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Celebrating  
~28~  
Years



A south-looking view from the proposed Upper Applegate Trail route. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

## New hiking trail design under way in the upper Applegate

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Hiking trails that use the easy contours and established routes of historic water and mine ditches are popular in southwest Oregon, such as the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail in Little Applegate, Layton Ditch Trail in Williams, and Gin Lin Trail in Upper Applegate, along with many local trails that use portions of historic ditches.

Currently, the design of a new 9.3-mile, nonmotorized hiking trail in the Upper Applegate is under way that would use a combination of existing mine ditches and new trail construction.

The Upper Applegate Trail was proposed by residents and collaborative

partners during planning for the Upper Applegate Watershed (UAW) Restoration Project through the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District. Luke Ruediger, executive director of Applegate Neighborhood Network and author of *The Siskiyou Crest: Hikes, History & Ecology*, has been designing, mapping, and flagging the trail. The proposed trail would link existing recreation areas at Applegate Reservoir to Flumet Flat Campground and the Gin Lin Trail with a 9.3-mile hiking trail through portions of the Collings-Kinney Inventoried Roadless Area.

See TRAIL DESIGN, page 16.

## Bakers, bakeries, and baked goods in the Applegate

BY DIANA COOGLE

Whether you are looking for the staff of life or a meal or a sweet-tooth treat, you can start and end your day with great baked goods from Applegate bakeries.

If you get to the Provolt Country Store and Deli (see page 24 for location) early enough, you can munch on a breakfast sandwich (egg and bacon on an English muffin) or treat yourself to a fresh croissant or Danish. “We are sold out by 8:00!” says baker and sandwich-maker Jennifer Crandall. “If you want something, call ahead!”

Later, on your way to Grants Pass to do some shopping, you might stop at Pennington Farms for one of their chicken pot pies for lunch. Longtime Applegate resident Joan Peterson raves about Pennington Farms’ chicken pot pies: “Something about their sauce—the most delicious creamy flavor—their crust is outstanding. I could eat those pies from now till Doomsday.”

Cathy Pennington and her daughter Jackie started making baked goods “to do something with the surplus of berries from the farm” after the day’s sales at the farm stand. Now Cathy and Jackie, “along with dear family friends,” try to keep up with the demand for their fruit pies, turnovers, and, of course, chicken pot pie.



Stoking the fire that bakes the bread in the Rise Up! oven.

However, on this day of sampling Applegate bakers’ baked goods, maybe you postpone dessert because you are on your way to the Grants Pass Farmers Market, where you can pick up a small package of Curly Top Bakery’s delicious shortbread. Michelle Bernardi, Curly Top’s co-owner (along with her mother, Lonnie Kurth) learned baking in culinary school in Portland. When the owner of the Annie Mac bakery retired, Michelle bought that business and turned it into Curly Top Bakery, next to the Applegate Store.

Michelle couldn’t tell me how many cookies and baked goods she and the other five bakers do in a day. “I just keep making things until my arms fall off, and then I go home,” she said.

Okay, but let’s say Curly Top’s goodies don’t fit your diet. No worries! Paulazzo Pasticceria (pronounced “pasta-CHEER-ia”

See BAKED GOODS, page 11.

## Grateful to live in the Applegate Valley

BY SANDY SHAFFER

With the COVID-19 pandemic forcing us to pretty much stay at home for close to two years, I’ve come to realize just how much I appreciate living in the forested Applegate Valley, with very few neighbors near.

No traffic, no horns blaring, no solicitors knocking on the door at least every week. But we’ve had plenty of time to read a new book and lots of places to take long walks with the dog and watch the wildlife. I started keeping a diary of which birds and four-footed critters come back each spring or summer probably 20 years ago. After 23 years of living out

here, Hubby and I have figured out who’s going to show up when.

Can you even imagine having to stay at home all this time while living in an apartment or house in Medford or Ashland? I can’t! Fortunately, things are slowly coming back to normal, and the weather is looking a little bit like spring might be early this year. (And because I just put that in print, we’ll have another winter storm come through and



Keep spaces under decks and exterior staircases clean and free of dry vegetation. Sparks from a nearby fire could ignite leaves and the deck itself. Photo: Sandy Shaffer.

give us some more snow—right?! No problem for me. I’ll take snow and rain over heat any day of the week.)

Living out here gives us tasks to do after winter is over, but before fire season starts (historically: anywhere from April through June). So, it’s about time to get to work with the chainsaw and then the wood splitter. Hubby and I will look for any dead fir trees, cut them down, and get them ready to split and stack for the woodstove next fall. Our wood supply is pretty low, and we usually go through over a cord of wood every winter. But that’s the kind of work that makes you feel good afterwards. Sort of like when you were a kid and learned how to make a batch of your father’s favorite cookies for Father’s Day—proud!

My least favorite task is cleaning out the gutters. Hubby knows I don’t like ladders, See GRATEFUL, page 24.

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## OBITUARIES

### Gary Conner

**January 29, 1944 – August 12, 2021**

Gary Conner lived a full life. He died, after a bout with brain cancer, on August 12, 2021, at the age of 77. Anyone who knew him would want to note that he died just a month shy of the successful Space X Inspiration4 orbital mission. This would have



Gary Conner helps a student solve a knotty engineering problem.

been important to Gary. He was a pioneer rocket scientist—many of his engineering innovations formed the building blocks to space travel as we know it today. Besides rocketry, Gary helped form a Silicon Valley start-up responsible for manufacturing high resolution computer graphics. He was also instrumental in aiding Japan and South Korea in setting up their own offshore, high-tech manufacturing.

Gary and his wife, Cassie, settled in the Applegate Valley in 1999, where he learned the business of growing grapes from his best friend and next-door neighbor, Dick Troon. The Conners' tempranillo became the source for Troon's classic "Insomnia Port." For Troon, Gary was a major source of support: welding, repairing, bottling, and providing encouragement. Gary ended up crop-sharing with another Applegate vintner, Herb Quady, on one of the last plantings of zinfandel in our valley.

In 2015, Gary joined the coaching staff of the St. Mary's School competitive robotics team. He used his engineering background to take the team to a higher

level, and it soon became one of the top-ranked teams in the country, competing in two world championships. Gary really connected with the kids, helping them find simple, elegant solutions to the problems they faced. He always listened and

considered students' input and could take complex technical problems and explain them in simple terms. He took the mystery out of technology and made it logical and straightforward. At the end of the day, the students always felt they had figured it out and solved the problem themselves. He was a true teacher, mentor, and role model for the kids.

At the start of the pandemic, Gary put together a 3-D printer and began producing face shields for Rogue Valley hospital personnel. Gary wanted to help people. He was kind and good with kids. He was a longtime volunteer and contributor to Cantrall Buckley Park and a beloved friend to many Applegaters. His wife, Cassie, says "He knew the answer to any question that anybody ever asked him...and he could put it in layman's terms with a wry wit that would always draw a chuckle."

Gary leaves behind his two sons, Jon and Jamie, and a stepson, Chris.

Cassie Conner, Herb Quady, Kent Dauterman, Tom Carstens, and Walt Keller

### Alan R. Wall

**June 4, 1940 – October 23, 2021**

Alan R. Wall, 81, of Williams, Oregon, died October 23, 2021.

Alan was born June 4, 1940, in Medford, Oregon, to Carol and Elizabeth Wall. He moved to Williams as a young child with his family. He attended Williams Elementary School and Grants Pass High School. Alan graduated from GPHS in 1958. He was a member of the marching band and played the sousaphone.



of the Young Farmers Club. He served as co-chair for the auction committee for many years. He was a member of the board of directors for Josephine Grower's and then for the Grange Co-op for over 20 years. Alan was also a charter member of the Applegate Lions Club.

Alan enjoyed watching his grandchildren's extra-curricular activities. He put many miles on his vehicles traveling all

over the state watching soccer, football, basketball, and track meets. He took great pride in always being there. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping with his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; daughters, Kim Wall and Sandra (Jason) Wright; grandchildren, Joseph Guevara, Lindsay Guevara, Alan Rojas, Parker Wright, and Conner Wright; and a great-granddaughter, Chloe Guevara. He was preceded in death by his parents, Carol and Elizabeth Wall, and by his brother, Richard Wall.

Donations can be made to the Lewman Family scholarship fund at KeyBank.

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

Alan was very involved in the agricultural community. He was a 4-H leader for over 20 years and a member

### Russell Renzelo Elmore

**May 11, 1942 – January 21, 2022**

Russell "Russ" Elmore, age 79, of Applegate, Oregon, passed peacefully from this world on January 21, 2022. Born in Medford, Oregon, to Charles Herbert Elmore and Beryl Alice Brockway, Russ was raised on their Applegate ranch, where he resided his entire life.



Leo's Club (founder; the club helps with Lions projects), Applegate Valley Historical Society (charter member), NRA (life member), and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Russell is survived by his wife, Rebecca Elmore; his son, Jeff Elmore; his daughter, Rhonda Klug (Kirk); five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; siblings Charles Elmore (Kathy), Truman Elmore (Marleeta), Alicia Hogan (Larry), Joseph Elmore (Terri), and Barbara Niedermeyer (Bob).

Russell graduated from Grants Pass High School in 1960 and drove a logging truck for several years. In June of 1962, he married Rebecca E. Fuller. They raised their two sons and one daughter in the Applegate. After 30-plus years, Russell retired from the Grange Co-op Fertilizer Plant. He spent the remainder of his life being surrounded by family and friends.

Russell was preceded in death by his son, Jessie Elmore, and his brother Michael Elmore (Laverne).

The family will hold a private graveside service with a Celebration of Life at the Elmore Ranch on Saturday, June 25, 2022.

Instead of flowers, please consider volunteering or donating to your local Lions Club.

Russell was a volunteer with Applegate Valley Rural Fire District #9 and a member of the following organizations: 4H, Future Farmers of America, Applegate Lions Club (charter member), the Applegate

## Ruch Food Pantry is here to help

The Ruch Food Pantry welcomes all new clients. If you're curious or would just like to check us out, come visit!

We are open every Monday (except for holidays) from 11:30 am to 1 pm at the backside of Ruch Outdoor Community School at 156 Upper Applegate Road. Please bring photo identification and we will send you home with food when you need it.

We can't wait to see you there!

Deborah Price, Manager  
541-899-6980

Michelle Shay, Assistant Manager  
541-218-6471

## Voices of the Applegate

**'We are not giving up!'**

Although we have been on hold for almost two years, we still have singers who are longing to sing and be back in our choir again. We have sent out notices to our previous choir members to sign up if they want to begin again with Voices of the Applegate in September.

Our board has met, and we have discussed plans to resume rehearsals, the first one to start tentatively on September 13, at the Ruch Fire Station (safe distancing guaranteed) or in the Ruch Library meeting room. Rehearsals will be from 7-8:30 pm. Concerts will be on December 2 in Jacksonville and December 4 in Applegate.

If you would like to sing with us, send an email to Beate Foit (beatefoit@gmail.com) and ask her to put you on our list of singers. Please state if you are a soprano, alto, tenor, or bass (if you know). We plan to stick with the COVID rules, so be prepared to show proof of COVID-19 vaccinations, plus booster shot.

Singers will be six feet apart and masks will be required when indoors and while singing.

Let us hope that this year we will be with our singing friends again and make wonderful music together. Hope to see you in September!

Joan Peterson  
joanpete5317@gmail.com

**SPRING FORWARD!**

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 13, when daylight saving time begins.

# College student and volunteer opportunities abundant at AVFD

BY GENIE GILLIAM

Applegate Valley Fire District #9 (AVFD) has had great success using volunteers to support the activities in the district. Using volunteers helps stretch the tax dollars that residents contribute for the safety of their community. Volunteering is also a great way to give back to your neighbors.

One volunteer program is in collaboration with Rogue Community College. At the end of two years, students in this program will have had practical

fire-suppression and rescue experience at AVFD and earned an associates degree in fire sciences. This program gives students a career in fire departments and other agencies that focus on fire prevention and control.

At the time of this writing, the district has volunteer openings in non-fire-related positions. These include budget committee, front office administration, photographer, information specialist, mechanic, and grant writer. If you're interested in our

student program or the non-fire-related volunteer opportunities, give us a call at 541-899-1050.

The district is extremely active in training, gathering grants for equipment upgrades, and making the Applegate Valley a safe place for residents.

Fire season is not far ahead, so stay informed on how to protect your property and learn what is happening at the district by following us on Facebook (Applegate Valley Fire District).

Applegate Fire District is managed by the paid fire chief, Mike McLaughlin, and a volunteer board of directors. Monthly board meetings are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of



Volunteering with Applegate Valley FD #9 is a great way to give back to your neighbors.

each month. Times and virtual meeting links will be posted on Facebook and the fire district's website (applegatefd.com).

Genie Gilliam • 541-531-2343  
gilliam.genie@gmail.com

## Linking communities with trails

# Trail vision: Grants Pass to California

BY SCOTT PROSE

The vision for a long-distance, nonmotorized trail that connects existing trail systems near Ashland to those in Jacksonville and Grants Pass is an ongoing, multiagency, and multidecade project. Both the Jack-Ash Trail and the Applegate Ridge Trail (ART) have undergone planning and construction for over 12 years. Some phases of both long trails have been completed, some are under construction, and some are still in the planning stages. Support from local communities, businesses, and grants is integral to achieving the goal of a long-distance trail connecting the Pacific Crest Trail, on the Siskiyou Crest, to Grants Pass.

Two local trail organizations, the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) and

the Siskiyou Uplands Trail Association (SUTA), have worked steadily on this project for over a decade. In partnership with the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the US Forest Service (USFS), and private landowners, pieces of the vision continue to fall into place.

### Numerous and spectacular views

The vision for a long-distance, nonmotorized trail along the ridges dividing the Applegate and Rogue watersheds is shown on the map below. Views along this northeastern spine of the Siskiyou Mountains are numerous and often spectacular. The Applegate Valley falls away to one side and the Rogue Valley

to the other. In places the drop is more than 3,000 vertical feet.

### Special thanks to some special volunteers

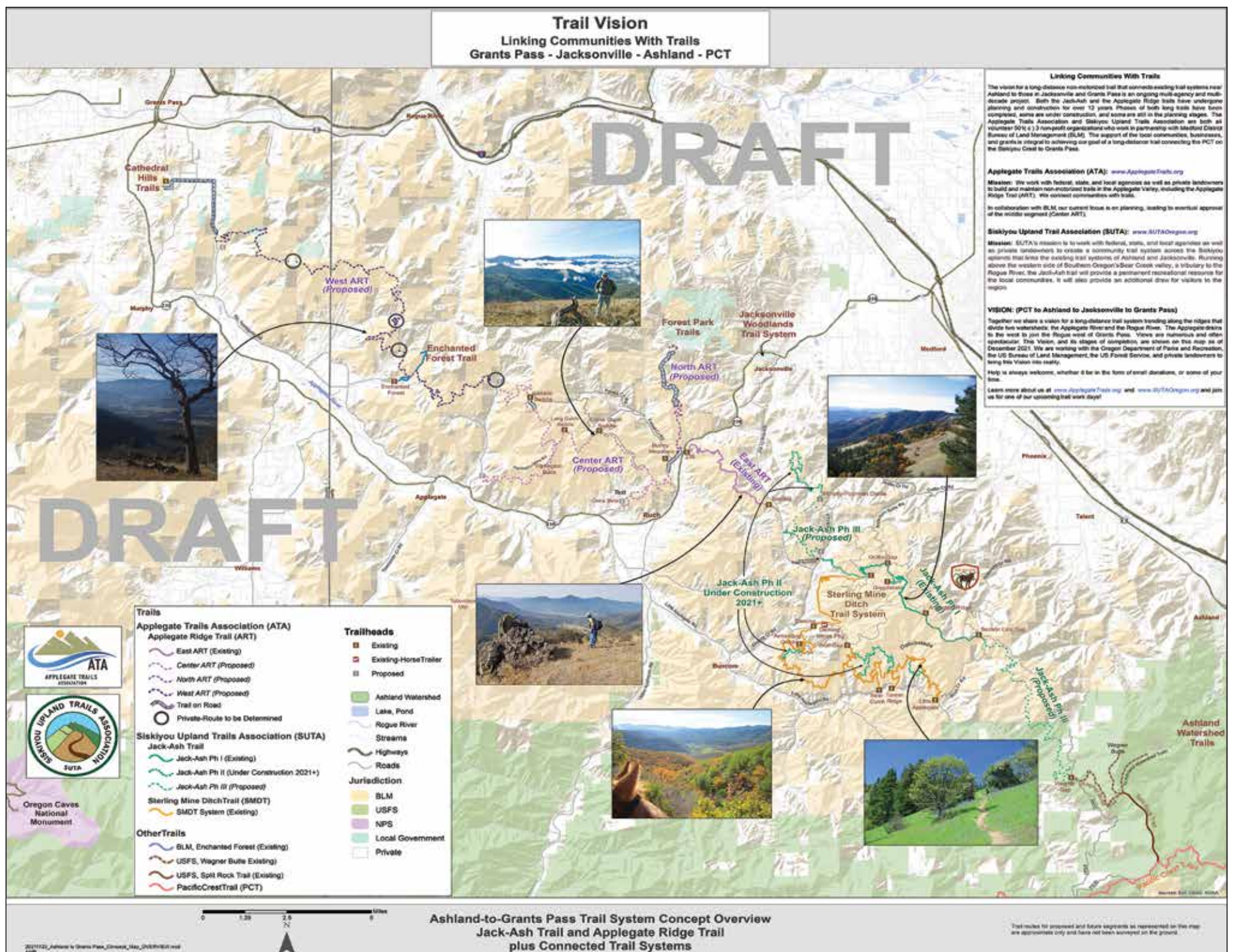
The respective boards of ATA and SUTA wish to express special thanks to two volunteers. Duane Mallams, a lifetime resident of the Rogue Valley and a now-retired 27-year employee of USFS, is our trail planner. With countless hikes, topo maps, a pencil, and field surveys, he plots proposed trails. Annette Parsons, a 29-year resident of the Applegate Valley and a now-retired 27-year BLM and USFS employee, performs the conversion of the paper maps into digital form and manages the spatial database. The map shown here is one of the results. Without the considerable efforts of

these two people, spanning more than a decade, this project would not be where it is today. Please join us in saying "thanks" to Duane and Annette!

### Making the vision a reality

Our partners, the BLM and USFS, are the managers of these largely public lands. However, the energy for proposals and trail building comes from the local community. In fact, ATA on the west side of the valley and SUTA on the east side were both created for that express purpose. Please consider giving us a helping hand with a donation or some of your time. More information can be found at ApplegateTrails.org and SUTAOregon.org.

Scott Prose • scott@applegatetrails.org



## POETRY CORNER

### *Ides of April*

By Seth Kaplan  
seth@agreaterapplegate.org

If you step outside  
as the light is being born  
on the Ides of April  
the spirits will speak

If you walk in silence and with purpose  
the trees will whisper ancient stories  
from the beginning  
when humans knew the magic

If you explore with the eyes of your soul  
and the ears of your heart  
the wizards and witches in your fields  
will show themselves and greet you

If you step into the raging wind  
you will learn the source of its anger  
and raise your arms and howl  
like the animal you are

"Ides of April" is among poems included in "Penned Up," a collection of poems by the Applegate Poets. Applegate Valley resident Seth Kaplan is executive director of A Greater Applegate. Copies of "Penned Up" are available online at [applegater.org](http://applegater.org). All proceeds support the Applegater.

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

## 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, March 6, 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.

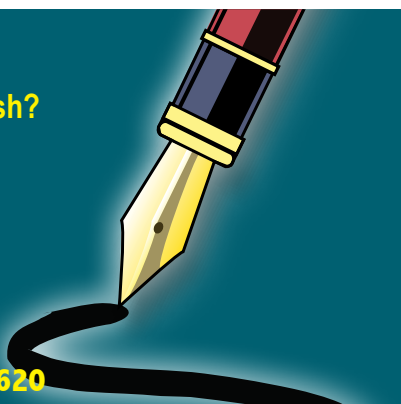
For more information, email [rogueharmreduction@gmail.com](mailto:rogueharmreduction@gmail.com).

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## BOOK REVIEW

### **Bewilderment**

Richard Powers  
W.W. Norton & Company  
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BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER

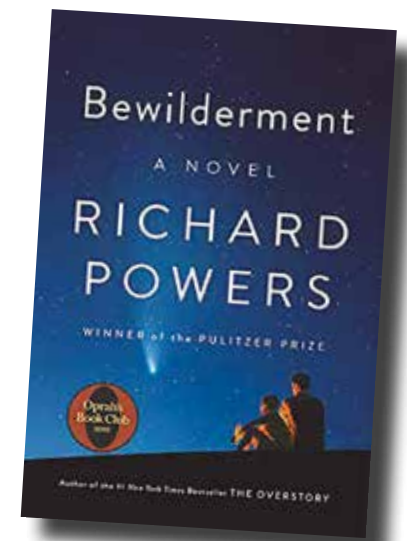
"Astronomy and Childhood. Both are voyages across huge distances. Both search for facts beyond their grasp. Both theorize wildly and let possibilities multiply without limits. Both are humbled every few weeks. Both operate out of ignorance. Both are mystified by time. Both are forever starting out." (*Bewilderment*, page 64.)

Since I reviewed Richard Powers' *The Overstory*, I've anticipated his next book, and here it is. The title alone was sufficient to draw me in, but once I finished the first scene, the book had magnetized me. I did nothing but read it for two days. I'm not a fast reader; I tend to linger over words and phrases that delight or intrigue me. Also, this is a relatively short novel at 278 pages. And it is almost magnificent. He disappointed me only once, like a famous tenor faltering on the high note.

Whatever his topic, Powers seems to know a whole lot more about it than most people, and this fascinates me. In *Overstory* he taught me about trees. In *Orfeo*, I learned about music and found myself checking in with YouTube to hear performances of the classic symphonies he described. I have his *Echo Maker* still unread in my collection, but not for long. In *Bewilderment* Powers ventures into the intricacies of the cosmos and the creative human mind.

The story is about a child, a boy named Robin, diagnosed on the autism spectrum. Both his parents are scientists who never expected to have children, but as Bobbie Burns reminds us, "The best-laid plans... gang aft a-gley." When Robin's mother is killed in a car accident, his father takes on the full responsibility of parenting. He's mystified. Bewildered. His son lives in a completely foreign mental and sensual universe from his own or from that of the educational institutions available. What will Robin's father choose as a means of education for his son? He rejects the whole notion of categorizing a child as "on the spectrum." He tells the reader, "I wanted to tell the man that life itself is a spectrum disorder, where each of us vibrated at some unique frequency in the continuous rainbow. Then I wanted to punch him. I suppose there's a name for that, too."

At that point early in the narrative the reader is cast upon the yet more



bewildering but fascinating currents of astrobiology and experimental psychology. We already know from Robin's father, right from page one, that "I always tried to tell (Robin) the truth, if I knew it and it wasn't lethal. He knew when I lied, anyway."

What is and is not possible? It is a question that haunts most humans regardless of our sphere of consciousness or "unique frequency in the continuous rainbow" of being. What is possible for Robin in a world on the verge of mind-blowing breakthroughs in the sciences of astronomy and of the human brain? What of this science does Richard Powers know and imagine into the lives of his characters in this new novel? Is he willing to leave his readers in a state of bewilderment? Or will he break through our barriers of what is possible and transfix our minds with wholly new understanding?

He held me suspended for two days on the edge of wonderment. If, in fact, his writer's voice did crack on a high note, he recovered with a bit of literary scat which is as popular in music these days as in Ella Fitzgerald's and can still make fans cheer. It is so human to trip and then to rise again. We've all done it. It brings us back to earth, our home.

And as Robin's dad alerts us in the beginning of this stunning tale, "Life is something we need to stop correcting. My boy was a pocket universe I could never hope to fathom. Every one of us is an experiment, and we don't even know what the experiment is testing. My wife would have known how to talk to the doctors. Nobody's perfect, she liked to say. But, man, we all fall short so beautifully" (page 5).

Christin Lore Weber  
[storyweaver1@gmail.com](mailto:storyweaver1@gmail.com)

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**Next deadline: May 1**

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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.

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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.

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Photos submitted for the front-page flag are on a volunteer basis. Credit is given in the issue in which it appears, on our website, and on our Facebook page.

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

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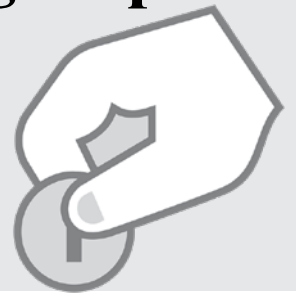
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See DONATIONS, page 6

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**Editorial Calendar**

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

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**Cover Photo Credit**

Thanks to Ali Mramor for the photo of a ponderosa pine on her Thompson Creek property. Have a photo for the summer *Applegater*? Email it to bert@applegater.org.

**Corrections**

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

## — Applegate Library —

### Access to so much; no fines or fees



## — Ruch Library —

### Find resources for life

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

Did you know that your library card gives you access not only to over 400,000 items, but also to digital downloads and streaming, wireless hotspots, dozens of online research and learning services, and our Library of Things? No longer are there late fees, sign-up fees, or program fees. You can also use your library card to reserve meeting rooms at any branch of the Jackson County Library District. To book the Applegate Branch Library meeting room go to [jcls.org/branch/applegate](http://jcls.org/branch/applegate).

You can find the most current information on open hours, programs, and events on the library's website: [jcls.org](http://jcls.org).

#### Upcoming Events

**Preschool Storytime.** Bring your preschoolers (ages 3-5) to enjoy stories, rhymes, songs, and fun at the library. A great opportunity to encourage an interest in books and reading and help young children develop important socialization skills. Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, registration for Storytime is required. Please register everyone from your household (adults and children) who will be attending at [jcls.org](http://jcls.org). Masks are required for children five and over, recommended for younger children. 10:30-11 am Saturdays.

**Grief and Gratitude for an Ailing Planet: A Community Experience of Seeking Solace.** Grappling with global change, planetary crisis, and human suffering—at times it's just too much to bear. How to cope? Fight? Flight? Freeze? While these are familiar reactions to so much of the world, they can also cause burnout, short tempers, or general malaise and disconnection. This presentation offers another response to the grief and loss we are witnessing day by day. We'll

explore alternative ways to keep our hearts open, our minds facile, and our spirits strong. 5-6 pm Tuesday, March 29.

**Make Your Own Vinegar at Home.** Vinegar has a ubiquitous history with humans across the planet and the ages. The power of sour has been used for medicine, food, and preservation. Learn how vinegar can be incredibly varied and nuanced in flavor and how you can make it from just about any ingredient. You will taste vinegars and make your own apple cider vinegar with Kirsten Shockey, founder of FermentWorks and the online Fermentation School. Shockey is also an award-winning author of multiple books on fermentation. Her new book, *Homebrewed Vinegar*, will be available to purchase or check out. Noon-1:30 pm Saturday, April 16.

**Senior Driver Refresher Training.** Refresh your knowledge of the rules and hazards of the road as we review the multiple changes to the Oregon Driver laws over the last 25 years. 5-6 pm Friday, May 20.

We will also be providing various Take & Make Kits throughout the spring. Come in to see and take the "too-numerous-to-list" kits available from the library.

Throughout the year, the Applegate Branch Library is proud to display local artists' artwork and collectors' collections. Stop by to see the variety and beauty of your neighbors' art or collections! If you have artwork or collections you would like to display, contact the Applegate Branch Library.

Christine Grubb • 541-846-7346  
Applegate Branch Library Manager  
[cgrubb@jcls.org](mailto:cgrubb@jcls.org)  
18485 North Applegate Road

Get ready for spring at Ruch Library! The theme this spring is "Read Outside." We have books and resources on gardening, do-it-yourself projects, firewise planting, edible native plants, wildflowers, animal tracks, local history, and just about anything else Applegate!

We have a tech person from Jackson County Library Services (JCLS) to help you uncover the wonders of a device you might have that is puzzling you. She's here at 2 pm Thursdays. For an appointment, email [techsupport@jcls.org](mailto:techsupport@jcls.org).

Preschool Storytime is now at 11:30 am Thursdays, followed by browsing time for parents and children (before we are officially open). There is always free Wi-Fi both within and outside the library, and we have computers to use if you do not have your own.

Our Community Room can be reserved for your family reunion or local meeting. Inquire at the desk if you are interested, and we will help you reserve it.

The Friends of Ruch Library operate a bookstore just across the parking lot from the library, open from 1-3 pm Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The Book Barn, next to it, is usually open on the first Saturday of the month and is a great place to fill a bag or two with wonderful bargains.

The Bookstore and Book Barn, gems of the Applegate, are run by volunteers, and staffing varies because of the pandemic, heat, or smoke. Please check the trailer sign by Ramsay Realty for updates.

We are so grateful for our partnerships with Ruch Outdoor Community School, Ruch Market, and Ruch Hardware, as well as all the members of the community who value and support the Ruch Library.

#### Upcoming programs

**Sustainable Privacy Plantings** with local gardener Bonni Engelhardt: Learn a naturalistic and sustainable approach to designing multipurpose privacy screens that also provide essential habitat for wildlife, and about drought tolerant, deer resistant, and firewise plant options. 1-2 pm Saturday, March 5.

**Make and Fly a Kite!** Celebrate the blustery spring weather by decorating Japanese koinobori kites (easy-to-fly windsock carp kite, traditionally flown on Children's Day in Japan). Also available as a Take and Make. This event will be outdoors. 1 pm Saturday, March 12.

**Make a Unique Piece of Jewelry** with Janis Mohr-Tipton. Make an accessory pin, a wrap bracelet, key chain, or necklace. You may bring a piece of old, favorite jewelry to add as a charm. No experience necessary, and all materials and tools will be provided. Ages 12-adult, 1-3 pm Saturday, April 2.

**Local Nature Challenge.** See how many of the listed items you can find in the Applegate while enjoying our big backyard! May 3-17.

**Forest Creek History** with Annice Black. This will be the story of the early settlers and families who lived on Forest Creek from the 1850s and will include the geography, economics of mining, logging, and farming. Annice will bring photographs of Forest Creek School, mining in the 30s and 40s, and Mt. Isabelle Fire Lookout. 1 pm Saturday, May 15.

Thalia Truesdell • 541-899-7438  
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Continued from page 5

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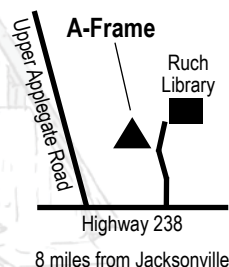
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12 - 4 pmLocated next to the  
A-Frame Bookstore

## NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

## Exciting year for A Greater Applegate

BY SETH KAPLAN



A recent meeting of the Food and Farm group.

This is shaping up to be an exciting year for A Greater Applegate (AGA) as we move into phase two of our four-phase Applegate Valley Vision process! In phase 1, we listened to learn about ways to build and sustain community in the Applegate. Now we are prioritizing what we've learned and building our collective capacity to implement it. Phase three is implementation, and then we will get to celebrate and reflect.

Phase two began with the prioritization and capacity-building sessions for business and nonprofit networks as described in the last issue of the *Applegater*. In January, we focused on two initiatives: the local Food and Farm system and Destination Applegate. Additional sessions are planned in February for fire resiliency, forest restoration, and outdoor recreation. We'll add new prioritizing and capacity-building sessions throughout the year.

The Food and Farm priority session at Vista222 benefitted from the participation of two dozen locals and of Jill Rees, associate director of Oregon's USDA Rural Development, which is supported by Business Oregon, USDA, and the Ford Family Foundation. In partnership with the Rogue Valley Food System Network, AGA is seeking to strengthen the local food system by helping create, sustain, and support more food-related businesses. This includes supporting our three farmers markets, creating shared equipment and resource systems, producing an Applegate Valley food resource guide, and creating worker-accessible housing, among other proposed projects. Notes from this and other meetings will appear on the Community Connections page at [agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org).

Destination Applegate is a local economic strategy to encourage visitors to spend more time and money here. This strategy is supported by Business Oregon, the Reser Family Foundation, Travel Southern Oregon, the Ford Family Foundation, and USDA Rural Development. About 120,000 visitors come to the Applegate every year to appreciate our wine, lavender, and outdoor recreation, among other pleasures; however, their dollars are spent on food and lodging in neighboring cities. By encouraging visitors to spend the night in the Applegate, we can increase dollars spent across our local economy.

Throughout our listening sessions, people made it clear that they don't want hotels. But many Applegaters earn income from short-term rentals. As a first step, AGA is seeking to identify the short-term rentals already in our area and learn

more about their success and needs. We believe that existing short-term rentals can accommodate more than 300 visitors, making it easier to encourage overnight stays for weddings, large family gatherings, and events like Uncorked, Applegate Open, and Lavender Trails.

Both short-term and long-term rentals are a tremendous need in the Applegate Valley, and it is essential that we balance these needs as we begin to implement the emerging Applegate Valley Vision. Long-term rentals will be addressed in several community action teams, including Food & Farm and Health & Human Services. The issue is likely to emerge in other places as well.

If you are interested in learning more about the Applegate Valley Vision, please contact us (see [agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org) for contact information) to receive our bi-weekly bulletin and consider joining our leadership via the Community Action Teams or as a board member.

### AGA receives support for Applegate Valley businesses

Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency, awarded grants to 33 organizations that provide technical assistance to historically underserved and under-resourced small businesses across Oregon. A Greater Applegate was awarded \$150,000 over an 18-month period to support rural small businesses through the Applegate Valley Business Network.

This new funding will enable AGA to support local businesses with marketing support, website design, financial management, permitting and land-use consulting, among other assistance. AGA has also engaged a local consultant to support entrepreneurs interested in starting new businesses. Business start-up assistance will be provided in English and Spanish. In addition, a partnership with the Jackson County Small Business Development Center offers online business classes to Applegate Valley residents.

AGA is requiring everyone participating in this technical-assistance program to join the Applegate Valley Business Network to help us better track outcomes. Annual membership is \$50, and scholarships are available. No one will be denied services for lack of funds. If you are a small-business owner or have a business startup idea and would like to join our Business Network, or if you are interested in more information about the technical assistance program, reach out to [ashley@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:ashley@agreaterapplegate.org).

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

## Peter Britt's Applegate clientele

BY LAURA AHEARN

Supported by a Momentum Grant awarded by A Greater Applegate (AGA), McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) is increasing the sophistication and reach of its exhibits. In April MBHS will present a display, at the Jacksonville Library, of Applegate portraits and photography by Peter Britt. We are lucky that this prolific photographer was a pack rat, but he was a terrible notetaker and record keeper!

Thousands of images captured by Peter Britt survive. He often made more copies than the client wanted to buy; those extra originals may be tucked away in the Southern Oregon Historical Society library. The Hannon Library at Southern Oregon (University) Library has an extensive collection; many high-resolution computerized files were created from the original glass negative plates and are available online. Family members may still have an original portrait of ancestors handed down over the past 150 years. More often, what we find are fuzzy, secondhand copies of copies, maybe minimized to post on social media.

So far MBHS has identified more than 100 Britt images that reflect Applegate residents or scenes. This search has been challenging because the subjects have almost never been described accurately, if at all! Maybe Britt noted who paid for the work, but not the person actually photographed. Or, an individual donating a photo offered a best guess about the subject but got things quite wrong.

Take, for example, "Mrs. William Ray (mother) with purse." Well, William Ray's wife was Mary Louisa Zelmere (he was her second husband; she wisely divorced the first). Louisa's mother was Mary Terrier who married French immigrant Joseph Zelmere at an exceptionally young age, 11 or 13 years. Mary had four subsequent husbands: Marquis LaFayette Enyart (uncle of Louisa's first husband), William Billups, Benjamin Smith, and John Buckley. Mary Buckley died in 1917 and was buried at Logtown Cemetery.

What is the earliest Britt photograph of an Applegate-related person? Perhaps Hattie Thompson, daughter of the namesake of Thompson Creek. Her father died in 1856 and her mother Permelia married Judge Legrande J.C. Duncan, who built a home (today's Judge Hanna B&B) across the street from Britt's residence and studio. Hattie simply had to sashay across 1st Street in her antebellum-style hooped skirt and tight corset to sit for a portrait.

Which Applegater was most photographed? Probably Chester Kubli, beloved first-born of Henry and Maud (Cameron) Kubli. His proud parents took him for portraits at least three times as an infant and toddler.

Some took the trip to Britt's studio less seriously than others. Why did Samuel Phillips, the first "permanent" settler of Buncom, wear a rooster hat?

There is nothing quite like holding an original Britt print, knowing it was produced by the master. The clarity and detail are stunning. You can virtually feel the soft nap of Phoebe Geary's sateen dress in the portrait taken just months before her death, from smallpox, in 1873.

Please take a look at our April exhibit and sign the visitors log—leave a question or observation. You just might see something in these photographs that we've missed, a clue that will unlock more information about Peter Britt's Applegate clientele.

Laura Ahearn  
[Mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:Mckeebridge1917@gmail.com)



Mrs. William Ray (mother) with purse, 1886.



Miss Hattie Thompson in the 1860s.



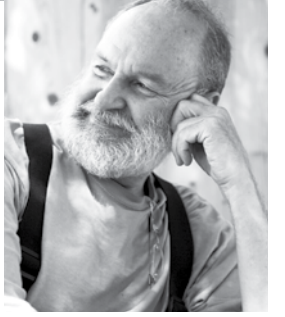
Chester Cameron Kubli in 1889, 1893, and 1894.

All photos in this article are from SOU Hannon Library Special Collections.

**THE STARRY SIDE**

# Let's keep the night sky dark

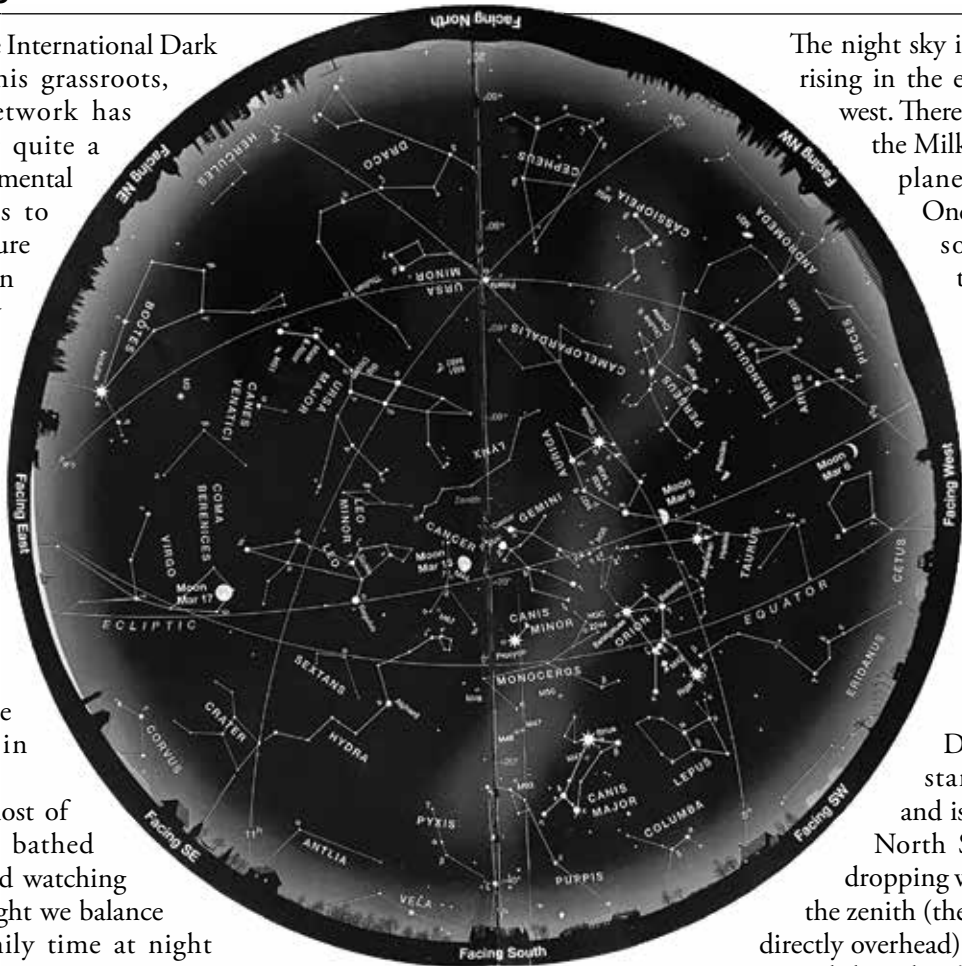
BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

I support IDA, the International Dark Sky Association. This grassroots, global advocacy network has been in my life for quite a while. IDA was instrumental in opening my eyes to the multifaceted nature of our connection to the night sky and how outdoor lighting obscures so much of it. We need to protect our nocturnal environment. IDA advocates for best practices to limit our light pollution, saving energy and enhancing human and creature health and safety in the process.

We who spend most of our evenings inside bathed in electrical lights and watching glowing screens—might we balance that with some family time at night outside? Get comfortable, look up, and talk together about what you see and what you've learned about the night sky. It takes about 20 minutes for our eyes to fully



Sky & Telescope (skyandtelescope.org).

adapt to the dark, and then—there's so much more to see!

The night sky is constantly changing, rising in the east and setting in the west. There are occasional meteors, the Milky Way, the stars, a few planets, perhaps a moon.

Once you begin identifying some constellations, there are endless histories, stories, and configurations to puzzle out. And while it may be easier to be outside at night in the summer months, on cold clear nights the sky is incredibly bright. I encourage you to go out and...look up!

Look for the Big Dipper, which has been standing on its handle and is now moving over the North Star and to the west, dropping with Leo the Lion from the zenith (the point in the sky that's directly overhead) into the west.

And then there's winter's favorite: The constellation Orion and, nearby, his faithful dog, Sirius, the Dog Star, the brightest star in the sky, will all stand upright in the

west before they eventually set.

As you look up at these remarkable sights, remember that limiting light pollution will help us preserve the timeless heritage embodied in the stories depicted by the stars, not to mention the exhilarating sensation of observing our magnificent universe with our naked eyes. To learn more, check out IDA at darksky.org.

Greeley Wells  
greeley@greeley.me

**— OF NOTE —**

- **Jupiter** will not be visible in March but will be in our dawn in April and May, but not quite as bright as Venus.
- **Mars** also inhabits our dawn sky, a little red and not too bright.
- **Mercury** is visible in the dawn all season, dimly and close to the sun of course.
- **Saturn** rises after midnight to be in our dawn sky, but only in April and May.
- **Venus** has now become a very bright morning star, having traveled in front of the sun and after making a long run of sunset appearances last year.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

# Peeing in your garden

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Your garden really loves gross stuff, like pee and animal poop, so you might as well get over it and utilize this quirk. After all, you probably already dump all kinds of honest-to-goodness crap in your garden. And don't deny that, while no one was looking, you took a leak there too.

So, what I am now suggesting is "purposeful peeing," like—take aim and pee on your kale, spinach, tomatoes... well, really anything you normally fertilize. More or less. Because, of course, there are some catches to peeing in your garden. (Visit [goveganic.net/article217.html](http://goveganic.net/article217.html) for more details.)

**Catches**

1. You need to dilute your urine. Some say 1:10 (urine to water); others say 1:6. The numbers are all over the place. I dilute using the old eyeball trick. I like the urine to be the palest yellow, so I dilute with water until my eyes tell me that that color will work. Not very scientific on my part.

2. If you are on medication, taking street drugs, or have anything yucky going on "down there," forget about it. Best if you just flush—don't rush to the garden.

3. Urine needs to "catch a ride" to really nourish the soil. What this means is urine needs to be filtered—trickled down through mulch, straw, or mainly healthy soil, which drains well. When this happens, the urine becomes bioavailable as it is broken into nitrates. Basically, one's urine breaks down and does what it is supposed to do: adds absorbable nitrogen. The soil is a natural filtration system.

4. Pee between the rows, not directly on the leaves. Hopefully, "between the rows" are smothered with mulch. Mulch



Photo: wired-pee.jpg.webp.pdf.

absorbs the nutrients, which are then transported down into the soil by worms and insects.

5. No poo in the pee! Feces can be contaminated with pathogens and heavy metals.

6. Even though most folks pee several times a day, plants need your pee infrequently. This means once a week or less. Some gardeners use very diluted urine a few times a week, but it is diluted until it is almost clear. Plants that love this "pee attention"—tomatoes, kale, spinach, corn, cucumbers, beans, pumpkins, okra, cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, peas, etc. But don't be silly and overindulge.

**Benefits**

Now that you are over-the-top eager to pee "outside" the conventional manner, go for it. You will be helping your garden and *killing weeds*. Whether you know it or not, your urine is just loaded—with uric acid, that is. Uric acid is a great weed killer. Permission granted to pee directly on the culprits.

**Territory marker.** You have noticed how animals mark their

territories by urinating on the designated real estate, right? This keeps the "bad guys" away. Human pee does the same. Your pee can keep the likes of cats, foxes, and rabbits away. It does not work for deer. I tried.

**Organic fertilizer.** "Due to its high nitrogen content, human urine is the ultimate organic fertilizer. As you may know, plants need more nitrogen than any other element, as it is used to synthesize amino acids, enzymes, proteins, and chlorophyll" ("The Ultimate Fertilizer: 6 Reasons Why You Should Pee in Your Garden," by Starts at 60 writers). Nitrogen, the good stuff in your pee, is dependent on your food intake. Typical pee from a "typical" Western diet is high in nitrogen, with an NPK (nitrogen, phosphorous,

potassium) ratio of 11-1-2. So basically...don't worry about what you put in your mouth and what comes out the other end, okay?

**Compost accelerator.** This "skill" of urine is my favorite. Since urine is high in uric acid and uric acid helps with compost breakdown, you can pee directly into your compost pile. No need to dilute.

**Fungal disease fighter.** To use urine as a spray for fungus, mildew, or leaf rot, dilute the urine by 50 percent, then spray directly on the leaves. I am going to try this on rose leaves this coming season.

Pee like no one is listening.

Dirty Fingernails and all,

Sioux Rogers

[littlemuddyred@gmail.com](mailto:littlemuddyred@gmail.com)

"MudClock" posted this photo on Reddit.com, saying specimen A (left) received plain water and specimen B (right) received a urine/water mixture (¼ ratio).



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## Looking forward to working—and playing—at Cantrall Buckley

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

In 2021 A Greater Applegate's (AGA's) Park Team sponsored an art contest for four new designs: one for the 2022 Cantrall Buckley Park Volunteers Pass and three for greeting and correspondence cards to send to donors and community members.

This year's participants were from kindergartners and first-, second-, and fourth-graders at Applegate School and Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS). See the winning artwork, selected by the five judges from the Park Team, on this page.

The Park Team and AGA are planning a community celebration at Cantrall Buckley this spring to honor all the donors who have supported the great enhancements at our park. We'll also be acknowledging riparian restoration that Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) and ROCS eighth-grade students have accomplished in APWC's Grow Youth program. Jackson County Parks has supported this outdoor education

program by facilitating volunteers and organizing the park learning stations. Watch for an update on date and time for this celebration event. We will be advertising locally in several formats to catch your attention.

APWC would like to introduce Eva King, the newest APWC staff addition, in her part-time position as outdoor education and outreach manager. She is a graduate of Southern Oregon University's Master of Science in Environmental Education program, has worked with nonprofit organizations, and has grant-writing and program-development skills she wants to use to develop a nine-week outdoor education program for fifth- and sixth-graders at Cantrall Buckley Park. This APWC program is based on the first pilot program the AGA Park Team and APWC held, which has now grown to a larger opportunity for the surrounding school districts in alliance with ROCS. It has the potential to grow even further to include

alternative schools and a variety of home-based school groups in the future. Contact APWC if your group is interested to know more about outdoor learning experiences for fifth- and sixth-graders at Cantrall Buckley Park. **Volunteering opportunities at the park are coming soon!**

The Park Team invites the community to get involved with the continued cleanup and preparation for development of the Dragonfly Place, a site honoring Takelma elder and First Nations leader Grandmother Agnes "Taowhywee" Baker Pilgrim. She played many roles in both our local community and local region and received numerous awards worldwide. She became a registered member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. In her book, *Grandma Says: Wake Up World!*, published in 2015, she said, "All those years, 20-something years of being a no-nation person. But when we came back as recognized people, I felt like peace was found in my heart. I felt wholeness. I felt good. I felt happy. I was crying because I didn't belong to any place all those years."

Come help make this site ready with a workday from 9:30 to 11:30 am March 19, at Dragonfly Place in Cantrall Buckley Park.

We will continue clearing invasive species, trimming overgrowth, and improving the footpaths at the site in preparation for restoring native plants, building and installing the memorial, and preparing interpretive signs about



Winner of the art contest for the 2022 volunteer work pass at Cantrall Buckley Park is Allison, a fourth-grade student in Ms. Major's class at Ruch Outdoor Community School.

Grandma Agnes's life and the history of the Takelma people who lived in southwest Oregon.

There will be signs to guide you to parking in area B and then markers for walking a short distance to the site.

Wear layers for any type of weather and sturdy shoes and bring hand tools (we will have some to borrow), gloves, safety glasses, and a mask.

We will work in very small groups spaced 10 feet apart, or in small family groups. Have your mask handy in case you mingle closely with others.

We will have snacks at the site.

To sign up, contact Janis Mohr-Tipton, 541-846-7501, or email [janis.agapark@gmail.com](mailto:janis.agapark@gmail.com), or go to [apwc.info](http://apwc.info). You can also sign up at [solveoregon.org](http://solveoregon.org) (search for projects at Cantrall Buckley Park, Jacksonville).

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped on this project previously!

See you soon at the park!

Janis Mohr-Tipton  
A Greater Applegate Park Team Chair  
and APWC Cultural Committee  
[janis.agapark@gmail.com](mailto:janis.agapark@gmail.com)  
541-846-7501

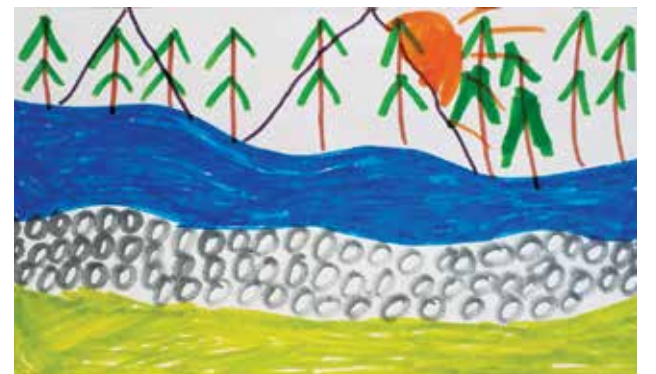
Winner of the art contest for a card design for correspondence is Owlyn, a kindergartener in Mrs. Hirschmugl's K/1 class at Applegate School.



Winner of the art contest for card design is Odessa, a first-grader in Mrs. Hirschmugl's K/1 class at Applegate School.



Winner of the art contest for a card design for correspondence is Maya, a second-grade student in Mrs. Kriz's class at Ruch Outdoor Community School.



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# Meet the Applegate Store and Café's new owner

BY MICHAEL SCHNEIDER

One of the landmark businesses in the Applegate Valley has changed ownership and is gearing up for even more changes throughout 2022.

The Applegate Store and Café, which has been called a “diamond in the rough in an idyllic valley,” by the *Jacksonville Review*, now has a new owner-manager. Stacey Corelis is a charming, energetic, and friendly woman who is looking to combine her love for the traditions of the area with more current food servings in the café and a wider selection of products in the store.

Stacey says she bought the store and café (effective July 1, 2021) from Neal and Maryanna Reynolds because “I love the people in this area and being part of this wonderful community, and I wanted to make sure the traditions and heart and soul are kept in place. I want to carry on the marvelous legacy the Reynolds created during their ownership.”

Stacey worked at the store, beginning September 2019, and learned the “ins and outs” from the Reynolds, who owned it for 20 years after buying it from a family member. Several years before that, the store was owned and run by the family

of Ty Burrell, the actor from ABC’s *Modern Family*.

The Burrell family owned the store from the late 1970s to the mid 1980s, so Ty was frolicking in the store and nearby areas as he was growing up. Legend has it that the original owner was Earle Settle, who built the store some 80 years ago down the street on North Applegate Road near where the current library is located. Later it was moved to its current location on Highway 238, literally steps from the point where the Applegate River flows under the green steel Pioneer Bridge. The café was added later, as was the gas station, which still provides the only place that drivers can fuel up between Jacksonville and Murphy.

Stacey has plentiful and wide-ranging plans. She wants to keep the café open longer throughout the day, especially in the summer months. She is also planning to add more food dishes in keeping with today’s appetites, such as vegetarian and vegan offerings. Moreover, she plans to redesign the product layouts in the store (a project she has already begun), upgrade

the beer cooler to include a walk-in area for easy choices among beverages, refresh the inside look with new painting, and, down the road, put in new flooring—all while keeping the same professional, friendly look that her predecessors, the Reynolds, created.

She is also going to add new features to highlight the “wonderful people and wineries in the area and show them off with pride” she said. In addition, she would very much like to host a variety of events, such as music and art festivals and even car shows, since classic cars are of great interest to her.

Throughout the years the store and particularly the café have earned a well-deserved reputation as a meeting place for local residents and visitors alike to enjoy coffee, a meal, and interesting chats. Under Stacey’s stewardship, that reputation seems certain to remain firmly in place.

For more information, visit the store and café’s website at [applegatestoreandcafe.com](http://applegatestoreandcafe.com)



New owner Stacey Corelis in front of Applegate Store and Café. Photo: Michael Schneider.



An early photo of the Applegater Store hangs in the current store. Photo: Michael Schneider.

com and its Facebook page at [business.facebook.com/ApplegateStoreAndCafe](https://www.facebook.com/ApplegateStoreAndCafe).

Michael Schneider  
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## BAKED GOODS

Continued from page 1

and meaning a pastry shop) bakes gluten-free, vegan, and Keto options. Owner and baker Eden Paulazzo, who learned baking from her grandmother, started experimenting with gluten-free baked goods so her young son, who had psoriasis, could have gluten- and sugar-free treats. “At the root, it’s also the way I eat,” Eden says, adding that she feels best when she avoids gluten, dairy, and cane sugar.

Eden’s oldest children both help in the kitchen. “My amazingly artistic daughter is often the creative mastermind behind our most beautifully extravagant custom cakes,” Eden says, “and you will often find my charming teenage son running the market booth” at the Applegate Evening Market and other markets in the valley.



An assortment of Curly Top cookies at Grants Pass Farmers Market.



A vegan, gluten-free hazelnut cake from Paulazzo Pasticceria.

Whether you had Curly Top shortbread or a vegan cupcake for dessert at lunch, now, on your way back to the Applegate from your afternoon shopping, you can’t help yourself: you stop at the Provolt Store again for an afternoon treat—a giant

cranberry-walnut oatmeal cookie, say (which I found delicious) or—the most popular item—store owner Angela Hewitt’s famous carrot cake. Or maybe you’re like Belinda from Herb Pharm in Williams, who says, “I love coming by for their pizza panini!”

Sweets and treats lift our spirits, but it’s bread that is the staff of life, and for that you couldn’t do better than Rise Up! Artisan Breads, for nutrition, taste, and aroma. Their mouthwatering lineup includes ciabattas, rustic sourdoughs (they call their Applegate sourdough their best sandwich bread!), focaccias, sprouted multigrain bread, and rosemary rolls.

They also make a 99.9 percent gluten-free bread using teff, which they describe as “an ancient Ethiopian grain with a strong earthy flavor.” Their Rogue Valley sourdough bread is baked with 50 percent whole wheat grown and milled at Dunbar Farms, in the Rogue Valley.

Rise Up!’s unique bread-baking philosophy comes from a cross of Zen values and a strong commitment to building a better community through slow-food, local-food, and sustainability movements.

Maybe what you really want to do is go home with a loaf of Rise Up! bread and spread it with some butter and Pennington Farms tayberry jam and just call it dinner.

Diana Coogle • 541-846-7447

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

See page 24 for location details.



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# Being salmon: The cycle of life — and death

BY G.A. BRADSHAW

*I'm going to die. Time is running out for me and for my companions, my brothers of the river who, like me, were born in these waters four years ago.... Our lives are coming to an end after a long, dangerous journey but we have made it here to the place where we first emerged into the world, the place where we have chosen to die.*



You can learn a lot from salmon.  
Photo: Igor Shpilenok.

This is the voice of a Salmon narrated in the documentary, *Land of the Giant Bears*. After several years of living in the wide Pacific, the fish return home to spawn—lay or inseminate eggs in the streambed gravel where they were born. The journey is arduous, and many have begun to die even before they give life.

Their bodies, weakened by labor and age, become splotched by skin-changing fungi. Yet wherever they reside—from ocean saltwater, stream highways and byways, to reaches of tiny, natal creeks—the salmon are home. An appreciation for the unity of fish and water is reflected in the now popular phrase, “like a fish out of water,” used by Geoffrey Chaucer. The 15th-century English storyteller drew on a common saying about our scaly kin to describe the extreme unease and awkwardness that we feel in unfamiliar, uncomfortable places or situations.

Certainly, the last legs of the salmon’s journey home are physically uncomfortable. Their bodies are spent, and natal waters often require deft navigation to successfully wind a way along the rocky spines. Indeed, there are many moments when they are “fish out of water.” Salmon who travel up the creek running below our cabin are two or more feet in length. In many places, they are too big for the waters to cover. You can sense the salmon’s relief when a glistening green pool is reached where she can rest and literally catch her breath. But, even under less stressful conditions, salmon are in physiological tension every place they occupy.

They are anadromous, meaning that they are fish who live in salt and fresh water. In both cases, the composition of their environment is radically different from that of their own internal systems. On average, ocean waters are three times

as concentrated with ions (salts) as the salmon’s interior. In fresh water, the opposite is true. Creek waters are much more dilute.

To thrive and maintain well-being in these environments, salmon use *osmoregulation*. Young salmon emerging from their freshwater birthplace do three things: drink a lot of water, decrease kidney production of urine, and initiate molecular pumps in their gill cells, which push ions (salts) out. These processes reverse when the fish return to fresh water. By this evolutionary magic, the fish’s internal fluids retain a healthy profile. Salmon are a perfect illustration of Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh’s reconfiguration of the Four Noble Truths.

These four truths—the existence of suffering, causes of suffering, cessation of suffering, and the way, or path, to cease suffering—might be thought of as cornerstones of Buddha’s spiritual home. Thay (Teacher), as the nonagenarian is affectionately and respectfully called, suggests that instead of defining and describing the Four Truths in terms of suffering, we approach them from the perspective of well-being. “Even Buddha and Bodhisattvas suffer, but the difference between them and us,” Thay explains, “is that they transform suffering into joy.”

We see this miracle every moment in nature in our beautiful valleys and mountains. Salmon retain well-being through physiological transformation of chemical compositions, which would otherwise cause them great suffering and death, into solutions perfectly tuned to their internal needs. Every undulation of the salmon’s body and fins is flawlessly aligned with the lines of moving water. Inside and out, the salmon follows a path of wellbeing. Even when stretched out on the rack of pending death during the last moments of the spawning journey, salmon stay the course of well-being and life.

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# The sad state of the ‘Sap Tap Wrap’

BY LAIRD FUNK

Climate change? It is hard to get away from the subject these days. In our West, where, previously, a total of a few hundreds of thousands of acres burned were a mark of a bad fire year, fires have exploded to consume millions of acres, including a never-before-seen winter fire in Colorado. In our South this year, hurricanes were more intense than ever before, Texas suffered a crippling blizzard, and tornados hundreds of miles long erased whole cities.

Parts of the Midwest received months’ worth of rain in a few days or even hours. Yet even as disaster records were set, then broken and reset again, even as the lines between these terrible experiences and the increasing warming of our earth, especially the arctic, become clearer and clearer, there are still those who would insist that these extreme events are simply cyclical and not the result of anything man-made and that there was no need to change our ways.

Well, anyone who does not believe in climate change hasn’t talked to my maple trees here in the Williams area! Over the dozen years that I’ve been tapping our big-leaf maples for sap to make delicious syrup, easily noticeable changes have occurred, mostly in the last eight years.

The centuries-old rituals were much the same. You bundled up to stand the frigid temperatures, made your way through the woods drilling holes and setting spiles, and later you returned to gather often generous sap offerings. Afterwards came the pleasant hours spent tending to the evaporator fire and minding sap levels in the pans. Then finally you got that first delicious taste of still warm syrup on waffles. All of those things were still there this year. Tapping is reason to go outside when you think it is too cold to go outside and a chance to enjoy a once-in-a-year experience available only to those with the right trees and climate. It is always a guess as to how much syrup will result. One year I finished with over three gallons. Last year, I felt lucky to come away with three pints!



Laird Funk’s ribbon won in the “good ol’ days.”

So, what did change? Well, you can’t just go out and plug in spiles whenever you feel like it. There is a certain season when the sap rises up the trunk from the roots where it wintered and can be diverted out a spile and collected. Here in southern Oregon, that tapping season is a period in mid-winter where the temperatures range from the mid-to high-20s before sunrise to the mid-40s after noon.

For the first four years of tapping, that season was reliably around the middle of January. Then it changed just a bit. First it slipped to late January. The next year, it slipped a bit more to late January and early February. The next year it slipped a bit more, and the next, and the next, until finally last year it was the last week of February (two days) and the first of March (two days). The reason my “Sap Tap Wrap” disappeared from these pages was that tapping season began starting after the new spring deadline, February 1, and it seemed too unseasonal to me to have a tapping article in a spring issue. Not only did the dates change, but the duration also, from three weeks one early year diminishing to four days last year and then no days this year!

No days? Historically, the end of the tapping season would come when the temperatures rose into the 50s and the buds began to swell and open. The sap would still flow, but it would develop an off flavor called “buddy.” This year, after our welcome Christmas snows and New Year freezes, our local weather changed to unseasonably warm, mostly sunny afternoons, even if the lows stayed below freezing. The maple trees, like others, had experienced enough cold hours to suffice for a “winter.” Responding more to the afternoon highs than to the lows, the maple buds slowly but surely started swelling and then began opening. So essentially the season was over before it even began.

We’ll just keep our fingers crossed and hope there will be a tapping season next year. So, without sap, there was no tap—that’s a wrap!  
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# Sternitzky! Our mountain butterfly

BY LINDA KAPPEN

If we hike a bit farther than where we found the Clodius Parnassian discussed in the winter *Applegater*, we reach our higher elevation mountains where our other Parnassian butterfly lives in subalpine rocky tops and meadows.

The Mountain Parnassian (*Parnassius smintheus ssp.*) *sternitzkyi* of the great family of Papilionidae is our own endemic subspecies in the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon. This subspecies was named after the late Robert F. Sternitzsky, who was a lepidopterist and illustrator.

These Parnassian fly later in spring through late summer. Locally we have seen them in early to mid-June or when roadway snow is melting. Their size can reach 2.5 inches. They are white with less transparency than the Clodius Parnassian.

The Sternitzsky's Parnassians are adorned with two kinds of spots: black-outlined red spots with pinkish centers and large ink-black spots softened by edges of light gray. The antennae are alternately ringed in black and white.

The males fly before the females come out, giving the males time to search for food and for the freshly eclosed (just emerged from pupae) females. The sphragis is a small light-brown covering, forming a kind of chastity belt. Females lay single eggs in the habitat of their host plant, sedum, our native stonecrop. Caterpillars feed mainly on the leaves, and hibernation occurs at the egg stage. Adults nectar on flowers of stonecrop or the aster family. They fly in rocky and steep habitats where the host plant grows and stop briefly in the meadows nearby.

Sternitzsky's Parnassian can be found locally only in higher-elevation, rocky, subalpine areas of the Klamath-Siskiyou mountains of southern Oregon and northern California and as far east as the Soda Mountain area. We are so sure of their appearance in steep, rocky habitats that one time during a Siskiyou Field Institute butterfly course,

Dana Ross, MS, entomologist, the instructor, led our small caravan to a safe stop on a mountain road. There he invited the more strenuous hikers to join him on a climb through large boulders with shadowed crevices to search for the Sternitzsky.

It sure looked fun and adventurous, especially to about half the class who didn't hesitate at the opportunity! As the co-instructor and host for the class, I stayed on the road with several folks, where we made our own observations. Pretty soon everyone appeared out of the rocks. Dana had two perfect specimens, a male and a female, which we cooled down for a few minutes, then set on the rocks to observe and talk about. Everyone marveled at them, and the cameras were clicking to give us another moment in time. It was a real mountain moment to be so close to such a primitive species.



A male Sternitzsky's Parnassian.



A female Sternitzsky's Parnassian on Ranger's Buttons.

A Sternitzsky's Parnassian caterpillar (not a common sight).



Look for a butterfly course in the future with Dana Ross and Siskiyou Field Institute.

Linda Kappen  
humbukapps@hotmail.com  
All photos by Linda Kappen.

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**READY FOR SPRING?**

The advertisement features a large outdoor patio area with a wooden deck. In the foreground, there is a set of four grey outdoor chairs around a square table. To the left, a large black grill stands on a pedestal. In the background, two hanging flower baskets with red and purple flowers are suspended from the ceiling. The patio overlooks a lush green lawn and trees under a bright sun. In the bottom left corner, there are several bags of garden supplies, including 'Happy Frog' potting soil and 'Nature Scapes' mulch. In the bottom right corner, there is a bag of 'Hickory' wood chips and a blue 'YETI' cooler.

# Putting beneficial fire on the ground in the Applegate

BY TERRY FAIRBANKS

The Rogue Forest Partners' Williams Project aims to restore 860 acres within a larger 7,800-acre planning area. Ecological forestry treatments protect and promote large, resilient legacy trees (primarily hardwoods in Williams) while thinning smaller, younger trees that have grown dense over decades of fire exclusion. This work enhances wildlife habitat and reduces the risk of severe wildfire to the ecosystem and adjacent communities. It also helps sustain local jobs and provides workforce training and development opportunities to help southern Oregon communities build more capacity for forest restoration.

Last spring, partnership member Lomakatsi Restoration Project completed approximately 275 acres of ecological thinning on BLM and private lands near Cave Camp Road, close to Williams. This winter, their crews are back to conduct prescribed pile burning to eliminate the slash. They have completed 82 acres so far and will continue as weather conditions allow.

An intertribal crew of young adults employed by Lomakatsi has been working closely with their Rogue Valley-based crew to implement the prescribed burning. The nature of the Rogue Forest Partners' collaborative, stewardship-based work promotes such workforce development opportunities and equitable jobs for those who make our communities and ecosystems more resilient.

By returning beneficial fire to the landscape, we are creating more resilient forests and safer communities while setting the stage for better land stewardship for generations to come. While fire professionals carefully coordinate prescribed fire operations to minimize

smoke, we recognize that this work can impact nearby residents. We appreciate the continued support of the Applegate community while we accomplish this critical work.

## West Bear wildfire fuels reduction treatments continue this spring

In addition to work on the Williams Project and ongoing work on the Upper Applegate Watershed projects, the Rogue Forest Partners are implementing restoration treatments in two other nearby landscapes.

Adjacent to the Applegate Valley, the partners added the West Bear All-Lands Restoration Project to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board-sponsored Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative. West Bear combines multiple funding sources on proposed strategic treatments in the wildland urban interface stretching from Talent to Jacksonville. The objectives of the West Bear Project include enhancing public safety and forest resiliency while modeling community collaboration around forest and wildfire management.

Initial work in the project area began with a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program award to Lomakatsi through the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. Ecological fuels reduction on private lands in the Anderson Creek area is ongoing and has been complemented by additional adjacent treatments funded by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Treatments include creating defensible space within 100 feet of homes, ecological thinning within 500 feet of structures and roads, and targeting strategic ridgelines and egress and ingress areas to improve evacuation and first-responder access and safety.



Lomakatsi conducts a controlled pile burn in the Williams project area in January to enhance wildlife habitat, protect large legacy trees, and reduce the risk of severe wildfire to the community.

Growing partner investment in the West Bear Project has been bolstered by new philanthropic funding and additional leadership from the nonprofit Sustainable Northwest. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service also provides significant funding through a competitive Regional Conservation Partnership Program award, for which planning with private landowners is currently under way.

## Oregon SB 762 supports local restoration efforts

The comprehensive legislation of Senate Bill 762, which passed with bipartisan support, will provide more than \$220 million to help Oregon modernize and improve wildfire preparedness through three key strategies: creating fire-adapted communities, developing a safe and effective response, and increasing the resiliency of Oregon's landscapes.

Members of the Rogue Forest Partners successfully collaborated on three SB-

762 grant proposals for projects that reduce wildfire risk by restoring landscape resiliency and conducting ecological hazardous fuels reduction on both private and public lands. Nearly \$4 million will be applied to the projects listed here and to the Ashland Forest Resiliency Project.

SB-762 has illustrated the need and Oregonians' willingness to invest in wildfire risk reduction in a comprehensive and significant way. We thank our legislators and the organizations who mobilized to pass this bill!

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. Visit [rogueforestpartners.org](http://rogueforestpartners.org).*



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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!

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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.

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# Cheney Creek: Community outreach and BLM restoration

BY NATHAN GEHRES

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) will be implementing two new projects this year on Cheney Creek, near Wilderville. One project focuses on improving the ecology of a two-mile section of the creek administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The second project focuses on outreach and gathering concerns and needs about the landscape from landowners along Cheney Creek and Little Cheney Creek. We hope to engage the community and provide examples of habitat improvement with these projects.

The Cheney Creek watershed is a high-value system for aquatic and wildlife species. The first project focuses on aquatic species and has been funded through BLM's Secure Rural Schools Title II grant opportunity. This program strives to "make investments in public lands and create additional employment opportunities through projects that improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure, implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems, and restore and improve land health and water quality." The grant has allowed us to partner with the BLM Grants Pass Field Office to plan the habitat project in Cheney Creek.

Recently, while scoping our project site, APWC and BLM staff discovered evidence of a coho redd (spawning ground) and the corpse of a spawned-out adult coho salmon. This discovery is timely and gives us hope that this project and potential future projects can make a difference on the water quality of the stream. Cheney Creek is listed as a water-quality limited stream due to high summer temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The goals of the Cheney Creek habitat project on BLM-managed lands are twofold. The first objective of this project is to build upon successful large-wood placements installed by the BLM in 2012. These actions will increase the quality of fish habitat, increase macroinvertebrate populations, reduce stream velocity, increase the accrual and retention of spawning gravels, improve riparian health, and reduce sedimentation. An excavator will secure each end of the instream log to the stream bank to prevent movement downstream during high flows.

The second objective of the project is to discourage the use of off-road vehicles in the riparian corridor of the creek and to limit vehicle access in order to reduce illegal dump sites. Currently, the BLM-managed section of Cheney Creek is heavily impacted by these human activities, which also affect downstream private landowners. This work will reduce erosion, increase vegetative cover, and discourage illegal dumping and vandalism to public lands. Before we begin work, we will place signs in the area to notify the public about the project and the importance of the work to public and private lands. This undertaking will improve aquatic habitat through the installation of instream log structures at the upstream and downstream boundaries of the BLM-managed section of Cheney Creek and will create multiple deterrents to illegal dumping and other damage in the creek and adjacent riparian areas.

A Stakeholder Outreach grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) will allow us to gauge the need for landscape improvement projects with private landowners in the Cheney Creek watershed and to assess their interest in participating in potential projects. Possible projects that could be sparked by this

outreach include invasive species removal (blackberries, ivy, etc.), native species planting, irrigation system efficiency improvements, erosion or flooding issues, general fuels reduction, and anything else the community deems important. The Title II project on neighboring BLM land will serve as an example of restoration work that landowners can tour to explore the effectiveness and practicality of the restoration activities and see how those activities might translate to their property. The other benefit of the outreach and BLM restoration efforts being implemented at the same time is the increased opportunity they provide the community and stakeholders to communicate either directly with the BLM or through the APWC.

Landowners along Cheney and Little Cheney Creeks who are interested in learning more about these projects can contact Nathan Gehres by email at [nathan.apwc.info](mailto:nathan.apwc.info) or by phone at 541-890-9989.

Nathan Gehres, APWC  
Habitat Restoration Program Manager



An improvised off-road vehicle rock-climbing course, set up in the main channel of Cheney Creek. These types of activities will be addressed by the project. This photo was taken in July 2021. Photo: Nathan Gehres.



An abandoned fire that was left burning and was put out by APWC staff. This is one of the hazards that can be addressed by the Title II project, in conjunction with BLM. This photo was taken in May 2021. Photo: Nathan Gehres.



Trash at one of the campsites along Cheney Creek that will be addressed by the project, in conjunction with BLM. This photo was taken in May 2021. Photo: Nathan Gehres.

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■ **TRAIL DESIGN**

*Continued from page 1*

Though the Upper Applegate Trail was not authorized in the Final UAW Decision Notice, the decision did contain language that committed the US Forest Service (USFS) to further analysis of this highly popular, community-driven project. The UAW Decision Notice stated, “Although this decision does not include the development of this nonmotorized trail, the district is committed to completing the design and consultation so that a future decision would be made to add this trail to the USFS trail system.”

“The Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District staff are working closely with the Applegate Neighborhood Network to finalize and map the proposed trail location, including a recent joint on-site visit to some of the potential areas of concern,” Jen Sandborn, district ranger, said in a statement. “We anticipate adding this project to USFS’s future program

of work, which would include resource specialist’s evaluations, consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service over possible impacts to Threatened or Endangered species and the State Historic Preservation Office regarding protection and interpretation of the historical and cultural features, and review by the US Forest Service’s Regional Office concerning any impacts to the Inventoried Roadless Area. There would be public review as well before I would make a decision whether or not to implement the trail project.”

As currently designed, the southern end of the Upper Applegate Trail will begin at Kanaka Flats, just below Applegate Dam, and traverse historic mine ditches on easy grades through oak woodlands above the Upper Applegate River, with views of the river below, rugged foothills, and the Red Buttes. The area between ditches that requires new trail construction will wind through forests and along ridges between Kinney Creek and Palmer Creek. After crossing Palmer Creek Road, the trail will again use ditches, connecting into the historic Palmer Ditch until it meets up with the Gin Lin Trail.

Janeen Sathre, a Palmer Creek resident and co-author of *Favorite Hikes of the Applegate*, has a deep connection to the area of the proposed Upper Applegate Trail.

She hopes to be one of the first to hike this new trail and says, “What a great trail this is—or could be—for us to enjoy and learn about the forest, the mountains, the valley, and the history of the Applegate.”

Approximately 3.5 miles of the proposed 9.3-mile Upper Applegate Trail is on the berm of an old mining ditch.

Those sections of trail not on existing roadbed or mine ditch will require new construction. These sections have been designed to meet sustainable trail standards by using well-designed switchbacks for grade control and staying on contour as much as possible in the deep canyons and steep mountainsides to reduce erosion and mitigate potential hydrological impacts.

“We found only two locations where small amounts of trail tread might be developed to access the old mine ditch. Both are short and have a pretty low gradient. In two other locations, we also found larger ditch blow-outs where the ditch no longer exists and we will need to do new trail construction to patch the ditch together,” said Luke.

Mark Hamlin, board chairman of Applegate Trails Association, says “I look forward to hiking the Upper Applegate Trail. The ATA board supports the proposal and development of this project that connects with existing trails.”

Suzie Savoie  
Upper Applegate  
klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com



A view of the Applegate River from the proposed Upper Applegate Trail, with Mule Mountain on the horizon. Photo: Suzie Savoie.



Hiking the proposed Upper Applegate Trail with Mule Mountain and Little Grayback in the background. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

Hiker Luke Ruediger on an old ditch berm that’s part of the proposed Upper Applegate Trail route. Photo: Suzie Savoie.



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**ASK THE GATER**

**Who is the Applegate Valley named after?**

BY LISA BALDWIN

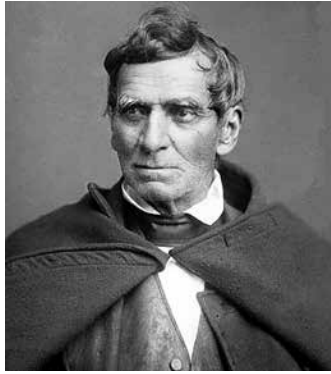
The Applegate family was one of the most prominent pioneer families in Oregon.

Three Applegate brothers—Charles, Lindsay, and Jesse—brought their families to Oregon Territory in 1843, traveling on the Oregon Trail with the first wagon train departing from Independence, Missouri. At the site of what's now known as The Dalles,

the trail-weary emigrants had a tough decision: build rafts and float their families and provisions down the Columbia River to reach the Willamette Valley or take the much slower land route through the dense forest around Mount Hood.

The Applegates chose the water route down the Columbia. One of the rafts capsized in the wild river, and two Applegate children perished: Jesse's son, Edward, and Lindsay's son, Warren. Both boys were nine years old. It was this loss that three years later prompted the grieving fathers to lead an expedition to find a safer overland route to the Willamette Valley for other pioneer families. This "Southern Route" became known as the Applegate Trail.

The Applegate Trail, however, does not come into the Applegate Valley. Lindsay Applegate is our valley's namesake. After



Lindsay Applegate, 1808-1892. Photo: Southern Oregon Historical Society.

settling first in the mid-Willamette Valley and, a few years later, making a land grant claim in the Umpqua Valley near Yoncalla, Lindsay came to the Rogue Valley in 1848 on his way to the gold fields in California. He was not in our neck of the woods for long, but he spent some time prospecting on the river that now bears his name.

In 1859, Lindsay moved his family to southern Oregon, and he spent the rest of his life in Jackson and Klamath counties. He ran a toll road that came across the Siskiyou Pass. He was an Indian Agent at Fort Klamath from 1861-66. Shortly after Oregon gained statehood (1859), Lindsay was elected as the Southern District's representative to the state legislature, serving from 1862-63.

He left government service in 1866 and lived on his farm in Ashland until just before his death in 1892, at age 84, when he moved to the Swan Lake Valley (northeast of Klamath Falls) to be with family in his last days.

Today, two direct descendants of Lindsay Applegate—his great-great-grandchildren David Applegate and Carolyn Applegate Standfield—live in Williams with their families.

Lisa E. Baldwin • LEB.97527@gmail.com

**Connecting with nature at Hidden Meadows horse ranch**

BY APRIL FLECHER

As the world rushes by amid the ever-changing atmosphere of life, many of us have gotten lost in the isolation. Social media has taken over, and despite the number of friends that may show on one's social media page, people are more isolated and alone than ever. Many have forgotten the simple joys that surround us: the beauty of nature, the deep breath of clean mountain air, or the bond that a horse and rider share.

I am a recent relocater from the San Francisco Bay Area. The Applegate has welcomed me and my crew of animals in its arms. I have stepped out of the chaos of 60-hour workweeks and the increased pressures of corporate life to be healed by Hidden Meadows Estate, located on Thompson Creek Road. There is a magic here among the trees and within the sprawling meadows that only the Applegate can offer.

Hidden Meadows is not just a boarding and training facility. We are a family looking to bring back to ourselves and those around us the simple joys in life. We are here to bring back the connection to nature, horse, rider, and oneself. Once you drive through the masterfully wrought gates at Hidden Meadows, you



The gate at Hidden Meadows. Photo: April Flecher.

have stepped back in time, to a simpler life. I have been forever changed by the incredible beauty and the welcoming people here in the serene folds of the Applegate Valley.

We are a sprawling 60-acre horse ranch offering not only in-person lessons, but also the latest technology for remote training sessions called Pivo (with a camera that can rotate 360-degrees and automatically tracks a moving object). You can ride all year long in the 200- by 60-foot covered arena, and your horse will be spoiled in their oversized pasture space.

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April Flecher  
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# IVM Project: Managing for 'resilience' with alternative facts

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

In the era of “alternative facts,” federal land managers like those at the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have created a misleading narrative promoting heavy industrial logging as “restoration” and “fuel reduction,” while ignoring, or masking, the environmental impacts. According to this narrative, the solution to every environmental problem is more logging, more roads, and more resource extraction. Yet these same activities are leading to widespread biodiversity loss and contribute significantly to carbon emissions and climate change.

This campaign of misinformation has reached a crescendo with the innocuous sounding Integrated Vegetation Management for Resilient Lands (IVM) Project. Approval of the IVM Project (which could come any day) would authorize up to 20,000 acres of commercial logging and 90 miles of new road construction per decade on Medford District BLM lands. According to the BLM, these authorizations would have “no sunset date” and could be used to log many tens of thousands of acres and build many hundreds of miles of new roads across 800,000 acres of BLM forestland in southwestern Oregon.

To make matters worse, the project specifically targets Late Successional Reserve forests designated to protect old-forest habitat for the northern spotted owl. It also promotes logging in Recreation Management Areas, adjacent to communities, in Riparian Reserves, and other conservation management

areas currently located outside the “timber harvest land base.”

Although cynically identified as a “resiliency” project, the IVM is actually focused on implementing heavy industrial logging with little to no public input, no required public comment, almost no public transparency, and no scientific analysis or review. The project allows logging large, fire-resistant trees up to 36 inches in diameter and in stands more than 120 years old. It would also allow the removal of significant forest canopy, down to as low as 30 percent canopy cover, and the implementation of “group selection logging,” a form of staggered clear-cut logging that creates scattered four-acre “openings” across up to 20 percent of a mature forest habitat.

The staggered “openings” created by this form of logging will look, act, and respond like small clear-cuts. They will fragment forest habitats, damage or remove northern spotted owl habitat, degrade scenic values, reduce fire resilience, increase fuel loading, dry out forest stands, and embed mature forests in thickets of young growth wherever heavy canopy removal occurs. Rather than creating long-term resilience, these treatments will compromise forest values in our region, increase overstory mortality, and reduce the resilience of these landscapes to natural disturbance processes like fire, wind, drought, and bark beetle outbreaks.

Yet, perhaps most troubling is the proposal in the IVM Project to curtail the public involvement process. If the IVM Project is approved, large timber



A forest above the Williams Valley proposed for logging in the Penn Butte Timber Sale, the first timber sale implemented under the provisions of the IVM Project. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

sales could be authorized without specific environmental analysis, site-specific environmental review, adequate comment periods, and meaningful public involvement. Instead, large timber sales would be approved by the BLM through an internal, nontransparent process called a Determination of NEPA Adequacy. The public would be informed only after decisions have been made and timber sales approved. Under this scenario, litigation would become the public’s only form of meaningful involvement, leading to increased gridlock and legal action.

Currently, despite having no approval to do so, BLM is planning two large timber sales—Penn Butte and the Late Mungers—in the mountains above Williams under the provisions of IVM. BLM is busy marking trees and timber sale unit boundaries directly adjacent to the community of Williams but has refused to provide the public with any meaningful information on the projects.

The agency hopes to auction off the Penn Butte Timber Sale in March, yet still has not provided any detailed information on the project.

Late Mungers is proposed for auction in June and even less information is publicly available. What we do know is that eight million board feet would be logged on over 800 acres west of Williams.

The IVM Project signals the end of collaboration on BLM lands and will only increase the current lack of trust between BLM and the public it claims to serve. The IVM attempts to take the public out of public lands. This approach will degrade our forests, damage our local economy and nearby recreation areas, make our communities less fire resilient, emit large volumes of carbon into the atmosphere, and bring the timber wars back to southwestern Oregon.

Does that sound like resilience?

Luke Ruediger  
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

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OPINION

# BLM needs to start acting like a good neighbor

BY TAYLOR STARR

The Applegate Valley is a unique place—underlaid by an old and convoluted geology that supports an equally diverse collection of plants, animals, and humans. We are blessed with some of the last, best expanses of wild habitat in the west and a population of concerned citizens, and yet the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is still treating our old-growth forests as giveaways to corporate timber interests.

Despite decades of attempts at collaboration with the local community, BLM has recently embraced a new name for a tired vision of a landscape dominated by clear-cuts, roads, and destruction: Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM). IVM is BLM's latest in a long line of proposals to circumvent the government's own rules, such as listening to public comments, following environmental laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, and taking wildfire risk into consideration when logging our public lands.

IVM seeks to circumvent these protections, proposing 800,000 acres of industrial logging across southern Oregon. If approved, IVM would allow BLM to log up to 20,000 acres and build 90 miles of roads per decade without scientific review, public comment, or the disclosure of environmental impacts. It would include clear-cutting, logging in Late Successional Reserves, and cutting large trees up to 36 inches diameter and 150 years old.

Even worse, BLM seeks to begin implementation of IVM in the Applegate before it is even authorized to do so. The Late Mungers and Penn Butte timber sales, proposed in the mountains between Williams, Murphy, and Selma, include

popular recreation areas like Mungers Butte and Marble Gulch. These BLM-designated Late Successional Reserves not only provide carbon sequestration, vital habitat for wildlife, and opportunities for recreation, but they are also some of our most fire-resilient forests around our rural homes.

In my neighborhood, in Williams, our local BLM forest is the source of water for irrigation on our farm in addition to the other ecological services it provides. Logging these forests threatens our water supply in the midst of historic drought and record temperatures that are already making farming in the Applegate an increasingly difficult endeavor. I have spent hundreds of hours walking these public lands, observing, commenting, and protesting when necessary.

Now we are all at a crossroads: the climate, our water supplies, our ability to survive the next wildfire season all hang in the balance. And yet BLM is squandering the opportunity to do the vital work that many of us do on our own properties to reduce wildfire danger and enhance forest health. Instead, they seek to give away our public lands to corporate timber interests while excluding the public from meaningful participation. Before they go down this misguided path, I call on BLM to return our calls and emails, to engage in meaningful dialog with the community, and to do real restoration and wildfire mitigation. If you agree, please pressure BLM to ditch the IVM and be the good neighbors that we expect and demand them to be.

Taylor Starr  
farmertaylor@yahoo.com



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NEWS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

# Applegater community comes through—again!

BY DIANA COOGLE

To all our wonderful, loyal, and generous donors:

I and everyone else on the *Applegater* board can't thank you enough. You, numbering 251, have pulled through again with overwhelming support in November and December. Your \$17,279.20 in donations enabled us to reach the \$14,000 ceiling allowed by NewsMatch, who doubled that amount to \$28,000. Therefore, we have \$31,279.20 to put in our coffers from November and December donations. The newsmagazine is on firm footing again this year. We are rejoicing!

It used to be that we sweated just about every issue, hoping to have enough money to put it out. Thanks to our membership in the Independent Newspaper Network (INN) and their NewsMatch program, geared specifically towards small, independent papers—and thanks to our editor, Bert Etling, who brought us into INN—and thanks to our readers and donors—we breathe more easily these days.

Why then, you might ask, are we going to start tooting our horn about another fundraiser this summer or fall? Well, (1) we also want to publish *Back in Time*, a collection of Evelyn Byrne's popular

column pieces, this year. (2) We have decided to increase the stipend we give to our wonderful volunteers who take their time and gas to distribute the papers. (3) Although ad revenue is up (thank you, advertisers!), we like a little cushion in case that takes a dip, as it did during the worst of the COVID months. (4) Besides, we love putting on an event to delight the community. What we have in mind for this year—The Gater-est Show on Earth, a carnival-type affair—sounds like a barrel of fun. Nothing definite has been arranged yet, but we hope you *all* will come. Let's celebrate together!

When I'm out in the community, I hear, over and over, "I love the *Applegater*." Me too. That's why I serve on the board—and also because I love working with our great, hard-working, enthusiastic board members: Bert Etling, Lisa Baldwin, Jessica Bullard, Mike Schneider, and Dave Dobbs. (If you want to join us, let me know.)

What a great community we have in the Applegate!

Thank you for being a significant part of it.

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

**We want your letters!**

**Email to [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org).**

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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](mailto:gater@applegater.org) or mail to *Applegater*, Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

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## Well-being practitioner joins Applegate business community

BY KEVIN PEER

Hello greater Applegate community, my name is Kevin Peer and I have a mental and spiritual well-being practice in Williams called InnerAlliance. The motto of my practice is “Empowered Living Through Soul-Guided Hypnotherapy.”



Kevin Peer

The journey of human life inevitably involves times of suffering, a fact claimed by spiritual teachers and philosophers throughout human history. But in these particularly intense and uncertain times, you may be suffering to a degree that is reaching or exceeding the limits of your known capacities. It is easy to feel lost and alone and despairing in the face of pandemics, climate change and ecosystem collapse, political and social polarization, economic insecurity, and the influence of tech companies that seek to amplify your every vulnerability for financial gain.

The good news is that there is a more compassionate and effective way of being that will greatly lessen your individual suffering. In this way of being, the unavoidable challenges you encounter in life are regarded as a valuable impetus to evolve psychologically and spiritually, to embody the life-affirming capacities that are already within you, and to share them with the world. This is what I mean by “empowered living.”

My work as a practitioner of soul-guided hypnotherapy is to help you access the vast and benevolent resources of your unconscious mind so that you can successfully meet the challenges of your life and achieve the aspirations that give your life meaning and purpose. There is nothing that you need to construct or earn or wait for—these capacities are within you right here, right now,

waiting to emerge and enrich your existence.

Within each of us is a vast inner realm beyond the habitual thoughts and emotions of personality where our essence dwells. This essence I call “soul,” and I believe it is what informs our deepest longings, our sense of purpose, our experience of awe and gratitude and love (and more). Soul-guided hypnotherapy focuses on accessing this realm, learning its truths, and liberating its potentials so you can bring them into your precious human life.

To access this wise and beautiful place within you, I use the safe and highly effective modality called “hypnosis.” We are born with the capacity to reach profoundly relaxed and focused states of mind that can be guided and directed in beneficial ways.

Hypnosis is a scientifically proven collection of techniques for relaxing and focusing the conscious mind and then gently offering suggestions to the subconscious mind for the purpose of promoting beneficial changes in mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being. Hypnosis is easily experienced and is profoundly relaxing and rejuvenating.

My specialty is working with people who long to experience greater depth and meaning in their lives—who want to suffer less, most definitely, but who also want to live soulful lives and to bring some beauty and healing and kindness into a world that dearly needs it.

I welcome you to visit my website at [inneralliances.com](http://inneralliances.com). I offer a free 20-minute introductory session, which you can schedule from my website.

Kevin Peer

[kevin@inneralliances.com](mailto:kevin@inneralliances.com)

## Remotion relocating into former Quady spot

BY JEANETTE LETOURNEAUX



Lori and Ben Grable of Remotion Winery. Photo: Shirleen Grealish.

Winemaker Ben Grable and Lori Grable of Remotion Winery will open their own tasting room, at 255 E. California Street in Jacksonville (on the corner of California and 5th streets), in the historic brick building formerly occupied by Quady North Winery.

For eight harvest seasons, starting in 2004, they produced a wide variety of wines in their basement in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, after moving there from California. Meeting a number of Italian families who had made wine for generations sparked their interest in Italian varieties.

In 2012, they fell in love with the Rogue Valley and settled just outside Jacksonville, where they continued their hobby of

home winemaking. Ben completed the Oenology and Viticulture Certificate Program through the University of California, Davis, in 2017 and worked as a harvest intern with Bryan Wilson at Dancin Winery.

Remotion Winery, born in the Rogue Valley in 2018, has been pouring its wines at Rellik Winery and Rogue Grape, a Jacksonville wine bar. Remotion focuses on making small lots of premium Rogue Valley-sourced wines that highlight the unique terroir of the area. Remotion's 2018 Barbera won silver at the Oregon Wine Experience in 2021 and was an Editor's Pick of *Wine Enthusiast* magazine in 2021.

Lori says that one definition of Remotion is “departure.” “A wine’s sensory experience can offer a departure from your present place and time,” she says, “and remind you of an experience or emotion or of a wine that you have tasted before.”

Ben and Lori hope to bring that experience to wine enthusiasts at their new location. Lori says, “We can’t even begin to describe how excited we are to share our passion for our Rogue Valley wines with you at our new Jacksonville tasting room! Cheers! We look forward to meeting you.”

For more information, call 541-702-2492 or email [remotionwine@gmail.com](mailto:remotionwine@gmail.com).

Jeanette LeTourneau  
[jetlet10@gmail.com](mailto:jetlet10@gmail.com)

## ••• BIZBITS •••



Owner Patti Bock Keck of **Farmhouse Treasures** sadly closed the doors of this popular shop—with a legacy of over 23 years—on January 15. Patti loved running the shop but was unable to find enough help after her “other half of the brain for making all things magical in the store,” merchandiser Susan Britton, moved to Tennessee in October. Patti knows one of the key concerns of longtime customers is “what about the fudge?!” She assured them in a Facebook post that it will continue to be available: “It’s official! The fudge has arrived at its new location, Violets & Cream Ice Cream & Vintage Candy Shop, located in the Orth building under La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant in Jacksonville! We couldn’t be more thrilled!” Patti inherited the treasured recipe from the previous owner, Kelly Cason, put her own stamp on it, and expanded the flavors offered, leading to its present status of a must-have, delectable traditional Jacksonville treat. She wishes to thank Kelly for offering the incredible opportunity of owning the store and working beside some wonderful employees. She also let customers know that “I love you all and thank you from the bottom of my heart!” for the years of support. She will sincerely miss all the faithful locals and travelers and hopes to see them from time to time as she delivers fudge to Violets & Cream, 150 S. Oregon Street, Jacksonville.

••• Long-time, beloved vintage shop **Pickety Place Antiques & Collectibles** is returning to downtown Jacksonville in the recently vacated space of Farmhouse Treasures (120 W. California Street), after 34 years in their previous location (also in Jacksonville). Co-owners Margaret Barnes (who also owns vacation rental Standish Cottage on N. Oregon Street), Steve McGowan, and Tanja Salma happily announced on January 18, “The sign is up! Moving in begins!” The shop offers many assorted vintage and antique items, including clothes, books, tools, pottery, glassware, lamps, artwork, and furniture. Margaret invites everyone to “come see us soon.” *Winter hours: 10:30 am-4:30 pm daily • 120 W California St., Jacksonville • 541-899-1912*



In February Herb and Meloney Quady opened a new tasting room for their winery, **Quady North**, on their estate vineyard at 9800 Highway 238, seven miles up the road from their previous location in Jacksonville. They say, “Thank you to all our members, customers, and staff who supported us and helped us grow to make this dream come true. Stay tuned for updates as we transition!” As before, meat and cheese plates from the Oregon Cheese Cave and other food items are offered. Quady North is known for their wines made from Rhone varieties, as well as Cabernet Franc. In 2021, their 2015 Applegate Valley Cabernet Franc was rated one of the world’s top 100 wines by *Wine Enthusiast*. Their winery adjoins 24 acres of certified LIVE (Low Input Viticulture & Enology, a set of standards for sustainable winegrowers) and organically certified estate vineyards. An additional 54 acres of source vineyards in the Applegate Valley are also certified LIVE sustainable. *11 am-6 pm daily • 9800 Highway 238, Jacksonville • 541-702-2123 • info@quadynorth.com • quadynorth.com*

A new restaurant, **The Ridge**, opened in the former Indigo Grill space in Ruch on New Year’s Eve under new owner Lisa Matchett’s capable thumb. Lisa and her husband Paul are lifelong residents of southern Oregon with nine children. “Our main goal with opening up The Ridge is to give the community a place to gather and a place to enjoy amazing food!” Lisa says. There is a new chef, Eric Pebley, and a new menu with steak, pork, pasta, portobellos, burgers, pizza, and more. They have a full bar and daily specials on food and drinks. There will be live music events scheduled in the future, so check out their Facebook page for updates! *Thursday through Monday 4:30-9:30 pm, closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays • Sunshine Plaza in Ruch, 7360 Highway 238 • 541-702-2320*



Tom and Heather Glass, owners of the historic **Williams General Store** (established circa 1897), recently announced that they “have just added Starbucks coffee! We now make espresso, or flavored lattes and cappuccino. We can even add CBD to your coffee choices! Don’t worry, we are still serving our delicious Cafe Mam drip coffee.” The grocery store offers a wide variety of options, supporting the community by carrying local items such as produce, soaps, baked goods, books, cheeses, clothing, Williams Fire Station shirts, Siskiyou Seeds, and much more. Tom and Heather purchased the store in 2016 and are known for their festive seasonal displays and Heather’s delicious homemade soups and specialty sandwiches. The community has especially appreciated the extra services during the pandemic, such as being able to order groceries weekly and curbside pickup. Planning is under way for the store’s 125th year celebration in the fall! *Open daily 7 am-9 pm • 20180 Williams Highway, Williams • 541-846-6212 • facebook.com/williamsgeneralstore*

Jeanette LeTourneau • [jetlet10@gmail.com](mailto:jetlet10@gmail.com)

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

# 'Why I love the Applegate'

BY DR. WENDY WALSH

Prince Edward Island on the east coast of Canada, is mostly known for Anne of Green Gables and the lighthouse tower that received the first distress signal from the Titanic. But it's also an island of rich farming soil where descendants of Irish potato-famine immigrants have made the island's bounty of potatoes and mussels world famous. To me, I just call the place home. It's where I spent summers growing up on my grandparents' dairy farm, helping the boys haul in hay, preserving pickles with Granny, and bottle-feeding lambs.

I'm a former TV news anchor and current radio host and psychology professor in Los Angeles. And I'm a new landowner in the Applegate. I own Red Barn Farm, the little farm on Highway 238 near Red Lily Vineyards. I discovered it on an eight-state road trip with my teenagers during the darkest days of COVID-19 quarantine. Cooped up in a Los Angeles apartment, itching to breathe some fresh air, I searched on Facebook for those friends who had long ago escaped the city for rural life to places like Montana, Wyoming, and Oregon. With our car packed with a cooler full of sandwiches, thermoses of coffee, and plenty of masks and gloves, off we went.

The Applegate was the last stop on our trip, and after a terrifying grizzly sighting in Montana and sticker-shock housing prices in Wyoming, this place felt just right. Here was a pristine river in a lush valley with my favorite aromas of all time: wine and cow manure. It was the small red barn that stopped me in my tracks, my mind filtering through childhood memories of playtime in haylofts on Prince Edward Island. I immediately had a dream to rebuild my memories for people like me, those who want to expose their kids to a farm stay.

The first step was to renovate the little cottage up by the road. You've probably noticed the black and white paint job with the firepit behind. I opened it as an Airbnb last March, and it became instantly popular with families and couples from Seattle to San Diego. They love the Applegate wine trail, and their great reviews made me an Airbnb superhost. (Each month I have to block the calendar early to have the place for me to stay!) Next are plans to turn the barn into a hip barn-stay. My contractor, Jess Campbell, from Central Point, has been patiently working with the Jackson County Planning Commission on this.

I couldn't have done any of this without the warm welcome and kindness of my Applegate neighbors. I was blessed to meet a sweet schoolteacher named Christine who lives in the main house and helps co-host my Airbnb. Without needing to catch her breath once, Rachael Martin, of Red Lily Vineyards, entertained me with news of the neighborhood on a hike through the hills. My cattle rancher neighbors, Brett and Courtney Roeloffs, have devoted their time and labor for many a hiccup that comes with rural living. Honestly, Brett has redefined the word neighbor and taken it to a new level! And now that I'm on Jo's List, I've found a wealth of other country-loving folks who are at the ready to help when needed.

Watch for the barn construction soon. When it's done, I'll hold an open house where we can drink some of Red Lily's



The namesake red barn at Red Barn Farm.



Dr. Wendy Walsh in the Red Barn Farm on Highway 238.

finest. Thank you, Applegate, for such a warm welcome! I can't wait to meet you.

Dr. Wendy Walsh  
wendy@drwendywalsh.com

# Erleuchten Lamps: Lighting grown from the Earth

BY MATTHEW JOHNSON

As a local Applegate artist, I transform gifts grown from the Earth into master-crafted works of art for the luxury market, leveraging multiple disciplines including woodworking and metal forging.

Growing up with more art supplies than toys and a partial set of Encyclopedia Britannica in a broken home, as a child I found solace educating myself on the world around me and on different art techniques and disciplines while taking art classes in school to further stimulate my spongy young mind in a diverse range of art styles and hone techniques in each style. As I continued my life sojourning into young adulthood and into the work force, I wove my way through myriad fields of technology, business, and design, to make me the artist I am today.

Because I am light sensitive, ambient lighting was always of interest. Architectural lighting can transform a space into a living and interactive work of art, influencing mood depending on the colors and tones used, from the bulb to the materials, and how the two tie together in a melodic warm dance.

There is plenty of beautiful ambient lighting, but I aspired to create something perfect: lighting that gives a natural earthy illumination using colors that calm a person's psychology and holds an organic look and feel as if the lighting was not made by hand but grown from the Earth. Thus Erleuchten Lamps was created.



An Erleuchten Lamp created by Applegate artist Matthew P. Johnson.

Erleuchten Lamps are meticulously and masterfully handcrafted using hard-shell, spherical gourds as their "shade" with designs that fall into one of two categories, math-based or realism. Math-based designs use three layers of spherical and fractal geometry to create beautiful organic designs. A realism design is currently shown in Erleuchten Lamps "Home" page. Once positioning was established,



Artist Matthew P. Johnson

latitude and longitude lines were drawn on a gourd; then Earth's continents and major warm and cold ocean currents were

mapped and transposed. The underneath of the gourd or lampshade is modeled after an antique nautical compass. Bases are made to look like a living element using natural curves with an endcap woodworked from local maple burl then branded with pyrography.

Each Erleuchten Lamp is made by hand and takes roughly 12 months to complete.

In January 2022, after five years of work, Erleuchten Lamps released two collections with seven pieces. The "Relic Collection" contains five pieces; the "Ironic Collection," two pieces.

Visit [erleuchten.com](http://erleuchten.com) for photos and more information on how the lamps are made.

Matthew P. Johnson  
m@erleuchten.com

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Members of the AmeriCorps contingent take a break from working on projects at Pacifica.

## AmeriCorps team works on Pacifica project

BY DAVID CONOVER

Pacifica and the Williams Community Forest Project (WCFP) have been hosting a group of National Civilian Community Corps (AmeriCorps NCCC) members since January 13. Eight volunteers are working on a variety of projects during their six weeks in Williams, including building tent platforms for the outdoor school program at Pacifica and maintaining trails with WCFP.



AmeriCorps crew members work on a boardwalk.

The AmeriCorps members hail from across the United States: Calhoun, Tennessee; Bethesda, Maryland; Wilmot, South Dakota; Voorhees, New Jersey; Nashville, Tennessee; Champaign, Illinois; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Boston, Massachusetts.

The group's 10 months of service began in Yolo County, California. Once their projects are completed here in Williams, the group heads to Kalispell, Montana, where they will work with Habitat for Humanity and United Way.

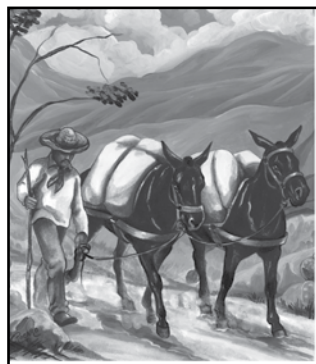
Pacifica is a nonprofit organization with the mission of providing educational

and recreational opportunities for the communities of the Applegate, Rogue, and Illinois valleys of southern Oregon. Its 500-acre property is a nature preserve and park with a community center, educational classrooms, and outdoor learning labs. Pacifica is also home to Forestfarm, a nursery that specializes in native plants as well as ornamentals from around the world.

Learn more by visiting [pacificagarden.org](http://pacificagarden.org) and [forestfarm.com](http://forestfarm.com).

David Conover  
[david@pacificagarden.org](mailto:david@pacificagarden.org)

Photo below, left: An AmeriCorps crew member cuts a board. Right: Pacifica Board member Rodger Miller watches as an AmeriCorps crew member works on a boardwalk.



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## NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

# Mountain Montessori offers kindergarten through third grade instruction

BY KAREN WEARY

Mountain Montessori is a new local homeschool just completing its inaugural year. Located on private property in Williams, the classroom is small, with a maximum capacity of 10 children in kindergarten through third grade. The intention is to keep the group small and intimate so that students can get all the individualized support they need. Children attend four days a week, from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.



The Mountain Montessori logo.

Montessori education focuses on mixed age groups, hands-on learning materials, work time that allows and supports the development of focus and concentration, self-discovery, and the deepest respect for the rights and property of oneself, others, and nature.

The classroom curriculum focuses on common elementary subjects like reading, language, math, geography, science, and culture. Instruction follows a scope and sequence yet is individualized

so that students move at a pace that best supports their independent learning. Students also practice skills like self-control, time management, emotional awareness, respectful interactions, and problem solving with their peers and how to independently meet their individual needs.

Also, for those involved with TEACH-Northwest, Mountain Montessori is a certified vendor.

The teacher, Karen Weary, has been teaching Montessori for the past 16 years in both public and private schools. She has extensive training and experience in teaching children to read and creating a solid mathematical foundation. She is thrilled to bring her love of Montessori to her home community and offer this one-of-a-kind educational opportunity.

Karen Weary  
Mountain Montessori owner and teacher  
[kwearymontessori@gmail.com](mailto:kwearymontessori@gmail.com)  
541-525-5642



The language area at Mountain Montessori in Williams.



The math area at Mountain Montessori in Williams.

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**NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS**

# In challenging times, teaching takes on heroic dimensions

BY JEAN HALL

Heroes work at Applegate School. Despite extended student absences and actual school closure for a week near the end of the first semester, the Applegate School staff diligently continued to create opportunities for learning and offer a variety of supportive measures to students in need. Now both staff and students rejoice over being “in person” again. Mrs. Halsted, second- and third-grade teacher, voices the staff’s positive report. “For the first time since this pandemic began, we are seeing real growth in student learning with having students in school.”

Mrs. Gourley reflects on her positive experience of the “in-person” environment at Applegate School. “Coming into Applegate as the new middle school teacher comes with its difficulties and anxieties, but with such a great group of students and staff to work with, the transition to this position has been amazing!” She describes her efforts to create a safe and inviting classroom by encouraging her students to practice kindness and positive thinking.

To facilitate these practices Mrs. Gourley invites the students to share about themselves and their feelings. At the beginning of each week, she encourages the students to share special moments from the weekend. At the end of the week, the class has a time to share moments from the week that they saw as bad, so-so, and good. Attempting to highlight the good, Mrs. Gourley joins in the sharing to show that adults also have difficult moments, but choosing to focus on the positive, they can change their outlook. Such “in person” sharing helps to create a loving and family-like classroom.

K-1 teacher Mrs. Hirschmugl underlines the necessity of “in-person” school. “Learning is social, and kids need to be together to learn from one another.” Besides this valuable social learning, K-1 students are making great strides in reading and math. After working on number recognition, number names, and values up to 20, kinder students are now adding and subtracting fluently, comparing two digit numbers and finding unknown numbers in an equation. These students have also learned letters and sounds and have begun to read. First graders are moving onto chapter books, and, along

with all the Applegate students, are excited to hold and read the books provided by a generous donation from the Grants Pass Kiwanis Club.

Both Mrs. Hirschmugl and Mrs. Halsted are grateful for Mrs. Daw’s music instruction and were pleased to have their students perform Christmas songs for the school. In this second semester, they are both looking forward to getting the SMART reading program back in person and doing some garden work with the help of White Oaks Farm. The students now also have the advantage of instruction from the new PE teacher, Mrs. Baertschiger.

Applegate students have enjoyed opportunities in music and art this past semester. Using bucket drums, Mrs. Daw taught middle-school students to read, echo, and play simple rhythms that included quarter, half, whole, and 16th notes and rests. They also worked on playing two parts at the same time, did a brief composition unit with writing rhythms, and explored Garage Band for their own compositions. In K-5, Mrs. Daw focused on reading rhythms, playing parts together, and creating rhythmic compositions.

Blending music with art, Mrs. Kappen had her students in the Art Elective program do a project of still life involving musical instruments. Students also had a lesson in one-point perspective and had the opportunity to paint some wintery scenes with acrylics, focusing on space between objects and distance. Mrs. Kappen plans to link art with native plants and garden flowers this spring when she has the students plant seeds and possibly draw plant diagrams.

Out of troubled times often step persons who see beyond difficulties, who, instead, search for new opportunities to serve. With creativity, dedication, and compassion they inspire us and give us hope. The Applegate School community is richly blessed with persons such as these, many of whom form the staff of Applegate School. We are deeply grateful for their quiet, but determined, heroism, and we hail them for their faithful service to our children in this difficult and challenging time.

Jean Hall • jhall80@juno.com

# Field school collaborative sprouts in Ruch

BY RYAN KING

Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS), a K-8 public school in the Medford School District, is continuing and expanding a multifaceted partnership with the Southern Oregon University Environmental Education (SOU EE) graduate program. ROCS’s pedagogical approach of place-based education aligns well with the rich field-based opportunities offered by the SOU EE graduate program. This school year, ROCS is inviting Jackson County Parks and the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council to create the Southern Oregon Field School Collaborative. By adding these agencies to the existing partnership, the collaborative will further advance and widen both short-term and long-term goals, leveraging unique characteristics of our rural bioregion and improving school connectedness to the surrounding community.

Actions performed under the collaborative will create authentic experiential civic engagement in the outdoors for all parties, as well as natural resource stewardship that engages youth in service-learning projects. A number of interesting projects are moving forward. First, Cantrall Buckley Park will serve as host site for day and residential programs offered through the fall in the Field School capstone project offered by the SOU EE graduate program. One shared vision of the collaborative is to build permanent yurts at the park.

This will expand the usability for park patrons and for summer youth camps and ad hoc education programs for students in southern Oregon. Educational programs will have access to riparian areas, forests, and hiking trails. Lessons will align with state standards and fulfill Oregon Department of Education requirements relating to outdoor school. Second, ROCS will sponsor SOU EE graduate students as they complete practicum credits in the winter and spring terms.

Duties may include coordinating outreach with community organizations and assisting teachers with curriculum that focuses on place-based education.

Finally, ROCS recently completed the participant application for the Adopt A Park program at Cantrall Buckley Park. K-12 students in the Medford School District will participate in hands-on projects along the riparian zones with the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council.



Middle-school students work with AmeriCorps member Hannah Borgerson (hat) to monitor the habitat of the riparian zone. Photo: Michael Buyaskas.



Seventh-grader Emmett Haughey takes the diameter measurement of native trees along the Applegate River. Photo: Michael Buyaskas.

By working together, the Southern Oregon Field School Collaborative aims to complete these projects more effectively and efficiently, drawing on the unique resources of each organization. Numerous educational benefits result from more direct contact with nature, and a greater and more practical understanding of the environment and our place in it is certainly at the core of what the collaborative hopes to achieve in the years ahead.

For more information about the Southern Oregon Field School Collaborative, visit [ruchschool.org/in-the-news/the-southern-oregon-field-school-collaborative](http://ruchschool.org/in-the-news/the-southern-oregon-field-school-collaborative).

Ryan King, Assistant Principal  
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**Samples of Applegate School student still lifes of musical instruments**

Photos: Linda Kappen.



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



Photos, clockwise from top left:

–**Gerrie and Wayne Leinfelder**, 22-year residents of the *Applegater*, read the *Applegater* in Mazzarò, Sicily.

–Former Jerome Prairie resident **Dianne Baldwin Sanders** and daughter **Cassy Sanders** read the *Gater* at The Americana at Brand, Los Angeles, California, in December.

–**Yolanda Jaime** and **Cathy Rodgers** chillin' with the *Applegater* in Fairbanks, Alaska.

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

### ■ GRATEFUL

*Continued from page 1*

so he usually does this job. And now that winter is here, we have started raking leaves away from the house, off the deck/patio and such. I smash a big bucket of leaves into our trash barrel every week I can. It's easier than burning them.

And we make sure to get leaves off the roof! Yes, this can be tough to do, but it's vital if a fire is spreading toward your home some summer day. Think about it: isn't the roof about the largest single surface on the house? Just sitting up there, collecting whatever hits it, including embers!

But don't wait until a fire happens, because fires can come just about every month of the year here in southwest Oregon! (I know—ugh!) You could be too busy gathering the family and valuables into the car to evacuate safely! I can't even count the number of wildfires out here after summer was officially over! *So keep track* of how our local weather is doing this year—is it above or below rainfall and temps to date?

And it pays to continue to remove fuels and leaves from near your home all spring and summer, and make sure there are no piles of leaves, branches, and such along the driveway! You want firefighters to *come up your driveway* in the event of a wildfire. If they see two driveways side-by-side, and one has mounds of leaves all along the sides and on the driveway surface, they likely would go up the one that is not covered with flammable materials.

So, if everyone out here in the *Applegate* can get their homes prepared for fire season this spring, we can all pat each other on the back and breathe easier as the 2022 fire season begins later this summer. Let's Get Back to Normal!

Thanks, neighbors!

Sandy Shaffer  
sassyoneor@gmail.com

## Where to find baked goods in the Applegate

**Curly Top Bakery**, 541-846-6267, 15095 Highway 238, next to the *Applegate* Store. (They don't sell from the bakery. If you want something, ask for it in the *Applegate* Store.) Baked goods are available in Ashland at the Co-op; in Medford at GoodBean Coffee, Shop'n Kart, Medford Co-op, and Cartwright's; in Murphy at Hidden Valley Market; in Grants Pass at Farmers Market and Rogue Roasters; in White City at Human Bean and Market 62; in Jacksonville at the GoodBean; and in Williams at the General Store.

**Paulazzo Pasticceria**, custom orders available through [paulazzopasticceria.com](http://paulazzopasticceria.com). Cupcakes can be found in Ashland at the Food Co-op, Shop'n Kart, and Market of Choice; in Medford at Market of Choice, Food Co-op, Food 4 Less, Cartwright's, and Elder Apothecary; in Grants Pass at Farmers Market; in the *Applegate* at the Ruch Country Store. Baked goods sell seasonally at the *Applegate* Evening Market and other open-air markets in the area.

**Pennington Farms**, 541-846-6267, 11341 Williams Highway, pennington.farm. Baked goods are sold mostly at the farm stand, but also at Great Harvest in Medford, the Ashland Co-op, and Hidden Valley Market.

**Provolt Country Store and Deli**, 541-846-6286, 14299 Highway 238. The only place to buy their baked goods is at their store.

**Rise Up! Artisan Bread**, 541-899-3472, [riseupartisanbread.com](http://riseupartisanbread.com). The

bakery is located at the Full Bloom community in the Little *Applegate*. Breads are available in the *Applegate* at Ruch Country Store, Williams General Store, Takubeh, and Whistling Duck Farm Store; and in Jacksonville at C St Bistro, GoodBean Coffee, Jefferson Farm Kitchen, and Dancin Vineyards. Widely available in stores throughout the Rogue Valley.

*For more information, see front-page article titled "Bakers, bakeries, and baked goods in the Applegate."*



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