

Applegater

Photo by Kathy Kliewer

applegater.org



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Volume 9, No. 4

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

Celebrating
~23~
Years

A farewell thanks to Ed Temple

BY DAVID DOBBS

Twenty-seven years ago Ed Temple and his wife, Lyn, moved to this naturally beautiful community, the Applegate, where Ed immediately became and for all those years remained a strong leader. Now, as they embark on another adventure in a move to Arizona, Ed is both looking back and looking forward.

“Living in the Applegate has been a wonderful experience,” he says. “We’ve made great friends, enjoyed nature at its finest, and lived life to the fullest. Although we look forward to new adventures, we will have many memories of the past.”

Ed says he has always felt the importance of “giving back” because of the opportunities we have living in the United States. “If you have the drive and ambition,” he says, “it’s possible to make your life pretty much what you

want. I feel blessed to have the life I’ve had. A great wife, dog, and a home—in that order.”

Ed’s parting advice? “*Get involved! Take part in your community.*”

That advice is essentially what drove Ed as he settled into the Applegate and became an involved community member in the following roles:

- Member of the Applegate Lions Club for 26 years, many of those years as club president
- An elected member of the board of directors and president of the Applegate Valley Fire District for twenty-two years
- Board member of the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) for two years
- Director of the Applegate Valley Days fundraising event from 2012 to 2014



“The dog,” Lyn, and Ed Temple (in that order) are relocating to Arizona and plan to spend time traveling to places unknown.

- Coordinator for Neighborhood Watch while employed with the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office (JCSO)
- Coordinator for the Rural Action Team (RAT) office out of Ruch
- Community Liaison Officer for JCSO to the Applegate Valley
- Board member and past president of ACCESS Inc.

Ed says that his most rewarding and proudest moments came from being part of the team that brought the Applegate Valley Fire District from a small, basic fire district to one of the finest fire districts in Oregon with volunteers, training, equipment, policies, and financial stability.

See ED TEMPLE, page 2

Giant metal flowers blossom in the Applegate

BY DIANA COOGLE



Metal sculptor Cheryl Garcia and her red bolander lily creation at Red Lily Vineyards in the Applegate.

Metal sculptor and Jacksonville resident Cheryl Garcia is best known for her giant flowers, such as the poppies at the vineyard on South Stage Road and the giant red lily at Red Lily Vineyards. We know them and love them and take pride in them that they are in the Applegate.

Cheryl is currently working on the sixth in the giant flowers series, a sculpture called *Brittilaria*. Inspired by the Gentner’s fritillary, an endangered flower Applegaters are proud to host, it is named for another thing Applegaters take pride in, the Britt Gardens and festivals.

Nonetheless, Cheryl resists being boxed in as “the flower lady.” Her main passion is birds.

Like lilies and poppies, hawks and swallows seem to be suitably

See CHERYL GARCIA, page 12

Abundant volunteer opportunities over the holidays

BY SHELLEY MANNING

As you reflect with gratitude on our abundance, remember those who are less fortunate. If you would like to give back, the holidays are a great time, and there are many ways, large and small, to share your gifts. Volunteering this holiday season is one way you can make a difference locally and globally.

The holidays can be so demanding and hectic that small acts of kindness go a long way. Opportunities to make a difference can be right next door. How about giving a friend a ride to the airport? Or offering to babysit while your neighbors do their holiday shopping? If you know a family who is struggling financially, and it’s within your means, why not call Pacific Power and anonymously pay the family’s electric bill? If you’re baking cookies, how about making an extra batch to take to your local fire department?

For some, the holidays can be lonely. Consider including someone who’s alone in your festivities. You can even give the gift of song to friends and neighbors by putting together a caroling group.

According to recent research, “Those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer” (nationalservice.gov/pdf/07_0506_hbr.pdf).

Here are some suggestions that may inspire you.

Help families in need. At Applegate Community Church, volunteers are needed, starting December 1, to pack and deliver holiday baskets. Distribution begins on December 3 and continues throughout the month.

Applegate ACCESS Pantry, located behind the cafeteria at the Ruch School, See VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, page 12

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ISSUE

HOLIDAY - ARTS

New office manager for fire district

BY CAREY CHAPUT

Welcome to Tallie Jackson, recently hired as the new office manager for Applegate Valley Fire District!

Board members, firefighters, and community members were involved in the hiring process. Tallie excelled in the requirements. She had years of office management experience with a manufacturing company in Arizona and showed great enthusiasm to be part of the fire district team.

Tallie worked closely with me, as the retiring office manager, for six weeks to learn the many aspects of managing the Applegate fire district office. From prevention to payroll, there is never a dull moment. October was a great month for training—not only because it was Fire Prevention Month, but also because the district's annual audit was scheduled for that time.

The Jackson family visited the Grants Pass area for many years and now are proud to call it home. Husband John is employed with the Three Rivers School District, and son, Rawlins, attends Hidden Valley High School. Together they enjoy hunting, kayaking, and fundraising projects, especially for nonprofit organizations.

Tallie served the community of Payson, Arizona, for 20 years, and looks forward to getting involved with community activities throughout our fire district. Her long-term goals are in community outreach. Her desire is to build upon the programs already in place that have been developed over the years with community input. Look for



Visit Tallie Jackson, new office manager at Applegate Valley Fire District, 1095 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville.

programs in the near future that serve this wonderful community, especially through social media.

The fire chief and Tallie are currently working on awareness programs for breast cancer, smoke alarms, and family escape plans. Future plans are for an open-house program that will bring in the community to see firsthand how the fire district serves the community. Keep informed on these developments by visiting the fire district's Facebook page and website at applegatefd.com.

Tallie will fill this position very well for years to come. Please stop by and meet your new go-to person! She can also be reached at tjackson@applegatefd.com or 541-899-1050.

Carey Chaput
Retired Office Manager
Applegate Valley Fire District



Pacifica's Winter Arts Fest on December 3

For the sixteenth year, the Pacific Arts Guild presents the Winter Arts Festival on Saturday, December 3, from 10 am to 4 pm at Pacifica, 14615 Water Gap Road, Williams.

Due to the enthusiastic response of artisans, this year there will be vendors in the Pond House as well as in the Cedar Center. Special refreshments will be available there, with readings by the Applegate Poets at 11 am and 1 pm and light musical entertainment. Tour the historic Pond House while you shop. Continuous shuttle service will be available to take guests between the Cedar Center and Pond House.

Handmade clothing, soap, leather goods, ceramics, photographs, paintings, and more are featured. The Crossroads Cafe will be serving a delicious organic lunch with special desserts in the Pond House.

Local musicians and vocalists will perform all day in the Cedar Center: Windsong at 10 am, Allie and Lob at 11 am, Harmony Sue at 12 pm, and Jorah, World Music Choir, and Django at 2 pm. Open Mic is from 3 to 4 pm—come to jam. There will be activities for the kids all day long.

Be sure to attend this always-special event. And don't forget to keep Pacifica in mind for your charitable giving in 2016—local support is most appreciated!

For more information, contact Peg Prag at peg@pacificagarden.org.

“Boy, things are really different in Oregon!”

■ ED TEMPLE

Continued from page 1

The Oregon lifestyle can sometimes throw a curve ball to outsiders, as Ed experienced firsthand. “When we first moved up here, we went to the main branch of US Bank to open an account. At the front door, we were greeted by a young lady dressed as Raggedy Ann. When I asked for the lady we were supposed to meet, she called for her, and another young lady appeared—on roller skates, dressed in a '50s skirt, and with a ponytail. I'm thinking to myself, ‘Boy, things are really different in Oregon!’ It was, of course, Halloween.”

Ed, Lyn, and “the dog” plan to relocate to Arizona, where the winters are warmer. They are ready for a change. They will miss their friends, the way the Applegate Valley was when they moved here, and the fall weather. They plan to travel in their motor home to places they have never been before and fish the Sea of Cortez.

Ed will be missed, but our community will carry on in a better state than it was 27 years ago. Thanks, Ed, from all your friends and the community!

David Dobbs
iddobbs@yahoo.com

Meet the new pastor of Applegate Community Church

A warm hello from Applegate Community Church! My family of nine arrived in this beautiful valley on October 3. Our adventure across the nation on Amtrak took us from Sandy Hook, Connecticut, to Applegate for me to pastor this precious congregation.

Yes, you heard me correctly—Sandy Hook, where that horrible elementary school tragedy happened almost four years ago. During that time we sought to reach out to a grieving community with the hope that comes only through Jesus Christ. My whole focus in pastoral ministry is the Word

of God. Whether preaching, teaching, or counseling, I teach the Bible one verse at a time. It is a great delight to be part of a small community church (as well as Liberty University, where I'm an online adjunct theology professor) where I can use the skills and gifts that the Lord has provided me.

Back to our crazy little family (well, I guess nine isn't so little)! We found a new home for Sampson, the mighty small Chihuahua, not knowing if the old man would be able to make the trip, nor if he'd get eaten up by the local bobcats that have been seen in our area. My wife

Cindy and I have been married for 21 happy years (none in addition to the happy years... think and you'll get it). We have bookends of girls with five boys in between. The oldest (possibly *w i s e s t ?*), *A d r i a n n e*, who keeps her brothers straight, graduated from

our homeschooling last year and will probably be attending community college after we get settled. She currently is helping in the real estate office of Kendon Leet, a church member and faithful servant of ours who employs several members of the church.

We're adjusting to the half-hour drive to the big city when needed, but trying to plan accordingly and minimize the frequency, as we're not the city slicker sort. While we await our own house, we found a big enough shoehorn (remember what those are?) and some extra grease to squeeze the whole family into the parsonage that overlooks the church and the beautiful surrounding mountains.

Did I mention how stoked we are about all the fresh veggies, organic chicken, and grass-fed beef? I was sick for years, but the Lord graciously used a strict eating regimen along with natural supplements to heal this body of mine, which almost died...all kidding aside! My naturopathic docs in southern California accomplished more in the past ten months than nearly 30 mainstream medical docs did in five years. So bring on the nitrate-free bacon, eggs from cage-free chickens, and burgers from grass-fed cattle.



Pastor Parker Reardon is “stoked” to be living in the Applegate Valley.

We truly are glad to be here to serve our Lord and this community. We planted a few trees as a symbol of our desire to sink our roots down into this beautiful area of the country that the Lord called us to.

If you have questions about the Gospel, Jesus Christ, or the Bible, why don't you consider reaching out to me at parkerreardon@gmail.com? Visit our church website (applegatechurch.org), my personal website for audio or written teaching (biblicalexpositor.org), or visit us on a Sunday or at one of our Bible studies during the week.

A happy new Applegate resident,
Parker Reardon, DMin
Pastor
Applegate Community Church
parkerreardon@gmail.com



The Reardon family, from left to right, are Pierce, Will, Quintin, Chandler, Cindy, Parker, and Adrienne, with Dayna and Connor in front.

~ FINE PRINT ~

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

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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"). If you have questions, email gater@applegater.org.

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

All submissions for the 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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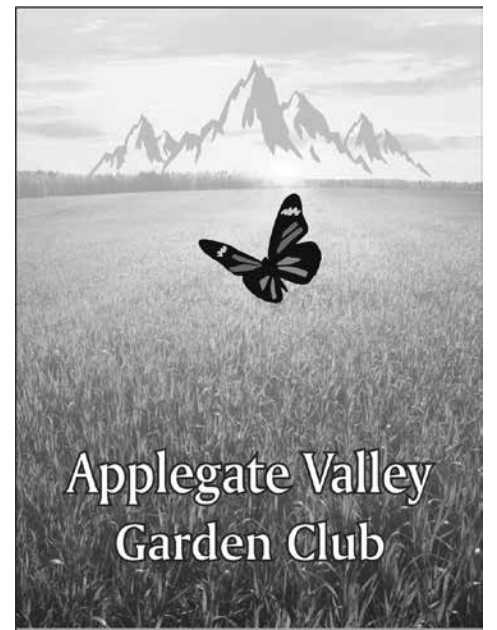
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Do you have an interest in or passion for gardening? Do you live in the Applegate Valley? The Applegate Valley Garden Club meets once a month for a social get-together and program or activity. For meeting dates and more information, contact Gaye Anderson at 541-899-5952. New members are always welcome!

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

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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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We can help you reach your market. The *Applegater* is the **only** newsmagazine covering the entire Applegate Valley.

With a circulation of 11,000 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
ronaldaturpen@gmail.com

Next deadline:
February 1

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Here's a rundown of articles in our Holiday-Arts issue: we feature the artist who has dotted the Applegate landscape with her metal sculptures (page 1) and provide outlets for your volunteer spirit and generous donations during the holiday season and beyond (page 1).

We also bid a fond farewell to a man who contributed substantially to the well-being of the Applegate Valley for almost three decades (page 1) and welcome two newcomers to the area who are already contributing to the health and safety of the community in their own ways (page 2).

Don't miss a major holiday event coming very soon—Pacifica's Winter Arts Fest will be held on Saturday, December 3 (page 2).

Numerous opinions, without fail, appear on pages 19 - 21, and the latest news about outstanding students and teachers in our schools can be found on page 22. We have reason to be proud.

We wish you and your families a safe and relaxing holiday season and that 2017 brings peace, joy, and prosperity.

We hope you'll find some time to 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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Masthead photo credit

...
Kathy Kliever captured this wintery scene of her goats on her Williams property. Thanks once again, Kathy!

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Creating our future together: Applegate Valley Economic Vitality Roadmap

BY BONNIE RINALDI

You may have heard about the Applegate Valley Economic Vitality Roadmap Project. This project began with some focus group meetings with local residents in October, followed by a larger community meeting on November 3. In two more community meetings, one in December and one in January, the Applegate community priorities will be developed.

Last spring, staff from Rural Development Initiatives (RDI), supported by the Ford Family

Foundation, approached Applegate residents who were members of the foundation's former Leadership Groups and the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) about an opportunity to bring the community together to identify priorities for action.

Because it has been a long time since the entire Applegate Valley watershed has come together to discuss broad community issues, the group decided that it would be helpful to hear from

the community and make efforts to determine our future.

This planning-and-doing process is called the Applegate Valley Economic Vitality Roadmap Project. In a fast-action, four-month process (October 2016 through January 2017), RDI staff is facilitating the development of a "roadmap to economic success in the Applegate Valley," which includes:

- Evidence-based community economic assessment
- Focus group meetings (held in October to gain some insight on the current thoughts of our residents and business owners)
- Several community meetings (November 3, December 1, and a January date to be determined)
- Surveys and interviews to identify priorities for action

- Development of a short list of top community priorities for action for economic and community improvement
- 90-day-plus action plans and community action teams to implement the identified priorities

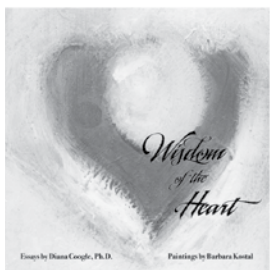
At the community meetings on November 3, RDI presented some interesting data about the Applegate Valley's demographics. They also presented some emerging themes from the interviews and surveys received to date. Frequently heard words were "beautiful," "diverse," "abundant," "creative," "sacred soil," "exceptional environment," and "outstanding recreational opportunities," along with phrases like, "We came here to live our dreams and are passionate about the place," "Employment opportunities are

See *VITALITY ROADMAP*, page 5

••• BIZBITS •••

BizBits highlights businesses new to the area, holding special events, or offering new products. If you are a business owner, let us know when you move into the area or to a different location, hold a special event, expand your business, or mark a milestone. Email Shelley Manning at manningshelley@icloud.com.

Art Presence. This gallery in the annex of the museum in Jacksonville is excited to announce that Diana Coogle will be reading at a reception for her new book, *Wisdom of the Heart*, co-authored with artist Barbara Kostal, on Saturday, January 7, at 2 pm. Each of Diana's essays was inspired by a painting by Barbara, also in the book. An exhibit of 20 paintings will be in the upstairs room of Art Presence throughout January. 206 N. 5th Street, Jacksonville • 541-899-3759



• artpresence.org • annebrooke@watercolor.com.

•••

Casablanca. Whenever I ask people for restaurant recommendations in Grants Pass, Casablanca is inevitably mentioned. How exciting that they just opened another restaurant in Murphy! Opened by owners Andy Baida and Eric Losoya on October 8, Casablanca serves a variety of high-quality ingredients in wraps, tortas, and boxes. They also serve salads, soup, tots, smoothies, and fancy coffee drinks. Did it live up to the talk? I say "yes"! My Casa Special box was delicious and the Casa's house sauce rocks! There's even a drive-through for your convenience. Inside is tidy, pleasant, and inviting. Open Monday - Friday 6:30 am - 9 pm, Saturday 8 am - 8 pm, Sunday 9 am - 5 pm • 6410 Williams Highway, Murphy (near Union 76 gas station and Circle K) • 541-846-3131.



•••

The Crossroads Cafe. Owner Chris Atkins opened The Crossroads Cafe in Williams last August after making major renovations. When Chris moved to Williams from Chicago about a year ago, he saw a need for more restaurants in the area. And "I like to eat," Chris added. The cafe specializes in local and organic farm-fresh food. They offer breakfast all day and feature a kids' menu. For lunch and dinner, there are burgers, salads, sandwiches, and wraps. Many vegetarian and gluten-free options are available, too. With Chris's years of experience catering music festivals, The Crossroads Cafe is equipped to accommodate large orders and to cater events. Open daily from 8 am - 8 pm • 120 Cedar Flat Road, Williams (just past Takubeh and Williams Country Store) • 541-846-0120.

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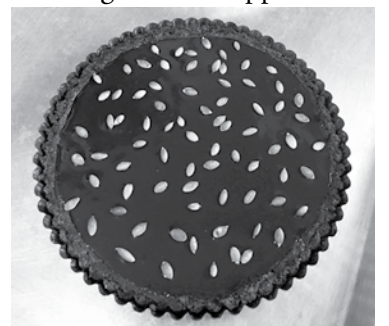
Devitt Winery. Devitt, which defines boutique wine-making in the Applegate Valley, recently announced their new wine club. Member benefits include a 15 percent discount on all wine purchases and a 25 percent discount on all cases, including mixed; no tasting fee for members or guests; monthly newsletter; and semiannual shipment of either three or six bottles (cost not to exceed \$60 plus shipping for three bottles or \$120 for six bottles). Pick up wine to avoid shipping costs (wine not picked up in a month will be shipped). Shipments will be made in the spring and the fall. Advance notice will be emailed. The Devitt Winery tasting room is a must. You will experience what passion and art taste like when blended with wine-making. Devitt is open year-round from 12 - 5 pm (look for the "Open" sign) • 11412 Highway 238, Jacksonville • 541-899-7511 • devittwinery.com.

•••

The Great Unbaked Chocolate Factory. Sample delicious new holiday creations—pumpkin spiced and candy cane truffle balls—along with the many other creative truffle flavors! Check out the award-winning, raw, non-GMO, fair trade, vegan, organic chocolates and desserts, too. Raw chocolate retains vitamins, minerals, and phytochemicals, giving you even more reasons to eat chocolate. Perfect for holiday gifts! Stop by Monday - Thursday from 8:30 am - 4 pm • 8880 Williams Highway, Grants Pass • 541-450-9080.



The Honeysuckle Cafe. Too busy to bake? The Honeysuckle Cafe announces holiday baked offerings! Applegate Apple Pie made with organic local apples: \$26; Pumpkin Pie made with locally sourced pumpkins: \$22; Pecan Pie: \$30; Linzer Torte: \$32; Raspberry Linzer Tart: \$25; Chocolate Pumpkin Tart with toasted pumpkin seeds and ginger snap crust (see photo): \$30; French Apple Tart: \$26; Carrot Cake (serves 10 - 12): \$30; Local Pear Cake: \$26; Cinnamon Rolls: half-dozen—\$27, dozen—\$54. Pies and tarts serve eight. Orders must be placed by Friday, December 16, and picked up on Thursday, December 22, between 8 am - 12 pm. Open Wednesday - Sunday, 8 am - 3 pm • 7360 Highway 238, Jacksonville (Ruch) • 541-702-2525.



•••

Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds. After a long summer collecting native seeds in the foothills and mountains of the Applegate and beyond, Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds has updated its inventory for those seeking locally sourced, wildcrafted native plant seeds. With a focus on flowering native pollinator plants, the motto of Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds is "Grow Native, Grow Wild." Online mail-order for packets of native seeds is available, as well as seed-collection contracting for larger amounts of seed. Native plant seeds are used in habitat restoration projects, land stewardship, and gardens of all kinds: pollinator gardens, butterfly gardens, rock gardens, permaculture, food forests, native hedges, ornamental gardens, and more! Support native plant conservation and local, sustainable business in the Applegate Valley. klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com • klamathsiskiyouseeds.com.



Black-tailed bumble bee foraging on sulphur flower buckwheat.

•••

Derick Price, Home Quest Realty. For the last 17 years Derick was a firefighter and fire hazard specialist with the Oregon Department of Forestry, but he recently made the change to a full-time real estate broker. He chose to sign on with Home Quest Realty because the company shares both his desire to treat each client like family and his commitment to service to community. Over the last decade and a half, Derick worked with families in and around the Applegate Valley to reduce the fire hazard around their properties. Now he's able to help in different ways, giving information about a home's current market value, advising how to increase marketability, and answering other real estate-related questions and needs. Call, text, or email anytime at 541-621-7049 or derick@HomeQuestOregon.com.



•••

Williams General Store. Tom and Heather Glass took ownership of the Williams General Store in July with the vision of keeping it "country." After Tom spotted the General Store on the Internet, the Glass family decided to relocate from Beaverton to Williams. Come in and you'll notice a buffed-up General Store that embraces its history and boasts lower prices and more products. Heather wants you to find everything you need to fix dinner and is open to requests if you need something you don't see. Future plans include opening a deli! Open Monday - Saturday 7 am - 9 pm, Sunday 9 am - 6 pm • 20180 Williams Highway, Williams • 541-846-6212.



■ VITALITY ROADMAP

Continued from page 4

limited, so we must bring our jobs with us,” and “It’s poverty with a view.” Maybe most important, RDI reported that they heard from numerous sources that Applegate residents respect each other and try to find common ground.

After hearing RDI’s findings, the 25 or so attendees (from Upper Applegate to Williams) provided their input on priorities for action. It



Focus group meetings were held in October to help develop priorities for an Applegate Valley Economic Vitality Roadmap.

quickly became clear that there is an overarching desire to support existing farms and businesses without harming our environment or lifestyle. Education, housing, travel accommodations, branding Applegate as “organic,” and numerous other ideas were added to the list of priorities.

Over the next two meetings, the list of priorities will be further discussed and refined. Once a final “roadmap” is produced in January, action groups will be formed to pursue the priorities. RDI will assist us in identifying potential funding sources and other resources to help us make real progress.

Please attend one of the upcoming meetings to be a part of this process. Important things can happen when we proactively engage in creating our community’s future. Your input is critical to guiding the future of the Applegate!

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1, at 6 pm at Williams Grange, 20100 Williams Highway, Williams. Details about

January’s meeting will be posted on the GACDC website at gacdc.org. Look for the “AV Roadmap Project” tab. Also on the website will be the November 3 presentation and a link to provide input via a short survey.

If you can’t attend a meeting, please arrange an interview with Amanda Close (aclose@rdiinc.org or 206-919-0186).

Bonnie Rinaldi
Chair, GACDC
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— CORRECTION —

The statement in Diana Coogle’s article, “What’s Behind the Fence?” (Fall 2016) that “big companies like FutureLand and Dicot Partners *are* buying land here” was inaccurate. Dicot Partners (DP) has not purchased land in the Applegate, according to Richard Gaxiola, corporate counsel, Dicot Partners Corporation, Phoenix, Arizona. In addition, Gaxiola is under the impression that the sentence (in its entirety: “Although rumor has it that many of the owners behind the fences are not local, and although big companies like FutureLand and Dicot Partners *are* buying land here, many marijuana growers are local farmers who joined the gold rush.”) implicates DP’s owner, Alan Kamben, as having a “gold rush mentality” (Gaxiola’s phrase). Kamben, Gaxiola says, “has been growing and producing organic cannabis in Oregon for the past ten years and formulated Dicot Partners in an effort to protect his chemistry, organic methodology and overall business internal structure.” The sentence in the *Applegater* was not meant to impugn Kamben. It clearly contrasts companies like Dicot Partners (not local to the Applegate) with local farmers “who joined the gold rush,” a term phrased by one of the local farmers quoted in the article.

BOOKS & MOVIES

— Book —

Under a Flaming Sky

Daniel James Brown

Under a Flaming Sky is a true story about the horrors of an unrelenting forest fire that consumed a corner of northern Minnesota on the last day of August 1894.

The Great Hinckley Firestorm was a fire of unimaginable consequences. The smoke turned day to a moonless night, and its hurricane-strength winds carried flames over 200 feet high.

Ahead of the main fire were huge flaming bubbles of gas that floated over the town of Hinckley and exploded over the heads of the 1,200 or so terrified townsfolks, raining fire down on both Hinckley and its inhabitants.

Families ran in a panic of terror, screaming and begging for mercy. Many of their tortured cries evaporated into a heat so intense it melted steel.

This is an intense read—I was gripping the book so tightly that I thought my fingers might rip through all the pages.

One of the heroes in this story is train engineer William Bennet Best, who worked for the Eastern Minnesota Railroad. Best held his train at the Hinckley train station as folks ran from their burning town and scrambled aboard the train. The heat was so unbearably intense that Best didn’t know how long he could hold the train. From his engine, he watched a little boy trying to run to the train while carrying his dog that was bigger than him and a man running toward the train



pushing a wheelchair with another man in it.

As he waited for folks to board, Best witnessed the horrific sight of people exploding into flames and incinerating before his eyes.

Another hero, Ed Boyle, a general store proprietor from the little burg of Mission Creek, directed the residents to the center of a two-acre potato

field as the fire from hell devoured their little town and ordered his employees to bring barrels of water on a wagon. People flung themselves into the furrows of the potato field, burying their faces into the scorching soil, gasping for cool air that was not to be found; some

covered themselves with wet blankets and shawls.

Over the roar of the all-devouring fire that was louder than a tornado, they could hear the screams of their children. The heavens above were raining blazing branches, cinders, and flaming pinecones down on their backs. They all survived.

Under a Flaming Sky is one adrenaline-pumping, sweaty, exhausting ride into the teeth of terror. Brown researched and wrote this book because his grandfather was a nine-year-old survivor of this Armageddon of a fire. His grandfather was plagued with nightmares about the fire for the rest of his life.

I found this book so riveting that I could hardly put it down. This review barely touches the tip of the flames that burn through this spellbinding book.

Be sure to read this one!

J.D. Rogers
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— Movie —

Sully

Reviewer rating: 4 Apples

Genre: Biography/Drama

PG-13

Opened: September 2016

Cast: Tom Hanks, Aaron Eckhart, Laura Linney

Director: Clint Eastwood

Sully, directed and produced by Clint Eastwood and starring Tom Hanks, is based on the true story of how veteran pilot Captain Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger became a national hero when he made a successful emergency landing in New York’s Hudson River on January 15, 2009, after his plane struck a flock of geese, disabling both engines. The lives of all 155 passengers and crew members aboard were saved.

Although this story was big news, and I think it’s safe to say that all of America—and most of the world for that matter—knows the story, it is still a movie not to be missed. It is not just about



1 Apple—Don’t bother
5 Apples—Don’t miss

the heroic measures of Captain Sully and his co-pilot, Jeff

Skiles (Aaron Eckhart), but centers largely on what happens after the passengers and crew are plucked from the freezing river and Captain Sully has to defend his actions to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). As tension-filled as the actual emergency landing was, the post inquiry, on Sully’s decision to land in the Hudson instead of trying to make it to a nearby airport, was even more so.

I think the average person watching this part of the movie would question if the NTSB inquiry was even necessary! The reality is that 155 people owe their lives to Sully’s accurate under-pressure



decision, so why aren’t they throwing him a parade instead? Well, every good story has to have an antagonist, of course, and in this story, it’s the NTSB that seems bound and determined to prove that Sully was in error. I found this part of the movie to be quite interesting, engrossing, and inspiring, but there also was a level

of heartbreak about what Sully had to endure when both his reputation and career were on the line as he was being investigated. And the truth of the matter, which was soon discovered, is that quick judgments based on computer reenactments often do not match up to real human experience. There are too many factors involved, and this movie proved just that!

All in all, I found this movie to be a

powerful story with a strong sense of realism from the actors. Tom Hanks, as always, was captivating, and his co-star, Aaron Eckhart, offered just enough edge to Hanks’s calm and quiet confidence to make them a great team, both on-screen and “in the air.” Clint Eastwood did a masterful job at depicting this true-life rescue drama—by putting the audience right in the cockpit during those tense moments with Captain Sully—and in creating the imagery of Sully’s conception of what *could* have happened if he hadn’t make a successful landing.

Overall, my opinion is that this is a well-done movie that not only honors the actual hero, but also offers a story with a whole lot of heart. And, as I mentioned, even though you already know how the story ends, it’s still worth watching for good edge-of-your-seat entertainment.

Kathy Kliever
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Permaculture for southern Oregon

BY MELANIE MINDLIN

What does a sustainable lifestyle look like—not sustaining the convenient middle-class expectations or the growth economy, but a lifestyle that can be persistent on the only planet we have? How can we regenerate our land, address climate change, and change ourselves to feed a vision of the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible? Permaculture provides skills, resources, and perspectives—from water harvesting to regenerative forestry, from perennial horticulture to appropriate technology, from homestead planning to the sharing economy—that offer a way to be the change you want to see in the world.

Siskiyou Permaculture offers education and design services for southern Oregon. The Permaculture Design Course, offered once a year, gives you the opportunity to experience the internationally renowned curriculum with lots of local applications and resources for our region provided by our three instructors: Tom Ward, an Applegate Valley resident, a storyteller and counselor, a permaculture teacher renowned throughout the northwest, and a social forester with over 30 years of experience; Karen Taylor, a permaculture teacher, designer, and rainwater and greywater consultant; and Melanie Mindlin, a permaculture

teacher, land-use planner, home designer, and community facilitator.

Andrew Millison, permaculture instructor at Oregon State University, says, “Permaculture has become a major buzzword throughout the design world, as all gazes are shifting toward green. This is because the permaculture design system, founded by Australians Bill Mollison and David Holmgren in the 1970s, has demonstrated innate wisdom and enduring designs around the globe. Permaculture is a system of land-use planning and a design protocol for creating human habitations that embody three ethical foundations: care of the Earth, care of people, and the reinvestment of surplus to support those ethics. Permaculture design principles are based around the notion of energy descent, where industrial society will need to drastically reduce energy consumption in order to sustain a stable climate and support life on Earth.”

Permaculture is a human-centered and positive approach that invites us to see ourselves as positive agents for change, to see our place within nature, and celebrate the good we can do. Building resilient communities means providing for our material and nonmaterial needs locally in a sustainable way, reversing centralizing and globalizing trends that require



Tom Ward, renowned permaculture teacher and social forester.

massive energy inputs, and relieving pressure on the rest of the world.

The Permaculture Design Course starts in February 2017 and is held over six weekends through May 1 at Jackson Wellsprings classroom in Ashland. See the sidebar for more information about this course and others. More information about Siskiyou Permaculture can be found on the website at siskiyoupermaculture.com or by writing siskiyoupermaculture@gmail.com.

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Siskiyou Permaculture Courses and Events

Annual Storytelling December 11, 2016

“Now Then Forever: A State of the Bioregion Story” told by Tom Ward (aka Hazel) at UCC Ashland church, 717 Siskiyou Boulevard, Ashland. *Free event.* Donations accepted.

Where are we and what’s happening? The long view is what matters.

Social Forestry February 4 - 9, 2017

Advanced permaculture course with Tom Ward, aka Hazel, at Wolf Gulch in southern Oregon. This course explores reconnecting with forests through ecological knowledge, use of hand tools and woodcrafts, seasonal festivals and work cycles, and more. Fee: \$600, includes camping. Early registration by January 4 is \$500. Register online at siskiyoupermaculture.org.

Weekend Permaculture Design Courses Start February 18-19, 2017

This certificate course is offered around the world with lots of local flavor included. Lead instructor is Tom Ward with co-teachers Melanie Mindlin and Karen Taylor. Fee: \$725. Early registration by January 17 is \$625. Full course description and registration available at sites.google.com/site/siskiyouper/permaculture-design-course.

Jacksonville Community Center: Moving from a dream to reality

BY SUE MILER

For decades, residents of Jacksonville and surrounding communities have dreamed of having a community center to serve as a focal point for all the cultural and civic activity that makes this area so special. Now supporters are close to achieving this dream—construction plans are being prepared and the final push to raise the remaining funds is under way.

Origin of the project

Since 1998, the Jacksonville Community Center (JCC) has been housed in a small, 842-square-foot cottage at Fourth and Main Street in Jacksonville. The two-room cottage was remodeled by volunteers and has been used by local nonprofit organizations for meetings, crafts, music and social activities, and the staging of parades and other Jacksonville events. However, the cottage was intended to be a temporary solution and could not come close to housing all the activities that residents desired. Plans for the new center incorporate the current cottage but include a large expansion that will accommodate a greater variety of activities and events.

What will the center be like?

JCC will be an approximately 3,000-square-foot multipurpose building with small meeting rooms, a great room that can be subdivided, an event kitchen, ADA compliant restrooms, and a small outdoor amphitheater.

Residents envision activities throughout the day: performing and visual arts classes for kids, well-baby clinics, club meetings, tutoring, teen

activities, and adult classes. The great room will be used for events such as medium-sized conferences, meetings, music recitals, dance performances, class reunions, and family events like showers and wedding receptions. It can serve as the staging area for parades and historic education. Outdoor space is being planned to accommodate small groups for an outdoor club, hiking, and nature study.

Who will use the center?

The center will serve residents of all ages from Jacksonville and surrounding areas, including the Applegate Valley. We are particularly interested in increasing the opportunities and activities for children and teens in our community.

What stage is the project at now?

As the nonprofit organization leading the project, Jacksonville Community Center has secured a 50-year lease for one dollar per year from the City of Jacksonville, enabling construction on the site. Ausland Group has been engaged as the construction firm. Approvals have been obtained from the City Planning Commission and the Historic Architectural Review Commission. Construction will begin once funds to complete the full project are raised. Construction is expected to take roughly five months.



Rendering of the future Jacksonville Community Center.

How much will the center cost, and what are the plans for raising the funds needed?

The total budget for the community center project is \$828,000. Of that, \$270,000 is comprised of in-kind contributions (primarily the lease from the City of Jacksonville), leaving the “cash cost” for the project at \$558,000. This figure is comprised of two parts: (1) \$450,000 to construct the building and (2) \$108,000 for furnishings, equipment, and related expenses.

The fundraising campaign is well under way. For nearly 20 years, dedicated volunteers from the Jacksonville Seniors, Inc., have had the vision and community-mindedness to focus the proceeds from sales at Jacksonville Thrift and

Collectibles toward a multiuse center. Proceeds from the annual Celebrate the Arts event have been conserved over many years toward the same end. Those combined funds total over \$200,000, and an additional \$107,000 in contributions and pledges has been received. Proposals have been submitted to several regional foundations; the Carpenter and Chaney Family Foundations have made grants.

JCC recently received a \$40,000 challenge grant from the Collins Foundation, which will award \$40,000 to JCC if we are able to raise \$40,000 from individuals and businesses in the community. Thus far, about half of the challenge amount has been raised. JCC is now seeking contributions from friends in the community—both individuals and businesses. Every gift, no matter how small or large, counts! To make a tax-deductible donation, mail a check to Jacksonville Community Center, PO Box 1435, Jacksonville, OR 97530, or visit our website at cedarson4th.org.

Sue Miler
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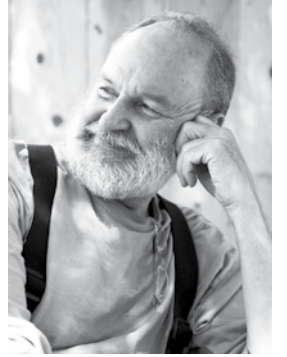
— NOTICE —

The Community Calendar, usually found on page 4, has been temporarily relocated to our website at applegater.org.

THE STARRY SIDE

Imagine what you like

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

People sometimes ask me how I came to my fascination with the stars. It's a fun answer for me to think about, filled with warm memories. It started with Donna McCutcheon, wonderful grandmother to me and many cousins. She owned a three-mile-long island off Nassau in the Bahamas. For most of my young life, during spring breaks from school we flew south to Nassau (I'm east coast born and raised) and sailed off on a 30-some-foot schooner five miles or so to Mrs. McCutcheon's island.

Often after dinner Donna would gather all the children who were visiting, take us out to the veranda or down to a beach, spread us out, and tell stories. She showed us constellations, weaving tales and descriptions that totally enthralled me.

I was hooked. Since then, I have never been able to *not* look up at the night sky if there is any chance to see it. I often make special trips out under the stars to see some event or meteor shower, bright planet or the space station going by. I just can't help myself and I'm glad of it. It's been a fond interest and, more than that, a real love of mine.

The beauty, the science, the history, our connection to mankind's past and to the solar system and universe—all of it simply amazes me. The more I learn, the more I love it all. And I'm so glad this column affords me the opportunity to pass some of this on to you the way Donna McCutcheon did for me on a little island in the Bahamas long ago. Thank you for reading, and giving me that opportunity.

Once again the winter panorama unfolds for us. Put on those warm clothes and boots, grab a visorless hat and maybe a blanket and a chair to lean back in. Then get comfortable, and just look up. It's so simple and rewarding.

You'll probably see Orion with his belt of three stars, his sword hanging at an angle below that. Two bright stars above are his shoulders, and a little triangle—a bit hard to see—is his head. His right arm is raised, with a club in it. His left arm holds a curved shield defending him from Taurus the bull (that distinctive V shape called Hyades, which is inside the larger constellation of Taurus along with Aldebaran, the bright star). This is all not far off to our upper right. Below Orion's belt I see his two legs in a sort of running position.

Orion, look for the brightest star in the sky: Sirius, the heart of Orion's faithful dog. To its lower-left is a medium-sized triangle—that's the dog's hind quarters. I see his back leg and tail, but not much more. The rest is up to our imaginations.

And that brings up an important concept for me. We get to see the sky any way we want to. It's actually hard to see what someone else might be seeing and describing. So in the end, it's all bets off: see what you want. History and older civilizations have taught us what they see, and it's fun to start there. But it's free territory—see and enjoy and imagine anything you like!

Other events of note

- Geminid Meteors are usually great in winter, but this year the full moon on December 14 will be there to ruin the best part of them. It's not likely you'll see much.
- Venus is in the sunset for all three winter months, bright and beautiful.
- Mercury plays low in the sunset, illusive and hard to see.
- Mars is moving east and stays approximately in the same position in the southwest, moving slowly to the south as the stars and winter months go by.
- Saturn has set behind the sun and is invisible to us.
- Jupiter is the only planet in the sunrise. That's Spica below Jupiter. They both work their way higher, rising earlier as the winter months go by.

Here's to clear, dark, night skies and bright stars to spark your imagination this winter!

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Illustration: Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar 2016.



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Upper Applegate Watershed planning

BY DON BOUCHER

Multiple public workshops have been focusing attention on the Upper Applegate Watershed. A consistent theme is the importance of looking back, as we get deeper into the current planning for the Upper Applegate, at the goals identified in the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA) Guide, prepared in the late 1990s. This guide is the product of some very thoughtful and forward-thinking collaborative work, and the goals it presents can be guiding principles regardless of any current land-use allocations. The primary goals identified in the AMA Guide are (1) to achieve healthy, diverse, and functioning ecosystems that are sustainable over time, and (2) to make public agencies, e.g., US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), more adaptive and improve community engagement in planning, implementing, and monitoring.

Concurrent with the preparation of the AMA Guide was the Applegate Valley Strategic Plan, finalized in July 1997. The visions and goals identified in this plan demonstrate public concerns about and awareness of the interconnections of the social, economic, and natural systems. The strategic plan identified the following vision for the Ruch/Upper Applegate area: "Our forests are healthy, natural systems managed for a variety of resources including wildlife, birds, and wood products. We protect our old-growth forests and we have introduced fire into the forest ecosystem. We have created cathedral forests near homes to reduce the risk of destructive fire. Our rivers are healthy productive places that are free from development and contain abundant fish."

The reason for looking at this work, completed almost 20 years ago, is that it is still relevant. We have not yet achieved the vision outlined in the strategic plan. Our current planning process is designed to move toward that vision. Planning on the Upper Applegate Watershed continues following a meeting nearly a year ago January in which the community was asked to identify benefits from the land, threats to those benefits, and possible management actions to mitigate the threats. That was followed by a workshop in April where agency resources specialists and several community members shared information about the current condition of the Upper Applegate area. Since those meetings, the USFS and the BLM have hosted two workshops to focus discussion on the Upper Applegate planning area. The purpose of these workshops was to further clarify community values

(August 3) and to identify the important threats to maintaining those values (October 4).

Values identified by the community were arranged into five main categories with elements that either represent the value of the landscape or identify important areas on it in relation to the value. These elements were mapped by agency specialists and can be viewed in an online map. This map is still a work in progress and will be updated as mapping is completed. It is available for viewing by the public at arcg.is/2cLIWj5.

The work before us now is to identify a suite of actions that will address the most serious threats. A public workshop was held on November 9 to discuss how we (the community and agencies) address in the near term the most important threats. We are using an approach that looks at ecosystem services, or what we are calling "benefits from nature." These are the goods and services that people receive from natural systems. A number of good comments were received and some potential management actions were provided by the community. The agencies are now working to compile all of the notes and organize them into themes to bring back to the community in a meeting that will be scheduled after the holidays in January 2017. There we hope to continue a collaborative effort to identify a suite of management actions that will address the more important threats to nature's benefits.

As stated in the AMA Guide: "Goals can only be achieved when citizens, resource managers, and governmental leaders work to support and sustain an open process of integrated community and ecosystem planning." The key to successful collaboration really rests in our ability to communicate and work together to find common ground, resolve differences, and work towards successful outcomes. We are working to build a transparent process that integrates community and agency values.

If you have questions, comments, or other thoughts, please feel free to contact me.

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Nedsbar Timber Sale: Next steps

BY KRISTI MASTROFINI

The Nedsbar Forest Management Project, located in the Little Applegate and Upper Applegate Watersheds, was planned under the 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and was designed to meet multiple objectives including managing forests to promote tree vigor and growth, improve forest stand resiliency to natural disturbances such as fire and insects, provide for the conservation and recovery of the northern spotted owl, reduce hazardous fuels, and produce timber products in support of the Medford District's 2016 Allowable Sale Quantity.

As designed, not all objectives would be met on every acre; the intent is to meet these objectives at the landscape scale. The design of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposal incorporated the intent of Recovery Action 10 of the 2011 *Revised Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl*, which recommends conserving spotted owl sites and high-value spotted owl habitat. This substantially reduced the acreage proposed for forest thinning from BLM's original proposal that initiated public outreach in May of 2014.

As many in the community are aware, the Nedsbar Timber Sale did not receive any bids at the timber sale auction held in September 2016. After some consideration, the BLM decided to withdraw the sale a few days later. While there are always a number of factors contributing to the salability of timber, one of the main factors considered by the potential bidders was the economic challenges associated with the large proportion of helicopter logging (about 50 percent of the sale) combined with a low average volume per acre across the sale area and the small average diameter of timber to be removed (about 12.8-inch average diameter).

The Nedsbar Timber Sale will move forward again soon, but may look a little different. The analysis that went into the decision-making process remains sound and it incorporated the input of not only BLM resource specialists but many members of the Applegate community and other interested stakeholders. In fact, a dedicated group of local citizens, the Applegate Neighborhood Network,

worked very closely with BLM and contributed their own Community Alternative. The BLM fully analyzed this Community Alternative in its environmental assessment (EA), known as Alternative 5. The strength of the overall analysis through all alternatives provided the decision space to make positive management choices for our public lands in the Nedsbar planning area. While I did not select the Community Alternative, I did incorporate several aspects of that alternative, including reducing road construction, deferring treatment at this time for some of the stands, and altering treatment prescriptions in others.

Because the EA analysis remains valid and treatment needs still exist, the BLM plans to move forward with a reworked Nedsbar Timber Sale that would include changes to improve the economic viability of the timber sale. These changes will likely include dropping some of the units with the highest logging costs, primarily those associated with the helicopter logging. Any changes would, of course, be within the scope of the existing environmental assessment. Work not included in the repackaged timber sale may be deferred for future consideration or developed into future stewardship contracts, BLM fuels reduction contracts, or small commercial timber sales designed to provide opportunities to the local community.

The Nedsbar Timber Sale was planned under the 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the planning area was then designated as an Adaptive Management Area (AMA) where the testing of new management approaches to integrate and achieve ecological, economic, and other social and community objectives was encouraged.

Although the 2016 Southwestern Oregon RMP no longer has an AMA land-use allocation, the BLM continues to encourage community involvement and collaborative processes to support local land-management projects.

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— McKee Bridge Centennial Celebration —

Planning is under way for McKee Bridge's 100th anniversary celebration on Saturday, June 10, 2017, from 11 am to 3 pm. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a grand celebration of McKee Bridge and its part in the history of the Applegate.

Food, music, historic displays, vintage cars, and steam engines will be featured at this family-friendly event. For more information, contact Paul Tipton at ptipton@frontier.com or 541-846-7501.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Container gardening with a new lift

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Even though I work very hard in my vegetable garden, I am basically lazy. If there is an easy way to do gardening and I haven't done it, I will most likely figure it out soon enough. I have never been a turning-plowing-and-hoeing type of gal. In other words, I have never turned my garden soil over, even just once a year. I actually pile nutrients on top of the soil—aged animal manure, compost I have been saving, aged leaves, or whatever else is the garden du jour. I let earthworms and ol' mum nature do the rest of the work.

I've discovered that straw-bale gardening appears to satisfy most of my garden fantasies, good, great, grandiose, and yes, my personal style of lazy gardening will be appeased. Whoopee for my aching back—I barely need to bend over to plant or to harvest the crops. Actually, the concept, as it is evolving, makes very good sense and has more advantages than disadvantages. The worst part, at least for me, is that the straw bales are heavy and bulky.

Now for the easy one-two-three steps. The steps below, gleaned from several websites, are how I plan to plant, which means I have tweaked the original instructions. As an aside, if you are *not* making your own compost, but buy bags of "filthy rich soil," the cost of one bag of soil is just about the same as one large bale of straw.

Before I explain the few easy steps for straw-bale planting, here is why this gardening style actually works: "The digestive process of insects, worms, fungi, mold, and bacteria (the most important decomposer) breaks down the straw. This

process...involves keeping the bales wet and introducing nitrogen as a food source for the bacteria inside the bales. This food source and water supply, along with temperatures above 45 degrees, encourages the rapid reproduction of bacteria in the core of the bale. The bacteria will reproduce or divide about every 15 minutes given these ideal conditions" (fix.com/blog/straw-bale-gardening).

Now let's begin.

1. Place your straw bale exactly where you want to plant. Remember, the bales are heavy and you don't want to be the "moving service for straw bales" more than once. Barley or wheat straw works hunky-dory. Make sure the twines are horizontal around the bale and not directly on the ground or the twine, too, will decompose. For several days prior to planting, heavily water the bales every day.

2. At about day three, prepare the bales as you would in a "low-down dirt garden." For example, if you plan to grow carrots, beets, lettuce, or anything scattered in a row, trench out long crevices on the top of the bale. If you are thinking about plants that go into holes, such as eggplant, peppers, okra, basil, etc., dig holes four to six inches deep several inches apart on the top of a bale.

3. Begin sprinkling

the holes or trenches with your own compost, store-bought compost, aged manure, clean healthy garden soil, etc. The decomposing straw will also provide ongoing nutrients. It takes at least 12 to 18 days for the straw to begin to decompose sufficiently before you can begin planting. If you have seedlings or small starts, gently place them in holes and hunker them in also. Now cover with whatever material is hanging around.

Next season, plant in the same holes again, which will now be even more nutrient-filled. I personally will likely add some fresh but aged amendments to the previously used holes. As the straw sitting on my raised beds decomposes, underneath I will have an abundance of earthworms and microbial activity to add to the next growing straw-bale "planters." This is just my fantasy, but approximates what I have learned from my research.

Although I don't know how many seasons each bale will last, I'll find out starting next spring. At the very least, I will have some wonderful "alive" straw that can be used just about anywhere in my gardens.

Sioux Rogers
541-846-7736
dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm



Sioux Rogers



Top photo: Dig holes for plants like eggplant and basil (step 2) (photo: au.pinterest.com). Bottom photo: Begin planting after the straw has decomposed sufficiently (step 3) (photo: modernfarmer.com).

Straw-bale gardens are easy and can satisfy your fantasies, says the author (photos: cvog.blogspot.com and wsumgto.wordpress.com).



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Cantrall Buckley Park campground update

BY JEREMY CRISWELL

It was a busy fall as the stage was set for some major upgrades at Cantrall Buckley Park campground. Using the last of our 2016 Title II Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant, we were able to run water and power to our camp host site and provide our camp host with all of the modern comforts he deserves!

We recently applied for a new round of Title II grant funding from the Bureau of Land Management Southwest Oregon Resource Advisory Council (RAC) in the amount of \$21,620. This would fund the creation of two group-site RV facility hookups, a wastewater dumping station, and sewer connection to three individual RV sites. By installing the wastewater dumping station, we will be able to take full advantage of our state-of-the-art water treatment system that was installed at the beginning of this project. While these upgrades may seem less than glamorous, they will provide the infrastructure to allow vacationers and visitors traveling with self-contained campers to spend several nights at our park and maintain safe and sanitary conditions.

RV and motorhome use of the campground is our number-one unfulfilled request at the park; with this project we will finally be able to honor those requests. RAC has helped fund our upgrades in the past, so we are hopeful it will again this time. Fingers crossed!

In early 2017, the Cantrall Buckley Park Committee and the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) will be ramping up for a major round of fundraising to complete the campground upgrade project. Included in this phase will be water and power hookups for existing campsites and completion of the wastewater treatment system. We will apply to several foundations and other grant sources to help fund the



The community-funded, firefighter-installed barbecues have been a wonderful addition to the park. They were well used this summer and fall!

completion of the campground project; however, we need the enthusiasm and financial support of the community to qualify for grants. You will be hearing from us in 2017!

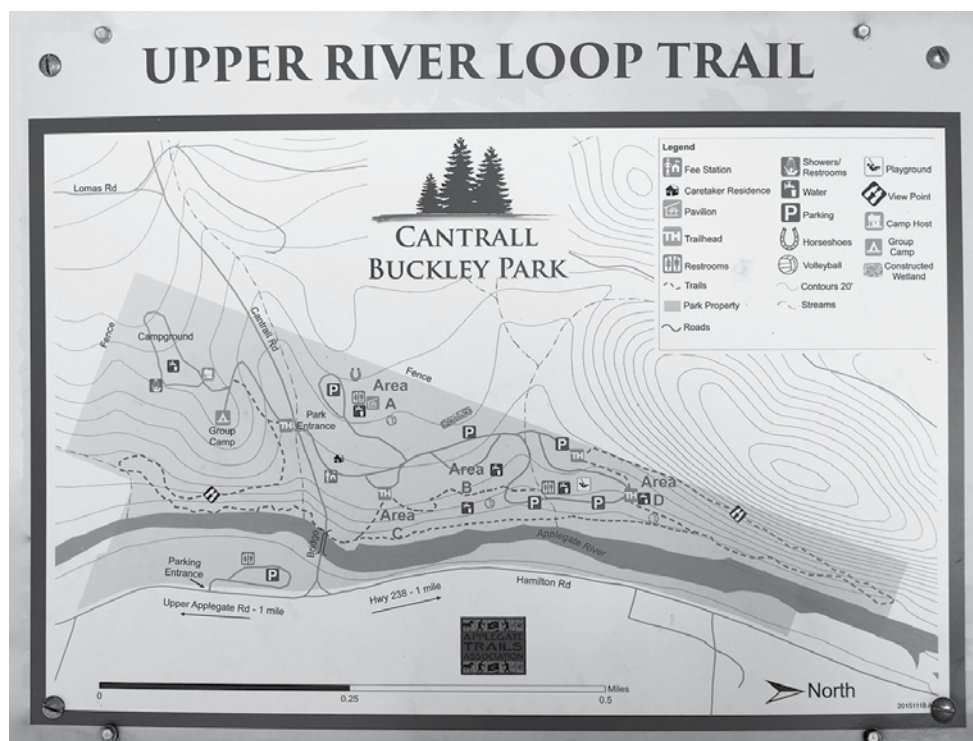
In other news, the playground bathroom renovations are slated to begin shortly and will include not only a complete overhaul of the restroom interior, but also a tear-off of the damaged flat roof, which will be replaced with a beautiful gable roof. Along with this much-needed transformation will come a new ADA-accessible pathway leading from the parking lot up through the playground to the restroom area. The community mosaic mural is coming along nicely and will be installed after the renovation is completed. Thank you again to all who participated with hands-on and financial support of this project!

Contributions for the campground improvement project can be made online at gacdc.org/contribution or a check can be mailed to GACDC, PO Box 335, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Please write "campground" on the check. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

Thank you!

Jeremy Criswell
jeremy@jeremycriswell.com

Check out the park's new maps, informational signs, and kiosks!



Applegate resident wins Third Annual Southern Oregon Smoked Salmon Festival

BY PAUL TIPTON

On October 1, the Maslow Project hosted this year's fundraising event at The Commons in downtown Medford, and it could hardly have been more successful. Despite morning rain, the afternoon event featured beautiful weather for the 600 or more attendees to taste the offerings of 13 unique entries into the smoked salmon competition. Beer, wine, and other drinks were available, as well as food from several booths. If you haven't checked out this lip-smacking event, you're missing something good.

This year's contest, organized by Jorge Zamarripa of the Maslow Project, was judged solely by People's Choice, featuring a one-hour blind tasting followed by open voting on the many delicious entries, which were served by the contestants.

Winners were announced in ascending order, with Stalo, a 13-year-old young man (his parents asked that we use only his first name) from Puyallup, Washington, winning the \$250 third-place prize on the heels of a second-place win in a Westport, Washington, contest in 2015! Quite impressive for a guy his age. Stalo plans to return next year.

Second-place winner, Craig Maynard, found out about the competition in a conversation with another fisherman while salmon fishing on a party boat out of San Francisco. Now living in Menlo Park, California,

Craig grew up in Crescent City, regularly visits the Medford area, and really enjoys smoking salmon. That made it an easy decision for him to drive up with some of his smoked salmon to help benefit "such a worthy cause," the Maslow Project. When presented with his huge faux check for \$500, Craig very generously donated his winnings back to Maslow.

For the second year, first place was won by a Jacksonville-area resident, this time a recent addition to the community, Michael Gervais. (The author won last year's contest.) Mike happened to be the other fisherman on the salmon boat with Craig. Mike and his wife still have a residence in California, but also have a home in the Upper Applegate that they hope to move to soon, putting him closer to the steelhead rivers that he enjoys. You might even find him guiding local steelhead trips in the future. When Mike was awarded the first-place check for \$1,000, he continued the benevolence and donated his winnings back to the Maslow Project.

When it was all over, Maslow announced that it raised \$28,000 to benefit homeless youth and families in southern Oregon. Nothing quite like mixing the smell of smoked salmon with the smell of success. Don't miss it next year.

Paul Tipton
ptipton@frontier.com

Michael Gervais won this year's Smoked Salmon Festival and donated his winnings back to the Maslow Project.



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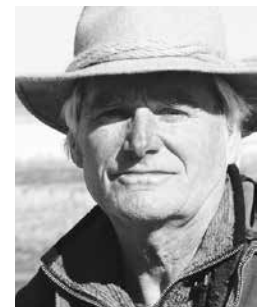
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BIRD EXPLORER

Woodpecker holes and owls

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Peter J. Thiemann



Photo, top left: Four young Western Screech Owls (WSOs) in Lithia Park. Young WSO (above) peeking out of snag hole, and adult WSO (bottom left) roosting in woodpecker cavity on the author's property in the Applegate.



only so much space in the entrance hole.

One evening I thought I could see two young in the same snag hole, but it was dark and there was not enough light for a photo.

In Ashland's Lithia Park, I saw and photographed four young WSOs at the same nest (see photo), but the owls on my land in the Applegate did not cooperate—they

never let me see how many there were.

Like all owls, WSOs perform a vital role in nature's balance, and, as landowners and guardians of public lands, we can encourage the owls to continue by following these recommendations:

- Do not remove all dead tree snags. Look for woodpecker holes—those cavities can provide homes for owls.
- Do not use rodent poison and limit the use of pesticides to encourage a healthy owl population.

A vibrant forest needs dead trees to provide balance and homes for creatures.

Peter J. Thiemann

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Photos courtesy of Peter J. Thiemann flicker photo stream.

has to be softened by decay. The structural integrity of the snag has to be maintained for it to keep standing, so as some fall, others have to take over.

I live in a

riparian zone along a small creek that feeds into the Applegate River. This zone has an abundance of willows, red alders, big-leaf maples, and some cottonwoods.

A few Douglas firs have grown near the creek, some to impressive heights. This species is prone to periodic beetle infestation on my land and some are now dead. A windstorm blew off the top two-thirds of a large dead Douglas

fir and left a sizable snag standing, which is ideally suited for woodpeckers to drill their cavities. A Northern Flicker family did just that and nested in the snag for several seasons.

Last year and again this year, a family of Western Screech Owls (WSO) moved into the woodpecker cavity and raised its young. The telltale signs of owl occupancy were adult WSOs roosting mornings and evenings with their heads sticking out of the entrance hole.

In 2015 and again this year, young owls showed up peeking out of the hole. Careful observation made it possible to tell young apart from adults as my photos show. I was curious to see how many young the owls had, but there was

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They cherish the history they live with and the artifacts that turn up in the yard.

■ CHERYL GARCIA

Continued from page 1

honored by their sculptured likenesses, but why would an artist honor those bullies the blue jays and those invaders the bull thistles? Their inclusion in Cheryl's repertoire of sculptures proves her assertion that her art honors the world around her.

Bull thistles slipped in through a connection with birds. While Cheryl was living in Ashland (she's been in Jacksonville 11 years), Walker Elementary School commissioned her to make four giant flowers as bird feeders, each for the bird that feeds on that flower. The bull thistle can thank the finch for being included. Corn can thank the crow.

After that, giant flowers blossomed in the Applegate. Obviously Red Lily Vineyards wanted a lily and the English Lavender Farm a ribbon-tied bouquet of lavender, but the name of the C St Bistro didn't immediately elicit a particular flower. By the owner's suggestion, the sculpture depicts the Japanese anemones on the label of his favorite champagne, Perrier-Jouët.

In her bird sculptures, Cheryl seeks to "capture a snapshot of what I experience in the bird world, transferred to metal." Watching a hawk home in on a single bird in a flock fleeing the predator inspired the sculptural version in "Circle of Life." Lying on her back watching a

flock of swallows circling through the sky, turning dark in front of the sun, inspired the sculpture, "Swallowing the Sun."

"I grew up with crayons in my hand," Cheryl says, but as a child, in Colorado, she was also drawn to metal. She collected rusty pieces from the dump and took them home to make something three-dimensional and visually effective.

At Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, she took all the art classes available. Unfortunately, metalworking wasn't taught there. When her grandmother worried that art wouldn't pay the bills, Cheryl earned a certification in welding and spent a few years in the industrial world. Even there she treated her welds as works of art.

With the money she earned working in industry, Cheryl bought the tools and equipment for a metal-working shop, now situated behind her house in Jacksonville. She and her husband live in the Purcell Log Cabin, built in 1930 for Daniel Boone's great-great-grandson. Only the third owners of the house, they cherish the history they live with and the artifacts that turn up in the yard—an old cigarette lighter, a bullet case incised with hula girls—that they display in a vitrine in the hallway.

Metal sculpture is Cheryl's first love, but in the vitrine are also some of her tiny watercolor paintings of scenes around Jacksonville. In another



Clockwise from top photo: "Lavandula," at The English Lavender Farm; "Brittilaria," in honor of the Britt Gardens; and "Swift Returns," in the private collection of Ron and Julie Kantor of Jacksonville.

room are the musical instruments she plays: stand-up bass, trombone, flute, drums, and—her favorite because with it she can both strum and sing—the guitar.

Cheryl's sculptures include garden gates, wall art, small towers, metal hoops with birds, and many other forms of birds and flowers. She is hoping to have amassed a new body of work by the end of winter and to put together a show by the end of next summer. Her ambition now is to turn her small tower sculptures of birds into something like church spires that would add a spiritual dimension to the natural-world dimension of her art.

Cheryl thinks she will have to restrict the height to 23 or 24 feet, but, she says, "I wish they could be ladders to the sky."

Diana Coogle
dicoog@gmail.com

Make a difference in someone's life.

■ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Continued from page 1

provides groceries on Mondays from 9:30 to 11 am, except the last Monday of the month, or Monday January 23. Salvation Army in Grants Pass has a food pantry, providing groceries for those in need or you can become a Salvation Army bell ringer. ROC Food Pantry in Grants Pass also provides groceries to the needy.

Support Kids. Boys and Girls Club of the Rogue Valley in Grants Pass provides after-school activities for kids ages 6 through 18. They need volunteers to help with homework, sports and recreation, performing arts, arts and crafts, mentoring, games, the tech lab, and the teen room. Share your particular talent with the Boys and Girls Club. Kids Unlimited in Medford provides after-school programs as well as a charter school for first through eighth grades.

Help the homeless. The holidays can be particularly challenging for people experiencing homelessness. You may want to help someone directly by giving him or her a warm coat or blanket. Whatever you do, be sure to treat the homeless respectfully and courteously. A smile or a few kind words can go a long way. In both Medford and Grants Pass, the Gospel Rescue Mission provides shelter and health services for homeless individuals. St. Vincent de Paul in Medford provides family housing and hot meals for the homeless. For more ways to help, go to nationalhomeless.org/want_to_help/index.html#r.

Deliver meals. Meals on Wheels delivers hot meals to housebound seniors Monday through Friday. Volunteers are needed for delivery and to provide valuable social interaction and a community safety net. Meals are also served on-site at many locations in Jackson and Josephine counties.

Help veterans. Explore ways to show you care at veteranscrisisline.net. One of the biggest threats to our veterans is suicide. See how gestures large and small can help someone feel less alone. You may even save a life.

Visit a senior. Sadly, more than half of all senior citizens receive no visitors. Many assisted-living centers welcome volunteers to spread holiday cheer. Among them are the Brookdale senior living communities—in Medford, Grants Pass, Ashland, and Eagle Point—who would love to have volunteers brighten the season for their residents.

Animals need us, too! Volunteer at a local animal shelter. One great option is Sanctuary One, a beautiful 55-acre farm in the Applegate Valley that rescues farm animals and house pets. They love volunteers! In Williams, RiverSong Sanctuary rescues and shelters animals. They can often use volunteers to pick up pet food and other supplies.

Whether you have a lot of time to give or just a little, volunteer this holiday season and make a difference in someone's life. Then you will experience the true joy of giving from your heart.

Shelley Manning

manningshelley@icloud.com

See page 13 for contact information for many nonprofit organizations in our area that would appreciate more volunteers over the holidays.

Craig Hamm, aka Santa Claus

Here in the Applegate, we have lots of opportunities to help. Local businessman and community volunteer Craig Hamm is so active in volunteering that some people compare him to Santa Claus! Parents and grandparents themselves, Craig and his wife, Amber, who own the Ruch Country Store, love supporting Ruch School and Friends of the Library. They sponsor many of Ruch School's fundraising events and, for many years, Craig has helped local children with the school's SMART reading program, where volunteers support children by reading with them. To benefit Friends of the Ruch Library (FORL), Craig offers raffle tickets for a store gift certificate to customers who bring in used books and magazines in good condition. He then sells the books and donates the proceeds to FORL. Why do Craig and Amber do all this? "For the satisfaction," says Craig.



— No time to volunteer? —

If your time is of the essence, you can always make a financial donation to any of these organizations.

Applegate Community Church (541-846-6100) provides food for needy families throughout the year through its food bank, Joseph's Storehouse. Food is collected and distributed through the coordinated efforts of Ruch School and the Lions Club and augmented by donations made by attendees of Pam Walter's dance fitness class. Nonperishable food can be donated at the Ruch School, the Lions Club, or Applegate Community Church.

Ruch Community Church (541-899-1570) provides gift cards for groceries and necessities and might even help pay a bill. They also coordinate with Ruch School to find people who need help.

Together We Rise is a national organization supporting foster children. In Josephine County, one child in 51 is in

foster care. Go to togetherwise.org to see how one foster mom was inspired to create a major service project benefiting the foster children of Josephine County, and to get help to start your own effort.

Williams Community Church (541-846-6465) accepts donations for emergency food baskets for the needy.

Animal welfare groups in our area:

- Critical Pet Rescue, Grants Pass: 541-450-0002
- Dogs for the Deaf, Central Point: 541-826-9220
- Jackson County Animal Care and Control, Phoenix: 541-774-6654
- Miss Gabriel Foundation, Rogue River: 541-581-1521
- Rogue Valley Humane Society, Grants Pass 541-479-5154
- Shelter Friends, Grants Pass: 541-944-4404
- Sohumane, Medford: 541-779-3215
- Songdog Rescue, Ashland: 541-890-7945

Lepidoptera on the Rogue River Preserve

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The moths shown here come from a place I believe to be magical, science or no science! (See sidebar.)

Black Witch Moth
(*Ascalapha odorata* of the Erebididae family)

In August 2016, Thomas Craig, caretaker at Rogue River Preserve (RRP), had a rare encounter with a Black Witch Moth, which flew into his home through a kitchen window. At first he thought it was another bat, but when it landed on the kitchen sink he saw that it was a moth as big as his hand (see photo). He posted a photo of the moth on Facebook, where I saw it and immediately knew it was a Black Witch. I did some research and sent the information and photos to Corvallis entomologist Dana Ross, who confirmed the identification as a rare moth for our area. In checking the records, he found that this moth was the first reported sighting to be recorded in Jackson County and only the eighth sighting recorded in the state of Oregon.

The Black Witch is unmistakable with its seven-inch wingspread and resemblance to a bat. It is blackish to brownish in color with patterned lines and spots. The moth is tropical from Central to South America and is known year-round in south Florida and south Texas. It is also reported as breeding in San Diego County. Larval host plants in these areas are woody species of cassia and catclaw.

In the Pacific Northwest, the moth is a rare occurrence as a stray migrant; it is not a breeding resident. Most commonly found in western Oregon and eastern Washington, it has been known

to migrate up to Anchorage, Alaska.

The Black Witch comes with much folklore and legends. The one I like is if the moth lands on you or your door, you will come into money or win the lottery. Thomas's kitchen sink in the caretaker's cabin sounds close enough for that.

Clio Tiger Moth
(*Ectypia clio* of the Erebididae family)

Another rarely seen moth in the Pacific Northwest is the Clio Tiger Moth, whose range is western and southwestern states. It has a localized range in the Pacific Northwest; most of the recorded sightings are in Jackson County. It is a beautiful white moth with black lines marking the wings and is medium-sized at three-quarters of an inch in length.

Annette Trujillo, an artist and photographer from Medford, observed a Clio Tiger Moth ovipositing on narrowleaf milkweed at the Table Rocks area in July 2016 (see photo).

At nearby RRP about a month later, in August 2016, I discovered some eggs in the oak woodlands on narrowleaf milkweed. After I researched and contacted two of my entomologist friends, David James and Dana Ross, Dana identified the Clio Tiger Moth from photos of eggs and caterpillars. Dana had seen the moth years ago in northern California. Dana and I will try to rear the moth to its complete cycle to further confirm this.



Black Witch Moth (above) taken by Thomas Craig at Rogue River Preserve;

Adult Clio Tiger Moth (right) taken by Annette Trujillo at Table Rocks.



I brought the eggs home, and they hatched and grew into hairy little caterpillars. They began to skeletonize the leaves of the milkweed in much the same way a painted lady butterfly does to the many host plants it uses. The larvae have not grown much, but are now in a diapause or hibernation state. From my research, it appears as though few people have reared Clio Tiger Moths, and little is known about their life history.

The host plant is Apocynaceae, also known as the dogbane family. Some dogbanes occur in southern Oregon, but the moth also uses milkweed, a relative in the plant family that grows well here, and spreading dogbane, although I have not seen it myself.

Finding these rare moths is just one reason that makes the untouched RRP so special. I will be sure to watch for these moths as I go about my observations in Lepidoptera at the RRP next summer.

Linda Kappen
humbugkapps@hotmail.com
Linda earned a naturalist certification from Siskiyou Field Institute and hosts butterfly courses there.

About Rogue River Preserve

Kristi Mergenthaler, with Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, describes the "magical" RRP: Rogue River Preserve is a 352-acre property located north of Eagle Point that features two miles of riverfront, an amazing and diverse floodplain property with forests, oak woodlands, meadows, and vernal pools. It supports 29 species of plants and animals that are rare and declining, such as coho salmon (spawning and rearing habitat), wood duck, common king snake, and large-flowered meadow-foam. Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, a local land trust that works cooperatively with people to preserve land, is in the process of raising funds to buy this wild valley-floor property for long-term conservation. For more information or to make a donation, visit landconserve.org/heartoftherogue.



Clio Tiger Moth eggs on narrowleaf milkweed. Photo by Linda Kappen.



Clio Tiger Moth caterpillars reared from eggs found at RRP. Photo by Linda Kappen.

Contact information to volunteer

- Applegate Community Church: Vicky, 541-846-6100
- Applegate ACCESS Pantry: Charlotte Knott, 541-899-8381
- Boys and Girls Club: begreat4kids.com or 541-479-1923
- Brookdale senior living communities: brookdale.com
- Gospel Rescue Mission: gospelrescuemission.org or 541-476-0082
- Kids Unlimited: kuoregon.org or 541-774-3900
- Meals on Wheels: Rogue Valley Council of Governments website at rvcog.org or 541-734-9505 x4 for Jackson County and 541-955-8839 for Josephine County
- RiverSong Sanctuary: 541-761-0188
- ROC Food Pantry, Grants Pass: rochome.org (select "volunteer") or 541-476-3344
- St. Vincent de Paul, Medford: 541-772-3828, ext. 7
- Salvation Army, Grants Pass food pantry: 541-955-1017
- Salvation Army bell ringer: volunteer.usawest.org
- Sanctuary One: sanctuaryone.org or 541-899-8627
- Veterans Benefits Assistance for Josephine County: 541-474-5454

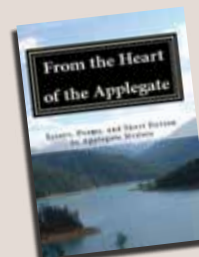
— Gift ideas from the Applegate Valley —

Handcrafted 'Applecrates' for sale

Beautiful planters called "Applecrates," built with donated local wood and volunteer labor, are for sale. All proceeds help sustain the Applegater. 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, call Chris Bratt at 541-846-6988.



From the Heart of the Applegate



Anthology of original essays, poems, and short stories contributed by Applegate Valley writers in support of the Applegater.

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Thinning our stands this year: Easy pickings, or not?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Looks like we Applegaters dodged bullets during this summer's fire season, thanks to last winter's rains, no lightning, and no major human-caused fires. Hooray for us!

However, it's worth mentioning that many of the smaller fires in southwest Oregon this summer did experience *extreme* fire behavior due to high winds and dry vegetation. So with fire season declared over, I started looking at our trees to see what shape they were in and how busy my chainsaw and I might be this winter.

I did find that our trees had grown together a lot more than I'd realized, and I saw a lot of reproduction of madrones and oaks. (That equals more ladder fuels.) I was especially surprised at the extent of the Douglas fir mortality, given that we'd had over two dozen dead trees taken out last spring. This should make thinning easier, I grumbled; just cut down all the dead trees....

But then I read a couple of recent articles on bug and beetle kill across the west and I nixed that idea. For one thing, a large dead fir with no needles *does not* necessarily present a greater wildfire hazard than a large live fir tree! However, trees with dead, red needles or small dead trees are a different story! It's that old "fine fuels" issue that I've previously written about.

After a couple of questions to Max Bennett (our local Oregon State University Extension forester), I found a different focus for how to address our thinning: wildlife habitat! Max reminded me that many birds and small mammals use large dead trees or snags for seed storage or nesting (see Bird Explorer on page 11 for more information).

A worrier with a sometimes active imagination, I had to ask whether these bark beetles might move to other species of trees. Max said no. Then I asked him if there was any chance that other bad bugs and pests might find out that there is a "banquet" going on out here



Notice the gray-purple sap on this fir—a sure way to ID bark beetles!

and set up camp in our other tree species. "No, Sandy, not really," Max patiently replied. However, he went on to explain that several years of extreme drought and heat have caused stress and dieback in most local species of trees. And stress makes our forests *more* vulnerable to pests and pathogens.

So, our plan: keep some big fir snags, maybe a couple per acre, but *not* near the house or roads since snags are really dangerous if and when they fall! We'll remove the small dead fir trees for firewood. The rest of the thinning/

pruning is to maintain our defensible space and access, while keeping a *healthy* variety of the seven tree species that we have on our property.

Another of my initial questions for Max was whether there was a better time of year to limb up both conifers and hardwood trees such as oaks and madrones: fall, winter or spring? Max told me that the late summer through winter is better for conifers, while the hardwoods prefer the winter. Therefore, my polesaw, loppers, and I are shortly headed towards the conifers. After the holidays I can tackle the hardwoods.

Almost through planning my season of forest maintenance, I realized I still had a couple more questions for Max. This beetle kill was "bugging" me—I've found it equally in thinned and unthinned stands. Max told me that while thinning is not a panacea, it can help increase tree vigor and resistance to drought and insect problems. He also offered that Douglas fir growing below 3,500 feet elevation, on hot, dry south and western sites, or in shallow rocky or clay soils would definitely be at *higher risk* to drought stress and beetle epidemics.

And finally, all of that hardwood reproduction that I ignored for the past few years? As you can tell from the photo below, it can get out of hand if you don't stay on top of it! Max

said it didn't really matter whether I pulled out the long-handled loppers this fall, winter, or next spring, so I think I'll leave this chore until the spring.

I hope you found this interesting and helpful as you consider your winter tasks. And if you are wondering whether Max is still answering my emails and phone calls, the final answer is, yes!

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneor@gmail.com



A fire hazard: large fir showing red needles and dead branches.



Oak and madrone reproduction will be ladder fuels by next summer.



Burn reminder

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



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— Applegate Library —

Saying hello to winter is easy—it's a time to relax after several months of growing and harvesting. A warm drink and a good book make a lazy afternoon slip away until the first cries for dinner.

Applegate Library has books on everything that takes place in winter. When was the last time you read a Christmas classic? How about a book on Christmas crafts or homemade gifts? We have audio books (that way you can listen while you burn, whoops, *bake* cookies). No need to rent a movie—we have tons of movies you can check out for free.

Speaking of movies, we are showing family-friendly films on Saturdays starting at noon and classics on Fridays starting at 5 pm. We have a great lineup of all your holiday favorites.

The Friends of Applegate Library (FOAL) has books for sale in the library

foyer every day the library is open. Books are a great gift-giving idea!

Diana Coogle considers hiking the 100-mile Alta Via 2 of the Dolomites mountain range in northern Italy last September one of the achievements of her life. Come to a slide-show presentation on Saturday, December 10, at 2 pm to find out why. Her hiking partner, Mike Kohn, will be there, too, to keep Diana from telling tall tales.

Be safe, everybody, and enjoy your holidays.

Applegate Library is located at 18485 North Applegate Road and is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 2 to 6 pm and Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm.

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

— Ruch Library —

Shorter days and longer nights offer a great time to read!

Ruch Library has a dazzling collection of enticing holiday books: merry mysteries, mouth-watering holiday cookbooks, handcrafted gift ideas, and *so* much more! Drop in and curl up with a good book!

Our upcoming events:

• **To the South Pole with Scott and Amundsen.** Saturday, December 3, at 2 pm. Join Dave Baker as he follows the footsteps of the Norwegian, Roald Amundsen, and the Englishman, Captain Robert F. Scott, as they undertake one of the great challenges of the Age of Exploration: who would be first to the South Pole. The story of Amundsen and Scott is a story of politics, personality, intrigue, ego, leadership, and experience. Dave will examine the differences that resulted from these factors and the ultimate difference: success in one case and death in the other.

If you were lucky enough to join us for one of Dave's presentations on Antarctica, then you know this program will be a spectacular treat, filled with stories, photos, and videos of the southernmost part of the earth.

• **Holiday Book Sale.** Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, December 6, 8, and 10, during library open hours: Tuesday 10 am - 5 pm, Thursday 1 - 7 pm, Saturday 11 am - 4 pm. At the Ruch Library Community Room and the A-Frame Bookstore. A great place to find gift-quality books! We always put out the best. All proceeds benefit the Ruch Library.

• **Decorate a gingerbread person.** Saturday, December 17, noon - 3 pm. Drop-in in the Community Room. All ages welcome!

• **Tales from West Africa.** Saturday, January 21, 2 - 3:30 pm. Celebrating

50 years of the Peace Corps, three authors share their humorous, scary, and sometimes-success stories about living and working in third-world countries while in the Peace Corps. Curtis Mekemson of the Applegate Valley, Asifa Kenji of Ashland, and David Drury of Ashland will tell stories from their respective books: *The Bush Devil Ate Sam*, *Three Hundred Cups of Tea*, and *The Toughest Job*.

• **Behind the Scenes of the Movies You Love.** Saturday, February 18, 2 - 3:30 pm. Presenters Paula Block and Terry Erdmann worked inside the Hollywood film studios for decades, participating in production, publicity, and product development (toys and books) with dozens of major motion pictures and television shows. The couple moved to the Rogue Valley several years ago, but they didn't leave their work behind. Today they write books about the movie business—most recently *Star Trek Costumes: Fifty Years of Fashion from the Final Frontier* and *Labyrinth: The Ultimate Visual History*. They will talk about writing, movies, and writing about movies. Paula and Terry have stories to tell.

Join us at Ruch Library for:

• **Babies and Wobblers,** active story time for children—from newborns to three-year-olds—with Janis Mohr-Tipton on Tuesdays at 10:15 am.

• **Preschool Story Time,** Tuesdays at 11:30 am, followed by a craft.

• **Legos,** every Saturday from 12 - 4 pm.

Ruch Library is open Tuesdays from 10 am to 5 pm, Thursdays from 1 to 7 pm, and Saturdays from 11 am to 4 pm. The library is located at 7919 Highway 238.

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

— Williams Branch Library —

Meet the new Williams branch manager, Evelyn Roether

Evelyn Roether has lived in Williams for 30 years and has worn many hats in the community. She spent ten years as the coordinator of the Williams Creek Watershed Council and served over 15 years as an elected member of the Williams Town Council. Evelyn has an MS in environmental education and brings with her a particular passion for the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion and the wild places that remain here. Following in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother, both of whom were librarians, Evelyn is pleased to share her love for books and literacy by serving as the Williams branch manager. Stop by to meet her!

Weekly storytime

Bring the whole family to children's storytime at 3:30 pm every Wednesday at the Williams branch. For more information, contact branch manager Evelyn Roether at 541-856-7020 or eroether@josephinelibrary.org.

Push the envelope

Join neighbors and community members as everyone comes together to support libraries in Josephine County. The Yellow Envelope Drive aims to raise \$175,000 in donations by December 31 to help keep our libraries open.

Yellow donation envelopes are available at the four library branches in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek, and at any business with a Yellow Envelope sign in the window.

As you may know, a 2014 ballot measure to form a library district for Josephine County lost. Now the library is asking community members to donate what they would have paid in additional taxes if the library district had passed. Visit josephinelibrary.org to calculate that amount. Every dollar counts!

On any given day, 10,000 items are checked out of Josephine County libraries and circulated through the homes of county residents. More than 6,000 children attended programs last year, and Internet computer usage increases annually.

The Yellow Envelope Drive is sponsored by Cauble, Cauble & Selvig; Clouser Drilling; Edward Jones; and Hart Insurance Agency. Other support for this drive comes from the Grants Pass *Daily Courier*, KAJO/KLDR, and Logan Design.

For more information, visit josephinelibrary.org, email info@josephinelibrary.org, or call 541-476-0571 ext. 114.

'Stone Soup' Conversation Project

The community is invited to join writer and independent scholar Jennifer Roberts from 10 to 11:30 am on Saturday, December 3, at the Grants Pass branch of Josephine Community Libraries as she introduces historical and



Evelyn Roether is the new manager of the Williams Branch Library in Williams.

current recipes and asks: How do recipes work? Why do we collect them? Who do we write them for?

By sharing their own assumptions and memories, participants of this Oregon Humanities Conversation Project will examine how recipes can help connect and create communities across time, distance, and culture. Participants are encouraged to bring any treasured recipes they would like to share with the group. These recipes may end up in a story-based collection compiled throughout this Conversation Project program.

Jennifer Roberts, who lives in Josephine County, received her PhD in English literature from the University of Minnesota, where she discovered her fascination with the history of science and medicine. Studying alchemy and early pharmacology sparked her interest in recipes of all kinds.

She is currently working on a novel set in the seventeenth century that involves witchcraft, alchemy, and, of course, recipes.

For more information and to register, visit josephinelibrary.org, email info@josephinelibrary.org, or call 541-476-0571.

Did you know?

Did you know that books can be placed on hold through the library website and will be ready to pick up at your nearest branch of Josephine Community Libraries? To check availability of a book, search the library catalog online at josephinelibrary.org and click the "search book catalog" link located on the right side of the page. To place a hold, click the "Place Request" button, then enter your library card number or username and password.

Williams Branch Library is located at 20695 Williams Highway, Williams, and is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 1 to 5 pm.

For more information about Josephine Community Libraries, contact Brandace Rojo, library assistant, at 541-476-0571 ext. 112.



Happy Holidays to everyone from the Applegater team.
May 2017 bring peace, joy, and prosperity!



NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— Applegate ACCESS Pantry —

We are frequently asked if our hours will change during winter. No, our hours will remain the same: Mondays from 9:30 to 11:00 am. No sign-ins after 11:00 am. The pantry is closed the last Monday of every month. It is located behind the Ruch School cafeteria at 156 Upper Applegate Road in Ruch.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteers and makes it possible for me to run our local pantry so smoothly. Sometimes we can use extra help, so if you are available on short notice, please provide us with your name and number.

I would also like to thank Ruch Country Store for their weekly donations and the community for their donations through the green bag program. As we get closer to the end of the year, if you

would like to make a donation, *please be sure to put "Applegate Pantry" in the memo so that your donation is credited to our pantry.* You can either mail your checks to me or ACCESS. Here are the addresses: Charlotte Knott, PO Box 1826, Jacksonville, OR 97530 or ACCESS, PO Box 4666, Medford, OR 97504.

Please remember to drive slowly through Ruch School property. There is no smoking on school grounds at any time. If you bring a dog, please keep it on a leash or in your vehicle (with your windows open). Children are to stay with their parents; they are not allowed to wander around the school.

For more information, contact pantry manager Charlotte Knott at 541-899-8381.

— Applegate Grange —

Final report from the Applegate Grange

Four and a half years ago, a large group of community-minded people assembled on the grounds of the closed Applegate Grange in Ruch and decided to reopen the Grange with the idea of creating a community center in the Applegate to serve a variety of needs and interests. We did that and more. We've hosted meals, fairs, music events and literary readings. We've provided a meeting place for community and nonprofits groups, made dinners for Britt performers, held religious meals, and been the venue for fire-information meetings, weddings, reunions, and birthdays. We provided a valuable service, as we set out to do.

But with dwindling attendance and participation over the past year or more, we have regretfully closed our doors. There have simply not been enough people involved to keep us going, and

quite a few of the main "doers" are worn out. No officers were nominated for election at our recent meetings.

Thank you to all of you for your part in what we did accomplish. Grange members (especially our staunch corps of officers), our many volunteers and community partners, and the community-at-large who attended our events, rented the space, and made donations all helped maintain the Grange and keep the doors open. It couldn't have happened without all of you.

Perhaps the greatest benefit has been providing a venue for the interconnection of folks throughout the valley, bringing us closer as friends and neighbors. Like many older social organizations, the Grange model may be outdated and may not resonate with the younger generations. Hopefully, we can find a new model to keep us connected and involved for the benefit of all.

Paul Tipton • ptipton@frontier.com

— SMART —

SMART seeks volunteers in the Applegate Valley

Are you looking to make a difference in the life of a child? SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) has the volunteer role for you! We are seeking volunteers for the 2016-17 school year at Applegate, Ruch, and Williams Elementary schools.

SMART volunteer readers spend an hour per week reading one-on-one with PreK through third-grade children, helping them build vital reading skills and develop a lifelong love of reading. One hour per week is all it takes to make a lifetime of difference in a child's life.

SMART site coordinators run SMART programs at a school, synchronizing reading sessions with teachers and volunteers.

SMART is a statewide nonprofit organization that envisions an Oregon where every child can read and is empowered to succeed. It partners with schools across the state and engages community volunteers to read one-on-one with PreK through third-grade

children, helping strengthen literacy skills and encourage a love of reading.

Since 1992, SMART has steadily grown to become Oregon's largest volunteer literacy program, having served more than 188,000 children with the help of 125,000 volunteers and given away more than 2,435,000 books. Children in the program receive 14 new books throughout the school year to keep and read with their families. Together, with support from communities and schools around the state, SMART is improving the reading capacity of Oregon's children.

It would literally be impossible for SMART to provide critical reading support for Oregon's children without our dedicated volunteers. More volunteers means we're able to reach more children at risk of falling behind with valuable one-on-one reading support, mentorship, and books.

To learn more about this fun and rewarding experience, please contact the local SMART office at 541-734-5628 or visit getSMARToregon.org.

— Pacifica —



Pacifica's mobile science and nature center needs a new Caterpillar!

The Caterpillar's educational programs have been presented to thousands of schoolchildren in Josephine and Jackson counties over the past 16 years, drawing rave reviews from teachers and students alike.

It is a "field trip" that brings science and nature to schools, saving the schools time and money. Schools are charged only one-third of the actual cost; donations support the rest.

But there isn't money in the budget for a new Caterpillar trailer, so we're asking you, alumni and friends of the program, to help.

Our current Caterpillar Program trailer has serious issues—20 years old and definitely feeling its age, substantial dry rot in the wooden wall structure (see photo at right), and weakening of the integrity of the unit that compromises its roadworthiness.

Please help to continue this wonderful program that has enriched the lives of so many students through the years. Contributions toward school visits are also welcome!

Tax-deductible donations may be made to Pacifica, PO Box 1, Williams,



OR 97544 (please note "New Caterpillar" on check) or through PayPal on Pacifica's website at pacificagarden.org.

Business sponsorships will be recognized with a highly visible decal on the Caterpillar.

Sincere thanks in advance. For more information, call 541-846-1100.


— Williams Grange —

Current activities at Williams Grange include:

- Mondays, Yoga with Abby from 9:15 - 10:45 am
- Tuesdays, Zumba 9 - 10 am; Men's Circle 7-10 pm (second and fourth Tuesdays of the month)
- Wednesdays, Yoga with Cassidy 6 - 7:30 pm
- Thursdays, Zumba 9 - 10 am; Aikido from 2:45 - 5 pm; Williams World Music Choir from 6 - 8 pm, December 1 - 15, 2016, and February 2 - 23, 2017

- Fridays, Yoga with Cassidy 9 - 10:30 am
- Sundays, Ecstatic Dance 11 am - 1 pm (7 - 9 pm on the second Sunday of the month)
- Second Sunday of each month is Pancake Breakfast from 8:30 - 11 am, followed by Bluegrass Jam from 11 am - 1 pm.

For more information or to reserve a date, contact Cassidy Geppert at williamsgrangerentals@gmail.com or 707-391-6964. 20100 Williams Highway, Williams, Oregon.



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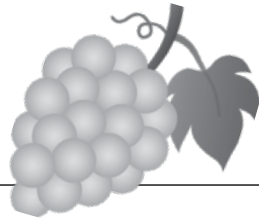


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GRAPE TALK

Wineglasses make a difference



BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

The holiday season is just around the corner, and I always love entertaining when the house is decorated and so festive. My holiday parties always include wine. What to serve the wine in always presents a dilemma depending on the size of the gathering. I may or may not have sufficient wineglasses to serve all my nice local wines. I try to serve wines in stemware, but often wonder if a plastic cup from Costco would really destroy the taste of a good wine and do I really need both red and white wineglasses along with champagne flutes?

The subject of glassware and its effect on wine was the main topic of a class I attended in August at the Oregon Wine Experience Wine University at Bigham Knoll in Jacksonville. The premise that every wine has a perfect glass seemed like a marketing ploy, but I was open to the discussion.

The class was put on by Riedel, a tenth-generation glass company based in Austria. Riedel (pronounced ree-dle; rhymes with needle) has worked for

decades to create engineered glassware that optimizes the taste of each particular wine. Georg Riedel first brought his glassware to North America in the 1970s in response to requests by Napa Valley wine makers.

At the beginning of the class, participants tasted water in a plastic cup and then in a white wineglass. This process continued with a variety of wines and their appropriate style stemware from Riedel's Veritas collection. The instructor talked in terms of glassware being physics, wine being chemistry, and their interaction being science.

After tasting a number of wines from plastic cups and from glasses correctly and not correctly engineered, I was somewhat amazed by the differences in aroma and taste. The final class experiment was to taste Coca-Cola in a plastic cup and then in a glass developed by Riedel especially for Coca-Cola. In the Riedel glass, I picked up notes of orange and vanilla aromas that I had never experienced before from

one of my "guilty pleasures." To me it seemed like the size of the opening and the size of the bowl made a big difference in the "nose" of Coca-Cola and the different wines by concentrating aromas for maximum impact.

A study done in Tokyo, Japan, found that changes in the amount of ethanol vaporizing from a glass and the vapor pattern of the ethanol interfered with the fruitier notes of the wine when sampled from an open cocktail glass or a straight glass. A camera recorded less vaporization of ethanol from a wineglass with a smaller opening than that of the bowl. In a wineglass, "The ring-shaped [vapor] pattern allows drinkers to appreciate the wine without the smell of ethanol—which is likened to the smell of vodka—interfering."

The shape of the glass also determines where the wine hits your palette, and the architecture of the glass controls the air flow around the wine. The architecture of a champagne flute, for example, helps hold the bubbles in the flute glass, which is now used much more often than the open champagne glass, which allows the bubbles to dissipate quickly.

Stemless glasses came into vogue a decade ago, but many wine purists believe they are a terrible idea. The lack of a stem to keep the hand from heating up the wine and the difficulty in swirling

the wine in a glass with no stem are the major reasons many wine aficionados don't drink from a stemless glass.

Wineglasses are a great holiday gift for any wine aficionado, whether it be a well-engineered glass or a piece of beautiful artist-created, handblown or decorated stemware. I love to create baskets with a nice bottle of local wine and some pretty glasses as last-minute holiday gifts.

Put wineglasses on your holiday gift list for your wine-loving friends. Some wineries in the valley have wineglasses available for purchase (see below).

A special wineglass doesn't make a bad wine good, but it certainly enhances the tasting experience and may make a good wine better.

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avrealty@gmail.com



Debbie Tollefson



Quady North sells these logo wineglasses for \$6 each at their tasting room at 255 E. California Street, Jacksonville.



Special holiday wineglasses are available at Tron Vineyards, 1475 Kubli Road, Grants Pass.



Examples of wineglasses by Riedel: red wine (left) and white wine (right). More information about Riedel glasses can be found online at riedel.com.

Where to find wineglasses

- Goodwill locations in Jackson and Josephine County
- HomeGoods, 271 Rossanley Drive, Medford
- Quady North, \$6 each
- Tron, \$24.95 each or two for \$40
- Wild Wines, 4550 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, \$3 each

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The important history of O&C lands

BY JAKOB SHOCKEY

The "O&C lands" and the "county timber receipts" they generate are regional subjects that many of us pretend to understand. We have become practiced at nodding in agreement when the topic arises. But they are an important piece of our region's history and well worth understanding. Here goes.

In 1866, 3.7-million acres of land were deeded to the Oregon & California (O&C) Railroad Company in a checkerboard pattern across the forests from Portland down into California. These lands were meant to incentivize the building of a great railroad, which would encourage settlement and commerce along what is now the I-5 corridor. Under this land grant, these lands were to be sold, in 160-acre parcels by the O&C Railroad Company, along the proposed route to "actual settlers" for the reduced rate of \$2.50 per acre. In theory, the funds from these sales would go toward building the railroad, while simultaneously populating the railway corridor.

These lands were heavy in virgin timber, which was worth a lot more than \$2.50 an acre, so top officers from the O&C Railroad Company commenced a scheme to round up drifters from saloons

in Portland's waterfront district and set them up as shill settlers. As soon as these "settlers" had acquired the O&C parcel's title from the lands office, this title was quietly signed back over to the railroad men, who sold bundles of these "settled" parcels to timber companies at a fat profit. Eventually, this fraud was exposed, and in 1916, Congress took back 2.9 million acres that were still deeded to the O&C Railroad Company.

In 1937, during the Great Depression, Congress passed the O&C Lands Act, which stated that timber was to be "sold, cut, and removed in conformity with the principle of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber supply, protecting watersheds, regulating streamflow, and contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and providing recreational facilities." That quote is the first important thing to remember about the 1937 O&C Act—a vague bit of text that set the fate of these forests, the loggers who work in them, and the adjacent communities. Also in this act was an initial Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) of 500-million board feet per year, until the productivity of these lands could be better assessed—

another important detail. It fell to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage these lands in accordance with this language.

The 1937 O&C Lands Act also provided that 75 percent of the revenue from timber sales would go back to the counties from which the timber was harvested. These are the fabled timber receipts, which became a windfall for our counties post-World War II as demands for lumber soared. Since nearly all old-growth timber had been harvested from private land, energy turned toward logging the big timber from the federal O&C lands. The counties were taking in so much money by 1953 that they offered to return 25 percent to the BLM, which used those funds for creating more roads into O&C lands and reforestation of clear-cut stands. By 1983, the ASQ soared to 1,185-million board feet. Most of the remaining virgin forest had been clear-cut, and our counties had become reliant on these payments.

The rest of this story is one many of us are more familiar with. The vanishing northern spotted owl and silted-over streams led to the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. The ASQ fell to 211-million board feet, and our counties were suddenly desperate for funds. Passions flared, mills closed, and people lost their jobs. In the Applegate, we came together under the Applegate Partnership—a group of residents, environmentalists, timber industry folks, and federal agency staff who sat down at a table together to work through differences and toward a shared vision for our forests.

However, behind that collaboration has been the specter of the 1937 O&C Act, and it's important to remember that BLM continues to interpret its mandate for our forests' management from that legislation. I recently heard someone in BLM make a statement to the effect that "when it comes to forest management, there is public land, and then there is O&C land." With a nod to L. Frank Baum's classic book, the O&C Act continues to be the "man behind the curtain" in decision-making for our forests, even today.

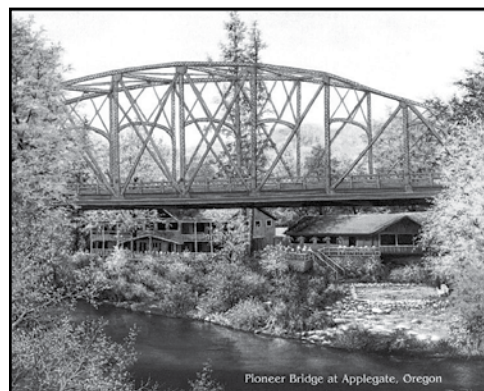
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jakob@apwc.info

Voices of the Applegate

Voices of the Applegate, our community choir directed by Harmony Sue Haynie, ended the fall session with two concerts: the first one on November 18 at the Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, and the second at Applegate River Lodge on November 20. Harmony, our new director, led the choir through an impressive variety of music consisting of South African songs, Bulgarian hymns, Georgian wedding songs, and Jamaican and gospel worship arrangements.

Voices of the Applegate will begin another session in the spring with rehearsals at Ruch Library once a week starting in January 2017. The beginning date and rehearsal days will be announced in December. Sessions are 12 weeks long, including the concerts, and the membership cost is \$55 per session, which pays for the director, the cost of the venues, and copies of the music scores. Concerts are free, but donations are always welcome.

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



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Request for dialogue on forest issues

BY TRISH MALONE

Kevin Preister, Luis Ibanez, and Trish Malone are cultural consultants at the Center for Social Ecology and Public Policy (CSEPP) in Ashland, Oregon. CSEPP has an eight-month contract to work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service to provide community engagement in the Applegate Valley that reflects the diverse resident population making up this beautiful valley. If you'd like to read up on who we are and how we do things, please find us at csepp.us.

We are in your community to listen to and talk with you about community life and the public lands that are in and around the Applegate Valley. We want to know why you live here, how you use public lands, what you would change to make life here better for you and your family, and what forest issues you have. We've talked with people in their homes, attended community meetings, frequented local gathering places, and talked with people from local, state, and federal agencies to hear about current issues challenging the community.

As we listen to you, we hear patterns of emerging, existing, and disruptive issues. The more people we talk with, the more we find and look for possible management action plans and

opportunities for collaborative projects. Some of these issues and questions from residents so far are:

- Widespread frustration with BLM's Nedsbar decision. It is unclear at the moment whether this decision can be revisited, but it has resulted in strong skepticism that dialogue can make a difference. We hope that this is not true and that we can hear the unheard voices!
- How can the federal agencies, with the support of residents, develop approaches driven by forest health, with harvested trees being a by-product?
- Residents have expressed numerous issues about BLM leaving slash behind after its projects, particularly the "lop and scatter" after pre-commercial thins, contributing to fire risk and promoting unsafe behaviors, such as youth having parties and lighting fires.
- Is there a way to expedite the administrative procedures of the agencies in approving hiking trails requested by residents?
- Residents near Anderson Butte report unsafe shooting in a multi-use area with an extensive trail system.
- There is an interest expressed across diverse community constituents about developing a recreation strategy for economic development, including a public land component.

• What can the agencies do to support the small timber mill in Ruch?

Our work began in September, and we've talked with hundreds of valley residents. They in turn have talked to their friends, and their friends have talked to others, and the ripple of interests and conversation grows.

But that's not nearly enough. We want to talk to you! So for the next few months we'll have small intimate gatherings that we hope you'll stop in for. Some will be in neighbors' homes—yours if you'd like. Others will be at your favorite restaurants and wineries throughout the valley, from Ruch to Williams.

We'll let you know where and when via Jo's List, Ruch Valley Roots Community, the *Applegater* and various other business Facebook pages, smoke signals, word of mouth, and fliers posted on bulletin boards. But for now, when you see us around, stop us and talk story, or call and set a time to talk.

Your voice, your concerns, your input are important to the greater well-being of the Applegate Valley.

Trish Malone • 808-443-9445

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OPINION

Support the science-based expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) recently released its *Living Planet Report 2016*. The sobering statistics in the report show that the world is on track to lose two-thirds of all wild animals by 2020. Using the most comprehensive worldwide data, WWF's Living Planet Index shows that animal populations dropped by 58 percent between 1970 and 2012, and predictions show that losses will reach 67 percent by 2020.

The report cites habitat loss and degradation (e.g., the destruction of wild areas for farming and logging) as the largest contributor to wildlife decline. Humans have now impacted the majority of earth's land area, with just 15.4 percent of land included in protected areas.

Additionally, joint research recently published in the journal *Nature* clarified the largest threats to wildlife. Research from the University of Queensland, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature assessed near-threatened and threatened species and found that overexploitation, agricultural activity, urban development, invasion and disease, pollution, and ecosystem modification ranked as the top threats to wildlife.

Seventy-two percent of the studied species were affected by overexploitation—in other words, logging, overhunting,

overfishing, or gathering at rates beyond natural reproduction capability. Sixty-two percent were threatened by plant and animal agriculture alone.

Yet, if we choose to manage our public lands for biodiversity, with the proposed expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument we have an immense opportunity to help safeguard our region from future wildlife and biodiversity decline.

Established in 2000, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is the only national monument specifically designated to protect an area because of its outstanding biological diversity. In 2011, an independent, interdisciplinary group of scientists evaluated the land surrounding the monument and found that an expansion of the boundary is necessary in order to safeguard the area's biological values into the future.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument acts as a land bridge at a convergence where plants and animals from distinct ecoregions—Great Basin, Cascade, and Klamath-Siskiyou mountains—intersect to create unusual plant and animal assemblages and diversity. Some have called the monument area the Noah's Ark of biodiversity and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument the loading dock.

The monument is renowned for species richness and biodiversity, a place where you can find an outstanding 120 butterfly species alone, including the rare Mardon skipper. The existing monument is home to more than 300 animal species, and the watershed in the proposed monument expansion is home to rare and endemic species such as Tunnel Creek's population of the Oregon spotted frog. In Upper Jenny Creek are two fish that are found nowhere else on earth: the Jenny Creek redband trout and the Jenny Creek sucker.

Expanding the monument will further protect a necessary wildlife corridor into the Siskiyou Mountains and the Applegate Valley, facilitating migration and movement for Pacific fisher, gray wolves, spotted owls, and Roosevelt elk, to name a few.

The monument has become a bastion of ecotourism and an outdoor laboratory and study area for Southern Oregon University students and scientists. This is why the Ashland and Talent City Councils, Chamber of Commerce boards, and mayors have endorsed the monument expansion—it's good for both the economy and ecology of the region.

In August 2016, Senators Merkley and Wyden sent a letter urging Sally Jewell, secretary of the US Department of the Interior, to endorse monument expansion. In October, Senator Merkley and Michael Connor, deputy secretary of the Department of Interior, hosted a public hearing in Ashland where 80 percent of the 500 people in attendance supported the expansion. Don Gentry,

Poetry Corner

After Stafford
by Anna Elkins

Ask me what the snow holds.
Ask me the shape of my own hands
as I've held the promise of spring.

I have chosen to live with winter
in the naked trees.

Ask me how these trees
hold still enough
to live, and I will climb them.

See that lowest branch?
It could carry
the weight of childhood
a tropical continent
a sister and brother
playing seven-hand Rummy.

Ask me what the sky sheds—
rain, days, maybes.

Maybe we fall like snow,

or maybe we fly.



White Wonder
by Linda Kappen

White wonder out of the sky
Dancing through tree limbs and
branches so high
Each falling separately but at
the same speed
A downward fall twisting, rocking,
spiraling
Some straight and some free
Different sizes and shapes as
they move to the ground
Where they gather as one
A blanket so sound

Reprinted from *From the Heart of the Applegate: Essays, Poems, and Short Fiction* by Applegate Writers, published by the Applegater.

chair of the Klamath Tribes, spoke in favor of the expansion within ancestral tribal land.

President Obama will ultimately decide the fate of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion before he leaves office on January 20, 2017.

If you care about the survival of imperiled animal and plant species in the Applegate and surrounding region, if you love outdoor recreation, and if you like to get out and view wildflowers and butterflies in a place where they can thrive, you should support the science-based expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

It's important that our senators hear your support for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion. Give them a call: Senator Merkley's office at 541-608-9102 and Senator Wyden's office at 541-858-5122. You can also send the senators emails through their websites. Make your voice for conservation heard now.

Suzie Savoie
klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com

OPINIONS

River Right | How much is 'just right'?

BY TOM CARSTENS

Although kayakers relish the excitement of whitewater drops on our Oregon rivers, it wouldn't be the same without the backdrop of our beautiful forests. I can't imagine paddling through lands denuded of wildlife and tall trees.

I've just completed a camping tour of northern Europe and guess what? That pretty much describes much of the landscape there. Okay, they *do* have forests, but they have become small and patchy over the centuries. Our extensive publicly owned forests and the freedom to roam within them are an inspiration to our international visitors.

The idea of publicly owned forests was conceived over 100 years ago to provide a sustained yield of wood products for a rapidly expanding nation. While much of the rest of the country had already been cut up and the wood expended, this idea seemed to work well in the Pacific Northwest, where the climate promoted rapid tree growth and high yields. But in dry areas, like the Rogue Valley, natural tree replenishment tended to be very slow. Clear-cuts couldn't be sustained.

When public land agencies like the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) try to manage our dry-forest timber

harvests, they've got a tough job. The trees just don't grow back very fast. So timber sales, like Nedsbar, meet a lot of resistance from some of our neighbors, many of whom are passionate about stuff like wildlife habitat and recreation. You've been reading about this in the pages of this paper.

Well, in fact, there are differing viewpoints among our neighbors. You could distill these differences down to maybe three philosophies. Each has good points and bad points.

A few of our neighbors would like to forego timber sales altogether. Many question their viability, especially since there's been little or no research about the long-term effects of treated areas. Except to protect homes and infrastructure, they say, let nature take its course. A hot, wind-driven fire is going to move through an area, thinned or not. And even when the forest burns, its vitality returns fairly quickly.

Another group would like to see timber harvests return to more traditional levels. This would add employment in the wood-products industry and have positive repercussions throughout our beleaguered economy. Increased timber sales might enable restoration of federal timber payments to our dry-forest

counties, which could use the boost. Obviously, this would also be the first choice of industry, as it offers the most return on the expensive investment of equipment and logistics necessary to extract timber from the steep slopes of the Applegate. This option also tends to favor the removal of larger diameter trees, which invites protest.

A third group of us believe that, to mitigate fire danger, our forests need thinning, but not wholesale plunder. I think the BLM and USFS are trying to accommodate this philosophy, but it's a tough road. It's a "Goldilocks" problem: how much thinning is "just right"? Aggressive thinning, while commercially viable, opens up the overhead canopy to let in more sunlight. This promotes the growth of a tinderbox understory, which only exacerbates the danger. Light treatment, on the other hand, is difficult to pull off and still make a profit. How to find that happy medium? Or does it even exist?

The BLM tried to find that happy medium with the Nedsbar Sale, but pleased no one. A local mill received about 30 threatening letters, but intimidation appears not to have been a factor in the failure to attract bids. Unsurprisingly, it was



Tom Carstens

economics. To its credit, BLM did try to accommodate both community and industry preferences in its offering. But, in the end, commercial representatives said the sale offered too little timber and too many restrictions to make it pay.

Timber harvests these days are high-cost, low-margin affairs. Unless our community can better dovetail our interests with those of industry, this will be a common outcome: no sale, no thinning, wasted tax dollars.

Could BLM broker collaboration between industry and community that might have a more favorable outcome? Yes, it turns out. The 2009 Bald Lick Sale was a commercial success that was not litigated. Admittedly, the actual harvest was whittled to less than 13 percent of what had been originally proposed, but the sale yielded more than twice its appraised value. It was close to "just right."

If this sort of collaborative effort could work then, it can work now. I say BLM should give it a shot.

See you on the river....

Tom Carstens
541-846-1025

Beetles, timber, and the BLM

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

Many in the Applegate have noticed the recent bark beetle mortality in the mountains that surround us—the brown trees are hard to miss. Beetle outbreaks are a natural process associated with drought cycles and warm winter conditions. The recent beetle mortality is likely to have numerous contributing factors, including climate change. Persistent drought and a lack of hard frost in the winter months serve to create conditions that allow increased beetle reproduction. Another factor appears to be elevation, with our lowest and driest sites sustaining more mortality. Drought-stressed trees are more susceptible to beetles; the lack of vigor means trees cannot successfully fend off beetle infestations.

Many also attribute the current beetle mortality to fire suppression and forest densification. This may be true in some locations, but another pattern is also emerging. When comparing past logging treatments in the Applegate Valley to patterns of current beetle mortality, many bark beetle mortality hotspots appear to be associated with timber sales conducted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the 1990s. These sales were commercial thinning operations implemented to reduce fuel loading and forest density, while increasing forest health and resilience to natural disturbances like fire and insects.

In many places it appears that the desired outcome has not been achieved.

Stands thinned to increase trees' resilience to insect mortality are heavily infested by bark beetles and suffering from particularly acute levels of mortality. In fact, many stands thinned for resilience are now the least resilient stands on the landscape, suffering the highest levels of mortality across the largest contiguous geographic area.

For instance, many of the stands on lower Ferris Gulch and lower Thompson Creek, where beetle mortality is most prominent, were commercially thinned in the 1990s in the Ferris Lane, Hinkle Gulch, Lower Thompson, and Middle Thompson Timber Sales. Likewise, on Little Applegate, the largest concentration of beetle mortality in the watershed is located in the Deming Gulch area and on the south-facing slopes above Buncom. These areas were thinned in the Grubby Sailor, Sterling Wolf, Buncom, and Sterling Sweeper Timber Sales. On Star Gulch, large concentrations of mortality can also be found in various relatively recent commercial-thinning units.

The Applegate Neighborhood Network is monitoring federal land timber sales in the Applegate Valley, and the pattern we have found is disturbing. Forests commercially thinned to supposedly increase resilience to both fire and insect infestations, while improving northern spotted owl habitat, are suffering from "accelerated overstory mortality," a condition in which large overstory trees and canopy cover levels decrease from mortality, while understory fuel loading increases and stands dry from exposure to increased sunlight and winds. We have documented these effects in the Little Applegate, Upper Applegate, Thompson Creek, Sterling Creek, Ferris Gulch, and other major

watersheds in the Applegate Valley that have been commercially thinned in the last 5 to 25 years. We are finding that the heavy removal of overstory canopy is creating undesirable effects in many treated stands. Some stands have suffered from blowdown in winter storms shortly after being heavily thinned; other stands are drying and becoming stressed, making them more susceptible to beetle outbreaks. Many stands subjected to heavy canopy removal are also filling in with dense understory fuel loads, dramatically increasing fire risk.

Although we do not have enough evidence at this point to prove that BLM logging treatments are entirely to blame for the recent beetle infestations, ample evidence does suggest that either the BLM logging treatments are not effective at reducing susceptibility to beetle outbreaks as claimed or they have actually decreased resilience to beetle outbreaks. One thing is exceptionally clear: the commercial treatments implemented did not reduce beetle mortality, sustain our forest habitats, or increase resilience to natural disturbance agents. Instead, they have done the opposite.

Meanwhile, BLM is busy with business as usual, promoting the Nedsbar Timber Sale and planning a new timber sale in the Middle Applegate. Always looking to increase the scope and scale of commercial logging, the BLM has not adequately analyzed the current impacts associated with commercial logging or conducted meaningful post-implementation monitoring of past BLM sales. The BLM optimistically claims to be increasing forest health and resilience; however, the reality on the ground is contrary to those claims.

Luke Ruediger • 541-890-8974

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 are limited 450 words. Opinion pieces **must be relevant to the Applegate Valley** and are limited to 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 number and/or email address). **Anonymous letters and opinion pieces will not be published.** Individual letters and opinion pieces may or may not be published in consecutive issues.

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

OPINIONS

Behind the Green Door | Losing our forests 32,249 trees at a time

BY CHRIS BRATT



Chris Bratt

Recently, efforts to increase timber cutting in the Applegate's public forests have accelerated. In September the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) advertised 32,249 merchantable trees to be auctioned off from the Nedsbar Timber Sale. It seems that the BLM, the supposed guardian of these public lands, has given in to political and economic interests that value commodity extraction over protection of irreplaceable resources.

After working cooperatively for over two decades trying to put these local public forests back in good working order, we're again faced with increased forest degradation. BLM has returned to a maximized and dominant logging approach to forest management. They have dropped the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA) plans that were "intended to be prototypes of how forest communities might be sustained." It also makes a mockery of our two-year effort to work collaboratively on a Citizens Alternative for the Nedsbar Timber Sale.

Needless to say, BLM's unwelcome action to bring back an excessively narrow timber-dominant interpretation of the 1937 Oregon and California

Lands Act (O&C Act) has raised strong objections in our community. Many of us feel that the BLM is evading the multiple- and sustainable-use mandate of the O&C Act by no longer giving equal consideration to "protecting watersheds, regulating streamflow, and contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and providing recreational [facilities]" despite the multiple- and sustainable-use mandate of the O&C Act. These original mandates for O&C Act forestlands have been further strengthened by the Clean Air and Water acts, the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and BLM's Federal Land Policy Management Act. All these laws contain additional mandated responsibilities that the BLM must adhere to and enforce.

It seems the BLM has now been forced (from many quarters) into an unsustainable management plan. Numerous politicians, representatives of Oregon's timbered counties, the forest products industry, and some BLM managers are clamoring for huge increases in the number of trees to be cut from our public forestlands in western

Oregon. Some O&C counties are demanding that 500-million board feet of timber be cut annually in perpetuity. Cutting this massive amount of timber every year could wipe out hundreds of species and eventually destroy the forest itself. But these folks continue to believe this overcutting is the cure-all for putting money into county coffers and providing the timber industry with logs and jobs.

I think these people who support the BLM's overcutting scheme are looking for pie in the sky. Their economic and timber goals are questionable, especially here in the Applegate. BLM's maximum timber production plan not only comes at the expense of the environment, but it also has some technical and economic questions that need addressing.

Take, for example, the Nedsbar Timber Sale mentioned earlier. The BLM put their timber sale plan (alternative 4) out to potential bidders, but didn't receive one bid. Could it be that selling over 32,249 trees for only \$231,014.60 (that's \$7.16 per tree) still isn't a moneymaker for loggers and that any county proceeds will end up being chicken feed? I find it very disturbing (and hope you do too) that our valley's magnificent, towering

Douglas fir trees (32,249 of them with an average diameter of 12.8") are offered at the giveaway price of \$7.16 each. These trees are definitely worth more left standing in place, still growing and absorbing carbon as part of a warming climate solution.

Because the beautiful, unique, and slow-growing forests we have here in the Applegate are experiencing greater fire danger than ever, as well as drought, warming temperatures, and insect outbreaks, they require responsible management. Management is made even more difficult here because these BLM forestlands are checkerboarded with other landowners' lands in difficult terrain. These and other factors make logging in the Applegate harder to deal with—and less lucrative.

The BLM has discarded adaptive management and their own mission to "manage and conserve the public lands...under our mandate of multiple use and sustained yield." Certainly there is no justification for BLM's backsliding and putting extreme emphasis on cutting more trees while all other resources go begging.

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988

Concern about Nedsbar rhetoric

BY KEN CHAPMAN

From the outset, I have been concerned about the rhetoric surrounding the proposed Nedsbar logging sale. Before any final decision had been made, signs appeared simplistically stating "Stop Nedsbar." Early posts about the project included unsupportable conclusions about logging. One post from a group in Williams talked about the forest being "destroyed" and claimed that the project area represented "the last best older forest." Really? Did they mean anywhere, or just in the Little Applegate?

Later in the summer, the rhetoric heated up and the civility trended down. At an informational tour of the Nedsbar project area, an opponent of the project asked the BLM representative how she could justify her humanity, thus proving that the question should have been asked in front of a mirror. Later, after the BLM announced its decision, the spokesperson for the Applegate Neighborhood Network, a person I know and respect, said that decision represented a "middle finger" to residents. Obviously, a person could read the decision and disagree with it. A fair reading of the document, however, would not conclude that it was a "middle finger" to anyone.

More important than the factual misrepresentation of the decision, however, was the fact that the rhetoric was inflammatory. The "middle finger" is often the start of road-rage incidents

and fights of all varieties and venues. It is, whether intentional or not, a dog whistle to the unbalanced and/or the unprincipled.

So it was probably not coincidental that shortly after the inflammatory reaction, some wannabe criminals, with all of the courage of Internet trolls, anonymously announced that they had spiked trees within the project area. Better forest health through tree spiking—that's definitely thinking out of the box!

Having made an inflammatory response to a BLM proposal that did not include tree spiking and the implication of violence against opponents of their plan, you would think that the spokesperson for the Applegate Neighborhood Network would have been purple with rage at the serious implications of a tree-spiking incident. You would be wrong. Acting like an understanding parent of a rascally child, the spokesperson made a statement to the effect that while anger was justified, violence was not.

It is unfortunate that the moderate language used against the tree spikers was not used to characterize opposition to the BLM's decision. While there is no obligation to agree with BLM, responsible citizenship would seem to include the belief that a differing opinion is not itself proof of bad intent.

Ken Chapman

kenjanchapman@gmail.com



Veterans' outreach program comes to the Applegate

Josephine and Jackson County Veterans Service Offices offer assistance to veterans and their dependents in obtaining benefits provided for them by county, state, and federal law. In an outreach program that began in November, veterans service officers are now available in the Applegate to help veterans from 11 am to 2 pm on the first Wednesday of every month at Applegate Valley Fire District Station #1.

"We are excited to bring our services to the Applegate to support the local communities. I'd like to thank the fire chief and the board for allowing us to utilize Station #1. It's an ideal location," said Lisa Pickart, the Josephine County Veterans Service Office program manager.

Applegate Valley Fire District Station #1 is located at 18489 North Applegate Road, next to the Applegate Library. For more information, contact the Josephine County Veterans Service Office at 541-474-5454 or the Jackson County Veterans Service Office at 541-774-8214.

Pacifica Arts Guild's
Winter Arts Festival
Saturday, December 3, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
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Look for more information on our Lecture Series in January on our Facebook page or our website.

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541-890-9989 541-899-9982

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

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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

Let's be firefighters!

Ms. Neiswanger's second-grade students at Ruch Community School have experienced firsthand what it would be like to be a firefighter!

On Friday, October 28, second graders took a field trip to the Applegate Valley fire station in Ruch to share lunch with our firefighters and engage in safety training that would enable them, as community ambassadors, to help keep their families safe in an emergency. The class won a fire-safety plan challenge sponsored by the Applegate Valley Fire District. Their prize was this visit with members of our amazing fire district, who hosted a pizza lunch and provided additional safety training for the students, including reviewing their families' emergency plans, calling 911, and touring a fire truck.

Ruch Community School and the Applegate Valley Fire District have treasured a community partnership for many years. Experiences for students have included meeting Smokey Bear in his natural habitat, reading with firefighters, and training in first aid, in babysitting, and in childcare.



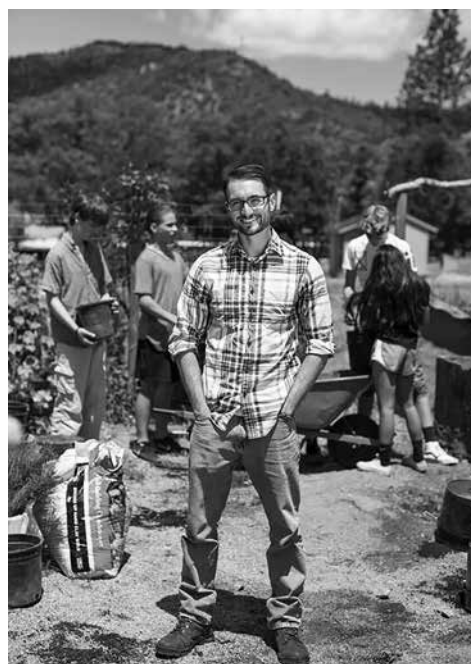
The Ruch School students and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Applegate Valley Fire District for being our present-day heroes! To Carey Chaput, retired fire district office manager, *we will miss you*, but wish you many happy hours of relaxation and fun in your retirement. Thank you for your support of the children of Ruch Community School.

Ruch School's Ryan King named 2016 Oregon Science Teacher

Congratulations to Ryan King of Ruch Community School for being selected as the recipient of the 2016 Oregon Science Teachers Award.

Jomae Sica, executive team president of Oregon Science Teachers Association (OSTA), said, about selecting Ryan, "One of the most important functions of OSTA is to recognize outstanding science educators across the state. As an early career teacher, we recognize the challenges that new teachers face. We honor Ryan's commitment to the teaching profession and his dedication to the students and their families of the Applegate Valley."

Ryan was honored at an awards assembly on November 10, 2016, at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) in Portland.



Science teacher Ryan King was honored by the Oregon Science Teachers Association.

Ruch School information provided by Julie Hill, Principal
541-842-3850 • julie.hill@medford.k12.or.us

Lions Club supports Applegate School with funds for physical education

The Applegate Lions Club recently provided a \$500 award for Applegate School. Lions Club members Rich Halstead, Stephen Rapp, and Rick Hoover presented the Murray Crowe Athletic Award, which is given as a memorial to Mr. Crowe, a long-time Applegate resident and supporter of the school and its athletic program.

Murray was husband to Judy Crowe, who taught for over 30 years at Applegate School, and father to Kellie Halstead, who is the new second-third grade teacher at Applegate School.

The gift is given annually and is well-timed! This year, the funds will be used to support the purchase of a K-6 curriculum for physical education.

Applegate School information provided by Darrell Erb Jr., Principal Applegate and Williams Schools, darrell.erb@threerivers.k12.or.us

APPLEGATE SCHOOL

Applegate varsity volleyball team undefeated (again) in 2016

Applegate School's varsity volleyball team won ten straight games this year against its opponents in the Southern Oregon Middle School Athletic Conference, Small Schools Division.

The volleyball team defeated Ruch, Sacred Heart, Shady Cove, New Hope Christian, St. Mary's, Butte Falls, Hanby

Middle School, Cascade Christian, and Rogue Valley Adventist on their way to a perfect season.

Under the coaching team of Heather DeVos and Sandi Garoutte, the Cougars have gone undefeated for the second year in a row and the third time in the past four years. Way to go, team!



Applegate School Cougars volleyball team, from left to right: Sydney Locke, Johanna DeVos, Kali Linn, Ruby Monsma, Zeyna DiBiasi, Teryn Powers, Alyssa Seal, Lexi Hill, Sierra Fimbres, Carlen Nielsen, Bree Saunders, Lily Emmons, Claire Emmons, and Aja LaPan.

Battle of the Books is alive and well

Applegate School students—both elementary and middle school—will be well represented when Oregon's Battle of the Books begins.

The school has two teams, and students are busy reading the state's list of books as they prepare for competition.

For those unfamiliar, Battle of the Books is, believe it not, a spectator sport. No, there are no weapons to bear, but students do deploy brainpower to overcome their opponents, and it's actually fun to watch.

Teams of four each from two schools face off at a table. Questions for the teams come from the dozen or more novels that students read in preparation for the competition. Upon receiving a question, a team has 15 seconds to come to consensus and have its spokesperson give an answer.

Doesn't this sound fun? Actually, the tension is thick!

Parent volunteers Becky Vidlak and Melissa Brunner are directing the elementary division team. Jean Hall is coaching the middle school team, which took second in the district-wide competition last year.

The regional Battle of the Books will be held at a Rogue Valley school to be announced soon along with the date. The state competition will be held on



Battle of the Books 4/5 division, left to right: Freyja Moeves, Zeyna DiBiasi, Chris Hartley, and Max Vidlak.



Battle of the Books middle school division, left to right: Abby Sutton, Lucas Cross, Maria Cross, and Emma Singleton.

Saturday, April 8, 2017, at Chemeketa Community College in Salem.

There is seating for spectators—call Applegate School at 541-846-6280 if you are interested in rooting for the Cougar Battlers!



Applegate Lions Club presented \$500 to Applegate School in support of its athletic program. Lions Club members, from left to right: Rich Halstead, Rick Hoover, Applegate school principal Darrell Erb, and Stephen Rapp.

With a broad smile, ATA reports a successful Call of the Wild fundraiser

BY DIANA COOGLE

As many as 150 people joined the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) at Pacifica in Williams in early October for the premiere viewing of *Walking the Wild Applegate*, a documentary film by Tim Lewis of the first-ever thru-hike along the ridges between Ashland and Grants Pass.

The film shows board members Luke Ruediger and Josh Weber camping in the snow and hiking in the rain but also walking through gorgeous fields of sea blush and lupine, on open slopes of oak woodlands, and in deep fir forests. Its shots of other hikers and horseback riders joining them on the trail and its interviews with David Calahan, ATA chair; Duane Mallams; Chant Thomas, et al., not only deepened the viewers' understanding of the Applegate Ridge Trail project but helped explain the enthusiasm the organization has for it.

ATA is making plans to show the film widely around the Rogue Valley. Look for announcements in the media, social and otherwise. Possible

venues are the Northwest Outdoor Store in Medford, regional libraries, and similar places. DVDs are being made as well. Contact ATA (through Facebook or at applegatetrails.org) to set up a presentation or find out how to get a DVD for viewing.

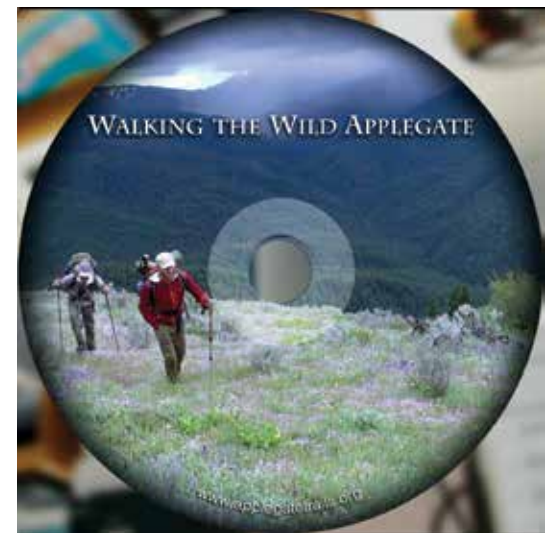
The large turnout at the fundraiser also meant a good boost to ATA's treasury. We obtained grants from the Bureau of Land Management and REI for building the East ART, the first leg of the Applegate Ridge Trail—approximately six miles of nonmotorized trail from Sterling Creek Road west to Highway 238 near Forest Creek Road. We're hoping to begin actual construction this winter.

We extend a hearty thanks to all who attended this year's Call of the Wild and especially to all who donated items and time to help make the event such a success. Special thanks to Lily Kaplan, our newest board member, for jumping in with such energy at the penultimate moment. And, as always, we extend heartfelt gratitude to those who



Photo above: A large crowd at Pacifica sits enthralled, watching *Walking the Wild Applegate*.

Photo right: Josh Weber (front) and Luke Ruediger (back) hike through a field of lupine on what ATA hopes will become part of the Applegate Ridge Trail. Photos by Alexandria Weinbrecht.



give generously to the Applegate Trails Association in support of our goals.

Diana Coogle
dicoog@gmail.com

Enchanted Forest Wine Run raised funds for the Applegate School Strings Program



Applegate School principal, Darrell Erb (left), thanks organizer Robert Hodge for a successful fundraising event for the school's Strings Program.

On September 24, 2016, Friends of Applegate School provided a world-class race venue with a view, 7 Dogs Running, and outstanding race organization. The Applegate School Parent-Teacher-Student Group (PTSG) organized the volunteers to work on race day.

This team effort resulted in a successful Enchanted Forest Wine Run at Wooldridge Creek Vineyard and Winery—a fundraiser for Applegate School's strings music program and a bunch of fun for participants. Nearly \$3,000 was raised through the event.

Eighty runners participated this year, but "next year, it's going to be bigger!" said race organizer Robert Hodge, one of the lead dogs for the nonprofit 7 Dogs Running and president of Siskiyou Corporation in Grants Pass.

"So many thanks to give—to Robert for organizing this race, to Greg and Kara of Wooldridge Creek for opening their doors and providing support at their beautiful winery, and to Seana Hodge, who worked hard as the PTSG representative to get running

shoes on the ground to support the event," said Darrell Erb, Applegate School principal.

Thanks to the team of on-the-ground volunteers. They helped make this event a lot of fun. We're already looking forward to next year!

Enchanted Forest Wine Run Top Finishers

24K Female

Anne Carter (53) 2:22:06
Jessica Lamanna (30) 2:28:27
Annie Southam (40) 2:31:08

24K Male

James Southam (38) 1:54:15
Hal Koerner (40) 2:09:56
Pete Wallstrom (43) 2:18:30

12K Female

Megan Janssen (34) 1:12:42
Kathryn Turpin (29) 1:21:01
Jill Lovin (20) 1:26:33

12K Male

Gary Pierce (39) 1:12:28
Gabriel Lipper (41) 1:14:59
Jakob Shockey (24) 1:17:10

5K Female

Alaina Lehrburger (24) 25:58
April Cummings (40) 28:53
Lydia Shockey (24) 29:19

5K Male

Josh Hastad (21) 20:53
Colin Cogle (13) 25:39
Derick Cogle (49) 26:35



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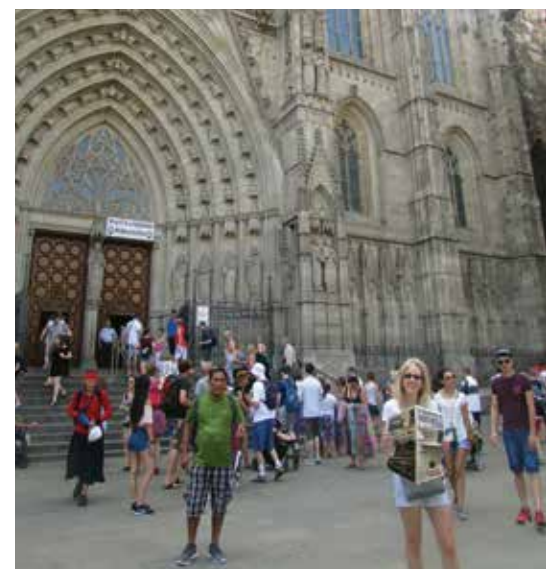
Look who's reading the Gater!

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



Photos, clockwise from top left:
 -**Jim Reiland, Joy Rogalla, Neal Anderson, Hope Robertson, Annette Parsons, and Jim Clover** brought the Applegater to Bryce Canyon National Park for use as an emergency parachute, just in case.
 -While cruising the Rhine River in Germany, **Kathy and Tom Carstens** relied on the Gater's exceptional navigational skills.
 -At Niagara Falls in Canada, **Erin Swigart and Debbie Weber** tested the Applegater for waterproofness (not recommended).
 -**J.D. Rogers**, recovering from recent surgery, perused the Gater for lyrics for his next CD, aided by PUD band replacement members Buzz Schriber, Shelley Manning, Chris "Mad Man" Allen, and road manager Sioux Rogers.

-**Sharon Sarrouh** searched the Gater for a route to the animal gargoyles on the roof of the Catedral de Barcelona in Spain.
 -**Diana Coogle and Mike Kohn** trekked the 100-mile Alta Via 2, in Italy's Dolomite Mountains, with their trusty trail guide, the Applegater, at the ready.
 -**Brandy Daniels** treated the Gater to one of the humungous burgers at The Traveling Hobo Cafe in Watkinsville, Georgia.
 -Hidden Valley High School alum **Gordon Smith** catches up on hometown news while in Majuro Atoll, capital of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
 -Before climbing to the top of Himeji Castle in Japan, **Karen Mitchell** wisely checks the Applegater for high-altitude breathing techniques.



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