

Applegater

Photo by Lisa E. Baldwin

applegater.org

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Celebrating
~25~
Years

A giant among men lost to the Applegate Valley

On April 8, 2019, with the death of Christopher Bratt, the *Applegater* board lost its longest-standing board member, the *Applegater* one of its staunchest supporters, and the Applegate one of its most outstanding citizens.

Chris worked tirelessly, for decades, on behalf of environmental concerns in the Applegate. In his column in the *Applegater*, "Behind the Green Door," he kept readers abreast of actions by the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service, never reluctant to state his own opinion, which was always "green." He ended every column with some version of asking for the reader's response, which he genuinely wanted. He never shied from a good strong political argument, but he let politics be politics and friendships be friendships.

Chris had used a pacemaker for a number of years. He died peacefully at home with loving family members at his side. He was 88 years old.

An obituary, along with heartfelt tributes to Chris from friends and associates, appears on page 2. Also see Luke Ruediger's opinion piece, honoring Chris, on page



19. We dedicate this issue of the *Applegater* to Chris. His memory will live on in our hearts.

Applegater Board of Directors
Photo: Tim Daw Photography

Long-time Applegate Valley Fire District officer to retire

BY SANDY SHAFFER



Brad Barnes (center) accepting 30-year award in 2017, with Captain Mike Kuntz (left) and Captain Greg Gilbert (right).
Photo: Applegate Valley Fire District.

Brad Barnes, the Applegate Valley Fire District's (AVFD's) longest-serving employee, is planning to retire this November. At that time he will have served our fire district for over 30 years as a firefighter. For

See BRAD BARNES, page 21.

Summer recreation is abundant at Fish Hatchery Park

BY LISA E. BALDWIN

Where the Applegate comes into its own as a mature river, making its final westward run to the Rogue, Fish Hatchery Park, a hidden gem of the lower Applegate, offers excellent opportunities for swimming, fishing, hiking, birding, picnicking, and soaking up the best of southern Oregon. Situated on the lower Applegate, midway between Murphy and Wilderville, the 177.8-acre nature park stretches along both sides of the river and has three points of access: the north entrance (1980 Wetherbee Drive), the main south entrance (2416 Fish Hatchery Road), and the Turtle Lane entrance (260 Turtle Lane), also on the south bank at the west end of the park.



The Applegate River runs through Fish Hatchery Park.
Photo: Lisa E. Baldwin.

Hikers and birders will especially enjoy the trails at Fish Hatchery Park. The nature trail makes an easy, mostly level loop through the natural habitat on the north side of the river, starting at the west end of the lower parking area. The information kiosk there is usually stocked with copies of a trail guide put together several years

ago by park volunteers. The guide is also available online at [co.josephine.or.us/files/fish-hatchery-trail-guide\[1\].pdf](http://co.josephine.or.us/files/fish-hatchery-trail-guide[1].pdf). An updated guide is in the works, but the existing guide is full of good information about the flora and fauna, as well as the river, the mountains, and the Applegate's history. The Nature Trail is open to pedestrian traffic only, and canine walking partners must stay on leash.

Hikers looking for a challenge should take on the Bolt Mountain Trail, a 3.2-mile multiuse trail that heads to the top of Bolt Mountain with its 360-degree view of the lower Applegate Valley. The trailhead is at the west end of the upper parking area at the north entrance (Wetherbee Road). The trail is a steady climb and rated "Difficult" by the BLM. Bolt Mountain Trail is open to pedestrians, mountain bikers, and equestrians. Nothing motorized is allowed.

Fish Hatchery Park makes a great summer outing for families. Picnic tables are widely scattered under the trees on both sides. The river moves slowly through the park, past shady banks and a sandy beach. The swimming holes are hard to beat; Turtle Lane is a local legend. It is here, near the mouth of Bull Creek, that, in 1863, a ferry service started hauling people and supplies across the Applegate. This old ferry landing is now perhaps the best public beach and swimming hole on the river.

The park takes its name from the fish hatchery that operated from 1912 to 1936 on Jackson Creek at its confluence with the Applegate, the eastern park boundary. The hatchery raised coho salmon and steelhead trout. The lower Applegate still has a decent winter steelhead run, which was particularly good this past March.

Only bank fishing is allowed on the Applegate River. It is illegal to fish from any watercraft, so gone are the days of grabbing a fishing rod and an inner tube

See FISH HATCHERY PARK, page 20.

SAVE THE DATE!

WE'RE
TURNING 25!

Join us as we celebrate
the *Applegater's*
25th anniversary
on Saturday, October 5.

25 Years of
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ENVIRONMENT - FIRE - RECREATION

OBITUARY

Charles Christopher Bratt

December 11, 1930 - April 8, 2019

BY LARRY FRANCIS

Folk singer, carpenter, activist, writer, poet, teacher, folk artist and collector, red diaper baby, family man, woodsman, builder, volunteer, investor, philanthropist, environmentalist, humanist

Christopher Bratt (“Chris,” “Papa Chrissy”) was born at home on December 11, 1930, to Wiltrud Hildner Bratt and George Cleveland Bratt at the Columbus Apartments, 1492 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco. Chris passed away at his home in Applegate on April 8, 2019, surrounded by family and friends.

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.

It sounds an echo in my soul; how can I keep from singing!

—An old Quaker hymn, as adapted and sung by Pete Seeger

Chris loved to sing, knew hundreds if not thousands of songs, and sang them in his impassioned, clear tenor—in living rooms and kitchens, on picket lines and stages, at potlucks—wherever and whenever the spirit moved him. He sang lead for a semiprofessional folk group, the Albion Trio, which played around the San Francisco Bay Area in the early ’60s. Chris had wide-ranging, eclectic tastes in music and was influenced by Pete Seeger and the Weavers as well as international folk dance (Chris loved all line dancing, especially the Kopachka Folk Dancers of Mill Valley), Puccini (especially *La Bohème*), Miriam Makeba, and Paul Robeson. He picked up songs and sang them his whole life long—everything and anything from YMCA camp songs to Ezio Pinza, Tom Paxton, and Woody Guthrie. It’s only right to punctuate this story with lines from some of his favorites.

If I had a hammer, I’d hammer in the morning,

I’d hammer in the evening, all over this land...

—“If I Had a Hammer,” by Pete Seeger and Lee Hays

Chris had a hammer and knew how to use it. His dad was a carpenter, and Chris helped him on odd jobs during the Depression. During World War II, Chris went to work in a boatyard. Later, while a member of the carpenters union, Chris helped build the tract homes in South San Francisco that Malvina Reynolds immortalized in her song “Little Boxes.” Later he became a general contractor, founding Little Gem Construction (“a jewel of a job”) with partners Molly Malouf and Jim Holland. In the early 1960s, when the Ku Klux Klan was burning churches in Mississippi, Chris and Molly went there with the American Friends Service Committee to help congregations rebuild. In the late ’60s, Chris and his partners in Little Gem went to Delano, California, to build the Rodrigo Terrónez Memorial Clinic for the United Farm Workers (UFW). Chris’s politics and music were strongly influenced by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, UFW, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, American Friends Service Committee, and the Peace and Freedom Party.

Back in the Bay Area in the early ’70s, the Little Gem partners got tired of building ever fancier homes. A remodel calling for a fifth bathroom was the last straw; Little Gem dissolved. Chris got his teaching credential from San Francisco State University and started teaching



woodshop at Tomales High School in Tomales, California, where he met Joan Peterson, who was teaching English there. In 1976 Chris and Joan moved their blended family to 160 acres on Thompson Creek Road in Applegate.

All must work, for work is good, and in work man finds brotherhood.

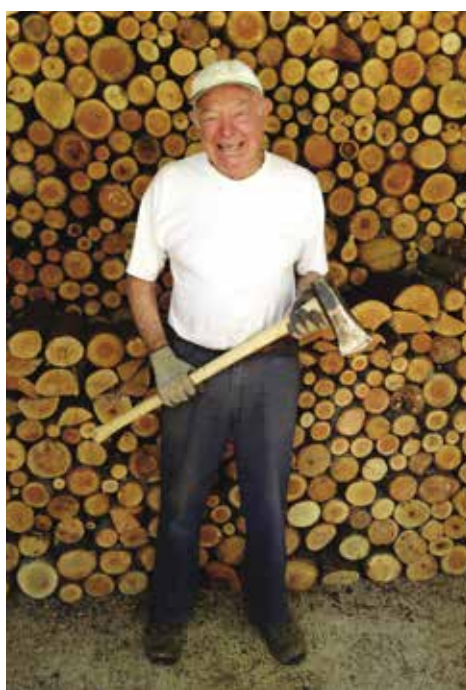
—“Hey Zhankoye,” Jewish folksong as sung by the Weavers

In Oregon, more carpentry jobs beckoned—large and small, volunteer and not—including countless hours building stages and a portable burrito booth and a remodel of the Headwaters Building on 4th Street in Ashland. Chris was a tireless builder, figuratively and literally. He built forts and the famous and dangerous “rocking boat” for his kids, homes and remodels for family and friends, tract homes like the “Little Boxes,” jungle gyms, and innumerable smaller projects.

Chris knew that working together on a project builds community. In the 1980s, putting his boundless energy, teaching experience, and carpentry skills to work, Chris organized a carpentry and woodworking co-op, the Billy Mountain Builders, which evolved over the years into Cottage Green Construction, a contracting partnership he formed with Richard Goodnough. Even through the last year of his life, Chris was in charge of maintaining, improving, and repairing Bratt Family Trust properties in San Francisco and Grass Valley, California.

Chris’s passion for work was the prime ingredient in bringing people together, along with his rough and wry sense of humor, exemplified by a favorite phrase of his, “What do you think this is—a country club?”

On their property in the Applegate, Chris and Joan had a big garden, pasture for goats and horses, and sustainable forestry for timber and firewood. The



picture of Chris in their big garden brings to mind another piece of a favorite song that Chris and Joan often sang:

Going to Oregon, where everything is green,

Gonna have the best ol’ farm that you have ever seen.”

—“Times A Gettin’ Hard,” by Lee Hays as sung by the Weavers and amended from “California” to “Oregon” by Chris and Joan

When Chris, Joan, and their children moved to their place on Thompson Creek (“Forest Farm,” they called it), they also brought Chris’s parents, George and Wiltrud (Beb). One night at dinnertime, a young woman they didn’t know came to the door and told them that the Bureau of Land Management was planning to spray large areas of the forest abutting their property. Beb overheard the conversation and said, “Christopher, you should do something about it.” He did do something about it—and with a passion one Boise Cascade vice president described as “relentless pressure, relentlessly applied.”

Besides organizing the Homestead Valley Improvement Club back in his Mill Valley days, in Oregon Chris helped found and/or served on boards of numerous organizations, among them ACOTS (Applegate Citizens Opposed to Toxic Sprays), Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, TREE (Thompson Creek Residents for Ecological Education), Headwaters/Geos Institute, Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, *Applegater* newsmagazine, and Applegate Neighborhood Network.

In the office he built onto the main house, Chris kept extensive files on forest management, herbicide- and pesticide-spraying, clear-cutting, small woodlands management, small-diameter

timber products, and sustainable forest management.

Chris was predeceased by his parents, George and Wiltrud Bratt, and brothers Jonathan, George, Tom, and Peter. He is survived by Joan Peterson, his wife and partner since they met at Tomales High School some 50 years ago, and by his first wife, Nancy Wilkins, the mother of his three children.

Survivors also include his children Toni Winter (Terry), Josh Bratt (Wendie), and Nick Bratt (Beth); stepchildren Gordon Smith (Malie) and Jenell Smith; sister Susanna; cousins Michael and Mandy; countless nieces and nephews, including Greg, Nadya, Peter, James, Kevin, Georgia, Karen, and Alexis; and many grandchildren, grandnieces, grandnephews, and great-grandchildren as near as California and as far away as Norway.

When I’m on my journey, don’t you weep after me...

I don’t want you to weep after me.”

—“When I’m on My Journey,” as sung by the Weavers

Larry Francis
larrydotfrancis@gmail.com

Tributes to Chris from friends and associates

Diana Coogle

Loss

When Chris Bratt died Applegate forests lost a staunch defender. Applegate gatherings lost a fine folk musician.

The *Applegater* lost a huge supporter and the board

its longest-serving member and “Behind the Green Door” columnist.

The Grayback Salon lost a reader whose unique perspective connected the poems with carpentry

(his lifelong craft)

and raised memories of a

San Francisco childhood

with socialist-minded parents.

Joan lost

a wonderful husband.

And I lost

a friend I loved.

☘

Richard Goodnough

From the moment I heard of the passing of Chris Bratt, a song he loved came to mind: “When I am gone,” by Phil Ochs. This song contains phrases like *I won’t know the right from the wrong and you won’t find me singin’ on this song when I am gone, so I guess I’ll have to do it while I’m here.* Chris had a very strong sense of right and wrong and loved to sing about workers’ rights, other cultures, harmony in the world, and many kinds of love.

Won’t be asked do my share when I’m gone, so I guess I’ll have to do it while I’m here. Doing his share was what he tried doing every day, whether in his work, with his family, or in his community.

Can’t be singing louder than the guns when I’m gone, so I guess I’ll have to do it while I’m here. Peace on a national level or a community level was something that was very close to his heart. His bumper stickers read, “I am already against the next war” and “Think globally, act locally.” During the time of the civil rights movement, he left paying work at home and went to Mississippi to help rebuild a burnt-out church.

See **CHRIS BRATT TRIBUTES**, page 17.

Applegaters pitch in for animals

BY LAURA AHEARN



Students from Ruch Outdoor Community School visit the Jackson County animal shelter in February to kick off their project. Photo: Richard Jacquot.

Applegate students, families, nonprofits, and businesses are supporting Friends of the (Jackson County) Animal Shelter (FOTAS) in several new and exciting ways.

Applegaters are creative. During the spring semester, seventh-grade students at Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) shared their artistic talents by painting ceramic tiles and rocks to donate for sale at Deck the Paws Holiday Fair. This new event will be held on December 7 from noon - 4 pm at Phoenix Plaza Civic Center. Individuals and families can bring their pets for portrait photos with Santa Paws and Cat-Elf, and shoppers will find a wide array of unique handcrafted gifts and décor. ROCS students are not only pioneers in the community-wide drive to create handicrafts but they also will be responsible for setting up and staffing their own table at the fair, with presentations on pollinator gardening and bird identification.

Teacher Jennifer Drane says, "Doing service, like this FOTAS project, is vital to help students have more empathy and feel they are part of the community." What do the students think? "This project is fun!" "Cool." "When I think about animals, I think in color."

If you would like to join the fun of creating for the fair, come to Art for Animals at Miners' Bazaar (235 East California Street, Jacksonville) on June 30 from 11 am - 2 pm. Art and crafting materials will be provided; a \$5 donation to FOTAS is suggested. You can also join the FOTAS Elves group on Facebook. Call Laura Ahearn at 458-226-0600 for more information.

Applegaters are inviting. June 8 is McKee Bridge Day, and this year McKee Bridge Historical Society has invited FOTAS to collaborate in a new event: Doggy World! Join us from 11 am - 3 pm for informative talks about Dogs of Service and the FOTAS Street Dog and Working Cats programs. Applegater Dr. Jeffrey Judkins of Animalkind Holistic Veterinary Clinic will speak about particular health threats that our pets face in the Applegate Valley. You can see the inspiring creations

of ROCS students and purchase animal-themed merchandise and yummy treats. Bring your dogs (on leads) to run the for-fun agility course and enter the Grrrreatest Canine Talent Show at 1 pm. Every pooch will win a prize—for best sit, cutest costume, etc. One contestant claims her border collie can tap dance! Thank you, Ruch Hardware, Grange Co-Op, and Dazey's Hubbard's Home Center, for supporting Doggy World. (See schedule below.)

Applegaters are generous. Indigo Grill, Applegate's newest restaurant, has donated a delicious dinner for two as part of the New Jacksonville+Applegate Experience package to be auctioned at Paws to Celebrate on June 21. This FOTAS fundraiser will be held at the Bigham Knoll Ballroom in Jacksonville. Applegate residents Josh and Kaylyn Kimball, owners of the just-opened Kimball's Artisan Wines in Jacksonville, have contributed a gift certificate. The lucky winners will also enjoy lodging and wine tasting at our area's newest bed-and-breakfast winery, Rellik Winery, and beverages and a crafty experience at Miners' Bazaar.

Several Applegate boutique wineries have donated their flagship wines for Paws to Celebrate. Here's a shout-out to Cowhorn Vineyard & Garden, LongSword Vineyard, Troon Vineyard, Schmidt Family Vineyards, and Wooldridge Creek Winery. Wine-drinking animal lovers will truly have cause to celebrate!

Applegaters are adopting. Okay, this isn't a new way to help our animals, but here are the newest statistics on animals adopted through FOTAS by residents of the greater Applegate area in 2018: 58 dogs, 27 cats, and 6 rabbits and guinea pigs.

Through the new Working Cats program, Applegate Valley has the opportunity to help significantly more cats.

Visit FOTAS at McKee Bridge Day to learn more. And bring your dogs for a fun run through the agility course and a prize in the Grrrreatest Canine Talent Show.

Laura Ahearn

laura.ahearn@stanfordalumni.org

Doggy World Schedule

June 8, 2019, McKee Bridge Picnic Area

Time	Activity	Presenter
11:30 am	How to Walk a Dog	Laura Ahearn, FOTAS volunteer
11:45 am	FOTAS Working Cat Program	Madeline Vance, FOTAS volunteer
12 noon	Threats to Pets in the Applegate	Dr. Jeffrey Judkins, Animalkind Holistic Veterinary Clinic
12:20 pm	The Street Dog Program	Bob Crowley, FOTAS volunteer
12:40 pm	Dogs of Service	Dahna Dow, RN, LCSW
1 pm	Talent Show	Janeen Sathre, MC
Following talent show	K9 Search and Rescue	Eric Ronemus, Jackson County Search and Rescue K9 Team
3 pm	Breakdown and Cleanup	

The Applegate Open rises again

BY SIMONA FINO

Look up to the sky over the next few months and you may see a wondrous sight—a human in flight! The Applegate Valley, particularly Woodrat Mountain, is a well-known world-class paragliding and hang gliding site, and in summer months our skies are often dotted with the colorful wings of those in flight.

While it may be tempting to let your gaze go upward to view the paragliders while you're driving down the highway, be safe and pull over so as not to cause an accident. There is a perfect spot for you to do just that—LongSword Vineyard. Located at 8555 Highway 238, about two miles outside of Ruch, LongSword will once again be hosting the headquarters of the national championship paragliding event, the Applegate Open, which will be held June 15 - 22 and is expected to attract nearly 200 pilots, according to race organizer Dan Wells.

Paragliding competitions have been held for the last 16 years at Woodrat Mountain. This is the second year for the Applegate Open, which will bring more pilots than ever. There's just nothing like seeing all the pilots racing to the goal at LongSword and maneuvering to land in the meadow next to the vineyard.

Come celebrate the beauty and exhilaration of flight with LongSword! On two Saturdays, June 15 and June 22, LongSword will open from 12 - 5 pm for two special paraglider-viewing parties. On the 15th, Danielle Kelly and her band will bring fun, feel-good dance music in the form of '50s and '60s soul and jazz covers, and the All Smoked Out BBQ food truck



Paraglider landing at LongSword Vineyard in 2018. Photo provided by Kate Vangeloff, LongSword.

will be on-site serving up home-cooked barbecue. On the 22nd, Sweetgrass will keep everyone moving with their original roots music, and the Wok Star food truck will be available for some delicious Asian tacos and stir-fry. Bring your friends and family (and maybe some camp chairs and blankets) and watch the paragliders land before you!

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to fly? Wonder what it feels like to soar like a bird with just the sound of the wind? Try a tandem flight! Sam Crocker of Sundog Paragliding School in Medford offers tandem flights as well as instruction. He can be reached at 503-781-1795 or samwise19@hotmail.com. Sam is a member of the Rogue Valley Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association and competes in the Applegate Open.

Whether you're someone who wants to watch the action or someone who's ready to jump off the mountain, we invite you to join in the thrill of flight!

Simona Fino

simona@simonafino.com

Student Corner: Environment Question

Our intrepid reporters tracked down four students at four schools to ask:

"What is the biggest problem facing the environment today and why?"

Here are their answers.



Carlen Nielsen, ninth grade, Hidden Valley High School. I believe the biggest problem with the environment today is the increase in the number of animals becoming endangered and going extinct due to many inhumane reasons, some of those being habitat loss and slaughtering.



Natalia Sahr, eighth grade, Applegate School. Climate change. Human activity, for example, burning fossil fuels and chopping down forests, is leading to drastic effects on ecosystems around the world and the earth's temperature. In 12 years these changes will become irreversible, and this terrifies me.



Evan Leonard, sixth grade, Ruch Outdoor Community School. I believe the biggest problem with the environment today is logging. The reason is that so many animals need healthy forest habitat [which is being destroyed by logging] to live and some of them are endangered.



Savanna Rogers, fifth grade, Williams School. Car exhaust and the ozone layer. People should walk, bike, or use the AIRPod 2.0 compressed air-powered car that uses fresh air instead of emitting poisonous exhaust. It won't completely cleanse the world, but it's a step in the right direction.

Roaring Reporter

Applegate teen leads robotics team in pursuit of championship

BY TOM CARSTENS

One snowy January morning I walked into a St. Mary's High School lab bursting with teenagers. It was eerily quiet. Everywhere I looked, young people were poring over data, working on software, or fine-tuning electrical components. And then, right out of an Isaac Asimov novel, I spied four crazy contraptions that looked like aliens from outer space. Could these be the offspring of NASA's famous Martian explorer, the indefatigable "Rover"? Turns out, these were robots starring in an international tournament known as "FIRST Tech Challenge."

The goal of the competition, which started in 1989, was to attract young people to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Through this program, kids from all over the world, working in two-team alliances, "are challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge." According to FIRST Tech Challenge, the idea is to "practice engineering principles, while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and working as a

team." Participants are encouraged to apply for college scholarships available through the program.

Applegater Margaux Quady was just 12 when she caught the "robot bug." She's now a senior at St. Mary's High School and the Robotics Drive Coach for her 13-member team, "Trial N Terror" (TNT). One of three teams from St. Mary's, TNT has been advancing in the regional robotic championships in which teams from all over Oregon compete for the chance to go on to the world championship matches, held this year in Houston.

TNT has just completed its fifth season. Twice the team has made it all the way to the world championships. This year, the team advanced to the state competition, where they finished 11th out of 208 teams in Oregon. In the state finals, the team took first place for Robot Design and finished third for the coveted Control Award. The team has recently been selected as an alternate for the world championship. All in all, Trial N Terror has the third highest tournament average in Oregon and the fourth highest score for all matches played in Oregon. Unbelievably, TNT has the 39th highest tournament average in the world—out of approximately 5,800 teams!

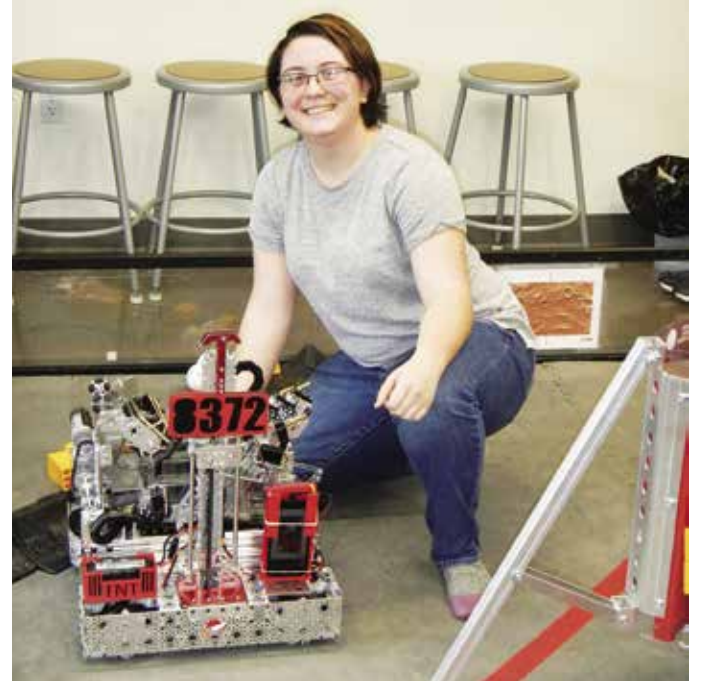
The theme of the competition changes every year and is governed by...wait for it...over 50 pages of mind-bending regulations. Team-designed robots must autonomously perform a series of preprogrammed tasks

followed by several complex maneuvers controlled by drive team members using cellphones—all within strictly controlled space and time constraints. This year the robots must accurately retrieve and place a marker, then correctly select a randomly determined target. Teams then control the robots to differentiate, collect, and deposit two types of targets into discrete bins. TNT named their robot "Tubby." Tubby was over his 42-pound weight limit so Margaux had to put him on an emergency diet, meticulously trimming his metallic parts so he (she? it?) could compete.

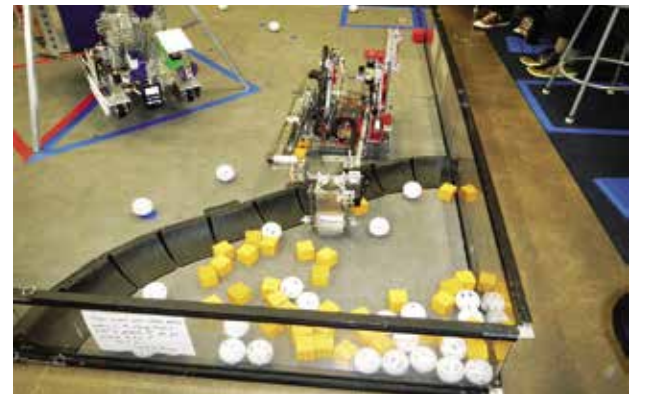
Margaux's team is coached by two Applegaters: her dad, Herb Quady, a winemaker and vintner; and Gary Conner, a vintner and retired rocket scientist (really—is this fair?). The overall effort in southern Oregon is led by Kent Daughterman, a local cardiologist and founder of SOAR (Southern Oregon Area Robotics).

Margaux will graduate from St. Mary's this year. She hopes to attend Rochester University, where she expects the winters to be a tad cooler than the Applegate's. She's already fluent in Mandarin and plans to major in mechanical engineering. She believes that this combination of skills will be instantly marketable upon graduation.

Tom Carstens
541-846-1025



Margaux Quady huddles with "Tubby."
Photo: Tom Carstens.



Tubby works furiously against the clock.
Photo: Tom Carstens.



TNT coaches Herb Quady and Gary Conner discuss strategies. Photo: Tom Carstens.



TNT Senior Drive Team members remotely manipulate Tubby. From left to right: Gordon Daughterman, Margaux Quady, and Calix Kim. Not pictured: Sam Schaffer.
Photo: Tom Carstens.

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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.

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All articles submitted to the *Applegater* are subject to edit and publication at the newsmagazine's discretion and as space allows. No more than one article per author per issue. 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).

Applegater Newsmagazine
PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530

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Editorial Calendar

ISSUE	DEADLINE
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>	
SUMMER (June - Aug)....	May 1
<i>Environment-Fire-Recreation</i>	

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

Next deadline: August 1

NEW INFO ON COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Check out Applegate Valley Connect at applegateconnect.org.

New Feature: Press Release

Send your press release to the media using this free community website!

Just select **News and Stories / Submit a Press Release**, choose from the list of media, and complete the form. Easy and free.



Organizations can now seek volunteers—the *Applegater* had great success when looking for a proofreader! Select **Volunteer / Add Your Listing**.

Need help? There are guides available for most sections of the website.

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

Have a suggestion or idea? Comments are welcome from the Applegate Valley community. This free site—a joint effort of the *Applegater* Newsmagazine and A Greater Applegate—is supported by The Ford Family Foundation and Community Systems LLC.

Questions? Please email applegateconnect@gmail.com.

Masthead photo credit

Thanks to **Lisa E. Baldwin** for the beautiful Fish Hatchery Park photo. Her article about the park's recreation opportunities appears on page 1.

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Jackson County Library Services

— Ruch Library —

Join us for “A Universe of Stories” at Ruch Library this summer as we blast off with our Summer Reading Program. We will have programs, prizes, incentives, and activities for *all* ages. Read and receive free books! Study the night sky and complete a Junior Astronomer’s Log to be eligible to win a pair of binoculars. There will be something for everyone, including the highly anticipated “I Spy” window and Guessing Jars. Or, just come and space out in our air-conditioned library!

Our second annual How-To Festival will be held on September 21. Save the date! Check with library staff if you have an interest in teaching a short class or want a sneak peek at the roster.

Summer events

- **Space Origami** (ages 8 - adult). Thursday, June 12, 2 - 4 pm. Fold an origami star, spaceship, or asteroid during this drop-in program for all skill levels.
- **Traveling Lantern Theater performs *My Mother, the Astronaut*** (ages 4 - 12). Tuesday, June 25, 10 - 11 am. Aquarius’s mom is an astronaut and today is “Take your child to work day.” What will she experience during her day at NASA?
- **Magic Star Wands** with John Jackson (age 5+). Tuesday, July 16, 11 am - noon. Make an LED shooting-star wand! You create it, decorate it, and take it home. The best part is, it glows even after you turn it off. Preregistration required.
- **Centennial Birthday Party** (all ages). Tuesday, July 16, 12:30 pm. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Jackson County Library Services, and you are invited to the library’s birthday party. Join us to celebrate with birthday cake!
- **Mission: Possible** (all ages; under 10 with adult). Tuesday, July 23, 2 - 4 pm. Use your creativity, ingenuity, and critical-thinking skills to complete engineering challenges with a ScienceWorks educator.
- **Kids’ Music Jam: Space Time** (ages 6 - 12). Tuesday, July 30, 3

- 4:15 pm. Join in some out-of-this-world music fun: songs, games, and the chance to make space sounds with crazy instruments.

- **Watercolor the Stars** (ages 12 - 18). Saturday, August 3, 1 - 3 pm. Learn watercolor skills and take home an original, space-inspired work of art. Adventure deep into space, wonder about distant life, and sense the enormity of the universe! This is a step-by-step class, so please arrive on time.
- **LEGO Builders, Architects, and Engineers** (age 4+). Build and display your own creations any time during open hours this summer. Duplo bricks available for younger kids.

Ongoing events

- Questions about your iPhone, tablet, computer, or 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. We hope you can join us!
- \$5 Book Bag Sale offered by Friends of Ruch Library every first Saturday in Ruch Library’s Book Barn. 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 noon - 4 pm, Thursdays from 1 - 5 pm, and Saturdays from noon - 4 pm.

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

Josephine Community Library

Williams branch library weekly storytime

Families are invited to the Williams branch of Josephine Community Library for a storytime and craft session every Friday from 2:30 - 3:30 pm in a safe and fun environment. Each week children will hear themed stories about topics like dinosaurs, space, holidays, or animals.

Williams Community Garden Club

Children of all ages and their families are invited to join the Garden Club at the Williams branch every Wednesday from 2 - 3 pm. Come plant seeds and plants, learn about worms and pollinators, and enjoy being out in the sunshine.

To register and for more information, contact Williams branch manager Ellie Avis at 541-846-7020 or eavis@josephinelibrary.org.

Improve your computer skills

Need help using the internet? Have questions about your new phone or tablet? Library volunteers can help. Call or

stop by your nearest branch to make a one-on-one appointment with your own personal Tech Coach or drop in to the Williams branch from 11 am - 1 pm on Fridays for individual help with your technology questions.

For more information, contact Williams branch manager Ellie Avis at 541-846-7020 or eavis@josephinelibrary.org. Williams branch of Josephine Community Library District is located at 20695 Williams Highway and is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 1 - 6 pm and Fridays from 11 am - 4 pm.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

It’s been one year since the four Rotary Clubs in Josephine County teamed up with Josephine Community Library District to bring the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to local families.

Since its launch in May 2018, 1,562 children, ages birth to five who live in Josephine County, are receiving books in the mail each month at no cost to their

— Applegate Library —

“A Universe of Stories” is the theme of our Summer Reading Program (SRP) this year. And, at the Applegate Library, we have a “universe of programs, services, books, and more!” Check out all county-wide events at our website at jcls.org or pick up a copy of our event guide at the library.

Upcoming programs and events

The library programs and events encourage community engagement through learning and creating. We also welcome community members and experienced instructors who want to present at the library.

- **Applegate Fire Lookouts**. Saturday, June 1, from 2 - 4 pm with John McKelligott, ranger with the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District. He will discuss two local fire lookouts, Dutchman Peak and Squaw Peak, which are on the National Historic Registry.
- **Friends of the Applegate Library (FOAL) Book Sale**. Friday, June 21, from 2 - 6 pm, and Saturday, June 22, from 10 am - 2 pm. Lots of titles to choose from!
- **Watercolor the Stars** (ages 12 - 18). Saturday, June 22, from 10 am - 12 pm. Learn watercolor skills and take home an original, space-inspired work of art. Adventure deep into space, wonder about distant life, and sense the enormity of the universe! This is a step-by-step class, so please arrive on time.
- **Kids’ Music Jam: Space Time** (ages 6 - 12). Wednesday, June 26, from 12:30 - 1:45 pm. Join in some out-of-this-world music fun: songs, games, and the chance to make space sounds with crazy instruments.
- **Magic Star Wands**. Tuesday, July 9, from 3 - 4 pm, with John Jackson. Make an LED shooting star wand! You create it, you decorate it, and you take it home. The best part is it glows even after you turn it off! Preregistration is required.
- **Magic Show**. Saturday, July 20, from 11 - 11:45 am. Prepare to be amazed and entertained by local magician Chris Shillito.
- **Digging Dinos STEM Program**. Wednesday, July 24, from 11 am - 12 pm. Go back in time to learn about dinosaurs with Bugs-R-Us Educational Services. Explore real fossils, teeth, claws, and imitation skin. Preregistration is required.
- **Space Origami**. Wednesday, July 31, from 11 am - 1 pm. Fold an origami star, jet, spaceship, or asteroid during this drop-in program for all skill levels.
- **Face Painting**. Friday, August 2, from 2 - 4 pm. Get your face painted by

professional body artist and local resident, Amber Bishop.

- **Mission: Possible!** Friday, August 9, from 2 - 4 pm. Use your creativity, ingenuity, and critical-thinking skills to complete engineering challenges with a ScienceWorks educator.

Summer finale

Centennial Birthday Party and End of SRP Party. Tuesday, August 13, from 2 - 4 pm. This year marks the 100th Anniversary of Jackson County Library Services, and you are invited to the library’s birthday party! Join us to celebrate with cake and ice cream. We will also draw the winners of our SRP baskets.

Ongoing programs and events

- **Community drumming after hours**. Third Friday of the month (June 21, July 19, and August 16) from 6 - 7 pm. Connect to Mother Earth through a community drumming circle. No experience necessary. Some rattles and drums available; please bring your own if you have them.
- **Storytime**. Saturdays at 10:30 am.

Reminders

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.

The Applegate Library has a telescope to check out, Wi-Fi hot spots, Kindles, DVDs, audiobooks, music CDs, books, and magazines! Free!

At jcls.org, you can find databases galore. We are spotlighting the following this summer:

- **Tumblebook Library**, which has over 1,100 titles for kids from kindergarten through sixth grade and includes animated, talking picture books, read-along chapter books, National Geographic videos, and more.
- **Brainfuse HelpNow and JobNow** for help searching for jobs and new careers and improving grades in school and college, including test preparation.
- **Gale Courses** for those wanting to learn new skills by professional, instructor-led courses that start each month on a variety of topics.
- **Lynda.com** takes you to a site described as “YouTube on steroids!” Take a variety of learning and knowledge courses with professional certifications.

The 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.

families thanks to our sponsors. In total, 11,886 books have been delivered to children in our community!

To register your child at no cost: (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/get-involved/imagination-library and fill out the online registration form.

Sponsors for this program include AllCare Health, the four Rotary Clubs

in Josephine County, Welch Investment Group, LLC, Josephine County Library Foundation, and Oregon Community Foundation.

For more information about Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, contact partnership manager Rebecca Stoltz at 541-476-0571 ext. 108 or rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org.

For more information about the library district, contact Brandace Rojo at 541-476-0571 or info@josephinelibrary.org.

<p>Visit the A-Frame Bookstore @ Ruch Library</p> <p>Used books from \$1 to \$1.50</p> <p>Tuesdays 12 - 4 Thursdays 1 - 5 Saturdays 12 - 4</p> <p>Managed by Friends of Ruch Library. Join us!</p>		<p>The Book Barn Now open the first Saturday of each month</p> <p>\$5 Bag Sale 12 - 4 pm</p> <p>Located next to the A-Frame Bookstore</p>
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NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— A Greater Applegate —

AGA offers mini-grants for community building

A Greater Applegate (AGA) is pleased to announce the launch of two new mini-grant opportunities—Momentum Grants and Fast Grants—for groups helping to build community in the Applegate Valley. The new grant program is made possible by funding through a Capacity for Connection, Visioning, and Action grant from The Ford Family Foundation.

Momentum Grants. Grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded for Applegate Valley projects and programs aligned with A Greater Applegate's mission to "build community by sustaining and enhancing local connections that promote the environmental, economic, and social vitality of the Applegate Valley." By fostering new ideas and engaging organizations and groups working to benefit the Applegate Valley, AGA hopes to create a stronger, more connected, and more vital Applegate Valley community. Momentum Grant applications are available on our website (agreaterapplegate.org) and will be accepted until the September 1 deadline. While the maximum grant award is \$2,500, smaller requests are encouraged to ensure broader disbursement of limited funds. Momentum Grants will be awarded on October 15.

Momentum grantees will be required to include A Greater Applegate in their community outreach or in publicity about their funded project or program. Examples might be using the AGA logo in a three-dimensional project or a brief description of AGA's Momentum Grant program in press releases. Press releases should be sent to info@agreaterapplegate.org for review before release to the public.

AGA recently initiated the Momentum Grant program with a \$2,500 contribution to Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) to renovate the community track and playfield and create a space for the whole community to gather in a healthy environment. The ROCS Momentum Grant supports one of the three priorities developed in the Applegate Valley Community Vitality Roadmap process: create sustainable, intergenerational, hands-on learning opportunities for youth. The other two Roadmap priorities are (1) create a common Applegate Valley identity that embodies the Applegate quality of life, and (2) provide a system to support and grow Applegate Valley businesses. AGA will address both of these priorities over the coming months.

Fast Grants. Fast Grants are available on an ongoing basis throughout the year

to meet requests for no more than \$250. As the name suggests, these funds are intended to meet more urgent needs for materials and supplies, transportation, and technical support to ensure the success of a community-building activity. We envision these grants being of greater interest to volunteer efforts that need a little funding to bring an activity together. Fast Grant decisions will be made throughout the year by AGA at the monthly board meeting following the request.

Neither of these grants is available for personal or family needs, and successful requests must demonstrate the ability to contribute to building community in the Applegate Valley. For more information, go to the AGA website or email info@agreaterapplegate.org.

Nonprofit and business networks

In the last two issues of the *Applegater*, we announced the Nonprofit Network and our intention to launch a Business Network. The Nonprofit Network is well under way—our next quarterly event is scheduled for June 10 at Red Lily Vineyards from 4 to 6 pm. This program will be more informal than recent events to give nonprofit leaders a chance to network with each other and share ideas about how to strengthen local nonprofits and the community we serve. We also have begun planning a Storytelling Workshop for nonprofits and a nonprofit community event in the fall. If you are not yet part of the network and want to be, please contact us at info@agreaterapplegate.org.

Businesses in the Applegate should expect a letter from us in the coming month inviting them to participate in the start of the Business Network. We will be seeking their ideas for topics, when to meet, and how to best support the diverse Applegate Valley business community. We have heard strong support for shared marketing and branding, more local events, and a map of Applegate businesses like the one appearing regularly in the *Jacksonville Review*. We are excited to pursue these and other ideas. If you want to join in the planning, please email info@agreaterapplegate.org.

And if you want to become part of A Greater Applegate, please let me know. We are actively recruiting board members for this growing organization and welcome contributions from more Applegaters!

Seth Kaplan
Chair, A Greater Applegate
seth@agreaterapplegate.org

— McKee Bridge Historical Society —



This drawing of McKee Bridge, created by McKee family descendant Evelyn Williams, will decorate water bottles sold at McKee Bridge Day on June 8.

Don't miss McKee Bridge Day

This year's gathering for McKee Bridge Day on Saturday, June 8, will feature all the usual activities, but also something new: Doggy World, in coordination with the Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS). See the article on page 3 by Laura Ahearn for more information about Doggy World, and bring your favorite doggy friend to join in on the fun.

As is traditional, the Applegate Lions Club will be selling barbecued tri-tip sandwiches and hot dogs. Those, along with salads and root-beer floats from McKee Bridge Historical Society, should satisfy your appetite while you listen to foot-stompin' music by the Old-time Fiddlers from noon till 2 pm. Also check out customized cars and trucks, displayed by the Stray Cats Car Club, and a working display of antique gas and steam engines from the Early Day Gas Engine and

Tractor Association Branch 141. Vendors, artists, and nonprofits will have booths to visit, and crafters and historical displays will be out on the bridge. There's also a bake sale and a 50-50 raffle, so you might go home richer for spending the day at the bridge.

The historical society's traveling museum will be displaying the McKee Bridge Quilt, and we still have Centennial t-shirts available in all sizes, as well as hats and cups. New this year are water bottles decorated with McKee Bridge artwork (see photo) by McKee family descendant Evelyn Williams.

Don't miss this fun, family-friendly event, or you, and your dog, may be very sad. We'd like to try to avoid that.

Contact me for more information.
Paul Tipton • 541-846-7501
Chair, McKee Bridge Historical Society
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com

Sweet corn at Pacifica

BY JONATHAN SPERO

You may not know that a back corner of Pacifica is being used to develop new open-source, open-pollinated, organic sweet corn varieties, and the first of these is now on the market.

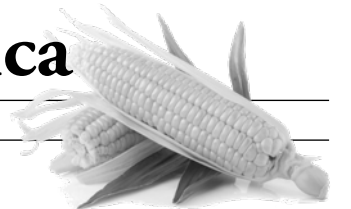
Tuxana corn, developed from an Anasazi mother corn crossed with a sugar-enhanced (SE) pollen provider, has had six generations of selection on Pacifica lands. Tuxana is a white corn with large ears and 16 to 18 rows of large kernels. It is rich and creamy and only moderately sweet. It is pledged to open source and is now for sale at Siskiyou Seeds in Williams and Restoration Seeds in Talent.

In 2019, Zanadoo f8 (eighth generation) will be growing on the Pacifica field. This one is selected for sweetness, and we hope it will be the sweetest open-pollinated SE corn line out there.

In early August a crew of corn tasters will be in the field choosing the plants with the sweetest ears. You, too, can be a corn taster. Being a corn taster involves sampling a great many raw ears of corn in the field and selecting the sweetest ones. Pay is in corn to take home. Tasting involves a shift of two-and-a-half or three hours. If you would like to be a corn taster, contact lupineknollfarm@gmail.com.

Thank you to Pacifica for providing a place where tomorrow's new vegetable crops can be created. If you wish to donate to this project, make the donation to Pacifica (pacificagarden.org) for making this crop-breeding space available.

Jonathan Spero
lupineknollfarm@gmail.com



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

DON'T MISS ONLINE ARTICLES!

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- Chris Bratt tributes in full
- Stories on the Land excerpt
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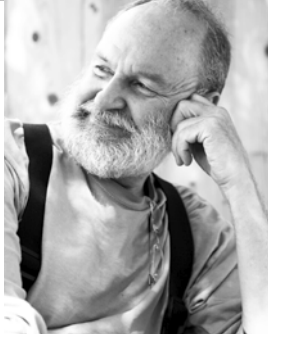
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THE STARRY SIDE

Summer thoughts

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

Spring and its floods are over. Summer and its warmth are coming. Clear night skies await. So get out there, get comfortable, and look up.

Directly overhead in June you'll see Bootes (pronounced bo-OH-teez) the Herdsman, marked by the very bright star Arcturus. (Look for the Big Dipper setting in the northwest and "follow the arc" of its handle to find Arcturus.) East of Bootes is Hercules, roughly shaped like an hourglass: two trapezoids, one large and one smaller. Between Bootes and Hercules is an obvious, beautiful "C" shape called Corona Borealis, the crown.

Look to the northwest of this group to find the subtle constellation Coma Berenices. Then look a little farther west to find Leo the Lion. Coma Berenices used to be the end of Leo's tail until an ancient-

Egyptian astrologer got in trouble with his king. To redeem himself, he renamed these stars after the queen's beautiful hair. (The king was happy, and the astrologer got off free!) Tail or locks, it's an attractive, dim group of stars. The darker your sky, the better it looks.

Each night these constellations move slightly west. To measure that movement, extend your fist at arm's length at the same time and place each night. Every night the sky progresses about one fist west, so these constellations will end up in the same place at this time next year.

Summer solstice

June 21 is summer solstice, the longest day and shortest night of the year. The sun is the farthest south on the eastern and western horizon lines and at its highest point in the sky all day.

You might wonder why summer solstice is not the hottest day of the year. The answer is a phenomenon called "the lag of the seasons." It's like a huge ship changing course: the pilot throws the wheel over to the desired side, but, as on the Titanic, almost nothing happens. Even when the ship starts to change course, the change is minute at first and very slowly gains with time. With the lag of the seasons, the land, water, and air have to soak in the heat for a while to warm up. So it'll be months later—in August—before we see the hottest days.

A similar thing happens when we try to address climate change. It's such a huge worldwide thing, it will take years, dare I say decades, for our mitigating actions to truly affect it. It's like the lag between turning a ship's wheel and the actual

turning of the ship. It's like the lag of the seasons. It's the lag between our actions and their effects.

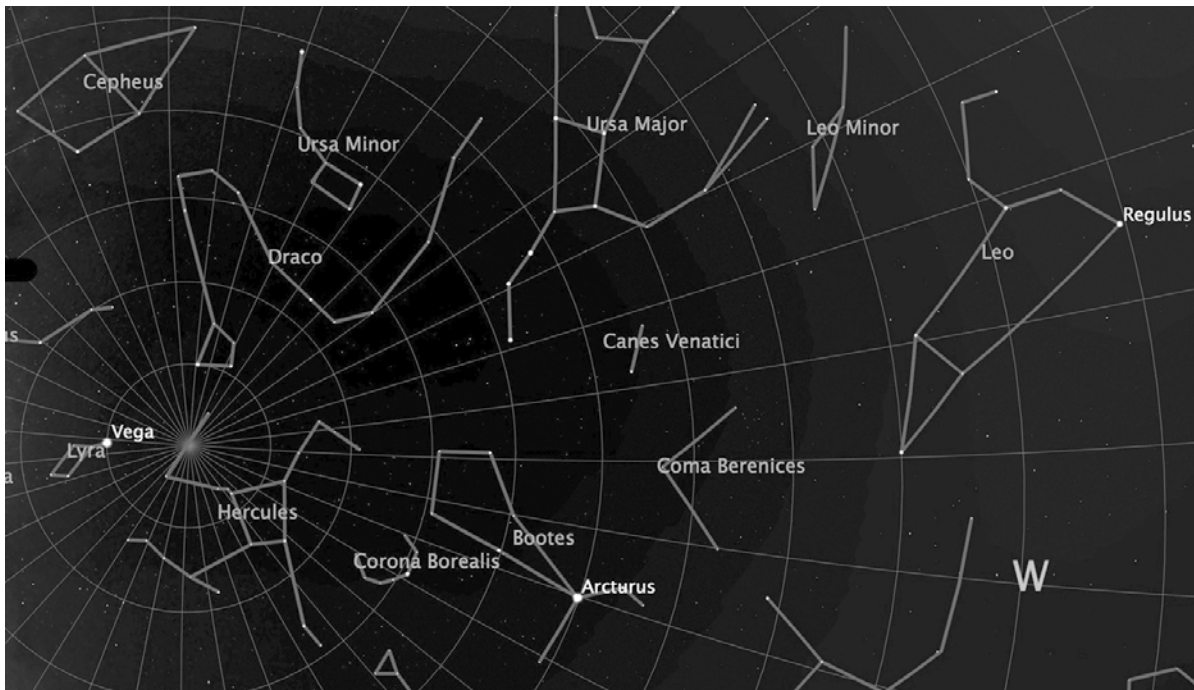
Meanwhile, the earth is steadily warming, and it makes sense to minimize our carbon footprint *now*. If we do, and if scientists' predictions turn out to be right, we'll save humanity and life on this beautiful planet.

Even if predictions turn out to be wrong, no harm done. We'll have a cooler earth, and we'll have cleaner night skies for seeing and appreciating our stars and planets. And that's not a bad thing. Hmm...seems like a no-brainer.

Happy dark, clear, warm nights!

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

Photo: Stellarium (stellarium.org).



Of Note

Mercury is in the sunset until 10:30 pm in June and July. By August he is almost invisible.

Venus rises in the east in June at about 4:30 am for a brief morning view. In July she rises at approximately 5 am (good luck!), and in August she's invisible in the sun.

Mars sets about 10:30 pm in June and 9:45 pm in July.

Jupiter is perfectly visible after 8 pm in June and after 6 pm in July. By August Jupiter is still visible in the late evening, setting about 1 am.

Saturn rises about 10:20 pm in June; in July and August Saturn rises around sunset and stays up almost all night.

Meteor showers

July 27 - 30. Look for Delta Aquariids meteors before dawn, 15 to 20 meteors per hour in a dark sky.

August 12 - 13. Look for Perseid meteors late evening to dawn. Although the peak of this shower will be marred by the brilliant waxing gibbous moon, it will probably still be one of the greatest showers of the year. (Stand in the shadow of a tree or building to block out the moonlight.)

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Please pollinate me

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Remember when your mother or father sat you down for “that” talk about the birds and bees? They were really talking about pollination, right? People, animals, insects, plants—all living things need to be “pollinated” to continue the species.

When we think of pollinators for plants, we usually think of bees first, but there are actually many other pollinators such as insects, birds, mammals, and, yes, even wind and rain. Pollinators transfer pollen from a stamen, the male portion of a flower, to a pistil, the egg-holding, female part. It is this process that starts the production of seeds.

A pollinator—a bee, for example—is not purposely doing a good deed to the flower and certainly is not in love. Pollinators are self-serving and kiss the flower only to collect nectar for their food. Love has nothing to do with pollinating. Pollination is an accidental gift to the plant from the pollinator. For the plant, though, pollination is all about saving its DNA for the survival of its own species. Pollination is a symbiotic relationship between the pollinator and the plant.

How does a pollinator choose whom to mess around with? Is it just random—whoever is handy? Or is it species specific? Just as evolution is not exactly random but rather functional, so is pollination. Form follows function. Pollinators are attracted to smells, colors, shapes, sweetness, or stink of the nectar. The shape of what is to be pollinated evolves with the pollinator. Which came first? The hummingbird’s long beak or the tubular flower?

Since bees mess around with at least 110 food crops, which feed a variety of living beings—including you—bees are considered to be the most diligent and important of all the accidental pollinators.

Bees and butterflies both like brightly colored plants with a flat landing field. However, bright colors in bee talk do not include red, as bees can’t see red. It is the hummingbird who is partial to reds, plus oranges and whites. Butterflies like a multitude of colors such as white, pink, purple, red, yellow, and orange.

Bees and butterflies are particularly attracted to really sweet or very minty aromas. Hummingbirds are partial to tubular-shaped flowers because of the abundance of nectar pools in the tubular bottom, reachable with its beak.



Lemurs are the world’s largest pollinators (audubon.org/magazine).



A sphinx moth hums as it hovers (discoverlife.org).

If you were a black-and-white ruffed lemur in Madagascar, you might be helping pollinate over 130 different plant species. These cute mammals are known as “the world’s largest pollinators” due to their symbiotic relationship with the traveler’s tree. They feed on the palm-type flowers, forcing the blooms open to access the nectar, in the process getting a dusting of pollen from the plant (indefenseofplants.com).

Beetles, often maligned, make up the largest group of pollinators—mainly because there are so many of them! Roughly counting, there are at least 240,000 known flowering plants on this planet. Of those, 88 percent are pollinated by beetles. Beetles are not fussy eaters—they like flavors and smells ranging from spicy and sweet to ghastrly fermented. Beetles

are not particular either about whom they “date.” They will dance with a dainty goldenrod or mamba with a magnolia (ucanr.edu/sites/PollenNation/Meet_The_Pollinators).

Which pollinator is on the graveyard shift? Bats are on duty! They are extremely necessary, not only for eating pounds of night-flying insects but for pollinating over 300 different types of fruits and night-blooming flowers. They are partial to strong-smelling white flowers such as the night-blooming cereus.

Why do bats “work” at night? Since they are nearly blind, they use echolocation to navigate and find food in the dark. Nighttime’s lighter air traffic and fewer predators mean a higher bat survival rate. Just to make these night flights tempting, night-blooming flowers often have the same alluring and romantic fragrance as the daytime Casa Blanca lily.

Moths are another night-shift pollinator. They have the same landing requirements as the butterflies: a flat landing field. The sphinx moth is quite interesting in that, being small with a long snout, it resembles a hummingbird. The sphinx moth actually makes a humming sound as it hovers mid-air.

Now I’m pondering: are we all just a pollination accident?

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Springing forward at the park

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

This spring, shooting star wildflowers have made thick magenta-colored carpets in many places in the park and campground. While these brilliant flowers have been busy blooming, metal sculptor Cheryl Garcia has been busy in her shop creating the Shooting Star sculpture, the next in the “Art in the Park” series for our park.

While you are waiting for the Shooting Star sculpture, look for the metal bird sculptures that Cheryl and her crew have already installed—the acorn woodpecker near the entrance, the northern flicker and three red-breasted nuthatches in the picnic areas just beyond the monarch garden in the upper level, and, in the lower picnic area, the pileated woodpecker on a pine tree by the drive-through road and violet-green swallows in flight. At the 12-foot high Mock Orange sculpture, look toward the river for the belted kingfisher taking flight near the volleyball space at the north end.

The winter and spring rains have been good for the recovery of many plants and shrubs. Ponderosa pines that succumbed to the drought have been removed in all the picnic areas to reduce the hazard to visitors of falling dead limbs. Now new plants and shrubs are being added with the help of Ruch Outdoor Community School students, community volunteers, and A Greater Applegate’s Park Enhancement Program team, thanks to an Oregon Community Foundation grant to restore more native, drought-tolerant, and pollinator varieties. Steve Lambert, Jackson County Parks manager, is pleased to see more restoration of the habitat with plants that can survive in the changing environment and attract pollinators.

Our new park hosts, Pam and Bill, are very busy helping to add color to the park with landscaping at the restroom in Area A with the help of Deb, our park ranger. Stop to say hello when you are visiting. They are friendly folks who are adding a lot of cheeriness to the park experience. Ron, who stays in the park throughout the year, is always busy working on improving it and cleaning it up. Give him a hello, too, and thank him for his ongoing dedication to making this park look nice.



During Earth Day cleanup, Lydia Shockey clears weeds and dead debris with the help of Finn and Lyra. Photo: Janis Mohr-Tipton.



Young girl trying out the newly installed interactive sundial in Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Janis Mohr-Tipton.

I want to thank you for all the wonderful compliments about the new features in the park—the art sculptures, the new plantings—and how good the park looks in general. It is a wonderful example of the partnership of our community’s generous donors and willing volunteers working alongside the Jackson County Parks management.

We all love it when the park looks so good, and we are a part of making that happen.

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

Sugarloaf Community Association turns 20!

BY JENNY VAN WINKLE

This year the Sugarloaf Community Association (SCA), which supports seven vibrant acres of community land in downtown Williams, is celebrating our 20th anniversary. Founded by folks seeking a sanctuary for grassroots education for their children, the SCA has always been a center for both education and recreation. Previously home to several generations of students, the land now houses a Waldorf-inspired kindergarten, an outdoor after-school program for young children, and a newly opened Resource Center.

SCA has several playgrounds, a playing field and track, a community garden, and an outdoor amphitheater for events—including the recent Earth Day Celebration, marking the first Williams Farmers’ Market of the year. The Monday-afternoon market, open from 4 - 6:30 pm through October, brings the community together, and the land provides an expansive green setting where kids love to run and play while adults shop, mingle, and support our local farmers and artisans. The land is open to the public during daytime hours, excluding the upper classroom area while classes are in session.

Our most active programs on the land at the moment are the Forever Flowering Children’s Garden, with the Friends of the Forest after-school program, and the new Resource Center. Here are a few notes from the directors of those programs.

The Forever Flowering Children’s Garden offers a Waldorf kindergarten curriculum that is inspired with a nature-based approach for ages four to seven. Daily and seasonal rhythms are created with circle movement, free play, gardening, wholesome handmade snacks, nature crafting, forest exploration, earth skills, watercolor painting, storytelling, puppetry, woodworking, early handwork arts, and much more. For more information, contact lead teacher, Misti, at misti.lefevre@gmail.com or 707-921-9694.

The Sugarloaf Resource Center, an all-ages space for culture and learning, welcomes public visitors to SCA land on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30 - 6:30 pm and Sundays from 1:30 - 6:30 pm. The resource center provides a cozy environment for self-directed and social learning and hosts a collection of



The SCA garden is tended by children who attend the Forever Flowering Kindergarten there. Photo: Jessie Casey.

educational materials, including books, zines, games, arts and crafts supplies, computers, and more. The center is also available to host classes, meetings, and events. For more information, to book an event, or to find out about how you can get involved with this exciting new project, visit sugarloafcenter.org.

SCA has received grants to provide low-cost or free preschool at the Williams Elementary School and also supports an after-school Strings Music Program for community children there. Both programs are in high demand, with SCA volunteers administering them.

We are also excitedly preparing for our 20th Anniversary Celebration, which will be held outdoors on the SCA land on Saturday, June 22, from 4 - 10 pm. Games and activities for children and adults begin at 4 pm, with live music, dinner, and drinks available from 5 - 7 pm. This will be followed by a lively live auction and more fun live music and dancing, with drinks and treats available. The silent auction will be an opportunity for amazing scores! SCA is an inspiring haven in our community, and everyone is invited to join the party! We are especially calling on all past board members, teachers, students, and many volunteers to join us in celebrating all we have created together. Let’s see what we can do with the next 20 years!

For more information about Sugarloaf Community Association, go to sugarloafcommunityassociation.org or visit info@sugarloafcommunityassociation.org.

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What the hemp is going on?

BY RICHARD ROSEBERG, PHD

The relationship between humans and the *Cannabis sativa* plant is long and complex, and the current situation in Oregon and other states continues to evolve quickly. Oregon has been ahead of most other states in its efforts to legalize cannabis for medicinal and recreational purposes, but Oregon State University (OSU) has been unable to conduct research or provide public outreach due to the crop's illegality in all forms under federal law until recently.

The 2018 federal Farm Bill decriminalized industrial hemp production, but OSU Research and Extension efforts are limited until the US Department of Agriculture provides regulatory guidelines—which may take up to a year. Many people have asked what OSU will be doing to support this segment of agriculture in the meantime, especially here in southern Oregon, including the Applegate Valley, where growing conditions are nearly ideal for this species.

Within the limits of the new Farm Bill, OSU is now in the process of developing and conducting a number of research and educational outreach efforts, and the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC) is keenly involved in these developments. Despite the excitement around this crop, and despite OSU's desire to be as supportive as possible to our state's agricultural industry and communities, the current status of federal laws and regulations affect what we can legally say and do. We've listed below the five primary types of cannabis growers. Refer to each group below to see how OSU-SOREC may interact with the growers in each category.

1. Industrial hemp for fiber and seed. Industrial hemp is federally defined as *Cannabis sativa* that has less than 0.3 percent by weight of the delta-9 THC compound (the compound that causes the psychoactive "high").

OSU will be growing and studying industrial hemp at research stations like SOREC in 2019. OSU faculty will be able to collect and answer questions related to industrial hemp only if a farmer confirms that he or she has registered with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) as a hemp grower.

2. Hemp for other purposes. Some farmers are growing hemp (low THC) in order to extract other cannabinoids or terpenes. The legality of this approach is still a gray area in federal law. Because production and extraction of such compounds was not included as a protected aspect in the 2018 Farm Bill, OSU will not be answering questions related to this type of crop but will instead refer farmers to the ODA.

3 and 4. Marijuana licensed for medicinal or recreational use. Marijuana is federally defined as *Cannabis sativa* that has more than 0.3 percent by weight of the delta-9 THC compound. OSU will not answer questions or advise medical or recreational marijuana growers. OSU will refer all questions to the Oregon Health Authority (medical) or the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (recreational).

5. Unlicensed hemp or marijuana. OSU will not answer questions or advise unlicensed hemp or marijuana growers. OSU will refer all questions or complaints about such growers to local law enforcement.



A Rogue Valley field with a hemp crop near harvest time in the fall of 2018. Photo: Richard Roseberg.

For 2019, SOREC is cooperating on a statewide agronomy field trial focusing exclusively on industrial hemp. To avoid any possible conflict with neighboring growers, we plan to destroy our crop at an immature stage, before male flowers and pollen develop. We are also cooperating with others across the state in collecting and responding to questions we can answer, as well as publishing current and new information on hemp as it becomes available.

We hope that future rule changes and legislation will allow us to work more fully on more aspects of this crop species, but for now we will be limited strictly to what is allowed under federal law, which means we will not be consulting or testing any aspects of post-harvest extract processing, purification or product formulation.



Female hemp flower after harvest and drying. Photo: Richard Roseberg.

Regardless of what type of crop a person is growing, we will continue to provide general farm advice and identification services, such as weed and insect identification, or answer generic questions about irrigation water use, generic pesticide use rules, etc.

Richard Roseberg, PhD
 Director, OSU Southern Oregon
 Research and Extension Center
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Happy Birthday, ATA!

BY DAVID CALAHAN

Happy Birthday! The Applegate Trails Association is eight years old!

Like some people, rather than receive gifts we prefer to give a gift in celebration. Our gift is to the community. What is it? It is a new trailhead at the west end of the East Applegate Ridge Trail (the ART).

Located on Highway 238 between Longanecker Road and Forest Creek Road, 400 feet uphill from the highway, the trailhead has a gravel parking area for 12 vehicles, a picnic table, and an informational kiosk. Thanks to a Travel Oregon grant, trail users will no longer need to park their cars on the opposite side of the highway and then run a gauntlet of speeding vehicles to access the trail.

The 5.5-mile East ART, completed in 2017, quickly became extremely popular and may exceed 5,000 visitors per year. That estimate would not include all the canine visitors, since they rarely register at the kiosk.

The gently rolling trail leading out from the existing trailhead at the Sterling Creek end runs through open mountain meadows and chaparral, offering spectacular views of Ruch and the Applegate shortly after you leave the parking area.

ART Phase II

Phase II of the ART is still in the planning stages. Check out the proposed route on our website at applegatetrails.org. This part of the trail will link the East ART to both the Jacksonville Forest Park and Humbug Creek via the Wellington Wildlands (see savewildlands.org). Since the ART is almost entirely on public lands managed by BLM, everything we do requires a paperwork process—and patience!

Applegaters—on one of your trips into town, we invite you to stop and check out the new trailhead. Better yet, bring sturdy shoes, layered clothing, water, and a hat and go for a hike.



Trailhead construction was completed in mid-May, except for the asphalt approach off Highway 238. Pictured, left to right, Duane Mallams, ATA volunteer, and Roarke Ball on his backhoe with celebratory balloons. Photo: David Calahan.

National Trails Day

The same attire will also suffice for helping us maintain the trails at Cantrall Buckley Park on June 1, which is National Trails Day.

Hope to see you at 9 am that Saturday morning or on the trail sometime.

David Calahan
david@applegatetrails.org
 Applegate Trails Association

Prescribed burning for a safer community

BY AARON KRIKAVA

Wildfire, and how to protect ourselves from its destructive effects, is one of the hottest topics in our communities right now. The intense fires and resulting smoke we've all witnessed over the last few years are problems that need to be addressed with meaningful solutions. It may seem counterintuitive, but one of the most important ways to mitigate the impact of wildfire in our communities is the use of *more* fire, specifically controlled or prescribed burning on both private and public lands. The Applegate Partnership is working to put this vital tool back in our toolbox.



2018 prescribed fire training exchange (Trex) in the Applegate. Photo: Jon Bailey, The Nature Conservancy.

Controlled burning is the careful application of fire to the landscape during ideal environmental conditions of temperature, humidity, fuel moisture, and wind speed and direction in order to safely consume the fine fuels (less than three inches in diameter) that primarily carry wildfire. This use of fire goes far back into human history and continues today with modern fire-management practices. It was a primary tool used by native cultures for thousands of years to reduce fuel loads, improve forage for game animals, and provide many other ecological benefits.

Currently, wildland firefighters rely heavily on controlled burning in the form of "backfiring" operations to remove unburned fuel between control lines and the advancing flame front. In this way it is often fire, not water, that stops

the spread of a fire. Federal agencies also use prescribed burning on public lands as the preferred tool to maintain safe fuel levels after mechanical fuel reduction has been performed.

Planning documents at the federal, regional, and local levels recognize the importance of increased prescribed burning to manage wildfire risk. Unfortunately, the use of controlled burning on private lands in the western United States has been relatively limited due to the complexity of planning, permits, and liability. At the Applegate Partnership, we're working to overcome those hurdles and get useful fire back on the ground.

Our region is often described as a "fire-adapted" ecosystem, meaning the flora and fauna of our area have evolved to withstand the effects of our historic fire regime and quickly bounce back to a healthy state. Research shows that southwest Oregon has had a high frequency/low-to-mixed-

severity fire regime, with an average of eight years between fires, according to tree-ring studies. This means our landscape experienced frequent fires that primarily burned at a low intensity mixed with some medium-to-high severity burning. The Miller Complex in 2017 was a good example of this, burning with 66 percent low, 27 percent medium, and only 7 percent high severity.

This frequent return of fire to our landscape allowed only a small amount of new growth to accumulate, so when fire did come through, it burned at a lower intensity. If fire is excluded from landscapes like ours (as has happened since the advent of modern fire-suppression practices approximately 50 - 70 years ago), the accumulation of fuel leads to devastatingly severe wildfires when fire finally does reenter the landscape. Prescribed burning is a vital tool to keep fuel loads at a safe level, so when fire does return, its effects are moderate and manageable.

Recognizing the importance of prescribed burning, the Applegate Partnership is working with local partners

to facilitate the use of this important tool on private land in our community. Our group is helping interested landowners develop burn plans, find grant funding for prescribed burning and the initial mechanical fuel reduction, develop work cooperatives among neighbors, and provide the crucial insurance coverage for this vitally important work. We are also interested in training a local workforce of qualified individuals to carry out this work in our community on an ongoing basis.

If you are interested in the use of prescribed fire on your property or would like to get involved on the ground to learn how to use this important tool, contact me at aaron@apwc.info. If you would like to learn more about prescribed fire and how it is used, go to applegatepartnershipwc.org/programs for links to articles, research papers, and videos.

Together we can use prescribed burning to protect our community and reduce the impact of wildfires.

Aaron Krikava
 Board Member, Applegate Partnership
 and Watershed Council
aaron@apwc.info

Grant received for Williams multimodal path

BY BRYAN HUNTER

We got a grant! In collaboration with Josephine County Planning and Williams Elementary School, we're receiving a \$65,000 grant from a state program called Safe Routes to Schools, as well as matching funds from Josephine County. That's a total of around \$130,000 to construct a multimodal path, about four-tenths of a mile long, from Williams Elementary School to Williams General Store and the post office.

Now comes the fun part: meeting with Josephine County Public Works officials and engineers and Three Rivers School District staff to implement the project. Ideally, our working committee would like a path on the northwest side of Williams Highway, on the far side of the ditch, to accommodate two-way traffic of walkers, bikers, wheelchairs, and horses.

The county may see it differently, though, due to "challenges" of getting children across the street at the crosswalk and path maintenance issues. To address those concerns, our volunteer group has offered to maintain the path if the county builds it. And with effective signage and road striping, we feel the crosswalk can be made safe.

Josephine County Public Works, county engineers, and representatives from Three Rivers School District have already met, and we've heard about the challenge of the project and the potential reworking of this grant toward widening the road and restriping, but without a path. Our committee will join those groups at a second meeting being scheduled, so we're patiently waiting to weigh in on the project.

This four-tenth-mile-long path, phase one of our path throughout Williams, appears to be near construction. We plan additional portions to make local car-free travel safe and pleasant. If you have ideas and comments, please contact me.

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BIRD EXPLORER

The Raven

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



The Raven is a very charismatic species and may be the most successful bird on the planet. Common in the West, it can be found in cities, the country, and wild places from the Mexican border to the arctic. In places like Yellowstone National Park, Ravens sometimes gather on carrion in large numbers, alerting bears, wolves, coyotes, and foxes that easily obtainable

food, such as roadkills or large mammal carcasses, is available.

In old Norse mythology Ravens appear as mystical birds transcending natural boundaries. Odin, one of the principal Norse gods, had a pair of Ravens, described as very intelligent. Their existence in these tales of the far north illustrates the success of this species to live in almost any environment. However, Ravens have now become rare in Europe.

Here in the Applegate Valley, Ravens are everywhere. I have a pair nesting in a large Douglas fir tree on my land. During courtship they have been performing spectacular aerial displays; now they are often patrolling their home territory. With all the Raven activity in the air over my land, I am somewhat concerned about

the nesting songbirds there, as Ravens are known to raid the songbirds' nests.

So it is important not to encourage the Raven species to overpopulate our environments by controlling garbage stored outside and reducing litter on our roadways and in city parking lots. Birds thrive best when living on natural food sources, and that includes the beautiful black Common Raven.

Peter J. Thiemann
peterjthiemann@yahoo.com
Photo courtesy of peterjthiemann flickr photo stream.



Peter J. Thiemann

A tale of two tigers

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Western Tiger Swallowtail

The Western Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio rutulus*) is in the butterfly family Papilionidae. It is a large butterfly with a wingspread of up to 3.5 inches.

The *Papilio rutulus* is bright yellow with a broad black border, black tiger stripes on its wings, and two large tails. With its wings open it displays metallic blue spots with orange crescents on the margin above the tails.

This butterfly can be seen, gliding and flying swiftly, on roadways next to creeks and rivers from mid-April through September. During this time it is fun to walk on country roads that follow creeks in wooded areas and watch the males patrol up and down the corridors looking for females, who fly higher in the wooded canopies. Some favorite habitats are flower gardens, parks, and canyons. Its range is western North America, from British Columbia to Baja California and east to New Mexico and Colorado.

In southern Oregon two or more broods per season are possible. Host plants are broad-leaved trees such as big-leaf maples, willows, aspens, and black cottonwoods. Females lay eggs singly on host plants. The caterpillars feed on the leaves. The pupae overwinter and emerge in the spring.

Adults seek nectar from blackberries, sweet William, rhododendron, native

thistle, phlox, and many other native species of plants. Males will mud-puddle to gather important nutrients.

I have fond memories of a time a friend and I tried to outsmart this species of swallowtail while trying to net some for observation. They were so fast we tried driving ahead of them as they flew down the roads. Then we would stop, jump out of the car, and try to net them as they flew past us. Although it was challenging and fun and might have worked a time or two, it wasn't a practice we kept doing.

Enjoy these beauties this summer even on a shady creek road!

Pale Tiger Swallowtail

The Pale Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio eurymedon*) is also in the Papilionidae family of butterflies. It is a large butterfly with a wingspread of up to three inches. It is very white to creamy white with black stripes and a broad black border with blue and red-orange caudal (near the tail) markings.

The Pale Tiger Swallowtail can be seen in flight from mid-April to October, with the peak of its flight period April through July. It frequents open woodlands, foothills, chaparral, streamsides, ocean habitats, canyons, or any other spot with flowering shrubs and plants from sea level to higher mountains. Its range is from British Columbia to Baja California and mountain regions to New Mexico.

Host plants for this swallowtail are mainly buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), snowbrush (*Ceanothus velutinus*), and other mountain shrubs.

Males perch in trees on the lookout for females. Females lay eggs singly on the host plant's leaves. This species will produce one generation. The pupae hibernate over winter months.

Adults will nectar on flowers of yerba santa, Columbia lily, chokecherry, penstemons, and many other native plants. They will use garden favorites such as zinnias and sweet Williams, and they will visit sprinklers for waterdrops. Males will mud-puddle, often with other species of swallowtails.

Once while scouting in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness for a route for the Siskiyou Field Institute butterfly class, I saw a Pale Tiger Swallowtail on a ceanothus plant next to the road. It stayed there only briefly, but long enough for me to walk almost right up to it to get a look. That was when I discovered why it was allowing me to approach for a couple of seconds: she was laying an egg.

Pale Tiger Swallowtails are wonderful butterflies. Though they are large, their flight is graceful and strong.

Linda Kappen
humbugkapps@hotmail.com



Western Tiger Swallowtail



Pale Tiger Swallowtail

Note: If you would like to learn more about our region's butterflies and moths, Siskiyou Field Institute is offering a course, *Introduction to Butterflies and Moths of the Siskiyou*, on June 14 - 16. For more information, call 541-597-8530 or visit thesfi.org.

Photos by Linda Kappen.

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Summer Film: Beaver Believer
Stay tuned for more information on our 6th Annual Summer Film at Red Lily Vineyard in early August.

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

Pacifica 2.0

BY GERI LITTLEJOHN

On April 20, Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyou celebrated 20 (20!) years as a nonprofit. To acknowledge this major milestone, the board decided, during a retreat in December, to hold a Celebration Day highlighting Pacifica's varied aspects. At the retreat our board also recognized that Pacifica might not be able to exist for another 20 years, let alone thrive, without making some significant changes. We decided to use the celebration to kick off a year-long process of deep listening, dynamic strategic planning, collaborating with other local nonprofits, and shifting to a membership-based organization that focuses as much on the community aspect of our mission as on the arts, nature, and education.

We are calling this process of strengthening our infrastructure and refining and refocusing our mission, "The Birthing of Pacifica 2.0." As we honor our history of programming and stewardship, we begin setting our sights on realizing the potential of what Pacifica can truly become over the next 20 years.

Pacifica was originally established when circumstances made it possible to purchase Steve Miller's 420-plus acre property, move ForestFarm Nursery onto the back of the property, and convene an all-volunteer board to focus members' passions around plants, nature, and the arts via community offerings and educational programs. Every spring our Caterpillar program entertains and educates thousands of students in nine school districts. Additionally, our property hosts thousands of students on-site for

field trips, Oregon's outdoor school, and summer camps. Our Arts Guild activities have ebbed and flowed over the years, but the board holds strongly to the dream of vibrant arts programming and community studio spaces.

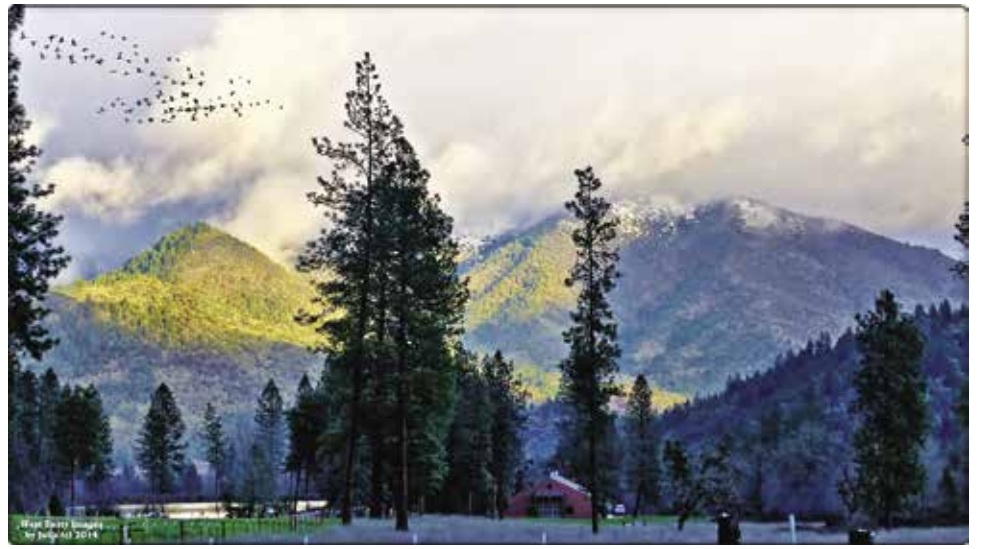
Like many nonprofits that start as small endeavors begun by passionate people, Pacifica is so busy doing what we do (maintaining the large property and many buildings on the land and offering hands-on natural science education to regional schools), we find that we have grown in size and scope without having grown sufficient supporting infrastructure. As a result, we are undercapitalized and understaffed.

So, now we turn to you, our community, with the desire to engage our collective resources and talents to refine and strengthen how we fulfill our arts-nature-education-community mission. (When we say "community," we include the whole Applegate Valley.) Where we direct our energies will be a combination of the passions and energies of the board as well as our community's perceived and expressed needs and interests.

Seeking new volunteers

We are currently seeking new active members, energetic volunteers, enthusiastic board members, and email addresses for our newsletter. If you have nonprofit management skills, IT expertise, event-planning experience, or other skills you are willing to offer, *please* let us know!

Heading into our 21st year as a nonprofit, Pacifica needs help with



Pacifica photo by Julia, West Forty Images, 2014.

updating our website to make it easier for you to learn about the good community work we do, the interesting expanded opportunities we will be offering, and the options for involvement.

We also imagine an online membership platform to make it easy to join, enroll in classes, and purchase event tickets online (with membership discounts).

Building on the success of our 20th Celebration Day with hikes, classes, and demonstrations, Pacifica will begin offering bimonthly Pacifica Days. These Sunday events will offer numerous opportunities to enjoy this gem of a property, try your hand at an art or craft, be a part of a work party, help with tending and expanding the gardens, and enjoy local food, music, and a day of community. There will be opportunities to meet with board members, learn more about Pacifica, and participate in listening sessions. The first Pacifica Day is scheduled for June 16 and

coincides with our ribbon cutting for the newly completed Blue Sky solar array.

A planning committee is currently working on a new annual Harvest Faire. Be sure to save the dates, October 19-20. Welcome to Pacifica 2.0!

Ger Littlejohn
gerilittlejohn@gmail.com

Save the dates!

- **June 16:** Pacifica Day/Solar Celebration
- **August 11:** Pacifica Day
- **October 19 - 20:** First Annual Harvest Faire featuring local food, local music, local arts, and local nonprofits.

For more information, email info@pacificagarden.org or visit pacificagarden.org or Facebook Pacifica: a garden in the Siskiyou.

Go fly a kite!

BY LAIRD FUNK

"Go fly a kite!" That was the direction given to participants of the Williams School springtime after-school activities program—even though there were no kites. But Greg Cox, the activities volunteer, and his wife, Jessica, a Williams School volunteer and substitute, knew that was not a problem but an opportunity—an opportunity to learn, build, and play. All they needed to do was help the kids make their own kites, something none of them had ever done before!

Begun in winter 2016, the after-school program, coordinated by Amber Guient,

was intended to introduce kids to fun and interesting activities. By welcoming any child, Williams student or not, it also introduces new families to our local school, the center of many Williams activities. The second part seems to be working: the school's enrollment has increased since the program began.

The group has tackled a different project each term. Once it was leather working, where students made wallets, purses, and even a knife scabbard. Another time it was establishing a seed-saver group to teach kids where food comes from and how to save seeds for future crops. Then they designed and built accurate scale-model houses with working electric lights.

The program has been funded entirely by deposit bottle collection drives and donations. No school money is involved. The latest drive by the Williams Viability Committee netted over \$150!

During my visit on March 10, students were busy assembling kites from components they had made at earlier meetings. That day was meeting number five, with the sixth and final day to be the actual flying day. In previous meetings students had cut and assembled the skins for the kites and had cut sticks to size for the bracing. Greg incorporated a recycling lesson by using plastic covers from building materials in the kite skins. Another time students made kite-string spools from recycled PVC pipe and wound them with the flying line.

As the kids gathered to assemble their creations, Greg, Jessica, Kayla and other parent volunteers circulated from group to group and assisted with some of the more troublesome tasks, like holding the sticks in place while the builder tied them into position. Within 30 minutes those who had finished their kites were trying them out, even though it was a very calm afternoon. By the end of my visit, the kids had assembled most of the kites, and anticipation of next week's flying day was raising their spirits.

On March 18, the group gathered at the school, and Greg made an effort to take care of a few last details to get everybody's kite airworthy. Unfortunately, one of the first things noticeable was that about half of the kids had taken their kites home and (surprise!) many of them had forgotten to bring them back to the school for fly day! But while some kids were disappointed, others were happy to run around the track with any kite, and many kids were happy to



Participants in the after-school "Go Fly a Kite" program at Williams School. Photo: Laird Funk.



Students learned how to construct a kite under the direction of Greg Cox (right). Photo: Laird Funk.

share with those whose kites were stranded at home.

Because many kids had never flown a kite, it took a while for them to learn just how much flying line to unreel to start and how fast and in which direction to run. The latter ultimately made little difference because, in spite of the day being the most beautiful in months, the wind was somewhere else—not at Williams School.

That they could not get their kites to show their full potential seemed to matter little to the kite kids. What seemed important to them and the adults was that the group was having a great time playing together, with a kite or not. Do you need a kite to have fun running with your friends? No, sometimes just the fun of running with friends is enough.

We do not know what the next activity will be, but, judging from the kids, the important thing is to learn, build, and have fun together!

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with Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

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Before looking for water filtration equipment, have your water tested. Make sure the person giving you the estimate has been out to physically look at your system before giving you a price. Has the company representative taken the time to thoroughly explain the work to be completed or are they just trying to sell you something? What brand/quality of equipment is being recommended? Does the contractor warranty any of their workmanship?

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Pacifica in pictures

BY PEG PRAG

It's hard to believe, but Pacifica just celebrated its 20th Anniversary! We celebrated with a full day of free classes, hikes, and demonstrations on art, nature, horses, wildcrafting, dogs, plants, and history. All were great, and we thank the teachers for sharing their time and knowledge.

Pacifica will soon have an efficient array of solar panels—installed by Kirpal Khalsa of Oregon Solarworks—with the essential and appreciated help of a Blue Sky grant from Pacific Power. There will be a ribbon cutting on June 16 at 2 pm. Come celebrate with us! Alternative energy is important in so many ways, e.g., our electricity bill will be going down!

The restrooms that Pacifica has needed and worked toward for so many years are finally under way. Being constructed by local contractor Richard Cassidy, they will hopefully be completed by July, when the

Native Plant Society of Oregon is holding their state meeting at Pacifica.

Pacifica is excited to be starting its second season of Outdoor School with fifth- and sixth-graders staying for three days and two nights of outdoor study and fun. Vanessa Redding and Shauna Sorce and their incredible team have developed a terrific curriculum, including special campfire activities and night hikes. Pacifica hosts 250 to 300 children at its Outdoor School and 4 - 5,000 at Caterpillar and field trips.

Pacifica was thrilled to share an Americorps Team with the Williams Community Forest Project earlier in the year. With the help of Rodger Miller, volunteer extraordinaire, one of the things the team did at Pacifica was fix and create the Bumblebee, a hay-wagon trailer fixed up for field trips and events.

Peg Prag • peg@pacificagarden.org



Outdoor school campfire at Pacifica. Photo: Peg Prag.



Bumblebee hay wagon for field trips and events. Photo: Ray Prag.



Top photo: Josephine County Historical Society member Leta Niederhauser playing Martha Messinger (Pacifica's original homesteader) with the real Joyce Messinger (Martha's great-granddaughter) and her granddaughters. Photo: Peg Prag. Middle photo: Blue Sky solar under construction. Photo: Ray Prag. Bottom photo: Restroom under construction. Photo: Ray Prag.

Motorcycle riders keep trails open

BY CHUCK STEAHLY

The Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA) has been helping the US Forest Service (USFS) maintain trails in the Applegate for over 25 years. A number of trails in the mountains around Applegate Lake are multiuse, open to motorcycles (not ATVs) and happily shared with nonmotorized users since they were built decades ago. Many are old mining and fire lookout supply trails that are now used for recreation. MRA does the majority of fallen tree removal, brush clearing, and drainage repair on all of these shared trails.

Some of these trails are popular with hikers and mountain bikers as well as motorcyclists, such as the Stein Butte Trail, Boundary Trail, Little Grayback, Summit Lake, and Cook and Green Trail. Other more remote or difficult trails, such as New London, Carlton Pasture, and Charlie Buck, have light hiker use but offer the challenge that motorcycle riders with advanced ability enjoy.

Motorcycles are a great way to access trails while carrying tools, such as chainsaws, McLeods (large rakehoes), handsaws, and pruners. Being able to reach trouble spots quickly makes maintenance much more efficient than on foot.

In 2017 portions of the Cook and Green Trail were exposed to wildfire, which weakened the roots of many trees, causing unusual amounts of trail damage and fallen trees. In June 2018, MRA teamed up with Southern Oregon Trail Alliance (SOTA) to hold a work party to reopen Cook and Green, with a combined effort of nearly 100 man-hours to get the popular trail usable again. Without groups like MRA and SOTA, some trails would become unusable to the average hiker or mountain biker.

Donna Mickley, district ranger for the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District, says, “The MRA has been a longstanding, reliable partner in our efforts to accomplish much-needed trail maintenance in the Applegate Valley and has assisted with trails

Felled trees were removed on the Cook and Green Trail in 2018.



of all kinds, including nonmotorized. The USFS relies more and more on user groups to help keep up with trail-maintenance needs all across the forest. And in turn, those groups have started to work closely together, combining both their people power and their skill sets. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the MRA and support their work with other partner organizations to maintain trails.”

The MRA was created in 1965 to promote the responsible use of off-road motorcycles and ATVs. We are a nonprofit, family-oriented club centered in Jacksonville and serving all of southwest Oregon. MRA partners with the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to help maintain trails. We own about 1,000 acres next to the Jacksonville Woodlands and work with the City of Jacksonville to offer a wide range of recreation opportunities, motorized and nonmotorized, to the public.

Chuck Steahly • csteahly@aol.com

Motorcycles carry chainsaws to trouble spots.



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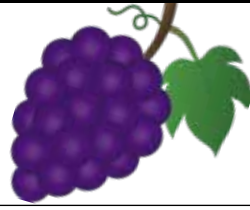
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GRAPE TALK

New “A-team” wineries in the Applegate



Debbie Tollefson

BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

After changing hands and renovating, two new “A-team” wineries opened their doors in the Applegate.

Apricity Vineyard, on the former location of the Crow and Bear Winery, opened a new tasting room in the Jerome Prairie area. Augustino Estate and Vineyard has refurbished its vineyard and remodeled the tasting room at the former Bridgeview Winery on North Applegate Road.

Augustino Estate and Vineyard

When I talked with Augustino’s owners, Reggie Boltz and Debbie Spencer, in their tasting room in March, they told me they started growing grapes at their ranch in O’Brien, in southern Josephine County, in 2001. They have a great tasting-room tree house on Brown Road in O’Brien.

Both the vines and the tasting room at 16995 North Applegate Road needed some TLC when Reggie and Debbie took over in 2017. The newly remodeled tasting room has a fun “wine mine” room (wine cellar) for private events and dinners, and the remodeled tasting room is spacious and comfortable.

The current tasting-room flight features a variety of wines from Augustino’s many acres of grapes, including 2017 Rosé (a syrah and malbec blend), 2017 Pinot Grigio, 2016 Chardonnay, 2015 Pinot Noir, 2016 Syrah, and 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon. The tasting room also serves food, with an expanded menu for the summer months.

Reggie and Debbie’s success with their wines includes a Best in Class at the 2018 *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition for their 2014 Syrah and recognition in 2019 by the *San Francisco Chronicle* for both the 2016 Tempranillo (Double Gold) and their 2014 Pinot Noir (Gold). The 2018 Oregon Wine Experience awarded their 2014 Pinot Noir a Gold, and the New Orleans International Wine Competition in 2018 gave Augustino’s 2016 Tempranillo a Double Gold.

Debbie and Reggie have lots of fun ideas for their North Applegate tasting room, including wine-tasting rides in a draft-horse wagon along the Applegate River and some special events for their growing wine club.

Apricity Vineyard

The other “A-team” winery I visited this spring was Apricity, located at the western end of the Applegate Valley. This new boutique vineyard and tasting room is striving to use sustainable practices in all aspects of farming and construction. The original design for the tasting room called for building with hempcrete, but Josephine County Building Safety Department’s hurdles for building with hemp, historically the most renewable resource available, became insurmountable. The original vision has dwindled to the only commercially interactive hempcrete learning wall that the owners know of in Oregon. This beautiful

wall, which displays information about hempcrete as well as the steps to build with hempcrete, now stands as a testament to their passion for utilizing renewable products in all aspects of their vineyard. They have incorporated reused and repurposed materials throughout the tasting room, including mushroom board, barnwood, brick, and steel.

Apricity owners, Laroni Cook and Noah Lowry, have created the only tasting room in the northwest Applegate Valley appellation. Laroni and Noah are growing their grapes 100 percent chemical free with an emphasis on microbiological health. They are certified by CNG (Certified Naturally Grown), a certification organization with even stricter standards than USDA organic certification. Their grapes are crafted at Pallet Wine Company by vintner Linda Donovan at southern Oregon’s first LIVE certified production facility, located in Medford. (LIVE is a certification that aims to preserve human and natural resources in the wine industry in the Pacific Northwest.) The wines Apricity produces are petite syrah, tempranillo, primitivo, chardonnay, syrah noir, and viognier. The Apricity winery and tasting room are located at 5719 Jerome Prairie Road, Grants Pass. Get on their



Apricity tasting room. Photo provided by Apricity.



Augustino wine mine. Photo provided by Augustino.

mailing list for special events, wine club offerings, and tasting-room hours.

Debbie Tollefson
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Hit the high country on the O'Brien Creek Trail

BY EVELYN ROETHER

Greetings fellow hikers! It's time to hit the high country, following spring as it moves up in elevation. Right out our backyard lies the Kangaroo Roadless Area, a 20,370-acre chunk of de facto wilderness. You have to climb to get there, but there are several trails that take you up to its ridgeline, and the O'Brien Creek Trail is one of them. It's also a good place to look at the resilience of landscapes subjected to fire, in this case the Miller Complex fire that blew through in 2017.

The following is a brief description of the trail. For the full version and a description of 19 other trails in our neighborhood, pick up a copy of *Hiking Trails of the Lower Applegate*, now available at many local retail outlets and the Williams Farmers' Market.

O'Brien Creek Trail #900

- Accessible June - November
- Difficulty: Upper O'Brien Creek Trail—difficult; Lower O'Brien Creek Trail—moderate.
- Distance: Lower O'Brien Creek Trail to Upper O'Brien Creek Trail—2 miles round trip; Upper O'Brien Creek Trail to Boundary Trail—4.6 miles round trip; Upper O'Brien Creek Trail to Big Sugarloaf Peak—6.8 miles round trip.

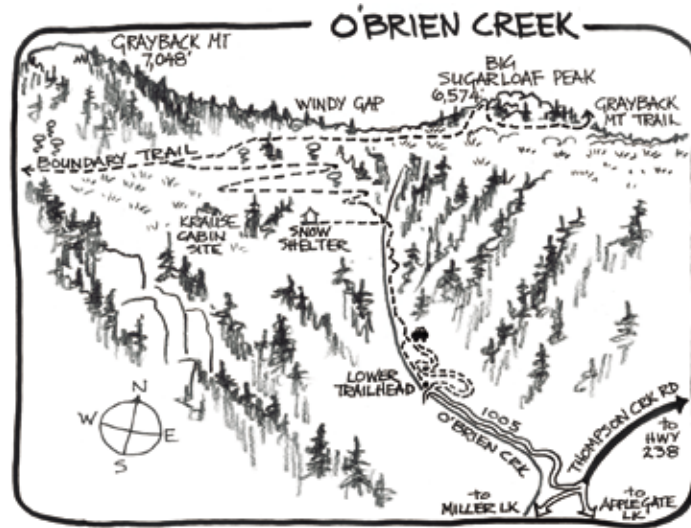
- Elevation gain: Upper O'Brien Creek Trail to Boundary Trail—1,560 feet; Upper O'Brien Creek Trail to Big Sugarloaf Peak—2,079 feet.

Directions

Take Highway 238 to the town of Applegate. Go south on Thompson Creek Road for 11.9 miles until the pavement ends at a four-way intersection. Take a hard right turn onto Road 1005. After 2.3 miles you will see the Lower O'Brien Creek trailhead on the left. To reach the Upper O'Brien Creek Trail, keep driving for another 1.7 miles until the increasingly rough road ends at the trailhead. *Note:* The last 0.7 mile requires a high-clearance four-wheel-drive vehicle.

This trail has an upper and a lower trailhead; both begin on Road 1005. If you do not have a high-clearance four-wheel-drive vehicle, you might want to park at the lower trailhead and follow it up along O'Brien Creek. The Lower O'Brien Creek Trail climbs along the north side of O'Brien Creek for one mile up a moderately steep slope before joining up with the Upper O'Brien Creek Trail at its trailhead parking area.

The Upper O'Brien Creek Trail provides great access to the Siskiyou high



country. Whether or not you make it to the ridgeline, this is a beautiful route that takes you through magnificent old-growth forests as well as wildflower-rich high-mountain meadows.

The Upper O'Brien Creek Trail begins at the end of the drivable part of the road. From the parking area, follow the old roadbed for 0.3 mile, at which point it turns into a steep single-track trail. A steep ascent takes you through an old-growth forest, crossing tributaries of O'Brien Creek in a couple of places. After 1.3 miles, shortly after the second creek crossing, the trail forks at an old sign.

To continue up to the Boundary Trail (1.2 miles farther), stay right. Here, in midsummer, you will find yourself standing in a classic high-country meadow with more varieties of wildflowers than you've

probably ever seen in one place. There are spectacular views of the conical-shaped Mt. McLaughlin to the east.

At the second junction, the Boundary Trail heads south (left) through the meadow, around the flanks of Grayback Mountain. To reach Windy Gap, Grayback Mountain, or Big Sugarloaf Peak, turn right, following the

trail through 0.7 mile of forest that was somewhat charred by the Miller Complex fire in 2017. Notice that many of the big trees were burned at the base but are still alive and thriving.

After about a mile, once you get out of the trees to the open ridgeline saddle, you can (1) turn left (south) and scramble your way up the rocky slopes another steep half mile or so to the summit of Grayback Mountain, the highest peak in Josephine County (7,048 feet), or (2) keep following the Boundary Trail up along the ridge to the north (right) for another 0.2 mile towards Windy Gap and Big Sugarloaf Peak (6,679 feet).

Take it all in and return the way you came. Happy hiking!

Evelyn Roether

evelynkr@gmail.com

CHRIS BRATT TRIBUTES

Continued from page 2

Can't add my name into the fight when I'm gone, so I guess I'll have to do it while I'm here. When it came to the environment, Chris was like a bulldog on a pants leg. He believed that our national forests are a treasure belonging to all Americans and need to be protected at all cost. Our forests should not be allowed to be ravaged by a few for temporary financial gains. He also fought for clean air and water, hoping to save the planet from irreversible damage.

Another fight that he was passionate about was workers' rights. During the times of farmworker rights struggles, he again left paying work to help build a community center for the farmworkers of the Central Valley in California.

All the pleasures of love will not be mine when I'm gone...so I guess I'll have to do it while I'm here. And love he did. He loved his family, his friends, his country, this planet we all call home, and his beautiful home on Thompson Creek.

Chris Bratt will be missed by many. The most important lesson he taught me is that to pay it forward is the finest way to pay it back. I will miss singing, working, traveling, playing, drinking wine, and arguing with him. I know that he worked hard to "do it while he was here."

⌘

Tonya Graham

Executive Director, Geos Institute

Chris was one of the first people I met when I arrived at Headwaters' office in the basement of the Ashland Armory in the summer of 1991. I had volunteered to hang posters for events, and Chris was serving on the board. In spite of the difficult and often combative nature of the work, Chris was consistently positive and kind. His warm welcome made me feel immediately at home and necessary to the movement, even though my contribution was minor in comparison to the work others were doing.

I recall meeting him at daybreak for many years in the parking lot of Lithia Park in Ashland as we set up the Fourth of July burrito booth and he took his position next to Jim Ince and Chris Fowler stirring

the beans. I've also watched him fully in his element holding elected officials' and agencies' feet to the fire over destructive forest policies. And I've seen him warmly greet a wide range of fellow activists at the forest conference. It seemed that Chris knew everyone and everyone loved him.

Chris served on the board of Headwaters and then Geos Institute for three decades, during which time he could always be counted on to bring a refreshing perspective to challenging deliberations. As Headwaters morphed into the Geos Institute and we shifted our focus, Chris showed a flexibility and willingness to take risks that were critical to our being able to step with confidence into that new territory as an organization. He also led the effort that resulted in Geos Institute buying its building in 2012, which set us on a path to greater financial sustainability. He was unfailingly generous on all fronts.

Chris inspired courage and called forward the best selves of those around him. I am a better person for having known him all these years.

Many in the movement are speaking about Chris as a fierce warrior for the forests. That's true. Chris had a way of parking himself in front of someone until they found their moral compass, and he could be more than assertive when the moment called for it. In addition, Chris showed me and many others how to be both the fierce warrior and the caring fellow human being—the person deeply connected to the land and to their community.

When I walk into my office each day, I have the privilege of walking past the cabinets and shelves Chris built for us. He built those cabinets with love like he did everything else in his life. And those hands are not only on all of our past accomplishments but also on our future ones because of the seeds he sowed in so many of us during his time walking this beautiful earth.

⌘

Chuck Levin, Headwaters attorney

By 1986 when I joined Headwaters, Chris was already instrumental in the

rise of the grassroots environmental movement in Oregon, lending countless hours as a volunteer board member and early president. He set the tone and provided leadership and credibility, speaking truth to power, challenging BLM forest management decisions, and developing a grassroots infrastructure network. A vigorous debater, Chris also listened to others' viewpoints intently and thoughtfully, earning respect by all for his deliberate and considered, rather than dogmatic, responses and positions.

As Headwaters' attorney during those early years, I spent a great deal of time with Chris strategizing and conferencing, networking, driving to federal court in Eugene and Portland, and exploring BLM timber sale sites on the ground. He engaged people with his warmth, laughter, positivity, humility, and sheer humanity, both in and out of the office. He seemed to take active interest in all things artistic and political and had a vast knowledge and curiosity about many subjects. Southern Oregon was lucky to have him.

⌘

J.D. Rogers

I knew Chris Bratt for over two and a half decades. He was a man of strong opinions and actions. While we were involved in many organizations, the *Applegater* was where I had my most interactions with him.

From the start of the *Applegater* 25 years ago, Chris stood as one of its strongest defenders and supporters. For the 19 years that I was the editor of the paper, he was the person I could turn to if there was an issue that I needed to bounce ideas off of or if I just needed a helping hand. He was always there when needed.

Chris had a great sense of humor and a wonderful smile; he loved to sing and play his guitar at get-togethers. I will truly miss him as a friend, neighbor, and community activist.

⌘

Jack Shipley

Chris Bratt and I came together some 30-plus years ago in the mid-1980s when we were both on the board of directors of Headwaters, an Ashland-based

environmental organization. Headwaters was at the apex of the "jobs versus owls" conflict that had raged among environmentalists, the timber industry, and the federal land-management agencies over the previous decade.

Chris was the chair of the Headwaters board and represented TREE (Thompson Creek Residents for Ecological Education). I was vice chair and represented NAWPA (the North Applegate Watershed Protection Association). Chris was an outspoken and successful advocate to stop aerial application of chemicals on forestlands managed by BLM and USFS in southwest Oregon.

Chris and I joined logger Jim Neal to create the Applegate Partnership, a collaborative, grassroots response to the constant conflict and litigation that swirled around our communities between the tree huggers and the tree cutters.

In 1992 the board of the Applegate Partnership included community environmental organizations, loggers, scientists, the Sierra Club, and the BLM. John Lloyd, an attorney from the Department of Justice (DOJ) informed Chris and me that the partnership was in violation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The DOJ said we were unduly influencing the federal government. When our agency representatives transitioned from board to advisory positions, the FACA issue went away.

Chris and I spent many hours together seeking solutions to the "sticky wicket" environmental issues in our valley. Chris's strong-willed and outspoken approach challenged us all. At one of our early board meetings, when Dwayne Cross was absent, Chris exhibited his integrity by resisting board action on an issue without having the timber representative at the table. Chris and I didn't agree on every issue. In fact, on one occasion we had to seek assistance from an outside facilitator to settle our differences. Even though we didn't always agree, we remained the best of friends. I will miss Chris's strong environmental

See **CHRIS BRATT TRIBUTES**, page 24.

Happy 100th to Thompson Creek Irrigation Association!

BY BARBARA CHASTEEN

A living link to the early history of the Siskiyou and the Applegate River Valley.

The Thompson Creek Irrigation Association (TCIA) was established officially on May 19, 1919, when Secretary Charles Herbert Elmore II signed the first shares. The original membership included 12 local ranchers. Some of their names—Beckner, Bingham, Darneille, Elmore, Hogan, Houston, Johnston, Knutzen, Mee, Miller, Oster, and Teski—still live on in the landscape, maps, and history of the valley.

But TCIA's roots go back 60 years earlier to the first gold miners and ranchers of the Applegate Valley. The system had its beginnings in the 1860s when John O'Brien, an immigrant from Ireland, came to the upper Applegate to farm and mine for gold. To support his gold-mining activities, he had Chinese laborers build a 13-mile diversion ditch from Sturgis Creek and O'Brien Creek into Carberry Creek, which flows into the upper Applegate River. In the late 1800s, O'Brien sold his ditch to a group of ranchers, who redirected the ditch over the low divide from Carberry to augment the flow of water in Thompson Creek (see note below).

One hundred years later the network of irrigation ditches in the ten-mile-long Thompson Creek Valley is still served by Thompson Creek with added water from Miller Lake, Sturgis Creek, and O'Brien Creek. Sturgis Creek flows out of Miller Lake, a natural lake augmented by a dam permitted by the US Forest Service later in TCIA's history. The lake lies on the ridge between Little Craggy Peak and Steve Peak. O'Brien Creek rushes down the mountainside just to the north.

Over the decades, most of the original ranches have been broken into smaller parcels, and today there are about 300 homes in the valley. The community spirit that began in the 1800s has continued through the years as neighbors pitch in to keep the organization running.

Charles Herbert Elmore's descendants, still working the family ranches dating back to 1903, have continued through the years to be a mainstay of TCIA. Family members serve on the board of directors and work behind the scenes communicating with TCIA members, maintaining relationships with government agencies, continuing to protect the dam that slightly elevates Miller Lake for extra storage, and maintaining the historic Sturgis-O'Brien ditch.

Keeping history alive, the association's secretaries from the start have preserved records of meeting minutes, contracts, grant proposals, projects, and correspondence, though a few years are missing due to losses in home fires.

Unlike other irrigation systems in the Rogue River watershed, TCIA is not an irrigation district but an Oregon corporation. Water rights are expressed as shares in the association. Property



Weir located on the O'Brien ditch. The concrete work dates back to the 1930s. Photo: David Dobbs.

owners pay a yearly assessment based on the number of shares, tied to the age and acreage of a particular property's rights. TCIA is responsible only for delivering water to the stream itself. Ditches are maintained by the local landowners who hold water rights to the stream.

TCIA works with the local Oregon Resources Department watermaster and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, helping to protect the anadromous (sea-going) fish that breed in the stream: coho and chinook (Oregon's state fish), salmon, steelhead, and the native cutthroat trout. While it coordinates with the US Forest Service and other state and federal agencies, the Thompson Creek system is maintained by local volunteers.

Today as you rush up and down Thompson Creek's valley on a wide asphalt road, crossing the stream on cement-and-steel bridges and driving past grazing livestock, hay fields, orchards, vineyards, and vegetable and flower gardens, give a thought to the decades when life moved more slowly. Even into the 1950s covered bridges spanned the stream, while ranchers and their horses plowed and hayed the fields, herded livestock, dredged the ditches, and traveled the trails. They depended on each other to get through the years. A lot has changed in the past century and a half, but a tradition remains of people of the valley helping each other for the good of the community.

Check out the next *Applegater* for stories of modern days in the TCIA, including the Beaver-TCIA Partnership, the Bigelow Slide, and other adventures.

Barbara Chasteen
equiline@sonic.net

Note: See *They Settled in Applegate Country: Frontier Days Along the Lower Applegate River in Southern Oregon, Olga Weydemeyer Johnson (1978), and Ruch and the Upper Applegate Valley, John and Marguerite Black (1989). These and other local historical resources are available in the Applegate Library.*

OPINION UPDATE

When a problem becomes an opportunity

BY LISA E. BALDWIN

I appreciate readers' positive responses to my opinion piece in the Spring 2019 *Applegater*, about using hemp in bioplastics!

At present, I am reaching out to US Representatives and local people well-positioned to help. I am also thinking of ways to encourage businesses to pursue bioplastic replacements for plastic items like grocery bags, straws, take-out boxes, and other single-use plastics that are ruining the planet.

Contacts in the hemp world are needed, though, especially someone interested in figuring out how to start manufacturing hemp bioplastics locally.

Please let me know if you have contacts in the hemp industry and/or would like to assist in my efforts to involve the Applegate in using hemp for bioplastics.

Thank you.

Lisa E. Baldwin
leb.97527@gmail.com

••• BIZBITS •••

Cricket Hill Winery opened a tasting room at the historic 1862 McCully House Inn. Duane and Kathy Bowman, Cricket Hill founders who are influenced by the French wines of Bordeaux, have specialized in growing grand cru grapes here in the Applegate since 1991. For those discerning wine enthusiasts with a love of Bordeaux-style wines commingled with a rich local history, this tasting room offers something special. Located at 240 East California Street, Jacksonville. Summer hours are Thursday through Sunday, 12 - 6 pm. 541-899-8264.

•••

E Street Cyclery is a new bike shop in Grants Pass, owned and operated by master mechanic Mark Acosta. In addition to offering service and repair on all kinds of bicycles, Acosta's shop specializes in recumbent bicycles and is an official dealer of TerraTrikes, with several different models in stock and available for test rides. Open Monday through Thursday, 10 am - 4:30 pm, and by appointment. Stop by the shop at 317 NW E Street, Grants Pass. Call 541-226-9415, message on Facebook, or email Mark at estreetyclery@gmail.com.

•••

Idyllwild Studio. New Williams residents Noel and Ann, a couple with more than 30 years of combined experience in web and graphic design and photography, announce their services to their new community. They specialize in serving a niche market of small businesses, especially farmers, healers, and nonprofits, and are invested in our community's growth and success. They offer a free one-hour consultation for all interested clients as a good way to get to know each other better. Learn more at idyllwildstudio.com or drop them a note by email at hello@idyllwildstudio.com.

•••

Indigo Grill owners Ray and Tara Moeves invite everyone to check out their interesting menu and remodeled space at Indigo Grill. The new restaurant (in the space formerly occupied by the Honeysuckle Café, which moved to Medford) is getting rave reviews for great service, a vibrant atmosphere, and outstanding food. Live music on weekends is another big hit. Open Wednesday and Thursday 10 am - 10 pm, Friday 10 am - midnight, Saturday 8 am - midnight, and Sunday 8 am - 8 pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Check out reviews on Facebook. 7360 Highway 238, Ruch. 541-702-2320.

•••

Kimball's Artisan Wines, a new wine shop and tasting room in Jacksonville, opened April 16. Owners Josh and Kaylyn Kimball of Applegate offer a wide selection of curated wines, mostly from Oregon, California, and France, including some rare varieties. The Kimballs seek to complement the local wineries' tasting rooms, not compete with them. Now open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am - 6 pm. 120 South 3rd Street, Jacksonville. 541-954-4715.

•••

Salon 238 owner Sandy Reynolds is excited to welcome Beth Henderson, the new nail technician. Starting June 6, Beth will offer excellent quality gel and acrylic nails and nail art. *New clients receive 10 percent off their first appointment.* Call to schedule yours at 541-899-7660. 7390 Highway 238, Ruch.

•••

Wilderville Store. Owner Laura Tracy is excited to present another summer concert series for 2019. The bands and performance dates are not yet confirmed, but four concerts are planned: the first in mid-July, two more in August, and one in September. All concerts will be held in the outdoor Slate Creek venue behind the store. A small cover charge of \$4 or \$5 per person supports the local musicians. Food and beverages will be for sale. Laura also plans several movie nights, "Movies Under the Stars," on a big screen outdoors. These events are free. 7845 Old Redwood Highway, Wilderville.

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.


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OPINION

Keeping it wild in the Wellington Wildlands for Chris Bratt

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

I intended to write an article in memory of Chris Bratt, highlighting all he has done for the environment in the Applegate. I quickly realized that 700 words is far too few to describe the major contributions Chris made. While pondering what to write, I wondered, "What might Chris say?" After some thought, I came to the conclusion that Chris would say, "Stick to the issues, protect our environment, and save Wellington Wildlands." So instead of writing this article about Chris Bratt, I decided to write it in his honor and in defense of the Applegate wildlands he loved.

Currently, the most threatened wildland in the Applegate Watershed is the Wellington Wildlands, a 7,527-acre roadless area located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land west of Ruch. The roadless area includes portions of China Gulch, Long Gulch, and Balls Branch of Humbug Creek. It is also the central feature of the proposed Center Applegate Ridge Trail as it traverses the slopes of the Applegate Valley from Jacksonville to Grants Pass. Although not remote, the area is wild and spectacular. It is a wilderness in our backyard and represents one of the most accessible wildlands in our region.

The BLM identified and inventoried roadless areas in western Oregon for their 2016 Resource Management Plan (RMP). In the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the BLM identified 5,711 acres of roadless habitat surrounding Wellington Butte as a Lands With Wilderness Characteristics (LWC). The area met all requirements for LWC protection, including intact, unroaded habitat, the potential for primitive forms of recreation, and adequate size—it is 711 acres beyond the 5,000-acre threshold. (Citizens have identified an additional 1,816 acres not acknowledged by the BLM.)

Much of the area is colonized by beautiful oak woodland, dense chaparral, sweeping grasslands, and scattered stands of conifer forest, including old-growth stands in the Balls Branch of Humbug Creek and Long Gulch. Although it supports only scattered timber on arid, relatively unproductive slopes, the BLM has identified some potentially merchantable timber within the Wellington Wildlands. Singularly focused on timber production, the BLM chose to exclude the forested acreage from the larger LWC proposal. By doing so, the BLM reduced the inventoried portion of the Wellington Wildlands to below the 5,000-acre threshold for protection, thus eliminating LWC status for this important wildland and allocating the area as "Harvest Land Base."

The BLM has proposed its first timber sale in the Applegate Valley under the 2016 RMP. The "planning area" for this timber sale—known as the Middle Applegate Timber Sale—extends from Bishop Creek across the Middle Applegate Watershed to Slagle Creek, including the Wellington Wildlands.

Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) has been working hard to protect the Wellington Wildlands for many years. With the help of Applegate residents and expert filmmakers Ed Keller and Greeley Wells, we created a short film titled *Saving Wellington*. The film highlights the Wellington Wildlands and explores the controversy surrounding the Middle Applegate Timber Sale. The film has been well received and was recently featured at the Ashland Independent Film Festival.

Chris Bratt proposed that we show this film to the BLM, which we did in April, just two days after Chris passed away. We also handed BLM a petition to save Wellington Wildlands with over 400 signatures, including those of many Applegate residents.

ANN is asking the BLM to exclude this important wildland from the Middle Applegate Timber Sale planning area. BLM has refused, telling us they lack the discretion to do so. Apparently, BLM land managers feel that community concerns and input cannot be addressed under the 2016 RMP, which emphasizes timber production over all other resource values. This leaves the Wellington Wildlands vulnerable to road construction and commercial logging. These impacts could forever degrade the wilderness qualities of the area and preclude the area from future protections.

Wellington Wildlands is far more valuable to this community as a wilderness to explore and enjoy than it is for timber production. It is the backdrop to our valley and many of our local wineries. The scenic and recreational values far outweigh the area's marginal timber values. Our local economy has moved on from the days of boom-and-bust logging; unfortunately, the BLM has not moved forward with us and demands to live in the past. Despite immense public support for Wellington Wildlands, the BLM may log off our natural legacy.

In memory of Chris Bratt, we cannot let the BLM log the Wellington Wildlands. We love you, Chris, and we love our wildlands.

Save Wellington Wildlands!
Luke Ruediger
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Climate change?

Those of us who recall a time when fallout shelters were a thriving business in America might question Alan Journet (*Applegater* Spring 2019) when he pontificates about the dangers of climate change. We might, in fact, look back and ask the age old question, *qui bono* or "who benefits?"

There's usually a beneficiary at the driving end of a politically motivated meme—especially one that's promoted as fact, with dire consequences if a frightened public doesn't react in the appropriate manner. For instance, there was the questionable reality of yellow-cake uranium that drove the invasion of Iraq in 2003, and the rumor of a malicious videotape that prompted a spontaneous uprising in Benghazi prior to the 2012 election. Back in the 1970s there were dire warnings of a coming ice age. Maybe the most insidious false narrative of all was the fabricated tale of the Gulf of Tonkin incident during the Vietnam War, a Johnson-era falsehood that resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of American servicemen.

And now there's climate change, a phenomenon that's been ongoing since planet Earth was formed, including in the Applegate Valley.

But there are still backyards all across the nation with unused fallout shelters. Iran is gradually taking over Iraq and would in a minute if US troops were pulled out. The truth about Benghazi became apparent shortly after the 2012 election, and, thankfully, the ice age of the 70s never materialized. It's just a faint memory now in the minds of those who still recall it. Memories of the brave souls who were lost to perverted political ambitions in Vietnam, however, will be with the American public forever.

Purveyors of climate change, though, insist it's a real cause for concern, and they say it is being caused by people. If true, one would think the obvious answer would be fewer people. And even more pressing than human numbers would be the thousands of migrants from underdeveloped countries who force their way into industrialized nations each year to become super-consumers—and by extension, super polluters.

Knowing that, one might reasonably conclude that climate change promoters would be tripping all over each other in order to support President Trump's efforts to stop the influx of migrants at America's southern border.

But they're not doing that.

In fact, some of the folks who profess to worry about climate change are simultaneously engaged in the process of assisting migrants in their quest to become super-polluters. All of which induces many of us to suspect that climate change might be political after all. And that takes us back to our original question—*qui bono*?

Robert Bennett, Grants Pass

•••

Fond memories of Chris Bratt

It's hard to write this today thinking that Christopher Bratt isn't going to be here to add his commentary as he so often did. After being on the *Applegater* board with Chris for seven years, I can only say what we all think—what a loss to the Applegate Valley and to the many causes in our area. Chris not only volunteered on many boards and committees over the years, but he also put his money where his mouth was and financially supported many nonprofits. He tirelessly worked for the *Applegater* for years before and after I was on the board. He was always available to talk through any situation that was developing. He was a wonderful advocate for rural communities and a logical and clear thinker for what he considered as right and just. He will be missed. Not everyone always agreed with Christopher (and vice versa), but he was always willing to listen and to be courteous and a real gentleman to whoever was expressing an opinion.

While words can never fully express how much someone means, language and the written word can still provide comfort, hope, and even inspiration. Chris loved the *Applegater* and was a force for keeping it going for many years. Let's never forget him and his wonderful and generous spirit. Our hearts go out to his family.
Paula Strickland Rissler, Jacksonville

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 and mention 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.



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POETRY CORNER

At Orcas Island

by Chris Bratt (2009)

What I see when coming to rest
at the edge of the sound
is exactly what I came to see

with family cottaged along
the shore.
I let me be me and you be you
while in the sun-reflected waters

we deck the narrow handrails
with low tide remains.
Mother Nature has left us to drift

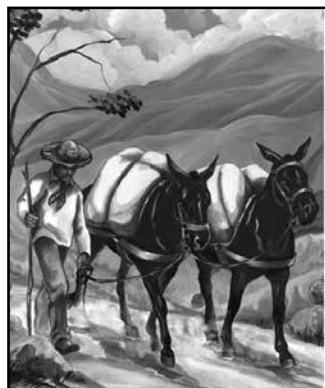
after wood, rock, and shell
until we find our limit
in this limitless environment.

Out in the kayaks, persons I know
carefully drop crab pots
splashing paddles in pristine seas

and being comfortable in my own
beliefs and yours
I see no need for promises

except to Mother Nature herself
who calls on us
to hear the sound's

creative spirit of the first peoples
and sustain the bounty
of this striking landscape.



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BOOK REVIEW

The Overstory

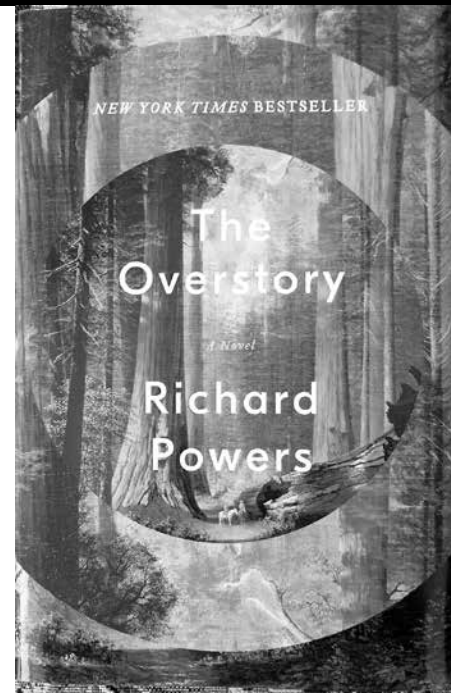
Richard Powers
(2018) Paperback
now available.

In *The Overstory*, Richard Powers seems at first to be writing short stories about immigrant families branching across the North American continent, each planting trees from their homeland. Specific trees represent the character of individual families. These are powerful stories that would have made a great book even if each had remained a work in itself. But then, as generations sprout forth, individuals connect like roots underground, like branches overhead, and the individual stories become one story, an overstory. Their stories become a history of the earth and especially of our nation from the perspective of trees.

The design of the book is the same as that of the trees: roots, trunk, crown, seeds. Each tree—each arriving family—expands its roots in American soil. The destiny of the nation and of earth itself depends upon experiencing and nurturing this living connection.

Questions arise. Do we wonder about our connection to earth? Does our wonder rise from deeper than our life here on this good ground in this amazing place? Is the wonder that we *are* this earth? Is our origin the same as the origin of the tree? What is life worth? It is just such questions that the trees ask. And their response? “A chorus of living wood sings to the woman: If your mind were only a slightly greener thing, we’d drown you in meaning. The pine she leans against says: Listen. There’s something you need to hear.”

A quarter of the way through the novel, I couldn’t stop reading. Curled up in my big leather chair, I was conscious only of the swaying branches of a redwood on the Lost Coast of California where I sat with



two of the novel’s main characters committed to saving the ancient tree from being logged. Powers mesmerized me. When I finished, I went immediately back to page one...well, not immediately. I went into the kitchen to make a cup of tea, then sipped it while gazing at the enormous ponderosa pines rising to unimaginable heights right in my own backyard.

Here in the Applegate we know trees. Most of us have read books in virtually every genre—to prepare our minds and spirits to care for this magnificent environment. Local authors have written the histories of our people and our rich forests. Richard Powers, too, is writing our own *Overstory*, including recognizable Oregon settings. What he adds is his genius for language and an intricate construction of story itself through which the very meaning of our lives and the very life of earth itself flow unendingly.

Powers summarizes, “We need to stop being visitors here. We need to live where we live, to become indigenous again. ... If we could see green, we’d see a thing that keeps getting more interesting the closer we get. If we could see what green was doing, we’d never be lonely or bored. If we could understand green, we’d learn how to grow all the food we need in layers three deep, on a third of the ground we need right now, with plants that protect one another from pests and stress. If we knew what green wanted, we wouldn’t have to choose between the earth’s interest and ours. They’d be the same.”

After reading *The Overstory* I believed his words, one-hundred percent deep and a thousand branches high.

Christin Lore Weber
storyweaver1@gmail.com

■ FISH HATCHERY PARK

Continued from page 1

to float and fish the Applegate. Floating, though, is allowed, and a popular Tahiti-raft run is from Fish Hatchery Park to Whitehorse Park on the Rogue at the confluence with the Applegate.

Sarah Garceau, director of Josephine County Parks, is enthusiastic about improvements and plans for more at Fish Hatchery. Most recently, an ADA-compliant toilet facility was added to Fish Hatchery-North. On September 28, Josephine County Parks will celebrate National Public Lands Day with a volunteer event at Fish Hatchery Park-Turtle Lane. Reorganizing department personnel and the budget has cleared the way for all three sections of the park to remain open year-round, putting an end to the annual seasonal closure of Fish Hatchery-South and Turtle Lane, a definite park improvement.

“We are reviving our volunteer programs,” Sarah added, noting that Josephine County Parks is entirely self-funded by day-use and camping fees,



In 2000, Josephine County Parks partnered with the Bureau of Land Management and the Applegate Watershed Restoration Project to plant a “Global ReLeaf Forest” in Fish Hatchery Park.

donations, and grants. Volunteers who donate eight hours to a park project can receive an annual parking pass. If interested, complete the online application on the Parks Department website at josephinecountyparks.com.

Enjoy all the recreation offered by Fish Hatchery Park this summer!

Lisa E. Baldwin
leb.97527@gmail.com

DON'T MISS ONLINE ARTICLES! VISIT APPLGATER.ORG.

- Chris Bratt tributes in full
- Stories on the Land excerpt • Vaccine opinion piece

Managing your land for biodiversity

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Many of us are lucky to own property that borders publicly owned Bureau of Land Management or US Forest Service land. In many areas that land still has intact or healthy native-plant communities that support an abundance and diversity of native pollinators, birds, and wildlife. Many of our privately owned properties also benefit from having relatively intact habitat. However, around our homes, gardens, farms, and developments, in many cases that habitat has been degraded, altered, or eliminated.

Through the use of native plants, landowners can restore or increase the biodiversity on their land to compensate for the habitat loss caused by homesite or farm development. The Applegate is rich in biodiversity, partly because it is located in the Siskiyou Mountains, one of the most botanically diverse regions of North America, but also because of the large amount of publicly owned land that has not been altered and developed in the same way that private land has. Eighty-six percent of the United States is privately owned, and 45 percent of Oregon is privately owned. As private landowners there is a lot we can do to manage for biodiversity to support intact native-plant communities and wildlife habitat.

“Landscaping in this crowded world carries both moral and ecological

responsibilities that we can no longer ignore,” says entomologist Douglas Tallamy. The research of Dr. Tallamy, an entomology professor at the University of Delaware and author of *Bringing Nature Home* (Timber Press, 2009), has shown that nonnative ornamental plants support 29 times less biodiversity than native ornamental plants. Currently, however, 80 percent of the plants in our suburban landscapes in the US are nonnative. This is a problem because 90 percent of the insects that eat plants can develop and reproduce only on the plants with which they share an evolutionary history.

Here are some examples: Monarch butterfly caterpillars eat and develop on native milkweed; Clodius parnassian butterfly caterpillars eat and develop on native bleeding hearts; buckwheat blue butterfly caterpillars eat and develop on native buckwheat; red admiral butterfly caterpillars eat and develop on stinging nettles; snowberry checkerspot butterfly caterpillars eat and develop on native snowberry plants—and the list goes on.

Without the native plants that insects need to reproduce, the food web for native species is diminished or destroyed. Tallamy’s research demonstrates that native plants (annuals, perennials, and woody species) support, in general, *three times* as many species of butterflies and



Plant native plants on your land to increase biodiversity and benefits of pollinators and wildlife. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

were those with a plant composition of more than 70 percent native plants. Although this research was for chickadees on the East Coast, the same is probably true for many bird species in our region as well.

The US Natural Resources Conservation Service also advises a plant composition in yards that’s at least 75 percent native. By incorporating native plants into your landscape you are

creating a sanctuary that benefits wildlife and biodiversity. Planting native plants in degraded habitat in undeveloped areas of your land increases biodiversity and benefits pollinators and wildlife. Native potted nursery plants grown from locally sourced native seeds can be planted in appropriate areas in the fall for the best establishment. Locally sourced native seeds can also be sown into burn pile areas, disturbed sites, and areas with sparse vegetation in the fall and winter to increase species richness and diversity.

Native wildflowers and shrubs are beautiful! Reestablishing native plants in an area currently dominated by nonnative grasses or invasive species will beautify your land and leave an ecologically beneficial legacy for the future. Suzie Savoie
Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds
klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com

moths as introduced plants. Native woody plants, specifically, used as ornamentals in gardens support *14 times* as many species as introduced ornamental plants. Plants and animals that have evolved together depend upon each other for survival, whereas many cultivated and hybridized plants sold in nurseries may lack essential nutrients and provide inadequate access to pollen and nectar, or they are not used as larval host plants. They are essentially useless to native insects and wildlife.

The use of native plants in landscaping is essential to ensure breeding birds have enough insect prey to eat. Because caterpillars are so reliant on native plants to reproduce, caterpillars tell us a lot about the health of an ecosystem. Researchers have found that a single breeding pair of Carolina chickadees must catch 7,500 caterpillars to rear one clutch of young and that the only yards able to produce enough chickadees to sustain a stable population

creating a sanctuary that benefits wildlife and biodiversity. Planting native plants in degraded habitat in undeveloped areas of your land increases biodiversity and benefits pollinators and wildlife. Native potted nursery plants grown from locally sourced native seeds can be planted in appropriate areas in the fall for the best establishment. Locally sourced native seeds can also be sown into burn pile areas, disturbed sites, and areas with sparse vegetation in the fall and winter to increase species richness and diversity.

Native wildflowers and shrubs are beautiful! Reestablishing native plants in an area currently dominated by nonnative grasses or invasive species will beautify your land and leave an ecologically beneficial legacy for the future.

■ BRAD BARNES

Continued from page 1

22 years of those years he was the logistics-maintenance officer!

I would hazard a guess that most Applegate residents have not had the pleasure of meeting Brad, since most of his workdays are based around the maintenance and repair of the district’s 28 vehicles and engines and seven fire stations. However, because Brad also serves the district as an emergency medical technician (EMT), a National Fire Protection Association firefighter, and an engine boss at the rank of division chief, he does frequently go on emergency calls.

Brad, along with his wife, Colleen, and their four children, moved to the Applegate Valley in the late 1980s. Shortly after, Brad happened to notice a “Volunteers Wanted” sign in front of the AVFD headquarters. A trained mechanic, Brad decided to volunteer his mechanical skills to help the district. Then-chief Ron Yarborough said he’d rather train Brad as a volunteer firefighter. Excited at the prospect of serving his community, Brad attended the very first Rogue Valley Firefighter Academy in 1988!

Over the years Brad has seen a lot of changes in our fire district. A total of seven stations now dot the valley to meet constituents’ needs. (The closer the station and fire engines, the faster firefighters can get to our homes!) And the district now has seven paid staff members, along with dozens of volunteers, to respond to our emergencies across the valley.

I usually have our scanner on at home to be aware of activities around the valley. I’ve noticed that Brad comes across as very calm, almost unflappable. He said he taught himself to do this because it’s important to be “calm and collected” for the patient. He also feels it indicates leadership and control of the situation.

I asked Brad about his most frightening call. He described fighting an interior structure fire, saying it’s an eerie feeling being inside a building with flames all around. It’s hard to breathe, the visibility is low, and you have to yell to communicate with your partner. He said the new SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatuses) really help with communications as well as safe breathing. He was quick to say that saving a home or any structure from fire is *extremely* satisfying and rewarding, especially being able to help save a family’s valued possessions.

Brad also shared how rewarding it feels to help an elderly person who has slipped and fallen in the bathroom, on the stairs, etc. And delivering babies? I asked. Oddly enough, he has not delivered a baby on a call in all of these 30 years!

Brad told me that he really likes the challenges of fighting wildland forest fires.



Fire engine renovated by Brad Barnes, former Chief Fillis, and Terry Riley in 2006.



In retirement, Brad Barnes will spend more time fishing and restoring old cars.

He described how the weather plays an integral part in any wildland fire; it can differ from one part of a fire to another, and it can change quickly. (I’m thinking maybe there’s a bit of scientist here!)

Brad also noted that he feels our constituents are super savvy and “dialed-in” to their responsibilities as landowners by providing safe driveways and bridges, and, of course, by continuing to do their fuel-reduction chores each year. (So let’s keep it up—firefighters *do* notice and will go the extra mile for us!)

I asked Brad what his most unexpected surprise was as a firefighter—something that he hadn’t expected to feel. His response: having to perform CPR on a friend, realizing that the outcome might not be what he was hoping for. He said it’s still difficult for him, even after all these years.

Happier thoughts were needed, so I asked about retirement plans. What will Brad and Colleen be doing next year? Brad plans to find more time for hunting and fishing, both fresh and saltwater. (I forgot to ask who does the cooking of said bounties.) Brad also spends a lot of his downtime restoring old cars. A 1955 Dodge Royal Lancer is his next project.

And, of course, there are the grandchildren to visit! Brad’s extremely proud of his grandson, who contracts as a wildland firefighter during the summers.

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneor@gmail.com
Note: Watch for my article in the next issue (fall) of the Applegater. I will discuss the logistics-maintenance officer’s duties and tasks and include some cool pictures. You might be surprised...and possibly interested?

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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Busy spring at Applegate School

The Applegate School community had a busy spring, with students doing felting, clay, gardening, field trips, competitions, outdoor education, and state testing. We have also been enjoying the scoreboard donated by Evergreen Federal Bank.

In March, fabric artist Corbin Brashear gave felting classes to all our students, who created wonderful little fuzzy creatures. Artist Jeremy Criswell spent several days helping students design and create tiles to complete our mosaic mural wall. The newest addition to the wall is a river with numerous plant and animal residents. The Applegate School community is deeply grateful to both artists, Corbin and Jeremy, for their dedication and for being an inspiration to the students.

Mrs. Hirschmugl's K-1 students worked on a class garden in April. Working with volunteer and retired Ruch teacher Ida Lawrence, students planted spinach, lettuce, kale, peas, broccoli, carrots, strawberries, pansies, and sweet peas. In class, students learned about the seed-to-plant life cycle and the parts of a plant and studied what plants grow above ground and which ones grow below ground.

Second and third graders in Mrs. Halsted's class were busy with state testing. But they also enjoyed a field trip to North Mountain Park Nature Center in Ashland, where they explored "Animals of the Rogue Valley" as part of their science unit. To complete their day, they stopped for lunch and bowling. K-3 students visited Applegate Library to learn about the summer reading program, then toured Applegate Fire District's Station 1.

Nine fourth- and fifth-graders from Mr. Scull's class entered the district science fair. Tate Burton, Emily Hall, and Lydia Kurth won participant ribbons. Jordan Wise O'Driscoll brought home a silver ribbon. Mattix Embury received second place and a gold ribbon. Hamza DiBiasi, Elos Cookson, David Cross, and Titus Vidlak all won first place and gold ribbons in their various categories. Congratulations to these budding scientists.

Fifth-grader Joseph Sahr and eighth-grader Rachel Peterson won the Rotary Students of the Year awards for Applegate School. Second-grader Hunter Morrison won third place in the district spelling bee, competing against mostly third graders.

In May school staff welcomed incoming kindergartners at the Kinder Launch and sixth-graders participated in outdoor education at Pacifica, exploring the



District science fair participants.
All photos by Linda Kappen.



Rotary Students of the Year
Rachel Peterson and Joseph Sahr.



Second-grader Hunter Morrison won third place in the spelling bee.

wonders of nature related to this area. Eighth-grade students previewed high school at Hidden Valley High School for a morning and attended an evening open house there with their parents.

Community volunteers enjoyed a tea in May. Middle-school students, under Diana West's supervision, baked goodies, and leadership team members served at the tea. Two volunteers, Sharon and Vince Vidlak, received the Jasmine Williams Service Award for their commitment and volunteer service to Applegate School.

Fourth- and fifth-graders explored the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon, from May 29 - 31, and eighth-graders visited Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, Washington, on May 30 - 31.

Upcoming events include track-and-field day on June 6, eighth-grade graduation and dance on June 10, and Fun Day on June 12, the last day of school. From June 17 - 22, Applegate and Williams Schools will cosponsor "Critter Camp" for prospective kindergartners. This event helps prepare new students for their school experience in September, focusing on the social aspect of school, not the academics.

Jean Hall • jhall80@juno.com

Ruch School celebrates Earth Day

All 225 students at Ruch Outdoor Community School gathered in April to celebrate Earth Day. The school is unique in its commitment and approach to holistic environmental education, and students are actively engaged in a hands-on program.



Cathy Rodgers discussed climate change effects on Antarctica with 6th-, 7th-, and 8th-grade students at Ruch School.

The core curriculum focuses on sustainability, which is incorporated in all aspects of the academic and experiential learning environment. The impact on students is reflected in thoughtful discussions about environmental challenges facing our planet and community. Students offered practical recommendations and suggested actions we can take to help protect earth's vital ecosystems.

Earth Day activities for sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students began with my presentation about Antarctica and climate change. (I recently returned from my third trip there.) Antarctica is the coldest, driest, and windiest continent on earth, holding 90 percent of the world's glaciers and over 70 percent of the world's fresh water supply. It is on this amazing, pristine rock- and ice-covered landmass, over 8,000 miles from the beautiful Applegate watershed, that evidence of climate change is readily visible.

Students enjoyed a slide show of humpback whales feeding, leopard seals hunting, fur seals playing, and inquisitive penguins marching on the ice and swimming in frigid waters. I described Antarctica as a remote, raw wilderness teeming with wildlife, an ice-covered continent that offers magnificent vistas of turquoise reflections in the ice, steely gray waters, icebergs of all shapes and sizes, and a silence broken only by the thunderous sounds of glaciers calving and humpback whales surfacing to take a breath.

Students were fascinated about the reasons that Antarctica, one and a half times larger than the US, is so special. It's the one continent that no country owns. The 1959 Antarctic Treaty dedicated the waters and land south of 60 degrees latitude solely to peace and scientific research. Today there are 48 countries and 66 scientific research stations conducting research on climate change, the ozone, endangered species, aquatic habitats, and other topics essential to the health of our planet. During the peak summer months, from November to March, there are almost

4,000 scientists conducting research. During the cold, dark winter months, fewer than 1,000 scientists remain.

The implications of global warming at the far reaches of the planet and here in our community formed the basis for most of the students' discussions. In a questionnaire students shared their opinions on the most significant environmental challenges and offered suggestions on how to help protect our environment.

Students cited greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, deforestation, and loss of habitat as their top areas of concern. Locally, the students overwhelmingly expressed concerns about forest fires and their impact on air quality. Students were equally as articulate about steps that could be taken to help protect the environment. Mireille Caldera suggested forming volunteer groups to pick up trash and reminded everyone to recycle more. Brooke Nix suggested using solar power and reusable shopping bags. She also thought more should be done to develop eco-friendly products. Grace Vinyard-Bakke advocated using less plastic and conserving water. Jaden Leonard wanted people to stop throwing cigarettes out car windows because they can cause devastating fires.

Students also shared examples of what they personally do to help protect the environment. Nikolaus Hemming composts. Cira Peters rides her bike. Evan Wallman likes to volunteer and tries to reduce consumption of natural resources. Olivia Wertich helps pick up trash alongside roadways.

Rounding out Earth Day, students planted a new garden at the school. Along the Applegate River they planted ponderosa pine and willow tree starts, donated by the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council and Rooted in Hope. The day was a great reminder that each of us can make a difference in protecting our environment.

Cathy Rodgers
cathyrodgers55@gmail.com

Williams School is bustling!

Williams Elementary School has been bustling with activities from statewide testing to field trips, assemblies, and award ceremonies to honor students.

Two fifth-graders received special honors this spring. In March, the Grants Pass Rotary Club honored Kimberly Musack as Rotary Student of the Year from Williams School. During a Rotary luncheon, Kimberly presented her prepared speech and received her award. In April, Savanna Rogers represented Williams School at the district-wide spelling bee and won third place. Congratulations, Kimberly and Savanna!

During March and April, students had the opportunity to visit White Oak Farm and Education Center in Williams, which serves students and communities in Jackson and Josephine counties. During student visits, the program staff helped children develop connections between their food, their local ecosystem, and shared agricultural heritage.

On April 30, 21 students participated in Play It Forward, this year's strings concert in the school gymnasium. This concert showcases students who are learning the violin and guitar, recognizing their efforts and progress in music. Special thanks to Jessie Casey and Amber Guient with the Sugarloaf Community Association for organizing staffing and classes. Additional thanks to Principal Steven Fuller and Mindi Gallegos for the use of the school facility and instruments and their expert advice and partnership support. The school is also grateful for the Cow Creek Tribe Grant, which, in addition to revenue from these annual concerts, makes the Williams Strings Program possible.

Music teachers Willie Warwick and Barbara Torbert deserve special thanks for sharing their joy and talent and for their commitment to teach and inspire the next generation of Williams musicians.

In May, fifth-grade students visited OMSI, the Oregon Museum for Science

and Industry, for an overnight stay in Portland. Fourth- and fifth-grade classes visited Crater Lake and North Mountain Park in Ashland. To welcome incoming kindergarten students, the school held "Kickoff to Kindergarten" to familiarize students and their families with the skills needed by the time school starts. Families received a free kit containing age-appropriate materials—like floor puzzles, colorful wooden shapes, blocks, magnetic letters and numbers, etc.—to use at home. Another May event was the annual Volunteer Tea to recognize and thank family members and community friends who take time to volunteer at our school.

June events will include saying goodbye to fifth-grade students and, along with Applegate School, holding a week-long "Critter Camp" for incoming kindergartners. All Williams Elementary students will enjoy jet-boat rides and lunch at the OK Corral on June 5.

Jean Hall
jhall80@juno.com



Savanna Rogers holding her spelling bee trophy.



Ayda Hayden and Stella Cox holding baby goats at White Oak Farm.

CHRIS BRATT TRIBUTES

Continued from page 17

convictions and his caring nature. Our community is diminished by his absence.

Thank you, Chris, for all your efforts to preserve and maintain the unique and very special ecosystems within the Applegate watershed, specifically, and the Klamath Siskiyou region, in general.



Paul Tipton

It is difficult to fit so large a life into a few words. To know Chris Bratt (also known as “Chrissy” and “Tobalito”) you need to have experienced his loving, though uncompromising presence. His beliefs were based solidly on facts and grounded in his commitment to make the world a better place for all, eschewing governmental and political “mumbo jumbo.” Working together as co-chairs of Applegate Citizens Opposed to Toxic Sprays in the early 1980s, inspired by the imminent threat of helicopter spraying of herbicides on BLM land near homes and the Applegate School (and Chris’s mother Bebb’s admonishment that “you should do something about that”), we appealed clear-cut timber sales that were being justified by the falsehood that the use of herbicides would somehow miraculously allow regeneration of trees within five years. Those appeals were only the beginning, but they led to a ban on herbicide use on federal lands in the West and helped create a movement toward better forestry practices and agency accountability.

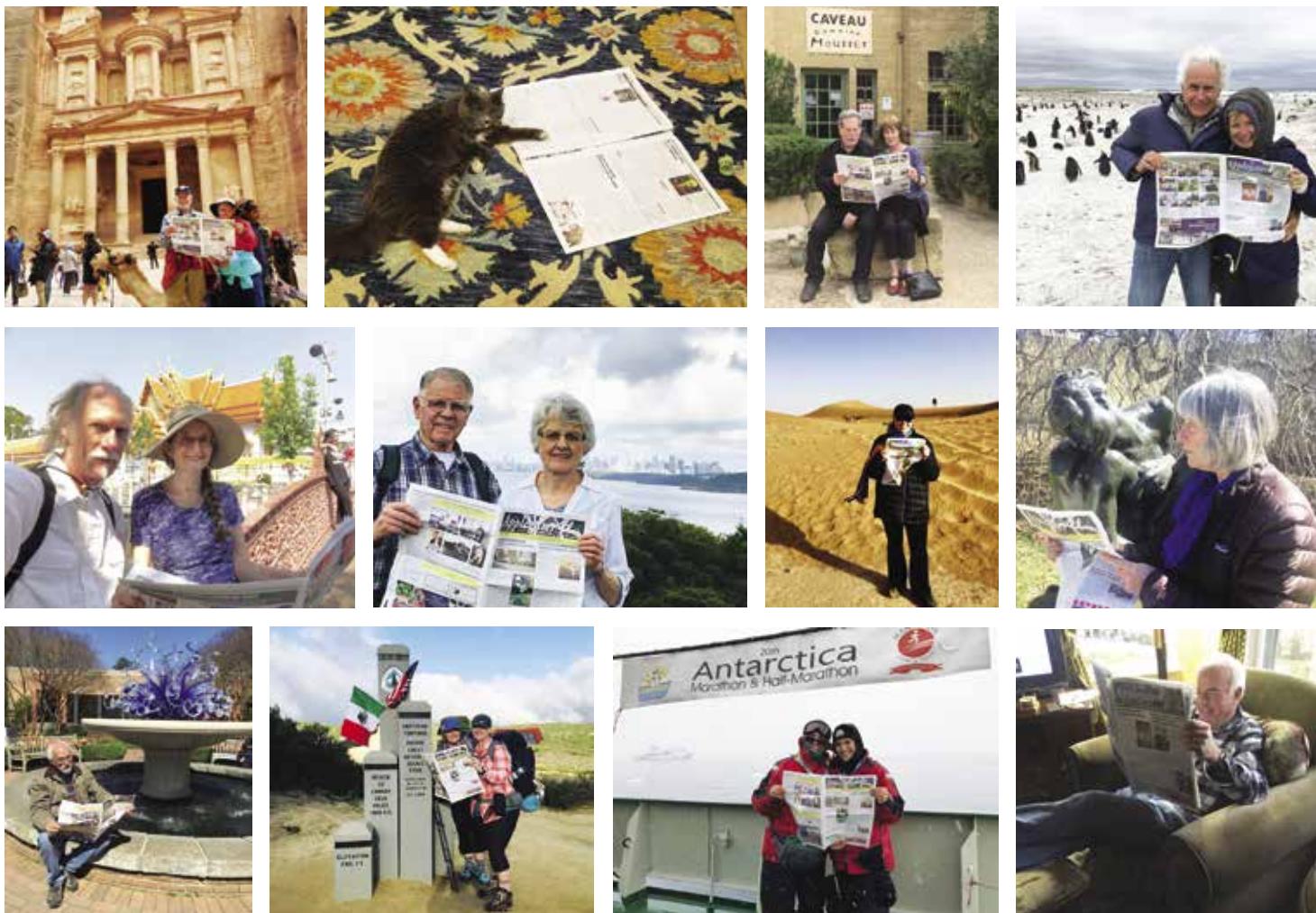
Chris’s involvement in forestry and environmental issues dominated the last 40 years of his life, though he was no slacker in championing just causes in his earlier years. Part of his legacy lies in successful organizations like Geos Institute and the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, where he served in many board positions and which will carry his work forward for the benefit of future generations.

A master woodworker, he also leaves a legacy of beautiful homes, remodels, additions, and creative projects where his fine work will be obvious for many years to come.

This man was generous, joyful, loving, encouraging, prone to sing you a song or give you a kiss and a hug. He was father, brother, mentor, and friend to me and many others. His love will continue to permeate the Earth. He liked to sing, “When I’m on my journey, don’t you weep after me.” That will be difficult to hold to.

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:

- Tom and Kathy Carstens**, while in Petra, Jordan, read up on required camel-riding lessons found on the Gater’s camelid pages.
- Moose the Cat** responds to classified ads in the Applegater for expert mouse-hunting within one mile from his Thompson Creek home.
- Mike and Cindy Phelps** study the wines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Provence, France, in the Gater’s extensive international wine section.
- Larry and Bobbie Winters** take classes found in the Applegater on how to chill with the penguins on the Falkland Islands.

Photos, middle row, left to right:

- Tom Schwarz and Joy LaSpina** browse the latest Gater for the top ten temples to visit in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Jack and Marcella Lynch**, in Sydney, Australia, check the Applegater for directions to Tasmania and New Zealand, their next stops.

- Diana Potts** finds herself in the Sahara Desert, three hours off-road from Tamegroute, Morocco, with only the Gater to guide her way home.
- Diana Coogle** and a naked woman in the Hirschhorn Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC, discuss a perplexing article about copy editing in the Applegater.

Photos, bottom row, left to right:

- Mike Kohn** reads the Gater’s detailed information about the curious Chihuly sculpture at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.
- Kathy Kliever and Jody Hill**, in Campo, CA, study the Pacific Crest Trail map in the Applegater before hiking the 109.5-mile Section A.
- Cathy Rodgers and daughter Jenny Emick** search for their times in the Applegater after running yet another half marathon on Antarctica.
- Dave Weber**, at home in Eugene, checks out the mountain-climbing reviews in the Gater before deciding on his next conquest.

Greeley Wells

As I contemplate this loss of Christopher Bratt, I am moved by and awakened to who he was. I had no reason, I guess, to think of this when he was still here. Somehow this missing is bringing him into focus for me.

Oh Chris, my elder, my example, my prototype of how to be and how to do. Thank you for being in my life. You led such a wonderful life, full of family and

community, craft and good deeds, poetry and meaningful commitments. Your kindness and heart, your intelligence and creativity, that pool of light you showed around you are a wonderful example for us all to bathe in. I am so grateful for your being in my life in such a wholesome way.

Jona (his wife), you are always there, too, at his side, always joyful and supportive. And you, too, are so creative and full of life, for family and poetry and joy with

community and friendship. The pair of you make a model for us all. I’m so glad you are still in our lives. And as it’s hard to imagine this world without Christopher, I’m so glad you are still in it, helping to shine his and your own lights.

Some tributes have been shortened due to space constraints. See full tributes online at applegater.org.

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