

Applegater

Photo by Teya Jacobi

applegater.org

FALL 2019
Volume 12, No. 3

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

Celebrating
~25~
Years

HELP CELEBRATE THE
APPLEGATER'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

Tickets on sale September 10.
See page 4 for more information.

Well-loved pigs and goats in the valley

BY DIANA COOGLE

The bottom line for Old MacDonald's Farm is money. When the moneymakers are pigs and goats in the Applegate, though, a lot of love flows through.

Nikki Elmore, who raises pigs in Williams, says, "Pigs are the most interesting creatures God put on this planet." They use mud as a sunscreen. They are as loyal as dogs and can be trained, as they were in World War II to sniff out bombs.

"Turbo's my buddy," Nikki says about her big York-Duroc-Hampshire.

"I take a cup of coffee and go for walks with her. She grunts back when I talk to her. Buying Turbo from a kid at the fair was the best purchase I ever made," she adds with affection.

Just as Nikki loves her pigs, Westi Haughey, at Twin Pear Farm, on Beaver Creek Road, loves her goats. She attends every birth and sleeps with does in labor. She kisses her goats (even the bucks). She says that raising goats after working a lucrative job in the San Francisco Bay Area "is pure love. I've never worked harder or cried more." (The tears are for kids lost in birthing.)

Like Nikki, Gilly Gifford, at Rogue Artisan Foods on Highway 238, raises pigs; like Westi, she raises goats. She loves her animals, including—besides her



Westi Haughey, at Twin Pear Farm, gives lots of affection to her goats (and vice versa). Photo: Diana Coogle.

eight pigs, numerous piglets, and herd of goats—the rabbits, ducks, and white turkeys running around the farmyard. Her permaculture farming methods tie plants and animals together: she plants vegetables and medicinal herbs for the pigs and goats, who nibble on its bounty through a fence, and she raises rabbits for their manure. But farmers can't exist just on love. Gilly sells milk, duck eggs, pork, and goat meat for income.

Influenced by her grandfather's farm, Gilly had wanted to be a farmer since childhood. For two years in Portugal and Spain she was a WWOOFer (a participant in "Working Weekends on Organic Farms," a worldwide program for volunteers to work on farms); she went to

See PIGS AND GOATS, page 15.

APPLEGATER NEWSMAGAZINE PRESENTS
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STORYTELLING

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STORYTELLING | DAVID MODICA ON GUITAR | SILENT AUCTION | DINNER
5 - 8 PM | WILD RIVER PUBLIC HOUSE, 533 NE F STREET, GRANT'S PASS
\$50 PER PERSON. TICKETS AVAILABLE AT RUCH COUNTRY STORE AND EVENTBRITE.COM.

MORE INFORMATION: APPLEGATER.ORG AND FACEBOOK.COM/APPLEGATERNEWSMAGAZINE OR EMAIL GATER@APPLEGATER.ORG.
MUST BE OVER 21. ALL SALES FINAL. NO REFUNDS.

Applegate Valley— a stomping ground for boutique wineries

BY CATHY RODGERS

At the core of Applegate Valley's wine-making community is a preserved rural-town culture. The charm of family-owned and -operated vineyards reflects long-standing family and farming values—dedication, passion, and an uncompromised commitment to quality over quantity—which are redefining our region as a wine enthusiast's destination.

Today's Applegate viticulture pioneers are blending old traditions and new techniques. Barns have been transformed into tasting rooms, barrels to tables, bottles to lamps—all contributing to the rustic homegrown charm of our valley's wineries.

The casual wine-tasting atmosphere is more like a visit with family and an opportunity to make new friends. The experience is enhanced by award-



Duane and Kathy Bowman, owners of Cricket Hill Winery, recently opened a tasting room in the McCully House. Photo: Whit Parker.

winning wines that distinguish our region among the best, tastings that are enjoyed

with a gorgeous valley backdrop, and homespun stories that warm the heart. Small, family-owned wineries show as much character, structure, and variety as the wines they produce.

Cricket Hill Winery. In the Little Applegate, Cricket Hill's vineyard sits on land rich in history.

Once used by the Dakubetede Indians as a salmon fishing

camp, it was later hydraulically mined for
See BOUTIQUE WINERIES, page 21.

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AGRICULTURE - WINE

A hearty welcome to the *Applegater's* new board members

Jeanette LeTourneux

Jeanette grew up in Salem, Oregon, with a family who loved camping, hiking, downhill skiing, singing songs around the campfire (and any other opportunity), and reading anything and everything. She developed an early interest in journalism, but after her son was born with developmental disabilities (and eventually diagnosed with autism), she educated herself in these issues and, with encouragement and mentoring from her son's special education (SPED) teachers, became an SPED assistant with the Salem School District.

She helped start the first Emotional Growth Center for emotionally disturbed (ED) adolescents in the school district. While working in the program for ten years, she earned her teaching degree at Western Oregon University in language arts with a handicapped learner certificate. She then joined a day treatment program that provided a therapeutic environment for ED adolescents, and, for 20 years, was part of a treatment team with family therapists, a clinical



psychologist, and a consulting psychiatrist. She was fortunate to be able to share her love of hiking, camping, and cross-country skiing (along with the joy of reading literature aloud in groups and teaching language arts) with her students and earned her master's degree during that time.

After retiring in 2012, she and her husband sold their property and traveled for three years before deciding to settle in southern Oregon. They had camped on the Illinois River and other local areas over many years and loved the botanical diversity and wildness of the Siskiyou. They found their niche on Humburg Creek in November 2017, where they are finding that the people of the Applegate Valley are as fascinating and diverse as the botany!

Jeanette received the *Applegater* the first month she moved here (it was love at first read, she said) and has depended on it to get to know the people, businesses, events, issues, and recreation in this area.

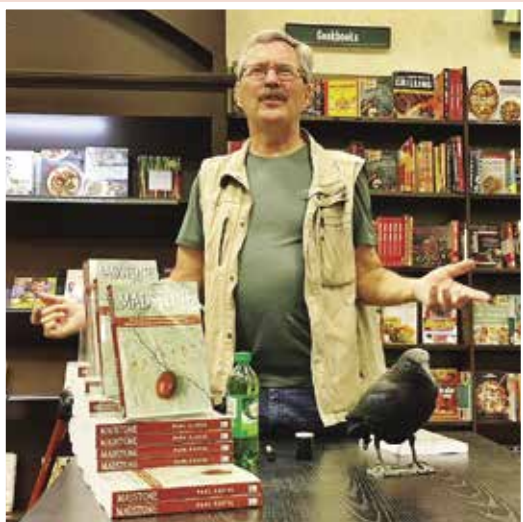
Now, as an *Applegater* board member, Jeanette is thrilled to be a part of this vital resource!

Paul Fattig

Having been duly elected to the *Applegater* board of directors, Applegate Valley resident Paul Fattig says he will happily join them in October.

Freely acknowledging a peculiar sense of humor, he describes himself as a retired/recovering journalist who fell off the wagon and started writing books. Sadly, he now resembles a panicked deer caught in the headlights, being a wee behind on his third book, which has to be to the publisher by September 30. But he agreed to whip out this brief biography to acquaint *Applegater* readers with the new board member.

Not one to take himself too seriously, he reports he is long of tooth yet has skillfully managed to live a life largely devoid of significance. Still, his life experiences are varied and include bucking hay in his youth, setting chokers in the logging woods, serving a hitch in the Marine Corps, eking out a degree in journalism at the University of Oregon, and writing for more than a dozen newspapers from Anchorage to California's Bay Area. Although he figures bucking hay in triple-digit summer afternoons was the real test of character, he hopes his nearly 40 years as a print journalist may at times be an asset to the *Applegater*, a publication he much appreciates.



Paul takes particular pride in having lived more than half his mortal existence in the Applegate Valley, his favorite dale on the planet. Indeed, his first two years of formal education were in the Applegate, albeit the far

western end at Wilderville Elementary School, where the kindly Mrs. Bagwell presided over the first and second grades in one room more than 60 years ago. The youngster was half of a rowdy duo representing the youngest of two Fattig sets of twins born 14 months apart, resulting in all four siblings in the same classroom. Some insist the harried teacher never fully recovered.

He notes his father, Paul R. Fattig Sr, spent his entire eight years of classroom education in the Union Town School near the mouth of the Little Applegate River.

The writer's paternal grandparents homesteaded in the Applegate Valley more than 110 years ago.

Following a decade living in the mid-Applegate Valley, he and his wife, Maureen, have resided in the Sterling Creek drainage for nearly two decades. After their offspring fledged, Maureen acquired a menagerie of rescued animals, including a small but boisterous herd of cats. The new board member and two large dogs are a mite jumpy.

Applegate Valley Neighborhood Festival to support community nonprofits

What do Applegaters do better than anyone? They come together to help each other. Volunteerism is the backbone of our community success and collaboration the helping hands that reach out to serve. With such a tapestry of talent in the Applegate Valley, it is no surprise our neighborhoods are turning community vision into tangible reality.

On Saturday, September 7, from 4 - 9 pm, RiverCrest Ranch, at 8127 Upper Applegate, is hosting a western-themed fundraiser to benefit several local nonprofits, including the *Applegater* Newsmagazine, which is celebrating its 25th year of sharing news with local residents and businesses; the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council, as it expands its Outdoor Education Program; the McKee Bridge Historical Society; a

new scholarship for one student wishing to attend Southern Oregon's Dental Assistant Education program; and FOTAS [Friends of the (Jackson County) Animal Shelter].

The Zombie Plowboys will be performing live, followed by an authentic western barbecue and then by the critically acclaimed, time-traveling documentary, "Romancing the West—How the West was Sung," featuring Christina and Butch Martin. The event will be intermingled with games of horseshoes, bocce, cornhole, yard chess, badminton, and a rubber ducky race.

The Groundwater Protection Ninjas are offering attendees a free screening of well water from 4 - 6 pm only. (See below for more details.)

For tickets and more information, contact Evelyn Winningham at 541-951-7055 or Cathy Rodgers at 541-702-2015.

APPLEGATE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVAL
Saturday | September 7 | 2019
 4 to 9 p.m. • 8127 Upper Applegate Road
 Come together for a day of Western themed fun at the Beautiful RiverCrest Ranch

Fun filled activities for our neighborhood families, including:

- **Romancing The West** - Legacy Tour 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Christina & Butch Martin, telling 240 year history of the West in a Theatrical multimedia presentation.
- **BBO Dinner** - Tri Tip, Chicken, Hot Dogs, Buns, Salad, Garlic Bread, Apple Cider and 1 Beverage
- **LIVE BAND** 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. The Zombies Plowboy Band
- **GAMES AREA • RIVERWALK**

Tickets available **TICKET**
Money Back!
 \$45 PER PERSON
 \$90 PER COUPLE
 \$300 TABLE OF EIGHT
 PRERELEASE ONLY!
 \$19.95 under 12

Proceeds benefit local charities:
 • APWC Outdoor Education Program
 • Applegater Newsmagazine
 • Southern Oregon Dental Assistant Education Scholarship
 • McKee Bridge Historical Society

Free well-water testing for nitrate

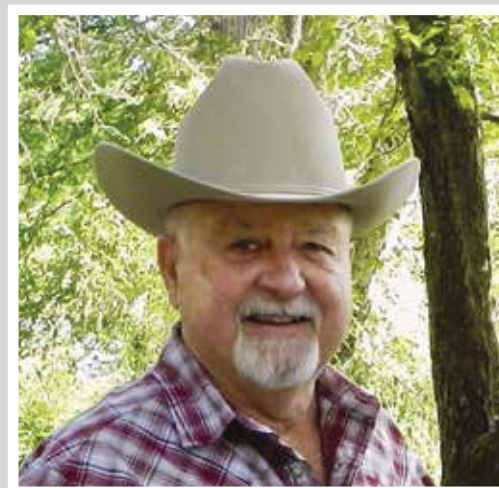
Are you interested in the quality of your well water? Attend the September 7 Applegate Valley Neighborhood Festival to find out more about your well water by bringing in a water sample for testing. At this community event, the Groundwater Protection Ninjas will offer a free screening for nitrate. And if you can wait the few minutes it takes to process your test results, you can also learn more about caring for your private well and septic tank and how to protect your drinking water supply from nitrate contamination.

"Nitrate is the main form of nitrogen used by plants, so it is important to have enough in the soil for crops, gardens, and landscaping. But nitrate from septic systems and animal waste can contaminate groundwater and become a health risk. Public water supplies are tested regularly for nitrate and must meet strict standards. If you get your drinking water from an individual household well, the only person who can decide to test the water to see if it is safe to drink is you," said Audrey Eldridge, an Upper Applegate neighbor and retired hydrogeologist. "It is especially important for households with pregnant or nursing women, newborns, or elderly persons to test for nitrate because of a rare condition called blue-baby syndrome and because of impacts increased by reduced immunity. However, all homeowners with private wells should be aware of their nitrate level."

Three Groundwater Protection Ninjas—Susan Baker, Catherine Lutes, and Audrey Eldridge—will be at the Applegate Valley Neighborhood Festival from 4 - 6 pm to conduct the test and help answer questions about how you can protect your drinking water supply. *Bring a cup of water in a clean jar.* The nitrate screening result will be ready in about ten minutes. This test is completely anonymous. If you know of neighbors who would like to have their well water tested for nitrate, but cannot attend this event, bring their sample in as well.

You can also learn how you can become a Groundwater Protection Ninja!

~ In Memoriam ~



Allan (Bud) Childers

September 25, 1937 - June 6, 2019
 Cantrall Buckley Park Ranger 1974 - 1985

Photo: Tom Carstens.

Storm the castle with pumpkins!

BY MAGGIE IVES

Saturday and Sunday, October 12 - 13, mark the dates of the 5th Annual Harvest Festival at LongSword Vineyard. This unique event takes your imagination back to the days of wearing armor, fighting with swords, and storming castles with trebuchets. A trebuchet is similar to a catapult, but it has a counterweight to fling objects farther. Where can you see



Kate Vangeloff, of LongSword Vineyard, tests one of the two trebuchets that will be used to fling pumpkins at this year's event.

such things in the 21st Century? At LongSword's Harvest Festival, of course!

This fun event includes slinging pumpkins with oversized slingshots, painting your pumpkins, enjoying music, and eating fabulous food from a local food truck, onsite to feed those hungry soldiers waiting to storm the castle.

Last year, one trebuchet was used to fling pumpkins at a castle wall. This year, there will be *two* trebuchets competing to fling the pumpkin the greatest distance and to attack the castle walls. See if you can beat last year's record of 465 feet.

The trebuchets stand a whopping 16 feet tall and can hurl pumpkins a great distance downrange. There will be prizes for the longest flight, the most accurate flight, and the most creatively decorated projectile. Perhaps we can crash pumpkins in mid-flight!

All proceeds from the trebuchet Pumpkin Chunkin' will be donated to Siskiyou Upland Trails Association (SUTA), the volunteer organization that builds and maintains the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail and the Jack-Ash Trail, from

Jacksonville to Ashland. This year SUTA is hoping to add some loop trails around Anderson Butte and to connect to the Applegate Trails Association network. SUTA's mission is to ensure the availability of local hiking, biking, and equestrian trails for generations to come.

The Fall Harvest Festival showcases the most recent vintages of LongSword's small-batch, creative wines, which can be sampled at the tasting room for \$5.

This free family-friendly event runs from 12 - 5 pm both days at LongSword Vineyard, 8555 Highway 238, just west of Ruch. Come out and support a great organization working to maintain recreational opportunities here in our local area and have great fun doing it.

Subaru of Southern Oregon has generously donated 100 backpacks. The first 50 elementary school children who purchase a pumpkin each day will be given a backpack.

For more information, please contact me.

Maggie Ives • 541-899-6909
panamamaggie@hotmail.com

Health threats to Applegate pets

BY LAURA AHEARN



Friendship at McKee Bridge Day. Photo: Janeen Sathre.

We had a fantastically fun and educational day at Doggy World on June 8 at McKee Bridge Day, organized jointly by Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS) and McKee Bridge Historical Society. Little Applegate resident Dr. Jeffrey Judkins, owner of Jacksonville's Animalkind Vet Clinic, gave a particularly eye-opening presentation about health threats to pets in the Applegate. We want to pass on this important information to Applegaters who could not attend.

Lyme Disease

Yes, the deer ticks in our valley do carry Lyme disease. Without prompt treatment, in humans and dogs this bacterial infection can cause crippling joint damage, deadly cardiac complications, kidney failure, and neurologic problems (cats are apparently at lower risk). Mow the grass and remove brush from around your home and the places your pets frequent and always give them a careful full-body inspection after being outdoors. Dr. Judkins recommends annual testing for Lyme disease for any dog with a history of ticks. If this blood test is positive, the dog can be placed on an immune support protocol that may prevent symptoms of the disease from developing.

Heartworm

Yes, here in the Applegate we do have the species of mosquito that can carry heartworm larvae; in fact, our pets are at higher risk than animals in adjacent suburban areas. Why? A mosquito must first bite an infected canine in order to carry heartworm, and, in rural areas, that "first bite" is more likely to be a coyote. These mosquitoes are active only when nighttime temperatures are consistently above 50°F, so you can track the weather to figure out when this risk is present. Dr. Judkins has an herbal protocol as an alternative to the standard Heartgard monthly tablets. Contact the Animalkind clinic at 541-702-2288 if you are interested.

Salmon poisoning

Okay, this one is a shocker to dog owners who have recently moved to the Pacific Northwest: *Eating raw fish can kill your dog.* A particular species of snail lives in Oregon and Washington coastal rivers. Every year, billions of larvae hatch and many of them become infected with fluke parasites that make canines sick. The infected larvae enter salmon and steelhead as they spawn up rivers like the Rogue and Applegate. If a canine eats



Let me at that agility course!
Photo: Sunny LeGrand.

one of these fish, bacteria released by the parasites will attack the gastrointestinal system and cause symptoms that look very much like parvovirus—and are just as deadly: vomiting, lack of appetite, fever, bloody diarrhea, weakness, swollen lymph nodes, and dehydration. What should dog owners do? Keep a close eye on your pets, don't let them eat raw fish, and see a vet immediately if these symptoms appear. Doxycycline will easily cure salmon poisoning if started early in the disease process.

Foxtails

These nasty stickers are extremely painful and can cause infection if they get stuck between your pet's paw pads, in the ears, or even up the nose. Again, prevention is the best cure—clear your yard of these weeds and don't let your pet venture into the brush. Trim the fur around the paws and other areas where the foxtails are prone to get caught. Brush off foxtails that are inadvertently picked up in the fur before they become embedded. If a foxtail gets in between a dog's toes, soaking the affected foot in warm Epsom salt solution three times a day can draw the foxtail out and save a visit to the vet.

Laura Ahearn

laura.ahearn@stanfordalumni.org

Note: Have you marked December 7 on your calendar for the FOTAS Deck the Paws Holiday Fair from noon - 4 pm at Phoenix Plaza Civic Center?

Attention artists, crafters, quilters, knitters, woodworkers: FOTAS will hugely appreciate donations of your creations to sell at the fair. Please contact Laura at 458-226-0600 if you can help.



With help, this young boy tries to pull the pin on the trebuchet.



The Pumpkin Chunkin' takes a lot of volunteers to assist with the festivities. These were the volunteers for last year's event.

POETRY CORNER

Tributaries

by Lisa E. Baldwin (2019)

This poem was written for the Applegater's Volunteer Appreciation Party held on June 30 as a tribute to the Applegater team of volunteers who make this paper possible.

The root of *volunteer*
in Latin to Middle English
(perhaps also Elvish)
means *to wish*. Here
we make a collective wish
that together we build
a stronger community.

In my garden, volunteers are gifts
delivered by birds or the wind
—their extra bloom and added green
contribute to the fullness of the spring,
the stunning abundance and generosity
of this Lower Applegate bottomland.
From all our hillsides and creeks—
Sterling to Slate, Humbug to Bull—
the elixir of life flows. As tributaries
we gather and deliver
in generous abundance
respect and love
for our community,
for these mountains and valleys,
and for this river
that draws us together.

BOOK REVIEW

Upstream

Selected Essays
Mary Oliver
Penguin Press, 2016

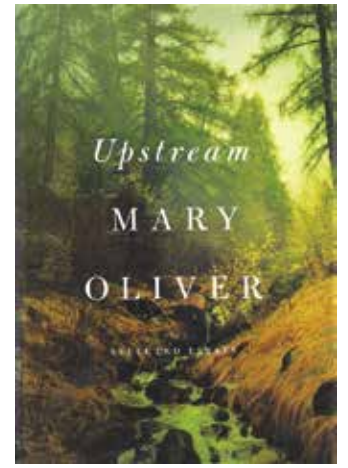
I believe everything has a soul.
—Mary Oliver

Autumn's the time for dipping into a book as though it's a mountain stream and you have a tin cup. In the heat of the day we want a long, cool drink of fresh water as we rest in the shade. This is what Mary Oliver provides for us in both her poetry and her prose. As I scoop up words and thoughts from her book of essays, *Upstream*, I renew my connections to all life.

Mary Oliver, primarily a poet, is read even by people who claim not to read poetry. Before she died, on January 17 of this year (at age 83), her most loved poems were collected in a book titled *Devotions*, because people had begun to think of them as invocations of the human spirit from within the temple of nature. Her essays have a similar contemplative tone.

In her essays Mary Oliver writes about the meaning that springs forth from common things. *Upstream* is a book for thinking things through, a book to open while resting under the tree beside the stream or garden. Perhaps you've put down the basket of tomatoes just picked and let the book fall open to, let's say, her essay, "Bird." Some paragraphs sound almost like her poetry, with images and rhythm that transcend most prose. Meaning emerges almost imperceptibly from within her descriptions. She tells of finding an injured black-backed gull, and, unable to walk away from its suffering, she took it home to provide care until it healed. A complete healing was not to be, but in the time she had with the gull she tells us "we grew into that perilous place: we grew fond..."

"He was, of course, a piece of the sky. His eyes said so. This is not fact; this is the other part of knowing something, when there is no proof, but neither is there any way toward disbelief. Imagine lifting the lid from a jar and finding it filled not with darkness but with light. Bird was like that. Startling, elegant, alive...But the day we knew must come did at last,



and then the nonresponsiveness of his eyes was terrible...The sweep and play of the morning was just beginning, its tender colors reaching everywhere. "The little gull has died," I said to M., as I lifted the shades to the morning light."

Whether she is describing her natural surroundings or individual creatures, such as a turtle, an owl, a spider, or the gull, or contemplating the creative work and thoughts of writers like Emerson, Poe, and Whitman who, in her opinion, laid the groundwork for our American soul, Mary Oliver pens lines that prompt her readers to think about their place in the continuum of things. In her essay "Winter Hours," she writes, "I would say that there exist a thousand unbreakable links between each of us and everything else, and that our dignity and our chances are one. The farthest star and the mud at our feet are a family; and there is no decency or sense in honoring one thing, or a few things, and then closing the list. The pine tree, the leopard, the Platte River, and ourselves—we are at risk together or we are on our way to a sustainable world together. We are each other's destiny."

In the future humans may look back on books such as hers to find clues to former times. Will our earth then be as Mary Oliver experienced it? Will her words still encourage us to walk upstream, to contemplate the natural world, to seek its soul, to dip a cup into the stream's cool waters and lean against a shade tree while we drink? Are we not human? How could we do otherwise?

Christin Lore Weber
storyweaver1@gmail.com



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MEET SENATOR JEFF GOLDEN

★ **Town Hall Meeting** ★
Wednesday, October 16, 6 - 8 pm
Applegate River Lodge, 15100 Highway 238, Applegate

Your opportunity to visit with your state senator representing District 3 (includes Jacksonville, Ruch, and the Applegate Valley).

Hosted by the *Applegater* Newsmagazine.

APPLEGATER'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER CALL FOR SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

Thank you to the businesses and individuals who have donated special items for the silent auction at our October fundraiser. We are in need of more items to make this event a success, so please let us know if you can help us out with a donation—large or small—of a product or service.

CONTACT CATHY RODGERS @ CATHYRODGERS55@GMAIL.COM.

~ FINE PRINT ~

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. (AVCN) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the publication of the *Applegater* newsmagazine, which, we feel, reflects the heart and soul of our community.

Our Mission

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

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

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

Acknowledgements

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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

The Applegater needs your ongoing help!

In order to keep up with our expenses—printing and postage are the biggest costs—and be able to continue mailing this newsmagazine free to every residence and business in the Applegate Valley, we need and appreciate ongoing donations, large or small—every dollar matters.

Mail your donation to *Applegater* Newsmagazine, PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Donations are also accepted online through PayPal at applegater.org and now at **smile.amazon.com** (select Applegate Valley Community Newspaper as your charity of choice)!

We are supported only by donations and advertising revenue.
Thank you for your generosity. —The *Applegater* Board of Directors



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

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⁽²⁾In honor of Diana Coogle's 75th birthday

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Editorial Calendar

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

Masthead photo credit

Thanks to **Teya Jacobi** for the lovely photo of a fall leaf and blossoms on a bridge crossing the Little Applegate River in Jacksonville (Ruch).

Our appreciation goes out to Teya for all the special masthead photos of hers that we were able to feature over the years. We will miss you!

Advertisers!

We can help you reach your market. The *Applegater* is the **only** newsmagazine covering the entire Applegate Valley. With a circulation of 13,000 and a readership of more than 20,000, we cover Applegate, Jacksonville, Jerome Prairie, Murphy, Ruch, Wilderville, Williams, Wonder, and areas of Grants Pass and Medford.

For more information, contact
Ron Turpen @ 541-601-1867 or
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Next deadline: November 1

Inside the Gater

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Jackson County Library Services

— Applegate Library —

It has been said that “The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” That is certainly true for the Applegate community (and beyond), who generously donated to the Summer Reading Program at the Applegate Library. A huge shout-out to the Applegate Country Club, Curly Top Bakery, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Karna & Sons Lunch & Dinner Wagon, and Scheffel’s Toys for their generous donations for prizes to our program.

How-to Festival

Join local experts and aficionados for the second Annual Applegate-Ruch How-to Festival on Saturday, September 21, from 10 am - 1 pm. Learn techniques and hacks and enjoy samples on topics such as chair yoga, decorative art making, wildflower arranging, sourdough bread making, creative first aid, book value researching, coffee roasting and brewing, pepper roasting and salsa making, stretching towards the night sky, and much more. Costumed historic personalities as well as

an Applegate Valley Fire District rig will round out the day. It’s fun and free for all!

For all of our fall events, pick up a copy of our Fall Event Guide at the library or visit jcls.org and click on “Program & Events.”

Ongoing events and offerings

- Storytime is Saturdays from 10:30 - 11 am.
- Digital Services is here on Tuesdays from 2 - 4:30 pm for tech help.
- Community Drumming is every third Friday from 6 - 7 pm.
- Check out the new Library of Things, where you can borrow wireless hotspots, ukuleles, Kindles, Kill-a-Watt Monitors, and even a sewing machine. And you can borrow an Orion Starblast Telescope.

The Applegate Branch Library is located at 18485 North Applegate Road. It is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 2 - 6 pm and Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 - 2 pm. For more information, contact manager Christine Grubb at 541-846-7346 or cgrubb@jcls.org.

Josephine Community Library

Williams Community Garden Club

Children of all ages and their families are invited to join the Garden Club at the Williams Branch Library every Friday from 11 am - 12 pm. Come plant seeds and plants, learn about worms and pollinators, and enjoy being out in the sunshine.

Weekly storytime

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

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

Master Gardeners

Sustainable Gardening Series

In partnership with the Josephine County Master Gardeners, the Sustainable Gardening Series offers adults a chance to learn the basics and the not-so-basics of home gardening from 1 - 1:45 pm on the last Saturday of each month at the Grants Pass branch, 200 NW C Street.

Topics for the remaining sessions are:

- Backyard Composting on September 28
- Fire-resistant Landscaping on October 26
- Backyard Fruit Trees on November 30

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

Since the launch of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library last year, almost 2,000 children, ages birth to five, who live in Josephine County, are receiving books in the mail each month, at no cost to their families thanks to our sponsors.

To register your child at no cost: (1) stop by your nearest library branch in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, or WolfCreek 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, contact partnership manager Rebecca Stoltz at 541-476-0571 ext. 108 or rstoltz@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 between 11 am - 1 pm on Fridays for individual help with your technology questions.

Great Book Grab

Bring a bag. Fill it with books. Keep them for free!

Community members are invited to grow their at-home book collections during the Great Book Grab from 12 - 2 pm on Sunday, September 22, at the Grants Pass branch, 200 NW C Street.

In an effort to make space on the shelves for new materials, the library is asking community members to give some beloved library books a new forever home. Participants will have a chance to “shop” the Great Book Grab’s selection and fill as many bags as they would like to take home and keep—all at no charge.

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

— Ruch Library —

As always, there are lots of activities at Ruch Library!

Pirate Week, September 12 - 17. Come to the library and talk like a pirate, read a map to go on a treasure hunt, dig for jewels, share pirate stories, make a pirate hat, and try a word search. Costumes are encouraged!

2nd Annual How-to Festival, Saturday, September 21, 1 - 4 pm. Learn from local Applegaters as we offer up to 20 short classes (30, 60, or 90 minutes) on activities such as making wildflower greeting cards, origami, rain sticks, or plarn (a material made from repurposed plastic bags) to use for crocheting, weaving, or knitting. Learn to play the ukulele, make and cook with liqueurs, blow glass, do Pranayama yoga breathing, or buy or sell a house. A local family will share great hints on traveling with kids, or you can try some fast-paced spin art or wood-burner art, and much more. There is something for everyone throughout the afternoon, and it is all free! Come and share with your community! (For more information, see the box below.)

Cheers to 100 years! Saturday, September 28, 5 - 7 pm (ages 21+). Please join us for a wine and cheese mixer in celebration of Jackson County Library Services’ Centennial Birthday. We will have a sampling of fares from local wineries, farmers, and cheese makers, as well as historical displays and activities

throughout the library. The reception will be a birthday party for adults!

3rd Annual Celebration of Mind Gathering, Saturday, October 19, 1 - 3 pm. Celebration of Mind Gathering is part of a worldwide celebration of the legacy of Martin Gardner, best known for encouraging recreational mathematics. Activities will inspire fun and wonder for puzzles, games, math, magic, art, and more. This family-friendly event promotes curiosity and critical thinking through play. Come excite your mind!

Leaf Art, Saturday, November 9, 1 - 3 pm, drop-in. With a pile of fall leaves, some crayons, paint, and glue, make some fall art, greeting cards, bookmarks or whatever your imagination dictates.

LEGO Builders, Architects, and Engineers, Saturdays, 11 am - 4 pm (ages 4+). Build and display your own creations. Duplo bricks available for younger kids.

Friends of Ruch Library A-Frame Bookstore hours: Tuesday 12 - 4 pm, Thursday 1 - 5 pm, Saturday 12 - 4 pm. *Special first Saturday of each month: \$5 Book Bag Sale in the Book Barn 12 - 4 pm.*

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

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

2nd Annual How-to Festival Saturday, September 21

Watch our libraries bustle with learning activities as community members demonstrate and teach fun and educational classes to their neighbors (*you!*).

Local Applegaters will be offering 30-, 60-, or 90-minute classes on a wide variety of topics at both of our valley libraries. Many of these classes will be child-friendly. Check with each library for the details on each class, and sign up for as many classes as you would like in order to learn several new skills. It’s all free! What an incredible community we have!

Applegate Library 10 am - 1 pm

Chair Yoga
Anyone Can do Decorative Art
Creative First Aid
Stretching Towards the Night Sky
Researching Book Values
Wildflower Arranging
Sourdough Bread Making
Pepper Roasting / Salsa Making
Coffee Roasting / Brewing
Baking Shortcuts
Applegate History

Ruch Library 1 - 4 pm

Wildflower Cards
Learn to Play the Ukulele
Origami
Play with Your Food
(weird veggie creatures)
Spin Art
Wood “Glue In” (sculpture)
Pranayama Yoga Breathing
Make “Plarn” (yarn from plastic bags) to Crochet or Knit
Rain Sticks
Artistic Wood Burning
How to Buy / Sell a House
How to Travel with Kids
How to Make and Cook with Liqueurs
Creative First Aid
French Braiding
Beaded Spiders
Bicycle Maintenance / Repair
Glass Blowing

Library Locations

Applegate
18485 North Applegate Road,
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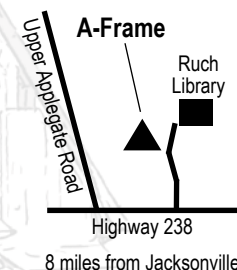
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NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— A Greater Applegate —

Storytelling for community-benefit organizations

A Greater Applegate (AGA) is offering a free Storytelling for Nonprofits workshop on September 10 from 3:30 - 6 pm. AGA has been hosting the Applegate Valley Nonprofit Network for more than a year, and members have identified storytelling as a much-needed skill. This workshop is open to representatives of community-benefit organizations serving the Applegate Valley.

There's a scientific explanation for the power of story and why it has more impact than standard business presentations. When we listen to a presentation, the language processing parts of our brain get activated. Our brain decodes words into meaning, but that's it; nothing else happens. When we're told a story with characters, challenges, and action, our brain reacts in dramatic ways as if we are experiencing the events in the story. Our sensory cortex lights up when someone describes the taste and aroma of food. Our motor cortex fires when we hear a story about movement. And, *when we share stories of what matters to us, we engage the emotional region of our listeners' brains, creating connection and understanding.* For community builders, this is priceless!

That is why well-known story consultant Robert McKee says, "Storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world today." According to Princeton professor Uri Hasson, when we tell stories that have shaped our thinking and life choices, our brain and the brain of the person listening to the story synchronize, creating a shared experience.

For those of us working with community, storytelling is powerful. Whether we are engaged in community building, environmental awareness, health, education, or any number of other good works, we want to have all the tools at our disposal to have an impact in our world. Being able to tell the story behind our mission, how it came to matter to us and why it should matter to others, is essential to having the impact we want to achieve. Storytelling supports our service.

Increasingly, organizations use data to tell their stories. Data presented accurately and well is necessary, but it's not enough. Storytelling is equally, if not more, important. It's a resource that builds connection and relationship, necessary ingredients in meaningful community engagement. Storytelling builds resilience in a mission and vision.

Community organizations with a good story and the ability to tell it well are better able to:

- Make a case for change
- Recruit community partners to build coalitions
- Engage donors and raise money
- Inspire volunteers and staff
- Attract media attention
- Create an emotional connection to the work.

Lily Myers Kaplan will be joining me to present this Storytelling Workshop. Lily is co-founder and executive director of the Spirit of Resh Foundation, with a mission to use story and advocacy to inspire people to build a relationship with death that informs how they live. Lily and I have been participating in the Hearth Certificate in Community Storytelling program. We've learned a lot about engaged community storytelling, and we're excited to share stories and bring some of these principles to the Applegate at this one-time event. Participants in this workshop will have the opportunity to:

- Practice telling your organization's story in a 30-second elevator pitch
- Reconnect to your work story and why it matters to you
- Get re-inspired about your organization's mission
- Bring your story of commitment, heart, and passion to life.

If you would like to join us for this workshop, please email Rhianna Simes at info@agreaterapplegate.org for location and other details. We hope to see you there!

More news from A Greater Applegate

I'm pleased to accept the new position of executive director for A Greater Applegate. After more than two years as board chair, I am excited with the direction the organization has taken, and I see a bright future as we all work together to build community across the Applegate Valley. It would not be possible for me to become executive director without the willingness of Cathy Rodgers to become our new board chair. We are lucky to have her!

As we get ready to launch our business network and neighborhood connections, please look for news about A Greater Applegate on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/agreaterapplegate](https://www.facebook.com/agreaterapplegate)) or our website (agreaterapplegate.org), or contact us by email at info@agreaterapplegate.org.

Seth Kaplan, Executive Director
A Greater Applegate
seth@agreaterapplegate.org

— ACCESS Applegate Food Pantry —

Hello from all of us at the food pantry! We would like to thank our generous donors and contributors who help us keep the pantry going. We couldn't do it without you!

We would also like to thank our volunteers for their loyalty, dedication, and hard work. All of you are a pleasure to work with.

If you are interested in seeing how our pantry works, come by and see us. We are located behind Ruch Outdoor Community School at 156 Upper Applegate Road in

Ruch. Our hours are Mondays from 11:15 am -1 pm. We hope to see you there.

If you're interested in keeping our pantry going, donations are always greatly appreciated. To donate, make checks out to ACCESS/Applegate pantry and mail them to or drop them off at 3630 Aviation Way, Medford, OR 97504. Thank you!

Any questions? Feel free to contact us.

Deborah Price, Manager
541-899-6980

Michelle Bollinger, Assistant Manager
541-218-6471

— McKee Bridge Historical Society —



Applegater articles spanning 25 years—from 1994 to present—were displayed on the bridge at McKee Bridge Day. Photo: Cathy Rodgers.

You know I can't keep from saying it: "McKee Bridge Day was pretty DOGgone good this year." We had great fun, and educational activities for dogs—sponsored by Friends of the Animal Society (FOTAS) and local businesses and individuals—were very successful. We're considering doing it again next year. There were more furry faces in the crowd than ever before, and the bodies they belonged to were well-behaved (at least the four-legged ones were).

The Stray Cats Car Club brought their shined-up custom oldies to admire, parking them near the antique gas and steam engines displayed by the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association, Branch 141. There was more history on the bridge, where Vern Arnold displayed a collection of photos and memorabilia from his family's longtime mining history in the Upper Applegate and the *Applegater* displayed 25 years of recording our local history as it happened.

Despite the threat of rain, the weather was cool and pleasant. Our last-minute panic, when the Old Time Fiddlers unfortunately had to cancel, was relieved when local duo Dom and Chris came out to play a nice variety of tunes for us. And, as usual, there was great tri-tip smoked up by the Applegate Lions, and root beer floats provided by the historical society. Many thanks to all our volunteers who helped make this event possible.

This year's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, September 28, from 2 - 3:30 pm on the bridge, beginning with a presentation by Dolores Lisman and Janeen Sathre titled "Gold Miners'

Daughters," about the lives of two women who grew up in Upper Applegate mining camps a century ago. Our business meeting and elections will be at 3 pm. All members and prospective members of McKee Bridge Historical Society are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

Some of our board members are almost as old as the bridge, so we would like to encourage anyone younger than that, with an interest in the covered bridge and its connection to the history of the Upper Applegate, to join the board or volunteer to help in another capacity. Our mission is simple: to maintain the bridge in a usable condition for the public and to perpetuate the history of the area.

We meet several times a year, mostly to plan for events that are open to the public, and to deal with maintenance issues as needed. We could especially use help with small maintenance jobs that come up occasionally, and we would also like to have someone in the Upper Applegate who could pull our museum trailer to the bridge and to local events, where we set up to engage the public and sell our fundraising memorabilia.

If you have a bit of time to help preserve local history, please consider joining us, or at least becoming a member for \$20 a year. Forms will be available at the annual meeting. We hope to see you there.

For more information, please contact me.

Paul Tipton, Chair
McKee Bridge Historical Society
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THE STARRY SIDE

Galaxies and stars

BY GREELEY WELLS

As we have improved telescopes like the Hubble, we have looked farther into space and learned a lot more about our universe than ever before. For instance, when we asked the telescope to focus on a blank bit of space—a look at nothing!—it finally revealed tens of thousands of galaxies we had no idea were there. This finding has been followed up repeatedly, and in every direction are more galaxies than we ever knew possible.

These discoveries made a huge shift in our understanding of the size of our universe. All our calculations and assumptions had to be reevaluated and changed, as they did when Einstein and other famous scientists gave us knowledge

and theories that changed our world and shook it up a lot.

At first there was no understanding and very little acceptance; then finally the new theories became undeniable, and everyone got on board. This process took many years. In Einstein's case, the famous photo of an altered star position proved his contention that light was bent because of gravity. The photographer got the defining shot when the moon eclipsed the sun. The photo was an instant success, and Einstein became one of the most well-known and admired humans on the planet.

So maybe kick back some evening and look up at the stars. Think about what the Hubble Space Telescope has shown us,

contemplate those inexhaustible galaxies, and ask what the new discoveries might mean in our world. I know, it stays light so late right now that there's not much up there, but that gradual, late darkness gives you a chance to try a neat game I love to play—"star light, star bright, first star I see tonight"—and make a wish! The first star is also a good luck star. We can always use good luck.

The first star-like object I see is the planet Jupiter in the south. A little later I see Arcturus, sort of mid-sky, a little west. Then, almost overhead, I see Vega in Lyra. Then the rest of the summer triangle slowly shows up, Altar in Aquila and then Deneb in Cygnus. By then the Big Dipper slowly appears with its arching handle going south to Arcturus, and then the North Star and a cascade of stars begin to show up one after another as the sky finally darkens. It's a nice unfolding.

Now that it's dark, here are some highlights for this season:

Last season's trio, Arcturus, Corona Borealis, and Hercules, slide into the western hemisphere, still very visible. Arcturus will be the first to

disappear by the end of October.

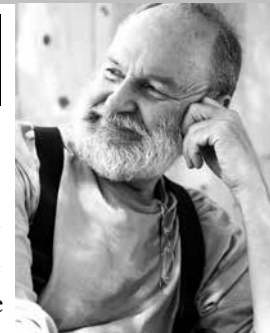
By September the summer triangle is still centered in the evening sky. The great square of Pegasus has cleared the eastern horizon, with a bucking horse in half view.

Out of the northernmost corner of the sky comes Andromeda, with two curved widening lines of stars whose point is the corner of Pegasus. The opening at the broad end leads to Cassiopeia.

Cassiopeia's W-on-its-side has come up in the east on the right side of the North Star, rising farther each night. By November it will be almost over the North Star. The Big Dipper of Ursa Major circles lower on the west side of the North Star, heading lower daily. By November it will be directly below Polaris. At my place, it'll be covered by a mountain and out of sight.

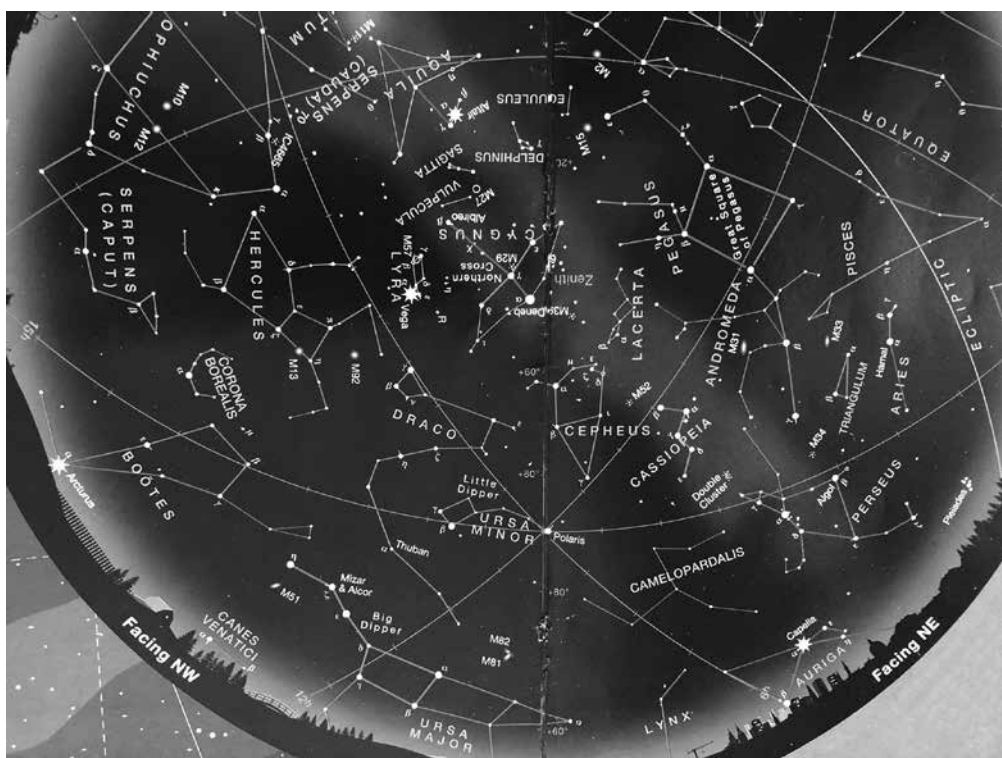
At the very end of the Little Dipper's handle is this great North Star, Polaris. By November the Little Dipper will point directly east from Polaris.

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me



Greeley Wells

Photo: Sky and Telescope.



Of Note

The moon will be trying to blot out the meteors this fall, but one meteor shower, Orionids, from the debris of comet Halley, could be visible just before dawn in the light of the waning moon on the night of October 20 - 21.

Jupiter is moving to Scorpius (to the right of it and the brighter of the two).

Saturn, in Sagittarius, will be in the south, slowly moving west all night and all fall.

October will have Mercury and Venus in the dusk sky, Mars in the dawn sky.

November will see Mercury and Mars in the dawn and Venus in the dusk.

September there will be no Venus, Mercury, or Mars to see. (Sorry!)

Just a reminder: Dawn is early morning before the sun rises, and dusk is the first dark after the sun sets.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Excuses, excuses

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Hello to all my garden buddies! After reading the rest of this, I hope you will understand why I did *not* write my “Dirty Fingernails” article for this issue. *Hint:* This was caused by a wild saga (or three).

Excuse No. 1

Last week while I was mowing the lawn, I stepped on a giant nest of very nasty hornets. OMG, they got in my mouth and bit my tongue, and while I was trying to get them out of my mouth, they bit my fingers. All my fingers swelled up to the size of baby watermelons and, by golly, I could not type one dang word.

Excuse No. 2

My favorite Aunt Mary announced to the family that she was going on a solo rock-climbing adventure in Canada. This may sound jolly to you, but Aunt Mary is very old and very skinny and very bald—well, very scant on hair. I was so nervous for her, but she insisted on going. Well, since she is my very *very* dear Aunt, I said

I would go with her—although she was worried that I would slow *her* down (imagine!). Sadly, Auntie Mary was right. Not only did I ruin the trip, I am more of a wreck than when we started out. Remember those watermelon-sized fingers? They don't grip rocks! What was I thinking? (Forehead smack.) Not only did I fall over backwards off a steep rocky incline, I broke my right elbow and ripped my hoop earring (don't all mountain climbers wear hoop earrings?) right through my earlobe when it caught on a branch during the tumble. Let's see, what else? Oh, yes, when I fell, Aunt Mary ran to get help. I didn't want to be left behind so I started running after her, or so I thought. Turns out I ran in the wrong direction, and Aunt Mary had to call search and rescue. When the rescue dogs got a whiff of me, they started growling and I started, well, you know, screaming and running.

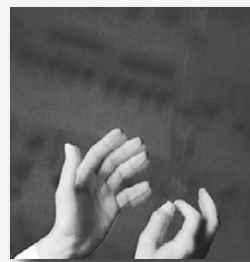
The two biggest dogs latched onto my backside, causing me to trip and break my knee. When I finally made it home, I realized that—due to multiple broken body parts and gaping wounds—I could not possibly manage any kind of sane column.

Excuse No. 3

I went to sleep in the Applegate and woke up in Budapest, where I am now fulfilling my dream of pawing through all of the fantastic flea markets.

Next issue and with aplomb,
Sioux Rogers
dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm

The author's own flower arrangement discovered at a flea market in Budapest by the author.



Voices of the Applegate Fall Concerts

Voices of the Applegate, our community choir, begins another fall season of diverse and exciting music with our director, Shayne Flock. Rehearsals start on Tuesday, September 3, at 6:30 pm at Ruch Library and continue on through the fall until November 19.

Our rehearsals will be held every Tuesday evening at Ruch Library from 7 - 8:30 pm, except for the first one, which runs a little longer to allow time for registration. Everyone is invited to participate. No auditions are necessary.

Two concerts will be held at the end of the season—the first one on November 22 at the Historic Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, on 6th and California Streets, and the second on November 24 at Applegate River Lodge, 15100 Highway 238.

Shayne Flock took over directing Voices of the Applegate in the fall of 2018 and has infused the choir with his enthusiasm and talent as a teacher. We are a community choir made up of singers from the Applegate Valley, Williams, and Jacksonville. The choir holds about 22 participants who are all devoted to music and singing. Many of our songs are in three- or four-part harmony; some are in foreign languages.

Come and join us. Music can brighten your life and expand your talent. There is nothing more joyful than raising our voices together.

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Sculpture Walk is growing!

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

The Art Sculpture Walk at Cantrall Buckley Park is growing! To find Cheryl D. Garcia's newest sculpture, the Shooting Star, look to your right in the upper lawn as you approach the fee booth at the entrance. There stands our community-supported Shooting Star in all its 12 feet of beauty. By "community-supported," we mean that many individual community members as well as the Oregon Community Foundation contributed funds to create this sculpture. As a community, you came together to make it happen.

Park in the first parking area to the right after the fee booth and you might also notice the Acorn Woodpecker sculpture (the woodpecker is looking busy on a pine tree) as you pass under him to go into this lot. Then you can walk back to get a close-up of both sculptures.

The Shooting Star sculpture is larger than life but very true to the form and shape of the real flower. The flower of the real Henderson's shooting star requires a different kind of pollination from the usual. Since bees can't land on the flower to collect pollen, they buzz very closely under the flower blossom, causing the flower to vibrate and the pollen particles to drop onto the fuzzy backs, sides, and legs of the bees.

On each of the 11 sculptures, an interpretive sign will be erected in the coming months that will provide interesting facts like this. The Park Enhancement Program team decided to have the signs designed and printed in one batch in order to get much higher quality at an affordable cost. So we are waiting our turn to have our signs printed. Then Jackson County Parks will do the installations.

Cheryl is a busy artist and has plans to complete three more donor-supported sculptures for the park in the spring of 2020.

Thank you again to the many wonderful donors who have helped make all of this possible. We all look forward to seeing the completed sculpture walk in the park next year. This is a very special community-building project, and community members, schoolchildren, visitors, and tourists will all get to benefit from it.

Anyone wanting to get involved with park projects and continuing restoration activities can join the family work day



Mission accomplished! Artist Cheryl D. Garcia and her newly installed Shooting Star sculpture.



Matt Katzensen, Chad Sobotka, Cris Garcia, and Cheryl Garcia carefully unload the sculpture.



The crew sets the sculpture in place.

on Saturday, September 28, from 9 am - noon. Watch for the announcement on the Applegate Valley Connect calendar (applegateconnect.org) and local flyers. There's also volunteer work available through the rest of the summer for individual tasks and small group activities. Contact me if you are interested.

Thanks for being such a supportive community.

Janis Mohr-Tipton
541-846-7501

janis.agapark@gmail.com
Photos by Janis Mohr-Tipton.

Outdoor School Day at Cantrall Buckley Park

In May, students from Ruch Outdoor Community School enjoyed a day at Cantrall Buckley Park that included various learning activities. Members of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council and A Greater Applegate's Park Enhancement Team organized the day and provided experts and volunteers from the community.

Photos by Janis Mohr-Tipton.



During their solar studies time, students learned how to use the park's sundial.



Students release native species from the encroaching invasive ivy in the park.



The youngest students look at sprouting acorns and the long taproot that grows before any stem or leaves start to grow.

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Autumn hike on Elk Creek Trail

BY EVELYN ROETHER

Greetings, fellow hikers! It's not too late to hit the high country—get out there while you still can! The Elk Creek Trail takes you through magnificent old-growth conifer forests and subalpine meadows that provide some nice fall color.

Elk Creek Trail #1230

- Difficulty: Difficult
- Distance: Four miles round trip
- Elevation gain: 2,100 feet
- Access: Mid June - late October
- Map: Grayback Mountain USGS quad

Directions

From downtown Williams stay on Williams Highway (which turns into Cedar Flat Road) for about three miles. Turn left on Caves Camp Road. After 6.7 miles, the pavement ends. Continue uphill, staying right on the main road at all intersections. After 3.7 miles, turn left at the intersection onto Road 079 through the open yellow gate. Continue 1.6 miles, watching for the Elk Creek Trail sign next to a stream on the left.

Note: The gate at Road 079 is usually closed from late fall through early spring.

The Elk Creek trail is one of the quickest access points to the Siskiyou high country and the Boundary Trail system. This two-mile steep trail ascends to the ridge, taking you through a lush old-growth forest of Douglas fir, Port Orford cedar, and Shasta red fir. The forest floor is comprised of shade-loving plants, including vanilla leaf, red currant, gooseberry, Oregon grape, and thimbleberry under a mixed forest of conifers and maples.

Generally following the north-facing Elk Creek drainage, the trail zigzags its way 2,100 feet up to its terminus at the quaint Sparlin Camp, which sits on a saddle along the Boundary Trail. Occasional views of the backside of

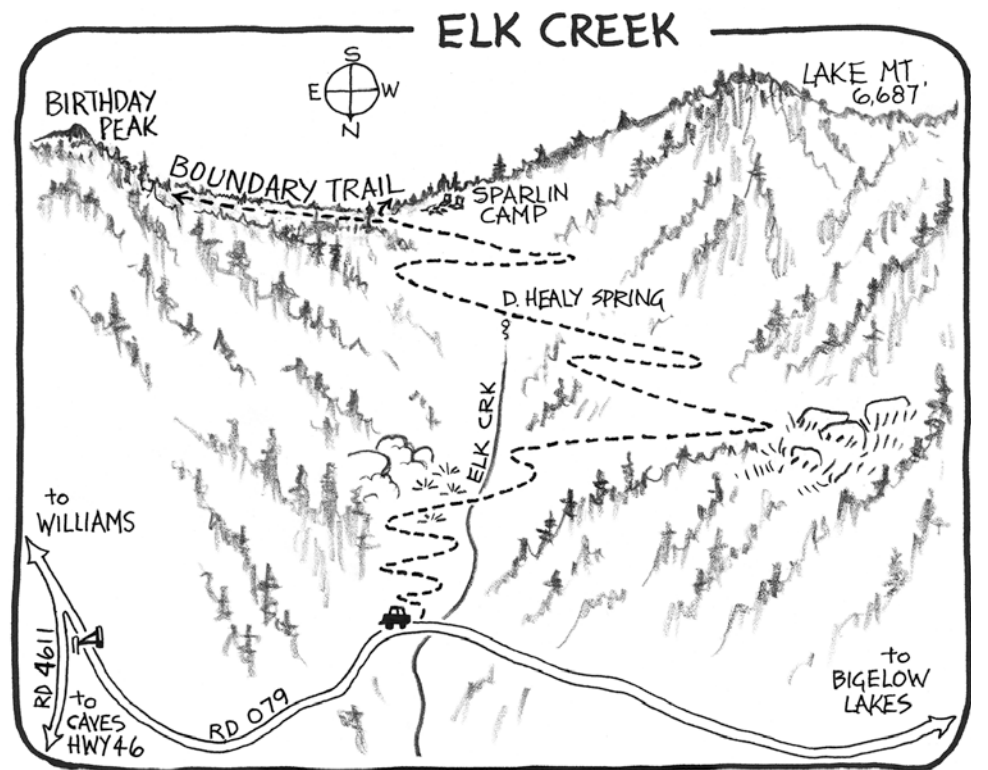
Grayback Mountain in the distance to the east will delight you, as will the beauty of the intact forest ecosystem.

About halfway up, the trail crosses Elk Creek and then weaves through a classic Siskiyou high-country meadow, offering a plethora of flowers such as monkshood, larkspur, and both red and blue elderberries in midsummer. A quarter mile past the meadow, watch for a sign on the downhill side of the trail announcing "D. Healy Spring," where you can fill your water bottle with some of the sweetest water on earth.

Once you reach the ridgetop, covered with a field of yellow sulphur flowers, Sparlin Camp is just to the right amid a grove of large firs. This old hunting camp has been used for generations by locals and is named for the Sparlin family, who were early settlers in the Williams Valley. Sparlin Camp marks the end of the Elk Creek Trail and a junction with the Boundary Trail.

To extend your trek beyond Sparlin Camp, turn east (left) across the saddle onto the Boundary Trail for another steep 0.6-mile climb to Birthday Peak (6,240 feet, with phenomenal views out toward Mt. Shasta and the Red Buttes) and continue three more miles to Grayback Mountain. Going west (right) on the Boundary Trail will take you down into some picturesque subalpine meadows above Sturgis Fork Creek. One more option is to take a right at the old Sparlin campsite, look for the hand-hewn "shortcut" trail sign that directs you onto the ridge going west over the south flanks of Lake Mountain toward Mt. Elijah. Take it all in and return the way you came.

For a description of 19 other trails in our neighborhood, pick up a copy of



Hiking Trails of the Lower Applegate, now available at the Williams General Store, Takubeh Natural Market, Provolt Store, Whistling Duck Farm Store, Rebel Heart

Books, Oregon Books and Games, and Bloomsbury Books. Happy hiking!
Evelyn Roether
evelynkr@gmail.com

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Legislation in the land of weed and wine

BY REPRESENTATIVE PAM MARSH

I sometimes refer to my district, which meanders between the Green Springs and the Applegate, as the land of weed and wine. That's meant to be (at least a little) facetious, but there's no question that the cannabis and wine sectors are significant economic drivers in southern Oregon.

Both cannabis and wine were the subject of lively debate and discussion during the 2019 legislative session. In particular, in a session marked by controversy of all kinds, winemakers' issues were front and center. Legislation to regulate wine labeling revealed deep divisions about the direction of the industry and the role the state should play to ensure continued vitality of the sector.

Five different bills proposed limiting or regulating out-of-state purchase of Oregon grapes and empowering the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) to develop higher content and labeling standards for wines produced in designated American Viticultural Areas (AVAs). In the end, just two bills were approved.

Senate Bill 829 will require Willamette Valley wineries labeling their product with a sub-AVA (for example, Dundee Hills) to also use the larger Willamette Valley AVA. Winemakers in other regions can also request that the OLCC institute a similar requirement specific to that AVA. A second bill, which was broadly supported by the industry, will ensure that out-of-state purchasers pay their share of the \$25-per-ton tax applied to grape purchases.

Although the most controversial bills died, the debate over direction of the industry is sure to continue. Some winemakers, especially in the Willamette Valley, believe that the OLCC needs to establish higher content and labeling standards in order to protect the Oregon brand and to increase product value. Others, including many growers and winemakers in southern Oregon, argue that additional regulation will stifle opportunities and suppress growth and innovation.

One thing is certainly clear: Legislators are ill-equipped to mediate the dispute. With the session behind us, grape growers and winemakers from across the state have a chance to come together and figure out a shared vision for growing the sector. Legislation that is considered in the future needs full support and affirmation from every corner of the state.

Cannabis

While the presence of controversial wine legislation was something of a surprise, the maturing cannabis industry has never left the legislative limelight.

Much of the work around cannabis was aimed at the surplus of inventoried product held by our recreational growers, currently estimated at six years' worth of supply. While that's a somewhat controversial calculation, it's clear that we have a lot of weed sitting around waiting for sale or processing.

In response, the legislature took two very different strategies to deal with excess product. Senate Bill 218 instructs the OLCC to place a moratorium until January 2022 on the issuance of new production licenses. Growers who have been on the agency's waiting list for the past year will still be allowed to move forward, as long as they have obtained local land-use approval.

The second bill aims to send some of that extra product to new markets. Senate Bill 582 authorizes the governor to enter into agreements with other states for cross-jurisdictional coordination, regulation, and delivery of marijuana products. While implementation of these agreements will have to wait for federal legislation that approves interstate cannabis transfer, Oregon wants to be ready when that occurs so that our excellent, homegrown product can be shared with the national market, along with our fine wines and craft beers.

Wine and weed weren't the only issues we discussed in the 2019 legislature, but they are certainly among those that affect life in the Applegate. If you have questions about any of this legislation, or anything else we addressed in the session (education, climate, hate crimes, popular vote, health care, paid family leave, campaign finance reform, and on and on...), please contact me anytime at Rep.PamMarsh@oregonlegislature.gov.

Representative Pam Marsh

rep.pammarsh@oregonlegislature.gov

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

Roving Reporter

Representative Marsh comes to the Applegate

BY TOM CARSTENS

On August 14, Valley View Winery in Jacksonville hosted an opportunity for residents to meet with State Representative Pam Marsh, the Democrat whose district includes the Jackson County portion of the Applegate Valley.

The purpose of the gathering was to go over the results of the recently concluded legislative session. Representative Marsh said that she viewed the session as a relative success, with many of her own priorities seeing fruition.

In her view, favorable outcomes included:

- New investment in public education
- Improvements in state-sponsored health care
- Juvenile justice reform

- Additional funding for wildfire mitigation
- Establishment of a new family leave program

She also talked about the collapse of the climate change legislation and the bill's complexity. This issue remains on her to-do list.

The legislature, she explained, is trying to support the local cannabis industry by preparing for the day when marijuana becomes legal nationwide and can be transported across state lines.

The lively and well-informed Applegaters in attendance offered both support and pushback and had plenty of questions.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025



Representative Pam Marsh met with her constituents at Valley View Winery in the Applegate in mid-August. Photo: Paige Prewett.

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Visit the AVC website at applegateconnect.org.

Questions? Email applegateconnect@gmail.com.

AVC is a joint effort of two local nonprofits, A Greater Applegate and the *Applegater*, and is supported by the Ford Family Foundation and Community Systems LLC.

Access more community websites—find out what's going on in these other Oregon communities:
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BIRD EXPLORER

The elusive Yellow-breasted Chat

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Peter J. Thiemann

Long considered the largest of our wood warblers, the Yellow-breasted Chat is no longer listed among the warbler family—it is now the lone member of

the Icteriidae family. More heard than seen, this elusive, skulking songbird is difficult to photograph. Its call and song are unmistakably louder than those of the Black-headed Grosbeak, which sings nearby.

The Chat's habitat is the riparian zone near rivers and creeks in our area. Willow thickets and blackberries are its favorite haunts. When you do catch a glimpse, it is usually a fleeting flash of yellow. When you try to capture an image when the light

is low, almost dark, you'll find you can rarely freeze this bird in motion. The Chat has to sit still for a successful image hunt. (That explains my somewhat soft photos for this story, which were shot at high sensitivity and slow shutter speed.)

This spring we had several pairs of Chats in residence on our Applegate Valley land. I never saw a nest nor looked for one, as

I was happy to have the birds around and didn't want to disturb them. (Never mind the impossibility of penetrating thickets of vegetation near parts of the riparian zone where they conceal themselves.) Conditions for Chat nesting were good, as insects were plentiful this spring and early summer.

By the end of July, as the creek dries up, I have seen Chats come to our ponds for water, but they soon departed for the south.

So I am missing the songbirds of spring, and especially the Yellow-breasted Chat. I will have to wait for another season to enjoy this unique songbird when it returns from its southern winter homes in California and Baja, Mexico.

Peter J. Thiemann

peterjthiemann@yahoo.com

Photos courtesy of peterjthiemann flickr photo stream.



The California Sister

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The California Sister (*Adelpha californica*) is a butterfly of the Nymphalidae family of butterflies. It is very large and can reach up to 3.5 inches across. On a broad display with its wings open, it is brown and black with large orange spots on the tips (apex) of the

forewings. White bands are convex from the base of the hindwing to the tips of the forewing. The ventral (underside) view shows a lighter soft brown with colorful patterns of blue and lilac.

Host plants for the California Sister are evergreen species of oak, which can be golden chinquapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla*), canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), California live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), and possibly Garry oak (*Quercus garryana*). The eggs are laid singly on host plant leaves. Providing we have good seasonal conditions in southern Oregon, we may witness two to three broods. Some adults may overwinter.

The range for the California Sister is California to Baja and throughout western and coastal Oregon with a rare sighting in Washington state, but that could change with warming temperatures. This butterfly frequents habitats near oaks or watercourses, such

as rivers, parks, or mountain creeks. It is a resident butterfly in California.

It is usually in flight from May to October and can be seen hovering near host plants, sipping nectar from many flowers of plants and shrubs, mud-puddling, or fluttering on scat and sometimes road kill. The

photo to the left shows a sister on our native blackcap raspberry plant. In the photo above, a sister is on a rock by a river.

In the summer of 2011, there were many California Sisters in the greater Applegate area. I recall driving to the mountains on the loop to Applegate Lake via Thompson Creek Road. As the road climbed in the shady sections of the higher reaches, I must have counted at least 50 California Sisters on the drive to the top of the road, where it branches off in three different directions. Of course, I saw more



during that day and the rest of the summer. That was a great butterfly year!

Fun but quirky fact. The common name, California Sister, is said to have originated from someone describing the color arrangement as a nun's habit with colorful, bright-orange hair escaping from the wimple. Imagine that, if you will!

Linda Kappen

humbukkapps@hotmail.com

Butterfly photos by Linda Kappen.

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To support our efforts to connect businesses, community-based organizations, and neighborhoods visit us at:
www.agreaterapplegate.org or email us at **info@agreaterapplegate.org**.

A primer for hemp regulation

BY TOM CARSTENS

There's been a lot of interest among Applegaters about the multitude of hemp fields popping up all over the valley. The following information might answer some questions.

Although hemp is a cannabis crop, it was recently decriminalized by the federal government via the 2018 Farm Bill, which removed it from the schedule of federally controlled substances. To keep their legal status, hemp plants can contain no more than 0.3 percent of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the hallucinogenic compound found in marijuana. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has submitted a regulatory plan to the US Department of Agriculture, administrator of the new program, for approval. A decision is promised by end of this year. A new federal rule will be issued as well.

Though legal, hemp farming is not a completely free market system like alfalfa. Growers and handlers must register with the state, obtain annual licenses, submit to robust lab testing (for THC), conform to specific packaging and marketing rules, and agree to onsite inspections. With some exceptions, hemp can be grown only in



Applegate hemp field with mulchable protective film.
Photo: Maureen Flanagan Battistella.

exclusive farm use (EFU) or forest resource (FR) zones. It can be commercially transported across state lines. You can find state regulations and contacts by going to the ODA website and clicking on "Hemp Program." Or just go directly to ODA. direct/hemp.

It's no surprise that much of Oregon's hemp is grown right here in Jackson and Josephine counties. Although the list of hemp products is long, our crop is grown primarily for its cannabidiol (CBD) content, a medical compound with health and other benefits.

It's a very profitable crop, attracting venture capitalists and large out-of-state corporations, who are leasing large fields. A July 20 article in the *Medford Mail Tribune* ("Cream of the Crops," by Damian Mann) stated that net profits can run as high as \$50,000 per acre. According to the article, Jackson County leads the state in both acres and growers, and is seeing a \$300 million boost in its economy as a result.

Many Applegaters' complaints and queries have centered around three issues: water use, odors, and plastic sheeting. These issues were addressed by a coterie of Jackson and Josephine county officials at a June 27 meeting at Ruch Library. Those officials also wanted to make clear that regulation of hemp farming rests entirely with ODA. Oregon counties will not be empowered with enforcement.

Water use. Industrial hemp grows don't require a lot of water—much less than alfalfa, for example. (Drip irrigation helps.) Be that as it may, there has been some suspicion that not all of the new hemp growers are playing by the rules. Any withdrawal of water requires a water right. Neighbors can do a little investigating on their own by going to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) website and clicking on "Find Water Rights," where they'll find a handy map. Be aware that some water rights are still unmapped and that anyone can legally draw from

a well to irrigate up to one-half an acre without a permit, as long as it's for a noncommercial purpose. Both the Jackson and Josephine county watermasters will investigate complaints, even anonymous ones. Residents can cultivate up to four cannabis plants (any combination of hemp and marijuana) for private use. For a more complete discussion of hemp and water rights, google "OWRD hemp."

Odors. Yes, the crop stinks, but, according to the Oregon Right to Farm Act, this is regarded as a legitimate farm by-product. There are no density or setback rules.

Plastic. The sheeting we see is used for weed control and moisture retention. It also reduces or eliminates the need for pesticides. Hemp farmers must dispose of thousands of linear miles of this stuff every year. It cannot be recycled so most is destined for landfills. Some farmers are using biodegradable alternatives, but they are expensive and their decomposition rates have not been rigorously tested. One of these bioplastics can be produced from hemp itself. (Check out cannabistech.com.) With more research, solutions should be forthcoming.

Tom Carstens
541-846-1025

Watermaster Contact Information

- Jackson County: 541-774-6880
- Josephine County: 541-261-2213

Questions can also be directed to OWRD at 503-986-0900.

A LOOK BACK

Copper Store, in the past

BY DIANA COOGLE

Just like the Applegate Store, the Provolt Store, or the Williams Store that serve their respective communities, the Copper Store, located at the south end of what is now the Applegate Lake, used to serve the community of Copper. The highway that ended at the town is now the lower end of a boat ramp. The Copper post office, which opened in 1924, closed in 1932, but it was opened again in 2004, when the Cycle Oregon tour passed the Applegate Lake, just so the cyclists could mail a souvenir postcard with a Copper, Oregon, address.

The Copper Store was located just up the road from Bob Jackson's property on Upper Applegate Road, both properties, of course, now under water. After he bought the property in 1969, Bob moved there from the Bay Area with his wife, Shirley, and two daughters, Jodee (9) and Tammy (12). (His third daughter was already grown.) Until the government bought his land about ten years later, to create



Bob Jackson's house lies under Applegate Lake. Photo: Diana Coogle.

the lake, Bob used to walk to the store frequently.

"It had bread and canned milk and other canned goods," he recalls. "It was a store and a filling station. The gas pumps were the old glass kind, where you can see the gas flowing through. Gas flowed into the car by gravity. There were only two kinds: ethyl and regular."

A Mrs. Crow ran the store, he said. Guy Watkins helped her, then took over when she died. "Mrs. Crow was a character," Bob said. "She wore a black coat down to her knees. Every button was different. She must have sewed them on herself. She was a nice old lady to talk to."

Bob was a horseshoer during his years on the Applegate, driving over the area with his horseshoeing gear, including an anvil and a coal stove,



Copper Store (above) in 1978 and its adjacent gas station (below).

in the back of a pickup. He and his family had their own horses. "I was horse poor!" he declared. "If someone couldn't pay for the shoeing, I'd end up with a horse." He also invented a tool, the Jackson Horseshoe Pad Cutter. "It sold all over the world," he said.

Bob bought the old Harr property in 1969 and only discovered later that he had also purchased the old schoolhouse at the end of the field. The Harrs had donated that land for the school, as well as property for a house for the teacher a quarter mile away, so the land, because it had been given away, reverted to the previous owner, now Bob Jackson, when the school was no longer in operation. The first Bob knew that he owned it was when the government approached him to buy his land for the lake. They wanted to pay him for more acres than he thought he owned, but the government assured him that the schoolhouse land was also his and that they were buying it from him.



The government used the schoolhouse for geological samples for six years before tearing it down, along with the store, post office, teacher's house, and any other buildings in the erstwhile town of Copper, to make way for the lake. All the history of Copper is now under water except for what resides in memories and pictures.

Diana Coogle
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Note: Photos, courtesy of Bob Jackson, were taken by Rick Aubin, a US Forest Service employee who worked at the Star Ranger Station for 30 years.

Watkins Schoolhouse in 1976. It burned down in spring 1977.





How Clean IS Your Well Water?

with Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

Ever consider what might have gotten into your drinking water? Is your well head surrounded by dirt, or in a little building outside where your pet raccoon or rat has made it's home?

Often your well is out of sight and out of mind. Just because you turn the faucet on and water comes out doesn't mean you are fine.

Take a walk out to the well where the casing comes up out of the ground and look around. Is there insulation falling around the top of the well, spiders, ants, frogs, or mouse droppings? If this stuff is around the top of your casing then, **EWV**, because there is always a chance that it can get into the well & contaminate your water source.

When you get back to the house and can think again - give you favorite Water Well Pump and Filtration Service a call and ask about getting your water tested. It just might be time to ensure that you have safe clean drinking water for your family.

Water is a geological cocktail, so DRINK MORE WATER!



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Pacifica in pictures

BY PEG PRAG

Sculpture Trail

A wonderful sculpture by Robert Rubio was recently installed near the front gate of Pacifica, renewing efforts to complete a Sculpture Trail. This will be a beautiful showcase for local artists, a draw for possible local wine, beer, and cannabis tasters, and a wonderful place to come for a picnic.

As the late John O'Donohue wrote, "Beauty or its lack affects all of us in unseeable ways. It is as necessary to the human spirit as truth. Beauty and its recognition in the arts, gardens and landscapes, nature and the environment will help to bring clarity, trust, gentleness into a world lost to anxiety and uncertainty."

If you would like to donate an outdoor sculpture to be included on this picturesque half-mile trail, please contact us. For those who can't afford to donate, we are willing to dicker!

Thank you, Robert!

Native Plant Society of Oregon

The state Native Plant Society held its Annual Meeting at Pacifica in mid-July. Around 150 people attended, partaking of 23 different field trips. Kudos to the planners of this event. Everyone was impressed with the Applegate area, the accommodations, the weather (high 80s, no smoke!), and the amazing wildflower show that the Siskiyou put on at this time of year, including the many unique and special plants that grow only in this

area. (For more information about the Native Plant Society, see Suzie Savoie's article on page 16.)

Pollinator Garden

A large Pollinator Garden is already drawing butterflies and bees, along with aphids and ladybugs! Over 1,000 shrubs, trees, and perennials have been planted. Interpretive signs already include large pictures to help people identify and learn about many of the local butterflies and wild bees. We're still working on a display of the various housing arrangements—underground spaces, hollow stems (or tubes), wooden blocks, etc.—preferred by different kinds of bees.

Restrooms

S-l-o-w-l-y but surely, the restrooms are nearing completion! They now have walls, paint, and plumbing. Just a few finishing touches and they should be ready... finally! Come and celebrate them with us at the Harvest Faire.

Harvest Faire

Come celebrate all things local at Pacifica on Saturday, October 19. The Harvest Faire is a community celebration featuring local arts, music, and food. This year's musicians include Alcyon Massive, Diane Patterson, and Windsong Martin. There will be workshops, food, a nonprofit village, and more. For more information,



Artist Robert Rubio (pictured above with his wife Jane) created this cattail sculpture installed near Pacifica's front gate.



The Pollinator Garden, recently planted at Pacifica, includes more than 1,000 plants.

to purchase tickets, or to get involved, go to pacificaharvestfaire.org.

Needed: Garden volunteers, picnic tables, E-Z ups, white plastic chairs...any help you can offer will be *most* appreciated. Thank you.

Peg Prag • peg@pacificagarden.org

PIGS AND GOATS

Continued from page 1

culinary school in Seattle, learned butchery on Vashon Island (Washington), interned at Willow-Witt Ranch (near Ashland), and is involved with Rogue Farm Corps in the Applegate. Her emphasis is on inclusive, self-sustained, permaculture farming.

Westi's emphasis is on breeding Nigerian dwarf goats to produce the best milk a doe can give. Although dwarfs produce the least amount of milk per doe, she explains, it's the creamiest and tastiest. She competes in national shows, looking for judges' comments that will help her build pedigree and reaffirm her choices in breeding. Her herd queen, Java, has made the "elite doe" list for the high content of butterfat and protein in her milk.

Westi's goat farm generates income in a variety of ways: She sells the wethers (castrated males) for pets or as brush eaters. She sells milk and goat's-milk products like soap, lotion, a shave bar, and felted soap (wrapped in Applegate wool she trades for). She also offers her small, dainty goats for goat yoga classes. (Google it if you want to know more.)

Nikki is also a breeder (of pigs) but admits that when it comes to buying pigs, affection outweighs practicality. "I want that one—it has a blue eye!" she'll say. She is especially fond of her pig Tillie, a Poland-China heritage breed that has floppy ears for sun shades and "sweet personalities." "Tillie loves attention," she says, scratching Tillie's belly. Tillie rolls over in canine-like ecstasy.



Photos, left to right: Nikki Elmore with Tilly; Gilly Gifford at Rogue Artisan Foods' permaculture farm. Photos: Diana Coogle.

The profits from Nikki's pigs come entirely from 4-H projects. "Judging at the fair is all about making weight," Nikki says. Her voice mimics a pig reflecting on her figure: "No, my butt must be *bigger!*" She feeds her pigs an all-nutrient Purina feed mixed with wheat and barley her husband, Chet Elmore, grows on Thompson Creek Road. 4-H pigs can earn kids several thousand dollars for college or other important goals. The buyers are frequently businesses that might donate the meat back to organizations that feed displaced families or might give to employees at an end-of-the-year party. "It's a win-win-win situation," Nikki says—the kids, buyers, and pigs, who are raised with love.

It's good that pigs and goats in the Applegate create income, but it's just as good that they live lives well loved.

Diana Coogle
dicoog@gmail.com



Farm Stand Information

Rogue Artisan Foods. Duck eggs, goat milk. At Rogue Artisan Foods farm stand (on a gravel road off Highway 238, one mile past the Ruch Store, traveling west) and at Medford Food Co-op, Food4Less, and Whistling Duck Farm. Goat meat (summer) and pork (fall), preorders only. Call or text 541-708-1565 or email rogueartisanfoods@gmail.com.

Twin Pear Farm. Goat milk, soaps, lotions, shave bar, felted soap. At the Jacksonville Growers Market, at the Twin Pear Farm stand at 342 Beaver Creek Road, and at Christmas shows. To contact, send a message through facebook.com/twinpearfarm.

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Miller Lake and the Thompson Creek Irrigation Association

BY BARBARA CHASTEEN

On a cool summer morning in July, 16 members and friends of the Thompson Creek Irrigation Association (TCIA), plus one good ranch dog, met at the trailhead to Miller Lake and hiked up through tall trees for the biannual cleaning of the dam. Miller Lake lies in a forested bowl 2,000 feet below Grayback Mountain. The lake's outlet, Miller Creek, runs down into Sturgis Fork and, through the Sturgis and O'Brien ditches, has contributed extra water to Thompson Creek for over a century. (See the *Applegater* Spring 2019 issue for early TCIA history.)

Fed by the rain and snow that fall on Grayback, this peaceful, natural lake, just five acres in size, has been part of local ranchers' lives for a century and a half. Walter Miller, an early Applegate Valley rancher for whom the lake is named, prized it as his base for hunting trips. From the late 1800s, Thompson Creek ranchers knew it as a reliable source of extra irrigation water for their hayfields and pastures.

During the 1930s, Oliver Matthews, a freelance botanist who roamed the Siskiyou forests, put Miller Lake at the center of his "Magic Circle" of conifers: the forests surrounding the lake contain half of the 35 cone-bearing species in Oregon. Some are world-class size.

Beavers added their own dam to the outlet and were diligent in plugging up holes created by ranchers trying to maintain flow for irrigation. They seemed to enjoy swimming close to the bank and slapping their tails and diving as ranch dogs ran barking along the shore. In the early 1960s, high school students drove up the extended Sturgis Fork road to play football on the ice.

Today, hikers pass the lake on their way to awesome views of the Siskiyou from the rocky ridges above. Native plant lovers walk to the lake through a hillside of wild rhododendrons and Washington lilies, half a dozen varieties of white wildflowers, and lush wild ginger. On a quiet morning the mirrored surface of the lake is splashed by feeding brook trout, an angler's favorite, planted by the US Forest Service (USFS).

In the later 1800s, a ditch began bringing water 3.5 miles from Sturgis Fork to join the 1.5-mile-long O'Brien Creek ditch and cross over a low divide into Thompson Creek. Ranchers' rights to use the waters of Miller Lake, Sturgis Fork, and O'Brien Creek for irrigation were recognized in a 1907 agreement with the USFS. The TCIA has retained these rights since it was created in 1919, through the USFS land-use permitting process.

Since 1919 the population along Thompson Creek has grown, and the



TCIA members at Miller Lake for the biannual cleaning of the dam. Photo: Barbara Chasteen.

economy has shifted from growing hay and pasturing livestock to include orchards and vegetable farms, lavender fields and vineyards, hemp and marijuana, country homes and equestrian centers. Irrigation water flows into 15 ditches now serving 67 shareholders.

As our climate becomes drier and warmer and the number of irrigators (both legal and not) continues to grow, demand on the stream water is increasing. In a 2009 report, a biologist noted that snowmelt was arriving about 15 days earlier than before. How do we know this? The US Soil Conservation Service established one of its earliest "snow courses" on Grayback Mountain around 1939, due to the importance of the Thompson Creek watershed to southern Oregon agriculture.

Today, maintaining the ditches that bring extra water to Thompson Creek is more important than ever. In 1980, construction of the Applegate Dam closed off other tributaries that used to host heavy runs of spawning coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. Thompson Creek continues to be a key spawning area. Individual irrigation ditches have "fish wheels" installed to help keep these anadromous (seagoing) fish safely in the stream.

In 1967, the TCIA built a modern earthen dam at Miller Lake's outlet, which raises the natural level of the lake by 20 feet. Under its agreement with the USFS, TCIA is responsible for maintaining the dam. Every two years, members clear brush from the dam and the emergency spillway. Because the lake lies within a roadless area, the work is done with hand tools. This year's crew included cheerful volunteers of every age, from grandchild to grandparent, continuing a long tradition of gathering in service to the Thompson Creek community.

Barbara Chasteen • equiline@sonic.net

Native plant exploration and conservation in the Siskiyou

BY SUZIE SAVOIE



Attendees of the July NPSO Annual Meeting on a Lichens & Bryophytes field trip on the Siskiyou Crest, in the Observation Peak Botanical Area, led by botanist Scot Loring. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

In July the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) welcomed 150 people to explore the botanical diversity of the Applegate Siskiyou at our Annual Meeting. Our local Siskiyou Chapter NPSO organized the gathering, which was based out of Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyou, in Williams. Over the course of three days the event featured 23 separate field trips into various habitats and botanical hot spots throughout the Applegate River watershed, with a few in the Illinois River watershed. As part of the gathering we also enjoyed a banquet, with excellent food catered by Chef Kristen of Jefferson Farm Kitchen, and outstanding presentations about the region's botanical diversity. The Applegate's own retired US Forest Service botanist, Barbara Mumblo, was one of two recipients of the NPSO Fellows Award for her long-time dedication to native plant conservation.

Our field trips were a huge success, and everyone came away with a deeper appreciation for the Applegate Siskiyou. Knowledgeable botanists and naturalists led field trips to special places, including Cedar Log Flat Research Natural Area, Whisky Creek, Chrome Ridge, Dutchman Peak, Big Red Mountain, Bigelow Lakes Basin, Observation Peak, TJ Howell Botanical Drive and Babyfoot Lake, Cook and Green Pass, Elk Meadow, Frog Pond, Grayback Mountain, Big Sugarloaf Peak, Miller Lake, Free and Easy Creek, Silver Fork Basin, and Whisky Peak.

Additionally there was a field trip to learn grass species along the Enchanted Forest Trail, a roadside botany trip along Road 20 on the Siskiyou Crest, Plein Air painting at Jackson Gap on the Siskiyou Crest, a tour of riparian restoration along the Applegate River at Red Lily Vineyards, a field trip to learn lichens and bryophytes, and a field trip along the trails at Pacifica.

Each location offered participants an opportunity to learn about the botanical diversity in our region. People also saw many rare, endemic, or otherwise unusual species, such as Siskiyou willowherb, split-hair paintbrush, Baker cypress, Siskiyou lewisia, Henderson's horkelia, white rushlily, Brewer spruce, California cobra lily, Sadler's oak, Lee's lewisia, Wiggins' lily, Siskiyou milk vetch, California bog asphodel, Jayne's canyon buckwheat, and Siskiyou beardtongue, to name just a few.

The Applegate River watershed has 11 officially designated botanical areas. Compared to other regions, this is a particularly high concentration. These botanical areas were designated to protect

some of our most important native plant habitats and rare plant populations. During the NPSO Annual Meeting field trips to many of these botanical areas, participants were impressed by the region's rare plant species and botanical diversity. Many who came to the gathering from outside the area were excited to return in the future to explore more of the Applegate, while southern Oregon participants learned new destinations to botanize.

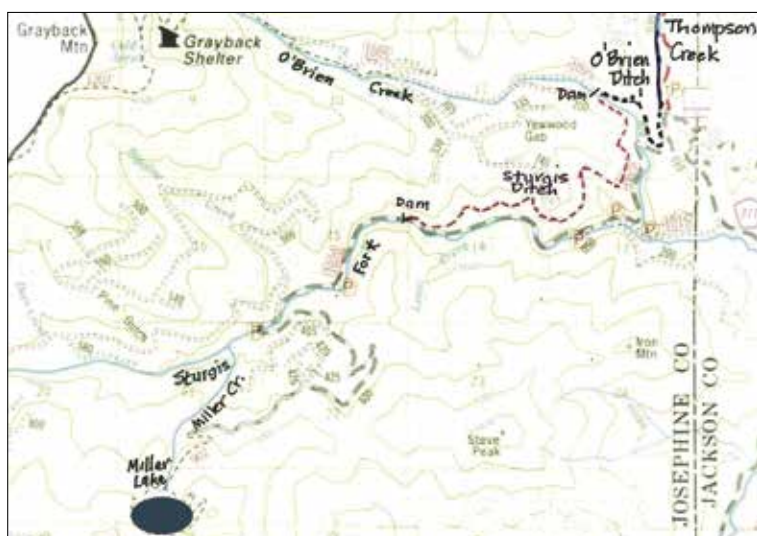
The Siskiyou Chapter NPSO works to conserve and protect the native plant communities throughout southwest Oregon, including the 11 botanical areas found in the Applegate watershed. Botanical areas are extremely important for the protection of rare and endemic plant species—some that are found nowhere else on earth. However, some of these special places are suffering extensive ecological damage from unauthorized, illegal off-road vehicle use.

Currently, the Siskiyou Chapter NPSO is concerned about three of the Applegate's botanical areas on the Siskiyou Crest: Big Red Mountain Botanical Area, Dutchman Peak Botanical Area, and Observation Peak Botanical Area. Unfortunately, each of these amazing places is experiencing severe impacts to botanical values because people are driving off-road with motorcycles, ATVs, and full-sized trucks through lush meadows, old-growth forests, and unusual rocky serpentine wildflower habitat.

When people drive off-road through wildflowers growing on rocky serpentine soil, they churn up and kill rare plants under their tires. When people do donuts in a wet meadow, they not only immediately kill rare plants, but they can also severely compact soils, alter the hydrological function of the meadow's wetland or stream, create irreparable damage, and lead to long-term botanical impacts. The Siskiyou Chapter NPSO will continue working to stop unauthorized off-road vehicle damage in our spectacular botanical areas. We are urging the US Forest Service to shut down the ecologically damaging off-trail routes in order to protect botanical areas from further degradation or the extirpation of rare plant species.

The Siskiyou Chapter NPSO was thrilled to host this year's Annual Meeting in the Applegate Siskiyou. We hope it inspires people to conserve and protect Applegate wildlands and botanical areas.

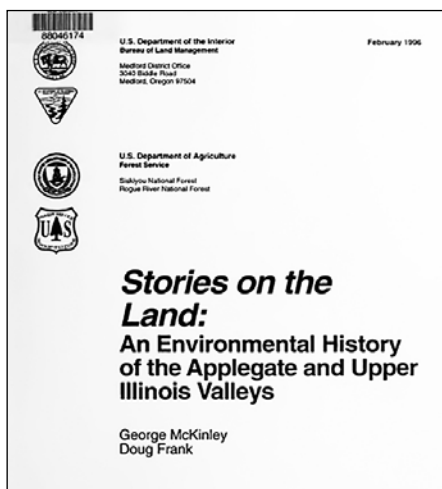
Suzie Savoie
Conservation Chair
Siskiyou Chapter NPSO
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Map showing location of Miller Lake provided by Barbara Chasteen.

Discover Stories on the Land

Below is another excerpt (from pages 42 - 45) from the unpublished 1996 book, *Stories on the Land: An Environmental History of the Applegate and Upper Illinois Valley*, by George McKinley and Doug Frank. The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc, plans to publish the book in its entirety in 2020.



that renders the whole of the region a single basin.

George Gibbs, in his journal of events recorded while traveling through northwestern California with US Indian Agent Fredrick McKee, recognized the confusion, though not its source, in

this journal entry from 1851: "Much error has existed in maps relating to this [Klamath] river; its mouth having by many (among others, Captain Wilkes and Colonel Fremont) been placed in Oregon, about 42° 35', and it was for a long time supposed that Rogue's river, which actually empties about that latitude, was a branch of the Klamath. The distinctiveness of the two streams has since been ascertained, but the source of the mistake is nowhere noticed."

From a contemporary perspective, it is perhaps humorous to find such geographic confusion perpetuated by the foremost maps and explorers of an earlier era. We are inclined to dismiss their conclusions as the flawed products of an earnest, earlier scientific mindset and evidence of the trials and errors inherent in progress.

However, if we shift the frame of inquiry, we see something different. The natives of the region knew the answer to Ogden's question; they knew the corrective to a generation of misdrawn maps. Ogden's journal clearly records their position on the matter. In mid-February of 1827, while camped along Bear Creek, he clearly states in his journal that "[the Shasta Indians] say the Stream we are now encamped on has no connection with the Clammitte River that it [the Klamath drainage] takes a southern whereas this [the Rogue drainage] takes a Western Course...if the above information should prove correct as regards the River I shall and I may add all will be pleased."

Pleased perhaps, but somehow unable to "see" clearly enough to incorporate millennia of lived experience into the state-of-the-art regional map of the nineteenth century. It is perhaps a truism to note that what we see is often dependent upon what we allow ourselves to see.

Excerpted by Diana Coogle.

The look of the land

What would we see, if we could look at the landscape of the Applegate and Illinois Valleys in these earliest years of Euro-American settlement? That would depend, of course, on whose eyes we had—and what mind lay behind those eyes, what experience we had had on the land and with the land, and what intentionalities we brought with us for our own lives on the land.

What the explorers saw was mapping confusion.

Peter Skene Ogden and company entered the study area primarily in the pursuit of beaver and in the creation of a "beaver desert" (see the *Applegater's* Fall 2017 issue, page 14). Ogden was also interested in making geographic sense of the previously "unexplored" and unmapped lands of southern Oregon. Toward this end, he wanted to discern just what river drainage it was that he and his trappers were roaming in the rugged territory of southwest Oregon. Confused by the terrain, Ogden's conclusion was that the present-day Klamath and Rogue Rivers were one large drainage, flowing west to the ocean, that all of the rivers his company had seen since leaving the lava beds of northeast California were part of a single, huge drainage.

This misconception would be perpetuated several years later on the Arrowsmith map, the "Map of the British North America" drawn by London cartographer John Arrowsmith in 1834. The Arrowsmith map was influential in Pacific Northwest exploration and favored by the Hudson's Bay Company. The "Map of the Oregon Territory," generated by the Charles Wilkes' Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842, also reflects a conflation

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A Greater Applegate (AGA), a local nonprofit, recently opened its new office in Sunshine Plaza at 7380 Highway 238 in Ruch. AGA's programs are designed to enhance the environmental, economic, and social vitality of the Applegate Valley through outreach efforts to local nonprofit organizations, businesses, and neighborhoods. Please feel free to stop by and meet the new executive director, Seth Kaplan, and staff members. Hours vary. For more information about AGA, email info@agreaterapplegate.org, call 541-702-2108, or visit agreaterapplegate.org.

Back Porch Streetside. Back Porch Bar & Grill started a food truck service in May after their positive experiences at Britt Festival convinced owners Blu and Jamie Collins that they should open another, smaller operation. The food truck allows them to do catering and special events much more easily than with their previous "Covered Wagon." They have been at Red Lily Vineyards and the Lavender Festival, and future plans include the Battle of the Food Trucks, Southern Oregon Pride in Ashland, and a few days at Bayer Family Wine Estate in Eagle Point. Streetside has at least eight usual menu items, such as Ensenada chicken, pulled pork sandwich, fish tacos and fiesta salad, plus sides and a daily special. Check out the Back Porch Bar & Grill Facebook page for daily updates! For catering and events, call or text 541-621-6332.



Common Unity Cafe is now in its fifth month of operating two food trucks in the I-Park at 20140 Williams Highway, between the Grange and the General Store in Williams. Owner and chef, Cody Hanson, is following his dream of providing organic food and medicinal adaptogens—such as reishi mushrooms, astragalus, and ginseng—to the community to help people toward health and healing. He offers organic breakfast, lunch, and dinner items on a rotating menu, including breakfast sandwiches, tamales, chicken salad, falafel with pita and veggies, and turkey tacos. Adaptogens can be added to any of the espresso, chai, and smoothie drinks made onsite. Hours are usually 7 am - 7 pm every day. On Community Movie Night—Saturdays throughout the summer months—the cafe is open until the movie ends. Cody recommends calling ahead (541-415-2935) with your orders to reduce waiting time and looks forward to answering questions about how adaptogens can contribute to your well-being!

Dorothy Gale's Espresso Bar & Organic Bakery opened in July in the old Provolt Grange at 14458 Williams Highway, by owners Chris and Diane Baz, who are originally from Hawaii. Diane studied cooking while traveling the world and brings that knowledge and many influences to the cafe's items. Chris and Diane offer high quality, stone-ground, and organic baked goods—breads, cakes, and pies—and even mill their own flour onsite. In keeping with their focus on health, they offer superfoods like spirulina, acai, and lion's mane as additions to espresso as well as exotic teas and smoothie bowls. Regular hours are 7 am - 3 pm, Tuesday - Sunday. Periodic special event nights start at 6 pm, with live music, beer, wine, and a dinner menu that is customized to the band's background. So far there have been Hawaiian, Asian, and Indian themes. Call 541-846-1850 for updates on the schedule of events, special orders of pies and cakes, or any questions. Be sure to ask Diane about the inspiration for the name (yes, there is a Wizard of Oz connection) and say "Aloha"!

Jerome Prairie Community Hall is gearing up for an active fall season, including an 80th birthday celebration in November for the hall itself, built by the Jerome Prairie Neighbors in 1939. The next generation of Jerome Prairie Neighbors has stepped up to manage the hall and has completed several projects to improve the building, including upgraded restrooms and new flooring in the kitchen. It's a great venue for weddings, concerts, family reunions, and more. Find more information and photos on Facebook. The hall is available for full-day and half-day rentals. Call 541-660-9340 or email jpchallgp@gmail.com to schedule your event. 5368 Redwood Avenue, Jerome Prairie.

ZuZu's Petals opened in May at 190 E. California Street in Jacksonville. This is owner Jane Klinefelter's first flower shop, though she has a long history of cultivating heirloom flowers from carefully nurtured seeds on her local family farm. ZuZu's offers farm-fresh, handcrafted bouquets, beautiful custom-made arrangements, and fresh-cut flowers. Jane takes pride in family values and believes that sharing these values helps communities grow and blossom. She donates a portion of her proceeds to Save the Children. ZuZu's is open Thursday - Sunday, 11 am - 4 pm. Email info@zuzusflowers.com or call 541-531-6559.



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We loaf you, Applegate!

OPINIONS

An Applegater responds to the query: Who benefits?

BY ALAN JOURNET

Applegate Valley residents following global warming and local climate change consequences might be intrigued by the suggestion of Robert Bennett (Spring 2019 *Applegater*) to ask *qui bono?* Though translated as “who benefits,” it remains an unanswered question. Readers might also want to *cui bono* (follow the money).

While Applegate residents are experiencing rising temperatures, decreasing snowpack and river flow, increased risk of wildfire, and summer skies clogged with smoke, we might well wonder who benefits. As the climate shifts far from the historic pattern, those most compromised are farmers, wine growers, and forest owners/managers. To these we can add anyone who spends time enjoying the beauty of the region and the recreational opportunities it provides. The Douglas firs dying all over the valley are a harbinger of our future if our heads remain in the sand.

We know the financial benefits aren't going to suffering Applegaters. While farmers and ranchers try to adapt, firefighters and agency staff combat fires, our natural systems are deteriorating, kids and older residents suffer most, and unpaid climate organization volunteer activists gain nothing.

However, the salaries of fossil fuel corporate executives scoring multimillions of dollars a year and the huge dividends corporate shareholders reap annually reveal who benefits. And then there are the billionaire corporate pillagers and plunderers of our natural world who use our air and water as a dumping ground for the waste they refuse to control.

We read the usual right-wing examples of government malfeasance promoting wars without quite learning which are thought to be Fox/Trump frauds and which are real. Then, we read the fraudulent claim about dire scientific warnings in the 1970s of a forthcoming ice age.

Research publications in the 1970s were slightly more complicated. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, we saw growing acceptance of a decades-old proposal that patterns in the orbit and angle of the Earth as it rotates the sun (the so-called “wobble”) drove the Ice

Ages. While researchers realized that these patterns were collectively acting to induce cooling at that time, climate scientists published data demonstrating that Earth was warming. These competing trends continue today. While the Milankovitch cycle (as the orbital Earth behavior is called) should still be cooling our planet, data indicate we are warming. In addition, science tells us clearly that the culprit for warming is the increasing concentration of gases in our atmosphere resulting from our behavior.

This means our greenhouse gas emissions have countered the cooling and replaced it by substantial warming. Since Milankovitch is driving us towards cooling, we are responsible for over 100 percent of the warming that has happened.

Folks can promote all the claims of government malfeasance and all the fraudulent claims about science they wish, but reality bites. The science is as clear as science ever gets—the planet is warming, climate change is happening, Applegaters are experiencing it, and human behavior is the primary cause.

We can reject the science and continue the path to environmental destruction, or we can understand the science and respond accordingly so our children and grandchildren inherit a livable Applegate and a livable planet. Whether we cling to science denial or accept reality is our choice. And, yes, indeed, we should follow the money—when we do so, we discover it's flowing from the pockets of Applegaters to the pockets of uncaring but already wealthy fossil fuel corporate executives and shareholders.

Reducing emissions in Oregon may not solve the world's climate problems, or even the Applegate Valley's climate problems, but unless we do our part to reduce emissions, we will lack the credibility or moral authority to urge other states and nations to protect our valley by reducing theirs. If we simply deny reality and cling to the world of illusions promoted by Trump and friends in DC and Salem, our children and grandchildren will suffer more than we ever will.

Alan Journet
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Nontoxic roadsides for southern Oregon

BY H. NÍ AÓDAGAÍN

Much of the 1,500 miles of county roads that crisscross Josephine and Jackson counties is routinely sprayed with synthetic pesticides to eradicate weeds. This is done to maintain visibility, reduce fire risk, and ensure stable roadside shoulders. A new initiative, Non Toxic Roadsides for Southern Oregon, suggests there are more environmentally sound ways to reach these goals.

Non Toxic Roadsides is joining a decades-long effort by community members throughout Josephine County to reduce and eliminate the use of synthetic pesticides. Two organizations have been leading this fight; (1) Beyond Toxics aims to protect all communities from toxic pesticides on parks, sporting fields, and schools. (2) Williams Waterway is an all-volunteer, donation-based community organization and is part of the 28-year struggle to keep the Williams Watershed nontoxic.

Bianca Ballara, campaign coordinator for Non Toxic Roadsides, describes this new effort as “a community-led campaign supported by Beyond Toxics, Pollinator Project Rogue Valley, and the people of Josephine and Jackson counties. Non Toxic Roadsides is inviting our county officials to make our roadsides toxin-free.” Ballara acknowledges the obligation of the county to keep roadsides safe, but insists that the greater obligation of the county is the overall health of its citizens.

Scientific research has shown that glyphosate, the primary ingredient in Roundup, poses significant health risks to the general public (washington.edu/news/2019/02/13/uw-study-exposure-to-chemical-in-roundup-increases-risk-for-cancer).

In April, a poll taken by the Grants Pass *Daily Courier* found that 71 percent of its participants want Josephine County to end the use of pesticides to control roadside vegetation. Community members are concerned about the health risks associated with these pesticides for themselves and their children; the detrimental effects they have on crops, livestock, and wildlife due to drift; the adverse effects on our waterways; and the enormous damage being done to our pollinators.

Kristina Lefever of Pollinator Project Rogue Valley explained that glyphosate is just one of the pesticides that is having an enormous impact on pollinators. A study published in 2018 showed that glyphosate perturbs the digestive system of honeybees, creating holes in their gut, which increase their susceptibility to infection (pnas.org/content/115/41/10305).

Pesticide application impacts beetles, wasps, moths, and butterflies living in the vegetation along our roadsides, all of

which play crucial roles in our ecosystem and pollinate our food sources.

A 2019 article published in the *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* concluded that glyphosate residues were found one year post-application (nrcresearchpress.com/doi/abs/10.1139/cjfr-2018-0331#.XTjQs5NKii5). This finding demonstrates that plants can store glyphosate for more than a year. Therefore, wildlife that forages along roadsides could be adversely impacted as well as humans ingesting fruits and vegetables grown near roadside edges.

Non Toxic Roadsides recently invited county officials from Josephine and Jackson counties to study sessions to explore alternative options to spraying. Advocates hope these two counties will join the growing list of counties who are significantly reducing pesticide applications on roadsides. To the north, Lane County has been successful in implementing this change. Closer to home, the City of Talent has created a pest-management plan that does not use pesticides and has made multiple parks in their city pesticide-free.

Daryl Jackson of Williams Waterway suggests that maintaining our roadsides sustainably can be done by planting xeriscapes (landscapes that need little irrigation) with plants such as native, drought-resistant California poppy, tarweed, and Queen Anne's lace; by employing mechanical mowing; and by using other techniques that are not harmful to the environment.

Williams Waterway has an ongoing agreement with Josephine County to not spray along 40 miles of roadside in Williams. But this agreement and other future agreements with the county depend on local citizens speaking up and letting the county know they support alternatives to synthetic pesticide spraying.

Show your support of Non Toxic Roadsides for Southern Oregon.

- Call or write your county commissioners. Urge them to attend future study sessions put on by Non Toxic Roadsides. Ask them to stop the use of glyphosate and other synthetic pesticides on our roadways and public spaces and to adopt safer practices. Visit beyondtoxics.org for information on how to contact your local commissioners (beyondtoxics.org/work/non-toxic-oregon/non-toxic-southern-oregon).
 - Follow Non Toxic Roadsides on Facebook (search Non Toxic Southern Oregon).
 - Send an email to show your support or to get involved to bballara@beyondtoxics.org and pollinatorprojectroguvalley@gmail.com.
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For more information, contact:
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“Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.” —attributed to Albert Einstein

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OPINIONS

Let's keep the public in public lands

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

Both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service (USFS) are proposing to limit public input and eliminate environmental review by making significant changes to their public involvement processes. The proposed changes encourage land managers both to increase the pace and scale of public land logging, mining, and road construction and to cut the public out of the process. In many cases, this means the agencies will notify the public when decisions are made, but the public will no longer be allowed to meaningfully participate in the land-management planning process.

This summer the BLM proposed a large "programmatically" environmental assessment, which proposes to log 14,000 acres and build 20 miles of new roads each year on Medford District BLM land, with no further public involvement, no public comment period, and no site-specific environmental review or analysis. The proposal, called the Integrated Vegetation Management for Resilient Lands Programmatic Environmental Assessment (Programmatic EA), would allow logging to occur in any land-management designation, but would specifically target late-successional reserves intended to protect high quality northern spotted owl habitat and other conservation-based land-management designations, including riparian reserves, "District Defined Reserves" such as lands with wilderness characteristics, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, and many others. Projects would be approved for sale and subject to a mere 15-day administrative protest period.

Although the Programmatic EA has not been fully analyzed or approved, the BLM has already begun designing and surveying a large project in the Williams area—the Late Mungers Project, between Powell Creek and Mungers Creek. According to BLM staff, this project will be "tiered" to the still unapproved Programmatic EA and is dependent on its approval for implementation.

Additionally, this summer the USFS proposed nationwide changes to the land-management planning process through revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). If approved, these

changes will undermine the public process, reduce transparency, and avoid scientific accountability, making timber sales, pipelines, mines, and other industrial land-management projects easier to approve.

Internal USFS reviews are being proposed as a replacement for the currently more open and transparent process of environmental analysis and public comment. Collaboration and community engagement would be largely eliminated, and nearly all projects would be approved even without disclosure of their impacts, analysis of environmental effects, or public input.

For example, individual commercial logging projects of 4,200 acres (or 6.6 square miles), and up to five miles of new road could be approved without environmental review or public comment. The agency would simply approve projects with "Decision Records" and allow a 15-day objection period. Barring an administrative objection or lawsuit, whole watersheds could then be auctioned off to the highest bidder. The proposed changes do not appear to limit the number of large logging projects that can be approved in this way. They also allow projects to be approved in inventoried roadless areas, riparian reserves, late-successional reserves, and other conservation areas.

Without public outcry, the BLM and USFS will continue to undermine the public engagement process, eliminate transparency, and limit environmental review. Yet these are public lands and decision-making should be accomplished in an open and transparent manner.

Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) is working to provide both the land and the people of the Applegate Watershed a voice in the federal land-management process. We believe these beautiful public lands define our region and make us who we are as Applegaters. We also believe they should be managed for public benefit, which requires an open public process. Let's keep the public in public lands.

Contact ANN for information about how you can help.

Luke Ruediger
Program Coordinator
Applegate Neighborhood Network
luke@applegateneighborhood.network

Enough climate alarmism

BY ALAN VOETSCH

In the spring 2019 *Applegater*, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was mentioned in two separate opinion articles. So let's learn a little more about the IPCC, okay?

The IPCC is part of the United Nations (UN). In other words, it is made up of unelected bureaucrats from countries all over the world. You may think that gives it more importance. Far from it. The IPCC was formed with one purpose and one purpose only: to find a human fingerprint in Earth's climate patterns. Everything it says and does has that one goal in mind. It could care less about the numerous ice ages that come and go all on their own due to well-known naturally variable forces that I have listed in previous *Applegater* articles. If you want to know more, check out past opinion articles by me and read the books I always mention. Everyone should do their own research instead of listening to political propaganda.

Canadian Maurice Strong, a force behind Agenda 21, the "United Nations blueprint for the 21st Century" (greenagenda.com/agenda21.html), blended the IPCC from two separate organizations: the United Nations Environment Program and the World Meteorological Organization. His purpose was twofold: advance the political agenda and produce the scientific evidence to provide legitimacy. The end purpose was to create a new world order by bringing about the collapse of industrialized nations. If that is what folks here in Ruch and Applegate want, then by all means sit back and watch it happen. If you don't want UN bureaucrats running your lives, then it's time to wise up and understand what's going on. The problem with politicians dealing with this issue is that they have zero knowledge of our natural climate system and believe they can regulate the planet's temperature by increasing the cost of doing business for fossil fuel companies. Plus, they get to create and put in place new systems of taxation and decide what to do with all the extra millions they steal from you and me. And that is what this is really all about. Cheap energy has elevated our standard of living, and the socialist dreamers want to spread western wealth around

the globe and shut down industrialized democratic nations.

There are also students who believe that irreversible climate change will occur in the next decade. This is sad and, in my humble opinion, criminal. Climate change is always happening, as I have documented before. How else do you explain numerous ice ages and a sea level rise of over 400 feet in the last 10,000 years? Indoctrinated children across the country are being urged to use our courts and legal system to attack fossil fuel companies and the government. This is a time honored "sue-and-settle" strategy that hopes to punish companies that provide products and services we all use simply because they have deep pockets. From my point of view, we, the consumers, are their enemy, not the companies we willingly do business with. This is the kind of nonsense that increases costs because, in the long run, it all gets passed down to each and every one of us here in the Applegate Valley.

The IPCC is more concerned with the gender, diversity, and regional representation of their so-called experts than with using top-notch scientists. This is the way the UN does business. They are only concerned with appearances and consensus. Make no mistake, these have no place in science. Think about it—those folks from the Middle East, Africa, Asia, etc., do not have our best interests in mind, only theirs.

And again, every study, for every duration, shows that temperatures rise *before* CO₂ rises. The lag time is several hundred years.

Did you know that Mars, Jupiter, Pluto, and a few other solar system objects have warmed in recent decades?

I will again recommend these two books, which are IPCC specific: (1) *The Deliberate Corruption of Climate Science* by Tim Ball, PhD, and (2) *The Delinquent Teenager who was Mistaken for the World's Top Climate Expert* by Donna Laframboise. As with all my recommendations, these include footnotes. Both are currently available on eBay (used) and Amazon. I also have copies.

Alan Voetsch
alan_voetsch@yahoo.com

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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Another view on fire season preparedness

BY SANDY SHAFFER

This time of year I'm usually writing articles on how Applegate landowners should be preparing their property, homes, and family for fire season. However, a different perspective was presented to me as a member of the Board of Directors for our Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD)! In a recent board meeting Chief McLaughlin discussed how our fire district was preparing for fire season, describing eight items that he and his staff were addressing.

One important item is making sure that we have plenty of trained volunteer firefighters to cover our seven fire stations all summer long. You can never have enough volunteer firefighters, so new volunteers are recruited in the off-season. This past winter we had seven new volunteers from across the Applegate taking part in the firefighter academy and then completing training as wildland firefighters.

Our district's staff, chiefs, and volunteer firefighters have all finished their annual refresher training, which covers topics such as fire behavior, safety, strategy, and tactics. They also had hands-on training exercises with fire attack, engine operations, water supply, and deploying fire shelters.

In early summer AVFD brings on seasonal firefighters to help cover the shift rotations. Think about the worst lightning storm you can remember in summer here in the Applegate and how many fires can start across the valley. Having two extra trained firefighters per 24-hour shift can make a huge difference in how quickly engines can get to all of those fires. So, this year the chief started one "seasonal" the second week of June and another on July 1. This extra help usually stays on through the third week of September.

Chief McLaughlin also told me that this year they plan to up-staff one additional engine with two firefighters during periods of "critical fire conditions." This crew would be located on the western side of the district for quicker responses to that area.

On another note, two members of the district's staff participated in a Rogue Valley incident management team exercise in May. Operations Chief Wolfard is trained as a planning section chief facilitator, and our office manager, Tallie Jackson, is in

training to become qualified as a public information officer. Their expertise in these fields greatly assists our district during fire season.

Did you know that AVFD has a fleet of 26 vehicles? (This includes six staff vehicles—pickups specially outfitted to provide some types of emergency responses.) Vehicles and equipment also need check-ups, so our maintenance staff is going through all of the apparatus, including our "brush engines." These vehicles are used for fighting brush and wildland fires, and they are four-wheel drive with a shorter wheelbase so they can get around on our long, narrow roads and driveways. Every component of every engine is inspected top-to-bottom on a regular basis, including tires, brakes, valves, hoses, the foam systems, water tanks, electrical, etc.

Our fire district has always had a five-year budget plan, and following that plan this year we purchased a new water tender! The new "8542" holds 3,000 gallons of water and will replace the old 1988 Freightliner that has been out at Station No. 2 near McKee Bridge for decades. The new 8542 was built to our district's specifications so that it is easier and safer to drive in the Applegate environs. As well, it was specially outfitted to be able to address brush and structural fires.

And finally, the district purchased a second radio repeater earlier this year via a successful grant application (way to go, team!). This new repeater will be used to allow our firefighters on the east end of the district to talk to the west-end folks more easily. In emergencies, communications matter!

While the new repeater has been installed with a new antenna, it is not yet in service. Chief Wolfard is waiting on the Federal Communications Commission certificate and frequency paperwork. Once that is in place, we'll contact our local, state, and federal cooperators to inform them to update their radios.

Phew! After learning about all of this preparation on the fire district's plate, I think I'd rather just clean up my defensible space, and call it good to go!

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneor@gmail.com

Fire evacuation in Little Applegate— one family's first-hand experience

We're the family who was evacuated, and I wanted to share some useful tips from the ordeal.

We were incredibly fortunate! If the fire were any closer, we'd have been burned down. If the fire crews had been busy elsewhere without all the resources at hand, we'd have been burned down.

Forever, immense gratitude goes out to our system of firefighters and community for rallying to our aid.

Okay, the tips. Bear in mind that we had approximately 45 minutes from lightning strike to "Go."

1. Yes, lightning could actually strike in your backyard.

2. Have your most important "rebuild-your-life" documents ready at all times. Ours have been in a special bag in an easily accessible location for two years now and included photos.

3. It is fire season. Park your car with a straight shot out at all times. The driveway can congest quickly.

4. Prepare your kids for the possibility. Ours were amazing; this effort paid off.

5. Have a priority list—maybe attached to the door of your house—of what to grab/do if you can, e.g., pets, valuables, purse, computer, heirlooms, etc. Most stuff can be replaced, but we still grabbed a duffel hastily stuffed with clothes, bathroom bag, and pillows. I grabbed my basic face-painting and henna kit so my employment wouldn't stall. Some of the friends who showed up were put to work hosing

down the house and cutting down shade cloth, etc.

6. Periodically video your home, inside and out, including inside cupboards, tools, outbuildings, etc., in case you have to make an insurance claim. And make sure your policy is up-to-date with all recent improvements...just in case.

7. The fire chief will not be happy about neighbors showing up to help, people coming and going, or anyone choosing to stay behind and defend. It understandably stresses him out to have civilian safety at the back of his mind.

8. Anything you do over the years to increase access on your land—roads, forest thinning, clearing, installing good water systems, metal roofs, etc.—can make all the difference in the world. I believe our efforts in this area just paid for themselves sevenfold.

9. If you get bombed with retardant, be grateful and wash that stuff off as soon as possible (if you're as lucky as we were to be bombed and get to return to an intact home). A pressure washer really helps. Yes, it is hard on the softer plants. Corrosive stuff.

Our libraries are stocked with excellent pamphlets about fire safety and preparedness. Read them!

Thank you, firefighters, Applegate Fire District No. 9, volunteers, and my amazing, caring neighbors.

Amber Bishop and Family
Reprinted with permission from Amber Bishop.



Burn reminder

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

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BOUTIQUE WINERIES

Continued from page 1

gold, as indicated by visible mine tailings. Perfect soil conditions enabled owners Kathy and Duane Bowman to produce an exquisite traditional blend of French Bordeaux. Visitors to their tasting room, in the historic McCully Inn in Jacksonville, can sip wines on the garden patio and hearken back to the inn's vintage days of the late 1800s.

Devitt Winery. In 2001, when Jim and Susan Devitt's dream of selling grapes proved more of a challenge than expected, their backup plan of "making our own wine" sounded to them like the old adage "when pigs fly" (which later became a name of one of their wines). Yet Devitt Winery proved that persistence can become a pinot and tenacity a tempranillo and produced impressive varietals and blends. When Jim died in 2017, Sue's grandson, Brendon, took over as winemaker.

Guzzo Family Vineyard. Paula and Tony Guzzo transitioned from tech to terrace with what started as a landscaping project and a few rows of vines on Murphy Creek. Not long after reading Jeff Cox's book, *From Vines to Wines*, the Guzzos traded a home in the San Francisco Bay Area for their boutique winery. Their secret, now out of the barrel, is limited quantities of smooth and mighty red wines uniquely aged in small format American oak barrels. The Guzzos are producing hand-pressed, handcrafted, award-winning wines, satisfying to the most sophisticated palate, while remaining approachable for the emerging wine enthusiast.

Their recently opened tasting room allows visitors to see how they ferment, hand-press, barrel-age, and bottle their wines. Guests can sip and share stories while sitting at retired oak barrels hand-painted by Paula with local scenic landscapes.

LongSword Vineyard. Wine enthusiasts flock to LongSword Vineyard to view colorful paragliders overhead while sampling an amazing flight of varietals. LongSword's sparkling chardonnay, Accolade, is sure to lift your spirit. Those looking to pursue other flights of fancy can enjoy an original adaptation of the classic Peter Pan in September, presented by Wanderlust Theatre Company at the winery.

Rosella's Vineyard and Winery. Rex and Sandi Garoutte, Rosella's owners since 1998, tend ten acres of vines along Missouri Flat Road. In their quaint tasting room, where stories from Rex are paired with Sandi's famous "Spretzels," visitors enjoy tastings of cabernet sauvignon, merlot, zinfandel, and blends. Many of their wines have Hawaiian names, e.g., Manu Aloha and Ula Waina, in tribute to Rex's late mother, Rosella, who loved to visit the islands.

Walport Family Cellars. Second-generation Applegaters Eric and Amy Walport represent the next generation of agro-visionaries incorporating permaculture design and use of chickens and sheep into their vineyard management practices. The Walports' cattle ranch has been transformed into rows of cabernet. Visitors can enjoy cabernet, merlot, and malbec, among other varietals, in the new tasting room or under the trees up Slagle Creek.

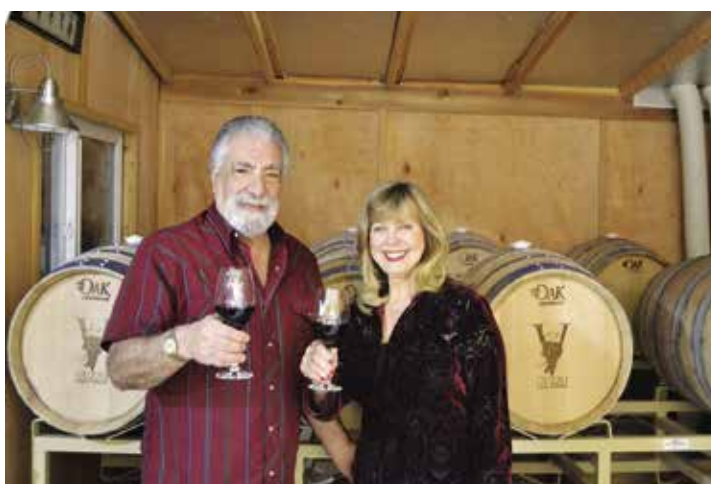
Applegate vineyards tended by families with a passion for wine, a love of the land, and an eternal hope for a bountiful harvest are the core of this community.

Come for a visit and a bit of viognier, sip the latest release of sauvignon blanc, relax to one of the valley's many red blends, and leave singing "K syrah syrah."

Cathy Rodgers
cathyrodgers55@gmail.com
Winery photos by Cathy Rodgers.



Brendon Butler (center) of Devitt Winery.



Tony and Paula Guzzo of Guzzo Family Vineyard.



Rex Garoutte of Rosella's Vineyard and Winery.



Eric Walport of Walport Family Cellars.

Tasting Room Info

Cricket Hill Winery

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Open Thursday - Sunday 1 - 6 pm
May 1 - Thanksgiving

Devitt Winery

11412 Highway 238, Jacksonville
541-899-7511 • devittwinery.com
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Closed Wednesdays

Guzzo Family Vineyard

1386 Murphy Creek Road, Grants Pass
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LongSword Vineyard

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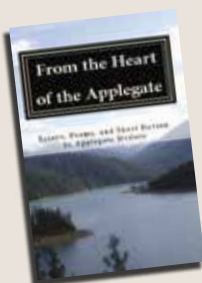
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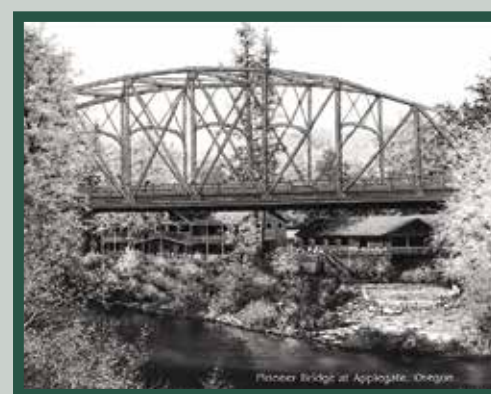


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Student Corner: Agriculture Question

On a warm morning in early August, a small group of Hidden Valley High School (HVHS) students gathered in the school's barn to help the new agriculture program teacher, Trinity Shodin, get ready for school. They agreed to sit down with the *Applegater* and share their thoughts about farming and ranching in the Applegate Valley and what changes or challenges they thought farmers and ranchers might face in the future.

Kendra Caldwell-Ziglar, junior. The growing population is a big challenge already. The need for more housing is taking up farmland and also driving up the cost of land. There are fewer and fewer small family farms.

Kendall Larsen, senior. Fires are obviously going to continue to be a challenge for farmers and ranchers. They will have to be proactive to protect their land and animals and prevent crop loss or damage—for example, by creating wet lines around fields that will be firebreaks when needed during fire season.

Guy Meade, sophomore. Right now not enough younger people are going into farming and that's a big problem. The average age of an American farmer is 60, and the next generation isn't choosing to farm. It's becoming just big business corporations. It's hard for small-scale farmers.

Christopher Woods, sophomore. Marijuana and hemp corporations are buying up the land and putting pressure on family farms. The future looks like all marijuana and hemp and grapes. It's not good to have too much of one thing. A wide variety of crops is better. Also wolves

being reintroduced and recovering is going to be a challenge in the future. Livestock has already been lost in Oregon.

Trinity Shodin, teacher. The cost of land is a barrier to young people getting into farming. Unless you inherit the family farm, getting land to start farming is out of reach for most. In the future, maybe small farms will have local niche markets.

Bonus! Meet the teacher. Trinity Shodin comes to HVHS from Oregon State University, where she earned a BS in agricultural science and an MS in agricultural education. She grew up in Sherwood in the northern Willamette Valley. This is her first teaching assignment.

Trinity and all four students want to encourage community support for the HVHS agricultural programs and Future Farmers of America (FFA). HVHS students with an interest in agriculture who join FFA will develop leadership skills, gain confidence, and learn about farming—big and small. Community supporters can connect through the Alumni and Friends support group for the HVHS-FFA chapter. Contact Trinity by email at trinity.shodin@threerivers.k12.or.us.

Also, plan ahead for three fundraisers in 2020: (1) a dinner and auction on March 7, (2) a plant sale in May around Mother's Day, and (3) the concession booth at the old-time tractor show in Pottsville in June. The HVHS chapter of the Future Farmers of America is the only FFA chapter still active in Josephine County. Let's help them keep growing.

Lisa E. Baldwin
le.b.97527@gmail.com



Kendra Caldwell-Ziglar, HVHS junior



Kendall Larsen, HVHS senior



Guy Meade, HVHS sophomore



Christopher Woods, HVHS sophomore

Student photos by Lisa E. Baldwin

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Enchanted Vine Run supports Applegate School enrichment programs

On Saturday, September 28, come out to Wooldridge Creek Winery and enjoy the kids' run and 5K and 10K races through the vineyards, along with a glass of wine at the end (or sparkling cider for those under 21). There will be live music and food for sale through the winery.

The top three female and male finishers from each race will receive a bottle of Wooldridge Creek wine. All finishers will receive a wine glass and a coupon for wine or beer to fill the glass.

All net proceeds of this race are donated to Applegate School enrichment programs. For more information, visit facebook.com/thewinerun.

SATURDAY, SEPT 28TH



Enchanted

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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Applegate School finishes school year on a celebratory note

The final days of the 2018-2019 school year opened up new experiences for Applegate students. Mrs. Halsted's second and third graders visited the fire station, where they learned how to evacuate a smoky room by climbing out a window and practiced knocking down cones with a fire hose. The students concluded their fun and informative morning with a lunch of pizza and mac and cheese. Hooray, and thanks to the fire crew.

Mr. Scull's fourth and fifth graders visited the High Desert Museum in Bend. They had the opportunity to explore lava caves and learn features of the high desert and its inhabitants.

Eighth graders had a fun trip to Wolf Lodge in Washington and capped the year with their moving-on ceremony and final dance.

All students had a great track and field day with races, relays, jumps, and ball throws. They hailed the final day of school, planned and staffed by Parent-Teacher Support Group (PTSG) members, as a wonderfully fun day. Students enjoyed water relays, snow cones, a craft station, cotton candy, and an epic tug of war. A big thank you to PTSG for this event and all their yearlong support.

Jean Hall
jhall80@juno.com

Applegate and Williams schools prepare for new school year

Summer fun, summer travel, and summer adventures are winding down. September calls students and school personnel to new learning experiences. Teachers prepare for new classes and new courses. Other school staff get ready for a new year of helping in classrooms and in various programs such as art, music, and technology.

Office staffs prepare class lists and schedules. Administrators check closely to see that all is ready to welcome the new student bodies. Custodians do the last bit of polishing floors and windows. Students go school-shopping and gather school supplies. The 2019-2020 school year is about to begin.

The Applegate and Williams communities extend their best wishes to all who lead our students to new adventures in learning. We express our thanks for all you have done and for all your willingness and dedication to make this new school year a happy and successful journey. May you know the support and gratitude of the school communities you serve.

Jean Hall
jhall80@juno.com

Ruch School's Field of Dreams

If you happen to be in the Applegate Valley and drive by 156 Upper Applegate Road, you will discover a beautiful playfield. Now, instead of wasps and star thistle, there are butterflies and green grass. You will see a track ready for health enthusiasts, dog walkers, joggers, and students chasing after the last of the summer sun. You will revel in the evidence that speaks of hard work, hours of fundraising, and undying support from community, funding organizations, and individuals who recognize the benefits that Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) offers students, families, and community. You will find our "Field of Dreams"!

Words cannot express how humbled and fortunate we are that we can offer our families and community a safe space that inspires play, discovery, and an opportunity to "unplug" and get outdoors. Our students have waited for and anticipated this moment for a very long time, and it is finally here.

ROCS's mission and culture include many opportunities for students and staff to learn and play outside. Because some of the best learning takes place outside and in nature, our students benefit from the lessons and experiences that foster a sense of stewardship to the environment in which they live and learn. They develop a love and respect for the rivers, lakes, trails, and natural habitats that most of them call their backyard. Lessons with this focus make it more relevant to the students and applicable to their lives outside of school.



Ruch School's "Field of Dreams" is ready for students and community members to enjoy. Photo: Brandee Tolner.

To show our appreciation to all those who helped fund the new track and playfield, we are hosting a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on October 7. We invite everyone to join us in celebrating the collective impact that this demonstrates and see for yourselves the happy smiles that have resulted on the faces of our students, staff, families, and community members. What a great day it will be!

Important dates

- September 21: Pride Preview, 4 - 6 pm
- Second Wednesday of each month: PTO meetings, 3:30 - 5 pm
- October 7: Jog-A-Thon, 12 - 3 pm
- October 7: Ribbon Cutting, 12 - 1 pm
- November 2: Harvest Festival, 3 - 7 pm
- December 20: Winter Program, 6 - 7 pm

Thanks to everyone involved with ROCS, past and present. What an amazing community and a beautiful place to work and live! Come visit us—we will show you around and share all that we do!

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

Initiative abounds in Three Rivers School District

BY RICH HALSTED

As a school board member, I remain very excited about how much Three Rivers School District continues to accomplish with limited financial resources. It is the brilliance of our entire team (teachers to bus drivers; aides to district staff; volunteers to administrators; maintenance to custodians) that continues to not only provide an excellent education for our students but also improve our district. I am humbled every time I shake the hands of new graduates, knowing how many people touched their lives and contributed behind the scenes before they crossed the stage.

Last year I wrote that I was cautiously optimistic that we were going to take our first step to reach our goal of an 85 percent graduation rate by 2023. That first step was more of a leap—we saw graduation rates jump by nine percent, from 68 to 77 percent.

Several initiatives led to this achievement, but the credit really goes to everyone who in some way impacted the lives of these students from kindergarten through their senior year. I remain confident that we will make another step when the class of 2019 data is released in late fall or early winter.

Being a smaller district with a supportive community gives us great flexibility when it comes to initiatives. Although the school board adopted the 85 percent graduation goal, this is more of a way point along the

larger strategy of preparing students for success after graduation.

It would take more articles than this one to describe all the initiatives happening in the district to improve the quality of our education, so I will focus on a couple that you may be unaware of: employment indicators and internships.

Employment indicators. These indicators come from our relationships with local businesses, resulting in metrics to evaluate students in qualities that employers look for in employees. Qualities such as professionalism and communication ("soft skills") are now being evaluated by staff to provide students with an assessment and feedback on how employers would see them, which give students the tools they need to be successful in the workplace. In addition, students with high ratings can bring a certificate to certain employers to receive priority for an interview.

Internships. An internship program started with a grant from the Ford Family Foundation to establish internships at Illinois Valley High School. This initiative grew quickly and now is a Josephine County-wide program with a number of other areas wanting to get involved. It has also drawn high interest from the state. To gain experience in a field of interest is an invaluable educational opportunity for a student. It is pretty inspiring to watch a student help with surgery on



Caps fly as Hidden Valley High School graduates of 2019 celebrate at the June 6 ceremony. Photo: Casey Alderson.

an animal or to visit a student working on a construction site. Local businesses are stepping up to help us help students discover their interests.

An initiative we are currently researching is the four-day school week. The benefits would be much more than simply saving money; they have a lot to do with the quality of life for both our students and staff. To reduce our busing by 9,000 miles a week and eliminate one day of long commutes would impact everything from safety to an expanded hiring pool. The school board is not taking this initiative lightly and will not make any changes until it has considered important aspects such as educational opportunities for the fifth day (my thoughts are music, art, STEM, etc.) and providing meals (our district includes four of the six poorest zip codes in the

state). We will also have public meetings and surveys to review with communities. And I believe that the concept needs to be tested at certain schools before moving forward with a district that is the size of Rhode Island. Needless to say, as board chairman this year, I wouldn't want to move forward without rigorous study, discourse, and full board support.

I am impressed by the quality of the young men and women who graduate from the district. Our funding challenges remain significant, but we make up for this with tremendous employees and volunteers. I appreciate any input about where we can continue to grow. We move our meetings around the district, so please check our website, threerivers.k12.or.us, for dates and locations.

Rich Halsted • rich.halsted@gmail.com

Look who's reading the Gater!

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



Photos, clockwise from top left:

- Brian, Margaret, and William Della Santina** share news of the Applegater with a family in Hunan Province, China.
- During their recent wedding, **Diana Coogle and Mike Kohn** read their vows as printed in the Applegater. Photo: Sequoia Photography.
- Cindy and Jack Luce** and the Gater visit The Church on Spilled Blood in St. Petersburg, Russia, where Emperor Alexander was killed in 1881.
- Sioux Rogers**, in Los Angeles for a high school reunion, consults Bob Raver, a retired IBM attorney, about the legality of the Applegater.
- Susie Beckham**, Applegate Library assistant, introduces Columbus, OH, to the Applegater and the JCLS Event Guide.
- Donna and Carl Offenbacher and Lynne Offenbacher Schefstrom** in Rudesheim, Germany, overlooking the Rhine River.
- Marion Hadden**, on the Jacksonville Trolley, reads the Gater through wineglass glasses. (We hope that helps.)



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