

OPINION

Answering false claims about climate change

BY ALAN JOURNET

We are all entitled to our own opinions. That the current president seems not to care about accuracy, having lied over 13,000 times since taking office (washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/10/14/president-trump-has-made-false-or-misleading-claims-over-days/), doesn't mean we now all have the right to make up our own facts.

An article in the fall edition of the *Applegater* dismissing the field of climate science has compelled me to respond to the misinformation it contained.

When reading someone's opinion, we can judge claims about ideas with which we are unfamiliar on the basis of claims about ideas we know about. Applegate residents deciding whether to dismiss climate science and deny its impact on our valley might do well to assess these claims for themselves.

1. The author of this article seems to claim that there have been many ice ages over the last 10,000 years. If so, this must be pure fabrication, since not even science-denying sources make such claims. While there have been several ice ages over the last two million years, the last 10,000 years has seen a recovery from the most recent ice age. The primary factor driving ice ages (Milankovitch cycle) would be imposing another descent into glacial temperatures if it weren't for our emissions of greenhouse gases.

2. The claim that Mars, Venus, and Pluto have exhibited rising temperatures for several decades is unsupported by evidence. Since Pluto takes 248 years to orbit the sun, any trend we might discern on that planet would be purely seasonal.

3. The claim that, as Earth recovered from previous Ice Ages, warming occurred before carbon dioxide rose was debunked by reanalysis of ice-core data as long ago as 2014 and again by more recent analysis relying on data other than ice cores. It's important to keep up with current scientific literature before offering pronouncements of purported fact.

The article devoted space to nonsensical accusations against the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), concocted without regard to how this body was formed or what it does. The IPCC does not conduct research determining whether warming is happening, and, if so, what is responsible. The IPCC does no research. The research is conducted by

experts in the various relevant disciplines, who then publish their scientific findings in peer-reviewed scientific literature. The role of the IPCC is to review this literature and discern what represents the consensus. Contrary to the oft-repeated and uninformed claims of non-scientists that science doesn't employ consensus, agreement among experts regarding what the evidence means is exactly what leads scientists to reach conclusions. The assertion that politics motivates consensus about research findings is arrant nonsense. Indeed, consensus is exactly what medical professionals do when they decide the best treatment for a given health condition.

Critics can attack individuals such as Al Gore and Maurice Strong as often and relentlessly as they want, but such attacks will not undermine or alter what the basic climate science research indicates.

Gratuitous and irrelevant attacks against the United Nations Agenda 21 demand a response. Agenda 21 is essentially an "apple pie and motherhood" urge from the United Nations for constituent nations to manage their natural resources voluntarily such that they can supply both current and future generations with what they need. This is totally uncontentious; it's exactly what any farmer does who plans to leave the farm to the kids. Arguing that Agenda 21 involves the imposition of global government is absurd and belongs in an evil fairytale, a Disney movie, or the arsenal of flat Earthers.

If folks were to use their time exploring actual scientific literature rather than biased antiscience sources, the Applegate Valley, our children, and our grandchildren would be better off. The reality is that this valley is already suffering the consequences of global warming and the climate chaos it is causing. Rising temperatures and more frequent heat waves, droughts, and wildfires are a few of the impacts.

Oregon may not be able to solve the global warming problem alone, but unless we do our part to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we have no credibility or authority to urge others to do their part to protect our valley.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Editor in chief
Applegater Newsmagazine

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., an established nonprofit corporation, seeks a part-time editor in chief to manage production of its quarterly 24-page newsmagazine, the *Applegater*, which is celebrating its 25th year in publication. The *Applegater* presents constructive, relevant, educational, and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects and acts as a clearinghouse for the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Valley.

The editor is paid on a freelance basis; benefits are not included. The editor is required by corporate bylaws to sit on the board of directors as a volunteer and attend monthly board meetings in the Applegate Valley.

Responsibilities

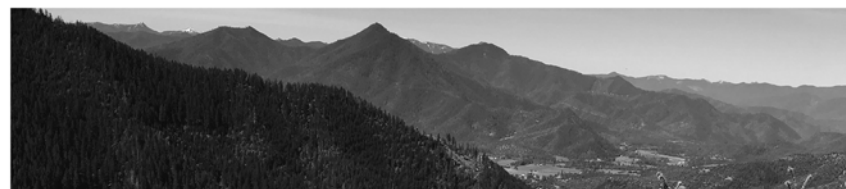
- Manage and oversee content for print and online publication, including reviewing all content, photographs/images, and developing strategies and style guidelines
- Meet deadlines and budget requirements
- Follow publication standards and policies
- Create print and online production calendar for each issue
- Suggest article topics per established editorial calendar and assign to volunteer writers
- To assure accuracy and appropriateness, work with editorial committee, copy editors, and proofers to edit, fact-check, proofread, and improve articles
- Supervise layout editor, advertising reps, writers, etc.
- Oversee layout and check content for accuracy and errors
- Comply with nonprofit IRS and US Postal Service content requirements in regard to bulk mailing

Requirements

- Proven working experience as an editor
- Strong writing/editing/proofreading skills and an excellent portfolio
- Work well with others
- Hands-on experience with Word and Excel, and InDesign, Photoshop or other publishing tools
- Excellent written skills in English
- An eye for detail along with critical thinking
- Prioritizing and multitasking
- Four-year degree in journalism, communications, English, or related field

Submit resume by December 15 to gater@applegater.org.
For more information about the organization, visit applegater.org.

Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership



Please join us at two Community Meetings to learn about upcoming restoration projects in the Applegate Valley

The Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership (RFRP) – a collaboration between state and federal agencies, and local non-profits – is launching a multi-year forest restoration initiative at six sites across the Rogue Valley. This work is funded largely through a \$6 million grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, with state lottery dollars.

The Applegate community is invited to join representatives from RFRP to learn about the three project sites in the Applegate Valley. We are excited to share how this initiative will make our forests, watersheds and communities healthier and more resilient. This is a great opportunity to learn more and ask questions.

December 2, 2019

Project Overview

Community Meeting
6-8pm at
Applegate Lodge
15100 OR-238, Applegate, OR

At this meeting, RFRP partners will present an overview of the three Applegate Valley projects, and answer questions.

December 11, 2019

Multi-Party Monitoring

Community Meeting
4-6pm at
Applegate Valley Fire District #9
1095 Upper Applegate Rd, Jacksonville, OR

Partners will share the collaborative monitoring framework, invite engagement with the ongoing process, and consider ideas for additional co-investments in monitoring.

No RSVP is necessary and both meetings are open to all community members.
For questions please contact: Terry Fairbanks, tfairbanks@sofrc.org.

Learn more about the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership at www.rogueforestpartners.org



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.