

# Applegater

Photo by Ann Nguyen • applegater.org

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Celebrating  
~28~  
Years

## THE GATER-EST SHOW ON EARTH

COME ONE, COME ALL!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1  
4:30-7:30 PM

Step right up, folks!

The *Applegater* is creating the Gater-est Show on Earth as a huge, celebratory thank-you to you, our readers, for your support and loyalty these past two years. **Free admission! Everyone can come!** Your generosity during the NewsMatch fund drive in November and December has eased our financial desperation, so come on down. The fun's on us.

It'll be a carnival-themed, apple-centered event with games, cotton candy, and toe-tapping music. Bring a picnic or buy dinner from the food truck on-site. We'll have terrific raffle items—a \$100 gift certificate from Fields Home Center, bicycle wheels, books, massage, organic beef from Salant Family Ranch, gift certificate from Pennington Farms, herb collections from Oshala Farms, and lots more!

We'll have carnival games—dart throwing, apple toss, corn hole. We'll charge a small amount for playing games and offer raffle tickets as prizes. There'll be a cake walk and a go-fish booth for the little kids. There'll be some no-fee games—like cards, Scrabble, Rummikub—lying around for you to enjoy. And more.

We're still brainstorming.

You can double your fun at the event by volunteering to help.

Call Lisa Baldwin, at 541-476-6671, to sign up.

See "How you can help" below for ideas.

Be sure to put the date on your calendar so that every time you look at it, you can get excited.

It's going to be the Gater-est show on earth!

ON THE LOVELY WIDE LAWN OF  
VALLEY VIEW WINERY, UPPER APPLGATE ROAD

## A perfect Applegate pairing: Women and wine

BY CATHY RODGERS

There is something new growing in the valley, and it's not hemp or cannabis. It's the number of women entering the field of viticulture and winemaking, literally and figuratively. Global averages show women-owned vineyards at less than five percent and female winemakers at 14 percent. Women in southern Oregon make up 33 percent of winemakers, nearly twice that of any other wine-making region of the world. Half of all vineyards in the Applegate are now managed by female viticulturists, another global high. Women own 10 percent of local vineyards. If you include co-owned with an active role, 70 percent of our vineyards are under the nurturing care of women. You grow, girl!

For an industry that has been male-dominated, the Applegate Valley has found a way to cultivate an environment of inclusion and cooperation. Instead of ruthlessly competitive, the Applegate wine community is collaborative, resulting in a thriving local industry.

Virginia Oaxaca came to the Applegate in 2012 and purchased the old Madrone Vineyard knowing nothing about wine. After seeing wild turkeys running around the property, she renamed the vineyard "Pavo Real" (Royal Turkey) to represent her Hispanic heritage. Virginia credits much of her success to help from the Wisnovsky brothers at Valley View, Cal



Virginia Oaxana, 81 years young and a role model for women in wine.

and Renee from Schmidt Vineyard, and mentoring from Rachel Martin at Red Lily. Virginia, a spry 81, is now turning over the reins to her niece Elisa. Elisa echoes her aunt's sentiment and links their success to our community that rallies to help when extra labor, a tractor, or advice is needed. She hopes to be a role model for Hispanic women on this career path.

Mini Banks, 26, is the new owner of Cowhorn Winery. She grew up in the  
See **WOMEN AND WINE**, page 3.

## Making hay in the Applegate Valley

BY DIANA COOGLE

When Applegater horsewoman Nancy Adams left for a horse show in California earlier this summer, Applegate farmers were just starting to cut hay. "When I came back and saw that beautifully baled hay, my heart just swelled," she said. "It was a great harvest. It made me feel secure. There's a feeling of homecoming to see something like that."

Those beautiful, sun-drenched hay bales in Applegate farms, as well as smaller bales to individual pastures are more than nostalgic



Tim Hunter in front of his massive hay bales. Photo: Diana Coogle.

heartwarmers. They mean winter sustenance for Applegate livestock and supplemental income for many Applegate farmers.

Much of the hay you see sitting in golden bales in the fields or stacked on trucks might be for the farmer's own livestock. Tim Hunter, who still works the farm in Ruch that he grew up on, from which he sells six-string, 1,200-pound bales to dairies and big  
See **MAKING HAY**, page 2.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Be a troubadour! We're still looking for musicians.
- Organize a game booth. See [carnivalsavers.com](http://carnivalsavers.com) for ideas.
- Do the popcorn booth. Or caramel apples?
- Do you juggle, walk on stilts, do face painting, or have some other talent that would provide a carnival atmosphere? Let us know!
- Donate a raffle item.
- Bake a cake for the cake walk! Or a pie.
- Help us set up or take down on the day of the event.

Contact board member Lisa Baldwin at 541-476-6671 to volunteer to help.

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# ISSUE

## AGRICULTURE - WINE

## OBITUARIES

## Truman Scott Elmore

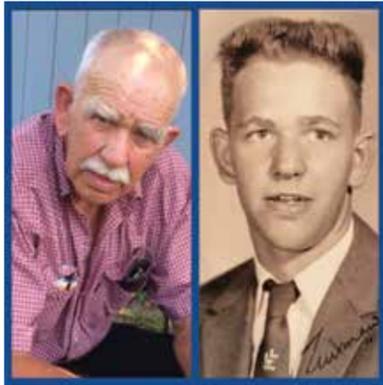
### January 23, 1941 – April 10, 2022

Truman Scott Elmore was born January 23, 1941, in Medford, Oregon, to Charles H. Elmore III and Beryl A. (Brockway) Elmore. He passed April 10, 2022, in his home in Applegate, Oregon.

Truman married Marleeta DeVee (Jones) Elmore on September 20, 1966,

in Claremont, California. Together they had four children: Chad, Alisa (Daniel Kuitert), Chet (Nikki), and Gary (Jesi), and nine grandchildren.

Truman lived on Thompson Creek his entire life. He attended Applegate School, graduated from Grants Pass High School in 1959, and attended Oregon State University until he joined the US Air Force and served two tours in Vietnam.



He was a charter member of the Applegate Lions Club. He had a role in starting the Applegate Volunteer Fire Department. He served many years on the Applegate District 40 school board and several years on the Thompson Creek Irrigation Association Board.

Truman loved to farm, spend time with his family, hunt, and play cribbage.

He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, and by his brothers Charles H. Elmore IV and Joseph H. Elmore, and sisters, Alicia D. Hogan and Barbara A. Niedermeyer. He is preceded in death by his parents, and his brothers Russell R. Elmore and Michael E. Elmore.

A celebration of life was held in June on the Elmore Family Ranch.

## Edward 'Buddy' William Robinson

### January 13, 1931 – January 31, 2022

Edward "Buddy" William Robinson was born in Douglas, Arizona, to Edward E. Robinson and Jessie M. Reed. In the 1940s they moved their three sons to Central Point, Oregon, where in eighth grade Ed met his wife, Joyce Elaine Russell. They married five years later, and for 70 years, Ed and Joyce lived, loved, argued, and laughed side by side. Ed is survived by his spouse, Joyce, their two sons, Jair (Jeanie)



Ed and Joyce Robinson.

Robinson and Tom (Shirley) Robinson, six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren, most of whom still live in the Rogue Valley. He is also survived by his brother Elgin (Mary) Robinson of Fresno, California. Ed was preceded in death by his son Brent (1994), great-granddaughter Lilie (1999), brother Douglas (2010), and great-grandson Isaiah (2020).

Ed graduated from the old Central Point High School in 1951 and joined the Air Force. He served his four years in Alaska and Florida and then came back home to the family farm. Ed and Joyce

lived and raised their three sons in the Table Rock community on the Rogue River and continued to farm throughout the Rogue River Valley for 30 years. In the early 1980s, Ed had a gill-net fishing boat built to fish salmon and he and his three sons began fishing "summer runs" together in Dillingham, Alaska.

Retiring from farming, Ed and Joyce moved from the flatlands of the Table Rock community to the mountains of the Applegate Valley. They created their mountain home on the Little Applegate and named it "Mule Run Ridge." They were true mule-skinners, participating in parades, packing, trail riding, show wagons, and cart-driving competitions—a grand 15-year adventure that further shaped their legacy together.

They then moved to Thermopolis, Wyoming, in 1996 to enjoy the wonderful healing hot springs and the wide-open spaces. They returned home in 2004 to Central Point to watch the grandchildren grow.

"Truly full circle, a full life."

## Fire and emergencies: Who do you call?

BY MIKE MCLAUGHLIN

It may be obvious to you to call 911 when you have an emergency—whether it be fire, medical, or a child stuck up a tree. However, we get a lot of calls to our direct line at Applegate Valley Fire District #9 that should have gone to 911. When you call our direct line, you're taking a chance that the emergency responder response will be delayed or may not happen at all.

We also get a lot of calls about the status of wildfires. Here are some websites you should follow to track fire progress (please do not call our office—we will be busy providing support services to emergency fire personnel):

- To track fires in Oregon, go to [gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/information/firemap.aspx](http://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/information/firemap.aspx), then click on the flame icon for details about a particular fire.

- To track fires in California, go to [watchduty.org](http://watchduty.org), then click on the flame icon and information regarding that particular fire will pop up.

- And don't forget to sign up for emergency alerts at [jacksoncountyor.org/emergency/Resources/Citizen-Alert](http://jacksoncountyor.org/emergency/Resources/Citizen-Alert). It is your best resource to get notified when a fire may threaten your home.

Mike McLaughlin, Fire Chief  
Applegate Valley Fire District #9

## Always looking ahead keeps improving fire district services

BY SANDY SHAFFER

Our Applegate Valley Fire District #9 covers a lot of terrain across the Applegate Valley. From just outside Jacksonville all the way south, through the town of Ruch and out to Applegate Lake, then west through the town of Applegate into Josephine County, and then north through Murphy almost to the city of Grants Pass—seven Applegate Valley fire stations have been built over time.

But these locations were not just "scattered"! Every one of these seven stations was built over time, either as more residents settled in a new corner of the valley, if a certain area seemed to have more traffic issues, if a new school was built, or if folks from the Rogue Valley decided to visit the Applegate's beautiful lake, or to fish the Applegate River.

The central town of Applegate was the first to grow so large that residents decided they needed to build a fire station in their town; hence (today's) Station #1 was built. Summer folks driving out to Applegate Lake each year caused a Station #2 to be built out that way on Upper Applegate Road. (This minimized leaving station #1 unmanned for long lengths of time.)

At the junction of Highway 238 and Upper Applegate Road, the town of Ruch was rapidly growing in population, with churches, schools, a library, and a grocery store. Next built was Station #3 on Upper Applegate Road, with facilities to allow more types of fire engines (medical units, structure-fire types), as well as a larger headquarters that included restrooms, bedrooms, and a kitchen for the firefighters on call! Having human bodies on a station's site 24/7 allowed a much shorter length of time before said engine could reach a building, residence, or vehicle with an emergency situation.

Station #4 (Water Gap Road), Station #5 (top of J-ville hill at Cady Road), Station #6 (Kubli Road), and lastly, Station #7 (on Griffin Lane at Sterling Creek Road) have all been built over the years.

One of the reasons for the multiple stations and locations had been carefully mapped out over time—to allow a

resident to live within 5-10 miles of a fire station, thereby giving a better rating and lower rates from home and property insurance companies.

Nowadays, our Applegate Valley Fire District Chief McLaughlin and all personnel and volunteers are trying to find even better services for Applegate Valley residents. Chief McLaughlin has recently been researching the possibility of also having at least a two-man response team located at station #1 in Applegate proper.

The Chief expressed that the area is fairly highly populated, so the location made sense to him. He felt that adding living areas and appliances, etc., at the fire station to accommodate two individuals would provide quick, 24/7 responses from AVFD #9 for local residents. The Chief asked that the board of directors and the Budget Committee give the go-ahead for the Chief to look further into this possibility. After a thorough study, the Chief brought the board and Budget Committee members the details of what he felt would be required to provide living quarters in the form of a manufactured home for two firefighters at Station #1. During the District's 2020/2021 budget process the expenses were reviewed and approved.

Phase two of the process addressed staffing by providing living quarters on the western side of the district. Our fire district has a staff of five, and a strong group of volunteer firefighters/medics. The new facility in the town of Applegate allows volunteers and/or staff to cover shifts out of the Applegate facility when necessary.

Chief McLaughlin told me that the district is "excited to now provide additional full-time coverage to the west end of our district." The district's goal was to decrease their response times by adding the additional staffing. Goal met.

I feel that this project and the results have a lot of merit. Our fire chief and his staff and volunteers should be proud of this effort and their continued dedication to making our Applegate Valley safer.

Sandy Shaffer • [sassyoneor@gmail.com](mailto:sassyoneor@gmail.com)

### ■ MAKING HAY

*Continued from page 1*

livestock owners, gives his first cutting to his own cattle. But that leaves plenty of his alfalfa, grass, or grain hay for horse owners and others in the Applegate who need to buy hay to supplement their smaller pastures and fields.

Nancy Adams speaks for many customers when she describes Tim as "an example of a fine fellow, an honest working man who does a good job. He delivers on time, and you should see him buck those bales! Impressive!"

Craig Lyons, who owns Saddleback Ranch on Thompson Creek Road, sells mostly to horse owners in the Applegate. Whereas Tim took over the farm from his father, Craig bought his property in 2014 and spent two years pulling thistles and other weeds by hand to prepare the fields for hay.

"Even now as I'm cutting hay, if I see a thistle, I'll get off the tractor and pull it up," he says. What he is after is a good product, baled into bundles that weigh less than 55 pounds so his customers, all women, he notes, can lift them.

Craig started growing hay for his own horses, then put a sign on the road, "Hay 4 sale." The response from buyers—"My horses love your hay!"—grew his business.



A hayfield on Thompson Creek Road.  
Photo: Diana Coogle.

But there are more ways than two to grow a hay business. Spencer Smith, in Jerome Prairie, hires himself out to people who need someone to take the grass that grows naturally in their own pastures and turn it into hay bales. "I cut it, rake it, bale it, buck it, sell it," he says. He calls haying a "side venture" that he does mostly to help his neighbors.

Like Tim, Spencer grew up where he lives now and learned how to buck hay when he was young. "I learned from an old man who used to run the neighborhood," he said. "I was barely big enough to load a bale. I ran tractors when I was 14. This old man knew everything about hay and was damn good at it and taught me everything."

Some people who used to grow hay in the Applegate turned their fields to

See **MAKING HAY**, page 11.

# Wildfire! Drought! Cartels! Stressed about the future? Talk to an Applegate winegrower—you'll feel better

BY CHRIS AMMON

I bought my Ruch property 10 years ago. I have nectar-sweet memories of moving in, planting bulbs, and hosting dinners under my granddaddy oak tree. It was a summer of carefree discovery, blackberry-picking, paragliding, and making enough friends to nearly sink a pontoon boat in Applegate Lake. That first summer, I was sure I'd found paradise.

A decade on, some of that exuberance has faded. Wildfire smoke, the pandemic, and politics have got me down. The proliferation of illegal pot grows with their water theft and plastic hoop houses have, at times, made the cruise along the normally bucolic Highway 238 sort of, well, distressing. I sometimes worry:

*What is the future of the Applegate?*

Lately, though, I've found reasons to be encouraged. One, there's been a crackdown on illegal grows; plastic greenhouse trash is getting balled up and hauled out every day. Two, the spring rains made the valley lush again; poppies electrify my front yard. But the real shift in my perspective came when I attended the Applegate wine event Uncorked. There, I was inspired by the stubborn optimism of local winemakers.

Eighteen wineries showcased their new releases paired with food. For my sobriety, I limited myself to three: Valley View Winery, Quady North, and Plaisance Winery.

At Valley View, I met Mike Brunson, their new winemaker from Healdsburg. As he drew some '21 pinot noir from the barrel, I shared my worries: *"Isn't it going to get too hot? What about water?"*



"Farmers have to be ready to adapt to whatever the weather throws at them," says Mike Brunson, winemaker for Valley View Winery. Photo: Chris Ammon.

*What about wildfire?"* He explained that farmers *always* have to pay attention and adapt to varying conditions, climate change-related or not.

Mike explained how, when he worked for larger outfits, he faced pressure to produce consistent product year after year, regardless of climatic conditions. This maintained predictability, but also risked creating soulless wine. "You can't taste the challenges," he explains. In the Applegate, he feels free to make wines that express the seasonal variables.

I went to Quady North next. Their new tasting room is perched above Ruch and surrounding hills are bare—but only temporarily; metal stakes and reels of trellis were laid out and looked ready to stretch. While owner Herb Quady poured us merlot, he explained he pulled the site's old vines because they had "red blotch"—a

pest-transmitted disease that is difficult to eradicate. He is ready to replant in syrah, grenache, and rosé.

"Isn't it frustrating," I asked, "having to yank them up and start over?"

"Yeah, but I'm in it for the long run," he said, waving his glass to reveal a forearm tattoo that read: *"I refuse to make bad wine."* His long view comes from being around the wine industry a long time; his parents started a California winery in 1975.

"If I didn't feel optimistic, I wouldn't have built this new place," he said.

Herb showed us soil samples displayed on the walls. There was a "river wash" right off the Applegate River—good for high quality syrah and viognier. He also picked up a jar of silty loam soil, good for grapes he uses for rosé. The area's soil diversity inspires him.

"I'm all in on the Applegate," he concluded.

I ended Uncorked at Plaisance, where the owner, Joe Ginnet, was pouring his 2018 and 2020 tempranillo. That morning, one of his frost-protection fans broke and some of his crop got damaged.

Joe has been in farming long enough to know how to take such things in stride. "If you're a farmer, it's been this way since day one," he said. "There is always a frost, or a drought, or a flood. Welcome to farming." He has set up a rainwater catchment system to ensure his water supply in dry years—all the while knowing some problems can't be solved.

"I believe in the positive power of the mind. Sometimes you get spanked. And sometimes you get rewarded," he said.



"I'm all in on the Applegate," says Herb Quady, owner of Quady North. Photo: Chris Ammon.



"I believe in the positive power of the mind," says Joe Ginnet, owner of Plaisance Winery. Photo: Chris Ammon.

Far from being discouraged, Joe recently planted three acres of new vines.

Touring the wineries at Uncorked did a lot to ease my worries. The optimism of these three winemakers—Mike, Herb, and Joe—is not a fluke, but a trait shared by farmers at large.

This Will Rogers quote sums things up: "The farmer has to be an optimist—otherwise he wouldn't still be a farmer."

So, thank you, Applegate winemakers for the much-needed attitude adjustment. I feel better.

As Herb Quady says: *"I'm all in on the Applegate."*

Chris Ammon  
flyinghobogirl@gmail.com

## WOMEN AND WINE

*Continued from page 1*

industry and is delighted to represent the next generation of viticulturists as the Applegate wine industry continues to come of age. The vineyard, tasting room, and organic garden are all run by women. "It is the people who make this place so special," says Mini. She sees enormous potential to create some of the best wines in the world biodynamically. In spite of her early success, Mini believes it is important to stay humble, be eager to learn, and have a strong sense of perseverance. Mini is confident that one day her role as a female groundbreaker in the wine industry will be the norm, not the anomaly. She says it just takes courage, passion, patience, and tenacity—oh, and great wines!

Carla David of Wild Wines has been planting the way since 2007. She incorporates the fruit and aromas of organic local ingredients, creating exquisite small-batch boutique wines that celebrate the Applegate. Carla says much of her success is due to the camaraderie of our wine-growing community and adds, "I've always been able to borrow a missing fitting or get help running lab tests, moving pallets of glass, or even discussing options to tasting-room conundrums." In 2012, Carla received a USDA rural farm grant, enabling her to scale her business from 275 to 600 cases per year. "Fermentation over the centuries has primarily been a woman's job," Carla said, "so it seems fitting to see a rise of women in wine. It would essentially



Mini Banks hard at work during harvest at Cowhorn.

be a return to form, as women around the world historically brewed alcohol with grains, herbs, honey, and fruits. There's really no reason more women can't and won't influence the industry."

Ashley Bradfield wears many hats: tending vines at Electric Gardens, restoring health and vitality to numerous small vineyards, producing her first private-label tempranillo, and serving as outreach manager for Women in Wine. Ashley describes the Applegate as a supportive, close-knit community that pushes each other to be better and helps one another achieve that goal. Ashley attended the recent Women in Wine Oregon



Carla David pouring one of her boutique "Wild Wines" in her Little Applegate tasting room.

Conference where more than 200 women (and some men!) gathered to celebrate, empower, and educate each other. It left her feeling deeply hopeful about the future of women in wine.

RiverCrest Ranch, another boutique vineyard, has produced fruit for Quady North for 10 years and was recently awarded a rural farm grant enabling Cathy Rodgers (moi!) to bottle, for the first time, a custom-crush private label. RiverCrest Ranch is sustainably farmed and has achieved USDA organic, LIVE (Low Input Viticulture and Enology), and salmon-safe certification. I am excited about launching the RiverCrest label featuring wines from the 2021 harvest and will donate 10 percent of profits to local organizations.

Here in the Applegate Valley the women are *crushing it!*

Cathy Rodgers  
cathyrodgers55@gmail.com



Cathy Rodgers of RiverCrest Ranch with her grandson, Ronin.

### For more information

- cowhornwine.com, 541-899-6876  
1665 East Side Road  
Jacksonville 97530
- enjoywildwines.com, 541-899-1565  
4550 Little Applegate Road  
Jacksonville 97530
- livecertified.org
- pavorealvineyard.com
- rivercrest ranch.com
- womeninwineoregon.com

## POETRY CORNER

*Reading Berry's  
'New Collected Poems'*By Paul Tipton  
ptipton4u2c@gmail.com

The irony is inescapable this sunny morning  
as I sit against a block wall  
in front of the Les Schwab tire store  
while one hundred and fifty feet away  
the Wash-N-Go holds Saturday services  
for those with a shine for a shiny rig  
the blasting air and vacuum roar  
bouncing off the wall behind me.

I'm reading Wendell Berry's poems  
sitting where once a fine orchard stood  
before the world washed over it,  
now machinery he disavowed corrupting all.  
His day is gone, when work was reward enough  
when at times the world still did stand still.  
We know a bit of that, but its light is fading  
as a new darkness quickens.

This is not the world that Wendell knew,  
nor I, though he had clearer view.  
Now, with fires and floods, swirling winds,  
viral pandemics of body, mind, and machine  
we have only come to this:  
where circle returns to begin again.  
We cannot fathom our place in this,  
for it is bliss with terror laced,  
the future blind but for prophets.

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

## 'Back in Time' comes back as a book!

BY DIANA COOGLE

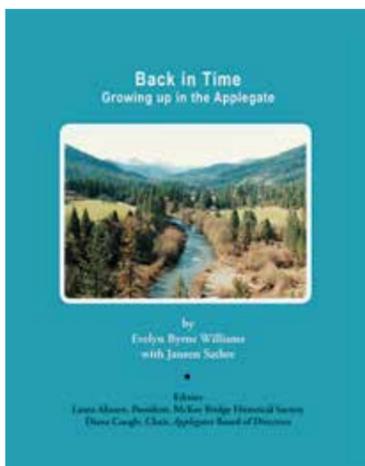
Congratulations to Evelyn Byrne Williams on her new book, *Back in Time: Growing Up in the Applegate!*

Many readers will remember Evelyn's long-running column in the *Applegater*, "Back in Time." Now those stories about the old days in the Applegate have been collected into a book, a joint project of the *Applegater* and the McKee Bridge Historical Society.

The following excerpt is from the introduction, by Janeen Sathre, Evelyn's daughter.

"For many years [Evelyn] delighted readers with her reminiscences of growing up in the Applegate, supplemented with diaries from Applegate inhabitants 'back in time,' stories she had been told, research from other Applegate historians and writers, and wonderful old photographs. In her columns readers enjoyed hearing about old gas pumps in the area as much as about the time Evelyn's sister locked her in the rabbit hutch; about her parents' car trip to Victoria, British Columbia, from her father's diary, as much as about the Logtown Cemetery.

"Readers were charmed. Was it really within a living person's lifetime that people rode mules and crossed the river on swinging bridges and did laundry by hand with a wringer washing machine? How different the Applegate is today!"



The book includes many old photographs, mostly from Evelyn's collection. There are pictures of farmers at work, of teachers and school children, of cabins and bridges, of people in the fashionable clothes of the day.

The book was edited by Laura Ahearn, president of the McKee Bridge Historical Society, whose meticulous

eye for historical accuracy and photo identification has made the book a resource for Applegate history as well as a series of charming stories, and by Diana Coogle, chair of the *Applegater* Board of Directors. Barbara Holiday did the design and production work, including the magic of making old photographs printable, and *Applegater* board member Lisa Baldwin published the book through her publishing company, N8tive Run Press.

Copies of *Back in Time: Growing Up in the Applegate* are available from both the *Applegater* (PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530) and the McKee Bridge Historical Society (8595 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530) and from Rebel Heart Books in Jacksonville and other local bookstores. Books are \$20 each, plus postage if you are having them mailed.

Diana Coogle  
[dicoog@gmail.com](mailto:dicoog@gmail.com)

## BOOK REVIEW

*The Last House on  
Needless Street*Catriona Ward  
Macmillan Publishing  
New York

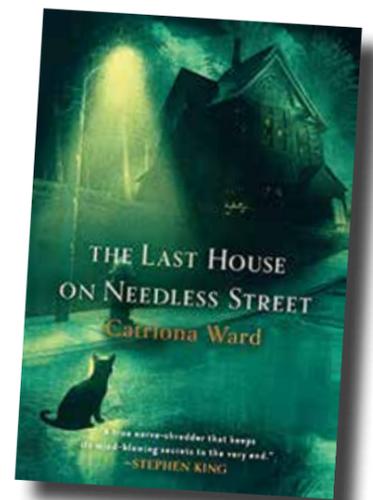
BY CHRISTIN LORE WEBER

What if a story could be told from the inside out? Would it be possible at the end to arrive at the surface of it—the beginning where the meaning is ready to burst through, as from a seed? If an author could do that, would the reader be able to connect that surface world to the world inside? Inside of what, though? The story itself? The main character? The structure of the world? The meaning of life? My reading of Catriona Ward's novel *The Last House on Needless Street* leads me to this conclusion: her goal in this book was to start inside the story and use scenes and characters to reach the surface.

The essence of the story still will depend on the reader's perspective. Stephen King implies on the book's cover that this novel is of the sort he writes: "A true nerve-shredder that keeps its mind-blowing secrets to the very end." His perspective in reading would place this book under horror fiction in the library. My neighbor, Cecile, who has all of Stephen King's books, would appreciate his endorsement. I liked one of King's books and read no more because I'm prone to nightmares, so King's endorsement would have put me off if my friend Joel hadn't been reading it and from page to page couldn't seem to stop. "It pulls you forward and also has good character development," he told me. "The writing, each sentence, is amazing. Clear."

At that point I clicked on Kindle for a sample. The writing: intriguing, imaginative, good analogies, stunning and original metaphors. After the middle of the first chapter, I figured that I'd be reading it from a psychological perspective. But I can also imagine that someone else might read it from a moral, or a mystical, or a fantasy, a religious perspective, or just because it's Halloween. The reader's point of view and focus would end up including all the others as secondary but part of the literary web of meaning Ward uses so successfully.

When I finished the novel, I wanted so much to write a review because everything about it was so masterful. How could I write about it, though, without becoming



a spoiler from top to bottom? Maybe a writing sample from the very first page would tell you everything and at the same time, spoil nothing.

*So. This is how I first got my love of birds. It was summer and we took a trip to the lake. I was six, I don't recall much from around that age but I remember how this felt. Mommy wore the deep-blue dress that day, her favorite. It fluttered in the hot breeze that whistled through the cracked window. Her hair was pinned up but strands had escaped the bun. They whipped at her neck, which was long and white. Daddy drove and his hat was a black mountain range against the light. I lay on the back seat kicking my feet and watched the sky go by. "Can I have a kitty?" I asked, as I did every so often. Maybe I thought I could surprise her into a different answer. "No animals in the house, Teddy," she said. "You know how I feel about pets. It's cruel, keeping living things in captivity." You could tell she wasn't from around here. Her voice still bore the faintest trace of her father's country. A pinched sound around the "r"s. But it was more how she held herself, as if waiting for a blow from behind. "Daddy," I said. "You listen to your mother." I made a crying face at that, but only to myself. I didn't want to be a nuisance. I stroked my hand through the air and pretended I could feel silky fur under my hand, a solid head with inquiring ears. I had wanted a cat ever since I could remember. Mommy always said no. (I can't help but wonder, now, if she knew something I didn't, whether she saw the future, like a streak of red on the horizon.)* (pp 29-30)

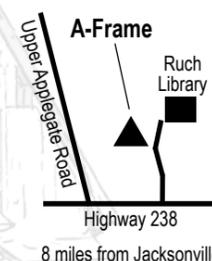
Good reading!

Christin Lore Weber  
[Storyweaver1@gmail.com](mailto:Storyweaver1@gmail.com)

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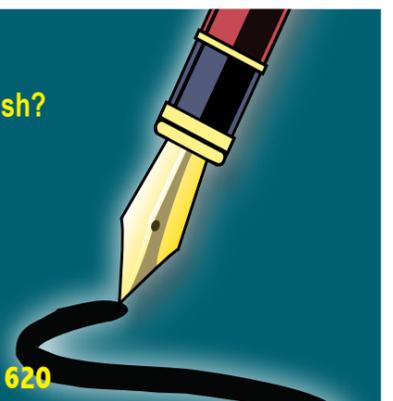
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The goal of the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., is to provide the Applegate watershed with a communication vehicle, the *Applegater*, that will provide educational information, increase community networking, and represent all the area's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

**Acknowledgements**

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Applegater Newsmagazine  
PO Box 14  
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# Ruch Holiday Pop-Up Market planned for Thanksgiving weekend

BY ALLIE PARKIN AND WESTI HAUGHEY

This Thanksgiving weekend will mark the third annual Ruch Holiday Pop-Up Market. In 2020 this event started in the workshop and driveway of Twin Pear Farm after all of their holiday events were canceled.

"Selling our goat milk soap and lotion is a critical piece of our farm's annual income," said Westi Haughey, co-owner of Twin Pear Farm. "Holiday markets are our only source of revenue during the winter months, and we typically have around 25 goats to feed, in addition to animal healthcare, insurance and payroll."

In 2020, Haughey and her husband, Mike, began brainstorming alternate ways to sell their products when all of the major holiday markets were canceled due to COVID. "We are well connected with our customer base, so I suggested we create our own event at the farm and invite other local crafters to sell their goods."

The first Ruch Holiday Pop-Up Shop was small, but a great success featuring pottery by Allie Parkin, of Squirrel Medicine Pottery, earrings from Madrone Moon, wax candles from Wildrose Farm, beaded necklaces by Magical Madrone, and others.

"I was blown away by how quickly my ceramic mugs and dishes were snapped

up, I almost completely sold out of inventory," said Allie. "It was such a success I asked Westi if she would be hosting another holiday market in 2021."

When Westi said she couldn't fit it into their farm schedule that year, Allie got to work coordinating the Ruch Holiday Pop-Up Market at the parking lot of Ryan's Outpost with 16 vendors. "We were lucky that the weather held, and we had a little taste of everything, from succulents to one-of-a-kind cutting boards."

This year Allie and Westi are teaming up for the largest Ruch Holiday Pop-Up Market to date. Scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend, November 26 and 27 (11 am - 4 pm), this year's market will feature more than 20 artisans all nestled in the community building of the Applegate Fire Station at 1095 Upper Applegate Road.

"We will have plenty of space, parking, and a great weekend, rain or shine," said Allie. Within 24 hours of announcing the event, more than half of the vendor spaces were filled. "There will truly be something for everyone," said Westi.



Offerings at the Ruch Holiday Pop-Up Market over Thanksgiving weekend will include such crafted items such as goat milk soap from Twin Pear Farm in the Upper Applegate.

In addition to Allie's pottery and Twin Pear Farm's soaps and lotions, attendees will find resin crafts and jewelry by Becca Feldman, hemp clothing from Blessed Lotus, wooden rings by Brandon Knott, suncatchers and jewelry by Madrone Moon, body care by Freeda of Oregon, grain and gluten-free pastries from Paulazzo Pasticceria, jewelry and crafts by Jewelbible, and much more.

"We love being a part of the Ruch and Applegate communities," said Westi. "This event is an opportunity to meet, shop with, and support our neighbors."

For more information, email mineekhoorn@gmail.com.

Westi Haughey, owner/herdswoman  
Twin Pear Farm LLC  
Text 831-419-3835  
westi@twinpearfarm.com

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

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**Cover Photo Credit**

Thanks to Ann Nguyen for the photo of glass gem corn at Feral Farm in Applegate. Have a photo for the winter *Applegater*? Email it to bert@applegater.org.

**Correction**

An article on page 11 of the summer *Applegater* about the Sugarloaf Community Association sports court project incorrectly indicated materials were purchased from CPU, Knife River, and Riverside Ready Mix. The materials were donated.

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**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*

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## — Applegate Library — ‘Fall Into Adventure’ at the Applegate Library



## — Friends of Ruch Library — Ruch Library manager retires: Thank you, Thalia!

BY CHRISTINE GRUBB

Fall into the Applegate Library to see all that's going on! "Fall Into Adventure" is the fall theme at the library. Featured service in this edition is the Interlibrary Loan Service (ILL). This service is available to full-service library patrons and grants them access to materials not found in the JCLS catalog that can be borrowed from other participating libraries. For additional information, see [jcls.org/services/interlibrary-loan](http://jcls.org/services/interlibrary-loan).

### Upcoming events

*The Mouse that Soared: Life and Times of the Legendary Siskiyou Smokejumper Base*—Author talk with local author Paul Fattig. Noon - 1:30 pm Saturday, September 17.

Adventure Maps—Create a treasure map to celebrate Talk Like a Pirate Day (September 19). This program will introduce classic factors of old map-making, including a legend and compass. Give your map the appearance of a long-lost document by lightly sponging a mixture of tea and water onto the paper, then crumpling and distressing the edges. Map your imagination, a place you already know, or a random location! 3:30 - 4:30 pm Tuesday, September 20.

Leaf-Printed Cloth Napkins—18-plus years. Personalize a set of cloth napkins for fall with a beautiful leaf print. Paint locally gathered leaves with fabric paint, then press them onto napkins to stamp them with unique natural designs in this

simple and satisfying craft. 11 am - noon Saturday, October 15.

Halloween Craft—5-plus years. Come to the library and decorate or carve a mini pumpkin, while supplies last. 10 am - 2 pm Saturday, October 29.

Adventures in Foraging—18-plus years. Participants will learn more about options for foraging in the local area. 3:30 - 4:30 pm Tuesday, November 8.

### Reminders

Preschool Storytime will change from Saturdays to Wednesdays beginning September 7 and will be from 11 - 11:45 am.

Every Wednesday, from 10 am - 12:30 pm, a digital service representative can help with all your tech questions. Appointments can be made through [techsupport@jcls.org](mailto:techsupport@jcls.org).

The Applegate Library meeting room can be booked online by going to [jcls.libcal.com/reserve/ap-meeting](http://jcls.libcal.com/reserve/ap-meeting).

Beginning Tuesday, September 28, bring your favorite, *labeled* (name & phone number) teacup (or two, but please no more than two) to the library for a monthly display, "Would you like an Adventure now or would you like to have your Tea First?"

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

BY CYNTHIA CHENEY

On June 25, Ruch Library Branch Manager, Thalia Truesdell, retired, having guided our branch since April 2011. And she would never have written such a dull sentence about anything! Picture her leaning on the counter listening carefully to a child trying to describe that special book they are looking for, as the library wall clock chimes the hour in bird calls. Or at the Buncom Day parade, leading a little line of kids and the young-at-heart all wearing "book costumes" made out of big cardboard boxes with head and arm holes and painted-on book covers. And organizing great events for our branch: the recent Treasures of the Applegate, for example, and the How-to Festival which had two very successful years before COVID's interruption (this was a two-branch event put on by Ruch and Applegate Branches).

The driving force was always her dedication to values that are at the center of libraries. This was evident from the time she joined the staff in 2007. Janis Mohr-Tipton, a former supervisor, says, "Thalia was very enthusiastic about connecting new people to the community with established community members, organizations, and nonprofits. She helped people fit into their new surroundings and feel like they were an important part of the community. It has made me and other past supervisors very proud that she understood the vital importance of introducing volunteers, community members, and young children to the library as a center for building stronger community connections."

One very important connection was that between Ruch Library and the Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS). The library was built adjoining the school to promote that connection, but by 2015 the synergy needed revitalization. Thalia, with FORL's then-president Peggy Mekemson (a former school principal), met with ROCS principal Julie Barry to encourage regular class visits in which Thalia would present age-appropriate library know-how and library-based projects in a fun way that fit into the teachers' curriculum and the students' interests. She has worked with the teachers each year since to be sure this successful partnership adapts and continues.

Julie Barry, Principal, Ruch Outdoor Community School, summed up this relationship: "All of the students and staff at Ruch Outdoor Community School are so thankful for the engagement and commitment that Thalia has shown us for so long. She provided enrichment and high interest activities and reading recommendations that kept all of us on our paths to being lifelong learners.



Ruch Library Manager Thalia Truesdell at her retirement party. Photo: Cynthia Cheney.

The students' weekly walking trip to the public library proved to be so valuable and a staple course in their learning experience. Thank you, Thalia, for your dedication and your involvement at ROCS. We look forward to having you being in the classroom more in the future. We love you."

In 2018, a ribbon cutting ceremony took place for a new paved pathway, connecting the Ruch Outdoor Community School and the Ruch Library, that will ensure that all students can reach the library. COVID-19 brought some interruptions in class visits, but they have resumed now. Students (bringing their own library cards!) enjoy the library for learning, doing homework, reading freely, and as a welcoming community space with so much to offer.

For all of us in FORL it's been a great pleasure to work with Thalia, and we will miss her clarity, lively energy, and dedication. She'll be busy weaving, teaching piano lessons, and spending time with family. But we know she won't be a stranger to the library because it's a community she will always be part of.

Thank you, Thalia!

### Sale of donated books

FORL continues its sales of donated books from 1 - 3 pm Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at the A-Frame Bookstore and our huge monthly Book Barn Sale the first Saturday of each month from 11 am - 2 pm (beginning in October, hours will be noon - 4). Most books are \$2 or less at the A-Frame, and at the Book Barn it's by donation. Everyone is welcome! Your already read books can be donated at the Book Barn Sale or at the Library to benefit your neighbors and the library.

Cynthia Cheney  
[akantha@icloud.com](mailto:akantha@icloud.com)

Josephine  
Community Library

## — Williams Library — Coming soon: A new library!

BY AMBER GUIENT

Josephine Community Library District and Josephine Community Library Foundation are improving library services in the Williams area by relocating and renovating a new Williams branch facility at 20140 Williams Highway in Williams by June 2023.

The New Williams Library Fundraising Drive, which had a goal of \$135,000, brought in over \$140,000! Many thanks to the generosity and support of community members and to Southern Oregon Sanitation and other major donors who provided the \$70,000 match.

The renovation will include 1,000 square feet of library use, a designated children's area, updated technology including broadband Internet, expanded books and other materials, running water, and an ADA restroom.

For more information about Josephine Community Library Foundation and to follow the project, visit [jclfoundation.org/williams](http://jclfoundation.org/williams) or contact Josephine Community

Library Foundation Executive Director Rebecca Stoltz at [rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:rstoltz@josephinelibrary.org) or 541-476-0571 (ext. 200).

### Williams Weekly Storytime

Families are invited to visit the Williams branch of Josephine Community Library District from 11 to 11:30 am every Friday for a themed storytime and craft session in a safe and fun environment.

### K9 Reading Buddies

Visit the Williams branch from 3 - 4 pm Tuesdays for K9 Reading Buddies. During this program, trained therapy dogs provide a non-intimidating environment for children to learn to read out loud. Young readers have the opportunity to explore language and books during this special storytime.

### Brainfuse HelpNow

Visit the Brainfuse Helpnow app, where live tutors are trained not to provide answers, but to help users master a problem's underlying concepts. This library resource helps students from elementary grades through college with

24/7 writing labs, language labs, test prep, and even chess practice. Tutoring and homework help services are offered in English and Spanish at no cost to library patrons. Use your library card barcode number to login.

### Interlibrary loan service

Did you know that library cardholders have

access to the interlibrary loan—a service through which items from libraries outside of the Josephine Community Library system can be requested at no cost to patrons? This service is for materials that are not available in the Josephine Community Library collection and is especially helpful for series items and specialized topics.

For more information about interlibrary loan, email [info@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:info@josephinelibrary.org) or visit a library branch in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, or Wolf Creek.

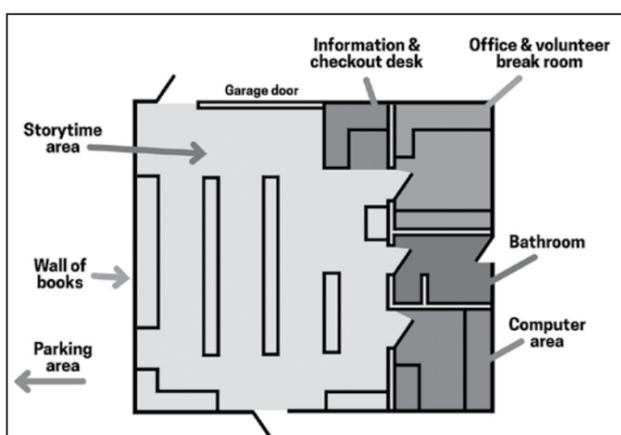
### Family resources from your public library

From homework help to skill building and from leadership opportunities to

trusted research resources, the library offers fun and productive activities for children, teens, and adults.

Explore what the library has to offer at [josephinelibrary.org](http://josephinelibrary.org). Library hours are 1 - 6 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday, and 11 am - 4 pm Friday. Registration is not required, and a library card is not necessary to participate in library events and programs unless otherwise noted.

Amber Guient, Manager  
Williams branch, Josephine Community Library District  
20695 Williams Highway, Williams  
541-846-7020  
[aguient@josephinelibrary.org](mailto:aguient@josephinelibrary.org)



Layout of the new Williams Library.

## NONPROFIT NEWS AND UPDATES

# Looking for innovations to Applegate Valley Vision

BY SETH KAPLAN

A Greater Applegate urges organizations and community members to apply for one of AGA's Innovation Grants to implement strategies identified in the Applegate Valley Vision. This document is a new plan developed through two years of community conversations with hundreds of locals to identify the issues and projects of greatest interest to Applegate Valley residents and businesses.



More than 100 community members, government officials, and volunteer facilitators gathered at two convenings at the Ruch Fire Station (seen here) and Pacifica Gardens in June.

More than 100 community members, government officials, and volunteer facilitators gathered at two convenings at the Ruch Fire Station and Pacifica Gardens in June to hear the plan presented by A Greater Applegate and to begin forming working groups to turn ideas into action. Working groups continue to form and grow as we collectively define and develop feasible ways to address community priorities.

One of the more exciting aspects of the planning and implementation process so far is the engagement of agencies outside the Applegate. We are seeing lots of support for a locally created plan from agencies across the region and throughout the state. We anticipate the Applegate Valley Vision will be used by community members, local organizations, and local government to inform and direct actions in our area for years to come.

### Innovation Grants

One way to participate in moving the plan forward is through the Innovation Grants program, which provides a total of \$10,000 to organizations and community members working to implement any of the strategies in the sections of the plan shown in the graphic accompanying this article. Innovation Grants are jointly funded by the USDA Rural Development Rural Placemaking

Innovation Challenge and The Ford Family Foundation Rural Community Building Department.

Individuals or organizations can apply for an Innovation Grant by submitting an application and a narrative of no more than three pages describing the project and its connection to community priorities as identified in the vision plan. Grants can be requested for as much as \$2,500 although typical grants are in the range of \$500-\$1,500.

Innovation Grants program replaces the AGA Momentum Grant program, which funded 15 local organizations and projects in the last two years covering arts, history, the environment, public safety, and more.

Through the Applegate Valley Vision and its implementation process, the community is being engaged and empowered to share and refine creative, locally grown ideas and to turn those ideas into action as placemaking projects and strategies. Projects and strategies may apply to a specific neighborhood, unincorporated town, or the entire Applegate.

Together, we are co-creating a vision for the Applegate Valley big enough to hold the dreams and aspirations of all of us who love this place we have chosen to call home!

Go to A Greater Applegate's website ([agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org)) to see the Applegate Valley Vision and learn how you can participate. There, you can also download an Innovation Grant application, as well as find more details about each of the strategies depicted on the accompanying graphic. The deadline for submitting applications to A Greater Applegate is October 15th and awards will be announced before Thanksgiving.

Contact me with questions about the Innovation Grant process. Contact Megan Fehrman ([megan@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:megan@agreaterapplegate.org)) to learn more about the Applegate Valley Vision and its implementation.

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[www.agreaterapplegate.org](http://www.agreaterapplegate.org)



Will Matney was raised in this home built in 1859 on the Matney homestead. In this photo from around 1890-95, are (probably), from left, sister Amanda, perhaps uncle Walter, sister Nancy, and parents Margaret and Carrel. Photo: Southern Oregon Historical Society.

## Bringing Will Matney home

BY LAURA AHEARN

Online databases like findagrave.com will tell you that William Wesley Matney, born on April 29, 1871, is buried at Logtown Cemetery. That is not true. Not yet.

Will's uncle, Walter Jefferson Matney, crossed the Oregon Trail in the same renowned 1843 wagon train as the Applegate brothers and Marcus Whitman.\* Walter's younger brother, Carrel Broadwater Matney, followed in 1850, and the Maupin family in 1853.

Carrel Matney and Margaret Ann Maupin married in 1859. Margaret was 14 years old; Carrel was 27. They had 17 children who survived infancy (another three pregnancies ended in stillbirths or early deaths). Will was in the exact middle of these 17 children.

Carrel was a blacksmith and helped David Linn build the Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville. The family farmed a homestead on a draw north of the Applegate River which we still call Matney Gulch. Will attended the one-room Drake school on James Buckley's farm.

On April 29, 1895, his 25th birthday, Will married a member of another pioneer Applegate family—15-year-old Grace Viola Pearce. Will built a sturdy house uphill from the original 1859 Matney dwelling. On May 29, 1896, Grace gave birth. The baby died two days later and was never given a name. Local lore and a small metal sign suggest that Baby Boy Matney was buried at Logtown Cemetery.

Grace divorced Will in 1898, took back her maiden name, and became a teacher. She never remarried, nor did Will. He lived with his widowed mother, Margaret, after Carrel committed suicide in 1903.

The dead have been buried at Logtown Cemetery from as early as 1855. But there was no sexton, no record-keeping system. In the 1920s, one person who was almost literally related to everyone, Elva Smith, started keeping notes and sketching a map about who she thought was buried where. Maybe there were still some wooden crosses or painted rocks to guide her—we don't know. No formal system existed until Logtown Cemetery Association (LCA) was incorporated in 1939.

By 1945, dozens of Matneys had been buried at Logtown Cemetery, including—

we think—Baby Boy Matney. On April 13, 1945, Will Matney purchased a plot. Surely Will wanted to be interred at Logtown near his son.

But...Elva didn't record exactly which plot Will had purchased. In 1949, Will was committed to the Oregon State Hospital due to dementia. He died there on October 5, 1952. His body was cremated by the hospital. The ashes were placed in a small urn, and the urn was placed in a closet, one of nearly 3,500 cremains discovered in the "room of forgotten souls" in 2004.

Early this year McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) helped LCA secure a grant from the Historic Cemeteries Commission (HCC) to build an online database. An MBHS volunteer took on the monumental task of scanning and inputting old receipts. When she came to Will's receipt, she saw that the cemetery's records as well as second-hand sources said that Will was buried at Logtown. Really? When and where? Research disproved this "fact" about Will, which probably took root decades ago when someone made up "temporary" metal markers and erroneously stamped that Will was buried with Baby Boy Matney.

MBHS located a great-great-great-nephew, who has submitted the paperwork to claim Will's cremains. The hospital should send the ashes to MBHS in September. Will will be buried in the plot marked for his son. Grace died in 1962 and is buried close by, in the Pearce family plot.

The HCC grant will allow MBHS to install permanent markers telling this story and many other forgotten stories of the early pioneers who—we think, but cannot always prove—are buried at Logtown Cemetery.

Are you interested in helping MBHS preserve Applegate history? Come to our annual meeting at McKee Bridge on September 17. Members get to indulge in a chili cook-off! Sign up at [mckeebridge.org/donate-become-a-member](http://mckeebridge.org/donate-become-a-member).

Laura Ahearn

[mckeebridge1917@gmail.com](mailto:mckeebridge1917@gmail.com)

\*If you need to brush up on this chapter of Oregon history, go to [oregonencyclopedia.org](http://oregonencyclopedia.org) and search "Marcus Whitman," "Jesse Applegate," and "Applegate Trail."



Go to [agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org) to see the Applegate Valley Vision and download an Innovation Grant application, as well as find more details about each of the strategies depicted on the above graphic.

## SPIN OUT GARAGE

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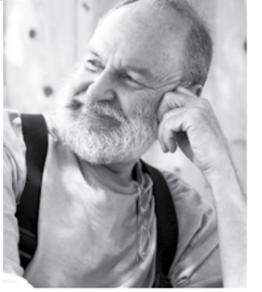
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**THE STARRY SIDE**

# Early morning specials, the famous 'W,' a look to the south

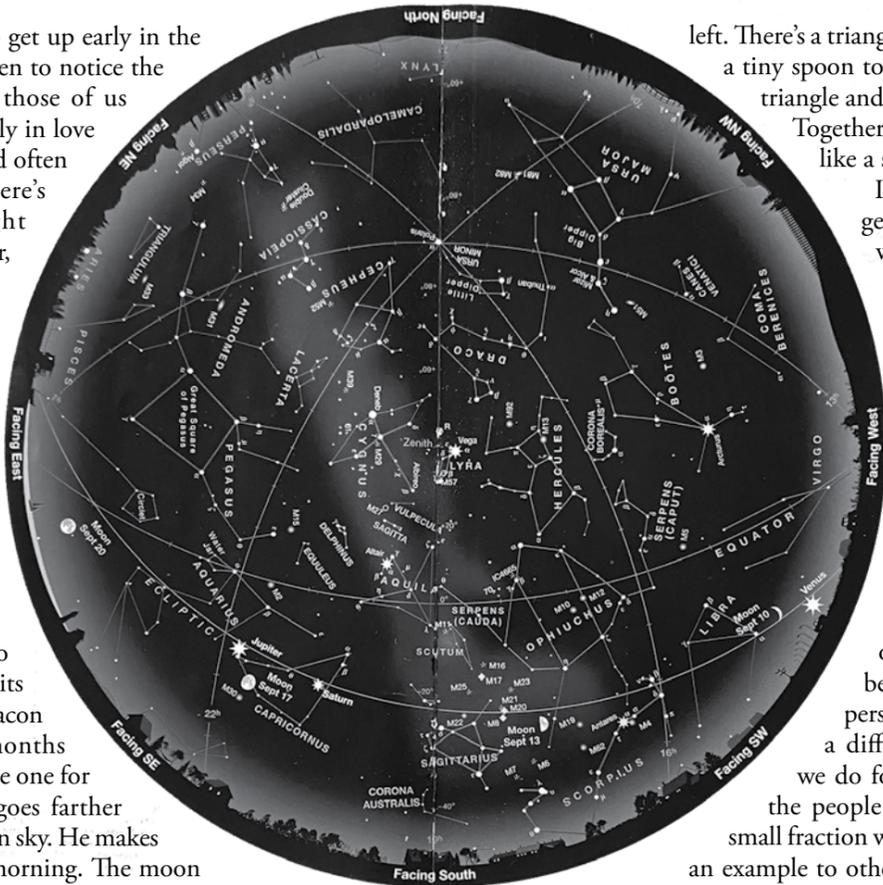


Greeley Wells

BY GREELEY WELLS

For those few who get up early in the morning or just happen to notice the morning sky, or for those of us crazies who are actually in love with the night sky and often notice mornings, there's this beautiful bright "star," the planet Jupiter, which was rising in the east and is going slightly farther south each night as the predawn sky progresses. He is one of our farthest-off and hugest planets and won't be this bright for another 107 years! Being so far away he reflects right back to us all the sun that hits him. He has been a beacon each morning for months and will continue to be one for months more as he goes farther west along the southern sky. He makes for a beautiful early morning. The moon swings close by him on the mornings of September 9-11.

Now that it's the third quarter of the year—fall—we can talk about the sky before bedtime too. Some of my favorite star formations are in this sky, like the bright triangle of stars right over your head, the Summer Triangle. Yes it's finally made it up to the top. Also, if you face north and notice Polaris, the North Star, about halfway up the sky, you can notice the Big Dipper, Ursa Major, to the lower left of it. Opposite, on the upper right, you'll see the W (for Wells) or M



Sky & Telescope (skyandtelescope.org).

(for Matthew, my son), more commonly called Cassiopeia. It swings around the North Star to now be sideways as neither a W nor an M.

Let's look south too. Spin around so the North Star is behind you, out of sight. You are now facing south. Lowish near the horizon is what the British call the Tea Pot, better known as Sagittarius. Can you make it out? Cool, yeah? Slightly tipped to the right, with the triangular spout on the right and the four-sided handle on the

left. There's a triangular top too! And even a tiny spoon to the upper left: a little triangle and another star to its left. Together, they look surprisingly like a spoon.

I hope this is fun and gets you out in this warm weather on a night when our sky is *not* filled with smoke as it is I write this: *no stars at all*, and it sure doesn't smell good! Look, it's clear that no one of us can save the world from climate change and the other calamities ganging up on us. But if each of us will just do the best we can in our own personal lives it *will* make a difference. Because what we do for ourselves influences the people around us. And that small fraction will contribute by being an example to others whom we may not even know. So each of us, by personally trying our best to be ecological and smart and think seriously about who we vote for, will have done everything we *can* do to help turn the tide towards a better future for our children and theirs. I'm once again inviting you to do your part, because it does make some difference.

This year's meteor shower season is certainly interesting—all of our famous and fun showers are mooned out! I kept studying the reports, and each one said the same thing: A moon will visually deafen the shower! Even when there were times

without a moon, the shower itself was at low ebb. I've never experienced more than one or two meteor showers mooned out before.

But there's always a background of stuff in the sky, including a few odd meteors and the International Space Station. So kick back whenever you find that moment with the night sky and just look. Besides the meteors and Space Station, you can observe other sights that just happen all the time: our constellations and sunsets and sunrises and moons going by. And enjoy the company you're joining out there under that magnificent sky, like retired astronomer Bill Wren, who spent decades helping preserve dark skies. He says this about his dark-sky experiences: "It's almost a mystical experience, that sense of being connected, the sense of unity and oneness."

I agree.

Greeley Wells  
greeley@greeley.me

**— OF NOTE —**  
**The planets**

**Mercury** is at dusk in September, at dawn in October, and nowhere in November!

**Venus** is simply not visible all season, being too close to or behind the sun.

**Mars** is visible early morning and before dawn all season; look for the red!

**Jupiter** is visible all season in the mornings, moving west each night above the southern horizon.

**Saturn** is an evening star in the south, but dim, as usual. I almost always forget about him.

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DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

# ‘Hugelkultur’? Say what?

BY SIOUX ROGERS



Sioux Rogers

Usually “when” I have a “brilliant” idea and “research” it, the “it” has already been done. Now the disclaimer for this article: I have never done this type of planting. This is clearly an experiment, for me.

This past summer, while decluttering our very, very overgrown, cluttered garden—and before I had read about Hugelkultur—I began a “mound garden” as a way to get rid of and also utilize the excessive amount of organic waste. The adventure began with low mounds, maybe three feet high and six feet long. No need to remember the numbers, although the depth needs to at least accommodate a deep root such as a long carrot. I made this elongated mound with old straw, some twigs, manure, and dirt. My mixture was not particularly evenly mixed. No matter!

So, turns out I was sorta, kinda “hugelkulturing.” Actually, hugelkultur is a German word meaning “mound gardening.” Brilliant. Apparently, it is the rage at this time ([sustainableamerica.org/blog/what-is-hugelkultur](http://sustainableamerica.org/blog/what-is-hugelkultur)). Reading all the methods, which are basically similar, I conclude it is like “lasagna gardening” with tree trunks and branches.

Building mounds via the “Hugelkultur” is clearly more time-consuming in the set-up process than a “regular” mound. Hugelkultur is not at all complicated, but rather straight-forward with dos and don’ts.

You can grow almost anything that you would grow in the ground or in a more traditional raised bed in a Hugelkultur mound. Remember, I have never done this before, but I’m excited to know I will. The only Hugelkultur planting I have actually seen was by a former German friend. She clearly was very familiar with this method as her garden is extremely productive with supersized vegetables.



Start by digging a trench to capture as much rain water and ground water as possible. Photo: twooaksfarmtalk.com.

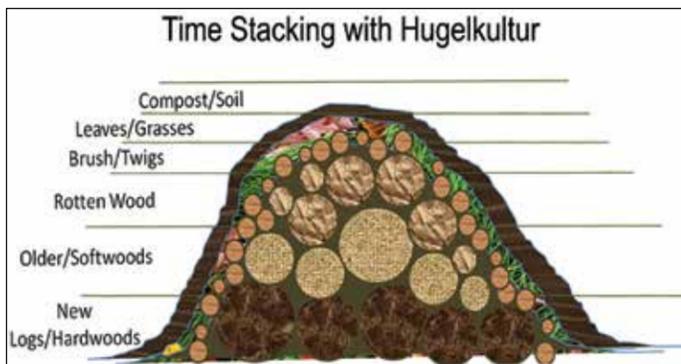


A finished, growing Hugelkultur bed. Photo: Lewis County Master Recycler-Composter group.

You can use one of the following plans to get started:

- Dig a two- to four-foot trench next to where you wish to plant. Lasagna layer the trench into a mound. Plant next to trench. The mound will be the fertilizer distributor.
- Dig a two- to four-foot trench, lasagna layer it until it’s full, and plant on top. This will look like your regular garden bed, but we know it is not. This particular style retains moisture the best. Imagine this as an underground mound.
- Dig a two- to four-foot trench, lasagna layer it, then keep going until it makes a mound, which is also part of the Hugelkultur, so keep piling up the wood. Either wait for the mound to settle or just make sure there is enough soil at the top and just plant directly.

A Hugelkultur bed is an excellent option for anyone dealing with difficult growing conditions such as poor drainage, compacted soil, or limited moisture, etc. Graphic: [spruceacreshomestead.com](http://spruceacreshomestead.com).



The ingredients in the layers are the same as in your regular compost: kitchen waste, old leaves, grass clippings, manure; gosh, just add whatever. Be creative.

Now that you are finally building your mound, make sure it is a mound, not a pyramid shape as the soil might fall from the pointed top. So keep it as a mound. Use a mix of fresh and rotten wood. If you have a large forested area near you and several species to choose from, that’s awesome.

Don’t use too much wood from rot-resistant trees like cedar.

Don’t use fresh wood from willows or other trees that will sprout from fresh cuts.

The Hugelkultur garden is somewhat particular for wood to use or not. I will make it easy for you. Here is the list:

- Okay to use: maple, oak, birch, alder, beech, poplar, willow, cottonwood, apple, pear.

is composting in place, there’s no need to wheelbarrow compost from one place to another. The rotting organic material will slightly warm the soil, increasing the length of your growing season and helping plants that are on the slightly more delicate side. Good news.

The ruling principle for garden health is to feed the soil. When you feed soil, the soil then feeds the plants. Healthy soil means healthy plants.

This was kind of skimpy instructions for Hugelkulturing, but do you get the idea? Think organic mounds sustained with tree branches and trunks, far less watering, more plants in a smaller area and an ongoing flow of nutrients from mound to plants. For more, watch this two-minute video: [bitly.co/Dp9M](http://bitly.co/Dp9M).

*What’s small, red, and whispers? A hoarse radish.*

Sioux Rogers  
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thanks you!  
We so appreciate the Applegate community for the support we received while meeting as a church between Ruch and Jacksonville. We love the Applegate and its wonderful people and enjoyed serving the community the last two years. We recently moved our meeting location to the Oak Grove School. Drop by and say hi!  
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# Let's celebrate at Cantrall Buckley Park Sunday, October 16

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

Save the date! The Park Enhancement Committee (PEC) on behalf of A Greater Applegate (AGA) and the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) warmly invites members of the community to come help us celebrate and honor all the enhancements and accomplishments at Cantrall Buckley Park made possible by donors, grantors, artists, volunteers, and organizations. The Jackson County Roads and Park director has described this county park as a “gem of a park” for Jackson County.

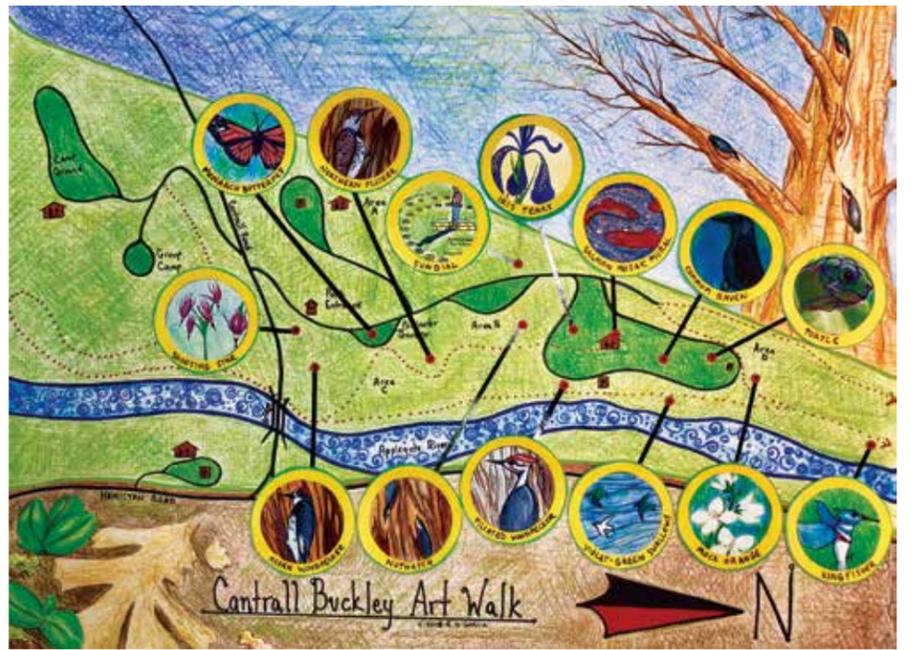
This long-awaited event takes place from 1:30 - 4:30 pm on October 16. You will be warmly welcomed at the entrance booth and given a program and map. Park your car and walk to the covered pavilion at Area A or drop off riders at the area and park in one of the lower lots. There will be parking spaces near the pavilion for those that find walking difficult.

Join our informal social gathering and enjoy some snacks and conversations until 2 pm, when we will begin a

presentation, introducing guests, and acknowledging individuals and organizations whose support has made all these accomplishments possible.

Tours of the park will follow, with options of (1) a self-guided tour by vehicle or walking, with details at each stop on the map, or (2) a guided tour by vehicle. With either option, you will be able to stop and chat, ask questions, and learn about the art, the project, or the program associated with each stop.

Volunteers are at the center of all our success! Each volunteer is an essential spoke that makes the wheel turn to complete a project. Whether it is a few hours, or hundreds of hours, it's all-important help for both AGA's and APWC's success. The PEC as a volunteer committee has helped develop and implement Art in the Park, interpretive signs, the Grow Youth riparian restoration and trail maintenance program, invasive species removal, and development of the cultural projects. They piloted the first outdoor education series



Come join the celebration from 1:30 - 4:30 pm Sunday, October 16, for all these art enhancements and meet the artists, donors, grantors, and volunteers who made it all possible at Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo and original artwork: Cheryl D. Garcia.

at the park, which is morphing into the APWC's Applegate Outdoor School, now staffed and managed by Eva King.

As our work grows, so does the need for more helping hands.

### Scheduled opportunities

- Saturday, September 24: Fall riverside cleanup with APWC and SOLVE (originally an acronym for Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism, now the official name of a Portland-based nonprofit), 9:30 - 11:30 am. Bring hand tools and gloves. Snacks will be provided.\*\*

- Saturday, October 1: Continued work removing invasive species and cleanup, Dragonfly Place, 10 am - noon. Bring tools and gloves. Snacks will be provided.

### Other opportunities

- Sign up for future volunteer work at the park and campgrounds. We'll contact you about specific dates.

- Join community volunteer work parties in small groups for events, general and seasonal cleanups, special projects, or revitalizing an existing area or project.\*\*

- Volunteer for the Cantrall Buckley Park Steward Program: Sign up to help as an individual, small group, or organization.

- Commit to local one-time-per-month support: conservation, restoration or revitalization projects, or cultural committee projects.\*\*

- Volunteer Leadership Training: Serve as a team leader for trail maintenance and work parties or as a small-group assistant, supervising youth service days and outdoor education activities.\*\*



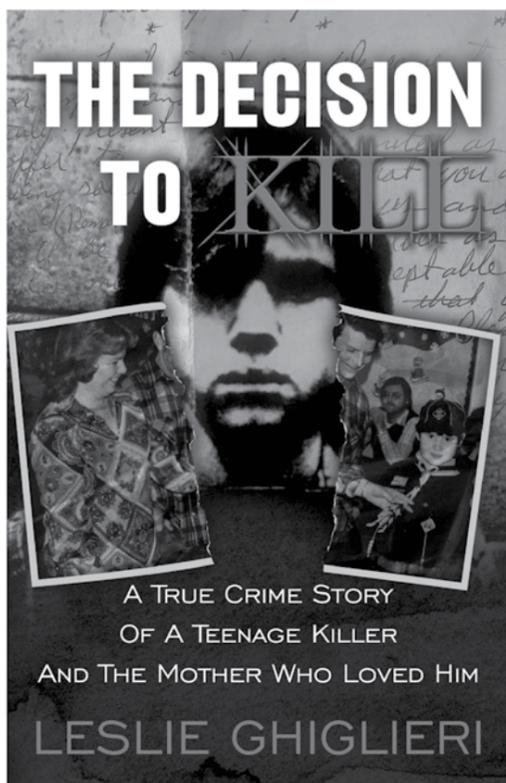
This river-habitat-themed mural was installed on the restroom facility as a thank-you to all the donors who supported the playground improvements and revitalization. The donations also covered the costs to have a mural designed and developed by Jeremy Criswell. Pictured are Jackson County park staff, from left, Brien, Dustin, and Jonathan (who preferred to give their first names only). Photo: Janis Mohr-Tipton.

- Sign up for Jackson County “Adopt-a-Park” Program ([jacksoncountyor.org/parks](http://jacksoncountyor.org/parks), 541-774-8183).

We hope to see you at the celebration this fall!

Janis Mohr-Tipton  
and the Park Enhancement Team  
AGA 541-702-2108  
APWC 541-899-9982  
\*\*Contact PEC leader, Janis Mohr-Tipton at [cantrallbuckleypec@apwc.info](mailto:cantrallbuckleypec@apwc.info).

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# Art and learning at Pacifica

BY PEG PRAG

It was a great summer of fun, learning, and bonding with 10 weeks of summer camp adventures at Pacifica! We hosted a wide range of camps from nature to art to sewing to bookmaking and even dance. Thank you to all of the amazing teachers, and thank you to Pacifica's board for allocating funding so that everyone who requested scholarship funding for camp received it.

Pacifica will be offering a variety of K-12th grade classes on Mondays throughout the 2022-23 school year. We will open each day with optional yoga, art, Lego engineering, or games to build relationships between students and instructors. After lunch, we will dive into standards-based academics, collaborative learning, and hands-on exploration. Pacifica is working in partnership with Teach Northwest (TNW) Charter School to make this full day of in-person classes available. TNW students will be able to register for one or all of our Monday classes for free, and we are able to offer these classes at low tuition rates to all of our Southern Oregon home-based learners. See Pacifica's website or Facebook for individual class descriptions and tuition rates. Pacifica is a vendor for Teach Northwest, Logos Charter School, and River's Edge Academy Charter School (REACH).

In the last issue of the *Applegater* (which was mostly about horses at Pacifica), we mentioned our new Art Nature Trail designed for walkers, wheelchairs, and strollers, as well as everyone else. This trail continues to be a delight to all and continues to be in the market for a new sculpture.

This month we have more exciting news about art at Pacifica: Our ceramics studio is ready for its inauguration! Nolan, a professional potter and professional teacher, is ready to help get you started, whatever your level of expertise.



Above: A new pavilion at Pacifica is made with locally sourced, ecologically harvested wood.

Right: A close-up shows some of the handiwork by Peter Gauss of Waylon Woodworks on the new Pacifica pavilion. Photos: Ray Prag.

There are five wheels and a brand-new top-of-the-line kiln—which no one can touch except Nolan! For the time being, for the sake of the kiln, we ask that you use only our clay, which we will sell to you at wholesale cost. This first class will be held over three days, from 9 am - noon Monday through Wednesday, September 5, 6, and 7. To sign up for ceramics classes, please call Nolan at 530-339-5670.

Soon to join the ceramics studio will be a woodshop equipped for teaching children and adults how to work with wood and use a variety of equipment for building or carving.

"Fine woodwork" brings up the last note for this "Art at Pacifica" article: the new pavilion (photo above)—framed with locally sourced, ecologically harvested wood, built to stand for generations to come and provide shelter from sun and rain for community and events—is an incredible example of fine woodwork.

Many thanks to Evelyn Roether and Spencer Lennard for the logs, to Rodger Miller for the prolonged use of his barn, and to Peter Gauss (Waylon Woodworks, 541-660-6163) for his amazingly beautiful creation.

Peg Prag  
peg@pacificagarden.org

## MAKING HAY

Continued from page 2

hemp when it became legal. Now, though, Spencer says, homeowners want to return their land to hay and pasture. "The hemp money was nice," he says, "but there is nothing worse than annihilating a beautiful field, filling it with rot, going away, and leaving it for someone like me to clean up." This year he has had the satisfaction of returning hemp fields to hay pastures.

"The cost of hay has easily doubled," Nancy says. "It's the cost of fertilizer, the cost of gas, problems getting parts..."

Weather is always a factor. "You can only put hay up as good as the weather will

allow," says Tim Hunter, adding with a sly smile, "if you have the knowledge." Tim usually gets three or even four cuttings a season, but the late rain last spring made it difficult to put up hay this summer. Usually, the first hay cutting is on June 15. This year it wasn't till July 15.

Applegate farmers have always put up hay for horses, cattle, and sheep. Methods have changed since they used pitchforks and horse-drawn carts, but the concept is the same: Give your livestock the best feed possible throughout the year.

Diana Coogle • diana@applegater.org



Left: Hauling hay in the Applegate the way it's done today. Photo: Diana Coogle. Right: Putting up hay in the Applegate, the way it used to be done (from the collection of Evelyn Williams).



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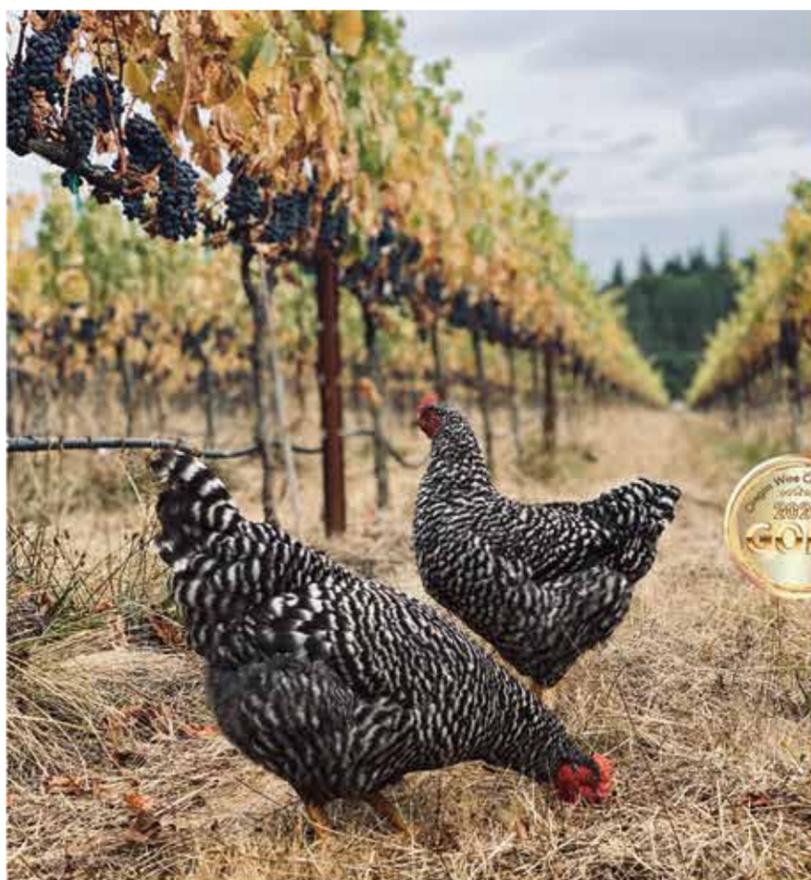


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## Saving the forests for the trees: Why we need to harvest commercial-sized trees in the Late Successional Reserve

BY ELIZABETH BURGHARD

By now, many people have heard stories about the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Medford District's plans to harvest thousands of acres of "old-growth" forest. Due to the high amount of misrepresentations and disinformation that is circulating about the projects included in the BLM's Integrated Vegetation Management for Resilient Lands Environmental Assessment, I would like to set the record straight. Despite what you may have heard or read, the BLM Medford District's integrated vegetation management projects are designed to *protect* older, structurally complex forests—sometimes called old growth—and the highest quality northern spotted owl habitat in the district. These efforts directly support the implementation of the BLM's Southwestern Oregon Resource Management Plan (RMP), which calls for us to speed the development of northern spotted owl habitat and help forests respond positively to climate-driven stresses and wildfire.

The goals of the BLM Medford District's integrated vegetation management projects are to develop fire-resilient forests, to reduce wildfire risks to homes and other infrastructure, to improve wildland firefighter safety, and to restore native

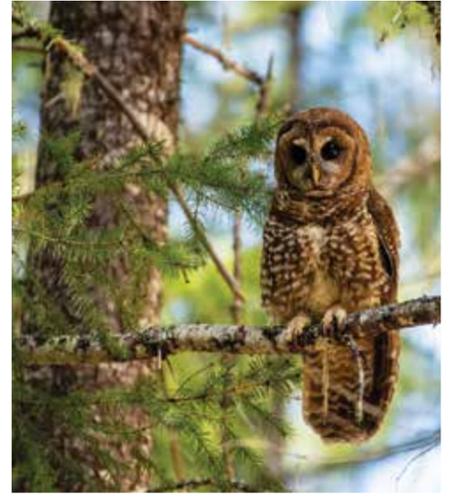
habitats for a variety of sensitive plant and animal species—goals that I think we can all agree on. To achieve these goals, a team of subject-matter experts, including botanists, wildlife biologists, fire ecologists, foresters, and others, worked together to develop a comprehensive strategy based on the best available scientific data and information. The team analyzed 14 years of monitoring data from local fuels treatments and wildfire interactions and considered lessons learned from past projects in the Applegate Valley, as well as from work completed under our 2012 Programmatic Integrated Vegetation Management Environmental Assessment, such as our oak restoration efforts at the Table Rocks.

The BLM Medford District's integrated vegetation management projects aim to remove fire-prone vegetation—smaller, weaker, and poor-quality trees—to make more room for the continued growth of fire-resistant vegetation—like older, more mature trees. Removing trees of various sizes is crucial to achieve these restoration goals. The BLM considers the removal of trees with a diameter greater than eight inches a "commercial" activity, so some of this work will be accomplished through the BLM's established commercial timber

sale program. However, none of the timber harvested by these projects will count towards the BLM's timber sale targets under the O&C Act. The integrated vegetation management projects would not remove any conifers that are greater than 36 inches in diameter and that are 150 years old or older.

Our integrated vegetation management strategy is built on the Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan and the Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy. Both plans have been collaborative efforts, with partners from local government officials, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations like the Nature Conservancy. These efforts call for a landscape-scale effort to reduce the risk of fire. Projects completed under IVM will help us achieve the forest restoration goals established in our RMP as well as the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan. To learn more about the effectiveness of the BLM's past hazardous fuels treatment projects, I encourage you to check out the fall 2021 (page 14) *Applegater* article titled "Do fuels treatments really tame fires?" These projects have demonstrated that wildland fires within treated areas are more likely to be low-severity and more likely to be safely put out while they're small.

This work is critical for our southwestern Oregon communities. Southwest Oregon has 22 communities with the highest cumulative wildfire risk in the state. The heat dome of 2021 resulted in widespread tree mortality across the region, and we continue to face persistent drought, longer



BLM's IVM is designed to speed the development of northern spotted owl habitat and help forests respond positively to climate-driven stresses and wildfire. Photo: Kyle Sullivan.

wildfire seasons, and larger, more intense wildfires. Our forests are overcrowded and competing for limited water resources, and experts predict that we will continue to see trees dying in the face of long-term drought conditions. Simply put, we need to increase the pace and scale of these types of projects to protect our communities and sustain our forests' health. These forests need our help, and this work will save our larger, older trees and create the next generation of large old trees for Oregonians to cherish well into the future.

Elizabeth Burghard  
Medford District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
BLM\_OR\_MD\_Mail@blm.gov

## Stop the spread of vineyard mealybugs

BY MAUREEN FLANAGAN BATTISTELLA

Do you have a production vineyard or backyard vines? If so, watch out for vine mealybugs (*Planococcus ficus*) found in Oregon for the first time in the summer of 2021 and most recently in Jackson County vineyards. This new grapevine pest spreads easily and rapidly, allows a mold to grow that hinders photosynthesis, leaves fruit unsuitable for human consumption, and is a vector for grapevine leafroll viruses.

Mealybugs are not new to southern Oregon. In 2014 Gill's mealybug (*Ferrisia gilli*) was found in vineyards near Jacksonville and has since spread. Due to its rapid spread and potential for damage, Oregon Department of Agriculture recently issued a quarantine pest alert for vine mealybug and a pest alert for Gill's mealybug.

"Since the vine mealybug was first found in Southern California in the 1990s,

it has been recognized as their most serious vineyard pest," notes Rick Hilton, an entomologist with the OSU Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC). "About 10 years ago it was found in Napa vineyards and, since then, we've just been waiting for it to arrive in southern Oregon. Now the vine mealybug is here."

Vine and Gill's mealybugs are similar in appearance—typically white or gray and 2-4mm in length with a segmented, oblong body with filaments or rods along its edges. The vine mealybug also looks similar to the more commonly found and not reportable



Vine mealybug female; note the wax tails or filaments. Photo: University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources.

grape mealybug with its characteristic two pairs of long wax tails. Mealybugs, in a cluster of fine webbing or glass-like filaments, can be found at the base of shoots and are often discovered at thinning, but they can be found in other parts of the plant and throughout the year as well. The vine mealybug is also hosted by plant

families including apple, beet, potato, walnut, and willow.

Equipment and clothing contaminated with the pest are the primary means of mealybug spread, though it can also be transmitted passively by wind. Because moving live plants and plant cuttings can transmit the infestation, vineyard owners should buy their grafting stock only through certified nurseries.

Because of the severity of damage and the risk presented by this insect, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has instituted a mealybug monitoring

program to understand how and where mealybugs are migrating. This program, which involves a pheromone insect trap that attracts the male mealybug, is free to growers.

If you suspect a vine mealybug infestation, notify ODA immediately by sending an email and photo to plantentomologists@oda.oregon.gov and report the occurrence at [oda.fyi/mealybug](mailto:oda.fyi/mealybug). If you want ODA to monitor your vineyard for mealybugs, contact the ODA entomologist at the same email.

For more information on pest control and management for commercial and home growers, visit [oregon.gov/oda/programs/IPPM/Pages/Default.aspx](http://oregon.gov/oda/programs/IPPM/Pages/Default.aspx) and browse the "insects" section or consult the 2022 Pacific Northwest Insect Management Handbook, available online at [pnwhandbooks.org/insect](http://pnwhandbooks.org/insect).

For assistance with insect pest prevention and management in Jackson County, visit the SOREC website at [agsci.oregonstate.edu/sorec](http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/sorec) or call 541-776-7371.

Maureen Flanagan Battistella  
[mbattistellaor@gmail.com](mailto:mbattistellaor@gmail.com)

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THROUGH THE LEPIDOPTERAN LENS

# A stellar year for the Orange Sulphur

BY LINDA KAPPEN

The Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*) is a butterfly of the Pieridae (Whites and Sulphurs) family of butterflies. It is a very common butterfly in North America and Oregon.

Its wingspan can reach two inches plus, and its colors range from yellow to orange or yellow-orange and from greenish to white. The female has a white form called Alba. Males have a solid black border on the dorsal (upperside) of their wings. The females have a broken black border with light colored spots within the border. Both

have central orange patches on the upper side of the wings. A row of spots called eurytheme spots are seen in the marginal area of the ventral (underside) of the wings. The ventral hindwings have a center spot with two concentric rings and a smaller spot above it.

Males patrol for females in any type of habitat. The host plants for the Orange Sulphur are plants of the pea family (*Fabiacae*) and alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*). Females lay eggs singly on the host plants and can lay hundreds of eggs over their

short life span of about 40 days. Larvae will feed at night and in mild climates will overwinter as a late larval stage or a pupal stage. We can experience up to three broods in southern Oregon. In some locations of the US, too many can damage alfalfa crops.

Adults feed on a variety of wildflowers for their nectar source. The habitat for the Orange Sulphur can be alfalfa fields, open areas, roadsides, forest openings, meadows, and many more. This butterfly can be seen in flight from early to late February through late November. In the U.S., it ranges from coast to coast, north to Canada, and south to Mexico.

The Orange Sulphur has had a stellar year in southern Oregon. We recently found this out during a spring survey at

Sampson Creek Preserve, a nearly 4,800-acre preserve east of Ashland managed by Selberg Institute.

Maia Black, the executive director of Selberg Institute, and I recorded 102 Orange Sulphurs on our three transects in June! One transect is upland and two are riparian along Sampson Creek. Imagine all the Orange Sulphurs we didn't see on this expansive preserve! Our reward at the end of the day was observing about 20 Orange Sulphurs puddling on the banks of Sampson Creek.



Linda Kappen

Orange Sulphur butterflies puddling at Sampson Creek Preserve. Photo: Linda Kappen.



Pair of Orange Sulphurs at Crater Lake National Park with white Alba form female on left. Photo: Linda Kappen.



Another special observation was during a butterfly research survey I participated in at Crater Lake National Park. While in the pumice fields, I was able to capture a photo of a mating pair with the female being the white Alba form. A treat for sure at the beautiful Crater Lake National Park!

Linda Kappen  
humbugkapps@hotmail.com

Linda Kappen is a southern Oregon naturalist specializing in lepidoptera.

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# Cleaning up the mess: Cheney Creek benefits from cooperation in tackling noxious weeds, trash

BY NATHAN GEHRES AND BARBARA SUMMERHAWK

When we hear the words “garlic” or “mustard,” we may think of Italian cuisine or a delicious sandwich spread, but the garlic mustard is neither. Adjectives such as pernicious and invasive are more descriptive of this giant nuisance growing throughout the valley. The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) botany crew, who were the primary motivators for attacking the invasion of the plant along Cheney Creek, where it can grow up to six feet. This work is being carried out as a part of a larger stream restoration project funded by the BLM’s Western Oregon Resource Advisory Council through the Secure Rural Schools Title II Program.

Garlic mustard gets its name from the distinctive smell of its crushed leaves. It was brought to North America from Europe and Asia in the mid 1800s as a medicinal herb and erosion control. Since then, it has become a damaging invader in temperate forests from the Northeast to the Pacific Northwest. This invasion is the result of the ability of each plant to produce up to 7,000 seeds in its two-year life cycle; the capacity of those seeds to spread widely via wind, water, and animals; and their persistence on the landscape and in the seed bank for up to 10 years. Garlic mustard has other advantages over our native plants. It emerges earlier in the spring than most other species and can use that head start to shade out and otherwise outcompete the native plants. This noxious weed also introduces compounds into the soil that inhibit the mycelium network that is essential for trees to absorb nutrients.

After confirming that garlic mustard was found on a property along Cheney Creek in 2016, Kyle Strauss, a local weed-treatment expert, began reaching out to landowners. A state weed board grant through Rogue Basin Partnership helped fund the work so that, if garlic mustard was found, Strauss could offer assistance with removal. Kyle says, “Invasive weed removal is something I do all the time for my job, but I’ve particularly enjoyed getting to know landowners along Cheney Creek and helping remove a threat to their creekside habitat.”

2022 is the first year that Kyle has found garlic mustard on the BLM section of Cheney Creek. The seeds are moved by water, so most properties along the creek have this weed. He has assisted staff from APWC and the BLM with hand pulling, bagging, and hauling away enough garlic mustard to fill four pickup-truck beds.

Other noxious and tenacious weeds that have been cut, pulled, or otherwise dealt with along Cheney Creek include black locust trees, French broom, English ivy, vinca, and blackberries.

Along with the weed removal, the team has worked at cleaning the trash along the creek, resulting in the removal of enough tires, used hypodermic needles, disassembled laptops, soiled clothing, and a disheartening array of household trash to fill the equivalent of a 30-foot-long trailer. The dumpsites were being accessed by old, rough trails that aren’t part of the official BLM numbered road system. These routes are harmful to the habitat of the stream,



APWC and BLM staff worked in the middle of June to reduce garlic mustard numbers on Cheney Creek.



APWC and BLM staff clean up a transient campsite on a gravel bar along Cheney Creek, one of several abandoned campsites and trash piles that were remedied through this project.

and they pose risks (hazardous materials, unattended fires, transient campsites) to the public and surrounding private lands. I personally have put out one active campfire and one smoldering campfire during the past two years that I have been visiting Cheney Creek. To help reduce these risks, at least for a short time, barriers on these routes encourage the public to use the official road system with their vehicles when enjoying the beautiful spot that is Cheney Creek.

Thanks to this hard work, Cheney Creek is now flowing through a more pristine watershed. Hopefully, the work can lead to more weed removal and trash pick-up all over the valley, one watershed at a time. For more information on this and other riparian-restoration projects, contact Nathan Gehres at the phone number or email address below.

More information about garlic mustard can be found at [invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial/plants/garlic-mustard](https://invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial/plants/garlic-mustard).

Nathan Gehres • 541-890-9989  
APWC Habitat Restoration  
Project Manager  
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Barbara Summerhawk  
APWC Board Member  
contact@apwc.info



Camp trash left by campers and spread by wildlife on the Middle Fork Applegate River in July 2022. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

## Camping and trash threaten bears on Middle Fork Applegate River

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Bears and trash don’t mix. Increasingly on the Middle Fork of the Applegate River, bears are taking the brunt of a human garbage crisis. This summer an adult black bear was shot in the back, most likely by a camper, and left to die at the camp. A juvenile bear was found dead in the creek nearby, possibly another victim of irresponsible campers.

I wrote an article for the summer 2015 *Applegater*, “USFS taking action: Trash mars headwater streams of Applegate River,” at a time when the US Forest Service (USFS) was poised to address the problem by considering an alcohol ban, similar to the one on the Illinois River, or turning Middle Fork into a day-use-only area to prevent garbage left behind by campers. USFS began notifying the public that behavior in the area must change if the dispersed camping was to continue.

But USFS leadership at the Rogue-River Siskiyou National Forest changed, and solid plans to update management in the Middle Fork area went by the wayside. Seven years later I’m once again writing a similar article, but now the problem is so bad that bears are being killed.

Instead of making permanent changes that could prevent human trash from impacting bears, USFS took the drastic measure of closing the area from all entry for three weeks last summer. The area was closed to camping, swimming, hiking, etc., from August 10, 2021, through September 2, 2021.

Both before and after those dates, bears have been entering camps and stealing food and garbage that has not been correctly stored in bear-proof containers or locked vehicles. In this way bears become habituated to food rewards, a potentially dangerous situation for both humans and bears. Generations of black bears have become accustomed to digging through illegal garbage dumps, trash piles, and abandoned campsites. YouTube videos show campers feeding black bears

on Middle Fork. Bears target problem humans—hard to call them problem bears, when humans created the issue.

As someone who lives in the area and sees the garbage and the wildlife feeding on the garbage when I drive past camping spots, I have, on many occasions, cleaned up trash in the area with both USFS and other community members. However, I feel that merely cleaning up the trash has not helped over the last 20 years or so that this problem has been increasing. Management of the area needs to change drastically before more bears are killed and sanitation issues become a severe public health concern. (Feces and toilet paper mar most camp spots.)

There used to be official USFS campgrounds and guard stations at Cook and Green Camp on Middle Fork and Hutton Camp on lower Elliott Creek, back in the 1930s when Medford had only 13,000 people. Later, in the 1970s and ’80s, hippies and families squatted in the mining cabins that once dotted every riverside flat along Middle Fork.

After the official USFS campgrounds and guard stations closed and lived-in cabins disappeared, the area became a free, “dispersed” camping area with no facilities, no bathrooms, and no trash service. Medford has now grown to 88,000 people, many of whom head up to Middle Fork during the heat of summer to camp and swim, often leaving their garbage behind when they leave.

To protect wildlife and recreational opportunities on the Middle Fork of the Applegate River, something must change. I support the Forest Service in an effort to more appropriately manage recreation in one of the most popular and spectacular watersheds in our region. Middle Fork needs bear bins, vault toilets, and managed camping with trash service, or permanent day-use-only restrictions.

Suzie Savoie  
klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com

A black bear as seen by a trail camera in the Upper Applegate in July 2020.





## Don't FALL Into Disrepair!

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

The first day of fall is tomorrow. There's a chill in the morning! Even though it can be 90° in the afternoon, the temperature changes quickly. Winter is coming!

Are your well pipes and pump house insulated? Did you put the temperature controlled outlet and heat lamp in your pump house? Did your well have it's annual maintenance check this year? Is there bacteria in your water? Iron stains, hard water spots?

I don't know about you, but I sure can procrastinate on these things. But if you wait too long, you won't be able to get even a DRIP when you turn on the faucet!

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## Here are some of the best plants to plant in the Applegate Valley

BY DANA LEE

Edible landscapes have been steadily gaining popularity over the last couple of decades. Since the late 1990s, the international movement, Food Not Lawns, which began in Oregon, has brought much attention to the importance of food security. This group advocates for, and actively replaces, unsustainable, perpetually green lawns and barren urban areas with edible plants, which have fed many people around the world. The concept is not new, but it is certainly relevant. Over the last 20 or so years, Food Not Lawns has planted the seeds of self-reliance in many of our minds.

Sustainability, food security, self-reliance, and permaculture are becoming more desired. We may need to adopt these practices out of necessity, especially as food and fuel prices rise and after experiencing the vulnerabilities of our supply chains during the pandemic. Incorporating edible plants into our landscapes helps us reduce our food costs, while conveniently improving the nutrition and taste of what we eat. Edible landscapes also blend aesthetics with function, are easier on our water sources, and, while they produce food for us, also supply food for beneficial pollinators.

Many of us grow seasonal crops of annual plants. Why not also, rather easily, add perennials to the mix and depend on their abundance year after year? In most circumstances, for each ornamental landscape desire, there is an edible plant to fulfill it.

Many people ask what they should plant in their edible landscapes. It is not a science. Just plant what you like to eat, what you are curious about eating, what you have the space for, and what you think will grow well where you would like to plant something. An edible landscape is just like any other: it is a work in progress, but you will also gain the satisfaction of tasty, convenient, nutritious foods along with the many other benefits that accompany gardening these plants.

Here are some of the plants we recommend for starting, or expanding, your edible landscapes in the Applegate Valley:

### Trees

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in" states a beautiful and



A wide variety of plants are available at Forestfarm, including *Gaultheria procumbens* "Cherry Berries" wintergreen. Photo: Forestfarm.

valid sentiment. Planting trees is often a considerate gesture, and many food-producing trees will produce quickly.

Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*), strawberry tree (*Arbutus* 'Marina', Chinese Toon (*Toona sinensis*), paw-paw (*Asimina triloba*), paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*), fruiting quince (*Cydonia oblonga* 'Pineapple'), American beech (*Fagus grandiflora*), fig (*Ficus carica* 'Brown Turkey'), walnut (*Juglans nigra*), olive (*Olea europaea* 'Mission), sourwood (*Oxydendron arboreum*), two-needle pinion (*Pinus edulis*), Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana*), almond (*Prunus dulcis* All In One), California nutmeg (*Torreya californica*), silk oak (*Grevillea robusta*), and over 40 varieties of apples, crabapples, pears, cherries, peaches, nectarines, plums, and lemons.

### Shrubs

Shrubs are great for a big impact in small spaces. Many edible shrubs are also suitable for planting in containers, a convenient solution for patio gardens and for those of us in rentals who would like to move our plants with us.

Pomegranate (*Punica granatum* 'Wonderful'), rosemary (*Rosmarinus*

*officinalis* 'Majorca Pink'), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa* 'Viking'), flowering quince (*Chaenomeles* 'Cameo'), silverberry (*Elaeagnus* 'Olive Martini'), wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens* 'Cherry Berries'), lavender (*Lavendula angustifolia* 'Lavance Deep Purple'), Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), tomato rose (*Rosa rugosa*).

### Vines

Planting vines is another effective way to provide shade, beauty, and charming and timely screens:

Chocolate vine (*Akebia pentaphylla*), hardy kiwis (*Actinidia arguta* 'Geneva' and 'Jumbo'), and 15 different varieties of grapes.

### Berries

Finally, we have dedicated a category to some berry-producing plants. Berries grow in many forms and are favored for many reasons. The berries suggested below may be preserved or eaten fresh. They may be used for native habitat restoration, medicines, container gardens, or simply because they are delicious, thornless, and noninvasive.

Blueberries, mulberries, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, thornless blackberries, lingonberries, thimbleberries, salmonberries, elderberries, buffaloberries, goji berries, whortleberries, and huckleberries

You can find all of these edible plants, and many more (nearly 5,000 varieties!), at our nonprofit Forestfarm Nursery. We are located on the beautiful grounds of Pacifica at 14643 Water Gap Road, Williams. Open 9 am - 2 pm Monday through Friday. For more information, call 541-846-7269 or go to our website at [forestfarm.com](http://forestfarm.com).

Happy Planting!

Dana Lee

[dana@forestfarm.com](mailto:dana@forestfarm.com)

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November 1**



In June, Applegate residents joined the Rogue Forest Partners for a field trip to the Upper Applegate Watershed (UAW) project. Photo: Christina Frieauf/Rogue Forest Partners.

## An update on the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project

BY TERRY FAIRBANKS

In June, Applegate residents joined the Rogue Forest Partners for a field trip to visit our Upper Applegate Watershed (UAW) project. We explored stops at Charlie Buck, Texter Gulch, and Palmer Gulch in the Applegate Valley to look at projects in the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District (U.S. Forest Service Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest) and Ashland Resource Area (Bureau of Land Management Oregon & Washington Medford District).

The day began with a land acknowledgment by the Forest Service and its representatives in honor of the trust, responsibility, and respect that these federal agencies hold with tribes and ancestral land bases on which we currently work and reside. We recognize that land acknowledgment is a necessary step toward honoring Native communities and enacting the much larger project of healing and reconciliation and that indigenous people, their tribal governments, and traditional communities are still here.

Throughout the day, we reviewed the need for and use of ecological forest restoration treatments of selective thinning, piling, and burning of hazardous fuels. Partners highlighted the science-based treatments that have already occurred in these areas and others planned for implementation in the next three years. As a project focused on ecosystem health under a Master Stewardship Agreement, any merchantable timber removed as the by-product of ecological thinning will be sold to local mills. Since this is a deficit sale, any revenue generated will help to pay for the work of removing the timber and getting it to the mill.

As the field tour progressed, we also discussed the importance of scientific monitoring of this project and the value of utilizing bird surveys with our partners at Klamath Bird Observatory to determine the short- and long-term positive and negative impacts on specific avian species. This information serves as a key indicator of habitat health and will help guide us with best science practices as we continue with our forest restoration treatments.

If you missed this field trip, fear not! We plan for additional community field trips to take a closer look at other project

areas in the future. Be sure to join the Rogue Forest Partners' newsletter list at [rogueforestpartners.org/signup](http://rogueforestpartners.org/signup)

### What's going on in the woods?

As the spring prescribed-fire season came to a close, crews from lead implementation partner Lomakatsi Restoration Project and contract forestry services providers continued ecological thinning and piling treatments on private and public lands. At the time of this writing, crews are beginning their annual transition from ecological fuels reduction to wildfire response. Lomakatsi's 20-person hand crew and Type 6 engine received their first wildland fire assignments.

In the Applegate, Rogue Forest Partners exchanged chainsaws for notepads as our committees on restoration planning and monitoring used the hotter, drier months to revisit restoration objectives. Lomakatsi's technical forestry team laid out project boundaries, conducted pre-implementation monitoring, and drafted all prescriptions for 1,000 acres of ecological fuels reduction on USFS land.

As the cooler, wetter months of fall arrive, restoration crews will return to the forests to continue ecological thinning and prescribed fire. This fall, operations will include:

- Pile burning on BLM land in our Williams project area
- 1,000-plus acres of private land treatments in our West Bear project area
- 300-plus acres of ecological fuels reduction in and around the community of Jacksonville.

We are grateful for all the forestry services professionals who work day in and day out to make forests healthier and communities more resilient. We wish those working in wildland fire a safe fire season!

Terry Fairbanks, Executive Director  
Southern Oregon Restoration  
Collaborative Coordinator  
Rogue Forest Partners  
[tfairbanks@sofrc.org](mailto: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. Visit [rogueforestpartners.org](http://rogueforestpartners.org).*

## Prescriptions for Safety reduces fuel along critical corridors

BY KARA BAYLOG

You may have noticed some recent tree work along the roadsides throughout the Little Applegate. Take a drive along Sterling Creek Road, Griffin Lane, Highway 238, or Little Applegate Road, and you may find one of our crews out



Piles of wood and brush in the Applegate are ready to be chipped or burned as part of a new project called Prescriptions for Safety.

there, hard at work removing small trees and undergrowth along the roadside. Or you may notice under a freshly thinned canopy a couple of piles of wood and brush ready to be chipped or burned.

The landowners of these properties are receiving free work to help clear evacuation routes along their roadsides through a new project called Prescriptions for Safety. You can take part in this project, too! If you are a landowner on one of the project area roads, you may be eligible. Recently, Humbug Creek Road and Highway 238 from Jacksonville west to Humbug Creek Road have been added to the project area.

Prescriptions for Safety is reducing understory fuels up to 150 feet from the road along either side of critical evacuation corridors. The idea is twofold: First, a reduction of fuel will make for a less hazardous roadside during a wildfire event, when people need to evacuate and firefighters need to access the fire. Second, this will create a fuel break and a defensible area for firefighters trying to stop a wildfire already in progress. It will help keep roads open and safe.

The Prescriptions for Safety group and project idea was generated locally when Little Applegate residents Rich Fairbanks, Kathy Conway, Lydia Doleman, Megan Annand, Marion Hadden, Aaron Krikava, and John Galego came together with concerns about the risk that the Little Applegate could become the site of the next Paradise Fire disaster. They solicited the help of OSU Extension, Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC) and Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands, wanting to focus on protecting evacuation routes for residents and provide wildfire access for firefighters. The partnership grew

to include Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Lomakatsi Restoration Project, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council. (APWC). Work is being implemented by Lomakatsi Restoration Project. Funding is from the ODF Small Forestland Grant program and BLM Title II through grants obtained by SOFRC. Recruitment and education are coordinated through SOREC's landowner engagement program, My Southern Oregon Woodlands ([mysouthernoregonwoodlands.org](http://mysouthernoregonwoodlands.org)), with additional support coming from APWC.

Interested landowners located within the current project area receive a personal visit to their property by peer mentors to discuss potential fuel reduction actions. Landowners have full control to limit or refuse treatment at any time. All work is free of charge to the landowner although regular post-treatment maintenance is requested. Treatments are most effective when geographically connected, so if you are interested in this roadside fuel reduction, be sure to get your neighbors recruited as well!

To get involved, contact me, Kara Baylog, at 541-776-7371, ext 213, or [kara.baylog@oregonstate.edu](mailto:kara.baylog@oregonstate.edu). Currently, we are able to provide free fuel reduction only for landowners along Griffin Lane, Sterling Creek Road, Little Applegate Road, Humbug Creek Road, and Highway 238 from Jacksonville to Humbug Creek Road. However, landowners outside of those roads are encouraged to leave their names with us in case of future fuel reduction project funding.

Kara Baylog, Program Assistant  
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OSU Southern Oregon Research  
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[kara.baylog@oregonstate.edu](mailto:kara.baylog@oregonstate.edu)

## Voices of the Applegate

### We're back!

After more than two years of not being together as a choir, Voices of the Applegate is planning to begin singing again this fall. We have been sending out invitations to former members as well as through social media and Jo's List, and we have had enough responses to start rehearsals on Tuesday, September 13.

Everyone is invited to join us! No auditions are necessary. We will meet at Ruch Library, 7919 Highway 238, at 6:30 pm to register for the first session, which will last until 8:30 pm. Weekly meetings will continue until performances in early December. After a break, meetings will resume in January.

We will have two performances, one at the Presbyterian Church on California Street in Jacksonville on Saturday, December 3, and a second one at the Applegate River Lodge in Applegate on Sunday, December 4.

We are hoping to bring in enough new members to be able to continue with the choir through the winter and next year. If you are interested in joining us, contact me or just show up at the Ruch Library at 6:30 pm on September 13.

Joan Peterson  
[joanpete5317@gmail.com](mailto:joanpete5317@gmail.com)



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# Food and farms in the Applegate: Ideas into action

BY MEGAN FEHRMAN AND SARA MARIE HAMILTON

Hopefully you have already heard of or participated in some of the A Greater Applegate listening sessions. If you haven't, here's the deal: For several years A Greater Applegate has made it their goal to support those living in the Applegate from the roots up, starting with just making the space and time for voices to be heard and shared. All that came from that listening has been recorded, and now goals, strategies and ideas for action have been identified. Concerns and visions around farming and food and related topics were central to many of us. Food and farming touch our day-to-day lives in many ways. It's no surprise they are a high priority.

Last winter, a group of farmers, prepared food producers, caterers, farmers market managers, and those working in food access gathered to dive deeper into the food and farming topics that surfaced during the listening sessions with the goal of maintaining and building our local food and agricultural system. The

strategies that emerged look something like this:

- Increasing educational and technical assistance opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and growers
- Connecting producers and consumers through outreach, education, communication, and relationship building
- Ensuring farm, land, and water viability for new and existing farmers
- Assessing and building necessary infrastructure
- Creating vibrant and efficient distribution and marketing channels.



In addition to these overarching strategies, there are many ideas that folks have come up with to achieve this big goal of a thriving local food system. Raising awareness on the importance of buying locally and supporting local farmers, utilizing shared commercial kitchens for value-added businesses, developing a tool and equipment sharing system, updating irrigation efficiency, and increasing local food access and food security in the Applegate are just a few of the priorities we collectively share in this community.

Now that listening and organizing have been done, to a point, it's time to start turning these ideas into tangible actions that will enhance our community and individual well-being. It will take input and energy from community members. If you are a farmer or involved in a food

business in the Applegate, we would love to hear from you and loop you into this process. We will hold a gathering this fall to share in detail the work that has been done already and to form working groups that will begin moving into next steps and actions.

Another exciting food and farm networking project that will feed into this work resulted from a survey that was given to vendors who attended any of the three Applegate Farmers Markets this season. The feedback is being organized and will help us to support the continued growth and success of our farmers markets next year—and beyond.

We would love to hear from you to learn more about what is important to you regarding food and farms in the Applegate. If you are a farmer or involved in an Applegate food business, email Sara Marie ([saramarie@rvfoodsystem.org](mailto:saramarie@rvfoodsystem.org)) and be on the lookout for an invitation to the fall working group gathering. We look forward to building together.

Megan Fehrman  
[megan@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:megan@agreaterapplegate.org)  
 Sara Marie Hamilton  
[saramarie@rvfoodsystem.org](mailto:saramarie@rvfoodsystem.org)



### Free anti-overdose drugs available

Rogue Harm Reduction offers free lifesaving overdose medication and HIV tests from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm the first Sunday of each month at the Sugarloaf Center, 206 Tetherow Road, Williams.

Volunteers offer free doses of naloxone to take home, along with instructions for use (allow 20 minutes), as well as free fentanyl test strips, take-home HIV tests, and condoms and lube. For more information, email [rogueharmreduction@gmail.com](mailto:rogueharmreduction@gmail.com).

**THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE**

# Worth more standing: Applegate timber sale receives national attention

BY LUKE RUEDIGER

In the last few issues of the *Applegater* I have written about the various threats of the BLM's Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Project. Unfortunately that threat has not gone away, and the Climate-Forests campaign has now deemed the IVM one of the 10 worst timber sales in the country ("Worth More Standing," Climate-Forests.org). Fortunately for the forests of the region, the project's opposition has also stubbornly persisted and steadily grown. Climate and forest activists from across the country are actively opposing this project alongside residents of the region.

As mentioned in previous articles, the IVM Project proposes to implement heavy commercial logging in conservation areas throughout southwestern Oregon while eliminating numerous important public-involvement opportunities and reducing the public's voice in the federal land-management planning process.

Yet, as Applegaters often do when our beautiful valley is threatened and we are denied opportunities to provide official comment on the management of the federal lands in our community, we have used other means to make our point. Recently, a coalition of Applegate Valley residents and conservation organizations, including Applegate Siskiyou Alliance, Williams Community Forest Project, and the Siskiyou Crest Coalition, has held protests against the IVM Project and its first two timber sales: the Late Mungers and Penn Butte timber sales near Williams and Murphy.

Dozens of people attended these protests, which took place along Highway 238 at the BLM's Provolt Recreation Site and at the Grants Pass Courthouse. Leaders of opposition to these sales also led numerous hikes and field trips into proposed old-forest logging units, both with the public and with a local news reporter who highlighted our concerns. Additionally, videographer Alex Gaylon, from Karmalize Productions, created two excellent short videos about the campaign to stop the Late Mungers and Penn Butte timber sales. His videos feature interviews with local residents from the Applegate Valley, Grants Pass, and the Illinois Valley who oppose these old-forest timber sales proposed on BLM lands near their homes and communities.

We have also worked with national climate and conservation organizations to raise awareness of the threats the IVM Project poses to our local forests and watersheds and to the global climate. According to recent research, the wood products industry is the largest producer of carbon emissions in the state of Oregon.

Our region is important for its globally significant biodiversity and for our forests' contribution to climate mitigation. With the most diverse conifer forests in the west and among the most diverse in the world, the Siskiyou Mountains have world-class conservation values, but they also support relatively productive mature and old-growth forests which can naturally store large amounts of carbon and provide free, effective, nature-based



A Stop Late Mungers Rally at the Grants Pass Courthouse.

climate solutions. These same forests provide important wildlife habitat, shade our streams, and beautify our skyline. They also provide important opportunities for outdoor recreation and support many of the "ecosystem services" that make our quality of life in the Applegate Valley so spectacularly unique.

According to climate scientists, the amount of carbon removed during commercial "thinning" (i.e., logging) operations is much larger than the amount that might be saved from being burned in a wildfire (Campbell 2011, Rhodes et al. 2009). Other studies show that commercial thinning creates a multi-decade carbon deficit following the type of moderate to heavy commercial logging proposed in the IVM Project (Zhou et al. 2013). Additionally, recent research in northern California showed that thinned stands resulted in less canopy retention, less tree cover, and more total tree mortality following a

large wildfire than in adjacent unthinned stands (Hanson 2022). The forests of our watershed are indeed "worth more standing," and as a community we are both blessed to live among them and blessed to be responsible for their stewardship. Stop Late Mungers!

**Want more information?**

- Read the whole *Worth More Standing* report: [climate-forests.org/worth-more-standing](http://climate-forests.org/worth-more-standing).
- Sign the petition to Stop the Penn Butte and Late Mungers Timber Sale: [ann.secure.force.com/petition?pid=Penn+Butte](https://ann.secure.force.com/petition?pid=Penn+Butte).
- Watch the Karmalize Production films: (1) "Stop the Penn Butte and Late Mungers Timber Sale": [youtube.com/watch?v=DxU3XpcpK4Y](https://youtube.com/watch?v=DxU3XpcpK4Y), (2) "Protest at Grants Pass Courthouse to Stop Late Mungers and Penn Butte BLM Logging Plan": [youtube.com/watch?v=7JrJdJmArFE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=7JrJdJmArFE).

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OPINION

# The Starlink dilemma

BY SHA'ANA FINEBERG, PHD

Some decisions are hard, like choosing between convenience (giving immediate benefits) and health, which, when lost, supersedes almost everything else.

Sun radiation can cause skin cancer. X-rays require lead shielding. What a dilemma if we discover that radiation from satellite internet (Wi-Fi, smart devices) contributes to nerve and brain disorders, cancer, infertility.

Concern arises when a federal agency's members come from or retire to lucrative jobs within the industry they are meant to regulate, e.g., the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ([bit.ly/3SPekv2](http://bit.ly/3SPekv2)). The telecommunications industry's decisions depend upon knowing what level of electromagnetic frequency (EMF) radiation is safe for humans. All FCC technology approvals are based upon a 1996 "safety level." In 2021 a DC federal court concluded that the FCC was "arbitrary and capricious" in ignoring thousands of scientific studies that should have led to a rigorous re-examination of this supposed "safety" level ([bit.ly/3QmO89b](http://bit.ly/3QmO89b)); (short video: [bit.ly/3zUomCq](http://bit.ly/3zUomCq)). It may finally become obvious, as it is to Democratic senator Richard Blumenthal, in a 2019 post, that the current technology is harmful to human life ([bit.ly.co/DoJM](http://bit.ly.co/DoJM)).

Recently a telecommunications industry representative testified to Congress that the industry has not financed one single safety study for 5G frequencies—obviously, none regarding long-term

impacts ([bityl.co/DoJP](http://bityl.co/DoJP)). According to the Telecommunications Act it is illegal for a locality to argue against EMF radiation of citizens on the basis of health ([bityl.co/DoJQ](http://bityl.co/DoJQ)). What a true dilemma if we realize that we are harming ourselves with conveniences upon which we have become dependent.

The Applegate Valley has been a safe haven, where one can still live a healthy lifestyle. We're too small for high frequency 5G to benefit the industry. We've been relatively protected from excessive EMF radiation ... until satellites.

Starlink is "beta-testing" in our latitude. If folks in Applegate Valley partake, they support satellite beams aimed at us. Do we really want to contribute to bathing our valley with this EMF radiation? (Children's brains are most vulnerable: [bityl.co/DoJS](http://bityl.co/DoJS)). Is there another way to get our internet needs met—maybe less conveniently, but healthier? So far, I believe fiber optic is the safest, fastest, and most reliable.

Getting Starlink is not a small decision. What the satellites provide, along with 5G frequency, is the infrastructure for things like facial recognition. Our wonderful valley may no longer be the safe haven we treasure.

This poses a true dilemma, since some folks certainly suffer without reliable internet at home.

It is time to do some soul searching about one's values and priorities.

Sha'ana Fineberg, PhD  
[shavana@indra.com](mailto:shavana@indra.com)

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

# A hot opportunity! Positions available on the Applegater Board of Directors

BY DIANA COOGLE

The Applegater Board of Directors had a daylong retreat last month, beginning at Cantrall Buckley Park and continuing at Red Lily Winery. Under the excellent mediation of Claudia Beausoleil, we talked about our vision for the next five years and about our upcoming Gater-est Show on Earth (see page 1) and, among other things, about our need for new board members because we were very sorry to hear that we are losing three board members in coming months.

Dave Dobbs has been our indispensable treasurer for about 10 years. He has been sharp as a tack in pricking us when we need to raise funds and in keeping up with tax matters, ad revenue, NewsMatch requirements, bookkeeping, and other financial affairs. Dave was also always stepping up to help at events, find raffle items, create banners, and do numerous other tasks that crop up in a nonprofit organization. There was no one better at snagging people for donations, ads, or other help, either. We will miss him.

Mike Schneider joined the board in January 2021 and immediately created a position for himself that now we can't do without. He became our ad manager, and the increase in ads in the paper is due in no small part to his work with the ad reps. He has served the board with dedication for the duration of his time, and we will miss him.

Jessica Bullard, who joined the board in 2020, was that all-important member-at-large—reliable, always present at meetings,

ready with a thoughtful insight, willing to do what she could wherever we needed help. Jessica, too, will be missed.

So now, or, at least, soon, we find ourselves a three-member board: Bert, our editor; Lisa, our secretary; and me, chair. To be a legal board, according to our by-laws, we need at least one more member; to be a viable board, we need at least three more members. To be a functioning board, we need a treasurer.

This, of course, is where you come in, or where I hope you'll come in. Join us on the Applegater Board of Directors. We have a good time, we work hard, and we enjoy working with each other to serve the community in this way.

As a board member, your commitment is to come to monthly meetings in the Applegate (no chore; lots of fun), help with fundraising, and, as on any board, be willing to do what needs to be done.

Anyone who lives in the Applegate can be a board member. We would especially like to have someone from Williams or the lower Applegate at the west end of the watershed. We especially need a treasurer.

If you are interested in seeing what the position is all about, contact me (at once!). You aren't making a commitment by inquiring, and (really!) I won't rope you in, out of desperation, without your approval.

Diana Coogle  
[diana@applegater.org](mailto:diana@applegater.org)

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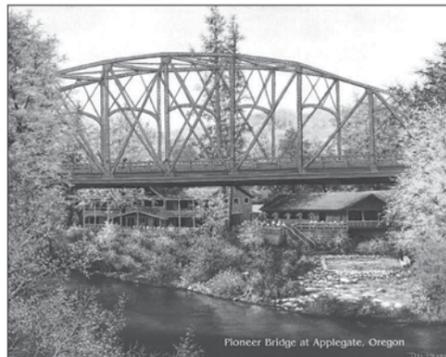
Opinion pieces and letters to the editor represent the opinion of the author, not that of the Applegater or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. As a community-based newsmagazine, we receive diverse opinions on different topics. We honor these opinions, but object to personal attacks and reserve 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](mailto:gater@applegater.org) or mail to Applegater, Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., PO Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530.



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Robinson family members pack apples in Wilderville, circa 1907.  
Photo: Josephine County Historical Society.

## What commercial crops have been grown in the Applegate Valley?

BY LISA E BALDWIN

Commercial agriculture in our Applegate Valley communities has changed quite significantly since the first farming began in the 1850s to provide fresh vegetables to miners. It didn't take long, though, for agriculture to become a major industry, the fertile land producing an abundance of a wide variety of crops.

Not surprisingly, hay was one of the first crops grown and sold. It is still in the top five in agricultural sales. Hop flowers were also an early agricultural success. In 1888, more than 70,000 pounds of hops were shipped from Josephine County and, in 1922, the local hop industry netted \$100,000 from 13 railcar loads that were shipped to Europe. With the boom in craft breweries, locally grown hops are making a comeback, albeit on a smaller scale.

Early homesteaders in the Applegate Valley commonly planted fruit and nut orchards. Apples, pears, and walnuts did particularly well in our climate, and the

surplus produce from a family's orchard provided extra income. By 1900, Josephine County was quickly becoming Oregon's major apple producer, but the economic shifts in the run-up to World War I put the brakes on orchardists' prosperity. Railroads' freight rates skyrocketed, and many growers took out their orchards to make room for other crops. By 1917, 90 percent of the apple orchards in our region were gone.

The wine grape industry that our valley is famous for today took off in popularity in 1906 with the arrival in Grants Pass of Tokay grape roots and cuttings, enough for 127,000 vines to be planted locally. Today, wine grapes are second only to hay when ranked by the number of acres in production of the crop (in Josephine County and Jackson County).

As our communities and agriculture grew and developed, there was a great diversification of crops, including watermelons, cane berries, mint, and much more. In 1916, the Utah Beet Sugar Company built a sugar refinery in Grants Pass to process the abundant sugar beets. Also, large fields were planted with gladioli, which were cultivated for the bulbs, but the flowers provided a secondary crop; in 1925 the Jewell Ranch shipped 1,200 cut gladiola flowers daily during blooming season. The local bulb industry stayed strong into the 1950s. There were large shipments of tomatoes and string beans and, with the opening of a cannery in Grants Pass, tomatoes were sent to markets far outside southern Oregon. Old-timers said the whole town smelled like ketchup.

While much has changed, agriculture continues to be an important part of our economy and a defining feature of our Applegate Valley way of life.

Lisa E Baldwin  
leb.97527@gmail.com

Have a question about the Applegate Valley? Ask the Gater! Send your query to [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org).

## ••• BIZBITS •••

In April, Laura Avants, owner of the Wilderville Store, re-opened the restaurant next door, now named the **Creekside Diner**. Patrons will enjoy a full menu, with breakfast, lunch, and dinner offerings of classic American diner fare. Customer favorites are the Reuben sandwich and the pizzas. The restaurant is open for brunch Sunday. Currently, brunch is ordered from the regular menu, but Laura has plans for a buffet brunch, perhaps a champagne brunch, coming soon. The prices at the Creekside are great, and the atmosphere is comfortable and welcoming, with tables inside and out. The outdoor space is covered and sheltered from the wind, and the long lunch counter that runs the length of the back deck overlooks Slate Creek, just a mile or so above its confluence with the Applegate. It is truly a beautiful setting in the shade of big trees with the sound of the creek running below.



Creekside Diner owner Laura Avants and breakfast cook Grant Gustafson on the deck overlooking Slate Creek. Photo: Lisa Baldwin.

Laura and her husband, John Tracy, bought the property in 2002, after deciding to relocate from Charleston, South Carolina, to be closer to family. John's family was in Nevada, and Laura's mother, local artist Carol Phillipson, was living on Wonder Mountain. Carol told them that the historic store was for sale, and it turned out to be exactly what they were looking for. After John passed in 2012, Laura leased the restaurant a couple of times, but neither of those ventures were long-term successes. Laura is committed to making the Creekside Diner a neighborhood favorite, a gathering spot in the heart of Wilderville. "We need a place like this in our community," she said. "I know we had a bumpy start, with all new staff and the new menu, but we are ready now, running smoothly!" Check out the menu, available online on Facebook, or Google "Creekside Diner" (Laura cautions folks to search Google for Creekside Diner, not Creekside Diner and Deli, which was the name of one of the former iterations of the Wilderville restaurant). Come try it for yourself; you will be glad you did!

Open 8 am to 8 pm Tuesday-Saturday; 9 am - 2 pm Sunday; closed Mondays. 7845 Old Redwood Highway, Wilderville. 541-415-1907



Megan McGinnis, Colin Kress, Margaret Patterson, Tom Patterson in their Cascadia Vineyard, Wilderville. Photo: Lisa Baldwin.

There is a beautiful new winery in the lower Applegate, and it is a family affair. **Cascadia Vineyards and Winery** on Slate Creek, was established in 2019 by Colin Kress and his partner, Megan McGinnis; Colin's mother, Margaret Patterson; and her husband, Tom Patterson. The team of four are hands-on vintners, and it's "all hands on deck" as they work together to produce exceptional wines. Their first vintages were made with grapes sourced from neighboring vineyards—Solero, North Applegate Road; Deer Creek Vineyard, Illinois Valley; Apricity Vineyard, Jerome Prairie Road; and Robas

Vineyard, Helms Road. The Cascadia team spent four seasons rehabbing the 40-year-old vines of the Robas Vineyard, which are now producing the fine fruit only possible from well-aged vines. In 2022, their intention is to use all Josephine County grapes, sourced from Robas, Apricity, and Schmidt vineyards.

Winemaker and vineyard manager Colin Kress brings 16 years' experience to Cascadia. He honed his craft in the AVA (American Viticultural Area) of California's Santa Rita Hills, climbing the ranks from cellar-hand to head winemaker in four years and, in the next seven years, collecting numerous 90-plus-point accolades at Babcock Winery. Megan McGinnis, assistant winemaker and marketing director, began her sommelier studies in 2014 and continued her education with Flying Goat Cellars, learning specialized winemaking techniques. Megan also ran the wine program at the prestigious Ballard Inn & Gathering Table in Ballard, California. Margaret Patterson is the office manager for Cascadia Vineyards and Winery, and Tom Patterson is the bookkeeper. Both assist in the tasting room and vineyard, as well as with bottling the finished wines.

During the summer months, Cascadia hosted an off-site tasting room on the deck at Creekside Diner in Wilderville. They are currently looking for the right space for a permanent tasting room, preferably in downtown Grants Pass. The Wine Club will fully launch in fall 2022. Private tastings are available by appointment Friday-Sunday at the winery at 8489 Old Redwood Highway, Wilderville. Call 805-689-9040 or send an email to [info@thecascadiacompany.com](mailto:info@thecascadiacompany.com) to schedule. More information can be found on [thecascadiacompany.com](http://thecascadiacompany.com). Find them on Facebook as Cascadia Vineyards and Winery.

Lisa E Baldwin • [LEB.97527@gmail.com](mailto:LEB.97527@gmail.com)

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Workers in the hop yards worked on stilts to tie up the long vines in late spring, and to cut them down in the fall harvest. This photo was taken in the late 1930s in the Eismann hop yard in the Fort Vannoy area. Photo: Josephine County Historical Society.

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Beth Portesi and her partner Casey Ameil in a screen capture from an episode of "Ugly Homes of the Pacific" that included a segment about their Applegate Valley home.

## Applegate Valley farm owners land huge appearance on HGTV

BY KAYLA MORENO

Having others describe your dream home as "ugly" would make most people squirm. But for Beth Portesi and her partner, Casey Ameil, the descriptor was the chance at winning a large renovation project that could completely change their lives. The pair have had big dreams of owning a property to start an organic vegetable farm for years. However, the economic factors, like the famously polarizing housing market, kept their dreams at bay until recently, when a serendipitous opportunity arose.

The pair gained experience over the past seven years by working on other peoples' properties across the world. From Bali to Big Sur, they have learned encyclopedias' worth of knowledge about farming, gardening, living off the grid, and homesteading.

Casey worked as a property manager for a nonprofit organization called MEarth prior to relocating to the Applegate Valley. MEarth's mission is to educate and inspire through environmental stewardship and they primarily focus on outdoor education for children. Here, Casey gained experience working on the land and developed critical skills by teaching kids sustainable farming practices.

"This married his passion of farming and connecting with the community in a meaningful way," says Beth.

That is no surprise, either. The on-the-job experience was crucial for the dynamic duo. Their vision was always there, but it was clarified by various endeavors taken both together and independently.

"After years of living and working on other people's land, we were craving a place to plant our roots," says Beth.

In February 2022 they purchased a 20-acre lot north of Provolt in the Applegate Valley. This humble beginning was just that—a fresh start and a grand step toward their goals. The zany, one-of-a-kind house was designed by a mycologist in the 1980s. The quirky qualities of the property were charming, but the lack of functionality in the house was obvious. The couple wanted the home to accommodate their demanding farm lifestyle. Again, economic factors provided some challenges, leading them back to the drawing board.

Then, late one night, Beth had an out-of-the-box idea. HGTV is a popular

television network that showcases exceptionally impressive home renovation projects. She perused HGTV's casting call section and spotted an ad that read, "Do you have a house that's a wacky, tacky or run-down eyesore—but in a dreamy location?" She took a leap of faith and sent in their submission.

To their surprise, they received an offer to showcase their home on "Ugliest House in America." Beth and Casey could use the quirks of their new property to their advantage thanks to a hit show that was now knocking at their door. This show chooses 15 of the "Ugliest Houses in America" to compete for one \$150,000 renovation by esteemed HGTV designer, Alison Victoria.

Most people would recoil if someone considered their home to be one of the ugliest in America. For Beth and Casey, it was an exciting opportunity. They agree that the experience "desensitized us from the word 'ugly.'" HGTV described this season's homes as "the ugliest homes in paradise." Of course, the Applegate Valley landscape provided a gorgeous canvas to work with. The opportunity to be on the show was a direct reflection of the pair's drive to bring their dreams to life. After all, appearances are not everything. Behind this ugly home was a pair of hopeful farmers aiming to make big contributions within their community.

"Our biggest priority is taking care of our land, the food, and the people we feed," says Casey. By creating Lazy Acres Farm, they aim to make organic produce even more accessible in southern Oregon.

While they didn't win the grand prize renovation, Beth and Casey's episode, titled "Ugly Homes of the Pacific," aired in August. Catch a rerun of their episode or stream it on YouTube, Discovery+, or Amazon Prime.

Their featured property, Lazy Acres Farm, is a small-scale farm and homestead that exclusively uses organic and regenerative practices. You can start directly supporting Lazy Acres Farm by purchasing their produce beginning next spring. Until then, you can follow their story on Instagram (@\_lazyacresfarm) or online at lazyacresfarm.org.

Kayla Moreno  
info@lazyacresfarm.org

## Another delicious bakery in the Applegate Valley

BY DIANA COOGLE

The spring 2022 issue of the *Applegater* featured an article about bakeries in the Applegate, taking the reader on a little tour, moving north through the valley. But what if you went the other direction, towards the Rogue Valley? Then you would certainly stop in Ruch for something at Sweets-N-Eats, at Ryan's Outpost, 181 Upper Applegate Road.

If you are there in the morning, Wednesday through Sunday, you're likely to meet co-owner Patty Knowlton, who starts serving breakfast at 7 am and makes the dinner specials. If you're there at noon or later, you might meet her daughter and business partner, Tasha Knowlton, who cooks, waitresses, and does the baking. Her niece, Nina, also helps with the baking. The café is open until 7 pm (3 pm on Sundays).

Tasha and Patty started Sweets-N-Eats in July 2020, an unpropitious time to start a restaurant, but, pandemic notwithstanding, Sweets-N-Eats soon became a popular eating place for baked goods and for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. "Thank goodness for the amazing locals, who supported us a whole bunch," Tasha says.

Tasha and Patty both worked at the Applegate Store and Café before Tasha went to pastry school, interned at the Jacksonville Inn, and became pastry manager there. She and Patty also both worked at Café Ruch. They bought the business in 2020 and renamed it



Tasha Knowlton and Patty Knowlton outside their cafe. Photo: Diana Coogle.

Sweets-N-Eats. By now, the business has prospered so well it takes the two of them plus seven employees to keep it going.

If you stop in just for baked goods, you might be especially enticed by the vanilla-cream-filled doughnuts, a house favorite, or the cheesecakes, cookies, or dessert donuts. If you're there for lunch or dinner, try one of their popular burgers or, a frequent choice, a hot pastrami sandwich.

By all means, if you're looking for baked goods in the Applegate, don't neglect Sweet-N-Eats!

Diana Coogle  
diana@applegater.org

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Pack 17 scouts at Camp Baker in Florence in July 2022. Photo: Erik Johnsen.

## Applegate Cub Scout Pack forming

BY ERIK JOHNSEN

We've teased about it for a couple issues, but now we're going to make it happen!

It seems we have enough interest for a Cub Scout Pack for the Applegate Valley that we can put earnest effort into it. This comes after seeing public interest in Pack 17's rocket launch at Pacifica Gardens back in the spring and learning about A Greater Applegate's efforts to build community and opportunity in our area at one of their visioning sessions.

Why Cub Scouts? You already live in the great outdoors, but the difference is we do things in the outdoors *together*. We make friends, and we take time to do things as a family. This is the definition of community. We're helping each other to raise our kids right. And if we do things

right, we're also having a lot of fun in the process.

By the time this runs, we will likely have had a few meetings to attract interest, and will have recruited at some back-to-school events. But it's not too late to join! Go to [beascout.org](http://beascout.org) and search for the Cub Scout Pack in your zip code. If you don't see one, inquire with Pack 3039 in Central Point, which is our placeholder for newly forming cub scout packs. You're also welcome to email [pack17jacksonville@gmail.org](mailto:pack17jacksonville@gmail.org), and we can help inform you about what's going on and how to get involved. We hope to see you soon!

Erik Johnsen  
Pack 17 Committee Chair  
Crater Lake Council,  
Vice President of Membership  
[pack17jacksonville@gmail.org](mailto:pack17jacksonville@gmail.org)

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## NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

# Woodland Charter School is ready for the new year

BY CHRIS CARMIENCKE

Woodland Charter School, located on Murphy Creek Road just north of Hidden Valley High School, is ready for the 2022-2023 school year. We provided two new summer activity programs for enrolled students this past summer.

Woodland, tuition-free and open to all students, is a Waldorf-inspired charter school and is part of a worldwide movement to make Waldorf educational philosophy more accessible by bringing it to the public school system. Woodland is part of the Three Rivers School District but has a Charter Council that sets policies and oversees the administration of the school, allowing a certain level of autonomy, creativity, and flexibility.

The vision of the Woodland is to provide an alternative school choice for local families while creating a school community environment that attends to the needs of the whole child. Recognizing the whole child in the educational program is the first step toward laying the foundation necessary for each student to continue the lifelong educational process.

Woodland is a first-through-eighth-grade public school and has a capacity of 200 students, 25 in each grade. We still have openings in several grades for the 2022-2023 school year and short waiting lists for other grades. We anticipate having more than 180 students this fall!

This past summer, Woodland hosted a two-week Activity Camp and a two-week Jump Start for enrolled students. This was the first time Woodland ran programs for students in the summer. Both programs were well attended, were free, and allowed students to take part in games, arts, crafts, gardening, and water activities. It was a great way for students to stay connected to the school, to spend time with their peers, and to beat the heat.

Students had a chance to play water games, including sponge jousting and slip-and-slide, to paint rocks and hide them for the incoming first-grade students, to make rosemary and lavender salt sachets, to needle felt, and to paint with watercolors.

There was also a chance to work in the school garden, take nature walks, and explore fabric dyeing using hammers, plants, and traditional tie-dyeing methods. We are hoping to continue to offer more programs to our students both during the summer and also on Fridays during the school year.

The amazing staff at Woodland is stable, moving into the 2022-2023 school year with the vast majority remaining the same as last year.

One major change in staffing is the addition of myself (Chris Carmiencke) as the education director, replacing Wensdae Davis who was in this role for three years and navigated the difficult COVID years. I was the eighth-grade teacher at Woodland last year, had been a public school administrator for six years prior, and am excited to be taking on this role after having a year to get to know the school as a teacher. Woodland is also adding a child development specialist to the school staff to support our students and their personal growth and academic success.

Woodland is continuing to refine the opportunities for our students and has hopes of adding music, Spanish, and gardening programs as soon as qualified staff are hired to take on these teaching positions.

We are planning many great opportunities for our students this fall with school festivals, assemblies, field trips, outdoor school, and more traditions at Woodland. Our students are enriched by the Waldorf curriculum and enjoy games class, handworking, gardening, and nature studies, which are all a part of the rigorous academic program Woodland crafts to meet the requirements of the Oregon Department of Education.

If you are interested in knowing more about Woodland Charter School, visit our website at [woodlandcharterschool.org](http://woodlandcharterschool.org) or send us an email at [officeinternal@woodlandcharterschool.org](mailto:officeinternal@woodlandcharterschool.org).

Chris Carmiencke  
[officeinternal@woodlandcharterschool.org](mailto:officeinternal@woodlandcharterschool.org)

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## NEXT GENERATION | SCHOOL NEWS

## Applegate School students look forward to 'normality' as school swings back into session

BY JEAN HALL

The new school year, the welcome-back time, at Applegate School began on August 29. Staff and student expectations resound positively. Along with hopes for remaining safe and healthy, all returnees express eagerness to get back to a "normal atmosphere for learning," as second- and third-grade teacher Kellie Halsted stated.

K-1 teacher Karen Hirschmugl voiced a common staff hope for the new year: "to help students feel comfortable, confident, and safe at school, and to be excited about learning."

Before looking ahead to the new year, Mrs. Halsted reported on a happy ending for last term. "K-3 students took a great trip to Wildlife Safari and enjoyed a combined visit to Applegate Valley Fire Station 1 and Applegate branch of Jackson County Library." With the help of parent volunteers, the year ended on a fun last day with water games, snow cones, and the always popular tug-of-war.

This summer's activities at Applegate School included a Critter Camp for incoming Kindergarteners and a STEAM-themed (science, technology, engineering, art and math) summer camp for last year's first-through-fifth graders during the week of August 15. Leading the Critter Camp, Karen Hirschmugl reported on its purpose and process. "We mainly focused on the social/emotional being of each child. The kids were introduced to the classroom and school. They were exposed to simple procedures and routines with a focus on art and books. Each day we read a book by Eric Carle and incorporated art, math and literature into each book. Every day each child received a book to take home."

As Applegate School welcomes students back for a new year, it seems important to hear from some of them. Aly and Austin Soberanes both responded with eagerness about returning to school. First-grader Aly said she was looking forward "to seeing her teacher and friends." Austin, in third grade, stated simply, "I am excited for reading, recess, and friends." Both Aly and Austin are happily anticipating learning more math this year.

Three eighth-graders described their hopes and expectations. Ursus Moeves said, "For the new school year I am looking forward most to sports, seeing friends, and getting better at sports." In a practical vein, David Cross stated, "My hope for the new school year in eighth grade is that we have lockers, so we don't have to carry around all our stuff." David also expressed his hope to see and meet new people. Fellow eighth-grader Hamza diBiasi responded, "My hopes for the new school year are that we will learn a lot more and also get to be a lot more open about masks and all that."



Releasing a Monarch butterfly at Applegate School in 2014 is Johanna DeVos (who graduated from Hidden Valley High School in 2022). Photo: Linda Kappen.

When asked what they looked forward to learning this year, Ursus replied, "I am looking forward to social studies because I like learning about the past and how the world evolves." Both David and Hamza are eager to continue their accelerated math program, which placed them in eighth-grade math in seventh grade. David is happy to know, "I will be doing ninth-grade geometry," and Hamza added, "I am excited about that."

Besides the Applegate School staff welcoming back students and students welcoming new opportunities to learn, Linda Kappen continues her 21-year program of involving students in welcoming monarch butterflies. "In 2002 we had our first monarch visits, and from then on, we have responsibly raised monarchs for science study before releasing them on the school grounds."

Every year Linda sees that K-3 students have their own rearing enclosure in the classroom so they can observe the life cycles of the monarchs. Linda also oversees the planting of milkweeds in a pollinator garden. Currently, Linda has monarch caterpillars in the "monarch lab" in the art room.

Linda and her students grow milkweeds for sale to help support the growth of Asclepias seeds, the planting and care of the pollinator garden, and the program for the care and protection of the monarch butterflies.

An enormous outpouring of gratitude is due to Linda for her commitment and dedication to the support of the monarch butterflies and for all her efforts to involve the students at Applegate School in the project.

Jean Hall • jhall80@juno.com

## Building our learning community, one student at a time

BY JULIE BARRY

As defined by the Oregon Department of Education: "Community schools work with families, students, teachers, and community organizations to identify the unmet needs of students



and families and develop a plan to leverage community resources to address these needs in the school building, turning schools into community hubs. Full-service community school approaches can bring needed support for students and families into our public schools, such as before- and after-school programs, health and social services, and other comprehensive services. They can therefore help ensure that no child's opportunities are determined by their zip code, family's income, race/ethnicity, disability status, or other factors. Research shows that evidence-based approaches to community schools can improve student social, emotional, and academic outcomes."

Ruch Outdoor Community School (ROCS) has been operating as a community school since its inception in 1914. However, in the last 10 years, efforts have been intentional with increasing the efficacy of the school to assist the community at large in its health and wellness and to offer the children of the valley opportunities to engage as stewards. We are so proud of the work of the past and look forward with excitement to the opportunities that lie before us as we embark on the 2022-23 school year.

The summer was met with preparation and celebration as we brought back our annual dinner and auction. This year Quady North Winery hosted the event, and all attendees remarked about what an amazing night it was. All the proceeds from the event go

to ROCS and the programs offered to its students. We are so grateful for the folks at Quady North and their dedication to the school.

Our summer school program included activities at Cantrall Buckley

Park, Applegate River Lavender, Ruch Public Library, and White Oak Farm. We are so humbled by the engagement of all these folks with the students and their dedication in making sure the time spent was relevant, inspiring, and fun!

RVHPA (Rogue Valley Hang Gliding and Paragliding) once again donated profits from their successful Applegate Open to ROCS! Thank you to the flyers, organizers, and all others that played a part in the highly anticipated event.

With all of our community partnerships, Ruch Outdoor Community School offers its students opportunities to achieve more by ensuring that they are physically, emotionally, and socially supported to learn. The school serves as a community hub by providing access to such critical programs and services as health care, mentoring, expanded learning programs, adult education, and other services that support the whole child, engage families, and strengthen the entire community. We are excited for NEW programs this year!

To all of our business partnerships and those that engage with Ruch Outdoor Community School, *we thank you!* It is because of your involvement that this school remains strong, sustainable, and highly sought after by so many families inside and outside of our area. *Go Cougars!!*

Julie Barry  
Principal

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

## WOODLAND CHARTER SCHOOL

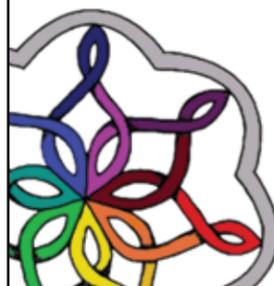
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[www.applegatepartnership.org/upcoming-events](http://www.applegatepartnership.org/upcoming-events)  
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Keep those articles, letters, opinions, and "Reading the Gater" photos coming in. You are the Gater!



Photos, first row, left to right:

- **Cathy Rodgers** and her grandson Ronin cheer on daughter Jenny, who participated in "Sharkfest," the annual swim from Alcatraz.

- **Diana Coogle** sees what the Applegater says about the weather on Jungfrau from the roof of her hotel in Schynige Platte, Switzerland.

- **Jessica Bullard** reads the Gater at Gullfoss, Iceland.

Second row, left to right:

- **Barbara Holiday, Diana Coogle,** and the Applegater celebrate Diana's "39th" birthday at Vidae Falls, Crater Lake National Park.

- **Tom, Kristi, Christian, and Leo Kowalski** pause to check the Gater while at Pemaquid Point Lighthouse (the lighthouse on the Maine state quarter), Bristol, Maine.

- **Sang Montage** finds the best surf spots reported in the Applegater while in Maui, Hawaii.

Third row:

- **Annette Parsons** checks the Gater for temperatures during San Diego's mini-heat wave while beating the heat in her daughter's pool paradise.



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