

Applegater

Photo by Linda Kappen

applegater.org



FALL 2018
Volume 11, No. 3

Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 11,500

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Years

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See **SAVORY SHINDIG**, page 5, for more details about this fun fundraiser!

Clear skies ahead?

AVOVA president Joe Ginet foresees opportunities for greatness for our wine region

BY RHONDA NOWAK

Already by late July, smoke had been hanging in the air for weeks, muffling the valley during the day and creating eerily beautiful blood-orange sunsets.

"I never saw this smoke as a kid," said Joe Ginet, who has reason to keep his eye on the smoke. Since 1979 he and his wife, Suzi, have owned Plaisance Ranch and Winery in Williams, producing USDA organic-certified beef and award-winning wines. Wine grapes, Joe knows, are sensitive to smoke.

As one of the founders of the World of Wine event (now the Oregon Wine Experience) in 2003, Joe Ginet is a leader in establishing Applegate Valley wineries as a destination for local and visiting wine enthusiasts. He has served as president of the Applegate Valley Oregon Vintners Association (AVOVA) since 2013.



Joe and Suzie Ginet, owners of Plaisance Ranch and Winery in Williams, ventured out into the smoky summer air. Photo: Rhonda Nowak.

During the 40 years he's been making a living on his ranch, Joe has seen a lot of changes that have presented, he says, "opportunities and challenges" for Applegate Valley viticulture and the 21 wineries and vineyards in the Applegate.

Smoke gets in your eyes

One of the challenges is wildfire smoke, which affects not only the taste of wines but also tourists' taste for the

See **CLEAR SKIES**, page 10.

What's the buzz? Hemp cultivation is growing!

BY CATHY RODGERS

The Applegate Watershed is abuzz—not about the psychotropic aspects of cannabis, but rather about its no-nonsense, not-about-the-high, all-about-the-business family member: hemp. It's the new crop in town!

Although the first American flag was made of hemp, the product's "guilt by association" with its more controversial cousin, Mary Jane, caused a steady decline in US hemp production through the mid-1900s. The 1970 Controlled Substance Act swept hemp into its broad "if it sounds like a duck, looks like a duck, and smells like a duck" zero-tolerance ban, thus ostracizing one of the most versatile, resilient,

and renewable of plants, which fell into public disdain and regulatory oblivion—until recently. A renewed appreciation for the inherent benefits of industrial hemp and a growing acceptance from the public has led to an increase in industrial hemp grows.

Oregon was proactive

Oregon, with its more tolerant views of cannabis, took a proactive legislating position, becoming the first state, in 1973, to decriminalize marijuana possession. Later, Measure 91 legalized nonmedical cultivation and allowed for recreational marijuana sales through licensed dispensaries.

See **HEMP CULTIVATION**, page 11.

Shop at farm stands— it's an Applegate experience

BY DIANA COOGLE

Not all Applegate farmers put our rich farmland in grapes, marijuana, or hemp. Some love to grow food and, equally, to sell food to local customers.

Mike Gallagher, of Gallagher Family Farms, has apples and pears at his farm stand now, even though the farm doesn't flourish with the flowers and vegetables it had during most of the 48 years he has had the farm stand. He speaks with nostalgia of the days when



Harvesting calendula at Oshala Farm.

he had 150 people in his U-pick fields, 500 rabbits, 150 chickens, and baby goats that would ride the tractor with

See **FARM STANDS**, page 16.

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ISSUE

AGRICULTURE - WINE

OBITUARY

Claude Anderson Sr.

May 5, 1919 - June 12, 2018

Applegate Valley resident Claude “Victor” Anderson Sr. passed away on June 12, 2018, at the age of 99, at Hearthstone Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Medford, Oregon.

Victor was the seventh of eight children born to immigrant parents, John and Ida Anderson, from Sweden.

Victor was born on May 5, 1919, in Central Point, Oregon.

During World War II, from 1942 to 1946, he served in the US Navy as a gunner’s mate second class on a destroyer in the South Pacific.

Victor spent 38 years in Alaska as a heavy equipment operator before moving to Applegate, where he owned a small-engine repair shop for 20 years. In later years, he would dismantle and recycle the small engines of lawn mowers and other equipment neighbors dropped off along his driveway. Victor was in his workshop daily, keeping



active and doing what he enjoyed.

During walnut season, Victor would dry roast, shell, and can walnuts, then give them to family and friends in the community for Christmas.

Victor was preceded in death by Margo, his wife of 29 years; son Claude Jr., from a prior marriage; brothers Lloyd,

Ted, Richard, and Ray; and sisters Ella, Ida, and Edith. He is survived by two nieces, Jean Tiempe of Gresham, Oregon, and Margie Riley of Talent, Oregon; and three grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, 801 Eighteenth Street NW, Washington, DC 20006 (800-555-9140).

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Victor will be inurned at Eagle Point National Cemetery. Chapel of the Valley - L.B. Hall Funeral Home is entrusted with the arrangements.

~ In Memoriam ~

Robert Alsenz

September 1, 1928 - June 12, 2018

**Welcome to the *Applegater*,
Cathy Rodgers!**

New *Applegater* board member Cathy Rodgers has had property on the Applegate River for almost 30 years. Now, after nearly 40 years with IBM as vice president of global engagements and years spent globe-trotting, she has moved back to the Applegate, where she has already made herself indispensable to the community.

In addition to the *Applegater* board, Cathy also serves on the Cantrall Buckley Park Enhancement Committee and is a member of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council Board of Directors.

Cathy serves as a passionate speaker and advocate on climate change, global warming, sustainability, women’s issues, and entrepreneurship. She has been recognized as “Woman of the Year” in California for her work in disaster preparedness and featured in the *New York Times* for her role with minority suppliers. She has worked with the US State Department on topics



concerning women, youth, education, and entrepreneurship around the world. She is a frequent lecturer at colleges and universities, including Semester at Sea. She serves as the Institute of

**THANK YOU,
FIREFIGHTERS!**

As this paper goes to press in late August, wildfires are still raging in southern Oregon. But the smoke—rated “hazardous” at times—that plagued the Applegate Valley is gone. Thank you to the estimated 7,000 firefighting personnel, including the National Guard and recruits from Australia and New Zealand, who have worked tirelessly to put out these fires. We extend our heartfelt appreciation.



Photo, left: Firefighters take a much-needed break from their heroic efforts.

Photo, bottom: Sunset on the Taylor Creek Fire. Located ten miles west of Grants Pass, the Taylor Creek Fire is the second largest of the lightning-caused fires burning since July 15.

As of August 28, fire had consumed almost 53,000 acres.

The largest fire, Klondike, had burned over 93,000 acres.

Photos: Oregon Department of Forestry Facebook page.



Supply Management’s committee chair on sustainability, social responsibility and ethics, and is co-founder and president of Rooted in Hope, a nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental conservation and sustainable development, located in the Applegate.

Born in Chicago, Cathy spent her younger years in New York, then moved west to California, living the last ten years at Lake Tahoe. Cathy enjoys writing, hiking, and kayaking. She has summited Mt. Kilimanjaro and is the fourth woman to have completed a half

marathon on all seven continents. In fact, she recently returned from Bhutan, having circled the seven continents for the *second* time and becoming, with her daughter, the first mother-daughter team to run a half marathon on all continents. Fittingly, she was one of the first female paramedics certified in California.

Cathy holds a master’s degree in hazard management and community service and a master’s in business administration. She is currently completing her PhD in environmental policy in Kenya.



Over the years, *Look Who’s Reading the Gater* included photos of Cathy on all seven continents. This is one of them, from 2006, in Sydney Harbor, Australia.

2018 Smoked Salmon and Music Festival benefit

BY PAUL TIPTON

Maslow Project's fifth annual Southern Oregon Smoked Salmon and Music Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 22, from 3 - 8 pm at Pear Blossom Park in Medford, Oregon. The event will feature local food carts, wine and beer provided by Urban Cork and Growler King, and music performances by The Ben Rice Band and Karen Lovely.

The centerpiece of the event will be the smoked salmon competition, where competitors provide samples of their salmon to be evaluated by a panel of judges. The winner of the competition will take home the \$1,000 first-place prize and the honor of "Best Smoked Salmon in Southern Oregon." Following the official judging, the public will be able to sample contestants' salmon and vote for their favorite, crowning one competitor "People's Choice."

Over the past three years, three Applegate residents have taken the honors at the event for their fabulous smoked salmon. By the time you read this, it will be too late to enter the contest, but you can still come out to enjoy a wide variety of takes on how

to smoke salmon and chat with the competitors. Good luck, Applegaters!

All proceeds from the event will benefit Maslow Project, a local nonprofit organization that provides advocacy and support services to homeless youth and families throughout Jackson and Josephine counties.

"We're thrilled to be the beneficiaries of the Smoked Salmon Fest!" says Maslow Project Development Director, Karen Phillips. "Last year, Maslow Project worked with over 2,500 homeless kids and families, bringing some stability and support into their lives so they could focus on staying in school and completing their educations. Events like this help to raise awareness about youth homelessness in southern Oregon and bring in donations to support our work."

General admission tickets are \$30 (kids under 12 get in free when accompanied by an adult). To purchase tickets or learn more about the event, visit facebook.com/smokedsalmonfest. To learn more about Maslow Project, visit maslowproject.com.

Paul Tipton
ptipton@frontier.com



Memorable day at the Cantrall Buckley Park Golden Jubilee

The Cantrall Buckley Park Golden Jubilee, held on July 14, was a huge success thanks in large part to the 76 community volunteers who made this event possible.

Despite 100-plus degree temperatures, around 1,000 people from the Applegate Valley and beyond beat the heat by relaxing in the shade of old-growth oak trees and dipping into the sparkling Applegate River.

Attendees enjoyed nonstop music throughout the day from local groups Antonucci Collective, The Family Carr, Rogue Trio, Romancing the West, Sequoia, and headliners The Brothers Reed. They also enjoyed delicious local food served by the Applegate Lions Club and Las Palmas and wine and beer from Applegate vintners and Connor Fields Brewing, and browsed the wares of over 50 local vendors and

exhibitors from Pacifica to the Oregon Department of Forestry.

"It was a wonderful way to celebrate the Applegate Valley's community and history," said Steering Committee member Brooke Nuckles Gentekos, who is also project coordinator of A Greater Applegate, the local nonprofit that organized the Golden Jubilee.

Event sponsors included The Ford Family Foundation, True South Solar, Pioneer Village, and many others who helped celebrate the 50th birthday of Cantrall Buckley Park. Thanks also go to Steering Committee members Tom Carstens and Michele Brown-Riding for their endless efforts in organizing this major event.

For more photos of the Golden Jubilee, please visit A Greater Applegate's Facebook page at facebook.com/agreaterapplegate.



Young boy knew how to beat the heat at the Golden Jubilee!
Photo: Kirk McKenzie.

Volunteering in the Applegate

BY JIM REILAND

Forty-five thousand. Remember that number; we'll come back to it.

Have you ever helped a neighbor fix a flat tire or jump a dead car battery? Have you spent time trimming brush or mowing grass along a shared road or shored up a leaning bank of mailboxes? Have you looked after your neighbors' animals while they were away or driven a neighbor to town for an appointment or to the airport?

If you have done anything like this, you're among the nearly 70 percent of Oregonians who report engaging in "informal" volunteering every year. We do this without expectation of reciprocity, though most neighbors return the favor by helping us when we need it. No one keeps an accounting—it's an informal arrangement.

Neighbors helping each other holds neighborhoods together, offering a sense of greater security and belonging. It connects us to the place we live.

There's another kind of volunteering, which the Corporation for National and Community Service (CFNCS) calls "formal": unpaid work done through an organization. Think churches and civic groups. According to CFNCS, an organization that tracks and studies volunteers and their activities, volunteerism remains important to Americans. Twenty-five percent of American adults volunteered in 2015, the most recent year of analyzed data. Oregon has a higher rate of volunteerism. The 31.4 percent of adults who volunteered through an organization ranks us thirteenth among all the states. This equates to 1,018,101 volunteers, 36.1 volunteer hours per capita, 128.37 million hours of service, and an estimated value of \$2.7 billion of service contributed to our state. (To learn more about this survey, visit nationalservice.gov/vcla/rankings.)

Why do people volunteer?

Lots of reasons. Teenagers may volunteer because their parents introduced them to volunteer activities when they were children—it's ingrained in them. Community service hours may be a high school graduation requirement. A few years later, many find that they can benefit from increased connections and job or career-related skills, knowledge, and experience.

People in the middle of careers and raising families often see volunteering as a valuable life lesson to teach their children and a way to spend time together or to build personal networks for work or pleasure. Newly arrived residents find that it's a great way to meet people with shared interests. Retirees may be motivated by a desire



A recent networking event was organized by A Greater Applegate for Applegate Valley nonprofit organizations, which rely on volunteers.

to give back by nurturing the places, people, and institutions they love.

Some volunteers learn new skills or dust off skills they'd like to use again. Almost everyone volunteers for personal gratification, to make a difference, and to have fun. Most people I know rank their volunteer experiences among the most enriching of their lives. And like the informal volunteering of neighbors helping each other, formal volunteering strengthens the community and our connections to it.

I contacted 20 Applegate Valley organizations that rely on volunteers and asked how many volunteer hours they contribute each year to the Applegate Valley. The total came to 45,000 hours! That's the equivalent of 22 people working full-time. If all these volunteers had been paid Oregon's minimum wage of \$10.25/hour, the economic value to the community would be \$461,250. And this contribution is from just a fraction of the Applegate Valley groups that rely on volunteers to carry out missions that make our valley a better place. The actual hours volunteered—and value to our community—are much higher.

What do Applegate Valley volunteers do? Fight fires and save lives. Maintain parks and trails for hiking, bicycle riding, and horseback riding on our public lands. Raise funds to support our libraries, fire department, and schools. Serve on the boards and committees of nonprofit organizations doing administrative work, public outreach, and fundraising. Preserve historic sites and restore damaged ecosystems around the valley. And much more! Some help produce the *Applegater* that you're reading.

Imagine what life here would be like if no one volunteered, if no one did this work. The two most prominent reasons some people don't volunteer are that they don't know about opportunities and nobody asks them.

New volunteer service

If you're willing and able to volunteer but haven't because you don't know where to go and haven't been invited, that's about to change. This fall the Applegate Valley Connect website will launch a matchmaking service of sorts—organizations seeking volunteers and volunteers seeking organizations. Look for it at applegateconnect.org. The many Applegate Valley organizations that rely on volunteers could definitely use your help!

Jim Reiland
jim@manyhandsbuilders.com



BOOK REVIEW

Madstone

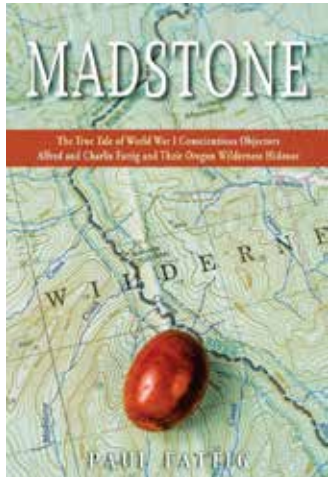
Paul Fattig (2018)

Paul Fattig's second book, published within two years of his first, is, as you might expect, an intriguing tale. All true, too, since it takes us down the trail of Fattig's family history, which this "recovering journalist," as he claims to be, documents well.

Madstone is set in the rugged mountains and valleys between the lower Applegate River and the Illinois Valley. But it also takes a leap out of those relatively tame places into the truly rugged country of the present-day Kalmiopsis Wilderness as it follows the footsteps of the author's uncles, Alfred and Charlie Fattig, after they refused to be drafted into World War I for reasons of conscience and religion. They took off with minimal supplies and survived off the land for three years in some of the roughest country that Oregon, or anywhere, has to offer, all the while avoiding contact with anyone else in the area due to the bounty on their heads.

America did not tolerate "slackers" among its young men during this very nationalistic period. Even the general public was expected to do without some goods and foods and give money for bonds in the spirit of the war effort. Thus, by the time the brothers wearied of their time alone in the mountains, they had become outcasts. Even after they served their sentences, their family was reviled in the community.

This is the story of their hardscrabble life in and around the headwaters of



the Chetco River. Few others would survive living primarily off whatever animals they could catch and what few plants and berries they could find. But survive they did, albeit at the cost of becoming intolerable to each other in the end and eventually parting ways.

But this is also the story of the author's search for the truth and

an understanding of this situation.

Besides growing up with this backstory of his family's history, Paul unknowingly began the research for his book when he ran away from home at the age of 14 and headed into the same wilderness where Alfred and Charlie had hidden for years, searching for his own identity apart from family.

That tale and many others will keep you chuckling and enthralled as Paul weaves the story of his complicated family life into the landscape of southwestern Oregon.

This is a man whose love of language is apparent in every word choice and every added nuance, making him, in my mind, a wordsmith par excellence. And in terms of research, he seems to have dotted every i and crossed every t, even to the point of being incarcerated in the Gold Beach hoosegow during his early research and quest for meaning. He truly gives all to his work.

Haven't figured out what "madstone" means? *Do not* Google it! Read the dang book and you'll be far more enlightened. An excellent read!

Paul Tipton

ptipton@frontier.com

POETRY CORNER

The Resurrection and Reincarnation of Fort Birdseye

by Lisa E. Baldwin

It's hard to look at the place now,
As it is—ghost and carcass scraped bare,
Stripped of its history and character
Save for the shadowed remains of the old
Farmhouse built in 1856
From the remains of the old
Fort put up in a hurry in 1855
Sheltering settlers and wounded dragoons carried in
From the Hallowe'en battle on Hungry Hill.
Now, 160 years on, the Century Farm has been
Sold by the last of the Birdseys
To one of the wine makers
From the other side of the river.
Since the last Uprising
Rogue River Indians were killed,
Quelled and Relocated, this place was
The Birdseye Place. Now it will go
The way of the whole valley: 100 acres at a time
Put into grape cultivation
(Or weed cultivation)
To serve the altered states of consciousness
Of the stylish, stressed-out masses
Who will, no doubt, come like land-grant pioneers
To the reincarnated old farm house, the new
Tasting Room at Fort Birdseye.

Featured Advertiser Loney Law Group

Here is the story of Loney Law Group, a valued, long-time advertiser.
See ad on page 8.

Loney Law Group was the first comprehensive cannabis law firm in Oregon. Founder Paul Loney developed the legal blueprint for Oregon's first private cannabis club and dispensary in 2009. He served as Oregon NORML's (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) legal counsel for over 13 years and assisted in the drafting of numerous cannabis-related legislative initiatives involving Oregon's medical marijuana laws and the drafting of Measure 91, Oregon's recreational marijuana law.

The firm focuses on the cannabis and hemp industry and assists with business law, compliance, criminal defense, administrative law and litigation, and represents producers, processors, retailers, ancillary business and individual clients.

Loney Law Group has been an avid supporter of the cannabis industry since the beginning. Paul was an activist around cannabis issues before law school. When he married, he learned that his mother-in-law, who had a small cannabis farm in Williams, Oregon, could benefit from legal advice by someone who understood and cared about the plant, the community, and the industry. Paul expanded his practice and opened Loney Law Group to fill the need for a knowledgeable law firm with a background in cannabis.

Loney Law Group's mission is to help those in the cannabis industry realize their dreams, move their business forward, and protect their rights. Paul brings history and experience to the table. Being a part of the industry for so long gives Loney Law Group the advantage of understanding that the cannabis industry looks different today and will look different in the future. The firm's goal is to help its clients succeed through all the changes.

Loney Law Group has been willing to lead the way in cannabis law. When other law firms and attorneys were unwilling to represent clients in cannabis cases, Loney Law Group



Paul Loney, founder of Loney Law Group, counsels his clients on marijuana regulations.

welcomed them. Loney's was the first firm of cannabis lawyers to partner with the University of Oregon and the *Oregonian* in crafting Oregon's cannabis laws. Loney Law Group also helped ensure that concerns of rural property residents were heard during the drafting of Oregon's recreational cannabis laws.

The firm is regularly asked to present on cannabis legal topics at seminars for attorneys and other business professionals and offers a monthly seminar, Cultivate Business Success, in southern Oregon. The seminar focuses on a myriad of important business topics with the goal of promoting accessibility to the law. Paul continues to remain involved in cannabis politics by advocating for common-sense regulations.

Loney Law Group will continue to be a leader in Oregon's cannabis industry. It is preparing for the 2019 legislative session and the new bills affecting the cannabis industry that will be introduced. Future plans will include the continued education of regulators and general public on topics important to Oregon's cannabis industry.

Loney Law Group has offices in Ashland and Portland and serves clients throughout Oregon. Its Ashland office is at 638 North Main Street, Suite B. Contact them at 541-787-0733 or info@loneylawgroup.com or visit their website at loneylawgroup.com.

Where, oh where, is the Community Calendar?

•••••

Well, the Community Calendar has been replaced with the calendar on the Applegate Valley Connect website. If your organization's meetings were listed in the Community Calendar, please visit applegateconnect.org to register, then add your organization to the directory and add your meetings and events to the calendar. Oh, and it's free!



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WHO WE ARE

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. (AVCN) 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., provides the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Watershed with a communications vehicle, the *Applegater* newsmagazine, free of charge to all watershed residents. Our quarterly paper presents constructive, relevant, educational, and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects such as:

- natural resources
- ecology and other science information
- historical and current events
- community news and opinions

AVCN encourages and publishes differing viewpoints and, through the *Applegater* newsmagazine, acts as a clearinghouse for this diverse community. We are dedicated to working together with community members to maintain and enhance the quality of life that is unique to the Applegate Watershed.

Acknowledgements

The *Applegater* newsmagazine is published quarterly by the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., and is funded by donations from our loyal readers and advertisements for local businesses.

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All materials submitted for publication must pertain to the Applegate Valley, be original (no reprinted articles, please), and be the intellectual property of the author unless otherwise credited.

All articles submitted to the *Applegater* are subject to edit and publication at the newsmagazine's discretion and as space allows. When too many articles are submitted to include in any one issue, some articles may be placed on our website or held until the following issue.

Letters to the editor must be 450 words or less. Opinion pieces and articles cannot exceed 700 words. Obituaries are limited to 500 words and one photo.

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

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 (see Editorial Calendar).

Applegate Valley
Community Newspaper, Inc.
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**A huge THANKS
to the generous donors
who recently contributed
to the *Applegater*.**

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**The *Applegater*
needs your
ongoing help!**

In order to keep up with our expenses—printing and postage are the biggest costs—and be able to continue mailing this newsmagazine free to every residence and business in the Applegate Valley, please take advantage of the donation envelope inserted in this issue to mail your donation to:

Applegater Newsmagazine
PO Box 14

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Donations are also accepted online through PayPal at applegater.org. Thank you—every dollar matters.

The *Applegater*
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Masthead photo credit

Thanks to **Linda Kappen** for the colorful photo of pumpkins for the kids at Applegate School.

Editorial Calendar

ISSUE	DEADLINE
WINTER (Dec - Feb).....	November 1 <i>Holiday-Arts</i>
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>

Advertisers!

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

With a circulation of 11,500 and a readership of more than 20,000, we cover Applegate, Jacksonville, Jerome Prairie, Murphy, Ruch, Wilderville, Williams, Wonder, and areas of Grants Pass, Medford, and Ashland.

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

Next deadline: November 1

SAVE THE DATE!

**FOR THE APPLGATER'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 4 - 7 PM**

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**LIVE MUSIC BY WILD & BLUE
CATERING BY GOODNESS GRACIOUS**

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at eventbrite.com, Applegate Country Club, Hidden Valley Market,
Ruch Country Store, Williams General Store,
or call 541-846-1121 or 541-846-7447. All sales final.

Inside the Gater

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Jackson County Library Services

— Applegate Library —

Not to miss: The Friends of the Applegate Library will be holding a book sale on Friday, September 21, from 2 - 6 pm, and Saturday, September 22, from 10 am - 2 pm.

This fall will mark the first annual Applegate-Ruch How-To Festival. On Saturday, September 22, from 10 am - 1 pm, the Applegate Library will host talks and demonstrations from local patrons on genealogy, miniatures, bombproofing horses, flower arranging, gardening, sourdough bread making, surfing, woodworking, and more. Come in or call to find out the schedule of presentations. (See Ruch Library below for its How-To Festival activities.)

Rigs from the Applegate Valley Fire Station and Applegate Excavate & Fence will be here for little and big kids to explore.

Hear the Applegate's very own Jef Kooper read from his wonderful novel, *Sugarbob Goes to the Lodge*, based on a true story. Sugarbob's adventures were celebrated on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* and by Oregon Public Broadcasting.

This fall we will host a Fermentation Series conducted by Kirsten Shockey and Christopher Shockey, coauthors of *Fiery Ferments* and the best-selling *Fermented Vegetables*. Topics are cider pressing on Saturday, October 20, from 1 - 2 pm, and gut health on Saturday, October 27, from 1 - 2 pm.

Come dressed in costume (no face masks, please) for Halloween fun and crafts on Wednesday, October 31.

Join us every third Friday from 6 - 7 pm in the Applegate Library's conference room for a drumming circle, facilitated by Kristi Cowles and David Kennedy. Their vision of this drumming circle is to create one voice, one community. Their purpose is to heal Mother Earth and all her people—human and not—with rhythm and sound. Experience is not necessary. If you have your own drums or rattles, please bring them.

And don't forget, you can check out an Orion telescope for your very own night-sky viewing. The telescope was donated by a long-time stargazing Applegater, who hopes kids, parents, singles, old and young will make use of the telescope to see the moons of Jupiter or the rings of Saturn.

The library also has plans to sponsor "star parties" and "star log" contests for those wanting to learn more about the night skies. Check out and take home the Orion telescope for up to two weeks!

Reminder: The Applegate Library has hot spots, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines, Wi-Fi, books, and more. And every Tuesday from 2 - 4:30 pm, Bret Fearrien from Digital Services is here to help with your tech questions.

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

For more information, contact manager Christine Grubb at 541-846-7346 or cgrubb@jcls.org.

— Ruch Library —

We are looking forward to another exciting year with the Ruch Outdoor Community School. Last year we had more than 175 class visits! We are lucky to be next door to each other.

At Ruch Library, aside from books, movies, audiobooks, magazines, tech help, Wi-Fi, and storytimes, we have three awesome programs coming up that you will not want to miss!

How-To Festival, Saturday, September 22, 1 - 4 pm. Join us for an afternoon of peer-to-peer instruction as your neighbors share what they know! There are at least 18 classes, running 30, 60, or 90 minutes. How to make liqueurs, deal with noxious weeds, knit, crochet, make Slime, learn Jin Shin Jyutsu, make felt, learn computer coding, learn sleight-of-hand tricks, woodburning, balloon rockets, and *much* more! Lots of kid-friendly programs. Get a complete roster and schedule at the library.

Second Annual Celebration of Mind, Saturday, October 20, 1 - 3 pm. Come celebrate Martin Gardner, noted mathematician, scientist, and writer widely known for his games, logic puzzles, optical illusions, and card tricks. Excite your mind and puzzle your brain with activities throughout the library that promote curiosity and critical thinking through play. See for yourself that "Fun Math" is not an oxymoron! Fun for all ages.

Applegate Authors Abound! Saturday, November 12, 2 - 4 pm. Meet a dozen or so of our local authors and hear a bit of what they wrote. Authors will be situated throughout the library for intimate readings and discussions, followed by a reception in the Meeting Room at 3:30 pm. Books will be available through the library or from the authors.

Ongoing activities

Tech Help. Bret Fearrien is here every Tuesday from 10 am - 12:30 pm to answer your tech questions about any of your devices and to help you with Hoopla and Library2Go. We keep him pretty busy, so it is best to make an appointment in advance—email Bret at bfearrien@jcls.org.

Babies and Wobblers Storytime. Storytime is Tuesdays at 10:15 am for 0-3 year-olds. Preschool Storytime is at 11:30 am on Tuesdays, followed by a craft. We offer LEGOS every Saturday afternoon.

A-Frame Bookstore. Don't forget about the Friends of Ruch Library bookstore—it's packed with great reads!

Ruch Library is located at 7919 Highway 238 in Jacksonville (Ruch) and is open Tuesdays from 10 am - 5 pm, Thursdays from 1 - 7 pm, and Saturdays from 11 am - 4 pm.

For more information, contact branch manager Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-8438 or ttruesdell@jcls.org.

Josephine Community Library

— Josephine Community Libraries —

Weekly storytime at Williams branch

Families are invited to the Williams branch of Josephine Community Library District for weekly storytime and a craft every Friday from 1:30 to 2:30 pm.

Williams branch is located at 20695 Williams Highway in Williams and is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 1 - 6 pm and Fridays from 11 am - 4 pm. Phone: 541-846-7020.

Readapalooza: Free bookish fun

Come celebrate reading, books, and community during Readapalooza weekend on October 20 and 21 at the Grants Pass branch at 200 NW C Street. The weekend will be filled with activities for all ages, including the Storytime Celebration, the Plot Planning Party for National Novel Writing Month in November, and the Community Read-Aloud for all ages.

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

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

The four Rotary clubs in Josephine County have teamed up with Josephine Community Library District and Josephine County Library Foundation to bring the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to families in our community.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book-gifting program that mails free

books to children every month from birth to age five. Through this program, every child under the age of five in Josephine County is qualified to receive a book by mail, at no cost to the families, every month until their fifth birthday!

Children in Josephine County can register for *free* thanks to the Rotary clubs, AllCare Health, and Josephine County Library Foundation.

Here's how:

1. Stop by your nearest library branch in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, or Wolf Creek and fill out a paper registration form, or
2. Visit josephinelibrary.org and fill out the online registration form.

The first book every child receives is *The Little Engine That Could*, Dolly Parton's favorite book. The message of the book is timeless, encouraging children to never give up, do their best, and stay positive no matter what. This program is free—your only obligation is to notify the library in case of an address change.

Sponsors of this program include AllCare Health, Hart Insurance, Josephine County Library Foundation, Oregon Pacific Financial Advisors, Inc., the four Rotary clubs in Josephine County, and Welch Investment Group, LLC. For more information, contact partnership manager Rebecca Stoltz at the library at 541-476-0571 x 108 or rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org.



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NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— A Greater Applegate —

What are the values of the Applegate Valley?

I recently came across the Oregon Values and Beliefs Project, an effort to determine if Oregon has a guiding set of values and beliefs and a way for the study's authors to share with policymakers what "regular Oregonians...feel about the most fundamental issues of the day." The study, now a few years old, is still considered the most comprehensive survey of Oregonians. You can check it out at oregonvaluesproject.org.

I was immediately struck by the idea of an Oregon Values and Beliefs-type project for the Applegate Valley because I have similar questions. What does it mean to be a resident of the Applegate Valley? Do we have a guiding set of values and beliefs? If so, how valuable would it be to share them with each other and with the people who make decisions about us?

The nonprofit A Greater Applegate is interested in these questions. We hope you are, too, but we need your help! We have been circulating a Community Survey to better understand the issues you are concerned about and are willing to put energy into addressing. The deadline for completing this survey is Sunday, September 9. It is available on our "under-construction" website at gacdc.org and on applegateconnect.org.

Cantrall Buckley Park Golden Jubilee

The Cantrall Park Golden Jubilee on July 14 was a wonderful community event shared by about 1,000 people. Many of the community groups, businesses, and artists of this area were present as vendors and exhibitors, and it gave us another opportunity to show who we are as an Applegate Valley community in one of our most lovely settings.

Networking

If you are a nonprofit organization working in the Applegate Valley, you should have been invited to our Nonprofit Networking event in June and received our nonprofit survey. The event was a great success, with about 40 people from two dozen organizations attending. We will be building on that success in the coming months with help from a newly formed Steering Committee.

We ask that all local nonprofit organizations in the Applegate Valley complete the survey, which will enable us to present a snapshot of the Applegate Valley nonprofit community in a future *Applegater*. It will be valuable to understand the size and scope of the local nonprofit sector, common issues and opportunities, and how we can grow and prosper in service to the Applegate Valley. If you are a nonprofit and have

not received the survey, please contact us at agreaterapplegate@gmail.com. If you already have the survey, please complete and return it. We will share the results with you.

We are planning other efforts to better understand and support the Applegate Valley through a Local Business Network and Neighborhood Network. If you are interested in helping us with outreach and networking or want to contribute in other ways to A Greater Applegate, please contact me at sethkaplanconsulting@gmail.com or the organization at agreaterapplegate@gmail.com.

And now...what are the values and beliefs of Oregonians? Well...

- Far and away, Oregonians think K-12 education is most important, with 81 percent feeling strongly that government should fund quality education.
- More than three-fourths of Oregonians think wellness and healthy living should replace treatment of illness as the primary focus of the healthcare industry.
- The vast majority of Oregonians value the state's beauty and environmental qualities and prefer economic policies that recognize the importance of the natural environment.
- Oregonians greatly value farms and forestland and want to preserve them, preferring growth to stay in cities rather than spreading into rural areas.
- Almost 90 percent of Oregonians think taxes are necessary to pay for the common good; yet almost two-thirds think government is wasteful and inefficient and can't be trusted to make good decisions.
- More than 70 percent of us think climate change requires us to change our way of life, such as driving less or living more simply.

While there are some differences in rural and urban areas, more than half of respondents across all parts of Oregon share these values:

- Productive farm and forestland should be protected from development.
- Personal income taxes are too high, and change is needed in Oregon's tax system.
- Money is needed to ensure children have access to nutritious food at school.
- Money is needed to create greater access to mental health services.

So what do you think? What are the issues and projects that are important to you? We want to know!

Seth Kaplan
Chairperson, Board of Directors
A Greater Applegate
sethkaplanconsulting@gmail.com

— McKee Bridge Historical Society —

Despite the threat of rain, which never materialized, the 2018 McKee Bridge Celebration was a huge success. The Old Time Fiddlers provided two hours of foot-stomping music to enjoy while visitors roamed through the vendor booths or chomped on tasty tri-tip sandwiches cooked up by Applegate Lions Club members. There were wool-spinning and embroidery demonstrations, as well as pine-needle basketmakers and jewelry makers and other artists selling their wares on the bridge. Pies and cookies flew out of the bake sale at a fast pace. There were old steam and gas engines on display next to some fine old automobiles brought by the Stray Cats Car Club.

Of course, none of this could have happened without the generous donations of time, energy, goods, and money by our volunteers and members. Many thanks to all who came forward to help, including our newest members. We welcomed about 20 new members to the group from our membership drive.

The \$300 membership raffle, open to all who renewed their membership or became new members, was won by Upper Applegate resident Gary Katz, who then graciously donated the prize money back to McKee Bridge Historical Society. Congratulations and thanks to Gary for displaying that wonderful Applegate

spirit of giving. (Anyone else similarly afflicted is welcome to send donations of any amount, at any time, to MBHS, PO Box 854, Jacksonville, OR 97530.)

In the nearly 20 years since the McKee Bridge Historical Society was formed, the bylaws of the organization have not properly reflected how members could be involved in voting on candidates to the board or on issues brought forth by the board. After being prodded by the Oregon Department of Justice to make changes to the bylaws, we can now say that all members of the organization can now nominate candidates to the board and vote on candidates for office and on changes to the bylaws at our annual meetings in September. (This year, our meeting is on Saturday, September 8.)

Members are encouraged to be active, attend meetings of the board, and vote on issues that the board determines require a vote of the entire membership. We are open to as much member participation as possible, especially now that participation includes a chance to vote as mentioned above. If you're interested in making your vote count or in being a board member, let us know.

Paul Tipton • 541-846-7501
President, McKee Bridge
Historical Society
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com

— Pacifica —

Summer update

How great it was to have sixth graders from Applegate and Lincoln Savage schools attend Pacifica's Outdoor School last May! We enjoyed their visits as much as they did and are looking forward to many more. Outdoor School, though a challenge, was an awesome success.

On the other end of the spectrum: It's very early, but the next *Applegater* will come out too late to remind you about the much-loved Winter Arts Fest. We had over 30 vendors and 12 groups of musicians last year. This year's Winter Fest is on Saturday (and maybe Sunday?), December 1, from 10 am - 4 pm. Don't miss it!

Despite our hot and smoky summer, we kept plugging along on various projects.

The new Caterpillar now has a new coat (see photo below) and will be traveling to schools this fall and next spring with an exciting earth science program on Water, Rocks, and Soil...so incredibly important to us all.

Lots of kids had a great time at a variety of summer camps. The picture above is from music camp. These kids are going to be on the music charts next time you look! Thanks to Indigo and Joe for making a real recording of their efforts.

In addition to the Pond House, the Cedar Apartment is now available to rent for friends and visitors. This is the apartment rock musician Steve Miller built for his "roadies." Now decorated with art prints, it has several conversation



Summer music camp at Pacifica.

areas, a full kitchen, large bathroom, TV, etc., and sleeps six. It costs less than the Pond House and has great ambiance.

And, speaking of Steve Miller, Indigo and Joe have been working hard on getting the recording studio up to speed again for recording by community groups and others. Call 541-415-0545 for availability. Rates are \$20 per hour for the use of this extraordinary room. Engineer fees are additional, depending on the engineer, and start at \$20 per hour.

We're ever closer to building the long-awaited restrooms to serve Cedar Center guests. We have about half of the money needed and are hopeful that, with community support, we can raise the remaining amount by the end of the year. If you would like to be a commemorated (as well as appreciated) sponsor or donor, please call Peg at 541-660-4295.

Work is progressing, though more slowly than hoped because of the heat, on several new gardens.

That's Pacifica's summer update. Give a call if you'd like to volunteer to join the fun. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you!

Peg Prag • 541-846-1100
peg@pacificagarden.org



★ Free Community Website ★

- Calendar of Events
- Community Projects
- Directory of Organizations
- News and Stories

Coming soon: Watch for the
new Volunteer section!

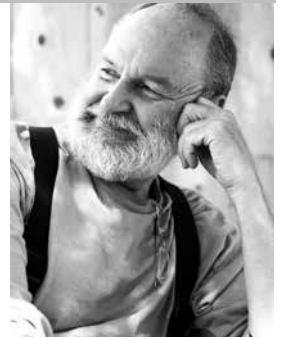
Applegate Valley Connect
applegateconnect.org

Nonprofit organizations in the Applegate Valley are welcome to submit news and event information to the *Applegater*. Email gater@applegater.org.

THE STARRY SIDE

The amazing sun

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

My screen saver, called EarthDesk, shows a big chunk of the earth with Oregon in the middle and the sun at the bottom, slowly moving along during the day. When I see that image on, say, the tip of Baja, I know that when I look at the sun (or near it—never really look at the sun), I’m looking as far away as Baja. When it’s near Hawaii, I’m seeing that far around our planet to a parallel line up from the earth to the sun in Hawaii. I’m looking at Hawaii’s sun! I sense the curvature of the earth and the distances. I’m an artist, and all things visual attract me, but the sun is pretty amazing to anyone.

The sun is 99.8 percent of the whole mass of the solar system! (We’re just a tiny .0 something.) Without the sun there would be nothing but empty space here. The sun’s huge furnace of nuclear fusion creates tremendous outward forces, while its colossal inward-pulling gravity keeps all of us and the planets (and more!) in place.

The sun is the trigger for photosynthesis, which makes the whole plant kingdom possible and directly or indirectly feeds all the rest of us.

Interestingly, the sun and moon may look the same size in our sky, but they are far from equal! Their sizes differ by 400 times, but their distances from us are 400 times different, so they balance out perfectly. (The moon, however, is slowly retreating from us by over a

quarter of an inch a year. It could fly off any minute! No, no, just kidding.)

Our distance to the sun couldn’t be more fortuitous—it keeps earth from suffering the too hot or too cold temperatures of most other planets.

The sun puts off more than heat and light. Charged particles from its invisible solar winds, filled with electrons and protons when they hit our atmosphere, cause the aurora borealis at the poles—another amazing artistic attraction. These solar winds also cause the tails on comets.

Other effects of the sun appeal to my artistic leanings. A total solar eclipse—which blocks the sun more notably, dramatically, and rarely than do houses, a hand, nighttime, clouds, or storms—allows me to experience the sun’s chromosphere, the corona. And

I’m a big fan of sunrises and sunsets, too, with all their colors and shapes and sometimes crepuscular rays coming off clouds.

Also, the sun pours down more than enough potential solar electric power to satisfy all our needs a couple of times over, I understand. So it’s a great gift awaiting exploration.

Our whole sense of time comes from the steady, dependable, constant, and faithful rise and fall of the sun. But our seasons come from our off-center rotation (about 23 degrees) as we go around the sun. Actually, the sun doesn’t move across our sky at all—we rotate, and it just looks as if it does. We are the ones moving through all that sky and everything in it.

Hopefully the sun will last for the foreseeable future (like for our great-

grandkids, right?). The sun is 4.5 billion years old and has burned only about half its fuel, so another four or so billion years should be plenty for us, even into our unforeseen or unimaginable future.

Is that enough to say about the sun? Is it amazing enough for you?

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

Greeley’s Sky Calendar

Mars was at its brightest in August, but it’s about to fade, so get outside. Look south just below Sagittarius or the teapot. On September 1, that’s Saturn above Sagittarius and Mars below it, very close to the horizon line. If you’ve got mountains, like I do, you’ll have to find another spot to see low in the south. But it will be worth it, especially for you nutcases like me!

Venus still graces the sunset. It’s dropping, but still the brightest in the sky after the moon.

The Equinox is on September 23.

The summer triangle (Vega, Deneb, and Altair), with the Milky Way going through it north to south, still dominates the sky as we fade into fall, starting overhead and making its way west. Even in winter some of it, like the Northern Cross, shows up on the western horizon.

Crepuscular rays from the sun (pexels.com).



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Post-harvest vineyard operations and preparing for 2019

BY DR. ALEXANDER LEVIN

As the growing season draws to a close, the tasks left to do in the vineyard and their relative impact on fruit quality lessen. Usually we are simply waiting for the fruit to ripen to the standards set by the purchasing winery. We might make picking decisions based on little more than logistical issues like tank space in the winery or the availability of picking crews.

This can be a time of anxiety for the wine-grape grower, whose risk increases with the likelihood of adverse late-season weather. Once the fruit is harvested, what is left to do in the vineyard?

Post-harvest irrigation

After harvest, the traditional practice is for growers to irrigate deeply to “put the vines to bed wet.” Occasionally, fertilizers are added at this time. But post-harvest irrigation has been linked to late-season root flushes and increased carbohydrate storage. While there is some physiological basis for this practice, it originated from other growing regions and may be less useful for ours. As we learn more about post-harvest vine physiology, we have seen that (1) no more new roots grow in autumn than do throughout the growing season (i.e., roots grow all season long), (2) most carbohydrate storage occurs prior to harvest, (3) the impact of post-harvest fertilization is significantly less than early season fertilization—plus there is an increased risk of leaching nutrients below the rootzone and into streams and waterways, and (4) vines use less water when they don't have fruit.

Nevertheless, there is definite value to keeping the canopy alive for as long as possible, because there still is *some* uptake of nutrients, *some* root growth, and *some* storage of carbohydrates. But if we consider the amount of time left in the growing season and the ever-shortening day length, we can easily see that there isn't much going on in mid-October compared to mid-August. Vines need to take up water to obtain nutrients and continue to function, but they simply aren't using that much water late in the season. For example, mature grapevines grown in the Applegate Valley will use only 25 gallons per vine in all of October compared to more than 70 in all of August. Also, those numbers reflect what is needed

to keep vines fully irrigated. Irrigating less than is required can help vines enter dormancy earlier, thus keeping them more tolerant of early winter freezes. This practice can actually promote a more even budbreak the following spring. Moreover, factoring in October rainfall may remove the need to irrigate at the end of the season altogether. Clearly, irrigating more than is required is a waste of water and can leach nutrients and potentially prevent vines from hardening off completely.

Plan for next year

It's no secret that there is tension between growers and winemakers. But one of the things I always tell wine-grape growers is to have an open line of communication with their winemaker. What? Listen to the winemaker?! Blasphemy! Honestly, I will be the first to admit that I like to give winemakers a hard time, particularly when they start to explain to me about how grapevines grow. However, since we may not be involved as deeply in the winemaking, perhaps we should do a better job of listening to their comments on the resultant wine. After all, we aren't growing table grapes here, and the ultimate destination and purpose for our fruit is to be made into wine. Most importantly, that is the *business* end of the business. This is a team game, and there is no better way to improve your viticulture than discussing the results of the previous year with the winemaker.

Concomitantly, this is why it is important to keep good records of all of your practices. Did you fertilize? Did you irrigate? If yes, when and how much? Were your cultural practices dependent on cultivar or did you farm everything the same? When you sit down to taste your wines with the winemaker, having these records can help to orient you both and allow for a better interpretation of the season as it was. In the end, it will inform your practice going forward by giving you a sense of what worked and what didn't work. In this way we can begin farming with more intention rather than just to grow some fruit.

Dr. Alexander D. Levin
Viticulturist and Assistant Professor
Department of Horticulture and
Southern Oregon Research and
Extension Center, OSU
alexander.levin@oregonstate.edu

DON'T MISS THESE ONLINE ARTICLES!

- Pele's Lava essay, by Greeley Wells
- Smoke-tainted grapes explained, by Greg Paneitz
- Stories on the Land, excerpt 5, by Diana Coogle



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••• BIZBITS •••

Apple Outlaw Cidery and Orchard. Visit Apple Outlaw at the Grants Pass Growers' Market on Saturdays from 9 am - 1 pm and at Pacifica every month or so. On October 14, Pacifica will feature Apple Outlaw ciders and gypsy music by Dayton. Fall is harvest time in the orchard and time for pressing 750 to 1,200 gallons of cider each week through November. More than 18 varieties of cider will be brewed. Check out the Cider Club and event calendar online at appleoutlaw.com and their Facebook page. 541-846-1718.

•••

Applegate Country Club. Every Monday night through December 17, Applegate Country Club (ACC) hosts a community dinner and poker game, which raises funds for a community member who needs a hand. Dinner, always \$10 a plate, starts at 6 pm. The professionally managed poker game starts at 7 pm. There is a \$25 buy-in and folks are asked to register before the Monday event. All the details can be found on the ACC website under “Events” at applegatecountryclub.com. Open Wednesday - Sunday, 12 - 9 pm • 15090 Highway 238, Applegate.

•••

Apricity Vineyard is poised to open the first estate winery tasting room in the lower Applegate. The renovation, which includes eco-friendly hempcrete walls, is nearing completion. The vineyard, planted in 2014, is Certified Naturally Grown and managed with a focus on natural agriculture. The first estate vintages (2016) are in bottles, and the table white, named Runner White, is available now at Urban Cork in Medford. The full 2016 lineup will be released soon. Family owned and operated Apricity Vineyard is west of Grants Pass at 5719 Jerome Prairie Road • apricityvineyard.com.

•••

Barbie's Bling Shack. This upscale resale store opened in April in downtown Applegate, right next to the Applegate Store. In addition to high quality clothes, shoes, and fashion accessories, sisters Marcia and Barbara also offer home decor and unique framed art, featuring the work of Oregon artist Kim Virgin. The Shack is open Thursday - Sunday, noon - 4 pm, and by appointment. 15095 Highway 238, Applegate • barbiesblingshack.com • [facebook.com/barbiesblingshack](https://www.facebook.com/barbiesblingshack) • medford.craigslist.org/clo/d/barbies-bling-shack/6634757663.html.

•••

Salon 238. Ready to try a new do? Salon 238's owner and stylist, Sandy Reynolds, is offering half-price haircuts to new customers every Thursday in September. Located in the Sunshine Plaza in the heart of Ruch, the full-service salon is now open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 9 am - 3 pm. Call 541-899-7660 for an appointment. Find Salon 238 on Facebook and at 7390 Highway 238, Ruch.

•••

Vinfarm. Wooldridge Creek Winery has opened a new Grants Pass tasting room focused on wine flights and cheese and charcuterie made by the Wooldridge team. Open daily from 11 am - 6 pm. 111 SE G Street, Suite A, Grants Pass • 541-226-2664 • [facebook.com/vinfarmgp](https://www.facebook.com/vinfarmgp).

•••

Whistling Duck Farm Store owners, Vince and Mary Alionis, are ready to launch their new e-newsletter, which will feature stories from the farm and information about food and farming. Sign up to receive the farm newsletter at whistlingduckfarm.com. Stop by the farm store and check out the great variety of offerings, from fresh produce to cookie dough to curly kraut from the Farmstead Fermentaria and much more. Open Monday - Friday, 10 am - 7 pm, and Saturday - Sunday, 11 am - 6 pm. Winter hours begin November 15. 12800 Williams Highway, Provolt • 541-761-6772.

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Email gater@applegater.org.

mark your calendars...

Every Monday - Game Night 6PM
1st & 3rd Wed. - Open Mic Night 6PM
Every Sunday - Rib Night 5PM

Every Thursday Night - Block Party
1st Thursday - Humbug Creek Road
2nd Thursday - Thompson Creek, Brown Rd
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Are you burning in the wind?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

I haven't lived in a lot of different places in my life. Three states, maybe half a dozen homes. But ever since the first day my husband and I saw our piece of raw Applegate land in the early 1990s, it has always felt like home.

Do you feel the same about your property? I think there is something special and different about our valley, something that is hard to define. Who does the Applegate Valley belong to? With parts of our watershed in two states and three counties, there's not a slam-dunk answer.

We don't have any "government" entity out here, such as a county seat or a capital city or even a mayor! (Yes, I know that on one Saturday in May, someone is afforded the title "Mayor of Buncom," but that's as close as the Applegate comes to government.)

Most of the time I appreciate the lack of city politics, even when we sometimes get campaign mail from

both counties during voting season. However, we do have the important stuff—a few good schools for the kids and two great fire districts (Applegate Valley and Williams) that provide us with fire protection and medical care.

As far as communications across our valley, we residents have created some effective means of sharing information, keeping in touch, alerting neighbors: phone trees, email lists, neighborhood bulletin boards, websites like applegateconnect.org, and the *Applegater!* (What did I miss?) But if you know me, you know that I'm always looking for a new way to communicate with both our rural residents and our valley's visitors.

So, when we Shaffers were driving through Coos County a few months ago, I happened to notice a couple of enticingly written signs about being careful with fire. The messages were: "Is It Safe to Burn?" and "Are You Burning

in the Wind?" I quickly found some paper to scribble down those messages.

These signs were directly targeted at the private landowner! I loved that they were more creative and personal than the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) signs that read "Fire Season in Effect—Debris Burning Is Prohibited."

At first I was confused as to how coastal Coos County could be in "fire season" earlier in the year than our Jackson-Josephine county area, but then I realized that these were not ODF's work but were put up by the Coos Forest Protective Association. "Very cool," I thought; year-round fire safety messages. We can do that!

Applegaters are special. We're smart, savvy, passionately involved in our community, and we love our land. So we take care of our land, all year long. (And if you haven't heard this before, firefighters from around the country who come here to work when we have a large wildfire are *always* pleasantly surprised—and appreciative—of how defensible our homes are!)

However, because our valley is so special, we continually have new

folks buying property and moving out here. If they're like we were when we moved to "cool, green Oregon," they are unaware of the fire danger (as are the tourists who visit the Applegate for our wineries, rivers, hiking trails, and parks!).

This is why I continue to write and talk about fire safety and regulations in our fire-prone valley. I never know when someone will notice a sign or read my article for the first time and decide to talk to our Applegate fire chief about living safely on their land.

So I'm going to look into this concept of having relevant messages posted year-round in the Applegate. It could be a bit of work to get organized.

Maybe I can get the volunteer firefighters to help me change out messages in their various corners of the valley? And I wonder if the ODF folks would let us use their signboards during the non-fire season parts of the year...

Let me know what you think!

And be safe during this fire season, my friends.

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneor@gmail.com

■ CLEAR SKIES

Continued from page 1

Rogue and Applegate valleys. Joe said, "We've seen a huge impact on summer tourism from the smoke," which has increased over the past several years. This summer the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality reported Applegate air quality as "hazardous" at times due to smoke.

Smoke taint that affects wine quality is becoming a growing problem for southern Oregon vintners, as it is for California winemakers. Ash sticks to grape skin and seeps into the flesh, particularly affecting thin-skinned

varietals. "Unfortunately, smoke taint usually shows its ugly face after the wine is bottled," Joe said.

Although methods have been developed to screen grapes for the risk of smoke taint before processing, Joe said all vine tenders can do while the berries are growing "is pray."

Weeding problems

Another challenge for Applegate Valley viticulture, Joe said, is the surge, since legalization of recreational marijuana in 2015, of commercial cannabis growers.

Too many marijuana growers operate without obtaining water rights, Joe said, and currently water restrictions are not well enforced. He said weed growers use around 192,000 gallons of water per acre each season, a practice that exacerbates water shortages resulting from warming trends and less snow melt. Joe admits pot sales have been good for the local

economy, "but if pot growers want to be farmers, they need to go by the rules," he says.

No place to stay

A third challenge for local winemakers is lodging for tourists. Although the Rogue Valley and Grants Pass have plenty of hotels and campgrounds close to Interstate 5, more guest lodgings are needed closer to wineries off the beaten path, as in the Applegate.

Joe considers the Applegate Valley the jewel of the Rogue region. "We have one of the highest concentrations of rural wineries in the US—*Sunset* magazine called it 'wine country as it should be,'" Joe said. "If visitors had someplace to stay nearby, they could spend more time exploring the wineries, the organic produce—everything the Applegate Valley has to offer."

Looking forward

In order to make the Rogue Valley wine appellation indicative of a premiere wine region, it will be essential, Joe said, for area vintners and community partners to create and implement a shared vision, not just promote

themselves individually. It's equally important, he said, for the Rogue Valley AVA to distinguish itself from other southern Oregon wine regions.

Toward this mission, Rogue Valley Vintners (RVV) was formed in May 2018 with dual goals: first, to work together to attract travelers to the Rogue Valley, where RVV can provide a distinctive wine and culinary experience, and, second, to raise awareness about the quality of wines produced in the Rogue Valley.

So far, RVV has elected officers and a board of directors, hired a marketing and business consultant, and established bylaws. More information about RVV is available on its website at RVV.wine.

"This is quite an exciting movement," said Joe, who is one of eight members on the RVV board. "Developing a strategic plan that projects a unified voice for Rogue Valley vintners will take this region to the next level of greatness."

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■ HEMP CULTIVATION

Continued from page 1

For many, growing marijuana was the new gold rush. The Applegate, with its ideal climate, ample farmland, and skilled agricultural workforce, was well positioned to ride this economic high. But the simultaneous convergence of multiple pot grows, long lead times in the dispensary licensing process, and a market glut of recreational cannabis left many growers rethinking their grow strategy. Maybe hemp would be a better crop.

Data from the *Hemp Business Journal* (2017) shows that industrial hemp in the US, which is used for multiple products, had annual sales of \$820 million. The prediction is for the market to continue to grow at double-digit rates to nearly \$2 billion by 2022 as discerning consumers continue to shift their shopping preferences to companies and products offering more environmentally sound and sustainable options. Continued education about hemp and its difference from marijuana further fuels the optimism surrounding the potential market growth.

Industrial hemp, grown primarily for cannabidiol (CBD) and its fiber, is managed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) under the "Right to Farm" law. Unlike its cannabis cousin,

which is produced for its high THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) content and regulated under the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, industrial hemp cannot have THC content exceeding 0.3 percent. Its target market is very different and much broader than the far more limited medicinal and recreational cannabis market.

Hemp has use in more than 25,000 commercial and industrial products and applications, including traditional uses like textiles, cloths, fiber, food, nutrition, oils, lotions, and rope as well as more recent applications in chemicals, biofuels, oil absorbents, soil amendments, weed control, building materials, water and soil purification and, of course, medicines for a wide range of ailments.

Hemp is increasingly being used as an attractive replacement material, offering a lower cost, higher yield, and more ecologically friendly option. As farmers continue to focus on sustainable agricultural practices and economically viable operations, and as consumers demand more environmentally conscious products, hemp grows are likely to increase.

Jackson County, Oregon's top industrial hemp producer with 124 registered industrial grows, and Josephine County, with 56, have over 600 acres of fields in hemp. ODA predicts

registrations are likely to double in the near future.

Kit Doyle, at the Murphy Hemp Company, in Murphy, Oregon, is happy to explain hemp and the numerous medical benefits believed to be derived from cannabinoids, without the side effects often associated with other more conventional drug therapies.

Although hemp sounds good as an Applegate crop, many residents have concerns about the proliferation of hemp grows. Existing marijuana growers, for instance, might have cause to worry about hemp contamination of their carefully cultivated unpollinated female cannabis.

These diverse opinions and farming objectives and concerns all encourage an ongoing exchange of points of view and a move toward education, understanding, collaboration, cooperation, consensus, guidelines, and regulations.

Cathy Rodgers
cathyrodgers55@gmail.com



Hemp fields along Highway 238 between Ruch and Applegate. Photo: Cathy Rodgers.

Luke Doyle plants new hemp starts using a water wheel planter at Murphy Hemp Company. Photo: Kit Doyle.



Real estate: Navigating 'For Sale by Owner' properties

BY JEANNE SCHATTLER

If you have been searching for property or a new home, you most likely have come across listings that are "For Sale by Owner" or FSBO. This is when a seller doesn't use a real estate professional. A buyer's concern should be whether this transaction will be handled correctly and legally.

Most people selling on their own are happy to work with a buyer's agent, who can help prepare an offer to the buyer's advantage and help negotiate without the emotions of dealing with the seller directly. Sellers usually don't understand true market value and oftentimes overvalue their homes.

A buyer's agent can educate buyers about current market values by providing comparables, which show the sold price and include real estate commissions for both sides (the buyer's agent and the listing agent). The FSBO seller doesn't have to pay commissions (typically five to six percent), so nets more. When we look at the sold properties in our market, we take real estate commission into consideration to help make sure that a buyer doesn't overpay.

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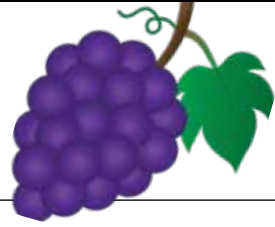
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GRAPE TALK

Education of a wine taster



BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON



Debbie Tollefson

When I first became interested in wine, in the 1970s, my husband and I joined wine groups and went to vertical tastings and wine education seminars. I found the information daunting, but I learned that understanding your motivation helps you know how far down the wine rabbit hole you need to go. If you want to be a sommelier, your education is vastly different from that of a wine lover who just doesn't want to seem clueless when ordering from a wine list.

The first step for the wine lover's education is to know the process of wine tasting. First look at the wine. Note the color and hue, then the clarity and opacity. If you see a lot of sediment, the wine needs to be decanted to separate it from the sediment.

Then slowly swirl the wine in the glass to release the aromatic compounds, and note the viscosity of the wine. Fluid streaks, called "legs" or "tears," running down the glass show that the wine has higher surface tension (viscosity). This

may indicate higher alcohol content or higher residual sugar.

Next tilt the glass and note the smell. What aromas are you picking up? Citrus, tobacco, and vanilla are frequently present. Do you smell any "off" aromas? If a white wine is more brown than yellow, it may be past its prime. You might also get a wine with an acidic aroma or a sulfite smell. Make notes of these so you remember.

Now take a large sip and hold it in your mouth. Then either spit it out or swallow it and take a few smaller sips while trying to identify primary flavors and traits. Is the wine sweet? Is it acidic? Is it high in alcohol? Can you taste tannin (tastes like sucking on a tea bag)? Every taster has a personal preference. Many taste preferences are genetic and depend on how sensitive to specific tastes you are. The more taste buds you have, the more you will want a delicate smooth-tasting wine with less tannin. Fewer taste buds allow the taster to enjoy the most intense tannin wines.

For the initial part of your wine education, try many different kinds of wine, from sparkling to full-bodied reds and everything in between. Make tasting notes about each kind. Since we have so many great wineries in our valley, make the challenge fun by doing tasting flights at local wineries. Take notes!

Many people believe it's impossible to identify a particular wine just by tasting it, but in 1984 a friend, Fred Dame, went to France to take the rigorous Master Sommelier Examination. We were confident he knew his wine, but he surprised us by being the first person to pass all three parts of the exam on his first try. He also identified two of the wines in the identification portion without tasting them. Fred didn't have degrees, and he started his career as a busboy. He learned wines by tasting, and he became one of the most respected Master Sommeliers in the world. His story is told in *Somm*, a documentary about wine sommeliers.

After you have determined what kinds of wine you like, try some wines from different countries. Start with France, Spain, and Italy, then add Australia, Argentina, and Germany. Also try wines from different parts of the

US. If you like pinot noir, for example, try Washington state or upstate New York.

California produces many different varietals and has some of the best chardonnays in the world. If you like light whites, you will find that Michigan produces outstanding pinot gris and riesling, and Virginia and Texas also make some good white wines.

Challenge your taste buds with wines from the Willamette and Umpqua valleys, and then compare them with our great southern Oregon wines.

Take notes whenever you can. I have a small notebook that I take notes in when I am tasting a new wine. I also always try to get the label off the bottle. If it's impossible to get off, I might ask the winery if it has loose copies of its labels that I can have. If you can't get the label, take down the information.

To further your education, you might want to take some classes offered at the Oregon Wine University. Visit theoregonwineexperience.com for more information.

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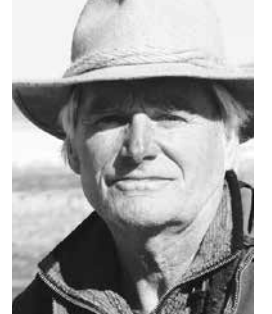
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BIRD EXPLORER



Peter J. Thiemann

The fledging of Great Gray Owls

BY PETER J. THIEMANN

This is a story of some Great Gray Owls that I have known for five years now. This year they switched from a known nest to a different one, but not far away. The viewing angle at the new nest was not very good because trees blocked the way and I couldn't get high enough to get a good look inside.

Nevertheless, the female owl could be observed, though often barely visible on the nest. Late in the nesting season we were able to see that she had two owlets, one about a week older than the other.

I had observed the fledging of Great Gray Owls in previous years and knew that this is the most stressful phase of a

young owl's life. Great Gray Owls jump out of their nests not knowing how to fly. They glide down, flapping their wings to break the fall, often landing in tree branches or on the forest floor. This is when they are the most vulnerable, as predators can pick them up for a quick meal.

We have learned to help the owls a little by installing some climbing snags at a 45-degree angle near their landing zone. We put up several of those climbing snags this year to help the owlets get back up quickly to avoid danger. A year ago I had observed one owlet actually jumping from the nest, but could not find it anywhere. Not

wanting to interfere with the owls' lives then, I gave up looking.

The timing of a visit to the owls' nest to observe fledging is tricky—the estimated date of hatching is inaccurate, at best. So we were in luck one day in June when we arrived shortly after the actual jump.

We found one owlet sitting motionless on a very short broken tree stump on the forest floor and calmly staring at us. We immediately retreated to the nest a short distance away. Not more than a half hour later, the male Great Gray Owl delivered a vole to the waiting adult female and remaining owlet in the nest. What a sight! But it

got even better when the fledged owlet came stumbling along on the forest floor toward the climbing snags that we had put up over a month before.

Can you believe the joy we experienced when that little owl chose one of our snags to climb about 15 feet using its talons and beak? The photos tell the story—a “*National Geographic* moment.”

Peter J. Thiemann

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Photos courtesy of Peter J. Thiemann flicker photo stream.



Is it really a monarch?

BY LINDA KAPPEN

As of this writing in late July, the northward spring migration of the monarch butterfly has passed for 2018. This has been a troubling year for the lower numbers of monarchs migrating in the Pacific Northwest. In fairly normal years Washington state would see the monarch by the first week of June. But this year, the first confirmed sighting in Washington was June 20.

Situations for the monarch this past spring delayed its spring migration from central California overwintering sites. Some contributing factors were that the overwintering population had lower numbers, the first generation of monarchs were late to develop due to a cooler spring, and milkweed plants were not completely out of the ground in some locations at the time of migration. These and possibly additional reasons resulted in less optimal conditions for the spring migration window.

Reports from the public help scientists figure out when and where the monarchs will show up. There is a new butterfly mapping site (see last paragraph for more information) for the public to report monarchs by submitting a photograph or a detailed description—the only sure ways to tell if a monarch has been sighted. Believe me, I had to explain myself to a reporting site once because I did not have a photo.

In late June, monarchs typically stay where they are and reproduce. Then, usually starting in mid-August, September, and sometimes the beginning of October, monarchs will begin their fall migration to overwintering sites on the central California coast.

Many times people will report a sighting of a monarch when, in fact, it is

a different butterfly species. The photos on this page show the differences between the two most common butterflies mistaken for monarchs: the Western Tiger Swallowtail and the California Tortoiseshell.

Western Tiger Swallowtail

The Western Tiger Swallowtail is having a very successful year with many of them being seen in the Pacific Northwest. This swallowtail is bright yellow with black borders and tiger stripes on the wings. Its 3.5- to 5-inch wingspan makes it larger than the monarch, and the wing shape differs from a monarch's. The Western Tiger Swallowtail does not migrate.

California Tortoiseshell

The California Tortoiseshell is again having a burst in population this year as it did in 2017. It can be seen at high-elevation mountain passes in very large numbers as it migrates north, then south again in August and September.

Some will overwinter here as adults (for more information, you can read my article about this butterfly in the summer 2017 *Applegater*). In the photo to the right, look at the differences in the wing shape and size. The California Tortoiseshell is more of a russet to orange color with a black border and black spots on the wings. It is smaller than a monarch.

Monarch

The monarch butterfly is large, reaching a 3+-inch wingspan. It is a deep orange color with black borders and veins. Within the borders are two rows of white dots. Its head and thorax are black with white polka dots. Looking at these photos side by side really shows the differences.

As fall migration nears, monarch reports need to be as accurate as



Monarch

possible. If you have a chance to photograph a monarch to report, please do so. If the monarch has a tag, a photo is best, but if you are without a camera and can clearly see the letter and number of the tag, try to memorize them or write them down. Tags are to be reported to the email address on the tag.



Western Tiger Swallowtail



California Tortoiseshell

Many citizen scientists report sightings of eggs, caterpillars, and adult monarchs, including overwintered tagged monarchs in California. Many also help with conservation projects and plant milkweed on their properties or in their backyards

Monarch sightings during fall or spring migration can be reported at any time to a new online tool for tracking the western monarch—visit monarchmilkweedmapper.org. Also, messages sent to the Facebook pages of two monarch sites, Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates and Monarch

Butterflies in the Pacific Northwest, are much appreciated as well and are a quick way to get the word out.

Linda Kappen

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Butterfly photos by Linda Kappen.

Special ecological areas in the Applegate

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Applegaters are proud of the fact that our valley is located in the Siskiyou Mountains, a mountain range known for its world-class biodiversity. Many areas of the Applegate portion of the Siskiyou Mountains have an official designation because of their special ecological and social values.

Further your discovery of what makes the Applegate unique and explore some of the Applegate's special ecological areas. Below is a select compilation of officially designated areas within the Applegate Watershed that you can explore. Except for the Red Buttes Wilderness, most of these official designations provide only limited protection.

Botanical Areas (US Forest Service)

A Botanical Area is an area that contains rare plants or unique plant communities that are significant because of their occurrence, habitat, location, life history, arrangement, ecology, rarity, or other features.

- Big Red Mountain Botanical Area
- McDonald Peak Botanical Area
- Dutchman's Peak Botanical Area
- Observation Peak Botanical Area
- Lyman Creek/Doe Hollow Botanical Area
- Scraggy Mountain Botanical Area
- White Mountain Botanical Area
- Cook and Green Botanical Area
- Whisky Peak Botanical Area
- Hinkle Lake Botanical Area (see photo)
- Miller Lake Botanical Area
- Grayback Mountain Botanical Area

Inventoried Roadless Areas (US Forest Service)

The 2001 Roadless Rule established prohibitions on road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting on 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands. The intent of the 2001

Roadless Rule is to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.

- Collings-Kinney Roadless Area
- Little Grayback Roadless Area
- Condrey Mountain Roadless Area
- McDonald Peak Roadless Area
- Kangaroo Roadless Area

Backcountry Nonmotorized Areas (US Forest Service)

Backcountry Nonmotorized Areas provide semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation opportunities with low numbers of users. The areas are managed to provide remote and quiet recreation with little to no facilities.

- Grayback Mountain Nonmotorized Backcountry Area

Special Interest Areas (US Forest Service)

Special Interest Areas (SIA) are areas that should be managed principally for recreation use, substantially in their natural condition. They are managed for their unique scenic, geologic, historical, archaeological, botanical, cultural, or other memorable features.

- Condrey Mountain Special Interest Area

Research Natural Areas (US Forest Service)

A Research Natural Area (RNA) is defined as a physical or biological unit in which current natural conditions are maintained insofar as possible. These conditions are ordinarily achieved by allowing natural physical and biological processes to prevail without human intervention to provide a baseline against which human-caused changes elsewhere can be measured. RNAs are established specifically to preserve a representative example of an ecological community primarily for scientific and educational purposes.

- Oliver Mathews Research Natural Area



Hinkle Lake Botanical Area.

- Big Red Mountain Research Natural Area

Late Successional Reserves (US Forest Service)

The objective of Late-Successional Reserves (LSR) is to protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional and old-growth related species, including the northern spotted owl.

- Johnny O'Neil LSR

Wilderness (US Forest Service and BLM)

Excerpt from The Wilderness Act of 1964: "In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

- Red Buttes Wilderness

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (BLM)

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designations highlight areas where special management attention is needed to protect important historical, cultural,

and scenic values, or fish and wildlife or other natural resources.

- Sterling Mine Ditch Trail ACEC

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (BLM)

For an area to qualify as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC), it must possess sufficient size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

- Roundtop LWC
- Burton-Ninemile LWC

Important Bird Areas (Audubon Society)

- Siskiyou Crest IBA
- Anderson Butte-Sterling Ditch IBA
- China Gulch IBA

Roadless Areas (Uninventoried)

The following uninventoried roadless areas are not officially designated but are large, roadless tracts of land worthy of special status and protection.

- Elliott Ridge Roadless Area
- Boaz Mountain Roadless Area
- Buncom Roadless Area
- Dakubetede Roadless Area
- Wellington Butte Roadless Area
- Whisky Ridge Roadless Area
- Stricklin Butte Roadless Area

Suzie Savoie

Conservation Chair, Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon
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News from the park

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

This summer, on July 14, we had a wonderful fiftieth birthday celebration at Cantrall Buckley, our community's beautiful forested park, in commemoration of its dedication on July 14, 1968, as a Jackson County Park. Many thanks to all of you who attended.

Many people stopped by the park booth and met Mary Buckley Mikkelsen, a descendent of Lewis Buckley, who donated land for the park in 1965. Always eager to share her family's story, she will have a display about her family history at the Ruch Branch Library from September 25 through October 25.

Art in the Park

One of the most exciting enhancements to the park is the sculpture exhibit, Art in the Park, by metal artist Cheryl Garcia. Her first piece, a 12-foot-tall mock orange steel sculpture, will be installed in November of this year. By spring of 2020, she will install ten more pieces throughout the park. Local and surrounding community members and the Oregon Community Foundation have thrown their support behind this project. One of the sculptures has the distinction of being supported by multiple community members. Contact me if you would like to donate to this piece of art.

If you've taken a walk on the paths just south of the newly renovated restroom in the lower part of the park, you've seen three footbridges designed by Jackson County's first parks director, Neil Ledward. These footbridges were built after the park's land was purchased in the mid 1960s. In June, Cantrall Buckley Park volunteers Jerry Trottmann, Jeff Martin, Karin Barclay, and I replaced and stained the handrailings, which were worn or damaged from falling oak limbs in spring. When the smoky weather clears, other volunteers will return to restrain the original redwood pickets.

SOLVE Riverside Cleanup

On Saturday, September 29, we'll be working to remove the invasive Vinca vine, commonly called periwinkle. Save the date and join us at the park for a SOLVE (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) Riverside Cleanup from 9 am to 11:30 am. Families and individuals are welcome to help with general cleanup and opening up more natural habitat around the footbridges. They can also learn about the future revitalization of the turtle habitat. Contact me for more information or register for the event at solveoregon.org.

Another way to get involved is to join the team of community members who will build a large sundial in the solar educational area near the new solar array being built in August-September by True South Solar. This project is possible through the joint efforts of Pacific Power's Blue Sky grant, Jackson County Parks, and A Greater Applegate Park Enhancement Committee. Contact me if you are interested in being on the sundial team.

The Park Enhancement Committee is interested in knowing what you like to do at the park and what suggestions you have for future enhancements. We want to hear stories about your or your family's park experiences. You can contact us at janis.agapark@gmail.com. One of the committee's team members will respond. You could also complete A Greater Applegate's community survey on the Applegate Valley Connect website. Go to applegateconnect.org and click on "Projects."

Read our first story, from an avid and regular bird watcher and volunteer at Cantrall Buckley Park, on this page. Visit applegateconnect.org (click on "News and Stories") to read more of her story and see more photos.

Janis Mohr-Tipton
Chair, A Greater Applegate
Park Enhancement Committee
541-846-7501
janis.agapark@gmail.com

~ Bird Notes ~



Rufous Hummingbird poking lichen and spider silk into her nest at Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Anne Goff.

May 11 was a banner day for spring birding at Cantrall Buckley Park. Strolling quietly along the paths and bridges near the playground area, I was startled by the low whine of a prop plane buzzing by, which, of course, turned out to be a Rufous Hummingbird.

Following the route of this lovely little dinosaur, I was overjoyed to find that she was building a nest. I watched for nearly 30 minutes as she flew into the nest, landed gently, then began poking tiny pieces of lichen and even spider silk into the bowl. After her hard work, she sat on the nest for a minute or so preening, then flew off to gather more materials, returning at least five times during my watch.

By July, breeding activity was certainly over, but baby season is still hanging on. During a six-week period, I saw three different House Wrens carrying food into three different nests (two of them in nest boxes and one in a crack in a tree), a young Robin with a spotted chest, fledging Spotted Towhees, numerous goslings, young Common Mergansers, and Dark-eyed Juncos warning me away from their little hatchling, who was clinging precariously to the side of a tree.

I look forward to watching the changing world of the park and anticipate a lovely fall.

Happy Cantrall Buckley birding to all of you.
Anne Goff • 541-899-1036

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■ FARM STANDS

Continued from page 1

him and fall asleep in his arms. He still has 15 varieties of apples, seven of pears, seven of plums, four of cherries, and seven of grapes. This fall (“with fingers crossed,” he says) he’ll get a second crop of raspberries.

Mike figures he makes \$2 an hour. He keeps going, he says, because he’s “dumb and stupid,” but other young farmers in the Applegate are starting farm stands with his original enthusiasm. Sean Billingsley, with OSOH farm stand (Our Slice of Heaven), loves to talk about the circularity of organic farming: rabbit pellets go into the soil (he opens a pellet with his fingernail to show how it is a time-release energy source); garden scraps feed the rabbits; rabbit fur makes hats and gloves; dogs chew on butchered rabbit heads. Compost tea is sprayed from huge bins onto beautiful long rows of greens. A mountain of compost, made with pulled weeds, waits to be strewn onto the soil. Nothing is wasted.

To Sean, the best thing about the farm stand is the opportunity to offer people good food. “Try this arugula... this Salanova lettuce... this kale.” Maybe in 50 years he’ll be saying he keeps going because he’s dumb and stupid, but for him, as for Mike Gallagher, love of growing things and providing good produce is at the heart of his farming practices. “I just want to bring people health,” he says.

A sign on the refrigerator at the Twin Pear Farm stand that says, “Made with love,” could go above the door of any farm stand in the Applegate. Elise Higley, at Oshala Farm, for instance, began farming because of a “passion for herbalism, while her husband, Jeff, has been farming, mostly vegetables, for 17 years. Their stand offers made-with-love organic Oshala herbs, herbal products, and produce as well as products from other farmers within 250 miles.

The 113-acre Oshala farm is redolent with aromas from more than 70 kinds of medicinal and culinary herbs, vast rows of chamomile, calendula blooming orange in the field, and barns full of drying herbs, garlic, and more.

Cathy Pennington, of Pennington Farms, says the best thing about running a farm stand is “the people we get to meet—locals and tourists both.” The stand offers 28 varieties of berries, both fresh and frozen, and berry-centered baked goods.

Cathy and Sam Pennington and their five children have been cultivating berries on their 70-acre farm for 24 years. “There is no leisure in your life with this kind of work,” Cathy admits, but hard work hasn’t deterred the children: when Cathy and Sam retire, their oldest son will run the farm and their daughter Sloane the store.

For Vince and Mary Alionis, the motivation for running a farm stand on their Whistling Duck Farm is community. “Connectedness in community is key,” Mary says. Besides



Whistling Duck owners Mary and Vince Alionis with Lisa Martin at the farm stand checkout counter. Photo: Diana Coogle.

their own produce, Whistling Duck sells local meats, including yak meat from Firebird Farms; cheeses from By George; and raw milk and goat milk from Runnymede Farm.

They are particularly proud of their fish, which comes from Port Orford Sustainable Seafood, a co-op that uses hook-and-line fishing and does restoration work at the Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve.

The educational component is an important part of what Vince and Mary do. “We’re into keeping people abreast of what is happening,” Mary says.

“People want connection—to know the names of customers and farmers. Food pulls people back to the natural world.”

Surely that personal connection is one of the best reasons not only for farmers to run a farm stand but for us to do our shopping there—that and the freshness of the food: that spicy arugula from OSOH, rich-tasting raspberries from Gallagher’s, turnovers from Pennington, fresh herbs from Oshala, and wild-crafted mushrooms at Whistling Duck.

Diana Coogle
dicoog@gmail.com

Farm stands in and around the Applegate Valley

Fox Run Farm. Local fruits, vegetables, produce; some organic. 3842 West Main Street, Medford. Tuesday - Sunday 10 am - 6 pm; closed Monday. Greg and Heather Askins, 541-608-7886, foxrunfarm.business.site.

Fry Family Farms. Organic produce, plants and flowers, pies, preserves, pickles, ferments, sauces. 2184 Ross Lane, Medford. 10 am - 5 pm daily. Suzi and Steve Fry, 541-622-8154, suzi@fryfamilyfarm.org or fryfamilyfarm.org.

Gallagher Family Farms. Apples, pears, other fruits and berries. 6968 New Hope Road, Grants Pass. Variable hours. Mike Gallagher, 541-479-5438.

Hill’s Corn Stand at Provolt. Lots of corn, also garden produce. Highway 238 between the Provolt Store and Oshala Farm. Open late summer during corn season. No set hours.

Old Stage Farm. Organic heirloom peaches, nectarines, apples. 972 Old Stage Road, Jacksonville. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Gary Pellett, 541-245-0503, info@newflora.com, oldstagefarm.com.

Oshala Farm. Organic herbs, tea blends, produce; herbal products, beekeeping and canning equipment. 14900 Highway 238, Grants Pass. Jeff and Elise Higley, 541-846-1120, oshalafarm@gmail.com, oshalafarm.com.

OSOH Farm Stand. All kinds of greens, tomatoes, and other produce, all organic. 2816 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville. 7 am - 5 pm daily. Sean Billingsley, farmer for the Doty family.

Pennington Farms and the Country Bakery. Berries, fresh and frozen; baked goods with berries. 11341 Williams Highway, Grants Pass. Monday 9 am - 3 pm; Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 4 pm; Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Cathy and Sam Pennington and children, 541-846-0550, pnnngtnj@aol.com, penningtonfarms.net.

Rogue Artisan Foods. Goat milk; also duck eggs. Milk is in the fridge in the barn behind the commercial trailer; bring clean jar to trade. 10414 Highway 238, Jacksonville. 541-708-1565, rogueartisanfoods.com

Twin Pear Farm. Goat milk soap, jam, gift baskets, chips, candy, goat milk, and eggs (when available). 9 am - 5 pm daily; cash box with book to record purchases. 342 Beaver Creek Road, Jacksonville, facebook.com/twinpearfarm.

Walport Family Cellars. Eggs. 470 Slagle Creek Road, Grants Pass. 541-846-9463. wfcollars.com.

Whistling Duck Farm. Organic produce, juice, meats, cheese, yogurt, packaged items, fermented products, and more. 12800 Highway 238, Grants Pass. Summer hours: Monday - Friday 10 am - 7 pm; weekends 11 am - 6 pm. Winter hours: Monday - Friday 10 am - 6 pm; weekends 11 am - 5 pm. Mary and Vince Alionis, 541-761-6772, mary@whistlingduckfarm.com, whistlingduckfarm.com.

White’s Country Farm. Local produce; seasonal U-pick peaches, flowers, pumpkins. 3939 West Main, Medford. 10 am - 5 pm daily. Lanessa Pierce, 541-773-8031, facebook.com/whitescountryfarm.

Strawberry stands are located on the corner of Hanley Road and Highway 238 and on West Main, between Fox Run Farm and Highway 238, during season. Both stands offer other fruits and berries. The berries are not organic.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Backwards gardening, fall tidbits

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Before you jump under your sheets for a long winter's nap, give your wonderful garden some survival attention. The following tidbits will ensure an ever-so-grateful garden—happy and full of big fat red worms.

After your morning cup of java, share the grounds or the stale coffee (without cream or sugar) with acid-loving blueberries, ferns, rhododendrons, azaleas, hydrangeas, etc.

If you had eggs for breakfast or made a cake with eggs, try sharing the crushed

eggshells with the garden. Aside from fluffing up the soil, eggshells provide calcium and minerals. In my garden, red worms congregate the most where I have added eggshells.

If you feel like you're "slipping" on a banana peel, just pick it up and bury it anywhere in the garden. As the skin breaks down in the underworld of soil, it gives forth potassium, calcium, sodium, magnesium, and phosphates. That banana peel is the soil's vitamin "gummy" in one long brownish-yellowish limp skin.

But fall activity is mostly "backwards garden time," when you actually remove more than you plant.

You could start by digging up and dividing any overgrown perennials, such as

gargantuan clumps of daylilies. You can also prune, rather severely, the soft-and-hardwood perennials, even though there are pros and cons to pruning in the fall versus the spring. If you prune in fall, your garden is all tidy and ready for spring. However, sometimes—depending on the weather—spring growth starts on the pruned plants, and then there is a late freeze in spring. If you wait until spring to prune, the old sloppy growth from last year will protect the new spring growth. On the other hand, spring is so busy with other garden chores, I prefer to do as much as possible in the fall.

Pruning has several functions, including aesthetics, stimulation of next year's growth, and removal of diseased growth. If a large bush that normally does not need pruning is blocking a walkway, whack it!

Speaking of bushes, fall is the perfect time to plant bushes and trees—any type appropriate for zone seven, which is the Applegate Valley.

Concerning water and weeds, the WW duo: continue to water until the ground freezes, and (sorry) keep weeding as best

you can. If you can only do a little bit, don't fake it—you still need to pull out the weeds, roots and all.

If you have flowers that spray seeds all over your garden, you should at least cut off the seed heads—unless you like lovely flowers spreading all over your garden. In that case, go for it, and let the seeds blow anywhere.

Oh, here is a "non-task." Stop fertilizing, with the exception of the coffee, eggshells, and banana peels.

The rest of this article is a weird tidbit: propagate a rose using a raw potato. Cut a small to medium supple rose stem, six to eight inches long, from a rose branch that has had at least one healthy rose. Gently rough up the bottom of the cut stem where new roots will grow. Rub the eyes off a potato, make a small hole in it, and stick the rose stem snugly into the hole. Place the potato with the rose cutting in a large enough container to cover the potato with soil. As with any plant, good soil and good drainage are required.

Cover the container in plastic or use any large plastic container as a mini-greenhouse over the "rose-potato." Keep it in a warm, not hot, place with light. (This may work best in the early spring, but I am trying it now.)

I would love to hear any success or failure stories.

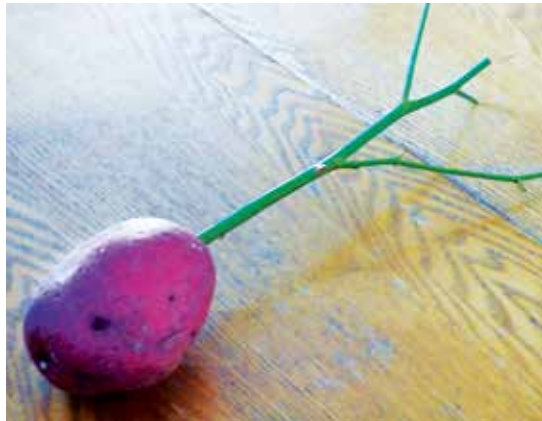
Dirty Fingernails and All,
Sioux Rogers

dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm

Fall is the time to divide your daylilies (thevermontgardener.blogspot.com).



Propagate a rose using a potato (gardeningknowhow.com).



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A look at the upcoming fire district levy

BY TOM CARSTENS

"The cost of being ready isn't cheap."
—Brett Fillis, former Applegate fire chief

In a few months, Applegaters will vote on a levy that is designed to keep our fire department operating. Why do we have to go through this? Don't we already pay a hefty property tax?

What does our fire department do for us?

Our firefighters put out structure fires and are first on the scene for wildfires, rope and water rescues, and highway accidents. About half of their 9-1-1 calls are for medical emergencies. They provide rapid and sophisticated emergency care, which, in a rural, aging community like ours, can make the difference between life and death.

The fire district budget

Our fire district—181 square miles with over 10,000 residents—has a 2018 budget of almost \$3 million. With its reserves, the district could operate for six to eight months on its own.

About 37 percent of the district's budget pays personnel costs—salaries, pensions, and premiums for medical and workers compensation insurance. Training, vehicles, equipment, and maintenance make up the rest of the budget.

Other revenue sources

Aggressive grant writing, garnering \$1.5 million over the past 15 years, has paid for firefighting, rescue, medical, and communications equipment.

Also, at great savings to the taxpayer, the fire district receives fees—over a quarter million dollars last year—from other agencies for lending its command expertise on large wildfires.

Finally, thousands of dollars donated by Applegaters in recent years have helped pay for training equipment and firefighter support.

What about the taxes?

In our property tax, baseline fire protection services cost \$1.67 per \$1,000 of value as assessed by the county. For a \$200,000 property, that amounts to \$334 per year.

Our current fire district levy stands at \$0.92 per \$1,000 of assessed property value or an *additional* \$184 per year on the same \$200,000 property, totaling \$518 per year.

The fire district is asking for a 14 percent increase (to \$1.05) in the levy for the next five years, bringing the total tax payment for fire protection to \$544 on that same property—an increase of \$26 per year. This is what we'll be voting on in November.

Since the first levy 20 years ago was \$1, you could say that the extra nickel of this levy represents only a five percent increase in a period that has seen a cumulative inflation rate of 56 percent (per the US Bureau of Labor Statistics). The cumulative rate of increase of property assessments over that same 20-year period has been 81 percent (three percent per year over 20 years). Given these rates, the proposed levy looks like a pretty good deal.

Why the levy increase?

Applegaters will want to read the fire district's article on this page.

What if it doesn't pass?

If the levy doesn't pass, the district reverts to the same flat tax rate of \$1.67 per \$1000-of-assessed-value we've had since 1996 and to the kind of force we

had then—mostly volunteers with no 24/7 professional shift officers, no summer seasonal firefighters, and longer emergency response times.

We'll be paying higher premiums on our homeowner policies too. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) rates all fire districts with a numerical grade that considers a variety of risk mitigations, the most important being "the capability of the fire department to effectively respond to and extinguish a fire."

Our fire district currently carries a hard-won rating of "6." The fire chief says his goal is to get to a "5," which is the highest protection rating available to homeowners.

Without a levy, our district would receive a rating downgrade, and our home insurance premiums would rise.

Chief McLaughlin says that this levy is "an all-or-nothing" proposition. In a sense, he's right: Failure of the levy would mandate a reversion to an all-volunteer level of operation. And right now there aren't enough volunteers signing up. (You might consider volunteering if you decide to vote against the levy.)

However, there *are* voices that question the need for a levy increase above what we're already paying. Some prior and present fire district board members believe that this ballot measure is actually an attempt to continue to raise salaries and compensation for staff. They believe that, at our current level of funding, no jobs are lost and equipment can be replaced—just maybe not brand new vehicles.

There is *no* dispute, however, among officials past and present, of the need to continue a levy at some level. Some would prefer that this 14 percent increase be defeated now and the present levy rate be retained, with a re-vote taken on the May 2019 ballot. In any case, the present levy remains in effect until next July.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025
The author would like to thank the following for their help with this article: past and present fire district board members, other committee members, the Jackson County Elections Office, the Jackson County Assessment Office, Chief Mike McLaughlin and his staff, and mathematician Larry Anderson. Any errors should be attributed to the author.

— A little history —

By the mid-90s, rising real estate values had resulted in runaway property taxes. So Oregon voters decided to limit growth in property assessments to no more than three percent per year. The unintended consequence was a reduction in tax receipts of about \$360 million statewide. Fire districts like ours, which had been planning on expanding services, were caught flat-footed. (For a more detailed explanation of this tax history, go to oregon.gov and search for the Oregon Department of Revenue's *A Brief History of Oregon Property Taxation*, pamphlet #150-303-405-1 Rev. 6-09.)

In 1998, Applegaters responded by voting for a local option levy of \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Passage of this levy allowed our fire district to hire three paid shift officers and maintain a professional staff, including a fire chief, an operations chief, and a maintenance chief.

Since then, the Applegate Valley Fire District has continued to grow and modernize. It now has seven stations, 27 specialized vehicles, and a large training facility, which doubles as a community center.

In 2009 the district received the "Outstanding District" award from the Oregon Special Districts Association.

Applegate Valley Fire District proposes tax levy

BY MIKE MCLAUGHLIN

Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District No. 9 has referred the Operations Tax Levy 2018 to the ballot for the voters' consideration.

If the levy passes, the fire district would be able to maintain operations. The staff of seven full-time staff members would be retained, and the average response time of three minutes would continue.

The District, in addition to a Tax District Rate, has received funding from a Fire District Levy and by consecutive levies passed by the Applegate Community. These local levy options supplement the Tax District Rate.

Purpose

Operations Tax Levy currently funds one-third of the operation of the fire district's seven stations and personnel.

History

1980: Tax District Rate initiated for basic services

1997: Oregon State Measure No. 47 and No. 50 initiated

- Reduced Tax District Rate by 21 percent
- Unalterable (frozen) Tax Rate

1998: 5-Year Local Levy Option passed by Applegate District voters

- Hired one full-time Headquarters Fire Officer

- Funded continuation of Emergency Services

First Local Levy (July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2004) passed at \$1.00 per \$1,000 of Assessed Property Value. Levy funded:

- Continued staffing of three Fire Officers and one Office Manager

- Hired 3 full-time Shift Officers to provide 24/7 Coverage

- Hired 3 Seasonal Summertime Firefighters

- 2 Brush Engines (constructed by Fire District Personnel)

- 1 Jaws of Life rescue tool

- 2 "Midi" Structure Engines (constructed by Fire District Personnel)

- 16 Used Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

Second Local Levy (July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2009) passed at \$.85 per \$1,000 of Assessed Property Value. Levy funded:

- Maintained Staffing Levels at seven full-time employees and three Seasonal Employees

- 1 "Midi" Structure Engine (constructed by Fire Personnel)

- 1 Used Water Tender for Station 5

- 1 Jaws of Life rescue tool

- 1 Well/Septic System installed at Station 6

- 2 Staff Vehicles

- Station 7 on Griffin Lane constructed

- Headquarters Parking Lot paved

Third Local Levy (July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2014) passed at \$.85 per \$1,000 of Assessed Property Value. Levy funded:

- Maintained Staffing Levels at seven full-time employees and three seasonal employees

- 1 Used Water Tender added to Station 5

- 1 Staff Vehicle

- 1 Utility Van

- 1 Pumper to Headquarters

- 1 Water Tender replacement to Station 4

- 1 Vehicle Lift installed at Maintenance Shop

- 1 Water Tank installed at Station 4

- 1 Water Tank installed on Forest Creek

- 1 Water Supply Pump installed next to Applegate Store (to create a draft site in Applegate)

- Parking Lot paved at Station 1

- Parking Lot paved at Station 4

Fourth Local Levy (July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2019) passed at \$.92 per \$1,000 of Assessed Property Value. District increased its rate by \$.07 per \$1,000 Assessed Property Value by renewing its pledge to develop and follow a five-year strategic plan. Levy funded:

- Maintained Staffing Levels at seven full-time employees and three seasonal employees

- Student Program to allow additional staffing at Headquarters

- Training/Community Building constructed on District land next to Headquarters

- 27 sets of Structural Protective Clothing (Turnouts)

- 1 Staff Vehicle

- 1 Used Fire Engine for Station 6

- 1 Used Water Tender for Station 2

- New Dormitory Rooms constructed at Headquarters

- Upkeep/Maintenance Issues addressed and completed at all seven stations

- New generator for Headquarters

Proposed Tax Levy if passed would be assessed from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2024. District will be proposing a \$0.13/\$1,000 of Assessed Property Value increase to the current \$0.92/\$1,000 Assessed Property Value for a total of \$1.05/\$1,000 of Assessed Property Value.

If the intended Levy passes, it would fund:

- Continuing 24/7 staffing with seven full-

- time employees

- Increasing Summertime Seasonal Firefighters from three to six

- Installing a Manufactured Home with dorm rooms for a resident firefighter program at Station 1

- Replacing fire engines that will be 31 to 41 years old at time of replacement

- Replacing one staff vehicle that will be 21 years old

If Levy does not pass:

- Real property taxes would remain at \$1.67/\$1,000 of assessed value and the \$1.05/\$1,000 of assessed value would not be assessed, resulting in a one-third reduction in the District's Operating Budget

- Most full-time staff would be laid off

- 24/7 Staff Coverage would end

- Summertime Seasonal Firefighters program would end

- Replacement of aging vehicles would not happen

- The district would revert back to an all-volunteer response

- Response times would increase

- The District's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating would be downgraded, which would increase homeowner insurance rates.

District goals

- Retain Community confidence and support

- Continue Community safety

- Seek additional funding mechanisms to include; Grants, Bonds and Donations

- Maintain District's Footprint

This information was reviewed by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office for compliance with ORS 260.432.

Mike McLaughlin

Fire Chief

Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection

District #9

OPINIONS

*Behind the Green Door***Commitment to place, commitment to the news**

BY CHRIS BRATT



Chris Bratt

As a young teenager in San Francisco, I searched for paying jobs after school and on Saturdays. My older brothers and I were always trying to find work to help make ends meet for our family during those economically depressed times. One job I had was delivering the *Mission Merchants News*. This was a free newspaper delivered to every household in the large outer Mission District area, which included our smaller specific neighborhood.

My job was to fold about 200 newspapers weekly and deliver them up the long, steep walkways to all the houses along my prescribed route. It was a huge effort and commitment to get those newspapers to every hilltop front door, but it was important that the merchants made the connection with our community and that the community got the news.

Today, I still have a delivery job for a free newspaper. Only now, the job is more important to me and I do it for no pay. I am one of many volunteers for our quarterly local newsmagazine called the *Applegater*. Undoubtedly, if you live in the

Applegate, you've probably at least seen a copy of the paper since it's mailed to every household and business in the Applegate Valley. We also make the extra effort to hand deliver the *Applegater* to federal, state, and local agencies, local libraries, and area merchants.

As a 23-year volunteer for the *Applegater*, I have come to realize how important a local community paper can be to area residents and to the health of our entire southern Oregon region. It's part of a joint commitment to a special place we all treasure and call home.

Let me give you a few reasons for joining me in making a firm ongoing commitment to becoming a steady financial contributor to our indispensable nonprofit *Applegater* newsmagazine.

The 500,000-acre Applegate River watershed is a unique place with a high density of vegetation and animals. It is one of the most biologically diverse areas within North America. We have 100 plant species considered rare and over 21 species of trees that have commercial value. Many of these

species are at high risk of extinction in the foreseeable future.

We also have a lot of unique people (the *Applegater's* circulation is 11,500). We are home to a dynamic human component consisting of Native Americans, loggers, miners, ranchers, foresters, artists, farmers, retirees, wine grape and cannabis growers, people working on computers from home, and in many other trades and professions. This diverse group of residents mixing with our unique landscape suggests that social, economic, political, and ecological changes are happening on a regular basis. The question is, will these changes continue to promote the vitality and healthy progress of our community, sustaining it over time? Only time and the *Applegater* will tell.

Approximately 70 percent of the land in the Applegate watershed (341,378 acres) is public land managed by the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Many residents have concerns about the management practices of these two federal agencies and how their activities and timber sales affect the

landscape and their lives. The *Applegater* continues to urge these agencies to take an active role in community-developed proposals and ideas.

Our community, with help from the *Applegater*, has a successful four-decade history of a willingness to collaborate with these agencies regarding both private and public land management in the Applegate. In fact, we are an original model of how forest communities in the Northwest can be sustained while community members promote vitality, build resilience, and make a commitment to a place.

The *Applegater* newsmagazine continues to play a significant role in promoting this collaboration between all participants to resolve problems. The *Applegater* also provides a discussion platform for all parties to participate in public forestland decision-making processes.

Help spread the word, along with the money. Make a donation today. (See page 5 for more information.)

Chris Bratt
541-846-6988

Smart meters are coming, smart meters are coming!

BY JIM FARVER

Reminiscent of the rides of Paul Revere and William Dawes in April 1775 and Sybil Ludington in April 1777, it is time to warn Applegate residents that Pacific Power is marching on the valley to install smart meters. By the time you read this, you may already have one installed, but what you may not yet realize is that most people will not want one affixed to their house.

A so-called smart meter is an electronic, pulsed-radiation device that replaces your existing analog meter and tracks power consumption by the minute, transmitting this information back to the power company. There are cost savings for the utility but little to no benefits to us. Indeed, smart meters present many significant concerns for consumers in the areas of health, safety, privacy, security, and cost.

EMF (electric and magnetic fields) radiation from smart meters can cause dozens of health symptoms, and the World Health Organization classifies wireless radiation as 2B ("possibly carcinogenic to humans"). Over 2,000 papers have been

written on the health and environmental effects of electromagnetic fields.

The new meters do not contain surge protection like our old analog meters, and smart meter fires have been reported throughout the US, Canada, and Australia. Several related lawsuits have been filed against PG&E in California.

There are also many privacy issues concerning the security of the data transmitted along with its use by Pacific Power. A hacker could open your smart locks or turn off your power, lights, or alarms, and even alter your bill. Some utilities are already planning to sell this data, which can be used to determine daily routines—when you are home, what you are doing, etc.

There are also significant cost issues with smart meters, and some users have reported a significant increase in their bill. Essentially our houses become part of Pacific Power's network, and we are paying for it. Also, your meter may be sending the data for many other neighbors if your neighbors are not near Pacific Power's

antenna (their collector), in which case you will be paying for the additional electricity used by your meter.

The smart-meter rollout is being rushed—the technology and the standards associated with smart meters are immature. They are being installed without informed consent and without full disclosure of how they work and what Pacific Power can do with the personal data it collects. Customers and the media both report serious complaints about smart meters.

New Mexico, along with 11 counties and 45 towns and cities in California, has banned smart meters. Talent and Josephine County have written to Pacific Power expressing concern. There are many local efforts under way to fight the rollout, but we are behind. It is time for action. We must fight the advance and warn our neighbors—again reminiscent of the rides of Revere, Dawes, and Ludington.

Local meetings have been held throughout the valley warning our community about the hazards associated with these meters and discussing available alternatives. More meetings will happen as the community comes together.

Pacific Power does offer an opt-out option if you do not wish a smart meter installed, but it is currently charging a one-time \$137 "meter exchange fee" (for

not changing your meter, really!), plus a \$36 monthly meter-reading fee per meter *forever*. Many of us have more than one meter! This charge is excessive and is being fought by the community. Paying \$36 per month for an irrigation meter when it is used only five months of the year is just plain wrong!

Go to freedom2sayno2smartmeters.org and sign a petition to protest this charge and donate to keep this effort going. Self-funded volunteers are fighting the smart-meter advance, so please help.

Even if you already have a smart meter installed, there are still things you can do, including paying Pacific Power \$306 to remove it (and then paying \$36/month thereafter). If you must keep it, there are things you can do to mitigate some of its harmful effects.

For a more thorough discussion of smart meters and your options, please try to attend a meeting. More information can also be found at many websites.

You can also visit freedom2sayno2smartmeters.org for more local information and emfsafetynetwork.org/smart-meters for a good discussion of the issues.

Community action is needed!

Jim Farver
jim.farver@gmail.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Why are we betting the farm?**

Engineers design to "fail safe" when miscalculation may result in a devastating catastrophe. If one choice saves money while another avoids the risk of serious loss, they are taught to choose the design that avoids calamity in the event of failure. We should follow that standard when it comes to climate change.

Despite scientific consensus about our effect on climate, we are recklessly ignoring the engineers' "precautionary rule" by betting that nothing will happen if we continue increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration has hit record levels in each of the past five years and is higher than at any time since humans first walked

the earth. Incredibly, the new Trump-appointed NASA director is recklessly pulling the plug on the program that monitors atmospheric CO₂. This problem won't go away just because we stick our heads in sand! Common sense demands that we continue to measure what is happening in our atmosphere. Climate scientists tell us that we are lemmings heading off the cliff. Why are we betting our only farm (indeed, mankind's very existence) that they are wrong?

The Applegate Valley sees the results of global warming from our use of fossil fuels in the form of drought and increased risk of fires. The precautionary rule requires us, and the fail-safe approach instructs us, to reduce the emissions of the greenhouse gases causing global warming. Otherwise,

the risk of devastating drought and fires in the valley will almost certainly increase.

The precautionary principle also instructs us to make acceptance of science an acid test of our choice of elected officials.

Eric Weisberg, Central Point, OR

We have met the enemy and it is us!

The bitching and moaning about the collapse of the recycling market almost always targets someone else. Maybe it's the Chinese, maybe it's the disposal and recycling companies. But if we genuinely seek responsibility, we need look no further than our own neighborhood.

We and our neighbors are not following the rules. When we throw garbage and nonrecyclable materials in the recycling bin, we contaminate the material such that

it cannot be recycled. The entire load ends up in the landfill, and it's our fault.

Recycling is great, but it is only one leg of a stool that reduces the environmental impact of our consumption. The other legs are "reducing" and "reusing." For too many years we thought that recycling allowed us to continue our obscene consumptive excesses. This was always an illusion! Until we recognize that we live on a finite planet with finite resources and a finite capacity to process our waste, we will behave unsustainably; we'll destroy the planet that future generations need to survive.

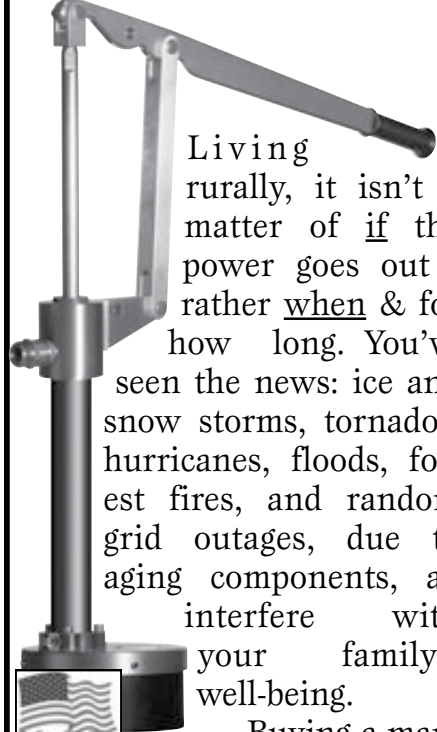
So, check that you're following Rogue Disposal and Recycling rules and check your neighbors' bins...and then advise them if they are culprits.

Alan Journet, Jacksonville, OR



Why Buy A Hand Pump?

with Tami Quinn Hollenbeck



Living rurally, it isn't a matter of if the power goes out - rather when & for how long. You've seen the news: ice and snow storms, tornados, hurricanes, floods, forest fires, and random grid outages, due to aging components, all interfere with your family's well-being.

Buying a manual pump is like insurance. Except instead of having to pay again every year, it's a one-time payment. Making a one-time payment for "insurance," that your family will have water in an emergency, should be a simple choice.

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OPINION

Protecting the Applegate jewel

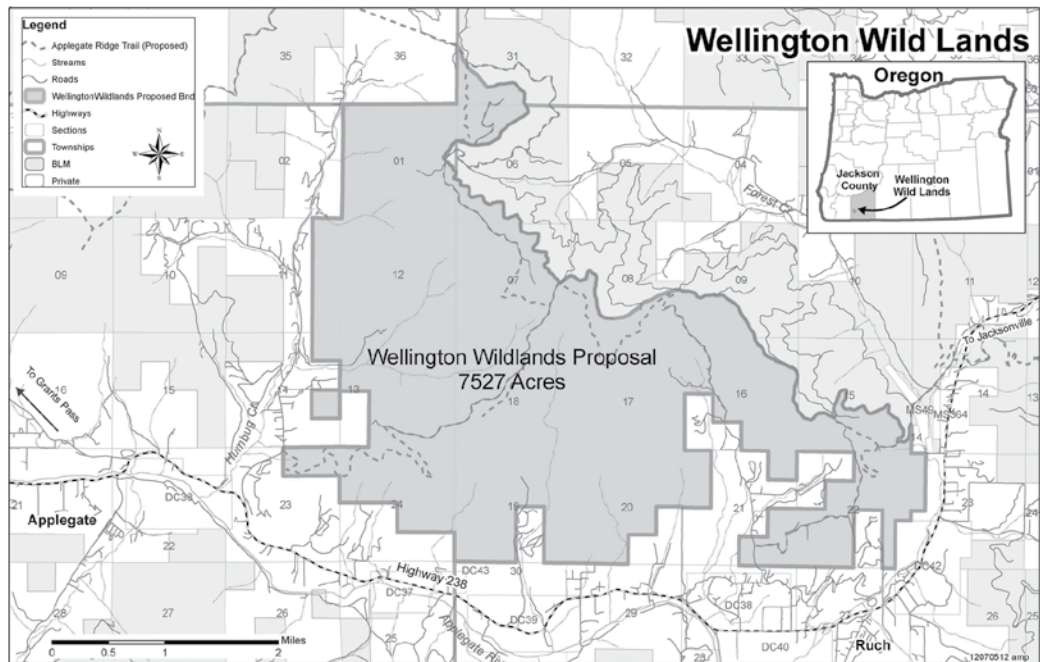
BY JACK DUGGAN

Tucked above private lands along Highway 238 between Ruch and Applegate is an untouched jewel of Applegate wilderness. Centered on Wellington Butte, the Wellington Wildlands is 12 square miles of unentered public land with one hiking trail at its border along the ridge above Forest Creek and an unpermitted, user-created off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail poking its way into the wilderness.

Conservation and recreational groups and southern Oregon citizens have mobilized to protect the Wellington Wildlands Wilderness (WWW) from proposed logging in the Middle Applegate Timber Sale, currently being designed by the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Most of this preserve is made up of south-facing slopes covered in brush and oak woodlands, but there is just enough timber hidden in the canyon folds to attract BLM's attention. Wellington Butte, with its distinctive mountain meadow, stands at the center and is visible from Ruch and most of the Middle Applegate area. Views from this rare land span both valleys from Williams to Mt. Ashland and from Medford to Crater Lake. Private lands border three sides, so for many residents of the Applegate Valley the wildlands is their viewshed or backyard.

The BLM has designated 5,711 acres of Wellington Wildlands as a Land with



Wilderness Characteristics (LWC). Locals believe the WWW should be expanded to 7,527 acres by including the BLM-managed lands on both sides of China Gulch.

The Wellington Wildlands and another LWC, Dakubutede, with the historic Sterling Mine Ditch Trail running through it, are highlights in a recreation area along the narrow band of mountains between Grants Pass and Mt. Ashland that separates the Applegate and Rogue valleys. In these hills, christened the Applegate Rogue Recreation Corridor (ARRC), recreation is varied and thriving.

Extensive nonmotorized trails systems like Cathedral Hills, Jacksonville Forest Park, Sterling Mine Ditch Trail, and the Jacksonville Woodlands already exist in

this corridor. The eventual completion of the Jack-Ash and Applegate Ridge Trails will provide a continuous upland trail from Grants Pass to Jacksonville and on to Ashland and the Pacific Crest Trail. With paragliding, skiing, hiking, running, hunting, backpacking, cycling, camping, horseback riding, bird watching, photography, and OHV use, the 42-mile long ARRC is a recreation haven for both Applegate and Rogue valleys.

The Save the Wellington Wildlands Council and its partners want to raise public awareness of this backyard gem and the threat posed to future generations if this wildlands is entered for timber harvest.

David Calahan, a long-time Applegate resident and neighbor to the WWW, commented, "Most people aren't opposed to sustainable forest management as long as it preserves scenic and conservation values. There's a world of change going on here with rising tourism and awareness that good conservation practices mean good things for our economy and quality of life."

At this point, only the BLM knows when the Middle Applegate Timber Sale will be announced and if the WWW will be proposed for logging in that project. People will be able to comment about the project once the plan is released, taking advantage of the opportunity to voice their concerns. In the meantime, a petition to Preserve the Wellington Wildlands can be found at applegaterogue.org, where you can also sign up to receive future notifications if desired.

David Calahan is reflective. "This isn't just about us. It's about our children too," he said, noting that since the Wellington Wildlands are so close, they are within sight of thousands of people every day.

More information can be found on these websites: backyardforests.org/wellington-wildlands.html, applegaterogue.org/pdf/2018/v11n01/v11n01p21.pdf, and dailytidings.com/archive/wild-side-lots-of-happy-trails-in-the-applegate-area.

Jack Duggan
shanachie@hughes.net
Jack Duggan lives on the other side of Mount Isabelle from the Wellington Wildlands Wilderness.

Voices of the Applegate Fall Concerts

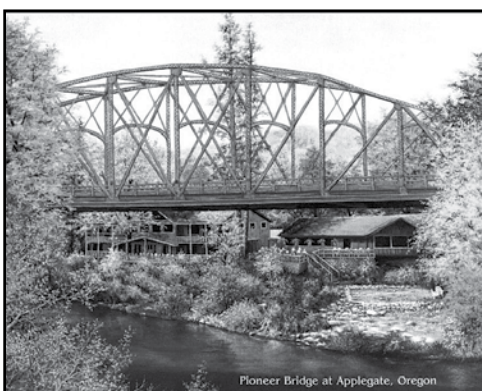


Our fall session starts with our first rehearsal on Tuesday, September 4, at 6:30 pm at the Ruch Library meeting room. This will be a very exciting time for all of us because we are bringing in a new director, Shayne Flock, to lead our choir in an outstanding selection of music, both classical and contemporary.

Shayne grew up in the Rogue Valley, where his father was choir director at Hidden Valley High School for many years. Shayne attended Crater High School, where he is now the music director. He also was the music director of the Corvallis Community Choir for three years, so he's coming to us with a lot of experience.

There will be 12 rehearsals, beginning September 4 and ending November 27. Our first concert is on Friday, November 30, at 7:30 pm at Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, 405 E California Street. The second concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 2, at 3 pm at Applegate River Lodge, 15100 Highway 238. Attendance is free (donations are welcome) and refreshments will be available. All are invited—and bring your friends!

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



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Next deadline:
November 1

OPINIONS

Applegate's community: Solving problems through partnerships

BY JAMIE MCLEOD-SKINNER

I had the good fortune of attending the Cantrall Buckley Park Golden Jubilee on July 14. I was struck by how Applegate Valley has changed since I was a kid in Ashland in the 1980s. I was particularly impressed by the examples of positive change that came from members of the Applegate community stepping up and taking action when government was unable or unwilling: a park, a bridge, a scenic trail. These grassroots efforts created win-win private-public partnerships—critical for community and economic development. Government should provide a healthy foundation for our communities and know when to help and when to get out of the way.

The story of Cantrall Buckley Park powerfully illustrates how citizens can lead and how sometimes government eventually follows. When Jackson County contemplated closing Cantrall Buckley Park in the late 1990s, private citizens and the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (now known as A Greater Applegate) stepped in to keep the beloved 88-acre park open.

Similarly, a group of dedicated locals kept historic McKee Bridge from being demolished after rot was discovered in 2011—raising tens of thousands of dollars to fill in the shortfall after a federal grant. McKee Bridge Historical Society continues to preserve this beautiful piece of Applegate history for future generations. I've taken my kids to McKee Bridge, and they've marveled at the structure.

Ever consider how great it would be to hike 50 miles across the ridge above the Applegate Valley? That dream is on its way to reality thanks to the vision and work of Applegate Trails Association, in partnership with the Medford District Bureau of Land Management. My dogs love hiking in the Applegate, and I'm looking forward to taking them on that trail.

I believe in our Oregon values—that we all care about our families and communities, that we have a concept of building partnerships and of stepping up when government falls short.

When government fails to provide something more critical than a park—like full Social Security and Medicare

benefits—citizens should take charge to secure the result they need and deserve. Studies commissioned by A Greater Applegate forecast that Applegaters age 65 and older—retirees counting on Social Security and Medicare to make ends meet—will swell from 23 percent in 2010 to over 32 percent by 2022. These programs that you've invested in for years by paying taxes are under attack by the current Congress. If successful, "entitlement reform" campaigns will leave one third of Applegaters with less than they've earned, sending negative ripple effects throughout the valley's economy and culture.

At the other end of the age spectrum, we have our kids. The White House and Congress propose to cut federal programs that provide children with health care, nutritious food, and stable housing. Josephine and Jackson counties are in the top 20 percent of counties with households in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Are you okay with government turning its back on our less fortunate kids?

Does our government have a responsibility to study and address changing weather patterns? Applegate River offers some of the cleanest water in Oregon, but temperature standards to support fish are routinely violated, especially with this year's drought. A hotter, drier climate is the undeniable

trend. We need to get serious about doing our part to reduce the trend.

We've got some pretty smart folks graduating from the Oregon Institute of Technology who can help us develop renewable energy systems that will stimulate our economy and reduce our consumption of fossil fuels. The federal government can help by shifting subsidies from the fossil fuel industry to incentives for renewable energy.

Many high school graduates don't believe that additional education or training is financially accessible. Without that access, how can they pursue their dreams and how do we maintain a healthy economy? It seems to me that an exchange of public service for college education or trade school would be a win-win solution.

Applegaters have a solid tradition of stepping up and taking action when government fails to deliver. I applaud your efforts. But none of us can do it all alone. We're all at a disadvantage when Washington, DC, works against local interests.

We must build partnerships between the people in our district and the federal government. That way, the government can provide the resources, and the people on the ground can provide the local wisdom.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner
info@mcleod-skinner.com

Protecting the Siskiyou Crest and its botanical diversity

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

The Siskiyou Mountains are known for their incredible botanical and geological diversity. The region is a complex patchwork of geologic strata supporting some of the most diverse conifer forests in the world. The region represents the climax of biodiversity on the West Coast of North America, and the Siskiyou Crest is the conduit through which biodiversity flows. This continuous high-elevation ridgeline connects the Coast Range to the Cascade Mountains near the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. It is important both locally and regionally as a climate refuge and as a connectivity corridor for dispersing wildlife and shifting plant communities. This function will become increasingly important as the effects of climate change become more pronounced. The more intact our forests, meadows, and plant communities are, the more effective they will be at providing climate refugia, dispersal corridors, and habitat resilience.

The eastern portion of the Siskiyou Crest includes the headwaters of the Applegate River, many of the range's highest elevation habitats, and

a significant concentration of rare and endemic plant species. In fact, both the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) and the adjacent Klamath National Forest (KNF) have officially designated Botanical Areas along the Siskiyou Crest. In total, 12 Botanical Areas have been designated in the Applegate watershed on RRSNF land, with an additional nine Botanical Areas on the KNF side of the Siskiyou Crest.

According to the Land and Resource Management Plan, which provides land management direction to the RRSNF, Botanical Areas are designated to "protect and enhance exceptional botanical values [and] encourage compatible scientific, educational and recreational use." The agency is also directed to resolve conflicts in the area "in favor of the botanical resource." The KNF is directed to do largely the same in their designated Botanical Areas.

The Siskiyou Crest is also traversed by the region's premiere nonmotorized trail, the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). For over 55 miles, from near the Red Buttes Wilderness to Mt. Ashland, the trail crosses the rocky ridges, high mountain meadows, and beautiful high-elevation

forests of the Siskiyou Crest. The PCT attracts visitors from around the region and around the world. The trail highlights the region's scenic beauty and is well loved by local residents for hiking, botanizing, birding, and other outdoor recreational activities.

Unfortunately, many of these Botanical Areas and the PCT are being impacted by illegal off-road vehicle use. Motorized enthusiasts are driving into wet meadows, across arid grasslands, and over flower-filled rock gardens, killing rare plants, damaging vegetation, compacting soils, disrupting hydrology, and spreading noxious weeds. Under current US Forest Service (USFS) management protocol, the unauthorized routes on the Siskiyou Crest are illegal and, according to the environmental analysis for the USFS Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), should be closed to off-road vehicle use. To date, USFS has only fulfilled a portion of the MVUM. They have allowed an expansion of official motorized trails in the Applegate, but have failed to implement any of the closures, enforcement measures, or protections envisioned in the environmental analysis.

The impacts associated with unauthorized off-road use are unacceptable in our Botanical Areas and other sensitive habitats on the Siskiyou Crest. Motorized vehicles are

particularly damaging in Botanical Areas where intact plant communities and rare plant populations are common. Unauthorized off-road use is also illegal according to current land management mandates; therefore, use of motorized vehicles off designated routes should be treated as the crime that it is.

Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) has been documenting the impacts of off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on the Siskiyou Crest and in our designated Botanical Areas. The impacts are widespread, pervasive, and at times exceptionally severe. We encourage the USFS to close illegal OHV routes immediately and enforce that closure to protect the world-renowned botanical resources in our region.

Botanical Areas were designated to protect particularly important sites with rare and unusual plant populations, and they should be adequately protected across the Siskiyou Crest and throughout the Applegate Valley. We ask that the USFS work with ANN to ensure that current off-road vehicle regulations are enforced. This collaboration could start with off-road vehicle closures that protect the PCT and our botanical diversity on the Siskiyou Crest.

Luke Ruediger
ANN Program Coordinator
luke@applegateneighborhood.
network

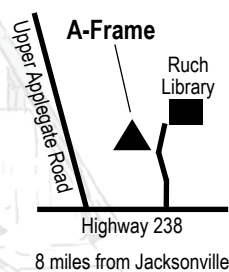
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OPINIONS

Global warming, climate change, and politics

BY ALAN VOETSCH

Due to length limits, I've not been able to address a couple of items in previous articles. I will attempt to do so now.

I had a comment or two earlier in the year suggesting that politics has nothing to do with climate change and AGW (anthropogenic global warming). Sadly, it has *everything* to do with it. There were ads by folks running for local Medford office in the last election with one politician-to-be claiming to have the desire to tackle climate change. When politicians talk like that, it means one thing and one thing only: another excuse to *raise taxes, create new taxes, and increase regulations*. This person believes that by passing resolutions to increase or create a tax and/or make it harder for businesses to compete, they've helped save the planet. Hogwash. All they accomplish is to increase revenue so they have more power and tax dollars to spend stupidly. I actually emailed the candidate in question with a couple of research suggestions but got no response.

I can tell you one thing: that particular candidate knows diddly-squat about the natural forces involved with climate change. When voting for those who represent the Applegate Valley in Salem or Washington DC, please make sure the candidate has more than a political understanding of the subject matter.

One comment suggested that policies to address these issues should only be talked about and dealt with by climate scientists. In other words, they do not want you or me (or our elected representatives) to question what they say, only to shut up, listen, fork over more hard-earned dollars, and blindly obey. The truth is that most of those folks receive government funding for their alarming studies only if they produce results that the government wants. And seeing as how almost every single government department and branch office has its own embedded radical environmentalists, the drive to continue the funding supply through grants simply increases the job security of those individuals. It's self-preservation.

Radicals also stack town hall meetings of our elected representatives. Instead of attending as individuals, they attend as organized groups. One group (and there

are several activist groups in the Rogue Valley) brings dozens of members to take numbers. The folks with numbers are randomly drawn to have their questions/comments heard. The goal is to badger the official with question after question about their niche issue. I attended a town hall by US Senator Ron Wyden in Medford several years ago and witnessed this myself. It was hard to get any land use, property tax, or Veteran's affairs questions heard because organized radicals steal all the attention of our elected officials and focus it on their issue. Climate change seldom polls in the top ten of voter priorities.

Restricting the use of fossil fuels is a bad idea because their use is the quickest, surest way to decrease poverty and increase human flourishing globally. More than a billion people don't have access to regular supplies of electricity today. Millions die prematurely from a lack of safe drinking water, modern transportation, and hospitals with continuously working electric lights, medical equipment, and refrigeration. Radicals want that to continue because their basic premise is antihuman.

In the West, we take these necessities for granted, but they were all brought about on a large scale by the use of fossil fuels. Where coal, natural gas, and oil are in regular use, people are wealthy, and where their use is absent, poverty, disease, and hunger are rife. As a result, a carbon dioxide tax is a tax on freedom and prosperity.

To those who "believe" that the iconic hockey-stick graph of Michael Mann was based on actual real-world facts, it wasn't. The media made the stick famous because they love a good, scary tale. When the stick was later torn to pieces due to faulty scientific input, there was little media coverage. The sad truth is that when there is a scary story involved it becomes magazine cover material even when it is fiction. Brian Sussman's book, *Climategate*, (among others) presents the email train of deceit. When your research erases the well-known Medieval Warm Period and the Little Ice Age to prove a scientific "consensus," you skate on very thin ice.

Alan Voetsch
alan_voetsch@yahoo.com

Realizing just how much the fire district does for us

BY SANDY AND DON SHAFFER

A lightning strike sparked a wildfire in our immediate neighborhood less than two years after my husband and I retired to the Applegate. As a result of that fire, I quickly "unretired" to help the Applegate Partnership develop a "Community Fire Plan" for the Applegate Valley and its residents.

A lot of local, state, and federal partners helped with the Applegate Fire Plan, but the first to step up with support was our local Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District. Applegate fire district

staff assisted me in securing grants so that residents had financial assistance to get thinning and cleanup work completed around their homes. The fire district's personnel performed home assessments with residents so that lessons were learned along the way. In addition, they have continued over the past 18 years to help new residents keep their homes and property more fire-safe.

Some might assume or suggest that our Applegate Valley Fire District's primary duty is to respond to medical

The message from a warming Applegate

BY ALAN JOURNET

As residents of the Applegate Valley, we can ignore the data and our own eyes as some argue we should. Alternatively, we can be a little smarter; we can acknowledge what is happening and then both prepare for the future and commit to reducing the problem.

I'm an Applegate Valley newcomer of some seven years and a local forest owner, but I can see the same trends that others must see: our Douglas firs are dying at an alarming rate. Though great for our winter wood store, it's a disturbing harbinger of what is likely to come. Exactly how the warming trend will influence our native tree species is unclear, but analyses suggest that several commercially and ecologically important species will soon be seriously compromised (charcoal.cnre.vt.edu/climate/species).

But temperature isn't the only factor.

We know that mountain snowpack stores substantial quantities of water. When snow melts, it serves our aquatic systems (salmon, etc.) and our agricultural irrigation and municipal and industrial water needs. Philip Mote, director of Oregon's Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI), along with OCCRI coauthors, reports in 2018 *Nature Climate and Atmospheric Science* that mountain snowpack throughout the west is declining at over 90 percent of monitoring sites. Meanwhile, Howat and Tulaczyk reported (2005 *Annals of Glaciology*) similar trends in April snow-water equivalent below 7,500 feet for the Northern California Siskiyou, which feed the Applegate Valley. With warming winters, the dates of snowmelt and peak river flow are happening earlier, while summer and fall river flows dwindle. Unsurprisingly, summer and fall soil moisture is similarly declining (www2.usgs.gov/climate_landuse/clu_rd/nccv/viewer.asp), a particularly troubling trend that increases wildfire risk.

Anyone engaged in agriculture in the Applegate Valley should be aware of these trends and prepare for future warming—with associated decreases in water availability—by switching to crops that are more heat- and drought-tolerant and by adjusting irrigation methods to those that lower water use, such as drip technology.

An example of the agricultural significance of climate trends is grape varietal sensitivity. Several years ago, Greg Jones, a world-renowned wine terroir expert and former Southern Oregon University professor, reported

(2006 *Geological Association of Canada Symposium*) on the temperature optimum for grape varietals grown in the Willamette Valley—data that are equally relevant to the Applegate Valley. Comparing his data with temperature trends and projections reveals that the temperature is increasing above the optimum for the historically valuable pinot gris varietal. Fortunately, many local vintners are already cultivating varietals such as pinot noir, chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, tempranillo, merlot, malbec, cabernet sauvignon, grenache, and zinfandel, all of which are adapted to warmer growing seasons.

Global temperature data tell us that we are on a warming trajectory that is equivalent to that identified as the worst-case scenario in general circulation models. Although claims from those rejecting the consensus science falsely argue that climate models exaggerate the severity of our probable future, example after example reveals that actual trends are either more extreme or in the "most extreme" range suggested by model projections.

These trends are expected to continue and worsen unless we collectively reduce our climate-polluting gas emissions. Arguing that nothing much is happening defies our own senses and denies the abundant science demonstrating these trends and explaining the reason for them. Fostering the delusion that nothing much is happening will never lead to a solution—it will just lead to further chaos and suffering.

While we can prepare for the future if we accept the data and their explanations, we will not adapt if we simply reject the data and deny the science. We can also take personal steps to reduce our emissions. But, probably more importantly, we can examine where candidates seeking election stand on climate science. While we cannot influence what happens in other nations, or even other states, we can influence what happens in Oregon and our region. We can cast our ballots only for candidates who clearly accept the science and commit to encouraging appropriate action by the body to which they seek election. This means we'd be wise to favorably consider local candidates who promise to foster preparation for future climatic conditions and also support action to reduce emissions statewide and remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

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

and rescue calls, structure and wildland fires, and motor vehicle and other accidents. That's only part of it. They are our "first responders" out here in our rural valley. They will rescue boaters and hang gliders, as well as your cat on the roof. And they are here for us as we age, needing a "public assist" after falling on a slippery floor.

Applegate Valley Fire District accomplishes all of this by using the highest levels of professional education and training programs available, with equipment tailored to our fire district's narrow and sometimes steep roads.

Seven staff work side-by-side with our fire district's many volunteers to develop a strong, dedicated team of firefighters. Who just happen to be our neighbors...

Our Applegate Valley Fire District is definitely a valued community resource, and we support them in all of their endeavors!

Sandy and Don Shaffer
sassyoneor@gmail.com

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

OPINIONS

Getting zapped in the Applegate!

Is the smart grid as safe as claimed?

BY TOM KLINEFELTER

Pacific Power tells us that smart meters are safe, present no health hazards, and are approved by the FCC (Federal Communications Commission). However, US government agencies have made similar claims over the years about such things as asbestos, dioxins, lead paint, DDT, PCBs, mercury, etc., all of which are now considered extremely toxic. Today, wireless devices are touted as safe, but what about 20 years from now?

The FCC was established to oversee the commercial distribution of the RF (radio frequency) spectrum, which has nothing to do with the risks and health hazards associated with RF microwave radiation. They set safety limits that are hundreds of times higher than levels established by medical institutes and governments around the world. This unconscionable standard has made it easy for the telecommunications industry to have their equipment approved.

I was an aviation electronics technician in the US Navy in the early '70s and worked over 40 years as an electrical engineer in one capacity or another. Over the past two years I have spent hundreds of hours researching and studying wireless technology and its radiation fields. I moved to the Applegate Valley hoping to distance my family from the concentrated RF radiation in urban areas, but it is encroaching much faster than I imagined. In 1985 there were 900 cell towers in the US and today there are over 215,000 and growing rapidly.

I appreciate new technology and use a laptop and cell phone daily, but like any tool or appliance, they pose a potential health risk if not used safely. Instruction manuals for power tools and household appliances are very forthright with proper safety precautions; however, with wireless equipment, there are no clearly listed safety precautions. Unlike chainsaws, power tools, and kitchen appliances, where the dangers are fairly obvious, RF radiation, which covers a frequency range from one kHz (kilohertz) to one THz (terahertz, or one thousand to one trillion cycles per second), is not usually detectable by our five senses.

I purchased some RF and EMF (electromagnetic field) radiation meters over two years ago and have been surveying homes of family and friends ever since. Some of the strongest RF fields generated within homes are emitted from cordless phones, Wi-Fi routers, baby monitors, cell phones, laptops,

iPads, smart appliances, and RF digital utility meters. I have also found some very strong EMF radiation emitted from lower frequency ranges associated with our standard 120/240 VAC 60 Hz electric appliances. These radiation sources are within our control, but smart meters are not and emit RF radiation constantly, with over 10,000 pulses every day.

Smart meters have been installed throughout southern Oregon, and many residents are unaware that it has happened. But there are still steps we can take that will set precedents for the rest of the state, as the rollout for the Portland area isn't scheduled until the fourth quarter of 2018. By signing the online Change.org petition, you automatically email a notice to Oregon Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Chair, Megan Decker; Pacific Power President/CEO, Stefan Bird; and Oregon Governor, Kate Brown, along with our other Oregon elected officials. The petition address is change.org—enter “Megan Decker Oregon PUC” into the search bar.

Smart meters were installed in California several years ago, and now there are hundreds of lawsuits against the power companies. Thousands of smart meters are being removed, and people are even being reimbursed for the extorted opt-out fees. The state of New Mexico has banned smart meters throughout the entire state. It's important for the health and safety of our future generations that we educate ourselves about the hazards of radiation and continue to raise this awareness in our neighborhoods, schools, and work environments.

I won't begin to address the serious health hazards of RF radiation and smart meters in this article, as a plethora of rapidly expanding, well-documented scientific research, hard facts, and evidence are available on websites, in books, and film documentaries. I highly recommend watching two brilliant documentaries, *Generation Zapped* by Sabine El Gemayel and *Take Back Your Power* by Josh del Sol.

You can also email me at awarenessonradiation@gmail.com or freedom2sayno2smartmeters@gmail.com in Talent with any questions you might have about smart meters or RF radiation.

Tom Klinefelter
awarenessonradiation@gmail.com

Smart meters—
pick your battles thoughtfully

BY HOPE ROBERTSON

As smart meters are installed in Oregon, a number of friends have called to ask me about allowing the local utility to install one. For the past few decades I have worked as a consultant, researching issues and policies in the electric power industry, including smart meters.

Pacific Power recently installed the latest smart meter at our home. Once an hour the meter takes a reading of our electrical consumption. Using low-level radio-frequency (RF) electromagnetic radiation—essentially waves of electric and magnetic energy moving together—our smart meter transmits this data to a receiver somewhere in the local area. The data transmission takes less than a second. Over the course of a day, our smart meter is sending out low-level RF waves for less than half a minute. The rest of the time it is not emitting RF radiation.

Should you be concerned about less than half a minute of possible exposure to low-level RF waves emitted by your smart meter? My opinion is that for most people, compared to other sources of health risks we all currently face, it's not worth the upset and expensive battle to fight having a smart meter installed.

Right now, you are exposed to low-level RF EMF (electromagnetic field) from natural and man-made sources such as microwave ovens, cell phones, baby monitors, cordless phones, Wi-Fi routers, TV and radio broadcasts, and more. So far, I have not seen any definitive proof linking a specific device (including a smart meter) to increased cancer or any of the myriad of health issues raised by some people.

Yes, there are alarming websites claiming all sorts of horrible health impacts. An equal number of websites claim there are none. To a researcher this suggests that the jury is still out. The World Health Organization and the American Cancer Society have done extensive research on RF radiation and concluded these various RF emitting

devices might be a possible cause of cancer or other health effects, but it is extremely difficult to prove that the source was a specific RF emitting device versus other causes.

Does this mean the RF waves we are now bombarded with everywhere we go are harmless? Probably not. But when I sit down to think about the relative risks to my health from smart meters versus the chemicals in our foods (think Roundup), what lurks in our drinking water (think about all the pharmaceuticals flushed down the drain), or the health impacts of climate change, smart meters just don't come out high on my list of items to get worked up about.

Everyone views risk differently. Our smart meter is not on the side of our house but about 60 feet away. If our meter were located on the house outside the bedroom wall and at the head of our bed with a very thin wall separating us from the smart meter, I might ask the power company to move it to another location. But short of that, I think our smart meter poses a very minor health risk for my husband and me.

I also look at the level of the risk versus the cost of deciding to minimize that risk. First, opting out of a smart meter means spending a one-time fee of \$137 (if you opt out after a smart meter is installed) and then another fee of \$169 to re-install it when you move out of your house. On top of that you have to pay \$36 per month to cover the costs of someone coming out to read your analog meter.

I feel a better investment in my health would be buying healthy, locally produced organic food. Or donating this amount of money to a worthy environmental or health cause.

It is a sad statement about the state of our planet that one has to assess relative levels of risk in everything in your life, but as my title states, pick your battles thoughtfully.

Hope Robertson
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OPINION PIECES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinion pieces and letters to the editor represent the opinion of the author, not that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. As a community-based newsmagazine, we receive diverse opinions on different topics. We honor these opinions, but object to personal attacks and reserve the right to edit accordingly. Opinion pieces and letters to the editor **must focus on the Applegate Valley**. Political campaign articles will not be published. Opinion pieces are limited to 700 words; letters are limited to 450 words. Submissions will be edited for grammar and length. Opinion pieces **must** include publishable contact information (phone number and/or email address). All letters **must** be signed, with a full street address or PO Box and phone number. **Anonymous letters and opinion pieces will not be published.** Individual letters and opinion pieces may or may not be published.

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

Coming soon to
Applegate Valley Connect!

.....

Volunteer matchmaking

Organizations seeking volunteers can post on the website so that folks wanting to help can find available volunteer positions. More details to be announced on the *Applegater's* Facebook page.



#applegateoffense

Contact us today we may be able to offer technical assistance and project development for upland fuels reduction, irrigation efficiency, riparian restoration, and stream habitat improvement projects in the Applegate Watershed. Check out our project photos, videos and Lecture Series flyers at Applegate Partnership on Facebook, Instagram or our website:

www.apwc.info

Jakob Shockey, Riparian Program Manager
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"promoting ecological, economic and community well-being in the Applegate watershed through on-the-ground projects and strategic collaborations."

Smart meters Q&A with Pacific Power

Pacific Power is upgrading to smart meters to improve the way we power our customers' lives both at home and at work. Across the US, more than half of all homes currently use smart meters, and we're pleased to bring this upgrade to the Applegate community.

Smart meters are digital electric meters that communicate with Pacific Power through a wireless network. These meters utilize safe and secure wireless technology that will provide customers with greater insights into their energy usage, while helping us deliver cleaner, more reliable energy and faster, more responsive service.

Smart meters will help customers identify ways to save on their monthly electric bill. The meters also instantly alert us when an outage occurs, helping us to pinpoint the problem and get power restored more quickly. All in all, smart meters are an upgrade that will allow us to better serve our customers now and into the future.

Thank you to the *Applegater* newsmagazine for the opportunity to answer the questions below.

Can exposure to radiation from smart meters be harmful?

Smart meters transmit data using low-watt radio frequency (RF) waves that are proven to be safe and are well within the limits set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). These waves are something we encounter every day and are used for everything from radio and television broadcasts to cordless phones, cell phones, Wi-Fi routers, garage-door openers, and microwave ovens. Smart meters communicate for only a few minutes per day and are usually outdoors, farther from people than other devices that use RF. Living near a smart meter for 20 years is like making a single, 30-minute cell phone call.

What is the chance of fires caused by smart meters?

We want to reassure the community that the smart meters we are installing do not increase the risk of fire. We put our smart meters through extensive testing to ensure their safety. They not only meet or exceed ANSI standards, but are certified by UL testing labs and tested by a third party. We also require the meter manufacturer to test each meter prior to shipment, and we review all test results. Our qualified installers will carefully inspect the meter base and will also make needed repairs before installing the new meter.

How secure is the data transmitted by smart meters?

We take our customers' privacy very seriously and use the most advanced security and encryption technology to

protect our customers' information. In fact, Pacific Power's security measures undergo third-party audits to ensure that data is 100 percent secure.

The only data transmitted by smart meters is whole-home energy use. No personal information, such as name, address, or account number, is ever transmitted from smart meters. Pacific Power also receives no information on the specifics of your energy use and cannot track or record individual appliance usage. For example, if a customer used 3 kWh of electricity in a given hour, the smart meter would simply transmit "3 kWh." This total usage amount is the same information that traditional meters have always recorded.

Is Pacific Power going to sell the data?

Because we respect our customers' privacy, we would not sell information about any whole-house energy usage or any other customer data. As a matter of policy, Pacific Power is committed to safeguarding the privacy of individuals and businesses with respect to nonpublic, personal, and financial information.

Will smart meters increase the monthly bills of customers?

There is no installation fee and no monthly charge for the meter. In fact, both home and business customers can use the information their smart meter provides to get use insights on their energy usage and potentially lower their monthly bills.

Will opt-out costs be discontinued or reduced?

In response to customer and community feedback, Pacific Power filed a proposal with the Oregon Public Utility Commission to remove the upfront smart meter opt-out fee of \$137 at this time and re-evaluate it in the future. The proposal was approved by the Commission on August 14. This cost-based fee, which covers the future installation of a smart meter, was originally approved by the Commission last year before smart meter deployment began. By seeking to remove the fee, Pacific Power intends to reduce the financial impact for customers who opt-out while also helping to ensure the safety of our installers. Customers who opt out before a smart meter is installed will be charged only \$36 per month for manually reading an existing meter.

We encourage anyone who needs additional information on smart meters and Pacific Power's installation of the technology in Oregon to visit our website at pacificpower.net/smartmeter or call 866-869-8520. We are happy to help.

Looking forward to another great school year

BY RICH HALSTED

This year starts my second year as a board member of Three Rivers School District. It has truly been a privilege getting to meet the students, employees, and fantastic community volunteers and partners. The highlight of my first year on the board was meeting the graduates as they received their diplomas—truly an awesome opportunity. I am humbled by the hard work everyone in the district puts forth, and it is a privilege to serve. It is apparent that the folks involved with the schools make a difference each and every day.

I can personally attest that each of the board members cares deeply about education. We continue to work toward goals to improve the quality of the district. Simply speaking, we want our students not only to graduate but also to be prepared for college or a career.

One of the main goals is getting our graduation rate above 85 percent. This is certainly a challenge—historically almost one in three students does not graduate. I'm hopeful that when the state releases the graduation rates later this year we will have taken that important first step toward achieving this goal.

Another goal is improving our communication across the district. We took this to another level and held one board meeting at each of the three high schools to ensure that we heard from all the communities. Prior to the meetings, we held student panels to hear the concerns of the students directly. These provided exceptional dialog and insight on where we need to improve. The feedback was so invaluable that we are doubling the number of board meetings outside the district office and will also meet with our middle-school students.

You may have already heard that we were forced to cut a couple of school days. This could have been much worse if our employees hadn't made some significant sacrifices. This move is simply wrong, and we must work to not only get our days back but also to fix long-term funding issues. The school

board has very little to do with revenue and relies heavily on the state.

Although the laws that govern revenue disbursement may seem equitable on the surface, they have a negative effect on rural schools. One example is transportation. Last year our busing averaged over 9,000 miles a day; however, we are provided money for only 70 percent of those costs. We have to take money away from elsewhere to make up for the shortfall. In an urban area this would not have such a debilitating effect. My intent is to make sure each of our elected officials is aware of the revenue shortfalls and challenge each to provide a solution. I'm not advocating for more taxes, just a fairer distribution.

On the district side, we need to continue to scrutinize our spending while looking at how to be more efficient over the long term without causing harm to our communities. One example of this was a small boundary change that will take some building space pressure off Madrona Elementary. We heard, loud and clear, the community concerns and believe we provided a balanced solution that provides relief to the school at zero cost. Most importantly, we took into account the concerns of the local community.

The greatest asset to our schools is the community that supports them. Three Rivers schools are as diverse as the area that surrounds them. Our schools would struggle if we didn't have the volunteerism that each community provides. I encourage you to talk to your local principal and see where your talents can best be utilized. Although we are not a wealthy district, we are rich in the fact that we have so many fantastic teachers, staff, and community volunteers.

The school board meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Please visit our website at threerivers.k12.or.us for the location.

Rich Halsted, Board Member
Three Rivers School District
richhalsted@gmail.com

Applegate resident on Dean's List (again!)

Central Oregon Community College announced that Applegate resident Samantha Bango has qualified for the Spring 2018 Dean's List. Samantha is enrolled in 12 or more graded credits and received a term grade point average of 3.6 or better.

Congratulations, Samantha!



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NEXT GENERATION

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

Nature is calling!

Environmental education at Ruch Outdoor Community School



Settled in the beautiful Applegate Valley, surrounded by vineyards, rushing rivers, majestic mountains, a landscape that offers anyone an opportunity of reflection and gratitude, is Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS). Service-learning projects abound in the standard curriculum and the everyday happenings at ROCS. Students, preschool through eighth grade, quickly realize their responsibility of being stewards of their environment.

Environmental Education has always been a focus, but this year we are increasing our intention and engagement with a new partnership with Southern Oregon University (SOU) Environmental Education Program. ROCS will serve as SOU's Environmental Education Field School! This will benefit our staff, students, families, and community in so many ways, and we are excited to get started.

- Potential benefits include:
- "Adopt a Classroom" where SOU students will be given a classroom and establish relationships as mentors.
 - Professional development workshops for teachers in and around the Rogue Valley to learn about best practices in environmental education.
 - Outdoor education training and opportunities such as "Fall in the Field," which provides place-based

environmental education through day hikes and residential camps.

- University campus visits for ROCS students
- Environmental education lesson testing for SOU students
- Curriculum development
- Student-teaching opportunities at ROCS

The staff at ROCS is committed to offering opportunities for all our students that foster growth in the principles of environmental education. This commitment allows our students to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving and critical thinking, and take action to improve their community and environment where they live and learn.

What an exciting time for our families and community members! Help us welcome the folks at Southern Oregon University and the Environmental Education Program. This relationship will provide amazing results and benefits for *all* of us!

Please contact us at 541-842-3850 to tour our school and learn about the programs we offer. The school is located at 156 Upper Applegate Road in Jacksonville (Ruch).

Julie Barry, Principal
Ruch Outdoor Community School
julie.Barry@medford.k12.or.us

Applegate and Williams schools

On May 19, Applegate and Williams Schools received the help of 80 volunteers from Serve Grants Pass, who came to work on a variety of maintenance projects. A big thank you to these generous folks.

The staffs for both schools returned to work the week of August 27. Students will return to school on Tuesday, September 4.

Williams School is excited to welcome Justine Simons, who will be teaching grades two and three.

The annual fundraiser for Applegate School's enrichment programs will take place on Saturday, September 22. The event, called the Applegate Vine Run, is again hosted by Wooldridge

Creek Winery. Runners can enter the 1K kids' run, the 5K walk/run, or the 12K or 24K runs. This fundraiser requires many volunteers, so please call Applegate School at 541-846-6280 if you can help.

Girls volleyball season will begin in September, and plans for the annual jog-a-thon fundraisers will get under way after school starts.

All community members hope that the smoke will clear and that the air quality will be healthy before school starts. We are deeply grateful to all the firefighters who have been working hard to control the fires.

Jean Hall
jhall80@juno.com

New Applegate School greenhouse!

Applegate School has a new greenhouse!

We can't thank John and Carrie DiBiasi enough for their donation of this fine greenhouse for our small K-8 school. Many thanks to John's crew at Evolve Greenhouse Systems too.

The old greenhouse was falling apart and beyond repair (see photo). Time went by, and then, before our very eyes, a large new greenhouse came into being, built from the ground up during little bits of spare time that could be donated to the project.

In the new greenhouse this past spring, the production of milkweed for monarch butterflies began again. Applegate School has been supporting monarch butterflies and other pollinators since 2001 when we first created our butterfly habitat.

Besides growing native milkweeds, we hope to have students grow some native wildflowers and learn about each one. Students can study botany, science, and art when learning about nature in the greenhouse.

Along with native plants we will grow a few garden-variety flowers good for pollinators. Carrie DiBiasi and I hope to let students hold small plant sales before summer break to pay



The new Applegate School greenhouse with plants, on August 1, 2018. Photo: Linda Kappen.



The old greenhouse in January 2016, just before it was taken apart and nicely stacked for removal. Photo: Linda Kappen.

for planting supplies and care of the grounds around the greenhouse and butterfly habitat.

Many thanks to everyone who was involved in this project, including all the children who helped on the days the greenhouse was erected, and my own family, who was a big help when setup time came.

Linda Kappen
humbugkapps@hotmail.com

A sponsor of the *Applegater's* annual fundraiser at Valley View Winery on October 14, 2018.



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RFC offers training for beginning farmers

BY ELIZABETH TOBEY

While the Rogue Valley may be known agriculturally for its wine and, increasingly, its cannabis, one locally based nonprofit is working hard to cultivate a different type of crop: the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

Rogue Farm Corps (RFC) got its start right here in the Little Applegate Valley in 2004, when a group of local food producers saw the need for beginning farmer training. Most of them were first-generation farmers and recognized that because farmland is no longer being handed down generation to generation the way it once was, knowledge about how to farm is no longer being passed down either. Because of this, many beginning farmers, who often didn't grow up farming, have to learn the hard way.

The group in the Little Applegate, seeing how useful mentors would have been to them as they began their farming career, committed themselves to mentoring the next generation. Thus, RFC was born.

Fourteen years later, RFC has grown from the original Rogue Valley Chapter to include chapters in the South Willamette Valley, the Portland Metro Area, and Central Oregon. But the need for beginning farmers has also become all the more urgent. According to the latest US Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture, the average age of farmers in the state of Oregon is approaching 60, sparking concern for how we will steward our agricultural

lands and continue to produce food in the years to come.

In 1920 approximately 30 percent of Americans were farmers. As of 2012, less than one percent of the population were principal farm operators and the farmers over 65 outnumbered the farmers under 35 by a ratio of 6 to 1. Though these are national statistics, the Applegate Valley is not that different. Without concerted effort, our agricultural and food production lands could turn over to developers and corporate interests.

RFC is working to shift these numbers by training the next generation of farmers and ranchers through two main educational programs: (1) the Internship Program, a season-long, entry-level training designed for beginning farmers who are seeking a starting point in agriculture, and (2) the Apprenticeship Program, an advanced-level training program serving farmers who have a year or two of experience and are seeking managerial experience and business training.

Both of these programs are grounded in experiential education. Around the state, interns and apprentices enrolled in RFC's farmer training programs work alongside Host Farmers in order to gain real-world experience in what it takes to be a farmer and a part of a local food system.

In addition to hands-on training, students also attend classes on topics such as farm business, tractor maintenance, soil science, and animal



Participants in RFC's internship and apprenticeship programs tour Wandering Fields during a class in weed management and tool use.

care. This region is fortunate to have so many incredible small farms, and students are able to visit many of them, including Forage and Plow, Barking Moon, Willow Witt, Wolf Gulch, and others, for farm tours, classes, and a chance to hear directly from a wide variety of farmers about their story. Together, the internship and apprenticeship programs equip participants with the knowledge and experience they need to start successful and sustainable farming businesses.

Because the future of farming is directly dependent on having fertile topsoil, abundant fresh water, and a livable climate, RFC trains all of our interns and apprentices to be not only successful farmers but also responsible land stewards equipped to help build a more just, equitable, and Earth-sustaining food system.

In 2016 RFC added the Farm Preservation Program in order to educate the public about the expected mass transition of farms and ranch land, to facilitate that transition by working with farmers and ranchers to plan for succession, and to help aspiring farmers with access to land.

Here in the Rogue Valley, our Host Farmers are By George, Sun Spirit, Oshala, Wandering Fields, and Easy Valley. So next time you see them at market or out delivering fresh food to restaurants and stores around the valley, be sure to thank them for working with RFC to help protect the future of our food system!

You can learn more about Rogue Farm Corps and the work they're doing at roguefarmcorps.org.

Elizabeth Tobey
elizabeth@roguefarmcorps.org

Trebuchet, wine, and pumpkins at Harvest Festival

BY STEVE IVES

Sometimes it's just for the fun of the thing.

Saturday, October 6, marks LongSword Vineyard's fourth annual Harvest Festival featuring Pumpkin Chunkin'. This unique event traditionally provides a host of fun fall activities like pumpkin painting, listening to live music, and, of course, imbibing delicious wine.

For the past three years, guests have also enjoyed hurling pumpkins into LongSword's back field using giant slingshots. While LongSword's slingshots are still available, this year brings a twist to the Pumpkin Chunkin' part of the event: The gentlemen of the Sterling Creek Men's Literary Appreciation Association (SCMLAA) have built a brand-new trebuchet to toss those holiday gourds.

All proceeds of the separate trebuchet Pumpkin Chunkin' will be donated to the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association (SUTA), the volunteer organization that maintains the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail and is building and maintaining the new Jack-Ash Trail. SUTA's mission is to ensure the availability of local hiking, biking, and equestrian trails for generations to come.

Inspired by their love of good books, juvenile fun, and perhaps an adult beverage or two, the SCMLAA guys constructed a medieval marvel. The trebuchet, a counterweight-powered catapult, stands a whopping 16 feet high and is capable of hurling a modest-sized pumpkin 100 yards downrange. Prizes will be awarded for the most accurate and longest flings, as well as the most creatively decorated projectile.



Taking a break from building a trebuchet for LongSword Vineyard's Harvest Festival are SCMLAA members, from left to right, Jim Reiland, Clint Driver, Bjorn Everson, and Steve Ives.
Photo: Neal Anderson.

Roots Music will entertain revelers between 1 - 4 pm and a favorite local food truck, Wok Star, will be on-site as well. LongSword is generously supplying paint and supplies for the kids (and adults!) to decorate their pumpkins.

This free, family-friendly event runs from 12 - 5 pm at LongSword Vineyard, 8555 Highway 238, just

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival showcases the most recent vintages of LongSword's small-batch creative wines, available for sampling at the tasting room for \$5. Live music from Sweet Grass Original

west of Ruch. Come support a great organization working to maintain recreational opportunities here in our local area and have some fun doing it!

Steve Ives
scootcity@hotmail.com

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Two easy steps to protect your pets

BY LAURA AHEARN

Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS) invites you to the Jackson County Animal Shelter in Phoenix to volunteer, drop off donations, adopt a pet, or provide a foster home.

But please, we do not want your pet to visit! Earlier this year, four dogs in the shelter came from the Applegate Valley: three stray or abandoned, and one discarded by owners who didn't want to pay the fine for having allowed their beautiful girl to wander for the fourth time.

In partnership with Southern Oregon Humane Society, FOTAS and Jackson County found homes for these four lovely dogs, although the dogs had to deal with the stress of shelter life for up to two months. *Fact:* There is no deadline for killing animals that end up in our shelter. If an animal passes tests for health and behavior and is suitable for adoption, we are 100 percent committed to finding that animal a proper home, no matter how long it takes.

Applegate Valley is an animal-loving community, and pet owners can take these simple steps to avoid losing their best furry friends:

Have a current county license tag on your pet's collar

Oregon law and county codes require that all dogs six months and older receive rabies vaccines and be licensed in the county where the owner resides. Cat licenses, while not mandatory, are available for just \$2 per year for a desexed feline. Get this: On the third Saturday of every month, at the Phoenix shelter, Jackson County residents can have pets vaccinated for rabies and other common diseases for just \$10 per shot and then get licenses on the spot.

County licenses are cheap insurance. If the gate is accidentally left open or the door ajar and your pet gets loose, the license tag tells the world, "I am a loved pet; please help me get home." People who find an animal wearing a license tag almost always contact the county and try to find the owner before the animal even reaches the shelter. And if a dog with a current Jackson County license does end up at the shelter? There

is a "free ride home" and no redemption fee if this is a "first offense."

Recognizing that stray animals don't honor county lines, if a pet wearing a Josephine County tag ends up at the Phoenix shelter, staff will call the licensing office in Grants Pass to get the owner's contact information and work with Josephine County to get that pet back home. But the process can be even more efficient if you...

Microchip your pet

Collars and license tags can be lost or even removed by a petnapper, but a microchip is permanent. Every animal at the Phoenix shelter is scanned for a microchip on intake. If a chip is found, a staff member will access the contact information for that chip and try to track down the current owner. A microchip gets the process started no matter which jurisdiction the animal comes from, so it is important to keep owner contact information updated.

Owners have four days to claim a pet that enters the shelter without ID. Animals with a microchip or ID tag are held for ten days. After that, we get to work on assessing the animal for adoption potential and finding a good, fur-ever home.

Finding homes is a challenging task. How well do FOTAS and the Jackson County shelter do? In 2017, the shelter received 1,801 stray or surrendered dogs; 1,665 were returned to owners, placed in adoptive homes, or transferred to other rescue groups. That is a "save rate" of 93 percent.

Sadly, for cats, only 964 of 1,696 were returned to owners or found homes. This reflects a nationwide pattern: more cats than dogs are euthanized and far fewer are claimed by owners. Can you help us turn this trend around? You'll find the purr-fect kitten at jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/Animal-Services/Adoption/Cats.

For more information, call 541-774-6651 or email fotasjc@gmail.com.

Laura Ahearn
laura.ahearn@stanfordalumni.org
 Laura and husband, Steve, live in Upper Applegate with their 17- and 15-year-old rescue dogs. They walk dogs at the shelter every Thursday.

Clockwise, from top left: (1) "Spottie." FOTAS receives many small senior dogs.

(2) "Xena." FOTAS really needs the community's help to find homes for cats.

(3) "Kendall." Gentle dog abandoned by Applegaters and rehomed after two months.

(4) "Titan." This face says it all.



You wanna pet a skunk?

Fun at the Applegate Partnership Jubilee outreach

BY BARBARA SUMMERHAWK

"You wanna pet a skunk?" asked Jade Keehn, habitat biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Jade was volunteering at the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council's (APWC) exhibit tables at the Cantrall Buckley Park Golden Jubilee celebration that was held on July 14. The little boy she asked nodded with widening eyes as Jade slapped a skunk pelt on the table.

Petting pelts turned out to be a big draw for the APWC at the event, popular not only with the children stopping by the booth but also with parents and other adults. (ODFW has petting pelts available for community outreach and were generous enough to allow the APWC to use them that weekend.) In addition to skunks, APWC had pelts of cougars, otters, foxes, beavers, possums, and even a wolf, which gave a close-up, if inert, view of the wildlife found in southern Oregon. People shared stories about their own encounters with the critters and, in the process, exchanged information and contacts throughout the afternoon.

Visitors also found the Southern Oregon Flyfishers stream table fascinating. This fun hands-on educational tool allows kids and adults to alter the stream channel, build farms, create dams, imitate in-stream restoration, and observe how certain alterations lead to erosion and others protect against degradation.

The APWC was one of many exhibitions of Applegate Valley organizations and groups serving the larger community. Visitors from other exhibits picked up APWC-provided literature, looked at maps of fish passage removal work, and checked out riparian restoration projects. The APWC members staffing the booth were encouraged to develop future outreach and education projects.

One of those projects is to prepare a more permanent kind of traveling educational toolbox to take to other events and local schools.

The APWC was happy to have been a part of the Cantrall Buckley Park celebration and wishes to thank A Greater Applegate and event organizers.



The author, aka "foxy lady," modeling an ODFW fox pelt at the APWC exhibit at the Cantrall Buckley Park Golden Jubilee in July.



Willow tree cuttings were given away at the APWC exhibit to folks who wanted to replant them and watch a stem root at home.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Park Enhancement Committee.

If anyone wants to pet a skunk, please feel free to contact the Applegate Partnership at 541-899-9982.

Barbara Summerhawk
 APWC Board Member
barbara@ic.daito.ac.jp

Kids enjoy the Southern Oregon Flyfishers stream table at APWC's exhibit at the Cantrall Buckley Park Golden Jubilee.



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, top row from left:

—**William, Margaret, and Bryan della Santina** pause to read news from home while climbing a red dune in the ancient Namib Desert near Sossusvlei, Namibia.

— After hiking a brutal 2.5 miles to the top of Black Butte, **Hope Robertson, Neal Anderson, Annette Parsons, and Jim Clover** check the Gater for a lemurian sighting report.

—While hiking the GR20 trail in Corsica, France, **Mike Kohn and**

Diana Coogle take directions from the always clear and precise French travel section of the Applegater. (They made it home.)

Middle row from left:

—White Pass and Yukon Route train brakeman, **David Dobbs**, thoroughly enjoys the local flavor of the Applegate Valley while **Scott Traina** patiently waits his turn.

—**Lauri Dobbs** (no relation to the above-mentioned David Dobbs) checks the gondola tour schedule in the Gater while in Venice, Italy.



—**Linda Yates** reads the latest Applegate Valley news to Winnie Mandela at the Nelson Mandela home in Soweto, South Africa.

Bottom row from left:

—While touring Maine, **Audrey Eldridge** drowns out the sounds of the loons by meditating with the Applegater.

—**Donna Koenig, Linda Smock, Zephaniah and Candis Munster, and Doug Smolinski** look for gift ideas in the Gater at A Christmas Story House in Cleveland, Ohio.

—**Carys Lorang and Zoey Nelson**, daughters of Josh Weber, find valuable tidbits in the Gater about Yellowstone Park's geysers and hot springs.



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