



Applegater

Photo by Linda Kappen • applegater.org

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Applegate Valley Community Newsmagazine
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Celebrating
~27~
Years



The inside of a black market hoop house near Central Point that was raided by a multi-agency task force in July. Similar operations in the Applegate are being targeted for code violations. Photo: Jackson County Sheriff's Office.

New state funding boosts hoop house code crackdown

BY TOM CARSTENS

Why is the Applegate Valley swamped with plastic “hoop houses”? They’re not necessarily for hemp, which normally does just fine in an open field, but they are a good idea for marijuana, partly because light deprivation can spur growth, increase the number of harvests, and boost the plant’s tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the chemical that enables the psychoactive effect. Hemp THC content cannot legally exceed 0.3 percent. But with marijuana, the more the better (and the greater the profit).

Since both crops are of the same cannabis species and virtually identical

in appearance, some commercial growers have chosen to subvert the regulations and mix unregistered marijuana plants with registered hemp grows.

This is not the route chosen by honest farmers who obey the regulations and produce legal cannabis. This is the route chosen by folks who circumvent the law. Hoop houses have the additional benefit of shielding bootleg operations from prying eyes.

So the Applegate Valley is seeing an uptick in leased land with these hoop houses. Landowners can command top
See REGULATORY HOOPS, page 3

Betty and Barney Smith left a legacy to Applegate wineries

BY DIANA COOGLE

Last fall, vineyard owners in the Applegate mourned the loss of two people intimately associated with wine growing in this area: Betty and Barnard (Barney) Smith, of The Academy, at 18200 Highway 238, who both died in that sad season of many losses.

Betty died on September 11, 2020, and Barney 18 days later, on September 29. They had just celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in August. Both died of Alzheimer-type illnesses.

The Smiths left a remarkable legacy. The Applegate is known as a wine-growing region, with wines characteristic of the locale, in large part because it is officially recognized as an American Viticultural Area (AVA), one of only 18 in Oregon. It has that important designation because of the work of Barney Smith.

What an AVA, also called an appellation of origin, means is that the grapes grown in that area are distinct because of the particular attributes of the locale: climate, geology, soils, and so forth. It allows wines made with at least 85 percent of the AVA area’s grapes to bear labels displaying that name. AVA is a distinction to be proud of, one that not only makes sommeliers nod wisely but gives grape growers and wine makers a joint marketing approach



Betty and Barnard Smith of The Academy. Photo: From the Wine of Southern Oregon collection, courtesy of Southern Oregon University Hannon Library Special Collections.

for the unique microclimate of their area. The Applegate’s AVA gives our vineyards prestige and increases the price our winemakers can put on a bottle of Applegate wine.

In an article for vinepair.com about the process of obtaining an AVA from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Laura Burgess says, “From analyzing soil maps to drafting boundary lines, there’s enough to discourage even historically relevant wine-growing areas from applying. In comparison, the IRS tax code sounds like fun.” But Barney was up for the challenge, stuck with the process, and in 2001 succeeded in having the Applegate recognized as an AVA.

See BETTY AND BARNEY SMITH, page 2

Dragonfly Place: Park monument to honor Grandmother Aggie

BY JANELLE DUNLEVY

The board of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) has recently established a Cultural Committee with a commitment to diversity and inclusion. This committee is actively seeking members to represent the broad diversity of people who contributed to the rich history of the Applegate Valley and Rogue Basin. The Cultural Committee will help introduce and authenticate history and stories of the cultures living with and on the lands in the Applegate, providing education and interpretation at our public parks and recreation sites.

The first project of the Cultural Committee is to develop a memorial for Agnes Baker Pilgrim, called “Dragonfly

Place,” at Cantrall Buckley County Park. This memorial will also serve as a template for Native American interpretive signs.

Agnes Baker Pilgrim, also known as Grandmother Aggie, was a celebrated Takelma Elder, a member of the Confederated Tribe of the Siletz Indians, and one of the 13 Indigenous Grandmothers who advocated for our mother earth. She was especially fond of the Applegate Valley communities. She passed in November 2019, yet her enduring Indigenous wisdom lives on.

Dragonfly Place is a large multi-level cement platform at Cantrall Buckley County Park. This memorial will feature Grandmother Aggie’s life, family, and



Grandmother Aggie teaching about Takelma ways with a traditional canoe made by Gray Eagle and George Fence. Photo: Julie Norman.

accomplishments, as well as the history of her tribal groups both before and after their removal to reservations. It is a place

where dragonflies thrive and visitors can hear water flowing to the nearby Applegate River, a peaceful place for remembering and learning about this region’s earliest inhabitants. The content for this memorial site will be verified through Grandmother Aggie’s family and the website dedicated to her life.

The project includes design and installation of a commemorative sign for Grandmother Aggie and restoration of the site’s surrounding area by removing invasive species, releasing suppressed native species, and reestablishing native flora. The Cultural Committee will also create a study area to facilitate thought through interpretive and educational materials.

The public is invited to support and get involved in this first project of APWC’s Cultural Committee. The project’s funding goal is \$20,000, including more than \$8,000 of in-kind volunteer

See DRAGONFLY PLACE, page 2

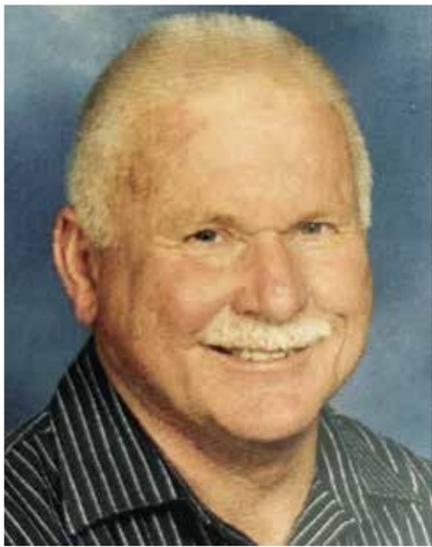
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AGRICULTURE - WINE

OBITUARIES

The Reverend Ronald 'Ron' McKay**August 8, 1954 – July 22, 2021**

Ron McKay, pastor, teacher, chaplain, soldier, firefighter, woodworker, choir director, multi-instrumentalist, storyteller, basketball junkie—never afraid to go for the high note, always bringing the fun—the new best friend you didn't know you needed, generous and dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, died on Thursday, July 22, at the age of 66.

Ron pastored Ruch Community Bible church for 40 years, volunteered as chaplain and firefighter in the Applegate Valley for 30, and served in the Army National Guard for 20, rising in the ranks from first lieutenant to colonel and

finally serving as Oregon state chaplain. He served with Multinational Forces and Observers in Egypt for nine months, was on active duty in Iraq for one year, and again on active duty in Louisiana for one month in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. He viewed firefighting and military service as extensions of his ministry and relished the unique challenges and adventures they involved.

"Ron was truly a man of God, someone who really personified the Golden Rule," said Paul Tipton. "And he was also very much a community builder, involved with people, activities, and organizations in the Applegate Valley as a strong and positive force. He was a firefighter and emergency responder and also the chaplain to go to after a particularly traumatic call. I just want to recognize him as someone who 'walked his talk' and lived his life to make the Applegate Valley the special place it is for us all."

Ron is survived by his wife, Martha, to whom he was married for 44 years; his sons, Dan, John, and Mark; his daughter-in-law, Crystal; and his grandsons Simon, who just learned to ride Grandpa's Honda 90, Mark, who fills his family's homes with art, and Than, who brings joy to everyone he meets. Ron will be so missed.

A memorial service was held at Ruch Community Bible Church on August 7.

Walter Eugene Schmidt III**November 6, 1929 – August 27, 2020**

Walter Schmidt, beloved husband of Joyce Schmidt for 71 years, died August 27, 2020, at the fine old age of 90.

He is survived by his wife, six children, 17 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

His family wishes to invite the community to "Walt's Remembrance" at noon Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 3654 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville.

Please bring your Walt stories and a potluck dish or hors d'oeuvre.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to either Friends of Ruch Library, 7919 Highway 238, Jacksonville, OR



97530 or the *Applegater*, PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

See you there. Casual dress.

William 'Willie' Wayne Warwick**February 22, 1956 – June 21, 2021**

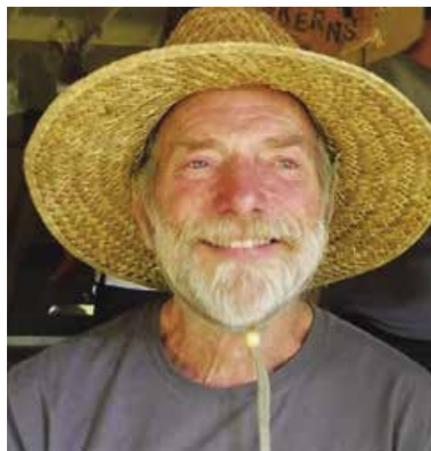
Willie (William Wayne) Warwick, 65, passed away June 21 at his Williams home, after a brief bout of cancer.

Willie was a longtime Williams resident and graduate of Grants Pass High School. Through his company, Good Sound Construction, Willie built beautiful custom homes for families throughout the region and also provided remodels, decks, and furniture for clients.

Best known, however, for his world-class fiddle playing, Willie entertained Josephine County residents with his band, Willie and the Poor Boys, often playing for the dining crowd on the deck at Galice Resort.

He and his high school buddies, the Hurrman Burrman band, reunited each year for a popular bash at Plaisance Winery.

Willie is survived by his son, Travis Warwick, and granddaughter, Scarlett



Warwick. He leaves behind his life partner, Nicky Caballera, and legions of friends, music students, and fans who will miss hearing "The Orange Blossom Special" and how "The Devil Went Down to Georgia."

BETTY AND BARNEY SMITH*Continued from page 1*

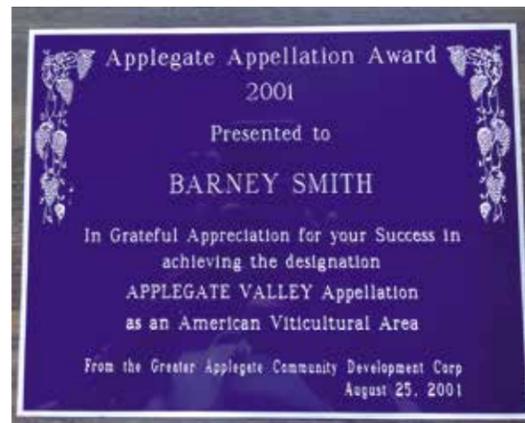
The Academy, the second winery in the Applegate (after Valley View), was established by Barney and Betty in 1995 and bonded in 1996. The Smiths did their own vineyard work on 3,000 vines of cabernet, pinot, chardonnay, and merlot grapes, which produced 12-13 tons of grapes annually and from which Barney and Betty made 300-400 cases of estate wine annually. The pinot noir grapes were Betty's "babies." "She wouldn't let anyone else touch them," says their daughter, Eileen Smith. That tender loving care paid off when The Academy's 1997 pinot noir won a gold medal at an American Wine Society competition.

Barney was the wine maker and Betty the vineyard manager. They both enjoyed pouring wine for guests in the wine-tasting room. Barney, a retired professor, loved instructing people about wine making and telling tales. Betty, even when she was using a walker to get around, enjoyed being with the friends, tourists, and travelers who came to taste the wines.

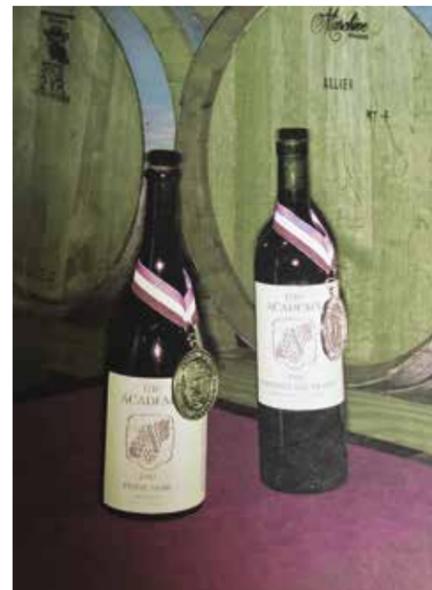
Two specialty wines at The Academy were the Emeritus (Barney was a professor emeritus) and Applegate Gold, named, Barney said, because "there's gold in them thar vineyards." As for the name of the winery, Barney, who was a graduate of Stanford, said, "If a university can call itself a farm [Stanford's nickname], then a vineyard and winery can call itself an academy."

Applegate vintners esteemed Barney's position in the community. Herb Quady, of Quady North, says, "Though he had started to retire by the time I arrived in 2003, his impact on the wine community was evident to me, and his wines were found on the lists of our region's best restaurants."

Before starting his career as a vigneron (a grower of wine grapes) and a vintner (a maker of wines), Barney taught the MBA program at the University of Michigan. In preparation for his new career, he apprenticed at Seven Lakes Vineyard, in



A plaque honors Barney Smith for founding the Applegate Valley Appellation.



Bottles with The Academy label were highly prized.

Fenton, Michigan, and attended classes in enology at the University of California, Davis. Then he and Betty moved to the Applegate, where they discovered the special nature of the Applegate as a wine-growing region and the community of vintners, enologists, viticulturists, and sophisticated wine lovers of the Applegate.

The Academy is now run by one of the Smiths' two daughters, Eileen Smith, who is looking forward to help from her sister, Carolyn Smith, as soon as Carolyn is able to move to the Applegate.

Diana Coogle
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DRAGONFLY PLACE*Continued from page 1*

time and donations. The Four Way Community Foundation has kicked off the fundraising with a \$5,000 grant. The committee estimates 18 months to complete this project.

You can help support the building of Dragonfly Place by joining the APWC at a fundraising celebration on the Autumn Equinox, September 22, at Red Lily Vineyard. We will present a spin on our annual outdoor film festival by bringing in Alice DiMichele, an outstanding singer-

songwriter and long-time ally of Agnes Baker Pilgrim, and showing some short video clips featuring Grandmother Aggie. This community event is open to all and serves as a fundraiser for the work of our cultural and education committees. Festivities begin at 6:30 pm with music starting at 6:45 pm and videos starting after sunset. For more information, visit our website at apwc.info.

Janelle Dunlevy
Applegate Partnership
Cultural Committee
Janelle@apwc.info

Grants and donations will pay to have this area at Cantrall Buckley County Park made into "Dragonfly Place," dedicated to Agnes Baker Pilgrim and her work as the Voice for the Voiceless. Photo: Janelle Dunlevy/APWC.



Siskiyou Crest driving tour connects participants to nature

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

The Siskiyou Crest has many remote wildlands difficult to access and rarely visited, wild roadless areas that provide important wildlife habitat and a secluded backwoods experience for those who venture into them. In other portions of the Siskiyou Crest an existing road network provides vehicular access to backcountry destinations.

On July 6 my husband, Luke, and I took a group of 13 Applegaters interested in ecology and conservation on a Siskiyou Crest “driving tour” for an accelerated sightseeing overview of the Applegate’s backcountry, especially of the high-elevation headwaters. For those who, for one reason or another, would rather explore the Siskiyou by vehicle, driving the crest is a great option for getting to know the region. One person on our tour, for instance, was recovering from a recent knee surgery.

Cheryl Bruner described her experience this way: “In our drive from Dutchman’s Peak to Elliott Creek I was stunned by the absolute beauty and diversity that I saw. Wildflowers, meadows, trees of all species, and glorious mountains—landscapes for hikes that will entertain me for years.”

Leading a caravan of five high-clearance vehicles, each with its own two-way radio for communication, Luke started the

trip off by jokingly saying, “Welcome to the Siskiyou Crest Driving Tour. I’m Luke Ruediger, and I’ll be your tour guide today.”

We started on Beaver Creek Road, also known as Forest Service Road 20, which was built in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Road 20 starts in the Upper Applegate, climbs towards Dutchman Peak, then rides the Siskiyou Crest east all the way to Mt. Ashland. Instead of driving east, however, we left Road 20 at Jackson Gap and headed west to Alex Hole.

Our first stop was the Dutchman Peak lookout. We parked below the gate and walked up to the lookout, where Luke named all the peaks in the sweeping, 360-degree view. Along the walk we looked at rare plants in the Dutchman Peak Botanical Area. We saw rare and endemic plant species such as split-hair paintbrush (*Castilleja schizotricha*), Henderson’s horkelia (*Horkelia hendersonii*), and Douglas’s buckwheat (*Eriogonum douglasii*).

Next, we drove out Forest Road 40S01 past Observation Peak to Cow Creek Glade. Here, we enjoyed the view down Cow Creek past vast flower-filled meadows and little groves of quaking aspens to the forests of Beaver Creek, a tributary of the

Klamath River. At this stop local geologist and driving-tour participant Chas Rogers gave an informative talk about the unique geology of the region.

We then drove to the upper end of Donomore Meadows and stopped for lunch. With a sweeping view across



Tour leader Luke Ruediger names the peaks seen in the 360-degree view from Dutchman Peak Lookout. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

the expansive high-elevation meadow, we strolled through a spectacular patch of yellow mule’s ears (*Wyethia angustifolia*) and heard stories of historical events and place names dating back to the so-called Humbug Wars, a skirmish between settlers and indigenous tribes on the Klamath River.

From there we drove east toward Alex Hole, stopping along the way to check out the rare, endemic Jayne’s Canyon buckwheat (*Eriogonum diclinum*) near its namesake, Jayne’s Canyon.

At Alex Hole we took in the commanding view framed by Big Ridge and Condrey Mountain. We also checked out the quaking aspen, common juniper, and rare (for the Siskiyou) ledge stonecrop (*Rhodiola integrifolia*) growing on the tall rocky ledge above the meadows.

We then drove back to Ward’s Fork Gap and ended the tour with a drive through old-growth forests in the spectacular Elliott Creek canyon. “Thanks for joining us on the Siskiyou Crest Driving Tour,”

Luke said, continuing his mock-tour guide persona. “It’s been a pleasure to be your guide today.”

It was a pleasure for the participants as well. One of the drivers, Diana Coogle, summed up the attitude of many: “I have done a lot of hiking on and around the Siskiyou Crest,” she said, “but to drive on it gave me in one afternoon a whopping big hit of much that I love about my home: the wild, rugged Siskiyou; the wildflowers; the kestrel and the fisher; the magnificent forests; the vistas of meadows, canyons, and peaks—what a gorgeous and special place we live in.”

Suzie Savoie
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Wildflowers in the Dutchman Peak Botanical Area. Photo: Suzie Savoie.



Checking out the view from Dutchman Peak Lookout. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

REGULATORY HOOPS

Continued from page 1

dollar for these leases because lessees can realize a profit of up to 100 times the lease price.

Both Josephine and Jackson County require permits for these structures. Usually alerted by neighbors’ complaints, code enforcers inspect these properties for violations. There are a lot of complaints, typically several hundred cases in a county inspector’s file.

Neighbors also complain about illegal water takings. State and county water inspectors regularly issue citations to the property owners who are using water without rights. There are so many complaints that watermasters can’t keep up.

Our county sheriff personnel are doing their best to make arrests and pull plants, but warrants can be hard to come by when the illegal plants are identical to the legal ones.

These cases don’t stop with just building codes, water rights, and cannabis violations. Enforcers are increasingly noticing other, more troublesome, activities: gun violence, squalid living conditions, human trafficking, worker abuse, unsafe working conditions, and environmental degradation.



An aerial view of a black market hoop house near Central Point raided by a multi-agency task force in July. Similar operations in the Applegate are being targeted for code violations. Photo: Jackson County Sheriff’s Office.

Who are these people? Some of them are locals out to make a quick buck. Some are transplants from California, well-versed in the nuances of growing and selling illegal cannabis. And some are slick drug cartels from all corners of the world—criminal business enterprises who are making millions on the black market. They are well aware of the bureaucratic and legal impediments that protect law-abiding landowners. The inevitable delays allow them to operate with

virtual impunity. The time from seed to flower is a little over two months—plenty of time to get a crop out before a civil decree can be levied.

These problems have sparked the interest of the state. Governor Kate Brown has just signed House Bill 3000, which was pushed by one of the Applegate Valley’s representative in Salem, Lily Morgan,

and supported by our other representative, Pam Marsh. Among other things, this law has increased the staffing and funding of both the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC, which formerly stood for Oregon Liquor Control Commission). From now through September, agents will be field-testing all of the registered hemp grows in our two counties. The law will also help sheriff’s personnel identify unregistered

grows. OLCC Director Steve Marks is hoping that “this will enable ODA or law enforcement to stop the illegal production of marijuana disguised as hemp production.” Enforcement agents are hoping that if this effort is successful, it will lead to the adoption of additional, more aggressive measures.

Jackson County has conducted a series of planning sessions to address what the county administrator has called a crisis. (The county anticipates 1,700 active cases this year.) One outcome of these meetings has been to double the code enforcement staff and give inspectors increased access to offending properties. As of this writing, the county commissioners are considering a “declaration of emergency,” which would enhance resources and tighten up the bureaucracy. Another idea is to develop joint agency teams that would be empowered to conduct coordinated property inspections.

“We get it. We know we have a big problem, and we’re going to address it,” said Jackson County Commissioner Dave Dotterer. “A cancer is enveloping our community and could possibly kill everything we love about this valley.”

Tom Carstens
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POETRY CORNER

Autumn is My Religion

by Joan Peterson
joanpete5317@gmail.com

All summer we slept under the stars
the orange eye of Mars penetrating
our dreams. We can't forget the heat
the relief of the dark and the long
wooden deck where our bed stretched
into the fresh night air.

Now morning slows to open her window
of sun. We wake to early dawn,
unable to escape the pull of night.
A golden light of autumn folds over us...
we can't get enough of the pungent air
the smell of fir cones and pine.

Apples ripen outside our window like some
Van Gogh canvas and grapes fill the arbor
in abundance. This is the time for dreaming;
longing spreads like a sunflower pulling us
into the past or maybe toward the future...
some new life in another time.

I make tea that tastes like cherries and listen
to the wind chimes tinkle their lazy tune.
It's a do-nothing day, but wait, it's my religion.
This is the way I pray.

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

Wendell Berry book club forming in the Applegate

BY SCOTT PROSE

A Wendell Berry Book Club is forming in the Applegate.

A famed writer, farmer, and rural resident, Wendell Berry gives his readers, especially those in rural communities, thought-provoking questions and possible wisdom on living well and thoughtfully in a rural community. Our book club will be a weekly opportunity to discuss his essays and, occasionally, his poetry. This is a great chance to get to know some neighbors and have good conversations.

When: Wednesdays, 6:45 pm, starting October 20.

Where: Applegate Library, 18485 North Applegate Road.

If interested, please RSVP and send questions to scottapplegate@gmail.com.

Scott Prose

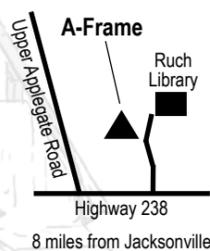
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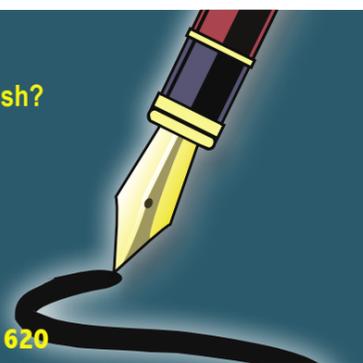
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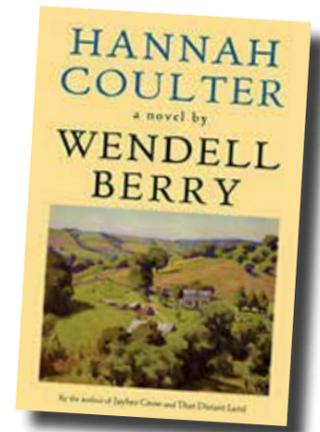


BOOK REVIEW

HANNAH COULTER

Wendell Berry
Shoemaker & Hoard
Berkeley, California, 2004

BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER



My copy of *Hannah Coulter* is marked up by pencil and pen from the first to last page. I've managed to clutter the margins with thoughts and memories of my own that match what Wendell Berry conjured about a Kentucky woman's life. The story of this woman is so understated and beautiful, heartfelt, and wise with life consciously lived that it almost made me cry from the universality of her experience and its applicability to the challenges of our own time and place. Every time I've read the book—four times over the last 15 years—my reaction has been the same: Hannah Coulter is real. She is a friend, a mentor, a wise person who could be living right down Sterling Creek Road from me.

Here is a book planted in the large expanse of ground we call the Twentieth Century, and its roots go deep. In the life of this woman, we can read the culture of place and the character of people who claim any place as their own. In it we can appreciate the land and people whose love and work and simple abiding join them to that land so powerfully that the union creates a home.

One way of experiencing this book is through the many patterns of place and character that Wendell Berry sets before us as we read. In his skillful way of unfolding Hannah's life in what often seems more a memoir than a novel, the author challenges our belief. It seems "she" is writing her life in her own hand. But it is Wendell Berry who has, by his writer's art, remembered her losses and her loves, her hopes, her failures, her determination and surrender—and written it in her voice. She becomes the voice of Kentucky culture, of the land which has always been a Wendell Berry theme, and of the force and inevitability of change which has the power to break our hearts.

Every story is a pattern woven out of chaos. Hannah reveals to us that our lives have a pattern that all who share it recognize and count on for pretty much

everything. The pattern shows us the place and value of both the massive and minute. When Hannah's patterns are disturbed or torn apart, a sense of plunging into chaos ensues. During World War II her young husband Virgil is killed. She then questions who she is without him and how her life and the lives of others in her small town of Port William might change into a pattern she won't recognize. "It is hard for me to think or speak of the time that came then. I remember it as dark. I can't remember the sun shining, though I'm sure it must have shone part of the time. I would think sometimes with a black sickness of fear and hopelessness and guilt...How can you be happy, how can you live, when all the things that make you happy grieve you nearly to death?" (page 49).

Hannah teaches us that any pattern can break, cause grief, and be reformed into another pattern that can change the meaning of a person, a town, and the land itself. Hannah writes, "Love held us. Kindness held us. We were suffering what we were living by. I began to know my story then. Like everybody's, it was going to be the story of living in the absence of the dead. What was going to be the thread that holds it all together? Grief, I thought for a while. And grief is there sure enough, just about all the way through... But grief is not a force and has no power to hold you. You only bear it. Love is what carries you, for it is always there, even in the dark, or most in the dark, but shining out at times like gold stitches in a piece of embroidery" (page 51).

Christin Lore Weber
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Voices of the Applegate

Looking forward to 2022

Voices of the Applegate was put on hold because of the COVID-19 virus in March 2020. In each issue of the *Applegater* this past year we have been hoping to announce the revival of our choir, but even now we must say that we won't be able to begin again this fall.

Despite our announcement that we were ready to start rehearsals in September, we haven't had enough members commit to our schedule this year. Some folks have moved out of town because of the fires last summer, some have made other commitments, and many are still wary of the virus, especially because of the new variant already in our community.

But we have not given up! Our director, Shayne Flock, is still enthusiastic about leading us again when we are ready, and we have an accompanist who is willing to fill in when needed. It is necessary that we have a full enough membership in the choir to be able to pay our director and the accompanist, plus pay the fees for venues for our performances.

If you would like to join our choir to begin singing with us in January, please call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988, or email her at joanpete5317@gmail.com. We would love to put you on our list as a possible member for 2022.

Have a safe and healthy fall with good wishes from the Voices of the Applegate.
Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988 • joanpete5317@gmail.com

Stay connected

Between issues, be sure to check the *Applegater* online on:



~ FINE PRINT ~

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

Our Mission

The goal of the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., is to provide the Applegate watershed with a communication vehicle, the *Applegater*, that will provide educational information, increase community networking, and represent all the area's diverse communities. Through honest, constructive, relevant, and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects and viewpoints, including our natural resources, historical and current events, and community news, we can work together to enhance the quality of life we have in the Applegate, and continue to make a difference in our valley.

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

Photo Requirements

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

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Jackson County: Ron Turpen @ 541-601-1867 or ron.turpen@gmail.com

Josephine County: Max Unger @ 541-373-1445 or imaxunger@gmail.com

Next deadline: November 1

Cover Photo Credit

Thanks to Linda Kappen for the photo of luscious red delicious apples on her Applegate property.

Have a photo for the winter *Applegater*?

Email it to bert@applegater.org.

Editorial Calendar

ISSUE DEADLINE

WINTER (Dec - Feb)....**November 1**
Holiday-Arts

SPRING (March - May) ... **February 1**
Commerce-Community

SUMMER (June - Aug) **May 1**
Environment-Fire-Recreation

FALL (Sept - Nov) **August 1**
Agriculture-Wine

Corrections

The *Applegater* is committed to publishing accurate information in its news articles, correcting errors of fact, and clarifying misleading statements. Send suggested corrections to Editor in Chief Bert Etling at bert@applegater.org, or call 541-631-1313.

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— Ruch Library —**Return to normality was brief**

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

We hoped to be a full-service library again, but due to a rise in COVID-19 cases, on August 13 all county library events were canceled. Online programs, virtual storytimes, and Take & Make kits remain available. Check jcls.org for updates. When cases subside, to reserve meeting space go to jcls.org, then to “Menu,” then to “Ruch Branch,” and scroll to the bottom to “Reserve Room.” Our large Community Room can be split in half for small groups, or if you have up to 80 people, you can reserve both halves.

Did you see the lovable forest gnomes last winter at Ruch Library? We will be offering a free workshop from 1-3:30 pm on November 20 for you to learn to make your own! We'll provide all the materials, including a tomato cage for the base, and fir and pine boughs. We welcome other greenery of different shades and textures. You will staple together fabric hats and gloves and then staple them directly to the greenery, so you don't need sewing skills. Registration for this class is required. Sign up at Ruch Library or online at jcls.org.

When COVID-19 protocols permit, our Preschool Storytime will start at 11:30 am Tuesdays. The Babies and Wobblers Storytime (zero-three years), an early



You can learn how to make a forest gnome at Ruch Library. Photo: Thalia Truesdell.

literacy program, begins at 10:15 am on October 5.

Be sure to update your child's library card for the new school year in preparation for discovering new worlds at the library.

Our digital services representative, Nicole, is here on Thursday afternoons to help with

questions about your phone, computer, or other device. Call 541-734-3990 or email digitalservices@jcls.org for an appointment.

Starting September 25 and running through October, the Southern Oregon Stitchers will display some of their finest pieces, showing myriad styles of decorative work done by their nimble hands. Don't miss it!

During the pandemic lull, the new books just kept pouring in, and now we have rearranged spaces to accommodate them. We look forward to sharing these books with you! There are many, many great new titles, authors, and subjects pertinent to these exciting and turbulent times. C'mon in and check us out!

Thalia Truesdell

Ruch Branch Library Manager
Jackson County Library Services
541-899-7438, ttruesdell@jcls.org

**— Applegate Library —****Library offers tech help**

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

As we head into the final quarter of the year, you will now be able to book our meeting room through December 2021. The community room is space (with chairs, table, and a kitchenette) for up to 50 people to gather, discuss, associate, and recreate at no cost to you. All you need to book is a full-service or annual, nonresident library card in good standing. The meeting room can be booked outside of the library's open hours. To learn how to book the Applegate Branch Library meeting room and to see the policies and information for doing this, go to jcls.libcal.com/reserve/ap-meeting.

**Program Spotlight:
Computer and tech help**

The digital services team at JCLS is here to help with all of your tech-related questions, bewilderment, concerns, and fears. The team is available by phone (541-734-3990) or by email (digitalservices@jcls.org) and will be at the Applegate Branch Library from 10 am-12:30 pm every Wednesday.

Upcoming events

Make your own vinegar. Vinegar has a ubiquitous history with humans across the planet and the ages. Learn how vinegar can be incredibly varied and nuanced in flavors and how to make it from just about any ingredient. We will taste vinegars, and you will make your own apple cider vinegar. Kirsten Shockey is a founder of FermentWorks and the online Fermentation School, as well as award-winning author of multiple books on fermentation. Her new book, *Homebrewed Vinegar*, will be available to

purchase. [Editor's note: Due to COVID-19 concerns, this event has been canceled.]

Friends of the Applegate Library (FOAL) Book Sale. Browse hundreds of titles of gently used and withdrawn books. All proceeds go to FOAL in support of programming at the Applegate Library. 2-6 pm Friday, September 24, and 10 am-2 pm, Saturday, September 25.

Take & Make Kits: Art-themed crafts, five-plus years. Paint, draw, chalk, stamp, origami, card-making—all these ideas, supplies, and more can be found in this kit supporting the library's fall theme of Diversity in the Arts. 2-6 pm (while supplies last), Friday, September 24.

Take & Make Kits: Autumn-themed crafts, five-plus years. Pick up a kit with autumn-themed ideas, including a mini pumpkin. 2-6 pm (while supplies last), Friday, October 15.

Take & Make Kits: Wine-inspired crafts, 21-plus years. Adults will have the opportunity to make wine charms and a cork-decorated votive candle. 2-6 pm (while supplies last), Friday, November 12.

Driftwood Planting with Succulents, 13-plus years. You don't need any gardening experience or a “green thumb” to create beautiful living art pieces. Sioux Rogers will present ways to use nature's elements to make planters for succulents. 11 am-noon, Saturday, November 20.

As of this writing, masks will be required in all library buildings and during library programs.

Christine Grubb

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

Josephine
Community Library

— Williams Library —**The library offers ways to enrich your life**

BY AMBER GUIENT

Have you taken advantage of all JosephineLINK can help you with? JosephineLINK is an online community resource directory where community members can access current information for hundreds of community service organizations. You can browse by category or search by keyword. Categories include rent assistance, volunteer opportunities, food assistance, family services, recovery support, veterans' services, and much more. You can find JosephineLINK on the library website at josephinelink.org.

**Brainfuse Helpnow
online tutoring**

It's always helpful to have more help. Brainfuse Helpnow's online classrooms host a multitude of resources such as homework help, a 24-hour writing lab, an adult learning center, and foreign-language labs—free with your library card. Live tutors are trained not to provide answers, but to help users master a problem's underlying academic concepts. Tutoring and homework help services are offered in Spanish for all subjects offered in English.

Master classes through Udemy

Patrons can browse through thousands of various classes taught by professionals in the field, all free with a library card. Udemy makes it easy to dive in whether it's a skill that needs some brushing up or is completely new. Choose a class from any subject, like one of dozens of available guitar classes. Then check out a guitar

from the Library of Things and hop on that new hobby.

Some harvest help

Whether you're a gardening novice or a cultivation expert, the library's resources page should catch any green thumb's eye. The gardening subject guide lists a variety of local and general resources from fun gardening DIY seed bombs to Udemy gardening master classes. Recommended reading curated by local librarians covers helpful subjects, topics, and tips that can help grow a garden and knowledge.

**Recommended reading
from your librarians**

Having trouble deciding what to read next? Whether you are looking for an audiobook for that road trip, a date-night DVD, or books for a family read-aloud, Shelf Shopper can meet all of your family's reading, listening, and viewing needs. Simply submit the Shelf Shopper form; a local librarian will pick a selection of materials and notify you when they are ready to be picked up during curbside service.

Find the Shelf Shopper form under the CATALOG menu at josephinelibrary.org.

The Williams branch library is open from 1-6 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, and from 11 am-4 pm Fridays.

Amber Guient • 541-846-7020
Manager, Williams branch
Josephine Community Library District
info@josephinelibrary.org

**Staff Spotlight ~ Susie Head Beckham
Applegate Branch Library Assistant**

How long have you worked at the Applegate Branch Library? I started volunteering when I “retired” from my long-time (about 20 years!) job with Les Schwab Tires. Within about six months there was a position available at the library, which I was hired for over six years ago.

What do you like most about your job? I so enjoy and look forward to my hours at the library. The very best part is getting to see, share, visit, and connect with community members I've known for much of my life. And learning new computer skills, hearing of new authors, and making new friends is an added bonus!

What do you like to do when you're not working? Friends, family, yard, animals, gardening, baking, and reading fill every minute of my day!

Where did you grow up? I grew up right where I live now! I went to Applegate School when it was just four rooms—two grades to a room. I've never traveled much outside of Oregon, but have lived in such beautiful places, including the Oregon coast and Lake Oswego. Applegate has always been “home” to me. My three beautiful daughters are spread among Oregon City, Oregon; Idaho Falls, Idaho; and Dublin, Ohio, giving me places to visit and play with my eight grandkids!

What fun facts would readers like to know about you? I'm really good at sudoku and crossword puzzles, and I can recite several old poems from memory! And, my first pet was a cow named “Mousie.” A dairyman gave her to me because he didn't think she'd live because she was so small. She lived for 11 years!

What are three words to describe you? I'd like to be thought of as friendly, kind, and helpful.

Who is your favorite author? Sandra Dallas.

NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

A Greater Applegate fine-tunes Community Vision

BY SETH KAPLAN AND MEGAN FEHRMAN

As Wendell Berry wrote in 1988, “In this difficult time of failed public expectations, when thoughtful people wonder where to look for hope, I keep returning in my own mind to the thought of the renewal of the rural communities.... But to be authentic, a true encouragement and a true beginning, this would have to be a revival accomplished mainly by the community itself. It would have to be done not from the outside by the instruction of visiting experts but from the inside by the ancient rule of neighborliness, by the love of precious things, and by the wish to be at home.” His words seem as fitting in today’s Applegate as they did in Berry’s Kentucky.

The Applegate Valley has no official boundaries. We’re marginally located in three counties and two states. We have no local government presence or services to address our needs or share our hopes. We don’t have accurate statistics about who lives here because we’re not considered an actual “place.” It’s hard to get our voices heard when we are invisible as a community.

By the time you’re reading this, A Greater Applegate (AGA) will have been fortunate to experience the local character, stories, and ideas in neighborhoods throughout this area as we completed the Applegate Valley Vision Listening Sessions. More than 300 people have gathered with us in all areas of our community: Little Applegate, Upper Applegate, Humbug Creek, North Applegate, Thompson Creek, Ruch, Gyda Lane, Sterling Creek, Provolt, Williams, Applegate Lake, Wilderville, and Murphy. Still more have shared their wisdom and experience at gatherings of Spanish speakers, local businesses, community organizations, advocates of the food system, and youth. Each one of these gatherings has been a little different, reflecting specific issues and bringing to the surface common interests, confirming that the Applegate Valley is a community with shared values and vision.

We want to hear from as many Applegaters as possible and to use what we hear to develop an Applegate Valley Vision highlighting community priorities that emerged through this process. *If you were unable to join one of our listening sessions, please complete the survey inserted in this issue of the Applegater. You can return it to the AGA office or your local library in Applegate, Ruch, or Williams.*

The next step in this process is for AGA to organize all we have heard into categories and share it with participants for confirmation. With that confirmation, we can begin to work together to turn vision into action. (On page 12, see the Community Vision graphic on how the process will unfold from here.)

As an outcome of the Applegate Valley Vision Listening Sessions and community-wide meetings, AGA will coordinate with the local community and content experts from public and private agencies to create Community Action Teams in support of the community’s prioritized projects. We will organize these teams around the priority projects and key strategies that emerged through the visioning process.



Members of the Sterling Creek neighborhood take part in a listening session.

The broad categories are:

1. Resilient and Connected

- Emergency Preparedness, Fire Management and Prevention
- Public Safety
- Built Environment/Infrastructure
- Communications Systems
- Energy

2. Vibrant and Livable

- Health and Wellness
- Transportation
- Housing
- Food Access and Security
- Education

3. Prosperous and Vital

- Local Economy
- Destination Management
- Business Network
- Arts and Culture
- (To be determined)

4. Stewarded and Sustainable

- Protect and Preserve Public & Private Forest Resources
- Protect and Preserve Water Resources and Local Watersheds
- Maintain and Enhance Small Family Farming and Local Food System
- Increase Outdoor Recreation Opportunities
- Plan for Climate Resiliency

5. Inclusive and Engaged Community

- Representation and Rural Advocacy
- Community and Neighborhood Events
- Age and Ability-friendly Programs and Activities
- Nonprofit Network Collaboration
- History and Cultural Heritage

It is an honor to witness and record the honesty and passion of so many Applegaters who have participated in this process. We look forward to turning inward during the fall and winter seasons to reflect on what we’ve learned. We are excited to return in the spring for the larger and deeper engagement to follow. If you are interested in playing a role in any of the emerging project and strategy categories, we welcome hearing from you.

Seth Kaplan, Executive Director
seth@agreaterapplegate.org
Megan Fehrman

Director of Vision Strategy
megan@agreaterapplegate.org

Let your lights shine!

Remember all those wonderful winter lights displays in the December 2020 tour by car? Let’s try to light up the local area again this year!

Contact Janis Mohr-Tipton (541-846-7501) or the A Greater Applegate office (541-702-2108) if you want to be included on the tour map.

Art on McKee Bridge is not to be missed

BY LAURA AHEARN

Sunday, September 12, Grandparents Day, will be a very busy day for McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS). MBHS members will meet at the McKee Bridge picnic grounds shelter for their annual meeting at 11 am, while Applegate artists and quilters convert the 104-year-old covered bridge into an art and quilt gallery. The exhibit will be open to the public from noon-4 pm and will feature at least two of the stunning museum quilts designed by MBHS founder Evelyn Byrne Williams.

MBHS is thrilled that Rogue Valley Genealogical Society (RVGS) has agreed to exhibit “Maryum’s Yellow Rose,” the incredibly detailed quilt that depicts the McKee family who emigrated to Jackson County in 1853.

RVGS will also display Evelyn’s large, original drawings, which were used by the Jacksonville Museum Quilters when they crafted this quilt back in 1984. A limited number of commemorative postcards will be on sale. Don’t miss this rare opportunity to see a very special quilt.

If you are an artist, in any medium, and would like to exhibit your work, please contact mckeebridge1917@gmail.com. While the event is intended to showcase Applegate creativity and not necessarily generate sales, it will be fine if exhibitors sell a piece or two or gain a commission. MBHS will charge no booth fees, as what’s important is creating a special space for our community to celebrate Applegate talent.

Speaking of talent, Ruch Outdoor Community School will have a booth. Grandparents who bring grandkids—and vice-versa—will receive a free ticket each for the drawing of their choice: a bottle of superior Cowhorn wine, a “Bigfoot Loves McKee Bridge” T-shirt, or an MBHS water bottle.

A key agenda item for the MBHS Annual Meeting is the election of directors and officers. If you might be interested in joining the board to help keep McKee Bridge open to the public and preserve Applegate history, please send a message to mckeebridge1917@gmail.com. Members will also review some recent and upcoming developments:

- MBHS received 100 percent of the requested grant from the Oregon Historic Cemeteries Commission to repair damaged grave markers and install an interpretive panel at Logtown Cemetery. MBHS volunteers continue to inspect and clean the oldest monuments at the cemetery and to research the pioneers they memorialize.

- MBHS volunteers have staffed a booth at almost every Applegate Evening Market on Wednesdays from 5-8 pm. Thank you, Electric Gardens Flower Farm!

- The Ruch Hardware 20th Anniversary Party was a fun day with lots of great people stopping at the MBHS booth to chat about history.

- Coming up: The decision on the pending grant application to the Oregon Cultural Trust, the mandatory structural inspection of the bridge, and—mark your calendar if you didn’t already—Art on the Bridge, aka Grandparents Day, noon-4 pm, Sunday, September 12.

Laura Ahearn
mckeebridge1917@gmail.com



Two panels from the exquisite museum quilt “Maryum’s Yellow Rose,” which depicts the McKee family who emigrated to Jackson County in 1853. The quilt will be on display at McKee Bridge on Sunday, September 12.

VALLEY EXPERT!

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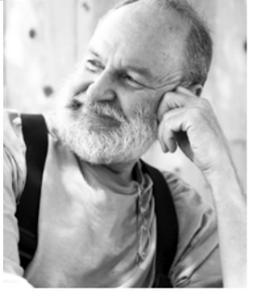
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THE STARRY SIDE

Gateway to the stars

BY GREELEY WELLS

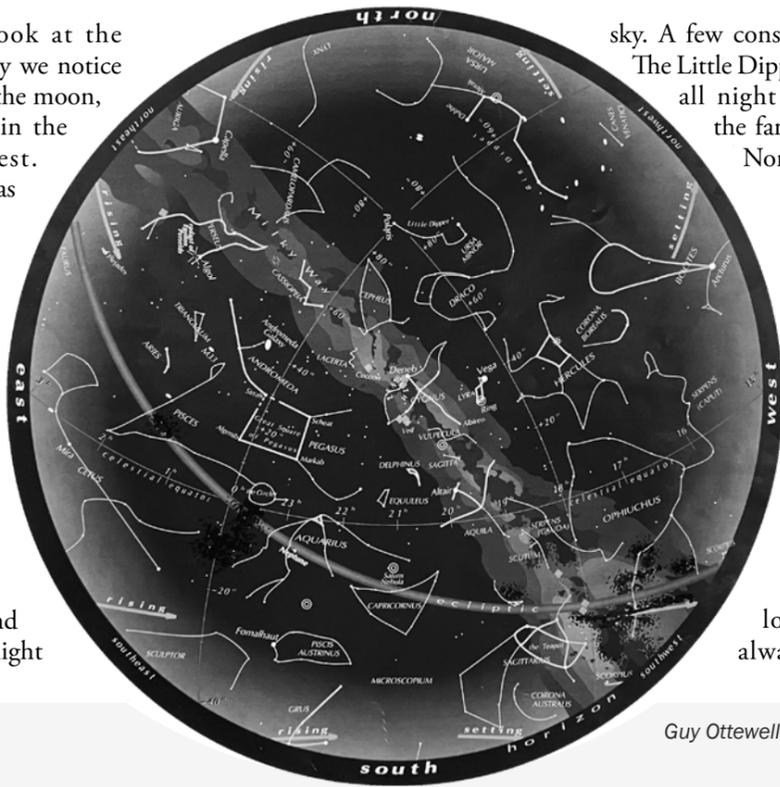


Greeley Wells

Let me take a broad look at the night sky with you. Generally we notice the sweep of it all—the sun, the moon, and the stars—from rising in the east to setting in the west. (Meteors go every which way, as do our satellites!)

But there is one star in the north that does not move at all. It's the North Star—Polaris—and it's the center of our northern hemisphere. All the other stars and constellations go around it.

The farther a constellation is from Polaris, the wider its sweep. The closer it is to Polaris, the shorter its sweep and the longer it's visible in the night



sky. A few constellations don't ever set. The Little Dipper, for instance, is visible all night in all seasons because the far end of its handle is the North Star.

This simple realization is actually quite powerful. From Polaris, everything else will proceed, like a key that unlocks the sky for you. There it is: Something you can always find! Once you stand at a particular place in your yard, or even look out a particular northern window, and locate Polaris, you can always find it again from

that spot. From my deck, I have a view of two large trees some distance apart and some shorter ones below. I can always find the North Star between the two tall trees and above the short ones! *Always!*

So first you have to know where north is. Stand with the place the sun rises on your right (that's east) and the place where it sets on your left (that's west), and you're looking north. Not rocket science. But if you've never done it, it's a treat to be predictably oriented any time you step outside and look at the sky.

Here's an insight about distances that will help you find the North Star once you're facing north: The North Star is about halfway between the zenith (the point directly overhead) and the horizon. The width of your finger is about one degree when held out at arm's length. Your fist is about five degrees. Two fists are about ten degrees, which is about the same as a stretched-out hand at arm's length. To find the North Star, imagine or see the horizon line. About two outstretched hands plus one fist above the horizon line, you will find Polaris.

If you've gotten this far, you're well on your way to discovering the constellations of the night sky and already know a really important one. Finding the Little Dipper (Ursa Minor, or, in Native American lore, the Little Bear) is a good start, and it's as easy as finding the North Star.

To find more constellations, check out the sky map on this page.

Greeley Wells • greeley@greeley.me

OF NOTE

Mercury is in the dusk in September and the dawn in October and November.

Venus is in the evening all three of these months. And nicely bright.

Mars is going to be invisible all fall.

Jupiter is viewable each evening in the fall. It is the brightest "star" you'll see all night. In early evening, it rises in the east. By midnight, it's in the south, and by morning in the west. A real treat!

Saturn is another evening planet this season, but rarely bright.

Draconid meteor shower (a medium shower) takes place in the early evening on October 8. Evening showers are rare because the radiant starts high but then drops, cutting off what few may show up. Nonetheless, the Draconid shower is sometimes amazing.

Taurid meteors, near Taurus the Bull, will be visible after midnight on November 4 and before dawn on November 5. The moon leaves the sky by midnight, so they

should still be visible in the morning throughout this week.

Taurids strike again, but modestly, when the North Taurids overlap the Taurids from October 12 to December 2, but only about five per hour. Typically, the maximum occurs around midnight when the constellation is highest in the sky.

Leonid meteors normally number just 10-15 an hour before dawn, after the moon has set. November 17 is the best morning to try for some.

Guy Ottewell's *Astronomical Calendar*

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Argosy Odyssey found a home in the Applegate

BY MICHAEL SCHNEIDER

As everyone knows, the past 18 months have seen a major disruption in the lives of people and businesses everywhere. Families and individuals have struggled to return to a “normal” life, and businesses have faced closures and significant losses.

Among the handful of exceptions to these difficulties is the RV (recreational vehicle) market and lifestyle. Indeed, RV dealers and manufacturers report record-smashing sales and shipment numbers over the past several months, and RV owners have hit the road in such incredible numbers that finding a simple site to camp in an RV park has become a challenge.

One perfect example of those enjoying the RV lifestyle and creating a “normal” life is close to home: Chad and Cate Battles, Applegate residents who have become a “wandering troupe” known as Argosy Odyssey. Cate is an artist and writer who operates her studio in downtown Grants Pass, while Chad is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees union and works at Schmidt Family Vineyards. Together with their goat, Frankie, the couple lives full-time and

travels occasionally in a 1976 Airstream Argosy trailer that Chad has renovated inside, and that Cate, on the outside, has painted with a beautiful, distinct mural inspired by Woody Guthrie’s “This Land Is Your Land.”

Their story began in Asheville, North Carolina, a few years ago, when the pair became empty nesters and decided to uproot their lifestyle, sell their riverside bar, and take a cross-country trek through 25 states looking for a place to settle down. That trip eventually brought them to Grants Pass and the Applegate Valley, where they fell in love with the area and decided to park and live full-time in their Airstream at a farm on North Applegate Road.

“We decided to settle here because we found the people very friendly,” Cate said, mentioning specifically the “wonderful farming community and, of course, the wineries. We also like its close proximity to everything we enjoy,” she added. “Within an hour or two we can be exploring the coast and the redwoods, skiing down a mountain, or enjoying the beauty of the Rogue Wilderness.”

The three of them (including Frankie, of course) still take their RV on many overnight trips, traveling about two and a half months per year—even during the pandemic. “We’re very fortunate in the fact that we take our home with us,” Cate said. “We don’t stay at campgrounds and only camp in dispersed areas on public lands, so we’re able to avoid people much better than if we stayed in town.”

While traveling, they also take beautiful photos and videos—often with a drone—of the many wonderful places they visit. “In southern Oregon, some of our favorite



Cate and Chad Battles with their goat, Frankie, and custom-painted Airstream trailer on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. Tales of the travels of the Applegate-based “Argosy Odyssey” crew are followed by more than 19,000 users on Instagram and more than 24,000 members of Facebook. Photo: © @ArgosyOdyssey.

spots are Crater Lake and the greater Prospect area, as well as the Ashland Meadows, Table Rocks, and Cathedral Hills for the wildflower displays,” Cate said. “Closer to the Applegate we love Squaw Lakes, Sterling Ditch, and the scenic Ashland Loop Road.” They have put together a variety of the spectacular photos they take and created calendars of the area, some of which have Applegate backgrounds. They sell the calendars (the 2022 edition of “Frankie’s Airstream Adventures” is available now), along with other merchandise, and original paintings, prints and note cards featuring Cate’s artwork.

They do all this adventuring with their fur baby, Frankie, who joins them for hikes, camping, and exploring wherever their roaming takes them. “She is a seven-year-old pygmy-Nigerian-dwarf cross, who we trained when she was a kid, so she is an outdoor-indoor goat and a great traveler,” Cate said.



Frankie and the Argosy Odyssey trailer at their Applegate home base. Photo: © @ArgosyOdyssey.

When asked what their family members think of their adventurous journeys and lifestyles, Cate simply replied, “They think we’re a hoot!”

You can follow Cate, Chad, and Frankie’s adventures, within the Applegate Valley and to other wonderful locations, through their website: argosyodyssey.com/about and through their Facebook page: facebook.com/argosyodyssey.

Michael Schneider
mschneider@masassociatesinc.com

Frankie and the Airstream underneath an Applegate sunset. Photo: © @ArgosyOdyssey.



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You can help SOLVE litter at Cantrall Buckley Park



Volunteers pause to have their photo taken during the 2018 SOLVE cleanup at Cantrall Buckley Park. This year's event is set for October 2. Photo: Audrey Eldridge.

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Save the date! A Greater Applegate's Park Enhancement Volunteer Team is sponsoring a volunteer event this fall (following all safety guidelines) that will give people a chance to work in the outdoors at their favorite community park. It's our participation in the statewide beach and riverside cleanup (known as SOLVE, which originally stood for Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism, and is now the name of a Portland-based nonprofit) on Saturday, October 2, from 9:30-11:30 am.

This statewide annual event—the 39th—engages over 5,000 volunteers and includes over 130 cleanup and restoration projects across Oregon. We are glad to be able to join the effort again this year.

At Cantrall Buckley, we will work in small groups (six to eight individuals, or family groups with a maximum of eight participants) spread out in various areas of the park with a volunteer crew leader. All ages are welcome. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

We will be cleaning up woody debris and trash, weeding and mulching in landscaped areas and established beds, and removing invasive ivy, vinca (commonly called periwinkle), and blackberry. The goal is to release native plant species and clear overgrowth on trails and around a multilevel platform which is the future site of "Dragonfly Place," a project of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council's Cultural Committee (see related story on page 1). Dragonfly Place is an example of the "working

together" partnerships among nonprofit organizations that benefit our communities of the Applegate Valley.

The SOLVE event will take place rain or shine, so wear layers and sturdy shoes. Bring hand tools and gloves, though we'll also have some tools to lend for the event. We'll have refreshments and a fun project for young ones when they are ready for a different focus. Signs will direct participants where to sign in, get a volunteer pass, meet crew leaders, and pick an area to work in.

After this event, there will be more work parties to continue clearing and managing the invasive species in the park. We will also need more volunteer adult crew leaders. We will provide the training, so leave your contact information with us at this event for future dates to work or be a leader.

Your help is vital to keep our county park enjoyable for all!

As we move toward the end of the year, think about getting a yearly pass to Jackson County parks. The cost of the pass supports maintaining and upgrading parks, including Cantrall Buckley. If you buy in December, you'll get a discount on the 2022 pass.

The Park Enhancement Team wishes you a safe and happy fall at Cantrall Buckley.

Janis Mohr-Tipton, Chair
Park Enhancement Team
for A Greater Applegate
janis.agapark@gmail.com
541-846-7501

Donna Mickley says farewell to local ranger district

BY DONNA MICKLEY

All good things must come to an end, as the saying goes, and after 11 years the time has come for me to step down as district ranger for the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

I have called southern Oregon my home for most of my adult life, and moving on was a difficult decision for me. It has been an honor and a privilege to be a part of the greater Applegate community and to come to understand the vision developed by landowners, grassroots organizations, and academia following the Applegate Adaptive Management Area designation in the Northwest Forest Plan.

I'm excited we were able to complete the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration planning process, which will allow us to implement some important restoration work across the landscape. Engaging the public early helped us understand what you value from your public lands. We were able to incorporate a variety of local knowledge and develop partnerships that aided in expanding our workforce, generating funding opportunities, and truly embracing a shared stewardship of public land.

As for what's next for me, I've been selected as the new forest supervisor for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. I look forward to the opportunities for collaboration that lie ahead in another remarkably outstanding place in the great state of Oregon. As I bid my farewell



Donna Mickley is now the forest supervisor for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

to the best job I've ever had, I want to acknowledge that it is a gift to have engaged community members, and I thank you for your involvement.

James Courtright has been selected as the acting district ranger until a permanent selection is made. James comes to us from the Shasta-Trinity National Forest where he works as the deputy forest fire management officer. He brings with him a depth of knowledge in fire/fuels management and in partnerships with state, local, tribal, and community stakeholders.

Until we meet again, I wish you the best!

Donna Mickley, Forest Supervisor
Columbia River Gorge
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Rogue Forest Partners active in the community and in the forest

BY TERRY FAIRBANKS

Members of the Rogue Forest Partners (RFP) attended a community wildfire education fair hosted by A Greater Applegate and the Applegate Valley Fire District on June 26. Representatives from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State University, Bureau of Land Management, Rogue Valley Prescribed Burn Association, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild), and Prescription for Safety also joined the event.

What was initially planned as an outdoor event was driven indoors by record-setting high temperatures, but, thankfully, the heat did not deter Applegate residents, and RFP had an opportunity to discuss ecological forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction efforts with local landowners. Topics included planned fuels reduction treatments across public and private lands, defensible space around homes, the need for ecological forest

restoration, and the availability of local resources. It was a pleasure to meet community members, and we look forward to doing so again!

Engaging our local workforce

This spring, our lead implementation partner, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, completed cutting and piling on 100 acres for ecological fuels reduction in our Upper Applegate Watershed (UAW) project area. At times, LRP crews received piling assistance from a local forestry contractor and from students at various high schools as part of Lomakatsi's ninth annual Ashland Watershed Youth Training and Employment Program.

This work followed months of planning, prescription writing, pre-work assessments, and treatment marking by LRP's restoration forestry team. With fire season restricting chainsaw operation in the woods and LRP's crew assisting on the Bootleg Fire, work will resume on the remaining 175 acres in the Applegate this fall.

Later this year, LRP and partners will request proposals for commercial thinning work at UAW. The small-diameter timber removed as the by-product of restoration will be sold to local mills. The revenue generated will then be reinvested back into our project areas for more restoration. The additional funds are particularly

critical in high-priority areas, such as the wildland-urban interface, that do not have commercially viable timber and traditionally lack adequate funding. We strive to source all contractors locally and encourage those in the Applegate and Rogue valleys to stay tuned and consider submitting proposals.

Implementation Review Team visits Williams Project

Our Williams project area spans 6,625 acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and several private landowners in the Williams community. On June 24, the RFP implementation review team (IRT) toured two units in the project to assess management plans, accomplishments, challenges, and next steps. Implementation members included recreation, tribal, industry, and conservation representatives.

The units' treatments primarily focus on (1) reducing wildfire hazards to help limit the spread of fire towards adjacent homes and (2) providing safe and effective fire suppression opportunities.

Landowner objectives vary based on opportunity and landscape position, but generally, they include:

- Promotion of a healthy forest that is resilient to fire by enhancing the growing space of retained trees and proportion of hardwoods while encouraging tree and shrub diversity
- Reduction of hazardous surface and ladder fuels
- Clearing along roads and driveways to aid egress in the event of a potential wildfire
- Enhanced quality of wildlife and aquatic habitat
- Understory thinning using similar ecological practices for hazardous fuels reduction

Within the units reviewed, non-commercial tree removal was limited



Earlier this year, Lomakatsi Restoration Project crews worked on 100 acres of ecological fuels reduction in the Applegate Watershed project area. Photo: Lomakatsi Restoration Project.

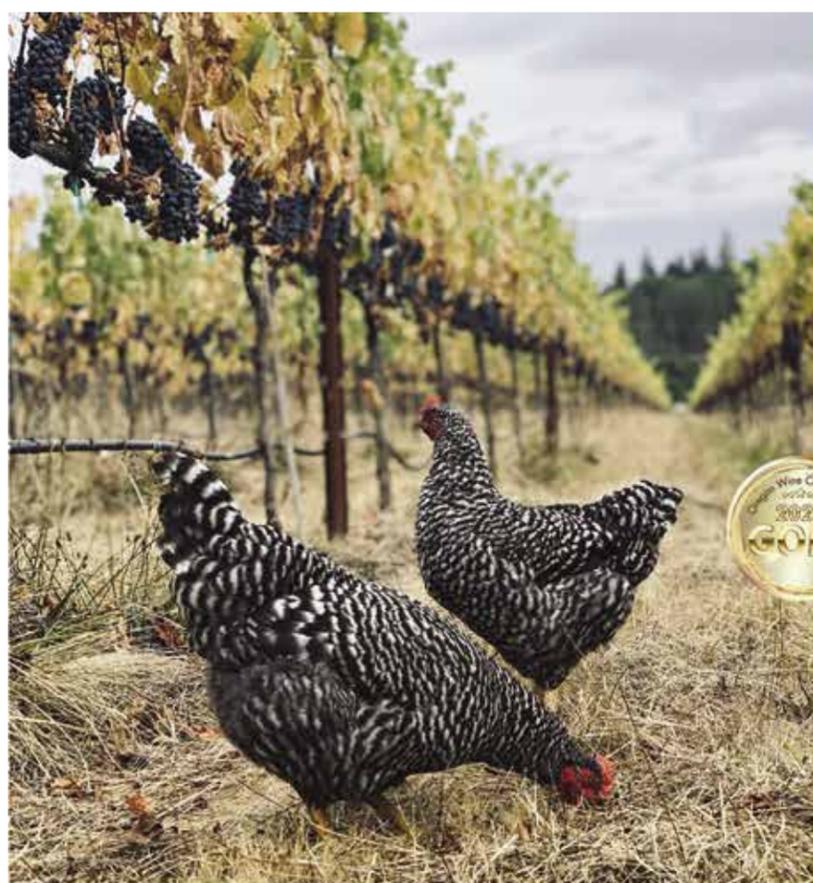
to trees less than eight-inch diameter. The review team concluded these stands would have benefited from the removal of strategically selected trees of commercial value, those greater than eight-inch diameter. Broadcast underburning, used in conjunction with selective thinning and pile burning, was also strongly recommended for the project.

Ecological thinning and underburning improve the health of retained trees and restore more open forest conditions for understory vegetation, which, in turn, restores ecological function to these forests. With continued implementation, these treatments are expected to significantly reduce wildfire hazards and increase fire management options and safety.

Terry Fairbanks
Executive Director
Southern Oregon
Restoration Collaborative
Coordinator, Rogue Forest Partners
tfairbanks@sofrc.org

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

The Applegate Valley Wildfire Education Fair in June provided an opportunity for community members to ask questions and get involved in wildfire fuels reduction and risk mitigation. Photo: Rogue Forest Partners.



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You can help save Wellington Wildlands by submitting photos

BY WELLINGTON WILDLANDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Wellington Wildlands Council (WWC) would like to update the Applegate community about our efforts to protect the imperiled 7,500-acre Wellington Wildlands, which lies in the heart of our valley.

After the sad passing of our inspiring leader, David Calahan, there was a lot of deliberation regarding the future of the council. With the advice and support of the Applegate Trails Association, Applegate Neighborhood Network, and council members, we decided to form a nonprofit to go forward with this important work. Our main impetus is to carry on David and Barbara Calahan's vision to protect Wellington Wildlands, enabled by a generous donation from their trust.

We have formed a board, written bylaws and a mission statement, filed for 501(c)(3) status, and done all of the usual business of creating a new organization. We remain focused on the Bear Grub Timber Sale, which is the most immediate threat to the Wellington Wildlands. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently reviewing the formal protests to the timber sale. If BLM denies the protests that were filed, they will award the sale to Timber Products Company. The sale may move forward as soon as fall of this year. Actual

logging is proposed to begin in the old forest at the top of China Gulch near Ruch. We continue to communicate with our partners at Applegate Neighborhood Network and KS Wild to protect these precious wildlands.

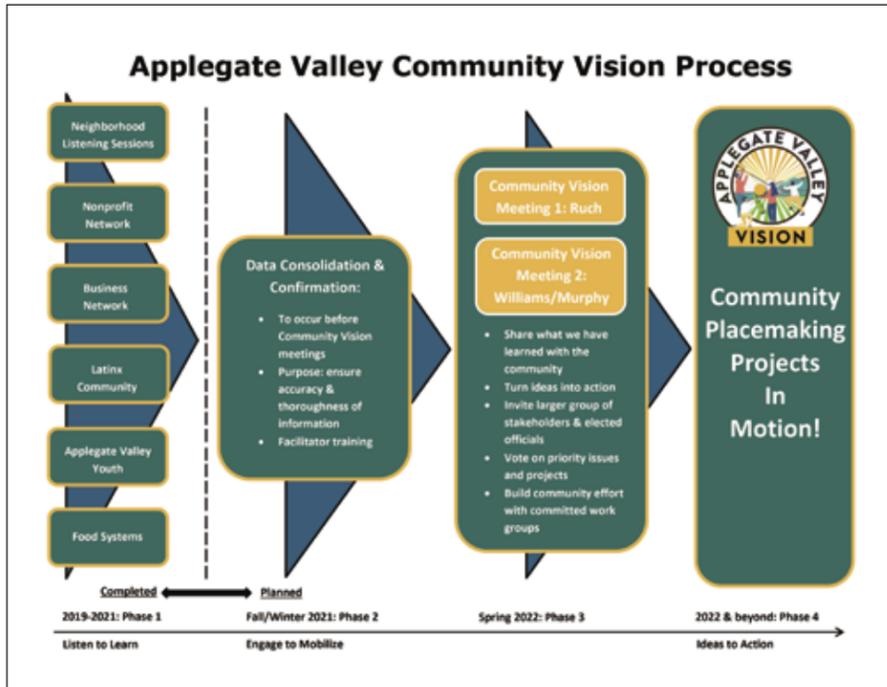
We are supporting the designation of 200 miles of Applegate Wild and Scenic Rivers and Streams in the River Democracy Act proposed by Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, and sent a request to the senators to include the three streams in Wellington. Long Gulch Creek has been included, but Balls Branch and Left Balls Branch have not yet been added.

Photo competition

We're also embarking on a fun community project—a photo competition! All interested community members are encouraged to submit their most gorgeous photos of the Wellington Wildlands to Audrey at WellingtonWildlandsCouncil@gmail.com. A case of Apple Outlaw cider will be awarded to the best photo! It is our intention to include the photos in a calendar in the future.

For more information, email board chair Audrey Eldridge at WellingtonWildlandsCouncil@gmail.com, or call 541-899-8728.

Audrey Eldridge, Liza Crosse, and Jeanette LeTourneux Board Members, WWC



See A Greater Applegate's article, "A Greater Applegate fine-tunes Community Vision," on page 7 for more information about the Community Vision Process shown above. You can also visit their website at agreaterapplegate.org/20-20-community-vision.

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The Woodland Skipper will visit your lavender

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The Woodland Skipper (*Ochlodes sylvanoides*) is of the family HesperIIDae, or simply Skippers. They belong to a subfamily of Skippers called Monocot or Folded-wing Skippers. This family is also known as Grass Skippers. They are generally tawny orange to light brown with dark brown markings on the dorsal side and lighter colored spots or markings on the ventral view.

The Woodland Skipper can be up to one inch in size. It is a light tawny color

with ventral hind-wing markings that are lightly cream-colored and square-shaped. Sometimes these markings are nearly absent.

Various native or naturalized grasses serve as host plants for Woodland Skippers, which have one brood and can be seen flying from late June to early or mid-October. Their small larvae overwinter. This species occurs throughout most of the Pacific Northwest, from coastal areas to mountains and in many habitats in

between: woodland edges, roadsides, open areas, grassy meadows, unsprayed weedy areas, grassy lawns, and butterfly gardens, to name a few. This friendly visitor skips around in abundance from summer to fall.

Some of its nectar sources are yarrow, thistle, pearly everlasting, buddleia, fireweed, and mountain daisy from our foothills and mountains. At our homes they may like the sunflowers and lavender blossoms.

Seeing the Woodland Skipper nectaring on lavender blossoms reminds me of one of my first experiences with this butterfly. For several years, starting in the early 2000s, I worked at one of the very first lavender gardens in Applegate, at Joan and Neil Mendelson's farm next to Applegate School. I was an agent in their business called Applegate Valley Lavender, LLC.

During one of my early years there, Neil made me aware of the many Skipper butterflies all over the lavender blossoms in the field. I took note of the Skippers at my home in Applegate too. I have never seen so many Woodland Skippers at a time as I did then.

As with most butterflies, Woodland Skippers can have banner years, with an outbreak in populations at some locations. These outbreaks may have to do with local weather patterns and plant host availability.

It was great to see so many Skippers on the medicinal lavender crop, which has since gained such popularity in the Applegate Valley and other areas of southern Oregon.

Linda Kappen
humbukkapps@hotmail.com

A Woodland Skipper in the Dutchman Peak area with its wings open ...
Photo: Linda Kappen.



... and one with its wings closed.
Photo: Linda Kappen.

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Do fuels treatments really tame fires?

BY JENA VOLPE



In this photo composite, on the left side, the forest was left untreated for hazardous fuel reduction; on the right side, hand pile-and-burn fuel reduction were used to reduce the fuel load. Photo: L. Meredith/BLM.

Public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are interwoven amongst the communities and private properties in the Rogue River watershed, including the Applegate Valley. Each year, the BLM Medford District treats thousands of acres to reduce fuel loading by thinning (noncommercial and commercial), hand-piling, and underburning. Our fuel treatment objectives are to:

- Reduce fuel loading and negative post-fire effects, such as widespread canopy mortality;
- Provide strategic locations for fire personnel to safely engage wildfires and limit the growth of large fires;
- Improve overall forest health and promote long-term fire resilience; and
- Modify fuels for easy maintenance of forests and woodlands with periodic prescribed fire.

Since 2008, several wildfires have put our treatments for reducing hazardous fuels to the test. By monitoring fuel treatment effectiveness, we have been able to observe how effective our

treatments are at moderating fire behavior (the manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather and topography) and whether the treatments make it easier to put out wildfires.

We conduct field assessments wherever fuels treatments are intersected by wildfires, or used for wildfire control, within three months of the burn. First-hand accounts from firefighters, burn severity maps, and field measurements all inform these assessments. The goals are to determine if fire behavior was changed as a result of fuels treatments and to learn if the treatment helped control the fire.

Between 2008-2020, there were 219 fuel treatments intersected by 57 fires. Sixty-eight percent of the time, fuel treatments moderated fire behavior. Sixty percent of the time, the treatment contributed to wildfire control (extinguishing blazes).

We saw that reducing fuels allowed firefighters to safely use direct attack

methods for several reasons. It slowed the rates of fire spread and reduced fire intensity and flame lengths (to less than four feet). Strategic treatment locations provided safe anchor points for burnouts along roads. Thinned tree canopies allowed retardant and water to reach the forest floor. And dealing with less vegetation (fuel) in the treated areas helped firefighters build firelines more quickly.

In treated areas, fire stayed mostly on the ground (surface fire), reducing damage to soil and trees and resulting in less tree mortality than that in untreated areas. Fewer spot fires occurred in treated areas, and those that started were easily contained. Post-fire effects in treated areas were comparable to results anticipated after

a reduction of surface fuels, ladder fuels, and vegetation density from prescribed (controlled) fires.

These field observations are consistent with a growing body of evidence indicating that well-designed and maintained fuel treatments can positively influence wildfire effects and fire management capabilities. But our work isn't done—the study also found that treatments can lose effectiveness in just 15 years. We will always be conducting fuels treatments to help protect our local communities, create safer areas for firefighters to engage wildfires, and promote resilient forests and woodlands.

Jena Volpe, Fire Ecologist
Bureau of Land Management
jvolpe@blm.gov

Free anti-overdose drugs distributed

Free distribution of life-saving overdose medication and HIV tests is set for 10:30 am-1:30 pm on Sunday, September 5, at the Sugarloaf Center, 206 Tetherow Road, in Williams. Park in the parking lot and take a short walk to the center, which is at the end of the gated driveway.

Volunteers from the nonprofit group Rogue Harm Reduction will offer free doses of naloxone to take home, along with instructions for use. They'll also give out free fentanyl test strips, take-home HIV tests, and condoms and lube.

Free overdose response training takes about 20 minutes. Walk-ins are welcome.

Those who aren't vaccinated against COVID-19 are asked to please wear a mask.

Rogue Harm Reduction, a volunteer-run, nonprofit health collective, promotes community wellness and harm reduction strategies in response to substance use disorders and other community health concerns. The events are held the first Sunday of each month.

For more information, email rogueharmreduction@gmail.com.

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Annual Maintenance

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

Murphy's Law for well & pump systems is - they will cease to function when you need them the most.

This law also applies to the family car, and if you think it makes you crazy to be without transportation, you don't even want to know how it feels not to be able to get a drink of water, a shower, or (worse) flush the toilet. An annual maintenance check and service for your well's pump system can save you a lot of unhappiness.

Similar to the annual tune-up for your vehicle or regular oil changes, the annual pump maintenance helps to ensure the smooth functioning of your water system. A qualified service technician should examine the pump, check to see that it is functioning properly, make certain that the amperage is neither too high or low, and check the points on the motor. Such annual maintenance can help avoid future problems and should also reveal whether the pressure tank is waterlogged.

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Outreach and opportunities for Williams Creek landowners

BY NATHAN GEHRES

Applegate Partnership and Williams Creek watershed councils are collaborating on outreach efforts to landowners along Williams Creek to gain insights on the current status of the stream and the valuable habitat that it provides. We would also like to hear directly from those landowners about any concerns they may have regarding the overall health of Williams Creek and what types of restoration activities the landowners and community would support.

Williams Creek is a refuge for local wildlife, especially during these extremely dry times. Many of the streams in our region dry up in the summer, but Williams Creek tends to hold water late into the year. This reliable source of water has been a boon to the water users, the community at large, and, of course, the native flora and fauna. It acts as a cold-water refuge for fish during the summer's extreme heat, helping us avoid the devastating fish kills that have afflicted other regions. Many types of wildlife use this crucial creek habitat as a sanctuary, taking a break from the high temperatures and dry conditions. Locals also enjoy escaping the heat with cool dips in the creek.

Drought and fire are two constant threats in our area. The Almeda and Obenchain fires of last year and this

year's extremely low water are warnings that the green forests and rushing, salmon-filled rivers we are used to aren't guaranteed. Those fires demonstrated the risk posed by the uncontrolled growth of invasive species such as blackberries.

We can make efforts to reduce the hazards posed by these overly dry times. As this year has demonstrated, water is our area's most precious natural resource, and we need to protect and preserve it. In response to these pressing issues, the two watershed councils are seeking input from the community about ways to add resiliency to the watershed.

There are strong connections between the Williams community and the creek after which it's named. By working together with supportive landowners, the watershed councils can increase the positive impact of restoration efforts that will reinforce this strong relationship between the community and its landscape.

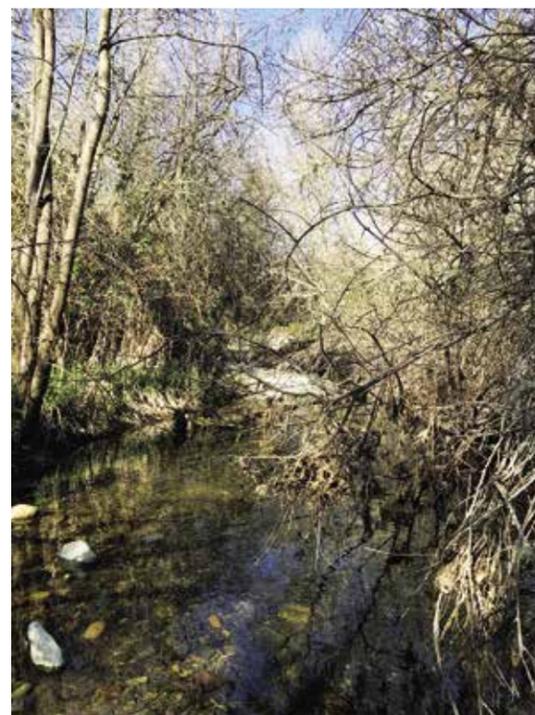
Williams is also a community undergoing rapid transitions. Our outreach efforts have revealed a lot of changes of land ownership bordering Williams Creek over the past year. The real estate boom that has washed over the country has also swept through southern Oregon. These new locals should add their voice to what can be done to help improve the health of Williams Creek. We are endeavoring to

engage everyone who owns land along the creek so we can hear their ideas and listen to their concerns.

These outreach efforts are just the start of a long process, and the feedback that we get from landowners will determine the direction of future efforts. It's very important to us that the voices of the community are heard loudly and clearly, as no project would be successful without that input. Together, we can protect and improve Williams Creek for the future and for us all to enjoy.

For more information, please contact Nathan Gehres at the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (nathan@apwc.info) or Chas Rogers at the Williams Creek Watershed Council (chasrogers360@gmail.com).

Nathan Gehres
Applegate Partnership and
Watershed Council
nathan@apwc.info



Side channels of Williams Creek, near Provolt, meander away from the main creek, providing unique habitats and holding more water higher up in the system, keeping water on the landscape longer, providing water for irrigation and water for natural resources.

Photo: Jay Doyno/APWC.

The tinder-dry blackberry canes, like these along the banks of Williams Creek near Provolt, built up over decades of unchecked growth and are primed to carry fires right through the heart of communities.

Photo: Jay Doyno/APWC.



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Floating art installed at Pacifica Garden pond

BY PEG PRAG

Jaime Filipe, a land artist from Portugal, has been staying at Pacifica for the last year, waiting out COVID-19 restrictions. During that time he's made some *very* cool art installations. One is a "One-Star Bird Hotel" that reflects in the big pond and draws birds with its shelter and food. Another is an incredibly colorful set of tetrahedrons that float in the pond. When you're up for a relaxing sit by a pond or a short hike, come see them.



One of a set of tetrahedrons ready to launch into the Pacifica pond. Photo: Jaime Felipe.

Pacifica's main mission is education, which we continue to pursue in any and all avenues. This fall we hope to have a new classroom-barn available for kids with home-school networks, after-school programs, and field trips. In addition, we're working on a list of classes for adults, such as nature, science, pioneer history, dance, music, ceramics, woodwork, sewing, horsemanship, wood carving, and others.

At the moment (until the building is finished), we are definitely offering the following weaving and watercolor classes:

- Beginning and Advanced Weaving. Professional, knowledgeable teacher. New Ashford table looms. Basic: three hours/day, two days/week, four weeks. \$350 for 24 total hours instruction. Call 530-339-5670.

- Beginning watercolor. Jan Su, teacher. 20 years experience. Beginning supplies provided. 9 am-noon Thursdays beginning September 2. \$75/month. Call 541-602-8004.

If you are interested in taking one of these classes or teaching a class, please let us know by calling 541-660-4295.

Pacifica Outdoor School is grateful to receive a grant from Oregon State

University to help us update our facilities to be more alter-abled friendly and accessible to all. These changes include an ADA bathroom to accompany the new outdoor tents, an ADA dock for the pond, a better-leveled Powell Creek Trail (this is used for our solo-hike at Outdoor School), and fire-safety improvements for the Cedar Center. First, however, the site will receive an accessibility audit, and the staff will receive training to help those with any accessibility challenges to have a great time at Outdoor School and at Pacifica. We're excited to move forward with this project.

You can also watch this fall and winter as a new pavilion is constructed by Peter Gauss from natural wood in front of the Cedar Center. In addition to allowing people to spread out at events, as recurring COVID threats indicate is necessary, the pavilion will also allow visitors to pursue activities or relax out of inclement weather or out of the hot sun. We've been working on this project for well over a year!

Peg Prag

peg@pacificagarden.org

Essay *Twice-bearing memories: Every experience holds two joys*

BY CHRISTINA AMMON

My raspberry patch bears fruit twice a year, once in early summer and again in the fall. It comes from rootstock from a farm where I was employed. I've put these berries in pies, added them to smoothies, and eaten them one-by-one, straight from the bush.



Raspberry vines can bear more than one kind of crop. Artwork: Christina Ammon.

One season, I harvested them with an old best friend; another, I watched a friend lie under the bush and pluck berries with his mouth. "This is how you make love to a raspberry patch," he explained.

I once used the berries as currency. A kind-hearted attorney (Dan Thorndike) accepted basketfuls in trade for filing paperwork for a nonprofit I helped start (now Rogue Valley Farm-to-School).

This berry patch now holds the lineage of these farm memories. Rootstock is like this; it has a generational feeling, sort of like the transfer of DNA, or sharing sourdough starter. One small bit can multiply and propagate more.

The spring I took the cuttings from the farm and moved them to my home garden was difficult. I was in the midst of a breakup, sad at the sudden and jarring loneliness, but also awake to newfound possibility. On the day I planted the raspberry bush, my ex-partner contacted me to let me know his father, Piero, had passed away.

Piero lived in a leafy Milan neighborhood. I'd stayed in his flat for three weeks one spring. My partner was immersed in a project that had him buried in the computer. I helped Piero with

errands, the Italian way: walking first to the bread shop, then to the cheese shop, then to the supermarket deli for his treasured *mortadella*. In these routines, we formed a quiet bond.

Piero and I stayed in touch, occasionally exchanging a few

words on Skype. I was sad to open my Skype after he died and find a message from him that I had left unanswered.

After getting the news of his passing, I went back to planting the berry canes. I decided to dedicate the patch to him—a sweet, small tribute to a man who saved me in small ways during a drifting, shapeless time. I painted a little yellow-and-red sign: "The Piero Pagnacco Raspberry Patch" and sent a picture of it to my ex-partner, along with my condolences. "My dad would be pleased to know there is a raspberry patch in Oregon named after him," he said.

That was years ago, but still, in the summer and the fall when the berries ripen, I am reminded of old friends, old endeavors, and Piero: our walks around his Milan neighborhood, a day trip we took to see his relatives in Bologna, and the way he set the table—cups, saucers, plate, knife, fork, and spoon—for afternoon snacks.

The two rounds of raspberries I get each year are a testament to the way all of our experiences are twice-bearing: Each holds two joys—the one we feel in the moment and the one we have again in our memories.

Christina Ammon

christinaammonwriter@gmail.com

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Williams council provides valuable community forum

BY MIKA SMITH

Why does unincorporated Williams have a “town council”? What does it do?

The answer goes back to 1973, when the State of Oregon created a land-use program that was unique in the country. It made public involvement in planning the number-one goal of 19 statewide land-use planning goals that are the backbone of the system.

The program called for “the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process,” according to the website of the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). The department currently has a written policy that every city and county must encourage public participation with a citizen involvement program. These programs “shall at least contain provision for a citizen advisory committee.” The DLCDC’s Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) supports counties and the public in the implementation of this policy.

Many years ago, the Josephine County Planning Department helped set up several Citizens Advisory Committees (CACs) representing some of the 16 designated districts of the county. Over time, most of those committees fell by the wayside due to lack of volunteers or to citizen discontent over interactions with the county.

The Williams District is the last remaining CAC in Josephine County. It is called the Williams Town Council and Citizens Advisory Committee (WTC/CAC). Some folks ask, “Why ‘Town Council,’ since Williams is not an incorporated town?” That answer is elusive, but we do know what it does do. The WTC/CAC is a group of citizens elected by their district to give advisory

input to the Josephine County Planning Department. Though formally recognized by the county as an advisory body, it has no legal authority and is not technically a part of county government.

The WTC/CAC’s purpose, according to its bylaws, is to “provide a forum for Williams District residents to participate in land-use issues.” To meet this goal, it has two main functions. First, the WTC/CAC reviews and may comment upon development permit applications it receives from the Josephine County Planning Department that are considered quasi-judicial, which means that public input is considered as part of the permit granting process.

The second function allows the board to decide whether to sponsor a town meeting to facilitate a general discussion about a pertinent topic for the community. For example, the WTC/CAC recently organized a public forum on the impacts of large cannabis grows that included the participation of six agencies involved in the regulation of that industry.

There are currently no active CACs in the Jackson County portion of the Applegate. Given the complexities of all the economic, social, and environmental issues in the Applegate, perhaps it’s time for additional citizen input in the planning and development process. Contact your county Planning Department or Oregon’s Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee to find out more about how you can have your voice heard.

Mika Smith
Chairperson
Williams Town Council and
Citizens Advisory Committee
mika@teachers.org

Friends of Applegate Library could use help with annual sale

BY DIANA COOGLE

The big push at FOAL (Friends of Applegate Library) this fall is our annual book sale, this year on Friday and Saturday, September 24 and 25. Haley May Peterson has been organizing the books in our Book Palace and picking out the very best for the sale. Those will be on a couple of tables in front of the shed (the Book Palace), for sale by donation. You will also be able to go inside the Book Palace and fill a bag with books.

Drop by between 2-6 pm on Friday, September 24, and between 10 am-2 pm on Saturday, September 25, and see what we have. Lots and lots of children’s books. Some great best-sellers. Biography, science, history, science fiction, fantasy—there’s sure to be something you’ll want. (I’ve donated books from my own library, and I have a very good library indeed!)

You could join the fun that day, too, by giving us a helping hand. We could use help organizing books the day of the sale, bagging books, selling books, and sweeping unsold books off the tables at the end of the day. It’ll be fun. Come and help.

Thanks to all who have joined FOAL. If you’re not a member yet, think about joining. If you live on North Applegate Road, Humbug Creek, Thompson Creek, close-by portions of Highway 238, or tributary neighborhoods of any of those, the Applegate library is *your* library. Give it your support by using its services and by becoming a Friend. A \$10 membership per household lasts for a year and makes our support of the library possible.

Diana Coogle, President
Friends of Applegate Library
541-846-7447, dicoog@gmail.com

Food Pantry thanks those who help keep it open

Greetings from the Applegate Food Pantry! We wanted to take a minute and thank A Greater Applegate, the Ruch Country Store, and our local farmers and ranchers who really went above and beyond to make sure we were able to stay open and continue helping our wonderful community.

We invite you to come by and say “hi,” or if you are looking for a little extra help with food during these difficult times, please stop by. We are on the back side of Ruch Elementary School between 11:30 am - 1 pm Mondays (closed Labor Day). We look forward to seeing you!

Deborah Price, Food Bank Manager, 541-899-6980
Michelle Bollinger, Assistant Manager, 541-218-6471



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THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE

The global significance of the Siskiyou Crest

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

In the Applegate River watershed we are fortunate to have clear and cold mountain streams flowing from the northern slope of the Siskiyou Crest, along with old-growth forests, plentiful wildlife, world-class biodiversity, and beautiful wildlands. This landscape is our beloved home, but it also has global significance with unusually high conservation value.

Tucked into the remote borderlands of southern Oregon and northern California, the many subranges of the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains create a haphazard jumble of rugged and diverse mountains, jagged peaks, wild rivers, and deep forests. Yet only the Siskiyou Crest cuts east to west across this landscape, connecting the Cascade Mountains to the Coast Range.

Starting near Siskiyou Summit, where Cascade Mountain bedrock collides with the granitic soils that predominate near Mount Ashland, the Siskiyou Crest runs west into the headwaters of the Applegate River to Dutchman Peak, Condrey Mountain, and out to Cook and Green Pass. From Cook and Green Pass the crest continues into vast wildlands in the Red Buttes and Siskiyou Wilderness Areas, then ends in obscurity at the Coast Range, just a few miles from the Pacific Ocean, on both the Smith and lower Klamath rivers.

This land bridge is vital for regional connectivity and renowned for its undisturbed, wilderness-quality habitats, including those in the Applegate River watershed. As the axis for biodiversity in the Pacific Northwest, the Siskiyou Crest and the surrounding Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains may also be the most diverse conifer forest in the world (DellaSala, 1999). The Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion contains 35 conifer species (15 more than any other ecoregion in North America), more than 3,500 native plants, and 281 endemic species found nowhere else in the world (Sawyer, 1996).

These ancient, weathered mountains bring together the fog-drenched forests

of the redwood coast; the westernmost vestige of high desert vegetation; the chaparral, arid grasslands, and oak groves of California; the snow forests of the Cascade Mountains; and the dry mixed-conifer forests of the Sierra Nevada. Essentially every major plant community in western Oregon is represented, and although the Klamath-Siskiyou region represents only 15 percent of California's landmass, it contains 65 percent of the state's native plant species (Smith and Sawyer, 1988).

In the Applegate watershed, scientists have documented 22 species of conifers and numerous endemic species, such as the Siskiyou Mountains salamander, Marshall's currant, and the Applegate stonecrop. These species are endemic specifically to the Applegate River watershed and are found nowhere else in the world, while other species, like Brewer's spruce and Port Orford cedar, sustain healthy populations in this watershed but are endemic to the larger Klamath-Siskiyou region.

The Siskiyou Mountains are also famous for the wide variety of what ecologists call "range extensions." A range extension occurs when a species is found at the edge of its range, in disjunct or isolated populations. In the Applegate watershed, small populations of Pacific silver fir and Alaska yellow cedar occur at the southern extent of their ranges on cold, north-facing slopes on the Siskiyou Crest. Various chaparral species reach their northern extent in the sunbaked foothills around Ruch and the Upper Applegate. Great Basin species like western juniper cling to the arid slopes of Anderson Butte, creating the westernmost populations in Oregon, while the Pipe Fork of Williams Creek supports the easternmost population of Port Orford cedar in Oregon, growing from a particularly moist pocket of dense, coastal conifer forest.

The Siskiyou Crest region contains abundant carbon-rich, old-growth forests



Looking west across the Siskiyou Crest from the headwaters of Elliott Creek in the Condrey Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area.
Photo: Luke Ruediger.

important for carbon sequestration and the health of our global climate. The protection of federal forest lands as National Carbon Reserves should include the vast old forests of the Klamath-Siskiyou, including those on the Siskiyou Crest and in the Applegate River watershed. Researchers have also identified our region as a "climate refugia," where the same biological features and unique microclimates that created our

world-class biodiversity could support connectivity and refugia habitat, allowing species to persist, disperse, and migrate in a changing climate (Olson, 2012).

Protecting our public lands and carbon-rich forests does more than benefit our local communities and economy. It is part of the global climate solution.

Luke Ruediger
siskiyoucrest@gmail.com

OPINION

Time to change for the changing times

BY GAY BRADSHAW

Bob Dylan's words from 1964 couldn't be more apropos today:

*Come gather 'round people,
wherever you roam*

*And admit that the waters around you
have grown*

*And accept it that soon you'll be drenched
to the bone*

If your time to you is worth saving

*Then you better start swimmin' or you'll
sink like a stone*

For the times, they are a-changin'

For us in the beautiful Applegate Valley, southern Oregon, and the West, it's not the growing waters that is the pressing issue, but drying waters, heat, and fire. Still, the song holds a relevant message: *The times have changed.*

You wouldn't think change would be so hard on our species, because every aspect of life evolves. We are who we are because we have changed ever since birth, and we have a completely new set of cells making up our bodies every seven years. So we are built to change.

Despite this biological reality, we humans seem to have a hard time dealing with certain changes, which is one reason we have created rituals and cultural patterns, which give a sense of security that life is okay even though it is changing. Though this is true, it is also true that when we do not keep up with nature's changes, we fall out of sync, out of harmony, and out of place. Scientists call this behavior maladaptive, meaning it does not work.

Nature's ethic of fitting in and embracing change are key elements of

her sustainability. That's why deer rotate their grazing, hummingbirds migrate, and bears move up and down elevations—they live Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire style. Wildlife dances with the rest of nature.

Everyone arrived here at some point, whether hundreds of generations ago as First Nation peoples, five generations ago as timber, cattle, or mining pioneers, or more recently, as immigrants entranced by the magic and beauty of the Applegate and Rogue valleys. We planted ourselves here to become part of this beauty and richness. This worked for a while, but now there are many more humans, many more structures, roads, noises, and fences—and there is climate change. The land and the animals need us to be flexible and change so that they can live and thrive. Human habits that do not support the land and wildlife need to change.

It is not the time to hunt deer, bears, raccoons, wild turkeys, coyotes, and other wildlife who are struggling to survive. It is not only the grand elephant who is on the brink of extinction. Our own wildlife is on that edge, mentally and physically. It is time to give back. Give back water, room, and peace for the wildlife who have given us so much. This is human change for the better. Why is it better? Because one day, unless we change, unless we stop killing, unless we share food, shelter, and water with wildlife, we will wake up alone. The animals will be gone, and then our hearts and souls will sink like a stone.

Gay Bradshaw, Founder
The Kerulos Center for Nonviolence
bradshaw@kerulos.org



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The decent thing to do

BY LIZA CROSSE

I'm writing to encourage unvaccinated *Applegater* readers to get a COVID-19 shot as soon as possible. When you get a vaccination, you are proving that you care about your family and your community, as well as yourself. It's just the decent thing to do. As of July 29, only 55 percent of Jackson County residents have been vaccinated, and that's bad for all of us.

This is not about politics, folks. As with any medical decision, it's about weighing risks, and the choice is clear. The Centers for Disease Control data from July 27 showed that 97 percent of people being hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. People who are vaccinated are rarely getting sick.

It's clear that the risk of complications from vaccinations is extremely low. Serious effects from the vaccines are very rare. My husband and I both had mildly tender arms for a couple of days. Our vaccinations (Pfizer and Moderna) were easier than a flu shot. Unless you have a condition that affects your ability to have a shot, you can be reassured that the vaccines are very safe.

As of this writing (early August), in Jackson County the rate of infection has jumped 297 percent in two weeks. With the Delta variant sickening so many people now, the risk of not being vaccinated is great, and the long-term impacts from having the disease are potentially dreadful.

So please, neighbors, take care of yourselves, your loved ones, and all the rest of us by getting vaccinated immediately!

Liza Crosse, Applegate

...

Deus ex vaccine

BY MARGARET DELLA SANTINA

This summer, my family and I climbed the steps to our seats in the ancient amphitheater at Epidaurus, Greece, to watch *Orestes*, the tragic play written by Euripides in 408 BC. (We read the *Gater* while we waited; photo on back page.) Sitting on the well-worn limestone tiers transported us back nearly 2,500 years—except the actors weren't wearing masks, as they did in ancient Greece; the audience was.

Traveling to Greece was surprisingly easy. We completed Greek travel forms, presented vaccination cards, uploaded negative test results. While we were in Greece, the country's vaccination rate climbed steadily. People masked up when entering indoor spaces or crowded public places. Greece, where tourism is vital to the economy, welcomed tourists back.

None of this would have been possible without the COVID-19 vaccine.

With the spread of the Delta variant, it's too late to stop new waves of the virus from killing unthinkable numbers of unvaccinated people. But vaccination is still our best bet. In ancient Greek tragedies when humans acted against their own best interests, the gods swooped down to sort things out. Can we hope for the same?

Thank you for encouraging *Applegater* readers to get vaccinated, for the greater good of our community.

Margaret della Santina, perrowm@sou.edu

...

'Keep working for Mother Nature'

BY CHANT THOMAS

As the recipient of the third annual Chris Bratt Conservation Award, I want to thank the Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) for honoring my local conservation work. I appreciate the recognition, and I value the contributions of ANN board and members to support conservation of our precious forests, streams, wetlands, and wildlands.

Let's keep working for Mother Nature's divine manifestations here in our beloved Applegate!

Chant Thomas
Little Applegate

OPINION PIECES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

Intent on a bigger tent

BY BERT ETLING

We recently made some small but, we feel, meaningful changes to the *Applegater* mission statement. Only about a dozen words are different from what you previously saw each week in the first column on page five.

It's still just two sentences. The first says what we will do. The second goes into how we'll do it and what impact that will have.

We took out "enrich our lives" from the end of the first sentence because it seemed redundant, and we added that one of our goals is specifically to represent *all* of the Applegate—meaning not just geographically, but also in all the other axes of diversity, including economic, cultural, ethnicity, and gender.

We also changed "we can work together to maintain the quality of life" to "work together to enhance the quality of life." Why not make things better?

Finally, the former mission statement said it was the quality of life "that drew us to the Applegate." That assumed we all moved here, leaving out natives of all types, so we changed that line too.

Here is the revised mission statement: "The goal of the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., is to provide the many communities of the Applegate watershed with a communication vehicle, the *Applegater*, that will provide educational information, increase community networking, and represent all the area's diverse communities. Through honest, constructive, relevant, and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects and viewpoints, including our natural resources, historical and current events, and community news, we can work together to enhance the quality of life we have in the Applegate and continue to make a difference in our valley."

We're here to serve *your* needs. Let us know what you want more of, what you want less of, and what you're not seeing at all that you would like to see. Email me at bert@applegater.org, or call 541-631-1313.

On board with that?

There's another way you help shape the *Applegater*: Volunteer to serve on our board. We currently have a fine six-member team, but we feel in need of at least one more board member.

Are you qualified? Here's what our bylaws call for in a board member: "Current or past residents of the Applegate watershed, or whose place of employment is within the Applegate watershed, who show an interest in the local and regional concerns of our citizens and are willing to attend our meetings and contribute to developing a plan that will allow this newspaper to continue being published."

We meet monthly. We ask you to commit to at least two years of service and to work in some capacity to keep the *Applegater* thriving: fundraising (we would love a fundraising chair!), writing, social media—if you have a talent, we could probably use it.

We have a step-by-step process for voting new members onto the board. Contact Chair Diana Coogle (diana@applegater.org) for more information, or just jump in and say right now, "I'm interested. Let's get started."

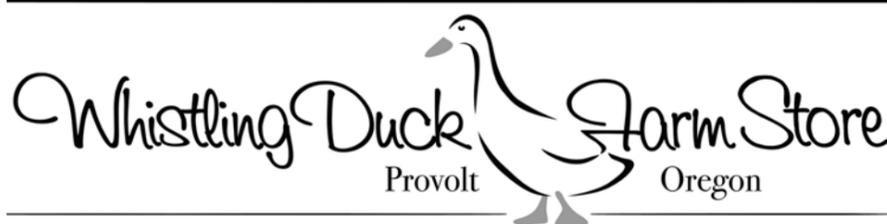
We think we have a wonderful, fulfilling mission that allows us to make a difference in our community. Please join us in making that mission a reality.

Bert Etling, Editor in Chief

Applegater Newsmagazinebert@applegater.org

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Acupuncture for work-related injuries

BY JORDAN SCHREIBER

Fall is time to reap the benefits of the sweat equity and mental energy you've invested over the past year. Some of this work and planning may date back many seasons, possibly years, and is now being harvested. For that, congratulations. It's a rewarding process to witness our initial thoughts turn into ideas, dreams, plans, and eventually, if we are driven and inspired enough, actionable steps producing desirable results. Even our failed attempts can be fruitful if we're able to look at our unsuccessful efforts with an open, analytical, and less egocentric viewpoint.

Needless to say, all this laboring can be taxing, especially alongside recent societal stressors. At times our workload can become too much for our minds and bodies to bear—as illustrated by recent champion athletes who have pulled out of their top-level tournaments. In addition to needing a break from the limelight and the intense scrutiny they must endure, perhaps these athletes were also trying to avoid injury, were taking care of ongoing injuries and/or were unwilling to compete below their accustomed levels of excellence.

If your workload has left you or your employees injured, run-down, or feeling exhausted, acupuncture is a safe, effective, relatively painless and economical approach to addressing many of these issues. Acupuncture is so widely accepted that the State of Oregon has approved it as a covered therapy within the state-run workers' compensation (WC) program. By increasing circulation, acupuncture reduces pain, inflammation, and swelling—a key move to overcoming acute, work-related injuries quickly.

If you already have an active WC claim, ask your treating provider to request approval for acupuncture from the insurance company. Upon authorization, you can receive covered acupuncture treatment. For new WC claims, acupuncture services are *automatically* covered within the first 30 days from the date of injury. During this time you can receive up to 12 acupuncture visits without physician request or insurance authorization. For employers, that means any injured employee can go straight to an acupuncturist immediately following an injury and receive treatment right away—getting injured workers over the

hump, into recovery, and back in the game as quickly as possible.

While other types of manual therapies also treat acute injuries, they tend to work locally or directly on or near the injury. This can be extremely painful because we are typically guarded around injuries and don't want to be touched there. Acupuncture is unique in that it can be used distally (away from the site of pain) or locally.

With distal treatments acupuncture works on uninjured, unaffected part(s) of the body to alleviate pain and inflammation and increase range of motion in the injured area without even touching it. This reduces aggravation of the injury and allows for speedy recovery. Typically the sooner one starts acupuncture, the faster and more lasting recovery will be. Not having to jump through WC hoops in the first 30 days allows for timely, effective treatment so injured employees can get on with their lives and return to work. This is obviously a great benefit to both injured employees *and* their employers, who suffer holes in their workforce and reduced productivity when their employees are injured.

Chinese medicine is another good method of relieving pain. Chinese herbal medicine has been studied, documented, and practiced for over 2,500 years. Many of its trauma formulas have been proven and refined by centuries of use in martial arts and combat warfare. These remedies are a synergistic combination of at least five herbal ingredients that have explicit actions, are thermally and energetically balanced, and are targeted to address precise injuries and body parts. Typically, internal and external formulas are used depending on the severity, location, and onset of injury. While WC doesn't cover the cost of herbal medicinals, they can be a highly effective, affordable, and virtually side-effect-free option compared to pharmaceuticals. When paired with acupuncture, results can be outstanding.

So, with this option in your back pocket, keep on going, and may you reap the full benefits of your fall harvest.

Jordan Schreiber

jordan_schreiber@hotmail.com

applegateacupuncture.com

Jordan Schreiber is an Applegate acupuncturist specializing in orthopedics, occupational injuries, and pain management.

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••• BIZBITS •••

Born Again, an antique, thrift, and resale-clothing store in the Ruch Sunshine Plaza, marks its sixth anniversary September 15. Owner Debbie Shepherd started her business from a hobby of rummaging for and refurbishing furniture that was being thrown out and from having too many clothes! She has lived in Ruch for 11 years and is known for her community and philanthropic spirit, such as putting free clothes racks outside her business and giving away toys and other items at holidays. She organized a Ruch community garage sale in July. So many people asked her to do it again that she is now organizing a second sale for September 24-25. Debbie says, "Ruch is a small community, and we all need to help each other. Seeing the smiles on people's faces and how excited they get makes me feel that this is why I am here. Antiques, knick-knacks, kitchen goods, clothes, purses, shoes—a little bit for everyone. Come by and take a look!"

Open 11 am-4 pm, Tuesday-Saturday (closed Sunday and Monday) • 7382 Highway 238, Ruch • 541-951-8573, bornagainoregon@gmail.com • facebook.com/BornAgainAntiquesandThriftShop



The Honeysuckle Café has reopened in Jacksonville in the Gogi's restaurant building for Sunday brunch only. Co-owners Colin Cox and Monique Cordova operated the Honeysuckle Cafe in Ruch Plaza from 2015 to 2019, then moved their cafe to Medford, only to face the pandemic shutdown.

The couple met while working at a restaurant in Jacksonville, moved to Idaho for 15 years, and returned to buy the cafe in Ruch. Colin is a classically trained chef who studied at the California Culinary Institute in San Francisco. From his extensive travels, he has picked up influences of French, Latin, and Asian cuisines, which he brings to his cooking. He and Monique partner with farms in the area to offer locally sourced food and from-scratch cooking. Monique is a lifelong lover of art and baking and has brought both interests into their restaurants. You can make reservations by calling 541-973-3201 (let it ring six times) or visit their website.

235 W Main Street, Jacksonville • monique@thehoneysucklecafe.com • thehoneysucklecafe.com • facebook.com/Honeysuckle-Sunday-Brunch-646255768840407

Lavender Fields Forever's new owners are Rob and Marcy Rustad. They invite you to experience the beauty and serenity of their working lavender farm in the Applegate Valley, where they cultivate seven exceptional varieties of white, pink, and blue-purple lavender for culinary use, crafting, and essential-oil production. "We fell in love with the property in Ruch, and the lavender farming opportunity seemed like a great opportunity," Marcy said. "We have been lucky to have the support of the former property owners, who are happy that we are carrying the legacy of the lavender farm forward, and we are grateful for their continued participation and encouragement." Marcy grew up as a small-town girl in a farming community of rural Nebraska. Her career took her to California and the business world, but she never lost her deep attraction to nature, rural settings, beautiful barns, and the rhythm of an agricultural community. Rob always had the passion to grow things and dabbled with landscaping and growing flowers, shrubs, and house plants. Lavender takes growing things to a whole new level that includes sharing the wonders of lavender through classes, products, and events.



375 Hamilton Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530 • 541-702-2250, enjoy@lavenderfieldsforever-oregon.com • facebook.com/LavenderFieldsForever • lavenderfieldsforever-oregon.com



From left, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce President Robert Roos, Jacksonville Mayor Donna Bowen, and Red Dog owners Tim Shreeve and Sara Shreeve at the business's ribbon cutting. Photo: Shreeve Marketing.

Red Dog Pet Supply opened in Jacksonville on June 19, when owners Tim and Sara Shreeve held a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Attendees included Jacksonville Mayor Donna Bowen; Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce President Robert Roos; and Red Dog Pet Supply employees, local animal rescue workers, national pet food vendors, and members of the area chambers of commerce, as well as community members. "Our family-owned and -operated business is blessed with three locations to serve southern Oregon (Jacksonville, Rogue River, and Eagle Point). We are here to provide quality pet food, supplies, service, education, training, and more to the Rogue Valley," Sara explains. "My mission is to provide my customers with a selection of high-quality

pet foods and pet products that I would give to my own pets!"
810 N Fifth Street, Jacksonville • Open 10 am-6 pm Monday-Saturday, 10 am-5 pm Sunday • 541-916-6871, timshreeve@gmail.com • facebook.com/reddogpet

Jeanette LeTourneux • jetlet10@gmail.com

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

Kerby Peak, a haven of botanical intrigue

BY EVELYN ROETHER

Greetings, fellow hikers! There's still time to get up high before snow arrives. Kerby Peak will not disappoint. The views from there are stupendous, and the botanical diversity is superb. Go! Go! Go!

Kerby Peak

Difficulty: Difficult
Distance: 6.7 miles round trip
Elevation gain: 2,700 feet
Access: April - November
Map: Kerby Peak USGS quad

Directions

Seasonal access: From "downtown" Williams, follow (paved) Cedar Flat Road for 21.4 miles, down into the Deer Creek drainage. Turn left onto the partially paved White Creek Road (38-6-18). After 0.5 mile, take the second left on East White Creek Road (38-7-13.4). Follow this gravel road 2.7 miles to the signed trailhead, which is located at the junction of roads 38-7-13.4 and 39-7-25. (This route is generally not passable from November to late May, due to snow on the ridge.)

Year-round access: In Selma, turn left (east) at the traffic light onto Deer Creek Road. Follow this paved road east for about nine miles until you get to White Creek Road (38-6-18). Turn right. After a half mile, take the second left on East White Creek Road (38-7-13.4). Follow this gravel road 2.7 miles to the signed trailhead, which is located at the junction of roads 38-7-13.4 and 39-7-25.

The spectacular Kerby Peak ridgeline is in a de facto (unprotected) Roadless Area containing a lot of botanical intrigue. The trail is documented on maps dating back as far as 1915. For 44 years it provided access to a fire lookout on the top of Kerby Peak, which was decommissioned and destroyed in 1966. The old-growth fir forests and open ridgeline habitats provide

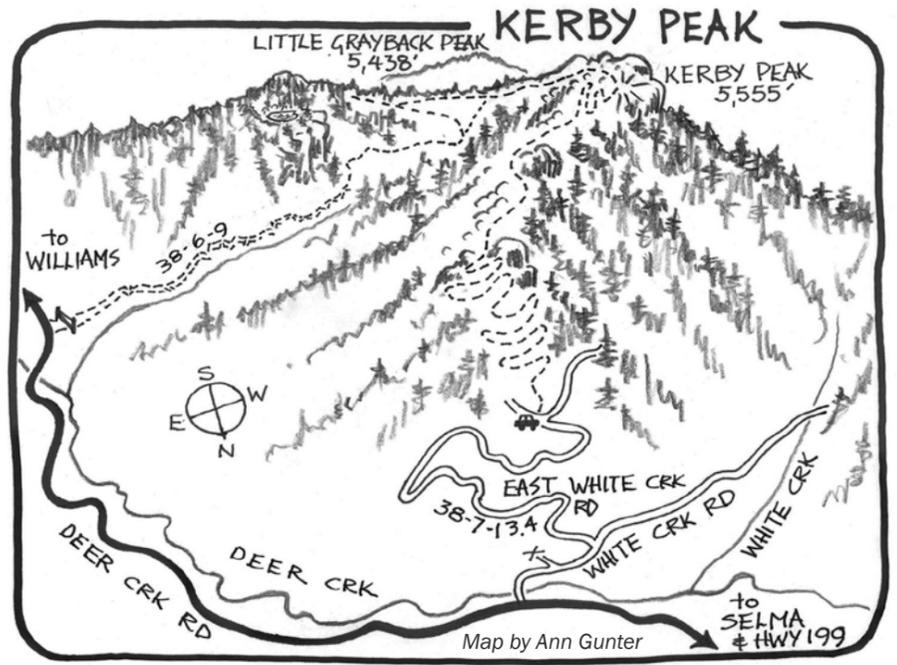


Hikers earn magnificent views on the Kerby Peak Trail. Photo: Evelyn Roether.

many different plant communities to study along the trail.

From the parking area the single-track trail begins its steep climb. It is generously switch-backed, however, and well shaded on a north-facing slope. The initial towering Douglas fir forest is lush and cool, with an understory of Oregon grape, vanilla leaf, deciduous huckleberry, twinflower, and some very photogenic rock outcrops. Farther up the trail, note the sugar pine and chinquapin trees and, later, the Brewer's weeping spruce and knobcone pine. Brewer's spruce is endemic to the Klamath Mountains and is found primarily on high, rugged ridgetops such as those around you here.

After about two miles the forest gives way to the sparsely vegetated rocky ridgeline, resplendent with wildflowers and vistas. In the rock gardens along the way look for the pink-striped lewisia, purple penstemon, yellow lupine, orange tiger lilies, pink Washington lilies, and many other colorful forbs.



Map by Ann Gunter

As the trail traverses and climbs the east flanks of the mountain, the dramatic red, iron-rich peridotite rock of the Kerby Peak ridge becomes visible. Peridotite is metavolcanic in origin and was formed as part of a 425-million-year-old baked seafloor. As it was uplifted and is continually weathered by the elements, it turns from its natural green (serpentine) color to bright red and orange.

Expansive views unfold, looking down into the Deer Creek drainage to the north and across to the Rabbit Lake area and the giant Moquandinar rock face to the south. The final ascent to the summit is lined with mats of low-growing manzanita, huckleberry oak, and kinnikinnick with just enough shade from the occasional Brewer's spruce or knobcone pine to keep you from overheating.

Finally, you reach Kerby Peak, towering mightily above the Illinois Valley to

the west. At the summit (5,555 feet), panoramic views open in all directions. To the north is the Deer Creek watershed and Lake Selmac, with the Kalmiopsis Wilderness looming on the horizon. To the northeast, Murphy and Grants Pass are visible. Towards the east, beyond the clear-cuts, the ridge in the foreground forms a divide between the Applegate and Illinois River watersheds, with pointy Mt. McLoughlin in the distance. On the southeastern horizon lie Grayback Mountain (farthest to the east), then Lake Mountain and Swan Mountain. To the south is Little Grayback Peak (elevation 5,638 feet), with a lookout tower on top, and, beyond that, the high peaks of the Siskiyou Wilderness above Takilma. What a sight to behold! Enjoy, and return the way you came.

Evelyn Roether
 evelynkr@gmail.com





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Girls join in on Scout Troop, Cub Scout Pack outings

BY ERIK JOHNSEN

Greetings, fellow Applegaters! When I last submitted an update on Scouting, the first COVID-19 vaccines were rolling out and we were offering a new Scouting opportunity for girls. I'm here to report that things are still moving in the right direction, and we're delivering on our promises!

In February, Scout Troop 17 in Jacksonville opened its door to girls. We quickly grew from two to six members, with additional girls coming to our meetings to check us out on a frequent basis. Additionally, about 30 percent of our Cub Scout Pack is comprised of girls, so we have a healthy group of young women coming up through the program.

Having friends and group activities is always fun, but the COVID-19 precautions have made us even more aware of how important social and emotional interactions are for our children. When school and other youth programs removed those opportunities this past year, I became even more thankful that Scouting continued to provide outlets and creative ways for our kids to get these interactions in a safe way. Scouting became the one constant in our family routine.

One of the more common inquiries I hear is whether Scouting provides outdoor activities and wilderness survival



Scout Troop members gather for a group photo at Camp Meriwether. Photo: Erik Johnsen.

skills. On that front, I can report that we've been delivering!

In June, some of our newer Troop 17 members took a float down the pristine waters of the Wood River, while our older and more experienced Scouts took a week-long trek in the Sierra Nevada, with over 24 miles hiked and 5,000 feet gained in elevation. Then we all convened for a week at Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Camp Meriwether (on the northern Oregon coast), which included swimming, rifle shooting, axe throwing, canoeing, BMX biking, land sailing, merit badges, and, yes, a few Scouts even sleeping in their own crude wilderness shelters.

Since folks in the Applegate are already more outdoorsy than most, we sometimes hear that Scouting isn't needed here. Well, did your family do all this, in one summer? And with friends? Scouting delivers maximum adventure and fun, with a program, built around character and skills development, that just can't be replicated anywhere else.

We would also like to recognize our newest Eagle Scout, Lucas Ivey, who received his award in July. Congratulations, Lucas!

At the time of this submission, our Cub Scout Pack 17 is about to head up to its own summer camp at BSA Camp McLoughlin (which, by the way, is a private lakefront property on Lake of the Woods, available for rent). We'll engage in swimming, BB guns, archery, nature exploration, crafts, skills, skits, and songs.

We have planned our entire calendar through next summer with more fun and exciting activities, which we have every intention of being able to do, as long as COVID-19 continues to disappear in the rearview mirror.

We hope you all come check us out this year!

Erik Johnsen
Pack 17 Committee Chair
erik@cairnipc.com

In June, some newer Troop 17 members took a float down the pristine waters of the Wood River. Photo: Erik Johnsen.



Activities during a troop trip to Camp Meriwether on the northern Oregon coast included swimming, rifle shooting, axe throwing, canoeing, BMX biking (seen here), and land sailing. Photo: Erik Johnsen.



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NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

An enthusiastic, yet cautious, return to Applegate School

BY JEAN HALL

All the Applegate School staff eagerly welcomed back the students on August 30. We all look forward to a great school year, keeping safe with social distancing and frequent handwashing. Masks will be required on all buses, and the use of masks at school will follow the state guidelines. All cleaning, sanitizing, and contact-tracing protocols will stay in place from last year.

Some changes have occurred in the staffing at Applegate School. Middle school teacher Michelle Daw will teach music this year at Applegate and Williams schools. Renee Gourley, who led the special education program last year, has taken Mrs. Daw's place in middle school. A new special education teacher and a PE instructor will join the staff.

Staff members worked in some special programs over the summer. Mrs. Hirschmugl and Mrs. Gourley attended a week-long training in a method called Ortan-Gillingham. Both teachers are working toward being certified in this method of teaching, which, as Mrs. Hirschmugl describes it, "is a systematic multisensory way of teaching kids with dyslexia, but is also good for all kids."

Mrs. Halsted taught in the two-week summer program called "Camp Learn-A-Lot" for Applegate and Williams school students entering second through fifth grades. She said about the program, "The focus was on *fun* while learning about the engineering design process and community." Students explored states of matter while enjoying root beer floats. They worked together to build water

slide models and sandcastles. Students also learned about different kinds of communities and did some mapping activities. On hot days they enjoyed water-balloon dodgeball with sprinklers. Mrs. Hirschmugl helped Mrs. Halsted the second week of the summer program.

Kinder Critter camp took place August 16-19. Each day focused on kids' social-emotional well-being. Mrs. Hirschmugl explained that the purpose of the camp was to acclimate new Kinders to a school setting. She said that each day students listened to an Erick Carle book, made a craft, and took home a free book.

During the Critter Camp week, Mrs. Gourley taught a summer school for first graders.

Mrs. Hirschmugl and Mrs. Halsted were pleased with the partnership with White Oaks Farm last school year. Students not only learned about pollination, plant life cycles, and farm-to-table opportunities, but were also able to practice gardening skills. The teachers are hoping to include all grades (kindergarten through eighth) in the program this new school year.

All staff members are thoroughly enjoying the return of the students to begin the new school year. Mrs. Janie Burstein looks forward to welcoming students to the library, and Mrs. Linda Kappen is anticipating teaching art and doing greenhouse activities, along with her duties as a classroom aide.

We wish all staff members and students a happy year of learning.

Jean Hall
jhall80@juno.com

Excited for a new school year

BY RICH HALSTED

One of the main reasons I ran again for the school board was because I became very concerned that we could lose the positive momentum Three Rivers School District built in the three years prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. This momentum led to unprecedented improvement in graduation rates, stabilization of the budget leading to fully funded school years, and a build-up of the talent level throughout the district to better serve our students. I believe we are going to recapture this momentum—and more—based on the exceptional teachers, staff, and administrators we have in our buildings.

With graduation rates on a significant upslope, we are turning more attention towards ensuring students are as prepared as possible for day one after high school. This includes, but isn't limited to, high standards of academics, better skills for trades, and wider career explorations and life skills. It is strategically important for our collective future that we produce the best-prepared students possible. Internships, evaluations of employability, and significant investments in technical



Members of the Hidden Valley High School Class of 2021 fling their mortar boards into the sky. Photo: Newcomb Photography.

education courses are some of the ways we are moving forward with these initiatives.

Another major focus of mine is family engagement. It doesn't

take much research to know that engaged parents are the most important indicator of student success. A loving adult connected with a student's teacher is an educational multiplier. We need to ensure that parents understand how much they impact their children's educational growth. Simply reading, playing games, and reviewing homework regularly with children will make a marked impact in how they grow as students throughout their years in school.

Finally, I couldn't be more appreciative of how our school district employees, parents, loved ones, community volunteers and organizations, and, most importantly, students adapted to this last dynamic school year. In some ways I think we are better for it, but I will be really happy to have consistency again.

Rich Halsted, Board Member
Three Rivers School District
rich.halsted@gmail.com

NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

Partnerships help Ruch School soar



RVHPA President and Applegate Open Organizer Terri Stewart, right, presents a check to Ruch Outdoor School Principal Julie Barry while Ruch fourth-grade student Lucy Murray shows off a T-shirt celebrating Woodrat Mountain, the open's launch site. Photo: Dan Wells.

BY JULIE BARRY

I am asked over and over again what sets Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) apart from many other public K-8 schools. As leader of this small, outdoor community school for the past 11 years, I have developed an “elevator speech” answer packed with evidence. The piece of evidence most significant and imperative to ROCS and its success is our partnerships with local entities. These coalitions create the collaborative leadership, the practice, and the relationships necessary to improve student learning and well-being. Our partnership with the Rogue Valley Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (RVHPA) is a good example.

In 1977, a small group of local pilots formed the Rogue Valley Hang Gliding Association and put on the first Star Thistle Fly-in that spring. The club, now composed predominantly of paraglider pilots and renamed Rogue Valley Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, remains a close-knit and important organization for free-flying in southern Oregon and northern California. Its mission, culture, and spirit are similar to those of Ruch Outdoor Community School.

This summer, on June 19-26, hundreds of colorful flyers dotted the skies for the annual Applegate Open Paragliding Competition. Travelers pulled to the roadside to watch the beautiful “wings” as they flew overhead from Woodrat Mountain. Residents and visitors alike enjoyed once more the flying figures

A pilot launches at Woodrat Mountain during the Applegate Open. Photo: Patrick Penoya.



that make our valley so special. My husband and I spent many hours sitting in an open pasture counting the flyers and watching them navigate the beautiful summer skies.

The partnership between RVHPA and Ruch Outdoor Community School is beneficial for both organizations. ROCS has provided a space for flyers to train and gather, while RVHPA has facilitated a simulation activity to give students, staff, and community members a chance to strap themselves in and get a sense of what it feels like to fly. ROCS has advertised RVHPA events, and I have served up many a pancake to the flyers at their morning breakfast during the Star Thistle Fly-in. We have enjoyed and treasured the engagement with RVHPA and look forward to future opportunities.

RVHPA's commitment and dedication to the children of this valley was evident during the Applegate Open this year. Thanks to fundraising responses from the organization, spectators, and the pilots competing in the Applegate Open, RVHPA was able to present ROCS with a check for \$5,000. This generous donation furthers the school's efforts to provide the very best education possible in place-based pedagogy with hands-on, relevant, inspirational, and experiential learning. I speak for the entire staff when I say we are truly humbled and grateful for RVHPA's continued support.

As we get ready to invite students back for the 2021-2022 school year, I am hopeful and excited for the return of our partnerships and the active engagement that comes with them. The Applegate Valley has always supported this small school and the thousands of students that have walked its breezeways. We want to thank you all for your continued support and want to say a special thank-you to the RVHPA, all the pilots, and especially all the residents who extend their fields and pastures so that the flyers can land safely. Without your kindness and support, sitting in our pastures looking to the skies would be less colorful and less entertaining.

Julie Barry
Principal

Ruch Outdoor Community School
Julie.Barry@medford.k12.or.us

Mustangs, meet Timothy



Hidden Valley High School counselor Amy Cablayan with Canine Angel Service Dog Timothy. Photo: Jim Ingraham.

BY LISA BALDWIN

Hidden Valley High School (HVHS) counselor Amy Cablayan has a new colleague in the counseling center, her Canine Angels service dog, Timothy, a two-year-old golden retriever-lab mix. After spending 18 months in basic training with a puppy handler in Montana, Timothy came back to the Canine Angels organization on North Applegate Road in Grants Pass and was fully trained by Sheila Kolby and Sandy Mays to serve as a facility dog.

Ms. Cablayan, a life-long animal lover, set a goal last year to work with a therapy dog. Her research and a referral from Grants Pass High School counselor Bill Sarver led her to Canine Angels. In January she began the extensive application process to be matched with a canine partner and trained. Cablayan finished training in late July.

Ms. Cablayan and Timothy will work together as a “facility dog team,” in the counseling center and other settings at HVHS. Facility dogs live with their handlers and are only allowed public access to the specific facility at which their handler is employed.

Ms. Cablayan spoke very earnestly about the therapeutic benefits of having a well-trained service dog, like Timothy, in the school. “He can provide emotional and nonjudgmental support in counseling when words are just not enough,” she said. “He can calm a student in distress and help to settle a tense situation.”

Ms. Cablayan wants to acknowledge and thank Evergreen Federal Bank for sponsoring Timothy by picking up his (and his handler's) training expenses. She plans to have many good years of working with Timothy at HVHS until the two of them retire. (If you are interested in learning more about Canine Angels go to canine-angels.org.)

In other HVHS news, the new school year started August 30 for freshman, who had the building to themselves for their first day of high school. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors started August 31. The first assembly of the year will be on September 7. HVHS has partnered with the GoBeGreat Foundation in Dallas, Texas, and the guest speaker at the kick-off assembly will introduce and promote the GoBeGreat positive behavior motto and curriculum.

Homecoming festivities close out the month of September with the Noise Parade on September 30. Then October charges in with the homecoming football game against Phoenix on Friday, October 1, and the homecoming dance on Saturday, October 2.

First quarter parent-teacher conferences will take place on November 3 and 4 (evening conferences) and November 5 (morning conferences).

All veterans and their families are invited to attend the Veterans Assembly on November 10.

Lisa Baldwin
Leb.97527@gmail.com

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Clockwise from top left:

—On a miserably hot day in June, **Barbara Holiday**, **Diana Coogle**, and the Applegater somehow completed their second annual virtual Bay to Breakers 12K run along the Upper Rogue River.

—**Cathy Rodgers** on Mount Rose in the Sierra Nevada, reading the Applegater and having "snow much fun."

—**Margaret and Bryan della Santina** read the Gater while waiting to watch Euripides' tragedy Orestes, in the ancient Greek theater at Epidaurus.

—Four generations enjoy the Gater while in the High Sierras of Incline Village, Nevada: **Virginia Emick**, 95; **Cathy Rodgers**; her two daughters, **Jenny and Katie**; and Jenny's son, **Ronin**, 2.

—On a visit to Los Angeles, **Seth Kaplan** assures his mother, **Vivienne**, that the Applegater is far better than the Los Angeles Times.

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

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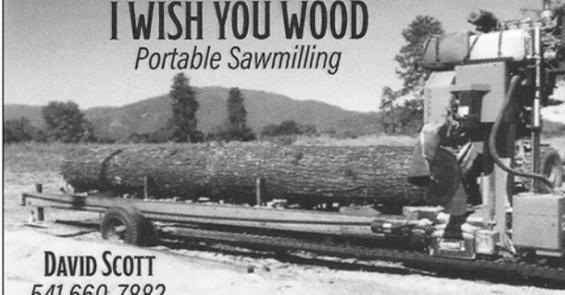
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