

Applegater

Photo by Luke Ruediger • applegater.org

WINTER 2021
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Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
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Celebrating
~27~
Years

A Christmas tree straight out of the woods

BY DIANA COOGLE

One of the special wonders of living in the Applegate is to be able to go into the woods and cut your own Christmas tree. There's nothing like bundling up against the cold and walking through the woods, hunting for, then finding, the perfect tree, and singing "Deck the Halls" as you shoulder it, prominently tagged with your permit, back to the truck. It's especially magical with children in tow.

It would be fun if you had to have a sled to haul the tree out of the forest over the snow—or, as the US Forest Service website suggests, to ski through the woods to find your tree, but probably you won't need either skis or a sled unless we're lucky enough to have snow in the mountains before Christmas.

Get a permit

To cut your own Christmas tree, all you need is a permit from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Service, a saw (a bow makes less noise than a chain saw), and a map of places where you are allowed to cut. In the Applegate,

limbs aren't as tight as they are on grown-for-Christmas-tree trees. They are more airy, so that ornaments dangle in open spaces instead of nestling into a mass of branches. Your permit allows you your choice of species. Fir is best—Douglas, noble, or Shasta red. Cedar looks good, but the ornaments tend to slide off the ends of the branches. A few people might even choose pine.

You are allowed to cut a Christmas tree on any green space on the forest service's Christmas tree map. You are not allowed to cut on private property, on federally managed campgrounds, or on federally protected property, such as a National Monument, Wild and Scenic River corridor, Research Natural Area, or Wilderness Area. But you don't have to remember all those "don'ts." You just have to cut within the green areas on the map.

Remember 12

The number to remember is 12. Your tree must not be taller than 12 feet—



Christmas tree hunting in the wild can lead to a perfect find.
Photo: Diana Coogle.



A decorated "wild" Christmas tree in Diana Coogle's house.
Photo: Diana Coogle.



Special ornaments personalize anyone's Christmas tree.
Photo: Diana Coogle.

the map and the permit are available at Ruch Country Store (on the plaza) and at Ruch Hardware (on Upper Applegate Road across from Ruch School). Or you can go online at recreation.gov to get a map and a permit. Permits cost \$5.00 per tree.

Wild Christmas trees have a different look from the domesticated kind. The

but that's a mighty high ceiling if you want a tree taller than that. You are only allowed to cut a tree that is within 12 feet of another tree. You must cut so the stump is no taller than 12 inches.

But 200 and 300 are good numbers to remember too: don't cut
See CHRISTMAS TREE, page 17.

Keep the Applegater coming

Community news, free for all—that's what the *Applegater* delivers to you four times a year. Now we ask for you to donate to keep news of the Applegate Valley coming to you and your neighbors.

It's a great time to give. Until the end of the year, your donation will be doubled, thanks to our participation in the NewsMatch program through the Institute for Nonprofit News.

Historically, we've been able to supplement your donations with fundraising proceeds, but we've been unable to hold an event because of COVID-19—making your donation all the more important now.

The *Applegater*, the only communication source for the entire Applegate, is mailed free of charge to the mailbox of every resident and business in the Applegate.

To keep that going, please send your check, made out to the *Applegater*, to PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530. (We've included a handy, pre-addressed envelope in mailed copies of this edition.) Or go to applegater.org and look for the yellow "Donate" button on our home page (or click on the "Support the Gater" link at the bottom of the list in the left-hand column).

However you give, please do it by December 31. That will go a long way toward keeping the Gater coming throughout 2022.
Thank you!

The *Applegater* • applegater.org
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Grow Youth: Cutting a foundation for outdoor education

BY NATHAN GEHRES

Local Applegate students will soon receive an education in riparian restoration and monitoring techniques, through practical experience, as they assist the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) and Jackson County Parks Department in rehabilitating the west bank of the Applegate River in Cantrall Buckley Park. Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS), the Carpenter Foundation, and Schwemm Family Foundation, through a program dubbed "Grow Youth," have formed a partnership to create an outdoor laboratory for students that will also benefit the landscape, the watershed, and local wildlife.

In mid-October the APWC staff began preparing for the Grow Youth program at Cantrall Buckley Park by removing masses of blackberries along the riverbank. This work has uncovered a plethora of other opportunities: to clean

up trash; mulch dead trees and limbs; identify, label, measure, and catalog existing plants; plant new flora; and even create a Beaver Food Bank along the stream with willows.

"We have been working with Ryan King, the ROCS Vice Principal, and with Hannah Borgerson, the second-year Americorps Rural Schools Coordinator," says Janelle Dunlevy, APWC Executive Director. "We believe this site has amazing opportunities as an outdoor laboratory for local Applegate students and students from nearby Grants Pass and Medford areas."

The students of ROCS will start the project and will also run it again in the future. The hope is that each graduating ROCS class will hand off the responsibility and ownership of the project to the subsequent classes and that, by sharing this work with other local schools, the students will have a wider range of monitoring

See GROW YOUTH, page 3.

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HOLIDAY - ARTS

OBITUARIES

Robert E. Baize**July 10, 1936 – October 9, 2021**

Robert E. “Bob” Baize, 85, passed away Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021, at Providence Medical Center with his family by his side.

He was born in Medford, Oregon, on July 10, 1936,

and graduated from Grants Pass High School in 1954. At the age of 17, he started driving logging trucks. After years of hauling logs, he drove a feed truck for Western Farmers for 18 years. He then spent the next 20 years hauling steel for American and Far West Steel. In between truck driving and starting a family with his wife, Dona, he served in the US Army and was honorably discharged in 1964, after attaining the rank of E6 Staff Sergeant.

He spent his entire life in the Applegate Valley. He was a charter member of the Applegate Lions Club, served on the Applegate School Board for many years, and was appointed to Applegate



Fire District #9 Fire Board. He retired at the age of 62 and was an avid collector of vintage log trucks. He loved his time in retirement working on restoring the logging trucks and the time he

got to spend at truck shows.

Bob was preceded in death by his son Dennis.

He is survived by his wife, Dona; children, Terry, Patty and Pam; and seven grandchildren.

Bob would talk to anyone he came across and considered everyone his friend. He will be missed by many. Bob always said, “I just want to be remembered.”

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in his name to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

This information is furnished by the Applegate Lions Club in memory of a beloved charter member.

Jeanne Fletcher**October 31, 1939 – August 23, 2021**

Jeanne Lee Fletcher passed away on August 23, 2021, during a visit to the Bay Area to be with her adult children. She was 81 years old.

Jeanne was born in Hastings, Nebraska, to Harold and Bonnie Newell. She is survived by her four children: Kim Whitaker Montes, Kelly Whitaker Agnoletti, Rick Whitaker (spouse: Jeanne Whitaker), and Kristen Whitaker (spouse: Trey Garcia). She had four



grandchildren: Rick and Lexi Montes, Sarah and Amanda Whitaker; and one great-granddaughter, Eva Rae Ann Montes.

Jeanne lived in California, attending Campbell High School and San Jose City College. She was married at age 19 to Richard Whitaker, father of their four children. They divorced in 1981. Jeanne met Rex Fletcher, and they married in 1986. They lived in Gilroy, California, then moved to Applegate, Oregon, in 1998.

They built two beautiful homes together, one near Watsonville, California, and the other on Thompson Creek Road in Applegate, Oregon. Jeanne and Rex loved riding horseback. Their favorite

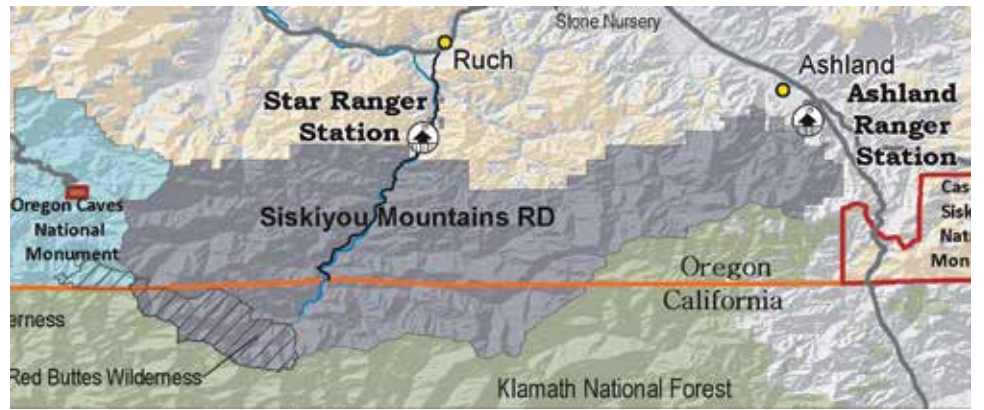
destination was Copper Basin, Idaho, with their “Bun Busters” posse of friends. Both played weekly poker, and Jeanne was a longtime member of the Applegate Poker Club.

Rex passed away in April 2013. Jeanne later moved from Applegate to a charming home in historic Jacksonville, Oregon, in 2018. Jeanne became a member of the Jacksonville Boosters Club.

Jeanne was a spritely, beautiful individual loved by many in her community. She revered her friends greatly. Their love and support meant a great deal to her. She will forever be remembered for her “classiness,” fairness, sense of style, considerate nature, her smile, wit, and sense of humor. She was a true friend to all and loved her friends dearly.

Jeanne loved animals, nature, hiking, food, cooking, history, learning, her friends, and especially family.

She was a beloved mother, wife, and friend who will forever be in our hearts.



The Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District. Map: US Forest Service.

New ranger appointed for Siskiyou Mountain district

BY KELLY WICKENS

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest has a new district ranger for the Siskiyou Mountain Ranger District. The district stretches from the outskirts of Ashland on the east to Oregon Caves National Monument on the west, and from the Star Ranger Station on Upper Applegate Road on the north to the southern reaches of Red Buttes Wilderness in California on the south.

Jennifer “Jen” Sanborn, who reported to her new position on October 11, has worked as an assistant field manager for the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management, the Butte Falls Field Office, since 2013. Jen said she is pleased to start a new career path while remaining in southern Oregon.

After growing up in the Midwest, attending grade school in Michigan, and graduating high school from Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, Jen received a bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University. Her career has primarily been in southern Oregon, starting at the Medford District Bureau of Land Management as a seasonal Wildlife Technician, then becoming the lead Wildlife Biologist for the Chiloquin, Chemult, and Klamath Districts of the Fremont-Winema National Forest. While in that role, she had three temporary promotions: as District Ranger for the Chiloquin District, Natural Resources Management Staff for the Winter Rim Zone in Silver Lake, and as the Planning Team Leader at the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Randle, Washington.

During her time with the Medford District Bureau of Land Management as an assistant field manager for the Butte Falls Field Office, Jen gained experience as a wildfire agency administrator and explored various temporary promotions into Field Manager positions with the Butte Falls and Ashland Field Offices, the Assistant District Manager in Medford, and the Field Manager/National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Manager with the Vale District, Bureau of Land Management in Baker City, Oregon.



Jennifer Sanborn is the new district ranger for the Siskiyou Mountain Ranger District.

“I’m excited to lead the district through some very unique and challenging times,” Jen said. “I look forward to continuing to work with our high-caliber partners in the Ashland and Applegate watersheds and throughout the Rogue Valley.

“Some of my earliest memories are of the scent of ponderosa pines on camping trips with my family in Colorado. I went to grade school in southern Michigan and spent a lot of my leisure time running around in the oak woodlands and fields there. By junior high, I’d decided to have a career in ‘something to do with trees!’”

For a little over a decade, Jen was one of the seasonal “owl hooters” surveying for northern spotted owls at Medford District Bureau of Land Management, where she met her husband, who was a civil engineering technician.

As the supervisory zone biologist responsible for Chiloquin, Klamath, and Chemult Districts, she helped develop and implement large-scale fuels reduction and habitat enhancement projects in partnerships with the Klamath Tribes and local fire districts.

Jen and her husband live near Gold Hill with two rescue dogs and a cat. Her hobbies include landscaping projects and photography. She and her husband enjoy visiting wineries and exploring the Rogue Valley and the Northwest, camping with friends, and traveling to see public lands throughout the country.

Kelly Wickens
Public Affairs Specialist
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
kelly.wickens@usda.gov

Thanks, Rachel Harris!

During spring and summer terms at Southern Oregon University, Rachel Harris, a senior at SOU, worked as an intern at the *Applegater*. This was a most pleasing experience! Rachel was a tremendous help to us, and, according to the evaluation she submitted at the end of her internship, she both enjoyed working with us and learned a lot about the newspaper profession and nonprofit organizations during her internship.

Rachel attended editorial committee meetings and board meetings, where she gave us many intelligent and helpful observations. Among the many tasks she did for the

Applegater were working with Jeanette LeTourneux on the Facebook page, helping convert archived history articles into digital files, formatting articles prior to editing, and updating the *Applegater*’s display boards of its history.

Rachel is back at SOU now, working toward a career in publishing. We miss her at the *Applegater*, appreciate her work with us, and wish her well as she moves into a career she is well prepared for.

Diana Coogle, Board Chair, *Applegater* Newsmagazine, diana@applegater.org

Williams Community Forest Project hires public-lands watchdog

BY DIANA COOGLE

Tyanna Smith, a Williams resident with a degree in environmental science and biology from Portland State University and experience in watershed ecology, has taken a position as the forest watch coordinator for the Williams Community Forest Project (WCFP).

“I’m excited to get this project started,” Tyanna said, “and to be in a position to help the forest.”

Tyanna’s job is to look at proposed treatment areas on lands within the Williams watershed managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, US Forest Service, and other agencies, and, essentially, make sure they are following their own guidelines and the laws governing forestry practices—that they aren’t taking trees outside the cutting area, that they aren’t encroaching on areas with endangered species, that they marked the right trees for cutting in the first place, and so on.

Her first task has been to know the laws—forestry practices laws as well as the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Air and Clean Water acts. As the agencies alert the public to



Tyanna Smith is the new forest watch coordinator for WCFP.

forestry actions in our area, she will first make a baseline study to see if the proposed cut is lawful. Then she will move into the field. If she finds a problem, she will document it thoroughly—with photographs, water samples (if there has been spraying close to a water source), and other evidence. WCFP will then notify the agency. If the agency doesn’t respond appropriately and litigation seems necessary, WCFP has

located a lawyer in Eugene who works on such cases.

“I hope people will be excited about this project,” Tyanna says about her new job. “Maybe they will be moved to donate to the cause or to volunteer to help with forest monitoring.”

At this time, the position is donation-based. WCFP is hoping to secure grants for the long term.

To donate to the Williams Community Forest Project, go to williamscommunityforestproject.org or write a check to Williams Community Forest Project and send it to PO Box 602, Williams, OR 97544.

Diana Coogle
dicoog@gmail.com

Pacifica Garden names new executive director



New Pacifica Garden Executive Director David Conover, center right, his wife, Jennifer, at left, and three children in Kyiv, Ukraine.

BY PEG PRAG

Pacifica Garden is happy to announce that we have hired David Conover as our new executive director. David and his family recently moved to Southern Oregon after spending the past seven years in Kyiv, Ukraine. His wife, Jennifer, is an educator in Three Rivers School District. They have three children, ages 12, 8, and 5.

David has more than 25 years of experience in the fields of nonprofit management, education, and community programming. After graduating from Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska, with a degree in Outdoor Education, he worked as a wilderness guide and summer camp director for Longacre Expeditions.

David later directed the outdoor recreation programs at California State University, San Bernardino, and the University of Houston.

He also has led several nonprofits, including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County in Washington State and 4K for Cancer, an organization that hosted cross-country cycling tours in support of cancer research.

At Pacifica, David is focused on expanding the organization’s programs and developing closer relationships with our community partners.

Peg Prag
peg@pacificagarden.org

■ GROW YOUTH

Continued from page 1

data and photos to compare, analyze, and plan around.

“Tree monitoring and planting are just a few of the focus points of the Grow Youth education plan,” says Hannah Borgerson. “Water quality testing, salmon observation, trail clearing, soil sampling, and Native American studies are other topics ROCS students will explore.”

In coming years, the Grow Youth program will bring classes from Applegate School and Medford to the park to help with restoration and monitoring. “There is so much work to be done!” Hannah says. “The more students we have out there, getting their hands dirty and their minds expanded, the better. We hope that the work the APWC and the students do in the coming weeks will trigger a fever for volunteers. This project will be a work in progress and a showcase for what local

funding, community volunteerism, and education can enhance and maintain.”

Grow Youth’s benefits to the local community include access for angling at

one of the few points along the Applegate River open to the public; an improved habitat, through the planting of native species, for animals that live along or use

the river; and, through interpretive signs, a better understanding of what visitors see in the park. However, the biggest benefit of this project will be the opportunity for students to get outside and learn about the natural world around them.

By giving students ownership of the project through hands-on experience, Grow Youth will empower them to have a direct impact on an important community resource and a vital local ecosystem. Grow Youth is a win for our community park, a win for the river, and most importantly, a win for the students.

Stay tuned for Volunteer Day opportunities to help maintain existing native plants and plant new ones, and our next article about the outdoor laboratory in use. If you would like to become a part of this project, contact APWC at contact@apwc.info or 541-899-9982.

Nathan Gehres, APWC
nathan@apwc.info



This map shows the area at Cantrall Buckley Park along the Applegate River where riparian restoration will occur.

Local youth are rehabilitating the west bank of the Applegate River in Cantrall Buckley Park as part of the Grow Youth Outdoor Education Program. Here are photos of the site before (left, in mid-September) and after (right, in late October) Grow Youth went to work.



POETRY CORNER

Mulberry, Oak, Catalpa

By Shirley Robinson
docmom1154@yahoo.com

Mulberry, Oak, Catalpa
Vaudevillian leaves performing
Their last song and dance
Of the summer engagement.
Floating, lilting pirouettes
They gather in rake-worthy piles
Becoming, somehow, the
Gardeners odd villains.

Shirley's history in the Applegate goes way back. Her dad was Fred Coffman. His paternal family, the Coffmans, settled up Bishop Creek. His maternal side of the family, the Schumpfs, settled in Jacksonville. Her grandfather, Mert Coffman, mined for gold up many of the gulches in the Applegate. She and her husband lived for 17 years in Jacksonville, then 17 years on Cady Road, and, after a few moves, now live in Merlin, but, she vows, "I'll always be an Applegater."

It's Raining at Last

By Diana Coogle
diana@applegater.org

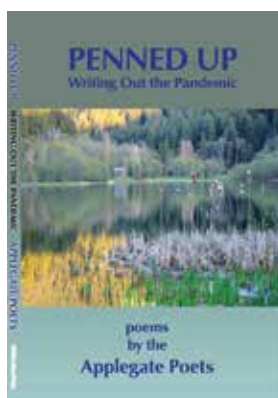
It's a good hard, steady rain.
an honest-to-goodness, how-it-used-to-be, Oregon rain.
It's a stay-in the-house, knit-by-the-stove rain
or, if you prefer, an umbrella rain
a music-in-the-gutters rain
a beautiful, replenishing
thank-the-gods
rain

After growing up in Georgia and studying at Cambridge University as a Marshall Scholar, Diana moved to an Applegate mountainside, taught part-time at Rogue Community College, and wrote commentaries for Jefferson Public Radio (JPR). Diana has published three books of selected JPR commentaries: Fire from the Dragon's Tongue (an Oregon Book Award finalist), Living with All My Senses: 25 Years of Life on the Mountain, and An Explosion of Stars. She has also published Favorite Hikes of the Applegate, with Janeen Sathre; Wisdom of the Heart, with artist Barbara Kostal; and From Friend to Wife to Widow: Six Brief Years, a book of poetry.

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.

A poetic way to support the *Applegater*

Those Applegate Poets are at it again. Having written their way through the COVID-19 lock-downs, they have produced a new book of poems, *Penned Up: Writing Out the Pandemic*, just in time for the holidays. The Applegate Poets will donate all proceeds from the sale of this book to the *Applegater*.



there, where you can have it signed by the authors. If you can't make it to the reading, copies are available from the contributing poets (listed above) or directly from the publisher, N8tive Run Press; send requests by email to n8tiverun.enterprises@gmail.com.

Remember: all donations to the *Applegater* made before

The poets (Christin Lore Weber, Joan Peterson, H. Ní Aódagáin, Seth Kaplan, Beate Foit, Diana Coogle, and Lisa E Baldwin) will give a reading at the Applegate Library from 2-4 pm Sunday, December 12. Come to enjoy the poems and buy a copy of *Penned Up*

December 31—including proceeds from the sale of *Penned Up*—will be matched by the NewsMatch grant, so your book purchase before that date will count double! Donate online at applegater.org, or come to the reading, enjoy the poems, and buy a book.

BOOK REVIEW

Always Coming Home

Ursula K. LeGuin
Harper & Row
New York 1985

BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER

"The people in this book might be going to have lived a long, long time from now in Northern California."

Oregon's premier novelist and one of the nation's most distinguished writers, winner of the National Book Award as well as the Nebula and Hugo awards for science fiction, is Ursula K. LeGuin. Her book, *Always Coming Home*, was urged upon me in the late 1980s by a remarkable child, a savant when it came to science fiction and fantasy of even the most complex sort. She sent me home with her own copy of the book, just to make sure I wouldn't miss reading it!

Years later when I lived in Port Townsend, Washington, LeGuin gave a lecture at the annual Writers' Workshop at Fort Worden. I attended with my copy of her book, hoping she would sign it. After standing in line for what seemed a long time, I was face-to-face with her. She took the rather tattered book from my hands, smiled, and said: "Oh my. *Always Coming Home*. This is my favorite book, but very few readers responded to it. I'm so glad to see it and so glad to meet you—someone who must have recognized the possible world of the future I hoped to have envisioned and recorded on its pages." She signed it, and as she returned it to my hands, she said, "If you can, try to find the boxed edition with the audio tape. All the songs of the Kesh are there. A group of us, such creative people, enjoyed composing those songs and recording them."

Now I own that boxed edition and have read it once again as a tribute to the author who made her passage from Oregon and this earth in 2018.

The book is structured as a collection of archeological notes: maps, stories, poems and songs, rituals, historical records, descriptions of categories of people (not just human), names of places and the paths and roads that connect them. As I read, I attempted to identify places with those that now exist in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest. I studied the maps, which were more than just a little skewed from present geological patterns. The only recognizable place name was Crater Lake.

The narrative that connects all the archeological artifacts and anthropological descriptions is told by a young girl whose



last name is Stone Telling. Through her the reader is introduced to essentially different experiences of time, relationships to place, organization of community, and so many other components of human life. Although the world of the Kesh seemed almost medieval, elements of it were also futuristic. At the time LeGuin wrote the book, we had computer technology but virtually no internet accessible to regular folks. Despite this, LeGuin's world that *might be going to have been a long time from now* has a sort of "Cloud" computer network storing all the data of the entire history of the planet. Universities exist in which scholars spend their lives studying this endless data. It reminded me of medieval monastic universities where the same devotion to scholarship was evident, and it is hard to ignore the parallels between LeGuin's computer in the Cloud and the monastic God in the heavens.

Reading this book is like setting out on an archeological dig in a world that is and isn't an evolution of the one we occupy now. It is a novel, but, unlike LeGuin's other novels, which contain some of the same themes, exquisite writing, and a more traditional structure, this one is unique.

My favorite among her other works is *The EarthSea Cycle*. The first three volumes are complete in themselves and profoundly moving. I actually listened to them on Audible. The skill of the reader delivered such a dramatic presentation that he carried me right out of my kitchen where I was cutting up zucchini for relish and set me down on the wings of a dragon.

Winter is a perfect time to let an author with genius carry our imaginations into an alternate reality where hope becomes possible again.

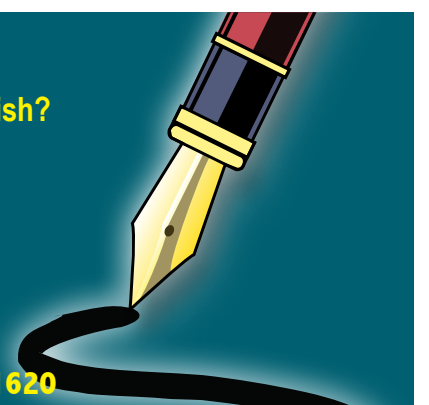
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~ FINE PRINT ~

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Our Mission

The goal of the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., is to provide the Applegate watershed with a communication vehicle, the *Applegater*, that will provide educational information, increase community networking, and represent all the area's diverse communities. Through honest, constructive, relevant, and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects and viewpoints, including our natural resources, historical and current events, and community news, we can work together to enhance the quality of life we have in the Applegate, and continue to make a difference in our valley.

Acknowledgements

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

Letters to the editor must be 200 words or less. Opinion pieces cannot exceed 500 words (no images). Articles cannot exceed 700 words. Obituaries are limited to 500 words and one photo. Essays are limited to 500 words and one per issue.

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

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Donations are also accepted online through PayPal at applegater.org and now at **smile.amazon.com** (select Applegate Valley Community Newspaper as your charity of choice)!

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



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The *Applegater* is the only newsmagazine covering the entire Applegate Valley. With a circulation of 13,000 and a readership of more than 20,000, the *Applegater* covers Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate, Williams, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, Jerome Prairie, and areas of Medford and Grants Pass.

For more information, contact:

Jackson County: Ron Turpen @ 541-601-1867 or ron.turpen@gmail.com

Josephine County: Max Unger @ 541-373-1445 or imaxunger@gmail.com

Next deadline: February 1

Cover Photo Credit

Thanks to Luke Ruediger for the photo taken on the Siskiyou Crest near Siskiyou Peak, on the watershed divide between the Little Applegate and Klamath rivers.

Have a photo for the spring *Applegater*?
Email it to bert@applegater.org.

Editorial Calendar

ISSUE DEADLINE

SPRING (March - May) ... **February 1**
Commerce-Community

SUMMER (June - Aug) **May 1**
Environment-Fire-Recreation

FALL (Sept - Nov) **August 1**
Agriculture-Wine

WINTER (Dec - Feb)..... **November 1**
Holiday-Arts

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.

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— Ruch Library — Preschool storytime resumes

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

We are happy to be open for browsing again, and our patrons are delighted. Ruch Outdoor Community School students are once more coming weekly for stories, activities, and research.

Preschool storytime (for three- to five-years-olds) has started and has changed to 11:30 am Thursdays. The library is not open during that time, so children and their parents can sit together, and then browse together. Masks are required of everyone five and older. There will be no group craft, but there will be an activity for each child to take home. Registration is required, either at the library or through jcls.org. We have a cap of 12 people, each of whom must be registered. The Babies and Wobblers program is still on hold.

The Community Meeting Room is once more available for use and reservations. Visit jcls.org, go to the menu, select Ruch Library, and scroll down to "Reserve a Room."

Nicole from JCLS Digital Services is here from 2-4:30 pm Thursdays to help with your tech questions regarding your devices. You can make an appointment at 541-734-3990 or at digitalservices@jcls.org. We also now have Connectivity Kits available for check-out, which offer a laptop with its own Wi-Fi that can access the internet from anywhere. Check it out!

Rogue Reads is a community reading program that aims to engage Jackson County residents in dialog and bring the community together by promoting tolerance and understanding about differing points of view. This year, starting

on December 1 and running through February, Rogue Reads will focus on indigeneity, community, the environment, and more. There are books for every age, so this is a great family program. We will provide Take and Make activities, have a large display of indigenous folk art from the Americas, and join some county-wide activities, as well. Visit jcls.org for more details.

The Friends' A-Frame bookstore is now open from 1-3 pm Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and the Book Barn Sale runs from noon to 4 pm the first Saturday of each month.

We are planning on having indoor, in-person programs again in the spring, highlighting local history, gardening, jewelry making, and more. We are unable to plan too far in advance, so please check out jcls.org for the current programs. Thanks for your patience and flexibility during this difficult time. We appreciate your willingness to don a mask to help keep yourself and others safe. We have managed to stay open for most of the pandemic, and although we had to deny access to browsing for some of that time, we have continued to offer library services, virtual programs and classes, electronic books, movies, magazines, Library of Things, and more to keep our patrons happy.

Thank you all for remaining cheerful and understanding. We hope to see you soon!

Thalia Truesdell

Ruch Library Branch Manager
541-899-7438, ttruesdell@jcls.org
7919 Highway 238



— Applegate Library — Library open again

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

The Applegate Branch Library is open once again for computer use and browsing, and meeting rooms are open for reservations. Our digital services specialist is here from 10 am-12:30 pm Wednesdays to help with tech issues. Masks that fully cover nose and mouth and social distancing are still required.

Upcoming events

Take & Make Kits. Seasonal Greens, for ages six-plus. Make a fresh wreath, tree, or pot using herbs, greens, and berries. 2-6 pm beginning December 3.

Readings by the Applegate Poets from their new book, *Penned Up: Writing Out the Pandemic*. 2-4 pm Sunday, December 12.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Three Sisters Garden, 18-plus years. Pick up a kit that includes corn, bean, and squash seeds, seed starter trays, potting soil, and instructions. 2-6 pm beginning December 17.

Celebration of Christmas lights in the Applegate. Come see the lights at the library and have refreshments with other revelers. Starting at 4 pm Tuesday, December 21.

Poetry Recitations by Diana Coogle. A dozen poems by eight poets—T.S. Eliot, Robert Frost, Edward Hoagland, G.M. Hopkins, among others—recited from memory. 3-4 pm Tuesday, December 21.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Dream Journals, 13-plus years. Inspired by themes in *The Marrow Thieves*, this kit contains everything you need to start your own dream journal. 2-6 pm beginning December 28.

Take & Make Kits. Winter Craft, three-plus years. Make a winter-inspired glittery craft. 2-6 pm beginning Friday, January 7.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Water and Oil Project, three-plus years. In *We Are Water Protectors*, author Carole Lindstrom describes a "black snake" that poisons the water. With this kit, learn about a type of "black snake" (oil) and how water and oil don't mix. 2-6 pm beginning January 11.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Wild Rice Soup, 18-plus years. Pick up a kit with supplies to make wild rice soup. The kit will include wild rice, recipes to make the soup, and a packet of dried parsley. The Rogue Reads adult title, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer,

honors indigenous wisdom and discusses several plants that play a significant role in Native cultures. 2-6 pm beginning January 21.

Take & Make. Valentine's Day Craft, eight-plus years. Make a heart-inspired card or craft to give to loved ones. 2-6 pm beginning, Friday, February 4.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Practicing Gratitude, 18-plus years. Pick up a kit with supplies to incorporate a practice of gratitude into your life through letter writing. The kit will include stationery, stamped envelopes, scrapbook-style embellishments, information about the benefits of practicing gratitude, and some suggestions of whom to write to. 2-6 pm beginning February 11.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Friendship Bracelets, nine-plus years. This kit encourages you to make a bracelet for yourself and one to give to a friend to show that you care. 2-6 pm beginning February 22.

Rogue Reads Take & Make. Birdwatching Kit, 18-plus years. Pick up a kit of birdwatching supplies. The kit will include guides to common local birds, a flyer with information about how to be involved with Cornell University's Project Feederwatch, a bird data recording sheet, information about birdwatching materials that can be checked out from the library, and materials to make a pinecone bird feeder. This kit is offered in partnership with the North Mountain Park Nature Center in Ashland. 2-6 pm beginning Feb 25.

Note: All Take & Make kits available only while supplies last.

Program spotlight

Library2Go (the Oregon digital library consortium) focuses on books and magazines in ePUB and Kindle formats, as well as MP3 Audiobooks. This means you can check out and read or listen to titles on nearly any device you have, from a simple eReader to the latest iPad. There are more than 35,000 titles to choose from and a collection of always-available content. Uses the Libby or OverDrive app. Check out the digital content services at jcls.org.

Christine Grubb

Applegate Branch Library Manager

541-846-7346

cgrubb@jcls.org

18485 North Applegate Road

 Josephine
Community Library

— Williams Library — Striving to maintain connections

BY AMBER GUIENT

A program entitled "Loneliness and Aging During COVID-19: Making Space for Our Elders," with Pamela Slaughter, will start at 5 pm Thursday, December 9. During this virtual Oregon Humanities Conversation Project, participants can explore beliefs surrounding loneliness and aging. Most people are finding ways to remain connected to their loved ones during COVID-19. Some are even reaching new levels of intimacy in relationships. But for isolated elderly people who are not computer literate, loneliness has only become more intense in recent weeks. What beliefs do we hold about loneliness and aging? If we have elderly neighbors and loved ones, what might they need at this time? This program is open to teens and adults. Registration is required. For more information, email info@josephinelibrary.org or call 541-476-0571.

JosephineLINK

JosephineLINK is an online community resource directory where community members can access current information for hundreds of community service organizations. You can browse by category or search by keyword. Categories include rent assistance, volunteer opportunities, food assistance, family services, recovery support, veteran's services, and much more. JosephineLINK can be found on the library website at josephinelink.org.

Josephine Community Library Foundation

Josephine Community Library Foundation raises funds to support

special programs beyond the reach of the library's tax-funded operating budget including technology upgrades and building improvements.

Through December 31, make your annual contribution during the End-of-Year Fundraising Drive. Visit jclfoundation.org and make your donation to support the critical work of the library in our community.

Sponsors for this drive are Cauble, Selvig, and Whittington; Edward Jones; Hart Insurance; and Republic Services.

For more information about Josephine Community Library Foundation or library building projects, visit jclfoundation.org or contact Executive Director Rebecca Stoltz at rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org or 541-476-0571, ext. 200.

Williams branch hours

The Williams branch is open 1-6 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, and from 11 am to 4 pm Fridays. For more information, email info@josephinelibrary.org or go to josephinelibrary.org.

Holiday closures

All four branches of Josephine Community Library in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek are closed on the following days in observance of national holidays: Saturday, December 25, and Saturday, January 1.

Amber Guient, Manager
Williams branch, Josephine Community Library District
20695 Williams Highway, Williams
541-846-7020, aguient@josephinelibrary.org

Staff Spotlight ~ Christine Stark Grubb Applegate Branch Library Manager

How long have you worked at the Applegate Branch Library? Since January 2018 as manager, but I have been with JCLS for 14 years. I started as a page at the Jacksonville Branch Library after being a stay-at-home mom for 17 years!

What do you like most about your job? Hands down, the patrons are the reason I'm here! This community is so diverse and interesting! Sharing and connecting with and learning from the patrons is the best part of this job. Of course, I also love the beautiful building with its hand-painted murals, and working alongside the ever kind and helpful Susie is a bonus!

What do you like to do when you're not working? Spending time with family—four adult children and three grandchildren—takes up much of my *other* time. Quilting (I made my first quilt for my first grandchild), cooking (really good at Korean food), reading, hiking, camping (tent, but would prefer RV!), gardening (though I don't have a garden right now), and animals (I recently trapped, neutered, and rehomed 16 feral cats in my neighborhood).

Where did you grow up? I was born in South Bend, Indiana, where I lived with my parents and four siblings. I went to school in Erie, Pennsylvania. In 2002 I moved with my husband and our four kids from Virginia to Oregon.

What fun facts would readers like to know about you? I kissed Huey Lewis (of Huey Lewis and the News) when he had a concert at my university. I was a Quartermaster Captain in the Army. My first assignment was in South Korea, where I learned to speak Korean and cook Korean food. I've also jumped out of airplanes.

What are three words to describe you? Perspicacious, brave, and compassionate. (I aspire to be those things!)

Who is your favorite author? Among many, Barbara Kingsolver, Elizabeth Gilbert, Thich Nhat Han, and William Martin.



NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

Applegate Valley networks prioritize next year's actions

BY SETH KAPLAN

In the last issue of the *Applegater*, A Greater Applegate (AGA) shared the early results from our community listening process, including the key emerging priorities and strategies. Our next step is to compile and organize all we heard into categories to bring back to the community for further action. Community convenings will take place in the spring, and we will talk more about them in the next *Applegater*.



A Greater Applegate hosted a business network meeting on September 21 at Red Lily Vineyards.

Similarly, this summer, we were already able to meet with the Nonprofit and Business Networks to clarify and solidify the priorities we heard from them and to recruit volunteers to begin addressing strategies and projects where there is the greatest interest. A big thanks to all the community members who continue to bring so much creativity and enthusiasm to this process! We had two high-energy meetings. The Nonprofit Network met at Moulton Family Winery on July 27, and the Business Network met at Red Lily Vineyard on September 21. We are grateful to the 70 attendees from both networks who enthusiastically helped us fine-tune their priorities and so generously volunteered to move the identified priorities to action.

Business Network priorities

The Business Network identified and agreed to implement three priorities to strengthen our local business sector:

1. Marketing and Advertising.

- Strategies include:
- Collective marketing and advertising
 - Incentives and education to encourage residents to buy locally
 - Use of the Applegate Valley logo and Applegate Valley Made and Applegate Valley Grown decals to promote local products, in keeping with AGA's Applegate Valley branding efforts
 - Contributing to, distributing, and promoting the Applegate Valley business map and ApplegateMarket.com business directory

2. Community Engagement and Outreach.

- Strategies include:
- Recruiting and mentoring new businesses to the area
 - Partnering with AGA to identify how best to support emerging businesses
 - Offering business-to-business gatherings and supports
 - Inviting hemp and cannabis businesses into the network
 - Encouraging businesses to engage with community organizations and events

3. Event Coordination. This committee will help AGA catalog existing events, like Uncorked, Lavender Trails, and the Applegate Open, and work to promote these events outside the area to bring more visitors and revenue to the Applegate. The committee will encourage organizations to place their activities in the Applegate Valley Connect calendar and will also look at ways to support new events that reflect the best of the Applegate.

Nonprofit Network priorities

The Nonprofit Network also identified three strategies they will take on.

These include:

1. Nonprofit collaboration to strengthen the overall sector, including:

- Volunteer, board, and donor recruitment
- Organizational trainings
- Resources (financial, insurance, legal, etc.)
- Fundraising and community awareness events
- Peer-to-peer support, including review of each other's grant submissions

2. Communication and outreach.

Participants are interested in ways to collectively use tools like the *Applegater* and Applegate Valley Connect to increase outreach, including reaching Spanish speakers and differently abled residents.

3. Community engagement.

Community organizations are particularly interested in engaging better with young people as well as recruiting neighborhood volunteers for specific projects.

In addition to identifying the above priorities, the Nonprofit Network formed "affinity groups" to focus on issues of more narrow but still high concern. Many of the nonprofit affinity-group issues also came up frequently at the neighborhood listening sessions. We are excited to see this crossover interest and anticipate nonprofits taking leadership roles in the Community Action Teams next year. The affinity groups include:

- Outdoor Recreation and Wildland Preservation
- Food, Farm, and Water
- Forest Management and Fire Protection
- Healthy, Vibrant, and Livable Community/Human Services
- Arts and Culture
- Applegate Valley History

If you are interested in participating in any of these groups, please contact AGA Network Coordinator Ashley Bradfield at ashley@agreaterapplegate.org or 541-702-2108. The fun is just beginning, so join in!

The Business Network is open to existing Applegate Valley businesses and anyone interested in starting a local business. The Nonprofit Network is open to all organizations serving the Applegate Valley, whether or not they are registered as a nonprofit or physically located in the Applegate Valley. If you are part of an established organization or someone getting started, you and your contributions are welcome.

Seth Kaplan, Executive Director
A Greater Applegate
seth@agreaterapplegate.org
541-702-2108

Special holiday fete planned at McKee Bridge

BY LAURA AHEARN

McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) is once again presenting Christmas on a Covered Bridge. Volunteers will dress up McKee Bridge with greenery, garlands, and glistening lights to celebrate the 2021 holidays. We'll decorate and light up the Star Ranger Station and the 1936 community kitchen at the picnic grounds too. Visit these sites December 17 through New Year's Day and enjoy the sparkling scene. Come out on December 18, in particular, for special events and shopping opportunities.

Here are some 2021 happenings that MBHS will celebrate:

- In the spring we installed a sturdy 120-volt power station. MBHS volunteers no longer need to babysit unreliable and noisy generators to illuminate the holiday display. We'll be able to keep the lights on from dusk to 10 pm with no refueling, no frostbite, and no disappointing darkness (unless Pacific Power goes down!).

- We launched our website with a "virtual museum" containing almost 1,000 photos and relics, keyed to a map of the Applegate watershed. Check it out at mckeebridge.org.

- MBHS received several grants to develop and install interpretive panels at the bridge and Logtown Cemetery and to repair historically significant grave markers. The first project, preserving the story of freed slaves who emigrated to Jackson County in 1853, is now complete. Coming up: Some surprising information about the engineering of McKee Bridge and the stories of the Watkins residents whose graves were moved from the Collings Cemetery to Logtown by the federal government in order to build Applegate Dam. We believe the government missed or misinterpreted a lot of information about these folks.

- McKee Bridge was transformed into an art gallery on September 12, bedecked with stunning antique quilts, needlework, paintings, and a special exhibit by the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society. Students from Ruch Outdoor Community School put on a creative and colorful display, including quilts fashioned from paper—what a cool idea!

- We elected Linda Todd to the MBHS Board at the Annual Meeting on September 12. Past President and longtime Director Bob Van Heuit ended his term but remains a very active volunteer with his wife, Marilyn, who is making delightful snow people. Pick one up at the bridge on December 18.

- McKee Bridge passed her mandatory structural inspection in October. Although



Mary Belle "Mollie" Ray (1880-1956), keeper of the Christmas Carrot Pudding recipe. Photo: 1886 portrait by Peter Britt, SOU Hannon Library.



Mollie's grandmother Mary Buckley (1831-1917). Did she carry the recipe across the Oregon Trail in 1851? Photo: 1886 portrait by Peter Britt, SOU Hannon Library.

some minor work is required, we're now confident that the bridge will remain open to the public for at least the next six years. MBHS pays for these inspections and handles maintenance, like removing fallen leaves, eradicating graffiti, and repainting the railing. Thank you to everyone who has donated to support this community commitment that dates from the 1960s.

Keep an eye on mckeebridge.org/events or the MBHS Facebook page for more details about Christmas on a Covered Bridge on Saturday, December 18. We can promise you entertainment by the Ruch Outdoor Community School orchestra, unique gift shopping, and an *amazing* bake sale. We'll feature recipes handed down from the Applegate's earliest pioneer families.

How about trying Mollie Ray's Christmas Carrot Pudding? We bet this recipe originated with her grandmother, Mary Terrier Zelmor Enyart Billups Smith Buckley, who immigrated to Oregon in 1851. (Yes, she had five husbands!) The recipe was preserved for us by Clara McKee O'Brien Smith. Which sauce will you choose?

Laura Ahearn
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com

CARROT PUDDING (antique)

1 C. sifted flour	1 egg
1/4 C. shortening	1 C. grated potatoes
1 C. grated carrots	1 C. chopped walnuts
1 C. raisins	1 t. each salt and cinnamon
1/4 C. citron	1/2 t. each cloves and nutmeg
1 C. sugar	
1 t. soda	

Stir 1 t. soda into potatoes. Mix all together and steam about 3 hours. Do not fill jars or cans much over half full. Serve hot with brandy, rum, or lemon sauce.

Brandy sauce:

1/2 C. sugar	2 t. butter
2 T. flour	3 T. brandy
3/4 C. cold water	Pinch of salt

Mix together sugar, flour, and salt. Add water. Boil 5 minutes. Add brandy and butter.

This recipe was Molly Ray's, who was one of our members 35 years ago. I got it from Louise Dunlap. It's really good.

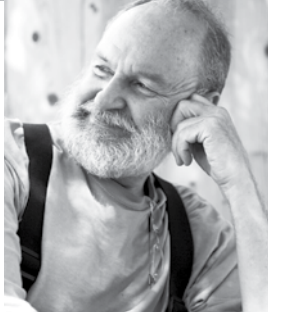
Clara Smith

Carrot Pudding recipe from the Upper Applegate Extension Home Study Group, 1981.

THE STARRY SIDE

Sky above, earth below: We're in this together

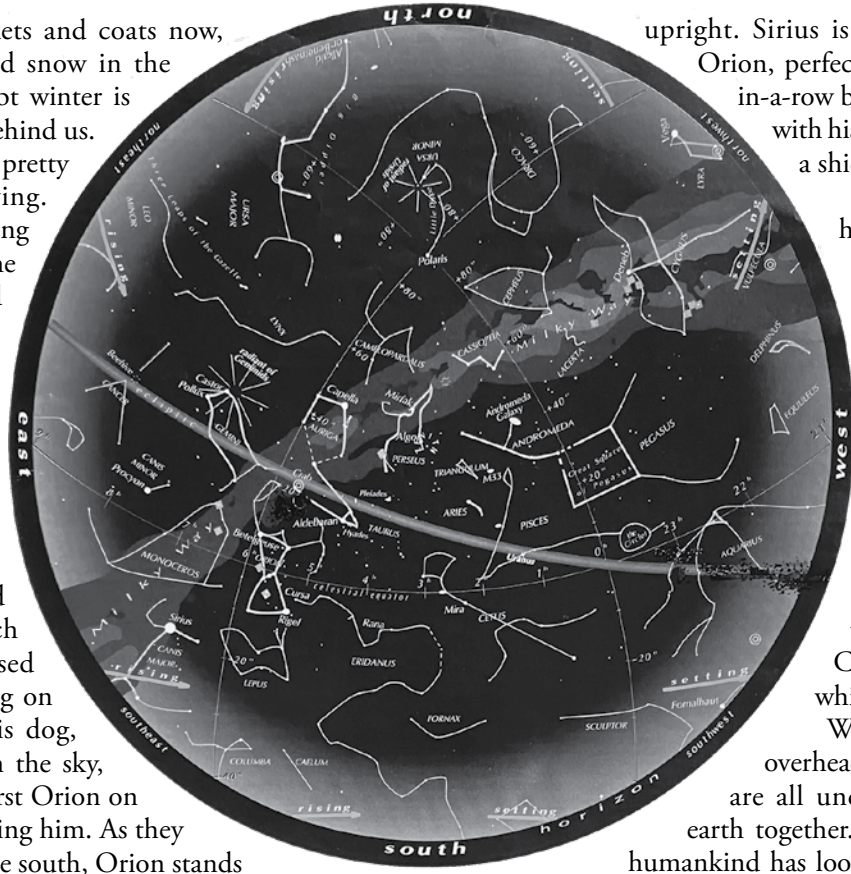
BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

As we put on our jackets and coats now, with rain in our yards and snow in the mountains, there's no doubt winter is on the way. Fire season is behind us. Night skies are clear, but it's pretty cold for sitting and viewing. Nonetheless, when something noteworthy is going on in the sky, I'll dress warmly and take a pillow and blanket to a lean-back chair for sights of the night anyway. Won't you join me?

While we wait for whatever it is, let's scan the constellations. Even though I know almost half of them by sight and have my favorites for each season, I'm always surprised by something. What's going on now is that Orion and his dog, Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, are rising from the east—first Orion on his back, then Sirius following him. As they swing through the sky to the south, Orion stands



upright. Sirius is now to our left behind Orion, perfectly in line with his three-in-a-row belt. Orion holds up a club with his right arm (to our left) and a shield with his left.

Cassiopeia, in the north, has swung counterclockwise over the North Star. She brings the great square of Pegasus with her over the top of the sky and down into the west, getting ready to set during the end of this season. In our Milky Way galaxy—that bright band in the sky—Cygnus, the swan, has turned into the Northern Cross, now standing upright while setting in the northwest. With all of this going on overhead, let's remember that we are all under this sky and on this earth together. Since time immemorial, humankind has looked up and shared stories

of constellations, meteor showers, and other celestial happenings. When Russia's Sputnik went overhead in the 1950s, we looked in amazement at the first man-made object in space we could see from Earth. Old codgers like me remember it as a real shift in human perspective, giving the world a view of our common humanity. Today, of course, there are thousands more man-made objects in the sky. Starlink, for instance, is a "constellation" of satellites that will soon connect us all no matter where we live.

But whether or not we have satellites connecting us via the internet, we still need to remember to work together for the common good. We face a long list of challenges: coronavirus, climate change, rising seas, wildfires, smoke in the summer air, extreme temperatures, too much rain or not enough, human inequity, the destruction of nature. My hope is that these challenges will draw us all closer together to create solutions. How we respond to these challenges—and how we treat each other—should reflect our common humanity.

The world will go on, no doubt, but much convincing scientific data questions whether humans will be able to survive on it. Joining together is the best way to solve these universal problems and avoid further changes that could put our very presence here, under this night sky, at risk.

Greeley Wells • greeley@greeley.me
Night sky image from Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar.

— OF NOTE —

December 13-14: Geminid meteor showers—the king of showers! Up to 120 multicolored meteors per hour at its peak. After midnight is the best time, especially just before dawn.

December 21: Winter solstice. The southern pole of Earth will be tilted toward the sun to the max! Winter solstice is the first day of winter in the northern hemisphere.

January 3-4: Quadrantids meteor shower—up to 40 per hour at the peak.

March 20: Vernal equinox and first day of spring. The sun is dead center above the equator, so day and night are the same length.

The Planets

Mars is in our dawn throughout the season.

Jupiter rises at dusk in December and is visible all night. Jupiter is the brightest "star" up there through March.

Venus will show up in December and January at dawn and then be gone, since she's so near the sun.

Mercury shows up at dusk in December and January; he then slips into dawn in February. He's also really close to the sun, though not quite a bright as Venus.

Kids now eligible for vaccine

COVID-19 vaccinations are now approved for use in Oregon for children ages 5 through 11.

Find out where you can get a free vaccine at getvaccinated.oregon.gov or vaccine.gov.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

A rind is a terrible thing to waste



Sioux Rogers

I love compost. I don't mean I love compost like for a romantic date. I mean, like, I just love compost.

Now that you are anxiously waiting to find out what's next, how about a list of what *not* to compost?

Caveat: Composting is one the best investments for your garden time, but it is not perfect.

Better not compost

Your compost pile should *not* be a wastebin for stuff like plants that died from a disease, known or unknown. Lordy, think what yucky dreck you might transfer to those precious plants. And do *not* even think about emptying your butt-filled ashtray in the compost. Aside from all the toxins in the butt, tobacco often carries a virus transferable to tomatoes. If you have weeds with seed heads, do *not* deploy them to the bin. Instead, you can cut off the seed heads and use just the weed. No worries there.

Grass clippings are okay if the grass has not been sprayed. If you throw gooshy, rotten, say, tomatoes, squashes, and cucumbers into your compost, plan on possibly having random vegetables anywhere you use it. Seeds often survive.

Even though in the kitchen many edibles go to waste, they may not be what earthworms enjoy. (Earthworms are



Vegetable scraps are easily compostable, but so are cardboard, newspapers, and even old bills. Photo: Ben Kerckx/Pixabay.

indicators of healthy compost and soil but are sometimes fussy eaters.)

All kinds of stuff like butter, grease, cheese, whole eggs, bones, fish, and meat will *not* break down within the confines of home composting. Since they won't break down, they rot and stink, which is an invitation for wild critters to come to your smorgasbord.

This may come as a surprise: Onions, garlic, and citrus have a chemical that kills your beloved earthworms. No walnut shells, either, as they have a yucky chemical called "juglone" that some plants really despise.

It may be tempting, but do not add feces from meat-eating critters—people and animals alike. Feces that have not composted for at least a few years may contain unwanted heavy metals. You do

not want to ingest a carrot or any other vegetable grown in compost that may be laced with heavy metal.

Whew, that was quite a few "nots" for the compost pile. On a cheery note, what to compost is just as important.

Okay to compost

Here are a few weird but common items you really can compost. Important: The item *must* be organic.

Coffee filters, for example, need to be the brown, unbleached type. If you have all-natural clothing in your dryer, the lint can be used. Weird, huh? Have pets? Their fur and your hair are great for compost. Sorry, but not hair with bleach, dye, or other toxic products.

Composting cardboard, newspapers, and old bills is perfectly wonderful. Do it and smile. Also, natural corks from wine

bottles and the contents of your vacuum bag can be plopped into the compost bin.

If I could have only one ingredient to put in my compost bin, it would be spoiled rotten straw or hay. The straw from my poultry is perfect when thrown into the compost bin with any kind of soil.

Rather gross, but not a no-no, is small roadkill. Just make sure to place the carcass way deep into the compost or it may be exhumed by a passing critter.

The items I have rambled off are from my own experience of gardening every which way. Neither of the two lists, "better not" and "okay," are necessarily complete. More than that, you or your most excellent gardener neighbor may disagree about some items. No worries—we are all most likely correct when viewed from another vantage point. What do I mean?

Well, for example, coffee is a common addition to the compost pile, but I insist it needs to be organic. Same with loose tea or tea bags. I do not want nasty, toxic chemicals in my compost.

"Amazingly, we've become a culture that considers Twinkies, Cocoa Puffs, and Mountain Dew safe, but raw milk and compost-grown tomatoes unsafe" (Joel Salatin, farmer, lecturer, and author).

Dirty fingernails and all,
Sioux Rogers • 541-890-9876
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Got News?

The Applegater welcomes submissions!

We're your newspaper and want to share your news with readers throughout the Applegate Valley watershed's many neighborhoods. What's going on around you? Let us know! Send your write-up and photos to gater@applegater.org. Thanks! See you in the Applegater....

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Final piece installed along Cantrall Buckley Park Art Walk

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Great news! The final sculpture for the Cheryl D. Garcia Art Walk was installed in October. It took six volunteers to move the 12-foot Wild Oregon Iris sculpture into place near the arched bridges on the trail system just south of the restroom. You can see it to your left as you drive slowly to the lower park area near the river, and once in the parking spaces near the restroom, you can look up and see it in the forested setting.

This enhancement project started in 2018 with a fundraiser for nine sculptures: Mock Orange, Wild Iris, Violet-Green Swallows, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Red-Breasted Nuthatches, Belted Kingfisher, and Common Raven, all supported by contributions from very generous private donors. Members of the Applegate Valley Garden Club supported the Monarch Butterfly, and the Oregon Community Foundation, Gold Diggers Guild of Southern Oregon, and 26 community individuals, couples, and families supported the Shooting Star Sculpture.

The work went smoothly for the artist until smoke pollution, an injury that required surgery, and an accident in the studio halted her work until she could recuperate. The restrictions of COVID also affected the close work of volunteers installing the sculptures. Once Cheryl was strong enough to work again, the last few

sculptures went smoothly, with assurance from the park committee that time helps heal all hurts and that everyone would be thrilled when the last piece was installed.

This project will be complete with the installation of the Art Map that accompanies the art features for the park. The Jackson County Cultural Coalition (JCCC) sponsored the artwork by Cheryl and the design work by Gregg Payne. A Greater Applegate (AGA), Jackson County Parks, and JCCC sponsored the metal stand ready to be installed near the entrance to the park, just past the fee booth.

The park committee and the AGA board are excited to have this beautiful enhancement to the park and proud of the partnership of organizations and individuals, the volunteer help, and the Jackson County Parks program that made this all possible.

The next project is the long-awaited community mural on the wall of the restroom in the lower park. Our artist, Jeremy Criswell, has worked hard to regain the use of his injured shoulder and feels ready to move forward. The date for installation will be determined by the amount of time and materials necessary for the first panel. The fish and other community art pieces are all arranged and waiting to be firmly encased into each panel with cement. Jeremy is excited to be able to take this on again, and he thanks everyone in the community for their patience.

Jackson County Park Passes for 2022 are available at the discounted price of \$30 throughout December. On January 1, 2022, the price changes to \$40. This pass is good at all the Jackson County Parks and at the Joseph H. Steward and Casey parks near the community of Trail, which were formerly run by the US Forest Service. You can purchase a pass at Ruch Hardware, Cantrall Buckley (from

the park hosts) Blackbird, Sportsman's Warehouse, REI, Willie Boats, Water World, Bi-Mart in Ashland, Jackson County Roads Department in White City, and Jackson County taxation office in Medford. The Jackson County Parks Department can take a payment over the phone at 541-774-8183 and will mail you your pass and receipt.

A friendly reminder that the pass is issued to a person, not to a vehicle, so if you go to a park with a friend driving, the pass is valid for that vehicle.

Watch the restoration improvements happening in the riparian zone along the river. AGA and Jackson County Parks will be partnering with Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council's project on a portion of the development with a generous donation from a private donor to AGA.

Janis Mohr-Tipton • 541-846-7501
Chair, Parks Committee
A Greater Applegate
janis.agapark@gmail.com

Photo, left. Volunteer crew unloads the precious Wild Iris Sculpture. From left on the ground: Chad Sobtka, artist Cheryl Garcia (mostly hidden), and Matthew Katzensen. On the trailer: in front, Chris Wilkey; at rear left, Antonio Aquiler; at right, Criss Garcia. Photo, right. Metal artist Cheryl D. Garcia (left) with very generous donors Bonnie and John Rinaldi of Ashland, former owners of Lavender Fields Forever on Hamilton Road. Photos by Janis Mohr-Tipton.



Siskiyou Field Institute hosts free 'SnowSchool' for school groups

BY MORGAN MURRAY

Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI), a local environmental education nonprofit based near Selma, is offering SnowSchool in partnership with Mt. Ashland Ski Area. Up to 20 school groups can participate *free* of tuition this winter. The program will run from January through March.

Educators seeking a fun way for students to learn about alpine winter environments are encouraged to reserve SnowSchool dates as early as possible, as the number of slots available is limited. Students from Ruch Outdoor Community School are expected to fill one of the slots.

SnowSchool teaches kids new ways to recreate outdoors while introducing

them to the winter wonders in our backyard.

SFI's SnowSchool is part of a national program operating across 70 different sites. At Mount Ashland, students will strap on snowshoes and head out for a fun-filled day of winter exploration! Students will make vital connections between the snowpack—the largest water reservoir in the West—and the water they rely on every day.

Program content includes citizen science with Oregon State University and NASA, snow pit analysis, watershed science, snow crystal study, snow-to-water equivalency, and animal tracking and

adaptations. Students end the day by belly sliding through the snow and reflecting on their experiences together.

Ready to reserve the date for your group of fifth-seventh graders? For priority booking and to ensure funding, register as early as possible. Go to siskiyoufieldinstitute.org and reserve your dates on our homepage. You can

also reach out to SFI's Youth Education Programs Coordinator directly by calling 541-597-8530 or emailing youthprograms@thesfi.org.

Morgan Murray
Youth Education Programs Coordinator
Siskiyou Field Institute
541-597-8530
youthprograms@thesfi.org



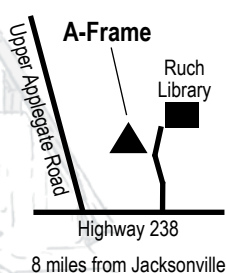
Students gather at a past Siskiyou Field Institute SnowSchool program at the Mt. Ashland Ski Area.

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- Susan

The Applegate watershed has an extraordinary diversity of conifers

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Each year as the winter solstice and holidays draw near, conifer imagery and symbolism become pronounced and emblematic of the season in winter wreaths, Christmas trees, ornaments, and garlands. The winter enchantment brought about by conifers is a good time to explore conifer diversity in the Applegate watershed.

The Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, well known for their incredible biodiversity, contain more conifer species than any other temperate forest in North America—35 species. The Applegate watershed alone contains 22 conifer species as a result of the region's unique geology, steep topography, pronounced microclimates, dramatic elevation gradients, and millions of years of undisturbed evolution.

From the prostrate-growing ground cover called common juniper (*Juniperus communis*) to the massive, 10-foot-diameter incense cedars (*Calocedrus decurrens*), conifers in the Applegate are as varied as the tapestry of habitat on the landscape.

At low elevations, the Applegate watershed supports a mixture of moist Douglas fir and tanoak habitats on Slate Creek, Cheney Creek, and Williams Creek, where a cool, coastal-influenced environment is maintained through abundant rain, relatively productive soils, and winter fog. These forests support Port Orford-cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*), a beautiful, drooping cedar with bluish foliage and layered, silvery bark. Port Orford-cedar is endemic to the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains. In the Applegate, the Williams Creek population is at the eastern edge of the prevailing Port Orford-cedar range in Oregon.

The low-elevation forests in the foothills of the Applegate and east of Murphy receive far less rainfall. These dry habitats support the westernmost stands of western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) in the Siskiyou Mountains. Western juniper has

a prevailing range that extends across the juniper steppe and high-desert country to the east. On dry, exposed sites up the Little Applegate River and in the Dakubetede Roadless Area, groves of old-growth juniper grow among oak woodlands, dry grasslands, and stately ponderosa pines. The westernmost population of western juniper in the Siskiyou Mountains consists of a few trees on a west-facing slope in the Wellington Wildlands, above Humbug Creek.

In the 1930s, botanist Oliver Mathews documented gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) populations near Ruch. Other small populations were found in the Rogue Valley near White City and Gold Hill. Currently, a single mature gray pine still grows in a small, grassy clearing at the edge of the Little Grayback Roadless Area in the Upper Applegate, creating one of the northernmost populations of gray pine, a tree found abundantly in California.

At higher elevations in the Applegate, on the Siskiyou Crest and above 5,000 feet, forests are dominated by true fir species, including white fir (*Abies concolor*) and a confusing series of naturally occurring hybrid populations of Shasta red fir (*Abies magnifica* var. *shastensis*) and red fir (*Abies magnifica*), which are common in the Sierra Nevada and southern Cascades, and noble fir (*Abies procera*), which is more common to the north in the Cascade Mountains. The resulting blend of genetic diversity has created unusual hybrids with characteristics of numerous species that are hard to differentiate.

Also inhabiting the higher elevations of the Applegate Siskiyou are the region's most ancient conifer species, holdouts that survived in ice-free areas in the Siskiyou during the Little Ice Age and represent temperate forests that were once widespread some 65 million years ago.

The iconic Brewer's spruce (*Picea breweriana*) and Port Orford-cedar are



Winter conifers on the Siskiyou Crest at the headwaters of the Little Applegate River. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

two of these paleoendemics, remaining only in the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains. Some conifer species that grew alongside Brewer's spruce and Port Orford-cedar 65 million years ago still reach their southern limit in the Siskiyou Mountains today. These species include trees common far north of the Siskiyou, such as Alaska yellow-cedar (*Callitropsis nootkatensis*) and Pacific silver fir (*Abies amabilis*). They can be found in the high country of the Applegate in the Red Buttes Wilderness, the Kangaroo Roadless Area, and the Condrey Mountain Roadless Area and near Whisky Peak.

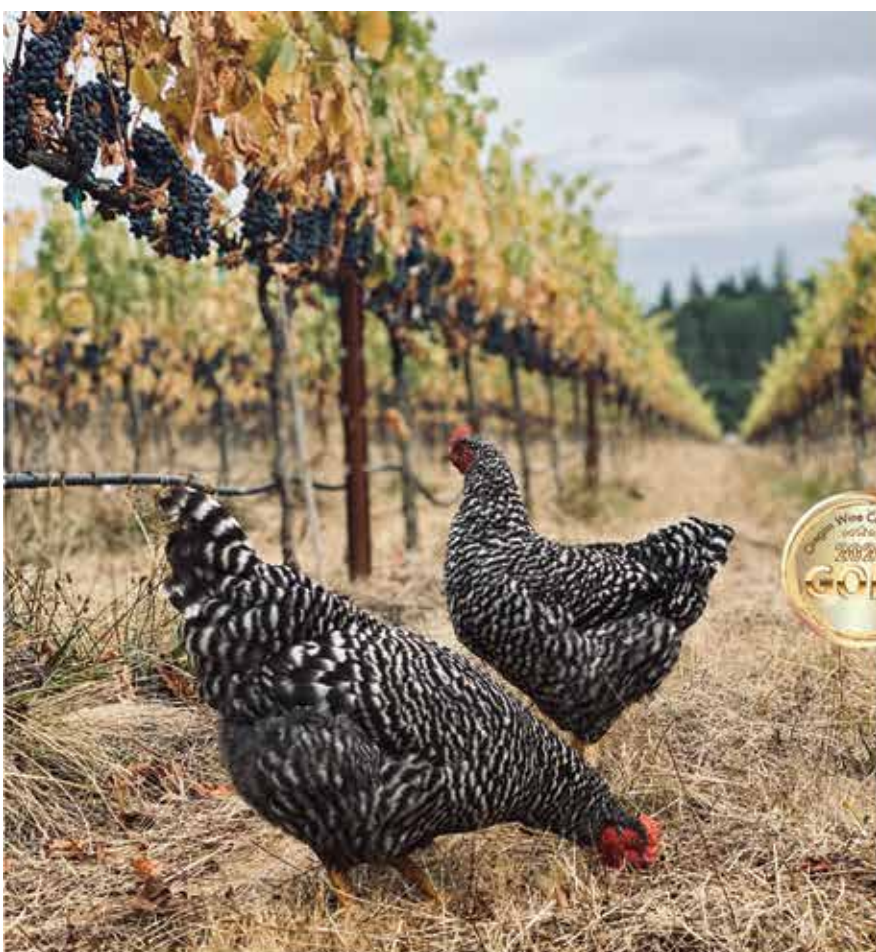
Rarest conifer

The rarest conifer in the Applegate is Baker's cypress (*Hesperocyparis bakeri*). Baker's cypress has the northernmost range of any cypress in North America. It is also a paleoendemic species and is only found in 11 distinct populations worldwide. Of those 11 populations, eight are in the Klamath-Siskiyou, and only one of these populations is in the Applegate: in the Kangaroo Roadless Area on the Sturgis Fork of Carberry Creek, near Miller Lake, Steve's Peak, and Iron Mountain.

Suzie Savoie
klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com

Applegate Conifer Species

- Pacific silver fir - *Abies amabilis*
- White fir - *Abies concolor*
- Red fir - *Abies magnifica*
- Shasta red fir - *Abies magnifica* var. *shastensis*
- Noble fir - *Abies procera*
- Incense-cedar - *Calocedrus decurrens*
- Port Orford-cedar - *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*
- Alaska yellow-cedar - *Callitropsis nootkatensis*
- Baker's cypress - *Hesperocyparis bakeri*
- Common juniper - *Juniperus communis*
- Western juniper - *Juniperus occidentalis*
- Brewer's spruce - *Picea breweriana*
- Knobcone pine - *Pinus attenuata*
- Lodgepole pine - *Pinus contorta* ssp. *murrayana*
- Jeffrey pine - *Pinus jeffreyi*
- Sugar pine - *Pinus lambertiana*
- Western white pine - *Pinus monticola*
- Ponderosa pine - *Pinus ponderosa*
- Gray pine - *Pinus sabiniana*
- Douglas fir - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
- Pacific yew - *Taxus brevifolia*
- Mountain hemlock - *Tsuga mertensiana*



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These male butterflies provide a chastity belt

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The Clodius Parnassian (common name), or *Parnassius clodius* (scientific name), belongs to the great butterfly family of Papilionidae.

It is a large white butterfly with gray markings along the edges of semitransparent wings. The female has red spots and a red bar outlined in black at the bottom of the hindwings with a shiny black abdomen. The male has two red spots outlined in black on the hind wing with a furry abdomen appearing yellowish in color. Both have solid black antennae.

The male will patrol habitats in search of females. Once mated, the male attaches a waxy, white-pinkish pouch, called a sphragis, to the female to prevent further mating. This helps ensure that only the genes from that particular male will be passed to her offspring.

The females will lay single eggs on the host plant. The host plant for the Clodius Parnassian in our area of the Pacific Northwest is Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra Formosa*). Caterpillars will feed on the host plant and pupate in a loose silk cocoon. Over-wintering will be in the egg stage. Adults use flowers for nectar.

These white beauties are quite common in the western United States and western Canada. They can be seen in flight from May to September. In southern Oregon the Clodius Parnassian's habitat is in low- to mid-elevation mountain areas where bleeding heart grows. The Clodius Parnassian likes to fly in subalpine

meadows, open woodlands, creek riparian areas, canyons, rocky outcrops, and sometimes on a favorite trail.

I like to recall one of the first experiences I had with the Clodius Parnassian in the upper Applegate area, on one of those early summer days when everything comes alive and the mountains are still looking like spring. A friend and I went out butterflying on a local mountain road. We got out of the car, nets in hand for catching and observing. The air was filled with butterflies! A big white butterfly was flying from the woods down the road. On that small riparian corridor next to a creek we chased the Parnassians. The run was as purely exhausting as the butterfly was pure white. They gave us such a run I finally gave up that day.

On another outing somewhere in the southern Oregon mountains, we hiked above the road a few hundred yards to a spot where we saw butterflies flying. I netted what I thought was a huge Parnassian. When we carefully retrieved the butterfly from the net, we found it was actually a mating pair who had been flying by. My butterflying friend took them out of the net, so the pair was in her hands. They readjusted their activity easily as she held them. We silently waited, counting the seconds. After about 30 seconds, that pair had had enough, and they flew away! Another amazing fun day in the mountains!

Linda Kappen
humbugkapps@hotmail.com



A ventral view of a male Clodius Parnassian on a dandelion in the Siskiyou Mountains. Note the difference in red spots between the male and female (see photo below), and the presence of a lower bar marking on the female only.
Photo: Linda Kappen.



A ventral view of a female Clodius Parnassian perched on horsemint. Photo: Linda Kappen.



The grapes of Cath: Read between the vines

BY CATHY RODGERS

With the challenges of the last two years, there have been moments of unique opportunity for those willing to “seize the daze.” Rather than furrow my brow at this tipping point, I did what generations of hearty Applegate farmers have done: envisioned a “sipping” point and decided to plow forward. At this writing, we’re still working on final details before opening, but want to bring you up to date on all that’s been going on (updates will be posted at rivercrest ranch.com).

This year, 2021, has turned out to be pivotal for my ranch in the Upper Applegate, RiverCrest Ranch (RCR). In October, RCR was awarded a \$250,000 US Department of Agriculture (USDA) woman-owned, rural farm, value-added product grant. These grants are crucial to small farmers as they seek to scale operations, increase local employment, and expand sales opportunities. RCR will now produce a custom crush, and “The Grapes of Cath” will be coming soon to restaurants and stores near you!

RCR, established in 1992, is in a naturally exquisite location on the banks of the Applegate River, one mile south of Star Ranger Station and one mile north of historic McKee Bridge. This 11-acre ranch in a park-like setting in the heart of Applegate hosts a boutique vineyard featuring approximately 4,000 vines of Pinot Noir, Grenache, Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rare French Rhone Cunoise. The vineyard, framed in roses, harkens back to simpler times and “days of wine and roses,” when life moved at a slower, simpler pace and “face time” meant people actually getting together in person.

RCR achieved the much coveted “LIVE” (low-input viticulture enology)

certification, an internationally recognized third-party certification of collaborative science-based wine-growing standards, in 2019. This holistic approach to sustainable agriculture is representative of my long-standing dedication to being a steward of the land. Twelve years ago, I and my two daughters, Jenny and Katie, founded Rooted in Hope, a nonprofit organization that has sponsored tree planting, water conservation programs, and sustainable education projects around the world.

Bringing this sustainable mindset to RCR was a natural extension of our family’s moral and ethical commitment to do right by the land and water. We’re working to ensure the protection and conservation of the fragile riparian areas, wildlife habitats, and wilderness that define the Applegate. This spring RCR also achieved its US Department of Agriculture Organic Certification.

Expanded operations

The ranch has recently expanded operations to include a beautiful lavender field. Guests visiting RCR can sip fine wines and picnic with views of the Applegate River and the beauty of fresh lavender blooms and fragrance. RCR has several varieties of English and French lavender, including Phenomenal, Hidcote, Munstead, and Grosso. This spring we will double the current field of 550 plants to 1,100 with the introduction of three additional varieties. RCR looks forward to joining the Southern Oregon Lavender Trail for the 2022 season.

The Rodgers clan is famous for its competitive nature, and the property features a wide variety of activities for both young and old (and young at heart), including bocce ball,

horseshoes, tetherball, volleyball, lawn chess, croquet, hopscotch, dreamcatcher swings, a kids’ area, disc golf, and board games. It’s a perfect place to picnic, to play, to sip, to saunter.

With a philosophy of “wander at will,” RCR features rustic walking trails through Applegate River tailings that celebrate the area’s historic mining operations of the 1870s. The property offers multiple private picnic areas, fire pits, and a drum circle. Guests can enjoy the organic garden and tree nursery, self-pick fresh lavender for crafts and culinary projects, or just sit, sip, and let time go by. RCR features a wide variety of native flora, fauna, and Oregon tree species, further celebrating its deep roots in the community.

Visitors can often spot some of the local wildlife, including deer, jackrabbits, wild turkeys, bobcats, falcons, butterflies, bears, and an occasional neighbor. Bring a book, have a look, sit and sip, read between the vines.

Cathy Rodgers
cathyrodgers55@gmail.com
rivercrest ranch.com



Cathy Rodgers holding grapes from this year’s RiverCrest Ranch harvest. Photo: Diana Potts.



RiverCrest Ranch has several varieties of English and French lavender. Photo: Cathy Rodgers.



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Freezing Temps

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

It seems like it was just 80° outside - but the weather man predicts freezing temps!

We want you to be prepared for this freezing cold weather. It is time to make sure your pipes are insulated, and that your pump house is clean and warm. If the temp is below freezing for a couple of days we suggest leaving a faucet running at a trickle. There is nothing more frustrating than waking up to no water to make coffee or brush your teeth.

Our qualified staff is ready to help you prepare for winter. If you want some help just give us a call. Most of the time we can be at your doorstep the same day you call. We can check the overall health of your pump system at the same time we get it all ready for the winter. Preventative maintenance prevents disaster.

Don't forget, even though it is light outside the temperatures can be below freezing, so keep that faucet running!!

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Historic Wilderville Store up for sale

BY MICHAEL SCHNEIDER

One of the truly iconic businesses in the Applegate watershed is up for sale. Opened in 1920, the well-known and busy Wilderville Store at the corner of Fish Hatchery Road and the Old Redwood Highway has been in the hands of its current owner, Laura Avants, for some 20 years.

The property is located alongside Slate Creek and boasts a "wide variety of everything," as one observer noted. It has dubbed itself a one-stop convenience store, which includes a very impressively stocked grocery store, gas and propane station, restaurant, and historic post office. Plus, it is well known in the area for hosting summer concerts and community events at its location, which attracts visitors from near and far. And there is a residential home on the property attached to the store, which, as the property's listing agent, Lana Lavenborg, of Coldwell Banker, says, "makes it easy to live where you work."

The post office itself is of historical significance. Originally opened on September 30, 1858, as the Slate Creek Post Office, it was renamed about 20 years later after its postmaster, Joseph Wilder. Today, it is still a functioning post office, serving local residents and travelers alike.

In the late 1800s, the area and, later, the business were critical to the then-developing Josephine County. Back then, the mountains to the north were virtually impassable by wagon, so supplies were often brought by ship to Crescent City, California. From there, wagons were the most practical means of transportation. They met the California and Oregon railroad, which came later, to bring supplies to the area's important gold and timber industries. As time went on, the store was built and became a hub for workers and travelers alike.

Lifesaving shots

Asante reports that of the 158 patients who died at its hospitals in Medford (68), Grants Pass (79) and Ashland (11) from mid-August to mid-November, 86 percent were unvaccinated. Fourteen percent—one-sixth as many—were vaccinated. Find out where you can get your free vaccination (or booster shot) at vaccine.gov.



Photos, clockwise from upper left: The Wilderville Store opened in 1920.

A monument in front of the store relays a bit of Wilderville history.

Owner Laura Avants in front of the store.

The property includes a restaurant and gas station. The store is in the back right.

Photos: Michael Schneider.

Laura said she was selling the store simply because it was "time for her to move to the next chapter" of her life. "It's been a very special place for the nine families who have owned it previously," she said. "I appreciate the community and my wonderful employees for how well they've supported us and the store for the last 20 years, and I've tried to help them as well."

Among the community events hosted at the store are Wilderville Days, pumpkin carving days, Christmas caroling, and summer concerts. All these and more have

helped "pull together the community that has been so good to me," Laura said.

As far as who would be the next lucky owner of the property and various businesses, Laura said she could see a variety of potential owners, perhaps a young couple with small children who want to be part of the Wilderville community by combining their work and their life with the property that is a landmark in the area and a true community participant. The price is listed at \$900,000.

Michael Schneider

mshneider@masassociatesinc.com

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The future of fine wines in the Applegate

BY ALAN JOURNET

Most Applegate Valley residents involved in agriculture and forestry know their future success depends on the climate. All plants require the climate in which they have succeeded historically. Substantial deviations from these conditions result in depressed growth and yield.

Comparing historic patterns with projected trends in regional temperature and precipitation reveals potential problems. This discussion focuses on one of my favorite attributes of our region: wine varieties.

Internationally known wine-terroir expert Dr. Greg Jones (former Southern Oregon University professor, now back with his family's Abacela Winery in Douglas County) studied the optimum growing season temperature of wine varieties important in Oregon's wine-growing areas and produced the graph depicted on this page. The historical (1981-2010) average temperature for the grape-growing season was 58.1 degrees Fahrenheit in Jackson County and 60.1 in Josephine County, appropriate for varieties towards the upper left. The business-as-usual climate projection assumes we continue the current trend in accelerating use of fossil fuels and greenhouse-gas emissions. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, projections for 2050-2074 are close to 64 degrees and 67 degrees for Jackson and Josephine counties, respectively. By 2075-2099, these values reach 66.6 and 68.3, respectively, indicating a climate more suitable for varieties on the lower right of the chart with a worst-case future climate suitable for table grapes and raisins.

If we lower the emissions trajectory substantially, we should find these counties experiencing less severe warming. By 2050-2074, Jackson County will likely reach 61.5 degrees and Josephine 63.8. By 2075-2099, Jackson will reach 62.7 and Josephine 64.6, which is still above the 1981-2010 baseline. This lower trajectory indicates the Applegate climate would be appropriate for varieties in the mid-range of the chart.

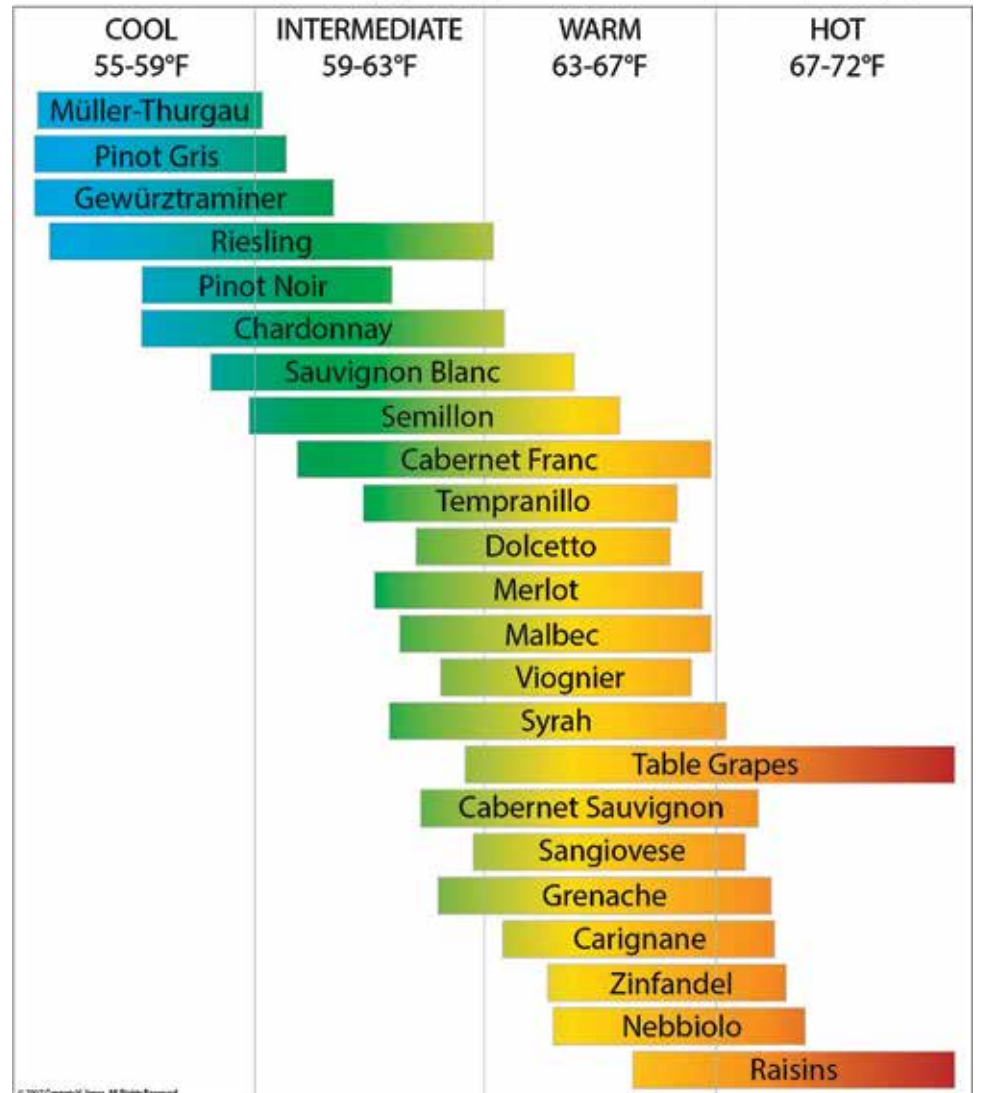
Another climatic challenge is the shifting pattern of water availability. The Oregon Climate Change Research Institute projects drier growing seasons in the summer with winter snowpack also declining. This will further compromise summer stream flow and availability of irrigation water. In addition, the potential for extended droughts and heat waves poses an extreme weather threat while smoke from wildfires adds a further complication.

The question I pose here is: How are regional winegrowers responding to the dilemma? Explaining the local prevalence of intermediate- and warm-season varieties, Greg Jones suggested that "growers have historically made pretty sound decisions about what to plant that fits the climate."

In terms of attitudes towards climate science, the majority of the dozen winegrowers I polled who responded accept the science and have been following projections for 15 to 20 years. These growers have been adjusting their management accordingly, especially in terms of irrigation. Traute Moore from South Stage Cellars said they have

AVERAGE GROWING SEASON TEMPERATURES THE RANGE IN THE ABILITY TO RIPEN VARIETIES

Northern Hemisphere (Apr-Oct), Southern Hemisphere (Oct-Apr)



Graph: Greg Jones.

adjusted from frequent short watering periods to fewer, longer periods. Craig Camp, from Troon Winery, said they may soon be dry-farming and that they recently added Certification in Regenerative Agriculture to being Demeter Biodynamic. Additionally, climate-conscious growers are aware of climate adjustments across the United States and the world and are themselves adjusting to warmer climate varieties or moving plantings to higher, cooler elevations.

Meanwhile, one grower rejected climate science altogether and, unsurprisingly, reported an inability to predict what

climate change will bring to the vineyard. Consequently, his is a fluid climate response with varietal plantings based on trial and error.

Like other plant species, wine varieties are dependent on climate. The future climate will have parallel impacts on all Applegate agriculture and forestry. Local land managers should consider local climatic projections and the optima of their chosen crops and plan accordingly. We often hear folks hope that the climate will soon return to normal. A normal climate is now a meaningless concept we should consign to history. The key to adjustment is to understand the trend and what that trend indicates for our future.

Alan Journet
Co-facilitator

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
alanjournet@gmail.com



Area vineyards may have to change the varieties they grow to adapt to a changing climate. Photo: Alan Journet.

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Another reason to live in Oregon

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Late this October found us Shaffers up on the most northernly shore of Washington state for a vacation. Hubby, Maggie (our dog), and I all piled into the car and did the eight-hour drive in a one-day stretch. Our target was a VRBO (vacation rental by owner) home on the outskirts of the town of Mo clips, right above the beach.

An ice chest with fresh fruits and veggies, a crockpot, and supplies for a couple of stews and other homey, warming meals would keep us fed. And, of course, a few favorite Applegate wines to complete the meals.

We were prepared for the rain (boots, two raincoats each, a bag of towels to dry Maggie off after each walk, etc.). With no TV, we each had books and crossword puzzles and such to pass the time when it was raining. And it rained every day. So we watched the waves, the sea birds, and the folks walking on the beach every day.

We also watched the cars and trucks going back and forth on the beach. High tide, low tide, and in-between tides, folks drove up and back daily. We got to know which vehicle we could see early in the morning, mid-day, or later in the afternoon. I got to wondering whether this was their daily route to work and back, because the traffic was not as consistent on the weekend. Hmmm....

Having arrived back home in our Applegate Valley after another eight-hour drive, I have done some research on Oregon's and Washington's rules and regs on driving on our Pacific coast beaches. I wanted to see just how different the regulations are for each state.

The short answer to "Can you drive your car on the beach in Oregon?" is "Yes." Beach drivers must have a valid driver's

license in their possession at all times. Driving is permitted on certain beaches during specific seasons, months, and times of the day; however, some beaches have limited driving access. Also, several Oregon counties have specific regulations on driving on their beaches, while other counties on our coast do not permit driving vehicles *at all* on their beaches. So, in other words, always know the local laws before you go.

When I googled the same question for Washington beaches, the first response was from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) that stated, "Many ocean beaches are open to motor vehicles, but drivers are required to follow the rules of the road."

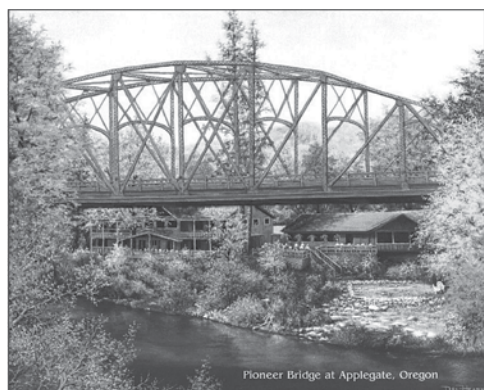
As well: "Only licensed street-legal vehicles are allowed on Washington beaches, and drivers should give pedestrians the right of way."

Another point that I read from a biologist for the WDFW *really* made me feel a little better: "Under state law, all vehicles and horses are required to travel along the extreme upper limit of the hard sand" and to limit their speed limit to 25 mph! (*What?? 25 miles an hour on the beach!?*)

The next was to have a valid driver's license in tow (*Now, that one makes sense!*), and also, no "reckless driving"! And to finish this great example of "following the rules of the road," drivers should give pedestrians the right of way—and no reckless driving!

Oh, wait! I left the best for last: "Please, stay in your lane" on Washington beaches. This last one I didn't quite get. I'd not seen any solid or dotted lane lines on any of the walks I took.

Sandy Shaffer
sassyoneor@gmail.com



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Food Pantry is here to help

The Ruch Food Pantry, one of 22 pantries operated by ACCESS throughout Jackson County, is open 11:30 am to 1 pm Mondays (closed holidays) on the backside of Ruch Elementary School at 156 Upper Applegate Road.

These pantries provide a variety of fresh and shelf-stable groceries to low-income families and individuals. Each food box contains a three-to-five day supply of food.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Deborah Price, Manager

541-899-6980

Michelle Bollinger, Assistant Manager

541-218-6471

CHRISTMAS TREE

Continued from page 1

within 200 feet of a highway or 300 feet of a stream.

You might have to tromp through the woods for a long time before you find the tree you want. Perfect is hard to come by. This one is too spindly, this one too squat, this one lopsided. You might have to settle for less than perfect but still beautiful.

Thank the tree before cutting it down.

When you get your tree home, cut the bottom at a slant, place the tree in a bucket of water, and leave it in a wind-protected

place until you're ready to take it into the house and turn this sacrificed forest tree into your family's joyous Christmas tree.

If you don't want to cut a wild tree, you can still have fun with the kids picking out the perfect Christmas tree on a lot. Driving home with a tree on top of your car is joyful whether the

tree came from the woods or from town. Or you can buy a living tree and plant it in your yard after Christmas. Either way, the Christmas tree in your house, with those ornaments your kids made 40 years ago in school or special people have given you over the years—the painted sand dollar from your mother, the ceramic Santa Claus from your college roommate, the origami and paper chains—is the bearer of Christmas joy and evergreen memories.

Diana Coogle
diana@applegater.org

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THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE

Sagebrush to Sea: A Journey across the Siskiyou Crest

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

The defining geographical feature of our region, the Siskiyou Crest, is a rugged, incredibly wild, and spectacularly diverse mountain range straddling the border of northwestern California and southwestern Oregon. It is renowned as a connectivity corridor and for its biodiversity, being the axis for biodiversity on the West Coast and home to some of the most diverse conifer forests in the world.

Yet few people have actually witnessed the extent of that diversity or experienced the solitude and beauty of the most remote and inaccessible watersheds of these mountains. Even fewer have walked this vital connectivity corridor from its eastern edge in the sagebrush clearings and quaking aspen groves near Mount Ashland to its western end in the fog-drenched redwoods of the Smith River.

In June 2019, after decades of exploring this wild region in shorter excursions, my wife, Suzie, and I hiked nearly 200 miles across the Siskiyou Crest connectivity and climate migration corridor, ambling across the landscape like dispersing wildlife.

We began on the Pacific Crest Trail at Interstate 5 near Siskiyou Summit above Ashland, on the western edge of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, where the Siskiyou Crest and the Cascade Mountains collide. Our journey ended 10 days later on the shores of the Pacific Ocean south of Crescent City. The journey traversed the headwaters of the Applegate River, the Illinois River, the Smith River, and many, many miles of the rugged Klamath River watershed.



Scraggy Mountain in the Condrey Mountain Roadless Area at the headwaters of Elliott Creek, just south of the Applegate over the California border. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

Our route through the heart of the Siskiyou traversed two states (Oregon and California), five counties, two Wilderness Areas, three National Forests (the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, the Klamath National Forest, and the Six Rivers National Forest), as well as the Smith River National Recreation Area and Redwoods National Park.

With small, portable solar panels strapped to our backpacks for charging our phones and cameras, we filmed our journey, documenting the spectacular

views, stunning wildflowers, clear flowing streams, old-growth forests, and lush mountain meadows, as we hiked east to west across the Siskiyou Crest. Hiking through long hot days, cold misty mornings, persistent summer downpours, and windy afternoons in the high country, we then dropped into a thick marine layer of fog and out to the crashing waves of the Pacific Ocean. With our feet in the wet sand, we realized that a different kind of journey, a longer, harder one, still lies ahead—the journey

leading to the permanent protection of the Siskiyou Crest.

Visual journey

Two and a half years later, with that same goal in mind, we have created *Sagebrush to Sea: A Journey across the Siskiyou Crest*, a video that documents our journey, highlights the region's beautiful, often unprotected wildlands, and explores the area's spectacular biodiversity.

Even after decades exploring the backcountry of the Siskiyou Crest, our appreciation and understanding grew as we traversed the vast unbroken ridgeline through both highly scenic and wildly diverse landscapes. Our hope is that this visual journey will build appreciation for the Siskiyou Crest and its unique biological values, support a stronger sense of connection to place in the local community, and encourage the protection of this vitally important connectivity corridor.

We held our premiere screening in Ruch in November and are planning more showings throughout the region. Both screenings begin at 6 pm:

Thursday, December 2, at the Siskiyou Field Institute's Deer Creek Center, 1241 Illinois River Road, Selma

Wednesday, December 8, in the Medford Library Large Meeting Room, 205 South Central Avenue, Medford.

Admission is free and the public is welcome. Masks are required. We hope you'll join us for one of these or another presentation of our video, *Sagebrush to Sea: A Journey across the Siskiyou Crest*.

Luke Ruediger

siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'When you aren't earthbound'

BY TANI JOHNSON

I'd like to share a poem about my uncle, Michael Jorgenson, who lived on the west end of North Applegate Road until he died this year at the age of 74. I wrote the poem for my grandma, about her son:

*Your perception is not my truth
Empathy is beyond even you
I've protected him since he was conceived
I fought to hold onto what I wanted to believe
I want to hug to kiss to see
The part of me that is you is now out of reach
No one soul can contribute what was you and me
Reflecting what was my truth
Desperate to feel something new
Be someone whole
This person I see I don't even know
Me without you, out of control
Stuck in my head because my heart is broke
Inside out upside down
My world is dark grey without you around
You were my light
Now I struggle to find
A path to take when you aren't earthbound
My heart aches but I know we'll meet again
In heaven you await
My first son
My love until
The End.*

Tani Johnson
Applegate

Area AAUW chapter celebrates 75th anniversary

BY KATHLEEN RAMIREZ

Hello from AAUW!

This year the Grants Pass Branch of AAUW (Association of American



University Women) will celebrate its 75th anniversary. Throughout those years our branch has organized fundraising and other community activities such as the Frog O'Faire, Girls Rock!, Kitchen Tour, and our annual garage sale. Our fundraising activities raise money for scholarships for Rogue Community College students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM). This year seven students were awarded scholarships.

The Grants Pass Branch of AAUW, one of 23 in Oregon, is a community of more than 80 members who support gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Other area chapters are located in Medford and Ashland. When you join AAUW, you are part of an active group of women and men who are dedicated to improving the lives of families in our local, state, and national communities. This quarter we are collecting items to donate to the Foster Kids Program and the Women's Crisis Support Team.

Along the way to achieving our goals, we also enjoy various interest groups that help bind our community

and enhance friendships. These monthly groups consist of a varied collection of interests such as book groups, art and crafts, wine and dine appreciation, needlework, beadwork, bridge, theater and movie going, and so much more.

We conduct monthly meetings at the Fruitdale Grange and host a variety of interesting speakers. In January, Grants Pass Mayor Sara Bristol will speak on "Politics: Women Making a Difference." Kate Lasky, the Josephine Community Library director, will speak at our February meeting.

Please join us at one of our monthly meetings at the Fruitdale Grange and get to know us. Our Holiday Brunch is being held at the Grants Pass Golf Club Restaurant on Saturday, December 4. You can find information on membership and all our activities on our website at grantspass-or.aauw.net or Facebook page at Facebook.com/AAUWGrantsPassBranch.

Kathleen Ramirez
karami@sbcglobal.net

Free anti-overdose drugs available

Free distribution of life-saving overdose medication and HIV tests is set for 10:30 am to 1:30 pm Sunday, December 5, at the Sugarloaf Center, 206 Tetherow Road, in Williams. Park in the parking lot and take a short walk to the center, which is at the end of the gated driveway.

Volunteers from the nonprofit group Rogue Harm Reduction will offer free doses of naloxone to take home, along with instructions for use. They'll also give out free fentanyl test strips, take-home HIV tests, and condoms and lube.

Free overdose response training takes about 20 minutes. Walk-ins are welcome.

Please wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

Rogue Harm Reduction, a volunteer-run, nonprofit health collective, promotes community wellness and harm reduction strategies in response to substance use disorders and other community health concerns. The events are held the first Sunday of each month.

For more information, email rogueharmreduction@gmail.com.

We want your letters!
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Opinion pieces and letters to the editor represent the opinion of the author, not that of the Applegater or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. As a community-based newsmagazine, we receive diverse opinions on different topics. We honor these opinions, but object to personal attacks and reserve the right to edit accordingly. Opinion pieces and letters to the editor **must pertain to and mention the Applegate Watershed. We encourage authors to include verifiable facts to back up their arguments.**

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

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

Anonymous letters and opinion pieces, reprinted articles, press releases, and political campaign articles will not be published. Individual letters and opinion pieces may or may not be published. All submissions will be edited for grammar and length.

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

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Rogue Flavor Guide seeks applications from local food and farming businesses

BY GEORGIA JULIUS

Rogue Valley Food System Network (RVSN) is seeking applications from food and farming businesses in Jackson and Josephine Counties for listing in the 18th annual Rogue Flavor Guide. Thanks in part to a grant from the US Department of Agriculture, sponsorships are available for nine listings of beginning, women-owned, and BIPOC-owned food and farm businesses. (BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous and people of color.)

The Rogue Flavor Guide highlights local food, beverage, and farm businesses, events, classes, and community groups to help readers source fresh, wholesome, and sustainably produced foods in our communities. The publication also serves to educate and advocate around important local issues. Water use awareness and water-smart farming will be a special feature of this year's guide. Strategies for responsible usage and consumer conservation will be included.

Listings from the Applegate in the 2021 edition included Wooldridge Creek Winery, Banyan Farm, Electric Gardens, the Applegate Evening Market, and the Williams Farmers Market.

Rogue Valley Food System Network is a 2021 recipient of the USDA's Specialty Crop Block Grant. The grant, dedicated to

helping producers overcome obstacles and increase profitability and growth, funded 15 projects statewide for a total of nearly \$2 million. Funds awarded to RVFSN will allow increased distribution of and accessibility to the Rogue Flavor Guide over the next three years and will include sponsorship for Rogue Flavor Guide listings for one beginning, five BIPOC-owned, and three women-owned food and farm businesses.

The Rogue Flavor Guide is a critical component of RVFSN's vision for an equitable, regenerative, and resilient food system for all. Connecting with local farmers and food producers means supporting the local economy in ways beyond the immediately obvious. One study by the New Economics Foundation found that individual funds used to purchase produce through a CSA or farmers' market are twice as likely to stay and circulate within the community than those spent at a supermarket, creating a positive economic impact several times over.

In February 2022, 10,000 copies of the full-color, 68-page guide will be printed and distributed at businesses and events across the Rogue, Illinois, and Applegate valleys. Businesses listed in the Rogue Flavor Guide must be locally owned, and, if applicable, a percentage of ingredients or products must be sourced from local farms, ranches, vineyards, or breweries.

Are you interested in advertising a business, nonprofit, or community group or a one-time event or class series? Rogue Flavor Guide listings start at just \$75 for the year.

Applications close December 15. Learn more and apply at rvfoodsystem.org.

Georgia Julius
georgia.julius@rvfoodsystem.org

Ecological fuels reduction work resumes in the Upper Applegate Watershed

BY TERRY FAIRBANKS

To meet the challenge of increasing frequency and severity of wildfire fueled by climate change and a century of fire suppression, forest managers implement ecological restoration—cutting trees in overly dense forests, followed by controlled burns.

Last month, L o m a k a t s i Restoration Project began ecological thinning work as part of a broader effort by the Rogue Forest Partners in the Upper Applegate Watershed Project area (UAW). The 52,000-acre UAW planning area is located south of Ruch in the Applegate Valley, primarily within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and encompassing adjacent Bureau of Land Management and private lands.

Dr. Kerry Metlen, a longtime Ashland resident, a forest ecologist with the Nature Conservancy, and a key member of the Rogue Forest Partners, explains: "Rigorous science review shows that forest health in the West has declined due to fire exclusion and that active stewardship is needed to restore balance and help forests and communities adapt to future climates. Extensive ecological thinning and intentional fire use are needed to transform our relationship with fire from reactive to proactive."

This science is complementary to aboriginal fire knowledge and indigenous stewardship practices by area tribes that have been using fire to carefully tend the landscape since time immemorial and continue to provide leadership in forest restoration today. Tribal nations with ancestral ties to the area have voiced support of the project. Three tribal representatives currently serve on the Rogue Forest Partners' Implementation Review Team, a group tasked with ensuring forest restoration treatments reflect a range of community values.

In the UAW, after months of technical planning and pretreatment monitoring with partners, Lomakatsi is treating approximately 185 acres this fall on the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District in the Applegate Valley. The focus on these initial acres is to reduce fire risk in strategic areas by removing surface and ladder fuels—shrubs, small trees, and lower fir and pine branches (often dead)—that, if ignited, could allow a wildfire to spread into the canopy. An additional 1,292 acres of ecological thinning will require the removal of merchantable-sized trees, and while trees were marked for removal this summer, those operations will not begin until 2022.

Any revenue generated from the sale of these by-products of restoration will be reinvested into further stewardship operations in the project area. After the ecological thinning, workers will pile slash for controlled pile burning in the spring or fall. There are also plans to begin conducting



Lomakatsi Lead Restoration Crew Manager Braulio Maya Cortes thins brush around an oak tree as part of the Upper Applegate Watershed Project.

understory prescribed burns this season in the UAW, possibly as many as 1,000 acres by 2025, to help maintain treatments and provide additional ecological benefits.

Klamath Bird Observatory blog series explores birds as ecological indicators

The mission of the Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO)—to advance bird conservation and halt and reverse the decline of western forest birds—aligns with the Rogue Forest Partners (RFP) goals to reduce the risk of unnaturally extreme wildfires, promote climate adaptation, and restore resilient landscapes in the Rogue Basin.

A new three-part blog series on the RFP website, written in partnership with KBO, provides an overview of KBO's work with RFP using birds as ecological indicators to inform restoration planning and measure environmental response.

The first blog post introduces the idea of birds as indicators and explains how this approach can guide landscape-level planning and inform restoration design within individual forest stands. The second post describes the bird monitoring underway in the Upper Applegate Watershed to study how the bird community responds to the forest restoration. The third part of the series explores a new statistical approach that uses models to quantify changes in forest conditions. This cutting-edge methodology has enormous implications for improving the landscape evaluation of restoration projects to assess ecological change in the places where RFP works.

Restoration and monitoring take quite a bit of time, so stay tuned for future blog posts that will share the results from this critical work as it progresses over the next few years.

Terry Fairbanks
Executive Director,
Southern Oregon
Restoration Collaborative
Coordinator,
Rogue Forest Partners
tfairbanks@sofrc.org

Rogue Forest Partners (RFP) is a group of four nonprofits and six public agencies working as one for the communities and forests of the Rogue Basin to reduce wildfire risks, enhance wildlife habitat, and create equitable, sustainable jobs. For more information, visit rogueforestpartners.org.

Grayback Mountain Trail traverses important wildlife corridor

BY EVELYN ROETHER

The Grayback Mountain Trail is a pleasure any time of year, but the upper reaches generally remain snow-covered from November through May. For the winter months, the loop trail is a better option.

The whole of the trail passes through diverse evergreen forests, much of which is comprised of large old-growth trees. These semi-intact wildlands provide an important wildlife corridor link between the lowlands of the Applegate Valley and the high Siskiyou Mountains. This area is habitat for the federally threatened Northern spotted owl, red tree voles, Del Norte salamanders, goshawks, and at least five species of bats.

A long-term cooperative project between the Bureau of Land Management and the Williams community, the Grayback Mountain Trail was finally completed in 2006 after 17 years of construction. The end of this long, steep trail is atop Big Sugarloaf Peak, the northern terminus of the Boundary Trail. There is no water along this long, steep trail, so come prepared!

Grayback Mountain Trail

Difficulty: Loop - Moderately difficult
To Boundary Trail - Difficult

Distance: Loop - 3.5 miles
To Boundary Trail - 8 miles

Elevation gain: 2,055 feet (trailhead to Boundary Trail)

Access: Loop - year-round
To Boundary Trail - June-October

Map: Williams USGS quad

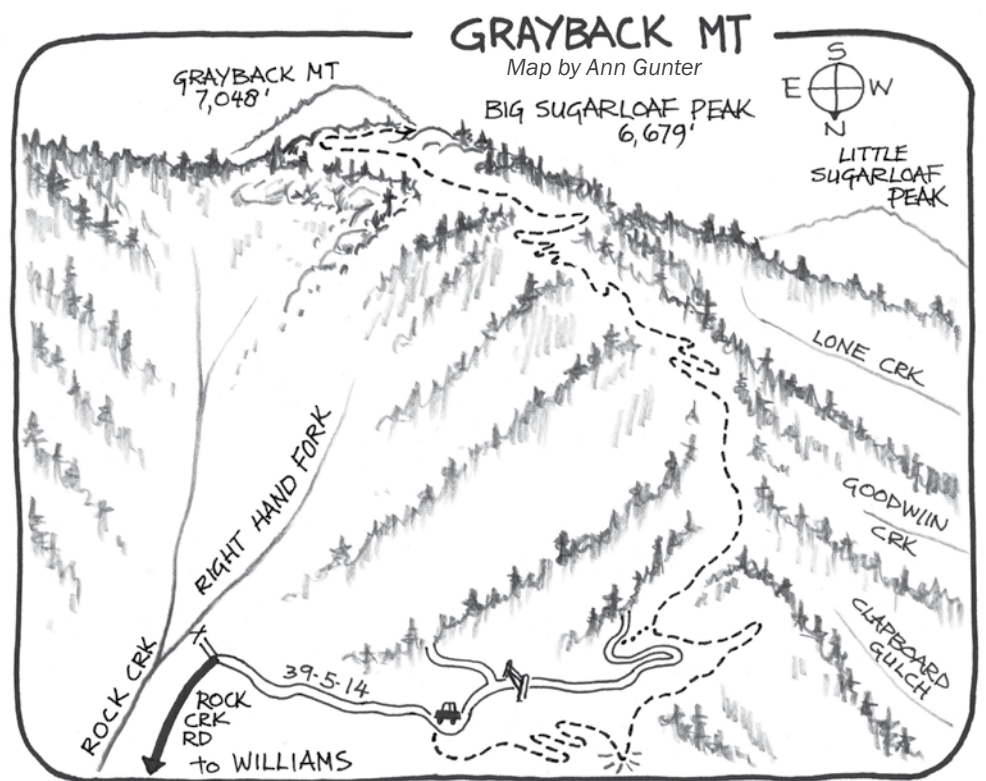
Directions

In Williams, turn left at the Williams Elementary School onto East Fork Road. Continue for three miles. Turn right onto Rock Creek Road (39-5-14). Proceed two miles to the parking area and signed trailhead on the right.

The trail starts at the lower end of the parking area, following an old roadbed for the first half mile. Shortly before the roadbed ends, a single-track trail heads uphill to the left, into mixed evergreen forest including Douglas fir, incense cedar, sugar pine, ponderosa pine, white fir, golden chinquapin, canyon live oak, and madrone. The shrub layer is predominantly dwarf Oregon grape, salal, and an occasional baldhip or wood rose.

About a mile and a half from the trailhead, the trail makes a jaunt east and comes within yards of the upper part of Rock Creek Road (39-5-14). At the signed trail junction, a short spur to the left will take you to the road. To complete the shorter 3.5 mile loop, turn left and continue down the road about a mile, past the yellow gate, back to the trailhead parking area.

To continue on the main trail stay right at the junction and traverse the southeastern slope through solid stands



The Grayback Mountain Trail passes through diverse evergreen forests. Photo: Evelyn Roether.



of chinquapin and madrone, past some immense ponderosa and sugar pine trees. After a steady climb you'll reach the ridge between Little and Big Sugarloaf peaks, which separates the east and west forks of Williams Creek. The ascent then steepens once again, with switchbacks and views of the Williams Valley to distract you.

At these higher elevations, true fir and hemlock forests emerge, interspersed with mini sub-alpine meadows carpeted with arnica and other wild forbs. The trail skirts the edge of the Grayback Glades (which form the snowy "7" seen on the mountain above Williams) then finally pops over the east ridge onto Big Sugarloaf Peak, where stunning views of distant snow-covered peaks await you. The Grayback Mountain

out-and-back-trail ends at a simple rock cairn, where the northern end of the Boundary Trail begins. Head back the way you came.

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 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. Happy hiking!

Evelyn Roether
evelynkr@gmail.com

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TEACH-NW academy seeks educational partners in the Applegate

BY AMBER BISHOP

Exciting developments are afoot regarding Applegate's own branch of TEACH-NW (TNW), a K-12 public charter STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) academy that connects former and new homeschooling families with public school resources. We have been an official resource of the Applegate Valley since fall 2020.

Instead of standardized education and testing, TNW uses a proficiency-based approach with weekly access to licensed Educational Facilitators along with a generous yearly allotment of funds for students' use toward educational expenses. Most exciting, however, is that TNW promotes and supports not *only* college preparation, but also trade school experiences and career readiness.

As such, community collaboration strongly serves the key components of TNW's mission for equitable, authentic, and rigorous learning opportunities. Aside from robust home learning environments, there are online learning opportunities and possibilities from a few excellent local vendors such as Pacifica and Rogue Community College. As we grow and develop, we are calling out to *you*, the community, to become our classroom. We are excited to make all manner of skills available to our students from arts and herbalism to shop, welding, and everything in between. You could offer small groups or individual instruction, or perhaps you have a different idea? Please consider applying as a TNW Vendor! (See contact information below).

Furthermore, driven by local TNW families' desires for students to have campus access for more in-depth, in-person, project-based classes, the school is conversing with several Applegate Valley community members, including our existing local schools and a couple of key community nonprofits such as A Greater Applegate. Because TNW is highly innovative and dedicated to the bigger picture, there is a strong possibility that it will collaborate with local school and non-school entities to stack functions by creating our campus *adjacent* to



and *in conjunction* with a local community center and makerspace.

By working together, as a community, we can *all* be stronger *together*. A community makerspace-as-campus would support not just TNW students (including the ability to co-create and implement

a more robust place-based secondary educational experience to students *very* locally), but also enrichment opportunities for students from *all* the local schools, *and* the general public.

While our wonderful local, brick-and-mortar schools continue to play a valuable and essential role in the community, there is a strong movement of charters connecting former and newly homeschooling families with public school resources. The pandemic experience has greatly increased awareness and demand for such highly individualized programs where kids can spend their school years identifying their strengths, exploring their talents and growing their skills in preparation for the modern adult world where not only quality academics are valued, but career readiness, entrepreneurialism, and the trades. More and more, technology and education reform are expanding options to offer greater support and accountability for these families and their communities.

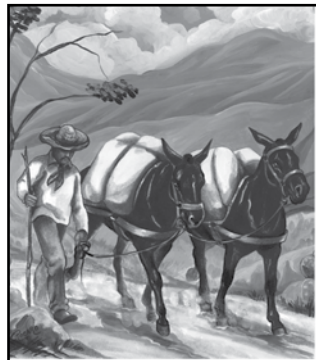
In the words of TNW Director Bill Watkins, "Active, collaborative, home-based learning has the potential to combine the very best of both the homeschool and public education worlds."

When public education joins with the homeschool world in a respectful, collaborative manner (while adhering to state statutes—aka home-based learning) the power to serve children grows exponentially!"

Lastly, I do know that we all agree on the "why": we're here, together, living our lives in service of children. If we keep that belief at the center of all we do, we will *always* work through the "how"!

If you have any helpful considerations toward this project, please reach out to me at the email below.

Amber Bishop
applegateteachnw@gmail.com



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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Through the eyes of a child: ROCS student writing

BY JULIE BARRY

If you were to ask your neighbors why they live in Ruch or the Applegate Valley, you might receive one or more of these responses: for the solitude, for the beauty, for the history, to live off grid, fewer people, more space, community, to be closer to nature.

However, to get an even more colorful perspective, ask a child. Here are a few Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) student sentiments:

Maddy: "The trees are cool because they change color."

Bailey: "We have peace here, and that's why I love the Applegate."

Sadie: "I am on a hill, and I have a view of the cows and mountains."

Christian: "It's quiet, and I like it being peaceful. I can concentrate."

Keris: "I love all the space to run and play. I can do 50 cartwheels in one area."

Kindergarten student: "I luv my valey for the deer, wlfs, kiyodes, bers and fox."

Thomas: "What I love about the Applegate Valley are haying, raising farm animals, harvesting grain, and going to Ruch Outdoor Community School."

Emmett: "Whether you take a nice short hike or a long trek, the Applegate Valley is great for hiking."

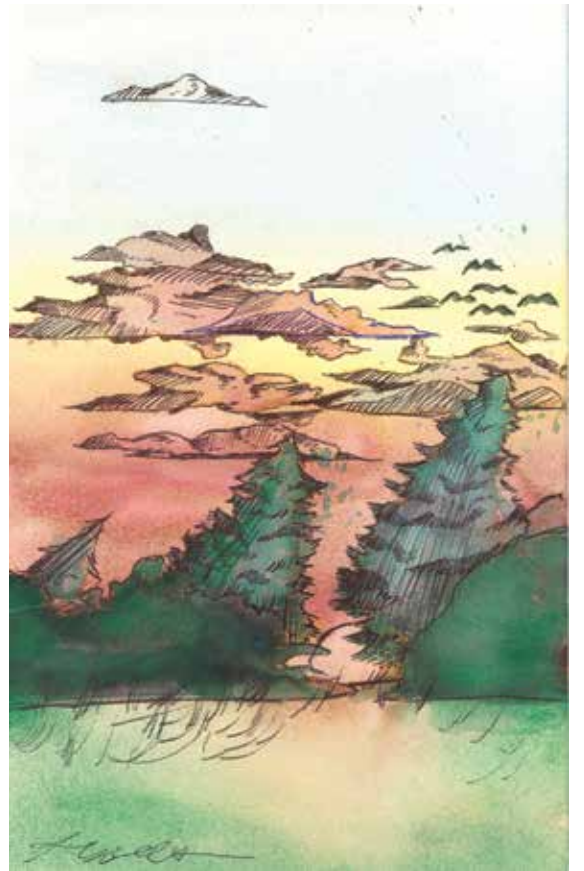
We can all agree that we share one or multiple opinions of these Ruch Outdoor Community School students. And, as much as we love our valley, conversations continue about how we can improve an already incredible place to live.

ROCS's partnership with A Greater Applegate (AGA) has served us in so many ways. They have funded school projects, facilitated resources for families in need, and supported the educational process and mission of staff, students, families, and community members.

One of the greatest practices they have offered the school is to include student voices in their community analysis work. They have assisted ROCS in developing efficacy in our students and proving to them that their voices and opinions matter. The student responses listed above were a result of AGA asking them what they loved about living in the Applegate Valley. Answering that question was a task that all the students enjoyed and took great pride in because they knew that their responses would be used for a much greater good.

A Greater Applegate followed up with our students this year with this prompt: "What are your hopes and dreams for the Applegate Valley?"

Enjoy these responses, and, who knows? You may see some of their hopes and dreams materialize in the future.



Seventh-grader Grace Hanley chose to draw the Applegate Valley from her perspective instead of writing about it.

Isabella: "I would like a dog park because you can take your dog to play with other dogs."

Benny: "We need a stuffed animal store."

Henry: "A corn maze would make our community better."

Sierra: "I would like a butrffly garden because people would be hape and it is beautiful. I maen hoo doesn't like butrfflys!!"

Layla: "I would like a bike track in our community."

Elias: "A skate park. It can help kids with losing weight or training. It could be a park for everyone and have chess tables, benches and trees."

Sawyer: "A bowling alley would be better for our community."

Emmeryn: "I would like to have a cat park because my cats like to snuggle and sleep in the grass."

Andrew: "In this valley I wish for increased farms and fields of crops filled with barley, hay and capable farmers taking care of them. Just think of the ripples of grass in the wind and the smell of fresh air!"

Sam: "An ice cream store or soda shop. Yes, ice cream will make our community better."

We all live, work, and play in the Applegate for many reasons. It truly is a beautiful, magical place filled with opportunities that are seldom found elsewhere. As we get older and set in our ways, my hope and dream is that you are able to see the world through the eyes of a child and see the happiness that a "butrffly" would bring.

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From the *Applegater*, your nonprofit community newsmagazine. Keep up with us online at applegater.org and on Facebook.

Thank you for your support!

NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Newly funded music, PE positions well-received at Applegate School

BY JEAN HALL

Applegate School staff and students rejoice over in-person learning and the opportunities for field trips, Jogathon, sports activities and classroom parties. The music program has produced a great deal of joy, and the promised second semester PE program has kindled a lot of excitement. Both the music and PE positions are funded by the state Student Success Act.

Kindergartners and first graders began the year studying the life cycles of a butterfly and an apple. The students were able to visit the caterpillars and chrysalises that Mrs. Linda Kappen kept ready for student viewing.

Second- and third-graders, with teacher Mrs. Halsted, joined Mrs. Hirschmugl's K-1 class for a long-awaited field trip. Perfect weather made the trip to Fort Vannoy Farm and Pumpkin Patch especially enjoyable. Students rode the Cow Train, explored the corn maze, and picked pumpkins to take home.

All Applegate students enjoyed classroom Halloween parties and doing the school's traditional "Ghost Walk" in costumes. On November 4, the whole student body took part in the long-established Jogathon, which had to be canceled last school year.

Besides working on grade-level curricula in math and reading, Mr. Scull's fourth- and fifth-graders are studying early settlements by the French, Spanish, Dutch, and English. In science, the students are learning about energy and how it gets transferred into useful forms. They are also practicing cursive writing. Seven of Mr. Scull's students are preparing for the Battle of the Books by reading the required 16 novels. The class recently held nominations for class president.

Middle school students have participated in a variety of electives, including drama, art, crafts, and PE games. The school has secured equipment that will allow students to explore robotics, circuits, 3D printing, and laser printing. The student leadership group has planned mini-lessons and skits to teach younger students the character traits assigned to each month of the school year. Middle-school boys were delighted to learn they could have a basketball team this year.

Mrs. Gourley's classes have been reading numerous stories from a wide variety



Applegate School kindergartners through third graders made a field trip to the Fort Vannoy Farm and Pumpkin Patch. Shown here are the second and third graders.

of genres, and one class did a readers' theater. In social studies, sixth-graders have been exploring geography and learning what it means to be a geographer. Seventh and eighth graders have been studying early North America and Central

America (Meso America) and did a quick tour of the Renaissance, Reformation, Silk Road, and early African kingdoms to prepare for the study of exploration and colonization of America.

With a \$1,500 grant for science equipment, Mr. Fall has purchased alternative energy models and kits, including a KidWind class set of wind turbines (kid scale) that produce and measure electricity produced from various designs. Grant money also allowed purchase of solar panels, a model fuel cell car, a plasma ball, and a scale model of a fossilized T-Rex head. Mr. Fall is hoping to raise money to purchase a GlowForge.

Applegate School has had the wonderful opportunity to welcome Mrs. Daw as the leader of a daily music program. Her focus for K-5 has been learning and playing rhythms, using rhythm sticks, and learning about melody. Students have made great progress at reading and hearing rhythms, as well as echoing and improvising. Studying melody through singing and the use of boom whackers, they focused on songs from Patriots' Day and Halloween. Mrs. Daw says the students are learning to match pitch, echo sing, and sing with a group. She hopes to be able to put on a holiday program for the school and community.

Meeting the challenges with the middle school program to see what could be done with such a large group and still maintain COVID protocols could have been daunting. However, Mrs. Daw saw bucket drumming as a way to teach rhythm and group unity. With the help of Casablanca, who donated 75 pickle buckets, and Mrs. Daw's husband, who washed them, the students have excelled at reading rhythms and learning how to play as a group. Mrs. Daw added a choir class in the second quarter. Her dream is to have a beginning band program. May your dream come true, Mrs. Daw!

Jean Hall
jhall80@juno.com

Williams School students visit corn maze, nature center



Younger students from Williams Elementary School have a blast at the Fort Vannoy Farms pumpkin patch and corn maze west of Grants Pass. Photo: Steve Fuller.

BY STEVE FULLER

Williams Elementary has been open on-site for in-person instruction since the normal start of school on August 30. Staff, students, and families were eager to return to school this fall.

Williams School is excited to offer two new programs for the 2021-2022 school year. Michelle Daw has joined our team as the new music teacher. With daily music instruction for every student, this class quickly became a big hit at the school. Starting in the second semester, Mrs. Daw will be trading places with the PE teacher at Madrona Elementary. Then the students will receive daily PE.

This October, Williams students were able to participate in their first field trips in over a year. The kindergarten and first, second, and third grades visited the Fort Vannoy Farms pumpkin patch and

corn maze. A grand time was had by all. Also in October, Mrs. Bingham's fourth- and fifth-grade class visited the North Mountain Nature Center in Ashland. They participated in outdoor education and community service.

Williams students enjoyed a lively costume parade outside on our new track, followed by separate classroom Halloween parties, on Thursday, October 28, which happened to be the last day of the first quarter. Then on November 3-5, parent-teacher conferences were held. Parents and guardians had the option of in-person or virtual conferences this fall. It is great to meet with people face-to-face when possible.

Steve Fuller, Principal
Williams Elementary
steven.fuller@threerivers.k12.or.us

Applegate Cougars volleyball team has winning season

The Applegate Cougars fielded a junior varsity volleyball team this year. "Even though we had only one team," said school Principal Steven Fuller, "it was a great experience for the players to get back to school sports after the 2020 season was canceled." The team had a great season, finishing with 10 wins and 2 losses.



Pictured in the back from left are Mason Lane, Madison English, Coach West, Naomi Blanton, and Ashlyn Falkenhagen. In the middle row are Caitlyn Miller, Lillian Wieberg, Emma Lovell, and Erin Moline; and, in front, Anna Frandsen.

Double your money!

Donations to the Applegater made by December 31 will be doubled by NewsMatch, a nonprofit news organization fund drive the Applegater qualified for again this year. Donate online at applegater.org, or mail a check to the Applegater, PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

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Top row, from left to right:

—**Katie and Jenny Emick** check out the hot Gater stories while soaking up the sun and surf in Cabo San Lucas and Land's End on the Baja Peninsula.

—**Michael and Paula Tougher** and **Rona and Vaughn Jones** take a break from hiking by the Pine Tree Arch in Arches National Park just outside Moab, Utah, to catch up on news from home.

—**Alan and Diana Potts** read the Applegater while taking a break during this year's grape harvest.

Middle row, from left to right:

—While on vacation in Alaska on a beautiful fall morning, **Ellie McLachlan**, 10, was missing home so she picked up a copy of the Gater she brought from home.

—**Fred and Meghan Mossler** check out the Applegater while walking the 16th-century streets of Old Town Dubrovnik, Croatia.

—**Brooke Nix**, holding the Applegater, celebrates her 16th birthday near Tolowa Dunes State Park north of Crescent City, with friends Eli (top left by himself); middle row from left, Stormwolf, Kathy, Shawn, Reed, Lola, Fabian, and Jonnie; and bottom row from left, Amanda, Jessica, Adler, Brooke, Amaya, (another) Jessica, Emilee, and Dylan. The pups are named Kota and Juju. Not present for the photo is Michael.

Bottom row, from left to right:

—Siblings **Jene Bethea** and **Brian Fair** enjoy the Gater on a recent trip to Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany.

—**Diana Coogle** reads the Gater on a hike up Ipsut Pass in Mount Rainier National Park last summer.



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