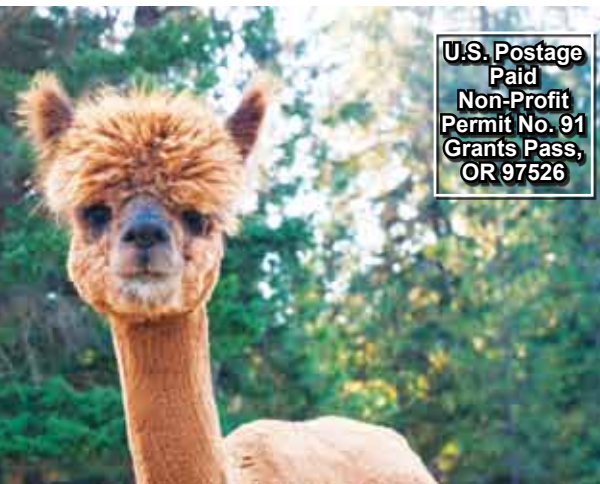


Applegater

Photo by Mikell Nielsen www.applegater.org



FALL 2014
Volume 7, No. 3

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 10,500

Postal Patron

Big changes coming to Cantrall-Buckley Park!

BY TOM CARSTENS AND DAVID LAANANEN

We're well on our way to making even more improvements to our lovely Cantrall-Buckley Park! Now that we've completed our new campground restroom, our state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system, and our road-repaving project, your Park Committee is ready to begin work on a new playground and restroom facility in the picnic-swim area down by the river.

New playground

Plans are shaping up for replacing most of the old playground equipment. All new modern equipment (see photo below) has been selected and sourced. It's going to be a safe, fun facility for our kids and accessible for those with disabilities—and will incorporate natural elements into its design. A big thanks to the Applegate moms who helped with the design!

Purchase and construction will be a total community project, with donated funds and labor. Cost of the project will be around \$50,000. We're looking to fund this with a combination of grants and donations. Rogue Community College is helping out with intern and administrative support. The target for donations by the Applegate community is \$30,000. The new playground should be in by fall of next year.

See CANTRALL-BUCKLEY, page 2



Grape Talk: What does the future hold for Applegate Valley wines?



BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

The Applegate Valley is attracting high-caliber winemakers who are serious about creating the finest wines possible using the best farming and growing practices. That makes Kara Olmo, of Wooldridge Creek Winery, enthusiastic about the future of the Applegate Valley wine industry. She is certain that with continued active marketing and the development of national and international markets (Valley View wines are now sold in Japan), as well as the increase in the quality and quantity of great wines coming from our region, the future is bright.



Kara Olmo of Wooldridge Creek Vineyards gives high marks to Applegate Valley wines.

This optimism is backed up by the statistics I found in the 2012 wine census for the state of Oregon compiled by the Southern Oregon University Research Center (SOURCE). Until 2012, vineyard census reports were conducted by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and were pretty inaccurate. In 2011, to ensure more accuracy the USDA turned over the task to the states. In Oregon, the winery and vineyard census is overseen by Dr. Greg Jones, a Southern Oregon University professor who "specializes in the study of climate structure and suitability for viticulture, and how climate variability and change influence grapevine growth, wine production and quality" (<http://www.sou.edu/envirostudies/faculty/jones.html>), and whom we interviewed for one of our previous Grape Talk articles. Greg was charged with getting precise information about Oregon's wine industry such as varietals grown and tonnage crushed throughout the state.

The 2012 report shows a total vineyard count for the state of 905, up from 870 in 2011; the planted acreage in 2012 was 25,500, an increase of 25 percent from 20,400 acres in 2011. The yield per acre changes from year to year depending on many variables, but the price

See APPLGATE VALLEY WINES, page 17

Agriculture in the Applegate—the valley's pride

BY DIANA COOGLE

From the days of the first settlers in the Applegate, sheep and cattle have grazed the area's green pastures and hay has grown on its wide fields. From pioneers to newcomers, from cattle and sheep to lettuce and lavender, agriculture in the Applegate is the valley's pride.

Frances Decker raises sheep on land her father bought in 1934. In other cases, old farms have new owners. Priscilla and Steven Weaver raise Soay sheep on the old Saltmarsh Farm up Little Applegate Road. Their neighbor, Peter Salant, raises cattle on the old Kleinhammer Ranch that once covered 2,000 acres. Mary and Vince Alionis established their Whistling Duck Farm on what used to be the Sakraida's dairy farm.

Some farmers, like Mike Lapan, raise the oldest crop of the Applegate—hay—

while others have introduced new crops, like the lavender grown in vast fields of sweet-smelling purples by Sue and Derek Owen on their English Lavender Farm. Although we no longer see large turkey or rabbit farms here, Eldon Snyder and Alan Wall are still raising hogs commercially, and more llamas, alpacas, and goats than previously roam the pastures. Where tomatoes were once abundant, now a major crop is grapes and, in at least one case, on a farm off Hanley Road, pumpkins.

The appeal of being a farmer in the Applegate varies widely. Mike Lapan started growing hay in the '70s because, he says, "I like playing around on my tractor." The Weavers' fascination with heritage animals led to their breeding and selling the genetically unique Soay sheep. Peter Salant and his wife came here "to raise our

daughter rural" and took to cattle because Peter "couldn't find any good steaks here." The Alionises came to the Applegate for "better soil, better water, and good neighbors," all of which, they tell me, they found.

Agriculture in the Applegate, however beautiful and fulfilling, rarely provides a living. Maud Powell, of the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Service, points out that the lack of a big urban center coupled with an increase in the number of vegetable and seed producers has resulted in a glut on the local vegetable market. Salant says a commercially viable cattle herd would be 250 head, but, for economic reasons, he cut his herd to 25 mother cows and 20 to 25 yearling steers. As for raising sheep, 30 years ago wool sold for \$25 an ounce. This year it's \$20 a



These Soay lambs at Saltmarsh Ranch, owned by Priscilla and Steven Weaver, are about six weeks old. At birth they weigh from four to five pounds—about the size of a bag of sugar.

pound. Blame synthetic fibers.

Nonetheless, agriculture can be commercially viable in the Applegate. Whistling Duck Farm provides the sole income for the Alionis family, and, if the 800 cars on this year's lavender tour are indicative, lavender promises rewards for the Owens, who sell not only plants but also lavender oil and a

See AGRICULTURE, page 12

INSIDE THE GATER

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The scoop on CSAs and farmers' markets.....page 8

Applegate forests: A product of human tinkering...page 10
Introducing the Paragon pear.....page 12



Thank you to everyone who made our 20th Birthday Bash such a success!

Photos by Greeley Wells



CANTRALL-BUCKLEY

FROM PAGE 1

New picnic area restrooms

Jackson County Parks will take the lead in designing, funding, and building new restrooms in the picnic area down by the river. Oregon Parks and Recreation will assist with funding. Construction will begin in fall 2015. Cost of the restroom project will be around \$200,000.

Community support

As you all know, our park is funded and supported by the Applegate community. Your user fees and donations have been 100 percent dedicated to park maintenance and improvements. Because of your support, the park has been putting money in the bank. But a lot more will be needed to get these projects off the ground. We've already identified several foundations that will work with us. The kicker—they all require some level of community financial and labor involvement before they'll fork over the big bucks.

Target: \$30,000

So, we think \$30,000 is a reasonable goal for us to raise locally. The remainder (\$20,000) will be made up with grants.

Applegate businesses

We're going to start with all of our valley businesses. We'll be visiting you with a detailed proposal and site design and asking for your help. All businesses that make a contribution of \$1,000 or more will be permanently recognized for their contribution in a prominent place at the park entrance. If you're a business owner and you'd like to get ahead of the curve, feel free to jump in right now. We've already started a playground bank account and all funds will be deposited there. All donated monies are tax-deductible. The Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, will immediately send you an IRS-friendly receipt. Simply mail your check to GACDC, PO Box 3107, Applegate, OR 97530.

If you're in the construction business, you can also expect a call. From you, we'll be soliciting help with the site preparation, ground material, and construction for the playground. This will come later in the year. Construction contributors also will

be properly acknowledged in the park for your good work. A receipt for donated in-kind labor will be immediately sent to you.

Citizen contributions

A grand raffle is in the works. Some prominent businesses will be offering valuable prizes. You'll start to see volunteers at several of the local growers' markets and other public locations around the valley selling chances to win.

We'll be holding a couple of fundraisers in conjunction with the project. Planning has begun; more on this later.

And finally, we're looking for individual and family donations from our residents. Cantrall-Buckley Park is virtually our only public access to the beautiful Applegate River. Improvements to the park benefit us all. We'd all like to avoid a mail campaign (besides being really annoying, it's hard work and very expensive), so we'd be just as happy if you could mail in a check to help us get going. Write your check to GACDC and mail it to PO Box 3107, Applegate, OR 97530. We have a special account set up dedicated to the playground

project, so your money will go directly to this fund. A receipt acknowledging your tax-deductible contribution will be sent to you. We will publicize our fund status so everyone can see how we're doing. Private donors who contribute \$100 to \$1,000 will be prominently recognized in the park. **Remember: All donations support a nonprofit 501(c)(3) community project and are tax-deductible!**

Want to join a great team?

The Park Committee is really excited about this project. If you like our ideas and think you might be able to help out, we'd love to have you join us. This invitation also goes out to regular park users—you really know what's needed!

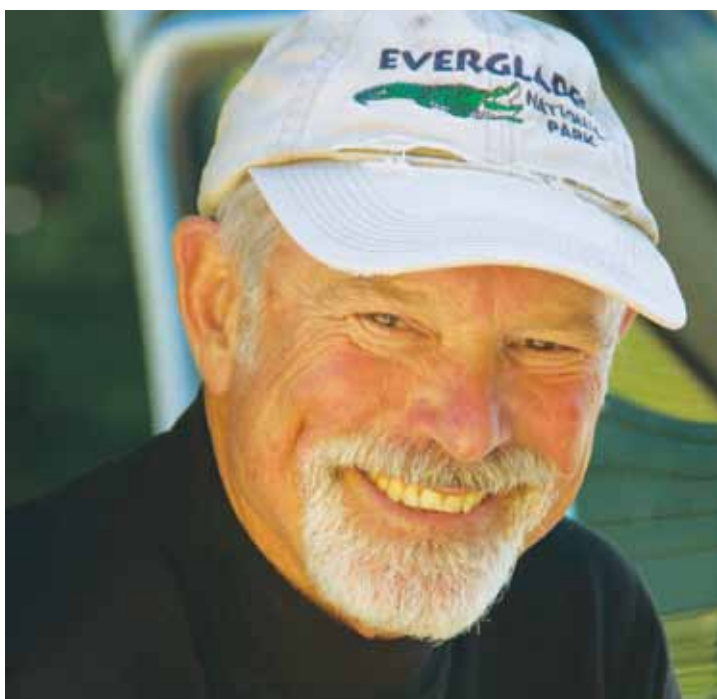
If you're as enthusiastic about this as we are, please go to www.gacdc.org to sign up.

What a terrific opportunity to pitch in and give your community a helping hand. Thank you!

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

Dave Laananen
david.laananen@asu.edu

Tom Carstens joins the *Applegater* editorial committee



Tom Carstens has been writing articles for the *Applegater* for ten years, so it seems only fitting that he should join the ranks of the *Applegater's* editorial committee. This committee makes the final decisions about whether articles are appropriate for publication, makes sure that no questions are left unanswered, clears up ambiguities, and, when called upon, can fine-tune with the best of them.

Tom has volunteered for other organizations in the valley, having served as a volunteer firefighter, a board member of the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation, a board member of the Applegate Trails Association, and a volunteer with the Britt Music Festival. Tom currently is on the Cantrall-Buckley Park Committee and is vice president of the Northwest Rafting Association.

A retired Marine Corps aviator, these days Tom gets his thrills motorcycling, dirt biking, skiing, and white-water kayaking. He is a recent graduate of Southern Oregon University's Environmental Studies Program and believes that his conservative values are a good fit with the conservation ethic of the Applegate Valley. He and his wife Kathy built their energy-efficient home on Billy Mountain.

Like us on Facebook!

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

WHO WE ARE

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

Our Mission

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

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

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

Acknowledgements

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

Special thanks to Diana Coogle, Haley May, Margaret della Santina and Paul Tipton for copy editing; Kaye Clayton, Diana Coogle, Kathy Kliewer, Mikell Nielsen, Paul Tipton, and Debbie and Don Tollefson for proofing; Beate Foit for bookkeeping; and webmaster Joe Lavine.

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- Tom Carstens
- Barbara Holiday, Editor
- Rauno Perttu
- Sandy Shaffer
- Greeley Wells

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

PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

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

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

Letters to the Editor cannot be more than 450 words. Opinion pieces and articles cannot exceed 750 words. Community calendar submissions must be brief.

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

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

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

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

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- Patron \$1001+
- Sustainer \$501 - \$1000
- Contributor \$201 - \$500
- Supporter \$51 - \$200
- Sponsor \$5 - \$50

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P.O. Box 14

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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
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>
FALL (Sept-Nov).....	August 1 <i>Agriculture / Wine</i>

Personal mailing label!

One year: \$14.99

Two years: \$24.99

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

Masthead photo credit

Mikell Nielsen of Williams

captured the adorable face of Jackpot the alpaca, who keeps company with her family's goats, Dizzy and Louis.

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 10,500 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: November 1

Job Opportunity

The *Applegater* newspaper needs a self-motivated advertising salesperson for Jackson County. Generous commission.

Email gater@applegater.org.

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Welcome! In this, our fall edition, the themes are agriculture and wine. Our board members sought the lowdown on both areas, so be sure to read their articles on pages 1 and 8.

Our 20th Birthday Bash at Red Lily Vineyards was a tremendous success. Enjoy some photos on page 2 taken by our esteemed board member, artist Greeley Wells. Thanks, Greeley! And, once again, thanks go out to our sponsors—Applegate Valley Realty, Cowhorn Vineyard, Fields Home Center, Hidden Valley Market, Quady North, Red Lily Vineyards and Lithia Toyota—and to the fabulous Swing State band and Elements Tapas Bar. We couldn't have done it without you!

Also on page 2, we officially welcome Tom Carstens as our newest member of the *Applegater's* editorial committee. Inducted at this issue's editorial committee meeting, he passed with flying colors.

Applegate School and Applegate Valley Trails Association are holding benefit dinners in September—see articles about both on page 4.

And if you like opinion pieces (who doesn't!), you can feast on an abundance of them in this issue—too many to list!

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

Barbara Holiday
gater@applegater.org

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Community Calendar

Alcoholics Anonymous. Open meeting every Wednesday at 7 am at the Williams Community Church Fellowship Hall on East Fork Road in Williams. This meeting is open to those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking, and also to anyone interested in the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from drinking.

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Grants Pass Branch meets monthly September through May, usually Thursday evenings or Saturday mornings at Bethany Presbyterian Church. Membership is open to those holding an associate of arts degree or higher from an accredited college or university. Contact Susan Riell at riells@sbcglobal.net or 541-956-2159, or Linda Rahberger at lr97526@gmail.com or 541-659-4669. Visit grantspass-or.aauw.net, Facebook and Pinterest.

Applegate Christian Fellowship. For service times, call 541-899-8732 24/7.

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 March, April and May, when meetings 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 sobeekers@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. 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 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.

Benefit dinner and wine auction for Applegate School

Proceeds benefit Music, Art and Farm Programs

Friends of Applegate School Harvest Dinner and Wine Auction Sparkling Wine Reception

Authentic Shrimp Boil by Fulcrum Dining featuring local farms
Live music

•
Wooldridge Creek Winery
Saturday, September 6, 2014
Six o'clock in the evening
Suggested Attire: Summer Festive

•
Limited tickets available at \$75 per person
(\$50 of each ticket goes directly to Applegate School)
RSVP to kara@wcwinery.com or 541-951-5273

Annual Event: Harvest Shrimp Boil

Applegate School is the current recipient of funds raised at this annual event. The dinner and wine auction are made possible by donations from Applegate wineries and farms. The first event in 2009 raised enough money to fund the Strings Program at the school, including the purchase of 10 violins, 15 guitars, and instruction for that year. The event has continued every year, entirely funding the Strings Program and supplementing several others, including the Garden Club and Art after School. We are now considering adding new programs to the list, such as robotics and tablets for the classrooms. The efforts of FOAS can exist only with the help of the community.

Friends of Applegate School

Friends of Applegate School (FOAS) was formed to bridge the gap of disintegrating school budgets by fund-raising to support music, art and agriculture in our small rural school. FOAS played a pivotal role in rescuing our 101-year-old historic school building by assembling a committee of dedicated people to write a Non-Matching Seismic Retrofit Grant. We were awarded a grant of \$826,000 and the retrofit began in September 2011. The retrofit was completed and students moved back into the 100-year-old schoolhouse in 2012.

Friends of Applegate School is a part of the 501(c)(3) Josephine County Educational Fund.

Your chance to wine and dine with ATA

Do you like:

- Eating good food in a beautiful place?
- Buying great items at good prices?
- Hearing a good speaker?
- Supporting good causes?

Then you'll surely want to be at the Applegate Trails Association's (ATA's) fund-raising dinner and silent auction on September 20 from 6 to 9 pm. Here's why:

- Beautiful setting—lawns, flowers, river—at Red Lily Vineyards
- Food by Quality Catering (Yum!)
- Good wine
- Atmospheric music by Larry Koskela
- Auction items and a raffle you won't want to miss
- Speaker Michael Kauffmann, author of *Conifer Country*, on "Citizen Science: An Exploration of our Relationship to Natural History"
- A chance to help fund ATA's dream of building a hiking trail from Grants Pass to Jacksonville. The expenses are many: for environmental assessments, trailhead improvements, trail-building, etc.

Tickets are \$65 each and include dinner, a complimentary glass of wine or raffle ticket, Kauffmann's talk, and a chance to bid on silent-auction items. Purchase your tickets by September 15 through josh@applegatetrails.com or the ATA website at www.applegatetrails.org. Or call Josh at 541-846-0738.

Come join ATA for a great evening and a great cause!

Diana Coogle
dcoogle@laughdogpress.com



Local women's land celebrates 40 years

BY BILLIE MIRACLE

This summer I was invited to attend the 20th anniversary of the *Applegater* at Red Lily Vineyards. I offer my congratulations to the staff and everyone who has kept the community newspaper vital for two decades now.

2014 is also the 40th anniversary of the founding of WomanShare, a women's land community here in the Applegate Valley. In 1974 some friends and I decided to travel west to find a place to start a women's commune. As young and idealistic feminist political activists who had gone to Canada during the Vietnam War, we believed that it was time to return to the U.S. and be part of the political/social transformation that was happening at the time.

As we drove through the Applegate Valley in 1974, the beauty of the snow on the mountains above the forested, green valleys captivated us. This is where we wanted to live. So we pulled into a local

motel and gave ourselves a week to find some land. We met a 70-year-old woman realtor who showed us several places, one of them up a dirt road in the Murphy area. She told us that the road was impassable in the winter. Of course, that seclusion felt perfect to us. She also said there was enough good wood in the two old houses to build one new one. This was a little daunting because we didn't know how to build anything at that point. Forty years later one of those houses is still standing as the main house for the commune.

The most important characteristic of this new life was the social/communal aspect. As we settled in we realized that we had few country skills, but gradually learned how to use chainsaws and grow a garden and eventually gained the skills to build our own cabins. Knowing that we had to make our land payments, we developed workshops on art, music, country skills, social-class awareness,

communications skills, and spirituality. In our countless meetings we worked hard at learning how to share resources and consequently developed a sense of community. Each of us had been brought up in a two-parent home with traditional religious and political beliefs; all of that was up for question. Nontraditional family structure, shared living spaces, and techniques of communicating were challenges that we took on. Like many idealistic young people, we thought that we could influence cultural transformation on a monumental scale, starting from a small community model that we were certain would change the world!

Through the years we have built five cabins, created a huge garden, and contributed a safe, women-only space for many women. We have participated in local politics, worked with our neighbors, held events and gatherings, and helped to develop a strong women's

land alliance from Roseburg to Ashland. We have been courageous advocates for feminism, lesbian and gay rights, domestic-violence awareness and activism, and educational opportunities for people in generational poverty.

And now, 40 years later... how did our lives change? One woman became a naturopathic physician, one a social worker, one went to Rogue Community College and then became a landscaper for the City of San Francisco, another worked in construction. When some of these founding members left, others arrived to continue the work of building WomanShare. I stayed in the valley and have been an educator—doing work similar to those workshops we started so long ago, and thus helping people change their lives.

Forty years have passed in the blink of an eye, and the Applegate Valley has given much to everyone in this local region. I offer my gratitude to the *Applegater* for bringing us all together.

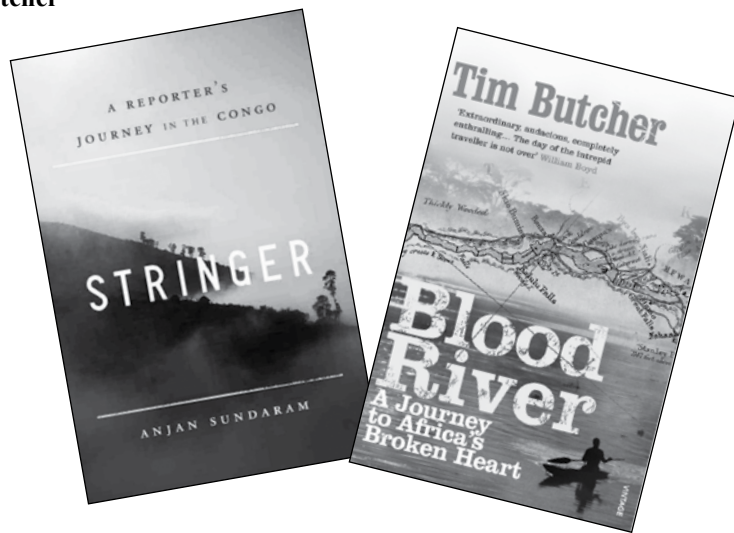
Billie Miracle
billiemiracle@gmail.com

BOOKS & MOVIES

— Books —

Stringer: A Reporter's Journey in the Congo
Anjan Sundaram

Blood River: A Journey to Africa's Broken Heart
Tim Butcher



Here are two superb nonfiction books about the Congo, books for armchair adventurers. Both books are shocking, chilling stories of bravery, danger, and high adventure. The books are: *Stringer: A Reporter's Journey in the Congo* by Anjan Sundaram (Doubleday, 2014) and *Blood River: A Journey to Africa's Broken Heart* by Tim Butcher (Random House, Great Britain, and Grove Press, US, 2007). Among other glowing reviews, John le Carré called *Blood River* a masterpiece, and the American Booksellers Association named Sundaram's book one of the best debuts of 2014.

The history of the Democratic Republic of the Congo can be considered in three parts: hundreds of years of slavery perpetrated by the West, followed by colonization in what was called the Belgian Congo, presented to the world as a "modern" state, but it was a state in which native Africans died in the millions, worked to death, forced to toil on rubber tree plantations where they often had their hands chopped off for not producing enough rubber. Baskets of severed hands were brought to the overseers at the end of each day. Then the independence revolution in 1960 resulted in brief joy with democratically elected Patrice Lumumba. However, 35-year-old Lumumba, after less than three months in office, died under mysterious and brutal circumstances associated with our American CIA and the Belgians. "Lumumba's mistake was to hint at pro-Soviet sympathies. The mere possibility of the Congo, with its huge deposits of copper, uranium and diamonds, falling into the Soviet sphere of influence during the Cold War was too much for the Western powers...so Brussels, with the connivance of Washington, engineered Lumumba's arrest, torture and transfer to the capital of Katanga...His body was never found" (*Blood River*).

Chaos and the most extreme corruption have been the lot of the Congo ever since.

Both authors, Butcher (British) and Sundaram (East Indian-American), each a news reporter, look at this horribly troubled history as they tell of their modern treks near and on the great Congo River. Butcher was determined to follow Henry Morton Stanley's 1870s route from beginning to end along the Congo. He is met with constant disbelief that he would attempt such a thing, bureaucratic refusal, warlords and other dangerous characters—along with native kindness and their often capable assistance in the forests and in navigating the river. He makes the trek on foot, on the back of sputtering motorbikes where available, and in dugout canoes when such is the only possible passage. The Congo is the world's deepest river and has the world's second-highest volume of water. The river is shaped like a sickle, with the point of the "blade" beginning in the southeastern part of the vast country, curving north and west, then south, with the "handle" emptying into the Atlantic Ocean past Kinshasa, the capital.

Diogo Cão's discovery in the 1480s was later described as finding the mouth of the Congo River to be so violent and so powerful that sailors were amazed to come across fresh drinkable water 200 kilometers out into the ocean. [According to Wikipedia, Diogo Cão was a Portuguese explorer and one of the most notable navigators of the Age of Discovery, who made two voyages sailing along the west coast of Africa to Namibia in the 1480s.—Ed.]

Maniema is a town at the northern curve of the sickle, which missionaries and NGO (non-governmental organization) workers, unlike Butcher, reach only by plane. For good reason: "Maniema's reputation for cannibalism, which Stanley [of the famous "Dr. Livingstone, I presume" greeting—Ed.] noted repeatedly in his writings, continued to the modern era. In the 1960s it was in Maniema that 13 Italian airmen of the United Nations were killed and eaten, their body parts smoked and made available at local markets for weeks after the slaughter" (*Blood River*). Sundaram writes of warlords and roving militias, groups that force horrors such as self-cannibalism on their victims.

There is a charming Congo myth that God, growing tired from creating the world, rested by setting his bags of diamonds and gold and other treasures down in the Congo. Each of these books details the very *uncharming* modern scramble for the Congo's amazing riches in lumber, gold, tin, cobalt, copper, diamonds, uranium, and rare earth minerals. Sundaram tells of illegal uranium mining, the "yellow cake" apparently being excavated with bare hands for exportation to North Korea and Iran." Each author provides details about how money for the country's coveted resources goes not to benefit the Congolese people, but, rather, to enrich terror groups and unspeakably corrupt government officials.

Why bother with harrowing books about the Congo when we have the Middle East and Afghanistan and Ukraine and a rumbling Russian bear on the news every day? Africa is a huge part of the world, and the Congo is a huge part of Africa. I like to be at least marginally informed, and it's important to know that many in the industrialized world are very aware of what the Congo contains and are busily extracting that country's valuable resources posthaste.

Plus, there's that spirit of adventure—armchair adventure.

Julia (Helm) Hoskins • 541-899-8470

julmudgeon@aol.com

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

— Movie —

Earth to Echo

Reviewer rating: **3.5 Apples**

PG; Action/Family

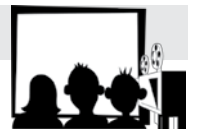
Opened: July 2014

A Walt Disney Studios Motion Picture



1 Apple—Don't bother

5 Apples—Don't miss

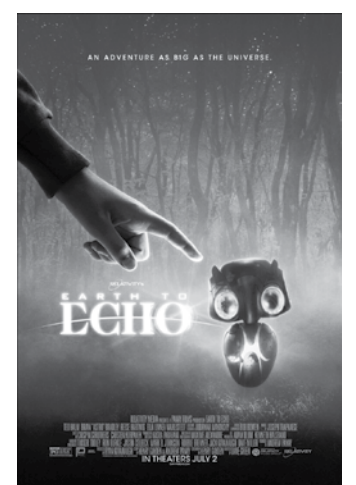


Hi! The movie I chose to write about is *Earth to Echo*, which is about a group of friends who have to move away from each other because of a highway being built through their neighborhood.

One day all of their phones "barfed" and a strange shape appeared on their phones. After a while of studying their phones, they found that the strange shape was a map. After following the map, they found a robot. I'm not going to say anything else so I don't spoil it.

So, overall the movie was worth three and a half apples because in the beginning it was kind of confusing. Well, thanks for listening to my opinion!

Carlen Nielsen, Age 10
Williams



BACK IN TIME

Crossing the Applegate River

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

At one time the trails and eventually the main roads in the upper Applegate area were on the east side of the Applegate River. People living on the west side had to find ways to cross the river to reach trails and roads. Most of the time you could ride a horse or wade across the river at a ford where the water was shallow and slow moving, but when the river was flooding it would be impossible to cross anywhere. Thus many forms of bridges sprang up along the river.

One of the most interesting bridges was the “swinging” footbridge made with fence wire, cables, and really snazzy planks of wood placed along the bottom. This contraption would be anchored on large trees several feet above the river where winter floods could not reach. Photo 1, from around 1891, shows one of these bridges with some children from the Watkins School (which was on the east side of the river, but is now under Applegate Lake) standing on it. I am guessing that the Watkins School District paid for the bridge so the children could get to school. I do know that the bridge was widely used for taking supplies, mail and visitors to the west side.

The Collings family, living on the west side, had a walk-across bridge made of lumber (photo 2) just a few feet above the water. This was used when the river was at its lowest. They would remove it when the water started rising and find other ways to cross to the west side. Now these areas are all under the Applegate Lake.

When the Beaver Creek School was first organized in 1898, a box-type conveyance (photo 3) was built so that children living on the opposite side of the river from the school could get to school. This box was held above the river by cables and the occupants would hand-pull themselves across. The school was on the west side and was sometimes called the McKee School because most children attending the school were from the McKee families. In 1913 a new school was built on

the east side near what is now the Jackson Campground.

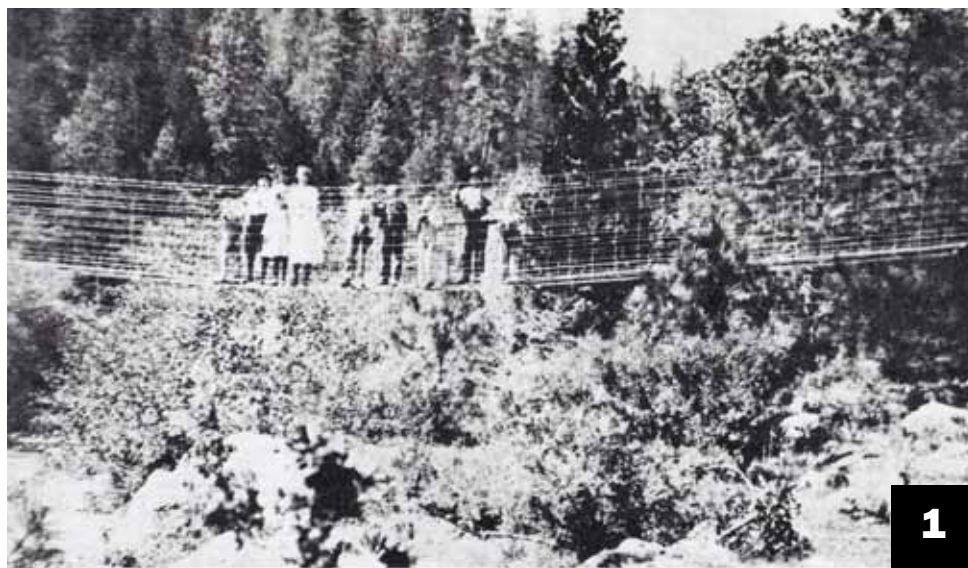
I don't know when the swinging bridge (photo 4) was built across from my home, about a mile up river from the Beaver Creek School. I remember it being there in 1930 when our home was built near it on the west side. My family was happy for a shortcut to go visit my McKee grandparents who lived across the river. The bridge was used all the time by my family and visitors, going to school, work, and just because.

In crossing a swinging bridge (photo 5) we encountered many obstacles, especially while carrying a lunch pail and some books on the way to school. We had to steady ourselves with a hand on the wire cable to keep from stepping off the 12-inch-wide boards. And, of course, it was called a swinging bridge for a very good reason—it could start swinging the minute you put your feet on it. It was extra scary when there was snow or ice on the boards. Dad would shovel the snow off and I would put some of his wool socks over my shoes, which helped to keep it from being so slippery.

After the main road to the upper Applegate crossed the river in several places by well-built bridges for wagons and cars, the old way of crossing was no longer needed. Many of those old bridges became dangerous, and one by one were taken down. The last time I saw the swinging bridge by my home was in 1960. It had become somewhat of a tourist attraction. So many people were stopping to look at it and walk on the bridge that it, along with the other old crossings, became a footnote back in time.

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre
541-899-1443

Photos: 1—Bridge to Watkins School. 2—Collings bridge. 3—Beaver Creek bridge. 4—Byrne bridge near the author's home. 5—Swinging footbridge.
Photos provided by Evelyn Byrne Williams.



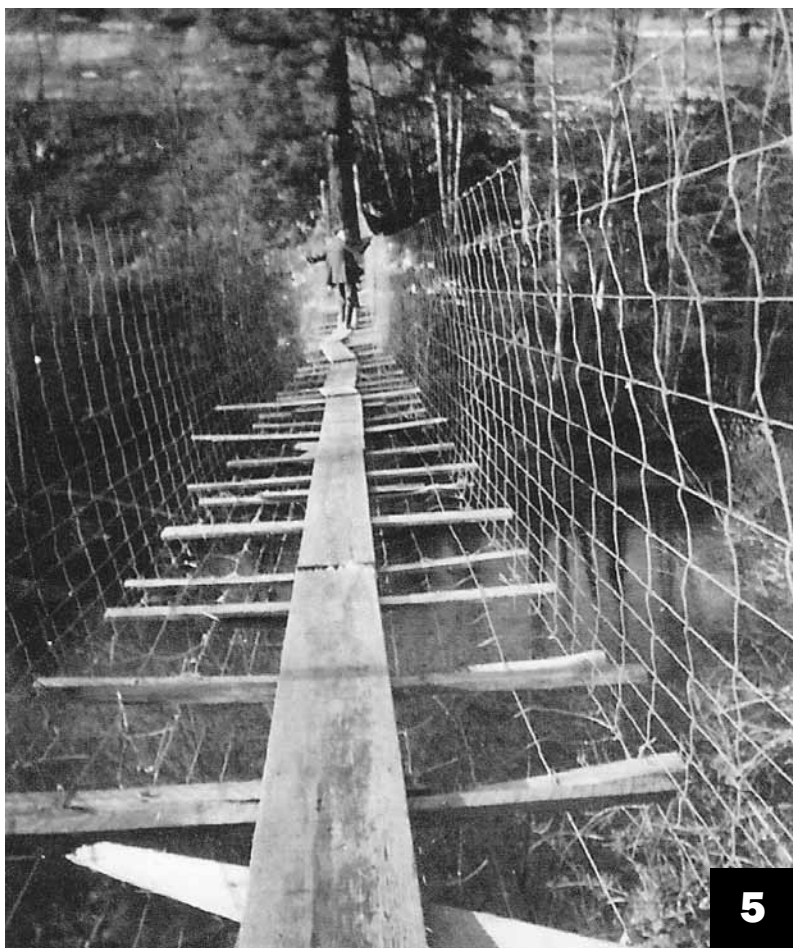
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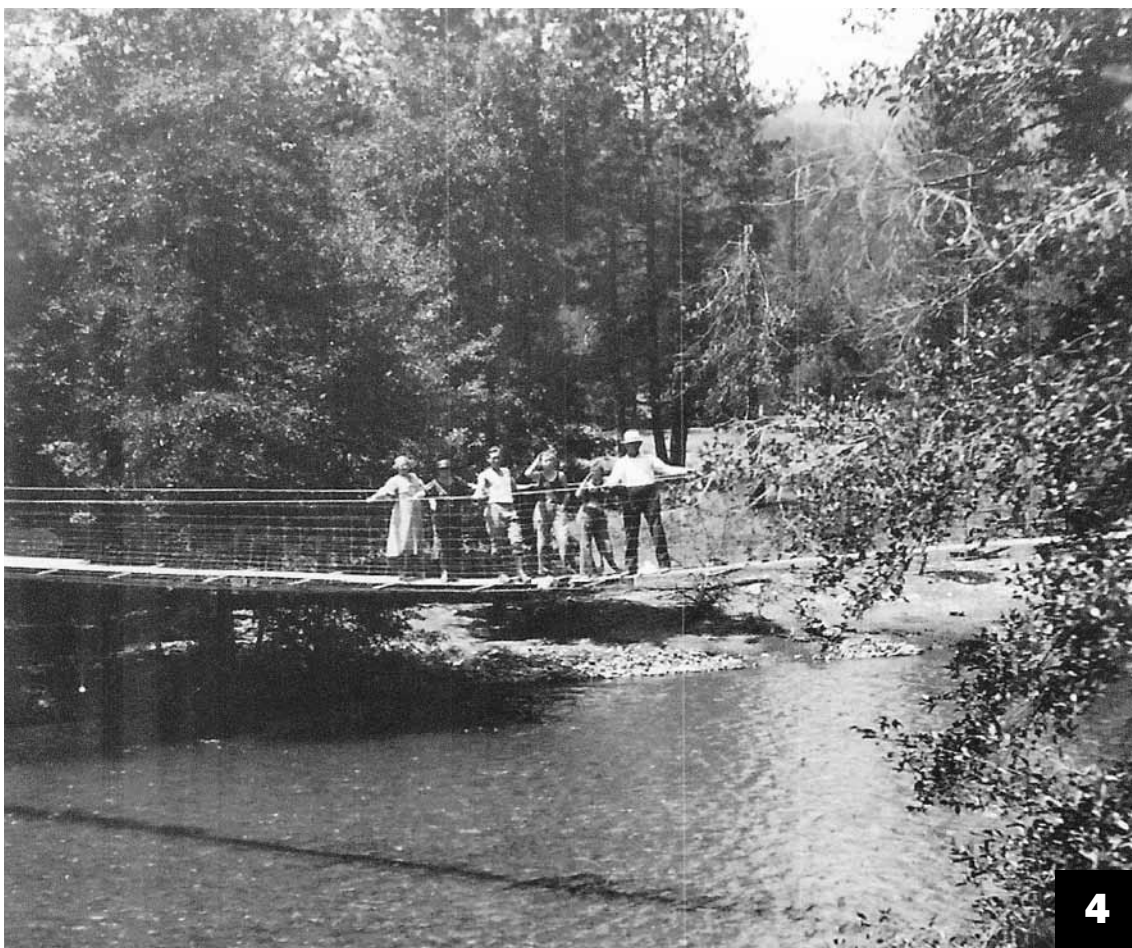
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4

THE STARRY SIDE

Falling back into the night sky

BY GREELEY WELLS

A very exciting event is approaching: the second eclipse of the current lunar tetrad. A lunar tetrad is a series of four lunar eclipses, spaced six months apart. This eclipse will last roughly an hour, peaking in the very early morning of October 8 at approximately 3:15 am.

A lunar eclipse occurs when a full moon passes into earth's shadow. This can happen only with a "syzygy"—an exact alignment of the sun, earth and moon.

We can see light in the moon during an eclipse because of the refraction of sunlight. Refraction occurs when electromagnetic waves, in this case light, deviate from a straight line due to changes in atmospheric density. If we had no atmosphere, the light would not be able to "bend" around the planet and reach the

moon, and the eclipse would not be seen.

People often refer to a lunar eclipse as a "blood moon" because of the reddish color the moon takes on. This happens because refracted light from the sun must pass through very dense parts of our atmosphere. The shorter wavelengths are scattered or dispersed by air molecules, but red, the longest wavelength, travels more easily through these pockets of dense atmosphere, coloring the moon.

If you'd like more than a lunar eclipse, you're in luck! You'll also have a chance to witness a partial solar eclipse on the day of the autumn equinox: October 23, at approximately 2 pm. Unlike the lunar eclipse, it's not safe to look directly at a partial solar eclipse. I recommend using pinpoint projection.

A pinpoint projector is easy to make with a bit of aluminum foil, a large piece of cardboard, and some white paper. First, cut a playing-card-size opening in the cardboard. Cover this with one or two pieces of aluminum foil. Next, with the tip of a pen poke a hole about three millimeters wide in the aluminum foil.

With the sun to your back (so that you are not looking at it!), lay the white piece of paper on a flat surface. Without looking directly at the sun, prop or hold up the cardboard so that the sun shines through the pinhole and onto the white paper. Play a little with distances to get the image on the white paper large enough to see clearly. Enjoy the show!

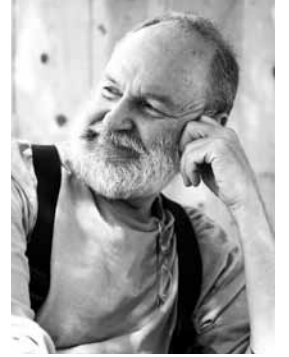
Autumn constellations

The Summer Triangle is sinking into the west and is still quite apparent. What's new is Cassiopeia; her husband, Cepheus;

their daughter, Andromeda; and the hero Perseus. They cover the north-northeast sky with their story, which I've related many times. (A quick Google search will bring it all back to you.) They are all nicely mixed in with the large square of Pegasus, whom Perseus rides in to save the day. Pegasus is the signal constellation of the season. Big and almost overhead, he's easy to find. He drags up winter constellations from the east and pushes summer ones down into the west as the season progresses.

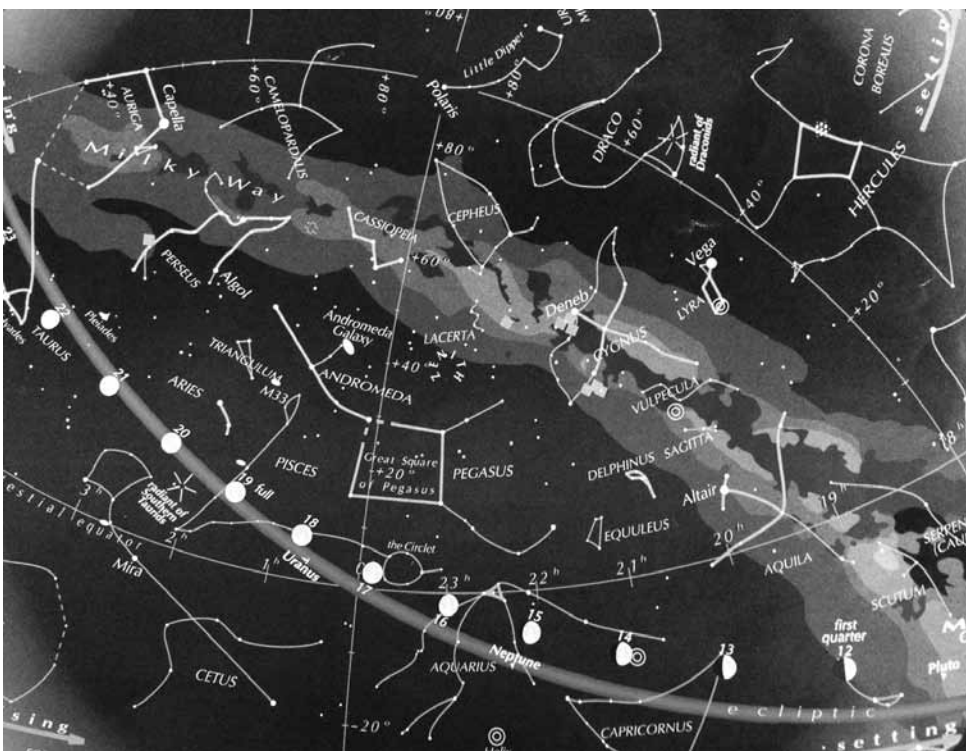
If you are interested in learning more about the night sky and eclipses, check out these excellent websites: earthsky.org and MrEclipse.com.

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me



Greeley Wells

Illustration: Guy Ottewell's *Astronomical Calendar 2014*.

**Greeley's Sky Calendar****The planets**

Jupiter has become a dawn "star" after years in the evening sky. Jupiter gets higher and higher as the fall season progresses. At the end of September, Jupiter replaces the beautiful Venus all alone in the dawn.

Venus is still an early riser in September, gracing the morning dawn. She's north-northeast less than a degree of Regulus the morning of September 5. (A degree is as wide as a finger on a fully outstretched hand and arm.) But Venus slips into the sun and disappears by month's end. In late November she slowly rises to grace the sunset till August 2015.

Mars is in the southwestern quadrant most of the season. It's near the red Antares on September 28.

Saturn is pretty much invisible in the sun or sun glare.

Mercury may be visible only low in the November dawn as it rises from behind the sun.

Other events of note

If you are a lunar aficionado, make sure to observe the full moons that will occur on September 9, October 8, and November 6. Mark those calendars!

The Leonids meteor shower will grace us November 16-17.

Siskiyou Field Institute fall classes cater to fungi fans

Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) in Selma will offer three fall mushroom classes geared to all levels of interest.

On **Sunday, October 19**, Mike Potts will lead a family-friendly mushroom identification hike. "Edible Mushrooms of the Southern Cascades" will start in north Medford and proceed east for an afternoon field trip. Tuition is \$35.

Sunday, October 26, Mike will teach "Edible Mushrooms of the Siskiyou," which begins with a classroom session at Deer Creek Center at 1241 Illinois River Road in Selma and ends with a field trip in the Cave Junction area. Tuition is \$55; pre-registration is required.

Mike has studied southern Oregon fungi and their habitats since 2007. He is an expert in field identification and a passionate photographer of mushrooms. His photos can be found in the Audubon Mushroom Field Guide iPhone app and on his website at mikepottsphotography.smugmug.com. Mike has been helping with mushroom identification and leading hikes in the Ashland area for the last several years.

For those who want an in-depth look at the entire kingdom of fungi, SFI offers the three-day "Forest Mushrooms of Southwest Oregon/Northwest California" taught by US Forest Service botanist David Lebo. The class begins Friday afternoon, November 7, at Deer Creek Center. On Saturday, November 8, students will explore mushrooms and other fungi in the Smith River Canyon of Northern California and end up in Brookings for the night. Sunday morning's foray takes place along the coast. Class tuition is \$155; pre-registration is required.

Find out more about these and other fall Siskiyou Field Institute classes by visiting www.thesfi.org or calling 541-597-8530.



What the heck is this, you ask?
Find out at one of the three Siskiyou Field Institute
mushroom classes offered this fall.

Photo by Dasja Dolan.

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Free-range fun—try a Farm Stay!

BY CAROLINE MILLESON

Fall is a busy and beautiful time here at Sanctuary One, a 55-acre care farm in the Applegate Valley where people, animals and the earth come together for mutual healing. Our gardens are thriving and our animals seem to appreciate the long sunny days. Cucumbers and squash are ready for harvest, and sunflowers tower above us. Lisa, Lulu and Jigsaw, our trio of rescued Yorkshire pigs, cool off with dips in the pond in the company of wild and domestic ducks and geese. Rusty the beagle and little Gabe the poodle look forward to hikes up shady Mule Creek Trail. The surrounding forest is alive with birds, bees, berries and animal life.

Sound like a setting you might like to experience? It's all available for you to enjoy when you reserve a night or more in our Farm Stay Suite. Our Farm Stay Program provides a unique opportunity to support and connect with the daily operations of Sanctuary One. As a Farm Stay Volunteer, you spend some time

each day assisting with farm and garden tasks. You can also join educational tours, walk the labyrinth and even take a hike up Mule Mountain.

Farm Stay Volunteers have the chance to meet our animal residents and assist in their care, from walking a dog to socializing



Sanctuary Farm Stay guest, Jess, with Sanctuary goat, Curly Sue.

with the goats and llamas in the pasture, or relaxing with a shy cat in our cat cottage. Additionally, you can enjoy hands-on time in the garden to learn about hot composting, sheet mulching, vermiculture and permaculture principles. By caring for animals, tending the earth and connecting with staff, visitors and volunteers, Farm Stay Volunteers can engage in all facets of care farming.

Our Farm Stay Suite consists of an

air-conditioned and spacious private bedroom and bath, as well as a shared kitchen, dining room, living room and back patio. The suite can accommodate up to four people and includes a full-size bed, sleeper sofa, mini-fridge,

microwave and gorgeous views of the garden and farm.

We encourage our visitors to explore the beauty and attractions of the Applegate Valley. Just two miles up the road, the Applegate Lake Recreation Area is a great place to swim, hike, bike and boat. We're also perfectly positioned on the Applegate Valley Wine Trail, featuring such wineries as the award-winning Cowhorn Vineyard and Garden. Nearby Jacksonville, home to the popular Britt Festival, provides plentiful dining opportunities as well as the Jacksonville Woodland Trails with over 20 miles of trails to explore.

This is a superb opportunity for singles, couples and families alike. If you've always been curious about Sanctuary One, or you'd simply like to connect with animals, nature and some really great people, we invite you to come stay with us!

For more information, please contact us at info@sanctuaryone.org or 541-899-6895. We hope to hear from you soon and can't wait to have you visit!

Caroline Milleson • 541-899-6896
Operations Assistant, Sanctuary One
info@sanctuaryone.org

The scoop on CSAs and farmers' markets

BY DON TOLLEFSON

What is a CSA?

Community Supported Agriculture or CSA is a link between consumers and local producers of food. As a CSA supporter you contribute to the farm's yearly operating budget by purchasing in advance a designated share of that season's harvest. By committing ahead of time, you become a shareholder in the future of the farm, helping finance seeds, supplies and labor as well as water and equipment maintenance. Then when the harvest comes in, you, as a shareholder, get your share of the harvest throughout the farm's growing season.

Local CSAs operating in the Applegate Valley include:

Blue Fox Farm (certified organic), Applegate. Blue Fox Farm's CSA program is a little different from the classic program. You still pay in advance for your share of the crops, but you receive Blue Fox "bucks" that you can use at any of the

farmers' markets that Blue Fox attends. You also receive a 5 to 15 percent discount depending on how many bucks you buy for the year. For \$95, you receive \$100 in bucks; for \$225, you receive \$250 in bucks; and for \$440, you get \$500 in bucks.

Whistling Duck (certified organic produce and seeds), 12800 Williams Highway, Grants Pass. (In spite of the Grants Pass address, the farm store is actually in the Applegate, closer to Murphy.)

Siskiyou Sustainable Cooperative (www.siskiyoucoop.com). In 2002 a group of farmers in the Applegate and Williams Valleys decided to join forces and form a marketing and business cooperative. The farmers had previously been loosely affiliated through the Applegate Agrarians group. They became a legal entity and currently have a number of organic farms in their CSA program, including:

- Barking Moon, Applegate
- Dancing Bear Farm, Williams
- L and R Farm, Williams
- Mama Terra Micro Creamery (goat dairy), Williams
- Rise Up Artisan Bread, Applegate Valley
- Seven Seeds Farm, Williams
- Sun Spirit Farm, Williams
- Wandering Fields, Little Applegate
- White Oak Farm, Williams
- Wolf Gulch Farm, Little Applegate

Farmers' markets

The above CSAs and Siskiyou Sustainable Cooperative sell at these local farmers' markets:

- Growers' Market, Grants Pass (4th and F Streets). Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm, March through November.
- Jacksonville Farmers' Market (5th and C Streets). Sundays 10 am - 3 pm, June through September.
- Williams Farmers' Market (held at the Williams Grange, 20100 Williams Highway). Mondays 4 - 6:30 pm, mid May through October.
- Rogue Valley Growers' and Crafters' Market (Medford Armory, 1701 South

Pacific Highway, Medford). Thursdays 8:30 am - 1:30 pm, March through November.

- Medford Saturday Market (6th and Barnett Streets). Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm, May 11 through November 2.

- Farmers' Friday Market (alternates between Selma and Cave Junction). Fridays 4 - 7 pm, July through September. For specific locations, go to <http://www.localharvest.org/farmers-friday-market-M21495>.

- Pennington Farm (11341 Williams Highway, Grants Pass). Open daily year-round: Mondays through Fridays 10 am - 5 pm, Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm, Sundays 11 am - 3 pm.

- Whistling Duck Farm (12800 Williams Highway, Grants Pass). Open daily year-round: Mondays through Fridays 10 am - 5 pm, Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm, Sundays 11 am - 3 pm.

Take advantage of the abundance of produce offered by local farmers in this beautiful valley.

Don Tollefson
don.avreatly@gmail.com

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Unsolved mystery in the hen house

BY SIOUX ROGERS

This is a tough write—emotional and with an inconclusive ending.

The story began last winter as dozens of poultry and “buy me” catalogs began arriving. I said, “Oh honey, wouldn’t it be great to have baby ducks and goslings?” Strangely enough, Honey agreed and we ordered eleven ducks and five geese. Even though we have been raising backyard poultry for nearly 25 years, we are always very excited expectant parents. This time we planned the arrival during the time our grandsons would be visiting.

Despite everyone’s bewilderment at my love of geese, I really do adore them. I actually like everything everyone proclaims to *dislike*: their stench, their loud “bark,” and their aggressive nature. I also *love* to eat goose eggs. Some of the geese we bought are “weeder geese.” When they were about five days old, we started feeding them the weeds we want them to seek in the orchard when they are large enough to roam.

As for ducks, well I just like to watch them waddle since they waddle so much better than I do. And, oh yes, duck egg whites are bakers’ numero uno choice. While I am an awful baker, I must say that attempting a perfect meringue with the whites of a duck egg made this daunting culinary creation a cinch.

Onward to the rest of the story as a mystery unfolds. When the goslings and ducklings were about two weeks old, hubby mentioned that one duckling had a slight limp, which was barely noticeable to me. However, a few moments later the duckling was down for the count with a very flaccid leg and zero muscle tone. I ran to the house for Rescue Remedy and

ran back to the duckling to administer the “remedy.” Moments later, ducky was walking around as though nothing ever happened. Go figure!

This scenario repeated itself over the next five weeks, but with less than acceptable results. Sadly, we ultimately lost 50 percent of the flock.

When a duckling or gosling was affected, she was put in a safety pen. To keep her from getting lonely, the pen was placed with the rest of the flock. In addition to Rescue Remedy, and since I nor anyone, including the hatchery, had any clue as to what was happening, I gave the entire flock a green smoothie powder in their drinking water, sprinkled it on their food, and, with the aid of a homeopath, added two remedies that could do no harm but just might help. Every morning was a frightening and emotional trial as I did not know how many bells would toll. Total loss was 8 of the original 16.

One duckling, “Choo-Choo,” and one gosling, “Mother Goose,” were under my constant watch, which they probably considered torture, but they did survive. As soon as Choo-Choo and Mother Goose showed some muscle tone in the affected limbs, I started them on physical therapy. To translate, this meant putting them in a big galvanized tub to exercise. For incentive, I added cut up pieces of lettuce, weeds and kale for them to dine on while they were paddling around. I believe this might be equivalent to lying on an inflatable mattress in a swimming pool and drinking a beer. Say what?

One day during therapy, Mother Goose jumped out of the pool. That was the end of her therapy, and she is now

growing and walking minimally pigeon-toed. Just when we thought the entire emotional, frustrating—not to mention fatiguing—ordeals was over, after five weeks little Choo-Choo became symptomatic. Back to round-the-clock Ducky Nurse 101. Today, Choo-Choo can hop almost as fast as the big girls can run. However, because she is way undersized, tires easily while getting around on her deformed leg, and may never reach full growth, I sent her to a “safe” home where she won’t be competing with larger geese. This was a decision I happily made for Choo-Choo.

For almost every question that is popping into your head, I very likely have a response. I was queried by the hatchery (who actually has a good reputation and has been in business for years), two aviary veterinarians, and OSU

(Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory). All were as befuddled as we were. The autopsy report done by OSU on three of our ducklings and one gosling was long, but inconclusive. After a very extensive conversation with the kind pathologist from OSU, the verdict was, “Sometimes we just don’t know.” A friend two valleys to the west of us had the same experience with her ten ducklings. She had a 90 percent mortality rate with a different type of duck but from the same hatchery. The bottom line for me is blank. I did not learn anything from this summer-school experience.

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Gosling “Mother Goose” during her “physical therapy” session, complete with fresh greens to keep her paddling around.

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Applegate forests: A product of human tinkering

BY JAKOB SHOCKEY

My work with the Nature Conservancy this summer has helped me see the difference between forests of pre-white settlement and those resulting from fire exclusion. Standing under a thick grove of medium-size Douglas firs in the cool shade of a northern hillside in Star Gulch, I find the massive rotted stumps of oaks, madrones and pines that once covered the same hillside when stands had fewer, bigger trees more resistant to fire than the ones we see now. There are remnants of old-growth fir, too, but in pre-settlement times most of their prolific saplings would have regularly burned in low-intensity fires. Without these wildfires, dense fir saplings have grown and shaded out the old-growth oak savannas. The forests became thicker, more combustible, and younger, as most of the large sugar and ponderosa pines were logged long ago. While our forests may still look natural, they are the product of human fire suppression.

Big trees often scar when a low fire sweeps through, burning past their bark on the uphill side of the trunk and leaving a blackened triangle. Cutting into any old fire-scarred snag on a ridge, I find chronological scarring for every year a fire came through—every decade or so. Many of today's stands haven't seen fire in over a hundred years. When a fire starts, it burns the accumulated "fuels"

and denser trees so hot that nothing survives. Old-growth trees no longer scar in today's fires—they die.

This valley's ridges are not the only ecosystem that we have dramatically altered—our waterways, too, have changed. Our free-flowing cobbled creeks used to be a saturated system of beaver ponds and shifting stream beds. Diverse communities of maple, ash, cottonwood, willow, elderberry, cascara, yew and conifers have given way to red alder, the riparian tree that heals disturbed areas. Blackberries and reed canarygrass have pushed out native shrubs, and finer spawning gravels have been washed away in less complex streams that flow faster than they historically ever did.

Much of this change is because we trapped out the beaver. That one simple human action, like fighting fires, has caused the ecosystem to pitch forward into something it never was. Much as a Roman arch holds up around a keystone, these wild places were dependent on these ecosystem "keystones": beaver and wildfire.

Like a ship without a rudder, these places still look whole and functional at a glance, and they are familiar. What we see right now and over the course of our



Fire suppression of a 2013 lightning strike on Humpy Mountain. Photo by Jakob Shockey.

lifetimes influences what we think a forest or creek "should look like." This is our baseline, from which we call "old-growth" stands healthy and "clear-cuts" unhealthy. We are used to our forests being thick and young, just as we are accustomed to this new version of a stream without beaver. Yet even as I write this, the Oregon Gulch fire is turning a forest into a moonscape and our valley's creeks and ponds have gone dry earlier than many remember. In the face of climate change, our rudderless ship is being drawn into a dangerous storm, and we are all aboard together. The question becomes, how best do we guide our ship through the storm?

Jakob Shockey • 541-890-9989
Riparian Program Manager
Applegate Partnership &
Watershed Council
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Old-growth madrones—watch for fairy rings

Conifers have coevolved with wildfire, building up impressively fire-resistant bark. Madrones, in comparison, seem shockingly ill prepared for a fire with their nude trunks and gently peeling bark. Yet they, too, have a strategy for living through wildfire. Much as willows and cottonwoods re-sprout after a beaver cuts them down, madrones will re-sprout in a tight ring around the fire-killed trunk. This ring of sprouts grows from the same roots as the dead stem—they are the same tree. As the old trunk decays, these new stems become a "fairy ring" of trunks. In the next wildfire, this ring of stems will die, and the cycle repeats with a new set of re-sprouts, thus expanding the circle's diameter. The wider the fairy ring, the older the tree, the more wildfires survived. Oaks have the same strategy, and we can't really know how old some of these trees are. So next time you're out cutting firewood, pay attention—you might be taking down a tree many hundred years your senior.

—Jakob Shockey



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BIRD EXPLORER

Wild owls and sustainable agriculture

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Peter J. Thiemann

This is a story about a very special owl family that raised its young on a ranch high up in the mountains a little east of Ashland. I knew about Great Gray Owls (GGOs) from sightings in Applegate during the summer of 2012, then during 2013, and again this spring. I documented the lives of several families at Howard Prairie Lake in the Cascade Mountains.

Late this nesting season came a call from Klamath Bird Observatory president Harry Fuller, who was notified that the owners of Willow-Witt Ranch near Grizzly Peak had located an active GGO nest with two young owlets on their property. The owlets appeared to be only one to two weeks old in June and could be seen with the female owl in a very small old nest, probably a raven's. Owls don't build their own nests and rely on used hawk or raven nests or sometimes broken-off tree snags.

Willow-Witt Ranch is a certified sustainable goat ranch that offers farm stays in a B&B, camping, birding and special events. This GGO nest was in the campground not far from ranch buildings. This species normally nests in remote mountain areas far from civilization, so

this was pretty amazing!

Harry and I visited shortly after the phone call and found a very peaceful setting with the female GGO brooding her two young. We could see that the old raven nest was much too small with little space for the growing owl family. For a week we monitored the nest as both adults were caring for the young and the male also doing all the hunting for meadow voles. He would bring the prey and give it to the female, who then would feed their young. I had hoped that we could observe another GGO nesting success as I had seen the previous two years at Howard Prairie, but I was wrong. Soon, one owlet disappeared. Maybe it fell out of the nest or was kicked out. Strangely it was the older, larger owlet that was lost. Anyway, we never saw it again.

Then we heard a report that the remaining owlet had jumped from the nest and was down on the forest floor. It is normal for young owls to leave the nest before they can fly. Then they crawl back up a tree snag and learn to fly. But this owlet was very young and could not get back up. This is the most vulnerable time for young owls as predators may

find them on the forest floor. The mom owl was there to guard the little guy as I visited the next day. Although it appeared the owlet was nearby, I could not locate it. The female GGO was sitting low on a tree branch and—a first time ever for me—I was dive-bombed by her—directly over my head! I'm glad I was wearing my hat. It was a clear message to stay away—the owlet was probably still on the ground nearby. So I left and the owl family was never seen again, not by the ranch owners or anyone. We will never know what happened, but hopefully the female GGO was able to move the owlet into the protection of the forest and eventually coax it to safety on some tree. What we do know is that the owls at Willow-Witt Ranch need our help.

The two GGO nesting successes at Howard Prairie Lake that I observed in 2013-14 were in nesting platforms installed by a landowner. Earlier this year I initiated a project to install more nesting platforms, with one completed in March at Little Hyatt Lake. Building on that success, and seeing the need at Willow-Witt, we have now organized a much larger effort, with Rogue Valley Audubon Society (RVAS) handling the donation paperwork.

Two platforms for Willow-Witt are in the planning stages with more to be located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. Donations are coming in and the future of GGOs at Willow-Witt looks bright—research from northeast Oregon, Canada and Finland has shown that this owl species will readily accept nesting platforms. We will destroy what is left of the old raven nest at Willow-Witt in order to discourage the owls from returning next year.

In the Applegate we will research the Ferris Gulch area for a nesting platform location on BLM land. Anyone interested in supporting these projects can send a donation to Rogue Valley Audubon Society, GGO Conservation Fund, PO Box 8597, Medford, OR 97501. All birders and others are encouraged to visit Willow-Witt Ranch at the base of Grizzly Peak off Shale City Road, a half hour east of Ashland.

Peter J. Thiemann
peterjthiemann@yahoo.com
Peter J. Thiemann,
Flickr photo stream



Female Great Gray Owl at Willow-Witt Ranch near Grizzly Peak.



Nesting platform with female Great Gray Owl and her young at Howard Prairie.



Great Gray owlet on snag before learning to fly at Howard Prairie.



Female Great Gray Owl with two young in raven nest at Willow-Witt.

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Notes from a Rogue entomologist**Introducing the Paragon, a pear born and bred in southern Oregon**

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

I have now been working with pears for more than a quarter of a century, and I will be the first to say that pears can be a tough sell. There's an old French saying, "You eat an apple when *you* are ready. You eat a pear when *it* is ready." Or, as Ralph Waldo Emerson put it, "There are only ten minutes in the life of a pear when it is perfect to eat." Needless to say, in a world where the demand for instant gratification becomes ever more resounding, the elusive secrets of the pear seem further and further remote.

In order to ripen a European pear correctly, you must store freshly picked fruit in a cool place for an extended period of time. The exact amount of time varies with the cultivar and the storage temperature. For instance, a Bartlett can be held for as little as a week while an Anjou must be stored for over a month. After this period of cooling the pear is placed at room temperature for up to a week. You know that a pear is ripe when the flesh near the stem yields to gentle pressure. Some cultivars, like Bartlett, will turn yellow as the fruit ripens. If the fruit has not been cooled for long enough then it may never ripen. But a perfectly ripe pear is a wonder, sweet and juicy, with a melting texture. The pear cultivar that is universally acknowledged as the premier eating pear is the Doyenné du Comice, better known locally as Harry and David's Royal Riviera.

But the difficulty in ripening pears has led to the development of some newer varieties that can be eaten



The Paragon, a cross between Comice and red Bartlett, is literally a Comice in the skin of a Bartlett.

unripened or crisp and crunchy. One such pear, called Gem, which I have sampled, is being developed by the US Department of Agriculture and is being tested in Hood River. Being partial to fully ripened European pears, I was quite prepared to dislike Gem, but it was very nice with a good pear taste.

There are those (one of my sons among them) who prefer their pears crunchy; however, I do not think the pear can beat the apple at its own game. So in order to promote pears, we need to educate folks on how to ripen pears properly. I have found that kids love sweet ripened pears when they are provided. We also need to develop good quality pear cultivars. The Southern Oregon Experiment Station (now part of the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center or SOREC) conducted an extensive pear-breeding program until the 1960s that focused on two key factors:

good taste and red skin color. Many crosses were made, almost always with Comice as one parent and often with a red Bartlett pear as the other. Three red pear cultivars were released from this program: the Reimer Red in 1961, Rogue Red in 1969, and Cascade in 1985. While these pears were planted locally to some extent and the Cascade was patented and planted more widely, they never really caught on.

But from the breeding program in southern Oregon, two cultivars were selected not for their appearance, as they had no red color, but for their eating quality. One was planted by Mike Thorniley, a local orchardist, and he dubbed it BestEver. It is now grown and marketed by Meyer Orchards in Talent and has been such a good seller that more acreage has been planted.

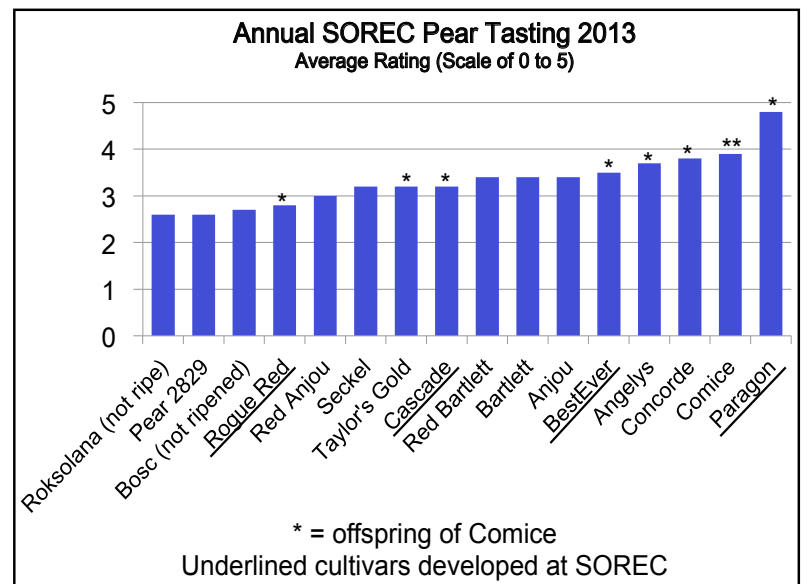
And this brings me to the final selection from the breeding program to be

released. We call it the Paragon, and it lives up to its name. It is a rather unassuming pear—its looks much like its Bartlett parent, but like its Comice parent, it is a glorious eating experience. Unlike Comice, the skin is thin and very palatable. When ripened it will melt in your mouth and the flavor washes over you like a wave at the Oregon coast.

At SOREC, a pear tasting has been held annually since 2008.

In recent years participants have rated the cultivars they taste, with Paragon consistently receiving the highest overall rating (see chart). This cultivar was overlooked for so many years because its appearance is so ordinary, but it is no ordinary pear. With the release of this cultivar our hope is that some grower will champion it. But if that does not happen, at least it will be available to the public to plant and enjoy. To quote Thomas Jefferson, "The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture."

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**AGRICULTURE**

FROM PAGE 1

variety of lavender products, from lotions and soap to culinary delights.

Applegate producers sell their goods to local restaurants, at farmers' markets, in on-site stores, and to friends. Lark's restaurant in Ashland buys lambs irrelevant to the genetic pool from the Weavers and beef from Peter Salant. Morning Glory in Ashland, the C Street Bistro in Jacksonville, and New Sammy's in Talent also buy Salant beef. Mike sells hay by word of mouth, the Owens' store is on their farm, and Whistling Duck sells produce at the Medford and Ashland growers' markets, in the Ashland Co-op and Food 4 Less, and at the on-site store, now fully staffed in a new building.

Cougars, bears, and coyotes can be a problem for livestock in the Applegate. But, Peter says, "The predators were here first," so the farmer pursues prevention. Dogs are valuable guardians of livestock. Hay farmers are plagued by unexpected summer rain, and labor (not bugs, which, Mary says, just come and go) is the main problem for the vegetable

farmer, since the Applegate does not have a large Hispanic community or access to other labor pools. Water is only a problem for Applegate agriculturists depending on location and crop. Sue and Derek Owen use drip irrigation from a well, but they are lucky (or wise in their choice), for lavender is not a thirsty plant. Whistling Duck Farm is on the Applegate River, so water is no problem.

Farm work repeats itself. Soay sheep need new pasture every four days. Whistling Duck crops are rotated yearly. In a good summer, Mike cuts alfalfa four times. Peter needs six days every two weeks to flood the pastures for the good grass that makes the good milk that makes the big calves.

All in all, whether the farmer is raising livestock or growing crops, the Applegate is a pretty good place to be. Sheep, cattle, hogs, lavender, vegetables, hay—everything thrives under good care just like the rest of us in the Applegate.

Diana Coogle
dcoogle@laughdogpress.com



Sue and Derek Owen grow fields of lavender on their English Lavender Farm.



Peter Salant raises cattle on the old Kleinhammer Ranch.

4-H: Youth development for 100 years

The earliest record of 4-H activity in Jackson County comes in 1913 under the name of the Industrial Club. Members took part in local projects, the state fair, and the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. Two of Oregon's ten delegates to the Exposition came from Jackson County.

In 1914, Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, expanding vocational, agricultural, and home demonstration programs in rural America through land-grant universities. By 1916 the program was being called 4-H and had extended into Josephine County. In 1921, 4-H exhibited for the first time at the Josephine County Fair. (The 4-H emblem, patented in 1924, is still a green four-leaf clover with a white "H" on each leaflet, symbolizing Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.)

The organization languished during the lean years of the early 1930s, but in 1935 club work picked up. In 1939 a new organizational plan led to increased activities including, in Jackson County, a skits festival, a countywide picnic, and the first annual leaders' banquet. Energy slowed during World War II, when the shortage of tires and gasoline meant fewer meetings. After the war, activities picked up again.

Today the 4-H mission is the same as it was when 4-H started: youth development. The most significant thing 4-H does, says Sue Hunt, a leader of 4-H in

Josephine County, is "assist youth in finding their passion and equip them to become healthy, confident, competent, caring and contributing members of their family, community, and society," a goal that is voiced in the 4-H pledge: "...for my club, my community, my country, and my world."

Now as from its inception, 4-H uses agricultural and other projects to "hook" youth. "Then, with the assistance of many volunteers and using research-based materials, we help youth develop life skills that they can use in many areas throughout their lives," Sue says. Anne Manlove, of 4-H in Jackson County, enumerates some of those skills: how to use time wisely, how to keep records and fill out forms, how to make good decisions, how to interact and communicate well. Projects like raising steers—having to get up every morning and take care of that animal—teach kids good work ethics.

The agricultural career choice is only one part of 4-H. Students who raise koi are learning the same kinds of things as those who raise hogs and cows. There is also a foods component, horticulture, and expressive arts. All of it works towards the same goal: positive youth development.

—Diana Coogle



Butterflies to enjoy before winter

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Blue Copper

The Blue Copper (*Lycaena heteronea*) is of the butterfly family Lycaenidae. Its habitat is open mountain meadows to higher elevation ridges and slopes. Blue Coppers can be seen flying as early as May through September with July usually the peak of their flight. In our local Siskiyou I have observed them through late September.

The Blue Copper butterfly is one of the larger lycaenids with the male having a bright blue color on open wing. The wings have a thin black border fringed with white edges and veins outlined in black. This arrangement makes for a simply beautiful butterfly indeed. Males will flitter about patrolling for females while visiting flowers and mud.

On open wing, the female Blue Copper shows a soft dark tan color with black spots and a very white-fringed border. Both males and females will rest with wings open revealing their beauty.

The host plants for this butterfly are different species of *Eriogonum*, commonly named buckwheats. Females have been observed ovipositing (laying) eggs on the flowers of the host plants rather than on the stalks or leaves. Eggs will diapause over the winter, producing one generation.

In their mid to high-mountain habitats, Blue Coppers like to nectar on their larval host plants and other plants such as asters, yarrow, rabbit brush, fiddle-necks or milkweeds.

I will still be looking for this species in early fall when on outings, hoping to see their beauty one more time before winter. The fun part is they can be seen almost anywhere in our Siskiyou mountains.

Milbert's Tortoiseshell

Milbert's Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis milberti*) is of the butterfly family Nymphalidae. With its flame-colored bands, deep mahogany middle and bright blue crescents on the edges, this butterfly is unique in color and stunning beauty. With these markings, it is also known as the Fire-rim Tortoiseshell, although in southern Oregon I have heard it referred to only as Milbert's Tortoiseshell. You will find it throughout the Pacific Northwest.

This butterfly hibernates through winter in tree holes, hollow logs, under bark and in barns and other outbuildings. Like the Mourning Cloak, some individuals can live up to 10 or 11 months and can be seen flying almost any day of the year during warm spells.

The host plant is stinging nettles where eggs are laid in large clusters under leaves. Up to 900 eggs have been recorded in clusters. These butterflies can have up to two broods.

In spring, Milbert's Tortoiseshells can be seen on wing at lower elevations of the Applegate Valley, then at high mountain elevations in summer where they live nectaring on coyote mint, asters, dogbane and others. Then, as fall approaches, they descend to lower elevations to hibernate



Blue Copper male on lupine

during the coldest winter months.

Seeing a Milbert's Tortoiseshell as it sits on the ground with open wings is almost like discovering your favorite semiprecious stone. (On closed wing it resembles bark.)

Most likely, you will do a double take, then watch it for as long as you can if you are lucky enough to find one willing to sit around. Late last summer I was able to sit on a rock in the middle of a patch of dogbane while some butterflies and Milberts nectared, carefully capturing as many photos as I could of this rare occasion. I will be sure to return soon to capture even better photos.

Linda Kappen
humbugkapps@hotmail.com
Ed. Note: The author earned a naturalist certification from Siskiyou Field Institute and hosts two-day butterfly courses there.



Blue Copper female on host plant eriogonum



Milbert's Tortoiseshell on dogbane flowers

All butterfly photos by Linda Kappen.

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Also New Office in Murphy!

Wildfire: Everyone has a role (but are they doing it?)

BY SANDY SHAFFER

The map below shows the *top two out of all 417 counties* in our 11 western states with respect to the percentage of private homes (displayed in red) within a half mile of federal land.

Yes, a recent study by Headwaters Economics found that Josephine County is number one, and Jackson County a close second. We Applegaters may not be very surprised with those top rankings; after all, we live with this “checkerboard” daily. It’s why the Jackson-Josephine county area has been a front-runner in natural resource and wildfire issues for decades. It’s also why we’ve collaborated with our federal land managers, and have mutual aid agreements and our own Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). And it’s why we were named one of the first Fire-Adapted Community (FAC) “hubs” in the nation last year. *We know* we have to work together.

As one of the very few people in the Rogue Basin who helped to define a fire-adapted community as part of the National Cohesive Strategy for Wildland Fire Management, I recognize (and preach) that our checkerboard landscape dictates lots of overlap of responsibility for most of the components of FACs. (See the box for a reminder of those components.)

I also realize that just because we’re now an FAC hub doesn’t mean that all of our communities are “fire-adapted” and that we can rest on our laurels! Quite the contrary: while I know that we are far ahead of most areas in the west, I would say that *very few* of our communities are *really* fire-adapted. And given that map, the current drought and recent wildfires in our area, this is very concerning.

To me, FAC roles and responsibilities start with homeowners: *we do our part pretty well* with defensible space, fuel reduction, forest management, family evacuation and emergency planning. Federal land managers do their part with forest management and fuels reduction (when Washington, DC,

and the courts let them) and they can also provide external community fuel buffers. The feds also participate in cooperative fire agreements, as do our local fire districts. Fire districts can help with fuels reduction, education/outreach, evacuation planning, and defining local internal and external safety zones. However, I recently heard one local fire chief (not ours!) say that promoting FACs *wasn’t* part of his job! What the heck?!

The Oregon Department of Forestry plays a lead role in forest activities, especially out in our rural Applegate. They set standards for the management of private forests and regulations for activity on forest lands. They also fight wildfires on private and Bureau of Land Management lands. And, they help with fuels reduction, forest management and public education/outreach.

So, what are the roles of county and city governments? Certainly they

should provide building codes/ordinances for safe, defensible homes and access routes. Also, weed abatement laws, emergency preparedness and notification systems, and maybe evacuation procedures? And since Oregon decided that we would have county-level community wildfire plans across the state, we have CWPPs for both Jackson and Josephine counties in place. Maybe counties are responsible for

providing funding for implementation and updates of those fire plans?

After 15 years in the Applegate, I’ve learned that *this work is never ending*—trees, weeds, grass, towns and communities all grow! Once fire season is over *we all* need to start preparing for next year, *no matter what our FAC role is*.

Given this map, we can’t stop cleaning gutters (those darned pine needles), funding CWPPs (pay attention counties!), or reaching out to new residents to help assist in preparing their homes. We can’t be too busy to attend collaborative wildfire committee meetings (some federal, state and local agencies think they are). We can’t cut funding for fire prevention or lower home safety building codes for those who’ve lost their home to a wildfire (like a town in Colorado did!). Helping agriculture shouldn’t mean allowing a dry crop next to private homes to be mowed on a 100-degree afternoon during high fire danger! And, Congress and the GAO (Government Accountability Office) need to allow the US Forest Service to *stop borrowing from fuels reduction funds* to fight wildfires! Duh, *so* counterintuitive (not to mention they had an agreement)!

Fire-Adapted Community (FAC)

The various components of an FAC are:

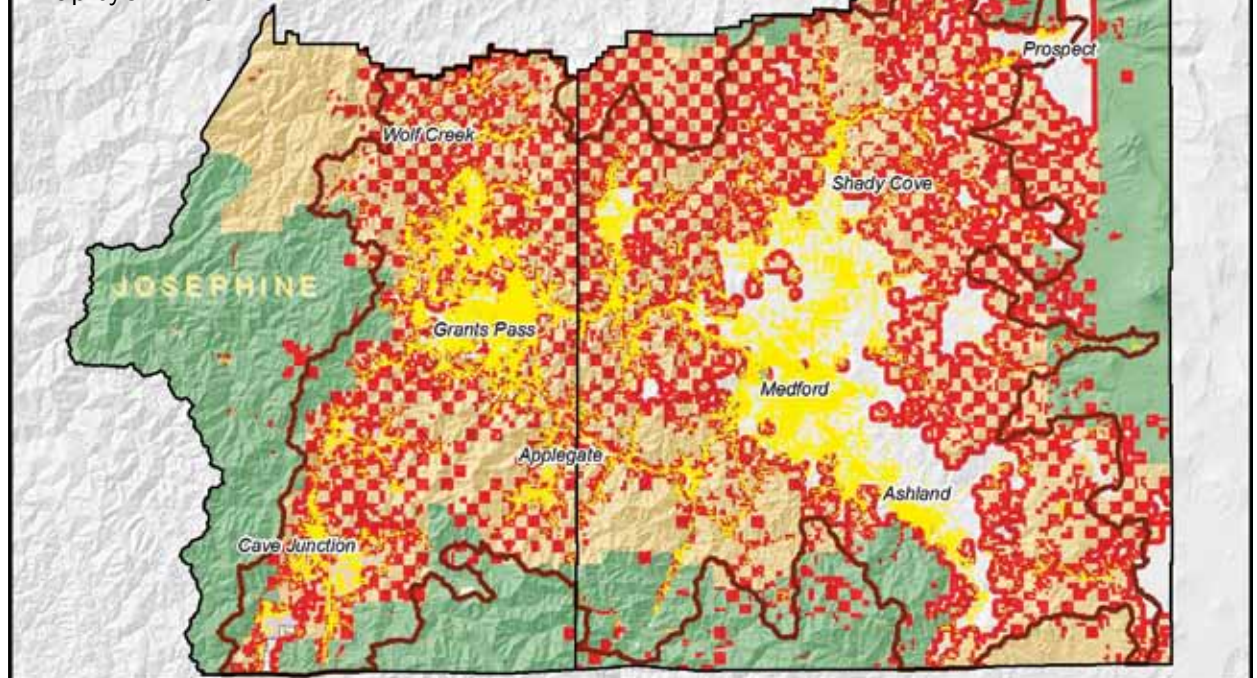
- Fuel reduction
- Forest management
- Cooperative fire agreements
- Community fire plans
- Defensible space
- Internal safety zones
- External fuel buffers
- Evacuation planning
- Local capacity
- Codes/ordinances
- Education and prevention efforts

I say we’re all in this together, and we need *every partner* to keep up their share of the workload here in southwest Oregon. Doing nothing will be very costly, so please help by putting more pressure on all of our partners to continue our local FAC efforts!

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneor@q.com

Private homes within a half mile of federal land in Josephine and Jackson Counties

Map by Jim Wolf



GMO Yogurt: How does your favorite brand stack up?

From *GMO Inside Blog* at gmoinside.org

While GMO Inside believes the “Precautionary Principle” to be the best approach when it comes to developing and consuming GMOs, we know that consumers may care about a number of factors when it comes to choosing food products. Here is some information on your “favorite” brands of yogurt:

Fage. Fage is a close second in the Greek yogurt market, holding 14 percent of the market in 2011. The positives to Fage brand yogurt are that no milk concentrate is used (like Yoplait, see below) and they do not add extra thickeners to their plain varieties, though they are most likely added for their flavored yogurt. On their website, they highlight the healthy benefits of Fage, including statements saying it is beneficial to vegetarians and diabetics, and gluten free for those with gluten allergies or preferences. However, there is currently no organic option.

Greek Gods. Greek Gods was founded in Seattle, Washington in 2003 and is now owned by Hain Celestial. They do not add milk protein concentrate,

artificial coloring, or rBST, but there is no organic variety available.

Yoplait. Yoplait Greek is owned by General Mills and is the second most popular overall yogurt company in the US, the first being Chobani. Yoplait Greek promotes the health aspect of their product, advertising the high levels of calcium, vitamin D, and protein, especially for their kids’ products, as well as claiming their product can help with weight loss. However, their website does admit to using aspartame (artificial sweetener), carmine (red coloring), gelatin, and milk protein concentrate in their Yoplait Greek Parfait cups. There are no organic options available. In 2012, General Mills spent over \$1 million to oppose GMO labeling in California.

Dannon. Oikos is Dannon’s Greek yogurt brand. It is not certified as USDA organic and does not mention “natural” or “non-GMO” products on their website.



They also have no statement on rBST use, or a bovine growth hormone used on cattle, so it is possible that these substances are used. They use cultured grade A non-fat milk, though fruit varieties include additives such as fructose, modified corn starch, and other products.

Stonyfield. Stonyfield is an all organic yogurt company started in 1983. Its yogurt is sold in natural food stores, national supermarkets and large retailers across the country. All of their products are USDA Organic certified (including Stonyfield Greek and YoBaby); therefore, they are audited throughout the production process to ensure that they use no pesticides or herbicides, GMOs, antibiotics, or growth hormones. They are currently in the process of

being approved by the non-GMO Project, which will test their animal feed for GMO contamination. They formally state that they believe GMO products should be labeled to guarantee consumer safety and they were a founding company of Just Label It, a nonprofit advocating for GMO labeling. Groupe Danone (which also owns Dannon) is the parent company of Stonyfield, owning 85 percent of the company, yet Stonyfield maintains

a unique partnership with Groupe Danone, with company co-founder Gary Hirshberg remaining Chairman and the company remaining true to its health and environmental mission.

Nancy’s. Nancy’s is another USDA organic certified Greek yogurt company owned by Springfield Creamery in Eugene, Oregon. Nancy’s does not add any thickeners or pectins and strains off the whey during production. They say they use all organic fruits from the Northwest region. On their website they describe their milk sources, stating they are from local dairy farms, mostly within a 50-mile radius of their creamery in Eugene. They do not use pesticides, antibiotics, or synthetic growth hormones, and their product is USDA certified by Oregon Tilth. Their website does not directly say that they are GMO free, but their organic certification prohibits GMO use.

Wallaby’s Family. Wallaby’s yogurt company is based out of Napa Valley, California, and was influenced by a trip to Australia by the co-founders, who were inspired by the sweet, amazing flavor of the yogurt. They use organic milk from nearby farms in Sonoma and Marin counties. They are organic certified by Quality Assurance International (QAI) and the USDA. Due to their organic certification, they are also GMO free.



Williams Branch Library: The hub of the community

— Applegate Library —

With the passing of the Library District Measure in May, it's been a busy three months for the Applegate Library and the other libraries in the Rogue Valley. We all worked very hard to back the new, independently funded district and nearly 55 percent of the voters supported us. The library will now have its own district, with the accompanying levy operating and paying for all libraries in Jackson County. With stable backing, libraries will no longer have to endure the seesaw budgeting caused in large part by reductions in federal funding related to timber harvests.

The Applegate Library sponsored several library programs with a literary bent, beginning in May with six local authors reading from their work, including prose, poetry and essays. On July 12, Gay Bradshaw gave a reading for the Summer Reading Program from her new book entitled *The Elephant Letters, The Story*

of *Billy and Kani*, and on July 19, Ellen Levine presented a program with readings from her novels and short stories.

The Applegate Poets, a recently formed group of poets, held a reading in the meeting room of the Applegate Library on July 27. On August 2, Willy Whitefeather offered a program on survival in the wilderness for children.

We're planning a crafts fair to be held at the library on November 8. The hand-knitters are again making hats for sale, and many other crafts from the Applegate and Williams Valleys will be available. Read more information in the box below.

The next Friends of the Applegate Library meeting will be on Tuesday, October 14, in the meeting room of the Applegate Library at 5 pm. Come join us and help us out with our programs and activities.

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

— Ruch Library —

We are happy to announce future events at Ruch Library! Thank you, Applegate Valley voters, for approving the Library Special District and for assuring us a secure future.

If you would like to be more connected with this "library with a future," we welcome you. We are in need of volunteers on Thursdays and Saturdays for a couple of hours each day. We have special projects, books to shelve, bulletin boards to decorate, files to organize... something for everyone. Please speak to a staff person if you are interested. Volunteer Barbara Krack has created a magnificent scrapbook showing the 30-year history of the Ruch Library, and we urge you to come in and enjoy it.

We had an exciting three months with the Summer Reading Program. Fifteen teens and 55 children signed up and spent the summer devouring books. "Science" was the theme, and the kids (and adults) were able to attend six exciting programs and participate in a variety of activities. Thanks so much to the community members who shared their knowledge and enthusiasm with the children.

Preserving: Our life in the Applegate (while preserving our life

in the Applegate). Through the end of September there will be a community display of food preserved by local residents. Stop by and see some of the beautiful and mouth-watering canned, smoked, pickled, dried and otherwise preserved food from local kitchens.

The Friends of Ruch Library will be having their annual **Big Tent Book Sale** on October 11.

A new series of free **computer classes** begins in October with Basics II, introducing word processing, digital photo processing, file management, and graphic design. Classes will be held each Thursday from 1 – 3 pm, October 16 through November 13 at Ruch Library. Call now to reserve your space for these classes.

Earthquake Preparedness is the theme of a program featuring Mark Prchal on October 25. Contact Ruch Library for more details.

Please join us for **Preschool Story Time** on Tuesdays at 11:30 am, usually followed by a craft presented by one of our wonderful volunteers, and for Lego Fun on the first Saturday of each month at 1 pm.

See you at the library!

Thalia Truesdell
541-899-7438

The Williams branch of Josephine Community Libraries is at the heart of the Williams community, both in location and services provided. Children's programs, a wide selection of books and other materials, educational programs for all ages, a nonprofit meeting space, and free public-access computers make our library a resource that is growing in demand. Wi-Fi use, available 24/7, has doubled this year and our desktop computers will be upgraded soon thanks to a grant from the Four Way Community Foundation. Hours have been extended thanks to Herb Pharm and many other community donors.

The libraries in Josephine County closed on May 17, 2007. Four months later, committed community members formed Josephine Community Libraries, Inc. (JCLI), a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring long-term library services for every county resident. By December 2009, JCLI had reopened all four shuttered locations. Over the last five years, the libraries have seen incredible growth in usage with an average of 350 new library cardholders every month. As the libraries continue to operate thanks to generous donations and the heroic contributions of 360 volunteers annually, they are also working to form a special library district to meet the ever-increasing demand for library services in Josephine County. Citizens will have an opportunity to vote on the library district on the November 2014 ballot.

How you can get involved

Anyone interested in getting involved with the library effort can send an email to info@josephinelibrary.org. Those interested in donating can send a check or



Young patron making solar lantern during the Summer Reading Program.

money order made payable to "Josephine Community Libraries" to P.O. Box 1684, Grants Pass, OR 97528 or make a secure donation on the website at www.josephinelibrary.org.

Keep Our Libraries Open (KOLO) is a registered Oregon political action committee (ID #14922) made up of a group of citizens dedicated to passing a library district measure on the November 2014 ballot. If you would like to get involved with the library district effort, send an email to info@keepourlibrariesopen.com. Those interested in donating can send a check or money order payable to "Keep Our Libraries Open" to 106 NW F Street, No. 258, Grants Pass, OR 97526, or make a secure donation at www.keepourlibrariesopen.com.

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

Hats off to Applegate Library sale Saturday, November 8

The Friends of Applegate Library is pleased to invite you to join us on Saturday, November 8, 2014, from 10 am to 4 pm for our very first annual Holiday Craft Fair and second annual hat sale. We will be ringing in the holiday season at the beautiful Applegate River Lodge, 15100 Highway 238, in the heart of Applegate.

Our vendors are all local crafters selling unique handmade items. There will be jewelry, upcycled bags and totes, hand-thrown pottery, gift cards, herbs and salves, paracord bracelets, hand-knit hats, scarves, shawls and bags, children's clothing, aprons, leather bags and purses, hand-etched wine glasses, teddy bears and much more!

Vendor fees for the craft fair and 100 percent of the proceeds from hat sales will help fund Applegate Library programs. Hats will be on display inside the library for the entire month of October.

Come shop local and support your community! Many thanks to the Davis family at Applegate River Lodge for their support and generosity in hosting our events! For more information, contact Carol Hoon at 541-787-7261.

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VOICES of the



APPLEGATE

Voices of the Applegate begins a new session

Voices of the Applegate will begin another session of four-part harmony music directed by Blake Weller on Wednesday, September 3, in the Ruch Library at 6:30 pm. Rehearsals will be held from 7 to 8:30 pm every Wednesday evening at the Ruch Library from September 3 until November 19.

Two concerts will be presented this season: the first one on November 21 at 7:30 pm in the Old Presbyterian Church on California Street in Jacksonville, and the second one on November 23 at 2 pm at the Applegate River Lodge.

Tuition this year is \$55, which covers all of our costs, including our music.

Come to the first rehearsal and fill out your registration form. Everyone is welcome, even if you have never sung in a choir before. If you can sing in tune, you're in!

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

The Tuxana corn story

BY JONATHAN SPERO

You may have read "The Top Hat corn story" a couple of issues back. It described how I selected Top Hat corn from a single hybrid parent (Tuxedo) and selected for sweetness by picking the last kernels to commence to wrinkle. Top Hat corn is growing at Oshala Farm in the Applegate Valley this summer and seed should be available next year for sale.



To create corn with new or different attributes, I needed to introduce something more variable, with some genes that more modern corn lacks. In 2003, I again grew Tuxedo. This time I planted 16 rows, every other row across a field. In each of the 15 alternate rows, I planted a different multicolored corn. Most were old or ancient varieties, and all had red or blue as well as yellow or white kernels. I de-tasseled all of this multicolored corn so that all of the corn was pollinated by the Tuxedo.

The next year I grew a row of each of these 15 crossed lines. With Tuxedo providing the pollen, an Anasazi corn tended to produce vigorous plants with large ears and large kernels. This Anasazi x Tuxedo cross led to the white corn Tuxana as well as to the Ana Lee (yellow) and Festivity (multicolor) varieties you will see in future years.

With the more variable Anasazi corn as the seed parent, picking out the last-to-dry kernels did not lead to gains in sweetness as it had in the Top Hat corn. I suspect that variation in some other trait in the Anasazi corn has a larger impact on kernel wrinkling than does sugar content. I got big, robust kernels, but not sweet ones. Time for a new plan. I switched from kernel selection to ear-to-row selection.

Ear-to-row selection (also called mother-daughter or half-sibling evaluation) is a classic method for improving open-pollinated crops. It improves on mass selection (saving the best plants) in that it allows evaluation of a plant by the qualities of that plant's progeny, and it allows the elimination of pollen from inferior plants.

In 2012 I grew about 2,000 plants of Tuxana f5 (5th generation) selected for white kernels. We taste-tested the

secondary ears on the two-eared plants and flagged about 500 as sweeter than average. The primary ear from the chosen plants was left to mature on the stalk. When the corn was dry, I chose the 300 nicest looking of the 500 ears and shelled these individually into paper bags.

What I wanted to find out is which of these 300 ears makes the best-looking and best-tasting corn. So I planted a sample of the seed from each ear and kept track of which parent ear it came from. I saved back the rest of the seed from each ear, now with a number on the bag, so that I can plant seeds from only the best ones next year for the improved crop.

I made a grid of 300, 10-foot rows and planted 20 seeds from one parent ear in each row. I rated the rows for germination and seedling vigor at about 21 days. Later, when the corn was ripe, a crew of three came through and rated each row for general stand quality, productivity, appearance of shucked ear, sweetness and flavor. We looked at, tasted and rated ears from each mini-row and made rating decisions as a group of three. We used a tablet computer to field-enter data into a spreadsheet and chose the 100 best overall.

I then separated the 100 numbered bags of seed from the rows we liked best. Seed from only those 100 chosen parents was combined and is being grown in 2014. Once again, we will be comparing about 2,000 plants with the goal of picking the 300 best to repeat the ear-to-row selection process in 2015. Ear-to-row selection in Ana Lee corn is ongoing in 2014 here at Lupine Knoll Farm, 1225 Messinger Road, Grants Pass.

Jonathan Spero
spero.jonathan@gmail.com

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Humbug and Iron Creek: OWEB small grants make big impacts

BY BARBARA SUMMERHAWK

Two in-stream projects being carried out by the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) underscore the importance of small streams in the larger scheme of ecosystem health. According to Geoff Becker, chair of the APWC Aquatic and Riparian Committee, these streams used to be key components of the habitat of the endangered coho salmon, but have largely been taken out of the equation.

One of the projects funded through a small grant from the Oregon Water Enhancement Board (OWEB) will remove reed canarygrass and excess cobble from Humbug Creek near Applegate. Reed canarygrass is extremely invasive and has cemented the cobble so it won't wash downstream into the Applegate River. According to Geoff, he and another landowner noticed in February that Humbug Creek, for the first time in at least 25 winters, went subterranean about 50 feet on either side of the bridge at Highway 238 and Humbug Creek.

They also found a dead, spawned-out female salmonid and a dead juvenile steelhead. After consulting with Steve Barzier, a fish biologist, and Chris Parks, a hydrologist, both from the US Forest Service, they recommended removal of the aggrading cobble and the reed canarygrass. Thereafter, Geoff worked through the

APWC on applying for a small grant from OWEB. With the grant, the work will be done over a few days when in-stream activity is permitted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, usually in late summer when no fish are present. "If we get the excess cobble out, the stream will be less likely to go subterranean during the critical spawning season," says Geoff.

Debris from the high water event of 2005 created a dam at the Highway 238 overcrossing that resulted in a considerable amount of material piling up in the immediate vicinity. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) removed much of the cobble, but the southeast bank of Humbug Creek was eroded. Some erosion control using logs will also be completed at this site. Jerry Voight from ODOT will donate truck time to the project, which involves three landowners and the various agencies.

Another APWC project involves Iron Creek, a tributary located right below Murphy. The spark for in-stream work to protect steelhead and coho (an endangered species) came from a landowner who noticed fish stranded in pools because they were unable to go up or downstream. He contacted the APWC, who then initiated the process for a grant to create step pools, plunge pools and deposits of spawning gravels



The location of this photo, taken in March 2014, is downstream of the Highway 238 bridge at Humbug Creek. The grass in the middle of the channel is reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), which is highly invasive and can choke out streams.

by strategically placing boulders and large woody material in the stream. These pools will allow fish easier passage and places to spawn. Unlike Chinook salmon, which begin their migration to the sea in the first spring after hatching, coho spend around 14 months in the stream in which they are born. Steelhead spend somewhat less than a year in fresh water. This makes coho much more susceptible to the degradation of these smaller tributaries. Joseph Vaile with Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center has also emphasized the importance of these smaller streams.

Landowner awareness of the role that small streams play in the overall health of the watershed is of great significance. The Humbug and Iron Creek projects being carried out by the APWC together with landowners and agencies help all of us enjoy a richer Applegate environment.

For more information on projects of the APWC, check out the home page at www.applegatepartnershipwc.org.

Barbara Summerhawk
APWC Board Member
barbs@apwc.info

APPLEGATE VALLEY WINES

per ton in 2012 increased 19 percent and, in combination with greater production, resulted in a 42 percent increase in total crop value. This census shows that the largest varietal in acreage statewide was Pinot Noir, with Pinot Gris second and Chardonnay third. In the *Rogue Valley*, Pinot Noir was still first and Pinot Gris second, but Syrah was third. According to the census, Oregon grapes stay in Oregon and Oregon winemakers buy very few grapes from other states.

Kara Olmo is one of the new generation of leaders in marketing and promoting the wine industry in the Applegate Valley. She said that when Ted and Mary Warrick planted the Wooldridge Creek vineyard back in the 1970s, they were part of a core group that included Frank Wisnovsky, Roger and Barrie Layne, and Dick Troon, who collaborated on getting their new wine

region on anyone's radar. Their goal was to make the Applegate Valley a viable wine destination, which meant adding more tasting rooms and more commercial vineyard setups. There was no competition and lots of cooperation. They didn't want the valley to be solid vineyards because that makes it more difficult to grow grapes and harder to maintain the pest and predator balance. "Here we have natural boundaries [mountain terrain] and BLM lands, and those, coupled with crop diversity, keep pests and predators in balance to help maintain the health of all the valley's agricultural endeavors," emphasized Kara.

When Kara and Greg Paneitz came to the valley in the early 2000s there was only one tasting room—at Valley View Winery. The development of a marketing plan for the valley was part of the job of the Applegate Valley Oregon Vintners Association (AVOVA), formed in 2006.

Its mission was not only to create a wine destination out of a quiet valley and become a resource for ideas and equipment, but also to share ideas in order to elevate the quality of the wine produced in our valley.

In the last decade, Barney Smith of The Academy, Herb Quady of Quady North, Kara Olmo and Greg Paneitz of Wooldridge Creek Winery, Mike and Mark Wisnovsky of Valley View Winery, the Martin family of Troon Vineyards, and Liz Wan of Serra Vineyards—to name a few—have helped brand the area, attracting more people to select southern Oregon as their wine destination. This helps not only the vineyards with tasting rooms, but also the economic stability of the entire area.

Kara said that the large plantings by

Dick Braden, co-owner of Serra Vineyards, and Padre Properties on North Applegate and Highway 238 will increase the acreage planted in the Applegate by hundreds of acres, but that all of these plantings are under long-term contract with a northern Oregon winery and will not oversaturate the Applegate Valley market. In fact, these new vineyards may use local wineries to create juice for transport to large commercial operations farther away.

It benefits the entire community to have farmers and grape growers working side by side to develop the land in our valley in the best possible way.

The future of Applegate Valley wine does indeed look bright.

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avreatly@gmail.com

FROM PAGE 1

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OPINIONS

The rape of North Applegate Road

BY KRISTI COWLES

This past year, we Applegaters have witnessed one of the most heartless atrocities since I moved here seven years ago: the devastation of a huge portion of what once was a beautiful, pristine winding green forested road. Corporate agribusiness has entered the Applegate Valley and it's not going to stop until these soulless, land-grabbing billionaires are allowed to gobble up all the available land they can possibly acquire here. That is their goal. It appears that the state and counties have no laws in place to stop them from destroying North Applegate Road's scenic landscape! Huge, tall old trees have been hacked down carelessly. Long rows of high fences have been constructed that prevent our wild animals from getting to the Applegate River for shelter and water. The rest of what they bought has been basically flattened, with barriers dangerously close to the already narrow North Applegate Road.

Just beyond our Applegate Library, one sees nothing but wasteland—a dust bowl where grapevines will be planted and no doubt sprayed with Roundup and other chemicals, the runoff polluting our Applegate River. These new corporate owners have shown no sign of becoming members of our rural community—nor have they even shown any interest in who we are! The higher-ups will probably never even set foot in our valley, or, if they do, it will be to ogle their new kingdom, boosting their already humongous egos. Word on the street out here is that almost all of the harvested grapes will be shipped out of this valley.

A leisurely Sunday drive along North Applegate Road will reveal what these amorphous elites are up to—so far they

have easily scooped up 350 acres—with nothing to prevent them from bulldozing everything they bought. I've also heard through our Applegate grapevine that the intention is to purchase at least another 750 acres along our river. I sure hope that's not true! Acres upon acres of barren, flattened, brown, dusty, ugly terrain, with long deer-proof fences next to the road, have replaced green pastures, beautiful stands of trees and lush, wild greenery. Even trees standing near the road have been chopped down, for absolutely no reason except to make it easy for miles of fencing to go up in their place. Devoid of any conscience whatsoever, eschewing consultation with our community as a whole, they have but one obvious goal in mind—huge future profits!

A disaster of this magnitude should never have been allowed to occur and will likely cause flooding during the rainy season—putting our Applegate Library in jeopardy. Obviously much stiffer zoning laws in both Jackson and Josephine Counties are necessary to prevent this unscrupulous disruption from ever happening again. Our gentle way of life in this valley, not to mention all of southwestern Oregon, has clearly been threatened. I've always loved driving past the small vineyards and wineries, owned by local people who care, who are involved members of our community, and who have chosen to really live here!

This greedy action raises a quintessential question: Is sweeping corporate agriculture what we want to see happen throughout the Applegate?

Kristi Cowles
kkc@apbb.net

Rogue energy consciousness

BY ALAN JOURNET

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, and the US Department of Agriculture Climate Change Program released reports recently underlining the conclusion that climate change is happening here and now, we are responsible, and it is destined to compromise the livability of our planet for future generations unless we address it promptly. Collectively, they confirm conclusions that could be disputed only by someone ignorant of science or exhibiting malicious intent. On this issue, it is impossible to be too alarmist.

Rogue Valley residents should understand what we are doing to cause climate change and how we might reduce our contribution.

One 2011 analysis revealed that Rogue Valley greenhouse gas emissions originate from three general activities:

Fully 44 percent result from materials we buy that are produced elsewhere and shipped here, the energy cost of making them and shipping them to us being assigned to us. The famous Earth Day motto, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," is germane here; the less we buy, the more locally made materials we buy, the fewer emissions we cause.

Our transportation in private or commercial vehicles and public transit along with the transport of locally made materials results in 32 percent of our emissions. Reducing our fossil fuel-based travel and employing more energy efficient modes will reduce this component.

Finally, energy production results in 24 percent of our emissions. About three quarters of this (equaling 18 percent of total emissions) is public utility or industrial power plant production of electricity consumed in our residences and businesses. It also includes natural gas we use for heating. Any reduction in our use of utility-generated electricity will reduce our carbon emissions.

Another 2011 report evaluated how our region might increase reliance on clean energy while reducing our reliance on electricity generated from fossil fuel sources. Focusing on Jackson and Josephine Counties, this study indicated that we used about three million megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity in 2005. Of this, less than a third was derived from renewable sources (largely hydropower), leaving over two million MWh derived from carbon polluting fossil fuels. The study also concluded that using a combination of increased biomass burning, wind, solar, hydropower, and anaerobic digestion could reduce our fossil fuel needs, and thus our greenhouse gas emissions by an additional 229,000 MWh.

This study also concluded that increasing our energy efficiency could have a far greater impact than all these renewable energy generation techniques combined. While increasing energy use efficiency does not generate energy, this analysis suggested that increasing efficiency could reduce our fossil fuel consumption (currently 2.1 million MWh) for electricity by a little over a third. Furthermore, if we added the renewable energy generation potential suggested here, we could reduce the fossil fuel electricity need by 43 percent.

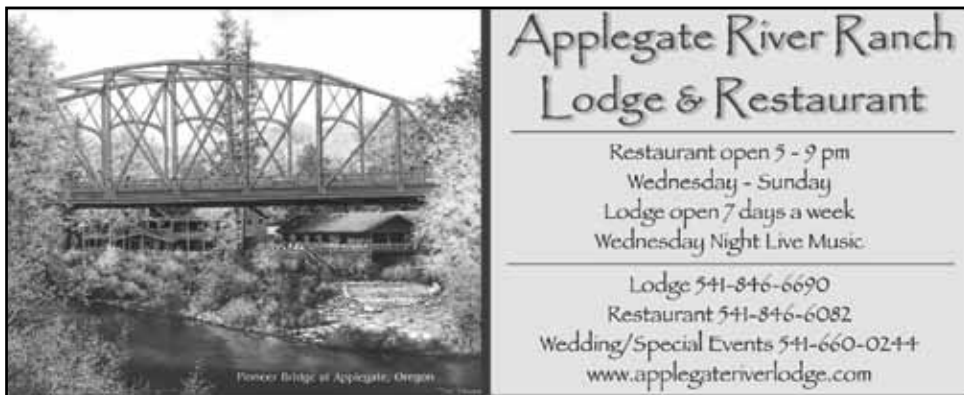
Since electrical energy generation accounts for about 18 percent of our regional greenhouse gas emissions, undertaking these steps could reduce our emissions by 43 percent of that 18 percent, or nearly 8 percent overall. While not all of us can install solar or wind generation to substitute for fossil-fuel-generated electricity, we should do it if we can. However, we all can address what is called "the low-hanging fruit," namely, increasing our energy-use efficiency. The most effective ways to enhance our individual residential energy-use efficiency are (in rank order): improvements in space conditioning (heating, ventilation and air conditioning or HVAC) such as improved insulation with reduced leakage, followed by water heating, and consumer electronics. These are followed by enhancing home office equipment, increasing home lighting efficiency, and improving refrigeration.

Meanwhile, in the industrial/commercial arena, the most effective targets for improving energy efficiency are lighting and HVAC, followed by office equipment, food processing, external lighting, and refrigeration.

While these residential and commercial efforts certainly require investment, ultimately they all save money.

What each of us does individually will not make a colossal dent in saving the planet for future generations. Even if regionally we all do the maximum we can do, the impact will not be sufficient. But, we are all, individually and collectively, confronted with a serious moral and ethical challenge. Should each of us take the moral high road and do the maximum we can do to protect this planet for future generations, or should we do nothing and just contribute further to the problem? The same question applies collectively at the city, county, state, and national levels. The US should not be lagging, but should be leading the world to solve this problem.

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OPINIONS

River Right: Where flows collide

BY TOM CARSTENS

The other day I was kayaking on the California Salmon River near Somes Bar where it joins the Klamath River. When two rivers collide, lots of interesting stuff happens. The water clarity and temperature can change dramatically, for example. Water currents also become jumbled up in unpredictable ways. Kayaks are inherently unstable so these swirling waters can be a problem. I have to complete a turn into the main stem current of the Klamath while the tributary flow is pushing me in a different direction. Conflicting surface waves and underwater currents join in the jostling. Confusing? It's rough and tumble, and I have to be careful as I edge into the turn. Eventually, though, the mighty Klamath overpowers the smaller Salmon, and I go where it shoves me.

This is a bit how I feel when I take a look at another one of our ballot initiatives coming up in November. This one would legalize recreational marijuana use in Oregon. On the surface, this doesn't seem like such a bad idea. A recent poll shows that a slim majority of Oregonians supports this next step in the decriminalization of pot. But not so fast—doesn't this fly in the face of federal law? The US Controlled Substances Act still lists marijuana as a "Schedule I Drug" with some pretty significant penalties. Article VI of the Constitution still says US law predominates over state law. To me, this resembles the big daddy river overpowering the teeny tributary.

What about our sister state, Washington—they've legalized pot, haven't they? Yes. But. There are a number of federal cases pending against growers there. Just last May, for example, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) raided ten rural pot growers near Kettle Falls. The eastern Washington district prosecuting attorney is charging each of them with six felony counts. A federal judge overseeing the case has ruled that they *cannot* use state law as a defense. The Department of Justice has already spent \$3 million on this case, which is expected to top \$13 million. Whoa!

Confused? In an attempt to clarify federal policy, the US Deputy Attorney General issued a memo a year ago to all federal prosecutors, which included the following: "Marijuana is a dangerous drug and...the illegal distribution and sale of marijuana is a serious crime. The Department of Justice is committed to enforcement of [federal

law]. Jurisdictions that have enacted laws legalizing marijuana...and that have also implemented strong and effective regulatory and enforcement systems... [are] less likely to threaten the federal [enforcement] priorities."

The memo lays out a baffling set of criteria that federal prosecutors should use in prosecuting marijuana cases, especially where the state government has legalized it. It's tough to follow, but it basically leaves the decision to prosecute up to the local district attorney. You can read it yourself: Google "DAG Memo 8-29-13." If you understand it, give me a ring.

The DEA isn't buying any of it. In April, the head of the DEA vowed to Congress that she would fight back against lax marijuana enforcement. The DEA's chief of operations has called states' legalization efforts "reckless and irresponsible." And, as we know here in the Applegate Valley, the DEA is more than willing to team up with the sheriff to run a raid or two.

But wait, there's more! Did you know that the US Securities and Exchange Commission has suspended trading with marijuana-related companies? And just this past May, the US Supreme Court unanimously declined to make an exception for even medical marijuana. Many local jurisdictions in Oregon are resisting medical marijuana dispensaries even though they're legal by state law. Local officials question the propriety of issuing a business license that violates federal law. In an attempt to clarify, the Oregon Legislative Counsel issued this guidance last November: "We conclude that while a municipality may not be required to violate federal law to comply with a conflicting state law, a municipality may not act contrary to state law merely because the municipality believes that the action will better carry out the purposes and objectives of federal law."

Say what?

To me, the whole thing looks a lot like the colliding flows of the dominant Klamath and the little Salmon: federal law overpowers state law and we end up getting jostled around.

And guess what? The next change in administration could be like a big storm brewing upstream, plunging us into a flood of federal prosecutions. I don't want to paddle in *those* waters!

See you on the river.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

Government and climate change issues

BY ALAN VOETSCH

I was rather surprised by some articles I read in the Spring issue. Apparently, the agenda (resent the wealthy, but expect them to support us anyway) of the national media has landed locally and we're supposed to reap the benefits of what other Americans have earned. This is not the America I grew up in, and if that attitude continues this country will continue to fade away. If *you* want something, *you* need to work to achieve it. Don't expect Uncle Sam to hand it to you; that attitude sets all of us up for failure down the road.

Ask yourselves this: what does government produce? The answer: folks with their hands out.

Smaller and leaner is better than fat and bloated. My opinion: less revenue to Washington, DC; more revenue locally and regionally. We know better where it's needed than the career politicians 3,000 miles away. In fact, let's vote them out and install term limits. Actually, to be fair, I prefer a 12-year limit: two terms for senators, six terms for representatives.

I attended Senator Wyden's town hall meeting in Medford several months ago with one of my daughters and was shocked at the large representation of folks who attended as organized groups to protest against any kind of energy development and of course wanting to present their agenda of stopping climate change. If that showed who we are as a community then apparently 75 percent of us are environmental activists. I am deeply concerned by what I see and hear nowadays on this subject. Much climate "information" is just plain crap and presented entirely out of context with the intent of scaring us. The lies and manipulations by the climate alarmists are legendary. Any side that tries to tell me that "the science is over" or "the debate is over"

obviously has no real clue what science is. Science is a method of inquiry. It uses experiments that should have repeatable results when the same parameters are used within the experiment itself, no matter who performs the experiment. I've been an amateur astronomer most of my life and have always loved science. I want and expect truthful, rational discourse on this and all subjects of interest to my country. Scare tactics and refusal to hear opposing points of view are not science. Attacking anyone who disagrees with your message is not scientific.

Please read *The Greatest Hoax* by US Senator Jim Inhofe. He has worked on this issue for a long time and explains why the Little Ice Age and Medieval Warming Period are *very* important to this conversation. If you don't know what the UN's IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] is and what its agenda is, you need to read this book. If you don't know how big the tax increases will be to combat climate change, who the revenues will go to, and how little would be accomplished by those trillions of our tax dollars, read this book. If you don't know what the "Summary for Policymakers" is, read this book. If you are not aware that China is putting hundreds of new coal-fired power plants on line *every* year but would not be subject to the UN's climate agreement, you need to read this book. I guarantee that, finally, you will hear a rational, intelligent discussion of what we are up against.

Left Turn by Tim Groseclose is a book that details why the media is out of control. I think you'll be surprised with the amazing detail he uses to document his findings. Starts boring, but hang in there.

Alan Voetsch

alan_voetsch@yahoo.com

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OPINIONS

Here we go again... BLM'S Nedsbar Timber Sale

BY CHANT THOMAS

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is again planning Nedsbar, another enormous "landscape" timber sale in the Little Applegate and Upper Applegate watersheds. Judging from attendance for BLM's "open house" at the Jacksonville Library in July, the several dozen Applegate residents who made the journey over Jville Hill to the dinnertime meeting are concerned about this second largest non-salvage timber sale ever planned for BLM Applegate forests. Locals' concerns are continuations of those from BLM's largest such timber sale, Bald Lick, that covered much of the Nedsbar area and that failed to sell in 2005 and 2006. Many locals cited Bobar, an earlier logging project that covered much of the Nedsbar and failed to sell in 2003.

Some locals mistakenly believe BLM's position that their logging prescriptions will reduce fire danger in the Applegate. Yet more locals are learning that the opposite is true. Forest stands, logged by BLM's typical thinning, will suffer decreased fire resistance as new canopy openings admit increased sun into the forest understory and floor, evaporating essential moisture earlier in the summer and extending fire season by lengthening the amount of time the fine fuels are tinder dry. Fuel loads will increase, in addition to the untreated logging slash, as increased sunlight stimulates rapid growth of shrubs, grasses and other fine fuels on floors of the opened stands. Between increased fine and medium fuels and stands prematurely drying out, fire hazards will increase dramatically over pre-logging levels.

Professional fire ecologists understand that when wildfire moves into closed

canopy stands with higher moisture retention, it tends to underburn slowly, as the wind cannot penetrate far into a closed canopy stand. When wildfire moves into tree plantations or opened stands, it tends to blow up and burn intensively as it rapidly consumes the higher volumes of drier fine and small fuels, driven by winds that penetrate the opened stands. Such fires are often quickly drawn up through canopy openings like chimneys, where they then begin to spread through the canopy. Such fires generate strong winds and often burn so erratically with elevated flame lengths that it becomes unsafe to place fire crews near the fire. Such fires often eject firebrands that start new fires, especially in opened stands that have prematurely lost their moisture content.

Locals are concerned that proposed BLM logging would stoke future forest fires with more fuel and make thinned forests more susceptible to wildfire.

Local residents also are perplexed as to why the BLM would locate an enormous logging project right in the core of an area considered special enough by Senator Wyden to deserve specific protective designation. Wyden's proposed O&C legislation, which would double logging on BLM Applegate forests, also proposes protection of significant Applegate wildlands as Primitive Backcountry Areas (PBA). In addition to Wellington and Mungers Buttes, the largest area is the 21,200-acre Dakubetede PBA (see map), which includes the spectacular Little Applegate River Canyon (home of the popular Sterling Mine Ditch Trail system) and nearby areas.

Locals understand that protective

Climate crisis: A symptom of underpriced fossil fuels

BY CAMILA THORNDIKE AND DAN GOLDEN

"I just can't understand the solar tax credit. Why photovoltaics?"

We were talking with Mark Wisnovsky, a local vintner and owner of Valley View Winery. Mark, like so many entrepreneurs in southern Oregon, is constantly searching for ways to simultaneously green his business and improve his bottom line. Over the past 15 years, he's reached out to the US Department of Agriculture, Pacific Power, and a handful of other state and federal agencies, trying to navigate our complex kludgeocracy of tax credits and subsidies for clean energy. "It's like a puzzle, with all the different grants and deadlines and incentives. I need one person to help me manage it all." Mark could hire a specialist if Valley View was a larger operation, but he can barely justify solar panels as it is. "We're at the point where it would make sense if we get 80 percent of it covered. As best I can tell, 70 percent is more realistic."

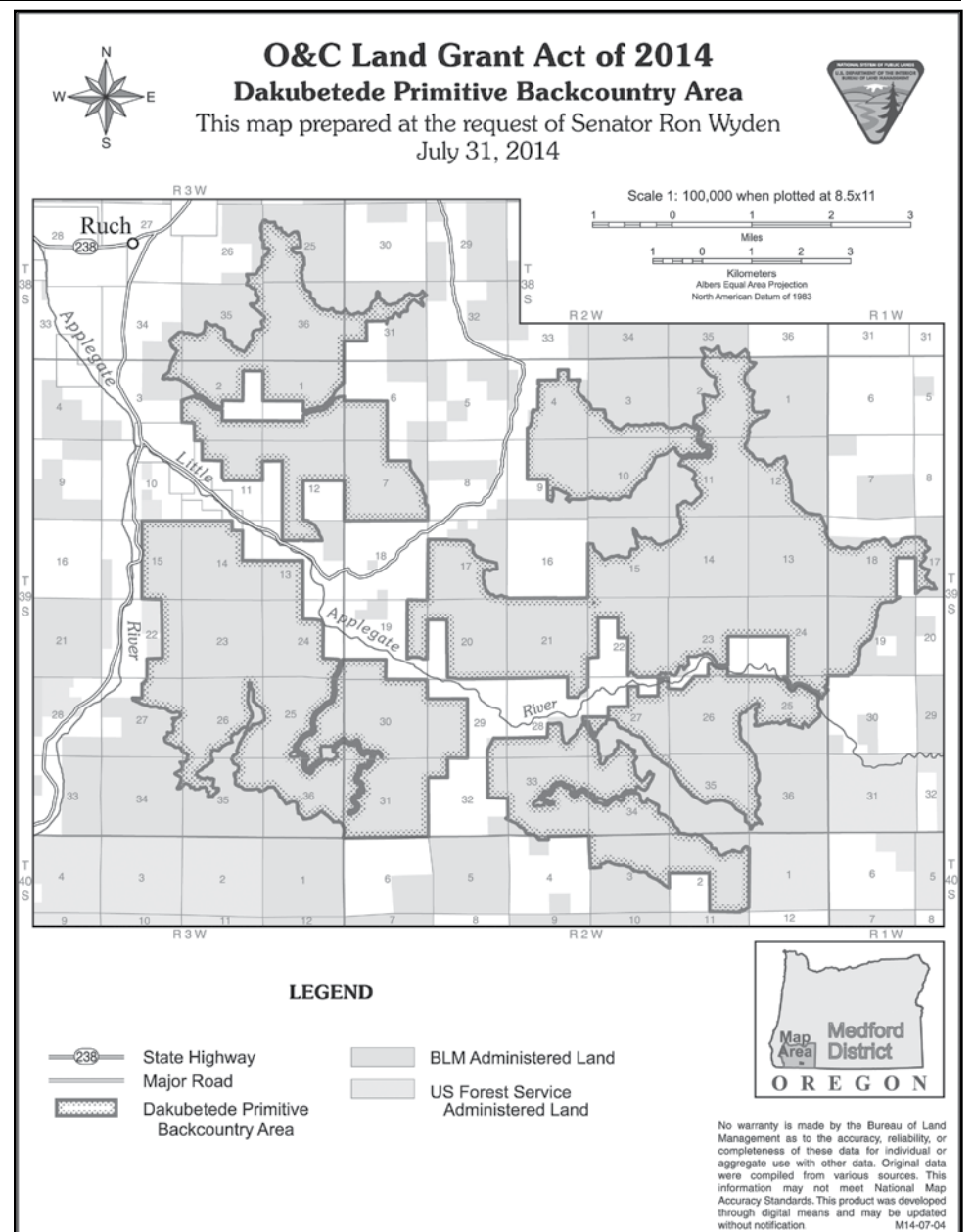
"All the winemakers I know really just want solar thermal systems to keep their fermenters warm in the winter," says Mark. Solar thermal is a relatively simple technology that concentrates sunlight on a heating medium, usually water and propylene glycol. It comes at a price tag of \$10,000—roughly one-fifteenth the cost of a comparable photovoltaic system, but there are no tax credits available for solar

thermal systems. So, when the weather gets cold, Mark turns on the electric heater at a cost of \$400 per month.

It's tempting to conclude that renewable energy incentives need a little fine-tuning—consolidate here, simplify there, and expand eligibility to include solar thermal systems. But what about all the other alternatives? Who decides which investment is best among solar thermal, wind and biomass? Is there *ever* a case when the government would know better than Mark which technology is best for Valley View?

If we were serious about creating a green economy, we could hardly do better than write blank checks to small business owners. But with *no* strings, who would invest in clean energy technology at all? And for that matter, who's to say anyone should? Mark points out that it's hard to justify photovoltaics *anywhere* in the Pacific Northwest: "Why not build a solar farm in a state like Arizona and feed that energy into the grid? If it's clean, I don't care where it comes from—we share the same earth, the same air."

It's a fool's errand to weigh the relative benefits of new energy technologies. The world's brightest engineers couldn't even describe a totally sustainable world. To free ourselves from fossil fuels is probably the most ambitious transition in human



designations such as Wilderness Areas, National Parks and Monuments, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and PBAs are beneficial to local economies. They're familiar with research that discovers how rural western counties with the most acreage of designated protected areas exhibit greater economic growth, job diversification, and increased personal and investment income. Conversely, the research shows that rural western counties with little or no protected

areas and still dependent on traditional extractive industries suffer from economic stagnation and out-migration.

Locals will be watching to see if the BLM's proposed Public Involvement Plan for the Nedsbar Timber Sale will make any difference, remembering that Citizen Alternatives for Bobar and Bald Lick were "eliminated from detailed study" in the Environmental Assessment process.

Chant Thomas • 541-899-6906

history. It'll take all of us—every engineer, every investment banker, every vintner—abating fossil fuels in the way that makes the most sense for him- or herself. It's not the role of government to make sustainability profitable; rather, it's the job of the business to make their profit sustainable for the planet.

Buckminster Fuller once said that a problem adequately stated is very nearly a problem solved. Mark is the victim of a misstated problem. The climate crisis is not a symptom of inadequate clean energy, and it's certainly not a symptom of expensive solar panels. The climate crisis is a symptom of underpriced fossil fuels. The hidden costs of coal, oil and gas are not reflected in the products and activities that burn them. If Mark's electricity bill included the costs of hurricanes, floods and wildfires, he'd probably invest in that solar thermal system, subsidy or not.

It comes as no surprise that the overwhelming majority of economists say

a carbon tax is the most cost-effective way to fight climate change. It costs society less to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by taxing carbon than it does to subsidize solar panels. The highest priority of the 2015 Oregon legislature should be to adjust the price of carbon energy to reflect its true costs to our health and communities. But it would be a mistake to squander the revenue on inefficient subsidies.

It's time that we trust Oregonians to make the decisions that work best for themselves, by redistributing the revenue evenly among *all* voters. Then, if a vintner decides to invest in that new solar thermal system, he'll have the resources to do it. If he decides not to, that's his prerogative too. But if he's looking out for his bottom line, he'll have to look out for the climate too.

Camila Thorndike and
 Dan Golden
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Co-founders of Oregon Climate
 camila@oregonclimate.org

Burn reminder



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

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MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Consider community

BY CHRIS BRATT

We residents of the Applegate live in a unique and inspiring place, but far greater community involvement and action on our part will soon be required to protect the beauty, natural diversity and environmental health of the public forests that surround us. Presently some disturbing actions and trends stand in the way of continued development of our community well-being and threaten our ability to participate as a public voice in forest management decisions. Our ability to work together with the local public land management agencies to help develop the future conditions we need for our watersheds is being curtailed. If we don't act to sustain our public forests, we won't be able to sustain our communities.

Most of the forest management problems our community is now facing derive from the impasse over a series of complex Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issues. The BLM is under intense political pressure to supply more money for distressed counties and more logs to the timber industry. This can be accomplished only by loosening environmental regulations and imposing

limits on the innovation, creativity and collaboration of the public.

As I reported in the last *Applegater*, two extreme legislative proposals have been introduced in Congress. One bill exempts BLM forest plans from judicial review (no appeals of any timber sales), and the other bill gets rid of the BLM entirely by dividing its forest lands between the US Forest Service and a private trust (clear-cutting allowed for sure). Passage of either bill will dramatically increase logging and reduce public participation on these BLM lands.

In addition, the BLM has recently resurrected that part of the 1937 Oregon and California Act that governs their interpretation of sustainable timber production. Consequently, once again the BLM is dictating that timber production (volume) is the "primary purpose" and "dominant use" of our public forest lands. Also, with new BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) in the making (2015) and in response to a recent federal court order, the BLM is planning to double timber sale volumes on all the forest lands they manage. It is apparent that the BLM is abandoning science-based management

on our public lands and thereby weakening the protective provisions of the Northwest Forest Plan, which calls for "multiple use" management by the federal agencies.

Most of these planned BLM rewrites rely on very risky forest management actions that have never been tested. They represent just a few of the obstacles our community will be confronting from now on. The irony is that none of these outlandish proposals or actions will guarantee enough logging revenue to come anywhere near funding the budget shortfalls of "timber-dependent" counties.

All of these stumbling blocks reflect attempts by Congressional representatives, timber-dependent counties, timber interests and the BLM itself to weaken the public process for citizens to influence agency decisions. Many people living in the Applegate don't realize that the BLM's present Resource Management Plans (1995) granted our community extraordinary opportunities to "develop and test new management approaches to integrate and achieve ecological and economic health and other social objectives" (not "dominant

use" timber cutting) with our local agencies.

We are in danger of losing this cooperative mandate provided by our federal designation as the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AAMA). This special area allows our community, the BLM and the US Forest Service to jointly seek innovative strategies and future actions that are most responsive to social and resource issues.

From my perspective, our community efforts over the past 20 years in working cooperatively with the federal agencies in the AAMA have paid off for all parties. There is no justification for now pressuring the BLM into changing our present AAMA "multiple use" management direction, especially in this increasingly polarized political arena. We in the Applegate expect better. We need better long-term forest-management solutions. Anything else would be a travesty.

Let me know if you expect better.

Chris Bratt
541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

Harvest Fair to be held in October at the Grange

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Greetings! We want you to mark your calendar for the next community event! The Applegate Valley Community Grange is planning to hold a Grange Harvest Fair on Saturday, October 18, from 10 am to 4 pm in the hall and on the grounds. We would love to have the community join us for this festive event.

As you know, for the past two years we have had a very successful Harvest Brunch at our Grange. This year, instead of brunch, we would like to invite members

of the community to participate as vendors, volunteers, sponsors/supporters, or fairgoers. Let's create a true celebration of the harvest in the Applegate Valley!

Vendors of prepared foods, locally grown produce, food and agricultural products, arts and crafts are all welcome to set up a booth to sell their wares and shake hands with their community. Booth spaces (indoors and outdoors) will be 10 feet by 10 feet at a cost of \$20. Vendors are to provide covers and tables.

In addition to vendor booths, this event will have educational programs with agriculturally based themes such as beekeeping, beer making, noxious weed eradication, and more. Nonprofit educational booth space will be available at no cost if nothing is being sold.

We will also have a children's area with crafts and games, and we intend to have live music. We are looking for musical groups or individuals to perform.

We will need volunteers from the community to help plan, prepare and set up for the event, and help with activities at the fair. Anyone who would like to sponsor or support any of the fair activities is encouraged to contact Janis Mohr-Tipton for details.

This event will certainly boast something for everyone, and we hope to make it a true gathering place for all ages of our community. If you would like to be a part of this great gathering and fair, contact Janis Mohr-Tipton or Paul Tipton at 541-846-7501 or email us at applegategrange@gmail.com. We will be featuring vendors, musicians, sponsors and activities in our promotional materials for this event, so let us know at your earliest convenience about your participation so that we can include you.

We look forward to hearing from you.
Janis Mohr-Tipton • 541-846-7501
Harvest Fair Vendor and
Nonprofit Booths Coordinator
janismohrtipton48@frontier.com

Update from the Applegate Food Pantry

BY ARLENE AND CLAUDE ARON

Good news!

Thanks to the plea we made in the last *Applegater*, we now have a new regular driver for the food pantry. Richard Mikula has generously stepped up to help in this capacity. Thank you, Richard, for your service to our community!

Schedule Update: Our summer hours are Mondays from 9 - 10:30 am. On October 6, we will revert to our regular schedule, which is Mondays from 11:30 am - 1 pm. We will be closed on Monday, September 1, and Monday, September 29. If there are any further changes to our hours, we always post notices at the Ruch and Applegate stores.

As we announced in the last *Applegater*, the Applegate Food Pantry has begun distributing all the food collected through the Neighborhood Food Project directly to local residents rather than merging it with the Medford Food Project. We were encouraged by the initial response in which almost 50 participants took green bags to fill, but on our last pickup

(June 13) we received only about half of them back. We appreciate everyone who has participated and donated food, but we could really use some additional participation from the community. If you have taken a bag and for any reason cannot continue to participate, please return it to the Applegate or Ruch stores so that someone else can use it (we have to pay for the bags). And please consider joining this program if you can afford to do so. One hundred percent of the food donated goes directly to the Applegate Food Pantry, located behind Ruch School. Just pick up a bag at the Applegate or Ruch store—there are instructions in each bag.

The remaining dates for dropping off bags are October 10 and December 12. If you can't make those exact dates, that's okay—we will check the stores a couple of days before and after those dates.

Questions? Call us at 541-951-6707.
Arlene and Claude Aron
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'Kitsch' not to miss: Annual Reedsport Chainsaw Sculpting Championship

BY JULIA HOSKINS

Some call it kitsch, I suppose because of the tools used. I say that the eye and hand that can carve a statue such as this one—of the classical subject of the Archangel Michael stabbing the devil—could carve a sculpture of any material and equal the best sculptures in the town squares and museums of Europe. That spear is carved one-piece with the rest of the sculpture. (The wings are carved separately; it's the devil's tail curving up behind the archangel's wings.) The devil's horns and other small details are blackened with a blowtorch.

The Annual Reedsport Chainsaw

Sculpting Championship, held in June on Father's Day weekend, included carvers from Germany, England, Canada, Russia, Japan, and Italy, along with entries from all over the Pacific Northwest. Bob King of Washington was the well-deserving winner with this archangel/devil sculpture. All were excellent, and it's a marvel to see the carvings completed in the four-day time limit. There are both professional and semiprofessional competitions. A side bonus: terrific seafood dining in Reedsport and Winchester Bay!

Julia Hoskins
julmudgeon@aol.com



Photo, left: This first-place archangel sculpture was created by Bob King of Washington.



Photo, right: Another intricate sculpture that was entered at the annual Reedsport chainsaw carving competition this year.

Photos by Don Hoskins.

Reedsport, Father's Day Sonnet

Archangel Michael has the devil down.
A giant bear sits on a log to play
His mighty saxophone: spruce swirls
as sound.
Heaven's at war, and eagles soar,
this day.
Bullwinkle reads the Bible in his hand.
Dolphins, mermaids stare at wolves
and horses,
Bison plod, too late, across the land.
Here tree trunks come alive at saw's
forces.

They fly from 'round the world to
carve their art:
Japan and Netherlands, Russia
and more.
Buyers anticipate the final mart.
Earplugs are free; we tolerate the roar.
Blowtorches burn some black, and
light's incised.
Four days is all to sculpt a form
that's prized.

—Julia Hoskins

Applegate and Williams Schools welcome Principal Darrell Erb Jr.

"I must say I am very pleased to join the team at Applegate School. There exists a quality staff focused on teaching, learning, and continual improvement. What an opportunity to work with a bunch of great folks!"

With these words, Darrell Erb Jr. expressed his enthusiasm for his new position as principal in the Three Rivers School District, where both the Applegate and Williams schools will be under his watch.

With 18 years of experience in education, he has taught in the Brookings-Harbor, Gold Beach, and Sheridan, Oregon, school districts. He spent the last five years at Three Rivers: four years as dean of students at Lorna Byrne Middle School in Cave Junction, and a year as assistant principal at Fleming Middle School in Grants Pass.

Prior to his employment with Three Rivers, Darrell spent seven years as an executive and senior program associate with nonprofit organizations focused on sustainable community development. That work took him to many wonderful places in North and Central America, Europe, and Asia.

He says he's happy to be back in education and especially pleased to be the principal at Applegate and Williams schools. "I join a team of people committed to providing a high-quality, dynamic, and engaging school for all our students," said Darrell.

Welcome to the Applegate, Principal Erb!



New Applegate and Williams principal Darrell Erb Jr., during a family visit to Yaquina Head Lighthouse in Newport, OR.

Local artist Terry Ahola has taken first place at Reedsport

Terry Ahola had been "carving" for about 12 years when he decided to enter his first competition, choosing the 2008 Reedsport Chainsaw Sculpting Championship—and as a professional, no less. Right out the gate, he won not only First Place honors, but also the People's Choice and Carver's Choice Awards.

Terry also competed in the Reedsport event in 2012 and 2013, where he won Fourth Place, and at the Albuquerque 2008 Echo Carving Series, taking Second Place as well as being tops at an auction for the "Make A Wish Foundation."

Unable to get to Reedsport in 2014, he says he may compete again one day.



Terry Ahola at Boatnik in Grants Pass.



This sculpture, "Bear Cub, Raccoon, Beaver Concept," was Terry Ahola's triple-winning entry at the 2008 Annual Reedsport Chainsaw Sculpting Championship. See more at terryaholaswoodsculptures.com.

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"promoting ecological, economic and community well-being in the Applegate watershed through on-the-ground projects and strategic collaborations."

OPINIONS: NATIONAL WILDERNESS ACT

Happy 50th Birthday, National Wilderness Act

BY JOSH WEBER

The autumn of 2014 marks the celebration of 50 years of the Wilderness Act. This successful landmark decision has kept in perpetuity 110 million acres of pristine, intact wilderness across the United States, where, as stated in the legislation, “the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man...” and where “undeveloped Federal land retains its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvement or human habitation.”

The Applegate watershed has been blessed with our own unique wilderness area, the 20,796-acre Red Buttes Wilderness, and many other surrounding unprotected roadless areas.

These primitive lands have the potential to provide for whatever the individual who braves the wild may seek—they inspire the artist and form the temples for quenching spiritual thirst. They provide recreation and physical outlet for hikers, equestrians, and mountain climbers. In my opinion, wilderness provides an ethical base for humans to emulate if we slow ourselves to notice the pace of nature, where all creatures live in harmonious balance as part of a greater whole.

There was a remarkable transition in America, over a couple hundred years, from a burgeoning colony viewing wilderness as a dark and sinister land of serpents needing to be tamed, to an era, in the first decades of the 20th century, when wilderness was seen as a place of renewal and inspiration that urgently needed protection. The outspoken views of heroic historical leaders helped form the path to the preservation of these lands.

John Muir (1838-1914) is our nation's foremost mountain man; he brought the issue of preservation to the forefront of the minds of his fellow countrymen following rapid expansion after the Civil War. He was a co-founder of the Sierra Club, one of the most influential environmental groups lobbying on behalf of wilderness. His legacy carries on through his numerous books, often-replicated quotes, and the spectacular 215-mile trail that bears his

name through the Sierra Nevada range.

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) is the forefather of the wildlife conservation movement and an early spokesman of wilderness preservation shortly after the US Forest Service's founding. He introduced a new concept, his “land ethic,” which “enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land...and affirms their right to continued existence and, at least in spots, their continued existence in a natural state.” Throughout his life, he ceaselessly wrote and spoke on this philosophy and many others as laid out in his landmark book, *A Sand County Almanac*.

Bob Marshall (1901-1939) was a passionate, engaged conservationist, a voracious explorer of high country, and a driving force behind the vision that resulted in the Wilderness Act. He wrote a policy-changing book on the need for reform of national forest management and penned hundreds of papers promoting wilderness, civil rights, and education. His efforts towards preservation resulted, posthumously, in the 1964 act's formation, which included 1,009,356 acres of northern Montana wilderness, named after this legendary character.

The creation of the law in Congress took nine years, 65 rewrites, and 18 public hearings, but its journey began long before that and continues today. With passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964, Americans chartered a course to preserve some of our country's last remaining wild places. Fifty years later, the legacy carries on. In our beautiful Oregon alone, there are 47 wilderness areas to visit. Local organizations contribute time and labor to keep trails accessible, while ceaselessly advocating on behalf of wild lands.

To get involved, contact any of these groups: Williams Community Forest Project (www.williamscommunityforestproject.org), the Applegate Trails Association (www.applegatetrails.org), or the Siskiyou Mountain Club (www.siskiyoumountainclub.org).

Josh Weber•greenpathlandscape@gmail.com

Celebrating 50 years of wilderness

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

September 3, 2014, marks the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Lyndon B. Johnson signed this landmark conservation bill into law in 1964, creating the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). Initially the NWPS set aside 9.1 million acres of wilderness; however, with the support of the American public, Congress has added over 100 million acres over the past 50 years.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 states, “In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as ‘wilderness areas,’ and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness.”

Howard Zahniser, former executive director of the Wilderness Society, drafted the bill in 1956 with the intention of protecting the nation's last remaining wildlands. Sadly, Zahniser died just months before it was signed into law. Although he never got to see his amazing and lasting legacy, the American people will benefit for generations to come.

The NWPS today includes more than 750 wilderness areas, 109,511,966 acres of protected wilderness, and a wilderness area in all but six US states. Wilderness areas represent the nation's highest form of land protection, allowing for natural processes

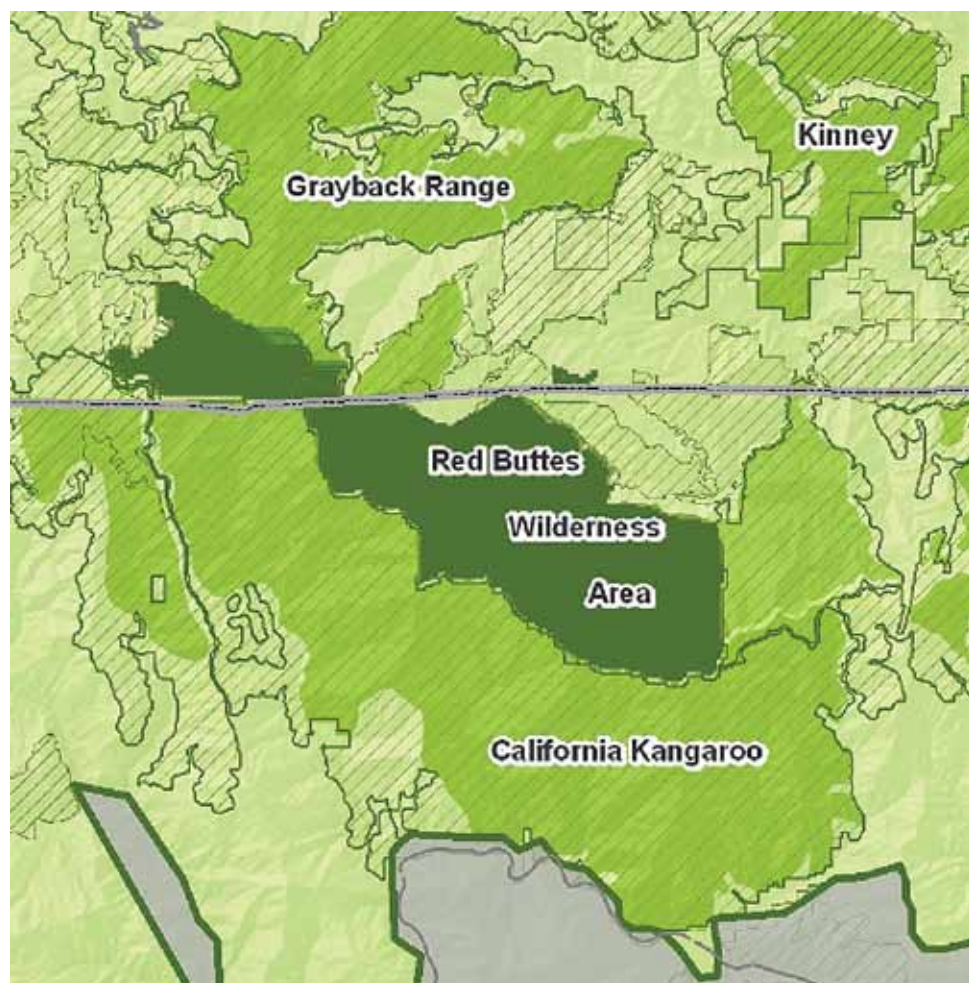
to occur while prohibiting mechanization and other damaging human activities.

Our own Red Buttes Wilderness, located at the headwaters of the Applegate River, was designated wilderness in 1984. Unfortunately, because of politics and pressure from extractive industries at the time, much of the roadless, wild terrain surrounding the Red Buttes was left out of the officially designated wilderness. The Red Buttes Wilderness is on the small side, encompassing only 20,234 acres. Extending from the forested flank of the Middle Fork of the Applegate River and south to the Siskiyou Crest, the wilderness encompasses the Butte Fork drainage, the headwaters of Carberry Creek's Steve Fork, and the dark forests of the Right Hand Fork of Sucker Creek. Richly endowed with ancient and diverse forests, the region is defined by the rugged summits of the Siskiyou Crest, including the area's spectacular namesake, Red Butte.

Large sections of adjacent wilderness were excluded from the Red Buttes in 1984, including miles of ridgeline and large areas of ancient, uncut forest. At the time of wilderness designation, the entire Grayback Range—containing vast tracts of productive forest—was left unprotected and was later impacted by US Forest Service timber sales such as China Left and Sugarloaf. This area, known as the Oregon portion of the Kangaroo Roadless Area, or the Grayback Range, exists today as a 31,778-acre island of forest, meadow, high peak, and wild mountain stream. Also left unprotected were large portions—some 60,000 acres—of the Kangaroo Roadless Area in California, dropping to the banks of the Klamath River.

In this era of seven billion people and climate change, it is more imperative than ever to protect native ecosystems. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, it is time to push for new additions to the Red Buttes Wilderness and further protect the roadless wildlands of the Applegate River watershed.

Luke Ruediger
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Map, left, shows the Red Buttes Wilderness Area in dark green.

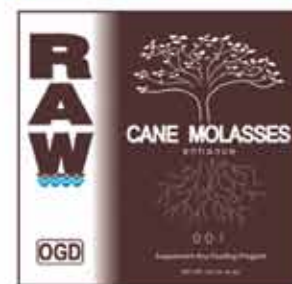
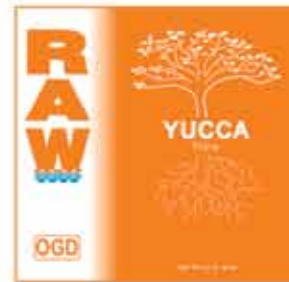
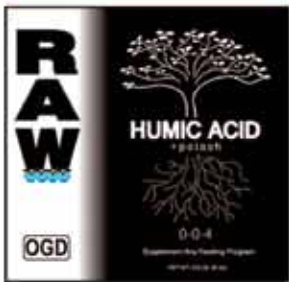
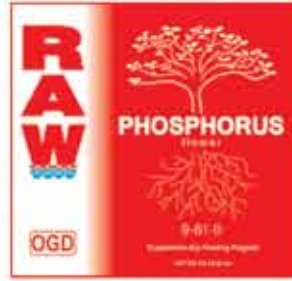
The medium green areas are “inventoried roadless areas,” and the light green designates US Forest Service land.

Photo above is Echo Lake. Located at the top of the Horse Camp trail, the lake was left out of the Red Buttes Wilderness and remains unprotected.

Photo and map provided by Luke Ruediger.



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Photos, from top to bottom:
 – **John Gerritsma** attempts to read scintillating stories in the *Gater* to Hans Christian Andersen in Copenhagen, Denmark.
 – **Chant Thomas** and the *Applegater* were warmly received by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, DC, when they recently dropped by uninvited.

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

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