

Applegater

Photo by Liz Butler

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Applegate Valley Community Newspaper
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Postal Patron

Voters to decide fate of Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center

BY JACK DUGGAN

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners signed an order on January 29, 2014, to put before the voters a measure to form a service district to support the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC), commonly known as "Extension."

Extension has been delivering scientific-based research and information to Jackson County residents for 100 years. In the early 1900s Extension helped local residents grow crops to improve the agricultural economy of southern Oregon, to improve methods of food preservation and storage, to combat

pests and disease, to test new crops and to maintain the rural character of Jackson County. Those programs continue today, along with 4-H projects in civics and leadership, science, technology, animal husbandry, natural science, horticulture, marketing and expressive arts. Our local Extension hosts the largest Master Gardener program in Oregon, providing assistance to urban and rural residents in raising healthy gardens for food, aesthetics and the environment. Programs for small farms, livestock production, small woodlands, land stewards, food preservation, wellness and healthy living, continuing assistance to

orchardists and the growing wine industry, and partnerships with local organizations such as ACCESS are all a part of what Extension contributes to Jackson County's quality of life. Professors with expertise in entomology, viticulture, crops, irrigation, pasture management and more bring university-level agricultural education to the local landscape.

Extension services are provided by the land grant colleges in each state, established by the federal government and requiring each local community to provide basic support. That support, which is about ten percent of SOREC's budget, has come from the Jackson County general fund. Declining timber revenues and increased demands on the general fund, however, require a new source of dedicated funds if Extension is to survive in Jackson County. For each local dollar invested Jackson County receives \$8.48 in direct dollars from state and federal sources as well as grants, fees and contracts. Indirect

economic impact comes from Extension program participants who invest in tools, supplies and workers to improve and maintain their properties, plus thousands of volunteer hours.

The service district measure asks voters to approve a maximum tax rate of five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. If the maximum rate were assessed, the owner of a \$160,000 property would pay \$6 per year to support Extension's programs and bring additional economic activity to Jackson County. The actual assessed rate, however is currently estimated at close to three cents per thousand. Actual assessment won't be determined until after the election and will be decided by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, who will be the governing board of the new district.

More important, though, than the facts and numbers, particularly to a vibrant community like the Applegate, is the See SOREC, page 6

Notes from a Rogue entomologist

Invasion of the stink bug: News from the home front

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

This is the second and last installment about the dreaded stink bug.

Now that a large breeding population of brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB) has been found in downtown Ashland and some individual stink bugs have been found in most every town in Jackson County, where do we go from here?

The first thing is to be able to identify this exotic and invasive insect pest. While it is fairly large and distinctive, there are a few look-alikes that can cause confusion. We have two native stink bugs, one of which is a predatory species, and some other larger bugs that have been mistaken for BMSB.

One common insect that has caused a lot of confusion is the squash bug. If you grow squash or live near a pumpkin patch,

you may well be familiar with this species. It is about as long as BMSB, a little over a half inch, but not nearly as wide. It is a specialist, living on squash and pumpkin plants. The squash bug has become more numerous in the last few years and will even crawl into your house in the fall like BMSB. However, BMSB is a generalist and can be found on a wide array of plants and crops, from tree fruits to tomatoes.

If you find an insect that you suspect might be BMSB, please check the bmsb.hort.oregonstate.edu website for information, or contact the local Extension office on Hanley Road. Our volunteers at the plant clinic are trained in identifying BMSB and love having the opportunity to put their skills to the test. We would like

to know if you have spotted BMSB in order to determine the current local distribution of this pest. Firsthand reports are our best resource.

Besides relying on the eyes of the public, we are working on devising a better BMSB trap as a monitoring tool and possibly an aid in control. Stink bug traps currently sold in garden supply stores are not very good. The primary method we use for monitoring BMSB is a beating tray, where we beat on foliage and catch what falls out on a cloth sheet. While it is not high-tech, it does work, especially if you know where to look. BMSB's favorite hosts in urban settings have been the invasive and misnamed tree-of-heaven, English holly, catalpa and maples, especially bigleaf maple, where the stink bugs get into the seed clusters. In fact, for any of the



Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) aggregation in Sacramento in 2013.

myriad host plants for BMSB, we always concentrate our search on plants with the highest seed or fruit load, as that is where bugs prefer to feed.

A good trap would make things easier. Researchers have isolated pheromones to attract BMSB but it has been difficult to find the right mix. Stink bugs are interested in sex early in the summer, but at the end of the season they are looking for places to aggregate and are attracted to different compounds

See STINK BUG, page 11

CONGRATULATIONS to our local wineries



who won medals at the
2014 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition,
widely acclaimed as the largest competition of American wines in the world.
See list of winners on page 17.

The Gater turns 20!

Celebrate the *Applegater's* 20th year (can you believe it?) at a celebrity-filled (okay, maybe only one or two) special event at Red Lily Vineyards in June.
Entertainment • Gourmet Dinner
Red Lily Fine Wine • Blind Auction
and more!

Look for announcements on our Facebook page and Jo's List.

INSIDE THE GATER

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The butterflies of spring

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Silvery Blue

The Silvery Blue butterfly comes not long after the Spring Azure heralding early spring days. Silvery Blues are on the wing



This pair of Silvery Blue butterflies mating was spotted at the base of the Table Rocks in the spring of 2013.

by March, gracing our woodland openings, meadows, grasslands, watercourses and similar habitats.

The Silvery Blue (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*) is of the butterfly family Lycaenidae. Their wingspan can be up to

one and a quarter inches. When their wings are open, they display an iridescent blue. Males have a brilliant blue coloring while females are diffused with gray to brown.

Both have a black border with white fringe. On closed wing, they display an arc of black spots ringed in white. The Silvery Blue is the closest living relative to the extinct Xerces Blue.

An interesting fact about the caterpillars of the Silvery Blue is that they have a structure called the “honey gland,” which secretes a sweet substance that attracts ants that feed on it. The ant tends the caterpillar, protecting it from predators. This is known as a symbiotic relationship in which both

species benefit from one another.

The host plants for the Silvery Blue are some species of lupine, vetch and lotus. They like to nectar on their host plants and flowers of the Asteraceae family. Males will also nectar in puddles.

Sara Orangetip

The Sara Orangetip is another charming butterfly that ushers in spring. It is unmistakable, bright and beautiful as it flies through forest edges and slopes.

Sara Orangetip (*Anthocaris sara*) is in the butterfly family Pieridae and can be seen in our valleys, foothills, canyons and low to higher mountain areas. They have bright orange-tipped wings edged in black. Closed wings display a greenish-brown marbling with white.

The host plants or the larval food plant for the Sara Orangetip are flower parts of many crucifers and several rock cresses (*Arabis spp.*). They fly about, briefly stopping to nectar on fiddlenecks, mustards, monkeyflowers, rock cress and many other flowers.

The spring of 2013 brought many Sara Orangetips to our area. It is the first spring in a few years that I saw large numbers of them and may be the most I have ever seen. In March of 2013 my son and I hiked through and above the



Sara Orangetips were spotted in abundance along the Enchanted Forest Trail. Photos: Linda Kappen.

Enchanted Forest Trail where the top roads intersect. As we drew closer to the top of the mountain we began to see a flight of many Sara Orangetips. The place was teeming with this delicate beauty. I counted at least 75 Sara Orangetips that day and, as spring went on, saw more at different locations from here to the Klamath/Siskiyou regions. It was exciting, like the forest truly was enchanted.

Linda Kappen

humbugkapps@hotmail.com

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

Conservation of the elusive black salamander is high priority in the Applegate

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

The black salamander is relatively rare in the Siskiyou Mountains. Unlike the restrictive range of the Siskiyou Mountains salamander (*Plethodon stormi*), which is centered mainly around the mountains of the Applegate Valley, the range of the black salamander (*Aneides flavipunctatus*) extends from Sonoma County in California in the south to Jackson and Josephine Counties in Oregon in the north.

There is also a disjunct subspecies (*Aneides flavipunctatus niger*) in the Santa Cruz area; this subspecies is jet black with silver speckles, while the local “black” salamanders are a dark shade of purplish brown with silver speckles or mottling. Experts are currently debating a further separation of the species into four subspecies, with the northwest lineage—including the Siskiyou Mountain population—given its own subspecies.

Currently there are only 17 documented sites of the black salamander in Oregon, 14 of which are found on federal lands, including the Rogue River-

Siskiyou National Forest and the Medford District Bureau of Land Management. Ninety-three percent (or 13) of the known sites found on federal land in Oregon are in the Applegate River watershed, making conservation of this species and its habitat in the Applegate area a high priority.

Throughout its range the black salamander occupies low-elevation, mixed conifer forests, woodlands, grasslands, meadows, and forested riparian sites. In our area the species seems most abundant in mature or old-growth forests although, especially in interior locations such as in the Applegate, the species is also often associated with intermittent streams, springs, or seeps. The black salamander may be found living in mossy talus habitat beneath a forest canopy.

Susceptible to changes

Like our endemic Siskiyou Mountains salamander, the black salamander is lungless and breathes through its skin, making it very susceptible to changes in microclimate and forest canopy conditions. The mossy

talus conditions allow these lungless salamander species to burrow deep in the rocky slopes beneath a canopy of old trees to survive the hot, dry summer season.

Threats to the black salamander in Oregon appear to be mostly associated with timber harvest due to the associated changes in microclimate, ground disturbance, and canopy cover. In California the species appears to be impacted by habitat conversion from grassland, woodland, mixed hardwood, and mixed conifer forests to vineyards or other forms of agriculture. Other impacts include habitat fragmentation, rock quarry development, climate change, uncharacteristic fire, and exposure to chemicals such as herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, and fire retardants.

Little known and understood

Although relatively little known and little understood, the black salamander, at the northern edge of its range in the Siskiyou Mountains, is an important portion of the region’s biodiversity. The

Siskiyou Mountains represent a unique habitat for salamander species, where species often reach either the northern or southern extension of their range. The diversity of habitats and the distinctive blending of habitats allow many species of plants and animals to exist within the Siskiyou Mountains at the margin of their prevailing ranges.

For millennia the Siskiyou Mountains have been a refuge during periods of extreme climatic conditions. With global warming on the horizon these mountains may once again shelter a wide variety of species in their diverse microclimates. The protection of wildland habitats and the maintenance of biodiversity in the region will allow the Siskiyou Mountains to continue providing such habitat into an uncertain future.

Luke Ruediger

Author of *The Siskiyou Crest: Hikes, History & Ecology*
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

Meet Valorie Tintinger, the Gater’s advertising representative for Jackson County

The *Applegater* Team welcomes Valorie Tintinger, who moved from California to Oregon in December 2007, first to the little bedroom community of Rogue River, then two years ago to the Applegate Valley. She says she likes the Applegate so much more because of all the wonderful people she has met.

Says Valorie, “This is a really great place to be for the second part of our lives. I have two wonderful daughters and four fantastic grandkids (three boys and a girl). I also run two home businesses, and enjoy volunteering in the community anytime I can, like for Ruch Library, or helping to transport cats for RiverSong Sanctuary in Williams.

“The newspaper job is new to me, but I enjoy learning what it takes for a small-town paper to happen. I am here for your



needs in advertising! I have a goal to help bring more people to enjoy this paper, to keep reading and sharing it. I look forward to seeing you in the future.”

You can reach Valorie at 541-450-2983 or livingwelltoday526@gmail.com.



This black salamander was discovered in early December 2013 on the author’s property in the Applegate watershed.

WHO WE ARE

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to the publication of the *Applegater* newspaper, which, we feel, reflects the heart and soul of our community.

Our Mission

The nonprofit Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. (AVCN), provides the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Watershed with a communications vehicle, the *Applegater* newspaper, free of charge to all watershed residents. Our quarterly paper presents constructive, relevant, educational and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects such as:

- natural resources
- ecology and other science information
- historical and current events
- community news and opinions

AVCN encourages and publishes differing viewpoints and, through the *Applegater* newspaper, acts as a clearinghouse for this diverse community. We are dedicated to working together with community members to maintain and enhance the quality of life that is unique to the Applegate Watershed.

Acknowledgements

The *Applegater* Newspaper is published quarterly by the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., and is funded by donations from our loyal readers and advertisements for local businesses.

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All articles, stories, opinions and letters that appear in the *Applegater* are the opinion and property of the author, and not necessarily that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.

PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

Any and all materials submitted for publication must be original (no reprinted articles, please) and the intellectual property of the author unless otherwise credited.

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

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

All photos submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi) or "large format" (e.g., 30" x 40"). Any questions, email gater@applegater.org.

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

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

A heartfelt shout-out

**to all the supporters
of our February 23 fund-raising concert.
They made it all possible and for that we thank them.**

Applegate River Lodge

The Davis Family

Stellar entertainment

Bear Creek Band (photo, top right)
J.D. Rogers (photo, bottom right)

Raffle items

Applegate River Lodge & Restaurant
Devitt Winery
Plaisance Ranch Winery
South Stage Cellars
Wooldridge Creek Vineyards

Wines

Devitt Winery—poured by
Brendan Butler, winemaker
Fiasco Winery
Plaisance Ranch Winery
Troon Vineyards
Valley View Vineyards

Volunteers

Teri Becker
Erika Fey,
For Love of the Applegate



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

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- Patron \$1001+
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- Contributor \$201 - \$500
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Donors: We strive to ensure that our donor list is accurate. Please contact us if there are errors or omissions.

Editorial Calendar

ISSUE	DEADLINE
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>
SPRING (March-May).....	February 1 <i>Commerce/Community</i>

Personal mailing label!

One year: \$14.99

Two years: \$24.99

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

**Spring masthead
photo credit**

Liz Butler took this beautiful shot of cherry blossoms at Herb Pharm farm in Williams. This is Liz' third cover photo—thank you, Liz!

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—Amber Caudell
541-846-1027
ambercaudell@ymail.com

Next deadline: May 1

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Welcome to our spring edition, in which we feature a few special community members who have given back in big ways (see pages 12 and 13).

We also welcome one of our new advertising representatives, Valorie Tintinger, who handles Jackson County (see page 2). If she hasn't already, she will be contacting you to introduce herself.

Thanks to everyone who filled out our reader survey. We received some great ideas and comments, all of which will be taken seriously. We also sent a survey to advertisers and gleaned valuable information from them as well. All opinions and suggestions will be considered as we strive to give you what you want and need in your community newspaper.

We hope you enjoyed our first-ever rockin' concert at the Applegate River Lodge featuring J.D. Rogers and the Bear Creek Band! Thanks to Brendan Butler with Devitt Winery for pouring and Fiasco, Plaisance Ranch, Troon, Valley View, and Wooldridge wineries for their significant wine donations. And to the Davis family at the Applegate River Lodge & Restaurant, of course, who not only donated the venue and food, but also a dinner for two and an overnight stay as raffle prizes. South Stage Cellars and Plaisance Ranch donated generous wine tastings for large groups—what fun!

We have a major fund-raising bash in the planning stages for summer 2014. See more information on page 1 and stay tuned for more details as we finalize the plans. We hope to see you there!

As always, feel free to send us your comments. We listen.

Barbara Holiday
gater@applegater.org

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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 Food Pantry, located behind Ruch School, is open most Mondays from 11:30 to 1 pm. Call Arlene at 541-951-6707.

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 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 Elmer's, 175 NE Agness Avenue, Grants Pass, at 6 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 sobekeepers@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.

Learn the secrets of successful gardening and woodland management

Master Gardeners announce 2014 spring class schedule

Each year the Jackson County Master Gardener Association hosts a series of classes for the public at the Oregon State University Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC) Auditorium, 569 Hanley Road (between Jacksonville and Central Point).

Presented by top local practitioners, experts and instructors, these sessions provide practical, hands-on demonstrations, followed by individual Q&A opportunities.

You'll benefit from a wealth of experience with local problems and solutions because all presentations are from a unique, southern Oregon perspective.

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

Upcoming classes include:

• **Rose Pruning**
Saturday, March 1, 9 am – 12 noon
Admission \$15 (free for Master Gardeners)

Rose anatomy, rose care, pruning tools and 10 principles for pruning roses will be discussed. The class will conclude with outdoor, hands-on practice, so dress for the weather and bring your own gloves, clippers and loppers. Instructor: Ron Bombick, Master Gardener.

• **Fruit Tree Grafting**
Thursday, March 13, 7 – 9 pm
\$35 admission includes three grafted starts. Class limited to 25. You must prepay and pre-register by March 11.

Learn how to create your own apple tree or save grandpa's favorite apple tree. The techniques and tools for grafting

fruit trees will be taught. Class members will choose apple tree varieties to make a minimum of three grafted starts to take home. Instructor: George Tiger, retired OSU Extension faculty.

• **Ready, Set, Grow! A Day for Beginners**

Saturday, March 22, 8:30 am – 4:15 pm
\$10 per class or \$30 for the entire day.

8:30 – 10—Soil and Water for Beginners. Instructor: Bob Reynolds, urban horticulturist, Master Gardener coordinator.

10:15 – 11:45—Vegetable Gardening for Beginners. Instructor: Carol Oneal, Master Gardener, "Green Scene" columnist.

Lunch break (on your own)

1 – 2:30—Annuals and Perennials for Beginners. Instructor: Stan Mapolski, "The Rogue Gardener" TV and radio host.

2:45 – 4:15—Seed Starting for Beginners. Instructor: Jane Moyer, Master Gardener.

• **Made in the Shade**

Thursday, April 3, 7 – 9 pm
Admission \$10 (free for Master Gardeners)

The benefits and challenges of gardening in the shade, designing a great looking shade garden, and the best plants for shade in this area, including many that are deer-resistant. Instructor: Sherri Morgan, Master Gardener.

• **Tried & True Flowers and Veggies for Southern Oregon**
Monday, April 14, 7 – 9 pm
Admission \$10 (free for Master Gardeners.)

Growing conditions in the Rogue Valley are unique! Learn which varieties work best. Instructor: Stan Mapolski, television and radio host, "The Rogue Gardener," KTVL and KMED 1440.

Woodland Stewardship: How to Get the Most Out of Your Forested Property

Instructors: Max Bennett, forestry agent, OSU Extension Center, plus Master Woodland Managers, and guest instructors.

Do you own a tract of forestland or some woods around your home? Would you like to learn how to take care of it, restore it, or improve it? Are you concerned about maintaining the health of your trees and reducing wildfire risks? Would you like to improve your property values, or habitat for wildlife? Do you want to harvest timber for sale or utilize forest products for farm use? If the answer to any or all of these questions is yes, these classes are for you!

Woodland Stewardship is a series of six classes that provides an overview of concepts and practices of forest stewardship for woodland properties from 5 to 50 (or more) acres. It is designed for owners who are just getting started with woodland management as well as more experienced owners who are looking for new ideas and approaches.

About the class: This is a practical, field-based class; we will be outside, rain or shine. Field activities will take place on woodland properties around the area. You will see what other landowners are doing and learn from them. Bring comfortable shoes or boots, rain gear, sun protection, and water. Although the class will not be physically demanding, we will be taking short walks through the woods.

Grants Pass-based classes: Friday mornings 8:30 – 11:30 am, March 14, 21; April 4, 11, 18; May 2. Call 541-476-6613 to register for the Josephine County class.

Central Point-based classes: Friday afternoons 1:30 – 4:30 pm, March 14, 21; April 4, 11, 18; May 2. Call 541-776-7371 to register for the Jackson County class.

Cost: \$50 for all six classes or \$10 per individual class. Feel free to attend individual sessions, but attending all six is recommended for best results. Fee covers instruction, handouts, and other materials. Pre-registration is required.

Weekly topics are:

March 14: Getting started: Overview of forest and tree care on small to large acreage.

March 21: Maintaining a healthy forest: thinning, stand improvement, insect and disease concerns.

April 4: Protecting your home and property from wildfire.

April 11: Tree selection, planting and care; native plants.

April 18: Wildlife, weeds and water.

May 2: Putting it all together: Plans, where to go for more help.

For more details, see the SOREC website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/Forestry>.

Marcus Smith
marcus@mind.net

More SOREC Classes

- **Growing Agripreneurs** Farmer Incubator Program, April 1–October 31
- **Summer Care of Grape Vines** Saturday, May 10, 9 am – 12 noon
- **Landscaping with Native Plants** Wednesday, May 14, 7 – 9 pm
- **Small Space Garden Design** Thursday, May 29, 7 – 9 pm

Send your calendar information to gater@applegater.org.
Be sure to keep the Gater updated
with any changes to your listing.

New child-care facility

Kid In Around

BY MICHELE MATHIS

Does anyone happen to know a full-time child-care facility located in the Applegate Valley?

The answer is now "Yes."

Kid In Around is open and offering full-time child-care and development services at 7208 Highway 238 in Ruch, OR. Kid In Around is the perfect place for children to play, learn and socialize with others.

All activities are designed to keep the children's interest and provide hours of educational entertainment. The preschool education will help prepare younger children before they enter kindergarten. Owned and operated by an Applegate resident, the goal for Kid In Around is to provide children with an environment that is enriched with age-appropriate education, playful activities and social opportunities. Every day is carefully planned to provide a comfortable, routine and dependable structure on which children can rely.

Kid In Around offers child-care services from 6 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday. In order to maintain security precautions, tours are by appointment only.

If you are in need of child-care services and would like to take a tour of our facility, please call 541-899-0500. Space is limited for summer care so please reserve your child's spot early.

Thank you so much Applegate community for your encouragement and support.

Michele Mathis • 541-899-0500
m.mathis77@hotmail.com



The Old Became New

The old became new
first a loud crack
then a deep breaking
a pause...
and then a huge crash

The storm has brought down
an old grandfather snag
quick as describing it
the vertical is horizontal
after so many years

A new environment for
the forest floor
and its creatures

The forest is all pungent
with the first rain in months

Two grandfathers
one a grateful witness

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

BOOK & MOVIE REVIEWS

— Book —

Giving Up the Ghost

Hilary Mantel

There has been a continuing laudatory buzz in the English book-reading world about Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies*, her award-winning historical fiction about Henry VIII, as told through the eyes of Thomas Cromwell. Before that we had Mantel's magnificent 749-page *A Place of Greater Safety*, also historical fiction, which follows the lives of Robespierre and two other movers and shakers during the French Revolution. It is sometimes difficult to accept historical fiction, with its rendition of the thoughts and unrecorded words of persons who lived several centuries past, but Hilary Mantel does a superlative job of making the reader feel viscerally connected with these people. You believe they thought those thoughts and said those words.

Having read her thoroughly researched and intimate looks at English and French aristocracy, I had assumed that Ms. Mantel was to the manor born. But, *au contraire*, I recently read her autobiographical *Giving up the Ghost* (Henry Holt and Co., 2003), in which I learned that her young life was anything but aristocratic. She grew up poor, Irish, and Catholic in the mean little Northern England mill town of Hadfield, Derbyshire, in a family that can only be described as highly dysfunctional. Classmates and neighbors did not hide their prurient curiosity about her family household sleeping arrangements.

The climate of the area is cold and damp, "battered by the four winds. Its streets were steep, its small houses gray and stony." The social life is as pinched and narrow as the pocketbooks of the denizens of the little mill town. Mantel writes of an entertainment of throwing rocks from the nearby bridge at presumably coddled Protestant children from the better-off town on the other side.

"In Hadfield, you knew before you could walk which you were: us or them, Catholic or Protestant.... Our religion didn't require us to throw petrol bombs or for the men to kill one another on a weekend [in contrast to Northern Ireland]. But it did allow us—us Catholics, that is—to luxuriate in the knowledge that our neighbors were damned."

Mantel's grandmother had become a mill worker at the age of 12, and her mother and father each worked in the town's textile mills. Hilary attended the rigidly Catholic local school and convent. "The school was constant stricture, the systematic crushing of any spontaneity.... I was conscious, from the first day in the first class, of the need to resist what I found there. When I met my fellow children and heard their yodeling cry—'Good mo-or-orning, Missus Simpson,' I thought I had come among lunatics; and the teachers, malign and stupid, seemed to me like the lunatics' keepers."

She remembers, "...childhood was a sort of gulag for me; I was cut off, adrift.... It wasn't particularly anyone's fault. Few people acted with malice toward me. It was just that I was unsuited to being a child.... My adult reasoning and my small status were at odds. One day [the teacher] hit me so hard in the face that she propelled me across the room, and spun around my head on the stalk of my neck. Ho, fisticuffs, Madam! I said to myself. I put a smile on my face and turned my head the right way round again.... I was eight then: blinking back the automatic tears that arise in response to a blow, in case they would be seen by her as a vindication."

But Hilary Mantel also tells of what she gained there in how to write with clarity and precision. She quotes a prayer: "When the last tear, the forerunner of my dissolution, shall drop from mine eyes, receive it as a sacrifice of expiation for my sins; grant that I may expire the victim of penance, and in that dreadful moment, Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me." Note that excellent semicolon. People ask how I learned to write. That's where I learned it."

Amazed to be informed at the end of grammar school that she had passed a scholarship exam and would be moving on to attend the convent school, she writes, "I was still more amazed when I got there, and found that the nuns didn't punch you; not even the lay teachers seemed to want to go ten rounds with a six-stone opponent."

She writes lovingly of a grandfather, a railway man, who tells about Robin Hood



and about American slaves and the Confederacy; who had been to far off places such as Palestine: "In the desert my grandfather rode a camel. He commanded it with certain words in Egyptian, known only to camels, now imparted to me." This grandfather stayed with her family for a time. And she writes from the puzzled and cryptic view of a child when that grandfather tersely departs, seemingly in disgust at the living arrangements of the household.

Hilary Mantel suffered from long-undiagnosed endometriosis from her young preteens. In her mid 20s, she underwent surgery, which left her unable to have children, and subsequent steroid treatments caused excessive weight gain. She tells of anguish over her inability to bear children, and she continues her battle with weight. She wrote in *Learning to Talk*: "I have been so mauled by medical procedures, so sabotaged and made over, so thin and so fat, that sometimes I feel that each morning it is necessary to write myself into being."

She went to law school in London, married, lived in South Africa and in Saudi Arabia, divorced—and later remarried—her husband. And wrote! Did she ever write!

Mantel has been showered with literary awards, and that includes twice winning the highly prestigious Man Booker Prize. The historical novels give readers a most readable understanding of turbulent past times; we read them and feel enlightened. But her autobiography tugs at our hearts.

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

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.

— Movie —

12 Years a Slave

Reviewer rating: 5 Apples



1 Apple—Don't bother
5 Apples—Don't miss



Drama, Epic and Historical

R (Restricted. Children Under 17 Require Accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian.)

Opened: October 2013

Cast: Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender, Lupita Nyong'o, Sarah Paulson, Benedict Cumberbatch, Paul Dano, Paul Giamatti, Brad Pitt, Alfre Woodard
Director: Steve McQueen

Written by John Ridley, based on the book by Solomon Northup

An uncompromising, merciless, riveting film! The brutal tale, which takes place eight years before the start of the American Civil War, comes from the 1853 memoir by Solomon Northup. The third feature of British video artist Steve McQueen, *12 Years a Slave* is an historically important picture and a powerful one at that. Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a violinist by trade, lives as a free man with his wife and children in upstate New York. He is abducted and sold into slavery, bought by the most brutal of slave owners, Edwin Epps (Michael Fassbender). Solomon struggles to stay alive while also trying to retain his dignity. Samuel Bass (Brad Pitt), a Canadian abolitionist who meets Solomon, ultimately changes his life.

"*12 Years a Slave* is easily the greatest feature film ever made about American slavery," writes *The New Yorker's* David Denby, who, like other critics, sees McQueen's movie as finally and decisively dethroning *Gone with the Wind* in that category. A somber, meditative, almost poetic film that delivers the horrors of bondage stripped down and head-on, *12 Years a Slave* is both a devastatingly shocking and a truly important film.

Sharon Thompson • thompsonsharon99@gmail.com

Ed. Notes: The reviewer is an ardent moviegoer—often watching the same movie in the theater multiple times. With nine nominations, will *12 Years a Slave* win top honors at the Academy Awards?

BACK IN TIME

The last of great-great Uncle Si

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

When we left Si McKee in our last article (*Applegater* Winter 2013) he was returning to his mining endeavors in the Smith River country after having spent several years in the Oregon State Prison for arson.

In mid-October 1922, Si visited some relatives living on 25 acres of very productive bottomland near Bear Creek at Tolo, where Fort Lane was located during the Rogue River War. He now owned a small horse named Nellie and an Australian shepherd named Jiggs. However, when he came out of the mountains to visit, he would leave Nellie at Waldo and then ride the "jitney" on into Medford, where it is assumed he walked to Tolo. The relatives always enjoyed Si's visits but were a little concerned about his habit of carrying gold

nuggets on his person.

Not only did he have the gold nuggets, but also he talked about his nuggets and gold dust that he kept in a tin can at his cabin. They advised him to deposit his cache in a safe place, but he didn't "cotton" to banks, and besides, he kept his small pistol close at hand. Many of the old-timers never really trusted banks and often buried their gold somewhere in a hidden place near their dwellings. Si did, however, leave a handwritten note giving his mining claim to the family living there at Tolo.

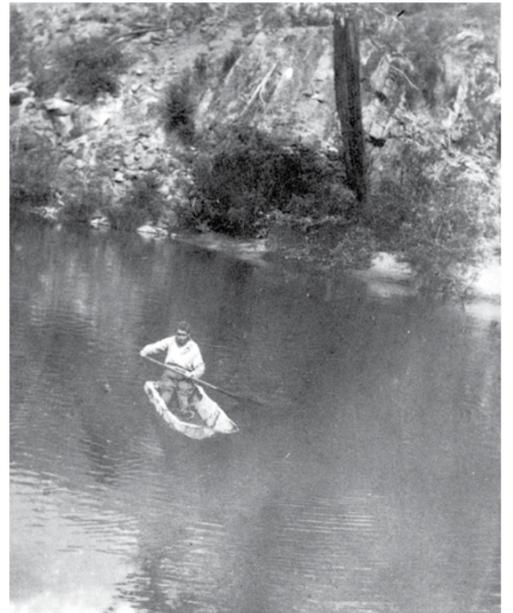
One time when uncle Si came to visit, he had a young man with him that he had met in Waldo. The family was concerned when he said that the young man was going to go home with him to help do some

the local police. When police arrived at the cabin, they found his emaciated dog, Jiggs, guarding the cabin. In order to go in, they had to shoot him. They also shot the horse, which hadn't had food for so long he was not savable.

They buried the remains of Uncle Si, 78, near his cabin and advised the relatives to visit the claim site and take care of necessities. I was told that my grandfather, Amos McKee, and his son Ernest rode horseback from here on the Upper Applegate to Sourdough. The young man whom Si had taken with him from Waldo was never found, and the general opinion was that he killed Si for those nuggets and maybe the can of gold dust, which was never found either.

After Si's death a kind man working on the road near the grave felt badly that no one had made a marker, so he found Si's old metal bed frame and made a crude fence around the grave from its parts. Then as more time went by, another kind soul wanted to give Si a marker with his name on it. The metal marker says McGee instead of McKee but the relatives appreciated it regardless of the wrong name.

Years later my husband Clarence and I visited the mining claim and the remains of the cabin. The road was so bad that we needed four-wheel drive, and in some places I got out of the vehicle and walked rather than being bounced all over. As I



Rolland Hubbard in Si's hand-hewn canoe on the Smith River in August 1913. The Hubbards were named in the will to inherit the mining claim.



A crossing on the Smith River near Uncle Si's cabin.

stood looking at the grave site, my mind raced back to when great-great Uncle Si had contentedly lived there so many years and I was sad for his tragic death. I was also saddened by the fact that his marker was gone and only some of the bent and rusty supports of the old fence were there.

While still doing research on Uncle Si and his Sourdough claim, I went to the Del Norte Museum in Crescent City. I was looking for old photos of the early day stagecoaches and drivers. I didn't find any of Uncle Si, but much to my delight, I saw the old grave "McGee" marker in one of the glass cases.

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre
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SOREC

FROM PAGE 1

culture created, nurtured and maintained by the ongoing efforts of Extension. It is all about the people. Anytime you stop in at the Extension offices on Hanley Road there are people coming and going, attending classes, asking questions at the plant clinic, bringing in a bug to identify or a plant cutting with questions. People meet and greet and get to know others with similar interests. They participate in volunteer projects together and form groups to help each other accomplish things on their land.

From an economic standpoint, approving this service district should be a no-brainer. From a community standpoint, for today and for future generations, it is inconceivable that we would allow such a valuable asset to disappear. Most homeowners will pay less than the cost of lunch per year to keep SOREC alive.

I urge you to vote yes on the Jackson County 4-H, Master Gardener and Agricultural Extension Service District on the May 2014 ballot. Encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. Thanks.

Jack Duggan
shanachie@hughes.net

Ed. Note: Jack Duggan lives on Forest Creek and is a Land Steward volunteer with Extension.

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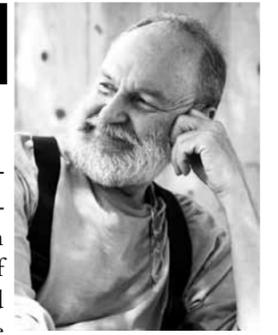
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THE STARRY SIDE

Three hundred sextillion stars

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

What is a sextillion? Have I gone crazy, or sexy? A sextillion is a number followed by 21 zeros!!! For instance, take the number 300 and add 21 zeros onto it (300,000,000,000,000,000,000). That's how many stars may be in our universe. A few years back Carl Sagan's "billions upon billions" was science's answer to the question of how many stars there are, but newer studies published in the journal *Nature* suggest there may be three times as many stars out there as we used to think. So is the sky getting more crowded? No, we're just learning and seeing more and correcting our previous knowledge. Each leap in understanding opens up more for us to find. That goes for the macrocosm, e.g., telescope, as well as the microcosm, e.g., microscope. Science is a wonderful but moving target; tomorrow tends to trump today.

THE NIGHT SKY

Spring is upon us even though the current temperature would hardly suggest that. Nor would our drought, which is now record-breaking for 2013—and what of 2014?

A major characteristic of spring is a fairly starless night sky. That's because we are looking *out* from our galaxy instead of *into* it. The Milky Way is close to the horizon, but the mountains get in our way, so you may not find it at all. In March the Milky Way is westerly and sinking with the winter constellations that live in and around it. In April it is very low, disappearing in our western mountains. By the end of May, it has disappeared in the west and begun to rise in the east with our summer constellations.

Meanwhile, arching overhead all this time, the Big Dipper and Leo the Lion have been paralleling each other. The dipper is trailing the bright Arcturus (follow the arch of the Dipper's handle to it). If you continue that arch, you come to Spica and Mars (noticeably red). The moon still plies

the stars, with the fullest brightest moons appearing high overhead early in the season. Spring is sort of a transitory period for the moon: it's high early in the season closer to winter, and lower as we approach summer, when the full moon drops to a very low position in the sky.

That distinctive trapezoid in the south is Corvus, the Crow. It's there moving west all spring. Predawn risers will see the summer constellations coming up from the east and going overhead with the Milky Way as spring moves toward summer.

THE PLANETS

Jupiter comes to a halt in its slow movement on March 6 and then turns back to a more northerly route. Throughout the season it moves westward with Gemini, rising and setting earlier. Jupiter spends about a year in each of the constellations in the zodiac, on average. It takes Jupiter 12 years to go around the sun once!

Saturn becomes stationary on March 2 and then begins again in the opposite direction. This shift is hardly noticeable, though, because Saturn spends an average of two and a half years in each zodiacal constellation and takes 30 years to go around the sun once! In March it's rising

before midnight. By April it's rising at 9 pm, and by the end of the month its rising time is 7:30 pm. Saturn recently spent about three years in Virgo. It's now in Libra, where it will stay throughout 2014.

Venus rises in the dawn two hours before the sun. She holds her morning-star position through May. It takes Venus just 225 days to circle the sun.

Mars stops its motion on March 1 as it reverses direction. Look for bright Mars near the April 15 eclipse with Spica, the other bright "star" to the right, near the darkened moon. Mars' trajectory around the sun takes 685 days.

Mercury leaps up into the dawn for the first time this year on March 14. He's below the lovely Venus, looking up no doubt. And his year (or trip around the sun) is only 88 days long because he's the closest planet to the sun, moving around the dawn and dusk sky so fast and seemingly erratic.

Pluto (recently demoted), just for perspective, is so far out there that it takes 248 earth years to go around the sun! Once.

OF NOTE

A full moon and a full eclipse happen

on the night of April 15. For about an hour and a half, the moon dims. That's Arcturus to the upper left farther away. Do a

little research beforehand if you're interested in losing some sleep for a good cause. Binoculars will add to your enjoyment of the show. I'll be filming it, I hope.

Remember the time change in March: we "spring forward" an hour on Sunday, March 9. So officially there is no time between 2 and 3 am (what did they do with it?), and the sun is highest at 1 pm instead of noon (does that make sense to you?). You've no doubt heard me rail against this before.

April is Global Astronomy Month. See www.gam-awb.org. Astronomy Day is on May 10, so get out and look at the sky this spring!

Equinox is on March 20, when the sun will be exactly overhead at the equator. All is even-stein and symmetrical in the world of light and heat, from the equator to each pole.

On May 14 the full moon will be right next to Saturn.

The Lyrid meteors show up the evening of April 23. A half-sided moon rises at midnight, so the best time, for once, to observe the Lyrid meteors may be in the evening before the moon comes up.

The Eta Aquid meteor shower peaks May 6. The moon sets at midnight, so this is definitely a wake-up-early meteor shower. Then the Eta Lyrids peak on May 8. The two radiants are not too far apart, in the vicinity of Vega in Lyra (the first rising star of the summer triangle). Because these two showers happen so close together in time, we will probably see some meteors from each shower during those nights. Two for one, good viewing! So let's hope for that much-needed rain all spring, except during May 6 to 8.

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

Illustration: Guy Ottewell's *Astronomical Calendar 2012*.



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- Winston Churchill*

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TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

An Applegater in La Paz

BY RAUNO PERTTU

I have spent the majority of this winter as a non-Spanish speaking snowbird in La Paz, Mexico, with periodic trips back to the Applegate to take care of necessary tasks. For those thinking about seasonally moving to warmer climates like La Paz, I can give a big thumbs-up. La Paz is a great location, with a warm, calm ocean, good food, new friends, and fun activities.

My fiancée Ana and I drove the length of the Baja, which is gorgeous, and many of the cliché worries about Mexico and Mexicans have been put to rest. I have found both the expats and local Mexicans to be friendly and interesting—and the warm, sunny winter has been delightful.

I thought, for other Applegaters considering a Mexican winter escape, I would share a few personal observations.

Violent crime in La Paz is little different from that in American cities, possibly less than in many of our cities. Nonviolent crime, however, is more common.

Part of the expat regimen is trying out new restaurants, and reviews are freely shared. Many restaurants (and there are many) are good to very good and inexpensive. Worries about food poisoning are exaggerated. I have had no problems, just delights.

I've found that festive get-togethers are a way of life for La Pazians. You probably can get yourself invited every

night if you try.

Shopping can be more challenging. Some goods are harder to find and more expensive, especially if you want American rather than local goods. Some everyday Applegate grocery items become luxury items in La Paz. Finding a specific item sometimes becomes a snipe hunt. However, local supermarkets and the La Paz Walmart are on a par with those in the States.

Mexican cities are just plain noisy. My first nights back in the Applegate were eerily quiet.

La Paz and the Baja are much cleaner than in years past.

The highways are good; the city streets are not as good. On some, you become expert at dodging potholes.

Driving in Mexico is initially a bit scary, but when you adjust to local driving habits, driving is safe and relatively easy.

I love the malecón, the pretty and active walkway that stretches for several kilometers along the shore of the city. I got into the habit of taking long walks every day.

La Paz is a sailboat city. Friends with sailboats have taken Ana and me cruising



The malecón, an active walkway in La Paz, stretches for several kilometers along the shore.

to look for whales and whale sharks in the beautiful bay on which La Paz is located. We have also had invitations to cruise to the gulf islands.

Perhaps one of the most surprising things I've noticed is the incredible musical talent in La Paz. We've gone to several musical events (they are common), and two things have impressed me. These are very inexpensive and the local talent is impressive.

For example, we went to a roofless stage (informal shorts weather, as almost always) to hear a tribute to John Lennon. The band was very good, but too loud. Even J.D. Rogers would have wanted earplugs. We solved that problem by stuffing pieces of Kleenex in our ears. After that, we could enjoy the performers.

A trio of local girl singers stunned me. As a group, they sounded exceptional. A short time later, one of the girls sang solo. She was beyond good, so we assumed she had carried the trio. A little later, the second

sister sang a solo, which may have exceeded that of the first sister. We naturally thought "Wow, two good singers."

The third sister wore a plain dress, wasn't quite as attractive as the first two, and seemed a bit shy. We were surprised when she came out to sing a solo. She proceeded to let down her hair and to knock our socks off with a Lennon tune that she turned into an incredible blues song. She may have been the best of the three. From my perspective, any one of the sisters would have won one of the television talent competitions here in the States.

Spending winters in La Paz for the next round of my life has started out wonderfully. Now, I hope and need to learn Spanish, which I've been very delinquent in doing. I've had both an advantage and disadvantage with Ana. She is fluent in Spanish, so all I have to do is use her as my personal interpreter, but the downside is that I have been lazy in learning Spanish myself. When we go to a Mexican party, I'm mostly lost, although many Mexicans understand English. I have to learn Spanish. It can be discomforting when you hear your name mentioned, followed by laughter, and you don't have a clue.

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Rauno Perttu

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

BY BARBARA MUMBLO

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is an idiom often used in reference to human health. It also works with ecosystem health. Of course, if you know me, I'm using this expression in reference to preventing invasive species (noxious weeds) from impacting the health of our ecosystem in the Applegate Valley.

The terms *invasive species* and *noxious weeds* generally refer to non-native species that are aggressive and out-compete our natives. Noxious weeds are designated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and usually have economic impacts, often on the health of domestic animals. Invasive species can be plants or animals that reproduce and spread too much and impact species we want to preserve. These species have come from other parts of the world (often the Mediterranean area), usually arriving accidentally mixed in with other material (hay/soil), but some were brought on purpose (horticulture or herbal uses). Upon arrival, the species didn't have the natural controls (insects/other plants) that would normally keep them in check in their native land, allowing them to out-compete with our native species.

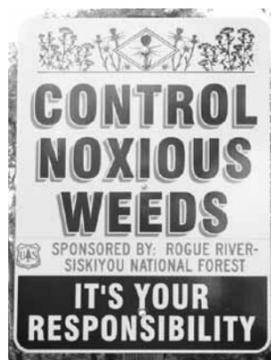
One of the most obvious examples of a noxious/invasive weed in the Applegate Valley is yellow star thistle. There wasn't

much in the late 1970s, but over the years it's moved along the roads and into the dry fields and hillsides.

Invasive species can be introduced or existing infestations can spread by moving seed or plant parts (often in materials such as soil, hay, or mulch). Existing infestations can be spread by equipment like bulldozers, mowers, or road graders. I've watched star thistle come in with topsoil for septic work, rock for log landings, seed mixes and hay for restoration, and birdseed (thanks, Kay). Infestations often pop up after new driveway/house site construction.

Federal agencies in our area spend much time and money controlling these weeds and working to prevent more sites from occurring. It's getting to be common practice to ask for clean material and equipment when working on Bureau of Land Management and national forest lands. Many private landowners in the Applegate are controlling weeds on their land (thanks!). It can take a lot of time and money and one year of treatment isn't adequate to do the job—it takes several years of persistence, but it can be done.

It makes sense to prevent the introduction/spread of invasive species and not have to pay to treat an infestation. One way to prevent introduction is to avoid



bringing infested material to your land. Ask for noxious-weed-free material if you are bringing soil, rock, hay, mulch, etc., to your property. If you have equipment coming to your property from elsewhere, ask that it first be cleaned of soil and vegetation. Be careful driving over infested areas so you don't transport plants/seed to an uninfested area. I've done it myself—parked in an area of star thistle and when I got home and opened the door, it fell out. Be aware of what you are doing!

Some quarry owners are starting to understand the need for noxious-weed-free rock and are working to prevent it from spreading. A quarry accreditation process is in the early stages of development by the Jackson, Josephine, and Douglas County CWMA's (Cooperative Weed Management Areas) and will be coordinated by the Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District. This process will include inspections and a rating system, and will inform landowners of where they can purchase noxious-weed-free rock. I've been working with personnel from Knife River and Blue Mountain Rock to reduce

the noxious weeds around their pits. They understand that weed-free material will be more valuable to their customers.

We have more wineries and organic crops in the valley all the time. To reduce the potential need for herbicide use on noxious weeds, we can prevent infestations or get rid of the weeds before they become too large.

I've noticed signs along the road that say "owner maintained." Some of you are doing a great job of that (thanks, Beau), but others have the signs up and aren't really doing the maintenance. It's important to eradicate any invasive species along the road (especially between fence lines and the road). Ditch cleaning easily moves seeds down the road. If we can eradicate invasive species from the roadside, we'll have less potential for infestations to move down the road and onto your neighbor's (or possibly your) property.

Weeds know no boundaries; they move wherever they are able. We need to work together with our neighbors to eliminate these species and prevent further infestations from occurring. Help us maintain a healthy ecosystem in the Applegate Valley. Please, do your part to prevent noxious/invasive species spread!

For more information about noxious weeds, see the Oregon Department of Agriculture website at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS> or call me.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Heavy metal is not music to my ears

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Wow, I found a new word: phytoremediation. Well, obviously only a new word to me as it is not new to the plants doing all the work nor to the industry studying this unique phenomenon.

"Phytoremediation (from Ancient Greek *phyto*, meaning 'plant,' and Latin *remedium*, meaning 'restoring balance') describes the treatment of environmental problems (bioremediation) through the use of plants that mitigate the environmental problem without the need to excavate the contaminant material and dispose of it elsewhere." (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phytoremediation>)

It seems that plants have a secret society for harvesting heavy metals. There are several words used for this plant process. One is hyperaccumulators. If you don't understand this word, check out your garage, or your "mess" drawer or your clothes closet. Can you relate to the word hyperaccumulator now?

Do you realize that while industry is spending millions of dollars to de-weed and "perfectise" every green living space, the toxins that are added during this process are just making way for more weeds? Weeds become immune to toxins, just as bacteria become resistant to antibiotics.

While you are spraying toxins on the plants to get rid of them, you are actually damaging the soil. If left alone, some plants will—at no extra charge—remove toxins from your soil and make it healthier. Spraying with toxins is very short-sighted

and not the solution. In the long run, it is the problem.

Below are some of these hard-working toxic-accumulator plants, now used worldwide to clean up the mess we humans have created.

- "*Thlaspi caerulescens*, Alpine Pennycress and also known as Alpine Pennygrass, is a flowering plant in the family Brassicaceae. It is found in the Western United States, Scandinavia, and Europe" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thlaspi_caerulescens).

Pennycress is a slow toxic avenger for soil remediation but gets the job done. Each plant used for the purpose of toxic accumulation does so at its individual rate.

- *Brassica juncea* and *Brassica carinata* are both in the mustard family.

In laboratory tests with metals loaded onto artificial soil (a mix of sand and vermiculite), these plants appear to be the best at removing large quantities of chromium, lead, copper and nickel.

- *Helianthus sp.*, a type of sunflower, is currently used by a New Jersey company to help clear toxic residue from Chernobyl.

Plants have removed as much as 95 percent of toxic contaminants in as little as 24 hours. Subsequently, *Helianthus* was planted on a Styrofoam raft at one end of a contaminated pond near Chernobyl and in 12 days the cesium concentrations within its roots were reportedly 8,000 times that of the water, while the strontium concentrations were 2,000 times that of the water.

- The Chinese brake fern (*Pteris vittata* L.) and related species are being studied as a possible way to remove arsenic from water and soil. Remediating arsenic-contaminated soil and groundwater using currently available engineering methods is costly and difficult. The ability of brake ferns to hyperaccumulate

arsenic in their fronds has led to the development of environmentally friendly and cost-effective remediation of arsenic-contaminated sites.

- Aquatic plants, of which there are several species, have the uncanny capacity to locate heavy metals in water and then remove these metals via their roots. I would like to think

this is as easy as sucking up an ice cream soda via a straw, but alas, not so. Some examples of these aquatic plants are water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes* (Mart.) Solms), pennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata* L.) and duckweed (*Lemna minor* L.).

- The roots of Indian mustard are effective in the removal of cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, uranium, cesium and strontium 90 from hydroponic solutions.

An excellent reference for additional information is http://www.mhhe.com/biosci/pae/botany/botany_map/articles.

Phytoextraction by any plant, including aquatic species, is a sophisticated process. For our purposes, all we need to know is that it happens and is being further developed and utilized.

The obvious next questions are: what happens to toxin-laden plants after they have done their job and how do we dispose of them? The literature is not unilaterally decisive about a one-size-fits-all solution. The good news is that even though heavy metals are detrimental to soil and are ingested by humans in an overabundance, they have a positive usage in other applications. To offset the cost of the process of utilizing, monitoring, harvesting and disposing of phytoremediation plants, the heavy metals can be extracted and re-used.

Dirty Fingernails and All
Sioux Rogers • 541-846-7736
mumearth2@yahoo.com



Sioux Rogers

Alpine Pennycress helps clean toxic residue.



Gen Y Worldview

Yoga is for every body

BY JESSE HART

Though the popularity of yoga is growing rapidly in the western world, many people have applied only a western concept to a more universal spiritual and scientific practice. I am happy to be able to explain to my community the truth behind this ancient practice and why every human being should at least be familiar with its basic concept. After all, yoga in its fundamental sense is the practice of being comfortable in human form.

What is yoga?

This ancient spiritual science offers a direct means of stilling the natural turbulence of thoughts and restlessness of body that prevent us from knowing what and where we truly are. Translated, yoga means "union": of the individual consciousness or soul with the Universal Consciousness or Spirit (aka, your connection of yourself to your creator). Though many people think of yoga only as physical exercises—the "asanas" or postures that have gained widespread popularity in recent decades—these are actually only a superficial aspect of this profound practice of unfolding the infinite potentials of the human body, mind and soul. Yes, yoga will

help with flexibility, but the practice will also assist in an increase of balance and strength, both physically and mentally. Simply put, yoga is meditation and a workout combined into one.

Is yoga the right choice for you?

Short answer: Yes.

Long answer: Absolutely positively definitely yes. Get up and go for it right now. It will be the best choice you ever made!

Yoga is for all—the young and old, big and small, male and female, flexible and stiff (especially the stiff). Human beings perceive the world outside the body in the eternal moment of now. Our sense of what is happening around us and how we define things is in relation to the experience of our life thus far. It may seem counterintuitive, but what happens within our internal selves creates the perception (reality) of the external and never the other way around. When we lose touch with our inner self—our thoughts, feelings, internal organs, muscles and bone structure—we are allowing the health of the mind and body to lessen. When we are out of harmony internally, the external world

follows suit. In yoga we learn to create a new, healthy and enjoyable pattern of awareness. Right now, this may seem like quite a feat and perhaps you are many steps away from that goal, but in yoga we understand the truth and discipline of taking the first step, which, as it turns out, is *the only step that we ever take*, consciously or unconsciously, every moment of our lives. Learning new techniques to assist our consciousness will open up new possibilities in your life that you doubt or deem impossible.

What can I do to start?

You may not know it but you have already started. Perhaps during heightened stress or anxiety you reminded yourself to "breathe." Perhaps you suffered a physical injury and took a moment to massage or stretch the afflicted area. Though breathing and stretching are good for trauma, with some guided practice one can learn how to get greater benefit from these actions. Most of us are given lessons to learn to drive the vehicle that is our car, but few are given lessons to drive the vehicle that is our body.

To keep the body alive and well, we know to provide the bare necessities of food and water, but preceding this sustenance are the most needed commodities for life: breath and movement (with a sense of calm, yet energetic purpose). All living



The author practicing what he preaches.

creatures, from humans to animals, insects and plants, need what is called in yoga "prana" or "life-force" brought into the body through our breath. Our internal organs, respiratory and circulatory systems move and operate on their own, but we either learn how to assist them or let our functionings go the route of least resistance. I sincerely implore you to avoid the latter. Every cell in your body will thank you for the compassion.

Blissfully, I have recently come to find great comfort in discovering that a path to happiness, balance and connection with nature/universe/God/energy is not difficult. Discovering euphoria is as easy as learning to consistently practice the art of observing, stretching, balancing and allowing.

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REAL ESTATE



Applegate Valley Day 2014 will celebrate Father's Day

BY DAVID LAANANEN

In June 2012 and 2013, the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) organized and hosted Applegate Valley Days at Cantrall-Buckley Park. The events were intended to bring together Applegate residents and visitors in a fun-filled day, showcasing the park, local businesses, and our beautiful valley. Our intent was not only to introduce new people to our park, but also to raise funds essential to its operation and improvement.

After discussing ideas to keep our event fresh, the GACDC Board decided that this year we will host a Father's

Day barbecue on Sunday, June 15. The Applegate Valley Lions Club will barbecue tri-tip, chicken, and hot dogs. Wine, beer, and other beverages will be available. Current plans have food service available from 11 am to 4 pm. We're also planning to have local musicians provide entertainment throughout the day. (Let us know if you'd like to participate.) The usual \$4-per-car fee for entry to the park will be charged.

Further details will be made available as plans develop. Meanwhile, save the day, June 15, to celebrate Dad and family.

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Beloved park closes after two-season effort

BY CHRISTINA DUANE

After funding Wayside Park for nearly two years and endeavoring to raise funds to keep it open, Oh Oregon Frontier Park could no longer sustain the effort to purchase the property. Because two of the three grants we applied for did not come through, we were unable to reach our goal of completing the down payment and closing escrow. The park must once again go up for sale and be locked and closed until a buyer can be found. Park patrons proved that this park could overcome the recent past history of vandalism and irresponsible use that had caused its closure, that it could be open to a demographically diverse community and once again be a center of celebration for all ages.

Landowner Jackie Inman and Oh Oregon Frontier Park had structured a purchase agreement that bought time and created a plan by which the community could once again enjoy the park, but the plan depended on meeting certain fund-raising benchmarks in order for grants to fund. We are very hopeful that someone in the community will buy the park, keep it open to families, and continue the work we all began. We would make the strategic plan, funded through a grant that we matched, available for potential buyers to see the park's potential.

Since May 2012, we have attempted to create and implement a plan to fund the park, open it to the community and bring educational programs, events and a history interpretive tour. We had put down earnest money, sustained the lease and insurance, worked with a consulting firm in submitting several grants to fund the rest of the down payment. We tried to raise the money through benches, chairs and brick donations to demonstrate the amount of "community buy-in" that the funders look for. Many park patrons stepped up to donate, but we failed to get the support of the business community or larger donations that the foundations need to see to fund a community project. Another reason cited was that there is less money being granted in the economic downturn, and projects are being funded

in their later phases to cap the projects.

We consider this effort a success in many ways, thanks to the help of landowner Jackie Inman, Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation, Pete Kennedy and our board of directors and many volunteers. Multiple generations of families enjoyed the park, and we held the award-winning Journeys to the Past camp and other events proving that the park can operate without competing with surrounding businesses and can use their services in its offerings.

We witnessed firsthand a community completely in favor of the park and using it for the most part very responsibly as the treasured resource and historic community gathering place that it is. We would like input in deciding where bricks will be placed. They honor community members who helped keep the park open. The log museum pathway is a possibility, or they can be stored until we see what the park outcome is.

We would like to honor these people who made the reopening of the park possible: Realtor Jeff Vineyard, Neil and Mary Anna and the Applegate Café and Store, Dusty Davis and the Davis family, Dean Johnson, Kim Mericle and all of the bands that helped with the fund-raiser, Don and Josh Gibbons, Robert, Scotty, "Corky," Michael and Sonny, Owen, James Santos, and the many volunteers who helped us.

Whoever purchases the park, it is our hope that they will recognize that it is a historic community-gathering place for multiple generations that needs to be open and represent all of the many facets of this community. We believe it is a prime location for a visitor center and hope that an entity that buys it will consider that possibility and will work with surrounding businesses. We hope that people who use the park would respectfully honor and celebrate each other. This is what we had the privilege to see happen and, through our work, we hope to see that continue through this transition.

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APPLEGATE TRAILS ASSOCIATION Guided Hikes and Event Schedule

DATE	HIKE / EVENT	MEET	LENGTH	RATE
Mar 22	Isabelle Mountain Peak or optional Isabelle Springs Trail	Bunny Meadows Staging Area Forest Creek Road 9 am	2 miles (either trail)	M to D
April 12	Wellington Wildlands, an off-trail through hike down Balls Branch (Humbug Creek tributary). Shuttle will be arranged.	Bunny Meadows Staging Area Forest Creek Road 9 am	3 miles	M to D
May 25	Sundown Trail or option for longer through hike into Wellington Wildlands from the end of Sundown Trail.	Bunny Meadows Staging Area Forest Creek Road 9 am	3 or 5 miles	M to D
July 20	Red Lily Vineyards. Wine & Dine at the vineyard after the hike. Catered by Fulcrum Dining.	Red Lily Vineyards 11777 Highway 238 9 am	3 miles	M
Aug 24	Sturgis Fork/Bigelow Lake Loop	Applegate Store 15095 Highway 238 9 am	5 miles	M to D
Sept 20	Benefit Dinner at Red Lily Vineyards catered by Fulcrum Dining; entertainment and guest speaker. Purchase tickets in advance.	Red Lily Vineyards 11777 Highway 238 6 pm		E

Distances are estimates; ratings of "Easy" (E), "Moderate" (M) and "Difficult" (D) are merely guides. One person's "Moderate" may be "Difficult" for another. All of the hikes have elevation changes. Remember to wear appropriate footwear, bring plenty of water, and leave your pets at home. RSVP to ensure a place on the hike. A \$5 donation per person helps ATA meet minimal expenses.

Contact David Calahan at 541-899-1226 or david@applegatetrails.org, or visit our website for additional information. Details, changes, or cancellations may be found on the "Calendar" page at www.applegatetrails.org. See the "Hikes" page for a list of self-guided day hikes on or connected to the Applegate Ridge Trail (ART).

A nonprofit organization depends on the generosity of the community. Please consider a donation to ATA, your local organization committed to developing a system of hiking, biking and equestrian trails in the mountains of the Applegate Valley. We thank you.

Step forward with a gift to all generations!

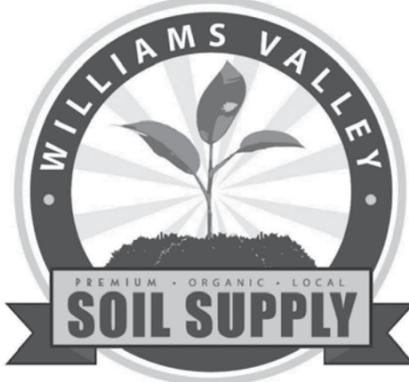
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BIRDMAN

Woodpeckers common to the Applegate

BY TED A. GLOVER

In the Applegate Valley and surrounding hillsides live several species of woodpeckers. There are nearly 200 species worldwide, found on every continent but Australia and Antarctica, and we can see a few of these nearly every day right here in our own yards.

The most widely seen is the Acorn Woodpecker, black and white with large white eyes surrounded by black, and a yellow throat. The male has a prominent red crown touching the white forehead and the female has a red nape with black separating it from the forehead. While in flight these woodpeckers display a white rump and white patches near their wing

tips. Acorn Woodpeckers feed primarily on acorns as their name implies but, like all woodpeckers, also feed on other nuts, fruits and insects.

The Hairy Woodpecker is also very common in our area. Like its smaller cousin the Downy Woodpecker, it is best recognized by the white stripe in the center of its back and by the prominent white underparts. While these two woodpeckers look quite similar, the Downy is about one-third smaller than the Hairy. Another good difference to note is the Downy has a bill that is about half the length of its head while the Hairy has a bill that is almost as long as its head.

Our largest woodpecker is the Pileated Woodpecker, easily identified by its vivid red crest and crow-like size. It is the only woodpecker in our area with a crest. It is easily recognized by its great size, bounding flight and striking black and white color.

Another bird, often not recognized as a woodpecker, that is seen daily in our area is the Northern Flicker. In this part of the country it is known for the beautiful salmon-colored undertail and underwings, brown-barred back, white rump, and a very noticeable black crescent on its chest.

While there are other woodpeckers in our area of Oregon, these are the common ones. All woodpeckers have very strong

bills for hammering and drilling into tree trunks for insects and have a long sticky glue-like tongue for extracting them. Their beak acts like a chisel to remove bark and find the hiding bugs.

While most birds have one toe pointing back and three pointing forward, woodpeckers have two sharply clawed toes pointing in opposite directions to help them grasp the sides of trees and to help balance them while they drill.

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Ted A. Glover



Walter Lantz may have patterned the call of Woody Woodpecker after the **Acorn Woodpecker**.



Adult **Downy Woodpeckers** are the smallest of North America's woodpeckers.



The **Hairy Woodpecker's** plumage is virtually identical to the smaller Downy Woodpecker.



Northern Flickers, one of the few woodpecker species that migrates, frequently feed on the ground.



The **Pileated Woodpecker's** call is a loud, far-carrying laugh, sometimes described as a "jungle bird."

STINK BUG

FROM PAGE 1

depending on the time of year; so to test these attractants you often have only one chance in the season to evaluate them and then have to wait until next year to try again. We are also looking at combining the attractants with lights to enhance their effectiveness.

The pest threat is very real.

Severe damage to an apple orchard outside of Vancouver, WA, occurred this past year. Control of BMSB has proven difficult. Back east, where BMSB is now a serious pest of peaches and apples, growers are relying on repeated applications of broad-spectrum insecticides for control.

Clearly, a better approach is needed. A researcher in New Jersey explored focusing treatments on orchard borders to catch the bugs as they moved in, along with weed control along the border to deter their movement. The researcher dubbed the approach "CPR" for "crop perimeter restructuring" (a catchy name). The approach seemed to work, with insecticide use reduced by up to 75 percent.

Another subject of intense research is biological control, particularly the introduction of natural enemies from the BMSB's native habitat in East Asia. One site of this research is in Corvallis

on the Oregon State University campus. Initial testing is done in a quarantine facility to be sure that natural enemies do not attack our native species and cause unintended consequences that cannot be undone. These imported and highly specific natural enemies, primarily tiny wasps that parasitize the BMSB eggs, could provide much-needed natural mortality for this pest and help mitigate the extreme population explosions that have been observed, most recently this last fall in downtown Sacramento.

Last summer was very warm and our observations indicated that we had two full generations of BMSB, which was undoubtedly a major factor in the increased BMSB population locally. With BMSB taking up residence here in southern Oregon, the race is on between researchers and the pest population. We like to think that we're smarter than stink bugs, but we know enough to realize that BMSB is not going away. It will take a number of tactics and tools to minimize the threat posed by this new insect invader.

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Photo below: Stink bug (<http://epconlane.com/500>). **Photo right:** Squash bug (thesideyardgarden.com). Can you tell the difference?



PHOTO CREDIT

All bird photos courtesy of Peter J. Thiemann, Flickr photo stream. See Peter's story on page 13.



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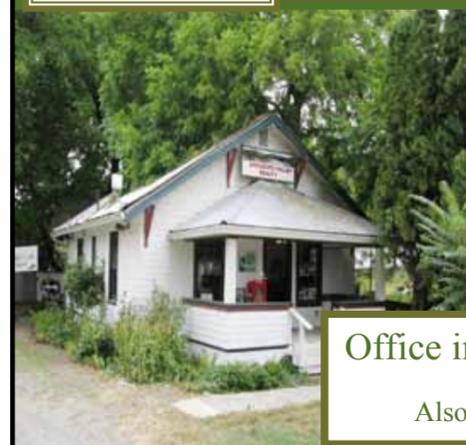
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Kurt and Toree Wilkening—Applegaters with a vision

BY DIANA COOGLE

There was once a little girl in the Dominican Republic who scowled all the time, never paid attention in school, and was always unhappy. One day a mobile clinic from AmigoVision rolled into the village and put her through a series of stations—medical history, eye exams, dilation—until, finally, diagnosis. The child was cross-eyed and had blurry vision. When the appropriate prescription glasses were handed to her, she put them on and broke into a glorious smile, the first her mother had seen for years.

For ten years, two Applegaters, Kurt and Toree Wilkening, have traveled the world through AmigoVision, the nonprofit organization they started, putting smiles on people's faces by putting a pair of eyeglasses on their noses.

Kurt opened an optometry practice in Medford in 1981. His wife Toree was a travel agent but stepped outside that field to help run the practice. They both love to travel, especially to out-of-the-way places, the more different from America the better. By 2000, when Kurt's practice was stable enough that he could leave the office more, he and Toree started thinking about how they could combine

travel, medical expertise, and service.

As a member of the Bear Creek Valley Rotary Club, Kurt was inspired by a fellow Rotarian's Project Amigo, which educates children of migrant workers in Mexico, and by a volunteer eye-care project he and Toree attended in Jamaica. Could they, maybe, bring eyeglasses to some of the seven hundred million people around the world who have no access to basic vision care? Could they travel to remote villages around the world to diagnose vision problems and provide corrective lenses?

Yes, they could, with the founding of AmigoVision, which takes a mobile clinic into villages sometimes so remote the inhabitants have no transportation to go outside the village. So the clinic goes to them. In some places people come to the clinic on horseback. In other places villagers speak a language that needs four levels of translation for communication.

Kurt and Toree and their team see as many as 1,250 patients a week. They correct problems of half of those with simple reading glasses and of half the remaining with prescription glasses. Perhaps most importantly, they train people in the countries they visit to

carry on the work of the clinic when AmigoVision leaves. "The goal is not to see as many patients as possible and then blow out," Kurt says, "but to make it a sustainable program." When Kurt and Toree and their volunteer crew are ready to leave the country, they ceremoniously turn over the keys to the native people they've been training and give them the clinic equipment, including a computer with the program on it that enables them to match the patient's prescription with glasses the team has in stock.

At first Kurt and Toree took suitcases full of donated eyeglasses on their travels, but the problem with prescription glasses is that the prescription is difficult to match to exactly what the patient needs. Now they bring round lenses, ground in various prescriptions, and frames, which are easier to pack than glasses, and make "Wilk's glasses" on site by a method Kurt invented.

"You should see the looks on the faces when people put on the eyeglasses for the first time," Kurt says. Toree adds that often they say, "Now I can read the Bible."

Kurt and Toree freely admit that the advantages are not all to the recipients of eye care. They and the volunteers they

take with them get so much out of it that "the payback is unfair," as Kurt puts it. Not only are they experiencing "exotic" parts of the world, but their own eyes are being opened. "The effect it has on our volunteers is unbelievable," Kurt says. "They come home with a different perspective on the world, on America, on how the world sees America, and, especially, on the opportunities they can find to help in their local communities."

The needs in many places around the world are very basic. The things that change a person's life are often things we take for granted—like a pair of glasses. In many of the countries where AmigoVision goes, for instance, the extended family depends on one member who is particularly good at something—a woman at sewing, for instance—to do that job for the family. As she ages, though, she can no longer see to sew, and her skills become useless. Then a mobile eye clinic comes to the village, she gets a pair of reading glasses, and her world changes dramatically.

The first year Kurt and Toree took AmigoVision to Jamaica. Last year, with the help of the Future Business Leaders Association at Hidden Valley High School, they took it to Josephine County. Next year they'll go to both Josephine and Jackson counties—and to Nepal, if things work out, and then to Ethiopia, maybe even to Cuba. They have already traveled with the clinic to Jamaica, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Vietnam, and Thailand.

Eyeglasses are often an instant and a dramatic fix, but the recipients aren't always pleased. What gets in the way? Vanity, all around the world.

Diana Coogle

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Photos, left to right: Toree at a Chang Dao, Thailand, clinic where the eyes of over 850 Karen hill tribal people were examined; After two weeks in Thailand, the team visited Angkor Watt in Siem Reap, Cambodia; Not only could this woman see to sew again, but she wanted to marry Kurt.



Porscha Schiller and the Rising Star program

BY DIANA COOGLE

If, as Steve Jobs told us, "Creativity is just connecting things," Porscha Schiller, manager of South Stage Cellars tasting room in Jacksonville, might deserve an award for creative genius. By connecting three of her interests, she created the idea that became the phenomenally successful Rising Stars program.

First, there was Porscha's love of music and her discovery, when she moved here from New York City, of the extraordinarily good quality of local music. "Why haven't I heard of you?" she kept asking one group after another, always receiving the same answer: "We can't get any exposure."

Second, there was Porscha's job and the need to promote the tasting room. "It's like peanut butter and jelly," she says, "to pair music and wine."

Finally, there was Porscha's volunteer work with Mediation Works, which brought the important work of CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, to her attention and sparked a desire to support its local program.

One, two, three—and Porscha had conceived of the Rising Stars program: local musicians of any genre—jazz, folk, classical, any kind of music—would apply to play at South Stage Cellars. (This year three different groups played every Saturday in February—four groups the

first Saturday because the judges couldn't pare the entries down to 12.) People would come to the tasting room—no cover charge—to drink wine, hear the music, and vote, at \$2 per vote with a ceiling of \$30, for their favorite musicians. The resulting income would be given to a local nonprofit organization. A panel of judges including Porscha and members of the Britt Festivals board would pick the winner from the chosen finalists. (They announced the 2014 winner on March 1, as the *Applegater* was being mailed.)

"I am a firm believer that when you throw a pebble into the water, the ripples can reach across the world," Porscha says (adding that she hopes that doesn't sound "too granola").

Among the most important of the many ripples from the Rising Stars pebble that Porscha threw into the waters of the Applegate community are those that reach the musicians. To play on the Britt stage, to have a 30-minute interview on Jefferson Public Radio—these prizes are the "real cherry," as Porscha calls them, but the prestige of being that year's Rising Star and the fun of participating also entice applicants. "To be chosen is incredible," said last year's winner, Matt Hill, of the Matt Hill Trio. "It's amazing—especially on the stage of the Britt. I never thought

I'd be standing here. [It's] an absolute dream." But winning isn't everything. One performer said that her main reason for being there was just to have fun. "And I had a blast," she said, "I had so much fun."

Ripples also reach other people in the community who jump in to help. Porscha gratefully acknowledges that without Donna Briggs, the head of Britt Festivals who involved Britt in the idea from its beginning, Rising Stars would not be as successful as it is. She credits Kim Moulton for helping coordinate the event and "doing the whole thing" with her, and says that if it weren't for Traute and Don Moore, owners of South Stage Cellars and Quail Run Vineyards, the whole thing wouldn't happen. "I'm proud to be a part of this," she says, as though she were just a flunky in the project, "and of these owners."

Other community members and local businesses have helped in various ways. Some have donated prizes: a cash prize from Brenda Smith, a Harry and David packet, a recording session with Blackstone Audio. This year Dan Doshier, of Off the Wall Music Company in Jacksonville, provided the sound system at South Stage Cellars. "What a gift!" Porscha says, adding that the whole experience "has been very magical."

A big ripple, of course, reaches the local nonprofit chosen to receive the money. The first year Rising Stars raised \$7,000 for CASA. The second year Traute and Don Moore, mindful of their many Hispanic workers at the vineyards, suggested the \$12,000 proceeds go to La Clinica. This year the money will go to Britt Festivals for its educational programs—music in



Porscha Schiller (right) with Traute Moore, owner of South Stage Cellars and Quail Run Vineyards.

schools and music camps. "If music is left out of a child's life," Porscha reminds us, "there is so much that is not developing in that child."

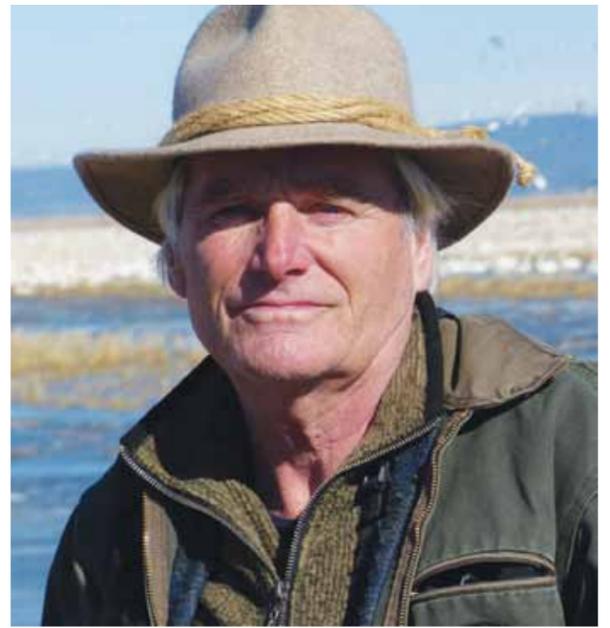
Porscha sees the Jacksonville community—any small community—as composed of layers of different kinds of people interacting together. She points to people like Rising Stars performers—carpenters, some of them, and farmers and even (last year's winner) a dentist—as the threads that hold together the fabric of a community because they work with each other. "If we all had the opportunity to live in a smaller community," she says, "we would be nicer people—if only so we wouldn't be embarrassed by not having been nice to someone on the street whom we later find sitting next to us on the bus."

Diana Coogle

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Peter Thiemann: Image hunter

BY HALEY MAY



Peter Thiemann has 246 "lifer photos" to his credit.

While some hunt with a gun, Peter Thiemann hunts with a camera. Photographing all images of nature, but especially birds, is his passion. To Peter, birding is exciting because of "the surprise and the chase," the appeal to hunter/gatherer instincts. To birders, a "lifer" is a bird first seen and positively identified. Peter's list of "lifer photos"—high-quality, publishable shots—is 246.

Originally from northern Germany, Peter is the man behind the camera of the bird images in the *Applegater's* "Birdman" column. Seventy-four years old, he is a retired electrical engineer who now lives on six acres in Applegate after living in the Bay Area and Alaska. Why relocate here? "It is not too rainy and there are big trees—and it's not California," he tells me. He has been in the area for 11 years.

We met at Ashland Pond to



Photos of Great Gray Owls by Peter Thiemann will be featured in an upcoming book by birding guide Harry Fuller.

watch birds. After spotting some White-throated Sparrows, he pointed out a small duck, the Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). The male is particularly recognizable, displaying a black and white crest with white stripes along his tail and chest. Females have a cinnamon-colored crest, and both are excellent divers. We watched as they periodically disappeared, bottoms up, searching for fish.

Peter is working with well-known author and birding guide Harry Fuller of Ashland on a book about Great Gray Owls featuring Peter's photos. The Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*), with up to a five-foot wingspan, is one of the "most wanted" on any serious birder's list. It is rare in southern Oregon, but Peter has been photographing a small population near his place as well as one in the Cascades that he has been photo-documenting for almost a year. Folks come from hundreds of miles, he tells me, just to catch a glimpse of this elusive creature. The owl hunts in the daytime, making it a wonderful subject for study. The proposed title for the book is *Living Ghost: The Great Gray Owl*. Peter and Harry are currently searching for sponsors.

Peter's photo of White Pelicans flying over Mt. Shasta is on the cover of Harry's recently published book: *Freeway Birding, San Francisco to Seattle*. The guide follows I-5 indicating various ideal sites for bird-watching. Taking a moment to participate in "the surprise and the chase" is one way to enjoy nature while stretching your legs.

Peter and his wife Eva, a biologist and nurse, participated in the Ashland Christmas Bird Count (CBC) organized by Harry. Around 50 participants found 116 species from sunrise to sunset. The data will be submitted to Cornell University Lab

of Ornithology, which has over 200,000 citizens participating in bird observation. The data help researchers study climate change and/or behavior trends, such as the recent observation of south-ranging birds gradually moving 50-100 miles north.

I asked Peter why he thinks birds are so amazing. "They are beautiful and unique in that they can fly," he says. "Think of the amount of energy it takes to migrate. Also the way they evolved, linked directly to dinosaurs. And they sing."

He described the phenomenon of starling murmuration: the swooping flight of starlings, sometimes synchronized, in groups of a few hundred to a few thousand. "If this was music, it would be a symphony," he says. While the process is not fully understood, individual birds follow the same rule of a school of fish escaping a predator: "when your neighbor moves, you move." The mysteriousness of murmuration, like several other aspects of birds, is one of the reasons our flying friends deserve attention and respect.

There has been a noticeable decline in species directly related to human population growth and resource demand. Bird habitats are being compromised or are disappearing altogether. To help birds thrive, Peter suggests we stop using chemical and pesticide sprays that kill the insects that birds depend on. He feels that one of the main threats to birds is coal power plants, which emit harmful

carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Due to his background in engineering, he feels it is essential to find "newer, better, safer" means of producing energy. It is feasible, for example, to reprocess waste material from nuclear power plants, which do not emit carbon dioxide. If radioactive waste is handled properly, nuclear plants are a much safer way to generate electricity.

There is an upcoming opportunity to kick-start your own bird exploration. At the end of May, thanks to a \$16,000 grant from Ashland, the Klamath Bird Observatory will host the Mountain Bird Festival in Ashland with field trips, poster exhibits, music and local food. Harry is helping organize the festival and will lead some classes. There may even be a chance to see Eva's oil painting of Great Gray Owls. Online registration is available starting in early February. For more information on this event, visit klamathbird.org/education/mountainbird.

Haley May
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Logtown Cemetery benches made by Boy Scouts

A nearly eight-month project has netted Logtown Cemetery five new benches.

Life Scout Ryan Trask, 14, of Medford, completed his Eagle Project on January 18 when he and four other scouts from Boy Scout Troop 7 placed the five benches in the cemetery with the guidance of Scott Traina.

Ryan first noted the lack of good benches in the cemetery in early 2013 when he was visiting the cemetery. He met with the Logtown Cemetery Association on May 18, 2013, to propose that he make five new benches for the cemetery. The board graciously accepted his offer.

Over the next few months, Ryan presented his plans, working closely with board member Janeen Sathre. Under the guidance of general contractor Scott Jensen of Jacksonville and using material donated by Foster IWP and Parr Lumber Company of Medford, bench pieces were measured and sawed to the size specified by the cemetery board.

Ryan organized and supervised



From left: Ryan Trask, Patrick Maloney, Jarod Biele, Connor McKeehan, Nathaniel Peterson and Scott Traina.

scouts from his troop to carefully assemble benches in November 2013. On January 18, 2014, he and four other scouts, Patrick Maloney, Jarod Biele, Nathaniel Peterson, and Connor McKeehan, delivered the final products and placed them throughout the cemetery.

These benches are a great asset to the cemetery and represent over 70 total hours of research and volunteer labor by these young men. Ryan will receive his Eagle Award, scouting's highest, later this year.

Janeen Sathre • djsathre@gmail.com

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Wait a minute! Wildfires in January?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

As I write this at the end of January, we have a pair of wildfires in the Rogue Basin burning, and there are also a couple up along the Oregon coast! What's that all about? Can you spell *drought*?

The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center has southwestern Oregon in a severe drought that is predicted to persist at least through April. So, *now* is the time to start preparing *your* property, in case fire season comes early.

Late winter and early spring is the perfect time to begin thinning and pruning to develop and/or maintain your defensible space and access routes. Maintenance work can be a bit harder if you've let it slide, so tackle it now while temperatures are still fairly cool. Save the close-in small details of homesite cleanup (which are *equally* important to surviving a wildfire) for late April and May, when it will be warmer.

Making your access route safe should be your first priority: how safe are you if firefighters can't get to your house or if you can't evacuate? (And yes, *this is* a part of defensible space.) Our local building codes designate clearance numbers for height, width and slope of the driveway. Why? So that emergency and fire vehicles can safely come up your driveway, and also so that you can evacuate at the same time they are arriving.

Local codes require a vegetation clearance of at least 13½ feet *above* the driveway, a clear driving surface at least 14 feet wide, and thinning on either side of the driveway to provide 20 feet of open travel room free of vegetation.

Once your access is cleaned up, look

at your defensible space—the first 100 feet around your home, garage and other outbuildings. If you thinned for this safe area 5 to 10 years ago, you probably need to do some maintenance thinning, because *stuff grows!* Thinning and/or pruning trees on your property can help the firewood supply; it also makes fighting a wildfire on your property safer for firefighters. We're told to prune up branches to 10 feet above the ground so that firefighters can safely work in a forested area without fighting low-hanging branches. The only reason you'd need to prune higher would be on a very steep slope, or if there were "ladder fuels" below. Remember that term? Study the illustration below and use the "3x-the-height" rule (flames can be three times the height of the vegetation source) when you're working in your defensible space.

Don't forget that younger trees should be pruned slowly as they grow. Per our local Oregon State University Extension Forester Max

Bennett, a tree's crown (branches and foliage) is its "food factory." So if we prune the lower branches too soon we can compromise the tree's vigor! Max advises to leave at least 50 percent live-crown ratio; I usually prune up about one-third the total height of the tree.

And as we work to reduce fuels in our defensible space, what about the dead branches, leaves and such on the ground? Max explained to me that there is slash, litter, duff and soil, in that order, on the ground. Slash (larger materials generated from thinning or pruning) should be removed from the defensible space area. Litter is fine loose materials such as leaves, twigs, cones or needles. These contain "significant quantities of essential plant nutrients" per Max, and so allowing litter to remain, decay and work into the soil is important for vegetation and soil productivity. This organic material on the soil surface also helps capture and store that rainfall that we've been missing! However, heavy litter does not belong up against your house or outbuildings, as it could easily contribute to igniting these structures.

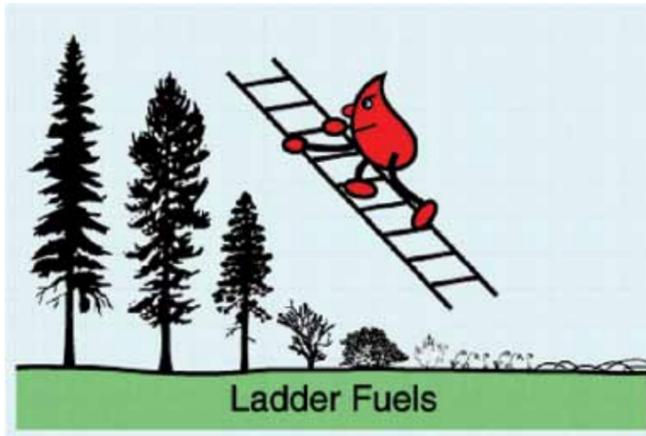
Around the home that "3x-the-height" ladder-fuel deal comes into play a lot with our defensible space, since it's one of

the reasons fire spreads so easily. For example, a three-foot shrub might be okay planted under a mature tree, but what happens a few years later when that shrub is six feet tall? Are the branches of that mature tree pruned up enough to *not catch fire* if the shrub ignites from a ground fire? Remember: things grow over time, including your ladder fuels!

A final thought for spring cleanup: the "3x-the-height" concept also applies when you're *burning* a pile of slash or even just leaves; in fact, it originated from observing wildfires. Vegetation and slash piles can produce *flames* three times their height. Therefore, a four-foot-tall slash pile can produce flames 12 feet above the pile, or up to 16 feet above the ground! So *look up* before you light the match. I know from experience that the heat carries way up above that height, so don't scorch any power lines or legacy trees!

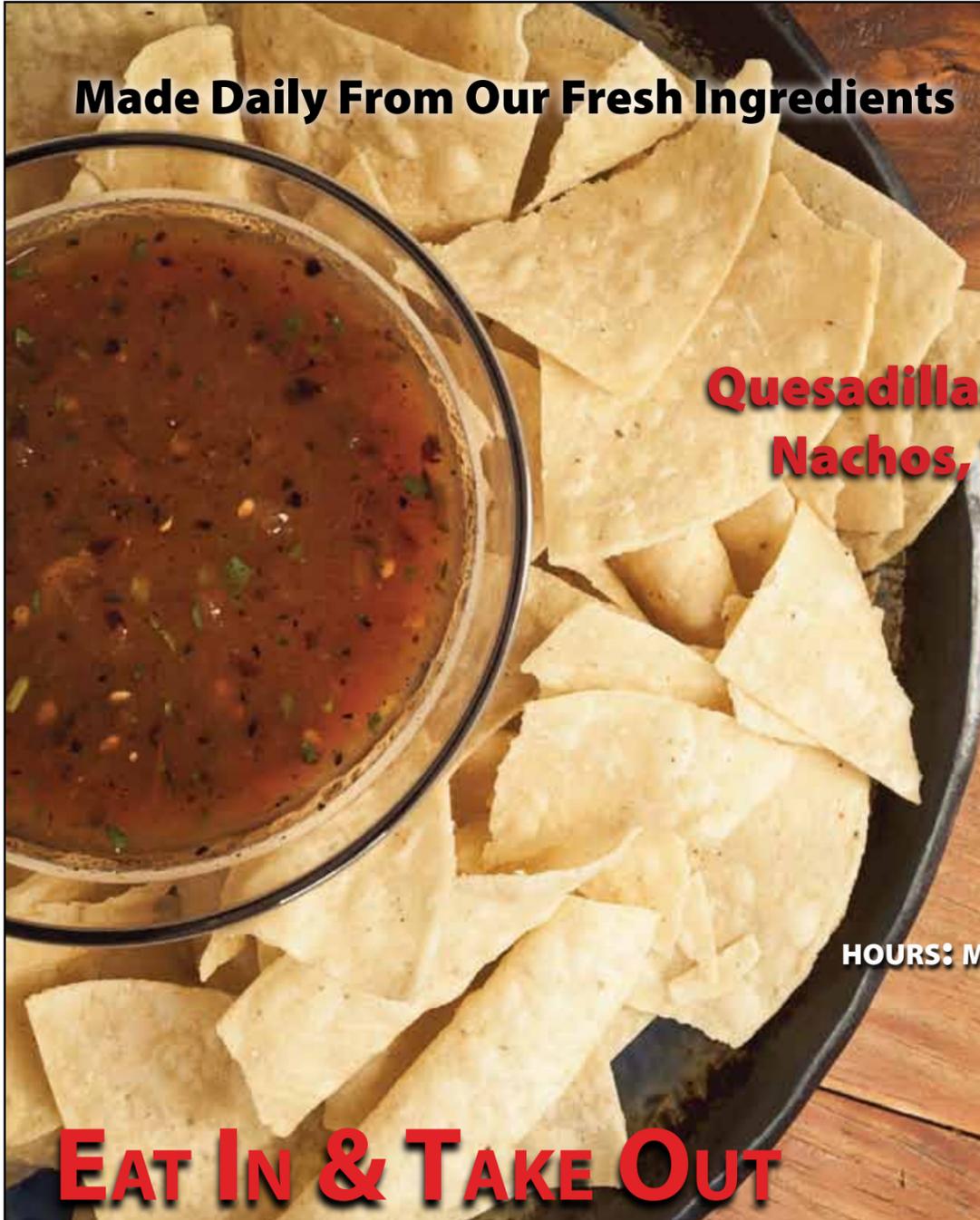
Let's hope that we're not already in fire season by the next *Applegater* issue, so that I can cover last-minute preparations around the home!

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneOR@gmail.com



Burn reminder

Before burning outdoors any time of year, check with your fire district to make sure that day is an official burn day.
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JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

Libraries for all: Jackson County votes

BY CYNTHIA CHENEY

After years of uncertainty, Jackson County voters finally have the chance to guarantee permanent, secure funding for libraries. If voters approve a measure on the ballot in May, we will have our own special tax district to fund libraries. The district will be managed by its own elected board of unpaid directors, whose only business is the well-being of the libraries. It will be completely independent of county government.

Library funding history

Prior to 1998, Jackson County voters approved a series of "library levies" enabling the county to fund library services. When Oregon voters passed Measures 47 (1997) and 50 (1998), levies were rolled into the county's general fund. Since then the libraries have been just one department among the many that compete for funding from the county budget.

Beginning in 2000, safety-net funding from the federal government helped to replace lost county income from timber harvest revenue sharing, but that program ended in 2006. Many of you will remember when the county shut down all the libraries for six months in 2007 when those "timber payments" ended. Temporary extensions of the federal payments combined with major reductions in hours and services allowed the libraries to reopen late that year.

Last spring, sharp reductions in the county budget required the library to scale back materials purchases by 19 percent. Since then the county has experienced

lower-than-expected expenses and higher-than-expected revenues, so additional, anticipated service cutbacks in the second half of fiscal 2013-14 have been avoided.

Plan for a stable future

Unpredictable funding disrupts the library's ability to deliver the services and benefits you and your neighbors need and expect. The proposed library district will get the libraries off the funding roller coaster for good. Thirteen Oregon counties already have county-wide library districts established by their voters. Likewise, there are 13 smaller districts in other counties.

At a January 30 community meeting at the Ruch Library, County Commissioner John Rachor voiced his support for the Jackson County library district, emphasizing the benefits of no longer having to compete with other departments for county dollars, while placing decision-making in the hands of an independent board. Gayle Lewis stepped forward to lead the information and support effort in the Applegate/Ruch/Jacksonville area.

To learn more or to volunteer, contact Gayle or your Friends of the Library group: Gayle Lewis—gayleyn@hotmail.com or 541-899-7023; Friends of Applegate Library—Joan Peterson, joanpete5317@gmail.com or 541-846-6988; Friends of Ruch Library—Gerrie Leinfelder, gugg4or@gmail.com; Friends of Jacksonville Library—Joan Avery, mailavery@charter.net.

Cynthia Cheney
akanha@me.com

— Applegate Library —

The Friends of the Applegate Library (FOAL) held a board meeting on January 14 to discuss the upcoming ballot measure to approve the formation of a library district. Every city in the county voted for inclusion in the district and it is now up to us to persuade voters to support this important effort. Carol Hoon was able to obtain some bumper stickers from the Talent Library, which we will purchase through a printing company and hand out to our library patrons so we can all be involved in promoting the sustainability of our libraries.

Becoming a district means that our libraries will move out from under the governance of the county and will enjoy the stability of a permanent tax base and leadership of a separately elected board whose sole purpose is to guide our libraries. The proposed district funding offers hope

for expanded services at each library. If the ballot passes it could raise as much as \$9 million for the libraries.

Carol Hoon reported on the success of our hat sale. We were able to raise \$620 from the sale of our hand-knitted hats, and we are grateful to Carol for organizing this event and keeping it going throughout the holidays. We also raised \$198 from our annual book sale, despite the fire that had destroyed all of the books we had stored in our storage area.

FOAL gave a program on February 16 in the meeting room of the Applegate Library. Gay Bradshaw shared her work on rescuing desert tortoises. She is establishing a tortoise rehabilitation center through The Kerulos Center on Beaver Creek in the Upper Applegate.

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

— Ruch Library —

Thank you, Applegate Valley families and children, for your generous donations to our Lego collection, which is now very impressive. We will be having a Lego Fun event the first Saturday of every month for children four years and older from 1 to 3:30 pm. Adults also are encouraged to attend. Embrace your love of Legos! Lego time is offered after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:45 pm.

Something new at Ruch Library: Older children can listen to a book being read aloud while younger siblings are at Preschool Story Time. All children ages six and up are welcome to attend. Both activities will be on Tuesdays at 11:30 am.

Oregon Reads 2014 is a statewide program featuring the works of the late Oregon and National Poet Laureate William Stafford. Ruch Library will

be celebrating his life and works in April, which is Poetry Month. Check the Applegater's Facebook page and online calendar (www.applegater.org) for specific events.

The A-Frame Bookstore, operated by the Friends of Ruch Library, is open from 12 to 4 pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and from 1 to 5 pm on Thursdays. It is now brimming with new titles, including many pristine copies that make great gifts.

Don't forget that your library card is your ticket to a variety of databases offered through www.jcls.org. You can research medical information, learn languages, fix your car and much more!

We hope to see you soon at the library. For more information, contact Thalia Truesdell, branch manager, at 541-899-7438 or ttruesdell@jcls.org.



Williams Library: Providing valuable resources here and now

Technology services

The Internet has given us the ability to learn and connect like never before. Technology is a large part of what our libraries provide. Many of the people using our services are utilizing public-access computers, printers and Wi-Fi provided by Josephine Community Libraries. The value of libraries today is not replaced by, but is in fact *enhanced* by technology.

For rural communities like Williams, our technology services are vital to those who might otherwise be left behind in this digital age. Drive by any day of the week and you will see folks parked outside the library using the Wi-Fi (donated by Hunter Communications). When the library opens, people come in and print documents, check emails and social media, conduct research for school papers, and look for jobs online.

Newly completed wiring will allow us to soon provide more public-access

computers. Wi-Fi service inside and outside the library will now be even faster and more reliable. Williams Library is open in the here-and-now *and* has a free-to-the-public, community-sponsored, high-speed Internet hot spot!

We need a library district

Like the main branch in Grants Pass, demand for our services has grown since the county closed its libraries several years ago. Now run as a nonprofit, Josephine Community Libraries is a valuable part of the community in many ways. Patrons in Williams can request any book, audiobook, or DVD from any of the four branches. Volunteer couriers take the materials from branch to branch each week. Our libraries are available for group meetings, offer children's programs, and work with schools and adult educators to promote literacy.

Checking out library materials could easily save you hundreds of dollars per year! Although getting your library card is free,

we constantly rely on volunteers, donations, and grants to operate. This model is simply not sustainable into the future. We need the opportunities provided by a growing economy. Quality public libraries are at the heart of a sustainable economic future. A place where people can meet and share ideas, seek knowledge, and educate their children is a necessity for our community.

Upcoming events

We are having two yard sales this year to raise funds for Williams Adopt-an-Hour. Last July the community matched a generous donation by Herb Pharm to extend open hours from 9 to 12 hours per week. Save your household items for donation. The first sale will be Saturday, April 19, at the Williams Grange. Music, food, and activities for the kids included.

To join Friends of the Library, volunteer, or share your skills with local children, please stop by. The library is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 1 to 5 pm; Stories and Crafts is held on Saturdays at 2 pm. Wi-Fi is available 24/7.

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

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Love at any age: The joys of adopting a senior animal companion

BY BECKY OWSTON

White-muzzled and lumpy, the senior mutt with the strangely shaped head arrived at Sanctuary One in spring 2012 after languishing in a shelter in Crescent City, California. While he was friendly and mild-mannered, it seemed unlikely that this older, unusual-looking lab mix stood much chance of being adopted.



Tom Miller and friend Leo.

Leo, named for his tawny coat and regal demeanor, was quick to settle into the routine at the farm. As “granddad” of the dog pack, he was content to snooze in the sun, calmly tolerating the antics of the younger canines—and keeping them in line when necessary. He was the consummate gentleman with volunteers and visiting school kids, and was a much-loved walking companion. Even the ground squirrels residing near the trail knew they had nothing—or at least little—to fear when the old dog approached.

After ten months, Leo finally found a loving home with a local family. Says his guardian Tom Miller, “We’ve fallen head over heels in love with Leo. My wife Pat and I have adopted a number of senior dogs over the years, and while it’s sad when you know you won’t have them for 10 or 12 years, the old ones just seem to understand that someone finally wants them. Leo has a degenerative disease that affects his chewing and swallowing muscles. He’s also covered with scars from what was obviously a pretty rough life in the past. But for some reason, even after the hard life he’s had, he’s patient and gentle. In short, he’s a great dog and we really enjoy his company. I hope someone reading this will consider adopting an older animal. The rewards are tremendous.”

Sadly, in shelters across the country, senior animals typically wait much longer for new homes than their more youthful counterparts. Of course, adorable kittens and puppies are hard to resist. But seniors need love, too—and they’ve got lots to give in return! They’ve settled into their personalities (and size) so you know exactly what you’re getting. They’re usually house-trained and know basic commands. They’re much less likely to devour your shoes or destroy your furniture, and they know what it takes to get along with others.

Sanctuary One volunteer Mardra Hord has felt the senior love ever since she and her husband Jason adopted Tito, an older Chihuahua (and Sanctuary One alum), last winter. “We’ve had to get real about our limitations when it comes to dogs,” she explains. “Since we don’t have the energy levels that a puppy would need, we were specifically looking for an older dog. Older animals are calmer, seem to listen better and have a more centered sense of ‘self.’ And I think they adapt easier.”

As most guardians of older animals have experienced, Mardra and Jason were pleased by how quickly Tito fit into his new household. “He has blended in effortlessly and treated our other pets with respect,” says Mardra. “We haven’t had to expend a lot of energy to train and work with him—he was just right there on everything. It seems like someone else put in the training, and all we have to do is use it. We haven’t regretted bringing him home. Not once.”

Because helping senior animals is one of our primary goals, we’re especially gratified to know that these adoptions have enriched the lives of Leo, Tito and their loving guardians. Knowing that their time together will be shorter and vet bills may be higher, it takes a special person to adopt a senior animal. If you’ve been considering adopting, we hope you’ll consider welcoming an older companion into your life!

For more information, call 541-899-8627, visit www.SanctuaryOne.org or email info@sanctuaryone.org.

Becky Owston
Sanctuary One Volunteer
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The Top Hat corn story

BY JONATHAN SPERO

Nearly all of the improved varieties of sweet corn in the last half century or more have been bred as hybrids. Open-pollinated (OP) varieties, from which one can save seed, are way behind. Fortunately, this should not be too hard to remedy.

One of the simplest methods to create a more modern OP variety is to choose a good hybrid and “de-hybridize” it. This is done by growing the seed, then saving and replanting only the best for several generations until it is reasonably stable.

In 2002 I planted rows of 16 commercial hybrid sweet corn varieties just to pick the best one. I chose Tuxedo. It was the first to germinate and it grew ears with a long husk cover that provides some protection from insect damage. It held up pretty well under weed pressure and produced a fairly consistent two ears per plant.

The next year I grew a field of Tuxedo, saving 300 or more nice ears for seed. The following year we planted those seeds. “Top Hat” corn is 2013 seed from the sixth generation of Tuxedo.

Tuxedo is supposed to uniformly possess the sugary enhancer (*se*) gene, so I did not expect lack of sweetness to be an issue. I found, however, in the third-generation hybrid, that many of the samples weren’t all that sweet. So began the search for sweetness.

I selected only from plants with two good ears. I tasted the secondary ears and marked for keeping only the primary ears from the sweeter plants, about half of the population. This should increase sweetness in subsequent generations, but it could be a slow process.

Oregon plant breeder Carol Deppe, PhD, first told me that an individual sweet corn kernel that has more sugar will begin to wrinkle more slowly as it starts to dry sown. Alan Kapuler, PhD, also an Oregon plant breeder and a former Applegate Valley resident, said he had made use of this principle. John Juvik, PhD, professor of plant genetics at the University of Illinois, explained why it works: increased sugar causes greater osmotic potential or pressure from inside the kernel, causing it to resist the onset of wrinkling. If some



kernels on the ear are sweeter than others, would I be able to pick those out and get more quickly to uniformly sweet corn? I decided to find out.

I had tasted the secondary ear on each stalk when the corn was ripe, and flagged the primary ear of the sweeter ones left on the stalk. I harvested these chosen and flagged ears about two weeks past prime eating stage, before fully mature for seed. I husked the corn and placed the ears up so they were exposed to air. After a few hours or days, kernels would begin to wrinkle. Some kernels begin to wrinkle, some faster than others. When some, but not all, had started to wrinkle, I used a felt marker to paint those not yet wrinkled. I then put the entire ear up to dry and picked out the painted kernels. Only those painted kernels were used to grow the next generation.

This process was repeated for two more generations, with sweeter ears chosen by taste and slowest-to-wrinkle kernels saved from those ears. In 2013 I grew corn from these twice-selected kernels, the sixth generation from the hybrid Tuxedo.

Special thanks is extended to the Clif Bar Foundation, Seed Matters and the Organic Farming Research Foundation for funding the sweetness and kernel selection in Top Hat corn.

Special thanks also goes to John A. Juvik, PhD; James Myers, PhD; John Navazio, PhD; Alan Kapuler, PhD; and to Jared Zystro for providing advice and technical assistance on this project.

How well did all this work? How does Top Hat (OP) compare with today’s (first-generation hybrid) sweet corn? It is time to find out.

A limited number of Top Hat corn samples is available to seed companies for trials now, and Top Hat corn seed should be available for sale this coming fall.

Jonathan Spero
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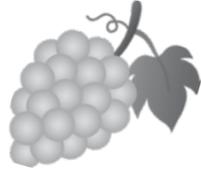
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Grape Talk: Grafting and creating custom grapevines



BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

Grafting has come up in my previous interviews with vineyard developers and wine makers so I decided to search for a vineyard nurseryman in order to shed some light on how grafting is used and where vineyard grafting started.

I interviewed Joe Ginnet of Plaisance Ranch, who has lived in the Applegate Valley all his life. In the 1890s, Joe's grandfather emigrated to the United States from Savoie, France, where the family was already vineyard nurserymen and wine grape growers. Joe's grandfather ended up in Jacksonville and planted grapes on Sterling Creek before Joe's father was born. But Joe studied animal husbandry at the University of California, Davis, not grapes. He got back to his grape roots only when one of his French cousins came for a visit in the 1990s.

Joe began growing grapevines and transitioning from the dairy business in the early 2000s. He learned everything he could about growing grapes and developing grape stock. Joe explained that he set out to learn everything about grafting and its uses in order to create custom vines and disease-resistant rootstock.

His French cousin continued to visit Joe yearly, helping Joe with his journey to

certified vineyard nurseryman.

Origins of grafting

Joe explained that grafting came about because French vines during the mid 19th century were infected by a root-destroying insect similar to an aphid. It was traced back to the eastern United States and probably arrived in France in packing material. Phylloxera, the soil-transmitted disease, was and is deadly to a vineyard. They found by accident that the rootstock of American vines was resistant to the soilborne phylloxera, so the French experimented by grafting American rootstock to European varieties, and developed a phylloxera-resistant plant.

According to Joe, grafting allows vineyard nurserymen to develop clones that resist disease, bear larger or smaller fruit, have shorter or longer fruit maturation rates, and are compatible with various types of soil. Grafting allows for all kinds of custom variations on the original *vitis vinifera* (common grapevine).

Joe showed me his very efficient grafting machine that creates the cuts to develop the perfect grafted rootstock for planting. He also had bins and bins of rootstock and uber rootstock (about three feet in length) waiting in his covered barn

to be planted in the spring.

Grafting can also be used for economic reasons. Field grafting is a way for a grower to change a varietal by grafting a new varietal (scion) onto his healthy rootstock. For example, if there is a demand for viognier grapes, you can graft a viognier varietal (scion) onto your healthy merlot rootstock; in much less time (one year), you will have a producing viognier vineyard where a merlot vineyard once grew. This kind of grafting requires a trained grafter who works with portable equipment, field-preparing and then grafting and sealing the grafts. Not an easy task, but easier than having to start over with new plants.

New grape clones and varieties

Joe and his cousins in France have collaborated on creating grape clones and varieties that are new to southern Oregon, including mondeuse, whose "mother vine" came from Joe's family vines in the Savoie area of France. These vines must be quarantined for a number of years to ensure that none of the many French vine diseases travel with them to American soil. The vines for planting a vineyard are expensive and the process labor-intensive, so it is important to work with a certified nurseryman to get disease-free plants for planting. There are many soilborne and airborne diseases ready to wipe out a vineyard, and grafting is one way to protect our valley's most important crop.

Plaisance Ranch tasting room is open daily at 16955 Water Gap Road, Williams, OR 97544. Phone: 541-846-7175.

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avrealty@gmail.com



Top photo: Joe Ginnet of Plaisance Ranch winery. Bottom photo: Healthy rootstock to be planted in spring.

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OPINIONS

Rogue climate trends and projections

BY ALAN R.P. JOURNET

The livelihood of many Applegate Valley residents is dependent on climate and planning for it. Although we often anticipate seasonal weather expectations from past averages, no longer are past averages helpful. What we now must consider are past trends and follow them into the future.

Local climate trends are available from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) using Medford data comparing mid-century (1930-1980) to late-century (1981-2010) averages. Additionally, data from the US Forest Service in Corvallis, used in a report by Doppelt (2008) covering the Rogue Basin, offer regional trends and projections.

Trends

The most obvious first issue is temperature. During the last century the average Rogue Basin temperature rose about 1.2 degrees while Medford, from mid to late century, rose 1.4 degrees with the average maximum and minimum temperatures rising 1.2 and 1.6 degrees, respectively. Meanwhile, the number of record low temperature days dropped substantially as that for record high days rose. As many probably already appreciate, from mid-century to late century Medford experienced increases in growing season (11.5 percent), frost-free days (8 percent), and freeze-free days (4.6 percent).

Precipitation, another important variable, exhibited an annual drop in Medford of 1.1 percent mid to late century, while in the Rogue Basin, including higher elevations, precipitation rose nearly one inch during the last century. Additionally, during the last century, precipitation patterns adjusted with rainfall occurring in heavier flood-inducing downpours rather than the kinder gentler rain that replenishes soil moisture. Snowfall is important locally since melting snow provides irrigation water during our dry summers. The trend at Crater Lake has been a drop in snowpack of 25 percent from the 1930s to this century, while in the Siskiyou of Northern California snowfall has dropped 11 percent since the 1950s. Medford snowfall also dropped—over 50 percent between mid and late century. With less snowpack and earlier snowmelt, peak river flow is earlier and lower.

Throughout the west, the wildfire season has expanded some two and a half months since 1970. NOAA's Regional Data Center shows Oregon suffering from

dry to drought conditions. Southwest Oregon experienced less than 50 percent "normal" precipitation for the last six months, while 2013 was the driest year on record for most of the region. Notably, reduced January to May precipitation will contribute substantially to the severity of the forthcoming fire season.

Projections

Assuming we continue the current gas emission trend, projections indicate an average annual regional temperature rise of over eight degrees possible by 2075-2085, with summer climbing nearly 12 degrees and August possibly 17 degrees.

Precipitation projections for the region suggest that, by late century, the summer growing season will be drier than historically, while winters might be a little wetter, and fall and spring will change little. Snowpack accumulation is projected to continue dwindling, possibly to 10 percent of the historical level by late century. The projection for stream flow is a shift to even earlier in the season with reduced flow, compromising irrigation needs exactly when greatest—in late summer and early fall.

As summers warm, lower precipitation suggests increased evapotranspiration (loss of water from the soil both by evaporation from the surface and by transpiration from the plants growing thereon) with increased drought and wildfire. As warming continues and spring arrives earlier, wildfires in Oregon will likely consume between three and five times more land area by mid-century.

These projections are not mere opinion, but represent continuations of the trends we have been seeing for many decades. They are based on a solid understanding of the physical properties of components of our planet and how they interact.

Continued "business as usual" will likely devastate our natural and agricultural systems along with our forests and fish populations. We must ask whether we are prepared to let this happen. Should we let burning fossil fuels compromise the livability of this region and planet for future generations or should we take steps to avoid that outcome? Our commitment and collaborative action alone will divert the trends.

Alan R.P. Journet, Co-facilitator
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
alanjournet@gmail.com

Introducing 'For Love of the Applegate'

A new focal point for our valley, For Love of the Applegate, aims to foster and enrich community spirit by knitting nonprofit organizations together to disseminate information about happenings in the valley as often as possible. Our intentions are to build a stronger rural community by enhancing communication, thereby enriching quality of life and a sense of belonging. Our primary values are love of community, cooperation, compassion, creativity and ecological balance.

We have reached out to over 20 nonprofit organizations, receiving loads of encouragement, excitement and acceptance. Though our website, forloveoftheapplegate.com, is still in progress, eventually it will offer up-to-date information about "What's goin' on in the Valley." We invite you to visit us there, to learn more about these organizations engaged in making a positive difference in our valley and the numerous opportunities to get involved, get to know each other better, and have some fun!

We are likely not aware of every local nonprofit community organization. So in case we have inadvertently missed yours, please contact us at our email address: forloveoftheapplegate@gmail.com.

In Community Spirit, Thalia Truesdell, Audrey Eldridge
Kristi Cowles • 541-846-7391
Erika Fey • 541-846-0922

The Josephine County ballot initiative to end government and corporate pesticide use

BY DARYL JACKSON

In 1995 Josephine County put herbicides on the ballot. All the rural voting precincts—like Williams, Wolf Creek, Selma and Cave Junction—voted to end the use of herbicides by Josephine County Public Works/Road Department. The only reason the initiative did not pass was because Grants Pass residents, who did not "have a horse in the race," voted it down because herbicides are not applied by the county within city limits. Regardless, the vote count was very close.

Almost 20 years have passed since that epic vote and the issues have changed—massively. Since that date literally tons of toxic chemicals have been applied by the county and, to make matters worse, private forestland industrial pesticide application has grown exponentially. We are being systematically poisoned from the top of our watersheds to the valley floor.

Example

Between 60 and 80 million pounds of atrazine is applied in America each year. Atrazine is a common component of the suite of herbicides sprayed on Josephine County forests. It has been proven to be one of the most toxic chemicals ever created by man. One of its most shocking and insidious effects is the "transgender" inducing process where the offspring of parents, having been sprayed, exhibit sex organs of the opposite sex growing in their bodies. The effect persists in generations that have not been sprayed. Entire nations have banned its use. It has been proven to be an endocrine disrupter and causes miscarriages, sexual development disorders, cancer, retinal damage, muscle wasting in humans and hermaphroditism in frogs. It is banned in most of Europe for groundwater

contamination.

Change is long overdue. *Whether or not you agree or disagree about the potential for toxicity*, as a citizen of this county, state, nation and planet, you should be alarmed that any entity has the ability to dump any chemicals on you without your permission or knowledge. This is known as chemical trespass. Trespass in any form is a violation of human rights. Being trespassed upon with toxic chemicals is especially insidious. Trespassing on nature is also a violation of an inalienable right.

The petition to place the initiative on the ballot is the beginning of an exciting and ground-breaking new campaign to assert our right to be free from pesticides. Written by a diverse group of local citizens right here in Josephine County, Oregon, the Freedom from Pesticides Bill of Rights codifies that right of the people in Josephine County—as well as the right of the natural community—to be free from trespass of chemicals associated with pesticide use. Towards this end, the initiative would prohibit corporations and government entities from using or applying pesticides within the county.

Public meetings to introduce the petition and ballot initiative will take place at locations throughout Josephine County, *the first in Selma and Williams in February closely followed by other events throughout Josephine County*. Look for meeting notices and the petition to put the NOSPRAY initiative on the November ballot, and visit freedomfrompesticidesalliance.org for more information.

Daryl Jackson, Staff Biologist
Williams Water Way Project
daryljackson22@gmail.com

Memories of the Applegate Store

It was about thirty years ago that I moved out to the Applegate. For the first twenty years I seldom missed my morning coffee at the Applegate store. At about seven AM I joined a group of Applegaters who had probably been going there since time immemorial.

I remember when things were a lot different... a lot more rustic. There was a pot-bellied stove in the corner and it was long before Scott put up his wonderful woodwork, before the booths were installedand when half the store was devoted to hardware.

I remember when Meghan and Emily would wait inside for the school bus. They're all grown up now.

I was there the day the kitchen stove exploded and Jim Wendt and I pulled Peggy out and doused the fire.

I was there the morning we heard that Tuffy was in intensive care after rolling his tractor. Someone lightened the mood by saying "He'll be OK. They'll have to drive a stake through his heart to kill him." I was there the day we heard that Tim Hoffman had hung himself in his front yard.

There aren't many who remember those days. So many have passed away: Brownie, Jasper, Bill Macy, my friend and neighbor, Max Butcher, Ralph Hendrickson, Betty, Kay, and one of my favorites, Gregg Yamada. Given some time, I could probably come up with several others. All gone.

I moved away from the Applegate store almost ten years ago. I miss it. I'd like to go back but it wouldn't be the same.

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Ed Rose
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OPINIONS

River Right: Signs and labels

BY TOM CARSTENS

The Metolius River is one of the most beautiful in Oregon. It is also one of the strangest. It begins somewhere beneath all that frothy lava west of Sisters and emerges fully formed from the base of Black Butte. Along its journey to the Deschutes Valley, it grows to 40 times its original volume, with no seasonal variation in flow. That's good for kayakers, but it's a cold ride: 48 degrees year-round! It's also a river with two distinct personalities: from the headwaters down to Canyon Creek the ride is fairly gentle; at that point there's a little sign: "Warning—Dangerous Rapids!" Now that's where I choose to haul out the kayak. I've hiked at least four miles beyond that sign and those dangerous rapids just keep keeping on! Signs mean a lot.

Our grocery products come with a lot of signage. Calories, fats, ingredients, chemicals, warnings...you name it. Many of these foods also contain something called genetically modified organisms or GMOs. These are genes from a bunch of different organisms that are spliced together to form vegetable seeds that have so-called "desirable" characteristics. Some are resistant to pests or to herbicides like Roundup. Some have better crop yields. Some require less watering. And so on. This has been ongoing since the mid 90s and affects almost all corn and soy products. So, if you buy sodas, salad dressing, boxed cereal, corn snacks, or meat (think animal feed), you've been eating GMO foods.

So far, no state, national, or international scientific regulatory agency has found any safety or nutritional problem with these foods. But some folks have a problem with this business of mixing genes from completely different species—say, salmon and tomatoes (for thicker skins). Sounds yucky, doesn't it. To alert consumers, more than 60 countries now require labeling in grocery stores. But because of lower farm costs and higher yields, many believe that GMO foods could be the salvation for the world's poor. No US state requires labeling of these products.

November Ballot: Label GMOs?

Oregon could be the first. Come November, Oregonians are going to get a chance to vote whether or not to require labeling of these foods. This ballot initiative is sponsored primarily by growers and consumers of organic produce. Since genetic engineering is not permitted in products labeled "organic," they believe that GMO-labeling will empower consumers with greater knowledge and healthier choices. The thing is, organic products are

already labeled. Proudly. And those of us who want them can find them easily. So why require GMO labeling, especially if there's no science-based health or safety concerns? Maybe we'd be better off if we saved the warning labels for the dangerous stuff—just like we do on the rivers. Oregon voters rejected GMO-labeling once before in 2002. So did California in 2012 and Washington last year.

May Ballot: Ban GMOs?

Which brings us to another GMO ballot initiative, this one coming up for a vote in May. Organic food promoters are asking Jackson County residents to ban the growing of any genetically modified crops within county borders. The idea is that GMO crops like sugar beets could cross-pollinate and contaminate similar small farm organic crops, like organic Swiss chard. The county farm bureau opposes a ban because it would unnecessarily restrict the rest of the county growers. Think of it as a food fight between farmers. The Oregon legislature has already prohibited similar initiatives in other counties, preferring a uniform statewide policy. The governor says he'll appoint a task force to figure out a way to avoid cross-pollination and seed mingling. The farmers in the Willamette Valley have formed an association to work out buffer zones and field separation distances. It's a compromise that seems to be working.

GMO crops already go through a 13-year testing process before being approved by the Federal Drug Administration or Department of Agriculture. Why should lil ol' Jackson County ban them? How can a county that can't keep its own libraries open possibly afford to monitor and enforce a sweeping prohibition like this? (More taxes, anyone?) And what happens to the farm families who already grow GMO crops? (Lawsuits, anyone?) Both sides in this dispute have huge business and marketing interests. Why not take a look at other agricultural regions and see how they're working it out? Like scouting river rapids, we should be able to figure out the actual dangers and routes to avoid them—before making an expensive commitment with unintended consequences.

For a science-based look at this issue, check out the April 2010 National Academy of Sciences report, *The Impact of Genetically Engineered Crops on Farm Sustainability in the United States*. (Google "National Academy of Sciences GMO Crops.")

See you on the river.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

Good neighbor?

BY SUSAN BRATT

What does it take to be a good neighbor? It's not just our interaction with each other, but with the earth and all her dependents. The health of animals, insects, plants and trees depends on our actions. If we waste the land, water and air, what is left for our children and their children?

Recently the Applegate Valley has seen what commercial agribusiness can do with large parcels of Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) farmland on North Applegate Road. The miles of fences leave few, if any, access for wildlife to get to the river. Applications of herbicides, fungicides and pesticides are another problem. Just take the example of Monsanto's Roundup. Its primary active ingredient is glyphosate, but one of its inert ingredients, polyethoxylated tallowamine (POEA), is far more dangerous. There are over 4,000 inert ingredients that have been approved by the EPA, yet extensive studies have shown many of them to be *not* inert at all. In a June 23, 2009, *Scientific American* article, "Weed-Whacking Herbicide Proves Deadly to Human Cells," it calls glyphosate's inert partner POEA "more deadly to human embryonic, placental and umbilical cord cells than the herbicide itself—a finding the researchers call 'astonishing.'"

In the late 70s the Bureau of Land Management wanted to spray herbicides on the Humbug Creek Road watershed using helicopters. The Applegate community came together in force to protest. We won, thus protecting not only the school's well,

but also the neighbor's wells uphill. We won that time because we cared.

Research has proven that these sprays travel easily through air and earth to water sources. If these toxic sprays are so safe, would you spray your vegetable garden with them and then eat the produce? Why, in the year 2014, do we still allow these products to even be sold?

So what we need to do is not waste any more time, but take personal action. Know that toxic spray trespass (drift) is *not* allowed and that there are regulating laws to protect you, your family and your land. Vote for laws to protect us! We need to speak out, discuss our concerns with neighbors, eat only organic and non-GMO foods, stop using any toxic products and find alternative organic sprays and farming practices to use.

Here are some websites to check out: Beyond Pesticides—www.beyondpesticides.org; Pesticides Action Network/Advancing Alternatives to Pesticides—www.panna.org; "Roundup & Glyphosate Toxicity Have Been Grossly Underestimated" and "Monsanto's Roundup Herbicide May Be Most Important Factor In Development of Autism & Other Diseases"—www.articles.mercola.com.

Special thanks to all good our neighbors who farm and garden considering the health and well-being of our beautiful Applegate Valley and all who live here. Let's take less and leave more.

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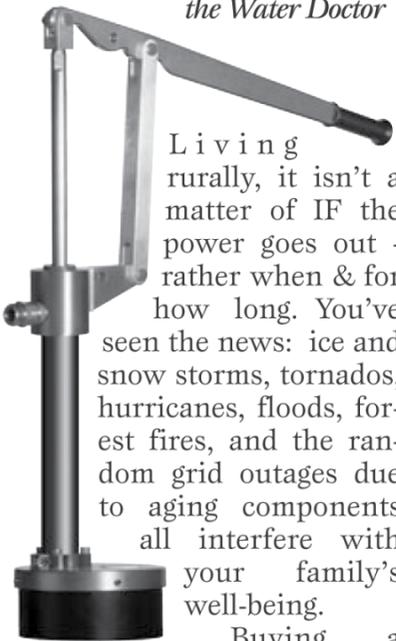
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HAPPY EASTER!



Progress update on Thompson Creek Habitat Restoration Project

BY JAKOB SHOCKEY

At the time of this writing in late January, we have had very little winter rain in southwestern Oregon. The water level in my family's pond hasn't yet risen from where last August's heat left it, and the November run of coho salmon are still waiting in the Applegate River, unable to get up into the tributaries to spawn. Humbug and Forest Creeks are still dry and Thompson Creek does not have enough water for these big fish to complete their journey from the sea. We have no control over this—the rain or the snowpack in the mountains—and, like our forebears, we can only prepare for the summer ahead with the knowledge that water will be scarce.

However, we—the private landowners of this valley—can have great impact on the health of our low-gradient waterways. For as our water trickles out of the steep forests managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service, it slows down in the valley's private lands, sinking into our water table, providing irrigation to our crops and invaluable habitat for riparian-dependent species of wildlife, plants and insects. This is the part of the water equation that we *do* have a say in. Protecting and improving the health and complexity of our riparian areas directly correlates with how well this valley's people and wildlife can weather water shortages and drought.

Between the five- and seven-mile markers of Thompson Creek Road, 11 landowners have come together as a group to work with the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) in a large-scale stream restoration project. This project received funding and support from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Ecotrust Whole Watershed Restoration Initiative, Pacific Power's Blue Sky Fund, federal Title II and 319 funds, and American Forests. Work kicked off last summer with the installation of over 70 logs in the stream channel. These logs, donated by BLM and the forest service, were keyed into the stream in multi-log complexes to enhance fish habitat, groundwater recharge and stream complexity. This work was completed by valley residents Chas Rogers, Arthur Sherman, Chuck Dahl and "Dan the backhoe man." The final set of logs will be installed this summer.

This winter, Dan and Dave Bish from the local Plant Oregon nursery mechanically removed invasive vegetation (mostly Himalayan blackberries and poison hemlock) from the riparian areas of participating landowners, and in February they planted over 8,800 native seedlings. The APWC is also working with local fishing clubs, both the Southern Oregon Fly

Fishers and the Middle Rogue Steelheaders, whose members have helped with planting along both the Thompson Creek project and on Forest Creek. Landowners and the APWC have cooperated to fence livestock out of the creek and this summer, everyone will be working together to keep the young plantings watered.

This project continues to succeed only because residents of our valley set aside their differences and came together to protect and strengthen the health of our waterways. With this kind of collaboration we can get things done.

Please contact the APWC if you are interested in assisting through volunteer efforts, donations and/or participating in our Thompson Creek Habitat Restoration Project.

Jakob Shockey
541-890-9989

Riparian Program Manager, APWC



Hadley Dunlevy plants a young big-leaf maple on Thompson Creek.

Barriers by any name are still hurdles for fish and landowners

BY JANELLE DUNLEVY

Barrier, blockade, hurdle, obstacle, obstruction, and barricade—they all mean the same thing but can have varying levels of difficulty for fish and potential safety hazards for humans. The Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) is working to create an updated database of barriers that impede migration upstream and downstream to juvenile and adult salmonids, lamprey and resident trout. The last time a project like this was implemented was in the late 1990s by the Rogue Basin Coordinating Council. We have found with some preliminary evaluations that some of the fish-passage barriers listed as passable in the late 1990s are now impassable to salmon, while some, such as the Butcherknife Creek culvert, have become extreme safety hazards for the landowners who use them daily.



Butcherknife Creek Culvert, a tributary of Slate Creek, is both impassable by salmon and a safety hazard for the landowners crossing it daily.

The Butcherknife Creek culvert is a large, metal arch culvert that provides the main ingress and egress to residents up Butcherknife Creek Road and Onion Mountain Road. The bottom of this

culvert has rusted completely through in numerous places, giving it the appearance of a cheese grater. This "grater" can do extreme harm to aquatic species moving up and down the creek, but even more importantly, it has greatly compromised the integrity of the culvert, making it a hazard to the residents who have to cross it on a daily basis.

The outcome of our barrier update project will be an action plan that ranks fish passage issues and the condition of the barriers. This action plan will be provided to interested community members via the

APWC website. We hope this work will help us develop relationships with the landowners that will result in mutually beneficial projects such as improved habitat for fish and wildlife, improved safety conditions for landowners, irrigation-efficiency projects (including reduced maintenance to in-stream irrigation controls), reduced maintenance to roads by replacing undersized culverts, and improved property values.

We need your help and involvement to complete this project. The APWC will be contacting landowners in the Slate Creek, Thompson Creek and Humbug Creek watersheds regarding this barrier update project. Funding assistance is attainable, but it takes time and cooperation with the landowners to make this partnership come to fruition. If you have a barrier on your property that is not used anymore, or one that might need to be improved, please contact us. If you live in the Slate Creek, Thompson Creek or Humbug Creek watersheds, please look for a flyer coming to you in the mail soon for a public informational meeting in March.

If you have questions about these projects, please contact me at 541-899-9982 or barrierupdate@apwc.info. Information also will be placed on our website, so please visit www.apwc.info/our-projects/barrier-updates/.

Janelle Dunlevy • 541-899-9982
Coordinator, APWC
coordinator@apwc.info

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MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Money talks

BY CHRIS BRATT

I hate to put a wet blanket on anyone's future lifestyle, but let's face it, most of you have it too good. If you or others you know have lost a job, seen reductions in pension benefits, felt the crunch of expired unemployment benefits, or experienced declining "entitlements," be prepared for more of the same. Undoubtedly, people are going to have to lower their expectations about what they're going to get in this life because we must reduce the budget deficit.

The above heartless nonsense represents the views being portrayed and talked about by our country's wealthiest one percent. They are also having their lobbyists push for significant cuts to poor people's welfare benefits in the halls of Congress. Recent new reports, studies and accounts show that this small number of greedy, super-rich people and large corporations with unparalleled wealth are tampering with our environment and the well-being and livelihood of everyone across the globe.

About 100 corporate CEOs (the

same unethical CEOs who brought on the economic downturn of the past six years) are now calling for cuts to our earned and welfare benefit programs. These very, very rich CEOs (each of these folks will average \$65,000 per month for the rest of their lives after retiring at age 65) have formed a corporate-funded lobbying group called "Fix the Debt." This group's real objective is to campaign for massive new corporate tax cuts for the large corporations they represent. They expect to "Fix the Debt" by reduced spending on benefits and pensions for millions of workers, retirees and people who really need financial assistance and jobs with decent wages. Their contention is that the burden of fixing our growing economic problems should rest on the shoulders of the middle and lower classes and not the billionaires.

What is happening to our hard won living wages and benefits working people struggled for over the past century? Are we going to go back to a 12-hour workday, child labor in our factories, and no health

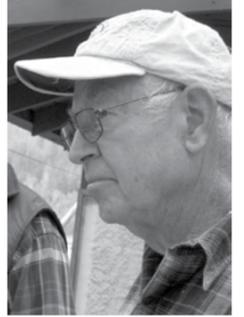
or safety insurance? I hope not. And what about our opportunities for achieving the promises of the American Dream for our middle and lower classes? Those dreams—of prosperity, fairness and a better future for our kids and grandkids as the reward to anyone who works hard—have become nightmares. The American Dream is an illusion now that an upper class is running the show by exploiting the poor and shifting the focus of government from the will of the people to the will of the moneyed.

We are repeating the depression-era (1930s and early 1940s) income disparities and joblessness. Again we are allowing the super-rich to frame the future of our society while few of us know or understand the true wealth and power these rich people and corporations possess. They can poison our community's water supply (as they did with the recent chemical spill in West Virginia), endanger the health of workers and consumers, and corrupt our political system with big campaign

contributions. They can conduct these operations with little or no accountability to the public.

As a partial solution to our social and economic woes caused by this top-heavy wealth distribution, I suggest we begin to reform our financial system through restrictions on how much the mega-rich can accumulate. We need to know when enough is enough for the realities of life. Rather than further income tax cuts for the richest people and corporations (remember, "corporations are people, too"), I recommend much higher income taxes. It's only fair that they make a greater contribution to the general welfare of the country that allowed them to become rich in the first place. Also, this will be a good start at equalizing the power that these super-rich exercise over all our lives.

Let me know if you've had enough.
Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

Applegate Valley Community Grange news

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Wonderful news! Mark your calendar for an Upper Applegate Grange favorite tradition being revived. Clue number 1: It is a community dinner that was held in March for many, many years by the members of the Upper Applegate Grange. Gussed yet? Clue number 2: Wear Green! YES, the **St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner** will be happening in 2014 on Sunday, March 16, from 11 am to 2 pm. Bring your appetite, family, and friends to 3901 Upper Applegate Road to join with the Applegate Valley Community Grange (AVCG) members to celebrate. Wear some green and enjoy food from the menu of corned beef, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, drinks and dessert. Much of the food will be local and organically or naturally grown.

Many hands will help plan and put this meal together, including members of AVCG and volunteers from the community. Anyone wishing to help support or lend a hand for a Grange event should make contact with a member (see last paragraph).

Proceeds from this and other fundraisers help the AVCG with the community service projects it supports, the public meetings it sponsors, the programs it presents, and upkeep on the Grange building. The Grange is currently using some of those designated funds to reroof the entry area and the restrooms.

For more updates about this great event, more information about

the Grange or about renting space, or browsing for upcoming happenings, go to our website at www.grange.org/applegatevalleycommunityor839. Put this address in your favorites list and stay current with us year-round. Under "Events," you will find upcoming activities and events lists as soon as Grange members get a date set and planning is under way. Watch for information about ping-pong practices for a tournament at the Grange hall this spring.

Do you remember when there were play performances at the Grange hall in the past years? Well, there is a very local, active theater group looking for a place to perform on stage, so the hall will soon be filled again with the sounds of rehearsals. Watch for the posting of a play at the Grange this year and find out the name of this local spirited group.

Hope to see you soon at the Applegate Valley Community Grange where new activities keep happening and the membership keeps growing. Contacts for the Grange are President Paul Tipton at applegategrange@gmail.com or 541-846-7501; Secretary Connie Murphy at applegategrangesecretary@gmail.com; and Membership/Hall Rental Representative Janis Mohr-Tipton at janismohrtipton48@frontier.com or 541-846-7501.

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

More about the Medford Food Project

BY ARLENE AND CLAUDE ARON

We mentioned in the last issue of the *Applegater* that we were working on a way for the Applegate community to participate in the Medford Food Project (medfordfoodproject.com). We're now ready to go!

The Medford Food Project serves all of Jackson County. Our own Applegate Food Pantry, which operates at Ruch School, has received thousands of pounds of food through our participation in this project. We hope that those of you who can afford to do so will join in this worthwhile community effort—you will be helping your neighbors who are struggling with hunger and you will feel better for it!

How you can participate

Starting in early February, pick up a green canvas bag at one of these locations: Applegate Fire Station (1085 Upper Applegate Road), Tiffany's Outpost, or Ruch Country Store.

Whenever you shop for food, buy one

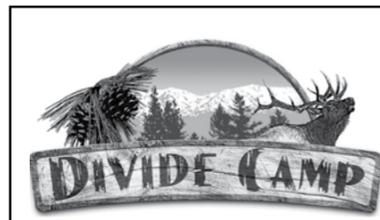
extra item and put it in the bag.

Every two months, on a designated Friday, drop your bag at any of the above locations and pick up a new one for the next cycle.

Drop-off dates in 2014 (all Fridays): April 11, June 13, August 8, October 10, and December 12. Please drop bags off on these designated dates only, as these locations can't store them for extended periods of time.

One of our volunteers will pick up the food at each of these locations on the day after the drop-off date and deliver it to the distribution site in Medford. This is an easy way to help your neighbors in need and the Applegate Food Pantry hopes you'll choose to participate. Let's show the rest of Jackson County that we Applegaters are part of the solution to solving hunger in our communities!

Questions? Contact Arlene or Claude Aron at 541-951-6707.



A big thank you to Tiffany and all who made contributions to Divide Camp on the Donation Tree at the Outpost!

Julie Wheeler, Divide Camp

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Pacifica needs Activity Coordinator

Pacifica wishes to make better use of its facilities in 2014, so is looking for someone to coordinate activities. Weddings, concerts, reunions are some of the events that occur regularly, though sporadically. Ideally the coordinator would live fairly close to the Williams Valley and have experience in supervising and facilitating such events. Compensation and duties can be negotiated. With wedding season close at hand, we'd like someone to come on board soon. Please call 541-846-1100 or send email to peg@pacificagarden.org.

Pacifica would also like to add a few energetic folks to its working board. Contact us by phone or write to ray@pacificagarden.org if you're interested. For more information, go to www.pacificagarden.org.

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

Ruch School gives back to the community

Ruch Community K-8 School is turning 100 years old!

On May 16, 1914, Ruch School was dedicated to the children of the Applegate Valley. One hundred years would see our small, rural school, with the help of our community, thrive, struggle, celebrate success, emerge and sustain itself as an exemplary place of education.

There exists in our small school a sense of pride and an attitude and sense of personal possession and involvement on the part of students, teachers, administrators and community residents. To a great degree, our school is the community center of our beautiful Applegate Valley.

As a result of our volunteers and community members being an integral part to the success of our school, for our 100th birthday we would like to give our community a present!

Similar to the events that took place in 1914, we are planning a dedication of the original school building and renaming it as Ruch School Community Center to serve the greater Applegate area. Because of its location and size, meetings, conferences, celebrations etc., can be held in a location that is centrally located.

However, there is work to be done! With the partnership of Batzer Crane and the Medford School District, renovations are planned to update and equip the space

for its intended use. A new cupola will house the 100-year-old bell, conference tables and other furniture. We would like to present the building at our Community Celebration on May 17, with reflections of its esteemed 100 years of service. This will include a working kitchen to provide food services and a museum of past and present photographs and artifacts.

If you have artifacts or photographs that you would like to share or donate to our museum, if you would like to make a monetary donation, if you want to help in the construction, be part of the process or just obtain more information, please call the school at 541-842-3850 or visit us at 156 Upper Applegate Road.

More importantly, if you are a past educator, administrator or student of Ruch School, this party is for you! Please register for the birthday/reunion celebration by contacting the school directly or going to the Medford School District website and click on Ruch School. There you will find a page titled Ruch Centennial Reunion Celebration. A link is provided to take you through the registration process. Please join us in celebrating 100 years!

Thank you for your support and Happy Birthday Ruch School!

Julie Hill • 541-842-3850

Principal, Ruch School
julie.hill@medford.k12.or.us

Ruch School Reading Program wins award

Oregon Reading Association (ORA) wishes to congratulate Ruch School, Community K-8 for participating and winning the Exemplary Reading Program Award!

Visitors from ORA visited Ruch School along with other schools around the state of Oregon. The selection committee was impressed with the thoughtfulness of the program and recognized the literacy-centered approach with various components throughout the building: Books highlighted in the office, readers recognized in morning community time (Jump Start), books as rewards, SMART Program, principal's book club, and the many ways the teachers were developing vocabulary, comprehension, and thoughtful responses to literature.

Ruch School is very proud of its teachers, support staff, volunteers, parents and community members, and the Medford School District who have joined together to make education a priority for its students and provide the very best education.

"We are Ruch Community School and we are enriching the lives of our students and our community members! Go Cougars!" —Julie Hill, Principal, Ruch School.

APPLEGATE SCHOOL

Applegate School art and nature program

Art and Nature After School is a program at Applegate School open to fourth and fifth graders, homeschooled children and children of Applegate, Williams, and Ruch areas since 2008. We began as an art program and shifted a few years ago to a nature theme to include the outdoors. The outdoor education includes wildflower walks, care of butterfly habitats, greenhouse planting of milkweeds, and sometimes chasing butterflies.

This year we began with insect drawings using watercolor and ink, which have been shown at two art shows recently. Other indoor nature projects were ornament-making with milkweed pods and making seed balls with a butterfly-hummingbird seed mix.

Through this program we support monarch butterfly habitat

by growing and selling two native milkweed species that will grow in any garden in this area. We also start and sell a non-native milkweed called swamp milkweed, which attracts many other pollinators and is also used by the monarch.

Our current greenhouse project is the planting of two native milkweed species and the swamp milkweed that we hope will be ready for sale this spring. Although there is a third local native milkweed species, to my knowledge seeds and plants are not readily available at this time. We will grow *Asclepias fascicularis* (narrowleaf milkweed) and *Asclepias speciosa* (showy milkweed). A non-native *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed) will also be offered. And we will have a lesson on soil-mixing and more propagating of milkweed plants.

Monarch butterfly populations have been on the decline and there is significant habitat loss throughout our urban, rural and agriculture areas. In the Midwest and other areas they are also threatened from the use of pesticides in agriculture and local use. Hopefully we are locally aware enough to use these sparingly and carefully, or find organic means for agricultural farming.

Not much is known about the Pacific



Applegate School students mixing an organic soil for milkweed planting.



Carlén and Macy plant native milkweed seeds in the Applegate School greenhouse.

Northwest migration of the monarch butterfly, but currently there are experts studying it with the help of monarch groups or citizen scientists. I have been welcomed to participate in providing information for a scientific study and tagging monarchs as they migrate. I plan to tag monarchs from our habitat in Applegate as well as in the field.

If you would like to help monarchs as they migrate through our valleys and north to British Columbia, and also on their return to Northern California and possibly Mexico, please consider buying some milkweed from our Monarchs and Milkweed program to restore some of our local habitat losses. Try planting some in or near your flowers to attract the monarch to your home to help them on their journey and increase their populations naturally.

Recommendation: Use locally grown and native seeds of Oregon rather than purchasing them from out of state. Non-local or out-of-state seeds or plants may have been treated. Applegate School also has seeds for sale.

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



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Voices of the Applegate concerts

Voices of the Applegate began their winter-spring rehearsals on January 16 at 7 pm in the Ruch Library. We are a community choir; no auditions are necessary. We love to sing four-part harmony in a variety of arrangements from classical to modern. All are invited to attend our rehearsals and become part of our energetic choir directed by Blake Weller.

This session will consist of 13 rehearsals, and our concerts will be on Friday, April 11, at 7:30 pm at the Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, and on Sunday, April 13, at 3 pm at the Applegate River Lodge. We will meet each Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 pm in the meeting room of the Ruch Library. We have an exciting program to look forward to consisting of six Brahms folk songs, two songs from Africa and a medley of Beach Boy numbers.

The concerts are free, but donations are welcome. Refreshments will be available for the Applegate concert.

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

Native milkweed for monarch butterfly recovery

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Monarch butterflies that live east of the continental divide embark on a spectacular annual migration to winter roost sites in oyamel trees in the mountains of Michoacán, Mexico. In 2013 the World Wildlife Fund-Telcel Alliance and Mexico's National Commission of Protected Areas found that "the nine hibernating colonies [in Mexico] occupy a total area of 2.94 acres of forest—representing a 59 percent decrease from the 2011-2012 survey of 7.14 acres."

Monarch butterflies that live west of the continental divide, including monarchs that migrate through the Applegate Valley, overwinter in various groves of trees along the central and southern California coast. The International Environmental Law Project released a report in 2012, *The Legal Status of Monarch Butterflies in California*, which states that "observations from annual counts of overwintering butterflies in California reveal monarch population declines of approximately 90 percent across most sites with some sites faring significantly worse."

There are many reasons for this significant decline, including agricultural and urban development, pesticides, logging of overwintering habitat in Mexico, climate change, and loss of milkweed, the main food source for monarch larvae.

Milkweed has long had a bad rap because of its potential toxicity to livestock. Many farmers consider the plant a weed and either spray it with herbicides or simply plow it under; however, female monarch butterflies lay their eggs exclusively on the leaves of milkweed plants. These host plants

are the only food that monarch caterpillars will eat. As the caterpillars ingest milkweed the toxins in the plant are stored in their bodies, making the caterpillars and adults toxic to many predators.

The Applegate Valley is home to three native species of milkweed: showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), narrowleaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*), and purple milkweed (*Asclepias cordifolia*).

Showy milkweed can be spotted in the Applegate along roadsides, in drainage ditches, in unplowed fields, and other locations within the valley bottom. This species ranges from the Midwest to the West Coast and north into Canada. This is the largest of the milkweed species in the Applegate and the most common. Showy milkweed is considered one of the least toxic milkweeds.

Narrowleaf milkweed is found mainly in the eastern part of the Applegate Valley as it transitions into the Rogue Valley, where it is more common. It has a long, narrow leaf and small, pale pink flowers with a distribution that includes most western states down to Baja California. This plant is rhizomatous and spreads readily. It prefers to grow in full sun with dry or moist conditions.

Purple milkweed is a spectacularly beautiful species that is native to parts of California, Nevada and Oregon. Purple milkweed has a more dispersed distribution within the Applegate than the showy or narrowleaf milkweed and is less well-known. Purple milkweed prefers to grow on rocky slopes or outcrops in woodland and coniferous forests. In the Applegate

it can be found mainly in the foothills, with known populations in the Upper Applegate and Little Applegate. Native Americans used the fiber in milkweed plants for the creation of ropes and nets. Anthropologists found a 40-foot-long deer net made from purple milkweed that required an estimated 35,000 plant stalks to construct.

The monarch population continues to decline at an alarming rate. If we don't act soon to increase, protect and restore monarch habitat, we may see the population of this majestic and iconic species dwindle.

A Monarch and Milkweed workshop is scheduled for April 24, 2014, at the Oregon State University Extension. Call Jane Moyer at 541-665-0792 for details.



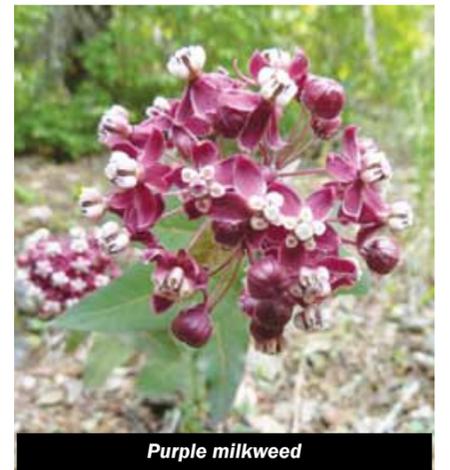
Narrowleaf milkweed

Tom Landis, a retired forest service nursery specialist, is leading this workshop. One topic will be the creation of monarch "way stations" and the promotion of monarch habitat restoration by planting milkweed and nectar plants.

Suzie Savoie
asarum@wildmail.com



Showy milkweed



Purple milkweed



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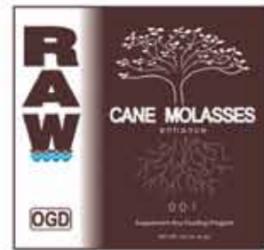
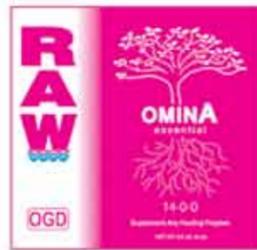
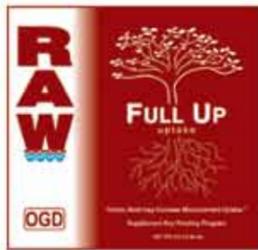
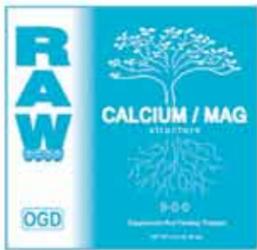
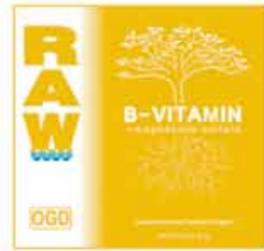
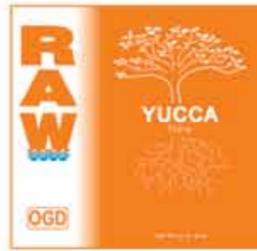
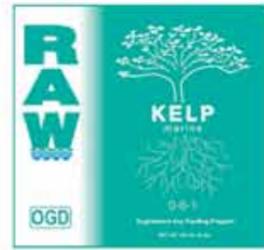
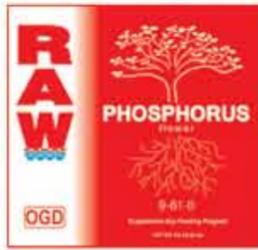
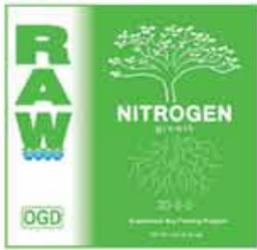
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Photo, far left:

— **Armand Rebeschke** cools off with the *Applegater* at Bintan Island, Indonesia, a one-hour ferry ride east of Singapore.

Photo, left center:

— **John Taylor**, former Oregonian and world traveler, recites *Gater* poems to a Maori-carved post in Hastings, New Zealand.

Photo, near left:

— **Adam Taussig**, 6, of Los Angeles reads the seniors section of the *Gater* out loud to his deaf grandfather.

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