

Applegater

Photo by Linda Kappen

applegater.org



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Celebrating
~24~
Years

The arts put steam in Applegate Valley schools

BY LISA BALDWIN

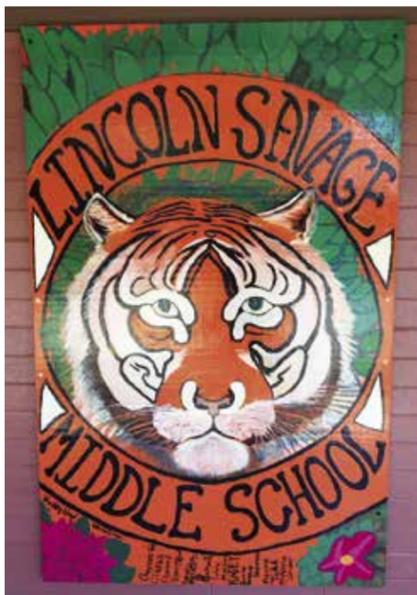
It's full steam ahead for arts education in our schools. The efforts of parents, volunteers, guest artists, committed administrators, and resourceful teachers are keeping arts programs alive in an increasingly tight curriculum.

"Having arts in school helps kids with other academics," says Jennifer Parsons, art teacher for Lincoln Savage Middle School, and for many students "it's the reason they come to school."

Research supports Jennifer's assessment. According to Americans for the Arts, a student involved in the arts is four times more likely to have high academic achievement, five times more likely to stay in school and graduate, and twice as likely to complete a college degree, compared to peers without arts education (americansforthearts.org/by-topic/arts-education).

At Lincoln Savage, art is included as one nine-week course on the year-long "elective wheel" for sixth graders. Seventh and eighth graders are offered art as a year-long elective. Jennifer teaches all the basics as she helps students explore different genres and mediums. Her classroom is full of students' artwork, from Zentangles and fan-fiction art to pointillism and abstract design.

To further build the school's art culture, Jennifer started an after-school



Lincoln Savage students worked with muralist Valarie Sloan to create this new mascot mural.

art club in November. The club meets twice a month on Thursdays. To support the successful launch of this new club, donations to cover supplies can be made through the school office at Lincoln Savage, earmarked for the "Art Club."

Linda Kappen teaches daily art classes for the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at Applegate School. Students learn the

See **ARTS IN SCHOOLS**, page 3.

Holiday traditions light up Applegate homes with love and laughter

BY DIANA COOGLE



Grace DeVore (right), with brother Arthur, favors mashed potatoes and gravy at her family's holiday party.

Lights, music, gift-giving—so traditional! But individual Applegaters, as elsewhere, give holiday traditions their own spins.

Susie Beckham, an associate librarian at Applegate Library, sings carols at Ruch Community Church and attends church on Christmas day. She also displays her collection of more than 50 nativity scenes and participates in giving trees. "I love

doing gifts for kids during the holiday season," she says.

Five-year-old Grace DeVore from Williams says, "Sometimes there's a big party with my family," mentioning particularly the mashed potatoes and gravy. She and her brother (Arthur, 10) decorate a tree cut from the forest. Grace leaves cookies and milk for Santa Claus. She and Arthur have an Advent Calendar. She likes playing with the dogs.

Sylva Koppitz, a Murphy resident, is originally from the Czech Republic, but Czech traditions don't influence her Applegate holidays. "Our Murphy Christmas is 100 percent American," she says. "Even the dog has a stocking" (though I'm not sure a dog stocking is traditionally American).

Dennis Franklin, who works in the Applegate, enjoys a family holiday gathering of ten to forty people, from a two-year-old to a 67-year-old. "We like to spend time together," he says. "We eat, laugh, joke, play board games." The meal is potluck, and the atmosphere, Dennis says, is "happy, nice, safe."

Juliet Dunn of Williams celebrates with up to 25 people at her grandmother's house in the Applegate. "We hang out

See **HOLIDAY TRADITIONS**, page 12.

A present with paws is a gift of health

BY LAURA AHEARN

Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS) has an idea for your holiday shopping: Would a dog or cat be a good gift for a friend or family member? Your recipient can enjoy better health on top of the other many benefits of being a good pet owner. Better yet, if you give a gift certificate to adopt a dog or cat or bunny from the Jackson County shelter, you can help improve the circumstances of animals throughout our community.

Researchers are finding more and more evidence that owning and caring for an animal can lead to a healthier life.

A long-term study of 3.4 million people found that dog ownership is linked to a longer life.

Pet ownership—particularly dog ownership—appears to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. People with pets have lower blood pressure and heart rates, whether at rest or under stress. Simply petting a dog can reduce blood pressure and heart rate (while having a positive effect on the dog as well). The source of this news? Harvard Medical School!

Pet owners have lower triglycerides and cholesterol. Dog owners who walk

their dogs get more physical activity and in turn are less prone to obesity and health problems. And people who *do* have heart or circulatory problems survive longer if they own a pet. Studies of people who have suffered heart attacks find that pet owners are significantly more likely to survive through the following year (94 versus 72 percent).

Pet ownership holds special benefits for children. Kids raised with furry friends are less likely to suffer from allergies. An infant is less likely to be afflicted with eczema if there is a dog in the home. A cat or dog (or bunny or hamster) is a trusted friend, a source of comfort that teaches a child to care for others.

Kids who have pets are more active, secure, and responsible. Caring for a pet

See **PRESENT WITH PAWS**, page 21.



Lucky Ebony with her new Mom.

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ISSUE
HOLIDAY - ARTS

OBITUARY**Hans Rilling**

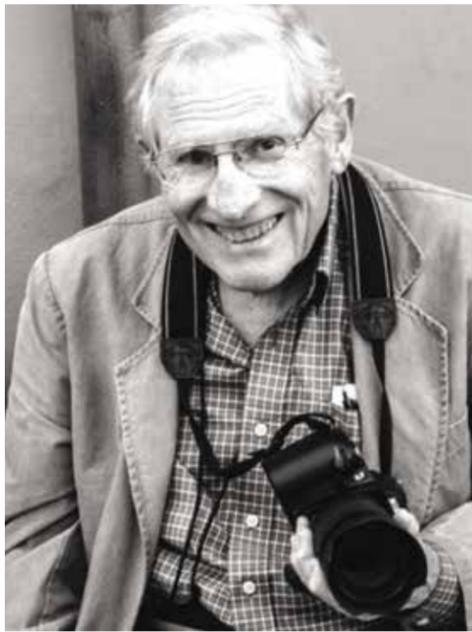
June 6, 1933 - October 16, 2018

Hans Rilling, a research scientist, professor of biochemistry, and former board member of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, has died in Orleans, Massachusetts. He was 85 years old.

Hans and I became friends after he retired from 35 years of teaching at the University of Utah and moved to Ruch, Oregon, with his wife, Alison Baker. As lead organizers in making plans to improve Rogue Valley libraries and the environment in the Applegate, the two of them contributed greatly to the community in the few years they spent here.

Hans and Alison led the campaign to build 14 public libraries throughout Jackson County. As a result, the towns of Applegate and Ruch each has its own beautiful library.

As an active board member of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, Hans was instrumental in designing a water-quality monitoring program in the Applegate River Watershed, which became a model for a state-sponsored program. Hans was a frequent advocate for the environment and loved the beauty and naturalness of the Applegate. As a mentor, he offered insight and encouragement to the younger scientists and managers of the Watershed Council.



Hans attended countless meetings and field trips, always bringing with him his gentle humor and friendliness. He gave himself fully to the betterment of others and to the environment, and he finished whatever he started. As a lifelong environmentalist, teacher, and leader in the effort to gain clean water for the streams in the Applegate, he deserves our deep gratitude. His devotion to getting more people involved in a project so that he could move on to another project was outstanding. He and his wife, Alison, remain an inspiration for us all.

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988



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*Happy Holidays from
the Board of Directors*

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Must know Excel and be able to meet deadlines.

Email resume to gater@applegater.org.

Maslow's Fifth Annual Smoked Salmon Fest wrap-up

BY PAUL TIPTON

This year's Southern Oregon Smoked Salmon Fest, a benefit for the Maslow Project, featured eight contestants. As usual, a wide variety of ingredients and techniques went into creating the savory end products. I didn't participate this year so I could sample other people's offerings, which is difficult to do as a contestant. It was a rewarding experience tasting what other smoke chefs had prepared.

About 500 people turned out to taste the smoked salmon, enjoy a drink, and listen to the music or browse through the numerous vendors and nonprofit tables on a pleasant afternoon in September.

First-time contestants, Don Drager and Mary O'Brien, both of Central Point, walked away with first and second places, respectively, in the judged competition. With smirks on their faces they revealed that they sourced their salmon from Albertson's. (Many of the competitors are purists like me who use only self-caught fish.) Drager's winning entry was wet-brined and included some maple syrup in the recipe, while O'Brien's was dry-brined and had a fruity flavor from the basting.

Prior to the award ceremony, I had chosen O'Brien as the winner because of a unique flavor that I picked up in her salmon. After talking to her and determining that our methods and recipes didn't differ that much, I believe that her unique flavor came from the madrone used to smoke her winning entry (also used for Drager's salmon). Many people, myself included, primarily use alder for smoking fish, although some use fruit woods. I have smoked meats with both madrone and manzanita in the past with excellent results and would recommend that you home-smokers give

it a try if you haven't already. My next batch of smoked salmon will be done with madrone.

Third-place winner, Kiley Chisholm, also of the Central Point area, credited her success to the pineapple-apricot basting that she applied throughout the smoking process. It did provide a very nice background flavor. And then there's the People's Choice award winner, for the second year in a row, Mike Gervais, from the Upper Applegate. (He also won first place in 2016.) Mike is very particular about the handling of his fish. After catching it, he follows standard procedure by bleeding it, then immediately putting it on ice, but he never freezes it. He only keeps it on ice or refrigerated. Even after the brining and eight to ten hours of alder-wood smoking, it goes back into the refrigerator. But you know it's worth the effort once you taste it—excellent! Kudos to all of this year's winners.

This year's event brought in about \$29,000 to benefit the Maslow Project, which serves homeless and needy youth in Jackson and Josephine counties by providing a variety of services, such as access to clothing, meals, and hygiene supplies; counseling; family advocacy; and positive youth development with life skills workshops, a drop-in art studio, job readiness tutoring, and more. To learn more and find out how you can support this important local nonprofit, go to maslowproject.com.

And next year come out and get some tastes of great smoked salmon or enter your own—whether wild-caught or store-bought.

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Women's March in 2019

Last year many women from Applegate Valley—and their spouses, children, family, and friends—participated in the Women's March. This annual event is a safe, fun, and joyful space to raise our voices and share our visions. Women's March 2019 will happen at 11 am on Saturday, January 19, at Hawthorne Park in Medford and at Riverside Park in Grants Pass. You can keep up-to-date at rogueindivisible.org and engage with other Applegate marchers on Facebook—search for "Women's March Southern Oregon."

Thousands participated in the inaugural 2017 Women's Marches in Ashland and Grants Pass, with similarly high turnout in 2018. Event organizers expect even more enthusiasm next year.

Time to pull out those pink hats! See you on January 19!

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The arts are thriving in the schools of the Applegate Valley.

■ ARTS IN SCHOOLS

Continued from page 1

elements of art—line, space, shape, value, form, texture, and color—and unleash their creativity using a variety of materials. Linda is currently collecting 33-1/3 LPs for a planned art project. If you have old, scratched records to donate, contact Linda through the Applegate School office at 541-846-6280.

Two upcoming projects will have students working with guest artists. Felt artist Corbin Brashear is scheduled to work with all students at both Applegate and Williams schools. And Applegate students will once again work with muralist Jeremy Criswell, as the school's tree mural depicting Applegate life is about to grow. The next phase of the mural will feature the river, made with students' painted ceramic tiles, flowing away from the tree and around the corner of the building.

Art education at Ruch Outdoor Community School is a model of a rich, comprehensive art program. Backed with long-standing, unparalleled community support, the students at Ruch participate in all sorts of artistic endeavors.

Art teacher Cheryl Whitney includes instruction on the elements of art and design using a wide array of materials, as well as an exploration of genres and styles. In Cheryl's classroom, a basketful of greenware (unfired) salmon will soon be glazed by sixth graders. Once fired, the finished ceramic salmon will be installed outdoors, "swimming" up the sidewalk railing just outside the art room. Students in all grades learn about art history, traditions, and influential artists.

Ruch principal, Julie Barry, explained that every grade level has scheduled "art days" and a "minimum of 60 minutes

each week" with the visual arts. Grades six through eight have an art elective every Friday. Ruch students also are offered music instruction, band, and orchestra for grades five through eight, and vocal music for kindergarten through grade five. On Fridays in January, sixth through eighth graders will receive additional lessons on playing keyboards and guitars.

Hidden Valley High School's (HVHS) art teacher, Ben Bickle, challenges his students to "generate new and original things" through their art and gives his students many and varied opportunities to flex their creative muscles, both individually and collaboratively.

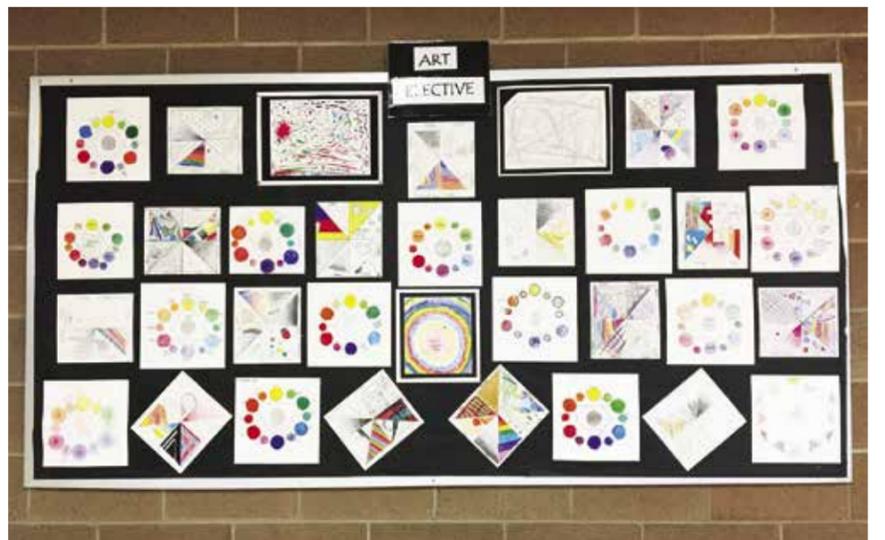
Other past and current projects include a poster contest sponsored by the Oregon Caves National Monument. In October, 20 HVHS art students collaborated to turn a section of H Street in Grants Pass into a beautiful and complex chalk mural for Art Along the Rogue. During the school year, students will repeatedly "create something new and unique," and, in April 2019, some of their art pieces will be featured in Southern Oregon University's Best of the Best Art Show (now in its fourth decade) for high school art students.

Administrators and teachers acknowledge the constraints and challenges of building time into the school day for arts education while satisfying the state's required core curriculum. Yet, as Jessica Durrant, director of elementary curriculum for Three Rivers School District, notes, the arts are thriving in the schools of the Applegate Valley because of excellent "building-level decisions and plans" and the support of our art-loving communities.

Lisa E. Baldwin
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Greenware salmon are awaiting glaze at Ruch School.



The Art Elective board at Applegate School is filled with students' artistic interpretations.

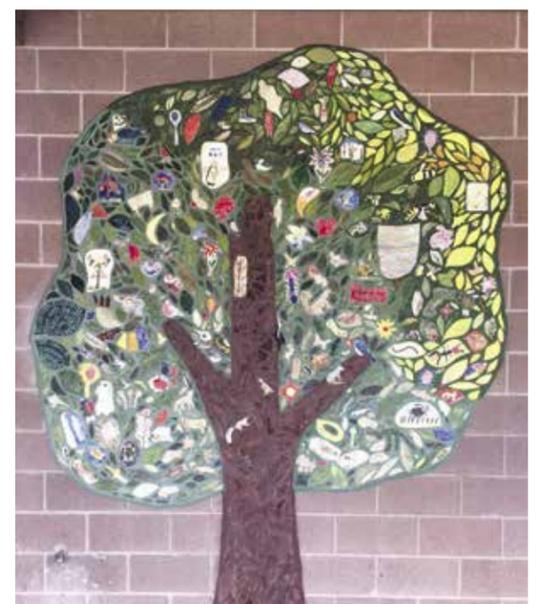
Photos by Lisa Baldwin
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Fourth-grade artists at work in Cheryl Whitney's classroom at Ruch School.



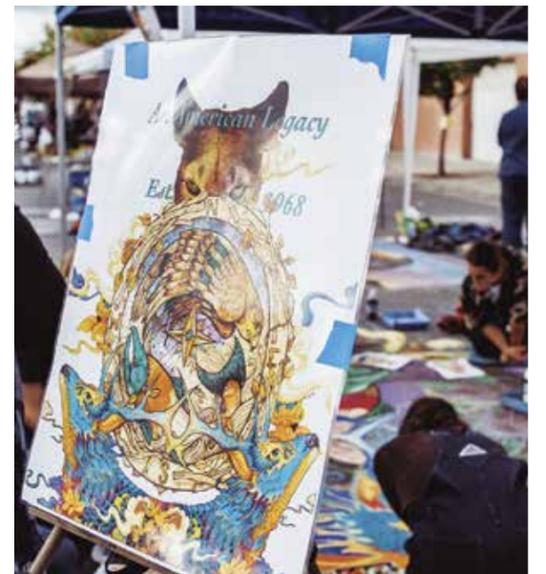
Zentangle candlestick by Caleb Teel, a seventh grader at Lincoln Savage.



Applegate School students will soon paint tiles to create a river flowing away from their tree mural. Photo: Courtney Zimmerman, Carrying Wonder Photography.



HVHS art students celebrated the life of Robin Williams at the 2017 Art Along the Rogue. Photo: Ben Bickle.



The mural created by HVHS art students at the 2018 Art Along the Rogue celebrated 50 years of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, signed into law by President Johnson in 1968. Photo above: Mikell Nielsen. Photo left: Ben Bickle.

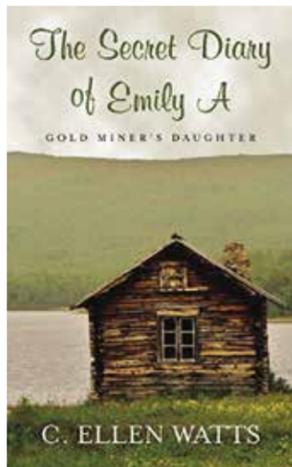
BOOK REVIEW

The Secret Diary of Emily A

C. Ellen Watts (2017)

C. Ellen Watts of Nampa, Idaho, has published her mother's story under the title, *The Secret Diary of Emily A: Gold Miner's Daughter*. Although Watts changed a few names, this book is a true capsule of pioneer life in Oregon.

The book begins in 1903 when Grandmother Lee gave ten-year-old Uvena "Emily" Arnold a notebook for writing down things she wanted to remember. Emily chronicles matter-of-factly her life and family relations while growing up in Oregon in the Jacksonville area: Squaw Lakes, Elliot Creek, French Gulch, Watkins School, Jacksonville, and later the Table Rock area. The diary covers a seven-year period of Emily's life and ends in 1910.



Emily's father often spent time away from home while he mined for gold on Elliot Creek, copper at the Blue Ledge Mine, etc. Emily helped her mother raise her siblings and care for the household—a big job in those days with no electricity, running water, refrigeration, or highways and cars. She clearly describes the severe challenges pioneers overcame in order to survive.

Although Emily's mother taught her children at home, Emily longed to go to school, as she valued reading and education. She cherished her loving parents and appreciated the simple joys of special events and treats but longed for broader horizons. The lessons she learned from her mother and books allowed her to dream and prepare for opportunities and experiences awaiting her.

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POETRY CORNER

Gift of the Magus

by John Sack

cyberscribe2@gmail.com

Eckhart sat cross-legged
on a blanket in the snow—
"Homeless. Need help." scrawled on
cardboard propped
beneath a storefront window where
robotic elves
feigned labor in a Disney sweatshop,
while over his head the speakers brayed
of angels they had heard on high.

I took him to a diner where the waitress,
miffed at working Christmas,
brought him chowder and a side of bread.
"Thank you for your gift of gold," he said.

Then with starry eyes afire
he spoke of the new infant
swaddled in the manger once again,
of shepherds kneeling and the cattles' low,

"All to no point, you know, if he's not born in *you*,
in you to daily grow.

"Seek him with the wise men, friend.
Pay him homage in the secret cave.
Give him your Body with its wealth,
the incense of your Mind,
and myrrh, the balm of ever-suffering Souls.

"Home is where we start and where we end,"
he sighed with a slight smile,
"And heart is where the home is."

My homeless heart burned at his words and
snowdrifts banked around my vacant stable
wanted so to melt in floods of recognition.

While through the silent night the wing-whirs
whispered
"Gloria in excelsis Deo."

Essay **Stories from South Africa**

BY MARGARET PERROW DELLA SANTINA

Kgomotso and I sat on upturned plastic crates in the concrete yard outside his mother's house in Soweto, South Africa. Squinting into the thin winter sunlight, Kgomotso thought back to the 1980s and '90s: "There was the struggle, and the elections. But did we or didn't we achieve freedom?"

It was August 2018. I met Kgomotso 20 years ago in 1998, four years after the first democratic elections in South Africa. He'd joined an employment-skills project in a youth-development organization where I was doing research. In 2018 I returned to South Africa for four months of follow-up research, spending time with Kgomotso and others who were part of that 1998 project.

Now in their 40s, they have experienced some changes in the past two decades: most are employed, two have bought their own homes, they all live on paved streets, most have indoor toilets, some have built additions to their four-room houses. But they are all disappointed that change has come slowly, that they still struggle to make ends meet and support their children, that their lives are not as different as they'd hoped.

Twenty-four years after its first democratic elections, South Africa remains a severely inequitable country that is plagued by racialized poverty, crime, and unemployment. Yet stories of ordinary South Africans, neither destitute nor part of the new black elite, remain largely hidden. My friends from Soweto welcomed me into their homes, neighborhoods, and churches to tell me some of those humbling and inspiring stories.

But traveling and living in other countries also reveal one's *own* story. I am the daughter of a white English-speaking man who left South Africa in 1951. My privilege today owes much to the wrongs done to black people in South Africa.

So this journey was also an attempt to find my own South Africa, one that might somehow forgive me, my father, my ancestors—including my grandfather, one Captain Perrow. In the early 1900s he wrote a newspaper article about his solo trip by motorcar from Cape Town to Johannesburg. In this charming but somewhat self-congratulatory account, he complained about "the number of gates encountered" that made his journey challenging.

Of course, we all encounter "gates" along our journeys, but challenge is relative to privilege.

I have tacitly blamed my father for not being critical of apartheid, but this is an unfair blame afforded by hindsight. After his mother died when he was eight, he was sent to boarding school in then-Rhodesia, where he would have been given no tools to critique the legacy of colonialism. Later at the University of Cape Town, his white privilege would have seemed unproblematic. He could



Top photo: Margaret with some Soweto friends.

Bottom photo: Kgomotso and his mother—with a jar of Applegate River blackberry jam.

bury himself in his studies and emerge with an engineering scholarship to the UK, unaware of the full impact of apartheid. The black-empowerment movement and the anti-apartheid struggle were still far off in the future when he left South Africa in 1951—it would be my cousins, children of my generation, who became African National Congress members and activists in the 1960s and '70s.

I knew my father as quiet, brilliant, and reserved—a man who engaged reluctantly with politics or social issues. He died in 1982. He didn't live to see Mandela's release from prison, South Africa's 1994 transition to democracy... or my 2002 Soweto wedding.

Today, I nurture relationships in South Africa that span decades and races. I try to forgive my father for what he didn't see, know, or do. I want to create a different reality. This quest is partly hopeful, partly impossible. I am constantly reminded of privileges that correlate with my skin color and native language.

But what feels like the greatest privilege, one my father would have found unfamiliar and curious, is the love and caring of my black township friends and *mamkhulus* (grannies) who make me feel like a *whole* person, not merely a *white* person, when I'm in Soweto. I like to think my dad would have seen his South Africa differently, through mine.

Kgomotso is one of those friends; so is Siphso. Their mothers are some of those *mamkhulus*. Siphso recently married after securing the approval of his long-dead ancestors through traditional rituals and ceremonies. There are times I wish I could communicate with my ancestors directly, the way Siphso does with his. Maybe together, as they watch our friendships unfolding, our ancestors can lend support to real social change.

Margaret Perrow della Santina
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See more photos and track the journey on Facebook ([margaret.perrow](https://www.facebook.com/margaret.perrow)).

~ FINE PRINT ~
WHO WE ARE

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 Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., provides the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Watershed with a communications vehicle, the *Applegater* newsmagazine, free of charge to all watershed residents. Our quarterly paper presents constructive, relevant, educational, and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects such as:

- natural resources
- ecology and other science information
- historical and current events
- community news and opinions

AVCN encourages and publishes differing viewpoints and, through the *Applegater* newsmagazine, acts as a clearinghouse for this diverse community. We are dedicated to working together with community members to maintain and enhance the quality of life that is unique to the Applegate Watershed.

Acknowledgements

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Letters to the editor must be 450 words or less. Opinion pieces and articles cannot exceed 700 words. Obituaries are limited to 500 words and one photo.

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

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

All submissions for the next issue must be received at gater@applegater.org by the deadline (see Editorial Calendar).

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We know this works! The *Applegater* found a proofreader for this issue (and she's good!).

Questions? Please email applegateconnect@gmail.com.

Masthead photo credit

Thanks to **Linda Kappen** for the winter photo of the moon from her property in the Applegate.

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ISSUE	DEADLINE
SPRING (March - May)....	February 1
Commerce-Community	
SUMMER (June - Aug)....	May 1
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**For more information, contact:
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Next deadline: February 1

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Jackson County Library Services

— Applegate Library —

A big thank-you to all those who participated in the first annual Applegate-Ruch “How-to” Festival! Well over 60 attendees enjoyed stories, demonstrations, and displays about surfing, genealogy, horse care, miniatures, yarn spinning, and more! It was a big success, and we look forward to hosting this event next year. Please let us know what hobbies or passions you would like to share for next year’s festival!

Upcoming events

Join us for the First Friday of the Month Craft event featuring a seasonal craft and light refreshments: December 7, January 4, and February 1 from 4 - 5:30 pm in our Community Room.

And, on two Saturdays, January 12 and January 26, join us to make slime of all sorts—jiggly, glittery, smelly, or yummy—in our community room.

We will be hosting the Applegate History Series on February 12 and February 26 from 4 - 6 pm. Join us to see local memorabilia and hear presenters share information about the lovely Applegate Valley.

Ongoing events

Meet with a Veterans Service Officer (VSO), an accredited representative for counsel and assistance in obtaining veterans’ benefits, on the first Wednesday of every month: December 5, January 2, and February 6, from 11 am - 2 pm.

Tech Services: Did you get a new device? Every Tuesday from 2 - 4:30

pm, Bret, our tech expert from Digital Services, is here to answer your tech questions or help with Hoopla (access to movies, e-books, etc.) and Library2Go (other online options). Make an appointment or show up—first come, first served. For an appointment, email Bret at bfearrien@jcls.org.

Community drumming is held on the third Friday of the month. Join us for drumming to create one voice, one community. No experience is necessary, but bring your drums or rattles if you have them.

Storytime is every Saturday morning at 10:30. Enjoy stories and a hands-on craft afterward.

Check out our Orion telescope for your own night viewing. It is available for up to two weeks for any library card holder in good standing.

Reminder: The Applegate Library has hot spots, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines, Wi-Fi, books, and more! Drop in and enjoy our many services. Your Jackson County Library Services card opens up this world of treasures—and the card is free!

Applegate Library is located at 18485 North Applegate Road in Applegate and is open Tuesday and Friday from 2 - 6 pm and Wednesday and Saturday from 10 am - 2 pm.

For more information, contact Christine Grubb, branch manager, at 541-846-7346 or cgrubb@jcls.org.

— Ruch Library —

The First Annual How-To Festival in September was a roaring success, with 64 adults and 77 children participating in 21 classes taught by Applegate residents. What an excellent community-building event! This is a heads-up that I may be knocking on your door in the near future asking you what you can teach next year!

Please join us in December to ring in winter. We have several community activities on Saturdays that are fun for all ages. Bring the whole family!

Hanukkah Crafts. Saturday, December 1, 1 - 3 pm. Handprints and painting and jewels, oh my!

Friends of Ruch Library Holiday Book Sale. Saturday, December 1, 11 am - 4 pm; Tuesday, December 4, 10 am - 5 pm; and Thursday, December 6, 1 - 7 pm.

\$5 Bag Sale. Saturday, December 1, 12 - 4 pm (and the first Saturday of each month). In the Book Barn next to the A-Frame Bookstore.

Make origami trees and gift boxes and triskele paper globes to hang on your tree. Saturday, December 15, 1 - 3 pm. Plus paper, pens, and stickers for the very young.

Cookie Decoration. Saturday, December 22, 1 - 3 pm. Gingerbread and sugar cookie people, icing, and sprinkles galore. Fun for all and tasty too!

Oregon’s 160th Birthday. In February 2019 we are going to celebrate all month with a history program, activities, games, scavenger hunts, and more! On Statehood Day, February 14, we will have Valentine cookies to cover both holidays.

History of the Applegate Valley and the Buckley Family. Saturday, February 23, 2 - 4 pm. Mary Buckley Mikkelsen is the great-granddaughter of James Buckley, who arrived in the Applegate in 1854. She will show photos, documents, and paintings of the Applegate Valley and the Buckley family and encourages others to bring their own local history stories to share.

Ruch Library is located at 7919 Highway 238 in Jacksonville (Ruch) and is open Tuesdays from 10 am - 5 pm, Thursdays from 1 - 7 pm, and Saturdays from 11 am - 4 pm. For more information, contact branch manager Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-7438 or ttruesdell@jcls.org.

Josephine Community Library

— Josephine Community Libraries —

Weekly storytime at the library

Families are invited to the Williams branch of the Josephine Community Library District every Friday for storytime and a craft from 2:30 - 3:30 pm.

Williams branch is located at 20695 Williams Highway in Williams and is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 1 - 6 pm and Fridays from 11 am - 4 pm. For more information, call 541-846-7020.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

The four Rotary clubs in Josephine County have teamed up with Josephine Community Library District and Josephine County Library Foundation to bring the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to families in our community.

Through Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, every child in Josephine County is qualified to receive a book by mail each month, at no cost to the families, from birth to his or her fifth birthday.

Children in Josephine County can register for free in one of two ways:

1. Stop by your nearest library branch in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams,

or Wolf Creek and fill out a paper registration form, or

2. Visit josephinelibrary.org and fill out the online registration form.

The first book every child receives is *The Little Engine That Could*, Dolly Parton’s favorite book. The message of the book is timeless—it encourages children to never give up, do their best, and stay positive no matter what.

This program is free—your only obligation is to notify the library in case of an address change.

Sponsors of this program include AllCare Health, Hart Insurance Agency, the Josephine County Library Foundation, Oregon Pacific Financial Advisors, Inc., the four Rotary clubs located in Josephine County, and Welch Investment Group, LLC.

For more information, contact partnership manager Rebecca Stoltz at the library at 541-476-0571 x 108 or rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org.

For more information about Josephine Community Libraries, contact Brandace Rojo at 541-476-0571 or email info@josephinelibrary.org.



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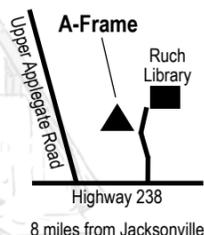
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NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

— A Greater Applegate —



Members of the new Applegate Valley Nonprofit Network held a productive meeting at Pacifica in early November to gain insight into the needs and future of local nonprofit organizations. Photo: Brooke Nuckles Gentekos.

Bringing value to our nonprofit organizations

I have discovered that a quest to understand the impact of the nonprofit organizations serving the Applegate Valley can be daunting.

One Sunday afternoon I tried to figure out how many nonprofits we have and how much money they raise for the good deeds they perform. I searched all nonprofits with a Grants Pass, Jacksonville, or Williams mailing address. Then I had to guess which ones from Grants Pass and Jacksonville are serving the Applegate Valley. Then I noticed that some of our more prominent nonprofit organizations have addresses in Medford or Ashland. Ultimately, I gave it up. A nonprofit serves the Applegate Valley if it says it does, and there's no way to know that without hearing from each directly.

Not the most wasteful Sunday I've ever spent, but still frustrating. I have an idea about the number and size of the nonprofits in our area, but not a clear enough one to say out loud. If only the nonprofits serving the Applegate would let us, A Greater Applegate (AGA), know who they are, what they do, what resources they have, and what more they need to improve the quality of life in the Applegate Valley.

Some of you readers are way ahead now and thinking, this guy needs a survey. And you're right, and we've got one. If you represent a nonprofit located in or serving the Applegate Valley, we want to hear from you. When you have 15 minutes to spare, go to gacdc.org and complete the survey.

Why does it matter?

In June, AGA launched the AGA Nonprofit Network, funded through a grant from The Ford Family Foundation, to promote community building and community-led action. About 40 people representing 24 organizations attended and agreed we can benefit each other and the greater Applegate by sharing what we do, what we know, and what we need.

A volunteer steering committee of 11 met on November 5 at Pacifica to answer some of these questions, but we need to hear from everyone. If we know how to reach you, we'll notify you of future gatherings planned for February and June. So that's the first thing: let us know

you're interested, and you will be invited. Let us know what you're interested in, and we'll work with you to try to make it happen.

Equally important, there's power in numbers, and we will have more influence with regional leaders and funders if we work together. We already know there are more than 24 nonprofit organizations in the Applegate, and the collective revenue and resources we bring to the Applegate might surprise you.

Perhaps what is most important is that we can learn together and from each other to the betterment of all. Organizations across the valley are stepping up to willingly support this effort and each other. What can happen if we pool resources? What can happen if we work together?

New tool

One example is a new tool on Applegate Valley Connect, the community website partnership of the *Applegater* and A Greater Applegate. Community-based organizations can now post their volunteer needs and contact information on the website, and the rest of us can browse to see where we want to join in. It's easy for the organizations and easy for people looking for volunteer opportunities for themselves or their families. Go to applegateconnect.org, click on Volunteer, and check it out.

Some ideas that AGA is considering: (1) An annual nonprofit day in June, where you can learn about the organizations working on our behalf and how you can contribute to those that interest you. (2) Training and outreach for new board members of nonprofits. (3) A local meet-the-funders event. (4) Lots of opportunity for fun and camaraderie. What would nonprofit organizations like to add?

If you want to be notified about AGA's Nonprofit Network activities, email us at agreaterapplegate@gmail.com. If you want to learn more about the AGA Nonprofit Network, email our committee chair, Megan Fehrman, at mefehrman@gmail.com. If you have comments or ideas about Applegate Valley Connect, contact Barbara Holiday at barbaraholiday.aga@gmail.com.

Seth Kaplan

Chair, A Greater Applegate
sethkaplanconsulting@gmail.com

— McKee Bridge Historical Society —

Pie and a movie at McKee Bridge

Volunteers scurrying around with tables and chairs and boxes of things, preparing for the McKee Bridge Historical Society's (MBHS) October event, might have thought it to be Halloween when a huge white ghost unfurled itself at the end of the bridge and shook around. But then the ghost became just a big white tarp, doubling as an impromptu movie screen for the showing of *A Canyon Passage*, a 1946 film presumably set in Jacksonville, Oregon, circa 1856. However, the most recognizable scenes included Mount Thielsen and Crater Lake and the surrounding Cascades area, as well as possibly Fort Klamath.

This classic western starred some well-known actors of the day, including Dana Andrews and Susan Hayward. "Old Buttermilk Sky," a song by Hoagy Carmichael and Jack Brooks, was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Song.

The film is based on a novel by Portland-born Ernest Haycox that was serialized in the *Saturday Evening Post*. I'll bet that a number of readers remember eagerly waiting for the next *Saturday Evening Post* to arrive in the mail, but only long-time Applegater and McKee Bridge supporter Jan Wilt remembered all the actors in the film!

But I did mention pie and boxes of things. They weren't all pies, but 12 exquisite desserts created by local volunteer bakers—some beautiful pies, but also elaborate cakes and brownies—

were silently auctioned off to those attending the movie. Winning bids were revealed after the movie, so no one got to eat pie then, but popcorn and warm drinks were provided by MBHS board members and volunteers.

If you're wondering why you didn't know about this fun (and fortunately warm for a late October evening) event, it's probably because you haven't taken the time to become a member of MBHS yet or don't live in the Upper Applegate area that we've been targeting to increase our membership. Unfortunately, the number of people who remember the bridge in its heyday and have long supported it is dwindling, so it's up to the next generations to help preserve our local history.

Individual or family memberships cost the same—a moderate \$20 per year, which supports our nonprofit organization so that we can maintain the bridge for public use and promote its history and the history of the Upper Applegate area. To get in on the fun and support local history, contact me at mckeebridge1917@gmail.com or 541-846-7501, or address regular mail to MBHS, PO Box 854, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

McKee Bridge t-shirts make great holiday gifts and are now available at a reduced price of only \$12 at the Ruch Country Store. Two colors, all sizes, while they last. Get yours soon.

Paul Tipton
Chair, MBHS

mckeebridge1917@gmail.com

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Nonprofit organizations in the Applegate Valley are welcome to submit news and event information to the Applegater. Email gater@applegater.org.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

THE STARRY SIDE

Two nights—all the year's stars

BY GREELEY WELLS

If you were to stay awake all night long, you would see the stars for the season that you're in, and then in the morning sky you'd see next season's stars. And if, exactly half a year later, you again stayed up all night looking first at the evening sky and then the morning sky, you would see all the stars from the other two seasons. In other words, in only two nights you could see every star in our northern hemisphere's night sky! That's pretty magical: in just two nights you would experience all four seasons of stars.

Of course, you don't actually have to stay up all night. You can comfortably watch the winter sky one evening, then

go to bed setting your alarm for 4 or 5 am. When you get up before dawn, all of the spring season's stars will be laid out for you. Dawn will then treat you to a wonderful sunrise. Bring warm blankets, warm liquids, and comfortable leaning-back chairs.

Since my own personal discovery of this fascinating night sky, I've had such fun looking at it and studying it. I've tried to describe it and to show many, many people over the years what it is that so deeply impresses me and gives me such joy in those dark skies. This joy is the main thing for me. Of course, before TV and lighting, that sky *was* the night's entertainment. A repository of

stories and history and lore, the sky we look at every night connects us to our human ancestors and is reflected in our oldest literature.

Maybe it was some huge meteor or Halley's comet or some other incredible skyward happening that made the first human look up into the sky. I even imagine that the first upward look at that unknown sight might have begun humans' flirtation with language. Maybe our first words were an attempt to describe what we had just seen to someone who hadn't seen it! It must have been fascinating for people then, as it is today for those of us who spend some of our moments gazing up at that amazing starry sky.

What you will see in the sky

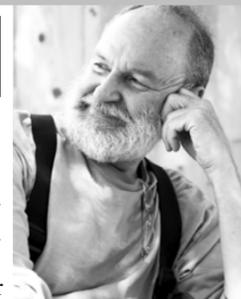
What will you see when you take your comfortable chair and warm blanket outside on winter evenings? The brightest star in the night sky is Sirius, the faithful dog star of the hunter, who rises in the east in late fall. Look in the dusty whitish spread of the Milky Way in

the northeast for the very bright star Capella, part of the five-sided constellation Auriga (the charioteer carrying kid goats), which takes the uppermost sky position in winter nights. Capella is not far from Cassiopeia, who is now high up over the north star, Polaris. Cassiopeia is centrally located in the Milky Way, as it now goes mostly east-west.

In spring, the Big Dipper and Leo the Lion dominate the sky; in summer, the Summer Triangle comes up from the east, eventually dominating the sky. The Milky Way, which was basically oriented north-south in summer and fall, slowly turns to an east-west orientation in winter. Orion, with his three-in-a-row belt, is the emblem of the winter sky (just as the Summer Triangle is the emblem of the summer sky).

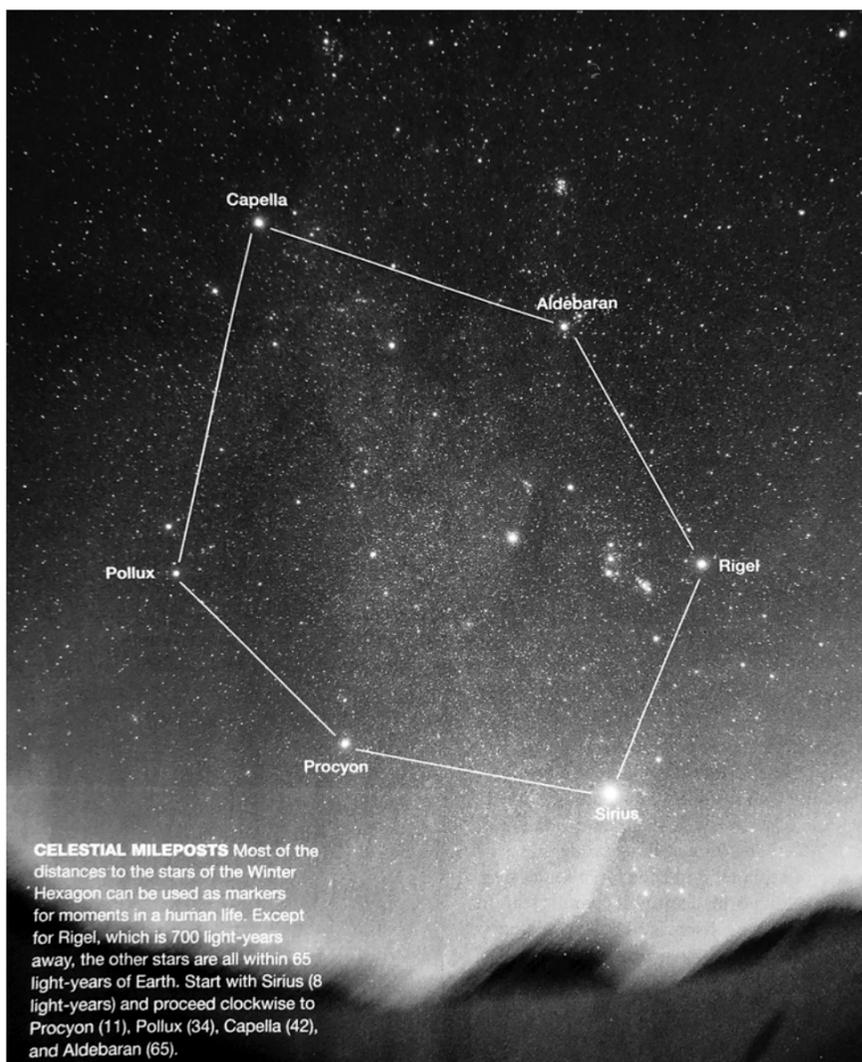
Glorious clear skies and bright stars for you!

Greeley Wells
greeley@greeleyme.com



Greeley Wells

Photo: Sky & Telescope December 2018

**Greeley's Sky Calendar**

Venus comes up in the dawn in December and throughout the season. She'll be at her highest above the horizon on January 6, slowly descending after that.

Jupiter also rises in the dawn in December, working his way above the horizon as the season goes on. Venus and Jupiter have a 2.4-degree conjunction on January 22. A degree is about a thumb's width (held at arm's length), so they're pretty close together!

Mars works his way west towards the sunset all season, getting lower and lower and dimmer and dimmer.

Saturn also falls into the sunset in December and won't rise in the dawn till February.

Mercury, the hard-to-find-and-see planet, is in the dawn in December; he then disappears and shows up in the dusk on February 27, when he's at his highest above the horizon.

Geminids meteor shower will peak the night of December 13 - 14; best viewing is after midnight, as there's no moon.

Winter solstice is December 21, the first day of winter.

The Quadrantid meteor shower peaks on the night of January 3. A crescent moon will not interfere with viewing.

A total lunar eclipse comes to the US on January 20 - 21 (the full moon is January 21). The eclipse will be visible to us in the Applegate on the night of January 20; the "total" phase will occur between 8:40 and 9:40 pm. During the eclipse, the moon turns blood red in the night sky due to sunlight filtering through the earth's atmosphere. For more information, go to timeanddate.com/eclipse/lunar/2019-january-21.

•••BIZBITS•••

PenniesWorth Acres Nursery is family operated and owned by Jedediah Jester and Christin Bryk, offering a wide selection of trees, landscape shrubs, and ground covers. For the holiday season, potted conifers suitable for living Christmas trees are available, as well as holiday candles and other gifts at the farm stand. PenniesWorth Acres is open to contractors and the general public Monday through Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm. Winter hours (December 23 - February 17) are Monday through Friday, 8 am - 5 pm. Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. 7016 New Hope Road, Murphy • 541-761-1908 • info@penniesworthacres.com.

Pennington Farms is anticipating a busy holiday season and encourages customers to preorder holiday pies and baked goods. Their jams make delicious gifts, and bundles of rose hips (currently available) add a touch of nature's beauty to the holiday decor. Stop by the farm store and country bakery at 11341 Williams Highway, between Murphy and Provolt. Open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. 541-846-0550 • penningtonfarms.net.

Wilderville Store, on the banks of Slate Creek, is still the busy community hub it has been since 1921. The old-fashioned country store and historic post office strives to provide a "one-stop shopping experience," offering all the staples of a convenience store, as well as out-of-the-ordinary items like notary services and American Carports. They also sell gas, diesel, and propane. Owner Laura Avants likes making the store a community gathering place and hosts a summer concert series, Trunk or Treat for Halloween, and a Christmas Caroling Hay Ride in December, sponsored by Dinsdale Farms. When the carolers return from the ride, Santa will be at the store waiting to visit with the children. Store hours are 7 am - 8 pm Monday through Saturday and 8 am - 8 pm Sunday. 7845 Old Redwood Highway, Wilderville • 541-476-3924.

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

Happy Holidays

DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Intuitive gardening

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

My uncle Abe taught me to never plant anything I did not like to eat or buy a tree just because it was on sale. But it was my grandma Olga who intuitively understood my garden plants. I could trust her to walk through my garden and not step on a lovely flower and then call it a weed.

Here is a wee example of intuitive gardening. A good friend was given a heap load of “deadish” outdoor plants. Well, most gardeners would have sorted through the good, the bad, and the dead, but my friend’s intuition told her not to waste her time sorting. Instead, she just toed them all into a healthy, empty garden bed, fed them a little fish fertilizer, and watched them grow over the winter. The survival of the fittest would determine the winners. That was good intuition.

Garden intuition comes partially from books or mentors, partially from observation, and partially just from the willingness to try and even fail. Failure is okay! Failure is the way we learn about almost anything, even friends. We believe we have a wonderful new friendship growing, and it turns out to be, ugh, a weed. Two choices here: pull out the weed or find some beauty in it that you can live with. If neither works, move on to the next creative endeavor.

An intuitive gardener looks around to see what is growing and how things grow. Nature does not grow in straight rows like a cornfield. Nature does not grow the tall things in the back “row,” the mid-size things in the middle “row,” or the short and stalky things (like me) placed up close and personal in the

front “row.” Observe a forest, a meadow, an old homesite. It is not textbook organized. Nature plants things where they grow best. For example, nature wouldn’t plant an apple tree that might get 50 feet tall under the eaves of a house. Likewise, the intuitive gardener plants an apple tree far away, in the orchard. That is good intuition or just plain smart observation.

Gardening intuition means you respect a plant’s preferences. Say you have a plant that needs to wear sunglasses and a hat when in the sun. *But* you do not have a shady place for it, and it’s one of your favorite plants. Use your intuition. What would you do if you wanted to get out of the sun? Maybe tuck yourself under a big bush, hide under a fern, or better yet, make a wonderful garden statement

by setting out an umbrella and creating a nice shady place to relax out of the bright sun. Goodness, I have done that with my succulents so they would not sunburn, as I have seen happen. I placed them under “statement” umbrellas.

Intuitively, for me, a “resting” spot in my garden is an absolute necessity. This can be an old hollow tree trunk, a bench, just the earth under a large tree, or a few chairs tucked into wherever you feel comfortable. Here is one of my favorite, albeit silly and weird, resting places: a few bales of hay in my chicken coop. Yes, way weird, but I do so love the silly antics of the mixed flock of chickens, ducks, turkeys, and geese. They peck around me, jump up on the hay bale, and usually want to know what’s in my evening wine glass. Peck, peck, peck.

Perhaps, in a very few words, intuitive gardening is based on what makes both you and your plants feel comfortable. If you are unhappy burning in the hot sun, chances are your plants will be unhappy in the same situation. If you are shy and like little hidey holes, I’ll bet some of your plants feel the same way. Follow your nature-based intuition, not a lecture you just heard or a book you read. A dear friend recently said, “If you step on the ground and are barefoot, you will understand what the earth wants.” That is real intuition.

Trust your intuition. It’s your soul talking to you. —Tony Kelbrat, *The Natural Order of the Universe*

Sioux Rogers • 541-890-9876
dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm

An intuitive idea: Get sprawlers like squashes, melons, and cucumbers above the ground; grow your shade plants underneath.



An “intuitive” resting spot in the author’s garden where she hangs out with a glass of wine and her turkeys and other birds.



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Park projects updates

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Many of you have asked about the Jackson County Parks Parking Permit. It's time to be thinking about it because Annual Parking Permits are available now for \$30 and are valid January through December. You can save \$5, though, if you purchase an annual permit in December for \$25. Partial year permits are not an option.

The parking permit is good for all 35 parks in the county and includes all passengers in a permitted vehicle.

Permits can be purchased locally at Ruch Country Store and at many locations in Medford and Central Point. For more information, call the Jackson County Parks office at 541-774-8183 or visit jacksoncounty.org/parks/General/Permits/Annual-Parking-Permit.

Park enhancements updates

Solar Education Project. A team of volunteers from the Park Enhancement Committee (PEC) has been working with landscape contractor Francisco Contreras to construct a large sundial and insert the artistic components made by local artist Jeremy Criswell. This project was supported by generous grants from the Carpenter Foundation, The Oregon Community Foundation, and private donors.

The sundial is located next to the 55-panel Solar Array that was completed in September by True South-SunPower Elite and Jackson County Parks through a Blue Sky Grant. You can see the array to your left soon after you enter the park, up on a terrace near the Vegetative Submersible Bed. By the end of 2018,

the entire display area and groundwork will be completed and ready for use by school groups and other visitors.

New pollinator plantings. In several areas of the park, you will see some new landscaping with a focus on native, pollinator, and drought-tolerant plant varieties. Drought conditions have been very hard on the plants and shrubs and even our large trees within the park, as well as our local region. We have been removing invasive species and pruning dead branches in preparation for replanting in the park when there is enough moisture.

So you will see gradual changes throughout the rest of fall and into winter as conditions get better for transplant success. The first rains were a start, but we need more moisture in the soil to keep the transplanted roots from dehydrating.

Students from local schools, community volunteers, and local groups help out a lot. If you are interested in being involved, please contact me. If you have expressed an interest on a survey or sign-up sheet, we will be contacting you when the conditions are right—so think rain!

Sculpture Art in the Park. Cheryl D. Garcia, our local sculpture artist, is hard at work on the first sculpture, which will be installed in the lower area of the park near the children's playscape toward the end of the year. It will be a wonderful greeting to a new year with the beautiful white blossoms of the 12-foot high Mock Orange sculpture.

To all of the wonderful park volunteers, thank you for the help you have provided this year with various projects in the park. As a community, we are committed to taking care of our park and the natural resources around us. There is so much passion and caring, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to work side by side with each of you. I get many compliments from Jackson County Parks staff, who think this is an outstanding park because of community involvement. Give yourselves a pat on the back, and accept a tremendous thanks from all of the PEC members.

Happy holidays to all, and see you in the park!

Janis Mohr-Tipton
PEC Chair
janis.agapark@gmail.com
541-846-7501



Contractor Francisco Contreras lays the sundial pavers, while his employee Jose assists.



The raw steel Mock Orange blossom sculpture being created by metal sculptor Cheryl Garcia will be painted before it's installed in the park.

Friends of Cantrall Buckley Park at work again

BY CATHY RODGERS



Friends of Cantrall Buckley Park gathered on a beautiful fall morning on September 29 for its third in a series of SOLVE (Stop Oregon Littering and Vandalism) riverside cleanup activities. Coordinated by A Greater Applegate's (AGA) Park Enhancement Committee, 24 volunteers spent the morning pruning invasive blackberry vines, trimming dead and broken branches, removing invasive species, and picking up litter. The project was organized to help protect native plantings along the Applegate River and maintain the natural beauty of the park for all those who come to enjoy this jewel in the Applegate.

SOLVE is a statewide nonprofit organization, founded in 1969 by then Governor Tom McCall, that helps clean up litter and reduce the effects of vandalism. The organization coordinates activities each year that mobilize 30,000 volunteers across 1,000 different projects throughout Oregon.

Since its inception SOLVE has expanded to concentrate on environmental stewardship projects focused on cleaning up, protecting, and preserving the state's natural spaces, parks, beaches, and rivers. SOLVE activities include litter removal, native tree and shrub planting, and invasive species removal—activities that compliment many of the projects currently under way in Cantrall Buckley Park.

The cadre of Applegate Valley volunteers (under the leadership of Janis Mohr-Tipton, chair of the AGA's Cantrall Buckley Park Enhancement Committee) represented three different nonprofit organizations, including A Greater Applegate, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, and Rooted in Hope.

There were four mother-daughter teams, one three-generation team, and a father-son duo. The age of volunteers spanned from 4 to 75 years young. All volunteers showed up with energy and enthusiasm to donate a couple of hours of their morning to help protect and preserve the local park that we all enjoy so much.

Volunteers were assembled into four teams, provided with work gloves, clippers, rakes, shovels, buckets, and garbage bags, and assigned a designated cleanup zone. Educational information and posters were on hand, along with local environmental experts to help ensure everyone could recognize an invasive species for removal and native species for protection. An information briefing at the start ensured that everyone learned something new and met "new friends" of the park. About 12 cubic feet of invasive species, a garbage-can full of litter, and a healthy pile of dead limbs were all assembled for Jackson County Parks to remove.

The day's successful cleanup was finished with a wonderful tour of the recently completed solar installation, as well as the future solar education and sundial site. Additional events are being planned for students from our local schools that will help to prepare and plant native species and pollinator species to restore natural habitat inside the park entrance and around the playground and restroom area, where invasive species have crowded out the original habitat.

AGA's Park Enhancement Committee is always looking for volunteers to help with the park and student events. For more information, contact AGA Park Enhancement Committee chair, Janis Mohr-Tipton, at 541-846-7501.

Cathy Rodgers
cathyrodgers55@gmail.com

Top photo: Volunteers at the Cantrall Buckley Park SOLVE cleanup project stand behind the pile of invasive blackberry vines that were removed. From left to right: Katie Emick, Sonia Prisciatic, Tommy Prisciatic, Tom Prisciatic, Cathy Rodgers, Tom Klein, Katrina, Barb Mumblo, Janis Mohr-Tipton, Hadley Dunlevy, Janelle Dunlevy, and Scott Willi. Bottom photo: Serafina, age 5, drew a picture of the volunteers collecting litter and showing how pretty the park is. Photos: Cathy Rodgers.

Partners in restoration throughout our watershed

BY JAKOB SHOCKEY

Last summer, while folks from the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) were dragging donated hazard-tree logs into a side channel of the Applegate River along Eastside Road, numerous reports of “illegal logging operation on the river” brought the police to us multiple times a day. This added to my morning’s to-do list—pack my hard hat, camera, lunch, and water, and call the Oregon State Police dispatch to let them know that when the complaints come in, it’s the APWC creating fish habitat. People just don’t expect to see loggers working to rehabilitate fish habitat. It’s a contradiction of stereotypes.

It’s been two years since I’ve provided an update on APWC’s restoration projects, and during that time we’ve been working to erode those contradictions. Here’s what we’ve been up to.

On Eastside Road. We partnered with landowner Jason Strauss to remove a clot of invasive reed canary grass from a side channel in order to open this area to high-flow refuge for juvenile salmonids and habitat for beavers and Western pond turtles. Hazard trees were donated through the landowner, the US Forest Service (USFS), and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. With funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and Mr. Strauss, Blue Ridge Timber Cutters harvested and placed these logs with their cable truck. Mr. Strauss spent hundreds of hours removing blackberry canes from

the surrounding riparian area. Volunteers from the Middle Rogue Steelheaders (MRS) and Southern Oregon Fly Fishers (SOFF) planted 175 native trees and shrubs at the site.

On Forest Creek. An old diversion structure blocked fish from moving upstream and caused erosion on the landowner’s nearby road. With funding support from OWEB, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Patagonia, Trout and Salmon Foundation, Resource Legacy Fund, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, and MRS, we constructed a bypass channel. Tommy Maddox of 4M Timber completed the work designed by engineer Joey Howard of Cascade Stream Solutions. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) donated hazard trees, and Evan Short of Southern Oregon Bokashi and Kyle Krenzer of Elevation Organics donated soil and amendments for riparian plantings.

In Provolt. We’ve continued our partnership with BLM, restoring riparian habitat along the Applegate River with funding from OWEB and Title II funds. We also partnered with BLM on Powell Creek, where long stretches of the stream were devoid of large woody debris. As logs fall into streams they jam up, create scour pools, deposit spawning gravels, and slow the streamflow upstream of the trees. Without these instream logs, many stretches of Upper Powell Creek had become long riffles or raceways that filled pools and left little fish



Volunteers on planting day at the Butcherknife Creek Project site.

habitat. Funding and collaboration with OWEB, ODFW, and BLM—led by the efforts of Jonas Parker—helped us install a second phase of the project, another 32 structures in 2017 and 2018. Additionally, we partnered with a private landowner downstream to remove an abandoned dam and collaborated with mining claimant William Powell to insure our log placements were mutually beneficial for fish habitat and gold-mining objectives.

On Palmer Creek. We worked with USFS fish biologist Steve Brazier and Blue Ridge Timber Cutters to remove an abandoned diversion dam and lace logs throughout the stream channel.

During firefighting operations on the Burnt Peak fire last summer, firefighters cut up many previously placed logs, which destabilized the fish habitat created by those logs. During the summer, we re-stabilized this situation before winter’s high water. Through our collaboration, we also removed small abandoned dams on Humbug and Jamison creeks. We thank the landowners, Barbara Summerhawk, Chris Bratt, and Joan Peterson, for their support.

Finally, just off Redwood Highway on Butcherknife Creek Road. We replaced a dilapidated, large corrugated metal culvert—deteriorated to the point that the bottom looked like a cheese grater—that had become a barrier for juvenile and adult salmon and a safety hazard for residents and emergency vehicles. During the summer of 2017, Timber Mountain Construction replaced this barrier with a concrete bridge, and in early 2018 the APWC and SOFF planted over 100 native plants there. This project received funding from local residents, the Pacific Power’s Blue Sky Habitat Fund, OWEB (through salmon license-plate funding), and Otium Organics. Our partners on this project included BLM, USFS, ODFW and SOFF.

If you have an idea for a potential project or would like to discuss strengthening the wildlife habitat on your land, please contact me by email or phone.

Jakob Shockey • 541-890-9989
 Restoration Program Manager
 Applegate Partnership &
 Watershed Council
 jakob@apwc.info

Before: Forest Creek Project at the Ruch Sawmill, in March 2018.



After: Forest Creek Project at the Ruch Sawmill, in October 2018.



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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

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They hooked a 40-foot trailer to a tractor; decorated it with lights, a canopy, and reindeer...

■ HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Continued from page 1

and eat food," she says. There are presents and stockings that are filled with "candy and stuff."

Nine-year-old Christopher Jordan of Murphy says his family of four (he and his brother, sister, and dad) decorate a tree and have dinner at home—he mentions cookies and cupcakes. "We make a scene with houses and snow and stuff," he says. What he likes best about the holidays is "all of it."

What Jason O'Day, who lives in Williams in a family of three, likes best is the "internal coziness at that time of year." His family begins the holiday on Winter Solstice by decorating a Solstice tree. The darkest day of the year, they tell their seven-year-old son, is a good day for contemplating what you'll do in the new year. Their celebration continues, with chocolates and gifts—"every day a little something"—until New Year's Day.

Jojo Mickey of Ruch also prefers a Solstice to a Christmas celebration. "Solstice happens for everyone," she says. "It's of the earth. There are no expectations." From three to twenty family members gather at her house or her sister's. They have an altar with

candles and greenery "to represent what we bring to the evening: mood energy, sun, light." They make bird feeders and have a solstice cake, which looks like the sun. After dinner, the children open presents ("minimal presents"); sometimes there is a bonfire. Ancestors are honored.

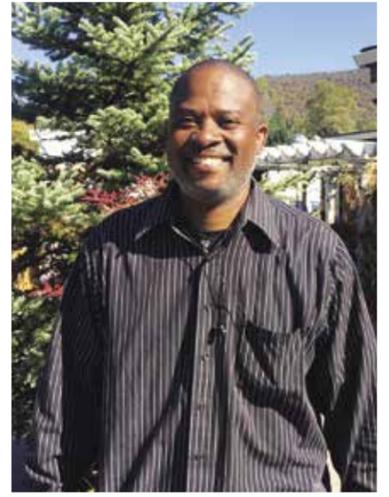
A tradition for Mel Canal, a former Applegater with a place on Humbug Creek, was to build a sukkah, "a free-standing structure like a grape arbor," he explained, "a way to celebrate harvest." Traditionally, the sukkah was used during the Jewish festival of Sukkoth.

Dave Bower of Applegate is in a new relationship, with his partner, Lee Anne. Gathering with her family and watching *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles* is a new tradition for him. "We sit around and laugh," Dave says, beaming at the thought.

When Michele Roach and her family moved to Thompson Creek Road in 2006, they heard about an old Thompson Creek Road tradition of a Christmas float. In December 2015, they decided to revive it, so they hooked a 40-foot trailer to a tractor; decorated it with lights, a canopy, and reindeer; and equipped it with a sound system, speakers, stand-up heaters, benches, and a large vat of hot



At Sylva Koppitz's "Murphy Christmas," even her dog Radar gets a stocking.



Dennis Franklin enjoys a big family Christmas.

chocolate. Then 25 to 30 people—the Roach family and neighbors—climbed aboard and took off down Thompson Creek Road, at five miles an hour, singing carols, headed for the Applegate Store.

Now they are in the third year of their Christmas float tradition. "It's tremendously popular," Michele says. "There's such a camaraderie of neighbors and friends who take part in this wonderfully fun event."

This year they will leave the Roach home, 2.7 miles up Thompson Creek Road, on Saturday, December 22, at dark. Keep the date in mind. You might want to add the singing trailer to your holiday traditions in the Applegate.

Diana Coogle
dicoog@gmail.com



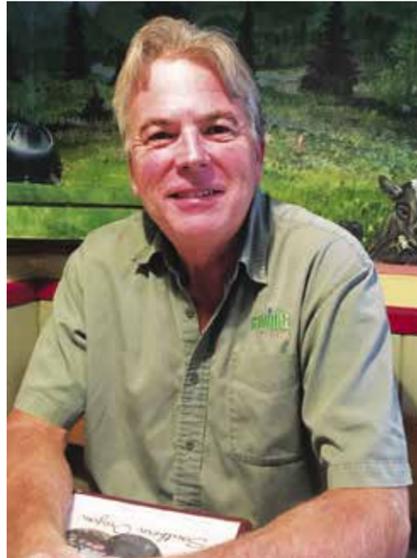
Juliet Dunn looks forward to stockings filled with goodies.

All individual photos by Diana Coogle. Nativity scene was provided by Susie Beckham; the Christmas float photo was provided by Michele Roach.

Susie Beckham, right, and one of her 50-plus nativity scenes (below).



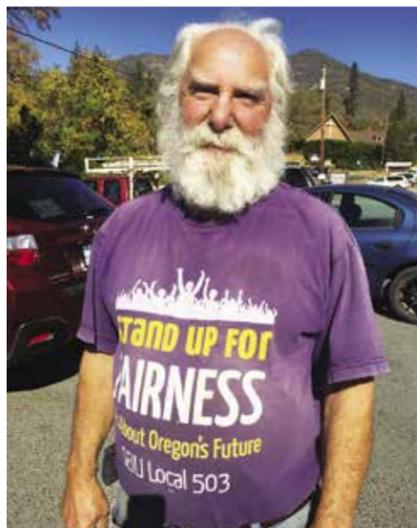
Christopher Jordan likes everything about Christmas.



Dave Bower is enjoying new holiday traditions.



Jason O'Day has a multi-day Christmas in his family.



For Mel Canal, the holidays include a sukkah to celebrate harvest.



Singing Christmas float created by the Roach Family and their neighbors.

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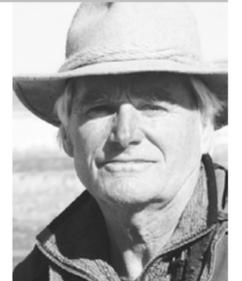
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BIRD EXPLORER



Peter J. Thiemann

The Starlings of autumn

BY PETER J. THIEMANN



Starlings flock in large numbers to reduce threats from predators such as peregrine falcons. Have you seen their murmurations as the sun sets? Photos courtesy of Peter J. Thiemann flickr photo stream.

The European Starling is a Eurasian species introduced to North America by the Shakespeare Society in New York City in 1890. Starlings were mentioned in Shakespeare's work as a charismatic birds. Mozart kept one as a pet. Books were written about the Mozart starling, with some suggesting that this bird influenced his music compositions.

The starling is a very handsome bird species, with iridescent colors that show when the light falls right. Starlings sing year-round. In fall, here in the Rogue Valley, you can see flocks of hundreds if not thousands gathered on our autumn-colored trees to roost and sing.

Some biologists don't like this bird species—regardless of its insect-control diet—because it aggressively outcompetes other native bird species for cavity nesting sites.

Starlings have multiplied rapidly in North America, but the population seems to have leveled off. In Europe, however, it is another story—this species is in a sharp

decline, and nobody knows why. So this is another reason to cherish a beautiful bird here in its adopted land.

One of the starlings' survival strategies is to flock in large numbers, which reduces threats from predators such as peregrine falcons. If you have ever seen their truly spectacular murmurations as the sun sets, you have witnessed synchronized aerobatic maneuvers that are matched by few bird species.

Starlings can be found in many habitats often associated with man-made structures but also in wild places. This year I saw starlings in Yellowstone National Park riding the backs of bison—just like blackbirds.

Ornamental trees with colorful autumn leaves, like those in Costco's old parking lot in Medford, are good places to find and listen to a starling concert in autumn.

Peter J. Thiemann
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Duskywings of the oak woodlands

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Duskywings, which belong to the butterfly family of Hesperiiidae, are also known as Skippers. Our largest duskywing, the Propertius Duskywing (*Errynnis propertius*), is also the most strongly marked on a smoky gray and soft brown base color, while other duskywings are smaller and darker, with much less contrast. The Propertius Duskywing can be up to 1-3/4 inches across on open wing.

The Propertius Duskywing lives in oak woodlands where its host plant is the oak species Garry oak, also known as Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*). A nest of oak leaves provides shelter for the larvae to overwinter while they wait for pupation in early spring. In southern Oregon, the period from spring through summer can produce a few generations of the Propertius Duskywing.

The Propertius Duskywing can be seen in flight from March through July. They are most likely to be seen in and near the oak woodlands with which they

are associated. They fly quickly through grasses, stop to nectar on flowers, and open their wings to bask in a sunny spot. They are easily mistaken for moths.

They range from southern British Columbia to Baja, California, and follow the Garry oaks from the coast to the Siskiyou and east to Nevada. It is one of the larger groups of butterflies flying in spring in our area.

In southern Oregon and here in the Applegate, where we have a good number of oak woodlands, their populations are healthy. The leaves that fall under the oaks in our natural areas need to be left undisturbed to provide their habitat.

When children net butterflies at Applegate School, duskywings are the first Skipper they learn about. Cries of "There goes a duskywing!" are frequent.

Fun fact: The Propertius Duskywing butterfly is named after the Greek poet Sextus Propertius.

Linda Kappen
humbugkapps@hotmail.com



Propertius Duskywing. Photo: Linda Kappen.

Applegater Fundraiser News



The Applegater's 2018 Savory Shindig fundraiser at Valley View Winery was fun for all. Thank you to our sponsors and donors and everyone who attended! Stay tuned for plans for our 25th birthday celebration in 2019! Photo: Cathy Rodgers.

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SOREC Experts Expound

Why you don't want to see red vines in the fall

BY ACHALA N KC, PHD

As the fall season fades into memory, let us recall all the beautiful colors that adorned the Applegate Valley.

Yellow is one of my favorite fall colors when it comes to vineyards. Yellowish-greenish vines mean our vineyards are happily getting ready to rest until next season. However, red is another color increasingly apparent in vineyards, especially with red-fruited cultivars.

A vine will turn red for several reasons, including stress from mechanical damage, nutrient deficiency, mite infestation, insect girdling, fungal diseases, and viral diseases. While all stress-related problems are important, in this article I will focus on viral diseases.

Viral diseases in vineyards

As many as 65 viruses can infect grapevines, resulting in poor vine health, reduced yield and vigor, compromised fruit and juice quality, and sometimes vine mortality. The dominance of a specific virus depends on the susceptibility of a cultivar and changes in environmental conditions, which can be related to weather or to vineyard management practices that favor the virus species.

Almost a decade ago, Grapevine Leafroll-Associated Viruses (GLRaV) were a major concern (and still are) in all grape-production regions of the world. To date, five species of GLRaV have been reported, including GLRaV-1, -2, -3, -4, and -7. Among these, GLRaV-3 is the most widespread worldwide, including in the Pacific Northwest. Contaminated planting materials are the initial source of the virus in a new vineyard, and mealybug vectors spread GLRaV within the vineyard.

Red-fruited cultivars infected with GLRaV exhibit a reddening between veins and backward cupping of leaf margins. Infected white-fruited cultivars exhibit similar symptoms of backward cupping of leaves, but the areas between veins turn slightly yellow. In spring, bud break and shoot development are often delayed and short-lived, lasting for only a few weeks in GLRaV-infected vines.

The leaf symptoms are evident in early to mid-summer and become severe as the season progresses.

In 2008 an eight-year-old cabernet sauvignon vineyard in California exhibited symptoms resembling GLRaV, but tested negative for the disease. Similar cases were noticed in other grape-growing regions of the US, including southern Oregon. Since then, studies on understanding the new virus and its disease-causing ability resulted in a confirmed report in 2012 of a new virus, now called Grapevine Red Blotch Virus (GRBV). Six years later, the disease is reported in all major grape-growing regions of the US, Canada, South Korea, Mexico, and India.

GRBV symptoms first appear in basal leaves around veraison (when the fruit begins to change color). The initial symptoms on red-fruited cultivars appear as red spots or blotches that are sparsely distributed between veins. As the season progresses, more symptoms appear in the middle and top of the canopy. Later in the season, the blotches combine to form red stripes between the veins. On white-fruited cultivars the initial symptoms start as irregular chlorotic (yellowed or blanched) areas between the veins, which turn brown later in the season. These typical symptoms of red blotch disease distinguish it from other diseases causing stress-related redness.

GRBV reduces overall vineyard profitability by delaying fruit ripening and reducing fruit and juice quality. Regular monitoring of the vineyard around veraison and thereafter will reveal symptoms. Weeding out vines infected with GRBV or other diseases, followed by replanting, poses an additional burden to vineyard management. Once the disease is introduced into the vineyard, either by planting infected material or by insect vectors transmitting the disease, the virus can spread rapidly.

Sampling for viral diseases

Due to the subtle differences in symptomatology of viral diseases, it is



Symptoms of Grapevine Red Blotch Disease in pinot noir.



Symptoms of Grapevine Leafroll Disease in pinot noir.

always recommended to confirm the presence of the virus in suspected vines (test—don't guess). Depending on cultivar and growing season, infected vines often remain symptomless, adding another layer of uncertainty. Old and symptomatic leaves carry higher levels of virus, so testing for both grapevine leafroll-associated virus and grapevine red blotch virus is more reliable for them. The amount and type of samples needed depends on the requirements of the testing laboratory. It is always helpful

to check with the lab before you ship your samples.

So when next fall comes around, remember that there is a story behind the red vines that you might see in our beautiful local vineyards.

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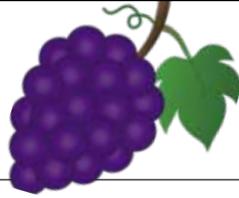
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GRAPE TALK

Biodynamic wine acreage on the rise



Debbie Tollefson

BY DEBBIE TOLLEFSON

While the number of wineries in Oregon is increasing—from 150 in 2000 to over 800 now—so is the practice of biodynamic winemaking in the Applegate. In the Summer 2014 issue of the *Applegater*, I reported on Cowhorn Vineyard and Garden as the only biodynamic vineyard and farm in southern Oregon. (This beautiful winery on Eastside Road in the Applegate Valley, owned and operated by Bill and Barbara Steele, has been given multiple accolades and high ratings for not only their wines but also their vineyard and farm and tasting room.) Currently Troon Vineyard, on the Kubli Bench in the Applegate Valley, is working toward biodynamic certification.

Biodynamic wine production avoids artificial chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides and instead incorporates natural treatments, such as composting with organic manure augmented with yarrow flowers (*Achillea millefolium*), chamomile flowers (*Matricaria chamomilla*), stinging nettle stems (*Urtica dioica*), and other biodynamic preparations. The farmer sees the vineyard as a living system. In my earlier article about Cowhorn, Bill Steele showed that all aspects of grape growing and wine making are enhanced by the intense scrutiny of a biodynamic

system and the winemaker's attention to detail. Bill explained about his constant search for great natural processes and growing practices to enhance his gardens and vineyard. Cowhorn produces not only great wines but the best asparagus you'll ever eat.

Biodynamic farming is organic farming on steroids—"natural ones, of course," said Bill. Organic farming certification under the National Organic Program is just one of the requirements for biodynamic certification. The standard set by Demeter USA is much more extensive, with very strict requirements about pest and weed control, water conservation, and biodiversity.

Demeter USA, incorporated in 1954 and headquartered in the Willamette Valley, is the only certifier for biodynamic farms and products in America. It is part of Demeter

International, which was formed in 1928 and is the oldest ecological certifier in the world. Demeter is active in 50 countries.

Biodynamic farming has a little-known history: In 1924 Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner presented a lecture series, entitled "Spiritual Foundations for Renewal of Agriculture," to a group of farmers in what is modern-day Poland. These farmers were concerned about the effects of the newly produced chemical fertilizers and weed-control products developed after World War I.

Mr. Steiner was not a farmer but a social reformer and educator who felt the new practices might not be healthy and that growing monocrops, a new practice, would not be beneficial to farmers or consumers. He thought farming should go back to the basics that had been used for thousands of years: creating healthy soil and natural conditions.

Rudolf Steiner's ideas and his lecture series became the basis for the approach to farming that we know today as biodynamic. Biodynamic certification requires that the farming be regenerative rather than degenerative, with stringent guidelines for production and application. (Degenerative farming is extractive only; regenerative farming offsets a farm's extractive aspect through the removal of non-native invasive plants and the use of recycled nutrients, cover crops, and biodynamic teas.) Sixteen categories for biodynamic processing standards insure an unbroken chain of accountability from the farm to the finished bottle of wine.

Biodynamic farming is important environmentally, too, as 50 percent of the earth's habitable surface is used for agriculture (*National Geographic*, 2005) and, in the US, nine percent of total greenhouse gas emissions are caused by food production (epa.gov).

Biodynamic farming does not deplete the earth's natural resources and is focused on improving soil health and water quality and integrating animal agriculture. This is the Demeter vision to healing the planet through agriculture.

Debbie Tollefson
debbie.avrealty@gmail.com



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Roving Reporter

Lessons from Florida

BY TOM CARSTENS

Two things Florida can teach the other 49 states: how to make a good margarita and how to deal with the aftermath of a hurricane.

—Tom Feeney, former Speaker of the Florida House

It's early November. My wife and I are about two-thirds of the way on a clockwise continental camping trip—11,000 miles so far. We're seeing our country from the back roads. Imagine traveling about two-thirds that distance on Highway 238 and the rest on North Applegate Road!

We recently camped in the Lake Talquin State Forest on the Florida panhandle. This area west of Tallahassee was decimated by Hurricane Michael. Even 50 miles inland, the devastation wrought by this mighty storm was truly shocking. We have close family members who are struggling in the aftermath.

The *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) reports that over five million acres of woodlands were damaged in the area. Florida timber losses are estimated to be around \$1.6 billion. Salvage of southern yellow pine has already begun. According to the WSJ, yellow pine has lost 95 percent of its value and is largely headed for the pulp mills.

In some respects, the aftereffects seem opposite from those of a wildfire—it looked to us like some of the larger diameter trees (especially the oaks) really took a hit, while the saplings came through pretty much unscathed. In other ways, the aftermath was similar to what we've seen with wildfires—the same random mosaic “patterns,” with rare areas where no trees survived. Why did most of the trees in one section topple, leaving just a few? And why did almost all the

trees in an adjacent section survive? And how is it that some forested areas received no damage at all?

Unlike wildfire, which affects some species more than others, hurricanes make no distinctions. The entire biological landscape gets equal treatment, no matter the species. Likewise, neither forest density nor management style seems to make a difference. Commercial plantations fared no worse or better than native forests. Even areas within thick, dense vegetation were not protected. Damage patterns on the fringes were indistinguishable from those in the core.

A couple of Florida state foresters confirmed our observations. In our discussion, we learned that the state works hard to support healthy forests in these ways:

Cycles of prescribed burns. In the 50 square miles of Lake Talquin woodlands, the burn interval is one and a half years. The average on state lands is two to four years. The goal is to mitigate wildfire damage and to restore the natural wildlife habitat. Smoke apparently isn't a problem because they are careful to wait for winds that blow toward unpopulated areas and for the right smoke dispersal index so they can be confident that the smoke will rise fast and dissipate. Complaints, they say, are virtually nonexistent.

Regular thinning. This supports natural ecosystem health and lessens the risk of crown fires. Timber harvest is not a goal. Each state forest receives a different prescription depending on species variation.

The foresters wanted us to understand that there was virtually nothing they could do to protect forests from the destruction wrought by hurricanes. This made us wonder if this could also be true



This Florida pine forest was virtually destroyed by Hurricane Michael. Photo: Tom Carstens.



A hurricane caused this mature oak to snap at its base. Photo: Tom Carstens.

for wildfires in the Rogue Valley. Are fire and smoke inevitable? Or will our land managers be able to figure this out?

As Florida forest ranger Clint Peters put it, “Fire—you're going to have it;

you're not really going to control it. The question is: do you try to set the conditions beforehand or just leave it up to the whims of Mother Nature?”

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025



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Communication matters

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Newspapers, telephones, television, written letters, sticky notes on the refrigerator door, and emails—just a few of the ways we communicate with each other. Our method usually depends upon factors such as location, time, privacy, and urgency in delivering the message. As a kid, my sister and I hauled a long board into our bedroom and laid it between our twin beds. We used a roller skate to “deliver” our messages to each other. I’m not sure if our parents were privy to this at the time or if they chose to ignore our giggles.

Nowadays we use different tools for different situations. Here in the Applegate, the close of fire season or a lost family dog are often announced to rural residents via emails. But the report of a lightning strike causing a spot fire would probably be shared using a neighborhood telephone tree that had been set up by the residents. Time matters!

My husband and I had a strange but lucky path of family communications when we were still living in the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1980s. October of 1989, to be exact.

We’d just returned from a two-week vacation, and I was working late to catch up on the financial reports for the physician’s group that I managed. Shortly after 5 pm the ground began to shake. Sitting next to a window on the third floor of a very old brick building, I could see the building next to us begin to sway towards ours. I dove under the desk, covering my head and neck as I was taught in grade school.

As soon as we stopped moving I called out to the doctor, who was also working late, to see if he was okay. He responded that he was fine and that I should go home and he’d close up the office. I turned off the computer and headed out the door. I ran down the stairs, wondering if my car had been flattened in the underground garage. It was fine, and I drove out to begin what would be an almost three-hour commute.

I turned on the radio right away, wondering where my hubby was on the freeway system. His office was in San Francisco, and one of the first reports I heard was that the Bay Bridge had collapsed! Yikes!!! Traffic reports

were already horrendous because that night was Game 3 of the “Bay Area World Series,” and folks were hurrying to get to the game at Candlestick Park.

Needless to say, I was an emotional wreck by the time I drove into our driveway. Neighbors were outside talking together in the middle of the street, and hubby was in the group.

I started bawling as I ran into his arms. But he didn’t seem relieved to find me safe, and I asked him why. I knew that he’d gone in to work a bit early that morning so that he could get home in time to watch the game, but why was he sure I was okay?

Crazy communications path

Here’s the crazy communications path that started in a townhouse a few blocks from Fenway Park in Boston.

I was born in Massachusetts and had a favorite 90-year-old great-aunt who lived in Boston and loved baseball and her Red Sox team. She was watching



our west coast Bay Area World Series and saw the TV picture sway and the announcers cover their heads before the television connection shut down. She immediately called our house and talked to my husband.

Don was able to calm Auntie down quickly because he had called my office’s private phone line a minute after I had left! The doctor answered and assured him that I was fine and was on my way home. Don told him how serious the damage was and that he should leave for home himself!

Thus is the story of how a world series game possibly saved a 90-year-old baseball fan from having a nervous breakdown on the other side of our United States.

My takeaway? Communication matters. Make it happen! Use any method you choose, but don’t become an island in this age of so many possibilities. Sandy Shaffer • sassyoneor@gmail.com



How to give charitable gifts and avoid paying tax in 2018

Ray Prag at Pacifica wrote to us suggesting that some of our readers might benefit from information about the new tax law in regard to Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from IRAs.

For those who, at age 70.5, are required to take an RMD from an IRA in 2018 and don’t need this income to live on, think about donating that minimum distribution directly to a local nonprofit organization and avoid paying income tax on the distribution.

The new tax law is expected to reduce the number of people who itemize deductions, which may also reduce the number of people who make charitable contributions. This could mean that nonprofit organizations may experience a drop in funding.

Seek advice from your financial counselor before making a decision.

Following is an excerpt from a February 2018 Forbes magazine article with some advice on this subject.

There was a ton of excitement about the new tax law passed at the end of 2017, especially in the business community. But the changes brought about by the law will certainly impact another area as well: charitable giving.

With the standard deduction doubling under the law, many individuals and couples will no longer itemize deductions and, therefore, will realize fewer financial benefits of charitable donations and mortgage payments.

Will the new tax law hurt charities?

Most people give to make an impact, not for the financial incentive. And not all is lost under the new tax law, thanks to an often overlooked corner of the code.

This provision, which the IRS calls a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), allows anyone aged 70.5 or older to donate money from their IRA account directly to a charitable organization without that gift counting as income.

While Inherited IRAs are also eligible for a QCD, Simple IRA plans and simplified employee pension (SEP) plans are excluded from this rule. There are

also some restrictions on the types of charitable organizations that are eligible to receive a QCD.

If you or your spouse meets this age requirement, you can transfer up to \$100,000 a year without paying any tax on that transaction. Even better, any money you transfer via one of these distributions reduces the amount you must take in required distributions. As an example, take a 75-year-old retiree whose

RMD was calculated to be \$5,000 for the year. She would normally take these funds and realize that income on her return. Instead, she may choose to make a \$2,000 contribution to a qualified charity (or multiple charities). In this case, \$3,000 would appear as income on her return, and she would benefit financially from her good deed.

A further benefit of using this strategy is it helps reduce your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). Your AGI determines how much of your social security is subject to income taxes, if you will be subject to the Net Investment Income Tax, and the amount of your Medicare premiums in the following year. So, lowering income can indirectly reduce other costs.

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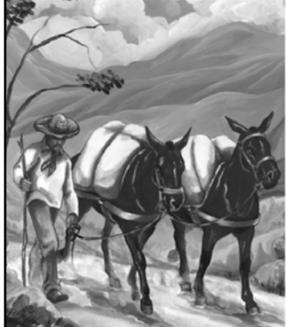
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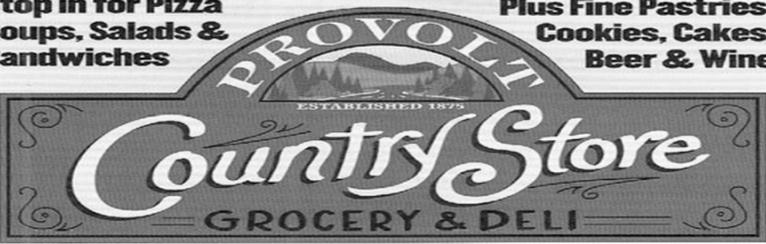
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OPINION

The UAW Project: My perspective after three years of participation

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

It's late October and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) is about to release its environmental analysis (EA) for the Upper Applegate Watershed Project (UAW). The US Forest Service (USFS) started holding meetings for the UAW project in January 2016. The project has changed over three years of meetings and field trips; some aspects of the project have improved, while others have become highly controversial.

In the beginning the UAW project was planned as a collaborative project by the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and RRSNF within the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA). The agencies even considered releasing a joint EA for the project. Both USFS and BLM staff participated in meetings alongside Applegate Valley community members. Both agencies wanted to rebuild the trust in the BLM that some Applegate residents had lost after the controversial Nedsbar Timber Sale.

The joint planning of the UAW project changed drastically when, only eight months into the process, in August

2016, the BLM released its new Resource Management Plan (RMP) for southwest Oregon that eliminated their recognition of the Applegate AMA, a sign to many residents that the BLM no longer valued community-driven projects in the Applegate Watershed.

The BLM's new timber-heavy RMP also made it impossible for the agency to support habitat restoration as the primary goal of the UAW project. In fact, the RMP pushes timber as the primary goal for BLM projects. Over time the BLM slowly pulled back from this project, sometimes sending only one staff member to meetings and, more recently, sending none at all.

UAW meetings started out with a strong emphasis on community input and local place-based knowledge. Although it was well understood that the main impetus behind the UAW project from the agencies' perspectives was fuel reduction and thinning, community members pushed hard for a comprehensive project that included riparian restoration, meadow enhancement, pollinator habitat planting, nonmotorized hiking

trails along old mine ditches, etc., in combination with prescribed fire, fuel reduction near homes, thinning in old plantation stands, and commercial timber as a restoration byproduct. (Some of these proposals have, unfortunately, been dropped from the plan.) For the most part, during initial planning, those who attended meetings agreed about the direction of the project, and UAW was shaping up to be a feel-good project.

The tone of the UAW planning process changed on the day participants were asked to identify "proposed actions," when an outside group, the Medford Motorcycle Riders Association, showed up for the first time and drew lines on the maps representing proposed motorcycle trails through unroaded habitats in the Upper Applegate, including a highly controversial proposal for a motorbike route on Boaz Mountain. From this point forward, what had been a habitat restoration project now included numerous proposed motorcycle trails.

Many Applegate Valley residents came to heated meetings, adamantly opposing new motorcycle trails due to the already high concentration of motorized routes on public land in the Applegate. Many felt the agencies had already sacrificed too much of the Applegate to motorbike and OHV (off-highway vehicle) routes. (In fact, the Applegate has a higher concentration of OHV routes than anywhere else in southern Oregon.)

How did motorcycle trails become part of a habitat restoration project? The USFS changed the definition of "restoration" to allow for new motorcycle trails. The definition that the collaborative partners had been working with for two years was suddenly changed, and although some community participants objected to the change, we were overridden and the new, loose definition of restoration has remained, allowing motorcycle trails to be part of a restoration project. Will this occur in other collaborative projects in the region, or just in the Applegate?

There's much more to this story, like the "Iterative NEPA" (National Environmental Policy Act) process that hasn't been so iterative, and concerns over the project being tied to the controversial Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy. When released, the environmental analysis will show where the project is headed, and hopefully all controversial aspects of the project will be dropped and the project will, in the end, be something the community can support.

I strongly support the prescribed fire and fuels work near homes that is needed to make our community more fire-safe, and I appreciate the agencies' prescribed fire strategy. I believe the UAW project should move forward where there is agreement and general consensus, creating a truly collaborative project.

Suzie Savoie • klamathsiskeyou@gmail.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Smart meters

I have been reading a lot about smart meters in the past months, and your recent articles in the Fall 2018 *Applegater* were very informational.

I have a real issue with this whole thing because of the lack of transparency from the power company. They brush aside safety concerns, pointing out how much radiation consumers are already exposed to, like it's okay to add more. Some of us don't use cell phones and don't have microwaves in our homes due to safety concerns.

I have been around for a long time, and it's been my experience that the public utilities don't do things to improve systems for the benefit of the consumer. In every case I've experienced, their actions have increased costs to me and my neighbors. The benefits of smart meters

most likely will fill the pockets of Pacific Power—and empty ours.

The question as to whether smart meters will increase the monthly bills of customers was very politically sidestepped by Pacific Power in their discussion on page 24—didn't say yes, didn't say no. Talked around the issue. Of course, it's going to raise power bills! It's not like their insights into the fact that my freezer costs me money will prompt me to unplug it! The response from Pacific Power to that question was insulting.

They go on to say that even if you choose *not* to have a smart meter installed, they are going to charge you \$36 a month for a monthly reading of your meter. So why now? They have been reading my meter for 30 years, and those charges were factored into the bills I have paid.

Pacific Power should not have the

privilege to do as they please without public input. It's basically "do as we say or we shut off the power." It would be far more cost-effective for the county to ban smart meters altogether.

Karen Affriseo, Grants Pass, OR

Jordan Cove Pipeline

Avista Utilities notifies customers that a pipeline rupture in British Columbia might result in a shortage to residences and businesses in southern Oregon. They ask us to conserve natural gas. Is that all? No! In Prince George, BC, the First Nation evacuates its community due to the massive blaze caused by this rupture.

It's not an isolated incident. In 2018 alone, we've seen disastrous pipeline ruptures, fires, and spills in 23 communities—now 24—across the nation. They've all been classified as "significant incidents" by the Pipeline

and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

According to the agency, a "significant incident" results if any of the following occurs: fatality or injury requiring inpatient hospitalization; \$50,000 or more in total costs, measured in 1984 dollars; liquid releases of five or more barrels (42 US gallons/barrel); or releases resulting in an unintentional fire or explosion.

Those who are promoting the fracked natural gas pipeline under the Rogue River and across 230 miles of public and private properties claim it's all about jobs and economic growth. Most of the jobs are temporary, but the potential damage to property and environment is inestimable.

The record of significant incidents tells us this pipeline and Jordan Cove aren't worth the risk.

David Sours, Talent, OR

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OPINIONS

Behind the Green Door | The future of our country

BY CHRIS BRATT

I believe my left-leaning reputation on environmental and other important issues is well established. But I like to think of myself as being more mellow and unbiased in my advanced age. And besides, what's so left-wing about working to protect your environment, human rights, or anything else that's positive and important to people? It's not only anyone's right to protect our public lands and institutions—it's our obligation as citizens of a democratic society.

As it turns out, while I'm mellowing, many old white men like me in our society are taking up more dogmatic and reactionary political positions. None have pronounced this right-wing-bias attitude more than our crass president and the old white men presiding over our Congress. Let's face it, Donald Trump and his constituency continue to vigorously attack all people opposed to their programs. They state that any opposition is part of an "angry left-wing mob." And yet Interior Secretary Zinke has broadly labeled conservationists as "environmental terrorists" while ignoring ethics and scientific standards.

How unthinkable and biased is that? It seems they will do or say anything, including lies, to achieve their goals. Is the Republican leadership about to form another congressional "House Un-American Activities Committee"? The last time they did that, in the 1950s, many loyal Americans went to jail, lost their jobs, or were wrongfully identified as "un-American troublemakers." My own mother refused to sign a "loyalty oath" due to her concern that it would require blind allegiance. As a result, she lost her long-held job as a senior draftsman for the City of San Francisco.

Right now a lot of people in our country are outraged. They're angered by a bigoted president and a right-wing leadership in Congress pursuing such an amoral and largely unshared vision for America's future. Many of us are concerned about unrestrained power to remake the nation's laws, policies, and executive orders, especially when rulings support only this administration's distorted point of view. I believe these folks currently in charge have a different worldview, political agenda, and responsibility for the economic and

social welfare than most of the nation. Our founders never meant to establish a "winner-take-all" society.

Every day, right here in the Applegate Valley, people's lives are being affected by negative legislation, tweets, rule changes, and executive orders. These misguided actions deny the truth, reality, or validity of a whole host of issues important to common folks' wants and needs.

Here is just a short list of important issues that need some real accountability from this administration for people in southern Oregon:

- The recent introduction of legislation that would radically weaken the Endangered Species Act and other environmental laws.
- The belief that global warming is a hoax while wildfire and smoke overrun our communities and temperatures rise.
- The failure to protect our public lands, monuments, national parks, and forests from increased development, overcutting, mineral extraction, and pesticide use in defiance of established scientific evidence.
- The increased privatization of all things public for the benefit of a few.

• The slashing of budget funds needed to increase recreation and rejuvenation activities in our national forests and parks.

• The new public involvement guidance from the Department of the Interior and from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that has created additional barriers to cooperation between the local federal agency and our community.

As I write this article, I'm thinking of a quote from Hermann Goering, one of Adolph Hitler's high-ranking followers. He stated at the Nuremberg Trials after World War II, that "it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it's always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether a democracy, fascist dictatorship, or parliament. The people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, then denounce the pacifists for their lack of patriotism, and expose the country to danger. It works the same way in every country."

Sound familiar? Let me know.
Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

Wildfire: Thinning treatments required

BY DON BELLVILLE

I don't wish to be an alarmist but I am afraid I must be one! I am a retired wildland firefighter/fire investigator/prescribed fire and fuels specialist as well as a forester and silviculturist. I am saddened by the unnecessary loss of life and homes and the vegetation destruction caused by the Carr Fire in Redding, California. However, I am certain that within the not-too-distant future, a similar wildfire will occur in one or more of the communities in the Rogue River Valley *with similar results*. This probability is cause for alarm!

For years, local resource management professionals (including myself) have tried to get legislators, the general public, homeowners, and local environmental organizations to allow (permit) vegetation thinning treatments over significant acreages to try to reduce the damage that will occur from wildfires. *These wildfires will occur!* The only question is *when, where, and how much damage!*

For the most part, our efforts have been a failure. There has been a huge amount of talk but very little actual vegetation treatment over significant acreage. We have seen some progress but at the small scale. *The issue is scale! Hundreds of acres of treatment will not provide significant benefit! Tens or hundreds of thousands of acres of treatment will help!*

The primary problem is that every time large-scale, forest thinning projects are proposed, there is an outcry from naysayers that "Big trees are being cut" or "The project is too big" or "The environmental impacts are too great" or "It is in my backyard" or "A threatened/endangered species will be impacted," etc. As a result, the project is stopped or significantly reduced in size. *Sorry, but even these proposed thinning treatment areas are not big enough!* When we are

experiencing wildfires that are 20,000 to 500,000 acres, scattered treatment areas with hundreds to a few thousand acres of vegetation thinning will *not* cut it! (Pun intended.)

A history lesson

Before European settlement, areas in and around Grants Pass and Medford usually underburned with low-severity fires every 20 or so years. These fires tended to kill small conifers and reduce hardwood tree and shrub density. As a result, these "fire-tended" areas often had a "parklike appearance" with 25 to 50 large-diameter (over 30") trees per acre with scattered individuals or patches of smaller size, understory trees and shrubs. Today, however, these same areas are occupied by 3,000-plus small trees per acre *and homes and people*. Do you see the problem?

Compounding this situation is a warming climate. This warming should not be a surprise to anyone who knows history because a climate event called the Little Ice Age was ending in the mid-1800s. Therefore, it is not rocket science to expect these warming and drying conditions.

Our vegetation management needs to reflect these realities. We cannot save or maintain conifer and hardwood stands with thousands of stems per acre. Such areas will just further increase the chances for larger and more destructive wildfires. We need to reduce the density of these conifer and hardwood stands to 75 to 100 (or less) of the largest stems *per acre*. Subsequently, these areas should be periodically underburned and re-thinned in order to maintain these conditions. Yes, there are environmental trade-offs, *but* they are significantly less problematic than those from a 20,000-plus acre, high-intensity wildfire.



Forest surrounding a two-story log home that was destroyed by fire in 2018.

Folks, we all need to help with this problem. Firefighters are grateful for all the support and help they receive when working on these wildfires. It would be great that this same focus, energy, and commitment went into actively supporting thinning on private, county, state, and federal forests to help reduce

the chance for ever more destructive wildfires. The time for doing little or no active management of our forests is over!

Don Bellville

firesilviculture@gmail.com

Don Bellville is a consulting prescribed fire and fuels planner, silviculturist, and wildfire investigator

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 focus on the Applegate Valley**.

Opinion pieces are limited to 700 words; letters are limited to 450 words. Submissions will be edited for grammar and length. Opinion pieces **must** include publishable contact information (phone number and/or email address). All letters **must** be signed, with a full street address or PO Box and phone number.

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.

•••

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



When the power goes out, or disaster comes:
Reliability is Everything!

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

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OPINION

Public safety on and around Anderson Butte

BY NEAL ANDERSON

Almost three years ago, in January 2016, a bullet from the direction of Anderson Butte went through the bedroom door of neighbors who live a mile from a popular target-shooting site on Anderson Butte. A sheriff's deputy investigating the incident took the bullet. Since then, bullets have whirred over the heads of hikers on Anderson Butte, gunfire on Anderson Butte has been heard after dark, and homeowners have been pinned down in their homes as stray bullets fly overhead.

Meanwhile, the sound of semiautomatic weapons is not uncommon, and a high-powered rifle has been set up to fire illegally down and across roads. In mid-October this year, a bullet landed 15 feet from a homeowner working on his land. A significant and terrifying public safety risk exists on and around Anderson Butte arising from activity on land managed by our Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The danger is real. In January 2018 a pregnant hiker was killed on BLM land in Arizona by a stray bullet from target shooting. We wish to stress that our concern is *not* a Second Amendment issue, but a common-sense issue driven by significant public-safety risks for those on and around Anderson Butte.

Residents met with BLM at Anderson Butte in 2016 two weeks after the bullet passed through the bedroom door. But this problem is not new; unsafe target shooting on Anderson Butte was raised with the BLM as long ago as 2007. Residents have attended four public meetings with BLM management since the 2016 meeting.

The BLM has stated that their ultimate goal is to manage for multiple usage of public lands while ensuring public safety for all. They have taken some actions to curtail unsafe target shooting on the butte: concrete barricades have been positioned to discourage parking and shooting at various sites, but many of these are crumbling, perhaps from shooting, and visitors simply step over them to shoot. Patrols by the Jackson County Sheriff's department seemingly have had some effect, and household trash, which encourages shooting, continues to be removed from various shooting sites. The BLM has talked with members of the Shooting Sports Roundtable, as required by a 2007 Memorandum of Understanding, seeking support with BLM outreach on this safety issue. Additionally, BLM has



Anderson Butte trailhead sign used for target practice.
Photo: Joy Rogalla, September 2018.

installed signs asking shooters to self-regulate, but signs are often removed or used for target practice.

While we all wish the problem would solve itself, this has not happened. Clearly more concerted action is needed. Despite BLM's efforts, people on and around Anderson Butte continue to be at significant risk due to unsafe target shooting. More signs need to be erected, maybe with more appropriate wording. Many shooters need to be informed about the danger of shooting into empty space, when people and houses are below.

Future actions planned by BLM include scoping for an environmental assessment seeking temporary closure of shooting sites on Anderson Butte, as NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) requires. BLM anticipates this process will take about three months once it is initiated. Unfortunately, continued coordination with BLM's Washington office is needed prior

to issuing a decision on a temporary closure. The BLM has added funding to continue law enforcement support by the Jackson County Sheriff's department. BLM recreation staff has been requested to review and replace damaged signs and will discuss with law enforcement our recommendations for additional signage.

Residents living near Anderson Butte and recreation visitors to the butte trails have reached out to the public to help eliminate this problem, as BLM requested of us. We have met and discussed the issue with Commissioner Strosser, Representative Marsh, Sheriff Sickler, the Medford Rifle and Pistol Club, Jackson County Parks & Recreation, and local representatives of Senators Wyden and Merkley and Representative Walden. We have written articles published in local papers. This issue has been covered in interviews on radio and television and in local papers. Our outreach continues.

While we are frustrated and losing patience, we continue to cooperate with the BLM to facilitate closure of Anderson Butte. We will also continue to alert BLM and local police to incidents arising from unsafe target shooting on Anderson Butte.

Concerned Applegate residents on Griffin Lane and Sterling Creek Road
Neal Anderson • 541-899-5555
ngeoanders83@wildblue.net

Frank and Evie Ault

Kathy Conway

Bjorn and Cecile Everson

Richard and Dana Gangnes

Alan Journet

Garry and Olivia Kappel

Dana Kristal

Peggy Martin

Jim and Leslie Perkins

Hope Robertson

Joy Rogalla

Christine Savory

Casey Slezak

Voices of the Applegate Concerts & Rehearsals



Under the direction of our new choir director, Shayne Flock, Voices of the Applegate will present its usual eclectic selections of international songs (German, Indonesian, Israeli, African), Christmas ballads, and even doo-wop at its winter concert at the Applegate River Lodge on December 2. Shayne is taking us to the next level with our music, both individually and as a group, with this concert, which will include some sing-alongs for the audience.

Shayne grew up in the Rogue Valley, where his father was the choir director at Hidden Valley High School for many years. Shayne attended Crater High School, where he is now the music director. He also was the music director of the Corvallis Community Choir for three years, so he came to us with a lot of experience.

The first rehearsal for our next session will be held on Tuesday, January 8, at the Ruch Library meeting room. Registration begins at 6:30 pm. Concerts are on April 5 and April 7.

Registration cost is \$60 per session, which includes payment for the director, the accompanist, the music, and concert venues.

For more information, call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988.



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OPINIONS

The BLM's categorical exclusions and the 2016 RMP

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

This summer, while fires burned in the mountains of southern Oregon and smoke filled the region, the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was busy approving the first two timber sales under the controversial 2016 Resource Management Plan (RMP). These timber sales included the Clean Slate Timber Sale outside Selma and the Griffin Half Moon Timber Sale near Howard Prairie. Both timber sales were designed to maximize timber outputs and reinstitute clear-cut logging (rebranded as "regeneration" and even "restoration" logging) on public lands. They were specifically approved to produce timber for the BLM's annual O&C (Oregon and California Railroad Revested Lands) timber quota, while admittedly increasing fuel loads and future fire severity.

Both timber sales propose to convert a currently mature, fire-resistant forest into a young, regenerating forest that is both highly flammable and susceptible to high-severity fire effects. Perhaps for this reason, both timber sales contain the exact same language in their environmental assessments regarding fuel loads and future fire severity. The BLM states, "For the first one to five years after harvest, these stands would remain a slash-fuel type until the shrubs, grasses, and planted trees become established. After the establishment of regeneration, these stands would move into a brush-fuel type. Brush-fuel types are more volatile and are susceptible to high rates of fire-caused mortality. Stands could exhibit higher flame lengths, rates of spread, and fire intensity. Fires started within these stands could be difficult to initially attack and control...For 5 to 20 years following planting, the overall fire hazard would increase in these stands."

According to the BLM, implementation of the 2016 RMP "will contribute to restoring fire-adapted ecosystems in the dry forest landscape of southern Oregon by increasing fire resiliency. The Proposed RMP will increase stand-level fire resistance and decrease stand-level fire hazard from current conditions." Despite these claims the BLM has yet to deliver and is instead proposing to increase fuel loads adjacent to rural communities. After the smoke and fire of 2018, we should expect something better from our public land managers. We also sincerely hope such reckless logging activities are not implemented in the upcoming Middle Applegate Timber Sale on BLM land near Applegate communities.

Here in the Applegate Valley, implementation of the RMP has also

meant elimination of the widely popular Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA). The AMA was meant to encourage public involvement in the land-management planning process and a localized approach to managing Applegate Valley watersheds. Despite continually promising to "work in the spirit of the AMA," BLM land managers have instead chosen to circumvent the public involvement process by publishing categorical exclusions (CX). Categorical exclusions are often utilized to either eliminate or minimize public involvement, environmental analysis, and the public comment process. Essentially, public input and detailed analysis of a project's potential impacts are eliminated from the process. This procedure creates a lack of transparency, a lack of accountability, and only minimal public disclosure of potential impacts.

The publication of CXs to implement land management projects is the opposite of collaboration, especially when controversial projects are being pushed through without adequate public input. Since the approval of the 2016 RMP, the BLM has largely removed itself from the collaborative process surrounding the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project (UAW), and they have stopped attending UAW community meetings. They have also implemented five separate CXs, including highly controversial proposals to legitimize over 60 miles of previously unauthorized and environmentally damaging OHV (off-highway vehicle) trails and numerous commercial logging projects. These projects have included OHV trails in the Ruch area, up Forest Creek, and in the Wellington Wildlands. Logging projects up Little Applegate, on Woodrat Mountain, Ferris Gulch, Spencer Gulch near Murphy, and on BLM land near Wilderville have also been approved using CXs. In fact, nearly 300 acres have been either logged or proposed for logging in CXs in the Applegate Valley without adequate analysis of the environmental impacts, meaningful opportunities for public involvement, or consultation with our local community.

Applegate Neighborhood Network is working to encourage community-based collaboration in the land-management planning process in the Applegate. We welcome the BLM back to the table and object to the agency's use of CXs. The future of land management is collaborative, transparent, and restorative in nature; however, the BLM is living in the past.

Luke Ruediger
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

The problem is worldwide population growth

BY ROBERT BENNETT

The dueling articles on climate change by Alan Voetsch and Alan Journet in the fall edition of the *Applegater* treated the reader to a long list of facts, figures, and opinions, but both letters failed to mention the 800-pound gorilla in the room: the growing catastrophe of worldwide population growth.

A study compiled by Our World in Data, an online publication, reveals that earth's population doubled to 1.65 billion people between 1750 and 1900. It doubled again by 1960. Population numbers doubled once more by the year 2000, and earth's population is expected to surpass 11 billion by 2080. It is estimated that over seven billion folks occupy the surface of the planet today. So if Alan Journet thinks climate change is being caused by people, he might rationally conclude it would make sense to concentrate on controlling the numbers of people.

On the other hand, Alan Voetsch seems to imply that market conditions and advancing technology will guide mankind to a safe use of fossil fuels well into the future. But can we bank on that if world populations continue to double every two or three generations? Parts

of the planet are already experiencing shortages of food and potable water.

The city of Portland, for instance, embarked on an effort to reduce each resident's carbon footprint in the early 2000s. Public awareness programs, alternative fuels for vehicles, along with the encouragement of carpooling, bicycles, and mass transit were used in the city's efforts.

After five years city officials proudly announced a reduction in the individual carbon footprint by five percent per capita. The trouble was, during the same period the city's population grew by eight percent, which left them three percent further in the hole.

They were clearly trying to solve the wrong problem.

If mankind is going to survive on the planet with any kind of a meaningful existence, some humane way of controlling population growth must be developed, and if Alan Journet and Alan Voetsch really wanted to help mankind and the planet, their energies might be better spent in trying to solve the real problem—the population problem.

Robert Bennett
trombone2@hotmail.com

■ PRESENT WITH PAWS

Continued from page 1

is a good break away from the X-Box or TV screen. Children who have pets are less likely to miss days of school due to illness. Children with autism or other developmental conditions can sometimes engage more easily with animals than with people, so having a pet helps them learn to interact with people.

How about teenagers? A study of schoolchildren showed that pet owners were more popular and empathetic. Adolescents who have pets have higher self-esteem. Teenagers who own pets have a more positive outlook on life in general and report less loneliness, restlessness, despair, and boredom.

Animals improve the well-being of older people too. Pet owners report less depression than non-pet owners and are better able to cope with grief, stress, and loss. Alzheimer's patients have fewer anxiety attacks if there is a pet in the home. And, for someone who lives alone, a pet is a constant friend to count on when sick or feeling down.

If you would like an adoption gift certificate to give to a friend or family, stop by Jackson County Animal Services at 5595 South Pacific Highway in Phoenix and shelter

staff will set you up. You can learn about the adoption process and the wonderful animals waiting for their fur-ever homes at jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/Animal-Services/Adoption.

Laura Ahearn
laura.ahearn@stanfordalumni.org



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Discover Stories on the Land

Below is another excerpt (from pages 25 - 26) from the unpublished 1996 book, Stories on the Land: An Environmental History of the Applegate and Upper Illinois Valley, by George McKinley and Doug Frank. The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., plans to publish the book in its entirety in 2019.

The mining life

Haines and Smith, Sterling Creek's historians, give us a portrait of a miner's habitation that was left by James M. Sutton, one of the earliest Applegate Valley miners: "The cabin was a commodious structure eight feet wide and ten feet long. The logs that composed it had been hacked down by brute force using the old root axe. As this was the only tool that the partners had for carpentry, the resulting structure was lacking in elegance. A few nails driven in the wall of the cabin served to hold the gum boots and the clothes of the men when they came in at night.

"The furnishings of the cabin consisted of a rude table, benches, and bunks. The bunks were built against the walls, saving in space and in construction time and were filled with fir boughs for comfort and warmth. The fireplace was a crude structure of mud and sticks rising from a stone hearth in one end of the cabin and served for heating and cooking both.

"The cooking was as primitive as the arrangements for shelter. A camp kettle and a frying pan were the sole utensils employed and proved sufficient for the culinary activities of the men. The diet was beans and bacon. (This was augmented by bread purchased from the bakery.) A batch of beans was prepared once or twice a week. The pot of beans was warmed slightly for breakfast. If the men were not too tired from the day's work, it was warmed again in the evening. Frequently the toll of the day's activity was so great that the men could not bother to heat the beans at night but gulped them down cold from the pot."

After weighing their day's take in gold and hiding it in a hole bored with an auger into one of the logs of the cabin, the men "just crawled into their bunks. There was no time for night life and no energy even if there had been time. They had to be up at work on the claim by

dawn the next morning. The mining season was short, and no one could afford to waste a minute of it."

Most men worked in partnership with one or several others. But in time, new methods of organizing human labor were developed, and large groups of men worked single claims as wage laborers for an entrepreneur or company. Sutton observed that these men worked their required hours, and no more. It was these men, he thought, who generated the rowdy nightlife of the saloons, dance halls, and gambling houses of boom towns like Sterlingville and Waldo.

The miners brought to the land, and often left on the land, the basic equipment required for sifting gold from dirt. An Althouse Creek miner put on his equipment list "a five-pound pick, a long-handled shovel, two long, twenty-pound crowbars, one three-pound Collins stone hammer, twenty pounds of 10d nails, two good chopping axes, one hatchet, twelve square feet of tom irons, twenty pounds of inch rope."

It is startling how little, in terms of human artifacts, one can find of these mountains of equipment, tent cities, log cabins, and ramshackle towns today. Natural processes and human scavengers have caused the material remains of once thriving communities to entirely disappear. Recurrent flood damage has washed away flattened areas once excavated into streamside slopes for tent and cabin sites and most of the pots, bottles, nails, and tools abandoned there. Later mining enterprises destroyed signs of earlier mining when they reworked the ground. In addition, written documentation of the area's mid-nineteenth century mining is sparse.

If material debris is hard to find, it may be easier to speculate on debris of a different sort deposited in the minds and spirits of the human beings who witnessed these years of frenzy, who lived the contrasts, the sudden reversals, of dream and reality, profit and loss, boom and bust. Haines and Smith say, "The Pacific Northwest has never recovered from the gold rush. There is still an abiding belief in the big bonanzas.... Every town has its great bonanza just waiting for the capital to develop it."

Woodland Charter School to host Winter Faire

BY SIMONA FINO



A Winter Faire will be held at Woodland Charter School on Saturday, December 8.

The Waldorf-inspired Woodland Charter School will host its annual Winter Faire on Saturday, December 8, from 10 am to 2 pm, at Pacifica in Williams. This magical event, which is open to the public, is a delight for all ages, but it is especially geared for children and families.

With a focus on creativity and the wonder the winter season offers, the Winter Faire provides plenty of opportunity for everyone to get involved. Children will be able to create several beautiful, nature-based holiday crafts, such as making tin punch ornaments, one of the most popular craft activities for children at the Faire.

Little ones and older children alike are welcome to shop in the Elven Wonderland room, which will be filled with appropriate items that they can select and wrap as gifts for family and friends. This special "no adults allowed" shopping area is priced just right for kids—tables are arranged by value of tickets, with most gifts ranging from \$1 - \$5 in tickets—allowing children a unique chance to shop for special gifts for parents, siblings, or friends. Kids of all ages love to select gifts to proudly give to others.

Adults and children will enjoy perusing vendor tables displaying a variety of handmade goods. Several of these vendors' tables will showcase student creations. The funds raised from the sale of students' items will go toward their class graduation trip. Last year we saw knitted cat toys, hand-felted

wool dryer balls, and beautiful holiday ornaments—all designed and created by students.

Among the local vendors showcased this year is Sapphire Star Arts, featuring upcycled wool and velvet garments made in an array of healing colors and vibrations. JadeBlossom Designs will be bringing precious stone jewelry made with gold fill and sterling silver as well as gorgeous feather earrings. Visit the Rainbow Garden for Waldorf-inspired toys made with all natural materials such as wool, silk, and wood. Or buy natural crafting supplies to create your own toys, costumes, or anything else your imagination desires.

Throughout the event Faire-goers can enjoy live music, purchase a home-cooked meal from hard-working students, or pick a treat from the pocket fairy.

We look forward to seeing you at the Faire and celebrating the magic of winter!

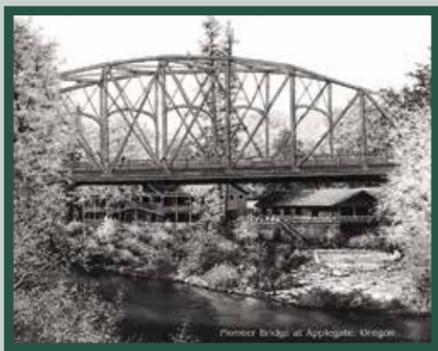
Winter is a time of silent beauty and reflection, so we'll finish with a beautiful Waldorf winter verse.

*Now King Winter calls the snow
To come and dance as cold winds blow:
"Now, my snowflakes, come to me,
See this bare and lonely tree.
Come and dance for its delight,
Clothe it in the purest white.
Come little snowflakes,
Dance through the air,
Making the world so pure and fair,
Light and bright, sparkling white,
Soft as the wings of the dove in flight."*

Simona Fino

simona@ramsayrealty.com

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HOLIDAY EVENTS AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

- **December 1, 6 pm:** Hidden Valley Jazz Band, Grants Pass Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting
- **December 2, 3 - 5 pm:** Three Rivers Community Orchestra and Rogue Community College Community Choir lead the "Messiah Community Sing-Along" under the direction of Joe Green, Hidden Valley High School and Lincoln Savage Middle School band teacher. River Valley Church, 7th and D Streets, Grants Pass.
- **December 12, 6 pm:** Lincoln Savage Middle School Band concert
- **December 14:** Three Rivers School District high school choirs holiday caroling at nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout the day.
- **December 18, 5:30 - 7 pm:** Madrona School Winter Program presented by K-2 students
- **December 18, 6 pm:** Applegate School Holiday Program
- **December 19, 7 pm:** Williams School Holiday Program
- **December 21, 6 pm:** Ruch Outdoor Community School Winter Program

NEXT GENERATION

Next Generation features school news and updates and the talents of our local students. All schools in the Applegate Valley are encouraged to submit news, art, writing, photography, and any other creative pieces to gater@applegater.org.

Ruch School ~ Evergreen tree

As a child, my family moved around a great deal—to California, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, Washington, and Arizona. I can still feel the excitement and joy when I would gaze up at the sky from the bed of our old Ford truck (that's how we kids traveled back then) and begin to see the evergreen treetops appear in my view no matter which time of the year. The sight of these evergreen toppers let me



know that we were returning to Oregon as we always did, and I was happy!

Oregon is known for many things, but none more majestic than its beautiful evergreen trees. They provide shade for a weary traveler or family gathering for a picnic. They are refuge to forest critters, an impenetrable perch for the powerful bald eagle, and, for this holiday season, a symbol of peace and good cheer.

At Ruch Outdoor Community School, we are taking what we love most about Oregon, its trees, and turning them into a service-learning project that will serve as peace and good cheer for families in our community. Ruch students will be decorating Christmas trees and offering them for silent bid in hopes of spreading peace and wellness.

Trees will be placed in businesses around the valley for community members to make a silent bid. The winning bidder can choose to take the tree home or offer it to identified families who otherwise would not have a tree for this holiday season.

On December 14, these trees will return to Ruch Outdoor Community School to be enjoyed during the first Applegate Festival of Trees from 4 - 6 pm. The community is invited to attend the ROCS Winter Program at 6 pm, when winning bids will be announced and the trees delivered to the new owners. The proceeds will go toward

purchasing dinner baskets for families in the community.

It gives us great joy to be able to offer these trees of Oregon to our families. Our students say it best:

- *Can we give all the trees to my grandma? She loves to hang mistletoe and kiss me on my face.* — Kindergartener
- *Can I make my favorite ornament and put enough on the tree for the whole family?* — Third grader
- *Thank you for letting me be part of this. I am not so sad when I help others.* — Seventh grader

Service learning is a part of Ruch Outdoor Community School, and I have to say that we are all excited about this endeavor. This holiday season will be spent making people happy and sharing what we love most about Oregon—its trees!

Oregon will always be home, and I feel very fortunate to be able to experience all the beauty and wonder that our landscape provides at this time of year.

All of us at Ruch Outdoor Community School wish all of you a very happy winter. May wonder, peace, and good cheer be the reason for the season.

Julie Barry
Principal

Ruch Outdoor Community School
julie.barry@medford.k12.or.us

Hidden Valley High School SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



Girls soccer team is state champion!

And there's more:

- Girls volleyball placed fourth in state.
- Junior Varsity football went undefeated.

HVHS Reporter: Carlen Nielsen.

Applegate School



Members of Applegate School's volleyball team, from left to right, are:
Back row—Jasmine Stevens, Zeyna DiBiasi, Kali Lynn, Sierra Fimbres, Rachel Peterson, Izabella Haning, Coach Diana West.
Middle row—Autumn Koch, Freyja Moeves, Kat Bernardi, Lily Wieberg, Natalia Sahr.
Front row—Christina Gery, Hailey West, Hope Wilson.

The new school year is well under way with an enrollment of 99 students.

A new science program with emphasis on hands-on learning has roused student and teacher enthusiasm. The Three Rivers School District has provided all the equipment to incorporate more technology in the curriculum and more engineering and science inquiry lessons.

All students are participating in a new art program under the leadership of local artist Corbin Brashear of Wild and Woolly Feltworks. Corbin has received a grant that allows her to teach her specialty of felting at both Applegate and Williams Schools.

Applegate School's music program has received new life with an after-school strings program, which includes beginning and intermediate guitar and beginning fiddle.

To foster the enrichment programs at Applegate School, the Enchanted Forest Vine Run on September 22 brought in \$2,000. Eighty-two runners participated in the event. First-place male and female winners were Thomas Mullen and Tonya Clark for the 24K, Michael Stadnisky and Jamie Arvizo for the 12K, Josh Halsted and Rebecca Hall-Cross for the 5K, and David Cross and Lily Allen for the kids' run.

The school gives special thanks to race organizer Robert Hodge with 7 Dogs

Running; to Wooldridge Creek Winery for the beautiful venue, hospitality, and wine donations; and to Josephine County Search & Rescue for providing communication in remote areas of the run. Race event sponsors donated \$500 to Josephine County Search & Rescue for their much-needed services. Donors for the silent auction and raffle included Jake Lowry's Swift Water Guide Service, Sol Blends, Rosella's Vineyard and Winery, and Rogue Valley Runners.

Applegate School's annual jog-a-thon on October 10 also supplemented the school budget to allow for field trips and other enrichment activities.

The Harvest Festival, sponsored by PTSG (Parent Teacher Student Group) on October 30, provided an evening of fun and games for the Applegate School community. This parent-teacher group serves as a strong support for Applegate School and gives funds to the school for special needs and projects.

Applegate School's volleyball season finished with a record of seven wins and six losses for the JV team, and six wins and seven losses for the varsity team. The team coach is Diana West. The boys' basketball season has begun with two teams from fifth through eighth grades under the coaching leadership of Austin Bristow.

Jean Hall • jhall80@juno.com

Williams School

Williams School began the new academic year with 76 students, an increase from last year's enrollment.

This year's after-school program got off to a great start with four offerings. Students can participate in classes featuring plants and seeds, art, music, and yoga.

In the news

Williams students made front-page news in the October 14 issue of the Grants Pass *Daily Courier*. Putting a new twist on the annual jog-a-thon, the school hosted a heroes-themed event, with local first responders, veterans, and military personnel participating in the day's activities.

A helicopter from Mercy Flights opened the jog-a-thon by landing on the school's field. Other agencies participating in the event included Williams Rural Fire Department, Josephine County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the United States Army.

Rich Vetter, a Williams firefighter, helped organize the event, hoping to give students the message that these heroes are part of the local scene and are available when people need help. Shane Simon, a deputy sheriff, pointed out the value of the event as another way of connecting with the students.

Fifth-grader Savanna Rogers opened the jog-a-thon by singing the national anthem. Then, after hearing from the local heroes, students ran around the track for an hour in order to accumulate a large number of laps that would fund field trips and technology purchases for the student body.

Williams student Caitlyn Miller won third place in the annual Readapalooza Community Read-Aloud on Sunday, October 21, at the Grants Pass public library. Caitlyn read *Hamstersaurus Rex* by Tom O'Donnell. The Readapalooza event was sponsored by the Grants Pass Friends of the Library.

Jean Hall • jhall80@juno.com

Look who's reading the Gater!

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



Photos above, top to bottom:

—**Tom and Kathy Carstens** used GPS directions in the Gater to lead them to the entrance of the Montreal, Canada, Gay Quarter.

—**Barbara Niedermeyer** peruses the Applegater for the final score of the next game to be played at the Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii.

—**John Taylor** lugged the Gater all the way to Soweto Falls, South Africa, simply to share this beautiful rainbow with our readers.

Photos above, top to bottom:

—**Paula Strickland and Michael Tougher** check out the Applegater for the lengthy list of nighttime entertainment hot spots in Dublin, Ireland.

—While at Mission Park and Rose Garden in Santa Barbara, **Mary and Kenny Jorgensen** learn all about the garden's 1,500 rose plants, featured in the Gater's rosaceae section.

—**Diana Potts**, at Maine's Acadia National Park, checks the Applegater for locations of nesting peregrine falcons, but is informed that trails are closed and to whale-watch instead.

Photos above, top to bottom:

—**Jack Duggan**, a regular at the Great Wallingford Wurst Festival in Seattle, reads up on the day's music lineup and wurst options in the Applegater's festival section.

—**Cathy Rodgers** focused on reading the Gater from cover to cover during her recent cruise down the exceedingly scenic Rhine River in Germany.

—**Debbie and Don Tollefson** and the Gater joined 70,000 other visitors to the Great Wall of China, of which one-third has disappeared without a trace.



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