

Applegater

Photo by Teya Jacobi

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SUMMER 2014
Volume 7, No. 2

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 10,400

Postal Patron

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Look out for fire season 2014!

BY STEVE ZIEL

It seems like every fire season is different. The following may provide a sense of how this fire season may develop in southwest Oregon.

Currently southwest Oregon is entering a second year of drought, which is expected to continue or intensify between now and what we call "fire season." The length and severity of a fire season is determined by conditions preceding the summer months; this "lead-up time" provides some insight to consider over the course of the next several months. But don't feel alone—as we transition into the upcoming fire season, much of the West is also experiencing similar conditions.

Prime indicator

A prime indicator of our current situation and the season to come has been the lack of normal rainfall since November 2013. The conspicuous lack of snow at higher elevations provides strong evidence that things are different this year—the Rogue and Umpqua basins currently have less than 25 percent of their median snow-water equivalent, with large areas already bare of snow! Worth noting is that we ended 2013 with less than 50 percent of average precipitation (2013 turned out to be the driest year on record for Medford, Roseburg, Klamath Falls and the city of Mt. Shasta). In 2012 Medford recorded just 8.99 inches of rain, shattering previous record lows (average rainfall for Medford is 18.25 inches).

Much of our precipitation since last

fall was in the form of short-duration events rather than the long-term "soaking rains" from frequent winter/spring storms. Fall-to-spring moisture

serves to penetrate and saturate our fuels and soil. It is this stored moisture that governs the onset and moderates the severity and duration of a fire season. This year seems different: the fall and winter seasons were dry, and most of our spring moisture came in March. A recent three-month outlook by the National Weather Service forecasts "above-average temperatures, and below-average precipitation" for southwest Oregon. By all indications it may be warmer and drier than usual through June before it gets the hottest and driest in July and August.

Effects of drought on fire season

So, we are in the second year of drought, the forecast is for warmer and drier conditions, and we don't have much snow in the mountains with summer just around the corner. How might this affect our fire season?

Southwest Oregon is densely forested by conifer, hardwood, and brush species that serve as "fuel" during fire season. Our



See FIRE SEASON, page 14

Recreation in the Applegate

BY DIANA COOGLE

Are you looking for outdoor recreation in the Applegate this summer? There's plenty to enjoy!

Trail opportunities

• **Hiking.** Superb! Easy to difficult trails, in woods or up mountains, with views, trees, wildflowers, streams, meadows, and Pacific Crest Trail access. Go to the US Forest Service (USFS) website (www.fs.usda.gov/rogue-siskiyou) and click on "hiking" or ask at the Star Ranger Station (541-899-3800). Good hiking books specific to the area include Luke Ruediger's *The Siskiyou Crest: Hikes, History and Ecology*; Evelyn Roether's *Williams Area Trail Guide*; Diana Coogle and Janeen Sathre's *Favorite Hikes of the Applegate: A Trail Guide with Stories and Histories*; and several books by Art Bernstein, most specifically *76 Day-Hikes within 100 Miles of the Rogue Valley*. Also check the websites

of Applegate Trails Association (www.applegatetrails.org), Siskiyou Uplands Trail Association (www.sutaoregon.org), Bureau of Land Management (www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/tablerock/index.php) and The Nature Conservancy (<http://nature.org/trihikes>).

• **Mountain biking.** Many trails are open to mountain bikers. Check with Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association (www.rvmba.org) or with the Applegate Ranger District of the USFS (541-899-3800), or look on the USFS website at www.fs.usda.gov/mrecremain/rogue-siskiyou/recreation.

• **Horseback riding.** Excellent riding on lots of old logging roads and trails. Check with Grayback Brushriders in Williams (find them on Facebook), the Rogue Valley Equestrian Trails Association (www.rveta.org), and other horse people.

• **Running.** A few years ago Rogue Valley Runners staged a nationally highlighted cross-country run through the Applegate—from Williams to Ashland, up mountains and down. You can run anywhere in the Applegate, but be careful on the roads. Shoulders are very narrow and gravelly.



Enjoy mountain biking in southern Oregon.
Photo: southernoregonmtb.blogspot.com.

• **Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV).** Many opportunities, including Stein Butte at Applegate Lake and Summit Lake trail at Squaw Lakes. For ideas, check with the Bureau of Land Management (541-618-2200), the USFS (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/rogue-siskiyou/>)

See RECREATION, page 12

Voters support Southern Oregon Research and Extension!

•
Jack Duggan voices his appreciation on page 5.

INSIDE THE GATER

Award-winning maple syrup.....page 2
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Award-winning maple syrup prompts forest cleanup

BY LAIRD FUNK

One of my favorite winter recreational pursuits, as some of you may know, is tapping our local bigleaf maples to make maple syrup. There are very few activities that entice you outside in the coldest times of the year, but tapping creates a mind-set that allows you to ignore the chill as you gather gallons of sap and boil them down to that wonderful liquid, maple syrup.

My third year tapping was different from the previous ones. The maple trees as well as humans noticed our critical lack of rainfall and responded differently than with a normal rain year. All over the maple tapping areas, sap yield was much diminished—if sap flowed at all. Those trees in my woods that did flow started out with a good flow and high sugar content, but both dropped over the next four days or so; then the flow ceased instead of flowing for a couple of weeks. Each successive tree was the same. Although I got some flow, I ended up with only two and a half *quarts* of syrup compared to two and a half *gallons* last season.

Up on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, sponsors of the annual February Bigleaf Maple Syrup Festival had to beg for enough sap to run the evaporator demonstration and make tea for sale. Speaking of the festival, each year they hold a syrup judging contest with blind samples entered in three groups: light, medium

and dark. This year the competition went “international” for the first time because of my entry in the dark category. My syrup was actually supposed to be entered last year, but the wonder of Canadian Customs delayed the package for three weeks and it arrived long after the judging. My mentor volunteered to store my syrup and enter it for me in this year’s contest.

Imagine my surprise when the festival organizers called one evening to tell me I had won second place (see ribbon picture)! Surprise was experienced at the festival too, with the caller telling me that when my name and address were announced, a hush fell over the room. Finally one person asked out loud, “You mean he drove all the way here just to compete?”

This year when looking for trees to tap, I ventured into a section of my woods I had never tapped before. What I found were some nice maples and other trees totally crowded by many four- to five-inch diameter trees that had sprung up over the years, grew well and then ran out of light due to over-topping by bigger trees, and now were in decline. The crowded conditions made even walking difficult and also presented a significant fire danger with no way of stopping a fire if it occurred. Something had to be done.

Additionally I had decided to convert

my evaporator from propane to wood fuel and needed several cords of various sized firewood that could be obtained by proper thinning.

Luke Ruediger, a well-known local forester, agreed to meet with me to figure out how to proceed with the task. We walked the area, noting which trees were healthy and which were sick, injured or simply in the way, while also trying to increase afternoon sun on the maples so that they had a better chance of flowing with the right winter temperatures. The “before” picture shows typical conditions that we encountered before we set to work.

With Luke doing the saw work and I and a helper acting as the cleanup crew sorting and moving the brush and firewood, we set to work. Things went very smoothly and we made great progress. Because we kept anything over one and a half inches (just the right size for fueling an evaporator), the normally expected amount of brush was greatly reduced, making cleanup much



Laird Funk won second place as an “international” competitor in the Bigleaf Maple Syrup Festival held annually on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada.

easier. Soon sections that were totally overgrown changed into well-lit, spacious woodland vistas. The “after” picture shows the difference.

The stumps seen in the “after” picture will be later re-cut and painted with glyphosate herbicide. The trees cut were ashes and maples, which are notorious stump-sprouters and would quickly regrow and create another overgrown mess without the glyphosate treatment.

Now, the overgrown tangle has been transformed into a welcoming riparian forest with a wide range of life, including gray squirrels and wood ducks and resting places for wildlife. The clearing also provided access to treasures not seen before, like a 12-inch tall morel, drifts of bleeding hearts and fritillaries and the hundreds of trilliums that grace the site.

I look forward to next winter’s tapping season to see if our work helped our maples to produce more sap. I’ll let you know how it comes out.

Laird Funk
541-846-6759
lairdfunk@apbb.net

Before forest cleanup: The author called in Luke Ruediger to help reduce the crowded conditions and significant fire danger.



After forest cleanup: Some sections of Laird’s forest are now well-lit and spacious woodlands, fostering healthy maple trees.

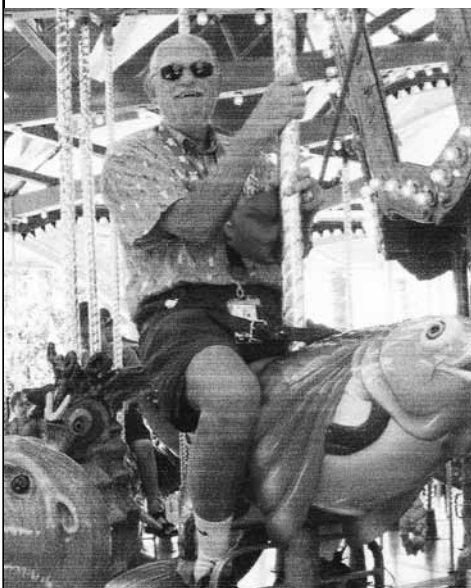


Gater volunteers retire

Our endless thanks go out to two long-time *Applegater* volunteers:

- **Pat Kellogg**, one of our eagle-eyed proofreaders who cleaned up our act for more than ten years, and
- **Ted Glover**, affectionately known as Birdman for seven years, who opened our eyes to the beauty and habits of our local birds.

We will miss you!
Applegater Board of Directors



Ted Glover



Pat Kellogg

Meet Amber Caudell, the *Applegater’s* advertising representative for Josephine County

Amber fell in love with the Williams valley when her family moved here in 1991. She returned to live here as an adult to raise her own family, two daughters and a son. “This area is just the best place I can think of to raise a family. The people here are wonderful. My kids got to attend school at Williams and Applegate; both are fantastic schools with great teachers.”

Amber recently graduated from the Arts Institute Online, where she got her associates degree in graphic design, and has launched a home business, Honeybee Art and Design. “Working with the *Applegater* lets me get to know the community better, and it is an excellent publication to help bring the community together. By advertising in the *Gater* we are promoting a stronger local economy. Give me a call or drop me an email so we can work together!”



If you need an ad created for the paper, or a business card, I can help with that too.”

You can reach Amber at 541-846-1027 or ambercaudell@gmail.com.

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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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.

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c/o Applegate Valley
Community Newspaper, Inc.
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Website: www.applegater.org

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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
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>
SUMMER (June-Aug).....	May 1 <i>Environment/Fire/Recreation</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

Teya Jacobi captured the fun of summer recreation during her annual raft trip with friends down the Rogue River near Galice.

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 10,400 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: August 1

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Welcome to our summer edition! It's chock full of information about summer recreation opportunities, environmental considerations, and fire—our themes for this issue. The fire articles especially are not-to-miss—our area's drought may contribute to more destructive fires than ever this year.

Wow! The Big News is that the *Applegater* is turning 20 and we want to celebrate this milestone with you in a Big Way. We hope you'll turn out in droves to enjoy the fun and delicious evening we are planning for Sunday, June 29, at Red Lily Vineyards. Sponsors of this birthday bash include Applegate Valley Realty, Cowhorn Vineyard, Fields Home Center, Hidden Valley Market, Lithia Toyota and Quady North. Music by Swing State and wines by Red Lily. Can't get much better! See the front page for more details and watch for updates on our Facebook page.

We also officially welcome Amber Caudell, our newest advertising representative, who handles Josephine County (see page 2). Not only does Amber secure advertisements, but she also provides design services through her HoneyBee Art & Design business.

We hope you enjoy our latest issue and, as always, feel free to send us your comments. We listen.

Barbara Holiday
gater@applegater.org

What's Inside the Gater

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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 <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.

Siskiyou Audubon Society (free program) meets the second Tuesday of each month, September - June, at 6:30 pm at Grants Pass High School cafeteria (Room 611), 830 NE 9th Street, and features expert birding scientists and bird biologists. Refreshments served. More information: John Taylor 541-476-9846.

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 meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the Williams 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.

One more hurdle for McKee Bridge

BY ROBERT E. VAN HEUIT

The McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) has raised the \$56,000 needed as matching funds for the federal grant to restore the bridge. The plans are completed and the restoration project was scheduled to go to bid early in April. However, a few weeks prior to releasing the plans to bidders, the final engineer's estimate was received and it was about \$20,000 more than the total amount of the federal grant.

After discussions with MBHS, the County Road Department and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), it was decided that an additional \$60,000 was needed for the project. ODOT requested that amount so that they could award the contract even if the low bid was more than the engineer's estimate, and to allow for a small reserve in case of any needed extra work not included in the plans and specifications.

When we looked for possible funding sources, we found that there is a Transportation Enhancement (TE) Fund for projects that enhance areas near highways and main roads, such as construction or restoration of bike paths, waysides, and historic structures. We contacted the TE committee to see if our project would qualify, and, yes, it does. The county prepared and submitted a grant request for about \$62,000, with MBHS being responsible for the matching funds (about \$6,200). The TE committee approved the request for the grant and has forwarded it to the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) for review and, hopefully, approval. ODOT will release the

plans for bid if and when OTC approves the grant application. The completion date will still be July 31, 2015.

We're hoping this is our last financial hurdle and would appreciate any help with the last \$6,200. Send donations to MBHS, P.O. Box 854, Jacksonville, OR 97504. Please specify "Donation for Restoration Fund."

Thanks to everyone who helped us get this far. With a little luck, restoration will begin soon.

On another note, the MBHS Board of Directors has decided *not* to hold McKee Bridge Day this year. We will celebrate on June 15 at Applegate Valley Day at Cantrall-Buckley Park where we will be selling ice cream floats and sundaes, baked goods and other items. Come see us there. Let's plan to have a big celebration at the bridge in June of 2015.

Tax-free contributions to MBHS, as well as memberships, can be made to MBHS, P.O. Box 854, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Memberships are \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family. All funds are used for the maintenance and repair of the bridge and operation of MBHS. Visit our website at www.mckeehistoricalcoveredbridge.org. We appreciate your support!

Robert E. Van Heuit • 541-899-2927
President, McKee Bridge
Historical Society

Ed. Note: Good news! Paul Tipton just informed us that the TE grant has been approved and the project should go out to bid soon.

Breaking News HOTEL HELL and the Applegate River Lodge

At long last, what we've all been waiting for...

Watch the episode on the Applegate River Lodge

during HOTEL HELL's second season beginning on Monday, July 21 (9 -10 pm on Fox). Gordon Ramsay is back and hitting the road to fix some of America's most horrendous

hotels, troubled inns and struggling resorts, many of which are on the brink of closure.

Ramsay will travel to locations including Applegate, OR; Las Cruces, NM; Longview, WA; Murphys, CA; Pipestone, MN; Starkville, MS; West Dover, VT; and Woodbury, CT.

At press time, Fox had not set an official date for the Applegate River Lodge episode, but we will keep you alerted through our Facebook page.



HOTEL
HELL

Little Applegate's Neds Bar Timber Sale

BY JOHN GERRITSMAS

The Medford District Bureau of Land Management's goal is to produce 46-million board feet of timber in 2014 and 2015. The Neds Bar and South Fork Little Butte sales will be the Ashland Resource Area's contribution to the Medford District timber harvest for 2015. While the Neds Bar project is located in the Applegate, the South Fork project is in the Cascades south of Highway 140.

The Neds Bar Timber Sale analysis area is within much of the Little Applegate Watershed. The area was previously assessed under the Bald Lick project (2005) and encompassed both the Bald Lick and Bobar Timber Sale projects. The timber sale offering for Bald Lick in 2005 did not sell. Subsequent community and collaborative efforts resulted in the Bald Lick and O'Lickety timber sales, as well as the Lick Stew stewardship project.

Currently, the Ashland Resource Area is undertaking a number of data-gathering exercises for the Neds Bar project including surveys for sensitive plants and animals, and cultural sites. Foresters and engineers are developing feasibility plans for accessing and/or harvesting potential

timber stands. Timber stands in the previous Bobar Timber Sale area and stands within the remaining Bald Lick analysis area not subsequently harvested are subject to evaluation for the Neds Bar project. Excluding current and recent past projects, approximately 5 - 6,000 acres are left to assess for treatments including timber harvest and noncommercial thinning.

The subsequently developed initial plan, based on current field assessments, is called the "Proposed Action." (For more discussion of the term Proposed Action, see the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.)

The Proposed Action will describe a potential treatment level in the assessment area meeting the District's Resource Management Plan's standards and guidelines. The general description of the Proposed Action will be introduced in the scoping process (anticipated for May-June 2014), and *may or may not* be the selected alternative in the future decision for the project. As a result of the scoping process, there will likely be additional alternatives developed to address social, economic, and

environmental issues unresolved by the Proposed Action.

I intend to develop a Public Involvement Plan for the project with the greater Little Applegate community. This plan will list actions to be taken to ensure community concerns and considerations are appropriately addressed.

I see opportunities for some level of influence in the design of the project, and certainly for participation in developing alternatives to the Proposed Action. Key community groups such as the Applegate Neighborhood Network, the Applegate Partnership, and the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association will be contacted to help develop the plan. I will make the process as public and as open as possible, so those who wish to be included in developing the Public Involvement Plan (irrespective of community groups) may contact me at 541-618-2438.

John Gerritsma
541-618-2438

Ashland Field Manager
Medford District

Bureau of Land Management
jgerrits@blm.gov

Thank YOU, Applegaters! Voters approve new service district

With 75 percent of voters approving, the 4-H, Master Gardener and Agricultural Service District was created to provide secure and stable funding to our Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center. The support and appreciation of so many Applegate folk, both for the campaign and for me personally, are what makes this such a great community.

The work is not done with the counting of the ballots, but the support of the people will mean a great deal as we move forward with implementing this new district. The ability to plan, deliberately, without the year-to-year uncertainty of relying on the county general fund, will allow Extension to continue and improve the successes of the past 100 years of service to our community.

I hope you will continue to contribute by taking classes at Extension, utilizing their professional, scientific resources, and helping to plan for an Extension that will serve our children and grandchildren. Thank YOU.

Jack Duggan

shanachie@hughes.net

Ed. Note: Jack Duggan is a Land Steward volunteer at Extension and manages his family's tree farm on Forest Creek.

BOOKS & MOVIES

— Book —

The Plover

Brian Doyle



Oregon can be very proud. Brian Doyle's new book, *The Plover* (St. Martin's Press, April, 2014), is about travels on a small retrofitted fishing craft, *The Plover*, named after a nondescript little bird that is nonetheless a tough traveler of great distances. The protagonist sailor Declan—a minor character in Doyle's earlier *Mink River*—sets out from the Oregon coast, heading west. Far west.

The Plover is poetry masquerading as prose, and delightful hints of literary lingo (and bits of Gaelic and Hawaiian, pidgin and not) find their places in this eccentric sailor's yarn. A liar's lingo: "no thinking on this trip ... and don't get all literary on me either." We should say things just once and "let them shimmer there in the air." Never repeat. This is Doyle turning word handsprings in front of the critics and reviewers and naysayers who say he shouldn't shouldn't shouldn't. After saying shouldn't, Declan/Doyle proceeds to do more thinking and repeating and philosophizing than a whole raft of philosophers.

This is a book about story. "We are starving for story, our greatest hunger." Declan's friend and sometime crew mate Piko is appointed "captain of the Plover for one hour exactly, and Piko as his first act of command commands that everyone get off the boat for a while, onto the beach, and tell stories, ...we are getting all solipsistic and narcissistic on the boat, and stories are the antidote."

Also a passenger on the boat is Piko's little daughter, Pip, who is compromised because she was run over by the school bus that was supposed to pick her up for kindergarten. She cannot walk or talk, but she adds an angelic dimension; she communicates with birds and who knows what else. She may be brain damaged, but, then again, maybe not: "I see you smiling Pip. I see you in there."

There is evil in this world: a pirate ship lurks, a looming tension through much of this fabulous fable. Piko is grabbed away from the *Plover* for a time, then rescued by Declan. The villainous pirate skipper apparently had a harrowing childhood, "some sailed some jailed" and a mother who disappeared: "her body stayed but the her of her left. Burned on the altar." (Has anyone anywhere ever written better than *that?*) After an abusive childhood, the skipper wants control. Money is important, and power is important—only because they bring control. Declan seeks the help of island officialdom to rescue Piko, and there are hilarious litanies of bureaucratic ineffectiveness, in the midst of which Doyle inserts this sailor's lament: "Sometimes you can't tell the rain from the ocean." Seems to fit the "help" we know of ubiquitous bureaucracy.

Taramauri is a very large island man who is actually a woman and who boards our *Plover* mysteriously in the night. Two rats and a warbler with a broken wing are along for the ride. All have opinions, of course, as do the oceans, the sky, and the land.

In the beginning, before any of these eccentric characters come aboard, a seagull flies above the *Plover*. Declan talks companionably to the gull, even as he damns it as a flying rat that barfs up fish guts and poops on the cabin roof. The gull looks interested but noncommittal. After many days on the open sea with the gull as his only companion Declan awakens one morning following a furious storm to find that the gull has disappeared. Anyone who has waited until something or someone is gone to realize how much that something or someone is missed will be grabbed by Doyle's agonizing depiction of the forsaken bereft loneliness that is the ache of all the world's

search for connection.

There have been many reviewers and critics who compare Doyle to Faulkner, Joyce, Melville, Whitman. I won't do that, other than to say that in the last Brian Doyle book I reviewed for the *Applegater*, *Mink River*, Doyle channeled the great mystic poet William Blake, but for *Plover's* ever-perilous sea journey he often calls on the more pragmatic Edmund Burke for words to rig his jib, and when that doesn't quite meet his wordster needs he ventures outside the lines with "as old Ed Burke should have said but didn't."

Feckin'. Leave it to the Irish—and Doyle is as Irish as they come (Irish by way of Brooklyn)—to take that now universal vulgarism and sprinkle it abundantly all naughty-nice. I revel in the language—and the poignant, picayune, and powerful lessons about life—in this book; I read and re-read many passages. But I press on, just like any feckin' reader of dime novels in the feckin' corncrib, to find out if the pirate ship is going to again catch up with the little *Plover*. And I'm not telling.

Julia (Helm) Hoskins

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Ed. Notes: After reading this review of his book, here is how Brian Doyle responded to Julia: "ah that made me grin – thank you – you GET it – the highest of compliments B." Doesn't get much better. (Published with consent from Brian Doyle.)

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.

— Movies —

10 best animated films for kids in 2014



Our official movie reviewer is on hiatus, but that's not cause to fret! Here's a list of animated films to enjoy with your kids this year, in order of release date (courtesy of swide.com).

TITLE	RELEASE DATE
<i>Mr. Peabody & Sherman</i>	March 7
<i>Muppets Most Wanted</i>	March 21
<i>Island of Lemurs: Madagascar</i>	April 4
<i>Rio 2</i>	April 17
<i>Legends of OZ</i>	May 9
<i>The Good Dinosaur</i>	May 30
<i>How to Train Your Dragon 2</i>	June 19
<i>Planes: Fire and rescue</i>	July 18
<i>The Boxtrolls</i>	September 26
<i>Big Hero 6</i>	November 7

It's tour season at Sanctuary One

BY DELLA MERRILL

Imagine for a moment that you wake up on a Wednesday or Saturday morning, and the sun is shining, the birds are singing, and you feel great. What could possibly make the day better? A drive through the Applegate to visit Sanctuary One, of course!

You will be delighted when you come face-to-face with Lulu the pig or when you touch the soft fur of Indigo the rabbit. You'll laugh when you witness the antics of our cat cottage residents. And you'll certainly marvel when you see the results of our garden sheet mulch. Who knows? You might even be inspired to take home an idea or two.

Tour season at Sanctuary One is in full swing. We welcome visitors by reservation on Wednesdays and Saturdays. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn about our programs and meet our residents.

Sanctuary One, a 55-acre care farm located in the heart of the Applegate Valley, is a place of healing for people, animals and the earth. It's a place where animals are accepted despite their flaws. It's a place where people come for respite, peace and beauty. And it's a piece of land that one can get to know intimately, learning what

it takes to care for it.

Founded in 2007, Sanctuary One is the dream of local philanthropist Lloyd Matthew Haines, who wanted to create a space modeled after the European-style care farm. But unlike the European version, which uses animals and the earth for the treatment of people, Sanctuary One embraces all three, recognizing the value of the individual elements and how they interconnect to make up the whole.

Our earth care program is inspired by the principles of permaculture that value diversity, cooperation over competition, conserving resources, celebrating joy and beauty and personal responsibility. We teach these principles as we work in the gardens and interact with the animals and each other.

Our animal care program focuses on providing sanctuary to abandoned and/or abused farm animals and homeless pets such as dogs, cats, and most recently bunnies. We shelter 70 to 100 animals at any given time. Many are re-homed, while some will live out their lives at the farm.

Our farm animal friends include cows, horses, goats, sheep, ducks, geese, pigs and more. Our dog and cat program

focuses on providing sanctuary for animals that are the least likely to be adopted: elderly, injured, chronically sick, shy—or simply those of a less “desirable” color. Whereas potential adopters in a traditional shelter setting might see these individuals as flawed and unworthy of adoption, we celebrate their differences and challenges and welcome them to our farm.

Our people care and education programs provide opportunities to interns and volunteers to learn about care farming through hands-on participation. Interns stay a month or more, living and working on the farm. Volunteers help weekly, biweekly and sometimes only once a month.

Our education program welcomes school groups and social service agencies, many of which visit every year. We currently partner with three organizations on a frequent basis: Ruch Elementary School, Lithia Springs Boys Program and Armadillo Technical Institute, a newcomer to our education program.

So if you're looking for something really cool to do between now and the end of October, please consider visiting Sanctuary One.



Meet Martin, a buff silkie bantam rooster who rules the roost at the Sanctuary One hen house.

Public tours are by reservation only on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10:30 am. Tours last about 90 minutes and we request a minimum donation of \$10 per visitor. You can learn more about us by visiting www.sanctuaryone.org, emailing info@sanctuaryone.org or calling 541-899-8627.

Della Merrill
541-899-8627

Sanctuary One Program Manager
info@sanctuaryone.org

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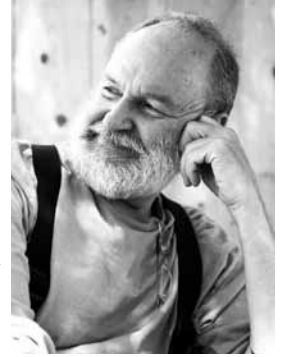
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THE STARRY SIDE

A tetrad of eclipses just for us

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

What a year—an incredible freeze and insufficient rain and snow. Mt. Ashland did not open; Applegate Lake is not full. (It is, however, dramatically improved over its previous state, when it was comparable to little more than a creek in a field of mud and rock.) Will we be without snowmelt and rain this summer? What we will have, though, are warm nights and stars galore. So, lean back in your favorite lawn chair and enjoy the night skies.

Did you see the moon's eclipse? It was a treat! I stayed up late with coffee, binoculars, two movie cameras and my grandson. I had fun, and my grandson was at least a little interested. The experience was good preparation for the October lunar eclipse, which I recommend seeing, especially if you missed this recent one. I'll shed more light on that eclipse once we are closer to the event.

Next year there will be two more—a tetrad of eclipses! This rare alignment of eclipses, visible from our corner of America's northern hemisphere, is an opportunity of a lifetime!

I was recently asked an interesting eclipse question: why was the moon so red? Well, imagine yourself on the moon, looking back at earth. Now imagine that the sun has just disappeared behind the earth. When the earth covers the sun, the *only* light that reaches the moon is the red hue of sunset and sunrise. From the vantage point of the earth during a lunar eclipse, you would see a red illuminated moon surrounding the earth!

THE NIGHT SKY

Now, on to summer's sky. The Milky Way has risen from its disappearing act of spring in the east with the Summer Triangle, the main "stars" of the summer (Vega, Deneb and Altair). The three corresponding constellations are Lyra (the harp), Cygnus (the swan or the northern cross) and Aquila (the eagle).

In the north, around Polaris, the Big

Dipper has swung over the top and is sliding down on the western side as Cassiopeia rises in the east. Like all constellations and stars, these constellations are circumpolar, meaning they seem to spin around the pole. The closer they are to the pole, the smaller the circle they scribe in the sky and the more of them we see.

As Cassiopeia swings up, she brings the Milky Way and the Summer Triangle with her. As the Big Dipper travels over and down around the pole, Arcturus, Spica, Mars, Saturn and Leo the Lion swing up and over through the sky to sink in the west.

THE PLANETS

Jupiter sets three hours after sunset; by June's end it will set one hour

after. Slowly, it drops farther west each day till it sets with the constellation Gemini, which Jupiter has been in for more than a year. On July 24, Jupiter sets into the sun and is gone till August when it will begin rising higher and higher in the dawn.

Saturn is southeast of Mars and Spica. The red Antares, in Scorpio, is the next bright star along that line of celestial bodies. By the end of July, Saturn will be setting before midnight.

Venus is currently rising two hours before the sun in the east. For a time it will be nicely bright, but will slowly dim as it passes through its cycle. Venus is only 5.7 degrees from the Pleiades in the pre-dawn sky on June 23. And on June 24, it's only 1.3 degrees from the moon. (A degree

is approximately a thumb's width held at arm's length up into the sky.)

Mars is close to Spica at the moment. Follow the arch of the Big Dipper's handle to Arcturus and on to Spica. The Earth and Mars are at their closest point to each other during our independent paths around the sun. This, in effect, makes Mars very bright—comparable to Jupiter! On July 6, the moon passes Mars within a degree of separation. On July 14, Mars passes one degree north of Spica. Mars also passes Saturn on August 25, roughly three hours after sunset.

Mercury starts in June high in the sunset. It will experience a rapid descent into the sun by June 19. In July, Mercury is about 15 degrees above the rising sun in the east. It disappears into the sun to rise low in the sunset by the end of August.

OF NOTE

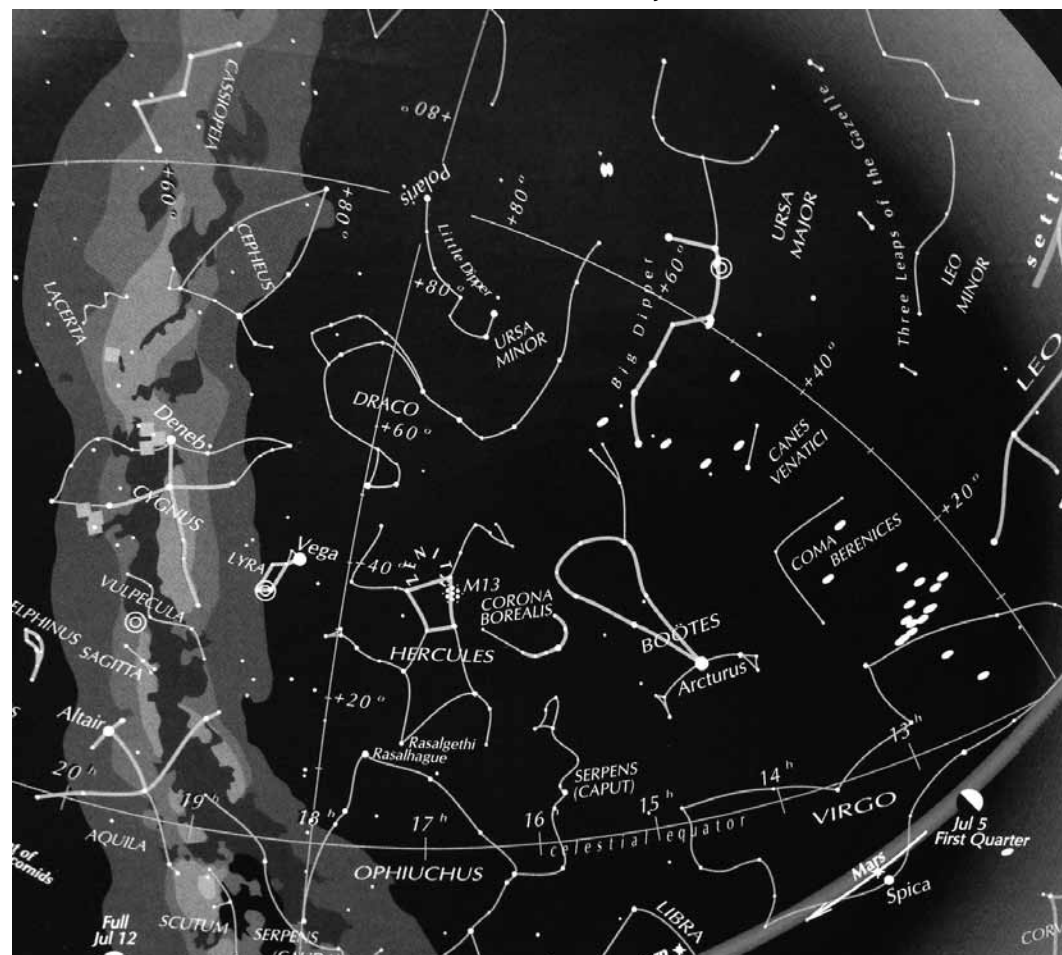
Summer Solstice falls on June 21, when the days are longest and the nights shortest. However, the latest sunset is actually on June 27, so that day may *feel* like the longest day.

There's a full moon on Friday, June 13, which is the only "unlucky" day this year. Does that mean that it's an unlucky full moon too?

The Perseid meteor shower on the night of August 12 is always worth watching. Unfortunately, it will be hampered this year by an almost-full moon. Sorry about that. The moon rises around 9 pm so maybe there will be some meteors visible beforehand. Look to the north-northeast.

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

Illustration: Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar 2014.



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WATER

Low flows forecasted on the Applegate River

Currently there is little snowpack in the Applegate Watershed. This may result in diminished flows in tributaries and the main stem of the Applegate River this summer.

In this event, junior water rights whose source is live flow would be regulated off.

If you depend on the Applegate Reservoir storage for primary or supplemental water for irrigation, make sure your U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contracts for use of stored water are current.

To verify if your contract for use of stored water is current, contact Bill Parks with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at 208-378-5344.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your local watermaster.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

How dry I am or my tomato plant wants a beer

BY SIOUX ROGERS

With the predicted dry, dry summer looming ahead, I suppose it would be quite lovely if we could just pour cold beer on all our plants to quench their thirst. Heck, I plan to down some cold ones myself. Sadly, I doubt if the garden or your wallet would survive the hangover.

"So," you ask, "what do I do and where do I start?" Whether this is a first-time garden or an established ho-hum garden, the rules for water conservation are the same. You start with a solid foundation, i.e., the soil.

"Okay," you ask, "what about the soil?" Healthy soil is full of earthworms. It crumbles in your hand rather than lumping up like a ball of clay. Healthy soil is rich in organic matter and retains water for longer periods of time. Water and rich organic soil have a good relationship. The water knows how long to stay, but not so long as to slump around and make the soil boggy. If you have compost, add as much as you can to the entire garden. The compost will trap moisture and thus encourage plant roots to grow deeply. Deep roots are good—the soil is much cooler the deeper down you go. If you do not have your own compost, buy soil amendments.

Along with well-amended soil, mulching is a must. Mulching can be a very creative adventure. I have personally mulched with old rugs, old sheets and old blue jeans. More traditional mulches are straw, old leaves, black plastic, wood chips, pine needles, a light coat of pea gravel, or cardboard. What you mulch with is your call, but mulching is *not* optional. Mulching slows water runoff and evaporation. And—one more cheer for mulching—it keeps weeds under control. This is important because weeds and vegetables compete for water, scanty though it might be during a drought.

Okay, your soil is good and you are



A-frame structures can be handmade as shown (yearroundveggiegardener.blogspot.com) or by using ready-made trellises purchased at a hardware store.

ready to plant. The summer is dry and water is scarce, but we all cherish our own homegrown vegetables. You still have a very good chance of getting the garden well on its way before the terror of our hot August nights. The roots of established plants will be growing deep down in the soil to a nice cool and moist place.

Another water-saving hint is to be aware of which plants need less water when they mature. Crops such as cucumbers, summer and winter squash, melons, tomatoes, eggplants and peppers are often overwatered. Overwatering is not only wasteful, but it also dilutes the flavor of the fruit. Other plants such as potatoes, garlic and onions need no water at all after they are mature. If watered while still in the ground, they rot and get mushy.

One wee word about watering in general: use drip irrigation if at all possible. The water will go directly to the plants

instead of blowing in the wind as with an overhead water system. Drip watering can save up to 50 percent of water usage.

Don't forget the general principles we have all heard about water conservation—like turning the water off while brushing your teeth or shaving, and taking shorter showers. Better yet, shower with a friend. But my personal favorite way to conserve is by using grey water. The website www.growveg.com has an informative section on grey water ("water from washing machines/dishwashers and water from washing in showers, baths and sinks"). Believe it or not, plants thrive on bubble baths.

Then you ask, "So how do I plant once I have the soil and water system in place?" Start by planting in squares, blocks or whatever you call it, just not a single row of anything. Understand which plants need the water faucet off at the

end of the growing season and which plants need to continue drinking up until harvested. For example, potatoes, garlic and onions, as mentioned above, should not be watered once matured. On the other hand, leafy greens need water until harvest.

There are many creative styles of planting to save water. Here is just one idea: take two garden trellises and place them together to form an A-frame. On both sides you can plant sun-loving plants like tomatoes, pole beans, cucumbers, etc. I find this structure works best in widths no longer than three to four feet. The reason for this width is to allow you to reach in at the bottom opening of the A-frame structure where you have planted salad greens or whatever else that likes shade. If you have eight-foot long arms, then make the structure wider. The height of the structure does not matter.

You can also use this same method with just one trellis slanted slightly backward and propped up any which way. On the sun side, plant the sun lovers; on the back side, plant the wimps that use sunscreen.

A few more water conservation ideas:

1. If possible, choose plants with fewer days to maturity, or miniature plants, especially the lovely miniature and colorful bell peppers.
2. Use shade cloth if heat is high and water is low.
3. Tall sunflowers are excellent umbrellas for green leafy vegetables, squash, eggplants, and various other yummy etceteras.

That's it, folks; however, all the above ideas and information work only in *healthy* soil with a good mulch overcoat.

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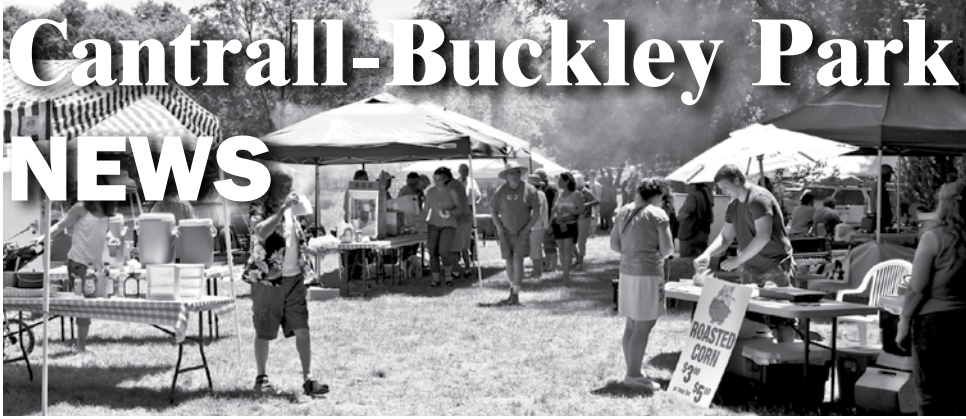
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Father's Day barbecue at Cantrall-Buckley Park

BY DAVID LAANANEN

Don't forget the Father's Day barbecue that will be held on Sunday, June 15, from 11 am to 4 pm, sponsored by the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) and the Applegate Valley Lions Club.

The Lions Club will barbecue tri-tip, chicken, and hot dogs. The Ruch Country Store will roast corn, and the McKee

Bridge Historical Society will offer root beer floats and baked goods. Wine, beer, and other beverages will be available.

The usual \$4 per car fee for entry to the park will be charged. Come out to celebrate Dad and family.

David Laananen

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Applegate Trails Association inaugurates a new Applegate trail

BY DIANA COOGLE

Blow trumpets and wave flags! The Applegate Trails Association (ATA) is having a trail dedication ceremony on June 7 to celebrate the installation of a new kiosk and picnic table at the Long Gulch Trailhead.

This official opening of the Heart Trail, in the heart of the Wellington Wildlands, begins at 10 am and will feature free food, music, bubble-blowing and face-painting for the kids, and a ceremonious cutting of the brilliant red ribbon at the trailhead. Jeff Leland, U.S. Forest Service archeologist, will fill us in on interesting history of the area, and ATA chair David Calahan will talk briefly about the organization's dream of building the Applegate Ridge Trail (ART) from Grants Pass to Jacksonville.

The ART would connect with the Jack-Ash Trail that the Siskiyou Uplands Trail Association is building from Jacksonville to Ashland. Eventually, then, we will be able to walk from Grants Pass to Ashland, spending the night at the Jacksonville Inn along the way and taking in dinner, a play, and a night in a B&B in

Ashland at the end—and, maybe also, a long soak in a spa.

If you're wondering why anyone would want to walk from Grants Pass to Ashland, come to the trailhead dedication on June 7 and hike the Heart Trail. The Wellington Wildlands is a gorgeous piece of the Applegate, hidden behind mountains and as wild as any place in the area, offering spectacular views of Siskiyou mountains, wildflowers in profusion, and gentle ridge-top trails (and some doozies, but the Heart Trail isn't one).

To get to Long Gulch Trailhead, go through Ruch towards Jacksonville. Turn left on Forest Creek Road and follow the signs. To carpool, meet at 9:30 am at the Bunny Meadows Staging Area (0.7 mile up Forest Creek).

ATA offers hikes all summer. You can find the schedule at www.applegatetrails.org. And if you're wildly enthusiastic about wildlands and hiking, come to the ATA fund-raiser at Red Lily Vineyards in September or join us on the board.

Diana Coogle

dcoogle@laughdogpress.com

The challenges and benefits of local trails

BY HOPE ROBERTSON

The Applegate Valley has fantastic trails, including Jacksonville's wonderful trail system managed by the Jacksonville Woodlands Association and a wide array of trails scattered across rural areas and wildlands around our valley. In addition, proposed ridge-top and nonmotorized trail systems include the Jack-Ash Trail that would connect the Jacksonville trails to the Ashland trail system, and the Applegate Ridge Trail that would run from Jacksonville to Grants Pass.

Trails bring together people of all ages and political and religious persuasions to enjoy the simple pleasure of being outdoors, whether it's a short-distance stroll or a long-distance run. A recent recreation survey showed that 47 percent of Jackson County residents take advantage of local trails, enjoying the amazing and diverse ecosystems in our valley.

But these simple pleasures also provide concrete value to our regional economy. Many studies document the economic benefits of local trails; these benefits include higher property values and an increase in recreation dollars spent at local businesses that sell equipment, food and clothing. Trails through our gorgeous wildlands add to other wonderful regional amenities such as theatre, wineries and music, bringing more tourist dollars into the economy.

Despite the well-documented value of recreational opportunities, we should not assume that existing trails (or other recreational amenities) on public lands will remain open for use, or that new trail systems will be added. As with so many other services provided by government, funding cuts threaten the continuation of recreation services on public lands.

We are seeing trails and campgrounds in our region being abandoned due to lack of funding for maintenance. Unfortunately, it may become necessary to choose which trails to save, but there is hope!

For example, four years ago large sections of the historic Sterling Mine Ditch Trail in the Applegate were impassable. Hikers and equestrians gave up using most of it because it was almost impossible to hack through the undergrowth or crawl over fallen trees. Because the trail was no longer being used, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) questioned spending scarce recreation dollars on its maintenance. The Rogue Valley and Applegate communities rallied around efforts of the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association (SUTA) and volunteers to re-open the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail. This organized community effort resulted in tremendous cooperation and funding assistance from the Medford BLM. The community now has seven trailheads accessing 30 miles of trail within the Sterling Mine Ditch system, which has become a wildly popular recreation resource. The trail should remain a community recreation resource for years to come, and

we hope it will be named an Oregon State Scenic Trail. But reviving and maintaining this resource took time and lots of effort.

Another example of how funding cuts are impacting local recreational resources is the removal of old, unsafe bridges on some US Forest Service (USFS) trails and roads such as the Middle Fork Trail of the Applegate River. There were no plans or money to replace the Middle Fork bridges. But thanks to an organized request from the community, money to replace several USFS bridges was recently allocated for fiscal year 2015-2016. We look forward to better access to that gorgeous trail.

What does the fate of these two trails portend for the future of our recreational resources? First of all, an organized community can have a big impact on behalf of a recreational trail resource. The Sterling Mine Ditch Trail became overgrown and impassable and the gorgeous Middle Fork trail languished without its bridges until organized community efforts triggered BLM and USFS to allocate scarce resources to those trails. Again, community time and effort produced results.

Second, considering that trails represent a significant revenue source for our economy, each of us should remind our elected officials of the economic value of recreation, lest the recreation budgets for the county, state and federal agencies disappear.

Third, the community can no longer sit back and assume that the government will maintain beautifully trimmed trails for our enjoyment. Those days are gone. If we want great trails, we all need to chip in, either by making financial donations to the various trail groups in our region or by showing up to help work on the trails.

Our experience is that if we step up to the plate and demonstrate willingness to work on the trails, the relevant government agency will respond in kind—especially if there is political support for doing so. As a bonus, we have found that working on trails is a fabulous way to build a community of like-minded friends while enhancing the amenities of our region.

Hope Robertson

Siskiyou Upland Trails Association

sutaoregoncontact@gmail.com

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BIRD EXPLORER

Summertime and the bird living is easy

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Peter J. Thiemann

Well, except that the parent birds are extremely busy feeding their young.

Our southern Oregon mountains are home to an amazing variety of avifauna. The climate is favorable, and different bioregions converge in our area. These three “glamour” species (see photos) are not rare and can be found as a common breeding bird: the Golden Eagle, the Great Horned Owl and the Pileated Woodpecker. April and May are the busiest months as the eaglets of Golden Eagles are about two weeks old in mid April, the owlets of Great Horned Owls are four weeks old, and the Pileated Woodpeckers are busy excavating several large nest cavities.

June and early July are the best times for birders to get out there and look. Although these species with their young are a bit harder to find than backyard birds and are often sensitive to

disturbance, with some birding etiquette and time, looking for these birds can be a rewarding experience. Look for mountain cliffs and a soaring large brown bird, and it may be a Golden Eagle. Great Horned Owls can be found on stick nests made by other raptors or ravens, sometimes in cliff caves with ledges. When walking through a tall tree forest, listen to the loud sound of a territorial Pileated Woodpecker drilling in dead tree snags.

I found a Golden Eagle nest in a cottonwood tree near a small stream with meadows adjacent to a hillside. Starlings were nesting in the large eagle nest’s lower apartment! American Kestrels were nesting in the next tree not more than 50 yards away. Western Kingbirds, a large flycatcher, were all around on fence posts. It seems to be an unwritten rule that eagles don’t usually hunt in the immediate area around

their nest, so there were ground squirrels running around everywhere. Quite a show!

Great Horned Owls hunt in late evening, night and early morning. If an active nest is found, one parent will be guarding the owlets, often very sleepy with eyes closed, exhausted from the night’s activities. The young, however, will look at the observer with wide-open eyes, curious about all that is going on.

The Pileated Woodpecker makes a number of nest/sleeping cavities for both parents, and selects one for nesting. It takes a little observation time to find an active nest hole. Once the young are hatched, both parent woodpeckers will usually feed them regurgitated carpenter ants. Since they can store large quantities of ants for regurgitation, they can cover a large territory to find sufficient food for four to five young, but there may be a long wait

for the observer to witness a feeding. Pileated Woodpeckers provide large tree cavities that are used by small owls, like Screech, Flammulated, Northern Pygmy, and Saw-Whet. Nuthatches, chickadees and smaller woodpeckers also benefit from the many large Pileated Woodpecker tree cavities.

So look for holes in tree snags, stay awhile, and you may see a nesting bird fly in or out!

If you missed the Mountain Bird Festival in Ashland this year (held May 30 – June 1), be sure to join in next year on all the excitement of late spring and early summer discoveries of the lives of our feathered friends.

Peter J. Thiemann
peterjthiemann@yahoo.com



The **Golden Eagle** uses its agility and speed combined with powerful feet and massive, sharp talons to snatch up its prey.



Young **Great Horned Owls** make loud, persistent hissing or screeching sounds, often confused with those of barn owls.



A **Pileated Woodpecker** pair stays together on its territory all year-round and is a nonmigratory species.

PHOTO CREDIT

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

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Notes from a Rogue entomologist**A stranger in a strange land:
Nabokov's southern Oregon sojourn**

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

The story of Vladimir Nabokov has interested this Rogue entomologist on two fronts. First, there is Nabokov's career as a lepidopterist, an expert in butterflies, and second, Nabokov spent a summer in southern Oregon where, in addition to collecting butterflies, he was finishing his masterwork, *Lolita*.

Nabokov's life story reads like a Russian novel, an archetypal story of the 20th Century. Born to the Russian aristocracy in 1899, he grew up speaking Russian, French and English, with a good knowledge of German. His father was a reformer and was involved in the interim government in 1917, but following the Bolshevik revolution the family was forced to flee Russia. Nabokov studied at Cambridge, starting in zoology before switching to literature. He then lived in Berlin, where his father was murdered by Russian monarchists in 1922. With his Jewish wife, Nabokov moved first to Paris in 1937 and then took refuge in the United States in 1940 when the Nazis invaded France. One of his brothers died in the concentration camps.

While in Europe, his literary efforts were in Russian and his last Russian novel, *The Gift*, is considered to be among the most important works of Russian literature in the last century. In the book, the protagonist's father is a lepidopterist. When Nabokov was just 12, he submitted a description of what he believed was a new species of moth to the scientific journal *The Entomologist*, only to be informed that the moth had already been described. All told, Nabokov had 18 papers on butterflies published in scientific literature.

When he first lived in the US in New York City, he volunteered to work on the butterfly collection at the American Museum of Natural History.

When he got a job teaching at Wellesley College in Massachusetts (by the way, the protagonist in *Lolita*, Humbert Humbert, was a professor at the fictional "Beardsley" College), he volunteered at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology, working primarily with butterflies. He demonstrated such expertise that he was elevated into a salaried position as a curator. It has been noted that this period was his least productive in terms of literary output, but it was also the period when he made the transition to writing in English. Eventually he joined the faculty at Cornell where he concentrated on teaching and writing, although he remained an avid collector and took regular trips out west in search of butterflies.

It was one of these trips that resulted in his stay in Ashland in the summer of 1953. Apparently he did attend some plays; the house he rented on Meade Street was not far from the Elizabethan Theater. It does not seem that he interacted much with anyone from what was then Southern Oregon College of Education, but he finished *Lolita* and began his next novel. He also wrote a couple of poems and, in reading "Lines Written in Oregon" (see box at right), I get the feeling that southern Oregon worked its magic on him as he refers to "bewitched...forests" and "Phantom Orchids." And there's that curious list of place names—"Lake Merlin, Castle Creek, and (obliterated) Peak," which seem weirdly familiar. Robert Michael Pyle, founder of the Xerces Society and a well-known lepidopterist, surmises that the "Esmeralda" in the poem refers to an Oregon species of moth that resembled the moth *Plusia esmeralda* that Nabokov had "discovered" when he was a boy.

I do find it strange that, to my knowledge, Nabokov never made a return

visit to southern Oregon. The house he rented in Ashland burned down in 1999, but there is a commemorative plaque noting the site as where he "...completed his notorious *Lolita*."

Of course, with the eventual publication of *Lolita* (after numerous rejections) he became a celebrity and moved back to Europe in 1960, living in Switzerland until his death in 1977. It has been said that by 1959 Nabokov was the most famous lepidopterist in the world. More than a few entomologists of the time took umbrage at that description, especially considering that Nabokov's most scholarly work, which focused on the evolutionary history of a group of South American butterflies, had been thoroughly ignored by the scientific community when it was published. However, as fate would have it, with the advent of advanced molecular techniques, it appears that many of his original conclusions in that article have proven to be surprisingly accurate.

It is hard to imagine a better intersection of science and the aesthetic than butterflies in all their forms, although Nabokov did say that "all butterflies are beautiful and ugly at the same time—like human beings." Nabokov was a scientist and an astute observer of nature, but he did not believe that science held all the answers. He embraced the mystery of existence and, in one of his later interviews, stated, "We shall never know the origin of life, or the meaning of life, or the nature of space and time, or the nature of nature."

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Vladimir Nabokov taken by Philippe Halsman in 1966 for the Saturday Evening Post (<http://www.toutceciestmagnifique.com/2011/07/butterfly-hunting.html>).

"Lines Written in Oregon"

Esmeralda! now we rest
Here, in the bewitched and blest
Mountain forests of the West.
Here the very air is stranger.
Damsel, anchoress, and ranger
Share the woodland's dream and danger.
And to think I deemed you dead!
(In a dungeon, it was said;
Tortured, strangled); but instead—
Blue birds from the bluest fable,
Bear and hare in coats of sable,
Peacock moth on picnic table.
Huddled roadsigns softly speak
Of Lake Merlin, Castle Creek,
And (obliterated) Peak.
Do you recognize that clover?
Dandelions, *l'or du pauvre*?
(Europe, nonetheless, is over.)
Up the turk, along the burn
Latin lilies climb and turn
Into Gothic fir and fern.
Cornfields have befouled the prairies
But these canyons laugh! And there is
Still the forest with its fairies.
And I rest where I awoke
In the sea shade—*l'ombre glauque*—
Of a legendary oak;
Where the woods get ever dimmer,
Where the Phantom Orchids glimmer—
Esmeralda, *immer, immer*.
—Vladimir Nabokov (1953)

RECREATION

FROM PAGE 1

recreation/ohv), or the Motorcycle Riders Association in Medford (www.motorcycleridersassociation.org).

Water opportunities**• Boating**

Motorboats: Applegate Lake. 10 miles per hour speed limit.

Canoeing: Applegate Lake, Squaw Lakes. The coves and inlets are best explored from a canoe!

Kayaking: The Applegate River provides beautiful scenery plus Class II and III rapids. There are some shallow stretches. The Middle Fork of the Applegate, with a put-in just past Cook and Green Campground on Road 1040, has some Class V rapids and is a good creek run.

White water rafting might also be possible through those Class V rapids. They would be good thrills, but the frequent shallow spots on the Applegate are more easily done in a kayak. Maybe it's best to do your rafting on the Rogue.

• Windsurfing. I've never seen windsurfers on Applegate Lake, but maybe?

• SUP (stand-up paddling). I've never seen this there, either, but I'd try it, and Northwest SUP and Surf in Ashland recommends it. It should work on Squaw Lakes too.

• Inner-tubing. Put in at Cantrall-Buckley Park on the Applegate River and

loll away a hot afternoon.

• Fishing

Applegate River: "World-class steelheading," also rainbow and cutthroat trout(ing). Fishing season opens on May 24 and is from shores only.

Applegate Lake: Year-round fishing. Rainbow and cutthroat trout, small- and large-mouth bass, crappie, perch. Yearly bass fishing tournaments.

Squaw Lakes: Rainbow and cutthroat trout, yellow perch, brown bullhead and

black bass. According to the Reserve America website, Little Squaw Lake provides a rare fishery for 8 - 11" wild, native coastal cutthroat trout.

Note: Some species are catch-and-release only, so check the regulations of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) at www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/docs.

• Swimming

It's good at Applegate Lake, but I prefer the cold, clear water of Squaw Lake. There's a rope swing there too.



Stand-up paddling on Applegate Lake. Photo: <http://northwestsupandsurf.com>.

Luscious swimming holes on the Applegate River—Cantrall-Buckley, McKee Bridge, the gorge on the Middle Applegate, etc. Look for a rope swing over the river between the green Applegate bridge and Provolt.

Some creeks have amazing swimming holes, e.g., Middle Fork Applegate.

• Snorkeling. Anywhere you can put your face in water.

• Scuba diving. Possible in Applegate Lake.

Hunting opportunities

• Big game and upland game birds. Year-round in Southern Oregon. Game in the Applegate includes deer (October 4 - November 7), bears (August 1 - December 31), cougars (year-round), western gray squirrels (August 30 - November 12), wild turkeys (April 15 - May 31), and grouse and quail (September 1 - January 31). As far as I know, there are no elk in the Applegate. Seasons differ for rifles, muzzle-loaders, and bows. Check with the ODFW in Roseburg (541-440-3353) or at their website (www.dfw.state.or.us).

• Gold panning. Little Applegate is open to recreational gold mining.

• Stargazing. Pretty good anywhere in the Applegate since light pollution is minimal. It's best atop Whisky Peak.

See RECREATION, page 13

The butterflies of summer

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Pine White

The Pine White (*Nephasia menapia*) (see photos at right), whose habitat is coniferous forests of the Pacific Northwest, belongs to the butterfly family Pieridae. The caterpillar host plants are pines and firs. Adults nectar on composites and monarda (a genus of flowering plants in the mint family, e.g., bee balm, horsemint, bergamot, etc.). This butterfly has a wingspan of up to two inches. Males (see photo) are immaculately white while females are creamy white. Both have black markings on forewing tips; females have orange-red edgings.

The Pine White is considered a primitive butterfly with its life history being unique to the butterfly family of Pieridae. Only three butterflies in our Cascadia region are known to have larvae that feed on conifers: Pine Whites, Western Pine Elfin and Juniper Hairstreak (aka Cedar Hairstreak), which feed on junipers and cedars. Eggs are deposited on pine needles over winter. Then the larvae feed on spring growth.

They can be seen flying as adults from late June to early October. Their flight is weak, and they often look like they are floating down from the treetops. Pine Whites are a pleasure to watch in the

summer and are easily approachable.

Every 20 to 30 years a natural phenomenon occurs when there is a massive outbreak of Pine Whites. In 2010, the Malheur National Forest in the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon experienced a three-year population explosion of Pine Whites. The butterflies were described as looking like a snowstorm in summer. A video and interview about this rare occurrence can be viewed at http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/science-jan-june12-pinebutterfly_03-12/. I hope I am around for the next outbreak, which would be an extraordinary thing to witness.

Western Pine Elfin

The Western Pine Elfin (*Callophrys eryphon*) (see photo below) is another butterfly using pines for its larval host plant. It belongs to the family Lycaenidae and is of the subfamily Theclini (hairstreaks). They nectar on many spring blooms such as dandelions, lupine, buckwheat, pussy paws and pussy willow catkins. Males will also use mud. It is a small, tailless butterfly with a wingspan of up to one and a half inches. Its colors range from brown to purplish brown; females are more orange.

The Western Pine Elfin's habitat is pine forests with meadow openings. Being a spring-to-early summer butterfly,

it is more likely to be seen in early spring in lower elevation meadows and higher altitudes in summer depending on seasonal weather conditions.

Eggs are laid singly at the base of young pine needles, on which the larvae feed. Pupae overwinter in a physiological state called diapause (dormancy). In spring, males emerge first, perching on small trees and shrubs to wait for females. Females spend their time flying from nectar flowers at meadows to higher-elevation larval host plants.

While taking photos on the edges of a

meadow in early spring, I observed a male Western Pine Elfin repeatedly returning to perch on the same Oregon Grape plant, even though I was standing next to the plant waiting for photo opportunities.

This butterfly sits with closed wing, allowing you to see its remarkable identifying marks with bold patterns. It's another one of nature's artistic beauties.

Linda Kappen

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Ed. Note: Linda Kappen earned a naturalist certification from Siskiyou Field Institute and hosts two-day butterfly courses there.

All butterfly photos by Linda Kappen.

Pine White female



Pine White male



Western Pine Elfin



RECREATION

FROM PAGE 12

- **Photography.** Everywhere. Pick up your camera and see what you can find.
- **Wildflower discovery.** Begins in early spring with grouse flowers and manzanitas and is fabulous even in July at higher elevations. The botanical diversity of the Siskiyou is on display in the Applegate!
- **Wildlife viewing.** Try the wildlife blind at Lower Squaw Lake. Keep your eyes open for bears on a trail. Cougar sightings are rare. Other possibilities for quiet, sharp-eyed walkers include fishers, ring-tail cats, bobtail cats, coyotes, and porcupines. Anyone can spot ospreys at Applegate Lake. Just look up.
- **Butterfly viewing.** "Butterflies of unrivaled beauty flutter nearby" (from the Fall 2013 *Applegater*). Check out the butterfly article above.
- **Birding.** The Applegate is a great place for bird-watchers. The Audubon Society of Portland lists the Applegate River and Reservoir as one of



Camping at Jackson Campground along the Applegate River.

Photo: sououtdoorprogram.files.wordpress.com

Oregon's good birding sites and Anderson Butte/Sterling Ditch as an IBA (Important Bird Area).

In-the-air recreation

- **Paragliding.** Maybe you'd rather be a bird than look at birds. Woodrat Mountain is famous among paragliders. The 12th annual Rat Race/Sprint Paragliding Competition will be held this year from June 22 - 28, with a practice day on June 21. Registration is closed, but come and watch. Check it out at mphsports.com or at the Rogue Valley Hang Gliding and

Paragliding Association website (www.rvhpa.org).

On-the-road opportunities

- **Bicycling.** The country roads and back roads offer glorious rides, though shoulders are slim on main roads, so be cautious! Cycle Oregon came through the Applegate a few years ago, cycling over Grayback Mountain (for experts only!) and through the ghost town of Buncom. The Buncom post office opened just for the occasion.
- **Scenic driving.** It's gorgeous in the Applegate, whether in a car or on a

motorcycle. Take the back roads. Get a map. Explore.

Ball sports

- **Tennis.** The tennis court at the Applegate School is available when school is not in session.
- **Volleyball.** There's a court at Applegate Lake. Horseshoe pits too.

Other

- **Picnicking.** Picnic grounds at Applegate Lake, Squaw Lakes, Jackson Campground, Cantrall-Buckley, and McKee Bridge (alas for the loss of the Wayside Park!)—or just spread a blanket in a beautiful spot and open a basket of barbecued chicken, ripe peaches, and a bottle of local wine.
- **Camping.** You can find campgrounds at Applegate Lake, Squaw Lakes, Cantrall-Buckley, Jackson Campground (no trailers), and primitive campsites on USFS land where you can "get away from it all"—or get to it all, depending on what "it" is.
- **Wine-tasting.** Is this outdoor recreation? If so, there's plenty in the Applegate!

Diana Coogle

dcoogle@laughdogpress.com

Ed. Note: Land ownership in the Applegate is a checkerboard of public and private properties. Private land, which is not always marked as such, is offlimits—unless you gain prior approval of the property owner.



Combine scenic driving with wine-tasting in the Applegate. Best done with a designated driver or in a limo. Photo: antiwinesnob.com.

Situational awareness: Everyone needs to have it!

BY SANDY SHAFFER

We've heard the term "situational awareness" before. It's often applied to law enforcement, firefighters, pilots, the military, and maybe even golfers. Sadly, in recent years it has also become applicable for folks in a shopping mall, school principals, moviegoers, and marathon runners. Being aware of what's going on around you could save your life.

According to Wikipedia, situational awareness is "the perception of environmental elements with respect to time and/or space, the comprehension of their meaning, and the projection of their status after some variable has changed, such as time." Be aware of the forecasted weather, the condition of natural elements around you, the time of day, and how they all might affect your activities or plans.

So why am I bringing this up? Because it's looking like this year's fire season here in southwestern Oregon (and most of the West) could be even more severe than last year. As I write this in late April, fuels of all sizes in our forests are almost drought-dry, and the snowpack is far below normal for the date, which will probably mean less water for irrigation and firefighting.

As private citizens residing in the wildland-urban interface, we should be taking this into account as we prepare our properties for fire season. Fine fuels (weeds, grass, litter) and ladder fuels (vegetation of varying heights that could lead a ground

fire into tree canopies) will *definitely* need diligent attention before summer gets here. And, don't forget to clean up your "home ignition zone" to help protect your house from flying embers.

Of equal importance is preparing your family for fire season—both beforehand and during the summer months. Do you have a family evacuation plan? Does it include your pets, animals and livestock? Have you reviewed and practiced this plan? If not, why not? Let me share a story with you—it might convince you to take action.

I attended a wildfire conference in March. One of the main sessions was on Colorado's Black Forest Fire in June 2013. The Black Forest area in Colorado Springs is a thickly wooded pine forest with lots of homes on long, narrow driveways. The fire was fairly small at 14,280 acres, but it destroyed 486 homes in just hours. There were two deaths, but it could have been much worse.

That Black Forest fire was preceded by six consecutive days of a Red Flag Warning for the area. (Red Flag Warnings are issued by local offices of the National Weather Service when conditions in that area are conducive to the formation of wildfires. Ingredients considered are winds, low humidity, high temperatures, and the dryness of vegetation in the area. Thunderstorms up the ante even more.)

So, last June on the *seventh* Red

Flag day, Black Forest residents went about their normal business even though severe weather (50 mph winds) was in the forecast. During the conference session we were told that residents even left kids at home alone while they drove to town to do a couple of errands. And guess what? A forest fire *did* start, and it spread quickly.

Can you just imagine the fear of trying to get back into your burning neighborhood, driving up your long forested road to get to your children, while firefighters tell you to stay out?

Here in southwestern Oregon we are no strangers to this type of situation—we have Red Flag days, lightning storms and wildfires. If we're in a drought, we've got a Red Flag warning and our local fire folks are gearing up—shouldn't *we* also pay attention to this high-danger situation and

take action accordingly?

Learn weather patterns in your area (common wind and lightning storm patterns), and pay attention to local forecasts and warnings, especially during fire season. *Have situational awareness!*

Write or review your family evacuation plan each year before fire season begins. Make sure everyone understands and agrees to follow that plan! Get prepared, so that we all can have a safe fire season!

For more information on any of these topics—defensible space, evacuation planning, home ignition zone, wildfire preparedness, etc.—go to the links listed below, or stop in at Applegate Valley Fire District headquarters at 1095 Upper Applegate Road in Jacksonville (Ruch).

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneOR@q.com

— FOR MORE INFORMATION —

www.RVFPC.com

Fire season regulations, fuels maintenance, defensible space, fire-resistant plants, fire-safe building materials, ember awareness, family and animal evacuations.

www.applegatefd.com

Local fire conditions, our fire district, home ignition zone.

www.swofire.com

Up-to-date local fire conditions, wildfires, important notices.

www.firewise.org

Defensible space, fire-resistant plants, home ignition zone, neighborhood organizing.

www.wildlandfirersg.org

Ready-Set-Go! program, family evacuation planning and tips.

www.NFPA.org

Emergency preparedness, building fire codes and standards.

**You can also inquire at
Applegate Valley Fire District headquarters.**

FIRE SEASON

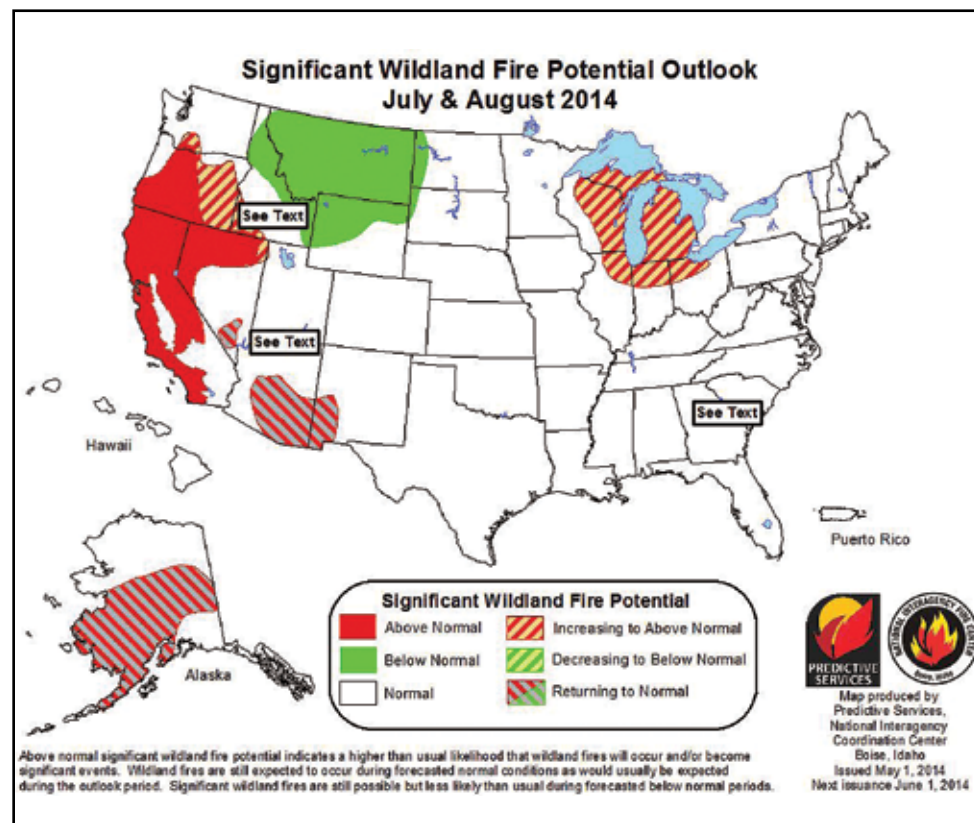
lush pastures and meadows cure in late spring, then become dry fuel in summer. Decades of fire exclusion, intensive management and various aged fire-scars have produced a very complex wildland fuel profile. Our area displays a highly variable complex patchwork mosaic, which includes forestland and extensive wildland interface fuels. Large areas within southwest Oregon display high surface-fuel loading, low crown-base height, over-dense stands, and closed canopy. Under severe summer conditions, widespread high-intensity fires may occur—remember last summer?

Fuel condition indications

Current fuel conditions indicate that larger fuels have not received sufficient moisture in their cores (while the quick-drying rinds may appear wet). Typically, it is the smaller surface fuels that determine a

fire's rate of spread and flame length, while larger fuels contribute to higher intensity and soil burn severity. Because large-diameter fuels in our area have already dried to low summer levels due to the drought, those larger fuels may contribute to harsher, longer-lasting fires.

Typically, fire season begins in the lowlands as warming and drying occurs, and then expands to include the mid-slopes and northern aspects as summer progresses. In most years the higher ridges and mountains retain snow until late in the season, providing a graduated fire season. But not this year—all elevations and aspects may be vulnerable for a longer period of time. Our summer lightning storms or careless fires may find receptive fuels over a larger area, creating complex situations for residents, federal neighbors, and fire managers.



FROM PAGE 1

By all indications, the 2014 fire season has all the ingredients to provide challenges across southwest Oregon. Fire season may start earlier, last longer, and be more severe than average. Areas that have not recently experienced an active wildfire season may see fires this season. This year

our period and area of vulnerability to fire *should not* come as a surprise to any of us.

Steve Ziel

Retired USFS Fire Behavior Analyst
and Applegate Resident

541-899-1050

(Applegate Valley Fire District #9)

Calling your fire department—or not

You are at your home and suddenly you smell smoke and hear sirens from your local fire department. You look around and see a column of smoke in the distance and wonder where it is and what's on fire.

Everyone should be concerned when it comes to fire. We live in a beautiful area where the largest threat is wildfire. It's important during emergency situations to know what to do and whom to contact.

In our tight-knit community of the Applegate Valley, it always seems more convenient to call your local fire station to report a fire or get some information about a fire. And a large majority of people in the Applegate and Williams communities know someone who is affiliated with our local fire departments and we have a comfort level knowing we can call on them. That's a good thing!

However, the best and quickest way to report information about a fire or other emergency near you is to call 9-1-1. Give the 9-1-1 operator your location, detailed information about what you observe, and your contact information in case they need to call you back. The 9-1-1 folks will immediately contact our fire district's closest personnel, as well as other resources, such as an ambulance, the law, etc. During an emergency situation is *not* the best time to call the fire station because most fire department personnel are busy addressing the emergency!

If you need information about a fire in the area, there are several options for you. Developing a community phone-tree system is an effective tool for emergency communications. You can also stop by the fire district office for more information, retrieve information through your local media, and visit these websites: Applegatefd.com, SWOFIRE.com and Williamsfirerescue.com.

Thank you for all your support, and have a safe summer.

And remember—call 9-1-1 in an emergency.

Mike Kuntz
Fire Chief, Williams Fire
541-846-7644

Brett Fillis
Fire Chief, Applegate Valley Fire
541-899-1050

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE FOURTH OF JULY!



— Applegate Library —

Our quarterly meeting of Friends of the Applegate Library (FOAL) was held in the library meeting room on April 8. It should be noted that FOAL meets four times a year—on the second Tuesday of January, April, July and October—usually at 5 pm in the meeting room. Our next two meetings this year will be on July 8 and October 7.

We discussed the success of the hat sale, which earned FOAL over \$600 last winter. Carol Hoon said that she would hold the sale again this year if we use only two specific patterns and ask the knitters to stick to those patterns because they sell so much better than the very unusual ones.

Our new assistant, Michele La Fave, brings a variety of skills to the position. She will be leading science projects for young people throughout our summer program at the library.

We plan to have our regular Summer Reading Program with “Live Bugs” as the theme. The reading program is meant to encourage children to keep up their reading skills while school is out. We will have guessing jars and other games for a

fun-filled summer. Here are some of the special programs that will be offered:

- **June 17**, 2:30 - 3:30 pm: Live Bugs with John Jackson
- **July 18**, 2:30 - 5:30 pm: Create a Riot of Color with Wool, a felted wool project and fiber study with Janis Mohr-Tipton.
- **July 29**, 2 - 3 pm: Up, Up and Away in a Beautiful Balloon, a weather program by our local National Weather Service.

Adults are always welcome at programs as long as there is space left for the children. Bring children in often and check with the librarians throughout the summer for other self-directed activities and crafts that may be going on.

We are looking for volunteers to help organize the book donations in the Book Palace. We would like to find someone who is consistent and could come in on a regular basis to sort the books and put them on the shelves in the storage shed until the book sale in November.

If you are interested in volunteering, please come to the library during open hours and discuss this with the librarian.

Joan Peterson
541-846-6988

— Ruch Library —

Science is the theme for the 2014 Summer Reading Program, and we have some exciting projects planned. We will highlight a branch of science each week and have a science experience, related books, I Spy games, the popular Guessing Jars, and worksheets available. Registration for Summer Reading begins Saturday, June 14.

We will begin with a bang on the first day of summer (Saturday, June 21) when a dozen local scientists will present “Scientists Among Us, Scientists Within Us.” This will be an opportunity to see what scientists do and for them to share an activity with the children, ranging from astronomy to zoology. The program will run from 1 – 4 pm on a drop-in basis. Please allow ample time to do all the activities and meet all the scientists. This is suitable for all ages, and adults are welcome to participate too.

Live bugs will be here on Saturday, June 28, with John Jackson, the ever-popular Library Science Guy. Explore

the world of insects and learn about bugs and the environment, what they eat, how they defend themselves, and how their camouflage works. This fun program is suitable for preschoolers through adults from 1 – 3 pm.

Create a riot of color with wool! On Thursday, July 31, Janis Mohr-Tipton will be presenting a program on fibers, culminating with each participant creating a felt ball or toy with wool fibers. She will include a book talk showcasing great science stories. Suitable for grades 4 – 12. 2 - 5 pm, drop-in basis.

Make-A-Robot. Thursday, August 7. Fun for all ages as we wrap up the Summer Reading Program by constructing a robot with cardboard boxes and tubes. 2 - 5 pm, drop-in basis.

We hope to see you at the Ruch Library soon!

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



Williams branch is going strong

Yard sale raises Adopt-an-Hour funds

Our library’s yard sale event was a huge success! Following last year’s outpouring of support, we hope to reach our goal of \$4,000 to keep the Williams branch of Josephine Community Libraries open the same extended hours for the next year. Herb Pharm is sponsoring the first hour and the community is coming together to raise funds for the two additional hours.

Williams Friends of the Library is happy to announce that we raised \$2,336 at the yard sale! In July we will host another event to raise the rest. We are over halfway there and want to thank those who helped make it possible. Thank you to everyone who donated items. We really appreciate the 40-plus volunteers who worked the day before setting up and pricing, worked the sale, and cleaned up the day after. Thanks also goes to Forestfarm at Pacifica for donating lovely trees and shrubs. And to the volunteers who made food items—your treats were delicious and appreciated!

Thank you to Pacifica Arts Guild for having an egg hunt for the children as well as games and crafts. Wacky Dog performed their fun music for little ones and Angela Hewitt delighted them with lovely face painting. Beautiful music was enjoyed throughout the day thanks to Willie and the Poor Boys, Michelle McAfee, and Omiza River.

Thirteen lucky people won raffle baskets stuffed with valuable items thanks to Green Clean Solutions, Luna Blue Farm, Herb Pharm, Goodwin Creek Gardens, Dorothy Butz, Spit n’ Polish Antiques, and the Williams Grange.

Events and services

- Preschool story time offered every Tuesday at 1:30 pm.
- Free Wi-Fi hot spot is right here 24/7 to serve the Williams community.
- Williams Elementary School/Community Garden behind the library offers a beautiful space for reading, using



Top photo: Williams children enjoyed the egg hunt by Pacifica Arts Guild.

Bottom photo: Margaret Foss (left) of Green Clean Solutions and Crystal Pyren of Luna Blue Farm donated raffle items.

Wi-Fi, and enjoying nature.

- Summer Reading Program for kids of all ages begins in June.

Our community is so fortunate to have a public library. As part of a countywide nonprofit library system, we have access to so much more than we could fit in our small building. We invite you to learn more about how your library works for you. Visit us online at josephinelibrary.org or stop in. The Williams branch is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 1 – 5 pm.

Danielle Schreck
541-846-7020

Williams Branch Library Manager
dschreck@josephinelibrary.org

Voices of the Applegate

Voices of the Applegate, our community choir, performed its spring concerts on April 11 at the Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, and on April 13 at the Applegate River Ranch House. Two African anthems were sung in memory of Nelson Mandela and a sing-along was dedicated to Pete Seeger. Both men passed away earlier this year. Six folk ballads by Brahms and a medley of Beach Boy songs were also included in the program.

Voices of the Applegate will begin rehearsals again in September of this year. Rehearsal dates will be noted in the next issue of the *Applegater*.

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

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Poetry Corner

The Gardener

by Joan Peterson

You walk into a garden looking for last year's imperfect beds of annuals the ones you encircled with wood shavings and leaves, bordered by sweet woodruff. All you find is a sea of miner's lettuce and rye grass. Everything overgrown is draped in a blanket of green. No trails to follow no sparkling blossoms reaching out to be plucked into bouquets. You want to be a gardener but you are a dreamer.

All winter you read books on landscaping and cottage gardens. You turn pages of perfect pathways carefully constructed mounds of violets and black-eyed Susans, beds of bright red tulips and white narcissus. You picture your garden as one of these pages: trapezoids of natural grasses, a riverbed of stones and boulders, bird baths and gazebos placed in perfect harmony.

Today you walk into the garden where the dogs have dug up the lavender and the rhododendron buds are burned with frost. In a corner, a wheelbarrow is posed with a few limp tulips peering over the sides. Straggly grapevines sprawl along the fence and the compost is the focal point from every perspective. Time is running out. You have a small window to work in, transform this plot of tangled weeds into paradise. Listen.

You hear a peacock calling from the trees. "Help," she screams, "help." It's already spring.

Ed. Note: Joan Peterson has recently published a book of poems, Looking for a Place to Write, through Wellstone Press, 2014 (wellstonepress.com).

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Each issue, the Applegater features one of our valued advertisers. Here is the story of Johnson Builders, another long-time advertiser.

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Grape Talk: Biodynamic wines



BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

“Organic,” “natural” and “sustainable”—words you hear in reference to farming, wine-making and grape-growing. All of these farming philosophies produce healthier products and are better for the soil and the environment. For this article, though, I wanted to examine another farming philosophy with which I was not totally familiar: “biodynamic farming,” especially as it pertains to wines and grapes.

As it turns out, biodynamics is a relatively old idea. In the 1920s, a visionary and social reformer from Austria, Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925), wrote a book titled *The Agriculture Course: The Birth of the Biodynamic Method*. This course views the farm or vineyard as a cohesive, interconnected living system with its own cycles, energies and life-forces.

Steiner called the field “anthroposophy” and based his farming philosophy on creating healthier soil and plants using nine biodynamic preparations, ecological self-sufficiency and spiritual considerations. These preparations use cow manure, powdered quartz (silica) and seven medicinal plants, including chamomile, yarrow, oak bark, dandelion, horsetail, valerian and stinging nettles. Specific buried animal parts (cow horn) are used as vessels and planting techniques are based on the phases of the moon and other spiritual considerations—all of which initially seemed pretty strange to me. Are all these farming techniques common sense or “voodoo farming” as some have reported? My curiosity was piqued and I wanted to learn more.

There are currently about 450 biodynamic wine producers worldwide

that are certified by the Demeter Biodynamic Trade Association (DBTA), the international certifying body. Luckily for me, there is a certified biodynamic wine producer right here in the Applegate Valley, so I set up a visit to see the technique at work for myself.

The biodynamic Cowhorn Vineyard is located on Eastside Road about five miles from Ruch off Upper Applegate Road. My appointment was with Bill Steele, owner and winemaker. Bill and his wife Barbara came to the Applegate Valley by way of the Bay Area, where he was a Wall Street analyst and Barbara a chief financial officer of a company specializing in business strategies.

In 2001 Barbara and Bill took a vacation that led them on a path to find some land and phase into a new career: farming. They purchased 117 acres of “weeds, rocks and abandoned metal” as far from chemical drift as feasibly possible and set out to create a farm.

Working with the late Allan York, an international expert on biodynamic farming, they let the land decide what they would grow. Allan helped the Steeles create their master plan, which included integrating orchards, grapes and crops for the best use of the land. Bill states that about half of their acreage was good for grapes (rocky river bottom) and the other half was good for growing food. They planted Viognier, Syrah, Grenache, Marsanne and Roussane wines, all Rhône wine region (southern France) varietals.

One of their most successful farm crops is asparagus, of which they harvest and sell over 10,000 pounds yearly. The working farm also uses sustainable

practices like saving the river rocks and crushing them for roads, and using trees from their property for buildings.

Everything done at Cowhorn is based on attention to detail. Bill and Barbara are pragmatic farmers with charts and graphs of all aspects of their operation. These are not “voodoo farmers,” but educated businesspeople who use all aspects of science and spirituality to create a farm/vineyard that integrates the land with their plantings and works in phase with the moon and natural earth cycles.

Their use of biodynamic principles focuses on the health of the soil and goes beyond the organic to create preparations and amendments that produce higher quality products. Bill uses cow manure sourced from a farm in Williams (he trades wine for manure) and creates the preparation that he sprays on his vines according to Steiner’s principles.

Bill applies these biodynamic principles to the fermentation process as well, using native yeast from his own plants rather than manufactured yeast. His SO₂ (sulfur dioxide) is created in-house and only a small amount (10 to 15 ppm) is used to stabilize the wine for shipping.

All this has led to a biodynamic certification by DBTA (Bill was formerly on its board) as well as organic certification by Stellar Certification Services. It has also led to some really impressive wines. Both *The Wine Advocate* and *Wine Spectator*



Former Wall Street analyst Bill Steele now runs, along with wife Barbara, Cowhorn Vineyard and Garden, a certified biodynamic operation in the Applegate Valley.

magazines have given Cowhorn Vineyard accolades and high ratings, including Wine of the Year (Matt Kramer, *Wine Spectator* columnist). Their wines have complex nuances that reflect the Steeles’ vision and attention to every detail.

We are lucky to have Cowhorn Vineyard, the only biodynamic vineyard in southern Oregon, in the Applegate Valley. The tasting room is open from 11 am to 4 pm daily and is located at 1665 Eastside Road, Jacksonville, OR.

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avrealty@gmail.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Opinion piece review**

Editors:

I've noted with pride the positive steps you and the editorial board have taken to improve the content and quality of our newspaper.

I was surprised, therefore, to read [in the Spring 2014 *Applegater*] Chris Bratt's disjointed, inflammatory rant. Notwithstanding the utter lack of factual support or reference, what in the world does it have to do with our community?

I frequently disagree with Chris, who is a friend, but, up to now, his columns have tied in with local issues.

I recommend that your editors review your policies on opinion columns. Publishing this kind of piece in the *Applegater* is inappropriate.

Respectively,
Tom Carstens
Applegate, OR

Chris Bratt responds

My friend Tom Carstens got a little hot under the collar over my opinion piece ("Money Talks") in the Spring 2014 issue of the *Applegater*. Carstens is right about one thing: we do disagree on many issues. And his berating my writing skills (a "disjointed inflammatory rant") or my Robin Hood opinions (take the wealth from the rich and give it to the poor) are fair game for criticism, since I still consider myself in training as a contributing writer to the paper.

But I do reject his accusations that my article was "inappropriate" for publication in the *Applegater* and that it had nothing "to do with our community" (not "tied with local issues"). For the life of me, I can't see why my warnings about the extreme inequality and concentration of wealth in the hands of a few people in America could be inappropriate to write about—especially when this inequality has weakened our rural social and economic stability. Most importantly, I think Tom is laboring under the illusion that the power of our country's ultra-rich individuals and corporations has no effect on local problems that many residents face on a daily basis.

If Tom is really serious about wanting us to review our policies on opinion columns or any other issue, I suggest he take more interest in helping the paper increase more of those positive steps he states that we have already taken.

Chris Bratt
Applegate, OR

Atrazine

Dear Editor:

I wish you would check the veracity of some of the statements made in the articles you choose to print.

When I read the article by Daryl Jackson [in the Spring 2014 *Applegater*], I almost fell out of my chair.

He says that Atrazine "has proven to be one of the most toxic chemicals ever created by man."

This is so far from the truth it's almost laughable. It's not even close. If Atrazine was responsible for all of the problems he cites, the EPA would have banned its use long ago, just as they did with DDT in 1972.

Either Mr. Jackson is being untruthful, trying to make a point, or he's just badly misinformed. I suspect the latter.

Richard Cody
Applegate, OR

Government and corporate pesticide use—upcoming ballot measure

Dear Editor:

There has been a lot of information circulating on this issue lately, thankfully. I think people sometimes just don't understand the extent of what has gone on and the players involved. We rarely get a chance to fix something like this—special interests can spend a lot more than most citizens, and many have no stake in the quality of life here once those ballot measures pass. (A recent article in another publication pointed to Monsanto and DuPont chemical companies providing financial support in 1990 to a group called "Josephine Citizens for Maintaining Safe Roadsides," whose advertising campaign helped *defeat* a ballot measure to ban the use of herbicides along country roads.)

In March, the county sprayed along my property with an extended sprayer that went across the ditch draining roadside water. The last vote was over 20 years ago, and most of us have since achieved a sort of state of enlightenment in regard to chemicals in our homes, forests, roadsides, food, virtually in every aspect of our lives—they are everywhere. We are aware now and can actually see the damage. The introduction of most of these chemicals into our lives was done not only without our permission, but also without our knowledge.

We as a family have been systematically eliminating chemicals used in our home in order to protect our family. The remainder to be dealt with are garden chemicals that have been rounded up in the garage and are waiting for a hazmat notification from the sanitation company. After researching those, we found some that contained the toxin now believed to be responsible for killing honeybees.

There are a large number of plants and animals and habitats being negatively impacted by these toxins, and they are disappearing. And when they are all gone, we will be too.

Thanks.
Pete Fisher
Grants Pass, OR

OPINIONS**Is natural gas the clean fossil fuel?**

BY ALAN JOURNET

The Pacific Connector Natural Gas Pipeline may not threaten your backyard, but just like a wildfire blowing through Northern California, it ultimately threatens us all. Extraction, transport, and export of natural gas (methane) pose a threat to our future for the following reasons.

Because methane releases much less carbon dioxide than other fossil fuels when burned, natural gas (methane) proponents argue this is the end of the story. It is not.

Although we focus on carbon dioxide when discussing climate change, a better measure of our emissions is carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). This measures carbon dioxide plus the other greenhouse gases: methane, nitrogen oxides, and chlorofluorocarbons. While methane has over 30 times the long-term warming potential of carbon dioxide, the other gases are even worse.

Because of its greater warming effect, only one percent methane leakage is necessary before the benefit seen at combustion is erased. Unfortunately, in some situations, over 15 percent leakage is reported. Methane may reduce carbon pollution, but it can accelerate global warming. Before promoting natural gas, we should insist that leakage from mining and shipping are reduced such that it is a clear improvement over other fossil fuels.

The "Halliburton Loophole" in Dick Cheney's 2005 Federal Energy Policy exempts fracking from regulations that protect us from toxic chemicals. Consequently, many companies insert toxic and carcinogenic chemicals under pressure into the ground. Because courts uphold the claim that these are a protected trade secret, the identity of the chemicals is not public knowledge. If fracking is safe, the Halliburton Loophole should be closed.

According to international agreement, we must hold global temperature increase to below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature increase to date combined with the future consequence of gases

already emitted demands our leaving in place over half of known fossil fuel reserves.

Two criteria can help us decide what to leave:

1. How much energy is returned to us for each unit of energy we invest to get it (EROEI). When this drops to one, the resource is exhausted so we should not extract that fuel. Fuel extracted by fracking exhibits a very low EROEI. Furthermore, the energy used to extract the fuel is generally derived from carbon-polluting fossil fuels.

2. The potential human and environmental health threat. Natural gas extraction techniques fail this test dismally.

Methane's cost/benefit ratio is questionable, even as a "bridge to the future."

Fracking consumes vast amounts of water. In an age when droughts are gripping the nation and are only expected to worsen, we should pause before promoting a technology that consumes so much water.

Undoubtedly the climate crisis is driven largely by our combustion of fossil fuels. Since it is a global problem, we cannot protect ourselves by shipping fossil fuels overseas. Exporting our fossil fuel reserves contributes at least as much to climate change as burning them here. We only solve the problem if we collaborate internationally. Exporting fossil fuels only accelerates the onset of climate chaos. It also raises domestic prices.

Since climate change is the defining threat of our era, anyone concerned about inter-generational justice should demand we address it.

Before endorsing methane export, we must fully evaluate its extraction and use. If our concerns cannot be addressed, we should rethink natural gas and focus our efforts on promoting clean energy.

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Co-facilitator,
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OPINIONS

River Right: Driving cards for illegal immigrants?

BY TOM CARSTENS

River right? Or river left? Which way to paddle?

While kayaking on a fast river, it's often difficult to tell which path to take around an island. You're down so low, you just can't see very far ahead. So mostly I just go with the big flow and hope for the best. It usually works out. But sometimes the roar of the river is so deafening in one direction that I chicken out and go the safer way, hoping not to scrape bottom in the shallower water.

This is sort of how I feel when I look at this business of giving illegal immigrants a license to drive. What's the right way to go? It's hard to know.

Undocumented workers in Oregon haven't been able to apply for driving privileges since 2008. Last May, though, our governor signed a bill that allows them the right to apply for a "driver card." The law was supposed to go into effect in January, but a group called "Oregonians for Immigration Reform" immediately challenged it. They successfully circulated a petition that put the law on hold until voters have their say. We'll vote on this issue in November. So...which way to vote?

The Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) says the driver card is different from a regular license. It can't be used for commercial vehicles (but it can have a farm vehicle endorsement). It can't be used to purchase or carry weapons. It's not *supposed* to be used as identification. It's more expensive than a regular license and is good for only four years. To get one, an individual must show a valid passport or consular identification documents and prove that he/she has lived in Oregon for more than a year. *Legal* residence is not a requirement. Not everyone, to say the least, thinks this is a good idea.

Many believe that granting driving privileges to undocumented immigrants is nothing but a reward for illegally entering our country. Why should our state promote and encourage criminal behavior?

Others feel that it's not right to discriminate against people who live here

and are contributing to our economy. They suggest we give them the right to drive to work or school. Our governor tells us that undocumented immigrants "deserve their shot at the American dream."

But what's the real issue? The Oregon legislature passed this law as a public safety measure. Holders of this new driver card must pass both the written and driving tests. The idea was to cut down on traffic accidents and hit-and-runs—and make sure everyone has liability insurance.

The AAA Foundation says that nationwide, unlicensed drivers are involved in one out of five fatal crashes and are much more likely to flee the scene. In researching their own new law, the California DMV determined that unlicensed drivers are *three times* more likely to cause fatal crashes. That sounds a lot like a public safety issue to me.

But hold on a minute. The Oregon DMV says unlicensed/uninsured drivers are no more likely to be involved in accidents than you or me. According to their annual report (google "Oregon Annual HB 3624 Report"), it looks like less than three percent of injury accidents in Oregon typically involve unlicensed and uninsured drivers. That's less than the proportion of illegal residents in our workforce. In fact, their accident rates are trending downward. We aren't exactly having a public safety crisis in Oregon.

Still, these folks *are* living and working here. They're also *driving*. And guess what? They're not moving back to their homelands. Would it be so wrong to test and certify them? (The Oregon DMV tests in six languages.)

It's a tough call, with a lot of conflicting emotions. River right: Go with the flow—don't give illegals a lawful ID and a license to drive. River left: take the more cautious route—give a nod to highway safety and personal accountability.

I'm ready to go left on this one.

See you on the river.

Tom Carstens

541-846-1025

Genetic roulette anyone?

BY TOM KLINEFELTER

Why are GMOs banned in Europe and Canada? What do they know that we Americans don't? I recently watched Jeffrey Smith's film *Genetic Roulette*, which documents insidious mutations and the dangers posed to us and our future generations. The press has failed us with a kaleidoscope of information that diverts our attention from the facts. Unfortunately, in our country, the media are not separate from the government, the banking system and the industrial complex, which makes it almost impossible to present a clear and unbiased picture to the population.

But who can you trust? We would like to think that our government and its agencies like the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have our best interests in mind, but with folks like Michael Taylor, former vice president of public policy for Monsanto (the leading producer of genetically engineered seed and Roundup) and now head of food safety for the FDA, this is not necessarily the case.

There has been a well-documented massive rise of a multitude of illnesses in epidemic proportions across the United States. "The dangerous side effects are much worse than we have ever imagined," says Dr. Don Huber in his letter of warning to the USDA, which includes "the threat we are facing from this pathogen is unique and of a high risk status, and should be treated as an emergency." His warning has been completely ignored by the USDA.

The original reports from scientists working for the biotech companies pronounced *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) corn safe for human consumption, but studies now show conclusively that Bt toxin actually eats holes in the intestinal walls of humans. The leaky intestines are shown to be responsible for everything from food allergy illnesses, birth defects and autism to various cancers and a multitude of gastrointestinal disorders. A recent Canadian study revealed that 93 percent of all pregnant women and 80

percent of their unborn fetuses have Bt toxin in their blood.

I'm a musician and farmer, not a research scientist, but I do have a lot of experience with animals and recently performed some testing with my own livestock. Given a choice, my goats, sheep, and even chickens will always choose the organic, non-GMO feed when placed side by side with GMO feed. Moreover, for the past year my two-year-old cat has chronically regurgitated her cat food, so I tried all of the brands from the Grange Co-op, but the condition persisted. Smith's documentary got me wondering if GMOs might be the culprit, so I went back to the Grange and read all of the labels and called the manufacturers to discover that none were GMO-free. In mid February I purchased some Canadian organic cat food from a Medford pet store and switched her diet. The results were immediate and lasting—she hasn't been sick since!

What about people food? All of the leading brands of infant formula contain GMO ingredients, as do almost all processed foods in this country. Sure, we can just choose not to buy these products, but as long as GMOs are legal, the proliferation of these mutations and the dangerous side effects continue.

Since the government agencies, the biotech corporations, and the media are not going to take the initiative, it is up to us to take control of our well-being and ban GMOs in our own country.

The simple truth is that genetic engineering is a billion-dollar industry, which is *not* built around improving the quality of our lives. Altering Mother Nature at this level and magnitude is truly a crime against all humanity and has the potential to adversely affect all life-forms on the planet.

Please watch the documentary *Genetic Roulette* (geneticroulettetmovie.com) and draw your own conclusions—a 17-minute segment is free on youtube.com.

Tom Klinefelter

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

Send your events to gater@applegater.org—we'll post them on our Facebook page too!

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Water Quality

from Bob Quinn,
the Water Doctor

The quality of your water is often not completely understood. Iron (red staining), Hardness (white spotting or buildup) and PH (green stains) and so on, are all water quality issues that can cause havoc to your plumbing, laundry, dishes, windows, toilets, etc.

Quinn's would like to help you understand your water quality. Do you have a rotten egg smell in your water? Does your well have Coliform or Ecoli bacteria that gives your out of town company a bad tummy ache with frequent bathroom visits? Maybe it is time to test your water.

Some of these tests are FREE! (Yes, "FREE".) We give you the answer to the problem.

Sure we want to solve the problem with a made in the USA Water Right System, but what we really want to do is help you.

If you like, take our test to another water filtration company for verification!

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Legal marijuana in southern Oregon: now and later

BY HALEY MAY

In the spirit of this issue's theme of "environment, fire and recreation," I'll begin this article about marijuana in the Applegate with the question: How does the growing of legal marijuana affect the environment in the Applegate area? For more information about this, I talked to Laird Funk, a long-time political activist in Williams, who has extensive knowledge of cannabis and its laws in Oregon.

It's the *illegal* growers, Laird explained, who employ worrisome practices like the use of pesticides, herbicides and rat poison because folks who are growing illegally are probably doing it for the money and want to get the most product they can, using nonorganic means to proliferate their crop. Perhaps this is the situation Jakob Shockey was writing about last winter in his *Applegater* article, "Poisoned marijuana grows are silencing our forests." According to Laird, "Legal growers are growing organically in this area and have zero negative impact on the environment," though he says some may be using fertilizers like 13-13-13 (known as triple 13).

In November 1998, Oregon voters passed the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act allowing for the cultivation, possession and use of marijuana prescribed by a doctor. The Act does not affect federal law, which prohibits cultivation and possession, but this doesn't prevent about 11,400 people in Josephine and Jackson counties from using medical marijuana. All of that cannabis needs to

grow somewhere, probably in the country as opposed to town.

Patients can grow for themselves or get their medicine from a licensed grower or caregiver. Caregivers can grow, transport, buy from growers on behalf of patients and do any other needed task surrounding medical marijuana without prosecution. Growers simply grow, for no more than four patients at a time, and may possess no more than six mature plants, 18 seedlings under 12", or



24 ounces of usable marijuana at one time. (This also goes for caregivers who grow.) A typical plant produces one-half to one pound of marijuana.

We can't track how many acres are used for *illegal* marijuana, of course, and so we can't regulate the use of pesticides, rat poison and herbicides or follow the contamination of mold or mildew. But for *legal* marijuana, House Bill 3460 gives this job to the dispensaries. This bill,

which went into effect on March 1 of this year, authorizes the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish procedures to license and regulate medical marijuana dispensaries.

Nonprofit dispensaries are a way of connecting medical marijuana patients to the medicine they need for conditions such as severe migraines, seizures or PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). Dispensaries also provide growers with a lawful outlet for surplus marijuana, preventing it from entering the black market.

At the moment, there are two issues with this legislation. First, how will we go about testing for mold, mildew and pesticides? How often? What are the standards? What levels of toxins are acceptable? Second, Senate Bill 1531 allows (though it does not mandate) cities to ban dispensaries. Ashland and Grants Pass have such moratoriums in place, which will last for up to a year.

Problems like these come with the process of "learning" how to have medical marijuana in Oregon and make everyone happy. Hopefully these issues will be non-permanent and, according to Laird, we should expect a ballot measure this November asking for votes for or against legalizing marijuana as a recreational drug in Oregon. And, he says, we should expect it to pass.

Haley May • hmaylmt@gmail.com
Author's note: Information for this article was drawn from the *Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA) website, marijuana-caregiver.com, southernoregonalternativemedicine.com, oregon-medical-marijuana-program.info, the winter 2013 Applegater, and an interview with local political activist Laird Funk of Williams.*

Summer hikes offered by Williams Community Forest Project

BY JANIS BOGDANOVICH

The Williams Community Forest Project (WCFP) loves our local forest ecosystem!

Our backyard woods provide the Williams community with physical, emotional and spiritual sustenance. Our valley's public and private forest lands consist of a diverse mix of flora and fauna, some of which are endemic to the region. These woodlands of conifers, hardwoods and brush species, with miles of clear streams running through them, provide habitat for myriad species of wildlife and fish. Our local forest ecosystem provides clean air and water, miles of recreational trails to enjoy, and opportunities to wildcraft the bounty of the forest. The community's relationship with the forest and its species enables a close connection that is mutually sustaining for all.

WCFP, which is dedicated to sustaining the ecological balance of the forest through education, outreach and advocacy at the local, state and national levels, is happy to announce its first summer season hike schedule! Come one, come all (and leashed dogs). Hope you can

make at least one or all of the hikes.

The following descriptions of the hikes include length and difficulty. Wear comfortable walking shoes and be sure to bring water and snacks. We will meet at the Williams Grange at 10 am to carpool. Each hike will happen rain or shine. Maps of the hikes can be seen on our website at williamscommunityforestproject.org. For more information, call Janis at 541-846-0813 or email info@williamscommunityforestproject.org.

• **June 29 Shooting Star Trail System at Marble Gulch and White Oak**
Difficulty: Moderate with an elevation gain of 750 feet

Distance: Approximately 4 miles, loop trail

This hike will give you the experience of a diverse ecological forest with some old growth. The trail includes Marble Gulch, home to a marble mine that provided a block for the Washington Monument.

• **July 20 Glade Fork Creek**
Difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 2.5 miles round trip



Hiking opportunities abound in our mountains. Photo: Pam Sewell.

This beautiful trail offers several creek crossings, with a combination of shade and sun.

• **August 10 Lower Grayback Mountain Trail**
Difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 3.5-mile loop

Lower Grayback trail is a cool hike in the summer under a canopy of second- and old-growth diverse conifers and hardwoods.

Janis Bogdanovich
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MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Taking liberties

BY CHRIS BRATT

Our senior senator from Oregon, Ron Wyden, is a lawyer with a 30-year career helping to make laws for our state and country. Everything considered, I think he has done a good job over those years representing the interests of the people in Oregon as well as introducing some fair and important environmental legislation. So it comes as a surprise and a great disappointment to me that the senator's latest proposed bill, the Oregon and California Land Grant Act of 2013 (his top priority in 2014) is such a disaster.

Last year, when drafting this bill, the senator stated, "It is not going to ignite an ideological war." But with extreme pressure mounting from all sides (members of Congress, the State of Oregon, timber interests, rural counties, scientists, environmentalists, etc.), the senator has decided to abandon the science-based management now employed on our public forestlands.

In addition, the new law that Wyden is proposing will restrict the public's right to protest and to petition the government for redress. Because he has resorted to these extreme measures, I foresee a firestorm building over the shortcomings of his

plan. If this or a similar bill is approved by Congress, I believe it will fan the flames of the environment-versus-economy debate once again.

I believe that by limiting citizen participation and judicial review and withdrawing the existing protections on 2.6-million acres of public forestland managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the environmental community nationwide will mobilize. Do we really want to go back to the polarizing arguments pitting struggling counties, job growth and doubling timber cuts up against existing laws, science and environmental protections?

I hope we don't try to return to the failed management and forest policies of the distant past. We have progressed far beyond managing our public forests exclusively for timber production, and "logging without laws" won't work anymore. There are too many other scientific, economic and social values that a forest provides that now need to be considered.

I'm further dismayed by the senator's expressed frustration with environmental activists. While stating that all the parties involved will have to

compromise under his plan, he singles out the environmentalists to do most of the compromising. Wyden calls some of us "The Stop Everything Brigade." He continues, "I don't believe every tree in America has a constitutional right to a lawsuit." (The proposed bill shows that he apparently doesn't believe a citizen has that right either.)

In the same harsh tone, he announces, "This bill stipulates that you get one bite of the apple," which means that a citizen or group will have only one chance (at the beginning of a ten-or-more year period) to challenge BLM's Final Forest Management Plan (Environmental Impact Statement). Thereafter, all individual timber sales will take place without any further environmental assessment, protest, appeal, legal challenge, or administrative or judicial review. Anyone concerned about BLM's timber sales or other actions will have to rely solely on BLM's management judgments (good luck with that).

The senator's bill and others being put forward are troubling echoes of the past with the same hostile tone and drastic solutions directed toward people who are trying to ensure that

our public forests and resources are safeguarded for future generations. The fate of our forests can no longer be subjected to the whims of a dysfunctional Congress and angry politicians.

I do agree with Senator Wyden when he says, "Forest policy should be dictated by science, not lawyers." (He has just dictated a 180-page bill, apparently forgetting that he is a lawyer.) So let's suspend further action on these negative bills before Congress. Let's begin to draft a long-term science-based forest plan for these BLM lands with negotiated solutions that create the jobs, revenue for cash-strapped counties and a viable wood-products industry we would all like to see.

There can be a bright future for Oregon and our forests. All we need to get there is a focus on solutions that can bring us together. Rather than compromising the legacy of our unique resources, we will need a shared responsibility to maintain and improve our forests, counties and rural communities.

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

Applegate Valley Community Grange news

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

The Applegate Valley Community Grange (AVCG) hall was decked out in green this March for the return of the St. Patrick's Day Dinner. One hundred community guests and Grange members enjoyed a fine meal of corned beef, potatoes, carrots and cabbage, and tasty "lucky green" dessert cups, with most of the food provided through local sources. We had instrumental guitar music provided by Grange member John Unger, and local singer-songwriters Christina Duane and Butch Martin of Sons of the Oregon Trail.

We had a great crew of dedicated Grange members and community volunteer supporters working hard to prepare for the event, which made it a success. The Grange hopes to make this community event and other events grow so that the community can come together to share a good locally produced meal, visit with neighbors, and hear our talented local entertainers. We all know these community events take lots of hands working together, so consider joining the Grange and being a part of the Grange's commitment to serving our community. If you missed the event, check out our website at www.grange.org/applegatevalleycommunityor839/ events for more fun events to come this year. Or let us know if you'd like to be

on our contact list about future volunteer opportunities and events.

On May 24 and 25, the Grange hall was filled with a multifamily yard sale organized by Grange member Mary Ann Gum and community member Sandy Reynolds. It was a good event for the community to be able to shop for great deals under one roof. The proceeds from booth spaces benefited the Grange and the McKee Bridge Historical Society.

You may have noticed some changes in front of the Grange building. After the septic system was pumped, we made some upgrades by replacing worn parts and then planting new grass. We also recently added large boulders to prevent compaction from vehicles in order to protect the drain-field area and add longevity to the system. Grange members Jack Duggan, Paul Tipton, Peter Sturm and John Unger with his tractor provided all the labor of moving and setting the boulders in place.

Be sure to contact Janis Mohr-Tipton about volunteer opportunities. See you soon at our next event!

Janis Mohr-Tipton • 541-846-7501

AVCG Membership and

Outreach Chairperson

janismohrtipton48@frontier.com



Jack Duggan, Paul Tipton, Peter Sturm and John Unger (on his tractor) created a rock barrier to protect the drain-field area in front of the Grange building.

Update from the Applegate Food Pantry

BY ARLENE AND CLAUDE ARON

Our regular volunteer driver, Steve Weaver, will no longer be available to pick up our weekly food allocation from ACCESS after May, so we are looking for someone to take over this critical job. Steve has been doing this week in and week out for many years and we cannot thank him enough for his generosity and dedication to community service.

We need someone with a large pickup who is available to drive to the ACCESS warehouse in Medford on Monday mornings by 10:30 and bring back a load of food to Ruch School. The ACCESS warehouse folks will load the food onto your truck (usually two pallets worth) and we will unload it at Ruch School. We can reimburse you for your gas, but otherwise this is strictly a volunteer position. Please contact Arlene Aron at 541-951-6707 if you're interested in this community service opportunity.

In the last issue of the *Applegater*, we announced that we were going to offer our neighbors in the Applegate a way to participate in the Medford Food Project. Starting in February, we began stocking a few locations with the green canvas bags that the project uses. We had a very enthusiastic response, with 35 individuals who signed up and took a bag. Our local forest service office took this on as a group project and filled three bags themselves—a special thanks to them for that. Perhaps there are other organizations or businesses that would be willing to take this on as a group effort? While we were very happy with this initial response, we're hoping to build on it and do even better over time. Please consider signing up if you're able to do so—you'll be helping your neighbors in need and you'll feel good about it too!

A few things to note this time around:

- Some of the pickup and drop-off locations for the green bags had little activity, so we are going to limit the locations to just two from now on: the

Ruch Country Store and the Applegate Store. This will make it convenient for those who live on either end of the valley and will also simplify things for us.

- Because we had such a positive initial response, we have decided that we will distribute all the food we receive in the Applegate through the Applegate Food Pantry rather than merge it into the Medford Food Project.

- Though we had 35 people sign up and pick up bags, a few bags were not returned. If you forgot to turn in your bag on time, that's okay—please turn it in on the next drop-off date, which is Friday, June 13. If you've decided that you can't participate for some reason, please return the bag—we have a limited supply and must pay for additional bags. We will be happy to acquire more bags if we get more participation, but we can't afford to give them away to nonparticipants.

To recap, pick up a green bag at either the Ruch or Applegate stores. If this is your first time, put your name on the sign-up sheet with your email printed clearly and legibly (so we can send you a reminder every two months). Whenever you go shopping, pick up one extra can or package of nonperishable food and put it in the bag. Every two months on the second Friday of the month (June 13, August 8, October 10 and December 12 are the remaining dates in 2014), drop your full bag at the same location where you picked it up.

A big thank you to everyone who dropped off a green bag full of food in April, to the Ruch and Applegate stores for allowing us to use their facilities, to our wonderful volunteers who enable us to keep the pantry going, to Ruch School for providing a home to our pantry for many years, and to those generous donors and growers whose cash and food donations sustain us in our efforts to make sure that no one in our community goes hungry.

Arlene and Claude Aron

541-951-6707

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

Summer at Ruch School

Along with preparing for our 100th Birthday Celebration held on Saturday, May 17, students at Ruch School have been engaged in a place-based experience that is being shared with Southern Oregon University (SOU). This experience is orchestrated and administered by Margaret Perrow (Ruch School parent and SOU instructor); Abraham Katz, founder and Music Director for Indigital Kids; and SOU interns, David Lindstrom, Kendra Lawrence, Jake Weigel and Rachel Lawson.

During this experience, students are writing stories about their lives and transforming them into short picture slide shows. Students will contribute to a final product showcasing their work.

Here are examples of amazing work in progress:

As a child I was full of creativity and imagination. I would make strange and creative stories; they seem chaotic and random to me now, full of unorganized thought. Now I can't find that kind of raw creativity within me. Some may call it maturity or adulthood, but it's more like death. The fall of culture where most movies seem to be about the same thing.

It's the death of creativity. But when in a person's life does it die? Did we just use up all the creativity?

Meagan McCoy, Seventh Grade

Ever since I could pick up a pencil I always drew pictures. At that time, it wasn't anything special; stick people or something similar. Later on in life, I don't know when, but not long ago, I started to express my feelings really well so this was good.

Pineach Praneetpolgrang, Seventh Grade

My friend changed my life. I used to go to school with bullies and kids who did not listen to the teachers. I was one of those kids. Two years later I went back to school that was awesome. I used to go to this school when I was younger. I walked into my class and didn't say a word to anyone. After that class I went to recess... that's when it started!

Danyeal Durr, Seventh Grade

Julie Hill

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Principal, Ruch School

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The Storytelling Guild proudly presents its 48th annual Children's Festival at Britt Gardens in Jacksonville

This magical three-day event will take place on July 12-14 at Britt Gardens in Jacksonville. It's a guaranteed amazing day out for the entire family. The theme "Create a Spark!" was inspired by the Jackson County Library's Summer Reading Program, "Fizz, Boom, Read."

Children and adults can participate in more than 35 booths of hands-on arts and crafts and daily feeding of the beloved litter-eating dragons, Rosabelle and Pebbles and our newest addition, Lulu! Older children will enjoy crafts such as candle making, pottery and woodworking, while younger children can make their own puppets, do sand and easel art, and have their faces painted. Child-focused stage performances, yummy food from our Dragon Deli, and activities like storytelling on the hill will delight the whole family. And, always enjoyable, are some local celebrities who will be reading to the children, including a few well-known news anchors!

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

Saturday, July 12: 4:30 - 8:30 pm

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

Monday, July 14: 10 am - 1:30 pm

Admission for this spark-tacular event is \$3 per day for adults and children. Our goal has always been to offer an amazing day of entertainment and education while keeping the cost to families as low as possible.

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

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, visit the Storytelling Guild's website at www.storytellingguild.org or its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/storytellingguild.



APPLEGATE SCHOOL

Applegate School takes first place at annual district-wide Battle of the Books

Applegate School students won the Battle of the Books competition with a first place in both level one and level two.

Three Rivers School District's Elementary Schools Battle of the Books is held annually at Fruitdale School in Grants Pass, OR. This year's competition was on

Saturday, April 26, 2014.

Level one winners were Natalia Sahr and Joaquin Martinez of Mrs. Yerby's third-grade class.

Level two winners were Lucas Cross, Hunter Krouse, Ronan Hodge and Lily Emmons, who are from Mr. Scull's fourth- and fifth-grade classes and were coached by "Grandma Jean."

Congratulations to our young readers and thank you Grandma Jean for helping!



Battle of the Books winners (left to right): Level one—Natalia Sahr and Joaquin Martinez. Level two—Lucas Cross, Hunter Krouse, Ronan Hodge and Lily Emmons. Photo: Kelli Palmerton.

Applegate School student wins third place in district-wide spelling bee

Eighth-grader Shae Wiginton took third place in the middle school division of the Three Rivers School District's spelling bee on Wednesday, April 16, 2014. Shae was awarded a third-place ribbon and a spelling bee trophy.

Other participating students were Jessica Hendricks, an eighth-grader (middle school division) and Kaiah Fisher (fifth grade) and Alyssa Seal (third grade), who represented Applegate School's elementary division.

Thank you parents and friends for coming out to watch our students excel in this year's spelling bee.



Students who participated in the district-wide spelling bee are (left to right): Shae Wiginton (third-place winner), Jessica Hendricks, Kaiah Fisher and Alyssa Seal. Photo: Linda Kappen.

Applegate School has a new garden club!

Led by parent volunteer Carrie, the new after-school garden club program is open to kindergartners through third-graders. More than 20 children signed up to meet one afternoon a week to plant seeds and flowers and learn about working with soil. A fence and planter boxes have been built by parent volunteer John, and the children are filling the boxes with soil and planting seeds.

Parent volunteers, our librarian Janie, and our teachers are all getting in on helping the children with gardening. New plants are being planted near the entrance to the classrooms. Elizabeth, a student teacher at our school, is also working with the children on a special project making lasagna beds in planter boxes. (Lasagna gardening is a method of building a garden by adding layers of organic materials that will "cook down" over time, resulting in rich, fluffy soil.)

Long-range plans include some new landscaping next to the brick schoolhouse where once cars were parked.

Applegate School principal Mrs.



Garden club members. Photo: Linda Kappen.

Hults says, "The garden is an amazing hands-on learning opportunity. It is heartwarming and exciting to see our students put effort into beautifying our school. I am so thankful for the efforts and vision of our volunteers!"

Personally, I think it is a great thing to watch our students as they garden. The children are very excited to have a garden of their own at school.

If you would like to help, please contact the Applegate School office at 541-846-6280.

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

Creativity and sustainability meet in new local business

BY MELISSA MATTHEWSON

It's easy to get stuck in patterns. Modern-day conveniences allow us to shop where we want, buy whatever we want whenever we want it and, most of all, allow us to forget what goes into the making of a product. It's easy to forget the source of the many things we purchase at Costco or Best Buy and the negative consequences of those products on our ecosystems.

Though it's easy to shop this way, it's important to remember what goes into a product. It matters how something was produced. It matters that care, artistry, and a conservation ethic are inherent in the production of some things we purchase, including clothes, food and furniture. We live in an age of false abundance with many of our preferences directed toward affordability instead of quality handmade and environmentally sound products. I'm guilty of this myself, so it's always refreshing and exciting to discover someone with a passion for integrating artistry, conservation, and care into a business.

Shane Jimerfield of ShaneJ

Woodworks is a conservationist

who has spent the last 25 years working tirelessly for the environmental movement by protecting some of the forests and streams here in the Applegate. While working in the conservation field, Shane continued to pursue his passion and hobby of woodworking. He has now transitioned full time into channeling his creativity into finely crafted furniture and buildings using reclaimed materials and sustainable forest products.

Shane's business is unique in that he is passionate about using reclaimed materials from wood to hardware. He's interested in preserving the small-scale craft of woodworking that has virtually disappeared due to big business, global markets, and mass-produced commodities. Shane's products—dining tables, garden gates, furniture, or small houses—are produced with a fine attention to their environmental impact, so most of the materials are sourced locally, offering people an alternative to the Ikea model.

A prime example of Shane's



The Dragonfly Teahouse is made partially from reclaimed timber from the demolition of some Oregon mills.



Shane Jimerfield of ShaneJ Woodworks and his apprentice. Photo: Teena Jo Neal.

beautiful work is his Dragonfly Teahouse

(see photo). In the construction of the building, Shane used reclaimed timber from the demolition of the Klamath Falls and McCloud mills as well as sustainably harvested local timber.

He spent time looking for hardware on eBay as well as at local antique shops. He also worked with a local blacksmith at Siskiyou Forge to design hardware for the house. The Dragonfly Teahouse is currently for sale. Visit his website to take a virtual tour and see examples of his other work.

It's easy to get stuck in patterns, but

there is value in breaking those patterns to support a local, sustainable business that builds community, contributes to our local economy, and considers the environment in every aspect of its structure.

Shane Jimerfield can be reached at 541-499-2064 or shanej64@gmail.com. And be sure to check out his website at www.shanej.com.

Melissa Matthewson
melmatthewson@gmail.com

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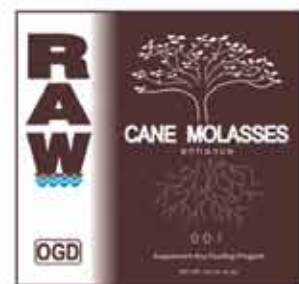
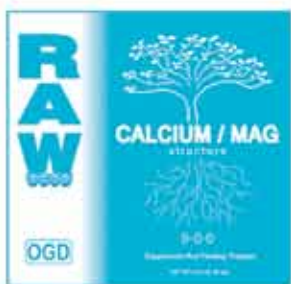
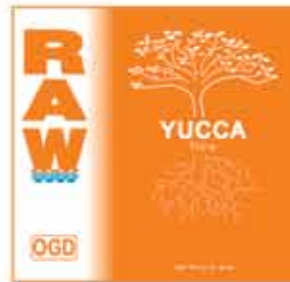
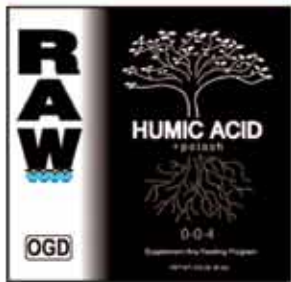
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Photo, far left:
— **Patricio Duk** just couldn't leave his *Gater* behind when he embarked on his first-ever ocean cruise.
Photo, left center:
— **Robert and Mary Wolk** floated in the Dead Sea while perusing the lively articles in the *Applegater*.
Photo, near left:
— **Fernando Duk** treated the *Gater* to a fresh fish dinner when he visited Skagway, Alaska, recently.

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Sunday, June 15, 2014 - 11 am to 4 pm
BBQ tri-tip, chicken & hot dogs by Applegate Valley Lions Club. Wine, beer and other beverages. \$4 per car park entry fee.

Cantrall-Buckley Park

www.applegatevalleydays.org

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