

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.
P.O. Box 14
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Applegater

Photo by Liz Butler

www.applegater.org



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Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
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Beth Green: Guided by intuition

BY DIANA COOGLE

"If you want to know more about me," Beth Green says, "listen to my music."

That might be surprising, since Beth, who lives with her husband James Maynard (also a musician) in Williams, is best known as a counselor and spiritual teacher. She conducts "sex and spirituality" workshops and trainings in intuitive counseling, runs Beth Green Radio and TV, and has published five books, including the massive *Living with Reality: Who We Are, What We Could Be, How We Get There* (available as a free download on her website) and the fictional *Autobiography of Mary Magdalene*. And, of course, there are the three CDs of original compositions.

The thread connecting these many components of a career in spiritual practices is intuition.

About her compositions, she says, "Sometimes I just put my hands on the keyboard and melodies come out."

About her fiction: "I don't know what the story is till it's over."

About teaching and counseling: "I am lucky because I never have to prepare. It's very intuitive. I am guided like a puppet. The knowing comes from a level of consciousness bigger than my own."

That level of consciousness is at the heart of Beth's work. She doesn't believe we create reality but that consciousness can be taught. She doesn't rely on platitudes

but on counseling to help others. "People are too distraught," she says. "They are damaged and traumatized. Healing is crucial to being able to lead a better life."

Beth's first CD came about in response to 9/11: to give energy of peace to people to stop manipulation by fear. This orchestral piece depicts the soul's journey through darkness to light.

One should not be deceived by Beth's wide smile, cheerful demeanor, and spiritual career into thinking she has not known darkness. Rheumatic fever in her childhood left her disabled and in chronic pain. Trained as a classical musician but unable to perform, she discovered, in her fifties, that electronic instruments would enable her to compose.

Last April Beth and James moved from San Diego to the house in Williams. They were ecstatic to find so perfect a house. The arched angles of the windows create an abbey-like atmosphere. The large trees imbue peace. A shed, built by the original owners as an exercise room, has a beautiful rustic interior and is now used as a "hermit hut" for guests' private meditations. The RV garage with its wooden ceiling became a community room for registration and meals while the attached room, once a workshop with machinery, now carpeted and equipped with heating and air conditioning, became



James Maynard and Beth Green recently relocated to Williams where they conduct spirituality workshops and trainings in intuitive counseling, among a myriad of other pursuits.

the seminar room. An apartment upstairs houses people seeking retreats, either alone or as a family. Even the creek or river that Beth had thought essential was provided in the large rock-and-concrete series of pools and waterfalls in the backyard.

Best of all, the upstairs room of the house, which Beth accesses with an electric chair that slides along the banister, has become her personal sanctuary. She can look over a railing at the living room downstairs and through its arched windows onto the garden and a Buddha statue. "How can you stay petty, vindictive, and ridiculous in such a place?" she asks with a wide grin.

On December 6 Beth and James will be at the Pacifica Music and Arts Festival in Williams. James will play his trumpet and sing self-composed works, and Beth will sing, chant, and do energy work to some of her compositions.

Components of Beth's amazing career include InsideOut Radio on VoiceAmerica.com; InsideOut TV; a mind-body-spirit exercise program called LifeForce: The Inner Workout; the music group called Consciousness Rocks; the Stream Center for the New Spirituality; Consciousness Boot Camp, available as seminars or via video-conferencing; the Beth Green School of Intuitive Counseling; various healing and spiritual retreats; and, of course, her blog. On November 11 she sponsored a two-hour climate change panel discussion on VoiceAmerica.com. The podcast is available at <http://www.voiceamerica.com/episode/81048>.

It's a lot to keep up with, yet she does it with intuitive ease. You can keep up with her activities through her website, www.bethgreen.org.

Diana Coogle
dcoogle@laughdogpress.com

The art of people: Local photographers love their work



BY HALEY MAY

Anyone with a smart phone or a digital camera can take a photo today and trust it will turn out. Hey, if it doesn't, there's always Photoshop; you can edit away your imperfections, alter the light, restore old photos that have deteriorated, even add people into your photo who were never there to begin with. With the ease and availability of taking and creating great photos, the art of photography has never been more accessible.

But photography is not just

about technology and accessibility.

It's also about the people who have chosen it as a profession, the strengths and passions that set them apart, and the individuality and beauty of their subjects. Despite the speedy onset of affordable, easy-to-use tools, there is a realm of competency and skill reserved for those who strive to go above and beyond. Here are a few local photographers who have taken their art to the professional level.

See LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS, page 23

Come one, come all!
High-school students, that is!

Announcing the
Applegater's
First Annual Student Essay Contest



\$100 prize for winning entry!

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See
page 4
for details.

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Applegate Food Pantry under new management

BY ARLENE AND CLAUDE ARON

We have been volunteering at the Applegate Food Pantry for about the last eight years—the first three years as helpers and the last five years as managers. It has been challenging at times, but we have met many wonderful, generous people and have been privileged to be able to provide a vital service to members of our community.

For personal reasons, we recently decided to move from the beautiful Applegate Valley into town. But before doing that, we wanted to find someone who would be willing to take over the management of the pantry.

We were very fortunate to find a lovely woman willing to step up and keep the pantry going. Charlotte Knott, who has been volunteering with us for a while, is easing into the management position. We are sure she will do a great job. We will, of course, be available to her for as long as she needs.

Many of our current volunteers will stay on and we thank them for that. We

want to give a special thanks to Richard Mikula, our driver, who drives into Medford every week to pick up our food.

Food pantry days will continue to be on Mondays (except for the last Monday of each month when the pantry is closed). Fall, winter and spring hours are 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, and summer hours (July, August and September) are 9:00 to 10:30 am. The location will also remain the same: behind Ruch School on the loading dock.

Any future donations to the pantry should be sent to Charlotte with checks made payable to “Applegate Pantry.” We hope this community will continue to be as generous as you have been in the past.

Sadly, the number of clients we service each month has doubled, while the supply of food we receive from ACCESS has been reduced. As a result, we have had to dip into our cash reserves more than in the past.

We would love to see a day when no



Claude and Arlene Aron (left) are handing over the management of the Applegate Food Pantry to Charlotte Knott (right).

one in our community needs help feeding their families and the Applegate Food Pantry becomes obsolete. In these tough economic times, however, that doesn't seem like a very likely possibility.

It has been our pleasure to contribute our time and energy to helping our community, and we thank everyone who has generously contributed their time, financial assistance, food and

any other form of aid to the pantry over the years.

Arlene and Claude Aron • 541-951-6707

New Pantry Manager Contact Information

Charlotte Knott
P.O. Box 1826
Jacksonville, OR 97530
541-899-8381

Historic Logtown Cemetery seeks sexton

BY JANEEN SATHRE

Some of us drive by the Logtown Cemetery every day, some once a week, and some just once in a great while. Very few of us give this historic Applegate landmark much thought at all, even if we live right next door. And yet, there are people who come from near and far to spend a few quiet moments there, to leave flowers or tokens beside a loved one's grave.



- It is an Oregon Historical Cemetery.
- It has an Oregon State Centennial marker near the front gate and an anodized aluminum marker installed in 1976 by the Applegate Bicentennial Committee and the Southern Oregon Historical Society. This aluminum marker is one of four in the Applegate. The

others are at Sterling Cemetery, McKee Bridge, and in Ruch near the Ramsay Realty building.

Over the years, the all-volunteer board of directors and the Applegate community have kept the cemetery a hallowed ground for the final resting place of our loved ones. In 1949 a railroad iron arch with a Logtown Cemetery sign was erected; in 1950 a well was drilled and a hand pump put in place; in 1958 Logtown yellow rose slips were planted along the front fence; and in 2009 a beautiful new wrought-iron gate replaced an old and bent wire gate. Looking down the road another 150 years, Logtown Cemetery will require more wonderful volunteers and more community energy to keep this historic landmark an active presence in the Applegate.

The Logtown Cemetery Board is looking for someone to help us keep our records up-to-date by becoming the cemetery's sexton. This person would keep the records for burials, assist with the

The Logtown Cemetery has a long history and is a who's who of pioneer names on tombstones scattered throughout the grounds. The first recorded burial was in 1862, a Reverend James Dunlap; however, many burials took place without much in the way of record keeping. In fact, the land now called Logtown Cemetery didn't become an official entity until May 23, 1939, when a few families, with ancestors buried in what was called Laurel Grove, wanted the land preserved as a cemetery for future generations. After filing for incorporation and receiving a certificate under the name Logtown Cemetery Association, the new association board was delighted when landowners Paul E. and Mildred Pearce, along with Walter W. and Edith Bell, donated separate parcels to make one piece of property.

Some things you may not know about the cemetery:

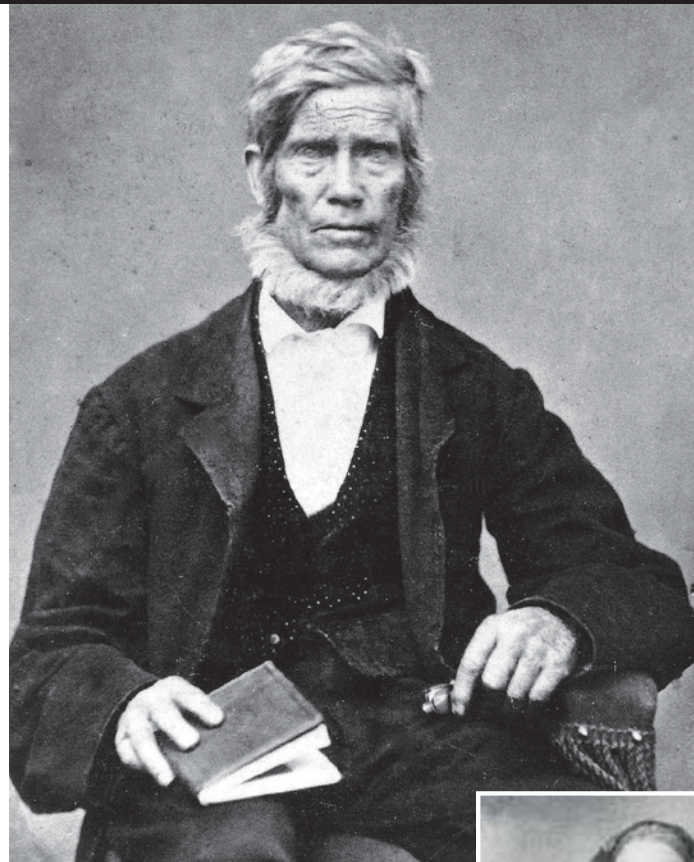
- It is managed by a nonprofit organization.

selling of burial plots, be the contact person when a burial is needed, and send the appropriate forms to the State of Oregon. A small money compensation for these services is available. If interested, please contact Janeen Sathre at 541-899-1443 or Patty Eaton at 541-899-7693.

Janeen Sathre
541-899-1443

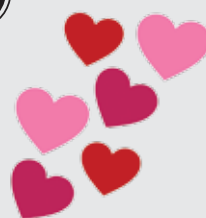


BACK IN TIME: Joseph and Almira McKee



Buried at Logtown Cemetery, Joseph McKee was one of the first white settlers in southern Oregon. Along with his wife Almira and children, Joseph arrived in the Applegate in 1860 among a second wave of McKees. His son John M. McKee and family had already arrived in 1853. Joseph was receiving a pension from Frederick County, Virginia, for his service in the war of 1812. He was born in 1793 and died on April 19, 1870. Also buried at Logtown is Almira McKee, who was born around 1809 and died in 1882.

Photos courtesy of the Evelyn Byrne Williams collection.



We love you, Applegater readers! Thanks for your support!

You warm the Gater's heart with your support and your contributions, large and small. Your interest, opinions, and articles reflect the core of the *Applegater*: that we're an open voice. Each monetary contribution (\$5, \$10, \$25 or more—they all add up) means a neighbor who cares and who reads the paper. Each ad means a business that supports us, and your support of that business also supports us. We have been able to keep the *Applegater* alive through the three sources of income that you contribute to: local ads, twice-yearly fund-raisers, and the money you put in our envelopes, enclosed in the *Applegater* twice a year. So a heartfelt thank you to everyone for your gratefully accepted contributions. Happy Holidays!

Board of Directors
Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.

WHO WE ARE

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the publication of the *Applegater* newsmagazine, 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* newsmagazine, 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* newsmagazine, 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* newsmagazine 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 Kliever, Mikell Nielsen, Paul Tipton, and Debbie and Don Tollefson for proofing; Beate Foit for bookkeeping; and webmaster Joe Lavine.

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PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

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

All articles submitted to the *Applegater* are subject to edit and publication at the newsmagazine'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
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Email: gater@applegater.org
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Donors: We strive to ensure that our donor list is accurate. Please contact us if there are errors or omissions.

Editorial Calendar

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

Personal mailing label!

One year: \$14.99

Two years: \$24.99

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

Masthead photo credit

Liz Butler of Williams shot this colorful, frosty Oregon grape at Herb Pharm. We've stopped counting how many masthead photos have been Liz's.

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** newsmagazine 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—Terry Ross

541-621-8372

terrywrites4u@yahoo.com

• Josephine County—Amber Caudell

541-846-1027

ambercaudell@gmail.com

Next deadline: February 1

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

We are in disbelief at how fast this year has gone by! It's already time to present our annual "Holiday / Arts" issue, and you'll find that arty articles abound—from a feature story on the art of photography (pages 1 and 23) to "The art of becoming a poet" (page 5) and "The art of forestry" (page 21). Some articles are about the art of maintaining our trails; one local trail is now an official Oregon Scenic Trail (page 12). As you explore these pages, you'll also find a few gift ideas as well as holiday events. And be sure to check out the ads—some advertisers are offering holiday discounts and holding special events.

We're never short of opinion pieces and this issue doesn't disappoint. Get your fill of them on pages 18 through 21.

For those of you who like to read the Gater online, we hope you enjoy our new format—it allows you to "turn the pages." Try it and let us know what you think. Visit www.applegater.org.

And for you high-school students, we hope that you're as excited as we are about our first annual student essay contest. Read all about it on page 4 and be sure to print out the application and Rules and Guidelines from our website. We look forward to your participation!

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

Happy holidays to all!

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 riell@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 sobeekeepers@gmail.com.

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Monday morning at Applegate Church, 18960 North Applegate Road (at the corner of Highway 238). Weigh-in starts at 8:30 am; the meeting starts at 9:00 am. Come join us!

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

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 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.

Announcing the Applegater's First Annual Student Essay Contest

\$100 Visa card for winning entry
from Grange Co-op

The *Applegater* invites students in the 9th through 12th grades who live in the Applegate Valley to "sharpen their pens," get their creative juices flowing, and enter the *Applegater's* first annual student essay contest. Here is the scoop:

The topic: "Agriculture in the year 2020 in the Applegate Valley—My vision."

In 750 words, describe where you think our agriculture industry—from livestock to crops, or any one specific crop or animal—is headed, what it will look like in five years, why it would be this way, and what farmers will have to do to adjust to the changes.

Entrants may include photos or other graphics to support their essay. Photos and graphics must be a minimum of 5" wide x 3" high at 300 dpi (high resolution) or "large format."

Entries will be judged by our panel, which includes Diana Coogle, *Applegater*

board chair and author; Susan Clayton-Goldner, award-winning author; Steven Weaver, Applegate Valley sheep rancher; Rick Williams, English teacher; and Julie Ersepke, Grange Co-op marketing manager.

The winning essay will be published around March 1 in the *Applegater's* Spring 2015 issue.

Submit your essays to gater@applegater.org. Only email submissions will be considered. The contest application must accompany all entries and can be downloaded at www.applegater.org.

Rules and Guidelines, also available on our website, must be followed.

The deadline is midnight, January 26, 2015.

We hope that parents and schools will encourage students to enter.

We look forward to receiving your essays! If you have any questions, please email gater@applegater.org.

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Featured Advertiser

Green Path Landworks

Green Path Landworks is a new land-management business serving property owners throughout the Applegate region. Josh Weber started Green Path Landworks out of a passion for interacting with the natural world, a drive to achieve his own path and to serve a higher purpose.

Why the name Green Path?

Josh has walked a winding, forested path throughout his life. As a child, Josh roamed the north woods of Michigan, building shelters and eating blueberries, responding to an intuitive connection with the wild. This connection developed into working on the ecology/conservation staff at Boy Scout summer camp and attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. In lieu of college, Josh spent years immersed in the mountain classrooms of the west. When not exploring the ranges, he worked seasonally in the Rockies, living and working at high altitude, building hiking trails, and working on land-agency projects. Josh settled in the Applegate Valley in 2007, and fell in love with the wild hills here. He gradually learned the varied, alluring, and enchanting ecosystem of the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion.

Building on the varied skills gained through his life and recognizing the niche for a multi-faceted, rural skills-based business, Josh formed

Green Path Landworks in 2013. Green Path strives to integrate sustainable stewardship practices with integrity and reliability. Josh's blue-collar, midwestern work ethic combines with his love of disciplined physical labor to accomplish these ends.

Green Path is pleased to offer tree removals, fuels-reduction services, and forest-health treatments. Josh aims to utilize wood resources generated by selling small-diameter, slow-growth firewood, along with other uses. Green Path offers many useful land-management services, such as footpath construction, fencing removal and installation, wood chipping or splitting, dry masonry stone steps, and brush or blackberry removal.

Contact Josh at 541-951-7969 or greenpathlandscape@gmail.com.



The morning after an all-night rainstorm on a March trek into the Wild Rogue Wilderness.

Pacifica Arts Guild's
Winter Arts Festival
Saturday, December 6, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
FREE admission. Pacifica, 16415 Water Gap Road, Williams
25 local artists with high-quality, handmade Jewelry, Ceramics, Fiber Creations, Leather, Photographs, Paintings & more
Live music, Good food, Children's activities
APPLEGATE VALLEY ART SHOW
Poetry Readings by the Applegate Poets (11:00, 1:00, 3:00)
in Pacifica's beautiful Pond House (home, at one time, to musician Steve Miller)
For information contact peg@pacificagarden.org or call 541-660-4295

Send your calendar information to gater@applegater.org.

The art of becoming a poet

BY GABRIELA EAGLESOME

We all know that the Applegate Valley is special—the landscape, the hardy and enterprising people, the unspoiled nature. There's poetry here too—and, perhaps, in you as well.

Being a transplant to the Applegate Valley, I am on the lookout for community events that bring people together. I go to the Williams Pancake Breakfast, to the weekly market, to open mic night at Cocina 7, and to the town meeting, for example. Last April I decided to go to Ruch Library for a meeting that I had seen advertised with Lawson Inada, the former Poet Laureate of Oregon.

I expected a poetry reading. What I got instead was a new way to connect with my community.

Mr. Inada hardly read any poems. He told us it was the 100th anniversary

of another former Oregon Poet Laureate, William Stafford, who had written simply about his community and nature and who liked being connected to the people around him. Mr. Inada was interested in the Applegate. He asked us about ourselves and about life in the Applegate. He joked that we live on roads, not on avenues or streets like in the city. He asked each of us where we lived and what our road was called. We got to know each other a little.

Then Mr. Inada passed out some index cards and asked us to write a few lines about our road, about our valley. He walked behind us and turned on soothing mood music.

Astonishingly, what everyone wrote sounded great. It turns out that by jotting a few inspired words on a three-by-five index card, you can hardly go wrong.

Mr. Inada was excited about our forming an Applegate poets group and encouraged us to meet again. He suggested we do readings, post poems on Grange bulletin boards, or even join him at various library events in southern Oregon.

He felt sure Applegate people would have something to say and would say it so that it communicated something to folks living inside and outside of our valley.

Since that April event, many of the things that Lawson Inada suggested have happened. Some people met a few weeks later to discuss what it meant to be an Applegate poet, to practice writing poems, and to discuss where we might present our work. We formed into a group called the Applegate Poets and have met half a dozen times since then and also publicly read our poems on two occasions. (See sidebar for the next event.) New poets from the Applegate keep emerging. The group is open to all who want to join.

We write about our impressions,

Applegate Poets' Event at Pacifica's Winter Arts Festival

Join the Applegate Poets at Pacifica's Winter Arts Festival on December 6. We'll be in the pond house reading poems between 10 am and 4 pm. We're hoping to add other activities about poetry: maybe a write-your-own spontaneous poetry session, maybe a group-generated poem, maybe some recitations of the Great Poets. Come 'round and see what we're doing!

our love for the valley, or anything that moves us. Another bonus is just to meet interesting people who enjoy sharing their experiences. It is amazing to hear, expressed in words, the things that inspire us and unite us in our community.

Please contact me if you'd like to join our new group.

Gabriela Eaglesome
gabrielas@aol.com

BOOKS & MOVIES

— Book —

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths

Ingri d'Aulaire and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

A suggestion for holiday gift-giving for children, and also excellent for adults who want to relearn the Greek/Roman myths.

If you read anything at all during the past week—or any week—in a book, a magazine, a newspaper, or on the Internet, you probably saw some reference to Greek mythology. Maybe there was mention of a Trojan horse, Pandora's box, the Fates, or the Furies. Perhaps there was something about narcissism, a Herculean task, or an Oedipus complex. These words have become so common in our culture that most never give a thought to their origin and meaning. The children's book, *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths* (Doubleday), is a wonderful addition to any library, whether there are children in the home or not. The D'Aulaires, husband and wife, have won numerous prizes both for the beautiful color illustrations and for

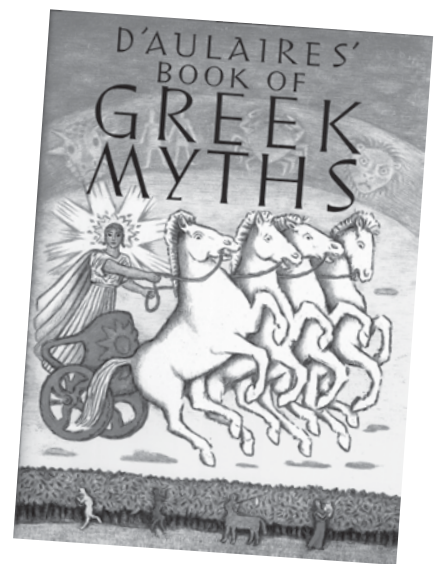
the fine written narrative in their books. The book also includes a section on the transition to the Roman pantheon of gods. It's available on Amazon and other venues.

When our children were quite small, preschool age, we lived in Izmir, Turkey. I bought this book because everywhere we went in western Turkey there were ancient Greek (and Roman) ruins. We had no television so our kids were entertained by the adventures of Zeus and Artemis and Poseidon and the scary path of Theseus into the Labyrinth years before they knew about Lassie, Mickey Mouse, or the Road Runner. Once when we visited Greece with our kids and stepped into the vaulted entrance to the Athens Museum, our four-year-old daughter, small and blonde in her little pink dress, went running toward the huge marble statues yelling "Mommy, there's Zeus! And there's

Aries, the God of War!" Groups of tourists stared at her incredulously. (Our under-two son was more interested in what I was next going to dole out from the bag of little toys I had brought to keep him occupied.)

Years later, when our son and daughter were in high school in Hawaii, an English teacher told our daughter's class that Troy abducted Helen and took her to Paris. Angie put up her hand and commented that it was somewhat different from that. Hawaii is very distant, both in miles and in culture, from ancient Greece, and it has its own myths and fables.

It's holiday time. I won't say you should purchase *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths* for the reasons that I did, but if you want a charming, beautiful, and highly informative book about a foundation of our Western culture, a book that can be enjoyed by *all* ages, the D'Aulaire book is the best out there. High school students preparing for the SATs will have a more solid memory of Greek-derived words and phrases by reading this book than they ever



will from memorizing word lists. And we adults, who may have forgotten much of what we learned in school, will be thrilled and charmed all over again.

Julia (Helm) Hoskins • 541-899-8470
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Julia Helm Hoskins is the author of *She Caves to Conquer*, a novel set in the American Midwest and in southern Turkey.

— Movie —

The Drop

Reviewer rating: 4.5 Apples

Genre: Crime/Drama

R (Restricted. Children Under

17 Require Accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian.)

Opened: September 2014

Cast: Tom Hardy, Noomi Rapace,

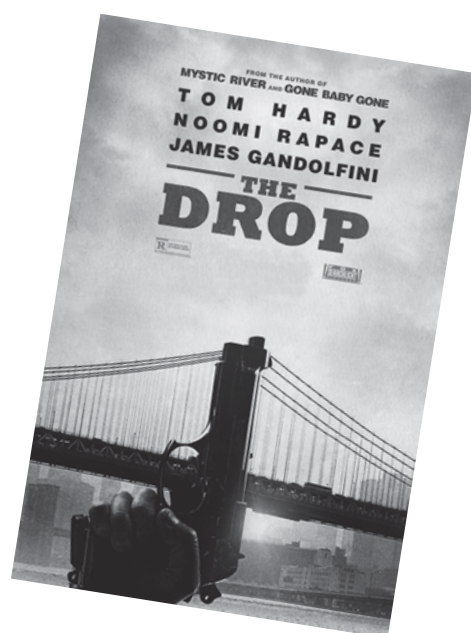
James Gandolfini

Director: Michaël R. Roskam



1 Apple—Don't bother

5 Apples—Don't miss



The Drop is a typical crime drama. What makes this movie rise heads above the pack of other movies of this genre is an intelligent script. That's right—actual dialogue. No loud, boorish, over-the-top, computer-simulated special effects.

Dennis Lehane adapted the screenplay from his short story "Animal Rescue." He's written screenplays for numerous movie-friendly books like *Gone Baby Gone* and *Mystic River*.

Director Michaël R. Roskam (nominated for an Oscar for *Bullhead*) makes his English movie debut. If *The Drop* is any inkling of his talent, he should have a long, distinguished career, and we'll have many wonderful films.

Tom Hardy (*Black Hawk Down*,

Band of Brothers) plays Bob Saginowski, a bartender at a tavern in Brooklyn, New York, called Marv's. Cousin Marv, played by James Gandolfini (*True Romance*, *Get Shorty*, not to mention *The Sopranos*), once owned the tavern that still bears his name. Due to outstanding debt, Marv

lost his low-life tavern to the Chechen mobster Chovka (Michael Aronov). Eastern Europeans seem to have replaced Italians in gangster roles in more and more movies. Aronov looks and plays the part in cold style.

These days Marv just manages this tavern, which is used as a rotating drop for ill-gotten money that Chovka collects. Marv drifts through life in slow motion as a beaten man. He lives in a crappy, depressing bungalow with his sister.

Bob, the ever I-want-to-be-a-nice-guy bartender, does most of the work. He attends early morning mass daily at the neighborhood Catholic Church that is slated to be closed (downsizing is happening everywhere), sold and probably made into condos.

The tavern gets robbed by two thieves (thieves robbing thieves), who make off with five grand of Chovka's money. (Viewers will figure out who has to pay the five grand back to Chovka.) The investigating cop, Detective Torres, played by John Ortiz (*Fast and Furious*, *American Gangster*), recognizes Bob from morning mass. Torres has always wondered why Bob never takes Communion.

The theft leads the slimy Chovka to decide that Marv and Bob will be responsible for the drop on the biggest gambling day

of the year—the multimillion-dollar Super Bowl Sunday.

While walking home after closing the tavern for the night, Bob hears a whimpering sound coming from inside a trash can, where he finds a battered pit bull puppy. He's then confronted by Nadia, played by Noomi Rapace (*Dead Man Down*, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*), owner of the trash cans. While the two of them decide on a kind of mutual adoption of the puppy, Bob wonders how Nadia got those scars on her neck.

Do we have two stories going now?

They become one when Eric, played by Matthias Schoen (*Bullhead*, *Rust and Bones*) shows up. Eric is a scary, incredibly convincing bully who was once Nadia's boyfriend. I was hoping that the puppy would chew off Eric's private parts—that's how well Schoen played his role.

The final twist in this excellent film caught me totally off guard. What a surprise—even for a seasoned crime drama devotee like me.

Tom Hardy gave his best performance to date, and James Gandolfini, in his last role, was superb. It's hard to believe that Gandolfini died at age 51, but what a great movie to exit on. Be sure to add *The Drop* to your must-watch list.

J.D. Rogers • 541-846-7736

Notes from a Rogue entomologist**Spiders: Phobias, hoaxes and hobos**

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

Why are so many people terrified of spiders and snakes? The obvious explanation is that a phobia directed towards animals that have fangs and poison venom would increase one's chances of survival in the wild. Natural selection would therefore favor a healthy fear of spiders.

But in North America there are very few species of spiders that are poisonous to humans. The bite from a brown recluse spider can cause a serious injury, but they are native to the central and southern Midwest and have not become established here in the Pacific Northwest. We are all familiar with the black widow, whose neurotoxic venom can cause very painful reactions, but fatalities are *extremely* rare. A relative of the black widow, and superficially similar, is the false black widow spider (*Steatoda grossa*). It is originally from Europe, but can be found locally. The false widow, or cupboard spider, is more brownish and has no red spot on the underbelly. The false widow's

Female cupboard or false black widow spider, *Steatoda grossa*.
<http://nathistoc.bio.uci.edu/spiders/Steatoda%20female1.jpg>



toxin can cause a reaction in humans, but not nearly as severe as its relative's.

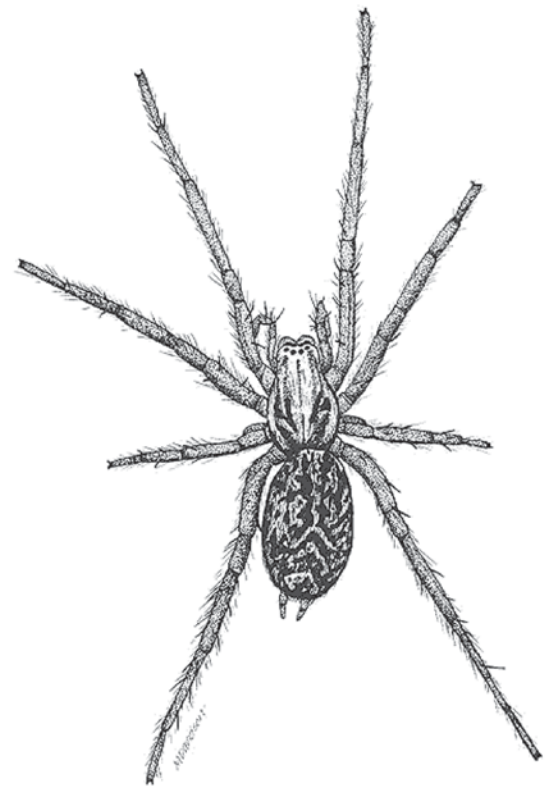
Spiders, along with snakes, do seem to have a special place in our collective unconscious, and that makes good fodder for various hoaxes. For example, a few years back a neighbor forwarded my wife an email warning of poisonous spiders getting into toilets—I believe airplane lavatories were specifically mentioned—and biting people as they used the facilities. The message urged everyone to inspect toilets very closely before using. Bathroom humor never seems to get old, but this Internet hoax did achieve some notoriety for the rapidity with which it spread.

Urban legends concerning spiders also abound. A common one is that daddy longlegs have the most poisonous venom, but their fangs are too weak to inject it through the skin. Actually, daddy longlegs, also known as harvestmen or phalangids, are not even spiders, do not have either venom or fangs, and are utterly harmless.

The long-legged spiders that you sometimes find hanging in the corner of your living room or bedroom, in the family Pholcidae, are sometimes called daddy longlegs, but there is no evidence that their venom is particularly toxic (although you can occasionally see them bouncing or vibrating in their web as a defensive tactic).

The case of the hobo spider is an interesting one. This spider is another European immigrant and has taken up residence in the Pacific Northwest. It is in the same family as the funnel web spiders, the ones that make the webs that you often see on the ground when the dew is hanging on them. The hobo spider, *Tegenaria agrestis*, was at one time called the "aggressive house spider," although the *agrestis* in the scientific name is Latin for field, where it usually resides, and the spider's behavior is not unduly aggressive. It has been claimed that the bite of the hobo spider produces a reaction similar to that of a brown recluse, whose necrotizing toxin can cause severe wounds that do not heal readily. However, the evidence for this claim is minimal, consisting primarily of one study where rabbits were injected with hobo spider venom, and the results from that study have never been repeated. Darwin Vest, the researcher who did the original work, was an independent and self-taught toxicologist. Adding to the mystery is the fact that he disappeared without a trace in 1999. He was last seen leaving a bar after a late night out with friends in his hometown of Idaho Falls. It is presumed that he fell into the Snake River that runs through the town.

So how is it that the hobo spider is being blamed for causing serious wounds if that is not actually the case? I think the answer lies in the human need to find an explanation for pretty much everything, and if you are looking at a wound that is



Female hobo spider, *Tegenaria agrestis*.
<http://www.burkemuseum.org/spidermyth/images/agrestis.gif> drawing by Margaret Davidson.

not healing, then a spider might serve as a good scapegoat.

Case in point: My wife stabbed her finger on a wire from an old screen and soon her finger was swelling and getting red, so there was some sort of infection at work. While she is usually a stoic, I did prevail upon her to go the ER where they asked multiple times if she had been bitten by a spider. When she answered "no," the response was "Are you *sure* you weren't bitten by a spider?"

Feel free to give spiders a wide berth, but remember that the facts belie the fear. In southern Oregon, with rare exceptions (I'm looking at you, black widow), spiders are simply not very dangerous.

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Join the Applegate Grange!

BY PAUL TIPTON AND JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

The mission of the Applegate Valley Community Grange (Grange) is "to educate, serve, and support the community." We strive to achieve this goal by having our members invested in local school and community projects, making the building available free of charge for informative community events (fire status meetings, earthquake preparedness meetings, open political forums), and renting the space for weddings, birthdays, private parties, political gatherings, literary readings and other uses.

A group of over 50 people came together more than two years ago to reopen the Grange, which had been closed due to the long-standing group's decline in energy to keep it going as they reached their later years.

Recently we have experienced a similar decline in *active* members who are willing or able to participate in monthly

meetings and basic activities necessary to keep the Grange open.

Feedback from our events (like the recent well-attended Harvest Faire and earthquake preparedness meeting) and other activities gives us the strong feeling that the local community wants and needs to have the Grange available for a wide variety of uses and that the kinds of things happening at the Grange are appreciated.

It all comes down to this shameless plea: If you want this organization and facility in the Applegate Valley, we need your support. Financial support is greatly appreciated and necessary, but *what we need most* are more bodies and minds to help with the daily business of the Grange, like behind-the-scenes committee members who help coordinate events and people who can take even a small part in all the work it takes to keep the organization running and the building functioning.

We exist to serve the community. And the benefits of connecting with more of the community and working together with common purpose may surprise you.

Are you willing to help us define our community in positive ways? We meet the second Sunday of the month for a potluck at 5 pm and the meeting at 6 pm. Come check us out. Or contact us to get the details about becoming a member by calling 541-846-7501 or emailing applegategrange@gmail.com. Our mailing address is AVCG, PO Box 3367, Applegate, OR 97530.

Paul Tipton, President
Janis Mohr-Tipton,
Secretary
541-846-7501
applegategrange@gmail.com



The Applegate Grange entry in
Ruch School's scarecrow contest.

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THE STARRY SIDE

Two beauties bright and bold

BY GREELEY WELLS

Winter is upon us. The last treat of fall for me was the eclipse of the moon, seen through the window of the hospital after my hernia operation. Earlier in October there was a solar eclipse and a meteor shower, though we missed that for the rain. Luck of the draw.

Looking north in the winter brings celestial treats, like three pairs of stars, equally distant from each other. I used to think of them as feet of the great bear, Ursa Major. But in Africa, those three double stars represent the gazelle's high-leaping footprints. Whatever you think they are, they go straight up, from close to the horizon parallel to the Big Dipper (great bear). The Dipper is standing on its handle tip (or the bear is standing on his tail). Further west, to your left, is the Little



Illustration: Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar 2014.

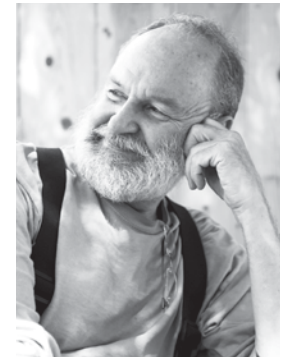
Dipper, which is also vertically oriented and upside down, hanging from the North Star (Polaris) by its handle. I love this interesting trio, which, seen in the early mornings in October, is a harbinger of winter. I say all the time, and it's always worth repeating: the dawn you see this season displays the evening constellations of the next season.

Meanwhile, Orion floats overhead, first on his back in the east; then rising almost upright to the zenith and descending into the west; and later in winter landing perfectly upright on his feet on the western horizon line. Roughly lining up with his belt is his entourage of forerunners: the "V" of Taurus the bull and the "tiny dipper" of the Pleiades (also known as

Subaru). After Orion—also roughly lined up with his belt, but in the other direction—is the most impressive and brightest star in the sky after our sun: Sirius, the dog star.

This is a big part of the cold, clear and amazing winter night sky—two bright and bold sets of beauties.

Greeley Wells • greeley@greeley.me



Greeley Wells

Greeley's Sky Calendar

The planets

Venus slips slowly into the evening sky in the December sunset and becomes our evening star for eight months. She keeps rising and gathering speed all season.

Mars in December is in the west and falling toward the sunset for the winter.

Jupiter rises before midnight and is still close to Regulus, Leo's heart, for the season. In February, Jupiter is at its closest to earth and is its biggest size—perfect for astrophotography!

Saturn emerges from the dawn glare in December and rises there all season.

Other events of note

March 20th equinox: the sun is over the equator, equal day and night, and first day of spring.

Earthquake preparedness—It's all about reducing panic

BY CYNTHIA CHENEY

Earthquakes—when terra firma suddenly rolls and jerks underfoot—are scary events, and southern Oregon is overdue for a really big one. But the purpose of the November 1 "Earthquake and the Applegate" event held at the Applegate Valley Community Grange was to help residents avoid panic with three measures: know what to expect, prepare for it, and practice what to do. Over 80 folks attended to find out how they could face such a disaster with more readiness and less panic.

A big thank you to all the presenters: Mark Prchal; Sandy Shaffer; Chief Brett Fillis and Carey Chaput from Applegate Valley Fire District; Jenny Hall from Jackson County Emergency Management; and Michelle Taylor, disaster program manager for the regional American Red Cross. Thanks also to the Friends of Ruch Library for organizing the event and to the Applegate Valley Community Grange for hosting.

Geologist Mark Prchal set the stage by describing how scientists found evidence showing that southern Oregon has suffered more frequent major quakes than Oregon as a whole, since, in addition to the Cascadia subduction zone paralleling the coast, we have a "branch" pointed right at

us. Our area can expect a major shake-up (about eight on the Richter scale) every 240 years. The last one was in 1700; the clock is ticking...

What should we expect from a big quake? Immediately, you'll likely be unable to stand and things may be falling on you. Get under something sturdy, protect your neck and head, and hang on so you aren't bounced around. If outdoors, get in the open away from trees, poles, rocks, etc., that can fall or roll. There may be less powerful aftershocks that can still be damaging. If you live where a breach of Applegate Dam may flood you, get to high ground *as soon as possible*. Water travels fast!

Experts predict severe damage to our roads and bridges, downed power lines, landslides, collapsed buildings, and trees and poles blocking roads and driveways. Downed power lines may cause fires. Phones will be out and cell phone circuits overloaded.

There seems to be general agreement that repairs will be slow. The I-5 freeway may be unusable at many points between here and Eugene, with traffic detours at Weed over to Bend, then back to Eugene or Corvallis that will last for months or possibly years. Restoring power to our region could take three to six months

depending on what larger elements of the grid have been damaged (such as high-voltage electric substations and transmission lines).

Given all this, we'll be on our own for a while. Local agencies including the Red Cross have detailed plans, but roads may be blocked every couple of miles by downed power lines, landslides, and fallen trees. Bridges may be wrenched apart from here to Brookings and north beyond Roseburg. Help won't arrive soon.

Your "community" will suddenly become your neighbors within walking distance. Get together and discuss how you can help each other—who has medical or firefighting experience, generators, tractors, people with special needs, babies, etc.

Be responsible now for yourself and your family. Stockpile supplies to last for three to seven days. Imagine that everything you own is destroyed—what do you really need? Water, food, medications, pet food, a camp stove and fuel, cooking pots, clothing, a battery or crank-powered

radio, copies of important documents, bedding, tarps or a tent, tools, bleach to disinfect water.

Have communication and meeting plans for your family in case some are at work or at school when a disaster occurs. Practice your plan to make sure everyone knows what to do. Make sure your dried food is edible and that your children are comfortable with a night of no phones or electricity. Know how to check your house and other buildings for safety and how to shut off utilities. Plan for your pets and livestock with food, gear, and transport (cat carrier, dog crate, horse trailer).

It sounds like a lot to do, but many of us put more effort into other things important to us, like Christmas decorations or throwing a party. Take a few hours and get this done for yourself and your household. Plan, prepare, practice—and you won't have to panic, whether faced with an earthquake, wildfire, or other natural disaster.

Cynthia Cheney • 541-899-1114

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Fall Lecture (11/18/14): The Impact of Fire on the Applegate Landscape
 Winter Lecture (1/22/15): Rogue Climate Trends & Projections
 Spring Lecture (April): Invasive Weeds w/Ja-Jo CWMA
 Summer Lecture/Film (July/August): TBA

More information on the APWC Lecture Series will be presented on our website at the following address and on our Facebook page. Please contact us if you have any questions.
www.apwc.info/news-events

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Volunteering as a family at Sanctuary One**The family that mucks together sticks together**

BY WESTI HAUGHEY

Is this a good idea? Doubt plagued my mind as I loaded my family into the car. *Will they complain the whole time? Will my daughter insist I carry her because she's "just too tired"? Or will we have to turn around and head home because of a meltdown?* We were headed to Sanctuary One to volunteer as a family for the first time. I was already an experienced Sanctuary volunteer, having spent two years mucking the barnyard,

hiking with dogs and even trimming goat hooves. But that was without my family in tow, when the day's chore list and connecting with earth, people and animals were my only concern. I shelved the uncertainty, turned the key and rolled on.

Practical worries aside, the decision to volunteer as a family was easy. When I first suggested it to my husband he agreed without hesitation.

Grace and Emmett Haughey get ready to muck the barnyard at Sanctuary One.



Surprised by his eagerness, I pressed on explaining why I thought this was a good idea. *Service learning was a cornerstone of my childhood, I clarified. I can directly credit my personal and professional success to those early years spent volunteering.* He nodded. I didn't need to explain the rest, because he was already on board, but I continued to think about how giving your time, without any compensation, is often the most rewarding work you can ever do. We are so quick to teach children the concept of working for an incentive—*Mommy goes to work so we have money to buy groceries or if you clean up your room we'll get ice cream*—that kids are often unfamiliar with the concept of serving without a tangible benefit.

Beyond the service aspect, there's also the opportunity to learn new skills: technical, physical and emotional. At the farm you work directly with a variety of animals with greatly differing personalities and history. Some animals require you to be calm and earn their trust. Others need you to help them keep their excitement under control. You also quickly learn how to maneuver a wheelbarrow, when to choose a square or round-pointed shovel, and how to negotiate a gate without letting an eager animal loose. Whether your child is 5 or 25, these basic skills are often outside of what kids learn today. They've mastered technology, focused on the Common Core at school, but forgotten (or completely skipped) the basics. Sanctuary One's mission of caring for the Earth, People and Animals, should be the core of every child's—every human's—education.

And then there's the obvious benefit: time spent outside with your family, getting exercise and breathing

fresh air. For three to four hours you are together, away from technology (bonus: no cell signal at the farm) and absent from life's distractions. Instead of nagging about homework, listening to protests about limited TV time, or worrying about chores, you can observe nature and talk about the big ideas. *Notice how the squirrels are gathering acorns for winter? What are your goals for this year? How can we incorporate the Sanctuary's principles into our daily lives?*

So this was why we were here. We parked the car and headed to the dog cottage. Both kids homed in on two poodles currently in residence and selected brightly colored leashes to their liking. We hiked for an hour. No complaints, no fighting. Even after a spill down a rocky path and wet socks from splashing in the creek, my kiddos were still game. We had smiles on our faces and the dogs did too.

Today, we have our own little Sanctuary One routine. My daughter and husband happily head over to the cat cottage to meet the latest additions, clean, and swing a feather for playful felines. My son and I visit the dog yard, where he loves throwing tennis balls for happy retrievers while I fill water bowls and scoop up. Then we all head out for a walk in the woods with four-legged companions by our sides. It's pretty simple and pretty great. I'm glad I put my doubts aside and shifted from solo volunteer service to the whole clan. You can do it too. Visit sanctuaryone.org to learn more.

Westi Haughey
541-899-8627

Sanctuary One Board Member
and Volunteer
info@sanctuaryone.org

Moving on from the 'perfect job'

BY DELLA MERRILL

When this paper's editor asked me to write about my plans after leaving Sanctuary One, I was reminded of a quote by poet Mary Oliver: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

At 57, my wild days are mostly over, but I never take for granted how precious my life is. And it's this very acknowledgment that prompted me to leave the "perfect" job to pursue new directions.

The past four years of building the Sanctuary's core programs and services were truly the highlight of my professional life. And in many ways, the experience helped me focus my intentions for what now lies ahead.

My job as general manager integrated many of my passions,

including teaching, gardening, horses, fundraising and even driving tractors. It's been an amazing ride with many accomplishments and some disappointments, but I leave feeling satisfied about my contributions and grateful for the many new friends I met along the way.

Now I press on, with poet Oliver whispering in my ear "...what is it you plan to do?"

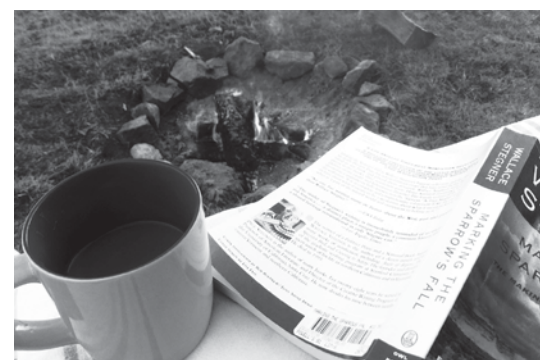
I don't have a specific plan or that "something else" lined up, nor a clear picture of where I'm headed. What I do have is the same energy and passion I brought to Sanctuary One and still a burning desire to align my life with my work as I try to reimagine this world and my place in it.

As I explore my professional options, a concern that seems overriding

to me is climate change. The deeper I delve in, the more I'm struck by the overarching and complex nature of the issue and how it touches every part of our lives—from the personal to the financial, gastronomical, environmental, religious...and the list goes on. In essence, it's about who we are as human beings and the choices we make every single moment of our lives.

There are no easy answers, but for me, at least, there is clarity. Like my job at Sanctuary One, my next pursuit will be one that I believe in. One that excites me every morning when I wake up. One that weaves my work's objectives with the way I live my life.

Amid the uncertainty, there are three things that I do know: in November I will have attended the Slow Money 2014 gathering in Louisville, KY, where the great American poet, philosopher and farmer, Wendell Berry, was a featured



Recharging...

speaker. When I return, I plan to serve as a volunteer on a newly formed development work group for the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. And lastly, I'll be participating in a leadership and advocacy training sponsored by Rogue Climate.

Now, while I enjoy my downtime regenerating and being present in the moment, I remind myself to *never* take for granted this "one wild and precious life."

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

When is a cucumber not a cucumber?

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

A few years ago I tried to grow loofah sponges, but only with unrehearsed intention. In other words, I had no idea what I was doing, nor did I give the poor loofah seeds a fair chance, for they were tucked along the fence and squooshed between climbing roses that certainly did not want to be scrubbed clean and smooth. The outcome of this feeble attempt was just that—feeble. Well, to be perfectly honest, the harvest was zip, nada. That was several years ago, and as far as I can vouch for my own ineptitude, I've made no other purposeful attempts to plant loofahs.

This year I planted my entire medley of climbing vegetables, e.g., cherry tomatoes, string beans, peas, sweet peas, and cucumbers, on several structures made of chicken wire. The circular structures were four feet around by six feet high, and anchored from flopping over in the wind with 12-inch pieces of rebar woven through the chicken wire at strategic points. The seedling plants are so neat and tidy when I first plop them into the ground that I am always sure I have not planted enough. This year I resisted the urge to fill in the blank spots. Turned out that this was a good idea because I had bumper crops of everything.

Most of the inadvertently missed, therefore unpicked, cucumbers—like the dreadful missed unpicked zucchini—turned into five-foot-long baseball bats that only your chickens would adore. I

tried to keep up with the cucumber picking since I have not yet come up with a freezer recipe, and my pickling attempts so far have produced penicillin.

One afternoon I decided to bring one of the “missed unpicked” into the house to show hubby. Since I had planted several varieties of cucumbers, and this one looked slightly different, I thought he might be able to play cucumber detective. He looked at me and accusatorially asked if I had planted loofahs. “Well, no,” I defensively said. “At least I don’t remember.” (Actually, I really didn’t remember since every year I

am experimenting in the garden.) “Right, then go check the computer and see what a growing loofah looks like,” said lower management. Oops. After some research, it looks like I was holding a medium-size, healthy loofah in my hand. I hate it when I’m outsmarted—especially by lower management.

In an attempt to enhance my loofah-harvesting knowledge, I read an article on www.luffa.info/luffaharvest.htm, but I am still somewhat confused. I think the idea is to gently pick up the loofahs as they are growing. When the

weight starts to feel lighter, unlike the giant zucchini that gets heavier, loofahs are ready to pick. There were many references as to when to pick loofahs, aside from the lighter weight. Some said pick when green, some said yellow, some said when the skin is loose, and some said when the skin is not loose. Honestly, I became very confused, and ended up with large rotting loofahs.

What I ultimately figured out is that the decrease in weight is the most significant ripe indicator. To harvest, remove the seeds by cutting off one end and shaking the fruit rather fiercely or banging it along the inside of a bucket. You can also remove the seeds after the skin has been removed. There is apparently a seam on a ripe loofah, if you can find it. Peel the skin off any creative way you can figure out. Right under the skin is the loofah sponge. Let it dry in sunlight, turning as needed. The color will lighten up as it dries.

If all of this seems like a major garden challenge, just go buy a loofah sponge at a bath or health-food market.

For me, I will abide by this quote and try again next year:

“My right thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I’ve made while learning to see things from the plant’s point of view.” —H. Fred Ale

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So...which is the cucumber and which is the loofah?
Hint: The cucumber is smaller.



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Applegater booth at Applegate Grange Harvest Faire

Board members Chris Bratt and Diana Coogle enjoyed spending a sunny October day visiting with all the folks who stopped by the *Applegater* booth at the Grange Harvest Faire.

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From Bob Quinn, the Water Doctor

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Cantrall-Buckley Park NEWS

If we rebuild it, they will keep coming!

That was the gist of an important meeting between Jackson County Parks (Parks), which owns Cantrall-Buckley Park; the Cantrall-Buckley Park Committee that manages the park; and a group of Applegate Valley parents whose children are frequent and happy users of the park.

As you may recall from the last *Applegater*, the Park Committee has undertaken an exciting fund-raising drive to match grant funds being sought to rehabilitate both the well-loved playground equipment down by the Applegate River and the adjoining not-so-loved restrooms, all of which have been in service since the early 1960s.

Steve Lambert, Parks program manager, and Mark Burnett, Parks operations manager, who traveled to Cantrall-Buckley for the annual inspection

and coordination meeting, brought with them some unfortunate news: a \$180,000 drought-induced shortfall in revenues is preventing the county from providing the full matching funds expected for the replacement of the restrooms and playground improvements. Another problem arose in that the massive equipment needed to install the preferred prefab concrete restroom facility in the campground could never fit down the narrow park roads.

What now?!

Since the meeting was held standing around the playground waiting for impending rain (see photo), things moved quickly. Rather than replace the restroom facility, we decided to upgrade it to ADA standards by redesigning the leaky roof, replacing all plumbing fixtures and lighting, and repainting the structure. These changes reduced the anticipated cost to less than half of the original plan and solved the equipment access problems.

As for the playground, Parks, in lieu of money, agreed to provide labor and equipment to regrade the area and place playground-safe wood chips, both significant contributions. Parks also agreed to meet with the Rogue Community College construction technology program to utilize the program's expertise in evaluating the building and to produce plans for rehab work, tasks the program can offer with minimal expense to the project. At a park committee meeting later that day, Steve Lambert offered to buy playground equipment up to \$3,000, an unexpected and welcome offer.

All agreed that bringing the older, unusual and most-loved playground equipment up to modern safety standards would allow future generations to use their imaginations as they clamber over and through the concrete

pipe toy (see photo), fend off pirates or other menaces from the one-of-a-kind fort, and zip down the taller-than-normal slide. One large, more recent, yet more dilapidated, manufactured piece will be replaced with wonderful multiple-use equipment with ADA access, custom-designed by local company Krauss Kraft, which offered a significant discount to the nonprofit park.

We thank Michelle LaFave for jumping in to represent the local parents and kids and push the playground improvements nearer to reality by taking the lead in gathering information and facilitating decisions as to what to buy.

Buying things brings us back to the subject of money and the great progress being made on the fund-raising drive that Tom Carstens and David Laananen announced in the last *Applegater*. Committee members spent a month putting together effective promotional flyers and newsletter handouts. Explaining the park's needs and plans, the literature helps educate residents about the role the park plays in providing children and families an opportunity to enjoy nature along the beautiful Applegate River and how they can help. The literature also helps to enhance committee members' approach to local businesses and others for their participation.

The goal is to raise \$30,000 in donations from local business and private sources to (1) provide matching local funds, and (2) prove local interest as the committee prepares to seek grants from regional funders for the needed extra \$20,000 for a fully revamped and ADA-accessible playground.

Tom reminds us that you don't have to wait! You can mail your donations now to GACDC, PO Box 3107, Applegate, OR 97530, or go to the GACDC website at www.gacdc.org, where you can also volunteer to help the park.

One business owner could not wait to get on board. Brent Kenyon, the owner of The Wharf restaurant in Medford, volunteered the first \$1,000 donation. Mr. Kenyon, who also participates on the board of a group that funds ADA-access projects, also volunteered to take the ADA access aspects of the rehab to his organization and seek their participation.

With a good start like that, we are working hard to round up the other thousands targeted for the playground work. Join in, meet neighbors and help your park!

Laird Funk • 541-846-6759

Top photo: Arianna LaFave on her favorite playground equipment.

Bottom photo: (left to right) Rick Barclay, Parks manager; Mark Burnett, Parks operations manager; Steve Lambert, Parks supervisor; volunteer Laird Funk; Tom Carstens, Park Committee Chair; and Michelle LaFave, volunteer Playground Chair.



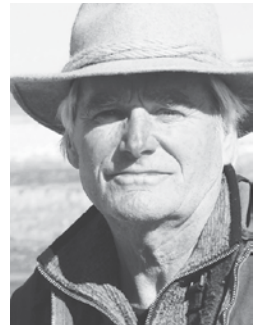
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BIRD EXPLORER

The Buteo hawks of winter

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Peter J. Thiemann

In our region we can observe five Buteo hawk species. (Buteo is the Latin name of the common hawk.) One species is the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), a year-round resident and by far the most common. Others are the Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) and the Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), which nest and breed in our area, but then leave as winter approaches. The Red-shouldered Hawk just moves south a bit to warmer climates in California. This species has recently expanded its summer range to include Oregon as the climate warms. The Swainson's Hawk makes a spectacular migration all the way to wintering grounds in Argentina with large "kettles" of hawks being observed annually in some places in Mexico. (A kettle is a term that birders use to describe a group of birds wheeling and circling in the air.)

Two more Buteo hawks are the Ferruginous Hawk and the Rough-legged Hawk. The Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) is the "royal" hawk. True to its

name, it is the largest of the five species, and was used by royalty in the past for falconry. It is arguably the most beautiful, often mostly white with rusty-brown upperparts. Coming to our area to spend the winter, the Ferruginous Hawk is an awesome sight when it soars high in a blue winter sky. Some Ferruginous Hawks nest in eastern Oregon, while some come from the Rocky Mountain states and Canada.

The other winter guest is the Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). This hawk nests in the subarctic of Canada and Alaska where it feeds mostly on small rodents on the open tundra. The Rough-legged Hawk has feathered feet, an adaptation to its subarctic summer range. It can be seen hovering above a meadow when hunting for voles and other rodents, a technique not used by other Buteos.

Hawk identification is somewhat of a challenge as many morphs occur in four of the five Buteo hawk species. (A morph is a local population of a species that consists of interbreeding

organisms.) Dark, intermediate and light morphs can be observed in addition to the usual plumage differences of juvenile and adult birds. To make it even more complicated, the Red-tailed Hawk has 16 subspecies. Western Red-tailed Hawks usually have deep red tails. Most hawks of this species are residents, but there is also an influx from up north and some migration to points further south.

Dark and light morphs of the four Buteo hawks are truly a sight to behold, an experience much sought after by serious birders (the fifth Buteo hawk, the Red-shouldered Hawk, does not display much color variation). Some local birding guides and Audubon Society lecturers routinely offer hawk identification classes due to the complexity of the task. But that is the fun part of it—especially in winter when hawks are much more visible as they often perch on fence posts and soar above hunting meadows and forest openings.

So as winter approaches, take a look up into the sky. If a large raptor

appears, it may be one of the five Buteos—some are here to stay, some are coming from up north, and some are leaving for the south!

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



Red-tailed Hawk



Red-shouldered Hawk



Swainson's Hawk



Ferruginous Hawk



Rough-legged Hawk



PHOTO CREDIT

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

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Southern Oregon Land Conservancy seeks more land to protect

BY CRAIG HARPER

When my wife, Theresa, and I moved to Sterling Creek in 2009, we knew we were moving to an interesting and attractive area. But we didn't realize just how amazing the Applegate is. We live near the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail and are fortunate to be able to walk from our house and hike an invigorating and scenic five-mile loop, thanks in part to the hard work of the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association in clearing and opening up new trails. If we want to drive a short distance, we can hike several other world-class trails, swim, fish and canoe in beautiful lakes and streams, taste wine at topnotch wineries, and the list goes on. We Applegaters are lucky folks—we live in the kind of place tourists pay big money to visit!

We moved to southern Oregon in 1999 when I began working at the Rogue Valley Council of Governments in Central Point. In 2013 I began a new career with the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) as the conservation project manager. The Land Conservancy protects almost 10,000 acres of land throughout southern Oregon, primarily in the Rogue River Basin. Through our Vision 20/20 Initiative, we established a goal to conserve 20,000 acres by 2020. My job is to work with landowners to identify new lands for conservation and help them establish permanent protections for their land.

The SOLC is focusing its efforts in areas of the Rogue River Basin that will yield the greatest conservation results. We have recently chosen to give added attention to the Applegate River Valley primarily for two reasons:

1. Because of the extraordinary ecological values in the Applegate Valley. The Applegate is one of the Oregon Plan's Core Salmon Areas and is home to several at-risk animal and plant species including coho salmon, Siskiyou Mountains salamander, Gentner's fritillary, Pacific fisher, and the blue-gray gnatcatcher. The Applegate also contains numerous key diminishing habitats including late successional forests, oak savannahs, pine-oak woodlands, wetlands, and cool-water streams.

2. Because of the effective partnerships we have established with local landowners and other conservation organizations in the Applegate. SOLC works with the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council to identify priority areas and to reach out to landowners. SOLC also works with the Freshwater Trust to connect with streamside landowners and with many private landowners throughout the valley.

Currently SOLC works with five private landowners in the Applegate to protect their properties through conservation easements and with other Applegate landowners to establish

additional conservation easements. We also own a magnificent property on Williams Creek (see photos), thanks to the help of the Williams Creek Watershed Council.

SOLC's work is entirely voluntary.

If landowners wish to protect their land from future mismanagement, we can help them. Some landowners are reluctant to restrict any future activities on their land, and we respect their choice, but other landowners view us as helpful allies in protecting the lands they have nurtured. Landowners tell us, "We never want our farm to be converted to houses or a Big Box Mart," or, "We devoted the last 40 years to caring for our forest. We hope it will never be clear-cut." Permanent

conservation can ensure that those things never happen and that landowners' precious lands are protected forever.

In future articles in the *Applegater*, I will provide more details about SOLC's land conservation methods. Until then, to find out more about SOLC, visit our website at www.landconserve.org.



Top photo: Williams Creek with healthy milkweed plant, a hatchery for Monarch butterflies.



Bottom photo: Williams Creek Preserve—note the healthy shade and instream wood. Fish like wood!
Photos: Kristi Mergenthaler.

If you are interested in learning more about conservation of your land, you can reach me at 541-482-3069 or craig@landconserve.org.

Craig Harper • 541-482-3069
Conservation Project Manager
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy
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Sterling Mine Ditch Trail now an official Oregon Scenic Trail

BY DIANA COOGLE

The Siskiyou Uplands Trails Association (SUTA) always knew how beautiful the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail was. That's why they worked so hard to pull out what SUTA member Hope Robertson calls "old-growth poison oak" and other obstructions on the trail that made it not quite unusable but certainly difficult to navigate for decades.



Now 20 miles of trail are accessible to hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders, and all of Oregon knows that the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail is an especially scenic one. This fall the Oregon Parks Commission named it an Oregon Scenic Trail, the first in southern Oregon!

To qualify for this designation, the trail had to pass judgment by the Oregon Trails Advisory Council for design, condition, and setting. Certainly the council was impressed by the scenic quality of this outstanding trail: gorgeous views of the Siskiyou Mountains; passages through tall pines, red-trunked madrones, and lovely oak savannahs; hillsides of wildflowers.

Because the trail lies alongside the Sterling Mine Ditch, dug in the late 19th century mostly by Chinese laborers, today's users might pass remnants of flumes or beautiful stone retaining walls. At one point, the trail skirts a tunnel once used to bring water through the mountain instead of around it. The ditch carried water for gold mining from the Little Applegate River to the Sterling Mine during the time the mine was prosperous and the town of Buncom a thriving community. Now the

gold is in the oak leaves, the water is in the river, and the walking is for pleasure.

The trail has several access points, either off Sterling Creek Road or off the upper end of Little Applegate Road. See www.sutaoregon.org for more specific directions.

It is a feather in the cap of southern Oregon to have this Oregon Scenic Trail in our backyard. But the Applegate is full of beautiful trails. The window for making application closed in November, but hikers should keep in mind the possibility as they hike the trails this summer so they can send in applications (http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/Trail_Programs_Services/Pages/Trails-Designation-Programs.aspx) next year for their favorites.

There is also a Scenic Bikeways designation for cycling routes over low-traffic roads or bike paths. Somewhere a scenic bikeway in southern Oregon is waiting for someone to send in an application to be a parallel "first" to the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail.

If you know where it is, be a parallel with SUTA to bring it to state attention.

Diana Coogle
dcoogle@laughdogpress.com

BLM finishes Bolt Mountain Trail near Grants Pass

Easy accessibility, year-round use, and terrific panoramic views—these are the winning characteristics for the new multi-use Bolt Mountain Trail that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) opened recently with Josephine County.

Located just outside of the Grants Pass city limits, the day-use trail starts at Fish Hatchery Park and winds 3.2 miles to the top, at 2,200 feet.

"The sparsely vegetated mountain provides many great views of the valley and Applegate River," said Todd Calvert, a Rogue River park ranger for the BLM who worked on establishing the trail.

"You can just see an awful lot from the trail," Calvert said. "That's the neat thing about this mountain location. It's kind of a gum drop, very centrally located in the valley."

The climb from the base averages about a 10- or 12-percent grade, spiraling up the mountain through diverse microclimates. The sensitive serpentine soil provides habitat for unique plant and animal species.



For more information, contact the Grants Pass Interagency Office at 541-471-6500.

To augment trail construction work begun by volunteers several years ago, BLM secured funds to continue the work via assistance agreements that paid workers from the Job Council and Northwest Youth Corps.

Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trail, but it is open for hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders.

"I think once people know about the trail, it's going to get a lot of use," Calvert said.

For more information about the trail, visit the BLM recreation site at http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/site_info.php?siteid=406.

Details and instructions:

- Hike difficulty: moderate to difficult
- Stay on the trail; avoid shortcuts
- Limit speeds in poor visibility areas
- Practice "Leave No Trace" principles
- Follow seasonal fire restrictions
- Safety concerns: ticks, poison oak, and rattlesnakes
- County parking fee for day use is \$4
- Free annual passes available for county volunteer work

How to get there:

- From the Applegate Valley, travel north toward Grants Pass on Williams Highway 238
- Turn left on New Hope Road just past the fire station and drive approximately 3.2 miles
- Turn right on Fish Hatchery Road and drive about two miles
- Turn right on Weatherbee Drive just before the Fish Hatchery Bridge, and continue up the road about a half mile to the large gravel parking lot at the entrance to Fish Hatchery Park.

The Common Buckeye event this year

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The Common Buckeye's normal range is the warmer southern states in the west (south of the Pacific Northwest) and northern Mexico. Although the buckeye butterfly may at times be a resident of southern Oregon, the warm weather pattern of 2014 caused the buckeye to push northward in the spring and increased our local populations.

Examples of extreme north or cooler locations that were notable for the buckeye this year are:

- The first official recorded sighting at Crater Lake National Park during a Lepidoptera bioblitz, a biological survey.
- The state of Washington reported its first known sightings near Spokane and Tri-Cities.
- A greater-than-normal population in late May in the Trinity National Forest and in locations in Northern California.

The Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*) butterfly is of the Nymphalidae family of butterflies, whose wingspread can reach up to two and a half inches. It is a sight to behold these butterflies at any size—their eyespots are quite large and colorful when compared to our Wood Nymph and lady butterflies.

The buckeye frequents open areas near waterways, fields, roadsides and garden areas. The buckeye uses over 40 known larval food plants, including plantains, verbena, and many members of the Figwort family such as paintbrush, monkey flower, and penstemons. Nectar sources for the buckeye are a wide variety of wildflowers and garden flowers.

For three years a friend and I searched for buckeyes in southern Oregon, only to find some on a day trip to Northern California near Redding. They were hard to net for observation and gave us quite a run. They dart about quickly and wildly, making it difficult to approach them when they sit on the open ground.

The first one I saw this year had been netted by a student at Applegate School in the spring. It was exciting to see one of the students capture one.

After that there were many everywhere, and it didn't take long for some of us to master netting them. The best opportunity I had for photos was in the butterfly habitat of Applegate School in September and October when the butterflies sat drinking nectar from flowers during warm days.

Staff at the Master Gardener section at Oregon State University Extension observed a buckeye ovipositing (laying) eggs on a slender mountain mint plant in their garden in August. With the warm sunny days, the butterflies may have had a few broods. As of late October, I was still seeing them in flight on sunny days.

There are a few other butterflies that make small migrations north, among them the Painted Lady. There was an increase in Painted Lady sightings this butterfly season too, but not like the buckeye event.

Linda Kappen
humbukkapps@hotmail.com

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



Common Buckeye on tall aster.



Common Buckeye with closed wings on showy sedum.

Butterfly photos by Linda Kappen.

Wanted: Memories and stories of this valley's wildlife

BY JAKOB SHOCKEY

As a kid, I remember hearing a story about Frank Decker. About how, when he was bear hunting, his gun jammed and a bear attacked him. How he rammed his arm into the bear's mouth while he unjammed the rifle with the other. Then how he shot the bear from atop him and returned home to get his arm sewn up before going back into the woods with his wife for the bear meat.

I don't remember where I heard this story so the details may not be strictly true, but as a boy it made an impression. I grew up just downstream from the Decker homestead and that story made Frank Decker the gold standard of tough.

Both hunting and how people interact with wildlife in this valley have changed. Just last week, as rifle season opened, I saw a couple standing on the gravel road up Woodrat Mountain. He wore sweatpants and a Day-Glo traffic vest, and she was wearing pajamas (no joke). It

was around 11 am, and they were peering over the edge of the road for deer, having strayed not ten feet from their new SUV. It was the weekend and they were "hunting."

Here's my pitch: I'm looking for stories from when hunting wasn't just a weekend hobby. Stories of wildlife and the people who knew them, of trapping and hunting before this valley was tamed.

Applegate old-timers, this is a callout to you. I think it would be fun to hear your memories, tall tales and knowledge of our valley's wildlife. Write me or give me a call. Let's record these stories so that my daughter and your grandkids also might be impressed as children—so that this history isn't forgotten.

Jakob Shockey
541-890-9989
Riparian Program Manager
Applegate Partnership &
Watershed Council
riparianprogram@apwc.info



Rich and Kellie Halsted, who live on North Applegate Road, were amused to find this photo of an apparently curious elk on their critter cam.



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Time to help thy neighbor?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

In my last *Applegater* article [Fall 2014], I showed a map outlining private properties in our area that were within a half mile of federal lands. Are you one of those properties with a red around it? I am.

Many of us in the Applegate border either Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or US Forest Service (USFS) lands. So we are well aware that hazardous fuels management has dwindled lately on said federal lands. Note: While I feel there are many reasons for this lack of management, with the inactivity of Congress being foremost, this is not the purpose of my article. Our federal land managers' hands have been tied by successive budget cuts for years!

Still, slash piles that haven't been burned, ladder fuels not thinned, or roadsides not brushed—all of this inactivity *can and does* raise the risk factor to our own private properties when summer lightning strikes or someone inadvertently starts a wildfire. Do we, as neighbors, have any options?

Yes! Fortunately, our BLM Medford District has an agreement policy in place that can allow adjacent

private landowners to “remove hazardous fuels” from “identified BLM administered lands.” Did you know that? It's titled “Removal of Hazardous Fuels on BLM Administered Lands Adjacent to Private Property within the Wildland/Urban Interface and/or Lands Identified within a ‘Communities at Risk’ Area under the National Fire Plan.”

This two-page agreement is in the form of a district-wide NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Categorical Exclusion that any of us who about BLM lands can read online and then discuss with a Fire and Fuels Management Specialist from either the Medford or Grants Pass BLM offices. It allows work to be done on BLM land up to 200 feet in from your private property line, and it is valid for a period of two years.

However, there are many stipulations (this is the government, after all!). Getting the permit might be easy (have the fire/fuels person out to discuss and agree upon the area and scope of work, and sign the paper), but then the hard work begins. Only hand tools (including chainsaws) can be used, only small (under seven-inch diameter, depending on the

site) live fuels cut, no work in riparian zones, no herbicides, no burning, and all cut materials must be removed by hand from the BLM to your private land. Also, property markers, survey monuments and bearing trees are to be protected, as are any “objects or sites of cultural, historical or paleontological values.”

And, all mechanized equipment (chainsaws, ATVs, etc.) must meet Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) spark arrester standards, and you must obtain an ODF operations permit and comply with all ODF fire restriction requirements, including keeping fire suppression tools (ax, shovel, water, bucket) at hand during clearing operations.

This all might sound complicated, but it really isn't. I feel this agreement has several advantages depending upon your circumstances, so is worth investigating. Being able to thin along a shared road for better visibility also provides a cushion of protection for your home in case someone throws a cigarette out a car window. Is the parcel of BLM land publicly accessible? Creating a thinned (less flammable) buffer zone between that BLM land and your own property could slow a human-caused wildfire's progress, giving you and firefighters more time to protect your home.

Unfortunately, I was told that our

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest does not have a similar mechanism in place (probably because at the higher elevations they don't abut as many private properties). So, while they do have the *authority* to allow a similar agreement, the NEPA permitting process would most likely be lengthy. Therefore, if you border USFS lands and are interested in something like this, I'd suggest talking to your neighbors to see if a group effort that covered more land would be an option. A proposal could then be presented to your local District Ranger.

I hope this has given you some food for thought! My hubby and I and our neighbors worked through the BLM to treat an adjacent federal parcel some years ago, with successful results.

Given all of those redlined borders, just think how many miles we could treat if we all worked in just a few feet! So consider “helping thy neighbor” with their thinning work this winter, because who knows when Congress will let our federal land managers get back to managing their forests.

Sandy Shaffer

sassyoneor@q.com

Author's Note: To contact either the BLM or USFS, call the Medford Interagency Office at 541-618-2200, or the Grants Pass IO at 541-471-6500, and ask for the Fuels Management Specialist for your location.

New building for Applegate Valley Fire District

BY CHRIS WOLFARD

Over the past several months, you may have noticed trees and stumps being removed from a portion of Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD) property adjacent to the Headquarters Fire Station on Upper Applegate Road. Now you are seeing site work as we make way to erect a Training and Multi-Use Facility housing several firefighter hands-on-training props.

AVFD has been planning to build this much-needed facility for over ten years. The five-acre parcel of land for this project was purchased by the fire district in 2004. During this time monies have been saved and reserved in our Capital Projects Fund in order to make this project come to fruition.

The plans are for the facility to serve all of our valley constituents. The building itself will be a one-level, 6,400-square-foot ADA-compliant metal structure with interior divisions that will accommodate our growth over the next several years. The meeting-room section of the building will be approximately 50 feet by 50 feet (2,500 square feet). Its primary function will be firefighter training. It will also be available for public meetings, large-scale operations, and public social gatherings. Groups or individuals within our valley (upon request, approval and availability) will be able to use this room. There will be workout facilities available for use by fire-district personnel. The remaining portion of the building will provide storage space necessary to relieve

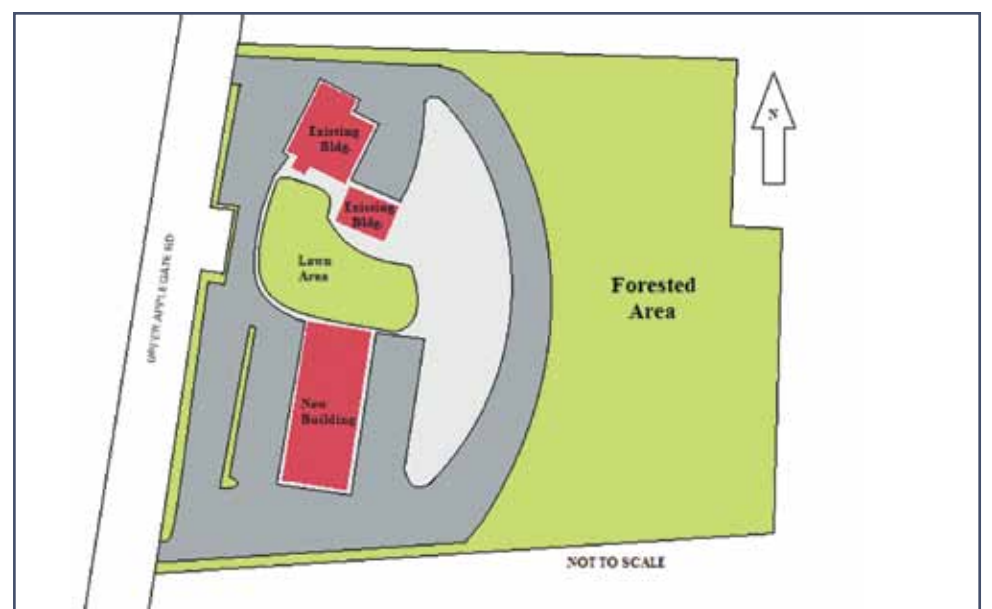
the fire station next door, which has been maximized for several years.

One of the training props planned is a series of containers that, when assembled, will provide the opportunity for “live” fire training as well as smoke, ladder and rope rescue drills. These training props are not part of the initial development. It is expected that they will be in place within two years following completion of the building, depending on our success in receiving grant funding.

At this point, we have cleared the land and completed the majority of the excavation, including cutting the building pad and installing the septic system. We will soon be pouring concrete. It is important to our Board of Directors that we continue to use local (Applegate Valley) contractors whenever feasible. To date, we have been fortunate to utilize the professional services of Tom Maddox Jr. for land clearing, Bottroff Excavation for building-site excavation, and Robert Conley Excavation for the septic system.

Anticipated completion time and availability for public use of the Training and Multi-Use Facility is late spring 2015. This much-needed and long-awaited facility will allow our Applegate Valley Fire District to continue to grow and serve our community for years to come.

Chris Wolfard
Operations Chief
Applegate Valley Fire District
541-899-1050



Top photo: Site work for new Training and Multi-Use Facility for Applegate Valley Fire District.

Bottom photo: Shows the “New Building” in relation to existing buildings.

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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— Williams Branch Library —

— Applegate Library —

Here's the library news, straight from the new branch manager, Lisa Martin.

First I want to let everybody know how fortunate I feel to be the next branch manager of the Applegate Library, and I say "next" because there is nothing new about me. I have some big shoes to fill after Phyllis Zerr left her mark, but I have learned so much from her, and now I can enjoy her as my friend and not the boss. Thank you, Phyllis, for all your time and commitment serving this community.

A few changes

- Story time is now on Saturdays at 10 am.
- Michelle LaFave started a Saturday morning craft class that is right after Story Time.
- Over the last couple of weeks there has been a bug hunt, which the children have really enjoyed.
- For the next couple of weeks there will be a scavenger hunt. This is a really fun way to help your child get acquainted with the library.
- Great news! Our library is adding four

hours on Wednesday mornings from 10 am to 2 pm starting in January 2015. I am so excited about this new adventure and to know that you will all be a part of it.

Saturday morning craft schedule

- December 6: Snowflakes. Come help us fill our bulletin board with snowflakes and take some home with you!
- December 13: Christmas tree craft
- December 20: Solstice stars
- December 27: Winter collages
- January 3: Snow bunnies paper craft
- January 10: Good health potpourri. Make your very own blend of potpourri using an array of herbs and spices.
- January 17: Patchwork
- January 24: Watercolor painting
- January 31: Recycled pop-can helicopters—great fun!

Our library community is expanding! Come enjoy the fun!

Lisa Martin
Applegate Branch Library Manager
541-846-7346

— Ruch Library —

Ruch Library is happy to add a Babies and Wobblers Story Time on Thursdays at 4 pm for children from birth to 36 months. This is specifically designed to help very young children develop language skills and learn to love books and reading. Each session focuses on a different skill such as rhyming, repetition, reading, and talking. Older siblings are welcome. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Regular Preschool Story Time is on Tuesdays at 11:30 am, usually followed by a craft. We hope you and your little ones can attend.

As usual, we will be offering LEGO Fun on the first Saturday of each month from 12 to 4 pm for children over four years old. Come and join us for this fun family activity. You are never too old for LEGOS!

Be sure and stop by Ruch Library for some great holiday ideas. We have books

and magazines with craft, gift, decorating, holiday food, and party ideas—all certain to get your creative juices flowing.

In January we will be adding two more hours, enabling us to be open for 18 hours a week! Hooray! Thanks so very much to the Friends of Ruch Library for funding our Saturday hours for the last six years, and thanks to all the community members who gave so generously to make this happen.

We will continue to host free computer classes if there is interest in the Applegate. Please contact Ruch Library if you are interested in signing up for future classes. The schedule and curriculums are available at the library.

See you at the library!
Thalia Truesdell
Ruch Library Branch Manager
541-899-7438
ttruesdell@jcls.org

You'll find Williams Branch Library a cozy place for books and more this winter.

Community programs

- Preschool and Toddler Story Time every Tuesday at 1:30 pm. Introduce your child to the library with fun stories and crafts.
- Chess Group every Monday at 3:45 pm. Open to all ages and skill levels.
- Preschool art class (ages 3 to 5 with a parent). Wednesday, December 10, from 11 am to 12 pm. Walk-ins welcome.
- Free art class for youth (ages 6 to 12) by Crystal Pyren of Luna Blue Farm. Friday, December 12, from 2:15 to 3:45 pm. Pre-register at the desk or call 541-846-7020.

Technology connections

- We have two new computer workstations, generously provided by Four Way Community Foundation.
- Josephine Community Libraries continues to provide Williams residents access to technology services, including a Wi-Fi hotspot, computer workstations, print and copy, and research databases.

Private fund-raising efforts

Library services will continue, as will private fund-raising efforts, in the aftermath of voters rejecting Measure 17-62 to form the Josephine Community Library District.

"Naturally, we are very disappointed in the outcome of the election, as are the 15,000-plus yes voters throughout the county," said Josephine Community Libraries (JCL) Executive Director Kate Lasky. "We know firsthand the difference libraries make to people, families, and communities. However, we remain committed to providing library services in Josephine County."

"We are now at a crossroads," said Pat Fahey, JCL Board President. "In order to stabilize our budget, drastic cuts will need to be made. The board will begin the process of reevaluating the levels of library services our budget can sustain."

Added Lasky, "In the meantime, with the help of our generous donors and heroic volunteers who make our libraries possible, we'll continue to provide free and open access to information throughout our community."

We welcome volunteers and suggestions from the community. Stop in or contact Branch Manager Danielle Schreck at 541-846-7020.

Danielle Schreck, Branch Manager • 541-846-7020
Josephine Community Libraries, Williams Branch

For Love of the Applegate update

It was a warm, balmy evening about two months ago when the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) held a fund-raiser at Red Lily Vineyards. Round tables, draped in white linen and highlighting lovely flower centerpieces, set the stage for this elegant occasion.

One of our founders, Audrey Eldridge, had volunteered to help the ATA organize this event. While waiting for the ladies' room, Audrey happened to stand next to a woman she'd never met before. As they became acquainted, Audrey learned that she was new to our area, that she'd somehow ended up on our website that very morning. She clicked on our calendar of events, saw the ATA happening, and voila—there she was!

So there you have it. It appears that what began a year ago has grown into something of value in our rural community. We are joyous about our efforts having been recognized by someone new as we continue to support—through our bimonthly calendar, our website, our wits, and our humor—a stronger, more vibrant Applegate Valley!

It was about a year ago that four unruly women gathered at Thalia Truesdell's home on a mission that ended up being totally unexpected and exciting. That night "For Love of the Applegate" was created. Here's some of what we've been up to:

- We are continuing to create a viable network for nonprofit-type organizations so that their information will be more frequently and easily available to our rural community.
- At the moment we are working with 26-plus organizations.
- Our bimonthly calendar can be viewed on our website at www.forloveoftheapplegate.com. This calendar will alert you to the special events held by these organizations.

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

Happy Valentines Day

Frank D'Antonio
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VOICES of the APPLGATE



New session begins in January

Voices of the Applegate, our local community choir led by Blake Weller, has just ended the fall session of music. Two concerts were held, one on November 21 at the Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, and the other on November 23 at the Applegate River Lodge. Our concerts consisted of three Italian madrigals, gospel songs and folk songs.

We will begin another session in January with rehearsals at the Ruch Library starting on January 7 at 7 pm. Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening until March 25, with concerts on March 27 and March 29.

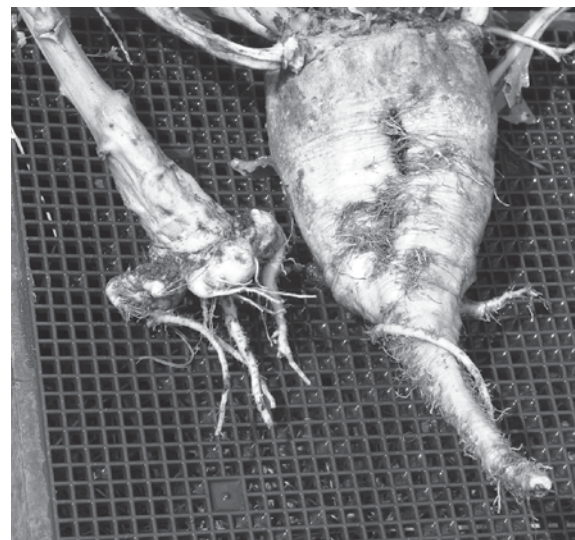
Tuition is \$55, which includes all of our costs including music. Everyone is welcome to join, even if you have never sung in a choir before. If you can sing on tune, you're in!

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

The non-GMO sugar beet story

BY JONATHAN SPERO

The sugar beet industry is very concentrated, with just a few players. In the mid 1990s, the industry (led by Syngenta growing Monsanto's seed in southern Oregon) decided that they were going to go "Roundup Ready" and started using exclusively genetically engineered sugar beets. Trouble is, if buyers have a choice, they will pick non-GMO sugar, so the industry endeavored to remove non-GMO sugar beets from the marketplace. Rumor had it that they were all gone.



Snibbet beet root (left) and whole beet root (right).

I turned to Seed Savers Exchange and found

Nesvizhksaya seed saved from a commercial variety in Belarus and claiming 17 to 18 percent sugar content. The seeds arrived and I planted them in 2013.

Beets are biennial. Most beet-seed growers grow what are called "stecklings" by planting in the late summer and harvesting small roots in the fall. They store the stecklings over winter and replant them in the spring to grow seed stalks.

Not me, though. Knowing little about growing beet seed, I planted in the spring to let them get big. I would just leave them in over winter. I had some Reemay fabric that I could cover them with in a cold snap. The easy way, right?

The gophers thought this was a tremendous idea. I spent summer, fall, winter and spring battling gophers.

I practiced a technique called "snibbeting" that I learned from former Applegate resident Dr. Alan Kapuler. He would snibbet carrots by harvesting the carrot, cutting off the bottom three quarters of the root to eat and compare, and replanting the top of the best roots to grow seed. My beet roots were being eaten anyhow, so I figured I might as well try to replant the snibbets.

Every couple of days I walked the sugar beet patch and frequently found plants fading away. The roots had been eaten. Sometimes all that was left was the top chunk of the root; other times there was not much of it all. Many plant tops would

just lift out of the ground. Each time I found such a plant, I dug it a new hole and replanted it.

For a long time the beets didn't look like they would survive, but I kept them watered, and many made it through, made a stalk, and produced seed. Of course, the uneaten roots made more seed, but the snibbets also had an advantage: there was not much tasty sugar-beet root left on the snibbets, so the gophers usually did not attack a second time. I credit snibbeting with saving this sugar beet population.

Nesvizhksaya sugar beets are now harvested and available from me at Lupine Knoll Farm. They have been tested for GMOs, and have none at all. The next step is to test sugar content.

It turns out that these are not the only non-GMO sugar beets in the western world. I hear that a couple of other seed growers have pulled out old seed that is pre-GMO, and are growing it this year. It appears that Horizon Herbs in Williams has had packet quantities of a sugar beet seed available all along.

Because sugar beets are the primary sweetener source that can be grown in places that freeze in the winter, they are a tremendously valuable crop. Organic beet sugar has a place in the market. Maybe it is Nesvizhksaya.

Jonathan Spero
spero.jonathan@gmail.com

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Come visit us for some old-fashioned English Christmas holiday cheer!

The English Lavender Farm, 8040 Thompson Creek Road, Applegate, OR 97530
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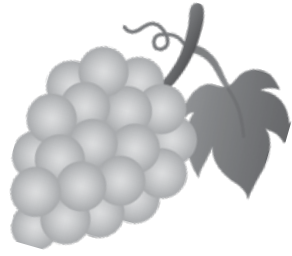
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Grape Talk: Family, holidays and wine



BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

The *Applegater's* holiday issue focuses on art, and I come from a family of artists and wine-drinkers going back a number of generations. This time of year is all about family, and wine plays an important role in our family's traditions. Whether it is a mug of mulled wine, or a red wine sauce on a tender slab of meat, or just a great bottle of wine shared with friends and family, I believe wine elevates the experience. I remember the special wines that connect me with my special life events.

The Schmidt family of Schmidt Family Vineyards also is intertwined with art and wine. I sat down with Jocelyn Schmidt in the winery's beautiful tasting room at 330 Kubli Road to talk about the family and how they all got to the Applegate Valley.

Three generations of the Schmidt family are working with the family's two businesses. In addition to the vineyard and tasting room, they also own Grants Pass-based Northwestern Design, which designs

and manufactures custom cabinetry.

In the 1990s Cal and Judy Schmidt brought their growing family and their Northwestern Design business north from Santa Rosa. In 2000 the Schmidts opened Schmidt Family Vineyards. Today their daughter Rene runs the tasting room, and Cal, along with Rene's son Duncan, creates Schmidt's award-winning wines. Jocelyn Schmidt married into the Schmidt family after a career in musical theater and is now Schmidt's marketing director. Then there is two-year-old Easton Schmidt, the fourth generation currently interning for a future position in the family business.

I asked Jocelyn about the role family and wine play during the holidays and she laughed. "In our family, wine is very closely intertwined. We keep our family events simple so it is less about work and more about sharing the time together. This has been a bountiful year with an amazing harvest, and our wines

won multiple medals at this year's *San Francisco Chronicle* International Wine Competition. We are so thankful and want to give back to the community."

One way that Jocelyn, also a dance teacher, gives back is by helping a number of Grants Pass theater and dance groups with their productions and choreography. She showed

me a beautiful boxed set of wines named after beloved animal residents of Wildlife Images in Grants Pass. Schmidt has sponsored fund-raisers for this animal sanctuary and is selling this boxed set (see photo, below left) during the holiday season with a portion of the proceeds going to the wildlife sanctuary.

Many of the wineries in the valley have gone dark after the Uncorked Event in late November, but the Schmidt family has a special holiday cookie-pairing event every December. This year the event is scheduled for Sunday, December 14, from noon to 5 pm. The winery presents cookies from their unique family recipes and pairs them with Schmidt wines.

Here are other Applegate Valley wineries with December events:

- Troon Vineyards will be pouring their wines at Ray's in Merlin on December 3 starting at noon, at Ashland's Shop'n Kart on December 1 at 4 pm, and at Harry and David's store in Medford on December 2 starting at 11 am.

- Wild Wines will be at the Grants Pass Growers' Market every Saturday in December.

Most Applegate Valley tasting rooms have reduced hours or are closed during December and January, so call for hours.

Have a happy and safe holiday season. If you are going to be out enjoying our wonderful wines here in the Applegate Valley, please don't drink and drive.

Debbie Tollefson

Debbie.avrealty@gmail.com



Top photo: Judy and Cal Schmidt, owners of Schmidt Family Vineyards.

Bottom photo: Jocelyn Schmidt and Easton Schmidt.



Correction to last issue's Grape Talk article: Serra Vineyards on Missouri Flat Road, Grants Pass, is owned solely by Scott and Krissa Fernandes.



Winter health: Tips for increasing immunity and supporting seasonal wellness

BY ASHLEY GRANDKOSKI

Winter is upon us, and with it comes the first round of colds and flus. While no one enjoys being sick, most people don't spend a lot of time thinking about the many ways their lifestyle choices affect their immune function and overall health. The good news is that there are many simple ways to support your health and decrease the severity and duration of illness. Below are a few tips that can make a lot of difference in the strength of your immune system, while also setting the tone for wellness on an ongoing basis.

Decrease your stress level

Stress is a major cause of many diseases and also works effectively to shut down your immune system. There are many ways to counteract the effects of stress in your life, from taking a day off to going to a yoga class. Consider the fact that, seasonally speaking, winter is the time to slow down, work shorter days, and even hibernate a little. At the very least, try to stop and take some deep breaths once in awhile. Any of these activities can help control stress and alleviate the physical effects it has on your body.

Consider a few dietary improvements

'Tis the season for overeating and indulgence, right? Well, here are a few things to keep in mind before going overboard.

First, sugar is a strong immunosuppressant (in addition to just generally not being good for you). Consider limiting your intake of sweets over the winter, especially if you think you may be getting sick or are feeling run down. Instead of sweets, why not something rich? Research has shown that some types of fats are actually beneficial to immune function. So think about adding healthy fats to your diet over the winter (which is also very appropriate, seasonally speaking). These could include unrefined coconut oil, ghee, or butter. For health purposes, however, make sure they are high quality and, preferably, organic.

Also important to immune function is strengthening defenses in your gut. A great way to do this is by including fermented foods or probiotics in your diet. Probiotics strengthen the health of intestinal flora, aiding both immune function and digestion. Probiotic capsules can be found at most health-food stores, while probiotic foods, such as fresh sauerkraut and lacto-

fermented veggies, are widely available in the Applegate Valley (check out Whistling Duck on Williams Highway, Grants Pass).

Include a few immuno-supportive supplements

While there is a plethora of supplements available on the market today, there are a few that are particularly valuable for supporting the immune system. First and foremost, elderberry syrup! Research has shown that elderberry has significant antiviral properties, preventing the severity of many flus and colds. It can be purchased pre-made, but is also very simple and much less expensive to make yourself (see recipe).

Vitamin D has also been shown to be helpful in prevention of the flu and other viruses. Wintertime doses help prevent the winter blues as well. This supplement is widely available but, to reap the benefits, it's important to get a high-quality product.

Let someone else care for you!

Many types of natural therapies have great immune benefits and help decrease

stress and increase energy at the same time. Research has shown that even one massage can increase the functioning of your immune system. Also, many people don't realize that acupuncture and Chinese herbs are very effective at increasing immunity as well as treating colds and flus. In addition, acupuncture and Chinese herbs contribute to relaxation and overall wellness.

I hope this information is helpful for you and your health this winter and in the future. Happy holidays and be well!

Ashley Grandkoski, L.Ac., LMT

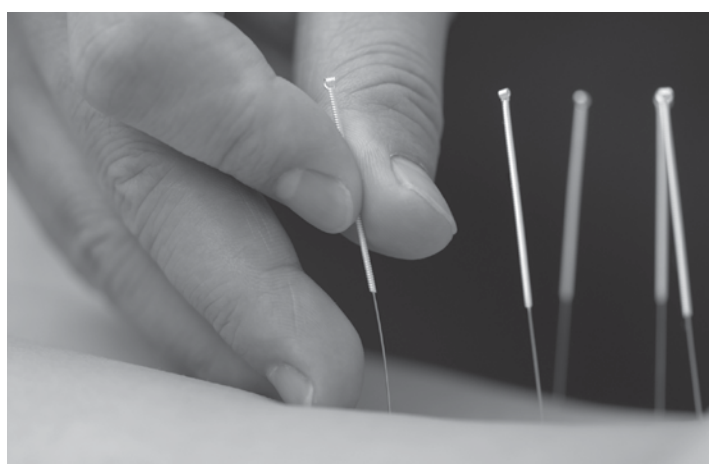
ashleygrandkoski@gmail.com

Ashley is a local acupuncturist and massage therapist and proprietor of "little a acupuncture + herbs."

Simple Elderberry Syrup Recipe

1 cup dried elderberries (available for bulk ordering from Pacifica or Mountain Rose Herbs)
1/4 cup rose hips (optional for added Vitamin C)
4 cups water
1 cup raw honey

Simmer elderberries, rose hips and water in a saucepan until liquid has been reduced by half. Strain out fruit, pressing them to get out juices. Allow liquid to cool until warm, then add honey and stir well. Store in refrigerator in a sealed container. Take daily—Adults: 1 tablespoon; Kids: 1 teaspoon. Also delicious as a topping on pancakes, yogurt, etc. Increase dosage with symptoms of illness.



Acupuncture can help increase your immunity.

OPINIONS

Hyperbole and false statements have no place in Nedsbar debate

BY KEN CHAPMAN

With increasing irritation, I read Chant Thomas' article "Here we go again" [*Applegater* Fall 2013] opposing the proposed Nedsbar timber sale. In at least seven instances, he presumed to speak for "locals," e.g., "locals are concerned," "locals are perplexed," "locals will be watching." Having been a "local" for 43 years, occupying land adjacent to public lands, I can assure Mr. Thomas that some locals would be pleased if the aggressive logging of the 60s through the 80s was resumed. Some locals oppose most proposed logging sales, and a lot of us are on the spectrum somewhere in between.

Behind his presumption that he speaks for "locals," Mr. Thomas makes assertions that I find to be either false or overly broad. He states flatly that logging will increase fire danger without knowing if and how many large trees will be cut or the amount and kind of slash treatment that will be done. He also seems to minimize the sort of fire danger that comes from a second-growth forest that is shielded from either fire, logging or thinning. Most surprising is the statement that a fire in a closed-canopy forest is preferable to one in a more open forest. Having spent my college summers with the US Forest Service, I heard from experienced firefighters that a canopy fire moving through a second-growth forest was the worst, most damaging and most dangerous sort of fire.

Interestingly, in another article in the same issue of the *Applegater*, Jakob Shockey talked about contemporary Applegate forests being "a product of human tinkering." That would seem to include the Nedsbar area. He further stated that historically, forests were more open: "While our forests may still look natural, they are the product of human fire-suppression."

Mr. Thomas' claims are, however,

moderate when compared with those made by Klamath-Siskiyou Wild and the Williams Community Forest Project on their websites. Those organizations claim that the proposed logging sale will "destroy the forest," and further state that the Nedsbar area is the "last, best older forest." Really? Destroy the "last, best older forest"? False and apocalyptic rhetoric may bring the faithful to their feet, but it is a poor way to make rational decisions about the use of public resources.

Also mentioned by both groups was the damage to scenery from Buncom. The logging on a north slope of the Pilot Joe project was accomplished with almost no visual evidence. If that is the sort of logging proposed on the north slope in the Little Applegate drainage, can anyone reasonably talk about "damaging scenic values"? Unless those concerned with the "scenic value" of that north slope are willing to leave it open to wildfire, they might look at Mr. Shockey's article and put their scenic view in historical perspective.

After reading Mr. Thomas' article and the other anti-Nedsbar websites, I read the Bureau of Land Management's website about the logging proposal. While I have numerous questions still—volume taken, large vs. smaller trees, amount of road to be built, slash treatment, etc.—I found their information to at least be factual and lacking the sort of histrionics present in the anti-Nedsbar information.

Perhaps there will be good reason to oppose Nedsbar in the future. Reason, however, seems to have little to do with the arguments presented against Nedsbar. I look forward to reading about the proposed logging sale in more detail. I will continue to read both sides of the argument. As a rule of thumb, however, the side using the hyperbole is the side I dismiss.

Ken Chapman

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See revised Opinion Piece policy on page 21.
This policy is effective with the next issue of the *Applegater*.

Climate change disagreements

BY ALAN JOURNET

I congratulate Alan Voetsch for expressing his views in the Fall *Applegater*, but disagree with many of his comments.

Mr. Voetsch has a different view of the residents of the Rogue Valley than I do. My sense is that if local folks were asked whether they would like to pass on to future generations a planet that is able to support them in the same way it has supported us, at least 75 percent would agree. This is all environmentalists are trying to achieve; I applaud the effort. Mr. Voetsch argues that the percentage is not 75 and then rejects climate science, calling the entire discipline "crap."

In substantiating this claim, Mr. Voetsch reports his experience as an amateur astronomer, presumably thinking this gives him credentials to argue the credibility of climate science. However, his view of science is naïvely simplistic. Contrary to Mr. Voetsch's assertion, the essence of science is testing hypotheses by collecting data from the real world. By his incorrect definition of science, much of astronomy would be disqualified.

To substantiate his attack on climate science, Mr. Voetsch recommends we read the writings of Senator James Inhofe, a politician with zero credentials and zero credibility in any scientific arena. Interestingly, even Inhofe acknowledged that initially he accepted the science of climate change, but reversed his position when he found out that addressing it might cost money. This is like accepting a serious medical diagnosis, then rejecting it when we find potentially uncomfortable treatment is required. It is stunningly flawed reasoning. Since Inhofe now relies on fossil-fuel corporations for his campaign funds, his antiscience position has become more strident. The general advice to "follow the money" is always worthwhile. In the case of James Inhofe and the climate deniers in and out of Congress, following the money leads directly to coal, oil, and natural gas corporate sources.

An inconvenient truth is that over 97 percent of practicing climate scientists

fully agree with the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that the planet is warming and that human emissions of gases are contributing. I challenge Mr. Voetsch to find an astronomy or medical opinion he would reject that is accepted by 97 percent of the experts. Maybe Mr. Voetsch thinks that thousands of climate scientists around the world are conspiring with the international professional scientific societies and National Academies of Science who also accept these conclusions.

What Mr. Voetsch ignores in his commentary is the relative costs of addressing climate change versus the cost of not addressing it. Study after economic study has concluded that failing to address global warming and its climate chaos consequence will cost far more than not addressing it. The most recent such study, *A Climate Risk Assessment for the United States*, was promoted by Republican Treasury Secretaries (Paulson under Bush and Schultz under Reagan). This confirms that global warming is not a partisan issue.

Anyone living in southern Oregon knows the local costs of reduced snowfall, increased drought, and wildfire. These kinds of weather-related disasters will only increase if we fail to address the cause. We are already paying billions of taxpayer dollars to manage national climate-induced crises that have compromised agriculture (raising food prices), devastated coastal regions through storms amid rising sea levels, and destroyed communities through floods and wildfire. These events are costing all of us money—not to mention costing the lives of many of those directly involved.

It is time for all of us, including our elected officials at all levels of government, to understand the issue and take steps to address it. Our grandchildren can afford no less.

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Co-facilitator

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

Applegate Dam hydroelectric project terminated by FERC

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

The tale of the proposed hydropower generation facility on the Applegate Dam is one of corporate mergers, joint ventures and acquisitions, and less about actually generating electricity.

Symbiotics LLC originally obtained the license and permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 2009. Then later AG Hydro LLC took over the license. Symbiotics and AG Hydro are now both subsidiaries of Riverbank Power Corporation. Based in Toronto, Canada, Riverbank Power is a developer, constructor and operator of hydropower generation facilities in North and South America, with offices in Toronto, Oregon, Utah, Idaho, and Lima, Peru.

After all the efforts of the federal government, after all the corporate financing poured into the project, after all the energy of local Applegaters to attend public meetings and write public comments about the proposal, and after more than a decade, the project has been

officially terminated by FERC. The reason is stated in FERC's Order Terminating License issued October 16, 2014: "We find that project construction did not timely commence, and we terminate the license as required by section 13 of the Federal Power Act (FPA)."

However, after reading this Order it appears to me that AG Hydro just completely dropped the ball. The Order is an interesting read, and if you are curious you can read it at <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/comm-meet/2014/101614/H-8.pdf>.

Some of the reasons stated for the termination of the project within the Order are:

- AG Hydro filed drawings stamped "Not for Construction."
- AG Hydro failed to submit a formal project financing plan.
- AG Hydro's steel liner design was considered unacceptable and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) asked for major modifications to the project

design, but AG Hydro did not file an amendment application to address the issues.

- AG Hydro did not meet the deadline to start project construction on December 17, 2011, and, after being granted a two-year extension, they didn't meet the final deadline to start project construction on December 17, 2013.
- AG Hydro submitted inadequate documentation to prove manufacturing of turbine components at its manufacturing facility in China.
- AG Hydro submitted photos of blueprints that were illegible and in Chinese, and the only dates on the drawings referenced 2006, predating the FERC license.
- AG Hydro failed to complete other pre-construction requirements.
- AG Hydro ordered turbines differing from those authorized in the license.



Applegate Dam photo by Suzie Savoie.

It's clear that it was in the best interest of Applegate Valley residents, the Applegate River and public coffers that this project was terminated by FERC. Despite being told by Symbiotics at public meetings here in the valley that they wanted to "work with the community," it appears that Symbiotics/AG Hydro didn't even want to work with the agency, let alone the community, and they completely mismanaged this project.

Unfortunately, we are still left with

See APPLLEGATE DAM, page 19

OPINIONS

Climate science is not settled— To those who do not know not even close what they're talking about

BY ALAN VOETSCH

In an article that appeared in the Fall *Applegater*, the writer [Alan Journet] stated that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Oregon Climate Change Program, and the USDA Climate Change Program all say that their conclusions “could be disputed only by someone ignorant of science or exhibiting malicious intent.” That’s BS. They simply don’t want to have a discussion, and want all of us to swallow their opinion without asking any further questions. So they call folks names and try to scare the rest of us. The IPCC is a proven corrupt organization that has been discredited for “cooking the data” many times. And ultimately, the desired result is an increase in our taxes so politicians in Washington, DC, and the United Nations can expand their budgets and continue to grow bigger government.

Folks, don’t listen to him or me. Simply look deeper into this issue and do your own research. There *are* respectable climatologists out there who have rational conversations about climate change without the fear-mongering agenda. You can actually hear some truthful facts on this issue. Find Judith Curry and follow her at <http://judithcurry.com/>.

For instance, on her website the morning of October 27, 2014, among many other topics, are discussions about the effects of solar variability on climate and the possibility of another “Maunder Minimum” (refers to sunspot activity). Trust me, these issues have a great effect on Earth. These are people who actually *want* to have intelligent discussions and not shove an agenda down your throat. There are literally thousands of potential impacts to our climate, and I guarantee that those who insist that humans are the only cause have an unspoken agenda. Many of them are not aware and just repeat what they hear from other “alarmist” groups. This is not critical thinking. Their main goal is to force politicians to enact laws to “save our planet.” Well and fine. But these laws and regulations will cost us even more jobs, higher taxes, higher power bills, and continued higher gasoline costs.

Understanding natural history helps also. Knowing that there are weather patterns within weather patterns—some

very long-term, some short, and some mid-term—still does not mean there is any guarantee about what happens in the future because our planet is always evolving, and nothing that has happened in the past can ever exactly repeat itself.

President Obama’s Undersecretary of Science, Dr. Steven Koonin, in his first term wrote an interesting article in September. You will notice that he also mentions the “Summary for Policymakers” as I did last issue. Read his article here: <http://online.wsj.com/articles/climate-science-is-not-settled-1411143565>.

On October 4, I saw an article on Yahoo linked to Bill Nye (“The Science Guy”) claiming to illuminate us about seven horrible things related to climate change. The first one of the seven stated that the Aral Sea is almost bone dry because of climate change. Thirty seconds later in Wikipedia I found the real reason: in the 60s the Soviet Union started several irrigation projects on the rivers that feed the Aral. That is what caused the problem—look it up. Another of the seven claimed a shift in gravity because of expanding ice sheets at the poles. This is crazy fearmongering. Every time you or I move, there is a small gravity shift. And guess what? It has nothing to do with climate change. The other five were equally unprovable or just plain wacky. They think you’re stupid and can be baffled by scientific BS. Don’t trust the propaganda.

They claim consensus. There is no such thing in real science, only in “climate science.” Read this excellent article by the late best-selling author Michael Crichton: <http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/10/05/the-corruption-of-science/>. Another article: <http://www.inquisitr.com/1562469/weather-channel-founder-climate-change-is-fake/>. And a long but excellent article here: <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/07/03/rss-shows-no-global-warming-for-17-years-10-months/>.

My policy is this: extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. So far all I see is a political agenda that reaches too deeply into our pockets, and it’s only the beginning of what they’re after.

More on that later.

Alan Voetsch • alan_voetsch@yahoo.com

BY DICK BRADEN

The following is Dick Braden’s response to the opinion piece by Kristi Cowles that appeared in the Fall 2014 Applegater.

Braden Farms is a family-owned farming business from the Central Valley of California and has been in business for 55 years. Fifty-five years of very hard work and determination. It is not “corporate agribusiness” with “owners who have shown no sign of becoming members of our rural community” or “higher-ups [who] will probably never even set foot in our valley, or if they do, it will be to ogle their new kingdom.”

The Braden family has been purchasing real property, developing vineyards, providing jobs, and working very hard in the Applegate Valley for five years. We did not just arrive to “devastate a huge portion of what once was a beautiful, pristine winding green forested road,” as Ms. Cowles stated.

Braden Farms came to the Applegate Valley to develop vineyards and beautify the area, thereby increasing employment opportunities and wages in the area.

Permits were issued for all of the work and development that has been done. Further, developing beautiful, healthy, gently rolling vineyards is hardly “destroying North Applegate Road’s scenic landscape.” In fact, one simply needs to look at the Napa Valley for just one example of the beauty that rolling vineyards bring to an area.

Deer fences have been constructed to protect the vineyards from the deer. Every effort has been taken, on all ranches at all times, to insure that local wildlife have access to food, shelter and water. Thousands of dollars have been spent, voluntarily, to insure that all wildlife can get to the river. We have not built fences to “prevent our wild animals from getting to the Applegate River for shelter and water,” as Ms. Cowles stated.

Ms. Cowles’ next point was in reference to the property adjacent to the Applegate Library. She does not seem to be aware that I own the property the library is located on. In fact, the library pays a yearly rent of \$1.00. This alone indicates an effort to support the citizens and neighbors who

use the library. Ms. Cowles said, “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!” Again, she is uninformed and has no idea what she is talking about. Further, the property has been developed and has a beautiful and thriving vineyard growing on it as we speak. There is no “dust bowl” as Ms. Cowles claimed.

One member of the Braden family purchased a home and moved her family to the area four years ago. In addition, she owns and operates a winery and tasting room, thereby contributing to the wages and economy of the entire area. Further, her children attend school in the area. Both she and I work for and contribute to the school. Again, the statement “owners have shown no sign of becoming members of our rural community—nor have they shown any interest in who we are” is absolutely wrong, incorrect and uninformed.

I own a home in the Applegate Valley that I visit weekly, sometimes several times a week. Further, I own and operate several vineyards on North Applegate Road. Braden Farms is a large employer, thereby supporting many families in the area. Further, we contribute to and support two schools and fire departments in the area. Again, Ms. Cowles is completely uninformed.

As for the gossip mill saying the grapes grown there will not be sold there, again, the writer doesn’t know the first thing about what she is talking about. The truth is all grapes are sold to the local wineries first, if they want them, with the balance of the grapes crushed locally (which means local income), and the resulting juice sold to a winery in northern Oregon and used to produce Oregon wines.

It is unfortunate that the rumor mill is so active and uninformed. If any of the local gossips were interested in knowing the truth, they would make an effort to actually talk to me and hear the truth.

Dick Braden
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APPLEGATE DAM

FROM PAGE 18

an uncertain future regarding the health of salmonid fish (fall Chinook, coho, steelhead and cutthroat trout) in the Applegate River. Coho salmon in the Applegate River belong to the Southern Oregon-Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit, and are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

When the Applegate Dam was constructed in 1980, it blocked an estimated 35 to 80 miles of spawning and rearing habitat above the dam (according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries). The 242-foot dam would require a fish ladder that would be three and a half miles long to maintain the maximum 1.3 percent slope needed to keep the water velocity in the range of 6 to 12 feet per second to achieve the right conditions for upstream fish migration.

Over and over the public has been told that such a fish ladder would be financially unfeasible. That is why AG Hydro had to include a plan within their proposal to trap adult steelhead at the dam’s base and truck them upstream above the dam, and retrofit the existing dam structure to allow fish to get back downstream on their own through a kind of chute.

Hopefully, the Army Corps of Engineers, which operates Applegate Dam, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife can still find funding to restore fish to their original spawning streams above the Applegate Dam.

Suzie Savoie

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Ed. Note: AG Hydro had 30 days to file a request for a rehearing with the FERC. At press time, there was no update available on the status per FERC.

See revised Opinion Piece policy on page 21.
This policy is effective with the next issue of the *Applegater*.



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OPINIONS

River Right: Gizmos in the water!

BY TOM CARSTENS

In 2010, when Gold Ray Dam was taken down, a buddy and I couldn't wait to kayak that stretch of the Rogue River. As we approached, we heard a deafening roar, which puzzled us because we didn't remember much more than a riffle there. As we rounded the bend, we were surprised to find dozens of belching contraptions bunched in the river just below where the dam had been. "Creatures from the Black Lagoon" rose up from beneath the water as we passed. They were miners from California, garbed in wetsuits and snorkels, operating floating suction dredges—basically glorified underwater vacuum cleaners. And the noise? Think leaf blowers on steroids. There were so many of these gizmos that we had to dodge 'em just like rocks in a rapid!

Today's miners suction gravel and sediment through floating sluice boxes in an attempt to recover gold flakes on the bottom. These machines were invented to reduce the impact of mining on streams. But they agitate the gravel, and environmentalists claim they stir up mercury and cloud up the streams. Miners argue that they remove the mercury, and the turbidity is only temporary.

For the Californian miners, the dam removal was a perfect storm. California had just suspended suction mining, Oregon had few rules, gold prices were rocketing, and that stretch of river hadn't been mined for a hundred years. It was a stampede! The din of those dredges was so loud that the poor folks in Gold Rey Estates couldn't get in a nap.

Adding to the racket, environmental groups shouted that these contraptions create havoc for fish and their habitat. The miners hollered "Not True!" and claimed the fish gorge in their wake. A couple of our local representatives decided to be done with it and get rid of the miners. With Senate Bill 401 (SB 401), they tried to add thousands of miles of Oregon rivers and streams to the list of Scenic Rivers. But when folks had a look at the legislation, they discovered that the 1970 Oregon Scenic Rivers Act prohibited new activity within a quarter mile of each bank without approval from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Whoops... big time overkill!

Since SB 401 put the Applegate and Little Applegate Rivers on this list,

you could hear the bellowing from our vintners, ranchers, and landowners up and down the valley. That bill went nowhere.

So last year, our lawmakers tried again. They passed a law (SB 838) that more specifically targets suction dredge mining. Miners are now limited to 850 permits (\$175 each), must follow tighter rules, and get hit with big fines for noncompliance. Miners can operate their equipment only for two months in the summer—after the eggs have hatched and the salmon aren't spawning. According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), permit requests dropped by 90 percent and mining decreased by 60 percent. SB 838 also requires the governor to come up with a whole new set of science-based regulations.

Despite what you might have heard from either side of this issue—the miners or the environmentalists, the best science is a bit skimpy. Direct impact on either wildlife or streams is generally not that well understood because, frankly, there hasn't been a whole lot of research. What there is shows temporary impacts on the stream beds—impacts that mostly disappear after heavy winter flows. Long-term impacts, if any, are just beginning to be studied.

Last year, the Oregon Chapter of America Fisheries reviewed the existing research. Very complicated issues. They've outlined best practices that the miners should use to ensure that any damage they cause is localized and short-term. Their report also links to some of the research conducted so far. Google "ORAFS Final Report 4/10/13." A leading scientist at ODFW recommends a paper that summarizes the research. For all you science nerds, google "Harvey & Lisle Report" to learn more.

By the time you read this, the governor's office should have published its report. Our state agencies, along with the legislature, will *have* to do something with it. Let's hope they don't overreach again. Miners need to apply best practices and the regulators need to apply best science.

Between the drift boats, the anglers, the party rafts, the jet boats, and the cows, the miners don't seem so out of place on our rivers. We kayakers dodge 'em all!

See you on the river.

Tom Carstens
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Floating suction dredge. Photo courtesy of Western Mining Alliance.

Fuels reduction reduces wildfire damage

BY DON BELLVILLE, MEL WANN AND JACK SHIPLEY

Mr. Thomas's August 2014 opinion pieces in the *Applegater* (Fall 2014) and *Oregonian* came to erroneous conclusions regarding the effects of vegetation thinning on wildfires. We are concerned that unknowing property owners may misconstrue his comments to conclude that doing nothing on forestland is better for wildfire protection than thinning and fuels reduction.

There are numerous reasons for overstory/understory thinning and fuels reduction, including:

1. Decrease the density of overstory vegetation and separate leave tree crowns.
2. Increase the rate of growth/vigor for leave trees.
3. Reduce the amount of vegetation to more closely match the site's capacity to support that vegetation.
4. Reduce stand replacement wildfire potential, e.g., remove everything dead.
5. Develop/maintain wildlife habitat.
6. Generate revenue by selling some of the timber.

Reducing overstory vegetation density by thinning reduces the crown fuel available to sustain a crown fire, i.e., fire moving through tree crowns. Thinning also reduces moisture stress on individual trees and improves overall forest health and vigor. The greater the tree separation, the less likely that a crown fire can be sustained. As a result, a wildfire returns to the ground surface where it is more easily controlled.

This was demonstrated in various 2013 wildfires (Worthington Road, Stratton Creek, Douglas Complex, Brimstone) where fire suppression personnel were able to use direct attack methods, near to or on the edge of fire, within the thinned areas. These treated areas experienced reduced fire intensity and flames less than four feet in length, so that firefighters were able to safely work near the fire edge. Firefighters were able to use these treated areas for control locations, so they could contain the fire more quickly and help prevent its spread to nearby private land.

Decreasing overstory density also results in increased diameter and height growth. Tall and large diameter trees, especially those that are inherently fire tolerant such as ponderosa pine and Douglas fir, are less susceptible to being killed during a wildfire. Tall trees with crowns substantially separated from the ground or lower height vegetation decreases the potential for a surface fire to move into overstory crowns.

Historically, Applegate watershed forests typically had 25 to 50 large-diameter trees per acre (30 to 42-foot spacing). However, in a 2008 survey of 2,700 acres in this watershed, the number of 11"-plus DBH (diameter at breast height) overstory trees averaged 56 trees per acre with numerous stands over 100 trees per acre. Such densities can support crown fire.

Understory thinning is often coupled with overstory thinning in order to reduce ladder fuel. Dense understory vegetation provides a vertical conduit for a surface fire to move into the overstory. Removal of a portion of these stems separates understory and overstory vegetation both horizontally and vertically. As a result, a surface fire cannot easily spread either horizontally

between understory shrubs and small trees or vertically through their crowns into the overstory canopy—unless winds are extreme.

Treatment of slash resulting from thinning operations is essential and can be accomplished by a number of effective methods. Even natural decay can be used to "treat" this slash, but one does have to accept increased wildfire spread risk for a period of time. Untreated fuels can intensify a wildfire.

We agree with Mr. Thomas that thinning does open a forest to increased sunlight, wind, rate of drying, amount of fine fuel, and a wildfire's rate of spread. However, wildfires in such areas burn with less intensity and have a reduced "active burn" time frame. Thus, those wildfires are easier to control.

Thinning improves the amount of moisture available to sustain the growth of the remaining trees. Vegetation within the significantly overstocked forests of southwest Oregon are suffering unprecedented moisture stress as a result of this overcrowding. This has left these forests highly susceptible to outbreaks of various insects and disease. The ongoing loss of Applegate ponderosa pine and Douglas fir to bark beetles is directly related to drought stress. This, in turn, increases the susceptibility of these forests to devastating wildfires. Thinning permits the remaining plants better access to available moisture and helps them better resist these insects and disease.

The ecosystems of southwest Oregon are "fire adapted," which means that local forests were historically maintained by fire. However, after more than 70 years of successful fire suppression, the Applegate's forests are significantly denser than previously and are at significant risk for catastrophic loss in a wildfire.

Appropriate forest thinning and slash treatment will not increase wildfire risk. In fact, thinning aids firefighters in the control of wildfires. More of our forests need to be thinned in order to help reduce wildfire intensity and prevent loss of life, property and the environment.

Don Bellville, Mel Wann
and Jack Shipley

Members, Board of Directors and
Forestry Committee

Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council
541-899-9982 • contact@apwc.info



Stand replacement wildfire, e.g., all trees dead, in an unthinned, mature age, perennial stream zone. 2014 Onion Mountain Fire. Photo: Don Bellville.

MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

The art of forestry

BY CHRIS BRATT

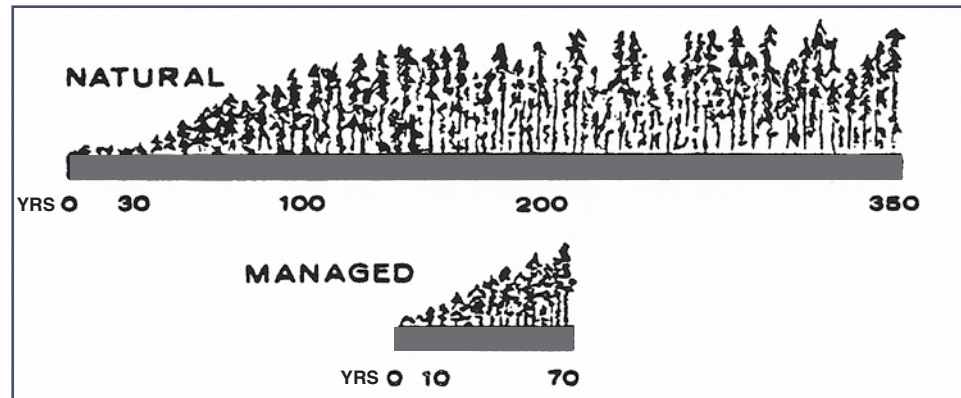
Living here in the Applegate for 38 years and working in the midst of all these awe-inspiring sculptures of nature changed my thinking about what is needed to maintain and enhance a forest. Little did I realize how much time, energy, skill, knowledge and art was needed to care for these individual masterpieces we call trees, standing in these harmonious landscapes we call forests. It doesn't matter if you believe that they were formed by evolutionary processes, Mother Nature, or some deity. We are surrounded by truly great works of art native to our area and beyond. We are living in a natural history museum, a gallery without walls that generates natural resources that are beautiful, useful and necessary for human and many other species' well-being and life.

Scientific studies show that most of the region's forests have been around for about 6,000 years and have been constantly changed by natural disturbances like weather, wildfire, floods, insects, etc. These natural events could make immediate changes to forests or they could take many years to affect any structural change.

But for these 6,000 years, it didn't matter at what pace natural processes were taking place because we humans were not a significant part of the changing picture. The entire forest landscape was growing very well without the concepts of modern human science, intervention, disturbance, management, or art. Without human interference, our natural forests changed over time, but they were always in balance—an aesthetically pleasing combination of all the parts.

But about 150 years ago, these

balanced, pristine forests were entered by the more technically advanced Americans, intruding pioneers, who built railroads and brought new tools, inventions, energy and ideas for using the region's forests. Gold, lumber and space for possible agriculture were up for grabs. The resulting population growth and economic opportunities led to well over a century of unfettered natural resource extraction (timber, minerals, etc.) and other forms of development. The consequences of these unrestrained



This illustration represents the age difference between our region's forests in their functioning natural state and the simplified, shortened and intensely managed state currently in practice on millions of forestland acres. From "Modifying Douglas-fir management regimes for nontimber objectives" by Jerry Franklin, Thomas Spies, David Perry, et al, 1986.

negative actions have left our Oregon forests in such awful condition that many will take hundreds of years to heal (if ever given the chance).

The same appalling actions are still being practiced today under the names of "Intensive Forest Management" and "Risk Management." Even with new laws protecting parts of our environment, both industrial/private forestland owners (accounting for about one-third of Oregon's forests) and federal

land management agencies (Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service) continue a strong bias toward timber production over other resource values and forest health. The resulting ongoing simplification of forest systems has become a very great concern to many scientists and citizens. Simplifying or eliminating the stages of forest succession under "Intensive Forest Management" has become the standard practice. (In the illustration, look at the difference in the time it takes

to develop a forest between a natural and a managed timber stand.) This kind of forest management reduces the options of forest managers and communities, and it also ignores major elements needed to make the whole ecosystem work.

Many citizens, scientists and land managers are increasingly concerned about the elimination of species, functions and other important values that natural forests provide. We don't even know yet what all the parts of

a forest ecosystem are, let alone what they do. It's obvious to me that the present policies of "intensive forest management" (extensive clear-cutting and herbicide use on private lands) and "risk management" (reduced species survival levels and lowered resource protections to a degree that's barely sustainable on public lands) must end, even if it reduces forest timber-cutting objectives. The real art of forestry is maintaining and enhancing the biological diversity of these precious forests (original works of art). It will require a lot more artfulness than we have shown to develop approaches that retain the complexities of our natural forests. We can no longer put our forests at risk at this very massive scale for the economic benefit of a few.

More imaginative leaders are needed—foresters and scientists, forest managers and planners, politicians and loggers, communities and individuals, citizen foresters and conservationists—to open our eyes and minds to long-term forest sustainability. Artists are needed to sculpt a new creative art of forestry, one that restores and mirrors nature. We need a new "Forest Renaissance" that reflects the harmony between all earth's creatures and brings our dying forests back to life. It's time to get out your easel, canvas and art supplies and paint a new picture, because humankind's most inspiring masterpieces need your help.

If you think I need help too, give me a call and let me know.

Chris Bratt
541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thinning should be considered

Editor:

Because the terminology that describes fire management activities can be vague and sometimes contradictory, I feel the need to respond to the use of the term "thinning" as used in Chant Thomas' opinion piece in the last *Applegater*. I do this based on my own fire experience as a division supervisor, hotshot crew foreman and fuels planner for the Forest Service and as fire program coordinator for The Wilderness Society.

One of our most effective fire prevention tools goes by the name "thinning." Thinning can reduce fire spread and fire severity. Correctly done, thinning restores ecosystem structure and function. Thinning works on the principle that tree diameter is a function of spacing.

Most of the thinning in the Applegate is designed to reduce the rate of spread and severity of wildfires. Thin-from-below followed by slash treatment is the standard prescription for forests near houses, along driveways and evacuation routes. Thin-from-below means you cut the smaller trees, often also removing sick trees and trees with a low crown ratio. You usually leave the largest, healthiest trees of the most fire-resistant species. In most cases you pile the slash and burn it after the fall rains have wet things down.

This reduces the load of small, highly flammable fine fuels that are richly supplied with oxygen and can therefore burn with great intensity. Thinning also breaks up the fire "ladder" of branches and leaves, reducing the likelihood of a surface fire transitioning to a crown fire. Thinning increases the vigor of the remaining trees. These residual trees increase in diameter and their crowns grow together, shading the ground. This shade tends to decrease the amount of fine fuels growing at the surface, further reducing the intensity of future fires.

Thus, a positive feedback loop is created. Larger trees tend to survive fires due to their larger diameter, there is an increasing gap between surface and crown fuels, more of the fine fuels are sequestered high in the tree crowns, and therefore less is growing on the ground. The overall effect is an increasingly fire-resilient forest.

This type of thinning is a rough "fire surrogate" in that it imitates the thinning effect of the once common low-severity fires found in mixed conifer forests, allowing fire-resistant trees to grow very large. Even in the relatively dry forests of the Applegate, the result of surface fires every 5 to 15 years was the very big, fire-adapted trees we occasionally see today.

Thinning is a powerful tool for reducing the amount of high-severity fire. If people who live in mixed conifer forests want to be fire safe, they should consider thinning.

Rich Fairbanks
Jacksonville, OR

OPINION PIECES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinion pieces and letters to the editor represent the opinion of the author, not that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. As a community-based newsmagazine, we receive diverse opinions on different topics. We honor these opinions, but object to personal attacks and reserve the right to edit accordingly. Letters should be no longer than 450 words. Opinion pieces should be no longer than 750 words. Both may be edited for grammar and length. All letters must be signed, with a full street address or P.O. Box and phone number. Opinion pieces must include publishable contact information (phone and/or email address). Individual letters and opinion pieces may or may not be published in consecutive issues.

Email opinion pieces and letters to the editor to gater@applegater.org, or mail to *Applegater* c/o Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. P.O. Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

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NEXT GENERATION

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

RUCH SCHOOL

As we welcome the cooler weather, beautiful fall colors, and the anticipation of winter and all it has to offer, Ruch School Community K-8 would like to take this opportunity to recognize everyone, past and present, who has supported Ruch School students and staff and our mission to offer the very best education we can. We are so very thankful!

Every summer, members of the Ruch School Auction Committee orchestrate an amazing event that brings together community members, local artists, business owners, and students and their families. It is during this celebratory event that funds are raised to support Ruch School programs such as music, field experiences, academic resources, extensive art instruction from local artists, and so, so much more.

Ruch School is so successful in preparing our students and being active participants in the health and wellness of our community because of *you*, our generous donors and volunteers! We are extremely proud to call ourselves a "community school." *You are our heroes!*

Students were asked to develop their "elevator speech" about what identifies us as the "school of choice." Here are some statements from Ruch School students and a parent:

"I love this school because we get to have experiences at Crater Lake, OMSI and McGregor Park!" Fifth grader

"Ruch School is awesome! We get to do art and create projects that are actually sold at auction." Sixth grader

"Science is my favorite class. We get to study salmon in their natural habitat." Eighth grader

"I used to be afraid to give speeches. Now, because of our digital storytelling class, I actually like to speak in front of people." Seventh grader

"Have you seen our mural? I was able to help with the painting! It was cool." First grader

"I absolutely love how this school offers opportunities that incorporate art, science and the practice of taking it outside of the classroom and into the community." Ruch parent

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

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APPLEGATE SCHOOL

New robotics team in competition

The Applegate School Robotics Team kicked off its inaugural season on October 7, 2014. Ten enthusiastic students attended the first practice and have been meeting twice a week to build and program an autonomous robot using "LEGO Mindstorms" software and hardware.

My husband Bill and I have been privileged to be a part of this new program both as coaches and parents of two team members. We are learning right along with our team and are very proud of their performance and attitudes.

The students, who range in age from 9 to 13, also constructed a replica of the official playing field that they will use to prepare for a competition with other local teams in December. The field consists of themed physical obstacles made of LEGO parts such as a door, a lock, and a soccer goal that the robot must independently interact with and conquer.

Our team is a member of FIRST LEGO League (FLL), which organizes robotics competitions for kids ages 9 to 14 in 80 countries. FLL combines the engineering challenge of a robotics competition with real-world problem solving and invention. For more information, visit www.usfirst.org.

Each year FLL announces a new theme for a real-world challenge. This year the theme involves innovations in learning. As part of the challenge each team must complete a research project. The students are required to choose a topic they want to learn about. They must research how that topic is currently taught and then create an innovative solution that improves the learning process. The team must then share their solutions with those who would benefit from the information. The team is also required to present their project to judges during the robotics competition.

Each of the robot playing field obstacles or missions represents different ways people access and learn new information. Some of the missions include community learning, accessing the cloud, sports, and reverse engineering.

The most integral portion of the challenge involves learning the FLL "Core Values" and demonstrating these values during competition. The Core



Applegate School Robotics Team members are enthusiastic about building and programming a robot for competition. Photos: Mikell Nielsen.

Values include ideas such as working as a team, friendly competition, sharing experiences, and having fun. The students are required to do all of the work themselves and to find solutions as a team. Coaches are available to provide support and guidance.

Our Applegate School team members have demonstrated an amazing amount of dedication and persistence as they continue to learn the difficult skill of programming. They have shown ingenuity as they modify the robot to perform a variety of tasks. They have worked hard to agree upon a research project topic and to create solutions. The team's season will culminate in a competition with other local teams at North Middle School in Grants Pass on December 6.

Purchase of the team robot, programming software, and an obstacle kit was made possible by a generous donation from Friends of Applegate School. We would like to thank local community members who helped make this program possible and who continue to support our students and our school's enrichment programs.

For more information on the Applegate School Robotics Team, contact Seana Hodge at shodge@siskiyou.com.

Seana Hodge
Applegate School Robotics Coach
shodge@siskiyou.com

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LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

FROM PAGE 1

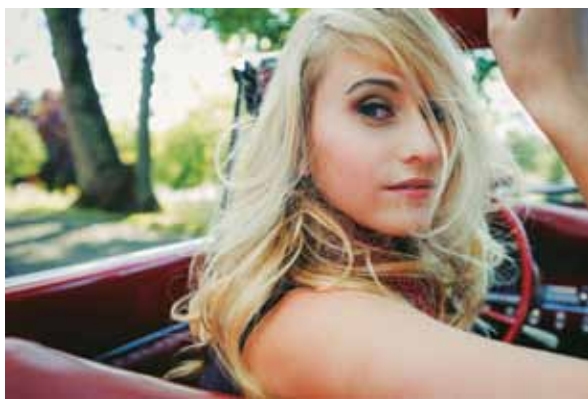
**Mikell Nielsen**

Since she was a young girl accompanying her grandfather in his darkroom, Mikell Louise

Nielsen of Williams has been interested in photography. She was fascinated watching him develop his own images and casually began taking photos of her own in elementary school, continuing into her mid-30s. Always self-taught, she was hooked after taking a photography workshop about how to shoot in manual mode (adjusting the settings of each shot for varying light). "My love for people and photography fueled me," she says.

Acrylic painting catches her passion as well, but she prefers the creative tempo of photographing, which goes from image to idea almost instantly. Photography, as she sees it, is like painting with light, emotions, colors and shadows.

She loves shooting portraits most of all, including senior photos,



maternity shoots, or, her specialty, boudoir (classy/flattering portraits of women in intimate settings). She also does wedding and engagement sessions.

"My boudoir style is simple, tasteful and sensual more than in-your-face sexy," she says about the many photos of women on her website. When I told her that another photographer once told me that women may be more at ease when photographed by other women, she said, "As a woman myself, I am sensitive to the insecurities women have about their bodies. I see and appreciate the beauty that all women possess no matter what size or shape they are. And really, beauty radiates from the inside out."

Whether boudoir photos go to boyfriends, husbands, or partners, ultimately it's about women celebrating themselves.

Mikell's website provides an overview of her professionalism and personality. Photographic collections for women come with professional hair and make-up as well as styling assistance. Not sure what you want? She is happy to provide advice or her own interpretation and personal style. You can then access your photos on an online gallery from which you can download and print them yourself, or order them directly from her.

"Photography helps people to see," a quote by Berenice Abbott (an American photographer), is a favorite of Mikell's. In her case, photography helps her subjects to see themselves. "I found that, as I worked more and more with people, their emotional reactions to their images meant I was actually helping *them* to see... That's a pretty powerful and amazing experience to share with someone. When they look at their images and they cry or laugh—what a gift to both of us."

**David Gibb**

David Gibb, who has been an active photographer for over 30 years, lives and works in Jacksonville. His love for photography began as a hobby at

age 10 or 11 with an Argus C-3, a film camera handed down from his father. From there his interest and desire to learn took off, and he began taking classes and workshops. Born in the visual arts hub of Rochester, New York, he lived there until the age of 19. Rochester is the location of Kodak headquarters (George Eastman House), Xerox, and Bausch and Lomb (known for specializing in lenses).

Many of his various jobs have been photo-related. He used to work as a process camera operator for Allan Cartography, a map-making company. Currently, his niche is primarily commercial, business and portraits, but he also does an array of other photography assignments; he likes it all! Since he began his photography career, he has worked with clients such as Harry and David, Gallup, SAIF, Henry Calvin Fabrics, Beulah Fly Rods, Rogue Design Group, Jackson and Perkins, Gary West Meats and Eastman Kodak (when they were in White City). Basic aspects of professionalism, including lighting and consistency, are what set his business apart.

David has lived in the Rogue Valley for over 24 years, having moved here from Santa Cruz, California. Jacksonville seemed like a great place to raise his son. His wife, Ronit, helps manage contacts and assists in the office, coordinating appointments. His son, who is 25, now lives in Asia. David's studio is open by appointment only and

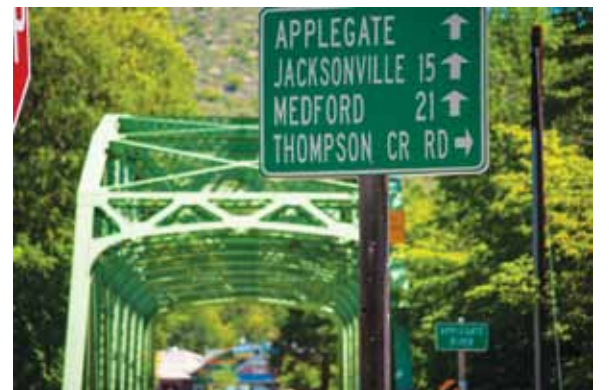
Without children of her own, I asked Jennifer where her passion comes from. "I just love them," she says. "In school, it bothered me that [special needs children] went somewhere else, were isolated from the group." She also simply loves kids, but was unable to conceive due to a medical misdiagnosis and unnecessary surgery at an earlier age. However, with a family member who has special needs, she has an inclination to be protective of such individuals. Possessing patience, compassion and kindness, Jennifer has a gift for this work.

"It's also very rewarding and fun," she says. "They appear different, but in reality are not as different as we think. Adults can learn so much from them." Her goal, as stated on her blog (accessible from her website), is not to change her subjects, but for her subjects



is located on California Street, upstairs in the Kubli building.

The way photography blends science and art is a source of inspiration for David. It's both technological and creative, he feels, in the same way that music is. He likes trying out new gear. However, he points out that "it's more about the elements of photography and how one interacts with their subject, and less about the equipment. It's a people business. You want to put people at ease, make them laugh and bring about that genuine smile." To David, it's also about being professional, consistent, on time and on budget.



For more information on these local photographers

Mikell Nielsen

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David Gibb

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Jennifer Butler

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541-761-4014

to change her. And this takes place every time she captures the true joy and beauty of someone's child. For her, photography is all about others. She is doing what she loves and loves what she is doing.

Haley May
hmaylmt@gmail.com

**Jennifer Butler**

Ever since age seven when she was at Girl Scout camp, Jennifer has been teaching herself photography. She was involved with

the yearbook crew throughout junior high and high school. Originally from Southern California, Jennifer Butler has lived in southern Oregon since 1995. After working in the legal field in Los Angeles, she relocated to Williams and began a career in the dental field. Four and a half years ago, she launched her photography business full time.

She believes that the love of art runs in the family. She discovered her half-sister, who is 23 years younger, on Facebook and learned that they share a passion for photography. Her father was an artist, with sculptures in the Los Angeles Museum, and her brother has taken to the art of cooking.

Jennifer realized her "calling" while at a photo convention, Imaging USA 2011. There she discovered the national Special Kids Photography of America (SKPA), and met owner and founder Karen Dorman, whose granddaughter has special needs. Karen established a nonprofit training and certification group, under which Jennifer studied and received certification.

Children with physical and mental

considerations such as cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, autism, or epilepsy, she explains, are often challenging to photograph due to their sensitivity to light or other sensory issues. She is sad to think that some photographers even refuse to work with such children. Jennifer is certified with the state to care for the unique conditions of these individuals, who deserve to get portraits done like everyone else.

Jennifer is very active in the community. She volunteered for and was on the board of the Southern Oregon Little League Challengers (a baseball league enabling the mentally/physically challenged) for two years. She currently works with the nonprofit organization Southern Oregon Aspire, where she teaches photography to adults with disabilities. She has also been involved with HOPE Equestrian Center, a horseback-riding therapy center in Eagle Point. She is eligible to use funds from Smiles for Katie, a program through SKPA, which provides grants for qualified children—those with special needs, who are disabled, or who are seriously ill—to have their photos taken. In addition, she has been involved with the Down's Syndrome Association of Southern Oregon and Our Foster Kids in Josephine County.

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

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Travel safely over the holidays!

Photos, clockwise from top left:
 — Ashley and Luke Tomlinson of Williams pair the Gater with Applegate Valley wine while at Railay Beach, Thailand.
 — Thalia Truesdell, Kaye Clayton, Joyce Webber and Babe Woods check the Applegater for whale sightings while at Lone Ranch Beach near Brookings, OR.
 — Diana Coogle and the Gater sunbathe on rocky cliffs in Langeby, Sweden.
 — The Applegater brought much-needed comfort to Greeley Wells after his recent surgery.
 — Who needs opera! Linda Yates is entertained by words of wisdom in the Gater while in Sydney, Australia.
 — Former Oregonian John Taylor reads poems in the Applegater to the creatures of Kuranda, Australia.

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