

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.
P.O. Box 14
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Applegater

Photo by Teya Jacobi

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WINTER 2015
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Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 10,500

Celebrating
~21~
Years

Locals work to save the Donomore Cabin

BY GAYLE LEWIS

A spontaneous day-trip to the Donomore Meadow in the fall of 2014 found the Donomore Cabin leaning and forlorn. Weather, neglect, and disinterest had taken its toll, and the cabin was no longer usable as a safe haven for hunters, hikers, and campers. With wonderful memories of stories and visits to the cabin, the Offenbacher family and a circle of friends decided that a work party would be a good way to spend some time together. During the planning process, lifelong residents, hikers, hunters, campers, history buffs, day-trippers, and photographers came forward to share their stories and enthusiasm.

The group gathered at the cabin in July 2015 with a trailer filled with supplies and tools. They brought food and drink for the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) hikers, who would walk out of the woods surprised by the “trail magic” at a place that is noted on some PCT information as “don’t bother.” Cowbells could be heard

low in the meadow as hikers rested and socialized and workers tackled the day’s list of cleanup and repair activities.

The cattlemen’s cabin overlooks the Donomore Meadow in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, in an area rich with history, where the PCT meanders through the State of Jefferson just south of the Oregon border. The story tells us that the Frenchman Donomore was building a barn in the meadow with the help of his friend Silvee, the Portuguese miner. Indians killed the men during the Humbug War in the summer of 1855. Settlers and miners continued to live, hunt, and mine in the area. The Saltmarsh and Freshour families built a line cabin in the meadow in the late 19th century. They grazed their cattle during the summer from their ranches in the Applegate and the Klamath.

Around 1935, cattlemen from the Applegate, including members of the Offenbacher and Kubli families, built the Donomore Cabin, complete with



Photo above: The Donomore Cabin around 1935.

Photo right: 2015 work group makes needed repairs to the old cabin.

glassed windows, porch, stove, piped-in water from the spring, and an outhouse higher in the fork of the meadow above the Freshour Cabin. Each summer, they released their cattle in the meadow to graze. They would

See Donomore Cabin, page 6



Local bands give back

As part of our “arts” theme for this issue, we are featuring three local bands that give back to the community by playing for nonprofit organization events. For example, two of these groups—old favorites **Stolen Moments** and **Colonel Mustard**—have already provided music for *Applegater* fundraising events, among others. The third and newer group—**The Evening Shades**—has offered their services to the *Applegater* and hopes to showcase their talents to benefit other interested nonprofits.

Stolen Moments trio plays up to its name

BY DIANA COOGLE

Oh, those precious stolen moments—relaxing with a loved one, a glass of wine, some good food, and, for greater enhancement, just the right music.

The band “Stolen Moments,” then, is aptly named. They love playing beautiful, emotional music in quiet settings, “music you would like to hear,” says the band’s upright-bass player, Walter Lindley, “if you were in an intimate nightclub, made of stone, on the Seine, in Paris, at midnight—or maybe music that you would like to hear at a beautiful winery in the Rogue Valley.”

That’s one of the reasons the band specializes in playing at wineries—no surprise, says Walter, since all three band members—he, Conny Lindley on guitar and vocals, and Dan Fellman on guitar—

like beautiful landscapes and good wine.

Stolen Moments plays jazz standards, the music of the 1920s, ’30s, and ’40s—songs by George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Dorothy Fields, Duke Ellington, and others. They play swing jazz, Latin jazz, Bossa Nova, and gypsy jazz. They play “some French cafe kind of music” and Western swing songs. They play songs with lyrics that express the range of human emotions and relationships, songs with stories that Conny enjoys telling, through song.

Stolen Moments plays the kind of music that swirls into your body with the wine so that you feel “bathed in love,” as one listener put it.

“It is very satisfying to make a

See Stolen Moments, page 12

Colonel Mustard Band is no mystery

BY DIANA COOGLE

Do you remember Colonel Mustard, Miss Scarlet, Professor Plum, and Mr. Boddy? I’ll give you a Clue. Okay, you got it—the characters in the board game that is so much fun. Now these characters have broken away from the board and are roaming free. They have guitars and drums, and they’re still a lot of fun. They’re the Colonel Mustard Band, and there’s no mystery about them.

Johnny Trujillo, bassist and vocalist, is Professor Plum; B. Wishes, guitarist and vocalist, is Miss Scarlet; Sandy Ficca, drummer, is Mr. Boddy; and Chris Graves, guitarist and vocalist, is Colonel Mustard himself. Their goal is to make people happy and have fun.

See Colonel Mustard, page 13

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ISSUE

HOLIDAY - ARTS



Kathleen (Kaye) Clayton
July 15, 1935 - October 15, 2015

The Applegater loses a true community supporter

...and the *Applegater* loses a comma-loving proofreader extraordinaire, who stuck with us through thick and thin for many years. We could never thank her enough for her support, not only with proofing, but also with the arduous task of preparing the paper for mailing.

Thank you, Kaye—you are unforgettable.

‘You walking?’

BY AUDREY ELDRIDGE

This was a common email that I would receive from Kaye Clayton around 6 am. It was her way of figuring out which of us (Rhonda Updike and/or me) would be walking with her. Every morning for decades, unless she was very ill or out of town, Kaye would take a mellow hike through woods and back roads (almost two miles in total), passing by Rhonda’s road and then my house. While we walked, she taught us much about the history of our valley and the unique botany of the area. We both gained a deep appreciation of her, as well.

One of her favorite locations on this hike was the log cabin where Julie Wheeler was born. It is no longer there, but the area has the most beautiful field of native sweet peas. Kaye also loved to scout the area for the rare fritillaria and other wildflowers. We sometimes took other local hikes to see what might be blooming elsewhere. I can still see her smiling and pointing to a morel that a group of Enchanted Forest hikers (whose

pace was faster than ours) had passed by without noticing.

Kaye was a true supporter of her community. She was an avid reader, a volunteer at the library, and very active in the Friends of Ruch Library (FORL), where she served as president for six years. During that time the library closed for six months, and Kaye was instrumental in creating a lending library out of the A-Frame Bookstore. She kept the A-Frame Bookstore running for the last several years and oversaw the FORL’s annual book sales. She also helped proofread and prepare the *Applegater* for mailing almost every quarter, pitched in at the Grange for its major events, coordinated the FORL booth during Buncom Day, and was a long-time member of WHOW (Women Helping Other Women).

You could often find Kaye attending performances of local choirs and musicians and at benefits for many Applegate Valley nonprofit organizations. Kaye was that quintessential volunteer who understood that a vibrant community



Kaye, at her surprise 80th birthday party this year, shows off her “tattoos,” a gift.

needs everyone to contribute what they can. She also enjoyed haunted houses and purple, green or blue hair highlights.

This year, her children surprised her with an 80th birthday party. A large group of Applegaters showed up (and managed to keep it secret), and she was thrilled! She was blessed with many thoughtful gifts and tributes. The picture above shows Kaye modeling her new tattoos, a gift she received at the party. After her party she was able to take a road trip that was on her bucket list.

It is difficult to share the uniqueness of a person like Kaye Clayton in a few short paragraphs. But if you see me and want to hear about Kaye the Squirrel Charmer or why she earned the title “Maniac” (nothing to do with being crazy) or where some of her favorite hikes are, I could easily share. However, I never found out exactly where her secret morel collection spot was, so don’t ask! (Or...did I?)

Audrey Eldridge
grandmaudrey2@gmail.com

Kaye Clayton, an Applegater asset

BY J.D. ROGERS

It seems like forever that Kaye Clayton has been involved with the *Applegater*. She was a tremendous asset to the paper over the years—she proofread articles, proofed the final layout as the paper went to press, and was always available to help prepare the paper for mailing, a lengthy process.

Back when I was working on the *Applegater*, we would always have a good laugh when I picked up corrected proof sheets from her. The laughs were usually at my expense and mostly about my spelling disorder with words of more than four letters.

On one of those proof-pickup days, Kaye gave me the inside scoop on the CatBib when I told her how our cat Chloe had become such a bird killer. One of her cats was sporting this latest pussy-ware, and Kaye said the CatBib really did prevent the cat from slaughtering birds. Unfortunately, I had to pass on this novel invention when I thought that Chloe might claw my jugular as I slept.

In between issues of the *Applegater*, I would run into Kaye in the Bi-Mart parking lot. Standing on the black asphalt, with temperatures around 100 degrees, we would discuss events taking place in the Applegate. The last time I spoke with Kaye was in that parking lot. I asked her if Bi-Mart had become her second home. She said, “No, but I’m sure it’s yours. I always run into you here.”

I will miss Kaye.

J.D. Rogers
541-846-7736



From left to right, Kaye Clayton with Audrey Eldridge and Thalia Truesdell at the Applegate Grange-GACDC Mother's Day event 2015.

You're invited!

Authors' Reception *From the Heart of the Applegate*

Join us for a celebration of the authors who generously donated their talents to create *From the Heart of the Applegate: Essays, Poems, and Short Fiction by Applegate Writers*.

The anthology will be going to press soon and will be available for purchase—and autographs!—at the reception.

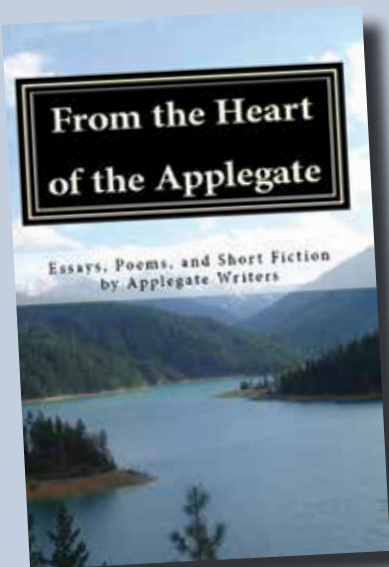


Sunday, January 24, 2016
3 to 6 pm

Applegate River Lodge
15100 Highway 238, Applegate

Appetizers will be served.
Wine will be available for purchase.

Live Music • Raffle Prize • Free Admission



Thank you, Beate!

Beate Foit has been keeping the *Applegater*'s books for more than a year, putting up with all sorts of nonprofit newsmagazine anomalies, and keeping it together in stride. She recently left the *Applegater* team, but we want her to know how much she was and is appreciated. It's a complicated and sometimes challenging role, that of bookkeeper. So thank you, Beate, for your precision and patience, and we wish you the best always.



(By the way, it turns out that Beate is both a bookkeeper and a poet!
A poem of Beate's appears on page 6.)

Handcrafted 'Applecrates' for sale

Beautiful planters called “Applecrates,” built with donated local wood and volunteer labor, are for sale. All proceeds will help sustain the *Applegater*. You can see these useful and long-lasting Applecrates at Applegate Valley Realty, 935 N. Fifth Street, Jacksonville. The price of a stock planter box (see photo), 12” wide x 22” long x 14” deep, starts at \$40. For more information or to volunteer to help, call Chris Bratt at 541-846-6988.



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 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, Margaret della Santina, Melissa Rhodes, and Paul Tipton for copy editing; Diana Coogle, Kathy Kliewer, Mikell Nielsen, Debbie and Don Tollefson, and Paul Tipton for proofing; Beate Foit and Karan Dump for bookkeeping; and webmaster Joe Lavine.

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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 and as space allows. When too many articles are submitted to include in any one issue, some articles may be placed on our website or held until the following issue. Letters to the editor must be 450 words or less. Opinion pieces and articles cannot exceed 700 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.

Photos submitted for the masthead are on a volunteer basis with credit given in the issue in which it appears, on our website and Facebook page.

All submissions for our next issue must be received at gater@applegater.org by the deadline.

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

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

Editorial Calendar

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

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Masthead photo credit

Teya Jacobi captured this winter shot on her property on the Little Applegate River a few years ago. Thanks, Teya!

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 more than 20,000, we cover Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate, Williams, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, Jerome Prairie, and areas of Medford and Grants Pass.

For more information, contact:
Ron Turpen • 541-601-1867
ron.turpen@gmail.com

Next deadline:
February 1

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Happy Holidays to all! And welcome to our Holiday and Arts winter issue.

First, I want to thank all the talented Applegate Valley writers who submitted their pieces for our anthology, *From the Heart of the Applegate*. We are excited to host an authors' reception on Sunday, January 24, and hope you will join us for this special event at Applegate River Lodge. See our invitation on page 2.

Second, please check out another announcement about a new website that offers affordable jewelry, with 50 percent of all purchases you make going to the *Applegater*! Just in time for holiday shopping. This website is locally owned and managed. See page 18 for more information.

On to our feature articles. This issue is jammed with music! Read about three bands (pages 1 and 12), the Williams' music scene (page 13), and Voices of the Applegate (page 4). More arty pieces can be found on page 23: Blessed Lotus clothing and The Woodcarving Place.

We hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season and that you'll join us at the Applegate River Lodge on January 24.

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

Barbara Holiday
gater@applegater.org

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Singing is fun for Voices of the Applegate

BY DIANA COOGLE

The Voices of the Applegate choir might take Ella Fitzgerald's declaration as their motto: "The only thing better than singing is more singing."

So the Voices ring out with song twice a year for the community, and in rehearsals for about three months before each concert (and individually, no doubt, day after day). Under the direction of Blake Weller, the Voices of the Applegate brings the joy of song to the community in everything from fifteenth-century Renaissance music to songs of modern musicals, from folk music and sea chanties to African songs, from Bach's *Magnificat* to "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen. They might sing in Latin, Italian, or Hebrew. At every concert they'll invite the audience to join in singing at least one song, and by then they have made singing sound like so much fun even the croakiest voice joins in, making us believe, for that moment, at least, that we are all the voices of the Applegate.

Joan Peterson helped start the choir 13 years ago, when Marvin Rosenberg told her he wished he could sing four-part harmony in the Applegate and asked if she would ask Dave Marston, revered choir master of the Siskiyou Singers, if he would lead the group if they got one started. She did, and they did, and Dave did. He directed the choir until his death in 2011.

At auditions for a new director, the committee was impressed by Blake Weller's ease of directing. "He has a way about him that makes singing a lot of fun without a lot of effort," Joan says. Kathy Escott, who has been in the choir for ten years, says that "his enthusiasm and dedication to our little group endeared me to him immediately, and his incredible musical knowledge made him the perfect teacher."



Voices of the Applegate holds concerts twice a year at Applegate River Lodge. Photo: Robert Cremins.

The goal of the group, Joan says, is just to have fun. Blake is especially good at making that happen. "He is always upbeat," Joan says. "He keeps us laughing." He even teaches the choir folk dancing to help them learn some of the rhythms.

Blake's wife, Julie, music director at North Medford High School, sometimes sings with the group or serves as its accompanist, though the choir has now hired a permanent accompanist, Joanna Lynden, on piano.

Concerts take place every spring and fall at the old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville and at the Applegate River Lodge in Applegate. They are free to the public, but donations help augment the money received from "club dues" (\$55 per person per session) to pay Blake and Joanna and to cover the cost of sheet music. Blake and Julie often provide choir members with MP3 copies of the music so singers can learn their parts by listening.

Anyone can join Voices of the Applegate. There are no auditions, and it isn't even necessary to know how to read music. "As long as you can carry a tune, you're in," Joan says (but then she says that no one would know if you can't). The main criterion seems to be to enjoy singing.

Beate Foit is a good example of a voice of the Applegate. Singing with the group, she says, gives her an opportunity to make her voice heard without having to take center stage. She particularly likes madrigals because each part has a contra part, and "it all comes together in a beautiful way."

"What I like about Voices of the Applegate," Beate says, "is that we connect with the community and give them an opportunity to come together and have a good time. When I look at the people in the audience, I see that we touch people with our hearts and souls."

It's true. After every concert we go home thinking that the only thing better than singing is more singing.

Diana Coogle
dicoog@gmail.com

••• BIZBITS •••

Welcome to BizBits, a new section that will highlight businesses new to the area, as in the first five businesses below, or holding special events, such as the new line of clothing in the last business profiled below. If you are a business owner, please let us know when you move into the area or to a different location or plan to hold a special holiday open house, for example. Email your information to gater@applegater.org.

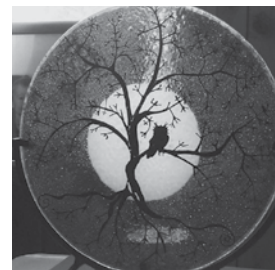
Black Apple. According to Lance Holder, proprietor of Black Apple, his business is simple: its mission is to provide a variety of choices when it comes to trimming machines and to do so with discretion. Black Apple offers many different brands of trimmers (Twister, Zoom Double Barreled, Greenbroz, and ProTrim), as well as parts and accessories, and can be found at 850 B Rogue River Highway, Grants Pass. For more information, email blackapple@budget.net.



Born Again. Lynda Hickey and Debbie Shepherd are providing residents of the Applegate a place to buy or trade (for store credit) quality second-hand clothing. Most of the items have been procured through donation and are often given back to the community, free of charge, as care packages for those in need. The store recently did a winter coat drive and received 75 coats to give away. Upcoming, Born Again will expand their store at the Sunshine Plaza in Ruch to include home furnishings and furniture for sale. The store's address is 7382 Highway 238. For more information, call 541-301-0820 or email bornagainoregon@gmail.com.

Copper Studio. Southern Oregon's newest production space is where production professionals and others can take advantage of the 30 by 30-foot studio space and its many accoutrements, including a video edit suite, dressing room, full kitchen, and ADR (Automated Dialog Replacement) booth. Paying special attention to acoustics, owner Rick Moir has made an ideal space for recording sound. Producers can bring their own gear, or rent services and equipment from Copper Studio. Conveniently located near the Medford airport, the space, which sports multiple 110V outlets, can also be utilized for parties, events, and meetings. Contact information: Copper Studio, 3559 National Drive, Suite 105, Medford; 541-773-8021 or shoot@copper.studio;

Infusion Glass: The Art of Grieving. Influenced by the Visionary Art Movement, Joele Williams is a self-described "cremation artist," who uses the ashes of your loved one to render something beautiful. Perfecting her techniques in the kiln over a period of many years, Joele, a former teacher at the Fire Arts Center in Arcata, works with ashes in her forest studio outside Grants Pass to create glass sculptures, jewelry, wind chimes, and other unique pieces called "cremation memorials." For more information, visit https://www.etsy.com/people/infusionglass?ref=hdr_user_menu or email infusionglass@gmail.com.



Siskiyou Vital Medicine. Siskiyou Vital Medicine is a close team of naturopathic physicians committed to providing quality, affordable healthcare to the community. Their clinic is insurance-free and open to membership. They currently offer low-cost, community-sponsored healthcare for \$100 or less a month. Membership includes ongoing, comprehensive healthcare with no deductibles or co-pays, unrestricted access, urgent care, technology visits, wholesale labs, and in-office procedures at cost of materials. Visit 1840 East Barnett Road, Suite B, Medford, or call 541-210-5687 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 6 pm.



The Creator's Gallery and Boutique. Owned and operated by clothing designer, Anna Chauffe, at 145 North Fifth Street in Jacksonville, the boutique sells women's, men's, and children's apparel in sizes 0 to 32. Anna, one-time first runner-up for Mrs. Oregon Plus, is the first business owner in southern Oregon to specialize in plus-sized clothing. A new clothing line, "Sonshine Apparel," the creative result of commissions received from her Make a Reasonable Offer Boutique, has been a collaborative, family effort; daughter Faith, also a designer, and mom Jeanie, a seamstress, were enlisted to help create and launch the new line. For hours and information, call 541-414-6887 or email thecreatorsgallery@gmail.com.



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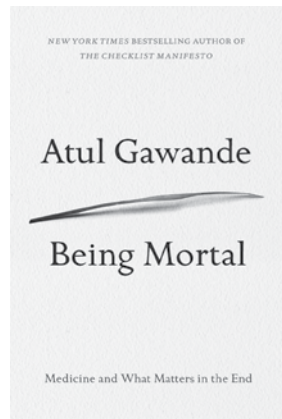


—NOTICE—

The Community Calendar, usually found on this page, has been temporarily relocated to our website at www.applegater.org. We hope to return the calendar to this location in the next issue.

BOOKS & MOVIES

— Books —

Being Mortal
Dr. Atul Gawande

“Being mortal is about the struggle to cope with the constraints of our biology, with the limits set by genes and cells and flesh and bone.”

The reader doesn't get very far into this book before being presented with a jarring scientific narrative of how our bodies finally fall apart: softening of teeth, hardening of vessels and joints, calcification of lungs, loss of bone density and muscle, thickening of the heart muscle, declining senses, shrinking brain, and so on. The author, an endocrine surgeon and professor at Harvard Medical School, tells us that the dying process was once thought to be orderly and preprogrammed. Not true, he says: it's gradual and random. As we age, something just gives out, and, as in mechanics, that failure almost always affects something else...and that gives out...and so on. One thing leads to another.

Dr. Gawande was prompted to write this book after the epiphany he experienced watching his own father's decline. He began to see that modern medicine is not always attuned to providing appropriate care to the elderly. We are living longer, sure, but at what cost and what suffering? According to the author, fewer than 25 percent of us pass away as we traditionally did—in the comfort of our own homes surrounded by friends and family. Instead we're more likely to waste away in a cold, sterile hospital bed, punctured with IVs, catheters, and feeding tubes, and surrounded by strange medical devices.

Older patients used to be able to see geriatric physicians, but this field has all but dried up. Geriatrics, according to the author, traditionally treated the aging patient holistically—with a broad understanding of symptoms and how they're related. The field was more about managing problems than trying to fix each one. Today the elderly tend to see a never-ending array of specialists with treatments that never end. The author tells us that 97 percent of today's medical students take no courses in geriatrics.

In this book the reader will learn the fascinating history and evolution of hospitals and nursing homes. While medical personnel fight to treat our multitude of symptoms, they often neglect our overall well-being. We lose privacy and control over our lives. It's like incarceration: we wear assigned gowns, eat assigned foods at assigned times with assigned roommates, with schedules that are functionally assigned for the convenience of strangers. Boredom, loneliness, and helplessness result.

Assisted living and continuing care facilities were designed to ameliorate this problem. But many come with exorbitant costs and may offer only token relief from the regimentation of institutional living. The author tells us that effective care can often be as straightforward as simplifying medications, controlling arthritis, trimming toenails, reducing isolation, and ensuring quality meals.

Throughout the book, the reader is treated to an array of vignettes that tell the heart-wrenching and heartwarming personal stories of ordinary people who have dealt with end-of-life issues in different ways. A theme emerges: those who pass most naturally and comfortably often have had frank discussions with their families and their family physicians. Planning for the end turns out to be just as important as for any other phase of life. There are formidable questions and tough issues to work through, to be sure. How much chemotherapy to endure? What are the risks of surgery? How much emergency resuscitative care is appropriate? What devices and procedures, if any, should be employed to prolong life? How can one avoid a sterile, painful death?

Death is anathema to our doctors. It represents failure. They devote their lives to preventing it in any way possible. The author demonstrates how modern medicine may have gotten it wrong. The reader of this book will appreciate not only how death is a normal and natural part of our lives, but how we can make adjustments as we age to reach this end-state as comfortably as possible. It takes courage to confront the realities of biology. We can take control.

Dr. Gawande does not suggest that all endings are controllable, but he wants us to recognize that we are not helpless. We have choices. It all starts with having the right conversations.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

Reviewer's Note: You can start a conversation with your family doctor by asking about Oregon's POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment). This document gives you control over what emergency medical interventions should be employed. If nothing else, it can get you thinking and possibly promote family discussion.

Editor's Note: For another article related to Being Mortal, see Margaret della Santina's "Response to Being Mortal" in the spring 2015 Applegater online at <http://applegater.org/pdf/2015/v08n01/v08n01x05.pdf>.

**Meursault, contre-enquête**
Kamel Daoud

I am going to go way out on a limb and state that

Kamel Daoud's *Meursault, contre-enquête* (*The Meursault Investigation* in English, Other Press, New York; Actes Sud in France) is one of the best novels ever written. I will be curious to see how Daoud does, Nobel Prize wise, etc. I would even be so brash as to compare Daoud's *Meursault* to Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*.

Meursault is an Arab response to Albert Camus's 1942 classic *L'Étranger*. But here's the rub: you are reading along and the Arab narrator is going on about how painful it is to be searching the beaches, along with his mother, for his murdered brother's body, interviewing Algiers residents about what they might know of the circumstances of the death, the burial, and so on. Then you abruptly have to remind yourself that the narrator is fictional, the mother is fictional, and the dead brother is a fiction from a different book of fiction (*L'Étranger*). Occasionally Daoud's fictional narrator chides Camus for killing his brother, and he even chides Western readers for glorifying the writer who killed his brother! It's more mind-boggling than any Shakespearean play-within-a-play.

Readers of poetry are told that poetry is what gets lost in translation. This book is a novel, not poetry—and though my French is rather rough, I find much poetry in both the French and the English translated version. And there is at least one passage where I maintain that the English is superior, more fun, because it has a catchy double entendre that I think gets better in translation from the original French. The narrator tells of his arbitrary and capricious murder of a French-Algerian man, set in juxtaposition to the senseless murder of an Arab in Camus's *The Stranger*. "The man was there, wedged between two stories and some walls, and his only way out was my story, which left him no chance." The French do not call the various levels of a building "stories," so this passage is more intriguing in English.

There are sprinklings of comments throughout Daoud's book about the history of the French-Algerian War (not much talked about in France to this day) and—because, after all, this is a response to Albert Camus—oblique references to existentialism, to the philosophy of the absurd.

Julia (Helm) Hoskins • julmudgeon@aol.com

Julia Helm Hoskins is the author of She Caves to Conquer, a novel set in the American Midwest and in southern Turkey.

— Movies —

**Five top holiday movies for the family**

Are you ready to snuggle in front of the fire with your family for a holiday film marathon? Get the popcorn and holiday treats ready. By David Aronchick, *The Huffington Post*, November 2015.

1. Elf. Perhaps the most comedic, most appropriate and emotion-grabbing holiday film of all time? My friends and other family members like to put *It's a Wonderful Life* or *Christmas Story* at the top of their list, but my family prefers Will Ferrell over Jimmy Stewart any day of the week.



2. The Polar Express.

Animation at its best, along with a beautifully crafted message about brotherhood and belief. This film, starring Tom Hanks as the wise, charming train conductor, is a fascinating thrill ride to the North Pole and like *Elf*, reaffirms the true meaning of Christmas.

3. Miracle on 34th Street. Typically, my kids will not sit through an older film, especially one that is black and white, but *Miracle on 34th Street* is compelling theater regardless of age, or generational affiliation. The message is simple to digest—corporate greed and public fear standing in the way of belief, even as proof stares our characters directly in the face. This movie

is beautifully directed and the screenplay is spot on. If you are looking for a classic to present the kids, this is the one I would recommend.

4. How the Grinch Stole Christmas. I was torn between putting the Grinch here, or *Scrooged*, but the

Grinch wins because of its family-friendly nature. Who do kids love more than Dr. Seuss? From the time our kids were aware enough to be read to, Dr. Seuss has maintained a strong hold over the content we allow our children to consume. Tried and true, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* brings Dickensian themes

to a modern audience in a humorous vehicle led by Jim Carrey.

5. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. When the kids go to bed, toss in this Chevy Chase classic. National Lampoon's Vacation franchise was a winner, with this third entry in the series matching the original *Family Vacation* for laughs. Cousin Eddy? Classic. Chase once again portrays the loveable, but clumsy Clark Griswold as if he were born to play the character. The language and sexual situations in *Christmas Vacation* make it adults only viewing for us. And of course, there is the everlasting allure of Beverly D'Angelo as Ellen Griswold.

BACK IN TIME

Workday at Beaver Creek School

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

When I look at the wonderful old photographs that I have collected over the years, I find myself reminiscing about the people and places captured in those pictures. One such photo transports me back to one of my favorite places, the Beaver Creek School, and memories of the friends and family gathered there.

This 1930 photo from Lee Port Jr. was taken in back of the newer Beaver Creek School just before school started in September. I think everyone brought a lunch, or it could have been a potluck. My father, John Byrne, is there along with cousins, uncles, and my sister Gladys, who is standing in the middle of the picture.

As you can see, the workday was well attended for that small school. The women swept and mopped the floors, cleaned windows inside and out. The desks were cleaned, and the seats were checked underneath for any hidden chewing gum. Some students were privileged to have that luxury (gum) while others made due with "pitch gum" found on pine trees. Still, both could be found stuck to the furniture and required some elbow grease to remove.

When the school building was spick-and-span, the cleaning chores moved to the outside privies. The boys' was behind the woodshed to the far left, and the girls' was at the far right behind a large pine tree. A broom with a bucket of soapy water took care of the seats,



Workday at Beaver Creek School. **Front row**, left to right: My dad John Byrne, my cousin Virgil O'Brien (visiting from Pinole, CA), Floyd Rippey, Albert Anderson (boy), Cary Culy, and Edward Finley. **Second row**: Wesley Ritchey(?), my uncle Floyd McKee, unknown, my aunt Eva McKee with son Richard, my sister Gladys Byrne (who recently passed away at age 97), and Lester Anderson. **Back row**: Unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, Mamie Winningham. Behind fence: unknown, Maude Pool, George Peck, unknown, Louis Straube.

and then a sack of lime was held over the hole to drop in about one quarter of its contents for sanitation. I think there were old catalogs instead of toilet paper. It was so much cheaper, and kids were used to the catalog bit.

The men either cut wood there

or brought some for the old potbelly heating stove. It took a lot to keep the school warm during the winter because there was no insulation in the building. The woodshed was at the right of the photo, and I remember it being filled with wood. The children were not allowed to play in there, but the older boys could carry wood in for the stove. They seemed to like that task, even when the snow was often a foot or two deep. I remember how the teacher would let us sit near the stove during the winter when we got too cold for comfort at our desks.

One of the other things I remember is the small room inside the back door on the south side of the building where there was a coat closet for the boys and drinking water was piped in from a nearby spring to a faucet and sink. That was such a luxury for those who did not have running water in their homes.

It was sad when, after 47 years, there were not enough students for the school to continue operating; it closed in 1945. A few students left to attend Uniontown School, and then consolidation with Ruch took place in the summer of 1946.

Evelyn Byrne Williams

with Janeen Sathre • 541-899-1443

For more information about the Beaver Creek School District, see the fall 2015 *Applegater* online at www.applegater.org.

DONOMORE CABIN

FROM PAGE 1

leave their horses and visit the cabin to move salt licks, check on the cattle, and relax. Families would gather at roundup to camp there.

The Freshour Cabin collapsed late in the 20th century into a barely visible pile of rubble. The range permit is currently held by a descendent of these early families whose cattle roam in the meadow. Visitors continue the tradition of leaving initials, art, and sentiments on the walls and supports of the interior. Hunters maintain a camp area. PCT hikers pass through regularly in summer.

During the months of research to learn the history and discover what private citizens could do, Mark Hocken, range management specialist at the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, and Brian Long, recreation manager for the Siskiyou Mountains and Wild River Ranger Districts, provided access to records, advice, and suggestions for the project. With limited budget and manpower, the US Forest Service, which owns the land on which the cabin sits, is unable to maintain the cabin.

The initial work in July included new support poles in the interior, repair of corner boards, repair and replacement of the metal roofing, wall stabilization, and removal of debris. A recent trip added covering to the window openings and staged materials recovered from the demolition of the 1928 Godward garage in Jacksonville for the next repair. Planned work includes a roof ridge cap, more permanent covering for the windows, a new door, floor repair, and installation of the ladder to the loft.

The goal is to preserve the Donomore Cabin for everyone to enjoy and to maintain it to encourage respect for this very special place. The next work event to continue the project of saving the cabin is scheduled for July 23, 2016. Anyone with an interest is invited to participate.

For more information about the project, contact me or go to the Donomore Cabin Facebook page.

Gayle (Offenbacher) Lewis

gayleyn@gmail.com

541-899-7023

Simply Autumn

by Beate Foit

when colorful leaves disconnect
from branches,
letting go, dancing in the wind,
tumbling, twirling,
not resting until they touch the ground

when temperatures drop overnight
to freezing,
holding the grass in rigid suspense
until the sun melts the cover of clear ice

when listening within to a new and
quiet song

soothes our souls
after the cacophony of summer

contentment in knowing
that the harvest was brought in
while the days were getting shorter

when the wood is stacked,
the chimney cleaned,
and family and friends gather to share
in the abundance of the season

~ that, to me, is autumn.

Voices of the Applegate

Hopefully you didn't miss the fall Voices of the Applegate concerts held on November 20 in Jacksonville at the old Presbyterian Church on California Street and November 22 at the Applegate River Lodge. The diversified offerings included "Workin' for the Dawn of Peace," "Follow the Drinking Gourd," and "Ashokan Farewell" from the PBS series, *The Civil War*. Two numbers from *Guys and Dolls* as well as several sea chanties, a West Indies calypso piece, and a Zambian celebration song ended the concerts with a rocking beat.

Voices of the Applegate is a local community choir led by Blake Weller and consists of about 22 participants. We are always looking for new members, so if you are inspired, especially after hearing the last concert, we would welcome you into the spring session beginning the first week of January, with Wednesday rehearsals at Ruch Library from 7 to 8:30 pm. The concerts will be held during the second week of April with times and exact dates to be announced.

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



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TAKE A LOOK

Lost Creek and Applegate Dam
Failure Inundation Maps

January
21

Applegate Valley Fire Department
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Jacksonville, Oregon

Inundation maps show flooding from highly unlikely, worst-case dam failure scenarios. Your property may be at risk in such an event if you live within one mile of the Rogue or Applegate rivers. Dam safety specialists with the Corps of Engineers will help you understand the consequences and likelihood of such an event. County Emergency Managers also will be available to discuss personal preparedness measures you can take to keep your family safe.

Admission by advance reservation only

Small groups allow a better exchange of information.
RSVP for your preferred time on January 21 by visiting
<http://roguemapmeetings.eventbrite.com> after December 7.

Session choices:

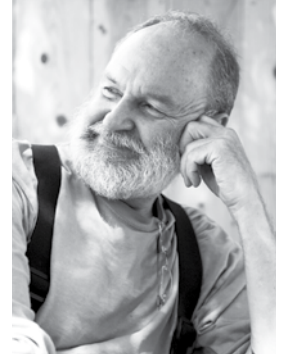
1 3 - 4 p.m. 2 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. 3 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
If you have any questions, please contact the Portland District Public Affairs
Office at 503-808-4510 or cenwp-pa@usace.army.mil.

THE STARRY SIDE

See into the future

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

The celestial symmetry of our night sky is a real treat. During the first half of the night, the sky is named after the season we're in. So in winter, we call the evening's configuration of stars and planets the "winter sky." Generally, we then go to bed. But if we get up before dawn, we have a completely different view of the sky, which is actually *next* season's evening sky. So even though it's winter as you read this, you can see the "spring sky" if you get up early enough (or stay up late).

How does this work?

During the night, the visible portion of the sky shifts as the earth spins on its axis. So if I look up at 10 pm in winter, I am seeing the constellations and planets in their "winter sky" configuration. If I go outside again at 4 am, they have shifted about 90 degrees, to their "spring sky" configuration. So at 4 am, I'm glimpsing the future.

And that is true all year long. Each night we would see two seasons' skies, were we to watch the whole show. As I write this, it is fall; by dawn tomorrow the next season—winter—will show up.

I often get up early to meditate, and I look out to see this "season's premiere." How cool, how simple, how symmetrical and predictable are these sky mechanics. So congratulations: *you* can see into the future!

The winter sky is one of my favorites. It is cold and

clear (except in inclement weather). The full moons are high and bright, the Milky Way obvious, and the skies filled with bright, clear constellations. Yes, you have to dress up against the cold, but it's so worth it.

Orion, almost everyone's favorite, is up most of the night, very high and thrilling. His train of companions stretches out after him, including Canus

Major with the brightest star in our heavens, Sirius. Then there's Canus Minor above Sirius, a bright star with a companion. Above Orion are the Gemini twins. Ahead of him, you can find the clear V of Taurus the bull, with bright Aldebaran, and still farther out, the seven sisters, or Pleiades. Such a clear consistent gang of beauty working their way across the night sky through the season!

Here is a picture of the Winter Circle and Winter Triangle

that includes most of these stars. By February Leo the Lion, with Jupiter nearby, has risen to the top of the sky. Parallel to Leo is the Big Dipper, which also reaches the sky's zenith as the Gemini twins set in the west with the winter constellations. Here comes spring!

Other events of note

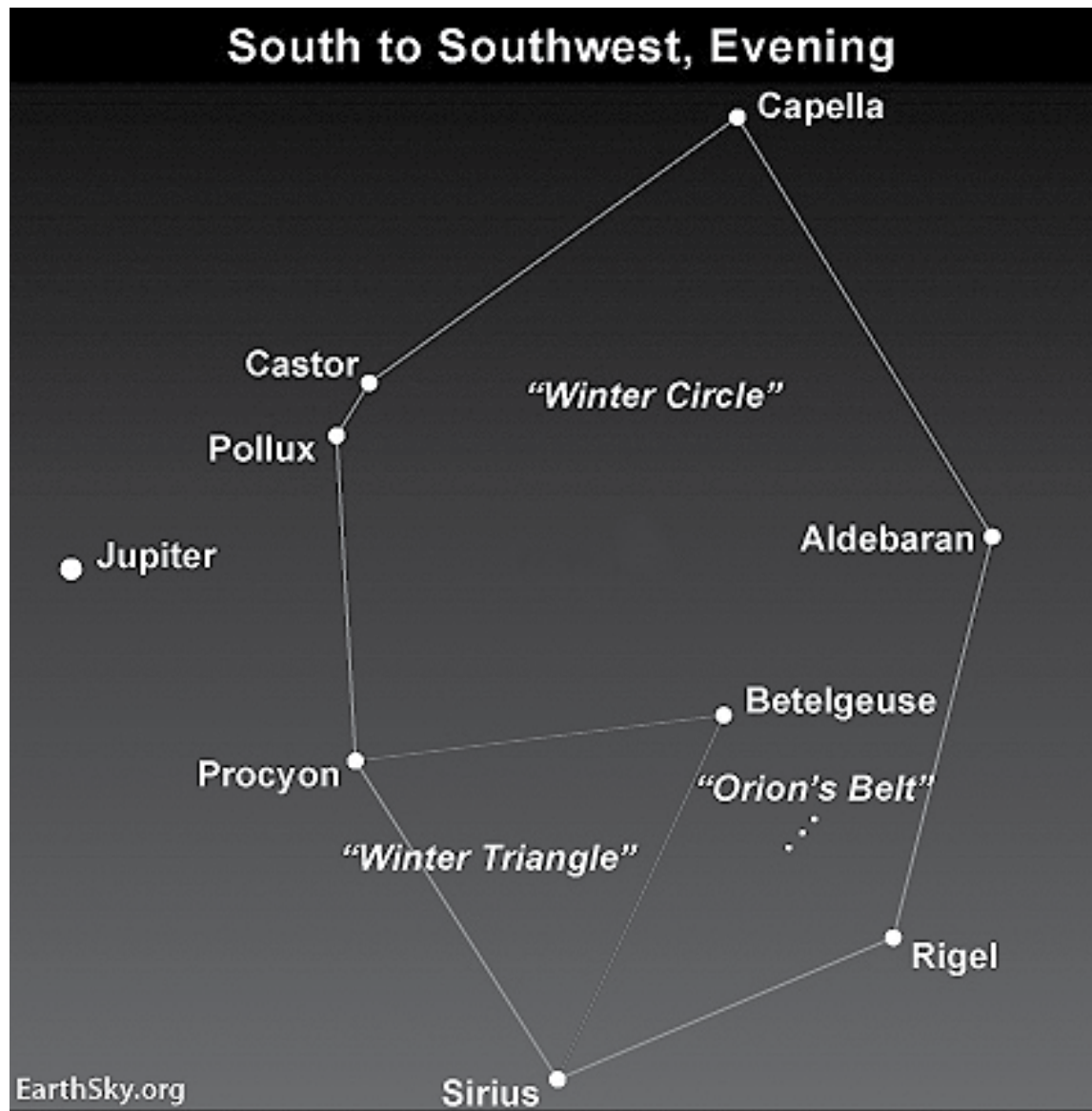
For you morning risers looking into spring, the dance of the planets continues. Bright Venus is now slowly sinking till it disappears in June. The next-brightest planet, Jupiter, is rising fast with the other stars, while Mars rises slowly. Last is Mercury, hardly visible because it's so small, rising and falling in and out of our vision and low on the horizon. Mercury is never far from the sun and moves fast around it.

Winter solstice is on December 22.

Geminid Meteors can be seen pretty well this year with a very young moon from December 14 to the 23rd. Instead of a peak of meteors, which is most common, they plateau and show when the constellation Gemini is highest in the sky, from 2 am till before dawn. There may be 50 to 130 meteors per hour!

Wishing you clear, dark night skies and bright stars.

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me



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Making a difference for animals, people, and the earth

BY BROOKE NUCKLES GENTEKOS

"We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference."—Nelson Mandela

Sanctuary One's vision is "People, Animals & the Earth: Better Together." Our dedicated staff and volunteers provide rescue and rehabilitation to neglected or abused animals. On our care farm we invite people of all ages and abilities to get outdoors and interact with the animals and educational gardens. We work to inspire, teach and model environmental stewardship while demonstrating how every life has value. Compassion grows at Sanctuary One in every season, year-round.

In late October, a group of 25 teens from a local alternative high

school visited the Sanctuary. These youth, many of whom are considered "at-risk," were immersed in our outdoor classroom, 55 acres of farm and forest. The students walked the labyrinth, gardens, and forest while breathing fresh air and being surrounded by blue skies, mountains, and trees—a multisensory learning experience.

Our amazing interns, Kameke Brown and Amy Wilkinson, led the group on a tour of the farm culminating with a visit to the pasture, where the students met our herd of rescued animals face-to-face, hand to furry head.

At Sanctuary One, our Animal and People Care programs impact thousands of people each year, from at-risk teens

to elders with limited mobility. We often ask, "Who's saving whom?" Is it the animals whose lives are saved, the people whose lives are transformed by inspiring interaction with the animals and gardens, or is it the many people who contribute



Sanctuary One interns Amy Wilkinson and Kameke Brown lead group tours of the farm and pasture, which is inhabited by rescued animals.

time and money to support Sanctuary One's mission? Like our threefold vision to serve people, animals and the earth—together, maybe we all are saved a little. With the support of you, our Applegate community, we are making a difference by rescuing one animal, instilling compassion in one child, tending one row of seedlings at a time.

Please contribute at www.SanctuaryOne.org or by mail to 13195 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530. All donations



This teen came face-to-face with Jigsaw the pig while touring Sanctuary One in late October.

are tax-deductible (tax ID 208982518), and every dollar goes toward our Animal, Earth and People Care programs. Brooke Nuckles Gentekos • 541-846-8627 Executive Director, Sanctuary One brooke@sanctuaryone.org

Wayside parking lot sale update

After much negotiation and fine-tuning, the Board of Directors of the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) approved the agreement for sale of the Wayside parking lot to Keith Wetlesen, whose intent is to develop the park into Merete's Cove, a privately owned gathering place for the community to share music, classes, recreation, and potentially a farmers' market.

This sale agreement includes:

- a letter of intent by Mr. Wetlesen to provide community access to the Wayside Park swimming hole (as regulated and managed by him in an effort to keep the area safe and clean);
- an easement for the fire department

to have access to the pump station in perpetuity;

- a First Right of Refusal to the GACDC for repurchase of this parcel at the same price for which it was sold, should Mr. Wetlesen or his heirs decide to sell at any time in the future.

Access to the swimming hole has been unavailable for a number of years. The GACDC Board of Directors applauds Mr. Wetlesen's efforts and treasures the return and use of the Wayside swimming hole to our local community. We appreciate the letters, calls, and discussions surrounding this collaborative effort.

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www.gacdc.org/contact-us.html

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Green and green (not the architects)

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

A friend recently told me about the ability of sunflowers to pull several types of toxins from the soil. This process is called phytoremediation. Sunflowers are not the only plant with this property, but the fascination with phytoremediation took me down a side trail. Are there plants that can pull toxins from the human body? Well, actually there are.

Cilantro and parsley are just two of the easiest plants to grow that also facilitate the awesome benefit of pulling toxins, i.e., heavy metals, from your body.

Cilantro cleanses

Cilantro—you either love it or yuck it, but don't mistake it for flat Italian parsley, which is easily done.

An interesting serendipitous finding made by the researcher Dr. Yoshiaki Omura was that some patients excreted more toxic metals after consuming Chinese soup containing cilantro (www.kitchendoctor.com). This herb also is believed to cross the blood-brain barrier and remove heavy metals from the brain (www.naturalnews.com).

In addition, there are other significant reasons to munch on a few cilantro sprigs. Cilantro is rich in many vital vitamins and minerals, including folic acid, riboflavin, niacin, beta-carotene, vitamin A, and vitamin C, which are essential for optimum health. Antioxidants are found in the stem tips as well as the leaves of cilantro.

Nutritionists recommend cilantro as "a good source of potassium, calcium, manganese, iron, and magnesium. Potassium is an important component of cell and body fluids, which helps regulate heart rate and blood pressure. Iron is essential for red blood cell production" (www.nutrition-and-you.com).

As I was stuffing my mouth full of the aromatic leaves, I ran across a couple more significant things I didn't know—less than one cup of cilantro contains 225

percent of the recommended daily intake of vitamin A and 258 percent of the recommended daily intake of vitamin K.

So who even thinks about vitamin K? Well, I guess I should, since I have now accomplished the compulsory senior shrink of one inch. Yikes! I didn't know that Vitamin K has a potential role in bone-mass building through promotion of osteotropic activity in the bones. Also, this small but mighty star plays a role in Alzheimer's disease—it is known to cross the blood-brain barrier by limiting the damage of neurons in the brain (www.nutrition-and-you.com/cilantro.html).

Parsley purges

Please eat all of your garnish, which most likely is parsley. Parsley, just like cilantro, removes heavy metals from the body. Coincidentally, it has many of the same vitamins and minerals as cilantro. Both of these herbs help eliminate salt that has built up in the kidneys, thus assisting the removal from the body of accumulated poisons like mercury, cadmium, and lead (<http://undergroundhealthreporter.com>).

Parsley also boosts levels of the antioxidant glutathione. "Glutathione (pronounced 'gloota-thigh-own') is the most important molecule you need to stay healthy and prevent aging, cancer, heart disease, dementia and more" (www.drhyman.com). It is often called the mother of all antioxidants. To get this super enzyme working in your body, consume sulfur-rich foods like "the stinking rose," aka "garlic, onions, and cruciferous vegetables (broccoli, kale, collards, cabbage, cauliflower, watercress, etc.)" (www.drhyman.com).

There are other overlooked benefits of this toss-away garnish. Parsley additionally contains two types of unusual components (and, no, I had

never heard of them, either): (1) volatile oil components, including myristicin, limonene, eugenol, and alpha-thujene, and (2) flavonoids, including apiin, apigenin, crisoeriol, and luteolin. These qualify parsley to wear a badge that says "I am a chemoprotective food" because parsley can "help neutralize particular types of carcinogens (like the benzopyrenes that are part of cigarette smoke and charcoal grill smoke)" (www.whfoods.com).

Myristicin has been shown in animal studies to inhibit tumors in the lungs. The flavonoids contained in parsley, with special reference to luteolin, have demonstrated an antioxidant ability that, when combined with oxygen radicals, helps prevent the dreaded cell damage causing disease and aging (www.whfoods.com).

If I could plant only three things in the garden to optimize my health, they would be cilantro, parsley, and garlic.

Here's to your good health and happy munching.

Dirty Fingernails and All
Sioux Rogers
dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm



Cilantro is believed to remove heavy metals from the brain. Photo: www.evokeelegance.com.



Parsley is called the mother of all antioxidants. Photo: www.edenbrothers.com.

Simple Detox Drink

Blend one tablespoon of organic parsley and cilantro with 12 ounces of water.

Filter through a strainer (unless you like the texture of the herbs) and drink up!

From *Underground Health Reporter* (<http://undergroundhealthreporter.com>).

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Cantrall Buckley Park NEWS

Turtle playscape is a home run

BY RICH HALSTED

Cantrall Buckley Park recently added a new playscape, one of many new improvements planned for the park over the next couple of years. Excited children and parents took in the new addition at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 19. The Ford Institute Leadership Program selected this particular project over the many that were submitted, developed the concept, and constructed the project

with help from some local members of the community.

The Ford Institute Leadership Program is part of the Ford Family Foundation and was first offered in 2003. It is designed to enhance rural communities in Oregon and Siskiyou County, California. The Institute selects four new communities to enter the program each spring and each fall.

The playscape is centered around a 1,400-pound cement turtle affectionately known as "Tuffy" after

Applegate's own Tuffy Decker, who donated multiple days for the excavation required for the project. The turtle was constructed by Ruch's own Jeremy Criswell, who designed the project in collaboration with leadership program members. The turtle also represents part of the educational themes in regard to the restoration of turtle habitat. The playscape includes logs and boulders to play on and a bench. The improvement to the park is very successful based on the excitement of the children playing on and around the new play area. "It was just amazing," Jeremy said,

describing the children's reaction to the playscape. "Kids don't think about it. They take right to it." In all, over 225 volunteer hours and 1,600 pounds of concrete were needed to install the playscape.

Future planned projects for the park include replacement of the playground equipment and restoration of the existing area, enhancement of turtle natural habitat areas, restroom renovation, and improvements to the campground. The park received generous donations from the community and a matching state grant for the playground project, as well as grants from nonprofit foundations. The playground project will begin late this fall.

Thanks to the Ford Institute Leadership Program seminar participants as well as community members who contributed numerous hours to make this project possible. Particularly notable community contributors include Tuffy Decker, Sebastian Klinefelter, and Bjorn Everson, who all made generous donations of time and equipment.

Cantrall Buckley Park is a treasured resource of the residents of the Applegate Valley, and its day-use and campground areas are heavily utilized in summer by residents of the greater Rogue Valley and by tourists. The park offers public access to the Applegate River and its natural environment and is used for camping, picnicking, fishing, swimming, family gatherings, and community events. Cantrall Buckley Park comprises approximately 88 acres. Co-managed by Jackson County and the nonprofit Greater Applegate Community

Photos below—Top: Tuffy Decker, for whom the turtle is named, donated his excavation expertise to the playscape project.

Photo: Tom Carstens.

Bottom: Tim Balfour cuts the ribbon at the official opening of the Enchanted Turtle Playscape.

Photo: Sara King Cole.

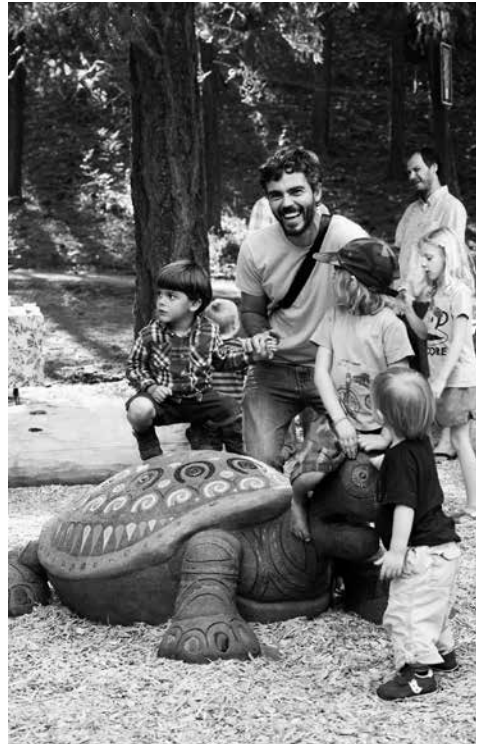


Help with Cantrall Buckley Park history

Your Cantrall Buckley Park Committee is putting together a short history of our park.

If you or anyone you know were involved in either the park's initial founding in the mid-1960s or in its salvation as a community park in 1997, please contact Tom Carstens at 541-846-1025.

Your help is appreciated!



Jeremy Criswell, creator of "Tuffy" the turtle, enjoys playtime with children at the ribbon-cutting event on September 19. Photo: Sara King Cole.

Development Corporation (GACDC), the park provides the closest campground to the population center of Medford.

The Cantrall Buckley Park Committee, part of GACDC, is always looking for additional members and citizens who want to participate in improving the park. Please contact Tom Carstens at 541-846-1025 if you'd like to get involved.

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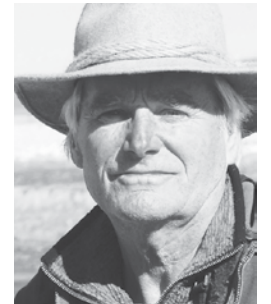
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BIRD EXPLORER

Climate change and mega-rare bird sightings

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Peter J. Thiemann

Birds that we never saw in the American West are now showing up. Some species are expanding their breeding range up north due to favorable conditions with a warming climate. Examples are several Hummingbird species and the Northern Mockingbird. Other birds are becoming seasonal nonbreeding visitors like the Elegant Terns on the coast, first seen in Oregon during the El Niño of 1983.

This year is another El Niño year, and conditions in the Pacific Ocean have changed for sea life. Most visible are sea mammals and birds, with large numbers of whales seen in Monterey Bay and off the coast of San Francisco. Ocean birds, like many species of Shearwaters (mostly of the genus *Puffinus*), are seen in record numbers. With all the warm water down south, birds and mammals are following colder water up north for food. It is a banner year for whale watchers and birders interested in the spectacle. I took two whale-watching trips out to the Farallon Islands, 27 miles off the coast of San Francisco, in September. I was not disappointed with the many whale sightings of several species.

But it is the large ocean birds seen on the Farallones that I want to discuss.

First is the single male Northern Gannet, which has now been seen for three years on the islands and even in San Francisco Bay. Normally this large ocean

bird is found in the Atlantic Ocean. So how did it come to the San Francisco area? Although its course is not fully understood (the Northern Gannet is *not* an escaped bird), the expert consensus is that it must have come through

the Northwest Passage of the Arctic Ocean due to open sea ice. This bird species cannot migrate long distances over land because it needs open water to dive for ocean fish. We now hear eyewitness reports of Gannet sightings from northern Alaska. The implications are profound. We are already seeing other species like the Polar Bear in peril.

In addition to the Gannet, we have now seen Boobies all the way up to British Columbia, Canada. On my second trip to the Farallones, I photographed 12 Brown Boobies and one Blue-footed Booby, mega-rare birds this far north. The Blue-footed Booby nests on the Galapagos Islands far to the south near Ecuador, and the Brown Boobies range from the Sea of Cortez to Mexico. Now birders are chasing mega-rare birds like the Gannet and Boobies on the Pacific Coast of the American West, a sign of the changing climate with cause for concern for all.

Peter J. Thiemann

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Photos courtesy of Peter J. Thiemann, Flickr photo stream.

Photos, clockwise from left: Northern Gannet, adult Blue-footed Booby, Northern Gannet and juvenile Brown Booby, adult Brown Boobies.



Anise Swallowtail butterfly a joy to see

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The Anise Swallowtail (*Papilio zelicaon*) is of the butterfly family Papilionidae. With wings open it can reach up to three and one-half inches across. The abdomen is black and the background color is yellow with black borders on the forewings. Hind wings have scalloped wing margins with blue spots, a shortened tail, and red-orange eye spots with a black dot center.

Males will perch on hilltops patrolling for females. Females lay eggs singly on host plants that are

mainly of the parsley family, using natives or garden varieties. Citrus has also been reported as a host plant. Young caterpillars will eat leaves, while older caterpillars will eat the flowers of the host plant. The pupae overwinter.

Nectar is the main food source of the adult butterfly. Males also visit nectar, but frequently puddle. Nectar sources are many and include lupines, fireweed, mustards, yarrow, thistles, penstemons, azalea, manzanita and many others.

Habitat for the Anise Swallowtail

can be mountains, alpine meadows, forest clearings, grasslands, or waterways. The butterfly can be seen in flight from late March through July, although this past summer they were seen a little longer with reports of caterpillars into the early fall suggesting a longer flight period. This was a good year for Swallowtail species in southern Oregon, the last notable one I know of being in 2011.

This butterfly is a joy to see, making appearances at unexpected times. I have seen the Anise Swallowtail from grassy areas by the ocean to high mountains.

During a botany course through Siskiyou Field Institute, I hiked to the top of Big Red Mountain on the Siskiyou Crest. While at the top resting and eating

lunch, I was graced with the company of an Anise Swallowtail who rested on a backdrop of colorful lichen-covered rocks. He stayed around warming in the sun while I enjoyed his presence. This image can be found on the "Butterflies and Moths of the Pacific Northwest" Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1529362950616437/>). I have also seen them on top of Mount Isabelle in Applegate hill-topping with other butterflies.

Linda Kappen

humbugkapps@hotmail.com

Linda earned a naturalist certification from Siskiyou Field Institute, and hosts two-day butterfly courses. Photos: Linda Kappen, butterfly; Gerry Queener, caterpillar.



Spotted Owl survey results

For those of you who have been waiting for the results of the analysis on the status and trends of the Northern Spotted Owl, you may not have to wait much longer.

The findings of this study are scheduled to be available online around December 2 at <http://www.aoucospubs.org/loi/cond> in the form of a joint US Geological Survey (USGS) and Oregon State University press release. Lead author Dr. Katie Dugger is a research biologist at the USGS Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Oregon State University. A collaborative team of 37 researchers across multiple organizations authored this paper.

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Local indie band The Evening Shades rocks it!

BY MIKELL NIELSEN

Feeling some serious hometown pride, passionate fans of The Evening Shades celebrated at the band's recent CD release party in Medford. With standing room only, the band took to the stage like seasoned rock stars. Bandmates include two of Applegate Valley's own, Matthew Tayvis (bass, keys) and Justen Nielsen (drums), as well as Mark Thales (vocals) and Sam Kovic (guitar) from Medford. The Evening Shades are the winners of the Rising Stars 2015 music competition. The band's recently released CD is titled *Alright*.

Though the band is busy performing shows and writing new music for their sophomore album (2016 scheduled release), Matthew and Justen gave us a personal look into their history, their future, and why they are a band to be remembered.

How was The Evening Shades formed?

Matthew: "I met Mark playing a solo show at a brewery in 2012. I knew right away he was talented and into the same style of music I like. We searched for years to find the right guitarist and drummer and finally accomplished that with the addition of super talents Sam and Justen."

When did you know you were a musician?

Matthew: "I've always loved the piano. I started playing when I was four and doing live performances when I was 12. My parents didn't know what to do; I was spending hours playing before I could even talk right. I didn't know at that age how it would evolve."

What does Justen bring to the band?

Matthew: "Justen is a human metronome—exactly what every great band needs. He's a super-talented drummer and always makes every moment a good one. He finds the humor in everything, no matter the occasion."

Tell me about your musical background.

Justen: "I grew up listening to rock,

classical music and old standards, but when I started playing drums I mainly played metal and punk. After high school I attended the Musicians Institute in Los Angeles, where I learned to play different genres of music—everything from jazz to Latin to pop.

What does Matt bring to the band?

Justen: "He brings his bass guitar and keyboard, his picks, usually a beer [laughs]. Seriously, Matt has a great sense of creativity and loves an epic song. He has a large part in creating our songs that feel really huge."

What is your opinion about the music scene in southern Oregon?

Justen: "It's sadly underrated. There are many talented musicians and a wide variety of music here."

Being a professional musician can be a challenge on many levels. What keeps you motivated?

Justen: "I don't experience head games or have insecurities about music like when I played high school and college soccer. It's something I completely enjoy and feel confident and happy about. It's really inspiring to hear what people think of our music and see how it affects them. They teach us things about our songs that we don't know ourselves. That's pretty motivating."

Your CD release party was a huge success. Where do you go from here?

Matthew: "We'll continue to play shows in this area. The demand seems to be getting greater every year. We sent our CD overseas and to different music blogs and reviewers hoping for more exposure. The album has been featured on several blogs and even *Fireworks* magazine. We may be touring Europe sometime next year. That would be amazing."

Which song on *Alright* do you see becoming a hit single?

Justen: Everyone seems to enjoy "Any Louder." It's the song we end our shows with because it's such a huge experience."



Indie band The Evening Shades, from left to right: Matthew Tayvis—bass, keys and vocals; Sam Kovic—guitar and vocals; Mark Thales—lead vocals and guitar; Justen Nielsen—drums. Photo: mikellouise photography.

What makes The Evening Shades a band to remember?

Matthew: "We have a sound that appeals to all age groups—from 10 to 70 you'll be tapping your feet or full-out dancing to our melodic tunes. Our sound is easily embraceable and familiar, yet totally unique. We have different musical influences and all love writing music. When you put it all together you get The Evening Shades—a sound that hopefully will be more and more embraced for years to come!"

Tell me something personal that might surprise your fans.

Justen: "I used to be in a gothic

industrial band that opened for Peter Murphy at Stan Lee's Comikaze in Los Angeles. And I had a 12-inch green and black mohawk."

Matthew: "I might stop wearing a hat some day." (It has been anonymously reported that Matthew has never been seen sans hat.)

The Evening Shades generously offers its talents to nonprofit organizations. Their album *Alright* is available for download on iTunes. For more information, visit www.theeveningshades.com or email theeveningshades@gmail.com.

Mikell Nielsen
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STOLEN MOMENTS

FROM PAGE 1



The Stolen Moments trio, from left to right: Dan Fellman on guitar, Conny Lindley on guitar and vocals, and Walter Lindley on bass and vocals. Photo: Courtesy of Stolen Moments.

connection with people in a universal, emotional way," Dan says. "I think we all seek connection, and there is something magical about how music can make that happen, however fleetingly."

Maybe it's because of that sense of connection that Stolen Moments is generous in playing for nonprofit organizations. "We're glad to do it," Walter says, "if it's a good cause and a fun gig and if we're playing music we enjoy for people who appreciate it." But when they volunteer their music for nonprofit events, he suggests that the musicians who travel should get paid at least \$50, and Dan says a glass of wine wouldn't hurt, either.

Listening to the sweet sounds of Stolen Moments' music makes one think the band members just pick up their instruments and the music flows out, but Conny reminds us that playing in a band requires a lot of practice and attention to memorizing lyrics and chords, everything

it takes for each member of the band to learn a song so that, individually and collectively, they really "own" it. She has spent a lot of time learning Brazilian Portuguese lyrics and French songs.

And then there's that moment when they get on stage and, as Conny puts it, "the music is flowing through us and, at its best, is almost mystical."

Walter and Dan express much the same thing—Walter when he says, "What I love about playing in an ensemble is getting in *the zone*—that place where the music seems to play itself, is rhythmically in the pocket, and every note sounds good"; and Dan when he says, "There's something very satisfying about synchronizing and resonating in harmony with other beings. It's like what crickets must feel when they chirp at the same frequency on a summer's evening."

Diana Coogle
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Music magic in Williams

BY GABRIELA EAGLESOME

In big cities, people enjoy music as consumers. In Williams, it is an integral part of life: impromptu jams in friends' homes, two pubs with live music throughout the week, a grassroots radio station (operated by Iwill, a musician and longtime resident), open mic nights, and concerts that draw visitors from far beyond Williams.

It seems that every third person in Williams plays an instrument, sings, or performs with a group. Williams' musicians travel with their instruments to play at every opportunity. They are frequently at the Applegate River Lodge, where people gather after the main act to jam until early morning.

Willy Warwick is a venerated musician in the area, whose mother, Martha, started the Old Time Fiddler's Camp in Williams many years ago. When Willy began playing fiddle, "there

were three to four musicians living in Williams," he says, "but now there may be three to four hundred," playing in genres ranging from classical guitar to bluegrass, reggae, jazz, folk, and rock.

Kim Mericle, a musician who closely follows the local music scene, likens the Williams' music phenomenon to the creativity and arts that thrive in Taos, New Mexico. Many musicians who live in Williams are good enough to do well in Los Angeles or New York, but they prefer to live here.

Dennis Dragon's "The Studio at Pacifica" offers world-class recording opportunities. Dennis won Grammys for his work before he moved to the Applegate Valley from the Los Angeles area. Disenchanted with the big-city scene, he came to visit a friend in Williams. When he saw the Steve Miller recording studio at Pacifica, he realized it was exactly the way he would have built

it, so he got his equipment out of storage and moved to Williams eight years ago. He is amazed at the talent here. He says, "This is such a small area, so it blew my mind that there is such a diverse range of quality musicians in Williams."

Windsong, a singer-songwriter and guitarist who has lived in the area since 1978, thinks there is a "strong musical spirit in the area." She says, "Amazing and fairly famous musicians come here to find quietness during their off-the-road time, and then they tour."

Many musicians feel that Williams' relaxed, laid-back, even spiritual ambiance and natural surroundings make it the perfect place to compose and escape the rat race. Kim Mericle says, "Musicians seek the lifestyle of Williams, where people want to live their own lives, but have a strong community at the same time."

Warren Wolfe, who moved to Oregon from Monterey, California, in 2009, says that making music in this rural community is better than the grind

and competition he experienced as a professional musician. "Elsewhere," he says, "it is cutthroat. There is no sense of the collaboration or community that you have here in Williams. Of course, musicians here don't have money, but it's fun to do what you love with your heart wide open."

Others believe that there is a high density of musicians all across the United States and that Williams is nothing noteworthy. Brian (Buzz) Sulgit hesitated to say that Williams deserves special recognition, saying, "I've heard people say that there is a lot of music happening here, but I just don't notice it, because I have been here for 22 years and it just seems normal." Warren Wolfe, on the other hand, insists, "I would chalk it up to emotional energy, spirit, and even magic." In spite of the threats and disasters happening in the world, Warren thinks that here in Williams "we are making our own paradise; we are living in the Shire."

Gabriela Eaglesome
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COLONEL MUSTARD

FROM PAGE 1

Part of the fun is that they make people happy because it's so obvious they're having fun themselves. And part of our fun is that we're listening to familiar music we have loved for years. They are a cover band: they do other people's music—lots of Beatles, anything from Santana to Amy Winehouse, anything from the 1940s on through the decades. One of their audiences' favorites is their Beatles medley, but if you have a request for just about anything, they'll be able to do it.

Another part of the fun lies in the generous spirit of the band. Though they aren't averse to turning down a benefit gig if it seems too private or petty, they are quick to say yes to nonprofits they support or if it's a cause they feel strongly about or if it's a medical cause—"the important things people rally behind," B. says. They have played for Relay for Life, the Women's Crisis Center, individual cancer benefits, and, of course, for the *Applegater* fundraiser at Red Lily last summer, proving us an important cause people rally behind.

B. says the thing that sets their



Colonel Mustard Band playing at RoxyAnn Winery. Band members, from left to right, are Chris Graves, guitarist and vocalist; Sandy Ficca, drummer; B. Wishes, guitarist and vocalist; and Johnny Trujillo, bassist and vocalist. Photo: Renee Olmsted.

band apart is that they "play fun dance music with great vocals," but there's something more, too, something that has to do with the spirit of the band when they are playing music together. Johnny

talks about liking the camaraderie of the band, the way they respect each other and appreciate their professionalism. The secret to their good music might be no more than that they like playing together.

"It's effortless," Johnny says. "We always know where we're going. Just a hint, and we're there." B. echoes that spirit when she says that singing with the other two vocalists is like being with siblings.

The Colonel Mustard Band plays at weddings, wineries, and resorts, which, Johnny says, is more fun than being at a bar till midnight. Wherever they play, they like the moment best when they see people bopping their heads. There's no mystery about that—they're a dance band.

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Repetition: Good, bad, and (sometimes) ugly!

BY SANDY SHAFFER

As you can see from this photo, our puppy, Maggie, is definitely growing! At seven months she's very intelligent, but also stubborn and bossy. Fortunately, her big heart makes up for those last two traits! So does puppy school. Hubby and I quickly realized that repetition is the key to success, and that the lessons work *especially* well if you're both using the same training words.

Talk about repetition—all of those endless days of smoke this summer! Maggie put up with it as she learned to walk on a "loose leash" around our forested property.

Fortunately, our local areas dodged any big fires, but it seemed like every day or two there was another record-setting catastrophic wildfire somewhere in the West. The local news reporters were repeating similar messages to us each evening for weeks. It may have sounded like "old hat" after a while for some people, but not to me—I was reading the official reports and stats. And they were scary.

Wind seemed to be the leading factor this year, with many fires showing initial runs of 20,000 to 80,000 acres.

Drought-dry fuels helped build intensity, so that almost anything in the fire's path burned, including telephone lines. Which meant that people may not have received a "reverse-911" call to evacuate. Homes burned by the hundreds rather than the dozens, and, with little notice to evacuate, people died. In Washington State one fire overran a US Forest Service-Washington Department of Natural Resources crew, killing three and seriously burning four others.

And then, on September 12 there was the third fire of the summer in California's Napa-Clear Lake area—the Valley Fire. Repetitive? Not at all; it set even more records! The initial wind-driven run through a small town caught everyone by surprise, giving folks little time to evacuate. After burning just over 76,000 acres, four senior residents were dead, four firefighters injured, and a total of 1,958 structures destroyed. Repetition all right, with a rate-of-spread of *one acre burned per second!* Can you even imagine this?

In early October I attended our local Cohesive Wildfire Strategy meeting to hear what our agency reps had



As Maggie grows, she still has control of her leash—and the author.

experienced or had heard about the fires. Several of the attendees had been on fire crews for those wildfires, and they shared experiences: the record-level fire behavior and devastation that they saw, as well as the sheer numbers of big fires happening at the same time! Resources—crews, engines, equipment—were all taken! As one fire manager said, "We got our butts kicked this year."

Could something like this happen in the Applegate, I wondered? Should I harp on doing maintenance work around the home in this *Applegater* article? I hate to repeat the same message if it's not relevant. But the fire folks were saying that the conditions of *our* western forests and wildlands are too extreme, and that those conditions *would not* be changing over a single wet winter. Repeated budget cuts for forest management just

exacerbate the situation.

These experts, whom I've known for well over a decade, said we can't treat wildfire issues the same anymore; we need a paradigm shift, a new approach by *all* landowners and managers to address this problem. That means me and you—all of us working *together* with local, county, state and federal partners to better prepare our lands to survive a wildfire.

So, because wildfires this summer *did* show that defensible space works, and because we *do* have an influx of four to five percent new residents annually, and because vegetation *does* grow, and because we are *all getting older* and might need help to get our work done—I am repeating my message of needing to maintain our defensible space and our access routes, to clean our home ignition zones, and to practice our family evacuation plans!

Our president recently commented that mass shootings are becoming routine, that we've become numb to them. Let's not get that way about wildfires. We *can* affect our survivability, so get to work! I am.

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneor@q.com

For information or to schedule home assessments, call either Applegate Fire District at 541-899-1050 or the Oregon Department of Forestry at 541-664-3328.

Volunteer firefighter recruiting and retention

BY CHRIS WOLFARD

I am often asked how we are doing for volunteer firefighters. My usual quick response is "Oh, we could use a little more help," but there are a lot of variables to consider when answering this question. We have seven fire stations. Some are doing well... some not so well.

Station 6 on Kubli Road, for example, has six assigned volunteers mostly available day and night and another volunteer, who works right down the road, available throughout the day. This is the best roster Station 6 has had in its 17-year history. Station 5 at the top of Jacksonville Hill, on the other hand, is at its lowest number of volunteers ever: three, and all three work full-time jobs (one as a full-time firefighter in Klamath Falls). Consequently, Station 5 is having great difficulty responding to calls in its area. Its calls are usually covered by our Headquarters Station in Ruch with assistance from the City of Jacksonville Fire Department.

The two stations with the greatest need right now are Stations 1 (North Applegate Road) and 4 (Water Gap Road). These two are a high priority for us for several reasons: (1) Most volunteers that are assigned to these stations have full-time jobs that preclude

them from responding to emergencies during daylight hours. This also puts a tremendous load on those who are available to respond. (2) These stations are strategically located at intersections of busy roads and relatively densely populated areas within our district. (3) We recently had a couple of volunteers retire after 24 and 34 years of service.

I ask you, the reader of this Applegater, to consider either volunteering yourself or talking to someone you know about volunteering. You may not be cut out for firefighting, but you probably have a family member, friend or neighbor who is.

One of the first and most common questions about becoming a volunteer firefighter is "How much training is involved?" We would like to say it's short and easy. However, the reality is that you will need to put in quite a few hours and it is challenging. We conduct our firefighter academy beginning mid-January and concluding mid-March. The academy consists of reading, some lectures, videos and a lot of hands-on training. Subject areas range from fire streams and fire-suppression techniques to fire department history and fire prevention. Most students are impressed

with the high-level teaching ability of our fire instructors and always look forward to the hands-on training.

A g a i n , please consider volunteering with us. We are certain you will learn new skills and make new friends. If that isn't enough in itself, don't forget that as a firefighter you will be putting yourself in a position to help your neighbors and friends. You may even find yourself in a position to save the life of one of your own family members. Undoubtedly you



Firefighters demonstrate extrication techniques with the Jaws of Life. Photo: Chris Wolfard.

will find becoming a volunteer firefighter very rewarding.

Chris Wolfard • 541-899-1050
Operations Chief, Applegate Valley FD
cwwolfard@applegatefd.com

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Fire district's new training building now open

BY CAREY CHAPUT



Assisted by Fire Chief Brett Fillis, board president Ed Temple cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of Applegate Valley Fire District's new Training Center. Photo: Chris Wolfard.

The time finally arrived to open the doors to the Applegate Valley Fire District's new 6,400-square-foot Training Center. This construction project was designed to handle the district's expanding training requirements and also to serve our community. You have trusted this fire district to serve you in times of need, and we feel honored to fulfill your request for a building that can serve all of us for years to come.

The fire district purchased a five-acre vacant lot adjacent to the headquarters' fire station in March 2004. The two lots were joined, and construction of the new training center began in the spring of 2014. We were able to use local contractors as well as in-house personnel to complete the construction in October 2015.

This project came to fruition only through the dedication and generous support from you, our constituents, and many fire district personnel. The Applegate Valley Fire District would like to thank volunteer firefighter Bob Ziegler for his many hours of welding expertise and excavation. A big thank-you goes to Tim Van Leeuwen for his many hours

laying vinyl and carpeting throughout the building as well as firefighter Gary Sciocchetti and Richard Goodnough for their labor during the framing portion of construction.

The grand opening took place on Saturday, October 10, 2015. The Applegate Lion's Club provided barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers, and firefighters gave an exciting demonstration by cutting two wrecked cars apart using the Jaws of Life. During the open house, people were able to view the large meeting room designed to accommodate our training needs as well as to provide local community events. The training room has been outfitted with high-quality audiovisual equipment designed to engage an audience. The commercial kitchen, spacious bathrooms, and training room are the heart of the building that will be used by the public and firefighters alike.

Fire district personnel and their families will soon have access to the new exercise room with equipment to increase stamina, physical ability and overall health.

For more information on how you can become a volunteer with Applegate Valley Fire District or to request use of the new facility, please visit the website at www.applegatefd.com.

Carey Chaput • 541-899-1050
Office Manager
Applegate Valley Fire District
cchaput@applegatefd.com



Jackson County
Library
Services

— Applegate Library —

When I think of winter, I think of warm fires, a cup of hot chocolate, and a holiday magazine or book filled with crafts, gifts and cooking ideas. Right now at Applegate Library you can check out books on all the gift and holiday fun for you and for the kiddos.

Speaking of kiddos, did you know that we have Storytime every Saturday morning at 10:30 am followed with a fun craft?

Applegate Library has a community

room available for events, classes, and other functions. So if you need to make it happen, bring it here! Call to make your reservations.

Library hours are Tuesdays 2 to 6 pm, Wednesdays 10 am to 2 pm, Fridays 2 to 6 pm, and Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm.

For more information, contact branch manager Lisa Martin at 541-846-7346 or lmartin@jcls.org.

Have a safe and warm holiday season.

— Ruch Library —

Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) will host their Holiday Book Sale featuring quality books of all genres on December 1, 3, and 5 at the Ruch Library Community Room during open hours (Tuesday 10 am to 5 pm, Thursday 1 to 7 pm, and Saturday 11 am to 4 pm). What a great way to shop locally for the holidays!

FORL has lined up some great programs, starting December 7 from 2 to 4 pm with Dave Baker's "Mostly Penguins," a lecture with photos and video and fun for the whole family. Penguins can swim faster than many fish, dive deeper than any other bird, and survive in both temperate and polar climates. We have only very recently understood how penguins survive. Dave Baker first visited Antarctica in 1956 while in the navy, and more recently with *National Geographic* expeditions in 2006 and 2010.

Join us on Saturday, January 16, at 2 pm for a Folk Music Sing-Along with Chris Bratt and Larry Francis, two of Applegate's finest folk musicians, who are sure to get you tapping your toes and joining in on old favorites. Bring the *Rise up Singing* songbook if you have it.

Back by popular demand: "Back in Time" with Janeen Sathre and Evelyn Williams, Applegate natives who are chock full of delightful stories and pictures about the Applegate. You won't want to miss this! Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 20, at 2 pm.

Ruch Library and FORL lost a valuable volunteer when Kaye Clayton

passed away in October. In lieu of flowers at her Celebration of Life, people were asked to bring a gently used book to donate to the A-Frame Bookstore, her pet project. Please plan on visiting the bookstore to purchase one of these special books honoring Kaye.

Jackson County Library Services' Winter Reads program will run from January 4 through February 15, 2016. This fun program for adults aims to encourage more reading during the winter months. Pick up a reading log at the library, record four books you read (or listen to), and submit each log to the library. You can enter as many times as you wish—there will be a county-wide drawing of reading logs for a \$50 gift certificate to the restaurant of your choice. In addition, at Ruch, every reading log earns you a free Pass book at the A-Frame Bookstore.

Ruch Library is honored to have the traveling exhibition, "Clink! A Taste of Oregon Wine," from May 1 to July 7, 2016. Visitors to the exhibit can learn about the flourishing wine industry through text, photos, colorful graphics, and interactive experiences. More about this in the spring edition of the *Applegater*.

Be sure to visit Ruch Library to find books on decorating, gift making, and baking for the holiday season.

For more information, contact branch manager Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-7438 or ttruesdell@jcls.org.

Happy Holidays!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Applegate Valley Fire District



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Be a Volunteer Firefighter.

The Applegate Valley Fire District is seeking new volunteers for all stations.

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Deadline to Apply: December 15th**

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NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— Applegate Valley Community Grange —

Our fall Harvest Fair in October was a wonderful celebration with lots of crafts, photography, plants, educational information, and artwork from many local community members. Throughout the day we had great music provided by Tim Fankhauser, Tom Klinefelter, and Ted Cowan, and wonderful food prepared and served by the folks at Provolt Country Store and Deli. The Grange had some fundraisers with proceeds going toward upgrading our acoustics and carpet in the main hall.

Our next Fair and Art Show will be held in the spring of 2016, so watch for our banners and flyers. Our focus again will be on local craft and agricultural products. We are always looking for more participants, especially those who have plants for spring landscaping and gardening. If you are interested, contact Janis Mohr-Tipton at 541-846-7501 or janismohrtipton48@frontier.com.

Something new is happening: Bring a friend and meet other community members!

Bingo at the Grange is happening on the third Sunday of each month from 4 to 7 pm. Bring a friend and come have some fun. Snacks are available, and all the games are split 50/50 or special prizes seasonally.

The Grange is sponsoring some crafting classes in the Grange in 2016 with Jerry Greer and Sandra Flowers from the The Woodcarving Place in Jacksonville (see article on page 23). Those of you who came to the fall

Harvest Fair saw their booth displays and the wonderful carvings by local people who took their classes.

In February, Sandra will lead an easy craft class where you will create your own cookie plate for display or as a gift. Materials and supplies will be provided. A minimum of six people is needed, and the cost is \$15.

In March, Jerry will lead a beginning carving class for participants to carve a fish that can be displayed flat, hung, or placed on a simple pedestal. All materials and carving supplies will be provided. A minimum of six people is needed for this class. The cost is \$45, which includes a new carving knife (\$22 value) that is yours to keep.

Once class minimums are met, dates will be scheduled for each class.

If you are interested, or know someone who might also like to come, please contact Janis. More classes with Sandra and Jerry are possible if there is interest.

There's room for more classes, so if you have something you want to teach, call Janis.

We are entering into a new year and looking for more community members who would like to join the Grange. Help us grow and support more community events and activities. Contact Paul Tipton at 541-846-7501 or ptipton@frontier.com.

Janis Mohr-Tipton
541-846-7501

janismohrtipton48@frontier.com

— Applegate Food Pantry —

Due to Ruch school being in session, the pantry will be closed on January 25 and April 4. Please remember to drive slowly through school grounds. And if you need to bring children with you, please keep an eye on them; they are not allowed to wander around the school.

I would like to thank the Ruch Country Store and community members for their donations. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who donate their time to help to run the

pantry every week. We could also use more strong volunteers who can help unload the delivery truck and carry boxes out to clients. If you would like to help one or more Mondays a month, please contact the pantry manager.

Pantry hours are 9:30 – 11 am on Mondays. There are no sign-ins after 11 am. The pantry is closed the last Monday of every month.

Charlotte Knott • 541-899-8381
Applegate Food Pantry Manager

— Williams Grange —

Here is the current line-up of activities at Williams Grange:

Mondays—Abby's yoga from 9 to 10:30 am; acroyoga from 7 to 9 pm.

Tuesdays—Zumba from 9 to 10 am; men's group at 7 pm (every second and fourth Tuesday).

Wednesdays—Cass's yoga from 6 to 7:30 pm.

Thursdays—Zumba from 9 to 10 am; Ecstatic dance classes with Kris from 5:30 to 8:30 pm (no class every fourth Thursday); OSGG at 7 pm (every fourth Thursday). Starting November 19 is an Aikido class for kids from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Call Michelle for information (see Williams Grange Facebook page for poster and phone numbers).

Fridays—Cassidy's yoga from 9 to 10:30 am; Ecstatic dance last Friday of the month from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

Williams Grange is available for rentals all year long for classes or events like birthdays, meetings, etc. Contact Sandi Brown for cost and particulars, contact numbers for instructors of classes, and new classes added after this issue of the *Applegater* has been printed.

Pancake breakfasts have started back up and are held every second Sunday from 8:30 to 11 am with a bluegrass jam from 11 am to 1 pm. Upcoming dates are December 13, January 10, and February 14.

For information on other activities during the year, go to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Williams-Grange/113382085361984> or contact Sandi Brown at goldenpaw7@aol.com or 541-846-6919. Williams Grange is at 20100 Williams Highway, Williams.

Sandi Brown • 541-846-6919

— Pacifica —

Eighty happy kids will attest to the great day camps held at Pacifica last summer. Young chefs in Cooking Camp created daily feasts of fresh local foods and took a trip to Pendleton's Bakery. Different musicians visited Music Camp each day, and the campers went home with a recording of a song they had written and played instruments to. In Nature Camp, kids made their own outdoor homes, found more tadpoles and butterflies than they knew existed, and learned to fish and tie fishing flies with the Rogue Steelheaders. The Herbal Camp made a wonderful collection of salves and tinctures. Art Camp made a delightfully messy collage of projects. Games and Stories was great fun, as was Acting Camp.

Speaking of classes: is there a class (for adults or children) that *you* or someone you know might like to lead or request? For next spring, we are looking for teachers and classes of any kind: art, crafts, nature, you name it. You can set your fee and time (one day, weekly, monthly, etc.). We can provide space and help you organize. Please let us know: call 541-660-4295 or 541-621-6278.



Kids built birdhouses at Nature Camp with the help of Siskiyou Audubon.

Save the date. The 16th Annual Winter Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, December 5, from 10 am to 4 pm. Free entrance to live music, children's activities, great food, along with 25 local artists with high-quality, handmade jewelry, ceramics, fiber creations, leather, photographs, paintings, and more. Poetry readings by the Applegate Poets at 1 pm and 3 pm.

Pacifica is an education-based nonprofit with 500 protected acres between Applegate and Williams open *free* to the public! We'd love to have you visit. It's a great place (even in winter!) for hiking, fishing, dog walking, bird watching, and horseback riding.

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GRAPE TALK

New team at Troon Vineyard

BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

Troon Vineyard, located on the Kubli Bench along with a number of Applegate Valley's best wineries, is one of the originals.

Troon's founder, Dick Troon, came to the Applegate from Scotland by way of South Dakota and planted his first vines in 1972. His original vineyard included cabernet sauvignon and zinfandel grapes on about 32 acres. In 2003 Dick convinced wine aficionado Larry Martin, an old friend and fishing buddy, to take over Troon. After purchasing the vineyard, the Martin family hired winemaker Herb Quady, who created Troon's signature Druid's Fluid blend along with many other Troon classics. Fast forward to 2015, and Troon has a new general manager, Chris Cunningham, and a new wine maker, Steve Hall.

Chris Cunningham is an Applegate boy whose family owned an alfalfa farm where Bridgeview winery is today. He was first exposed to wine marketing and sales on South Carolina's Hilton Head Island. For 25 years he

worked in the wine industry in the Carolinas. His last job before joining Troon was vice president for sales and distribution for a North Carolina winery. He returned to the Applegate to help his aging parents and took the job as general manager of Troon last year.

Troon's new wine maker, Steve Hall, who comes to Troon from the Napa and Sonoma wine industry, attended Napa Valley College after four years at University of California, Berkeley. He also got a great education at Stag's Leap Winery in Napa in the 1980s. Working alongside some legendary wine makers from that period, Steve learned the nuances of managing a vineyard and bringing grapes from their beginnings to the final result as an elegant glass of wine. Steve worked at Biale and Jarvis wineries in Napa County and in 2013 took a break to join a crush crew in west Sonoma to get a taste of the hands-on experience that he was missing at the large wine machines. At Troon he is truly hands-on, as evidenced by his purple hands, stained from his daily handling of the foot-tread crush.

Troon is now solely using foot treading (crushing the grapes using guys in new and newly washed high boots who jump in the bins and stomp). Steve says foot treading produces a better flavor from the skins and coaxes more flavor from the grapes.

On some of his blends, Steve uses



Applegate native Chris Cunningham is the new general manager of Troon Vineyard. Photo: Debbie Tollefson.

what he has learned about the power and elegance of the individual grape.

To this end Troon is also embracing sustainability and has obtained certification from LIVE (www.livecertified.org) for "environmentally and socially responsible wine growing," from LEED (www.usgbc.org/leed) for one of its buildings (one of the first LEED-certified buildings in the Applegate), and from Salmon-Safe (www.salmonsafe.org). Troon's philosophy includes working with nature to keep the grapes' natural pests under control. Workers mowing between vines alternate rows so the natural pest eradicators, e.g., ladybugs and praying mantises, will stay in the vineyard.

Troon's beautiful facility includes a patio, tasting room, and large tank-and-barrel room with over 15 stainless tanks and hundreds of barrels. Troon is going to start tours of their state-of-the-art winery in the spring of 2016.

Troon is located at 1475 Kubli Road, Grants Pass, OR. The tasting room is open daily from 11 am to 5 pm.

Debbie Tollefson

debbie.avrealty@gmail.com

Winery news and events

- Schmidt Family Vineyards Holiday Open House, Saturday, December 12, 12 to 5 pm. Award-winning wine, delicious food, and great gift ideas and opportunities. www.sfvineyards.com/events.
- Internationally read publications like *Wine Enthusiast* and *Wine Spectator* recently gave kudos to southern Oregon wines: Cowhorn 2014 Viognier, Spiral 36, and Marsanne-Roussane; Cowhorn 2011 Sentience Syrah; Troon 2013 Estate Zinfandel and 2012 Old Vine Meritage; Leah Jorgensen Cellars 2013 Blanc de Cabernet Franc (grapes from Herb Quady's Mae's Vineyard). Applegate Valley wines and grapes are garnering more and more attention on the international stage.

Steve Hall, Troon Vineyard's new wine maker, has always been hands-on when it comes to making wine. Photo: Debbie Tollefson.



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Notes from a Rogue entomologist
Cooties defined

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

As another election year draws near, it seems appropriate to write about blood-sucking parasites.

I am old enough to remember when the playground taunt "be careful or you'll get cooties" was commonplace. We even had the game "Cootie," where the goal was to construct an insect model. However, growing up I really had no idea what a cootie was. I thought it was a reference to germs in general and not to lice, the wingless blood-sucking insects. And due to my sheltered life as a youth and the widespread use of insecticides for louse control after World War II, I never had a close encounter with lice when I was in school. So it was a bit startling when our daughter came down with a case of head lice while at Jacksonville Elementary School.

These insects are obligate ectoparasites, meaning they have to be living on a host. In the case of head lice, the host is most often a child from 3 to 11 years old. Head lice live, as the name suggests, in the child's hair. A closely related species, the body louse, lives on clothing and is a vector of typhus. Body lice can become widespread during times of war and dislocation when soldiers and refugees are living in close quarters, often in very unsanitary conditions. Epidemic typhus was often a major cause of death in earlier times. Another louse that infests humans is the pubic louse, also known as the crab louse or simply crabs, and I will say no more on that topic. But, interestingly, neither head lice nor pubic lice are known to transmit disease.

Since young children, girls in particular, like to share clothes, hats, brushes, scrunchies and other hair-related accessories, it is no surprise that head lice can readily spread from one child to another. So, while my wife was

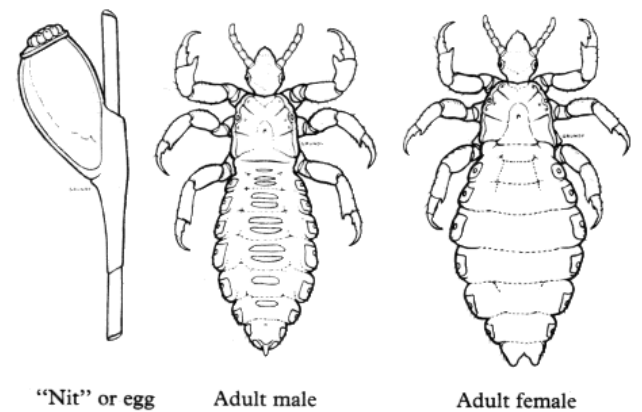
rather appalled by this occurrence, I will freely admit that I did find it somewhat fascinating. The fact that adults do not commonly get infested by head lice may have played a role in my dispassionate approach to this problem. This event did take place almost 20 years ago, and I recall that it was one of the first times that I really used the Internet to research a topic, finding that, while it was an incredible source of information, it was also full of bogus remedies. In other words, not much has changed on that score.

Since female lice glue their eggs, or nits, to the host's hair shaft close to the scalp, one obvious solution is to remove all the hair. Of course, shaving off your ten-year-old daughter's hair, while quick and easy, is not really a suitable option. So, while my wife was busy cleaning everything like crazy and using a special-order nit comb in painstaking fashion on our daughter's rather curly and luxuriant hair (and she did not particularly like to sit still at that age), I was running an experiment.

There were reports that head lice were becoming resistant to the standard over-the-counter shampoo treatment that included a pyrethrin insecticide. We were able to recover about three or four live adult lice from my daughter's scalp, and I proceeded to put some in



Head louse image from a scanning electron microscope (www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2480876/).



Head lice nit and adults. The adults are between 2.5 and 3 mm in size (www.micrographia.com).

the undiluted shampoo and left one untreated as a control.

Head lice cannot survive long off a scalp in the best of circumstances, about 24 hours, but after one night there was essentially no difference in the activity of the lice that had been submerged in the insecticidal shampoo and the untreated control louse. I therefore concluded that the population of lice that we were dealing with was, indeed, resistant to the insecticide.

Obviously it would have been good to have more specimens to test, but the supply was limited. That is one of the difficulties of doing research on an obligate human parasite. In the end, the answer to the problem was a lot of nitpicking by my wife (as I said earlier, some things don't change).

Richard J. Hilton
541-772-5165 ext. 227
Senior Faculty Research Assistant / Entomologist
Oregon State University-Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center
richardhilton@oregonstate.edu

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What we heard at the Applegate AMA public meeting

BY DON BOUCHER

The US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would like to thank those who attended the September 2, 2015, public meeting to discuss forest resiliency in the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA). More importantly, we would like to let those who attended know how much we appreciate your continued passion and enthusiasm to stay involved with the



At the September 2 public meeting, Nikola Smith, US Forest Service ecosystem services specialist, discusses how benefits provided by nature can be part of designing desired outcomes in the planning process.

management of these important public lands. It was a great opportunity for the agencies to share information regarding new efforts to prioritize forest resiliency and fuels treatments in the AMA and to hear ideas, concerns, and questions. The group breakout sessions generated a lot of great ideas and comments.

Following is a recap of some of the issues we heard at the meeting:

- Frustration with the length and amount of the planning process that has occurred in the AMA, and a strong desire for us to get more work done on the ground in alignment with the *Applegate Adaptive Management Area Guide*.
- A strong desire for the public to play a more active role during implementation.
- High importance placed on the use of an integrated approach and the leveraging of existing work and knowledge.
- Frustration in long-term participants with the frequency of agency turnover.
- Concern that all interested parties will have a voice.
- Concern regarding the commitment of the agencies to follow through with the AMA vision.

In light of the ongoing drought in southwest Oregon, anticipated climate change, and the noticeable increase in fire size and severity throughout the Pacific Northwest, both USFS and the BLM are in agreement that there is a need to rejuvenate the spirit of the AMA that brought so much energy to earlier efforts to manage for resilient landscapes across boundaries.

The goal for this AMA planning effort is to develop an integrated

strategy for the Applegate AMA that incorporates an all-lands approach to address landscape resilience to disturbance and climate change and utilizes collaboratively developed projects that recognize the connection between ecological conditions and a sustainable flow of goods and services.

To address some of the concerns we heard, the agencies plan to solicit input from interested citizens to help in the development of a long-term strategy for implementation in the Applegate AMA. This strategy would build off the 1998 Applegate AMA Guide that identified two primary goals. We think these goals are still relevant today.

Goal 1: Achieve healthy, diverse, and functioning ecosystems that are sustainable over time, in order to foster healthy social and economic systems. We want to:

- Understand the relationships between sustainable resources and sustainable economies (supporting sustainable communities).
- Develop clear criteria and indicators of sustainability reflecting shared values, and monitor measurable criteria over time.
- Enhance the relationship of agencies to the communities adjacent to the AMA. We want to create a climate of trust and cooperation between agencies and private citizens.
- Contribute to the economic well-being of communities where possible.

Goal 2: Create adaptive organizations. The BLM and USFS are responsible for management of the Applegate AMA and want to help create a learning environment that is accessible and responsive. We want to:

- Improve the capacity for local, public problem-solving across boundaries.
- Gain understanding, cooperation, and mutual respect among the federal agencies and between agencies and citizens.
- Use resources efficiently.
- Apply ecological principles.
- Use adaptive management principles of testing, monitoring, and learning, and share this learning with all partners.
- Share knowledge freely and effectively.

An important role of the agencies in the AMA is to facilitate collaboration, mutual learning, and innovation. While many are concerned that this may be difficult to achieve, particularly with changes in Resource Management Plans and land allocations, the AMA is really about how we communicate and work together to find common ground, resolve differences, and work toward successful outcomes. We have the ability as agency and community members to create and maintain an atmosphere of collaboration and learning.

Don Boucher
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Applegate AMA Team Leader
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
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Applegate Adaptive Management planning: Where do we go from here?

BY DON BOUCHER

The question when faced with a large task is always “Where do we begin?” As the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) learned from our public meeting in September, there is frustration within the Applegate community with the length and amount of planning process that has occurred in the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA), and a strong desire for agencies to get more work done on the ground that is in alignment with the AMA Guide. The challenge is developing the long-term strategy for the AMA and initiating needed, and in some cases overdue, restoration work within the AMA. To accomplish this, we envision a parallel effort where we develop the long-term strategy (where and how to implement restoration across the AMA), as we also begin to implement needed restoration work.

As shared in our AMA public meeting article on this page, the goal for this AMA planning effort is to develop an integrated strategy for the Applegate AMA that incorporates an all-lands approach to address landscape resilience to disturbance and climate change and utilizes collaboratively developed projects that recognize the connection between ecological conditions and a sustainable flow of goods and services.

To achieve this overarching goal, we plan to work with interested individuals to collaboratively develop this long-term strategy. This strategy would build on the 1998 Applegate AMA Guide that identified two primary goals. We think these goals are still relevant

today. These goals are (1) achieve healthy, diverse, and functioning ecosystems that are sustainable over time, and (2) create adaptive organizations.

This strategy will help guide future actions as we move toward restoring the AMA to a more resilient condition. There are few areas in the AMA that do not currently require some level of restoration. The AMA interdisciplinary planning team (IDT) of the USFS and BLM resource specialists identified a set of criteria that was used to select a starting point. The following criteria were used by the IDT:

Cross-boundary treatment opportunities. This criterion prioritizes areas where there are opportunities to enact treatments across administrative boundaries. This was weighted toward areas where the USFS and the BLM could potentially treat across boundaries. This criterion also considered adjacency to private lands, though it must be noted that these opportunities are at the sole discretion of the landowner.

Ecological restoration of pine and oak ecosystems. This emphasizes areas where pine and/or oak ecosystems are in need of restoration, primarily due to encroachment by conifers.

Opportunities for treatment of mid-closed seral state stands. Based on analysis by the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC), this stand condition is one of the higher priorities to treat and is the condition that is most abundant throughout most of southwest Oregon.

Restoration opportunities on ridges

and warm mid-slopes. Ridges and warm mid-slope settings are a strategic place to enact fuels treatments.

Fire risk to communities from large and local fires. This criterion looked at areas at high risk from wildfire and is based on extensive fire-risk modeling completed by the SOFRC.

Following a review of these criteria and working through a mapping exercise utilizing spatial geographic information, the Upper Applegate watershed was selected as the initial planning area. This 52,300-acre planning area includes the Beaver Creek, Palmer Creek, and Star Gulch Creek drainages along the main stem of the Applegate River north of Applegate Lake. The area provides a great opportunity for coordinated cross-jurisdictional management in the Applegate AMA. On both USFS and the BLM lands, there are project areas that have a current decision document where limited work is currently in progress. Work can be accomplished and used as an example as we begin a project planning process on the Upper Applegate watershed.

The next steps in this process are to begin to understand the planning area and collaboratively develop goals and objectives specific to the watershed. As we discussed in the meeting last month, we want to provide an opportunity to engage as we determine those goals and objectives and ultimately develop a project proposal or multiple project proposals.

Under the overarching goals described in the Applegate AMA Guide, the following draft objectives were identified by the IDT for the Upper Applegate Planning Area:

- Reduce risk to communities and other developed areas from uncharacteristic wildland fire.

• Restore landscapes to more resilient conditions.

- Maintain watershed health, including water and site productivity.
- Mitigate stand conditions that contribute to insect and disease outbreaks.
- Develop and maintain complex forest habitats.
- Maintain or improve big game winter range habitat conditions.
- Maintain a sustainable flow of goods and services.
- Maintain stream flows for anadromous fish populations and clean water.

The objectives listed above need much more refinement and specificity, but they are the starting point. We use the words “collaborate” or “collaboratively developed” often when we discuss work in the Applegate. Those words can mean different things to different people based on their own observations, experiences, or expectations. What those words mean to us is that we work side by side with interested participants to develop objectives and design projects and more importantly monitor those projects to see if we did what we said we were going to do and whether we get the results we expected.

By the time this issue of the *Applegater* is published we will have had a public field trip on Saturday, November 7, to discuss examples of restoration, what we learned from the work, and what lessons can be applied to future work. In the Adaptive Management Area, we only fail if we fail to learn.

We hope to plan more trips as we continue engaging with residents and interested participants. If you have questions or would like more information, contact me at the phone number or email address below.

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dboucher@fs.fed.us

Storytelling Guild wants you to Pass the Book

Want to make a difference in the life of a child? You can improve the likelihood that a youngster will arrive at school ready to read and learn or that an older child will become a better reader, leading to greater self-esteem and future success.

Here's how: donate a children's book that you and your child loved to read (new or gently used) to the Storytelling Guild's Pass the Book program. Collection crates will be available throughout the month of January 2016 at all Jackson County Libraries (www.jcls.org).

The Storytelling Guild distributes between 5,000 and 10,000 books each year to more than 25 agencies that work with children from newborns to older teens—agencies like Kids Unlimited, Head Start, Jackson County Juvenile Detention, community health centers, and several others.

The Storytelling Guild (www.storytellingguild.org) is a group of volunteers dedicated to serving the community by providing opportunities for children to be exposed to the magic of books and the joy of reading. Pass the Book is just one of its programs. You may also recognize the name as the presenter of the Wednesday morning story time for preschoolers at the Medford Library.

For more information, email Anne Billeter at annebilleteroregon@gmail.com.



Patt Colwell prepares for the Storytelling Guild's Pass the Book program in January.



Pasture Management Education celebrates 10th anniversary

2016 class is open for registration

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District will offer its Pasture Management Course for the tenth consecutive year this winter. The classes were created for small landowners to help them improve the productivity of their pastures, while protecting the natural resources on their land. Class topics include grazing management, weed control, ranching economics, improving soil, protecting water sources, and creating an overall management plan based on the goals of the landowner.

This nine-week class begins in February. Tuition includes books, materials, site visits by the instructors, and field trips to local ranching operations in southern Oregon. Beginning and experienced pasture managers are welcome.

Registration is open now until January 14, 2016; classes begin February 4. Forms are available at the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District office at 89 Alder Street in Central Point. For more information, visit www.jsxcd.org or call 541-664-1070.

Free agricultural chemical collection for small or large farm operations and contractors

A free agricultural chemical collection event will take place in Grants Pass on Friday, March 4, 2016, and in Medford on Saturday, March 5, 2016.

This event is for small and large farms or farm contractors who have agricultural pesticide and containers for disposal. Anyone who wishes to dispose of agricultural chemicals at this event will need to pre-register and make an appointment. Details will be provided through the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District website at www.jsxcd.org.

OPINION

River Right: It's enough to give you heartburn

BY TOM CARSTENS

To maneuver Class 3 rapids in a kayak requires skill and concentration. Lost in a daydream, my buddy entered one without planning his "line" of attack. The powerful Rogue River was unforgiving—he was violently flipped and tossed like a rag doll into the churning whitewater. Slam! Bang! Flip! Scrape! Crash! Whack! Into those big boulders and along the rocky bottom he went. When he finally emerged from this torrent, he had no broken bones, but he sure was banged up. Medical care is always a concern when you're deep in the wilderness.

Even though our Medford neighbors believe we live in the wilderness out here in the Applegate, we *do* have access to some pretty fine medical care. For starters, our Applegate Fire Department is top-of-the-line. When you dial 9-1-1, these highly-trained volunteers get to you quickly and provide expert care until the paramedics arrive. The ambulance or helicopter will whisk you off to the hospital in a flash. It's impressive.

And, as I found out recently with my own health emergency, it's no different once you reach the hospital. Talk about expert care—wow! With all the negative hoopla surrounding Obamacare and Medicare, I was apprehensive. But that must have been more about websites, sign-ups, insurance, bureaucracy, and the like. Once I was in the system, I found the actual medical care to be great. I had a lot of confidence in everyone around me.

While in the hospital, I learned a few things. For one, the low- to mid-level caregivers aren't living high on the hog. And they haven't had a raise in years. Many of them think that a big portion of those government payments and insurance premiums end up in the pockets of the bureaucrats and insurers who run the system. Anybody surprised?

I don't think there's anyone alive who really understands the "system." Why does it have to be so complicated? Why we don't treat health care like we do groceries? Let the market compete for business while providing a safety net for those who need a hand (think food stamps). I'll bet prices would come down. Let's cut the government bureaucracy—focus on retail.

Make no mistake: our healthcare stacks up pretty well when compared with the rest of the world, but it's

really *expensive*. According to the Commonwealth Fund (google them up), our healthcare costs us about 17 percent of our Gross Domestic Product; it's around 10 percent for the rest of the developed world.

I'm pretty sure that Obamacare is going to see some changes. While a lot of people, including some of my own family members, have been helped by this new law, it's giving heartburn to others. Now they're hitting folks with fines for not having insurance and other fines for having insurance that's too good. Go figure. We are seeing rising premiums, higher taxes, fewer insurance selections, bankrupt insurance co-ops, fewer MDs, and longer waits in the emergency room.

We're part of the problem, too. As patients, we don't do such a good job of monitoring our own care. When is the last time you asked the doctor's office how much that procedure is going to cost? Or whether the lab tests or x-rays are really necessary? Or requested less expensive generic drugs? We don't price-shop—we're disengaged from the market. And society is paying big time.

It's been a couple of months since my week-long stay in the hospital, and I'm starting to see the bills come in. It's hard to believe how little the government actually shells out for medical supplies and procedures. Medicare is paying only about 16 percent of my bills. No wonder we're starting to see a shortage of physicians! And now the high deductibles required under Obamacare are going to make mincemeat of our bank accounts. Despite the high taxes, a lot of us are forced to buy supplemental insurance and, in the end, pay for a substantial portion ourselves. To top it off, Medicare is going broke. It's enough to give you heartburn.

My friend was lucky—he lived through his wild ride and required only a few bandages. My own problem needed more than first aid, however. Since I wasn't in the wilderness, our local healthcare pros were able to take quick action to save my life. I won't be running any rapids for awhile—disappointing, but better than the alternative.

One last thought: those chest pains you feel might *not* be heartburn. Get them checked out by the pros.

See you on the river.
Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



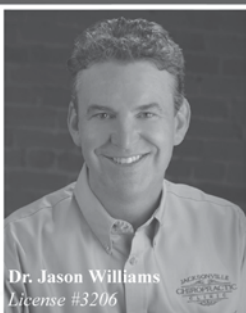
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MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

The new normal

BY CHRIS BRATT

Evidently the sky is not falling like Chicken Little once thought. But it does look like our world really is warming from greenhouse gasses that humans spew into the sky. Despite congressional skepticism and naysaying about global warming, I got the word in mid October that Medford (including Applegate) is soon going to be the new Redding, California, temperature wise. I don't know about you, but starting last summer I thought we were already living in Redding. Our family and neighbors sweated through about three months of extremely hot weather (many days over 100 degrees F), unrelenting drought, and degraded air quality while we watched wildfires raging north and south. Is this the new normal for our area?

To find out, I attended a Rogue Basin Conference on "Our Critical Climate," sponsored by Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) on October 13 and 14 at the Inn at the Commons in Medford. What I and about 175 other participants heard at this two-day exploration of climate change trends, impacts, and solutions was that this warming trend is expected to continue throughout the Rogue Basin. Some climate models now forecast worldwide temperature increases of as

much as five and nine degrees F by the year 2100. Keynote speaker Dr. Phil Mote, director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute and science professor at Oregon State University, said that "very low snowpack, big wildfires, [and] problems with irrigation water supply" will become more normal for the Northwest. Dr. Mote also said that science tells us that coastal impacts such as erosion and rising sea levels and forest mortality from drought, forest fires, and insect attacks "will become increasingly a problem." He stated further that these are "things that we've already observed."

These scientific forecasts of projected climate changes are unsettling for most of us, especially if you experienced last summer's record warm temperatures or other extreme weather patterns and changes. But this conference was not devoted to raising fears about climate change or beating up climate change deniers. Rather, it was more about developing adaptation strategies, actions, and collaborations to protect people and natural resources from the harmful impacts of a warming climate. Presentations focused on building alliances between individuals, government agencies, private businesses, schools, hospitals,

planners, transportation designers, and the community at large. All the speakers were certain that climate change is occurring and reported on how their agency or job is adapting to these changing conditions. Many spoke about what actions they were taking to reduce our regional contributions to the more damaging global problems.

A good example of this coordination and cooperation between our state and local government is already happening in Jackson County. As part of a two-year collaboration, Jackson County and the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division developed a climate change adaptation plan to protect the health of our community. A five-step program was implemented to provide an overview of local climate change and health projections. This Climate and Health Action Plan considers risks of injury and death, water and vector-borne diseases, respiratory diseases, malnutrition and food security, and mental health. This was just one of the many projects outlined in the conference. Very good and important work, I'd say.

The conference also stressed the need to continue reducing our CO₂ emissions in Oregon, America, and the

world. It is not enough to just try to anticipate the risks of a changing climate and prepare to adapt to the consequences. We must accept the fact that human activities worldwide are increasingly warming the earth. We must do everything we can to reduce our fossil-fuel emissions and sequester carbon here in the United States. We are making some progress: US CO₂ levels have been reduced by about 12 percent since 2007, and Oregon is down about 16 percent during the same period.

But this is not the time to dillydally. Devastating consequences are on the horizon if we can't reach reduction agreements with the rest of the nations in the world (especially China and India). The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is preparing to meet in Paris this December to negotiate the reduction of carbon emissions. Hopefully, our country can convince the other nations that we have a common stake in finding and using new energy sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I think I'd like to be part of the old normal. What about you? Let me know.

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

Our Critical Climate: A Rogue Basin Summit

BY ALAN JOURNET

A seventeenth-century philosopher-mathematician, Blaise Pascal, is the source of the argument known as Pascal's Wager. Basically, Pascal argued that if one doubts God's existence, the possibility of eternal damnation should be enough to persuade one into believing.

Much like our modern-day Precautionary Principle, which argues we should always err on the side of caution when making difficult decisions, Pascal's Wager can be applied to many difficult choices. For example, when diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, we have to decide whether we should accept the diagnosis or not. Pascal's Wager encourages us to incorporate into our thinking the potential costs of accepting versus denying the medical advice.

Pascal's Wager can also be applied

when evaluating the evidence on regional climate trends and impacts presented at Our Critical Climate: Trends, Impacts and Solutions—A Rogue Basin Summit. During the Southern Oregon Climate Action Now-sponsored event, attendees learned much about the grave threats we face as a result of regional climate trends and their impacts.

Although some local residents might ignore the array of climate trends currently affecting the Rogue Basin, conference presentations made it clear that our basin is currently in the grip of several trends likely to compromise both the beauty of our region and the very way of life we cherish. Prudence and Pascal's Wager suggest we address the problem.

Attendees gained clear glimpses of

the critical and threatening trends and projections: increasing temperature with an increasing number of really hot days, reduced snow pack, serious drought, increased fire risk, steady rainfall annual averages but with dryer summers and moister winters. Only by focusing on just one of these trends and ignoring the rest is it possible to argue that we have experienced these conditions before. Only if we look at all the trees, can we see the forest. Only if we see all the dots, can we connect them.

Attendees learned how these trends are compromising:

- our domestic and agricultural water supplies particularly for our small farmers, orchardists, and wine growers
- our aquatic and terrestrial natural resources including our forests
- our tourism and recreation
- our health
- the lives of Native Americans

We also learned that these problems are basin-wide, extending through Josephine and Curry counties.

The second day of the conference began with comments from Oregon Senators Merkley and Wyden offering glimpses into what is happening (or more correctly, *not* happening) in Congress. Attendees learned about some of the many efforts already under way in the

region that are helping communities respond to the climate threats. These included discussions of many great projects, including what Eugene is doing and what is happening locally in terms of domestic and agricultural water management, recreation, renewable energy and construction, and transportation. State Representative Peter Buckley and State Senator Alan Bates also offered thoughts on what is happening at the state level and what might be expected in the forthcoming legislative session.

During the Wednesday afternoon breakout sessions, many further ideas were initiated in the areas of forest health and fire, human health, recreation and tourism, agriculture, transportation, water, and individual and collective action. SOCAN will be supporting members of these breakout sessions as they further develop the ideas.

Area residents interested in joining any of these discussions are encouraged to contact SOCAN at socan.info@gmail.com. Conference information, presentations, and details regarding the breakout session projects can be found at <http://socanclimatesummit.info>.

Alan Journet • alanjournet@gmail.com
Co-Facilitator, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

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 700 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.

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NEXT GENERATION

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

RUCH SCHOOL

Reflections on Community 101 at Ruch School



This past year, thanks to the generous contributions of Friends of Ruch School, Ruch students were able to grant over \$6,500 of funds to local nonprofit organizations. The students learned the importance of philanthropy and community service, which they put into practice as part of the Oregon Community Foundation's Community 101 program.

During the First Annual Diaper Dash 5K, students collected \$550 in cash and approximately \$1,000 worth of diapers, which they donated to the Family Nurturing Center and Community Works.

Perhaps the most inspirational learning during the Community 101 project was each student's personal takeaway. Joey, a sixth grader, learned about the various types of abuse and their effect on his community, while Ivy, an eighth grader, learned the trials and tribulations that leaders sometimes face. These "aha" moments are the treasures I take away and are what inspire me to continue giving Ruch students the opportunity to empower themselves by contributing to their community.

I am writing this to ask you to help fund the Community 101 project at Ruch School. The program requires \$5,000 to operate this school year. The Ruch students of Community 101 will grant *all* of the funds to local nonprofit

organizations that match the focus of their mission statement.

Many of this year's students were part of the group last year and can guide the new student participants in their learning. Our community is always changing, and a new issue will likely present itself.

To me, Community 101 is so exciting and rewarding because each year presents a new problem and many paths to a new solution.

I hope I can count on you to participate in this learning experience that offers Ruch students an opportunity to empower themselves and to address a need in our community. We are looking for contributions of \$250 to \$1,000 to make this program a success for the students at Ruch Community School.

Please mail your tax-deductible check, made payable to Oregon Community Foundation Community 101, by December 18 to:

Community 101 c/o Ruch
Community School
156 Upper Applegate Road
Jacksonville, OR 97530

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.
Jason Straube • 541-821-1879
Community 101 Coordinator and Teacher, Ruch Community School
jason.straube@medford.k12.or.us

APPLEGATE SCHOOL

Applegate School students up to their knees in study

Don't be alarmed if you see about 40 middle school students up to their knees in the Applegate River over the next few months—they are probably not skipping school. More likely, they will be Applegate School students busy collecting data for the Applegate River Field Study.

Students are jumping in feet first to participate in this unique learning opportunity through which they will enjoy what their teachers might call "high cognitive demand." This interdisciplinary study was designed and is being implemented by new teachers, Jill Howdyshell and Michelle Stone, who have incorporated learning standards from science, social studies, and English language arts.

"These field studies will enrich our students' understanding and perspective about the place in which they live and learn and be an experience that they will never forget," said teacher Jill Howdyshell, the study's lead author.

"Outdoor school projects facilitate student engagement," Howdyshell explained. "This authentic learning experience will connect students to their natural environment, engage students, and increase learning in multiple subjects."

This initiative is connecting Applegate students with leading members of our local communities involved in science, Native American and local history, and watershed conservation. Partners currently include the Greater



Tom Carstens informs middle school students about the history, development, and future plans for Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Kathy Kliewer.



Middle school students test the water quality of the Applegate River at Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Kathy Kliewer.

Applegate Community Development Corporation, Herb Pharm, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Applegate Watershed Partnership and Council.

It's a creative and challenging initiative and, once again, an example of the kind of community we live in. People pitch in around these parts; they are willing to help—especially when it comes to our children.

Especially pleasing is the extra effort these teachers have taken to make all of this possible.

Darrell Erb
Principal, Applegate School
darrell.erb@threerivers.k12.or.us



Photo: Jim Ingraham Photography

Undefeated!

Applegate School's varsity volleyball team went undefeated in the 2015 season, and the junior varsity team lost only two matches. What a feat for the stellar players on both teams. This is the second year out of three that the varsity team has won all of their matches.

"These girls worked hard to achieve this year—a great effort on their parts and on the parts of our coaches, Heather DeVos and Sandi Garoutte!" says Applegate School principal Darrell Erb.

The photo above includes both varsity and junior varsity players. From left to right—Back row: Coach Sandi Garoutte, Brooke Horban, Elizabeth DeVos, Kaiah Fisher, Kennedy Smock, Coty Wiginton, and Coach Heather DeVos.

Middle row: Johanna DeVos, Alia Seal, Marisa Elmore, Marly Marcoulier, Carlen Nielsen, and Teryn Powers.

Front row: Macy Kliewer, Bree Saunders, Alyssa Seal, and Sydney Locke.

Applegate School more beautiful still

Can something already beautiful become even more beautiful?

The answer is yes if you ask Maggie Lowry and Carrie DiBiasi, Applegate community members and parents of students at Applegate School.

Maggie and Carrie have been directly supporting the Applegate Garden Club and the Applegate Beautification Project since its beginning last fall.

One year later, the finishing touches are being put on this project, and these two parents, along with their children—Coral Lowry, 11, Kailas Lowry, 9, Zayna DiBiasi, 9, and Hanza DiBiasi, 7—showed up on Sunday, October 25, to complete the latest phase of the project—the side garden.

Plants came from Forestfarm Nursery at Pacifica as did the garden's design by Greg Mason. New soil was needed, so Mac and Matt Embury stepped up—again—with two loads.

Forestfarm made us a deal we couldn't refuse. And the Emburys have been helping all along!

Here are all the folks responsible for beautifying the side garden: Maggie Lowry, Carrie DiBiasi, Coral Lowry, Kailas Lowry, Zayna DiBiasi, Hanza DiBiasi, Forestfarm at Pacifica, Greg



Maggie Lowry and Carrie DiBiasi

Mason, Matt and Mac Embury, and Jake Lowry.

The last phase is to plant grass near the entry gate in front of the historic Applegate building.

Last spring, volunteers constructed an automatic irrigation system that provides water to the project's large lawn, the vegetable garden, and three side gardens. All told, we estimate the overall cost of the project at \$8,000, with the total cost to the Garden Club at \$350.

Amazing what people will do for our school. I can't imagine a more supportive community.

Darrell Erb
Principal, Applegate School
darrell.erb@threerivers.k12.or.us

Comfortable, conscious clothing at Blessed Lotus

BY JESSICA GINET

Local clothing designer Serene Dussell loves making clothes. Her hand-dyed and handmade pieces give Serene an outlet for her creativity. As a child, she learned to sew in 4-H and started making clothing as a business venture 10 years ago, selling her creations at the Eugene Saturday Market. Her company, Blessed Lotus, features clothing that, as Serene says, “is comfortable and local. I make what I would want to wear.”

Serene starts with a large roll of white fabric and then, using her own patterns, makes each item individually. The process she follows is “garment dyeing,” in which the piece is made prior to dyeing it. Serene uses fiber reactive dye, which is biodegradable, works best on plant fibers like cotton and linen, and results in a permanent, durable and vibrant piece that can withstand multiple washings while retaining its color.

“Fabric dyes, which I use, use soda ash. I want to make earth-friendly items, and I have always tried to be as natural as possible with all of my processes,” Serene said. She spent a lot of time in the early stages of her business trying to determine the most sustainable method of dyeing her clothes.

Fabric dyeing is an art, Serene notes. She initially spent a lot of time working to get the colors she wanted with the pigments evenly distributed in each piece.

Every Blessed Lotus design is based on a custom pattern created by Serene. “I make what inspires me,” she says, adding, “Designing is the most creative part of the process.” Serene maintains an inventory of best-selling pieces while adding new patterns and occasionally doing custom pieces and special request items.

Serene’s Blessed Lotus best-sellers are her Trumpet Vine Blossom skirt (pictured), with a lettuce edge and rolled hem; her

Moondance skirt with an asymmetrical hem that dips down on the sides; her plain Back to the Root pants; and her Dancing Shiva pants.

Serene, who raises an 11-year-old son, Lakota, and also works part-time at Takubeh, a natural food and farm store in Williams, releases her artistic energy by making clothes. When asked what

she does in her spare time, she laughed, saying, “I would like to say that I run and hike in my spare time, but lately that [spare time] is hard to find.”

“I believe that sewing is my art. I feel inspired to sew. I want people to feel good with what they’re wearing. I think that if you feel comfortable and confident, that can translate into a healthier, more positive lifestyle,” Serene says. “Being totally handmade by me—I sew a lot of love into my clothes. I would like to think that the energy I put into them can affect people for the better.” She loves seeing her clothing on local folks. “Lots of people wear my clothes to festivals.”

Serene has a strong conviction for shopping locally. “We need to buy locally. I haven’t sent my designs overseas to be manufactured in Bali or China like lots of others do. I make what I sell.” She admits that she gets a thrill when she receives an order from overseas, though. “When I get an order from, say, Japan, that excites me, because I feel honored that someone in another country saw my work and is willing to pay to have it made and shipped so far away.”

Serene’s business is fairly seasonal; she makes the majority of her clothing in spring, summer and fall, working four days a week, eight hours a day to create her Blessed Lotus designs. Blessed Lotus clothing can be found in Williams at Takubeh and seasonally at the Monday Williams Farmers’ Market as well as

the Closet Catalyst in Grants Pass. Her designs are also featured at Trillium in Eugene. For those who prefer to shop locally while in the comfort of their homes, Serene sells the majority of her Blessed Lotus clothing designs on Etsy at www.blessedlotus.etsy.com.

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Blessed Lotus’ popular Trumpet Vine Blossom skirt is made with hemp and organic cotton. Photo: Blessed Lotus.

The Woodcarving Place offers classes

BY DIANA COOGLE



Jerry Greer, head carver and owner of The Woodcarving Place, at work on a carousel horse. Photo: The Woodcarving Place.

Pick up a knife and a piece of wood, take a seat on the porch or under a tree, and start carving. If you’ve taken a class at The Woodcarving Place on 255 East D Street in Jacksonville, you’ll soon transform the piece of wood into a standing bear, a landscape relief, a nineteenth-century Hitty doll—or whatever your imagination dictates.

If you’re very advanced, maybe you’ll be carving a carousel horse in the class taught by Jerry Greer, head carver and owner of The Woodcarving Place. There is one finished horse on display and three others under construction. Imagination even led one woman in the class to carve a carousel cat.

The five teachers at The Woodcarving Place offer classes in more kinds of carving than you knew existed—in-the-round, relief, knife, Acanthus (the Scandinavian style, taught by a native Norwegian), bark carving, print blocks, character, folk art, etc. For the carousel class, Jerry uses patterns from the big carousel manufacturers of the 1800s.

Carving is a tranquil activity. “Time passes quickly when you’re engaged in a project,” Jerry says. The popularity of the classes and the many carvings on display in the gallery attest to the attraction of a creative, tranquil activity not only in today’s world but in past societies as well. The mini-museum displays carvings from around the world; the gift shop sells Christmas ornaments, Victorian toys, and consignment pieces from local carvers.

Besides the carving classes offered by Jerry Greer, Donna Edsel, and Bjorn Heglie, Sandra Flowers teaches classes in watercolor and various crafts. The Woodcarving Place also participates in special events—a pumpkin carving contest for Halloween, an art show of different nativities for Christmas, help to the Cub Scouts with carving their Pinewood Derby Cars, a Christmas wreath decorated with carved ornaments for the Providence project, and a summer kids’ art program with an art show at the end of the summer.

“Carving is a traditional art and hobby you can do all your life,” Jerry says. “Some of our best carvers are in their 90s!”

In Woodcarving 101, students learn how to use the tools of carving—knives, palm tools, and mallet tools. All the supplies are provided, so the only risk in spending \$45 for a class is that you might not enjoy it—a minuscule risk, to say the least. With the class size kept to no more than five or six, with enthusiastic and knowledgeable instructors, and with lots of one-on-one instruction, success is practically guaranteed for every student.

If “success” is measured in enjoyment, every student seems successful. If it is measured in quality of the finished product, the success rate is still around 100 percent, judging from the pieces on display in the gallery.

“Come and visit us,” Jerry urges. “It’s a fun place!”

Diana Coogle
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Learn to carve a fish. Jerry Greer will lead a beginning carving class at the Applegate Grange. For more information, see page 16. Photo: The Woodcarving Place.



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Happy Holidays from the Board of Directors



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Take us with you on your next trip. Then send your favorite "Reading the Gater" photo to gater@applegater.org or mail to *Applegater*, P.O. Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Photos will appear as space allows.



Photos, clockwise from top left:
 — **Annette Parsons and Jim Clover** got lost in the Blue Ridge Mountains, thanks to the detailed map in the Applegater.
 — **Steve and Shellie Boyd** at the Atlantic Inn on Block Island off the coast of Rhode Island, where Bill and Hillary were once seen perusing the Gater for political strategies.
 — Fortunately, **Diana Coogle** is balanced by the Applegater at Castello San Pietro, overlooking Verona, Italy.
 — **Linda Yates** in bustling Trinidad, Texas, looking for night spots listed in the Gater.
 — **Diana Coogle** at Emigrant Lake just north of Yosemite where she located a handy supply of Applegaters.
 — **Kate Manning** in Nanortalik, Greenland, on a knitting cruise around the frozen north with the Gater and a special t-shirt.

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