting. "Sitting down with paint doesn't hold a candle," he says, to the animated nature of his new art.

Go to www.greeley.me to see Greeley's paintings and to www.youtube.com/user/greeleywellsjr#g/r to see his movies.

Diana Coogle

dcoogle@laughdogpress.com



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Redefining 'community' in the Applegate

BY SANDY SHAFFER

For the past three-plus years folks across the country (including me) have been working with federal, state and local partners to develop a national Cohesive Strategy for Wildfire Management. Suppress all fires? Let them burn? Thin all federal lands? Impose building restrictions in rural areas? One solution alone doesn't work, weather patterns are constantly changing, and the cost of fire suppression nationally is unsustainable. Something has to change.

The final Cohesive Strategy identified three areas for regional or local areas to address in order to reduce the severity of fires, loss of life and property, and also suppression costs. They are: fire-resilient landscapes, appropriate wildfire response, and fire-adapted communities. This last is where *you and I* come into the picture.

A fire-adapted community (FAC) has been simply defined as one where "human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property."

The basic premise is that through a combination of knowledgeable and coordinated pre-fire planning, preparedness

and action, coupled with evacuation plans and appropriate fire response, the loss of life and property due to a wildfire can be prevented or minimized. The "community" takes responsibility for its wildfire risk.

Eleven potential components of an FAC have been identified in the Cohesive Strategy (but not all might be applicable to every community). They are:

- Defensible space and/or a Firewise community
- Fuel reduction efforts beyond the defensible space
- Local building and development codes for fire-safe homes
- Family and community evacuation plans
- Internal safety zones
- Exterior/community fuel buffers (to help keep a wildfire from spreading to the community)
- Forest management/fire-resilient forests (to help prevent explosive crown fires that kill trees and spread embers)
- Fire prevention and education efforts
- Local capacity to fight fire
- Local cooperative fire agreements (mutual aid between agencies)

• Local Community Wildfire Protection Plans, or CWPPs.

Some of you are probably asking if we really *need* to address this FAC thing here in the Applegate. After all, we already have our CWPP, we do education and outreach, we have mutual aid agreements and county building codes in place, and, we've done a good job on defensible space.

But think about our local dry climate, the fact that most of us live in the wildland-urban interface, and the majority of us in the Applegate either abut or are within a half mile of federal lands. Another factor is that our "fire season" comes later in the summer than in other regions, so it's not unusual for national fire suppression resources to be tied up elsewhere when we get our first lightning storm in June or July. Throw in what's happening financially at the federal, state and local levels, and ask: is wildfire preparedness *really* going to be a priority? We definitely need to be able to fend for ourselves!

So looking through those 11 items again, the fire-adapted "community" is more than a single property owner or two, but it's a lot more defined than, say,

the entire city of Williams. Definitely not a whole county, even though something like building codes might come under the county's jurisdiction.

Therefore, the leading question is: *how do we define* "community"? Initially I would think that long roads such as Humbug or Thompson Creek could be considered "communities," but Fire Chief Fillis says those are a bit too long and should be broken up. Could Murphy be a "community" under this type of definition? Maybe, but Ruch might be too large. So *who should* define where FACs are in the Applegate? My answer would be residents, local fire folks, community leaders, maybe federal land managers, too—all working together.

Our Applegate has long been recognized as a leader in wildfire preparedness, but now it's time to *push this even further* by becoming "fire-adapted." I *urge you* to take the next step and talk to your neighbors, and maybe even your fire chief about the components of this FAC concept. Start to define *your* "community" and see what you collectively can begin to tackle. Let's all work *together, now*, to be fire-adapted before next fire season. Because no one else is going to do it for us!

Sandy Shaffer • sassyoner@q.com

Fuel-reduction assistance grants available for middle Applegate residents

BY BRIAN BALLOU

Residential landowners in much of the Applegate River Valley within Jackson County (*see map*) are eligible for fuel-reduction assistance grants from the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Medford Unit. A grant pays a property owner \$400 for creating a 100-foot fuel break around a primary residence, and improving driveway access for emergency vehicles. These measures may help protect the home against wildfire damage or destruction.

Financial assistance is also available for fuel-reduction projects in strategic locations such as roadsides and property lines, and areas where there are fields of brush and thickets of trees.

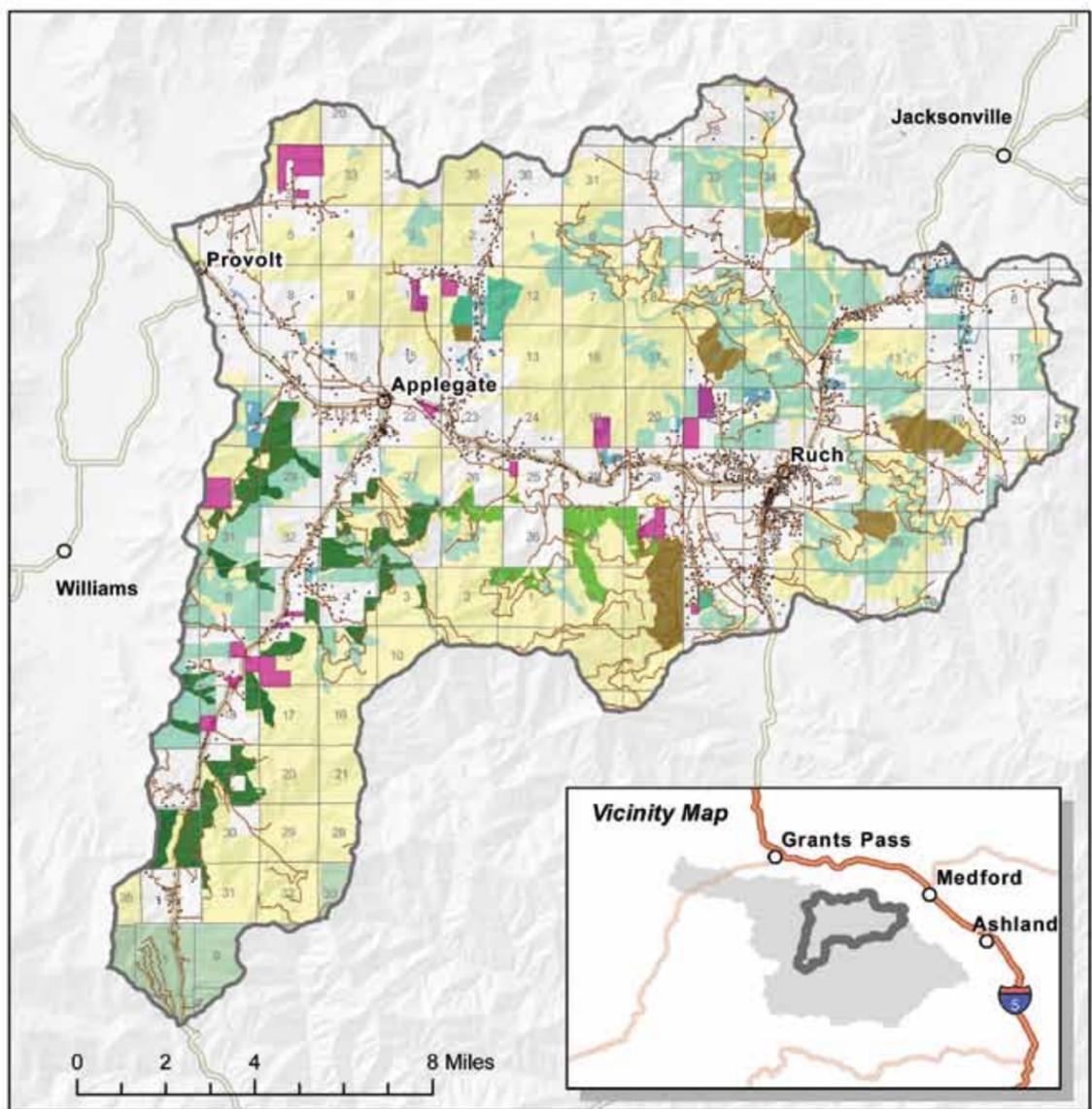
To receive a grant, a property owner must agree to meet fuel-reduction specifications prescribed by an ODF fire prevention specialist. In addition to establishing a fuel break around the home and driveway, the property owner may be required to move or enclose firewood or lumber piles, remove flammable material from beneath decks, and replace fire-vulnerable landscaping plants with fire-resistant species.

Payment will be made upon completion of the project and approval by ODF.

For more information, and to schedule a free on-site fuel-reduction evaluation, contact the Oregon Department of Forestry's Medford Unit office at 541-664-3328.

Brian Ballou
Fire Prevention Specialist
ODF Southwest Oregon District
541-665-0662
bballou@odf.state.or.us

Middle Applegate Collaborative Fuel Reduction & Restoration Project



Legend		BLM Fuels Treatments Status, YR Complete	General Owner
	Middle Applegate Project Boundary		
	Prospective Fuels Treatment Landowners		
	SITUS (Home Sites)		
	Applegate Watershed (Vicinity Map)		
BLM Middle Applegate Pilot Phase			
	Pilot Joe		
	Pilot Thompson (draft)		





JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

Applegate Library

We've had a productive and exciting fall season at the Applegate Library. Our storage shed that burned to the ground last summer, and which contained all of our book sale items plus other materials that aided in our library functions, has been restored with the help of a few good friends. The county provided the basic building and unfinished inside and, with the skills of Susan and Greg Bratt, the interior was completed in time for our "Book Palace" celebration in early October. We had a cider press from the Shockey family, providing fresh apple cider for everyone to sip, pumpkin decorating in the meeting room for the younger folks to experiment with, cookies, tea and coffee, and lots of visiting with friends.

Carol Hoon, treasurer of Friends of the Applegate Library (FOAL) and a champion knitter, came up with a new and successful fund-raising idea: "Hats Off to the Library," an invitation to all knitters to knit hats to sell to raise money for the library. On the weekend of October 18 and 19, Carol held forth in the meeting room of the library, and sold about 20 homemade hats for \$20 each, raising about \$400 for our FOAL account, which had been depleted by the restoration of our storage shed. Since that weekend, the hats continue to sell and are still on display in the library. They will keep on selling until they are gone. Congratulations, Carol, on your ingenious and successful idea!

The annual book sale was held the week before Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 19; Friday, November 22; and Saturday, November 23, during open library hours. Many books were donated since the storage shed had been restored, so we had a successful sale during those days.

We are all anticipating the levy that will be presented in May to the library districts at the cost of 60 cents per \$1,000 to keep our libraries open—a small price for the many services the libraries provide for our community. Here are some facts about the use of the Applegate Library:

During the fiscal year 2012-2013, approximately 12,280 persons visited the Applegate Branch Library. Patrons checked out nearly 21,000 items, an average of 1,750 items per month. 363 persons attended one or more of the 46 programs held at the branch during the year; programs ranged from preschool story times to knitting circles and adult programs often highlighting the local area or featuring local authors and talent. The library also functions as a community center; 1,940 persons used the Applegate branch community meeting room during one or more of the 204 meetings booked.

The levy is indeed a small price for the many services libraries provide for our community. Please contact your county commissioners and encourage them to put the library funding levy on the May ballot.
Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

Ruch Library

The Friends of Ruch Library will be having its annual indoor book sale the week of December 2 during library open hours (Tuesday, December 3, 11 am to 5 pm; Thursday, December 5, 1 to 7 pm, and Saturday, December 7, 12 to 4 pm) in the Community Meeting Room. There will be books of all varieties, many of gift quality, just in time for the holidays!

On December 14 and 20 we will be having ornament-making workshops in the Community Meeting Room from 1 to 3 pm. Bring the whole family for some creative time together! Between December 10 and 24, each child who comes to the library will receive a free gift book—compliments of the Friends of Ruch Library.

Free computer classes will be offered again in 2014. We will have a BASICS III class, which covers advanced word processing, spreadsheets, computer management, and Internet services, followed by a BASICS I class. The dates and times are not yet determined. Contact Ruch Library for more information.

Preschool story time continues each Tuesday at 11:30 am. We hope to have you and your preschoolers join us.

We wish you all a very happy holiday season, and look forward to seeing you at the library in 2014.

Thalia Truesdell
Ruch Library Branch Manager
541 899-7438
ttruesdell@jcls.org



Williams Library: A volunteer-supported community resource

Josephine Community Libraries reopened in 2009 after the county cut all funding in 2007. We are a donor-supported, volunteer-operated library system. We need your help here at the Williams branch. Donating is easy and becoming a five-dollar-a-month contributor requires just one simple form.

Without *you*, we cannot continue to thrive! Volunteers keep the books flowing and help us offer exciting programs. Volunteering is also great for teens and instills the value of helping others. If you would like to join us for even one hour a week, please contact Branch Manager Danielle Schreck at dschreck@josephinelibrary.org, 541-846-7020, or

stop by the library at 20695 Williams Highway during our new extended hours of **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 1 to 5 pm.**

Our small library branch is part of a four-branch system and patrons can reserve materials from any of the branches, which will then be brought out to Williams by a volunteer courier. This gives Williams residents convenient access to thousands of books, DVDs and audio books.

We have *free* Wi-Fi available 24/7. Come in, get your *free* library card, and get immediate access.

Danielle Schreck • 541-846-7020
Williams Library Branch Manager
dschreck@josephinelibrary.org

FEATURED ADVERTISER

Each issue, the Applegater features one of our valued advertisers. Here is the story of LEHI Pump Service, Inc., another long-time advertiser.

LEHI Pump Service

LEHI Pump Service, Inc. has been providing the Applegate Valley and surrounding areas with professional and quality water-well system service for over 35 years.

In 1976, Les Hill, founder and original owner/operator, opened up shop. The name for the business came from Les's name. He took the first two letters of his first name and the first two of his last name and created LEHI. His philosophy of "honest, quality service at an affordable price" has been the backbone of the company's longevity and success. With Les in the service truck and wife Jackie on the phones, the family business began.

In 1980, their son Ron joined the business. As years went by, more and more folks allowed LEHI Pump Service to take care of their water-well system needs. In 1998, Les and Jackie decided to retire and turned the business over to Ron and his wife Jody. Ron and Jody truly enjoyed living and working in the Applegate Valley, raising three active children who attended local schools. In 1999, Ron and Jody were thankful to have their son Dustin join the family business. This came at the perfect time as the business was growing and they needed the help.

My, how the family has grown! Ron and Jody are now grandparents to four boys (with one more on the way) and four girls. Dustin and his wife Tera are raising four of those grandsons. Someday,

we would love to welcome one or more of the grandchildren to join the family business!

We want to continue to provide the same "honest, quality service at an affordable price" on which the family company was founded. Please give us a call! We would love to answer any questions you might have. Our business provides new water-well systems, repairs, hand pumps, filtration systems, solar pump systems, holding tanks, pressure tanks, flow testing, etc.

Most of all, we want to personally thank all of our loyal, wonderful customers (including the real estate agents), who have allowed us to service their pump systems and keep their water flowing. Without you, LEHI Pump Service, Inc. would not exist. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Ron, Jody and Dustin Hill
541-846-6662 or 541-474-0752
lehipump@gmail.com

Note: LEHI Pump Service is open from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, and available for service most Saturdays.



The LEHI Pump Service family, from left to right: Ron and Jody Hill; and Ethan, Isaac, Tera and Dustin Hill.

Grange Co-op and Rogue Co-ops announce \$11,500 in high school scholarships available

Grange Co-op and Rogue Co-ops are proud to announce the 2014 scholarship program, which will award a total of \$11,500 to 11 high school seniors. The annual program is expanding its availability to include students with experiences outside of its traditional criteria. **The deadline to apply is February 14, 2014.**

Grange Co-op will award ten \$1,000 scholarships, and Rogue Co-ops will award one \$1,500 scholarship.

To qualify, students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and have participated in at least one of this year's expanded list of activities: FFA, 4-H, Horticulture, DECA, FBLA, student body leadership, school sports, or non-related activities such as work experience. In addition, students must reside in Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Curry, Douglas or Coos counties in Oregon, or Siskiyou, Del Norte, Modoc or Humboldt counties in California.

"Grange Co-op and the Rogue Co-ops group are proud to support hard-working students here in our own region. Grange Co-op has been a local, caring member of the community since 1934, and it is an honor to help these young people on their scholastic journey. We encourage all students interested to apply, and look forward to meeting some of our outstanding future leaders," said Grange Co-op chief executive officer Barry Robino.

Students interested in applying for a scholarship can visit www.grangecoop.com/scholarship-program for more information. Applicants must submit a written essay, a copy of transcripts, and a letter of recommendation from a current teacher, counselor, administrator or employer.

Rogue Co-ops is a coalition of local cooperatives including Rogue Credit Union, Medford Food Co-op, Ashland Food Co-op, and Grange Co-op.

Grange Co-op includes seven retail stores, a grain elevator, agronomy center and a Cardlock Fueling Station.

For more information about the scholarships, please contact Brooke Winters at 541-664-1261, or Heidi DeRoule at 541-664-1261.

A gift that makes a difference to Sanctuary One and to you

BY DELLA MERRILL

Did you know that nine out of ten Americans feel stressed during the holiday season?

How would you like to avoid stress this year, keep your dollars local and make a difference in the lives of people, animals and the earth? Giving a tribute gift to Sanctuary One will do all that and much more.

Here's how it works:

You make a gift in honor or memory of a loved one. We will promptly send our Cookies & Cream holiday card to your designated recipient announcing that a gift has been made in their honor or a loved one's memory. Gift amounts will remain confidential. Your gift supports the work of Sanctuary One, where people, animals and the earth work together for mutual healing.

Aside from the practical benefits of giving a tribute gift, there's an intangible gift that comes full circle. Plain and simple, it feels good when you know you're supporting a cause you care about.

Here are a few ways your gift will help further our work at Sanctuary One:

Your tribute gift helps us take in and rehabilitate more homeless animals and purchase supplies to expand our gardens so we can grow more food for people and our animals as we continue to provide a hands-on learning space for school children.

In one step, you can honor a loved



Cookies & Cream have their own holiday card at Sanctuary One.

one, simplify your gift giving, remove some stress from the season and support a local effort that contributes to the unparalleled quality of life here in southern Oregon. And you'll know that the money you invest will continue to work for a great cause long after the holidays are over.

To give a tribute gift in honor or memory of someone you love, visit www.SanctuaryOne.org and follow the Donate Now steps. If you'd rather send a check, make sure you include the name and address of the person you would like notified that your gift has been made. Please mail checks to Sanctuary One, 13195 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonvillle, OR 97530.

If you have any questions, call us at 541-899-8627. Happy holidays from the staff and board at Sanctuary One!

Della Merrill • 541-899-8627

Program Manager
Sanctuary One

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Fire district operations levy passes Volunteer firefighters needed

BY BRETT FILLIS

We are pleased to announce the passage of our five-year operations levy with a decisive 73.8% *yes* vote. I want to add my thanks to that of our board president's (*see page 1*)—both in voting for and getting the word out however you could. I realize that the level of support is equal to how you feel about the services we provide. It is safe to say that that "feeling" comes from the contact we have with residents, more often than not on medical-related calls. I want to thank our responders—they are the ones willing and able to answer those calls for service at all hours of the day and night.

Speaking of responders, we are on our annual search for new folks wishing to join our team. Our recruiting efforts have been good the last two years, but we

need to continue to recruit and train new members in order to maintain our ability to respond in your time of need. The next training Academy will start near the end of January and run into March. Classes are Thursday evenings and every other Saturday and Sunday. After the initial training during the Academy, training is generally reduced to Monday evenings.

Again, we appreciate the financial support that keeps our personnel equipped with the tools that they need to do the job. We will always need to be recruiting new volunteers to keep the team strong. Thank you for your continued support.

Brett Fillis
 Fire Chief

Applegate Valley Fire District #9
 541-899-1050

Burn reminder

Before burning outdoors any time of year, check with your fire district to make sure that day is an official burn day and not a NO burn day.

Jackson County • 541-776-7007
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- Little Applegate Measuring Device Project (Water Quantitigy & Irrigation Efficiency)
- The Pilot Projects in collaboration with BLM & the SO Small Diameter Forest Collaborative

If you are interested in participating in any of these projects or programs please contact us or check for more information and our meeting dates, times and locations on our website, www.apwc.info

Jakob Shockey, Riparian Program Manager
riparianprogram@apwc.info
 Janelle Dunlevy, APWC Coordinator
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Grape Talk: Major influences in vineyard development in the Applegate Valley



According to Randy Gold, Herb Quady (above) has raised the standards for wine making.

BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

Southern Oregon is getting a lot of press lately about its ever-growing wine industry and substantial vineyard development. We are no longer the unknown wine region and national publications are taking notice. It seems like vineyards from small to large are popping up all over our area. So for this month's column I wanted to talk to some of the people most responsible for this trend.

Randy Gold

First, I talked to Randy Gold of Pacific Crest Vineyard Services (pacificcrestvine.com/about.html), who is also owner of Gold Vineyard in Talent. Since 1997 Randy has worked with Del Rio Vineyards in Gold Hill on their early development, along with Applegate's LongSword and Red Lily vineyards. During Randy's early experiences with vineyard development there were a lot of trial-and-error experiments.

Greg Jones

However, in 1997 a major contributor to southern Oregon vineyard development arrived in the form of Dr. Greg Jones, a Southern Oregon University professor in the Department of Environmental Studies. Dr. Jones was interested in the effects of climate and climate change on the grape industry, especially as it pertains to southern Oregon. His research not only helped his family (who owns Abacela Winery in the Umpqua Valley), but was also instrumental in the development of much of the information used by vineyards

and wineries in the Applegate, Rogue and Umpqua Valleys. Randy states that Dr. Jones' research and data, as part of his Reference Vineyard Project, has developed for growers a greater understanding of how to achieve quality grapes and greater production from the analysis of scientific data. Randy says he always recommends that Dr. Jones be included in the planning phase of any vineyard.

Dr. Jones' research has made him a sought-after consultant here in Oregon and internationally. When I talked to Dr. Jones, he stated that our region is one of the most diverse viticulture areas in the world with over 70 different varieties grown here. You can access more of Dr. Jones research on the viticulture of southern Oregon by visiting his website at sou.edu/envirostudies/jones.html.

When asked what changes he has seen in the type of vineyards planted and in varieties since he started his vineyard consulting business, Randy said, "Currently the boom is in cooler varieties, especially pinot noir planted on hillsides with good drainage." Dr. Jones agreed, adding that pinot noir gets a higher price per ton and that in southern Oregon you can achieve higher tonnage than the Willamette Valley.

Gold also sees more experimentation with varieties. When he originally developed his personal vineyard, most growers were planting merlot, of which he personally had eight acres. Now though, he

has grafted all but two acres to tempranillo, malbec and syrah. I was surprised to hear that his goal for a new vineyard is to have production at two to three years, which is much sooner than I had thought. He is getting about 1,800 plants per acre with a cost of \$20,000 to \$25,000 per acre, including frost protection and consulting.

This information from Randy emphasizes the economics of grape growing. Is growing grapes an expensive hobby or a viable commercial venture? According to Randy, the small vineyard (three acres or less) has the potential to be expensive and is merely pretty landscaping unless it goes the way of the "custom crush." More and more small vineyards are having a grower's label developed. There are a number of wineries in the valley including Wooldridge Creek, Plaisance Ranch and RoxyAnn that do these custom crushes for growers. With a grower's label bottled, you then have a retail product to market on your own website, in your tasting room or through local restaurants. If you sold your grapes and did all the work yourself, you would get \$2,000 per ton at the most. With a small vineyard, that payout barely covers the equipment needed and certainly doesn't pay you for your time. So from an economics standpoint, you either need to create a custom crush or you need to develop more grape tonnage by planting more acreage.

Herb Quady

After talking to Randy Gold I was excited to compare his information with Herb Quady, one of the foremost vineyard developers and wine makers in the Applegate Valley, who seems to be everywhere. Randy Gold said, "Herb has elevated the bar for all vintners in southern Oregon."

As wine maker for Troon and Quady North, Herb has a unique perspective on what's happening with growers and winemakers in our

valley; with his own company, Applegate Vineyard Management, he has a number of vineyards under his watchful eyes. When we sat down, Herb was in the middle of harvest time and was happy with the yields this year, up 20 percent from last year.

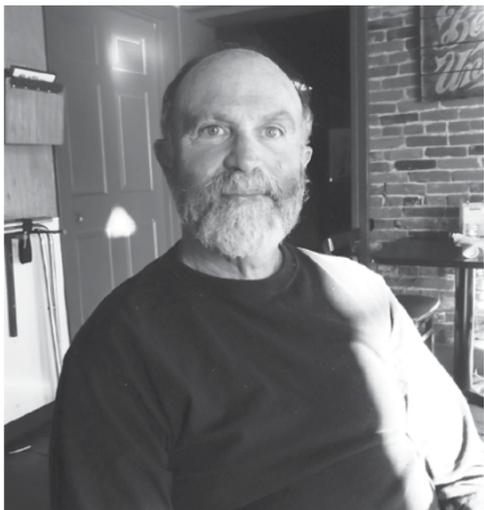
In the Applegate and southern Oregon, Herb said that the marketplace is determining what varieties are currently being planted. He described the relationship between grape growers and wineries as "very fluid with tons of grapes from many small and large growers being trucked all around our area." He added that even the big commercial farmers like Harry & David and Naumes are getting into the grape-growing arena. (Try Herb Quady's wines at the Quady North tasting room in Jacksonville or Troon Vineyard on Kubli Road in the Applegate Valley.)

The wine industry in the Applegate is evolving. You plant what you believe will grow well on a vineyard site based on scientific data. You also plant for marketplace demand. Herb is planting grenache, malbec, vermentino (Italian white) and viognier as well as cabernet franc, syrah, pinot noir and pinot gris because they all do well in our area. He believes that diversity is the key to vineyard development in our area; after that, let the marketplace decide.

From talking with these three influential forces in the southern Oregon wine industry, I learned a lot about the economics and diversity of our area's wine industry. Science and the desire to experiment are raising the quality of wines produced in southern Oregon, which are attracting national and international attention.

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avreality@gmail.com

Randy Gold, below left, and Dr. Greg Jones, below right, have been influential in the development of vineyards in southern Oregon. Randy also owns Gold Vineyard in Talent, Oregon; Greg Jones' family owns Abacela Winery in Roseburg, Oregon.



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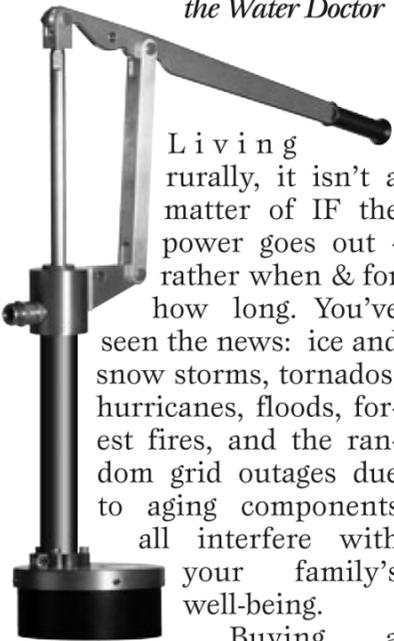
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OPINIONS

Logging for county funds is an economic loss

BY CHERYL BRUNER

In October Williams Community Forest Project met with Josephine County Commissioners. We requested that the commissioners directly and publicly support programs that benefit the recreation and restoration industries, while conserving our Oregon and California (O&C) lands for ecosystem services. The following data supported our proposal.

Management of the O&C lands by the BLM dates back to 1937 when Congress passed the O&C Lands Act, providing for permanent forest production, protection of watersheds and regulation of stream flow, economic stability of local communities and timber industries, creation of recreational facilities, and provisions for reimbursing the O&C counties for the loss of tax revenue from the O&C lands.

"The O&C lands safeguard critical sources of drinking water, support fish and wildlife habitat, and provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing." (www.wildsalmoncenter.org/pdf/OregonandCaliforniaLands.pdf)

The most recent 2012 report from the Outdoor Industry Association notes that in Oregon outdoor recreation generates \$12.8 billion in consumer spending, \$4 billion in wages and salaries, \$955 million in state and local tax revenue, and \$141,000 directly in Oregon jobs.

Payments for ecosystem services create jobs. A study by the Ecosystem Workforce Program at the University of Oregon found that forest and watershed restoration projects have considerable economic impact and job growth potential.

For every \$1 million invested, 20 jobs and over \$2.3 million in total economic activity were returned for river and road restoration; 13 jobs and \$2.2 million in economic activity were generated from mechanical forest projects such as thinning; and 29 jobs and \$2.1 million in economic activity could come from tree planting and manual thinning.

In its May 2013 "Protected Lands and Economics: A Summary of Research and Careful Analysis on the Economic Impact of Protected Lands," Headwaters Economics, a nonprofit economic research firm, noted that "Western non-metropolitan counties with protected federal lands had faster employment growth and higher per capita income. Counties that had more than 30 percent of the county's land base in federal protected status increased jobs by 345 percent over the last 40 years," and "Protected natural amenities—such as pristine scenery and wildlife—help sustain property values and attract new investment."

"Wild Pacific salmon are a central part of the culture, economy, and environment of Oregon. Pacific salmon generate 28 million dollars of economic activity annually in Oregon, providing hundreds of jobs" (wildsalmoncenter.org/pdf/OregonandCaliforniaLands.pdf).

In *The Register-Guard* article titled "Costs of logging O&C lands exceed benefits," Art Johnson and Ernie Niemi point out that "Logging older, bigger trees would produce not just dirtier water, but less water. ...The overall impact can be as much as 20 inches of water per year.

...[T]he cost over time to irrigators, fisherman, municipal water users and others would be equivalent to a one-time payment today of about \$1,000 per acre. ...[L]ogging releases into the atmosphere large amounts of carbon dioxide currently stored in the trees, roots and soils of the O&C lands. ...Current estimates of the monetary value damage per ton of carbon dioxide suggest that these effects range from at least \$25,000 to \$85,000 or more per logged acre."

In *Economic Value of Goods and Services Produced by the O&C Lands With and Without Industrial Logging*, produced for the Pacific Rivers Council, Niemi writes that "Congress is considering several proposals to increase logging on 200,000 or more acres of the O&C Lands in western Oregon managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. Price data for timberland indicate these lands would have a timber value of no more than about \$5,000 per acre, and less than this amount if the existing environmental protections and ban on exporting logs from O&C Lands remain unchanged. Industrial logging of these lands, however, would leave them unable to produce conservation-related goods and services worth 10–20 times more than the timber value."

Clean air and water, along with the beauty of our forested lands, are prominent factors in our economic future. Logging for county funds is an economic loss, and these other needs must be considered in the management of our public O&C forests, and logging for county funds is an economic loss.

Cheryl Bruner
541-846-1729
Board Secretary

Williams Community Forest Project
info@williamscommunityforestproject.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

In November the folks who are protected by Applegate Valley Fire District # 9 will vote on a property tax increase of seven cents per \$1,000 AV to fund the operation of the District for the next five years. This is why I will be voting YES:

Last February I suffered a heart attack at our home near Applegate Dam. As we live an hour from the nearest hospital we drove to the Applegate fire station in Ruch for help. As the EMTs were checking me out my heart stopped beating. They immediately hooked up a heart defibrillator and restarted my heart and then continued CPR in the ambulance as we raced to Rogue Valley Medical Center. The cardiologists there located an arterial blockage and inserted two stents so my heart could operate normally. After a short stay in Intensive Care I returned home with no lasting damage.

Had it not been for the proper equipment and the professional training of the personnel at the Applegate fire station I would not be alive today. My story could be your story. That's why I know a YES vote in November will be the best investment I will ever make.

Tom Brussat
Jacksonville, Oregon

Ed. Note: This letter arrived prior to the election, but it emphasizes how your life can be saved when your fire district has the funds for trained medical professionals and proper equipment.

Dear Editor:

I really think you do a great job with the *Applegater* newspaper. I want to subscribe! I now take the *Mail Tribune* and it is so boring. Yours is full of interesting info and wonderful (color) pictures. Too bad you're not in charge of the *Tribune*!!!!!!

Thanks and let me know how to subscribe.

Jo Morrow
White City, OR

Voices of the Applegate spring concerts

Voices of the Applegate, our community choir of about 20 members and directed by Blake Weller, performed their fall concerts on November 22 in the Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, and November 24 at the Applegate River Ranch House in Applegate. The music consisted of a variety of four-part harmony pieces, including Mozart, Robert Burns, Queen and two songs from the musical, *Pippin*. One more piece from Africa that was added to the repertoire was "Sansa Kroma," an Akan language playground song that nearly all children growing up in West Africa learn to sing.

Our spring session will begin on January 15, 2014, with concerts to be held on April 11 and 13. Rehearsals will be every Wednesday evening beginning January 15 from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Applegate Library on North Applegate Road just past the fire station.

For those interested in joining our choir, please call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988 or Kathy Escott at 541-846-6844.

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

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OPINIONS

River Right: Pinball rapids

BY TOM CARSTENS

Kayaking on the Umpqua River near Steamboat can be challenging. The North Umpqua has a lot of fast-moving water smattered with big rocky obstacles that can ruin your day. This combination really gets the adrenalin going. There's one Class 4 rapid that's especially challenging. It's called "Pinball." With a name like that, you can imagine the number of big boulders that kayakers have to maneuver around in that swift current. Game-face time. Every time I see those rapids, I wish I had on full football pads.

Chuckling to myself, I couldn't help but think of Pinball Rapids when I saw Representative DeFazio at a recent news conference in Cave Junction. He was trying to explain a forestry bill that he and Representative Walden had just introduced in Congress. He was surrounded by a jostling mob of unhappy "trees." He looked like he could use a helmet and pads, too.

Trying to craft forestry legislation in these parts is not a game for sissies. It's got a lot of moving parts: timber production, industry jobs, wildlife habitat, soil and water quality, county timber receipts, and environmental law, to name just a few. The special interests that jostle legislators make Pinball look like a cakewalk.

I was on a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field trip not too long ago with a bunch of industry reps, foresters, environmentalists, scientists, feds, and neighbors. We were looking over a BLM forest plot in the hills behind Cantrall-Buckley Park. The idea was to try a new thinning approach devised by a couple of forest ecologists, Drs. Franklin and Johnson of University of Washington and Oregon State University, respectively. They are testing an idea that might permit profitable logging without completely destroying the forest. (You've read about Pilots Joe and Thompson in recent issues of the *Applegater*.) Because the approach seemed to be okay with most of those special interests, many of us thought it might work.

A Southern Oregon University professor was eavesdropping on the discussions. I told him that each of us had a separate agenda. He asked me, "What's yours?" "Fire," I told him. I wanted those hills thinned. If we could do it in a way that met some of the other folks' objectives,

that was fine by me. But I want that fuel load reduced. We all live out here. We're not just getting tired of all that stinging, rasping summer smoke; we fear for our homes and property.

For the life of me, I can't figure out what good all this squabbling is doing. It sure isn't solving my fire problem! While we argue, our beautiful forests burn, valuable timber goes up in smoke, tax dollars are wasted fighting fires, the tourist industry stalls out in smoke, wildlife habitat is destroyed, the topsoil erodes, the streams silt up, our homes are threatened, our health suffers, and county timber payments zero out. Nobody wins. Hikers, bikers, kayakers, rafters, equestrians, anglers, hunters, campers and navel-gazers all take a hit. Some folks tell us that the "wilderness" is still there. But, boy, that smelly blackened mess just isn't the same, is it?

There's hope. Even though the refs have sent Walden and DeFazio to the lockers, Ron Wyden has been called in. As Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, he wields some political clout and is respected by just about everybody. He's trying to tie all this together and come up with a bill that's palatable. No doubt he, too, is getting banged on by the special interests lobbying for "management" of our public forests. But what does "manage" mean? Clear-cuts? Stewardship? Wilderness? Mechanical thinning? Industrial plantations? Understory clearing? Fire treatments? Old growth protection? Whatever it is, you can bet it's going to be a compromise or it'll never wash.

I'm hoping that Wyden will support the Franklin-Johnson approach to timber harvest. A couple of recent public timber sales have been successful when their ideas have been applied. So far, there have been no lawsuits. Imagine: industry makes a profit *and* that pesky owl has a home! Whatever. Let's at least reduce the wildfire risk and pull out some of those sticks.

It's complicated as hell—a lot like Pinball Rapids. We can make it through, even if it's not always clear how. I say we ditch the pads and try compromise for a change.

See you on the river.

Tom Carstens
541-846-1025

Wake up, southern Oregon! The wolf is among us in the form of proposed public lands legislation

BY JACK SHIPLEY

The Oregon and California (O&C) Act of 1937 set aside approximately 2.4 million acres of federally owned lands in 18 western Oregon counties for their economic benefit. This act helped satisfy a post-war demand for wood fiber and helped build the American dream. At the same time, O&C receipts from timber harvests paid to the 18 O&C counties formed an essential part of county budgets, helping pay for many services. Declines in timber harvesting and federal payments have brought Oregon timber counties to the brink of insolvency and prompted several congressional proposals aimed at increasing harvests on O&C lands to bolster depressed county economies.

Some counties such as Jackson County were responsible and prepared for such an event by setting aside "Rainy Day Reserves." Josephine County, on the other hand, couldn't spend receipts fast enough! In the early 1970s Josephine County Commissioners were admonished to use O&C receipts *only* for capital improvements or "Rainy Day Reserves" because one day O&C revenues might dry up. When it was announced that O&C receipts would be decoupled from timber harvests, O&C receipts plummeted and commissioners were scrambling to cut expenses.

The O&C Act was both a blessing and a curse for many of these O&C counties. Josephine County had become reliant on federal support and they poorly managed those "easy come, easy go" timber receipts. Josephine County voters also became shortsighted and chose to rely solely on O&C receipts rather than diversify with much-needed alternative support. Josephine County currently has a \$0.57 per \$1,000 true cash value (TCV) in property tax support. The state's average property tax support for county government is \$3.15 per \$1,000 TCV.

I find it odd that many Josephine County residents have an independent "State of Jefferson" reputation for disliking government of any sort, but at the same time can't live without the much-coveted O&C bonanza.

We often hear how poverty stricken Josephine County is while our leaders are crying to "get the cut out" to reinvigorate county revenues. Why should we support Josephine County or any other O&C county with federal resources when the residents of these counties are not willing to support themselves for a reasonable portion of the expense?

In 2011, Jackson County ranked sixth, Douglas County eighth, and Josephine County ninth, which places them in the top 25% in total bank deposits statewide. But *residents* of Jackson County were ranked 12th, Douglas County ninth and Josephine County seventh in *per capita* bank deposits statewide. I find it unconscionable that our federal forest resources are being used to support my county when the majority of Josephine County voters have been consistently unwilling to support these necessary

county services by developing alternative revenues for a reasonable share of the pie.

I am concerned that our legislative leaders are willing to develop simplistic political solutions for very complex social and economic problems that are nested within complex forest ecosystems. The proposed division of O&C Lands into "sacrifice" and "save" categories overlaid with exemption from federal environmental protection is not an acceptable alternative for increasing county revenue or for supporting our local timber industry. I don't support any legislative fix that establishes a trust to hold and manage our publicly owned federal O&C forestlands.

We have successfully worked with the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to eliminate clear-cuts as their primary harvest practice on the unique dry forest within the Applegate watershed. I believe that our political leaders have the unrealistic expectation that our publicly owned O&C forest lands can be the "silver bullet" solution for all our county economic problems. I am not willing to sacrifice a portion of our public forest ecosystem because some of our counties are unwilling to diversify their revenue base. Our forests are dynamic, fire-adapted ecosystems that should be actively managed to keep them resilient and reasonably fire safe. We should be managing our forest resources in a way that both provides wood to our mills and also sustains the functioning biological systems.

I propose that, before any form of legislative fix is established to support our counties with O&C receipts from increased timber harvests, the proposal require a minimum base level of local taxpayer support to qualify for federal O&C timber receipts. I also propose that we recognize and monetize the ecosystem values such as clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and recreation resources that are provided from our federal lands.

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council has requested, in our testimony to the current BLM Resource Management Plan, that the Applegate watershed be retained as an Adaptive Management Area as designated in the Northwest Forest Plan and used as a demonstration site for ecosystem-values accounting.

I would also encourage our legislators to take time to extend the "stewardship authority" to include BLM lands along with the USFS lands. This simple action would provide the agencies with a much-needed management tool and provide financial incentive to the O&C counties to support such work.

Jack Shipley
541-846-6917

rockycreekfarms@apbb.net

A 44-year resident of Josephine County, Jack Shipley lives in the Applegate, is a small woodland owner, a founding board member of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, and serves on the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative board.

OPINION PIECES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Williams Grange Pancake Breakfast
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE GATER!

Poisoned marijuana grows are silencing our forests

BY JAKOB SHOCKEY

Whether you support it or not, marijuana cultivation has become increasingly rooted in our local community and economy, bringing boutique fertilizer stores, cheap weed and a fall migration of slightly disheveled “trimmigrants” to our area. Many growers also bring deadly harm to this valley’s wildlife through their use of common rat poisons. These anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs) are spread thickly around the cannabis plantings and along irrigation lines to kill rodents that might eat the plants or chew irrigation pipes. Unfortunately, whether this happens on our public land or a private parcel, these poisons, often flavored as bacon, cheese or apple, target the bottom of a wild food chain and work their way up the chain.

In a study published last summer in the academic journal *PLOS ONE*, researchers found that threatened Pacific fishers are being exposed to and poisoned by these rodenticides on public land. The Pacific fisher was once found across the Pacific Northwest but is now isolated to small populations, one of which is in our State of Jefferson. They look like small, shorthaired wolverines and eat mainly porcupines but also rodents, birds and opportunistically anything that seems tasty.

In the spring, while cannabis seedlings are being planted and d-CON, a popular brand of rat poison, is spread, fishers are nursing their milk-dependent

kits in tree cavity dens. At this fragile moment, the effect of these poisons is amplified on the fisher population, for if the mother dies she leaves three or four young to perish as well. This study highlighted one case where four dead kits were tested for poison after their mother stopped returning to the den. AR poison had been transferred though her milk, although the kits died from dehydration and starvation.

Pacific fishers are not the only wildlife at risk. Rodents can continue to live seven days after ingesting a lethal dose of anticoagulant rodenticides. Anything that eats the exposed rodents or that might try a flavored pellet can be poisoned. Exposure has been documented in hawks, eagles, falcons, owls (including our Northern Spotted Owl), foxes, bobcats and mountain



Pacific fishers are being poisoned by rodenticides when they are nursing their milk-dependent kits.

Photo: fs.usda.gov.

lions. In their 2012 paper, these researchers suggest using lethal compounds that don’t have the same ability to move up the food chain, like zinc phosphide, a readily available rodenticide.

I, for one, will look into it. For while I do not grow marijuana, I live in a cabin with rodent issues. It is maddening to wake up and find mouse droppings next to my coffee grinder and it

would be convenient to tuck a few packets of d-CON under the porch. However, last year I saw a Pacific fisher not 50 yards from this cabin. It was perched 15 feet up a ponderosa pine, intensely watching a covey of quail move through the blackberries below. The evening was on, and I paused, watching until its crouched form was no longer visible against the night, and the quail had ceased their scratching.

It is for moments like this that I live in the Applegate, where my daily activities can sometimes bump into the workings of the wild world. While researching alternative pest management strategies may be a lot more work than grabbing some d-CON from the local grocery store, I think it is worth it to protect this special place that we live in.

Jakob Shockey
541-761-3312

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Ed. Note: According to *bigbudsmag.com*, Oregon is “one of the only states that will soon require all marijuana sold at dispensaries to be tested for mold and pesticides.” House Bill 3460, which was signed into law by Governor Kitzhaber in August 2013 and goes into effect on March 1, 2014, authorizes the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish procedures to license and regulate medical marijuana dispensaries. A key provision of the new law requires testing of marijuana for mold, mildew and pesticides. At present, the rules advisory committee appointed by OHA is still sorting out “complicated questions” about the issue of testing marijuana, which is “not as easy as it may seem.” Those questions include: “How often should marijuana be tested? What standards should the labs follow? Are any levels of mold, mildew and pesticide acceptable?” The committee’s draft of rules is expected to be completed in early December 2013. This bill, of course, will have no effect on illegal grows.

Gen Y Worldview

Medicinal marijuana: Opening the floodgates of health

BY JESSE HART

Make way for redefining hemp as potentially the best medicine since Nana’s chicken soup. Since only a fraction of jobs in our struggling economy come with health insurance, and pharmaceuticals create more problems than they cure, Generation Y (and many older and younger than we) have had to make do with good old-fashioned *natural* medicines. Some define naturopathic practices as “New Age,” but in truth many currently popular techniques like meditation, yoga, herbs and “herb” are thousands of years old and only recently (in the last century) have been labeled with negative clichés.

Pot, known in therapeutic circles as medicinal marijuana or cannabis, is rapidly shifting in public view of it as a recreational drug to simply good medicine generating little to no side effects (perhaps a few extra pounds if you aren’t careful). Scientifically speaking, it is less physically and mentally addictive than nicotine, alcohol and even caffeine. Just “10 to 30% of regular users will develop dependency. Only about 9% will have a serious addiction” (from *The Science of Marijuana* by Leslie L. Iverson, University of Cambridge).

For decades the general public has been convinced of the negative stereotypes of marijuana to the point of becoming prejudicial to those who use it. Although

marijuana has been called a dangerous gateway drug, pharmaceuticals are now taking the lead in that category. “An eight-year study comparing the number of deaths from marijuana use to 17 Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved drugs conducted from January 1, 1997 to June 30, 2005, showed zero direct deaths from marijuana and 11,687 from the 17 FDA-approved drugs” (medicalmarijuana.procon.org).

It seems as though marijuana, known predominately for its nonaggressive properties, is privately enjoyed or experimented with behind many closed doors around America. “Marijuana is the third most popular recreational drug in America (behind only alcohol and tobacco), and has been used by nearly 100 million Americans. According to government surveys, some 25 million Americans have smoked marijuana in the past year, and more than 14 million do so regularly... Our public policies should reflect this reality, not deny it” (norml.org; National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws).

If you think it’s only a matter of time before the federal government gets involved and takes over, think again; the US government has been losing ground fast on controlling the booming

industry. Michael Lotfi, associate director for the Tenth Amendment Center (an organization intending to confirm the understanding of the people at the time the constitution was adopted, that powers not granted to the United States were reserved to the states or to the people) exclaims, “According to the Associated Press, the Justice Department said that states can allow citizens to use the drug, license people to grow it and allow them to purchase it in stores. As long as the drug is kept away from the black market, children and federal property—it’s a go! ... Marijuana prohibition, just like alcohol prohibition decades ago, is absolutely nothing more or less than a cash cow for corrupt, unconstitutional government agencies.”

I will admit that through high school, I was against using pot in any respect. It wasn’t until I had a serious knee injury in 2006 when I was 19 that I gave it a try to help me deal with excruciating pain from a torn MCL (medial collateral ligament), ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) and fractured fibula. My doctors had prescribed copious amounts of Vicodin and Percoset. These pharmaceutical drugs did take the pain away and produced quite a high, for a time. But I found that the artificial high was always followed by a withdrawal of extreme anger, sadness, all-around confusion, and a body that felt depleted and abused. A friend asked me if I ever smoked pot for the pain; admittedly, I hadn’t known it to have any medicinal properties. But I decided to try it and, to my surprise, not only did my knee pain

subside, but also my knee felt like new! The medication was only a few puffs rather than a few pills, and the relief lasted twice as long as the meds. Plus, when I came off the drug I had no withdrawal.

During the past 12 months I have been managing an alternative medicine clinic in Grants Pass and more recently another in Ashland. Besides prescribing medicinal marijuana cards, we are working hard to attract more alternative medicines and practices that will help in the healing of our community. I have been primarily focusing on the practice of yoga and just recently began instructing others in beginner classes. My entire body hasn’t felt this good since my senior year at Hidden Valley High School some ten years ago—my knee included.

So maybe some are into alternative medicines for chasing a high, maybe some are in it for money, but I am in it—as I see that most are—for the healing. It worked for me, and it was easier, cheaper and more fun than seeing a doctor and hoping he/she could dispense a “magic pill.”

Now I am a firm believer, or rather a factual knower, that the body desires to heal, and what it needs is much simpler than you would imagine. Young or old, big or small, good health is your natural birthright. I trust that as more studies find their way into the mainstream, marijuana and other alternative medicines are going to open the floodgates for the overall health of this entire country.

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MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

State of denial

BY CHRIS BRATT

If you lived in Applegate this fall, you must have enjoyed the grand fall weather, striking leaf colors and the undeveloped space that surrounds us. I had some added treats (no tricks) with precious visits from grandchildren, pleasing get-togethers with friends and family and a new puppy added to our household.

With these kinds of experiences possible in our lives every day, it becomes more and more difficult to continually encounter the harsh passions and asinine thinking worldwide over our social, ecological and economic troubles. Isn't it time we had a blueprint to eradicate poverty, stabilize populations and restore the earth's natural systems? Can we find a global set of solutions to the problems we all face without beating each other up over a way forward? I know we must. We are running out of tricks to squeeze more from the earth than it can give. We are running out of time, too.

To bring an example of a ludicrous issue closer to home, I will point out the recent series of secessionist movements proposed at many levels of our government. Commissioners in two counties in Northern California and in Klamath County in Oregon are proposing separating themselves from their existing states and forming a new State of Jefferson. Similar secessionist movements are being proposed to separate some southern states from the United States of America.

These people wishing to withdraw from our existing political bodies are saying that this kind of change is necessary to protect them from being outvoted by the more populated and liberal sections in their designated jurisdictional areas. They also are saying that the existing government entities are not meeting their needs (whatever they are). Many proponents of the southern states wanting to secede from

the union again go further by claiming that they are the ones that have the real interpretation of our constitution and laws regarding states' rights.

If it's any consolation to my conservative friends who don't like being outvoted, my political opinions (admittedly more liberal than most) have rarely been represented or put forward even by politicians I voted for and who won the election.

My sense is that these people who want to secede have become so strongly attached to their intolerant opinions or prejudices that they think the only way to solve our country's problems is to set up shop using only their narrow exclusionary doctrines. I think we fought the Civil War (and others) over some of these very same issues. Not again, I hope, though there seems to be enough uneasiness and guns around to start something.

The same turmoil reflected in these cries for secession here in the United States is being played out everywhere. Individuals, local communities, states, nations and continents have huge problems to solve, and yet people seem to be dividing into sects that adhere to a negative, uncooperative ideology. They believe the solution to their troubles lies within their dogmatic principles. But the problems that have brought unrest and destabilization to large portions of the world won't be solved by shrinking our involvement with fellow humans. On the contrary, to bring about any satisfactory answers to the momentous problems all of us face, we will need everyone's cooperation across the planet. We are living in a landscape that is literally falling apart and we need to come together to fix it.

When I was in high school in San Francisco soon after World War II, the United Nations (UN) was forming and

holding its first meetings on how to solve the world's problems and prevent another war. I was lucky enough to observe the UN delegates in action in the city's cavernous War Memorial Opera House for a whole

We are living
in a landscape
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day with my classmates. I can't tell you how excited and emotional everyone was at the possibility of building a safer, more just and peaceful world.

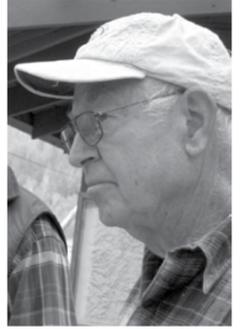
I know it sounds like heresy to some folks in America, but we need to support

the United Nations' solutions to the overriding threats we face in this century.

Despite its detractors and dented image, I believe the UN is the only logical way to tackle these pressing issues. For almost 70 years America has tried to solve the problems alone, by exerting our economic and military power to transform many of the world's nations into a more democratic way of life. There have been some successes, but today there are greater issues and challenges than we can handle, including the future of civilization itself.

I'm looking forward to more visits from my grandchildren, getting together with family and friends, and watching the new puppy grow up. That's why we have to keep the world going. Let me know your plan.

Chris Bratt
541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

Applegate Valley Community Grange news

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

The second annual community Harvest Brunch on October 20 was celebrated by nearly 100 people from local communities. Brunch was served from 10 am to 1 pm, prepared from food mostly produced or raised by people in the Applegate Valley, many of them organic farmers. Grange members wish to thank Thompson Creek Organics, GoodBean Coffee Company, Medford Food Coop, Watson Family Honey, Blue Fox Farm, Fry Family Farm, Wandering Fields Farm, Whistling Duck Farm, Barking Moon Farm, Boyajian Livestock, and Bjorn Everson—all of whom either donated or provided products at cost for the delicious meal. We would also like to thank all the volunteers from the community, including members of WHOW ("Women Helping Other Women") and By George Farm for providing assistance to the Grange members before and during the event.

The hall came alive for socializing, neighbors seeing each other and spending time together. To many in this community, the Grange is a vital hub and the brunch was a celebration of the community's accomplishments in reorganizing the Grange, as well as its current efforts in restoring the building to be secure and usable for future generations.

The funds raised at this event will help preserve the main roof and rebuild the front entrance roof this year. Earlier in October, Grange members Paul Tipton, Rick Barclay, Bjorn Everson, and Jack Duggan, and community members Richard Goodnough and Noah from Wild Wines all helped make repairs to seal the main roof for winter. The Grange will continue to raise funds to support re-roofing of the front-entry portion of the hall, which needs a sloped metal roof to replace a flat, leaky one.

A "gratitude's table" was organized by Audrey Eldridge featuring plants, seeds, and farm products from Grange members. Participants gave a donation and took

home items they wanted for their own yards and gardens.

Fund-raising also included a raffle with a beautiful watercolor painting from Grange member Carolyn Roberts, and two gift baskets of products and services from the local community including Rise Up! Artisan Bread, Michael Zapponi's heirloom grafted apple trees, honey from Betsy's Bees, tomato veggie sauce, a custom jewelry piece from Simply Beaded 4 U, a leather pouch from Country Spirits, music CDs from Kristi Cowles and Gypsy Soul, and a crafted candle. We also sold raffle tickets for a handmade quilt made and donated to the Grange from the local WHOW group. This quilt raffle will continue into December; you can still get tickets by contacting Thalia Truesdell at thalia@thaliaweaver.com.

We are settling in, building membership, and continuing the Grange's place in the community. Watch for our next community meal when we bring back the very popular St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. We have had constant inquiries if it would be back; look for banners advertising this March 2014 event.

Thank you to everyone who supports our continuing efforts as the "renewed" Grange in the Applegate Valley. Please join us at our monthly meeting and see if you would like to become part of the new movement to preserve the Grange in the community, enjoy educational programs we've planned for 2014, and have fun at our community events.

We meet the second Sunday of each month. From November through February, the potluck is at 5 pm and the meeting at 6 pm. From March through October, the potluck is at 6 pm and the meeting at 7 pm. For more information, contact Paul Tipton, president, at 541-846-7501 or applegategrange@gmail.com.

Janis Mohr-Tipton • 541-846-7501
janismohrtipton48@frontier.com

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**Whaddaya call an alligator who wears a vest?
An investigator.** Submitted by Norm Albers.

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.

RUCH SCHOOL

Make a change, A difference

by Autumn Brandenburg, Eighth Grade

I want to make a change, a difference. I think a lot about life and I believe we are put on this earth to do something, not just live and die, whether it is small or big it's still a difference. I want to help those who are being bullied or have been bullied, or even are bullies because if they are doing it then I want to help them so that they can stop. I want to show all of them that life is as amazing as they are. That they are so much more than they give themselves credit for. I want to make a group, for all of those to come to, talk to people, make friends, I want them to have someone they can go to for help, or even a shoulder to cry on.

I really want to make a change but I can't do it without your help, I'm only a student, but with time, patience, and your help we can do this, not only for them but for us as well. We all need a little help, we all need someone there, and I want to be there for them. I know how it feels and that's why I want to do this. I know I had a hard time so I know others are too.

There are people that commit suicide because of this and I want to prevent that. I want to be there for them, for you any hour of any day or night. I want to show them that they can make it through it, that they are tough enough. I want to show them that they don't have to live up to anyone's standards but theirs. I want to show them how wonderful life is if they just try, and look harder under the surface of it because after all isn't it what's on the inside that counts, not what's on the outside? So I'm asking you now, please, help me make a change?

Stop bullying and speak up.

Bugs in the salad

by Joby Evanow, Sixth Grade

I would see bugs in my salad, "hmm what to do, what to do..."

I would make all of it into a little village. Leave all the bugs in there and then

I would start making shelters and houses as well. And then I would take it home and make it into a town. Which would have houses and stores. Then after that I would get a bigger container and make it into a city which would have bigger and smaller houses. Then they would probably be short on salad so I would make more salad and put it in there. Now I would make it into a state, which would be more salad then I would make it into a country then I would add more bugs and pick one to be president. And then I would make a world which would be a whole lot of bugs and salad houses and civilization. And there would be more then I would add another seven pounds of salad to make the whole world sooner I would make the galaxy which would be a whole dinner table then I would make the universe my whole room.

Pictures

by Tristin Kohler, Seventh Grade

Pictures are time travel.

Bringing past to present.

Remembering past memories with just a look at a picture.

Pictures are imagination.

Imagining something and painting it.

Thinking of something that hasn't been thought of before.

I wish I had a million chances

by Ivy Guss-Gonzales, Seventh Grade

I wish I had a million chances because if I messed something up I could go back and make things better. Of course I would still remember what happened so I would still learn from my mistakes. I've had a lot of experiences where I wish I could go back in time to change a death or a failure, but if I went back in time to change things what would I learn? These are some of the things we wonder about, what if I had done that different? How would we change our life if we had done one little thing different? Maybe a million chances wouldn't be the best at times.

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Yes No If Yes, what topic(s)? _____

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Thanks for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any suggestions to make our community newspaper better for you, please let us know here:

Name _____ Date _____

Clip out and mail to Applegater Newspaper, P.O. Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530 or fill out online at applegater.org. Thanks again.

APPLEGATE SCHOOL

Applegate School rings the bell

For nearly 12 years a lonely piece of history sat waiting to speak again.

In the year 2000, the historic Applegate School brick building was closed due to seismic safety concerns. The building remained off-limits to students until a seismic retrofit was completed in 2011-2012. In the fall of 2012, the building once again came to life with children marching up and down the steps to classrooms. On top of the brick schoolhouse sits a bell tower; inside is the bell that fell silent after doors to the schoolhouse were closed, but it is silent no more.

In the years prior to the closure, children were allowed to ring the bell after recesses. Mrs. Crowe, a former first-grade teacher at Applegate School, recalls having children ring the bell for 22 years. All the children were happy and excited to do so. Children new to the school always got to ring the bell. Some children would stand next to Mrs. Crowe all during recess visiting with her in hopes of being the one chosen to ring the bell. On the "100th day of school celebration," students would ring the bell 100 times. If there were 20 children, they would each ring five times or adjust when there were odd numbers. Some of us recall hearing the bell ring all the way up through the small Humbug Creek valley through the trees and hills, filling the air with its happy sound.

During those years a long rope with a huge knot on the end hung from the bell tower. All those years the rope was never pulled by any student unless it was time to ring the bell. The children had respect for



The once-lonely cast-iron bell, ready to be moved during retrofit, is being rung again by happy Applegate School children.

Photo: Knicki Lucrezi.

the bell and waited their turn.

After the building was closed in 2000, the rope was shortened and locked away in a steel box. Now in 2013 we have opened the box, and the children have started taking turns ringing the bell once again.

Here are some comments from today's students about ringing the bell:

Owen: "I liked ringing the bell and it was a special thing to do because it was my birthday!"

Aerawyn: "When ringing the bell, I felt really happy!"

Alyssa and Azalea say it was fun and they would "want to ring it again."

Bruce and Aiden also say it was "really, really fun."

Linda Kappen • 541-846-6280

Schoolwide Education Assistant
Applegate School

Undefeated Applegate School girls volleyball team

Applegate School is a part of SOMSAC, a sports conference for small schools. Our volleyball team is comprised of sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade girls, who worked so hard. Believe it or not, 11 out of the 12 girls had never even played volleyball before. There were many who said we would fail, but these girls never stopped believing in themselves. Their transformation was truly inspiring. We not only watched skills improve, but relationships were mended and a sisterhood was formed; their motto became "Those who say it can't be done are standing in the way of those doing it!"

We built team skills, taught mutual respect, positive attitude and gratitude. Against all odds and all naysayers, we watched these girls show the world their greatness. It was a magical season and something none of us will forget.

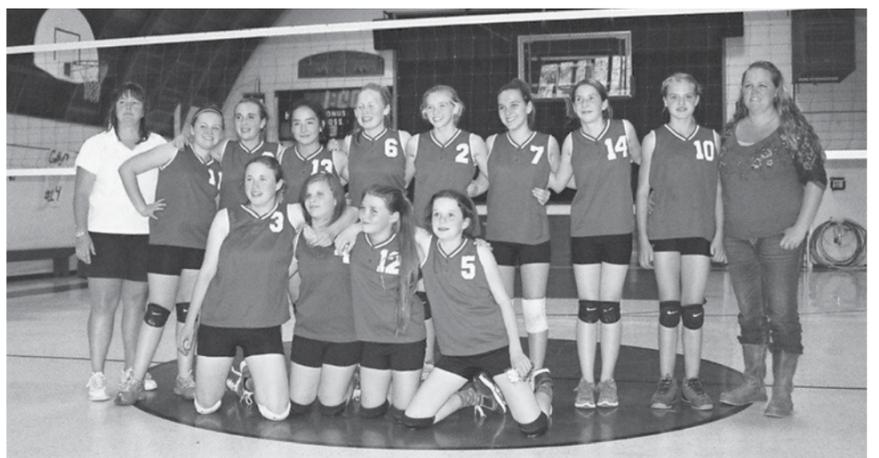
This was a first-time coaching

experience for Heather DeVos; it was my second time as an assistant coach, but my first time at Applegate School. Heather did a great job leading these amazing girls to an undefeated 2013 season, which hasn't happened at Applegate School for 29-plus years. You can't even imagine the elation when the girls won their final game in their own gym. Parents, coaches and players all celebrated with hugs and tears of joy.

We had great support from Applegate School's principal, Renee Hulst, and her staff, Melissa Smock, Punky Travalini and Justin Montano. Our principal has ordered a plaque for the gymnasium wall for all the world to see. The girls are beside themselves with anticipation of that great day. They will walk into that gym and forever be a part of something great at Applegate School.

Sandi Garoutte • 541-660-5173

sandig@vino-verse.com



The undefeated girls' volleyball team. From left to right—back row: Assistant coach Sandi Garoutte, Ashley Dodson, Sayge Pereira, Lorelei McNally, Alice Holcolm, Kali Norris, Madison Lothrop, Caitlyn Rabjohn, Elizabeth DeVos, coach Heather DeVos. Front row: Charlee Johnson, Adara Peppercorn, Alia Seal and Jessi Hendrickson.

Buying and selling real estate is not all about dollars and cents

BY JEANNE SCHATTLER

Why does some real estate take longer to sell than others? After more than 12 years as an active realtor, I am still fascinated by the mystery of what draws a buyer to a home, farm, ranch, or raw land. Usually a listing will have no activity for a period of time before a sudden flurry of buyers comes through, followed by multiple offers. I think more than economic factors are at play. I believe a seller has to be energetically ready to sell.

Coming to grips with reality of market pricing can take time. With the

downturn in the housing market a lot of sellers have been discouraged by a broker's estimate for their property. Counting on those funds for a replacement home or retirement funds, they usually list a property too high. Sometimes they even change real estate companies and agents a few times. Finally the seller finds a price that feels good—"voila," a buyer shows up with an offer.

Another factor is the emotional attachment. How do sellers let go enough to allow their homes to sell? Starting to

pack things away, even if it's just into their garage, seems to help them face the reality that they will be moving soon. Taking personal pictures off the walls and reducing clutter helps set the stage for a buyer to see the house as his or her own. It's also good to have a place to go if the property sells fast. Renting for a bit before re-purchasing can reduce stress. I have done many simultaneous closings that entail selling and purchasing a new home within the same transaction. We just make sure we give enough time in escrow for

this to occur. Here again, when the seller has made that extra effort to prepare the home and grounds to sell, "voila," a buyer falls in love.

So to all you potential sellers out there, hang tight and know that when the time is *right* the shift will happen; everything will fall into place and allow you to make that move you have been longing for to start your new venture in life.

Jeanne Schattler • 541-621-2480
Jeanne Schattler is a licensed realtor with Ramsay Realty in Jacksonville, OR.



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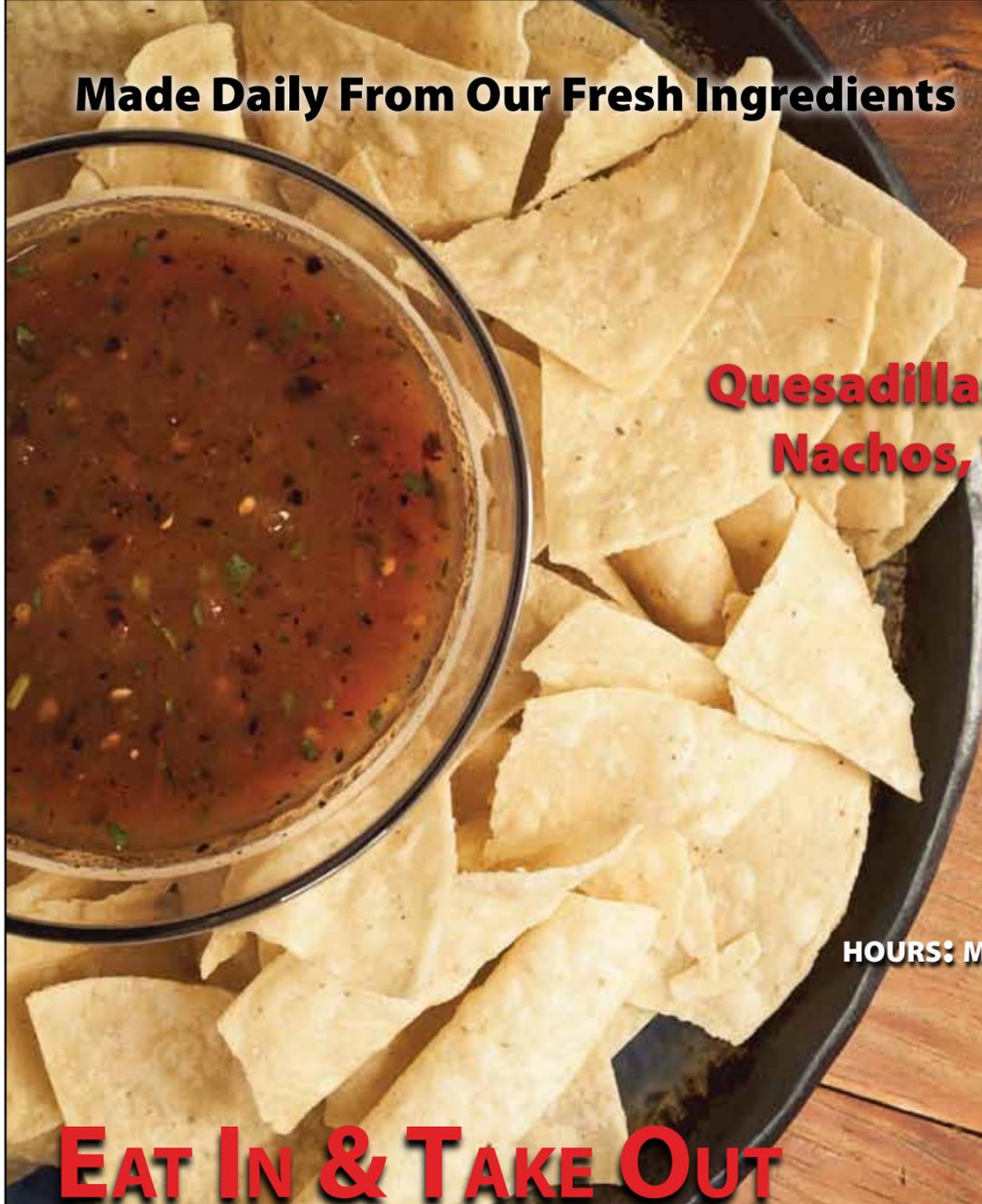
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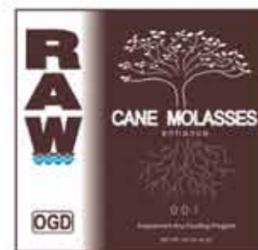
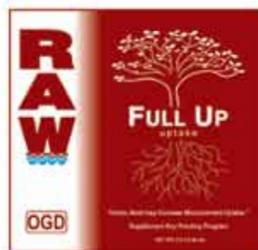
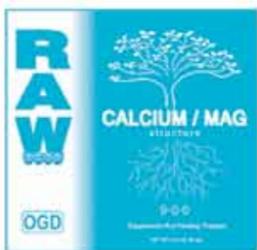
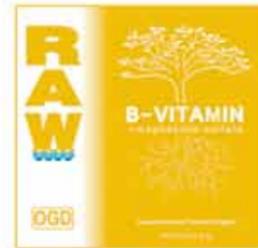
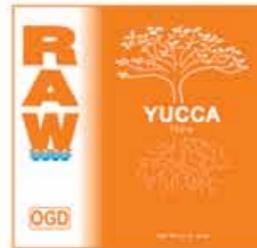
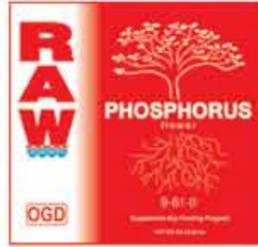
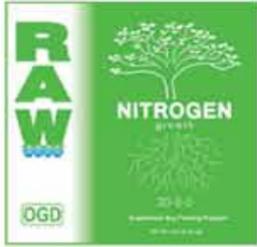
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Photo, top left:
— To learn how to construct their bottle house, **Jan Jones** (left) and **Brian Barton** referred to the abundant handy tips in the *Applegater*.

Photo, top right:
— **David Stanley** (center) and sons **Malik** and **Shanoah** treated the *Gater* to surfing and fishing lessons at Maliko Gulch, Maui.

Photo, left center:
— **Frank and Pat Peterson**, having lost their way in Morocco's Sahara desert, found comfort in the *Applegater's* directions home.

Photo, lower left:
— The *Gater*, a serious beer aficionado, was a little too happy to accompany **Carol and Blair Moody** to the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin, Ireland.



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