



Photo by Teya Jacobi

applegate.org

SPRING 2019
Volume 12, No. 1

Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 13,000

Celebrating
~25~
Years

Cantrall Buckley Park Example of community collaboration

BY CATHY RODGERS



The newly installed solar array at Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Cathy Rodgers.

Cantrall Buckley Park, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, has become a prime example of private and public partnerships collaborating for the common good of the community.

Much has been accomplished at Cantrall Buckley Park in the last few months, and many exciting projects loom on the horizon.

Solar array

One of the most noteworthy improvements is the installation of the Solar Array. A Greater Applegate (AGA), in collaboration with Jackson County Parks, received an \$89,000 grant from Pacific Power's Blue Sky program to install a 23.4 kilowatt solar array. The array is now generating electricity for the park and sends any surplus electricity back to the county power grid. This array helps Jackson County Parks become a more sustainably operated county park system, while also providing a welcome shade structure for park users. Incorporated into the space is an educational component, enabling guests at the park to learn about the benefits of sustainable solar energy. Park supporters are grateful for the funds provided by the Blue Sky program that helped to make this project a reality! Steve Lambert, Jackson County Parks program manager, says, "My thanks to AGA for all the assistance in the creation and installation of the educational display kiosk."

Sundial

Complementing the solar array is the newly installed sundial. Modeled after ancient sundials, it uses the same scientific principles applied by the Greeks, Babylonians, and Egyptians thousands of years ago. The interactive sundial engages park visitors as gnomons—the projecting pieces of a sundial that



Mock Orange sculpture, first of 11 sculptures by artist Cheryl Garcia to be installed along the "Art in the Park" walk. Photo: Cathy Rodgers.

show the time by the position of their shadows—as they cast their own shadows onto locally positioned numeric tiles. The accompanying educational pedestal and sign offer fun facts, information, and instructions on how to use the sundial to tell time.

The design, construction, and installation of the sundial were made possible by generous donations from the Oregon Community Foundation, the Carpenter Foundation, private donors, and the time and talent of our local artists and volunteers, including Audrey Eldridge, Lydia Shockey, Jeremy Criswell, Cathy Rodgers, and Bert Boulter—all under the leadership of Janis

See **CANTRALL BUCKLEY PARK**, page 10.

Searching for a healthier lifestyle? Applegate businesses can help

BY DIANA COOGLE

Are you depressed? Have you experienced a recent death? Do you feel fat, need exercise, suffer from tension or anxiety, seek spiritual direction? Or maybe you just want to become a calmer, more empathetic person. Whatever your mind or body needs, there is someone in the Applegate to help.

Massage. Haley May of May Massage Arts says massage is especially helpful for someone undergoing a big life event (losing a job, getting a divorce) or stressful times (planning an event, hosting a holiday). Massage lowers blood pressure and increases circulation by relieving stress. It also provides a needed sense of touch and connection.

Yoga. Besides improving flexibility and increasing muscle tone, energy levels, and focus, "yoga helps calm your mind and body and balance every aspect of your life," says yoga instructor Teri Becker. "And when you feel better mentally and physically, you have more energy and patience."

Cassidy Geppert says yoga "is healing in that it helps me become fully comfortable in my own skin," but as a yoga instructor she is interested in "changes on the awareness level: How we relate to the rest of the world."

Meditation. Barrett Gifford, who leads Zazen meditations, calls Zazen, "a nonreligious philosophy" and meditation "an opportunity to practice insight and



Yoga instructor Cassidy Geppert believes yoga is healing.

contemplation into the workings of your own mind. It actually rewires the neural networking of the brain," she says, "and teaches us how to act from a place of compassion," addressing tendencies to be anxious, depressed, or angry.

Nutrition. The Hawthorn Institute, a school for herbal medicine and Ayurveda (a traditional Hindu system of medicine), has two guiding principles: "The body and the mind are one, and nothing has more power to heal and transform the body than the mind." Their Foundations Program, for instance, encompasses place-based herbalism, lifestyle, yoga, Ayurveda, sustainable farming, diet, and nutrition.

See **HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE**, page 12.

Merete's Cove—an Applegate legacy

BY TOM CARSTENS

"Keith, you've got to do something!" In her Danish accent, Merete (pronounced "Merita") Wetlesen encouraged her son, Keith, to purchase and reopen the wayside park adjacent to the Applegate Store. To her chagrin, the park had been closed for several years due to problems with vagrants.

Back in the day, Keith Wetlesen spent his boyhood summers swimming in the Applegate River. He enjoyed the challenge of mastering those rapids just upriver from the swimming hole. In fact, Keith credits these experiences with giving him the confidence to handle himself in the water.



Keith Wetlesen, owner of Merete's Cove. Photo: Tom Carstens.

He had a chance to put that know-how to the test when he was in the navy. In 1978, Keith's ship was hit with an off-target bomb and began taking on water

See **MERETE'S COVE**, page 24.

Local Postal Customer

Nonprofit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit #125
Medford OR

ECRWSEDDM

COMMERCE - COMMUNITY

Native Plant Society Annual Meeting comes to the Applegate in July

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

The Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) is hosting the statewide Annual Meeting in the Applegate on July 12 to 14. Botanists and native plant lovers from around Oregon and beyond will come geek out on the unique flora of the Applegate Siskiyou.

Founded in Portland in 1961, NPSO began as a single organization but has grown to a network of 13 active chapters. Our local Siskiyou Chapter was the first chapter established (1978), with extraordinary local interest in native plants due to the world-class biodiversity of the Siskiyou Mountains.

The Siskiyou Chapter was formed for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes: to preserve, conserve, and study native plants and vegetation of Oregon and to educate the public about the values of native flora and habitat. The Siskiyou Chapter hosts programs, coordinates field trips and work parties, sponsors native plant teacher education programs, advocates for local native plants and plant communities, and offers college students grants to encourage the study of botany.

Oregon has over 3,600 species of native plants. Large or small, abundant or rare, each is unique and special. Over 450 of our native plant species are listed as threatened or endangered by the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC). Conserving and preserving species and habitat for all native species, but especially those in danger, is a priority for NPSO. NPSO partners with the Oregon Flora Project, ORBIC, and federal and state agencies to collaborate and aid in native plant conservation efforts.

Each year a different chapter or set of chapters hosts an annual meeting that features many field trips over three days that highlight and explore local botany and ecology, along with speakers, a banquet, and plenty of social time.

This year the Siskiyou Chapter will be hosting the Annual Meeting at Pacifica Garden in Williams. Chef Kristen, of Jefferson Farm Kitchen in Jacksonville, will cater the three-day event (breakfast, lunch, and dinner).

- Friday, July 12, will include multiple half-day field trips, an evening speaker, and social time featuring local beer, wine, and cider.
- Saturday, July 13, will include many full-day field trips, an evening speaker and banquet, and social time featuring local beer, wine, and cider.
- Sunday, July 14, will include several half-day field trips, an NPSO board meeting, and time for participants to travel home.



The rare Siskiyou fireweed (*Epilobium siskiyouense*), which grows in the Applegate Siskiyou, will be featured on the 2019 NPSO Annual Meeting logo.

An enthusiastic volunteer organizing committee is working hard to pull off this amazing event. In the works are a wide range of field trips, including Dutchman's Peak, Big Red Mountain, Observation Peak, Cook and Green Pass, Bigelow Lakes, Grayback Mountain, Miller Lake, Middle Fork, Frog Pond, Babyfoot Lake, Red Lily Riparian Restoration, Cedar Log Flat Research Natural Area, and more!

Registration will begin in April. The event is open to any current member of NPSO, so if you are interested in attending, make sure to become a member or renew your membership soon. Annual individual membership is \$25. You can become a member here: npsoregon.org/online.html.

Follow the Siskiyou Chapter on Facebook to get updates about the Annual Meeting and registration details. The NPSO Annual Meeting can sell out fast so keep up-to-date here: facebook.com/SiskiyouChapterNativePlantSocietyOfOregon.

Included in the event fee is swag, which this year will feature a stainless-steel cup and bamboo utensil set to go along with our "zero waste" ethic for the event. We will also have T-shirts and hats for sale. The Siskiyou Chapter is working with local botanical artist, Paula Fong, to create an event logo that will feature Siskiyou fireweed (*Epilobium siskiyouense*), one of the many lovely rare plants in the Siskiyou.

Want to get better acquainted with the local flora of Applegate? The NPSO Annual Meeting will get you out in the field with excellent botanists and naturalists who will highlight the incredible biodiversity of the region and introduce you to rare, endemic, and unusual plant species. The Siskiyou Chapter hosts the Annual Meeting only every seven years, so don't miss out!

Suzie Savoie, Siskiyou Chapter NPSO Conservation Chair and Annual Meeting Organizing Committee
klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com

— CORRECTIONS TO WINTER 2018 APPLGATER—

—Linda Kappen's son, Dakota, was the photographer of the masthead photo on the cover.

—On page one, in the photo caption under the Lincoln Savage mascot mural photo, we incorrectly stated that Jay Marshall was the muralist. The correct muralist is Valarie Sloan, who worked for three months with students to create that mural. Our apologies.

39th Annual Quilt Show in Grants Pass in May

BY SUSAN J. TRESNER



The Rogue Valley Piecemakers will hold their 39th Annual Quilt Show on Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11, 2019, at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in Grants Pass. Over 200 colorful quilts will be on display. Expect the unexpected—this year our theme is "Wild Things"!

The show will feature beautiful bed, lap, and children's quilts, innovative art quilts, other fabric-related items, and quilts made by guild members celebrating the theme "Wild Things." Knowledgeable guild members will be on hand on both days to answer questions about quilts and quilting and to demonstrate various techniques.

The Piecemakers' "Heartworks Boutique" will sell sewing supplies, quilts, and gifts handcrafted by guild members. A silent auction will include quilts, wall hangings, and other items, and vendors from Oregon and California will sell fabrics, patterns, and the latest notions and machines for quilters.

Attendees could win door prizes (given away hourly on both days) or raffle items of themed baskets and prizes. They can also purchase tickets for a chance to win the Piecemakers'

2019 Opportunity Quilt, "Wild Poppies." Proceeds from the Opportunity Quilt will benefit the Women's Crisis Center and Joe's Place. The lucky winners of the Opportunity Quilt, raffle, and silent auction items will be announced prior to the close of the show on Saturday afternoon.

Quilt show hours are 9:30 am to 4 pm both days at Josephine County Fairgrounds on Route 199 in Grants Pass. Admission is \$5 per day; children under 12 are admitted free. There is ample free parking.

The purpose of the Rogue Valley Piecemakers is to contribute to the growth and knowledge of quilting through friendship, inspiration, education, and community outreach. Our meetings provide a time to enjoy fellowship, learn more about quilting techniques, and share experiences about the art of making quilts. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in quilting. Our activities include Sit and Stitch, Show and Tell, demonstrations and workshops, classes taught by professional teachers, and a Comfort Quilt program.

Visitors are welcome! Join us, along with other Applegate Valley members, on the first and third Mondays of the month from 9 am to noon at the Fruitdale Grange, 1440 Parkdale Drive, Grants Pass (at the corner of Rogue River Highway and Parkdale Drive).

For more information please stop by one of our meetings or write Rogue Valley Piecemakers, PO Box 5652, Grants Pass, OR 97527 or visit rvpiecemakers.com.

Susan J. Tresner
541-955-4676

amazonsurvivor@msn.com



Logtown Cemetery 80th anniversary

The Logtown Cemetery Association is celebrating its 80th anniversary, "80 Years Strong!" with a reception on May 19 at 4 pm at the Jacksonville Library. All are welcome, especially past board members and families or descendants thereof, who will be honored during the ceremony.

The association was started in 1939 to oversee the operations of the four-acre cemetery, which is listed as a historic cemetery with the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries. Its first recorded burial was in 1862. The cemetery is run by a seven-person volunteer board. Past board members have a history of serving for decades. Gertrude Wingham and John Black served for 45 years and 68 years, respectively.

Logtown contains veterans from the Spanish-American War and every war since. As part of its three-phase improvement plan, the cemetery is seeking donations for a veterans memorial with hopes for a dedication in November 2019. Future projects include a walking tour and a new-old entry.

Logtown Cemetery is on Highway 238 six miles outside of Jacksonville. For more information, visit logtowncm.org, call 541-899-4114 or email logtowncm@yahoo.com.



National celebration to welcome home all veterans who served during the period of the Vietnam War.



Friday, March 29, 2019 • 10 am - 2 pm

A barbecue lunch, service providers, and guests speakers will be at the event. Please come and show your support. All are welcome!

Riverside Park Trevillian Pavilion • 304 SE Park Street • Grants Pass, OR

Grants Pass Vet Center • 541-479-6912

Applegaters march in Grants Pass and Medford

BY LAURA AHEARN AND GINNY NIEBUHR

Hearty, enthusiastic locals turned out on a wet January 19 for the Women's Marches in Grants Pass and Medford. Applegaters Suzanne Lavine and Ginny Niebuhr were among the organizers of Women's Wave, the second Women's March to be held in Grants Pass. More than 300 people gathered at Riverside Park at 10 am—with signs, hats, umbrellas, and several dogs—to celebrate the positive outcomes for and by women in the midterm elections. Emcee Madeleine DeCoursey led the crowd in some rousing chants. An unscheduled speaker stole the microphone, but the crowd responded with a robust rendition of the “Star Spangled Banner,” drowning him out.

Marchers proceeded from the park up Sixth Street to the courthouse where they were led in song by Jeni Foster, enjoyed the harmonies of duo Omiza River, and listened to a solo performance by Madeleine DeCoursey. Sheri Morin, a local representative of the Democratic Party, delivered a short speech, and a heartfelt plea by Grandmother Agnes Baker Pilgrim, the oldest living member of the Takelma Siletz Tribe, closed the event. Following the Grants Pass march, a “Women in Politics” seminar was held at The Haul restaurant to educate and encourage people who are interested in running for political office.

The “Build the Bench” march at Hawthorne Park in Medford took off at 11 am with a squad of young girls leading around 1,000 marchers (and, again, several dogs). Applegaters again worked behind the scenes: Laura Ahearn served as volunteer coordinator, Dahna Dow Osmus “womanned” the food-drive booth, and Stuart Osmus managed the parking.

After marchers completed a lap around Hawthorne Park, Lakota Elder Deborah Frances (“Beautiful Little Dancing Crow”), a naturopathic physician and shaman, offered a blessing. Musical performers included Zizi (marimba), Sage Meadows with the Bellview Ukulele and Guitar players, Tish McFadden and Sharon Dorhmann singing “A Scary Time for Boys,” and award-winning



Jamie McLeod-Skinner gave keynote addresses at both marches. Photos: Gary Mark Roberts.

blues/roots singer Karen Lovely. America Silva spoke about how strong women overcome the odds, Dr. Lanita Witt spoke about her experience in county politics, and Isabella Tibbets, a Quechua of Pelileo, Ecuador, about the plight of missing and exploited indigenous women. The event closed with a gleeful “Break the Chain” flash-mob dance.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, the 2018 candidate to represent Oregon's second congressional district (which includes Jackson County and parts of Josephine County), was the keynote speaker at both marches! Compared to the 45,000-plus miles McLeod-Skinner famously traveled during the 2018 congressional campaign, the trip from Grants Pass to Medford was an easy sprint. McLeod-Skinner generated optimism and a commitment to “persist” among the southern Oregonians in attendance, reminding us of the brave women (and men and groups) throughout American history who have promoted and protected our shared values. McLeod-Skinner also exhorted the crowds to recycle: “Save those yard signs!”

Laura Ahearn and
Ginny Niebuhr
laura.ahearn@stanfordalumni.org

'Helping them heal, one warrior at a time'

BY MARTHA KLEYN-SCHOOREL

That's the slogan of the nonprofit Divide Camp, which will hold its annual Dinner and Auction Fundraiser at the National Guard Armory in Medford on March 16, 2019. Tickets are \$35 and are available at Ruch Hardware, Punky's Diner in Medford, Western Beverage in Medford, and on the website at dividecamp.org. Proceeds from ticket sales help pay the expenses of all the veterans at Divide Camp this year.

Divide Camp, located on the divide between Big and Little Sheep Creeks in the Wallowa Mountains, was the inspiration of Applegate Valley resident Julie Fossen Wheeler after she arrived at her family's old elk-hunting camp near Joseph in northeastern Oregon with the intention of cleaning it and putting up a “For Sale” sign. The log cabins she helped build with her parents, Jim and Rita Fossen, on the 40-acre parcel in the late

1960s were dilapidated. As she stood on the porch of the lodge, she felt a tug at her heart and realized that the property should be used for a meaningful purpose. And she knew exactly what it would be: Divide Camp.

Julie made a commitment to help honor and heal veterans wounded



in combat post-9/11, and to offer healing and hope through nature and outdoor recreational therapies. Divide

See *DIVIDE CAMP*, page 20

Living on Your Land conference in April

Every year the Land Steward Program at the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC) holds a one-day conference, Living on Your Land, offering up to 28 classes on subjects of interest to landowners. This year SOREC is partnering with Tree School Rogue for a combined offering covering a wealth of timely topics.

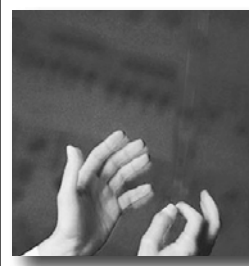
The event will be held at the Rogue Community College Grants Pass campus on Saturday, April 27. While not everything is confirmed in time for the *Applegater* deadline, what is confirmed should be of interest to anyone caring for a piece of land. Full details will be posted at livingonyourland.com. Save the date and stay tuned.

This year the fabulous Rich Fairbanks will give his popular presentation on “21st Century Fire Management.” SOREC forester Max Bennett teams up with forester Terry Fairbanks to present a class on “Adapting Your Forest to Climate Change.” Special guest Mike Cloughesy, from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, will provide insight on forest watershed science, backed up by the practical advice of both Jackson and Josephine County watermasters about water rights. There will be a native plant walk, a class on climate resilience by visiting Oregon State University senior instructor Andrew Millison, a presentation of carbon sequestration, and a class on Hügélkultur (using a compost mound as a raised bed).

After Millison's keynote address at 8:15 am, participants can choose from a schedule of four classes, which ends at 5 pm. The \$60 registration fee covers instruction, class materials, and coffee breaks. Lunch is available for an additional \$10. Registration by mail and phone opens in early March (no walk-in registration).

Watch for flyers on local bulletin boards and check livingonyourland.com for full details.

Jack Duggan • shanachie@hughes.net
Jack Duggan has been a Land Steward since 2010 and an avid promoter of the program ever since.



Voices of the Applegate Concerts & Rehearsals

Voices of the Applegate began the winter-spring season on January 8 with a good turnout of choir members. Our director, Shayne Flock, has presented us with some exciting songs for this session—a Simon and Garfunkel arrangement of “Benedictus”; John Denver's “Sunshine on My Shoulder”; a challenging Italian piece, “Fa Una Canzona” (“Sing Me a Song”), to be sung in Italian; and some folk songs. So you see, it's an interesting array of music all the way around.

Shayne Flock took over the directing of Voices of the Applegate in the fall of 2018 and has infused the choir with his enthusiasm and talent as a teacher. We are a community choir made up of singers from the Applegate Valley and Jacksonville. We perform two concerts every year, one in the fall and one in the spring, in both Applegate and Jacksonville. We have also performed at Pioneer Village in Jacksonville for the past two years.

Our rehearsals are held every Tuesday evening in the Ruch Library meeting room during spring and fall seasons. Our next concerts will be held on Friday, April 5, at 7:30 pm at the Historic Presbyterian Church on 6th and California Streets in Jacksonville and on Sunday, April 7, at 3 pm at the Applegate River Lodge at 15100 Highway 238 in Applegate.

There is no admission fee, but donations are always welcome. For more information, call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988.

— NOT TO MISS: ONLINE ARTICLES —

- Healthy lifestyle businesses contact information
- *Spring Fling* poem, by Connie Fowler
- *Stories on the Land*, excerpted by Diana Coogle

www.applegater.org

Pacifica: A rebirth at 20

BY GERI LITTLEJOHN

As Pacifica turns 20, its board is excited for new growth and deeper community engagement. Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyou was founded in 1999 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with this mission statement: "A unique 400-plus acre natural reserve dedicated to education and to the celebration of the environment, plants, the arts, and community." With an overarching dedication to community well-being, Pacifica's grounds are a de facto park open during daylight hours for hiking, birding, fishing, horseback riding, picnics, disc golf, and an appreciation of magnificent nature. Pacifica is also home to Forestfarm Nursery, where locals can purchase trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, and unusual edibles on Thursdays and Fridays from 8 am - 3 pm.

In addition to a community gathering spot, Pacifica is a natural classroom for all ages. For over 19 years, we have hosted thousands of children on day trips, combining our "outdoor classroom" with our mobile Caterpillar, and now we have "PODS," an overnight outdoor school program that brings students into deeper relationship with the land.

The arts share center stage with nature education as Pacifica expands as a vibrant Applegate Valley arts center. Over the years the quantity of arts and craft classes, concerts, dances, etc., has ebbed and flowed. It is our new board's vision to develop regularly scheduled offerings of community classes, concerts featuring local and touring musicians, a resident theatre company, and an arts guild featuring classes and studios.

Anniversary celebration in April
Under the guidance of its new board chair, Geri Littlejohn, planning is under way for a 20th Anniversary Celebration on April 20. The celebration will be an opportunity to experience much of what

Pacifica has to offer. Wander the trails or take a guided walk. Come early for exceptional bird-watching or come later to check out the new bird and animal logbook near the catch-and-release fishing pond, where over 100 species of birds have been sighted. The Caterpillar mobile schoolrooms will be open for interactive activities for all ages. The low ropes challenge course and climbing wall will be open. Disc golf clinics will introduce players to the game and the course layout.

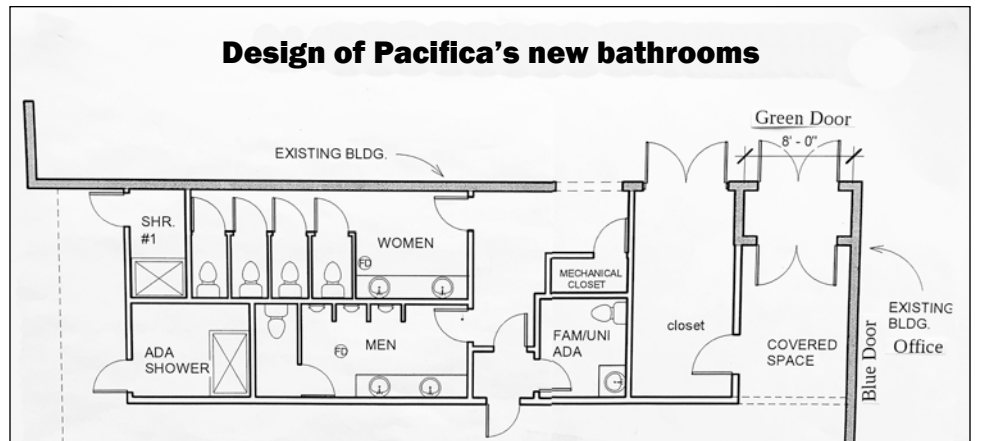
Visitors can also enjoy new stairs, improved trails, interpretive stations, an earth loom, expanded signage, and a pollinator garden—contributions of the recent AmeriCorps team. The fragrant garden recently planted next to the labyrinth should be full of daffodils and spring blooming varieties as days lengthen and temperatures rise. We are also open to new teachers for more offerings that highlight our mission. This family-friendly celebration will be free to the public. In the evening, there will be great music for a great price.

During the celebration, we intend to highlight the passion and tenacity of board members, who will be leading some of the activities. We hope to inspire you to add your interests and energies to ours as we rev up to plan regular offerings, special events, and a new membership program with alluring advantages. The celebration schedule and updates will be available on our website at pacificagarden.org or our Facebook page (Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyou).

More exciting news. Ground was broken for the long-awaited restrooms and showers. We've raised \$100,000 for the exterior and are starting a campaign to raise the final \$60,000 to finish the interior. A generous backer



Pacifica, A Garden in the Siskiyou, is located at 14615 Water Gap Road in Williams.



has offered a matching grant of up to \$30,000 through April 15. Ready for real restrooms at Pacifica? Please donate through PayPal on our website or mail a check to PO Box 1, Williams, OR 97544 noting "for restrooms."

As we turn 20, we invite you to consider Pacifica your "refugium," a place of sanity in a challenging world, a place to deepen your relationship with nature and to be creative and learn, celebrate and share your gifts. Stay tuned for our open "listening sessions" to discover

more of what you, our community, want and need. Help Pacifica become our community center. What are you passionate about? What would inspire you to become a member to help make community dreams sustainable realities?

Come dream, play, and work with us. Bring your ideas, energy, and passion. Come celebrate with us. Get to know us. Support us. Become us.

Geri Littlejohn
Chair, Board of Directors, Pacifica
gerilittlejohn@gmail.com

Let our advertisers know that you saw their ad in the *Applegater*.

Mobile Automotive Windshield and Glass Repair and Replacement

APPLEGATE AUTO GLASS
Efficient, Dependable Automotive Glass Repair & Replacement
Call for a FREE QUOTE
541-621-1889
ApplegateAutoGlass@outlook.com

- Local Family Owned
- Mobile Convenience
- OEM Glass
- All Vehicles
- Classic Automobiles
- RV Windshields
- All Insurance Companies
- Competitive Cash Prices
- Licensed & Insured

899-1113
Call or Text
RuchHardware.com

Hardware Grow Supplies Feed Sporting Goods
Ruch Hardware | Check Us Out On
181 Upper Applegate Rd | Instagram & Facebook!
Ruch, OR 97530
Your Friendly "Savin' MORE Trips to Town" Store!

CECE SHOOP HOUSE KEEPING

P.O. BOX 5557
Central Point, OR 97502
(541) 930-2437
ctshoop15@gmail.com

INSURED **CHIM-CHIMNEY SWEEPERS** CERTIFIED

SOOT YOURSELF OR PHONE 476-0941
MIKE KOHN BRIAN STIVERS
A CURE FOR THE FLUE
Cleaning, Relining, Installing, Advice Gladly

CLEAN MODERN EQUIPMENT
GOOD OLD FASHIONED SERVICE

Natural Products Used
The Cleaning Crew, LLC
Professional Cleaning Services

Homes • Offices • Rentals
Windows, Gutters
Pressure Washing
541-601-6236
Licensed Bonded Insured
TheCleaningCrewOnline.com

Rural Security Solutions

We are Locally Owned and Operated
Commercial & Residential
Affordable OLCC Compliant Systems
Instant Alerts to your Phone
Remote Access by Phone or Computer
24 Hour Monitoring Service Available
Customized Solutions to your needs

Enjoy the peace of mind knowing what is going on around your property.
Siskiyou Security
541-846-1248
Applegate Valley, OR
CCB # 166059
www.SiskiyouSecurity.com

Ramsay Realty
(541) 899-1184 Ext. 229
CELL: (541) 621-2480

Jeanne Schattler, Realtor®
Broker

7604 Hwy 238 • Jacksonville, OR 97530
Fax: (541) 899-1772 • E-Mail: jeanne@ramsayrealty.com
Web Site: <http://jschattler.com>

I WISH YOU WOOD
Portable Sawmilling

DAVID SCOTT
541 660-7882

Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner **Microbrews on tap**
Pizza

CAFÉ RUCH
CONVENIENCE STORE

181 Upper Applegate
Jacksonville, OR 97530
(541) 702-2220

~ FINE PRINT ~

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.

Special thanks to Diana Coogle, Haley May Peterson, Margaret Perrow della Santina, and Paul Tipton for copy editing; Lisa Baldwin, Diana Coogle, Carla David, Jeanette LeTourneux, and Paul Tipton for proofing; David Dobbs for bookkeeping; and Webmaster Joe Lavine.

Board of Directors

- Diana Coogle, Chair
- Lisa Baldwin, Secretary
- Chris Bratt, Treasurer
- David Dobbs, Assistant Treasurer
- Barbara Holiday
- Cathy Rodgers
- J.D. Rogers (Honorary)

Editorial Committee

- Chris Bratt
- Tom Carstens
- Diana Coogle
- Barbara Holiday
- Sandy Shaffer
- Greeley Wells
- Rauno Perttu (Honorary)

All articles, stories, opinions and letters that appear in the *Applegater* are the property and opinion of the author and not necessarily that of the *Applegater* or AVCN.

PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

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 (see page 18 for more information) 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.
PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530

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

PATRON

Maggie Purves Fund of
The Oregon Community Foundation,
Grants Pass, OR

CONTRIBUTOR

Neal Anderson, Jacksonville, OR
Chris Bratt, Applegate, OR
Jim & Peggy Olson, Grants Pass, OR
Drummond & Deborah Rennie,
Jacksonville, OR
Jeanne Schattler, Ramsay Realty,
Jacksonville, OR
Jason Strauss, Jacksonville, OR
Barbara Yates, Applegate, OR

SUPPORTER

Anonymous (2), Grants Pass, OR
Anonymous, Jacksonville, OR
Teri & Geoff Becker, Applegate, OR
Jeffrey & Inger Bellamy,
Grants Pass, OR
Joseph & Jennifer Bocchino,
Ladera Ranch, CA
Nancy Coffin, Medford, OR
Diana Coogle, Applegate, OR
Marvin & Evelyn Crawford,
Jacksonville, OR
Judy Crowe, Grants Pass, OR
Matt Fawcett, Medford, OR
Josephine Harrison, Williams, OR
Lyn Hennion & Alex Bellen,
Medford, OR

Teresa Hopkins, Jacksonville, OR
Seth & Lily Kaplan, Jacksonville, OR
Gary Katz, Applegate, OR
Paul & Alison Pazourek,
Grants Pass, OR
Don, Sayer, Applegate, OR
Mike & Liv Schneider,
Grants Pass, OR
Peter & Shelly Smith,
Grants Pass, OR
Lillian & Robert Stewart,
Jacksonville, OR
Janis & Paul Tipton, Applegate, OR
Thalia Truesdell, Jacksonville, OR
Evelyn Williams, Jacksonville, OR

SPONSOR

Anonymous
Anonymous, Fayetteville, AR
Anonymous, Eagle Point, OR
Anonymous (4), Grants Pass, OR

Anonymous (4), Jacksonville, OR
Anonymous, Medford, OR
Anonymous, Murphy, OR
Anonymous, Williams, OR
Anonymous, Yachats, OR
Dan & Claudia Beausoleil,
Williams, OR
Jan Buur, Santa Barbara, CA
Harley Campbell, Grants Pass, OR
Kristi Cowles, Applegate, OR
Dennis & Barbara Crawford,
Williams, OR
Beate Foit, Williams, OR
Friends of Jacksonville Historic
Cemetery, Jacksonville, OR
Mick & Jane Jennings,
Grants Pass, OR
Michelle & David Keip,
Grants Pass, OR
Lorraine Levitt, Williams, OR
Ivan Lund, Jacksonville, OR
Peg Martin, Jacksonville, OR
Jeff & Carol Martin, Applegate, OR
Ann & Richard Mikula,
Jacksonville, OR
Karen Mitchell, Jacksonville, OR
Ann Offenbacher, Jacksonville, OR
Ed Purinton, Wilderville, OR
Kelly Rios, Saint Helena, CA
Dean Sorensen, Sherwood, OR
Jeanette Stobie, Applegate, OR
P. Street, Williams, OR
Marilyn Terry, Williams, OR
Two O'clock Dan, Williams, OR
Mike & Rhonda Updike,
Jacksonville, OR
Alan & Cindy Voetsch, Ruch, OR

• • •

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

- Patron \$1,000+
- Sustainer \$500 - \$999
- Contributor \$200 - \$499
- Supporter \$50 - \$199
- Sponsor \$5 - \$49

Please make your checks payable to *Applegater* and mail to:
PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530

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

Editorial Calendar

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

PERSONAL MAILING LABEL
Living away for a while?
Friends and relatives in faraway places?

The *Applegater* can be mailed anywhere in the US.
Order a personal mailing label for
One year: \$14.99
Two years: \$24.99

Mail us a check or pay online at www.applegater.org.

Advertisers!

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

With a circulation of 13,000 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: May 1



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

Jacksonville, OR 97530

Donations are also accepted online through PayPal at applegater.org and now at smile.amazon.com!

Thank you! We are supported only by donations and advertising revenue—every dollar matters.

The *Applegater*
Board of Directors

NEW INFO ON COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Check out Applegate Valley Connect at applegateconnect.org.

New events, new News and Stories, new Projects since you last looked? Check it out often!

Nonprofit organizations can now seek volunteers—the *Applegater* had great success when looking for a proofreader!

Have a suggestion or idea? Comments are welcome from the Applegate Valley community. This free site is for you and is supported by The Ford Family Foundation.

Questions? Please email applegateconnect@gmail.com.

Masthead photo credit

Thanks to **Teya Jacobi** for the photo of the lovely wild irises that grow on her property on Little Applegate Road.

Inside the Gater

- Are you prepared for a firestorm?*..... 22
- Bill to fund broadband in rural areas*..... 11
- Bird Explorer: Difficult ID of Bald and Golden Eagles*..... 13
- Book Review: Wee small books of Sharon Mehdi* 20
- Cantrall Buckley Park news* 10
- Dirty Fingernails and All: Ask a flower for the time* 9
- Next Generation*..... 23
- Nonprofit News and Updates*..... 7
- Opinions*..... 18 - 19
- Starry Side: An early morning to remember* 8
- The wildlands of the Lower Applegate*..... 21



Jackson County Library Services

— Applegate Library —

Reading Becomes Electric: Kindles available for checkout!

Reading Becomes Electric is a program that lets you borrow a Kindle (a portable, lightweight e-reader) from the library for three weeks. Kindles come preloaded with an assortment of materials from popular fiction to timeless classics, nonfiction, and highly reviewed but lesser-known titles. That means you get a bunch of books (over 40 titles) to take with you on one device that counts just as a single checkout. It's a whole new kind of light reading!

Kindle kits, which include a Kindle, case, and charging cable, are available to library cardholders over 18 and in good standing. To request a Kindle, go to the Jackson County Library home page (jcls.org), click on "Books and More," then "Catalog," and enter "Kindle ereader" in the search bar. Upon request, a Kindle kit will be sent to your local branch library loaded with all the titles currently offered. Make it a challenge to read them all, or just take a few—it doesn't impact your checkout total. After three weeks, or after you've read all you want, drop off the Kindle kit inside any of Jackson County Library's 15 branch locations.

Upcoming events

Our library programs encourage learning, creating, and having fun. At the Applegate Library we welcome your suggestions or desires for programming and events. Or if you have a passion, hobby, or expertise you would like to present, please contact us!

- Nesting Season in your Backyard. Saturday, March 2, from 1 - 2 pm, with Laura Fleming of Wild Birds Unlimited. Learn about bird nesting in your backyard, including avian architecture, appropriate nesting boxes, nesting-season stages, bird behavior, and how to deal with potential predators and problems.

- Join us for seasonal arts and crafts on the second Saturday of the month (March 9, April 13, and May 11) from 11 am - 12 pm.
- Curious about the value of your older and first-edition books? Local book enthusiast Carole Karvis will show you how to determine the value of your books at her presentation, "Books are Knowledge—Now Learn about Books!" on Saturday, March 16, from 11 am - 1 pm.
- On April 20, from 12 - 1 pm, John Jackson of Bugs-R-Us Educational Services will present "Butterflies and Moths." Learn about and interact with some of the biggest and most spectacular preserved specimens of butterflies and moths in the area.
- Come to hear author Amira Makansi share her book, *Literary Libations: What to Drink with What You Read*, on Saturday, May 18, from 1 - 2 pm.

Ongoing events

- Community Drumming occurs the third Friday of every month from 6 - 7 pm. Connect to Mother Earth through a community drumming circle. No experience necessary. Some rattles and drums are available; please bring your own if you have them.
- Storytime is Saturdays at 10:30 am. Jackson County Library cards can be issued free to any Applegate School student with a signature of a parent or guardian, regardless of what county the student lives in.

Reminder: We have Wi-Fi hot spots, DVDs, audiobooks, music CDs, books, and magazines for checkout.

Applegate Library is located at 18485 North Applegate Road 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.

Josephine Community Library

Williams library branch manager selected as national "2019 Digital Inclusion Fellow"

Williams library branch manager, Ellie Avis, has been chosen as a Nonprofit Technology Enterprise Network (NTEN) 2019 Digital Inclusion Fellow.

Dozens of professionals from all across the country submitted applications. The 2019 Fellows come from a wide range of service organizations—from a rural library to an organization empowering girls to use technology—all working to bridge the digital divide in rural areas.

Launched in 2015, the Digital Inclusion Fellowship is a year-long, project-based, professional development cohort. The project plans, which the Fellowship cohorts will develop during this year with NTEN, will be specifically aimed at increasing opportunities for adults to learn digital skills. Grants, of up to \$1,000, will help the participants start programs in their communities.

Sponsors for the 2019 Digital Inclusion Fellowship are Google Fiber, the Cleveland Foundation, and the Meyer Memorial Trust.

At Portland-based NTEN, nonprofit and library professionals learn about and celebrate the ways technology helps them meet their missions. NTEN's members share the common goal of helping communities use all aspects of technology more effectively.

Weekly storytime at Williams branch library

The Williams branch of Josephine Community Library invites families to weekly storytime and craft sessions every Friday from 2:30 - 3:30 pm in a safe and fun environment. Each week children hear stories on topics like dinosaurs, space, holidays, or animals.

Williams Branch Library is located at 20695 Williams Highway in Williams and is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 1 - 6 pm and

Fridays from 11 am - 4 pm. For more information, call 541-846-7020.

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.

Through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, every child in Josephine County is qualified to receive a book by mail each month, at no cost to the families, from birth to his or her fifth birthday.

Thanks to the Rotary clubs, AllCare Health, and Josephine County Library Foundation, children in Josephine County can register for *free* in one of two ways:

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—it encourages 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., 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.

For more information about Josephine Community Libraries, contact Brandace Rojo at 541-476-0571 or email info@josephinelibrary.org.

— Ruch Library —

Spring in the Applegate...what could be better?

Upcoming events

Ruch Library is hosting a couple of great springtime programs you will not want to miss!

Hiking in the Applegate Valley: Saturday, March 2, from 1 - 3 pm. Janeen Sathre, a fifth-generation Applegater, would like to invite you to learn about the great hiking trails in the wonderful Applegate Valley.

Janeen grew up in the Upper Applegate area and for many years led hikers on the trails throughout the area.

The hikes highlighted a combination of natural beauty and local history. She is coauthor, with Diana Coogle, of *Favorite Hikes of the Applegate*. Janeen will show slides of trail pictures and hopes to have answers to all your questions.

Birding in the Applegate: Saturday, May 4, from 1 - 3 pm. Join Anne Goff as she introduces the art of birding. After showing pictures of local birds and discussing what to look for—bird shapes, beaks, and more—Anne will lead participants on a local bird walk.

Please bring your binoculars, if possible. Some birding activities,

including children's activities, will be available. This free program is sponsored by Friends of Ruch Library (FORL).

Ongoing events

Questions about your iPhone, tablet, computer, e-reader? On Tuesdays from 10 am - 12:30 pm, tech wizard Laura Irwin will be at the library to help you. For an appointment, contact Laura at techsupport@jcls.org or lirwin@jcls.org.

Babies and Wobblers, an early literacy program for children 0 - 3, is held on Tuesdays at 10:15 am and promises to be a rockin' good time for both the littles and their parents.

Preschool Storytime is at 11:30 am and is followed by craft-making.

Don't forget the \$5 Book Bag Sale offered by FORL every first Saturday in Ruch Library's Book Barn. This is your opportunity to fill a grocery bag with books!

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.

Friends of Ruch Library A-Frame Bookstore hours are Tuesdays from 12 - 4 pm, Thursdays from 1 - 5 pm, and Saturdays from 12 - 4 pm.

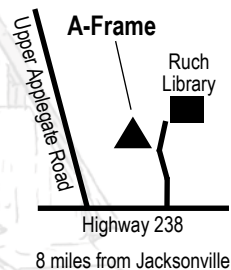
For more information, contact branch manager Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-7438 or ttruesdell@jcls.org.

Visit the A-Frame Bookstore @ Ruch Library

Used books from \$1 to \$1.50

Tuesdays 12 - 4
Thursdays 1 - 5
Saturdays 12 - 4

Managed by Friends of
Ruch Library. Join us!



The Book Barn

Now open the
first Saturday of
each month

\$5 Bag Sale
12 - 4 pm

Located next to the
A-Frame Bookstore

Aikido

at the
Williams
Grange

• Have fun learning the
"Martial Art of Peace"

• Cultivate center & resilience

Thursdays • 3 classes • 3 age groups

Wellspring Aikido

707-508-5052 • info@wellspringai.com

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— A Greater Applegate —

Time to support our local businesses

In the last edition of *Applegater*, I wrote about the efforts of A Greater Applegate (AGA) to build a nonprofit network and develop ways to support those organizations that are committed to creating a better quality of life for all of us in the Applegate Watershed. That effort is well under way!

In October 2018, we held a World Café-style gathering at Pacifica and began identifying priorities for us as a group. On March 5, 2019, from 5 - 7 pm at the Applegate River Lodge, we will be hosting The Ford Family Foundation in a conversation about building community in rural settings. All nonprofit representatives serving the Applegate Valley (AV) are welcome. (The Applegate River Lodge is located at 15100 Highway 238 in Applegate.)

New business network

Now let's look at how we can support our local businesses. Then I'll share a proposal for a new business network.

Participants in the Applegate Valley Community Vitality Roadmap project (March 2017) identified a system to support and grow AV businesses. Specific recommendations included: (1) develop an AV business network, (2) develop and launch a "support local" campaign, (3) create cooperative marketing ventures like themed events and a local makers' market, (4) develop and promote low-impact lodging opportunities, (5) create a business incubator and business support services, (6) create an online business directory, and (7) identify and establish vertical integration opportunities.

Frankly, as a tiny volunteer organization with no real budget, we at AGA were overwhelmed with this list when it emerged. We began by creating an online business directory on the Applegate Valley Connect website (applegateconnect.org) but put off all the other work while we built our infrastructure. With significant help from The Ford Family Foundation, an

energized board, and an intention to bring on staff, we are ready to tackle the creation of a business network to help us prioritize and implement the recommendations listed above and others that continue to emerge. One that we hear a lot is the desire for a map of businesses. Another one, probably the most frequent, is that local businesses wish that other businesses knew them and supported them. This is the essence of a business network.

A Greater Applegate has begun to create a network by compiling a database of over 300 businesses in the Applegate Watershed. (According to the business overview below, we still have a lot more businesses to add.) As soon as we bring on staff support, we'll be reaching out to you to find out:

1. What can a business network do for you and your business? How can we support you?
2. What skills and resources can you offer other businesses or the network?
3. Other than an opportunity to network, what else would you like to happen at our gatherings?
 - Develop an Applegate Valley brand or marketing campaign, event, or shared collateral?
 - Meet with county, state, or regional business or economic staff?
 - Meet with business experts? What kinds?
4. How else can we support each other?
5. How often would you like to gather?

Even more important, though, is that we need to know if you think this is an effort worth undertaking and if you want to help. We want to create a volunteer leadership group to help shape this business network. You bring the energy and ideas, and we'll provide a meal and much appreciation. If you're interested, contact me at my email below or at agreaterapplegate@gmail.com. I hope to hear from you soon!

Seth Kaplan
Chair, A Greater Applegate
sethkaplanconsulting@gmail.com

— McKee Bridge Historical Society —

More water under the bridge

As I'm writing this, the rain continues to come down, which is the best news there is here in the Applegate. The water flowing under the McKee Bridge has been so low in recent times that I started to worry that people would begin questioning why folks ever needed to build a bridge across the river!

I'm often asked why covered bridges were built. The answer is quite simple: to preserve the bridges for a longer period of time, because bridges were constructed primarily of wood, the most readily available building material.

However, even earlier covered bridges on the East Coast often had some components of iron after it became possible and profitable to move the raw materials in the early 1800s. The Howe Truss structure of the McKee Bridge is dependent on vertical steel rods used for tensioning the top and bottom chords of the trusses.

During the most recent restoration of the bridge, two 120-foot-long steel I-beams were rolled across the deck of the bridge. Then the bridge was pulled up to those beams to relieve tension on the lower structure so that failing materials underneath could be repaired.

If you look closely, you can notice a slight camber (upward arch) to the rails along the inside of the bridge that was not there before it was restored. The tensioning rods have been adjusted, and some were replaced, so the bridge will hopefully keep that camber for many years.

102nd anniversary celebration

If you're interested in the history of the bridge and of the Upper Applegate area—or even if you just want to enjoy a family-friendly event with good music, good food, historical displays, vendors, and more—come join us on Saturday, June 8, at the bridge and in the park from 11 am till 3 pm as we celebrate the 102nd anniversary of the bridge.

You can also become a member of the McKee Bridge Historical Society and enjoy various other events that it puts on each year. I've heard a rumor about a possible chili cook-off this year!

If you want to know more about MBHS, call me at 541-846-7501 or email mckeebridge1917@gmail.com. The old way still works too: MBHS, PO Box 854, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

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



If you look closely at the white rails on the sides of the McKee Bridge, you might be able to see the camber (upward arch). Photo: Paul Tipton.

Applegate Valley Business Overview (includes nonprofit organizations)

According to Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) and Rural Development Initiative (RDI), there are 425 businesses in the Applegate Watershed with 1,999 employees (4.7 employees/business). The most common category is Services (127 businesses). Others include Construction (73), Retail (67), Agriculture & Mining (36), Manufacturing (35), Unclassified (24), Wholesale Trade (21), Finance (18), Transportation (15), Government (6), Communication (2), and Utility (1).

New Applegate trail guide

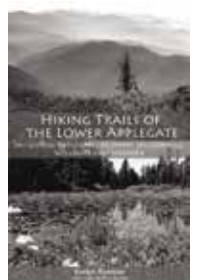
Williams resident Evelyn Roether has published a new trail guide just in time for hiking season. *Hiking Trails of the Lower Applegate* offers descriptions of 20 local hikes ranging from the rugged flanks of Grayback Mountain to easy streamside strolls along Limpy Creek. Beautifully detailed hand-drawn maps by area artist Ann Gunter accompany each trail description, along with photographs of the landscape and local flora.

The 92-page guide begins with an extensive exploration of the natural and cultural history of the Applegate

watershed and includes well researched tidbits on biological diversity, botanical interests, fire ecology, land-management threats, and other curiosities pertaining to the trails. The guide also features several new trails never before written about.

Hiking Trails of the Lower Applegate is available at local businesses and at lowerapplegatetrails.com.

Evelyn Roether
evelynkr@gmail.com



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

12800 WILLIAMS HWY—APPLEGATE VALLEY—238 HWY BETWEEN PROVOLT STORE & WATER GAP RD

Whistling Duck Farm Store
PROVOLT OREGON

541-761-6772 | whistlingduckfarm.com | OPEN ALL YEAR | M-F:10-7 | S-S:11-5

Natural foods & goods · Farmstead Ferments · Oregon Coast fish · Locally produced fine foods · Organic produce

SALON
238

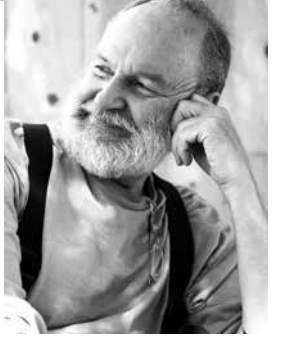
Sandy Reynolds
Owner - Stylist
Color, Weaves, Perms,
Women's & Men's Haircuts
7390 Hwy 238 • Ruch, OR 97530
Tuesday - Saturday
Call for an appointment today!

541-899-7660 • Like us on Facebook

THE STARRY SIDE

An early morning to remember

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

Between 3 and 4 am on December 14, 2018, I had the greatest meteor experience of all my 75 years: the Geminid meteor shower.

In approximately one hour (including time spent dressing, getting my chair, walking outside, and setting up), I saw 29 meteors. Some were large, with strong trails lasting for seconds. *And there were two meteors at once!* I've never, ever seen that! They were so close together and literally simultaneous! "Wow!" I yelled to the universe. It was truly a morning to remember.

Now, what is so exciting about a tiny fast-moving dot in the night sky? I really don't know, but I feel it every time. It's like a gift. It's a surprise because it's always unpredictable. I sometimes feel like I'm the only human being to see

that particular little event, making it somehow personal and special. I feel a little sorry for anyone who's not had this experience, and I feel so glad for all of us who have.

You might think a person crazy to get up before dawn on a dark winter morning, bundle up against the cold, and tuck into a reclining chair, just to look up at the sky for some specks that may or may not show up. Maybe you'd be right, but only until the show begins. Then you'd hear shouts of joy and surprise, as meteors fall. And, as tiny as they are, there's something so special about them.

I guess you'll just have to experience it for yourself to know what this crazy person is even talking about. And I do wish that for you—mark your calendar

now for December 14, 2019, when the Geminid shower is expected to peak once again next winter. Or catch the upcoming Lyrid and Eta Aquarid meteor showers this spring (see "Of Note" below).

Speaking of spring, it's a hint in the not-too-distant future. Orion and all those constellations around him are setting in the west. The last one to rise—Sirius, Orion's faithful dog—is higher in the sky as he swings west, the brightest thing in the southern sky along with Jupiter.

Overhead in spring, the Big Dipper is jumping over the North Star. Follow the handle to Arcturus, that always-bright sentinel. And parallel with the dipper, directly overhead, is Leo the Lion, with his backwards question-mark

head and mane and a triangle for a rear end.

Regulus is the bright period at the end of the question mark.

The Gemini Twins and a bit of Orion's shoulders and subtle triangular head set in the west. To the south, bright Sirius gets closer and closer to setting with the winter sky.

The east shows the summer stars rising, with bright Vega and the hourglass of Hercules. The fascinating crown of Corona Borealis is a sweet, unique C shape, right between Hercules and Arcturus—three in a row.

Happy dark clear skies, longer nights, and comfortable weather.

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

Photo: Astronomical Calendar by Guy Ottewill.



Of Note

Venus, the planet, is that bright morning "star" all season.

Mercury, the planet, is a dim dawn "star" in April only.

Mars sinks lower and lower into the evening sunset during the season.

Jupiter is visible all night this season, dusk to dawn.

Saturn is also visible dusk to dawn, but less bright.

Equinox: March 20. Happy spring, the vernal equinox! The sunrise is due east and sunset due west everywhere earth-wide. This means sunrise and sunset are at the same hour/minute in the morning and evening.

Lyrid meteor shower: April 22-23. An average of 20 meteors an hour is expected. Some moon interference, but still worth seeing. Early morning is best. Meteors will seem to radiate from Lyra in the summer triangle.

Eta Aquarid meteor shower: May 6-7. The early new moon guarantees a dark morning for this shower's peak. Look toward the eastern horizon in early morning for the radiant near Aquarius. The meteors will be all over the sky—an estimated 30 per hour. They are actually dust from Halley's comet! Each year on the same date, we go through the path left in space by that comet.

Oregon's most EXPERIENCED marijuana law group

LONEY LAW GROUP

- Marijuana business law
- Recreational marijuana law
- Cannabis compliance & more

LONEYLAWGROUP.COM

ASHLAND OFFICE
541-787-0733

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED STRAW BALE CONSTRUCTION?

Natural Plasters

Rainwater Harvesting Systems

Why Straw Bale Buildings?

- Fire-resistant
- Energy-efficient
- Environmentally healthy
- Locally sourced natural building materials
- Beautiful!

New construction, remodels, owner-builder consulting

MANY HANDS BUILDERS
Jim Reiland CCB #198392
541-899-1166
manyhandsbuilders.com

Call Today for a No Obligation Consultation!

DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Ask a flower for the time

BY SIOUX ROGERS

A couple of years ago, my son, the son of an aging gardener (I was probably gardening before my birth), suggested I create a flower clock in my garden. Not sure if he invented this idea in his own nongardening-but-brilliant mind or if he had actually heard about this concept before. I never had, but the idea was intriguing so I did some research and more research and then did...nothing. I have actually pondered this numerous times, but that is as far as I got. My non-pursuit of the idea was due to realizing that some of the plants suggested online would not grow in our Pacific Northwest Zone 7, some would spread their seeds and never go away, and some were in the category of invasive flowering weeds.

Later, when I decided to follow up on this flower-clock thing, I checked in with my brain and noted that I had only a vague idea of what I was talking about. So I googled “flowers that open at certain times” and voila! Mr. Google pointed me in the right direction. (I did know of one magical flower that blooms just a few nights once a year at around three am. My Uncle Abe, a neighbor from my childhood and one of my dear garden mentors, used to wait all year for his fragrant night-blooming cereus to bloom. That’s when he would call me at, yep, around three am. Upon hearing his words, “It is open,” I would run up the street for a whiff of the heavenly scent.)

Telling time by blooming flowers is a fanciful, intriguing, and certainly frivolous idea. However, it was originally researched in all seriousness by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus, who called the clock “horologium florum.”

A January 2015 *New York Times* article by Michael Tortorello, titled “Five Minutes to Moonflower,” informed me that Linnaeus first observed that some flowering plants have specific times for opening and closing, depending on the weather, the light, or their own pre-set internal alarm clocks. He categorized them this way: “Meteorici” flowers change their opening and closing times according to the weather; “tropici” flowers change their opening and closing times according to the length of the day; and “aequinoctales” flowers open and close at the same time every day.

So why, you ask, is the flower clock a more frivolous and theoretical idea

than a realistic project? Well, for one thing, the observer of this open-close cycle lived in Uppsala, Sweden. The light, time, weather, and temperatures are so very different from those in, say, Washington, Florida, or Ecuador. For another thing, even if the lovely *Convolvulus arvensis*, for example, opens and closes at a very precise time, it is the common European bindweed, whose roots can go from Applegate to China without a passport. You do *not ever* want to plant this flower. Opening and closing is also intertwined with the mating habits of the flowers, i.e., pollination. For example, some flowers have the nocturnal habits of bats, opening only at night and messing

around in the dark with the bats. Are the pollinators of flowers the same in Sweden as they are in Florida?

Flower clocks are fun and functional as long as you plan to get to work according to *their* alarm clock, not yours. Anyhow, Linnaeus’s flower clock ended at eight pm, so using his “alarm clock” for the night shift won’t happen.

Apparently, Linnaeus never actually planted a flower clock. But if I ever plant a night-blooming cereus and it does open at 3 am, I will give you a call.

Dirty fingernails and all,
Sioux Rogers
dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm



Sioux Rogers



Flower clock diagram from “Five Minutes to Moonstar,” *New York Times*, January 15, 2015.



Example of flowering clock in Victoria Square, Christchurch, New Zealand (tomclarkblog.blogspot.com/2009/05/linnaeus-flower-clock.html).

Possible clock flowers in the Applegate

If you want to try to make a clock flower a reality, here is a list of some plants that might work in the Applegate Valley.

- 6 am:** Pumpkin blossom
- 9 am:** *Cichorium intybus* (chicory)
- 12 pm:** *Carpobrotus edulis* (ice plant)
- 3 pm:** *Avonia quinaria* (lithops)
- 6 pm:** *Nymphaea alba* (European white waterlily—plant in a water container)
- 9 pm:** *Ipomoea alba* (moonflower or morning glory)
- 12 am:** *Selenicereus grandiflorus* (queen of the night)
- 3 am:** Night-blooming cereus

541-326-9969

Jacksonville, OR
707-382-8641
Individual Sessions • Acoustic Modalities

BOB THOMAS AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

FOREIGN / DOMESTIC SERVICE AND REPAIR

“We care about your repair.”

Robert Thomas, Owner
535 Rossanley Drive
Medford, OR 97501
www.BobThomasAutomotive.com

Motors Choice 2008-2009
541-734-3743
Fax 541-245-3784

Applegate Store & Cafe
Deli & Picnic Supplies
Breakfast • Lunch • To-Go Orders
Gas • ATM • Espresso
Beer & Wine
15095 Hwy 238, Applegate, OR
541-846-6659

Horsefeather Farms Ranchette
Guesthouse Stayovers B&B
13291 Hwy 238, Applegate, OR
Stay at a real country farm on the Applegate River!
Call for information and reservations:
541-941-0000
www.horsefeather-farms-ranchette.com

Responsive, accurate, and locally minded.
Grown Rogue

A staff that is knowledgeable, professional, and personable.
Million Elephants

★★★★★

“THE PINNACLE OF CANNABIS TESTING SERVICES.”
-Edibology

Green Leaf Lab
We test the best.

New customers who mention this ad receive 25% off your first order.
www.greenleaflab.org

For a pricing and to schedule testing, call your local Southern Oregon representative, Paul Burton, at 541-670-6679.

NOW TESTING HEMP!



Exciting time at the park

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

This is a busy and exciting time at Cantrall Buckley Park as we finish the restoration of three footbridges in the lower area, add the last touches to new exhibits, and begin planting.

The Park Enhancement Committee wants to acknowledge and thank the volunteers in our community who offered their time, commitment, skills, and expert advice in planning, designing, and implementing various projects. We could not have accomplished so much without their help.

- Footbridges restoration: Jerry Trottman, Jeff Martin, and Karin Barclay.
- Sundial: Bert Bouler for designing and laying the rotunda and Audrey Eldridge for hours spent on all the mathematical calculations.
- Park maps: Annette Parsons for updating our maps. Large new maps will be installed this spring and posted on the websites of Jackson County Parks (jacksoncountyor.org/parks) and A Greater Applegate (agreaterapplegate.org).
- Goods donated or generously discounted: Blue Mountain Rock, Shooting Star Nursery, and Applegate School Milkweed Gardens.

Opportunities to help

In the coming months, individuals and groups will have opportunities to assist with additional plantings of native, drought-tolerant, and pollinator plants and shrubs in several areas of the park. Our dry season lasted a long time, and now, with rainfall enough to soften the ground, we can begin preparing and planting. Contact me at janis.agapark@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering. The schedule is flexible.

Volunteer days at the park

- Saturday, April 27, from 9 - 11:30 am, is Earth Day Cleanup. After the work is done, we'll have refreshments and some fun activities. Register on SOLVE (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) at solveoregon.org or RSVP to me.



Jeff Martin helps lead volunteer, Jerry Trottman, with the restoration of three footbridges originally built in the late 1960s. Photo: Janis Mohr-Tipton.



Artist Jeremy Criswell, left, and lead volunteer, Bert Bouler, analyze the correct settings for the hour plates. Photo: Janis Mohr-Tipton.



Hands-on chair, Janis Mohr-Tipton, scrapes footbridge pickets after power washing. Photo: Karin Barclay.

- Saturday, June 1, from 9 am to 1 pm, is National Trails Day. Join the Applegate Trails Association in Cantrall Buckley Park to help clean trails and areas around them. Lunch will be provided. If you are a park volunteer, please RSVP to me.

Janis Mohr-Tipton
541-846-7501
janis.agapark@gmail.com

■ CANTRALL BUCKLEY PARK

Continued from page 1

Mohr-Tipton, AGA's Park Enhancement Committee chair.

The park is also adorned with multiple new benches where park visitors can sit, relax, watch the children play, or just enjoy the river flowing by. Three of the benches were made by students in the Grants Pass High School metal fabrication class, and several benches recognized some very generous community members who have passionately given of their time and expertise over the years.

Art enthusiasts are delighted to see the first sculpture in the "Art in the Park"

series, installed near the river. Cheryl Garcia, our very talented Jacksonville artist, completed the first awe-inspiring metal rendition, "The Mock Orange." This spectacular 12-foot sculpture depicts the large and beautiful white blossom of this tender but tough native species. Calling it a "mock orange" might seem strange, as there is nothing orange on this plant whatsoever, but its soft, slightly sweet scent with a hint of orange blossom gave it its name.

Eventually, Cheryl will install a total of 11 sculptures of native plants and birds. Each art piece will be accompanied by an educational sign and pedestal to inform park visitors about the characteristics

Too close for comfort: Stream buffers and the ODF

BY BARBARA SUMMERHAWK

Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) board member Geoff Becker traveled to Salem for the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) board meeting on January 9. His purpose was to present comments on ODF's exclusion of the Siskiyou region from their stricter riparian setback requirements in the western region of the state concerning logging on private land.

Many Applegate valley streams and creeks have improved water quality thanks to the efforts of the APWC riparian buffer work. Planting trees provides the shade necessary to keep streams at a safe, cool temperature for fish. But because ODF has excluded the Siskiyou region, which includes the Applegate, from its more stringent requirements for setbacks along streams in the western region of the state, logging on private land here can extend to within 20 feet of a stream. This threatens water quality and temperature, which are vital to the survival of fish and extremely contradictory to local planning requirements for riparian setbacks on private lands.

As Geoff noted in his presentation, the vast majority of studies document that streamside shade has a significant effect on water temperatures. Although the APWC has planted tens of thousands of native trees and shrubs in an attempt to replicate natural conditions of shade-protected streams in the area, much of this beneficial work has been undermined by clear-cuts on private timberland that leave a mere 20-foot buffer on either side of the streams. (See photo of fish-bearing tributary of West Fork Evans Creek.)

ODF recently established riparian setbacks of 60 to 80 feet in the western region of Oregon on private commercial logging operations. The key issue is the inadequate setback requirements related to the exclusion of the Siskiyou region, a warmer region than most of western Oregon, from the protection provided in rules for the western region. The Siskiyou region was set apart in 2015, ostensibly because "it was incorrect to extrapolate data from other state regions with different environmental realities onto Southwestern Oregon." However, according to Chris Frissell, PhD (fisheries



Logging operation on a tributary on the West Fork Evans Creek watershed.

science, Oregon State University), "The relationship between shade and stream warming is a fundamental physical reality. Within temperate forests in the latitudinal range of Oregon, this relationship has never been shown to vary in any consistent way between regions. Hence the premise that the Siskiyou region is inexplicably 'different' is at worst a convenient fiction, at best an unexamined hypothesis that should not govern policymaking."

Geoff made clear to ODF that they need to rethink their exclusion of the Siskiyou region from the rule changes made for the Western Oregon region and protect the streams here with a substantial buffer in order to ensure the survival of threatened salmonid species, in particular, the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho. He also pointed out that both the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have established setbacks that are well over 100 feet for fish-bearing streams in the Siskiyou region and that even the counties have a 50-foot setback requirement for private lands.

It should also be noted that over a million dollars annually in federal grants and funds for riparian restoration has been withheld from the State of Oregon because of the state's continued failure to meet federal coastal zone requirements and water quality standards, including those related to stream temperatures.

The ODF once again will be reconsidering the exclusion of the Siskiyou region from the rest of western Oregon some time in the first half of 2019. The Siskiyou region needs stricter standards for stream buffers so the water quality of the streams can be maintained and improved and, consequently, fish species protected.

ODF, are you listening?

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

of these important native species—which can be enjoyed both through the artistic displays and, for the patient and discerning park visitor, in actual sightings in the park.

Cantrall Buckley County Park, at 154 Cantrall Road in Jacksonville, offers our community a wonderful spot to picnic, play, hike trails, or just relax. This 88-acre park has 1.75 miles of Applegate River frontage and is open year-round from dawn to dusk. Parking/day-use permits are \$4.

We hope you will come out and enjoy the park and celebrate all that has changed, while enjoying and reminiscing about all that remains the same.

Cathy Rodgers
cathyrodgers55@gmail.com

**Jacksonville
INN**

*Gourmet dining in historic Jacksonville
Wine & gift shop • Fine hotel accommodations*

175 E. California • P.O. Box 359 • Jacksonville, OR 97530-0359
541-899-1900 • 1-800-321-9344
jvinn@mind.net • www.jacksonvilleinn.com

Bill to fund broadband will spur high-speed internet in rural areas

BY PAM MARSH

For many Oregonians, the scarcity of internet access is a thing of the past, an experience limited to getaways in rural and wild areas of the state. But at least 400,000 residents currently lack internet, and 26 of the state's school districts have no or minimal service.

The communications gap extends to southern Oregon. Data from the American Community Survey of 2017 indicates that, while some census tracts in Ashland and Medford already had greater than 80 percent connectivity through cable, fiber optic or DSL broadband service, the part of the Applegate Valley in Jackson County had just 53.8 percent. Although areas of Grants Pass had more than 70 percent connectivity, the census tract encompassing Williams had just 25.87 percent of homes with internet.

The good news is, if House Bill 2184 passes successfully through the Oregon Legislature this year, rural communities across the state may finally get online.

Accessible, affordable broadband technology has become integral to every aspect of work and life, including education, healthcare, employment, public safety, and civic engagement. Studies show that broadband generates

more than \$1,850 per household per year in economic benefits, so lack of technology exacerbates the gap between those with resources and those left behind. Data also suggests that rural areas with widely available broadband are more likely to retain and attract young adults.

In the 2019 legislative session, I am sponsoring the Broadband for All Oregonians bill that would develop an ongoing source of funding for broadband through an extension of the current Oregon Universal Services Fund. Broadband fund revenues will be disbursed through grants and loans to help bring broadband to unserved and underserved communities. A second piece of legislation, HB 2173, will create an Oregon Broadband Office within Business Oregon (oregon4biz.com) to focus on building a statewide broadband infrastructure.

As a member of the state's Broadband Advisory Council and the Joint Legislative Information Management and Technology Committee, I know that state-level strategies and programs must ensure that all individuals and communities have access to affordable

communications and information technologies. Broadband is a critical component of community infrastructure, innovation, and new opportunities in education, health, and economic development.

Schools will benefit

For Oregon's K-20 schools, increased broadband connectivity means enhanced career and college-ready standards, access to high-quality digital content and courses through distance learning, and online access to professional resources. It enables schools and libraries to serve as technology hubs, boosting access to education and jobs.

Contributing more than \$8.25 billion to Oregon's economy each year, agriculture will become the largest driver for broadband infrastructure deployment in rural areas. Lack of high-speed internet infrastructure is the main barrier for farmers to adopt new technologies and equipment, resulting in less efficient status-quo practices and ripple effects leading to higher food costs and unnecessary environmental impacts.

Telehealth, the remote delivery of health care using various telecommunication technologies such as video-conferencing equipment, is increasingly part of the solution to current healthcare access, outcomes, and financing issues. Thus the lack of high-speed internet access is a significant barrier for underserved areas. Telehealth

services can improve access to specialists, save costs of patient transports, and provide remote patient monitoring for care for people with chronic diseases.

Broadband has tremendous potential for public safety communications, giving first responders the ability to send and receive voice and text messages, images, and video. Oregon's emergency services are at a transition point for migration to new broadband Internet Protocol (IP) technologies.

And our civic life also relies on the internet. Nearly every agency, board, commission, and branch of state government participates in the centralized Oregon E-Government service, including websites, online applications and payments, and public information.

It's time to close the digital divide. House Bill 2184 will give all Oregonians access to the benefits of high-speed internet for school, work, health, safety, and community—and downloadable movies and music when it's time to relax.

Representative Pam Marsh
rep.pammarsh@oregonlegislature.gov
Pam Marsh serves Oregon House District 5, which includes Ruch, parts of the Applegate within Jackson County, Jacksonville, the southwest corner of Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland. To follow legislative updates and news from Representative Marsh, visit oregonlegislature.gov/marsh and e-subscribe.

LEHI

Family Owned & Operated Since 1976

Licensed-Bonded-Insured
CCB# 96496


PUMP SERVICE, INC.

WATER WELL

PUMP SALES, SERVICE & REPAIR
HAND PUMPS-FLOW TESTING
FILTRATION SYSTEMS
HOLDING TANK SYSTEMS
SOLAR PUMP SYSTEMS and MORE...

lehipump@gmail.com

(541) 846-6662




BASED IN THE APPLGATE

Klamath-Siskiyou

NATIVE SEEDS

grow native | grow wild

- NATIVE SEED PACKETS
- NATIVE POTTED PLANTS
- SEED COLLECTION SERVICES
- CONSULTATION



KLAMATHSISKIYOUSEEDS.COM

klamathsiskiy@gmail.com

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!





Debbie Tollefson
Principal Broker
Owner
541-973-9184



Don Tollefson
Principal Broker
Owner
541-973-9185

Why choose us over other realtors?

- 1. Custom personalized service**
We adjust our service to your needs.
- 2. Consistent continuous communication**
- 3. Newest marketing system**
Manaport tours and drone shots.
- 4. Extensive internet presence**
We syndicate to over 50 websites.
- 5. We focus on quality, not volume**
Our clients say they really appreciate our professionalism.

••• BIZBITS •••

Code 3 Coffee and Snacks is the new name of the Pit Stop Coffee shop in Ruch. Owner Rob Underwood says they chose to change the name to do something different and embrace his 26-plus years as a firefighter. They continue to offer drive-through service of coffee, breakfast, snacks, sandwiches, ice cream, soft drinks, and much more. Stop by 7386 Highway 238 in the heart of Ruch. Open every day, 6 am to 6:30 pm. 541-899-7867.

•••

The Helpful Hen is a new business offering personal assistant and household services in Jacksonville and Upper Applegate areas. Owner-operator Maggie Ives presents a full list of available services, including cooking, transportation, light housekeeping, and companionship. She can run errands, organize records, deliver meals, or even take your pet to the vet. If you or someone you love could use a little help, contact Maggie at 541-899-6909.

•••

Jacksonville Community Center (JCC) celebrated the opening of its new facilities with a grand opening attended by more than 80 people. In addition to offering activities for all ages, JCC is available to rent for events from five to 100 people at reasonable rates. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Emily Saunders at jacksonvillecenterdirector@gmail.com or 541-702-2585. 160 E Main Street, Jacksonville.

•••

Origins Functional Wellness, recently opened in Jacksonville, was founded by Bronwen Erickson, a family nurse practitioner board-certified in family medicine. Origins Functional Wellness brings a holistic, patient-centered approach to understanding,

preventing, and treating a wide range of chronic conditions. Bronwen and her team integrate care of the individual's mind, body, and spirit with a comprehensive healthcare approach that combines the best traditional and alternative medical practices and focuses on the underlying cause. Origins Functional Wellness treats a wide range of conditions by working with you as an essential partner in your health and wellness. Check out one of the newest businesses in our community online at originsfunctionalwellness.com or by calling 541-214-2598. Hours are Monday - Thursday from 9 am - 5 pm. 675 N 5th Street, Jacksonville.

•••

Weekend Beer Company, the newest brew pub in Grants Pass, is owned and operated by Grants Pass High School graduates Brandon Crews and Kelsey Tardieu Yoho. The public space is next door to the brewhouse on the corner of SW 5th and J Streets in downtown Grants Pass (although it has a Sixth Street address). Brandon and Kelsey have created a family-friendly relaxed atmosphere where people can play games, watch TV, and shoot the breeze. Patrons are also welcome to bring their own food, order in, or get some grub from an on-site food truck. Check the website, weekendbeercompany.com, for event announcements, such as a fundraiser for the Wildland Firefighters Foundation planned for spring. Open Thursdays and Fridays from 3 - 9 pm, Saturdays and Sundays from 12 - 9 pm. 550 SW 6th Street, Suite G, Grants Pass. 541-507-1919.

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

Featured BizBit

Miners' Bazaar, a gold mine of fun

Miners' Bazaar is the latest addition to the historic Jacksonville business community. Proprietor Rosie Taylor, a second-generation Applegater, brought to life her passion for art, projects, and the simple joys of a community gathering spot with an early 1900s vintage and vibe.

Rosie was inspired by the miners who flocked to the Applegate area in search of gold in the late 1800s and the iconic Harper's Bazaar, famed for showcasing

the visions of writers, illustrators, photographers, and stylists. She sought to celebrate the pioneering spirit reflected in the search for gold and the pursuit of dreams by creating a space for community members to explore their curiosity through arts and crafts.

Located at 235 East California in the recently remodeled Dr. Will Jackson House, Rosie created a unique space where people can meet, eat, drink, and work on projects. Miners' Bazaar features local artists, unique crafts, delicious comfort foods from the Jefferson Farm Kitchen, local wines (called "giggle water"), local

craft beers, ciders, Italian sodas, root beer floats, hot chocolate, lattes, and cappuccinos.

Rosie invites you to cozy up to the handmade wooden-and-galvanized pipe bar for a Motherlode Cookie, a smoked salmon platter, or a mixed cheese plate featuring gouda, brie, goat cheese, and pepper jelly. Select from the quarterly local wine list and featured southern Oregon cider and craft beers.

The space is delightful, tasteful, and authentic. Make yourself comfortable in any of the rooms and work on a project, mingle with friends, or enjoy the local arts

and crafts. This kid- and adult-friendly space has a nice project menu—painting, printmaking, embroidery, and more—and you will find that the projects, materials, and instructions are reasonably priced. Special workshops, in which guest artists offer instructions on a range of projects, occur regularly. Miners' Bazaar is also available for private parties.

Open daily from noon to 8 pm (closed Tuesdays). For more information, email minersbazaar@gmail.com or call 541-702-2380.

Cathy Rodgers
cathyrogers55@gmail.com

HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE

Continued from page 1

Fitness. If you don't want to go to a gym in Medford or Grants Pass but still want to get fit, try Pilates, a low-impact exercise that uses breathing to move. "Pilates stimulates circulation and the immune system and helps you breathe better, makes you calmer and more empathetic and patient," says Pilates teacher Mary Ann Carlson. She adds that Pilates also improved her golf game, both because it builds up core strength and because "you have to concentrate."

Aikido, "a noncompetitive, nonviolent martial art emphasizing respect, cooperation, responsibility, and reverence for nature" according to Wellspring Aikido teacher Michelle Keip, is a good fitness program for both adults and children.

Spirituality. Most Applegate churches offer spiritual consultations, Bible study,

and other programs helpful to those needing spiritual direction. There is also a Buddhist center in Williams. James Kalfas, steward of the Rigdzin Gatsal Buddhist Center, calls Buddhism a "spiritually oriented way of life—more mindful, nonviolent, noncompetitive"—that helps cultivate the Buddhist teachings of love, compassion, joy, and equanimity.

Counseling and life coaching. "Spirituality" is an important word in the work of life transition coach and mentor Katherine Ingram, who works with people "interested in doing a deep



"Center of the Wheel," at one of the nooks in Sanctuary at Rainbow Ridge.

dive into their life's meaning and purpose," especially those needing to "navigate the emotional terrain of grief related to loss."

Lily Kaplan's Spirit of Resh Foundation focuses on grief around loss, with a vision of a cultural realignment: embracing death as a way of enhancing life. More broadly, at her Sanctuary at Rainbow Ridge, anyone seeking guidance in making a life transition can do

a private retreat. "It's like a container in which people get to be held while they're in their grief," she says. People in retreat have their food prepared, one to two

counseling sessions a day, and "soul tasks" in nooks on the land—a medicine wheel, an altar of compassion, a seat of the elders, a trail to views—"all places carved out for reflection, ceremony, meditation."

Authentic Path Life Coaching, with Nancy Mansfield, is another source of help for people wanting to make changes in their personal and professional lives. Through coaching, Nancy says, one can "reclaim purpose, passion, authenticity, and joy." She bases her work on a belief that "we all already have everything we need inside of us to have a joyful and purposeful life, but sometimes people get stuck. Then it is helpful to have a guide to give fresh perspectives and suggestions to create awareness and to catalyze that person's solutions."

Diana Coogle • dicoog@gmail.com
Note: For contact information of these and other businesses, visit applegater.org.

Ramsay Realty
The Applegate Jacksonville Experts
www.ramsayrealty.com

Evelyn Winningham
Principal Broker
cell: 541-951-7055
evelyn@ramsayrealty.com

7604 Hwy. 238 Jacksonville OR 97530
Office: 541-899-1184 Fax: 541-899-1772

CCB# 177466
NV 42066
CA 809835

Paul Crean
541-415-1081

ACTION ELECTRIC
Quality is doing the job right the first time.
Commercial • Residential • Design Build
paul.actionelectric@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 537, Jacksonville, OR 97530

SILVER LINING
Chauncey Romero Designer Jeweler

by appointment only
Jacksonville, OR

541-899-8201
www.silverliningjewelers.com
chauncey@silverliningjewelers.com

APPLEGATE VALLEY DENTAL INC.

541-899-RUCH

181 Upper Applegate Road • Jacksonville, OR 97530-9739

R.W. CASSIDY, INC.
Design & Building
541-846-1248
Applegate Valley, OR
CCB # 166059

Custom Homes
Remodeling
Alternative Energy
Small to Large Jobs

Call for an Estimate
846-1248
www.RWCassidyInc.com

BIRD EXPLORER

Difficult ID of juvenile Bald and Golden Eagles

BY PETER J. THIEMANN

Eagles are more visible in late winter and early spring as they often congregate near open water where waterfowl is present. In southern Oregon, there are two species of eagles: the Golden Eagle and the Bald Eagle, our National Bird.

A mature Bald Eagle is easily identified by its white head and tail. There is nothing “bald” about our Bald Eagle, which is really a misnomer. A far more appropriate name would be Sea Eagle due to its association with water.

The Bald Eagle is a closely related cousin to the Eurasian Sea Eagle, which looks similar, but without a white head.

The ranges of Bald and Golden Eagles overlap, so it is possible to see them together and competing for prey. I have

seen them both on winter kills in Yellowstone National Park. Here in southern Oregon I was fortunate to capture a unique image of a large juvenile female Bald Eagle with a male Golden Eagle. A close look will show the head size difference with that enormous beak on the Bald and larger talons on the Golden. This comparison is very helpful, as juvenile Bald Eagles are often mistaken for Golden Eagles because they don't yet have a white head or tail, which come, for both sexes, around age three to four.

I posted the juxtaposition of the two eagle species online and received many comments, including some from viewers asking about cross-species relations. It certainly is a unique photo; however, the explanation may be simple. The pole they are sitting on is not a power pole but rather a pole specifically erected for raptors near water and large concentrations of waterfowl. So, it may have been just competition for a prime perch that brought the two together. We will never know.

Peter J. Thiemann
peterjthiemann@yahoo.com



Peter J. Thiemann



Juvenile Bald Eagle (left) and mature Bald Eagle (right).
Photo courtesy of peterjthiemann flickr photo stream.



Juvenile female Bald Eagle (top) with male Golden Eagle (bottom).
Photo courtesy of peterjthiemann flickr photo stream.

Butterflies benefit from native herb

BY LINDA KAPPEN

When I think of stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), I think of its many uses. This herbaceous flowering plant has long been used as a source for medicine, food, tea, and dyes for fabric. Nettles make excellent companion plants, helping to produce healthy herbs and vegetables. They also serve as a larval food plant, almost exclusively, for three species of Pacific Northwest butterflies and for other lepidoptera in locations all over the world where nettles grow.

In our region, stinging nettle grows in the understory of forests and near rivers, creeks, or wetter meadows in mountains and valley bottoms. The stinging nettle has needlelike hairs that, if brushed against, can sting your skin much like a bee. This is a defense against herbivores.

The three butterfly species found locally that use the stinging nettle almost exclusively are the Red Admirable, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, and Satyr Anglewing. All three belong to the butterfly family Nymphalidae, and all three overwinter (hibernate) in our area.

Red Admirable

The wingspan of a Red Admirable (*Vanessa atalanta*) can reach up to two and a half inches. This very beautiful butterfly is black with bright scarlet bands and white spots at the tips of its forewings. Eggs are laid singly.



Stinging nettle (oureverydaylife.com).

Larvae feed on stinging nettle, making shelters of folded leaves for protection while they feed. Older larvae will make nests tied together with silk. The Red Admirable will overwinter as an adult depending on seasonal weather. If overwintering occurs, it sets a good chance of numerous broods. I have witnessed a third brood toward the end of summer in the recent past.

I have seen the Red Admirable fly during warmer days in early February to later dates in early fall. Mostly we see it in flight from May to October. The butterfly will use many nectar sources, including sap, bird droppings, and flowering plants, such as hyssop, rabbitbrush, fireweed, and many more. Its range is the entire Pacific Northwest, from sea level to high mountains. It can be seen in moist woods, fields, meadows, and mountain seeps.

Milbert's Tortoiseshell

The wingspan of the Milbert's Tortoiseshell (*Aglais milberti*) reaches up to two inches. Its wings have a chocolate-colored base with two-toned bands of orange to yellow and blue crescents toward the edge of the hindwings.

It lays its eggs in masses. The behavior of the larvae is like that of the Red Admirable. This butterfly will also break hibernation on warm, late-winter days and can be seen in April and throughout the summer. The Milbert's Tortoiseshell will nectar on spring flowers, sap, Douglas aster, pearly everlasting, and other plants. In the Pacific Northwest, it ranges from southern Alaska down to California and Nevada and can be seen in wet areas, mountain seeps and meadows, and moist woodlands.

Satyr Anglewing

The Satyr Anglewing (*Polygonia satyrus*) can reach a wingspread of two and a quarter inches. Its open wings display a bright yellow-orange color with black spots and a triangular black spot on both hindwings. Eggs are laid singly or in stacks or groups. The Anglewing larvae make shelters by eating the leaves of the stinging nettle, pulling them down and fastening the edges with silk. This butterfly also overwinters and can be seen in flight from February to early November. Adults nectar on tree saps, rotting fruit, lilacs, many thistles, and other flowers. This butterfly can be seen in many habitats such as parks, fields, valley bottoms, openings in riparian woods, canyons, and near streams. The range is all of the Pacific Northwest and also the Great Lakes states.

Native stinging nettles or other nettles should be saved in our parks, waterways, woods, cities, and surrounding countryside. Eliminating the nettles would decrease the chances of seeing all three of these beautiful butterflies in our towns and parks.

Interesting facts

The name “Red Admiral” is a corruption of the original name, “Red Admirable,” which has been in use for over 250 years. The Red Admirable is of the genus *Vanessa*, but other admirals, like Lorquin's Admiral and Weidenmeyer's Admiral, belong to a different genus called *Limenitis*.

Linda Kappen
humbugkapps@hotmail.com



Red Admirable. Photo: Linda Kappen.



Milbert's Tortoiseshell. Photo: Linda Kappen.



Satyr Anglewing. Photo: Linda Kappen.

SOREC Experts Expound

Know your soil: Test a sample

BY GORDON B. JONES, PHD

Greetings from your county extension agent! Spring is just around the corner, and now is a great time to make plans for your garden, pasture, or hemp field. Testing a soil sample to evaluate your soil fertility is the best way to know what might be needed for a bountiful crop.

At the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC) in Central Point, researchers and extension educators collect, test, and share knowledge about local soils, thereby improving agricultural and horticultural practices in the region. My job is to provide informal education and technical assistance to farmers and landowners in Jackson and Josephine counties. I help with all sorts of problems but focus on soil management, pastures, hayfields, and cover crops. In this article I will walk you through the steps to properly test your soils.

Because soils vary across the landscape, you will need to “lump and split” to get a useful sample. By splitting, I mean dividing your property into different areas based on usage. You’ll want to take separate soil samples for your garden, pasture, hemp field, or front lawn. Next, you’ll want to combine the samples of the surface soil from each area—pasture, garden, etc.—into one sample that

represents the entire property. This is the lumping.

Any type of soil samplers, used correctly, will collect a vertical soil core with a consistent proportion of surface soil to soil from deeper depths. In general, you should take samples six inches below the surface or four inches for lawns and no-till fields and deeper than six inches for certain crops. For tracking changes in your soil over time, it is critical that you pick one sampling depth and stick with it. Nutrients are generally concentrated near the soil surface, so the deeper you sample the more you dilute your surface sample with subsoil. For example, in most garden and agricultural settings, a six-inch-deep soil sample will predictably have higher nutrient concentrations than an eight-inch-deep sample.

Grab your soil corer, a plastic bucket, a few zip-top bags, and a marker, and you’re ready to take some samples. Label the bags with a code you can remember that designates the area where you’ll collect the sample. Wander across the selected area and collect 15 to 20 cores down to the depth you’ve chosen. Combine those soil cores in the bucket (see photo), remove any rocks or big chunks of plant material, and mix the

soil together. Place about two cups of that mixed soil into a labeled bag and you have a sample ready for analysis.

Next, select a laboratory to analyze your samples. A google search for “Oregon analytical labs” will turn up Oregon State University (OSU) publication EM 8677, which lists labs that run agricultural soil tests. The prices and services vary, but for \$20 to \$30, most labs offer a routine soil test, which will measure pH (acidity), lime requirement, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and organic matter—a good starting point for most crops and situations. Many labs can measure other physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil, heavy metal concentrations, and pesticide residues, but some tests are expensive and difficult to interpret. If you’re just starting out, I recommend going with a routine analysis. The lab will usually email the test results in pdf format, often including recommendations for fertilizer and lime needs. If recommendations are not provided, check out the OSU bulletin, “Soil Test Interpretation Guide (EM 1478),” which is available online.

Please get in touch with us at SOREC if you want help developing a soil-testing plan, need to borrow a soil probe, or could use advice on how to interpret your results. And check out our website

at extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec to sign up for soil-related classes this spring on March 28 and April 25.

Happy soil testing!

Gordon B. Jones, PhD

541-776-7371

Assistant Professor of Practice in
General Agriculture, SOREC
gordon.jones@oregonstate.edu



There are many types of soil samplers, and we have some to borrow. Visit SOREC at 569 Hanley Road, Central Point.



Combine 15 to 20 soil cores from each area of your property to get a representative sample for analysis.

New SNYP clinic available for Applegate pets

BY LAURA AHEARN



If you spay or neuter your cat or dog, especially when young, odds are it will live longer. For over two decades, Spay/Neuter Your Pet (SNYP), a volunteer nonprofit group, has helped thousands of animals through reduced-rate vouchers and referrals to veterinarians in southern Oregon. In February, SNYP took this work to a new level with a low-cost spay/neuter clinic serving pet owners, rescue groups, and shelters in a four-county area. This is a remarkable opportunity for our community to stop the procreation of unwanted pets and to promote the well-being of the pets we already have.

Pet owners have clear economic incentives to spay or neuter their pets.

This quick routine procedure costs far less than the expense of vaccinating, deworming, feeding, and caring for litters of puppies or kittens. If these reasons aren’t enough, owners should spay and neuter simply because they want their pets to enjoy longer lives. Banfield Pet Hospital, the world’s largest veterinary practice, analyzed data on 2.2 million dogs and 460,000 cats and found that spayed and neutered pets outlive untreated pets by these margins: male cats, 62 percent; female cats, 39 percent; male dogs, 18 percent; and female dogs, 23 percent.

Healthy puppies and kittens can be spayed or neutered starting at eight weeks of age. Kittens may start reproducing as early as four months of age, so you don’t want to put off scheduling the procedure!

The clinic’s soft opening in mid-February served shelter partners in Jackson, Josephine, and Siskiyou counties, as well as community (feral) cats. Beginning March 1, the clinic will open to residents of Jackson, Josephine, Siskiyou, and Klamath counties and

include subsidized spay and neuters for low-income residents. SNYP expects its annual volume of spays and neuters to increase from 3,000 to 5,000 in the first year of operation.

“For the first time in 21 years, we’ll be able to expand beyond Jackson County to neighboring counties,” said Sally Mackler, SNYP board president. “We will now be able to provide spay and neuter services to the general public as well as to shelters and rescue groups.”

SNYP has recruited Dr. Mike Maynard, a veterinarian specially trained in spay/neuter techniques, from Colorado. Subsidized services will be available to those needing financial assistance and for community cats. SNYP plans to expand services in the future to provide discount incentives for pit bulls and Chihuahuas. Sadly, shelters and rescue groups see more extreme levels of abandonment of these breeds.

The opening of SNYP’s new clinic will advance the work of other animal-welfare groups, like Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS), in reducing the number of abandoned and stray animals and to find homes for those pets that end up dumped or living on the streets. During the holiday season the Jackson County shelter was so crowded, with increasing delays in getting animals spayed and neutered and on to their

new adoptive homes, that FOTAS volunteers needed to take animals home for overnight or more extended stays. “FOTAS has been working with and supporting SNYP for the last two decades,” says FOTAS president, Tilly Gibbs, “and we are thrilled that SNYP has reached this major milestone.”

In 2018, the Jackson County shelter took in 1,887 dogs and 1,660 cats, a slight increase in dogs and a slight decrease in cats compared to 2017. The vast majority of these animals had not been spayed or neutered. According to shelter manager, Barbara Talbert, it cost Jackson County around \$60,000 to have these animals spayed and neutered, which is a precondition to adoption. “Low-cost spay and neuter services are very much needed in this county,” says Talbert. “It is currently taking up to two weeks to schedule surgeries. The SNYP clinic should significantly reduce the waiting time for our adoptable animals.”

The SNYP Spay/Neuter Clinic is located at 111 North Pacific Highway in Talent. Starting March 1, you can make an appointment online at spayneuter.org or by phoning 541-858-3325.

Support the SNYP clinic. Spay and neuter your pets. Let’s make ours a “no animal unwanted” community.

Laura Ahearn

laura.ahearn@stanfordalumni.org

Bella Union
JOIN THE 20 YEAR TRADITION!
Every Thursday until April, it's Oysters & Ale night. Live music - A new beer each week from local breweries and distributors - Specials throughout the night. And, of course oysters on the half shell. It's always a great time at the Bella Union!

\$1 Oysters and \$3 Beers

541-899-1770 www.bellau.com
170 West California St. Jacksonville, OR

A Great Fit for the Perfect Smile!
Serving Jacksonville for over a decade with 30 years of experience in the Valley

Our Services include:

- Full Dentures
- Partial Dentures
- Immediate Dentures
- Repairs • Relines
- Implant Dentures
- Great Service
- Custom Support

Valley Denture Care LLC 535 N. Fifth Street
Diana Helvey L.D. Jacksonville, OR 97530
valleydenturecare@gmail.com
541-899-9516



How Much Well Water Is Enough?

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

Dear Tami and Jeff: We've just purchased some land on which we plan to build the retirement house of our dreams. The adjacent landowner tells me that we shouldn't consider a well that will deliver less than 10 gallons of water a minute. Is this a hard and fast rule?

The 10 gallon per minute (GPM) is far from a hard & fast rule, but it is the common misconception. I'm looking at a printout for the Redwood Avenue area of Grants Pass that includes the flow rate for 25 properties in the area. The range is from 6 to 60 GPM.

The average household of four could be expected to use approx. 400 gal. of water per day. A 5 GPM flow rate would yield more than 7,200 gallons per day (GPD), 2 GPM would provide 2880 GPD. Anything more would be a bonus for an outside shower or similar use.

If the 5 GPM flow rate is of concern, there is always the alternative of establishing a holding tank. This works as added insurance against a possible season of severe drought that might reduce the flow rate somewhat.

Water is a geological cocktail so DRINK MORE WATER!



WELL PUMP & FILTRATION SERVICE

Call us Mon. - Fri. 8 - 5, you'll have a live person answer the phone that is ready to help you!

Quinn's Well, Pump and Water Filtration is located at 6811 Williams Hwy. We install, maintain and repair complete water pumping systems, and we offer a complete line of water filtration equipment. Contact our professional staff by phone, e-mail, or visit our office. www.quinnswell.com CCB #192047

541-862-9355
541-772-7867

Growing great dahlias

BY STACEY DENTON

For years I struggled on a steep learning curve to grow dahlias successfully. Gophers, cucumber beetles, earwigs, slugs, very few weeks of blooms before frost, few stems per



Dahlias grown by the author. Photo: Ann Nguyen of cargocollective.com/ann-nguyen.

plant...the list of challenges is long. But now I can say, I think that I've figured it out, and you can too. Dahlias really do prefer a maritime climate—our hot, dry summers are not ideal conditions—but here are a few ideas to get you going in the right direction this upcoming growing season

Plant early. I recommend planting your bulbs in one-gallon pots, in a greenhouse, if possible, or just when the danger of frost has passed. Fill your pot nearly full with soil, and place bulbs near the top with any "eyes" facing up. Cover lightly with one inch of soil and water deeply. I start my dahlia tubers in the greenhouse in April, four to six weeks before our last spring frost. This early start under cover allows me to beat the slugs in the field because, by the time I plant them outside, the dahlias have enough growth to withstand slug predation. Also, a dusting of diatomaceous earth when I plant them helps deter the slugs who do show up.

Plant into fertile, well-composted soil. If you don't, plan to regularly fertilize your dahlias. I give plants a liquid drench of seaweed or fish tea weekly during their bloom period

if I've planted into less-fertile parts of my field. Well-balanced fertility will lead to healthy plants that are more resilient to pests.

Pinch. This is the key to more plentiful stems on your dahlias. At 8 to 12 inches, pinch back the center growth tip by making a clean cut with sharp snips. The dahlia will recover with multiple side branches that lead to more flowers. Sometimes dahlias will have two to three robust stems instead of a single one—pinch back all of these. It's hard to do at first, but worth it in the long run!

Exclude pests. If you can't stand to see little bites stolen from your perfect dahlias, I recommend bagging blooms with mesh "organza" bags. It sounds tedious, but it's way more effective than any organic spray and, once you get the hang of it, about as fast. Put these on just as buds begin to grow plump. Then have a plan for gopher control. Plant in an area of your garden where you don't see gopher activity or else be ready to

trap. It's also possible to plant in do-it-yourself cages made from hardware cloth. Just remember, if your dahlias are really thriving, they could produce 6 to 12 tubers of the same size that you planted, so make your cage large enough to let them grow as big as they'd like. Also, I lift my dahlias in the fall (after our second frost) and store them in the winter to protect them from critters.

Stake your dahlias. On the farm, we trellis the dahlias horizontally with Hortonova-brand netting, but they can also be staked individually or corralled as a group with t-posts and string running the perimeter of your beds. Do it early! It's no fun to try to stake a blooming dahlia after it has already fallen.

Harvest. Hurray, this is the very exciting moment you've anticipated so hopefully. When you make cuts, go deep! Taking a long stem, even if you wind up cutting off some smaller side buds, encourages the plant to make more long stems. It will likely result in a larger abundance of flowers too. If you don't regularly harvest for bouquets, plan to deadhead spent flowers. Deadheading (not the kind that you may have done in your youth to a certain rock and roll group) is vital for promoting the plant's creation of new flowers.

Spring is just around the corner! May your garden be bountiful and inspiring.

Stacey Denton

Flora Farm & Design Studio
stacey@weddingflora.com

Stacey specializes in growing organic flowers for weddings and special events. Her dahlias are available for summer weddings and by way of her Dahlia CSA at weddingflora.com. Her dahlia tubers are available through siskiyouseeds.com.

Williams Farmers' Market opens in April

BY SARAH SHEA

Winter is a wonderful time for farmers, when we can reflect on seasons past, restore our energy for the coming spring, and complete all the projects we didn't finish in the busy growing season. It is also a time to become excited for the warming days, pore over our seeds, and plan what fun things will be sown in the coming months.

One of my favorite things to plan for is the Williams Farmers' Market. The market is held in Williams every Monday from late April until the end of October at our beautiful downtown location on Sugarloaf Community Association (SCA) land at 206 Tetherow Road. The nonprofit SCA has seven acres of fields, playgrounds, and a learning center.

The Williams Farmers' Market is held on Monday afternoons from 4 to 6:30 pm so as not to compete with harvesting and attending other local markets. The beauty of an afternoon market is that the produce could not be fresher—it is picked that morning! Every Monday



morning throughout the season, local organic farmers are in their fields harvesting for our community, trying to anticipate what folks will be excited about—a fresh batch of fingerling potatoes, crisp sugar snap peas right off the vine, or those strawberries that seem to never end.

Williams is a small community, but it hosts an incredibly diverse array of organic farmers, artisans, and healers. Our market reflects this diversity with delicious organic produce, organic meat, eggs, incredible crafts, baked treats, herbal elixirs, and so much more. For those folks who have never been to the Williams Farmers' Market, I encourage



Williams Farmers' Market offers fresh produce from local farmers.

you to come! By attending the market you will be supporting local farmers and artisans, helping reduce pollution by driving less, enjoying the bounty of our climate, and helping create a beautiful community event.

For more information on the Williams Farmers' Market, check out our Facebook page or contact me. Thank you for supporting local farmers!

Sarah Shea

White Oak Farm
info@whiteoakfarmcsa.org

 **Grants Pass Water Lab**

Eric Schaafsma
Technical Director
eric@gpwaterlab.com

541-476-0733 964 SE "M" Street
Fax 541-476-8132 Grants Pass, OR 97526

Ramsay Realty

541-899-1184
Cell 541-973-9105

 **Jayda Wood**
Licensed in Oregon • Principal Broker

7604 Hwy 238 • Jacksonville, OR 97530
Fax: (541) 899-1772 • E-Mail: jayda@ramsayrealty.com
Web Site: <http://www.ramsayrealty.com>

 **Home Comfort HEARTH & PATIO**
"Service & Integrity"

Mike Kohn
Owner
Lisa Stricklin
Sales & Service

• Wood, Gas & Pellet Stoves
CCB#157587

www.homecomforthearth.com

166 South Main Phoenix, OR 97535 535-3080
224 SW "G" Street Grants Pass, OR 97526 955-4446

Roving Reporter

Smoke and fire—how much worse?

BY TOM CARSTENS

In January, State Representative Pam Marsh hosted a wildfire forum in Medford. She assembled a panel of state and local fire experts, who discussed some issues regarding wildfire familiar to many of us in the Applegate Valley.

After the 1910 Big Burn in Montana and Idaho, the US Forest Service (USFS) adopted a goal of snuffing out any fire before it reached ten acres in size—and by 10 am. The resultant decline in natural landscape fires has contributed to an outsized accumulation of forest fuels and pretty much made that target unattainable anywhere in the West.

“Fire is now exploding across our landscape,” said one panel member. And new undergrowth is accumulating every year. Dave Lorenz, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Southern Area Director, said that five of the last six fire seasons have been worse than average—by a long shot. According to him, our fire seasons are now 60 days longer and “we’re way behind the power curve.” The panel concluded that, on our present trajectory, we’re looking at three decades of worsening fire and smoke.

A 2018 USFS study declared that more than 106,000 homes in Jackson and Josephine counties are at risk from wildfires (“Exposure of Human Communities to Wildfire in the Pacific Northwest”). See the map provided by The Nature Conservancy.

Protect your property

Failure to protect our rural homes can present a real problem for attack crews. The biggest issue for them is access to our properties. It’s up to us

to maintain our driveways to allow their vehicles to reach us. Around our homes we must establish firebreaks and reduce the fuel loads. If we fail to set these conditions beforehand, we run the risk that firefighters will bypass us for safety reasons.

The panel also made a point of telling the audience to *never* assume a fire has been called in—we should always call 9-1-1 right away.

The panel pointed out that our state legislature earmarks funds toward fire suppression, but very little toward prevention. Mechanical prevention—prescribed burns and thinning—must be scaled to the landscape level. There’s not much profit in this, so it’s going to be expensive.

The Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC) has examined this issue in the “Rogue Basin Strategy,” a scientific study

with a road map for developing healthier forests that will, in turn, protect our communities. The study acknowledges up front that outdated forest management practices have contributed to our current state of affairs. Several options were presented, none of which would require new roads. One option targets roughly a million acres for thinning and undergrowth burning with an annual bill of \$30 million. Though costly, it could have substantial benefits:

- 50 percent reduction in risk to homes
- 47 percent reduction in risk to old-growth forests
- Improved smoke management
- Annual harvest of 83-million board feet of merchantable timber (The study’s authors make clear, however, that this income will not cover the cost of thinning.)



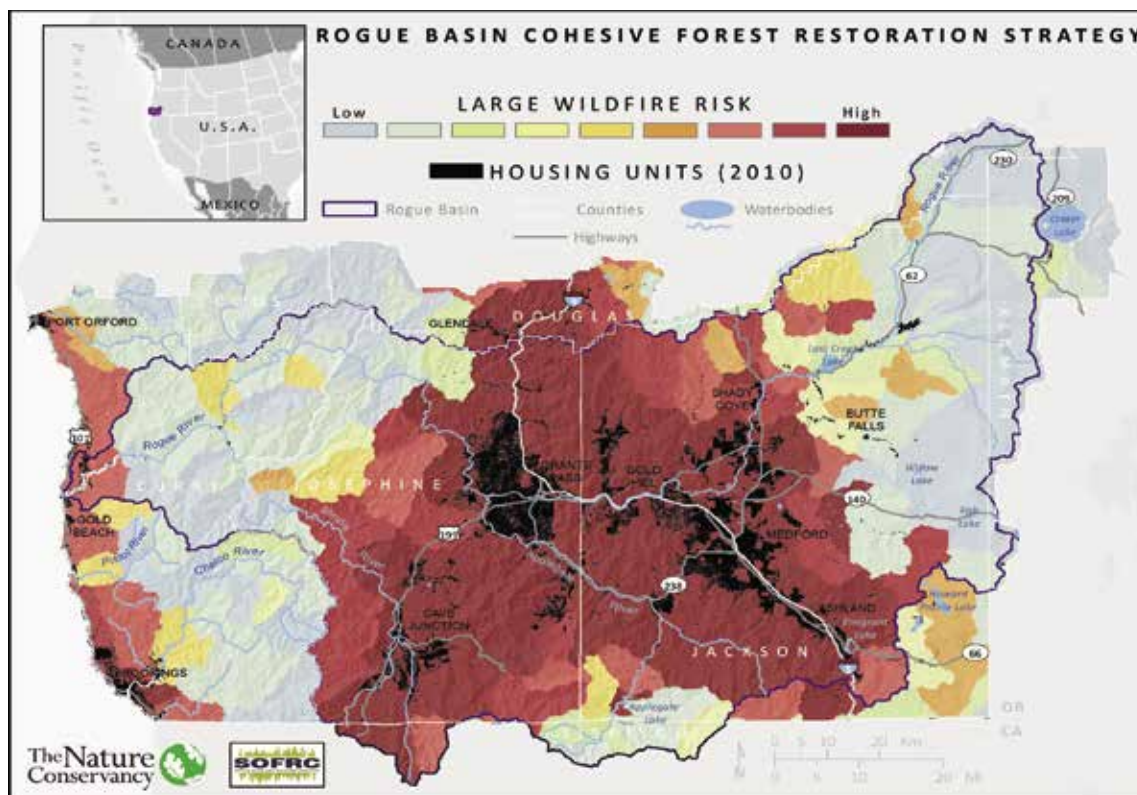
Wildfire Forum hosted by Representative Pam Marsh in January in Medford. Photo: Tom Carstens.

- 1,700 jobs
- \$260 million in local economic output

Some Applegaters are wondering if we’re ever going to actually put additional resources toward proactive forest management. All of our federal, state, and county representatives agree that we need to get more boots on the ground. Studies confirm that budgets will have to reflect this need.

There *are* a few bright spots. Both Jackson and Josephine counties have signed off on the 295-page Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan, a community wildfire protection plan. Governor Brown has established a committee to examine wildfire response statewide. ODF has proposed new smoke management rules to facilitate prescribed burning. ODF is also looking at newer technology that will help them detect fires sooner. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has recently awarded a grant of \$1.5 million to accelerate forest thinning in the Rogue Valley. Some of that money will go to the Applegate Valley. According to SOFRC, an additional \$4.8 million will be apportioned in the Rogue Valley between 2020 and 2025.

Tom Carstens
541-846-1025



Burn reminder
 Before burning outdoors any time of year, check with your fire district to make sure that day is an official burn day and not a **NO** burn day.
 Jackson County: 541-776-7007 • Josephine County • 541-476-9663

~ Happy Mother's Day ~

Applegate River Lodge & Restaurant

Lodge open 7 days a week
 Restaurant open Tuesday - Thursday 3 - 9 pm
 and Friday - Sunday 3 - 11 pm
 Happy Hour every day 3 - 5 pm
 Live Music ~ see schedule at liveatthegate.com
 Available for Retreats, Weddings, and Family Reunions

Lodge 541-846-6690 • Restaurant 541-846-6082
 Retreats 541-660-0244 • Weddings & Special Events 541-200-9882
 15100 Highway 238, Applegate, Oregon

Spring has Sprung!
 Mon - Sat 9 am - 3 pm
 Serving Grants Pass and the Applegate Valley

Home Of The Living Compost
 Compost • Top Soil • Potting Mix • Greenhouse Mix
 Red Bark • Bark Mulch • Pumice • Wood Chips
 Gravel • River Rock • Potting Mix

We now carry fully amended soils and toppers!
 • Mention this ad and get 10% off your purchase •

541-660-7080
 224 1/2 Powell Creek Road, Williams
williamsvalleysoilsupply.com

Create a safe zone

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Lots of lightning, fire, and smoke in the Applegate Valley this past summer, and there's been constant discussion, finger-pointing, and blame thrown around ever since.

Jackson County politicians have been very vocal, telling state and federal land management and wildfire agencies how they want to see things done in the future. Complaints include not enough manpower and equipment resources available when a lightning strike sparks a fire here, firefighters not being aggressive enough, and not enough thinning in the off-season. Oh, yes, and the practice of "letting fires burn"!

I've spent quite a lot of my time in the past 18 to 20 years studying, learning, experiencing, and writing about wildfire in the Applegate, all while being a part of the Applegate Partnership, a co-coordinator for our *Applegate Fire Plan* (AFP), and by attending many WUI (wildland urban interface) conferences on wildfire issues.

Balancing act

I've learned that living in a fire-prone area such as the Applegate Valley is definitely a balancing act (which is actually the title of our AFP!). I've also learned how much our "checkerboard" landownership pattern plays in wildfire preparation and management: the state and the federal forestlands are managed for different outcomes! And of course, every private landowner works and manages their property differently.

It's also true that some areas such as wilderness areas or national forests are left to burn because the US Forest Service has "no-suppression" management plans for those particular types of areas. (I'm thinking that with private, state, and federal lands all intermixed in the southwest Oregon area, maybe management should be called a "juggling act"?)

In general, wildfire season in the United States begins in the southeast. It then moves west through the central states and the southwest, but then moves up to the Pacific Northwest! Finally, it moves south through Oregon, and then down the length of California.

We know that southwestern Oregon is drier than the northwest and prone to lightning storms. By the time we start getting our summer lightning fires, regions across the country have already

claimed and are still using the wildfire crews, management teams, equipment, apparatus, and aircraft. Therefore, it is often a reality that we in southwest Oregon can be left scrounging for suppression resources.

As I write this article, county commissioners are drafting a proclamation stating their concerns, positions, and desires for wildfire help in Jackson County. Any time now the American wildfire parade will begin in the southeast. I believe that *now* is the time when Jackson and Josephine counties should be *analyzing and planning*—with our state and federal land managers—for summer! How many fire teams do we have locally? *How many will we need?* Can we review and improve upon the contracts to get more teams if we need them?

And residents should start planning their personal preparations: update phone trees, review family evacuation plans (have at least two routes identified), locate meeting places, define individual "to take" lists, and such. *Start sooner than later!*

Winter and spring are when we private landowners in the Applegate should be starting our own fuel-reduction efforts in preparation for fire season. You never know what weather Mother Nature will send us between now and summer, so start planning what needs doing around your defensible space this month. Make lists, decide if you need to hire a crew, get a new saw, etc. And don't forget to do cleanup on and around the house itself.

We Applegaters have just as much responsibility for thinning our own properties as the federal and state landowners do caring for theirs. We want our homes to be "defensible"—so that firefighters will feel safe coming up our thinned driveways to stay and defend our homes from a wildfire.

One important note

Due to our place at the end of the fire parade, it's common to have wildfire crews from *other parts* of the country working in our area—folks who especially will rely on their first impressions of how safe your property and driveway appear.

If you want them to "stay and defend," welcome them with a "safe zone"!

Sandy Shaffer

sassyoneor@gmail.com

Update: Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project

BY DONNA MICKLEY AND KRISTI MASTROFINI

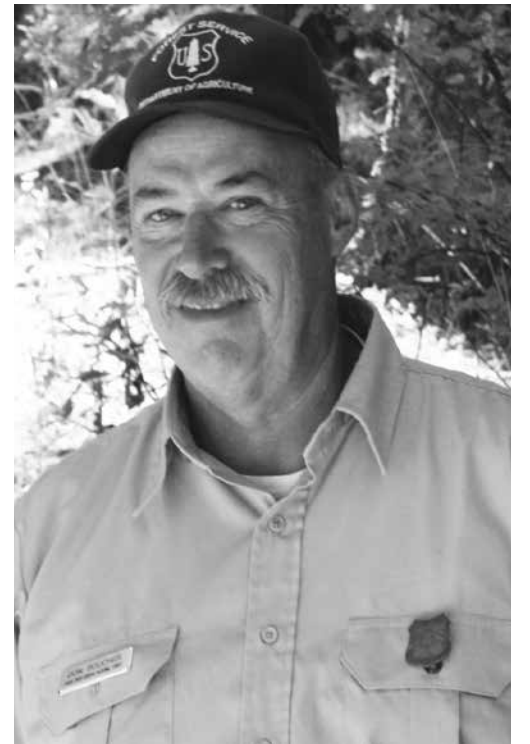
The Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project (UAWRP) is a 52,000-acre planning effort that incorporates an all-lands (federal, state, and private) approach to public land management. This is a collaborative effort between the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest-Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District (USFS), the Medford District Bureau of Land Management-Ashland Resource Area (BLM), and interested stakeholders.

An environmental assessment (EA) for UAWRP was released to the public on November 21, 2018. We are currently in the comment period and will continue to accept comments through April 30, 2019. To view the EA or get information on how to comment, please visit the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest website at fs.usda.gov/main/rogue-siskiyou/home and scroll to the bottom of the page to the Spotlight section titled "Forest Restoration and the Upper Applegate Watershed." You can also visit Star Ranger Station and request a hard copy of the EA.

Although the USFS and BLM have done a joint-agency environmental analysis, each agency has a different process for authorizing final decisions. Both agencies will review and consider comments and provide written responses with the decision document. The USFS and BLM will draft separate Decision Notices/Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI). The DN/FONSI is the decision document that accompanies an EA. The USFS plans to release the draft decision in May 2019. The BLM will issue one or more decisions for BLM actions proposed under the UAWRP beginning as early as late spring and summer of 2019. The USFS and BLM will coordinate closely on the timing of decisions to ensure ease and transparency of the decision process.

Don Boucher retires

It is with mixed emotions that we share the news that Don Boucher has retired from his long and impactful career with the USFS. We are so pleased for him but know that we will miss his expertise and local knowledge of the area. Don has an extensive background in resource management and community



Don Boucher retired after a long and impactful career with USFS.

engagement. His fire experience ranges from working as a smokejumper to leading crews as a division supervisor. With a degree in forestry, he worked first as a log scaler, then worked up to a sales administrator. He began writing NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) documents in 1982, while also honing his skills as a silviculturist. His real claim to fame was his ability to embrace and implement a community-driven alternative that reduces the risk of severe wildfire in the Ashland Watershed. Don was a true visionary in the art of collaboration, and we will do our best as we move forward with the project to bring his vision to fruition.

If you have questions about the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project, please contact either of us.

Donna Mickley

Siskiyou Mountains District Ranger
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
541-899-3800
dmickley@fs.fed.us

Kristi Mastrofini

Ashland Field Manager
Medford District Office
Bureau of Land Management
541-618-2438
kmastrof@blm.gov

Stop in for Pizza
Soups, Salads &
Sandwiches

Plus Fine Pastries,
Cookies, Cakes,
Beer & Wine

PROVOLINI
ESTABLISHED 1875
Country Store
GROCERY & DELI

Located at the corner of Hwy 238 + Williams Hwy
Open 7 days a week! (541)846-6286

APPLEGATE PARTNERSHIP & WATERSHED COUNCIL

#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
Restoration Program Manager
jakob@apwc.info | 541-890-9989

Julie Cymore
Fish Passage Program Manager
julie@apwc.info | 541-890-9765

Janelle Dunlevy
Executive Director
contact@apwc.info | 541-899-9982

*2017 USFS Nonprofit Organization
"promoting ecological, economic and community well-being in the Applegate watershed through on-the-ground projects and strategic collaborations."

EL ARRIERO
MEXICAN FAMILY RESTAURANT

2366 WEST MAIN ST.
MEDFORD, OR 97501
(541) 245-5872

235 BARNETT ROAD
MEDFORD, OR 97504
(541) 245-6778

APPLEGATE EXCAVATE & FENCE

ROADS - PADS - TERRACES
ALL TYPES 8' FENCE
WATER STORAGE SOLUTIONS
BRUSH / FUELS REDUCTION
STORM DAMAGE REPAIR
DRIVEWAYS - CULVERTS - DITCHES
PROJECT DESIGN & CONSULT

CCB# 201660
www.excavationoregon.com

541-890-5553

OPINIONS

When a problem becomes an opportunity

BY LISA E. BALDWIN

From Wilderville to Ruch and Murphy to Wonder, neighbors are concerned about decreased recycling opportunities. Shortly after Southern Oregon Sanitation (SOS) notified us about reduced paper and plastic recycling, I called Trent Carpenter, general manager of SOS. He said that losing the Chinese market for our recycled material caused SOS and other disposal and recycling companies, like Republic, to decide to collect only sellable recycled material—newspaper, corrugated cardboard, and white or clear milk jugs.

This is bad news indeed, considering the role plastics play in climate change. Not only does the production of plastic release greenhouse gases into the environment, but researchers from the University of Hawaii report that discarded plastics exposed to sunlight and seawater continue to release methane and ethylene as they degrade (“Production of methane and ethylene from plastic in the environment,” *PLOS ONE*, August 2018).

Now consider the latest findings about climate change: (1) The 2018 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that we have only 12 years before reaching the tipping point in global warming. (2) By 2030 we will be at the point of no return in this ecological catastrophe of our own making. (3) Seventeen of the 18 hottest years on record have occurred since 2001. (4) The rise in mean temperature worldwide has already caused “unstoppable melting” of both the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets (“When the ice melts,” *The Guardian*, January 2019).

It is way past time to get to work on solutions before it is truly too late. Here in the Applegate watershed, we have the resources to take the lead to solve the plastic recycling problem by investing as a community in bioplastic manufacturing plants and mills. We can address many needs by creating a local market for recycling our plastics and local markets for industrial hemp and living-wage jobs, while also boosting

the local economy. And we’ll be at the forefront of the best growth industry of the next decade.

Many products, from plastic lumber to T-shirts, lawn furniture to carpet, are already made from bioplastic composites of recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic and hemp. Mohawk’s EverStrand carpet fiber is more than 95 percent recycled PET. A new line of kitchen cabinets from IKEA uses reclaimed wood covered in a plastic veneer made from recycled bottles; each cabinet front puts about 25 half-liter bottles to good reuse.

We could manufacture composite bioplastics right here in southern Oregon, put some vacant mill sites back into industrial production, and create our own market for recycling plastics.

The other side of our plastic solution is to reduce and eventually eliminate our use of carbon-based plastic. Once again, our burgeoning hemp industry comes to the rescue. Hemp plastic, a bioplastic made entirely from hemp fiber, is a viable substitute for plastic made from fossil fuels. It is recyclable and can be 100 percent biodegradable, taking three to six months to fully decompose. It can replace all single-use plastics like to-go cups, shopping bags, and packaging. We should seize the opportunity this emerging growth industry offers our

community. We can build a stronger economy and contribute to the better health of the planet as well.

Eight million tons of plastic waste is dumped in our oceans every year. Some industry leaders are starting to talk about reducing plastic production and improving recycling, but it seems to be lip service only. The Alliance to End Plastic Waste, an ironically named international corporate association, committed a billion dollars to their stated cause. But many of the same types of companies have invested more than \$180 billion since 2010 on new fracking facilities to supply a projected 40 percent increase in carbon-based plastic production in the coming decade (“Founders of plastic waste alliance ‘investing billions in new plants,’” *The Guardian*, January 2019).

The time to tackle this problem is now. We can’t wait for Chinese markets to reopen or count on the petrochemical industry to put planet over profit. But we *can* recognize an opportunity when it comes along. If we marshal our collective will and community resources, we can solve our own plastic problem, build our economy, and lead the way into a cleaner, greener future.

Lisa E. Baldwin • leb.97527@gmail.com
Note: *Interested in pursuing these ideas? The author welcomes emails!*

Can Oregon lead by example?

BY ALAN JOURNET

Those reveling in misinformation, alternative facts, fake news, and rejection of data and the consensus of climate scientists are apt to conclude that the freezing conditions that consumed the Midwest earlier this year are evidence that global warming isn’t happening. It may seem counterintuitive, but such conditions are entirely consistent with what current climate science predicts. Somewhat more consistent with our expectations are trends evident in the Applegate Valley. Here, increasing temperatures combine with reduced snowpack and more variable annual precipitation to produce dry soils and vegetation, which increase wildfire risk. Indeed, the escalation of smoke we have experienced over the last few years is probably a result of global warming and will only get worse unless

we respond appropriately and with necessary urgency.

The question we should ask ourselves is simple: Do we want the warming to continue or should we try to halt that trend as best we can? Back in 2007, the Oregon legislature enacted a program that identified reduction goals for greenhouse gas emissions that were remarkably forward-thinking and noteworthy. Although purely voluntary, these goals placed our state at the forefront of climate action.

Unfortunately, our state is not on a trajectory to achieve the goals established in that program. Emissions reductions are simply not happening.

We know Oregon’s contribution to the global output of greenhouse gases is very small, and we would like others to bail us out by substantially reducing

their emissions. But how do we ask them to do that if we are simply not making a reasonable effort ourselves to reduce emissions? Clearly, without taking steps ourselves, without leading by example, we have no credibility or moral authority to ask reductions of other states and nations across the globe.

After many years of considering and rejecting proposals that would place Oregon on a trajectory to achieve our 2007 goals, the 2019 Oregon legislature is on the brink of considering a proposal that would remedy the situation. Those balking at the possibility that the proposed program might impose undue costs on Oregonians should pause, reflect, and ask themselves some questions.

First, let’s reflect on our luck. Since the Industrial Revolution in the 1700s, we have enjoyed the tremendous benefits of cheap fossil-fuel energy and an advancing technology that has liberated us from the heavy labor required in so many human activities from agriculture and forestry to manufacturing. But the benefits we have reaped come with costs long unregistered and unseen. We now know the cost of this fossil-fuel revolution has been an increase in emissions of greenhouse gases. Our understanding of this problem began in the 1800s, expanded through the 1900s, and is now well understood. Our luck is running out, and it’s time to consider what we can do to protect this planet for our children and their children. The first question is whether we are prepared to take the necessary steps to resolve the

problem we have created. Do we care enough about our kids to act?

To be sure, addressing the problem will result in changes in how we think and how we live and may have an economic impact. But if we think such changes are unconscionable, we should ask ourselves what life will be like for those children and grandchildren we love so much if we have destroyed our forests, our agriculture, and our fisheries.

The recent National Climate Assessment report issued by 13 agencies of our current government tells us that global warming impacts are real, here, and now. Meanwhile, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change informs us that if we wish to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees centigrade (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial revolution levels, we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent by 2030 and eliminate them by 2050. Yes, indeed, the situation and prognosis are alarming! But anyone who has experienced cancer and survived knows that the appropriate response to an alarming diagnosis is to take action immediately.

We in Oregon have a chance to become leaders in taking appropriate action. We can help to protect our Applegate corner of paradise by urging our representatives to pass meaningful greenhouse gas emissions reduction legislation in 2019. We cannot postpone this until later. Later *is* now.

Alan Journet • alan@socan.info
Cofacilitator, Southern Oregon
Climate Action Now

OPINION PIECES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinion pieces and letters to the editor represent the opinion of the author, not that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. As a community-based newsmagazine, we receive diverse opinions on different topics. We honor these opinions, but object to personal attacks and reserve the right to edit accordingly. Opinion pieces and letters to the editor **must pertain to the Applegate Watershed. We encourage authors to include verifiable facts to back up their arguments.**

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, reprinted articles, press releases, and political campaign articles 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.

Advertisers!

We can help you reach your market.

The *Applegater* is the **only** newsmagazine covering the entire Applegate Valley. With a circulation of 13,000 and a readership of more than 20,000, the *Applegater* covers Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate, Williams, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, Jerome Prairie, and areas of Medford and Grants Pass.

Contact Ron Turpen at 541-601-1867 or ronaldaturpen@gmail.com. Next deadline: May 1

OPINION

Behind the Green Door | Opulence not paying off

BY CHRIS BRATT



Chris Bratt

Over the past few months many Jackson and Josephine County residents (including me) have become frustrated. China has decided to stop accepting most of our recyclable goods (garbage), and our local disposal companies are now searching the world for other unlikely customers. In the meantime, solid waste is clogging local landfills. Our reliance on China to dispose of our recyclable materials is not paying off for the Chinese, local recyclers, or our communities.

Little did we realize that the complex recycling scheme we created here in southern Oregon was doomed from the start. We have found that relying on another nation halfway around the world to continue buying our throwaway materials, often full of contaminants, is costly, undependable, and unwanted. Although all of us have become compliant consumers, helping create these waste-pollution problems, we have taken little responsibility to fix these problems. What people buy really matters. Failure to reduce the

amount of garbage we produce is our fault too.

In the old days, when I was a young boy in San Francisco, waste problems were easily overcome. They hadn't created the general pollution crisis we are experiencing today. Our population was smaller then, and we recycled almost everything to help the World War II efforts. We gathered scrap metal, saved bacon grease, cleaned and crushed tin cans, and rationed important items that were in short supply. Ragpickers drove their wagons around the city streets calling out "Rags, bottles, sacks" and bought everything people wished to get rid of. I learned that recycling can happen when a collective effort is made.

But we don't need a war to educate ourselves about sorting garbage. Just new policies, technologies, and corporate and community responsibility are required to spread awareness and resilience for maintaining an unpolluted environment. In a like manner, latter-day San Franciscans have become our country's leading trash converters.

Presently, 80 percent of that city's garbage is being diverted from landfills through recycling and composting. (By comparison, New York and Chicago divert just 15 percent.) Besides passing laws that ban plastic bags and Styrofoam and mandating that all residences and businesses compost their waste, they are moving toward a zero-waste program. That means that absolutely nothing will be going to the dump or the incinerator by the year 2020.

For the average city resident, a zero-waste program also means keeping waste from becoming waste in the first place. San Francisco is experimenting with hiring and deploying pairs of outreach workers to go door-to-door to educate residents about different colored-bin sorting, take-back programs (they have a free large-item removal service), and individual responsibility.

This program is the first of its kind in trash monitoring and neighborhood outreach. In addition, San Francisco was the first city in the nation to establish a large-scale food collection composting program where the finished product is ground, screened, and marketed to local farmers as a nutrient-rich compost. San Francisco's Zero-Waste program benefits the economy, as composting and recycling save residents and businesses money and create green jobs (the refuse collector Recology alone has 1,050

employees in San Francisco).

This is the kind of large-scale garbage reduction, collection, recycling, and composting program that needs to be emulated here in southern Oregon. The three individual trash-collecting companies we have locally need to come together to build a joint facility that can do all the necessary sorting, recycling, and composting if we want to achieve any of these zero-waste goals or even come close.

It's obvious we need a huge social, economic, and technological investment to solve the extensive garbage problems we have created locally and worldwide. Visualize the five patches of floating plastic in the ocean that cover 40 percent of the ocean's surface. Two of those patches are twice the size of the state of Texas (*The Week* magazine, July 27, 2018). Think about our warming planet fueled by excess carbon waste and the bankrupt solutions proposed for our nuclear and pesticide waste products.

We're going to need more than Chinese buyers and better recycling equipment to reverse the plastic and other pollution damage we have caused here and abroad. It's going to require global cooperation and strategy for solutions.

Any ideas? Let me know.

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Smart meters

To Whom it May Concern:

In your recent publication (Winter 2018) you published a Letter to the Editor regarding the use of smart meters. Karen Affriseo has expressed her opinion and that's fine. But she is certainly in the minority on the issue.

First off, I have to wonder about people in this day and age who do not have microwave ovens or cell phones. My guess is that I am a bit older than she, and I have had both of the aforementioned items since their inception. I do not have cancer or any other malady and have benefited immensely from both items. I wonder if Karen Affriseo has a TV. Talk about microwaves—TV likely has more harmful emissions than the other two combined. I have no basis for stating that other than my own guess, just as Karen Affriseo has no basis for her pontification on how the power company is going to get rich at our expense. Pacific Power has one of the lowest KWH rates in the west. Check the rates charged by Pacific Gas and Electric in California.

Karen states that we are already paying for meter readers in our bills. Well, the last time I checked, labor costs money. She also states that Pacific Power

can do as they please and we have no say in it. Not true. Pacific Power's rate structure is monitored by the Oregon Public Utilities Commission, which she certainly has the right to go to with her problems with our power company.

I have had a smart meter at my residence for the past 15 years, and I'm still alive. How can this be, you ask? When I fenced my property and installed an electric-operated gate, I did not want Pacific Power to have access to my property, so they installed a smart meter that has to be read from the street.

Finally, thanks to a few who oppose smart meters, our county commissioners thought they could simply get Pacific Power to remove the monthly meter reading charges by enacting a county ordinance against the fee. What a joke! If you read news outside of the *Applegater*, you must be aware that we (as a county) are being sued by the Oregon PUC for the actions taken by our commissioners. Karen closes her letter by stating that "it would be far more cost-effective for the county to ban smart meters altogether." Wow...and what did that action get us? How about a lawsuit!

Bruce Fallon
Grants Pass, Oregon

Classified Advertising

Aikido @ Williams Grange. Learn the Martial Art of Peace. 3 age groups. 541-660-3635, wellspringai.com.


Sexton @ historic Logtown Cemetery. Assist in operations; no experience necessary. logtowncem@yahoo.com.

Place a classified ad!

\$12 for three lines of text (approximately 110 characters and spaces).
Advance payment required online at www.applegater.org.
Contact: Ron Turpen at ronaldaturpen@gmail.com or 541-601-1867.

DISCLAIMER


The *Applegater* reserves the right to edit, categorize, revise, or refuse any classified advertisement. In addition, *Applegater* has the right to terminate any ad at any time for any reason. Parties posting ads are responsible for the accuracy and content of their ads. *Applegater* will not be liable for any damages arising out of errors or omissions.



rebel·heart
· B O O K S ·
be brave, be true, leave your mark

(541) 702-2665

157 West California St.
Jacksonville, Oregon 97530



rebelheartbooks.com rebelheartbooks157@gmail.com

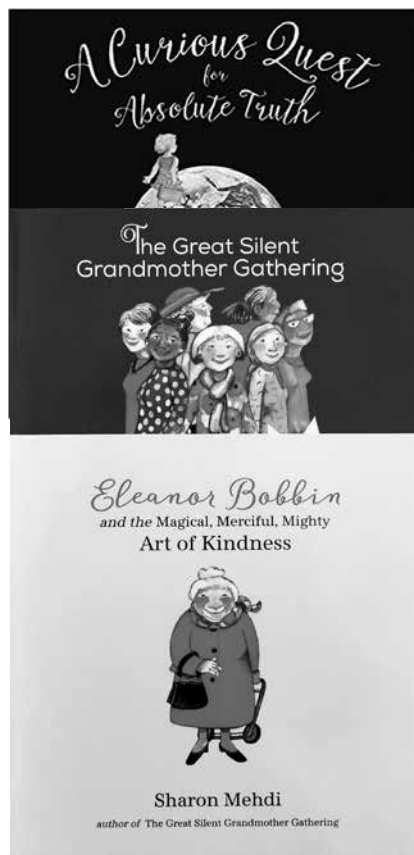
BOOK REVIEW

The wee small books of Sharon Mehdi

Sometimes when it seems the world has gone askew, many of us secretly yearn for a story. Our children and grandchildren approach us at bedtime with favorite books, and we read while they drift off, so innocent and free of cares. Not really free of care, though, because the worlds of children also go awry in many ways. A story can calm a child at least enough to trust the arms of sleep. Why don't children's books for adults exist? Well, surprise! They do. Sharon Mehdi, citizen of the world presently living in Jacksonville, has written three of them.

I first became aware of both Sharon and her writing when I heard her read at Art Presence, located in what was once Jacksonville's original jail! (Now there's an irony as well as a transformation—as true art sets us free!) That Saturday she was reading her *Eleanor Bobbin and the Magical, Merciful, Mighty Art of Kindness*. I thought, "Oh, she's a writer of children's books," even though she'd told us already that these wee small books were for adults. They just *looked* like children's books. And I began thinking of my granddaughter, Zoe. But no. This story turned out to be for all people, even people in their seventies, like me. By the time she finished (because the book takes only 20 minutes or so to read aloud), I was in tears and filled with hope. I bought four copies, kept one, and sent the other three as gifts to the kind people in my own life. This was in 2017, just after the book was released from a local publisher, Lucky Valley Press (luckyvalleypress.com).

Sharon gives us her own thoughts about the story: "As this story goes to print, the world is once again in chaos. Rancor and retribution rule the day. Greed, fear, and demagoguery have been crowned King of All That Is. For many, there seems to be no hope. And yet...and yet...hidden beneath the helplessness and hopelessness there is a glimmer of light. So faint it can be seen only in the darkest of dark nights. If this tiny flicker had a name, it might be called forgiveness, compassion, kindness, or love. Such little words. But the one thing I know for sure is that they can all create miracles. They can make the impossible possible. They can heal lives. And sometimes, whole communities. Just ask Eleanor Bobbin."



Who would not want to read all three of Sharon's books? Preceding *Eleanor Bobbin* was the internationally renowned *The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering*, now in its 15th Anniversary Edition. It was inspired by a Karuk medicine man, Charlie Thom, who told Sharon, "Men have taken the world as far as they can. It's up to the women to take us the rest of the way." So, Sharon imagined what might happen if two grandmothers stood silently in the town park to save the world. This wee small book made its way around the world, translated into half a dozen languages and giving rise to many grandmother gatherings.

The third book, *A Curious Quest for Absolute Truth: Snippets from the Early Years*, is a humorous, heart-grabbing, glorious jaunt through Sharon's young years. Reading it, I recognize the threads of experience that made her the creative, funny, wise, generous, hopeful, amazing woman and writer that she is. At one internet site, I read this comment: "This woman is one of the most precious people on the planet."

All three of Sharon Mehdi's wee small books can be found in the Jackson County Library System, purchased at local bookstores (Bloomsbury in Ashland and Rebel Heart in Jacksonville), ordered from any bookstore anywhere (through Ingram Distributors), or found online at Amazon.com and other online book vendors. Happy reading!

Christin Lore Weber
storyweaver1@gmail.com

Essay *Advice from a bell pepper*

BY MARGARET PERROW DELLA SANTINA

I'm staring into the refrigerator. Again. Actually, it's the fifth time in 30 minutes. But who's counting? (Well, okay, maybe *I* am.)

Sticky leftover mac 'n cheese, a gangly bunch of asparagus, half a carton of eggs stare wordlessly back at me. *Words*. I need words. And *they're* not helping. I close the refrigerator door and plod back upstairs. "Butt in the chair," I remind myself. "Fingers on the keyboard. This book isn't going to write itself."

How naively optimistic I was a month ago, at the start of this winter sabbatical leave, when I thought, "Ten chapters, ten weeks!" Now it's the end of week three, and I've spent as much time in front of the refrigerator as I have at my desk. (Well, not really, though it can feel that way.) Three weeks, and I'm still trying to articulate the throughline, still trying to nail down a draft of one chapter. But *really* what I am trying to do is overcome my own resistance to the task of writing, my fear that this book will fall short of my own expectations.

In other words, it's not thirst or hunger that ejects me from my chair every five minutes. It's resistance—another way to look at writer's block. Resistance sends me down to the refrigerator; resistance makes me green tea and spreads my saltines with blackberry jam. And

resistance waits for the words to come pouring out of a plastic container of leftover mac 'n cheese.

I'm staring into the refrigerator. Again. But this time I hear a small, waxy, green voice coming from the vegetable bin. "That's right."

"What?"

"That's right—resistance! Congratulations! You've got a lot of it! Resist it!"

Could I channel some of my resistant energy back into resisting resistance itself? A bit convoluted, but worth a try. Wait...isn't that a principle of martial arts—control your opponents by directing their own energy to work against them? Maybe I've got enough resistance in me that I can simply compel some of it to stay down here in the kitchen!

"Thank you," I mutter to the bell pepper. Closing the refrigerator, I sheepishly head back upstairs. Luckily the fridge is full—next time, it'll be the carrots. But for the time being, I'm back to writing.

Margaret Perrow della Santina

perrowm@sou.edu

541-227-4399

Note: A thought-provoking book about the impact of resistance on creativity is The War of Art by Steven Pressfield.

POETRY CORNER

A wild seed settles in my garden

by Beate Foit, beatefoit@gmail.com

The first tender shoots pop up around mid-May.
Clusters of them.
They seem to protect each other.

Why they decide to grow right there,
in the middle of the gravel driveway
is a mystery.

In mid-June, stems are strong and tall;
bowl-shaped leaves
collect dew drops from the night before.

Monarch butterflies dance around the blossoms,
dive in and out of the beautiful bush.
It moves gently with the wind.

Mid-July in the heat of summer,
the pearl-like, spent blossoms
develop into oval-shaped seed pods.

The bush withers,
droops to hug the earth;
the pods are carried away by the autumn wind.

Farewell, my Milkweed!
I'll see you again next spring,
With your offspring settled near you.

■ DIVIDE CAMP

Continued from page 3

Camp hosts small groups of veterans in the majestic Willowa Mountains near Joseph, Oregon, and gives them the opportunity to "unplug and reset" from stresses of their daily lives, to connect with others who understand their struggles, and to participate in customized outdoor activities. All services are free to the veterans.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 928,000 post-9/11 veterans (three in ten) have service-related disabilities. These wounded veterans experience higher rates of marital problems, unemployment, suicide, and substance abuse than their veteran peers. The current suicide rate among both active-duty and veteran service members

is 25 a day—up from an average of 22 a day just two years ago.

The goal of Divide Camp is to use outdoor activities, peer support, and the healing power of nature to help wounded warriors improve the quality of their lives, restore their spirits, and regain a sense of purpose and self-confidence so they feel empowered to achieve their full potential. Programs like those provided by Divide Camp are nothing short of lifesaving for struggling veterans who have either fallen through the cracks or not found the help they need through the current overburdened and pharmacologically focused veterans' healthcare system. Julie believes that we owe it to these brave men and women, who have willingly sacrificed so much on our behalf, to help them find a "new

normal" and successfully transition from military life back into our communities.

Divide Camp is a small grassroots nonprofit organization originally envisioned to provide a healing refuge for hurting veterans. Since 2012, a group of dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly to renovate the camp into a safe, comfortable, and serene retreat for veteran guests. Most of the volunteers come from the Rogue and Applegate valleys. The camp's largest supporter is Veterans of Foreign Wars in Jacksonville.

The first guest arrived in September 2013. His experience was so profound that he now serves on the board of directors and credits Divide Camp with saving his life. In 2014, four veterans spent time at camp even though critical renovations were still under way. Despite

working with unpaid staff and a limited budget, Divide Camp had its first full season of programs in 2015, serving 20 veterans. Activities included fly-fishing, rafting, deer and elk hunting, a writing workshop, and bowhunting. In 2016, the program also included wilderness backpacking and served a total of 32 veterans. Since then, backpacking trips with llamas have been added so veterans who are not physically able to carry a pack can still enjoy the hiking experience.

Today Divide Camp honors and gives hope to 50 veterans a year. Visit dividecamp.org to learn more or to donate, fill out an application, or buy a ticket to the March 16 fundraiser.

Martha Kleyn-Schoorel
adlitemservices@outlook.com

The wildlands of the Lower Applegate

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

The Lower Applegate, between Murphy and Wilderville, is known for its agricultural flats, not its wilderness habitat. As it blends into the outskirts of Grants Pass, the area is the most heavily populated portion of the Applegate Valley; however, two significant wildlands tucked into the surrounding mountains provide important habitat for wildlife. Although not remote, the wildlands are obscure and seldom visited. They support interesting serpentine habitat, clear flowing streams, and dense old forests. Without recreational trails, access into their interior requires difficult off-trail hiking. Those who do venture there, though, will be rewarded with solitude, spectacular forests, abundant wildflowers, and long vistas across the mountains and valleys of southwestern Oregon. These last wild habitats in the Lower Applegate support a unique piece of the Applegate Valley's biodiversity and natural heritage. They should be protected for future generations as an important refuge for wild nature.

Slate Creek Roadless Area

The unprotected Slate Creek Roadless Area, at the headwaters of Slate Creek on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, is roughly only 3,500 acres but contains unusual serpentine habitat unique to the Applegate River watershed. Its 386-acre Cedar Log Flat

Research Natural Area protects the only population of the insectivorous cobra lily (*Darlingtonia californica*) in the Applegate River basin and numerous rare plant populations, including Waldo buckwheat, which is otherwise found only in the Illinois River Valley.

Slate Creek is the first major tributary of the Applegate River. It supports runs of chinook salmon and steelhead and some of Applegate River's most abundant runs of coho salmon. It flows along Highway 199 through Wonder and Wilderville before dumping into the Rogue River west of Grants Pass.

This area receives roughly twice as much rainfall as the driest portions of the Applegate Valley and supports abundant winter fog. Its weather, vegetation, and unique soils make it similar to portions of the Illinois Valley with its endemic serpentine flora. Although significant concentrations of heavy metals and a lack of basic plant nutrients make serpentine soils toxic to most plant life, unique plant communities have evolved to thrive on them. These unusual soils support barren red rock openings, carpeted in low chaparral, sparse grass, and twisted Jeffrey pine. Majestic Port Orford cedar, bay laurel, western azalea, and alder dominate the stream corridors, and boggy wetlands flow down serpentine slopes into grassy clearings lined in cobra lily.



Cobra lily (*Darlingtonia californica*) is found in the Applegate only on Slate Creek.
Photo: Luke Ruediger.

Round Top Mountain Roadless Area

The Round Top Mountain Roadless Area is located on the high, rocky ridgeline dividing the Illinois Valley from the Lower Applegate Valley. Portions of the area drain into the Deer Creek watershed near Selma, while the northernmost portions of the wildland drain into Jackson Creek, Murphy Creek, and Panther Creek in the Applegate River watershed.

The area is a patchwork of rock outcrops, serpentine barrens, and mixed conifer forests. Located in the moister western portion of the Applegate Valley, it receives abundant rain and winter fog. On productive soils, old-growth forests of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, white fir, incense cedar, live oak, and madrone grow in contiguous unlogged forest habitats. The vast old-growth canopy is occasionally broken

by serpentine outcrops, young forests regenerating from historic wildfires, and mixed hardwood groves.

In the 2016 Resource Management Plan, BLM protected the core of the area by designating 5,295 acres as the Round Top Mountain Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC). However, significant unroaded habitats at the margins of the LWC are currently unprotected.

Bolt Mountain

Bolt Mountain is not quite a wildland, but it makes an interesting and beautiful hike for exploring the serpentines of the Lower Applegate Valley. The low, rounded butte is a unique and isolated hump of serpentine rising 1,258 feet from the valley floor above Jerome Prairie and the Applegate River near Fish Hatchery Park.

A 3.3-mile trail beginning at Fish Hatchery Park climbs through beautiful Jeffrey pine woodlands with spectacular views and incredible floral displays. The trail climbs to the 2,227-foot summit and provides an accessible hike in the serpentine habitats of the Lower Applegate.

Mark your calendars!

Applegate Neighborhood Network, along with the Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon, will be leading a hike to the Cedar Log Flat Research Natural Area on Saturday, May 18. Email info@applegateneighborhood.network for more information.

Luke Ruediger
Program Director
Applegate Neighborhood Network
(ANN)
info@applegateneighborhood.network

Stories from Soweto: Commerce across the globe

BY MARGARET PERROW DELLA SANTINA

As I wrote in the winter 2018 *Applegater* ("Stories from South Africa"), over the past 20 years I've been lucky to get to know some people from Soweto, the townships outside Johannesburg that are home to over a million black South Africans. I first met them in 1998 when they were young adults in their 20s, participants in a youth-development project offering them skills that would help them find jobs.

Although apartheid officially ended with the celebrated 1994 democratic elections, South Africa remains a vastly inequitable country, with racialized poverty, high crime, and unemployment well over 30 percent.

Today, those "young" people are in their 40s. Some are formally employed—Lungile sorts mail at the post office on the night shift; Thabo makes boilers for trucks; Lovely is a receptionist; and Nonhlanhla is a nursery school aid. Others piece together informal work—Isaiesh sells Tupperware from time to time; Ntuthuko occasionally works for an auto-body shop; David collects recyclables; Kgotso has sold perfume and handbags in the street; and Christopher runs a printing business from his grandparents' garage.

Despite incremental, positive changes in their lives over the past two decades, they struggle to make ends meet. They are disappointed that their children's futures are not as secure as they had imagined. Even those who are formally employed often have long commutes

(two hours each way) in crowded minibus taxis.

Education has been officially desegregated, but they generally can't afford the fees to send their children to better public schools. Fee-free government schools are notoriously inferior to formerly white schools in the Johannesburg suburbs.

They all have hopes and plans to build a better future for their children. Before I left South Africa in September 2018, some of them identified a significant "next step" requiring modest funding. Listening to their plans I was struck by one thing they all had in common: in addition to supporting themselves and their families, they all explained how their plans would also benefit their communities.

Back home in the Applegate this fall, I set up my own commercial venture: a GoFundMe campaign on their behalf. I'm an uncomfortable fundraiser, so creating this campaign was a stretch for me. But I'm thrilled to have raised over \$3,000 so far (the goal is \$20,000) towards supporting these projects:

- David collects recyclables and pulls them on foot, on a homemade trolley, to a scrap depot several kilometers away from home. He hopes to buy a shipping container to expand his business to include a "spaza

shop" (corner store), which will help him better provide for his daughter and serve his community.

- Christopher operates a printing business in the family garage. He hopes to buy two computers and a router so he can email documents and customers can use the internet. This will help the business thrive, support his extended family, and provide a much-needed service in his community.

- Lovely has always wanted to earn her bachelor of arts in psychology and plans to attend Wits University to become a child psychologist. She has met the entrance requirements and will attend classes part-time while she continues working as a receptionist to support herself and her daughter.

- Thabo, a boilermaker for a transport company and a father of three, plans to start a business safely transporting children to school. He has developed a viable business plan and hopes to purchase a reliable used microbus.

- Ntuthuko, a father of three, dreams of being an Uber driver. He has experience

driving for a tour company, has researched the market and requirements, and hopes to purchase a reliable used car.

- Isaiesh began a university degree in social work, but unemployment caused her to leave the program after two years. She hopes to pay back her outstanding tuition and complete the degree.

I invite you to contribute to these projects! Every dollar counts in this collective effort to make a real and immediate difference across the globe in Soweto. You may specify which person's project you would like to support, and you'll receive updates as the plans are put into action.

It's easy to donate at GoFundMe: Visit gofundme.com/support-soweto-projects, where you can also watch short videos about each person, curated by them. Enjoy!

Margaret Perrow della Santina
541-899-9950
perrowm@sou.edu

The author is currently writing a book that spans 20 years of her research on youth development in South Africa.

Photo, below left: David at his recycling business.

Photo, below right: David at home with his daughter. Photos: Margaret Perrow della Santina.



Are you prepared for a firestorm?

BY TOM CARSTENS

“Hey, Chief, fire’s all around us and I need you to round up my livestock and get them to safety!”

Believe it or not, calls like this happen. But when wildfire hits a neighborhood, you can bet the fire chief is too busy to round up your cattle. Besides, it’s your job to get your animals to safety. By the time wildfire threatens, your livestock should already be evacuated—and you shouldn’t even be home!

Would we be prepared if we were hit with something like the Camp Fire in Paradise, California? That fire, with 50-foot flames, spread at the pace of a football field a second and destroyed a whole town and 85 lives. Could that happen here?

Probably not exactly, because our conditions are not the same. Even though we live in an area with high burn risk (see the map on page 16), we rarely experience the high wind velocities of the Feather River canyon. Our air is never that dry. Air mass conditions in southern Oregon are different, as is population density. (Paradise is characterized by small, tightly packed residential lots.)

What we do have in common is a steep topography, which can cause erratic fire behavior; lots of same-way-in, same-way-out access to our properties; and plenty of the two fire starters, lightning and people.

Although fire preparedness would not have stopped the rapid house-to-house spread of the fire, which caused many deaths in Paradise, it might have prevented other deaths—those due to limited evacuation routes or to people not evacuating at all or too late.

To help us understand what Applegaters need to do to prepare for catastrophic wildfire, we contacted Jackson and Josephine counties’ Emergency Management offices and the Applegate Valley Fire District, who gave us the following information.

The bottom line up front

We don’t have to experience a catastrophe like Paradise here. It’s all about understanding our evacuation system, being prepared for the inevitable call to go, and keeping a watchful eye on the weather and ongoing fires.

How does emergency evacuation work in the Applegate Valley?

There are three evacuation levels: Ready (Level 1), Set (Level 2), Go (Level 3). County sheriff’s offices set these levels, in coordination with the entire fire emergency leadership in the Rogue Valley, by calculating the risks for specific geographic areas. For more information about evacuation levels, see the sidebar.

Citizen Alert

Alerts are made in the press, on broadcast media, and on social media. You can also get alerts on your phone about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for Citizen Alert. If you have a landline at your home or business, you are automatically in the database and will be called when evacuation notices go out. If you have a cell phone or other device, go to rvem.org to register. (See the “Register for Citizen Alert” sidebar for instructions.)

If you don’t register, the sheriff will have to send out a volunteer search-and-rescue team to knock on your door

if wildfire threatens. This is inherently unsafe for these folks because they are not equipped like firefighters. And they might contribute to more traffic congestion. They will not try to get through a locked gate (although they will post a note on the gate). This is not a good system to rely on because, in chaotic conditions, everyone gets really busy. And if you wait for the firefighters to come to the rescue, guess what? That’s time taken away from fighting the fire.

Remember: The sheriff and his team are not there to help you pack your stuff. They’re there to get you out... now. Often there’s so little time that the deputy will just load you up in his vehicle and go. You’ve basically waited too long.

So please make sure every household member registers for the Citizen Alert system (see below).

This is not only a massive interagency cooperative effort, but a collaborative effort that involves all of us. We need to be prepared! We must take personal responsibility for the safety of our families and our animals. If we don’t, we’re going to be part of the problem when catastrophic fire hits.

If you’d like to learn more, the Jacksonville Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been making well-received presentations. Two more are scheduled at the Jacksonville Library: Tuesday, March 5, from 6 - 8 pm and Saturday, March 16, from 10 am - noon.

Tom Carstens
541-846-1025

Special thanks to the following for their help and advice in preparing this article: Stacey Belt, Jackson County Emergency Manager; Michele Brown-Riding, Jacksonville Community Emergency Response Team; Terry Fairbanks, president, Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative; Deputy Cory Krauss, Josephine County Search and Rescue Coordinator; Chief Mike McLaughlin, Applegate Valley Fire District; Emily Ring, Josephine County Office of Emergency Management; Deputy Shawn Richards, Jackson County Search and Rescue Coordinator; and Sara Rubrecht, Jackson County Emergency Manager. Any errors are the author’s.

Register for Citizen Alert

To register your cell phone:

1. Access rvem.org, the website for the Rogue Valley emergency management system.
2. Click on the “Citizen Alert” at the lower right of your screen and follow the instructions. A short video will take you through the six-step registration process.
3. Every member of your household who has a cell phone should individually register. That way, even if you’re at different locations, everyone will get the notifications.
4. If you don’t use the internet or if you have questions, call your county’s Emergency Management office: Jackson County, 541-774-6035; Josephine County, 541-474-5300.



Evacuation of Paradise, California, due to the devastating Camp Fire. Reprinted with permission from the Chico Enterprise-Record.

Ready, Set, Go!

Ready (Level 1): Prepare your home

By the start of fire season, you should have this checklist complete.

- Make an evacuation plan and go over it with the entire household. Make sure everyone understands what they’re supposed to do.
- Designate a meeting place. It’s possible that you may not all be home at the time the evacuation notices go out. You could plan to get together at a friend’s house or at an evacuation shelter. In any case, your meeting place should probably be well away from your immediate neighborhood. If Red Cross shelters are available, you’ll receive directions through agency Public Information Officers and the media.
- Think about where to corral your livestock. Plan to get it done early; it’ll take some time. Think of your animals as you would your kids; a plan to just release them is cruel and will make the congestion in the area worse. Josephine County requests that you not plan on using the fairgrounds in Grants Pass. These grounds may be required for equipment staging areas for firefighting crews and for emergency shelters.
- Don’t assume that the routes you normally use will be available. The wildfire might block access. Traffic can get clogged up. Scout your neighborhood for alternative routes, even if they might be dirt roads (but make sure they do not have locked gates). Depending on conditions, they could lead you to safety. Do your own due diligence and have a Plan B.
- Search your neighborhood for possible safe zones in case all your evacuation routes are blocked. These would be large open areas free of dry grass and other vegetation. It might even be an area that has already burned. A typical engine crew will look for an 80-square-foot area when flame lengths are ten feet. For longer flames, much larger areas will be required. If you know of a possible safe zone, but it’s normally behind a locked gate, it might be prudent to discuss with the owner how you could access the property during fire season. It could make the difference between life and death.
- Have a “Go Kit” packed and ready. Include family supplies, important documents, contact lists, household inventory (for insurance claims), family photos, and valuables. For stuff you will need but can’t prepack, like medicines, make a checklist and tape it to your Go Kit.
- Store some water jugs in your vehicle.
- In addition to the Citizen Alert system, having a neighborhood alert system in place is a good idea. Many Applegate neighborhoods use a phone tree. Be aware of who may need extra assistance.
- Have an out-of-area contact preselected to relay information about your welfare to family and friends.

Set (Level 2): Protect your family

- Have your pets and livestock ready to go.
- Move propane barbecue appliances away from structures.
- Have a photo ID with your current address, so you will be able to return later to an evacuated area.
- Monitor local TV and radio stations for updates.
- In addition to nearby fires, pay attention to lightning and thunder. Look outside. You may have to initiate your own evacuation. If you feel threatened, leave immediately.
- Don’t wait until the last minute, or you will soon be part of the problem. You can get in the way of firefighters and rescue teams responding. You could be held up by traffic accidents. You could become a victim yourself in the ensuing chaos.
- There’s nothing wrong with evacuating on a Level 2 alert. Get ahead of the game.

Go (Level 3): Evacuation plan

- Shut off the propane or gas.
- Leave the house lights on and the windows closed.
- Close the garage door but leave it unlocked.
- Leave your gate open. The sheriff will provide security in your neighborhood.
- Call your outside contact and let them know where you’re headed.
- Check on neighbors if time allows.
- If you find yourself in your car and surrounded by flames, it might be prudent to stay in your vehicle. Some people died in the Paradise fire when they left their cars to try to outrun the fast-paced fire. Your choices are limited at this point, so you’ll have to stave off the panic and try to make good decisions based on your immediate circumstances.

Emergency preparedness is a choice. Being prepared can save lives. For more information, visit rvem.org.



541-899-7867
7386 HWY 238
JACKSONVILLE, OR
RUHC3C@GMAIL.COM

Instagram Twitter Facebook

Quick Response to your
Coffee and Snack Emergencies!

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.

Major fundraising effort under way by Ruch School students

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.
—Mahatma Gandhi

To inspire and prepare students at Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) to be stewards and leaders of a better world, we provide them with opportunities to engage in meaningful service within and beyond the school community. By integrating these experiences into the academic curricula, we help all students—grades kindergarten through eighth grade—discover an “authentic purpose” in their learning every day. In addition to the “relevance” aspect of service learning, this type of pedagogy develops critical-thinking skills, engages multiple intelligences in students, and instills in them a sense of pride and self-efficacy.

ROCS honors the partnerships with the following organizations and thanks them for the invaluable benefits they add to our students’ education: Ruch Country Store, Sanctuary One, Pioneer Village, Applegate Valley Fire District, Ruch Library, Code 3 Coffee, Dick’s Towing, Medford YMCA, ACCESS Food Share, Southern Oregon University, Valley View Winery, Ruch Café, Ruch Hardware, Red Lily Vineyards, Logtown Cemetery, Cowhorn Vineyard, Cascade Paragliding, Cantrall Buckley Park, A Greater Applegate, Friends of Ruch Library, Discovery School at South Medford High, Deer Creek Park, Forest Park, Southern Oregon Humane Society, and Pacifica Garden.

Our new adventure with service learning involves the entire Applegate Valley. Students have expressed their desire to provide a safe, family-friendly, and inspiring gathering space for the learning community, the service-oriented community, and the community at large.



To accomplish this, fundraising efforts by students are under way—with a goal of \$80,000! This will cover the costs to renovate the school’s track and playfield, install new landscaping that fosters “safe play,” and make the area more appealing to families for recreation, health, and wellness. We hope to complete this project by August 1, 2019.

Current fundraising efforts include chocolate sales, an ongoing yard sale at Ruch Country Store, collective grant writing, a school jog-a-thon, bottle and box-top collecting, letter writing, piggy-bank extractions, and our upcoming auction event on June 8. If you would like to join our efforts in providing Applegate families and visitors a destination to engage in fellowship, health, and wellness, please contact the school office at 541-842-3850.

“We’re putting our words into action,” said a ROCS middle-school student. “I didn’t realize that I could make a difference...but I am!”

Thank you for being *our* community, where we live, learn, play, discover, and take pride in ourselves as contributing citizens.

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

Applegate School news

The holiday program, under the direction of Mrs. Daw, involved all the Applegate School students. The program used excerpts from “Dear Santa,” by Alfred Productions and “Santa Goes on Strike” by Robert A. Mauro, as well as special scenes written by the middle-school drama class. An audience sing-along and an appearance by Santa topped off the evening.

Mrs. Hirschmugl’s kindergarten and first-grade classes recently celebrated having read over 600 books in Epic, a digital library for kids. They hope to reach a goal of 1,000 books before the end of the school year. The children celebrated the 100th day of school on February 19, which is a milestone for kindergartners and many first graders. All year these students practiced counting to 100 by ones, twos, fives and tens. They each brought 100 items from home, made necklaces out of 100 Froot Loops, and drew pictures of what they might look like when they are 100. In science, the students learned about the life cycle of butterflies, watched each baby caterpillar grow and spin a chrysalis, and saw butterflies emerge. The students were able to release 12 butterflies.

Second and third graders under Mrs. Halsted’s leadership teamed up with the K-1 class for a field trip to White Oak Farm in Williams. There the students helped catch chickens to relocate them to a recently harvested garden plot. After a walk through the

forest, students helped prepare a tasty farm-grown lunch of soup, salad, and cornbread. The second and third graders recently completed a unit on animals and plants from the new Stem Scopes science curriculum. Integrating art and writing in a final project, students demonstrated their understanding of how animals and plants depend on one another for survival.

Mr. Scull’s fourth- and fifth-grade students worked hard on their science fair projects, which they showed off to parents and community members at Learning Night on February 27. A number of the students will move on to compete at the district-wide competition on March 6 to 8.

In January, middle-school students learned the art of felting. Guided by artist Corbin Brashear, the students thoroughly enjoyed making felted owls. Fourth and fifth graders learned the felting technique in February. The remainder of students are looking forward to experiencing the felting process at a later date.

Another artistic experience awaits Applegate School students in March. In 2017, mosaic artist Jeremy Criswell led the students in creating the beautiful mosaic mural of the tree on the outside wall near the gym. Jeremy will be back the week of March 18 to help students design, cut out, and glaze tiles for the mosaic river that will flow behind the tree.

Jean Hall • jhall80@juno.com



Applegate middle-school students learn the art of felting with artist Corbin Brashear. Photo: Michelle Daw.

Williams School is growing!

Williams school is growing! Enrollment is now at 76, compared to 56 at the same time last year. The preschool continues to be at its capacity of 20 students.

On October 11, Hero Day, we honored local heroes and held a jog-a-thon. Representative heroes included members of the sheriff’s and fire departments, military personnel, and members of Mercy Corps, who arrived in their helicopter. Seeing and interacting with these local heroes allowed students to see them as trusted community helpers. During the jog-a-thon part of the event, the students raised \$13,000 in pledges for a proposed mural for the school.

On December 19, 250 community members came to enjoy the students’ holiday program.

The after-school enrichment program, which began February 4, offers lessons in art, guitar, and violin.

Jean Hall • jhall80@juno.com



Photo, top left: Williams students participated in the school’s annual holiday program. Photo: Mindi Gallegos.



Photo, bottom left: Special guests at Hero Day at Williams School included sheriff, fire district, and Mercy Flights representatives. Photo: Jennifer Butler Photography.

Applegate resident on Dean’s List



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

Congratulations, Samantha!

■ **MERETE'S COVE**

Continued from page 1

fast. In the engine room below decks, Keith was knocked unconscious. When he came to, he was surrounded by rising seawater and shipmates in distress. Keith spent the next 14 hours in the water assisting in the rescue of his fellow sailors and saving the ship. Keith says this event changed his life forever. He was awarded a medal for bravery.

Saving the park for posterity was a way for him to acknowledge his indebtedness to the Applegate River and to honor his mother by naming the park after her. Since purchasing the property in 2015, Keith has made several improvements, including a new bridal cabin and a patio. He encourages weddings and musical events.

Keith currently limits his liability exposure by restricting his clientele to personal acquaintances or personal requests. He is sensitive to neighborhood concerns of drugs and vagrancy, does not allow alcohol, and strictly controls time of use. That said, Keith is open to suggestions from the community on how he can best manage the park. For Keith, "everything is negotiable." For example, he permits kayakers from the Northwest Rafting Association to periodically launch or take out from the park.

Keith characterizes his purchase as "the best decision I ever made." He feels that he's prevented inappropriate development of the property and kept it intact for the community in its historical context. And he's a strong advocate for fish and other river wildlife and believes he is helping to maintain the river as their conduit of life. He intends to keep the property in his family.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

To inquire about using Merete's Cove, contact Keith directly at the park or at the Applegate Store and Cafe. If he's not around, the store will know where he is.

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, left to right:

—**Bobbie and Larry Winters** cruise the Panama Canal by following seaworthy directions in the Gater's nautical section.

—**Tony Mantle**, aboard Admiral Horatio Nelson's flagship HMS Victory in Portsmouth Historic Dock, United Kingdom, reads Nelson's plans for the Battle of Trafalgar in the Applegater, printed in 1778.

Photos, bottom row, left to right:

—**Jesse Bratt and son, Jens**, at home in Balestrand, Norway, are

impressed with Grandfather Chris Bratt's recent Gater article about the environmental benefits of Norwegian whale meat.

—**Carla David** brought along the Applegater for warmth as she braved the chill to see the sunrise at Iztaccíhuatl-Popocatepetl National Park in Mexico.

—**Steve Emick** was lucky to have the Gater for titillating company while cooling off in a tributary of the Amazon River 300 miles north of Manaus, Brazil, after a hard day fishing for giant peacock bass.

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

The Applegater Board of Directors

20 200	E	1	Jacksonville Vision Clinic Julie D. Danielson, O.D. (541) 899-2020 950 North Fifth Street Jacksonville, OR 97530
20 100	YE	2	
20 70	CARE	3	
20 50	FOR YOU	4	

STIHL • CARHARTT
CRATER CHAIN SAW CO.
541-772-7538
1321 N. Riverside Medford, OR 97501
54 Years
1965 - 2019

MONTAGE ORIENTAL MEDICINE
Sang Ly Montage
Licensed Acupuncturist, NCCAOM, MSOM
House-Calls and In-Office Visits Available!
541.708.3953
220 SE H St. Suite 9, Grants Pass, OR 97526
www.MontageOM.com

		<p>Hand-Cut Meats Craft Beer Picnic-Perfect Deli Sandwiches Farm-Fresh Produce Local Wine Tasty Side Salads</p>	
--	--	---	--

SHOP LOCAL. BUY FRESH. LIVE WELL.™

