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Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
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Celebrating
~28~
Years

The value of reflection (and planning ahead!)

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Recently I asked our Applegate Fire Chief McLaughlin to list a few items that he felt were of top importance for our constituents to do before fire season gets here.

His top priority item completely surprised me. The chief said that he wished that every property in the Applegate had the reflective numeral address signs that the fire district provides in coordination with the county (Jackson or Josephine). I was stunned—I thought everyone *did* use these signs.

The chief explained that “fancy” address signs are nice (and having one next to the house is fine), but in the middle of the night or during a wildfire those signs are hard to see, while a reflective sign would be very easy to see. Time is of the essence if the resident is having a heart attack, when a few minutes could make the difference between life or death.

The chief also said that an issue here in the Applegate Valley is that many homes are off the main roads, up long, shared



The address sign at the road shows the order in which the driver comes to each home. Photo: Sandy Shaffer.

driveways. These long driveways can have several homes on them, and many times the homes are not in numerical order! “Like yours,” he said! That, I got.

We were the second family to purchase land on our private road, and we chose the parcel at the far end of the driveway for more privacy. But the county assigned us the second parcel number in sequence instead of the third number. So over the

See REFLECTION, page 17.



Williams General Store celebrating its 125th year

BY DIANA COOGLE

Trivia question: What significant event took place in Williams, Oregon, in 1897? Answer: The Williams General Store first opened its doors.

So what significant event will take place in Williams this September? The quasiquintennial—125th anniversary—celebration at the general store.

In July 2016 Heather and Tom Glass became the 21st owners of the store. “There is a rumor there were 47 owners,” Tom says. “But only if there was one big poker game!”

Marge and John Chambers, who still live in Williams, owned the store

from 1981 to 1998, “the longest of all the owners,” says their daughter, Ladonna, who was 21 when the family moved from southern California to run the store and who also still lives in Williams, with her daughter and granddaughter. The Chambers added an extended hardware section and a barn for selling feed. They brought in movies, a popular entertainment for the community.

For years the most popular aspect of the store was its potbellied stove. “Guys would sit around and drink coffee and

See WILLIAMS STORE, page 5.

Eleven Applegate Valley farms featured on tour

BY JESSICA BULLARD

This summer the Rogue Valley Farm Tour will offer the opportunity to visit multiple local farms and ranches, participate in field tours and activities, purchase local produce and products, and learn about the abundance of our local food system. The event will take place from 10 am to 3 pm Sunday, July 17.

The tour is divided into three geographic sectors: Rogue Valley North, Central Rogue Valley, and the Applegate Valley. This year, the Applegate Valley has 11 local farms and ranches participating. The tour is self-guided, so you can go to whichever farms you choose and stay for as long as you like during the event.

Oshala Farm is a 145-acre, certified organic, family-run farm growing more than 80 varieties of medicinal and culinary herbs. Here you can learn about regenerative agriculture and sample herbal products made from the herbs they grow. Local-centric, organic meals will also be available for purchase.

Applegate River Lavender Farm (formerly Lavender Fields Forever) offers you spectacular Applegate Valley

views while surrounded by seven varieties of culinary and aromatic lavender. Here you can enjoy the view and relax under the big maple tree, inside the picturesque barn, or under the awnings, while taking in the sweet smell of lavender and enjoying their lavender brownies, lemonade, and ice cream.

Siskiyou Seeds is a bioregional seed hub that produces open-pollinated and heirloom seeds using organic practices and biodynamic methods. This family farm has grown organic seeds, fruits, animals, ideas, and people since 1997.

Whistling Duck Farm is a certified organic vegetable farm and kitchen. The



Elise and Jeff Higley founded Oshala Farm in 2013. It will be open to visitors on July 17 for the Rogue Valley Farm Tour.

on-site natural foods store includes meats, produce, fermented foods, grab-and-go condiments and meals, plus farm-based CBD products.

Salant Family Ranch is a working cattle ranch raising homegrown

grass-finished and grain-finished beef with tours available upon request. Pony rides are available for kids under 50 pounds.

The English Lavender Farm is a family-friendly working lavender farm with U-Pick, wreath-making, gift shop, essential oils, and lavender ice cream.

Rogue Artisan Foods is a small polyculture farm raising goats, pigs, and poultry. There will be a baby-goat

petting area for kids. The Farm Store offers pastured goat, pork, and chicken along with goat milk, eggs, and goat milk soap. They also have bokashi, a beneficial bacteria for soil and composting, available for sale.

TerraSol Organics is a certified-organic microgreen farm. Microgreens are plants no older than two weeks that have been cut just above the root before they have a chance to mature. Tours will include microgreen production and an edible flower field.

Herb Pharm uses certified organic, non-GMO farming techniques to grow over 65 herbs on their farm. They use these herbs to create high-quality herbal extracts in a way that supports the health of their customers, environment, and community.

Plaisance Ranch raises USDA certified organic, 100 percent grass-fed and -finished free-range beef cattle. They also produce award winning wines, with tastings available in their open-air barn.

Goodwin Creek Gardens is an organic nursery specializing in lavender, herbs, and

See FARM TOUR, page 2

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ENVIRONMENT - FIRE - RECREATION

OBITUARIES

Taren Slade Dempsey

December 11, 1995 – October 13, 2019

Taren Slade Dempsey went to be with his mother in heaven on Sunday, October 13, 2019. Taren cherished his family and friends. But nothing compared to his devotion and proudness for his son, Elias Slade. He spent his time fishing with, playing with, and loving Elias at every opportunity.

His remaining family included his widow, Aliasha Franks; L. Craig Dempsey (father); and Tiffany Dempsey (stepmother), who resided with him in Ruch. Siblings Lauren Thompson, LillyAnn Espinoza (niece), Lynzi Kidwell (two nephews, JH and Jaxon; and one niece, Charlotte), Christian Anderson, and Austin Anderson all will carry his heart



and vibrant memories for all years to come. Grandparents Carol and Jesse Swagerty, Dale and Bobbi Dempsey, Gill and Sonya Turner, and Pam Meek will forever miss their loving grandson.

Taren's soul was destined for Oregon. He loved the Applegate and Illinois valleys. A farmer and science enthusiast for all things in nature and learning, he lived and embraced his life fully. Fishing, kayaking, camping—and oh! the music!—with all his friends was the open book he thrived on with more passion than most will ever live. He loved his friends without doubt and gave without pause. He forever will be missed.

Malcolm Douglas Towns

January 3, 1944 – February 11, 2022

Malcolm was born in Alameda, California, on January 3, 1944. He and his older brother, Duncan, spent the days of their youth in the East Bay riding bikes, playing ball, and getting into their fair share of trouble . . . so I am told.

Shortly after his time in the Army, Malcolm was hired by the City of Hayward where he began his 33-year career with the fire service, retiring from the City of Burlingame in 1997 as their fire chief.

Moving to southern Oregon was his next adventure. Malcolm had never lived anywhere but the San Francisco Bay Area. He and I jumped right in, working to figure out this new life of ours. The following years would find us committed to doing volunteer work, making new friends, pursuing our interests, traveling, and continuing to grow roots in the Applegate Valley. We worked hard and had a lot of fun.

Malcolm was a generous friend and neighbor. He cherished his family of four



generations and is loved beyond measure by each one of them. Our time together spanned 35 years. He made so many of my dreams come true.

Malcolm passed away in Medford, Oregon, on February 11, 2022. I, with his children Shelli Kravitz, Mark Towns, and Michael Towns, have the utmost gratitude for the care he received from the

caregiving and medical professionals with Roxy Ann Memory Care and Providence Hospice of Medford.

Our family will gather sometime in the coming months. The memories and stories we share then and through the years to follow will undoubtedly make us smile and continue to celebrate the life that Malcolm lived and his place in our hearts.

If you are so inclined, memorial contributions in Malcolm's memory may be made to Wildlife Images at wildlifeimages.org or Rogue Valley Habitat for Humanity at roguevalleyhabitat.org.

Lynn Towns
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Williams Fire Department Support Group hosts community yard sale June 18-19

BY KAREN ROGERS

The Williams Fire Department Support Group has been actively supporting their fire department and community since 2009. They provide coffee and refreshments for monthly community meetings and for several annual events and generate revenue for fire department services with an annual yard sale.

On March 29, the Support Group assisted the Fire Department with the Vietnam Veterans potluck barbecue luncheon, supplying potluck dishes, helping with setup, and serving the meal. The veterans really enjoyed the event, which enabled them to reach out to and get acquainted with other local veterans. American Legion Post 50, which currently has 48 members, and the new Ladies Auxiliary branch, with 25 members, provided the Color Guard ceremony. Singer-songwriter Windsong Martin provided music on her guitar.

The Ceremony of Life service for fallen firefighters Wes and Sue Nevotti was recently held at the Williams fire station, attended by their family and community members. The service began with a procession of fire trucks and community vehicles representing Williams

Rural Fire Protection District (WRFPD), Josephine County Sheriff's Department, Rural Metro Fire Department, AMR Ambulance, Illinois Valley Fire Department, and Applegate Valley Fire Department. The very moving memorial service included a flag and bell ceremony by the Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard and ended with "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes, followed by the sounding of the old fire-station alarm, which moved many to tears. The Support Group assisted with the service arrangements and served coffee and refreshments.

The Support Group assists with the community coffee on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am at the fire station. At these gatherings, the community gets an update by Fire Chief Rick Vetter and information from guest speakers about various programs and other things happening in the community. The community coffee is a great way for neighbors to get to know one another, and all are welcome to attend.

Looking ahead, the support group will be assisting firefighters with the Firefighter Awards Banquet in May, the community yard sale in June, the Fourth of July parade in downtown Williams, the WRFPD Open House in September, the annual Halloween Trunk-or-Treat Night, the WRFPD Christmas party, and the appearance of Santa at the fire station on December 18, as well as the ongoing renovation of the old firehouse, plus T-shirt and sweatshirt sales.

The 2022 Community Yard Sale, with proceeds going to the fire department, takes place on June 18-19 in the field



Chief Rick Vetter speaks at the memorial service for Wes and Sue Nevotti.



Volunteer Firefighter KC Welch and Community Relations Officer Rosie Faith serve at the veterans luncheon.

behind the fire station at 211 East Fork Road. The Support Group depends on the community for donations of gently used items for their sales. Additionally, folks can rent a 12- by 12-foot space for \$25 for the two days to sell their own stuff and keep their profits. The fenced field is locked at night, with security provided. This two-day event is a great way for folks to get acquainted with the Support Group and support the Williams Fire Department.

Having Santa and Mrs. Claus at the fire house each December is a fun event, with presents for all the children who attend, carolers with festive music, and refreshments by the support group. This year Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the fire station on December 18.

WRFPD depends on the local community for support. The passage of the 2020 levy allows the fire department to maintain its present level of service to the community. The fire department, board, and Support Group are very thankful to local businesses and groups who have graciously donated to the WRFPD.

The Support Group is looking for new members to support the events noted above and to attend the monthly planning meetings, at 6 pm the second Monday of each month at the Williams Fire Station, 211 East Fork Road.

If you would like more information about upcoming events, or if you'd like to join the Support Group, contact Claudia Pratt, president, at 541-218-4306, or Karen Rogers, secretary, at krogers1952@gmail.com.

Karen Rogers
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■ FARM TOUR

Continued from page 1
and pollinator plants. They have over 350 varieties of hardy plants, all propagated and grown on site.

Event brochures with a map of the participating locations are available throughout the valley, and a digital version is available to download at roguevalleyfarmtour.com.

There is much to see and do on the day of the event, and the Farm Tour brochure offers a few tips to make the most of the day. Please leave pets at home. Bring a water bottle and cooler to store farm-fresh goods. Wear shoes you don't mind getting dirty. GPS and cell phone reception are spotty in some locations, so check your directions before you head out.

Jessica Bullard
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Whistling Duck Farm Store (top photo) and the English Lavender Farm (bottom photo) are among the farms open to visitors on July 17 for the Rogue Valley Farm Tour.

Happy Father's Day

Join A Greater Applegate at a community-wide vision session

BY SETH KAPLAN

Over the last 18 months and 20 listening sessions, hundreds of Applegate Valley residents and business owners have shared thousands of comments with A Greater Applegate (AGA) about why they love our valley and what they would like to see change. In recent months, AGA staff have been compiling all these brilliant thoughts into 25 categories as an Applegate Valley Vision Framework:

Inclusive & Engaged

- Rural Representation
- Community Building & Neighborhood Engagement
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Nonprofit Network
- Local History & Cultural Heritage

Steward & Sustain

- Forest & Fire
- Water
- Local Food & Agriculture
- Outdoor Recreation
- Climate Resiliency

Prosperous & Vital

- Innovative Economy
- Destination Applegate
- Business Network
- Artist Network
- Healthy Workforce

Resilient & Connected

- Emergency Preparedness
- Public Safety
- Infrastructure
- Communications
- Energy

Vibrant & Livable

- Health & Wellness
- Transportation
- Housing
- Education
- Waste Management

AGA will present the Framework to the Applegate Valley community in greater detail from 5:30 to 7:30 pm Tuesday, June 7, at Applegate Valley Fire Station #9 in Ruch and from 3 to 5 pm Sunday, June

12, at Pacifica in Williams. Both programs will be identical, and food and childcare will be provided.

At each of the 20 listening sessions—in neighborhoods, with business and nonprofit networks, and for subsets of our area like Latinx residents, artists, and the food and farm sector—AGA promised to share our progress to all those who participated for maximum transparency. Initially we did this by posting notes from each meeting on our website.

In recent months we have invited community members and content experts to work together in Working Groups to provide context and details for parts of the plan. These subject-driven meetings have covered artists, cannabis, education, food and farm, forest and fire, history, health and human services, outdoor recreation, and short-term rental properties. We also have received technical guidance on rural internet accessibility and our rural village hub concept.

As a next step, we invite all those who have participated at any of our community gatherings, as well as anyone newly interested in this process, to join us for a presentation of the plan in its current state and share your thoughts about it before a final draft and publication. In addition, we will have pop-up Working Groups at both sessions to provide insights on some of the key areas of the plan.

For 18 months we have been thrilled with the community's engagement in the Applegate Valley Vision Plan. It only gets more exciting as we get closer! If you are interested in the future of the Applegate Valley, if you want to hear what your neighbors think, or if you want to be part of your community working together to make the Applegate better, please join us at an Applegate Valley Vision Convening near you!



AGA will present the Applegate Valley Vision Framework from 5:30-7:30 pm Tuesday, June 7, at Applegate Valley Fire Station #9 in Ruch and from 3-5 pm Sunday, June 12, at Pacifica in Williams. Graphic: AGA.

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 the state of Oregon. A Greater Applegate was awarded \$150,000 over an 18-month period to support rural small businesses through the Applegate Valley Business Network.

Funding enables AGA to support local businesses with marketing support, website design, financial management, permitting and land-use consulting, and other assistance. In addition, working in partnership with our Business Oregon Rural Opportunity Initiative grant, this funding can be used to provide direct support to local businesses in the food and farm sector. New entrepreneurs needing help moving a business idea to

reality can join the Co-Starter cohort to build a great foundation before receiving additional assistance. Business start-up assistance will be provided in English and Spanish. Finally, a partnership with the Jackson County Small Business Development Center offers a broad range of 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, but startups are free, and no one will be denied services for lack of funds. If you are a small business owner, have a business startup idea, or are interested in more information about the technical assistance program, reach out to ashley@agreaterapplegate.org.

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

Who are you going to call? 911!

BY MIKE MCLAUGHLIN

It may be obvious to you to call 911 when you have an emergency, whether it be a fire, a medical crisis, or a child stuck up in a tree. However, we get a lot of calls to our direct line at the fire station that should really have been 911 calls.

This is a reminder to everyone: When there is an emergency and you can't wait a few hours or possibly a day for help to arrive, you must call 911. You may ask, why is this? Let me explain.

At the fire station, our phones are not always manned. We could be out on a fire, in the midst of training, at a meeting, doing a presentation in the community, or having lunch. These are the normal things that go on in every office setting no matter what your profession.

The 911 system paid for by your tax dollars connects all county residents with the appropriate services for their emergencies. The 911 center has knowledgeable personnel who can guide you through steps that may be life-saving while first responders are coming your way. The first responders carry radios and alert systems so the 911 personnel can reach them when a call for help comes in.

Here are the top 20 reasons to call 911. This is not an exhaustive list. If you believe you have a life-threatening emergency, don't hesitate to call 911.

- Fire:** Call even if it is small.
- Smoke sighting:** Better to report than not.
- Illegal burns:** Call 911 when you think a burn might be illegal. They check out those that are not permitted.
- Heart attack:** Early warning signs include pale skin, a cold sweat, exhaustion, tightening of the back and chest, indigestion, light-headedness, the inability to catch one's breath, and pain that radiates to the arms, shoulders, and neck.

- Choking:** Call regardless of outcome. Even if the airway has been cleared, rescue efforts could cause injuries.
- Severe bleeding:** Call when bleeding is profuse and can't be stopped.
- Amputation:** Call 911 immediately, attempt a tourniquet, and pack the limb in ice while waiting for help.
- Miscarriage:** Call when a pregnant woman is in early term and is experiencing extreme cramping and bleeding. She is likely having a miscarriage.
- Diabetic coma:** If you are unable to wake a diabetic person, it is likely an insulin problem.
- Seizure:** Call in case of any seizure (sudden, uncontrolled electrical disturbance in the brain).

- Car accident:** Even in minor accidents, whiplash could occur. Don't remove victims from the car unless there is another threat to their health, such as fire.
- Home invasion:** If an intruder has entered the home or is still present, attempt to get to safety and call 911.
- Tree or powerline that has fallen on or near the home:** If there is risk to household members, call immediately.
- Drowning:** Call instantly in the event someone is getting into difficulty in the water.
- Severe headache:** A sudden, severe headache is not normal. Vomiting and changes in vision accompanying such a headache could be signs of an aneurysm or stroke.
- Stroke symptoms:** Call when a person suddenly cannot speak sensibly, feels weakness on one side of the body, or experiences a drooping on one side of the face.
- Severe pain:** Call when a sudden, extreme pain occurs with no known cause.
- Coughing or vomiting blood:** Call immediately, as the cause could be life-threatening.
- Severe burns:** When a burn isn't minor, it needs prompt treatment.
- Allergic reaction:** Severe rash, swelling, and the inability to breathe require immediate action.



In an emergency, call 911, not the fire department. The person answering your 911 call will get you the quickest response.

Mike McLaughlin
Fire Chief
Applegate Valley Fire District #9
541-899-1050

POETRY CORNER

“a leaf of grass is no less than
the journey-work of the stars.”
—Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*

One World

By Lisa E. Baldwin
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It is all one and none
as splendid without the other.
Where does the beauty of the leaf end
and the tree begin? or the tree end
and the forest begin? How does one
distinguish the fragrant marvel of the forest
from the astounding grandeur of the mountains?
or the shaded river pool
where the water slows to cool
as separate from the rapid run
to a plunging waterfall?
A flower, a frog, a hawk in the sky,
a fir cone, a sparrow, a blackberry vine,
salmon and weasel and humankind,
We are all one and none
lives well, none lives long alone.

Native Oregonian and resident of the Lower Applegate Valley since 1966, Lisa lives and works on her small farm in Jerome Prairie. After teaching English for 30 years in Grants Pass public schools, she retired in 2015 and began her current career as a Poetry Evangelist—writing and publishing poetry, teaching and organizing poetry workshops, spreading the good news of the poetic world and encouraging others to write as an act of art. In 2021, Lisa launched N8tive Run Press and published two volumes of poetry: Penned Up: Writing Out the Pandemic by the Applegate Poets, and her own collection, Truths and Consequences. A second book of Lisa's poems, Jerome Prairie Creation Myths and Other Farm Tales, is forthcoming in June from N8tive Run Press. (For more information or to order, send an email to N8tiveRun.enterprises@gmail.com.)

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.

Essay *Becoming Turkey*

BY G.A. BRADSHAW

Summer in the Applegate Valley paints swaths of greens and golds across its standing fields and mountainsides. It is a time of incomparable beauty.

One evening, as beams of dusk slanted down, I saw five wild turkey males walking slowly across a burnished field of gold. The scene was not extraordinary, except that one turkey was limping. His comrades flanked him, two to the right and two to the left, matching their steps to his labored pace. The band of brothers slowly made their way to the wooded edge where they sought shelter for the night.

Bird injuries are not uncommon. A searing shotgun pellet or graze of a car barreling down a country road often results in a battered wing or broken leg. Both are almost always lethal. Turkeys travel and forage by foot, and wing their way to shelter in trees. To lose one of these vital means of motion puts a turkey at grave risk. What was striking that evening was that the lame turkey had not been abandoned. Forsaking pressing agendas such as finding food and getting to nighttime safety in the boughs of a tree, the four friends chose instead to walk at their injured companion's side. The turkeys put companionship before their individual needs.

This companionable gesture is often referred to as *accompaniment*. Its roots relate to the Spanish *compañero*, “friend,” and Latin *ad cum panis*, “to break bread.” In everyday speak, accompaniment simply describes the commitment of one to



Wild turkeys. Photo: Jeff Borchers.

support and journey with another, to put oneself in the space of need and vulnerability of someone who is less fortunate.

Accompaniment became a revived social ethic in the 1970's, when it was applied to human sociopolitical issues. By dissolving the inequity of privilege created by social and economic disparities separating the poor from the rich, the vulnerable from the protected, social workers such as Ignatio Martín-Baró sought to replace a polarizing culture of violent domination with one of compassionate inclusion.

This shift is not superficial. It compels us to see beyond external form and circumstance to who lies within, a shared soul and sensibilities. Accompaniment blurs and even dissolves individual identity by re-defining wellness and happiness as something in the plural. Accompaniment is a shared sense of self, an unbreakable bond of kinship.

The wild turkeys provide a living model, here in our own backyards, of how we humans can plant our feet beside each other, including our wildlife neighbors, and give of ourselves in mutual support. The turkeys' gentle care embodies a powerful ethical path to guide us back to who we really are: a community of all beings held together by common respect and love.

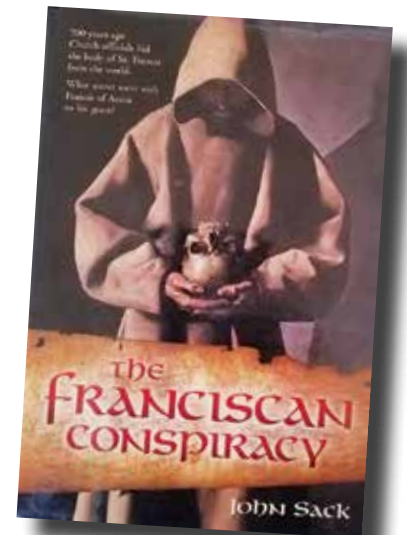
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BOOK REVIEW

The Franciscan Conspiracy

John Sack
Riverwood Books
Ashland, Oregon 2005
Available at the public library

BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER



Here is a book worth many reads. I read it first in 2005 just after it was released, then again in 2010 just after I met the author, then again, but maybe not for the last time, after I married the author and before I took on the task of writing this review. As I closed the book this time, still moved by the ending, I took a deep breath and disturbed John by saying to him, “It is sad that this book of yours was not published by Random House or another of the major publishers, because it is one of the key writings of our era, and in this country it received no marketing at all.”

I thought of the 17 foreign translations displayed between medieval stone bookends in John's office. (I enjoy paging through the exotic languages editions for the pure art of, say, Chinese ideograms or Cyrillic print). It sold well across the ocean. Here in America, it ought to have been sent for reviews to major newspapers and had a “First Fiction” review in *Publishers' Weekly*, and John ought to have been on tour for readings and signings. Even you, here in the Applegate, may have missed this book although it was beautifully published in hardcover right down the road.

The Franciscan Conspiracy is a history-mystery set in 13th-Century Italy, 50 years after the death of Francis of Assisi, a saint loved and honored throughout the modern world. Division among his followers, corruption in and between church and state, rough-and-tumble among classes and between the city-states, problems with growing trade between nations (all the usual!) intensified the mystery surrounding a very disturbing question: What happened to the saint's body? Where was it hidden? And why?

Many secrets have been tucked away in the annals of history—in code, inscribed in ancient books, on parchment scrolls, carved into dungeon walls, on chapel or cathedral stones, as runes on semi-precious gems, on family crests. Many of them remain secreted in minds and hearts even after evidence of their fact is scuffed into unintelligibility.

John Sack researched five years to produce this stunning and mind-bending book. His office bookcase is still filled with scholarly works, original documents

by followers of Francis, interpretations of those documents, letters, conflicting biographies, descriptions of the places Francis walked and the people he encountered, tales and legends that might or might not be factual, religious and social rituals and celebrations.

When he and I went on pilgrimage to the places of Francis years after he'd written the book, it was hard to believe he hadn't been there before; he had so internalized and reproduced in his writing everything we were experiencing. The reality simply matched his imagination, he explained. His construction of the 13th century culture of Francis and his followers—earthy detail and intelligent entanglements of his characters in their social, political, and religious factions—immerses the reader in that medieval world.

Into this place, rich in sensuous detail, revealing complex ideological conflicts within a church and state devolving towards decay and treachery, John Sack sets his main character, Fra Conrad, on a mission to unearth a secret about Francis that could crumble the foundations of that world. Where might that secret be hidden, and why? During Conrad's mission this reader grew to love him, asking John how he managed to create a character so real, to which he replied, “Some of my best friends are fictional.”

In a conclusion that some readers have found heretical, others experience as deeply satisfying, and I think of as wisely both, the author demonstrates his literary genius. He plants sly clues from the book's beginning that the reader might dismiss because they fit so well the delusions of the medieval era and the deliberate complicity of a small group of men. Too bad, implies the author of this international best-selling book, because the truth those men hid was really so much better than the fable they conspired to make us believe.

Christin Lore Weber
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Rogue Harm Reduction volunteers needed

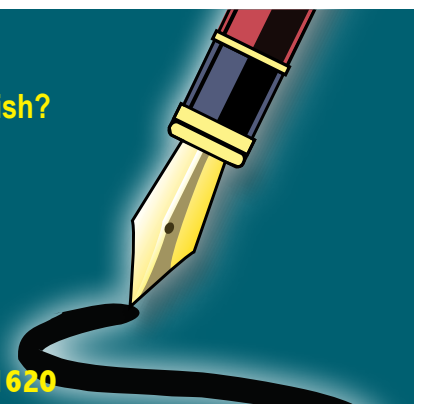
Rogue Harm Reduction, a volunteer-run, nonprofit health collective based in Williams and sponsored by the HIV Alliance, promotes community wellness and harm reduction strategies in response to substance use and other community health concerns. Needed are volunteers to help offer free, nonjudgmental, STI screenings and naran/naloxone overdose response training and giveaways from 10:30 am-1:30 pm the first Sunday of each month in Williams. If you think you would be a good fit, email rogueharmreduction@gmail.com.

Authors!

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~ FINE PRINT ~

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. (AVCN) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the publication of the *Applegater* newsmagazine, which, we feel, reflects the heart and soul of our community.

Our Mission

The 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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- Greeley Wells

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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.

Photo Requirements

All photos submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi) or "large format" (e.g., 30" x 40"). If you have questions, email gater@applegater.org.

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

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

Applegater Newsmagazine
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WILLIAMS STORE

Continued from page 1
talk," Ladonna said. "I remember the big snow of January '92, when everything was shut off from town. Carol Patrick cross-country skied down from Davidson Road for groceries. There was no power; the guys still came in to sit around the stove. It was so much fun."

Those were the years that saw an influx of counterculture folks, when Williams was still a logging town with a mill. "We catered to both groups because we enjoyed both," Ladonna said. "We had beer for the loggers, natural foods for the hippies. If there was a confrontation, I didn't have any problem saying, 'Knock it off. You're all my customers, all my friends. We're not playing that game here.'"

Rob and Jody Wagner owned the store from 1998 to 2008. They moved the gas pumps to the back and put a sidewalk in front. Cathy Hazelton, who owned the store after the Wagners and sold it to the Glasses, put in the back room and

brought in coolers and a freezer for ice cream.

Current owners Heather and Tom are also committed to serving the whole community. They have tolerated no loitering, no pot, no unleashed pets. Customers have to park properly; no one is allowed to carry signs.

"Tom loves this store," Heather says. "He wants people to respect it and love it as he does."

Heather and Tom's main emphasis is to provide affordable food for the community, "so they don't have to go to town for good food," Heather says.

Tom Glass grew up in a small town in California, where his father and



A photo of the Williams Store believed to have been taken in the mid-1970s.

grandfather both owned stores. Tom and Heather were working in Portland, in the tech industry, when a friend who knew that Tom yearned after running a store, told him about a notice on Facebook that the Williams Store was for sale.

See WILLIAMS STORE, page 23.

The Applegater needs your ongoing help!

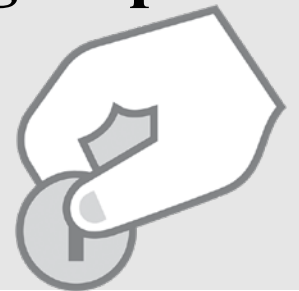
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Cover Photo Credit

Thanks to Linda Kappen for the photo of colorful zinnias and cosmos on Humbug Creek Road. Have a photo for the fall *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.

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Editorial Calendar

ISSUE	DEADLINE
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
SUMMER (June - Aug) <i>Environment-Fire-Recreation</i>	May 1

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— Applegate Library —

Summer 'Treasure Reading' program features events—and prizes



BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

Join Jackson County Library Services' summer reading theme "Treasure Reading" with a variety of events and programs at the Applegate Library starting June 1! Read—get prizes! Come to an event—get prizes! Engage in an activity—get prizes! Sign up online or in the library. We will show you how.

Upcoming events

Preparing for Your Digital Legacy. Have you ever wondered what happens to your digital accounts after death? Or how your loved ones will get access to preserve precious data, such as photos and videos? This program will help you take practical steps to prepare for your digital legacy. Noon-1 pm, Wednesday, June 1.

Take & Make: Your Treasured Memory, 18-plus years old. Pick up a Take & Make kit with supplies to make a journal and a picture of "your treasured memory." Kits are available while supplies last. 2-6 pm Friday, June 3.

Treasured Literary Dishes. 18-plus years old. Literary-themed samples of "treasured" family recipes, by local and generous baker/library assistant Susie Beckham, will be offered along with a chance to exchange recipes. 2:30-3:30 pm Friday, June 3.

Britt Festival Orchestra Mini-Concert. Renia Shterenberg, general manager of the Britt Festival Orchestra, will present a free 30-minute performance/presentation and talk about the 2022 Britt Festival Orchestra season. Come here and discuss Beethoven, Gershwin, Bernstein, and more! 11:30–noon, Saturday, June 4.

Lifting Up the Sky. Tales of Heroes, Hope, and Wonder for all ages. Join master storyteller Will Hornyak on a journey of imagination featuring unforgettable characters, memorable plots, and far-flung lands of myth and legend. Will weaves a wide web of oral traditions into thoughtful, engaging and beautifully crafted performances. 11-noon Saturday, June 18.

Treasure Owls with Bugs-R-Us. 5-plus years old. Join Bugs-R-Us to play detective with real owl pellets. We'll provide latex gloves, tweezers, and magnifying glasses so you can find out what the owls have eaten. Learn about owls in the environment and the part they play in the food-web cycle. This program includes hands-on time with a taxidermied barn owl and owl calls. 11-noon Wednesday, June 22.

Pirate and Mermaid Special Storytime Program! 3-plus years. Yo ho ho, it's a day of fun! Explore the treasures of land and sea through books and activities. 11-noon Wednesday, June 29.

Treasured Memories: Share Your Story. 18-plus years old. This will be a "drop in" conversation program to share your favorite memories from your life. Come and share your story! 1-2 pm, Wednesday, June 29.

Treasured Snuggle Bunnies. 5-plus years. One of the best parts of childhood is having your own snuggly buddy to go

on adventures with, to snuggle when feeling stressed, or to read to. Create your own treasured reading buddy—a calming lavender-scented rabbit plush. Then, check out a book to read to your new friend! 2-3 pm Friday, July 1.

Prepare with Pedro and The Red Cross. 5-plus years. This is a 35- to 45-minute emergency preparedness education program for grades K-2 that teaches students how to be prepared and take action for either home fires or a local hazard. Kids will receive a storybook to be able to continue learning at home. 11-noon Wednesday, July 6.

Take & Make: Treasure Box. 8-plus years. Pick up a Take & Make kit with supplies to make a treasure box for your trinkets, memories or whatever. Kits are available while supplies last. 2-6 pm Friday, July 8.

Butterflies and Moths with Bugs-R-Us. 5-plus years. Explore beautiful insects as we interact with some of the biggest and most spectacular preserved specimens on earth! This program highlights life cycles, importance in the environment, and examples of some very rare butterflies and moths from all over the world. 3-4 pm Tuesday, August 9.

Special Storytime: Dragons! 3-plus years. Hear tales about one of our favorite fantastical creatures: the dragon! You'll also be able to create your own bedazzled dragon egg to take home and treasure forever. 11-noon Saturday, August 13.

Christine Grubb • 541-846-7346
Applegate Branch Library Manager
cgrubb@jcls.org
18485 North Applegate Road

Reminders

- Every Wednesday, from 10 am-12:30 pm, a digital service representative can help with all your tech questions. Come in or make an appointment at techsupport@jcls.org.

- Every Saturday from 10:30-11 am is preschool storytime.

- To see all JCLS summer events, check out our website by going to jcls.libcal.com/calendar/jcls_event.

- Our meeting room can be booked for your meeting, program, or event (even when the library is closed) by going to jcls.libcal.com/reserve/ap-meeting.

- In September we would like to invite community members/patrons to add their treasured, antique, or unusual teacups for a display in our display case. Contact the library for details.

— Ruch Library —

Treasures of the Applegate on display this summer

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

Come to Ruch Library this summer to discover some Treasures of the Applegate! The first treasure to come to mind, of course, is our incredible Jackson County Library System, and the second is what we can offer you. We have some great programs and activities scheduled this summer for all ages, and we have a broad collection of books, magazines, DVDs—all constantly changing and being updated, with electronic versions of all. If you find yourself puzzling over how to access those electronic connections, we can help you with that, as well.

You may want to peruse the display windows of Applegate treasures, as well as revisit the amazing mural in our foyer by Lilli Ann and Marvin Rosenberg. An "I Spy" game with the display and the mural will be a part of the summer's Treasures of the Applegate.

Summer reading for all begins June 1, and you can sign up any time after that, online or on paper, and directions for both will be available at the library and online. You may track the number of books you read or how long you read and be eligible for prizes at the end of the summer. Ruch Library also offers prizes for the child (3-12 years old) and teen readers (12-18 years) who read the most books. We also have a drawing for the adults, with a tantalizing gift basket as the prize. The theme this year is "Treasure Reading." We welcome all who sign up to decorate a paper-doll as yourself holding your favorite book, or "treasure" for bulletin-board displays. *You* are our greatest treasure.

From 1-3 pm Saturday, June 18, we will have an exciting program, Treasures of the Applegate, with five panelists, each representing their field of expertise and their particular "gem" of the Applegate: Barb Mumblo and wildflowers, Janeen Sathre and trails, Anne Goff for birding, Mark Prchal about geology of the area, and Janis Mohr-Tipton for the treasures within Cantrall-Buckley Park. This presentation is most suitable for adults and children over 12 years. This would be the perfect time to pick up a copy of our bingo-style treasure hunt.

The following week you will have a chance to create a special Treasure Box, decorated with a collage and/or bling of your choice. From 1-3 pm Saturday, June 25, we will have this drop-in activity, which will be fun for all ages.

John Jackson will be back again with his intriguing program, Treasure Owls, with Bugs R Us, from 1-2 pm Saturday, July 19. You will learn about local owls and have the opportunity to dissect a (sterile) owl pellet, to find out what owls may eat for dinner. (For ages five-plus.)

From 2-3 pm Tuesday, August 9, we will have storyteller Will Hornyak here with a program called "Lifting Up the Sky: Tales of Heroes, Hope, and Wonder for All Ages." Will is a renowned storyteller, and we are delighted to have him join us for this special event.

A Technical Services person from Jackson County Library Services is here from 2-4 pm Thursdays to help you uncover the wonders of a device you might have that is puzzling you. Appointments can be made at techsupport@jcls.org.

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.

Preschool Storytime is now at 11:30 am Thursdays, followed by browsing time for parents and children (before we are officially open). We welcome all preschoolers for some fun stories and sometimes live guitar entertainment from Ernest Paul, who sings bilingual/Spanglish songs while we all dance and sing along. Please join us!

Our Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) group invites you to their A-Frame Bookstore adjacent to the library, open from 1-3 pm every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and the Book Barn, open from 1-4 pm on the first Saturday of each month, where they have a beautifully organized collection of over 4,000 books for sale by donation. Read more about FORL in their article on page 17.

Thalia Truesdell • 541-899-7438

Ruch Branch Library Manager
ttruesdell@jcls.org • 7919 Highway 238

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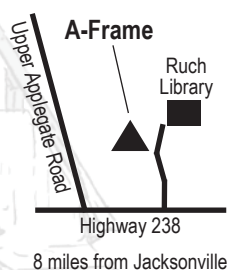
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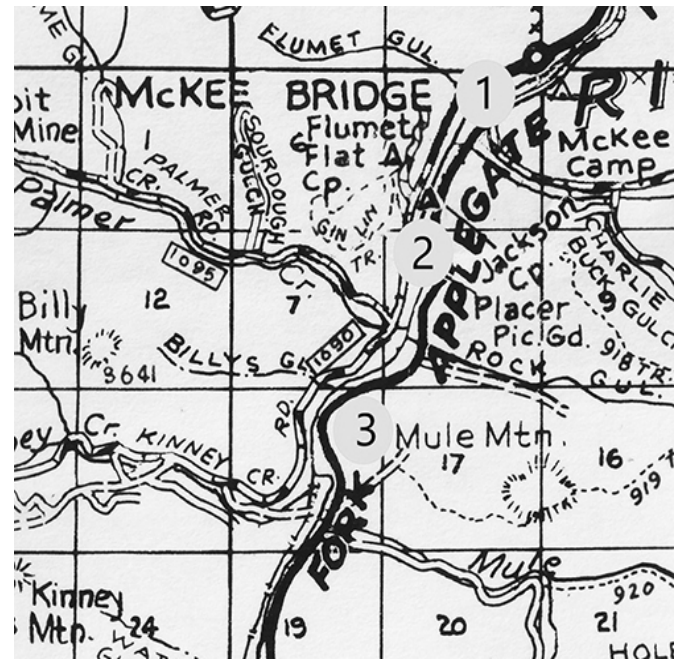
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NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

Hop aboard the Steamboat Time Travel Trail

BY LAURA AHEARN

Join McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) on Saturday, June 11, for an adventure on the Steamboat Time Travel Trail! Participants should check in at McKee Bridge between 10:30-11 am. We'll have a brief ceremony to dedicate the new interpretive panel, which lays out the evolution of transportation in the Upper Applegate and the survival story of McKee Bridge, then start a self-directed tour of the historic nooks and crannies of Big Applegate, Carberry, Steamboat, and Thompson Creek.



The Time Travel Trail starts at McKee Bridge.

The course is 39 miles over well-maintained county roads. A couple of miles in the middle are unpaved. You'll go at your own pace, linger at historic spots as long as you like, perhaps have a picnic or take a short hike. You'll collect an envelope at five stops, and the only time constraint is that you must arrive at the 1914 Ruch schoolhouse by 2:30 pm to open your envelopes and play the hand of cards you've collected. Winning hands receive



Steamboat in 1903, one of seven one-room log schoolhouses on the Steamboat Time Travel Trail. Photo: SOHS 2385.

some great prizes like top-quality Cowhorn biodynamic wine, Applegate Country Club pizza, Sweets 'n Eats delights, or an appliqued pillow depicting McKee Bridge handcrafted by MBHS founder Evelyn Byrne Williams.

The course will take you past the former locations of seven one-room schoolhouses dating back to the 1870s. You'll visit Kanaka Gulch where Agnes Baker Pilgrim—Grandma Aggie, Taowhywee, Morning Star—revived the sacred Salmon Ceremony in 1994. You'll envision Big Applegate (aka Watkins), the vibrant community founded by Native American matriarchs and their grizzled, white, gold-mining husbands in the valley now inundated by Applegate Dam. You'll drive through a battleground—that story illustrates how hearsay and creative recollections have left us with some questionable, albeit entertaining, "history."

There will be gold, copper, and cinnabar mining sites at every turn, often reflected in massive piles of tailings and place names like Flumet Gulch and Sturgis Fork. Fire lookouts, sawmills, post offices, and dance halls once dotted the route.

Those structures are now gone, but their stories endure. You'll learn about early homesteaders who left their mark on the map as well.

Reservations are not required, but we would appreciate a brief message to mckeebridge1917@gmail.com if you plan to participate, noting the number in your party so we have an idea of how many hands of cards to deal. Don't forget to bring cash or a checkbook to pick up some great MBHS swag (the signal at the bridge is too marginal to process card payments). You can round out a perfect Applegate day by attending the Ruch Outdoor Community School dinner and auction at Valley View Winery. Call the school at 541-842-3850 for details.

Another chance to see Britt's photos of Applegaters

Did you catch the exhibit about Applegate clientele of Peter Britt at the Jacksonville Library? If not, you can see an expanded version now through July at Southern Oregon Historical Society, 106 N. Central Avenue, Medford (the former J.C. Penney's building).

Laura Ahearn
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com



Sixth-grade students from Wilson Elementary gather to learn about macroinvertebrate collection and identification along the Applegate River. Photo: Eva King.

Getting outside with APWC

BY EVA KING

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) has been working hard to get kids outside. Through partnerships and community collaboration, APWC offered a variety of environmental education endeavors over the last year and plans to expand their educational offerings for next year to serve more students and offer more choices.

In partnership with Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS), APWC conducted its Grow Youth program, an ongoing restoration and tree tracking project at Cantrall Buckley Park. Every Friday since fall 2021, the ROCS middle school elective class, Applegate Stewards, went to the park to stake and mark native regrowth species along the Applegate River.

APWC removed a considerable amount of invasive blackberries that were suffocating the streamside vegetation. This work cleared space for the native flora to grow and made room for more native trees to be planted. Using bamboo sticks, the students staked out these native trees and marked them with metal ID tags. Using forestry tools, such as calipers, the students measured the diameter of each tree and tracked its growth. As this is an ongoing project for youth foresters in our community, APWC and ROCS ask those visiting Cantrall Buckley Park to please respect these items.

APWC also carried out its Applegate Outdoor Day program in partnership with ROCS. As part of their outdoor school experience, sixth-grade students from Kennedy, Lone Pine, Washington, and Wilson Elementary schools took part in three days of outdoor, inquiry-based science education in the Applegate Valley. ROCS hosted two of the three instructional days. One day consisted of various activities on the ROCS campus, such as archery, bird watching, and fire ecology. The other day included a natural history hike to the Bigfoot trap along the Collings Mountain Trail. APWC facilitated the third day at Cantrall Buckley Park.

During Applegate Outdoor Day, students engaged in hands-on learning

experiences related to the Applegate watershed. They learned about ecosystem services provided by riparian areas and planted willow cuttings along the river. Under careful supervision, students tested the water quality of the Applegate River and made inferences relating to its overall health. (Pretty healthy, turns out.)

Students also got up close and personal with salmon specimens provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Creating a model, students depicted the salmon life cycle and the various factors contributing to the decline in salmon populations.

Lastly, students put on rubber boots and collected their own macroinvertebrate specimens from the river. Students then learned how to identify these creatures and categorized them into groups based on pollution tolerance. Overall, students got a whole-picture approach to the health and interconnectedness of the Applegate watershed and its inhabitants.

APWC also has plans to launch its new Applegate Outdoor School Program in the spring of 2023. This program will be designed and implemented by APWC staff. It will cater to fifth- and sixth-grade students from various school districts in Jackson and Josephine Counties. Applegate Outdoor School Program will consist of three consecutive field days at various sites within the Applegate watershed. It will also include pre- and post-classroom visits to boost student engagement and evaluate the program's efficacy.

The goal of this program is to offer more outdoor school opportunities for local students, as there is a need for additional high-quality outdoor school sites in our region. APWC will be hiring instructors for spring 2023. Candidates for these positions should have a background in environmental education, science, or natural history, and have documented experience working with students in an outdoor setting. Registration for this program will open in the fall. Visit applegatepartnership.com to learn more.


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eva@apwc.info

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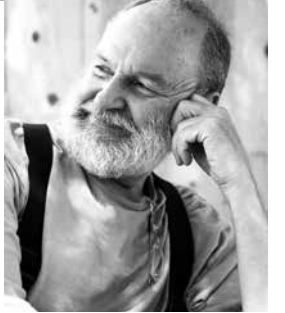
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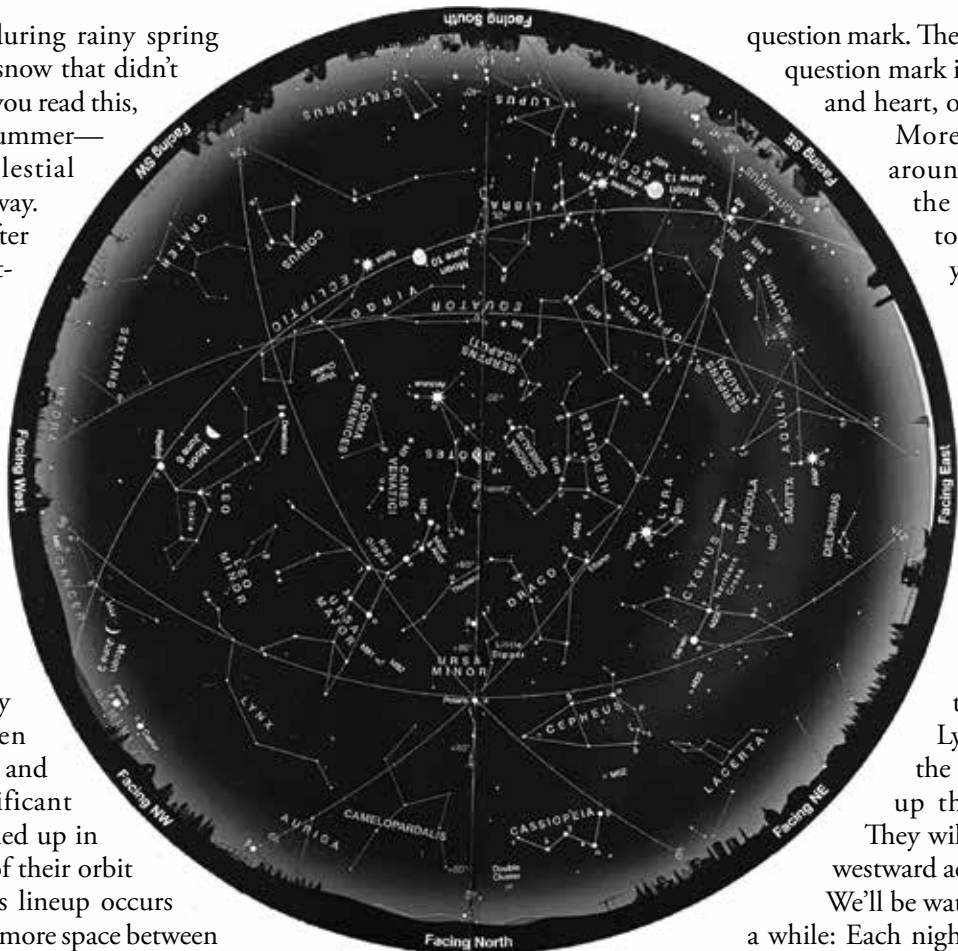
Greeley Wells

BY GREELEY WELLS

I'm writing this during rainy spring days, right after that snow that didn't last long. By the time you read this, I bet it will feel like summer—and a delightful celestial season will be under way.

On June 2, just after sunset above the west-northwest horizon, Castor and Pollux form a triangle with a thin, waxing crescent moon. And on June 4, if I can get you up before dawn, you'll see five "naked-eye" planets side by side in a long line, very low in the east and rising towards the south. Mercury is the dimmest, then Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn! What's significant here is that they're lined up in a perfect illustration of their orbit around the sun! (This lineup occurs again, but with a little more space between the planets, on June 24.) The planets are usually much more spread out along the 360 degrees of their paths around the sun; it's rare that they all are so close and so many together. Don't forget that we are one of them too!

That planetary lineup makes an exciting opening act for a beautiful summer sky. Face north and you'll see that the Big



Sky & Telescope (skyandtelescope.org).

Dipper, which stood on its tail (the handle) last season, has climbed up and over the North Star, Polaris, and is upside down, with its tail is pointing up as it goes down in the west. Behind the Big Dipper, to the south a bit, you'll find Leo the Lion with that bright dot marking a backwards

question mark. The dot is Regulus, and the question mark is really the lion's mane and heart, of course.

More bright stars are all around! Follow the arc of the Big Dipper's handle toward the south, and you'll come to Arcturus, in the constellation Boötes. ("Follow the arc to Arcturus," as the old saying goes.) In the northeast is an even brighter star, Deneb, the top of the Northern Cross. Due east rises Altar, the middle of three stars forming Aquila the eagle. And the brightest is Vega, in Lyra and further above in the east. These three make up the Summer Triangle. They will keep moving up and westward across the sky all season. We'll be watching all this for quite a while: Each night the whole show will move about the width of a fist, held out at arm's length, farther and farther in a long southerly arc to the western horizon.

Gazing up at all this celestial beauty, let's not forget the pickle we are in down here on earth. My hope is that all of us—all individuals, corporations, politicians, and governments—will start taking some strong actions to reverse climate change

by half before 2030. According to climate-change experts, this is a deadline we can't miss, or we will start an unstoppable free fall into a future that will be the "gift" we give to our children and theirs. Let's choose instead to give them the gift of beautiful night skies for generations to come.

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeley.me

— OF NOTE —

June 21 is the longest day of the year, the solstice, and the official start of summer.

Delta Aquariids meteor shower: Watch late July through early August, low in the sky near dawn. The maximum hourly rate can reach 15 to 20 meteors in a dark sky with no moon.

Perseids meteor shower: On August 13 there will be a bright moon up during the Perseids' peak, I'm sorry to say. But pick moonless times, and you will see some meteors. Look near Cassiopeia in the north—below the North Star and across from the Big Dipper.

The planets

Mercury is in the dawn in June, not visible in July, and then back in the dusk in August.

Venus is in June's midnight sky, then in the dawn in July and August.

Mars and Jupiter are visible after midnight all three months.

Saturn shows up after midnight in June and July, and all night in August.

Got News?

The *Applegater* welcomes submissions!

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

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Here is the poop on poop

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

What is plant “fertilizer”? Sure, most of you know the word—“fertilizer” or “manure” or “....” All I am thinking and talking about is free fertilizer. A pile of poop, given as a gift. How lucky can a gal get?

Because we live in the country, we have a smorgasbord of “country poop.” Included in the “menu” is manure from chickens, cows, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, and llamas. That about covers the variety of country poop.

Basically, the usefulness of any fertilizer for either the home garden or a giant industrial plot comes down to just three ingredients: nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), and potassium (K).

Those letters, NPK, appear on the front of most fertilizer products, each letter followed by a number. Sometimes just the numbers appear, without the letters.

For example, a label that looks like “The Right Stuff” pictured on this page or the XYZ Brand label is telling you the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium (potash) contained in each bag.

Now that that is perfectly clear, a quick lesson on the necessity of each ingredient.

Nitrogen (N) is important for green leafy growth. You know—the leafy green stuff you love to hate, such as spinach, lettuce, kale, and collards. Keeping grass green is also very dependent on nitrogen. Low nitrogen makes plants pale green, sometimes even yellow (see photo.) Too much nitrogen on flowers or fruit trees will produce bushy green plants and trees but few flowers and fruit. Dang.

Phosphorous (P) is an important nutrient for the development of

flowers and fruit. It is also a significant ingredient for root health and growth.

Potassium (K) is also important for robust development of flowers, fruit, and roots. Potassium helps the roots absorb water and avoid the effects of drought. Potassium is essential to the metabolic processes of virtually all plants. It promotes strong stems, well-formed flowers, robust fruits, and healthy roots.

It's not guesswork to determine the NPK of barnyard manure you buy as it has been formally analyzed. However, the NPK numbers may vary when you are scooping piles out of your or your neighbor's barnyard, depending on what the animals have been eating.



Example of a plant fertilizer label.



A young cabbage plant exhibiting nitrogen deficiency.

“Hot” manure can burn your plants, but a “cold” manure can be used without composting. C o m p o s t manure for at least three or four months to turn it from hot to cold.

The list below is what you have been waiting for. (For even more information, visit Alpacas of Montana at bityl.co/CDMb.)

Alpaca manure (1.7-.69-1.2): Alpaca compost has the highest NPK of any natural fertilizer. It is lower in organic matter

than the manure from most other barnyard livestock (cows, horses, goats, and sheep) so is less hot. The nitrogen and potassium content is comparatively high.

Poultry manures (1.1-1.4-0.6): These are often simply chicken droppings

mixed with the droppings of other domesticated birds, including ducks, pigeons, and turkeys. Poultry manure can easily burn plants unless it is composted first.

Cattle manure (0.6-0.2-0.5): Steer manure is one of the old standbys, but it often contains unwanted salts and weed seeds. It's usually a cold manure.

Goat manure (0.7-0.3-0.9): It can be treated in a similar fashion to sheep dung or horse manure. It is usually fairly dry and rich and is a “hot” manure (best composted before use).

Horse manure (0.7-0.3-0.6): It's about half as rich as chicken manure, but richer in nitrogen than cow manure. And, like chicken droppings, it's considered “hot.”

Sheep manure (0.7-0.3-0.9): It is another “hot” manure. It is somewhat dry and very rich. Manure from sheep fed hay and grain will be more potent than manure from animals that live on pasture.

Pig manure (0.5-0.3-0.5): This is a highly concentrated or “hot” manure. It is less rich in nitrogen than horse or bird crap, but stronger than many of the other animal manures.

Rabbit manure (2.4-1.4-0.6): It is the “hottest” of the animal manures. It may even be higher in nitrogen than some poultry manures.

In the end, the best manure for your garden is what you can easily get your hands on. After all, if you can't find rabbit manure, it doesn't matter how good for your soil it might be!

Dirty fingernails and all,
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Volunteers slay Dragonfly Place ivy

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Over the last few months this special site has been buzzing with dedicated community volunteers of all ages. Four different work parties have been removing vinca, Himalayan blackberries, and invasive English ivy both on the ground and in the trees, picking up woody debris strewn about by storms, and removing overhanging branches and ladder fuels from trees and shrubs along the road. A tremendous effort has also been made to remove the English ivy surrounding the multi-level platform and covering the paths, so that the public can more easily visit the site.

Signage in the coming months can then be installed to recognize Takelma Elder Agnes Baker Pilgrim and to give some history about the local tribes who lived in southern Oregon and northern California or who traveled here for hunting and gathering.

Lately, bees have been buzzing around the bright yellow blossoms of the native Oregon grape, now released from the English ivy that was smothering it and hiding the blossoms. A very grateful thank-you goes to all of the volunteers who have helped on this project. The park and community are benefiting from all your efforts. There will be continuing work, so contact me if you would like to help.

Trail maintenance in the park

Ruch Community Outdoor School (ROCS) students are doing stewardship and service projects through the Jackson County Parks "Adopt-a-Park" program in coordination with Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) restoration work.

As park volunteer coordinator, I helped organize the trail-maintenance program with Duane Mallams, a retiree from the US Forest Service who has been doing trails work and training throughout

our watershed for many years. The eighth-grade students in the Grow Youth stewardship program had the opportunity to train under his expert guidance and are now doing basic trail maintenance at the park as part of their scheduled work. They learned brushing techniques on a trail in the campground, the proper use of hand tools, and how to do tread work, first learning the importance of team safety on the trail and then practicing the techniques on a trail in the main day-use area. Trail users have already remarked on a job well done.

The next step is to train and develop an adult and youth volunteer group in the community to continue the work on weekends that these students have inspired. Our youth are a great value to our community, and this is a very positive way to have them become leaders for other youth their age and create a continuing commitment in the community to working together for our park.

Earth Day success on April 22

A total of 78 students from second, third, and fourth grades arrived at the lower park area with parent chaperones and staff and teachers from ROCS, all very excited to be able to do service work in the park. Each grade was given an area where they would pick up trash and woody debris, then do a project that would benefit the park in smaller groups within each grade.

The second-graders' small-group service was to clean the weeds from around the base of many of the interpretive signs in the lower park. Then these students helped scoop pea gravel to create a base that looked nice and helps the park workers doing lawn maintenance. The coordinator for this project was Hannah Borgerson, who is on the staff at ROCS through AmeriCorps.



Students working on the trail after learning how to use the proper tools to angle the backslope, find the hinge point, and do the tread with a 3-5 percent outslope. The instructor, Duane Mallams (red hard hat), observes their progress.



Ruch Community Outdoor School students have finished their work on this section of trail at Cantrall Buckley Park.



This student is determining the horizontal clearing line and removing limbs and small new growth that is in the tread zone. They also learned the vertical clearing limit for this trail in the campground.



The eighth-grade Applegate Stewards are learning to use the hand tools for clearing and brushing a trail under the guidance of their instructor Duane Mallams.

The third-graders' small groups set to work weeding three landscaped beds that were overgrown in English ivy, Himalayan blackberries, vinca, and grass. They were all industrious workers and completely filled 17 large recycled feed sacks. They begged their teacher to be able to come back again. As a member of A Greater Applegate's Park Committee and an APWC board member, I coordinated this project.

The fourth-graders hiked up to the Dragonfly Place and repeated the

same great enthusiasm in small groups, filling 14 bags with English ivy. Other students worked on two landscaped beds full of weeds.

Janelle Dunlevy, APWC executive director, coordinated this project.

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Photos by Janis Mohr-Tipton

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I'd like to share with you *The Magnitude of All Things*

BY LILY MYERS KAPLAN

Every day I ponder the precarious nature of life on earth. We are in deep trouble. Smoky skies increase each summer. Ponderosa after ponderosa succumbs to pine beetles. Drought deepens. With each death my heart grows heavy.



persuasion, this film opens hearts.

I am proud to bring *The Magnitude of All Things* to the Applegate, where we so deeply value the land, river, and spectacular beauty

of the earth. *The Magnitude of All Things* speaks to the heart—to the heart of the matter of all we are witnessing and to the human heart that binds us to this beautiful earth.

Free event. Please watch this powerful film with me and others as the sun sets. We'll hold small-group discussions afterward. It'll be outside, at 7 pm July 12, at Red Lily Vineyards, where you can purchase a delicious meal, have a glass of wine, and relax on the grass to the sounds of local musician Noah Widdoff. Bring blankets and chairs for your comfort.

From October to May I breathe deeply as the air clears. The grass greens. My fears relax. While the rains aren't exactly prominent, there is moisture. Rainbows return. I shift from despair to hope. Yet, even in the winter, I wonder, "What can I do? How can I meet the challenges of climate change?" It seems too big a problem to solve. I know more than a few folks who've packed up and moved out. That's one solution. But as the phrase "climate refugee" becomes more common, it's clear none of us can truly escape this planetary crisis. That's the thing. It's planetary. There is no escape.

Then I came across this film, *The Magnitude of All Things*. I watched and I wept. It didn't offer solutions, but it gave a kind of balm. Seeing people worldwide—from activists to Indigenous Peoples—engendered acceptance. My sorrow didn't dissipate, but I found greater grace within it. As an end-of-life doula—one who accompanies the dying and grieving—when death presents, I bring deepest compassion and presence. The film affirmed that treating the declining planet with the same reverence I bring to human loss is sacred.

I've worked with grieving people for decades. I've discovered that healing comes when mourners feel met, slowly rising from despair when the grief is witnessed without agenda. Watching this film offered me that kind of solace and initiated a desire to share its powerful storytelling. Wherever love of earth transcends ideology and political

Here's a teaser and a link to the trailer. "A cinematic exploration of the emotional and psychological dimensions of climate change. When Jennifer Abbott lost her sister to cancer, her sorrow opened her up to the profound gravity of climate breakdown, drawing intimate parallels between the experiences of grief—both personal and planetary. Stories from the front lines of climate change merge with recollections from the filmmaker's childhood on Ontario's Georgian Bay. What do these stories have in common? The answer, surprisingly, is everything." To view the trailer, visit themagnitudeofallthings.com. Screening rights were procured by Spirit of Resh Foundation. This free event is cosponsored by A Greater Applegate, Friends of the Applegate Library, the *Applegater*, and Crossroads Death-Care (Takilma). For more information, call me at 510-390-1098.

Lily Myers Kaplan, Executive Director
Spirit of Resh Foundation
lily@reshfoundation.org

Sugarloaf Community Association working on Sports Court Project

BY JEANETTE LETOURNEUX

The Sugarloaf Community Association (SCA) is building a Sports Court for all ages to enjoy outdoor recreation in downtown Williams. Sports will include basketball, pickleball (with removable net), shuffleboard, and four square. The SCA has hosted activities and events for almost 25 years and has built a soccer field, running track, bathrooms, children's classrooms, and more. The folks at SCA run the Williams Farmers Market and administer a free or low-cost prekindergarten class at Williams Elementary School. Their land is open to everyone seven days a week, dawn to dusk.



SCA is building a Sports Court in downtown Williams. Photo: Jeanette LeTourneux.

They are seeking donations for this new project. So far, they have received pledges for more than \$8,000 from 24 local donors and another \$1,300 of in-kind volunteer labor and supplies. They've received two grants—one from Nike that includes \$1,200 and a set of professional basketball posts and nets, and a \$7,500 grant from the Four Way Foundation. They are pursuing one more grant from an Oregon foundation and are approaching the local community for the balance of the project's cost—about \$3,700. The total cost of the court is around \$26,700, so they are about 85 percent there!

SCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, allowing for all donations to be tax-deductible.

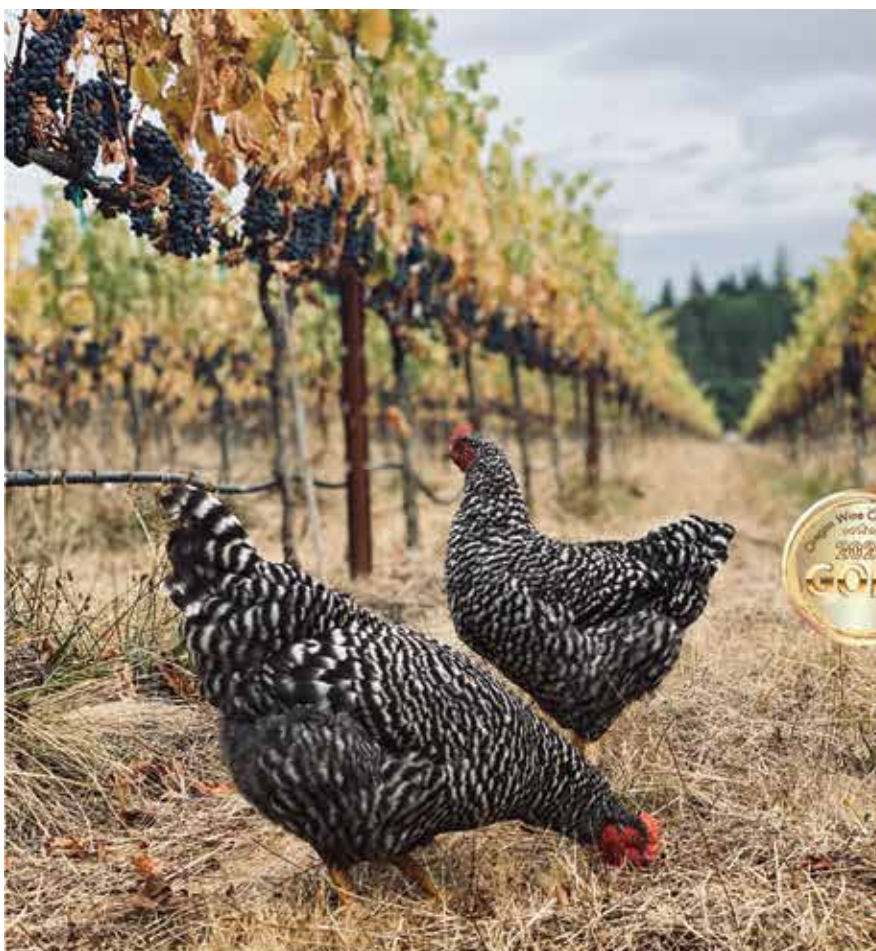
Jenny Van Winkle, SCA board member, and Bryan Hunter, one of SCA's cofounders, are upbeat about the great progress, noting that work has already begun and that professional contractors have been secured for the excavation, concrete work, and striping. The project organizers have been "shopping local," with gravel from CPI in Murphy and a local excavator, rebar from Knife River, and concrete from Riverside Ready Mix. The community has already been involved in numerous ways. Fields Home Center donated all the materials for the storage shed. "We've also had help with tree work, gravel deliveries, and layout from amazing

folks in our local community," Jenny and Bryan say. "We'll still need a hand with fencing and landscaping and someone to take on the building of an equipment shed—a great opportunity for one or more creative builders. Please consider joining us in providing the community of Williams and the greater Applegate Valley with this essential resource. Thanks to everyone that's pitched in. It's been a real treat to see this community come together to create something useful and fun for all!"

You can contact the SCA Sports Court Committee by emailing jennyvwsca@gmail.com or 62bryanhunter@gmail.com. Checks can be sent to SCA Sports Court Project, PO Box 440, Williams, OR 97544.

You may also donate to the project using Paypal by emailing info@sugarloafcommunityassociation.org. Please note that your donation is for the Sports Court.

Jeanette LeTourneux
jetlet10@gmail.com



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Rounding up all the horse news at Pacifica

BY PEG PRAG

There's something beautiful happening in the front field at Pacifica this season.

It centers around our 30-year-old Appaloosa, Star, who went blind last summer. She does amazingly well with her long-time mare companion, Shelby, but recently we added two more horses to her herd.

Almost immediately, a big red gelding named Whisper started taking care of her. On just the second day, three of the horses were excitedly waiting to be fed when all of a sudden Whisper looked up and went running back across the field to fetch his blind friend, Star, and walk her slowly to the feeding station.

Whisper cuts in front of Star if she's about to walk into a fence or blackberries (where she has been hurt in the past), and he leads her to the pond for water. The other horses all form a circle around her when they're worried, and even those horses who have been me-first eaters in the past let Star eat first.

It's been inspiring for those of us watching these dynamics. Inclusion and care. Naturally. It's heartwarming to watch.

Somatic integration, trail rides, and horse camps

Somatic integration. A new two-legged arrival, Amaleah Black, is also inspiring. Amaleah is working with the caring-friend Whisper and his buddy Oyasin to tune them up for somatic integration work with youth in the near future. "Somatic integration" refers to movements performed as consciously as possible, with internal focus and attention.

Horses help us learn in these reflective ways. Stay tuned for emerging details about somatic integration education, or, for more information now, phone 415-654-7013.

Trail rides at Pacifica. We're excited to announce that Tess and Tara Wesolowski will be offering Applegate Trail Rides at Pacifica. Sisters Tess and Tara are down-home, friendly, and good at what they do. They have five well-trained horses and are efficiently organized and enthusiastic about getting on the trail! Options for trail rides include one-hour rides, \$100/person; 1.5-hour rides, \$130/person. Rides will be available Friday-Sunday each week. For more information, call 541-660-6796.

Horse camps. "For the love of horses and our children" teachers Bobbi Aubrey and Nanci Meyers are looking forward to offering horse camps again this year. Pacifica's Horsemanship Camp for ages 7-12 is set for July 11-14. Classes run 9 am-2 pm. Cost is \$225. To register, go to pacificaregfox.com/pacificas-horsemanship-camp. For more information, call Bobbi at 541-415-1723.

Honoring Mom — and our new pavilion

We held a celebration at Pacifica on May 8, Mother's Day, to honor Mom, but also to dedicate Pacifica's beautiful new pavilion (designed and built by Peter Goss, Waylon Woodworks) and for the grand opening of our new Art Nature Trail.

Thanks to grants from Oregon State University, Josephine County Cultural Coalition, and donations, Pacifica has



The Pacifica herd is rested and ready for the summer. From left are Shelby, then Whisper and Oyasin. Their blind ward, Star (dappled gray), is behind them in the back. Photo: Ray Prag.

created a delightful, accessible-to-all trail and outdoor sculpture museum. The trail is level and smooth enough for wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers. This new Art Nature Trail (ANT) gives visitors an art-filled outdoor adventure in a lovely natural setting. In addition to the beauty of nature and the sculptures made by local artists, visitors will find activities to encourage artistic inspiration as they meander along the trail: hands-on sculpture activity stations for kids and kids-at-heart, along with special nature magnifiers. There will also be tables and benches for you to relax and just enjoy the specialness of where you are. Come and visit our new happy place!

Peg Prag
peg@pacificagarden.org

Day camps in the summer and home school in the fall

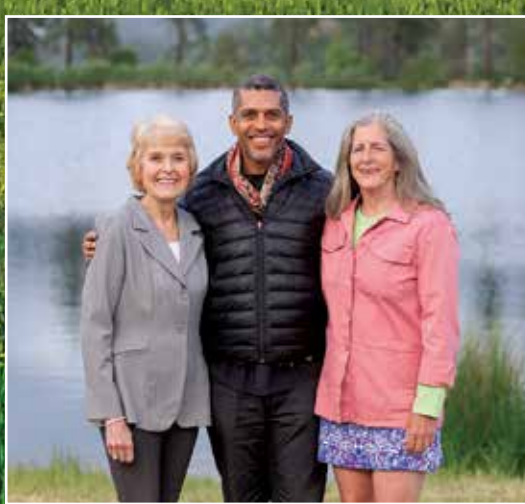
June 13 to August 18, ages 6-18. A wide selection of classes: wilderness skills, dance, nature, horsemanship, art, book making, clay, sewing, woodworking, and more. For details, call 541-621-6278, go to pacificagarden.org, or email vanessa@pacificagarden.org.

Mondays, beginning in September, 9 am-3:30 pm, grades K-12. Classes at Pacifica, which is a vendor for the home-based charter schools Teach Northwest, LOGOS, and REACH. For details, visit pacificagarden.org and check the "Education" section, or email shauna@pacificagarden.org.

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Skipper of the summer

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The Sonora Skipper (*Polites Sonora*) is a grass skipper of the family Hesperiidae. Its wingspan can be up to 1.25 inches. The dorsal hind wing (DHW) is a rusty brown with light spots and a darkened border. On the ventral hind wing (VHW) a closely curved semicircle is made up of creamy yellow bars with a single marking in the center toward the base of the wing. The VHW is tan with some slightly different shades.

Being grass skippers, Sonora Skippers will use various grasses, including Idaho fescue as a host plant.

They produce a single generation with the larvae overwintering in the fourth instar (the phase between moltings). The adult can be seen in flight from late May to late August.

Some nectar plants for the Sonora are goldenrod, asters, legumes, thistles, cinquefoils, and other summer wildflowers. Sonoras live in habitats of forest openings, fields, moist mountain meadows, and stream sides, to name a few.

This butterfly has a spotty distribution in most mountain ranges of the Pacific Northwest. In Oregon, it ranges from the Willamette Valley coastal areas to the inland mountains, with the Siskiyou and Cascades supporting the Sonora Skipper locally.

On June 27, 2021, one of the hottest days of that summer, our Siskiyou Field Institute course found us traveling mountain roads near Little Hyatt Dam, where elevations are around 5,000 feet. We headed toward Vesper Meadow and met Jeanine Moy, Vesper Meadow Education Program director, to check in for a quick visit to one of the upland meadows. Jeanine and I started the baseline butterfly list for Vesper Meadow in 2018, so adding to the list is an ongoing project.

We arrived at an upland meadow and walked through an open field of cinquefoil with a forest on one side, a stream on the other, and moist areas through the middle. The riparian area was alive with plants and flowers. Here I observed a joined pair of Sonora Skippers, who patiently allowed me to photograph the fine details of their closed wings. Even though they were cooperative, it was still a challenge to get to eye level with my lightweight point-and-shoot, pocket-size camera. For such a hot day we still observed a few other insects on this upland meadow spot. I was happy the Sonora Skippers were next to the moist riparian area where the stream was still moving with cool water.

Linda Kappen
 humbugkapps@hotmail.com
Linda Kappen is a southern Oregon naturalist specializing in lepidoptera.








A joined pair of Sonora Skippers. Photo: Linda Kappen.




Areas like Vesper Meadow provide excellent habitat for Sonora Skippers. Photo: Linda Kappen.

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From founder to emeritus: New role for longtime Applegate Partnership activist

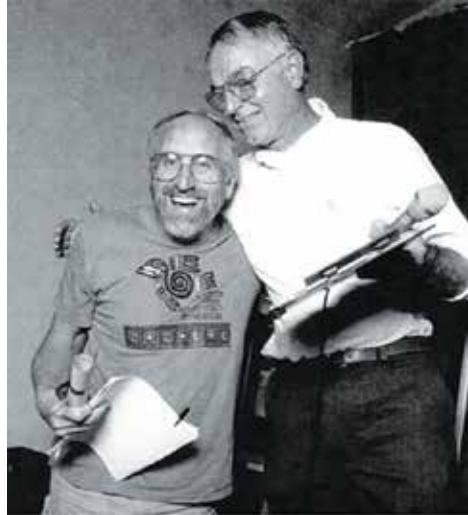
BY BARBARA SUMMERHAWK

As the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) celebrates 30 years of community-based environmental work, one person stands as a bridge across the decades of activity: Founder and Executive Board member Jack Shipley. Although the 84-year-old had indicated he may want to retire from the monthly meetings, the board voted in March to grant him “emeritus” status, a new, unique position to keep Jack’s name on the rolls, while allowing him to attend meetings as he wishes, with a vote that will count if he is present.

Present at the very beginning, Jack recalls sitting down on his deck in October 1992 with eight others to craft the first Applegate Partnership vision statement that read:

“The Applegate Partnership is a community-based project involving industry, conservation groups, natural resource agencies, and residents cooperating to encourage and facilitate the use of natural resource principles that promote ecosystem health and diversity.”

At that time, there was an “Us vs Them” mentality in the area with drastic reductions in logging to protect endangered species, such as the spotted owl, which brought on harder economic times along with an environmental consciousness of the species that were threatened with loss of habitat. The early partnership used as one of its mottos “Practice Trust. Them is Us” as it brought to the table the agencies that managed the forests—the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service—and the timber industry, as well



Jack Shipley (left) in the 1990s with the late Chris Bratt, a partnership board member.

as activists in environmental groups and local residents.

The partnership meetings in the ’90s would see 50-60 people gather for loud, raucous discussions. Later meetings were facilitated. Out of these meetings came such innovations as the *Applegater* newspaper, first edited by J.D. Rodgers. When Jack talks of the partnership’s biggest successes, he points to the development of that community-wide link still vital today.

Another memory he often mentions is the Old Blue timber sale on Humbug, which was the first time that the Partnership worked with the BLM to mitigate how logging would proceed, resulting in no new roads being built because of the use of helicopter logging, and a reduction on the number of big trees removed. This sale began a process of the agencies opening up to resident input. President



Jack Shipley by his bench at the 2016 Cantrall Buckley Park celebration of his leadership and community devotion.

Clinton became aware of the partnership’s activities, and when he visited Portland, he invited Jack up to talk with him about this new kind of response to the forest crisis.

With the concept of watershed councils catching on in the early 1990s, the Oregon governor contacted Jack and asked if the partnership would become a watershed council for the region of the Applegate. With some legal wrangling, the partnership donned its dba, the Applegate River Watershed Council, which continues today as the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council.

Another project that Jack is proud of is the acceptance by Jackson County for the community to manage Cantrall Buckley Park when the county ran out of funds to operate the park and was planning to shut it down. Jack and the partnership helped formalize the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation that led the community-based efforts to manage the park for two decades. This park has become a community gem and a great location for art, recreation, outdoor education, and restoration projects.

Many other historical projects float around in Jack’s memory, including the Applegate Fire Plan, “Balancing Act: Living with Fire in the Applegate,” drafted

by Jack and Sandy Shaffer. The document was one of the first in the country and was made available to every resident in the valley. It provided information to private landowners on how to evaluate fire risk and reduce fuels on their properties that is still relevant today.

That activity around fire prevention continues today as the partnership sponsors the Rogue Valley Prescribed Burn Association (RVPBA), which works with local landowners in carrying out controlled burns. In considering how the partnership has evolved and what it is becoming, Shipley mentioned the RVPBA and the Outdoor Education program at Cantrall Buckley Park, saying the partnership is taking on more projects and continues to be a vibrant, community-based organization aware of the valley’s diversity both biotically and socially and encouraging the activities that build a better valley. Jack is proud that the partnership is part of his legacy and appreciates the new emeritus status that allows him to be involved at whatever level he wishes.

Barbara Summerhawk
Board Member
Applegate Partnership and
Watershed Council
contact@apwc.info



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Rogue Forest Partners work on Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project

BY TOM GRECO

Applegater readers drive through the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project (UAW) on the way to Applegate Lake, south of Ruch, or out Beaver Creek along the Flumet Flat Campground, or up to Burnt Peak. The 52,000-acre project spreads on either side of the road, comprised of primarily public land managed by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Medford District Bureau of Land Management. Across that expanse, 18,000 acres have been strategically selected for treatment to mitigate wildfire risk and enhance wildlife habitat.

In the first phase, Lomakatsi Restoration Project collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other members of the Rogue Forest Partners to develop restoration prescriptions. Their crews marked treatment areas on 273 acres near Beaver Creek and began ecological thinning there in June 2021, with hand-pile burning scheduled as weather conditions allow.

The second phase will treat 1,100 acres selected for proximity to adjacent private lands, strategic ridgelines, and existing primary roads and expand on other recently completed treatments. Some commercial by-products will be removed as part of UAW implementation using helicopter and ground-based work. Lomakatsi has already laid out the units and written prescriptions to prepare for cutting and piling fuels in fall 2022. With funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, treatments will continue through 2024. Additional acres of restoration will be identified within the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-approved plan as funding is secured.

These restoration treatments prioritize protecting larger and older legacy trees by thinning overly dense smaller trees and brush. Such ladder fuels can carry a fire up into the canopy, significantly increasing tree mortality compared to a ground fire. Ecological thinning reduces competition and returns the forest to conditions better aligned with both the historical and natural range of conditions, making it more resilient to wildfire, insects, and disease, and better adapted to ongoing climate change.

Walking in these areas, one will see a more open understory, except for the piled slash waiting for ideal burning

conditions. These phases of work set the stage for professional fire crews to implement controlled understory burning to reintroduce the needed functions of natural fires while enhancing ecological benefits and wildfire risk reduction.

The Rogue Forest Partners thanks the community for their patience and understanding that such treatment takes time. Our goal is to keep the community updated, continue to provide opportunities for public dialogue, and demonstrate the benefits of restoration treatments through multiparty monitoring.

Tom Greco

Communications Director
Lomakatsi Restoration Project
tom@lomakatsi.org

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



Rogue Forest Partners member and Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative Executive Director Terry Fairbanks stands next to a large sugar pine in an area where restoration treatments would benefit by reducing the density of the surrounding Douglas firs and reintroducing low-intensity prescribed fire. Note the white flagging, indicating to implementation crews that this is an important legacy tree to leave and thin around. Photo: Kerry Metlen.



A Lomakatsi crew member thins brush and smaller diameter trees, setting the stage for reintroducing low-intensity prescribed fire as part of the Upper Applegate Watershed project. Photo: Lomakatsi Restoration Project.

Save the Date! Community Field Tour on June 4

Join the Rogue Forest Partners for a half-day field trip to see, learn, and talk about the ongoing and expanding use of ecological thinning and prescribed fire in the forested slopes of Applegate Valley.

Partners will give an overview of the restoration work underway in the Upper Applegate Watershed project area, how the group is leveraging new state and federal funding for strategic wildfire mitigation, and what additional restoration efforts will take place over the next year.

Preregistration is required! To provide transportation to the field-tour stops, we need all interested participants to preregister online at bit.ly/Upper-Applegate.

When: 9 am-noon, Saturday, June 4

Where: The pickup location will be sent to all registrants as the date approaches.

This collaborative effort between nonprofits, public agencies, tribes, municipalities, and fire districts addresses the need for wildfire fuels reduction immediately adjacent to our community and for healthier, more resilient forests. We hope you can join us on June 4!

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A spectacular visit to Wellington Butte

BY LIZA CROSSE

It was a stunning, clear Earth Day on top of Wellington Butte. As our hardy group of hikers gazed south across the Applegate Valley, it seemed that Mother Nature was doing her best to show off the jewels in her spectacular crown.

Applegate glories

We started our adventure by following leaders Suzie Savoie and Luke Ruediger up the historic Wellington Butte Mine Road. Our first view was down into Long Gulch, home to large old-growth trees and the inspirational David Calahan, who led efforts to protect Wellington Wildlands before he passed away in 2020. Leaving the road, we bushwhacked across steep slopes, with Suzie pointing out exquisite wildflowers, including Henderson's fawn lily, common lomatium, Menzies' fiddleneck, and Nuttall's larkspur. Mushrooms and interesting smaller hardwoods underscored the area's biodiversity.

The ultimate experience for us was achieving the crest of Wellington Butte. Wow. Words are simply inadequate. The view is awe-inspiring, as our valley and

the Siskiyou Crest are laid out in a vast panorama. Velvety, sloping meadows frame the foreground. Midrange, our lives are mapped in open fields, ribbons of road, and glints of river. Then, above all, the resplendent mountains crown the horizon. Relatively close to Wellington are familiar neighbors, Ben Johnson and Tallowbox mountains, with Woodrat to the east. That day, we could still see snow sparkling on distant peaks, with glimpses of Grayback and the Red Buttes to the southwest.

Threat to Wellington

The Wellington Wildlands is threatened by logging. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Bear Grub Timber Sale, which is still pending, proposes to log the eastern portions in the China Gulch area near Ruch. Many environmentalists agree that some logging is necessary. But the largest trees, covered by the timber industry, are the most precious for habitat and carbon sequestration. As climate change tips on the edge of the point of no return, our most ecologically valuable places should be protected. Also important is the fact that the Wellington Wildlands



The view from the top of Wellington Butte. Photo: Liza Crosse.

is a relatively large and intact area—7,527 acres, which is essential as habitat and a migration corridor.

The Wellington Butte Roadless Area was identified in 2013 by BLM as "Lands with Wilderness Characteristics," yet the Bear Grub Timber Sale was approved by BLM with little public input and scanty environmental review and was sold to Timber Products. Many local people and several organizations have formally protested the approval and sale. BLM's formal response to the protests and the logging contract approval are still pending.

Grassroots advocacy

Concern about the Bear Grub Timber Sale sparked the formation of the Wellington Wildlands Council (WWC), a 501(c)(3) organization that fights for the protection of Wellington Wildlands (wellingtonwildlands.org).

Recently, grassroots advocates formed the Siskiyou Crest Coalition (SCC) with the support of WWC and Applegate Siskiyou Alliance (ASA) (formerly Applegate Neighborhood Network). Luke Ruediger, executive director of the new alliance, is a walking encyclopedia about our region. Luke and Suzie hike in places where few people go. Their hike of more than 100 miles along the Siskiyou Crest can be seen in the video, *Sagebrush to Sea: A Journey Across the Siskiyou Crest*, recently released online. (ASA's annual fundraising event is Saturday, June 18. For more information, see article on page 21.)

SCC is working proactively to support stronger protections for our wildlands. If you'd like to know more about what SCC is doing, please send me an email.

Liza Crosse
lizacrosse@comcast.net

Getting there

To visit Wellington Butte, park at the Forest Creek Trailhead above Long Gulch, about a 15-minute drive from Highway 238. Walk approximately 1.25 miles up the fire road. When you reach a saddle, you will see a small deer track off to the left. The track peters out but keep going generally up and southwest to the rocky outcrop at the top of the butte. Information about Wellington Wildlands appears on pages 120-125 in *The Siskiyou Crest, Hikes, History and Ecology* by Luke Ruediger.

Applegate wildfires: Past, present, and future

BY ALAN JOURNET

Applegate Valley residents understand that wildfire risk in the region has been increasing over recent years. Of course, we are not alone. Before looking at trends, it's worth reflecting for a moment on the unusual climate the Applegate Valley shares with western states.

Our Mediterranean (winter wet, summer dry) climate occurs in five other locations across the planet (western South Africa, SW and SE Australia, western South America, and the Mediterranean, duh!). One outcome of this climate is that summers are hot and dry and our lands susceptible to drought. The result is annually dry soils and vegetation and a proclivity for fires to burn large areas. The consequence is vegetation systems that are fire-prone, fire-adapted, and generally fire-tolerant and fire-dependent.

A look at the trends reported for lands under fire management by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) offers some valuable insights (see ODF Fire History 1911-2020 below).

The first and most obvious impression is that 2020 was clearly "off the chart." While we tend to think of the last few decades as representing an atypical acceleration in fire risk, a view through the last century reveals a different story. Indeed, two variables exhibit patterns that might surprise us. The first is that the area burned a century ago was actually greater than the current frightening pattern (2020 excepted). The second is that the number of fire initiations, though variable, has not changed much, if at all.

The pattern depicted in the chart leads us to ask the critical and reasonable

question, "Why?" There are potentially two explanations—and the answer may well be a combination.

Looking at the conditions imposed on the region by the regional climate pattern known as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), we find that the beginning of the last century the region experienced a warm and dry phase in which conditions were perfect for fires, once initiated, to spread. From the 1940s to 1970s, the PDO reversed, and we experienced a cool moist phase that would have depressed fire activity. After that, the warm, dry phase returned, drying soils and vegetation and encouraging initiated fires to spread. More recently, global warming and its climate change consequences have reduced snowfall and caused even greater

drying in our already summer-dry Mediterranean climate.

During the early 1900s, fire suppression was imposed to protect timber production from the fire hazard, and effectiveness of fire suppression improved. As a result, fire intolerant species invaded relatively open dry forests, increasing the density of understory and sub-canopy vegetation. Again, and still, global warming and its climate change consequences have reduced snowfall and caused even greater drying. The result is that fires encounter a much greater density of fuel and can spread more widely across the landscape.

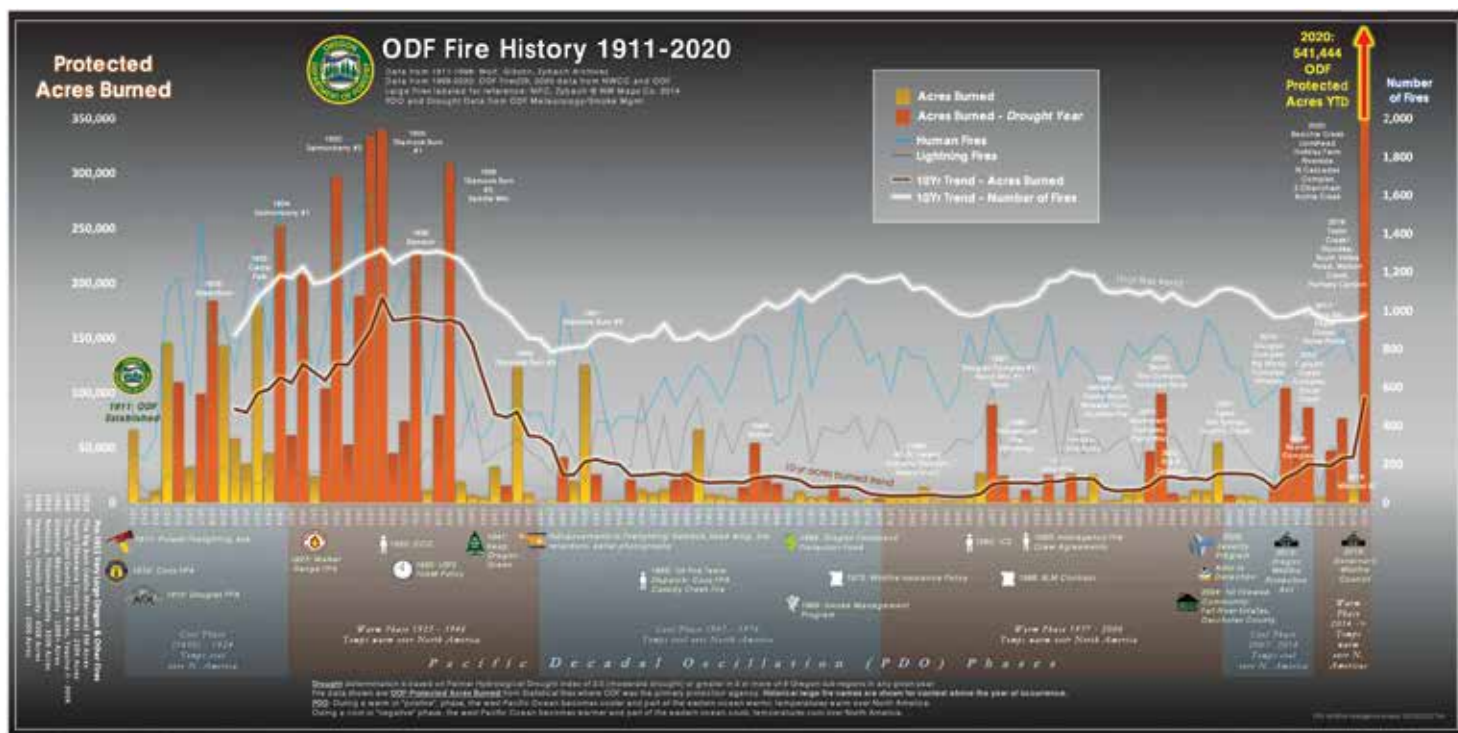
The degree to which each of these processes comprises the dominant factor is the subject of some disagreement among forest watchers, but there is general agreement that the climate change resulting from global warming is trumping other factors as a driving force.

The problem we face is that because of the Mediterranean climate in which our forests developed, continued global warming will increase wildfire risk. The message for Applegate Valley residents is two-fold: (1) mitigate the problem by doing whatever we can to reverse the global warming trend, and (2) adapt or prepare ourselves for an inevitable future wildfire scenario.

Even if we reverse the climate crisis, the Mediterranean climate will continue. Thus, wildfires will always be in our future. We need to learn to manage them and live with them.

Alan Journet, PhD
Cofacilitator, Southern Oregon
Climate Action Now
Board Member,
Applegate Partnership
and Watershed Council
alanjournet@gmail.com

Trend in wildfire frequency and area burned in lands managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Image: ODF.



Friends of Ruch Library news

BY CYNTHIA CHENEY

After two years of COVID-related closures, the board members of the nonprofit Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) want the community to know that the Ruch Library “campus” is open. Making books available to our community and surrounding areas is very important to this group. We do this through sales of donated books at five different locations: the A-Frame Bookstore, Book Barn, Ruch Country Store, Ruch Hardware, and a small selection in Ruch Library’s Community Room for people attending meetings there. Proceeds benefit our branch library. Free books are available in the outside breezeway of the Book Barn 24/7 and at our Little Libraries.

This is the time to “spring forth” to take advantage of all the services on campus. On the days the library is open, so is the newly remodeled A-Frame Book Store from 1-3 pm, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. You will find a large variety of subjects and titles, all in “almost new” condition, from \$1-3. You might even have an engaging conversation with one of the very friendly volunteers who help operate the store, meet new people in the community, or get an inkling that you might want to volunteer too. With additional volunteers, FORL can have the store open longer hours.

The Book Barn has a sale open to the public on the first Saturday of the month from noon-4 pm. Browse our huge selection and pay by cash donation. (July, August, and September hours are 11 am-2 pm because of the hot weather.)

Volunteers greet customers and help with the set-up and take-down each

month. If you have books to donate, please bring them along. (Sorry, we can’t accept encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines, or books with moisture or other damage.)

There are additional opportunities that can be done with others, or singly:

- **Book Sort:** Tuesdays, 12 noon-2 pm in the Book Barn, sorting donations given to the library.

- **Internet Sales:** Join Cynthia to learn about internet sales, book selection, and the sales process.

- **Little Library Book Stocker:** There are several locations in our area, and you could help keep them stocked on your available time.

- **Program support:** Occasional support when needed for library programs.

FORL volunteers include those who enjoy giving back to the community and building community, socializing with others who love books, meeting new people, helping with programs in the library, and/or becoming a FORL member to support existing and new projects on the campus.

You are always welcome to join the friends at a regular meeting September-June, the first Thursday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am in the library community room. You will meet the current team of board members elected, renewed, or with existing terms from the annual meeting held on April 7: Barbara Krack, president; Cynthia Cheney, vice president; Marguerite Dahl, secretary; Bryan della Santina, treasurer; and members at large Barb Galbraith, Janis Mohr-Tipton, Erin Galbraith, and Janie Tibbals.

The FORL board and volunteers would like to publicly thank these two businesses

for their ongoing support of FORL and Ruch Library:

- **Ruch Country Store** for its continuous support of gently used popular paperbacks stocked regularly by FORL volunteers. Titles and authors are selected by buyers’ interests, but often other types of books are offered...to spark your interest.

- **Ruch Hardware** for its ongoing support with program supplies and now gently used books on how-to projects and gardening available for purchase from FORL’s stock of books.

■ **REFLECTION** *Continued from page 1*
years we’ve worked with our neighbors to have directional signs installed in several extra locations. Now we don’t have as many lost delivery trucks or ambulances, but we do have a happy fire chief!

Another possible situation: if we have a wildfire in the Applegate this summer or during fire season, we could have out-of-the-area firefighters covering the Applegate area. They very likely wouldn’t be as familiar with our area’s roads as our local firefighters are, so the more they can follow good signage, the quicker they can get to our homes.

But wait—there’s more! Did I mention that these reflective signs are *free* to Applegate residents? If you think about it, having these signs in place also benefits our firefighters and emergency medical technicians. Any vehicle headlights will hit the signs and help our fire district’s responders (or visitors) find the right house.

If you haven’t already installed your free address signs, stop in at headquarters at 1050 Upper Applegate Road in Ruch, Monday-Friday, to pick some up.

The chief also had a few other thoughts for his constituents to address: Start preparing *now* for fire season! He

Use the following resources for contacting FORL and Ruch Library and updates on any changes in times, dates, and programming:

- Facebook: Friends of Ruch Library, facebook.com/FriendsofRuchLibrary
 - Ruch Branch Library: 541-899-7438
 - Local community bulletin boards and Ruch Library Hallway Bulletin Board
- Cynthia Cheney, Vice President
Friends of Ruch Library
akantha@mac.com
7919 Highway 238

Additional directional signs direct visitors to the correct address. Photo: Sandy Shaffer.



suggests cleaning your home’s gutters as soon as possible this spring. He then suggests doing this again on a dry day later this upcoming winter. After that, you won’t have to clean the gutters again until next winter! Much more comfortable than getting up on a ladder in the summer heat!

And last, but definitely not least—address your family plans! Sit down and talk together about the big “what if.” If a wildfire starts in your area, what are you going to do if the family is not all at home? Kids at school, or a parent at work? Does everyone in the family have a cell phone and keep it with them all the time? And are all family phone numbers preprogrammed?

There are many more “what-ifs.” Sit down and start talking together as a family, and be safe together!

Sandy Shaffer • sassyoneor@gmail.com

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THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE

The BLM is now marking old-growth forests for logging in the Applegate

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

In my last article, I wrote about the Integrated Vegetation Management for Resilient Lands (IVM) Project and its potential impact on both our forests and the public's ability to participate in the public land management planning process. Unfortunately, since writing that article, the IVM has become an immediate threat, as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is designing and marking both the Penn Butte and Late Mungers timber sales above Williams and Murphy. They are using these sales to begin implementing the IVM Project, while largely shutting the public out of the process.

These timber sales are in Late Successional Reserve (LSR) forests, designated to protect old-forest habitat for the northern spotted owl and other species. The particular LSR of the Penn Butte and Late Mungers timber sales was designated to provide habitat connectivity between the Applegate and Illinois River watersheds. Unfortunately, if implemented, these timber sales would impact that connectivity by logging at the heart of some of the area's largest blocks of old forest on Mungers Creek, Marble Gulch, Mule Gulch, and upper Powell Creek. Additional remnant stands would also be targeted between Williams and Murphy and off Spencer Gulch Road.

These same old forests protect our watersheds by sheltering streams and holding moisture, and they protect our climate by storing large volumes of carbon in forest soils, downed logs, snags, and large living trees. They also tend to burn

at lower levels of severity due to their tall canopies, thick insulating bark, habitat complexity, relatively moist conditions, and dense canopy that suppresses understory growth, shades the forest floor, traps humidity, holds moisture in the soil, and reduces the effect of drying winds during wildfire events.

Our monitoring demonstrates that these timber sales are targeting old forests with degrading timber management practices. Since whole groves of trees, many over 30 inches in diameter, are proposed for logging, canopy conditions

would be dramatically compromised, fire risk increased, and wildlife habitats impacted. The IVM Project and the timber sales it proposes are an attack on the public process and constitute old-forest logging dressed up in the language of "restoration" and "resilience."

In late April, the agency issued a Draft Determination of NEPA Adequacy, claiming that the effects of the nearly 800-acre Late Mungers and Penn Butte timber sales have already been considered and that the sales therefore needed virtually no site-specific analysis. The agency simply did not publicly disclose the environmental impact of this logging project. No site-specific analysis was done during the IVM Project, and its approval does not negate the BLM's responsibility to consider the site-specific prescriptions, environmental conditions, management history, wildlife habitat needs, connectivity, and human or recreational uses in the area.

Although the impact on nearby communities will be significant, the agency is also offering far less opportunity to engage in the process than has historically been available. While the Penn Butte Timber Sale was being designed, citizens repeatedly requested information on the sale, which the BLM refused to provide. Meanwhile, the BLM began marking large, old trees in mature forest habitat adjacent to Williams and Murphy and only now, after the Penn Butte Timber Sale has been fully designed and marked, has the BLM approached surrounding communities for input. (*Ed. Note: BLM announced May 23 that the comment deadline has been extended to June 28.*)

Long-standing public involvement processes such as "scoping," where the agency provides an outline of potential project activities and vets them through the public, have been eliminated. Environmental assessments with robust scientific and environmental review are no longer required. Instead, a simple form is filled out, the timber sale is fully designed, in this case marked on the ground, and then tentatively authorized, all before the BLM discloses the location of the timber sale and the types of prescriptions proposed or initiates a public comment period or notifies the public of its activities.

In the face of climate change and world-wide biodiversity loss, the Applegate and southwestern Oregon deserve better. With less than 10 percent of Oregon's once vast old-growth forests remaining, we should protect what little is left. Here in southwestern Oregon, our forests could be part of the solution, whereas BLM timber sales continue to be part of the problem.

For more information on the Penn Butte Timber Sale, visit applegatesiskiyoualliance.org/blog.

Luke Ruediger
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com



The Penn Butte Timber Sale has been leave-tree marked, meaning only trees marked with yellow or red paint will be retained. Luke Ruediger looks up at a large (33-inch diameter) ponderosa pine tree identified for removal. Photo: Luke Ruediger.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Good to gather together again'

On behalf of the Williams Community Forest Project (WCFP), I want to extend our deepest thanks to the community for supporting and attending our Earth Day benefit celebration.

It was a glorious day, and after a very long hiatus, it was especially good to gather together again.

Our shared love and concern for the trees and rivers united our voices in songs of gratitude for the earth.

Williams General Store, Takubeh, Rogue Creamery, Shop'n Kart, and Ashland Food Co-op offered goods that helped make the day an epic success. Also, many thanks to the volunteers, performers, and speakers for your generous donations of time, talent, and expertise.

Donations and revenue will benefit our ongoing work to protect our forests and waters, particularly, the WCFP's forest monitoring program, which will help ensure that the forest is managed to keep our ecosystems intact, for the health of our water, wildlife, and community. Endangered species consideration, the honoring of stream buffer zones, and limitations on clear-cut acreage are some of the criteria included in the monitoring.

BLM is currently seeking public input for the Penn Butte/Mungers timber sale, so we encourage you to visit bit.ly.co/CDCO to stay active and informed.

Gratefully,
Sandy Olken, Williams

OPINION PIECES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

It's the Gater-est Show on Earth

BY DIANA COOGLE

Come one, come all! This fall the *Applegater* is putting on the Gater-est Show on Earth, and we hope you'll be there.

The date is October 1 (venue TBA), so mark it on your calendar.

This event is partly our annual fundraiser, but even more it's a huge thank-you to you our readers for your support and loyalty these past two years. It's a celebration. No ticket charge! Open to the public, everyone is welcome! Your generosity during the NewsMatch fund drive in November and December has eased our financial desperation, so come on down. The fun's on us.

It'll be a carnival-themed event with games, popcorn, and toe-tapping music. Bring a picnic, or buy a box dinner from our caterer. We'll have some terrific raffles and carnival games—dart throwing, apple tossing, cornhole. We'll charge a small amount for playing games and offer

raffle tickets as prizes. There'll be a go-fish booth for the little kids. There'll be a cake walk. There'll be some no-fee, no-win games lying around for people to play—Jenga, for instance. And more. We're still brainstorming.

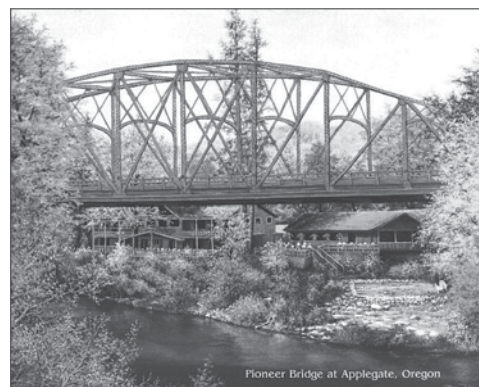
You can double your fun at the event by volunteering to help. Run a game booth? Help set up? Bake a cake for the cake walk? Do you do face painting? Are you a stilt-walker or juggler? Do you know of a carnival game we should include? Let me know what you want to do, and I'll put you on the list.

Look for details of the event in the fall *Applegater*. In the meantime, put the date on your calendar so that every time you look at it, you can get excited. It's going to be the Gater-est show on earth!

Diana Coogle
diana@applegater.org
541-846-7447



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ASK THE GATER



Flood-damaged Applegate Bridge in December 1955, near the mouth of Slate Creek.
Photo: Josephine County Historical Society.

When was the Applegate Dam built, and why?

BY LISA E. BALDWIN

Construction on the Applegate Dam started in 1976 and was completed in 1980, as part of the larger Rogue River Basin Project. This federally funded project authorized building three dams: Lost Creek Dam, on the upper Rogue; Elk Creek Dam, on a Rogue River tributary; and the Applegate Dam, on the upper Applegate, just north of the Oregon-California border. Lost Creek was completed first, in 1977. Applegate Dam was completed in 1980. Elk Creek was initiated in 1971 but never finished. In fact, after blocking fish runs and clogging the courts with lawsuits for more than 30 years, it was partially demolished, or “notched,” in 2008. The dams in the Rogue Basin Project were built primarily for flood control and water storage for summer irrigation and recreation.

Flood control was badly needed. Our three rivers (Rogue, Illinois, and Applegate) have a long history of devastating winter floods. December has historically been the worst month for record-breaking rain and snow. These conditions led to massive

flooding in 1861, 1890, 1929, 1955, and 1964. The 1890 event was particularly bad for the Applegate. In nine weeks (between December 1889 and early February 1890), 22.33 inches of rain and 50 inches of snow fell. On February 8, the peak of the ensuing flood took out every bridge on the Applegate and Rogue rivers, including the new bridge over the Applegate near the mouth of Slate Creek, which had just been finished in September 1886. The bridges were rebuilt, of course, but the new-new Applegate Bridge was badly damaged again in the 1955 flood.

The Christmas flood of 1964 is well known and documented, as the entire Pacific Northwest was under water. But it was the December 1955 flooding that prompted the U.S. Congress to start working on the plans and legislation that became the Rogue River Basin Project. The project was fully authorized in 1962, and 18 years and \$96 million dollars later, two dams were built and operating as planned.

Lisa E Baldwin
leb.97527@gmail.com

Three Rivers Community Orchestra resumes performances

BY COLLEEN KIRKLAND

Three Rivers Community Orchestra (TRCO), with musicians from Applegate, Rogue, and Illinois valleys, is back to rehearsals and performances after the COVID-19 break. Its next concert is at 3 pm Sunday, June 5, at the Performing Arts Center of Grants Pass High School.

The concert is free, but donations will gladly be shared with other community nonprofits, such as the Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, etc.

The orchestra plays light classical and popular music. This concert includes such titles such as “Romeo and Juliet Overture” by Tchaikovsky, “Theme from E.T.” by Williams, “Sinfonia No. 40” by Mozart, “Across the Stars” (love theme from *Star Wars*) by Williams, “Finlandia, Op. 26,” by Sibelius, and “Game of Thrones” by Djawadi.

TRCO is a group of musicians from the Applegate and surrounding communities who enjoy playing music together. Rehearsals are from 6:30-8:30



pm every Thursday night at North Middle School in Grants Pass. The conductor is Joe Green, a graduate of Hidden Valley High School in Murphy, who has also taught music at Hidden Valley.

Many have been playing music all their lives but had to work at other jobs to make a living. Several are local music teachers, some play in other bands and churches, but all enjoy classical music! Musicians range in age from high school students to more than 80 years.

TRCO is always looking for new musicians to join the group. Right now, string players are especially needed, but intermediate or better players of any orchestral instrument who are passionate about sharing music with others are welcome.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Colleen Kirkland, TRCO secretary, at 541-476-0860.

Colleen Kirkland
kirklands@q.com

••• BIZBITS •••

Abel Quiroz, owner of **Magic Donuts and Coffee** in Grants Pass, announced on his Facebook page that he was relocating to a much larger space in the same Grants Pass Shopping Center. “It’s official,” he tells his eager fans: “Magic Donuts reopened Saturday, March 26, at 6 am.”



Magic Donuts is locally famous for great service, friendly staff, and a wide array of delicious pastries. Abel, who has been in Grants Pass for 13 years, has run the business for four years, refining his baking skills during that time. He comes from a family of bakers and does 90 percent of the baking—sometimes 100 percent! As he says, “Late nights and early mornings are the life of a baker,” something not all workers understand before they start. He is looking for more employees and wants to settle into the new building before he brings back the tamales and burritos that are hugely popular. He still offers the breakfast burritos and tortas which customers say are the best in the area.

Abel takes special orders for holidays and celebrations and occasionally offers festive specialties, such as the Rosca de Reyes, or King’s Wreath, that is a traditional Mexican treat celebrating Three Kings Day on January 6 in honor of the three wise men. He has very loyal customers who were anxiously awaiting his reopening. He appreciates them very much and wants to tell them: “Thanks, Grants Pass, for all of your support over the years and for coming to the new location!” **6 am-3 pm Monday-Saturday; 8-2 pm Sunday • Grants Pass Shopping Center, 945 NE D Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526 • 541-295-8046**



The Doyle family. Photo: Mattie Ward.



Kids enjoy Murphy’s Outdoor Market.
Photo: Seraiah Doyle.

The Doyle family, who own and operate Murphy’s Hemp and Wellness Stores (MHW), have started **Murphy’s Outdoor Market**, located at 6890 Williams Highway and open on Fridays, 9 am-1 pm. Opening day was Friday, April 1. Eli, Luke, Lisa, and Seraiah Doyle, who run the popular CBD store, say, about starting the market, “Southern Oregon has been our family’s home for nearly 30 years. Our friends are here, our businesses are here, and because we ourselves have no plans of leaving, we figured we may as well keep working to better the community that we’ve come to love so much!”

After being a part of several markets for more than 10 years, they thought it would be fun to start their very own, right here in the Applegate Valley, to provide customers with quality products from some of their favorite vendors. So they looked at their MHW storefront property right along the main highway, in the heart of the farming community. “We walked outside, paced out how many spaces we could fit, and

that was it! We had just discovered our next big adventure! We have enough space for over 50 booths. There’s a cute little picnic area where customers can sit and enjoy a meal from the food trucks, and we’ll soon have musicians to entertain customers while they shop.” Leashed pets are allowed. Food stamps and EBT are not accepted at the market at this time.

The market has 18 active vendors, with several more being reviewed for approval. The Doyles will be accepting vendor applications throughout the summer. Some customers’ favorite vendors and products include Looney Farms’ vegetable starts and produce; Em’s Elderberries, with its organic elderberry syrup; Smalltown Flower Farm; Gather Around the Table Bakery; Brandywine Fishery; Rogue Sushi Food Truck; and Joeys Hot Sauce. Check out the market’s website (murphysoutdoormarket.com) for more information and a vendor’s application, or contact them by email (murphysoutdoormarket@gmail.com) or by phone (541-862-2244), or drop by the Murphy store (open 10 am-5 pm Monday through Friday) and ask for Seraiah or Lisa.

Jeanette LeTourneux
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.

► Invitation to join our choir ◀

Voices of the Applegate invites you to sing with us. We are a long-standing local community choir with members from the larger Applegate Valley. Rehearsals begin September 13, 2022, with December concerts in Jacksonville and Applegate. For more information, please contact Beate Foit at beatefoit@gmail.com or 541-226-5626.

Native plant and pollinator garden tour coming up June 5

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Troon Vineyard is increasing biodiversity on the farm! Come learn about native plant ecology, propagation, and gardening at the Troon Vineyard Native Plant Botanical Garden tour on Sunday, June 5. Donations for the tour will benefit Pollinator Project Rogue Valley and the Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon.



Silver lupine in the Native Plant Botanical Garden at Troon Vineyard. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

• Plant care and at-home gardening recommendations

Kristina Lefever from Pollinator Project Rogue Valley, Katelyn Detweiler from Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon, Nate Wall and Garrett Long from Troon Vineyard, and

others will provide additional information, insights, and commentary along the way to help further important discussion topics.

Tour schedule

Two separate start times will accommodate up to 25 preregistered tour participants for each tour. The first tour runs from 9-10 am and the second from 10:30-11:30 am. After the Native Plant Botanical Garden tour, Troon staff will be available for farm-wide tours of the Troon biodynamic farm and vineyard. These one-hour tours will start at 10:15 am and 11:45 am.

Please bring personal items for a warm, sunny June day and perhaps a picnic lunch to pair with an optional wine tasting after the tour. The Troon Vineyard tasting room opens at 11 am.

Registration

Register online for the tour through Eventbrite online at bit.ly/CCmM. Donations, which will benefit Pollinator Project Rogue Valley and the Siskiyou Chapter Native Plant Society of Oregon, will be taken on site. The suggested donation is \$15.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Suzie Savoie

klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com

Large camas in the Native Plant Botanical Garden at Troon Vineyard. Photo: Suzie Savoie.



The Applegate Siskiyou Alliance Summer Fundraiser will be held from 4-8 pm Saturday, June 18, on the lawn at 3996 Little Applegate Road.

ANN rebranding as Applegate Siskiyou Alliance

BY EVELYN ROETHER

For more than 10 years, Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) has been advocating for the environment and the human communities of the Applegate River watershed. We have worked with communities across the Applegate Valley and throughout southern Oregon to successfully protect the forests and intact native habitats of our region. Rising from the rural grassroots, ANN has become a prominent and very active voice for the people of the Applegate Valley and for the beautiful natural world we are so lucky to enjoy.

By the time you read this article, we will have changed our name to Applegate Siskiyou Alliance to more closely reflect our commitment to the Applegate-Siskiyou region and its permanent protection. Although we will still focus on our roots in the Applegate community and our commitment to this region is stronger than ever before, we hope to expand our programs and increase our efforts as the Applegate Siskiyou Alliance!

We believe the best advocates for our environment are those of us who know this land best and have the deepest bonds with its spectacular beauty and biodiversity. We encourage folks who know and love this region to support our work, participate in the protection of our watersheds, and become stronger voices for the wildlands of our region. Applegate Siskiyou Alliance is an Applegate-based and Applegate-led

conservation group committed to the preservation and restoration of our natural world. Although we are no longer officially a neighborhood network, we will be throwing a big fundraiser and celebration this June in the Little Applegate Valley just above Buncom.

For more information, visit applegatesiskiyoualliance.org.

Applegate Siskiyou Alliance Summer Fundraiser in the Little Applegate Valley

Join us for music, food, and fun at the Applegate Siskiyou Alliance Summer Fundraiser from 4-8 pm Saturday, June 18, in the beautiful Little Applegate Valley! The event will take place outdoors on a spacious lawn overlooking the Little Applegate Valley at 3996 Little Applegate Road and will include an evening of music by the Holly Gleason Trio. We will also be selling local beer and wine, food, and treats. Dinner will be available from Nomad Kitchen.

To attend, make a generous donation to ANN of \$25 or more between now and June 18. You can pay at the door or make a donation at ann.secure.force.com/donate/. If you pay ahead and RSVP, please submit your email address with the donation. All proceeds will benefit the Applegate Siskiyou Alliance and conservation in the Applegate River watershed.

We hope to see you there!

Evelyn Roether • evelynkr@gmail.com



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Members of Pack 17 (Jacksonville) on an outing.

Building a local food and farms network: Start at the farmers market

BY SARA MARIE HAMILTON

Across the nation, local and regional food systems are experiencing a flush of energy, resurgence, and funding. The pandemic and associated supply-chain issues have highlighted the vulnerability and insecurity of communities completely dependent on globalized food systems to fill stores, pantries, and bellies. Now more than ever funding is available to support and build stronger localized food systems.

The term “food system” describes the flow of activities that connect the production, processing, distribution, and consumption of food. We have all these elements in our little valley, but the connection between them can be fragmented, leaving inefficiencies and gaps in the chain. Much of the food and goods grown here in the Applegate are sold outside of the region, and most of the food brought home is from town and trucked in from the globalized food system.

Localizing our food system keeps resources close to home and builds community wealth and resiliency. We are fortunate to live in a place of tremendous agricultural abundance. Many of us are farmers or are neighbors with people who make a living from working the land. Yet how much access do we have to the products grown here? And how much support do farmers have from the local consumer?

Last year A Greater Applegate (AGA) and Rogue Valley Food Systems Network (RVFSN) were awarded a grant from Business Oregon’s Rural Opportunity Initiative to weave together local input and regional food systems. This grant enables AGA and RVFSN, with other partners, to build the information and communication systems that will lay the foundation for a more robust and resilient food and farm culture in the Applegate. The first phase of this project is well underway and includes supporting thriving farmers markets to facilitate more direct consumer access to local products.

The most accessible and direct way to participate and reap the benefits of this work is to patronize your local farmers market. Besides the fresh produce, animal products, and baked goods at these markets, you will find locally made clothing, seeds, plant starts, informational booths, libations, live music, hot food, and good conversation weekly in three locations across the Applegate.

In my own neighborhood of Ruch, I am thrilled to have the Applegate Evening Market in full swing. Located on the picturesque Electric Gardens Flower Farm, the market has a vibe that is right and something for everyone. With more than 40 vendors of garden produce, beef, fish, honey, mushrooms, crafts, seeds, seedlings, herbs, and apothecary items, you can get plenty of staple items. Options abound for a hot meal: fresh, locally grown beef burgers, wood-fired pizza, Caribbean cuisine, barbecue, vegetarian, gluten-free, and vegan.



Seeds from Feral Farm are among the items you might find at the Applegate Evening Market.

Local nonprofits are there to connect with you and talk about the important work being done in our community. Siskiyou Cellular is providing boosters so vendors can easily take all forms of payment. Thanks to a Momentum Grant from AGA, the market has new picnic tables with more shade to enhance the experience of the weekly live music and beer garden. In addition to a weekly lineup of fantastic local bands on the covered stage, an open mic session happens on the fourth Wednesday of every month, so you can share your music too.

Market Manager jb Palasini (who doesn’t capitalize his initial initials) and Sarah Osborn, owner of Electric Gardens Flower Farm, have been hard at work creating a weekly gathering that genuinely serves our community by providing an opportunity for artists, farmers, and entrepreneurs to showcase their work, and a free space where the community can gather. I am so grateful for all the hard work that has gone into creating this opportunity for all of us, and I don’t plan on missing the chance to join in the creation of our budding local food system. Grab your friends, a basket, and a sun hat, and head over to your local market.

Are you building local food systems in your neighborhood? Reach out, and let’s work together.

Sara Marie Hamilton
saramarie.1@rvfoodsystem.org

Is the Applegate Valley ready for Scouting?

BY ERIK JOHNSEN

Greetings, Applegate residents!

Because the valley is not densely populated, we have to work to find opportunities to bring people together and build a sense of community. Based on an article in the *Applegater* last year, I saw some changes going on at Pacifica, so I reached out to make an introduction and find common areas of interest. It has been great learning about their facilities and programs, and they have been extremely welcoming of collaborations with local Scouting. Those discussions led us to hold the Boy Scouts of America (BSA)’s annual rocket launch at Pacifica in late April.

We started the day with some of Pacifica’s educational programming, including survival skills and a challenge course that was fun for both kids and adults. Since the value of community service is a core component of Scouting, we gladly helped the Pacifica folks raise a new group tent for their outdoor school programs and sleeping accommodations. We’re looking forward to coming back next school year.

We finished the afternoon with our rocket launch. Many interested families showed up for this event, including a rocket enthusiast who splits time between the Applegate and the Bay Area. You know it’s been a successful day when you’ve met new friends, given back to the community, and had fun.

In addition to my roles with our Jacksonville-based Scout groups, I also serve our local Crater Lake Council by

helping to increase Scouting membership, including starting new Scout groups. So here’s the question: Is the Applegate in need of its own Scout pack and troop, to bring people together and build a sense of community, with quality youth programs and activities?

To answer that question, you probably need to know a little about how Scouting works. First, the Boy Scouts of America delivers its programs through a partnership with another local organization who also shares a long-term goal of serving youth. Those organizations, called charter partners, can be a variety of entities, including service clubs such as Rotary and Kiwanis, Parent-Teacher Organizations, churches, nonprofits, and even for-profit businesses.

The BSA—open to boys and girls—is primarily a volunteer-run organization, which means that to start a new pack or troop we need at least five young people to participate and six adults to run things. In practice, a group will function much better with 15-25 Scouts and associated parents to help out.

Ready to join the fun? We are collecting contacts for like-minded folks until we have the critical mass to start something. Please email Pack17Jacksonville@gmail.com to find out more.

Erik Johnsen
Committee Chair,
Cub Scout Pack 17
VP Membership,
Crater Lake Council
Pack17Jacksonville@gmail.com



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Weekly markets
•••••

Williams Farmers Market
4-6:30 pm Mondays, May 2-October 24,
206 Tetherow Road, Williams. Facebook.
com/williamsfarmersmarket

Applegate Evening Market
5-8 pm Wednesdays, Electric Gardens, 8035
Highway 238. Applegateeveningmarket.com

Murphy’s Outdoor Market
9 am-1 pm, April 1-September 30,
6890 Williams Highway.
Murphysoutdoormarket.com

Jville Market
9 am-1:30 pm Sundays, May 1-October,
Historic Courthouse, 206 North Fifth Street,
Jacksonville. Facebook.com/jville.market

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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS



The HVHS girls basketball team: in front, from left, are Hannah Rommes, Delaney Skinner, Teryn Powers, Skylar Willey, Sana Noga, Hannah Bennett, and Gina Hoxsey. In back are Jia Bents, Morgan Tiffin, Noelle Lowery, Ashley Yunker, and Jasmine Kelly.

Hidden Valley High School girls' basketball team makes state tournament run

BY LISA BALDWIN

The Hidden Valley High School (HVHS) varsity girls' basketball team kept the school spirit high this spring as they made a strong showing at the state 4A tournament. After a respectable season, going 15 wins and 12 losses overall in the regular season (7-3 in conference play), the Lady 'Stangs had to win a "play-in" game against McLoughlin High School from Milton-Freewater to earn a spot in the 4A playoffs. HVHS beat McLoughlin handily, winning 57-32 and advancing to their first-round match-up, seeded 13th, playing the number-four seed Junction City in Junction City. Against the odds, the Lady 'Stangs won, 51-42, and they were off to the state tournament at Marshfield High School in Coos Bay.

Hidden Valley's quarter-final opponent was perennial powerhouse Marist Catholic High School, out of Eugene, seeded 12th in the playoffs. The late afternoon game between the evenly matched teams was hard-fought, but HVHS took an early lead and never lost it. Skyline conference Defensive Player of the Year Teryn Powers was named the Moda Health Player of the Game for HVHS. The 41-34 win moved Hidden Valley into the semifinals, where their opponent would be the number one seed in the 4A tournament, Philomath.

Philomath took an early lead and led the entire game. They dominated the key, scoring 24 points in the paint, and 18 second-chance points from their offensive rebounding. Philomath went on to win in the finals and become the 2022 4A State Champions. They had an excellent team on the court and proved to be more than our Lady 'Stangs could handle. Skylar

Willey, the Skyline Player of the Year, was named Hidden Valley's Player of the Game by Moda Health.

Hidden Valley had one more game to play, this one to determine the third- and fifth-place teams in the tournament. Their final opponent was the number-seven seed, Madras High School. This game was extremely tight and competitive, with seven lead changes, and the score tied four different times. Hidden Valley played hard right to the very end, scoring their last field goal with just five seconds on the clock. Unfortunately, Madras had the fourth-quarter lead and won the game 48-41. Hidden Valley finished the tournament as the fifth-place team. This time, Sana Noga was HVHS's Moda Health Player of the Game.

Hidden Valley senior Skylar Willey has been named to the Oregon Basketball Coaches Association 4A Girls All-State First Team and invited to play in the 2022 Senior All-Star Series, June 17 and 18, at Corban University in Salem. Skylar, the 2022 Skyline Player of the Year, averaged 14 points per game, along with 11 rebounds, three assists, and three steals. She has decided to play basketball next year at Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay.

Teryn Powers, Hidden Valley senior and Skyline Defensive Player of the Year for 2022, was selected for the Honorable Mention All-State team. Teryn averaged 13 points a game, four rebounds, and three steals. She will play ball next year for Lane Community College in Eugene.

Lisa Baldwin
leb.97527@gmail.com

■ WILLIAMS STORE

Continued from page 5

That was it. Tom and Heather left their jobs in Portland, moved with their two teenage sons to Williams, and Tom put his dream to the test.

"It felt like coming home," he says. "There's something about being a part of the community through the store, about being a part of the history of the store. I love its old creaky floors, the old signs that advertise cigarettes. They're not relevant, but I can't make myself take them down. A bunch of money doesn't mean anything. What's important is that people know who you are."

Tom likes to compare the Williams Store to a chihuahua, a little dog that wants to act like a big dog. "This is a little store that doesn't know it's little," he says.

While being cognizant and respectful of the history of the store, Tom and Heather have also made changes. They brought in a three-tier cheese case and a cooler for fresh meat, and they offer Starbucks coffee. They have both organic and regular food options and local produce in season. They replaced the old gas pumps with new ones, drained and paved the parking lot, and built a back porch with a door that duplicates the front door of the Chambers era.

Applegate School welcomes new PE teacher, Mrs. Baer

BY JEAN HALL

Spring at Applegate School finds staff and students involved in new activities, new learning, and new discoveries. The Applegate community is richly blessed to hold this center of creativity, dedication, and life-enhancement.

Mrs. Halsted reports that students are loving their new physical education (PE) teacher, Mrs. Baertschiger, or Mrs. Baer, as the children call her. They learned how to exercise their bodies, play games, solve problems, and work as a team with such games as badminton and pickleball. Most importantly, Mrs. Baer emphasizes, "they are discovering that being active, having fun, and working on big and small motor skills keep us healthy, happy, and ready to learn."

Mrs. Hirschmugl's and Mrs. Halsted's classes worked in their school garden with the help of folks from White Oaks Farm. K-3 students did some weeding and started many kinds of seeds indoors for plants to transplant to the garden. K-1 classes visited White Oaks Farm on May 3, learning about sustainable agriculture, visiting farm animals, and engaging in farm activities.

Another spring event for K-1 students was to have an incubator in the classroom for hatching baby chicks. Mrs. Hirschmugl taught these students the life cycle of a chicken, incorporating science lessons, art, reading, and writing into this fun project.

Second- and third-graders learned about plant and animal diversity before taking a field trip to Wildlife Safari. K-1 students joined Mrs. Halsted's class for a visit to the Applegate library and the fire station in mid May.

Mr. Scull's fourth- and fifth-graders worked on science fair projects in March. Nine of the students went to the district science fair, where they fared very well. Three fifth-graders and one fourth-grader worked hard to prepare for competition in the district Battle of the Books. They had 16 books to read and discuss. Congratulations to all these hard-working scientists and readers!

In the month of May, Mr. Scull took his class to hike Upper Table Rock for firsthand experience of some of the ecology they have been studying. They examined the four different habitats found on the trail.

Mr. Scull is glad to see students' faces now that masking guidelines have relaxed. "It is easy to forget how much our communication relies on facial expressions until we are in a situation like the one we have been in the last couple of years," he says.

In the middle school classes, Mr. Fall reports that the sixth-graders completed



Battle of the Books competitors (front row from left to right): Henry Delgado, Xavier Gonzalez Cueva, Byron Hill, and Reishi Cookson. Back row: Mr. Scull.

a unit on Growth of Organisms and were provided with more than 100 acorn seedlings to plant on campus. "What a great way to wrap up this unit—planting trees that will hopefully grow into beautiful oak trees one day!" Mr. Fall said. Mr. Fall also studied the formation of the universe and solar system with his seventh- and eighth-graders. He describes the study as a great opportunity for the students "to take a step back and look outside our little southern Oregon bubble and ponder the vastness of the universe of which we are part."

"The middle school has been a whirlwind of activity lately," reports Mrs. Gourley. All grades have enjoyed the popcorn that student leaders sold on Thursdays. Delighted to have their first spring dance in three years, middle school student leaders did a phenomenal job planning and carrying out the event. With the theme of disco, students came dressed in their very best and danced the evening away to some of the great disco hits.

In Mrs. Kappen's art class, students designed and created plaster gauze masks. They planted cosmos, marigold, and parsley seeds in the greenhouse and drew five local wildflowers using pencil, ink, and colored pencils and labeling each flower with its scientific and common names.

As the year winds down, several activities are in the planning stage, such as field trips and the eighth-grade moving-on ceremony. "I am incredibly proud of all our eighth-graders," Mrs. Gourley says. "They have worked hard, and I know they will go on and be successful in high school and beyond. They are each unique, and I love that they are genuinely themselves. They have a lot to offer this world."

Jean Hall
jhall80@juno.com

employees as she walked past: "And Heather and Tom are the best bosses in the world."

Diana Coogle
dicoog@gmail.com

Quasiqucentennial celebration set for September

Heather and Tom are full of plans for the quasiqucentennial on September 18: a jumpy house and an obstacle course for the kids, and, for the adults, wine tasting and a trivia game with questions about the store. Heather will make 125 cupcakes to give away, and there will be a history display. (If you have old pictures, contact the store!) Tom is working on a website to publicize the history, including such bits as that the original store was probably close to where Williams Elementary School is now. It is said that the building was moved on logs to its current location in 1908. Look for more details in the fall *Applegater* coming out September 1.

Look who's reading the Gater!

Take us with you on your next trip. Then send your favorite "Reading the Gater" photo to bert@applegater.org or mail to *Applegater*, PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.



Photos, clockwise from top left:

–**Gina Porzio and wife, Anna Tankersley**, residents of Wilderville, read the Applegater in Kauai, Hawaii.

–**Dahna Osmus** checks out the Gater while perched atop a saber-toothed cat at the University of Texas at Austin.

–At the finish line of their 12K annual trek on Bay to Breakers day, **Jeanette LeTourneux, Diana Coogle, and Barbara Holiday** check their times in the Applegater.

–**Cathy Rodgers** reads the Gater to her dog Britt at "Dog Beach" in the Sierra foothills.

–**Diana Coogle** uses the Applegater to identify mountains in the Alaskan wilderness.

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

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