

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

Applegater

Photo by Sue Owen

www.applegater.org



SUMMER 2016
Volume 9, No. 2

Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 11,000

Celebrating
~23~
Years

ANNUAL SUMMER SOIRÉE



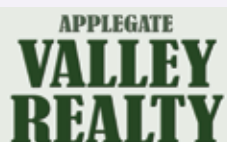
SATURDAY, JUNE 25
SCHMIDT FAMILY VINEYARDS
6 - 9 PM

FEATURING THE EVENING SHADES BAND
DINNER • WINE & BEER • SILENT AUCTION

TICKETS ON SALE JUNE 1
Applegate Store, Applegate Valley Realty-
Jacksonville, Hidden Valley Market
Ray's-Jacksonville, Ruch Country Store
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\$50 PER PERSON
Includes dinner and 1 glass of wine
Must be over 21. No pets.
Tickets will not be sold after June 21 and will not be available at the door. All proceeds benefit the Applegater newsmagazine. No refunds; all sales final.

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Is the Applegate going 'Firewise'?

BY PEGGY MARTIN, HERB JOHNSON AND SANDY SHAFFER

One neighborhood on the Jackson County side of the Applegate recently got together to talk about its wildfire risks and how to tackle and mitigate them.

Says Peggy Martin, its new Firewise Coordinator: "On April 13 seven households on the private road off of Griffin Lane got together to work on our defensible space around our homes—100-foot radius around the houses. This was part of the application process led by Derick Price, the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) fuels reduction specialist. We wish to be accredited as a Firewise Community to be part of

this nationwide organization. A flyer [see page 14] was sent out to neighbors to announce the workday. Some of the work that was done during the week included burning large slash piles from thinning ladder fuels in woodland areas next to the houses, raking leaves along driveways and burning large piles of leaves and fallen branches, cleaning gutters, limbing trees up to 12 feet, and cleaning the street along our property line from debris. Derick brought a crew of eight hardworking men to help with some of the properties. They cut down

See FIREWISE, page 14

Meet your new fire chief

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Our new fire chief, Mike McLaughlin, had been on the job only three weeks, but he agreed to have lunch with me to talk about his background, his family, and how and why they ended up here in the Applegate.

Chief McLaughlin comes to our Applegate Valley Fire District #9 with a 30-year résumé of firefighter experience in southern California. He told me that he didn't aspire to be a firefighter as a boy. However, when a friend's father who was a fire captain took him on a full-day "ride-along," he was hooked. Mike calls himself an "adrenalin junkie," and he said that on that day-ride he fell in love with the diversity of the calls and experiences of the job, as well as the "instant gratification" of helping those in

See NEW FIRE CHIEF, page 2



Mike McLaughlin, newly appointed fire chief for the Applegate Valley Fire District.

Want a thrill? Try these outdoor recreations *not* for the faint of heart

BY DIANA COOGLE

Why on earth would a person leap off a cliff "suspended by dental floss and a bed sheet," as paraglider Norm Young puts it? Why would anyone disappear into a cave, jump off a bridge on a bungee cord, or hang by fingernails on a rock cliff?

"Because it turns the movie from black and white to Kodachrome," says Darryl Rasmussen, manager of Medford's Northwest Outdoor Store. "And some people just yearn for adventure."

You can up the ante with any outdoor activity. What could be more mild than a stand-up paddleboard (SUP) on the Applegate Lake—but try going down the Wild and Scenic Rogue on a SUP! Conditions also matter. What makes you faint of heart today might not be the same tomorrow.

The key is safety. If you remember to be safe and if you're not faint of heart, you might try some of these opportunities within reach of the Applegate.

Rock-climbing.

Darryl Rasmussen loves to "chase the good rock," which can be found in Castle Crags near Dunsmuir, at Rattlesnake by Lost Creek, and in the Greensprings. "You get halfway up a cliff," he says. "It's 1,000 feet below. You have to control your mind as much as your muscles. That's a great satisfaction."

Paragliding (or hang gliding; the difference is in the

See WANT A THRILL, page 12



The international Rat Race 2016 paragliding competition at Woodrat Mountain will be held on June 19 - 25 (<http://mphsports.com>).

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