

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hooray! Applegate Fire Levy wins! Thank you, voters!

Back in July, 125 Applegate Valley residents endorsed a letter urging the Applegate Fire District Board of Directors to call for a ballot measure for a levy to fund the district. This group of concerned community members emphasized the importance of continuing the levy, which is renewed by voters every five years. The group especially cited the need to increase revenues to support ongoing operations, equipment, facilities, new staffing at Station 51/Applegate, and improved fire prevention services. The result was Measure 15-220, which raised the current levy by 20 cents, from \$1.05 to \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The Friends of the Applegate Fire District are happy to report that November 7 preliminary election results show a strong endorsement of Measure 15-220, with an average of 73 percent of voters endorsing the measure!

Jackson County votes—Yes: 1091 or 74.67%; No: 370 or 25.33%

Josephine County votes—Yes: 114 or 57%; No: 86 or 43%

The Friends of the Applegate Fire District would like to send a warm thank you to the many people and businesses who helped get the word out about Measure 15-220 by supporting community outreach and information, especially Provolt Country Store and Deli, Sunshine Plaza, Ruch Country Market, Wooldridge Winery, Whit Whitney, Dan Defenbaugh, Carey Chaput, David and Lauri Dobbs, Dave Lancaster, Laura Ahearn, Jason Schonhoff, Jeanette LeTourneux, Tallie Barrett, Tom Carstens, Marty Paule, Priscilla Weaver, Gail Battaglia, Tim Crosse, Thomas Crosse (president of the Applegate FD Volunteers Association), and the Jackson County International Association of Fire Fighters.

Thank you to the board of directors of the Applegate Valley Fire District and to Chief Chris Wolfard for establishing a strong vision for the district and the levy to provide excellent services for our community. Special thanks to Rob Underwood, board president, for his work on the levy campaign.

Going forward, the Friends will provide occasional updates about our work and that of the district, and the benefits the levy will provide to our community. Please look at our Facebook page, web page, or sign up for the occasional email update by contacting Liza Crosse at lizacrosse@comcast.net.

Babette Rapp, president of Friends of the Applegate Fire District, and Liza Crosse, secretary of the Friends (friendsofapplegatefire.org)

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Elmore kindness

I read with interest the story in the fall edition regarding the Elmore family, and I wanted to contribute an Elmore story of my own. I moved to the Applegate in 1971, along with a number of other California refugees. By the spring of 1972, I had already met the senior Mr. Elmore, who chaired the polling place at Applegate School. Looking like an Old Testament prophet with his white beard and steely gaze, he was the final person at the table who told you to state your name and then announced that you had voted. Only when that happened did he smile and you realized that he was just having fun with one of the newbies.

But my most formative contact with the Elmore family, immediate and extended, was over Labor Day in 1972. I had spent the day with friends swimming at Miller Lake. On the way home, as we got to the Thompson Creek divide, we noticed a column of smoke to the north. I realized that the fire had to be close to my home at the end of the Left Fork of Humbug. As we came up the Left Fork, two things caught my eye: flames that dwarfed the trees coming over the ridge on Billy Mountain, and two trucks and a number of people clearing out my mobile home. I can't imagine many places where the first thoughts wouldn't have been "Looters!" I could see, however, several Elmores, spouses, and friends, and knew immediately what was happening. My freezer full of meat was already in the truck, along with the other items of value that I had. When I got to the trailer, they said that they would plug in the freezer when they got home and would bring back everything in the morning, if the danger was over.

They were as good as their word. Everything was put back, and they refused an offer of money to compensate for their time.

Fifty years later, at another celebration, I saw the Hogans and asked if they knew what had occurred 50 years before. They knew immediately. I told them that it was still hard to believe what they had done. Alicia Hogan said, "Well, that's what neighbors do!" Of course, those "neighbors" had traveled at least nine miles from their home to help someone they had never met and who wasn't even home to help. That is the kind of family the Elmores and their related families are—the kind that make this a wonderful place to live.

Ken Chapman, Applegate

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

Join us on the *Applegater* board!

BY DIANA COOGLE

When I returned full-time to the Applegate in 2013, after seven years of a weekly commute for graduate school at the University of Oregon, I considered what to do with my volunteer time. According to my talents and abilities, I thought the best fit would be on the board of the *Applegater*. I offered, was accepted, and have served as chair of the board ever since. It's a job I love.

What about you? Where would you like to put your talents and abilities to work for the betterment of our community? I hope you will think about joining the *Applegater* board. We need your help if we are to continue as an active board and keep the *Applegater* a vital part of our community.

We need a treasurer. I sincerely hope this might be you. Since David Dobbs's retirement from the board (see page 18), we have eased the job by hiring a bookkeeper. Barbara Holiday and I have been filling in with treasurer's duties, but our bylaws dictate that we have a treasurer on the board. We cannot continue unless this position is filled. Please step up! We need you.

We need an ad manager. This position oversees our two advertising representatives and tracks advertisers and commissions through a detailed Excel spreadsheet.

We need good writers to write articles as needed for the paper.

Board members commit to a two-hour meeting once a month and a one-day annual retreat and, in addition, to whatever time it takes to do the job at hand—helping with events, for instance, as for our 30th anniversary celebration next June, or tabling at farmers markets and fairs, organizing volunteers, and doing other tasks. We need people to help make decisions at board meetings, to brainstorm ideas, and to keep the energy high.

The board meets at either a branch library (Ruch or Applegate) or an Applegate winery. As chair I strive to instill a cheerful atmosphere and to keep the meeting to a two-hour limit. We have a good time, and we get the work done. Most of all, *Applegater* board members have a dedication to the paper and to the wide-ranging Applegate Valley community it serves.

Contact us

The first step in joining the board is to express interest, which you can do by contacting me, or another board member, right away. I would love to talk to you about how you can serve your community by serving on our board.

Diana Coogle

Chair, *Applegater* Board of Directors

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