

# Applegater

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Celebrating  
~26~  
Years

## Community responds to vandalism and theft

BY DIANA COOGLE

The Applegate community responded with indignation and anger at the recent vandalism at the English Lavender Farm—and with an outpouring of support for the owners, Sue and Derek Owen.

Sue's July 13 notice on Jo's List began, "Would the thief/vandal who has stolen our sign...and vandalized the frame that my husband made and ruined the fence, please consider his or her actions and how they might affect others?"

This calm but indignant response had immediate effects. "Within minutes we had offers of help and materials," Sue said. "We have received product orders from neighbors wishing to support our business and even checks from individuals who want to help pay for repairs. We have been entirely overwhelmed by the generous and caring nature of our entire community."

Over the last few years Sue and Derek have had bags of dog poop left in their mailbox, their signs stolen, and xenophobic notes—"Go back where you came from"—addressed to them. (They moved here from England in 2011.)

It wasn't hatred but, probably, money that motivated someone to steal the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council's \$8,000 water trailer on June 1.

"They had to have been either local or with someone local," said Janelle Dunlevy, executive director at APWC. The equipment could only be seen from a locally known swimming hole in Provolt. "It was premeditated," Janelle said. "That person had to have a battery-powered angle grinder or equipment to get through the locks on the trailer."

Pacifica Gardens, in Williams, also experienced a theft by someone familiar with their property. The irrigation equipment—a sprinkler cannon, pipe, adaptors—was hidden between the trees at Pacifica's wedding garden. The thief had to have spotted it while walking through the garden, then snuck in later with a big pick-up to take it.

"It was worth a couple thousand dollars," says Ray Pragg, board president. "It is disappointing that someone would do this. We put a lot of trust in people who



The bucolic English Lavender Farm was struck by vandalism this summer.  
Photo: Sue Owen.

come to Pacifica for recreation. We assume they value the landscape and the grounds."

Pacifica has also experienced vandalism. Shortly after they installed new bathrooms, someone tore off the toilet paper dispenser and wrote on the wall with a sharpie. "It is shocking that someone would vandalize such a place as Pacifica," Ray said.

See VANDALISM, page 23

## Three Rivers plans onsite and online reopening

**State mandates mean only K-3 students will go back to school in person for now**

BY LISA BALDWIN

Students in kindergarten through third grades will return to school in person on Tuesday, September 8, while fourth through 12th graders will be online, the Three Rivers School District announced August 12.

The revised plan for reopening schools is in compliance with statewide orders issued by Governor Kate Brown on July 29.

According to the governor's guidelines, a county must have fewer than 10 new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 residents for three consecutive weeks for schools to return to on-site learning. The health metrics in Josephine County as of August 12 did not meet these requirements for grades 4-12. The new state requirements do allow onsite learning for kindergarten through grade three in some small and rural school communities. Under these conditions, Three Rivers schools will begin the 2020-2021 school year with a fully online instructional model for grades 4-12 and onsite learning for grades K-3.

On September 8, Three Rivers elementary schools will open their doors to students in kindergarten through third grade with a "staggered start" for the first two weeks. In small groups (about half of the student population on campus at a time), the youngest students will learn and practice new protocols for keeping everyone safe, such as mask wearing and physical distancing.

Regular full-time school days begin September 21 for K-3. Parents received details of the reopening plan on August 24. Busing will be provided for K-3 students. New routes and schedules can be found under the "Parent View" tab on the schools' web pages.

September 8 is the start date for Three Rivers students in grades 4 through 12, as well, but with distance rather than on-site learning. Distance learning will continue through the first quarter at least. The district expects to know by October 15 if the rate of new infections in the

See THREE RIVERS, page 23

## Momentum Grant boosts cemetery cleanup

BY CATHY RODGERS AND LAURA AHEARN

A Greater Applegate (AGA) recently awarded its first 2020 Momentum Grant to the McKee Bridge Historical Society for a monument-cleaning project commencing this fall at Logtown Cemetery. Logtown Cemetery, just off Highway 238 in Ruch, is an important and historical local landmark.

Here, among the gravestones and monuments, one takes a walk back in time to the era when the region's first pioneers arrived to settle in this beautiful valley. Here among the Ponderosa pines, Douglas firs, and madrones are the gravesites of those who braved the Oregon Trail, who settled, who met, who married. Logtown is a look back at the descendants of the original pioneer families.

Logtown Cemetery is a historic treasure and special place of remembrance for all who made their lives here, to those who are buried here. The lives of the Oregon Trail emigrants buried at Logtown Cemetery tie together places and events throughout the Applegate Valley, including interactions with other groups like Native Americans, Chinese, and Sandwich Islanders, who reached the Applegate by other routes.

McKee Bridge Historical Society will use the \$500 Momentum Grant from



Celebrating a grant for restoration work at the Logtown Cemetery are Laura Ahearn, left, of the McKee Bridge Historical Society, and Cathy Rodgers of A Greater Applegate.  
Photo: Ryan Pernel.

AGA to clean and maintain some of the oldest grave markers in the cemetery. Initial efforts will focus on the graves of the earliest McKee-Dunlap pioneers, who settled in

the Applegate Valley in the 1850s-1860s, and of their descendants, including the oldest known marker for James

See LOGTOWN, page 4

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## OBITUARIES

## Thomas Doty

Dec. 9, 1952 – June 11, 2020

Noted storyteller Thomas “Tom” Doty, 67, died in his sleep at his Ashland home on June 11, 2020.

Doty was born in southern Oregon, where his ancestors arrived after coming across the Oregon Trail, settling near the Rogue River in the 1800s. He also had family connections to Takelma and Shasta ancestors from the native village of Coyote’s Paw along the Klamath River near the Oregon-California border.

Tom attended historic Beaver Creek School in the Applegate in his youth and spent time exploring the backcountry with his dog Tippy, hiking and camping with family and friends. Night after night, in the light of a campfire, he listened to stories about relations who have called southern Oregon home for generations. These included native stories told by Grandma Maude.

In the 1970s, Tom studied writing and theater at Southern Oregon University and Reed College, and he spent time listening to storytellers in England and Ireland and in southeast Alaska, the homeland of the Tlingits. In 1981, he returned home to the Rogue Valley and became a storyteller, learning his art from native elders.

“Our association began in the 1980s through my work as an anthropologist/archaeologist in southern Oregon,” recalls Tish McFadden of Ashland, “and through his performances as a native storyteller throughout the state.”

Tom did a lot of research on the Dakubetede, the original indigenous people of the Applegate Valley, Tish said, noting that the tribe was completely different from the Takelma and spoke a different language. Tom’s cultural and educational contributions to Tish’s “Upriver to Morning” project, a

multimedia dramatization of the teachings of the late Takelma elder and spiritual leader Agnes Baker “Grandma Aggie” Pilgrim, helped make the project accurate, compelling, and in alignment with native Takelma beliefs and practices.

“As a touring native storyteller, he witnessed a dire need for authentic indigenous curriculum in public education at every grade level,” Tish said. “He tirelessly helped me forge a path from concept to near-completion. He was resolute in his passion and commitment to provide content for ‘Upriver to Morning’ while honoring native ways in modern times. His rich storyteller’s voice created the audiobook.

“The seeds of Tom’s research, teachings, storytelling, and programs have grown into deep and lasting roots of awareness, respect, and understanding of our region’s cultural heritage. His attention to accuracy and interpretation of Oregon’s indigenous cultures reflects his personal integrity, passion, and wit. His life’s work literally fills volumes.” Tom frequently was the star attraction at storytelling events in the Applegate, and with Grandma Aggie reinstated the traditional indigenous salmon ceremony on the Applegate River.

“All who heard him share stories of Salmon, Coyote, and Rock Old Woman unite in this profound loss,” Tish said. “He was a one-of-a-kind educator, a two-legged archive of indigenous culture, a prolific writer, a revered public speaker, and life-long wanderer. Thomas Doty, may you rest in peace among the stories and stars, with no beginning and no end. You will be profoundly missed and lovingly remembered here on earth as your life carved a story in stone that will never fade.”

## Watershed project plan protest deadline nears

An agreement between the two largest public land management agencies in southern Oregon will have a far-reaching impact on 52,000 acres in the Upper Applegate Watershed, according to an August 14 announcement by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management Medford District.

The official Decision Notice for the joint-agency Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project was signed August 13, marking a milestone for the project, which was initiated as a collaborative effort between the agencies and interested community stakeholders in 2015.

According to the announcement, the agencies sought to use an all-lands approach that utilizes nature’s benefits. Paramount to the work was to address the need for fuels reduction at a larger scale and the importance of collaborative efforts in landscape management.

Each agency has issued a unique decision with a wide variety of actions, including cross-boundary fuels reduction work, recreation work, and pollinator habitat restoration and enhancement.

In keeping with the intent of the Applegate Adaptive Management Area, the decision will also allow for adaptive management and collaboration during implementation.

**Highlights of the decision include:**

- Up to 100 acres of riparian restoration;
- 1,228 acres of habitat enhancement for *Fritillaria gentneri*;
- 4,876 acres of prescribed fire work;
- 1,920 of thinning treatments meant to enhance and promote forest health;

- 2,890 acres of thinning in plantations;
- Restoring a short foot trail near McKee Bridge Picnic Area;
- Decommissioning up to four miles of unauthorized OHV trails;
- Designating and enhancing 2.5 miles of existing trail for multi-use access;
- Designating 1.8 miles of trail for non-motorized recreation;
- 1,497 acres of oak and hardwood enhancement work; and
- 3,198 acres of pollinator habitat improvement.

To see the BLM Decision Record, visit the BLM project page at [bit.ly/3aupC1O](http://bit.ly/3aupC1O) (click on the “Documents” box at left). A 15-day protest period for the BLM document that opened August 19 closes at 4:30 pm Thursday, September 3. Protests may be emailed to [BLM\\_OR\\_AFO\\_VMP@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_AFO_VMP@blm.gov) or mailed to the Medford District Office at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504.

For additional information about the BLM Decision Record, email Lauren Brown, Ashland Field Manager, at [lpbrown@blm.gov](mailto:lpbrown@blm.gov), or call 541-618-2232.

Visit the RRSNF’s page dedicated to the Upper Applegate Watershed Management Project at [bit.ly/3aun4Rx/](http://bit.ly/3aun4Rx/). To see the Forest Service Decision Notice in its entirety, go to [bit.ly/3ausnQI](http://bit.ly/3ausnQI). The Forest Service’s final opportunity for comment on the draft plan was in September-October 2019. For additional information about the Forest Service final Decision Notice, email Donna Mickley, district ranger, at [donna.mickley@usda.gov](mailto:donna.mickley@usda.gov), or call 541-864-0900.

## Provolt recreation site now open

BLM has re-opened the new Provolt Recreation Site across from the Provolt Store on the Williams Highway. The site is open year round, Thursdays through Sundays, sunrise to sunset, for non-motorized recreation only. Visitors can use the northern-most gate (the only one that’s open).

**Reminders:**

- Admission is free.
- Picnickers, hikers, runners, bikers, anglers, paddlers, wildlife enthusiasts, and equestrians are all welcome.
- Dogs are welcome, too, but must be kept on a leash.
- The site is closed to overnight use, campfires, shooting, off-highway vehicles, motorized boats, mining, and firewood cutting.

## Free anti-overdose drugs distributed

Free distribution of life-saving overdose medication and HIV tests is set for 10:30 am to 1:30 pm Sunday, September 6, at the Sugarloaf Center, 206 Tetherow Road, in Williams.

Volunteers from the nonprofit group Rogue Harm Reduction will offer free doses of naloxone to take home, along with instructions for use.

Safety protocols include masks, gloves, and social distancing.

Rogue Harm Reduction hosts these events the first Sunday of each month.

For more information, email [rogueharmreduction@gmail.com](mailto:rogueharmreduction@gmail.com).

## Food pantry there for those in need

The Applegate Food Pantry is there for those in need of help. Feel free to come by and see us from 11:30 am to 1 pm Mondays at Ruch Outdoor Community School, by the cafeteria, at 156 Upper Applegate Road.

We say “thanks” to our generous donors and all the Upper Applegate community. We have had tremendous support from our friends and neighbors that allowed us to stay open during this pandemic. To our wonderful volunteers, we say we are humbled and so appreciative for your loyalty and hard work.

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.

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



Thomas Doty with Agnes Baker Pilgrim.

# A sign of the times

BY CATHY RODGERS

I remember my first trip to the Applegate Valley almost 30 years ago. I fell in love with the small-town congeniality, the conspicuous lack of traffic lights, and bucolic country roads winding through the valleys along the pristine Applegate River, conjuring up images of days gone by. I fell in love with waving at neighbors I had not yet met (who eagerly waved back), with cars braking, not for traffic, but for the variety of animals routinely crossing the road (not chickens, generally), and with hand-painted wooden signs signaling wine, lavender, eggs, or honey for sale. Not a single billboard, and this to me was a big "SIGN"!!!

Within a day I bought my home, without ever looking inside. For me it was all about the river. I was giddy with excitement to have land on one of the best swimming holes on the Applegate River, spectacular views of Boaz Mountain, the Milky Way galaxy vivid in the night sky, and Grayback Mountain, marking Oregon's southern border. This is what it is like when you turn your life inside out! It was a sign for me that my life was taking the path less traveled.

I dreamed of running for mayor, only to learn that our community is defined by our watershed and the dozen or so creeks that define our "neighborhoods." We have no mayor, and, as history has proven, we

don't need one, for we have our very own Shangri-la, a community that is centrally isolated, yet tightly connected (at least for those that want to be). It's a tapestry of talent, intertwined by goodwill. Life here in the Applegate takes on a different pace by design, celebrating space by choice. It strengthens the spirit, nurtures the soul, reaffirms faith in humanity, and reminds us how good it feels to be outdoors. It is a powerful combination of self-reliance and neighborly dependency.

I recall my first visit to Ruch Country Store. I had picked out a loaf of bread, a dozen eggs (didn't have my own chickens yet), some lemonade, a little of this and a little of that, probably a bottle of local wine. At the check-out register, I was having pleasant conversations about the weather and Applegate Lake levels when lo and behold! I was \$1.40 short. As I contemplated what I could really live without, (keeping the wine for sure), I made a note to self: no ATM, no gas stations, no banks, and instantly my version of rural living was redefined. I felt lighter.

It didn't take long to get used to the refreshing simplicity of "less is more," especially when the congenial gentleman at the register told me, "Just pay us the balance the next time you come to the store." I told him I was new to the area and only in town once a month, and, without hesitation, the young man said, "See you



Be they whimsical, quirky, insight-provoking or simply funny, we should be aware of signs we encounter as we go about our day-to-day lives. Here Patrick McDonald sits in front of one such sign after getting dropped off for "husband day care" in Jacksonville while his wife shops.

in a month." I left the market loving this community even more: a place where trust still exists, your word is your bond, respect is reciprocal, and a smile goes a long way to make your day better. I came back the next month, handed over two dollars and still, 30 years later, tell this story.

This place, our community, is special. I took that first encounter with community as a "sign of the times," days gone by when

community, civility, and trust defined us. Over the years I have found our area offers something even more unique that epitomizes us, something most other communities have missed—the vital signs: (see photos)

What's not to love?  
Signed, sealed, delivered...  
Cathy Rodgers, Junior Field Reporter  
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## POETRY CORNER

### Viral

by Paul Tipton

When that first YouTube post went viral  
it was cool; when the first tweet went viral  
it was even better. Even though those nasty  
computer viruses were a problem  
from time to time, and every year  
people got the flu, who knew  
King Corona XIX would rule the world  
so quick. We're sick! [virus: (L. – poison)].  
Humans have obviously poisoned the Earth.  
Should we expect any better in return?  
Our super-consciousness is thrilling  
but is an existence based on killing, reducible  
in the end right down to the molecule.  
We can only hope that viral doesn't spiral.

*Have a submission for Poetry Corner, either by an Applegate resident or about the Applegate? Email it to Applegater poetry editor Paul Tipton at [ptipton4u2c@gmail.com](mailto:ptipton4u2c@gmail.com).*

### ■ LOGTOWN

*Continued from page 1*

Washington Dunlap, who was buried here in 1862. This project is a precursor to the launch of an Upper Applegate History Trail that will encourage greater interest in our valley's heritage.

All Applegaters will be invited to participate in the cleanup and learn the skills for maintaining historic gravemarkers. Volunteers will also learn the backgrounds and backstories of the pioneers who rest at Logtown Cemetery, the history of Logtown, and the story of the iconic Logtown Rose. Volunteers will

be inspired by the stories, the legacies, and the names associated with the places we know and still enjoy: Collings Mountain Trail, Buncom, Watkins Campground, Cantrall Buckley Park, and McKee Bridge.

For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering, please watch the MBHS Facebook page at [facebook.com/McKeeBridgeHistoricalSociety/](https://facebook.com/McKeeBridgeHistoricalSociety/) or email [mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:mckeebridge1917@gmail.com).

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*The main gate to the historic Logtown cemetery. Photo: Cathy Rodgers.*

## Momentum Grant cycle closes Sept. 14

A Greater Applegate (AGA) is now accepting Momentum Grant requests. The application process is open through September 14, 2020.

AGA has a \$5,000 Momentum Grant budget, with maximum grants of \$2,500. The average grant award is \$500. Momentum Grants are offered annually to local organizations doing work in the Applegate Valley that reflect AGA's mission.

These grants provide support for small organizations to help overcome financial barriers that prevent community-based projects from moving forward.

For additional information or to download the application, send an email to [info@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:info@agreaterapplegate.org).

## BOOK REVIEW

### Year of Wonders

Geraldine Brooks

Penguin Books 2001

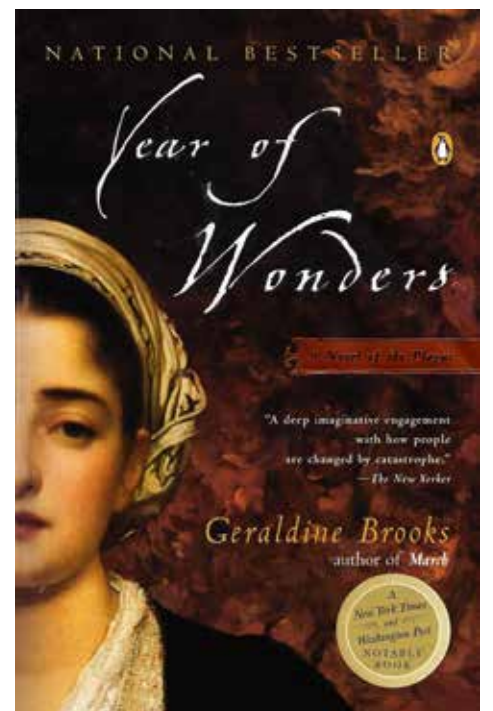
*One thing I believe completely  
Is that the human heart remains the  
human heart,  
No matter how our material  
circumstances change  
As we move together through time.*  
—Geraldine Brooks

If you appreciate historical fiction, Geraldine Brooks is an author you won't want to miss. She began her writing career as a foreign correspondent in the Middle East. During those years she sometimes sought refuge from the turmoil by traveling to the English countryside. Over the years she became intrigued by the history of Eyam, a small mining village where, in 1665, the villagers voted to quarantine their entire town in order to prevent neighboring villages from contracting the bubonic plague, which had afflicted several of Eyam's townsfolk. What happened to the people during quarantine, their beliefs, social connections, family relationships, and their persons—body, mind, and soul—inspired Brooks to create this fictional masterpiece.

Beginning in late February this year I became aware that several friends and acquaintances of mine were reading books about plague and pandemic, both fictional and scientific. Maybe Joan Didion had an explanation for this behavior when she said, "Novels are about things you're afraid you can't deal with." One neighbor had a pile of such books which included Defoe's *Journal of the Plague Year*. Another hoped I would read *Station Eleven* by Mandel. That one haunted me and disappointed in the end.

I first read Brooks's novel of a plague when it was released in paperback in 2002. Brooks's nonfiction, especially *Nine Parts of Desire: The Hidden World of Islamic Women*, had considerably widened my perspective and enticed me to snatch up *Year of Wonders*. This summer I read the novel again and was amazed at how catastrophe can affect the character of human beings in ways that seem to have undergone very little change through the centuries. Our own coronavirus pandemic gives rise to the same challenges as did the plague of those former years.

England during the plague years was in chaos on all fronts. The king had been murdered, and restoration of monarchy was in its early stages. In religion the Church of England still fought the Papist Catholics, both of whom fought the Puritans and the Quakers, and all of these ferreted out people who practiced the ancient ways of nature worship and provided herbal remedies for healing the sick. The 17th-century solution to



what was regarded as witchcraft was death by burning or drowning.

All this chaos provides the backdrop for the story of the "Plague Village" as told by Anna Frith, who has seen and been involved in the lives of almost everyone in town. It has changed her: "I confess I have sometimes been reduced to muttering my thoughts aloud like a mad-woman when the need for a human voice becomes too strong. I dislike this, for I fear the line between myself and madness is as fine these days as a cobweb, and I have seen what it means when a soul crosses into that dim and wretched place. But I, who always prided myself on grace, now allow myself a deliberate clumsiness. I let my feet land heavily. I clatter the hearth tools. And when I draw water, I let the bucket chain grind on the stone, just to hear ragged noise instead of the smothering silence."

I read the novel this second time with greater understanding as well as deep appreciation for the skill Brooks demonstrates. She chronicles the facts of history through the lives and choices of believable characters spun from the richness of her own soul and worldwide experience. She is deft with plot construction that will keep you reading too far into the night or past the time you meant to begin fixing supper or watering the garden.

If you feel drawn by her style as much as I do, try her more recent historical novels: *People of the Book*, *Caleb's Crossing*, *The Secret Chord*, and *March*. But do consider reading this one first! It's available in the Jackson County Library System, at Amazon.com, and by order from your favorite bookstore.

Christin Lore Weber  
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**Our Mission**

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

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

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

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All articles submitted to the *Applegater* are subject to edit and publication at the newsmagazine's discretion and as space allows. No more than one article per author per issue. When too many articles are submitted to include in any one issue, some articles may be placed on our website or held until the following issue.

Letters to the editor must be 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 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 front-page flag 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 bert@applegater.org by the deadline (see Editorial Calendar).

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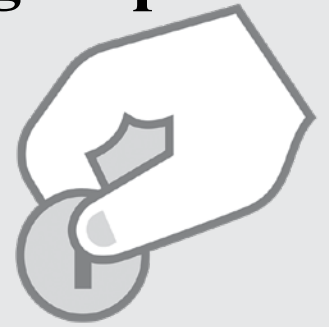
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Thank you for your generosity. —The *Applegater* Board of Directors



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### Editorial Calendar

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

### Cover Photo Credit

Thanks to Ann Nguyen for the photo of a ripening apple on Little Applegate. Have a photo for the winter *Applegater*? Email it to bert@applegater.org.

### Corrections

The *Applegater* is committed to publishing accurate information in its news articles, correcting errors of fact, and clarifying misleading statements. Send suggested corrections to Editor in Chief Bert Etling at bert@applegater.org, or call 541-631-1313.

Articles about schools on pages 17 and 22 of the summer *Applegater* gave incomplete listings of schools. Three Rivers School District includes Madrona Elementary, Lincoln Savage Middle, Woodland Charter and Hidden Valley High schools in the Applegate Valley, in addition to Applegate and Williams schools, which were mentioned. Mention of SMART Reading volunteer opportunities should have included Williams and Madrona Elementary schools, as well as Ruch and Applegate Elementary schools.

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## — Ruch Library —

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

Hooray! We are open! We are so happy to be here to serve you. We are currently open our regular hours: Tuesday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Thursday 1:00 – 7:00 pm, and Saturday 11:00 am – 4:00 pm.

We appreciate your cooperation in wearing a mask while in the library.

Remember the library? The latest books, a wall of DVDs, and an awesome array of magazines and audio books are all there, alongside the computers available for your use. For the last six months new materials have been pouring into the library and are now ready for you to check out and enjoy!

We are planning a Lavender Wand Sachet class September 19 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm *outside* at Ruch Library. Class size is limited, so please register online at [JCLS.org](http://JCLS.org) or by calling Ruch Library at 541-899-8741.

Please check out the [JCLS.org](http://JCLS.org) website for up-to-date information about upcoming programs at the libraries. There is something for everyone – Book

Clubs, Teen Trivia, Local History, Genealogy—check it out! We are always looking for virtual programs of interest to the community. Please let us know if you might be interested in hosting a class or presentation and what programs you might like to see.

The Friends of Ruch Library regret that they cannot open the A-Frame Bookstore at this time, nor can they accept any donations until further notice. They hope to be able to open the Book Barn on a First Saturday for their \$1-per-book or \$5-per-bag sale soon! Watch the Friends of Ruch Library sign near Ramsey Realty and follow their Facebook page for notification of their opening.

“The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library” (Albert Einstein).

Thalia Truesdell

Ruch Library Branch Manager  
[ttruesdell@jcls.org](mailto:ttruesdell@jcls.org)



## — Applegate Library —

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

The Applegate Branch Library is committed to safety for its patrons and staff. We are using COVID-19 preventative measures such as hand sanitizing, quarantining of materials, and frequent cleaning. Maximum occupancy at the library is 10, and social distancing is observed.

All patrons over the age of 4 must wear a mask, as per state mandate. The library offers front-door service so that patrons unable to wear masks can pick up items at the door. Please call before arriving to pick up your holds.

Patrons are asked to limit browsing to 15 minutes. Computers are available on a first-come, first-served basis, with a one-hour limit.

During the week of September 22, we'll be offering a Take and Make project: potpourri sachets. You can pick up the makings while supplies last.

Be sure to check out our fall events calendar at [jcls.libcal.com/calendar/jcls\\_event](http://jcls.libcal.com/calendar/jcls_event).

JCLA (Jackson County Library System) has a number of remote library services available to you from your home. You can:

- Manage your account online.
- Send print jobs through the mobile printing program and pick up the print-outs later. Instructions are at [jcls.org/computer\\_wifi/printing](http://jcls.org/computer_wifi/printing).

Also be sure to explore our digital collection, which includes:

- Hoopla, which grants you access to a comprehensive catalog of movies, TV shows, music, e-books, audiobooks, and comics. It's like Netflix for libraries.

- Flipster, which offers a selection of current and past issues of popular magazines for access online and via the Flipster app, available for Android and iOS devices.

- Library2Go, which focuses on books in ePub and Kindle formats, as well as MP3 Audiobooks. You can checkout and read or listen to titles on nearly any device you have, from a simple eReader to the latest iPad.

- Kanopy, which showcases more than 30,000 of the world's best films, including award-winning documentaries, rare and hard-to-find titles, film festival favorites, indie and classic films, and world cinema.

- See all the additional offerings at [jcls.org/media-resources/stayhome](http://jcls.org/media-resources/stayhome).

You can find contact information for all JCLS branches at [jcls.org/hours\\_locations](http://jcls.org/hours_locations).

For additional information, please contact Christine Grubb, Applegate Branch Library manager, at 541-846-7346 or [cgrubb@jcls.org](mailto:cgrubb@jcls.org). The Applegate Branch Library is at 18485 North Applegate Road, Applegate.

Christine Grubb

Applegate Branch Library Manager  
Jackson County Library Services



The Applegate Branch Library.



A new sign marks the Applegate library.

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A wall hanging welcomes patrons back to the Ruch library. Photo: Thalia Truesdell.

## Williams Library offers laptops, hotspots, printing

Josephine Community Library has expanded service to include the lending of six refurbished laptops and 10 new US Cellular mobile hotspots in an effort to aid community members who may not have access to a computer or internet at home while library facilities are restricted.

“We are getting a lot of feedback from patrons who now need multiple devices in their homes so that their children can do schoolwork while parents work from home,” said Public Services Director Norma Singer. “It can also be difficult to fill out digital documents like unemployment claims and health insurance forms from a cell phone. We are hoping this alleviates some of that stress for our patrons.”

Laptops and mobile hotspots are part of the “Library of Things” and can be requested through the library’s online catalog, accessible through [josephinelibrary.org](http://josephinelibrary.org) or over the phone by calling 541-476-0571.

Items can be picked up during curbside hours on Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 4 pm at the preferred county branch,

including the Williams facility at 20695 Williams Highway, next to Williams Elementary School.

Printing service is also being offered at all four branches. Patrons can email documents to [info@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:info@josephinelibrary.org) for black-and-white printing, and library staff will alert them when documents are ready for pick-up. There is currently no fee for this service, but patrons are asked to limit pages to 10 per week.

While library facilities are restricted due to public health concerns, the following alternative services are available from all branches: curbside pick-up on Fridays and Saturdays, free instant online library cards to access ebooks and audiobooks, virtual Summer Reading Program with recommended reading and activities for all ages, JosephineLINK community database, and more.

Library phone lines and email are open for tech support at all four branches in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek during regular service hours.

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# A GREATER APPLGATE

## Surveying COVID-19's Applegate impact

BY SETH KAPLAN

Last issue, A Greater Applegate distributed 11,500 surveys as an insert in the *Applegater*, along with an online version, to learn how we all were doing in what proved to be the early days of COVID-19. We collected 155 responses during the month of June. The results are interesting and useful, although admittedly only a snapshot.

### Highlights

More than 84 percent of respondents reported feeling “good,” “great,” or “better than ever” in terms of safety, stability, and overall well-being. Almost 16 percent described their well-being as just OK or very unwell. While this is an outstanding level of community well-being, community members alerted us to several challenges.

About 15 percent of respondents needed to access unemployment benefits since the coronavirus pandemic began. As of this writing, the status of extended unemployment coverage is unknown, and we want to remind people who may need a little help, as well as people with resources, to sign up for the AGA Mutual Aid Network by going to [agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org) and clicking on the link or calling us at 541-702-2108, and we will enroll you. The Mutual Aid Network is people volunteering to help their neighbors. We only ask for your time. Any additional support costs can be covered by AGA.

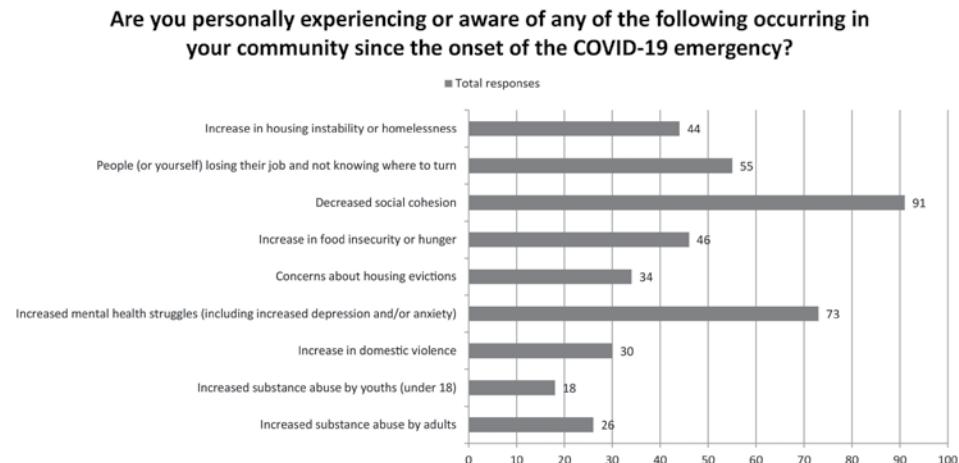
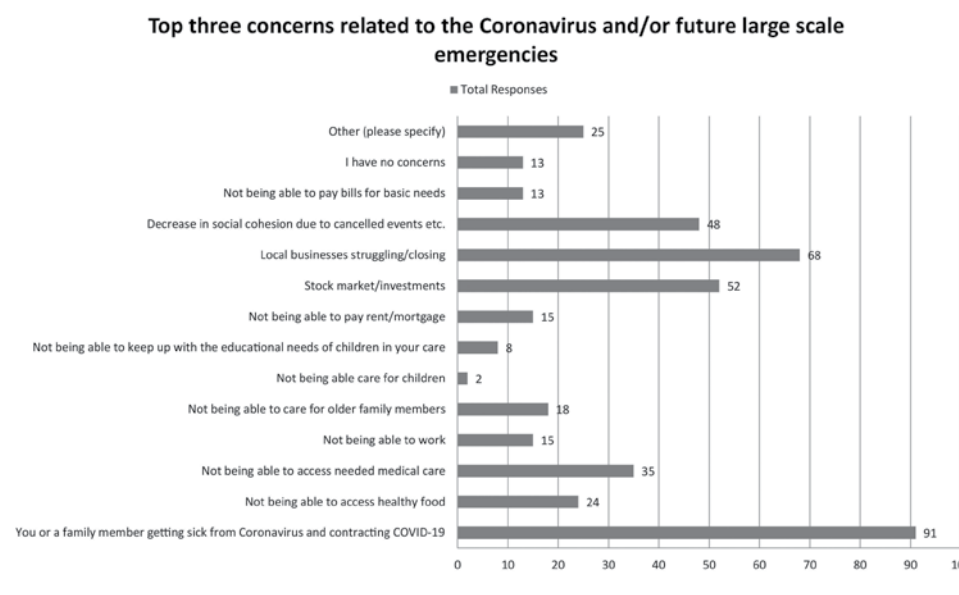
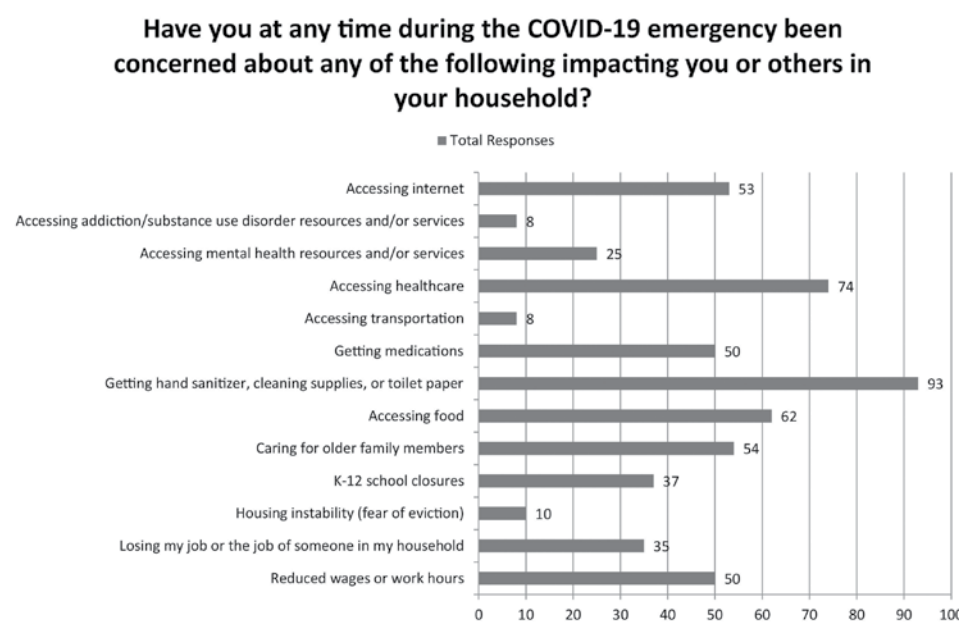
We asked people if they knew where to get necessary resources in time of need, and the vast majority said they didn't need assistance. The one exception was COVID-19 testing locations. The closest test sites are in Grants Pass and Medford. Neither Jackson nor Josephine County provides any COVID-19 testing in the Applegate Valley. AGA has reached out to both county departments of health to encourage a mobile van for testing at local schools or other public sites but has not received a positive response as of this writing. We will keep trying if the need continues, and we encourage others to reach out to Jackson County Health & Human Services (541-774-8200) or Josephine County Public Health Department (541-474-5325). The following sites are the closest available for testing. Please call for an appointment.

### Medford test sites are:

Providence Stewart Meadows Urgent Care  
70 Bower Drive, Suite 110  
541-732-3962

### La Clinica Wellness Center

730 Biddle Road  
541-535-6239



### Asante COVID-19 Specimen Collection Center

1321 Center Drive  
541-789-2813

### Valley Immediate Care

1600 Delta Waters Road No. 107  
541-734-9030

### Grants Pass test sites are:

Siskiyou Community Health Center  
1701 NW Hawthorne Ave.  
541-472-4777

### Asante COVID-19 Specimen Collection Center

Near the Asante Three Rivers Medical Center campus on the corner of SW Ramsey

Avenue and Ringuette Street.  
541-789-2813

Valley Immediate Care  
162 NE Beacon Drive, No. 103  
541-734-9030

According to the Oregon Health Authority, two do-it-yourself home testing kits are available from online sites: Everlywell ([everlywell.com/products/covid-19-test](http://everlywell.com/products/covid-19-test)) and Pixel by LabCorp ([pixel.labcorp.com/at-home-test-kits/covid-19-test](http://pixel.labcorp.com/at-home-test-kits/covid-19-test)).

### Major concerns

The three major issues that respondents to the survey said they or others were experiencing since the onset of COVID-19 are 1) increased feelings of isolation, 2) increased mental health struggles (including depression and anxiety), and 3) people losing their jobs and not knowing where to turn.

When asked to list their three major concerns related to this COVID-19 emergency or future emergencies, respondents listed 1) themselves or a family member getting sick, 2) local businesses struggling or closing, and 3) loss of retirement funds, investments, or savings.

First on the list of major concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic was the availability of hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, and toilet paper. As readers may recall, this survey was taken when many supplies and provisions were in short supply. Other concerns included 1) accessing healthcare, 2) accessing food, 3) caring for older family members, 4) accessing the internet, 5) reduced wages and getting medications (tie).

AGA is working to address the issues that have arisen in this survey. Again, we encourage all readers to join the Mutual Aid Network, whether because you find yourself needing help or because you're able to help other Applegaters. Either way, go to [agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org) or call 541-702-2108.

### AGA is:

- Reaching out to internet providers and our state representatives to improve internet and cell service in our valley. While we have made progress, we have learned enough to know that there is no easy solution.

- Supporting our two food pantries in Ruch and Williams and working on a more sustainable Applegate food system strategy.

If you would like to join us in any of these efforts, we welcome you!

Seth Kaplan, Executive Director  
A Greater Applegate  
[seth@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:seth@agreaterapplegate.org)

*The following is a representative sample of comments offered by respondents to the COVID-19 survey. We did not include comments of a partisan political nature, of which there were many, representing both sides.*

—Seth Kaplan

I am retired and receive Social Security benefits. I help take care of my grandson while his father works. I am fortunate to have been an old hippy who can grow my own food!

It finally slowed me down—in a positive way. Though I am aware that I am lucky for now and things can change quickly.

I am keeping in better contact with family members and loved ones. A positive!

I am fortunate in that I am retired and don't have a mortgage. I've been making masks and giving them to friends and neighbors. I've also been growing veggies and giving some of them away. We are in

## Applegate community comments

this together, so I am doing what I can to help others, including calling and visiting with others who are staying home.

Experiencing uncertainty about how this will affect our culture and world, going forward. Concerns that this pandemic is just the “tip of the iceberg” concerning system breakdowns. Feeling alternately just fine (impacts on me are minimal) and deeply upset (by impacts on others). Seeing others go through major emotional swings as this plays out on the larger stage. Feeling very grateful to be in the Applegate during this time.

I wish I had a better sense of how things are going with others in our valley.

I feel badly that we are faring so well while others are suffering and struggling, and our prayers are asking that those who are struggling will find comfort and peace. To

help with this calamity we stay home, obey the guidelines for safety while in public, tip largely when possible to restaurants, donate money moderately, and show patience and kindness to any we connect with. Nothing heroic but just helpful.

My greatest concern is the local public's lack of use of masks while in town. I estimate about 25 percent of people I see using face masks. To me this shows a lack of concern for the severity of the coronavirus.

I was laid off from my sewing job. I am also a caregiver; due to living with two compromised family members I could not take caregiving work and had constant concern about contaminating them by my shopping.

A good friend locally was not able to work at her practice during the pandemic,

has not yet received any unemployment for “gig” self-employment, as promised, and had to be financially supported for a while by me and another friend. I feel lucky I was able to help.

I work at (a local) school, and I have severe asthma, and I am scared to death to go back to work.

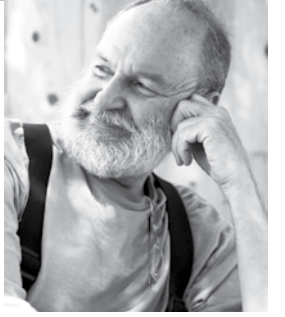
We are elderly and getting groceries delivered from the Williams General Store. They are wonderful, caring people.

I had COVID-19-symptom onset March 20. I did not test right away due to fear of further exposure or exposing others but was in contact via phone and video with the doctor. It was very difficult and very scary. I feel my community is not taking it seriously for either getting the virus or spreading the virus.

**THE STARRY SIDE**

# Fall 2020: What's up with the stars

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

Hello, good folks. May you be surviving and thriving in these hard times. May we somehow eventually get back to a new and much better "normal" when it all unfolds.

These sure are difficult and different times we are in with many new good and bad possibilities for us. There's also an opening for a reevaluation of what was and what should come to be. I find myself with high hopes for a really good, fair, and kind future.

Meanwhile the stars, constellations, and planets perform overhead as they always do. Perhaps you will even have more time to enjoy them. Perhaps they can have a calming and even awakening effect on us all. They shine bright and interesting for all who delve a bit into them. Some special things are going on with our planets in the early morning, which

is also the best time for meteor viewing. Bring out your favorite chair and enjoy. Be prepared to wrap up when it gets chilly!

Here's what you'll see up there this fall season. Our favorite Summer Triangle has just made it to the top of the sky and will slowly slide westward each night this season. Notice how it not only moves west but turns in the sky. Altair, with its three stars in a row, is the last to rise in the east and will eventually be the first to set in the west! Deneb, the top of the northern cross, will eventually, in winter, stand upright on the west-north-west horizon line, having pulled the whole Milky Way to an east-west orientation, from its present north-south one. Vega (in Lyra), the brightest star in the Summer Triangle, follows along instead of leading the parade now.

The great square of Pegasus will rise to the zenith of the sky. The Big Dipper will slip under Polaris, the north star (unfortunately for me, out of sight at my place because of northern mountains). The "W" of Cassiopeia will swing counter-clockwise gracefully over Polaris. And one of my favorite stars, Capella, will rise in the northeast and work its way to the zenith in winter. It's the brightest star in the constellation Auriga, which is a pentagon. It has a beautiful triangle in its left-hand corner, right next to Capella. Just opposite and below it is another smaller triangle in the

same orientation inside Auriga. It's a bit dim but definitely there in a good dark sky. See if you can find it.

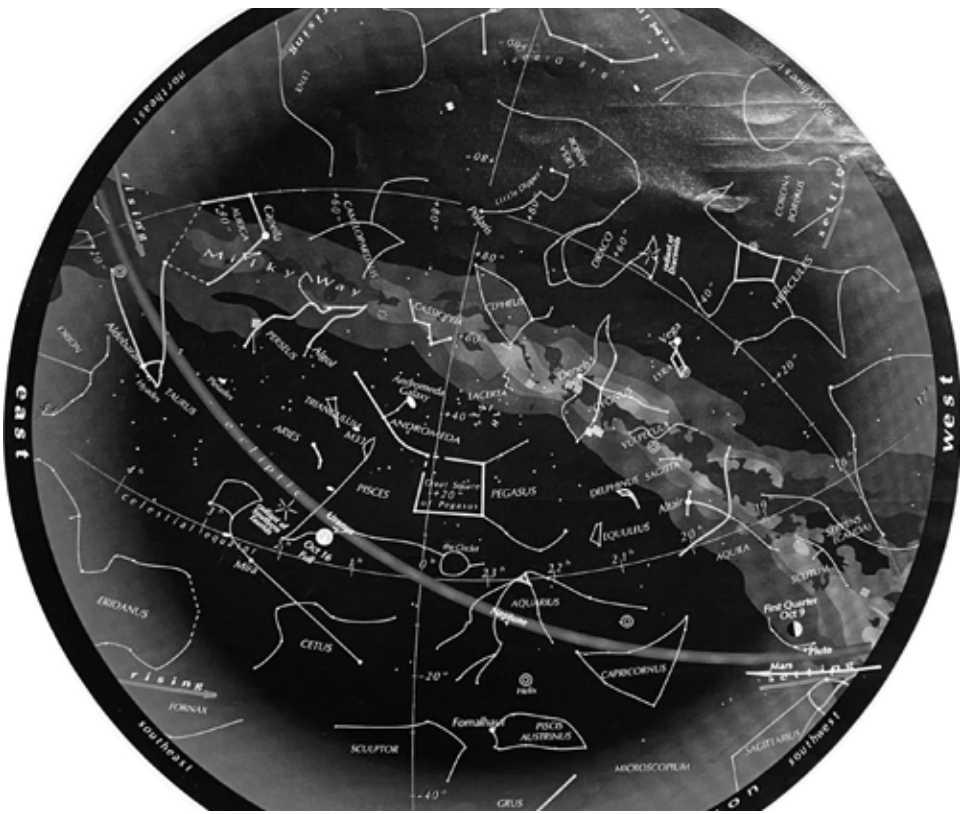
It's all part of the sweet sights at this time of year.

September 12 is my birthday, and it's usually one of the last warm days of the year. So get out there quick!

Enjoy all these many exciting things to look at in the night sky,

Greeley Wells  
greeley@greeley.me

*Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar.*



**Of Note**

**September 22 is the equinox:** The sun rises and sets directly in line with the equator. And it will shine all over the world with the same length of day and night! Equinox occurs at 13:30 UTC (Greenwich Mean Time), which is 6:30 am for us here in southern Oregon. That's the moment the sun will shine directly overhead above the equator.

**Mercury** is a dim morning planet only in November this season.

**Venus** is very bright and high in the east at dawn all through September, October, and November, when she's highest and farthest from the sun. We've been seeing Venus as a day star—hard to find but amazing!

**Red Mars** rises in the east at mid-to-late evening, lighting the nighttime until dawn. Then in October, Mars will become brighter than Venus! In November he dims a bit but is still very impressive. How can he do this? It's his closeness to earth as we both orbit the sun. For a whole month or more he becomes the third brightest object in the sky after the sun and moon! (OK, the space station *is* brighter!)

**Jupiter** is up all night with Saturn close behind. In September, October, and November they are both low in the southern sky and making their way steadily west.

**Meteors:** Early morning is usually the best viewing, but other times work too.

**Draconids:** Oct. 7-8. Best viewing is actually early evening. Up to 10 per hour.

**Orionids:** Oct. 20-21. They can be seen for many days on either side of these peak dates. Only a crescent moon for a good show. Twenty per hour!

**Leonids:** Nov 16-17. No moon to spoil the viewing! Fifteen per hour at its peak.

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## DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

## What I learned on my summer vacation

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Interesting summer, hum—but what “vacation”? I have been furiously gardening all summer. The cool spring gave most gardeners a thick, luscious, abundant yard. That is the good and fun part. I spent most of my gardening time removing the too-many leaves on everything, including, well, everything.

At the beginning of the planting season, night invaders made lace of the leaves of eggplants, sunflowers, basil, roses, cucumbers, zinnias, and amaranths. This was a freaking scary mess. I really thought my summer garden was doomed to become “arsenic and old lace.”

Turns out I was not the only victim. Other “insane” gardeners in my repertoire of fellow insane gardeners bellyached the same distress. In despair, I covered plants with an anti-bug cloth, used diatomaceous earth, made night-time flashlight visits, and put out ugly signs with mean words. For a while, nothing really helped much, except for time.

Everything I was doing eventually added up to survival, especially after very light feedings of fish fertilizer. This tactic was to strengthen plants, thus encouraging them to fight their own battles. It worked. The plants rallied, got a wee bit stronger and bigger every day, eventually producing bumper crops. Turns out the flying “martians” prefer just the young and the tender.

This summer was clearly an experience in big container gardening, but also in new and unexplained surprises.

I learned what not to plant in containers. Eggplants planted in old wheelbarrows and galvanized tubs were fantastic and undemanding. My tomatoes did great planted in sewer pipes. Will do that

again. Vining squashes may be happy and healthy and look ravishing in galvanized containers—but who trips on them as soon as they reach ground? One guess.

plants in big galvanized tubs do look way cool. Maybe better yet, will plant all future big trailing plants like squash, watermelon, and pumpkins at the grocery store. Ha, ha, ha.

Here is what I learned: compost, compost, compost. Add organic amendments to the rock-hard ground. I did a multitude of interventions with excellent results. In my gardener’s brain, “organic” amendments include coffee grounds, egg shells, any kind of nut shells (unsalted please), old chicken litter, old manure, straw, etc. I did everything. Result: happy draining soil.

I did learn that if I water raspberries less than expected, they are far sweeter, as water did not “dilute” the flavor. I did learn, according to a good friend, gophers can earn a doctorate degree in the art of escape. This degree is awarded only after escaping from Juicy Fruit gum, gasoline, water, sulphur, smoke bomb, flares, poison, car exhaust, and moth balls.

Forgotten lesson: Tomatoes really do not like it that hot: “Tomatoes grow best when the daytime temperature is between 65 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit. They stop growing above 95 degrees Fahrenheit. If nighttime temperatures are above 85 degrees Fahrenheit, the fruit will not turn red” (home.

howstuffworks.com/tomatoes).

Another great lesson I did take to heart is the gratitude shown by my lovely roses just for my feeding and watering them.

“My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant’s point of view” (H. Fred Dale).

Sioux Rogers  
dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm



Eggplants thrive in an old wheelbarrow. Photo: Sioux Rogers.

Growing vegetables in large rusty metal containers looks great, is fun, saves garden space, and makes them easy to individually feed. That is the good part. The “bad” (but not really awful) part is the need to water more frequently as the soil dries up quicker when containers are placed above ground.

So what did I learn? Simple, don’t plant trailing squashes in containers next year. It was too messy. It was way more work than I imagined. Dang all that, because hunky

Here is a very weird summer happening. The soil in my garden became hard as stone. The soil was so hard that water bounced off the ground, getting me wet instead. I heard the same lament from fellow gardeners. What the heck? I take good care of my soil. It is the entire basis of a healthy garden. My potato plants usually grow in loose soil dug up at harvest time with bare hands.

howstuffworks.com/tomatoes).

Another great lesson I did take to heart is the gratitude shown by my lovely roses just for my feeding and watering them.

“My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant’s point of view” (H. Fred Dale).

Sioux Rogers  
dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm



A night-time insect made one plant’s leaves look just like this.  
Photo: whatseatingmygarden.blogspot.com.



A small “sugar baby” watermelon plant escapes a tub container it shares with a pair of eggplant plants. Photo: Sioux Rogers.



Tomatoes happily growing in concrete sewer pipes.  
Photo: Sioux Rogers.



## Grateful for park supporters

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

We want to thank the many people who are using Cantrall Buckley Park respectfully, observing the current guidelines, including keeping groups to 10 or fewer people, practicing social distancing, and wearing a mask when close to other park users. We are keeping the guidelines current, and you can check for any updates or changes on the Jackson County Parks website: [jacksoncountyor.org/parks](http://jacksoncountyor.org/parks). We also appreciate everyone's compliance in paying the nominal park entrance fee of \$4. These fees support the maintenance and operations of our community park, keeping it nice, clean, and safe for all to enjoy.

If you are a regular park user, you may want to consider the Jackson County Parks annual pass, available for \$40. Yearly passes can be purchased from the park hosts or the ranger on duty. You can also purchase annual passes at various locations in Medford. The closest store

to the Applegate that sells the park pass is Blackbird, on Main Street in Medford. This pass is a great deal and gives you access to all the Jackson County Parks and Touvelle State Park. If you purchase the 2021 pass in December 2020, there is a \$10 discount, and the pass is good through December 2021.

A Greater Applegate, team members of the volunteer Park Enhancement Program, and staff of Jackson County Parks want to extend our deep gratitude to all the community members, volunteers, and donors supporting Cantrall Buckley Park. We are hopeful that circumstances will change in the future, enabling us to host our park enhancement celebration to showcase and share all the beauty and enhancements you have supported to make this park stand out as a "gem" in our county. However, due to the current health restrictions and safety concerns for everyone, we are cautiously looking



This aerial photo shows the solar site at Cantrall Buckley Park with a 52-panel array which has shaded area for public use under it and a 20 foot-diameter sundial on which people can stand and see the time. In a rectangular area across the drive a developed wetland with plants that filter grey water from the park is visible. Photo: Jason Schonhoff.

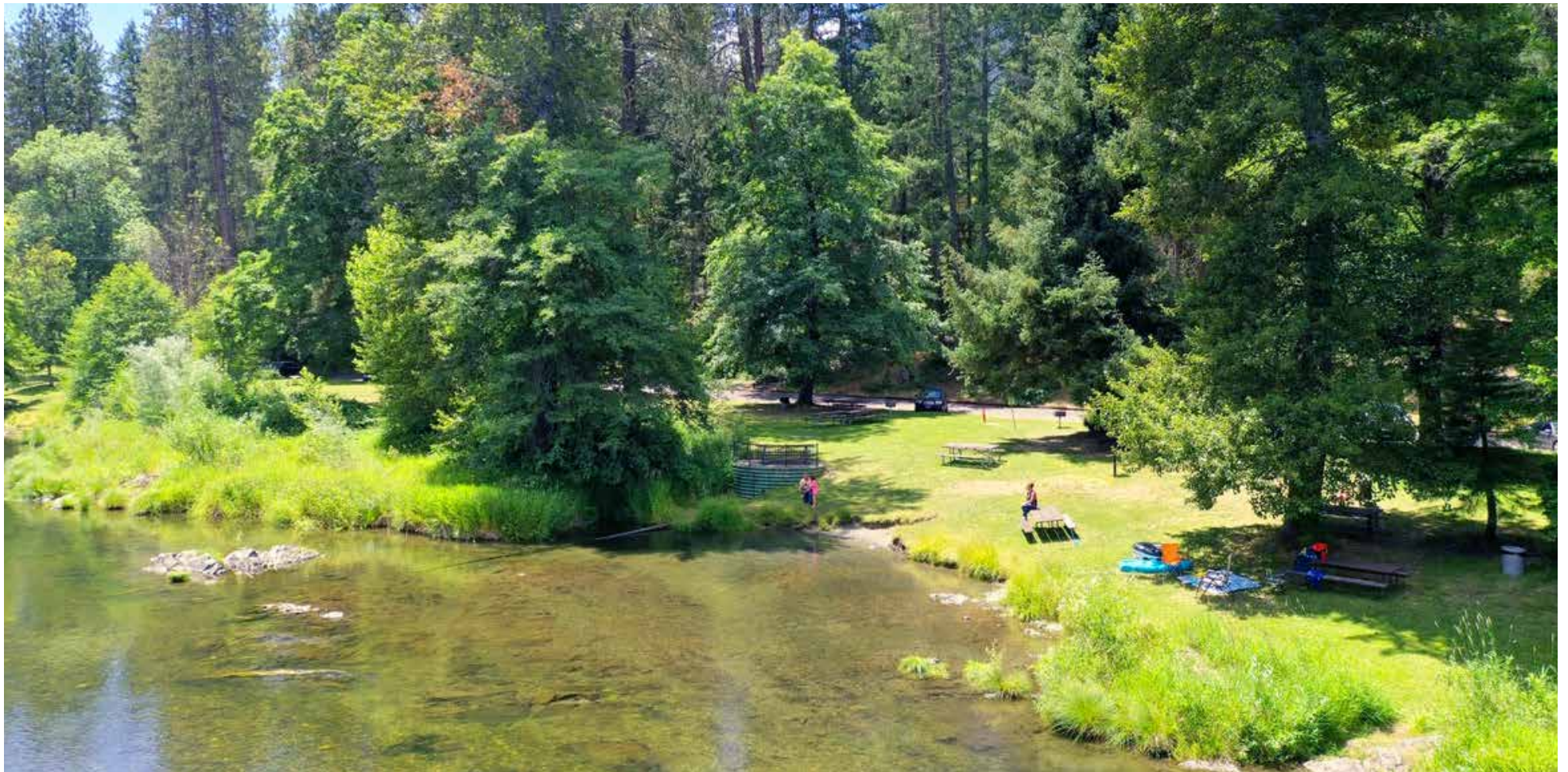
at the spring of 2021 to celebrate our accomplishments at the park together as a community.

The park team is currently re-evaluating the installation and completion timeline for our current projects and continuing virtual discussions on potential future projects. As always, volunteers play a critical role. We will keep you posted on how you can help and will continue to provide guidelines on how these volunteer events are being conducted to meet safety and health guidelines. If you are

interested in helping us move forward with new ideas on the team, interested in volunteer work, or want to donate toward a project, contact Janis Mohr-Tipton, chair for the Cantrall Buckley Park Enhancement Program, by email at [janis.agapark@gmail.com](mailto:janis.agapark@gmail.com).

Enjoy our beautiful park safely and be well.

Janis and the Park Team.  
Janis Mohr-Tipton  
[janis.agapark@gmail.com](mailto:janis.agapark@gmail.com)  
541-846-7501



Cantrall Buckley Parks offers the opportunity to do some summer picnicking at the river's edge with a swimming area just steps away. Photo: Jason Schonhoff.

### Voices of the Applegate

#### Voices of the Applegate to regroup in January

Living with COVID-19 bears many challenges that have also affected our choir. The Voices of the Applegate board, in conjunction with our director, Shayne Flock, and accompanist, Jerry Bull, has decided that it is not safe for us to return to a regular rehearsal schedule for the fall term.

We will not be rehearsing, and we have no concerts planned at this time. We will re-evaluate the situation in January and keep you updated as best we can. Please check out our Facebook page, Voices of the Applegate.

In the meantime, please have safe and joyful fall and winter seasons.

Joan Peterson  
541-846-6988

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# A busy summer for McKee Bridge Historical Society

BY LAURA AHEARN

Although the pandemic derailed plans for McKee Bridge Day 2020, McKee Bridge Historical Society kept busy throughout the summer pursuing opportunities to achieve our chartered objectives: to maintain the structural integrity of McKee Bridge *and* to preserve and share historic resources about the Upper Applegate.

Volunteers frequently cut weeds, blew debris off the bridge, restocked the rack cards and visitors log, and addressed the graffiti, which has been a real problem recently. We replaced defaced “message planks” and worked with Jackson County to erect a more official warning sign.

McKee Bridge is due for an engineering inspection in 2021, which will cost at least \$6,000—about as much as the \$6,522 Jackson County paid J. Hartman & Sons in 1917 to build the bridge in the first place (\$144,000 in today’s dollars). We are working on a grant application to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) to help cover this obligation and have appointed a committee to work with the county Roads Department.

After Jackson County moved into COVID-19 Phase II, volunteers started setting up a booth and bringing the Museum Trailer to the bridge on selected weekends from noon to 4 pm. Check the MBHS Facebook page for the schedule: [facebook.com/McKeeBridgeHistoricalSociety/](https://facebook.com/McKeeBridgeHistoricalSociety/).

The Creativity Contest attracted insightful entries, including a model of Dutchman’s Peak Fire Lookout by Ruch student Thomas Grier, on display at the museum trailer.

We are scanning and printing newly discovered photos and sharing stories about the Upper Applegate in the 1850s-1920s on the MBHS Facebook page. We now have over 330 followers. Is there a person, place or event you would like to see covered? Let us know!

We are installing displays of vintage photos, timelines, and maps at Ruch Library. These will change each month. The topic for July was “Baseball in Big Applegate.” Right now you can learn about the fascinating Collings family.

We are developing permanent interpretive signs for the bridge and will seek a SHPO grant in April 2021 to help pay for installation. We are also working

on an Upper Applegate History Trail brochure and have prepared grant applications to the Jackson County Cultural Coalition and Oregon Historic Trails Fund.

Two MBHS volunteers have received training on cleaning historic grave makers. The markers of the McKee pioneer parties and descendants at Logtown Cemetery need work. We are securing funding from A Greater Applegate to purchase specialized supplies and will train other community members and students to help with this important project.

Do you think some or all of these activities are interesting or important? Please become a MBHS member and get involved! Membership for 2021 is now open.

Dues are still only \$20 per year for your entire household. To sign up, contact [mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:mckeebridge1917@gmail.com) or attend the MBHS Annual Meeting at 10 am Saturday, September 12, on the bridge. All COVID-19 safety measures will be followed. MBHS merchandise and vintage photo and postcard reproductions will be on sale.

Attendees will be automatically entered in a drawing for a *free* tasting for seven at Cowhorn Winery & Gardens. Take a look at the McKee Bridge quilt, the Dutchman’s Peak model, “Baseball in Big Applegate,” and a new installation of vintage photographs at the museum trailer.

Oregon once had an estimated 600 covered bridges. Only 51 remain. Please help keep McKee Bridge standing and open to the public.

Laura Ahearn  
[mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:mckeebridge1917@gmail.com)



Currently on display is an exhibit about the fascinating Collings family. Photo: Vern Arnold collection.



“Baseball in Big Applegate” was the subject of the inaugural MBHS exhibit at Ruch Library in July. Photo: Evelyn Byrne Williams collection.

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# Scouting out the Applegate

BY ERIK JOHNSON

Greetings, neighbors! I'm an Applegate resident, father of three, and adult volunteer with the local Crater Lake Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). I wanted to briefly share with you what BSA is about, what we're up to, and what you might be interested in.

The BSA has many youth programs, all of which center around fun and exciting opportunities for youth to experience the outdoors, develop skills and character and leadership, and generally learn to be good citizens. I have kids in Cub Scout Pack 3017, based in Jacksonville, which is a program for youth grades K-5. We camp, hike, promote family bonding, and enjoy other activities such as snow sledding and the traditional pinewood derby.

My oldest son recently matriculated to the "Scouts BSA" Troop 17 (formerly called the "Boy Scout" program), where boys age 11-17 engage in more adventurous activities and hone their leadership skills through a program that utilizes self-governance. In short, the scouts themselves plan and execute their meetings and activities, with adults providing guidance and safety oversight.

Having scouting in our area is a great opportunity for our kids to engage in wholesome and fun activities that get them out of the house and off their tablets and video games. While there are many other quality youth activities, such as sports and various after-school programs, I firmly believe that no other program offers a comparable mix of fun, outdoor experiences, character-building, and family togetherness. As a bonus, scouts regularly try to give back to their communities. During our pack's campout at Jackson Campground a couple of years ago, we helped the camp host by picking up trash across the campsite and then fished some picnic tables out of the river that had been washed into some overhanging blackberry bushes.

While for decades the BSA have admitted girls into some programs, in 2018 they updated their programs for Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA to allow for girls as well. Just this summer, we were contacted by a high school junior from the Applegate who was looking to join so she could learn wilderness survival skills. I was happy to point her to the right troop in the area. Within the next six months, Troop 17, in Jacksonville, will be forming a troop for girls, which will collaborate with our already vibrant troop for boys. So if you're looking for adventure and to be a part of a groundbreaking effort to offer this quality program to girls in the Applegate Valley, now is the time to get involved!

For those who live on the west end of the Applegate, Pack 3029 meets at Redwood Elementary, and Troop 24 meets southwest of Grants Pass. The best place to learn more about us and others is through Facebook or [beascout.org](http://beascout.org). If you'd like to collaborate with us on community service or something else, we'd love to hear from you!

Erik Johnsen

Pack 3017 Committee Chair  
[Pack17jacksonville@gmail.com](mailto:Pack17jacksonville@gmail.com)



Members of Troop 17 pause for a photo in the Sky Lakes area south of Crater Lake. Photos: Erik Johnsen.



Scouts gather round the campfire on the McCaleb Ranch by the Illinois River.

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# Spotting the Chalcedona Checkerspot

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The Chalcedona Checkerspot, *Euphydryas chalcedona*, arrives in the spring, giving way to thoughts of the chalcedony gemstone or the ancient Greek town of Chalcedon, which gave its name to the butterfly. It belongs to the butterfly family Nymphalidae.

This checkerspot can measure up to 2 inches with open wings. The ventral view displays brightly colored red-orange and white. On the dorsal wing the coal-black background highlights milky white markings and a red border. Other species in the genus *Euphydryas* look similar.

Males patrol and perch, searching for females. The female lays her eggs in small clusters on the stems or undersides of leaves of the host plant. Once hatched, the caterpillars will make a protective silk nest where they can safely feed on the plant. In the later stage they will hibernate in the forest litter or under rocks. They have one brood which flies in the spring.

Host plants for this butterfly are in the figwort family (Scrophulariaceae), such as penstemon, monkeyflower, and paintbrushes. The adult butterflies nectar on many wildflowers and garden variety flowers. Males will find mud or places of moisture to take in nutrients. It is important to our beneficial insects to avoid using poisonous sprays around

our lands and to find nurseries that grow their flowers through organic methods.

We can see this butterfly in flight from April through June. This butterfly has a range in the west from Alaska to Mexico and east to the intermountain states. Habitats in this range can be canyons, mountains, alpine forests, open spots in forests, streams, roadsides, chaparral, and prairies.



A Chalcedona Checkerspot chrysalis.

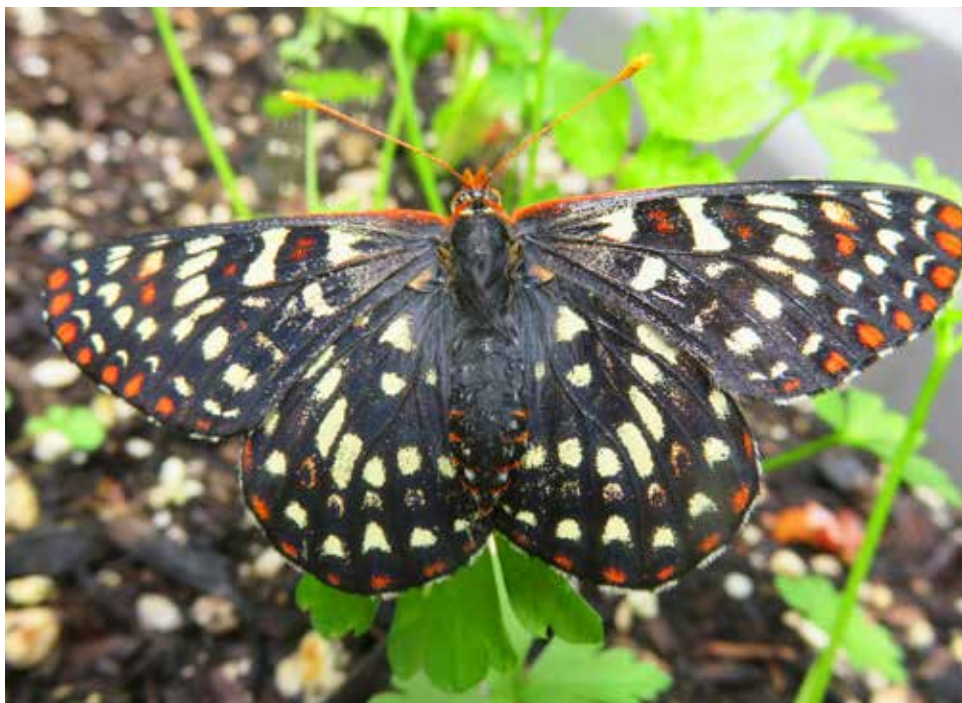
In the spring of 2020, Kellie Halsted, the second- and third-grade teacher at Applegate School, found a caterpillar at her home. I identified it as a checkerspot caterpillar. At my request she safely delivered the caterpillar to the school. I brought it home to rear and find out which checkerspot it would become.

I took a few photographs and gave them captions, and she was able to share them with her students through distance learning during our COVID-19 closure. It was a fun project and gave me pleasure to provide a local nature adventure for the children.

Linda Kappen is a southern Oregon naturalist specializing in lepidoptera. [humbukkapps@hotmail.com](mailto:humbukkapps@hotmail.com)



A Chalcedona Checkerspot caterpillar. Photos: Linda Kappen.



The dorsal view of a Chalcedona Checkerspot.



The ventral view of a Chalcedona Checkerspot.



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Explorer's gentian (*Gentiana calycosa*) blooming on Big Red Mountain on the Siskiyou Crest.



Rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*) blooming above the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail.

# Late-blooming wildflowers in the Applegate

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

We still find some late-season native wildflowers in bloom in the Applegate even as we approach the fall equinox on September 22. Although peak wildflower blooms in the Applegate occur in the spring at lower elevations and midsummer at higher elevations, the late summer to early fall wildflowers are critically important because they provide nectar and pollen for pollinator species at a time when most other plants have dried up and gone to seed.

In the beginning of August most of the high-country wildflowers that had their peak bloom in July are still producing flowers, but toward the end of the month the blooms are definitely winding down. However, nature compensates for the dwindling floral resources with a few spectacular species that wait almost to the end to come into their glory, including some dazzling species such as deep, rich blue gentians, cheerful asters, and bright yellow rubber rabbitbrush.

In September, as the color spectrum on the landscape becomes more muted with browns and golds, a few of the plants that started blooming in August may still be in their last phases of blooming, and some continue blooming even after the first hard frost.

## Late-blooming asters

Because available forage for pollinators is diminished in the fall, asters, which provide good late-summer

color, are also key components of wildland plant communities, habitat restoration projects, and pollinator gardens.

## Late-blooming asters that grow at lower elevations

Roughleaf aster (*Eurybia radulina*) is documented in numerous locations in the Applegate. I have observed it flowering in dry madrone woodlands in the Williams valley.

Oregon goldenaster (*Heterotheca oregona*) generally grows in dry, rocky cobbles along the Applegate River and has been documented along the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail.

Eaton's aster (*Symphyotrichum bracteolatum*) grows in moist soil along the edge of the Applegate River.

## Late-blooming asters that grow at higher elevations

Leafybract aster (*Symphyotrichum foliaceum*) grows in moist meadows and along streams and in wetlands in the Applegate high country.

Thickstem aster (*Eurybia integrifolia*), Brewer's aster (*Eucephalus breweri*), and Siskiyou aster (*Eucephalus glabratus*) grow on rocky ridgelines or on dry slopes or sunny openings in forest or chaparral in the Applegate high country.

Some aster species, such as Oregon whitetop aster (*Sericocarpus oregonensis*),

will grow at varying elevations and habitat types. Populations of Oregon whitetop aster exploded in the fire footprint following the 2017 Abney Fire at higher elevations, but it also grows at lower elevations in the Applegate and in the Cathedral Hills outside Grants Pass.

## Gentians

Four species of native gentians—some rare, some common—grow in the Applegate high country, putting on an elegant display of deep blue flowers in late summer to early fall: Explorer's gentian (*Gentiana calycosa*), Newberry's gentian (*Gentiana newberryi*), Klamath gentian (*Gentiana plurisetosa*), and Mendocino gentian (*Gentiana setigera*). Large populations of explorer's gentian can easily be observed along the Pacific Crest Trail on Big Red Mountain on the Siskiyou Crest.

## Rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*)

Because it blooms so late and is a common species, rubber rabbitbrush is considered the most important native nectar plant for western monarch butterflies on their southward migration. It provides important fuel for the monarchs' long journey to overwintering sites along the California coast. This extremely drought-tolerant shrub grows throughout the Applegate in exposed sites with well-drained or rocky soils.

## Western joeiweed (*Ageratina occidentalis*)

Western joeiweed is an uncommon, pink-flowered species that grows in rocky locations throughout the Applegate. At low elevations it tends to bloom on rock cobble along streams in early summer, but at higher elevations it blooms in rocky locations in late summer to fall.

## West coast Canada goldenrod (*Solidago elongata*)

West coast Canada goldenrod has impressive and striking, late-season, yellow flowers that are attractive to many pollinators. In the Applegate, goldenrod is found in dry meadows, wet meadows, on streams and ponds, in sunny forest openings, and in random places where it can find a niche, mostly at higher elevations.

## Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)

Pearly everlasting is a tall perennial wildflower that likes moist soil with good drainage but can tolerate drought once established. The pure white flowers are often used in dried flower arrangements. Besides providing nectar, it is a host plant for painted lady and skipper butterflies.

Suzie Savoie

klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com



Eaton's aster (*Symphyotrichum bracteolatum*) blooming along the Applegate River. Photos: Suzie Savoie.



Leafybract aster (*Symphyotrichum foliaceum*) grows in moist meadows in the Applegate high country.



## The Doctor Is In!

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

We are your water doctor. We are here to diagnose the health of your plumbing and fixtures.

Ever noticed that the shower head has one little stream that sprays sideways? Does your faucet “drip”? Is there a blue/green stain in the sink? Have low pressure at your kitchen faucet? Do your whites come out of the laundry with an orange color to them? (Maybe that’s ok if you are a Beaver Believer.) These are classic symptoms of minerals in your well water!

Calcium hardness in your water is like having cholesterol in your arteries. The hard water calcifies inside your pipes and fixtures, and eventually coats the inside of the pipe. The build up can completely plug your pipes or fixtures!!

On the opposite end of the spectrum, if you have a Low PH level in your water it can eat away at your copper pipes and eventually the copper will spring a leak.

If you want to know about your water health, call your favorite Water Care Filtration Supplier. My advice: drink two glasses of water and call us in the morning!

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# Watershed restoration takes a community

BY JANELLE DUNLEVY

We have seen many changes during the pandemic, but I believe one of the biggest is the use of our watersheds for recreation. The desire to get outdoors has increased, making the work of the Applegate Partnership so much more important to our community. We conduct a wide variety of water restoration projects year-round. Our work is all funded through local, state, federal, and private grants, or donations. We hire local employees and local contractors, and we purchase as many local supplies and materials as we possibly can to plan, design, and implement projects that beneficially impact our watershed.

We have been working at the Provolt Seed Orchard, now the Provolt Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), for 20 years. In the last five years we have been implementing riparian and habitat restoration, and this year we're working on a fish passage and irrigation improvement project.

If you are walking the trails at Provolt, you will see not invasive blackberry bushes six feet tall throughout the riparian area, but native trees, shrubs, and grasses. You will see areas where we continue to develop nature trails and educational trails for the community. You will see wildlife and places to access the river for recreational fishing and for launching kayaks and canoes. These are all opportunities that the community would not have without planning and implementation initiated by the Applegate Partnership, our staff, dedicated volunteers, contractors, and our partners.

But we need your help! On June 1, a rainy day, in a normally dry, grassy field at the Provolt SRMA, someone used power equipment to cut multiple locks and stole our water trailer. This water trailer was expensive to build and was required during our summer work projects to meet fire safety guidelines. As a result of this critical property theft, we could have had to lay off employees due to our inability to meet the fire restrictions.

With so much doom and gloom in the previous paragraph, you might be asking, how can we help? We need the community to help us maintain our ability to work. Our staff does not live on our project sites. We are asking the community to help be the eyes on our equipment when we are not working, to help us maintain what we have for our field work and protect it like it was your own.

We were fortunate enough to have a private foundation donate funding to replace the water trailer. We have prominently labelled it with the Applegate Partnership logo and its purpose, “Watershed Restoration.” If you see something that does not seem normal or equipment moving on weekends, please let us know. You can contact us at contact@apwc.info or 541-899-9982. We want to continue this important work, but funding is difficult to come by and rarely funds the purchase of equipment.

We appreciate your help and look forward to seeing you and your family at our Applegate community parks and recreation sites. Come enjoy the trails, the river, and the great outdoors.

Janelle Dunlevy, Executive Director  
janelle@apwc.info, 541-899-9982



A series of criminal acts in the Applegate this summer included theft of this trailer from the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council.



After a previous trailer was stolen (see story and photo, page 1), the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council made sure its new water trailer is amply identified as its property.  
Photos: Janelle Dunlevy

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## BOOK REVIEW

# Local authors share cider-making secrets

## *The Big Book of Cidermaking*, by Kirsten and Christopher Shockey

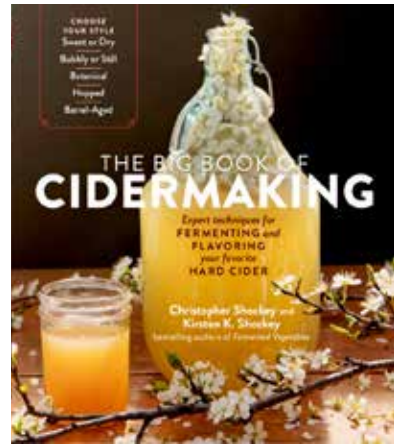
BY HALEY MAY

Is the Applegate the gateway to apples? It is for us locals! Although named after the Applegate Trail, which brought settlers north into Oregon, Applegate also happens to be ideal for cultivating apples. Inexpensive and versatile, they are useful for baking, juicing, and, perhaps most fun of all, fermenting into cider! This fall's arrival of *The Big Book of Cidermaking*, by local authors Kirsten and Christopher Shockey, aligns perfectly with the apple harvest. This latest fermentation book by the Shockeys offers advice for beginners and enthusiasts alike, endless ideas for flavor combinations, and the promise of delicious apple delights to enjoy this year (besides pie, of course).

The authors thoroughly outline the basics, such as bottling and aging cider, as well as its chemistry, and illustrate the process with plenty of colorful photos. Primarily a recipe book, *The Big Book of Cidermaking* caters to all palates, whether for sweet, sparkling, strong, floral, spicy, or even pear-based cider ("perry"). Smaller, themed sections, such as "The Science of Cider," "From a Cellarmaster's Notebook," and "Meet the Cidermakers," make it

fun to flip through the book and read at your own pace. There is a section on our very own Thompson Creek cidery, Apple Outlaw.

You don't need to grow your apples, source them locally, or press them to make your own cider creations. *The Big Book of Cidermaking* tells you how to make cider from standard store-bought apple juice. You need yeast, of course, but did you know you don't have to go out and buy it? If you have an apple source and prefer not to go shopping (which is likely), you can use wild yeasts from the plants around you, bringing flavor and personality to your ciders. For example, you could start with any apple juice and use the yeast from lilac to add a floral element and aid in fermentation. Use kefir or kombucha mothers if you already have them to get your cider off to a unique start. You can even learn to make pomace vinegar with the leftovers if you choose to crush apples yourself.



The Shockeys suggest you could infuse your cider with botanicals, such as manzanita, Oregon grape, and turkey tail mushroom. You might tailor your creation to be a digestive aid, to carry a flavor or aroma you adore, or to add a medicinal element. How about supplying yourself with "fire cider" this season

to boost immunity? Alternatively, you could make "ice cider."

The recipe is accompanied by a quote from Thoreau: "Let the frost come to freeze them first, solid as stones, and then the rain or a warm winter day to thaw them, and they will seem to have borrowed a flavor from heaven."

You could get really "out there" by attempting a "chai-der" (chai cider), chocolate cider, CBD cider or trying a recipe for a fruity cider, such as strawberry or cranberry cider. If alcohol isn't your thing or you want your kids to participate, go for a lightly fermented, "soft-ish" version of the

adult beverage. If you want to go for something more boozy, you could make your own pommeau (brandy), mead, or apple wine.

The book even has a helpful section on tasting cider, so if we are ever able to drink socially again, you can impress your friends with a refined vocabulary and the engagement of all your senses.

A convenient appendix covers troubleshooting, a list of desirable apple varieties, tips for growing your own, and a glossary.

Order now to get your hands on this juicy collection! *The Big Book of Cidermaking* makes a great gift for Christmas this year, a solid addition to your "fermentation station," or a kind donation to your local library for everyone to enjoy. Order the book through Rebel Heart Books in Jacksonville to both support a local business and maybe get your hands on a signed copy. Call Rebel Heart at 541-702-2665. But the book should be available anywhere books are sold.

Happy reading, fermenting, and sipping!

Haley May Peterson  
hmaylmt@gmail.com

# Each bee-friendly plant has its season

BY DANA LEE

Bees are extremely important to agriculture and thus to our survival. Honey bees were introduced into the United States in 1622 by English colonialists in Virginia, who were dependent upon the bee's wax, honey, royal jelly, propolis, and pollen. Over the centuries, honeybees have established themselves as our most prevalent pollinator, pollinating about 90 different crops or one-third of our food supply.

Oregon has approximately 500 native species of bees. Each species plays a significant role in our wild environment. Bees are the primary pollinators of our indigenous plants and contribute greatly to our agricultural production as well. Our native bee species are extremely efficient pollinators, generally transferring more pollen at a time than honeybees because they tend to spend more time on each flower.

Unfortunately, bee populations have been declining dramatically for decades, primarily as a result of urbanization, industrial farming, monocropping, and copious applications of chemical pesticides. In recent years though, there has been a wide-ranging, concerted effort to "save the bees." There are a few major, yet simple things we can do at home to contribute to this effort. We can eliminate, or at least dramatically reduce, our use of chemical pesticides, preserve native habitat where we can, and provide bees with an abundance of year-round food sources.

Every active bee, buzzing about, is looking for food, and here in the Applegate Valley bees may be active year-round. Below is a seasonal list of bee-friendly plants which grow especially well in our climate and are irresistible to our ravenous bees.

### Fall

Fall is a crucial time for bees. They need to gather as much food as possible, before

extended periods of winter hibernation become inevitable: Seven Sons Plant (*Heptacodium miconioides*), Pink Stonecrop (*Sedum 'Thunderhead'*), Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), White Fall Aster (*Symphotrichum novi-belgii 'Chorister'*), Fall Aster (*Aster novae-angliae 'Purple Dome'*) Franklin Tree (*Gordlinia grandiflora*)

### Winter

We can sometimes get really lucky with our winter weather here in the Applegate Valley. We often receive multiple days of inexplicably sunny and relatively warm days. These are the days when bees are able to dart about for short periods of time in search of much needed replenishment: Red-Flowered Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis intermedia 'Diane'*), Chinese Sweetbox (*Sarcococca confusa*), Rogue Willow (*Salix lasiolepis 'Rogue'*), Black Pussy Willow (*Salix melanostachys*), Red-Flowered Pussy Willow (*Salix gracilistyla 'Mt. Asama'*), Paperbush (*Edgeworthia chrysantha 'Nanjing Gold'*)

### Spring

This is the season in which bees are preparing for the next generation. The majority of our native bees are solitary species, meaning that one female bee alone is responsible for her brooding. Once the female has mated, the nesting site is chosen. The female bee will create one segmented nest for each of her eggs complete with a 'pollen provision' for each of her young. Her offspring will overwinter until spring to then repeat the process. This lifestyle requires a lot of pollen, and on a single spring day one bee may visit 2,000-5,000 flowers!: Strawberry Bush (*Arbutus unedo*), Blue Ceanothus (*Ceanothus 'Blue Jeans'*), Variegated Daphne (*Daphne burkwoodii 'Carol Mackie'*), Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), Red-Berried Firethorn (*Pyracantha koidzumii 'Santa Cruz'*), Red-Flowered Currant (*Ribes sanguineum 'King Edward VII'*), Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis 'Tuscan Blue'*)



Forestfarm non-profit nursery in the Applegate sells a variety of bee-friendly plants.

### Summer

On hot summer days, safe water sources are as vital to bees as nectar and pollen. There are many simple ways to provide safe places for them to hydrate in your landscape. Bees may help themselves to puddles in watered areas of your landscape. Or another interesting and decorative idea is to place shallow saucers about, filled with marbles and water. The marbles are attractive and provide the bees with perches, for safety from drowning: Hemp Agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*), Hupeh Bee-Bee Tree (*Evodia hupehensis*), Basswood/American Linden (*Tilia americana*), Dwarf Little-Leaf Linden (*Tilia cordata 'Lico'*), Hebe (*Hebe prostrata*), Tomato Rose (*Rosa rugosa*), Western Mountain Spirea (*Spirea douglasii*), Cornflower (*Centaurea 'Caramia'*), Large Pink Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea 'Ruby Giant'*).

You can find all of these bee-friendly plants, and many more, at nonprofit Forestfarm Nursery. We are on the beautiful grounds of Pacifica at 14643 Watergap Road, Williams 97544. Open 9 am – 2 pm Monday through Friday. For more information, call 541-846-7269, or go to forestfarm.com.

Dana Lee  
danalee.forestfarm@gmail.com



The cornflower (*Centaurea Amethyst Dream*) features a frilly purple flower. Photos: Dana Korzilius.



# Steep trail through lush forest to the Siskiyou high country

BY EVELYN ROETHER

The Elk Creek Trail is one of the quickest access points to the Siskiyou high country and the Boundary Trail system. This steep 2-mile trail ascends to the ridge, taking you through a lush old growth Douglas fir, Port Orford cedar and Shasta red fir forest. Under a mixed canopy of conifers and maple trees, you will also see the shade-loving vanilla leaf, red currant, gooseberry, Oregon grape and thimbleberry plants. All of these provide a colorful landscape for an autumn hike.

Generally following the north-facing Elk Creek drainage, the trail zigzags its way 2,100 feet up to its terminus at the quaint Sparlin Camp, which sits on a saddle along the Boundary Trail. Occasional views of the backside of Grayback Mountain in the distance to the east will delight you, as will the beauty of the intact forest ecosystem.

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

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

## Want a bit more?

To extend your trek beyond Sparlin Camp, turn east (left) across the saddle onto the Boundary Trail for another steep .6-mile climb to Birthday Peak (6,240 feet) with phenomenal views: Mount Shasta and the Red Buttes, and Grayback Mountain (about 3 miles further). Going west (right) on the Boundary Trail will take you down into some picturesque subalpine meadows above Sturgis Fork Creek. One more option is, at the old Sparlin campsite, to look for the hand-hewn "shortcut" trail sign that directs you onto the ridge going west over the south flanks of Lake Mountain towards Mount Elijah. Take it all in and return the way you came.

## Details

- Difficulty: Difficult
- Distance: 4 miles round-trip
- Elevation gain: 2,100 feet
- Access: Mid June - late October
- Map: Grayback Mountain USGS quad

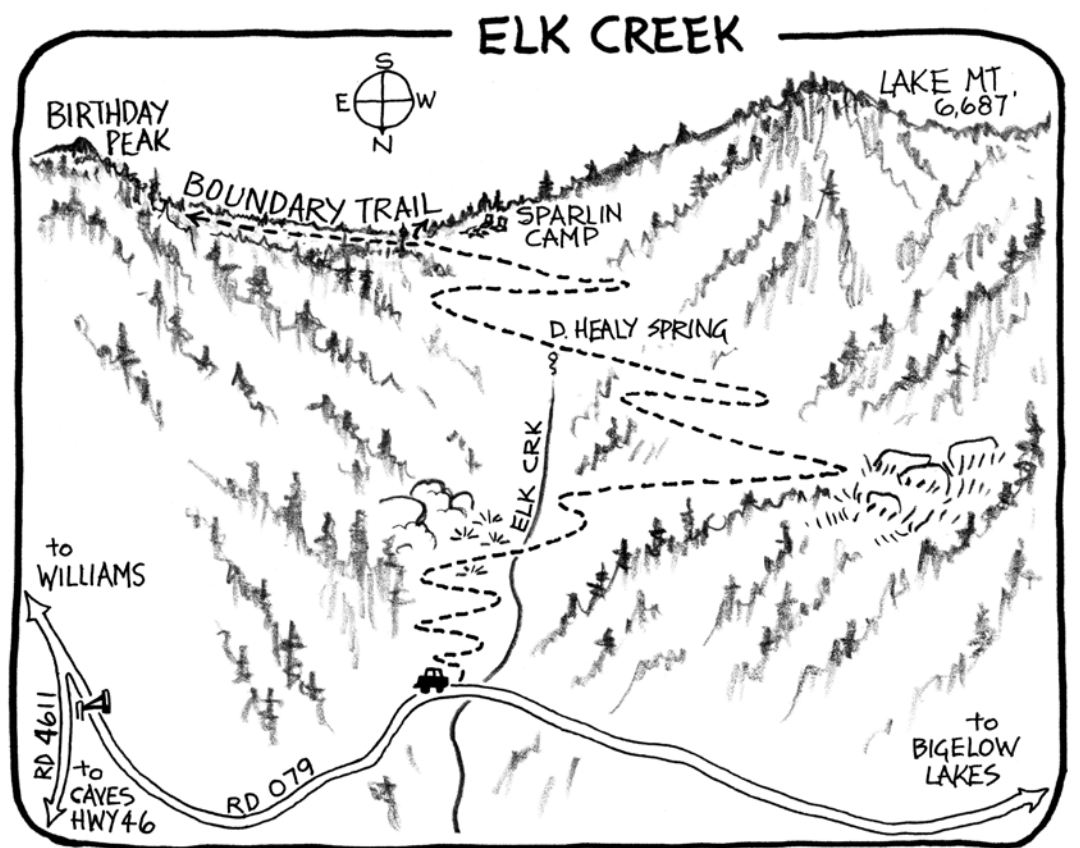


A sign marks the way along the Elk Creek Trail. Photo: Evelyn Roether.

## Directions

From "downtown" Williams stay on Williams Highway (which turns into Cedar Flat Road) for about 3 miles. Turn left on Caves Camp Road. After 6.7 miles the pavement ends. Continue uphill, staying right on the main road at all intersections. After 3.7 miles, turn left at the intersection onto Road 079 through the open yellow gate. Continue 1.6 miles watching for the Elk Creek Trail sign next to a stream on the left. (Note: The gate at Road 079 is usually closed from late fall through early spring.)

*Hiking Trails of the Lower Applegate*, a trail guide describing 20 trails in the Lower Applegate area, is available 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



Map by Ann Gunter.

Books and Games in Grants Pass, and Northwest Nature Shop and Bloomsbury Books in Ashland. Trail guides can also be purchased

directly from the author at [lowerapplegatetrails@gmail.com](mailto:lowerapplegatetrails@gmail.com). Evelyn Roether [evelynkr@gmail.com](mailto:evelynkr@gmail.com)

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## THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE

## Trump, timber, the BLM, and the Applegate Valley

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

Recently, Trump Administration policies surrounding federal land management have begun trickling into our region, influencing not only what is proposed, but also the level of transparency, accountability, and public involvement in the planning and approval process. Unfortunately, this push for unfettered resource extraction, the dismantling of environmental regulations, and the elimination of the public involvement process has thoroughly saturated our local Bureau of Land Management (BLM), leading to the introduction of numerous controversial logging projects in the Applegate watershed and throughout SW Oregon.

Controversial projects include the Bear Grub Timber Sale, which would log along the East Applegate Ridge Trail, in the Wellington Wildlands, and throughout the mountains between the communities of Ruch and Talent. The timber sale proposes “group selection” logging, which includes removing whole groves of mature forest up to 4 acres in size and across up to 30 percent of a given timber sale unit. My monitoring has documented trees up to 44 inches in diameter and more than 150 years old marked for removal.

The Bear Grub Timber Sale would degrade important recreation areas, impact the scenic qualities of our valley, and increase fire hazards by removing large, old, fire-resistant trees and significant levels of mature forest canopy. By replacing the most fire resistant portions of the landscape with highly flammable young trees and shrubs, fire hazards would undoubtedly increase. To make matters worse, numerous logging units are located directly adjacent to rural homes or

residential areas in the Applegate Valley. When local residents and organizations requested meetings to discuss the project, BLM repeatedly refused. Yet, despite



A Late Mungers Timber Sale unit on Murphy Creek. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

having never talked with the affected communities, BLM will soon be deciding the fate of the forests that surround them.

The BLM has also proposed the innocuous sounding Integrated Vegetation Management for Resilient Lands Project (IVM Project). Although this project sounds benign, terms like “integrated vegetation management” and, in this case, “resilience” are euphemisms for commercial logging and serve only to mask the impacts and objectives of timber management with misleading language.

The proposal would authorize and encourage commercial logging in vast areas outside the existing “harvest land base.” Under the “Adapted Rogue Basin

Strategy Alternative,” the BLM has proposed to allow up to 4,000 acres of commercial logging and 10 miles of new road construction per year without

site-specific environmental review or public comment. The IVM Project would authorize up to 25,000 acres of commercial logging and 90 miles of new road construction over a 10-year period and is proposed to have “no sunset date,” meaning these provisions could be used to build hundreds of miles of new road and log many tens of thousands of acres across southwest Oregon.

Unfortunately, this project focuses on logging conservation-based land use allocations, such as Late Successional Reserves, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Research Natural Areas, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. This places the wildest, most

intact landscapes remaining on BLM land on the chopping block and would provide the public with little to no opportunity to influence, or be involved in, the planning or approval process. Residents would simply be notified when a timber sale is approved, rather than the BLM soliciting input throughout the project development process.

Disappointingly, before even achieving approval, the BLM has begun planning projects “tiered” to the provisions of the IVM Project. According to the BLM, the first timber sale proposed for implementation would likely be the Late Mungers Timber Sale. Located in the watersheds around Mungers Butte and in the mountains between Williams, Murphy, and Selma, this project would log within a large Late Successional Reserve designated to protect old forest habitat for the Northern spotted owl and the BLM’s Mungers Butte Recreation Area. Logging is currently proposed on Mungers Creek, China Creek, Powell Creek, and Murphy Creek. This

project will log large, fire-resistant trees, degrade habitat for the Northern spotted owl, remove old forest canopy, emit abundant stored carbon, increase fire hazards for surrounding communities, and eliminate opportunities for public input.

While society faces the challenges of a changing climate and a loss of global biodiversity, our public officials—from the White House to those in power at the Medford District BLM—are making our communities less safe, less resilient, less livable, and less democratic.

For more information: [protectmungers.org](http://protectmungers.org).

Luke Ruediger  
[siskiyoucrest@gmail.com](mailto:siskiyoucrest@gmail.com)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Water for wine

BY SANDY OLKEN

It’s difficult to imagine that the abundance of rain that colors the green of the Northwest could dwindle to an inadequate amount for our agricultural needs.

GlobalChange.gov indicates that

changes in seasonal stream flows related to snow melt have been observed and will continue, reducing the supply of water for many competing demands, which, in the Applegate Valley, especially relate to vineyards.

Agriculture provides the economic and cultural foundation of the Applegate Valley. The beautiful farms and vineyards sprinkled throughout the valley are all dependent on

water from the mountains.

This is why so many of us are so passionate about protecting the forests that shelter our water.

Erosion of soil, increased sedimentation, evaporation, and reduced filtration are just a few of the many ways clearcutting threatens water.

The Williams Community Forest Project is working on obtaining funds

for the purchase of the Pipe Fork Area to save it from being clearcut. We are trying to protect Pipe Fork Creek, a tributary of Williams Creek, which is a tributary of the Applegate River, the main source of water for most of the vineyards in the valley.

We need water for wine!  
Sandy Olken  
Williams

**Letters to the Editor wanted!** We know you have something to say, and we want to hear about it! Submit 200 words or less to [bert@applegater.org](mailto:bert@applegater.org). Provide your name, address, and contact info (only your name and location will be published). Deadline for the winter issue is November 1. (See more information on page 19.)

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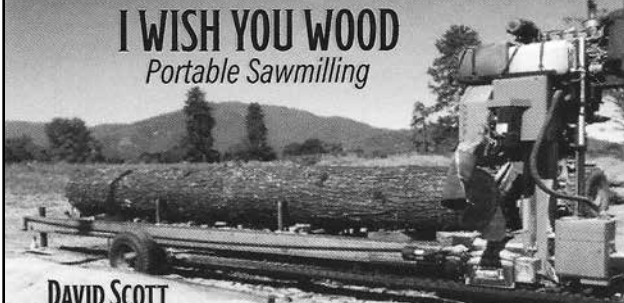
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**APPLEGATER UPDATE**

# Board members going and, we hope, coming

BY DIANA COOGLE

It's a legal requirement that every nonprofit organization have a board of directors. The *Applegater* is fortunate to have a great group of people on its board.

However, we find ourselves in a precarious position. Cathy Rodgers has resigned, saying, in a series of poetic explanations, "It seems our world has tilted on the axis of bizarre./ And unplanned personal and family matters/have become unexpected life priorities."

We are sorry to lose such a dynamic board member and wish her well.

Paul Fattig has also had to resign, saying, in an exasperatingly humorous letter of resignation, "Despite all the countless atta-boys, high-fives and kudos from you fellow board members, it has finally dawned on me: I cannot be trusted to keep the minutes at the *Applegater* board meetings. The obvious problem is that once you start adding what you think is a bit of tongue-in-cheek humor, there is no stopping yourself. The solution, of course, is to stop cold turkey." Buried in his humor-tangled letter of resignation was a more serious reason: "As I grow longer of tooth, I have become acutely—and painfully—

aware that my physical abilities are growing ever more limited," and, given the books he is writing and other activities, he is having to cut back on commitments.

We are sorry to lose such a witty board member and wish him well.

Suddenly, then, we find ourselves a four-member board—hard-working and dedicated, but only four.

We need at least two more board members. Right away.

The commitment is to come to monthly meetings in the Applegate (no chore; lots of fun), help with fundraising, and, as on any board, be willing to do what needs to be done.

Anyone who lives in the Applegate can be a board member. We would especially like to have someone from Williams or the lower Applegate at the west end of the watershed.

If you think you might be interested in seeing what the position is all about, contact me (at once!). You aren't making a commitment by inquiring, and (really!) I won't rope you in, out of desperation, without your approval.

Diana Coogle, Chair  
*Applegater* Newsmagazine  
 541-846-7447  
 diana@applegater.org

**EDITOR'S NOTES**

# You came through—thank you!

BY BERT ETLING

Wow! We asked, you responded. Thanks to you, the *Applegater* is back in decent fiscal health and will be able to publish all four quarterly editions this year.

After starting the year normally enough, our fiscal situation went sideways in the March-April period as the coronavirus crisis kicked in. Closed businesses didn't advertise (makes sense!) and people evidently had other things on their minds (COVID-19?) than returning donations in the envelopes included with our spring edition.

Our fiscal situation rapidly went from steady-as-she-goes to the worst in five years. We contemplated paring back our already sparse publication schedule or at least saving money by printing fewer pages (not this time) or fewer color pages or a lower quality of paper (a decision still pending at this writing).

Ever the community communicators, we sent out an appeal via email in May to existing donors and printed a written appeal in this space in the summer edition that came out in June—and were quickly overwhelmed at the response.

Our financial situation is now back on an even keel—not at our strongest, but certainly no longer at our lowest in years. Your support, as always, allows us to continue serving as the voice of the Applegate Valley, distributed free to all addresses in the watershed and available for pickup throughout the area.

We hope everyone benefits from our articulation of all things Applegate, but we appreciate that not everyone can afford to support the *Applegater*. That makes it all the more important for those who can afford it to offer the support you've shown recently.

This edition includes a return envelope we're hoping you can return with a donation of the amount of your choice. With or without a donation, we'd also love it if you'd include a note on what you like about the *Applegater*, what you don't like, and what you would like to see us start doing. (You can also email me at the address below.)

This is your paper. We're here to serve you and want to hear what you think about

how best to do that. Thank you again for all you've done and will do to make the *Applegater* possible.

We're here for you; thanks for being there for us.

•••

New in this *Applegater* is an environmental column by Luke Ruediger entitled "The Siskiyou Mountain Advocate" (see page 18).

Luke grew up in Southwest Oregon and began exploring the region's unique habitat and terrain at an early age. Living with his wife, Suzie Savoie, in a remote, off-grid homestead at the foot of the Siskiyou Crest, Luke is executive director of the Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) and conservation director for the Klamath Forest Alliance's Siskiyou Field Office.

He has done ecologically based forest restoration and land stewardship work for more than 15 years and is author of the hiking and natural history guide "The Siskiyou Crest: Hikes, History, and Ecology" (available on Amazon; use smile.Amazon.com and specify the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper as your charity of choice and we get a portion of the purchase price at no extra cost to you!).

Luke's column follows in the tradition of Behind the Green Door, an environmental issues column by the late Chris Bratt which appeared for many years in the *Applegater*.

In the summer 2019 *Applegater* Luke speculated about what Chris would say he should write about: "Stick to the issues, protect our environment, and save Wellington Wildlands."

We're pleased to be the vehicle for Luke to share his extensive knowledge about environmental issues with *Applegater* readers, whether about Wellington Wildlands or any other of the many environmental tipping points we confront. We like to think Chris, too, would be pleased.

Bert Etling, Editor in Chief  
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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.

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For more information, contact:  
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**Next deadline: November 1**

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# It's wine! It's cider! It's perry!

BY ERIN A CHAPARRO

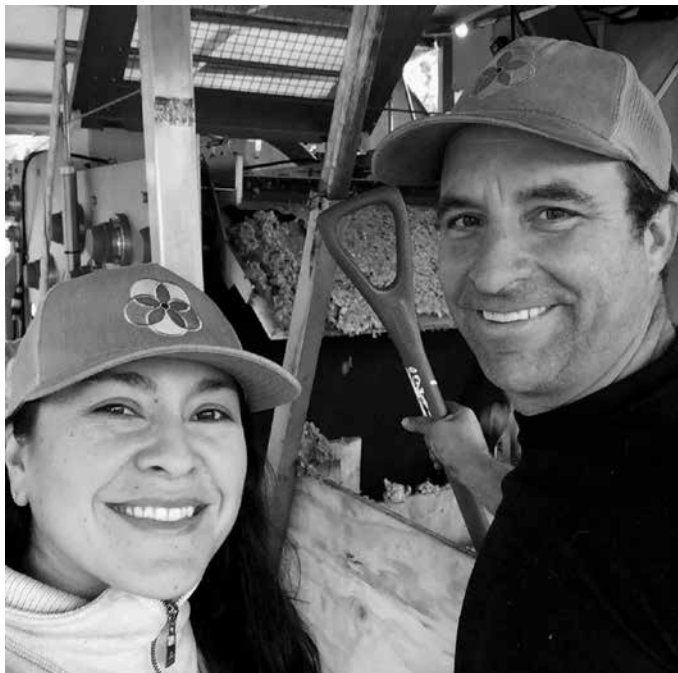
We count ourselves among the fortunate people who live in the Applegate Valley, where nearly everyone has healthy fruit trees and an abundance of fruit this time of year. Right about now, you may be trying to figure out what to do with all that fruit. Maybe you make pies and crumbles, jams and jellies. But have you ever thought about making fruit wine? Cider to be more specific. Perry to be even more specific!

The act of cider making goes back to the days of ancient Egypt. The Roman Empire brought cider to Europe, which made its way later to the United States. At our fall festivals apple cider for kids and hard apple cider for adults is a common offering. But have you ever tasted hard cider made from pears?

Here in southern Oregon old pear trees and forgotten pear orchards are more plentiful than in other parts of Oregon. If you happen to have one of these pear trees in your vicinity, we challenge you to make your own hard cider from pears, which cider aficionados call "perry." Perry (and cider for that matter) is considered a fruit wine. Cider is made with fruit juice and yeast just as wine is. In fact, we often make our perry with white wine yeast. There are no hops or grains added to cider, nor is there any added water. For this reason, most ciders, like wine, are gluten free.

Pear cider is made from a combination of apple and pear juices with the apple juice providing the base. The pear juice is

often just the finisher to add pear flavor. Perry, on the other hand, is made from at least 90 percent pear juice. Perry is often dry and light. Pear cider is often sweet and has a heavier mouthfeel. Both are considered ciders, and both are



Erin Chaparro and Jeremy Hall. Photos: Erin Chaparro.

considered fruit wines. So hopefully that clears things up (wink, wink).

If you'd like to try some perry made right here in the Applegate Valley, you can give Blossom Barn Cidery's Rogue Valley Perry a try. It's juiced on a Kubli Road farm, then fermented and aged for six months over at Wooldridge Creek Winery. Or I encourage you to give fruit wine—er, I mean, cider; um, perry-making—a try! Feel free to send an email if you have any questions on your perry-making adventure.

Erin A. Chaparro, Ph.D.  
Co-Owner of Blossom Barn Cidery  
jeremyanderin@blossombarncidery.com



Harvested pears await processing.



Apples ripen at the Hall family farm.

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# ••• BIZBITS •••

BY JEANETTE LETOURNEUX

Trevor and Jessie Driskell bought the **Mustard Seed Café**, in Jacksonville, from the previous owner, Jeannie Inman, on March 1. Trevor was the cook and hired Jessie as a server at the Mustard Seed six years ago. They have now been married for five years! They said, "We think of Jeannie like a mom. She taught us so much about creating delicious food and a fun environment that people want to be a part of." Jeannie had owned the café since 2010 and wanted to sell it to go into real estate. After Jessie became pregnant, Trevor and Jessie decided they wanted the stability of owning their own business.

They are so grateful for the support the community has shown them through the COVID-19 shutdowns and also for the many congratulations and presents to their beautiful baby girl, Peyton, born on July 15.

"Great old-fashioned cooking" is the motto of the café, which has been in operation since 1958. The menu is quite large and has something for any taste at breakfast or lunch. Trevor puts his own spin and flavor into their traditional dishes such as homemade corned beef hash, the all-time favorite biscuits and gravy, and homemade cinnamon rolls.

The café now has two patios to accommodate social distancing.

**Mustard Seed Café**, 130 N. 5th St., Jacksonville. 541-899-2977. Tuesday - Saturday 7 am - 2 pm. Sunday 7 am - 1 pm, serving breakfast only.



Peyton, the newest member of Mustard Seed team, was born July 15. Photo: Trevor Driskell.



Co-owners Tasha Converse (left) and Patty Lyon-Knowlton are joined by Tasha's kids.

**Sweet's-N-Eats Café** opened on July 31, in the previous location of the popular Café Ruch, which was permanently closed on April 25 after 10 years of ownership by Mike and Beth Thaanum. The new restaurant is a family run bakery, café, and deli offering breakfast, lunch, and an appetizer/light-eats menu after 4 pm. They also have beer and wine on tap and to go. New owners Patty Lyon-Knowlton and Tasha Converse are a mother-daughter team who have lived in the community their whole lives. They worked at Café Ruch for five and three years, respectively. Tasha is also a former pastry chef at Jacksonville Inn. They worked for three months renovating and readying the cafe for opening, with the help of many family members and friends. One family member, Heather Knowlton, painted the bright and welcoming new sign that greets customers. "Our goal is to bring

a family oriented, happy environment to the local community," they say. "We are located on the way to Applegate Lake, so take a drive in the scenic Applegate Valley and come visit!"

**Sweet's-N-Eats Café**. 181 Upper Applegate Road, Ruch. 541-702-2662, [sweetsneats2020@gmail.com](mailto:sweetsneats2020@gmail.com).

**Hours:** Wednesday - Saturday 7 am to 7 pm (They stop serving food at 6:30 pm.) Open Sundays for breakfast (7 - 11 am) and lunch (11 am to 3 pm). Mimosas are available!

Applegate-based **Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds** is now offering virtual native plant consultations via Zoom or Facetime for native planting or seeding projects in southwest Oregon, including the Applegate Valley. KSNS continues to provide on-site consultations with proper COVID-19 protocols in place. Contact them at [klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com](mailto:klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com) to schedule a consultation. Check out their wide selection of native seed packets available for purchase online at [klamathsiskiyouseeds.com](http://klamathsiskiyouseeds.com). Their selection of species native to the Applegate Valley continues to grow.

Jeanette LeTourneux  
[jeanette@applegater.org](mailto:jeanette@applegater.org)



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Before (left) and after (right) photos of a mixed pine and oak woodland shows how thinning reduces the fuel load on the land, making it easier to fight wildfires. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

# Lifesaving ‘PODs’ in the Applegate?

BY RICH FAIRBANKS

Applegate residents live in fire country and have done an impressive job creating defensible space around their homes. A 2011 survey found that almost 90 percent of respondents have built and are maintaining defensible space around their homes. Many others have joined together to complete fuel treatment on private roadways. Yet, if we have a large, intense fire that forces us to evacuate, are we really prepared?

Many years ago, my wife and I bought 20 acres on a road off Sterling Creek. Before we even started building the house our neighbors asked if we would agree to grant-funded fuels reduction work for the road that serves six households. We readily agreed. About every five years, we and our neighbors apply for grants,

chip in money, or do the work to keep the roadside brushed out. It looks great and ensures a safer evacuation route in the event of a fire.

But what about our main roads, our evacuation routes? Can Griffin Lane, Sterling Creek Road, even Highway 238 handle a sudden influx of hundreds of frightened drivers evacuating through smoke and even flame, while busloads of firefighters and equipment try to get in to attack the fire? Are these roads cleared of surface fuels? Have the limbs been pruned up? Is there good line of sight, so crews can see spot fires? If not, we have work to do for successful evacuation and firefighting.

Some of us locals are working to implement fuel treatments along these critical routes. Eighty-five people died in the Camp Fire in

Paradise, California, in 2018, many while evacuating in their cars. Fire professionals knew well in advance that Paradise was vulnerable. A 2009 civil grand jury concluded that roads leading from Paradise had “significant constraints” and “capacity limitations” as evacuation routes: sharp curves and inadequate and hazardous shoulders. Such road conditions “increase the fire danger and the possibility of being closed due to fire and or smoke.”

We have formed a group called Prescription for Safety (PFS) to begin the work needed along our evacuation routes. One way to accomplish this work and potentially bring in funding is to identify “Potential Operational Delineations” (PODs): mapped lines, such as roads, trails, and recent fuel treatments, that can help contain wildfires. These are targeted areas where fuels treatments can help fire fighters.

Prescription for Safety hopes to develop PODs in partnership with property owners and fire professionals to help bring in funding and do more roadside fuels work.

A lot of this work is already happening. As an example, here is John Galego’s story:

We bought 38 acres with steep forest in 2012 to build our home. The building department informed me of the fire inspection requirements. Where would I start, without an unlimited budget for hiring someone?

In 2013, I learned that money is available for thinning. I received an ODF grant for five acres, covering half of the \$5,000 cost.

We hired a local company to thin an area bordering our access road.

The forester left the logs on the forest floor, an acceptable practice, burned the slash, and limbed up what he could reach. We passed inspection and received the grant.

Then, between 2013 and 2019, Douglas-fir trees near Griffin Lane and our neighborhood access road started to die. With the winter winds of 2018, the trees started to fall over. In the fall of 2019, I counted 90 dead firs in the roadside.

I have started to remove the dead firs, but our roads are still threatened. I will burn slash safely in the wet months. I have learned how to handle a chainsaw and can fell a tree. My work has not only made my home safer; it has increased the chances for successful evacuation in the event of a big fire.

John and other members of PFS are working to implement PODs through brushing out our roadsides. We are starting this work in the Little Applegate. Please reach out if you want to get involved.

*Rich Fairbanks is a local fire professional with over 40 years of experience in firefighting and forest management. He is working with local residents on a project called Prescription for Safety in the Little Applegate that is mapping PODs and evacuation routes. For more information, email him at richfairbanks3@gmail.com.*



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A pair of photos show a wooded area along Griffin Lane before (top) and after (bottom) “fuel treatment”—the removal of excess wood that would fuel a wildfire. Photo: John Galego.

# ATRIO Health Plans donates \$10,000 to COVID-19 relief efforts

ATRIO Health Plans made a donation of \$10,000 to the Josephine County Foundation (JCF) COVID-19 relief efforts in June. The JCF will direct these funds to support their weekly food-and-essentials program established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

JCF, with a home office based at Hidden Valley High School (HVHS), in Murphy, is a student-led nonprofit organization known for serving the needs of the local community. Among other projects, JCF student volunteers involved in the food-and-essentials program help those with food insecurities and other immediate needs. People who receive these services throughout the county include homeless youth, families, and seniors.

"The Foundation's services are even more important now during the pandemic," said Chris Pendleton, JCF executive director. "We know many families are struggling with joblessness and food insecurity, and unfortunately the pandemic has caused a large increase in those seeking assistance."

Misti King, JCF program manager, added, "We're excited to see our community come together around this important food program initiative. We're not only helping those with critical food needs; we're teaching students about the value and benefit of community involvement while concurrently helping to support local businesses and farms. The Josephine County Foundation loves to grow the community and provide assistance in any way we can."

ATRIO Health Plans is a Medicare Advantage plan established by Oregon physicians in 2004 and has since grown to serve more than 19,000 members in Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Marion, and Polk counties.

JCF was formed in 2011. High school students use their energy and creativity to improve the social and economic wellbeing of the community so every individual has the opportunity to be healthy, educated, and prosperous. Learn more at (541) 244-8276 or online at [jcfserve.org](http://jcfserve.org).



Posing for a photo marking a donation by the Josephine County Foundation (JCF) to support COVID-19 relief efforts are, from left, Chris Pendleton (JCF executive Director); Misti King (JCF program manager); Paul Moretti (ATRIO sales manager); Madeleine Powell, front (JCF); Dennis Decasas, back (Hidden Valley High School teacher); Tim Haley (JCF); Ashley Griffith, front (HVHS staff); Kathryn Rich (JCF); and Keith Haley (HVHS teacher).

## Discover Stories on the Land

*This is another in an ongoing series of excerpts 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. This passage is from pages 67-68.*

### The railroad comes to southern Oregon

It was the railroad that finally banished the sense of isolation shared among the region's newcomers.

The "railroad boom" in southern Oregon began early in the 1860s, when Captain John Mullan, traveling through Oregon, bemoaned the lack of connection between the Willamette and Sacramento Valleys and encouraged residents of the Willamette to begin pushing the line south.

He was far from alone, of course, in his recognition of the benefits of rail service to the isolated communities of Oregon. The Oregon Democratic Party Platform of 1868 proposed "a judicious system of railroad improvements in Oregon, to develop our vast resources," and urged the United States Congress to make "liberal grants of aid." This represented the most significant appeal for federal assistance in regional matters since the end of the Indian Wars. (The platform was probably for continuing funding, since Congress had already approved funds for the construction of an Oregon Railroad as early as 1866.)

Simon Elliott, a surveyor, began surveying a route north from Sacramento in 1863. In 1867, two companies were building competing routes south from Portland. By 1873, the tracks came south as far as Roseburg.

For several years in the 1870s, debate raged in southern Oregon over the route of the railroad through Jackson County. Jacksonville was the county seat and largest city, and many assumed it would be the main southern Oregon terminal. But as the financially strapped railroad was approaching Jackson County, it requested financial support from Jacksonville to help defray costs of diverting the line from the more direct route following Bear Creek to the vicinity of Ashland.

Jacksville refused the railroad's request for funds. Sporting a new fire engine, in the process of constructing a new courthouse, proud of its status as the primary regional center, the citizenry was confident that it merited a railroad station. It seemed that "the majority of Jacksonville's citizens believed the railroad

needed Jacksonville more than Jacksonville needed the railroad" (*Land in Common: An Illustrated History of Jackson County*, J. B. Dunn, ed.).

To everyone's surprise, "the Oregon and California thumbed its nose at Jacksonville and staked a direct route south along Bear Creek, five miles from town" (Dunn). A group of entrepreneurs less than enchanted with Jacksonville donated 260 acres for a train station. Incredulous Jacksonville residents referred to its barren location as Mudville, Rabbitville, or Chaparral City. The name "Medford" was officially adopted not long before passenger service began on February 24, 1884.

By April of that year, railroad service had reached Ashland, where the project stalled. Captain Mullan had early

recognized that the mountains lying on the Oregon-California border would present a major obstacle to the completion of the railroad. These mountains, he felt, "will not be easily handled. They are high, broad, and broken, and no railroad line can be laid across or through them, except at most enormous cost."

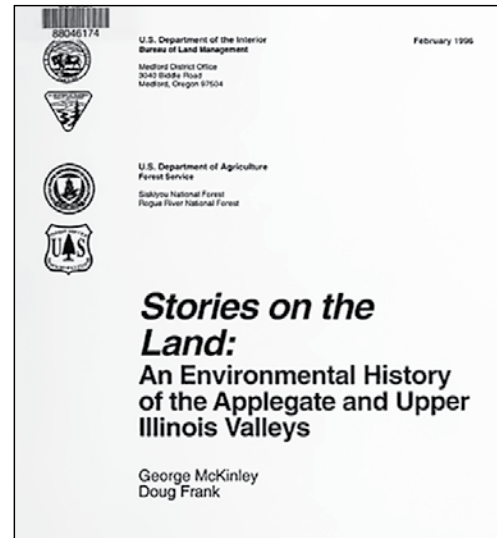
This stretch was the final challenge in connecting Oregon and California by rail.

It took a few years for the Oregon and California, and the Southern Pacific, railroads to agree on a financial plan and develop a strategy for crossing the imposing border mountains. When construction resumed, the "golden spike" was finally driven in Ashland on December 17, 1887.

Through rail service proved a dramatic economic boon to the area. The construction of the railroad employed workers, drew upon local markets, and produced the largest claim upon timber to date. A contemporary observer noted that "the resources of the saw-mills of the whole region have been brought into requisition to provide the necessary lumber for the bridges, culverts, etc." When it was completed, the railroad carried agricultural goods from the area to markets north and south. It also raised the horizon of possible "wants," bringing the ever-expanding profusion of industrialism's fruits into the valley.

The railroad was also directly linked to the continuing population increase in southern Oregon. From 1880 to 1890, the population of Jackson County rose from 8,154 to 11,455. This increase, coupled with an increase of nearly the same number from 1870 to 1880, represents the largest twenty-year population increase by percentage from the time of the first settlement until after World War II.

*Excerpted by Diana Coogle*



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**NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS**

# Applegate, Williams schools rise to the challenge

BY JEAN HALL

After six months of distance learning, Applegate and Williams School students may have the opportunity to meet their teachers and other staff members in person later this year. Applegate students will also see the finished mosaic mural they helped create with local artist Jeremy Criswell. Williams students will see and enjoy the grassy expanse of the newly completed track and field.

The closing months of the spring semester highlighted the creativity and dedication of the staff at both schools. Unable to teach in the usual classroom manner, they used online resources such as Google Classroom and Google Meets. Both schools provided Chromebooks to students who needed them and posted online resources for parents. Class chats, phone calls, emails, and even some home visits helped staff members stay in touch with their students and provide them with encouragement.

Because the usual moving-on ceremonies were canceled, the eighth graders at Applegate School and the fifth graders at Williams School enjoyed the creative efforts of their school staffs to provide “drive-through” ceremonies. At Applegate School the staff made posters for each of the eighth graders. Balloons decorated the campus and a photo-op stage provided a space for those special memory pictures. On June 9, fifth graders and their families at Williams School shared in a drive-through moving-on ceremony. The staff handed out end-of-the-year awards and certificates. Both of these

ceremonies reveal the care with which the school staffs regard their students and the dignity with which they exercise their profession.

Originally scheduled for August 31, the opening of school has been pushed back to September 8 to allow for additional training for staff members in this time of pandemic. School weeks in the new school year will be four days long—Monday through Thursday.

Applegate School’s day will go from 7:50 am - 3:10 pm. Parents can drop off their children beginning at 7:30 am.

Williams School’s day will begin at 7:20 am and end at 2:25 pm. Parents can drop off their students beginning at 7:00 am.

Guidelines and requirements from the governor and the Oregon Department of Education arrive on a weekly basis. We notify parents weekly with our Monday Morning Update. We are continuing to make plans for the start of school. Patience and the combined desire of everyone for the safety of our students and all those involved in the school scene will certainly help in making the process as smooth as possible.

The new school year will see differences. However, with the creativity and dedication of the staffs at both Applegate and Williams Schools and the cooperation of parents and the wider community, this can be a safe school year and a successful learning experience for all our students.

Jean Hall

Jhall80@juno.com

**■ THREE RIVERS**

*Continued from page 1*

The community have gone down enough to allow the district to have onsite classes for the older students. With time needed to transition, November 9 is the earliest possible date for grades four through 12 to return to school campuses.

For distance learning at home, a new learning management system called CANVAS will replace Google Classroom, used last spring. CANVAS blends scheduled “live” internet instruction from the teacher with independent work from the district curriculum. The state requires 13-14 hours a week of interaction with teachers and peers for all distance learners. CANVAS uses the traditional grading system (A, B, C, P, and F), rather than the simple pass/fail used last spring.

Every Three Rivers student will have a Chromebook or other internet device provided on loan from the school. The district is also working to establish cellular hotspots to provide remote Wi-Fi access, necessary for successful distance learning. In addition to technology support, all students will have access to daily meals (breakfast and lunch), counselors, English language and special education services, mental health resources, and regular peer-to-peer interactions.

A third learning model is available for students whose parents are not comfortable

with the return to onsite instruction or with the distance learning model. The Three Rivers Virtual Online School (TVOS) is an option for any district student, regardless of grade level. For more information, email the TVOS administrator, Travis Osborne, at [travis.osborne@threerivers.k12.or.us](mailto:travis.osborne@threerivers.k12.or.us).

The district is asking all parents to register students for the fall semester, designating the instructional model preferred, by completing a registration form online. The link is on the district’s homepage ([threerivers.k12.or.us](http://threerivers.k12.or.us)). Plenty of useful information is available online, and parents are encouraged to stay up-to-date by checking often on the district’s and the schools’ websites.

The district has approximately 4,700 students in 14 schools scattered over 1,200 square miles stretching from Applegate on the east to Cave Junction on the west, and north to Merlin. It’s named after the Illinois, Rogue, and Applegate rivers.

“Though we don’t know when this disruption will end, it will end,” Superintendent Dave Valenzuela notes in the district school plan update dated August 12. “For now, we must do all we can to ride these rapids of uncertainty. If we come together and paddle as one, we will prevail and be a stronger community for it.”

Lisa Baldwin

[leb.97527@gmail.com](mailto:leb.97527@gmail.com)

**■ VANDALISM**

*Continued from page 1*

The motivation for Pacifica’s vandalism is unclear, but the perpetrator of the malicious acts against the English Lavender Farm states clearly that he is angry about the traffic the business brings to Thompson Creek Road.

Sue acknowledges an increase of traffic while the farm is open to the public. “If we were not open to the public at all, it would remove the traffic issue,” she says, “but without the visitors and their cash injection we would not have a business. For 11 months of the year the area is peaceful and tranquil. For six weeks, between 10 am and 4 pm four days a week, we are providing (for free) a beautiful space where people can enjoy nature. A lavender farm is a lovely thing to see. It baffles me that someone would be so mean-spirited about it.”

After the theft of the water tank from APWC, Rogue Basin, a nonprofit that funds fish passage work, donated the cost of replacing the equipment.

Ray Pragg rejected the idea of installing a locked gate at Pacifica. “There is value to the community in having Pacifica here and open to the public,” he said. “People come here star-gazing, to see the comet. We just have to take a big gulp and move on.”

He sees such violations as a part of the business of being open to the public. “You can’t lock things down,” he says. “People who are intent on doing something malicious will find a way.”

Pacifica Gardens, the Applegate Watershed Council, and the English Lavender Farm are nonprofit organizations and businesses supported and loved by most Applegaters.

“Once the shock wears off,” Sue says, “I remember that these acts are likely just vitriol thrown out by a few individuals. They don’t represent the feeling of the majority in this valley.” In spite of the meanness, she says that neither she nor Derek “has ever lived anywhere where we felt so supported.”

Diana Coogle

[diana@applegater.org](mailto:diana@applegater.org)

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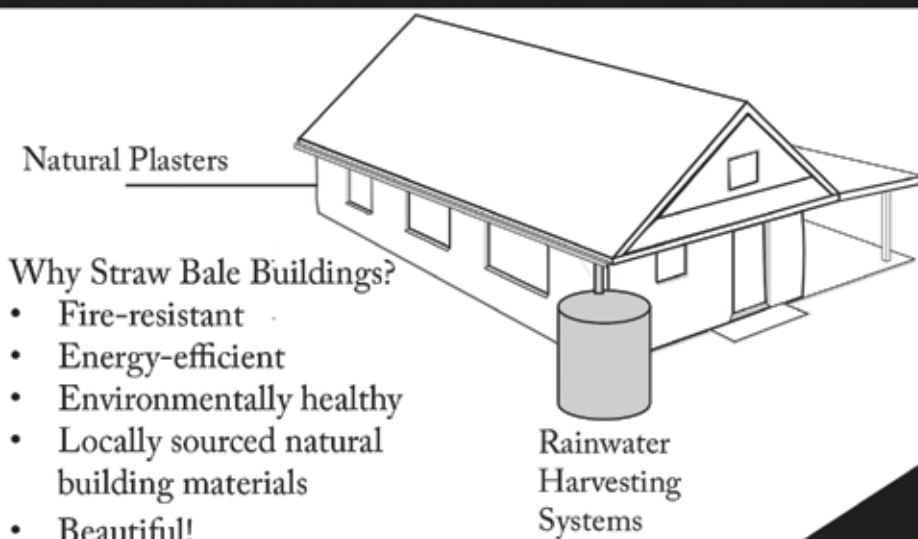
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**Photos, clockwise from top left:**  
 —**The Weber-Bruso family** takes a break from visiting what was the schoolhouse—now located in the creek—in the ghost town of Coolidge, Montana, to catch up on hometown news in the *Applegater*.  
 —**Vanessa Robertson-Rojas and Carla David** peruse the *Applegater* at Alex Hole on the Siskiyou Crest.  
 —**Mary and Robert Wolk** packed the *Gater* along on a backpacking trip along the Routeburn Track, where much of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy was filmed in New Zealand before the pandemic hit.  
 —**Joe Daly** checks out the latest *Gater* while soaking in the rays in Palm Desert.



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