

# Applegater

WINTER 2024  
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Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine  
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 13,500

Celebrating  
~30~  
Years

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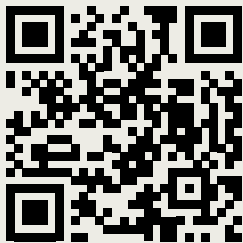
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When you start a monthly pledge in December, NewsMatch matches the full-year value of your monthly donation. If you sign up to give, say, \$10 per month, NewsMatch will send the *Applegater* \$120. To make such a pledge, just find the "Donate" button on our home page at [applegater.org](http://applegater.org) and choose the "Make this a monthly donation" option.

However you choose to give, the *Applegater* is grateful for your support. We do what we do for you, and only continue to appear in your mailbox because of you.

**Thank you!**



**Donate here or visit [applegater.org](http://applegater.org).**

## Annual holiday extravaganza supports student scholarships

BY LAURA B. AHEARN

*It's the most wonderful time of the year...* to enjoy McKee Bridge decked out in greenery and aglow with thousands of twinkling lights. On November 30, McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) volunteers plan to decorate the bridge, the Depression-era community kitchen in the picnic grounds, and Star Ranger Station. The displays will be illuminated 24/7 into the New Year.

Saturday, December 14, is the big day—the 6th Annual Christmas on a Covered Bridge. This family-friendly community celebration funds the MBHS Scholarship Program. To date, we have supported six Applegate Valley high school graduates who are now at college studying to become engineers, nonprofit managers, and maybe even historians. Your purchase of that perfect homemade pie at the Mega Bake Sale will be a yummy treat now and a contribution toward the future of our valley.

Festivities from noon-5 pm December 14 include Santa and Mrs. Claus, free hot beverages, and handcrafted gift items like quilts, crystal light-catchers, and jewelry, as well as MBHS bling. We will again offer the classy table centerpieces made with fresh cedar and fir, which proved extremely popular last year. Please bring cash or



Centerpieces similar to the above will be made with fresh cedar and fir and offered for sale at the McKee Bridge Christmas event.



The historical McKee Bridge will be decorated by volunteers. Photo: Ely Phillips.

check—we can't count on cell service to take cards.

### New fun activity

New to the festivities this year: a painted rock hunt! Each rock is a unique See **MBHS SCHOLARSHIPS**, page 3.

## Planning for our future: Updating the Applegate fire and emergency plan

*Share your voice and help reduce wildfire risk*

BY NATHAN GEHRES

As a very active wildfire season comes to a close, we can thank the hard work of our local firefighters, and a bit of luck, that the Applegate Valley escaped mostly unscathed. Now, there is an opportunity for the residents of Applegate to do our part to help protect our community by working together to update the Applegate Fire Plan.

The Applegate Fire Plan is our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), published in 2002 by longtime Applegate residents Jack



Upper Applegate Fire, summer 2024. Photo: Applegate Valley Fire District. See **FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLAN**, page 20.

## Let's talk turkey!

*Celebrating the holidays with Applegate Valley wines: A guide to perfect pairings*

BY CATHY RODGERS

During the holidays, we gather with family and friends to share delicious meals and toast cherished traditions. This year, elevate your celebrations with exceptional wines from our local family-run vineyards, paired with some great food, including vegan and vegetarian.

### RiverCrest Ranch pinot noir

Start your holiday celebrations with a farm-fresh, garden-grown, wood-fired,

vegetarian pizza from the Applegate Country Club. This satisfying and festive pizza brings Cynthia Torp's spice and labor of love to life in every slice. Pair it with an exquisite glass of RiverCrest Ranch pinot noir, a beautifully crafted, medium-bodied wine that is bright in acidity with silky tannins. This wine will enhance any gleeful gathering. Cheers!

See **HOLIDAY WINE PAIRING**, page 9.

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# HOLIDAY - ARTS



## Welcoming winter— A time for reflection, renewal, and transformation at JCC

BY JULIE RAEFIELD

As the rain returns and the mountaintops begin to receive their winter coats of white, our community, too, begins to mirror the natural cycle of hibernation. This is a time when we as individuals and as a community slow our pace, gravitate to warm indoor spaces, ponder our purpose, and reinvest in our internal roots. It is a time to transform the past year into a vision for the future of the year ahead.



*Creating together is just one way to enjoy community at JCC!*

Jacksonville Community Center

(JCC) is likewise taking the winter period to reflect, renew, and transform. As we plan for the year ahead, we are reinvesting in our mission—to sustain a community center that serves as a gathering place for all ages, with programs that meet community needs, enhance the quality of life, and promote community involvement through education, cultural activities, music, arts, recreation, and wellness. We are gearing up for more programs, events, classes, and community partnerships. We are seeking ways to bring more enrichment opportunities to all.

This year of growth has offered many lessons. We have learned that folks in Jacksonville and our surrounding neighboring communities are excited about rebuilding connections. That explains why programs and events at JCC have drawn so many new participants and sometimes fill to capacity! What a wonderful sight to see

people laughing, learning, playing, listening to music, and creating art together again.

We know that this beautiful vision—one that reflects a healthy community—is one that is shared by most of our neighbors and is the likely reason most chose to move to this area.

As winter settles in, please consider how you can become a

greater part of creating and nourishing this vision. We invite you to sit beside a warm fire (or heater vent) and picture yourself here—volunteering, becoming a donor, taking a class, holding a private event, attending a music concert, or sending your children or grandchildren to a youth program. An investment in our success is a great way to nourish the soil of this beautiful community that ultimately offers you more friendships, fun, and beauty.

If you need more information on JCC's upcoming programs or events, volunteering opportunities, or philanthropic needs, please visit our website at [jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org](http://jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org). We can't wait to see you here!

Julie Raefield  
Jacksonville Community Center  
Executive Director  
[jraefield@jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org](mailto:jraefield@jacksonvillecommunitycenter.org)

## You're invited to an open house at Applegate Valley Historical Museum

BY JOAN PETERSON

The Applegate Valley Historical Society Museum, located at 15050 Highway 238 in Applegate, will be holding an open house from noon-4 pm January 11, 2025. Coffee, tea, cookies, and/or pastries will be available.

The Applegate Valley Historical Museum is housed in what is probably the oldest commercial log structure in Jackson County. It was constructed without nails and made from hand-hewn logs.

Used in the 1880s as a farmers and miners cooperative, it was later enjoyed as part of Pioneer Village in Jacksonville. It was restored by the Applegate Valley Historical Society in 1989. This rural museum honors and recalls the history of those who settled in our valley.

Come to the open house on January 11 and see the displays of the pioneers who were the first residents of the Applegate Valley.

Joan Peterson  
[joanpete5317@gmail.com](mailto:joanpete5317@gmail.com) • 541-846-6988

### *Voices of the Applegate comes to a close*

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Voices of the Applegate will no longer be offering singing opportunities in this community at this time.

To those of you who have been a member of the choir, a dedicated audience member, or beneficiary to the choir of any kind, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your engagement and support over the years.

We wish you all joy, ease, and a sweet melody in any other ventures of heart and soul and sound you create or sustain from hereon.

Bella Grubb  
Voices of the Applegate Choir  
[bella.g.grubb@gmail.com](mailto:bella.g.grubb@gmail.com)  
541-778-2127

## The 2024 Chris Bratt Environmental Advocacy Award goes to Diana Coogle

BY ROSE GERSTNER

At the annual fall fundraiser for the Applegate Siskiyou Alliance (ASA) last September, Executive Director Luke Ruediger surprised the heck out of Diana Coogle by presenting her with the Chris Bratt Environmental Advocacy Award.

This award, named in honor of long-time Applegate environmental activist Chris Bratt, is given annually to an Applegate resident who has worked hard on behalf of the ecological and scenic values of our mountains and valleys.

During her 50 years in the Applegate, Diana Coogle has lived that advocacy. Jefferson Public Radio listeners who were around in the '80s, '90s, and '00s will remember her stories, aired weekly, about living in the "mountains above the Applegate River of southern Oregon," the tag line for her commentaries. Many other people have felt the impact of her advocacy through her books, including a hiking guide to Applegate trails, coauthored with Janeen Sathre. Her direct environmental work includes ten years on the board of the state Sierra Club, action with the Thompson Residents for Environmental Education (TREE), and, most recently, involvement with the Siskiyou Crest Coalition, for which she organized the highly successful Siskiyou Crest Festival of Art, Science, and Culture in July 2023.

Chris Bratt, who died in 2019, was a champion of the environment and of the Applegate River watershed, a hard-working, unstoppable defender of the wild landscapes of our region and its water, trees, and wildlife. He worked on herbicide issues, policy issues, lawsuits, timber sales, off-road vehicle issues, and the utilization of small-diameter trees for timber. He started TREE to fight (and often successfully stopped) federal timber sales in the Applegate, wrote an environmental column, "Behind the Green Door," for the *Applegater* newsmagazine



Surrounding the Chris Bratt Memorial Rock at Cantrall Buckley Park are the following recipients of the Chris Bratt Environmental Advocacy Award: (back row, left to right) Marion Hadden and Jack Duggan, and (front row) Diana Coogle and Suzie Savoie. Recipients not pictured include Cheryl Bruner and Chant Thomas. Photo: ASA.

for decades, and served on the boards of Headwaters, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, the Rogue Institute, the Geos Institute, the *Applegater*, and the Applegate Neighborhood Network (now known as Applegate Siskiyou Alliance).

ASA is proud to recognize those in our community who, like Chris Bratt, work to protect our wildlands and keep both the scenic and the ecological values of the Applegate intact. Past winners of the Chris Bratt Environmental Advocacy Award are Marion Hadden (2019), Cheryl Bruner (2020), Chant Thomas (2021), Jack Duggan (2022), and Suzie Savoie (2023).

Rose Gerstner  
[rosegerstner@gmail.com](mailto:rosegerstner@gmail.com)

## Welcome to our new editor, Annika Hodges

As the incoming editor in chief of the *Applegater*, Annika Hodges has moved to the Rogue Valley from Portland, after graduating from Eastern Oregon University last June with a *cum laude* degree in English and writing. We are so pleased to have her.

As the previous editor in chief of, social media manager of, and reporter for Eastern Oregon University's student newspaper, *The Voice*, Annika comes well-qualified for her job here. With that experience, she already knows how to oversee production of a paper and how to manage a team of writers, copy editors, and others who serve to put a newsmagazine such as the *Applegater* together. She is eager to take over the reins, under the capable tutoring of Barbara Holiday, who officially leaves her position with the *Applegater* on December 31.



Annika Hodges has recently joined the *Applegater* as editor in chief.

Annika will be attending *Applegater* board meetings and reaching out to the Applegate community for their ideas about how she can best serve them as editor of their newsmagazine. She has already made plans for meeting people and learning about our community. She has connected with A Greater Applegate, learned about and

contacted businesses and nonprofits in the area, and gone to open-air markets, libraries, and other organizations and activities in the Applegate.

If you would like to meet Annika, send her a "welcome" email and suggest a meeting. She would love to get to know you. Her email address is [annika@applegater.org](mailto:annika@applegater.org).

Diana Coogle  
Chair, *Applegater* Board of Directors  
[diana@applegater.org](mailto:diana@applegater.org)





Volunteer helpers from the teen drop-in center work on the revitalized garden space on the Sugarloaf Community Association property.

## What's happening at the Meraki Project this winter

BY MARIA RICHARD

The nonprofit Meraki Project is bringing educational, wellness, and healing groups to Williams, as well as exercise classes, bodywork, art, and music.

We started a fall garden in the main garden area at Sugarloaf Community Association with the help of teens from the onsite teen drop-in center.

The garden space had not been used over the last few years, so it was nice to revitalize it with donations from Takubeh Agricultural Supply Store and Feral Farms, and with help from Pacific Sensi.

We also started a free wellness book exchange and a kids' book and toy exchange.

We have weekly and monthly classes and groups, including yoga, children's art classes, women's Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, EcoRecovery, sound healing, women's singing circle, and a Williams resiliency meeting. Currently, Red Tent is held on each new moon, Women's AA meetings are on Wednesday nights, and EcoRecovery groups meet on the second Sunday of each month. Licensed acupuncture and licensed massage are available by appointment.

Check out the schedule on the Sugarloaf Community Association website



Meraki Project started a free wellness book exchange, along with a kids' book and toy exchange.

at [sugarloafcommunityassociation.org](http://sugarloafcommunityassociation.org). Toward the bottom of the page, click on "Meraki Project in the Green Room," then "Scheduled Offerings."

### Holiday craft fair

We are planning a holiday craft fair from 10 am-2 pm December 14. For sale will be handmade jewelry, art, handmade bird houses, local crafts, and paintings. For more information, email [merakiproject24@gmail.com](mailto:merakiproject24@gmail.com).

### Rental space

Space is available for rent if you are looking for a comfortable small space for groups, activities, meetings, or celebrations. We are 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](mailto:merakiproject24@gmail.com)  
415-686-4284

### ■ MBHS SCHOLARSHIPS *Continued from page 1*

gift itself, and some will entitle the finder to an extra prize, like a gift certificate from a local business.

Share the holiday splendor of McKee Bridge with distant friends and family! The new edition of MBHS holiday cards, four stunning views of the bridge for just \$10 plus \$2 shipping, can be purchased online at [mckeebridge.org/product/holiday-cards](http://mckeebridge.org/product/holiday-cards).

Mark your calendar and bring the family to this joyous event. Enjoy the holiday spirit, and support your local community and Oregon's best covered bridge.

Laura B. Ahearn • [mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:mckeebridge1917@gmail.com)



On December 14, join the hunt for painted rocks! Finders will win an extra prize (in addition to the rock).



Homemade pies will be available to purchase on McKee Bridge on December 14.

## Upper Applegate Grange reopens

BY MARGARET PATTERSON

Exciting news! After remaining dormant since 2016, the Upper Applegate Grange 839 was reorganized in September 2024 with 14 new Grangers and 4 Junior members. The Grange is already over 40 members strong and has requested more applications for additional potential members. The Grange helps every member develop to his or her fullest potential, and the opportunities are many. Members enjoy many benefits:

- Opportunities to attend leadership conferences
- Association with others who share your values and concerns
- More than 150 contests for baking, textiles, crafts, and art
- Discounts on utilities, prescription drugs, and financial planning
- Access to online informative communications

For more information, visit [grange.org](http://grange.org) or email [upperapplegategrange@gmail.com](mailto:upperapplegategrange@gmail.com). Upper Applegate Grange is located at 3901 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville.

Margaret Patterson  
[margaret@applegater.org](mailto:margaret@applegater.org)



Potluck held recently at Upper Applegate Grange 839. Photo: Taylor Maddox.



First meeting of the newly reorganized Upper Applegate Grange. Photo: Rebecca Maddox.



## Finding your holiday tree in the woods



*Multiple options available for purchasing permits!*

For many families, venturing out onto public lands to cut a tree is an annual holiday tradition! The process of obtaining permits differs a bit by agency, but families are able to cut holiday trees on US Forest Service (USFS) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands using a permit from either agency.

Here are a number of options by which the public can obtain permits:

- In person at USFS and BLM offices (with the exception of the Wild Rivers District Office in Cave Junction). We recommend you call the specific office where you plan to purchase a permit ahead of your visit to ensure the office is open as we head into the winter season ([fs.usda.gov/detail/rogue-siskiyou/about-forest/offices](http://fs.usda.gov/detail/rogue-siskiyou/about-forest/offices)). All offices started selling permits on November 14 to coincide with the [rec.gov](http://rec.gov) online permit availability.

- BLM-issued holiday tree permits are available for purchase online at [forestproducts.blm.gov/customer/permitselect/OR](http://forestproducts.blm.gov/customer/permitselect/OR).

- USFS-issued holiday tree permits are available for purchase online through [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov). To purchase a permit, visit [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) and search for Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) Christmas Tree Permits. It is important to carefully read the overview and need-to-know information prior to purchasing the permit. Visitors will also need to set up or log in to a [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) account to complete the transaction. Permits are \$5 per tree with a \$2.50 processing fee added on (per order, not per tag).

- Many local businesses across southwest Oregon are selling holiday tree permits. The current vendor list is available on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest website at [tinyurl.com/4krdamye](http://tinyurl.com/4krdamye). Please call the vendor to ensure passes are available.

- Per the Every Kid Outdoors initiative, fourth graders are entitled to one free tree permit with a valid Every Kid Outdoors pass ([everykidoutdoors.gov](http://everykidoutdoors.gov)).

Each permit allows the cutting of one personal-use tree, and a permit is required for each individual tree visitors wish to take home.

Permits for trees are \$5 per tree and are nonrefundable. There is a limit of five tree permits per household, and the permits may be used only on those lands open to Christmas tree harvesting that are administered by the RRSNF and the BLM Medford District. Free printable maps that identify these areas are provided at the time of permit purchase on [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov), as well as for home printing on the RRSNF website at [tinyurl.com/pxew72em](http://tinyurl.com/pxew72em). Those wishing to use digital maps and navigation systems can download the free maps to use on the mapping app, Avenza. Maps will also be available on a limited basis in front of offices.

More information, including tree-hunting tips, guidelines for where people may cut their trees, and safety tips, can be found on the RRSNF website indicated above.

*Happy tree hunting from the RRSNF and the Bureau of Land Management Medford District!*



## POETRY CORNER

If for a Moment I Could Become  
(For John Muir)

By Diana Coogle • dicoog@gmail.com

If for a moment I could become  
the root that loves the rain  
maybe I would water my garden more carefully.

If I could become  
the blossom that loves the bee,  
the nut that loves the bird,  
the dirt that loves the worm,  
maybe I would love more assiduously my garden soil.

If I could become  
the air that sings to the hummingbird's wing  
and swings the spider's thread like a hammock,  
I know I would try harder at my pranayama.

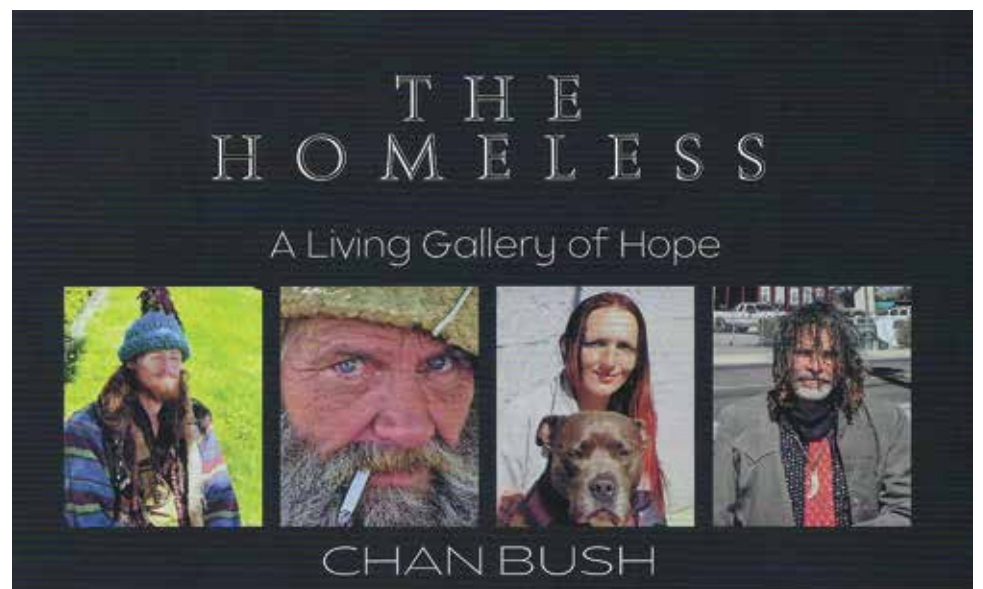
If I could become  
the rainbow that arcs like a mother's arm  
when the sun drops a kiss on the rain's new face,  
I would more often drop colors on the black days of others.

If for a moment I could become  
the wave that carries the whale's song,  
the silence that crackles when the frost goes hard  
the dark that lights the Milky Way's path,  
maybe then I would know at last  
that I am not picked out by myself  
but am hitched by deep nerve patterns  
to everything else in the Universe.

*Diana Coogle has been living in the mountains above the Applegate River for five decades. She was a Jefferson Public Radio commentator for 20 years and is the author of seven books, including From Friend to Wife to Widow, a book of poems about her late husband, Mike Kohn. She is the 2024 recipient of the Applegate Siskiyou Alliance's Chris Bratt Award.*

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

## BOOK REVIEW

**The Homeless:  
A Living  
Gallery of Hope**

Chan Bush

BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER

Pony Espresso in downtown Jacksonville was almost full the day Chan Bush arrived in his Irish tweed cap with a black book under his arm. “That must be he,” I said to my husband, John, and walked to the counter to meet the photographer and author of a compelling book about the homeless. His is a face that feels most comfortable in a smile. No wonder that people who feel uncomfortable with most others are willing and grateful to tell their most intimate stories to him.

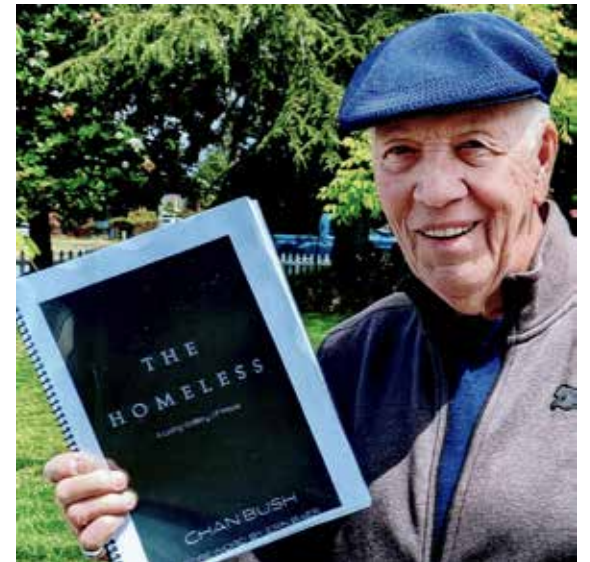
Chan had contacted me by email a few times since the *Applegater's* 2023 winter edition, expressing his hope that I'd write a review of his soon-to-be-released book about the homeless. He was local, he assured me—retired and living in Jacksonville. I drew my breath. I'd already passed on writers from Jacksonville—talented writers, but in genres for which I had scant expertise. I turned down Chan too. He followed up with another email the next month. I told him I was already scheduled for three quarterly issues. That was true, but I felt I should make some kind of agreement to review his book after those three.

I sat back and began to sip my coffee. “What got you interested in the homeless?”

He started talking—something like, well, they're everywhere, but mostly not seen. But each one is human, he said; each has a story. It was his daughter who encouraged him to follow his impulse, take notice, snap some pictures, and write a book.

As Chan became more deliberate about his idea, he planned his approach: equality in humanity, dignity in individuality—each person has a name. Each person has a story that is uniquely their own and could contribute to the common story of these times and our culture, *if* there could ever be a way for a homeless person to tell that story. The urge to find a way would keep Chan awake at night.

Uncanny how ways show up! Chan had just finished washing his car at a self-serve car wash when he rolled down his window and came face-to-face with a massive dog. At the same time, he heard a voice letting him know the dog was just friendly. A



Author Chan Bush with his book about the homeless.  
Photo: Art Presence Art Center.

young boy, maybe 16, dressed in tatters, smiled at him. “How's everything?” Chan asked. The boy responded, “It's hard out here.” They exchanged names and Chan asked if he could take him to lunch. The boy said he was doing okay. He had some friends. He had his dog. And the story had begun.

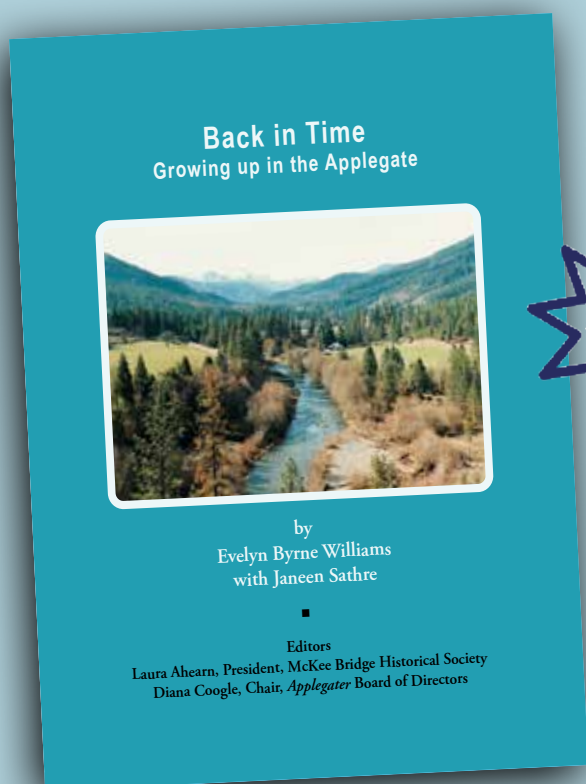
Chan mulled over his book idea much of the night and by morning he was hooked. He would take his camera to the streets and to other places he'd seen homeless people hanging out. He would introduce himself and ask the person for their name. Respect was the necessary ingredient to make this work, but despite believing that, he realized he felt a tangle of, “What is going to happen? Would the person be angry, confrontational? Would I be yelled at with profanity or just ignored as others ignore them?”

With the very first person, he discovered his assumptions were wrong. He realized that the initial respect he showed this man, Eric “Dante” Karlson, prompted the man to return the same. They talked about Chan's project and Dante wrote his story on a page of yellow notebook paper. Chan lifted his camera and snapped a compelling character photo. He was beginning to realize how, for any one of us, “life can flip on a dime.”

What Chan Bush has done for the reader is to give us the actual stories in the voices and language of the homeless themselves. Books have been written before in the voices of novelists, historians, and biographers—I'm thinking of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *Ironweed*—but Chan Bush has gone a step further. In *The Homeless*, he hands the pen and yellow paper over. The homeless write it. He photographs it.

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

## APPLEGATE VALLEY HISTORY BOOK



A compilation of 50 “Back in Time” articles,  
by Evelyn Byrne Williams with Janeen Sathre,  
previously published in the *Applegater* newsmagazine.

Available at Rebel Heart Books, [applegater.org](http://applegater.org), or contact Lisa Baldwin at [leb.97527@gmail.com](mailto:leb.97527@gmail.com).  
When shipped, add \$5. All proceeds benefit the *Applegater*.

Happy New Year!



~ 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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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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:gater@applegater.org) by the deadline (see Editorial Calendar on this page).

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Even with your generosity and the NewsMatch matching funds, the *Applegater* still needs donations 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. Donations are accepted online at [applegater.org](http://applegater.org) or checks can be mailed to:

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Thank you!  
Applegater Board of Directors



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**Next deadline: February 1**

### Cover Photo Credit

Thanks to Linda Kappen, as always, for the photo of the beautiful deer visiting her snowy property in the Applegate Valley.

•••

Have a photo for the Spring 2024 *Applegater*? Email it to [gater@applegater.org](mailto: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 Annika Hodges at [annika@applegater.org](mailto:annika@applegater.org).

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### Editorial Calendar

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

## Inside the Gater

*Local libraries offer a variety of winter events.....6-7*  
*Volunteer opportunities at Cantrall Buckley Park.....10*  
*They Live Among Us: Gay Bradshaw lives among animals.....11*  
*Nonnative turkeys gobbling important habitats.....12*  
*Ruch Library History: Part 2.....14*  
*Opinions.....18-19*  
*Stories on the Land excerpt.....20*  
*Pacifica's Winter Fest and importance of art.....21*  
*Troop 7 Scouts spruce up Steamboat Cemetery.....22*  
*New feathered friend at Ruch Outdoor Community School.....23*  
*Ridiculous Rose cartoon strip.....23*



## — Applegate Library — Winter wonders await!



BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

The Applegate Library staff wants to know what matters most to our patrons. Stop in or send us an email to let us know how we can improve your library experience through our collection, programs, events, and displays.

### Upcoming events

**Cybersecurity Basics**, 12+ years. This in-person workshop is for those who are interested in safety online and want to protect themselves from fraudsters and scams. 12:30-3 pm Tuesday, December 3.

**Holiday Sing-along and Santa Visit**, all ages. Join the staff and Applegate community in a holiday sing-along with a special visit from Santa! Light refreshments will also be served. 2-4 pm Saturday, December 7.

**Picture Perfect: An Introduction to Using the Apple Camera and Photos app**, 12+ years. This beginner-level class will introduce users to the iPhone camera and photos app. 10:30 am-noon Tuesday, December 10.

**Paul Fattig on growing up in rural Oregon during the turbulent 1960s**, 18+ years. Local author and presenter Paul Fattig will be discussing both challenges and rewards of being reared in Kerby during the 1960s. He believes his childhood was similar in many respects to that of those who grew up in Applegate Valley hamlets like Ruch, Applegate, Williams, and Wilderville during that period. 1-2 pm Saturday, December 14.

**Rogue Reads: Stuffed Animal Tea Party with the Tea Dragon Society**, 6+ years. Greetings, friends of the Tea Dragons! Come join the Tea Dragon Society for light refreshments with your stuffed animal bestie as we learn about the elusive tea dragons and their contributions to tea around the world. 1-2 pm Saturday, January 4.

**Wild and Wooly Felting**, 8+ years. Let's celebrate winter by making adorable needle-felted snow people! This fun and easy fiber arts workshop will explore the techniques of needle felting. All materials are provided. The class is led by local fiber artist Corbin Brashear of Wild and Wooly Feltworks. 3:30-5:30 pm Thursday, January 9.

**Rogue Reads: Community Coloring Sheet**, all ages. Add some color to your library and community with a community coloring sheet! Watch the black-and-white image come to a colorful life as you help brighten up the winter months! 3-4 pm Tuesday, January 14.

### Early Findings of the James

**Webb Space Telescope**, 6+ years. A NASA Space Ambassador will discuss the early images and data of the James Webb Space Telescope. Come learn firsthand about this remarkable astronomical accomplishment and the enduring mysteries of space! 1-2 pm Saturday, January 18.

**Paint with Plants**, 8+ years. Discover the beautiful world of natural colors right outside your door! We will make watercolor paints from garden-grown and foraged plants. We'll experiment with changing each color by adding lemon juice (an acid) and baking soda (a base). 2:30-3:30 pm Saturday, January 25.

**End-of-Life Planning for Your Online Accounts**, 18+ years. Have you ever wondered what happens to your digital accounts after death? Or how your loved ones will access or close those accounts? This program will help you and your loved ones take practical steps to prepare your digital legacy. 10:30-11:30 am Tuesday, January 28.

**Scandinavian Folk Music played on the nyckelharpa**, 3+ years. Local musician Avery, who raises pack goats and hikes the woods with them while playing his Swedish nyckelharpa (keyed fiddle), will entertain us with a variety of Scandinavian folk-music songs. 2-3:30 pm Saturday, February 1.

### Reminders

- A Digital Services representative will be here on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 am-12:30 pm on a first-come, first-served basis. You can also make an appointment by email at [digitalservices@jcls.org](mailto:digitalservices@jcls.org) or by phone at 541-734-3990.
- The Applegate Library meeting room can be booked for your meetings, programs, or events (even when the library is closed) by going to [jcls.libcal.com/reserve/ap-meeting](http://jcls.libcal.com/reserve/ap-meeting). Need a place to rehearse? You can do that here, whether for a meeting or music practice.
- Wi-Fi is available 24/7 in our parking lot and during open hours inside.
- Preschool Storytime is Fridays from 11-11:30 am.

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

## — Ruch Library — Winter delights at the library!

BY MEGAN PINDER

A community that reads together grows together. That's the philosophy behind our annual community reading program, Rogue Reads. This year, through our programming and our selected book titles, we are focusing on simple delights and radical joy. Rogue Reads, which begins in December and runs through February, is an all-ages program. To learn more and to participate in this community reading challenge, please register online at [jcls.org](http://jcls.org) or visit your nearest branch to sign up as an offline reader. All Ruch Branch Rogue Readers will have a chance to win some delightful prizes!

**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**, 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-noon Thursdays.

**Bilingual Storytime for Spanish Learners**, 3-10 years. Is your family interested in learning Spanish? Join us for a 30-minute bilingual Storytime, followed by some informal practice with other families. All levels welcome. 4-5 pm first and third Thursdays.

**Wreath Making**, 18+ years. An experienced wreath maker will guide you, and all materials are included. Warm beverages will be available for a cozy and crafty afternoon together. 1-2 pm December 7.

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

**Tween/Teen Movie Hangout**, 10-14 years. Stop by the Ruch Library to enjoy a movie (and popcorn) with other tweens and teens! Please note: This program does not occur during Medford School District vacations. 3:30-6 pm second and fourth Thursdays.

**Rogue Reads: Fandom Collaging**, 12+ years. Learn how to put together a unique collage featuring your favorite things. Whether it's Star Wars, Dragon

Ball Z, or something else, celebrate what makes you happy by making your own collage! 1-2 pm December 14.

**Rogue Reads: Create Your Own Book of Delights**, 18+ years. Inspired by Ross Gay's *The Book of Delights*, we invite you to create your own book to keep a record of the daily delights you encounter. Join us at the library to decorate your own special book. All materials provided. 1-2 pm December 21.

**Rogue Reads: Gratitude Journaling**, 12+ years. Give your brain a hug and dive into the meditative practice of gratitude journaling. You'll get the supplies (journal included) and tips on how to write and reflect on what brings you joy. 1-2 pm January 4.

**Winter Salads with Sarah Lemon**, all ages. Start off your new year's meal plans with hearty, seasonal salads that won't leave you feeling hungry. Join longtime local food writer Sarah Lemon as she demonstrates and provides samples of three distinctive salads. *Online registration required by January 7 at [jcls.org/events](http://jcls.org/events).* 1-2 pm January 11.

**Herbal Tea Blending**, 18+ years. Learn the art of loose-leaf tea blending. Tasting included! 1-2 pm January 18.

**Seed Packaging Work Parties**, 12+ years. We are preparing for the second year of our Ruch Branch Seed Library! Interested in lending a hand? Drop in at any point during these three-hour sessions to help divide and package seeds. Noon-3 pm January 29; 3:45-6:45 pm January 30; and 12:30-3:30 pm February 1.

**Password Management**, 18+ years. Learn best practices for establishing and managing strong and secure passwords. 1-2 pm February 8.

**Learn Your Dog's Language**, all ages. Come learn how to read a dog's body language and interact with dogs in a safe and comfortable way for both humans and dogs. You'll also learn how to make simple toys that your dogs will love! This program is geared toward five- to ten-year-olds, but all ages are welcome. 1-2 pm February 15.

**Rogue Reads: The Book of Delights Discussion**, 18+ years. Join your community in this casual book discussion of the Rogue Reads selection, *The Book of Delights* by Ross Gay. 1-2 pm February 22.

Megan Pinder  
Ruch Branch Manager  
Jackson County Library Services  
[mpinder@jcls.org](mailto:mpinder@jcls.org)  
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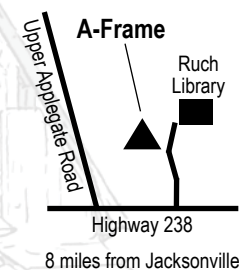


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**— Williams Library —**  
**Celebrating our one-year anniversary!**

BY BRANDACE ROJO

Come visit us at the Williams library! 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 unless otherwise noted.

**New Williams Library one-year anniversary**

The Williams branch is marking its one-year anniversary at its new location! We are deeply grateful to community members, funders, and volunteers for making this milestone possible. We look forward to many more years in this wonderful space. If you haven't had a chance to check out the new library, please visit us at 158 Tetherow Road, Williams. Branch Manager Amber Guient can be reached at [aguient@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:aguient@josephinelibrary.org) or 541-846-7020.

**Unofficial Battle of the Books**

Join Josephine Community Library for the Unofficial Battle of the Books (UBOB). Students in third through 12th grades can read books, earn digital badges, and have fun during the school year! UBOB is a voluntary reading motivation and comprehension program that uses the current book lists provided through the official statewide Oregon Battle of the Books. This program is open to all students in third through 12th grades, with a special focus on homeschooled students and those attending schools that are not participating in or forming a team for the official Oregon Battle of the Books.

UBOB offers a relaxed, self-paced reading experience, perfect for students who want to enjoy the fun and benefits of reading without the pressure of competition. Battle questions are available for those who want an added challenge. Register and learn more at [josephinelibrary.org/unofficial-battle-of-the-books](http://josephinelibrary.org/unofficial-battle-of-the-books) or at your preferred library

branch and participate in the reading challenge through May 15, 2025.

**Upcoming events**

**Williams Weekly Storytime.** Themed storytime and craft session in a safe and fun environment. 11-11:30 am Fridays.

**K-9 Reading Buddies.** Trained therapy dogs provide a non-intimidating environment for children to learn to read out loud. Young readers have the opportunity to explore language and books during this special storytime. 3-4 pm Tuesdays.

**Adult Williams Book Club.** From gripping plot twists to heartwarming characters, participants can unravel the wonders of literature together. Explore what you love about the books you're reading or the ones you've recently finished. Noon-1 pm the last Saturday of every month.

**End-of-Year Fundraising Drive.** The Josephine Community Library Foundation (JCLF) raises funds to support special programs beyond the reach of the library's tax-funded operating budget, including technology upgrades and building improvements. To contribute during the End-of-Year Fundraising Drive, visit [jclfoundation.org](http://jclfoundation.org) and make your donation to support the critical work of the library in our community by December 31. For more information about JCLF or library-building projects, visit [jclfoundation.org](http://jclfoundation.org) or contact Executive Director Rebecca Stoltz at [rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org) or 541-476-0571 ext. 200. Sponsors for this drive are Edward Jones, Hart Insurance, and Oregon Pacific Financial Advisors, Inc.

Brandace Rojo  
Communications and  
Partnership Manager  
Josephine Community Library  
[brojo@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:brojo@josephinelibrary.org)



Families participating in the weekly Williams storytime and craft hour decorate homemade firefighter helmets made of paper plates after storytime.



Williams Library Branch Manager Amber Guient reads a story during the weekly storytime and craft hour held at 11 am Fridays. Williams Library is located at 158 Tetherow Road, Williams.

**HISTORY BITS: RUCH SCHOOL**



**Ruch School 1914**

This photo of the new Ruch School was taken on May 16, 1914, when the building was finished and ready for occupancy. Pictured are the teacher, Mrs. Nellie Collins, the board of directors (Miles Cantrall, Charlie Hamilton, and Horace Venable), and "Cap" Ruch, the clerk.

Photo courtesy of Evelyn Byrne Williams.

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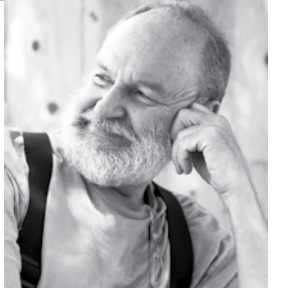
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**THE STARRY SIDE**

**The galaxy's twist**

BY GREELEY WELLS



Greeley Wells

I've been following the Summer Triangle, with its northern cross, through the seasons. In early summer, it rose in the east, aligned flat with the horizon line. In midsummer, it was diagonally overhead, having made a half twist from northeast to southwest. In fall, the cross moved southwest and stood almost upright. In winter, it will set—now standing vertically overhead. This is one of the clearest examples of how our sky not only moves just east to west but also makes a slow 90-degree twist each season. All my life, I've been thinking the constellations just moved from east to west, maybe tilting a bit to the south as they went. This is the first season I've confirmed the galaxy's "twist" for myself!

Last season, the great square Pegasus was low in the east as the Northern Cross made it close to overhead. Now Pegasus is high in the west, and the Northern Cross is setting.

Now rising in the east-southeast is Orion, the hunter, with his dog, the constellation Canis Major. Sirius, the "dog star" in Canis Major, is the brightest star in the winter sky. Sirius will rise by mid-December, in line with Orion's three-in-a-row belt (to its left). Orion is resting on his back now but will rise to standing in the next few months in the south and continue to stand as he sinks toward the

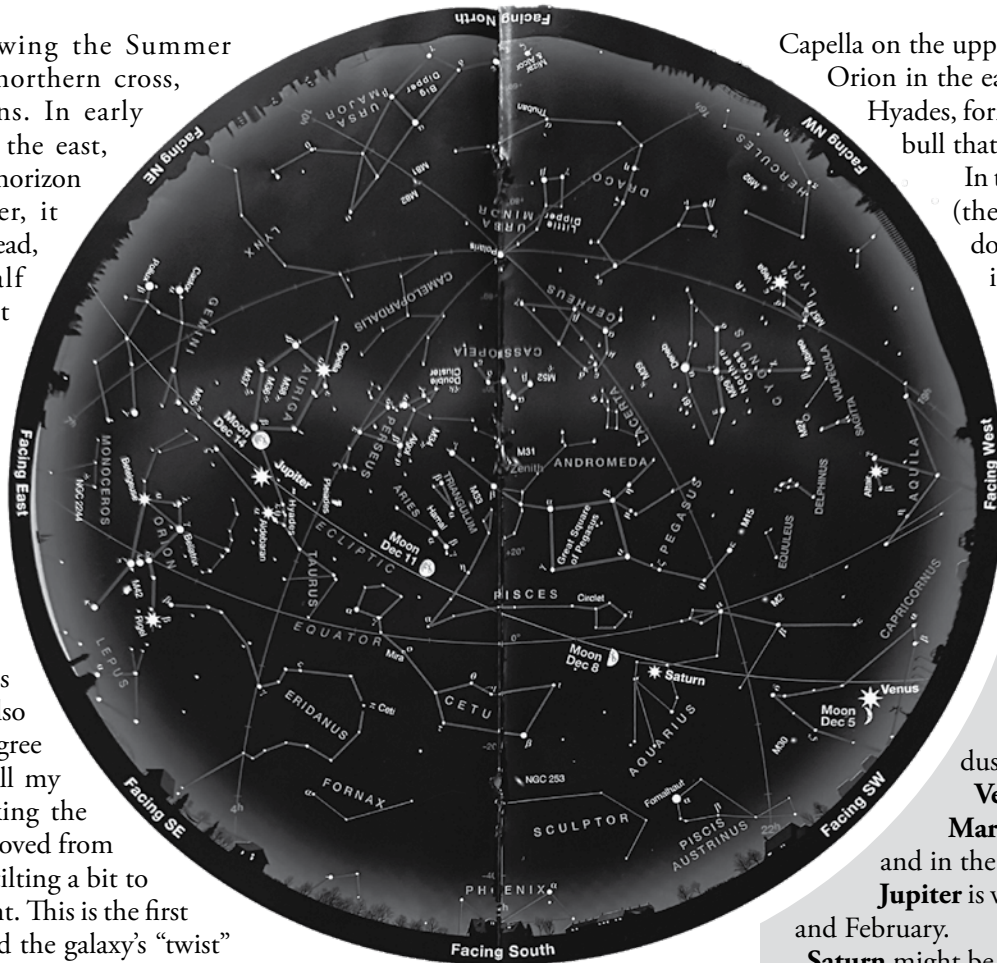


Image: Sky & Telescope (skyandtelescope.org).

horizon next season. East along the line formed by Sirius and Orion's belt, there is an obvious "V" of stars to the right. That's Taurus, the bull, fighting with Orion. Taurus has a short face but long horns; between the horns sits bright Jupiter, our biggest, brightest planet and the brightest thing in the sky right now.

Above the east-northeast horizon line are two bright stars: Castor and Pollux, the Gemini twins. Above them is the five-sided Auriga, the charioteer, with the bright star

Capella on the upper right. Also, above Orion in the east is the star cluster Hyades, forming the head of the bull that Orion is fighting.

In the north, Cassiopeia (the "W," now upside-down in an "M" shape) is sliding over the top of the North Star, while the Big Dipper, Ursa Major, is sliding under it. The Little Dipper, Ursa Minor, sticks with the North Star, which

is the last star in its handle—it hangs from the North Star like it's hanging from a hook.

This whole parade keeps coming. Some stars leave the stage in the west, and new ones steadily show up in the east—dramatically seasonally, and slowly nightly. Amazing!

I love how they all seem to move and even twist, but actually, it's we who rotate in our view of this predictable and beautiful sky that can fascinate and inspire, teach and challenge, surprise and delight.

Wishing you warm, dark, clear skies.

Greeley Wells  
greeley@greeley.me

**— OF NOTE —**

**Planets**

**Mercury** is visible at dawn in December and January, then at dusk in February.

**Venus**, an evening "star," is very bright all three months.

**Mars** is visible in the early morning in December, all night in January, and in the evening in February.

**Jupiter** is visible all night long in December, then in the evening in January and February.

**Saturn** might be visible in December evenings. In January, it will show up in the evening, and in February, at dusk.

**Meteor showers**

**Geminids.** Since the radiant rises in mid-evening, you can watch for the Geminids all night around the peak date of December 13. Although an almost-full moon will compete with the shower, it lasts all month, so you'll have many chances to see some meteors. Under a dark sky with no moon, you might catch 120 Geminid meteors per hour! (You can put the moon behind a building or tree to help darken the sky and your eye.) The bold, white, bright Geminids gives us one of the northern hemisphere's best showers.

**Ursids.** Watch for Ursid meteors—up to ten per hour—in early mornings between December 13 and 24. You might even see some intermingling with the Geminids' peak.

**Quadrantids.** The best nights for the 2024 Quadrantids are January 2 and 3. The Quadrantid shower is one of four major meteor showers each year with a sharp peak, producing (briefly) over 100 meteors per hour.

**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](mailto:gater@applegater.org).

Thanks! See you in the *Applegater*....

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## DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

## Mindful mentoring, with a twist

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Weird as this may sound, I actually thought I was born a gardener, accounting for my forever-dirty fingernails. I thought that this was some kind of genetic thing, like blue or brown eyes. My uncle on one side of my family and my grandmother from the other side were both excellent gardeners. I assumed my gardening skill and dirty fingernails were genetically inherited. I also, absurdly, assumed it to be easy for everyone. You know the expression: “If I can do it, certainly you or anyone can.” So not true!

So, what the gosh, not everyone is born with gardening DNA. After 54 years of watching me garden, my son did learn one important lesson: when bringing your mother a bouquet of flowers, make sure your wife gets a bigger bouquet. (Actually, I didn't teach him that, but it was a smart move.)

This year, a young friend, Mikey, called with a few gardening questions. This fellow was a non-gardener, but I wondered if he was about to move into a “back-to-the-soil” mode. Yeah, I was right. He wanted to ease into gardening by planting some tomato plants and asked for my help, saying he likes the way I garden. Whoopee, I get to be a gardening mentor!



Gardening mentor coaching and instructing young gardeners (ces.ncsu.edu).

Mentoring means to coach, counsel, guide, and instruct. My approach to mentoring gardeners is offbeat, nonstandard, and not textbook-based. I believe in success, achievement by any means, especially when learned from failure. If all is perfect all the time, how do you learn? You most likely don't; you just take everything for granted.

Mikey, a psychologist who works with people, not plants, was actually doing everything “right”—according to the gardening manual. What he did not realize was that plants, like people, have different needs and don't always function according

to manuals. He did not know he had to look and listen to the plants. For instance, the manual said to water every four days. But the days were overcast, and since his tomatoes were planted on a slightly downhill slope, the tomato plants at the bottom were overwatered. Yes, they drowned—like, dead. After that, I felt that Mikey needed some encouragement, like: “Your other plants are doing great because they're at the top of the slope.” Mikey did realize that this was not

a failure but a lesson.

I brought Mikey over to our vegetable garden, hoping I wouldn't scare him with the massiveness of our space, now that he, too, was gardening. I also doubted if my philosophy of gardening would work for him. Oh, right. I forgot: he had asked me.

First, I explained that this particular vegetable garden, as opposed to edible landscaping in other parts of our gardens, was functional—no garden fairies, funky chairs, or garden sculpture with the veggies. (But come to think of it, why not?) Right now, the vegetables are in raised beds with hog fencing.

“So, Mikey, why did I plant the lettuce on this side of the raspberry vines and the strawberries on the other?” Shoulder shrug.

“I looked and listened to the plants. The lettuce didn't like to live on the sunny side of the raspberries; they wilted and got sunburned. Strawberries luxuriate in the sun. On the other side, they were stretching so high for sun, they looked like miniature trees without strawberries.”

Mikey understood the “look” part, but not exactly the “listen” stuff. “What did you hear? What did the plants say?”

Um, is it some type of sign language? Is it like understanding your child's needs or your animal's needs without verbal clues? Yup, it is. With plants, for example, are the leaves drooping? Maybe your dog droops when overly warm or dehydrated. Are the leaves drooping because they are cold? Does your child or you perhaps get droopy when too cold and want to go under cover? How to observe, feel, and listen to the entire story is certainly not taught in an instruction manual.

There is no such thing as failure, only an opportunity to learn.

Sioux Rogers

littlemuddyred@gmail.com



Sioux Rogers

## ■ HOLIDAY WINE PAIRING

Continued from page 1

### Devitt Winery red blend

Devitt Winery's Aggie Dog Red blend also goes well with pizza, according to winemaker and foodie Brendon Butler. Its easy drinkability keeps it from overpowering most pizzas. Brendon's favorite pizza is margherita with fresh tomato and basil. Another nice pairing is sausage, mushroom, and olive. A spicy sausage works well for those who like a little heat or a nice Italian sausage for that pop of flavor.

### Valley View Winery chardonnay and viognier

Pair a glass of Valley View's Domaine Rogue Chardonnay with a spicy-sweet Dijon mustard- and maple syrup-glazed ham. Every bite melts in your mouth, bringing to life a sense of annual traditions, passed down through generations.

Or try Valley View's refreshing viognier with delicious crispy, golden-brown latkes, traditional potato pancakes made with freshly grated potatoes, onions, and eggs, fried to perfection for a crispy crunch on the outside and tender potato on the inside. Pairing latkes with the light tanginess of an Applegate-grown viognier is a wonderful way to celebrate heritage and the warmth of this festive season. Salut!

### Touriga Nacional

Transport your taste buds south of the border with, say, traditional holiday tamales (a corn dough filled with meat, cheese, or vegetables) that embody the spirit of celebration in many Latin cultures, or with a juicy citrus-brined turkey stuffed with a savory blend of cornbread, chorizo, roasted poblano peppers, diced apples, and raisins. For an extraordinary pairing with either dish, uncork a bottle of Red Lily Vineyards' 2021 The Song. Winemaker Rachel Martin makes this 2024 gold-medal winner from Portuguese Touriga Nacional grapes grown by Virginia Oaxaca's Pavo Real Vineyards. Its robust character beautifully complements the savory spices of the tamales, creating a festive flavor explosion that will leave your guests wanting mas y mas!



Suzy and Joe Ginet, owners of Plaisance Ranch, where you can find mondeuse wine and prime rib. Photo: Cathy Rodgers.



Cathy Rodgers and her RiverCrest Ranch pinot noir.

Schmidt Family Vineyards offers a similar vinous treat with its 2021 Touriga Nacional Reserve.

### Devitt Winery rosé

At Devitt, Brendon likes When Pigs Fly Shiraz rosé with turkey. Pairing with turkey can be tricky as it's easy to overshadow its flavors with many red wines, but white wines don't always offer the best flavor profiles to pair with certain cooking styles. Here, a nice rosé can serve well, especially with a turkey with a bold flavor. Brendon's ideal turkey prep is to spatchcock it, a cutting technique to lay the turkey flat, which helps with even cooking, seasoning it with a mix of Cajun spices, and then smoking it for several hours, making sure not to burn the outside. If possible, while smoking the turkey, place it on top of a roasting pan with celery, carrots, onions, and a small amount of water or stock. This can help keep the turkey moist and provide a lovely side of savory smoked vegetables.

### Plaisance Ranch mondeuse

At Plaisance Ranch, owners Suzy and Joe Ginet's favorite pairing is a hearty prime rib—a classic centerpiece for



Devitt Winery's rosé and red blend. Photo: Brendon Butler.

any holiday feast—with Plaisance Ranch's mondeuse, made from a bold red grape from Savoie, France, that can stand up to the rich, marbled cut of beef. The pairing is especially suitable at Plaisance, where Suzy and Joe have continued Joe's grandfather's tradition of cattle-raising and winemaking on the ranch he, Papa Joe, founded when he arrived in the Applegate Valley in 1898. That Papa Joe's father hailed from Savoie doubles the appropriateness of this wine. Mondeuse is like a big spicy pinot, popular for its smooth tannins and rich earthy flavors, making it the perfect partner for this ultimate holiday indulgence. The wine's complexity enhances the flavors of the prime rib with each salivating mouthful, creating a memorable dining experience that your guests will talk about long after the last glass is poured. This pairing exemplifies the warmth of family gatherings. Oh, mon dieu!

### Schultz Glory Oaks sparkling tempranillo

Debbie and Greg Schultz have been cultivating fine wines since 2010, employing 11 Baby Doll sheep and six African Boer goats in their sustainable agricultural practice. Land stewardship has been at the core of their winemaking, and what better way to finish off a holiday meal than with their estate-grown 2023 sparkling Tempranillo rosé? Pair this with an almond torte decorated with sliced almonds for a little extra almond-flavor crunch, and you have a great spirited wine with a little slice of heaven.

As you plan your holiday festivities, consider these exquisite pairings from the Applegate Valley. Each wine and each dish tells a story, celebrating cherished culinary traditions and the region's rich winemaking heritage at the same time. Whether you're toasting to new beginnings or reminiscing about years gone by, these pairings will help uncork the holiday spirit and bring friends and family together around the table. Cheers to fine wines, delicious traditions, and the joy of celebrating with loved ones this holiday season!

Cathy Rodgers

cathyrodgers55@gmail.com

## Holiday pairing sources

**Chardonnay and viognier:** Valley View Winery. 1000 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville; 800-781-9463; valleyviewwinery.com

**Mondeuse and prime rib:** Plaisance Ranch. 16955 Water Gap Road, Williams. 541-846-7175; plaisanceranch.com.

**Pinot noir:** RiverCrest Ranch. 8127 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville. 408-838-4392; rivercrestranch.com.

**Pizza:** Applegate Country Club, 15090 Highway 238, Applegate. 541-846-1666; applegatecountryclub.com.

**Red blend and Shiraz rosé:** Devitt Winery, 11412 Highway 238, Jacksonville. 541-899-7511; butler7976@gmail.com.

**Sparkling rosé:** Schultz Glory Oaks. 755 Slagle Creek Road, Grants Pass. greg@schultzwines.com, 541-414-8448; debbie@schultzwines.com, 541-414-8444.

**Touriga Nacional grapes:** Pavo Real Vineyard, 540 Tumbleweed Trail, Applegate. 340-748-1609; pavorealvineyard.com.

**Touriga Nacional wine:** Red Lily Vineyards, 11777 Highway 238, Jacksonville. 541-846-6800; redlilyvineyards.com. Schmidt Family Vineyards, 330 Kubli Road, Grants Pass. 541-846-9985; sfvineyards.com.





## Fall into winter work

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Late fall into winter will continue to be a busy time at Cantrall Buckley Park, with blackberry removal, tree cleanup, and fine-tuning the irrigation system. Throughout the winter months, park personnel will install interpretive signs for several sites and replace some of the worn-out picnic tables.

Caleb Galloway, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council's (APWC) riparian restoration project manager, is directing and assisting the restoration crew in the removal of blackberry and other invasive species. This work will improve the area near the edge of the Applegate River, the riparian zone, in both the main park and the wayside. All work has been coordinated with the parks manager's approval and has been funded through a Title II grant from the Bureau of Land Management.

Building partnerships is the best way to complete much-needed work about the park. Jackson County Parks and the Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD) make one such partnership. Brien Dallas, operations manager for the parks, will be meeting soon with folks from AVFD to discuss their continued partnership. Another partnership is handled by Fire Marshall Brian Mulhollen, who has worked

with and coordinated the Northwest Youth Corp (NWYC) work crew for the last two years. Their work has benefited the park through trail maintenance, fallen log removal, debris cleanup, and hazard tree removal. Multiplying partnerships, the Parks Department let NWYC use the park's campground during their stay in November.

Brien Dallas says, "Besides our continuous hazard tree work this winter, parks personnel will be working to fine-tune our new irrigation system, installing air relief valves, replacing electric valves, and installing new sprinkler heads." The park will be disturbed again this winter with lots of work, but we hope that we can report successful completion of the fall and winter projects in the spring park update.

### Replacing trees

As mentioned in the last issue of the *Applegater*, Jackson County Parks will be replacing some trees removed from the lawn areas with hardier species. At our spring park gathering, we were able to raise funds through generous donations from private individuals. The APWC staff will coordinate with the park enhancement committee and park management to determine the best species to provide shade and survive the changing



Janis Mohr-Tipton, APWC volunteer park enhancement committee chair, examines the work needed to replace the large valves for the eight-inch pipelines required for irrigation. Photo: Janelle Dunlevy.



Students from Ruch Community Outdoor School (ROCS) continue to help with maintenance of blackberry vines that were initially cut in spring 2024. Students also helped plant new tree species and are learning how necessary maintenance is for the survival of new native species. Photo: Janelle Dunlevy.



Park personnel are in the process of opening up valve intersections and replacing electric valves with air-pressure valves. Photo: Janelle Dunlevy.

climate conditions at the park. With help from some local nonprofits, we hope to begin planning and implementation in 2025. If you are interested, please contact me (contact information below). Replacing trees in a mature tree setting takes replanting with trees that have four to six years of growth, so that they can also become dominant trees in the setting.

"All in all," Brien said, "I'm excited to be moving forward with the upgrades, changes, and cleanup, and look forward to a much-improved park going into next summer."

### Volunteer opportunities

It's time for more weeding and preparations for fall and winter planting. The late fall rains have finally come, and we need more help tackling invasive species and cleaning up in several areas of the park. Various landscaped beds and the solar site need volunteer care too.

We can still get a lot accomplished with individuals, small groups, organizations,

and family groups. Once you sign up, I will arrange to meet with you and go over the details before you start. You pick your preferred date(s) and time of day that works for you or a group. Once you are familiar with your job, you can work independently and record your hours each month. I will join you as needed or requested.

At our last scheduled SOLVE cleanup, we had four mighty helpers, and we collected 19.5 cubic yards of weeds, blackberry vines, debris, and dead, small-diameter stems in three hours! A big *thank-you* to those four helpers for their time and energy!

Let's see how much more we can clean up to assist our park's personnel in making Cantrall Buckley a much improved and safer park for everyone.

Janis Mohr-Tipton  
Park Enhancement Committee Chair  
cantrallbucklepec@apwc.info  
541-899-9982

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THEY LIVE AMONG US

# Pulitzer Prize nominee Gay Bradshaw would say, about animals, ‘We live among them’

BY DIANA COOGLE

Gay Bradshaw would like us to see animals as family members. “We may look different on the outside, but we share the same capacity to think, feel, and have consciousness,” she says.

Backed by a childhood in a family who loved and cherished animals, she came to these conclusions as a scientist. While in Africa to study lions, she learned of elephants who were killing rhinoceroses. Puzzled, she began to explore why the herbivorous elephant would start ravaging other animals. Her research led her to conclude that the elephants were experiencing PTSD from mass killings by hunters, the capture and torture of orphan elephants for use in entertainment and as draws for the ecotourist trade, loss of homeland, and cultural breakdown. These studies ultimately led to her book, *Elephants on the Edge: What Animals Teach Us About Humanity*, a Pulitzer Prize nominee. She has also written about grizzly bears, orcas, pumas, and rattlesnakes.

Now, from her home in the Applegate, Gay devotes her life to caring for animals and teaching people what animals can teach us about humanity.

“Nature is not ‘red in tooth and claw,’ as Tennyson would have it,” she says, “but a community of beings with shared principles and an ethics of calmness and coherence.” For example, she says, moose have been observed wandering with their young, safely and at ease, through a wolf compound. “In nature,” Gay tells us, “animals follow shared principles and ethics that give coherence and peace to life.”

As a child, Gay lived between Oregon and California after her parents bought Applegate property 70 years ago. Twenty-three years ago, after her parents died, she moved here to live full time in the 100-year-old cabin.

On this property, Gay founded a nonprofit, the Kerulos Center for Nonviolence, which includes an online teaching center and its sanctuary, Grace Village. The Village started with a



Gay Bradshaw, with one of her family members, devotes her life to caring for animals at her home in the Applegate Valley.

research organization asking Gay if she would take in some abused and disabled endangered desert tortoises. Gay said yes (of course) and immediately erected five geodesic domes for their comfort in our climate.

“Then someone dropped off a rabbit,” she says, “and then there were turkeys,” and then more tortoises, more rabbits—and then deer, squirrels, and skunks came ’round (see an article by Gay about skunks on page 3 of the *Applegater’s* November extra edition). Now she has 48 animals (excluding the wildlife): 14 desert tortoises, a sulcata tortoise, rabbits, chickens, turkeys, roosters, dogs, and cats—all living in community with humans. In that way, Grace Village exemplifies Gay’s mission to dissolve the boundaries that separate humans from other animals.

The Kerulos Center has recently started the Animals of the Applegate Network to connect clinics, individuals, and sanctuaries

to “help people who help animals.” Through Animals of the Applegate, Gay hopes to raise consciousness that our community includes both animals and humans. “We need to share the land and waters with our animal kin, relax, and enjoy each other in mutual respect,” she says, “and to recognize that the animals in our wilds also get PTSD, from experiences with hunters, motorcyclists, dogs on trails, and other inconsiderate incursions into their land.”

The Kerulos Center’s goals include finding more land to expand the Grace Village sanctuary so people can attend nature mindfulness retreats in the company of animals.

Gay Bradshaw has two PhDs, one in psychology and one in ecology. Her undergraduate major was in linguistics, with a specialty in Chinese. With a background in physics and math, she worked as a research mathematician for the US Forest Service, a job she quit

because “I love this place, so it was too painful to witness what was not scientific or ethical.” She has published many articles in academic and popular media and has written eight books about animals and our relationships with them (see sidebar). In a life full of honors and important work, Gay says she is most proud to be able to rescue animals and share her home with them.

To learn more about Gay Bradshaw’s work and the Kerulos Center, go to [kerulos.org](http://kerulos.org).

Diana Coogle  
diana@applegater.org

## Books by Gay Bradshaw

*The Evolved Nest: Nature’s Way of Raising Children and Creating Connected Communities*, Darcia Narzaez and G.A. Bradshaw (2023)

*Talking with Bears: Conversations with Charlie Russell* (2020)

*Carnivore Minds: Who These Fearsome Animals Really Are* (2017)

*The Elephant Letters: The Story of Billy and Kani* (2014)

*Minding the Animal Psyche* (2010)

*Elephants on the Edge: What Animals Teach Us about Humanity* (2009)

*The Mountains Are in Us: Living Nature’s Ethics and Principles* (2003)

*How Landscapes Change: Human Disturbance and Ecosystem Fragmentation in the Americas*, Gay A. Bradshaw and Pablo A. Marquet, eds. (2003)

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# Nonnative turkeys gobble up important habitat for native species in the Applegate

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Large flocks of wild turkeys roam the Applegate watershed, from the valley bottom into the foothills. While some people like the turkeys, many feel there are too many and see them as destructive to farms, gardens, and the environment. Some people even refer to turkeys as “walking weeds.” The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) receives many turkey-related complaints each year, but they still manage wild turkeys to ensure their presence on the landscape for hunting—despite the fact that they are a nonnative species and very little is known about their impacts on native species.

In the late 1800s, due to over-hunting and deforestation for farms and settlements, turkey populations in their native range, including parts of the Southwest and areas east of the Mississippi, had declined to as low as 200,000. Out of fear that turkeys were going extinct, they were introduced into every state except Alaska. An estimated 6.5 million turkeys now inhabit the United States. Conservation efforts in the East—their native habitat—have been very successful.

The first attempts to establish turkeys in Oregon began in 1899. Since then, at least 14,399 turkeys have been intentionally introduced by ODFW during more than 584 releases or relocations, and it is now estimated that there are at least 45,000 nonnative wild turkeys in Oregon.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife began releasing turkeys in 1908, and since has released turkeys throughout California. They stopped



Nonnative wild turkey eating a snake in the Upper Applegate. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

releasing turkeys in 1999, partly due to lawsuits by ecology-focused organizations, such as the California Native Plant Society, which objected to the turkeys’ impact on rare and endangered plant species, and partly due to other opposition, such as that by the California State Parks and Recreation Department, which identified many potential negative ecological impacts from turkeys, including competition with native ground-dwelling bird species and consumption of endangered reptiles and amphibians. A 2001 study in Sonoma County showed that turkeys directly caused a decrease in terrestrial herbivores, decomposers, and invertebrates, all fundamental species for a functioning ecosystem.

Like many nonnative species, turkeys can cause interactions that cascade through

the ecosystem with negative consequences. Turkeys eat plants, but are generalist foragers and voracious eaters, consuming almost anything in their path, including caterpillars (butterflies, moths, etc.), cocoons and chrysalises (butterflies, moths, etc.), grasshoppers, crickets, slugs, stinkbugs, snails, beetles, snakes, praying mantises, frogs, toads, tadpoles, lizards, salamanders, ants, bees, wasps, and spiders.

Wild turkeys can eat small snakes like a robin eating a worm, and they will peck apart and kill larger snakes. I have observed this many times and recently got a photo of a turkey eating a snake in the Upper Applegate. Since turkeys showed up in my neighborhood a few years ago, there has been a noticeable drop in the number of snakes, lizards, and toads, including beautiful California mountain king snakes.

Even though diet studies have routinely shown invertebrates in larval and chrysalis stages are frequently consumed by turkeys—larvae that should become butterflies, moths, ground-nesting solitary bees, beetles, and other important pollinator species—there is no research about the direct impacts on native pollinators.

The Applegate is home to the Siskiyou Mountains salamander, but no research has been done to determine if turkeys pose a threat to this rare, endemic, and iconic species, despite the fact that turkeys are known to eat salamanders. We also have rare terrestrial snails that are listed as sensitive species, and one study of turkey diets found that snails contributed more than 50 percent of the diet of some female turkeys when laying eggs.

The biodiversity crisis is caused by many factors, but there are ways to slow population declines and prevent species from becoming endangered or extinct. ODFW should be managing turkeys to keep their populations down, rather than continuing to help the expansion of turkey populations.

One of the easiest things you can do to help is not feed turkeys intentionally (e.g., putting food out for them) or unintentionally (e.g., bird feeders, pet food left outside). Although I’m a vegetarian and don’t hunt myself, I hear wild turkey can make a good holiday dinner.

Suzie Savoie  
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## THROUGH THE LEPIDOPTERAN LENS

# The agile and acrobatic Sachem Skipper

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The Sachem Skipper (*Atalopedes campestris*) is a butterfly of the Hesperidae family of butterflies, known as the grass skippers.

The wingspan of the Sachem can reach up to 1.5 inches. Their wings are elongated, making this butterfly one of the three largest grass skippers in their species. Colors vary between very light orange to golden amber to tawny with dark brown borders. Females are more colorful, with distinct bands of small, lightly colored spots.

Sachems can be seen in flight from June through autumn. Look for them on your late-blooming garden flowers.

Males tend to perch on the ground awaiting females. Females deposit a single egg on grass blades dried by the morning sun. Sachems have one brood, with the larva overwintering in the first instar (a stage in larval development between molts). Larvae feed on the leaves of grasses



Ventral view of a Sachem Skipper, part of the grass skippers family, on a tall verbena plant in the Applegate School Butterfly Garden.

and live in a shelter of rolled leaves at the base of the grasses, such as bluegrass, crabgrass, or goosegrass.

Adults feed on many flowers, including milkweed, dogbane, thistles, red clover, marigolds, asters, and a wide variety

of native or garden flowers.

Habitat for the Sachem Skipper includes pastures, gardens, roadsides, open meadows, and other open areas. The range of the Sachem Skipper is the Pacific Northwest to Canada, south to Mexico, Central America, Brazil, and east of the Rocky Mountains to New York.

Skippers can at times be hard to follow. I spent nearly an hour at Applegate School's Butterfly Habitat chasing this very quick, agile, and acrobatic species before I finally got a clear shot of the one pictured. This is just one way to get to know a butterfly!

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



Linda Kappen

Photo by Linda Kappen

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Cake made and decorated by our favorite local baker, Jennie Brown. Photo: Erin Galbraith.



The Ruch Library lobby mural was created by Lilli Ann and Marvin Rosenberg, with the community creating the tiles in the Rosenberg's Applegate Valley studio. Photo: Erin Galbraith.

## Ruch Library History: Part Two Here's to the next 40 years!

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

(To read Part One of this story, see page three of the Fall 2024 *Applegater*.)

From the earliest grassroots efforts to form a library in Ruch in 1982 through the subsequent years of creating and sustaining our little library, we embraced this invaluable community resource and source of wisdom.

However, we needed a better location.

When the Library Bond Measure passed in May 2000, the new Ruch Library became a possibility. The county purchased three acres adjacent to Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS). Throughout 2000, locals raised \$114,000 for library enhancements: a study room, an additional 1,000 square feet in the Teen Area, and an enlarged—double the size!—Community Meeting Room.

A design team was formed, and fundraising ultimately brought in \$154,000. Construction on the building and a walkway between the school grounds and the library started on February 8, 2002.

Under the direction of Applegate artists Lilli Ann and Marvin Rosenberg, all ROCS students and staff, the construction crew, and enthusiastic volunteers made ceramic tiles to imbed in cement sections on the walkway. Homeschooled children created tiles for a mural on the A-Frame Bookstore. Later, adults in the community gathered at the Rosenbergs' studio to create tiles for the mural in the library lobby.

Schoolchildren spent months against the fence, watching the construction with anticipation. Everyone watched the lodgepole-pine frame reach to the sky, and, finally, on January 2, 2003, doors opened to the public! The windows! The light! Hooray for the Design Team! The A-Frame Bookstore, the “only used bookstore between Jacksonville and Grants Pass,” opened for business.

The sunny library quickly became the hub of the community, with the Community Room accommodating 80 people, who came for programs, classes, workshops, author talks, celebrations, movies, and even popcorn. ROCS classes came for research, book talks, and to check out books. Our dream had come true.

Then, in April 2007, all Jackson County libraries closed for lack of county funding. The ballot measure to keep our libraries open failed a month later.

The Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) rose to the challenge and created an informal lending library in the A-Frame Bookstore, allowing community members to access the donated books. Janis Mohr-Tipton asked the county administrator how the two unincorporated communities, Ruch and Applegate, could have a voice. She then assembled 100 community members to create a formal document for presentation. The administration decided to keep all the rural libraries open based on this document.



Ruch Library displays its entire pictorial history in a scrapbook. The library's logo (at right) was printed on T-shirts and individually hand-detailed by members of Friends of Ruch Library to raise additional funds for the new library. Photo: Erin Galbraith.

In October 2007, Jackson County Library System (JCLS) reopened all its branches under a private company, which enabled the Ruch Library to be open eight hours a week. Janis became the branch manager for the Ruch and Central Point libraries. In 2009, Betsy Brauer became the Ruch Library branch manager.

At her interview for the job as librarian, Janis convinced the new management that Ruch needed more hours for the number of people they served. JCLS agreed to proceed if the community could also help. FORL began fundraising again in 2008 to provide four additional hours on Saturdays. FORL provided \$12,000+ annually for six years. Thank you to the community for supporting this service!

In April 2011, Thalia Truesdell became the branch manager, and ROCS classes began making weekly library visits for a mini literary experience and book checkouts. Every student had a library card and used it!

By 2015, all the hours were funded by the newly formed Jackson County

Library District. FORL was free to expand both programming options and the stock of books.

In 2018, realizing that not all ROCS children could access the crude path from the school to the mosaic walkway, “Library Lane, Road to Reading” was built, enabling access for all.

FORL expanded its reach by organizing an inviting “Book Barn,” which houses over 10,000 titles and opens on the first Saturday of each month. Additionally, the A-Frame Bookstore is open on library days.

When COVID hit, libraries and schools remained open as much as public safety allowed, and much of the time, we were able to interact with the school. We coped.

Megan Pinder became the branch manager in May 2023 and continues to offer JCLS programs, community classes and events, a preschool playgroup, movies, a Seed Library, and much, much more. Come in and help us create Ruch Library History, Part Three!

Thalia Truesdell  
thaliatruesdell@gmail.com

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# Building community connections with A Greater Applegate

BY MEGAN FEHRMAN

At A Greater Applegate (AGA), we've been thinking a lot about hubs. What do you see when you hear that word? A center with spokes coming out in multiple directions? Or perhaps it is a location for things to plug into, like a charging station?

The Applegate Valley is made up of the five recognized but unincorporated communities of Murphy, Williams, Wilderville, Applegate, and Ruch—what we are calling our “Village Hubs.” Plus, all the drainage basins and other nooks and crannies that extend out of and into these centers for local business, services, and social connection. As we move into the new year, AGA is interested in working with community members and business owners to explore ways to make these rural commercial centers more connected and supportive of our local economy and social life.

We also know that we lack an actual community center—or a “downtown”—so instead, we must create pop-up or mobile hubs in the form of events (as we did for the Jacksaphine Count(ry) Fair this year) or weekly markets. In 2024, we were pleased to be a part of the Applegate Evening Market at the Lindsay Lodge. This event attracted people from all over the Applegate and Rogue Valleys. It served as a marketplace for our small businesses looking for direct producer-to-consumer relationships, it enlivened the village of Applegate for at least one evening a week, it helped businesses connect with each other, it brought us musicians from our neighborhoods and from as far away as Maui, it entertained families with children's activities, and it allowed us more dinner options, a chance to do some of



our weekly shopping, and to visit with friends. The Williams Farmers Market serves a similar function on Mondays throughout the summer for the western corner of the valley.

At AGA's Ruch office, we are talking about serving as a communications hub in the event of an emergency. We will be working with the Applegate Fire District, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, and other partners to discuss what a Resilience Hub or Hubs look like throughout the valley. This includes mapping resources and identifying helpful assets and gaps in emergency services, supporting neighborhoods in developing or updating emergency phone trees, and maintaining connection to be able to communicate with the community in an emergency so that folks know where to go and what to do.

We also must tend to our valley's existing communication hubs, like the *Applegater*, Jo's List, and Applegate Valley Connect. How are messages and information effectively communicated in a 500-square-

mile valley? How do we reach people from Forest Creek to Carberry Creek, up Thompson Creek, Williams Creek, and all the way to the lower Applegate through Murphy and Wilderville?

I encourage you to check out Applegate Valley Connect ([applegateconnect.org](http://applegateconnect.org)) as a virtual community hub, either for the first time or to refamiliarize yourself with the wealth of resources the website offers. There, you will find our newly launched local business directory, educational opportunities, a community calendar, local news and stories, an inspiring list of projects going on throughout the Applegate, and a list of emergency preparedness and response resources that will be updated this winter. Is there anything else that would be helpful for you to see here? You can also sign up for AGA's monthly e-bulletins at [agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org).

The Applegate Valley Business Network is also a hub of sorts, serving as a place where local businesses can connect with resources and technical assistance and be listed on the online consumer-facing directory. Offline, the Business Network also hosts events and workshops that create opportunities to network and learn from other business owners.

In partnership with the Wellington Wildlands Council and the University of Oregon, AGA will be conducting a survey



Jacksaphine Count(ry) Week flyers for multiple events held around the Applegate Valley in August.

of local business owners to capture more information about what is driving our rural economy and how we can better support it and our businesses. Please be on the lookout for this. We'd love to hear from you to better understand your needs!

Thanks again, Applegaters, for your continued support and participation in this wonderfully beautiful and wild valley. We hope to see you at our Holiday Party on December 12 at Vista 222 to celebrate this community. We also welcome your input and contributions as we explore all these ideas, and more, in 2025 and beyond.

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# BLM timber sale updates: Deceptive proposals and canceled old-growth logging in the Applegate Valley

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

**Boaz Salvage Timber Sale**

In recent months, the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been spinning false narratives about their proposed “salvage” logging projects in the Applegate Valley. They claim to be targeting “dead and dying” trees and stands within their Boaz Salvage Timber Sale, yet the actual tree-removal mark tells a different story. The BLM’s classification of living, green trees and stands as “dead and dying” does not change the reality on the ground—these trees survived recent beetle outbreaks and have demonstrated either genetic or microsite-related resilience.

Using a wildly dishonest and Orwellian narrative that they must clear-cut these living stands—leaving, on average, 3.3 trees per acre—and kill these trees to save them from mortality, the BLM is proposing to log 250 acres on Cinnabar Ridge, the steep, rugged ridge system dividing the Little Applegate Valley from the Upper Applegate Valley. Claiming they are logging “dead and dying trees,” the BLM has proposed extensive live-tree removal and regeneration logging throughout the Boaz Salvage Timber Sale, including in stands that did not sustain significant beetle mortality. In stands that did sustain significant mortality, the BLM proposes to log many of the surviving trees.

Many of the living, green trees in the Boaz Timber Sale either maintain genetic resilience or are in a microclimate that helped them survive. To foster these resilient traits and support increased adaptation of the trees to drought and beetle-mortality events, the BLM should retain these resilient trees into the future. Unfortunately, the BLM is planning to do the opposite—to remove these proven survivors and replace them with artificially planted conifer stands of up to at least 150 small, highly flammable trees per acre.

The vegetative response to the proposed clear-cuts in the Boaz Salvage Timber Sale will lead to a dramatic increase in fire risks associated with plantation development and the natural regeneration of young, even-aged, highly flammable trees, shrubs, and fine fuels. To make matters worse, the BLM has proposed to “lop and

scatter,” instead of burning, all logging slash in this project, leaving a dense mat of dry, small-diameter fuels on the forest floor that will dramatically increase fire risk. In comparison, the current flush of standing, beetle-killed snags, which will fall to the forest floor slowly, over many years, does not increase fire risks. Numerous scientific papers, and the Upper Applegate Fire this summer, show that beetle-killed forests can actually dampen fire behavior.

These snags and downed wood also provide important wildlife habitat and support forest complexity in regenerating stands. Many of the living forest stands proposed for logging are currently important habitats for species like the northern spotted owl and the Pacific fisher.

The BLM has approved the Boaz Salvage Timber Sale using a categorical exclusion, which shields the agency from scientific review, public scrutiny, and public accountability by eliminating public comment periods, environmental analysis, and multiple processes for public involvement and information. We believe the BLM is using a categorical exclusion to rush the Boaz Salvage Timber Sale into action because their claims about this sale would never stand up to rigorous analysis, meaningful public comment, or scientific review. The forests of the Applegate and the public deserve an honest, open approach to land management. The BLM should start by canceling the Boaz Salvage Timber Sale.

**Cedar Flat Timber Sale**

In the last issue of the *Applegater*, I wrote about the BLM’s newest old-growth logging plans on Grayback Mountain, in the upper Williams Creek watershed, and in the Cedar Flat Timber Sale. This project would have logged up to 3,222 acres, including 2,493 acres in late-successional reserve forests set aside to protect old-forest habitat for the northern spotted owl. After monitoring this entire timber sale and finding many mature and old-growth forests proposed for logging, we are happy to announce that the BLM has canceled the Cedar Flat Timber Sale.

Apparently, the agency is working to redesign portions of this project, and we



The red outline shows Unit 35-3 of the Boaz Salvage Timber Sale, demonstrating that the stand is largely a living forest. The timber sale would log this stand to approximately 3.3 trees per acre, removing nearly the entire stand.  
Photo: Luke Ruediger.



Unit 35-5 of the Boaz Salvage Timber Sale is a living green stand of Douglas fir forest located in significant drought and beetle refugia. Only one tree in this photo (marked with orange paint) would be retained. All other trees are considered “dead and dying” and would be removed. Does this look like a “dead and dying” forest?  
Photo: Luke Ruediger.

encourage them to stay out of the last mature and old-growth forests remaining in the upper Williams Creek watershed and along the popular Grayback Mountain Trail. These last old forests are worth more

left standing and should be excluded from any future timber sales proposed in the Williams Creek watershed.

Luke Ruediger

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## How Clean IS Your Well Water?

with Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

Ever consider what might have gotten into your drinking water? Is your well head surrounded by dirt, or in a little building outside where your pet raccoon or rat has made it's home?

Often your well is out of sight and out of mind. Just because you turn the faucet on and water comes out doesn't mean you are fine.

Take a walk out to the well where the casing comes up out of the ground and look around. Is there insulation falling around the top of the well, spiders, ants, frogs, or mouse droppings? If this stuff is around the top of your casing then, EWV, because there is always a chance that it can get into the well & contaminate your water source.

When you get back to the house and can think again - give your favorite Water Well Pump and Filtration Service a call and ask about getting your water tested. It just might be time to ensure that you have safe clean drinking water for your family.

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## Warm greetings from the Southern Oregon Living and Dying Alliance

BY HAYRIYA HEIDI HANSEN

It always seems strange, especially at this time of year, when the leaves are changing colors and the whisper of hot summer days still lingers in the air, to be writing a winter article. As if I know what things are going to be like or even if I will still be here, alive!

Most of us live in this slightly perplexing "reality" where we really think our "plans" are going to happen—like "See you tomorrow," "Let's do dinner next week," or booking next year's vacation! We falsely believe these plans will really all come true. But what if tomorrow, next week, this winter, or that holiday never comes? What if this is It? At this moment, this breath is all there is. Have we added beauty to our life and the lives of others?

Years ago, my training as a death doula coincided with a volunteer stint at Celia House in Medford (an amazing 12-bed residential hospice home). I had a hard time leaving each person's room, as I was so programmed (as we all are) to say, "See you later." Previously, I'd believed this would be true. But at Celia House, where 12 people and their families awaited death, I saw the futility of thinking I had any control or knowledge of what would happen in the next moment, the next day, and even much less knowledge or control about when death would come for me or those I love. For the first time, I started living in the unknown and embracing that reality.

Contrast that with here and now, in this beautiful Applegate watershed, where I watched the stunning dogwood blooms fade and fall, and then the leaves change from green to orange to brown and winter begin to set in. The earth around me sends a mighty trumpet as the geese honk across the sky, sounding the shift of life's cycle. Presently, these shifts and the seasons, thankfully, are somewhat consistent, though the tentacles of the climate crisis are apparent (but I digress).

Like the dogwood tree in all its glory—trunk, branches, flowers, fruits—the beauty is only the outward representation. While the tree's beauty supports life—our lives—the hidden microbiome and ecosystem support the tree. These hidden systems, the organizational structure of worms, fungi, forest animals, weather systems, and much more, support the life of the tree. Often, these foundational, underlying systems go unnoticed, are undervalued, or are not valued at all.

The Southern Oregon Living and Dying Alliance (SOLADA) is much like the ecosystem of the tree. Many people are the microbiome, volunteering their time and energy to form the unseen, integral part of our organization, which is spreading the message of conscious living and conscious dying. All of us are dedicated to encouraging death literacy and to supporting healthy ways to help individuals process grief. The best thing

we can hope for is that our message will reach far and wide, allowing people to have more peace in their lives and more peace at death. Here and now, I'd like to offer deep gratitude to the amazing human "organisms" that allow SOLADA to continue: Angela Franklin, Dr. Megan Frost, Michelle Keip, Dave Levine, Evelyn Roether, Jack Shipley, and Karma Mykal Jensen. Also, many thanks to past hardworking members, Tressi Albee and Kate Clark, and to SOLADA's newest volunteers, Kelli Rua Klein and Stacy Raffety.

Just as the tree needs the microbiome and the ecosystem for its life support, SOLADA could not survive without the dedication of the folks mentioned above. SOLADA also needs your support! Our organization survives on a "thin root system," and everything we do is by donation. We are here to serve our community. Presently, we are very much in need of a website upgrade, and we need support for our mission to continue. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation. We sincerely hope to continue our mission to shift the taboo about planning for and discussing grief and death! Check out our offerings—death cafes, grief rituals, films, and more—at [solada.org](http://solada.org). Thank you for your support and enjoy the beauty of this changing season!

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## Finding grace...in place

*Building community is more than hosting block parties and managing emergency phone trees. It's about working on yourself.*

BY CHRISTINA AMMON

Some time ago, I assembled a little altar of travel-themed curios: a vial of apricot-colored sand from the Sahara Desert, a blessing scarf from a Nepali monk, and a dish of Milagro charms from Mexico. Every trinket serves to remind me of the magic and serendipity of travel.

I recently accepted a job in local tourism, and life has taken a settled turn. These days, I'm more often in the role of host than nomad. Plus, I acquired a piece of land that requires a lot of tending. Now, instead of learning the stops of the London Underground or the names of Himalayan peaks, I learn the names of the trees, plants, and birds that populate my yard: miner's lettuce, acorn woodpecker, and madrone.

Becoming part of a community has been a satisfying—but not entirely comfortable—transition. To the altar, I recently added a potted plant to represent rootedness. Then I tucked a feather in the soil. For flight.

During my 20 years of traveling, both solo and as a guide, people often remarked on the bravery of travel. They weren't entirely wrong; the loneliness upon arriving in a new place is bracing, and navigating foreign streets isn't easy. But as I try to settle down, I realize that it takes at least as much skill to stay in one place as it does to travel.

A life of travel affords easy escape. If novelty wears off, you can move to the next place. If relations get strained, there's always a new crowd. When clouds roll in, you can head south. Mistakes and regrets can be abandoned roadside like blown tires, and through the wide-angle lens of travel, most problems shrink down to size.

Staying still is entirely different. When smoke rolls in, you breathe it; when heat descends, you endure it; when rain falls, you get wet. Small problems can loom large, and if relations are strained, you must work them out.

I look at the plant and the feather, which together seem to convey the tension I carry: Do I stay in place or hit the road again?

A poster on the wall of my house reads "How to Build Community" and includes a list of pointers: Know your neighbors. Listen to the birds. Organize block parties. I delight in all these things and try to do most of them. But in all its cheery encouragement, it fails to cover the harder side of community building: working on yourself.

I was on a walk with a friend the other day, and we explored this trickier aspect of community. For all the support and solace that it provides, there can also be feelings of exclusion, misunderstandings, and conflict with neighbors. I confessed: "Community can kind of hurt!"

My friend, who has lived here for decades, empathized. She suspected this pain was tied to an almost primal instinct. In our animal bones, we sense that staying in the pack is essential to survival, and the deep biology of this makes some anxiety almost inevitable.

You must learn how to be a good pack member: Don't take things too personally and do your best to minimize harm to others. Also, be reliable; the reputation of your work follows you around. Hold good boundaries around your own privacy and



The potted plant represents rootedness; the feather, flight. Drawing: Christina Ammon.

that of others. Sharing the wrong detail—even in the form of concern—could be the stick of dynamite that blows up a valuable relationship.

Of course, we are human so we *will* mess up. And since you aren't going anywhere, these mess-ups accumulate around you like debris in a river eddy. You have to learn to live with the humility of that. Others will mess up, too, and from that you have to learn forgiveness.

"Maybe this is your growing edge," my friend said.

That felt right. To deny community is to deny your own personal evolution.

The feather and plant will remain on my altar among travel memorabilia from what feels like another life. But when the fall breeze blows in, or when I stare at the horizon too long, my mind goes to fresh starts and new lives, and I feel claustrophobic, squirmy. Over time, maybe the feather will become less about flight and more about grace—the grace of staying in place.

Christina Ammon  
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Christina Ammon traveled as a freelance writer and worked as a tour organizer with her company Deep Travel Workshops for 15 years. She now manages the Applegate Valley's new destination website, [wanderapplegate.com](http://wanderapplegate.com).



**OPINIONS**

**Thoughts about the future in the Applegate**

BY PAUL TIPTON

I've been involved with the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) since 2016. For 21 years, since 1996, GACDC managed Cantrall Buckley Park when Jackson County didn't have funds to keep the park open and the community stepped up to run the park. In 2017, after the county once again took over operations of the park, GACDC went back to its roots as a community development corporation and rebranded itself as A Greater Applegate (AGA).

AGA has not only survived but thrived with grants from foundations aligned with our mission, as well as the support of the very generous Applegate community. Our community visioning work was disrupted by the pandemic years, but we used our resources to help those in the community who lacked their daily food needs, including providing food for children particularly affected by the loss of daily food resources through the schools.

After the pandemic, we finished the Applegate Valley Vision in 2022 and continue to implement many of the projects brought about by the voices of the communities, which often overlapped. Over the past four years, we've given out about \$35,000 in Innovation Grants to community projects in the valley, as well as provided technical assistance to over 184 local businesses that just needed a boost to be successful.

I'm really proud to have been a part of this organization, as well as other community nonprofits, through my 52 years in the valley. But as I step back from some of those associations, I'd like to reflect on community versus politics. In any and all of my dealings with my neighbors in the Applegate Valley, politics has seldom,

if ever, been the controlling nature of the conversation. Community has always been at the forefront of the conversation (What are "we" doing? How are "we/you" making out? What can "we" do to help you?). The point is that politics shouldn't and doesn't control how we act together as a community. Anyone attending the recent fundraiser for the Applegate Valley Fire District's new fire truck at the Swine and Wine event at Red Lily Vineyards would have seen the diversity of the community supporting the community's needs. There was no *red* or *blue* or whatever. It was community, which is what we are at our core together and what causes tears of gratitude that this is so.

I'm concerned that AGA still may not be hearing from, and thus not incorporating, all the voices who want to be heard in the Applegate, for whatever reason. We're open to hearing from everyone; we hold no views except those that might benefit the Applegate community. We don't even know each other's political views, just community enhancement views. There are opportunities to be involved in many ways, and I encourage *everyone* who is interested in being part of this nonpolitical, community-centric organization to become part of the solution of the community's needs and desires. We don't do divisiveness, just community, and we welcome your input and perhaps your presence at our events. We truly want to represent everyone—all the different voices—in our wonderful community.

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For more information about A Greater Applegate, visit [agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org).

**Does how we vote reflect who we are?**

BY JIM REILAND

"There are two kinds of people in the world: those who believe there are two kinds of people in the world and those who don't." —Robert Benchley, American humorist.

Benchley's quip poking fun at human nature is especially pertinent during elections. We have all occasionally divided the world into just two kinds of people because it's convenient—but it's also inaccurate and unfair.

In America, we tend to lump voters into just two categories because our political system evolved to have just two dominant political parties—Republicans and Democrats. But in Oregon, the largest block of voters is "unaffiliated." According to the Secretary of State's office, a few years ago 34.4 percent of all voters were nonaffiliated, compared with 34.2 percent who registered as Democrats and 24.7 percent who registered as Republicans. Another 4.7 percent registered with the Independent Party.

Still, this "two-kinds-of-people" framework persists, often reinforced by political opinion leaders. Their hurled insults and pasted labels suggest that anyone voting for the Democratic presidential candidate must be "elitist" or "communist," or that those voting for the Republican candidate must be "fascist" or "racist." This oversimplification ignores the reality that most voters are somewhere in the political middle.

Very few of us share *all* of our candidate's views or values. Many of us don't even like the candidate we vote for; we just like the other candidate less. Additionally, many of us hold views that defy categorization. I know self-described conservatives who support a woman's right to choose and self-described liberals who

favor tighter restrictions on abortion. My father was a Marine, a stalwart Republican, and a lifelong hunter who felt that only the military should have high-capacity, semiautomatic guns. My cousin is an Army veteran, registered Democrat, and hunts with an AR15.

So-called "contradictions" abound, but they are only contradictions in a world with just two kinds of people.

I'm writing this a week before the 2024 election, and am looking forward to comparing how Applegate Valley voted in both 2020 and 2024. County voting records show that in 2020, precincts largely within the Jackson County portion of the Applegate Valley voted 51.3 percent for Trump, 43.2 percent for Biden, and 5.5 percent for a third-party candidate, while precincts largely within the Josephine County portion of the Applegate Valley voted 64.9 percent for Trump, 33.2 percent for Biden, and 2 percent for a third-party candidate. (Note: Precincts don't correspond precisely to our valley's watershed boundaries, so this is an approximate picture.)

Hopefully, by early December, the dust will have settled, and we'll remember that most of us don't embrace the extreme positions attributed to the candidates we voted for. Lumping each other into simple categories based on our voting choices glosses over what each of us truly believes. People from across the political spectrum—left, right, and center—have worked hard to make the Applegate Valley a great place to live. If we respect each other and recognize the strength in our differences, we can work together to keep it that way.

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## OPINION

## Williams water at risk

BY SANDY OLKEN

For several years, the future of Pipe Fork, a beautiful creek in Williams and an important year-round source of water for many in the community, remained uncertain.

First, Josephine County Commissioners proposed to clear-cut Pipe Fork. Facing a great community outcry, they then agreed to sell it if the Williams Community Forest Project (WCFP) could find a buyer. WCFP contacted the Conservation Fund, who was willing to buy the land. This plan would have earned the county \$300,000 over the Yellowbook Appraisal (Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions). It would have guaranteed the preservation of the forest and protection of Pipe Fork, but the county commissioners reneged on the agreement and refused to sell the land. On November 14, Pipe Fork and eight other parcels of county land went up for auction. Many of those parcels were in the Williams watershed.

Pipe Fork, East Fork, Williams Creek, Clapboard, Sugarloaf, Tree Creek, Lone Creek, Goodwin Creek, Munger Creek, Spring Creek, Mule Creek, the right hand of the West Fork, Bill Creek, Swamp Creek, and West Fork were all in jeopardy. If lumber companies won the bid and set about clear-cutting all 1,800 acres of forests, not only Pipe Fork but other roadless areas, mature forests, and wildlife habitat would be devastated.

The fire-resistant mature forests would be replaced by fire-prone young saplings. The erosion resulting from logging on steep embankments would wash into the creeks, stifling their flow. The sunbaked treeless earth would hold little promise of cool shade, warming the creeks, instead, and reducing fish habitat. The mandatory barrage of poisonous pesticides would follow the clear-cuts. Life in Williams

would never be the same, our beautiful forests, our water, our home, forever scarred by this assault.

In the face of this Orwellian nightmare, the good efforts of community members, along with WCFP, the Rogue Advocates, and other local environmental organizations, worked toward an outcome of conservation, water certainty, continued crucial fish habitat, biodiversity, outdoor activities, and forest longevity.

Even as we worked to forestall heartbreak, joy flourished and the abundance of life's gifts kept us focused on beauty, gratitude, and love. Through the shadow of ignorance, light finds its way. In this extraordinary precious moment we could gather in solidarity and peace and give thanks for each holy day.

At the auction, Low Divide, Bear Wallow, Munger Creek, Cedar Flat, and Little Sugarloaf sold, but there were no bids for Clapboard, Little T, and Thompson Creek/Pipe Fork. Pipe Fork has been spared!

And yet, questions remain. Will the county commissioners finally agree to sell the land to the Conservation Fund, which is still willing to buy it? Will the commissioners give us time to find other forest-preserving buyers for the remaining two parcels? Can these forests and waters be protected for the life they sustain and for our children?

I personally am hopeful that my home will continue to be abundant in lush woodlands, clean water, wildflowers, medicinal plants, and spawning salmon, and that our home for seven generations and onward will remain a sacred place where we can rejoice in the glory of creation.

Thank you to all the people who have helped protect this life.

Sandy Olken • sandyolken9@gmail.com

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

## Don't forget to donate in November and December in order to double your tax-deductible donation!

BY DIANA COOGLE

With many thanks for Barbara Holiday's years as editor in chief of this newsmagazine, we raise a glass to her in farewell and send warm wishes for her future.

We will miss Barbara sorely, after her decade and more of serving the Applegate community as editor of the *Applegater* and as a board member. We hope to see her at every one of our community events as the years go on.

This is Barbara's last issue. In preparing it for publication, she has been working with our new editor, Annika Hodges. We offer Annika a warm welcome to the *Applegater* and to our board meetings. See page 2 for an introduction to her.

I am happy to report that the board is thriving, with two potential new members and a good retreat in September, where we hashed out visions and new possibilities for the *Applegater* and did a good critique of our organization. I would love to have your input too. What do you like best about the *Applegater*? What would you like to see the *Applegater* do that we haven't been doing? What ideas do you have that we haven't thought of? How would you like to participate? Email me! I would love to hear from you.

Finally, of course, DON'T FORGET TO DONATE TO THE *APPLEGATER* DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

Oh, I'm sorry to have shouted. But I wanted to get your attention because it's so very important that we receive donations from our loyal readers before the end of the year. We have been on solid financial footing ever since Bert Etling, our previous editor, connected us with the Institute for Nonprofit News, with its matching-grant segment, NewsMatch, but that only stays true as long as we receive those important donations. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so your donation is tax-deductible, but most of all, it keeps the *Applegater* coming to your mailbox four times a year.

I wish all the best to all our readers, advertisers, and volunteers for a joyous holiday season and a happy new year.

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



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## OPINION PIECES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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



## Discover Stories on the Land

The most recent excerpt from *Stories on the Land* was published in the spring 2024 *Applegater* (page 22). We pick up the story in the mid 1800s, in a section of the book titled, "Enterprises." (All quotes are from Ruch and the Upper Applegate Valley: An Oregon Documentary, by John and Marguerite Black.)

### Logtown, Union Town, and Ruch

Logtown, an early stopping place in the Applegate, was in full swing by the time the stage road was completed in 1858. Several saloons, a hotel, and a blacksmith's shop served not only travelers but the large mining population on Forest and Poormans creeks. Louis Herling opened a stopping place a mile east of Logtown in 1860. A German farmer, Henry Bauten, bought the Herling place for \$950 in an estate sale in 1882, applied for a liquor license, and opened for business. "Drinks were to be had from the customer's own bottle as late as 1910. The term 'gallon house' meant that liquor could only be sold by the gallon under county license."

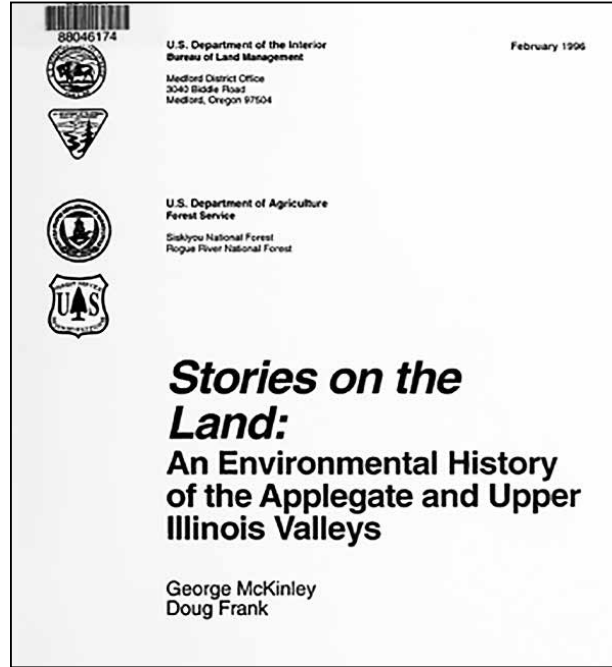
Logtown was also the home of John McKee, who came to mine but soon opened a blacksmith shop to serve the miners and farmers of the area. "He sharpened tools and plows, shod horses, mules and oxen," and invented his own miner's pick. Based in his log home, which was large enough for square dancing, the McKees functioned as informal social

directors to the community, holding card games and sporting contests and other communal events every summer. Somehow, John and his wife, Maryum, also had time to raise a houseful of children.

Logtown died as gold mining declined during this period. Only a few buildings were still standing by 1900.

Uniontown was located a couple of miles south of present-day Ruch on the Applegate River. The four Cameron brothers came from Iowa in the 1850s and, after mining on Sterling Creek, settled on homesteads along the river. Tod Cameron opened a store on their property, which they now called Uniontown. In time, a saloon and blacksmith shop were added. It was in their shop that an African American blacksmith known to locals as Negro Ben worked, whose name was later given to a prominent mountain peak in the region. [Editor's note: The name was changed in 2020 to Ben Johnson Mountain.] The saloonkeeper, Val Comstock, hauled freight by mule team from Crescent City and mined on the side.

Tod Cameron also owned one of the earliest sawmills in the region, at Wellsville, a mile up the Little Applegate River. "William and Robert operated the mill and sold lumber to miners and settlers for miles around. They drove team and wagon and delivered lumber to the mining camps when it was needed." In



later, Cap's grief-stricken mother drowned herself and the youngest child, four-year-old William, in a mining reservoir some 50 by 60 yards, five to six feet deep. Cap lived under Peter Britt's guardianship, went to school, learned to be a blacksmith, and built a blacksmith shop where the Upper Applegate Road diverges from the Crescent City Road near the confluence of Forest Creek and the Applegate River. Soon he began to sell food and supply items. He added a post office in 1897, then a new store building, smoke house, social hall, and residence. Around the time

of World War I, he added gas pumps. Cap Ruch died in 1930; his widow, Anna, ran the store until 1945, although the business declined rapidly after the community lost the post office in 1939.

Lower down along the Applegate River, Murphy thrived early as a center of commercial and social activity with a grist mill, a sawmill, and a post office, along with a way station operated by James Wimer. Both Williams (where Josephine County's first Grange was established in 1870) and Wilderville offered services for early settlers. From pages 72-73 of *Stories on the Land: An Environmental History of the Applegate and Upper Illinois Valleys*, by Doug Frank and George McKinley. Excerpted by Diana Coogle.

1879, the enterprising Tod Cameron added a post office on the site and became postmaster. But in the 1890s, Tod moved to Jacksonville, the post office closed, business declined, and the store went out of business. The Camerons returned to farming.

Both Logtown and Uniontown were gone by the turn of the century. In this area of the Applegate, the future was represented by a town founded by Casper (Cap) Ruch. As a child, Ruch had come from Switzerland with his parents, who settled on Humbug Creek to do some mining. His father committed suicide when Cap was 10 years old, a day after buying out his partner's share of their mining claim for \$1,600 in gold coins. Neighbors said he had not been acting "right." Two weeks

Some practical, concrete benefits of an up-to-date CWPP are directly related to fuels-reduction work. The prioritization of locations for fuels-reduction work (cutting brush, dead trees, and overstocked stands) is one of the main functions of a CWPP. Also, most grants that will fund this work require that the CWPP for the area be no more than ten years old, or five in some cases. Therefore, this CWPP update process will guide the next five to ten years of fuels reduction work in the Applegate. I have heard from many landowners that the recent tree mortality has been a concern. If you want to have a say in that process or just want to know why the work is being planned where it is, this is your opportunity to get involved.

### ■ FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLAN

Continued from page 1

Shipley and Sandy Shaffer, and edited by Diana Coogle. It amazes me and gives me great pride that the first CWPP in the US didn't come out of Washington, DC, or California, but instead from the talented and engaged folks right here in the Applegate. I'm sure many of you have the red three-ring binder that houses the old plan stashed somewhere on your bookshelf or in your closet. That binder is full of good stuff, but the Applegate has changed a lot over the past 22 years, and those changes need to be reflected in an updated plan that meets the needs of the residents now.

A CWPP is a community-driven plan that provides guidance on addressing community needs related to wildfire risk reduction, community preparedness, emergency response, and post-fire recovery. Mitigating the risk of an uncharacteristically severe wildfire is largely accomplished through forest

management practices, defensible space work around homes, and education programs. Community preparedness and emergency response can be enhanced by improving and protecting evacuation routes, documenting resources that can assist during a wildfire (everything from an available excavator to pastures that can board evacuated animals), creating or updating phone trees and other neighborhood networks, and far more activities than can be listed here. Finally, the CWPP should have a post-fire recovery plan. How do we, as a community, band together to help residents who may lose homes or businesses? These questions need to be asked and, hopefully, answered well before a fire is at our doorstep. The challenges posed by wildfire are many, but I've been continuously amazed by the wide range of skills and experience that Applegaters possess. We will need to draw on that deep pool of talent here, locally, to keep our community safe.

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) secured funding through a US Department of Agriculture Community Wildfire Defense Grant to fund the update of our CWPP. Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD) and the APWC will work collaboratively

on this project. AVFD Fire Marshal and Deputy Chief Brian Mulhollen brings connections and experience that will be invaluable in getting this update completed. We will be holding several meetings over the next two years at fire stations and smaller neighborhood locations throughout the valley to give residents as many opportunities as possible to have their voices heard. No one knows the valley better than you, the residents who live here. Please share that knowledge with us to make sure that the plan we develop is as comprehensive and accurate as possible. If you are interested in hosting a neighborhood chat, please let us know. For more information, visit [applegatepartnership.org](http://applegatepartnership.org) or contact us at 541-899-9982.

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Happy holidays to  
one and all  
from the Applegater!



# Art is important to individuals, to community, and to Pacifica

BY PEG PRAG

Everyone needs art and nature in their lives, and Pacifica is working to make that possible. Kids need art and nature, but so do isolated seniors, new mothers, people leading busy lives, and many others. Whether it's woodworking, painting, sewing, or sculpting teeny cupcakes out of bright purple clay, making art is good for your mind and body. As Professor G. Kaimal said, "The act of creation can reduce stress and anxiety, and improve mood."

Loneliness is a big factor in stress. Recognizing that this is a lonely world, Japan has created a Minister of Loneliness cabinet position, and last year the governor of New York appointed the nation's first Ambassador to Loneliness. Pacifica believes that art helps to bring us together

and reduce loneliness. As S. Woster said, "Making art and looking at art can improve the world by improving us. Art can save you by making it easier to do the brave, difficult work of staying hopeful and engaged with the world." When we come together through art, our connection with community blossoms.

## Art and the holidays

For 25 years, Pacifica has celebrated art, music, and community during the festive period between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year, Pacifica's Art-Nature Trail (ANT) is a place where we can fill our senses and restore our emotional and spiritual balance, where local sculptors and poets can share their work, and where kids can have fun with activities relating to nature, sculpture, and art.

Art, nature, and science are interwoven. Look at anything closely—a drop of water, a butterfly's wing, a flower, or a shell—and you'll find not only a work of art, but also a miracle of science and engineering. As the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Irish poet Thomas Moore said, "To make local nature a concrete element in daily life is a necessary, initial step in

the re-enchantment of our individual lives."

If you would like to submit a sculpture or poetry to add to the beauty of this trail, please call 541-660-4295.

## Poetry adds a new kind of beauty to Pacifica's ANT

Poetry is the oldest literary form, predating prose, theater, and the written word itself. As an art form, like sculpture, it will now be included along the trail. If you have poetry, your own or some that is special to you, please send it to [peg@pacificagarden.org](mailto:peg@pacificagarden.org). In addition to making this poetry available for everyone to enjoy, this trail will allow a wider range of artists to participate in this ever-expanding community project.

## Art in the madrones

To encourage everyone to get involved and have fun with art, activities anyone can try are available outdoors in a madrone grove along the main drive. These activities include rocks and instructions to make a cairn, a community loom with instructions to try your hand at weaving, information on lichens and supplies for making rubbings, and soon there will be some outdoor musical instruments to make joyous music.

## Reading and drawing in a tree at Pacifica Tree-Bench Sculptures

Benches shaded by a pretend tree branch contain laminated kids' books to read, interesting information for adults, and possible drawing activities (see image, upper right).

## Arts Center

Pacifica has a room dedicated to teaching weaving, sewing, and felting classes. There is also a ceramics lab and workshop. By next year, we hope to include additional arts and crafts.



Here's a drawing activity for you to try. With a pencil, copy the picture on a blank piece of paper. Don't look at the whole picture, but at each line, the way it looks, the place and angle and what the space around it looks like. Concentrate only on drawing each line, not the whole. Image: Etsy.

## Current ceramics schedule

- Hand Building Open Studio: 4-7 pm Thursdays, November 21 and 28, and December 5; and 10 am-1 pm on Mondays, November 25, and December 2 and 9.
- Demonstrations and technique building: 10 am-1 pm Tuesdays, November 26, and December 3 and 10.
- Glazing days: 4-7 pm Thursday, December 12; 10 am-1 pm Monday, December 15; and 10 am-1 pm Tuesday, December 17.
- Art show: 3 pm Thursday, December 19.

Come make presents for the holidays! For more information, contact us at 541-420-6345 or [bcanvas@me.com](mailto:bcanvas@me.com).

If you would like to teach or take a class, please call 541-660-4295.

Peg Prag

[peg@pacificagarden.org](mailto:peg@pacificagarden.org)



At the Winter Fest, there will be over 30 talented local artists, wonderful local musicians, food, kids' activities, and, perhaps most notable, a beautiful feeling of peace and unity.

## Winter update from Star Ranger Station

Happy Holidays, Applegate Community and Partners! As the winter season begins, many of our projects highlighted in past *Applegaters* do not have significant updates. So, instead of repeating information, we would like to highlight some personnel changes and accomplishments here.

### Yellowjacket Project

The one project we will mention is Yellowjacket. Throughout the winter, we will continue to analyze and discuss project goals. We plan to engage interested members of the public in spring 2025. In the meantime, contact the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District at 541-899-3800 to arrange one-on-one opportunities to discuss proposed treatments in the field.

### Personnel updates

Tabitha Olson (see photo) is our new recreation management specialist. Originally from northern California, she started working seasonally for the Medford Bureau of Land Management in 2017, then transitioned to the US Forest Service (USFS) in 2022. We are thrilled to have her as our new recreation leader and know she will continue to successfully oversee all the amazing opportunities across the ranger district.

Many of you know Dave Clayton (see photo), a fellow Applegate community member and the forest wildlife biologist for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. After 34 years of federal service, he's retiring! There is not enough space here to list all the ways in which he has contributed to wildlife conservation. We are eternally grateful for his many years of knowledge, passion, and engagement. We will miss you, Dave!

### Maintenance projects

Summer and fall were busy! In August, staff worked with the Lomakatsi Youth Crew to complete four miles of trail maintenance along the Seven Mile Ridge Trail. The Youth Crew also worked in the Ashland Forest Resiliency footprint on madrone reproduction mitigation, completed half a mile of rehabilitation along the White Rabbit Trail in Ashland, and performed maintenance work along Forest Service (FS) Road 2060, above Ashland Creek. In September, the Rogue River-Siskiyou and Klamath National Forests, in partnership with KS Wild, hosted a cleanup day near the Meridian Overlook along the Siskiyou Crest, on FS Road 20. The volunteers removed and replaced the old buck-and-pole fence, installed new road and trail markers, and removed numerous rolls of barbed-wire fencing. In October, fire and recreation crews dismantled the "changing rooms" at Hart-Tish campground, located outside each entrance to the bathrooms, due to safety concerns. Lastly, staff and Medford Scouting America Troop 7 installed the long



Tabitha Olson, the new recreation management specialist.



Dave Clayton, forest wildlife biologist, is retiring after 34 years.

overdue Steamboat "Cemetery" interpretive sign that acknowledges the miners who used to inhabit the area. (See article, page 22.)

### 2024 wildfire season

As of October 31, we have had 14 wildfires in the ranger district: nine lightning-caused, one human-caused, and four with undetermined causes. The largest fire was the Bigelow Fire, estimated at 64 acres. Our engines and personnel aided suppression efforts throughout the west, including fires in western and eastern Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and California. Throughout the summer, crews worked to reduce hazardous trees near Star Ranger Station, Star Gulch, and Flumet Flat Campground (see photo). In addition, 1,450 acres were prepped for fall or spring prescribed burning, should personnel and weather conditions allow.

We hope each of you has a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

### Where can you find information?

**GovDelivery.** A primary method of communication, GovDelivery is a web-based email subscription system that sends information to subscribers on specific topics and projects of interest to them. After subscribing and noting your

areas of interest, you will receive an email whenever USFS or the ranger district has information on that topic. You may customize and manage your subscription profile to receive exactly the types of information you want, and you may cancel your subscriptions at any time. To subscribe, visit [public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new). If you need help signing up for GovDelivery, please contact Amanda Merz at [amanda.merz@usda.gov](mailto:amanda.merz@usda.gov).

**Constant Contact.** Another web-based email service, Constant Contact, 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](https://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/roguesiskiyou/landmanagement/projects](https://fs.usda.gov/projects/roguesiskiyou/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](https://facebook.com/R6RRSNF).

For more information, contact Jen Sanborn at [jennifer.sanborn@usda.gov](mailto:jennifer.sanborn@usda.gov).



Hazard tree mitigation and fuels reduction near Star Ranger Station.



## Scouting America Troop 7 enhances Steamboat Cemetery with a new sign

BY DIANA COOGLE

On October 26, Scouting America Troop 7, from Medford, erected a new sign at Steamboat Cemetery on Carberry Creek Road. The sign reads “Steamboat ‘Cemetary,’” keeping the misspelling of the original sign in quotation marks to make it clear that the spelling error was not made by the sign-makers. It provides information about Steamboat, a small community of miners and ranchers, and, presumably, their families, along Carberry Creek Road from 1880 through World War I.

Thanks to the work of the Scouts—building the sign frame and roof, digging postholes, pouring concrete, and pushing

the sign in place—travelers along Carberry Creek Road can now read the brief history of the mine on Steamboat Mountain and the small community it once generated. The name “steamboat” itself refers to a mine that has played out, so even the name indicates the brevity of the community.

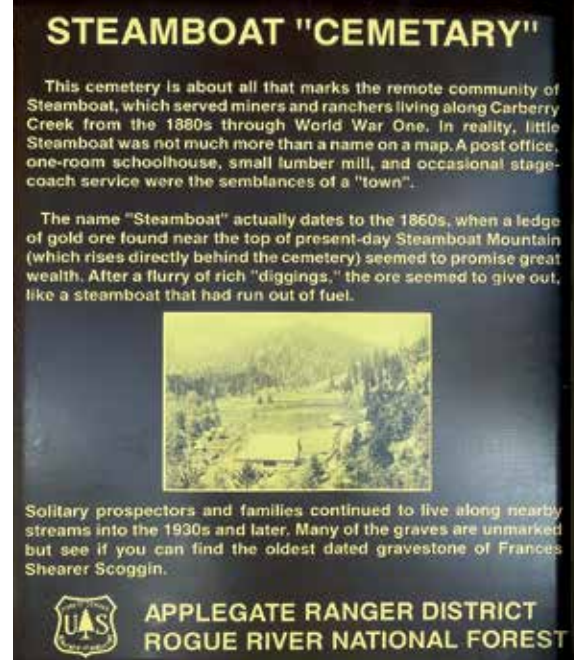
It lasted long enough, though, to warrant a graveyard. The oldest gravestone at Steamboat Cemetery records the burial in 1890. Vivian Garnett was buried there in 2006, next to her husband, Charles Garnett, who had died 34 years earlier. Another stone and a small US flag mark the grave of a World War I veteran.

Another notes the birth date of a woman (1927), with a space for the death date when the time comes. Many stones are too old and worn to be read accurately.

Staff at the Star Ranger Station of the US Forest Service have been cleaning up the cemetery since last spring. They removed fallen trees, erected a fence, and cleaned fallen debris to expose as many graves as possible. Only a handful of the 18 grave sites are still visible.

The historic wrought-iron gate that lay neglected for decades is being overhauled by Melinda Freeborn of Williams. The reinstallation of that gate will complete the renovation of this historic spot in the Applegate.

By volunteering for this work at Steamboat Cemetery, the



New sign at Steamboat Cemetery keeps the misspelling of “Cemetary” as it appeared on the original sign.

Photo: Whit Whitney.



Troop 7 Scouts and advisers (from left to right) Terry Ashcraft (adviser), Gabriel Ashcraft, Sam Post (adviser), Dalton Post, Braedan Eddy, and Caden Porch, built the frame and roof and installed the new Steamboat Cemetery sign. Not pictured are Dylan Harris-Taylor and Bryce Donica. Photo: Whit Whitney.



Scouts Lex Caldwell and Logan Conner painted the pumphouse at Flumet Flat Campground on the same weekend the Steamboat Cemetery sign was installed. Photo: Liz Hamblin.

Scouts in Troop 7 earned credit for badges and rank advancement in the Scouting system. Caden Porch, who has been with the troop for six months, aspires to the rank of Eagle Scout. Working on this project, he said, will help him get there.

Other Scouts helping erect the sign included Braedan Eddy, a Second Class

Scout; Gabriel Ashcraft, a Star Scout; and Dalton Post, a Life Scout. Troop advisers Terry Ashcraft and Sam Post were also present, along with John-Erik Mraz, from Star Ranger Station of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

While these Scouts were working on Carberry Creek Road, Logan Conner and Lex Caldwell from Troop 7 (see photo) were working at Flumet Flat Campground, painting the pumphouse and earning points toward rank advancement.

Scouting America Troop 7 received its charter from the United Methodist Church in Medford in 1926 and is still affiliated with the church under the same charter.

Diana Coogle  
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## Grow Youth grows roots at Provolt Recreation Site

BY CHARLOTTE HYDE

If you were a frequent visitor to Provolt Recreation Site (PRS) this fall, there is a good chance you encountered a group of students pulling weeds in the meadow, examining plants along a trail, or measuring rocks in the river. Short or tall, in large groups or small, they could have been sporting field guides, trowels, butterfly nets, or other scientific instruments. If these descriptions sound familiar, you witnessed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council’s (APWC) environmental education program, Grow Youth, in action.

Currently in its second year at PRS, Grow Youth is a hands-on, place-based program that combines scientific field study and service learning to nurture critical thinking, practical skill-building, and environmental stewardship in its participants. Running for 12 weeks from mid-September through December, Grow Youth will host approximately 450 students from third to 12th grades in 29 field trips. Students will come from returning schools, such as The Valley School, Woodland Charter School, and Grants Pass High School, and from new participating entities like Applegate School, TRAILS Outdoor School, Walker Elementary School, Rogue River Elementary School, Baker Web Academy, and two homeschool groups. Given the distribution of schools across four school districts in Josephine and Jackson counties, we hope that the knowledge, skills, and themes imparted through the program will forge a cohort of

environmentally engaged youth across southern Oregon.

In last year’s Grow Youth curriculum, students studied the site through the lens of environmental stakeholders, such as foresters, wildlife biologists, and ranchers. Since many students attend Grow Youth for multiple years, the curriculum is updated annually. This year, it centers around earth systems, with an emphasis on the interactions between the atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere, and hydrosphere. This theme translates into six standards-aligned field studies: stream mapping, stream geology, phenology, entomology, soil science, and salmon biology.

In stream mapping, students map the Applegate River’s currents and streamflow to explore how water moves through a river. In stream geology, students measure stream sediments along a transect and relate their findings to the interplay between water and rocks. In phenology (seasonal cycles), students identify the stages of plants and animals within their annual cycles and discuss the impacts of climate change on phenological processes. In entomology, students sort and identify insects, then consider how these “creepy crawlies” are essential to other life forms. In soil science, students model how soil contains all four “spheres,” then study characteristics of PRS’s soils. Finally, in salmon biology, students follow a salmon dissection and play a game to demonstrate a salmon’s journey through its life cycle. Together, these field studies incorporate different learning styles, data collection techniques, and features of PRS to cultivate

an understanding of the world’s interconnectedness and of students’ roles within it.

The counterpart to field study at Grow Youth is service learning. Where field studies expose students to scientific concepts and methods, service learning applies those ideas to building practical skills while making a positive ecological impact. By the end of this season, students will have removed several acres of invasive yellow star thistle from the site and will help maintain and expand the network of trails at PRS, providing more recreational opportunities for visitors. Students will also rehabilitate PRS’s pollinator garden by collecting, cleaning, and sowing native pollinator seeds, removing dead grass, planting seedlings, and laying protective straw. This project is supplemented by pollinator kits from the Xerces Society and seeds from Pollinator Project Rogue Valley.

Aside from the knowledge and skills that Grow Youth aims to seed in students, the program’s deepest significance lies in its capacity to let them connect with the outside world. When we witness third graders shrieking with excitement when they see salmon, a sixth grader contentedly labeling a bag of wildflower seeds, or an eighth grader waving aloft the longest star thistle taproot of the day, the program’s value needs no further explanation.



Students from TRAILS Outdoor School show off their pile of invasive star thistle. Photo: Charlotte Hyde.



Students from The Valley School prepare to conduct a stream geology survey. Photo: Molly Allen.

Because of our generous funders, Grow Youth is of no cost to schools or students. This year, Grow Youth is funded by the Carpenter Foundation, the Coquille Tribal Community Fund, the National Environmental Education Foundation, and Rogue Credit Union.

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**NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS**

**Hands-on learning at Applegate School**

BY RENEE GOURLEY

Students at Applegate School were eager to return after being away all summer. Teachers and staff welcomed them back with smiles, high-fives, and a brand-new cougar mascot costume! The middle school student leadership group purchased the costume to instill pride at school events and get students excited. The school year has been busy through the first quarter and filled with many fun opportunities for learning. Active, hands-on learning is a theme across all grades for the first quarter.



New cougar mascot costume at Applegate School.

Kindergarten through third graders learned about the life cycle of pumpkins and finished the unit with a fun-filled trip to the Fort Vannoy Farm Pumpkin Patch. At the farm, the students enjoyed the Cow Train and Corn Maze and picked their own pumpkins to take home. They also completed a unit about the life cycle of butterflies and watched the process happen with live caterpillars supplied by retired staff member Linda Kappen. Students watched as the caterpillars formed cocoons and emerged as beautiful butterflies. They were able to release several of the butterflies.

First-graders in Mrs. Hirschmugl's class have taken a hands-on approach to learning about measurement. Students listened to a lesson on what measurement is and how to measure, followed by a fun activity measuring items around the classroom with nonstandard measuring tools. Kinders in Mrs. Hirschmugl's class are working hard on mastering letter sounds, as well as number recognition and counting.

Garden Club, run by White Oak Farm, is back this school year and off to a great start! All elementary students have enjoyed learning about growing things and then using them. Students have enjoyed making "bee hotels" and making cider from a variety of fruits, vegetables, and roots.

The fourth- and fifth-grade students in Mr. Scull's class began a field study in

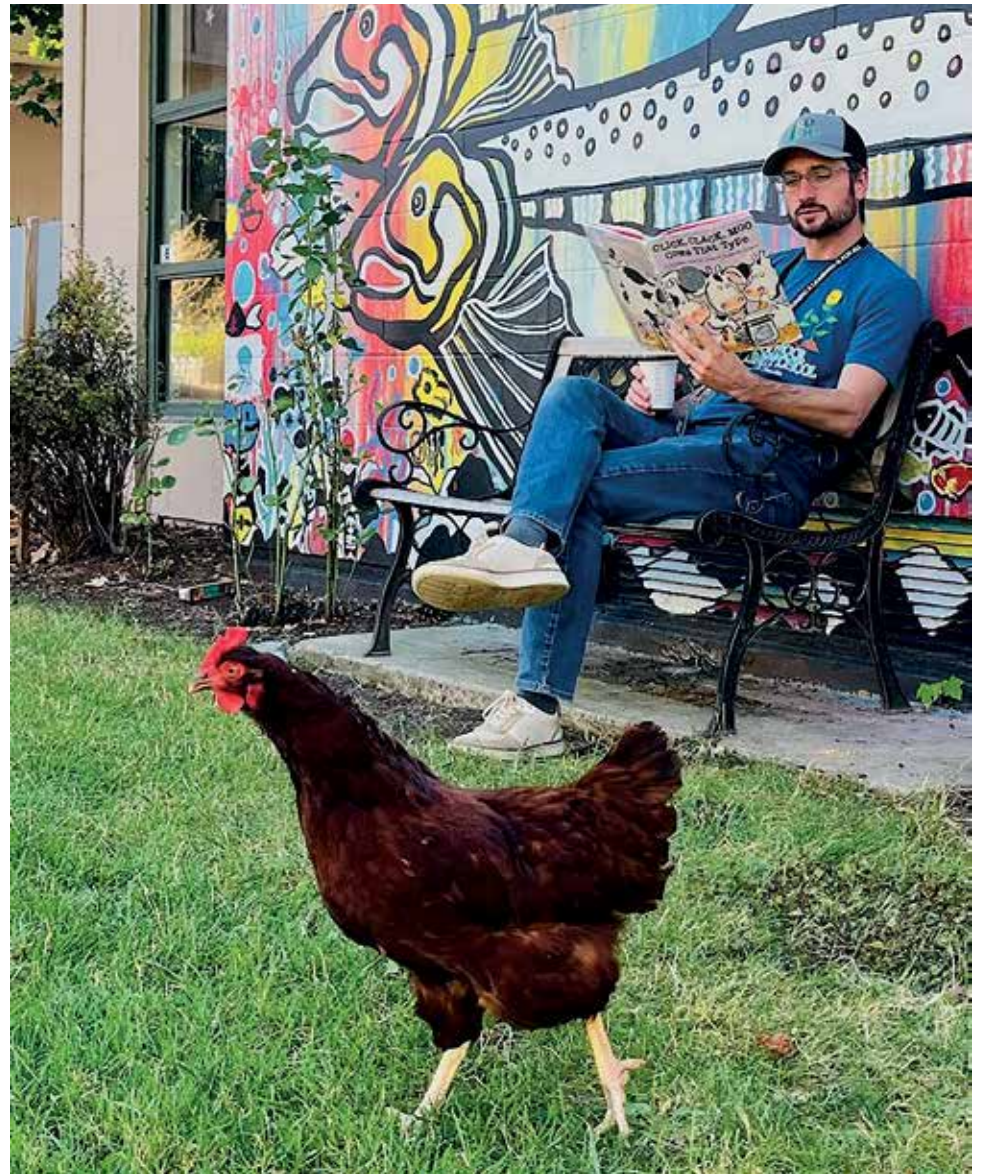
entomology and phenology. They took a field trip to Harry & David and are working with the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council on a local project. Students expressed how much fun it was to work with their hands on the project.

The middle schoolers recently stepped outside the classroom to learn about animals at Wildlife Images in Grants Pass. They heard about the rescue, rehabilitation, and possible release of some animals. They were entertained by the calls of bald eagles, the howls of wolves, and a hole-digging bear. After the trip, students worked in groups to create informational posters about the animals they saw.

Some of the girls in fifth through eighth grade joined the school's volleyball team. Coach Diana had fun teaching the girls new skills throughout their season. The team ended the season with seven wins and five losses. The improvement made by each player was outstanding!

The school year is off to a great start, and teachers have many fun and engaging activities planned for the year.

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Ryan King, principal of Ruch Outdoor Community School, reads a few "books! books! books!" to Little Red, a newcomer to the school grounds. Photo: Brandee Tolner.

**Meet Little Red: Ruch Outdoor Community School's new feathered friend**

BY ISABEL JALAMOV

There is a new face—or beak—around campus at Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS). An adventurous chicken wandered onto school grounds one day and decided to stay, quickly winning the hearts of students and staff alike. Whether she is pecking around the courtyard, keeping a close eye on recess, or strutting confidently across campus, Little Red has become a welcomed addition to our school.

"The whole school loves her, and we even have stickers for her," says Ezra Alexander, a fourth-grade student at ROCS. A similar feeling is shared by Ezra's classmate, Arya Flaugh. She says,

"Little Red seems to always say 'hello' to everybody in the school. Everybody respects Little Red, and we will always respect her like she is a student at Ruch Outdoor Community School. I really want to finish that chicken coop because Little Red needs to have a real house to live in."

Her surprise arrival reminds us to embrace life's unexpected joys. Little Red will continue to work around the *cluck* to improve her hen-writing, *im-peck-able* egg-counting skills, and drumstick moves in music class. And that's no yolk!

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**Ridiculous Rose by Salila Oldham**



Salila Oldham, age 14, attends Hidden Valley High School, where she participates in soccer and track. Her favorite outdoor activities are skiing and rock-climbing. She lives with her family on their farm in the Applegate Valley.



## 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](mailto:gater@applegater.org) or mail to *Applegater*, PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.



**Photos, top row (left to right):**

-**Cathy Rodgers**, in Las Vegas with daughter Katie Emick, Tess Wafflebaker, and grandkids Brooke and Devyn, brought along the Gater for entertainment.

-**Sandy Olken** with friends, celebrating the Applegater's 30th birthday in Crescent City.

-**Erik Weiser** hiked with the Gater on the Lycian Way trail, near Fethiye, Turkey.

**Photo, middle row:**

-**Diana Coogle** devises her plan to swim in Bachalpsee, near Grindelwald, Switzerland, with the help of the Applegater and sister **Sharon**.

**Photos, bottom row (left to right):**

-**Connie Bishop** shares the Gater with new friends in Costa del Sol, Spain.

-**Cathy Rodgers and Yolanda Jaime** about to take a seaplane from Lake Union, Washington, to the San Juan Islands, recommended by the Applegater for good crabbing.

-**Allen and Lillian Stewart** treated the Gater to warmer weather in San Jose del Cabo, Mexico.

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



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