

Applegater

FALL 2024
Volume 17, No. 3

Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 13,500

Celebrating
~30~
Years



Scene from the Upper Applegate Fire in June. Photo: Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

Gratitude and reflection ~ A message from Fire Chief Chris Wolfard

Dear Citizens of Applegate Valley,

As we reflect on the events surrounding the Upper Applegate Fire this past June, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your unwavering support and understanding during this challenging time have been truly heartwarming and have reinforced the strength of our community.

Throughout the fire, we received numerous “thank-yous” from the community in various forms. Dozens of you took the time to call our station, many stopped by personally, and countless heartfelt signs were posted along the roadways. Our firefighters were often approached in stores, receiving personal thanks from appreciative citizens. The outpouring of love and support on Facebook was overwhelming and greatly appreciated by all of us.

During the community meeting, I made several requests of you, and your response was nothing short of remarkable. I asked for patience as we

battled the fire without a dedicated Public Information Officer (PIO), meaning that all our personnel were fully engaged in firefighting efforts. Your understanding of the delays in communication was greatly appreciated. Even in agencies with PIOs, information gathering can divert resources from critical firefighting efforts.

I also requested kindness and empathy toward each other, emphasizing that the fire was started accidentally. The individual responsible demonstrated integrity by attempting to control the fire, calling 911 for assistance, and fully cooperating with authorities. Your compassionate response to this situation was a testament to the strength and character of our community.

Lastly, I urged you to continue showing your appreciation and support, and you did so wholeheartedly. The signs, social media messages, and simple waves to our firefighters have been incredibly encouraging. These gestures let us know

See **GRATITUDE**, page 18.

In numerous ways, appreciative residents thanked Applegate Valley firefighters for their response to the Upper Applegate Fire. Photo: ODF.



Matt Sorensen, LongSword owner and winemaker, loses battle with cancer

BY KATE VANGELOFF

Matt Sorensen, owner-winemaker at LongSword Vineyard, passed away on July 4, 2024, on his land in Ruch, surrounded by family and friends. He had decided to go into hospice only two weeks earlier, after an arduous two-year battle with stage IV colon cancer.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Matt grew up with his mother, Mildred Sorensen, and younger sister, Amy Vangeloff. His father, Calvin Sorensen, also lived in Toledo and saw him frequently. Matt graduated from St John's Jesuit High School in 1973 and was accepted into the inaugural Honors Tutorial Program at Ohio University, where he earned a BS in botany. He then earned a master's degree in biochemistry from Purdue University, followed by an MBA from the prestigious Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. He became a research scientist for the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly and Company, where he ran his own lab and worked on groundbreaking medications, including Prozac.

After “serving his time” in corporate America, Matt began looking to pivot his career to one of his deepest passions—wine. As a young man, Matt would visit Napa and Sonoma, traveling with several empty suitcases that he would then fill with wine to enjoy back in the Midwest. After deciding to pursue small-scale winemaking as a career, he spent years



Armed with a passion for wine and degrees in botany, biochemistry, and business administration, Matt Sorensen started LongSword Vineyard in 1999. Photo: Kate Vangeloff.

researching the terroir of the West Coast and identified the Applegate Valley as a unique opportunity—it provided both the ideal Mediterranean climate he was seeking while still being largely undiscovered. In 1999, when he purchased the property now known as LongSword, he became one of the very few initial wineries in the region, helping to lead the way for what is now an

See **MATT SORENSEN**, page 5.

Help acquire a wildland fire engine for Applegate Valley Fire District

BY LIZA CROSSE

Can you help us? The Friends of the Applegate Fire District (Friends) is busy with an exciting new campaign to acquire a Type 3 Wildland Urban Interface Fire Engine for the Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD).

Please consider becoming a sponsor or making a donation to help us achieve this goal. All funds raised will go toward acquiring this essential piece of

equipment—for the benefit of the entire Applegate community.

Friends is an all-volunteer organization that has supported AVFD for many years by raising funds for AVFD's needs through fun events, such as our spaghetti dinners and pancake breakfasts. Recently Friends created a dedicated equipment and facilities fund to support excellent fire

See **WILDLAND FIRE ENGINE**, page 20.



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OBITUARIES

~ In Memoriam ~



Ron Turpen

Applegater Advertising Representative

For around nine years, Ron helped support the *Applegater* newsmagazine as its advertising representative for Jackson County. He always made his quota and always met his deadlines. He always had suggestions for improvement, too, such as increasing commissions or special offers or new forms or His ideas were always appreciated.

Originally from southern California, Ron attended Santa Monica College. He spent a good deal of his career in sales—for the former *Medford Mail Tribune* and as an account executive at Southern Oregon Media Group.

Ron was a long-time resident of Jacksonville and, according to Ron, was known around town as the “Mayor of Jacksonville.”

After an accident in his home, Ron died in May 2024.

We will miss him.

We have a treasurer!

The *Applegater* Board of Directors is delighted to welcome Jennifer Theone as its treasurer. She brings a breadth of experience and an enthusiasm for learning that have already enlivened the board. Originally from Austin, Texas, Jenn spent two years traveling in Central and South America before moving to Portland, where she lived for five years, working in social services for homeless people and foster youth. She moved to the *Applegater* in 2021, as part of the Rogue Farm Corps, collaborating with Cacia Huff at Feral Farm. Currently a student at Southern Oregon University for a master’s degree in business administration, Jenn hopes that that education will help her “uplift small businesses throughout the valley.” She thinks that being treasurer of the *Applegater* will be part of that education. Besides, she says, she loves this community and looks forward to serving it through the *Applegater*.

Diana Coogle • diana@applegater.org

— Employment opportunity —

**Part-time Editor in Chief
Applegater Newsmagazine**

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., seeks an experienced editor in chief to manage content and print production of its quarterly 24-page newsmagazine, the *Applegater*. The editor in chief is an independent contractor; benefits are not included. The editor is required by corporate bylaws to sit on the board of directors as a volunteer and attend monthly board meetings in the Applegate Valley.

See more information, including responsibilities and requirements, on page 19.

The *Applegater* is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

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**Walter Lindley
July 17, 1947 - February 24, 2024**

Walter Lindley, a 50-year resident of Williams, Oregon, departed this life with grace and peacefulness on February 24, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Los Angeles, California, Walter spent much of his childhood riding his bicycle around the city and swimming and surfing with his older brother, Haynes. At an early age Walter recognized his love of nature, and as a young man he realized he was not a city boy.



taking care of his forest home and spending time with his beloved family.

In the 1980s and 1990s Walter and Conny created and ran two successful wholesale businesses from their home: Rock Creek Nut Company and Handloomed

Textiles of Nepal. Walter enjoyed the challenges of running businesses and learning new things.

Walter lived his life in a thoughtful way, with great kindness and compassion, generosity, and integrity. He sincerely cared about people and was supportive and encouraging, interested and attentive. He was a great advisor and researcher and everyone’s favorite consultant.

As a highly creative person, Walter was filled with ideas and inventions. He could build anything. He could fix anything. He had the mind of an engineer, the heart of a romantic, the eye of an artist, and the heart and soul of loving kindness.

Walter was passionate about music. Playing and studying music on his double bass brought him immense pleasure and satisfaction. He and Conny were musical partners and played in numerous bands around southern Oregon for decades.

Walter lived with a spirit of joyful enthusiasm and gratitude. He often said he felt like a really lucky guy.

Walter is survived by Conny Lindley, his loving wife and life partner of 57 years; his daughter, Taya Lindley (Marc Javurek); his son, Aubrey Lindley (Jesse Manis); and his grandchildren, Jalen and Phina Javurek.

Walter was a beautiful and fine human being who enriched the lives of all who knew him. He is missed enormously. May we keep his memory alive by being a little bit kinder, funnier, and more grateful for the blessings in our lives.

**Elaine Gipson
1938 - 2024**

Elaine Gipson, 85 years old, passed away peacefully in her home in Applegate on July 17, 2024. Born in Pennsylvania, she was the first of four children of parents Harold and Pearl Brobeck.

in various places in Southern California before moving to Oregon in the early 1970s. They transformed an overgrown side of a mountain into a nice home. There she lived with her son Mark until her passing.

As a child, she lived in the country with her family where she enjoyed picking wild strawberries, blueberries, and blackberries and helping her mother weed their large garden. She also enjoyed “jelly bread” when her grandmother, who lived next door, baked bread.

Elaine had many interests, including indoor plants, gardening, and canning fruits and vegetables for winter. She loved to cook, especially for company. Blackberry picking was a fun day, after which she would make jam and delicious syrup for pancakes. She also worked as a waitress and hostess for several area restaurants.

When Elaine’s carpenter father was off work, almost all summer evenings were spent at a favorite swimming hole a mile away. While the children played in the water under the watchful eye of their stay-at-home mother, their father fished farther downstream.

She is survived by sons Mark and Paul Gipson; sisters Sandra Grinnell of Bishop, California, and Beverly Frye of Meridian, Idaho; nieces Christine Findley, Diane Webster, Lisa Frye, and Carrie Sprague; nephew, Steve Frye; and various cousins.

Most of their relatives lived nearby and were a close-knit family. They visited often and had reunions with other relatives who lived farther away.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Howard Gipson; her parents; brother, Dennis Brobeck; brothers-in-law Frank Frye and Alvin Grinnell; and niece, Darlene Mardilla.

Elaine graduated from high school in 1956. Shortly afterward her family moved to Ohio, where she met her first husband and moved to California. Howard Gipson, her second husband and father of her two children, Mark and Paul, was the love of her life. They lived

Services were held July 19, 2024, at Missouri Flat Cemetery in Applegate. Elaine will be missed by family and many friends.



Ruch Library in 1984 (top photo) and current location (bottom photo).

Ruch Library: Part One

First 40 years and forward!

BY PAT GORDON

Where were you when Ruch Community Library first opened its doors on October 21, 1984, in its first location at 7632 Highway 238?

The library was created by local residents to serve our community. One of those residents, Emma Leach, celebrated it with this poem:

Ruch Library

A library for Ruch!
Now isn't that nice.
We all need a place
to go for advice,
A place to relax
Get a different view.

Books are good friends
that never talk back
and of their company
there is no lack.
You can find entertainment
and knowledge galore,
and it's all available
for the rich and the poor.

So come one, come all.
Let us all do our best
to establish a library
that will stand the test.
Let us all get behind
and work with a will
so our own Ruch Library
will every need fulfill.
~ Emma Leach

This October the Friends of Ruch Library will be hosting a community-wide 40th Anniversary Celebration, heralding the people and vision that made it happen and reaching out to *you*, as your hopes, wishes, ideas, and energy will carry it forward into the future.

Here is the first of a two-part short history (1982-2000). Watch for Part Two in the *Applegater's* winter issue.

1982—the seed. A gathering, called by local resident Pat Gordon Miller on August 17, 1982, got the ball rolling.

1982-84—the process. Between August 1982 and the grand opening on October 21, 1984, the seed blossomed. A board of directors was formed, and articles of incorporation were filed as Ruch Community Library (RCL) on July 15, 1983. Community programs, fundraising events, membership drives, and the rental of the block building (now occupied by Crystal Clear) followed. Construction of bookcases, shelving, circulation desk, painting, carpeting, and woodstove heating system installation were then all accomplished by community volunteers.

A collection was built that included a 10,000-volume book donation by Eagle Scout Johnston. Pat Gordon Miller, LMIS, was appointed first librarian by the board. She developed policies and trained library volunteers.

Early library pioneers. Where and what would we be without those early library pioneers? Then, as now, they had hopes. Here's a sampling:

- **Teresa Sullivan**, steering committee member, wanted books and activities for her two young children.
- **Ed Reilly** envisioned a computer center after he guided construction of much of the needed furnishings.
- **Esther James**, board president, worked to assure a local library so people did not have to drive to Medford.
- **Gene Baker**, a generous donor, saw our library as a center for author visits, art, and culture.
- **Maybelle Offenbacher**, gifter of a custom-built table for our children's area, wanted families to feel welcome.

1985-86. In June 1985 we moved into the lower level of Sunshine Plaza. Passage of a countywide serial levy to fund libraries gave us the chance to become a branch of the Jackson County

See *FIRST 40 YEARS*, page 6.

Community is built by sharing gifts

BY JULIE RAEFIELD

Isn't it wonderful to think of having a special place where our community can meet one another, take classes, learn arts and crafts, try new cooking skills, learn about Oregon history, or hear live music for free? What about the joy of having a place where local children can join day camps, gather for hikes on our local trails, learn an instrument, bake cookies, or explore the natural world and sciences? And, what if seniors had a place to socialize, learn about resources, and work on sustaining quality of life?

Jacksonville Community Center (JCC) is that place. Several years ago, hundreds of community members joined together to raise the \$750,000 in funds needed to expand the simple 1940s cottage by adding a beautiful great room, a professional catering kitchen, and new restroom facilities.

JCC programs for all ages are now meeting many community needs—for those living in Jacksonville, the Applegate, Central Point, West Medford, and many other surrounding communities.

Now that it's built and operating, how do we keep the center growing? That's easy! We need more lovely community members to recognize the value of the center, to access the affordable rental rooms that JCC provides, and join in with JCC's enriching programs that are available to all ages and income levels.

We also need charitable gifts and volunteers to teach, present, and support programs.

Dispelling myths. Many people believe that their taxes are already supporting the center. The truth is that we are not a line item on the city or county budget. JCC is a nonprofit that depends on private individual and business donations for 51 percent of our operating costs. That is over \$80,000 a year that must come from inspired and visionary individuals who share our vision—a community where we encourage one another, share our gifts, gather to generate positive connections, and ultimately create community that brings out the best in all.

JCC then earns additional operating revenue by renting out the facility, charging small fees for classes, and receiving private foundation grants. And, though we run lean on operating costs and engage



Youth programs at JCC bring kids out to hike trails and learn about nature, along with indoor arts, crafts, music, and cooking classes.



JCC hosts programs in the arts, history, culture, crafts, health education, senior resources, and for youths.

volunteers for many duties, we simply can't do this joyful work on behalf of the community without the generosity of individuals.

Our fall fundraising campaign will be starting soon so please consider JCC as a charity in your annual giving. We hope you will consider making a pledge, donation, or bequest to JCC in the coming days and months. Donations may be made online at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org/donate.

If you have some time to help with office tasks, program assistance, gardening, or other things, please contact us at 541-702-2585. We can always find good ways to engage you!

We need your help. We thank you in advance for whatever you can offer in support. We know that community members who invest in an enriched community are a treasure to us all. Please visit our website at jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org for current programs and special events.

Happy Fall!

Julie Raefield
JCC Executive Director
jraefield@jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org



Type 3 Wildland Urban Interface Fire Engine

The Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD) would like to acquire a fire engine made by Pierce Manufacturing, the premier manufacturer of fire engines. With rural and forested topography, this Type 3 Wildland Urban Interface engine is exactly what is needed in the Applegate Valley. It has substantial advantages over AVFD's current wildland engines, which are modified Type 2s. In addition to being a four-wheel drive vehicle, this Type 3 has a tight turning radius, outstanding ground clearance, and a shorter wheelbase, allowing it to deal with rough terrain or abrupt changes in grade. This engine carries four people versus only two people in AVFD's current engines, plus it has more space for equipment. It has a standard pump and water storage. To raise funds for this engine, Friends of Applegate Fire District is looking for sponsors. See page 1 for more information.

Save the date!

**Help celebrate 40 years of library service in Ruch
Open House Noon-4 pm October 19**

Library Campus, 7919 Highway 238
Stories & Conversations | Refreshments | Music | Children's Activities
Visit the Book Barn and get a *free* book!
The A-Frame Bookstore will be open.

POETRY CORNER

The Dream of What Is Possible

By Robin Hooker James • rhookerjames@gmail.com

Nothing is as heady
As the dream of what is possible.
It can fill your waking hours
Until nothing seems impossible.

Just the thought of the possible
Can intoxicate our imagination.
Lifting our hearts and souls
Ignoring all attempts at stagnation.

Such hope the possible gives us
Leaving no room for despair.
Enthralling the depths of our senses
Igniting our passions, so very rare.

What a dream to have
What a dream to hold dear.
For when anything is possible
There is nothing to fear.

When it was time to retire, I wanted a place that was less congested, where I could enjoy the beauty and wonder of our country. The beauty of the Applegate Valley caught my attention in 2016 and that's where I decided to plant my roots. I've traveled all over the world and it's still one of the most beautiful places I've been. It's inspirational and serene and speaks to my soul. —Robin James

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.



Voices of the Applegate seeks singers

Our community choir, Voices of The Applegate, is back in the swing again with successful seasons last fall and spring. We are looking forward to another great season this coming fall.

We will be rehearsing in the Jacksonville Library every Tuesday evening from 7-8:30 pm, beginning September 3. Our concerts will be on November 22 in Jacksonville and on November 24 in Applegate.

We are looking for more singers to join our choir! If you are interested in spending 90 minutes a week in joyous music with a group of happy people, then come to our first rehearsal on September 3 or call me for more information.

We hope to see you in the fall!

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988 • joanpete5317@gmail.com

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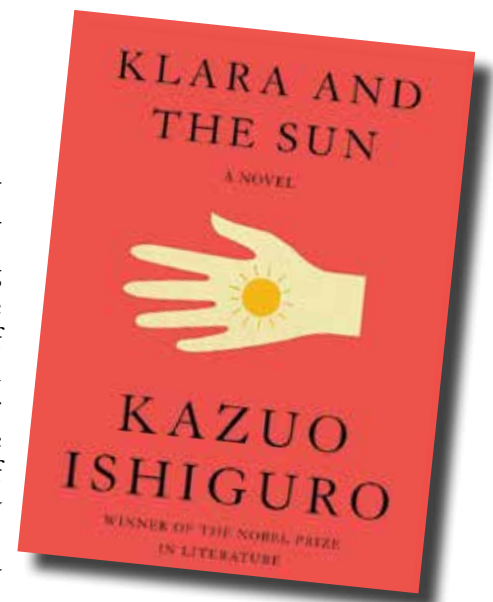
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BOOK REVIEW

Klara and the Sun

Kazuo Ishiguro
Alfred A. Knopf, 2021

BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER



AI (artificial intelligence) is spreading fast. It's not easy to ignore. Some of us love it. One of my neighbors loves the ease of composing a coherent recommendation to a government office. I, on the other hand, am not so keen on the icon at the top of my screen that is asking for a list of words it could use to compose this review of *Klara and the Sun*.

I heard of AI in 1985 when I met my 16-year-old stepson for the first time. The two of us were getting to know each other, and I asked about his interests. Without hesitation he said, "AI." I was stumped. "What's *that*?" So, he explained, and I commented that such a technology couldn't possibly develop until far into the future. He just laughed.

I remembered that experience when I picked up the 2021 novel by Kazuo Ishiguro. You may recognize the title of his *Remains of the Day* or of his chilling *Never Let Me Go*. It is always safe to assume that Ishiguro will take his reader into the depth of the human psyche where the characters' choices emerge from the sharp and inexplicable nature of the human condition itself. The situations are so subtle and tenuous that while reading we begin to wonder whether the human species has developed the wisdom, courage, and love required to make a choice at all.

The narrator of this novel is Klara herself, an AF or Artificial Friend. Actual human children are, by the time of this story, being "lifted," meaning that many of their brains are implanted with an intelligence chip that gives them immediate access to any bit of data they desire or require. Not all children, though, react well to the implant. Some become ill and even die. A robot model, the AF, is developed to befriend especially those children who have trouble adapting. Klara is purchased by such a family whose first daughter had died from the results of being "lifted," and their second daughter, Josie, is not well. The companionship of an AF might be of help to get her past the dangers to the human mind and body because of implantation's side effects.

After she is purchased, Klara's AI expands with every experience. Her world becomes larger. Her ability to synthesize her experience increases. Since Klara is narrating, the point of view is

hers. And this is where I got hooked. I began to relate to Klara herself as a person with thoughts, feelings, and the inner responsibility of choice. Klara's process, though, was different from what a human being typically experiences. The way she sees a room and walks through a room, for example, is different from the way you and I do that. I think that what Klara describes is pixilation. She sees her surroundings as tiny boxes that take time to fit together to create whatever object is in front of her: a face or a path. Fascinating!

In the beginning the narration is simple, a child's narration, but as Klara synthesizes her input, the tension in the written text and in what Klara understands of herself and her humans increases. She begins to "feel," but without prejudice. "I tried to imagine how I would feel if Rosa [her store companion AF] and I, a long time from now, long after we'd found our different homes, saw each other again by chance on a street. Would I then feel, as Manager had put it, pain alongside my happiness?" (p. 30).

The contrast between Klara's perspective and that of the other characters, both natural humans and lifted humans, becomes conflictual for the reader. The intensity increases. The author, Ishiguro, begins to show his characters, the whole cast, in that cultural trap and psychological/emotional seduction that leads to a person's desires to claim another's life for their personal gain. Ishiguro, in his various books, opens vastly different cultures and situations to us, and there's always that fundamental trap and the question: Who is really the human being here? Who has discovered how to love another?

Christin Lore Weber
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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.

Acknowledgements

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Special thanks to Diana Coogle, Haley May Peterson, and Paul Tipton for copy editing; Diana Coogle, Carla David, Jeanette LeTourneux, and Paul Tipton for proofing; Donna Espino for bookkeeping; webmaster Joe Lavine; and Barbara Holiday for layout.

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All materials submitted for publication must pertain to the Applegate Valley, be original (no press releases or reprinted articles), and be the intellectual property of the author unless otherwise credited.

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

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

Photo Requirements

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

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

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

Applegater Newsmagazine
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■ **MATT SORENSEN**

Continued from page 1
established and treasured AVA (American Viticultural Area).

LongSword Vineyard's first vintage of estate chardonnay produced from the 10 acres of vines was released in 2001. In the early days, the "tasting room" was a tiny building positioned right off Highway 238 and run by Matt; his then wife, Maria; and her brother, Tony (Manuel), who still works at LongSword. With three outdoor tables and three parking spaces, it was a humble operation that is remembered fondly by the Applegate community. You can still see its gravel footprint to the east of the driveway when you enter the property.

After an additional eight years working in his corporate job in order to supply the capital necessary to build and run the business, Matt was able to move to the Applegate in 2007 and began living his dream full-time. In 2009 he joined in partnership with another small vineyard

down the road and built the current tasting room. Now able to produce more varieties of wine, Matt began building the LongSword wine club.

The dissolution of the partnership in 2012 left the business in a state of upheaval. Thankfully, one of Matt's closest friends, the late Jim Devitt, of Devitt Winery, helped support him through this difficult time. This transition also opened the way for a new collaboration between Matt and his niece, Kate Vangeloff, who moved to the Applegate Valley in 2015 to help him rebuild the business. During their eight-year partnership, Matt produced some of his finest wines. At the same time, LongSword became known as a community hub that hosted fun, unique events for locals and travelers alike.

Matt was a one-of-a-kind person, with a wry sense of humor and an unshakable belief in himself and his dream. Underneath his often-churlish exterior, he could be disarming and endearing. He was a highly sensitive person with a deep,

enduring love for all plants and animals. He was fiercely intelligent and an outspoken advocate for science. He valued both research and experimentation, an ethos he brought to both his winemaking and his care of the land at LongSword Vineyard. He loved LongSword more than anything in the entire world, except perhaps his many canine companions that he cared for over the years. His first Aussie, Miss Beatty, was a fixture on the farm for years, followed by Rogue, who is now enjoying retirement from the farm at Kate's house in Medford.

There is no doubt Matt will be remembered by the Applegate community for years to come, and he will be greatly missed by friends and family. He is survived by his nieces, Kate and Abbey Vangeloff, and his sister and brother-in-law, Amy and Jim Vangeloff.

Kate Vangeloff
Director of Operations/Owner
LongSword Vineyard
kate@longswordvineyard.com

The Applegater needs your ongoing help!

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

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PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530
Donations are also accepted online at applegater.org.

A huge THANKS to the generous donors who recently contributed to the Applegater.

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- Kathleen Conway, Jacksonville, OR
- Sylva Hatchman, Grants Pass, OR
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We can help you reach your market!

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

For more information, contact:

Jackson County
Alyssa Prophet @ 541-520-2219 or prophetsolutionsllc@gmail.com

Josephine County
Max Unger @ 541-660-4031 or imaxunger@gmail.com

Next deadline: November 1

Cover Photo Credit

Thanks to Linda Kappen, as always, for capturing some bright autumn leaves in the Applegate Valley.

•••

Have a photo for the Winter 2024 *Applegater*? Email it to gater@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 Barbara Holiday at barbara@applegater.org.

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Editorial Calendar

ISSUE	DEADLINE
WINTER (Dec - Feb)....	November 1 <i>Holiday - Arts</i>
SPRING (March - May) ...	February 1 <i>History - Heritage</i>
SUMMER (June - Aug)	May 1 <i>Fire - Water</i>
FALL (Sept - Nov)	August 1 <i>Earth - Air</i>

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— Applegate Library —

Find the magic
this fall!

— Ruch Library —

Celebrating our
40th birthday!

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

BY MEGAN PINDER

We will be kicking off our Third Annual Applegate Music Festival from 12-4 pm Saturday, September 28 (see details below).

Upcoming events

Learn & Play with Jackson County Search and Rescue, 8+ years. Jackson County Search and Rescue wants every person, especially children, to know how to survive alone in the wilderness should they ever become lost. This program will demonstrate easy survival techniques. A scavenger hunt, using the taught skills, and a question-and-answer session will follow the program. 12:30-1:30 pm Saturday, September 7.

Talk Like a Pirate Day, 6+ years. Yo ho! Yo ho—a pirate's life for me! It's a great day to be a pirate! Let's celebrate with pirate-themed crafts, a treasure hunt, and light refreshments. All materials provided while supplies last. 4-5 pm Thursday, September 19.

Find the Magic: Make Your Own Constellation Art, 18+years. Whether you're into astrology, astronomy, or art, this program is for you! Bring a little of the night sky into your own home with this DIY constellation wall art. 1-2 pm Saturday, September 21.

From the Mountains above the Applegate River: Diana Coogle talks about her life as a writer, 18+ years. Local author Diana Coogle will talk about her life as a writer and read from her works. 5-6 pm Thursday, September 26.

Special Storytime: When You Open a Book by Caroline Derlatka, 3+years. *When You Open a Book* is an ode to the world's grandest adventure: reading a book. Join us for an adventure that features dragons, forests, pirates, lollipop trees, and more! 11-12 pm Friday, September 27.

Third Annual Applegate Music Festival, 3+ years. Love piano music? We will have that! Love guitar, violin, and cello? We will have that too! Browse the library, pick up your holds, and listen to local musicians play various instruments and songs. Whatever your pleasure, these artistic, fun, and talented musicians are sure to send you on your way with a smile on your face and a song in your heart. And maybe even a new book!

- Noon-12:50 pm Cello Player, Lisa Truelove
- 12:50-1 pm Violinist, Malila
- 1-1:50 pm Singer/songwriter/guitarist, Cole Cullen
- 1:50-2 pm Violinist, Malila

- 2-2:50 pm Classical Pianist, Debbie Lyons
- 3-3:45 pm Singer/songwriter/keyboardist, Noah

Find the Magic: Dragon Mason Jar Night Light, 8+years. Kids can create their own whimsical dragon jar that lights up. It will be a treasure that you'll want to hoard! 12:30-1:30 pm Saturday, October 5.

Find the Magic: Make Your Own Magic 8-Ball, 13+years. Be in charge of your own destiny—by making your own Magic 8-ball! 4-5 pm Thursday, October 10.

Connecting to Your Inner Wisdom Through Tarot Reading, 18+years. Are you curious about how tarot can give you helpful insights? Tracie Sage will share how to connect with your intuition to call forth wisdom using tarot and oracle cards. 2:30-3:30 pm Saturday, October 19.

Halloween Crafts and Costume Party, 3+ years. Dress up in your favorite Halloween costume and come to the Applegate Library for edible or ghoulish crafts, stories, and music. 12:30-2:30 pm Saturday, October 26.

Learn about Bats with John Jackson of Bugs R Us, 3+years. It's all about these flying mammals and their important role in the ecosystem. 2:30-3:30 pm Saturday, October 26.

Fall for Fall, 18+ years. Join us at the Applegate Library for some autumnal crafting. All materials and light refreshments will be provided. 3-4 pm Thursday, November 21.

Make a Fall Gnome, 8+ years. Bring your crafty self to the library to make a fall gnome. All materials and a light snack will be provided. 4:30-5:30 pm Thursday, November 21.

Reminders

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

Wi-Fi is available 24-7 in our parking lot as well as inside our building.

A Digital Services representative is here from 10 am-12:30 pm Tuesdays on a first come, first served basis, or make an appointment at digitalservices@jcls.org or call 541-734-3990.

Preschool Storytime is held at 11-11:30 am Fridays.

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

Join us at Ruch Library for a variety of entertaining and educational events, including our 40th Anniversary Celebration.

Preschool Storytime, 3-5 years. Bring your preschoolers to enjoy stories, rhymes, songs, and fun at the library. 10:30-11 am Tuesdays.

Computer and Tech Help, all ages. Meet with a Digital Services Specialist by appointment or drop-in. 10 am-12:30 pm Tuesdays and 2-4:30 pm Thursdays.

Kaleidoscope Play and Learn (KPL), 0-5 years. Discover how children learn through play and daily activities: singing, telling stories, creating art, and having fun! KPL is open to everyone—young children and their families and caregivers. 10:30 am-12 pm Thursdays.

Strange New Cowboys and "An end to war," 18+ years. Readings by Paul Tipton of excerpts from his recently published book, *Strange New Cowboys: Vietnam Stories and Poems*, interspersed with poems by members of the Applegate Poets on the prompt, "An end to war." 3-4 pm September 7.

Community Yoga, 13+ years. Join us for an all-levels yoga class with Dr. Rachel Stricker. *Bring your own mat!* The Community Room will open at 8:45 am. 9-10 am second and fourth Wednesdays. *Registration required at jcls.org/events.*

Tween-Teen Movie Hangout, 10-14 years. Stop by the Ruch Library to enjoy a movie (and popcorn) with other tweens and teens! There will be time to discuss a few movie options and vote for a favorite before showtime at 4 pm. Please note: This program does not occur during Medford School District vacations. 3:30-6 pm second and fourth Thursdays.

Web Design Essentials: Building Your First Website, 14+ years. Join web designer Jamin Giersbach from Popproxx for a comprehensive yet concise session on leveraging WordPress and Elementor to streamline the web design process from conceptualization to publication. 1-2 pm October 5.

Make Your Own Magic 8-Ball, 13+ years. Be in charge of your own destiny—by making your own Magic 8-Ball! 1-2 pm October 12.

Dragon Mason Jar Night-light, 8+ years. Kids can create their own whimsical dragon jar—that lights up! It will be a

treasure that you'll want to hoard! 3:45-4:45 pm October 17.

Ruch Library's 40th Anniversary Celebration, all ages. Festivities! Stories! Refreshments! The Friends of the Ruch Library and Jackson County Library Services cordially invite you to a family-friendly open house. We will have fun activities in the Ruch Library, the A-frame Bookstore, and the Book Barn. Bring your stories and memories to share and learn how the library has evolved over the last 40 years. 12-4 pm October 19.

Pumpkin Carving and Seed Saving, all ages. Pumpkins, carving tools, and hot beverages provided. Participants will also learn how to process and save their seeds for next year's pumpkin patch. 1-2 pm October 26.

Community Plant and Seed Swap, all ages. Come swap seeds and stories of your gardening successes with the community and help our Seed Library continue to thrive. Tubers, root divisions, and cuttings are also warmly welcomed. Refreshments will be served. 1-2 pm November 2.

Learn and Play with Jackson County Search and Rescue (SAR), 8+ years. SAR wants every person, especially children, to know how to survive alone in the wilderness should they ever become lost. The Lost but Found program consists of a short video, demonstrations of easy survival techniques and gear, and a scavenger hunt. 4-5 pm November 7.

Make Your Own Constellation Art, 18+ years. Whether you're into astrology, astronomy, or art, this program is for you! Bring a little of the night sky into your own home with this DIY constellation wall art. 1-2 pm November 16.

Magic Wands with John Jackson of Bugs-R-U's, 3+ years. Make an LED Shooting Star Magic Wand! All supplies are included. 1-2 pm November 23.

Special Storytime: When You Open a Book by Caroline Derlatka, 3+years. *When You Open a Book* is an ode to the world's grandest adventure: reading a book. Join us for an adventure that features dragons, forests, pirates, lollipop trees—and more! 10:30-11:30 am November 26.

Megan Pinder
Ruch Branch Manager
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mpinder@jcls.org
7919 Highway 238, Ruch

VOTE
2024

**REMEMBER
TO VOTE!
ELECTION DAY IS
NOVEMBER 5**

■ FIRST 40 YEARS

Continued from page 3

Library. Our affiliation as a branch, on January 1, 1986, meant relinquishing some local control and becoming FORL (Friends of Ruch Library). Area residents petitioned to have Pat Gordon Miller continue as our librarian, and our outreach and programming continued under her guidance.

1989. Darcy Johnson became our branch supervisor in August 1989 when Pat transitioned to Medford to start the Teen Library and our countywide Young Adult Program.

1992. Janis Mohr-Tipton became our Ruch Branch Supervisor in 1992 and guided community collaborative efforts, including Applegate Valley Days (1994-1998) with Ruch School. In the mid-1990s, as library growth continued, FORL began to look for a

new branch location. At the same time, work was under way for new or remodeled libraries countywide.

1999. Town hall meetings were held in every community and, in 1999, the Campaign to Rebuild our Libraries kicked off with FORL's president, Alison Rilling, as campaign chair. Our Ruch community participated in planning for a 5,027-square-foot library, and FORL vigorously fundraised for our new library vision.

And what was that vision, exactly? See the winter *Applegater* for the next exciting installment of our Ruch Library history. For the expanded history version, stop by Ruch Library and enjoy the amazing Pictorial History of Ruch Library created by our amazing volunteer Barbara Krack!

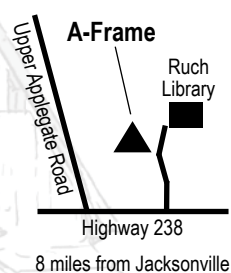
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— Williams Library —
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BY BRANDACE ROJO

Library events and programs are offered at no charge and are open to the public. Registration is not required, and a library card is not necessary to participate in library events and programs unless otherwise noted.

Williams Weekly Storytime. 11–11:30 am every Friday. Themed storytime and craft session in a safe and fun environment

Virtual communication booth. Community members can reserve the communication booth for virtual meetings at the Williams branch library at no cost. The space is large enough for one person to conduct a virtual interview, take an important call, or FaceTime with a loved one in a quiet space. It is equipped with a height-adjustable desk, outlets, and the ability to hard wire a device to the library's high-speed internet for seamless connection. Patrons can bring their own device or borrow a library laptop, if needed. Funding for the virtual communication booth was provided by A Greater Applegate.

Get a library card

Take advantage of thousands of books, e-books, and audiobooks with a library card. Find recommended reading, attend library programs for all ages, use public computers, and check out useful items like laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots. Josephine County residents who live within the library district boundary get an annual library card at no cost. Community members living in Josephine County who do not live in the library district have several

options to get a library card, including a \$15 quarterly card, volunteering, and more. Josephine Community Library Foundation is also happy to sponsor the cost of annual household library cards at no cost to the requesting community member. Stop by your preferred branch for more information and to sign up.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Register your children under the age of five for free online or stop by your nearest library branch in Grants Pass, Williams, or Wolf Creek during open hours and fill out a paper form. In eight to 10 weeks, you'll receive the first book. After that, age-appropriate books will arrive monthly. The first book every child receives is *The Little Engine That Could*, which is Dolly Parton's favorite book. The message of the book is timeless, encouraging children to never give up, do their best, and stay positive no matter what. To sign up, visit josephinelibrary.org and find Dolly Parton's Imagination Library on the Children page under the Youth/Family menu.

Williams branch new hours. 1-6 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday; 11 am-6 pm Friday.

Williams branch library is located at 158 Tetherow Road, Williams. Contact branch manager, Amber Guient, at aguient@josephinelibrary.org or 541-846-7020.

Brandace Rojo
Communications &
Partnership Manager
Josephine Community Library
brojo@josephinelibrary.org



Mini Applegate Library
Made by Christine Grubb, her husband Steven, and library staff as a centerpiece at a recent library celebration. It is currently on display at the library. (Notice the Applegater in the front stand!)

Groundbreaking economic study of the Applegate Valley needs your support

BY JEANETTE LETOURNEUX

A few years ago, members of the Wellington Wildlands Council (WWC) were bitten by a mission bug to figure out what really makes up the economic base in the Applegate Valley.

In its work to protect the Wellington Wildlands from logging and keep its recreational assets intact and viable, WWC has had many conversations about the relative importance of historic extractive industries in our modern economy. Since the 1990s, there have been many changes, and now wineries, agriculture, recreation, tourism, and many diverse small businesses contribute to our economy and need to be included in measuring the economic health of the valley. But how can this be done in an unbiased fashion with community involvement so that the results will be useful for future planning and accepted by those who live here?

In a desire to support a robust economy for the Applegate Valley, WWC applied for and received two Innovation Grants from A Greater Applegate (AGA). Our goal is to better understand the "Economic Generators" or types of businesses that contribute jobs and income for the people. We'd also like to understand the qualitative benefits and impacts of those businesses.

Expert support

In partnership with AGA, we are now working with a dynamic faculty member and a graduate student from the University of Oregon (UO) Institute for Policy Research and Engagement (IPRE). They have designed an impartial study that will incorporate data from diverse organizations—from the Oregon Secretary of State, Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc (SORED), Oregon Department of Employment Rogue Valley, the Applegate Valley Vision, and many other sources.

We are very excited about this opportunity and the proposed project! The UO team will implement an applied research project that will provide a data-driven analysis of the local economic landscape. In addition, the economic study will engage local business owners via a survey and community meetings. IPRE will develop the community survey to capture local input, and WWC and AGA will lead community outreach about the survey.

Why is this project important?

Many of us think we can name the industries that are the real drivers of this valley, but we may not understand what those drivers contribute to the local economic base. Our valley has experienced substantial shifts in the local economy, which may present opportunities to both support the environment and build prosperity—but may also create problems such as competing priorities from different industries, organizations, and the public about the resources in our forests and watersheds. Our economic well-being depends on all of us understanding the realities and issues underpinning our local economies.

A well-founded study will help focus priorities and establish productive strategies in the context of our evolving economy. The study will identify our top economic drivers and will assess their needs. It will help direct future actions to sustain our local economy and the well-being of the Applegate Valley. The results of the study will provide a fact-based understanding of our current economy and will help our communities and local businesses strategize about how to sustain a thriving community.

The analysis has already begun, and the project will conclude by the end of the year. The estimated total cost is \$7,500, of which we have raised \$3,000, leaving a balance of \$4,500, for which we are seeking funding. Any amount that you can give is appreciated, and no donation is too small!

If you would like to help us continue our efforts, please donate at wellingtonwildlands.org or send a check to WWC, PO Box 1137, Jacksonville, OR 97530. The economic study is the only project we are funding at this time, and 100 percent of your donation goes toward the project.

If you wish to receive a copy of the scope of work, which details the project, or have any questions, please email me. Thank you so much for your consideration to help complete this valuable project!

Jeanette LeTourneux, President
Wellington Wildlands Council
jeanette@wellingtonwildlands.org
Liza Crosse
Audrey Eldridge

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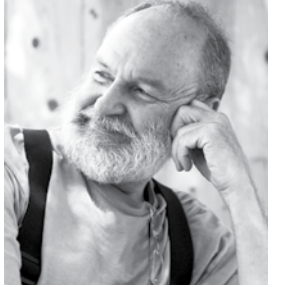
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THE STARRY SIDE

The galaxy twists counterclockwise!

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

I have always been fascinated by the complicated movements of stars, shapes, and constellations across our sky. For instance, the Summer Triangle has risen till it is now overhead, almost halfway to the western horizon. The Milky Way, which was horizontal on the eastern horizon, is now overhead. Both the triangle and the galaxy travel southwest to northeast and will continue to rotate as they go west to set. By December they will have shifted almost 90 degrees again, east to west. You'd think they would move in a simple east-west movement, but they twist!

With fall starting soon, here are some more favorites to consider. In the east, where Summer Triangle rose, is a wonderful, equally big, square shape. This is the body of Pegasus, the horse. A curve of stars above and to the right of the square makes the head; the rest is

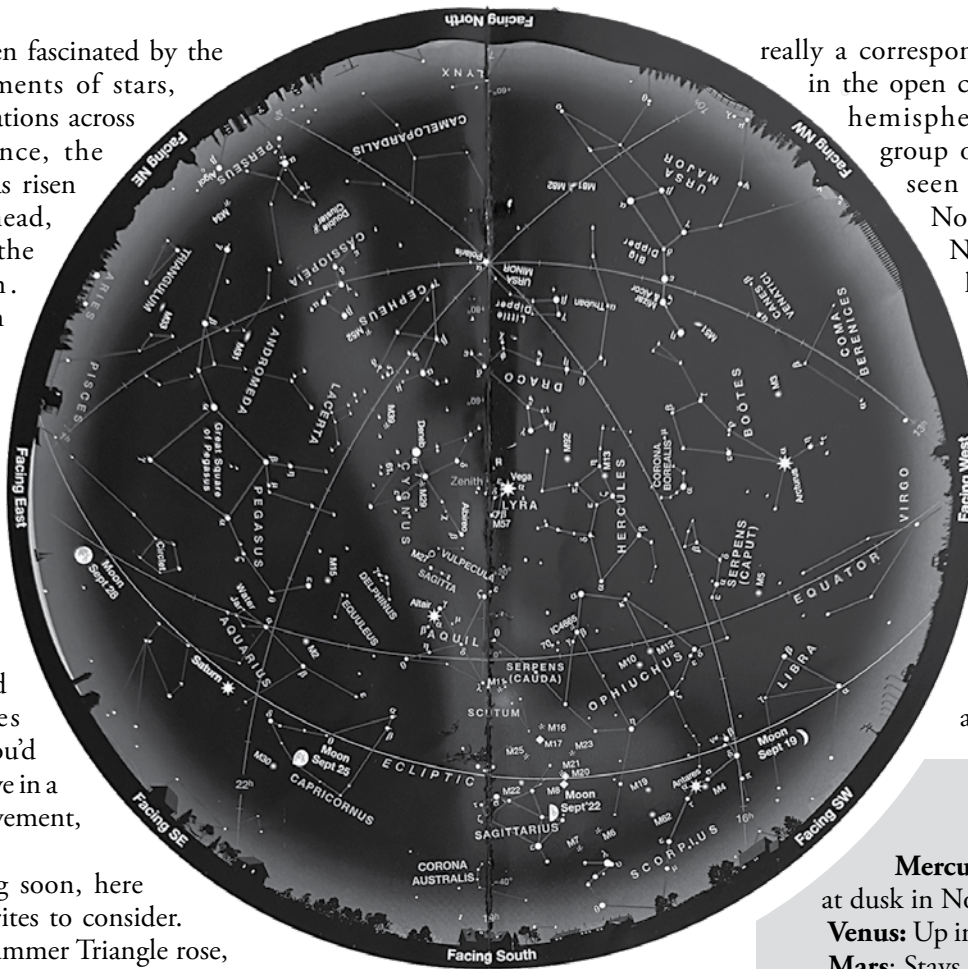
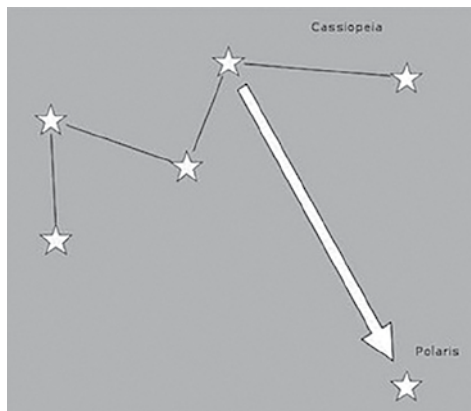


Image: Sky & Telescope (skyandtelescope.org).



How to find the North Star from Cassiopeia. Image: preppingtosurvive.com.

more vague. A sweep of stars extends from the star directly opposite Pegasus's head, moving left, getting bigger and bigger as it goes. It sweeps near and just below the W of Cassiopeia.

From Cassiopeia we can find the north star. Divide the lower, wider V of the W into three equal pie shapes. Extend the lower line you just imagined straight to Polaris—okay, not exactly straight, but close—and you'll land on the north star.

The north star is important because it's the only star that *does not move*. It's at the center of all the movements of all our northern hemisphere stars. There's not

really a corresponding "southern star" in the open center of the southern hemisphere sky, but a small group of spinning stars. I've seen them from Hawaii.

Not as cool as our sky! Northern and southern hemisphere skies share some stars—their northern ones are our southern ones.

From the North Star, turn and look south. To the right, close to the horizon, are two sets of three stars. The first set is almost horizontal, with Antares in the middle, so bright and red it rivals Mars.

To the right of those three stars, almost vertical, is the other set of three stars, making the head of the scorpion in the constellation Scorpio. A line of stars, perpendicular to those, curves to the left (the body and beginning of the tail), dips below the horizon, and rises up again, even farther left, almost due south. Now the scorpion's tail shows as a smaller curve, from lower left to upper right, ending in a bright star, Shaula, and a tiny mate, Lesath, close together—the scorpion's stinger. Watch out!

It amazes me how much goes on in our quiet, dark sky just above us each night. For all the 81 years of my life I've loved and been attracted to the night sky. There's always something new or old to marvel at. Wishing you warm, dark, clear skies.

Greeley Wells • greeley@greeley.me

— OF NOTE — Planets

- Mercury:** Up at dawn in September, invisible in October, and up again at dusk in November.
- Venus:** Up in the dusk in September, in the evening for the rest of the season.
- Mars:** Stays in our early mornings all season, when most of us are asleep.
- Jupiter:** Up early each morning when, again, most of us are asleep.
- Saturn:** Visible all night in September but only in the evening the rest of the season.

Meteor Showers

- Perseids:** Only visible in August.
- Draconids:** Peak on October 8-10. Watch all evening, to the north near Vega. There are normally around ten meteors an hour, but sometimes there are floods of meteors. We might be lucky!
- Orionids:** September 26-November 22. Best on October 20-21, midnight to dawn, with a maximum of 10-20 meteors an hour. Avoid the full moon on October 17. The radiant is off Orion's raised arm.
- South and north Taurids:** October 13-December 2, peaking on November 5. Just right of Taurus, with as many as ten meteors an hour.
- Leonids:** November 3-December 2. In Leo, which looks like a backwards question mark in the east. Watch all night on November 17, but avoid the full moon on either side of November 15. The Leonids can have 10-15 meteors per hour and sometimes create meteor showers. In November 1966 there were thousands of meteors per minute, like rain.

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

My berry best friend is blue

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

I have been growing blueberries for the last umpteen years. Guess what? From dirty fingernails to you, I am a failure at growing blueberries.

To start with, I never realized blueberries are a long-term plant investment—it takes three to five years to produce full-size berries on young plants.

My first attempt to grow blueberries, in a lovely partially shaded place in my garden, was at least 15 years ago. I watched closely as they grew smaller and smaller. I personally have an excuse for growing smaller and smaller: I am “olding,” but the blueberry plants were not. These were very young and healthy plants. My recent research said blueberries need sun.

Realization 1. Suggestions about where to plant blueberries are confusing. While “in sun” is the most frequent answer, does that mean morning or afternoon, full sun or sun with partial shade? Summary of confusion: make sure there is plenty of morning sun. In the afternoon when it is hot, you can go inside, but blueberries need some shade.

A few years after the death of my last blueberry plant, I focused on location, location, location (sounds like I am buying a house or business, right?). Since tomatoes like sun but not scorching afternoon sun, I figured blueberries and tomatoes might become good friends. *Wrong!*

Realization 2. Tomatoes, potatoes, tobacco, and eggplants—the nightshade family—get very yucky in acid soil. Since acid soil is what blueberries thrive on, they will never become buddies with any of the nightshades. There are other no-nos for next-door neighbors, but the nightshades are the most significant.

For my second attempt at blueberry planting, I simply dug holes in my rose garden and popped in 12 varieties of blueberries. For your information, different varieties are needed for good pollination. The rose garden was not a terrible choice as far as sun goes, but I did not pay enough attention to watering. My roses seemed to do very well on water neglect and tolerated the hot sun. The blueberries did not. After three years of trying to grow blueberries to adulthood, I had to cut their lives short in the rose garden!

Realization 3. If water were wine, blueberries would be true alcoholics.

During the growing season, blueberries need at least one inch of water per week, depending on the outside temperature.



Healthy blueberries (thebarefootgardencenter.com).



Under watered blueberry plant (blogs.cornell.edu).

water needed, there is always the chance of overwatering. Gulp!

Good idea is to water during the daytime, straight at the base, so excess water will evaporate quickly. Watering directly on the leaves or berries can cause mildew or sunburn. Relatively speaking, blueberries do not have long tap roots to suck up water from way down under. In fact, at least 50 percent of the roots are located near the crown of the plant. Hence the need for an abundance of water. One more water thingy. It is still possible to overwater. So, if you are unsure if you are over or under watering, stick your finger in the soil or use a moisture meter.

Who blueberries love

Now for the rest of the story. Who do blueberries really love the very most? Did I hear you say “bees”? Well done, folks; you are spot-on. Also, blueberries are very liberal plants in that they love a variety of neighbors. In plant talk, that means different varieties of blueberries are planted together for healthy pollination.

Pollination happens when a bee bites the anther, the male part of a blueberry blossom (actually any blossom) and rubs the pollen grains from the anther on its legs. The bee then buzzes around again and transfers the pollen to the stigma, the female part of a blossom, on a different blueberry plant. Bees are like matchmakers; that is why blueberries love them. This is called cross-pollination. Next year’s “babies” will be strong and vibrant.

Always be yourself unless you can be a blueberry, then be a blueberry. —Anonymous

Dirty fingernails and all,
Sioux Rogers

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Volunteer opportunities abound

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

News at Dragonfly Place cultural site

The two large dragonflies for Grandmother Agnes's tall stone are being prepared for mounting by Kris Albro of Meltdown Metal Art. The smaller boulder next to Grandmother Agnes's tall memorial boulder now has the following custom-etched inscriptions about Grandmother's life:

- Granddaughter of Chief George Harney
- Takelma Band of Rogue River Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz
- International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers

Coming later this fall we will be installing the interpretive sign honoring her life, accomplishments, and heritage. Eric Evensen, of Mountain Ironworks LLC, another local artisan, is building the stand, which will go on the platform at Dragonfly Place for public viewing.

It took almost two years of research and validation from the family and tribal representatives to be able to present Agnes Baker Pilgrim's life story and give respect to her heritage and ancestors, the Takelma peoples, who lived here in the Applegate Valley long before explorers, trappers, miners, and settlers arrived.

Chris Bratt honored

A second new site in the lower park that will catch your eye is just across the road from the play area, adjacent to the trailhead. A large boulder, etched with "He spoke for the trees," honors the memory of Christopher Bratt. From the 1970s until 2019, when Chris passed away, he worked tirelessly with other local community members to help make changes in how industry and the community viewed timber harvesting in the Applegate Watershed. They helped change community perspectives about the importance of age diversity in tree stands and of keeping the forests healthy for the generations who follow us.

We thank Sean Chase of Chase Memorials and his coworker for the on-site custom boulder etchings. The Park Enhancement Committee and cultural subcommittee are very happy with the efforts and the careful etching of each letter that was completed with a mobile etching unit. Park users were also very courteous, making it a successfully concluded project.

Volunteer opportunities

We need your help with weeding and fall planting. Dragonfly Place, the lower area lawn, landscaped beds throughout the park, and the Solar area need volunteers to tackle the invasive species popping up.

We have a number of volunteer opportunities and would appreciate any time community members have to help us keep this gem of a park clean and safe.

SOLVE Fall Riverside Cleanup event, 9 am-noon Saturday, September 28. Your participation will help with debris and invasive species cleanup throughout the park. Please bring your work gloves and digging tools and wear sturdy shoes and proper clothing. Individuals 13 years and older, families, and groups and organizations are all welcome to participate in our SOLVE events. If



Sean Chase of Chase Memorials etching Grandmother Agnes's second memorial boulder.



Chase Memorial etched a boulder in memory of Chris Bratt, who spoke for the trees for over three decades in the Applegate Valley.

you would like more information about SOLVE events around Oregon, please visit solveoregon.org.

Individual volunteer opportunities for 13 years of age and older are available two to three times per month. We recommend two hours each time, but you can choose any day and time. Bring your tools, gloves, etc.

Volunteer leader opportunities are available for four volunteers who are interested in training to lead small groups to do bigger projects once a month.

Organization/group volunteer opportunities are available. We would recommend that groups of four to five volunteers sign up for one or two times a month—your choice of day and time.

Family group volunteer opportunities are available once a month—your choice of day and time. Bring smaller tools for the younger ones.

Once you are signed up, Park Enhancement Committee Chair Janis Mohr-Tipton will arrange to meet with you and go over details before you start. Once a schedule is established and you are familiar with your job, you can work independently and record your hours. Groups and families will work with a leader as needed. Please contact me at the email and phone number below.

For more information about our events, please visit applegatepartnership.org.

Janis Mohr-Tipton
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541-899-9982



Acorn Woman Peak Lookout at sunset. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

Acorn Woman Peak Lookout is stunning

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

People come from all over the country to stay at Acorn Woman Peak Lookout in the Upper Applegate. Perched on a picturesque mountaintop above Acorn Woman Lake and below Dutchman Peak, the lookout was built in 1942 and was an active fire lookout for many years. It still can be during certain wildfire events; however, these days the lookout is part of the US Forest Service rental program and can be rented for \$73 a night, for up to five nights.

Acorn Woman Peak Lookout is a 14 by 14-foot structure built in the L-4 lookout construction style, with glass windows on all sides that provide 360-degree views over the Siskiyou Mountains. The lookout is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a local feature that many local people have never visited—but in order to visit you must get one of the highly sought-after reservations.

Staying at the lookout is a pleasantly rustic experience, with no water or power, but the lookout does have a clean vault toilet nestled in the shrubs nearby, and you can usually get cell service, depending on your carrier. The lookout is equipped with a couple of chairs, a small wooden table, some cleaning supplies, and maps and other information about the region. The wrap-around deck makes a great spot to watch sunrises, sunsets, birds, and full moons, or to stargaze or just take in the breathtaking 360-degree views of the Applegate watershed, the Red Buttes Wilderness, and other peaks on the Siskiyou Crest, in addition to views all the way out to Mt. McLoughlin, the rim of Crater Lake, and Mt. Thielsen.

Just a 20-mile drive from Ruch, Acorn Woman Peak Lookout is an opportunity to gain a new perspective on the region. During your stay, you can chill out with a drink in your hand and study the ridges and canyons that make the Applegate the spectacularly diverse place it is.

But don't just take it from me. The visitor notebook at the lookout has pages and pages of entries from blissed-out visitors from many different cities and states, as well as local people, writing about how happy they were with their stay, the opportunity to unwind on a quiet mountaintop, with nothing



Interior of Acorn Woman Peak Lookout with a 360-degree view. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

but views, birdsong, and stars to grab their attention. One visitor wrote that they counted 22 different bird species at the lookout on just a single trip. Others wrote:

"We had one of the most memorable weekends, ever!"

"Almost bailed on the drive up in my Tacoma, thought I wasn't making it up those tight switchbacks, but got to the last flats and pushed through and thank goodness I did—*stunning!* It's everything you dream a lookout to be."

"This is my first-ever stay in a lookout. I got it on a whim, and I don't think I have ever smiled so big! This place is so beautiful and peaceful, and I can't wait to talk about this to my therapist."

"Best rental we have ever stayed in."

"Fourteenth different lookout stay in eight years."

"This place offers the power of transformation. I hope to come back and dance to music at sunrise again someday."

As one of the entries notes, the very last, steep part of the drive up to the lookout has some very tight switchbacks in the road that are not for the faint of heart. It's not a rough road; it just has tight turns, so drive an appropriate vehicle—no large trucks, trailers, or RVs. Small to mid-sized trucks are okay.

If you're an artist, bring your easel, paintbrushes, musical instrument, or other implements to create art—you will be inspired!

For more information or to book a stay, go to recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/251546?tab=info. Reservations can be hard to get, so plan ahead. Some last-minute openings do pop up occasionally when there is a cancellation.

Suzie Savoie
klamathsiskeyou@gmail.com

THEY LIVE AMONG US

In Curtis Keeler's art, weird is good

BY DIANA COOGLE

If you tell Curtis Keeler his paintings are weird," he'll say, "Thank you." It's a compliment, you see.

On one painting the front end of an old truck juts out from the canvas. On another the upthrust of a Vespa motorcycle breaks into the third dimension. A rooster sort of figure (*what?!*) is riding the motorcycle. The title is "Loco Vesperado a Gogo."

Curtis, a Vietnam veteran, developed his unusual style before moving to Medford in 2011 (and then, three years later, to the Applegate). However, he's been drawing, he says, since he could pick up a pencil or crayon.

Curtis's paintings won the art show contest at the VA Domiciliary in White City three years in a row, but the paintings weren't accepted in the Washington, DC, show, usually a reward for winners. "The judges said, 'Not a painting,'" he explains, although clearly the strongly applied acrylic paint, sometimes stacking up an inch beyond the frame, indicates a painting.

Curtis thinks of his paintings as stories that continue beyond the frame. "I start the story here"—he gestures to the left side of the picture—"and you [the viewer] continue it here," on the right side, just where the frame cuts it off.

"I grew up with five great-uncles and some 30 cousins," Curtis says, explaining his technique. "They were always fishing, camping, swimming, swearing, teasing"—and telling stories. One would begin a story, then another would take it up. Curtis's style is an homage to his uncles and his upbringing.

"I had a black belt in smart-ass by the time I was 17," he says.

Curtis is not formally trained as an artist, although he has taken some online courses—or, at least, he has taken parts of some online courses, whatever he thinks will help him. "Just for a little input, and then I run with it," he says.

In 2013 Curtis's brother, a talented drummer and singer who played with many bands whose members remain even

now Curtis's friends, was dying. Curtis was constantly by his side. Every morning, his brother would say, "Why aren't you painting?"

"He was right," Curtis says. Now, a painter, Curtis puts his brother in every painting.

Personality and personal relationships influence his art. His dog, Seamus, named after a friend Curtis lost 15 years ago, frequently shows up. A boy Curtis built something with once a month for years—three-and-a-half years old when they met; 18 now—"a wonderful part of my life when I needed it," Curtis says—is in a dozen paintings.

His brother, his dog, his young friend—Curtis also loves old vehicles and old barns and puts them in his paintings. (It was old barns, he says, that brought him to the Applegate.) He likes to add broken bits of toys and to make frames from fence posts. He attaches the canvas to plywood to hold up the three-dimensional pieces. He also uses broken toys in building the tiny cabins he sells along with his paintings.

This kind of art draws on Curtis's skill as a carpenter. In Vietnam, he was making maps for pilots. After Vietnam, he "bought an apprenticeship" as a carpenter in Reno,

then got a job cutting stairs and roofs for "the biggest condo builder in the world."

"I loved being a carpenter," he says.

After Vietnam, he didn't much want to be around people, he says. He describes himself as "blunt—and ecstatic with it." He considers "no" a complete sentence.

Being a "socially adept introvert" as he calls himself, Curtis enjoys selling his art at the Applegate Evening Market at the Lindsay Lodge every Wednesday. "I meet 100 people every time," he says. He also sells at wineries and galleries. Next June he will have paintings on display at Awen Winecraft in Medford (awenwinecraft.com), "a good place," he says, "to hang out and answer questions."

If you have questions for Curtis Keeler, you can find him at the Applegate Evening Market through October. In November he will have paintings at Ma Mosa's, in Grants Pass (mamosas.com).

Curtis lives in a place on the Applegate River. He loves it there. "I have everything I need," he says, "the river, food, my dog, and paint."

Diana Coogle

diana@applegater.org

Two examples of Curtis Keeler's self-described "weird" art.



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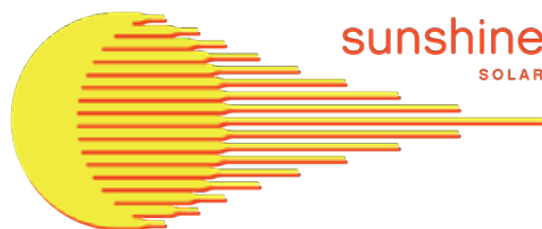
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And thanks to The Perfect Bite, contributor of the side dishes for the dinner.



THROUGH THE LEPIDOPTERAN LENS

Fender's Blue Butterfly—from endangered to threatened

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Fender's Blue (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*), of the family Lycaenidae, was thought to be extinct until Paul Hammond, PhD, research associate in the Department of Entomology, Oregon State University, rediscovered the butterfly in 1989. Until then the butterfly existed only in collections from the past, with 1937 being the last known year.

In 2000 the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) listed the Fender's Blue as endangered. In 2023, USFW reclassified the Fender's Blue from endangered to threatened, with plans for conservation.

The Fender's Blue is an endemic butterfly found only in the prairies and oak savannah habitats of the Willamette Valley of Oregon. Its host plant, the uncommon Kincaid's lupine—also endemic to the Willamette Valley and listed as threatened—is a critical plant for the survival of the Fender's Blue. Only two other host plants, sicklekeel lupine and long-spur lupine—are recorded as being used by the butterfly.

Due to severe habitat loss, recovery plans have been used for restoration of meadows, the host plant, and other wildflowers. The results have been slow but good on the 30-plus restoration sites throughout the Willamette Valley, with small populations of the butterfly increasing.

The Fender's Blue is a small butterfly with a wingspan of one inch. The male's dorsal view is a brilliant blue and the

female a soft brown with black borders and white fringe. The ventral views of this butterfly show gray and tan backgrounds with black spots outlined in white.

Females lay eggs singly on host plants from mid-April to June. The larvae then feed on the plants until they senesce (grow older). The larvae diapause (become dormant) through fall and winter. Larvae break their diapause in early spring to feed on lupine when it reappears. They then metamorph into adult butterflies.

My son, Tyler, and his partner, Kate, live on a property in Echo Hills Farm in the Willamette Valley where conservation is taking place. Thanks to property owners Karen Fleck-Harding and Tom Harding, I was given permission to do a small study of the Fender's Blue during Memorial Day weekend. On Karen and Tom's 285 acres in the Echo Hills, I observed the butterfly in the restoration of a 2.5-acre meadow. The restoration of this meadow began in 2013 by removing the invasive Scotch broom shrub. Restoration was assisted by the Mary's River Watershed Council and the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE). Plans to extend the habitat for the Fender's Blue at this property are in place with IAE and USFW. The Fender's Blue was first seen at this property in 2021.

I was able to observe three days of the Fender's Blue, resulting in some rewarding finds.

Day one. I observed the Fender's Blue flying habits and behavior.

Day two. I suggested we watch for mating Fender's Blues on the tops of the native grasses. Sure enough, Tyler found a pair on the tip of a grass stem. I followed the paired butterflies to a cool spot in the

shade where I was able to carefully photograph them.

Day three. I was searching for ovipositing of eggs. I was about to work my way out of the meadow, stepping carefully, when I observed a female with egg-depositing behavior at the base of a lupine flower stalk. I tried to be careful and ended up with a decent enough photo, but not a super clear shot of an egg being deposited.

What an experience! Visit these links for further explanations of the history and recovery efforts for this threatened species: (1) appliedeco.org/build-it-and-they-will-come-fenders-blue-butterfly-seen-this-spring-at-echo-hills-farm and

(2) fws.gov/story/2023-01/fairy-prairie-fenders-blue-butterfly-fluttering-back-brink-extinction.

The conservation efforts for the Fender's Blue are a perfect example of how we here in our Siskiyou region should keep our mountain meadows and lower valley habitats healthy and free from habitat loss through development, other disturbances, and cattle entering our headwaters at higher elevations.

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



Linda Kappen



Fender's Blue on Tolmie Star Tulip (*Calochortus tolmei*).



Female Fender's Blue ovipositing on Kincaid's Lupine (*Lupinus oregonus* var. *kincaidii*).

Photos by Linda Kappen



Ventral view of mating pair of Fender's Blue butterflies shows identifying marks on wings.

Applegater's 30th Birthday Bash



The Applegater's first editor, J.D. Rogers, regaled the crowd with stories about the paper's beginnings in 1994. After 19 years as editor, J.D. resigned in 2014. Photo: William Whitney.

There was so much to celebrate at the Applegater's milestone 30th birthday on June 2 at Vista 222 in Grants Pass. The weather was perfect, the dinner by Black Barn Farm was delectable, the speakers were more than entertaining, and everyone had a grand time bidding for auction items and buying raffle tickets. Many thanks to the staff at Vista 222 for their impeccable service and to all of our supporters who joined in on the fun.

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The history of a parcel of Applegate earth

BY LAURA AHEARN

How much have the earth and the air of the Applegate changed in the 50-plus years since the photo to the right was taken, showing where Palmer Creek flows into the Applegate River? Today, patches of dead Douglas fir mark the mountainsides. The Miller Complex Fire in 2017 left a mosaic of singed and incinerated stands. Increasingly, periods of smoke occlude sight of the Red Buttes (the case when this article was written). But in other respects, the place is largely unchanged. What is the history of this slice of Earth and Air?



A look south over Manuel Silva's homestead/McKee farm at Palmer Creek.

In the prehistory era (before written records), this was home to the Dakubetede. Shasta and Takelma visited to hunt, gather, and trade. How did these Native peoples conceive of "Air"? Coyote told Mole to hold up the sky; Mole held it for a short time and his hands got crooked. For more, see ndnhistoryresearch.com.

Prospecting boomed

Prospectors wanting to mine the Earth followed the fur trappers, who had passed through the valley in the 1830s-40s. After gold was discovered, Table Rock City (aka Jacksonville) boomed. Miners like William Dorn left his name on landmarks like Billy Gulch, seen on the far right of the photo. War broke out between the European newcomers and indigenous peoples. In January 1856, US soldiers and "volunteers" followed Shasta warriors, who had fought from fortifications on Star Gulch, southward past Palmer Creek. The Whites tried to cross a steep hill, and a mule overburdened with howitzer ammunition tumbled into the river. What do we call that place even today? Mule Mountain. It's the high, dark hill on the left in the photo.

Homesteaders looking to farm as well as mine the Earth arrived in the 1870s. One was Manuel Silva from the



Ten percent interest was the going rate for a loan in 1894.

Azores islands. He staked a homestead claim to these verdant bottom lands of the Upper Applegate, borrowing money from Zach Cameron, one of the powerful Cameron brothers. Ten percent interest was the going rate. Manuel was illiterate and signed the note with "X," witnessed by attorney C.W. Kahler, Gin

Lin's business partner in the Palmer Creek Diggings.

In the 1880s four Blacks were living near the Silva homestead: widow Harriet Johnson, with her two sons, who were woodcutters, and Charles Carter, a blacksmith. They were gone by the 20th Century, when Amos McKee arrived.

Amos; his wife, Lottie (Pence); and their children, Ernest, Floyd, and Pearl, moved up Palmer Creek to where Gin Lin and Kahler's crews had built the "China Wall" and diversionary ditches three decades earlier. Amos found some nice chunks of gold and ultimately uncovered cinnabar—mercury. He now had the means to rent Manuel Silva's farm. Their home was on the rise in the middle left of the photo. A descendant still lives there. When Amos and Lottie bought the Silva farm outright in 1908, they turned to—surprise!—Zach Cameron for a loan of \$2,500. Interest on loans had fallen to eight percent.

An interesting side note is that Amos was the son of John and Maryum McKee, who came from Missouri by wagon in 1853 with extended family, including Maryum's stepmother, Roxy Ann, whom they honored in naming the butte where they initially claimed homesteads. Amos was born in 1864 in Logtown, where John and Maryum had moved by 1858.

We know many more stories about this piece of Earth. Pearl married John Byrne, and their daughter Evelyn, now 98 years young, is a founder of McKee Bridge Historical Society. The Byrnes built the home you see in the center of the photo, and Evelyn still lives on a portion of the homestead.

Become a member

Would you like to learn the history of your Applegate property? Or help McKee Bridge Historical Society explore and preserve our heritage? Or get involved in our community events like Christmas on a Covered Bridge? Please become a member and join us for the Annual Meeting at 11 am Saturday, September 28. After we take care of corporate business, we'll have snacks and activities (like bingo, horseshoes, and cribbage), and share friendships and memories. At McKee Bridge, of course!

Laura Ahearn
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com

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Jacksaphine Count(r)y Fair a week long this year!

BY MEGAN FEHRMAN

What does a week in life look like in the Applegate Valley? We're about to find out! After the fantastic success of the Jacksaphine Count(r)y Fair last September, A Greater Applegate is expanding the event into a weeklong celebration! From September 21-29, we invite you to wander through a series of fun events designed to celebrate the beauty, flavors, and diversity of this special valley we call home.

Kickoff

We'll kick it off with a party on Saturday night in the Little Applegate featuring local live music from beloved bluegrass band, Eight Dollar Mountain, along with Love Buzz from Williams and Quale from Yale Creek. From there we go to the Williams Farmers Market on Monday to participate in this long-standing community event. On Tuesday evening, we will host a family-friendly movie night at Pacifica, followed by an expanded Applegate Evening Market at the Lindsay Lodge and The Station on Wednesday. On Thursday we will collect BottleDrop Give recycling in Ruch and then head over to LongSword Vineyard on Friday night for a "Glass-off" sunset viewing of the paragliders flying from Woodrat and landing to join us for dinner and a glass of wine. They will share why Woodrat is one of the best places in the world for the sport and bring a wing to see up close. Saturday features an equestrian program on safely sharing trails at Provolt Recreation Site. Finally, we will close out the week with an afternoon of Art in the Vineyard at Wooldridge Creek Winery.

It's a big week with opportunities to connect, stay local, try something new, and have a little fun while enjoying some of the beautiful venues, fantastic music, delicious food and libations, and community spirit our valley has to offer. All proceeds support A Greater Applegate's networks and working groups.

New Business Network Directory

On that note, watch for a new and improved online Business Network Directory on applegateconnect.org in the next couple of weeks. This valuable resource will allow Applegate community members to find the goods and services they need locally, a service that helps support local business and prosperity. After the launch of the Business Network Directory, our Business Network Coordinator will create an updated Business Map, both printed and online. If you have any questions or would like to have your business included, please reach out to kate@agreaterapplegate.org. We especially encourage those of you in the trades and those who provide vital services to homeowners and businesses to join us in these projects. We look forward to meeting you and helping facilitate business-to-business connections.

Summer of 1,000 Rural Gatherings

We are also participating in the "Summer of 1,000 Rural Gatherings" sponsored by the Ford Family Foundation. These gatherings are meant to inspire people to connect over food, share stories, and meet neighbors—new and old. If you would like to host a gathering in your neighborhood, fill out

the short application on agreaterapplegate.org. Once your application is approved, we will provide a \$250 stipend for food, beverages, venue, party supplies, or outreach materials. Host one during Jacksaphine Count(r)y Week and be part of the fun!

Finally, we'd like to highlight new recycling options available in the Applegate. Thanks to the Applegate Valley Vintners Association, we now have a big container for glass recycling located behind the Ruch Country Store. A Greater Applegate also now accepts returnable recyclables via our Blue Bag BottleDrop program. Glass, plastic, and aluminum can all go together in one blue bag, as long as it has the OR-\$.10 on the container. You can pick up blue bags at our office or at the Applegate Evening Market on Wednesdays. Then return them to us when full or drop them at a BottleDrop station in Medford or Grants Pass. It's the ultimate win-win for our community: every bag donated becomes dollars supporting A Greater Applegate's work.

For more information on any of our projects and to see a complete schedule



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of events for Jacksaphine Count(r)y Week, go to agreaterapplegate.org and applegateconnect.org or our social media. You can also call the office at 541-702-2108, send an email, or pop in to see us from 10 am-4 pm Monday-Wednesday in Sunshine Plaza in Ruch.

Cheers to September!

Megan Fehrman
 Co-Executive Director
 A Greater Applegate
megan@agreaterapplegate.org

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THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE

The relentless push by BLM timber sale planners and the constant threat of old-forest logging in the Applegate Valley

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

In the summer *Applegater*, I discussed the long-standing tradition of forest activism in our area and Applegate Siskiyou Alliance's (ASA) recent lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) massive Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) logging project. This legal challenge, which includes the Late Mungers and Penn Butte Timber Sales above Williams and Murphy, claimed that the BLM violated its 2016 Resource Management Plan (RMP) in multiple ways, including:

- approving activities incompatible with the RMP's recreation management directions, and
 - authorizing logging activities in Late Successional Reserve (LSR) forests that would delay or preclude the development of northern spotted owl habitat for 20 years or more, relative to no treatment.
- We also claimed that the BLM violated the National Environmental Policy Act by:
- failing to take a hard look at project activities
 - failing to provide site-specific environmental analysis
 - inappropriately "tiering" to previous analysis
 - failing to provide adequate public involvement opportunities.
- We also demonstrated that the proposed logging would increase fire risks by:
- removing large trees up to 36" in diameter
 - removing significant forest canopy down to 30 percent
 - implementing group selection clear-cuts up to four acres in size and up to 20 percent of a stand
 - regenerating dense, flammable young growth that will dramatically increase fire risks over time.



Old-growth forest proposed for logging by the BLM in the Cedar Flat Timber Sale along the Grayback Mountain Trail. Photo: Luke Ruediger, Applegate Siskiyou Alliance.

Magistrate Court Judge Clarke agreed with many of ASA's concerns, saying in his Findings and Recommendations that the proposed logging "would sacrifice habitats for commercial logging." He also found that the logging "would not have the intended effect and would instead exacerbate fire issues" by creating "highly flammable young stocks interspersed throughout the thinned units." His Findings and Recommendations ruled resoundingly against the IVM Project and the Late Mungers/Penn Butte Timber Sales. However, a final remedy awaits additional legal briefing, as Judge Clarke is required to refer his findings to District Judge Ann Aiken for approval. Thus, despite a very favorable ruling from the Medford District Court, the final outcome is still pending.

Meanwhile, despite BLM's prior agreements with the plaintiffs that they would not hold a timber sale auction for these sales during briefing, they sold the

Late Mungers and Penn Butte Timber Sales just one day before release of Judge Clarke's ruling. By selling these unlawful timber sales that were rejected by both the courts and the public, the BLM further demonstrated its real motivation: the conversion of old-growth forests into board footage for the timber industry.

Further demonstrating its focus on timber production, BLM quickly proposed yet another Williams-area sale, the Cedar Flat Timber Sale, targeting mature and old-growth forests on Glade Fork, Rock Creek, East Fork, West Fork, and up to Cedar Flat on the ridgeline dividing Williams from Selma in the Illinois Valley.

The proposal includes 3,222 acres of potential commercial logging, including 2,493 acres in LSR forest set aside to protect old-forest habitat for the northern spotted owl and other species. This logging is likely to include a mixture of heavy commercial logging, group

selection logging, riparian reserve logging, new road construction, and the logging of large overstory trees that support complex old-forest canopies, important wildlife habitat, and high levels of fire resilience.

Although the national BLM recently approved a policy of landscape health and the preservation of old-growth forest habitats as a climate solution, our local BLM managers continue to target old forests with a form of staggered clear-cut logging they call "group selection," in which they select and remove whole groves of mature trees to create "openings" that look, feel, and function like small, staggered clear-cuts. The removal of large, habitat-rich, and fire-resilient trees has damaging implications for wildlife that require forest cover, while regenerating dense, young, highly flammable vegetation that fuels more severe, fast-moving wildfires.

The BLM has opened a public comment period for the Cedar Flat project extending until December 31, 2024. ASA is out monitoring proposed timber sale units. Based on what we have seen so far, we believe significant mature, late-successional, and old-growth forests will be targeted in the Cedar Flat Timber Sale. In fact, logging units have already been identified high on the face of Grayback Mountain, on Glade Creek, and along the Grayback Mountain Trail in spectacular old-growth forests. We hope residents from across the valley will comment on this damaging project and will oppose the Cedar Flat Timber Sale.

For more information, visit eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2032836/510.

Luke Ruediger
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

Pipe Fork land sale on hold

BY CHAS ROGERS

Josephine County Commissioners have stopped the Pipe Fork land sale—again. They have denied the Conservation Fund, a national nonprofit group established to purchase and protect unique lands, the opportunity to help save this remarkable land in Williams at the base of Grayback Mountain. They have thrown last-minute special requirements at the local community's efforts to purchase Pipe Fork from the county and stop the clear-cutting of this magnificent Port Orford cedar forest.

The commissioners had agreed in writing to consider selling the land for conservation but refused the offers at the last minute. They first wanted extra funding of over \$750,000 in a "secret assessment" over the value of a whopping \$2.02 million Yellowbook Appraisal (Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions). They were surprised when the Williams community came up with \$300,000 extra funding toward the purchase of the property and cautiously agreed to consider the sale. But at the last minute, Commissioner Baertschiger asked for a surprise down payment of ten percent of the sale price or \$203,000. The Conservation Fund refused because they had already offered a signed contract with \$10,000 in earnest

money. The board refused to second the motion and to vote on the deal that was established. The commissioners then said they needed a last-minute deed restriction from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) stating there would be no logging anytime and continuous public access. Neither the Conservation Fund nor BLM could accept this encumbrance on the land sale. This was after the commissioners expressly wanted to clear-cut the forest on the south-facing slope next to the Pipe Fork Creek from the beginning.

Many hundreds of hours were required for the community to create contacts, write letters, fundraise, and promote the outstanding features of the area. We finally partnered with the Conservation Fund to purchase the land and with BLM to hold it into the future as a research natural area for the Port Orford cedars and for trails and recreation. BLM has applied for and acquired grant funding amounting to \$2.02 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a program to create more recreation and protected lands in the US. Pipe Fork was approved for funding by the US Congress as number one in the state of Oregon and number four in the nation! We even found local donations of \$300,000 to make this



Without conservation, this stream running through the Pipe Fork property could be negatively impacted.

land sale move forward when Josephine County demanded more than the appraised value.

We have worked for over four years in our attempt to save the Pipe Fork from clear-cutting, a practice that removes all trees—whether they are marketable or not—and burns the refuse and destroys the understory growth. After clear-cutting, the commissioners would plant a fir tree monocrop, thus reducing the native plant variety, and then spray the land with herbicides to reduce competing vegetation. This would decimate the land, killing plants and animals alike and leaving a desert-like environment on the steep south-facing slope. Herbicides could wash into the creek from the steep terrain to poison the water for fish, wildlife, and people downstream. The damage from

clear-cutting would forever be its legacy.

The refusal of this sale by the commissioners after so much time and effort from Josephine County citizens, the Conservation Fund, and BLM is devastating and leaves us saddened for the future of the community, the water, wildlife, and forests. The stream flow could be diminished by clear-cutting the south-

facing slope and would heat up during summer and be detrimental to fish and humans downstream. We depend on this cool, clear water as a constant source for our streams and salmon habitats. This land should be saved for conservation using the grant money awarded and kept intact for the future for our families and children to see and enjoy the forest of giant cedars and lush understory of maples and ferns.

The efforts to save Pipe Fork will continue as we search for other ways to purchase the land and place it into conservation. Stay in touch with us at williamscommunityforestproject.com for details about this project and others in the upcoming year.

Chas Rogers, Board Member
Williams Community Forest Project
chasrogers360@gmail.com



New Home, New Well

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

Did you hear the one about the three holes in the ground filled with water?

No?

-Well, well, well.... It's a Deep Subject!!!

Have you recently purchased a home with a well on it? If so, congratulations! When you live in a home that is supplied by well water it is your responsibility to make sure the well water is safe for drinking. It is recommended by the Department of Environmental Quality, as well as your favorite pump company, of course we hope is it Quinn's, that well water is tested for bacteria and other contaminants at least once a year. The chemistry of well water can change over time and can sometimes go unnoticed as the color and smell may not change. At Quinn's Pump Service we recommend that the well, pump equipment, and filtration is maintained at least once a year also. Servicing the equipment annually can help aid in the prevention of system failure. If you haven't had your well water tested or your well equipment maintenance done in the past year, you should stop reading this and call Quinn's 541-479-9355. If you call Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm a live person will answer your call!



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Explore the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion

BY SAMANTHA VOYAGER

People come to the Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) to learn about and explore the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion. SFI is a conduit for scientists and naturalists to share their passion and knowledge with the public each year through adult education field courses and youth education programs.

There is a lot coming up at SFI, including our fall series of Adventure Learning Program courses. These courses, for ages 12 and up or ages 18 and up, cover a wide array of topics. See below for a complete list of classes running through the end of this year. Visit thesfi.org to learn more.

Fall Migration Birding on the California Coast. Tuition: \$140. 8 am-5 pm Saturday, September 28, and 8 am-2 pm Sunday, September 29. Explore some of the most active sites at this time of year with an expert birder, while improving your bird ID skills, increasing your knowledge of avian ecology, and gaining a better understanding of Humboldt's bird habitats. This intermediate class will explore a variety of landscapes to identify and learn about the species encountered, searching out for any rarer species that have been reported in the area!

Microlichens on Bark. Tuition: \$160. 8:30 am-5 pm Saturday, October 5, and 8:30 am-4:30 pm Sunday, October 6. Under the instruction of an acclaimed lichenologist, students will learn to

identify the common crustose lichens living on bark. Armed with both hand lenses in the field and microscopes in the classroom, they will learn which species are common on conifer bark versus hardwoods, practice keying to genera and species, and learn collecting methods, curation, sectioning, and interpretation of taxonomic characters for these lichens.

Guided Forest Therapy. Tuition: \$75. 9 am-2 pm Saturday, October 12. Immerse yourself in nature and engage with all your senses under the direction of a Certified Forest Therapy Guide. Forest therapy is based on forest bathing, or shinrin-yoku, a Japanese practice. By immersing ourselves in nature and engaging our senses, we can reap the many benefits of forest therapy, such as calming overstressed nervous systems, improving immune function and cardiovascular and respiratory health, and reducing stress and depression. The practice of Forest Therapy is open-ended, with no predetermined outcome, but focuses instead on fostering a reciprocal relationship between the forest and the participant.

Mushrooms of the Cascades. Tuition: \$80. 10 am-3 pm Sunday, October 20, and Sunday, November 10. Learn how to safely identify and harvest local mushrooms! This course will help you search out native fungi fruiting in the fall and identify key characteristics of typical species to help you tell the difference between toxic, inedible,

and edible types. Enjoy expert field guidance while exploring some known fungi fruiting hotspots in the forests of the Southern Cascades.

Plein Air Painting: Autumn Mountainscapes. Tuition: \$75. 10 am-3 pm Saturday, November 2. Experience art-making inspired directly from nature. You'll learn how to start a painting or drawing in the field with expert guidance in the plein air process. Each student will choose a scene and be instructed on the best way to approach and finish their unique project. All skill levels and media are welcome, and plenty of individual instruction will give you the confidence and knowledge to create art on location.

Truffles of the Siskiyou. Tuition: \$140. 9 am-5 pm Saturday and Sunday, November 16-17. Nearly 400 different types of truffles are known to exist in the Pacific Northwest. Many, including gourmet edibles, are found in the diverse Siskiyou bioregion. Through a series of labs, lectures, and field trips, you'll discover how to find hidden truffles, both common and rare. Learn where to look for truffles, how to identify them by sight, smell, and under the microscope, and what their important ecological roles are in mycorrhizal networks.

Samantha Voyager
Outreach and Marketing Coordinator
Siskiyou Field Institute
outreach@thesfi.org

How do you find your calm?

BY HAYRIYA HEIDI HANSEN

Happy fall to all of our loyal Southern Oregon Living and Dying Alliance (Solada) followers. And a big greeting to those who are new to us.

It has been quite a summer for most of us as we navigate the heat, the fires, the many political and world changes, all while managing our own personal and family lives.

I constantly wonder how each person copes. How do you self-regulate? What resources do you rely upon to center yourself? How do you find your calm? How do you cope with the irrefutable fact that we are all going to die and we don't know when? Do you ignore this fact? Do you grieve the death of others? Grieve your own eventual demise? Do you live in fear? Do you not live your life to the fullest for fear that you might put yourself in harm's way? Do you distance yourself from family or friends who have received a terminal diagnosis? How do you cope with the grief that inevitably accompanies life?

Perhaps you've never thought about these questions. Maybe it feels like too much. Or maybe you believe that if you ponder these questions or allow yourself to process some of the feelings, they would overwhelm you and you'd never stop crying. But what if you get curious about these questions, face your grief, engage in

end-of-life conversations...did you ever consider that, perhaps, you could live a richer, fuller, more embodied, present life?

Solada is here to assist our community members by asking these questions. Our nine-member steering committee works hard to offer classes, conversations, rituals, and films to educate and enrich the lives of the folks living in our rural watershed.

Solada's mission is connecting compassionate, dedicated, service-oriented individuals who are promoting positive death literacy in word and action. We are cocreating a community around conscious living and dying to increase our capacity to serve and care for one another and our planet.

It is our sincere hope at Solada that, by bringing people together to have conversations and support each other, we can create a more compassionate, death-literate and death-positive community.

We invite you to visit our website at solada.org. Check out all that's available from death cafes and educational trainings to our upcoming film, *End Game*, to our available online information.

Additionally, I'm really excited to announce that we will be presenting the film, *The Magnitude of All Things*, in four southern Oregon locations. This is a beautifully filmed, deeply courageous

documentary, which illuminates the worldwide environmental crisis juxtaposed with an intimate personal terminal diagnosis. Locations and dates are to be determined. That said, we will likely present this film sometime in October in Ashland, the Ruch/Williams area, Grants Pass, and Brookings. Please watch the Solada website for more information. In the meantime, check out the trailer for this extremely potent film at youtube.com/watch?v=TIVYm31gK5A.

During the few remaining days of summer and into autumn, please ponder the questions I've posed. Start to acknowledge the salient fact that... you will die and you don't know when. Ask yourself if you are prepared. Is your end-of-life paperwork in order? Have you appointed a medical representative in case you are unable to speak for yourself? There is so much to consider no matter what your age, your health condition, or your life circumstances.

The Southern Oregon Living and Dying Alliance is here to help. We are local folks volunteering our time to help our neighbors get prepared for the ultimate journey. Visit solada.org or, better still, join us for one of our many offerings.

Here's hoping we are able to meet or meet again. Till then may you and yours enjoy health and happiness. May you be awed by the miracle of life!

Hayriya Heidi Hansen
hayriya1@gmail.com
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OPINION

Why do we put people in boxes?

BY JIM REILAND

Social psychologists who study bias—our tendency to put people in boxes based on scraps of information about them—believe it has been a human trait for a long time. Imagine yourself belonging to a tribe or clan living a thousand years ago. While out fishing you spot strangers—people not from your group—on the far shore. Do you risk approaching them to learn why they're there, what you may know in common, ways to help each other? Or exercise caution and avoid these strangers who look, dress, and speak differently? Bias evolved as an efficient way to quickly process complex information about potentially life-threatening situations—our survival probably depended on it.

Thanks to this ancient survival trait, we're wired to have bias. Some biases we learn as children; some come later. But today we can see how unchecked bias plays out in unhelpful ways as we regard with suspicion people with different political views, spiritual beliefs, or educational and economic backgrounds. For a deeper dive into bias, consider reading Jennifer Eberhardt's *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*.

Knowing that we put people in boxes—draw lines around them based on our own beliefs about the differences we see—is a first step towards not putting them there. It's a step toward disarming our biases and living better among people who we initially think are different from us until we realize the differences are few compared to the many more things we share in common.

If you're interested in seeing a powerful demonstration of this, you might search the internet for a couple of videos. Use the words "YouTube" and either "all that we share" or "don't put people in boxes." You'll find two recordings, each worth their several-minute length, of an exercise that illustrates this point. One was produced by Danmark TV2 (Denmark's version of Public Television), the other by New Hope Church.

If you're not inclined to view the videos, here's a summary: Groups of people file into an auditorium and stand in boxes apart from other groups as a narrator describes the different ways we divide ourselves—by age, income, faith, etc. Then a moderator asks everyone to answer questions as honestly as they can, starting with the icebreaker: Who was the class clown? Other questions follow, including Who has felt lonely? Who has overcome adversity? Who has survived cancer? Who is madly in love? and much more. The once-separate groups reconfigure when people respond to each question and form new groups. Soon, there's really no telling who's with which group as each person reveals that they are much more than the identity of the first box they stood in. The "us" and "them" becomes "us."

It's easy to put people in boxes because it saves us the trouble of getting to know them well enough not to. Which isn't really that much trouble, considering the benefits of getting to know your fellow Applegaters.

Jim Reiland

jim@manyhandsbuilders.com

••• BIZBITS •••

Farm and Flour. Owner Melanie Scofield began selling a few loaves of bread at a table on her front lawn. Before long, customers doubled, then tripled, and, by January of this year, baking became a full-time business, her roadside stand stocked with delicious variations of fresh-baked breads, bagels, desserts, cookies, jams, and jellies. Melanie bakes everything with all-organic ingredients, including 600 cookies a week! To be notified about baking days or to preorder, sign up on Facebook at farmandflourville. Open Thursday-Monday • 17 Sterling Creek Road at Cady Road • Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

•••

Rogue Sauna. For Daniel Kavanagh, Nate Plante, and John (Oak) Anderson, Rogue Sauna is the culmination of world travel, study, and lifetime experiences. These three owners, all in their mid-30s, plan to launch their sauna design and building company this fall. The partners will help buyers to experience the Finnish style of sauna in structures skillfully designed and built for each customer, using the finest sustainable materials to ensure durability and luxury. The company also provides DIY sauna kits and a community sauna. The owners of Rogue Sauna decided on southern Oregon as their home because of the area's focus on community, sustainability, and concern for the environment. Until they officially open for business, contact them at 541-291-7471 or roguesaunas@gmail.com.

•••

Simpatico—an adjective meaning likable, agreeable. For Chelsea Balmer, Simpatico is the name and description of her housecleaning business. Her mission is to create a vessel for inspiration by bringing order, cleanliness, and beauty into each house. No house is too big or too small—from a new tiny house to a 7,000-square-foot mansion. Chelsea and her team specialize in same-day turnover services for vacation home rentals. She also offers staging services for home sales, interior design, move-in/move-out services, and deep cleaning. Simpatico can assist in creating the vision of what you want your home to be! 503-858-5062 • support@simpaticoflow.com.

•••

Wanderlust Vineyard, including a wine-tasting room and guest cottage, is part of Jake and Jenny Benford's 12-acre farm in the Applegate Valley. With their recent grand opening, they hope every guest will appreciate the individual attention and the specially curated food-pairing with each wine they taste. Jake studied enology and viticulture at the University of California-Davis, so the couple is confident in their winemaking abilities. They are sourcing grapes until their vines mature and presently have six wines bottled for purchase and more ready for release in spring. Once established, they hope to practice dry farming to minimize water dependence. 1000 Kubli Road, Grants Pass • 12-5 pm Saturday and Sunday • Call 541-283-6097 for reservations • wanderlustvines.com.

Margaret Patterson • margaret@applegater.org

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.

■ GRATITUDE

Continued from page 1

that our work is valued and that we are making a difference.

From my observations during a helicopter ride around the fire's perimeter, I noted distinct behaviors on the south and north sides. The south side, with its south-facing slopes and lighter fuels, experienced rapid fire spread and intense burning. Conversely, the north side, with more shaded, north-facing slopes and heavier tree stands, showed a varied burn pattern due to accumulated fuels, drought, and beetle kill. The mosaic of burned and unburned areas on the north side highlighted the complexity of the fire's behavior and the hazards faced

by our firefighters, necessitating safer indirect tactics.

While I never wish to see uncontrolled fires near our valley floor, I believe this fire may have long-term benefits. It burned through an area that had not seen fire in decades, reducing fuel loads without overly damaging the soil. In the coming years, we will assess the fire's impact on tree survival, but I am hopeful that this event has created a natural break in vegetation continuity, offering some relief for the future.

Looking ahead, I have been in discussions with the Oregon Department of Forestry management about hosting a "prescribed fire" roundtable or forum. This event will invite community

members to discuss the pros and cons of prescribed fire. We aim to hold this forum after the fire season but before the year's end.

Once again, thank you for your incredible support, patience, and understanding. Together we have faced a significant challenge and emerged stronger as a community. Your actions and words have made a profound difference to all of us at Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District #9 (RFPD#9).

With heartfelt gratitude,
Chris Wolfard
Fire Chief

Applegate Valley RFPD#9
cwolfard@applegatefd.com

We can help you reach your market!

The *Applegater* is the only newsmagazine covering the entire Applegate Valley. With a circulation of 13,500 and a readership of more than 20,000, the *Applegater* covers Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate, Williams, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, Jerome Prairie, and areas of Medford and Grants Pass. For advertising information, contact:

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Part-time Editor in Chief Applegater Newsmagazine

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., an established nonprofit corporation celebrating its 30th year, seeks an experienced editor in chief to manage content and production of the *Applegater*, its 24-page quarterly newsmagazine. The *Applegater* presents constructive, relevant, educational, and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects and acts as a clearinghouse for the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Valley.

In addition to content and production responsibilities, the editor in chief is required by corporate bylaws to sit on the board of directors (as a volunteer) and attend monthly board meetings in the Applegate Valley. The editor is an independent contractor and payment is commensurate with experience. Benefits are not available.

Responsibilities

- Manage and oversee print and online publication, including reviewing all content, photographs/images, and enforcing style guidelines
- Meet deadlines and budget requirements
- Follow publication standards and policies
- Check content for accuracy and errors
- Create print production calendar for each issue
- Suggest article topics per established editorial calendar and assign to volunteer writers
- Distribute “call for articles” through in-house email list, Jo’s List, and Facebook
- To assure accuracy and appropriateness, work with editorial committee, copy editors, and proofers to edit, fact-check, proofread, and improve articles
- Coordinate production with layout editor
- Work with advertising reps to meet ad deadlines

Requirements

- Proven working experience as an editor in chief
- Strong writing/editing/proofreading skills and an excellent portfolio
- Print production experience
- Hands-on experience with Word, Excel, and Photoshop; knowledge of InDesign
- Excellent written skills in English
- An eye for detail along with critical thinking
- Prioritizing and multitasking
- Four-year degree in journalism, communications, English, or related field
- Work remotely and have own computer and applicable software

Submit resume by September 15 to diana@applegater.org.

The *Applegater* is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. For more information about the organization, visit applegater.org.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

New faces on the *Applegater* team

BY DIANA COOGLE

I am pleased to welcome two new people aboard the *Applegater*: board member, Jennifer Theone (see article on page 2) and Jackson County advertising representative, Alyssa Prophet.

At our 30th-birthday event last June, a bright-eyed young woman came up to me and said, “I see the *Applegater* needs a treasurer. I’d like to do that job.” That was Jenn. I told her she would have to join the board to serve as treasurer. She was glad to do that. Subsequently she was interviewed by two board members, then joined us at a meeting before being voted in. She has been enjoying her training under Barbara Holiday. I am so pleased to have her on the board.

Our new ad rep, Alyssa Prophet, founded Prophet Solutions, LLC, to help small businesses and nonprofits with bookkeeping, digital marketing, and event planning. She is taking the place of Ron Turpen, who for such a long time brought in ads for us from businesses in Jackson County. Ron died last spring. (See “In Memoriam,” page 2.) We will miss him at the *Applegater* and thank him posthumously for his years of dedication to the paper and the community.

I am sorry to have to inform readers of Barbara Holiday’s resignation as editor in chief of the *Applegater*. To say we will miss her doesn’t come close

to expressing my dismay and dejection upon receiving her resignation letter. No one has served the *Applegater* and, through it, the Applegate community, longer or with more devotion than Barbara. The community is richer and more cohesive for her many years as editor of its paper. We on the board wish her well as she moves on to other aspects of her life, in spite of our sorrow at our own editorless, Barbara-less position.

And so we’re looking for a new editor in chief. Might that be you? Get in touch!

Later this month the board will have its annual one-day retreat, with a morning session at Cantrall-Buckley Park and an afternoon session at Red Lily Vineyards. We appreciate the capable leadership of Seth Kaplan as our moderator. I know I am speaking for the whole board when I say we are looking forward to this enjoyable and highly beneficial time together.

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

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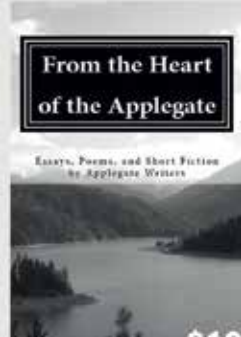


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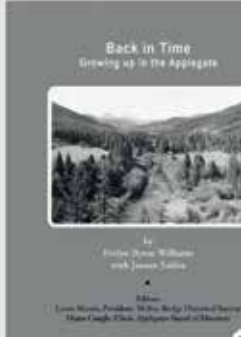
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Opinion pieces. Limited to 500 words; no images. Opinion pieces submitted by the same person will not be run consecutively. Responses to previously published opinion pieces will not be published. Must include publishable contact information (phone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

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

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

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



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Meraki Project update

BY MARIA RICHARD

Below are some current classes offered by the Meraki Project.

- Women's AA meeting: 6-7 pm Wednesdays
- EcoRecovery: 10-11 am second Sunday of each month with healingmamawellness@gmail.com
- Red Tent first new moon of each month
- Therapeutic massage by licensed practitioner. By appointment only.
- Medicinal / Herbal Workshop monthly
- Emotional Hygiene Coaching. By appointment only.

We are looking for anyone interested in starting any of the following groups for the community:

- Art or music lessons for kids or adults
- Small yoga or movement classes
- Private jiu-jitsu lessons
- Poetry night
- One-on-one counseling or group sessions
- Events or classes for teens

Classroom workshop space is available. Small room and outdoor area are for rent for birthday parties, baby showers, or small gatherings.

The Meraki Project is located at 206 Tetherow Road, Williams, in the green



building on the Sugarloaf Community Association property. Please contact me for more information.

Maria Richard
merakiproject24@gmail.com
415-686-4284

YARD SALE
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Help save the Applegate Museum

You may not have noticed it, but we have a beautiful historic museum in downtown Applegate, right on the corner of Highway 238 and North Applegate Road. You have probably seen the sign there. The museum is tucked away behind the front yard and is hard to see from the road.

It is a beautiful piece of our history, and if you haven't visited it, now is the time. The museum is open 5-8 pm every Wednesday evening, the same time as the Applegate Evening Market at the Lindsay Lodge. The land that the museum sits on is being threatened by a lawsuit, and if the citizens of Applegate care about their historic museum they might be able to save it from being lost.

As we all know, lawsuits take money, so the Applegate Historical Society is

raising money to save the property and the museum. We are holding a yard sale on the weekend of September 6-8, the same weekend as the Jacksonville Yard Sale. Donations of items for the sale can be taken to Maryanna Reynolds at Horsefeather Farms, 13291 Highway 238, Applegate. For more information, call Maryanna at 541-941-0000. Rent a space for your table for only \$20.

You can also donate money for the preservation of the Applegate Museum building and the property. Mail your check to Applegate Historical Society, 3120 Thompson Creek Road, Applegate, Oregon 97530. Call Barbara Niedermeyer at 541-659-3984 for more information.

Joan Peterson
541-846-6988

WILDLAND FIRE ENGINE

Continued from page 1

and emergency response services, with a focus on funding items that are beyond the normal AVFD budget or can't be funded by grants. The acquisition of this engine will be the first project supported by this fund.

Why do we need a new wildland fire engine?

AVFD's primary responsibility is to protect private property. Frequently that involves wildland conditions such as rough or wooded terrain. Also, as with the recent Upper Applegate Fire, fires sometimes start on federal lands. Because AVFD is the nearest responder, our firefighters arrive at a fire before federal or state agencies. A Type 3 Wildland Urban Interface Fire Engine is essential in any of these circumstances and will directly benefit our community in fighting fires. See the photo and read more about this beautiful engine on page 3.

A unique opportunity

The engine we would like to purchase is available from Ashland Fire District, which is acquiring a new engine and selling this one. At a cost of \$50,000, this engine is a bargain over the \$600,000 price tag for a new engine. Ashland Fire maintains their vehicles well, and it is expected that this engine will be more reliable than AVFD's existing wildland engines.

Matching grants provided!

A \$50,000 target is a big challenge, but impetus has been provided by \$11,000 in matching grants from the Josephine County Fund and an anonymous donor! Please consider contributing—every dollar you give will be matched 1:1 up to \$11,000! Community members and local businesses are providing generous sponsorships (see ad on page 12). As of August 15, \$30,000 dollars have been raised, with \$20,000 still needed.

Donations in any amount are appreciated! Watch our thermometer sign in Ruch for our progress.

Galvanized by a generous offer from roasters-in-chief Tim Ryan and Bill Borah, and with amazing support from Red Lily Vineyards, the sold-out Swine and Wine fire district fundraiser on September 20 is helping to propel the campaign.

Please consider becoming a campaign sponsor to help us buy the wildland fire engine! Sponsorships are available at several levels:

Fire Chief Sponsor: \$500+. Includes acknowledgments in all event media, including the winter issue of the *Applegater*.

Captain Sponsor: \$350. Includes acknowledgments in all event media, including the winter issue of the *Applegater*.

Engineer Sponsor: \$200. Includes acknowledgments at the event.

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) is our fiscal sponsor. You can contribute or sponsor in two ways: (1) mail a check made out to APWC to the Friends of the Applegate Fire District, 1095 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530, or (2) use the QR code below.

Questions? Please call 541-899-1050. Thanks so much for all of your support for AVFD and this campaign!

Liza Crosse
Secretary, Friends of the Applegate Fire District
lizacrosse@comcast.net



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Fall update from Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District-Star Ranger Station

Happy Fall, Applegate Community and Partners!

In late spring, the fire and fuels shop treated 321 acres with prescribed fire in the Ashland Watershed and along Palmer Creek in the Applegate. As time allows, crews continue to prepare burn units for this fall and spring by constructing handlines, removing heavy fuel along perimeters, and falling hazard trees to increase firefighter safety (see photo 1). As of July 24, we have had six wildfires on the ranger district, four lightning-caused and two human-caused. We also assisted Oregon Department of Forestry on the Upper Applegate fire with engine and crew support. Excitingly, the Dutchman Lookout has been staffed seven days a week and several fires were reported by our new lookout employee! In addition to fire personnel, the forest has been humming with recreationists and seasonal technicians out collecting data. Forest Service (FS) Road 20 got a bit bumpy, but fortunately we were able to grade it in July.

Here are some updates and reminders on where to find more information.

Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project (UAWRP) Environmental Analysis

The Decision Notice for this 52,000-acre project was signed in 2020 and was a unique collaborative approach between stakeholders and federal agencies aiming to restore ecological conditions resilient to disturbances and climate change. For information, including maps, please visit fs.usda.gov/detail/rogue-siskiyou/landmanagement/projects/?cid=fseprd662282.

Progress to date. Surface and ladder fuel reduction will recommence this fall. Felling and yarding work via helicopter is tentatively scheduled to resume in January 2025. Treatments from this project helped firefighters with suppression efforts during the Sulphur Fire.

Grayback Shaded Fuel Break Categorical Exclusion

This project aims to reduce hazardous fuels along FS Road 1010 to Grayback Trail. This shaded fuel break will allow firefighters to safely engage with wildfires and provide a safer ingress and egress for the public. For more information, visit fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63141.

Progress to date. Specialists continue to survey and assess the project area to develop treatment areas. To protect our rare and at-risk plant and animal species, some resource areas require two years of surveys. We hope to have those completed by fall 2025 with a signed decision shortly after.

Yellowjacket Project Area

This proposed footprint bridges the landscape between the UAWRP (see above) and Ashland Forest Resiliency project footprints. The primary focus is to address the unprecedented Douglas-fir mortality through fuel-reduction treatments along main roads (FS Roads 20 and 22, as well as any four-digit roads), around infrastructure and communication sites, and adjacent to private and state property.

Progress to date. We plan to engage interested members of the public in spring 2025. Prior to that, contact Jen Sanborn at jennifer.sanborn@usda.gov to arrange one-on-one opportunities to discuss proposed treatments in the field.

Tamarack Meadow Restoration Project

This meadow system on the Siskiyou Crest is home to a variety of sensitive and unique plant species. In summer 2023, US



Photo 1. A USFS employee bucks a downed tree to minimize surface and ladder fuels for future prescribed burn units.

Photo: US Forest Service.



Photo 2. USFS employees remove an unauthorized outhouse and trench built adjacent to Tamarack Meadow.

Photo: US Forest Service.

Forest Service (USFS) employees noticed an RV pad site created in the meadow, along with an outhouse and 10-foot-long trench to catch human waste.

Progress to date. In July, USFS employees removed the unauthorized outhouse and filled the trench using a small excavator (see photo 2). This fall we plan to restore the area of the RV pad site and transplant grass and sedge plugs to stabilize the soil.

Where can you find information?

GovDelivery. This is a primary method of communication. GovDelivery is a web-based email subscription system that allows anyone to subscribe to information on specific topics and projects that interest them. Whenever information on that project is made available by USFS or the ranger district, you will receive an email. You may customize and manage your subscription profile in order to receive exactly the types of information you desire, and you may cancel your subscriptions at any time. To subscribe, visit public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new. If you need help signing up for GovDelivery, please contact Amanda Merz at amanda.merz@usda.gov.

Constant Contact. Another primary form of communication, Constant Contact is a web-based email subscription that allows a member of the public to subscribe to our news release mailing list. To subscribe, visit our forest web page at fs.usda.gov/rogue-siskiyou.

RRSNF web page. To view current and recent projects across the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF), please visit fs.usda.gov/projects/rogue-siskiyou/landmanagement/projects.

RRSNF Facebook page. Information shared here is of a general nature that highlights forest projects, events, announcements, and employees. Go to facebook.com/R6RRSNF.

For more information, contact Jen Sanborn at jennifer.sanborn@usda.gov.



There are large numbers of dead and dying Douglas fir on Woodrat Mountain.

Photo: BLM.

Conifer mortality crisis in southwest Oregon

BY ELIZABETH BURGHARD

There's a forest health crisis in southwestern Oregon. The conifer mortality sweeping through the area is of concern for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The current conifer mortality crisis is an indicator that our forests are not healthy. In overly dense forests, like we have in southwest Oregon, trees face immense competition for water, sunlight, and nutrients. Add periods of prolonged drought, and trees become stressed and weakened. This opens the door for pests, like the flatheaded fir borer beetle to move in. The result is a mosaic of dead and dying trees.

Aerial surveys show that 350,000 acres in southwest Oregon have been impacted by the Douglas-fir die-off, and the Applegate Valley is the epicenter.

Conifer mortality can lead to potential changes in fire behavior and direct safety concerns for wildland firefighters. Recently, dead conifers, while still covered in red needles, have been a potent fuel for fires, leading to increased rate of spread, crown fire potential, and ember production. As the needles fall off, there's an overall loss of canopy. Standing dead trees pose great risk to wildland firefighters. As dead trees fall, surface fuels increase.

As weaker trees lose out in competition for resources and are more intensely targeted by pests, our forests become a mixture of dead and living trees. This combination of stages is particularly problematic. It played out in the 2020 Creek Fire in California. Areas with the highest amounts of dead biomass and live tree densities burned at high severity.

All of these factors make the BLM's work to manage forests and reduce fuels projects more dangerous for firefighters and the community, and more expensive for the American taxpayer.

Residents and visitors should be concerned too. The scale of conifer mortality may change the way firefighters engage wildfires. Standing dead trees can fall across roads and trails, blocking evacuation routes and access for first responders. This mortality will likely increase the size of fires, the cost to put them out, and the amount of smoke generated.

The BLM has been engaging in ecological forestry for more than a decade. The BLM forest and fuels management program, which relies on commercial timber sales, are designed to improve forest health and buffer against this type of die-off. Some of our earliest ecological



Dead and dying trees within the recent Upper Applegate Fire. Photo: BLM.

forestry pilot projects have been successful in reducing mortality so far.

However, protests, appeals, and litigation by groups using misinformation have delayed numerous fuels reduction projects and timber sales, stopping critical work while potentially risking more severe fires. Many of the protested project areas have faced significant die-off, including Neds Bar and Bear Grub in the Applegate Valley and Lost Antelope north of Medford.

An interdisciplinary team of BLM experts is currently working on the Strategic Operations for Safety Environmental Assessment to take a targeted effort to make a difference in places where it matters the most: near homes and roads, and in areas where firefighters have the best chance to catch fires when they are small. Earlier this year, BLM officials sought feedback on the proposal, including locations where residents are concerned about tree mortality. They received 170 comments and used that input to refine the project. Everyone is encouraged to learn more about the project and engage in the planning process at bit.ly/BLMSOS.

BLM employees are committed to improving forest health. Thinning forests gives trees that are more resilient a fighting chance. The idea that forest managers can just walk away and leave them to themselves is irresponsible and dangerous. Forests are dynamic, have been managed and changed throughout history, and need continuous management. The continuation of this management is true forest stewardship.

Elizabeth Burghard
Medford District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
eburghard@blm.gov

In-stream restoration: A beautiful mess

BY CHARLOTTE HYDE AND LUKE WIMMER

What does a restored ecosystem look like? Sometimes, it might look a bit messier than you would think. Take a moment to visualize a healthy stream. Is it just one straight channel, or does it twist and turn? Is it clear of debris, or are there some logs in the channel? If the stream you have conjured is winding, braided, and littered with woody debris, it is an excellent habitat for salmon, steelhead, and other aquatic organisms.

A salient example of messy but effective restoration is the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council's (APWC) West Fork Evans Large Woody Debris and Tributaries Enhancement Project, which has sought to improve habitat quality for endangered fish in a high-priority area of the Rogue watershed for a decade. Evans Creek and its tributaries are home to populations of federally protected coho salmon, as well as Chinook salmon, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey. These populations, along with scores of others who rear and spawn in Western rivers, have long suffered from historical land-management regimes that have left their streams warm, shallow, disconnected, and largely degraded.

For over a century, people have straightened, dredged, and cleared streams for transportation, irrigation, and flood-risk reduction. However, when combined with extensive damming, the introduction of invasive species, and the loss of valuable riparian areas, this paradigm has resulted in river systems that are far removed from their original states.

Large-scale in-stream restoration is a tall order. One way to improve fish habitat is through the introduction of large woody debris. True to its name, large woody debris (LWD) refers to large pieces of dead wood that, prior to human interference, commonly littered western rivers. When placed in-stream, woody debris creates the structural complexity needed to support fish habitat.

LWD plays a crucial role in stream ecosystems by altering the trajectory of a stream's high and low flows. During high flows, water pummeling against LWD scours the sediment underneath, creating deep, slow-moving scour pools. These gravelly pool tails make ideal winter sites for salmon to build their redds and lay eggs. In summer, juvenile salmon use these pools to feed, grow, and prepare for their long out-migration to the ocean.

LWD helps slow the flow of water, making it easier for adult fish to move upstream and for juveniles to rear while conserving their energy. In restoration projects, LWD is often spread across the floodplain to slow water and reduce erosion during high-water events. By providing shaded areas and creating deep water pockets, LWD also helps decrease water temperature, benefiting cold-water species. Finally, LWD provides hiding places for fish, offering refuge from predators and enhancing their overall habitat.



A recently installed LWD structure in Cold Creek illustrates the messiness of stream restoration. Photo: Luke Wimmer.



One year later an LWD structure on Salt Creek is settling into the ecosystem and forming valuable fish habitat. Photo: Luke Wimmer.

The final phase of the West Fork Evans Creek Tributaries Enhancement Project, the culmination of a decade of planning and labor, was completed this month. Over 10 miles of stream were restored with 192 LWD structures containing over 1,100 individual pieces of wood. These logs were harvested from the Obenchain fire, other burned areas, and nearby locations onsite. Placements were completed by Benchwood LLC, a local contractor specializing in riparian restoration. Our partners in this project include the Medford District Bureau of Land Management, Lone Rock Resources, and Silver Butte Timber Company. Both projects were made possible through funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Wild Salmon Center, and a Bureau of Land Management Title II Grant.

If you walk by the most recent installation, it might look chaotic (pictured). A mass of fallen branches and tire tracks from installation do not exactly evoke a pristine ecosystem. However, as the LWD settles into the system, its impacts will start to manifest. After a year, you'll see pools, riffles, and channels beginning to form, creating resilient and supportive fish habitat (pictured). Projects like these help us work with the natural processes of our rivers rather than against them. In doing so, we can support the recovery of the fish who exemplify our region.

If you have questions about this and other LWD projects, contact Luke Wimmer, aquatic restoration program director, at luke@apwc.info.

Charlotte Hyde, APWC
Education and Outreach Coordinator
charlotte@apwc.info
Luke Wimmer, APWC
Aquatic Restoration Program Director
luke@apwc.info

The Tallowbox Trail officially opened to the public; BLM is nonresponsive to requests for construction of the already approved Wellington Mine Trail.

A tale of two trails

BY MARTY PAULE

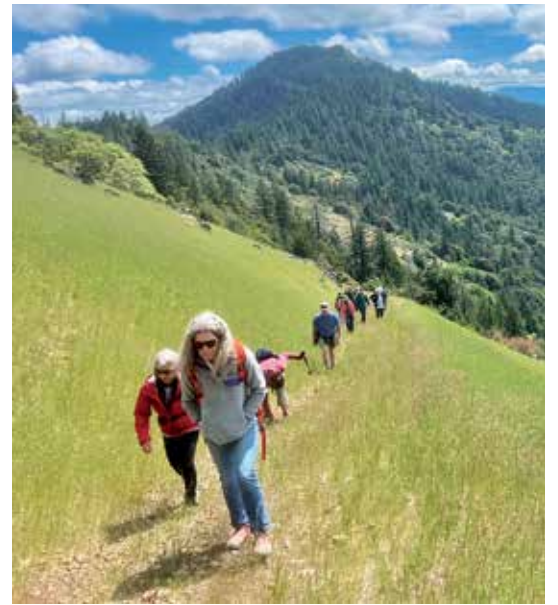
Applegate Siskiyou Alliance (ASA) has been working to approve, build, and maintain new nonmotorized trails on public lands in the Applegate Valley. This includes both the Tallowbox Trail, which was recently opened to the public on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, and the Wellington Mine Trail, which the BLM approved in the 2016 Resource Management Plan (RMP) and ASA has proposed for trail construction. Yet, despite significant support for the Wellington Mine Trail, previous authorizations for trail construction, and numerous email requests for BLM to collaborate with the public toward trail construction, trail opening, and implementation of the 2016 RMP, the BLM has created a tale of two trails—one open to the public and benefiting residents in the region, the other already approved, but ignored by BLM and not benefiting the public as intended.

Tallowbox Trail

After years securing authorization from the Medford District BLM and months building the Tallowbox Trail, ASA officially opened the trail to the public this past June. Traversing the Burton-Ninemile Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC), the Tallowbox Trail is the only public hiking trail in the 6,103-acre roadless area. The LWC extends from Star Gulch up the southern flank of Tallowbox Mountain, Baldy Mountain, and Burton Butte. It also includes significant mature and old-growth forest at the headwaters of Ninemile Creek on the Thompson Creek side of the ridgeline. The area supports beautiful flower-filled prairies on the most exposed slopes, rare plant populations, patches of live oak woodland, deciduous oak groves, madrone forest, chaparral, and mature or old-growth mixed-conifer forest in drainages, on north-facing slopes, on Deadman Gulch, and in the headwaters of Ninemile Creek.

Built by local volunteers in the Applegate Valley and by professional trail builders hired by ASA with a small grant from the Ashland Food Co-op, the trail was completed this past spring. Rustic trail signs were made by a local carpenter and posted in May, and ASA held a grand opening on May 19. Residents and hikers from around the region joined us to hike the upper trail to the summit of Tallowbox Mountain, enjoying big vistas and colorful flower displays.

Now that the trail is open to the public and adding significantly to our nonmotorized trail network, we would like to thank Jameson Whitehead, of BLM's recreation staff, for working with us toward trail construction. We would also like to thank the Ashland Food Co-op for funding the more technical sections of trail construction through their Community Grants Program; our wonderful trail volunteers; John MacKenzie, for the



Hikers at the Tallowbox Trail grand opening about one mile from the upper Tallowbox Trailhead in the mountains above Cantrall Buckley Park.

construction of trail signs; and professional trail construction services from Josh Weber at Green Path Landworks.

For more information, maps, and a detailed description of the trail, visit applegatesiskiyoualliance.org/tallowbox-trail-now-open-to-the-public.


Wellington Mine Trail

In the 2016 RMP, the BLM approved the Wellington Mine Trail as an extensive recreation management area and nonmotorized trail, allowing for a new "nonmotorized trail opportunity with access to lands with wilderness characteristics in a backcountry setting." The area was identified as closed to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the 2016 RMP Extensive Recreation Management Area Framework and, due to its unique attributes, was determined to have the "potential to draw local and regional visitors seeking nonmotorized trail opportunities."

This past March, ASA and the Wellington Wildlands Council submitted a letter to the BLM, signed by nine nonprofit conservation and trail organizations, eight local businesses, and numerous individuals requesting a meeting with BLM to discuss collaboration toward opening this already approved trail to the public and implementing their 2016 RMP. We also submitted a petition signed by 142 local and regional residents pledging support for the Wellington Mine Trail. Yet, after numerous follow-up emails and requests to meet, the BLM has failed to respond and work with the public toward implementation of an already approved nonmotorized trail.

Currently in this tale of two trails, one trail is benefiting the public, while the other's benefit remains unrealized. Community members and organizations are ready to collaborate toward the opening of the Wellington Mine Trail; we only ask that BLM come to the table.

Marty Paule, Board member
Applegate Siskiyou Alliance
mpaule1686@gmail.com




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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS



Photo, left: Erin Moline runs the 800 meters in record time. Right: Mother and daughter, Emily and Erin Moline, are both track record-setters at Applegate School.

Family legacy at Applegate School

BY RENEE GOURLEY

Track-and-field day has been a long-standing tradition at Applegate School that dates back generations. While some of the events have changed over the years, it continues to include the long jump, high jump, softball throw, and a variety of running events of various lengths.

In the school cafeteria a board lists the events participated in over the years and the names of the record holders for those events—some dating back to the early 1970s. A few of the record holders have continued their legacy at the school as parents of students.

One record holder, Karen (Hamner) Hirschmugl, returned as a teacher at the school. Karen holds two records: running high hurdles with a time of 8.3 seconds and running the shuttle relay in 21.4 seconds.

With many families passing through the school and all the records set, this year one special record was broken and a new one set that shows a deep family legacy rooted in Applegate School. As a middle-school student, Emily (Steinert) Moline set the record in the 400-meter run, with a time of 1:09. Emily's family has strong ties to the school and the Applegate Valley, as her mom was a speech therapist at the school and her sister a teacher. Emily's parents encouraged her to run and stay active.

Emily's own children are avid runners, and her two oldest have a strong interest in cross-country running. This spring Emily's daughter, Erin Moline, earned her own place on the record board by running the 800-meter with a time of 2:43. Erin, an honor student and leader at the school, has been a dedicated runner over the past several years and was determined to get her name on the board. Little did she know that she would share the board right next to her own mother.

In response to Erin's name making it onto the record board, Emily says, "It is cool to see how family traditions go on." Erin plans to continue her running as she moves into high school and has already started to train. Over the summer she beat her personal record in the 800-meter. Emily holds records at Hidden Valley High School in two events, and now Erin has set a goal to earn her place on those same record boards. Erin's dedication and drive will take her far.

While Applegate School holds many long-standing traditions since its beginning, the track-and-field day is one that will continue for many generations. Perhaps more generational legacies will find their names on the board over the years. This is just one thing that makes Applegate School so special—family legacy.

Renee Gourley
renee.gourley@threerivers.k12.or.us

Happy Thanksgiving!

New Student Leadership Program at Pacifica

BY CLAIR HIGHFIELD

Did you know that Pacifica has a Student Leadership Program for high school students? Yes, we do!

We launched our new Student Leadership Program in spring 2024. The program gets high school students outside and, at Outdoor School, mentors fifth and sixth graders. We designed the program to cultivate leadership skills, ecological knowledge, and social intelligence. Through learning to lead nature explorations, hikes, and games, students develop skills in communication, time management, problem-solving, and teamwork, and enhance self-awareness and social skills. Pacifica is especially excited about the impact this program has on high school students' confidence, sense of purpose, and connection to community.

During our first season of the Student Leadership Program, 36 students, from four schools and two school districts, attended two days of training. After training, 16 student leaders served as mentors to fifth and sixth graders at Outdoor School, providing three days and two nights of lessons, adventures, and fun. Student leaders appreciated interacting with younger students and recommended becoming a student leader! It was a successful first season.

In the spirit of Outdoor School, our pilot season was a fun learning opportunity. In fall 2024, Three Rivers School District students can receive elective credit for their participation. We will expand to offer students in other school districts the opportunity to receive credits for their participation. All students will receive a certificate of participation to use for resumes, scholarships, and college or university applications. We are looking forward to having more high schoolers join us for our training and outdoor school season this fall.

Sign up for PALS

Now is the time to sign up for PALS (Pacifica's Adventures in Learning). PALS is for homeschool families who want in-person learning for kids aged 5-13. Each Monday students will go on a new adventure with their pals exploring,



Hula hoop challenge at the Student Leadership Training in April 2024.

learning, and connecting. Half of the day will be dedicated to outdoor educational learning and fun! We'll go hiking and learn about and catalog plants, birds, and many living beings along the way. We will explore place-based history and culture and enjoy working together through play, team-building activities, and sharing circles. The other half of the day will be project-based learning and creating with local craftspeople and artists.

Forest Fridays

Pacifica has another new and exciting program: Forest Fridays! Forest Fridays, an Outdoor Enrichment Program, is focused on mindfulness and nature awareness for students aged 7-14. With the beautiful land of Pacifica holding us, we will explore its many habitats, building relationships with the incredibly diverse plant, animal, and fungal populations. Basking in the serenity of nature and using the tools of mindfulness, we will access deeper awareness of ourselves, our emotions, thoughts, feelings, and bodily senses. As a community, we will develop and practice compassionate communication and cooperative problem-solving skills through fun games and team-building challenges. The friendships formed and adventures shared will make memories that will last a lifetime!

Pacifica is a 420-acre art, nature, and education center open to the public from dawn until dusk on most days. Visit our website at pacificagarden.org to review our calendar and register for classes and workshops.

Clair Highfield
clair@pacificagarden.org

Ridiculous Rose by Salila Oldham



Salila Oldham, age 14, attends Hidden Valley High School and enjoys swimming in the Applegate River, rock-climbing, soccer, and skiing. Salila wants to write, illustrate, and publish a children's book in a couple of years.

Look who's reading the Gater!

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



The Applegater enjoyed its extensive travels this summer. Thanks for taking us with you!

Photos, column 1

- Erik Weiser** visits an amphitheater in Ephesus, an ancient city in Turkey.
- Connie Bishop** stops outside the ancient city of Toledo during a tour of Spain.
- Brian and Margaret della Santina** explore the Matanuska Glacier in Alaska.
- Megan Fehrman and Max Unger** relax on a boat in Gili Islands, Indonesia.



Photos, column 2

- Shelley and Pete Smith** brave the wilds of the Colima District in Mexico.
- WHOW members** celebrate 25 years of Women Helping Other Women in the Applegate Valley.
- Tyler and Dakota Kappen** float on the Rogue River at Grave Creek Boat Ramp near the bridge.
- Jenny and Katie Emick** on the summit of Mount Shasta (14,180 feet).
- Brie Emerson and Sang Montage** enjoy a cruise on Lake Shasta.



Photos, column 3

- Carlen Nielsen and Janie Kelly** prefer to read the Gater than tour the Bahamas.
- Steve and Shellie Boyd** stop at Pukaskwa National Park on Lake Superior after traveling Trans-Canada Highway 1 with their cat, Gypzie.
- Diana Coogle (right) and her sister Sharon** in a tree pose at a yoga studio in Beaune, France.



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



Meat Bonanza October 11 & 12

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