

Applegater



Photo by Ann Nguyen • applegater.org

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Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
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Celebrating
~26~
Years



Working for A Greater Applegate are, at back from left, Rich Halsted, board member; Cathy Rodgers, board chairperson; Brooke Nuckles Gentekos, development consultant; Paul Tipton, board vice-chair; and Sonya Prislac, treasurer. In front from left are Rhianna Simes, project coordinator; Megan Fehrman, neighborhood connections coordinator; Seth Kaplan, executive director; Ryan Pernell, outreach coordinator; and Janis Mohr-Tipton, board member. Photo: Alison Hensley Sexauer, board secretary.

Nonprofit AGA is here for you—and also wants to hear from you

BY DIANA COOGLE

If the thought of a Dollar General in the Sunshine Plaza in Ruch makes your toes curl, better listen to Seth Kaplan, executive director of the nonprofit A Greater Applegate (AGA), who says it could happen if, say, a locally owned store folds.

Better buy local, Seth says, to make that less likely.

But maybe you don't mind if a Dollar General moves in.

Whatever you want to see in the Applegate, A Greater Applegate wants to know.

"I believe AGA is the only organization in the Applegate Valley looking at issues and concerns of the entire valley," Seth says. "We want to be the organization that convenes community values, visions, and voices and turns them into community action."

"Our goal is to be working in this place, of this place, and trusted by this place," adds Megan Fehrman, neighborhood connections coordinator for AGA. "It's a long-term commitment to the Applegate community that will bring resources here to support a living economy, a strong community, a resilient environment, and a self-determining social system."

Nice. Big ideals.

How?

To learn what people in the Applegate care about on a very local level, AGA is looking at the Applegate from the perspective of its 11 neighborhoods (as AGA sees them): Little Applegate/Yale

Creek, Upper Applegate/McKee Bridge, Humbug Creek, Thompson Creek, North Applegate, Ruch, Provolt, Williams, Griffin Lane/Sterling Creek/Cady Road, Wilderville/Wonder/Murphy, and Elliott Creek/Applegate Lake/Carberry Creek.

Don't see your residence there? Tell Seth! They want *everyone's* input.

To that end, Megan is coordinating neighborhood meetings, at a time and in a place convenient to each neighborhood, inviting opinions from all residents. There'll be wine and food, and butcher paper for writing down ideas. And lots of listening.

AGA has already held two successful meetings, with 50 people at one and 35 at the other, where issues like traffic, a community center, trails, environmental concerns, art, and social events came up.

Once AGA has an idea of the vision of the neighborhoods (and the Applegate as a whole), they want to help make those things happen. For instance, they can provide financial assistance in the form of Momentum Grants.

How do they think they're going to get people to meetings?

"We'll put up signs," Seth says enthusiastically. "We'll invite people. We'll put notices on Jo's List and Applegate Valley Connect and AGA websites. We'll let people know through the *Applegater*."

But what if a person just doesn't go to meetings? What if someone lives too far up the road or thinks his or her

See A GREATER APPLGATE, page 4

Plenty to see at the Star Ranger Station

BY PAM CARR

Don't hesitate—we want you to drop by and visit the Star Ranger Station. It has a visitors' office with stuffed "wild animals," books, maps, toys—and even an ambassador mountain lion on duty just inside the front door.

Our friends, neighbors, and visitors are a constant source of wonder. One minute we are talking to someone who worked for "the outfit" in the 1960s, and the next we meet someone who has moved to the Applegate from Alabama who wants to know what kind of fish are in the river or where the best possum hunting is.

Then a neighbor drops in to let us know about three goats running loose on the



A stuffed cougar greets visitors at the Star Ranger Station. Photo: Pam Carr.

highway. Questions arise about everything from mushrooms to Bigfoot, historic fire lookouts, wildflowers, or the spooky noise some animal was making outside the tent last night. All are welcome opportunities for us to help you enjoy *your* forest.

See STAR RANGER STATION, page 4

Revisiting 'The wonderful person behind Jo's List'

BY JEANETTE LETOURNEUX

In spring 2012, the *Applegater* published an article about Jo Larsen, the wonderful person who started Jo's List, the now indispensable electronic community bulletin board. We wanted to get the perspective of this special person and resource for our Applegate Valley on what had changed in her service, for her personally, and in her community in eight years.

The value of the free service and the generosity of spirit that Jo exhibits to keep it going strong certainly haven't changed. It's still connecting people on a diverse range of issues—from job seekers and help wanted, recommendations on businesses and services, and upcoming community events to alerts about safety and fires and helpful advice relating to rural living. What remains the most rewarding to Jo is reuniting pets and animals with their owners and helping to find homes for animals.

This quote from the 2012 article continues to hold true: "One aspect I particularly like is that [Jo's List] unites a broad spectrum of the community. It's a bit like standing and chatting over the back fence." That community has expanded tremendously—from 50 subscribers when



Jo Larsen. Photo: Barbara Holiday.

Jo started the service in the mid 2000s, to 750 in 2012, to close to 3,000 currently. Creating such a vital network is quite an achievement for one person!

Jo credits Outreach Internet's assistance with being able to take the list this far and continue it for so long. Her process has stayed the same. She updates additions and changes to subscribers' email addresses, then checks all the incoming postings. She screens each and every message for derogatory language or political messaging

See JO'S LIST, page 18

Local Postal Customer

Nonprofit Org
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ECRWSEDDM

COMMERCE - COMMUNITY

OBITUARIES

Robert Benton Ziegler

January 6, 1945 - January 1, 2020

Robert (Bob) Ziegler was born on January 6, 1945, to Bill and Maude Ziegler. All of his homes were within a quarter mile of each other in Ruch. He graduated from Medford High School in 1963 and married his high school sweetheart, Mary Ann Barker, on June 13, 1964. She died on June 4, 1999.



In his teens Bob worked on ranches around the valley. After high school he worked at Hydraulic Service and Supply, then West Main Rental for nine years. In 1974, Bob and Eric Root bought Medford Manufacturing, a welding shop, and Bob bought Eric out about two years later. After 31 years, Bob retired in 2007.

Bob was a volunteer with the Applegate Valley Fire District for 36 years, which is pretty impressive considering that the national average tenure for volunteers is less than two years. He started out at the top as a battalion chief. He stepped down from that position in 2012 but continued to volunteer until his retirement in 2016.

In March 2004, Bob was introduced to Debbie Holden by her parents. He married Debbie on September 11, 2004.

Bob's hobby was farming. He also enjoyed cutting firewood. For many years, when Bob wasn't working at the welding shop or volunteering at the fire district, he would be cutting and baling hay for one of his neighbors. His passion was helicopters—he even got the chance to fly once.

Bob is survived by his wife, Debbie; sons, Sheldon (Evie) of Ruch, John (Natalie) of Medford, Timothy Holden (Jenny) of Grants Pass, and Danny Holden (Marlena) of White City; and eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Mary Ann, and grandson Joseph Ziegler.

A memorial service was held Saturday, January 18, at the Applegate Valley Fire District Training Building. The room was filled to capacity with more than 250 family, friends, and firefighters.

Kevin Carr commenced the service by playing "March of the Cameron Men" and "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes. Chaplain Ron McKay said a prayer. Stories and precious memories were shared by family and friends. A family video captured many moments for those in attendance. The genuine qualities that Bob shared with us for 75 years were very present.

The fire district board authorized the dedication of Fire Station 2, 7774 Upper Applegate Road, to the memory of Bob Ziegler for his many years of service.

He will always be remembered as having great strength and courage. The Ziegler-Holden family wishes to thank all who opened their hearts to share precious moments with Bob and the family over these past years.

Carey Chaput and Brett Fillis
careylucas@hotmail.com,
brettfillis@gmail.com

Taowhywee Agnes Baker Pilgrim

September 11, 1924 • November 27, 2019

Taowhywee Agnes Baker Pilgrim, born September 11, 1924 in Logsdan, Oregon, near the headwaters of the Siletz River, died November 27 in Grants Pass.

In her 95 remarkable years, Grandma Aggie demonstrated her reverence for all living things through music, teaching, environmental activism, and, ultimately, serving as the spiritual elder of her Takelma tribe.

"I'm everybody's Grandma," she'd say with a broad smile. This was Agnes Baker Pilgrim's way of expressing her deep appreciation, acceptance, and love of all people. She believed in the power of kindness and reciprocity, and she recognized the biological interconnectedness of all living things.

Whether addressing a small child or speaking with the Dalai Lama, Grandma Aggie treated everyone she met with respect. She was adept in knowing how to listen to the needs of others, including wild rivers, salmon, and trees.

My initial interest in Grandma Aggie began in the 1980s when I arrived in southwest Oregon, the heart of the Takelma homeland, as an anthropologist for the US Forest Service. However, it wasn't until her March 2016 book signing in Ashland, Oregon, that we reconnected.



Taowhywee Agnes Baker Pilgrim, with Tish McFadden at left.

I bought and read her book and was immediately inspired to write a story to deliver her indigenous teachings to our next and future generations—to "ripple it out."

Grandma Aggie's words, wisdom, advice, and teachings are eternal and universal. They are here to guide us toward a balanced world, once again.

You will be forever missed, Grandma Aggie, but you will never disappear. Your name, Taowhywee, which means Morning Star, will rise upriver at dawn. Today. Tomorrow. Forever.

Tish McFadden
rumtum@mind.net

~ In Memoriam ~



Neil James Ledward

September 3, 1927 - November 10, 2019

First director of Jackson County Parks, 1961 - 1991

Founder of Cantrall Buckley Park, 1968

Photo: Tom Carstens.

Welcome to our new editor!

Bert Etling

The *Applegater's* new editor in chief is Bert Etling, editor of the *Ashland Daily Tidings* from 2014 until 2019. He previously edited two California papers: *The Cambrian*, a weekly in Cambria, and the *Santa Ynez Valley News*, a biweekly paper in Solvang. Both papers won numerous awards from the California Newspaper Publishers Association under his leadership, including the General Excellence Award for *The Cambrian* in 2013, designating it the best paper in its category in the state.

The Cambrian was also twice named runner-up in a nationwide community newspaper contest and three times runner-up as best weekly of its size in California. Bert also earned individual awards for editorial writing, page design, and special projects.

Born in North Carolina, Bert grew up in Solvang and earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Stanford University. He began his professional newspaper career as sports editor, general news reporter, and photographer for the *Santa Ynez Valley News* in 1982.

Etling and his partner, Laurel (Laurie) Merchant, moved from Cambria to Ashland to be closer to her son and granddaughter, then living on an Upper Applegate farm still owned by Laurie. Bert and Laurie enjoy reading, gardening, and exploring southern Oregon trails with their rescue dog, Daisy.



"I'm thrilled to be joining the *Applegater* team," Bert said. "I've spent my career in community journalism and have seen how important local papers are to making community dialogue better, providing the information oxygen people need to make informed decisions."

"I've enjoyed the Applegate during my visits. It reminds me of the rural valley where I grew up and had my first newspaper job. I look forward to getting to know the community better and advancing the *Applegater's* mission to enrich the lives of valley residents and readers."

Bert can be reached at bert@applegater.org and 541-631-1313. His Twitter handle is @betling.

Join our 2020 fundraising committee

Free admission to each event!

Boy, do we need your help!

The ambitious *Applegater* team will be holding **two** fundraising events this year:

- Fun for the family in June
- Annual fundraiser in October (over 21 only)

Help us plan and create our best events yet. Join our fundraising committee now—contact Diana Coogle at diana@applegater.org or 541-846-7447—and help us raise the necessary funds to continue publishing the *Applegater*. In addition to our undying gratitude, you will receive a complimentary ticket to both events.

Thank you for your support!

Roving Reporter

Applegate Trails Association comes to a fork in the road

BY TOM CARSTENS

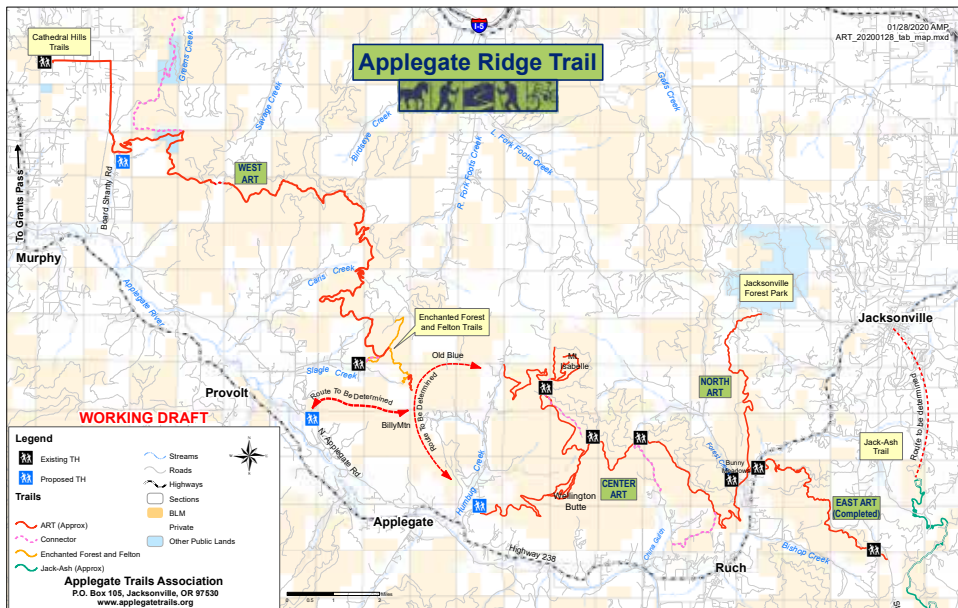
It was the end of May 2011. The Applegate Neighborhood Network was promoting the establishment of a new national monument in the Applegate Valley, and the meeting had attracted a politically diverse group of Applegaters. One of these was David Calahan, a retired Medford firefighter.

But David wasn't there to get into a heated discussion about the proposal for a new monument. He was there to market an idea he had for a new system of trails in the Applegate.

David's kitchen, and the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) was born. They decided to call David's vision the Applegate Ridge Trail (ART).

While ATA has sponsored dozens of hikes and has underwritten a wide variety of trails projects in the valley (including those in Cantrall Buckley Park), the ART remains the inspiration for the organization.

The East ART was completed in May 2017. It traces a lazy path high above Bishop Creek and affords panoramic



Map by Annette Parsons.

David had been doing a series of map studies, and it looked to him like there might be an opportunity to carve some nonmotorized trails on the ridges overlooking our valley. He presented a map that traced a bright red line almost entirely on public lands. Beginning in Jacksonville, it cut right along the ridge separating the Rogue and Applegate valleys all the way to Cathedral Hills in Grants Pass. Taking full advantage of existing trails, it was clean and elegant. It stirred excitement among the attendees.

David wanted to prove the concept, so a week later he led a hike along an old trail high above Forest Creek looking into the heart of the Applegate. The views were stunning; no one in the group had ever seen anything like it. Within two weeks a makeshift board of directors met in

views of the Applegate Valley surrounding Ruch. The 5.5-mile trail has proven popular with hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. Two clearly marked trailheads with parking are at the four-mile marker on Sterling Creek Road and across from Forest Creek Road on Highway 238.

Preparations for the rest of the ART are in full swing (see the accompanying map):

- The full scope of the Applegate Ridge Trail and the Jack-Ash Trail, which would go from Jacksonville to Ashland, was validated in 2016 when Luke Ruediger and Josh Weber blazed a trail from Ashland all the way to Grants Pass. (You can view the film, *Walking the Wild Applegate*, on the ATA website at applegatetrails.org.)

- The next phase, the Center ART and North ART, will connect the East

Applegate dogs flood Jackson County Animal Shelter cages

BY LAURA AHEARN

During 2019, an extremely high number of dogs from the eastern Applegate area ended up in the Jackson County Animal Shelter. This area represents around one percent of the county's 220,000 human population, yet for many months *over one-third* of the unclaimed and abandoned dogs in the shelter were Applegate dogs. There were multiple serious confiscation cases, many owner surrenders, and the inevitable strays that owners never claimed.

As of the deadline for this edition, 18 of the 50 confiscated or abandoned dogs in the shelter came from Applegate Valley. That is 36 percent. No, these are not dogs that "outsiders" dumped here. (These numbers are the author's first-hand head



Puppy fostered in the Applegate. Photo: Laura Ahearn.

ATA 2020 Trail Maintenance Work Parties

Help maintain the stunning East Applegate Ridge Trail (East ART). You will meet new friends, develop camaraderie, get some exercise, help your community, and discover this incredibly beautiful trail. We meet at 9 am and quit in time to eat lunch at the trailhead at 12:30 pm. The East ART trailhead is at the end of BLM road 38-2-29.1.

ATA provides tools, snacks, and lunch. There are a variety of tasks for all skill levels. An RSVP is always appreciated (josh@applegatetrails.org), but not required.

Dates

- Saturday, March 7, 2020 (meet at trailhead, East ART)
- Saturday, April 4, 2020 (meet at trailhead, East ART)

Directions

From Jacksonville, turn left on Cady Road, right on Sterling Creek Road, right again 150 yards past the four-mile marker, and proceed to the trailhead. We will have directional signs out.

ATA is holding a similar trail maintenance party for Cantrall Buckley trails on Saturday, June 6, 2020. Meet at Cantrall Buckley Park.

Sponsored by the Applegate Trails Association (applegatetrails.org), a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

ART and Bunny Meadows to Jacksonville Forest Park and head west to emerge at a planned trailhead on Humbug Creek.

- Much of the Center ART has been plotted by master trail architect Duane Mallams. It includes two exciting new trails in the design phase—one climbs to the top of Wellington Butte, and one loops around it. Four trailheads have already been built along the Center ART route.

- The final phase will be the West ART, which traces the ridge overlooking the Rogue River on one side and the Applegate River on the other. It will terminate at the Cathedral Hills trail system.

Although David's dream is well along, the ATA finds itself at a crossroads. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) remains supportive, but the process to gain trail approval can be cumbersome and often requires some nudging. Grants continue to flow, but the hunt for funding is persistent. And outreach must continue, because nothing can get done without wide community support.

Keeping ART spirit alive

It's been nine years since that original board meeting in David's kitchen. The ATA has seen members come and go; now the ATA is once again seeking the right mix of directors to maintain the momentum of the ART project. ATA is inviting members of the Applegate community to participate in this fun, challenging, and rewarding effort. If you love recreating outdoors and enjoy working with those of like mind, David would like to hear from you. You can reach him at david@applegatetrails.org. He guarantees your efforts on behalf of our community will provide a unique sense of fulfillment.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025



David Calahan on the east Applegate Ridge Trail.



Hikers on the east Applegate Ridge Trail. Photo: Applegate Trails Association.

count and do not include dogs "on hold" to see if owners may claim them.)

The shelter still managed to improve its save rates in 2019.

Jackson County is an open admissions shelter, i.e., it accepts any dog within the county no matter how sick or dangerous.

To be recognized as "no-kill," we have to have a save rate of 90 percent or better.

There is a sad side to the massive improvement in the feline save rate. In part, this was achieved by limiting the intake of feral cats. But the new Working Cats Program was successful in finding homes for many adoptable felines in barns, vineyards, and stables.

Applegaters can help care for the animals from our community that have ended up in the shelter and keep others from this fate. Let's

make ours a no-kill community. Sign up to give a job and a home to a Working Cat. Volunteer or make a donation to Friends of the Animal Shelter (fotos.org). Foster. Adopt. Save lives.

Laura Ahearn
laura.ahearn@stanfordalumni.org

Statistic	2019	2018
Canine intakes	1964	1882
- Dogs returned to owner	961	861
- Dogs adopted	813	756
- Save rate	0.9530	0.941
Feline intakes	1482	1652
- Cats returned to owner	68	55
- Cats adopted	976	776
- Save rate	0.8374	0.5752
Total save rate	0.9042	0.77

Source: Jackson County Animal Services.

POETRY CORNER

Paddletail

by Paul Tipton

paultipton@frontier.com

Paddletail is a performance piece written for and presented at the August 2019 Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council's Annual Meeting at Red Lily Vineyards, where the Applegate Poets read prior to the showing of Sarah Koenigsberg's documentary, The Beaver Believers. A nod to Barbara Summerhawk for allowing the use of "bucktooth pond.")

Sez Paddletail, in his bucktooth pond:
 "I'm Slap-Happy! Whack! Whack!
 Don't go near my new-gnawed logs!
 My home makes the flow go slow,
 and my dry tunnel into the bank
 even better than money in the bank.
 Just sticks and a hole make my life whole.

"Yeah, my stumps, you can see 'em,
 but they're still rooty-toot-rootin'.
 I don't give a dam, unless I decide to,
 but the benefits are for me, and for you.
 I think you're jealous, or maybe rebellious,
 'cause it seems you'd like to try living like I do.
 I'm Slap-Happy! Whack! Whack!"

■ A GREATER APPLGATE

Continued from page 1

input isn't important anyway? *Stop!* AGA thinks your input is essential. If you don't like meetings, you can fill out AGA's planned upcoming survey.

"I find our goals very compelling," Megan says, "and worth putting some energy into to see what we can do."

A Greater Applegate isn't thrashing in the dark. The Ford Family Foundation's Rural Development Initiative, which has supported AGA with generous grants, funds eight to twelve such organizations in Oregon. One of the best models is Illinois Valley's Community Development Organization, called IVCandO.

But AGA is unique in that it is the only one of those organizations without a city center. In the words of an anonymous participant at a neighborhood meeting, "We're centrally isolated. Our center is ourselves."

It's impossible not to get as excited by AGA's vision as Seth and Megan and

AGA's outreach coordinator, Ryan Pernell. Consider the past successes: Applegate Valley Connect, a website (applegateconnect.org) with a local events calendar and a directory of Applegate businesses; a network of nonprofits; and a business network that is working on a map of businesses in the valley, a branding logo for the Applegate, and "Welcome to the Applegate" signs on Highway 238.

"We want the businesses here to be successful," Seth says.

Don't we all! With all our differing viewpoints, there is something about living in the Applegate that makes us "see each other as cousins," as Seth says. The Applegate isn't Jacksonville. It's not Medford. It's not Grants Pass. It's us, and AGA is out to find out what we want. Don't miss the opportunity to paint yourself into the picture.

Diana Coogle
 dicoog@gmail.com

■ STAR RANGER STATION

Continued from page 1

Sometimes we share "words of wisdom" with our visitors. After being shown some pictures taken on a weekend camp-out up the Middle Fork of the Applegate River, we needed to discourage the folks who were hand-feeding chocolate chip cookies to a couple of black bears who had wandered into their camp. Could have ended pretty badly.

The Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District sits on some of the most interesting historical and botanically diverse ground in the Pacific Northwest, and our relatively low elevation allows nearly year-round opportunities to get out on forest trail systems, especially around Applegate Lake. We have trail guides to assist you in having a great day on the trails, including areas along the Middle Fork of the Applegate River.

A stop at the ranger station can include a visit to our Tack Room, built in 1911. This historic building has served many purposes over the years, from storing the equestrian tack, food, and equipment for the "pack string" to serving

as a supplemental storage shed for tree-marking paint when timber was king on the district in the 1970s and 1980s. The Tack Room has been in continuous use for over 100 years!

It is now filled with odds and ends from days gone by, including maps of the forest way back when we were the Crater National Forest, old crank telephones, and other examples of the way things were. Visitors are welcome to request a key and wander back in time.

While you are in the office, be sure to look at a painting of an inventive cabin built in the early 1900s in the Red Buttes Wilderness near Frog Pond. Knox McCloy used a circle of live incense cedars as his uprights and simply filled in the gaps and put a roof on top.

At the front desk we are available to take your information and questions about what's happening in your forest. If we don't know the answer to your question, we know who does. We will do our best to direct your comment or question to the right personnel.

We are here to assist you with information about current conditions

BOOK REVIEW

**Ongoingness:
The End of a Diary**Sarah Manguso
Graywolf Press 2015

"Write this down! *Write it!*" ordered my first husband, Pat Kelly, as he lay in hospice, half comatose on the very edge of his life, about to slip, fall, or fly into whatever ongoingness comes next. He thought he knew what that was. "It's obvious!" he said, his voice triumphant, and he didn't want the knowledge lost.

Sarah Manguso would have loved this moment. She would have understood. She kept a diary.

If you keep a diary, journal, or book of reflections, or if you've wished you did, or are considering doing so, or have tried and then hidden the thing in the sock drawer or on the top shelf of a bookcase *behind* the books, you will probably want to read Sarah Manguso's *Ongoingness*. Her book could best be compared to an apology. It is not in itself a diary, though she kept a diary from childhood. This concise, thoughtful, wise, down-to-earth, sometimes humorous book gives us her reasons for having done so.

Here's another book about time, memory and forgetfulness, human purpose and choice, the paradox of life and death. I say "another" because such are the books that have lately fallen into my hands and that I've been reviewing here in the *Applegater*. Manguso tells us right at the top: "The diary was my defense against waking up at the end of my life and realizing I had missed it." I read that and thought immediately of Pat's insistence, thought of my own frantic search for a pen and paper and the act of getting his experience down in words, but even while writing I was missing those last moments because life keeps happening as we try to save it. It is ongoing. Manguso stresses the almost heartbreaking impossibility of saving experience. Even what we store in memory revises by the moment; it can't be pinned down. It is a butterfly. The pin kills it. She shares with us her perception that beginnings and endings are delusions imposed upon our moment-to-moment existence in this world. It is the world itself that continues and only our immersion in its motion that guarantees...well...what's obvious. She argues that we must forget. "I started keeping the diary in earnest when I started finding myself in moments that



were too full." The diary became her way to "empty the reservoir."

Manguso takes the reader's breath away with very common examples. Early in her years of keeping a diary she realized she could not write down everything, but she was haunted by what she forgot, which was most of what happened to her every day. She felt herself disappearing. "I wanted to remember what I could bear to remember and convince myself that's all there was... My behavior was an attempt to stop time before it swept me up. It was an attempt to stay safe, free to detach before life and time became too intertwined for me to write down, as a detached observer, what had happened."

Ongoingness is Manguso's description of emergence from her anxiety over time and her place in it. The anxiety she felt became existential terror. She says, "My life, which exists mostly in the memories of the people I've known, is deteriorating at the rate of physiological decay. A color, a sensation, the way someone said a single word—soon it will all be gone. In a hundred and fifty years no one alive will ever have known me. Being forgotten like that, entering that great and ongoing blank, seems more like death than death.... The catalog of emotion that disappears when someone dies and the degree to which we rely on a few people to record something of what life was to them, is almost too much to bear."

How did she survive? How do any of us survive? No spoilers here except that Manguso does not disappoint. Still, I'd like to think she will write another even more profound reflection in 20 years. Maybe she has just begun to explore these things. I invite you to read her book.

Christin Lore Weber
 storyweaver1@gmail.com



Visitors to the Star Ranger Station can find a selection of books, maps, toys, and other items. Photo: Pam Carr.

in the forest and a wide variety of forest products, such as boughs, cones, rocks, mushrooms, and firewood. We are happy to guide you through the process of obtaining incidental use and other permits.

We have many maps (some free and others available for purchase), such as public motor-vehicle use maps, district and forest maps, recreational trail guides, and a map of a self-guided hike on the Historic Gin Lin Trail. We also have many interesting handouts, such as a brochure about the history of the Applegate's very own Bigfoot trap and a self-guided motor tour of the Siskiyou Crest, which runs from the Applegate River to Mount Ashland.

The ranger station is open from 8 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday at

6941 Upper Applegate Road. Before you head out for your adventure, please sign our visitors' register (and look through the book to see who else you know). And, most importantly, "Y'all come back now, hear?"

Pam Carr
 Information Specialist
 Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District
 541-899-3800

~ 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 200 words or less. Opinion pieces cannot exceed 500 words (no images). Articles cannot exceed 700 words. Obituaries are limited to 500 words and one photo. Essays and stories are limited to 500 words.

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.

Submissions for the next issue must be received at gater@applegater.org by the deadline (see Editorial Calendar).

Applegater Newsmagazine
PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530

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

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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)!

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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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Editorial Calendar

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

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Thanks to Ann Nguyen of Idyllwild (idyllwildstudio.com) for the photo of dogwood taken in Williams.

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For more information, contact
Ron Turpen @ 541-601-1867
(cell), 541-702-6255 (home), or
ron.turpen@gmail.com.

Next deadline: May 1

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— Applegate Library —

Because the Applegate Library is a vibrant gathering place for this community, we hope to evolve programming to meet the community's needs. What programs, classes, or events would you like to see at the library? Are you an author, artist, collector, or enthusiast who would like to present, teach, or display your work? If so, please contact us.

Don't forget to check out our newest offerings. Kanopy, Flipster, and Library of Things and our expanded Book Club in a Bag can all be found on our website at jcls.org.

Oregon Counts 2020

Applegate Library staff will be available to assist with filling in your census forms or applying for census jobs. As a rural Oregonian, it matters that your voice is heard. Participate in the upcoming census. Check your mailboxes in March, and do your part.

Upcoming events

- "The Other" String Theory. Learn how to tune and play a ukulele and other string instruments with local musician Scott Carey. Bring your own ukulele, or we will have a few on hand. All levels and ages welcome. 10:30 - 11:30 am, Saturday, March 7.

- Author Talk. Local author Paul Fattig will speak on "The Mouse that Soared: Life and Times of the Legendary Siskiyou Smokejumper Base." 1:30 - 2:30 pm, Saturday, March 21.

- Attracting Hummingbirds to Our Gardens. Wild bird specialist Laura Fleming discusses all things hummingbird related: local species, how to attract, selecting and caring of feeders, nesting behavior, and fun facts. 11 am - noon, Saturday, April 4.

- Origami with Christian Shillito. Learn how to make an origami crane to take home. We might even make origami

with dollar bills! 11 am - noon, Saturday, April 11.

- Miso, Tempeh, Natto, and Other Tasty Ferments. Learn how to ferment grains and beans with Kirsten and Christopher Shockey, local authors of *Miso, Tempeh, Natto & Other Tasty Ferments: A Step-by-Step Guide to Fermenting Grains and Beans*. 1:30 - 3:30 pm, Saturday, April 18.

- Friends of the Applegate Book Sale and Clearance. Shop for new or gently used books, CDs, and movies. All proceeds help provide programming materials for the Applegate Library. 2 - 6 pm, Friday, April 24, and 10 am - 2 pm, Saturday, April 25.

- Digging Dinos STEM Program. Go back in time to learn about dinosaurs with Bugs-R-Us Educational Services. Explore real fossils, teeth, and claws and imitation skin. 11 am - noon, Saturday, May 2.

- End of Life Choices Oregon. Local retired registered nurse and hospice volunteer Jan Rowe will discuss end-of-life choices. End of Life Choices of Oregon (EOLCOR) is an organization comprised of doctors and regional volunteers who are trained to provide skilled professional guidance with the Death With Dignity Act and other end-of-life options. 11 am - noon, Saturday, May 16.

Ongoing events

- Storytime runs from 10:30 - 11 am, Saturdays.

- Digital Services, offering help with any and all tech issues, are available 10 am - 12:30 pm, Wednesdays.

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



— Ruch Library —

Ruch Library has a full schedule of upcoming programs and is happy to present Annice Black telling the history of Forest Creek, Bonni Criswell sharing the secrets of fire-wise gardening, an Earth Day Celebration starring Ruch Outdoor Community Middle School (ROCMS) and others, and Dolores Lisman presenting the story of the daughter of a goldminer, Uvena Arnold. We hope you can join us!

We need library volunteers available to work a couple of hours a week, or as a substitute! We are overwhelmed on school days and need folks to shelve books. We also welcome creativity, if that's your gift. Please contact staff on your next visit if you are interested. And a huge "thank-you" to the volunteers who provide so much help and support.

Evidently someone has walked away with our container of about 60 LEGO people and all their radios, hats, weapons, bouquets, mugs, etc. Our LEGO collection is devastated. If you know anything about this, please help get them back to us, no questions asked. Also, if you have a LEGO figure or two you could contribute, we certainly would appreciate it. Thanks.

Spring programs

- **Forest Creek History.** Saturday, March 14, 1 - 3 pm. Annice Black will share the story of the neighbors who populated places along Forest Creek, a tributary of the Applegate River, from the 1850s through today. Learn about this region's geography, early settlers, and economics of mining, farming, and logging.

- **Fire-Wise Gardens and Privacy Screens.** Saturday, April 18, 1 - 3 pm. With wildfires on the rise, creating fire-resistant landscapes has become a necessity. Plant expert and designer Bonni Criswell will share tips on what to plant within a defensible space, strategies for creating natural looking, multipurpose privacy screens, and best practices for planting and maintaining gardens.

- **Earth Day Celebration. Saturday, April 25, 1 - 3 pm.** Come learn about taking care of our resources and our earth. Fun and educational projects and activities for all ages, many presented by ROCMS kids. If you have an idea to share or would like to help, please contact staff.

- **Gold Miner's Daughter, Uvena Emily Arnold.** Saturday, May 16, 1 - 3 pm. Researcher and presenter Dolores Lisman will share the story of Uvena Emily Arnold, the daughter of Ezra Arnold, a gold miner in the Upper Applegate at the turn of the last century. Arnold is the subject of the book, *The Secret Diary of Emily A: Gold Miner's Daughter*, written by her daughter, C. Ellen Watts, in 2017.

Ongoing

- **Digital services.** Nicole Vukcevic is at the library every Thursday afternoon from 2 - 4:30 pm to help you with any computer or device problems you may be having. New phone? She can get you started. Want to figure out how to access Hoopla for free movies? She can do that too! She is a wealth of information and skills and is anxious to help you out!

- **Babies and Wobblers Storytime.** From 10:15 - 10:45 am each Tuesday, geared for 0 - 3-year-olds, storytime offers children a social time and develops early literacy skills.

- **Preschool Storytime.** From 11:30 am - noon, followed by a craft. For children 2+.

- **LEGO Builders, Architects, & Engineers.** For 4+ years old. Saturdays from 11 am - 4 pm.

Build and display original LEGO creations. DUPLO bricks are available for younger kids.

Friends of Ruch Library (FORL)

FORL is a vital part of our library. They provide for our programming and extras that make us great! Please visit their A-Frame Bookstore from noon - 4 pm Tuesdays; 1 - 5 pm Thursdays; noon - 4 pm Saturdays.

First Saturday Book Barn \$5 Bag Sale

The Book Barn is used to sort all the incoming donations. Once a month all books are \$1 each or \$5 a bag. Hours: noon - 4 pm.

All sales are sponsored by the Friends of Ruch Library. All proceeds benefit the Ruch Branch Library.

Ruch Library is open from 10 am - 5 pm Tuesdays, 1 - 7 pm Thursdays, and 11 am - 4 pm Saturdays at 7919 Highway 238 in Jacksonville (Ruch). Contact branch manager Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-7438 or ttruesdell@jcls.org for more information.

Josephine Community Library

Weekly storytime at the Williams branch library

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

Need tech help?

The library is ready to answer technology questions and assist with downloading e-books, setting up emails, navigating social media accounts, formatting résumés, and more during Friday Tech Time every week from 11 am - 1 pm. Bring passwords and login information as needed.

Not available during that time? To make a free one-on-one appointment with your own personal tech coach, contact Jamie Menzel, Williams library branch manager, at 541-846-7020 or jmenzel@josephinelibrary.org.

The Williams branch of the Josephine Community Library District at 20695 Williams Highway, Williams, is open from 1 - 6 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, and from 11 am - 4 pm Fridays. Call 541-846-7020 for more information.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Since the launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library last year, almost 2,000 children who live in Josephine County, ages birth to five, 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 Wolf Creek, and fill out a paper registration form, or (2) visit josephinelibrary.org/get-involved/imagination-library/ and fill out the online registration form.

Sponsors for this program include AllCare Health, the four Rotary Clubs in Josephine County, Welch Investment Group, Josephine County Library Foundation, and the Oregon Community Foundation.

For more information, contact partnership manager Rebecca Stoltz at 541-476-0571 ext. 108 or rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org.

For more information about Josephine community libraries, contact communications coordinator Brandace Rojo at 541-476-0571 or info@josephinelibrary.org.

The Williams branch library.

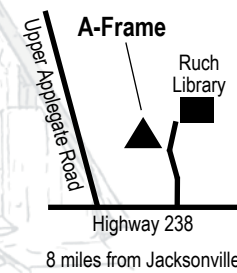


Visit the A-Frame Bookstore @ Ruch Library

Used books from \$1 to \$1.50

Tuesdays 12 - 4
Thursdays 1 - 5
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TIME TRAVEL TIME!

This is your reminder to reset your clocks one hour ahead on Sunday, March 12, for Daylight Saving Time.



NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— A Greater Applegate —

Listening session coming soon to a neighborhood near you

What do a childcare co-op, a community center with coffee and recreation, a tool-lending library, an east valley organic food store, better internet, local shuttle bus service, neighborhood phone trees, and comprehensive trail maps have in common? These are a few of the ideas that have surfaced in A Greater Applegate's first two neighborhood listening sessions.

A Greater Applegate (AGA) is visiting neighborhoods throughout the Applegate Valley this year to learn what people love about where they live, what our assets are, what challenges and barriers people see, what opportunities exist, and what is missing. The information is being gathered and compiled through the fall of this year and will be presented at three events: a Delegation from Neighborhoods in September, followed by two 20/20 Community Vision convenings in the Jackson and Josephine county sides of the valley in October. Local elected officials and other decision makers will be invited to these meetings along with the general public.

In October and November AGA went to the Little Applegate and Upper Applegate/McKee Bridge areas of the Applegate Valley, where we gathered some fascinating information from residents. We went on hiatus for the winter, but will resume neighborhood listening sessions in March.

The neighborhood listening sessions will be supplemented by visioning sessions at our Applegate Valley Nonprofit Network



Applegate community members share ideas at a neighborhood listening session.

and Business Network in May and June, as well as special visioning sessions for younger and Latinx residents. We will also provide a survey for everyone who can't make it to one of the in-person sessions. We hope to hear from at least 500 people.

Our goal is to establish community priority projects for the next few years and gather the resources (financial or in-kind) to achieve them.

Once we conclude the listening and visioning sessions, we will produce a 20/20 Community Vision document, which AGA and other organizations can use to garner support for activities aligned with organizational missions. We also will provide training to community members interested in developing their facilitation skills to lead action teams and working groups in their neighborhoods or across the Applegate Valley

We have confirmed all neighborhood listening sessions through June and will confirm all 20/20 Community Vision meetings soon. Times and dates being considered are evenings and weekends to accommodate residents. Check our website at agreaterapplegate.org for frequent updates.

Our current schedule for the remainder of the year follows:

- March 1, 2 - 4 pm, Applegate/Humbug Creek, Applegate School
- April 2, 2 - 4 pm, Thompson Creek, English Lavender Farm
- April 23, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, North Applegate/Slagle Creek, 1410 Kubli Road
- May 14, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Ruch, Applegate Valley Fire District Community Room
- June 11, Provolt, Dorothy Gale's Event Centre
- July 9-12, Williams
- July 23-26, Griffin Lane/Sterling Creek
- August 13-16, Murphy/Wilderville/Wonder
- August 26-30, Elliott Creek/Applegate Lake/Carberry Creek
- September 21-25, All Neighborhood Delegation
- October 22, East Valley 20/20 Community Vision Convening, Ruch Fire Station Community Room
- October 27-29, West Valley 20/20 Community Vision Convening

We are looking for community spaces in or near these locations to hold meetings. If you know of a location, we would love to hear from you! AGA will facilitate, set up, and provide food and beverages. All we need is a convenient space for 25-plus people. We have heard from other neighborhoods and are working with them to schedule additional meetings where possible. If you consider yourself a neighborhood and have a place to meet, let us know!

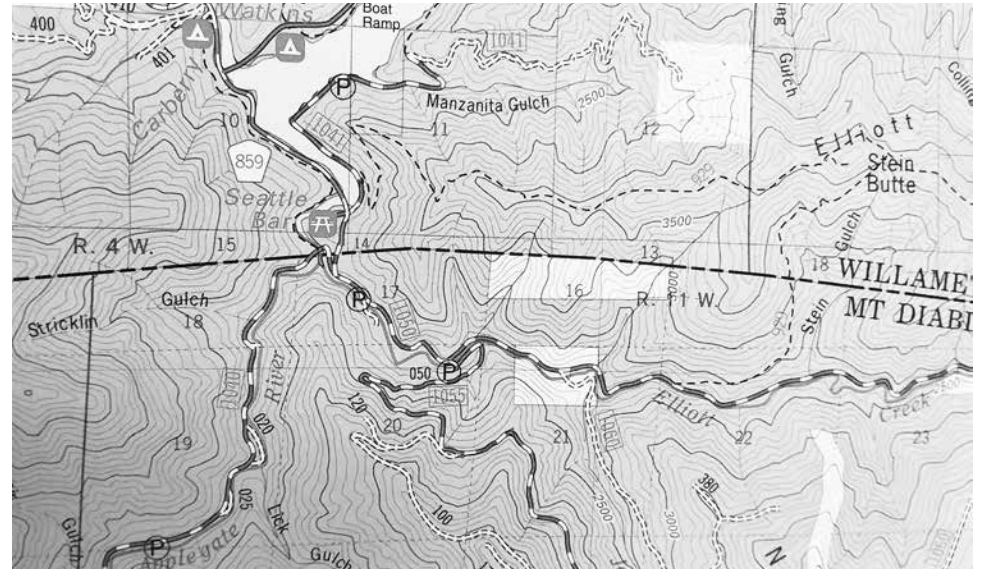
Business Network off to a great start

A Greater Applegate is pleased to announce that the launch of the Applegate Valley Business Network at the Applegate River Lodge was attended by nearly 50 local business people! Attendees received valuable insights from Governor Brown's Regional Solutions, Business Oregon, Travel Southern Oregon, Jackson County Business Librarian, Laurel Briggs Creative Marketing and Design, and the Illinois Valley Revolving Loan Program for small businesses.

The launch was followed by the formation of a steering committee, which has prioritized creating an Applegate Valley brand logo for growers, makers, and creators; a map of Applegate businesses; and welcome signs to the Applegate Valley. Many other projects are under consideration. If you are interested in joining this effort or becoming a charter member of the Applegate Valley Business Network, please let us know.

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

— McKee Bridge Historical Society —



The Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819 set the boundary between New Spain and "Oregon Country" at the 42d parallel. The 1846 Oregon Treaty gave the USA the land between the 42d and 49th parallels. Congress created the Territory of Oregon in 1848, reaffirming "the 42d degree of north latitude" as the boundary. Why isn't that the OR-CA state line?

MBHS invites student creativity contest entries

The McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) is having a Creativity Contest! We invite students in grades K-8 and of equivalent ages to enter. Find an interesting story, person, item, or landmark that relates to the history of the Upper and Little Applegate valleys, from the Red Buttes and Blue Ledge Mine, past Applegate Lake and McKee Bridge, and through Ruch to the Logtown area. Present your idea using any medium you want. You don't have to live in the Applegate to be a contestant—all students are welcome.

You can write an essay, draw a picture, sculpt something with clay, sing a song, or put on a skit. We'll award prizes in three categories: grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. All entrants will receive free root beer floats at McKee Bridge Day, and the top three places in each category will receive generous cash prizes and an array of MBHS gifts such as T-shirts, water bottles, and tote bags.

So what might a kindergartener do? Make a rubbing of a headstone at Logtown Cemetery and add drawings to tell the settler's story. Give a demonstration of games played by pioneer children. Or learn to sing a song like "Shoo Fly, Don't Bother Me" (1869) that was popular with early Applegaters. (An appropriate level of adult assistance for K-2 students is encouraged.)

Ideas for grades 3-5: Write a story based on an old photo. Make a drawing of a historic building like the 1911 Star Ranger Station—or make a replica using popsicle sticks. Does your family have an interesting antique like a bedwarming pan, a sickle, or an anvil? Give a demonstration of how it was used and tell us how it came to your family.

For grades 6-8, how about finding some portraits taken by Peter Britt of an Applegate family like the Camerons or Cantralls and constructing a family tree? Or explain why Stricklin Gulch and

lower Elliott Creek are in California—if the 42nd parallel is supposed to be the line between Oregon and California, shouldn't these places be in Oregon? Who was Roxy Ann, and how is she connected to McKee Bridge?

There are many ways to find a fun project. Take a close look at the mosaic wall at Ruch Library. Read some "Back in Time" articles published in the *Applegater* (they are online at applegater.org). Go on a hike (what is that odd building on the Collings Mountain Trail?). Interview someone who has lived in the Applegate for a long, long time. Wouldn't you love to hear the story of the man who was born on McKee Bridge in December 1941?

Check out the MBHS Facebook page for more ideas!

To enter the Creativity Contest, submit an entry form by June 1. The easiest way is to fill out the form on the MBHS Facebook page. Printed forms are available at Ruch Country Store and at the office of A Greater Applegate, both located in Sunshine Plaza in Ruch. Or send an email to mckeebridge1917@gmail.com, and we'll send you the form. If you have any questions or need help with your research, send a message on Facebook or by email.

Completed entry forms can be emailed to mckeebridge1917@gmail.com or snail-mailed to PO Box 854, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Entries will be judged after being displayed or performed at McKee Bridge Day on June 13. Mark your calendars and plan to be dazzled by creativity!

A special 'thank-you'

Thank you to everyone who made Christmas on a Covered Bridge a wonderful success. Special thanks to the Voices of the Applegate members who led carols and the Ruch Outdoor Community School orchestra for their inspiring performance.

A photo appears on this page. Please share yours on the MBHS Facebook page.

Laura Ahearn
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com

Food pantry invites visitors, donations

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 11:15 am - 1 pm Mondays. 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.

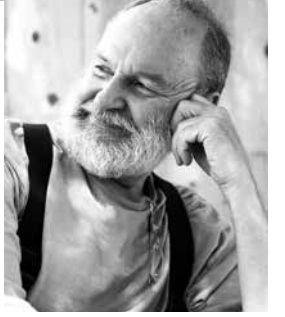
Any questions? Feel free to contact us. Thank you!

Deborah Price, Manager
541-899-6980
Michelle Bollinger
Assistant Manager
541-218-6471

THE STARRY SIDE

Seconds, minutes, hours, years, and (light) years

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

Spring is different from other seasons for many reasons. One astronomical reason is that the Milky Way is not in the sky above us! It falls into the west as spring starts and rises in the east along that horizon line later in the season. Visualize it as entirely below our feet, under the earth where we can't see it. We are actually near the edge of our galaxy, looking out away from it each spring.

Here's another way of visualizing this: as the earth goes around the sun, in spring our night sky is facing away from our beloved Milky Way galaxy and our "neighborhood" of stars. (Some of those "stars" are actually faraway galaxies.) Our

real neighborhood is our solar system. All else is amazingly out of reach: out "there"!

Those distances can be understood in terms of the speed at which light travels. For instance, it takes only 1.3 seconds for reflected sunlight from the moon to reach the earth. But it takes about 8.3 minutes for the light of the sun to reach us here on earth.

In comparison, sunlight hits Venus (the second planet from the sun) in just six minutes, and Mars (fourth from the sun) in 12.7 minutes. For Jupiter, it takes about 43 minutes. And for Pluto, the farthest planet from our sun, it takes 4-7 hours for sunlight to arrive.

The closest star to our sun, Alpha Centauri, is 4.2 light years away. (A light year is how far light travels in a whole year.) It would take 4.2 years for light to get from that star to us. That's six trillion miles! For us to travel to that star at the rate of our fastest rocket would take more than 27,000 years, or 27 millennia. And all the other distances are even crazier far away out there. We are quite alone in this massive universe and even inside our own galaxy. So let's take care of our home!

You who are interested in the night sky know it pretty well, and I've tried to illustrate it each season for more than a decade. So now let me do some fancy dancing with you. We know the Big Dipper pretty well: This time of year it passes overhead while going around the North Star. Follow the arc of the handle to Arcturus, bright and rising in the east. That handle is also the tail of the bear, Ursa Major. To see the bear in those stars, imagine three legs stretched out overhead to the east. Each leg ends with two stars

that are the same distance apart, stretching from Leo the Lion to the bowl of the Dipper.

So two, two, two—also known as the three leaps of the Gazelle in early Arab lore. Those good desert folk have given us most of our star names and many stories we know and love. They have a great story about Leo, who's looking the other way as he casually flicks his tail. This scares the gazelle, who bounds away in those three double steps. The gazelle had been drinking at a pond, which is the Coma Berenices star cluster nearby. (See illustration.)

Meanwhile, in spring, Orion and the Gemini twins are setting in the western sky. As the Big Dipper swings over the North Star, Leo and the Dipper are almost perfectly parallel to, north and south of, the zenith of the sky. Enjoy the annual swing of the sky, the spring parade of stars!

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me



Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar.

Of Note

Mercury is in our dawn in March and April and moves to dusk in May. **Venus** spends March and April in our evening and moves to dusk for May. **Mars**, if you can find its warm color, is in our pre-dawn sky all season. **Jupiter**, much brighter, is in our morning too. **Saturn**, harder to see, is also in our morning.

Meteor Showers

The Eta Aquariid meteors on May 5 are marred by a full moon, but they are so strong they are worth a try. They rise in the southeast around 4 am, so find "shade" from the moon—it will be way off in the west but not quite setting yet, darn it. You can expect 10-20 meteors an hour under these circumstances.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Think MOSH: Mulch-Out-Spray-Heat

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Most weeds are considered a menacing nuisance. There are many ways to annihilate most of the unwanted. The following points will help you do the needed deed.

Mulch. Do this early in the year before all those weedy things arrive. The best mulches use organic matter. Straw, grass, pine needles, wood chips, cardboard, and newspaper are some possible organic mulches.

I love the clean, neat look of straw. (Be sure to use straw, though, and not hay, which has weed seeds and is mixed with forage.) Straw works especially well under fruits, such as strawberries, pumpkins, squashes, and melons. Grass clippings are good sometimes, but they tend to compact down and also may have weed seeds. I prefer to save grass clippings for the compost pile or for litter in the chicken coop.

Newspaper, cardboard, and chips are a perfect trio for successful mulching. Put down several layers of newspaper, followed by cardboard, and topped off with wood chips, straw, pine needles, or another organic mulch. To be worth your time, finished mulch should be about four inches deep.

Pine needles can be used around acid-loving plants, like blueberries and strawberries. Slip some pine needles under the strawberries to keep chewing bugs away from the fruit.

Out (as in "Out those weeds!"). Remove, pull, disembark the unwanted



Mulching between rows using cardboard and straw prevents weeds from competing with water and nutrients needed for vegetables. Photo: 3.bp.blogspot.com.

things. You do this manually, best after a light rain. Make sure when you have removed the big ugly, you have all the root. When you leave a portion of a weed's DNA, i.e., its root, in the ground, it will happily return. This is well illustrated with blackberries. A small piece of root left in or lying on the ground will recolonize in the battle area.

Spray. There are many commercial organic sprays that kill weeds. There are also many home brews. Here is one easy and effective spray, homemade and safe:

Mix a gallon of vinegar with a cup of borax and a tablespoon of dish soap (to help the other two ingredients stick to the leaves) and spray on the leaves of unwanted weeds. Sprays seem to be best absorbed when temperatures are between 65 and 85 degrees. Regardless of the type of spray, aim carefully, as sprays usually do not know a weed from a petal.

When sprayed in the morning of a warm day, weeds should shrivel by the afternoon.

Be safe when spraying, as even organic sprays can ouch your eyes or skin. Safety

first: wear gloves and eye protection.

Heat, as in pour on boiling water or use a flame, like from a propane torch. The torch method works great in a gravel driveway. It is effective, nontoxic, and easy. Of course, it has a rather specific use. In your garden, where there might be heavy growth around the plants where you want to do the weeding, aim carefully. You don't want to set your pants on fire. Boiling water, carefully poured at the root base or spread over a small patch of weeds, actually works.

Speaking of weeds, how the heck did they get there? Certainly you did not plant them. Here is the "shopping list" of possibilities: birds, shoes, dogs, fresh manure, clothing, uncomposted compost, wind, and a freshly dug clump of a neighbor's gift plant. Despite most weeds being unwanted, there are many good and beneficial weeds. Dandelions, to mention one of my favorite weeds in the Applegate, are also a favorite seed source for the local lark sparrow and American goldfinch.

"If weeds constantly overrun your garden rows, ask yourself what those are and why they are growing there. Put down the hoe long enough to consider what the weeds are telling you." — Sarah Owens, *Sourdough: Recipes for Rustic Fermented Breads, Sweets, Savories, and More*

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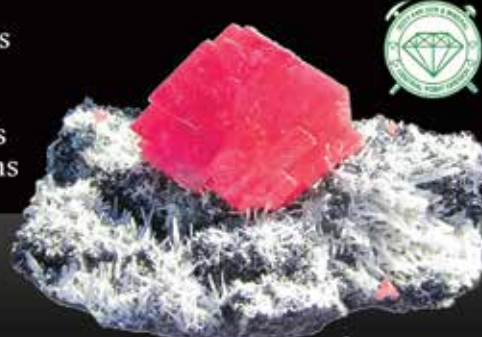
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A year of completion and dream catching

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

This year we'll be finishing current enhancement projects and catching our dream with a community celebration and dedication for our generous donors and volunteers who have helped make our park so wonderful.

Save the date

Come help us celebrate on Saturday, September 26, at Cantrall Buckley Park. We'll have lots more information about this special community event in the next issue.

This winter, Jackson County park rangers were busy with maintenance jobs, including repainting the campground restroom and showers in preparation for

the next camping season and digging holes for and installing new interpretive signs.

Over the next few months we'll be removing the park's conifer trees that have died due to stress and the insect infestations that follow. We're making plans to replace them.

This spring the park will host at least five sessions of Outdoor School Education. Part of the program for each school will be service work in the park. As they help replant conifers, students will learn about a tree's requirements for growth and the species of conifers that can adapt best to the changing growing conditions in this park.



Save the date! Plans for a special community celebration are in the works for Saturday, September 26, at Cantrall Buckley Park. Look for more information in the next *Applegater*.

Illustration: Janis Mohr-Tipton.

Upcoming event

SOLVE IT (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) for Earth Day at Cantrall Buckley Park is set for 9:30 - 11:30 am on Saturday, April 18. Watch for more information on the all-ages, family-friendly event in flyers, on Applegate Valley Connect (applegateconnect.org), and in

the *Applegater*. For more information, call me at 541-846-7501 or sign up online at solveoregon.org.

Let's work together to keep our park clean and healthy!

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

Planting flower seeds for spring blooms

BY STACEY DENTON

Things are gearing up here on Flora Farm in Williams after a restful winter's retreat. I've begun to seed the first of what's known as "cool season annuals" for transplanting out in the next month or two. A surprising number of plants can get their start in the greenhouse this time of year, and what's even more mind-bending for us gardeners who associate flowers with summer, is that they really like to get planted out when it's still pretty darn cold outside in our Zone 8 climate.

So who are these hardy characters? You'll recognize a few: poppies of all types (breadseed, Shirley, Iceland), calendulas, bachelor's buttons, dill, and sweet peas.

Small poppy seeds are easier to track when planted in flats, but I do find that poppies don't really enjoy getting transplanted (starting them in soil blocks reduces the potential of root stress). Then, there are a few lesser known but equally tough flowering plants: cerinthe, orlaya, lisianthus, stock, and bupleurum. I start each of these species in trays in an unheated greenhouse. The lisianthus and stock will go on heat mats (the stock just to germinate), but all of the rest tolerate cool soil temperatures for germination. Plus, our February thaw always gives everyone a good boost of growth in the greenhouse. Lisianthus is amazingly slow-growing, so it

won't flower until the height of summer, but all the rest of these plants are critical floral spikes, focal flowers, filler, and foliage for the May and June wedding arrangements I design.

I direct-seeded other cool season annuals into the garden in early fall because they always sprout well outside at that time of year and prefer not to be transplanted. These species include larkspur and nigella. I also planted and

am overwintering an earlier wave of calendulas, sweet peas, carnations, and stock. In addition to the cool season annuals, I seed lots of biennials in the fall to overwinter and flower in the spring—plants like foxglove, campanula, sweet william, and dame's rocket.

When it comes to spring, most of us are wowed by the flowering bulbs. Tulips, daffodils, and ranunculi are spectacular, but in order to make flower bouquets that truly stand out, I need all these other species to round out the chorus. Maybe these planting tips will help you to see beyond the soloists, and you'll be inspired to plant some new cool-season flowers in your garden this year!

Stacey Denton
stacey@weddingflora.com



Many colorful flowers like being planted when it's still cold outside.

Photo: Ann Nguyen.

Stacey Denton is an organic farmer and florist who specializes in growing and designing flowers for weddings and special events. She also offers weekly flower subscriptions beginning in April. You can find many of the flower seeds mentioned in this article at siskiyouseeds.com.

You can start seeding your cool season annuals now.



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The benefits of planting trees

BY DANA LEE

Throughout cultures spanning the globe and time, trees have been a symbol of our connection to the earth and the unexplainable beyond, the “threshold between the worlds.” Ancient cultures in every corner of the world have regarded



Acer macrophyllum, Oregon native Bigleaf Maple.

trees as our providers and guardians of physical and spiritual nourishment. In recent years, many sacred groves that have been preserved for centuries have become examples of pristine regional biodiversity. They are largely undisturbed ecosystems that are now serving as models for the restoration and conservation of biodiversity all around the world.

There is a Chinese proverb that states, “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.” Much truth still rings from this ancient sentiment. Planting trees benefits our homes and communities in many ways.

Air quality improvement. Not only do trees consume carbon dioxide through photosynthesis and produce oxygen, but they also remove other pollutants from the air, such as nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide, as well as particulates that are harmful for us to breathe.

Preservation of water and soil quality. Tree canopies intercept rainfall, allowing the water to more slowly seep into the soil, preventing runoff. This purified water, slowly absorbed through the soil, recharges underground aquifers, reducing the likelihood of floods and storm-water damage. The deep and intricate root systems of trees help hold soil in place,

preventing erosion into our surface-water streams, rivers, and lakes. This also allows the beneficial bacteria and fungal mycelium in the top layers of the soil to maintain a healthy balance and rich fertility.

Lower energy costs. Trees can have a positive impact on the expense of heating and cooling your home. Strategically placing shade trees around a house, especially on the south, west, and east sides, can lower cooling costs by 20 - 30 percent, according to the US Forest Service. Planting trees as winter windbreaks can also reduce heating expenses by 20 - 50 percent!

Food sources and habitat for wildlife. Trees foster the growth of other plants and fungi, creating an environment in which wildlife can flourish. In addition, the trees themselves provide habitat and food for birds, small mammals, and pollinators.

Trees offer precious benefits to our communities. They have a positive impact on our overall well-being, personally and societally. When we grow trees for fruit we tend to share our bounty with our friends and neighbors. Having shaded areas encourages outdoor activities in the summer because people tend to jog and walk more in places that are protected from the sun. As we know, southern Oregon can get stifling hot in the summer. It is always such a relief to take a rest under beautiful, mature trees. It is an added pleasure to see the colors change as the cool of autumn sets in.

We at Forestfarm have a deep admiration for trees that we want to share with our community. This is why we have decided to have a continuous oversized tree sale. We often have trees that we grow right here in the Applegate Valley that are too tall to ship elsewhere, which we would love to see go to homes and businesses in our local community. Please feel free to stop by Forestfarm Nursery on the Pacifica grounds at 14643 Water Gap Road in Williams (541-846-7269). We are open from 9 am - 2 pm, Monday - Friday. We greatly appreciate our community and look forward to seeing all of these beautiful trees find good local homes.

Happy Planting!
Dana Lee
Forestfarm Nursery
danalee.forestfarm@gmail.com

Pacifica wants to hear from you

BY GERI LITTLEJOHN

Perhaps you already know about Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyou. With hiking and riding trails, bird-watching, plant gardens, catch-and-release fishing, a top-notch disc golf course, and much more, it is a wonderful resource for the Applegate Valley and southern Oregon.

In this *Applegater*, hopefully you’ve read the article about Forestfarm at Pacifica and were delighted to learn that one of the foremost mail-order nurseries in the country is located right here in our valley.

It is open for you to come and see the wide selection of plants and tap into the knowledge of manager Greg Mason and his staff. Perhaps you’ve been enlightened about the extent of the education programs that have been the staple of Pacifica’s mission for the past 20 years. A percentage of every dollar you spend on plants is a public contribution to Pacifica and supports our education and camp programs and assists in the grant-approval process.

Like many nonprofits, Pacifica is run by a small, working board of directors. These individuals are passionate about nature, education, the arts, and community. They donate their time and energy and oversee the education staff and maintenance team.

Like many small nonprofits, we have large dreams and see the potential to offer so much more to the community and to the public. Like many nonprofits, we are woefully undercapitalized and understaffed.

We dream of having an events/arts program director to oversee regular community offerings and a volunteer coordinator. Imagine what this could bring to the community.

To bring these dreams closer to fruition as a full-fledged community center, to help with the overhead of maintenance and improvements on the property and buildings, and to help cover the cost of insurance and taxes, we are launching several initiatives and inviting deeper participation from you, our community.

Last year, we announced the launch of Pacifica 2.0, looking 20 years into the future. Now 2020 is here, and we are putting ideas into action. At our January board meeting we formed three

new committees: land-use, visioning, and membership-volunteer activation. This spring we will be holding community meetings. Be on the lookout for notices on Jo’s List and Pacifica’s Facebook page.

Are you interested in joining one of the committees? Do you have ideas you would like to share for designing the public meetings? Contact Geri Littlejohn, board chair, at geri@pacificagarden.org or 828-712-0277 or Ohana T, vice president, at ohana@pacificagarden.org.

Do you want to help in the gardens or learn about other volunteer opportunities or have a skill or other resources you would like to donate to Pacifica? Send an email to info@pacificagarden.org.

We really want Pacifica to thrive and be a vibrant community space. And that means we want to hear from you.

Other ways to support Pacifica

Become a member. Whether you enjoy the grounds or come to arts or music events, got married or enjoyed a wedding at Pacifica, have a child who participated in a Caterpillar program or a field trip or the Outdoor School, or simply want to express your gratitude and appreciation for all we do and for maintaining a large tract of land open to the public, we’ve made it easy for you to join. There are tiers of memberships to choose from, beginning with a free membership. Information is available at pacificagarden.org or on the Pacifica Facebook page.

You can hold a class, workshop, retreat, or special private event like a wedding or family reunion at Pacifica. We offer both outdoor and indoor facilities depending on the needs and size of your group. Our 400 acres are home to the Cedar Center, the Pond House, and the Steve Miller apartment.

We keep our prices low by being a venue-only location so that you have more freedom and flexibility to create your event exactly as you want! Contact Harmony Haynie at 541-660-3585 or harmonysue@pacificagarden.org for more information about the venue and pricing.

We are excited that 2020 is here and hope you will assist us in making this vision a reality.

Geri Littlejohn
Board Chair, Pacifica
geri@pacificagarden.org

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What are those things, anyway?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Have you ever passed by our Applegate Valley Fire District's headquarters on Upper Applegate Road in Ruch? Or attended a meeting or a social event there in the fire district's training center building? And while you were parking, did you wonder what all those large steel storage containers out back were for? I personally have wondered, especially since they seemed to be multiplying in number! So I took pictures of said containers and then asked our fire chief and operations chiefs some questions. (The operations chief's job description includes planning, reviewing, analyzing, and upgrading the duties *and training* of firefighters.)

Their answers to my questions were very interesting and somewhat creative: Those containers will be used to simulate burning homes.

Basic science: Because these old storage units are made of steel, they will not burn. So, the fire district's conceptual use for them is to configure the containers to simulate a room in a home or business that is burning. Some of the containers on-site are currently having windows and doors installed by one of the district's residents who is a fabricator by trade, so as to better mimic a home.

Also, some containers have been placed on top of another, to simulate a two-story house! Three sets of used staircases have

been ordered by the fire district, and, later this spring, one set will be installed internally to complete the two-story-house scenario. The other stair sets will be installed on the exterior of that container, one providing access from the ground to the second floor and the other from the second floor to the roof. With the focus *always* on safety, district personnel will also install permanent emergency escape ladders.

The plan is to train firefighters how to safely enter the burning unit, how to fight the fire while communicating with their on-site team, how to deal with potentially hazardous items inside the building, and, last but not least, how to rescue occupants or move them to safety. I learned that OSHA (Occupational Safety Health Agency) requires that a minimum of two people go inside a burning building (three are required if the fire is *actively* growing) and that at least two more firefighters have to be outside that building, ready to spring into action.

Our fire district's rural location, long narrow roads, seasonal weather issues, and the valley-wide senior constituency *all* present challenges to the Applegate Valley Fire District. Providing 24/7 response requires that volunteers trained in medical emergencies, structure and wildland fires, and hazardous materials spills be located all



Storage containers serve as mock homes and businesses for firefighter training. Photo: Sandy Shaffer.

across our valley. If they cannot be the first responder on a call, at least these volunteers could be quick back-up coverage.

The firefighters stationed at headquarters in Ruch (the most populated neighborhood in the valley) are the designated first responders, but something like a full-blown lightning storm rolling across the valley during fire season would bring *all* of our volunteers to duty.

Back to the topic. With this rural challenge, our fire district leaders decided to address one of the issues: how to train our volunteer firefighters at headquarters in the Applegate, so as to keep them close to home all year round. Hence the training center at headquarters in Ruch. (An aside: This decision ultimately also addressed the huge need for Applegate organizations and residents to have a community meeting space!)

I've been involved with our fire district in various positions for over a decade now. I've served on the board of directors with two fire chiefs. I feel that this new in-house training program is a smart move by our fire chiefs (and staff)—to keep firefighter bodies in our valley while gaining top-notch, consistent job training.

Very few small fire districts in our state (let alone in southwest Oregon) have the ability to provide the type of operational training on-site that our fire district has developed. Other local or nearby districts often send their new recruits to our "academy" for classes. Our fire district is providing a valuable service, and that training center building is the key.

So, as Paul Harvey used to say, "And now you know the rest of the story."

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneor@gmail.com

Spring is in full swing at Pacifica Garden

BY CHRISTINE LAZINA

As buds multiply on the trees, and shoots of spring flora emerge from the earth all around our lovely property, Pacifica staff is gearing up for a busy spring season providing educational programming to students in the community and from around the state.

Getting up close with science in the Caterpillar

Pacifica's signature mobile science lab, the Caterpillar, will soon be off to schools to provide hands-on learning about

what makes up our earth. Our current curriculum covers rocks, fossils, and plate tectonics. Students will get the chance to create their own rock collection, model mountain-building events, create layers-of-the-earth art projects, and dig for fossil replicas (and view some real ones!).

Pacifica's Caterpillar will also be returning to the 65th Pear Blossom Festival at Pear Blossom Park in downtown Medford on April 10 and 11. Stop in for kid-friendly activities and the chance

Fifth and sixth graders enjoy a field trip to Pacifica.



to view our wide collection of fossils, rocks, crystals, and petrified wood. The Caterpillar is also available for booking at other community functions; please email education@pacificagarden.org if you would like to bring hands-on science and nature exploration to kids at your event.

Pacifica Outdoor School (PODS) in its third year

Pacifica is also excited to welcome hundreds of fifth- and sixth-grade students to the beautiful Applegate Valley for another season of PODS sessions! We have had great success in the past two years growing our outdoor school program, including new fall sessions in 2019.

Highlights this spring include the first attendance of students from a school from well outside the Rogue Valley area, and the first time we have a school returning for a second outdoor school session in the same year.

Harbor Lights Middle School students will be traveling all the way from Bandon, Oregon, to experience place-based learning in an entirely different environment than that of their own home. We look forward to exploring new species, habitats, and ecosystems with our coastal visitors in our beautiful valley.

We are also excited to pilot a two-part outdoor school experience with students

from Rogue River Elementary, who attended PODS last fall. This spring these students will return to learn holistically about a single ecosystem in different seasons and life stages, building upon their previous knowledge and connecting it to new concepts. Pacifica's instructors can't wait to get outside and experience the wonders of spring right alongside all of our students!

Enjoy Pacifica's grounds this spring

Between our Caterpillar program, field trips, and outdoor school, Pacifica reaches approximately 3,000 children each year with the chance to experience learning in, and about, nature. Since many of these programs take place on Pacifica's property, we would like to remind visitors to please check our website at pacificagarden.org to confirm which days we are open to the public. On days we are not hosting schools or events, Pacifica is always happy to share our trails, waterways, and recreation opportunities with you and your family. Property closures are for the safety of our students, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in supporting youth educational programming!

Christine Lazina
Pacifica Education Coordinator
christine@pacificagarden.org

Pacifica grounds are open to the public. Go to pacificagarden.org for details.





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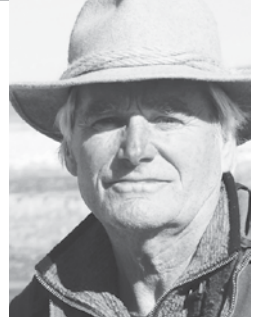
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BIRD EXPLORER

Chestnut-backed Chickadees are new to the Applegate

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Peter J. Thiemann

Having lived in the Applegate for 17 years, I regularly observe two Chickadee species: the common Black-capped and the not so common Mountain Chickadee. Now there is a recent addition to our Chickadee tribes, the Chestnut-backed. Usually ranging more to the south, in California, the Chestnut-backed is now observed

A bird feeder for Chickadees.



at our feeder all year. Often very tame, this species can be approached closely and appears curious of its new environment.

This permanent move to northern habitat for the

Chestnut-backed may be related to climate change, as we see in many other bird species. Only time will tell if this trend will continue and how the environment will change.

For us here in the Applegate, the Chestnut-backed Chickadee is a welcome new species. It is an attractive bird, with beautiful colors, and seems to associate well with other songbirds like Warblers and Kinglets.

For the first time this year I am using a new type of bird feeder specifically designed for Chickadees. It is advertised as a partial solution to the squirrel problem at bird feeders. Our Gray Squirrels here in the Applegate are quite aggressive around bird feeders and can be destructive when out-competing birds. So, a solution may be "if you can't keep the squirrels away, feed them." This feeder has a feature to mount corncocks in a vertical position next to the

regular seed window. The seed window has been reduced in size to slow access by birds. Now comes the most interesting feature of this feeder: a round 2¼-inch hole in the opposite side of the feeder box.

The Chickadees learned in no time at all to enter the feeder box with all of the seeds through that hole, which does not allow larger, dominant birds, such as the Steller's Jays, or the Gray Squirrel to enter.

And here is another interesting observation: The Chestnut-backed Chickadees were the most frequent users



A Chestnut-backed Chickadee.

of that special hole entrance, often remaining in the box to eat and staying out of the rain.

But, of course, as with all nature, the Gray Squirrels did not like this new feeder box after having eaten the offered corncocks. With the reduced-size seed window often not providing enough seeds, the squirrels started to chew the wooden feeder box to break it open, knowing that the Chickadees had entered through the special hole. There were wood splinters all over. So far the squirrels have not attempted to enlarge the side hole. If that happens, I can install a metal ring. Stay tuned.

Peter J. Thiemann
peterjthiemann@yahoo.com

Photos courtesy of peterjthiemann flickr photo stream.

Bee Project seeks help mapping Applegate bees

BY JUDI MAXWELL, PHD

Bee scientists at Oregon State University and the Oregon Department of Agriculture estimate that Oregon has 500-800 species of bees, but there has never been a concerted survey of the state's

bees. Thus, it is very difficult to know whether the health of Oregon bees is improving or declining.

The Oregon Bee Atlas represents the first steps towards

addressing this gulf in our knowledge about the native (wild) bees of Oregon. The new Master Melittologist (Native Bee Scientist) Program (similar to the Master Gardener Program) trains motivated people like you to assist in this effort. For more information and an application form, visit extension.oregonstate.edu/bee-atlas/becoming-certified-master-melittologist.

So, if you see people wielding insect nets, with most of us looking spryer than our gray hair might suggest, you have

probably encountered an Oregon Bee Atlas team. Our team, comprised of 12 people from Josephine, Jackson, and Curry counties, has visited many areas within the Applegate Valley over the last two years, finding a number of "hot spots" that we visit regularly. These areas are characterized by high plant diversity and often include quality nesting habitat.

One such area is Fish Hatchery Park. Its floodplains, forests, wet meadows, and "climax" grasslands are always yielding surprises, such as bees in the Colletidae family, also called "cellophane" bees because the female lines her nest with a waterproof barrier. This way she can nest in areas prone to flooding.

Another hot spot is the Carberry Creek campsite, just south of Steamboat Ranch. This beautiful meadow provides a season-long buffet of pollen and nectar,

as well as the sandy soil favored by the ground-nesting Andrenidae, or mining bee. These bees nest in dense aggregations resulting in a cacophony as hundreds of females attempt to provision their nests while parasitic bees, who don't bother to build their own nests, try to sneak in and lay their eggs.

Another "gem" in the Applegate Valley is the Herb Pharm in Williams, which was designated as a Flagship Farm by the Oregon Bee Project because it is a showcase of pollinator-friendly practices. These include a beautiful garden that

welcomes you when you arrive at the Pharm. It was created by and is cared for by Sayaka Lean, a Bee Atlas member.

The garden provides a rich brew of plants offering pollen and nectar, and fuzzy plants, such

as lamb's ears. Female Anthidium, or wool carder bees, harvest the fuzz, which they use to line their nest cells. Herb Pharm is the venue for our annual Bee Atlas celebration. Visit the Herb Pharm website at herb-pharm.com to find out more about the event and when it will be held (late spring or early summer).

We are always looking for new areas, so if you know of a potential hot spot please contact me. We are particularly interested in meadows in the Mt. Isabelle area.

Whether the Applegate Valley will

continue to be a haven for pollinators is not a sure thing. My personal opinion is that the production of hemp is of particular concern as flower-studded pastures and meadows are converted into barren landscapes that are the antithesis of pollinator habitat. Even if these fields are abandoned, they will not readily revert to their former state unless costly and time-consuming restoration practices are employed. Particularly disturbing is the amount of weed barriers used, which are likely to be left in the field when these areas come out of production.

Judi Maxwell, PhD
Area Coordinator for the Bee Atlas in southwestern Oregon
jmaxwell9335@gmail.com



Sayaka Lean explores the Herb Pharm in Williams.



A Bee Atlas team in Fish Hatchery Park.



The Oregon Bee Project logo

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A LOOK BACK

Bigfoot trap has captured bears and curiosity, but not Sasquatch

BY PAUL FATTIG

John McKelligott couldn't help but wonder what the heck he had gotten into when his job took him to a strange contraption a half mile west of Applegate Lake.

"I was like, 'Huh, so this is what the forest service is like,'" he recalled.

Back in 1987, the sight of the Bigfoot trap in what is now the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest was startlingly surreal for the then-new Uncle Sam employee.

a dilapidated shelter once inhabited by a trap watchman. The trap is about 200 feet farther.

While there is no sign boldly announcing "Bigfoot trap," there are two clues on the trail signs: a humanoid footprint and a reclining hairy fellow.

"I routed a sign for it in the old days," John recalled. "Well, it was too cool."

After two signs were taken as souvenirs, he stopped making them.

The lack of prominent signage hasn't deterred visitors.

"We don't have a trail counter on it, but rarely a day goes by that I don't see a vehicle there," he said of the parking area at the trailhead to the trap, estimating that 300 - 400 people see it each year.

In a 2006 interview for the *Medford Mail Tribune*, Eugene resident Ron Olson, a wildlife filmmaker and director of the research team, said the group was attracted to the area after a miner named Perry Lovell allegedly found 18-inch human-like tracks with a six-foot stride in his garden near the Applegate River.

Lovell's story, coupled with local

Indian lore, convinced Olson that the then-remote site was an ideal place for the trap. The trap was built in pre-Applegate Dam days, before a road skirted what is now the west side of the lake.

"The idea was to learn about him," Olson explained. "We wanted to put a transmitter on him. We wanted to find out how they evade people and where they migrate to. We even had big manacles ready if we got one and the tranquilizer started to wear out."

After pulling the trap up to the site behind a bulldozer, Olson hired an old miner to staff the watchman cabin and armed him with a tranquilizer gun and a movie camera.

"We managed to catch two bears, so we knew it worked," Olson said.

Although the trap failed to catch its intended target, Olson was inspired to write and produce the movie, *Sasquatch, the Legend of Bigfoot*.

Over the years, John has fielded some interesting calls inquiring about the Bigfoot trap. Take the one from a fellow at a radio station in Australia.

"As we were winding up, he goes, 'Alrighty then, mate. Thanks for the chat. By the way, what do they taste like?'" John recalled with a chuckle, adding, "It's a wonderful story to keep telling."

And one that continues to trap imaginations.

Paul Fattig
paulfattig@gmail.com



A 10- by 10-foot box off Upper Applegate Road caught some bears, but not its intended target, Bigfoot. Photo: Diana Coogle.

After all, it was intended to capture Bigfoot, otherwise known as Sasquatch or, in the words of cryptozoologists, *Gigantopithecus Americana*.

Now, more than three decades later, John, recreation technician for the ranger district and a longtime Applegate Valley resident, is the go-to guy for folks interested in learning about the unique trap.

Built in 1974 by the now-defunct Eugene-based North American Wildlife Research Team, the Bigfoot trap is a fort-like 10-foot square box built of foot-wide planks two inches thick. A heavy metal grate, which served as the trap door, was intended to be triggered by the big creature when he—or she—grabbed the deer or rabbit carcass hanging at the rear of the structure. Thick metal bands binding the planks and telephone poles anchoring the trap to the ground would keep the burly beast from breaking out.

After several bears and reputedly one hunter were caught in the trap, the US Forest Service, concerned about safety, bolted the trap door open in 1980, after the research team had abandoned its efforts.

The Bigfoot trap is about 15.5 miles south of Ruch via Upper Applegate Road. Drive past the Applegate Dam and the Hart-Tish Park entrance to a metal sign on the right for the Collings Mountain Trail. After about a half-mile walk down the trail, you will come to

Voices of the Applegate Singing out in the spring

By the time this article reaches you, the Voices of the Applegate choir will be well into its preparation for the spring concerts. These will be held on April 3 at 7 pm at the Historic Presbyterian Church, 6th and California Streets, Jacksonville, and on April 5 at 3 pm at the Applegate River Lodge, 15100 Highway 238, Applegate. The theme for the concerts is "And the Night Shall Be Filled with Music," and, as you may suspect, every song will reflect the joy of singing and how music shapes our lives.

Voices of the Applegate is sharing its second year with director Shayne Flock, who has brought new ideas and more advanced programs to our choir. We are a community choir made up of singers from Applegate, Williams, Ruch, and Jacksonville, and we are celebrating our 18th year together. We are constantly learning more about working together and producing the best music possible. We consist of about 25 members of all ages from teens to 80s, and we are growing stronger every year.

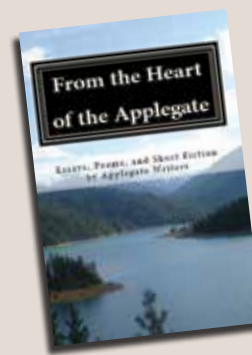
Our rehearsals began in January and will continue until March 31. The upcoming concerts present a variety of songs, mostly in four-part harmony, some in other languages such as Spanish, Latin, and Italian.

Come and celebrate our music with us! No admission is charged for either performance; donations, however, will be gladly accepted. We welcome your attendance and participation.

Joan Peterson
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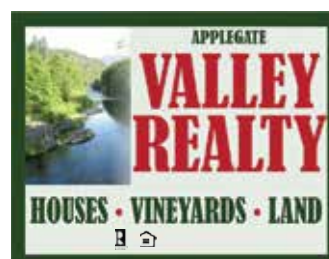
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with Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

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Hiking with Anna's Blue butterfly

BY LINDA KAPPEN

This time we will visit the Anna's Blue (*Plebejus anna*), a butterfly of the Lycaenidae family. This butterfly family is also called Gossamer Wings.

Anna's Blue wingspan measures 1.25 inches or less. The female has a dorsal color of brownish gray and rows of chevrons, lightly to heavily marked, on the submarginal area of the wing. (A chevron is a diagnostic marking on some species of butterflies.) The male Anna's dorsal displays a bluish purple color. Variations of markings on the ventral side of wings of both males and females show rows



A male Anna's Blue butterfly.

of black dots and light orange, either heavily marked or nearly absent. The variations occur in different regions and, surprisingly, even in the same areas. I have seen this to be true in southern Oregon in



These photos show the dorsal (top) and ventral (bottom) sides of a female Anna's Blue butterfly.

areas of our local Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

Various legumes, including lupines and milk vetches, serve as host plants for this species. Anna's Blues are single brooded, meaning they live one generation and the eggs overwinter.

We can observe the adult butterfly from mid-June through early October with a peak flight period from mid to late July.

The range areas of this pretty blue butterfly are British Columbia Cascades; Cascades through Washington, Oregon, and California; the Coastal Range through the Olympics; the Siskiyou Mountains; as far east as the Warner Mountains; and south to the Sierra Nevada and Sequoia National Forest. We have quite a range locally, including some travel destinations in neighboring states or areas. The Anna's Blue is most likely seen in many national forests, backcountry areas, and national parks or on state park trail systems.

Habitat for the Anna's Blue is moist mountain meadows, seeps along roadsides and trails, and forest openings at 3,000 feet and above. One will often see the males puddling with other blues and various species of butterflies in seeps to get much-needed nutrients. Often the females will be busy nectaring on nearby flowers.

Anna's Blues really are a joy to see while hiking our mountains and will sometimes stay quite still for photographing and observing if one is careful and quiet. They are often referred to as a hiker's butterfly. Locally I see them in many areas of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and other neighboring national monuments or wilderness areas. Hopefully you will see this beauty of a blue on summer hikes throughout our watersheds.

Linda Kappen

humbugkapps@hotmail.com

Photos by Linda Kappen.

Letters to the Editor wanted!

We know you have something to say, and we want to hear about it! Keep the letter to 200 words or less and submit it to gater@applegater.org. Provide your name, address, and contact information (only your name and location will be published). The deadline for the summer issue is May 1. (See more information on page 19.)

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Days of wine and roses

Five Applegate vineyards gain 'LIVE' certification

BY CATHY RODGERS

Some believe the expression “days of wine and roses” conjures up an era of days gone by and simplicity. Here in the Applegate Valley it is an era nothing short of “grape expectations.”

Commitment to environmentally conscious wine-growing practices is proliferating. Local wine growers are increasingly adopting farming methods that reflect the valley’s commitment to sustainable and ecologically friendly growing practices.

The Applegate is playing a lead role in this now-thriving market, which took time and hard work to gain traction. The organic food industry enjoyed early success, with consumers willing to pay premium prices for food without harmful ingredients.

Organic wines, on the other hand, got off to a rough start. Lack of sulfites, a key preservative, caused some early spoilage. The occasional “bad” bottle left a bad taste in consumers’ mouths. That, coupled with broad resistance from conventional wine growers challenging the legitimacy of organic benefits, contributed to a lackluster reputation and falling prices. As the industry lagged, only the most visionary continued to fine-tune their vineyards toward organic and sustainable practices.

Wine growers that held true to the notion that one could do good for the environment and still produce great wines were ultimately rewarded. Recent studies suggest organic wine consumption is now growing at 10-20 percent per year as wine lovers seek high-quality wines produced in a sustainable fashion. With less than five percent of the world’s vineyard acreage organic, there is plenty of room for bountiful growth.

Our local winemakers take pride in achieving “terroir,” the French term for

how land, soil, and climate conditions are reflected in the taste of the wine. With the loamy, well-drained soils of the Applegate Valley, its clear running waters, and its nestled products of apples, blackberries, and lavender, it is no surprise that we are home to some exquisite, award-winning organic and sustainably grown wines.

Organic, biodynamic, and sustainable viticulture practices continue to evolve as growers seek to align with consumer expectations for food and wines that are healthier, more natural, and grown in an environmentally sustainable fashion. A broad spectrum of approaches with an equally diverse array of certifying organizations and criteria adds a level of complexity.

Biodynamic, more rigorous than organic, looks at the farm as a cohesive ecosystem where sustainable farming practices ensure the land is treated in a manner that will preserve its health and vitality for generations that follow.

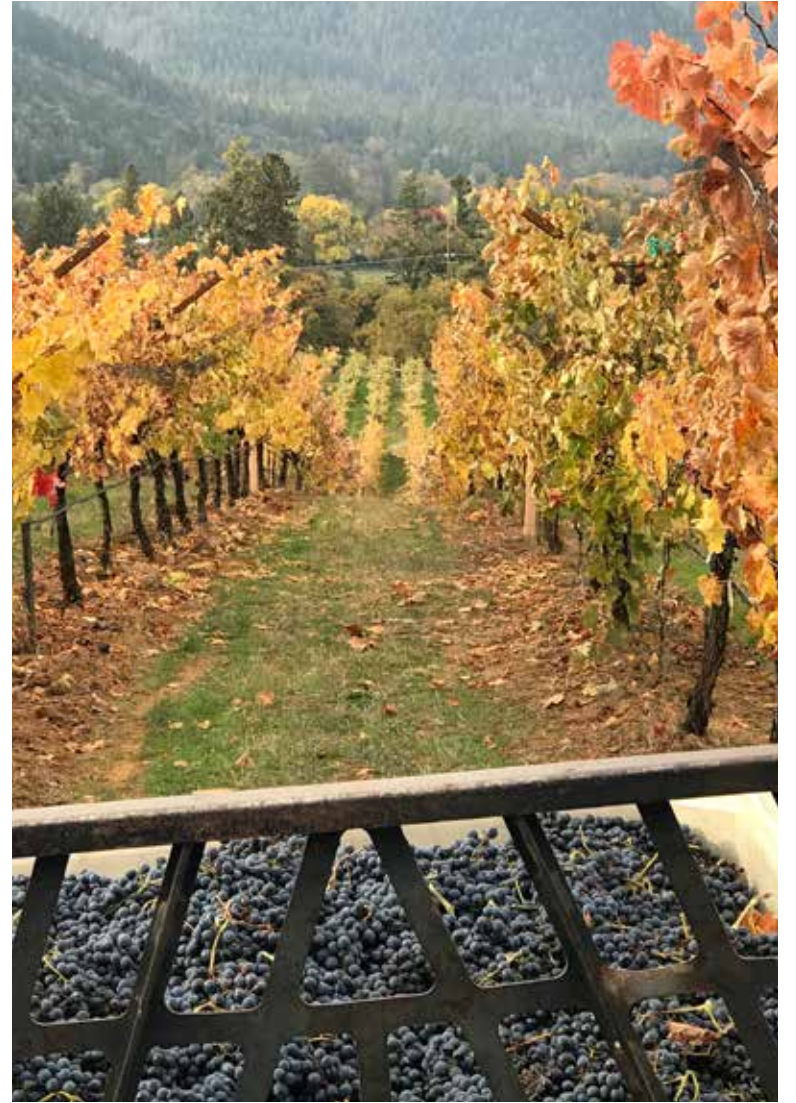
The Applegate has five vineyards that have achieved LIVE (Low Input Viticulture and Enology) certification. LIVE, operating in the Pacific Northwest since 1999, is a rigorous certification process supporting environmentally and socially responsible vineyards focusing on four elements:

- **Preservation** of native habitat, watershed quality, wildlife, and biodiversity
- **Social issues**, including worker health, safety, and good neighbor policies
- **Community**, for a healthy and vibrant community focused on the quality and compatibility of natural and built environments
- **Certification**, relying on broader issue assessments, including greenhouse gas reduction, waste management, and water and energy efficiency.

Brigid O’Keane, LIVE outreach director, said, “LIVE is proud to support growers and producers in the Applegate committed to sustainable practices. We use third-party independent contractors to ensure the strongest standards for certification. LIVE adheres to leading edge science-based standards that ensure both wine grape farming and wine production are sustainable with as minimal an environmental impact as possible.”

LIVE certified vineyards in the Applegate Valley include Quady North’s Mae’s and Eevee’s vineyards, Steelhead Run, Layne, and RiverCrest Ranch. RiverCrest is celebrating its second year of LIVE and Salmon Safe certification. Salmon Safe is a holistic approach to farm, land, and watershed management, including strict surface runoff protocols designed to protect fragile riparian areas and support local salmon populations.

“I like the LIVE program,” Herb Quady said. “It is Oregon grown and viticulture



Quady North’s flagship LIVE-certified vineyard during the 2019 harvest.

Photo: Cathy Rodgers.

focused, requiring a commitment to sustainable practices across one’s entire property, not just the growing area itself. As LIVE members, we’re dedicated to protecting wildlife areas, waterways, beneficial plants and species, while growing grapes in an environmentally conscious manner.”

Vineyard owners following these practices reveal an unwavering commitment to them and a passionate belief that doing good turns out to be very good business.

Cathy Rodgers
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Rogue Harm Reduction offers free monthly services in Williams

BY JAMIE MENZEL

Rogue Harm Reduction is a volunteer-run, nonprofit health collective interested in promoting community wellness and harm-reduction strategies in response to substance-use disorders and other community health concerns. We are trained by the HIV Alliance and provide services from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm the first Sunday of each month at Sugarloaf Center, 206 Tetherow Road in Williams.

We offer free naloxone (a lifesaving medication that can interrupt an opioid overdose), free fentanyl test strips, and instructions on how to use both. Additionally, we provide free, on-site, rapid screenings for HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis.

What is “harm reduction”?

“Harm reduction” refers to the provision of services and resources, in a non-judgmental, non-coercive way, to people who use drugs and to the communities in which they live. The goal is to assist them in reducing the harm related to drug use. Harm reduction as a philosophy seeks to avoid both condemning users and glorifying how people survive and heal, understanding that poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex-based discrimination, and other social inequalities affect people’s vulnerability to drug use and their capacity for effectively dealing with drug-related harm.

Is this a problem in our community?

Drug overdose deaths, including those involving opioids, continue to

increase in the United States. From 1999 to 2017, more than 702,000 people died from a drug overdose, and in 2017 alone, more than 70,000 people died from drug overdoses, making it a leading cause of injury-related death in the United States. Of those deaths, almost 68 percent involved a prescription or illicit opioid. State statistics show Josephine County trending somewhat higher than statewide opioid death rates and Jackson County dipping a bit below the state rate (see chart, this page).

Why fentanyl test strips?

Fentanyl is an opioid 100 times as strong as morphine. Buyers or users may not know that the opioid or non-opioid substance they’re buying contains fentanyl. In July 2016, the Drug Enforcement Administration issued a new nationwide report indicating that

hundreds of thousands of counterfeit prescription pills had been entering the US drug market since 2014, many containing deadly amounts of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs. People are more likely to die from a fentanyl overdose because it is many times more potent than other opioids and may require additional naloxone to reverse overdoses.

Most of the increases in fentanyl deaths over the last three years do not involve prescription fentanyl, but instead are related to illicitly manufactured fentanyl that is being mixed with or sold

as other substances, with or without the user’s knowledge. The current fentanyl crisis continues to expand in size and scope across the United States.

We are all in this together.

We would love to meet you! Our next service day will be Sunday, April 5. Feel free to stop by to access services and learn about what we do.

For more information, go to harmreduction.org and hivalliance.org, or email me.

Jamie Menzel
rogueharmreduction@gmail.com

Overdose Deaths by County



Josephine County drug overdoses deaths have spiked higher than the state rate, while Jackson County has dipped just below. Graph: Oregon Health Authority.

Applegate public land grazing in need of environmental review: Part Two

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Every public land grazing allotment in the Applegate employs “summer-fall passive continuous grazing,” in which grazing allotment permittees place their cattle on public land July-October. Typically, rotation of cattle among the various pastures of an allotment doesn’t occur. According to the National Riparian Service Team, when an area is grazed throughout the summer and fall with “little or no effort to control the amount, duration, or distribution of livestock use in particular areas, ... riparian areas will usually be overgrazed.” Long-term studies and vegetation monitoring across national forests indicate that grazing is progressively drying out wetlands and damaging the sponge-like water-holding capacity of headwater basins. This degradation happens when poorly managed cattle and other livestock trample wetlands year after year. Modern, active grazing management, especially rest-rotation grazing and regular herding, prevents unacceptable levels of degradation of water quality, riparian areas, and wetlands and protects special-status native species. “Rest-rotation” consists of cessation of grazing in areas where grazing is having negative impacts in order to allow the area to recover. Regular herding helps move the livestock around the allotment to prevent their congregating in one area for so long that excessive damage occurs there.

The US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM’s) publication, *Riparian Area Management*, has a section on “Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas” that includes “Cardinal Rules for Planning and Managing Livestock Grazing in Riparian Areas,” including:

- Identify and implement alternatives to passive, continuous grazing
- Employ rest or deferral from livestock grazing whenever appropriate
- Implement frequent (sometimes daily) supervision by the parties involved once management is in progress, so that

adverse impacts (e.g., trampling damage and excessive utilization) can be foreseen and avoided.

In the dry portions of headwater meadow ecosystems, passive continuous grazing also devastates native bunchgrasses that are particularly sensitive to repeated grazing during a single grazing season. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recommends deferred rotation, rest rotation, and intensive deferred rotation as grazing systems appropriate for native bunchgrasses, and passive continuous grazing as inappropriate because it results in the elimination of native bunchgrasses from the preferred locations where unherded livestock remain for long periods (NRCS Grazing Management Guidelines for Native Bunchgrasses: efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/WA/WA-RANGE-TN34_1109.pdf).

In areas where native bunchgrasses have been largely eliminated, soil erosion has taken place, and young, flammable conifers have replaced native bunchgrasses, increasing fuel loads and impacting habitat. According to *Effects of Livestock Grazing on Stand Dynamics and Soils in Upland Forests of the Interior West*, (fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr292/1997_belsky.pdf), livestock also alter forest dynamics by reducing the biomass and density of understory grasses and sedges, which otherwise outcompete conifer seedlings and prevent dense tree recruitment. Grazing by domestic livestock has thereby contributed to increasingly dense western forests and to changes in tree species composition.

The federal livestock grazing program is heavily subsidized. In 2015 resource economists studied the cost of livestock grazing on public lands. They found that the federal lands grazing program generated \$125 million less than what the federal government spent on the program in 2014. Further, they found that federal



Livestock on US Forest Service land in the Applegate that congregate in headwater spring-fed meadows can impact water quality, hydrology, and native plant composition and reproduction.

grazing fees are 93 percent less than fees charged for nonirrigated western private grazing land, or just \$1.69 per cow and calf pair per month. (It costs more to feed a house cat.)

Bringing public land grazing in the Applegate into the 21st century begins with the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District completing an environmental impact statement for all grazing allotments in the Applegate, utilizing the best available modern science and research. USFS managers should adopt and implement site-specific best management practices (BMPs) for each grazing allotment, along with publicly available annual operating instructions (AOIs).

To prevent riparian and wetland degradation and unacceptable levels of water quality, site-specific BMPs for grazing permit holders include:

- Instructions on rotating grazing among the pastures and the frequency and type of herding needed to avoid unacceptable levels of degradation
- The number of times and time periods that USFS staff will check each allotment to verify that the required grazing management actions specified in the AOI are being adequately implemented.
- A year of rest for watersheds and basins listed as “impaired” due to sediment, water temperature, or nutrient conditions and in which the annual multiple indicator monitoring reading finds bank disturbance equal to or greater than 10 percent.

Suzie Savoie
 Conservation Chair
 Siskiyou Chapter NPSO
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OPINIONS

CO2 = climate change? The tipping point

BY ALAN VOETSCH

Fellow Applegaters, the fundamental building block for claims of catastrophic global warming (or climate change or whatever the phrase of the month might be) is that our fossil fuel emissions are driving the entire planet's weather and overall climate. Oh, and fires too.

Catastrophic predictions have been happening for decades and are causing unnecessary stress for many people. Nowadays climate change activists no longer seem able to tell the difference between weather and climate. The rise in atmospheric CO2 is the basis used for the constant scary scenarios for us living in the Applegate Valley and beyond.

Global temperatures and atmospheric CO2 have fluctuated greatly over hundreds, thousands, and millions of years. In most cases temperature changes led, rather than followed, changes in atmospheric CO2 levels, not the other way around as climate activists insist. Records support this fact. Ice cores and ocean sediments show great fluctuation throughout Earth's history due to many natural causes.

CO2 levels rise and fall seasonally in response to warming and cooling effects of plant growth cycles. GHG's and aerosols from volcanic eruptions, along with Earth's orbit, solar changes, and many other contributors have combined heating and cooling effects. No one effect is responsible for starting and ending ice ages. Certainly not the very weak greenhouse effect of CO2. Let's look at some of our planet's CO2 history.

Based on various proxy indicators (such as ice cores), CO2 levels have stayed fairly low over the last 650,000 years, even during the six previous interglacial periods when global temps were as much as nine degrees F warmer than today. It is apparent that past CO2 levels have been high at times when global temps were low, and vice versa. During eras when dinosaurs thrived, global temps ranged between 72 - 77 degrees, a blistering 20 degrees higher than today's average of 54 - 57 degrees.

CO2 levels were about 7,000 ppm (parts per million) 600 million years ago. Starting 480 million years ago, CO2 gradually dropped to 4,000 ppm over 100 million years while average temps remained at a steady 72 degrees. CO2 later jumped to 4,500 ppm and guess what? Temperatures dove to about today's current average, even though the CO2 level was ten times higher than present. Yes, as CO2 went up, temperatures plummeted.

CO2 dropped from 4,500 ppm to 3,000 ppm 438 million years ago, but according to fossil records, global temps shot back up to 72 degrees. Regardless of CO2 levels being 7,000 ppm or 3,000 ppm, temperatures rose and fell independently.

More on CO2 in my next article.

Book suggestion: *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Global Warming and Environmentalism* by Christopher C. Horner.

Alan Voetsch
alan_voetsch@yahoo.com

Pesticides in our drinking water are a public health issue

BY CLAIR HIGHFIELD, SANDY OLKEN, AND KARI REIN

Do you know that our drinking water is at risk? Right here in the Applegate watershed, our drinking water, the most basic necessity we need to survive, is being compromised by outdated forestry practices created for the benefit of big business. We receive 70 percent of our drinking water from our forests.

Who regulates Oregon's logging industry? Is there any consideration given to how their choices affect us, our children, wildlife, fish, and our homes? The Oregon Board of Forestry regulates logging on private and state lands, and, no, they do not consider how their choices affect us. Unfortunately, Oregon is one out of five states with no limit on corporate contributions to politicians. The timber industry gives more money to Oregon state lawmakers than anywhere else in the nation.

The Oregon Forestry Practices Act lacks guidelines for appropriate stream buffers and allows aerial spraying of pesticides to stop competing vegetation on private and state-owned land. Oregon has the weakest environmental protections of the western states when it comes to logging on steep slopes, stream buffers, and aerial spraying. Aerial spraying is especially hazardous to our drinking water supply because the spray can drift long distances into rivers and streams or runoff into forests' waters, putting people and wildlife at risk. Sadly, there is already a history of the pollution in neighborhood drinking water from spraying in forests. You can research both Gold Beach and Triangle Lake near Eugene, where citizens have experienced the negative effects of these chemicals.

Did you know that some of the chemicals used, like glyphosate and atrazine, are banned in other countries? Atrazine is now present in some water levels in much higher concentrations than are needed to kill frogs and other amphibians. Possible effects of exposure to these pesticides include cancers, miscarriages, thyroid disorders, decreased fertility, and increased risk of birth defects. Unborn young, infants, and children are the most vulnerable to toxins. Studies have shown that the chemical 2,4-D, used in forestry, can interfere with the development of embryos and children's brains. Agent Orange contains 2,4-D and is considered a health hazard to birds and aquatic life.

We are not advocating an end to commercial logging in Oregon's forests, but we are demanding a more sustainable, responsible, and innovative approach to forestry management. The future of forestry needs to include consideration of the climate and the health of people, water, and wildlife.

Oregonians across the state are working diligently to improve Oregon's forestry laws to the same level of protection as those of California, Idaho, and Washington. These protections include increasing streamside buffers for clear-cutting and limiting aerial spraying of herbicides, both of which have major impact on water and our health. To enact these laws, your voice is needed. Please contact your state legislators to encourage them to vote for these important changes. For more information, see forestwaters.org.

Clair Highfield, Sandy Olken,
and Kari Rein
yogawithclair@gmail.com

■ JO'S LIST

Continued from page 1

before approval. "We can disagree, but we should always be kind," says Jo. There is a limit of one megabyte to keep it manageable for all users.

She doesn't count the hours she puts in. She spends about 30 minutes each morning and checks for new messages several times throughout the day. "Though I only agree to publish Monday through Friday, I often find myself posting on the weekends. I will do that if there is a lost or found animal, an immediate threat to the community, or just because there are too many posts waiting in the queue," she said. Her dedication to keeping everyone connected and safe demonstrates her caring nature.

This dedication led to questions about the future of Jo's List and whether she has any help or trainees. She answered,

"No, I do not. When I am ready to move on, the list will become a part of history." Naturally, the next questions were about her personal plans for the future. Jo and her husband, Bob, live on the same hillside property in Williams that they bought in 1987, now filled with extensive gardens, one of her passions. However, she stated, "Personally, I would like to move from southern Oregon, as the summers are too hot and the winters not to my liking. Rural life is becoming more of a challenge than I would like. I also have family in Portland. It would be nice to be closer to them." She mentioned that a rewarding aspect about providing the list was being told she is appreciated, so perhaps an outpouring of appreciation could help to delay her making this change for a while!

She also commented on some changes in the valley. "Nothing stays the same, and that is true of this community. The

legalization first of marijuana and then hemp has brought renewed controversy and problems with neighbors over noise, lights, and most especially water. Back in the day, the controversies centered around timber harvesting, protection for the northern spotted owl, and other environmental issues."

It's true that in many ways nothing stays the same, but there are also things that never change. Qualities such as generosity, caring, dedication, kindness, and a passion for community are attributes Jo Larsen has shared unselfishly and that will endure in the memory and

hearts of her community, whatever she decides for her future. May we all honor her legacy of compassionate connection in our valley.

Subscribe to the list by sending an email to jolarsen@oigp.net with "subscribe" in the subject line. After subscribing, send your posts to joslist@oigp.net. Donations are welcome! You can send checks directly to Jo Larsen at PO Box 286, Williams OR 97544, or donate through PayPal. There are also donation jars throughout the valley.

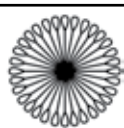
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OPINIONS

Protected federal forestlands and scenic values improve our economy and home values

BY STUART HEASLET

There is growing public concern that traditional logging harvests in our local mountains may be limiting growth of our local economy, including tourism, jobs, personal income, and property values.

It's a legitimate worry.

A statistical study called "The Effect of Environmental Factors on Real Estate Value" concludes that residential property values are higher "in areas of high environmental (scenic) value," compared to values "in regions with a lower scenic attractiveness rating."

And according to studies released by Headwaters Economics, a national nonpartisan economics research firm funded in part by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other agencies:

- "Protected natural amenities—such as pristine scenery and wildlife—help sustain property values and attract new investment."

- "[C]ounties with national parks, monuments, or other permanent protections on federal land support above-average rates of job growth and are correlated with higher levels of per capita income. In 2010, per capita income in western non-metropolitan counties with 100,000 acres of protected public lands is on average \$4,360 higher than per capita income in similar counties with no protected public lands."

- "[Rural] counties with more than 30 percent of the county's land base in federal protected status such as national parks, monuments, wilderness, and other similar designations increased jobs by 345 percent over the last 40 years. By comparison, similar counties with no protected federal public lands increased employment by 83 percent."

- "[S]cenic landscapes are increasingly valued more for the aesthetic and recreational amenities they provide

than for their stocks of precious metals, timber, or forage. Entrepreneurs and talented workers are choosing to work where they can enjoy outdoor recreation and natural landscapes."

- "High-wage service industries also are using national parks, monuments, wilderness areas, and other public lands as a tool to recruit and retain innovative, high-performing talent."

- "Wilderness is associated with rapid population, employment, and personal income growth relative to non-wilderness counties."

This is not a signal to logging companies that their businesses are being targeted. If anything, their services would be needed more than they are now, as many in the timber industry are some of the most knowledgeable and skilled individuals in our forests. A sustainable way forward could consist of a partnership of scientists and timber professionals who can restore and care for forests that will support the new economy and rebuild the old-growth ancient forests of the future.

Update: The BLM is preparing the Bear Grub Vegetation Management project that may include commercial logging in areas visible to residents and visitors in and near Ruch and Jacksonville. Hopefully the BLM will implement their scenic evaluation criteria, Scenic Management System, to evaluate visual impacts to homes and recreational trail systems. Public comments will be invited by the BLM soon.

For more information, go to savewildlands.org, applegateneighborhood.network, and kswild.org.

Stuart Heaslet
Member, Save Wellington
Wildlands Council
savewildlands.org

Discover Stories on the Land

Below is another excerpt 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.

First roads in Applegate

After the gold rush of 1849, northern California was brimming with would-be and has-been gold-seekers flowing in, out of, and around San Francisco.

The possibility of taking ship passage to the Crescent City area and joining the next gold rush to Sailors' Diggings and Jacksonville made the development of a western route, from Crescent City to Jacksonville, attractive. By 1853, that route was developed up the Smith River and over the divide into Oregon. In very short order, the route was extended to Kerby, where it veered east and then north over a low divide into Deer Creek. From there it ascended Crooks Creek below Mooney Mountain and descended Cheney Creek to the Applegate River. It crossed the Applegate by way of a ferry service that operated near the present Fish Hatchery Bridge.

With the activity in the Jackson Creek, Jackass Creek and Sterling Creek mines at full tilt, this first southern Oregon thoroughfare was very soon extended all the way to Jacksonville. In its earliest form, it followed the north bank of the Applegate River upstream about 28 miles before crossing the divide into Jacksonville. For several years, this was an important travel artery for the study area. It brought miners, settlers, and supplies eastward from travel routes on the Coast, and it carried agricultural goods to the port at Crescent City for shipment to San Francisco. For most of that first decade, it was not much more than a broad trail used for foot and mounted traffic and mule trains. By 1855, between fifty and two hundred pack mules may have traversed this route daily.

Some of the drivers on the Crescent City-to-Jacksonville route were professionals. Often Mexicans in the early years, Indians in the later, they represented a western breed who followed the rising demands for packers across the expanding frontier. Others were exhausted or failed miners. One of these was John Tice, an immigrant from Indiana. Tice first passed through the Rogue Valley in 1851, at the age of nineteen. He had little success in mining, so he began packing. Letters he

sent back to his parents offer a glimpse of life among the early packers.

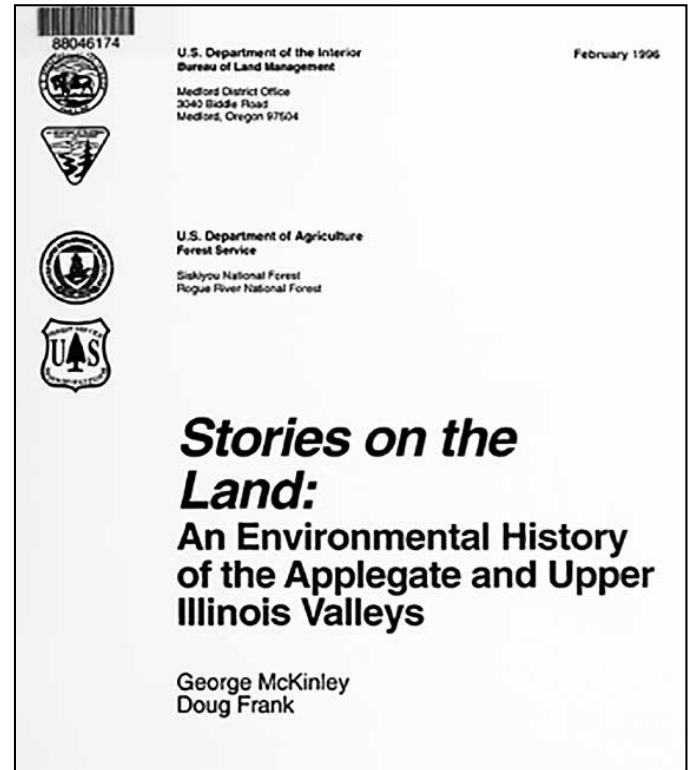
Tice ran a pack train of about fifteen mules on the route from Crescent City to the gold fields. "It is a little over one hundred miles from here to Crescent City," he wrote from Jacksonville, and the round trip took him two or three weeks. With mules running "very high now, from \$100 to \$200 a head," Tice apparently focused on the wheat trade as a means to achieve sufficient return. "There is a great deal of wheat going to be sowed in this valley this season and that makes wheat in good

demand. We bought ours for \$4.00 per bushel and sold most of it for \$10.00."

Trusting in the potential profitability of the wheat market, Tice sowed some of his own in the Illinois Valley on shares. By July of 1854, he was looking forward to the return on these shares—"an average crop," which he hoped would yield "say twenty bushel to the acre." He also packed flour. He bought it for between six and nine cents per pound in Crescent City, and his costs for packing it amounted to not less than six cents per pound. Tice figured he had to sell it for twelve to fifteen cents per pound to make a profit. All told, Tice was able to clear "about twenty-five dollars on a mule." This suited him, though it didn't lead him to overstate the amenities of his chosen trade: "Packing is dirty, disagreeable work," he wrote in 1853, "but it pays us good wages."

A pack route would not long suffice for the transportation needs of the growing community in the gold fields. By 1857, merchants and others at both ends of the route were advocating its improvement. A road commissioner was appointed in April, 1857, and by 1858 a new improved way was opened. This stage road ran farther to the west than the previous pack trail, generally following the route of today's Redwood Highway between Selma and Wilderville, over Hays Hill and down along Slate Creek.

Excerpted by Diana Coogole from pages 63-64.



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. Limited to 500 words; no images. Opinion pieces submitted by the same person will not be run consecutively. Responses to previously published opinion pieces will not be published. Must include publishable contact information (phone number and/or email address).

Letters. Limited to 200 words; must be signed, with a full street address or PO Box and phone number. Only the writer's name and hometown will be published.

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. All submissions will be edited for grammar and length.

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

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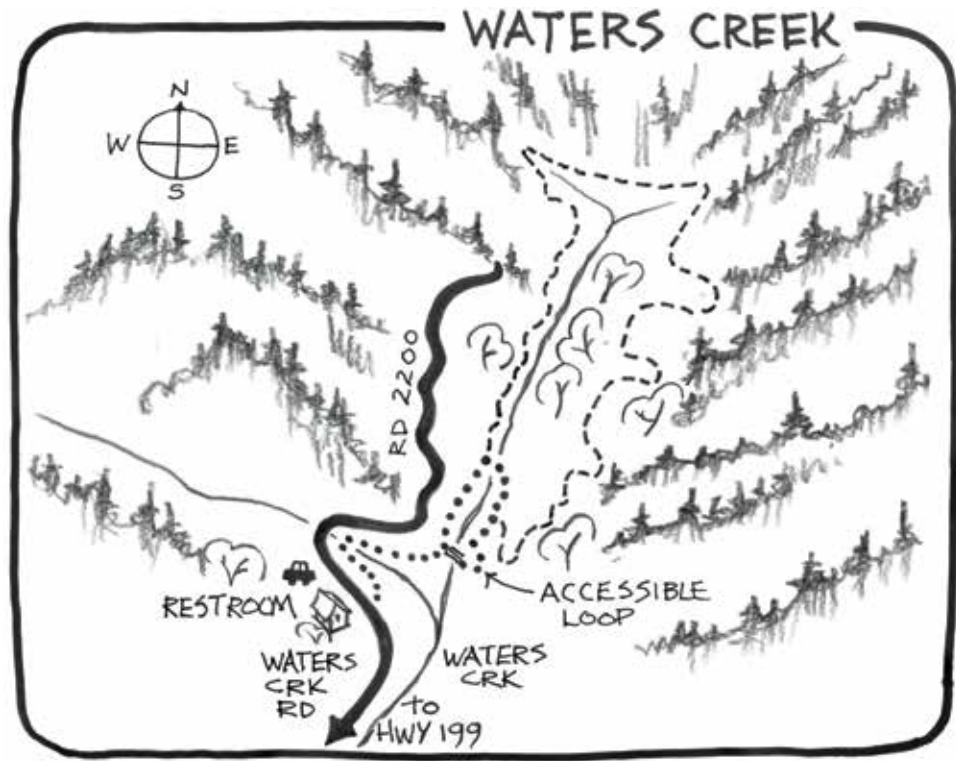
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Map by Ann Gunter.

A pair of pleasant loop options on the Waters Creek Trail

BY EVELYN ROETHER

The Waters Creek gem-of-a-trail offers a short, peaceful walk into a classic Siskiyou Mountains temperate forest. In the late 1990s the US Forest Service used proceeds from an adjacent timber sale to create this beautiful little recreation zone along the headwaters of Waters Creek. The shorter, one-mile, barrier-free trail is wheelchair accessible with a graveled surface and is lined with low wooden rails. The hikers-only trail is somewhat more strenuous with a pleasant rolling single track crossing several seasonal tributaries. Well-worn and

- Elevation gain: Barrier-free loop, zero feet. Hikers-only loop, 553 feet.
- Access: Year-round.
- Map: Onion Mountain USGS Quad.

Directions

From Murphy, take Southside Road south toward Wilderville. Continue 4.2 miles, then go left at the stop sign onto Fish Hatchery Road. After 4.6 miles, turn left onto Redwood Highway. Continue 3.8 miles, then turn right onto Waters Creek Road, which is about one-half mile past the Wonder General Store. Go 2.5 miles up Waters Creek Road, the last 0.6 mile of which is graveled. The trailhead is on your right, a parking area and restroom on the left.

Description

Both trails start as one on the right side of the road and follow Waters Creek upstream, past a wildflower meadow of balsam root and bachelor buttons into a mixed hardwood and conifer forest. A canopy of Douglas fir, canyon live oak, tanoak, white oaks, big-leaf maple, madrone, Pacific dogwood, incense cedar, mountain ash, myrtle, ponderosa pine, and yew provide year-round shade and a sampling of the Siskiyou's immense botanical diversity. An understory of sword fern, ocean spray, and a fair amount of poison oak lines the trail, and towering California ginseng shrouds the streambeds.

After a half mile the trail splits. The signed "hikers only" trail heads up and to the left while the all-access trail continues over the footbridge, looping back down the drainage. The hikers-only trail meanders upstream for about a mile, into the quiet folds of the forest. After crossing numerous seasonal creeks and winding around the flanks of the mountainside, it loops back, joining the Barrier Free Trail down by the main stem of Waters Creek. Follow the trail downstream back to the parking area.

Hiking Trails of the Lower Applegate, a trail guide describing 20 trails in the Lower Applegate area, is available for purchase at the Williams General Store and Takubeh Natural Market in Williams, Provolt Store and Whistling Duck Farm and Store in Provolt, Rebel Heart Books in Jacksonville, Oregon Books and Games in Grants Pass, and Northwest Nature Shop and Bloomsbury Books in Ashland.

Evelyn Roether
evelynkr@gmail.com



A sign marks the Waters Creek Hiker Trail.



A trillium blooms along the trail.
Photos: Evelyn Roether.

mostly readable interpretive signs along the way inform visitors about the area's natural environment. Both trails offer well-placed benches, some in their own little alcoves.

Waters Creek Trail

- Difficulty: Barrier-free loop, easy. Hikers-only loop, moderately difficult.
- Distance: Barrier-free loop, 1 mile. Hikers-only loop, 3.5 miles.

••• BIZBITS •••

Buttercloud Bakery & Café, a Medford brunch restaurant and bakery, has relocated to a larger building at 315 South Front Street. The new location features

more parking, more seating, more baked goods, and a selection of brunch cocktails. Buttercloud is well known for its biscuit sandwiches piled high with everything from eggs and bacon to beef brisket and roasted zucchini. Bakery specialties include gluten-free cornbread, scones, sticky buns, cake by the slice, and mini cream pies. Owners Ellen and Gibson Holub opened Buttercloud on a shoestring budget in late 2011. Buttercloud's light and buttery biscuit was the inspiration for the name and concept of the restaurant. Open daily from 7 am - 3 pm. 541-973-2336 • buttercloudbakery@gmail.com.



In May 2019 **Casablanca Coffee and Grill** opened a "healthy drive-through" restaurant in the Guild Complex in Grants Pass, Casablanca's third location. Owners



Eric Losoya and Andy Baida use the freshest ingredients available (organic whenever possible); no MSG, trans fat, or hydrogenated oils; and earth-friendly containers. Casablanca makes fruit smoothies from 100 percent fruit with no corn syrup or sugar added and offers top quality, locally roasted, organic coffee and espresso. Open Monday-Friday 7 am - 8 pm, Saturday 8 am

- 8 pm, Sunday 9 am - 5 pm (Union location only). 1883 Williams Highway, Grants Pass, 541-956-4111 • 686 Union Avenue, Grants Pass, 541-479-2831 • 6410 Williams Highway, Murphy • 541-846-3131.

Trinator's Oregon Education Center, the first hemp education facility of its kind on the West Coast, opened in White City in November 2019. In collaboration with OM Extracts, an Applegate Valley, family-owned hemp and cannabis company,



the center provides free educational resources and hands-on exploration of all the post-harvest steps necessary to create hemp buds and concentrates. Dana Mosman, founder of Trinator, said that the Oregon Education Center was developed in response to ongoing questions from growers and

farmers, such as how to properly dry hemp, when and how to buck it, best practices for trimming, how to make rosin, etc. The new facility will showcase the latest equipment to help farmers create the best medicinal hemp and cannabis products. Open by appointment only. For a tour, email Mitra Sticklen, COO of education and cultivation, at education@omextracts.com. 541-654-1007 • omextracts.com.

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

ANN plans public presentation on Wild and Scenic River nominations

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

Recently Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley called for an expansion of the Wild and Scenic River (WSR) network in Oregon and asked the public to nominate eligible rivers and streams. Grateful for the opportunity, Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) quickly went to work identifying potential WSR nominations in the Applegate River watershed. We scoured the maps, identified eligible streams, and hiked off-trail through numerous wild watersheds to document their important biological, recreational, historic, and scenic values.

Our analysis of the Applegate River watershed led us to four major nominations. In total, we identified 197 eligible stream miles, including the most gorgeous and ecologically functional streams on federal lands in our region. If designated as WSRs, the "Outstandingly Remarkable Values" of each stream would be protected on public lands.

We nominated the Upper Applegate WSR, the Little Applegate WSR, the Pipe Fork WSR, and the Slate Creek WSR. Throughout these proposals we documented "Outstandingly Remarkable Values," including recreation, fisheries, scenic resources, botanical values, geologic values, wildlife, historical values, and ecological/biological diversity. The protection of these important values will benefit our rivers and streams, fisheries, water quality, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, historic resources,

local communities, and the scenic beauty of the Applegate River watershed.

Upper Applegate WSR

The proposed Upper Applegate WSR includes 168 stream miles both above and below the Applegate Dam, including Star Gulch, Palmer Creek, Kinney Creek, and Mule Creek, in the foothills of the upper Applegate Valley. These streams are unique in Oregon for their diverse, low-elevation forest, woodland, chaparral, and grassland habitats.

The proposal also includes the most impressive tributaries of the Applegate River, including portions of Elliott Creek, Carberry Creek, Butte Fork, and Middle Fork. Together these streams contain the wildest, most remote and intact portions of the Applegate River, with vast tracts of old-growth forest, rugged mountain canyons, bedrock gorges, waterfalls, unique geology, and incredible wildlife habitat.

The WSR designation would protect the streams pouring out of the Red Buttes Wilderness and the surrounding roadless areas on the Siskiyou Crest. These watersheds contain an incredible array of plant communities, innumerable rare plant populations, eight designated botanical

areas, and a large Late Successional Reserve to protect old-growth habitat.

Little Applegate WSR

Located deep in the Little Applegate River canyon, the proposed Little Applegate WSR contains six miles of the Little Applegate River and 10 miles of tributary stream, including parts of Bear Gulch, Muddy Gulch, Owl Gulch, Blacksmith Gulch, Skunk Gulch, and lower Glade Creek.



The proposed Wild and Scenic Middle Fork of the Applegate River flows through rocky outcroppings. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

The Little Applegate River canyon contains important wildlife habitat for species such as the northern spotted owl, Siskiyou Mountains salamander, and Pacific fisher, as well as large herds of overwintering black-tailed deer. Known for its biodiversity and rare plant species, the area is the driest major watershed in western Oregon and contains a unique habitat mixture from eastern Oregon, western Oregon, and the foothills of California. The canyon contains important historical resources associated with the Sterling Mine Ditch, as well as incredible scenic and recreational values.

Pipe Fork WSR

The Pipe Fork is located at the headwaters of Williams Creek. The area is important for its old-growth forests and has the easternmost stand of Port Orford cedar in Oregon. Williams Creek is the most productive coho salmon stream in the Applegate River watershed, and as the last wild tributary of Williams Creek, the Pipe Fork contains the watershed's coldest, cleanest water.

Slate Creek WSR

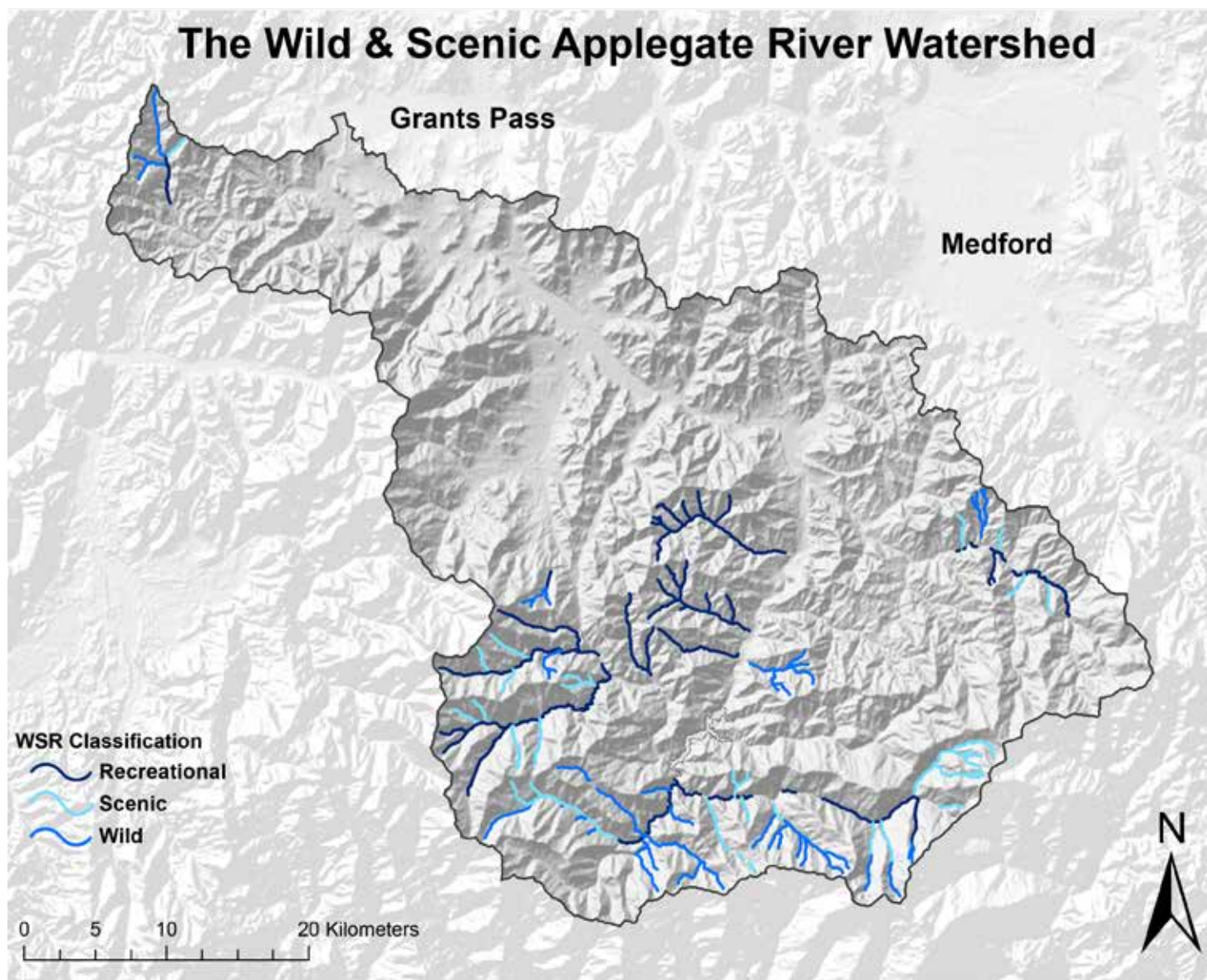
Slate Creek is the first tributary of the Applegate River and an important watershed for anadromous fisheries. ANN has proposed the headwaters of Slate Creek for WSR protection. This portion of the watershed contains important cold-water refugia for fisheries, beautiful stands of Port Orford cedar, unusual serpentine soils, and rare plant populations, including the only populations of the carnivorous cobra lily (*Darlingtonia californica*) in the Applegate River watershed.

ANN presentation

ANN will host a public presentation about these proposals at the Applegate Valley Fire District Community Building from 4 - 6 pm on Sunday, March 15. As ANN's executive director, I will discuss these exciting proposals and take you on a photographic journey along the Wild and Scenic Applegate River. Please join us and learn how you can get involved!

Luke Ruediger
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

A map created by Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) shows tributary streams in the Applegate River watershed proposed for Wild and Scenic River designation. According to ANN, the main stem of the Applegate River is not eligible for designation and is not included on the map.



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Student Corner: Commerce-community question

Hidden Valley High School's (HVHS's) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is well-known for winning consecutive state championships, which places them "among the elite FBLA chapters in the nation," according to information published by the Oregon Department of Education. Most recently, they took first place in the state for the 18th consecutive year. HVHS FBLA had eight first-place finishes, more than any other school in the region. Long directed by Chris Pendleton, FBLA is now under the direction of Keith Haley, a business and foods teacher at Hidden Valley, and typically has 40 to 50 student competitors in the program.

In January 2020, 37 HVHS student members of the FBLA chapter competed in 52 events at the Regional Skills Conference in Roseburg. The State Leadership conference will be held in Portland on April 1-4, 2020. The top four state qualifiers will compete at the National Leadership Conference in June 2020 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Members of Hidden Valley's FBLA program were recently asked: **When you are a successful businessperson, how will you give back to the community?**

Here are their responses.

Leah Beachy, sophomore. I don't really know what my passion is right now—I'm working on figuring it out as part of my high school experience. But I do know that I would like to volunteer within the education system because it's done a lot for me.

Maria Cross, sophomore. I've always been passionate about working with animals, and one day I want to become a veterinarian and maybe open my own business. I want to give back to the community by becoming part of HOPP (Homeless Oregon Pet Project), which offers free treatment for pets owned by people with no income or who are homeless.

Jose Lopez, senior. If I were to become a successful business leader, I would donate to the education system so that newer technology and equipment can be provided to students. I believe that one must have the proper tools to get a good education. Because education is important, I would also provide scholarships to high school graduates looking to further their education.

Kaitlyn Rodrigues, senior. I see the community as more than the place where you live. After I finish the premedical imaging program offered at Oregon Institute of Technology, I plan to get involved in the community by going to health fairs and educating the public about vaccinations and hygiene and making sure that everyone has an opportunity to be healthy and educated.



Hidden Valley High School FBLA student members. Front row, from left to right: Leah Beachy, Jose Lopez, and Maria Cross. Back row: Keith Haley, FBLA teacher. Not pictured: Kaitlyn Rodrigues. Photo: Barbara Holiday.

More about FBLA

FBLA is the high school division of Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, Inc., and is the largest career student business organization in the world. FBLA helps high school students explore college and career opportunities through academic competitions, leadership development, educational programs, networking events with accomplished business professionals at conferences, and community service projects. Members also have exclusive access to scholarships from a select group of academic institutions.

There are around 190,000 US members and 5,200 US chapters in 47 states. International chapters include Europe, China, Thailand, US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Hungary, and Tanzania.

Barbara Holiday
gater@applegater.org

NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS



Ruch Outdoor School eighth graders learn to test water for nitrates.

Ruch Outdoor School students learn about groundwater contamination and testing

BY RYAN KING

This fall, eighth-grade students at Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) began a yearlong project with the Well Water Warriors (Warriors), an advocacy group that helps rural communities understand how to protect their drinking water resource. Students participated in hands-on lessons about what groundwater is, where it comes from, how it can become contaminated, and what to do if the groundwater used for drinking water becomes contaminated. The four-week course aligned with topics covered in science class, including the water cycle, salmon habitat, water quality, and food webs.

Students collected water samples from their homes, conducted tests at the school, tabulated the results, and then plotted the nitrate values on a community map. Nitrate is the most common well-water contaminant. The sources of nitrate are

fertilizers and animal and human wastes. At the end, all testing equipment and supplies were donated to the school for future use.

In addition, the Warriors, with the assistance of a few Ruch students, will conduct a free, community-wide, well water nitrate-testing event at this spring's science fair on May 15 at ROCS, 156 Upper Applegate Road.

The Warriors would love to offer their assistance in working with other schools to conduct large-scale nitrate well-water testing events.

It's never too late to learn more about protecting our groundwater! You can reach Audrey Eldridge from the Well Water Warriors at wellwaterwarriors@gmail.com or 541-292-1329.

Ryan King
Middle School Teacher
Ruch Outdoor Community School
ryan.king@medford.k12.or.us

Dawn Nowak retires from Williams School

BY JEAN HALL

Staff and students at Williams School are feeling the loss of educational assistant Dawn Nowak, who retired January 31. Having served for years at Williams School, Dawn became much loved and appreciated. She will be greatly missed. The Williams School community wishes her a happy retirement.

The afterschool music program has begun at Williams School, and the

community looks forward to the annual Spring Concert, when music students have the opportunity to perform before a large audience.

Upcoming events at Williams School include the Family Learning Night on February 27 and the Jogathon on the new track on April 17.

Jean Hall
jhall80@juno.com



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welcome home all veterans
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Friday, March 27, 2020 • 10 am - 2 pm

A barbecue lunch, service providers, and live music will be at the event.

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VETERANS STRONGER TOGETHER

NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS



Applegate School junior varsity Cougars 2019.



Applegate School varsity Cougars 2019.

Oddfellows, Lions Club donate funds to Applegate School

BY JEAN HALL

Applegate School received some generous donations. The Oddfellows donated \$3,500 to help with the school lunch program, and the Lions Club gave \$500 to the school for athletic equipment. A sincere thanks to both the Oddfellows and the Lions.

Rotary Club of Jacksonville-Applegate named eighth-grader Zeyna DiBiasi and fifth-grader Emary Haning Rotary Students of the Year for Applegate School. Both students attended the Rotary luncheon on February 19. They each gave a speech and received a number of prizes from business members.

Evan Giudici also merits congratulations for winning the Future Chefs competition at Applegate School. He will compete with winners from other schools in a district-wide competition.

Artist Corbin Brashear has returned to Applegate School to help students in each class with a felting project.

Students welcomed Corbin eagerly because they remembered the fun they had last year creating felted friends.

Jennifer Joy continues to bring her animated talent and creativity in music and dance to Applegate students on Friday afternoons. The holiday program provided an opportunity for them to share their new skills.

Mosaic artist Jeremy Criswell will return to Applegate School in late March to complete the beautiful mosaic mural on the outside wall near the gym. Jeremy helped students create all the clay figures that fill the tree and will find a place in the mural's river habitat.

Family Learning Night for Applegate School is March 5.

October was Fire Safety Awareness month. Mrs. Hirschmugl's K-1 class won lunch and a tour at the Applegate Valley Fire District station for turning in the most Home Safety Plans. Students enjoyed pizza with the firefighters,

saw all their equipment, and visited the big rigs.

K-1 students learned to play kazoos and demonstrated their skill at the school's holiday program.

To celebrate learning the alphabet, kindergarteners and first graders made alphabet cookies and spelled their names from cookie dough.

Mrs. Halsted's second and third graders enjoy the advantage of parent volunteers coming to help in the classroom. Corbin Brashear helped students create felt projects. Several parents helped students make homemade masa tortillas. The students especially enjoyed making their own quesadillas.

Mr. Scull's fourth and fifth graders are learning about early European settlements in America and will soon be studying the Constitutional Convention. In science the class will have two special field trips to round out their study of plants, animals, and people in diverse

ecosystems. On one trip students will go to the Table Rocks, and in May they will visit Newport, Oregon.

Valentine's Day called forth the talents of the class as they designed their own Valentine boxes. Fostering further growth in appreciation of art, fourth and fifth graders will have a field trip to the Grants Pass Museum of Art, where they will learn about and view the work of local artists and learn a new artistic technique.

We had a record number of students sign up for basketball this year with 21 athletes. We had two teams with 10 players on the varsity and 11 on our junior varsity team. Both teams had a great year. Thank you to Austin Bristow, head coach, and Ryan Dolan, assistant coach, and to our parents for making this a great season. We couldn't do it without you.

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New K-12 school proposed in the Applegate Valley

BY AMBER BISHOP

We all know that children are our future, whether we currently have, have had, or have never had children. Children are also our present—affecting the whole community. I am writing this article from the perspective of a parent, local business owner, and a caring member of the community. I thank the *Applegater* for this opportunity to introduce to you a recent initiative to create a new school based in the Applegate.

For our young family, attending a public school daily is just too much, and independently homeschooling isn't quite enough. Without getting into the details of varying educational philosophies, let's just say we are not the only Applegate family looking for an innovative, hybrid approach to education.

The Applegate Valley clearly needs a more centrally located high school. Our kids spend nine-plus hours a day attending Grants Pass or Medford high schools. This arrangement leaves Applegate businesses without entry-level employees and young families without neighborhood babysitters. It also thrusts our young people into the thick of town-life influences while potentially disconnecting them from our community.

Enter Teach-NW, a Virtual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Academy. The founders of Teach-NW began creating hybrid learning centers in remote Kodiak, Alaska, and have since moved south to Marcola, Oregon. They believe that "21st century skills are not developed in a box" and emphasize performance-based education tailored to each student. At their present home base in Marcola, Teach-NW has purchased a farm for a hands-on education center where kids can learn through doing and attend school with a flexible schedule. Imagine if local kids could complete high school through real-life learning! They could learn math by designing an amendment schedule for a local farm job. They could help conduct a study for effective watershed care through responsible farming practices, and maybe graduate with a welding certificate.

Teach-NW could easily expand their existing program to serve southern Oregon with initially just 25 students. This is what the "virtual" aspect of their charter means—not only that students have the option for online classes, but that the school can serve beyond its geographical base. Students will have

access to all the current offerings: a teacher, support in developing an individualized learning plan, and state education funds to pay for lessons, classes, and books, etc. Already, a group of local parents is working to start a homeschoolers cooperative to support our children and foster community toward the effort.

Eventually, as our local Teach-NW school community grows to surpass 50 students, we can work together to create a truly unique hybrid school with a nearby physical campus. The vision includes generating partnerships between our students and community organizations to come together for real-world learning through relevant hands-on service projects. Because individualized learning to suit each student is the priority, the school will have options for vocational training and basic home-based study. We believe that the possibility of integrated, interdisciplinary, localized learning will truly keep our children motivated.

Innovative local schools are overflowing and carrying wait lists (Ruch, Madrone Trail, LOGOS, etc.). Can a collaboration with Teach-NW help the Applegate Valley take full advantage of today's modern technologies to support

our communities? Will our children benefit from flexible, local, and relevant opportunities for learning? Would our community benefit from our children growing up rooted and connected to their place and neighbors? Will the parents of our children be able to stay more involved in the community under such circumstances? Can you, as a community member with a skill to share or teach, participate in this effort? Of course, I have no crystal ball to see where or how all of this will turn out exactly, but I *do* believe in this project. Does this sound like something you believe in?

Here are a few resources to learn more and keep abreast of the project:

- Teach-NW's website (marcola.k12.or.us/teach-nw). You can also sign up here as a "Vendor" to offer classes and/or services to local students.

- Applegate Valley Learners GROUP. A Facebook group to connect and support *all* Applegate Valley children's education opportunities.

For more information or to join the initiative email list, email me at the address below.

Amber Bishop
applegateteachnw@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, left to right:
 —Cathy Rodgers peruses the Applegater at the 49ers-Seahawks game in Seattle for the (spot-on) game prediction.
 —WHOW (Women Helping Other Women) members are entranced by original stories in the Gater's special holiday spread.

Keep those articles, letters, opinions, and "Reading the Gater" photos coming in. You are the Gater! The Applegater Board of Directors

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