

Applegater

Photo by Dakota Kappen www.applegater.org



SPRING 2015
Volume 8, No. 1

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

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20
Years

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and Cantrall Buckley Park

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Joshua Morton: Hard-working artist-teacher gives back

BY DIANA COOGLE

A Williams resident since 2007, Joshua Morton, artist and wrestler, Grants Pass High School art teacher and wrestling coach, is proof of Jimi Hendrix's declaration: "If there is something to be changed in this world, then it can only happen through music."

The status of art scholarships was something that needed to be changed, at least in the world of Joshua's community. The few art scholarships available were of \$100 or \$150 value. It was music that made Joshua act on that need.

Joshua loves live concerts—the crowd, the waiting in the parking

lots, the people he meets before the show, the festival atmosphere: "the whole amazingness of it all," as he puts it. "It's like Christmas—everyone is in a better mood. Everyone is more helpful, nicer." That atmosphere of generosity at the music concert made him want to be like that in the real world.

So three years ago he started the One Sweet World Fund, under the umbrella of Josephine County Educational Fund, for an annual scholarship to be given to a Grants Pass High School graduating senior who has taken an art course from

See JOSHUA MORTON, page 23

Look Who's Reading the Gater!



Dinner at Tony's Taverna in Malibu, California, was followed by a leisurely and thoroughly enjoyable read through the *Applegater* by none other than, left to right, Tony, the owner of this Greek restaurant, Josh Bratt, Greg Bratt, and Benjamin Bratt, movie and television star (seen recently in *Modern Family* and *Private Practice*).

High extinction risk for Applegate coho

BY JAKOB SHOCKEY

In November 2014, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released their final recovery plan for our region's coho salmon. These southern Oregon and Northern California coastal coho, often referenced as the "SONCC Coho" to avoid top-heavy sentences, inhabit only the watersheds of our mythical State of Jefferson. The plan is heavy with nomenclature and population recovery modeling, and I've already had to use two acronyms in as many sentences just to introduce it. However, it is also the story of a survival struggle—within our watershed, on our properties, and by a neighbor whose family has lived in the area much longer than we have.

Talk to an old-timer or read historic field journals on the Rogue Basin, and you will hear the stories of salmon "so thick you could walk on their backs and fish with a pitchfork." As this Final SONCC Coho Recovery Plan states: "Not long ago, these watersheds provided conditions that supported robust and resilient populations of coho salmon that could persist under dynamic environmental conditions." However, both inadvertently and by design, we have changed the conditions of our region's watersheds over the past 150 years, and today these populations have reached a tipping point.

This point, labeled a *deposition threshold* in the NMFS plan, can also be called an *extinction spiral*. This is when a species goes from "limping along" to a dramatic decline, when the numbers of returning coho spawners are so few they can no longer find each other in our tributaries to mate. The deposition threshold for the Middle Rogue and Applegate Rivers is estimated at 734

spawners, while a healthy run would be at least 2,400. Two of the last four years surveyed have been well below that 734 spawners threshold, and there has been an 11 percent annual population decline for the past 12 years. These and other data led NMFS to classify the Middle Rogue/Applegate River population of SONCC coho as at "high risk for extinction." We are witnessing the tipping point for this region's native coho salmon.

What went wrong? Salmon, after all, are known for being tough, resilient, and independent. In this, they have come to signify the spirit of the Pacific Northwest. Yet salmon are dependent on a functioning riparian habitat, and therein lies the problem.

It's hard to visualize how much we've changed this habitat as we have settled into this watershed—how much our baseline for what a creek looks like has shifted over the generations of settlement. The native Takelma people once called the Applegate River valley "the beaver place." These beavers were trapped out and their ponds, once grouped along our streams like beads on a thread, disappeared.

Gold mining further altered the hydrology of our streams, and conifers were cut away from the creeks as the most accessible timber. With agriculture came levees to straighten and contain our river and streams, and dams to divert water.

Woody debris was cleaned out of the creeks to prevent logjams, while invasive species slowly crept into the riparian forests, choking out young trees and thus eventually increasing sunlight on the creek. The water heated up. Nitrogen runoff from fertilized fields, septic systems and cattle

See COHO EXTINCTION RISK, page 2

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Hurrah! McKee Bridge is restored!

BY ROBERT E. VAN HEUIT

The restoration of McKee Bridge was completed in the middle of February. The bridge is now open to pedestrians who can better observe the beautiful Applegate River from its interior. The 98-year-old bridge underwent a facelift, structural repairs and improvements that will extend the bridge's life for a considerable number of years.

The restoration effort began after an inspection of the bridge by Oregon Bridge Engineering Company (OBEC) in the fall of 2011 found that a portion of the north truss that supported the bridge had begun to fail. After meetings with OBEC, Jackson County Engineering, McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) and the Oregon Department of Transportation, McKee Bridge enthusiasts decided to apply to the federal government for a grant to restore the bridge.

In August of 2012, the federal government awarded a grant to Jackson County (the owner of the bridge) in the amount of \$547,048. MBHS agreed to raise the required \$56,202 in matching funds and did so with major assistance from Preserve Oregon and the Kinsman Foundation, which provided grants of \$20,000 and \$10,000, respectively. The remainder was raised with contributions mostly from local friends of McKee Bridge. By the end of 2013, MBHS had the



The restored McKee Bridge is now open to pedestrians.

necessary funds in hand to proceed with the restoration.

When the final plans were completed, though, the total cost exceeded the amount of available funds. MBHS and the county frantically looked for additional funding and found that the Oregon Transportation Enhancement Fund might provide it. A successful application for a \$62,000 grant was made, and MBHS was able to raise the \$6,200 in required matching funds in short order.

The Board of Directors of MBHS wishes to thank all of the members and friends of McKee Bridge for their support and generous contributions that enabled us to restore the bridge. Without your help and support we could not have completed the project.

Robert E. Van Heuit, President
McKee Bridge Historical Society
541-499-6132
rvanh2000@yahoo.com

The Applegater welcomes two new board members: Richard Goodnough and Heather Murphy



Richard Goodnough

Born and raised in Lakeview, Oregon, Richard Goodnough earned a BS degree in applied science at Southern Oregon College (now Southern Oregon University). In 1973, he moved to his current location on Humbug Creek, making kitchenware pottery in winter and fighting fires and doing controlled burns for the US Forest Service in summer. At some point he tired of being a poor artist and started doing handyman work and residential building contracting in the Applegate.

Richard has served as a firefighter and EMT for our local fire department for over 30 years and served on its board for ten years. He was also a member of the board of Headwaters (an environmental organization dealing with local forestry issues) for around five years.

After having lived here for some time, Richard learned through his family that his great-grandfather, a traveling preacher, wintered at Missouri Flat on his travels from Idaho to southeastern Oregon. While here, he performed marriages for

such names as Slagal (sic) and Kubli. A baby, Richard's grandmother, was born to the preacher and his wife on April 4, 1885, giving Richard pioneer roots in the Applegate Valley. One month later the three of them continued on their trek.



Heather Murphy

Heather Murphy, a native of Pennsylvania, has been calling the Applegate home since 1993. She studied literature and the craft of writing at Penn State University and currently facilitates a weekly writers' workshop at the Applegate Library that is open to the public.

Heather is also a member of a poetry group, the Applegate Poets, which was assembled by Oregon's fifth poet laureate, Lawson Inada. The Applegate Poets perform public readings on a regular basis at local venues.

Heather resides with her family on Thompson Creek Road.

(Don't miss Heather's article about the history and controversy of "open range" on page 5 of this issue.)

COHO EXTINCTION RISK

FROM PAGE 1

increased algae blooms and decreased oxygen in the water. Clear-cutting in the 1970s and 1980s sent large plumes of sediment into the waterways, further degrading water quality. Finally, Applegate Dam was built with no passage for salmon, cutting off 96.12 miles of the highest intrinsic potential habitat for coho.

All of these physical, biological or chemical stresses are identified in the Final SONCC Coho Recovery Plan, and they have had the cumulative effect of weakening the Applegate's coho. We've pushed the coho to their limit, and without addressing these problems on a large, watershed-wide scale, we can expect these fish to disappear from our region. The good news is that these are on-the-ground issues that we can work to fix, and the majority of these issues are on private land. This means that the coho are reliant on us, not the government, to fix up their creeks.

Many times, making small

changes in your land management around the water can have big impacts for the wildlife that relies on it. If you own property along the Applegate River or any of its tributaries and want to consider what you can do to improve coho habitat, give me a call, and we can walk your stretch. The Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council is nonregulatory, nongovernmental, and nonprofit. Often, we can apply for grants to help fund habitat restoration work or connect you with a local contractor. If you live here because of this valley's beauty, consider doing what you can to protect it.

Jakob Shockey • 541-890-9989

Riparian Program Manager

Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council
riparianprogram@apwc.info

Note: For a map of the current extinction risk of coho salmon in our region, please go to the home page of our website at www.applegater.org (under "Latest Issue").

Get published—and support a good cause!

The literary arts are flourishing in the Applegate Valley. Have you noticed? Vibrant library programs, books being published by Applegate authors, well-attended prose and poetry events, readings by the Applegate Poets group, working writers' groups, a new showcase of books by local writers at Art Presence Art Center in Jacksonville with readings by featured authors at the opening art reception—there's a lot going on.

Taking notice of all that, the *Applegater* hatched an idea. We want to publish a book of Applegate authors, called *From the Heart of the Applegate: Essays, Poems, and Short Fiction by Applegate Valley Writers*. The purpose is to publish a rich, interesting anthology of works by literary masters in the Applegate.

So we're looking for submissions. Interested? Here's the scoop:

- Writers must be current Applegate Valley residents.
- Submissions can be in three categories:

poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction.

- Writers may submit up to three poems and/or one prose piece. Prose pieces should fall between 800 and 2,500 words.
- Submissions should include an author's bio and photo.
- Photographs to accompany the submission may be included but are not required.
- Photos must be of commercial print quality (high resolution).
- There is no restriction on the topic.
- Previously published works are not eligible for inclusion.
- Copyright reverts to the writer after publication.
- Send submissions to gater@applegater.org.
- Deadline for submissions is June 30, 2015.

All proceeds will help support the *Applegater*. If you have any questions, please email gater@applegater.org. We look forward to receiving your submissions and getting this unique book out to the world!

Handcrafted 'Applebrates' for sale

The *Applegater* has a trade secret that we are about to divulge. No, we not announcing a revolutionary patent, but we have developed and organized a manufacturing process to market a product. We're hoping our idea will bring some much-needed cash into our nonprofit coffers to help fund the production and distribution of the *Applegater* newsmagazine.

Our plan is to build beautiful planter or multi-use boxes called "Applebrates," using donated local small-diameter wood and volunteer labor. All proceeds from sales will help sustain the *Applegater*.

You can see these beautiful, sturdy, useful and long-lasting Applebrates at Applegate Valley Realty at 935 N. Fifth Street in Jacksonville. We are looking for additional outlets in the valley to display and sell our Applebrates and for customers to buy or order them. Check the *Applegater's* Facebook page and website for outlet updates.

The price of a stock planter box (see photo), which is 12" wide x 24" long x 12" deep, is \$60. Applebrate designs can also be customized. To purchase one, get more information, or volunteer to help, call Chris Bratt at 541-846-6988.



Handcrafted Applebrates available for purchase now.

Introducing... Greeley Wells, moviemaker

As Greeley's involvement in time-consuming video projects expands, he has had to relinquish other activities. So it is with regret at his departure and gratitude for his service that the *Applegater* Board of Directors accepts Greeley's resignation from the board to allow him to focus on his latest artistic endeavor. (To view his videos, visit www.greeley.me.)

The *Applegater* board salutes Greeley, our first chairman of the board, with undying thanks and kudos for all that he accomplished during his long reign from 2008 to 2015.

Greeley will still write his popular "Starry Side" articles and continue his association with the Gater's editorial committee.

Thank you, Greeley—we wish you great success.

The *Applegater* Board of Directors



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; Diana Coogle, Kathy Kliwer, Heather Murphy, and Mikell Nielsen for proofing; Beate Foit for bookkeeping; and webmaster Joe Lavine.

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

PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

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

All articles submitted to the *Applegater* are subject to edit and publication at the 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
Jacksonville, OR 97530
Email: gater@applegater.org
Website: www.applegater.org

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

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Help us ensure that we have the ongoing support needed to publish the *Applegater* newsmagazine. All contributions are tax-deductible and receive recognition in print.

- Patron \$1001+
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Please make your checks payable to *Applegater* and mail to P.O. Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530

Donors: We strive to ensure that our donor list is accurate. Please contact us if there are errors or omissions.

Job Opportunity

The *Applegater* newsmagazine needs a self-motivated advertising salesperson for Jackson County. Generous commissions. Email resume to gater@applegater.org.

Read more articles online at www.applegater.org

See page 6 for a complete list of online articles and informative maps that accompany some articles in print.

Editorial Calendar

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

PERSONAL MAILING LABEL
One year: \$14.99
Two years: \$24.99
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Masthead photo credit

Dakota Kappen captured this peaceful spring scene on Humbug Creek in the Applegate.

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—
Looking for new ad rep.
Contact gater@applegater.org.
- Josephine County—Amber Caudell
541-846-1027
ambercaudell@ymail.com

Next deadline: May 1

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Although it's already close to spring, this is our first opportunity in 2015 to wish you a very happy and prosperous new year! With spring comes our "Commerce / Community" issue, which includes articles on some newly renovated stores (pages 6 and 23), and many opinion pieces, including "The Promise of Community" (page 21). There is a new nonprofit section (page 16), and a feature story on a local teacher who gives back to the community in a unique way (page 1).

An impressive number of hits were recorded for the new reading-the-Gater format online. If you haven't seen it yet, try it out. Visit www.applegater.org.

And while you're there, please check out all the articles and informative maps that have been posted to our website for your reading pleasure. See the complete list of online articles and maps on page 6.

Our first fund-raiser for 2015 will focus on family fun. Not only will this event benefit the *Applegater*, but also Cantrall Buckley Park. We hope to see you and your family at the Applegate River Lodge on Sunday, May 31.

Enjoy the latest issue. And, as always, feel free to send us your comments. We listen.

Barbara Holiday
gater@applegater.org

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Community Calendar

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

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

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

Applegate Fire District Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Station 1, 18489 North Applegate Road at 7:30 pm, except for March, April and May, when meetings are held at Headquarters, 1095 Upper Applegate Road. For more information, call 541-899-1050.

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

Applegate 4-H Swine Club meets on Tuesdays following the third Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. For more information, contact Charles Elmore at 541-846-6528 or Barbara Niedermeyer at 541-846-7635.

Applegate Friends of Fire District #9 meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Fire Station at 1095 Upper Applegate Road at 6 pm. New members are welcome. For more information, call Bob Fischer 541-846-6218.

Applegate Library is open Tuesday and Friday from 2 to 6 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. Storytime is Tuesday at 2:30 pm. 18485 North Applegate Road.

Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) meets the last Wednesday of every month at the Ruch Library. All interested persons are welcome to attend. ANN is a community organization dedicated to protecting, preserving, and restoring the Applegate watershed. For more information about ANN, call Duane Bowman, 541-899-7264.

Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council meets the fourth Thursday of the month at the Applegate Library. For more information, call 541-899-9982.

Applegate Valley Community Grange meets the second Sunday of each month for a potluck and a business meeting. Call 541-846-7501 for times. 3901 Upper Applegate Road.

Applegate Valley Garden Club meets at 1:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month from September through May. For meeting locations and programs, call Sandra King at 541-899-9027 or Betty Lou Smith at 541-846-6817.

Food & Friends Senior Nutrition Program invites local seniors (60-plus) to enjoy a nutritious, hot meal served at 11:30 am Monday through Friday at the Jacksonville IOOF Hall at the corner of Main and Oregon Streets. A donation is suggested and appreciated. Volunteers help serve meals or deliver meals to homebound seniors. For information about volunteering or receiving meals, call Food & Friends at 541-664-6674, x246 or x208.

Friends of Ruch Library Board of Directors meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at Ruch Library. All are welcome. 541-899-7438.

Grants Pass Nordic Ski Club meets on the first Thursday of the month, November through April, at Elmer's, 175 NE Agness Avenue, Grants Pass, at 6 pm. Ski outings are on Saturdays. Listings are on the snow phone at 541-592-4977.

Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation meets the second Wednesday of January, April, July and October at 6 pm at Applegate Fire District Station 1, 18489 North Applegate Road. For more information, go to www.gacdc.org.

Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) meets Thursdays at 6 pm. For meeting information, call 541-474-6840.

Ruch Library is open Tuesday from 11 am to 5 pm, Thursday from 1 to 7 pm, and Saturday from 12 to 4 pm. Storytime is Tuesday at 11 am. 7919 Highway 238.

Sanctuary One is open to the public for farm tours every Wednesday and Saturday, 10:30 am to noon, April - October. 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. Preschool Storytime every Tuesday at 1:30. Chess Club every Monday from 3:45 to 5 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.

"Last Saturday in May" equals "Buncom Day"

Southern Oregon's last-standing ghost town comes alive on the last Saturday —this year that Saturday is May 30 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Buncom Day, according to the *Mail Tribune*, is "a pioneer version of a museum reception, patriotic festival and country fair rolled into one." There will be a parade at noon, along with the world-famous "chicken splat contest," a barbecue lunch, live music, face painting, books, plants, a country store, children's activities, and exhibits ranging from the Oregon Paranormal Society to noxious weeds and fire safety.

The event raises a little money to keep the historic buildings in a state of "arrested decay," but it's mainly just a whole lot of fun among friends, visitors, and curious tourists.

Admission is free. To get there, follow Highway 238 to Ruch, turn south at Ruch on Upper Applegate Road, travel three miles, turn left on Little Applegate, and go another three miles to Buncom at the intersection with Sterling Creek Road.

More information will be posted on the Buncom website at www.buncom.org as it undergoes updating and reconstruction. Questions or suggestions for Buncom Day may also be directed to the chairman of the Buncom Day celebration, Bryan Shelander, at oregongreenbuilder@gmail.com.

Rent this Unique Treasure for Your Special

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BEAUTIFUL LOCATION: Between Grants Pass & Medford, OR 420 acres: tranquil and secluded with trails & fishing while only 30-45 minutes to town. **AFFORDABLY PRICED!** Plus, your rental helps support non-profit Pacifica's environmental educational efforts (see The Caterpillar!)

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In addition, the wood-lined CEDAR CENTER with its spectacular vaulted ceiling, roll up glass wall & wooden dance floor, can accommodate 200 people.

Contact: info@pacific.org PO Box 1, Williams OR 97544/ 541-846-1100
Pacifica: 14615 Watergap Rd Williams, OR 97544



2015 Field Course Season

Nature Learning for Families, Adventurers and Naturalists

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

Navigating the Night Sky **The Colorful World of Lichens**
Friday evening, March 20 April 18-19
(the Vernal Equinox)

Soil and Leaf-Litter Insects **Spring Mushroom Foray**
Saturday, April 25 (outside Ashland), May 9

Klamath River Natural History from a Raft, Sunday, May 17

The Spirit of the Forest in Words and Photos
with Diana Coogle and Mark Turner, June 5-7

Orienteering, Saturday, June 13

Register for these classes, request a catalog, find out more at www.thesfi.org or call 541-597-8530.

Don't miss BIRDS & BREWS on Saturday, May 23 - nature walks and activities, microbrew and wine tasting and live music from 8\$ Mountain, Broadway Phil and the Shouters and Little Big Band.

Send your calendar information to gater@applegater.org.

**WANTED: Ad representative
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Revitalizing the Applegate Adaptive Management Area

BY DON BOUCHER

The Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA) is one of ten AMAs that were part of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. AMAs were established to allow innovative and creative approaches to resource land management. The learning from these new approaches was to be exported to other areas to help them be more efficient and responsive. Adaptive management describes an approach to land management, and an "Adaptive Management Area" refers to a specific place. The Applegate AMA refers to most of the Applegate River watershed, which totals approximately 500,000 acres. Roughly 66 percent of the watershed is federally managed.

In 1998, after an extensive amount of analysis was completed, the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) developed the Applegate AMA Guide, intended to initiate and guide the planning process. The document was highly visionary and forward-thinking for its time. Now the Applegate AMA has come to another exciting point as we pick up where we left off, utilizing over a dozen ecological assessments that were completed between 1994 and 2012.

Though various projects on the Applegate Ranger District (now part of the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District) were implemented in the late 1990s, there is renewed interest to use the AMA Guide to develop a collaborative AMA strategy to implement needed restoration projects, such as vegetation management, wildlife and aquatic habitat improvement, hazardous fuels reduction in the interface area adjacent to homes, infrastructure maintenance, and other projects that will help maintain a more resilient ecosystem able to withstand major disturbance agents such as fire or insects or a changing climate.

"The forest service is excited to utilize the analysis already completed in the Applegate AMA to develop an implementation strategy for restoration work in the near future. We will build on the great work that has come before and work toward an all-lands collaborative approach," said Siskiyou Mountains District ranger Donna Mickley.

Many land managers, organizations and individuals recognize the importance of working together to manage this complex ecosystem including USFS, BLM, the Oregon Department of Forestry, Jackson

and Josephine counties, local rural fire departments, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, and Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative, to a name a few.

Natural ecosystems are enormously complex. We recognize and assume that we cannot know everything about the Applegate watershed and its ecosystem. Choosing to use adaptive management provides us with an approach that allows us to:

- Be proactive and anticipate new information, explicitly recognizing the uncertainties.
- Design management as an experiment.
- Use information gained from implementation and monitoring to improve management practices.

Recently, USFS formed an interdisciplinary natural resource team to compile existing data and information from the 1990s as well as from current analyses, to become familiar with current management and public values, to reach out to local communities for assistance with establishing priority treatment areas, and to identify what type of partnership and collaborative opportunities will be most effective. The intent is to look at the AMA Guide through a new lens and implement an all-lands approach that includes not only federal, state and county lands but also private lands from landowners interested in doing land restoration. This approach

acknowledges the many benefits that nature provides as well as the challenges that we collectively face in today's rapidly changing ecological and sociopolitical environments, regardless of jurisdictional boundary lines.

The next steps planned for the Applegate AMA between now and the fall of 2015 are:

- USFS/BLM begins engagement with communities and potential partners and collaborators.
- Natural resource specialists complete additional field reviews to refine management needs and objectives consistent with the vision described in the AMA Guide.
- We begin work on a strategy for the entire AMA, focusing on high-priority restoration needs.
- We engage with communities to collaboratively develop site-specific projects to address restoration needs.
- We initiate the environmental analysis process.

For more information, contact Applegate AMA team leader Don Boucher at 541-899-3840.

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Note: For a map of the Applegate Adaptive Management Area, please go to the home page of our website at www.applegater.org (under "Latest Issue").

Open range: A history of questions and controversy

BY HEATHER MURPHY

For over a century, the phrase "the American West" has evoked images of cattle browsing on a hardscrabble landscape. The region's cultural heritage is so inexorably linked with livestock that it's effortless to make the association. "Open range" might conjure the same image, but most people are unfamiliar with the term "grazing allotments" and more familiar with the fact that "open range" is a phrase that has long been fraught with drama and intrigue.

Except for incorporated cities, Jackson and Josephine counties are designated open range. This means that livestock are allowed to graze anywhere in those counties on privately owned lands unless those privately owned lands are fenced.

Grazing on *federal* land is another matter. Jason Smith and his wife Liza of the Applegate hold permits for grazing allotments with both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service (USFS). Jason, whose great-great grandfather was a McKee, has been around cattle all his life, but he thinks that the future of the business is in question as they wait to see the effects of the proposed Siskiyou Crest National Monument on their business. Jason worries that he might have to sell the cattle and "just start raising hay or whatever," though he adds, "who knows what the outcome will be."

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, which proposed the idea for the monument in 2010, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and fostering the health and welfare of local ecosystems in our area. It has, in the past, compensated ranchers willing to relinquish their permits. Executive director Joseph Vaile said, "What's interesting about grazing is that it's an ongoing activity, chronic, if you will—it's not one event, like a timber sale, so the damage is ongoing."

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and fostering the rights of Oregon ranchers. The two organizations clash over the monument and the permits for the allotments, but this is standard fare for the grazing issue.

The permit system's history for grazing livestock is a complicated one, marked by confusion and controversy that dates back to the late 19th century, when ranchers who were accustomed to running their cattle on large expanses of land were faced with the Forest Reserve Act.

Passed by Congress in 1891, the Forest Reserve Act allowed the president to set aside large tracts of public land in reserves and possibly exclude grazing from those parcels altogether. For several years, the ranchers' standing in the reserves was uncertain, but the milieu of the West had already been carved out by the survival and persistence of the early pioneers and by the settlers who arrived after the Homestead Act of 1862, eager to be part of the privatization of the Western frontier.

Public opinion was swayed by the efforts of John Muir, a high-profile preservationist who advocated for complete cessation of grazing on the reserves, and by conservationist Gifford Pinchot, who favored the idea of *regulated* grazing. Ranchers were held in limbo as decisions were made, reversed, amended, and fought about in court.

To oversimplify, in 1911 the forest reserves were renamed "National Forest," and the Supreme Court ruled that the Department of Agriculture could regulate grazing on the open range and collect fees. "Allotments" were established with specific boundaries, and an annual permit system was initiated for livestock foraging. Cronyism, black-market permits, and overgrazing became all the rage.



Will the Smith's cattle be able to continue to graze on federal lands? Stay tuned.

At the behest of ranchers, in 1934 the Taylor Grazing Act was passed, and grazing districts, along with grazing advisory boards, were established. The Department of the Interior was to oversee the management of the open range and issue the permits, dependent upon environmental conditions, and work with the permit holders to ensure they complied with rules and regulations spelled out by Congress. In 1946, this branch of grazing management came to be called the Bureau of Land Management.

In the Applegate, most of the federal land used for open range is managed by USFS. "We have a lot of grazing because this is one of the things we were founded on," said Mark Hocken, USFS range management specialist for the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District. Mark works with the Smith family and other local families who hold ten-year "term grazing permits," as well as with organizations such as KS Wild, in accordance with rules specified by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (NEPA). "We constantly work on our NEPA, and that's where the public has a voice. They can speak out about their feelings and ideas about the

grazing and we consider all that input when we make our decisions," said Mark.

Jim Whittington with the Medford District BLM said there is nothing currently in the works for action concerning KS Wild's monument proposal.

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Definitions and clarifications

Open range: An area wherein livestock may lawfully be permitted to run at large (oregon.gov).

Closed range: Not included as open range are all incorporated cities, which are "livestock districts" or "closed range" (oregonlegislature.gov).

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument: The proposed Siskiyou Crest National Monument is different from the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management as part of the National Landscape Conservation System and was established in a presidential proclamation by President Bill Clinton on June 9, 2000 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascade-Siskiyou_National_Monument).

Ed. Note: One of our Facebook readers asked us to write this article about open range, and we were happy to comply! If you have a story idea you would like to see in the Applegater, please let us know. Email gater@applegater.org or visit our Facebook page and leave us a message. We look forward to hearing from you.

Takubeh reflects the local vitality

The Williams valley has always been special. Even its original inhabitants called it Takubeh, “the beautiful place.” Today, still a beautiful place and filled with special people, Williams is an agricultural, cottage industry-based community tucked away in the picturesque Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon.

One of those cottage industries is Takubeh, a natural farm- and home-supply store in the heart of Williams. What began there as a natural-food brokerage and bulk food buying “club” over ten years ago has transformed into a “just what you need when you need it” community supply store, offering a unique combination of products and services merging farm, family, and home.

Owners Rebekah Duane and Todd Rumery began selling bags of amendments out of their barn in 2004 as a hobby for supplemental income. Now Takubeh provides locals with convenience and an unusual selection of goods. “Folks out here don’t tend to go to town unless they really have to,” said Rebekah. “Until Takubeh, there weren’t many alternatives available in Williams.”

Todd is a fourth-generation Applegater, who spent his boyhood summers and holidays fishing the Applegate. His great-grandparents bought their dairy on Highway 238 in 1922. His upbringing in organic agriculture and the marketing skills he acquired from his natural food brokerage were a perfect fit for Takubeh.

Rebekah arrived in Williams in 1996 in search of a healthy environment in which to raise her family. She met Todd in 1998. Rebekah has a deep love for the health and well-being of people and plants. She thinks of business as another way to serve—a creative endeavor that can benefit everyone if done with care,

intention, and consciousness.” Because she and Todd have tailored Takubeh to meet the needs and desires of their community, they sell only the highest quality products, sourcing locally first.

Opening on Williams Highway in 2008 and growing ever since, Takubeh reflects the local vitality and cornucopia of cottage enterprise in the Williams valley. “An amazing group of self-sufficient, creative people produce an array of goods in this valley,” said Todd. Among these progressive businesses born here are Horizon Herbs, Hi Hoe Produce, Naturespirit Herbs, Seven Seeds, Full Circle Bison Ranch, Plaisance Ranch, Sun Spirit Farm, White Oak Farm, Luna Blue Farm, Roots and Flowers, and The Tool Merchants. Takubeh integrates and encourages local economy and participation by providing a hub for wares between markets.

Efficiency and community support are key elements in Takubeh’s business model. Their motto, “We truck it in so you don’t have to!” spells harmony for a rural community and lightens its carbon footprint.

The staff at Takubeh is a caring and talented team ranging from master farmer, self-taught nutritionist, graphic painter/artist, and mosaic-tile artist to alternative dietary chef, compassionate caregiver, and seamstress extraordinaire. Owner Rebekah Duane and Anna, the store’s manager, study organic gardening to meet the special needs of locals. Anna has a particular interest in integrative pest management, organic pest control and plant health care.

Takubeh has bloomed into a natural farm and *family* supply, built on the love and support of the Williams community. Community members say, “[Takubeh] allows us the freedom to conserve our resources and offers us a place to get a little bit of everything in our own backyard.”

Do you have a plant question or need some guidance on soil making or compost tea? Stop in or give the staff a call—they are happy to help. Takubeh is located at 20690 Williams Highway, Williams, Oregon. Phone is 541-846-0420.

Note: *Takubeh means “the beautiful place” in the language of the Dakubetede tribe. Todd is Osage, so their tribal connection to the land is important to the owners.*



Todd Rumery puts the final touches on Takubeh’s sign at the Day Out of Time Mayan New Year’s sale last July.

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Locavores rejoice: New natural foods store in the Applegate Valley

After eight years of operating a self-serve farm store on their certified organic farm, Mary and Vince Alionis of Whistling Duck Farm have completed renovation of their beautiful historic curved-beam barn. The Whistling Duck Farm Store is now a fully staffed, year-round store offering the finest foods to the Applegate Valley.

“Our goal is to provide the valley with the highest-quality organic, natural, nourishing whole foods,” said Mary, “and to provide a venue for local and regional producers. Our local region has such an amazing bounty of fresh produce, meats, cheeses, coastal fish, and wild mushrooms. Our store helps our community support local businesses and eat local seasonal foods.”

The expanded farm store is a locavore foodie’s dream. There’s raw honey from Flying B Farm, organic medicinal tea blends and culinary herbs from country neighbor Oshala Farm, locally roasted coffee beans, nourishing bone broths and frozen foods from chef Kristen Lyon, local chocolate treats, and fresh baked bread and pizza crusts from Applegate Valley Artisan Breads and Rise Up! bakery. Plus, there’s always organic coffee and hot tea on tap!

The farm also produces delicious artisan ferments, sold in half-pint and pint jars. Made from Whistling Duck’s own vegetables, these probiotic-rich krauts, kimchis, and relishes range from the traditional (Naked Kraut) to the exotic (Burdock Kimchi). Great-tasting brines are also for sale and are the perfect pick-me-up when you need a little energy boost or want to add a little kick to your cocktails, dressings, or juices.

The Farm Store carries staples to create affordable home-cooked meals—all-organic, GMO-free dairy, nuts, eggs, cooking oils, vinegars, pasta, canned goods, and dry goods. “We want folks to be able to make a delicious, nourishing meal without going to town,” said Mary.

“We’ve been so fortunate to have this beautiful farmstead to enjoy and develop. These 1940s barns are true masterpieces and tell the story of the Applegate’s history as a dairy region,” Mary said. “We’re excited to finally be able to show off this former hay barn. It’s now a venue for



Photo, top: 1940s barn housing the Whistling Duck Farm Store.

Photo, bottom: The Farm Store’s new interior.

buying and selling; for sharing information and conversation; for staging events—a place to show locals and visitors the reality and bounty of a small-scale organic farmstead in southern Oregon. Our aim is for this to be more than a store—to be a real community hub.”

Long-time farm-stand customer Jaymie Exley said, “Vince and Mary are more than retailers filling a niche. Whistling Duck wasn’t built on a whim, but by cultivating relationships for more than 20 years here in the Rogue Valley. The content of the store supports and celebrates these relationships and stands as a model of what is possible for the future of agriculture.”

The Farm Store is open every day and located right on the highway at 12800 Williams Highway (238), just seven miles from the town of Applegate. From Grants Pass, the Farm Store is on the right, a half mile past the Water Gap Road turnoff. Look for the Whistling Duck sign and big red barn.

Store hours are Monday through Friday, 10 am to 7 pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.

For more information about Whistling Duck, visit www.whistlingduckfarm.com or call 541-761-6772.

**— See more articles online —
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- Book reviews: *The Warmth of Other Suns* and *The Children Act* by Julia Hoskins
- “Bringing biochar to your backyard” by Josh Weber
- “In response to *Being Mortal*” by Margaret Perrow della Santina
- “Love of place can unite people” by Christina Lynn Martin
- Map of current coho salmon extinction risk areas provided by Jakob Shockey (see article, p. 1)
- Map of Applegate Management Area provided by Don Boucher (see article, p. 5)
- Map of Applegate Ridge Trail provided by Diana Coogle (see article, p. 10)
- Map of BLM’s current alternative for the Nedsbar Timber Sale provided by Luke Ruediger (see article, p. 20)
- Movie review: *The Theory of Everything* by Kathy Kliewer and Mikell Nielsen



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THE STARRY SIDE

Fistful of data

BY GREELEY WELLS

The width of your fist can answer quite a few amazing questions. The stars, moon and sun really don't move much; they are basically the stable background for our earth's rotation. It's our own planet's spinning movement that we can measure with a fist.

At arm's length, one fist equals about one hour of movement and 10 degrees of the sky measurement. This means that the sun and stars and moon will move the width of an outstretched fist in an hour. Also, as a predicting tool, the fist will predict that between 10 pm tonight and 10 pm tomorrow night, the moon will have moved one fist-width, a fist away from or closer to a star, etc.

Your fist? Yes. At arm's length, everyone's fist appears the same size in the heavens—to your *own* eyes. Little fists on short, outstretched arms appear the same as giant fists on long, outstretched arms.

This measurement is a generality, like most of the things in the sky and nature. The square of Pegasus is squarish, the summer triangle is only close to equilateral, and the "circles" of our orbits are actually ovals. But like other astronomical generalities, the fist provides a close-enough estimate of where the moon will be the next night. It's approximate, but quite useful. If you are told something is 20 degrees from something else, that's two of your fists. And because a fist is just about 10 degrees of the

sky, a finger is about one degree.

I sometimes try to estimate the time of sunset by the number of fists (hours) the sun is above the horizon. I'm even right sometimes! So get out there with your friends and neighbors and show them some fists!

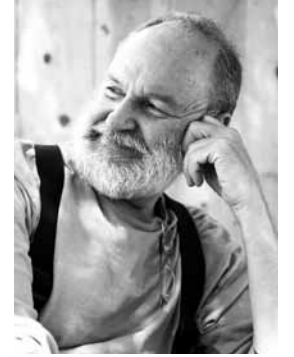
Now what's up in this beautiful night sky in March, April and May? Well, it's the heart of winter's end and the beginning of summer: spring! The Big Dipper is in the north, going from right to left over the top of the North Star each month, first east, then overhead in April, then west in May.

The bright star Arcturus is "pulled along" by the handle of the Dipper. Follow the arch of the Dipper's handle

to find Arcturus east and south of the handle's end. By April, Arcturus is almost overhead. Leo the lion is parallel with the Dipper and is also overhead at its zenith. The bright Jupiter also starts overhead right in front of Leo and moves west with him.

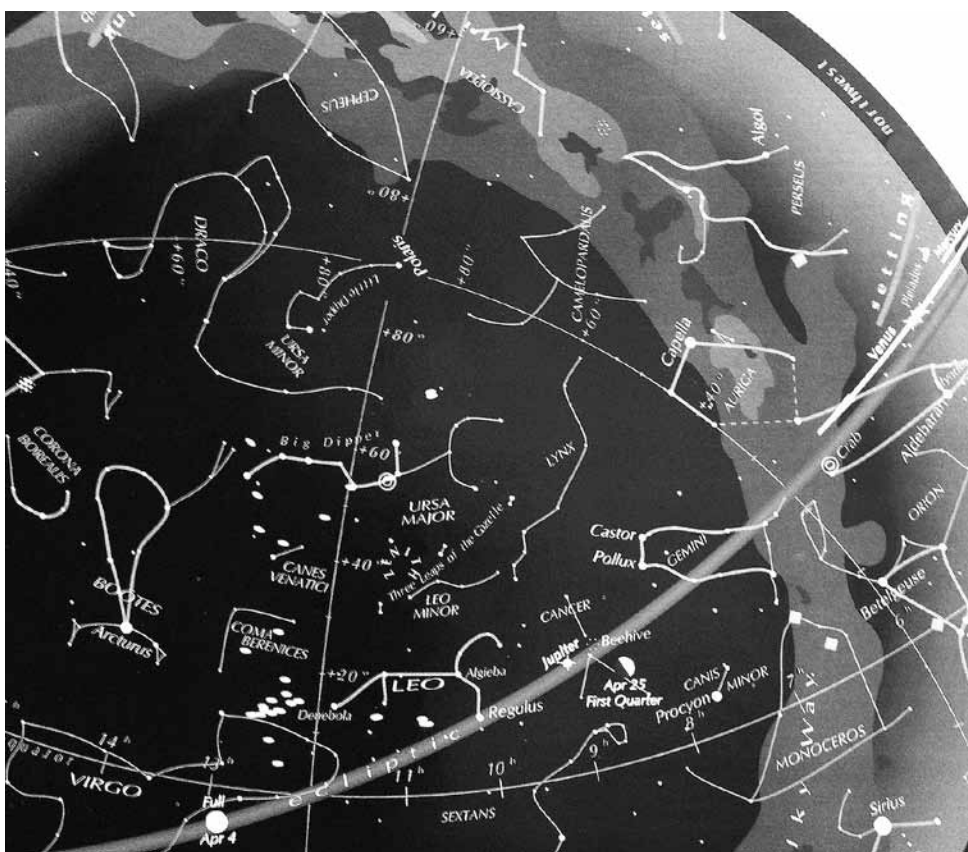
Orion and his entourage make their way from west of center, to down in the west, and then out of sight, taking winter with them. Only the twins, Castor and Pollux, are left standing on the northwestern horizon line to remind us of bygone winter.

Greeley Wells • greeley@greeley.me



Greeley Wells

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



Greeley's Sky Calendar

The planets

Jupiter. The "star of the show" this season is actually a planet: Jupiter is up almost all night, strikingly beautiful, and overhead the whole season. Earth passes between Jupiter and the sun, a position that puts Jupiter closer to the earth than it will be again until 2019. It's the brightest and best in the sky for this year besides Venus. Jupiter started east in February and slides west as the season matures.

Saturn rises in the northeast in May and continues to move up as the next seasons unfold.

Venus is in the sunset in April and higher in May—beautiful and bright and short-lived.

Other events of note

March 20 is the vernal (spring) equinox. This is one of the two symmetries between the extremes of the solstices. It is the first day of spring.

The lunar eclipse on April 4 will be visible throughout the northern US—the moon will get red with the earth's shadow over it. Visible during the afternoon until moonset, it's worth a quick look or concentrated study. With sunlight and moonlight, exposures for cameras of all kinds should be easy. A long-lens image would be wonderful. Find some foreground to make it even more interesting.

The Lyrid meteors are favorable on April 23. They radiate from Lyra, where Vega is the brightest third of the summer triangle, up overhead. About 4 am is the best time to watch them.

Here's a great little guide for celestial events—<http://www.iflscience.com/space/sky-watching-event-guide-2015>. Thank you, Jack Duggan!

BACK IN TIME

Dad's scary hospital experience

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

When I was about eight years old my dad was in bed for several days with a bad cold or the flu. Our family physician, Doctor Heckman, no longer made house calls as he had when my older brother and two sisters were born in 1916, 1918, and 1920. He would stay overnight and perhaps enjoy his favorite pastime of fishing the Squaw Creek or Applegate River before returning home the next day.

This time Mother had to take Dad to Medford, where Doctor Heckman promptly sent him to Sacred Heart Hospital. Poor Mother returned home late that afternoon, very worried, and said for me to hurry and feed our chickens and gather eggs while she milked the cow. My brother and sister were not there to help—they were living with my Aunt Clara in lower Applegate so they could ride the school bus to Jacksonville High School.

After our chores, Mother and I crossed the Applegate River on a footbridge and walked the quarter-mile upriver to the McKee (my maternal grandparents) home, where we could make a phone call to find out about Dad. It turned out he had a serious ear infection requiring mastoid

surgery. I was so frightened! I thought any surgery in those days could be fatal and had heard so many stories I thought my dad might die.

Mother assured me that Dad would be all right, but told me that she and Grandma were taking Grandpa's car to the hospital and might not return until the next morning, so I would have to stay with Grandpa. I liked Grandpa, but I was very upset to be left behind.

The next day Mother said I could go with her to see Dad. It was a cold day so we had to bundle up, especially since our old car was "open air" with no top. It had only a front seat with a wooden bed built on the back for hauling things like firewood and sacks of chicken feed.

I thought we should have taken Grandpa's car, a Durant sedan that Uncle Ernest (mother's oldest brother), a car salesman, had helped get for Grandpa. I first rode in it after my uncle moved his family to Klamath Falls and Grandma wanted to visit them, so Mother drove Grandma, my sister Gladys, and me to my uncle's for an overnight stay. I wanted another ride in that car and kept begging

Mother to borrow it, but she refused.

So I pouted for most of the drive to Medford in our old car. When Mother had to stop at a stop sign, she found out that our car brakes were barely working. My pouting then turned into real fright. Mother drove in low gear all the way up the hill to the hospital. I wonder what was going through her mind about all the debt—the doctor, the hospital (no insurance in those days), and an old car in need of repair.

At the hospital we entered a large room, called a ward, filled with male patients. Dad was propped up in bed in the middle of the room and very glad to see us. A nurse came in and angrily told my dad that he was not to move his bed. She ignored Mother and me, keeping up her tirade at Dad as she shoved the bed back against the wall.

When the nurse left, Mother asked Dad what in the world was going on. He explained that he was very cold, so had moved his bed away from the cold brick wall and a window. My dad was of a gentle nature and avoided trouble. He



Photo, above: John Byrne and cousin Patrick Folley making a living.

Photo, right: Pearl and John Byrne aka Mother and Dad.



had probably never been "chewed" out so much. I could not believe seeing my mother so calm about the incident and Dad, still in some pain, beginning to see some humor in it. Dad was still cold, though, so mother found a kindly nurse to help get Dad get warmed up. It took a long time before Dad thawed out and became more comfortable. When he got drowsy, we kissed him good-bye and quietly left.

Mother went slowly down the hill through Medford, always in low gear. I kept telling her she should have taken Grandpa's car.

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre
541-899-1443

Sanctuary One announces exciting expansions in 2015

BY WESTI HAUGHEY

Sanctuary One, a care farm in the Applegate Valley, knows that people, animals, and the earth are better together. When one is healed, all are healed, because we are interconnected. This mission will get a big boost in 2015 as the Sanctuary makes two great expansions.

It's rare to have a donor approach a nonprofit organization with 100 percent of the funds necessary to complete a project that the organization had only dreamed about. Luckily for Sanctuary One, that's precisely what happened a few months ago.

One year ago Kristina Driscoll, her son Wills, and goddaughter Alicia Theophil, rescued a stray cat, Astro, who tested positive for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). FIV is in the same class as HIV and can cause weakening of a cat's immune system. Kristina's family educated themselves about FIV and learned that with proper diet and medical care, FIV-positive cats can lead healthy, normal lives. Unfortunately, when cats turn up FIV-positive in a shelter setting they are typically euthanized to reduce risk of transmission and medical costs, or to free up space for more adoptable cats.

After working very hard to save Astro, Kristina, Wills, and Alicia felt compelled to become involved in the welfare of FIV-positive cats, and approached Sanctuary One about building a safe haven for these special felines.

Part of the Sanctuary's mission includes caring for animals that are neglected, abused, forgotten, or misunderstood, and building a facility to care for FIV-positive cats helps fulfill that mission. The "Wills Driscoll and Alicia Theophil FIV Cat Cottage" will complement the existing cat cottage at Sanctuary One, housing the FIV-positive and FIV-negative felines separately to ensure safe, comfortable conditions for both populations while eliminating the chance for the virus to spread. Because education is an important aspect of the Sanctuary's mission, visitors will be able to meet the FIV-positive cats and learn about the many myths surrounding FIV.

Another exciting change at Sanctuary One will be the expansion of the 35,000-square-foot organic permaculture garden. In 2014, the Sanctuary grew enough produce to host a booth at the Jacksonville Farmers Market, but the garden suffered



From left to right: Kristina Driscoll, Wills Driscoll, and Alicia Theophil with Astro the cat.



Intern carries bounty from Sanctuary One's organic garden.

serious damage after multiple invasions by hungry deer—a plight all too familiar to many valley residents. Although over the years the garden was transformed from barren, rocky earth to rich, vital soil, funding for permanent deer-proof fencing proved elusive. Finally, through a generous donation, the Sanctuary will not only be expanding the garden, but installing permanent deer fencing around the entire perimeter. Under the guidance of Sanctuary One staff, the garden will be tended by local school groups, including Ruch Elementary and Armadillo Technical Institute. Staff and volunteers expect to

get their hands dirty and grow the greatest harvest in the Sanctuary's history!

But the new and exciting additions won't truly be complete until they are shared with the community. Sanctuary One's 2015 tour season will begin Saturday, April 25. Tours are offered every Wednesday and Saturday at 10:30 am. Those interested in taking a tour can call the Sanctuary to make a reservation at 541-899-8627 or visit sanctuaryone.org.

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Fire season by the numbers? No way!

BY SANDY SHAFFER

On New Year's Day my husband handed me a spreadsheet he'd done that showed our rainfall for the past 14 years. He's a real numbers kind of guy and reports the weather for our location (Buncomweather.com). I had asked him how we were doing for the rain year, being that it *always* seemed to be raining this winter! So he gave me a file for the years 2001 to 2014 that showed monthly, rain-year (September 1 – August 31) and calendar-year totals, as well as averages for each of those categories.

Oddly, I had just finished filling in the ending dates for the past few fire seasons—adding on to a spreadsheet that I had received from my friends at the Oregon Department of Forestry years ago. I now have fire season start and end dates for southwest Oregon from 1967 to 2014.

Before I connect these two spreadsheets: *did you realize* that most of the time our fire season starts in the spring? Yup, out of 48 seasons, only seven times did our fire season start on or after June 21. We've had fire season start twice in April, 15 times in May, and three times on the first of July (the latest). The rest

were in June. And, fire season has ended five times in November, the latest being November 12 in 1987. The following year was a whopper fire season, starting April 18 (the earliest) and ending 199 days later on November 2 (the longest). Finally, our shortest fire season on record was in 2011, lasting only 97 days.

So, I started comparing our two spreadsheets, looking at just the 14 years that I had *both* sets of data. Do years with the most rain have the shortest fire seasons? What if more rain came in the spring, rather than in the winter? How does rainfall affect our summer fire season? I started by looking at the longest (168 days in 2001) and the shortest (97 days in 2011) fire seasons.

"Longest-season" 2001 had the lowest rain-year total by far, with only 11.26 inches (51.4 percent of the 14-year average) over the 12 months ending August 31. (Hubby's stats show a 21.89-inch average for our rain-year.) And, 2001's calendar-year rainfall was 14.4 percent below our average of 22.34 inches.

However, the "second-longest" fire season (at 163 days) in this 14-year period

had the *highest* rain-year totals with a whopping 33.17 inches! And the calendar-year rain was 27.81 inches, 24 percent above normal.

"Shortest-season" 2011 had the second-highest rain-year total of 29.92 inches! That's 36.7 percent higher than the 14-year average. The calendar-year rain for "shortest" 2011 was slightly above average. 2007 and 2013 tied for "second-shortest," but their numbers were inconclusive: one had the lowest annual and lower-than-average rain-year numbers while the other was close to Hubby's averages. Hence my humble look at precipitation statistics found no real correlation to fire season length.

So how are fire season decisions made, and by whom? Given our checkerboard landscape (state, federal and private land), indicators such as large-fuel moisture levels and conditions on federal forested lands are tracked. As the temperatures begin to rise in the spring and fine fuels dry out, weather patterns and forecasts are studied. Local land and fire agencies provide nonstop statistics to assist the *one* person who makes the decision of when to start our fire season.

Our "mere mortal" (ODF's Southwest Oregon District forester Dan Thorpe) considers local activities as he contemplates when to ban open burning and equipment operations. Are burn barrels still allowed?

Are industrial operations in the forest taking place? Are private debris burn piles escaping? Are neighboring districts such as Douglas and Klamath getting ready? And, is the US Forest Service gearing up on their higher-elevation lands?

Dan told me that initiating the first level of fire season restrictions can be good publicity: it gives private landowners a heads up that conditions are getting seriously dry, and also gives them a few days' notice to get the rest of their work completed.

In closing, a simple take-away as we look ahead to spring in the Applegate: whenever our fire season begins, the fine fuels around your home and driveway are the most important items to address. Leaves, tall grass and weeds all have the potential to allow your home to ignite if a wildfire erupts nearby—more so than trees! Stay on top of raking, weed whacking and mowing (even if you end up mowing twice!), so that you're in good shape when those final activity closures take effect for southwest Oregon.

Sandy Shaffer

sassyoneor@q.com

Author's Note: *In order to be consistent with the rest of Oregon and Northern California, the National Weather Service recently changed our local rain-year dates from September 1 through August 31 to October 1 through September 30.*

Wildland fire hazard fuel-reduction grants available

Believe it or not, fire season 2015 is already right around the corner. It seems like just last week that we all collectively sighed with relief that we made it through another fire season relatively unscathed. As we all wait for the rain and snow (that may or may not come) that we so desperately need, it's time to start planning for another potentially drought-stricken, smoke-filled summer.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is offering a monetary incentive to help reduce the fire danger in and around your property. ODF is offering \$500 per acre of fuel-reduction work to reduce the potential impact of wildfire on your property.

This program is available in a large portion of the Applegate Valley, but unfortunately it is not available to all Applegate Valley residents. To find out if your property is within the eligible grant area, to ask questions, or to schedule a free/no obligation home wildfire risk assessment, please call Derick Price or Herb Johnson at 541-664-3328. Properties that are not eligible for grant funding are still eligible for the free/no obligation property risk assessment, so we encourage all Applegaters to call.

Although grants will be available through next winter, they are *not* available during fire season. *Now* is the time for fuel-reduction work on your property.

Become an Applegate Firewise Community

Did you know that there is a national recognition program active in Jackson and Josephine counties to identify neighborhoods that are taking an active role in fire prevention?

Firewise communities are recognized for taking a few simple steps that many rural landowners do on a regular basis. There are four easy steps to take before applying to becoming a Firewise Community:

1. Have a neighborhood-wide wildfire risk assessment done free of charge by the Oregon Department of Forestry.
2. Talk to your neighbors and select a few people (sparkplugs) for a neighborhood board and create an "action plan" based on the risk assessment.
3. Conduct a Firewise day or event.
4. Invest a minimum of \$2 per capita each year on a local Firewise action. Volunteer hours count as a monetary investment.

Submit an application with the state Firewise liaison. (ODF will typically handle the application after all other obligations have been met).

The key to a successful Firewise Community is community involvement.

If you think that your neighborhood should be a Firewise Community or have any questions, please call Derick Price, Herb Johnson, or Brian Ballou at the Oregon Department of Forestry at 541-664-3328 or visit www.firewise.org.

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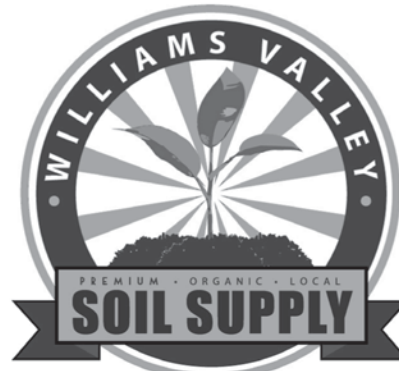
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Cantrall Buckley Park NEWS

Art comes to Cantrall Buckley Park

BY JEREMY CRISWELL

A couple of months ago I attended a park committee meeting on the Cantrall Buckley Park playground restoration project. With a background in public art and previous park and playground involvement, I thought I might have something to offer. Beyond that, I have lived near and visited the park for most of my life, and now, having two boys of my own, it seemed quite fitting for me to be involved in the process of making our park even better for them and others to enjoy. It was exciting to hear about the plans for the restoration of the playground, which will result in a safe, structurally sound playground that can be accessed by children of all ages and ability levels.

At that first meeting the committee discussed ways to acknowledge the local businesses and community members who would be donating to the playground restoration project. I had previously worked to create tile and mosaic donor-

appreciation artwork for La Clinica Del Valle in Central Point. I worked with two local artists, the late Lilli Ann and Marvin Rosenberg, who had also led the creation of the Ruch Library entry mural. I suggested using that method to thank the donors for this project. We considered several ways to integrate artwork into the playground. By the end of the next meeting we had come up with a plan to create a community mosaic mural on the playground-facing wall of the restroom.

Community participation

Our goal is to bring as many kids and community members as possible into the design and creation of the project. A community-made mosaic mural will not only be a beautiful addition to the playground, but it will also be an effective way to show appreciation to donors. More importantly, the mural will give all participants a sense of ownership and the first-hand experience of contributing

to a project that will permanently enhance the space they use. Because of a generous gift of \$7,000 from The Maggie Purvis Fund, we are excited to announce that this mural will become a reality. Thank you, Maggie!

Along with the current plans to restore some of the well-loved but aging play equipment and the addition of several

new play structures, we are also excited that the playground will be receiving one more special addition. Thanks to the Ford Institute Leadership Program, a group of community members has been working to design, plan and fund another artful addition to the Cantrall Buckley Park play area. Last month they met with The Applegate Moms group, local kids, and other community members at the park to gain insight on what would be a beneficial addition to the playground. They also met with the park committee and made a site visit to the park with their entire group of around 20 members. They are now in the design stage of their project. There are plans for an educational piece of art featuring a large child-friendly sundial—children actually become the sundial—and a playscape made from natural materials.

As I'm sure you know, Cantrall Buckley Park is funded almost entirely through vehicle admission fees and the sale of season passes. Though our park is well used in the summer months, there is little money left for improvements after necessary maintenance and general upkeep. Luckily our park committee has started the job of raising the \$56,000 needed to fund the playground project. Grant applications to several local private foundations have been submitted, and work is under way on several more. Community members, local businesses and corporate sponsors have begun to show strong support for this project as well. (See box for list of donors.)

Mother's Day brunch

On Mother's Day morning, Sunday, May 10, the Applegate Grange and the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) will jointly host a fund-raising brunch with proceeds to be shared between the Grange and Cantrall Buckley Park. Bring

Donors

Here is a current list of the generous donors to the playground project (with apologies to our Oregon endangered species);

Private Community

Grey Wolves (\$5,000+): Maggie Purvis, Matt and Donna Epstein
Northern Spotted Owls (\$4000+)
Marble Murrelets (\$3,000+)
Pacific Fishers (\$2,000+): Kathy and Tom Carstens
Oregon Spotted Frogs (\$1,000+)
Siskiyou Mountain Salamanders (\$500+)
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimps (1 - \$500): Frank Ault, Darla Kay Baack, John Blackhurst, Judy Crowe, Dave and Dee Laananen, Kathleen Moore, Peter and Carly Salant

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Bob Thomas Automotive, Medford
Jacksonville Inn
Jacksonville Veterinary Hospital
Pioneer Financial Planning, Jacksonville
Ramsay Realty, Ruch
Richard Brewster Accounting Services, Medford
True South Solar, Ashland
A huge "Thank You" goes out to all our donors!
We have now received \$17,870!
And we have an additional \$7,750 in pledges.

Kids making tiles for a mural. Photo: Jeremy Criswell.



ATA's plans for the Applegate Ridge Trail surge ahead

BY DIANA COOGLE

Thanks to its many avid supporters and hikers, and thanks to a stepped-up commitment from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) is on a roll!

In September 2014 our fund-raiser at Red Lily Vineyards put a whopping \$4,236 in our treasury. That figure says a lot about the passion of people in the Applegate—and beyond—for our trails and especially for ATA's dream of building a trail from Cathedral Hills in

Grants Pass to Jacksonville, where the Applegate Ridge Trail—ART, as we call it—would meet the Jack-Ash trail that the Siskiyou Uplands Trails Association plans to take on into Ashland.

At the turn of the new year, BLM went into high gear with the ART project. With the money from our fund-raiser and the rest of our Title II grant money, we can now show our financial commitment to: (1) obliterate an old off-highway vehicle trail at the end of BLM road 38-2-29.1,

just west of Sterling Creek Road, that promotes private property trespass, (2) complete the trailhead at the east end of the East ART, which runs along the ridge north of Bishop Creek between Sterling Creek Road and Highway 238, and (3) have the very costly, legally necessary, and environmentally warranted Environmental Assessment (EA) done. BLM is on board with these projects, and the train is moving!

After accomplishing these goals

(we hope by the end of the year), we will seek grants to help fund the construction of the six-mile East ART trail. An ATA fund-raiser in September will help us fatten the coffers for that project as well. In the meantime, check

out our website (www.applegatetrails.org) for the exciting schedule of hikes for this year's season, including a full-moon hike, a photographer's hike, and other specialties. Keep tabs on our website for updates.

We are so excited. If you would like to join the excitement and serve on the board (monthly meetings, some tasks between meetings), let us know. We would love to have you, and we think you would enjoy working with us.

Diana Coogle
dicoog@gmail.com

Note: For a map of the working draft of the Applegate Ridge Trail, please go to the home page of our website at www.applegater.org (under "Latest Issue").



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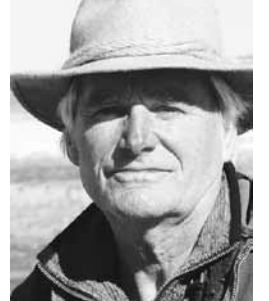
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BIRD EXPLORER

Nesting songbirds in the Applegate

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Peter J. Thiemann

Soon some of our colorful songbirds will return from tropical Central America to nest here. There are four species that stand out with their stunning display: the Black-headed Grosbeak, the Western Tanager, the Common Yellowthroat, and Wilson's Warbler.

The male Black-headed Grosbeaks arrive first toward the end of April. They come to our bird feeder for sunflower seeds, then stake out a territory and start singing robin-like from the top of our big-leaf maple trees. When the maples leaf out, the female Grosbeaks arrive and nest building starts high up in the maples. By now plenty of food is available with flowering madrone trees and insects everywhere. The male Black-headed Grosbeaks continue to sing well

into May along with Song Sparrows and Lazuli Buntings. They all fill the Applegate Valley with joy and exuberance.

The arrival of the first male Western Tanagers is like a splash of tropical splendor. They come to our ponds for a bath, which is truly spectacular! Nesting high up in coniferous trees, the tanagers come down to flowering madrone and maple trees to feed. Flying insects, especially bees, are their preferred food. If you want to see Western Tanagers in your backyard, put out some fresh orange halves.

Then there are two colorful warblers that attract the attention of birders: The Common Yellowthroat and Wilson's Warbler. Both display much yellow color and like water habitat. In the riparian zone near creeks and rivers,

they are low down in shrubs. The Wilson's Warbler male has a distinct black cap with much yellow. The female is easily confused with the Yellow Warbler that shares the same habitat. Nesting low in some stream side shrub, the Wilson's Warbler becomes very secretive and hard to find. That is also true for the Common Yellowthroat, a warbler that prefers the water's edge with cattails and tule. The male has a stunning black face mask with considerable yellow on its breast and undertail covert. The Common Yellowthroat should not be confused with the much larger and secretive Yellow-breasted Chat, which is also found in wet, brushy areas.

And now, with the return of colorful neotropical birds, it is time to think about the upcoming 2015 Mountain

Bird Festival in Ashland on May 29 through 31. The festival features many interesting birds like the Mountain Bluebird and has field trips to find them. Klamath Bird Observatory is sponsoring the event. In my earlier Bird Explorer columns, I wrote about the elusive Great Gray Owl in southern Oregon. Together with Audubon we have now installed 11 nesting platforms and will be monitoring those in April. At the Mountain Bird Festival there may be a chance to see this awesome bird in the wild (visit <http://www.klamathbird.org/community/mountainbird>).

Peter J. Thiemann
peterjthiemann@yahoo.com



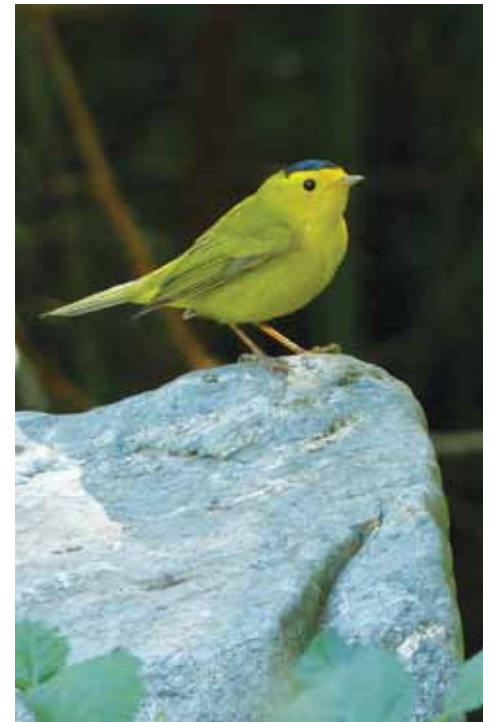
Black-headed Grosbeak



Western Tanager



Common Yellowthroat



Wilson's Warbler

PHOTO CREDIT

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

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Increased Lyme disease potential in western and southwestern Oregon

BY TIM GONZALES

Lyme disease, the most commonly reported vector-borne disease in the US, is a disabling infectious disease carried by the western black-legged tick, also known as the deer tick (*Ixodes pacificus*) in our region. Formerly an East Coast problem, infected ticks have increased locally.

The disease is a result of becoming infected by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. The tick bites its meal host—typically deer, pets, livestock, and humans—and begins to draw blood. Tick bites can go undetected due to an anesthetic agent secreted by the tick, giving the bacterium time to be transmitted to the host. Left unchecked, Lyme disease can attack joints, the nervous system, and the heart. Lyme disease can be fatal, but rarely is. Signs and symptoms include fatigue, chills and fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, swollen lymph nodes, and sometimes a bull's-eye red rash called

erythema migrans (see photo, bottom left).

Adult ticks climb onto grasses and wait for a blood meal to pass by. They can smell their prey and attach themselves to travelers as they brush against the grass. Western Oregon and northwestern California have areas of dense vegetation with tall grasses growing in open areas. Deer, pets, and humans walk along paths on their way through the woods. Ticks, through evolution, have adapted to migrate to travel routes and populate areas where food is most abundant. Forest visitors should avoid tall grasses and frequently brush off their pant legs while hiking.

Ticks often bite forestry workers, loggers, reforestation crews, firefighters, and farmers. Visitors to forests and parks can also become victims. Recreational visitors such as hunters, fishers, campers, hikers, mushroom collectors, and even picnickers, can encounter ticks. Even activities like mowing the lawn and weed trimming expose one to ticks.

Prevent tick bites

Thorough prevention and inspection procedures should follow every visit outdoors. Blousing (securing) light-colored pants at the ankles, wearing long sleeves, applying tick repellent, and conducting comprehensive tick checks periodically can prevent a tick bite. Changing clothes daily and washing the old clothing in hot water also helps. Showering may wash ticks out of one's hair.

Many people are bitten by ticks in

their home when pets bring them in. Tick collars and regular brushing and bathing of your pets can reduce the number of pests a pet brings inside.

If you are bitten, extract and collect the tick for testing. Have a container and tweezers handy. Attach the tweezers to the tick as close to the skin as possible, and pull it straight out (see diagram at right).

Local statistics

Although local lab statistics report that approximately two percent of deer ticks have tested positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi* since January 2011, I have found my small sampling to be higher. At that time I inherited a progressive tick collection and testing program for local Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service employees. In my first two years on the job, I had to inform six federal employees that *their* tick was infected. My attention was heightened, and I began compiling my own statistics. Two California labs were used to test the ticks: Igenex Lab in Palo Alto, and Sonoma County Public Health in Santa Rosa. The table below shows the results of my observations.

According to the American Lyme Disease Foundation, some New England states report that up to 50 percent of collected ticks test positive for the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. They also report that black-legged tick populations

in Pacific coastal states are infected between two and four percent.

Although my sample size is limited, it is obvious that there is between a two percent to over nine percent chance that the deer tick you get bitten by locally is infected. Therefore, it is imperative that we remain vigilant regarding tick bite prevention. If you are bitten, *don't lose the tick!* Take the tick to Jackson County Vector Control at 555 Mosquito Lane, Central Point, Oregon, for identification. If the tick is an *Ixodes pacificus* they will give you directions to get the tick to one of the labs in California.

If you experience signs or symptoms of Lyme disease such as the bull's-eye rash, visit your doctor as soon as possible and assertively pursue immediate treatment.

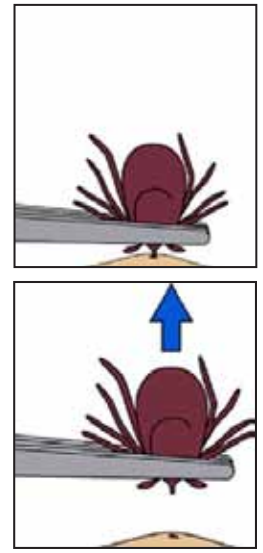
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Forest Safety Manager

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With tweezers, pull tick straight out.



Bull's-eye red rash is a sign of Lyme disease.

YEAR	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	TOTAL TESTS	PERCENT POSITIVE
2011	1	11	12	8.3
2012	5	23	28	17.8
2013	2	24	26	7.7
2014	1	24	25	4
TOTALS	9	82	91	9.9

Canine Lyme disease: Daisy's story

BY CAROL HOON

Beginning last October, we had been treating Daisy, our Labrador retriever, for kidney failure holistically. She responded so beautifully and stayed on top of it for several weeks before her kidney markers began to creep back up. Acupuncture, acupressure, herbs administered orally, herbs administered rectally, hot and cold therapy, vitamin C intravenous therapy to flush the kidneys—none of these were successful. The numbers continued to creep dangerously higher.

I believe in natural healing and the body's ability to return to a state of balance, given the conditions to do so. So given that this dog was drowning in herbs and immersed in a positive environment of healing, why were the kidneys continuing to fail? Our veterinarian suggested an autoimmune disorder or an infectious process. A tick-borne profile and Lyme serology were run on Daisy's blood, and came back positive for Lyme disease the first week of January. How could anyone have known? She presented with acute kidney failure. Now we were dealing with



Daisy continues to beat the odds against Lyme disease.

Lyme nephropathy (doctor-speak for kidney disease due to Lyme).

The symptoms of Lyme are so very subtle and can easily be mistaken for something else. Primarily, you may see recurrent lameness of the limbs due to joint inflammation, lack of appetite, decreased energy, and possibly depression. The lameness can last for just a few days and then recur days or weeks later or not recur at all. It will also shift quickly from leg to leg, causing disagreement among family members over which leg is the injured one. It was way back in late spring of last year when Daisy exhibited these signs of stiffness in her front legs, but they were short-lived, were attributed to

overexertion, and soon forgotten in the rush of spring planting and work. If only our four-legged friends could tell us what they were feeling, treatment would be so much easier.

If treated quickly, your dog has an excellent chance of survival. If you miss it, like we did, and are months past what might have been initial exposure, you may be left with the fallout of kidney failure. At a very basic level, the Lyme spirochete (bacterium) is a tricky master of camouflage and disguise. It continually changes its appearance and its outer surface proteins in order to evade the host's antibodies, thereby forcing the host to create new antibodies. The immune system is then constantly attempting to fight the ever-changing spirochete, and over time these accumulated groups of antibodies deposit in the kidneys, causing damage to the nephrons. The nephrons are the tiny filtering units in your kidneys; it is believed that each kidney contains one million nephrons. It's an extremely complicated system, probably beyond mankind's comprehension, but, thanks to Daisy, we have renewed our basic understanding.

Tick control is, of course, your best defense. We have always tick-checked our dogs daily and after walks in the woods.

The vast majority of ticks we take off our dogs never have a chance to begin feeding. It still surprises me that one Lyme-carrying tick infected our dog. It is thought that if a tick is removed within 48 hours after attaching, the spirochete cannot be transmitted and the host will not become infected. Other sources say you have only 16 hours. There is no consensus on many aspects of Lyme disease, including vaccine efficacy. Vigilance and acting quickly at the first sign of symptoms are of utmost importance.

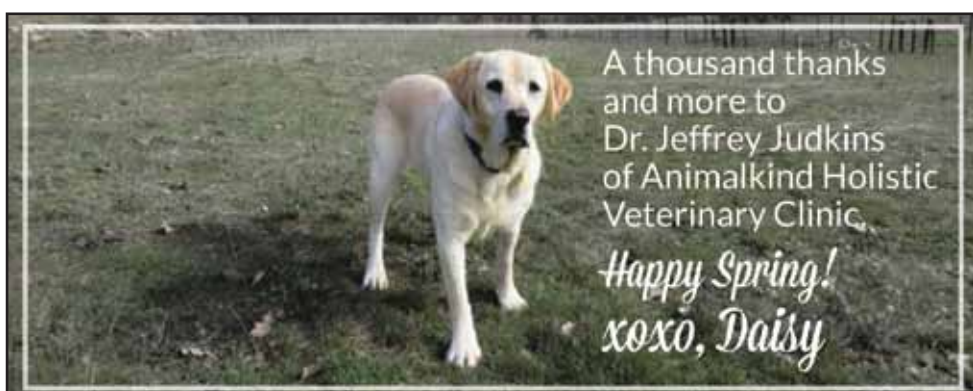
We're extremely fortunate

because we have a dedicated and amazing veterinarian, who saved Daisy's life last October. She was in acute kidney failure, and we were able to pull her through with herbs and acupuncture and keep her going while searching for the cause. She is doing well, and we remain hopeful that she can beat the odds. I believe she can because, for me, healing is simple: Stop doing what is making you sick and start doing what will heal your body.

Send some healing thoughts Daisy's way, and here's hoping the only Lyme you encounter is spelled with an "i" and adorns the rim of your margarita glass.

Carol Hoon • 541-787-7261

orcarolhoon@gmail.com



A thousand thanks and more to Dr. Jeffrey Judkins of Animalkind Holistic Veterinary Clinic. Happy Spring! xoxo, Daisy



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Enjoy these butterflies in flight through summer

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Ochre Ringlet

The Ochre Ringlet (*Coenonympha tullia*), often referred to as the Common Ringlet, is of the Nymphalidae family of butterflies and belongs to the large subfamily of Satyrinae.

There are at least four subspecies and many geographical variations of the ringlet, with colors ranging from yellow-orange with light brown, to creamy white with small eyespots on the wings. Locally, I have seen a few variations with deeper colors of yellow to orange and the softer creamy white. The wingspan can be up to one and a half inches.

The Ochre Ringlet's range covers much of the West, extending toward the East. Ringlets fly in low to high elevations from March to late October and are most likely to have two broods. Larval foods for the ringlet are native grasses, naturalized grasses, and sedges. Larvae will overwinter in mats of dead grasses. Nectar food for the ringlet can be buttercups, dandelions, alyssum, white clover, and a variety of native and garden flowers.

Ringlets have a light or weak flight and can be fragile to handle. They bounce and dance lightly over grasses in open areas looking for nectar or mates. The children at Applegate School never tire of netting ringlets for observation. They enjoy looking at them, even wanting to name them, but are encouraged to quickly let them free because of their fragility.

I observed an Ochre Ringlet of the creamy white variation while it sipped nectar in its quiet way at the school's butterfly habitat. This small butterfly, distinctive in its own way, is a joy to watch as it calmly goes about its day.

Margined White

The Margined White (*Pieris marginalis*) is of the Pieridae family of butterflies. With wings open, it can reach up to two inches across. This white butterfly has an apricot-colored tinge with grayish veins on its wings.

The range of the Margined White is from Canada south to the coastal ranges and mountain ranges of the Rockies, Sierras, and Cascades. It likes to fly among

wooded streambanks, healthy forests, roadsides, and shadier spots with sunlight shining through treetops.

Larval foods of the Margined White are native crucifers or members of the mustard (*Brassicae*) family of plants. The butterflies will use nectar from dandelions, salmonberry, coltsfoot, and mustard flowers. Eggs are laid singly on the underside of host plant leaves. The chrysalis overwinters after a few broods from spring through summer.

The Margined White can be seen in flight from February to October. The butterfly I encountered was at Williams Creek Preserve, a natural area owned by Southern Oregon Land Conservancy that is dappled with sunlight. The butterfly was skittish, but returned multiple times. Sitting very still, waiting by the flower, I was able to photograph this beauty on lunaria (the money plant). It stayed drinking nectar in the woods where the creek courses through in winter.

Linda Kappen
humbukkapps@hotmail.com
Linda earned a naturalist certification from Siskiyou Field Institute and hosts two-day butterfly courses there.



Ochre Ringlet on showy sedum



Margined White on lunaria

Williams Grange Pancake Breakfast

Second Sunday 8:30 to 11 am
Bluegrass Jam 11 am to 1 pm

March 8 (Seed Swap)

April 12

May 10 (Mother's Day)

20100 Williams Highway, Williams • 541-846-6844 • kathybob@oigp.net

Where to find more information about butterflies and moths

- Butterflies and Moths of North America
www.butterfliesandmoths.org
- Butterflies of America
<http://butterfliesofamerica.com>
- Monarch Butterflies in the Pacific Northwest
www.facebook.com/monarchbutterfliesinthepacificnorthwest

Butterfly photos by Linda Kappen.

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SOLC's focus on the Applegate River watershed

BY CRAIG HARPER

As I described in the winter *Applegater*, the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) focuses most of its land protection efforts on the Rogue River Basin, specifically Jackson and Josephine counties. SOLC currently protects 63 properties for a total of 9,761 acres—more than any regional land trust in Oregon.

We work to protect both working lands (farms, ranches and forests) and natural areas with high ecological value. The Applegate River watershed is one of SOLC's primary focus areas because of its exceptional character—from its unique mountains and pristine forests, to the exquisite Applegate River and valley, with its wineries, farms, and ranches.

We help landowners care for their properties through legal agreements called “conservation easements.” Landowners who grant conservation easements to land trusts voluntarily choose to limit commercial and residential development and intensive industrial or extraction-based land uses on their properties—they want to keep working lands working and to save places where wildlife and the natural environment can thrive. Many of these landowners have worked for decades to restore and protect their lands and they don't want their efforts

to be for naught when they pass on their lands. While conservation easements limit some land uses, others, like rural residences and sustainable farming, ranching, and forestry are allowed.

Another way land trusts protect valuable ecological properties is through ownership. We own one property in the Applegate, a beautiful stretch of Williams Creek (see photo). In September 2003, SOLC acquired the title to this property with funds provided, in part, by an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant to the Williams Creek Watershed Council. The 31 acres contain over a half mile of stream and an active, thriving floodplain that provides important habitat for Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, Pacific lampreys, western pond turtles, monarch butterflies, beavers, bears, and many other birds, wildlife, and plants.

SOLC holds conservation easements for five different landowners in the Applegate, ranging from upland forested lands on Cheney Creek and Rocky Creek, to farm and woodland properties like White Oak Farm and Good Oak Farm in the Williams Creek watershed. Recently, SOLC worked with a landowner in the China Gulch drainage north of Ruch to protect a valuable 82-

acre woodland property called Gray Fox Tree Farm. This property is under active forest management guided by a detailed plan by forester Marty Main to reduce fire risk, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore forest health and resiliency. Marty helps many landowners in southwest Oregon plan and implement sustainable forestry on their lands. In 2014, SOLC recognized Marty as “Conservationist of the Year” for his sage and generous advice and leadership with small woodland owners. As Marty says, “The basic laws of ecology are (1) everything matters, and (2) we're all in this together.”

Surrounded by BLM land on three and a half sides, Gray Fox Tree Farm contains a mix of evergreen forest, oak woodland, meadow, and chaparral, and provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and rare plants. The previous owner, Pat Gordon, lived there for 24 years and nurtured her land so well that she was acknowledged as the Jackson County Tree Farmer of the Year in 1996-97, and recognized as a Watershed Friendly Steward. In 2014 she decided to retire and sell her property. She said, “It's time for younger stewards with energy and resources to continue the management of values here. I'm trying to do what I can to perpetuate stewardship.”



Ecologist Rich Nawa counting fish in 2011 (“snorkel survey”) in pool behind beaver dam on Williams Creek. Photo: SOLC staff.

To meet Pat's goals for permanent protection of the land, she donated a conservation easement to SOLC. Pat wanted to ensure that future landowners continue to support a healthy forest ecosystem, reduce wildfire threats while restoring a natural fire regime if possible, and protect wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

While it's true that placing a conservation easement on a property can reduce the number of potential buyers, in the remaining pool are buyers who will cherish and protect the conservation values the seller wants to safeguard. In Pat's case, she sold her property to a local couple who had just completed the OSU Extension Land Steward program and were looking for a property just like hers.

Contact me if you're interested in learning more about land conservation.

Craig Harper • 541-482-3069
Conservation Project Manager
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy
craig@landconserve.org

Got riparian?

BY BARBARA MUMBLO

Riparian areas just don't get the respect they deserve. Many of you know what a riparian area is, but for those of you who don't know, this is the zone between a stream and drier vegetation. Some may know this as “riverfront property” or “a river runs through it.”

Riparian areas are the lifelines of a valley (watershed). They provide habitat, a corridor for wildlife, and riparian vegetation that cools the water. They help keep our water clean (less sediment). A healthy riparian area has older trees (conifers and/or hardwoods such as Oregon ash, cottonwood, alder, big leaf maple), shrubs (snowberry, mock orange, willows, red-flowering currant, vine maple), ferns, and herbaceous species.

Riparian areas provide habitat for a diversity of lichens, mosses, and fungi as well—all important for wildlife species. Healthy riparian areas also help hold the stream bank during floods.

Blackberries (considered a noxious weed in Oregon) are increasing in riparian areas. I like blackberries as do many birds and other critters, but too many blackberries along the riparian areas are not good for streams. Not much grows under blackberries, and erosion can easily occur underneath. While it's good to get rid of blackberries, you need to take care with how you do so. It's important to replant native shrubs and trees as needed to replace the blackberries. As I drive through the Applegate, I see some places where



Native mock orange shrub in riparian area.

people have gotten rid of their blackberries but have turned the area into a park-like setting with grass and trees. While this may look pleasing to some, it's not a healthy system along the river.

We have many wonderful

native species in the riparian areas of the Applegate. Not only do they provide a healthy ecosystem, but they also look beautiful. Some nurseries in the area that grow native species are Forestfarm at Pacifica in Williams, Plant Oregon in Talent, and Silver Springs in Ruch.

Not only is riparian vegetation good for the ecosystem, but there are now rules in Jackson and Josephine counties about taking care of your riparian areas. Contact your county or the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for information. The Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council and The Freshwater Trust are doing riparian restoration in the valley and can help with ideas.

If you have questions, give me a call.
Barbara Mumblo • 541-899-3855
Botanist, US Forest Service
Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District
bmumblo@fs.fed.us

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JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

— Applegate Library —

Our library is off to a great start this year. Thanks to the new library district we are now open on Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm. So far the new hours are well received. We have had the pleasure of showing off talent from Applegate School's art class—a school of fish is swimming in our display case and has brought a lot of attention. Thanks to Linda Kappen for bringing them in.

The community room is a bustle of classes and community events. We have three yoga classes: Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 am with Teri Becker, and Thursdays with Cassidy Geppert from 9 to 10:30 am. If you have any questions about these classes, please call the library.

Saturdays we are busy with Story Time from 10:30 to 11:30 am, followed by a craft.

We are going to have a "Game Night" on the last Friday of each month starting Friday, February 27, from 5 to 7 pm. There will be all kinds of games set out for you to start or you can join in on games already in progress. This is for all ages. A light refreshment will be provided.

On Valentine's Day, Friends of the Applegate Library (FOAL) hosted its first book sale of the year and a sing-along in the community room.

There is so much going on you'll just have to come and check it out! Our hours are Tuesdays from 2 to 6 pm, Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm, Fridays from 2 to 6 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm.

Our library community is expanding—come enjoy the fun!

Lisa Martin • 541-846-7346

Applegate Library Branch Manager
lmartin@jcls.org

— Ruch Library —

Please join us at Ruch Library on Saturday, March 14, to celebrate Pi(e) Day, in honor of pi, 3.141592653..., which will occur this year at 9:26:53 (am and pm) on that day, and also to honor Albert Einstein's 136th birthday! The women from Women Helping Other Women (WHOW) will be furnishing the pies (they prune, paint, weed AND bake), and every patron who comes to the library that day is welcome to a piece of pie. There will also be an Albert Einstein look-alike contest, the winner of which will receive an entire pie to take home! Be sure to come by the library on Saturday, March 14, from 11 am to 4 pm to help us celebrate.

We continue to offer preschool Story Time on Tuesday mornings at 11:30 am, followed by a craft that ties into the stories. We also have a Babies and Wobblers Program presented by Janis Mohr-Tipton on Thursdays at 4 pm. This is an interactive time for children up to three years old that sparks interest in early literacy through stories, rhyming, and song. Our LEGO collection continues to grow, and we have

LEGO Fun the first Saturday of every month from 12 to 4 pm.

The Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) will have a board meeting on Thursday, March 5, which will include taking nominations for people who would like to be on the board. This is an exciting time for FORL—the intense fund-raising efforts for our Saturday hours are over, and now we are planning FORL's role with the library and community. The annual meeting will be Saturday, April 4, and will include FORL board elections and a new deck celebration and book sale at the A-Frame Bookstore. As usual, there will also be a book sale in Historic Buncom during Buncom Days this May.

With the addition of two more hours, we are now open Tuesdays from 10 am to 5 pm, Thursdays from 11 am to 7 pm, and Saturdays from 11 am to 4 pm.

We look forward to seeing you in the library and at our A-Frame Bookstore!

Thalia Truesdell • 541-899-7438

Ruch Library Branch Manager
ttruesdell@jcls.org

Friends of Ruch Library needs board members

Do you have experience in leadership positions?

Are you retired? Bored?

Do you have a desire to serve?

The Friends of Ruch Library is seeking new board members for general board and executive board positions. The change of the guard takes place at our May meeting, but we'd love to meet you sooner if you're interested in contributing to your community through your local library. The board usually meets for about one and a half hours at 6:30 pm on the first Tuesday of some months (not every month).

Join the Friends in promoting library usage and programs—there's fun to be had in doing so. For more information, call Gerrie Leinfelder at 541-846-9602 or Ruch Branch Library at 541-899-7438.



— Williams Branch Library —

Connecting you to the world Ongoing events

Chess Club: Mondays 3:45 to 5 pm.
All ages and skill levels welcome.

Preschool Story Time: Tuesdays at 1:30 pm. Stories followed by craft project.

Upcoming events

Join us in March as we celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday! We'll have art projects and contests throughout the month for kids of all ages.

Save your household items for our Annual Yard Sale in April or May. Funds support Williams branch Adopt-an-Hour. (Last year the community matched a generous donation by Herb Pharm to extend open hours from 9 to 12 hours per week.) Musicians, food, and activities for kids will be a part of the event.

The Summer Reading Program for children begins in June. Kids are encouraged to keep their reading skills sharp while they also earn prizes and make crafts.

Garden classes will also be offered all summer long through the library.

Technology services

The internet has given us the ability to learn and connect like never before. Technology is a large part of what our libraries provide. In fact, many of the people using our services are utilizing public-access computers, printers, and Wi-Fi provided by Josephine Community Libraries. Libraries give people access to

millions of resources including expensive online books and references available only through the library.

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

Two new computers, provided by Four Way Community Foundation, and a table for laptop use allow more patrons to enjoy these services. Williams Library is open in the here-and-now *and* has a free-to-the-public, community-sponsored high-speed Internet hotspot available 24/7!

Volunteers needed

We currently need volunteers to work the front desk, help plan and work the children's Summer Reading Program, and help with book sales and other events. Call the branch manager or stop by to sign up.

To join Friends of the Library, volunteer, or share your skills with local children, please stop by. The library is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1 to 5 pm.

Danielle Schreck

Williams Branch Library Manager

541-846-7020

dschreck@josephinelibrary.org

A friendly donation to FOAL

Our library is the center of our community. It's more than a place to check out books—it also serves as an Internet access, a research library, and a place to read newspapers and magazines, and it provides a beautiful meeting room for activities like yoga, choir practice, board meetings (of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council), and programs of all kinds.

In the past, Friends of the Applegate Library (FOAL) sent out newsletters each year providing information about the library's activities and asking for donations of \$15 for a year's membership to FOAL. This year, because of the high cost of postage, we are just asking for any donation to FOAL, for which any donor will become a "member."

Our new library district provides money for librarian salaries, the purchase of new books and computers, and general maintenance of libraries. Individual libraries must provide their own funding for programs, some landscaping, summer reading programs for the kids, winter reading programs for adults, upkeep on the printing machine, and advertising for fund-raising activities, just to name

a few of the responsibilities.

Most of our income over the past years has come from our book sale, our hat sale, and the one-time craft fair we had at the Applegate River Lodge. Our income for the year of 2014 totaled \$1,363.61. Our expenses, however, exceeded our income by almost \$500. This means that we must ask for more donations to keep our library active and functioning on the same level that it has in the past.

We are asking that all of you who come to our library, whether to use the computers, check out books and DVDs, read newspapers and magazines, or attend programs and activities in the meeting room, to please take a minute to write a check for whatever amount you can afford and send it to Friends of the Applegate Library, PO Box 3287, Applegate, Oregon 97530. Or just bring a check to the library and leave it with the librarians.

FOAL is a nonprofit organization so all donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you so much!

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

Susan Bratt • 541-846-6111

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NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— Applegate Valley Community Grange —

A new year is here, and Grange members have new and returning officers to plan our events and activities for 2015. The first of these was the Fiber Arts Show and Valentine's Craft Faire, which was a free community-supported event with lots of local artists and vendors. The hall was filled with color, texture, and design from quilts, felted dolls, needle-stitched items, and multimedia art pieces. There was lots of visiting, meeting neighbors, listening to music, enjoying the crafts, and great chocolate fondue delights and beverages. The Grange had a silent auction of locally donated products to support the upkeep of the hall and provide funds for planning future free events for the public.

Current members and officers are seeking more community members interested in joining the Grange to help plan many more wonderful events for our community. We would like to do more craft and farm-market fairs, programs, and classes. There are great local bands that would love to do outdoor music festivals with the Grange. We just need more dedicated members to help us achieve those goals with planning and preparations.

So consider joining us this year. You can talk to any member about your interest in helping and ideas you have for expanding our community involvement. Join us for a potluck and meeting on the second Sunday of any month at 5 pm October through February, and 6 pm

March through September. To join as a member, be a local supporter for an event, or volunteer, email applegategrange@gmail.com, call president Paul Tipton or secretary Janis Mohr-Tipton at 541-846-7501, or write to AVCG, PO Box 3367, Applegate, Oregon 97530.

To follow Grange activities, visit our website at www.applegategrange.org. You will find the list of current officers, upcoming events and what you can do to help. Soon you will find a new column, "Tidbits of Local History," in which you can learn about the history of our Grange and some local area history tidbits. Evelyn Williams will be assisting Janis Mohr-Tipton with this project. You have probably read Evelyn and her daughter's articles in the *Applegater*. Evelyn was a long-time Grange member, formally joining when she was eligible at 13 years old, but had been at Grange events and meetings with her family from a very young age.

Our next event supporting both the Grange and Cantrall Buckley Park happens on Mother's Day in May. See the advertisement in this issue of the *Applegater*, and don't miss out on this great event! Hope to see you at a future Grange meeting—come visit and consider joining us to create some great events and happenings in our own community!

Janis Mohr-Tipton
applegategrange@gmail.com
541-846-7501

— Ford Institute Leadership Program —

You're invited!

Playscape planning party and open house for Cantrall Buckley Park.

Sunday, March 8, 2 to 4 pm
Applegate River Lodge
15100 Highway 238, Applegate

The Jacksonville/Applegate Valley Cohort of the Ford Institute Leadership Program invites you, your family and friends to a presentation of plans for playscape enhancement at beautiful Cantrall Buckley Park.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and no-host wine will be available.

Join local community leaders and volunteers from the Ford Institute AppleJack Cohort at the open house to

find out about the exciting plans for the Cantrall Buckley Park playscape addition and revitalization. Come see a presentation of plans for a natural, educational, and multigenerational playscape!

This "friend-raiser" event is to share our excitement about the upgrades and additions to the playground. We've been planning and designing for months and have a cool design!

For more information and to spread the word, check out and share the event page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1604839333086514>.

Please come show your interest in and support of the Cantrall Buckley Park Playscape Revitalization.

— Applegate Food Pantry —

The turnover for management of the pantry to Charlotte Knott was delayed due to an injury she suffered, but she's on the mend, has assumed most of the responsibilities, and will be in full control by the end of February.

We received many generous individual donations from the Applegate community in 2014, ranging from gifts of food, to just a few dollars, to very substantial amounts. We have sent individual thank-you notes to all who donated and are very appreciative of all of them. We always have to thank our many wonderful hard-working volunteers without whom the pantry couldn't exist, and we would also like to thank a few specific organizations for their generosity.

Thank you to the Ruch School, for continuing to allow us to use their facilities as a home for our pantry, for their annual canned food drive, and for their friendly and helpful staff.

Thank you to Craig and Amber at the Ruch Country Store for their weekly food donations and the many other ways they support our pantry all year long.

Thank you to the Applegate Garden Club for their annual fund drive on the pantry's behalf.

Finally, thank you to all the members of our local community who are participating in the Neighbor Food Project (the green bags).

Drop-off dates for the bags are on the second Saturday, every second month, as follows: February 14, April 11, June 13, August 8, October 10, December 12. The bags can be dropped off at either the Ruch Country Store or the Applegate Store.

Direct any questions or comments about the pantry to Charlotte Knott at 541-899-8381 or charlotteknott74@gmail.com.

Claude and Arlene Aron • 541-951-6707

— For Love of the Applegate —

Paying it back...or forward

Would you believe there are at least 28 not-for-profit-type organizations alive and well in the Applegate? And that they are the primary reason for the existence of For Love of the Applegate? The sheer number of these incredible organizations, working for you, makes our Applegate special! Our mission is to support these organizations, mostly run by volunteers, to get to know each other, and to help you become aware of them and the vibrancy they bring to our rural community!

Here is the first installment of what may become a regular feature in which we identify current needs of several nonprofits. Perhaps you can join in and become part of one or more of these groups.

• **Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC)** provides assistance, coordination and resources necessary for economic and social activities that help sustain the livability of our community. They are responsible for operating Cantrall Buckley Park. GACDC could use two additional board members and donations toward the Cantrall Buckley Park Playground Project. Contact Bonnie Rinaldi at 541-702-2250.

• **Ford Institute Leadership Program** is working with GACDC to raise support for park playground improvements. See more information on this page about an event they are hosting.

• **Applegate Valley Community Grange** is a place where all Applegaters can

feel welcome, at peace, safe, and included. The Grange is our common ground for embracing diversity and represents a commitment to strengthening rural community. The Grange is a wonderful venue (available for rent) with a complete kitchen, dining area and meeting room with a stage. The Grange needs your support, which can include becoming a member, attending events and/or meetings at the Grange, or providing donations to keep this facility viable for the community. All are welcome to join the monthly potluck and meeting. Contact Paul Tipton at applegategrange@gmail.com or leave a message at 541-846-7501.

• **Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council** would benefit from more board members. Please consider this opportunity if you have the desire to work collaboratively to improve the well-being of the Applegate watershed from valley to ridgetop. Although they could really use help from individuals with marketing, accounting, and legal backgrounds, just as important is the drive to participate in their mission and, of course, to offer lots of energy. Contact Janelle Dunlevy at coordinator@apwc.info or 541-899-9982.

For more information about these and other Applegate Valley not-for-profit-type organizations, visit www.forloveoftheapplegate.com

Thalia Truesdell • Erika Fey
Audrey Eldridge • Kristi Cowles
forloveoftheapplegate@gmail.com

**Voices of the Applegate
Spring Concerts**

Voices of the Applegate, our local community choir directed by Blake Weller, has begun another session of four-part harmony music with rehearsals being held each Wednesday evening at the Ruch Library at 7 pm from January 14 until April 8.

The first concert will be held at the Old Presbyterian Church on California Street in Jacksonville at 7:30 pm on Friday, April 10.

The second concert will be held at the Applegate River Lodge at 3 pm on Sunday, April 12.

The variety of music will consist of Pergolesi's version of the "The Magnificat." The choir will be accompanied by a small ensemble of string players and vocalists from North Medford High School. Several folk tunes and music from the movie *Working Girl* also will be performed.

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

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www.apwc.info/news-events

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

Jakob Shockey, Riparian Program Manager, riparianprogram@apwc.info, 541-890-9989

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

GRAPE TALK

The Wisnovsky family: Applegate wine pioneers

BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

The themes of this issue of the *Applegater* are community and commerce. In my opinion our wine community is one of the most important and influential industries shaping the future of the Applegate Valley.

To discuss our burgeoning wine community, let's start at the beginning—with the Wisnovsky family.

I met with Mike Wisnovsky, who, with his older brother, Mark, and their mom, Ann, owns Valley View Winery in Ruch. Mike explained how the family ended up with the first post-prohibition winery in the Applegate Valley.

Mike's father Frank was a civil engineer who worked on projects as diverse as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in

Maryland and BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) in San Francisco, while his family was expanding and he was dreaming about living off the land. While in San Francisco in the 1960s, he took a University of California-Davis extension course on wine making and visited the growing wine regions of Napa and Sonoma counties. He saw that southern Oregon was also at the right latitude to grow grapes, so in the early 1970s he packed up Ann, their four children and the dog, and moved to Ashland. The Wisnovsky family lived in a small travel trailer while searching for a vineyard spot and eventually found 77 acres in the Applegate Valley. In 1972 they planted their first 12 acres of grapes. While the vines were maturing, Frank started a construction business and Ann was the bookkeeper.

In 1976 the first grapes from their vineyard were made into wine by a winery near Portland. In 1978 Valley View had its first Applegate crush and also built their tasting room. Unfortunately, Frank's dream was cut short. He was killed in a construction accident at the age of 44 in 1980. Mike said those early

years were very tough and every penny counted after Frank's death. All the children worked in the vineyard as they were growing up; now Mark and Mike work together keeping their dad's dream alive.

Mike says that those lean years helped shape Valley View's philosophy. They want to make the best wines possible, but they also like to offer wines at a great price. Mike still finds it hard to price a wine above \$20, so he markets Valley View's wines directly, without a distributor. Cutting out the middleman, who would take 30 percent, allows Valley View wines to be priced competitively.

Valley View's "Rogue Red" is a great example of creative marketing. This red blend of seven varietals grown in our valley is currently carried in all of the Costco warehouses in Oregon as well as all the Trader Joe's—without a distributor. Mike and his brother also determined that the carbon footprint to transport wines is less to ship to Asia than it is to truck to California. So currently Rogue Red is stocked in Costcos in Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Mike says that the Asian market for wine is growing quickly with no local competition.

The growth of Valley View Winery and its new star, Rogue Red, has increased its need for bulk wines from this area. Mike said that our southern Oregon wine community is producing lots of bulk wines for use all over the state. The bulk wine industry, as I mentioned in one of my earlier columns, is just starting to take off and is creating a market for turning grapes into juice for transport to bulk wine facilities.

Mike and I ended our conversation



Mike Wisnovsky (right) with son Stephen.

talking about the relationship that Valley View has with the community. Mike said if it hadn't been for the local residents buying Valley View wines during the lean times they wouldn't have made it. With the help of their winemaker John Guerrero, who has been with the winery since the early days, Valley View has become an integral part of the Applegate Valley Wine community.

Mike and Mark Wisnovsky are dedicated to giving back to the community that supports them. Both are on a number of charitable boards, their winery hosts numerous community events, and they also donate wine to many worthy local causes.

For more information, visit Valley View Winery at 1000 Upper Applegate Road in Jacksonville or on their website at <http://valleyviewwinery.com>.

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avrealty@gmail.com

Valley View Winery tasting room in Ruch.



Notes from a Rogue entomologist

Wine grapes: Mealybugs and monocultures

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

I have been in the Rogue Valley for the last 28 harvests and have seen many changes in our local agriculture, but none has been more striking than the increase in wine-grape acreage. The fact that this increase seems to be constantly accelerating is nothing short of remarkable. I guess the old adage about the production of alcoholic beverages being recession-proof may have some truth to it. But the last two years, as the economy appears to be rebounding, we have seen some very large vineyards going in all around the region. Even Naumes Inc. has started to convert some of their hillsides from orchards to vineyards. Del Rio, already one of the largest vineyards in the Rogue Valley, is doubling in size. Last summer's spread in the *New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/06/travel/only-hours-from-napa-but-a-world-away.html?smid=tw-nytimes&r=2>) all but christened southern Oregon as the new Napa.

Downside to boom

So what could be the downside of this phenomenal boom? Well, monocultures can serve as perfect breeding grounds for pest problems, both plant diseases and insect pests. It was not long ago that whenever I met with wine grape growers, I would tell them that I would be happy to do more research on insect pests in wine grapes but, first, they needed to get some real pests. Well, be careful what you joke about. With the increase in the total number of acres and average sizes of vineyards, insect pests are on the rise. Until recently, other than western

grape leafhoppers, there were really no consistent insect pests in southern Oregon vineyards. There was a variety of occasional pests (thrips, branch and twig borers, spider mites, cutworms), but nothing truly major. It got to the point where yellowjackets inhabiting the vines at harvest and harassing the pickers was one of the main insect problems in wine grapes.

Mealybug outbreak

But late in 2008, an outbreak of grape mealybug (*Pseudococcus maritimus*) was observed in a single vineyard. The number of infested vineyards grew over the next few years. Grape mealybug is a well-known pest of grapes and pears, and while it was known to be here locally it had never been considered a pest problem of much importance. I had only seen this insect in grapes once before and rarely in pears. The mealybug, which feeds on sap and

exudes sugary "honeydew," can, when the population explodes, get into grape clusters and reduce wine quality. Ants will harvest the honeydew and protect the mealybugs from natural enemies such as parasitic wasps. Mealybugs often hide under bark, and when population densities are low they can be very hard to find. Searching for them requires painstaking (not to mention painful) effort as we are crouched down peeling bark from the trunk of the vine.

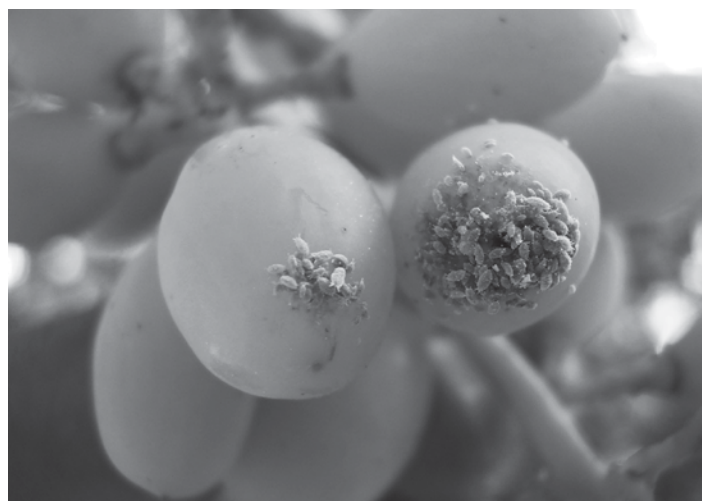
New monitoring tool

Luckily, the sex pheromone for the grape mealybug had just become available in 2008, and this allowed us to easily assess population levels as we could use the sex pheromone in sticky traps to catch the flying male mealybugs, which are very small (under one millimeter long). The female mealybugs are much larger (five millimeters) and wingless.

Armed with our new monitoring tool, we were able to sample many vineyards throughout southern Oregon. We found that grape mealybugs were pretty much everywhere we looked but generally at a very low level. We did discover one area in the Bear Creek Valley where the vineyards had consistently higher levels of grape mealybugs and, as

Grape mealybugs on grape berries.

[http://iv.ucdavis.edu/Viticultural Information/?uid=217&ds=351](http://iv.ucdavis.edu/Viticultural%20Information/?uid=217&ds=351)



you might have guessed, this is the area with all the infested vineyards. Working with Ian Knight, an AmeriCorps volunteer who was assisting the Nature Conservancy, we mapped the vineyards and found an interesting relationship between the grape mealybug population in a vineyard and the distance of the vineyard from a commercial pear orchard, which showed that all the vineyards far from commercial pear orchards had low mealybug populations while all the vineyards with high populations were near pear orchards.

Hypotheses

While I have a number of hypotheses as to the exact nature of this relationship, it does seem most likely that the mealybugs causing problems in vineyards originated from nearby pear orchards. The population of mealybugs in pears, also called a biotype, appears to have a faster development time and can complete two generations in a year, while the "normal" type on wine grapes develops more slowly and has only one generation per year, which limits the population growth. Recalling that the female mealybug is flightless, mealybugs moving from pears to grapes were likely aided in transport by birds or people, possibly being moved on equipment.

So just as our regional crop mix has changed over time with a new monoculture supplanting the old, the pest complex changes as well, and now I do have a real vineyard pest on which I can focus my attention. Stay tuned for future developments.

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OPINIONS

A sustainable wine industry in the Applegate

BY DARYL JACKSON

The face of agriculture in the Applegate has changed dramatically through the years, from rustic ranches carved from the forest to the more gentrified farms that exist today. And no change is more dramatic than the shift toward the flourishing wine industry. The wine industry is here to stay, and it is a tremendous benefit for the economy of this region.

Perhaps the most visible change is right in the heart of the Applegate. Turn onto North Applegate Road at the “town” of Applegate, and almost immediately you are next to the newest and undoubtedly the largest vineyard in the Applegate. There is a certain beauty to the view of many acres of new trellises awaiting the planting of grapevines, and no doubt the vista will be even more beautiful when the vines leaf out. Even more exciting are the progressive changes in sustainable viticulture.

Sonoma County in California is leading the way for a sustainable wine industry. The Sonoma Winegrowers Association is now approaching 50 percent participation into a new sustainability program. The growers and vintners there have learned that to maximize their profits they must adopt methods that ensure positive benefit to their community as well as the natural environment. An integral part of that policy is a shift toward herbicide- and pesticide-free agriculture. It is becoming quite clear that the sophisticated and well-informed wine consumer prefers organic, toxin-free wine.

Since many vineyards are located near pastures, hay fields, or roads, off-target movement of right-of-way and pasture herbicides is becoming a major issue in grape production. While these herbicides are used as tools for weed management, off-target damage to other crops as well as grapes often results in expensive fines and/or lawsuits, reduced yields, delayed ripening, and poor fruit quality.

Recently I paused next to some new vineyards when a large tractor spray rig stopped, opened a valve and dumped a large amount of chemical directly onto the ground. The operator was not wearing any type of protective gear as we both sat immersed in a cloud of toxic vapor. I couldn't depart quickly enough.

So my question is this: if the vineyard was this bold about dumping toxic chemicals and lack of employee safety, what are we to expect in the future of this

operation and likely many others in the Applegate wine-producing industry?

Weed resistance to herbicides is an increasing concern in California vineyards; several weed species are reportedly resistant to the glyphosate-based herbicides commonly used in vineyards. Scientists at the Weed Research and Information Center (WRIC) at the University of California, Davis, report, “We're seeing problems with glyphosate resistance, and we suspect we will see more.” Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup; in vineyards it is commonly used to control in-row, under-vine weed growth.

Currently, most vineyards are sprayed with glyphosate two or more times during the year. Under the right conditions, volatile herbicides change from a liquid to gas or vapor and move away from the target. Recent scientific study has proven that herbicide drift can occur over *miles* rather than feet as was once assumed. Air stagnations such as the ones we routinely see with persistent fog allow this type of drift to stay in place for hours and days at a time.

Herbicides like aminopyralid and picloram, commonly used in vineyards, can stay active in soil, pasture grass and hay for a year or longer. When these forages are consumed by animals, the chemical passes through their digestive and urinary systems without change and into the manure and urine. It takes several days for aminopyralid and picloram to pass through the digestive and urinary systems of an animal.

Another characteristic to consider is water solubility. For instance, picloram is likely to be moved off-site by runoff. Since we all live in a watershed and consume these waters, it should be a great concern that herbicides and pesticides are being applied by the ton. The world-renowned Applegate fishery is particularly vulnerable.

Fortunately, preventive steps can be taken to avoid these problems. The Applegate wine-growing industry has a tremendous opportunity to be the showcase of environmentally sustainable wine production—a shift in that direction will ensure greater health to that economy as well as that of our region. If you get a chance, let your vintner or retail seller of fine Applegate wines know you prefer sustainably produced, toxin-free products.

Daryl Jackson
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How government gets things done—whether you like it or not

BY JACK DUGGAN

This is a story about government: the local arm of a federal agency that impacts life in the Applegate. It is not about politics, since it takes place during three administrations. It is not about the environment, though its setting is the Applegate. It is about people: the people who make up the government (different from the politicians who supposedly determine what should happen) and the people who live here.

On January 15, 2015, John Gerritsma, field manager of the Ashland Resource Area of the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM), signed the “Categorical Exclusion Review & Decision Record,” project name: “Timber Mountain Trail Rehabilitation.”

Many readers of the *Applegater* are aware that the proposed Timber Mountain/John's Peak OHV Area has been the subject of more than a decade of controversy. Neighboring landowners to the area learned that it was to be managed for OHV (off-road vehicle) use only when it was so designated in the 1995 RMP (Resource Management Plan). No written description or area map was included. The 1995 RMP limited OHV areas to “existing roads and trails.” No trails have been designated or officially adopted by BLM. The public first saw maps of the area in 2006 when BLM began a DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process. In response, more than 1,200 landowners, all registered voters, signed a petition to BLM asking them to remove the area as inappropriate for intensive OHV use.

Released in 2009, the DEIS received more than 500 critical comments. Attempts at mediation since, including a six-month Alternative Dispute Resolution process, produced no results. The DEIS has lain dormant ever since.

Now the government is using a CE (Categorical Exclusions)—an instrument intended to give agencies the ability to

move quickly when there is resource damage—to “rehabilitate/restore” 92 miles of OHV trails over five years. Many of the trails on the CE map did not exist in 1995. Some don't exist at all. None legally exist because no management plan has been completed.

Landowners impacted by this proposal have dealt with trash, trespass, noise, fumes, threats, erosion and loss of privacy because of OHV use. Landowners have been shot at while on their own land.

Nonetheless, the proposal is promoted by BLM and Oregon State Parks and Recreation, and the local BLM wants to do this. The whole idea began when a BLM recreation coordinator, an active member of a local group promoting unlimited OHV use, got the area listed in the 1995 RMP. He now works for Oregon Parks and manages gas tax money given to this OHV group for enhancing their sport, including the buying of land. His successor as BLM recreation coordinator, in office when the DEIS process began, was also a member of this group.

Those of us who live in the Applegate and treasure our place, our homes, our privacy, and our natural surroundings deserve better than to be ignored by our government failing to act as a good neighbor.

The government works for us. We can change politicians every two years, but these government employees make decisions critical to our lifestyle and well-being, and yet they remain “in office” for decades. It is time they are held accountable.

Go to the Department of the Interior website (www.doi.gov) and/or send a message to the BLM Director (director@blm.gov). Write to John Gerritsma at Medford District BLM, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504. We, the people, should have an equal voice in how our neighborhoods are used.

Jack Duggan • shanchie@hughes.net

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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OPINIONS

River Right: Hot air intensity

BY TOM CARSTENS

Oregon kayakers, like most boat operators, pay a small tax to the state to fund the Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Inspectors from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) periodically inspect watercraft to ensure they're free of invasive mussels. These foreign critters can wreak havoc in our waterways and are next to impossible to eradicate. From all appearances, this is a well-run program—with an understandable annual report, accountable finances, and neighborly enforcement. Paddlers cheerfully fund this effort to keep our rivers pristine. It's a good deal for all of us. Keep mussels out of the Applegate River!

When our governor announced last year that he was instructing the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to implement the so-called "Clean Fuels Program," it sounded to me like "Keep carbon out of Oregon air!" But he didn't want us to hear *that* message. He told us that this stealth gas tax would put \$1.6 billion in our pockets *and* create 29,000 jobs. Really?

This is a complicated law that is designed to reduce the "carbon intensity" in our fuels over ten years. "Carbon intensity" is a geeky way of describing the greenhouse gas effect of producing, transporting, storing, and using fossil fuels. This 2009 law is so complex that nobody has yet figured out how to implement it. And it's due to automatically sunset at the end of this year. The governor, calling it one of his top priorities (really?), has asked DEQ to write the rules and the legislature to keep it on the books.

So the bureaucrats at DEQ have hunkered down to find a way to force the petroleum industry to increase the ethanol and biodiesel mixes and, while they're at it, to subsidize the alternative energy industry with things like electric charging stations (and a whole bunch of other stuff). This is a double whammy: more ethanol will

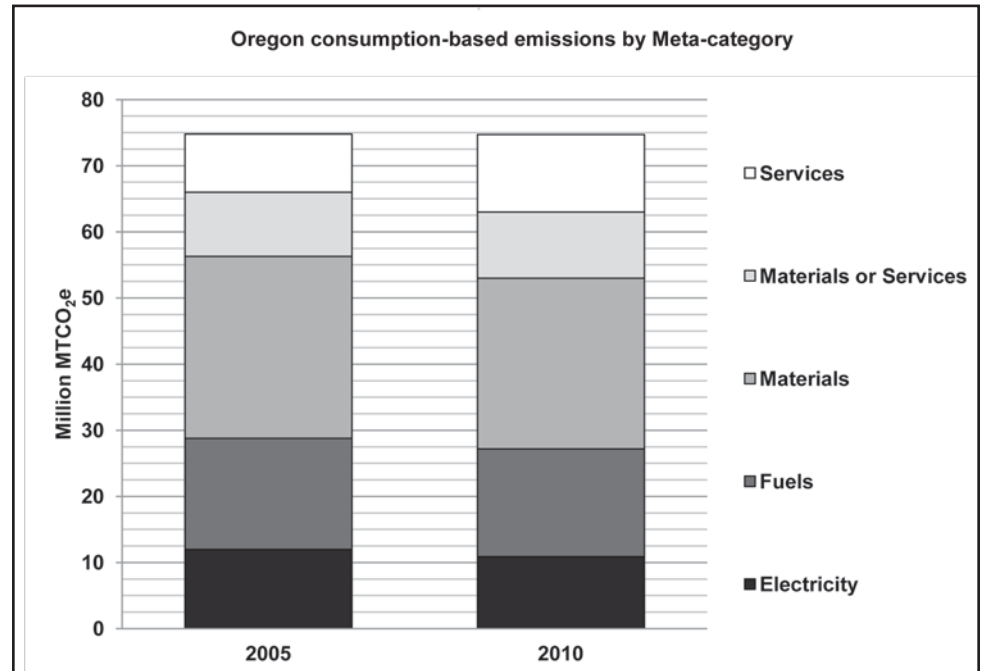
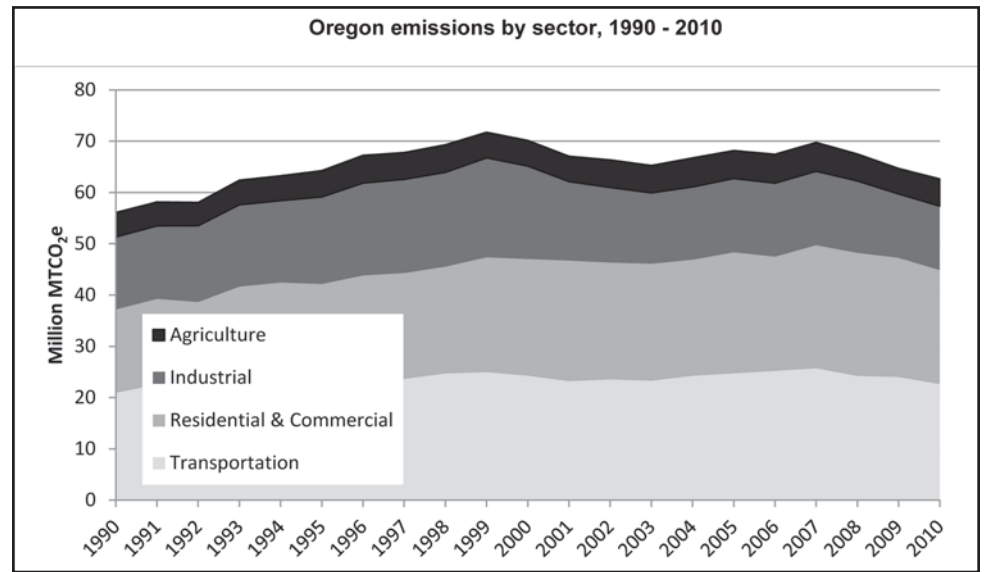
play havoc with our engines *and* the cost of gas is going to skyrocket. As the Portland Business Alliance politely stated, this will put Oregon businesses "at a competitive disadvantage." To say the least.

The editors of *The Oregonian* didn't mince words. They called it a "driving tax blowout" (November 6, 2014), "sucker bait," an "eco-friendly train wreck," and a "bogus global warming tax" (December 13, 2014). Consumers will "pay through the nose" (December 12, 2012). Even DEQ acknowledges that this will cost us big-time. They've put out a 170-page report that tries to explain it. Google up "1/25/2011 Oregon Low Carbon Fuel Standards." Set your snooze alarm.

What's the need for this law? According to DEQ's own report, the transportation sector contributes only about a third of Oregon's total carbon emissions; fossil fuels are responsible for less than a quarter of consumer emissions. Take a look at these two charts from the DEQ website. (If you want to read the whole report, Google up "2013 Oregon Greenhouse Gas Emissions.") Other than a quixotic pinprick at global warming, this tax will get us nowhere. We might be better off reducing the carbon intensity of another greenhouse gas, chemically known as "Salem Hot Air."

Now what we *do* need is a tax to fund repairs to our roads and bridges. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) says they desperately need \$5.1 billion for this. Right now. The whacky carbon tax doesn't do anything to improve our highways. And Oregon gas pump taxes cover only about 20 percent of ODOT's spending on roads (Google up "Tax Foundation 1/17/2013 Report").

Why not take a look at increasing the tax we pay at the pump? And maybe index it to inflation, so we don't get so far behind again? Now *that's* a tax that's understandable, helpful, and paid for by



Above charts from the 2013 Oregon Greenhouse Gas Emissions report. http://www.oregon.gov/deq/AQ/Documents/OregonGHGInventory07_17_13FINAL.pdf

users. Let's leave global warming taxes to the United Nations. Or Finland. Whatever.

There are three types of taxes: (1) those that try to change your behavior—like tobacco taxes; (2) those that siphon your money to fund government—like property taxes, and (3) those that make no sense whatsoever, but make self-important, out-of-touch politicians feel good about themselves—like this law.

Here in the Applegate Valley we have four politicians representing us in Salem.

The two from Jackson County love the idea of foisting a global warming tax on us; the two from Josephine County are sensibly opposed. The legislature is now in session. Let them know how you feel about this. Let this sham tax sunset.

See you on the river. But don't forget to pay that invasive species tax. It doesn't cost much, and it's one we can all understand!

Tom Carstens
541-846-1025

Last chance for a stance

BY JESSE NOONE

Until recently, the Applegate Valley's location has left its wine industry in relative obscurity since vines were first planted for production in the early 1970s. Since the valley's approval as an American Viticultural Area (AVA) in 2000, the region is finally gaining recognition on a larger scale. Vineyard acreage has almost tripled, and the amount of small labels that have popped up is too much for the average consumer to keep up with. While this growth and recognition should continue to be supported, with it will come external competition for capitalization on the region's promise. Until recently, most plantings have been pretty contained, providing grapes for wineries that are family-owned and operated. As production continues to grow, there are still no regulations set in place. Without it, locals and those who've appreciated the pure beauty and grassroots mentality of the Applegate will cease to recognize what they've helped establish. Now more than ever, it's time for the community of the Applegate and the southern Oregon wine industry to come together and find resolution on how it wants its valley to be grown. Otherwise, those with interests in

capital gain will prevail.

One needs to look no further than the recent results of the 2014 *San Francisco Chronicle* wine competition for recognition of the quality of southern Oregon wines—the Rogue and Applegate Valley wines received a combined 48 awards. With wonderful festivals such as Uncorked and World of Wine, locals have appreciated wine for years; however, on a national stage, appreciation for the region's quality truly hasn't even begun. As the region's relevance continues to grow, it's important for it to do so in a way that cultivates sustainability and promotes local prosperity, both being mainstays of southern Oregon's identity.

Yet, examples of mass production have already begun. Driving along North Applegate Road in the heart of the valley, one is able to witness the first wave of plantings. Over 300 acres have been planted along the road, the majority of these vines being pinot noir. Although the valley is still somewhat in its experimentation phase as to which varieties grow best where (there are over 30 different varieties planted), it's becoming widely regarded that pinot noir is not best suited for quality in the region. Secondly, and more importantly,

much of what is being harvested is being sold in bulk to the Willamette Valley for production. Not only are these plantings providing little return for the valley outside of the individual investor; they aren't even representing the best of what the Applegate offers, thus lowering revenue for neighboring vineyards and diminishing the overall reputation and standard for quality.

Environmental impact aside, the visual representation of this mass production alone attests to how little relation these vineyards have on the established pulse and character of the valley. It's doubtful that many long-standing residents consider Napa Valley as something envious in terms of landscape. And anyone who has taken a weekend stroll through the outlets of Highway 238 will agree that nothing about the valley needs beautifying. Also, the jobs that these vineyards are supplying probably don't outweigh the impact that growth of this size has on both the environment and the industry. The vineyard simply devalues others around it. What seems to be the premise behind this growth—that of mass production for the purpose of capital gain—does not line up with the ideals ingrained in the region. Yet, without proper litigation sought out by community members to stem this inevitable growth, people with pockets full of money will prevail. There will undoubtedly be many

more investors looking to capitalize on the region's budding reputation.

There is nothing wrong with sustained growth. The wine industry is a healthy and vitalizing part of southern Oregon that should be supported in many ways. Yet, now is the time for the community to take a stance on how it wants its valley to be viewed as it enters into relevancy as a major player in the wine industry. The amount of quality labels popping up is astounding. Vineyards that are entering their prime (8 to 20 years old) are producing these wines for local vintners, vineyards that emphasize quality and sustainability first. These vineyards should be prioritized as representing our valley's identity, and statutes should be put in place to maintain this going forward.

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OPINIONS

Controversy over Nedsbar Timber Sale spurs community alternative

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

The Nedsbar Timber Sale has stirred up considerable controversy in the valley. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed this large timber management project in the Little and Upper Applegate Valleys in response to a timber industry lawsuit currently under appeal. The lawsuit, brought by Swanson-Superior Lumber, Rough & Ready Lumber, and others, contends that the Oregon and California Act of 1937 requires the Medford and Roseburg Districts of the BLM to double the volume of public timber offered to private industry.

For many years the agency has justified its commercial timber sales in the Applegate as efforts to reduce fire hazards, logging only smaller diameter trees, and although I personally saw different results on the ground, at least the rhetoric was going in the right direction. We do need to reduce fuels in the Applegate, and if we can do so while protecting ecological values and still get a commercial product out, then I support that. Unfortunately for the Applegate Valley, the purpose of the Nedsbar Timber Sale is solely to increase timber harvested on federal lands, not to address ecological, social, or fuel-reduction needs. The result is one of the most controversial timber sales in recent history with strong community opposition.

The roughly 3,000-acre project sprawls out across forest and woodland that is known for its dry, difficult growing conditions, extreme biodiversity, roadless landscapes, recreational opportunities and habitat variability. It also sprawls across the viewshed of many homesteads in the valley because of its location within the Wildland Urban Interface of the Little and Upper Applegate Valleys. The Nedsbar Timber sale would also impact numerous low-elevation roadless areas, including the Dakubetede, Buncom, and Boaz Roadless Areas. The Nedsbar Timber Sale is as variable as the landscape it targets for timber production. Some units contain small trees in dense, young stands that create dangerous fuel hazards while others contain stands of spacious, old trees that have maintained resilience to fire and provide high-quality habitat for species such as the northern spotted owl, Siskiyou Mountains salamander and Pacific fisher.

Having hiked all 93 units in the Nedsbar Timber Sale, I can tell you with confidence that this will have a profound impact on our valley. You will see Nedsbar Timber Sale units from the lower end of the Upper Applegate Valley

and throughout the Little Applegate Valley, from the confluence with the Applegate River up to the headwaters near Bald Mountain. In a few units the BLM will do what they call “structural retention/regeneration harvest,” where they will leave only 16 to 25 large trees per acre and 30 to 40 percent canopy closure. Canopy closure is determined by the amount of light able to penetrate through the forest canopy to the forest floor. These “prescriptions” are targeting complex old stands supporting large, old trees. Sixty-three percent of the timber sale units will reduce canopy closure to as low as 40 percent. The proposed logging prescriptions and drastic canopy reduction will increase fuel hazards by increasing solar radiation and encouraging the development of dense understory fuels. Many units support healthy, fire-resilient stands with old-growth or late-seral characteristics. Logging these forests would increase fire hazards and impact water quality and habitat for species dependent on older forests. As many residents have chosen to live in the Applegate because of the beauty and recreational opportunities on neighboring public land, resistance to this sale is growing.

A group of very committed and determined local folks has stepped up to draft a Community Alternative that the BLM has agreed to analyze as one of the four alternatives (i.e., options to either accept or deny) in their Environmental Analysis (EA) due out May 15. The Community Alternative would address social, ecological, economic, and legal needs while allowing for a sustainable level of timber harvest. I encourage folks to support this alternative.

The Nedsbar Community Monitoring Program has helped inform the Community Alternative by hiking every unit in the sale, getting an on-the-ground look at what is actually proposed for logging, taking measurements of trees and canopy closure.

You can view unit descriptions and see photos and video of the Nedsbar Timber Sale at www.thesiskiyoucrest.blogspot.com.

Please sign on to the Community Alternative and come out for public hikes of the units to see what is at stake.

Luke Ruediger

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Note: For a detailed map entitled “Nedsbar BLM Alternative 4,” please go to the home page of our website at www.applegater.org (under “Latest Issue”).



Nedsbar Community Monitoring Program public hike into unit 28-22B, a structural retention/regeneration harvest unit in the Nedsbar Timber Sale.

Let's use our imagination to create a better world

BY DELLA MERRILL

“For humans to have a responsible relationship to the world, they must imagine their place in it. To have a place, to live and belong in a place, to live from a place without destroying it, we must imagine it.”
—Wendell Berry, *It All Turns on Affection*

Amid all the national news of fracking, contaminated water sources, gas leaks, not to mention the infamous Keystone Pipeline, I've been feeling quite safe and protected—and yes, even smug—living here in southern Oregon. The events, while upsetting and of concern, didn't seem to be happening anywhere in my home state. Then I learned about a pipeline project slated for my very own “backyard.”

Here's what I've learned about the proposed Jordan Cove Project since becoming informed last December: A Canadian energy corporation, Veresen, is proposing to build a pipeline from Malin, Oregon (Klamath County) through Jackson, Douglas and Coos counties to a natural gas liquefaction plant, shipping berth and power plant 14 stories high, along the sensitive and environmentally important Coos Bay estuary.

There are numerous controversial aspects of this project and below are some of the big ones:

- The 234-mile-long pipeline will cross more than 400 waterways, including the Rogue River.
- For the benefit of Veresen Corporation, more than 150 acres of private land will be impacted using eminent domain (the power of a state or a national government to take private property for public use).
- The gas being transported will originate from the Rockies by fracking, one of the dirtiest, most expensive and dangerous extraction methods in use today.
- The gas will be exported for sale to other countries.
- If allowed to move forward, this project would become the largest emitter of carbon pollution in Oregon (*The Oregonian*, November 2014).

And I haven't even mentioned the real and present danger of an increasingly hot planet—one that is a result of burning the very fossil fuels this project would promote. Isn't it time we use our vast

expanses of imagination to paint a different future? As Berry points out, we need to imagine our place in the world without destroying it. As a species, we resist change because it's unknown. But in this case, aren't we willing to take a chance on the unknown, realizing that unless we do, the status quo will lead to disaster?

So, you ask, why are some Oregonians in favor of supporting a dirty energy project that would take private land and potentially endanger precious natural resources—all for the benefit of a foreign corporation? Well, the answer is money, of course. Veresen Corporation promises jobs. And there is no doubt that southern Oregon and Coos Bay in particular could use more family wage jobs. But is creating jobs today at the cost of our climate, our children's future, and the very health of the planet worth the lack of effort it would take to imagine a different choice? And actually, as I delved a little deeper, I've learned it doesn't take much effort or imagination.

For starters, each million dollars invested in solar will create 17 times more jobs than further spending on natural gas, according to a study by the US Department of Energy. More than 5,000 clean energy jobs have already been created in Oregon, and many times that are possible if we just make the commitment.

Applegaters are fortunate that this pipeline isn't running through their valley or under their river or that landowners in Ruch or Williams aren't being asked to give up their property. But these are no reasons to stay in the dark about this project. I invite everyone who reads this to learn more about the issues, and if you have concerns and/or agree it should not be approved, then make your voice be heard.

In my research I've found this website of *The Oregonian* to be particularly helpful: http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2015/01/scientists_say_public_safety_h.html#incart_story_package.

You can also go to www.rogueriverkeeper.org and www.rogueclimate.org for more information and ways you can get involved.

Della Merrill
della@mind.net

Happy Mother's Day!

MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

The promise of community

BY CHRIS BRATT

At the beginning of this new year, our nation and the world remain in the midst of huge environmental, economic and social calamities. Throughout each day, we're bombarded by the news of ongoing and immediate disruptive problems. There are reports of war, murder, mayhem, racism, unemployment, poverty, inequality, natural disasters and environmental degradation, to name just a few. Daily, our brains are filled with distressful or harmful events from an ever-expanding selection of electronic devices and media outlets.

Trying to understand each grueling crisis and then trying to think or do something about it has become a seemingly impossible task. It's increasingly more difficult when self-righteous, well-paid pundits continually make false assumptions and interpretations with scant information on every reported tragedy. With these frustrations at all levels of our society, it's no wonder that citizens are stressed and having trouble separating fact from fiction and nonsense from reality. It seems our civilized world is becoming a fearful place without a long-term plan for a peaceful future that we and all nations can embrace.

I've come to the conclusion that if people want to bring some sanity back into their lives and avoid becoming

overly cynical about our government's questionable decisions, they can have some influence and success in solving knotty problems right here on the community and regional level. Commenting on hot-button issues like climate change, free market growth, green energy vs. fossil fuels, or national forest policies with politicians and agencies is definitely a good practice to continue, but it seldom leads to an individual's concerns being considered. On the other hand, southern Oregon has a long history of using local issues to bring about change at a much higher level.

Right here in southern Oregon is where many big changes in federal agency accountability got started, and important victories have been won in the areas of forest management and pesticide use. Our local issues are microcosms of unresolved larger policies and actions in many other places around the world. We have tackled many of these unsettled major questions with positive results. Local residents and groups will continue to have a profound influence on issues related to human rights, use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), pipeline construction, forest management, and protection of natural resources.

Following is a good example of one local person who successfully

spoke out against federal herbicide use on public forestland when no tests for serious adverse health effects had been done on the pesticides slated to be sprayed throughout the region.

Phyllis Cribby was a trained nurse who worked in South Vietnam during the war helping local villagers with nursing and educational services. She returned to her home in Grants Pass in the 1970s with a raised awareness about the underlying and undisclosed problems connected with using pesticides in our environment. Phyllis centered her attention, energy and expertise on exposing the long-term and chronic health effects linked to pesticide use and exposure in the local forests and on local farms. She worked tirelessly to protect the people, waters and lands when most residents in southern Oregon knew nothing about the adverse effects of using these toxic chemicals.

Phyllis was a founding member of several environmental organizations. She worked for over three decades with groups like Southern Oregon Citizens Against Toxic Sprays (SOCATS), Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), and Headwaters (a forest protection group). In 1984, Phyllis (along with other participants) was instrumental in getting a sweeping injunction against all spraying

of herbicides on public lands managed by the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This court victory was the highlight of Phyllis' environmental work. There has been limited or no spraying of herbicides in the public forests nationwide since that time.

I don't expect everyone to be as dedicated to a local cause as Phyllis was, but we do need more citizen and community involvement if we are going to influence decisions on complex controversial problems. The more recent debate and voter approval of the GMO crop ban in Jackson County shows another successful example of local people working together for important reform.

Join the many good neighbors, scientists, artists and nonprofit organizations prevalent in our community and volunteer your expertise. There is no better way to avoid the hysteria and get reenergized. We can no longer remain just spectators when confronted by important questions relevant to our communities.

If you think I am overenergized, let me know.

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

Another smoky summer?
Count on it!

BY REX GAROUTTE

The past couple of summers have had us choking on forest-fire smoke for weeks at a time. Although we've had several small fires locally, thanks to the Oregon Department of Forestry and local firefighters, these fires lasted only a few days. The fires that keep choking us are large fires in remote areas. Given that much of our economy is tourism-based, these fires have had a serious negative impact.

Although the number of fires has decreased in our area, their size has increased. The history of federal land management helps us understand why.

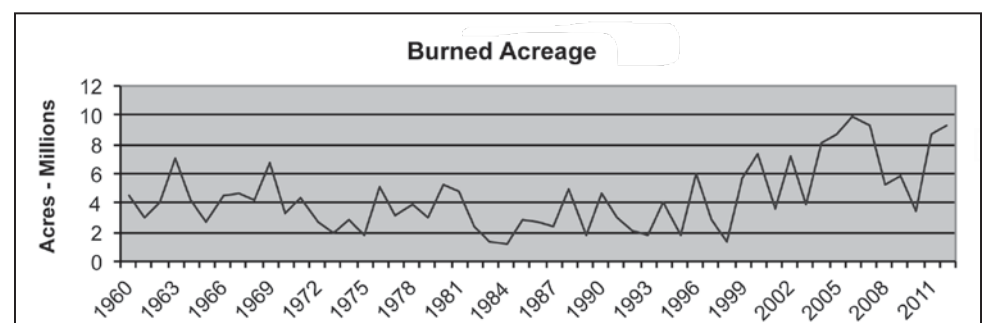
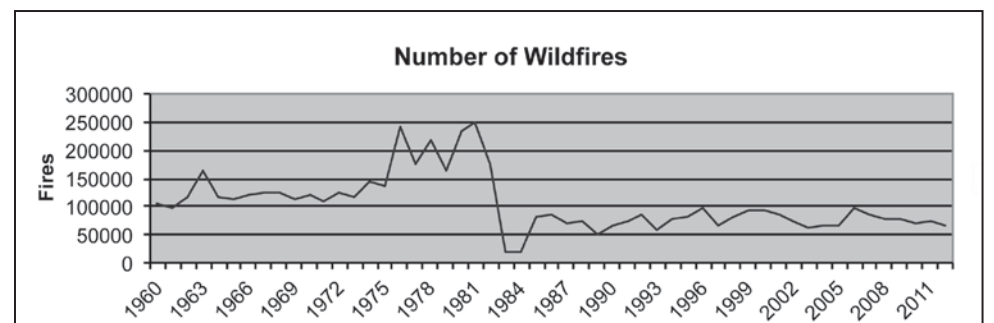
After the Great Fire of 1910, the fledgling forest service adopted the "Out by 10:00" fire strategy: that any fire should be extinguished by 10 am the next day. This policy remained in effect until 1968 for the National Park Service (NPS) and 1978 for the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). So why did it change?

In 1964, the NPS, researching the decline in sequoia trees in King's Canyon

and Sequoia national parks, determined that fire was key to the health of a sequoia forest. Concurrent research by the USFS determined that pine forests also benefited from wildfires.

In 1976 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act changed fire policy from containment to management, allowing a wildfire to burn until it was about to jump off federal lands. Twenty years later the Act was amended to include prescribed fires (fires deliberately set to reduce fuels), protection of critical habitat, and containment for wildfires within a wildland-urban boundary.

The history of land use on federal lands also helps us understand the current trend towards fewer but larger wildfires. From the late 1950s to 1992, timber harvested from federal lands was 14 percent of total US production, peaking in 1987 at 17 percent. By 2000, that production was down to two percent, mainly due to environmentalist litigation. It is still at two percent today.



Graphs above courtesy of Rex Garoutte.

With the passage of the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the job of BLM went from managing federal lands for the public to protecting the land from the public. New regulations included the power to keep the public off the land, resulting in a dramatic decrease in wildfire frequency by 1983.

Reduction in logging is the key to the increase in wildfire acreage. Logging creates a fire barrier that keeps a wildfire contained. Because most logged forests regenerate in 40 years and there has been little logging since 1994, there is both more fuel to burn and no new fire barriers.

The worst wildfires locally—at least

eight within a 75-mile radius—started in or near wilderness or monument areas. A burned forest is no guarantee against further fire in the area and, in fact, encourages wildfires.

The conclusion from the history is that to keep our skies smoke free we should do prescribed burns in wilderness areas and some logging in non-wilderness areas to create firebreaks.

Can we make this happen? Not until we can reduce the influence of the "Environmental Triad" on public policy—but that's another article.

Rex Garoutte
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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.

More information on fire history

- <http://wildland-fires.findthedata.com/>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_wildfire_suppression_in_the_United_States
- perc.org/sites/default/files/Forest%20Policy%20Up%20in%20Smoke.pdf
- www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr158/psw_gtr158_01_vanwagtendonk.pdf
- http://ballotpedia.org/Federal_Land_Policy_and_Management_Act_of_1976
- <http://perc.org/blog/forest-service-timber-harvests-not-what-they-used-be>

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

It takes a village

"Giddyup, giddyup," I urged my imaginary horse as I bounced along holding the reins.

"Giddyup, giddyup," repeated 35 fifth through seventh graders, four student interns from Southern Oregon University (SOU), a student aid, the classroom teacher, a digital artist/teacher, a retired elementary school principal, and a parent volunteer, as they urged their imaginary horses along after me.

The old adage that "it takes a village to raise a child" can be modified to "it takes a village to educate a child." I discovered this recently when my wife, Peggy, and I attended Cindy McDonald's language arts class at Ruch Community School to learn about the Digital Storytelling Project. The school is all about community involvement. I was there because I had been asked to write an article on the project. Peggy, a former elementary school principal, was along because I wanted her expertise in education.

I first became aware of the project when I attended the Parent-Teacher Organization's (PTO) annual community fund-raiser last June, a critical event in supporting the school's art, music, and sports programs—programs that have been lost in so many schools because of tight budgets. There I learned about PTO's special projects—field trips, first-grade book-publishing, sustainability, and classroom smart boards where students or the teacher can write on their computers with the results showing up on the board.

As a writer, I was particularly attracted to the Digital Storytelling Project. Communication, the ability to share information and persuade people through written and oral presentations, is one of the most important skills we can teach our children. The digital project adds another dimension: the use of technology as an aid. Not only were the students learning how to present well-thought-out, one- to three-minute arguments supporting something they were passionate about, but they were also learning to use digital media to strengthen their cases. They were making short movies where visual images, either developed by the students or pulled off the web, would support their arguments.

The students were preparing for their future in the Digital Age. But they were also dealing with the now.

They had been asked to develop their individual projects around something they wanted to change—something personal, in the community, or in the world. The student interns told me that the projects

ranged from dealing with family matters to conserving environmental resources. I read one student's piece, a summary of a family issue she wanted to address. It was personal and important. It was also powerfully written.

Abram Katz, the digital artist who is teaching the class, believes deeply in the transformative power of writing. "In order for this to happen," Mr. Katz told me, "the students need a safe environment where they feel free to express their concerns." They also need to know how to protect themselves when sharing personal information. Mr. Katz and his team work hard to create the kind of environment that encourages self-expression and to give the students the skills they need to be successful. When it comes to communication, Mr. Katz practices what he preaches. "Teachers are as effective as their ability to communicate with others. You can have great ideas, but it's the sharing and *exchanging* of ideas that actually makes things interesting," he said.

The exercise at the beginning of the class was a form of communication. Students and staff had been asked to select a sound that reflected their weekend. When finished, the students turned toward us. We were not to be spared. My giddyup had reflected the writing projects I had been trying to complete on Saturday: Giddyup, Curt!

My concluding thought: Wow—what a win-win opportunity. Obviously the students were winning. They were excited, engaged and learning valuable skills. But others were winning as well. The project came about because of a close partnership between Ruch Community School, SOU, and the Oregon Writing Project. The school gains because it has access to the expertise of the university—and the interns. The university gains because what it is teaching is being grounded and tested in actual classroom experience and because of the opportunity it provides for student interns. And finally, the community wins. Its children are receiving an excellent education. The dollars and other support it contributes are being well utilized.

Julie Barry, Ruch School principal, and Cindy McDonald, the classroom teacher, deserve commendation for their willingness to invite this innovative program into their school and classroom. They have totally embraced the project. As Julie notes, "The class is amazing. The students truly benefit."

Curtis and Peggy Mekemson
curtandpeg@aol.com



Students in the Digital Storytelling class focus on developing their personal stories.

APPLEGATE SCHOOL

Garden club update

In the fall of 2014, the new garden club cleaned up its gardening beds, harvested the remaining vegetables, and made smoothies with kale from the garden. This was a great example of a healthy way to use greens, fruits and berries.

The club also met with Fred Hall, a "grandparent volunteer," and planted spring flower bulbs next to the classroom stairs and garlic in one of the vegetable beds. The garlic is now reaching out with green leaves and the bulbs have broken through the soil getting ready for their spring show.

More activity is on the way with landscaping planned for next to the old brick building. Though it may be a longer process it will be worth the wait. As we all know, volunteer time, funding and actual work take time.

The garden club is seeking help. If you would like to help the kindergarten through third grade garden club with supplies or monetary donations, please call the Applegate School at 541-846-6280 to get a message to the PTSG (Parent-Teacher-Student Group). A big thank you



Applegate School Garden Club at work.
Photo: Julianna Thompson.

goes out to Fred Hall and all the other volunteers who help make this garden possible for these children.

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

Applegate School Robotics Team held its own in its first tournament

On December 6, 2014, the Applegate School Robotics Team competed for the first time in the Southern Oregon Regional LEGO Robotics Tournament held at North Middle School in Grants Pass. There were twenty-one teams from our region, including Roseburg, that participated in the daylong event.

Our Applegate team, whose members were between 9 and 13 years old, competed with 20 other teams in three robot obstacle challenges. We are so proud of the way our kids handled the pressure and how they responded to the inherent complications of software programming and robot mechanics. Their robot didn't always do what they wanted it to do, but they approached each new round with a team solution and a positive outlook.

Our team also presented a research project that they had worked on for several weeks prior to the competition and participated in a Teamwork Challenge—in front of a panel of judges.

This was an invaluable educational and personal experience for our students. Most of our team members had never participated in a competition or program



Applegate School's first robotics team competed in the Southern Oregon Regional LEGO Robotics Tournament.
Photo: Kathy Kliever.

of this magnitude or scope. Our students really shone in the Teamwork Challenge. It was fun to watch them work together toward a common goal, making sure each team member succeeded. This was our team's inaugural year, and all of our team members hope to return next year.

The team's participation fees as well as purchase of the required robot was made possible by a generous donation from The Friends of Applegate School. A big thank you to our community for making this and other enrichment programs available to our kids.

Seana Hodge
Applegate School Robotics Coach
shodge@siskiyou.com

Fund-raising concert for Applegate School

Sunday, April 26, at 2 pm
950 Kubli Road, Grants Pass
(between the fire station and Schmidt Family Vineyards)

Don't miss the "Concert in the Barn" to help support and expand the art program at Applegate School. Admission is by donation.

The Carr Family Band has generously offered to provide the entertainment. To get a taste of their music, visit their website at [http://](http://www.kevincarr.org/carr_family_band/)

www.kevincarr.org/carr_family_band/.

There will also be a **silent auction** for pieces of art donated by members of the community.

If you are an artist or know one who would be willing to **donate an art piece** for the event, please call Jean and Fred Hall at 541-846-6953.

The Queen of Provolt reigns once again

BY LAIRD FUNK

Tracy Archey; his wife, Barbara Steiner; and their daughter, Audrey, didn't come to Oregon to buy the Provolt Store. Tracy and Barbara thought they'd just visit Oregon for a while, help Audrey remodel a house in Applegate, and then return to their pleasant retired life in New Mexico. After 15 years as a telecommunications engineer with a lot of overseas work, Tracy thought retirement was looking good. But then they saw the store.

The Provolt Store opened in 1875 and is the oldest continuously operating business in southern Oregon. In 1904, when the owner was upset about "high taxes" in Josephine County, he moved the store from Josephine County across the street to Jackson County.

At that time the store was queen of Provolt's "commercial district." It still was in 2014 when Tracy and Barbara first saw it, but her crown was tarnished, her royal robes in disrepair, and her throne listing. They also saw that she could be restored to her former glory and again be the busy commercial hub of the community, providing quality groceries and other products to residents of surrounding areas. Dreams of what the store could be spurred them on, and they began to make the changes the place had long needed.

The initial task was to put the first foundation ever under the store. For 110 years the store had stood on a conglomeration of wooden beams and concrete blocks. "Level" was an unknown concept for decades. But not anymore. While it may not be billiard-table level, at least if you drop a can of soup, you won't have to chase it to the back of the store!

Walking in now, one is struck by the bright, open and spacious new layout of the shelves and cold cases and by a shiny new delicatessen offering delicious sandwiches, daily soup specials and handmade pastries from Audrey's own recipes. The deli also offers cakes, pies, and biscuits and gravy on the weekends. Later in the year they will add sausages, hot dogs and maybe pizzas to the mix. The focal point of the store is the traditional Mayoral Bench, occupied daily by Provolt "Mayor," Wes Hill, who gives his new "office" high marks.

The newly painted and rearranged shelves are chock full of a great selection of groceries, a good many of them organic, priced to be competitive with Grants Pass merchants. Tracy wants to carry as many organic products as possible, including fresh produce from local Applegate organic farms, something new for Provolt. They also offer DVD rentals and keep



Photo, top: Owner Tracy Archey behind the deli counter at Provolt Store.

Photo, bottom: The store's revamped interior.

a lending library/book exchange for the neighborhood. It doesn't stop there as Tracy made clear, explaining with excitement his many plans for the future.

A locally unique feature is a 10 feet by 24 feet walk-in beer cooler being built in the back room that will allow Tracy and Barbara to double their beer offerings and free up the cold cases to hold a wider selection of local organic produce, eggs and dairy products. Also in the works are more varieties of kombucha, draught beer, and

wines, which will be available for takeout in containers up to half-gallon growlers.

The plans don't stop with the inside. When the weather warms the new owners plan to rebuild the outdoor stage behind the store and convert the surrounding area into a park with picnic tables and barbecues for the neighbors to use. When the facilities are complete, they want to put on family-friendly entertainment events and other activities for Applegate residents to enjoy.

The warmer weather will also give Tracy a chance to start the big job of restoring the building's exterior. After decades of patching up and making do, the store needs help. Tracy is looking forward to giving it that help. Not only does it need a new coat of paint, but also, after years of improper fixing, parts of the wooden structure must be removed and rebuilt entirely. Only when that work is done can the Queen be fitted with her new barn red with white trim "robes" and reassume the role of the commercial monarch of Provolt.

As a daily patron of the Provolt Store since 1978, I can attest to the need for tender loving care for our Queen, and I am overjoyed to see that care happening. I look forward to the new Provolt Store and will be shopping there into the future. I don't know how long that will be, but it is likely to be far less than the next 100 years for which the new owners are preparing the store to survive and thrive. Visit the Provolt Store—you'll like it!

Laird Funk • 541-846-6759

JOSHUA MORTON

FROM PAGE 1

Joshua, has played in the school band, and is planning to major in art or music in college. Money for the scholarships comes from sales of Joshua's paintings.

The fund has accumulated enough money to award its first scholarship this year. Joshua hopes to have \$100,000 in the fund in 20 years.

Does that sound unrealistic? "Shoot for the stars and land on the moon," as Joshua says.

Joshua's art is intertwined closely with music. He does paintings of musicians, though one could just as rightly say he does paintings of music. He paints from photographs, but the essence of the painting is in Joshua's artistic vision that changes the photograph not only into a new medium but also into a new meaningfulness. Jerry Garcia, Phish, Umphrey's McGee, The String Cheese Incident, Dave Matthews—he paints the musicians he likes. The depictions of the musicians and their environments—vividly colorful, brilliantly angled, charged with rhythm and power—splash with unheard music, as though we were there at the concert where the music unifies the crowd and puts us all in a better mood. The paintings do what the concerts do.

Athletics are also intertwined with Joshua's art, not because he paints athletes but because the same ethos applies to his wrestling as to his painting. "Hard work is the reality that leads to the illusion of talent," he tells his students, budding wrestlers and

artists alike. Learning moves in wrestling is like learning technique in art. Both are a "long, slow process with a lot of hard work. It's more about effort than about skill," he says.

Joshua is not a tell-them teacher but a show-them teacher. Whether wrestling or painting, he does what he wants his students to do. He gets down on the wrestling mat with the student wrestlers. He wields his paintbrushes on his own canvases in the art room. "It's good for students to see a teacher working," he says. When his students look enviously at his accomplished, professional paintings displayed along the walls of the art room, he reminds them, "Hard work is the reality that leads to the illusion of talent."

You can see more of Joshua's art at <http://joshua-morton.artistwebsites.com>.

Diana Coogle • dicoog@gmail.com



Artist and wrestler Joshua Morton.



Phish in Deep Space by Joshua Morton.

Josephine County Educational Fund

Fifty years ago some forward-thinking citizens in Grants Pass established the Grants Pass High School Foundation to provide scholarships and grants that would make higher education affordable to area students and their families. Since then the organization has grown to include partner schools in Josephine, Jackson, and Douglas counties and has been renamed as the Josephine County Educational Fund, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational foundation.

The One Sweet World Fund is one of its more than 200 fund accounts, with an accumulated total of over \$4 million. Last year's awards totaled more than \$326,730. For more information visit www.jocoeducationalfund.org.

Pacifica Panorama

Here's what's happening at Pacifica

• **Trails getting ready for spring.** It's March, and it may look like nothing's happening out there in the forests and the meadows...but it is! Look closely along over two miles of Pacifica's trails, and you'll find buds starting to swell and birds starting to sing.

• **Bird-watching hike with Audubon expert.** Sunday, March 22, 8 am. The warblers should be going through! Some binoculars will be available.

• **Friday evenings.** All free or by donation.

• **The Second Friday of each month is Family Nature Fun Night** at Pacifica from 6 to 8 pm. Each Nature Night will have a theme that will include a movie or book, some science, some games and lots of fun. March's theme will be "animal homes," followed by extreme fort-making! April's will be "animal identification," including making a track to take home.

• **The Third Friday is Movie Night** complete with pillows, sleeping bags and popcorn! Watch for listings on the Applegater's online calendar and Jo's List.

• **The Fourth Friday is Artists' Night.** Everyone is welcome from 7 to 9 pm to work on and/or share a project, read poetry, or just talk and jam. There will also be showings of the thought-provoking *ART-21* (art in the 21st Century), which takes viewers behind the scenes, beyond the museum or gallery experience, to reveal how contemporary art can change how we see our world.

• **The Caterpillar.** This year the theme of the Caterpillar (a unique mobile science-

nature center that visits schools) is "Night and Day: Astronomy and Weather," and it's very exciting. View nebulae on a 40-inch screen, and then draw your own in pastel. Make a star-chart. Learn about moon phases and planets. Do experiments to discover why weather happens. Learn clouds. Do basic forecasting and discuss climate changes. Fun, interesting and important stuff! We'd love to have you visit the Caterpillar.

• **Pacifica Arts Guild new ceramics lab** with two pottery wheels and lots of room for slab work. Open every Sunday from 1 to 4 pm for classes or working on your own creation (\$15-25).

• **Water color and sketching** will be offered by Kathleen Kollock on Saturdays (March 7, 14, 21, and 28) from 10 to 3 pm. Cost: \$35 per session or \$120/four weeks). Other classes available.

• **The Third Annual Nature-Art Sculpture Contest.** This year's contest, display and sale will take place on June 5, 6 and 7. The 2015 theme is "animals." Anyone can participate for a chance to win \$500 in prize money.

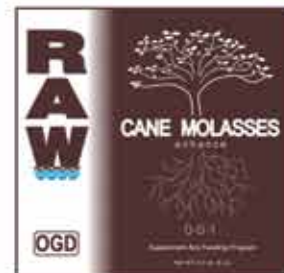
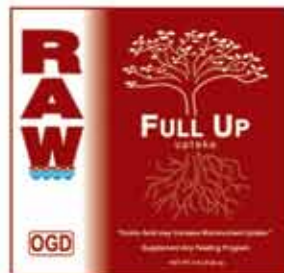
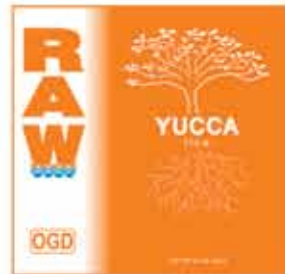
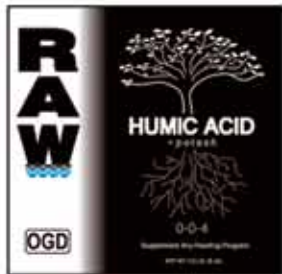
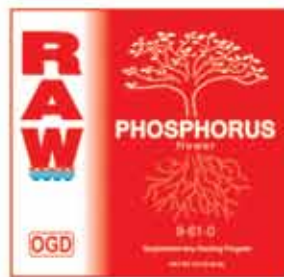
• **Pacifica Volunteer Day.** Held on the second Sunday of the month (March 8, April 12, and May 10). Learn how to make a picnic table while you help Pacifica make several that you can enjoy for picnics when you visit. Come at 9 am dressed to have fun and work. There will be refreshments. Pacifica is located at 14615 Water Gap Road, Williams, Oregon.

For more information, contact Peg at 541-660-4295 or peg@pacificagarden.org.

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Photos, clockwise from top left:
 — **Martha Auker** celebrates her 90th birthday on top of Beartooth Mountain Pass in Montana with a guest of honor.
 — Former Oregonian **John Taylor** shows off the sights of Sydney Harbour, Australia, to the Gater.
 — **Claudia Beausoleil** and the *Applegater* conquered the Kepler Track on New Zealand's South Island.
 — **Danika Foit** introduces one icon to another at The Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland.
 — **Geoff Becker**, being pelted with snowballs, uses the *Gater* as a shield in the Beartooth Mountains of Montana.
 — **Taylor brothers Ray and Alan of Liverpool** and **Dave of Williams** in the town square of Kardamyli, Greece.